Japanese Americans: The War at Home

By Roger Daniels

On December 7, 1941, Japan launched a sneak attack on the American naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. President Franklin D. Roosevelt called it a "date that will live in infamy." America declared war against Japan the next day. Overnight, Japanese Americans found their lives changed. Seventy-four days after Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt issued an order (Executive Order No. 9066) that forced over 110,000 Japanese Americans to leave their homes in California, Washington, and Oregon and live in one of ten detention camps in desolate parts of the United States.

This child is being evacuated with his parents from Los Angeles, California. Photo Credit: Library of Congress.

None of the Japanese Americans had been charged with a crime against the government. Two-thirds had been born in the United States, and more than 70 percent of the people forced into camps were American citizens.

Roosevelt's action was supported by Congress without a single vote against it, and was eventually upheld as constitutional by the Supreme Court. Yet many scholars came to believe that this order was a "day of infamy" as far as the Constitution and civil rights were concerned. The people forced into camps were deprived of their liberty, a basic freedom of the American Constitution.

The government called these camps "relocation centers." Surrounded by barbed wire and guarded by armed soldiers, families lived in poorly built, overcrowded barracks . The barracks themselves had no running water and little heat. There was almost no privacy, and everyone had to use public bathrooms.

The camps provided medical care and schools for the Japanese Americans. As time went by, more and more individuals, mostly young adults, were released to do farm and defense work, go to college, and even serve in the military.

The barracks at the Santa Anita reception center, Los Angeles County, California. Photo Credit: Library of Congress.

Adapted from http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/wwii/ahf/mineta/background.htm

Loggerhead Sea Turtle

Description: The Loggerhead Sea Turtle is named for its large head and blunt jaw. This huge sea turtle can grow to 800 pounds (though the average turtle is about 200 pounds) and three and a half feet in length. It is the largest hard-shelled turtle in the world. The carapace (shell) and flippers are reddish brown and the plastron (lower shell) is yellowish. The carapace has five lateral scutes and five central scutes. Scutes are hexagonal sections of the carapace. Underparts are white or whitish. These incredible turtles have powerful flippers that can propel them through the water at speeds of up to 16 miles per hour. The Loggerhead Sea Turtle has a life span of up to 50 years in the wild.

Habitat/Range: The seafaring Loggerhead Sea Turtle is found throughout the world's tropical oceans. They are also found in temperate waters in search of food and in migration. Breeding populations exist in many locales including the Atlantic coast of the United States (from North Carolina to Florida), numerous Caribbean islands, Central America, the Mediterranean Sea, and Africa.

Diet: Loggerhead Sea Turtles consume fish, crustaceans, mollusks, crabs, and jellyfish, They use their powerful jaws to crush prey. These turtles often ingest stray plastic bags which are mistaken for jellyfish and which cause potentially fatal complications.

Nesting: The Female Loggerhead Sea Turtle normally lays her eggs on the same beach in which she was born. It may take up to 30 years before these turtles reach reproductive age. In June or July, females will emerge from the ocean and dig a hole in the sand. Between 70 and 150 eggs are deposited in the hole. The female uses her hind flippers to cover the hole. The eggs are about the size of ping pong balls. Eggs hatch within 65 days. Young turtles instinctively head toward the ocean upon hatching (which reflects the moonlight). Many of these young turtles are taken as prey by opportunistic gulls, vultures, and raccoons. Others are led in the wrong direction by lights from roads and beach houses which the turtles mistake as moonlight. Those that are fortunate enough to make it to the water are swept toward the open ocean by waves and sea currents.

Small Savings Add Up to Big Money

How much does a bottle of soda cost you?

If you buy a bottle of soda every day for $2.00, that adds up to $730.00 a year. If you saved that $730.00 for just one year, and put it into a savings account or investment that earns 5% a year, it would grow to $931.69 after 5 years, and grow to $3,155.02 after 30 years.

That's the power of "compounding." With compound interest, you earn interest on the money you save and on the interest that money earns. Over time, even a small amount saved can add up to big money.

If you are willing to watch what you spend and look for little ways to save on a regular schedule, you can make money grow. You just did it with one bottle of soda.

If a bottle of soda can make such a huge difference, start looking at how you could make your money grow if you decided to spend less on other things and save those extra dollars.

If you buy on impulse, make a rule that you'll always wait 24 hours to buy anything. You may lose your desire to buy it after a day. And try emptying your pockets and wallet of spare change at the end of each day and put that money aside. You'll be surprised how quickly those nickels and dimes add up!

PAY OFF CREDIT CARD OR OTHER HIGH INTEREST DEBT

Speaking of things adding up, few investment strategies pay off as well as, or with less risk than, merely paying off all high interest debt you may have.

Many people have credit cards, some of which they've "maxed out" (meaning they've spent up to their credit limit). Credit cards

can make it seem easy to buy expensive things when you don't have the cash in your pocket—or in the bank. But credit cards aren't free money.

Most credit cards charge high interest rates—as much as 18 percent or more—if you don't pay off your balance in full each month. If you owe money on your credit cards, the wisest thing you can do is pay off the balance in full as quickly as possible. Virtually no investment will give you the high returns you'll need to keep pace with an 18 percent interest charge. That's why you're better off eliminating all credit card debt before investing savings.

Once you've paid off your credit cards, you can budget your money and begin to save and invest. Here are some tips for avoiding credit card debt:

Put Away the Plastic

Don't use a credit card unless your debt is at a manageable level and you know you'll have the money to pay the bill when it arrives.

Know What You Owe

It's easy to forget how much you've charged on your credit card. Every time you use a credit card, write down how much you have spent and figure out how much you'll have to pay that month. Keep track of your accounts online. If you know you won't be able to pay your balance in full, try to figure out how much you can pay each month and how long it'll take to pay the balance in full.

Pay Off the Card with the Highest Rate

If you've got unpaid balances on several credit cards, you should first pay down the card that charges the highest rate. Pay as much as you can toward that debt each month until your balance is once again zero, while still paying the minimum on your other cards.

Now, once you have paid off those credit cards and begun to set aside some money to save and invest, what are your choices?

THE TEXAS TRIBUNE
5TH ANNIVERSARY

Texas SpaceX Facility Might Land First Human on Mars

by **Bobby Blanchard** Sept. 22, 2014 **11Comments**

Enlargephoto by: Bob Daemmrich
SpaceX CEO Elon Musk at the groundbreaking of the company's launch site near Boca Chica Beach in South Texas on Sept. 22, 2014.

BROWNSVILLE — Calling South Texas the new frontier of space, Gov. Rick Perry, SpaceX CEO Elon Musk and other Texas officials broke ground Monday morning at the site of a future private commercial orbital launch facility expected to boost Brownsville's economy and start launching rockets in 2016.

Under a tent near Boca Chica Beach outside of Brownsville, Musk said the facility, which will be SpaceX's first private facility, may be used someday to put the first humans on Mars.

"It very well could be the first person to go to another planet could launch from this location," Musk said. "This is really going to be a new kind of spaceport that is optimized for commercial operations. Cape Canaveral and Cape Vandenberg are great launch sites, but they are military launch sites. ... What's important for the future of space exploration is to have a truly commercial launch site, just as we have commercial airports."

Musk, who has said it is his personal goal to land a human on Mars, said humanity's survival will be tied in part to being a multi-planetary species. Construction has already started at the launch control center, and Musk told reporters the first space launch is expected in late 2016. Earlier this summer, SpaceX, which is based in California, announced it had selected South Texas as the future home of the facility, for which Texas put up $15.3 million. The facility is expected to create 300 jobs and bring $85 million in capital investment to the Rio Grande Valley.

"The economic benefit that SpaceX will bring to this region is something many of us would have never dreamed of," U.S. Rep. Filemon Vela, D-Brownsville, said at the groundbreaking.

At the event, Perry announced that students from the new University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, which is expected to enroll its first class in 2015, will work on projects at the SpaceX facility under a new partnership funded by the Texas Emerging Technology Fund and the UT System. The fund will front $4.4 million for the partnership, and the UT System will give $4.6 million. UT System Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa first proposed the research center, called STARGATE, a year ago when Brownsville was courting SpaceX. Through the center, students and faculty researchers will be able to use the SpaceX facilities for training, scientific research and technology development.

"We anticipate that the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley will be a gateway for the Americas. But now with STARGATE, in partnership with SpaceX, the university will also become a gateway to the stars," Cigarroa said at a reception after the groundbreaking. "The planets are absolutely aligned."

Perry, who continues to tout Texas' business-friendly environment as he eyes another presidential run, called the commitment to the Valley "unparalleled" in Texas history.

"The future of South Texas takes off right behind me," Perry said at the groundbreaking. "This is just another one of those signals to the rest of the world that this is a state that is making a difference — and is making a difference in a powerful way."

State Rep. René Oliveira, D-Brownsville, one of the lawmakers who played a role in passing legislation in 2013 that made Brownsville a feasible option for SpaceX, praised Musk.

"If he says we're going to Mars and that rocket may very well launch out of Cameron County, Texas," Oliveira said at the reception, "you can take that to the bank."

http://www.texastribune.org/2014/09/22/brownsville-spacex-facility-might-land-first-mars/#