



Minidoka NHS News

February 2016

Breaking News

January Corrections:

Medal of Honor recipient name is George Joe "Sakato," not "Sakata." (p.1)
George Nakashima's wife's maiden name was "Okajima," not "Mackawa." (p.4)

Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC) Employment Opportunity

GFBNEC is seeking to fill a School Group Coordinator/Volunteer Coordinator/Front Desk Manager position at the Center in Los Angeles, CA. For more information email chris@goforbroke.org or check the group's website: <http://goforbroke.org>.

2016 Amache Pilgrimage

The Amache Pilgrimage will be held on Saturday, May 21, 2016. For further information go to the Amache Preservation Society at <http://www.amache.org>.

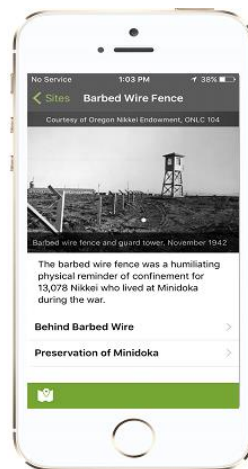
National Youth Summit: Japanese American Incarceration in World War II

The Smithsonian National Museum of American History will hold this summit on World War II Japanese American incarceration on May 17. The National Youth Summit brings middle and high school students together with scholars, teachers, policy experts, and activists in a national conversation about important events in America's past that have relevance to the nation's present and future. The Youth Summit is sponsored by Smithsonian National Museum of American History, National Endowment for the Humanities, PBS, and museums across America. For further information and to register: <http://americanhistory.si.edu/nys>.

February 19 Day of Remembrance

President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942, thereby setting in motion the forced removal and incarceration of over 110,000 Japanese Americans and Japanese legal resident aliens from the military exclusion zone along the West Coast. Many communities across the United States commemorate this day to remember those who were incarcerated and to renew the commitment that it never happens again.

Minidoka Mobile App



Minidoka NHS is excited to announce the release of its official mobile app! 2016 marks the Centennial of the National Park Service, and the launch of the NPS Minidoka mobile app answers one of the service-wide centennial challenges for each unit to go digital and continue to engage a changing public.

Released on February 19, 2016, the NPS Minidoka app will allow visitors to the site to take an interpretive walking tour without the assistance of a park ranger. The NPS Minidoka app release coincides with Day of Remembrance, the annual observance of President Roosevelt's February 19, 1942 signing of Executive Order 9066.

The app follows the site's 1.6 mile walking trail, enhancing existing

interpretation of both the current and historic landscape with information about the daily operations and living conditions at Minidoka. The app offers historic photographs of camp and eighteen Densho videos of former incarcerated sharing their memories associated with different areas of the camp. The app also provides GPS-enabled wayfinding to the 20 current points of interest.

For best results visitors may wish to download the app over a wireless internet connection prior to their park visit, though park mobile connectivity and the small app size will accommodate on-site downloads as well. Video content requires internet connection.

NPS Minidoka was created by Minidoka Student Conservation Association and Americorps intern, Mia Russell, as part of her master's thesis in Applied Historical Research for Boise State University. Shearerbeard, LLC provided software design and development. The app is currently available for use on iPhone, iPod Touch, and iPad, with added features and Android functionality slated for future development. The Minidoka NHS app is available for free in the App Store. Search "NPS Minidoka."

Minidoka Irrigator Headlines February 1944

Each month this column will feature headlines from the *Minidoka Irrigator* during the same month in 1944.

February 12: **Run-Off Election for 5 Councilmen Monday**

Yoshito Fujii and Dr. Paul Shigaya only candidates to receive majority votes.

February 12: **Nisei Students May Enter Any College With Approval From Provost Marshall**

A directive from the War Department in Washington will facilitate obtaining the necessary clearance for enrollment of Nisei students.

February 12: **Six Block Teams Set For Area B Block Team Tourney**

Six block teams are polishing their fore and backhand slams in preparation for the Area B Table Tennis Tournament starting February 15.

February 19: **WRA Makes Transfer into Interior Department**

President Roosevelt announced the transfer of the supervision of the War Relocation Authority to Secretary of the Interior Ickes for reasons of administrative simplification.

February 19: **Center-wide "Gone With The Wind" Dance in Block 26. Sat**

Co-sponsored by the local United Servicemen's Organization and the Block 26 Young People's Club, the dance will be held February 26 from 8pm-1am.

February 26: **Rumor**

Project Director Stafford stated "that the same old rumor that the Minidoka Relocation Center will close shortly is again going the rounds in the project. The rumor has no basis in fact and should be regarded as idle gossip.

February 26: **Hunt Hometown to Relocates Scattered in 33 States**

Relocates from Hunt Camp number 2,741. Hunt has led all other centers in the number of evacuees out on indefinite leave.

February 26: **Rules of Pinochle Tourney Released by "B" Rec Staff**

The deadline for the tournament has been extended to Thursday, March 2.

Diamond Stories: Field-In-A-Day Update

NEEF Grant

The National Environmental Education Foundation recently awarded Friends of Minidoka an "Every Day Event Grant" for \$2,000. This grant will support the May 28 Field-In-A-Day event, the June 26 Formal Dedication, and a baseball event in August in conjunction with the National Park Service's birthday on August 25.



Donations and Commitments

The Theta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma recently donated \$125 to the field project. Teachers and parents of the Twin Falls "Kids Can Be Kids" Preschool have volunteered to fund and build the scoreboard.

Minidoka Baseball

A commemorative baseball has been created to benefit both the Field-In-A-Day project and several Japanese American organizations. The balls sell

for \$10 and can be purchased from: Mia Russell, miaaruss@gmail.com (Friends of Minidoka); Keith Yamaguchi, k.yama1948@gmail.com (Pilgrimage Committee); and Lynn Longfellow, lynn@oregonnikkei.org (Oregon Nikkei Endowment).



Ham Radio Broadcast

The Ham Radio community is helping celebrate the National Park Service's 100th birthday by operating from various parks throughout the country. A group of Ham Radio operators will be broadcasting from Minidoka NHS during the Field-In-A-Day event on May 28.

Minidoka Ghost Stories

Think back to your childhood. Do you remember things that scared you – an owl hooting, scratching sounds in the night, first day of first grade, jumping dogs, or losing a close friend? Now imagine that you have been forcibly removed from your home, spent several months living in a horse stall, and now you live in Block 10 at the Hunt Camp. You are too young to understand what EO 9066 is or why you can't go back to your old neighborhood.

The things that scared you may be vivid memories of your childhood that still remain with you. Ken Matsudaira hopes that the sharing of "ghost stories" from the incarceration years "will give people a novel way of entering into a dialogue about the larger internment experience through which they can connect with history in unexpected ways."

Minidoka Ghost Stories is an oral history project of stories of ghosts, haunting, and the strange that provide an alternative inroad to Japanese American history and provide insights into Japanese culture, values, and legacy.

Though Minidoka is specified in the project's title, the project hopes to gather stories associated with any of the camps.

Ken hopes that "inquiries about ghost stories can provide a playful, 'less heavy way' for younger Nikkei to begin conversations with camp survivors, providing a way to encourage storytelling in general between generations."

Stories can be shared via the project's email: minidokaghoststories@gmail.com or the project's Facebook page.



Minidoka NHS recently received notification that the Society for History in the Federal Government (SHFG) has chosen the *Minidoka NHS Guard Tower Reproduction* as one of two projects to receive this year's John Wesley Powell Prize for outstanding achievement in the field of historic preservation projects. The announcement letter stated, "The award committee made the

Guard Tower Reproduction Receives Prestigious Award

selection because the project is an excellent example of collaboration and reconstruction of a structure that is strongly tied to a place and time that is fading in many memories. The students and volunteers learned not only how to build a tower, but also heard the experiences of the people who were guarded at Minidoka NHS."

The project was a cooperative effort of the Friends of Minidoka, Boise State University Department of Construction Management and the National Park Service. The entire structure was managed and built by students with faculty supervision – from estimates and orders for materials to final construction. The Guard Tower was dedicated during the Annual Pilgrimage in 2014. Friends of Minidoka received a JACS grant to fund the project.

The award will be presented on March 17 at the Joint Annual Meeting of the National Council on Public History and the Society for History in the Federal Government in Baltimore, Maryland. Representatives of the Friends of Minidoka and Boise State University will be attending to receive the award.



Boise State University students setting the roof onto the Guard Tower structure.

Thank You

The Minidoka NHS Newsletter is in its second year of monthly newsletters designed to update our partners and friends on recent events at the historic site and elsewhere.

A special thank you to everyone who suggested special features, wrote articles, shared information and images, and wrote encouraging emails. You have been the heart of this newsletter.

If you have information you would like to share or topics you would like to see discussed in the coming year, please email Carol Ash at carol_ash@nps.gov.

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

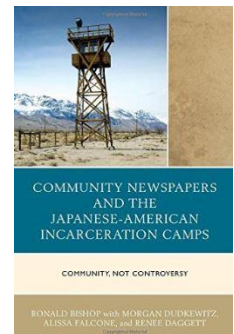


Book Corner: Community Newspapers and the Japanese American Incarceration Camps

Ronald Bishop, Renee Daggett, Morgan Dudkenwitz, and Alissa Falcone

This book "examines the rhetoric and journalistic approach of the local papers and how they informed the communities." Written by a professor in the Department of Communication at Drexel University and several recent Drexel graduates, the book documents the journalistic approach taken by newspapers around the camps. The chapters begin with a brief history of how the camp came to be in its specific location. This is followed by a brief history of the local newspapers and their owners to give context to the political views of the paper and their position in the local communities. The chapters conclude by charting the evolution of how the camps are represented. If the community camp relations are especially complicated as was the case for the Manzanar and Tule Lake camps, then they will have two chapters.

Chapter 6 deals with the Minidoka Camp and the local newspapers. It details how the camp came to be at the Minidoka site. The primary focus of the



chapter is on the Burley Bulletin and the Minidoka County News. A history of the Bulletin dominates the chapter, as it covered the camp more regularly. The Minidoka County News is referenced occasionally, as the camp did not seem to appear in that newspaper as regularly as the Bulletin. The authors explain why the Bulletin wrote so intensively about the camp, while also giving an interesting biography of its owner Henry C. Dworshak Jr. who served as Idaho's congressman from 1938 to 1946. This relation of the wider political situation to how local communities responded to the camps contributes to understanding the context of the Japanese Nikkei incarceration.

This book was reviewed by Eric Bond, ISU Intern at Minidoka.

Minidoka Profile: John Y. Sadanaga

As I was preparing to leave the hospital, my ward nurse bid me goodbye and asked where I would be going. I replied, "Back to the internment camp. I have no other place to go, and my mother is still there behind barbed wires." Her smile disappeared; she became silent and bewildered and left the room. I returned "home" to the internment camp and as I approached the guarded gate to receive permission to enter, the young military guard looked at me in my uniform with the overseas ribbons, the Purple Heart, and the combat infantryman's badge, and simply said, "I am sorry."

The internment camp to which Col. John Y. Sadanaga returned was Minidoka War Relocation Center. He shared this memory during his retirement speech on February 1, 1985. With his retirement from the Air Force, the last known veteran of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team left active duty.

Col. Sadanaga was born on November 18, 1924 in Portland, Oregon. As a teen he was forcibly removed from his home and incarcerated at Minidoka. After completing high school there in 1943, he enlisted in the army. He served in

three campaigns with the 100th/442nd in France and Italy and was wounded in Italy during the battle of the Gothic Line.

After earning his doctorate in optometry from Pacific University in 1950, he joined the reserves. In 1955 he went on active duty with the U. S. Air Force and served at several bases in the United States and Japan. During his nearly 32 years of military service in the Army and the Air Force, he earned numerous decorations including: Legion of Merit; Bronze Star; Meritorious Service Medal; and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Citation.

Dr. Sadanaga died at his home in Vacaville, California on March 13, 2001 at the age of 76.



442nd Regimental Combat Team Insignia



Col. John Y. Sadanaga

He concluded his retirement speech with these words. *Today, I became the last person who served with the Nisei 442nd Regimental Combat Team to retire from active duty. I was just one of many who answered this country's call, and I was privileged to have been a member of a unit that was composed of many heroes.*

I would like to conclude this segment of my life with the hope that this great nation will never forget that those who sacrificed their lives for the welfare of all the people were not of one color. Exceptions to race, creed, or culture have no place in our nation.

Hunt Camp Photo Album

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.

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Photographs give us a glimpse of life in Hunt Camp. Most of the photos that we have from the camp are from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Collection. They often have little information about the people, landscapes, or structures that are shown. This monthly feature will

highlight a photo from the NARA collection along with some context.

Because the letters "PTA" are on the NARA catalogue number, this may be a group of PTA members cleaning or repairing furniture and children's toys.

The Minidoka Irrigator regularly ran updates on PTA activities from membership drives to special programs. The camp had a high percentage of parents enrolled as members of the PTA. Hunt Camp had two elementary schools, a middle school, and Hunt High School.

Please contact us if you have information related to PTA activities or recognize anyone in the photo.