

Shizue Fujioka

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On June 25th, 1930¹, Shizue Fujioka was born into the Fujioka family. Lone Fujioka, her mother, took care of the total of six children in the household. Her father, Sadaji, worked as a laborer and an unpaid family worker. There were eight people total in the family, including their eldest brother, Tashio, as the head of their household. Shizue was the youngest child. The family lived in the Fujioka Farm, where they primarily grew various types of berries, including strawberries.

In May of 1942, after Executive Order 9066 was issued by President Franklin D. Roosevelt², the Fujioka family were relocated off of the island. The Fujioka family, as well as 120 other Japanese and Japanese American residents, were soon sent to the Pinedale Assembly Center and the Tule Lake relocation center. Afterwards, they transferred to Heart Mountain, Wyoming³.

Tule Lake⁴ was the biggest internment camp and was guarded by martial law and the army. It was created as a “Segregation Center” that imprisoned over 12,000 Japanese Americans. It had become an armed camp and there were many restrictions similar to how people were treated in prison. Martial law, the suspension of ordinary law, was enabled in 1943 and left very little normal activities for the people to do. There were shortages of basic necessities like food, water, and heat fuel. At Heart Mountain, families were crowded and had little privacy. The

locations of the camps were primarily in isolated previous farming areas, and there was very little communication with the outside world, with the exception of letters.

George Fujioka, the eldest sibling of Mary and Shizue, took on many roles during the camp, including the Vice President of the Honor Society, a Boy Scout leader, and was on the traffic squad⁵. George also played baseball and basketball during his time at Heat Mountain⁵.

Because Shizue was the youngest in the family, the records of what she did after internment are much more sparse than her brothers and sisters. Most likely due to a want for privacy, we do not see much information about her until she moved back to Washington much later in her life. Shizue moved back to Vashon Island and the farm her family grew up on. She lived there with Mary until the two sold their home. Later on, Mary and Shizue moved to the Madrona House together, They stayed there for the rest of their lives until they both passed away.⁹ Shizue died first on January 29, 2017 due to natural causes.¹⁰

1. "Susie Shizue Fujioka Obituary - Visitation & Funeral Information." Obituary - Visitation & Funeral Information. Cook Family Funeral Home . Accessed February 7, 2022. <https://www.cookfamilyfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Susie-Shizue-Fujioka?obId=9535298#/obituaryInfo>.

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4. "Fujioka Farm BH" Vashon Maury Island Heritage Museum, n.d. Accessed February 7, 2022

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6. "Takeo Katayama Obituary - Seattle, WA" Dignity Memorial.com, accessed Feb 7, 2022 <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/seattle-wa/takeo-katayama-8168852>

7. Service, Wire. "Susie Shizue Fujioka: Obituary." Bainbridge Island Review. Bainbridge Island Review, February 17, 2017. <https://www.bainbridgereview.com/obituaries/susie-shizue-fujioka-obituary/>.

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