



Minidoka NHS News

April 2015

Breaking News

Jamie Ford Coming to Twin Falls, ID

Jamie Ford, author of the *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, will be the guest speaker at the Turf Club in Twin Falls, ID on Thursday, April 30. Ford's most recent novel entitled *Songs of Willow Frost* (2013) will be the subject of his presentation. This humanities lecture and dinner begins at 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$35. For ticket information, contact Professor Russ Tremayne at rtremayne@csi.edu or call 208-732-6885.

Smithsonian Project

Ron Inatomi sent an email to Minidoka NHS related to an ongoing Smithsonian Institution project. The Smithsonian is looking for Japanese Nisei produce and farm signs from the early 1920's and later. They are looking for signs that have the names of the farmers with their logo. For further information about this search, please contact the coordinators at americanhistoryapacollections@si.edu.

Mr. Inatomi is hoping that Japanese Americans who might have such signs will participate in this important part of history. You might also want to check out his FaceBook page, *Japanese Americans in the Produce and Floral Industry*. Very interesting.

National Park Service Week

April 18-25 will be celebrated as National Park Service Week throughout the country. Check the NPS website for more information: <http://www.nps.gov>.

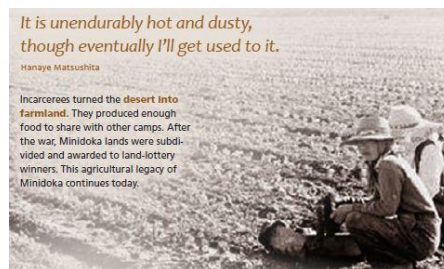
Minidoka NHS Updates

Foundation Document Workshop

As part of the National Park Service Centennial, all parks are reviewing their major planning documents to guide planning for the next 10-12 years. A three day workshop, held on March 10-12, refined Minidoka National Historic Site's mission statement, significant statements, and interpretive themes. A workshop on April 4 discussed resources specific to the Bainbridge Island unit of the historic site.

Minidoka Unigrid Brochure

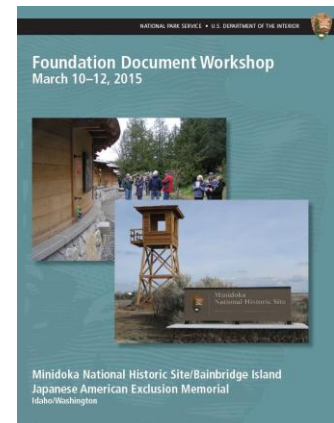
Minidoka has never had the typical introductory brochure that identifies a park as a unit of the NPS. After two major reviews, the Harpers Ferry Center team is securing permissions for the use of photographs and graphics. After a final park review, the brochure will go into printing for a Fall 2015 release. The brochure provides an introduction to the park and its stories.



Small section of the new brochure

Herrmann House

Plans continue to move forward on the Herrmann House rehabilitation. This former "Farm-In-A-Day" home



Participant guide to the Foundation Document Workshop

will house staff offices and serve as a temporary visitor contact station until the permanent visitor contact station is completed. Park staff, NPS Regional office staff, and Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) are currently reviewing the house plans.

Bainbridge Island Unit

The park recently received word that Phase II of the Bainbridge Island Wayside Exhibit, Wayfinding, and Entrance Sign Project has been funded for FY 2015. The project was initiated last year when planners from Harpers Ferry Center created a conceptual design for the three-way project. In this year's phase, the team will design the wayside exhibit panels and entrance sign to be placed at the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial. Signs to help visitors find their way from the ferry dock to the memorial are also part of the project. Once the designs are approved, fabrication and installation of all the signs will take place in 2016.

Minidoka Irrigator Headlines April 1943

Each month this column will feature headlines from the *Minidoka Irrigator* during the same month in 1943.

April 3: **Revised Procedure Speeds Up Granting of Leave Permits**

The new procedures will cut the time needed to secure leave permits and assist people in joining family members already on leave.

April 3: **Blk. 22 Hostel Open to Visitors**

An eight-bed hostel was opened for visitors in 22-1-B. Linens will be available at a nominal cost.

April 10: **Supreme Court to Rule on Legality of Evacuation**

This is being brought to the Supreme Court to assist in decisions regarding Minora Yasui of Portland and Gordan Hirabayashi of Seattle.

April 10: **Morse Code Class to Start Monday**

An International Morse Code class will be taught by licensed amateur radio operators on Monday at 7:30 pm.

April 10: **Crew of 200 Volunteers Aid Canal Workers**

A large crew of 200 workers is building up the banks along a temporary canal that supplements the main canal.

April 17: **Asab, Sono Gain Eagle Rank at Boy Scout Court of Honor**

Koji Sono and Wataru Asaba received Eagle Scout awards at Hunt's second Boy Scout Court of Honor. Both are members of Troop 123.

April 17: **"Keirokai" Is Planned to Honor 70-and-Older Hunt Residents**

Some 110 "grand old men" of Hunt who were 70 years old or older will be honored at "keirokai" on Saturday, April 24 in Rec 8 and on Sunday in Rec 34.

April 24: **Nisei in Armed Forces Permitted to Enter, Travel on West Coast**

American soldiers of Japanese descent on furlough were granted freedom of movement in states of the western defense command. This was the first relaxation of barriers against the Japanese since the start of the war.

Oregon Nikkei Endowment/Legacy Center

Over 2500 Japanese Nikkei from Portland, Oregon were forcibly removed from their homes, sent to a detention facility at the Pacific International Livestock Exhibition Pavilion, before being transported to the Minidoka War Relocation Center in Idaho in 1942.

In addition to preserving and honoring the history and culture of the Japanese Americans in the Northwest, the mission of the Oregon Nikkei Endowment (O.N.E.) is "to educate the public about the Japanese American experience during World War II and to advocate for the protection of civil rights for all."

The Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center has several programs to accomplish that mission: tours and exhibits of the museum and the Japanese American Plaza also known as the Bill of Rights Plaza; docent-led guided group visits; and a traveling educational program, "Museum in a Suitcase."

The Speaker Bureau is another way that O.N.E. educates the public. Ten to twelve docents have undergone training about the Japanese incarceration during World War II in preparation to giving special programs and classroom presentations. Some of the docents know the story intimately as former incarcerated while others are retired teachers and interested



Speakers Jean Matsumoto (l) and Lynn Grannon (r) with teacher Melissa Hill

individuals who understand the importance of the story.

To supplement their talks, the speakers often take the "Museum in a Suitcase" that includes visual images and artifacts. In addition to speaking about the Japanese American experience during World War II, the speakers also address the broader topics of civil rights, citizenship, and the Constitution.

George Nakata, a Minidoka incarcerated and speaker, remarked, "It continues to astonish me how many Oregonians that have resided here for decades have never heard of such World War II experiences of Japanese Americans."

The Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center is located at 121 NW 2nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97209. There is an admission fee. For more information call 503-224-1458 or access their website at <http://www.oregonnikkei.org>.

Camp Art on Auction

An auction of arts and crafts that are part of the historical legacy of the Japanese Nikkei World War II incarceration is scheduled for April 17 at the Rago Arts and Auction Center in Lambertville, New Jersey. The artifacts, primarily from Heart Mountain, include: paintings by Estelle Ishigo; wood carvings; photographs; and family name plaques.

A March 6th NY Times article, "Art of Internment Camps Will Head to Auction," states that the collection was assembled by Allen Hendershott Eaton, author of *Beauty Behind Barbed Wire: The Arts of the Japanese in Our War Relocation Camps*.

The website is: <http://ragoarts.auctionserver.net/view-auctions/catalog/id/250/?page=3>. Starting on page 3, the items are numbered 1232-1255.

Please note that these items have been removed from the auction.

Minidoka Guard Tower Project

Last spring students from the Construction Management Program at Boise State University (BSU) spent their spring break building a reproduction guard tower at the entrance to the site. It was dedicated at last year's Pilgrimage.

Friends of Minidoka had received a 2012 Japanese American Confinement Sites grant to reconstruct the Guard Tower in cooperation with BSU and Minidoka NHS.

Two phases of the project are yet to be completed. Denver Service Center and Minidoka NHS staffs are considering options for redoing the parking lot to better reflect the historic entrance while using modern materials. Once an option is chosen, the grant recipient, Friends of Minidoka, will contract to have the work done.



The reconstructed Guard Tower

BSU students under the direction of Dr. Casey Cline will research and design the final element: a wayside exhibit panel highlighting the impact of the guard towers on the people imprisoned in the camp. It will include

details of the Guard Tower project and recognize the many individuals and groups that contributed to the project.

The materials will be purchased and the panel fabricated on the BSU campus during the spring 2015 semester. The panel will be installed at Minidoka during the spring or summer semesters, depending on the delivery of materials



A typical wayside exhibit panel

In Next Month's Issue

- Baseball Field Update
- Pilgrimage Memento
- Book of the Month – *Looking After Minidoka: An American Memoir*
- Herrmann House Rehabilitation Update
- Civil Liberties Symposium update
- Visitor Center Update

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



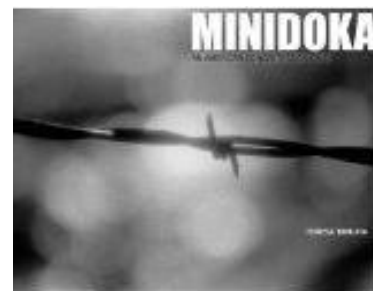
Book Corner: *Minidoka: An American Concentration Camp*

Teresa Tamura

Over 13,000 Japanese lived at Mindoka from 1942-1945. Through black and white historic and contemporary images, Ms. Tamura highlights Mindoka and many of the people who lived there.

In the book's preface, Teresa notes, My understanding of that time, its impact on the present and my connections to it deepened dramatically as I met and came to know people who lived through the shock. My research provided context and perspective to their stories and the pictures that remain from that time period. My primary sources, the people who were imprisoned in Minidoka, range in age from an elder who was 36 at the time of incarceration to those who were born in the camp.

The narrative provides context for the people and the place that was Minidoka.



Minidoka brings the past to the present

Caxton Press published the book in 2013. It will be available at the Civil Liberties Symposium and the Minidoka Pilgrimage in June. It is also available through Amazon and other bookstores.

Minidoka Pilgrimage: June 26-28



One of the early mementos

In 2003, two buses – one from Portland, Oregon and one from Seattle, Washington - traveled to Hunt, Idaho for the first Minidoka Pilgrimage. About 100 people saw the ruins of the Military Police Building, the Reception Center, and garden at the entrance to the site and visited the barrack building at the Jerome County Historical Society's IFARM. That first pilgrimage included a story telling session and a closing ceremony at the Minidoka entrance. Over the years the two busses have become three to four and the 100 pilgrims has grown to 200+.

Each year the Committee creates a memento that reflects an aspect of the incarceration experience. Often the memento is designed in such a way that pilgrims can leave a note in memory of a loved one or a personal reflection about the pilgrimage experience. Two of the mementos are pictured here. The mementos, some of which have been used several times, are now part of the Minidoka NHS museum collection housed at Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument.

Park staff is planning to create an exhibit for this year's pilgrimage using several of the large mementos along with a selection of the messages that have been left. If you have information about any of the mementos used throughout the years, please contact Carol Ash at 208-933-4125 or carol_ash@nps.gov.

For additional information and to register for the 2015 Pilgrimage, visit the Pilgrimage website at <http://www.minidokapilgrimage.org>.



The guard house memento has been used several times but with different symbols.



This newsletter is published monthly for our friends and partners across America.

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The Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial on Bainbridge Island is a unit of Minidoka NHS. It is managed by Klondike Gold Rush NHP.

Comments? Write to:

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March 30th Commemoration

On March 30, 1942, 227 Japanese men, women, and children were forcibly removed from their homes on Bainbridge Island. They spent three days on a train and arrived at Manzanar Assembly Center which eventually became Manzanar War Relocation Center. Many of these Bainbridge Islanders would move to Mindoka in the spring of 1943.

Seventy-three years later in 2015, people came together at the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial to commemorate that fateful day.

This year, 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students from the International School in Bellevue, Washington participated in the event. The students were studying Japanese American history and had the chance to meet former incarcerres and



Bellevue School students at the Bainbridge Island Historical Society Museum

learn more the Exclusion Memorial and "Stories of the Community." The tour was coordinated by Katy Curtis, outreach director of the Bainbridge Island Historical Society and Museum, and Lilly Kodama, former incarcerree and docent at the museum.