

# Japanese-American internment re-creation takes place today

Procession to begin at library and head to Mello Theater at noon

By DEBORAH KONG

ASSOCIATED PRESS

At noon today, Japanese-American men, women and children in fedoras and flowered dresses will report to a government building, attach tags with government-issued numbers to their suitcases and buttonholes, and ride a bus to a place with fences and guard towers.

The three dozen participants will be re-enacting what happened to their relatives in 1942, when 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry were forced into 10 U.S. internment camps on orders from President Franklin D. Roosevelt after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

"It will bring back a lot of bad memories and things that we forgot," said Chiyoko Yagi, who was 21 when she was sent to a camp in Poston, Ariz., and plans to watch on Saturday. "I want to see it to kind of remember it again."

But, more important, the re-enactment could help others "see what we went through," said Yagi, 81. "It could happen to anybody. We have to make people realize that

## AT A GLANCE

Schedule for "Liberty Lost... Lessons in Loyalty" on Saturday, April 27

11:00 a.m.

Watsonville Public Library parking lot

11:50 a.m.

"Only What We Could Carry"

• Walk, carrying suitcases escorted by city police officers

12 p.m.

Watsonville Vets Hall:

• Families at Vets Hall, check in at desk for family tags

• Sandy Lydon, master of ceremonies

1 p.m.

1942 Greyhound Bus

1:30 p.m.

Mello Center Program:

• Sandy Lydon: Philosophies of Cooperation

• Internees arrive at Salinas Assembly Center

• Life in Poston, AZ

• Military Question (Loyalty) Stories

• Re-settlement Stories

Redress: Norman Mineta

(Invited Key Note Speaker)

3:30 p.m.

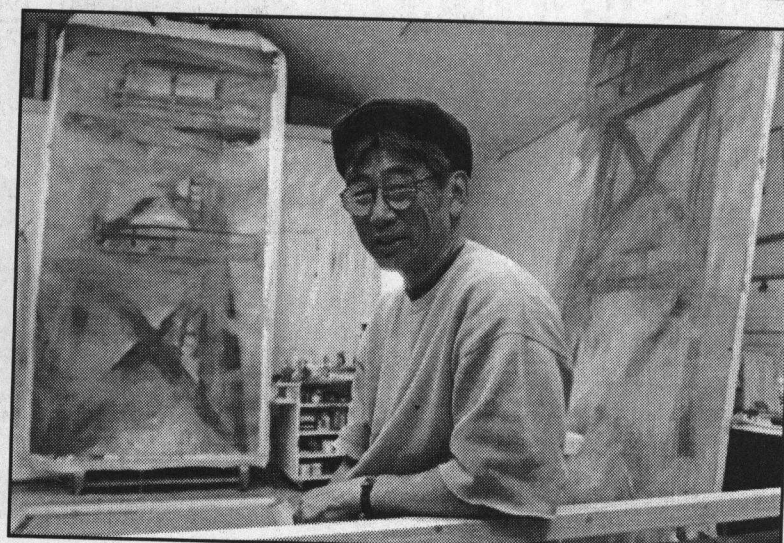
Concluding Statements

4 - 7 p.m.

Reception at PVHA and YWCA for partici-

Japanese American Community

4/27



Associated Press

Artist Howard Ikemoto, who was interned at Tule Lake in northern California when he was 3, talks about his experience at the Japanese internment camp Tuesday, April 23, at his home studio in Watsonville. Ikemoto has been telling his family's stories through 10-foot paintings of guard towers which will be part of an internment re-enactment Saturday in downtown Watsonville.

## INTERMENT

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something like this could happen in a hysteria."

The re-enactment is a production of the Watsonville-Santa Cruz Japanese American Citizens League. While internees hold reunions, and others make annual trips to internment camps, Saturday's event may be the first re-enactment, said JACL national executive director John Tateishi.

More than 1,000 people are expected to watch the event in Watsonville today.

Those taking part in the re-enactment will assemble outside the Watsonville Public Library, decoated with 1940s details like a Greyhound bus on loan from a museum and an antique police car.

The actors, wearing vintage clothing, will tell their stories to the crowd, and will then be put on a bus and ride to the Mello Theater down the street that will represent an internment center in the desert. There will be cyclone fences in the lobby and paintings of guard towers flanking the stage.

The \$35,000 production, called

"Liberty Lost ... Lessons in Loyalty," was supported by donors from around the country.

The tales that will be told include those of a father who was taken by the FBI and sent to a camp apart from his family; a high school student who could not graduate; a little girl who had to leave her dog behind; and little Norman Mineta, now U.S. transportation secretary, whose baseball bat was taken by a guard before he left for camp.

Saturday's event will also honor Japanese-Americans who served in the U.S. Military Intelligence Service and the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team.

In the 1940s, local politicians passed resolutions opposing the return of internees from the camps. But those who disagreed, and helped the Japanese-Americans, will be honored at Saturday's event.

Among them: the late Oscar and Opal Marshall, who greeted returning internees at the train station, helped them find jobs and bought food when they heard markets would not sell to Japanese-Americans.

Watsonville artist Howard Ikemoto, who was interned at Tule