The “Hood River Incident”

Gaining Understanding Through Analyzing Primary Source Documents

Lesson Plan & Student Materials
Grade Levels: 9-12
The “Hood River Incident” - Gaining Understanding Through Analyzing Primary Source Documents

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Length of Lesson: Two 90-minute class periods

Educator Background Information:
This lesson pivots around a single moment - In November of 1944, American Legion Post 22 in Hood River, Oregon voted to remove the names of 16 Nisei (second generation Japanese American) soldiers from the public Honor Roll billboard listing all the service members from Hood River County. This decision came after decades of escalating anti-Japanese racism and legislation in Hood River (and nationwide) and was followed by further organized attempts to exclude and limit the rights of Japanese Americans upon returning home. You can read more about the Hood River Incident [here](#).

Linda Tamura is Professor Emerita of Education, Willamette University in Salem, Oregon. She is a Sansei (third generation Japanese American) and daughter of a World War II veteran. She grew up on an orchard in Hood River, Oregon, has written two books (*Nisei Soldiers Break Their Silence* and *Hood River Issei*), and co-curated the exhibition *What If Heroes Were Not Welcome Home?* which uses first-hand accounts, photos, letters, and historical documents to show how wartime events brought national notoriety to the small community of Hood River. The video towards the end of the lesson is a presentation Linda gave about the history of Japanese Americans in Hood River.

**NOTE:** This lesson should not be students’ first exposure to Japanese American history. Before teaching this lesson, ensure students have at least a broad understanding of the major events in the history of the Japanese American community. Here are some resources that may be helpful:

a. [Densho: Introduction to WWII Incarceration](#)
b. [Facing History & Ourselves: Bearing Witness to Japanese American Incarceration](#)
c. [Betrayed Film Educational Resources](#)
d. [National Veterans Network Educational Resources](#)
e. [BrainPop: Japanese American Incarceration](#)
Lesson Objectives:
- Students will analyze primary source documents including newspaper articles, letters, editorials, advertisements, and notices.
- Students will analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information to construct an account of historical events connected to the Japanese American experience in Hood River, Oregon pre- and post WWII.
- Students will make inferences about the short and long term effects of these events and evaluate the outcomes.

Materials:
- Timeline Cards
- Primary Source Documents
- Graphic Organizers
- Optional: Closing Handout
- Tape
- Markers/Pens/Pencils
- Post-it Notes or Note Paper
- Computer & Projector (for watching video)

Relevant Vocabulary:
- Nikkei (nee-kay) - People of Japanese descent who live outside of Japan.
- Issei (ee-say) - First generation. The generation of Japanese who emigrated to the United States.
- Alien - A foreigner, especially one who is not a naturalized citizen of the country where they live.
- 100th Infantry Battalion - A segregated Japanese American unit formed in Hawaii prior to the bombing of Pearl Harbor.
- 442nd Regimental Combat Team - A segregated unit of Japanese American soldiers in WWII who served predominantly in Europe. They remain the most highly decorated unit for its size in all of US military history.
- **Military Intelligence Service** - A US military unit in WWII responsible for translating and interpreting documents, interrogating prisoners, and communicating with civilians. Nisei who could speak Japanese were stationed in the Pacific during WWII.

- **American Legion** - an organization of US wartime veterans. It was started in 1919 to support WWI veterans and has posts all across the country. They became (and remain) a politically influential non-profit organization, lobbying on behalf of service members and veterans.

**Preparation Beforehand:**
1. Plan effective groupings - partners/triads for your class.
2. Print primary sources, ensuring sufficient copies for the number of groups in your class. **Note:** Some pages are intentionally left blank in the PDF - This is so you can print them double-sided.
   a. **Trigger Warning:** Students will encounter the racial slur “Japs” in some of the primary sources. Educators should review the history of this term and how it was widely used in the media to spread anti-Japanese sentiment.
3. Familiarize yourself with each of the primary sources so that you will be able to support students in engaging with them deeply and meaningfully.
4. Print sufficient copies of the Primary Source Analysis graphic organizer - one per group.
5. Print timeline and cut apart, including blank cards.
6. If skipping Setting the Stage Activity, tape up the timeline on the board for students to reference.
7. Print sufficient copies of the Closing Handout if you plan to use it - one per student.

**(Optional) Setting the Stage Activity Directions:**
This activity can serve as a quick review of dates and events that you have already covered in class.

1. Hand each student one event from the timeline and have all the timeline dates spread out on a table in your room.
2. Have each student find the date that corresponds with their event and stand in chronological order. Collaboration encouraged!

3. Once all events and dates have been matched up correctly, tape the finished timeline to the board/wall so students can refer to it throughout the lesson.

**Main Lesson Directions:**

1. After familiarizing students with the timeline, let them know that they will be working to analyze a primary source document from a moment within this timeframe. They won’t have much context about it beforehand, so they will need to look closely at the details to understand it as much as possible.

2. Give students a heads up about the content of the lesson - “From the learning you’ve done in class and even just by looking at the timeline today, you can tell that there was escalating anti-Japanese racism in the years leading up to WWII, which continued during the war, and after the war ended. Some of the documents we will analyze today contain words and ideas that you may find upsetting. The inclusion of these documents is to give insight into the realities of the Japanese American experience at the time. Take care of yourselves as needed.”

3. Give students some time to do a gallery walk of all of the documents. Place the documents around the room and have students rotate through and examine each one briefly, writing their thoughts or questions on post-it notes or on poster paper as they go.

4. After a brief introductory examination of all the documents, introduce the graphic organizer and how to use it. Students will need to read the document carefully and record what they observe and interpret about their assigned document.

5. Group students into pairs or triads, hand out one primary source document and one graphic organizer to each team, and start the work time.

6. Once the work time is up, have each group create a timeline marker for their event that tells the date, their one sentence summary, and why they think it was written.

7. Facilitate a whole group share out of each primary source document. Have each group place their event on the timeline as they share.
8. Facilitate a class discussion about the documents. Questions you might pose to your students include:
   ○ How are all of these documents connected to each other?
   ○ What story do these documents tell?
   ○ What might the short & long term effects of these events have been?
   ○ How do these documents add to your understanding of this time period?
   ○ How are the concepts of recognition and justice connected?

9. Add to the context that students have constructed by learning more about the “Hood River Incident” and its lasting legacy in the community.
   ○ Option 1: Watch this presentation from Linda Tamura (start at the 5:36 mark and end around the 41:35 mark):
     https://youtu.be/xPbL_x4yXqE?t=335
   ○ Option 2: Pass out and have students read the Closing Handout which will reveal the full story and the effects upon the community.

10. Assessment – Give students time to reflect on their learning with a written response:
    ○ Based upon what we have covered over the course of this lesson, please share your insights about the following prompts, giving evidence to support your claims:
      i. How do laws affect a community? How do the actions of individuals or organizations affect a community?
      ii. How can people take action to challenge discriminatory laws or decisions?
      iii. How are the concepts of recognition and justice connected?
      iv. What is our duty to address past and present wrongs?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>EVENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 26, 1790</td>
<td>The Naturalization Act of 1790 states, “any alien, being a free white</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>person who shall have resided within the limits and under the</td>
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<td></td>
<td>jurisdiction of the United States for a term of two years, may be</td>
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<td></td>
<td>admitted to become a citizen thereof.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>1880</td>
<td>First Japanese immigrants (Issei) settle in Oregon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 6, 1882</td>
<td>The Chinese Exclusion Act is signed into law, ending Chinese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>immigration for the next 60 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 27, 1894</td>
<td>A U.S. district court rules that Japanese immigrants cannot become citizens because they are not &quot;a free white person&quot; as the Naturalization Act of 1790 requires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 14, 1905</td>
<td>The Asiatic Exclusion League was formed in San Francisco. In attendance are labor leaders and European immigrants, marking the first organized effort of the anti-Japanese movement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 15, 1907</td>
<td>The Gentleman’s Agreement is signed, ending the migration of Japanese laborers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>Oregon passes its first Alien Land Law, prohibiting non-citizens from owning or leasing land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<td>--------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>Congress passes the Immigration Act of 1924, essentially ending all immigration from Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 7, 1941</td>
<td>Japan bombs U.S. ships and planes at the Pearl Harbor military base in Hawaii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 8, 1941</td>
<td>The U.S. declares war on the Empire of Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 5, 1942</td>
<td>All Japanese American selective service registrants are reclassified as 4-C Enemy Aliens and prohibited from serving in the US military</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 19, 1942</td>
<td>President Roosevelt signs Executive Order 9066, authorizing forced removal</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 1, 1942</td>
<td>16 “Assembly Centers” are opened to detain Japanese Americans until the more permanent incarceration camps are completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1942</td>
<td>The first of 108 Civilian Exclusion Orders go into effect, giving Japanese Americans one week to prepare for removal. A curfew order goes into effect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 28, 1942</td>
<td>Minoru Yasui surrenders himself for arrest in Portland to test the constitutionality of the curfew order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
</tr>
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<td>-----------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 1942</td>
<td>Japanese Americans begin to be transferred to permanent WRA incarceration facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 16, 1942</td>
<td>University of Washington student Gordon Hirabayashi turns himself in to the authorities refusing to submit to the imprisonment on Constitutional grounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1943</td>
<td>The government issues a “Loyalty Questionnaire” to all adult incarcerees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 1943</td>
<td>The War Department announces the formation of a segregated unit of Japanese American soldiers, and calls for volunteers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 1, 1943</td>
<td>10,000 Japanese American men volunteer for the armed services from Hawaii. 1,200 volunteer out of the camps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 1944</td>
<td>The War Department imposes the draft on Japanese American men, including those incarcerated in the camps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 7, 1945</td>
<td>Germany surrenders, ending the war in Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 6, 1945</td>
<td>The U.S. drops the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Three days later, a second bomb is dropped on Nagasaki. Japan surrenders on August 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<td>------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 1945</td>
<td>The incarceration camps begin to close. Japanese Americans are given $25 and a train ticket to the city of their choice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1, 1952</td>
<td>McCarran-Walter Act becomes law. Among other effects, this bill allows Japanese immigrants to become naturalized U.S. citizens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 1980</td>
<td>The Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians is established calling to investigate the constitutionality of Executive Order 9066.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 1983</td>
<td>After hearing over 750 testimonies, the CWRIC issues a report stating that the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans had been the result of “wartime hysteria, racial prejudice, and a failure of political leadership.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983-1988</td>
<td>The wartime convictions of Gordon Hirabayashi, Minoru Yasui, and Fred Korematsu (the three men who protested the curfew and/or incarceration orders) are vacated on the basis of newly discovered evidence that the U.S. military lied to the Supreme Court in the original proceedings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 10, 1988</td>
<td>President Ronald Reagan signs HR 442 into law. It acknowledges that the incarceration of more than 110,000 individuals of Japanese descent was unjust, and offers an apology and reparation payments of $20,000 to each person incarcerated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observations</td>
<td>Analysis</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title/Caption:</strong></td>
<td>Why did the author write this document?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location/Date:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Who is the author?</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Select three significant words or phrases from the document:</strong></td>
<td>Write down a quote from the document that supports your answer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What biases or stereotypes do you see in the document?</strong></td>
<td>What was happening at the time in history this document was created?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Write a one-sentence summary of the document:</strong></td>
<td>What more do you want to know about? What questions do you have?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What might the short or long term effects of this document have been?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
List of Primary Source Documents in Chronological Order

1. Reverend Isaac Inouye, Issei Pledge, Jan. 8, 1942, Courtesy of the Oregon Historical Society
6. 1st Sgt. Johnny Wakamatsu letter, Jan. 6, 1945
8. Kenneth A. Bateman letter, Feb. 1945
12. Resolution No: 001-2022, Hood River Post 22, Oct. 5, 2022

Note: Some pages are intentionally left blank in the PDF - This is so you can print them double-sided.
January 3, 1942

The Honorable Charles A. Sprague
Governor, State of Oregon
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, Oregon

Dear Sir:

Please accept our sincere appreciation for the tolerance shown us during these difficult days with the following resolution drawn by Japanese resident nationals in Hood River county, Oregon.

Very truly yours,

Rev. Isaac Inouye

P.S. Just I have learned that two more boys selectees off for U.S. Army these few days to be inducted into the U.S. armed forces, so there are 16 boys in the army!
OUR PLEDGE

WE, the permanent Japanese resident nationals in this county of Hood River, do express to you and through you to the federal, state and local officials, and to the American people at large, our heartfelt and sincere gratitude for the generous treatment accorded us by our courteous American friends. We are grateful for the many kindnesses and sympathies expressed to us.

Most of the alien Japanese residents are devoted to this great Democratic America though we are not eligible for citizenship. We love this country so much that we wish to live here permanently, obeying American laws, policies, and administration always and especially during the present situation; and to cooperate whole heartedly, endeavoring to prove our destinies common with that of the American public.

The local Japanese natives have signed with the local civilian defense committee to volunteer for whatever purposes called upon. Fourteen of our American born boys of Japanese ancestry have answered the call to duty with the United States army. We hope there will be further opportunities to prove our mettle as good, law abiding nationals, maintaining the good will of our American neighbors.

May we pledge our loyalty to the Stars and Stripes just as do our children who are patriotic American citizens, with our prayer for a more peaceful kingdom on earth, which is the divine bequest of the American people for
future generations.

Very respectfully yours,

This pledge is signed under oath, the violation of which shall result in breach of friendly relations in the community.

Signed this 8th of January, 1942.

The Rev. Isaac Brown

Mrs. Isaac M. Brown

Gru. J. Takegai, Shingyo Sumura, Reu. H. Kinzuma

Mrs. T. Sakai, Mr. Y. Kishinuma, Mrs. H. Jwasa,

Y. Tomishita

Mr. Kawachi, Ken. Hasegawa,

M. Morita, O. Kimimoto, Mrs. M. Yasui

H. Shimada, Mr. K. Komitani, I. Jwasa

Mrs. K. Komura, Mr. Ogawa, T. Iwagaki

Nagoya, Chyo, Kamo, Mr. H. K. Hasegawa,

S. Kinibara, Mrs. Y. Iwakara, Mr. T. Iwakara,

Suguo, Sugai, M. T. Aso, Mr. H. T. Togawa

Tomoyoshi, Mrs. K. Imai, I. Nagari

Mrs. E. Nagari, E. Takaki, Mrs. M. Tomi

E. Kusai, Jr., M. Tomi, T. Kageyama

T. Kageyama

S. Sato

Mrs. O. Sato

T. Iwamoto

K. Tomori

T. Kikuchi
Mr. I. Kinosita, H. Hoshikawa, Mrs. Hoshikawa
S. Yashiki, Mrs. S. Yashiki, Mrs. R. Kiyakawa
Riichi Kiyakawa, Mr. Inukai, Mrs. I. Inukai
K. Inukai, I. Inukai, Mrs. K. Inukai
T. Sakakita, Mrs. M. Yumiko, U. Yumiko
Mrs. U. Yumiko, Miki Yumiko, Mrs. T. Sato
T. Sato
N. Hamada, S. Hoshita
Mrs. Hamada, H. Hoshita
Mrs. Hoshita, Mrs. M. Koshitaka
Mrs. K. Noji, I. Sato, Mrs. M. Katozawa
S. Suzuki, Mrs. U. Sato, S. Ueno
Mrs. Suzuki, T. Kataogawa, Mrs. U. Ueno
R. Watanabe
Mrs. R. Watanabe
S. Endow
Nobui Kinsawa
H. Nakagawa
Jr. Endow
K. Tamura
Mrs. M. Tamura
R. Tanemoto
Mrs. T. Tanemoto
K. Shitara
Mrs. Shitara
G. Yamaki
Mrs. H. Hanai
Mrs. H. Yamakita
R. Fujimoto
Mrs. R. Fujimoto
Censuring Hood River Post

HAMMOND, Dec. 7.—To the Editor—
The Hood River post of the American Legion recently voted to expunge from its honor roll the names of 18 Americans of Japanese ancestry from the Hood River area who are now fighting for their and our country with the Allied armies in Italy. This action is a satire upon the principles and ideals the Legion is supposed to stand for. Why not expunge also all Americans of German or Italian ancestry?

If the Legion, as we service men have heard, wants the veterans of this war to join its organization, let it be careful how it discriminates against any racial minority, particularly with such an outrageous action as this of the Hood River post. Nominations should now be in order for a motion to expunge from the American Legion the members of Hood River post for their demonstration of total lack of comprehension of what constitutes tolerance and fair play. If the Legion through its national organization does not do something about this Hood River outfit, it can expect little support from returning veterans of this war.

W. H. Johnson, Clarence F. Buchholz,
Members of U. S. Coast Guard.
Statement to Returning JAPANESE

Under the War Department's recent ruling you will soon be permitted to return to this county.

FOR YOUR OWN BEST INTERESTS, WE URGE YOU NOT TO RETURN.

Certain incidents have already occurred that indicate the temper of the citizens of this county.

Public records show that there are about 25 or 30 families, out of some 600 Japanese, who have not already sold their property in Hood River County. We strongly urge these to dispose of their holdings.

If you desire assistance from this Post in disposing of your land, we pledge ourselves to see that you get a square deal.

If you do return, we also pledge that, to the best of our ability, we will uphold law and order, and will countenance no violence.

In this program we ask the support of the citizens of this County.

HOOD RIVER POST NO. 22.
American Legion,
Department of Oregon.
1254 No. Cedar St,
Glendale, Cal., Jan. 3/1945.

American Legion,
Hood River, Oregon.

Gentlemen:

Thank goodness you are on to the little sly brown devilish hypocrites. It took us 300 years to take this country away from the Indians. But the brown devils will take it away from us in fifty years by infiltration unless the constitution is amended to deport every one of them.

Read Life magazine Dec 12th page 42 if you want to know more what a Jap is.

Nobody wants them on this continent except large land owners who are backed by------ who, and a few idle rich who want them for servants.

They are pagan savages. They were the original isolationists and only introduced to the modern world because they caught tortured and murdered shipwrecked mariners.

They ought to be shoved back where they originated and their railroads removed thus reducing them to a 5th rate power and agrarian nation.

If we want to change the constitution whose damn business is it. They changed it in sixty days to put beer back on the market. Why not do it again to head off this heinous menace.

With kindest regards,

Yours truly,

[Signature]

N.R. SMITH
Not So American

At last report the Army official at the G.A.R. Hall in Chicago, Illinois, announced that 18 American soldiers had been killed in action. Of these, 18 were members of the 30th Infantry Division, which has been active in the Pacific Theater. The official stated that the soldiers were killed in a surprise attack by the Japanese on the Philippines earlier in the day.

The news has caused widespread concern among America's war effort. In Chicago, soldiers and civilians alike have been preparing for the possibility of a Japanese invasion of the city. The official said that the soldiers were part of a larger group of American soldiers who have been fighting in the Pacific for months.

This news has been met with a mix of sadness and anger. Many Americans are frustrated with the lack of progress in the Pacific Theater, and they are growing increasingly concerned about the safety of their loved ones who are fighting overseas.

Despite the news, the official remained optimistic. "We are confident that our soldiers will continue to fight bravely and emerge victorious," he said. "We will not give up until we have achieved our goal of defeating the Japanese."
France
6 Jan 45

American Legion Post
Kootenai, Oreg.

Sir:

Yes, I believe my name as well as my brother and friends have been removed from the so-called roll of honor.

Remember, we did not volunteer unless we thought that as Americans it was our duty. Many have died believing in Liberty, equality, and the pursuit of happiness. Many more are rugged in various hospitals here in France, England.
and back then in the states.
Your actions and policies are not American, they do not give me the treatment of loyal American soldiers.
Really it is too bad that the Naval Ravi Legion Post must follow such un-American ideals. I regret that I was reared and educated in such an unjust community with such narrow-minded so-called Americans.

Sincerely yours,

1C57 Johnny Whittemore
2320 Edge Conder A
American Legion Post
Hood River, Oregon

Sirs:

Yes, I believe my name as well as my brothers & friends have been removed from the so-called roll of honor.

Remember, we did not volunteer unless we thought that as Americans it was our duty. Many have died believing in Liberty, equality & the pursuit of Happiness. Many more are crippled in various hospitals here in France, England, and back there in the states.

Your actions and policies are not American, they do not give us the treatment of loyal American Soldiers.

Really it is too bad that the Hood River Legion Post must follow such UnAmerican Ideals. I regret that I was raised and educated in such an unjust community with such narrow-minded so-called Americans.

Disgustedly yours,

1st Sgt Johnny Y Wakamatsu
2320 Eng. Combat Co.
Open Home To Nisei Soldiers

Joe and June Eaton Haviland this week announced that their country home, one and one-half miles west of Hood River on the Columbia river highway, will, from now on, be open to any Japanese-American soldier, home on furlough.

In making the announcement, Mr. and Mrs. Haviland state that friendship, good food, a warm bed and peaceful atmosphere will be made available to any of these Nisei soldiers home on furlough, as a return for their loyalty to our country in serving in the army. They want these boys to realize that they have friends who appreciate their service to their and our country.

The home will be open at any time and it will be unnecessary to telephone before coming, they state.

Hood River News, Jan. 12, 1945
This is an Editorial clipped from the Milwaukee Journal of February 19, 1945.
I hope that you have received enough of the same sort of comment and clippings to make you aware of the fact that it is your duty to publicly "eat crow" and see to it that this injustice is rectified. Posthumously this man deserves his place on your honor roll. Your shame at having deserted American democracy deserves whatever humbling a readjustment of your honor roll would cause. There are fifteen others to whom it is not too late to apologize.

No Gold Star at Hood River

There will be no gold star on the honor roll at Hood River, Ore., for Frank T. Hachiya. Frank was an American of Japanese ancestry. His was one of the 16 names which the Hood River American Legion post caused to be removed from the honor roll, because the local legionnaires were not American enough to tolerate other Americans whose ancestors happened to come from across the western instead of the eastern seas.

Frank Hachiya wasn't "good enough" for Hood River, but he was a good enough American soldier to volunteer Dec. 30 on Leyte for a dangerous mission to scout enemy positions. He was a good enough American so that most of the men in his regiment volunteered to give him blood transfusions trying to save his life after a Jap sniper's bullet went through his abdomen and liver.

Frank died Jan. 3 in far away Leyte fighting for his, and our, country—for the whole nation, including Hood River, which won't have his name on its honor roll. That's why there'll be no gold star for Frank in this Oregon town, where hate and prejudice are held in higher esteem than a man who gives his life for his country.

From a believer in democracy's ability to correct its own errors.

Sincerely,

Kenneth A. Bateman

Feb. 1945
**Japs Are Not Wanted in Hood River**

You Japs, listed on this page, have been told by some that you would be welcome back in Hood River. This is not true, and this is the best time you ever had to dispose of your property.

The petitioners, below, are circulated in different districts of the county and represent a cross-section of the sentiment. If you will look over the list and represent a cross-section of the sentiment. If you will look over the list, you will probably find neighbors when you thought you might welcome a horse of aliens from across the sea. A horse of aliens from across the sea. Or—shall it be a physique for you and me?—An—Unknown Author

Opposite is a map showing the "Japs" property, totally surrounded by Japs! (Sections 31 and 32, T. 1 N., Range 19 E., Walla Walla, Meridian.)

This is the "SQUEEZE METHOD" I observed while County Clerk, 1915-1927.

To our friends in the Armed Forces: You are doing a swell job—a job we can wash, that had let us finish. We will continue to do everything we can to look after you. We will produce all and continue to buy bonds until the work is done. We are proud of the record we have made so far. It is a effort to which many of these Japanese have contributed so much. We have been very glad to contribute to the success of the soldiers and sailors. This is just a part of the story of the Japanese. We have left our homes to the men of the other side of the world. You will know it is the work done in Hood River, on the petition below, that is a part of the story of the Japanese. The best of luck to you...

**KENT SHOEMAKER.**

Geo. Sheppard
A. L. Padddock
Geo. P. Coe
Margaret Fernin
H. F. Morse
W. S. Rayburn
Morris Cole
Col. J. Martin
Lee Allen
Zola J. Kiser
Henry E. Burgess
Arvo Anderson
Ralph S. Caudby
Carl D. Newman
O. H. Ehrick
Oscar Muen
Glen W. Allen
Thomas P. Eeckman
E. W. Green

J. R. Down
Verna Tompkins
John Hagen
W. L. Fawcush
R. Clark
Lila Clark
Alvin Coperude
J. W. Max
Lula May Miller
Frank S. Gering
Alfred B. Walter
Herbert Vornell
Henry E. Burgess
Arvo Anderson
Ralph S. Caudby
Carl D. Newman
O. H. Ehrick
Oscar Muen
Glen W. Allen
Thomas Pavlo
E. W. Green

Mabel Williams
Gertrude Bloom
Mrs. Carroll Mann
Laura Dudden
Arzyne D. Trout
Mrs. Louis Flog
H. D. Rich
Ed Nuss
Della Z. Allen
Josie Deut
Albert Paulman
E. F. Beekley
L. O. Drake
Bessie R. McNeil
D. L. Stedman
Jack Marder
Owen Malcolm
Hazel Norton
H. E. Huff
Harvey E. Jarvis
Harley B. Wason
Dennis Carpenter
John S. Paulson
Ann Martin

Harold Brower
Earl Terry
James W. Gaddy
Arthur C. Pierce
E. G. Wilcox
W. O. Smith
W. O. Burgess
Gertrude C. Mackay
Emme F. Webb
D. M. Newdum
John Colvin
Leone Flog
A. B. Stringer

L. E. Wright
Haaselle L. Garrett
E. E. Hensley
Frank Connors
B. Connors
O. R. Frey
T. M. Totsch
Ralph Hinkell
Ralph Hinkell
Mrs. G. J. Lyons
T. K. Winston
Mrs. M. C. Miller
M. C. Miller

Following is a list of Japs who either owned or controlled land in Hood River County prior to Pearl Harbor, showing number of acres controlled in each farm. Note: we will try and place a check mark in front of each name prior to Pearl Harbor. Our ultimate aim will be to get a check mark in front of each name and every one.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geo. Kinoshita</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. S. Kuhr</td>
<td>24.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandy Kuri</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Suzuki</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. Kiyokawa</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harry Nakamura</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. Nakamura</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O. T. Hashimoto</td>
<td>19.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. H. Nakamura</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. Kanemaru</td>
<td>23.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Namba</td>
<td>18.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Namba</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Noji</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Noji</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Noji</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>K. Nariasu</td>
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<td>T. Hirasawa</td>
<td>62</td>
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<td>S. Naka</td>
<td>27.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Hatsu Okamura</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K. Inagaki</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Y. Yabush</td>
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<td>S. Asai</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asa Ross</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taro Asa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Masato Asa</td>
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<tr>
<td>H. S. Munemoto</td>
<td>28.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>T. S. Akama</td>
<td>70.6</td>
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<td>T. S. Akama</td>
<td>18.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>T. S. Akama</td>
<td>28.6</td>
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<td>U. S. Akama</td>
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<td>George Akama</td>
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<td>Kaku Abe</td>
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<td>T. Murata</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Sho Endow</td>
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<td>C. Fukui</td>
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<td>N. Nishida</td>
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<td>Ken Nishida</td>
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<tr>
<td>T. Hirasawa</td>
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<td>T. Hirasawa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tom Inukai</td>
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<tr>
<td>M. Inukai</td>
<td>17.7</td>
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<td>James Inukai</td>
<td>85.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>F. Ito</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. Iwasa</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chushiro Iwatsuki</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y. Kageyama</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K. Morita</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hitoshi Iwatsuki</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N. Kajikawa</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y. &amp; N. Nakayama</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kozo Kawakami</td>
<td>60.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>R. Kawashima</td>
<td>41.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>G. Tanigus</td>
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<td>T. Tanigus</td>
<td>24.7</td>
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<td>R. Watanabe</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Watanabe</td>
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<td>M. Maekawa</td>
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<td>Mak. Takezaki</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sumiyo</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>K. Shido</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K. Shido</td>
<td>35.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Please Sorry. JAPES ARE NOT WANTED IN HOOD RIVER

I found it more difficult than I had thought to list all the Japs who owned or controlled property prior to Pearl Harbor, and then check off the properties they disposed of. It developed that in some cases, the title of the property was in the name of a minor or all business, including assistance from our Government was transacted in the matter of an elder. I am told that in one case a deed was made to an unborn child. I am told that two names were misspelled last week, they being Masanomi and Suga and as we do not want them to come back and add naming their names to the list. A friend was good enough to total the number of acres which might also interest some.

So I try my best week I can begin to get some with the names of the Japs and not the name with the list. Maybe somebody will help me connect property sold with the proper name in the list.

former owner access
Yoshii Akita 25
Tomii et. Kasasama 19
hirata & Yatsui 51,65
Hikishita & yasui 27,08
K. Tamizaki 49
Edna Iwakiri 41,21
L. & H. Iwata 18
T. Sugita 16,5
T. Sumida 10
M. Tamizaki 46,66
M. Yama 15
H. Nakagui 29
B. Kusakab 10
K. Y. Ozawa 6
K. Y. Ozawa 6
T. Ogawa Est. 13,94
Kanasu et. 2,5
Kanasu et. 2,5

new owner access
Ada E. Fewrick
Walter S. Graham
Sanderson
David E. & Violet K. Cooper
Raymond & Bertha Dowse
county property re-
sold to Sherman Bell
Eino & Elma Jukka
John & Irene Wallan
B. Fewrick
B. Fewrick
B. Fewrick
Billie F. Allowre
Willy B. & Margaret L. Miller
P. J. Stedelman et al
P. J. Stedelman et al
M. A. Sasaki
Ruben H. & Anthony B. Krueger
L. & L. A. Ryals

keystone shoemaker
Shinna Yabutu
Y. & K. Yabutu
Y. S. Yamaki
Hinako Yoshii
J. Tomono
S. Kuribara
Ben Ho
S. Sunge
K. Nishimura

We the undersigned residents and taxpayers of Hood River County are one hundred per cent behind Hood River Post No. 22, American Legion in ALL their efforts to keep the Japs from returning to their country.

We, the undersigned residents and taxpayers of Hood River County are one hundred per cent behind Hood River Post No. 22, American Legion in ALL their efforts to keep them from returning to this county.

This statement with my name being signed in whatever manner Hood River Post No. 22 may fit.

Victor W. Thomasset
L. M. Lowrey
Geo. Rose
Mrs. N. C. Curtsell
Mrs. Grace Prough
Mrs. G. E. Doolin
L. Norton
Janet et. A. Wood
Ernest Lock
Bessie Long
Mrs. W. C. Smith
Bill M. George, pce
W. L. Brown
Mrs. Frank Heer
Opal Bohler
Wallace Meddock
Oma Medlock
Bob Maddox
Rosa C. Colton
A. L. Zinsiderdul
M. P. Oda
Nellie Smith
Dolphine Seals
Mrs. In Lawrence
Grace L. Lawrey
Mrs. L. M. Laney
Mrs. V. C. Niblock
Herbert A.
C. E. Young
E. J. Morrisock
J. G. Jarvis
Cornelia Norton
Gertrude Brodie
Ethel A. Corpe
Nona Myers
Wen. H. Noyes
Edgar Kruisel
H. R. Glasscock
W. H. Gibbons
E. J. Uplander
Raymond Dowse
Fred Wea
H. A. Carpenter
A. A. Newman
Mrs. John Webster
T. W. Fletcher
Mrs. Frank Vannier
Olive Sablas
Corda L. Ingram
W. E. Vannier
Hannah Thoman
Hassan J. Kelly
Kitty Lee
Matilda Mahon
Mrs. Rose E. Vanner
Joe R. Vanner
Mrs. Frances A. Vanner
Mary Paish
Helena H. Wildland
Florences Caleese
Emanda Kruessel
Frances & John Morey
Mrs. Wilson Philo
Josephine Gianico
Mrs. W. J. Gilbouts
C. A. Lester
B. E. Bausman
W. Wilson
Eden E. Eskew
Mrs. Edith Jones
Vernon T. Bell
Wilbur D. Richards
W. H. Davenport
Ernest Jones
Mrs. Robert B. Moore
P. M. Jenzen
Gordon B. Newman
R. E. Donaldson
J. C. Noller
John Cery
Wayne P. Cannell
Olive Sablas
Lukis Turley
Russ Torrey
Evelyn W. Porcell
Louise Hugley
Geo. S. Eaton
C. E. Clabaud
P. E. Proctor
Mrs. Agnes E. Smith
Edward Shoder
Mrs. William Fite
Leona Newman
B. H. Moore
A. D. Tabby
Geo. E. Moresil
Theophilus Hansen
Bertha Smith
Hattie Lueallen
Francis Z. Petoskey
Mr. Alice Sunday
Bertha Chamberlin
Marie H. Hurley
Osa L. Logan
Beulah Bostick
Addie Wells
Mildred Mattox
Mrs. Robert B. Moore
P. M. Jenzen
Mrs. Allie P. Pills
Mrs. Robert B. Moore
John D. Maden
D. S. McVeigh
C. A. Clabaud
Mrs. MITCHELL
Mary Jane Whistie
Albert Fields
Kethen Marshall
R. C. Keene
P. A. McPherson
John W. Burns
C. M. Duff
Henry E. Grunewald
Mrs. George Walker
Mrs. John L. Wallen
Harley E. Brown
Thomas M. Jordon
Glady M. Hinrichs
Mrs. B. R. Hargrove
Mamie Comstock
James Whishart
W. A. Hayes
Osa L. Logan
Vynola Stewart
Elizabeth D. Walters
Betty Mattox
Mrs. W. W. Hawkins
Dorothy Burton
M. L. Whitecotton
Fred Coblentz
Amuel Ellis
Jared Pearl
Edna Kolls
Mrs. W. J. Beck
E. C. Dalen, Jr.
L. Miller
Mrs. Eric Pilson
I. G. Goire
Elna D. Pogue
Darwin Blake
Elna V. Mattfield
Mrs. Chas. Bully
Mrs. C. L. Colson
Jim Smith
Dorothy Barton
Lewis A. Mars
Richard Hobbs
Albert Krusow
Fred M. Iseli
Robert O. Curtis
Harold Keys
Elen J. Carsen
C. A. Johnson
W. J. Walker
S. Mumamoto
K. Shido
K. Shido
G. L. Takagi
Geo. Takagi
Masami Assi
T. Tomori
Fukiko Takekota
Yoshishita Yabutu
Y. & K. Yabutu
Y. S. Yamaki
Hinako Yoshii
J. Tomono
S. Kuribara
Ben Ho
S. Sunge
K. Nishimura

Following is a list of Japs who either owned or controlled land in Hood River County prior to Pearl Harbor, showing numbers which were confined in each farm. Next week we will try and place a check mark in front of each piece sold since Pearl Harbor. Our ultimate aim will be to get a check in front of each man.

Peggy A. Peters
E. B. Clark
Nishimura Contract

Geo. Risshihita
E. Kuschi
P. S. Kibun
K. Hayashi
K. Nishimura
B. R. Hara
T. Kikyo
K. Yabutu
G. Nakamura
H. Nakamura
O. T. Hishimo
H. H. Nakamura
K. Nakamura
W. Kanai
W. M. Namba
M. Noji
M. Noji
M. Sato
K. Nishimura
O. Ohkawa
S. Sato
M. Hatake Otsuka
K. Inagaki
Y. Yakita
S. Asai
A. Asa
Taro Asa
M. Assi
H. S. Momamoto
T. S. Akayama
T. S. Akayama
U. S. Akayama
George Akayama
Raku Abe
Veteran and Barber

To the Editor: While getting a haircut recently in a Hood River main street barber shop I witnessed an incident involving a veteran. An army staff sergeant entered and sat down to await his turn in the chair. The soldier wore nine decorations on his battle jacket—among them the bronze star and the silver star.

Less than a minute passed when the manager or owner of the shop stepped to the sergeant and said, “Are you a Jap?” The soldier replied, “What do you mean, a Jap? I’m an American.” Whereupon the barber ordered him to leave. Quickly the sergeant complied. The owner or manager remarked as to how quickly he had acted in getting the boy out, then added, “I should have cut the—’s throat.”

Other talk followed. It took a great deal of effort to control my anger.

Must I return to my own community for a visit after four years in the army and witness such unjustified prejudices and insults to a small group of some of the nation’s best fighting men—men whose courage, devotion to duty, and battle performance has won the respect and thanks of millions of service people?

Does encountering this kind of discrimination and intolerance upon returning home cause the sergeant to pause with a thought as to why he fought in the world’s most terrible war?

Fortunately, here and throughout the land only very small groups of “patriotic citizens” have failed to learn a lesson from the greatest of military and economic struggles. They have not yet grown up—perhaps millions of returning veterans will help them.

SHELDON E. LAURENCE,
Capt. A. C., Parkdale, Or.

Demand—“Made in U. S. A.”

To the Editor: The undersigned and thousands of other storekeepers recently received a 151-word, $2.88, night letter telegram from Mr. S. Ralph Lazarus, 200 Hudson street, New York city. This gentleman signs himself, “President American Watch Assemblers’ Association.” As this outfit assembles Swiss watches, only the use of the word American should be a criminal offense.

Mr. Lazarus requested me “to petition Oregon’s congressional delegation, and the state secretary Byrnes, to prevent the United States government reducing the number of Swiss watches now being imported.”

In thoroughbred Chaucerian English I refused. Reasons for refusal follow: T. Albert Potter, president Elgin National Watch company, Elgin, Ill., wrote me: “For 3 1/2 years the American watch industry has been the only source of supply for the highly critical time pieces, and timing mechanisms without which we and our allies could not have won the war.” And Walter W. Cenerazzo, president

Oregonian, Dec. 23, 1945
HOOD RIVER POST 22
P.O. Box 1803
Hood River, OR 97031

RESOLUTION NO: 001-2022

TITLE: Repeal November 1944 Post 22 Resolutions and all past Discriminatory Actions of Post 22 towards the Hood River Nisei Veterans of World War II and their Families in the Hood River Valley

WHEREAS, the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion in part states: to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism, to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars, and to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is committed to the ideals of “freedom, equality and justice” and dismantling injustices in our past; and

WHEREAS, fifty-seven Nisei (second-generation Japanese Americans) from the Mid-Columbia (Columbia River region north of Mt. Hood) and a total of 120 from the state of Oregon served in our country’s Armed Forces during World War II and in the post-war Occupation of Japan, even as their family members were incarcerated on American soil due to President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s signing of Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942; and

WHEREAS, Hood River Post 22 on November 4, 1944 passed a resolution to prevent the sale or lease of property to those of Japanese origin and to appraise and purchase all land they currently owned; and

WHEREAS, Hood River Post 22 also in November 1944 passed a resolution to black out the names of sixteen local Nikkei soldiers from an honor roll of 1,600 local Armed Forces members on the Hood River County Courthouse; and

WHEREAS, Hood River Post 22 on November 29, 1944, did black out these sixteen names from the Hood River County Honor Roll; George Akiyama, Masaaki Asai, Taro Asai, Noboru Hamada, Kenjiro Hayakawa, Shige Shigenobu Imai, Fred Mitsuo Kinoshita, George Kinoshita, Sagie Nishioaka, Mamoru Noji, Henry K. Norimatsu, Katsumi Sato, Harry Osamu Takagi, Eichi Wakamatsu, Johnny Y. Wakamatsu, and Bill Shyuichi Yamaki; and

WHEREAS, Hood River Post 22’s actions brought national notoriety to the valley; and due to national backlash, the names were restored thirteen weeks later on April 9, 1945; and

WHEREAS, during the war, Hood River Post 22 led the way for local citizens to discourage Nisei veterans and their families from returning to their homes and farms; and
WHEREAS, in 2011 our nation’s Nisei soldiers were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal and in 2015 the French Legion d’Honneur award, the highest award the French Government could bestow on members of the American Armed Forces; and in June 2021 the United States Postal Service released a Forever Stamp to pay tribute to Nisei soldiers; and

WHEREAS, Hood River Post 22 and Hood River citizens have since recognized Nisei World War II veterans in an “acknowledgement of wrongs” by dedicating local landmarks: a memorial brick “in honor of all Nisei veterans” at Overlook Memorial Park on Veterans’ Day 2001 and a marble monument inscribed with names of all Japanese American veterans at Idlewilde Cemetery on Memorial Day 2011; and

WHEREAS, designating S.R. 35 as the Oregon Nisei Veterans WWII Memorial Highway at long last pays tribute to Nisei veterans not only in the Columbia Gorge area but all 120 Nisei who served from the State of Oregon; and

WHEREAS, “to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations” is a tenet of the American Legion Preamble to the Constitution; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, Hood River Post 22 recognizes the time leading up to and surrounding WWII was a dark era, and troubling times for our community and nation, however Hood River Post 22 acknowledges that actions of Hood River Post 22 during this time were wrong, discriminatory, and even racist towards our Nisei Veterans and our Japanese neighbors; and be it further

RESOLVED, Hood River Post 22, of District 5, The American Legion, Department of Oregon in its regular meeting assembled in Hood River, Oregon, on October 5, 2022, hereby rescinds all previous resolutions that discriminated against or suggested such discrimination to our Nisei Veterans, their families, and other people of Japanese descent; and be it further

RESOLVED, Hood River Post 22 publicly apologizes to our remaining Nisei Veterans, their families and descendants; and, be it

FINALLY RESOLVED, that this Resolution and the Oregon Nisei Veterans World War II Memorial Highway will be permanent reminders that discrimination of our brothers and sisters of Japanese descent was and is not tolerable, and that Hood River Post 22 will strive to lead our community to honor and respect all our Nation’s people, regardless of race or color.

Carl L. Casey, Commander
Dennis Leonard, Vice Commander

Prepared by Carl Casey 10-5-22
During World War II, the rural community of Hood River, Oregon, held a national reputation for its strong support of the war effort. The 11,500 residents repeatedly raised a surprising amount of money through buying war bonds and hundreds attended rallies in front of the county courthouse.

The local American Legion post installed an honor roll memorial in downtown; large billboards with the names of more than 1,600 residents from Hood River County who were serving their country. On the evening of November 29, 1944, Legion Post No. 22 removed the names of sixteen Japanese American soldiers from the billboards. The American Legion stated that it was because these young men were dual citizens of Japan and the United States, which they were not. They were solely US citizens. The veterans’ group also protested Nisei serving in the armed forces and proposed an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would deny citizenship to all Americans of Japanese descent (Nikkei).

As part of its campaign to deter Japanese Americans from returning after the war, Legionnaire Kent Shoemaker wrote a series of paid, full-page public notices that appeared in local newspapers from January through March 1945. With titles such as, “So Sorry Please, Japs are Not Wanted in Hood River,” these ads included lists of Japanese landowners and how much land they owned, with the goal that white people would purchase their properties. Five of the six ads...
included the names of more than a combined 1,800 locals, under a statement that they were "one hundred percent" behind "efforts to keep the Japs from returning to this county."

Responses
Newspapers, organizations, and citizens from across the country, along with people serving in the military abroad responded quickly to Hood River's honor roll incident. The vast majority of the responses were opposed to the Legion’s actions. Headlines denounced the decision and letter writers questioned whether names of GIs with German and Italian names had been removed, and even threatened not to eat Hood River apples again. Of the more than 300 servicemen who wrote letters to the Hood River News, all but one criticized the action. Three local servicemen even independently requested that their names be removed from the honor roll unless the Nisei names were replaced.

Others favored the Legion’s action. Some newspapers spread fear about Japanese Americans buying up all the land on the West Coast and plotting to out-populate white people. Anti-Japanese organizations offered support. An Oregon state senator exhorted, "Get your heart in America and the Japs out!" Letter writers sent messages of encouragement to the Legion, often filled with hateful stereotypes and slurs. Of the almost 400 letters that Post 22 received, only one-third favored their action. But eight other Legion posts decided to remove Nisei names from their honor rolls too.
Seven weeks later, on April 9, 1945, the names of fifteen of the sixteen Nisei were repainted on the billboards. (One of the Nisei had been dishonorably discharged, which would not be voided until 1983) Still, The American Legion stated that even though the names were replaced, their opinion remained the same.

Aftermath
Hood River mayor Joe Meyer discouraged Nikkei from returning home after the war, claiming, "Ninety percent are against the Japs." The community attracted national attention as a "plague spot" where prejudice ran high. Rumors spread that locals would deter returning Nikkei at the train depot, and some predicted violence. Fears increased as Nikkei saw names of neighbors and friends in newspaper notices discouraging their return.

Once home, veterans and their families could not buy food, furniture, gasoline, or farm equipment at most local stores and were often forced to drive twenty miles away to make purchases. A downtown barber denied a haircut to decorated war veteran George Akiyama, threatening to cut his throat. An army adjutant general took action by pressuring merchants to sell goods to Nikkei or face martial law as a consequence. A small group of about fifty citizens, forming the League for Liberty and Justice, offered to shop and drive produce trucks for returning Nikkei families. In all, only forty percent of prewar Nikkei residents returned to Hood River, compared to almost seventy percent in the state at large.

Legacy
With Hood River's increased cultural and ethnic diversity, the involvement of Japanese Americans as
active community participants and leaders, and the passage of time, efforts to memorialize the past and pay tribute to Nisei veterans have finally taken place. In 2001, two Nisei veterans served as grand marshals of the annual Fourth of July parade. That fall on Veterans Day, Post 22 dedicated a brick at the downtown Overlook Memorial Park "in honor of all Nisei veterans." In 2007, more than five hundred attended a Day of Remembrance to "break the silence" of the past. On Memorial Day in 2011, the community unveiled a marble monument with engraved names of the sixteen Nisei veterans as well as all Nikkei who had served in the armed forces. In August of 2022, a 41-mile scenic highway from the Columbia River to Mt. Hood was dedicated as the Oregon Nisei Veterans World War II Memorial Highway. And on November 11, 2022, More than 75 years after the “Hood River Incident”, the American Legion Post 22 held a ceremony in which they repealed the 1944 resolution that led to the removal of 16 Nisei names from the county’s honor roll board and apologized to the Nisei veterans and their families.
Oregon Department of Education Social Science & Ethnic Studies Standards

**HS.65** * Identify and explain strategies of survivance, resistance and societal change by individuals and traditionally marginalized groups confronting discrimination, genocide, and other forms of violence, based on race, national origin, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, and gender.

**HS.66** * Identify and analyze the nature of structural and systemic oppression on LGBTQ, people experiencing disability, ethnic and religious groups, as well as other traditionally marginalized groups, and their role in the pursuit of justice and equality in Oregon, the United States, and the world.

**HS.67** Evaluate historical sources for perspective, limitations, accuracy, and historical context.

**HS.74** Analyze an event, issue, problem, or phenomenon, critiquing and evaluating characteristics, influences, causes, and both short- and long-term effects.