

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

It was the most unusual and unprecedented high school graduation in the history of public schools in the United States.

This unique multi-school commencement exercise took place in the newly completed open air auditorium at Fresno Assembly Center, Friday June 19, 1942 at 7.30 p.m. That evening one hundred and fortytwo Japanese American high school seniors from twentytwo different high schools, received their diplomas and honorary awards, in one combined graduation service. More than three thousand people witnessed the presentations of graduation certificates and earned awards to the cap and gown clad graduates.

The program was complete with instrumental music, mixed chorus, vocal soloist, processional, student speakers, invocation by a resident minister and the traditional walk to the stage to receive their diploma. A reception for the graduates and their families followed.

The graduation was conceived and arranged by the Service Division of the Center.

A Graduation Commencement Exercises Committee made up of eight graduation eligible seniors from various schools did all the planning for every detail of the commencement program. These were the committee members.

Masako Ono - Fresno High School (Chairman)

Mary Kishiue - Hanford Joint Union High School.

George Mochizuki - Madera Union High School.

Yoshimi Nakauchi - Hanford Joint Union High School.

Dorothy Ichinaga - Tulare Union High School.

Haruo Kawamoto - Central Union High School.

Yoshi Hoshiko - Carruthers High School.

Sam Nakagama - Delano Joint Union High School.

Kay Mano and Ted Ono assisted the committee as adult advisors.

Mary Kishiue and Haruo Kawamoto were selected by members of the graduating seniors to be the student speakers.

Caps and gowns for all the graduates were furnished to the Center by Fresno State College and Dr. Hubert Phillips, head of the Social Science Department, was the guest speaker for the Commencement Services.

Following is an Editorial from the June 20, 1942 issue of the "Grapevine", Fresno Assembly Centers twice weekly newspaper, compiled and printed by an all Japanese evacuee staff.