

## The Amache Camp in Documents

"The Uyano family in their barracks room at the Amache Center. The mother's handiwork in preparing drapes, fashioning furniture out of scrap material, plus the boys ingenuity in preparing double deck bunks have made this bare brick floored barracks room a fairly comfortable duration home. Tosh Uyano, left, is charged with documenting the history of the Amache Center. "

Photo by **Tom Parker** 12/9/42.



The "Americanization" of the Japanese-Americans was a primary concern in the camps for the War Relocation Authority. This photograph shows the Amache Summer Carnival Parade, dated July 10, 1943, which emphasizes American-type freedom.

Photo by **Joe McClelland**



This “Americanization” of Japanese-Americans was complicated by the existence of two distinct groups. The Japanese Issei leaders were immigrants and were under more suspicion by the U.S. government than the younger generation of Nisei who were either born or had spent most of their lives here. Since the Issei had been here longer they usually had more property and possessions to lose than the Nisei. Many Issei believed that the United States was treating them unfairly which led to some either being neutral or having sympathy for Japan. The Nisei tended to speak better English making their communication with non-Japanese Americans better and their assimilation into the American culture somewhat easier.



## The Training of Patience

by Lily Havey

*"I remember long lines and waits to board trains to Colorado. The woman with the staff is my mother in contemporary clothing walking toward those same trains. The rides were sporadic stop-and-go legs with the blinds pulled down during the day. This not to prevent us looking out, but to prevent people outside seeing us. In a diary lost in a flood, I noted each stop on the trip. There were many. It was a three day trip from California to Colorado."*

Many young men joined the United States military to create a distinctively Japanese-American unit in the Army. Representatives from the War Department recruited these men with the following encouragement:

*"If your strength were diffused through the Army of the United States – as has already been done with many other Americans of your blood, relatively little account would be taken of your action. You would be important only as manpower—nothing more. But united, and working together, you would become a symbol of something greater than your individual selves, and the effect would be felt both in the United States and abroad. All other Americans would long remember what you had done for the country, and you would be a living reproach to those who have been prejudiced against you because of your Japanese blood."* (Nisei in Uniform)



*"Captain Jerry P. Tobin, infantry recruiting officer, swearing in a group of Nisei youths, loyal Japanese-Americans, who are recruiting for service in the United States Army, after undergoing a stiff examination, determining their ability as interpreters on both spoken and written Japanese. All of these Nisei boys formerly held draft classification cards 4/C. There were 24 signers."*

Photo by **Tom Parker** 12/12/42

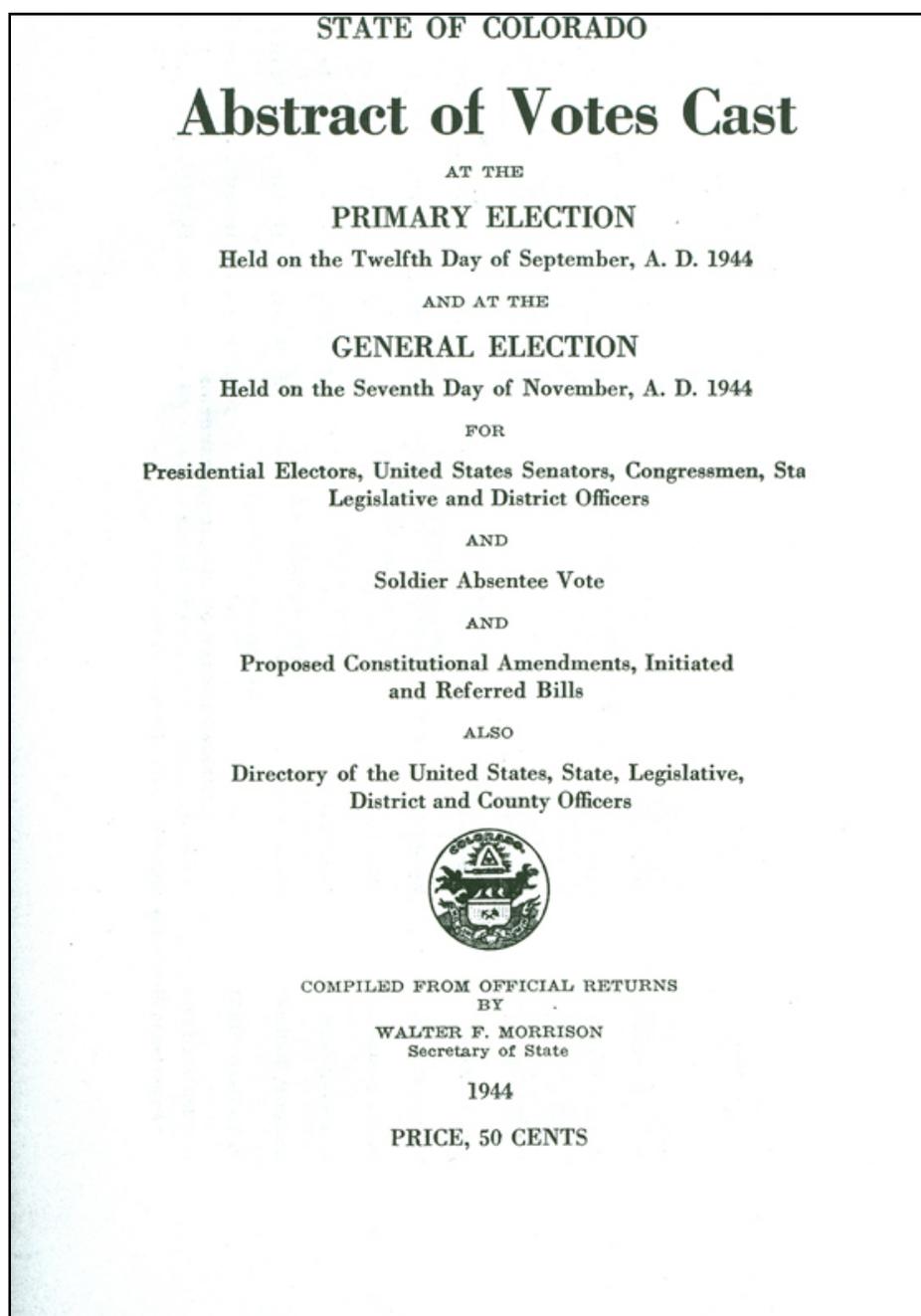
The Japanese-Americans fought nobly and effectively, were highly decorated and earned reputations as being some of the most heroic soldiers in the U.S. Service.



*"The tempo of relocation has been accelerated with the Army's acceptance of nisei into the armed force of the United States. One hundred and twenty-four American – Japanese have volunteered for the new combat unit while 19 volunteered at an earlier date for specialized service."*  
(Amache; 1945, pg. 21)

Photo from **Nisei in Uniform**

By 1944 the contributions of the Japanese-Americans in the armed services and Governor Carr's leadership may have influenced many Coloradans to soften their attitudes towards the Japanese. Proposed Amendment # 3 which would have prevented aliens ineligible to citizenship (the Issei) from owning property in the state was defeated in the General Election in November, 1944. The following document comes from the Secretary of State's Office:



NO. 1  
An Act Amending Section 27 of Article II of the Constitution of the State of Colorado, Providing for Jury Service by Women.

NO. 2  
An Act Appropriating Out of Any Moneys in the State Treasury for the Purpose of Paying Old Age Pensions, Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) for the Present Biennial Period and One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000.00) Annually Thereafter, of Such Parts Thereof as Shall Be Necessary to Pay the Full Award of the County Department of Public Welfare to Each Recipient of an Old Age Pension, Such Appropriation Being in Addition to Any Other Appropriations Herebefore Made.

NO. 3  
An Act Amending Section 27 of Article II of the Constitution of Colorado to Provide That Aliens Eligible to Citizenship May Acquire Hold and Dispose of Real Property; Also That Provision Shall Be Made by Law for the Right and Power of Aliens Ineligible to Citizenship to Acquire, Hold and Dispose of Real Property; Otherwise There Shall Be No Such Right or Power as to Them, Directly or Indirectly, Except as to Vested Rights Already Acquired and Guaranteed by Law, Which Rights May Be Dissolved, Liquidated or Terminated by Law.

NO. 4  
An Act Amending Article XII of the Constitution of the State of Colorado by Adding Thereto Section Three, Providing for Preference by the Addition of Stated Points to the Passing Grades Attained by Certain Honorably Discharged Veterans of the Armed Forces in Designated Wars, Including the Present War, in Civil Service Examinations Given by the State of Colorado or Any of Its Political Subdivisions, or so Attained by the Widows of Such Veterans and the Widows of Those Who Died During Such Service.

	Yes	No
Adams	2,249	2,262
Alamosa	1,285	1,157
Archuleta	213	124
Aspen	457	380
Bent	310	300
Boulder	7,453	4,220
Chaffee	2,952	2,947
Cheyenne	417	237
Clear Creek	554	206
Comanche	543	440
Costilla	198	217
Crowley	510	262
Custer	249	178
Delta	2,955	1,209
Denver	41,592	50,650
Dolores	296	96
Douglas	590	403
Eagle	593	415
Elbert	572	512
El Paso	11,499	8,602
Fremont	2,950	2,346
Garfield	1,350	1,200
Gilpin	178	32
Grand	498	331
Gunnison	421	488
Hinsdale	65	36
Huerfano	1,160	868
Jackson	226	128
Jefferson	7,419	4,269
Kiowa	467	312
Kit Carson	946	714
Lake	350	267
La Plata	1,223	1,223
Larimer	2,454	2,274
Las Animas	2,286	1,735
Lincoln	936	659
Logan	2,266	1,708
Mesa	6,422	2,830
Mineral	160	45
Moffat	872	574
Montezuma	943	574
Montrose	1,853	1,220
Morgan	2,273	1,473
Otero	2,715	1,974
Ouray	246	180
Park	280	213
Phillips	755	565
Pitkin	222	133
Prowers	1,430	1,267
Pueblo	15,970	7,622
Rio Blanco	497	288
Rio Grande	1,637	887
Routt	1,281	978
Saguache	458	393
San Juan	184	105
San Miguel	287	229
Sedgwick	574	335
Summit	179	109
Teller	1,494	323
Washington	850	864
Weld	7,767	5,630
Yuma	1,179	1,166
Totals	195,793	127,657

	Yes	No
Adams	1,898	1,876
Alamosa	1,556	960
Archuleta	544	2,529
Aspen	358	261
Bent	328	446
Boulder	1,745	745
Chaffee	9,287	5,629
Cheyenne	1,772	790
Clear Creek	629	321
Comanche	1,427	358
Costilla	1,129	268
Crowley	529	476
Custer	178	215
Delta	2,608	1,455
Denver	87,766	15,232
Dolores	218	119
Douglas	685	524
Eagle	459	460
Elbert	545	678
El Paso	14,583	8,422
Fremont	2,726	2,125
Garfield	1,849	1,472
Gilpin	313	100
Grand	469	424
Gunnison	397	811
Hinsdale	51	51
Huerfano	2,762	698
Jackson	527	189
Jefferson	5,262	4,558
Kiowa	526	296
Kit Carson	1,267	945
Lake	344	587
La Plata	2,263	1,423
Larimer	4,912	4,869
Las Animas	1,765	1,526
Lincoln	1,116	752
Logan	2,922	1,963
Mesa	15,887	2,989
Mineral	113	67
Moffat	1,013	688
Montezuma	548	658
Montrose	2,566	698
Morgan	1,562	1,564
Otero	2,581	1,972
Ouray	2,482	2,462
Park	262	222
Phillips	291	291
Pitkin	642	421
Prowers	181	175
Pueblo	2,242	1,274
Rio Blanco	18,527	7,044
Rio Grande	491	369
Routt	1,283	1,475
Saguache	1,542	1,128
San Juan	652	569
San Miguel	284	140
Sedgwick	476	264
Summit	715	482
Teller	217	126
Washington	972	323
Weld	11,123	979
Yuma	9120	6,438
Totals	1,394	1,471

	Yes	No
Adams	4,048	2,304
Alamosa	1,335	1,150
Archuleta	4,351	5,614
Aspen	385	312
Bent	280	788
Boulder	1,410	1,101
Chaffee	6,123	7,449
Cheyenne	757	1,569
Clear Creek	362	532
Comanche	349	478
Costilla	1,392	899
Crowley	482	420
Custer	384	248
Delta	184	212
Denver	2,106	2,108
Dolores	78,801	68,601
Douglas	51	279
Eagle	246	679
Elbert	572	420
El Paso	577	727
Fremont	2,050	13,652
Garfield	388	1,846
Gilpin	1,302	2,167
Grand	169	188
Gunnison	494	821
Hinsdale	628	1,040
Huerfano	68	68
Jackson	1,021	1,460
Jefferson	152	268
Kiowa	743	6,374
Kit Carson	796	609
Lake	784	1,244
La Plata	782	950
Larimer	1,163	2,110
Las Animas	5,811	5,891
Lincoln	2,566	2,047
Logan	774	774
Mesa	1,753	2,713
Mineral	6,667	4,528
Moffat	102	117
Montezuma	513	550
Montrose	526	1,056
Morgan	2,460	2,460
Otero	2,344	2,344
Ouray	1,537	4,204
Park	177	277
Phillips	291	590
Pitkin	471	825
Prowers	175	244
Pueblo	1,612	2,228
Rio Blanco	7,825	14,887
Rio Grande	296	512
Routt	1,165	1,548
Saguache	1,141	1,554
San Juan	564	397
San Miguel	145	201
Sedgwick	265	432
Summit	485	701
Teller	149	201
Washington	474	795
Weld	798	1,297
Yuma	6,884	8,237
Totals	803	1,369

	Yes	No
Adams	4,506	1,252
Alamosa	1,741	1,661
Archuleta	8,538	3,121
Aspen	314	314
Bent	974	279
Boulder	1,610	568
Chaffee	2,469	3,682
Cheyenne	1,715	1,569
Clear Creek	530	230
Comanche	691	209
Costilla	1,411	472
Crowley	564	174
Custer	748	328
Delta	333	167
Denver	3,329	939
Dolores	94,719	47,119
Douglas	279	76
Eagle	679	353
Elbert	810	278
El Paso	743	424
Fremont	13,767	1,188
Garfield	2,084	1,885
Garfield	1,801	915
Gilpin	169	124
Grand	421	772
Gunnison	1,301	567
Hinsdale	68	32
Huerfano	2,183	511
Jackson	268	108
Jefferson	10,111	3,270
Kiowa	617	256
Kit Carson	1,494	596
Lake	1,401	459
La Plata	2,374	941
Larimer	7,374	2,247
Las Animas	5,497	1,997
Lincoln	1,043	1,213
Logan	2,442	1,111
Mesa	8,587	1,936
Mineral	117	55
Moffat	1,231	427
Montezuma	1,150	487
Montrose	2,657	1,045
Morgan	3,185	1,122
Otero	4,109	1,564
Ouray	277	124
Park	538	156
Phillips	1,094	748
Pitkin	282	146
Prowers	1,159	384
Pueblo	2,557	5,385
Rio Blanco	17,644	7,422
Rio Grande	1,554	1,045
Routt	1,932	974
Saguache	719	324
San Juan	249	91
San Miguel	619	162
Sedgwick	894	263
Summit	738	38
Teller	872	271
Washington	1,465	561
Weld	10,588	6,211
Yuma	1,912	812
Totals	256,563	167,160