

THOUGHTS AFTER ALL HAD LEFT.

THERE WILL BE NO RECORD OF THIS PLACE AS A CITY. x

THE COUNTY RECORDS OF BIRTH, DEATH AND MARRIAGE WILL GIVE NO CLUE TO THE FACT THAT THOSE EVENTS TOOK PLACE IN FRESNO ASSEMBLY CENTER A JAPANESE COMMUNITY INSIDE OF A U.S. MOSTLY CAUCASIAN CITY IN THE MIDST OF A JAPANESE/AMERICAN WAR.

THIS PLACE IS BETTER FOR WEAR -- NOT WORSE.

ITS BLOOD AND BREATH ARE GONE IT IS A SKELETON AGAIN LIKE IT WAS BEFORE BIRTH WHEN I FIRST SAW IT.

THE BLOOD AND BREATH HAVE BEEN TRANSFUSED INTO ANOTHER SKELETON IN JEROME, ARKANSAS AND I AM SURE LIFE IS STIRRING THERE AND A NEW COMMUNITY IS ALIVE AND WELL THERE.

I WOULD RATHER REMEMBER THIS PLACE AS IT WAS THAN AS IT IS NOW.

THERE ARE NO TOMBSTONES WITH WHICH YOU CAN MARK THE GRAVE OF A DEAD CITY OR WHERE THEY USED TO LIVE NO CEMETERIES TO HOLD THEIR REMAINS.

ONE BUILDING HAD A TWO FOOT LAWN WITH AN EDGE OF FLOWERS SURROUNDING IT, BROKEN ONLY AT THE ENTRANCE DOORS TO THE APARTMENTS.

THE CLOTHSLINE ON THE SIDE OF ONE BUILDING HAD A TEN FOOT LONG SIGN HUNG BY CLOTHESPINS THAT SAID GOODBYE FRESNO - - HELLO JEROME.

ON THE FENCE BY THE SIDE OF THE ENTRYGATE WAS A SIGN I COULD NOT READ FROM A DISTANCE. IT WAS ONLY ABOUT TWO FEET SQUARE. SO I STOPPED THE CAR WALKED OVER TO THE SIGN TO SEE WHAT IT SAID..IN NEATLY DRAWN LETTERS IT SAID. (LAST ONE OUT PLEASE TURN OFF THE LIGHTS)

ALMOST WITHOUT EXCEPTION EVERY APARTMENT DISPLAYED EVIDENCE OF RESIDENCE IMPROVEMENTS MADE DURING OCCUPANCY AND EVERY APARTMENT WAS LEFT WITHOUT TRASH OR LITTER. x

THE ENTIRE CENTER WAS COLORFUL WITH FLOWERS, SHRUBS PLOTS OF GRASS AND TINY CAREFULLY MAINTAINED VEGETABLE GARDENS. IN THIS AREA THE DESERT HAD BLOSSOMED. x

THERE WERE NO JAPANESE LEFT IN THE CENTER GROUNDS BUT THERE WERE THOUSANDS OF EVIDENCES THAT THEY HAD BEEN HERE.

IF THE ABSENCE OF LIFE IS DEATH, THE CENTER WAS NOW DEAD.

BUT WHAT HAD BEEN DREARY WAS NOW CHEERY.

A COMMUNITY, A CITY, A PLACE OF LIFE AND DEATH, JOY AND SORROW, HOPE AND DISPAIR WAS NOW DEAD. SOMETHING THAT HAD RISEN FROM THE DESERT DUST WAS NOW DOOMED TO RETURN TO DUST.

USE HAD MADE IT ALIVE AND NOW LIKE THE RESIDENTS THAT HAD USED IT-- IT WAS UNNEEDED AND UNWANTED AND THE MEMORY WOULD JUST FADE AWAY.

THE HUMAN TOUCH WAS EVIDENT EVERY WHERE YOU LOOKED.

THE WAYS IN WHICH MANY PEOPLE HAD IMPROVED THEIR LIVING QUARTERS WAS INTERESTING AND AMAZING.

ONE RESIDENT(A WELLKNOWN ARTIST) PAINTED THE FOUR WALLS OF HIS QUARTERS AS MURALS

A FEW HAD PAINTED THE ALL WHITE UNFINISHED ROOM WALLS IN COLORS ONE INDIVIDUAL HAD COVERED MOST ALL THE WALLS WITH LARGESIZED CARTOONS. ONE ROOM HAD ALL WALLS COVERED WITH PAGES FROM THE CENTER NEWSPAPER. ONE WAS ENLIVENED WITH CUTOUT PHOTOGRAPHS FROM MAGAZINES.