



## *A New Sheriff is Elected in Yolo County, 1938--carrying on after his father James William Monroe retired in 1938, Forrest Duncan Monroe served continuously for the next 32 years: 1939-1971*

Sadly, one of the first orders-of-business for the new sheriff was complying with the national fear and perceived threat of Japanese invasion and spies after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Capay Valley, like much of California, was home to many Japanese-Americans who came under suspicion--though they had lived and farmed here for decades. The Yolo County Archives provided

several news clippings seen below:

**NOTE: Three surviving members of the 442nd from Woodland and Esparto were honored in 2011 with the presentation of *Special Congressional Recognition Awards* by Congressman Wally Herger. They are George Yoshio Nakamura, age 93, Yorio Aoki, 91, and John Hatanaka, 92. John Hatanaka was born in the Capay Valley. He graduated from Esparto High School in 1937. He was released from a detention camp in Colorado to serve in the 100th Infantry Battalion of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. John came back after the war to farm and raise his own family here, his children all graduating from Esparto High School in the 1960s.**

### **Must Remain In 5 Miles Of Residences**

2-25-42

Evacuation of enemy aliens from "strategic areas" and imposition of a curfew and other restrictions on aliens residing in "restricted areas," including Yolo county, effective by midnight tonight, mark the second drastic step taken by the federal government in 10 days. Sheriff F. D. Monroe reports all aliens in Yolo county, under new regulations, must remain in their homes between 9 p. m. and 6 a. m. and to be within five miles of their homes at all times. The sheriff warned that there are no exceptions unless an alien has applied for, and received a special permit.

#### **Must Obtain Permits**

Monroe has issued a statement telling aliens who desire to obtain permits to go to the U. S. attorney's office at 404 in the federal building at Sacramento. They must take a letter from their employer and their alien registration book. If an alien is working for himself, he must give a detailed account of his work to the federal representative who will in turn grant him a special certificate if he feels he is entitled to one.

Letters are necessary, Monroe said. It is not necessary for aliens to call at the sheriff's office first, but instead they can speed up their individual cases by going direct to Sacramento.

Yolo county aliens, working at night, were urged by Monroe to apply for their certificates at once.

#### **FBI To Enforce Law**

Yolo county, despite its closeness to Sacramento, has not been identified as a "strategic area" and for that reason no evacuation orders have been received by Monroe.

The enforcement will lie with the federal bureau of investigation, in cooperation with Monroe and his staff.

The drive to complete the evacuation of all Japanese nationals and their descendants in California was pushed harder as a result of the shelling of the Santa Barbara coast Monday night.

### **Yolo Japanese Store Closed**

The Horai company warehouses and mercantile store at Winters were closed this afternoon by Under Sheriff Fred Ewert and C. L. Crowder, Winters chief of police, upon orders of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Charles Hamakawa is manager for the concern. He has resided in Winters for 32 years and is a leader of the Japanese colony. All stores owned by Japanese nationals are being closed throughout the United States.

*Many of the Japanese-Americans were close friends of Sheriff Forrest D. Monroe, and this was an unsavory task for the new sheriff. He and many others in Yolo County tried to intervene with the government orders and on behalf of the local farmers to make this "removal" of families and property confiscation less onerous.*

*It was at EHS in the 1960s that John's son Gene Hatanaka, seated in front of me in a History class, asked our instructor why the evacuation and internment of Japanese-Americans was not covered in our History text that I first heard of it. Our instructor, a WWII Vet himself, acknowledged this oversight and explained what had happened--and why it was omitted from American textbooks.*

*Shocked, I went home and confronted my own WWII Vet dad, who gave a great sigh and sat down to tell me about this tragedy. He said the John was a friend of his growing up and a fine man and great farmer--as were the other local families stripped of their possessions. He also told how some California farmers saw this as an opportunity for a "land grab," but others tried to help, some farming the land and holding it in "trust" for the return of the rightful owners.*



Capay's Swing Band of 1905--And No. 1 is none other than "Jim" Monroe, the manager. "Jim" couldn't turn a tune, but he was some right smart music in those "good old days". Easy to identify in the picture--oh, yeah!--are: 2, C. M. (Chet) Goodnow; 3, 4, 5, 6, William Dentner; 7, A. A. (Alma) Collins; 8, C. B. (Coy) Lober; 9, F. M. (Freeman) Parker; 10, A. J. (Aert) Poreer; 11, G. H. C. A. (Chauncey) Hubbard; 12, T. E. (Ted) Hardy; 13, Joseph Wood; 14, Paul Schwartz, leader.

**STRIKE UP THE BAND  
FOR MR. MONROE!**

The "joke" in the above flier put out by the California Farm Observer is that former Sheriff Jim Monroe was the manager of the Capay Swing Band in 1905--he couldn't play a lick, so he managed the band! When Forrest D. Monroe retired voluntarily in 1971, they put out this congratulatory poster.

*Forrest Duncan Monroe was born in Capay at the Duncan Ranch in 1906. In 1911 he moved to Woodland with his newly-elected Sheriff father, Jim Monroe, and mother Grey Duncan-Monroe at five years old, to 740 College Street, where his parents spent the rest of their lives.*

*Forrest was often deputized by his father during his 28-year tenure, and eventually joined the department himself. He became a deputy and then Undersheriff, "apprenticed" under his father for 15 years before his father retired and he ran for his first of 8 consecutive terms as Yolo County Sheriff.*

*Forrest was only opposed three times: first by Ray Hollingsworth, then Ernest Granucci, and last Ralph Bonetti.*

*Forrest married Rose Balestra of Salinas in 1934 and they had two children, whom they raised on Second Street in Woodland. They are buried in the Woodland Cemetery along with his*

*parents and many other family members.*

*According to his mother, Grey, when her husband Jim ran for re-election he would go home to bed and sleep soundly. But when Forrest ran, he helped collect ballots and helped at the polling place. They had very different temperaments--as men and as sheriffs. Grey said, "It always pleased his father to see how many more votes Forrest received as sheriff than did he."*

*When the new jail in Woodland was dedicated to them as the Monroe Detention Center, she said, "I have never visited the new county jail. I was going but I never made it. I met the new sheriff the other day. Maybe he will let me go through it some day. He seemed very nice."*

**FORREST D.  
MONROE**



of Yolo County

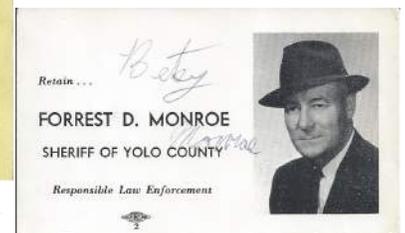
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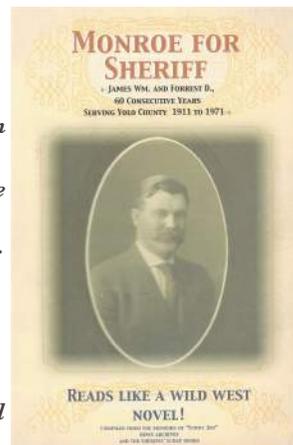
**FF MONROE**

ER...LIKE SON

Above: on an early campaign card, Forrest D. Monroe as a new, young sheriff. At left and below: in his campaign poster and one of his cards for re-election, both about 1960.



Funny memory about the card above--on which I wrote my own name in 1960. We were out at recess at Capay School one day when a big, shiny car drove up and out steps this man in a nice suit. Curious, we all collected at the cyclone fence and he came over to talk to us. "Vote for me for sheriff," he says. "I can't vote for you, I have to vote for my Uncle Forrest," I reply--at 7 years old. He laughed uproariously: "So, you must be a Monroe--I knew I was in Monroe country!" and got back into his car. When I told my dad this story later, he gave me this card and said, "Your Uncle Forrest will be delighted!"



Cover art at left is for a book that will be published! available in 2014-5