

# George Kiyoshi Yamada

*Arrested for “Barratry”?*



**George Yamada, ca. 1942**

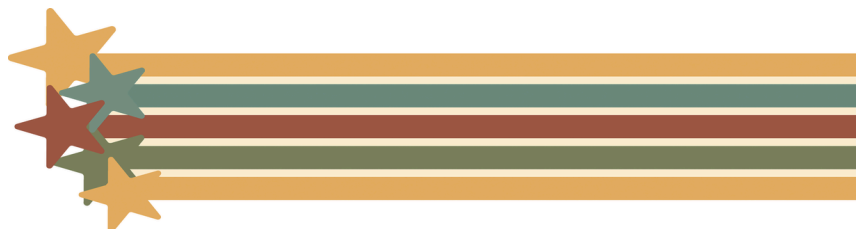
**Courtesy of Lewis and Clark Digital Collection**

Born in Nebraska, George Kiyoshi Yamada studied journalism at San Francisco State before being drafted in 1941. He declared himself a conscientious objector and in 1942 was sent to Civilian Public Service Camp No. 5, in Colorado Springs. On April 8, 1944, Yamada and three friends, two of whom were Black, went to the Ute Theatre. The party took their seats on the main floor but were soon asked to move to the balcony. They refused and theater employees called the police. George Yamada was arrested and spent ten days in the El Paso County Jail. He was accused of unlawfully inciting “quarrels among citizens of Colorado Springs,” and charged with “barratry.”

Despite segregation being illegal in Colorado, City Attorney Ben Wendleken argued, “Yamada was either a fool or intended to stir up trouble,” and Police Chief I.B. “Dad” Bruce testified, “Yamada is an agitator.” After his conviction and \$100 fine, Yamada was transferred to CPS Camp 135 in Germfask, Michigan – an isolated camp “reserved for troublesome” conscientious objectors. Interestingly, no charges were brought against Ute Theatre management or employees for violating the Colorado Civil Rights Act, guaranteeing “full and equal enjoyment” of public facilities. Yamada lived in Mexico before immigrating to Canada where he pursued a career in art and published *Rikka*, a magazine promoting non-violence.



*Colorado Springs*  
PIONEERS MUSEUM



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LOWER LEFT: The executive staff of the civilian public service camp. Left to right: Marie Groening, dietitian; Mrs. John Gaeddert, matron; John Gaeddert, business manager, and Albert Groening, dietitian. ColoSpgs Gazette Telegraph 6/29/1941

LOWER RIGHT: A view of one of the ice camp. Each man has a cot assigned to him and his belongings. The men report the barracks are in their hands.

## 'Objectors' May Balk at War Service, but They Don't Object to Hard Work

Now 81 Sun-Tanned Youths Carrying On Soil Conservation Work at Templeton Gap; to Reach 125 Capacity Soon; Youths From 10 States, Representing 13 Faiths

By FRED BAKER.

If you want to see 81 healthy young men, tanned to a deep bronze by the Colorado sun, youths who work hard, eat well and enjoy doing a job in the proper manner, visit the civilian public service camp located at the site of the old Templeton Gap CCC camp.

The 81 youths now quartered there, all objectors to active military duties because of their religions, may balk at carrying deadly weapons but they certainly do not shirk any hard labor. The youths are engaged in soil conservation work under the direction of Walter Makens, a member of the soil conservation service staff.

The youths will be engaged for some time in completing projects left unfinished by the CCC camp when it was removed, according to Albert Gaeddert, director of the objectors' camp. This work will be divided into three major projects—the construction of ditches and small reservoirs to take care of normal runoff, stock tank construction

and major flood control work, including terracing and contour furrowing. Materials for the work, such as heavy trucks and other equipment, will be furnished by the soil conservation service, altho the camp itself is administered by the Mennonite central committee. Officials of the camp, besides Al-

bert Gaeddert and Makens, are John Gaeddert, business manager; Mrs. John Gaeddert, matron, and Marie Groening, dietitian.

### Men From 10 States.

The young men at the camp have been sent here from 10 states by selective service boards. The men registered as conscientious objectors and as such were deferred from service with the uniformed forces of the army. These objectors will be placed in seven civilian public service camps thruout the United States.

At the present time the 10 states are represented by the following number of youths: Kansas, 27; South Dakota, 6; Colorado, 4; Oklahoma, 4; Nebraska, 2; Wyoming, 2; Iowa, 16; Minnesota, 5; Missouri, 2; and North Dakota, 1.

Six more youths will join the camp today or Monday, Gaeddert said, and it is expected that the camp will be brought up to its full

complement of 125 men in the near future.

Statistics reveal that the members of the camp range in age from 21 to 36 years. Boys from rural areas outnumber boys from cities two to one at the Templeton gap camp.

Thirteen churches are represented by the men at the camp. They are Jehovah's Witnesses, Mennonites, Apostle's Faith, First Presbyterian, Methodist, Nazarene, St. Peter's Evangelical, Brethren, Church of Christ, Covenant, Faith Missionary and Bethel.

### Work 40 Hours Weekly.

The enrollees are compelled to put in 40 hours each week on soil conservation work. This is done in a five-day week, leaving Saturday open for recreational activities. Devotional services and Sunday school are held each Sunday morning and Gaeddert has arranged scenic drives for the youths on Sunday afternoons.

If a day's work is missed during the week because of inclement weather or other reasons, the time is made up on Saturday.

The youths' time is budgeted much in the same manner as in an

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## YAMADA FREED ON \$100 BOND

Jap-American Posts Cash in Barratry Case; Set for Hearing Next Week

George Yamada, 25-year-old Japanese-American charged with barratry, was released from the county jail today, where he had been held for 10 days, after posting bond in the court of Justice J. H. Schisler, who continued his case for hearing to 10 a. m. next Friday.

On advice of the district attorney's office, Justice Schisler accepted the defendant's bond, secured by \$100 in cash. The case had been set for hearing Monday.

Appealing in court with Yamada was his attorney, Arthur A. Brooks, Jr., of Denver, and Robert Cassius of 325 E. Caramillo St., a negro for whom Yamada allegedly purchased a theater ticket and invited to sit on the main floor. The group of on-lookers included representatives of church sects interested in the case.

Yamada, accompanied by a white woman, Cassius and a colored woman, purchased four tickets at the Ute theater, police said, two weeks ago tonight, the four attempting to occupy downstairs seats against objections by a theater employee. Yamada was taken to police headquarters for questioning, his companions leaving the theater.

He was arrested last week and charged in justice court with barratry, or inciting strife among citizens.

The case is the first of its kind in Colorado Springs within the recollection of law enforcement officers, and the offense, under Colorado statutes, carries a maximum penalty of a \$100 fine.

Representing the district attorney's office at the arraignment this morning was E. J. Pond, deputy district attorney.

Yamada is from the Templeton Gap Civilian Public Service camp, operated for conscientious objectors by the Mennonite church.

"Objectors May Balk at War Service, but they Don't Object to Hard Work"

Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph, June 29, 1941

Courtesy of Pikes Peak Library District

"Yamada Freed on \$100 Bond"

Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph, April 22, 1944

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