Sansei teacher files huge civil rights bias claim

LOS ANGELES—Carol Kawanami, 48, a first generation American and second woman to be elected to the local school board, allegedly told the class's "mother and father bombed Pearl Harbor.""Upon request from NC-WNDC regional director Gerald Kondo and Manzke Funato, mother of student Azuki, another apology was sent March 9 by Nova director Merrienne La.

South Park "elests Nikkei

VILLA PARK, Calif.—Carol Kawanami, 48, has requested the Sansei teacher files huge civil rights bias claim

LOS ANGELES—Testimony from atomic bomb survivors, medical, social service and government witnesses, will be heard at the congressional hearings

Villa Park elects Nikkei

VILLA PARK, Calif.—Carol Kawanami, 48, has requested the Sansei teacher files huge civil rights bias claim

LOS ANGELES, Calif.—A Hawaii-born teacher, stating her constitutional rights have been violated since being involved in a notice of intent to dismiss, has filed a $10 million claim with the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District Board of Education.

Sansei teacher files huge civil rights bias claim

The 1977 Cultural Heritage Fellowship recipients upon their arrival in Tokyo last summer are (from left): Gene Yonezawa, San Jose; Terry Yokota, St. Louis; Rollyn His, Calif.; Eddie Coble, Chicago. Application forms and eligibility rules for the 1978 Fellowships are now available at all JACL offices, chapters and Pacific Citizen.

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MARCH 10-12, 1978 SESSIONS

Natl' JACL Board recommendations/actions

SAN FRANCISCO—Following
summary is the Pacific
Citizen's as gleaned from the
agenda papers, notes and
partial tapes of the recent
National JACL Board and
Staff meeting held March
10-12 at Headquarters, presi
dent Jim Murakami presid

RECOMMENDATIONS

TO NATIONAL COUNCIL

"Legislative Act," Section 51-101
To preserve JACL's nonprofit tax
exempt status (under Sec. 501c3), a
separate legislative committee
should be established (under Sec. 501c4, a nonprofit
organization due to possible under
standing legislative legal issues.

Dramatic Deficit

In addition, to establish a national standing com
mittee to deal with discrimination
against Asian Americans in employ

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has received no wages during the
year, generally, two separate IRA
accounts are maintained.

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an auto payment.

California First, the former
Bank of Tokyo of California, is
now a statewide bank
with over 100 branches.
HARRY HOEGH, 88

Selma JACL remembers

By MAX KAWANO

Selma, Calif.

Harry Hoegh (pronounced Ho) was a Selma High School teacher who tried to tell the Army during the hectic days after Pearl Harbor that it was wrong to evacuate persons of Japanese ancestry from California.

When he passed away on Jan. 27, 1978 at the age of 88, there were many Issei and Nisei mourners who remembered the "sensei" who each day of the Evacuation went to the trains and helped the evacuees carry their heavy suitcases. He also visited his former students in the Gila River Relocation Center in Arizona, slept in the barracks and ate in the mess halls in order that he might experience what the internees were experiencing.

A Fair Play Committee member, he welcomed the evacuees back to California in 1945 and tried to see that they were not mistreated by "patriotic" neighbors or misinformed students at school. In the process he was called a "Jap lover" and the lawn at his home was desecrated.

A native of Minnesota, Harry Hoegh's teaching career in Selma began in 1927. Through the years he came to know and respect the hard-working Issei farmers whose children he taught.

His philosophy in education and humanitarian ideas endeared him to the minorities whose cultural and ethnic background he bridged. In 1960 he was the recipient of the Freedom Foundation Medal. The Selma Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, at its 10th anniversary banquet in 1960, accorded him special honors.

Harry Hoegh had a memory that surprised many Sansei students with the statement, "I taught your mother" or "I taught your father". He was a familiar figure over the years at funerals of parents of former Nisei students and often times came by way of taxi cab in his later years after having suffered a mild stroke.

The City of Selma's highest honor, the Citizen of the Year award, was presented to Harry Hoegh in 1974. In 1975 the newly-built Selma High School Library was named "The Harry Hoegh Library". He was heard to say, "There's plenty of room for expanding minds to grow here" on his tour of the new facility.

The Selma JACL recognizes and honors a great educator, humanitarian and friend, Mr. Harry Hoegh.

Eiji Tanabe, 67:

Little Tokyo and JACL leader

LOS ANGELES — Funeral service for Eiji Eddie Tanabe, 67, was held Mar. 16 in the Koyasan Temple under direction of Fukui Mortuary.

In ill health for nearly 10 years after suffering a stroke, he died Mar. 10 at the Minami Keiro Nursing Home.

Eiji Tanabe (1947 photo)

One of the most active community leaders in prewar and postwar Little Tokyo life, Tanabe was born in Spokane, Wash., educated in Japan at the Aoyama Gakuin but had spent most of his life in Los Angeles.

A prewar Japanese language school instructor and English editor of the Kashu Mamichi, Tanabe taught Japanese to Army intelligence officers at Michigan.

Then joined the National JACL staff at Salt Lake City and later was assigned as regional director at Los Angeles in 1947. As JACL staff member, he prepared the Japanese language news releases and brochures. As regional director during the resettlement period, he helped Issei and Nisei evacuees find housing and employment.

Several years later, he resigned from JACL, headed the Miyako Travel Bureau and became involved in community affairs. He was among the founders of Nisei Week Festival, Inc., was Downtown L.A. JACL president in 1949, taught Americanization classes to Issei and engaged in Japanese relief and CARE projects. He headed many other community projects, such as Nagoya sister city, Issei indigent fund drives and eventually was elected president of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce in 1961.

He is survived by widow Miyoko, two sons Jack (San Francisco), Roy (Los Angeles) and grandchildren. His son Robert preceded him in death in 1972.

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As members of Retail Clerks International Union, Local 324, Glennie Santana, Alexis Shupe and Salvador Grijelva can count on receiving funds from the union's pension trust when they retire. Meanwhile, some of the trust's money is kept in safe, interest-earning accounts at savings and loan associations in California. In this state, funds deposited in savings and loans are used to finance equal opportunity housing.

That makes Glennie, Alexis and Salvador equal opportunity lenders, They like that, and they are proud that union membership affords them this ability to contribute to their community's well being.

The savings and loan industry is grateful to labor unions and millions of other organizations and individual depositors, whose savings accounts make home ownership available to so many Californians.

RETAIL CLERKS ARE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY LENDERS

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**Pro-active Line** for JACL

**View from the Bamboo Tower**

By CLIFFORD L. UYEDA

Is there more to our campaign than the seeking of justice for the injuries and the injustice suffered by Japanese Americans at the hands of our own government during World War II? In the past we have sought justice, but there are certain notions held by the public that must be dispelled. It is important for us to understand that Japanese Americans were guilty of disloyalty to their country because of the actions taken against them by the United States. It is a difficult task to dispel in spite of the lack of any evidence or record to support this concept.

The second notion that must be dispelled is that evacuation was both necessary and justified. It is a powerful belief of many.

**What Is Our Goal?**

The future and viability of the Japanese American Citizens League will once again be determined by the membership. Leadership again will be asked to dig up those extra dollars and make that additional sacrifice to promote Japanese American interests. For some it will be a bitter pill to swallow. On the other hand, a revenue increase could provide the resurgence of a pro-active national organization prepared and equipped to meet the challenges of the day.

The solution can only rest in the competencies of the executive and legislative bodies of the JACL.

For JACL there is only one course of action. The first is to seek endorsement and support of Board members for the next term. This will be followed by the fact comment or action. The second is "maintenance"—identified by its reluctance to seek change or any other action that is different from the past. The third is "pro-active"—the ability to anticipate conflict and effectuate social change and to prepare for the next system. I CONTEST THAT WE MUST PROMOTE A PRO-ACTIVE JACL.

---

**Resignation**

By PAUL TSUNESHI

PWSDC Governor

Los Angeles

The March 31, 1978 House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on HR 5150 in Los Angeles brings to focus the desirability of reparations with regards to its ability to fund costs necessary to support issues on which JACL has committed itself.

HR 5150 deals with the medical needs of bomb survivors in the United States. At its San

1976, 11"a and the Hakata ozaka fund, repayments, for HR 5150, must be utilized to support the concepts embodied in this bill. By putting monies into the budget were defeated because the budget adopted at Sacramento had no provision for this type of outlay.

Because of the Sacramento decision, JACL issues which should be funded out of the budget and the Okaha:Yamada fund, repayments, for HR 5150, can be funded out of the budget which can only be met by the effort of the executive and legislative committee to meet the current demands for services by its members will also increase the supply of revenue.

The Board worked hard and had more successful accomplishments in the last system. I CONTEST THAT WE MUST PROMOTE A PRO-ACTIVE JACL.
Salt Lake City

My life has always been troubled. Working with words has further complicated it. After complaining about poor communications, I have contributed to the chaos (See “Characuro” on Page 4).

The distinguished Mr. Jimi Mitsunaga, Salt Lake JACL president, has applied a local interpretation to an article intended nationally. The piece was a personal tribute to my friend, Helen Kawagoe (PC 1/27/78).

Since Helen is a national figure, it seemed reasonable that the context of my piece was national. One analogy was used, referring to a Salt Lake JACL incident, the chapter specifically in the sentence for clarity.

The chapter president, being an attorney, knows the importance of facts. He writes that I am a drop out member since 1970, not participating in local activities for seven years. For the record, countless of the chapter president’s letter show that a Sacho Seko edited the paper and chaired a JACL art committee.

His article states, “due to problems at the national level, I became reacquainted with the chapter.” The ambiguity of his statement compels me to specifically cite my disconnection, to dispel any rumors.

On Aug. 31, 1977, the PC carried a front-page story headlined, “Teacher insults JACL speaker.” It was a special to the PC. The story was also carried nationally by other Japanese American papers. The story originated in Salt Lake City. It contained accusations of racism against a white teacher by a local JACL speaker. Having some sensitivity about this community, through a period of long business involvement, I was something made me investigate the matter.

Maybe it was an old reporter’s instinct. The name of the accused and the specific school had been omitted from the story. That could have been for two reasons; to spare the educator personal embarrassment or that there was some lack of credibility.

Through the complicated process of using personal contacts, I was able to learn the identity of the accused. I was the only one who called him. He was shocked and dis­traught. Nobody had bothered to check the facts with him. It was fortunate to learn that he had been personally responsible for introducing ethnic studies into his school district.

Immediately, I sought the assistance of both national and district JACL officers who live in this city. Both said they guessed something was wrong, gave me assurance that the matter had to be quickly attended.

Since the Salt Lake JACL board was meeting that night, I called the national officer to secure an apology from them. He had refused to issue an apology himself, saying he had no authority. He passed the buck. Nor did he try to write a letter as a private citizen.

They refused to issue an apology. My article appeared as “Classroom Incident” (PC 9/17/73). Strangely, in view of their opposition to issuing apologies, no other communications from the Salt Lake JACL board appeared in the PC to refuse my story.

There is a postscript to this, the one educator, puzzling over the unwarranted attack, called later to ask whether I thought it had been plotted in retaliation of his son’s political activities.

Curiosity led me to make further inquiries about the accused. I learned that his wife was a grassroots leader in the Democratic party. He was a founder and organizer of an annual city sports tournament sponsored by the state’s largest paper.

The actions I took were not motivated by his wife’s powerful political position or by any connections. This information came to me.

In the eyes of some, he had committed a grievous sin by crossing both community and color lines. To them, what he had done was bad. Sometimes it is necessary to do what is right, without regard for good or bad.

I profess no courage, being one of the biggest cowards around. But looking backward at our history as persecuted people, I am beholden to those who took a stand for us. Looking forward into a time when a Sansei or Yonsei, maybe a school teacher, is falsely attacked, I hope some other fool like me is grateful.

My life has always been troubled. Working with words has further complicated it. After complaining about poor communications, I have contributed to the chaos (See “Characuro” on Page 4).
Alameda

A helpful lesson in artificial respiration and other first aid techniques March 13 from the Alameda Fire Department. Films, lectures

and artificial respiration practice on a dummy were included in the demonstration.

East Los Angeles

The East Los Angeles JACL Easter egg hunt this Sunday will be held from 2-4 p.m. at Granada Park on Hellman Ave. in Alhambra, it was announced by chapter President Dr. Robert Ono. All children in the community have been invited.

Mile-Hi

A unique request from the Univ. of Colorado Library at Boulder was received by the Mile-Hi JACL recently, asking the community for suggestions on books to be included in their Japanese section. They should be also be donated to Dr. Masataka Muzumida, CU faculty member (490-6003).

Chapter was to have its annual membership meeting together Mar. 3 at the Buddhist temple.

Oakland

Attorney Roy Ikeda was elected Oakland JACL president at the March 3 meeting held at Oakland’s Sumitomo Bank hospitality room, according to George Kondo, No. Calif. Western States life regional director. Installation dinner has been tentatively set for Saturday, April 21.

The newly reorganized chapter also endorsed the concept of the Eastbay Iseai Housing Project, announced support of Japan Day festivities at Children’s Fairlyland this year and plans to publish a chapter newsletter each quarter.

Riverside

Riverside JACL members are praying rain would not fall on their Easter egg hunt held March 18 at the Riverside Crest Park. Event was chaired by Michiko Yoshimura.

The chapter also bid a sad adieu to Mrs. M. Iseda and Mrs. K. Nakabayashi who moved from Riverside. Mrs. Iseda had been the Riverside reporter for the Kaju Shimpo and had helped at many Sendai Festival functions. Mrs. Nakabayashi was known for her flower arranging classes and flower shows at the Sendai Festival.

San Fernando Valley

Ten scholarships of $100 each and two $500 Eugene Oda memorial scholarships are available to any students at San Fernando Valley or Simi Valley high school graduated, it was announced by the San Fernando Valley Japanese Community and local JACL chapter. Seniors should either see their school advisers or Yumi Sumida (349-3997). April 1 is the deadline application.

San Gabriel Valley

Five panelists will discuss the Evacuation during the San Gabriel Valley JACL meeting on Saturday, Mar. 25, 7:30 p.m. at the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center. Two films, including prewar and Heart Mountain footage by Dave Nitake, will be shown, it was announced by Toshi Ito, chapter president.

As a prelude to the forthcoming Manzanar Pilgrimage, it was announced April 22, Phil Shigematsu, Ed Tokeshi will be the meeting emcees. Panelists are:

Fred Nakano, chapter adviser, and Irene Tofuna - Co-Chairwoman.

St. Louis

The St. Louis JACL chapter will be holding its annual Easter egg hunt March 26 at Tiltes Park (Shovel Shelter). Start plays at 1:30 p.m. and organizers encourage sack lunches if weather looks good. Prizes will be awarded.

Washington, D.C.

A welcome reception for all members who joined the Washington, D.C. JACL this year and this past year will be held on Sunday, April 2-3, 5 p.m. at the Riverside Unitarian Church at Bethesda.

Members of the chapter board, headed by young attorney David Nitake, will be present as they are anxious to meet newcomers and new members. For information, call:

Enosuke Smith 390-3420, Hideko Haide 533-1367 (w), 532-2186 (h) George Wakuji 254-7520 (w), 901-3805 (v)
On a less serious note, Miyoshi jokes his campaign was one of his most “nerve-wracking experiences”—but one that brought him in touch with a lot of people on a first-name basis.

His wife, Jeanne, and two daughters, Lani and Jori, were swept up in the hubbub as well.

Miyoshi ventured from Santa Maria only for short periods during his earlier years—first to volunteer in the Army in 1946 and then to earn his BS from USC in business administration in the ’50s.

Rep. Danielson cites WASHINGTON, D.C.—A commendation to Tankah poet Minoru Fujita, one of a people selected to have poems read before the Emperor of Japan on two different occasions, was read into the Congressional Record by Rep. George Danielson (D-Calif.).

“Mr. Fujita has the rare distinction of being selected as one of 10 finalists who participated in a ceremony held in the Imperial Palace in Japan,” Danielson said.

No letter or notice on the nominating poem was entered with about 30,000 others.

Unique Selecting . . .

As Sleeping Beauty Castle icons in the background, Disneyland’s Main Street, USA takes on a new look, featuring a “Hanagasa Odori” and some yoshi jokes.

The traditional “Hanagasa Odori” dance, performed by dancers in traditional costume, is a staple of the park’s cultural performances and is a popular attraction for visitors.

Some of the dancers in traditional attire are seen enjoying the festivities, adding a touch of Japanese culture to the park’s offerings.

Interestingly, the event appears to be well-received by attendees, with many captured in the background enjoying the sights and sounds of this cultural performance.

He is a past president of the Santa Maria JACL, vice-chairman of the Employment Development Department Advisory Committee and an honoree in “Who’s Who of the West,” a Marquis publication.

In spite of all this, though, politics have won him over the most—for right now anyway.

“I really feel comfortable as a politician as it relates to local government be admitted.”

“I guess maybe I’m just a politician at heart.”

—Pat Tashima

Rosemede Nikkei

The annual poetry reading consists of short poems of syllables known as “tankas”.

Filipino art

OAKLAND, Calif.—Ruta for a Filipino Art and Culture Program will be discussed March 24, 6:30 p.m. at the Oakland Museum.

Japanese cooking course

LOUISVILLE: A cooking course in Japanese cooking will be taught by author Fran Sakamoto in April.

The eight-week course will run 10 to 10 p.m. on Tuesdays at the Nishi Hongwanji, 851 E. 1st St. For more information, call (213) 825-6380.
**pc's people**

- Agriculture
  - Bill Minami was honored by the Rosedale Chamber of Commerce as Farmer of the Year.

- The Arts
  - Selji Oowaha, new conductor of the Los Angeles Symphony Orchestra, told reporters that he knocked on wood for luck before his March 2 performance in Furukawa, Japan. His arrival as director of the renowned ensemble represents a victory, as the capacity audience of 1,800 called Oowaha back eight times after the performance of Brahms' Second Symphony.

- Business
  - George "Chemi" Oyama, chairman of the Golden Gate Opti.

- Special Events
  - Photograph of a Japanese contemporary painter, Kanji Higuchi, whose works are on exhibit at the National Museum of Modern Art, was honored at a luncheon recently. Born in Mihama in 1934, he was retrained to Japan following World War II. A self-taught artist, he began working in oil and woodcut in 1953, has held a one-man show at the Museum of Modern Art in New York and won the International Grand Prize in graphics at the Venice Biennale. Photograph of Ken Higuchi currently is on exhibit at the California First Bank in Little Tokyo. On display are works from South American newspapers and Little To...e Camera Service Center, San Francisco, and the Denver Post, which meets monthly to review new publications, said of his time at the organization.

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Flights are open to JACL Members and all qualified family members. Membership must be at least 6 months immediately prior to departure.

**FLIGHTS TO JAPAN**

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**Pacific Citizen**

Friday, March 24, 1984

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