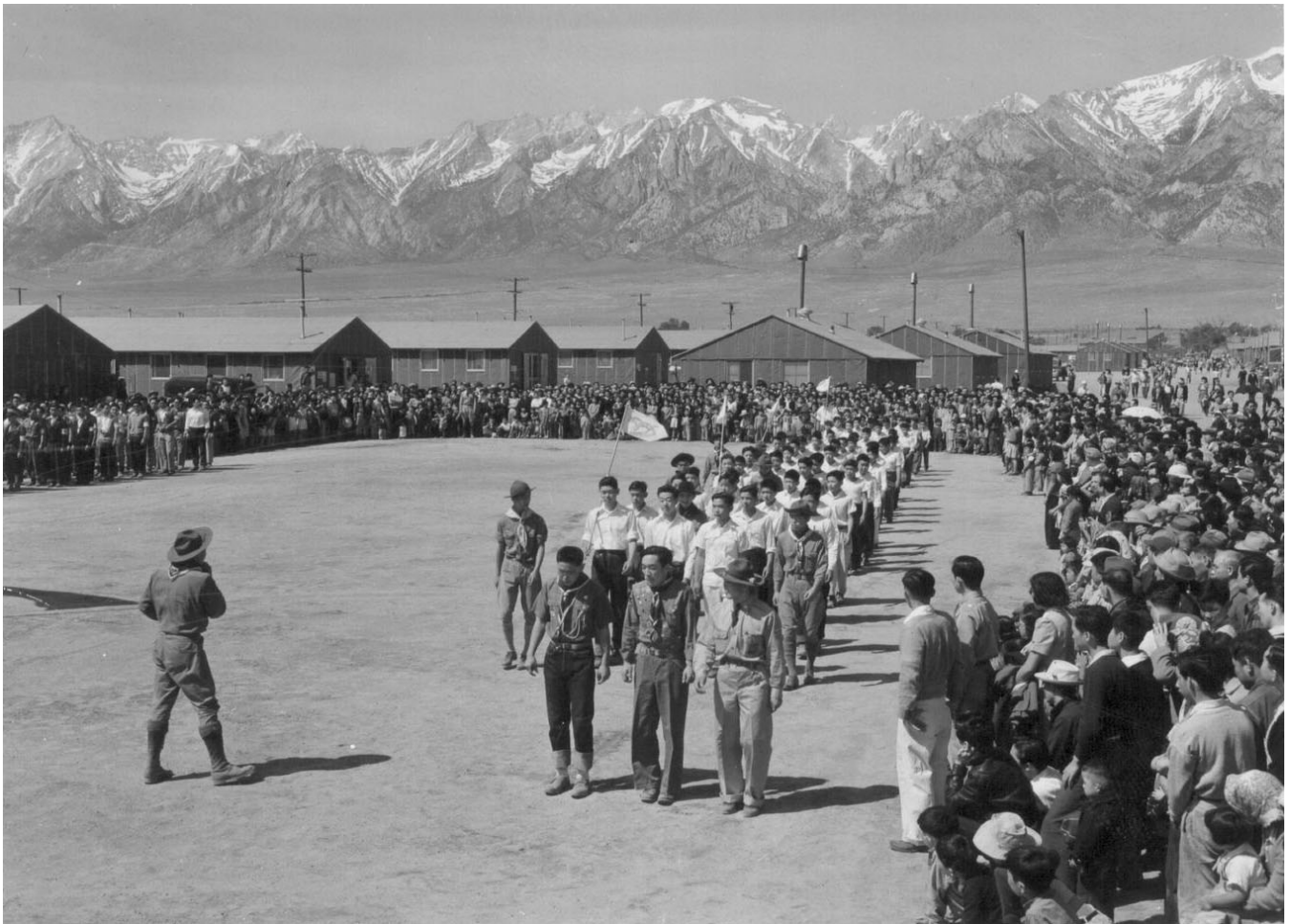


The County Shares a Nation's Shame

More than two months after the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the United States Government made a decision to forcibly remove all people of Japanese ancestry, including United States citizens, from the West Coast of the United States. The very first of these incarceration camps to open was Manzanar, just six miles south of Independence. About 6,000 acres were leased from the City of Los Angeles by the government, and barracks and support buildings were quickly built. Approximately 10,000 Japanese Americans were forced to move here from their homes in Washington and California.



The camp had a huge impact on the local area, employing many local Inyoites in various positions, while Inyo businesses provided

supplies and goods. But mostly Manzanar created an acute awareness and consciousness among an entire nation of what was right and what was not in its treatment of American citizens. The camp closed at the end of the war, and those who had been confined in Manzanar tried to regain some sense of "normalcy" in their lives. Today, the National Park Service operates a world class visitor center at the site, to try and help us all understand the tragedy that happened there.

