

Executive Order 9066 and the Residents of Santa Cruz County

By Rechs Ann Pedersen



Japanese American Citizens League Float, Watsonville Fourth of July Parade, 1941

Photo Courtesy of Bill Tao

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Introduction

"...the successful prosecution of the war requires every possible protection against espionage and against sabotage." (Executive Order 9066)

"This is no time for expansive discourses on protection of civil liberties for Japanese residents of the Pacific coast, whether they be American citizens or aliens." Editorial. (*S.C. Sentinel-News*. February 19, 1942 [M] p.1.)

"He pointed out that the Japanese race is completely unassimilable with the white race and that this nation would be better off without them." Editorial. (*Riptide*. April 3, 1942 p.2)

"Remember also -- persecute these people for the accident of birth -- establish a precedent and the cold heavy hand of persecution and intolerance may one day rest on your shoulder because your name is Smith or Jones -- or because you are Protestant or Catholic or Jew -- white or Negro -- and the persecutors will use this incident as a precedent." Letter to the Editor by John L. McCarthy. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*, March 9, 1943. p.6)

By noon April 30th 1942, "no person of Japanese ancestry remained in Santa Cruz County for the first time in more than half a century..." (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. 4/30/1942 p.1)

It happened here, too

On February 19, 1942, a little more than two months after the United States entered World War II, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066. It authorized the Secretary of War, or his designate, to define military areas and to exclude from them citizens and aliens alike. By the authority of Executive Order 9066, General John L. DeWitt, Western Defense Commander, created Military Area no. 1 and excluded from it all persons of Japanese ancestry. Santa Cruz County was part of Military Area no. 1. All Japanese and Japanese-American residents of the County either moved out or were

evacuated and imprisoned in relocation centers. "All this was done despite the fact that not a single documented act of espionage, sabotage or fifth column activity was committed by an American citizen of Japanese ancestry or by a resident Japanese alien on the West Coast." (1) Without criminal charges or trials of any kind, these individuals were denied their Constitutional rights to life, liberty, and property.



Watsonville Boy Scout Troop 87, 1933 - Photo courtesy of Bill Tao

Part of the local story

By using quotations and full-text articles from contemporary local newspapers, these articles begin to show what happened to Santa Cruz County Japanese, Japanese-Americans, and Italians because of Executive Order 9066. These articles aim to contribute to their story, outlining events and revealing attitudes and prejudices.

More information

However, these articles are based on newspaper accounts and as such are incomplete in themselves. They leave out personal experiences and only lightly touch on the broader legal issues. Articles on the library's website help to round out the picture. Personal accounts, descriptions of life in the camps, and discussions of the fundamental legal issues may be found in books and media available at the Santa Cruz Public Libraries (and other public libraries around the country).

About this Project

In 1997 the library hosted the traveling Smithsonian exhibition called, "A More Perfect Union". This exhibition dealt with the constitution issues of the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. The focus of the exhibition was nationwide. Using contemporary local newspapers as the source, the Library decided to add information on the local impact of Executive Order 9066 to its Website.

Volunteers from the Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries and library reference staff scanned microfilm back files of the *Santa Cruz Sentinel-News* (12/1941-1945), *Riptide* (1941-1945), *Morning Sun* (12/1941), and *Watsonville Register-Pajaronian* (1942--1945). They printed off articles related to the internment. Out of the stacks of printed articles, the Internet Librarian (Rechs Ann Pedersen) edited the selections and wrote the articles. The full text of selected articles were transcribed by volunteers and staff.

A common reaction for all of us working with the newspapers was, "I didn't know that." Helping to dispel that ignorance was the major purpose of this project.

Footnote

(1) U.S. Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. *Personal Justice Denied*. Civil Liberties Education Fund and University of Washington Press, 1997. p.3.

Bibliography

The following publications were used to compile the chronologies and were sources of information for the topical articles.

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Asian American Encyclopedia. Marshall Cavendish, 1995.

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The Latino Encyclopedia. Marshall Cavendish, 1995.

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Riptide (1942--1945)

Santa Cruz Sentinel-News (December 1941--1945)

United States Commission on Wartime Relocation. *Personal Justice Denied*. Civil Liberties Public Education Fund and University of Washington Pr., 1997.

Watsonville Morning Sun (December 1941)

Watsonville Register-Pajaronian (1942--1945)

Chronology: Part 1
The Attack on Pearl Harbor up to the Signing of Executive Order 9066
Dec. 7, 1941 -- Feb. 18, 1942

Articles are from the following newspapers:

Riptide, *Watsonville Morning Sun* (WMS), *Watsonville Register-Pajaronian* (WRP), *Santa Cruz Sentinel-News* (SCS) [E] Evening Edition, [M] Morning Edition

Sources used for the dates of events are listed in the Bibliography.

1941		
Date	Headline	Citation
	JAPAN ATTACKED THE U.S. NAVAL FLEET AT PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII	
Dec. 7	LET'S KEEP OUR HEAD! (Editorial)	WMS p.1
	LOCAL JAPANESE ASSURE THIS COUNTRY OF LOYALTY	WMS p.1
Dec. 8	UNITED STATES DECLARED A STATE OF WAR WITH JAPAN	
	S.C. DIGS IN FOR DURATION OF WAR	SCS p.2
Dec. 9	"We are yours to command in this emergency"	SCS p.2
	MALIO STAGNARO SPEAKS	SCS p. 2.
Dec. 10	LOCAL JAPANESE ARE AGAINST WAR AGGRESSION	SCS p.8
Dec. 11	GERMANY AND ITALY DECLARED WAR ON THE U.S.; THE U.S. DECLARED WAR ON GERMANY AND ITALY	
	WE ARE LOYAL	WMS p. 8
Dec. 12-13	by Itsumi Oita, co-winner of the American Legion Armistice Day oratorical contest.	
Dec.13	JAPANESE FUNDS FROZEN HERE, OTHERS OK [sic]	SCS p.2
	AS WE SEE IT	
Dec.18	[Editorial in the Sentinel-News on the loyalty and dual citizenship situation of Japanese nationals and their American-born children]	SCS p.1
Dec. 21	JAP SUBMARINE SHELLS TANKER OFF MONTEREY BAY	SCS p. 1
Dec. 24	THE NISEI IN THE CROSS FIRE (Editorial reprinted from the Christian Science Monitor)	WMS p.4
1942		
Jan. 1	'WAIT-WATCH' NEW POLICY OF S.C. WHARFMEN	SCS p.7
Jan. 2	MOVEMENT OF ALL AXIS ALIENS NOW RESTRICTED	WRP p.1
Jan. 5	WAR DEPT. CLASSIFIED JAPANESE-AMERICAN MEN OF DRAFT AGE AS ENEMY ALIENS, 4-C	

	<u>ENEMY ALIENS: SPECIFICALLY, HERE'S WHAT YOU'LL GIVE UP</u>	SCS [E] p.1
Jan. 13	<u>\$25,000 BOND GOAL SET BY LOCAL JACL</u>	WRP p.1
Jan. 16	<u>JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS' LEAGUE DECLARES ITS POLICY</u>	WRP p.2
Jan. 25	ROBERTS COMMISSION REPORT RELEASED --investigated the attack on Pearl Harbor, concluding that the attack had been assisted by Japanese spies in Hawaii; advised preventative action on the mainland for the sake of national security.	
Jan. 29	U.S. Justice Dept. announced plans to remove enemy aliens from areas in the eight far Western states. <u>NEW RULE AFFECTS ALIENS HERE</u> [Identification Certificates]	SCS [E] p.1
Jan. 30	<u>LOCAL ALIEN REACTION TO REMOVAL</u>	SCS [E] p.1
Feb 1	<u>TWELVE UNHAPPY ENEMY ALIENS OF SANTA CRUZ</u> "Fishermen with 23 sons in Army and Navy are bound to wharf while boats lie idle and sea food is needed."	SCS [M] p.1
Feb 3	<u>ENEMY ALIENS: "MOTHER" DEFENDS THEM</u> [impact on Italians]	SCS [E] p. 8
Feb 3	<u>ALIEN BAN ON S.C. COAST WILL AFFECT HUNDREDS; FEBRUARY 24 IS DATE FOR CLEARING AREA</u>	SCS [M] p.1
Feb. 4	<u>NO EXCEPTIONS FOR S.C. ALIENS ; CONFUSION AFTER 1ST ORDER HERE</u>	SCS [E] p.1
Feb. 4	<u>MONTEREY FARM PARLEY URGES JAPANESE REMOVAL</u>	WRP p.2
Feb. 4	<u>CURFEW HITS ALL LOCAL ALIENS; HUGH COAST AREA HIT BY NEW REGULATIONS</u>	SCS [E]. p.1
Feb. 4	<u>MEN WITHOUT A COUNTRY</u> [Editorial] There are two current schools of thought in Santa Cruz regarding enemy alien orders...	SCS [E] p.2.
Feb. 5	<u>OUSTED JAPANESE MAY ASK REHABILITATION AID: "WE'LL ABIDE BY ORDER,' SAYS ONE OF COLONY AS WE SEE IT</u> [Editorial] Production of food is of such major importance to our country ...	WRP p. 1
Feb. 5	<u>MARCONI CLUB CHIEF APPEALS TO GOVERNOR</u>	SCS [E] p.1
Feb. 6	<u>NEW ALIEN RULES SEEN</u> New proposed steps to cope with the Japanese alien-citizen problem on the west coast....the possibility of asking congress for legislation that would permit "protective custody" arrest of any citizen for the duration of the war.	SCS [M] p.1

Feb. 11	<u>FBI ARRESTS 20 JAPS IN MONTEREY BAY TERRITORY; STORE KEEPER IS TAKEN IN CUSTODY AT WATSONVILLE</u>	SCS [M] p. 1
Feb. 13	<u>NEW ALIEN PROFITEERING CHARGES ARE HURLED HERE.</u> <u>JACOBY REFUTES RENT CHARGES BY S.C. ALIEN REPRESENTATIVES</u>	SCS p.1 SCS [E] p. 1

Chronology: Part 2
The Signing of Executive Order 9066 to the Move to Poston
Feb. 19, 1942 -- June 17, 1942

Date	1942 Headline	Citation
	PRES. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT SIGNED <u>Executive Order 9066</u>. <u>AS WE SEE IT</u> [Editorial] "This is no time for expansive discourses on protection of civil liberties for Japanese residents of the Pacific coast, whether they be American citizens or aliens."	SCS. [M] p. 1.
Feb. 19	<u>SC MARTIAL LAW, RICH COMMENTS</u> "I do think the people on the whole would feel a lot safer with all Japanese out of the community. It might be a way of bolstering morale and waking the people up to the fact the situation is serious." <u>ALIEN RULES FELT AT H.S.</u>	SCS. [M] p. 1. SCS. [E] p. 10.
Feb. 20	GENERAL JOHN L. DEWITT-- appointed by Secretary of War to administer Executive Order 9066. <u>JAPANESE NOT THE ONLY ENEMY ALIENS TO WATCH CLOSELY</u> [Editorial]	WRP p.4.
Feb. 21	<u>FDR AUTHORIZES WAR SECRETARY TO SET UP MILITARY AREAS TO CONTROL AXIS ALIENS</u> <u>PACIFIC COAST JAPANESE PREPARE FOR EVACUATION:</u>	WRP p.1
Mar. 1	"We are preparing our people...to move out. We want them to go without bitterness, without rancor, and with the feeling that this can be their contribution to the defense of the United States."	SCS. [M] p. 1.
Mar. 2	PUBLIC PROCLAMATION NO. 1 -- Western halves of California, Oregon, Washington, and the Southern Part of Arizona were designated as Military Area No. 1. Advised "voluntary" evacuation to the interior of the United States. Persons of Japanese ancestry were to be evacuated first. When this was completed, the German and Italian aliens would be evacuated.	

	<u>LOCAL ITALIANS FAVORED IN NEW ALIEN EVACUATION RULE</u>	
Mar. 3	"...exempted will be the families, including parents, wives, children, sisters and brothers of Germans and Italians in the armed forces..."	SCS [E] p.1
Mar. 4	<u>2500 TO QUIT VALLEY; AMERICAN-BORN INCLUDED IN ARMY ORDER</u>	WRP p.1
	<u>S.C. ALIENS AMONG FIRST EVACUATED; 60 DAYS IN WHICH ALL MUST GO</u> "	SCS [E]
Mar. 5	Evacuation of all Japanese, alien and citizen, and Italian and German aliens, will be conducted first in such seaport areas as Santa Cruz... "	p.1
	<u>WHAT OTHER EDITORS SAY:</u>	
	Fair Treatment For Japanese	WRP p.8
Mar. 6	<u>JAPS PLAN EVACUATION; TWO RECEPTION CENTERS SET UP</u>	WRP p.1
	<u>ALIENS! WARNINGS ARE GIVEN</u>	SCS. [E]
Mar. 9	"Don't sell property at sacrifice prices, continue to work your crops until exclusion is ordered officially..."	p. 5
	<u>JAPANESE CENSUS TOTAL LISTED IN S.C. AREA</u>	SCS. [E]
Mar. 17	PROCLAMATION NO. 2 -- four more states designated as military zones.	p. 5
Mar. 18	PRES. ROOSEVELT SIGNED EXECUTIVE ORDER 9102 ESTABLISHING THE WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY.	
Mar. 19	<u>NEW RULING STARTS ALIEN EVACUATION</u>	SCS. [E] p.1
	PUBLIC PROCLAMATION NO. 3 -- established curfew and travel regulation for Japanese, German, and Italian aliens and Japanese-Americans.	
Mar. 24	<u>NEW ALIEN CURFEW RULE STARTS FRIDAY</u>	SCS. [E] p. 1.
Mar. 26	PUBLIC PROCLAMATION NO. 4 --prohibited voluntary evacuation and established mandatory evacuation.	
	<u>200 JAP FAMILIES REMAIN; WILL DO THEIR BEST ON FARMS SAYS I. MOTOKI</u>	WRP p.1.
Mar. 27	<u>WANTED: OPERATORS FOR JAP-ABANDONED FARMS</u>	SCS. [E] p. 1.
	<u>ALIEN RULES TOUGHER, SOME EXEMPTIONS HERE</u>	
Mar. 30	"Certain designated classes of Italian and German aliens--and a very few Japanese--Monday held a reprieve from evacuation and military curfew regulations.."	SCS. [E] p. 1.
Mar. 31	<u>QUIET EVACUATION LEAVES ONLY 20 JAP FAMILIES</u>	SCS. [E] p. 1.
April 2	CALIFORNIA FIRED ALL STATE CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES WHO WERE JAPANESE AMERICAN	
April 3	<u>"LETS DEPORT ALL JAPANESE"</u> [Editorial]	Riptide. p.2

- [CENTERS FOR JAPS OK ARMY SAYS](#)
 April 13 "Japanese who will be evacuated from the Pajaro Valley soon...were assured Monday that living conditions in army-established assembly centers will be adequate." WRP p.1.
- [JAPANESE FARM RULES](#)
 April 17 "New regulations to assure fair disposal and continued productivity of approximately 15 farms still operated by Japanese-Americans in the Watsonville and Santa Cruz area were announced today." SCS. [E] p. 1.
- April 26 [1196 JAPANESE IN COUNTY TO GO THIS WEEK](#) SCS. [M] p. 1.
- ASSEMBLY CENTER AT SALINAS RODEO GROUNDS OPENED**
 April 27 [JAP FARM PROGRAM PLANS GIVEN](#) SCS. [E] p. 5.
- April 28 [SALINAS JAPANESE ASSEMBLY CENTER BUSY PLACE AS EVACUEES MOVE IN](#) WRP p.1.
 April 29 [JAPS DISAPPEAR FROM VALLEY AS EVACUATION ON](#) WRP p.1.
- April 30 **NO PERSON OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY REMAINED IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY**
[LAST JAPANESE LEAVE VALLEY IN EVACUATION](#) WRP p. 1
- May 8 **POSTON RELOCATION CENTER IN ARIZONA OPENED**
- May 26 [THE STORY OF 112,000 JAPANESE IN AMERICA](#) WRP p.7
 (A series of three Full-Texts: Part one)
- May 27 [THE STORY OF 112,000 JAPANESE IN AMERICA](#) WRP p.9
 (Part two)
- May 28 [THE STORY OF 112,000 JAPANESE IN AMERICA](#) WRP p.7
 (Part three)
- June **ARMY COMPLETED EVACUATION OF PERSONS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY FROM MILITARY AREA No. 1**
- June 4-6 **BATTLE OF MIDWAY--destroyed the Japanese Naval Fleet**
- June 12 **100th INFANTRY BATTALION CREATED--formed almost entirely of Japanese Americans from Hawaii**
- June 17 **STARTING SOME DAYS BEFORE, LOCAL EVACUEES WERE MOVED FROM SALINAS TO POSTON**

Chronology: Part 3
During the Internment
June 17, 1942 -- Dec. 24, 1942

1942		
Date	Headline	Citation
June 17	STARTING SOME DAYS BEFORE, LOCAL EVACUEES WERE MOVED FROM SALINAS TO POSTON	
June 22	READERS' REFERENDUM--JAPANESE LIKE FOOD AT SALINAS CENTER A DISSERVICE TO OUR NATION [Editorial]	WRP p.3
June 26	"Further evidencing the need for national martial law, which Riptide consistently has advocated, is the action of the Civil Liberties Union which is endeavoring to nullify the evacuation of Japanese who are American citizens.." S.C. ALIEN ORDER IS CLEARED	Riptide p.2
June 30	"All Italian and German aliens, previously by federal order prohibited from an area including most of the city and all immediate coast territory inside the Coast Road and Watsonville highway, may return to that once-banned section..."	SCS [E] p.1
July 8	HOW MANY LOYAL?	WRP p.10
July 17	SCHOOLS IN CITY SUFFER 336 LOSS [school enrollment]	Riptide p.2
July 21	GIRL OF JAPANESE DESCENT IN TEST OF INTERNMENT POLICE TO HELP FBI KEEP EYE ON OUR ALIENS	SCS [M] p.1
Sept. 10	"Santa Cruz Police Department must make a complete report of the doings of every enemy alien in the city once a week to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and twice a month to an unnamed organization."	SCS [M] p.8
Sept. 16	S.C. LAD OF JAPANESE DESCENT IS GOOD ARMY CORPORAL	SCS [M] p.1
Oct.	THE ARMY COMPLETED THE TRANSFER OF EVACUEES FROM ASSEMBLY CENTERS TO RELOCATION CENTERS	
Oct. 1	OUR EX-HOMETOWN JAPANESE BOYS IN THEIR INTERNMENT CAMPS WORK ON CAMOUFLAGE NETS AND PLAY BASEBALL JAPANESE SCHOOLBOYS WRITE FOR RECORDS	SCS [E] p.1
Oct. 11	"Boys and girls who last year were pupils in Santa Cruz public schools are writing back to the school authorities for certified record of their credits."	SCS [M] p.8
Oct. 13	ITALIAN ALIENS ALLOWED TO RETURN TO COASTAL AREAS	

	<u>BIDDLE SAYS ITALIANS NOT ENEMY</u>	SCS [M] p.1
Oct. 14	<u>AGED GERMAN "ENEMY ALIEN" WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE HAD HIS SAVINGS IN \$500 WAR BOND</u> [George Michael Heckel]	SCS [M] p.1
Oct. 19	CURFEW AND TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS LIFTED FOR ITALIAN ALIENS <u>THEIR ENEMY IS OURS</u> [Editorial]	
Oct. 21	"Orders of Attorney General Biddle and Lt.-Gen. John L DeWitt, effect last Monday, in removing the majority of Italian aliens from the status of enemy aliens, appears amply justified by the findings of the FBI."	WRP p.4
Nov. 3	<u>ITALIAN FISHING BAN OFF; 50 PER CENT OF CREWS MUST BE U.S. CITIZENS</u>	SCS p.1
Nov. 18	STRIKE AT POSTON WAR RELOCATION CENTER <u>MILITARY RULE ON JAP ALIENS</u>	
Nov. 17	"San Francisco...The Western Defense Command said today all its orders would remain in force despite a ruling by Federal Judge James A. Fee at Portland, Ore., that Lt. Gen. John L. DeWitt, WDC commander, has no power to regulate activities of United States citizens."	SCS [E] p.8
Nov. 23	<u>ARMY ENDS JAP STRIKE AT POSTON</u> "Loyal Internees Hold Firm, Quell Unrest Among Axis Element."	WRP p.1
Dec. 24	COAST CURFEW IS LIFTED FOR GERMAN ALIENS	

**Chronology: Part 4
During the Internment
1943**

1943		
Date	Headline	Citation
Jan	442nd REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM ORGANIZED BY PRESIDENTIAL DECREE--formed from Nisei volunteers from the U.S. mainland and Hawaii <u>WHAT OF THE WEST COAST JAPANESE?</u>	
Jan. 13	We learn, from our discussions with various persons, that local people are divided in their ideas about the problem.	WRP p.4
Jan. 16	<u>JAPANESE FARM MACHINERY MAY BE PUT TO WORK</u>	SCS p.1
Jan. 27	<u>PLAN STUDIED TO PUT LOYAL U.S. JAPANESE IN WAR PLANTS</u>	SCS p.1
Feb. 8	LOYALTY QUESTIONNAIRE ADMINISTERED TO ALL MEN AND WOMEN OVER 17 IN RELOCATION CENTERS <u>DEFENSE COUNCIL RAPS FREEING OF INTERNED JAPS: PROTESTS GOING TO</u>	
Feb. 24	<u>PRESIDENT, SEC. STIMSON</u> Pajaro Valley and Watsonville Defense council, in special session Tuesday	WRP p.1

	night, adopted a resolution protesting the War Relocation authority's proposed program of releasing Japanese evacuees...	
	<u>RESOLUTION AGAINST JAP PROGRAM</u>	
	Following is the resolution adopted Tuesday night by the Pajaro Valley and Watsonville Defense council	WRP p.1
	<u>JAPANESE EVACUEES MUST BE KEPT UNDER STRICT SURVEILLANCE</u>	WRP p.4
Mar. 9	<u>AMERICAN PRINCIPLE CITED BY MCCARTHY IN DEFENSE OF JAPS</u>	WRP p.6
Mar. 20	WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE CONDITIONAL LEAVE PERMITS TO DETAINEES	
Mar. 26	<u>ALIEN FISHING BAN HITS 15 IN SANTA CRUZ</u>	SCS p.1
Mar. 28	<u>JAP NATIONALITY QUESTIONS PUT TO SUPREME COURT</u>	SCS p.1
Mar. 30	<u>SUPREME COURT ASKED TO RULE ON JAP-AMERICAN EVACUATION</u>	WRP p.1
Apr. 2	<u>RELEASE OF NATIVE-BORN JAPS FROM CAMPS ASKED BY SENATOR</u>	WRP p.1
Apr. 6	<u>MOVING JAPS UNCONSTITUTIONAL?</u>	WRP p.6
	<u>POLITICALLY SPEAKING</u>	
Apr. 8	...Legislators and farmers have been fretting over the wasted farm machinery left behind by interned Japanese farmers...	SCS [E] p.10
	<u>DEWITT ATTITUDE ON JAPS UPSETS PLANS: MANY READY FOR RETURN TO COAST</u>	
	By FRED MULLEN	
Apr. 16	WASHINGTON (UP) - The attitude of Lt.-Gen. John L. DeWitt that "a Jap's a Jap," has upset for the present an administration plan to return to useful work on the Pacific coast a majority of the 110,000 Japanese evacuees in relocation camps, it was learned Friday.	WRP p.1
	<u>JAP CITIZENSHIP RESTS ON OLD CASE BEFORE HIGH COURT.</u>	WRP p.3
Apr. 24	<u>SUPERVISORS PROTEST RELEASING OF JAPS</u>	WRP p.1
Apr. 25	<u>SANTA CRUZ COUNTY SUPERVISORS DEPLORE ARMY'S ACTION IN TAKING SOLDIERS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY</u>	SCS [M] p.1
	<u>A LETTER FROM POSTON</u>	
Apr. 26	Do you consider for a minute that we American citizens of Japanese ancestry are being treated fairly in being placed in a concentration camp, although it is not called concentration camp by our government, but theoretically it is?	WRP p.3
	<u>HERE'S TEXT OF SUPERVISORS' RESOLUTION ON JAPANESE</u>	WRP p.4
May 21	<u>WAR PRISONER FARM HANDS</u>	WRP p.3
	<u>JAP CITIZENSHIP</u>	
May 28	Patriots who really work at it are the Native Sons of the Golden West, who held their 66th annual convention last week...to keep all Japs in the relocation camps until other arrangements can be made and to bar forever American-born Japanese from United States citizenship.	WRP p.3

May 31	NEW WARNING ON RELEASING OF JAPANESE ...might result in turning trained saboteurs loose in this country...	WRP p.1
	'TEETH' PUT IN JAP ALIEN LAND LAW	
June 8	... Gov. Earl Warren Tuesday signed the Engle bill (8B140) putting more "teeth" into the alien land law of 1920 ...	WRP p.1
June 10	POSTON JAPS USED GOVERNMENT CARS FOR FISHING TRIPS AND PICNICS, DIES GROUP TOLD	WRP p.3
June 11	JAP'S SIEGE AT POSTON REVEALED	WRP p.2
	GOV. WARREN OPPOSES JAPS' RETURN TO STATE IN WARTIME	WRP p.1
June 12	Outbreaks of violence at the Poston, Ariz. relocation center late last year were caused by the return of 365 Japanese from "dangerous alien" camps in New Mexico and North Dakota, Norris James, War Relocation Authority intelligence officer, told a Dies subcommittee here.	WRP p.1
June 14	POSTON JAPS ARMED, DIES GROUP TOLD	WRP p.3
June 18	RACE PREJUDICE BLAMED FOR REMOVAL OF JAPANESE	WRP p.1
	U.S. SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS CONSTITUTIONALITY OF CURFEW LAW IN HIRABAYASHI V. UNITED STATES	
	SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS CONVICTION OF TWO JAPS	
June 21	WASHINGTON (UP) -The supreme court Monday upheld the convictions of Gordon K. Hirabayashi and Minoru Yasui, American citizens of Japanese descent, for violating evacuation and curfew orders of the U.S. army.	WRP p.1
	JAPS MUST BE WATCHED SAYS WARREN	
	COLUMBUS, O. (UP) - The release of 150,000 Japanese now held at relocation centers may lead to widespread sabotage and a "second Pearl Harbor in California," Gov. Earl Warren of California said Monday.	WRP p.1
June 22	SUPREME COURT BACKS DEWITT	WRP p.6
	HEARING ON JAP ISSUE HERE JULY 7	
June 29	The California State Senate Interim Committee on the Japanese problem... will hold a hearing here on Wednesday afternoon...	WRP p.1
July 6	JAP-AMERICAN ARMY PRIVATE WANTS 'CHINAMAN'S CHANCE' TO PROVE LOYALTY TO THE US	WRP p.6
July 7-8	CALIF. STATE SENATE INTERIM SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS ON THE "JAPANESE PROBLEM' HELD IN WATSONVILLE	
July 7	WRA DIRECTOR IRED BY DIES' JAP PROBE	WRP p.1
July 8	MAJORITY OPINION AT JAP HEARING--KEEP THEM OUT AFTER THE WAR	WRP p.1
July 9	SANTA CRUZANS TESTIFY AT WATSONVILLE JAP HEARINGS	SCS [E] p. 1
July 15	TULE LAKE DESIGNATED AS CENTER FOR DETAINEES WHO WOULD NOT SIGN LOYALTY OATH	

July 16	NO MORE JAPS IN COUNTY IS WISH OF THE MAJORITY	Riptide p.1
July 25	BENITO MUSSOLINI FELL FROM POWER	
Aug. 24	ARMY WILL NOT SUPERVISE JAPS AT RELOCATION CENTERS	WRP p.1
Sept. 14	FR SAYS MOST JAP EVACUEES ARE LOYAL	WRP p.1
Oct. 13	ITALY DECLARED WAR ON GERMANY	
Oct. 18	JAPANESE-AMERICAN SOLDIERS UNDER FIRE AT BENEVENTO BATTLE	WRP p.1
Oct. 22	8200 DISLOYAL JAPS NOW AT TULE LAKE; 10,000 BY JAN. 1	WRP p.1
Oct. 23	WAR DEPARTMENT PAYS TRIBUTE TO JAPANESE-AMERICAN TROOPS	WRP p.6
Oct. 29	SULLEN JAPS REFUSE WORK AT TULE LAKE	WRP p.1
Nov. 22	JAP SUBVERSIVE GROUP HAD HEADQUARTERS HERE, CHARGE	WRP p.1
Dec. 9	BIDDLE SAYS JAP-AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP CAN BE REVOKED	WRP p.1

Chronology: Part 5 During the Internment

1944

1944

Date	Headline	Citation
	WAR DEPT. REINSTATED THE DRAFT FOR NISEI DETAINEES	
Jan. 20	JAP ISSUE ON HOME FRONT: DeWITT REPORT SAYS EVACUATION MILITARY NECESSITY	WRP p.1
	JAP ISSUE ON HOME FRONT: FAIR PLAY GROUP FEARS PRECEDENT, FILES ARTICLES	WRP p.1
Feb. 1	'SOUL-STIRRING HATE' NEEDED TO WIPE OUT JAPS--GARDNER "For the last two years, some of us, privately and publicly, have asserted that the Japanese, as a race, are absolutely bad, that they are inherently, biologically and traditionally vicious, inherently inhuman, totally unfit for association with any human being..."	WRP p.1
Feb. 7	FRESNO TEST CASE LOOMS ON SEIZURE OF STORED JAP EQUIPMENT	WRP p.6
April 8	DRAFT BOARDS HAVE PROBLEM IN RECLASSIFICATION OF JAPANESE	WRP p.2
April 13	ICKES BACKS WRA HANDLING OF JAPANESE Secretary of Interior Harold L. Ickes Thursday denounced "professional race mongers" who oppose release of loyal Japanese-Americans from relocation camps and said that people who deny them decent treatment "don't believe in the constitution of the United States."	WRP p.1

	<u>FIRST STEP IN CAMPAIGN TO TAKE LAND FROM ALIEN JAPS NOW HELD THROUGH 'DUMMIES'</u>	WRP p.3
April 28	<u>NISEI IN US ARMY WON'T BE USED IN COMBAT AGAINST JAPS</u>	WRP p.3
	<u>3 JAP EVACUEES FACE MONTEREY CO. LAND CHARGE</u>	
May 20	Criminal complaints charging conspiracy to violate the alien property act of 1920 were filed against three Japanese in superior court at Salinas Friday by Monterey County District Attorney Anthony Brazil.	WRP p.1
May 27	<u>WHAT OTHER EDITORS SAY-- AFTER THE WAR</u> (From San Francisco Chronicle)	WRP p.6
May 29	<u>LETTER FROM JAPANESE AMERICAN IN SERVICE</u> ... For us Japanese-Americans, we have two battles to win..."	WRP p.6
June 10	100th INFANTRY BATTALION AND 442nd REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM FORMALLY UNITED	
Aug. 8	<u>FOUR FORMER LOCAL JAPANESE-AMERICANS LEAVE POSTON FOR ARMY</u>	WRP p.6
Sept. 23	<u>HARRY F. MADOKORO'S LETTER BEFORE DEATH</u>	WRP p.3
Oct. 3	<u>WRA CHIEF SAYS HEROISM OF NISEI IN ITALY SOFTENING OPPOSITION TO JAPS RETURN</u>	WRP p.3
	<u>ATTORNEYS-GENERAL FILE BRIEF IN JAP EVACUATION CASE</u>	
Oct. 10	Attorneys-generals of California, Oregon and Washington Monday joined in a brief filed with the supreme court asking that restrictions against Japanese-American citizens in Pacific coastal areas be removed "as soon as national security permits."	WRP p.3
	<u>RETURN OF JAPANESE</u>	
Nov. 15	- Under the Constitution, American-born Japanese cannot legally be prevented from returning to California once the military prohibition against their residence here is lifted. But the problem is not simply one of law codes, and any attempt to solve it by legalistic means alone must surely fail....The story of the Japanese in California before the war is that of a large concentrated minority, unassimilable and acquisitive.	WRP p.4
	<u>RETURN OF JAPANESE STIRS MANY PROTESTS</u>	
Nov. 17	... Feeling is particularly bitter in Salinas, home of the American tank company which suffered heavy casualties on Bataan. Watsonville police said they had not been notified of the arrival or impending arrival of any Japanese evacuees here. Officials also said they had received no reports to substantiate a rumor that a "dead Jap was found on the beach road" Friday morning.	WRP p.1
Nov. 18	<u>WARREN TALKS WITH ARMY ON JAPS RETURN</u> SACRAMENTO (UP) - Gov. Earl Warren, commenting on complaints against	WRP p.1

the return of several Japanese to California, Saturday disclosed he had discussed with officers of the army's Western Defense command the possible danger of large scale release of evacuated Japanese....

[CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION DIRECTOR SAYS JAPS WILL RETURN](#)

Nov. 20 ...He declared the exclusion order was not based on military necessity but was the "unfortunate result of the ancient prejudice of such groups as the Associated Farmers ... and certain labor unions which resented the competing cheap labor of the Japanese." WRP p.5

[ANDERSON SAYS 800 JAPANESE BACK; FDR TELLS STAND](#)

Nov. 22 WASHINGTON (UP) - Shortly after Rep. John Z. Anderson, R., Calif., had declared 800 Japanese evacuees had been permitted to return to the west coast, President Roosevelt Wednesday had expressed the belief that Japanese-Americans, who are American citizens, cannot be locked up in concentration camps indefinitely. WRP p.1

Nov. 24 [HENRY IZUMIZAKI KILLED IN ACTION](#) WRP p.1

Dec. 17 **PUBLIC PROCLAMATION NO. 21 ISSUED--War Dept. revoked mass exclusion of persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast. The Proclamation went into effect Jan. 2, 1945.**

U.S. SUPREME COURT RULES THAT EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066 CONSTITUTIONAL IN KOREMATSU V. UNITED STATES; ALSO RULES THAT GOVERNMENT COULD NOT DETAIN LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS IN DETENTION IN ENDO, EX PARTE

Dec. 18 [VIOLENCE IS FEARED; GOV. WARREN CALLS UPON POLICE](#) WRP p.1

[HIGH COURT RULES 'LOYAL JAPS' FREE](#) WRP p.1

[SIDELIGHTS ON LIFTING OF EXCLUSION BAN ON JAPANESE](#) WRP p.1

Dec.19 [EXCLUSION BAN OFF](#) WRP p.6

[COZZENS TELLS WRA PLANS IN RESETTLEMENT OF JAPANESE](#) WRP p.8

Dec. 21 [ICKES SAYS MOST JAPANESE EVACUEES 'CHOOSE TO REMAIN' WHERE THEY ARE](#) WRP p.1

Dec. 22 [DISAGREES ON JAPANESE ISSUE](#) WRP p.

[OTHER EDITORS' VIEWS](#)

Dec. 28 We have been asked what other editors of smaller city daily newspapers think about the lifting of the exclusion order against west coast Japanese. WRP p.4

Chronology: Part 6
The Release and Return of the Evacuees
January 1945 through 1946

1945		
Date	Headline	Citation
Jan. 2	INTERNED JAPANESE AMERICANS ALLOWED TO RETURN TO WEST COAST Public Proclamation No. 21 revoked mass exclusion of persons of Japanese Ancestry. Individual exclusions were still in effect.	
Jan. 8	<u>SCHOOL HEADS IN PLEDGE ON RETURN OF JAPANESE PUPILS [INDUSTRIAL AND FARM JOBS]</u>	WRP p.4
Jan. 12	<u>UC PROFESSOR SAYS RETURNING JAPANESE WILL NOT THREATEN FARMERS' ECONOMIC SECURITY</u> <u>REP. ANDERSON STAND ON JAPS</u> ..."There are two primary reasons why I have consistently opposed the lifting of the exclusion order and the return of Japanese-Americans at this time. First, of course, is the question of security for citizens of Pacific coast states while the Pacific war continues, and second is the safety of the Japanese-Americans themselves.	WRP p.4
Jan. 19		
Jan. 25	<u>HOLLYWOOD LEGION TIFF ON JAP ISSUE</u> <u>FRANK SAKATA HERE ON BUSINESS TRIP</u> Frank Sakata, Pajaro valley Nisei who was evacuated three years ago, and who now is farming with his family in eastern Oregon, was here on business Monday and Tuesday. He was accompanied by another former local Nisei, "Sox" Yamaguchi. ...As far as is known, Sakata and Yamaguchi were the first Nisei to visit the valley since the army lifted the evacuation ban early in the year.	WRP p.8
Jan. 30		WRP p.1
Feb. 2	<u>'MONTEREY BAY COUNCIL ON JAPANESE RELATIONS' TELLS STAND, INVITES MEMBERSHIPS</u> <u>SEIFERT TELLS JAP RELATIONS COUNCIL STAND</u> "... I honestly believe I am as free of any kind of race prejudice as any human being can be and I cannot see where any other racial problem could arise which would be fraught with as much danger to our future generations as the Japanese problem."	WRP p.1
Feb. 3		WRP p.4
Feb. 12	<u>NATIVE SONS SEEK LAWS TO GOVERN JAPANESE IN STATE</u> <u>500 JAPANESE BACK ON COAST</u>	WRP p.3
Feb. 24	War Relocation authority records completed through Feb. 17 show that 413 Japanese went to California, 43 to Washington, 33 to Oregon, and 32 to Arizona.	WRP p.1
April 2	<u>LOCAL NISEI WITH 'O'CONNOR TASK FORCE'</u>	WRP p.3

	<u>'IF I WERE A JAPANESE-AMERICAN'</u>	
April 10	... I would remember the fact, without admitting that I am a slacker, that I wasn't required by the government to risk my life in the war while other American citizens were so required with the result that many of them were wounded, shocked or killed.	WRP p.5
May 2	GERMAN FORCES IN ITALY SURRENDERED	
May 7	GERMANY SURRENDERED	
May 7	<u>INCORPORATION PAPERS ON BAY COUNCIL OF JAPANESE RELATIONS FILED IN SALINAS</u>	WRP p.5
May 25	<u>JAP FAMILY WITH 3 IN ARMY SEEK TO RETURN HERE</u> Residents of Brommer avenue in the Live Oak districts are being sounded out as the welcome which might be accorded the Otsuki family...	Riptide p. 3
June 1	<u>ICKES RAPS JUDGE WHO TRIED MAN IN NISEI TERROR ATTACK</u>	WRP p.6
June 5	<u>WRA HOPES TO LIQUIDATE ITS ACTIVITIES BY NEXT JANUARY</u>	WRP p.3
June 7	<u>FRESNO DA HITS ACLU CHARGE IN NISEI TROUBLE</u>	WRP p.5
June 7	<u>REFITTING OF RELEASED NISEI INTO CIVILIAN LIFE IN WEST IS CAUSE OF GROWING CONCERN</u>	WRP p.8
June 12	<u>89 NISEI GIVEN YEAR SENTENCE AS DRAFT EVADERS</u>	WRP p.3
June 12	<u>OVERSEAS OFFICER'S VIEW ON NISEIS</u>	WRP p.5
June 19	<u>2111 NISEI CASUALTIES REPORTED BY US ARMY</u>	WRP p.1
June 22	<u>MYER SAYS SOLDIERS WILL ACCEPT NISEI</u>	WRP p.1
July 9	<u>COZZENS SAYS CHARGES AGAINST WRA ARE 'FALSE'</u>	WRP p.4
July 11	<u>STATE GETS MORE POWER TO SEIZE ALIEN LAND HOLDINGS</u>	WRP p.3
July 13	<u>WRITES FROM CHINA ON JAPANESE-AMERICANS</u>	WRP p.3
July 27	<u>ARMY OFFICER TELLS OF NISEI IN COMBAT</u>	WRP p.1
July 30	<u>GEN. PRATT SAYS HE HAS SOLE AUTHORITY, RESPONSIBILITY IN RETURN OF JAPANESE TO COAST</u>	WRP p.1
July 30	<u>WATSONVILLE NISEI RETURNING FROM ITALY</u>	WRP p.6
Aug. 6	U.S. DROPPED THE ATOMIC BOMB ON HIROSHIMA	
Aug. 9	U.S. DROPPED THE ATOMIC BOMB ON NAGASAKI	
Aug. 29	<u>STATE GIVEN JAP LAND IN SALINAS AREA</u>	WRP p.1
Sept. 2	JAPAN SIGNED THE TERMS OF SURRENDER	
Sept. 4	PUBLIC PROCLAMATION No. 25--ended individual exclusion of Japanese and Japanese Americans from the West Coast.	
Sept. 5	<u>JAPANESE EXCLUSION IS ENDED</u> With the war department and the Western Defense command issuing proclamations terminating the exclusive [sic exclusion?] program Tuesday night under which persons of Japanese ancestry were banned from the three west coast states, the Pajaro valley's present Japanese population of	WRP p.1

- approximately 77 individuals was expected to increase steadily in the next few weeks. ...
- [RETURNING JAPANESE](#)
 It has been this newspaper's steady contention that return en masse would
- Sept. 6 so complicate housing and other economic factors that incidents would occur despite the best efforts of the WRA and others who want to see law and order maintained. WRP p.6
- Sept. 8 [HOSTEL SLATED FOR RETURNING JAPANESE AT GILROY SPRINGS](#) WRP p.1
FIRST GROUP OF EVACUEES RETURN TO S.C. COUNTY
[74 JAPANESE EVACUEES HERE](#)
- Sept. 12 In the first group movement since lifting of the Japanese exclusion program Sept. 4, 74 Japanese evacuees arrived at Watsonville junction Wednesday morning... WRP p.1
- [C C SURVEY ON RETURNING JAPANESE](#)
 Sept. 18 ...This questionnaire propounded inquiries on the attitude of local people with respect to the proposed return of Japanese to this locality. ..." WRP p.1
- [JAPANESE SURVEY](#)
 To the Editor:
 I have just noted the very recent C.C. survey concerning the ever-present
- Sept. 20 Japanese problem in our midst.... Of late we have been learning of an increasing number of "Jap lovers" - people meeting the trains to usher these homecomers back to the Promised Land, while many are throwing their doors all but off the hinges to see that these people have employment. WRP p.8
- Sept. 21 [97 MORE JAPANESE ARRIVE HERE; CIO GROUP HEARS TALK](#) WRP p.1
- Sept. 24 [FLARE THROWN AT BUDDHIST TEMPLE HERE](#) WRP p.1
- Sept. 25 [VIOLENCE WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN WATSONVILLE](#) WRP p.6
[NISEI PLEA FOR UNDERSTANDING](#)
 To the Editor:
 Quoting from G.W. Cornell's letter of Sept. 20 to the editor, "everything
- Sept. 26 possible should be done to encourage all Japanese to return to their native land and ..." Perhaps we could have just as easily relocated elsewhere but, my dear Mr. Cornell, because CALIFORNIA was our native land, we have returned. WRP p.3
- [EVACUEE COUNCIL HEAD IN PLEA TO SEC. BYRNES](#) WRP p.8
[CORNELL'S FINAL COMMENT ON EVACUEES](#)
 ... If it had not been for the great protecting arm of our democracy that
- Oct. 4 removed you and others of your race in the spring of '42 and safely housed, fattened and clothed you after the FBI had unearthed so many hidden firearms, shortwave sets, etc., in your homes - the Lord only knows what might have been your lot. WRP p.8
- Oct. 6 [SOLDIERS PROTEST ACTION AGAINST JAPANESE](#) WRP p.5

- [CPL. JACK KIRBY DECRIES NISEI DISCRIMINATION](#)
- Oct. 11 "Since my return from the prison camps, I have been noting with growing alarm the discrimination against Americans of Japanese ancestry in this area. ..."
WRP p.6
- Nov. 28 **POSTON RELOCATION CENTER CLOSED.**
- 1946**
- Feb. 6 [WRA OFFICES IN DISTRICT SHUT BY MAY](#) WRP p.5
- April 25 [ALIEN JAPANESE NATIONALITY LAW FACES TEST](#) WRP p.8
- April 19 **WATSONVILLE WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY OFFICE CLOSED**
- May 15 **STATE WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY OFFICE CLOSED**
- May 15 [STATE WRA OFFICES CLOSE; 75 PER CENT OF JAPANESE EVACUEES REPORTED RETURNED](#) WRP p.8
- May 26 [NISEI SOLDIER MEMORIAL SERVICE SET FOR THURSDAY](#) WRP p.2
- June 30 **WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY PROGRAM OFFICIALLY ENDED**

Citizenship and Loyalty



Japanese American Citizens League Float, Watsonville Fourth of July Parade, 1941 – Courtesy of Bill Tao

Intertwined throughout the War are the issues of the citizenship and the loyalty of persons of Japanese ancestry. Japanese immigrants were legally denied citizenship; their children born in the U.S. were citizens. The U.S. government and many Americans expected persons of Japanese ancestry to prove their loyalty to the U.S. A common assumption was that race is the same as nationality. Some individuals believed that persons of Japanese ancestry were treacherous by nature and would be inherently loyal to Japan.

Citizenship

When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, leaders in the Japanese and Italian communities quickly made public announcements of loyalty to the United States.

December 7, 1941:

I. Motoki, secretary of the Japanese association [said], "As far as the Japanese community here is concerned, we pledge our whole-hearted loyalties to this country which we love. Most of the Japanese here, say 95 per cent, are residents of more than 25 years standing in Watsonville and the Pajaro Valley and are in a true sense Americans. The only thing is they did not become American citizens because the law does not provide privileges of naturalization to them. There have been many petitions in the past from different organizations seeking this goal of becoming American citizens." (*Watsonville Morning Sun*. December 7, 1941. p.1)

December 9, 1941:

MALIO STAGNARO SPEAKS...Malio Stagnaro, spokesman, Sunday night vouched for the sincerity of the Italian colony on the municipal pier and said this community has "nothing to fear" from their loyalty to the nation they have adopted. "There are only a few aliens in the local fishing colony," he said, "but these men have sons in the United States navy or the U.S. army and are 100 per cent behind this nation." (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. December 9, 1941. p. 2.)

Mr. Stagnaro went on to say, "Some have taken out their first papers and will take out final papers as soon as the necessary time has elapsed." (Ibid). He was referring to the process of becoming a naturalized citizen. Citizenship classes continued throughout the War and newspapers regularly carried lists of new citizens. For those living in the U.S who were born in

Japan--no matter how long they had lived here or what their personal wishes--U.S. citizenship was not a possibility.

No Naturalization

The limitations on citizenship and immigration for Asians was longstanding and in effect at the outbreak of World War II. In 1922, the U.S. Supreme Court in *Takao v. United States* upheld the Naturalization Act of 1790 which prohibited Asians from citizenship. The Immigration Act of 1924 (also called the National Origins Act) put quotas on immigrants from specific countries and totally barred the Japanese. These laws were not changed until the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965. (1)

Dual Citizenship

Children born in the United States whose parents were Japanese (called Nisei), were automatically U.S. citizens. In addition, some of them were also citizens of Japan. Japanese law stated that when a child was born to a Japanese father, the child was a citizen of Japan regardless of where the child was born. The United States did not recognize this dual citizenship, but Japan did. Japan could compel military service from a person with dual citizenship. However, this obligation could be enforced only if the person were in Japan. In 1914, Japan changed its law so that Nisei could renounce their Japanese citizenship. By 1930, half of the Nisei were dual citizens. By 1943, the number was reduced to one-fourth. (2)

At the start of the War, an editorial in the *Santa Cruz Sentinel-News* explained the dual-citizenship situation and brought up questions of loyalty.

December 18, 1941:

AS WE SEE IT

...for the most part the Nisei - the American born Japanese - can be depended upon to stand by the United States. He [Ernest Hauser] feels that the Kibei - the American born Japanese who were sent to Japan in childhood for training and who have returned to this country - are the crux of the whole problem. "These Kibei, returning to this country with American passports, are, to all intents and purposes, Japanese. They have spent their childhood and adolescence in Japan. They think in Japanese and they speak Japanese. They are imbued with the spirit of Nippon, with its strong elements of loyalty to the Emperor and to the Rising Sun. What would be easier for Japan's military and naval authorities than to send some of the over here with appropriate instructions?" ...
(*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. December 18, 1941.p.1)

Removing citizenship

The Native Sons of the Golden West, which had a local parlor in Santa Cruz County, called for stripping the children of Japanese immigrants of their citizenship and/or their voting rights. They filed a suit in Federal court which was dismissed in July 1942. They appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court and lost. They talked about a constitutional amendment.

April 24, 1943:

JAP CITIZENSHIP RESTS ON OLD CASE BEFORE HIGH COURT

...a California case being appealed to the Supreme Court may provide a test of the 46-year old court decision under which citizenship is granted to American-born children of Asiatics who are prohibited from becoming naturalized citizens. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian* April 24, 1943 p. 3)

May 18, 1943:

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO DENY CITIZENSHIP TO US BORN JAPS WILL BE SOUGHT

San Francisco (UP) - John T. Regan, grand secretary of the Native Sons of the Golden West, said Tuesday a bill amending the constitution to deny American citizenship to Japanese born in this country would be revived immediately in congress. ... "Now that the supreme court has decided that the 14th amendment insures citizenship to native-born Japanese, then the only thing to do is to amend the constitution. These people should never again be permitted to enjoy the blessings and privileges of American citizenship," he said. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. May 18, 1943 p. 3.)

Issue of Loyalty

Throughout the War, the loyalty of persons of Japanese ancestry, citizens and non-citizens, was a public issue. It appeared in the public statements of officials and organizations, editorials, and letters to the editor. The impossibility of telling if a person was loyal was used as a reason for evacuating all persons of Japanese ancestry--though not for evacuating persons of Italian and German ancestry. Possible disloyalty was stated as one of the reasons for not allowing evacuees back to the West Coast. (When the threat of sabotage was no longer seen as likely, the threat of violence against the evacuees displaced loyalty as a public reason.)

February 24, 1943:

JAPANESE EVACUEES MUST BE KEPT UNDER STRICT SURVEILLANCE [Editorial]

The defense council stresses one point that no one can dispute - who knows for sure whether a Japanese, whether alien or American born, is loyal to the United States? Even the Japanese evacuees themselves have admitted they cannot tell! ...Americans have been known to "bend over backwards" many times in efforts to be tolerant but the events of Dec. 7, 1941, and subsequent activities of the "yellow aryan" have shown only one thing - the Japanese government is determined to conquer and humble the United States or commit national hari-kari in the attempt. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. February 24, 1943 p. 4)

On February 8, 1943, a loyalty questionnaire was administered to all adult men and women in the camps and was used as proof that citizens were loyal. It was a major element in the granting of release from the camps. Even when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that American

citizens could not be imprisoned, "It upheld constitutionality of the removal program by a 6 to 3 decision, and was unanimous in holding that" (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. December 18, 1944. p.1)

Ultimately, the question remains, why should this particular group of American citizens have to prove that they were loyal when other groups did not have to?

"Remember also -- persecute these people for the accident of birth -- establish a precedent and the cold heavy hand of persecution and intolerance may one day rest on your shoulder because your name is Smith or Jones -- or because you are Protestant or Catholic or Jew -- white or Negro -- and the persecutors will use this incident as a precedent." John L. McCarthy. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*, March 9, 1943. p.6)

Footnotes

(1) "Aliens ineligible to citizenship," *Asian American Encyclopedia*. Marshall Cavendish, 1994. Vol. 1. pp. 18-19.

(2) "Dual citizenship," *Ibid*. Vol. 2. p. 383-384.

Alien Land Laws

California land laws had been passed prior to World War II and were in effect throughout the War. They denied "aliens ineligible to citizenship" land ownership rights given to citizens and other aliens. "Aliens ineligible to citizenship" meant Asian aliens since they were the ones who were ineligible for naturalization under U.S. immigration laws. The Alien Land Law of 1913 (also known as the Webb-Heney Bill) provided that:

"Aliens not eligible for citizenship and corporations in which the majority of the stock was owned by ineligible aliens had to comply with the land ownership provisions of any treaty existing between the countries involved. The U.S.-Japan Treaty of 1911 made no mention of any right of Japanese aliens to own land." (1)

It also provided that the State could take over any land found to be in violation of the law.

The Alien Land Law of 1920 enacted further restrictions. It prohibited the transfer of land to noncitizens by sale or lease. Aliens not eligible for citizenship could not hold land in guardianship for their children who were citizens. If it was determined that land was purchased in one person's name, but with money from an Asian alien, the land would automatically become state property. "Despite the punitive provision of the Alien Land Laws, evasions were largely ignored. Between 1912 and 1946, only seventy-six escheat proceedings were filed in California under the Alien Land Laws." (2)



Family Picking Strawberries on White Ranch, near Freedom Boulevard, circa 1920s - Courtesy of Bill Tao

Although court proceedings may have been infrequent, strengthening and enforcing alien land laws was an issue during the War.

Strengthening the Law

June 8, 1943:

'TEETH' PUT IN JAP ALIEN LAND LAW

Sacramento (UP) - Gov. Earl Warren Tuesday signed the Engle bill (8B140) putting more "teeth" into the alien land law of 1920 designed to prevent Japanese from farming in the manner they used before the war. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian* June 8, 1943 p. 1.)

July 11, 1945:

STATE GETS MORE POWER TO SEIZE ALIEN LAND HOLDINGS

[The] state's power to seize alien property holdings under the alien land act was strengthened by two bills signed by Gov. Earl. Warren. ... One of the bills removes the time limit on the state's prosecution of cases under the 1920 law, affecting cases involving agricultural property worth hundreds of thousands of dollars... The other gives the attorney general power to instruct district attorneys to assist in alien land law cases. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. July 11, 1945. p.3.)

Local Support for Alien Land Laws

Local newspapers do not indicate popular stand on alien land laws. They were on the books and there was no public call to repeal them. The Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors publicly supported them.

May 14, 1944:

SUPERVISORS APPROVE LOS ANGELES LEGAL EFFORT TO RETURN TO STATE ALL JAPANESE-OWNED FARM LAND

The county supervisors last week went on record as approving the legal action filed by Los Angeles County to return all Japanese farm land to the state. At the same time the supervisors approved a letter from Santa Cruz Parlor of Native Sons of the Golden West back the action taken by the southern county. (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. May 14, 1944. p.10)

Monterey Bay Area Case

May 20, 1944:

3 JAP EVACUEES FACE MONTEREY CO. LAND CHARGE

Criminal complaints charging conspiracy to violate the alien property act of 1920 were filed against three Japanese in superior court at Salinas Friday by Monterey County District Attorney Anthony Brazil. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. May 20, 1944. p.1)

March 10, 1945:

JAP ALIEN LAND CASE TRIAL IN MONTEREY COUNTY

Action to declare an escheat (or reverting) to the state of Monterey County land previously farmed by Yeizo Ikeda has been submitted on briefs to Superior Judge A.G. Jorgensen after a trial in Salinas. Action was brought against Ikeda by the state of California through Dist.-Atty. Anthony Brazil over 72 acres of land, valued at \$40,000, located in the Carr flat. The district attorney claimed the property which has been standing in the name of Toshi Hanzone, a citizen, was in reality owned by Ikeda and therefore was a violation of the alien land laws. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. March 10, 1945. p.1.)

August 29, 1945:

STATE GIVEN JAP LAND IN SALINAS AREA

Approximately 72 acres of farm land Wednesday is under state ownership following an alien land law decision against Yeizo Ikeda, a Japanese alien at Salinas. Superior Judge H.G. Jorgensen awarded the land to the state Tuesday. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. August 29, 1945. p.1.)

End of California Alien Land Laws

In 1952, the California Supreme Court found the Alien Land Law of 1913 unconstitutional in *Fujii Sei v. State of California*. In 1956, all Alien Land Laws were repealed in California by popular vote. (3)

Footnotes

(1) Okutsu, James. "Asian Land Laws." *Asian American Encyclopedia*. Marshall Cavendish, 1995. Vol. 1, p.16.

(2) Ibid.

(3) Ibid. Vol. 1, p.18.

**Executive Order 9066:
Authorizing the Secretary of War to Prescribe Military Areas**

February 19, 1942 (*Federal Register*, Vol. VII, No. 38):

Whereas the successful prosecution of the war requires every possible protection against espionage and against sabotage to national-defense materials, national-defense premises, and national-defense utilities...

Now, therefore, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States, and Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy, I hereby authorize and direct the Secretary of War, and the Military Commanders whom he may from time to time designate, whenever he or any designated Commander deems such action necessary or desirable, to prescribe military areas in such places and of such extent as he or the appropriate Military Commander may determine, from which any or all persons may be excluded, and with respect to which, the right of any person to enter, remain in, or leave shall be subject to whatever restrictions the Secretary of War or the appropriate Military Commander may impose in his discretion. The Secretary of War is hereby authorized to provide for residents of any such area who are excluded therefrom, such transportation, food, shelter, and other accommodations as may be necessary, in the judgement of the Secretary of War or the said Military Commander, and until other arrangements are made, to accomplish the purpose of this order. The designation of military areas in any region or locality shall supersede designations of prohibited and restricted areas by the Attorney General under the Proclamations of December 7 and 8, 1941,(1) and shall supersede the responsibility and authority of the Attorney General under the said Proclamations in respect of such prohibited and restricted areas.

I hereby further authorize and direct the Secretary of War and the said Military Commanders to take such other steps as he or the appropriate Military Commander may deem advisable to enforce compliance with the restrictions applicable to each Military area herein above authorized to be designated, including the use of Federal troops and other Federal Agencies, with authority to accept assistance of state and local agencies.

I hereby further authorize and direct all Executive Departments, independent establishments and other Federal Agencies, to assist the Secretary of War or the said Military Commanders in carrying out this Executive Order, including the furnishing of medical aid, hospitalization, food, clothing, transportation, use of land, shelter, and other supplies, equipment, utilities, facilities, and services. . . .

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Fear of Attack, Fear of Sabotage, Arrests

The United States was not at war with Japan when, on December 7, 1941, Japan attacked the U.S. Naval Fleet at Pearl Harbor. The day after, the United States declared war on Japan. During the first part of the War, the newspapers carried articles that reveal fears of external attack and internal sabotage. Those fears, along with naked racism against those of Japanese ancestry, are evident in the public calls for the evacuation of the West Coast and later used as reasons for opposing the return of the internees.

Fear of Attack

In the beginning of the War, the fear of attack was not without basis. Hawaii had just been attacked and other near attacks were reported. Authorities warned of possible danger.

December 9, 1941:

POPULACE CALM AS WATSONVILLE PLUNGED INTO DARKNESS AT 7:23 P.M.

'Hostile planes' approached the central California coast Monday night, resulting in blackouts which plunged Watsonville and other coast cities into sudden unexplained darkness..."This was an actual attack," General Ryan said. "There were hostile planes off shore. Then they turned around. Two strong squadrons were picked up by detectors approaching the Golden Gate. They moved north to Eureka, then south toward Monterey." (*Watsonville Morning Sun*. December 9, 1941 p.1)

December 21, 1941:

JAP SUBMARINE SHELLS TANKER OFF MONTEREY BAY

The Japanese war came close to Santa Cruz yesterday when a submarine rose to the surface 20 miles off the southern tip of Monterey Bay, took eight shots with a deck gun at the 6700-ton tanker 'Agwiworld' and missed every shot... (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. December 21, 1941 p.1)

December 23, 1941:

COASTAL WATERS COMBED FOR ENEMY SUBS

Four Attacks reported off California--U.S. defense forces Monday threw air, surface and undersea vessels into the search for enemy marauders who have approached as close as 20 miles to the California coastline in a series of daring submarine raids to shell and torpedo American coastal shipping. (*Watsonville Morning Sun*. December 23, 1941 p.1)

February 1, 1942:

BLIMP PATROL ALONG COAST OF CALIFORNIA

A blimp patrol was established over the central California coastline today, augmenting the alert watch of attack and bombing planes and surface craft." (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. [M] February 1, 1942. p.1)

February 13, 1942:

BULLETIN

Santa Cruz will receive soon 16,896 gas masks, one for every citizen on the basis of the 1940 census figures... (*Santa Cruz Sentinel*. [E] February 13, 1942. p.1)

July 3, 1942:

STIMSON WARNS OF JAP "FACE-SAVING" RAIDS ON COAST

Los Angeles (UP)--Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson said Friday that the Japanese still may attempt "face saving" bombing raids on the west coast despite American naval victories in the Pacific. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. July 3, 1942. p.2)

July 6, 1942:

BEACH RESIDENTS URGED TO WATCH OUT FOR INVADERS

The executive committee of the state council of defense has issued a warning to all citizens, particularly those residing along or near the ocean, to be on the alert for enemy landing parties. Kenneth R. Hammaker, executive director to the council said, "...Despite the vigilance of our navy and coast guard patrol boats, it is possible for a submarine to come to the surface near our coast and land saboteurs." (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian* July 6, 1942. p.2)

Fear of Sabotage; Neighbors and Japanese Leaders Arrested

The Roberts Commission, which investigated the attack on Pearl Harbor, released its report on January 25, 1942. The report stated that the attack had been assisted by Japanese spies in Hawaii and advised preventative action on the mainland for the sake of national security. Although there was no sabotage or subversive activity in Santa Cruz County (or anywhere on the West Coast), residents did not know that at the time. Fears were fueled by reports of coastal attacks and enemy sightings in the newspaper; residents read that government authorities arrested individuals in the County, but were not given any follow up or explanations; and some individuals were predisposed to suspect axis aliens and all persons of Japanese ancestry of subversive activities.

On the day of the surprise bombing, the *Watsonville Morning Sun* carried a front page article,

FBI officials said their men were ready for an expected order to round up and intern all Japanese nationals and pro-Japanese suspects in the San Francisco bay area. Such an order, if it comes, might result in a roundup of the hundreds of Japanese nationals in the Pajaro Valley. Such an order has not been issued yet. (*Watsonville Morning Sun*. December 7, 1941. p. 1)

The FBI had more than 2000 Japanese Americans under surveillance prior to the outbreak of the war. These individuals were classified in three groups (A, B, or C) depending on how dangerous the FBI believed them to be. "Within the next forty-eight hours, the FBI arrested 1291 Japanese from the 'ABC' list as well as some German and Italian nationals. With this sweep, the FBI was convinced that all of the potential saboteurs were in custody and that no further action needed to be taken." (1) However, in Santa Cruz County arrests continued for some months and public expression of fear of sabotage continued for years.

February 10, 1942:

MONTEREY BAY ENEMY ALIENS RAIDED

FBI agents and police raided residences, stores and hotels occupied by enemy aliens in Monterey and Santa Cruz counties today, arrested at least 20 aliens, and seized quantities of contraband, including guns, ammunition, radios and binoculars." (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. [E] February 10, 1942. p. 1.)

February 11, 1942:

FBI ARRESTS 20 JAPS IN MONTEREY BAY TERRITORY; STORE KEEPER IS TAKEN IN CUSTODY AT WATSONVILLE

Twenty Japanese were arrested, a truck-load of ammunition confiscated and quantities of other contraband seized Tuesday in an FBI raid on Japanese colonies in Santa Cruz and Monterey counties... (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. [M] February 11, 1942 p. 1)

February 12, 1942:

MARTIAL LAW NEARER, ALIEN WORRY GROWS

Santa Cruz today faced the possibility of martial law to effectively protect the area from possible sabotage and fifth column activity. This county could be included in all state prohibited areas so affected. (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. February 12, 1942 [E] p.1.)

February 19, 1942:

SC MARTIAL LAW, RICH COMMENTS

Commenting on proposed martial law to evacuate Japanese citizens, Mayor Edwin L. Rich said Wednesday [the previous day of the article] ..."I do think the people on the

whole would feel a lot safer with all Japanese out of the community. It might be a way of bolstering morale and waking the people up to the fact the situation is serious." (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. [M] February 19, 1942. p. 1)

4TH JAP JAILED HERE; CAFE OPERATOR HELD WITH GUN HIDDEN IN KNIFE

A 62 year-old Japanese restaurant proprietor who has lived in Watsonville for 42 years was revealed Wednesday as the fourth local enemy alien to be arrested and held for possible internment. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. February 19, 1942. p.1.)

February 22, 1942:

JAPANESE NOT THE ONLY ENEMY ALIENS TO WATCH CLOSELY [Editorial]

And while the authorities have been bearing down hard on Japanese nationals, we must believe that they are not blind to the dangers from German and Italian nationals who are disloyal to this nation. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. February 22, 1942. p.4)

TWO SANTA CRUZ JAPANESE SEIZED IN ROUND-UP OF THOSE HELD POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS

As part of a coast-wide raid of "enemy aliens considered potentially dangerous" the FBI reached into Santa Cruz yesterday and took two Japanese into custody. The two men were Thomas Kadotani...head of the Santa Cruz Japanese association, and T. Kai..., a leading member of the group. (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. February 22, 1942. p. 1)

February 23, 1942:

AT WATSONVILLE:

The FBI arrested 10 in Watsonville, all Japanese, over the week-end...The Watsonville arrests completed the roundup of the officers and directors of the association here, following earlier apprehension of Hatsusabura Yagi, president, a barber by trade...Those arrested during the week-end, listed as "potentially dangerous aliens," were picked up on presidential warrants. The Japanese taken in the first raid, which did not include Santa Cruz, were arrested on search warrants for premises, which contraband was apparently the prime motive for search. (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. [E] February 23, 1942. p. 1)

February 24, 1942:

SUB ATTACK SPURS ALIEN CLEAN-UP

...Growing demands Tuesday to clear even American-born Japanese from the Santa Cruz and other coastal areas developed from Monday night's submarine shelling of an oil refinery near Santa Barbara, as alien Japanese, as well as non-citizen Germans and Italians, moved from the horn-shaped strip of Santa Cruz county, surrounding the bay to permitted areas. (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. [E] February 24, 1942. p. 1)

March 4, 1942:

TWO ALIENS ARRESTED IN SANTA CRUZ RAID

Twelve FBI agents working the 15 local officers conducted a series of raids on alien residences here yesterday...a Japanese alien ...and an Italian alien. (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. [M] March 4, 1942. p. 1)

March 6, 1942:

WATSONVILLE JAPS ARRESTED IN NEW RAIDS BY FBI MEN

FBI agents in the most extensive raids in two weeks, struck again Friday in the Watsonville-Salinas district seizing members of secret Japanese military societies. (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. [E] March 4, 1942. p. 1)

March 10, 1942:

FBI SEIZED 4 MORE JAPS IN WEEKEND RAID [Watsonville] (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. [M] March 10, 1942. p. 1)

After the Evacuation

March 10, 1943:

2 GUNS FOUND IN EX-JAP HOME, NOT 'LARGE CACHE'

Rumors that a large cache of weapons left by evacuated Japanese had been located in the Pajaro valley were spiked here Tuesday night by the FBI. N.J.L. Pieper, special agent in charge of the San Francisco office of the FBI, said two loaded revolvers, a small box of ammunition and an eight-inch knife were found by local police and FBI agents in the former home of Harry M. Kimoto on San Juan road but no large cache of weapons had been uncovered. Kimoto is located now at the WRA camp at Poston, Ariz. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. March 10, 1943. p. 1)

June 3, 1943:

'LOYALTY OF JAP CAN'T BE DETERMINED ON MASS BASIS'

SACRAMENTO (UP) - The loyalty of a Japanese can't be determined on a mass basis and all law enforcement officers must be vigilant to detect Japanese espionage, Nat J.L. Pieper, special agent in charge of the San Francisco FBI office, late Wednesday told members of the Pacific Coast International Association of Law Enforcement Officials. ..."You can't judge Japanese on a mass basis, as all good or all bad, because you must resolve each case individually," Pieper said. "The Jap doesn't think as a white man does. He is tricky and superstitious. It requires painstaking questioning and investigation. And although the Japanese are away from the coast, we haven't stopped working on them. We are still looking for espionage because the Japanese will use innocent stooges wherever

they can. Persons who befriended them before the war often are susceptible to giving information inadvertently under the Japanese 'stab-in-the-back' policy." (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian* June 3, 1943. p. 1)

June 21, 1943:

JAPS MUST BE WATCHED SAYS WARREN

Columbus, O. (UP) - The release of 150,000 Japanese now held at relocation centers may lead to widespread sabotage and a "second Pearl Harbor in California," Gov. Earl Warren of California said Monday. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian* June 21, 1943 p. 1)

November 22, 1943:

JAP SUBVERSIVE GROUP HAD HEADQUARTERS HERE, CHARGE [Dies Committee]

Watsonville, at one time, was "central headquarters" of the Japanese Butoku-kai or "North American Imperial Way society," which was organized in 1929...The War Relocation authority has accepted the word of the Japanese that the Butoku-kai was merely a sports organization... Sworn statements were obtained from witnesses qualified to testify to the un-American activity of this Nisei organization. The purpose of the Butoku-kai in the United States was to train the Nisei in the military arts as practiced by the Japanese army... (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*, November 22, 1943. p.1)

Lt.-General DeWitt, head of the Army's Western Defense Command, stated in a report that the attacks on the West Coast were aided by signals from shore and implied that the signals were made by persons of Japanese ancestry.

January 23, 1944:

SHORE SIGNALS AIDED JAP ATTACK ALONG WEST COAST SAYS REPORT BY GEN. DEWITT

Washington--Signals from the shore aided the Japanese in attacks on the west coast early in the war, but after the evacuation of 110,442 Japanese from the area the signaling was "virtually eliminated."...For several weeks after Pearl Harbor, he reported, every ship leaving a west coast port was attacked by an enemy submarine. "This seemed conclusively to point to the existence of hostile shore-to-ship (submarine) communication " he said..."It is interesting to note that following the evacuation, interception of specious or unidentified radio signals and shore-to-ship signal lights were virtually eliminated and attacks on outbound shipping from west coast ports appreciably reduced." (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. January 23, 1944. p.2.)

Footnote

- (1) Kitayama, Glen. "Japanese American Internment". *Asian American Encyclopedia*. v.3 pp. 719--721.

Restrictions on Axis Aliens

JAPANESE HERE CAN EXPECT TO BE TREATED FAIRLY, SAYS MOTOKI

"I urge all Japanese persons in the Pajaro Valley to continue with their work and industry the same as heretofore, since I am satisfied that we shall be fairly treated by the government, even though we may not be citizens of such nation," I. Motoki, secretary of the local Japanese Association... (*Watsonville Morning Sun*. December 9, 1941. p. 1)

December 7, 1941, a Sunday, Japan bombed the U.S. Navy at Pearl Harbor. The *Watsonville Morning Sun* carried the grim news and warned:

FDR MAY ASK FOR DECLARATION OF WAR MONDAY MORNING

Japanese bomber squadrons, torpedo planes and parachute troops attacked the United States' great naval and air bases in Hawaii at dawn Sunday, blasting furiously at warships and war installations...FBI officials said their men were ready for an expected order to round up and intern all Japanese nationals and pro-Japanese suspects in the San Francisco bay area. Such an order, if it comes, might result in a roundup of the hundreds of Japanese nationals in the Pajaro Valley. Such an order has not been issued yet. Many Japanese in this area are American citizens with only a comparatively few of the older residents being native of Japan. (*Watsonville Morning Sun*. December 7, 1941. p.1)

Over the next months, local residents were arrested by the FBI. Various regulations and restrictions began right away and were followed a month later by restricted areas and evacuation.

Bank Accounts

Dec.13, 1941:

JAPANESE FUNDS FROZEN HERE, OTHER OK

Funds in local banks of Japanese nationals are entirely frozen under orders issued by the U.S. Treasury department. Access to their accounts is allowed for Japanese citizens, those born in this country or in American possessions, as Hawaii, and now residing here. In the case of the accounts of even the American Japanese, the banks must exercise discretion and determine that funds dispersed will not be used for the benefit of a national not licensed by the Federal Reserve Bank. No orders have been received Friday concerning procedure for accounts of Italian and German nationals. (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. December 13, 1941. p.2)

Four days later, the Federal Reserve announced that banks could conduct business with Japanese nationals who had resided continuously in the U.S. since June 17, 1940. (*Watsonville*

Morning Sun. December 17, 1941. p. 1) However, the following articles indicates that there may still have been problems:

January 4, 1942

IMPOUNDED T.B. MONEY

The Santa Cruz County Anti-Tuberculosis Association finds itself in possession of a number of checks which it cannot cash. The Japanese residents of the entire Santa Cruz County have always been liberal and numerous contributors to the anti-tuberculosis work. When war was declared and funds of aliens in our banks tied up by federal order, the association found that it had on hand a score or more of checks with the names of Japanese upon them which cannot be cashed immediately. The Japanese have been such staunch supporters of the association that it is anticipated that every one of the checks will eventually be good. (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. [M] January 4, 1942. p. 1)

The impact on Japanese-owned businesses and individuals is not reported in the newspapers.

Hunting and Fishing

December 27, 1941, the California Division of Fish and Game announced that no hunting or fishing licenses would be sold to enemy aliens. (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. December 27, 1941. p.5) On the same day, the *Sentinel-News* carried a front page article announcing that only U.S. citizens could go into the coastal waters. This restriction took away the livelihood of many of the Italians in the area who were commercial fishermen.

December 27, 1941:

... It was estimated in Santa Cruz that about 20 of the 55 fishermen will be forbidden to fish by the citizenship requirement. In Monterey, one wharf spokesman said that the citizenship requirement has put a big crimp in the local market fishing activities. He pointed out that some 125 members in his group only 14 are able to meet the new rules. (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. December 27, 1941. p. 1)

January 1, 1942:

'WAIT-WATCH' NEW POLICY OF S.C. WHARFMEN

A general attitude of hopeful waiting is on display among members of the wharf colony--fishermen, boat owners, and wharf workmen. Wartime restrictions have been imposed upon waterfront activities, bringing business almost to a standstill. (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. December 27, 1941. p.7)

Cameras and Shortwave Radios

December 28, 1941:

EVERY ENEMY ALIEN MUST SURRENDER ALL CAMERAS AND SHORT WAVE RADIOS
Every enemy alien--Japanese, German, Italian--in Santa Cruz County, who has a camera or short wave radio set in his possession, must surrender it to the police in Santa Cruz or Watsonville, or to the sheriff's office, before 11 o'clock tomorrow morning ... The order resulted from army reports that unauthorized radio messages were being received and sent on the west coast. (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. December 28, 1941 p.1)

Liquor Licenses

January 1, 1942:

JAPANESE LIQUOR PERMITS CANCELLED
Liquor Law enforcement officer Jerry O'Brien yesterday all liquor licenses held by Japanese in this district. He said there had been four Japanese holding licenses in Santa Clara County, eight in Santa Cruz County, 12 in Monterey County, and 16 in San Luis Obispo County (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. [E] January 1, 1942. p.2)

Registering a Car

January 2, 1942, persons of Japanese ancestry who wanted to transfer ownership of an automobile or register a new one, had to provide the state of California with one of the following: certified copy of a birth certificate, or court order establishing citizenship, or signed statement made under oath stating that he/she was not an enemy, ally of enemies or a national of any enemy county or ally of any enemy county. (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. January 2, 1942. p. 5)

Travel Restrictions and Firearms

The U.S. Department of Justice placed restrictions on travel and the ownership of firearms.

January 2, 1942:

MOVEMENT OF ALL AXIS ALIENS NOW RESTRICTED
Pajaro Valley's Japanese, German and Italian nationals must turn in all firearms in their possession to police authorities before 11 p.m. Monday, and must confine their travel to the community in which they reside unless given permission to the contrary... For nearly three weeks, Watsonville police have been receiving firearms from both Japanese nationals and citizens here following the request of the Japanese association, through I. Motoki, that they voluntarily turn in their firearms and cameras to police for the duration of the war. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*, January 2, 1942. p.1)

Identification Papers and Registration

At the end of January, the Federal government and the State of California required axis aliens to register.

January 29, 1942:

All Santa Cruz Japanese, German and Italian aliens, 14 years and over, today were ordered by proclamation of Gov. Culbert Olson to apply to this post office during the period Feb. 2-7 for certificates of identification. Olson's proclamation followed a similar one by President Roosevelt. (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*, January 29, 1942. [E] p. 1)

February 2, 1942:

ALIENS START TO REGISTER IN SANTA CRUZ

Between 1200 and 1500 Santa Cruz aliens of enemy nationality are expected to register this week at Santa Cruz post office under the new alien registration act effective today... [Registration period was from Feb. 2 through Feb 7. Later extended to Feb. 9] (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. [E] February 2, 1942. p. 8)

Curfew and Further Travel Restrictions

U.S. Attorney General Francis Biddle issued new rules severely limiting the movement of axis aliens .Violators would be subject to arrest and internment.

February 4, 1942:

CURFEW HITS ALL LOCAL ALIENS; HUGH COAST AREA HIT BY NEW REGULATIONS

Italian, Japanese, and German aliens are subjected to a 9 p.m. curfew and permitted to travel only between their jobs and them home after February 24th...The curfew restrictions are:

1. Between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. all enemy aliens shall be within the place of residence indicated on their identification certificates.
2. At all other times they must be found only at the place of residence or employment indicated on their identification certificates, or going between these two places, or within an area of not more than five miles from the place of residence. (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News* [E] February 4, 1942. p.1.)

During the period of voluntary evacuation, Public Proclamation No. 3 was issued on March 24, 1942. It set out new curfew and travel regulations for Axis aliens. For the first time, it established them for Japanese-Americans also.

NEW ALIEN CURFEW RULE STARTS FRIDAY

American-born Japanese of Santa Cruz and the county will go under strict curfew restrictions Friday under new orders of Lieut. Gen. John L. DeWitt, commander of the Western Defense Command. (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. March 24, 1942. [E] p. 1)

Evacuation

Throughout this period of restrictions, local newspapers reported the calls/demands for the removal of aliens from the West Coast by various groups and government officials. On January 29th, the U.S. Justice Department announced plans to remove Axis aliens from specific areas in all of the eight Western States. It was the beginning of the evacuation.

Evacuation: The Restricted Area

POSTERS ON ALIENS HERE

Posted throughout Santa Cruz prohibited areas are posters warning enemy aliens that they must leave prohibited zone by midnight, February 24. The placards, in English, German, Italian, and Japanese, say: "Notice--Enemy aliens prohibited area No. 28--The United States government requires all aliens of German, Italian or Japanese nationality to vacate this area by midnight Feb. 24. Go to the nearest local public employment office of the United States employment service for details." (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. [E] February 17, 1942. p. 9.)

"After all, gentlemen, we are at war!"

Calls for the removal of axis aliens and Japanese-Americans appear in the local newspapers throughout the first months of the War. The justifications given were that evacuation would protect the country against sabotage and that it was impossible to tell a loyal American of Japanese ancestry from disloyal one. A couple of typical examples:

January 31, 1941:

LEAGUE OF CITIES WANTS ALL JAPANESE MOVED FROM COAST

Los Angeles (UP)--President Roosevelt was asked Friday night by the League of California Cities to order the immediate evacuation of all Japanese, American-born as well as aliens, from the entire "combat zone" along the west coast. The message to the President explained a "concerted and well-timed attack by saboteurs on a state-wide basis could inflict irreparable damage" and said city officials believed now was the time to act. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. January 31, 1941 p. 2)

February 4, 1942:

MEN WITHOUT A COUNTRY [Editorial]

There are two current schools of thought in Santa Cruz regarding enemy alien orders...It can readily be seen why a blanket order should be issued. Who, after Pearl Harbor, is to determine the spy from the gentle old man? Who could possibly take the responsibility of weeding the evil from the good? And why should the lives of thousands, even locally, be endangered because one bad apple might be scrutinized and labeled "OK."... After all, gentlemen, we are at war! (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*, [E] February 4, 1942. p. 2)

The Restricted Area

Executive Order 9066 is known as the document that authorized the evacuation and, ultimately, the internment of the Japanese and Japanese-Americans. However, prior to Executive Order 9066, the U.S. Justice Department created restricted areas. Axis aliens, not citizens, were banned from these areas. San Francisco and Los Angeles already had restricted

areas when the U.S. Justice Department announced plans to create additional ones on January 29, 1942. Although the details were not known yet, leaders in the Italian and the Japanese communities reacted to the news:

January 30, 1942:

LOCAL ALIEN REACTION TO REMOVAL

Santa Cruz' many Japanese, Italian and German aliens did not look too happily Friday upon threat of their forced removal from vital areas, which undoubtedly would include Santa Cruz, and subsequent action today which would restrict their holding of lands and possibility of revoking all their business and professional licenses...

Kadotani is president of the Japanese Association here and is fully recognized as spokesman. He had been an organizer of the earlier meeting here of businessmen and officials with Japanese leaders to insure friendly relations despite the war.

"I hope it doesn't come," he said, "but if it does we'll abide by the rules and take it."

He estimated at least one or two in every local Japanese family would be affected since the parents are almost entirely of Japanese birth...

Italian fishermen at the wharf who would be affected by such an order are "taking it on the chin like real men," a spokesman for them, Robbie Ghio of Santa Cruz Fisheries, said.

"Their reaction is that they'll take it just the way it comes. They're giving their flesh and blood to the navy and their money to the government, but what the government says they'll do."...

(*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. [E] January 30, 1942. p.1)

The restricted area was a coastal strip running the whole length of the western United States. In Santa Cruz County, the evacuation area included workplaces and homes, impacting Italian and German aliens in Santa Cruz, as well as Japanese aliens.

February 2, 1942:

ALIEN BAN CARRIED TO THIS AREA

The federal alien crackdown reached Santa Cruz County Monday...The restricted area, following route no. 1, includes the 12 aliens on the wharf, cuts across the city [of Santa Cruz] to include Live Oak, Twin Lakes, Capitola, and all the territory inside the Watsonville-Santa Cruz highway. Hundreds of aliens of all three nationalities are affected. In some local areas it will be necessary for entire families to move. (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. [E] February 2, 1942. p. 1)

February 3, 1942:

The Watsonville end of the county is sparsely populated in the restricted zone although there is a colony of Japanese farmers along the Beach road. Unofficial estimates revealed that between 20,000 and 25,000 people of the county's 45,000 inhabitants live in the restricted zone. Of these people, about 1500 families have alien members that will have to move out. In some instances the entire family will have to move, but those will be rare cases. According to Attorney General Biddle, the aliens must be moved out of the restricted area by February 24. (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. [M] February 3, 1942. p.1)

ALIEN BAN ON S.C. COAST WILL AFFECT HUNDREDS; FEBRUARY 24 IS DATE FOR CLEARING AREA

Hardest hit will be the Italian fishing colony at the wharf and the artichoke growers up the coast The Watsonville end of the county is sparsely populated in the restricted zone although there is a colony of Japanese farmers along the Beach Road. (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. [M] February 3, 1942. p.1)

Because many Italian and Japanese aliens worked in fishing and agriculture--vital food production--it was hoped that they might be excluded from the evacuation order, but they were not.

ENEMY ALIENS: "MOTHER" DEFENDS THEM

Young children in alien Italian families facing removal from the federal-designated restricted area in Santa Cruz are frightened, adults are bewildered and worried, the fishing industry at the wharf will be hard hit and boys are holding up enlisting for navy service because of the threat to the breadwinner of the families (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. [E] February 3, 1942. p. 8)

Families who had homes within the restricted area, had to find housing elsewhere. There were charges of rent profiteering.

February 12, 1942:

NEW ALIEN PROFITEERING CHARGES ARE HURLED HERE ... Mary Carniglia ... claim[ed] that in some cases, landlords are jumping rents because of the home scarcity, that others are taking deposits and then renting the home to higher bidders and returning the original deposit and that still others are refusing to rent homes to families with children. (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. [E] February 12, 1942 p. 1.)

February 13, 1942:

JACOBY REFUTES RENT CHARGES BY S.C. ALIEN REPRESENTATIVES

... refuted statements that those families forced to move from this prohibited area are being subjected to rent profiteering. (Santa Cruz Sentinel-News. [E] February 13, 1942 p1)

The Japanese Aliens

February 4, 1942:

'WE'LL ABIDE BY ORDER,' SAYS ONE OF COLONY

Pajaro valley's alien Japanese population will accept quietly the government's edict, removing them from a coastal area roughly bounded by State Highway no. 1 ... Motoki said he believed the loyal Japanese could do a better job of policing the entire Japanese population than any government, city or county organization could do. "We know our own people," he said.

Twenty-three families within the city limits would be affected by the order. Not all members of the family are aliens, however, but non-aliens would probably want to move to keep the families intact. Average size of a Japanese family is five.

In areas outside of Watsonville Japanese families with one or more alien members are:

Roache district and Larkin valley - 26 families.

Beach road district - 15 families.

Pajaro - three families.

Springfield and Trafton district - four families. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian* p.1))

February 14, 1942:

JAPANESE AMERICAN LEAGUE TOPS BOND GOAL BY \$12,000

The Watsonville chapter of the Japanese American Citizens' League went "over the top" by \$12,000 in its defense bonds sales campaign ... The original goal in the month-long drive was \$25,000 but sales totaled \$37, 211.75... (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. February 14, 1942. p. 1)

The German Aliens

Only one reference to German aliens was found in the local newspapers. On February 13, 1942, George M. Heckel, a 73-year old local resident, committed suicide. He was a German alien who lived in the restricted area and was despondent over moving out of his home. Months later, a follow up article appeared.

AGED GERMAN "ENEMY ALIEN" WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE HAD HIS SAVINGS IN \$500 WAR BOND (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. [M] October 14, 1942. p.1)

Evacuation: Public Proclamation No. 1

JAPS CALL EVACUATION "DIABOLIC"

"...obviously the constitutional rights of those American-born Japanese have been ruthlessly trampled upon in the heart of the resentment aroused by their own [the U.S.] political and military errors. The viciousness of the American government in persecuting a helpless, strictly civilian and manifestly innocent minority will remain in history as one of the blackest crimes ever committed by the so-called great powers." [Japanese radio propaganda] (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. March 5, 1942. p.7)

Executive Order 9066

From the start of the War, the U.S. Justice Department had established restricted areas, from which enemy aliens were excluded. On February 19, 1942, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which authorized the Secretary of War, or his designate, to define military areas. It also gave the power to exclude from a designated military area both aliens and citizens alike. Executive Order 9066

February 19, 1942:

AS WE SEE IT [Editorial]

This is no time for expansive discourses on protection of civil liberties for Japanese resident of the Pacific Coast, whether they be American citizens or aliens. (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. February 19, 1942. [M] p. 1)

S.C. MARTIAL LAW, RICH COMMENTS [Edwin L. Rich, S.C. Mayor 1941-1942]

"...I do think the people on the whole would feel a lot safer with all Japanese out of the community. It might be a way of bolstering morale and waking the people up to the fact the situation is serious..." (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. February 19, 1942. [M] p.1)

Although an official order had not been issued yet, newspapers carried reports of evacuation and possible "protective custody."

February 19, 1942:

ALIEN CONTROL STEPS PRESSED IN CALIFORNIA

"Once a Jap, always a Jap," Rankin [Cong. Rep, D-Miss.] said. "I'm for taking every Japanese ... and putting him in a concentration camp. We take cameras, guns, and radio sets from alien Japanese, Costello [Cong Rep., D-Calif.] remarked, "but we don't take cameras, guns and radio sets from their children who are American citizens. The only solution to the question is to remove from the area completely those persons who are likely to commit sabotage." (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. February 19, 1942 [M] p. 1.)

February 20, 1942:

JAPANESE-AMERICAN EVACUATION PROPOSED

Further evacuation plans, United Press reported from were being discussed in joint Justice-War Department conferences ... Under consideration were plans for martial licensing of all persons in defense areas, and possible legislation for "protective custody" arrests of citizens and aliens alike. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. February 20, 1942. p. 1.)

February 21, 1942:

FDR AUTHORIZES WAR SECRETARY TO SET UP MILITARY AREAS TO CONTROL AXIS ALIENS

President Roosevelt Friday authorized the Secretary of War to take control of certain areas of the United States and to exclude from such areas any persons, citizens and aliens alike. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. February 21, 1942. p. 1)

February 23, 1942:

NISEI MAY BE FORCED TO EVACUATE

Hundreds of nisei--Japanese American citizens--in the Pajaro Valley awaited a possible evacuation order Saturday. President Roosevelt Friday night empowered the Army to oust both aliens and citizens from "defense zones" the Army may prescribe ... The presidential order met with approval from California leaders had demanded curbs on Japanese Americans. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. February 23, 1942. p. 1)

February 28, 1942:

ARMY ALIEN ORDER AWAITED

San Francisco--Alien and American-born Japanese awaited with mounting apprehension Friday for new army regulations barring them from additional sections of California, Oregon and Washington ... Even Japanese-American leaders agreed that should be removed from the coast in an effort to forestall possible fifth column activity. Testifying before the Congressional Committee on Defense Migration in Portland, Hito Okada, national treasurer of the Japanese-American Citizens League said aliens should be evacuated and, if necessary, even Japanese who are American citizens. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. February 28, 1942. p. 1.)

March 1, 1942:

PACIFIC COAST JAPANESE PREPARE FOR EVACUATION:

..."We are preparing our people," said the youthful official, "to move out. We want them to go without bitterness, without rancor, and with the feeling that this can be their contribution to the defense of the United States. We want to convince them that it

will be patriotic to make this sacrifice, and a sacrifice it will be. We want them to go protesting but one thing--their patriotism to the flag of the United States." [M. Masaoka, national secretary and field executive of the Japanese American Citizens' League] (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. March 1, 1942 [M] p. 1)

Public Proclamation No. 1

General John L. DeWitt, Western Defense Commander, was assigned to administer Executive Order 9066. By its authority, he issued a series of proclamations. Public Proclamation No. 1 was issued on March 2, 1942. It expanded the restricted area established by the U.S. the Justice Department by designating the western halves of California, Oregon, Washington and the southern part of Arizona as Military Area No. 1. Japanese-Americans as well as Japanese, German, and Italian aliens were excluded from it. Voluntary removal to the interior of the U.S. was advised.

The day after Proclamation No. 1 was issued, the *Santa Cruz Sentinel-News* announced possible exemptions for German and Italian aliens and the order of the evacuation.

March 3, 1942:

LOCAL ITALIANS FAVORED IN NEW ALIEN EVACUATION RULE JAPANESE HIT HARD, MUST MOVE

Santa Cruz county Tuesday was included in a coastwise strip from the Canadian to the Mexican border from which eventually all Japanese, alien and citizen, will be required to move and the same evacuation will be requested for Italian and German aliens with certain exceptions.

The exceptions for the German and Italian aliens, who will not be evacuated until after work of moving out the Japanese is completed, are:

1. Those 70 years of age or over will not be required to move "except when individually suspected."

2. Also exempted will be the families, including parents, wives, children, sisters and brothers of Germans and Italians in the armed forces," unless such removal is required for specific reasons. (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*, [E] March 3, 1942. p.1)

Although persons of Japanese ancestry were to be evacuated first, all Axis aliens were preparing to leave.

March 4, 1942:

2500 TO QUIT VALLEY; AMERICAN-BORN INCLUDED IN ARMY ORDER

Twenty-five hundred Japanese, both alien and American-born, German and Italians will leave the Pajaro Valley under evacuation plans announced Tuesday [March 3, 1942] (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. March 4, 1942. p. 1)

S.C. ALIENS AMONG FIRST EVACUATED; 60 DAYS IN WHICH ALL MUST GO

Evacuation of all Japanese, alien and citizen, and Italian and German aliens, will be conducted first in such seaport areas as Santa Cruz... (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News* March 5, 1942. [E] p. 1)

JAPS PLAN EVACUATION; TWO RECEPTION CENTERS SET UP

San Francisco--Three hundred leaders of the Japanese-Americans Citizens' League open a three-day session here Sunday to for evacuation of their nationals to "reception centers" to set up by the Western Defense Command.... The camps will established to register evacuees and to determine their capabilities before moving them to permanent locations for duration of the war. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. March 6, 1942. p.1)

Individuals were promised help, assured that they would be treated fairly, and were warned to be careful when selling their property.

March 4, 1942:

WON'T PUSH JAPS AROUND

...alien control coordinator said today he hoped Japanese would be removed from prohibited areas on the west coast within 60 days, but that "we are not going to push them around We are going to give these people a fair chance to dispose of their property at fair prices ... It has come to our attention that Japanese farmers have been stampeded into selling their properties for little or nothing and it is our purpose to see it that unnecessary sacrifices are not forced upon them." (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. March 4, 1942. [E] p. 1)

March 9, 1942:

ALIENS! WARNINGS ARE GIVEN

Don't sell property at sacrifice prices, continue to work your crops until exclusion is ordered officially... (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. March 9, 1942. [E] p. 5)

PROPERTY OF ALIENS TO BE SAFEGUARDED

An Alien property custodian system was established today by the U.S. Treasury to protect interests of 120,000 Japanese aliens and citizens and German and Italian aliens who will be evacuated by the army from the vital Pacific coast defense area... In the case of agricultural properties, on which crops presently might be growing...attempts would be made to arrange for leasing or selling the property or for continued attention to the growing crops with a view of preventing their loss. (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. March 10, 1942. [E] p. 5)

On March 18th, Executive Order 9102 established the War Relocation Authority (WRA).

Milton S. Eisenhower was named the WRA's first director, charged with the responsibility of seeing an orderly evacuation of designated persons from the restricted military areas took place. Although the order did not explicitly call for relocation camps, the newly created WRA was given wide discretion in deciding the fate of the Japanese Americans who were forced to leave their homes. On March 21, Congress backed the evacuation measures by passing Public Law 77-503. The law made anyone convicted of violating a military order subject to a civil penalty of a \$5,000 fine, up to one year of imprisonment, or both. During this time, although the West Coast was declared a theater of war, martial law was never declared and habeas corpus was not suspended. The civil court system was in full operation throughout the war, and anyone charged with espionage or sabotage could have been properly tried. Yet the federal government proceeded with its plans for a mass evacuation and incarceration of American citizens and resident aliens, based solely on race, without any individual review.

A government office was opened to help evacuees. (1)

March 18, 1942:

OFFICE TO HELP ALIENS TO BE SET UP HERE

Opening of a primary services center in Watsonville was announced Tuesday night by the Wartime Civil Control Administration. The center will help handle the property, personal effects and personal problems of Japanese and Americans who will be evacuated ... offices will be opened [also] in Santa Cruz and Monterey. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. March 18, 1942. p.1.)

March 19, 1942:

"WERE HERE TO SEE ALIENS GET FAIR DEAL", SAYS FANE [Supervisor of the program in the Watsonville office]

...the new program, directed by the Farm Security under orders from the Western Defense Command and Fourth Army, intended to supervise fair disposition of land being evacuated by Japanese and to aid qualified farmers in taking over the land and obtaining operating credit...He cautioned "as long as they know they have to go, the sooner they take action the better the deal that can be made for them. No one trades successfully overnight." (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. March 19, 1942 [M] p. 2)

Footnote

(1) Hatamiya, Leslie T. *Righting a wrong; Japanese Americans and the Passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988*. Stanford Univ. Press. 1993.

Evacuation: Public Proclamation No. 4

LOCAL JAPANESE TO LEAVE THEIR MONEY IN BANKS

"To express our appreciation for and faith in the people and city of Watsonville and Pajaro Valley, we assure you that we will keep our money here ... We lived here, did business and made money. We invested here more than \$2,000,000 and leave that investment in the Pajaro Valley. We will take advantage of modern methods of banking by mail and we shall do our banking business by mail from the place where we will move in the near future." [I. Motoki] (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. April 8, 1942. p. 1.)

Moving Before the Forced Evacuation

On March 19th, evacuees were advised against about making quick deals when selling or renting property. In reality they were not given much time. The next day, the Western Defense Command declared, "It behooves the Japanese and Japanese-Americans to close their affairs at once and be prepared to start moving." (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. March 20, 1942. p. 1) It was a forewarning. Public Proclamation No. 4 was issued six days later, announcing the replacement of the so-called voluntary evacuation with a forced evacuation. After Sunday, March 29, 1942, evacuees would be forbidden to leave the area and had to await evacuation under Army supervision. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. March 26, 1942. p. 1.)

Several dozen families hurried to move before the end of the voluntary evacuation. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. March 30, 1942. p. 1.) Farmers had no option to leave. Since food production was considered vital to the well-being of the country, to leave a farm was considered sabotage.

March 31, 1942:

QUIET EVACUATION LEAVES ONLY 20 JAP FAMILIES

A quiet exodus by voluntary evacuees up to Sunday midnight's deadline leave only 20 families of Japanese aliens and Americans in the northern section of the county to await compulsory evacuation under Army orders...Lawton described the Japanese aliens and citizen alike as "very philosophical and quite calm" in acceptance of the army edict. (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. March 31, 1942. [E] p. 1)

Waiting for the Evacuation Deadline

When the evacuation would take place was not known for some weeks. What had been announced earlier was that the families that remained would first be taken to the Salinas rodeo grounds, called an Assembly Center. From there, they would be transferred to "reception centers."(*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. April 4, 1942. [M] p.8)

April 13, 1942:

CENTERS FOR JAPS OK ARMY SAYS

Japanese who will be evacuated from the Pajaro Valley soon ... were assured Monday that living conditions in army established assembly centers will be adequate.

(*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. April 13, 1942. p. 1)

The Deadline

On April 21st, the deadline for the evacuation was announced. It was only seven days later: April 30, 1942. In those seven days, all persons of Japanese ancestry were removed from Santa Cruz County.

April 21, 1942:

FINAL EVACUATION ORDERS ISSUED FOR SANTA CRUZ The axe fell Tuesday on Japanese aliens and citizens still remaining in Santa Cruz county for their compulsory evacuation by noon of April 30 ... Santa Cruz county Japanese will report Friday and Saturday of this week to a station established at Veterans' Memorial building [Watsonville]...The evacuees will transported to the Salinas assembly center... (S.C. *Sentinel-News*. April 21, 1942. [E] p. 1)

April 26, 1942:

1196 JAPANESE IN COUNTY TO GO THIS WEEK

The 1196 will represent 216 families who signed up with the Civilian Wartime Control Administration in the memorial in Watsonville Friday and yesterday. Of the 1196 total, the north end of Santa Cruz County will send 86, representing 17 families, most of whom have been resident on berry farms. (S.C. *Sentinel-News*. April 26, 1942. [M] p. 1)

Disposal of Farms

During this time, arrangement had to be made for the transfer of the remaining farms.

April 17, 1942:

JAPANESE FARM RULES

New regulations to assure fair disposal and continued productivity of approximately 15 farms still operated by Japanese-Americans in the Watsonville and Santa Cruz area were announced today. (S.C. *Sentinel-News*. April 17, 1942 [E] p. 1)

April 27, 1942:

JAP FARM PROGRAM PLANS GIVEN

Evacuation of all Japanese and Japanese-Americans from Santa Cruz County means that all Japanese farm operations in the area must be transferred to new operators with the next five days ... (*S.C. Sentinel-News*. April 27, 1942. [E] p. 5)

The Move

The Salinas Assembly Center opened on April 27, 1942. The same day, the first group to leave the County under Army supervision departed. The evacuation continued over the next three days.

April 27, 1942:

63 JAPANESE IN FIRST UNIT TO EVACUATE

Sixty-three Pajaro Valley and Santa Cruz County Japanese, the vanguard of the Japanese-Americans and alien Japanese ... left Monday morning for the Salinas assembly center where they will stay until dispatched to permanent reception center locations. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. April 27, 1942, p. 1.)

April 29, 1942:

JAPS DISAPPEAR FROM VALLEY AS EVACUATION ON

The Japanese, whose mass migration into the fertile Pajaro Valley at the turn of the century marked a milestone in this district's agricultural history, climbed aboard big buses in front of the Veterans' Memorial hall Wednesday--their big trek reversed after nearly a half-century...(*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. April 29, 1942. p.1)

April 30, 1942:

LAST JAPANESE LEAVE VALLEY IN EVACUATION

By noon Thursday, no person of Japanese ancestry remained in Santa Cruz County for the first time in more than a half-century ... Twenty-one buses Wednesday took 689 persons to Salinas ... Five aged and invalids were taken to Salinas by ambulance. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. April 30, 1942. p. 1)

The *Watsonville Register-Pajaronian* reported on December 18, 1944 that, "A total of 1301 persons of Japanese ancestry were excluded from Santa Cruz county in the spring of 1942, according to U.S. census bureau records. Of this number, 931 were citizens and 370 were aliens."

The Evacuation Out of the County Stops

The order of the evacuation was supposed to be:

1. Those suspected of sabotage or subversive activity
2. Japanese aliens
3. Japanese-Americans

4. German aliens
5. Italian aliens (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. March 5, 1942. p.1.)

However, once all persons of Japanese ancestry had left Military Area No. 1, or were in Assembly Centers, the forced evacuation stopped. Other restrictions on German and Italian aliens were progressively lifted.

Salinas Assembly Center and Poston Relocation Center

Local newspaper articles of the time give us a very limited picture of life at Salinas or Poston--or any of the other internment camps (relocation centers). However, as newspapers were a main source of information, what we see in the papers indicates how little most residents in the County actually knew about the camps and their former neighbors.



Watch Tower at Poston with Armed Guards - Courtesy Bill Tao

Salinas Assembly Center

The Salinas Assembly Center, located on the Salinas Rodeo Grounds, was an intermediate stop in the evacuation of the Japanese and Japanese-Americans from this area. On April 27, 1942, "sixty-three Pajaro Valley and Santa Cruz County Japanese, the vanguard of the Japanese-Americans and alien Japanese... [left] for the Salinas Assembly Center where they will stay until dispatched to permanent reception center locations. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. April 27, 1942. p.1)

From April through July 1942, the Salinas Assembly Center was used to house the evacuees. A few reports appear in the *Watsonville Register-Pajaronian* during that time:

SALINAS JAPANESE ASSEMBLY CENTER BUSY PLACE AS EVACUEES MOVE IN

Each evacuee received a number when registered by the employment service at the armory. Families were ushered to barracks, sufficiently large for five average families and furnished with cots... (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. April 28, 1942. p.1)

700 JAPS AT SALINAS CENTER NOW WORKING

Nearly one-fifth of the Japanese now at the Salinas assembly center have jobs around the camp, officials reported Thursday. Present population of the center is 3587, not including 30 American civilian employees. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian* May 28, 1942. p.6)

GRADUATION EXERCISES FOR FORMER LOCAL JAPANESE AT SALINAS

Former Japanese students of Watsonville, now located at the Salinas assembly center, held graduation exercises at the center Friday afternoon...Thirty high school diplomas and six elementary diplomas were taken over to former local students by school authorities. In addition to awarding of diplomas, several received gold star seals for membership in the scholarship federation. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. June 19, 1942. p.1)

READERS' REFERENDUM--JAPANESE LIKE FOOD AT SALINAS CENTER

...We have been in the Salinas assembly center undergoing new experiences for nearly two months. At first, things were not so well organized but today as we are almost ready to make our next move to our relocation center, everything is running smoothly though our efforts of the past months. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. June 22, 1942. p.3)

Poston Relocation Center



Poston Relocation Center, May 23, 1942. A new group of internees has just been unloaded from the buses in the background - U.S. National Archives, Photo by Fred Clark

In June and July 1942, the evacuees were moved from Salinas to the Poston Relocation Center. Poston was located in La Paz County, Arizona, 12 miles south of the town of Parker. It opened May 8, 1942 and by September, 1942, nearly 18,000 persons were interned there. (1) Ironically, on the Fourth of July, 1942, the Register-Pajaronian reported that, "The 1500 Japanese at the Salinas Assembly Center, including 1200 from the Pajaro Valley, left for their new relocation center at Poston, Ariz. They went in a special train." (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. July 4, 1942. p.1)

At first the news about Poston, though infrequent, was positive:

JAPS RISE US FLAG AT RELOCATION CENTERS

San Francisco (UP)--Japanese in evacuation centers at Manzanar, Tule Lake and Poston, Ariz. observed the Fourth of July with "flag raising ceremonies and other patriotic exercises," the War Relocation Authority reported Saturday. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. July 6, 1942. p.2)

OUR EX-HOMETOWN JAPANESE BOYS IN THEIR INTERNMENT CAMPS WORK ON CAMOUFLAGE NETS AND PLAY BASEBALL

"I have been working on camouflage nets for the army," writes Art "Fiddles" Kitahara until recently at Santa Anita assembly center in Arcadia. Kitahara was a lightweight football and basketball star at Santa Cruz High. (*S.C. Sentinel-News*. October 1, 1942. [E] p. 1)

JAPANESE SCHOOLBOYS WRITE FOR RECORDS

Boys and girls who last year were pupils in Santa Cruz public schools are writing back to the school authorities for certified record of their credits. (*S.C. Sentinel-News*. October 11, 1942. [M] p. 8)

LOCAL JAPANESE AT POSTON HAVE "COUNTY FAIR"

Residents of Poston, Ariz., the new community where most of the Japanese from the Pajaro Valley are residing and farming now, recently completed a successful "county fair," according to the Poston Press-Bulletin, copies of which have been received by Watsonville residents. Saburo Kido, chairman of the fair, said that, "...By pulling together, I am sure we can build in this Arizonan desert a community which will stand forth as our contribution to the national welfare during this World War II." (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. October 28, 1942. p.3)

Poston Strike

In November 1942, there was a general strike at Poston over the arrest of two internees. The situation developed because some internees physically assaulted two other internees who were suspected of being informants or collaborators with the camp administrators. November 14, Camp administrators rounded up fifty internees for questioning, detaining two of them and scheduling them for trial in an Arizona State Court. The internees demanded the release of the two men. When administrators refused, a protest, followed by a general strike resulted. November 23, one of the men was released and the strike began to end. (2)

JAPS STRIKE AT POSTON; REFUSE TO WORK

Poston, Ariz. (UP)--The fourth day of a general strike in the huge Japanese relocation center here began Saturday, with 8500 members of the colony refusing to do any of the work assigned to them. The strike was believed to be the first mass defiance of authority since the War Relocation Authority began the task of removing over 160,000 Japanese from the states of Oregon, Washington, and California... Cause of the strike was not announced, but it was believed to stem from the filing of charges of attempted murder against a wrestler following an unpublicized series of gang fights. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. November 21, 1942. p.1)

ARMY ENDS JAP STRIKE AT POSTON

Loyal Internees Hold Firm, Quell Unrest Among Axis Element. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. November 23, 1942. p.1)

Dies Committee

The Dies Committee was the popular name for the House of Representatives' Select Committee on UnAmerican Activities, which had been established in 1938. In June 1943, the Dies Committee held hearings on the internment camps. Anti-evacuee groups testified with accusations and unsubstantiated claims. The following testimony referring to Poston was reported in the local press.

900 JAPANESE RELEASED FROM POSTON

LOS ANGELES (UP) - Ralph M. Gelvin, associate project director of the Poston, Ariz., Japanese relocation center, told the Dies committee that 900 Japanese have been released permanently from the Poston camp and that 1100 others are at liberty on seasonal leave. Gelvin, first witness to testify before the congressional committee

investigating the Japanese relocation centers, said most of the 900 persons released were allowed to leave within the past six months. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian* June 9, 1943 p. 4.)

POSTON JAPS USED GOVERNMENT CARS FOR FISHING TRIPS AND PICNICS, DIES GROUP TOLD

LOS ANGELES (UP) - Japanese evacuees in the Poston, Ariz., relocation center used government automobiles to go on picnics and fishing trips, an official of the center told a Dies subcommittee investigating the camps. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian* June 10, 1943 p. 3.)

POSTON JAPS ARMED, DIES GROUP TOLD

LOS ANGELES (UP) - Japanese evacuees at the Poston, Ariz., relocation center have armed themselves with every available weapon and may have been responsible for a Santa Fe train wreck near the camp, a witness testified at a Dies subcommittee hearing. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian* June 14, 1943 p. 3.)

JAPS' SIEGE AT POSTON REVEALED

LOS ANGELES (UP) - Japanese at the Poston, Ariz., relocation center held Caucasian camp employees under siege and threat of death for a week during riots there last November, H.H. Townsend, former camp supply officer, told a Dies subcommittee. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian* June 11, 1943 p.2)

The War Relocation Authority (WRA) appeared before the Committee, calling the testimony ignorant or false.

DIES COMMITTEE STATEMENTS ON JAPS RAPPED

WASHINGTON (UP) - Dillon S. Myer, Director of the War Relocation Authority said Friday that the statements of the Dies Committee about management and surveillance of Japanese evacuees "revealed either an ignorance of the policies and procedures of this agency or a willful intent to misrepresent the situation." (*Register-Pajaronian* June 4, 1943 p. 1)

The Dies Committee issued its final report in September 1943. It was

"extremely mild, advocating segregation, a new board to investigate evacuees to be released, and Americanization program in the camps. For the first time the government had taken on the anti-Japanese groups, and it had won. Not only were the Committee's recommendations consistent with WRA policy and planning, but every bit as important, the Committee was denounced by the national press for its prejudice and procedure. The tide had turned. The rest of the country no longer shared the West Coast view." (3)

End of Exclusion and Closing of Poston

On December 17, 1944, the Western Defense Command issued Public Proclamation No. 21, which revoked mass exclusion orders but retained individual exclusion. The Proclamation order went into effect January 2, 1945. Individual exclusion orders were revoked in Public Proclamation No. 24 on September 4, 1945. (4), (5) Poston Relocation Center closed November 28, 1945. (6)

JAPANESE EXCLUSION IS ENDED

With the war department and the Western Defense command issuing proclamations terminating the exclusive program Tuesday night under which persons of Japanese ancestry were banned from the three west coast states, the Pajaro valley's present Japanese population of approximately 77 individuals was expected to increase steadily in the next few weeks. ... (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. September 5, 1945 p. 1)

Footnotes

- (1) United States National Park Service. *Confinement and Ethnicity. Chapter 10. Poston Relocation Center*. (Website) Website visited May 28, 2008.
- (2) "Poston Strike," *Asian American Encyclopedia*. Vol. 5. p. 1240.
- (3) United States Commission on Wartime Relocation. *Personal Justice Denied*. Civil Liberties Public Education Fund; University of Washington Pr. 1997. p. 226.
- (4) *Ibid*. p. 235.
- (5) "Japanese American Internment Timeline," *Asian American Village*. IMDiversity.com. Visited on May 28, 2008.
- (6) "Poston," *Asian American Encyclopedia*. Vol. 5. p. 1240.

Agricultural Labor Shortage

FARMERS ADVISED TO FILL LABOR NEEDS NOW

"The tremendous drain upon farm labor by the war industries selective service and evacuation of Japanese and enemy aliens has created a critical problem in virtually all farming sections of California," said Dalton. [Herbert Dalton, USDA War Board chairman] (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian* May 21, 1942. p.9)



Travers and Sakata Packing Shed, Watsonville - Courtesy of Bill Tao

So many men away in military service resulted in shortages of workers and changes in the makeup of the labor force all over the nation. (Well-known is the movement of women into the labor force to continue the needed work done by men.) In Santa Cruz County, Executive Order 9066 brought additional labor shortages

and concern for the production of food. [Please note: the information presented here is taken only from contemporary, local newspaper articles. It is not intended to be a complete study and may not present a complete picture of the situation--RAP]

Restricted Areas

January 30, 1942, Santa Cruz residents read that the U.S. Justice Department planned to remove enemy aliens from defense areas in the eight far Western states. The coastal area was declared prohibited.

February 2, 1942:

FEBRUARY 24 IS DATE FOR CLEARING AREA

The federal alien restricted area ruling of Attorney General Francis Biddle brought wartime reality into the heart of Santa Cruz County yesterday when all the area west of state highway No. 1 (the Coast road and Watsonville highway) south of Laguna Creek to the Carmel River was declared a restricted zone. Thus the heart of the city of Santa Cruz was included in the restricted zone, with the Coast road running down Mission Street then out Water Street to Soquel Avenue and out the Watsonville highway, the border of the restricted area. Several hundred aliens will be affected by the ruling according to a survey conducted by the Sentinel-News last night. (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*, [M] February 3, 1942. p.1)

Being restricted from the coastal areas meant that Italian fishermen could not go out to fish. Axis aliens who farmed the coastal lands could no longer work their fields. At first there was hope that something could be worked out so that food production could continue, but there were no exceptions.

February 3, 1942:

ALIEN BAN ON S.C. COAST WILL AFFECT HUNDREDS

Hardest hit will be the Italian fishing colony at the wharf and the artichoke growers up the coast, the survey revealed. According to Donald Younger, over 3500 acres of artichokes and Brussels sprouts are farmed by Italian-American families in the county. Younger estimated that about half of these farmers are aliens. Representatives of the Sprout Growers' association and local shippers did not know last night how many of the growers would be affected by the ruling, but stated that probably 75 per cent of the workers on the ranches are aliens. (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*, [M] February 3, 1942. p.1)

February 2, 1942:

NO EXCEPTIONS FOR S.C. ALIENS; CONFUSION AFTER 1ST ORDER HERE

Italian, Japanese and German aliens in Santa Cruz who may have harbored a hope that some disposition would come to exclude them from the evacuation order, had those hopes completely quashed Tuesday... Locally it appeared Tuesday artichoke and Brussels sprouts growers along the coast between Santa Cruz and Davenport, in whose field alien Italians are employed to quite an extent, and the fishing industry at the wharf will bear the brunt of evacuation...The growers definitely face a labor shortage, according to Louis Poletti, manager of the Davenport Producers Association, representing a large majority of the artichokes and sprouts growers. Most of the fields are in the restricted area he said, and aliens cannot set foot within the designated limits. (*S.C. Sentinel-News*. February 2, 1942. [E] p. 1)

February 2-3, 1942:

MONTEREY FARM PARLEY URGES JAPANESE REMOVAL

This resolution was in variance to a similar resolution adopted earlier this week by the Santa Cruz County economic conference which recommended that Japanese not be removed from coastal areas but instead be retained for agricultural work under close surveillance. The Santa Cruz group cited the shortage of farm labor as the reason for the recommendation. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. February 3, 1942. p.2)

February 5, 1942:

AS WE SEE IT [Editorial]

Production of food is of such major importance to our country that we feel confident the government will work out a system whereby evacuation of aliens from the banned farming areas will be accomplished without disrupting agricultural industry in the affected areas... (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. February 5, 1942 [E] p.1)

Public Proclamation No. 1 designated the western halves of California, Oregon, and Washington and the southern part of Arizona as a military area. The Proclamation warned that individuals

might be excluded from this area in the future. "Voluntary" evacuation was recommended. Ultimately, only those of Japanese ancestry were evacuated, although the German and Italian aliens were still restricted from certain parts of the County.

March 18, 1942

USDA BOARD STUDIES DATES OF EVACUATION

"Naturally it is desirable that in areas where their work is essential to protect important acreages of growing crops, Japanese farmers be permitted to remain as long as reasonable. The county USDA War Board has been instructed to recommend the earliest possible date by which the evacuation might be effected without resulting in serious crop loss." [Herbert Dalton, Board chairman] (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. March 18, 1942. p.2.)

Public Proclamation No. 4

Public Proclamation No. 1 restricted access to certain parts of the county, but individuals were free to move where they chose outside the military area--"voluntary" evacuation. Public Proclamation no. 4 ultimately applied only to those of Japanese ancestry and made evacuation mandatory. Many families hurried to leave before the new proclamation was official on March 27, 1942. Farmers did not have that option. They were required to stay and work their farms. To leave was considered sabotage.

March 27, 1942:

200 JAP FAMILIES REMAIN; WILL DO THEIR BEST ON FARMS SAYS I. MOTOKI

Approximately 200 Japanese families will remain in the Pajaro Valley until the official moving notice following the voluntary evacuation deadline at midnight Sunday... Japanese farms "look good this year with fine crops of berries, lettuce and garlic expected." (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. March 27, 1942)

March 27, 1942:

WANTED: OPERATORS FOR JAP-ABANDONED FARMS

Failure of Japanese and Japanese-Americans working agricultural land in the county to continue operations until the time they must evacuate will be considered sabotage... (*S.C. Sentinel-News*. March 27, 1942. [E] p. 1)

Farms owned by Japanese and Japanese Americans were let to other farmers.

March 27, 1942:

"More than 40 Japanese and Japanese-American farmers who must evacuate from this county have listed their farming operations with Frane [Myron C. Frane, farm security field agent for the Army's wartime civilian control administration service center

in the county]. Less than half that number of qualified farmers wishing to take over operations have filed with his office. Japanese and Japanese-American land listed for sale or lease constitutes 342 acres of land, of which 242 acres are planted chiefly to strawberries, bush berries, garlic and seed crops. The farms range from one acre to 30 acres. A farm-to-farm canvass was conducted that revealed majority of the larger operators already have made satisfactory arrangements." (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*, [E] March 27, 1942, p. 1)

August 28, 1942:

The agricultural division of the Army's Wartime Civilian Control Administration today announced that 70 per cent of the farm land operated by west coast Japanese and Japanese Americans had been transferred to other operators..." (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*, [E] August 28, 1942. p. 9)

Continued Shortages

Restrictions were progressively lifted for Italian and German aliens and they could return to work.

July 1, 1942:

ITALIAN, GERMAN FARMHANDS AVAILABLE UNDER NEW ORDER

Several thousand Italian and German farmhands and fruit pickers will be made available for work in California fields and orchards under a new proclamation...[it] revoked an order prohibiting all German and Italian aliens from residing in or entering nearly 100 designated areas in the state. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. July 1, 1942. p.10)

Newspaper articles indicate that there was still an agricultural labor shortage. Just how the labor shortage was managed in the County is unclear. On the state level, Governor Olson spoke with the War Relocation authorities on the possibility of releasing interned Japanese for farm work in military zones. Olson repeated a previous statement that release of the Japanese seemed the only feasible solution for California's growing farm labor shortage. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. July 7, 1942. p.7) That Fall 10,000 evacuees were on leave from the camps, employed as seasonal workers. They are credited with saving the sugar beet crops in several states, but they did not work in California that year. (2), (3)

Various solutions

Using soldiers to fill the labor shortage was suggested and rejected.

August 25, 1942:

DEWITT WILL NOT ALLOW SOLDIERS TO DO FARM WORK

San Francisco (UP)--California's critical farm and cannery labor shortage took a turn for the worse Tuesday. Lt. Gen. John L. DeWitt...turned down a request by California canners and growers that soldiers be released from duty to work in canneries and orchards...Agricultural authorities believed generally that Mexican laborers be[ing] imported would not arrive in time to save crops. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. September 9, 1942. p. 1)

In May of 1942, the United States and Mexico negotiated an agreement to help alleviate the wartime labor shortage. The Bracero Program, which lasted until 1964, arranged for Mexican citizens came into the United States to work on farms and railroads. (1), (2)

September 9, 1942:

IMPORTATION OF MEXICAN WORKERS GETS WMC OKEH

Washington (UP)--The War Manpower Commission has approved a program for the immediate importation of 1500 Mexican farm workers to help harvest the California sugar beet crop. William Hopkins, regional WMC director for the Pacific coast, said an additional 150,000 local workers must be recruited to meet acute farm labor shortages in California. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. September 9, 1942. p. 7)

In the fall of 1942, the editor of the *Watsonville Register-Pajaronian* called for volunteers to help with the harvest, indicating the seriousness of the problem.

September 16, 1942:

WE MUST BE PREPARED TO MEET FARM LABOR EMERGENCY [Editorial]

More than likely, heads of Watsonville business concerns soon will be asked to close their store for several hours a day so that their employees may help harvest this valley's apples and tomatoes. Experienced agriculturists here declare that the critical period in the farm labor situation will be reached in a week or 10 days. The pinch in the shortage of field and orchard pickers will be felt then. If there are not enough regular farm workers or volunteers ready to work, the employees of business houses must help save the crops. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. September 16, 1942. p.4)

Convicts were released and used in some areas of California.

September 17, 1942:

CONVICTS USED TO AID CROP HARVESTING

San Quentin (UP)--Plans for greater use of California's prisoners as emergency farmhands were disclosed Wednesday as a second group of 43 convicts and one guard left San Quentin to assist in harvesting crops...The group of 43 that left Wednesday will pick cucumbers in Sutter county. The first group of 43 was sent to San Joaquin river delta area... Two additional groups of 43 each will leave next Saturday and Monday to

harvest sugar beets in San Joaquin and Contra Costa counties. Judge Pacht said 100 inmates of Folsom prison have been given conditional paroles and will be available for sugar beet harvesting in Yolo and Sacramento counties. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian* September 17, 1942. p. 2)

The following article indicates that the Bracero Program had not gone well the previous fall and that there was concern for the upcoming harvest. The solution proposed was, not to use evacuees, but to use Italian prisoners of war.

May 21, 1943:

WAR PRISONER FARM HANDS

But the farm labor problem is still unsolved, while the season speeds on toward harvesting time and farmers worry and wonder if this year the federal government will heed the warning and get promised Mexican labor here in time to save the crops - a project bungled last year...The Italian, it is argued, has not cared for this war, and certainly not for the part forced on him, from the beginning... He has a natural friendly feeling for Americans. He is assimilable, as the Jap can never be. And he, as well as the Jap, is a born farmer. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. May 21, 1943 p. 3)

Fall 1943, Mexican workers were employed in the County. From the next article, it sounds as if Mexican workers continued to be employed here in the later War years as well.

October 1, 1943:

MEXICAN NATIONALS' PROBLEM

From various sources of late we've heard that a large number of Mexican nationals -- brought to this area to aid in harvesting record-breaking crops -- are getting tired of their work here and want to return home. No little alarm is felt in some circles about the condition because state agricultural leaders tell us that the Mexican nationals are sorely needed in California to help get in the 1943 Food for Victory....work with them to make their stay in California more pleasant. (*Watsonville Register Pajaronian*. October 1, 1943. p.6)

November 20, 1945:

JAPANESE DOING SP TRACK WORK AT SC, APTOS

Ten Japanese - five at Santa Cruz and five at Aptos - are being employed on railroad track work to help relieve the acute shortage of section hands, the Southern Pacific Co. announced at Santa Cruz Tuesday. Loyalty of the workmen has been certified by the government, the announcement said. ...The manpower shortage is made critical at present by the repatriation of Mexican nationals who have been employed on the tracks during the war. Some 13,000 Mexican nationals were employed by Southern Pacific at

one time for this work, but with expiration of their contracts, they are returning home at the rate of 1300 monthly. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. November 20, 1945. p 3.)

Footnotes

- (1) McWilliams, Carey. *North from Mexico*. Greenwood Press, 1968 [c. 1948]. p. 265-266.
- (2) Martinez, Manuel Luis. "Bracero Program." *The Latino Encyclopedia*. Marshall Cavendish, 1995. Vol 1. pp. 193-194.
- (3) United States Commission on Wartime Relocation. *Personal Justice Denied*. Civil Liberties Public Education Fund and University of Washington Pr., 1997. p. 181-182.
- (4) *Watsonville Register-Pajaronian* September 1, 1942. p. 1

Military Service

"...I only wish I could get those bigots, those hate mongers - those super patriots here to see what Hell war is. Here in the front we're respected as fellow Americans fighting for the same cause and we're proud as hell to be in there pitching - doing our share of the work. My only hope is that I'll be able to go back just to see if it's all worthwhile."

--Letter from Harry F. Madokoro, who was a Japanese American from Santa Cruz County and a soldier in the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team. He was killed in action in Italy in August 1943 and awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. September 23, 1944, p 3)

HOLLYWOOD LEGION TIFF ON JAP ISSUE

Hollywood (UP) - World War II veterans in Hollywood Post 591 were threatened Thursday with withdrawal of their American Legion charter for admitting to membership Harley M. Oka, honorably-discharged Japanese-American soldier. ...Conceding that any honorably discharged veteran is entitled to American Legion membership, Horton criticized the post particularly for publicizing their action without official permission and condemning the Hood River, Ore., Post which removed Japanese-American soldiers' names from its roll of honor. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. January 25, 1945. p. 8)

At the start of the War, Italian Americans and Japanese Americans were serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Further enlistments of Japanese Americans were blocked on January 5, 1942, when the War Department classified draft-age Japanese Americans as enemy aliens. Nearly all Japanese Americans who had already volunteered for the Armed Forces were discharged and reclassified, first as 4-F (physically not fit for service) and then as 4-C (enemy aliens). (1)

In the first few months of 1942, Public Proclamations issued by the Western Defense Command ordered the evacuation of Axis aliens and Japanese Americans out of the military area that included Santa Cruz County. Having a child in the Service provided a means of avoiding evacuation--but only for Germans and Italians.

"A progressive evacuation of the five classes of aliens and citizens:

1. Those suspected of sabotage or subversive activity
2. Japanese aliens
3. Japanese-Americans
4. German aliens
5. Italian aliens.

German and Italian aliens who have children in the Armed Forces of the United States probably will not be required to move." (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. March 6, 1942. p.1)

The Japanese American community urged the government to give it a chance to prove its loyalty by allowing service in the military. (2) Many Nisei welcomed the draft, although a few felt that the draft was another humiliation and 315 young men refused to be inducted. (3) The position of one young man was carried in the *Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*, "I have lost faith completely in the real sincerity of governmental and general societal actions concerning the Japanese, whether civilian Japanese or Japanese in the army of the United States." (Complete letter in "Draft Boards have Problem in Reclassification of Japanese", *Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. April 8, 1944.)



Ted Kamo at Camp Roberts. He finished his military training a few days before the attack on Pearl Harbor.

In June 1942 the 100th Infantry Battalion was created and consisted almost entirely of Japanese Americans from Hawaii. Six months later, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team was established by Presidential decree and included Japanese Americans from Hawaii and the mainland. The achievements of the 442nd were impressive, with "18,143 medals for valor, including 1 Medal of Honor, 52 Distinguished Service Crosses, 1 Distinguished Service Medal, 588 Silver Stars, 5,200 Bronze Stars, and 9,486 Purple Hearts." (2)

Along with stories of the opposition to the release and return of Japanese and Japanese Americans to the West Coast, the local papers carried news about the accomplishments and heroism of the 442nd. Whether or not it was true in Santa Cruz County, the head of the War Relocation Authority said that heroism of the Nisei softened the opposition to the return of the Japanese and Japanese Americans to their former homes.

October 3, 1944:

WRA CHIEF SAYS HEROISM OF NISEI IN ITALY SOFTENING OPPOSITION TO JAPS RETURN

"In the past several months the temper of public opinion on this issue has been changing rapidly and unmistakably," Myer said. "Some private organizations that formerly advocated total exclusion and mass deportation of Japanese-Americans have softened and modified their attitudes. This change has been brought about, I am convinced, primarily by the magnificent combat record of Japanese-American boys in the uniform of the U.S. army." (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. October 3, 1944, p 3)

Newspapers also carried news of the Japanese American soldiers who had once lived in Santa Cruz County:

May 29, 1944:

LETTER FROM JAPANESE AMERICAN IN SERVICE

...a former Japanese resident of Watsonville (now in the service)... "I have been serving my country with pride and honor for three years now, and during that time I have undergone a severe test of prejudice and discrimination because of my physical appearance and characteristics. For us Japanese-Americans, we have two battles to win, the first one is against our enemy abroad and the second one is the fight for our rights and pursuit of happiness..." I also pray that the people of Watsonville and elsewhere may understand us Niseis in the armed forces of the U.S. We serve our country, and fight for one cause and determination, and that is to preserve our freedom of rights and liberty..." (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. May 29, 1944, p 6)

August 8, 1944:

FOUR FORMER LOCAL JAPANESE-AMERICANS LEAVE POSTON FOR ARMY
Four former residents of Watsonville were among 74 Japanese-Americans leaving here Friday for Fort Douglas, Utah, for entry into the United States Army. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. August 8, 1944, p 6)

September 19, 1944:

OTSUKI
Cpl. Issie Otsuki, the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. K. Otsuki, formerly of the Live Oak district, writes from somewhere in Italy that he had been there for about two months. Before going overseas Cpl. Otsuki trained at Camp Crowder, Mo. and Camp Shelby, Miss. (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. Sept member 19, 1944. p. 8.)

November 15, 1944

4 MORE FORMER LOCAL BOYS ENTER SERVICE
POSTON, -Ariz. (Special) - Hideo Akiyama, son of Uтаро Akiyama, Hiroto George Tanaka, son of Mrs. Kou Tanaka, and Tom Tadaji Murakami, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kumajiro Murakami, all formerly of Watsonville, were among 57 boys who left the Poston Relocation center for active duty in the United States army early this month. Tanaka and Murakami graduated from Watsonville High school and Akiyama from Poston High. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. November 15, 1944, p 4.)

November 19, 1944:

TAMAKI IWANAGA JOINS ARMY FROM RELOCATION CENTER
Poston, Ariz. Tamaki Tom Iwanaga, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kameki Iwanaga and formerly of Santa Cruz, Calif., was among the 57 boys who received an elaborate send-off as they left the Colorado River relocation center today to begin active duty in the United States Army at Fort Douglas, Utah. Iwanaga attended Santa Cruz high school prior to evacuation and graduated from Poston high school in 1943. Also serving in the Army at

the present time are two brothers, Cpl. Sam Iwanaga at Fort Snelling, Minn., and Pvt. Noby Iwanaga at Camp Barkley, Texas.

November 24, 1944:

HENRY IZUMIZAKI KILLED IN ACTION

PFC Henry S. Izumizaki, 23, former resident of Watsonville and a graduate of Watsonville High school in 1940, was killed in action in France on Nov. 2 while fighting with the 442nd combat regiment. ... His death increases the number of gold stars on the Poston center service flag to 11....His brother, PFC James Izumizaki, was reported wounded in France on Oct. 17. Another brother, Pvt. Arthur is stationed at Camp Blanding, Fla. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. November 24, 1944, p 1)

February 13, 1945:

SHIGETSUGI MORIMUNE AGAIN WOUNDED IN ACTION IN FRANCE

POSTON, Ariz. (Special) - PFC Shigetsugi Morimune, former resident of Watsonville, Calif., was wounded in action Jan. 17, while fighting with the 442nd infantry in France, ... PFC Morimune already holds the Purple Heart decoration for wounds received in France last October. A graduate of Watsonville Union High school in 1939, PFC Morimune, 23, volunteered for army duty and was inducted into service March 4, 1944 at Poston. ... A brother, Pvt. Harry Morimune entered the army from Poston last November. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. February 13, 1945 p 3.)

February 14, 1945:

3 LOCAL NISEI GET COMBAT INFANTRYMAN'S BADGE IN FRANCE

6TH ARMY GROUP, FRANCE (Special to *Register-Pajaronian*) - One hundred and forty American soldiers of Japanese ancestry from California, now with the 442nd Japanese-American combat team, have been awarded the combat infantryman's badge for exemplary conduct in action in the Vosges mountains of eastern France with the 7th Army. ...During their action, they took part in the rescue of the now famous "Lost Battalion" of World War II near Bruyeres, France. Men awarded the combat infantryman's badge include: Watsonville: PFC Toshio Manaba, 356 Ford St.; PFC Kenji Hirokawa, Rt. 3; Pvt. T. Goto, Rt. 3. Salinas: Sgt. Roy Sakasegawa, 141 Lake St. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. February 14, 1945 p 2.)

February 23, 1945:

TWO LOCAL NISEI GET GOOD CONDUCT MEDALS

SIXTH ARMY GROUP, France (Special to *Register-Pajaronian*) - Fifty-one American soldiers of Japanese ancestry, with the 442nd Japanese-American combat team, have been awarded the good conduct medal for exemplary conduct during the past year or more in the army. ... Among the soldiers who were awarded the good conduct medal

are: From Watsonville, Calif., PFC James Izumizaki, Cpl. George N. Matsumoto.
(*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. February 23, 1945 p 5.)

July 30, 1945:

WATSONVILLE NISEI RETURNING FROM ITALY
WITH THE FIFTH ARMY Italy (Special to *Register-Pajaronian*) - Sgt. Shigara Hirano of Watsonville, Calif., is returning to the United States from the Fifth Army in Italy with an adjusted service rating score of 85....His parents live at 220-3-D, War Relocation center, Poston, Ariz. Watsonville (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. July 30, 1945 p 6.)

September 26, 1945:

SGT. YOSHIO FUJITA AWARDED BRONZE STAR
HQ. TWENTY-FIRST CORPS, SEVENTH ARMY, Germany (Special) - Yoshio Fujita, 28 of Watsonville, Calif., has been awarded the Bronze Star medal for meritorious service with the 522nd field artillery battalion in Italy, France and Germany. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. September 26, 1945 p 1.)

November 6, 1945:

LOCAL NISEIS AT FORT SNELLING LANGUAGE CAMP
M/Sgts. Buddie Nagase and William Waki, graduates of Watsonville High school, are instructors at the Japanese language camp at Fort Snelling, Minn. ...The Fort Snelling school is the only one of its kind in the world and it furnished approximately 4000 highly trained Japanese-American linguists to allied forces in the Pacific theater. ...Among the Pajaro valley niseis trained at the school and then sent to the Pacific area are [T/5's?] Kay Yamauchi, Tadashi Hashimoto, Sateru Takemoto and Toshio Kimoto. [We apologize if any names were misspelled; the copy was difficult to read.--RAP] (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. November 6, 1945 p 5.)

December 12, 1945:

PFC KIMURA RETURNS TO US FROM ETO
PFC Roy S. Kimura, brother of George Y. Kimura, Rt. 3, Box 103, Watsonville, has returned to the United States after serving with the 90th Infantry division - ... Kimura was a rifleman and scout and has two Bronze Stars, Combat Infantryman's badge, Good Conduct ribbon, American defense ribbon. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. December 12, 1945 p 6.)

After the War, a memorial service was held in Watsonville for local Nisei soldiers.

NISEI SOLDIER MEMORIAL SERVICE SET FOR THURSDAY

Memorial services for Japanese-American soldiers of the U.S. Army who lost their lives in World War II are to be held Thursday morning at 10 o'clock at the Watsonville Pioneer cemetery under the auspices of the Young Buddhist association. Rev. Y. Iwanaga of the Buddhist church will lead the services to which the public is invited. Watsonville soldiers for whom the services will be held include Henry Izumizaki, Harry Madokoro, Konjo Nitta, Charles Fujiki, and Paul Hariuchi, all privates first class. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. May 26, 1946 p. 2)

Footnotes

- (1) *Asian American Encyclopedia*. Vol. 2. p. 482.
- (2) *Ibid.* Vol. 2. p. 483.
- (3) United States Commission on Wartime Relocation. *Personal Justice Denied*. Civil Liberties Public Education Fund and University of Washington Pr., 1997. p. 246.

Lifting of Restrictions on Italians and Germans

After the Japanese and Japanese-Americans were evacuated from Military Area no. 1, the order for Italian and German aliens to evacuate was dropped. Other restrictions were progressively lifted for all Italian and German aliens. (Italian and German aliens who had a close relative in the U.S. military were already exempted from exclusion orders and, for Italian aliens, curfew regulations.)

No banned areas for Italian and German aliens

In Santa Cruz County, the evacuation of the Japanese and Japanese Americans was completed by April 30, 1942. A month later, June 30th, General DeWitt revoked the orders that banned Italian and German aliens from certain areas in the Western states.

June 30, 1942:

S.C. ALIEN ORDER IS CLEARED

...All Italian and German aliens, previously by federal order prohibited from an area including most of the city and all immediate coast territory inside the Coast road and Watsonville highway, may return to that once-banned section -- subject to curfew and other restrictions. (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. [E] June 30, 1942 p.1)

BIDDLE SAYS ITALIANS NOT ENEMY

...effective October 19 Italian aliens would no longer be classed as alien enemies, because, he [Attorney General Francis Biddle] said, 'from that time on the exoneration which they have so well earned will be granted them.' (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*, [M] October 13, 1942. p.1)

Six days later, the travel and curfew restrictions on Italian aliens were removed by Lt-General DeWitt, with this warning:

October 19, 1942:

The Army emphasized that the new order did not change the status of German or Japanese aliens, or persons of Japanese ancestry, and also pointed out the necessity of "continued vigilance and exclusion of individuals dangerous to the military security of the coastal front." (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. October 19, 1942. p.1)

A few weeks later, the regulation forbidding Italians to fish was changed by President Roosevelt. The amended regulations classified Italians as "aliens" rather than "enemy aliens." This meant that they could go fishing-- but with the stipulation that fifty percent of the crew be United States citizens.

November 3, 1942:

Santa Cruz municipal wharf spokesman declared that there are some 14 Italian nationals in the fishing colony. These men have been land bound since December 7. They own 16 lampara launches, or about one-fourth of the total number of boats engaged in pre-war fishing operations.

The clause in the amendment signed by the president [on Nov. 2] requiring "50 per cent of the crew of each vessel to be of American citizenship" will particularly hurt the Santa Cruz men inasmuch as they operate small one man launches. This might prove necessary for them to carry an "American citizen passenger" with them out on the high seas. (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. [M] November 3, 1942. p. 1)

Lifting restrictions on German aliens

In December 1942, curfew and travel restrictions were lifted for German aliens in the eight western states. The reason given by Lt-General DeWitt was,

"The need for the curfew no longer exists as other security measures have been provided." (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. [E] December 12, 1942. p. 5)

Additional Information

Male Notte, the untold story of Italian relocation during World War II, by Geoffrey Dunn.

"Police to Help FBI Keep Eye on Our Aliens." *Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. September 10, 1942. [M] p. 8.

Release of the Evacuees

MOVING JAPS UNCONSTITUTIONAL?

It will be decidedly interesting to hear what the Supreme Court has to say about this. On first thought, it strikes the average American that it would be unconstitutional to move a citizen from his property and uproot him from his business and surroundings and confine him to certain premises against his wishes, without any trial or opportunity to be heard in the matter. That is a highhanded manner of treating any American citizen, in ordinary times. But our constitution grants the president extraordinary powers in time of war. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian* April 6, 1943 p. 6)

ANDERSON SAYS 800 JAPANESE BACK; FDR TELLS STAND

Washington (UP)...President Roosevelt Wednesday had expressed the belief that Japanese-Americans, who are American citizens, cannot be locked up in concentration camps indefinitely. ...The president, noting that he was talking about Japanese-American citizens, said the danger had finished in most cases but that as a matter of practical fact about 25 per cent of the evacuees had replaced themselves in other parts of the country. He said there is a feeling among lawyers that under the constitution these people cannot be kept locked up in concentration camps because American citizens have certain privileges. This feeling, the president said, was activated to a great extent by the wonderful record of Japanese-American soldiers in Italy. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. November 22, 1944, p. 1)

From the start of the internment, internees could leave the camps for the purposes of either continuing their collection education or to harvest crops. (1) When Dillon Myer took over as Director of the War Relocation Authority in 1942, he made resettlement a priority. During 1943 and 1944, there were changing requirements for leaving the camps, but one unchanging requirement was proving loyalty. Loyal internees, as determined by the government, were eligible for leave. Disloyal ones were segregated and sent to the camp at Tule Lake. For an excellent explanation, see *Personal Justice Denied*. (2) Internees were released from camps to relocate to places outside the West Coast and in some cases, back to the West Coast.

July 7, 1943:

MORE JAPS TO BE RELEASED

Washington (UP)--The War Relocation Authority is preparing to segregate in a single community Japanese evacuees considered hostile to the United States and to release loyal evacuees for jobs that aid the war effort...[WRA Director Dillon S. Myer] said WRA since last July has released 10,000 evacuees to take permanent places in normal communities. An additional 6,000 have been granted temporary leave to work on farms. "In all these months," he said, "not one case of disloyal activity on the part of these

people has been reported from any reliable source." (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. July 16, 1943. p.1)

WRA DIRECTOR IRED BY DIES' JAP PROBE

Washington (UP) -- Director Dillon S. Myer of the War Relocation authority said Wednesday his agency is without authority to intern American citizens of Japanese ancestry for more than brief periods unless they are charged with being disloyal or subversive. Myer, for the second consecutive day, defended before a Dies subcommittee the relocation authority's program of releasing loyal Japanese. (*Watsonville Register Pajaronian*, July 7, 1943. p.1)

November 20, 1944:

RELOCATION OF JAPANESE IN NATION

Washington (UP)--The War Relocation Authority reported today that Japanese American civilians evacuated from the west coast have been relocated in every state except South Carolina....Illinois topping the list, having 8,085 evacuees, the majority living in Chicago. Other states reported as having more than 500 evacuees are: Colorado with 3,352; Ohio, 2,599; Utah, 2,146; Michigan, 2,121; Idaho, 1,639; Minnesota, 1,396; New York, 1,289; Washington, 914; Missouri, 650; and New Jersey, 555...The report disclosed that 2,146 Americans of Japanese ancestry left relocation centers to join the U.S. Army...(*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News* [E]. November 20, 1944. p.2)

November 22, 1944:

800 JAPANESE RETURNED TO PACIFIC COAST HOMES

...Under present War Department policies, he [Rep. John Z. Anderson (R-Calif.)] explained, Japanese evacuees are allowed this privilege where mixed marriages are involved or where some member of the family is in military service, if loyalty to this county is proven. (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. November 22, 1944. [M] p. 1)

Court Cases

Japanese Americans challenged the detainment and evacuation in court. The legal issues are very important to the internment and to the rights of all citizens then and in the future. Could a society with a constitution establishing our rights to liberty and equal protection under the law, allow our government to deny those rights to any group of citizens based on race? Because this project focuses on the local events, it is beyond its scope to discuss in detail the issues here or to mention all the court cases here. More information on these issues is available in the books listed in the bibliography.

The U.S. Supreme Court Decision

On December 18, 1944, the United States Supreme Court rendered decisions in two cases relating to the evacuation. "The Supreme Court ruled today that the Army's removal of Japanese-Americans from the west coast early in 1942 was constitutional at the time it was

carried out, but that citizens must be permitted to return to their homes when their loyalty to this country is established..." (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*. December 18, 1944. [E] p. 1)

December 19, 1944:

JAPANESE

The court, in a unanimous verdict written by Justice William O. Douglas, ruled Monday that Miss Mitsuye Endo, of Sacramento, who had been found "loyal", should be given an unconditional release from Camp Topaz in Utah.

Douglas said that loyalty is a matter of heart and mind - not of race, creed or color - and held that the authority to detain or grant a citizen a conditional release on espionage or sabotage grounds "is exhausted when his loyalty is conceded." At the same time, the tribunal ruled 6 to 3 that the evacuation program under which the army removed 112,000 persons of Japanese ancestry from the Pacific coast in 1942 was a constitutional use of the war powers granted by congress. Justice Hugo L. Black, in writing the majority opinion, pointed out that the court's ruling affirmed the exclusion only as "a military necessity." The program had been challenged by Fred Toyosaburo Korematsu, San Leandro, Calif., now in Camp Topaz and under a five-year probationary sentence for failing to report for evacuation. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. December 19, 1944 p.1.)

Lifting of the Exclusion Order

One day before the Supreme Court decision, December 17, 1944, the Western Defense Command issued Public Proclamation No. 21. It officially revoked the mass exclusion order, effective January 2, 1945. Exclusion orders on particular individuals were revoked in Public Proclamation No. 24 in September 1945.

December 22, 1944:

"BEAT SUPREME COURT" ON ORDER SAYS ICKES

Washington (UP) - Secretary of Interior Harold L. Ickes boasted Friday that the executive branch "beat the supreme court by approximately 24 hours" in revoking blanket orders excluding persons of Japanese ancestry from the west coast. Asked at a press conference why the ban was lifted at this time, he replied: "It was time to issue the order, the Japanese had demonstrated that they were entitled to their full rights as citizens." The court had before it two cases on the exclusion issue, and on Monday ruled that loyal citizens of Japanese descent could not be further detained after their loyalty had been established. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. December 22, 1944. p. 2.)

Footnotes

- (1) United States Commission on Wartime Relocation. *Personal Justice Denied*. Civil Liberties Public Education Fund and University of Washington Pr., 1997. p. 180
- (2) "Loyalty: Leave and Segregation." *Ibid.* pp. 185--212.

Additional Information

DeWitt Attitude on Japs Upsets Plans. *Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*, April 16, 1943. p.1

What other Editors Say After the War. *Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. May 27, 1944, p. 6.

Other Editors' Views. *Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. December 28, 1944, p. 4.

Supreme Court Asked to Rule on Jap-American Evacuation. *Watsonville Register-Pajaronian* March 30, 1943. p. 1.

Supreme Court Upholds Conviction of Two Japs. *Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. June 21, 1943 p.1.

Debate over the Return of Persons of Japanese Ancestry

A Letter from Poston: Do you consider for a minute that we American citizens of Japanese ancestry are being treated fairly in being placed in a concentration camp, although it is not called a concentration camp by our government, but theoretically, it is? (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. April 26, 1943. p. 3)

"I personally feel that no Japs, I do not care what their sentiments may be, should be released from concentration camps, unless they be exchanged for Americans held in the Philippines or Japan." [Congressman J. Parnell Thomas, Republication from New Jersey and a Dies Committee member.] (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. May 14, 1943. p.1)

Shortly after the evacuation from the West Coast was completed, the debate began about whether the evacuees should be allowed to return. Up until the later part of the War, the majority of the opinions that appear in the local newspapers are against their return. Some are against their return until the end of the War and others against their return ever. Some groups and individuals even wanted all persons of Japanese ancestry stripped of their citizenship and deported. The reasons given for the opposition: threat of sabotage by the evacuees, possible retaliatory violence by other citizens because of war atrocities committed by the Japanese, and various other reasons based on racism.

January 13, 1943:

WHAT OF THE WEST COAST JAPANESE?

We learn, from our discussions with various persons, that local people are divided in their ideas about the problem. Some believe the Japanese should be allowed to return and take up their activities - largely agricultural pursuits - from where they left off. Others favor their return but with privileges lessened - in other words, merely as farm workers. A third group is vehemently opposed to their return at all. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. January 13, 1943. p. 4)

Government Officials

April 24, 1943:

SUPERVISORS PROTEST RELEASING OF JAPS

By unanimous vote, supervisors of Santa Cruz County Friday afternoon approved a resolution protesting removal of evacuated Japanese from War Relocation centers unless under specific orders and direction of the United States army and also protesting inclusion of American-born Japanese into the U.S. army. The resolution was patterned after those recently adopted by Monterey and San Benito counties. In turn, those counties had patterned their resolutions on the one passed early in February here by

the Pajaro Valley and Watsonville Defense council. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. April 24, 1943 p. 1)

HERE'S TEXT OF SUPERVISORS' RESOLUTION ON JAPANESE

Here are the six points of the resolutions adopted Friday afternoon by the Santa Cruz board of supervisors protesting releasing of Japanese from relocation centers and the inclusion of native born Japanese in the U.S. army... (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. April 26, 1943 p. 4)

May 14, 1943:

REP. ANDERSON 'ON HIS TOES' ON JAPANESE PROBLEM

Congressman Jack Anderson is doing an excellent job in focusing the attention of the House of Representatives on the problem of West Coast Japanese evacuees, judging from the May 5 Congressional Record account of his address to the House...[Mr. Anderson] told his colleagues that "I find that the vast majority of the citizens in my district are definitely opposed to the return of any Japanese to the Pacific coast states while the war is in progress." ... Mr. Anderson also rapped the army order permitting American born Japanese now in the US army to return to the coast on furloughs. He called the order an "utterly incomprehensible and contradictory policy for the war department to adopt".... We are pleased to see our California congressmen "on their toes" in this matter of great importance to the Pacific coast. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. May 14, 1943. p. 6.)

June 21, 1943:

JAPS MUST BE WATCHED SAYS WARREN

Columbus, O. (UP) - The release of 150,000 Japanese now held at relocation centers may lead to widespread sabotage and a "second Pearl Harbor in California," Gov. Earl Warren of California said Monday. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. June 21, 1943 p. 1)

January 19, 1945:

REP. ANDERSON STAND ON JAPS

San Jose (Special) - Because of some misunderstanding in regard to Congressman John Z. (Jack) Anderson's attitude regarding Japanese evacuees, the representative from this district has issued the following statement to clarify his stand on the matter: ... "There are two primary reasons why I have consistently opposed the lifting of the exclusion order and the return of Japanese-Americans at this time. First, of course, is the question of security for citizens of Pacific coast states while the Pacific war continues, and second is the safety of the Japanese-Americans themselves. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. January 19, 1945. p. 4)

April 13, 1944:

ICKES BACKS WRA HANDLING OF JAPANESE

Secretary of Interior Harold L. Ickes Thursday denounced "professional race mongers" who oppose release of loyal Japanese-Americans from relocation camps and said that people who deny them decent treatment "don't believe in the constitution of the United States." (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. April 13, 1944, p.1.)

November 4, 1944:

ANDERSON DENIES JAP RUMOR; JOHNSON EXPRESSES CONFIDENCE

The intense eighth district congressional race was nearing its climax Saturday. Congressman Jack Anderson denied rumors that he favored return of evacuated Japanese to this section. Rep. Anderson said a "whispering campaign has started that after election I would seek to have Japanese returned to the coast. The charge is false and ridiculous." ...He also emphatically denied his opponent's accusation that he did not represent the "common man. This is a deliberate attempt to stir up class hatred." he said. "As far as I am concerned there are no class distinctions. I consider it my duty to represent all of my district, regardless of color, creed, occupation, race, possessions or political affiliations." (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. November 4, 1944, p.1.)

Local Groups

February 24, 1943:

JAPANESE EVACUEES MUST BE KEPT UNDER STRICT SURVEILLANCE

The defense council stresses one point that no one can dispute - who knows for sure whether a Japanese, whether alien or American born, is loyal to the United States? Even the Japanese evacuees themselves have admitted they cannot tell! ...Americans have been known to "bend over backwards" many times in efforts to be tolerant but the events of Dec. 7, 1941, and subsequent activities of the "yellow aryan" have shown only one thing - the Japanese government is determined to conquer and humble the United States or commit national hari-kari in the attempt. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. February 24, 1943 p. 4)

DEFENSE COUNCIL RAPS FREEING OF INTERNED JAPS: PROTESTS GOING TO PRESIDENT, SEC. STIMSON

Pajaro Valley and Watsonville Defense council, in special session Tuesday night, adopted a resolution protesting the War Relocation authority's proposed program of releasing Japanese evacuees from relocation centers and the plan to incorporate some 28,000 American-born Japanese into the United States army and copies of the resolution will be sent to President Roosevelt, Secretary of War Stimson, the WRA, congressmen and senators. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. February 24, 1943. p. 1)

RESOLUTION AGAINST JAP PROGRAM

Following is the resolution adopted Tuesday night by the Pajaro Valley and Watsonville Defense council: ...(*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian* February 24, 1943 p. 1)

June 15, 1943:

SALINAS 802 TO 1 AGAINST JAPS' RETURN

Salinas residents questioned in a chamber of commerce poll voted 802 to 1 against permitting "loyal Japanese to return to Pacific coast states during the war, it was announced Tuesday. The chamber said the votes represented a total of 12, 688 farmers, merchants, ministers, workers, professional men and women, labor union representatives and veterans and civic organizations. Ballots were cast on a delegation basis. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian* June 15, 1943 p. 1.)

June 24, 1943:

PRAISES SALINAS VOTE ON JAPANESE

To the Editor: May we extend the glad hand to the Salinas valley farmers, we surely feel proud of them. They are real citizens of the grand old USA and we are sure there is not one place over here that will vote for the return of the adherents of the Rising Sun. Our contempt goes to the one who voted yes - he is really a sorry object. His fellow men feel for him WE know. We sincerely hope all of the concentration camps will keep the Japanese penned up for the duration and then send them back to the ruins of Tokyo where they rightfully belong. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. June 24, 1943. p. 3.)

Other Local Groups Taking a Public Stand Opposing the Return of the Evacuees:

- Lions Club (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. March 10, 1943. p. 5.)
- Chamber of Commerce of the Pajaro Valley (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. August 13, 1943. p.6)
- Pomona Grange (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. August 13, 1943. p.6)
- Santa Cruz Farm Bureau (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. June 26, 1944, p.3)
- Pajaro Valley Historical Association (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. November 17, 1944. p. 4)

Letters to the Editor

In the spring of 1943, the *Register-Pajaronian* asked its readers for their opinions on the "Japanese Problem." Responses were printed in the Reader's Referendum section of the paper. Here are some excerpts:

...If a man or woman was born in Japan, regardless of whether citizenship papers have been taken out, he or she should be sent home to Japan at the end of World War II. [Note: the law denied naturalization to persons born in Japan--RAP.] Harry Fischer. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. February 17, 1943. p. 4.)

...I would like to ask this same man if he remembers when many a businessman in Watsonville would rather back a Japanese farmer than a white farmer....Remember there are Japanese born under the American flag and the pledge to that flag says "liberty and justice for all"...A Subscriber (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. March 2, 1943. p. 12.)

...Your denunciation of the Japanese as a race reads like Hitler's denunciation of the Jews as a whole. The kind of thing that happened in 1935 in Germany, when the Jews were deprived of their citizenship by decree could happen in the United States...but it could not happen without changing or violating our established constitutional rights...if such changes were made, the very foundation principles on which our nation has been established and maintained go with them. We would then be no better off than the nations now at war with us...Rev. Mack McCray, Jr. First Baptist Church, Watsonville. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. March 3, 1943. p. 6.)

...When it is all over pass a law to send every one back to Japan and allow no more here in our country. I spent many days in the bloody and muddy trenches in France in the first World War for the freedom of our country and the American people and not for barbarians and to those who think we are mistreating the Japs, let them, after the war, go back to Japan with the Japs. C.A. Enlow. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. March 5, 1943. p.3.)

...the evacuees have three square meals a day. That's more than our boys have at the front in the thick of the battle...H.J. Silva (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. March 6, 1943. p.6.)

...our coping with the Japanese doesn't come under the heading of democratic and Christian means, and if the Rev. will stand by and watch us storm our government representatives with telegrams, letters, and cards, he'll understand we're truly Americans, not destroying the principles and freedom of our great nation but building and restoring...A Subscriber (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. March 8, 1943. p.3.)

"One of your correspondents says that we are at war not with the Japanese empire but with the entire Japanese race. I beg to differ with the writer - we are not at war with the race - we are at war with the Japanese nation! ...Remember also that a man is presumed to be innocent until proven guilty by satisfactory evidence... John L. McCarthy (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian* March 9, 1943 p. 6)

...for the duration let every Jap be held in concentration camps--this is war--if one is loyal, let him consider that as his part of the war effort...Mabel R. Curtis (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. March 9, 1943. p.2.)

Public Hearings

The California Senate held public hearings around the state to gather public opinion on the return of the evacuees. Even before it completed its hearings, the committee publicly announced its conclusion.

June 19, 1943:

STATE COMMITTEE OPPOSED TO JAPS' RETURN TO COAST

Turlock (UP) - A resolution expressing "unalterable opposition" to return of Japanese to California during the war was adopted by the state senate interim committee investigating all phases of the Japanese situation when it concluded its session here. The committee, which meets in Merced Saturday, adopted the resolution before hearings were completed because the preponderance of evidence already submitted showed residents of California were strongly opposed to resettlement. Copies were sent to D.S. Meyer, national director of the War Relocation Authority, and all members of the legislature. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. June 19, 1943 p. 6)

On July 7 and 8, 1943, the committee held hearings in Watsonville.

June 29, 1943:

HEARING ON JAP ISSUE HERE JULY 7

The California state senate interim subcommittee on the Japanese problem has accepted an invitation from the Chamber of Commerce of the Pajaro Valley and will hold a hearing here on Wednesday afternoon, July 7, at 2 o'clock...(*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. June 29, 1943. p.1.)

July 8, 1943:

MAJORITY OPINION AT JAP HEAR--KEEP THEM OUT AFTER WAR

Out of the mass of testimony presented at the state senate interim committee hearing in Watsonville Wednesday afternoon appeared one definite fact -- the majority of Santa Cruz county residents do not want the Japanese evacuees back during or after the war... (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. July 8, 1943 p.1)

July 9, 1943:

MAJORITY OPINION:

While there are some here who sincerely believe that Japanese can return after the war and take up where they left off, the great majority of Monterey Bay region residents do not want them back -- for many reasons.

This should be apparent to anyone who heard testimony given at the state senate interim committee hearing here whether due to "racial prejudice," "war hysteria," "fear

of trouble or race riots," or plain "dislike and distrust," they are bound to make themselves felt when the state legislature gathers together all the facts, figures and opinions presented at the hearing throughout the length and breadth of California.

We think Santa Cruz County's own senator, Ray Judah, summed the majority opinion up well when he declared that "we got along with the Japanese before the war but then we suddenly discovered that we cannot associate idealism with that race." (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. July 9, 1943 p.1.)

Debate and Protests

Throughout 1944, the debate continued over the release and return of the evacuees. Among the strong voices opposing their return, are other voices defending their rights.

September 27, 1944:

FRED HOUSER SAYS SERVICEMEN SHOULD HAVE VOICE IN ISSUE OF JAPANESE RESETTLEMENT

California's military servicemen and women, particularly those who are fighting the Japs in the South Pacific, should have a voice in deciding the issue of permitting Japanese to resettle in California, it was declared here Tuesday afternoon by Lt.-Gov. Fred Houser, republican candidate for United States senator. Houser, campaigning in Santa Cruz county as a part of his state-wide tour, ... met with groups in Santa Cruz and Watsonville. "Neither Harold Ickes nor any other bureau chief in Washington should flaunt Japs in the face of Californians during the war, nor permit their return over the objections of the people of this state who know the Japs so well," Houser declared. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. September 27, 1944.)

October 10, 1944:

ATTORNEYS-GENERAL FILE BRIEF IN JAP EVACUATION CASE

Attorneys-generals of California, Oregon and Washington Monday joined in a brief filed with the Supreme Court asking that restrictions against Japanese-American citizens in Pacific coastal areas be removed "as soon as national security permits." The brief was filed in the case of Fred T. Korematau. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. October 10, 1944, p. 3)

November 15, 1944:

RETURN OF JAPANESE

Under the Constitution, American-born Japanese cannot legally be prevented from returning to California once the military prohibition against their residence here is lifted. But the problem is not simply one of law codes, and any attempt to solve it by legalistic means alone must surely fail....The story of the Japanese in California before the war is

that of a large concentrated minority, unassimilable and acquisitive. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. November 15, 1944, p.4)

November 20, 1944:

CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION DIRECTOR SAYS JAPS WILL RETURN

LOS ANGELES (UP) - Roger Baldwin, American Civil Liberties union national director, predicted Monday army orders evacuating Japanese-Americans from the west coast soon would be lifted either by the U.S. Supreme Court or by the army itself. ...He declared the exclusion order was not based on military necessity but was the "unfortunate result of the ancient prejudice of such groups as the Associated Farmers ... and certain labor unions which resented the competing cheap labor of the Japanese." (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. November 20, 1944. p. 5)

It was announced in December 1944 that the exclusion order would be revoked the following month. Nevertheless, the public debate continued.

December 22, 1944:

MONTEREY OFFICERS PLEDGE COOPERATION ON JAPS' RETURN ... Meanwhile in Hollister, Assemblyman Jake Leonard expressed a thought reportedly held by many in the district when he said: "Whether or not the Japanese come back depends upon the attitude of the local people. If we do not want him, we can refuse to sell or rent him land; we can refuse to employ him or to deal with him. The responsibility lies not with the Jap but with us. Except under the war powers act there is no way we can legally keep him out except by refusing to deal with him." (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. December 22, 1944. p 2.)

DISAGREES ON JAPANESE ISSUE. To the Editor: Your insipid and practically anti-democratic editorial in Tuesday evenings paper (regarding return of Japanese) is a sickening display of shoddy thinking to the mind of at least one soldier who has now served his country for over three years....Those of the status quo school, you come too close to this group to be very helpful, are in for a rude shock if they think the American soldier doesn't know what he is fighting for. We are fighting for equal rights for all races and groups; opportunity for all, not those hereditarily fortunate. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. December 22, 1944.)

Additional Information

Nihon Bunka / Japanese Culture; 100 Years in the Pajaro Valley, by Kathy McKenzie Nichols and Jane W. Borg. Chapter 3: Uneasy Settlement: the War Years.

Return of the Evacuees

JAPANESE BACK IN SAN JOSE

San Jose (UP) - James Yamamoto, 40-year-old Japanese-American, ...born in San Jose and a graduate of Campbell High school, was one of the first Japanese-Americans permitted to return to the west coast area from which he was evacuated with others of his race in 1942. Sentiment among his neighbors and friends was that he had never "caused any trouble and should be left alone" on his berry farm. Yamamoto himself said simply that he was "glad to be back." (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. November 20, 1944. p.1.)

PACIFIC VETS RESTORE DESECRATED JAPANESE CEMETERY AT STOCKTON

Stockton (UP) - Youthful veterans of the Pacific war who just a few months ago were shoveling dead Japanese into coral trench graves, now are carefully restoring a desecrated Japanese cemetery here. Under the direction of Jack Vineyard of Stockton, Calif., ex-marine raider battalion member, a group of 28 discharged veterans now students at the College of the Pacific has voluntarily assumed responsibility for the care and restoration of the burial ground. ...All of the men were bitter in their denunciation of citizens who sat by while the desecration continued, as well as of those who committed the acts. "I thought we were fighting against this sort of thing, not for it," said ex-marine Bob McDonald, Pacific Grove. "It makes me mad to come home to something like this." (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. July 20, 1945. p. 2.)

Although some individuals had returned to the West Coast in 1944, the majority returned after the Western Defense Command lifted its exclusion order. Public Proclamation No. 21, issued on December 17, 1944, revoked the mass exclusion order and took effect on January 2, 1945. Public Proclamation No. 24 revoked exclusion orders on individuals in September 1945.

The first evacuees back to the Watsonville area came only as a visitors.

January 30, 1945:

FRANK SAKATA HERE ON BUSINESS TRIP

Frank Sakata, Pajaro Valley Nisei who was evacuated three years ago, and who now is farming with his family in eastern Oregon, was here on business Monday and Tuesday. He was accompanied by another former local Nisei, "Sox" Yamaguchi. ...As far as is known, Sakata and Yamaguchi were the first Nisei to visit the valley since the army lifted the evacuation ban early in the year. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. January 30, 1945. p.1)

In May, the Riptide reported on a family returning to Live Oak.

May 25, 1945:

JAP FAMILY WITH 3 IN ARMY SEEK TO RETURN HERE

Residents of Brommer Avenue in the Live Oak districts are being sounded out as the welcome which might be accorded the Otsuki family... While the majority of the neighbors felt that it might be best for all concerned if the Otsuki family postponed their return until the Japs have been crushed, they say they feel no animosity toward the former residents and if they return - well, there simply is nothing to do but accept them. (*Riptide* p.3)

Japan signed the terms of surrender on September 2, 1945. At the beginning of September, 77 persons of Japanese ancestry had returned to the Watsonville area. By the end of September, the number increased significantly. Most local evacuees had been sent to the camp at Poston, Arizona. It began closing down sections in the fall and was completely closed by November 28, 1945.

September 5, 1945:

JAPANESE EXCLUSION IS ENDED

With the war department and the Western Defense command issuing proclamations terminating the exclusive [sic exclusion?] program Tuesday night under which persons of Japanese ancestry were banned from the three west coast states, the Pajaro Valley's present Japanese population of approximately 77 individuals was expected to increase steadily in the next few weeks. ...F. E. Rhodes, head of the local WRA office in the Lettunich Bldg., said Wednesday that WRA estimates expect 40 per cent of the evacuated Japanese to return. In the Pajaro valley, where 2300 were evacuated the latter part of March, 1942, that would mean approximately 900 will be returning in the next six months to a year... Inmates who are unable to manage for themselves when the camps are closed will be assisted by the War Relocation authority and local agencies of their home areas, it was said. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. September 5, 1945 p. 1)

September 12, 1945:

74 JAPANESE EVACUEES HERE

In the first group movement since lifting of the Japanese exclusion program Sept. 4, 74 Japanese evacuees arrived at Watsonville junction Wednesday morning, Fred Rhodes, local WRA official stated. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. September 12, 1945 p. 1)

September 21, 1945:

97 MORE JAPANESE ARRIVE HERE; CIO GROUP HEARS TALK

Second large group of returning Japanese to the Pajaro valley arrived Friday morning with 97 men, women and children leaving the train at Watsonville Junction, Fred

Rhodes, local WRA official announced. ...The new arrivals bring the valley's Japanese population to nearly 250. WRA estimates show that 900 of the 2300 evacuated Japanese are expected to return eventually from relocation camps. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. September 21, 1945 p.1)

The War Relocation Authority Office (WRA)

The WRA opened an office in Watsonville to help returning evacuees on January 7, 1945. Its purpose was to assist persons of Japanese descent in resettling. The office closed April 19, 1946. "Although the WRA is closing its office, it is planned to form a group in the Pajaro valley to continue assisting returned evacuees in any resettlement problems. ... Those desiring to aid the group or committee carry on after the WRA office closes may contact local officials at the Stoesser Bldg., telephone 2202, or they may contact the Rev. George Goodwin, telephone 2316." (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. January 18, 1946. p.1.)

Employment and Housing

According to the head of the local War Relocation Authority's office in Watsonville, the "biggest problem facing local WRA representatives is housing. Jobs, Rhodes said, are plentiful, but hostels will have to be established throughout this area to house the returning Japanese. The Buddhist temple on Union St., is ready to be used as a hostel." (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. September 5, 1945 p.1)

Besides the Buddhist temple, property owned by Mr. Sakata, who had visited the area earlier in the year, was used as housing.

September 8, 1945:

HOSTEL SLATED FOR RETURNING JAPANESE AT GILROY SPRINGS

Hostel accommodations for servicemen and ex-servicemen and women of Japanese ancestry and their families will be made available through arrangements completed this week between the Presbyterian Home Missions board and the War Relocation authority for joint sponsorship of Gilroy Hot Springs, owned by Frank Sakata, formerly of the Pajaro valley and now of Oregon. The hostel will be taken over Sept. 15. ...The hostel will be available to Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Benito and Santa Clara county Japanese. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. September 8, 1945 p. 1)

Property

"Some found their belongings, which had been stored by churches or trusted neighbors, while others discovered their homes in disarray, their things stolen or broken." (1) The newspapers do not tell us if the returnees had problems reclaiming their farms as was reported in some places along the West Coast. Nor do we know from newspaper accounts if they still had their farm equipment. Newspaper articles indicate that the equipment may have been used by or sold to other farmers.

March 18, 1943:

WRA REVEALS JAPANESE FARM EQUIPMENT BEING SOLD TO FARMERS

Sacramento (UP) - Most of the farm equipment, owned by Japanese and Japanese-Americans when they were evacuated from the west coast, has been placed in farmers' hands to be used in 1943 crop production, the War Relocation authority revealed Thursday. According to Director Dillon S. Mayer, of the WRA, only about 150 tractors remain to be sold by the WRA property office in California, Washington, and Oregon. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian* March 18, 1943 p. 1.)

April 10, 1943:

"It is not known just how much Japanese equipment is stored in the Pajaro Valley, a survey Saturday showed. It was reported that some machinery formerly used by Japanese in the Pajaro Valley had been sent to the San Joaquin Valley and other state points prior to the evacuation last spring. However, it is believed that a considerable amount of the stored equipment could be used here this year. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. April 10, 1943. p.1)

Reaction to the Return

"There was prejudice on the part of some Caucasians, while others welcomed the return of the Japanese with open arms." (2)

September 18, 1945:

C. C. SURVEY ON RETURNING JAPANESE

President Don O. Colegrove of the Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture of the Pajaro Valley, Tuesday issued the following report on the recent survey regarding the public attitude of members on the return of Japanese evacuees: "At the request of many of its members, the chamber recently sent a questionnaire to its entire membership, which embraces a broad cross-section of the business, industrial and civic life of the city of Watsonville and its environs. This questionnaire propounded inquiries on the attitude of local people with respect to the proposed return of Japanese to this locality. ..." (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. September 18, 1945 p.1)

JAPANESE SURVEY

To the Editor: I have just noted the very recent C.C. survey concerning the ever-present Japanese problem in our midst. This report certainly demonstrates that our locality has a goodly majority of red-blooded Americans. Of late we have been learning of an increasing number of "Jap lovers" - people meeting the trains to usher these home comers back to the Promised Land, while many are throwing their doors all but off the hinges to see that these people have employment. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. September 20, 1945 p. 8)

Violence

December 18, 1944:

VIOLENCE IS FEARED; GOV. WARREN CALLS UPON POLICE

With Gov. Earl Warren calling upon all chiefs of police and sheriffs in California to "join in uniform compliance to prevent intemperate action," west coast residents Monday prepared for the return of Japanese aliens and citizens of Japanese descent after two and a half years of enforced absence... (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. December 18, 1944, p.1.)

The violence against returnees that had been feared by many, did materialize in some areas of California. The Library found one reported incident in the *Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*.

September 24, 1945:

FLARE THROWN AT BUDDHIST TEMPLE HERE

Watsonville had its first case of public hostility against returning Japanese Monday, 2:10 a.m., when unidentified persons threw or shot a flare toward the Buddhist temple, corner of Bridge and Union St., which is being used as a hostel by the Japanese. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. September 24, 1945. p.1)

September 25, 1945:

VIOLENCE WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN WATSONVILLE [Editorial]

Watsonville police and Santa Cruz county authorities, investigating the first public hostility here against the returned evacuees, lost no time in declaring that persons found guilty of inciting trouble will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. This is as it should be and their attitude will be backed by all civic-minded and progressive citizens. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. September 25, 1945. p. 6)

Our Native Land

September 26, 1945:

To the Editor: Quoting from G.W. Cornell's letter of Sept. 20 to the editor, "everything possible should be done to encourage all Japanese to return to their native land ..."

Perhaps we could have just as easily relocated elsewhere but, my dear Mr. Cornell, because CALIFORNIA was our native land, we have returned. (*Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. September 26, 1945 p. 3)

Footnotes

(1) Nakane, Kazuko, *Nothing Left in My Hands; An Early Japanese American Community in California's Pajaro Valley*. Seattle, Young Pine Press, 1985. (As quoted in *Nihon Bunka*. Chapter 4: A Time to Reflect: 1945 to Present)

(2) Ibid.

Additional Information

500 Japanese Back on Coast. *Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*. February 24, 1945. p 1.

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