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By Elmer Ogawa



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Rabbi to address MDC meeting in May



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PC LETTERBOX:

PSWDC Can Be the Greatest

Will 'Evacuation' Happen Again?

inst dissisted Chefer Communicate and in Mexico withing in intine United Sales; this Trains in its precuration to the United Sales; the Trains in its precuration to the Chainer Communicate of the Chainer Chaine

By Dick Akagi East of the River

The other hight I went to see Akira Kurosawa's "The Lower Depths," playing at the Bleecker Street Cinema in the Village. Kurosawa is the Japanese director whose "Rashmon," first exhibited in this country algout yen years ago, chapulted him into the front ranks of the world's movie-

catapathed him into the front ranks of the world's moviemakers.

"The Lower Depths." adapted both Maxim Gorky's
play, is peopled with marvelously suremboust characters who
inhabit a Japanese skidrow around the late 19th century.
The period of the setting is merely a guess on my part,
inspired by the brief appearance of a two-sworded 'police
officer' late-an-the-film.

At one point there was so much screeching in that register peculiar to Japanese actors when they want to convey
morfal anguish that my throat, empathically, began to get
sore. Every film Kugasawa makes seems deliberately designed to dispet the notion that Orientals are inscrutable
this characters are about as reticent and understated as an

mortal anguant has my throat empatinizary, ocean of general source. Every film Kugpawa makes seems deliberately designed to dispet the notion that Orientals are inscrutable. His characters are about as reticent and understated as an aspirin commercial, and just about as hard to fathom. The film's next to final scene is a wildly comic dance performed by some of the drunken denitens of the sluma, a bon door gone amuck. Kurosaus invariably ponctuates his works of those I've seen, at any rate; with incidents of savage humor, he may well be the foremost satirists of our time. His "fixiru," for example, is as ferociously funny as Ghaplins "City Lighist", you leave the theater weeping. Speaking of Kurosawa's uninhibited characters, I remember being visited by a prominent Nisei when "Rashomon" was first shown, He complained there was altogether too much acceaning and crying in the film, he was affard that it would give the "Caucasians," as he put it, a wrong impression of the Japanese. I dish't ask him what he thought the "right" impression was, but I suspect he would have preferred something like "Thunder Over Asis the exact title escapes me, which started Charles Boyer as a Japanese naval officer and Merie Oberon as his wife. It was produced, believe, by Alexander Korda. Not being Japanese, both Boyer and Oberon were admirably inscrutable.

Although the Nisei in question was perhape oversensitive (which is definitely not the word—it would be more accurate to characterize him as deceived of all sensitivity; it seems to me that most "highly sensitive" persons, so called or self-labeled, are basically quite dull, if not downing the stupid, and they are "sensitive" only with respect to some picque dealings in which they are involved, he does illustrate in his approach some of the pitfalls the Nisei can drop into in any box nealous pursuit of "qubits relations".

B may not hurt to remind ourselves sometimes that there is no inherent contradiction in being natural and being American.



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Wartime Japanese plans to liberate Hawaiian natives from U.S. found in preface to history of Hawaii in Japanese ridiculed

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By Bill Hosokawa

From the **Frying Pan**

Denver, Colo.

FROM THE FROZEN NORTH—One of my least consistent correspondents is Togo Pujhira, the New York cincinatographer. He never writes when he's at home. But he does seem to delight in sending along postcards from distant places, like the middle of Africa. a jungle town in Central America, India. Malaya or Kores. Pujhira's work as cameraman for documentary films takes him to the most aremote parts of the world and if's a wonder his wite, who doesn't get to go along, isn't a little sick of his gallivanting around.

around.

Last, week Fujihira dropped down to Fairbanks, Alaska, to warm his hands a spell after an expedition north of the Arctic Clicie. He paused long enough to scribble a reminder that the #aganese in Alaska surely deserve aftention in the projected lesei Story project. They certainly do.

Best known of the Japanese in serly day-Alaska was one Ju Wada who used to deliver the U. S. mail by dogsted, and was reputedly so fough that he survived one particularly hears doubt frip by chewing for nourishment on rawhide harness straps. Tope says Wada also brought naws of a rich Alaskan gold strike to the outside from Fairbanks one long-

age winter.

Tootu Kanazawa, now in the travel business in New York City and part-time editor, spent a good part of his youth in Alaska, mainly around Juneau. He wrote some stories about Ju Wada in the days when he was working for limmie Sikamoto's Japanese American Courier in Seattle, and no doubt he had a lot of memories stored away about early Japanese pioneers of coastal Alaska.

Fujihira writes that on his current safari he ran across the trail of a Frank Yasuda who founded a trading post at a place called Beaver, wherever that may be. And there must be many other adventurous Japanese who contributed to the exploration and added to the history of the frozen northland.

It might take a bit of effort to the Fuithira down long.

northland.

It might take a bit of effort to-tie Fujihira down long enough for an interview, but the Issei Story's Dr. Scott Miyakawa probably would find it well worth the time and

CLOSER LINKS—The Issei-Nisei links with Alaska are not limited to romantic characters like Ju Weda. The Issei were quick to find seasonal employment in the Alaskan salmon canneries, and some of them stayed to go into business find raise their families. (Both Abe Hagiwara and George Kyotow, JACL leaders in Chicago and New York, respectively, are natives of Ketchikan).

A few Issei fortunes were founded by the men who contracted Japanage labor for the canneries. Other Issei, on the pitifully small graffithese bayed tom a season of work, where abile-to go find business for themselves, start farming, open a restaurant.

Salmon cannery labor played an even more importantical in the maturing of Northwest Nisei. Hundreds of them used their summer's earnings to attend college at a time when their Caucksian classmates were dropping out froll lack of Jinds, preparing themselves for the professional opportunities that didn't come until some time later.

It was also in the canneries that the Nisei first experienced the union movement. Some, burning wit the fervor of the times, became organizers. But it was a part of growing up and becoming aware of life and problems in the greater community.

Alaka only recently, became a state, but the Isaei.

community.

Alaska only recently became a state, but the Isseltory would not be complete without mention of the part hat wast territory played in the history of the Japanese in the United States. And the story of the Nisei, too.

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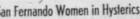
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