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Ben Kuroki speaker at PSWDC quarterly

GARDENA — Ben Kuroki, of World War II fame as the Nisei aerial gunner who flew 58 missions over Europe and in the Pacific theater of operations, will address the Pacific Southwest JACL District Council luncheon this Sunday, 12:30 p.m., at the Alondra Club, 16411 S. Prairie.

Honored by the Japanese American Citizens League at its 1964 national convention as among those Americans who did much to raise the dignity of Japanese Americans from the depths that put them in concentration camps in 1942, Kuroki is a staff writer on the Ventura County Star-Free Press.

Luncheon is open to the public, according to PSWDC Gov. Ronald Shiozaki. Tickets are \$3 per person.

Business Session

Delegates from PSWDC's 21 chapters will assemble from 9:30 a.m. to conduct its first quarterly session being hosted by Gardena Valley JACL.

Matters to be discussed at the National JACL Interim Board meeting Feb. 17-19 at San Francisco, the rezoning proposal and civil rights issue.

NC-WNDC oppose tuition for U.C. and state colleges

BERKELEY — Opposition to tuitions for students at any of the state colleges or Univ. of California campuses was expressed in a resolution adopted Sunday, Feb. 5, by the Northern California - Western Nevada JACL District Council.

Delegates to the first quarterly meeting at the Berkeley House said the imposition of tuitions would be against "tradition and the law and detrimental to the future and well being of many California students including those of Japanese ancestry."

The motion was presented by Norman Mineta of San Jose and final vote came after much discussion. The chapters of the district were praised by Yone Satoda, National JACL treasurer, for the enrollment performance record financially in 1966.

Membership Report
Eddie Morizuchi, district membership chairman, reported that to date 4,379 names had been turned in.

To be sure we remain non-partisan, and we address ourselves to problems that directly affect Japanese Americans. It is true that our constitution leaves room for interpretation which, it seems to me, is as it should be.

JACL-CPS health coverage boosted to \$10,000

BERKELEY — A change in the JACL-CPS coverage adding major medical up to \$10,000 will go into effect from March 1. It was announced by John Yasumoto, head of this group health insurance committee.

He said that the CPS offer to add this comprehensive coverage to the existing contract at no additional cost to individual subscribers was accepted unanimously at a special luncheon meeting of the JACL-CPS committee and chapter commissioners held Sunday at Berkeley House.

Those familiar with insurance coverage pointed out that the major medical provisions were of much greater value and protection than the X-ray and accident benefits.

Extra Benefits
They also pointed out that hospital and accident X-rays are covered by the basic JACL-CPS plan and the accident rider applied only to additional expenses not included in the basic plan.

Under the new major medical plan, all subscribers and their dependents are entitled to a lifetime \$10,000 extra coverage each, subject to \$200 per person deductible, with CPS.

Recognition
JACL SAPPHIRE PIN
Berkeley-Tad Hirota (Feb. 5).

JACL SILVER PIN
Berkeley-Frank Yamasaki, Nobu Uratsu (Feb. 5).

Good Planning
Good planning is usually the key to successful projects. In (Continued on Page 2)

PERSPECTIVES
Jerry Enomoto Nat'l President
A STEP FORWARD

The first quarterly gathering of the NCWN-DC jointly hosted by the Berkeley and Contra Costa County Chapters, was well-attended and well-run.

Last Sunday was particularly significant because it marked the passage of a resolution placing the District on record opposing any tuition at the University of California or the state colleges.

One issue which seemed basic, and discussion of which cleared the air, was the question of did JACL belong in this particular arena?

One chapter, Eden Town (Continued on Page 2)

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Critical issues face Interim meet

BY HARRY HONDA

SAN FRANCISCO — Comprehensive review of organizational matters and policies confronting the Japanese American Citizens League a half year since the last National JACL Convention is on tap for national officers and staff next week at the Hilton Airport Inn.

The Interim National Board meeting will commence with luncheon next Friday, Feb. 17, with Jerry Enomoto, national president, presiding. It will adjourn with luncheon Sunday.

Among the more pressing issues appear to be the role of National JACL officers during political elections, a proposal for a separate civil rights arm in JACL, ultimate use of the JACL endowment fund and JACL responsibility for subordinate units.

The last gubernatorial campaign in California found Nisei in both camps expressing their choice more vocally than in the past—including JACL national officers.

Proposal for a separate civil rights arm—patterned after JACL's successful Anti-Discrimination Committee which secured legislative goals during the immediate postwar years—to enable those JACLers to participate in the civil rights fight more vigorously is also under study.

Endowment Fund
The National Planning Commission has questioned the ultimate use of the JACL Endowment Fund, whose principal remains in trust with interest used to sustain JACL.

History Project
The JACL executive committee on the Japanese History Project is meeting in Los Angeles Feb. 15-16, prior to the (Continued on Page 2)



CHECKING THE RECORD — Norm Mineta (left), toastmaster at the San Jose JACL installation, and Bob Kubo, who earned the Distinguished Service Cross, the nation's second highest for valor, in Saipan by talking desperate Japanese soldiers in caves into surrendering, examine the records of the Nisei GIs in the Pacific. —San Jose Mercury-News Photo.

New PNW chapter quotas for 1967 to be assigned

KENT, Wash. — A new chapter allocation of the Pacific Northwest JACL District Council quota, based upon potential revenue and retention of membership from the previous year, will be proposed at the district's first quarterly meeting to be held on Sunday, Feb. 26, here at Meeker's Landing.

Highlight of the session hosted by the Puyallup Valley JACL will be the first district human relations seminar chaired by Don Kazama of Seattle. (See Jan. 13 PC.) Focus of the discussion will be JACL's motto: "For Better Americans in a Greater America".

Dr. Calvin Takagi, of the Univ. of Washington School of Social Work; Masao Satow, national JACL director; and Kazama will be panelists.

'On to Japan' emphasis urged by JACL committee on cultural heritage

SAN FRANCISCO — Primary concern of the National JACL Cultural Heritage Committee for the next few months, according to Haruo Ishimaru, national chairman of this committee, is to focus attention on the JACL Japan Tour.

For those unable to take the trip, programs are being suggested to develop some knowledge of Japanese arts and culture which would also help promote the tour.

Suggested Programs
District councils and chapters are being advised this week to:
1—Appoint district and chapter committees on cultural heritage, forwarding names of chairman to Ishimaru, 1515 Tarrytown St., San Mateo, Calif. 94402.

2—Coordinate a California-Osaka Sister State celebration with the three California district councils cooperating;
3—Designate "On to Japan"

JACL Japan Tour cost set

SAN FRANCISCO — The 21-day JACL Japan Tour this fall will cost \$849 per person to include roundtrip fare via Japan Air Lines (San Francisco to Tokyo), all hotel and travel accommodations in Japan for the 14-day itinerary through

Osaka) and meals while actually traveling (mostly lunches) and two dinner parties.

In order to take advantage of group rates, all persons must depart from San Francisco on Saturday, Oct. 14

(date has been advanced one day from the initial report carried in the PC Feb. 3) and return to Honolulu together on Saturday, Nov. 4.

Memorable Trip
All the resources and contacts of the National JACL, as sponsors of this tour, will be employed to give every tour member an unforgettable trip.

2—Three-day Osaka-California Sister State celebration—a recommendation from the National JACL Cultural Heritage Committee.

3—Seven days "free time", allowing for other Sister City visits, personal visits, etc. (Continued on Page 4)

Nisei GI in Vietnam up for Medal of Honor

BY SANFORD ZALBURG City Editor Honolulu Advertiser

PHU CAT, Vietnam — If he wins the Medal of Honor, which his unit has put him in for, S-Sgt. Edward Noboru Kaneshiro, 38, of Kaimuki should rate among the most modest winners of the Big Award.

Kaneshiro, a small, wiry and apparently nervous fellow on the field of battle, was tongue-tied when a general came to call the other day on him and other survivors of the battle to hear their story.

For a minute Kaneshiro even forgot where he lives. Finally, he remembered: 2549-B 10th Ave. (His wife is Mitsuko and he has four children, the youngest, John, whom he saw for the first time last month when he came home on R&R. He is a graduate of Lelihe High School, a veteran of 7 1/2 years in the Army and formerly served with the 25th Infantry Wolfhounds.)

He is the general who interviewed him in Brigr. Gen. (Ret.) S.L.A. Marshall, the nation's outstanding military writer. Marshall conducts detailed interviews of soldiers who have taken part in memorable actions. Along with him were four P-O and historical affairs officers from the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), Kaneshiro's division, and a news reporter. Confronted with all those notebooks and pencils, Kaneshiro momentarily lost his cool.

The action for which he and two other members of "C" Troop, 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry have already been awarded Silver Stars took place last Dec. 1 at a village named Phu Nu II in the Kim River Valley in the Central Highlands, 7 1/2 miles southwest of Bong Son.

The interviews were conducted in a mess tent. Outside the helicopters clattered. Now and then an artillery piece boomed.

On that rainy day in December "C" Troop was on a search and destroy mission. Two squads were pinned down by fire from automatic weapons coming from a long fortified trench studded with bunkers. A squad leader was hit. A radio operator was shot. He raised his hand and called, "Over here, sir," to indicate his position to his company commander, Capt. Clifford N. Smith. Immediately, Smith started crawling toward him.

Armed with Grenades
It was then that Kaneshiro, squad leader of the second squad, silenced part of the fortified trench. He was armed with grenades and an M-16 rifle.

"Did anyone go with you into the trench?" he said. "Just myself, at first," said Kaneshiro. "I started working from the top of the trench. I threw a grenade. I climbed into the trench to see if there were any Charleys (Viet Cong) there."

"Then I started out down the trench—40 feet at a time. I threw a grenade in a bunker and killed a man."

"Another 10 feet away a man was crouched in a fighting position. He was aiming a rifle. I threw a grenade at him."

"There was a long pause. 'How many grenades did you have?' 'Six.' 'How many did you use?' 'Six.' 'Did anyone fire at you?' 'Two or three times they snapped (turned and fired quickly without aiming) at me.' 'Twice I saw live targets and three grenades and the rest of the time I just threw the grenades...'

"When I received no more fire, I turned around and went back."

Another Hero
One of the officers conducting the interviews sought additional information. Marshall intervened. "Working under pressure the thing fogs," he said. "That's not unusual. You're doing all right," he reassured Kaneshiro.

Another hero in the action was S-Sgt. Willie P. Haskett, 38, of Suffolk, Va., squad (Continued on Page 2)

OAKLAND-BORN NISEI SELECTED TO WISCONSIN STATE ARCHITECT POST

(Special to The Pacific Citizen)

MADISON, Wis. — Uncommon talents and drive have taken Wisconsin's new state architect, Shinji Yamamoto, 55, from the West Coast to a top post in his field via bleak relocation center in Utah during World War II.

Although Yamamoto was named to his \$16,900 post on Jan. 26, scores of buildings in the state already bear the imprints of talents. As a resident of Wisconsin since 1945 and a member of the state architect's staff since 1951, the Oakland-born Nisei holds two degrees in architecture from UC Berkeley and has completed work for a doctorate in the field but has not filled the residence requirements.

Yamamoto was design chief for John J. Flad and Associates and his first major project was designing the Janesville home office building for Parker Pen. Local buildings bearing the Yamamoto touch are the addition to the State Historical Society and the newly-completed Univ. of Wisconsin chemistry building.

A bustling stage agency with a staff of 19, Yamamoto was on top of the list of three finalists. More than 20 architects throughout the nation sought the post, according to State Engineer Ralph Culbertson.

During the past two years, the State Architect's office directed 500 construction projects valued at \$480 million, Culbertson revealed. And during the last two months of 1966, the state was paying out nearly \$9 million each month for new construction—a pace not likely to slacken, according to Culbertson.

A member of the Milwaukee JACL, Yamamoto and his wife, Hifumi, spent the early war years in Topaz WRA Center, where their eldest son, Stephen, was born. He is now a doctoral candidate at Penn State. Today, the Yamamotos live in a rambling colonial house on the Near Westside, 2101 Chamberlain Ave., with their two daughters, Diane, a UW junior, and JoAnn, an 8th grader at West Jr. High.

El Dorado Historical Society holds Japanese Night, hear story of Okei

COLOMA — The El Dorado County Historical Society programmed a Japanese Night at its Feb. 2 meeting at the Coloma Museum, and it was the first time the Society had played host to a Japanese American group in its 100-year history.

The fascinating story of the Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Farm Colony, the Okei girl, the Veerkamp pioneers and their descendants was related to 135 Society members and friends.

The Issei-Nisei group from Sacramento also demonstrated flower arranging, folk dances, color slide narrative by Henry Taketa, bonsai by Soichi Nakatani and refreshments. Participants were: Grace Morimoto, flower arranging; Keiko Komura, Miyuki Yokogawa, dances; Naoko Nakantani, Joan Oki, Sumiye Komura, May Shirai, Sally Taketa, hostesses; Toah Komura, George Oki, photography and music; Shige Yamamoto, costumes; Fern Sayre, Henry Taketa, resources.

Among guests present were the 20 Veerkamp descendants, whose ancestors took into their home Okei and Matsunosuke Sakurai, the only two to remain behind at Gold Hill upon the tragic abandonment of the short-lived Wakamatsu colony by the pioneer Japanese immigrants. Okei died in 1871 at the age of 19 and her grave is located on the Veerkamp property. Sakurai was buried at Coloma Cemetery upon his death on Feb. 25, 1901.

El Dorado County is planning to celebrate the centennial of the arrival of the Wakamatsu Colony pioneers in 1969. The site at Gold Hill was approved by the Calif. Division of Beaches and Parks as a historical landmark on Dec. 16, 1966, and a plaque dedication is being contemplated.

Sac'lo airman shot down in Vietnam

WASHINGTON — Airman First Class Ronald K. Miyazaki, husband of Mrs. Lois R. Miyazaki, 2751 Northrop Ave., Sacramento, was announced by the U.S. Defense Dept. last week as being among five air force men assumed to have been on a transport shot down near the demilitarized zone Jan. 31.

They were among 47 U.S. servicemen identified by the defense department as having been killed in action in Vietnam.

The Pentagon confirmed that all five air force men were on the same type of plane but said it could not be absolutely certain it was the same one shot down Jan. 31, however.

They were assumed to have been on a C-123 transport plane shot down on a defoliation trip last week near the demilitarized zone between North and South Vietnam.



By Bill Hosokawa

From the Frying Pan

Denver, Colo.

QUOTES — When a large part of a man's working day is spent reading, he gets not only tired eyeballs but odd and interesting bits of information. Like the following, from the Wall Street Journal, which has application to the JACL-UCLA history project:

Tape recorders have proved to be a tremendous boon to scholars and writers trying to preserve the fascinating sidelights of history. By one count, there have been more than a hundred so-called oral history programs started since 1948 when Columbia University pioneered the technique.

The programs range from 980 reels of tape at Tulane University on the history of New Orleans jazz to interviews with 250 persons on the life of John Foster Dulles, conducted by Princeton University. The Ford Motor Co. has taped the recollections of 450 persons on the life of Henry Ford. The Wall Street Journal report adds:

"The advantage of oral histories is obvious: The story is being told by the men who were there. Oral history is especially important, advocates say, in this age when few notables keep diaries and when written correspondence is being increasingly replaced by the telephone call. Allan Nevins, the historian, founded the Columbia program, and he says part of his inspiration came from reading obituaries. Year after year, he says, he would read of notables dying, and 'I'd say to myself, What memories that man carried to oblivion and how absolutely they are lost!'"

How true this is of the stories that Issei could have told. The recollections of many have been taken down on tape, but so many others died before their stories could be recorded for posterity.

CREDIT WHERE IT IS DUE: Or take this item from the Yawata News, published by Yawata Iron & Steel of Japan. President Yoshihiro Inayama is quoted as follows:

"The very fact that the Japanese iron and steel industry was able to get back on its feet after World War II was due to the assistance given us by the United States and other countries. We have not forgotten these many acts of generosity. And being now in a position to export our know-how, we look forward to a greater exchange of information with steel industries of other countries in a manner that will be mutually beneficial. Peace is a word often used today. Economic cooperation surely is one of the best 'medicines' for peace — and in this we shall continue to fulfill our part."

QUALITY CONTROL — Dr. Joseph M. Juran of New York City, a management consultant, writes in the magazine Industrial Quality Control that "the Japanese are headed for world quality leadership, and will attain it in the next two decades, because no one else is moving there at the same pace."

He writes that small groups of departmental work leaders and rank-and-file operators band together in a quality control circle which meets after work hours to identify problems and solve them, resulting in greater output of higher quality goods.

This practice, we might observe, is somewhat un-American.

THE PROBLEM OF BRIDES—Nisei farmers these days live as well as their city cousins, if not better, enjoying all the material comfort of these times. And usually they are not much farther from the city by paved highway than the fellow who lives in the suburbs. Not so in Japan, the New York Times says, reporting that only 8.4 per cent of farm girls want to marry farmers.

The survey showed 46.5 per cent favored non-farmers and 45 per cent sought "respectable men of any profession." Of those opposing marriage to farmers, one-fourth cited the strain of relations with mothers-in-law, 20 per cent mentioned financial stringency, 17 per cent the lack of leisure time, and 26 per cent the hard work and feudalistic social practices.

Japanese farm girls, obviously, are becoming more Americanized.

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Episodes of Evacuation:

No bitterness, San Joseans agree



HELPING HANDS — Norman Mineta (left) awards San Jose JACL's citation to (from left) Mrs. Claude N. Settles, Mrs. Nina Walters and Mrs. Florence Bryant for their role in helping per-

SALINAS CITES LONGTIME FRIEND OF ISSEI-NISEI

Cottie Keltner Aided Evacuees at His Own Expense

SALINAS — Malcolm (Cottie) Keltner, a local businessman, was honored by the Salinas Valley JACL at its 22nd annual installation banquet Jan. 28 at Italian Villa.

A Hancock Oil distributor, Keltner was awarded the chapter scroll of appreciation and an engraved gold wrist-watch "for his long time warm friendship with Japanese Americans, especially in wartime against overwhelming public sentiment, for his great helpfulness in sending evacuees their personal belongings to relocation camps at his own expense, and for facilitating their return to Salinas post-war."

Tom Miyayama, recognitions chairman, explained Keltner aided Japanese Americans following the dark days of Pearl Harbor when it was not only unpopular but unsafe to be a friend to the Japanese in America.

Best Friend

"Cottie was not only that," Miyayama continued, "he helped us in every conceivable way. When he learned that some Japanese Americans were afraid to go to town to buy food, he bought it for them out of his pocket. When persons here were being evacuated to concentration camps — there is no other to describe them — Cottie was turned to for counsel. He gave it and more; he helped in the storage of personal belongings and in locating, crating and shipping them to their owners in relocation centers — out of his own pocket and with no thought of remuneration."

"Cottie Keltner is the best friend the Japanese Americans in California ever had," he said. "We all owe him a debt which never can be repaid." Somewhat surprised and overcome by the honor, Keltner replied:

"You are a good, honorable people to which the wartime discrimination should not have applied. Your contributions to the community have been many and your example in daily life is not only an asset to the community but an example most Americans would do well to follow."

County Counsel William Stoffers was in the installing officer. Bob Yamamoto, who was re-elected chapter president, heads the 1967 chapter board. Keynote speaker Dr. Tom Taketa of San Jose, national board member and associated

(Continued on Page 5)

sons of Japanese ancestry in Santa Clara Valley during the Evacuation and Resettlement period. At right is Shig Masunaga.

VENICE-CULVER CITES CHARTER MEMBER

CULVER CITY — The Venice-Culver JACL awarded a charter member of the chapter, Kenichi Onishi, the Community Service Award for 1966 at the recent installation dinner.

The recognition was unique in that leadership was not the significant factor as has been the case with previous awards but dedication and loyalty in the cause for true community service, according to George Inagaki, who made the presentation.

Onishi, who helped reestablish the Venice Community Center after the war, is serving as its custodian, responsible for its care and maintenance.

(Morning after the San Jose JACL installation dinner Jan. 28, the San Jose Mercury-News staff writer Gil Bailey turned the pages of time back to the grim days of 1942 when persons of Japanese ancestry were being herded by the government into relocation centers in the interior for his Sunday readers. For many former San Joseans living throughout the U.S., we reprint Mr. Bailey's chronicle—Editor.)

BY GIL BAILEY
Mercury-News Staff Writer

San Jose
There were many days which live in infamy. There was Dec. 7, 1941.

There was also Feb. 19, 1942, and the days which followed 25 years ago when 110,000 residents of the United States, 70,000 of them American citizens were forced out of their homes and placed in what can only be called concentration camps.

The Japanese American Citizens League of Santa Clara County held a dinner commemorating the forced evacuation of the Japanese, 4,000 from Santa Clara County alone, Saturday (Jan. 28) in Leininger Community Center at Kelley Park.

The dinner was not held in bitterness, but in the spirit of giving thanks to those who aided the Japanese here when they could not aid themselves.

Awards were given to five Santa Clara Valley residents, not Japanese, who helped when helping was neither easy nor popular.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Settles, Mrs. Nina Walters, Mrs. Ann Peabody Brown, Lester Harwood and Mrs. Florence Bryant were honored.

"They stepped in when we were forced to leave, storing property, and offering the small and large kindnesses which meant so much," said Norman Mineta, who was sent off to camp as a "dangerous enemy of the United States," aged 10. "Then, when we came back, they helped us get jobs and persuaded canneries to accept our produce."

25 Years Ago
The files of the Mercury and News tell a part of that story of 25 years ago:

Dec. 11, 1941: "One hundred and six Japanese students at San Jose State College left school yesterday afternoon bearing identification cards endorsed by college authorities."

April 18, 1942: "The Okamoto family, Japanese proprietors of Mikado and Co., yesterday offered the unsold stock in their S. Second Street store to San Jose's war chest. The Okamoto's held a sale of their stock at 57 S. Second Street, but much of it remains unsold. Mrs. Okamoto came to San Jose in 1880. Mikado and Co. was founded 37 years ago."

March 26, 1942: "For Chic Tanouye, as for 800 other Santa Clara County farmers of Japanese extraction, far reaching problems have arisen. He must evacuate land he farms off Trimble Road."

He must evacuate land he farms off Trimble Road."

May 8, 1942: "Liquor sales licenses of eight Japanese license holders in Santa Clara County have been revoked."

May 21, 1942: "Transfer to American farmers of all land being evacuated by Santa Clara County Japanese has been completed."

May 26, 1942: "Army registration of Japanese in Santa Clara County was completed last night and the first trainload of evacuees will leave today for the Santa Anita (race track) reception center."

May 4, 1945: "San Jose women of Japanese ancestry, who were placed in relocation areas at the outbreak of the war, took the Evacuation much harder than did the men. Six women died."

stories, the rape of a Japanese girl in Gilroy, arson in San Jose, the firing of a rifle at a Japanese family, including women and children...

It had started on Feb. 19, 1942, when a Presidential order was signed calling for the evacuation of all Japanese, citizens or not, from the Pacific Coast. No such order was signed for Italians or Germans.

By August 18, 1942, no Japanese remained in Santa Clara County.

They had sold their property or leased it, including an estimated 22,000 acres of farm land, and not unaturally, the Pacific Coast faced a food shortage, because many of the most skilled of the coast's farmers were gone.

'Military Necessity'

The reason given for the Evacuation was "military necessity." The reason is still being debated what is not being debated is that the Japanese lost millions of dollars in land and property because of the Evacuation.

And others picked up many of those millions of dollars. It was not that most of the Japanese were not loyal.

J.S. Hirano, secretary of the Japanese Assn., representing 2,700 Japanese in San Jose, told Pvt. Hideo Nakamura, a United States soldier, on Dec. 8, 1941:

"Our race is loyal to the United States, our adopted homeland. We are anxious to show our loyalty to the United States."

Pvt. Nakamura commented, "I volunteered, I like the service."

It made no difference. The Japanese were swept up, men, women and children, and sent to far away camps in Colorado, Utah, the Arizona desert, the desolate Owens Valley in Southern California and to Tule Lake in Northern California.

"I'll never forget the vast loneliness I felt when I looked upon the hills of Granada, Colo., and detected rows and rows of barracks. The Issei (older Japanese, born in Japan) wept openly, many of them wondering if they would live through this—and many did not," one Japanese wrote.

There had been acts of individual kindness along the way. In San Jose the Council of Church Women provided coffee, milk, sandwiches and oranges to the Japanese as they were herded onto the trains. And here and there voices were raised in protest.

Norman Mineta was one of those on the train. He was a cub scout, and he and his fellow scouts served as messengers.

Adventure of Sorts

For Norman it was an adventure of sorts. For his father, Kay Mineta, an insurance man here since 1920, it was far more.

Kay Mineta volunteered to teach American soldiers Japanese and did so in Chicago during most of the war.

He was in a strange position for he was not an American citizen. He could not be a citizen—the law did not permit Japanese-born aliens to become citizens.

If Japan had won the war, Mineta would have been classified a traitor and treated as such. He became a citizen in 1952, when the law was changed.

Bob Kubo, now owner of the Aloha Supermarket on the Almaden Expressway, saw the war from a different point of view. Hawaiian born, he was

never interned.

On Dec. 7, 1941, he was a soldier stationed at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii and saw one of the first Japanese attacking planes. As a soldier still on Okinawa he saw one of the last Japanese war planes in action.

Saipan Action

In between Kubo won the Distinguished Service Cross for persuading between 100 and 120 Japanese soldiers on Saipan to surrender.

"I had a big mouth," he remembered.

Kubo did not say, but a Mercury staff member who was there remembers. Kubo walked into Saipan caves, held by those desperate Japanese soldiers, to do his talking.

Kubo was typical of thousands of Japanese Americans who fought for this country, fought well enough to become a legend in Italy and in the Pacific where they served as intelligence experts.

The first Japanese to return to the Santa Clara Valley was one of those men.

Pvt. Masao Kanemoto had a week's leave before reporting for duty in June of 1943.

A native of San Jose and a former student at San Jose State College and the University of Santa Clara, Kanemoto had recently passed the California Bar.

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Captain Allan R. Bosworth (U.S. Navy, Ret.) is a former newspaperman and the author of fifteen other books. A native of Texas, he has traveled extensively in Europe and the Far East. He lives in Pasadena, Virginia.

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