Ester Mizukami Core Class 7-8 Per.

Since December 7, 1941

Since the bombing of Pearl Harbor, many things had happened to me which would not have occurred were it for the fact that the United States and Japan had not gone to war against each other. These things which have come to pass isn't my fault or anyone else's, but the army did what they thought best and so now I am in this relocation center.

To begin with I am formerly from Fife, Washington which is located on the outskirts of Tacoma.

The first thing that happened which sort of handicapped us because we never had the experience of it before was the curfew law. The time we had to be at home was 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. Naturally also there was a slight racial discrimination against us.

The next experience which was the worst was the mass evacuation from the Pacific Coast Military areas. This evacuation of course meant my separation from many of my white friends whom I had come to like very much. I sometimes think I value their friendship more than I do more than I do my own playmates in here. Many times I wish I were back their with them.

I was evacuated to Camp Harmony on the morning of May 15, 1942. After spending about four months in Camp Harmony I came here to Idaho on my first train ride. I was thrilled in the thought of riding on a train but since most of the scenery was sage brush and barren it wasn't very thrilling. On top of that I got pretty dirty from the soot coming in through the window.

Now that I'm quite settled here the place isn't bad for I know things can be far worse. At least we have enough food and most all privileges any other American citizen enjoys. The only freedom I miss is that of being back home.

Although this is only my second Christmas during a wartime and my first one in camp and although there is actually no fighting going on in American soil, I've come to dread war very much. I suppose it's mostly because of having to come to live in this center. One thing I do hope will soon come to pass is that victory will soon come, be ours and there will again be peace on earth and good will toward all mankind.

Since December 7, 1941

I've been going to school now for about two months.

I know under these circumstances things can be worse so
I appreciate what they are going to do for us. I miss
going to my old home school though for I had always eagerly
looked forward to my first year of High School

I've been expressing my thoughts thus far now and close with "God Guard America."