



Tusconian's First Anniversary 1947

The Tusconians, were World War II draft resisters, who named themselves after the Santa Catalina Federal Honor Camp in Tucson, Ariz., where they served their sentences. The prison camp included Nisei men from the Amache (Granada), Topaz (Central Utah), Poston (Colorado River) War Relocation Authority camps and a few "voluntary evacuees." These men were willing to fight for their country as soon as their rights as U.S. citizens were restored and their families released from U.S. concentration camps. There were also conscientious objectors from the Hopi and Navajo nations and Jehovah's Witnesses, whose religion prevented them from military service. Decades later, the prison became a recreation site, and in 1999, thanks to the work of archaeologists Jeff Burton and Mary Farrell, the recreation site was renamed after Dr. Gordon Hirabayashi, the prison camp's most famous inmate. In 2001, a kiosk, tracing the prison camp's history, was dedicated. Pictured is a photo taken by Kuroko Studio of the Tusconians' first reunion in Sacramento on Jan. 12, 1947.

Photo Courtesy of Ken & Kay Yoshida

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