

# High School Graduation

It was the most unusual and unprecedented high school graduation in the history of public schools in the United States. This 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 forty ~~four~~<sup>two</sup> Japanese American high school seniors from twenty ~~four~~<sup>two</sup> 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 choruses, vocal soloist, processional, student speakers, a guest speaker, the traditional walk to the stage to receive <sup>the</sup> diploma and invocation by <sup>a</sup> resident minister.

The ceremony was followed by a reception for the graduates and their families