

Mr. Tanimoto's Journey

Imprisoned for their race.
A national disgrace.
The story of one man's resistance.

OFFICIAL PRESS KIT

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO PRESENTS AN ADVANCED LABORATORY FOR VISUAL ANTHROPOLOGY PRODUCTION "MR. TANIMOTO'S JOURNEY"
EDITED BY JACQUELYNN COON AND DAYNE GRADONE CINEMATOGRAPHY BY DAN BRUNS AND DAYNE GRADONE AND KARSTEN KAUFMANN
TECHNICAL ADVISOR DAN BRUNS EXECUTIVE PRODUCER BRIAN BRAZEAL DIRECTED BY JESSE DIZARD



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PRESS KIT

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26 MINUTES
SHORT LENGTH | DOCUMENTARY | 2017
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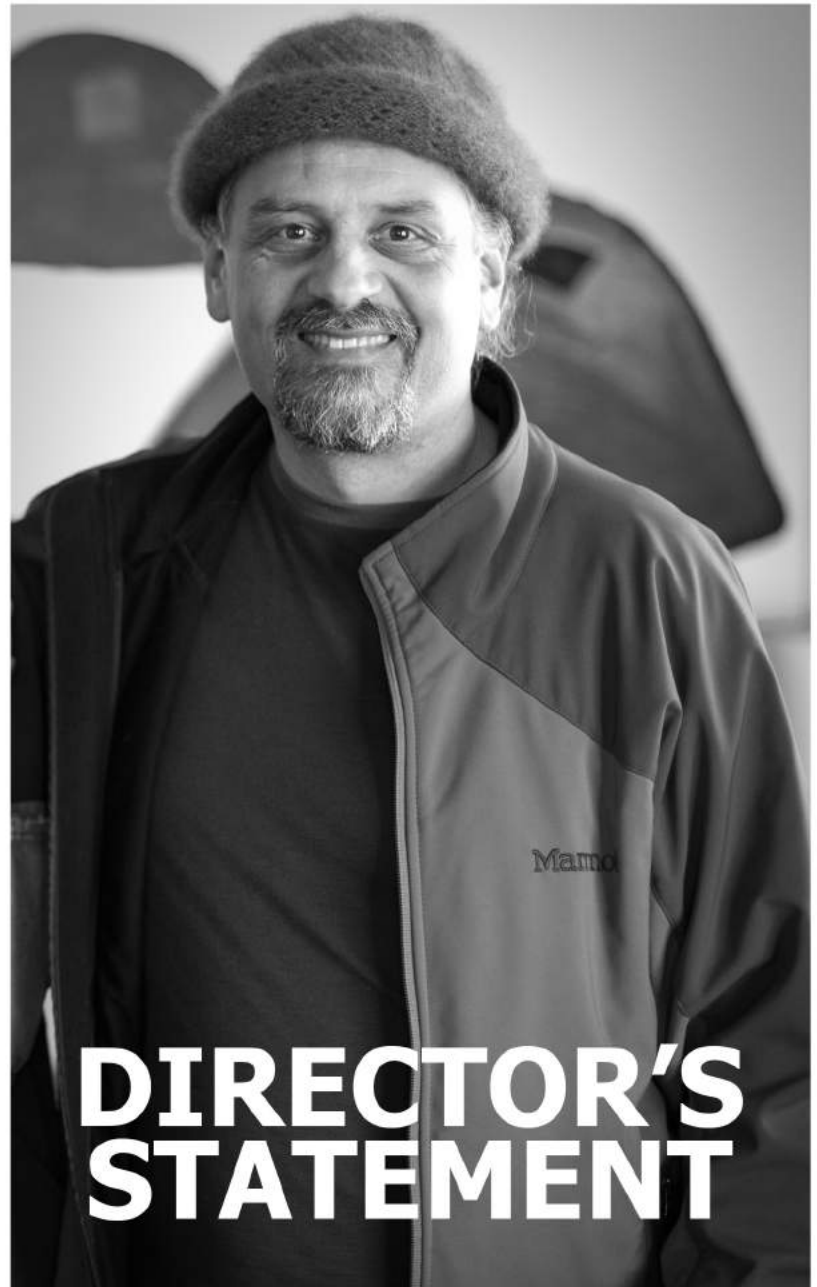
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Following the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared war upon Japan. Shortly thereafter, he signed the infamous Executive Order 9066, mandating the forced relocation of approximately 120,000 persons of Japanese descent, two thirds of whom were American citizens. They were summarily evacuated from their homes and businesses on the West Coast to one of ten prison camps that were hastily built in remote parts of the western United States. The largest of these prisons, the Tule Lake Segregation Center, was constructed near Newell, CA only a few miles south of the Oregon border. The Tule Lake Segregation Center eventually was home to over 18,000 people, and was the largest town in California north of Sacramento in 1943. Many of those imprisoned at Tule Lake were either naturalized American citizens, or were born in the United States to parents who had legally immigrated to this country. Tule Lake became the most abject symbol of what came to be regarded as a national disgrace. Tule Lake Segregation Center was the designated prison for any persons the War Relocation Authority deemed to be 'troublemakers'.

Mr. Jim Tanimoto is the last living member of a group of prisoners from Tule Lake Segregation Center Block 42 who were all American citizens, and who protested their imprisonment by refusing to fill out the War Relocation Authority's infamous 'loyalty pledge'. Jim was born in Gridley, CA in 1923. I met him in March 2016, and was immediately enthralled by his story. This film is the result of many conversations with Jim and members of his family, as well as experts among the faculty of the California State University at Chico.



Jesse Dizard
Director



SYNOPSIS



Short Version:

After the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941, 120,000 American citizens of Japanese descent were wrongfully imprisoned at hastily constructed prison camps in remote parts of the western United States. Jim Tanimoto, born in California, is the last living member of a group of men known as Block 42, who bravely protested the loss of their constitutional rights. This is his story.

Long Version:

Following the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared war upon Japan. Shortly thereafter, he signed the infamous Executive Order 9066, mandating the forced relocation of approximately 120,000 persons of Japanese descent, two thirds of whom were American citizens. They were summarily evacuated from their homes and businesses on the West Coast to one of ten prison camps hastily built in Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming. The largest of these prisons, the Tule Lake Segregation Center, was constructed near Newell, CA only a few miles south of the Oregon border. The Tule Lake Segregation Center eventually was home to over 18,000 people, and was the largest town in California north of Sacramento in 1943. Many of those imprisoned at Tule Lake were either naturalized American citizens, or were born in the United States to parents who had legally immigrated to this country. Tule Lake became the most abject symbol of what came to be regarded as a national disgrace. Tule Lake was the facility to which the War Relocation Authority transferred those individuals it deemed 'disloyal' or 'troublemakers' from any of the other nine prison camps. Mr. Jim Tanimoto is the last living member of a group of prisoners from Tule Lake Segregation Center Block 42 who were all American citizens, and who protested their imprisonment by refusing to fill out the War Relocation Authority's infamous 'loyalty pledge'. This is his story.



JESSE DIZARD
DIRECTOR

An anthropologist interested in problems of social inequality and controlling processes, Jesse has long been fascinated by the area surrounding the site of the Tule Lake Segregation Center. He has directed 5 films to date, all of which have been broadcast on PBS television.



DAN BRUNS
CINEMATOGRAPHER

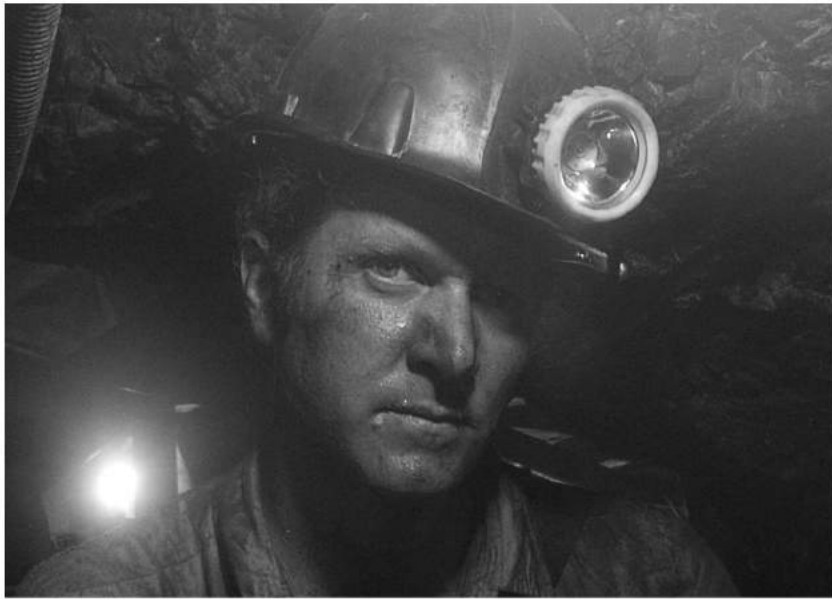
Dan Bruns has been directing, shooting, and editing films and commercials for over 12 years. Through his job as Lab Tech for the Advanced Laboratory for Visual Anthropology and director of ALVA Studios, he has helped create several documentaries that have gone on to win multiple awards, including two regional Emmys and have been broadcast on PBS stations all across the United States.



DAYNE GRADONE
CINEMATOGRAPHER

Dayne has a BA in Anthropology from California State University, Chico and is currently pursuing an MA in Anthropology there as well.

FILM CREW



BRIAN BRAZEAL
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

An award-winning filmmaker and photographer, Brian is the founder and director of the Advanced Laboratory for Visual Anthropology where researchers use the tools of professional digital cinema.



FILM CREW

JACKIE COON
EDITOR

Jackie has a BA in Anthropology from Grand Valley State University and an MA in Anthropology and Museum Studies.

A black and white portrait of director Jesse Dizard, looking slightly to the left. He has a goatee and sunglasses on his head. The background is dark and out of focus.

Q&A WITH DIRECTOR Jesse Dizard

“Jim Tanimoto’s story is a quintessentially American story of resistance to authoritarian abuse of power in defense of constitutionally guaranteed rights as an American citizen.”

Jesse Dizard

How did you come to be interested in the history of the Tule Lake Segregation Center?

I was fascinated by the Modoc War of 1872-3, and studied the history of the Tule Lake Basin in Northeastern California, and that led me to learn of the evacuation of Japanese American citizens and immigrants from the West Coast after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The largest of the ten War Relocation Authority (WRA) prisons was constructed in Newell, CA only a few miles from where the Modoc War was fought, and came to be named the Tule Lake Segregation Center. I never dreamed I would ever meet someone who had actually lived there in person!

Were there parts of the story you had to leave out of the finished film?

Yes. There were many aspects of the story that I was unable to include for reasons of time management due to the 30-minute short format ALVA specializes in. I am working on an article that will detail the complete story, so that the full measure of Jim Tanimoto’s bravery – and that of many others too – will not go unheralded.

A black and white portrait of Jesse Dizard, a man with a goatee and sunglasses on his head, looking slightly to the left. The background is dark and out of focus, showing other people in a dimly lit room.

Q&A WITH DIRECTOR Jesse Dizard

“Jim Tanimoto’s story is a quintessentially American story of resistance to authoritarian abuse of power in defense of constitutionally guaranteed rights as an American citizen.”

Jesse Dizard

How did you learn of Mr. Tanimoto?

I met Jim thanks to a retired colleague who had been evacuated with his family to a WRA prison in Arizona when he was very young. He asked if I wanted to meet someone who had been a prisoner at Tule Lake. Naturally, I was enthusiastic about the prospect, but also somewhat nervous, since I had no idea what to expect. But Jim Tanimoto quickly put me at ease with his open, friendly, and warm demeanor. He is remarkably sunny and not at all bitter about what he and his family were forced to endure. He is however very concerned that the same xenophobic fears could cause a repeat of what historians have called America’s ‘national disgrace’.



TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Of the 120,000 Japanese imprisoned in the U.S. in 1943, 2/3rds were U.S. citizens.

- Michael Magliari, CSU Chico

Total Running Time - 27minutes

MPAA - Not rated

Aspect Ratio - 16x9, pixel size 4K 3840x2160p

Year - 2017

Website - www.csuchico.edu/alva/mr-tan-imos-journey

Television Standard - NTSC

Production Company - The CSU, Chico

Advanced Laboratory for Visual Anthropology

Shooting Format - R3D

Sound Format - Stereo

Framerate - 23.976fps

Subtitles - English

Translation - N/A

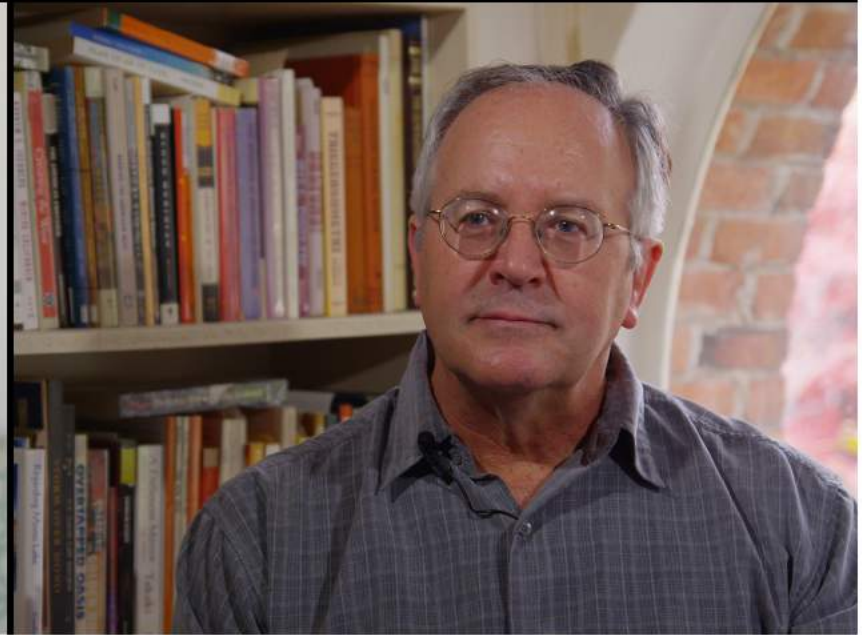
IN THEIR OWN WORDS



“These young Americans of Japanese descent were particularly outraged by what happened because they learned in school that they had these constitutional rights...and then they were violated.”

SARAH PIKE

**PROFESSOR OF COMPARATIVE RELIGION
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO**



“What these things were was prison camps. They were prison camps built for people who had not been accused of any crime, had not been convicted of any crime but were racially profiled.”

MICHAEL MAGLIARI

**PROFESSOR OF HISTORY
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO**

IN THEIR OWN WORDS



"I had nothing to do with what happened in Pearl Harbor. The only thing that is different as far as I'm concerned is how I look, my ancestry. There's Japanese in Japan and there's Japanese in America but we're two different people."

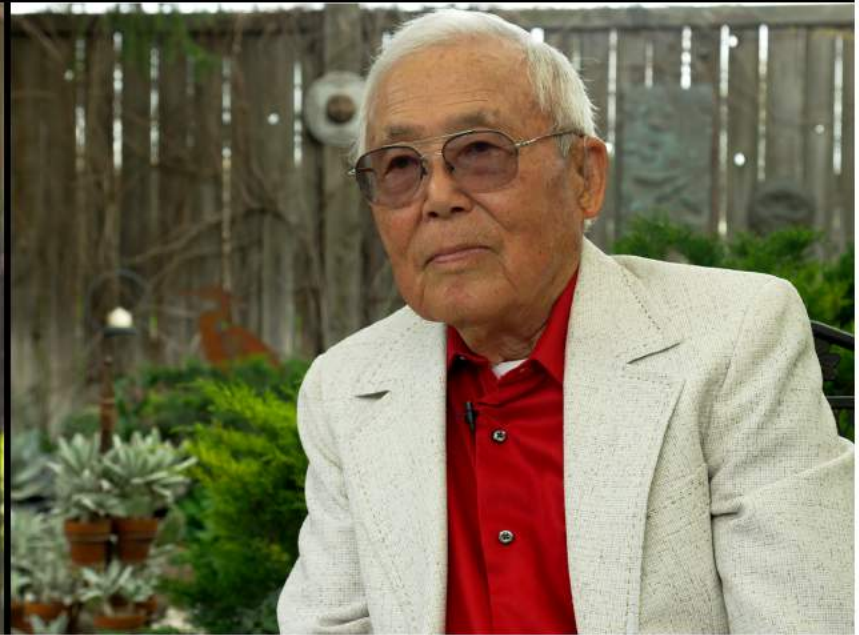
JIM TANIMOTO
FARMER



"It's amazing. I think the world of my dad to come out on the other side of this thing. I think I would have been so bitter that I would have been useless as a human being."

JUDY TANIMOTO
JIM TANIMOTO'S DAUGHTER

IN THEIR OWN WORDS



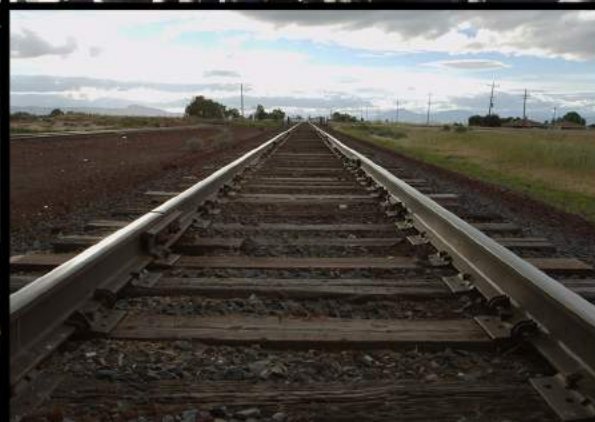
“My grandpa’s a rock star. That’s a true patriot.”

JAMIE GILMORE-WILSON
GRANDDAUGHTER OF JIM TANIMOTO

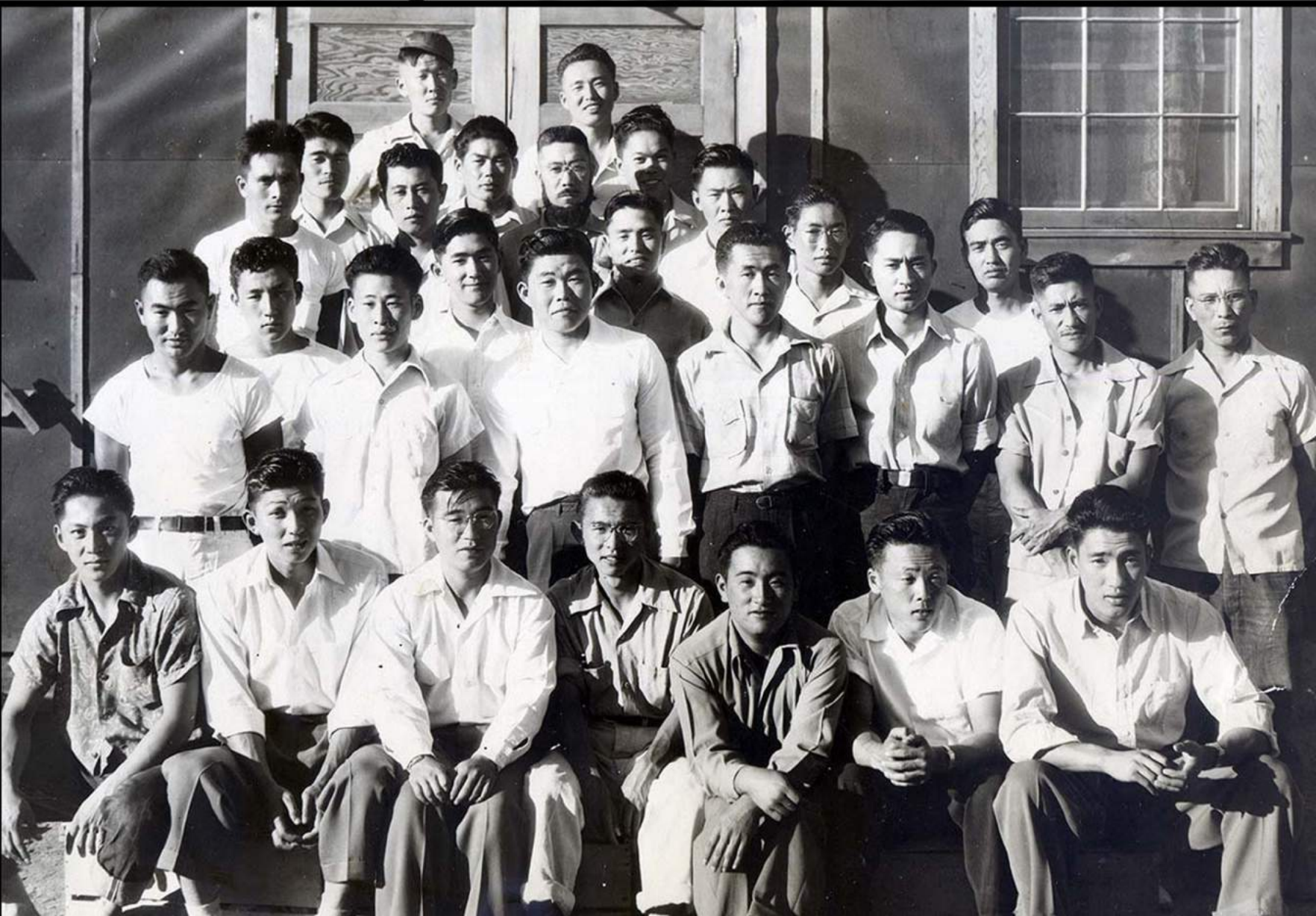
“What happened to Japanese-Americans in 1942...I’m sure it’s going to happen again. Everybody says, ‘I hope it doesn’t happen.’ Well I hoped it didn’t happen too but we ended up behind barbed wire.”

JIM TANIMOTO
FARMER

GALLERY



FULL RESOLUTION STILLS




FULL RESOLUTION STILL



FULL RESOLUTION STILLS





ADVANCED
LABORATORY for
VISUAL
ANTHROPOLOGY

AN ALVA PRODUCTION 2017

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