

**Years of Valor, Years of Hope:  
Tulare County, 1941 – 1946  
Oral History Collection  
by the Tulare County Library, 2004**

**Alice Nanamura**

Alice Nanamura's interview includes an article written by her describing what she remembers of her nine-year-old experience being transported and living in an internment camp. She expresses a sentiment heard from most of the Japanese Americans who were interviewed: They learned the value of how to do the best they could with what they have and had.

Her family were the Ichinagas, who owned a restaurant in Tulare. They were Tulare residents and were bused to Fresno's fairgrounds where they lived for about eight months. Then in October her family was taken by train to Jerome War Relocation Center in Arkansas. She remembers armed guards in Fresno, on the train and at Jerome Internment Camp. There were people at that camp from Lindsay, Dinuba, Fowler and other places. Her father was the head cook for that entire camp. She describes how members of her family found sponsors and moved further east. Her brother enlisted. In 1943 her father took his remaining family to a farm in Nebraska where he sharecropped. They returned to Tulare in April, 1945. She said they all felt as if they had lost four years. Her family home was intact and her father was able to open another restaurant. One affect of the war, she said, was that her ethnic family had proved that they were good citizens and were better accepted by other residents despite some lingering resentments.

19 pages. Interviewer: Tania Martell