

Public Confusion

Most Santa Fe residents thought that the local camp housed Japanese POWs or immigrants convicted of crimes against America. They commonly referred to the camp as the “Jap Trap.” Anti-Japanese sentiment increased as newspapers in the United States began to report on the horrible, inhumane treatment of American POWs at the hands of the Japanese military. Resentment grew when the first liberated survivors of the notorious Bataan Death March began arriving home to New Mexico. “You have to have lived through those days to realize how intense the anti-Japanese feelings were here,” as witness Abner Schreiber explained in a 1979 interview. “There were stories of the torture of American prisoners in Japanese camps. It was bad business.” Most New Mexicans had no knowledge about the internees and their American roots. As one Hispanic witness adds: “we called them ‘los Japos’ [and not] until after the war did I realize that was a hell of a thing for us to do.”



Medical personnel and nurses in front of a building at Santa Fe Camp, ca. 1942-6
Courtesy of Densho, David Rogers

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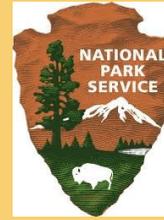
*National Park Service
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CSU Public Lands History Center
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Santa Fe Public Library

Community Services Department, City of Santa Fe, New Mexico

Tinwork by Jimmy Romero



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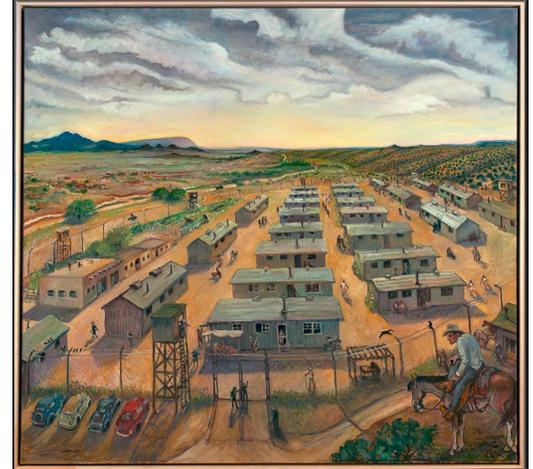
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Confinement in the Land of Enchantment *CLOE* Traveling Exhibit



Focus on the Santa Fe Internment Camp

*Depicted here by artist
Jerry R. West*

Join us for the Exhibit, Public Forum,
Discussions and Talks during
November 2018 held at Santa Fe
Public Library ~ Southside Branch
Main Library & LaFarge Branch

CONFINEMENT in the LAND of ENCHANTMENT

Project Purpose

“**Confinement in the Land of Enchantment:** Japanese Americans in New Mexico during WWII” (CLOE) documents the histories of Japanese American internment in the state and seeks to inspire thought and conversation about issues of citizenship, identity, and civil liberty. **The Traveling Exhibit and Community Forums of 2018-2019** represent Phase III of the CLOE Project.

The project focuses on the stories of World War II Japanese American confinement sites that were located at Santa Fe, Ft. Stanton, Old Raton Ranch (Baca Camp), and Camp Lordsburg in New Mexico. In addition to telling the stories of detainees held at each of these facilities, the project examines how the surrounding communities interacted with these camps. Stories of how various communities across New Mexico treated their Japanese and Japanese American community members are also explored.



TOP
Poem by Camp Prisoner
BOTTOM
Sketch of Santa Fe Internment Camp
Courtesy of Benjamin Tanaka
Internment Camp Scrapbook, 1942-46

Arts and Artists

“*With so many artists and intellectuals confined in this high-desert prison, it is no wonder that artist activities also flourished....*”

Emotions, camp experiences, and the natural and unnatural surroundings of the camp provided fodder for artistic expression. Internees collected and polished rocks and carved birds and other figures out of pieces of scrap lumber and wood that they had gathered during guarded hikes.

Numerous men took up painting and sketching using watercolors, charcoal pencils and *sumi-e* (black ink paintings). The internees also organized theatre and ritualistic dramas. Some poetry and painting clubs compiled their works into a manuscript that they gave as gifts to fellow prisoners on special occasions. At least twice during the war, residents of Lordsburg and Santa Fe were invited to view the artwork or performances of the internees

