

From the Frying Pan

By Bill Hosokawa

Denver, Colo.

BAKER'S DOZEN — For about as long as anyone can remember, there have been Konishis around Plattville, a little farming community north of Denver. A steady stream of Konishi children went through the Plattville schools and moved on to make their mark in the world. The latest to win recognition is Alan Konishi, the 11th of 13 children born to Mr. and Mrs. George H. Konishi, who was nominated recently to the Air Force Academy by Senator John A. Carroll (D) of Colorado.

The story of the remarkable Konishi family was reported recently in the weekly Plattville Herald, and Senator Carroll had the story inserted into the Congressional Record a few weeks ago as a tribute to them. The story is too long to reprint here, but we'd like to relay to you a bit about this family. (We shall carry it in full next week. — Ed.)

George Konishi, according to the Herald, came to Colorado from Japan with his father in 1910 as a boy of eight. George had two years of school in Japan, managed two more in Colorado before having to go to work. The education he received strengthened his determination to give his children all the schooling they could absorb. This is what his offspring have accomplished to date.

Lena Konishi Mori of Iliif, Colo., now a housewife, who grew up a chance to go to college in order to take care of her younger brothers and sisters.

Martha Konishi Nishimoto of Denver, studied to be a technician.

Dr. Ben Konishi of Alamosa, Colo., veterinarian.

Harry Konishi, veteran of fighting in Italy in World War II, with Douglas aircraft in Southern California.

Dr. Frank Konishi, at the University of Illinois.

Gilbert Konishi, teaching at the Canadian Christian school in Koebe, Japan.

Ruby Konishi, registered nurse at a Denver hospital.

Charlotte Konishi, airlines stewardess.

Catherine Konishi Sakurada, Lyman, Neb., a former school teacher.

Robert Konishi, veterinary student at Colorado State University.

Alban Konishi, now a high school senior.

Alvin Konishi, high school sophomore.

Linda Konishi, eighth grader.

NEIGHBORS — The Plattville Herald story observed that "The Nisels have assimilated in this community as best door neighbors" with all the happy connotations that term implies. . . Our Nisels friends, with their Far Eastern ancestry, have become a vital, integral, enterprising part of our European-American western culture, yet have retained those qualities of ambition, self-discipline, patience and respect that produce dignified, unpretentious, conscientious leaders of men. Konishi and company have proved that East and West can meet — and it's a winning combination."

ASSETS — Said Senator Carroll in asking that the article be inserted in the Congressional Record: "This article tells a great deal about what America is, and what she has meant to millions of immigrants and their families. Among other things, it pays well deserved tribute to a wonderful group of Americans, those of Japanese descent, who practically without exception have made themselves tremendous assets to our state and nation."

The really remarkable part of the Konishi story is that his family while outstanding is not unique in terms of bootstraps accomplishment. In virtually every part of the country we can find Japanese American families of humble origins who are the sacrifice of parents and the ambition and ability of the children has resulted in uniformly exceptional accomplishment among a large number of brothers and sisters.

Many of these families — like the Togasakis and Takashis of the California Bay Region are well known. No doubt any other similarly outstanding families will be "discovered" in the history of the Japanese in America now in preliminary stages of research. The success story is still a part of the American scene; it makes warm and inspiring read at a time when it needs to be told, particularly at this time in our national history.

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MARYLAND PUSH FOR ANTI-BIAS BILL ENDORSED BY JACL

Gov. Tawes May Call Special Session to Act on Public Accommodation

WASHINGTON. — The Japanese American Citizens League last week endorsed the announced intention of Governor J. Milford Tawes of Maryland to call a special session of the state legislature to pass a public accommodation bill.

The governor also noted that he would call a special session to act on this measure, if need be.

While JACL has no chapter organized in Maryland, a few members of the Washington, D.C. chapter reside in Montgomery and Prince Georges counties, as well as Baltimore and at Annapolis.

Although Americans of Japanese ancestry have not met racial discrimination in Maryland generally, the Washington JACL Office has had reports that certain trends along the eastern shore have excluded Japanese Americans from swimming and other privileges because of their race.

Similar discrimination was also reported by members of the Japanese Embassy and other Washington, D.C. chapters.

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Chicago JACL Brotherhood Award honoree turns praise around, pins it upon donors who now help other less fortunate neighbors

Under the Chicago Daily News headline of "Japanese Help Out Olives" in a Brotherhood Award ceremony was the story of Walter O. Heistad, who is a Chicago JACL, in its 100 Club and Credit Union. He is chairman of the Chicago JACL's second annual golf tournament.

During the war years, he was director of several settlement houses and helped to establish the Japanese American to leave a relocation camp and start life anew in Chicago.

BY GEORGE ANNE GUYER — Chicago

In 1946 a group of Japanese Americans—then thought of by many as "enemy aliens"—walked peacefully into the Olivet community center on Chicago's Near North Side to form a Midwest Buddhist Church.

They were met outside by some neighborhood toughs with open knives.

But Olives and his new director, Walter O. Heistad, stood firmly behind the Japanese Americans.

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going out into the neighborhood. They did this last summer to let neighborhood people know more about Olives, setting up a booth on the sidewalks.

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for his own role in the matter. He was responsible for getting the first American of Japanese ancestry into the Little Tokyo Park & Tennis Club, and the man later became president.

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MILE-HI GOLFERS SEEK USGA AFFILIATION

DENVER. — With the East Denver Golf Club (a Negro group) admitted to the Colorado Golf Association on Jan. 29, the Mile-Hi (Negro) Golf Club has expressed an interest in joining the CGA in order to participate in state and regional tournaments as associate USGA players.

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