

# PACIFIC CITIZEN

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Los Angeles, Calif.

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## CHICAGO CORNER:

### Nisei waking up to plight of Negro discrimination in federal housing

By CHIZU IYAMA

Chicago

We had occasion to canvass our Woodlawn community the other night, and were amazed by the number of Japanese Americans who had moved, or were in the process of packing.

We were aware of the fact that a good deal of shifting about had characterized the resettlement pattern of Japanese Americans in Chicago—from temporary semi-slums to more desirable communities, but the exodus from the south side has reached such proportions that areas of former Japanese

practically deserted in the space of a few years.

"Why this constant moving?" we asked many of our friends, and the answers were as varied as the number of people queried.

Some movement is in the natural course of events—resettlers were living in marginal communities until other areas were opened up to them or until their economic positions improved.

#### Wholesale Desertion

However, the wholesale desertion of some parts of the south side by both Caucasians and Nisei can be traced to fear of a changing population (the predominance of Negroes and lately, Puerto Ricans), high rentals, overcrowding, inadequate schools, and the creation of new slums.

Some Nisei tended to focus the blame on the advent of the Negroes into their communities... without realizing that Negroes, like the first Japanese resettlers were allowed to move only into areas where homes and city services were beginning to deteriorate.

"But if only they wouldn't live in such crowded conditions", said another, without understanding that high rentals force the doubling up of families, or that some landlords exploit the inability of the Negro people to find adequate housing by herding them into expensive, cut-up apartments.

#### Statistics Ignored

"This community is dangerous at night" confided another... neglecting to add that this is true of many other areas of urban concentration, and ignoring city statistics of decreasing crime rates in Woodlawn and Hyde Park.

Caught in the midst of the "flight" by whites, and the vast increase of the Negro population, the Japanese American has been in a dilemma.

As one liberal Nisei put it... "I really would like to live in an interracial community, but what can I do?" He shrugged his shoulders eloquently and continued, "Should I start packing?"

#### Block Groups Formed

Instead of becoming resigned to the situation, some people in Hyde Park and Woodlawn think they have the answer.

Starting on the assumption that it is possible to build a good, inter-racial community in Chicago, that people of all races and creeds are interested in a stable, decent environment for their children, they are organizing people into block groups to work out common problems.

Demanding city services, pressuring the school board for increased school facilities (and getting them, too), holding block "seeding parties" to insure kept-up lawns, they are using every available means to conserve Chicago's southside. Recently the South East Commission plans for the redevelopment of sections of Hyde Park was accepted by the City Council.

Some Nisei have been active in these groups—either on a blocklevel or on the boards of the Hyde Park Kenwood Community Conference or the United Woodlawn Conference.

People like Shig Wakamatsu and Smoky Sakurada, active JACLers, Rev. Kubose, Rev. Nishimoto, Togo Tanaka, and Frank Takahashi come to mind.

Turn to Page 6 \*

### Issei retires after 36 yrs. in auto plant

Utica, Mich.

After 36 years assembling automobiles at the Dodge factory, Hatch Kitamura, 65, reached his age of retirement last week and said goodbye to his friends. It took him two days to visit his more than 400 co-workers at the big factory.

Last February, he became an American citizen after living most of his lifetime in the United States. He was born in Osaka in 1889, came to the United States at the age of 9 to join the famous Kitamura Tumblers, an acrobatic family touring many of the U.S. and European cities with the famous circuses of the day.

Rather than swing from trapezes all his life, he decided to settle down and was married in 1916 to the former Edith Reed of Detroit and soon began working for Dodge.

The Kitamuras have three sons and a daughter. They plan to live near their daughter Mrs. William Andrews in Marine City.

## NEW CITIZENS

### Scottsbluff, Neb.

Twenty-nine persons of Japanese ancestry became citizens of the United States, Sept. 1, at a naturalization hearing in district court in Gering. It was the second successive day of examinations and conferring of citizenships by Judge C. G. Perry.

Fred White of Omaha, U.S. naturalization examiner, checked on citizenship-candidates. They are:

Sam Shizuo Takaya, Dick Yoshitaka Toda, Kichiyemon Shiba, Miki Shiba, George Sutekichi Uchibori, John Uchichi Ushiki, Harry Kaoru Nakada, Kenzo Takayama, Joe Hasekura Ishikawa, Tom Takejiro Kawaguchi and Mary Yoshida, Scottsbluff. Harry Harukichi Sato, Tatsukichi Aratani, Sumi Aratani, Soshichi Hara, Jack Kagami Kakuda, Mike Mokutaro Sugano, Naohichi Okawaki, Mike Toyoyji Kanbara and Toma Hosaka, Mitchell.

Hana Tanaka, Matsu Nochi and Harry Shigeichi Yamamoto, Lyman; James Jusuke Hayano and Junichi Jim Miyahara, Henry; Ichisaburo Isa Yokomizo and Bunsaku Hirasawa, both of Minatare; Koshichi Kanno, Morrill; and Sam Kiyoma Hamada, Gering.

### Greeley

Seventeen Issei in Weld County became United States citizens on Aug. 30, in a naturalization ceremony in the Weld County district court.

The Issei who took the oath of allegiance were:

Kobaya Toya, Matajiro Watada, Hirokichi Funakoshi, Kamekichi Ono, Jinyemon Hayashi, Hichiro Sugihara, Gotaro Chikuma, Fort Lupton; Masashige Ito, Haruko Okada, Shigematsu Horii, Keenesburg; Zenosuke Ishiguro, Misayo Ishiguro and Kichizo Ikenouye, Greeley; George Matsuo Tateyama, Ault; Tetsuichi Yasuda, Platteville; and Roy Ryuji Uyehara, Brighton.



### Spokane woman killed as auto skids off road, three companions injured

Heber, Utah

A Spokane Issei woman was killed and three companions injured Tuesday last week when their car skidded out of control during a heavy rain in Daniels Canyon.

Mrs. Chitose Nitta, 55, died of a crushed skull. Injured were Takako Nitta, 26; Hajime Nitta, 21; and Mrs. Fuki Fukuda, sister of Mrs. Nitta.

Miss Takako Nitta, driver of the ill-fated machine, told investigating officers she lost control of the automobile while rounding a curve.

The vehicle skidded, went into a spin and plunged from the highway backward, crashing into a tree.

According to Wasatch County Sheriff Eugene Payne, who investigated, the mishap occurred about 6 p.m. on a steeply graded section of U.S. 40, about 16 miles east of here.

### Stockton pholog found in Portland

Stockton

Gunji Watanabe, Nisei photographer missing since Aug. 14, has been located in Portland, Ore., working in a restaurant.

Following a tip forwarded from the Portland Buddhist Church to the local Buddhist church Thursday last week, Mrs. Chisato Watanabe, wife of the missing photographer, her father Jiroku Nishioka, and her five-year-old son Bruce flew to Portland.

It was their second trip to the Northwest for Mrs. Watanabe went to Seattle earlier this month to investigate a report her missing husband was seen boarding a Seattle bus.

### \$500 student scholarship fund donated to JACL

Los Angeles

In memory of his late wife, Fuku, Masujiro Hosoi, pre-war proprietor of Mansei-An in Li'l Tokio has donated \$1,000 to various organizations.

Foremost was a \$500 contribution to the JACL for a student scholarship fund; \$200 to the Shonien building fund, lesser amounts to:

Japanese Chamber of Commerce welfare division, St. Mary's Episcopal Church altar fund, Gardena Buddhist Church, Nishi Hongwanji and Kanagawa Kenjinkai.

### Warbride singing Cho Cho role for PNW grand opera

Seattle

A Japanese warbride, Mariko Saito Samuelson of Tacoma, has been signed to sing the title role in Puccini's "Madame Butterfly" by the Pacific Northwest Grand Opera Co.

Mrs. Samuelson, who has sung with the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, met her husband while singing in Red Cross shows for U.S. servicemen three years ago. In 1952, she came to Tacoma to study music at the College of Puget Sounds.

### Seattle consul arrives

Seattle

Shigezo Yoshikawa, his wife and two children, arrived last week to take up duties as the new Japanese consul here. He told reporters at the airport that the most pressing problem in his view is solution of the Mandarin orange ban, banned because of a citrus disease.

### FILM BASED ON LIFE OF ADM. PERRY SLATED

London

A film based on the life of Adm. Matthew Perry, who negotiated the first U.S. treaty with Japan in 1852, is being planned by Mark Robson, who had acquired rights to "Fire in the East," Rowland Crane Green's forthcoming fictional biography of the admiral.

Robson plans to make most of the picture in Japan, where he directed a large part of "The Bridges at Toko-ri" for Perleberg-Seaton Productions.

### Uranium stock sales investigated

Denver

Reports that Denver Nisei were involved in the illegal sale of uranium mining stock throughout the Hawaiian Islands were investigated by two Island attorneys here over the Labor Day holidays.

Ralph F. Munro Matsumura and Kazuo Oyama, both of Honolulu, made inquiries and checked on the authenticity of uranium mining companies.

While attorneys made it clear that they were not advocating the buying of such stock, check showed the company chartered and registered in Denver.

### Shinoda voted president of Calif. Floral Ass'n

San Diego

Joe Shinoda of Los Angeles was elected president of the California State Floral Association, which held its annual convention here last weekend. He is the first Nisei to be chosen to the post.

Bill Enomoto of Redwood JACL treasurer, was accorded a Special Achievements Award for his work in promoting the flower industry. Mike Masaka of Washington was main speaker at the convention luncheon Saturday.

### Judge Aiso thanks JACL awards committee for biennium recognition

Los Angeles

In a letter addressed to George J. Inagaki, JACL national president, John F. Aiso, judge of the municipal court here, expressed his appreciation to the Japanese American Citizens League Biennial Awards committee for having been included among those singled out for distinguished community leadership.

The letter read: "I express through you my appreciation to the JACL and its Biennial Awards Committee for their generosity and big-heartedness in including me among those singled out for distinguished community leadership.

"It is a great honor and I am really flattered to be honored by my own group. Those who know you best also know of your shortcomings best too. So even in cases of people who really deserve recognition, it comes last from your own group.

"In my case, however, I am not sure whether I am really deserving of such honor.

"My appointment was primarily recognition to the Nisei cross-section of our citizenry of the new important status they occupy in the public life of our city, county and state,

### JACL objectives in '55 California legislature told

San Francisco

Haruo Ishimaru of the JACL regional office here attended the California Federation for Civic Unity statewide meeting on civil rights and minority organizations last week to discuss JACL's 1955 state legislative program.

Foremost were removal of the alien land law from the state statutes and obtaining old age assistance for the few Issei who are unable to pass citizenship examinations. (To qualify for old age assistance in California, the recipient must be a citizen.)

Ishimaru also told the conference that the JACL would cooperate with other organizations toward obtaining general civil rights and civil liberties legislation.

### Los Angeles I&NS office examines 100 more Issei

Los Angeles

The local Immigration and Naturalization Service office is now "caught up" to the point that candidates for citizenship are called for examinations in two weeks from the date of filing their petition, the JACL Regional Office learned.

On Sept. 10, some 100 Issei were given their oral examinations with interpreters summoned by the JACL office assisting. Interpreters were:

Gogoro Nakamura, Katsuma Mukaeda, Ted Akahoshi, Ted Okumoto, Elmer Yamamoto and Choyei Kondo.

### Chicago legionnaires

Chicago

Chicago Nisei Post 1183 of the American Legion installed Thomas C. K. Kaihara as commander Sept. 11 at the local Buddhist Church. James Shimashita is retiring commander. Other post officials are:

George Tamura, sr. v. comm.; Frank Seto, jr. v. comm.; Joe Sagami, adj.; George Nakamura, asst. adj.; Rev. George Aki, chapln.; Yachi Kato, hist.; Walter Tamura, serv.; Junpei Mine, sgt.-at-arms.

which recognition was won only after our existence was made known in political circles by the wonderful work of the JACL and its leaders like Mike and Kido. I feel that the goodwill and efforts of Tats Kushida, your Southwest District Director, were likewise indispensable factors.

"Recognition to Sgt. Hiroshi Miyamura certainly pleased me. I spoke highly for the discernment of the judges making the award, although it shouldn't have been a difficult task. The achievements of others while commendable were attained only through cooperation of friends or community mingled with a certain amount of personal ambition to achieve distinction in our respective fields. Miyamura's achievement was a complete disregard of his own welfare and achieved by his own efforts alone in the face of the enemy. None of us can even approach him as a peer. I liked him personally too.

"Congratulations to you and Dr. Roy Nishikawa for the fine convention and your re-election to office. It bespeaks the confidence we all have in both of you. I admire you for your spirit of community leadership. Best wishes for a successful two-years to come."



## ★ WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER ★

## Reflections

★ MIKE MASAOKA ★

The 13th Biennial National JACL Convention is now only a fond memory for most of the delegates, but for the convention committees the more difficult and unglamorous "clean up" phases remain. The bills must be paid, the promised money must be collected, the "gripes" reconciled, etc.

But the more than 300 JACL members in the Los Angeles area who worked on various aspects of the convention can be proud of the fact that all National JACL Conventions theirs was probably the best managed. And to manage a convention of the proportions of a National JACL Convention is a real feat.

Of course, much credit must go to Dr. Roy Nishikawa, convention chairman, and his associate chairmen for the magnificent planning and execution of the millions of details that go to make up a five day conclave involving more than 1500 individuals, each with their own particular likes and dislikes.

That there is almost universal praise for the manner in which the convention was run is just another tribute to all of those who for the past two years have so selflessly given of their time and trouble to this great project.

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## Miyamura: Nisei of the Biennium

The high point of the Convention was reached when Hiroshi Miyamura, modest Congressional Medal of Honor winner, was acclaimed Nisei of the Biennium, 1952-1954. It was a popular and well deserved selection.

Although none of the four runners-up who received the JACL Community Leadership Awards begrudge the Gallup, New Mexico, war hero his latest honors, in other years Judge John Aiso, Tom Yego, Dr. Minol Ota, and Rev. Jitsuo Morikawa might well have been the Nisei of the Biennium.

The Japanese American community can be proud that it has so many distinguished leaders in its midst.

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## Sign of the Times

Governor Goodwin Knight's impressive tribute to persons of Japanese ancestry in the State of California and the nation highlighted the tremendous change in public attitude towards the Japanese in the past decade and a half. His remarks, which showed real knowledge of the leadership of the Japanese American community, mark a milestone in the history of the Japanese in California and demonstrate the unmistakable fact that we have emerged from an "unwanted minority" to a "welcome people".

Throughout the entire convention this spirit of the popularity of persons of Japanese ancestry was most apparent. It was a kind of feeling that most of us thought impossible just a few short years ago.

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## Issei Recognition

Judge Aiso gave an eloquent tribute to the newly naturalized citizens in language that would have done justice to the outstanding orators of the day. As a matter of fact, it was pointed out by many that the Nisei need take no back seat to any group when it comes to the eloquence of its speakers.

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## Council Highlights

As one looks back on the National Council sessions, probably the most significant decisions were those made relating to National Planning. Chairman Shig Wakamatsu and his committee developed a broad, visionary picture of the ultimate objectives of the JACL that should, if carried forward, make the JACL an even more significant and meaningful organization on the American scene.

Statesmanlike policy statements on international relations and the threat of communism indicate the growing political maturity of the group.

And the Council deliberations over the budget were reminiscent of those in Congress—two hours of haggling over a fifty cent increase in national membership dues and none whatsoever over the adoption of the final \$78,000 budget.

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## Power Politics

For the first time since the post-war conventions, power politics reared its ugly head when the NCWDC, as in the pre-war days, attempted to steamroller its candidates. Fortunately for the JACL, its general slate was a good one and national unity prevailed in the final voting.

*Should the day ever come when JACL is more concerned with power politics than in serving the community, there will be many who are now loyal members who will desert those who desecrate JACL's twin objectives of "For Better Americans In A Greater America" and "Security through Unity". JACL became an important factor in the American Life because it believed in ideals and in causes, and not in personalities and localisms. Let those who would change JACL's basic concepts beware.*

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## Other Memories

From the Opening Ceremonies on through the entire five days, the convention ran in high gear like a well-oiled machine. And the spirit among the delegates, beginning with the "Mixer" was one of friendly affection.

The 1000 Club affair was, without doubt, one of the high spots, as was the presentation of an engraved silver tray to Dr. Tom Yatabe on the 20th anniversary of his election as the first constitutional JACL president.

The homage paid to George Inagaki and his board was well deserved, and the newly installed officers bid fair to give him another strong supporting cast for the two year haul ahead.

The selections of Ira Shimasaki of Washington, D.C. and Florence Wada of Pasadena as Mr. and Miss Delegate were most appropriate, for Ira is symbolic of the old-timers in JACL while Flo is charmingly representative of the new comer who will help keep alive the true JACL spirit in the years ahead.

And, of course, over all, reigned pretty and poised Miss National JACL Janet Fukuda and her two attendants, charming Mary Enomoto and lovely Janet Okimoto.

The 13th Biennial National JACL Convention is only a memory now, but its spirit waits only to be rekindled when two years hence the 14th Biennial National JACL Convention convenes with its new problems, new challenges, and new hopes.

CHICAGO TO FETE  
250 ISSEI CITIZENS  
AT CIVIC EVENT

Chicago

Three well-known Illinois congressmen, all from Chicago, have confirmed their attendance at the civic reception Oct. 2 honoring newly naturalized Issei citizens to be sponsored by the Chicago JACL at the McCormick YWCA.

Some 250 Issei here who have gained their citizenship are to be honored.

Rep. Sidney R. Yates from the Near-Northside will be principal speaker. Reps. Barratt O'Hara (Southside Chicago) and Edgar R. Jonas (Far North) will participate.

Congressman Jonas, who chaired the House Judiciary Subcommittee hearings on Japanese claims in San Francisco and Los Angeles two weeks ago, will be meeting his Japanese American constituents for the first time at public function sponsored by the local chapter.

Yates and O'Hara have spoken to the Japanese American community here in past JACL meetings.

Dr. Thomas T. Yatabe, past National JACL president, will be master of ceremonies. Chicago Nisei Veterans Post of the American Legion will provide the color guards. Response by a leading Issei citizen will be given.

## PRESS FILE:

**SPORTS EDITOR**—Seico Hanashiro is now sports editor of the Fowler Ensign, one of the first Nisei journalists for a community newspaper in Central California. He began his writing career at Fowler High, continued as sports editor at Jerome WRA Center, edited the Bussei Review and has been correspondent for several Japanese vernacular newspapers.

**LEGIONNAIRE**—It may be interesting to point out that one of the best known Nisei in the country, Mike Masaoka, JACL's Washington representative, is a member of the John A. Stackner Post (of Loomis). Mike was an official "representative" of the Loomis post at the legion national convention in Florida several years ago. A report was that Mike kicked up plenty of dust at that confab in fighting for Nisei rights as American citizens.—Roy Moshida, S.F., Hokubei Mainichi.

**CONVENTIONS**—"... (The biennial conclave) is beginning to assume the proportions of a gigantic circus and I don't believe all this hoopla has anything to do with the work of the JACL. I think the time has come to reduce the extravaganza proportions... A soberer application of the JACL program is in order and a keynote of simplicity should implement the theme, New Horizons."—Iwao Kawakami, S.F. Nichi Bei Times.

MENTION THE PACIFIC CITIZEN  
TO OUR ADVERTISERS

## NOTICES

## THANK YOU!

In appreciation for the many courtesies extended our representative, Mr. Ed Kusada, at your 13th Biennial National JACL Convention, the Hull-Dobbs Ford Company will be happy to donate \$25 to JACL for any new car purchased by JACL members or their friends from our firm through Mr. Kusada.

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Tokyo Topics . . . by Tamotsu Murayama  
Overstaying in U.S. worth it

(Tamotsu Murayama, who has been revisiting America this past summer, is scheduled to return to his home in Tokyo today. In the meantime, we have several stories on file written while he was touring the United States that will be published in this column until he resumes his writings from Tokyo. —Editor.)

Los Angeles

Time has come to bid all my friends good luck before returning to my humble home in Tokyo after staying three and a half months revisiting my native land, reorientating myself with the enormity and fortune of this great Union of splendor.

It would be impossible to realize the high state of mechanization and postwar development of America as well as the maturity of Americans including those of Japanese ancestry unless one sees it with his own eyes.

The Boy Scouts of America invitation to study the great scout movement in action here will never be forgotten. I was only able to show my appreciation in a slight way—spreading the good word of scouting among Japanese communities here in America by radio, TV and public meetings.

Tokyo Rumblings

Evidently, my overstay here has caused considerable argument in Tokyo. However, I felt it necessary to do my part promoting Japanese-American relationships in my limited capacity. I shall not hesitate to say that I was able to do something for the benefit of Japan during my short stay here.

I personally consider that the highlight of my trip to the States was a reunion with a former American POW in Japan. I was invited by ex-Capt. Edwin Kalbfleisch, Jr., to visit with his family in St. Louis, Mo.

America can be proud of the great personality, whose wartime feat is practically unknown. Capt. Kalbfleisch had courage enough to point out the Japanese Army's mistake in the "death march of Bataan". The Japanese High Command learned of this tragic incident in the Philippines for the first time from this prisoner.

His prominent parents entertained me lavishly while in St. Louis. It was really wonderful to know I was still remembered by this ex-POW in Japan.

Family Reunions

In Los Angeles, I was able to meet my younger brother Makio, who is a faculty member at California Institute of Technology, and his sweet wife Sono.

In San Francisco, I also met my sister Fumiko and her husband, Dr. Charles Pentler. It was good to meet another sister Etsuko, now an M.D. All in all, I enjoyed my reunions with friends from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

I certainly do not deserve all

the praises heaped on me during my tour—especially in Salt Lake City, where Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kasai had arranged a tight schedule to have me received so warmly. Duty demanded that some expression from Japan be paid to Utah for its treatment of Japanese Americans during the war years. The monumental work of Henry and Alice Kasai in the Mormon City is worthy of compliments from the Japanese community there. It wasn't mine.

Nisei in Ascendancy

Nisei everywhere are on the rise. Judge John Aiso was in Japan during the occupation. His understanding and courage to aid Japan in her reconstruction should be highly commended. What he has done is hardly known, but I know very well. I am happy to see he was appointed as the first Nisei judge in the mainland. John's real work, thus, begins here.

Persons of Japanese ancestry are doing wonderful work in this country.

Japan's defeat by a-bombs might have slight significance for this phenomenal advance and acceptance of Japanese in America. Yet, we must recognize also the courage and humanity of Americans who are strong enough in their belief to admit mistakes were made in the past.

Future of JACL

Because the Nisei today have homes, some better than other Americans, and are not likely to be kicked around in the game of politics like a football, nevertheless, there should be a continuous effort to sustain public goodwill for advancement of the welfare of persons of Japanese ancestry.

Unfortunately, many Nisei and Sansei are indifferent to their racial traits and heritage. They are particularly indifferent to the JACL movement. This is an institution which must have strong nourishment from its own in order to present a united front in every civic undertaking.

In the past, we have paid too high a price to reach what we have gained today. The Nisei and Sansei should be told we have many good leaders—yet there is room for more. We need more to inspire a great Nisei parade throughout the Union.

My postwar visit to this country was certainly beneficial and educational. My respects and kindest regards go to all who aided me so unselfishly.

Very Truly Yours . . . . by Harry Honda  
Photographs galore

A splurge of pictures always livens up a newspaper. The PC was no different with its last two issues devoted to the JACL convention... It may have been redundant to credit George H. Waki for most of the pictures in the last issue covering the convention, but it wasn't meant to be. We wanted to give due credit.

George once used to deliver newspapers for the morning vernacular before the war that we edited. Today, he's photographer for Pacific Outdoor Advertising... In the interim, the corpulent lad served as staff sergeant at the Presidio of Monterey MIS photo reproduction section, finished two years at Fred Archer's school of photography and has worked with Toyo Miyatake studios... Outside of his skill, he's handled the Nisei Week Festival one year as executive secretary, did the same for the Nisei Veterans Association when it had an office in the Miyako Hotel Bldg., and now active with Comm. Perry Post of the American Legion, Boy Scout

Troop 379 of Koyasan and Optimists... He has lived in Boyle Heights most of his 30 years and stayed at Gila River WRA camp during the evacuation... His cronies in Li'l Tokio sometimes call him Waki-Waki—probably meaning "whacky Waki".

I don't know when the PC will have another opportunity to scatter as many different shots of one event as a convention within the next year... But when it does come, we hope another up and coming Nisei photographer might be urged to cover such an event.

There is this open invitation to other chapters or district councils: if an event can be so covered, let's make the arrangements well in advance... There's the joint MDC-EDC convention in Washington, D.C., next spring that strikes us as a fine choice to cover photographically... Installation parties, special events and even chapter outings make good subjects... Remember the prints ought to be at least 4x5 inch glossy prints—8x10s are preferred.



# Honolulu Newsletter

LAWRENCE NAKATSUKA

## What to tell college freshmen

Three nights after I write this piece, it will be my privilege to talk to a group of freshmen about to enter the University of Hawaii.

The topic assigned me is "community-ism," but the invitation noted that I would have the liberty of "adding whatever you may feel is pertinent from your background of experiences." So I plan to deviate sufficiently to be able to pose this question, in my own mind at any rate: Just what would I do if I were a freshman myself now?

Well, I would want to get adjusted scholastically without wasting much time. The studies are the thing, at the outset anyway. Don't get side-tracked by "community-ism." There's time for reaching out soon enough in college.

I stress the book work because, essentially and obviously, the primary job of the student is be just that—one who studies. This is not to advocate that the freshman become a bookworm: they're boring (if I may be forgiven the pun).

I am reminded of several foreign students from Japan who who recently spent six weeks in Hawaii, for the purpose of becoming "oriented" under a State Department program, before they left for Mainland colleges and universities.

## Complaint from Japanese exchange students

One of their chief complaints was the difficulty of staying awake during the lectures which had been specially arranged for them so they could become acquainted with American culture and institutions. Since none of these students had been abroad before, one would expect that they would display keen interest in the lectures, which ranged from art and drama to journalism and labor relations.

But the Japanese students fell asleep in class. They could not get interested in any subject that did not relate directly to their own chosen fields of study, whether it was engineering, public health or American literature.

So I say that the freshman should not shut his mind to the various extra-curricular activities that will beckon him on and off the campus. But his first duty, I repeat, is to bear down and work for creditable academic showing.

Once he gets the academic "feel" and make reasonably good grades, he can devote some attention to "community-ism" (which has been translated for me as relating to the question: Is the campus a microcosm of the world?)

## Another suggestion: build personality

The second thought I would like to pass on to my freshman audience is that they free themselves from certain mental habits and training that tend to inhibit the personality growth of a student.

I have in mind at this moment the Nisei and some Sansei who come from homes so rigidly disciplined and perhaps far removed from a large, active community that the young people have unconsciously developed mental blocks in their attitudes towards society and their individual role as citizens of an American community.

More specifically, I am referring to the traits of initiative and resourcefulness, imagination and forcefulness, that do not seem to be very apparent in the makeup of many Nisei.

Unquestionably, the home environment in some Japanese families has had a repressive effect upon the ability of Nisei students to "blossom out" on the campus, notwithstanding the fact that one can always point to notable exceptions to this generalization.

## Blunt advice

A friend of mine, a "haole" (Caucasian) married to a Nisei girl, had this blunt advice:

"If one is going to make mistakes, or even look foolish, the time for it is in college. Otherwise it may be too late for the man (or woman), once out of college, to take a chance on experimenting with new ideas. By that time the fellow has become too cautious about permitting his mind and imagination to open up new horizons, whether in business, socially or politically."

This bit of advice I can endorse, and will pass on to my freshman audience.

MIKAWAYA

Lf'l Tokio Center for Japanese Confectionery  
"Always Fresh"

244 E. 1st St., Los Angeles - MU 4935 - K. Hashimoto



'HOTPOINT'

Household Appliances

Tamura

AND CO.

Television—Appliances—Furniture  
2724 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles

RE 3-0486

—Furniture Department—  
2200 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles

RE 3-1701



Over 200 youngsters and oldsters of three neighboring Utah JACL chapters—Ogden, Salt Lake City and Murray—attended the Aug. 23 Family Lagoon Night. Evening of games, prizes and hot dogs was climaxed to dancing with Ralph Beyer's orchestra at the La-

goon. Small "fries" in the photo are playing "I Say Stoop" with Hatsumi Mitsunaga (extreme right) leading them. Mrs. Tomoko Yano was general chairman, assisted by Anna Imai, Shig Matsukawa, Grace Imai and Isamu Watanuki.

—Terashima Photo.

## Issei citizen responds for 1,000 new Americans at Citizenship Day observances at Oakland park

### Oakland

Shigeo Aoki, recently naturalized American citizen, responded for some 1,000 new citizens who gathered last Sunday at Citizenship Day observances under the pretty oaks beside Lake Merritt.

The theme of the day came from Aoki, who came back from a World War II relocation center to go into the food processing business here.

Speaking for his new fellow citizens, he said:

"A citizen can be one either by birth or by choice. We new citizens are citizens by choice. We come from many countries; we are of many races. We have many religions. We bring varied talents, special skills and different cultures."

### One Common Bond

"And yet we have one thing in common. We are U.S. citizens because, to us, America stands for freedom, democracy and love of fellow man."

He outlined the rush of Japanese to become citizens under the McCarran Act because of the lessons in English and principals of American democracy learned in the relocation centers.

### Proud Citizens

For himself he said: "I chose to become a citizen of the United States because I love this flag and the republic for which it stands; because I believe in the guiding principles of our Constitution, because I want to be proud of my children and my children to be proud of me. And I believe that here in this wonderful country is the best opportunity in the world to accomplish these dreams."

His voice broke as he said:

"And now, as we new citizens humbly and proudly accept the precious gift of citizenship, we stand ready to do our best to preserve this nation, so that, God willing, she will continue to be the symbol of freedom and democracy for untold generations to come."

Sen. William Knowland, speaker of the day, spoke extemporaneously on the responsibilities of citizenship.

## IN HONOR OF

Mr. and Mrs. Sokichi Hoshide of Seattle celebrated their golden wedding anniversary Sept. 5. A jeweler of some 57 years, Hoshide came to Seattle in the 1890s and has been associated with the Japanese Baptist Church. Although not naturalized until last June 8, he first applied for naturalization in 1901.

Saburo Shima, son of the Ben Shimas of Ash Mesa, Colo., was elected freshman class president of Olathe (Colo.) High School.

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## The 13th biennial was like a dream; not quite sure it all happened

By Dr. ROY M. NISHIKAWA

Los Angeles

The 13th Biennial Convention seems like a dream and we are not quite sure that it actually happened. One day seemed to melt into the next and we are experiencing difficulty in recalling just what happened on a specific day so intensive and extensive was the convention schedule.

The high point in the convention for us personally was the Saturday afternoon when the National Budget and Finance Committee's final report was passed unanimously by the National Council.

In getting this through the National Board and Staff and through the Committee we used the time honored system advocated by that master of legislation MIKE MASAOKA: (1) present a specific program, (2) rework it and iron out the details, (3) marshal support for it and (4) anticipate the opposition and quell or compromise it.

### Long Hassle

What was really surprising to all Committee members was the long hassle for a 50c membership increase as contrasted with the easy passage of the total budget of \$77,805 with hardly a murmur.

We realize, of course, that passing a budget and raising it are two different things. We intend to push the latter during the next two years.

It is our considered opinion that members of the National Budget and Finance Committee who met at the Convention are among the most capable and loyal JACL leaders we have anywhere.

### Comments Pro & Con

We find it hard to be objective about the convention because we were too close to it. Most of the comments received were extremely favorable yet there are a few of us on the inside who know of some of the minor complaints, omissions, irritants and last minute improvisations which inevitably came up.

If we were philosophically inclined we would draw the following conclusions from the convention:

- (1) The best laid plans of mice and men tend to go awry.
- (2) Working with human nature tends to be unpredictable.
- (3) Even when every possible detail has been anticipated, new details present themselves.
- (4) Most JACL committees work well under pressure and rise to meet the occasion.
- (5) The human body can get along on a lot less sleep than is popularly supposed.

### Bouquets

There are a number of bouquets we wish to give the Convention Committee Chairmen

## CHAPTER MEMO

**San Jose JACL:** The local chapter's annual barbecue was held last Friday at Mary-Ann Gardens. Chapter president Tom Mitsuyoshi was in charge. The chapter was formerly known as the United Citizens League of Santa Clara County and its name was changed with membership approval.

**Downtown Los Angeles:** Two classes for Issei, English and preparation for naturalization, were started at Hobart School this week. Americanization classes are held Wednesday nights with Miki Moriwaki as instructor. English is taught on Monday nights from 6:30 p.m.

**Parlier JACL:** The chapter hosted the Central California District Council post-convention meeting this week. Plans were also discussed for a CCDC meeting.

## CALENDAR

**Sept. 19 (Sunday)**  
Chicago—Open golf tournament, Glendale C.C.

**Sept. 25 (Saturday)**  
Chicago—Lily Miki Concert, Kimball Hall, 8:30 p.m.  
Detroit—Issei Citizens Banquet, Coral Room, Hotel Ft. Shelby, 7 p.m.

**Sept. 26 (Sunday)**  
Richmond—El Cerrito—Outing, Mitchell Canyon.

**Oct. 2 (Saturday)**  
Berkeley—Talent-Vision Show, Little Theater, Grove and Allston  
Chicago—New Issei Citizens Reception, McCormick YWCA, 1001 N. Dearborn, 8 p.m.

whom we thought were outstanding.

First, the six associate chairmen who bore the brunt of the work and responsibility:

FRANK CHUMAN, Official Events, whose duties were doubled because of the Congressional hearings.

KEN DYO, Budget and Finance, whose work is just starting.

MABEL OTA, whose Registration crews were kept busy day and night.

HARRY FUJITA, whose Special Events provided so much fun and relaxation.

TUT YATA's General Arrangements which handled so many of the fine details which can make or break a convention.

HARRY HONDA's Public Relations committee which did such an outstanding job.

### Mixer Committee

In addition we thought that Dr. TORU IURA and the TOWN HUBS did an outstanding job on the Mixer and at the outing. The Mixer hostesses attracted plenty of attention because of their charm. And we understand that these groups may form the nucleus of a younger JACL group locally.

MARIANNE-KIMURA and MERIJANE YOKOE did a good job on the Fashion Show which was enjoyed by all the women (and men) and KIMI FUKUTAKI quietly working behind the scenes on finances really deserves a lot of credit.

LILY OTERA's overall supervision of the Outing was excellent as was CHIYO TAYAMA's handling of the Banquet. Chiyo's husband FRED also threw a Wing-Ding of a 1000 Club affair which even the Nikabob's sprinkling system could not quench.

Co-chairmen Dr. KIYOSHI SONODA and MARY OI presented two luncheons which all delegates enjoyed and GEORGE MARUYA, KEI UCHIMA and DUKE OGATA did thorough jobs on the Opening Ceremonies and the Issei Banquet.

GONGORO NAKAMURA really hustled the tickets among the Issei for the latter affair and proved himself a master of the repartee.

The Sayonara Ball which many felt was particularly outstanding was co-chaired by MIWAKO YANAMOTO and SUE JOE. On the whole the Fishing Derby chaired by GEORGE MIO, Golf Tournament chaired by DICK JENIYE, Bowling Tournament chaired by FRANK KISHI, Date Bureau (unofficial JACL Baishakunin) chaired by MARY MITTWER, bridge tourney chaired by HISASHI HORITA and sightseeing chaired by EIJI TANABE were excellent.

### New Innovation

One new innovation initiated by the 13th Biennial was the Convention Hospitality Room. RITSUKO KAWAKAMI's Committee handled this with the help of the TOWN HUBS and this was a tremendous success as a steady stream of delegates and boosters took advantage of this room.

Everyone agrees that the three queens JANET FUKUDA, MARY ENOMOTO and JANET OKIMOTO were among the most capable and charming that any JACL convention ever had. MARGARET TAKAHASHI was particularly effective on the Guest Reception Committee.

The beautiful floral decorations seen at every event were under the supervision of ART ITO and MARY MIKURIYA. They also thoughtfully provided facilities for convention delegates to obtain last minute corsages which was greatly appreciated by the busy and hard pressed delegates.

### Booklet Editors

Special mention must be made of MICHU KATAOKA



TOP: Mrs. Chico Taira (right) of Fresno was the producer-director of the musical interlude based on John Michener's "Sayonara" at the Convention Outing. She was presented a bouquet of red roses by Dr. Roy Nishikawa, Convention Board chairman. One scene from the colorful production is the MIDDLE photo, showing eight kimono-clad girls from Fresno dancing before some 800 picnickers who sat facing the blue Pacific underneath shady trees and palms. BOTTOM: Some of the pert and dashing outfits paraded at the Convention Fashion Show-Luncheon at the Statler are being worn by the Nisei models who posed for one finale shot. Negligee, pajama, swimsuits, afternoon frocks and suits to bridal array were featured. Mrs. Marianne Kimura was fashion show chairman.

—Photos by George Wahl

and CHARLES ASAWA, the editors of the Souvenir Booklet. Conventioners need only look over the booklet to realize the tremendous job done on this—one of the convention's largest projects.

Also deserving special credit are JOHN WATANABE, JIM HIGASHI, DAVE YOKOZEKI and FLORENCE WADA and TOM ITO who are rapidly becoming five of the most active and loyal JACLers in the Los Angeles area.

There were others who might be classified as "Staff" people yet who worked far beyond what compensation they re-

ceived. They include TATS KUSHIDA, who has been our Right Hand man, BLANCHE SHIOSAKI who was helpful in so many different ways.

KAYKO MATSUMOTO (as sweet as her name) the Convention Board's corresponding secretary, and MIN YASUI, who worked far into the night on news releases. It's a good thing that Min's wife is TRUE.

Still others include National President GEORGE INAGAKI, MIKE MASAOKA, MAS SA-TOW and TAD MASAOKA who contributed invaluable suggestions, advice and aid.

Others quietly but effectively working behind the scene were EDISON UNO, LUCILLE OKADA, HANA UNO, the Convention Board Secretary; HIROKO and SADAOKO KAWANAMI, FRANCES and MARY WAKAMATSU, YAEKO NAKASHI, MA, MARVEL MIYATA, MI DORI NISHI, and ANN SAKA-UYE.

There are so many more—as we warned PC Editor Harry Honda—once you get started on such a list—you wonder where you should stop. Yet this column must end some time and we regret that so many

Turn to Page 5



SCENE FROM THE GOLDEN GATE

# State Legislation

HARUO ISHIMARU

Last Friday, the California Federation for Civic Unity invited its members and representatives from various civil rights and minority group organizations to meet in San Francisco to consider a coordinated program in civil rights legislation in the state capitol for 1955.

Although the JACL will not engage in as active a state legislative program as they have in earlier postwar years, we are vitally concerned with California legislation. Not only is the bulk of our particular population found here, but historically California has been the battleground for state legislation, good, bad, or indifferent affecting Japanese Americans.

Before the war, any anti-Japanese bill was considered a "cinch" bill and there was little, if any, articulate and organized voice raised against even the most obviously discriminatory law. Even during the war years, from long distance, the JACL was involved in the struggle for fair play to prevent disenfranchisement of the Nisei and the protection of the future economic security and the right of the Issei to earn a living.

After the war, due to the brilliant wartime record of the Issei and the Nisei and their unquestionable loyalty to the United States, the California picture has been transformed. The JACL has maintained an active legislative program in this state and spearheading this work for our organization were SAM ISHIKAWA and JOE GRANT MASAOKA, formerly on our staff, and TATS KUSHIDA, our present Pacific Southwest Regional Director.

## Alien land law removal

In 1955, the JACL will be primarily interested in removing the Alien Land Law from the California Constitution. This has been the most vicious single state law aimed at the Japanese in California. It has already been declared unconstitutional in the California Supreme Court.

We will also attempt to alleviate the condition of some of the older Issei who are still ineligible for old age assistance and unfortunately, some of our Issei who need this benefit the most are too old and infirm to obtain their citizenship.

The JACL will work with other organizations relative to more general civil rights legislation.

## 1953 picture of state legislation

The 1953 regular California legislative session was most disheartening. Not a single civil rights bill was passed. Following is a brief review of some of the measures and their fate.

1. Employment—A number of bills were introduced generally known as Fair Employment Practice laws. The two receiving the greatest amount of attention were Assembly Bill 900 introduced primarily by Hawkins and Rumford and AB 2812 by Hawkins. The first would have established an FEP law with enforcement provisions similar to the New York State law whereas the latter was a compromise that would amend the Labor Code to prohibit discrimination in employment but without enforcement provisions. The former was defeated in the Committee on Governmental Efficiency and the latter on the Assembly floor.

2. Elliot and Collins introduced AB 332 to bar discrimination in real estate sales, outlaw restrictive covenants and providing damages. It died in the Judiciary Committee without a hearing.

3. To eliminate discrimination, segregation, and the quota system in schools, Rumford introduced AB 1831 that was killed in the Committee on Education.

4. AB 2059 and SB 780 introduced by Kilpatrick and Donnelly, respectively, which would have removed citizenship as a requirement for Old Age Assistance, were both defeated. The former was approved by the Committee on Social Welfare but was defeated by the Assembly Ways and Means (Finance) Committee. The companion Senate Bill died without a hearing.

5. Rumford introduced AB 965 which would have made it illegal for any insurer to refuse applications for liability policies, or to issue such policies under less favorable conditions, such as higher rates for reasons of race, creed, or color. It provided damages up to \$100 and/or one year suspension of license. This bill was killed in the Committee on Finance and Insurance.

6. Because of the reports of unfair treatment of minority group people by law enforcement officers, three remedial assembly bills were introduced. AB 654 introduced by Elliot and Kilpatrick would have required dismissal of police officers mistreating persons under arrest or in jail. Hawkins and Elliot attempted to establish commissions in cities of over 500,000 to act on complaints of misconduct by police officers. Both bills were killed in the Judiciary Committee. Kilpatrick introduced AB 2708 known as the Civil Peace Act which attempted to provide state aid for municipal group relations agencies, and training of police officers and educators. This was killed in the Committee on Government Organizations.

7. Finally and ironically AB 1452 which tried to create a Civil Rights Commission to study and report on need for civil rights legislation was killed in the Committee on Governmental efficiency.

## Discrimination should be fought

Defeat of all these bills does not prove that there is discrimination rampant in this great state nor does it mean that our state legislators were unanimously opposed to ameliorating legislation. Some decisions may have been dictated by budgetary or technical opinions. However, the very fact that such bills are deemed necessary by representatives of civil rights and minority groups indicates that there is considerable room for improvement even in our fair state.

More important, the fact that certain conditions exist imposes on the JACL, which is fundamentally concerned with problems affecting minority groups and civil rights, to maintain constant vigilance. Unfortunately we have not evolved socially and politically to the era of complete equality for all, regardless of color, race, or creed. It seems that it behooves the JACL to be engaged in the fight for freedom even when our own constituency is not directly involved.

## MAILBOX

### To the rescue

Editor: In behalf of the Fresno booster delegates and the girls, I wish to thank Messrs. Saburo Kido, Mike Masaoka, George Inagaki, Ed Ennis, Sim Togasaki and "Bee" Uyeda for the heartwarming gesture to reimburse the loss incurred at the Palos Verdes outing. The wallet was temporarily misplaced and later recovered. Also may I take this opportunity to thank the others who had kindly offered monetary assistance at the time. The outing was a memorable one in more ways than one. Thank you again.

CHICO TAIRA

Fresno.  
(What happened here was that someone lost a wallet containing \$35, which is quite a sum for a high school girl who had misplaced her wallet.—Editor.)

## Convention--

From Page 4  
must remain unmentioned.

### Others Go Unsung

Many of these have been covered in previous columns or have been included in the Souvenir Booklet. It is these hundreds of unsung convention committeemen and committeewomen who are the real heroes and heroines of the convention.

Just as it is the thousands of rank and file JACLers and not their National Officers who form the core of the JACL, so it is that the hundreds of committee workers formed the core of the convention and made it possible.

We hope that these good people will help us in the Los Angeles area to build a greater JACL than ever before.

Finally we hope that it is not improper to mention our good wife ALICE whose loyalty, understanding, patience and sympathy proved encouraging and heartening when it was needed the most.

Au revoir until '56. Salt Lake, New York, Seattle, Phoenix, do we hear your bids?

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## Over 100 high school, college-age Nisei organize Orange County group

Santa Ana

Well over 100 high school and college-age Nisei are members of the Orange County Japanese American Youth, an organization sponsored by the Orange County JACL, with aims "to carry on a social and cultural program of activities and service".

Slogan of the county-wide group is "For Better Americans in a Greater America", one of the two slogans of the Japanese American Citizens League.

Bill Marumoto of Santa Ana was elected as the first president of the O.C. JAYs. He is being assisted by:

Janet Fukuda (Anaheim), v.p.;

Agnes Morioka (Orange), sec.; Ben-ny Marumoto (Santa Ana), treas.; Suzie Ohara (Anaheim), soc. chmn.; Jane Masukawa (Fullerton), pub.; Jun Nishino (Garden Grove), ath.; Mary Okuda (Anaheim), hist.; Judy Kunizawa (Westminster), Jeanne Takido (Fullerton), Hiro Shinoda (Garden Grove), Helen Nakamura (Anaheim), Hiro Honda (Huntington Beach), membs.-at-lrg.

Marumoto is now sophomore class vice-president at Whittier College and is student-body yell leader. He was freshman class president last year, student body president at Santa Ana High, and is a sociology major.

Representing the O.C. JACL were:

Ken Uyesugi, Fred Mizusawa, Elden Kanegae and Jack Matsuda.

Art Takido of Fullerton was given a surprise farewell party, being presented a traveling bag prior to his induction into the armed services. Jun Nishino presided at the first organizational meeting.

## J.R. JACL

**Salt Lake City:** Hatsumi Mitsunaga gave a report on the National JACL Convention in Los Angeles last week in a brief business session at the YWCA. The fun-filled evening featured a box-lunch social.

**San Francisco:** A mixer was held Sept. 8 at Gyosei Hall to create membership interest. Serving on the steering committee were:

Helen Akashi, Helen Kodama, Mickey Kitagawa, Tad Asano, Tak Watanabe, Paul Adachi, June Uyeda, Adeline Miyama, Marian Ichimoto, Deo Ikeda, Barney Hata and Akira Watanabe.



## Thousand Club Notes

SHIG WAKAMATSU, Nat'l Chmn.

• **HOLLYWOOD:** Art Ito, proprietor of Flowerview Gardens, 5149 Los Feliz, recently returned from a Telegraph Delivery Association convention in Chicago, was official delegate for Hollywood chapter at the JACL convention Sept. 2-6, then sped south to the California State Florists Association convention in San Diego, Sept. 9-12. Art was the first Nisei to be invited as a guest designer at the San Diego display.

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## JACL PREPARED TO ASSIST NISEI GOLFERS GAIN USGA RECOGNITION

**Venice**  
The JACL is again prepared to aid another group of sports enthusiasts, the amateur Nisei golfers, it was announced this week by George Inagaki, national JACL president.

"The realm of sports should know no discrimination because of color," Inagaki stated upon reading a report that a national amateur golf association would not recognize Nisei golfers.

"The JACL went to bat for the Nisei bowlers several years and the full resources of our organization will be devoted to assist the Nisei golfers overcome discriminatory treatment," he said recalling the action spearheaded by the JACL in opening up the American Bowling Congress to Nisei.

### Sportswriter Exposes

In the Sept. 8 issue of the Los Angeles Mirror, Stan Woods exposed the story of the ban of Nisei golfers from tournaments sanctioned by the United States Golf Association.

Reaction among professional golfers was one of surprise and some assured Nisei golfers play-

ing Southern California links their assistance to breakdown the barrier.

Several members of the Top Notch club, one of seven Japanese American golf clubs in Los Angeles, told Woods that while the regulation handicap system, was employed, they couldn't get into USGA-sponsored tournaments "because we have no official handicaps".

### Rough On Good Men

"Since they won't be bothered with us, we don't bother them. We have our tournaments, give out prizes and even have inter-club matches," Woods was told.

"But this type of set-up makes it rough on a good golfer like Yoshizaki, a 2-handicapper," Woods quoted another Top Notch member. Yoshizaki, who toured the East and West courses at Fox Hills in 146 to win low gross at the JACL convention golf tournament, was told he could not enter the California State Amateur championships because he had no established handicap and not "because of any racial discrimination."

## 12 NISEI GRIDDERS ON HAWAII TRAVEL SQUAD

Honolulu

Univ. of Hawaii opened its 1954 season on a winning note two weeks with a 14-13 victory over the Prep All-Stars. Ed Kawawaki's 8 passes were good for 2. Don Imamoto sparked for the Rainbows, totting the ball 14 times for 93 yards, one good for a TD.

As usual, the Univ. of Hawaii football team is loaded with Nisei players. They meet Arizona State Sept. 18 and Fresno State Sept. 25, returning home Sept. 28.

Nisei players named for the mainland junket include:

Ed Toma, James Shizuru, centers; Henry Ariyoshi, Gilbert Kaneshiro, guards; Charles Araki, Mamoru Oka, Karl Tashimia, tackles; Richard Ueoka, end; Ed Kawawaki, Fred Nagata, quarterbacks; Don Imamoto, Ralph Hazama, halfbacks.

## Seattle plans for '57 national JACL keg meet

Seattle

Fred Takagi, member of the National JACL Bowling Committee, disclosed the 1957 National JACL Bowling tournament would be held either at the Ideal or Seattle Recreation bowling here.

## Chicago corner-

From Front Page

These organizations need the support of every individual in their communities if they are to succeed . . . which means Nisei living in these areas, especially those with homes or property.

However, the problem of conservation of "middle-aged" neighborhoods like Woodlawn and Hyde Park are inextricably wound up with national and local policies on housing.

There can be no guarantee of a decent or stable community anywhere in Chicago, unless housing units for both lower and middle income groups are increased substantially, and unless people are free to move in any locality of their choice.

Nisei hitherto apathetic of situations like Trumbull Parks (a public housing project where mob demonstrations against a small number of Negro tenants has been continuing for over a year) are beginning to see that they are affected by discrimination against Negroes . . . whether it be in the form of restrictive covenants in the suburbs, or in the continued confinement of Negroes in a ghetto adjacent to and expanding into areas of Nisei residency.

## THE SOU'WESTER

# An Unsung Hero

TATS KUSHIDA

One of the unsung heroes of the 13th Biennial Convention is KEN DYO, at whom this column has taken an occasional dig knowing his ability to absorb a little horseplay verbiage.

As taskmaster of the budget and finance committee, he has made every committee chairman toe the line in submitting and adhering to an approved budget. He has instituted a voucher plan by which no disbursement is made unless and until a voucher in duplicate is signed by the event chairman and by the B & F committee.

He's been tough, and he has to be on matters of finance for the scope of this convention. If he hadn't laid down the law, the winding up of the convention books would be interminable and slipshod. Being the agreeable sort of guy that he is, we know it's disagreeable for him to have to be almost tyrannical about procedures but in his shoes, we'd have to stick by the book, too.

Ken ("Don't call me Ben"), to quote from a song dedicated to him by TOKUZO GORDON at the 1000 Club wingding, has a pretty terrific committee of like-minded hardboiled financiers who kept the confab's pecuniary gears greased. They include such JACL stalwarts as KEN UTSUNOMIYA, SAM FURUTA, AKIRA HASEGAWA, KIMI FUKUTAKI, GRACE SATO, TED OKUMOTO, TOM ITO, JIRO OISHI, HARRIS OZAWA and a flock of others, mostly Pasadenans.

The flock: JOE S. YAMAMOTO, JULIE SUGITA, RUTH FUJITA, MARIAN SHINGU, MIHO TAKIZAWA, YUKI SHIDA, YOSHIKO YOSHIDA, FUKUYE TAKEDA, JUNE OTANI, NANCY GUSHIKEN.

As a JACler, Ken is PSWDC chairman. A landscape contractor by trade, he has succeeded equally well at propagating the species *homo sapiens* with three to show for his efforts. His wife MIKKO is still in a plaster cast from that spine-tingling accident but at least able to get about a bit.

His sister, Mrs. KO KANEKO, is one of the leading Nisei fashion designers who's just returned from Japan where she did a stint at fashion coordinating. Husband SHO is art director for a large agency. To be pungent, the team of Sho-Ko needs no introduction.

## 1000er from Nampa

We were happy to meet SEICHI HAYASHIDA and deliver the Ichi Doru car to him last Tuesday. He flew in from Nampa, Idaho, where he is a farmer of no small scale, a hundred acres in vegetables and sugar beets bringing him his livelihood. He is a Seattle evacuee. What tickled us is the fact that he is not only a 1000 Club member, but a past president of the Boise Valley JACL.

What's more, he had purchased two books of I-D tickets, one of which hit home, and had himself disposed of a good many. There couldn't have been a more deserving guy for the prize. A WW2 vet, he has a 11-year-old son who with his dad are in the Scouts. When the gods of chance bless a good JACler, we like to crow about it.

## Costa Rican coffee for Chuman

"The coffee they serve in Costa Rica is something fierce," JACL legal counsel FRANK CHUMAN reported to the Sou'wester upon his return from a business trip this week. "You crink it with a fork, it's so strong!" he explained, gesticulating and giving with sound effects like the third echo of a burp.

On his return flight, he was glad to be served a normal-looking cup of coffee aboard the Pan-Am ship and proceeded to put the usual cream and sugar into it. After the first gulp, he found he had been served a brownish broth rather than coffee.

We hope Frankie Boy will finally get an honest cupajava from wife Ruby when he gets home. Frankly (no pun intended), we don't believe JACL gourmands like HARUO "Roundrobin" ISHIMARU would make such a mistake—between capon and roast hen, maybe; but coffee and soup, never! But then Frank's svelte figure speaks in silent tribute to his disinterest in victuals. Some people are happy that way.

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# Los Angeles Newsletter

HENRY MORI

★ Physical scars of war remain permanently with soldiers fortunate enough to come out of it alive but who suffer wounds born from bullets and shrapnel of a terrible battle.

A Nipponese Army veteran who fought against the United States over terrains of New Guinea was a weekend visitor here. He had lost his leg. He is a disabled veteran.

Ex-Major Fukuzo Yasui, once our enemy, is chief representative of the Japanese Disabled Veterans Association with headquarters in Tokyo. He had been invited to participate in the recent national convention of the Disabled American Veterans in Miami.

On his way home, he stopped in Southern California to relate his experiences for the first time to Japanese in the United States. He said there were approximately 350,000 disabled Nippon vets today, of whom 50,000 are in dire need of financial aid.

But the plus-40-year-old ex-officer of the Imperial Army was not seeking alms. His mission was to deliver messages of goodwill from the former Lt. Gen. Atsushi Kaba, now national commander of the JDVA, and another from ex-Adm. Kichisaburo Nomura, who was ambassador to U.S. at the time of Pearl Harbor.

Yasui quoted Nomura's text which sought the early release of 277 war criminals confined at Sugamo Prison. "We believe the time has come to review this problem. In the changing world situation, especially in the Orient, Japan remains as one of the free nations against Communism."

Yasui's audience in Miami and later in Washington where the American Legion held its national conclave listened with sympathetic ear. In true humanitarian spirit they told him they were willing to help the disabled but apparently Yasui refused.

★ The Japanese Trojan Alumnae have started a scholarship project by which the organization will present a \$100 grant each year to some worthy woman student entering USC. The initial recipient was Irene Wakamatsu, a pre-dental major.

★ Southland music lovers had their first glimpse of Kenji Kobayashi, a Julliard scholarship student, who made his debut Sunday at a Union Church violin recital.

Kobayashi appeared last year as guest musician at the formal banquet honoring Japan's Prince Akihito in New York City under sponsorship of the Japan Society. He is from Tokyo and only 21 years old.

★ Dr. George K. Kambara, eye specialist and assistant professor of ophthalmology at the College of Medical Evangelists, is now in New York attending the International Congress of Ophthalmology. The meeting is the first in the western hemisphere since 1876. Doctors from all over the world, including several from Japan, gather to discuss the recent advances in the field. Dr. Kambara is a full member of the society.

★ Solemn requiem mass was celebrated Saturday at Maryknoll Church for the late Bishop Albert Breton who passed away at Kamakura, Japan, on Aug. 12. Angelinos remember him as the priest who established several Japanese Catholic institutions here before the war.

★ One way to bang into a hook and ladder fire truck is to play your car radio very loudly. That's what happened Sunday night at Eighth and Figueroa Sts., where a car driven by Hyoji Nomura, 5842 Camerford St., collided with the fire wagon and then thrown against another automobile driven by Kiyoshi Muraoka of Torrance. Nomura told police he didn't hear the siren.

## VITAL STATISTICS

### Births

#### LOS ANGELES

ARAKI—July 23, a girl Vickie Mae-gumi to the Kiyoto Arakis (Youko Noritake).  
BROSE—July 25, a boy John Julius to the Junius J. Broses (Kazuko Mitsuda), Lakewood.  
CALDWELL—Aug. 21, a boy Stephen Paul to the Willis J. Caldwells (Kay K. Okuta), Reseda.  
DOBASHI—July 23, a boy Kirk Shime to the Masao Dobashis (Shizue Nishijima).  
ENDO—Aug. 9, a girl Diane Keiko to the Joe Iwao Endos (Fusae Nakamura).  
GODA—July 30, a boy Ben to the Ben Tsumotom Godas (Mary Settsuko Akamatsu).  
GOMEZ—July 5, a boy Michael to the Ricardo Gomezes (Setsuko Alaya).  
HAYASHI—July 22, a boy William Gary to the Bill Haruo Hayashis (Haruko Kido).  
HAZAMA—Aug. 13, a girl Diane Masaye to the Isamu Hazamas (Emiko Yoshiwara).  
HUNT—Aug. 11, a girl Jean Charlotte to the Edwin M. Hunts (Chizuko Fukuda), Venice.  
IMAMURA—July 24, a boy Wesley Shigeto to the Tadao Imamuras (Sachiko Yamaguchi).  
INASE—July 20, a girl Karen Lynn to the Roy J. Inases (Yukie Ariyoshi).  
ISHIBASHI—Aug. 4, a girl Joan Chiaki to the Akira Ishibashis (Mary Matsui).  
ISHIDA—Aug. 4, a boy Dunn Ryo to the Toyoaki Ishidas (Masayo Chida).  
JOHNSON—Aug. 3, a boy Eric K. to the Frank J. Johnsons (Taeko Uemura), Inglewood.  
KISHITA—July 12, a boy Bobbie Kazuo to the Robert Kishitas (Florence Terada).  
KIZUKA—Aug. 11, a boy Gary Isamu to the Isamu Kizukas (Fujiko Nakamura), Long Beach.  
KOSHA—Aug. 11, a boy Steven Shigeni to the Shigeru Koshas (Michiko Hanaoka).  
KURUSHIMA—Aug. 8, a girl to the Masato E. Kurushimas (Mary M. Yamashita).  
LUGO—Aug. 14, a girl Elena Amy to the Edward Arnold Lugos (Miyeko Imamura).  
MARTIN—Aug. 10, a boy Brian Scott to the Leon Martins (Mary Ishii).  
MATSUNAGA—Aug. 5, a boy Keith Evan to the Hideo Arthur Matsunagas (Yuriko Yamazaki).  
MATSUOKA—July 19, a girl Joyce to the Iwao Matsuokas (Yoshie Kurokawa).  
MINOBE—Aug. 1, a girl Denise to the Kenzo Minobes (Masa Take-moto).  
MIO—Sept. 4, a boy Jeffrey Scott to the George Mios (Ruby Tashima), Long Beach.  
MIYAMOTO—Aug. 7, a boy Kent Hisao to the Henry Tadaaki Miyamotos (Laura Namiye Yoshimoto).  
MOMI—Aug. 4, a boy Randall Richard to the Rikito R. Momis (Yasu Koyamatsu).  
NAGANO—Sept. 14, a boy Ronald Osami to the George M. Naganos (Yasuko Nishiguchi), Gardena.  
NAKASUGA—July 15, a boy Zino Masato to the Ichiro Nakasugas (Mitsue Yonekura).  
ODA—Aug. 11, a girl Irene Keiko to the Masami Odas (Tomie Akagi).  
OMATSU—July 19, a boy Robert Kay to the Oliver G. Omatsus (Amy Hidaka).  
OTA—Aug. 7, a boy Dennis Aki to the Jack Y. Otas (Tokie Takemoto).  
SASUGA—July 9, a boy David Giovanni to the John Sasugas (Alicia Martinez).  
SATO—Aug. 1, a girl Christine Mary to the Thomas Y. Satos (Rosemary S. Tanaka).  
SATO—Aug. 2, a girl Patricia Gwen to the Edward Y. Satos (Dorothy M. Miyadi).  
SHIBATA—Aug. 8, a girl Irene Noriko to the Shoji Stephen Shibatas (Michiye Florence Endow).  
SOLOMON—July 27, a boy Randy James to the Jerry Pat Solomons (Kiyoe Akita), North Hollywood.  
SUMI—July 21, a girl Lucy Hiroko to the Sachio Sumis (Sachine Ryo).  
TAKAKI—Aug. 5, a boy Frank Hide-nori to the Kenny K. Takakis (Saeko Iketani).  
TAKIGAWA—Aug. 9, a boy Michael Ken to the William Takigawas (Assayo Tomosada).  
TATSUMI—Aug. 2, a boy Hideo David to the Masao Tatsumis (Yoshiko Kishi).  
TERAOKA—Aug. 11, a boy Randolph to the Kazuo Teraokas (Kiyoko Okura).  
TERASAWA—Aug. 9, a boy Theodore Stephen to the Toshikazu Terasawas (Suzie Sakata).  
TSUTSUI—Aug. 17, a boy Phillip Masaru to the Walter S. Tsutsuis (Eba Yamashita).  
UMEMOTO—Aug. 1 & 2, twin boys Martin Taro and Danny Jiro to the Kazuo Umemotos (Mitsuko Mitsui).  
WATANABE—Aug. 13, a boy Michael to the Kenji K. Watanabe (Ruby Sachiko Kikuta).  
YAMAHIRO—Aug. 12, a girl Bonnie Noriko to the Norimasu N. Yamamotos (Masako Nakajo).  
YANO—Aug. 9, a girl Sandra Lynn to the Ted Yanos (Yoneko Asano).  
YOSHIDA—Aug. 11, a girl Linda Take to the Roy Nobuo Yoshidas (Tomoko Shiramatsu).  
YOSHIMI—July 19, a boy Gary Tadao to the Sadao Yoshimis (Masaye Nagai).

#### FRESNO

MIYAMOTO—Aug. 27, a boy to the Masao Miyamotos, Dinuba.  
SHITANISHI—July 29, a boy to the Toyomi Shitanishis, Sanger.  
TANIGUCHI—July 31, a boy to the Robert Taniguchis.  
YAMADA—July 31, a boy to the Saburo Yamadas.  
YOKOTA—July 29, a boy to the Shigeo Yokotas, Reedley.

#### SACRAMENTO

KONISHI—Aug. 4, a girl to the Yoshiehi Konishis.  
ITO—Aug. 18, a boy to the Bob H. Ito.  
YAMAMOTO—Aug. 19, a boy to the Tom Yamamotos, Winters.

#### STOCKTON

ISOZAKI—Aug. 22, a girl Shirley to the Sam Isozakis (Atsuko Murata).

#### ONTARIO, ORE.

KAMIMAE—Aug. 31, a boy to the Tom Kamimaes.

KORA—Sept. 1, a boy to the Masa Koras, Parma, Idaho.  
SADAMORI—Aug. 19, a girl to the George Sadamoris, Nyssa.  
SHIMOJIMA—Sept. 7, a girl to the Connie Shimojimas.  
YAGUCHI—Sept. 2, a girl to the Kenji Yaguchis.

#### IDAHO

MIYOSHI—Sept. 5, a boy to the Fred Miyoshis, Nampa.  
YOSHIDA—Sept. 8, a boy to the Takeo Yoshidas, Nampa.

#### SALT LAKE CITY

INOUE—Sept. 5, a girl to the Tom Inouyes.  
MIYA—Aug. 28, a boy to the Kazuo Miyas, Layton.  
SHINO—July 5, a girl to the Ralph N. Shinos.

#### SEATTLE

HIRANO—Aug. 26, a girl to the Yutaka Hiranos (Iku Tachibana).  
ISHINO—Aug. 22, a boy Eric Lindsay to the Roy Ishinos, Seattle.  
MATSUMOTO—Aug. 30, a girl Eileen Jean to the Jim Matsumotos (Anna Yamashita), Vashon Island.  
NOBUYAMA—Aug. 17, a boy to the James Nobuyamas, Renton.  
SAIKA—Aug. 18, a boy to the Sam Saikas.  
SATO—Aug. 28, a girl Sanae to the Fred Satos.

#### MINNESOTA

SAIKI—Aug. 18, a girl Hope Mene to the Ty Saikis, Mankato.

### Engagements

ARIMA-SAKUMA—Grace, Weiser, Idaho, to Satoru, Mt. Vernon, Wash., Aug. 29.  
EZAKI-HASEBE — Masuyo, San Francisco, to Yoshio, Dinuba, Aug. 28.  
HARUTA-TAKAGI—Yukiye to Kiyoshi, both of Chicago, Aug. 22.  
HIDEKAWA-IKEDA—Hoshiko, San Francisco, to Jack, Los Angeles, Aug. 7.  
KAWASAKI-OKAWARA — Maki, Tacoma, to Tom, Fresno, Aug. 15.  
KIYONO-MAYENO—Mary to Jim, both of Seattle.  
KUGE-YOSHIMURA — Sally and Mas, both of Denver, Sept. 2.  
TANAKA-MAYEDA—Chizuko, Parlier, to Harry, Berkeley, Aug. 28.

### Marriage Licenses Issued

HARUNAGA-OTA—Toshio, 29, Aiko, 24, both of Salt Lake City. Sandy, and Frances, 21, Salt Lake City.  
HORITA-HAYASHI—Akira, 25, and Lillian, 24, both of Seattle.  
IWASAKI-TANIGUCHI—Minoru, 31, Salt Lake, and Sumiko, 28, Bingham.  
ONODERA-KITASHIMA — Herbert H., Brighton, Colo., and Miye, Denver.  
SADA-OUCHIDA—Morito and Tamaye, both of San Francisco.

### Weddings

ANDERSON-TAKEMURA—Aug. 21, Arthur, Redmond, and Mari, Seattle.  
FUKEI-HARPER — May 1, Budd, Seattle, and Gladys Arlene, Vermillion, Kan.  
HISAYASU-TANABE — Aug. 8, Frank, Spokane, and Chiyeko, Tacoma.  
KOIDE-SEKIGUCHI—Sept. 5, James and Mariko, both of Berkeley.  
MARUYAMA-WADA—Aug. 16, John and Patsy, both of Watsonville.  
MANO-YOSHIOKA—Sept. 12, Tosh and Tomi, both of Seattle.  
NAKAMURA-SHINDO—Susumu and Motoye, both of Chicago.  
NANAMURA-ICHINAGA—Sept. 5, James, Lindsay, and Alice, Tulare.  
OKAMURA-ISHIKAWA—Shuji and Teruko, both of Chicago.  
ODA-SEIKE—Sept. 3, John and Ruth, both of Seattle.  
TAKAHASHI-OKANO — Aug. 21, Frank and Toshiko, both of Seattle.  
SHIGENO-MORISHITA — Aug. 20, Harry A. and Nancie, both of Ontario, Ore.  
VAN BEBER-INATSU — Eugene and Toshi, both of Kirkland, Wash.  
YAMADA-INUGAI—Sept. 4, Toyoko and Masaki, both of Chicago.  
YAMAMOTO-NAKANO — Aug. 29, Ken and June, both of Seattle.

### Deaths

AKIYAMA, Wahei: Los Angeles, Aug. 16.  
CHIBA, Santaro: Fresno, Sept. 23.  
FUJIOKA, Genpachi: Fresno, Sept. 4.  
HIRATA, Niichino: Spokane, Aug. 25.  
IKEDA, George I: Bonners Ferry, Idaho, (funeral Sept. 11), survived by wife Haruko, son John, daughters Mrs. Clayton R. Kjos, Mrs. Jean Bitow; Mrs. Lucille Briggs.  
ISHIKURI, Torataro, 76: Salt Lake City, Sept. 4, survived by son Yoshio and daughter Mrs. Nobuko Tsuboi (Portland).  
KUNIKIYO, Wilfred Y., 29: Oxnard, Aug. 20 (traffic accident), survived by parents in Honolulu.  
MASUMOTO, Mrs. Rie, 73: Seattle, Aug. 16.  
MURAKAMI, Toraki, 76: Pocatello, Idaho, Sept. 8, survived by wife Yano, son Shozo (Pasadena), daughters Mrs. Michiko Morimoto, Mrs. Yaeko Sumida, Mrs. Yoshito Murakami (Japan).  
NAKASHIMA, Usutaro, 75: Seattle, Sept. 4, survived by wife Tsuruno, sons Kazuo, Hiroshi, daughters Mrs. Toshiko Yorioka, and Mrs. Minnie Hasegawa.  
OKUTSU, (Infant): Salt Lake City, Aug. 21, survived by parents Mr. and Mrs. Bill Okutsu.  
SHIMURA, Jiro, 73: Seattle (formerly of Spokane), survived by son Kuniji (Moses Lake).  
YOKOTA, Shigeki, 51: Sanger, Sept. 6, survived by wife Satoyo, sons Hideaki, Takao, daughters Toshiye and Tomiko.

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For use in the forthcoming Oct. 1-10 Fresno District Fair, Herbert Feaver, longtime Fowler farmer, presents a box of Le Grand nectarines to Seta Kikuta, chairman of the Fowler community booth. The agricultural display is being co-sponsored by the Fowler JACL and Fowler Chamber of Commerce.

—Cut Courtesy Fowler Ensign.

## Fowler CL, chamber of commerce push community display for Fresno Fair

One of the most ambitious harvests of fruits has been underway here during the past weeks for a community display of its agricultural products at the Oct. 1-10 Fresno District Fair.

Setsu Kikuta, chairman of the Fowler community booth, has selected his committee-men. It is the first time the community of Fowler is entering class Aye competition. The display is being co-sponsored by the Fowler JACL and Fowler Chamber of Commerce. After a lapse of four years, the JACL chapter is re-enter-

ing fair competition with a display believed to be the finest assembled by any local organization.

Kikuta is being assisted by: Joe Yokomi, Frank Teraoka, Mas Tsuboi, Ichi Takeno, Tom Nakamura, Kiyoshi Taniguchi, James Morishige, Kaz Hiyama, George Nakayama, Tak Masumoto, Frank Sakohira, Joe Yoshimura, Chuck Ideta, fruit display; George Shimoda, Clara, decorations.

Grapes and vegetables will be gathered a few weeks prior to the Fresno District fair, it was stated. Already gathered and kept in cold storage are several varieties of peaches, nectarines and plums.

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## EDITORIALS

## November Elections

Monday's gubernatorial upset in the state of Maine where a young Democrat was elected governor for the first time in 20 years over the Republican incumbent sparked the weeks that lie ahead until the November general elections.

It focused another aspect of the Americanization program among our Issei parents, now privileged to become American citizens, to register and vote.

In the past years, emphasis has been placed on the right of naturalization. With the passage of the McCarran-Walter Act in 1952, Issei have been flocking in unanticipated numbers to the naturalization offices, filing their petitions, passing their examinations and being called before a judge to be sworn in as new citizens.

More recently, local campaigns have started to register as many of them as voters. Their presence in our midst has added stature to the status of Japanese American electorate in this country.

It may be that the deadline for registering new voters has passed in many of the states for this coming November general election. However, we believe the national interest in the off-year elections this year can stimulate our newly-sworn in citizens to be ready when the registration of voters reopens.

## USGA Ban on Nisei

It came as a mild shock among some members of the golfing fraternity to learn Nisei golfers were banned from tournaments requiring handicaps recognized by the United States Golf Association—the national amateur organization for golfers. Even the Professional Golfers Association has admitted Japanese Americans.

Recalling the work done by the Japanese American Citizens League several years ago to break down the color line with the American Bowling Congress, George Inagaki (about a 12-handicap golfer himself) announced the JACL is lending its offices to open up the USGA. With help already mustered from the local press and some golf pros, the prospect of top-notch Nisei golfers vying in statewide or national amateur tournaments looks bright.

In the realm of sports, such arbitrary bans as the slant of eyes or color of skin denies the fundamental spirit of sportsdom—competition and sportsmanship.

## FROM THE FRYING PAN

by Bill Hosokawa

## Wears Fame Gracefully

Denver

I see by the papers that Hershey Miyamura, ex-sergeant and war hero, and personable young man of Gallup, N.M., has been named Nisei of the Biennium. That's mighty fine. Don't know who the judges are, or how they go about selecting the person to receive the honors, but they couldn't have picked a more deserving individual.

Hershey joins exceptional company in becoming the Nisei of the current Biennium. Or perhaps it would be better put the other way around: Past Nisei of the Biennium welcome a young man of unusual qualifications into their number. Two years ago it was Minoru Yasui, Denver attorney, who was named by the JACL. Four years ago Mike Masaoka, Mr. JACL himself, was honored. In both instances it was recognition that was long overdue.

I can't help but be impressed by the contrast between Miyamura, on the one hand, and Masaoka and Yasui on the other. Miyamura is shy, quiet, retiring. He dislikes being in the public eye. Every public appearance is an ordeal; when he is required to speak the words come sincerely but haltingly.

Masaoka and Yasui are articulate, fluent, like nothing better than standing up before a group—any group—to express their opinions. They like to mix. They enjoy having the spotlight focused on them.

Yet all three have one thing in common—a complete selflessness where the cause of Nisei and Issei welfare is concerned. Over the years Masaoka and Yasui have made enormous personal sacrifices to serve their organization and their people. As for Miyamura, he would have preferred to drop out of the limelight in his home town of Gallup. But he put his personal wishes aside to travel the length and breadth of the country for appearances. Since he returned home a hero of the Korean war, his life hasn't been his own.

If you were to sit down and think about it, you'd soon see that there couldn't have been any contest in selecting Miyamura as the Nisei of the Biennium. Regardless of the qualifications of the other candidates—and they were impressive indeed—the record of Miyamura's accomplishments couldn't be surpassed at this stage of Nisei development.

He had won the Medal of Honor for extreme heroism in combat in Korea. Thus he joined a small and exclusive group of American military heroes, not only of the Korean war, but of history. Only one other Nisei had been so honored, and he had won his medal in death.

Miyamura had also been named one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men—not among the Nisei, but of the entire United States—by the Junior Chamber of Commerce. This put Miyamura in a position comparable to the girl who wins the Miss America contest and then goes home to compete for queen of the Podunk county fair, rodeo and fat cattle show. Several of the local beauties might be real lulus, but no one would see them because everybody's eyes and whistles would be for the girl who'd been a winner up in the big time.

It's altogether conceivable that in future years no one Nisei would enter the competition as such a complete standout. At that time it might be wiser to forget about a Nisei of the Biennium and distribute three or five or seven recognition awards in a variety of special fields.

As for Hershey, the honors couldn't go to a nicer guy. He was just a small town boy when the army sent him off to Korea. And he was just another G.I. when he returned to the land of free men, and fame, from a Communist prisoner of war camp. He wears his laurels gracefully. I don't think fame will ever change him for the worse.

## VAGARIES

By Larry Tajiri

## Movie Fame Growing

Denver

A long time ago—when we were newspapering in Los Angeles—there was a little motion picture house in Li'l Tokio called the Fuji. It was small, the acoustics were bad and the seats were hard. The Fuji's patrons were mostly Issei or Kibei, since it had Japanese pictures almost exclusively, and there were no English sub-titles.

The Japanese movie, in those days before Pearl Harbor, was an amalgamation of mediocrity. The film stock was cheap, the lighting was bad and the sound often scratched. Japanese films were ground out in a hurry for an almost completely domestic audience, with no thought given to the export market, except for the Japanese-language audience in East Asia, Hawaii, the Pacific Coast, and in Peru and Brazil. In the 1930s the Japanese produced annually as many films or more as did Hollywood, but the Nipponese filmmaker had no impact internationally. Even at home, the Japanese audience preferred the Hollywood film over the home-grown product from the shoe-string studios in and around Tokyo.

With only the Japanese market to serve, producers and distributors were interested mainly in rapid turnover and a quick profit. Pictures were made at a fraction of the cost of a Hollywood feature. The films themselves seem to fall into two main classifications—turgid dramas of family life and domestic crises, and the noisy *chambara*, or Samurai on horseback films, the Tokyo equivalent to the Hollywood horse opera.

All that has changed, of course, particularly since Akira Kurosawa's classic *Rashomon*, a cinematic morality play set in 12th century Japan which won the grand prize at the Venice film festival and was accorded Hollywood's Oscar as the outstanding foreign film of 1952. *Rashomon* was produced by Tokyo's Daiei studio whose president, Masachi Nagata, gave Kurosawa artistic leeway and supplied enough yen to produce a picture which will be remembered for many years to come. (When we were in Cuernavaca, Mexico, for instance, in the fall of 1952, *Rashomon* was playing at the city's main movie house).

*Rashomon*, transcribed from the novel, *In the Forest* whose young author died a suicide, originally had a downbeat ending. But the film version was rewritten to provide an expression of hope for man's future. *Rashomon* had an amazing success in these United States. It ran 23 weeks at the Little Carnegie in New York and months at art theaters in other metropolitan centers. It was booked for regular circuits by RKO and was shown in all parts of the country, grossing more than \$500,000.

The success of *Rashomon* impelled Nagata to invest large sums in other Daiei productions. The results have proved that *Rashomon* was not a flash in the cinematic pan. The mantle in Nagata's Tokyo office is lined with international film awards. In 1953, Daiei was co-winner of the grand prize in Venice with *Ugetsu Monogatari*, the stylized retelling of an old Japanese legend about a pottery maker

and a peasant farmer who looked upon the incessant warfare of the 16th century in which they are living as an opportunity to become rich. The potter sells his product at inflated prices; the farmer become a soldier. Each gains his wish, but learns also that wealth so acquired is not worth the cost.

Unlike the modest opening of *Rashomon* in New York in December, 1952, *Ugetsu* was screened for a first-night audience last week in New York's plush Plaza theater with fanfare, arc lights and full-fledged celebrities in attendance. The Japanese ambassador, Sadao Iguchi, was on hand and made a speech in which he said that "recognition by one people of the attainments of another can bring a new measure of international understanding . . . can bring new heart, new creativeness, new vitality and new sense of respect and affection to all of us."

New York critics, who turned handsprings for *Rashomon*, were mixed in their reaction to *Ugetsu*. *The Times* thought it had "an eerie charm" but said "it will be hard for American audiences to comprehend." *The Herald-Tribune* added that "nervous westerners won't find *Ugetsu* their dish of Japanese tea unless they're willing to sip slowly." *The Daily News* also noted the film's leisurely pace but applauded it as "an intensely interesting exhibit and one to be seen by discriminating filmgoers."

Two other Daiei films, also prizewinners, are being prepared for American premieres. One is *Jigokumon* (Gate of Hell), the winner of the recent Cannes international film festival and a story with a historical setting in the same period as *Rashomon*. The other is *Konjiki Yasha* (Golden Demon), grand prize winner of the East Asia film festival held recently in Tokyo. Americans who have seen *Konjiki Yasha* have predicted that this story of unrequited love in 19th century Japan will equal the success of *Rashomon* in America.

During the past week Japanese filmmakers received new honors. At the 1954 Venice festival two Japanese entries, *Samurai* and *Functionary Sansho*, tied with the American *On the Waterfront* and the Italian *La Strada* for the second-place Silver Lion award. The top Golden Lion prize went to *Romeo and Juliet*, a joint British-Italian production.

Now we don't know what kind of business the Fuji theater did in downtown Los Angeles during those years before Pearl Harbor, but it couldn't have been too good. The audience was limited and the place, as we recall it, didn't even have a popcorn machine.

If it were still in business today, last we heard—and that was some time ago—it's name had been changed to the Linda Lea, the Fuji could count on a far wider audience for its Japanese films. The Japanese motion picture is better than it ever was. Good Japanese films, like *Rashomon* and *Ugetsu*, have imagination and artistic integrity, two qualities which were lacking in the pre-Pearl Harbor produce. The big reason we can see for change, is that defeat in World War II has unshackled the Japanese film artist from the super-

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## DECADE AGO

Sept. 16, 1944

Nisei to be employed at Army Ordnance depots; Tooele and Sioux depots to use first group.

30,000 evacuees leave WRA centers, present relocation rate of 400 each week reported.

Col. Pence, 442nd Infantry commander, praises conduct of Japanese American unit during their baptism of fire on Fifth Army front in Italy; have never taken backward steps.

Esther Takei of Granada Center receives special permission to return to evacuated area to study at Pasadena Jr. College; first Nisei not in special category to return to West Coast.

Five new injunction suits filed by ACLU against Army policy of exclusion from West Coast; Dr. George Ochikubo (of Oakland) given hearing by Army board on right of loyal Nisei to return to evacuated area.

Supreme Court Justice Murphy addresses public mass meeting, hits intolerance against U.S. Nisei.

Japanese American patrols first to reach city of Pisa.

No AWOLs reported among Japanese American soldiers with Fifth Army, good discipline and morale cited.

## MINORITY

Dallas

St. Paul's Hospital, operated by the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, has become the first white Dallas hospital to open its doors to Negro doctors. Five Negro doctors were admitted in the first group.

New York

The American Jewish Congress and the N.A.A.C.P. published the following list of advances toward interracial justice during 1953:

- ✓ Drops in violence rates (fewer lawless assaults).
- ✓ Continuation of trend toward opening of the ballots to southern Negroes.
- ✓ Elimination of racial segregation in the nation's armed forces.
- ✓ Continuing evidence of increased job opportunity.
- ✓ Passage of the desegregation law in public schools.
- ✓ Passage of the anti-bias laws in the area of "places of public accommodation".
- ✓ Use of Negroes on athletic teams in the South.

nationalism of the days when the warlords rattled their sabers in Tokyo. The surrender which was signed on the deck of the Missouri has given a measure of freedom in technique and ideas until now unattainable for the Japanese artist—whether in films, or in other related fields.

The demilitarized Japanese are winning a degree of respect internationally which they could never gain by force of arms.