







By Bill Hosokawa

# From the Frying Pan

**CHANCE MEETING**—The four of us had just finished lunch—during which we had done more talking than eating—and were on our way out of the restaurant when we ran into Harry. It was a chance meeting that turned out to be poignantly timely. "We" were Shig Wakamatsu, who stopped in Denver en route from Chicago to an Insei story editorial committee meeting in Los Angeles; Min Yasui and Tak Teraki of Denver, and I. There were some details of the history project, a matter that has filled most of Wakamatsu's waking hours, that he wanted to discuss. And so we had done that, with only minor attention being paid to the food.

Harry was Harry G. Matoba, uncommonly vulnerable for an Insei, a thoroughly likable man of many parts who had been named to the local JACL chapter to work on the history. So Harry shook hands with Wakamatsu, smiled his broad happy smile, and allowed as he'd do what he could.

Two days later, (Jan. 17) Harry Matoba was dead of a heart attack.

The work that Matoba had intended to do for the project, such as raising funds and getting people stirred up about it as they pitch in and help, can be done by others. But what is lost forever when Harry died was his own story—the trials and triumphs, the frustrations and pleasures, the times of laughter and the times of tears, of this articulate Insei.

I have no way to knowing whether Harry had a place in the scientific cross-section of Insei to be chosen by the scholars for intensive interviewing in their search for facts. But Harry had a story only he could tell, and inevitably the history will be the poorer for his absence.

Harry Matoba was young as Insei, only 69, but his passing from the scene underscores once more the necessity of recording the story the Insei have to tell before it is too late. As a matter of fact, it is already too late by a good ten or twenty years, and it behooves us to cherish and utilize quickly the resources that remain.

**AT THE OTHER END**—Another Harry, Dr. Harry Kitano of UCLA, was a visitor here last week. His concern is with the other end of the Japanese American spectrum—the South in the Los Angeles area who by some misfortune have become entangled with the law. He has made intensive studies of 30 such delinquents and their families, and compared them with 30 other Insei in similar social and economic circumstances who were not in trouble.

His immediate findings may not startle many knowledgeable people. The matter asked why it was necessary to spend \$100,000 to find out what the thought everyone else had, but there is a great deal to be picked up which may help Insei and Insei understand why they act the way they do. If these findings apply to me and my youngsters, and I'm sure they do at least in part, I want to know the details.

Dr. Kitano is in the process of writing a book about his study. It is, he fears, going to be well loaded with the jargon that sociologists use, for sociology has a language of its own just like the other sciences. But he promised to make it as easy to read as possible, and I'm looking forward to seeing it. The interesting thing about us as an American minority is that for a variety of reasons we don't fall into the conventional mold that fit so many groups immediately descended from immigrants. And so it will be fascinating to find out how we differ, and why, and how it is that we do the things we do and don't do the things we don't do.

Maybe it will be like group psychoanalysis. Not that I'm implying that we need it, but it will be an interesting if not altogether pleasant experience.

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## WRA community member head, J. Provinsie, dies

WASHINGTON—John H. Provinsie, 68, director of community management programs for the War Relocation Authority (WRA) in World War II, died of a coronary thrombosis Jan. 22.

A native of Red Lodge, Mont., he was among the dedicated men of the WRA who, under the direction of Dillon S. Myer, administered the ten relocation camps in World War II. He ran into some 110,000 evacuees of Japanese ancestry were sent from their West Coast homes and associations by the Army in the spring of 1942.

An anthropologist, he received his bachelor's, master's, and Ph.D. degrees from the Univ. of Chicago. He began his career in 1929 with research among the Selk Dyaks in Central Borneo and later joined the faculty of the Univ. of Arizona. He served as a specialist in rural development with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture prior to his assignment to WRA.

Provinsie was named Assistant Commissioner of Indian Affairs in charge of community services. In that post, he headed the Navajo dependency studies which were the basis for legislation passed in 1950 and 1952. He was also in charge of the Navajo and Hopi Indian Reservations.

Between 1950 and 1962, he was deputy administrator for South Asia of the Peace Corps and program and later became director of the social research center of the American University in Cairo, Egypt. During the past several years, he directed the International Voluntary Services, an inter-denominational church group.

**SAD PAULO MINISTER OF LABOR—A 30 YEAR OLD NISEI—VISITING JAPAN**

HONOLULU—Accepting the invitation of the Japanese government, Sao Paulo State Labor Minister Antonio Morimoto, 30, Brazilian-born Nisei, arrived here last week en route to Tokyo.

Morimoto said that there are as many as 100,000 Japanese in Sao Paulo State. He is holding government positions—deputy in the Brazilian legislature and legislative in the Sao Paulo State government. His parents emigrated to Brazil 23 years ago.

**JCC elects Gorden**  
LOS ANGELES—Shigetoshi Fujii, 38, of Gorden was unanimously elected president of the Los Angeles JCC. Japanese Chapter of Commerce at a recent dinner's meeting. It was announced by Frank Honda, executive secretary. He succeeds Katsumu Makiwaka.

The new officers will be honored Feb. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, at the Koyuki Restaurant.

**Fun Tour reunion**  
LOS ANGELES—Third annual reunion of Midwestern Travel Service's Nisei Fun Tours will be held at Cauter's Hotel, Las Vegas, Nev., Feb. 12-13. It was announced by Fred Takata.

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**OH, MY ACHIN' BACK!**—Harold Samuels (left) and G. Giron, representing CPB-Blue Shield, and Masao Sawo, National JACL, director, witness Ensei Uno (in bed with spinal dislocation). Cal-Neva JACL group insurance committee chairman, sign health plan contract.

## NC-WNDC Blue Shield enrollment push on

SAN FRANCISCO—The Ensei Uno, group insurance committee chairman, sign health plan contract. After almost a year of study and comparison, the Committee unanimously recommended the health plan of CPB-Blue Shield for the area JACL.

The committee's report and recommendation were subsequently unanimously adopted by the District Council at its final quarterly meeting of the year. Nov. 1, at San Jose, Wilson Makabe of San Mateo chaired the study committee.

Representing CPB-Blue Shield were Harold Samuels, group manager, and G. Giron, assistant director of sales. Also witnessing the ceremony was Masao W. Sawo, serving as JACL regional director. Also equipped, "I hope our JACL members will hurry and enroll because they are in my position." Seriously he added, "This is an excellent plan and our JACL members should take full advantage of this opportunity to participate in a comprehensive group health plan."

As a special service for JACL members, a Group Insurance Study Committee was created last year. Headquarters acknowledged \$20,000 NC-WNDC chairman, to study and recommend a group health plan from Paul Maruyama, St. Louis.

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## Art store pioneer on Grant Ave. once war correspondent

BY TAMOTSU MURAYAMA

Special to the Pacific Citizen  
TOKYO—San Francisco had many Japanese art goods stores before the war and it provided many young Nisei a job opportunity, despite the depression in the early 1930s. The Matsukura store on Grant Ave. was one of them.

Atsuo Matsukura, 85, now residing at 1000 Grant Ave., is a former war correspondent. He was among the prominent importer-exporters of San Francisco, but very few know him as an early-day newspaperman. Because of his ability to speak English fluently, he served as a war correspondent in the 1930-40 Russo-Japanese war and worked closely with Baron von Kropotkin, German correspondent, and Bennett Burleigh of the London Daily Telegraph.

After the war, he came to Shinghai to engage in foreign trade. He came to Seattle in 1948, opened an art good store at the 5th Street Plaza in 1951-52 and then permanently settled in San Francisco in 1953, arriving in 1956 and returning to Japan with his wife.

His son Yoshio is now with the Hawaiian Sugar Planters Assn. directing public relations. "I feel pioneers in Japan usually felt the most interesting experiences and we hope to visit them on from time to time."

**West La. Nihongo class**  
WEST LOS ANGELES—A 14-week series of instruction in Japanese speaking, reading and writing at all levels of advancement starts Feb. 11 at the Japanese Institute, 3113 Purdie Ave. (GR 5-3379).

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## HIRO MATSUBARA ROLLS FIRST 300 GAME OF YEAR AT HOLIDAY BOWL

LOS ANGELES—Hiro "Burr" Matsubara rolled his first 300 game of the year at the Holiday Bowl Bowling Club on Jan. 13. Matsubara, 33, of Hollywood Bowl in the HONMA AKA League. The left-hander concluded with games of 130-135 for a 684 series. In addition to awards from ABC JACL and HONMA, it was understood that management is presenting him with \$500. The HONMA is comprised of eight Nisei leagues bowling at Hollywood.

## Philadelphia JACL's Christmas party hailed

PHILADELPHIA—Close to 140 Issei, Nisei and Sansei met at the University Settlement House for the annual Philadelphia JACL Christmas party recently, despite a dense fog that prevented most of the Philadelphia Valley area. Santa Claus in full regalia (played by Harry Delbert), a co-sponsor of party success. "Gods" delighted the children as he distributed the toys. Many adults supervised in the children's games. The JACL served potato salad.

Entertainment included the Sansei JACLers performed the Olympic Omer, quartet singing carols and everyone enjoyed. On the committee were: Mrs. Hirofumi Matsubara, guest; Mrs. Hirofumi Matsubara, guest; Mrs. Hirofumi Matsubara, guest; Mrs. Hirofumi Matsubara, guest.

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