

**Memories of the Japanese Internment Camp at Jerome, Arkansas:  
My Grandmother, Tsuyu Hiura**

*(interviewed by Julie Hiura)*

For my interview I interviewed Tsuyu Hiura. She lived during World War II. In America during World War II the Japanese were set up in internment camps because the Americans thought that the Japanese Americans would be loyal to their home country and be allies for the Japanese soldiers. The Americans were very wrong. This hurt the Japanese Americans. My grandfather also lived through in an internment camp. My grandmother lived through an internment camp far away from her home, this camp was internment camp Jerome.

When my grandmother left for the camp in 1942 she was 20 years old. At this time she was going to college. She was a junior at Cal University. She was living in Fresno, California at the time with her family. Fresno's assembly center was to go to Jerome, Arkansas. At this time she was already seeing or dating my grandfather Pearce Hiura. They were separated and had to go to different camps.

The camp life was bad for her but luckily she stayed for only one year at Jerome during 1943-1944. In 1944 when she was 23 she got her teaching license in Arkansas. She taught 1st graders. Also in 1944 my grandfather was drafted for the army. Before my grandfather went to fight he married my grandmother. They wed in Chicago.

After camp life they moved to Chicago. They lived in Chicago for about three years. After they moved back to California in 1949. They lived on Polk Street in San Francisco.

Now my grandparents still live in San Francisco and own their own optometry shop on Polk Street with my Uncle Ronnie. Although this was a hard time for both of my grandparents other Japanese Americans went through tougher situations than they had to go through.