



## Amache Historical Society II (AHS II) Newsletter, SPRING 2019

AHS II's mission is to:

- preserve the Amache site (Granada, CO)
- teach Amache's history and legacy by reporting survivors' stories
- communicate via the [amache.org](http://amache.org) website
- support John Hopper and his Granada High students, known as the Amache Preservation Society, with maintenance of the Amache site and museum

### Amache Pilgrimage – Saturday May 18

**Bus Information:** Thanks to generous support from the Japanese American Association of Colorado, the charge for the bus is still \$30 per person. Reservations must be made and paid in advance. Contact Hiroko Hong (303) 979-4127 or Frank Miyazawa (303) 625-1193.

Two bus pick-up points are available. The first pick-up spot will board at 6:00 am from the Simpson United Methodist Church, 6001 Wolff Street, Arvada 80003. The second pick-up is at 6:30 am from downtown Denver's Tri-State Buddhist Temple, 1947 Lawrence Street, Denver 80202. Attendees are encouraged to board at Simpson where parking is more plentiful.

The bus ride will include snacks and educational programs played on the overhead screens. The restroom-equipped bus will arrive at the Amache Cemetery around 11:00 am for a memorial service and incense offering. A pot luck lunch and a short program hosted by the Amache Preservation Society at Granada High School will follow the memorial service.

Around 1:30 pm, an Amache Museum tour in Granada or an Amache site tour will be available. The buses depart for Denver at 2:30 pm and arrive in Denver around 6:30 pm.

#### \*\*\*FOR THOSE DRIVING PLEASE NOTE: ALTERNATE ROUTE DUE TO PARADE\*\*\*

This year, the Lamar Days Parade will begin at 10:00 am on May 18 and will be along the route to Granada from Lamar. To avoid the parade, take a back road to Granada that used to be Highway 196 but is now a county road. See the Amache.org site for directions.

For attendees arriving by private car, there may be a catered dinner/discussion on Saturday night (nominal fee/donation) starting at 5:00 pm at the Amache Resource Center near the Amache Museum in the town of Granada. Hotels are available in Lamar. On Sunday, the Amache Museum will be open. Also, volunteers may be available at the Amache site to help visitors.

### Amache Preservation – Amache Study

The Amache Study Act, S-2870 and HR-5844, was rolled into S.47- Natural Resources Management Act sponsored by Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) (see website link:

[www.congress.gov/116/bills/s47/BILLS-116s47pcs.pdf](http://www.congress.gov/116/bills/s47/BILLS-116s47pcs.pdf))

- + Passed the Senate Vote. 92 – 8
  - + Passed the House 363 - 62
  - + President signed into law on March 12, 2019
- Reference Public Law No: 116-9

The new law directs the Department of the Interior to assess the national significance, suitability, feasibility, and management options for Amache as a potential new park unit of the National Park System. Jeremy Sweat, National Park Service, will organize the Amache Special Resource Study.

### Rec. Hall Restoration at the Amache site

In May 2018, the 11-F Recreation Hall was moved back to its original Amache foundation from the town of Granada.

Colorado Preservation, Inc. received notification from the Colorado State Historical Fund that the recreation hall project was awarded the funds to assist with the restoration and reconstruction of the Recreation Hall! The project also has funds from the National Park Service JACS program and from the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP): Peter Grant Fund for Colorado. The plan is to start the project early May, and hope to solicit for contractors by mid-May.

The proposed reconstruction and restoration of the 11F Recreation Hall is one of many objectives in the 2007 Amache Interpretive Plan created in partnership with NPS and stakeholder groups. The Interpretive Plan is a guide for stakeholder projects, including developing a former barrack block on-site for interpretation.

## February JACSC Washington DC meeting and congressional visits

The Feb. 26-28 Japanese American Confinement Sites Consortium (JACSC) gathering in Washington DC included the organization's business meeting, visits with members of Congress to seek continued funding for the federal JACS program, a congressional briefing on federal immigration issues, and attendance at a reception at the Japanese embassy.

During the business session, participants gave tentative approval for a sustainability proposal requiring its member organizations to pay 1 percent of their annual operating budgets in dues. The action item for participants was to obtain approval from their respective organizations.

The continued support for the Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) program was a major theme of Capitol Hill congressional meetings on Feb. 27, as consortium members visited their delegates. On Feb. 28, a delegation met with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco), who said she supports continued JACS funding and new efforts to highlight the parallels between the incarceration and present-day fears over alleged threats posed by certain immigrant groups and the dangers they present to our national security and identity.

"What happened to the Japanese Americans is something we must own up to," Pelosi said about the incarceration and efforts to preserve the confinement sites. She told Norman Mineta, former Cabinet secretary, House member and Heart Mountain incarceree, that she was honored to vote for the Civil Liberties Act, which apologized to Japanese American incarcerees, during her first term in Congress in 1988.



A congressional briefing on Feb. 28 at the Capitol Visitors Center shared the Japanese American incarceration story.

### Reception at the Japan Embassy

The consortium also continued to strengthen its connection to the government of Japan. The Japanese Embassy hosted a Feb. 27 reception at the ambassador's residence. Embassy officials also attended the Feb. 26 evening reception at the Hogan Lovells law firm, which hosted the first day's JACSC meetings.

Mr. Kazutoshi Aikawa, the embassy's deputy chief of mission, said the Japanese government was eager to work with consortium members to highlight issues from the incarceration and to raise awareness of it in Japan. Embassy ministers said they planned to attend some of the pilgrimages at the various confinement sites this year.

## New Amache Museum in Granada, Colorado

Pending final agreement with the lawyers, TBK bank has graciously leased their Granada bank building to the Granada High School's Amache Preservation Society (APS). The bank building is across the street from the existing museum and has a media room that can be outfitted for presentations. APS will have a 99 year no money lease on the building, must insure the building, and keep up the building maintenance. The ATM machine in the parking lot will remain operational. The current museum building will be used for artifact storage.

Fun Fact: The bank building has stucco on the outside; however, the original brick structure of the building is from Amache. When the building was built in the 1950s, they used bricks from the Amache site.

### 2020 World Monument Watch site nomination

Adriana Trujillo, World Heritage Masters student at Brandenburg University in Germany and a Northern Colorado University graduate, contacted John Hopper about nominating Amache as a 2020 World Monument Watch site. World Monument Watch sites are aided by the World Monuments Fund, a private nonprofit organization that sponsors programs for the conservation of imperiled cultural heritage worldwide. Their objectives include direct financial and technical support for their preservation programs. There are 66 Watch sites in the US, none having National Park or National Landmark status.

With input and references from AHS II, Jane Daniels (CPI), and Dr. Bonnie Clark (DU), a significant task to complete nomination sections A-J plus project proposals, references, maps, architectural documents, conservation reports, and photos was completed in February. The online nomination was submitted on March 1; the Watch site selection announcement is in October 2019. The nomination utilized the National Park Service Granada Relocation Center (Amache) Comprehensive Interpretation Plan as a key reference along with other project plans, so the nomination complements the ongoing stakeholder goals. A special thanks to Jane Daniels for all her hard work and input in the nomination process.

### Looking back – Amache History – article excerpts from Densho and Gil Asakawa

The *Granada Pioneer* was the newspaper of Amache. Publication started on Oct. 14, 1942, with issues on Wednesdays and Saturdays from its inception until Sept. 15, 1945. The staff worked out of a newsroom in the 8F Recreation Hall for the early issues, but by Nov. 11, the newspaper had its own Pioneer Building (see photo in the front-page banner). The newspaper was primarily in English with two or more pages of news in Japanese at the back each issue. Prior to the first October issue, the paper was known as the *Bulletin*.

The *Granada Pioneer* also featured a cartoon character who would keep Amache residents entertained through the next several years. Lil' Neebo, short for "Little Nisei Boy," was the creation of Disney cartoonist Chris Ishii (1919-2001), who created the character when he was in the Santa Anita Assembly Center.

Amache Pilgrimage attendees will have two ink stamps available like last year. One stamp will be the Lil' Neebo stamp shown on the banner and the other will be the famous Amache water tower.

Right: Staff of the Granada Pioneer from the James G. Lindley Collection



## Japanese American National Museum's Contested History Traveling Exhibit visits Denver

The Mile High Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League hosted the annual Day of Remembrance event marking February 19, 1942—the day President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, clearing the way for 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry to be incarcerated in American concentration camps during World War II.

Allen Hendershott Eaton's historic 1952 book, *Beauty Behind Barbed Wire: The Arts of the Japanese in Our War Relocation Camps*, explored art and craft objects created by persons of Japanese descent while wrongfully incarcerated in the World War II American concentration camps. In the course of conducting research for the book and a never-realized exhibition of camp artifacts, Eaton amassed a significant personal collection of such artifacts.



One of the postcard-size watercolors on view as part of *Contested Histories* Collection.

After many years of lying in storage, the collection was inherited by a family friend of Eaton's, who in April 2015 attempted to put it up for auction. An outcry arose from Japanese American community leaders and activists, who rallied successfully to stop the auction sale of these important artifacts of Japanese American history. Ultimately, the collection was acquired by the Japanese American National Museum for safekeeping.

To share the artifacts and history with the public JANM has developed a traveling exhibit. The display includes physical or digital representation of items in the collection—more than 400 individual photographs, sculptures, paintings and watercolors, jewelry items, vases, beads, nameplates, and other items handmade by Japanese Americans while enduring incarceration in the WWII camps. Several objects from Amache are in the exhibit. *Contested Histories* is intended to help gather information about each individual object so that the museum's efforts to preserve and catalog the collection can be as complete as possible. Former internees, their family members, and friends are encouraged to share information with JANM what they know or remember about the objects, including who is depicted in the many photographs, most of which were shot by War Relocation Authority photographers.

A travel version of *Contested Histories* is on the road travelling to other locations in the United States for additional viewing and information gathering. In February, the display was at the History Colorado Center in Denver for the Day of Remembrance events.

Visit the JANM website for upcoming locations. <http://www.janm.org/exhibits/contested-histories/venues/>



Contested Histories artifacts

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