

# PACIFIC CITIZEN

National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

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**GARDENA VALLEY PINNING**—Outgoing Gardena Valley JACL president Chester Sugimoto (third from left) receives past president's pin from Dr. Clifford Uyeda, national JACL president, while being congratulated by (from left) Long Beach City Councilwoman Eunice Sato, Assemblyman Paul Bannai; Mas Odoi, incoming chapter president; and Sam Fujimoto, candidate for the Los Angeles Board of Education. Ceremonies took place Jan. 13 at the Gardena Japanese Cultural Institute.

## I. Magnin, Joseph Magnin urging Kenzo label change

### San Francisco

Two noted San Francisco department stores have informed the Parisian firm "Kenzo" that they will no longer carry their fashion merchandise labeled "Jungle Jap" and asked that the labels be changed.

JACL regional director George Kondo said assurances came from top officials of I. Magnin and Joseph Magnin that steps are being taken to have the manufacturers change the label.

Norman Wechsler, president of I. Magnin, had

been told by Kondo the Kenzo items labeled "Jungle Jap" were offensive. In a response dated Dec. 12, Wechsler expressed his sympathies to Kondo and enclosed a letter addressed to Gilles Rayeese in Paris, reiterating the complaint of Japanese Americans and a request to change the offensive label. "In view of the present situation, we will not be able to accept any merchandise with the 'Jungle Jap' label," Rayeese was told.

Cyril Magnin, chairman of the board of Joseph Magnin, also agreed with Kondo in a letter dated Dec. 29. "I was totally unaware of this problem and apologize for the fact that it is so offensive... I have discussed this with the management of JM and I have insisted that we either discontinue the line or remove these labels."

Kondo had suggested the Kenzo line has certain appeal and would sell just as easily if simply labeled "Kenzo" now. #

## Health analyst succeeds Matsui

### Sacramento, Ca.

The Sacramento City Council Jan. 9 appointed Patrick Donovan, a state health research analyst, to serve out the 10-month term due to Robert Matsui's election to the Congress.

Attorney Frank Iwama, one of the 12 finalists for the vacant post, remained in contention until the selection was made for the \$60 per week councilman's post.

## DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

## Yasui to speak at Portland Feb. 17

### Portland, Ore.

The Pacific Northwest corner continues to command dramatic focus on what happened to persons of Japanese ancestry in 1942—the government order to evacuate their homes and be detained in American style concentration camps—with another "Day of Remembrance".

On the heels of a well-publicized trek held Nov. 25 to the Puyallup (Wa.)

Fairgrounds, then called Camp Harmony, the JACL and other organizations, notably the Oregon Nikkei-jinkai, Oregon Nisei Veterans, Buddhist Church and the Univ. of Oregon Student Union, will observe another Day of Remembrance at the Portland Expo Center on Saturday, Feb. 17.

Portland Mayor Neil Goldschmidt, Judge Robert Thornton of the Oregon appellate court, Minoru Yasui (who started his valiant fight against government exclusion by getting himself to be locked up in the Multnomah County Jail), Dr. George Hara, Masuji Ureta, and Harue Ninomiya are among the scheduled speakers. The Rev. Waichi Oyanagi will deliver the invocation.

Caravans from Seattle and Eugene are being planned, arriving at the Expo Center's West Hall, 206 N. Marine Dr., in time for registration at noon. Program, to be emceed by Rowe Sumida, will start at 2 p.m., followed by some camp-style entertainment at 3:45 staged by the local Fujinkai and vocalists Pat

Hokama and Nola Sugai-Bogle, and concluding with potluck around 5 p.m.

Lawson Inada, professor-poet at Southern Oregon, will participate again as he did at the Camp Harmony program, reading his works describing the Evacuation period.

Dr. Toshi Kuge will present a memorial plaque to Multnomah County for placement at its Expo Center, once known as the North Portland Assembly Center or the Pacific International Livestock Grounds, to the 4,000-plus Nikkei who were processed there in the spring of 1942.

Two slide shows will be shown describing the WW2 experience of Japanese Americans in the camps and artifacts will be on exhibit.

Members from the three JACL chapters in western Oregon—Portland, Gresham-Troutdale and Mid-Columbia—the Pacific Northwest District Council and the National JACL Redress Committee will participate in the Day of Remembrance.

In California, a Day of

Remembrance program is being planned for Pomona (L.A. County) Fairgrounds for April 14 (Saturday before Easter Sunday), the tenth annual Pilgrimage to Manzanar is scheduled for April 28, and the trek to Tule Lake from the San Francisco-Sacramento area is slated for May 27 to dedicate the state historical landmark plaque at the former campsite.

## Japanese Posters in Florida exhibit

### Palm Beach, Fla.

The Morikami Museum of Japanese Culture will host the exhibition "Japanese Posters: A New Approach to Graphic Design," a selection of contemporary posters by many of Japan's leading graphic artists, from Feb. 2 to March 26.

This exhibit provides a survey of the successful economic development of Japan since World War II, in which graphic design played a significant role. Included in the exhibition are posters for the theatre, the dance, the Olympic games, Expo '70, and commercial advertising.

## Nisei candidate for U.W. presidency

### Seattle

Dr. James Doi, dean of education at the Univ. of Rochester, New York, was among qualified candidates listed for the new president of the Univ. of Washington. He was formerly director of the Center of High Education at the Univ. of Michigan.

## Nisei elected to school board in Nevada

### Reno, Nev.

Reno JACLer Earl Yamashita was recently elected to the Carson City School Board, the Reno JACL Newsletter reported. He is believed to be the first Japanese American elected to a

public office in the state.

Meantime, Gov. O'Callaghan has appointed Wilson Makabe to a three-year term on the State Comprehensive Employment and Training Council. #

## YANKEE SAMURAI:

(PC 'Exclusive'-Serialization of 16 Chapters)

# Secret role of Nisei in America's Pacific victory

by Joseph Harrington

### CHAPTER 1

When Cdr. Mitsuo Fuchida signaled his fellow fliers to roar down at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, he triggered the Pacific war. It, in turn, precipitated the most profound happening in human history. Within days, what until then had been merely more of Europe's and Asia's perennial grappings, mushroomed into the first truly worldwide war mankind experienced. It took less than a week for the struggle to become universal, eventually affecting every person then alive and all born since. No one's life is anything like it might have been had that conflict not occurred.

Nowhere did vaster changes take place than in the massive melange of minorities making up the United States of America. Blacks, at last, became mobile, new national needs making it possible for them to escape the South's crushing heel. They swarmed northward to what they hoped was equal opportunity in defense plants. Mexican labor

was imported and became a fixture in U.S. economic life. Women left home to take jobs and remained to later become vociferous demanders of equal everything. The military-industrial complex, that ever-hovering chimera in democracy's hall of horrors, was born.

Fuchida had no idea what his snapped command would generate. He would later become a Christian missionary and study war no more. Nor could 286,000 of his enemies see any further into the future than the Imperial Navy's flight commander. Yet, of all peoples touched by the awful conflagration that has been misnamed the Second World War, none saw their lives so radically altered as did Americans of Japanese ancestry. The only ethnic group in America, except for native Indians, to have legislation enacted specifically as a punitive measure against them, Japanese Americans won greater honor, glory and gain from the universal struggle than anyone, anywhere.

Many Americans know how valiantly Ni-

sei served the United States in Europe. The 100th Infantry Battalion and its successor, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, were made up of Nisei soldiers (who refer to themselves as AJA's, Americans of Japanese ancestry). Both units fought with mind-boggling bravery. Once AJA's rescued a cut-off Texas unit at a cost of more casualties to themselves than the Caucasian lives saved. A motion picture, "Go For Broke," was made of their exploits, and the empty sleeve of U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye kept America reminded of this. He left an arm in Europe.

Until now, less than half of the Japanese-American story has gotten told. A grudging Pentagon kept details of the rest secret for 30 years. But, across the world from Europe, nearly 5,000 other Nisei served their country as translators, interpreters, interrogators and cave-flushers. Plus, when the occasion arose, combat infantrymen. To this date, hardly any Americans even know they were there.

These "Yankee Samurai" displayed the bravery of Japan's ancient warriors, plus the ingenuity of America's pioneers, in getting their jobs done. Yet all had passed their 50th (some their 60th and 70th) birthdays, before government reluctantly let their story be told. Incredibly, when the Pacific Nisei's contribution to actual victory was far greater than what their brothers and cousins gave in France and Italy via bloody sacrifice. Even more incredible has been the willingness of these Nisei military intelligence language specialists (or, as they call themselves, "MIS'ers") to keep mum while others got lauded. The Yankee Samurai had been asked to keep quiet for security reasons, and they did. Until I could obtain and display copies of Pentagon documents, each marked with the date and authority for its declassification, these Nisei would not open up. They

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## U.S. businessmen should study Japanese approach in foreign trade

Dallas, Tex.

U.S. business "should study Japanese success" rather than demand protection from the growing flood of Japanese imports, Mark Shepherd Jr., Texas Instruments Inc. chairman and director of the recent U.S. trade mission to Japan declared at a seminar here Jan. 11.

While Japan must do more to eliminate trade barriers which make it more difficult for U.S. businessmen to enter the Japan markets than it is for the Japanese to enter U.S. markets, Shepherd told the group the "key reason for the increased penetration of U.S. markets has simply been their ability to provide high quality, cost-competitive products".

The Japanese carefully choose foreign markets with a lot of growth potential, work hard to understand the cultures of foreign countries, adopt their products to those cultures and continue to provide good service to establish a firm base of repeat customers, Shepherd went on to tell businessmen present for the U.S. Dept. of Commerce-sponsored session on increasing exports to Japan.

American businesses would do well to emulate the Japanese approach

when confronted with the frequently frustrating and misunderstood business customs of the island nation, said Shepherd whose company has successfully established plants in Japan.

American businessmen must do their homework before they can hope to export. They must realize that the Japanese market is more quality-conscious than the U.S. market. And Americans must learn to deal with the complex Japanese distribution system, which Shepherd noted as a part of Japan's social security system with so many middlemen employed and which is unlikely to be altered anytime

soon.

The trade imbalance is in many ways an outgrowth of the domestic problems facing U.S. businesses, Shepherd said. Inflation must be controlled and productivity increased to improve the cost-competitive position of U.S. industry in world markets, thus allow the U.S. to reverse the erosion of its share of the free world exports.

Americans would also have to become "export-conscious", Shepherd said. Surrounded by a massive domestic market (which Japan does not have), U.S. businessmen frequently

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## Japan's Pearl Harbor spy saw Evacuation as 'cruel joke'

Washington

Observations about the U.S.-Japan war invariably make print during the week of Dec. 7 and the latest came from Takeo Yoshikawa, Japanese vice consul in Honolulu in 1941.

Ron Laytner's copyrighted interview with the diplomat who was a naval spy appeared Dec. 10 in the Washington Post. Yoshikawa recalled being taken to an Arizona relocation camp which was full of

innocent American Japanese. "They had done nothing. It was a cruel joke," Yoshikawa declared. "You see, I couldn't trust them in Hawaii to help me. They were loyal to the United States."

Yoshikawa lives in Matsuyama, virtually unrecognized for his intelligence work that helped Japan launch its surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. He told Laytner, "Today, war is bad; war is wrong. In my day, it was good and it was right. But look what it has brought me in my old age." He is unemployed, has no government pension and admits to drinking heavily to forget.

## Cal 1st's income up 27.8% in '78

San Francisco

California First Bank reported net income of \$15,724,000 for 1978, a 27.8% increase over 1977, it was announced by Toshio Nagamura, president. Per share earnings for the year were \$2.87; assets were up 13.4% to \$2,858,727,000.

As the state's seventh largest in terms of deposit, Cal 1st has 103 offices throughout the state but three overseas.

## Sumitomo Bank earnings rise

San Francisco

Sumitomo Bank of California reported its 1978 net earnings rose 22% or \$7,074,157, over the previous year's \$5,814,547. Per average share totaled \$2.32 as compared with \$2.50 in 1977. Total assets rose to \$1.5 billion from \$1.2 billion the previous year.

## Deaths

Johnson S. Kebo, 68, of Sanger died Jan. 13. Prominent Central California Nikkei and JACL leader, he is survived by w. Mieke, s. Johnson II, Rodney, Donald; d. Geraldine Wakita, Janice Berhaert, 5 gc; brs George, Henry and Frank.

## PC Directory: 1979 Memberships

Membership fee (after name of chapter) reflects the 1979 rate for Single and Couple. Thousand Club members contribute \$50 and up, but their spouse (x) may enroll at the special rate as shown; otherwise, the Single member rate applies. Student dues (y) do not include PC subscription but such members may subscribe at the JACL rate (\$7). Dues are payable and remitted to the JACL Chapter of the individual's choice. z—Retired sr citizens

As of January 26, 1979

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**Milwaukee (\$18-30)**.....Mrs Toshi Nakahira  
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### EASTERN

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## Longtime JACLer in Shanghai when U.S.-China 'normalized'

Menlo Park, Ca.

One longtime JACLer, Peter Ohtaki, was in Shanghai the historic day of Dec. 16 when U.S.-China relations were normalized. Leading an American tour group of 46, Ohtaki was shopping in a store when news of the agreement came over a loudspeaker.

It was first made in Chinese and then in English. "It surprised us all," the Japan Air Lines district sales manager said. The Chinese were ecstatic, coming up to shake the hands of tourists.

His group was the first American contingent to enter the city following the announcement, Ohtaki said. And that evening while dining with their Chinese hosts in a restaurant, "God Bless America" and "Home on the Range" rang out unexpectedly.

The latter tune was played by the Chinese at the banquet for President Nixon in Peking's Great Hall of the People in 1972.

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## fourth friday focus

# Presidential pointers on JACL Constitution

### ● Jerry Enomoto

National President, 1966-70

Many seasons have passed since I "took pen in hand", as the saying goes, to share my views in the pages of PC. I do so now at the invitation of Editor Harry to offer some thoughts about "The future of JACL, its philosophy, Constitution and modus operandi for the coming years."

I left active participation in the affairs of JACL about 1972, a Biennium following my second term as National President. Considering the pace of the Seventies, six years is a long time. There is no way that we can remain knowledgeable and informed enough, with contact limited to the PC and occasional visit to a Chapter Installation. My views should be read in that context.

With that limitation, my opinion is that the future of JACL can be bright, if its leaders take our slogans "Security Thru Unity" and "Better Americans in a Greater America" seriously. It is essential we remember that the first is meaningless without the second. What good is the security of Japanese American unity, unless it exists within the framework of that promised "Greater America" that cannot be reality with the social progress and racial brotherhood that is yet only Utopian? How committed is JACL in the noble goal of encouraging our fellow Americans to be "Better"? Is that a pious and condescending idea? What does "Better" mean?

What it means to me is that JACL remain vigilant to the threats to individual freedom that is ever present. That JACL remembers that the true obligation of a human rights organization (if that is indeed what it is) is to be critical of local, state or national policies when its conscience requires it. The slogan "My Country right or wrong" does not make "Better Americans".

In a real sense then my concept of JACL philosophy has changed very little over the years. I have been encouraged by the real evidence of increasing youth involvement, and the willingness of the organization to take positions on occasional unpopular issues—positions which we would not have touched with the proverbial "ten-foot pole" in the past. Yet, I continue to be troubled by the feeling that we are still too anxious about the "safe image", and an unwillingness to take risks.

My view of reality is that JACL is not immortal. We all come and go. Whether JACL remains viable depends upon how we incorporate the basic values in which we believe into policy, so that those who carry on its leadership can be guided by those values.

In that context, a re-evaluation of JACL's Constitution and the coming Constitutional Convention should help the organization take stock, determine if that document is the flexible one it should be, and to consider the changes, if any, are needed. I believe that change is the watchword. JACL is a large organization that must be responsive to its membership. A few elite leaders cannot run things. Yet, unwieldy processes that make expeditious decisions and actions impossible is incompatible with effective responsibility.

Continued on Page 8



### ● Shigeki Sugiyama

National President, 1972-74

A committee is expected to begin revision of the National JACL constitution shortly. Re-writing the constitution has been a recurring theme for over a decade. A draft revision of the constitution prepared by former Legal Counsel, Judge Bill Marutani, and PC Editor Harry Honda has been around since 1970 but has never been acted on officially. During the same decade, there have been parallel efforts to define the structure, role, direction, or goals of JACL—by the National Planning Commission (1968-72), the National Board and Staff (1972-74), and a national study committee on organizational structure (1974-78). Needless to say, none of these efforts were very fruitful.

Given the studies of the past decade and the procedures set forth in the enabling resolution, it is apparent that the National Council expects more than editorial revision. Constitutional revision appears to be intended as yet another vehicle for defining the rationale for JACL.

Your editor has asked me for comment. On reviewing my previously published views on the goals, functions, and dynamics of the JACL, I find that my absence from the scene these past few years has not caused me to change my mind. Thus, it may suffice to quote from a few of my previous commentaries starting with one published in November 1972.

"We frequently hear references to JACL as if it were either a solid, inanimate entity or a monolithic organism controlled by a single or collective mind. But it might be helpful if we were to conceive of JACL... as the living and growing results of the will, energy, effort and ideals of the people who constitute its membership. As a living concept, JACL is ever changing as new members join while a few drop out, as different people get involved and participate in various programs at different times in different areas, as new ideas are offered, considered, accepted or rejected, and as the external environment and conditions change. The JACL of yesterday is not the JACL of today, and today's JACL is not the JACL of tomorrow. The name of the organization, our ideals, and the organizational structure may remain the same. But there is constant change in the "people input" which gives life and substance to the organization. We can willfully tamper with the name and change the organizational structure. But no amount of rhetoric by a single person or group is going to have significant effect on the "people input" unless that rhetoric makes sense and is meaningful to the audience that counts—the members."

In April 1973, I commented:

"In response to (the question) 'What is the direction of JACL?', the typical response, if any, appears to be in terms of what JACL's chapters, district councils, and national organizations ought to do. Rarely, if ever, is what we want to achieve and why clearly articulated. The emphasis is on the doing of something, anything... Perhaps if we paid more attention to the why of a course of action and what we expect to achieve, we would be able to muster more substantial support for our programs from our members as well as from people outside the organization. It seems essential then that at the National level we should more clearly articulate the goals and objectives of the National JACL organization. We could say that our goals and objectives are enunciated in the National JACL Constitution: '... to foster American democracy, promote active participation in civic and national life, and secure justice and equal opportunities for Americans of Japanese ancestry... as well as for all Americans regardless of race, creed, color or National origin...' Perhaps the achievement of justice and equal opportunity, not only for Japanese Americans, but also for all Americans, is alone sufficient as a broad and idealistic goal for JACL. But based on the concerns expressed by



JACLers around the country, there appear to be other goals toward which JACL in reality is also striving.

"The goals and objectives of an organization such as JACL cannot, must not, be the expression of the will or desire of one individual or of an elite group. They should be an expression of the ends which will fulfill the needs, interests and aspirations of the members and the community served by the organization. It would be presumptuous for a self-appointed few to prescribe the goals of JACL. But there is still a need for someone or some group to interpret what the membership has been trying to say and to articulate this will into meaningful statements of goals and objectives. This appears to be rightfully the task of the elected and appointed officials of the National organization."

In April 1975, I wrote (restating what I had said two years previously to the National Board): "National JACL has left behind an era when programs and activities were based primarily on the persuasiveness of individual personalities or domination by 'power centers'. To remain a viable and effective organization, we must be responsive to the needs and interests of the membership and the communities served. But being 'responsive' puts the organization under increasing pressures and strains as conflicting demands and requirements mount and compete for limited material and human resources. Therefore, there is a need to make organizational processes more adaptive to present and future needs and to assure optimum allocation and use of available resources."

In concluding a subsequent article reviewing the unsuccessful effort of the National Board and Staff to clarify the goals and objectives of the organization, I added that—

"(Although) we don't have a formally adopted set of goals—except as broadly stated in our constitution as the overall purposes of JACL—we do have identifiable goals which can be stated generally as follows:

**"Justice for all Americans—**Equality of civil and human rights for Japanese Americans cannot be a reality unless all Americans regardless of race, creed, color, religion, sex or national origin are assured of such rights ...

**"Equal opportunity in all endeavors—**Equal educational and employment opportunities for Japanese Americans have always been our concern ...

**"Appreciation of our cultural heritage, contributions, and ethnic identity as Japanese Americans—**This is a two-pronged goal. We seek to gain recognition and appreciation by the general public of the rich heritage, contributions to society, and bicultural identity of Japanese Americans. At the same time, we seek to rekindle and increase the awareness and knowledge among ourselves of our identity and heritage as Japanese Americans ...

**"Japanese American involvement and participation in improving the life of all Americans—**Despite having received the short end of the stick so many times, Japanese Americans have never been content to sit back and just accept the fruits and benefits of life in America. We have always done our share or more in contributing to the well-being of all Americans. Thus we continually strive to remove any remaining barriers and to expand our role and our capacity to contribute our talents and abilities in the improvement of life in our society ...

### ● Kumeo A. Yoshinari

National President, 1964-66

Because I missed attending past two national conventions as well as not having access to the 1978 convention minutes, it is very probable that I'm not attuned to current thinking as to what our leadership envisions for JACL's future. If so, I'm sorry that my remarks to follow are off target; nevertheless, I'm adding my two cents worth here.

Personally I believe that our constitution of 1978 revised is basically in order with exception of updating terminology within specific articles to make the language more specific.

The JACL has survived a half century and has recorded meaningful and historical accomplishments. This proven fact has established that JACL's purposes and objective goals merited its existence; furthermore, the steady escalation of membership growth over the years must be a testimony to its public appeal and does attract public support.

In the past there have been membership advocates who wanted JACL's name changed or having the membership qualification altered to allow non-citizen enlistments. Personally I have been opposed to these considerations because our organizational name clearly identifies us a distinct minority group and for the present I believe it is our public relation advantage to be distinguished as an ethnic minority.

As for admission of non-citizens, I feel it will weaken our status as a collective voice as Americans to speak out for ourselves. The admission of non-citizens will make it more difficult to win public confidence that we're speaking in behalf of Japanese Americans lest we be construed to being spokesman, for example, for Japan or any other ethnic interests.

As previously mentioned I'm not aware of the reasons as to why a constitutional convention is necessary. The fact the National Council has called for this conclave, merits a serious judicial evaluation by the delegates. As the proposals for change are publicized, we'll have the chance to make known our feelings thereupon. For one, I will be waiting with much interest, if not concern, for the deliberations confronting the constitutional convention. #

**"The general welfare of Japanese Americans—**This might be considered a 'catch-all' goal of all those programs which fulfill the particular interests, needs and well-being of Japanese Americans ...

"Because of the breadth and scope of these goals, there is much that JACL can and should be doing—at the National, district council, and chapter levels. Our only limitation is what we—as individual JACLers, chapters, district councils, and JACL as a whole—are willing and able to commit of our talents, resources, and dedication, and our willingness and capacity to work together towards these common goals."

I believe that the comments that I made as a member of the National Board are still apropos. #





# PACIFIC CITIZEN

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ELLEN ENDO, PACIFIC CITIZEN BOARD CHAIRPERSON  
HARRY K. HONDA, EDITOR

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER: Clifford Uyeda

### Installation Dinners

During the winter months, most weekends are spent attending installation dinners. It is an opportunity not only to meet fellow JACLers from other chapters, but also to express one's own thoughts on a wide range of subjects. Invitations, we note, are limited to a few.

It seems that we are not utilizing to the full the wealth of talents available within the organization. The Vice Presidents, each in charge of a vital function of the organization, have tremendous understanding of the scope and the depth of our activities and our goals. The Secretary/Treasurer is involved intimately in most essential decision making, and, therefore, has an excellent feel of the way the organization is going.

Our Legal Counsel has his finger directly on the pulse; we look to him to see if we are continuing in good health. Who is not interested in the youth movement? Why not hear what the National Youth Coordinating Council's chairperson has to say?

The Governors of each of the eight Districts have precise knowledge of the problems at grass roots level. The membership needs to hear them.

There are the committee chairpersons. Committee functions reflect the activities of the organization. What goes into the awarding of scholarships? There is much more to it than matching names and grants. Helen Mineta knows all about it. JACL Travel Program is under constant reappraisal to better service the members. Ask Hank Sakai.

American citizens who were the unfortunate victims of A-Bombs at Hiroshima and Nagasaki are still denied medical care by their own government. Frank Kasama is the chairperson of the A-Bomb Survivors Committee. Employment Discrimination under Tom Taketa, Committee Against Defamation under Margie Yamamoto. International Relations under Chuck Kubokawa—these subjects hit the very core of the organization's reason for existence.

Redress holds the top priority among JACL programs. John Tateishi and his committee members can give valuable advice on how to become an active part of the campaign. The Aging and Retirement Committee under Min Masuda has remarkable information to share. The listing can go on and on.

The National Board members and Committee Chairpersons need to be heard from. Installation dinners would be a perfect platform from which they can speak out. All of us would be the benefactors.

YE EDITOR'S DESK: Harry K. Honda

### Heckler Gets Punched

Till our desk is cleared, a likely place for yarns we find in the pile of papers is here. We're still on the "Jap" kick—and this comes from the Honolulu Advertiser, Dec. 13, reporting an unidentified man briefly disrupted a legislative hearing in the Hawaii state capitol with a racial slur against Americans of Japanese Ancestry.

State Rep. Tony Kunimura (D-Kauai) objected to the man's use of "Japs" when interrupting the committee. The 442nd veteran then followed the guy out of the room, confronted him and punched him down.

"I don't care if he calls me a fat little sh—," Kunimura said later. "But don't call me a Jap." He's not one to hold back his temper when provoked. His tantrums are familiar to Capitol reporters. The sometime real estate agent and grocery store operator has one of the saltiest tongues in the Legislature in and out of session, observes the Advertiser.

Punches have been thrown before when a person was called "Jap" but this is a first by a Nikkei public official in our memory. I don't know if a Mainland Nikkei would care to be quoted in the newspapers (our bleep was spelled out in the clipping) as Kunimura was. But the point that "Jap" is more provocative or obscene in an already salty vocabulary displays a bombastic sense of racial tolerance that is not soon forgotten nor to be taken lightly.



# Comment, letters, features

## Redress—Pro and Con

Editor:

A few days ago I attended the JACL installation dinner in Gardena and heard a speech given by Dr. Uyeda on the Redress issue. I was deeply impressed with his presentation in a number of ways.

First, he seemed to be thoroughly familiar with every aspect of this issue. I would suspect that he has expended an enormously large amount of time in studying this issue. Second, he seemed to be fully aware of the political reality confronting this issue and the need to develop a strategy to overcome this difficulty. Third, he seemed to be firmly convinced that the strongest basis for pushing this issue is that it is right. I agree with him in that it is the work to seek social justice and that it will have a historic meaning in American society. Fourth and finally, I strongly approve of Dr. Uyeda's calm, rational and objective approach to this issue. Given today's political climate, the kind of approach employed by Dr. Uyeda appears to be most effective in accomplishing the redress objective.

I have always thought that redress was a right issue. Now Dr. Uyeda's speech has convinced me that it is being pursued by those who are highly intelligent, competent, sophisticated and professional. It seems that it is a high time for all the Japanese Americans to stop disagreeing on this issue and to extend united support for the JACL leadership headed by Dr. Uyeda.

AKIRA KUBOTA  
Gardena, Ca.

Editor:

We want Redress! We want the wrongs made right!

However, just supposing the Negroes in the United States sued the government for the damage to their lives and personalities that Slavery under the hand of thieves, murderers, and criminal characters out of the jails of England, and street walkers from France had wrought upon them, and Indians sued the United States for the deception, murders, and robbery perpetrated against them by the White People, I wonder where America would be?

I guess the White People here would be tied up in debt

like their parents were, who left Europe to escape a debt-ridden life.

Is Redress justified in the light of other Minorities here?

ROBERT H. IWANABE  
Los Angeles

Editor:

Japanese Americans have long held the reputation of being well off financially. The tall buildings in Little Tokyo appear as evidence, the public unaware that they were built by money from Japan. We also have the reputation of "taking care of our own." We could really do just that if we each received \$25,000 in reparations—at least have a good start toward that end, even in these days of inflation and provided the dollar doesn't deteriorate too much in value.

I was shocked to read elsewhere that Asians in America are not considered a "minority"—hence are excluded from "minority" governmental programs. Asians pay taxes but do they (we) benefit from them? It would seem not. Our taxes have been going for everybody but "our own."

Also recently in the Rafu Shimpō, Dwight Chuman

told about a Korean boy who has spent five years in an American prison for a crime he didn't commit, and that \$40,000 was needed for legal fees, etc. If the Asian community had financial clout and "took care of their own", wouldn't he have a good chance of getting freed; in fact, have stood a good change of not having been falsely imprisoned, in the first place?

Which reminds me, we've had the experience a few years ago of the difficulty in raising funds for urgencies such as in the "Noguchi Case". The required \$40,000 was finally acquired in small trickles over what seemed an interminable period. It worked a great hardship on most of us because we had to live on a tight budget, as it was. It proved that the JA community was not as rich as its acquired image would have it.

I've cited these few reasons (there certainly are many more) why the JA community desperately deserves and needs reparations for our unjust confinement in American concentration camps in World War II.

MRS. MARY TANI  
Los Angeles

## Holiday Issue

Editor:

The Issei woman—a forgotten link in the chain of legacy of the Nikkei story—has emerged with the writings of Shikako Takaya in your recent Holiday Edition. To every Nisei who remembers his mother, the article presented by Mei Nakano and Seizo Oka strikes home. Kudos to the above two for alerting our conscience to the toll and sacrifice of these Issei women.

Mei, when is your book coming out?

MIKE IWATSUBO  
Fresno, Calif.

Editor:

The Holiday Issue was terrific. Here in NorCal, people are talking about it. Your sense of journalism and the technical skill with which you exploited YANKEE SAMURAI is having an unprecedented impact on your thousands and thousands of readers. Congratulations. It goes without saying the MIS community is deeply grateful to you.

SHIG KIHARA  
Monterey, Ca.

*The kudos rightfully belong to our assistant, Sharon Suzuki, who as HI editorial director was responsible for the design and layout of the stories. We had worried about a front page cover and her choice to set the lead paragraph in 20 pt. type and blowing up the headline to 90 pt. was simple to fulfill with results magnificent.—Ed.*

Editor:

In reading "Yankee Samurai" by Joseph Harrington in the Holiday Issue of the Pacific Citizen, I could not help but notice the glaring omission of John Aiso's name in giving proper credit for organizing the training program for the Japanese

American linguists. I believe there is an undeniable indication that this book makes Col. Kai Rasmussen the moving force which he was not. As a former instructor serving under John Aiso, I know my sentiment is shared by thousands of Nisei veterans.

To play up the heretofore unheralded role of the Nisei GI's in the war against military Japan is one thing, but to ignore the principle of putting credit where credit is due is another thing. How can anyone write history of the MIS veterans deleting the name of John Aiso? To do so amounts to a distortion of history.

The story of the Nisei GI's is not complete without touching upon the Japanese

American experiences: One hundred years of racial persecution suffered by Issei culminating in the wartime evacuation; Japanese military aggression in the Far East casting a questioning shadow on the loyalty of Japanese Americans. Without this knowledge and understanding, one cannot fathom the motivation of the Nisei GI's, particularly those intelligence linguists fighting against military Japan.

John Aiso, Japanese American, was a victim, but became a leader. He inspired and mobilized the Nisei for America under the most adverse circum-

stances. Mere knowledge of the language was not sufficient to make the performance chronicled by Mr. Harrington possible.

JAMES ODA  
Fontana, Ca.

Starting this week, the Pacific Citizen is running a serialization of Harrington's "Yankee Samurai", which is scheduled to be published in May-June this year. We hasten to add John Aiso's role is referred to in the opening chapter and elsewhere in the 16 chapters which we intend to publish and illustrate over four-five month period.—Ed.

## 35 YEARS AGO

IN THE PACIFIC CITIZEN

Jan. 22, 1944

Jan. 14—Army returns control of Tule Lake segregation camp to WRA; Lt. Gen. Emmons of Western Defense Command explains not Army's job to administer internment camp. Native Sons of Golden West protest return of WRA jurisdiction.

Jan. 15—Wash. State Council of Churches backs free return of evacuees to west coast after military security allows.

Jan. 17—Calif. Board of Agriculture reverses own stand on evacuees taken a month earlier supporting rights of Japanese Americans; author of earlier resolution (UC Prof. Paul Taylor) ousted by Gov. Warren.

Jan. 19—Gen. DeWitt in Washington defends evacuation decision, cites three "Japanese attacks" on west coast, danger of signaling to enemy subs. PC editorial Jan. 22 raps DeWitt decision since it was based on "rumors and suspicion".

Jan. 29, 1944

Jan. 21—War Relocation Authority, created as independent agency under Presidential war powers, to be placed under Dept. of Interior, reports Washington Post. West coast congressmen had demanded WAR reorganization.

Jan. 24—WRA drops plan to relocate 199 from Amache to Henry Ford's 83,000-acre plantation near Savannah Ga.; evacuees found positions were only temporary.

Jan. 25—NBC-Radio bars appearance of Nisei Aerial gunner (Sgt. Ben Kuroki) on national show hosted by Ginny Simms; NBC explains "American Japanese question is highly controversial".

Jan. 25—U.S. Attorney General Biddle proposes amendment to Nationality Act permitting renunciation; House Committee on Immigration gets bills proposing denationalization of "disloyal" Japanese Americans, expatriating "unfriendly to U.S." Nisei in exchange for Americans held in Japan.

Jan. 27—Internal security at Tule Lake segregation camp increased 500% (from 10 to 66 civilian police, 24-hr. patrol of fence between camp and administrative area). Gov. Warren criticizes return of camp from military to WRA control.

Jan. 29—L.A. Superior Court Judge Carl Stutsman rules for evacuees in Y. Oshiro case; favorable decision frees many from contractual liabilities imposed by Army Evacuation, explains A. L. Wirin.





## MIN YASUI LETTERS

## From the Multnomah Jail

● Min Yasui is scheduled as one of the speakers at the Day of Remembrance program at Portland's Expo Center on Feb. 17, recalling the Evacuation of 1942. He shall have much to remember in view of the letters (below) reprinted from the PC of Dec. 3, 1942.

The following letters were written from the Multnomah County Jail to Hito Okada, JACL official, by Min Yasui, shortly after his conviction on charges of violating the alien curfew regulations.

Yasui was sentenced to a fine of \$5,000 and a year's imprisonment. In the decision, Federal Judge James A. Fee ruled that the curfew restriction, imposed by order of Lieutenant General DeWitt against all persons of Japanese ancestry in prohibited military areas was valid in respect to aliens, but void in the case of citizens.

Min Yasui, born in the United States, was held by Judge Fee to be an alien on the grounds that he forfeited his American citizenship by his association with the Japanese consulate at Chicago, which retained him as an attorney.

Multnomah County Jail  
November 16, 1942

Hito Okada:

The Federal District Court for Oregon has sustained my position and my views with regard to the curfew and evacuation. The decision of the court was that the mili-

## Federal meets set for foreign languages

## Washington

Newly formed President's Commission on Foreign Languages and International Studies will hold five regional meetings to solicit public input concerning effective teaching of foreign languages and international studies in the elementary through college levels, it was announced by Stephen Thom, Asian and Pacific American Concerns Staff director. The dates are:

Feb. 23—San Francisco, World Affairs Council, 312 Sutter St.; Feb. 24—Monterey, Defense Language Institute; Mar. 7—Houston, Hyatt Regency, Apr. 12-13—Raleigh, Faculty Club, North Carolina University; May 4—Medford, Mass., Tufts University School of Law and Diplomacy.

All mankind is divided into three classes: those that are immovable, those that are movable, and those that move.

—ARAB PROVERB

tary proclamations of General DeWitt were void as being unconstitutional, as pertaining to American citizens. However, he further ruled that I am not an American citizen but an alien Japanese.

That is very well for me, although I hold my American citizenship sacrosanct and inviolable—for I shall carry that fight to the Supreme Court. But even if my personal citizenship is sacrificed, I shall be satisfied if the fight to preserve the citizenship rights of the American citizens of Japanese ancestry is carried on. It must be!

If my curfew case had been undertaken by any person other than myself, from the standpoint of background, I am confident that he could have won an acquittal, on the basis which I urged, and could have gone ahead to smash evacuation as the most un-American thing that has been done as a national policy. By enduring the barbed wire fences, the armed sentries, the restrictive measures applied on the basis of racial ancestry, the Japanese American is contributing to the very thing that we as a nation are fighting to destroy.

I believe it the sacred obligation of the Japanese American to combat the racial discrimination imposed by the military. It is an obligation of citizenship to fight illegal and unconstitutional attempts to destroy even the least of these fundamental rights of citizenship. If you and others can win this fight, I am convinced that you will be aiding the fight for freedom, contributing to the democratic processes of life, and adding to the perpetuation of the glory of Americanism.

I do not advocate a mass disobedience to the WRA program, but rather the fullest cooperation in all practical and physical phases of relocation. But, for the sake

of our country, and for the destiny of our nation in which I believe, take legal steps to reserve the question for judicial determination! This must be done! I am heartened by the clear-cut decision of Judge Fee in holding the curfew law void, and his dicta to declaring evacuation likewise null and void as respecting American citizens.

However, I am now confronted with the task of establishing my own personal citizenship status, and I regret that I can do little to advocate the cause of which I speak because of financial limitations.

This is written in jail, and my apologies for the writing and stationery. But I shall be content here, if I know that the fight goes on to preserve the democratic institutions and the fundamental citizenship rights of American citizens, even if they be of Japanese ancestry.

As for me, my belief in America and my faith in the democratic processes of America remain unshaken.

Yours,  
Min Yasui

Multnomah County Jail  
November 25, 1942

Greetings, Hito:

I am prepared to carry my case through to the Supreme Court, if necessary, to sustain the principles enunciated by Judge Fee relative to the rights of American citizens. Because, Hito, that is good law.

You know, Hito, you haven't lived behind barbed wire fences patrolled by armed sentries in your own native land, have you? Perhaps you can't feel the frustration, the disillusionment of the nisei evacuee. I think I know a taste of that, and it isn't good.

Anything to give these people a little glimmering of hope in their faith in America is worthwhile...

Altho' I'm still going strong, confidentially, Hito, I'm a lonesome cowboy on account of being in jail is awfully damned uncomfortable.

Yours,  
Min Yasui



FROM THE FRYING PAN: Bill Hosokawa

## Variations on 'Ojii-san'

Denver, Colo.

A RECENT COLUMN pondered on the varying nuances projected by words in different languages that have the same dictionary meanings. For example, the column said, take the word "grandfather," which in Japanese is *ojii-san*. Both have the same meaning, but somehow an American grandfather seems to be younger, more vigorous, less elderly than the picture of a stooped, frail relic conjured by the word *ojii-san*.

This small item produced an unexpected volume of mail response, and today I'd like to share some of the comments with the readers.

Frank Wada of Pingree, Idaho, writes that he doesn't feel particularly old when his grandchildren address him as Grandpa. But one day the Japanese wife of a neighbor called him "Wada no Ojii-san" (Grandpa Wada) and, Frank says, "I really felt old." Wada adds:

"A man of 75 is an *ojii-san*, all right, but I refuse to feel and act like one. I went goose hunting the other morning and dropped me a big gander, and I intend to get up at 5 o'clock and godown along the river tomorrow and hunt in the snow."

Which seems to be proper behavior for an American grandpa, but not a Japanese *ojii-san*.

Yayoi Ono of Carson, Calif., points out that the same differences of meaning exist between "grandma" and *obaa-chan*. Back a number of years ago, she recalls, her mother was coming for a visit and Mrs. Ono prompted her two daughters to call their grandmother *obaa-chan*, thinking it would please her to hear herself thus addressed in Japanese.

Well, although Grandma's expression didn't change when she was called that, her

*I am a firm believer in the people. If given the truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crisis. The great point is to bring them the real facts.* —ABRAHAM LINCOLN

## TRADE

Continued from Page 2

find it easier to serve the domestic market rather than take the risks and make the necessary productivity improvements that would allow them to compete successfully in foreign markets. There are "numerous examples" where U.S. firms have overcome the heavy barriers of Japanese language, competition and distribution system to successfully compete in Japan, but many American firms have failed to really make the effort, he said in conclusion.

Shepherd also feels Japanese competitiveness may be affected in the future by their own increasing domestic demands in housing and environmental preservation.

—Dallas Times Herald

Doris Yokoyama of the JACCC will be guest speaker at the next meeting of the So. Calif. Society of Japanese Blind, Feb. 4. Group meets every other month on the first Saturday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Little Tokyo.

private reaction wasn't quite what Yayoi Ono was expecting. Later, Grandma took her daughter aside and explained she preferred to be called "Grandma" because *obaa-chan* sounded "so old."

Douglas Kendall of Tacoma, Wash., says there is good reason that Japanese *ojii-san* look and act older than American grandpas. He reasons with considerable validity that it has been the custom for Japanese to marry at a somewhat later age than Americans and so it is understandable that Japanese grandfathers would be as much as ten years, or even more, older than Americans at the time they become grandparents. His point is that beyond the simple nuance of the words, Japanese grandparents are indeed likely to be older. But, he adds, this may not continue for long because Japanese customs are changing, leading to marriage at an earlier age, and a few decades from now there may be many young *ojii-san*.

KENDALL, A STUDENT of things Japanese, also has provided me with a scholarly explanation about the various systems of romanizing the Japanese language, that is, writing Japanese in the Roman alphabet. His explanation is a bit too complicated for reproduction here, but you might find the following of interest:

In the Shin-kunrei-shiki (New Official System) the word for "romanization" would be written *romazi*.

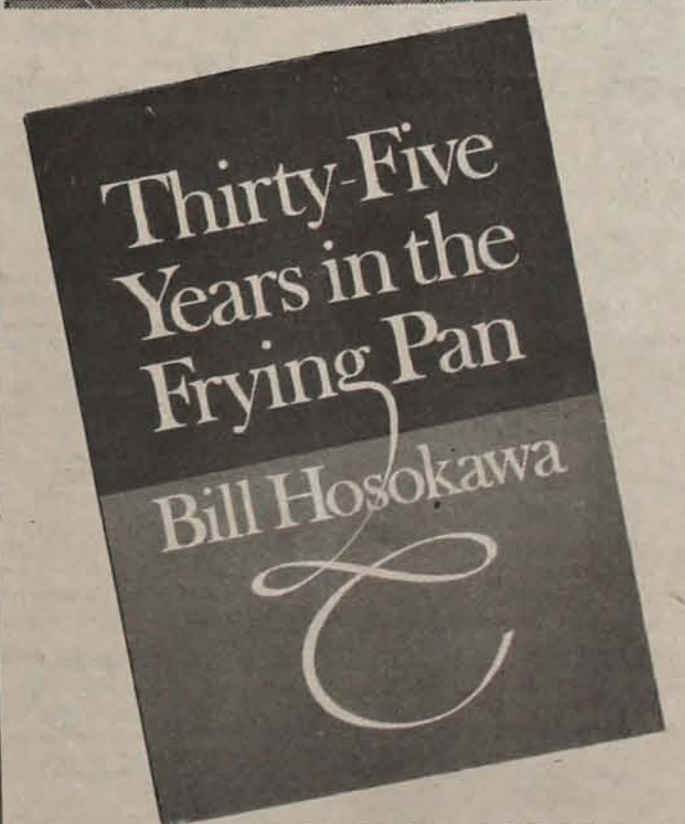
The usual system presently being employed for college language books is an adaptation of the Shin-kunrei-shiki, and the word would be written *roomazi*.

In the familiar Hepburn system, it would be *romaji*.

And in the Nippon-shiki (Japanese System), it would be *romadi*.

What makes it all the more confusing, says Kendall, is that the Japanese do not adhere consistently to any single system. In fact, they sometimes use a mixture of several within the same word.

Obviously, romanized Japanese is as confusing and inconsistent as English. #



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## REDRESS PHASE TWO: John Tateishi

## On to D.C.



When the National Council unanimously accepted the Redress proposal at the Salt Lake City convention, in essence it mandated the parameters within which the National Committee for Redress could define the final structure of our bill to Congress.

It is within those parameters that the Committee is attempting to write a draft of the Redress bill.

Before we can draft a final version, however, we have agreed that members of our Committee should meet with the delegation of supportive Japanese American congressional legislators. Accordingly, we shall meet with Senators Inouye and Matsunaga and Congressmen Mineta and Matsui to seek their advice and counsel on the bill. This meeting will take place within the next few weeks.

The JACL Redress delegation will consist of Ron Mamiya and John Tateishi from the Redress Committee, in addition to Dr. Clifford Uyeda, Karl Nobuyuki, and Ron Ikejiri. Mike Masaoka has been asked to participate in the meeting.

Since it is the Nikkei legislators whom we will ask to carry the bill in Congress, it is imperative that we design the final draft so that they feel they can give it their full support. It will also be important that the bill we submit be acceptable to members of Congress in order that it will have a chance to pass successfully through the myriad committees before it reaches the floor of the House and Senate.

If, and only if, the parameters of the Salt Lake City proposal do not seem likely to succeed in Congress, then it is my view that the Redress Committee must redefine the basic structure of the bill.

However, this will not be done lightly or without a great deal of serious consideration.

Once we have discussed with our Nikkei legislators the possible and necessary modifications of the proposed bill, the Committee will again meet to begin work on a draft.

Hopefully, and if all goes well, our bill will be introduced this year as HR 9066.

## Fresno center shows off woodcarver's talent

## Fresno, Ca.

The woodcarving talent of Kamezu Anzai, 90-year-old Issei now living in Visalia, is on display at the CCDC JACL-sponsored Nikkei Service Center, 912 F St. Over the Christmas holidays, his carving of the Nativity scene were being exhibited. For January, pieces symbolizing the new year are being shown.

Anzai, who hails from Fukushima-ken, has been a U.S. resident since 1904—first working with his brother on the railroad. He then attended a mission school in Visalia and until a few years ago farmed in Tulare County.

Wood carvings of his farm experience and life at Poston III relocation center will be featured in the

future.

Anzai continues to carve, paint and engage in other handicrafts—in spite of his being legally blind and nearly deaf, NSC workers said.



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## Calendar, pulse

- \*A non-JACL event**
- JAN. 26 (Friday)**  
Solano County—Koto Ensemble concert, Fairfield.
  - JAN. 27 (Saturday)**  
EDC—Qtr sess, Washington DC JACL hosts.  
Washington, D.C.—Inst dnr, dance, Sheraton Potomac, Rockville, Md; Rep Bob Matsui, spkr.  
\*Los Angeles—442nd Assn inst dnr, Proud Bird, Restaurant, 7:30 pm.  
Nat'l JACL—EXECOM mtg (2 day), Hq, San Francisco.  
\*Los Angeles—J/Am Bar Assn dnr, LaCanada-Flintridge Country Club, 8pm.
  - JAN. 28 (Sunday)**  
Pasadena—Inst dnr, Limehouse Restaurant, L.A., 5pm.  
West Los Angeles—Sr Cit New Year party, Mahood Ctr, 1pm.  
Salinas Valley—Koto Ensemble concert.  
Oakland—Inst dnr, Elegant Farmer Restaurant, Jack London Sq, 6:30pm; Michael Kaplan, spkr.
  - JAN. 29 (Monday)**  
Tulare County—Gen mtg, Chinese Pagoda, Visalia, 7pm; Karl Nobuyuki, spkr.  
West Valley—Inst dnr, Pinehurst Inn, San Jose, 7:30pm; Dr Gisaburo Kiyose, spkr.
  - JAN. 30 (Tuesday)**  
Fresno—Mrs Inaba slide show, Nikkei Sv Ctr, 11:30am.
  - JAN. 31 (Wednesday)**  
Lodi—Koto Ensemble concert.  
\*Los Angeles—J Chamber of Comm inst dnr, New Otani Hotel, 7:30pm.  
\*Los Angeles—Manzanar Proj workshop, Little Tokyo Towers, 7:30pm.
  - FEB. 2 (Friday)**  
Tri-Valley—Koto Ensemble concert.  
Reno—Inst dnr, Pioneer Inn, 7pm; Dr Clifford Uyeda, spkr.  
\*Los Angeles—Westn Adult Buddhist Lg conf (2da), Hompa Hongwanji; Sat dnr-dance, New Otani Hotel.  
\*Fresno—Nisei Farmers Lg annl mtg, Sheraton Hotel, 7pm.
  - FEB. 3 (Saturday)**  
Contra Costa—Inst dnr, Berkeley Marina Marriott Hotel, 7:30pm; Yori Wada, spkr.  
San Mateo—Inst dnr, Black Angus Restaurant, 7pm.  
Riverside—Inst dnr, CSC-San Bernardino, 7pm; Dr Harry H L Kitano, spkr.  
\*Los Angeles—City AAEmpl Assn dnr, Golden Palace Restaurant, 6:30pm; Judge Robert Takasugi, honoree.  
\*Washington—APAFEC Lunar New Year reception, Rayburn House Off Bldg Gold Rm, 8pm.  
Selanoco—Inst dnr, Twin Dragon Restaurant, Anaheim, 7:30pm; Dr Hiroo Kanemori, spkr.  
French Camp—30th anny dnr, Comm Hall, 5:30pm.  
Fremont—Fun Nite-potluck, So Alam Cty Buddhist Church, 6pm.
  - FEB. 4 (Sunday)**  
Cleveland—Inst dnr, Tokyo Garden, Fairview Park, 6:30pm; Dr Toaru Ishiyama, spkr.
  - Eden Township**—Koto Ensemble concert, Eden JCC.
  - FEB. 5 (Monday)**  
NC-WNDC—Cult Herit comm dnr, Blue Dolphin, S Leandro, 7:30pm.
  - FEB. 7 (Wednesday)**  
\*San Francisco—Manzanar Proj workshop, Satow Bldg, 7:30pm.
  - FEB. 10 (Saturday)**  
\*Riverside—International Festival, UCR, 8pm.  
Santa Barbara—Inst dnr, Montecito Country Club, 7:30pm; Paul Tsuneishi, spkr.
  - FEB. 11 (Sunday)**  
Philadelphia—Gen mtg, Jeffersonville CC, 3pm.  
Puyallup Valley—Memb potluck.
  - FEB. 17 (Saturday)**  
Portland—Day of Remembrance, Multnomah County Expo Ctr, West Hall, 12n regis, 2-3:30 program, 3:45-4:15 entertainment, 5pm potluck; Rowe Sumida, mc.  
San Diego—Gen mtg, Ocean View Congregational Church, 7:30pm; Dr Clifford Uyeda, spkr.
  - Orange County**—Inst dnr-disco, Saddleback Inn, Norwalk, 7:30pm; Rep Bob Matsui, spkr.
  - FEB. 18 (Sunday)**  
CCDC—Tulare County JACL hosts: Qtrly sess, Marco Polo Restaurant, Hwy 198-Linwood, Visalia, noon.  
PSWDC—Qtrly sess: Sn Diego JACL hosts, Town & Country Inn, 9:30am.

## ● French Camp

## 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SET

French Camp JACL celebrates its 30th anniversary on Saturday, Feb. 3, 5:30 p.m., at a gala installation dinner to be held at the French Camp Community Hall, it was announced by George Komure, president. All chapter past presidents, former and present Issei residents will be honored.

Floyd Shimomura, National JACL vice-president, of Woodland, Ca., will be installing officer. Lydia Ota is the incoming 1979 chapter president.

French Camp's charter president, Bob Takahashi, went on to become Northern California district governor (1949-51) and then national JACL vice president (1952-54). In the meantime, a job change meant a move to Morro Bay and Takahashi was elected San Luis Obispo chapter president in 1971 and again for 1979.

Working to make this a memorable occasion are: General chrmn., John Fujiki and George Komure; program, Hiroshi Shinmoto and Yoshio Itaya; invitations, Dorothy Ota; banquet, Katie Komure; decoration, Toyo Foundation; recognition, Mats Murata; Keirokai, Frank Kosugi; gifts, Nancy Natsuhara and Kimi Morinaka; publicity, Florence Shiromizu.

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## SAN MATEO JACL

Terry Terauchi, pres; Richard Nakanishi, 1st vp; Yasuko Ito, 2nd vp; Yosh Kojimoto, treas; Suzu Kunitani, rec sec; Grayce Kato, cor sec; Ernie Takahashi, Kurt Ota, Eureka Utsumi, Doug Ota, Susan Fujiki, Kiyo Okita, Shig Mori, Sakae Yamaguchi, Florence Yoshiwara, Tom Konno, Yo Mizono, Tazu Takahashi, bd memb.

## SEATTLE JACL

Mitch Matsudaira, pres; Joanne Fujita, 1st vp; Eira Nagaoka, 2nd vp; Charles Kato, 3rd vp; Patti Shimomura, 4th vp; Eileen Takeuchi, treas; Ruth Yoneyama, rec sec; Ken Nakano, hist; Ted Taniguchi, del; bd memb—Gp I: Helen Akita, Cherry Kinoshita, Dr Min Masuda, John Matsumoto, Tomio Moriguchi, Ben Nakagawa, Toru Sakahara; Gp II: Frank Fujii, Chris Kato, Ali Kurose, Henry Miyatake, Arlene Oki, John Sato, Fran Wada; Gp III: Gil Hirabayashi, Ron Mamiya, Bruce Miyahara, May Sasaki, Jerry Shigaki, Delores Sibonga, Barbara Yoshida.



## pulse

### ● Fremont

#### FUN NIGHT-POTLUCK DINNER PLANNED

Fremont JACL holds its annual potluck dinner-fun night on Saturday, Feb. 3, 6 p.m., at the Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church. Among the games will be the second annual paper airplane flying contest with Herb Izuno in charge. Aileen Tsujimoto is chairing the evening activities.

### ● Oakland

#### INSTALLATION EVENT JAN. 28

Oakland JACL, in its second year since reorganization, will hold its installation dinner on Sunday, Jan.

## Membership

#### TOP TEN CHAPTERS As of Dec. 31, 1978

Chapter	(1000 Club Total)
San Francisco	1,751 (135)
Gardena Valley	1,585 (28)
San Jose	1,511 (54)
West Los Angeles	1,351 (18)
Chicago	1,065 (151)
Sequoia	955 (19)
Sacramento	894 (93)
Seattle	770 (63)
East Los Angeles	747 (16)
San Mateo	712 (13)

#### DISTRICT SUMMARY

District Council	1978	1977
Pac Northwest	1,993	2,094
NC-WN	12,797	12,992
Central Calif.	1,796	1,661
Pac Southwest	9,373	9,348
Intermountain	1,417	1,402
Mountain-Plains	700	695
Midwest	2,438	2,359
Eastern	1,000	1,128
Nat'l Totals:	31,537	31,719
1976 National Total	29,704	
1975 National Total	28,948	
1974 National Total	28,727	

28, 6:30 p.m., at Elegant Farmer Restaurant, 34 Jack London Square, it was announced by Roy Ikeda (834-6854), dinner co-chairman and outgoing president.

Guest speaker Michael Kaplan of the Oakland Office of Economic Development and Employment will discuss their redevelopment plan and its impact upon the local Asian American community.

Douglas Shirachi is the new chapter president. Floyd Shimomura, national vice president, will be installing officer.

### ● Reno

#### INSTALLATION '79 HEADS CALENDAR

Reno JACL will hold its installation dinner on Friday, Feb. 2, 6:30 p.m. at the Pioneer Inn Hotel-Casino with Dr. Clifford Uyeda, national JACL president,

### ● Eden Township

#### SILVER PIN AWARDED AT INSTALLATION

Highlight of the joint installation dinner of the Eden Township JACL and Eden Asian American Youths held recently was the presentation of the Silver Pin for outstanding service within the chapter for 10 years or more to Ichiro Nishida.

A past president (1971-72, 1976-77), adviser to the youth and still on the chapter board as secretary and chapter delegate, Nishida has headed a variety of chapter fund-raisers and committees over the past decade.

Assemblyman S. Floyd Mori installed Tomi Miyamoto, who was re-elected chapter president, and Delia Okano, youth president, and their respective cabinet members. Harry Tanabe was emcee. The guest speaker, Lee Ruttle, was hospitalized earlier in the week but his talk, which had been typed out, was read at the dinner. Topic was on racial intermarriage. (The speech was published in the last PC Holiday Issue.)

as guest speaker. Michiko Spahr is the new president, succeeding Sam Wada.

Tickets for the London Broil steak dinner are \$8 per person with the management adding a casino fun book with free nickels and coupons. Handling reservations are Molly Yamashita (882-2386) and Wilson Makabe (747-1302).

Chapter co-hosted the Nishida Koto Ensemble concert with the UNR Music Dept. at the Univ. of Nevada Reno campus fine arts theater on Jan. 24. The chapter's annual sukiyaki dinner for the scholarship fund will be held Mar. 18. (Tickets will be available at the installation). The chapter picnic will be held at Bowers Mansion July 15.

### ● Santa Barbara

#### PSWDC GOVERNOR DUE AT ANNUAL FETE

Santa Barbara JACL installation dinner will be

held on Saturday, Feb. 10, 6:30 p.m., at the Montecito Country Club. An interesting evening has been planned with Paul Tsuneshi, PSWDC governor, and Mayor and Mrs. Shiffman as special guests, it was announced by Mike Hide, chairman.

Tickets are \$11 per person. Reservations should be made with Reiko Uyesaka (962-2534) or Jane Uyesaka (967-2526) by Feb. 8. Membership renewal at \$18 single or \$34 couple will be accepted at the installation.

### ● Tulare County

#### CHANCE TO ASK KARL ABOUT JACL

Tulare County JACL's next meeting will be over dinner at the Chinese Pagoda in Visalia on Monday, Jan. 29, 7 p.m., with Karl Nobuyuki, national executive director, coming from San Francisco to be the guest speaker.

The chapter is also hosting the winter meeting of the Central California District Council on Sunday, Feb. 18, noon, at Marco Po-

lo Restaurant at Hwy 198 and Linwood, starting with luncheon. Tom Shimasaki (562-3392) is handling the reservations for luncheon at \$3.65, tax & tip included.

### ● West Los Angeles

#### SHINNEN-KAI FOR ELDERS JAN. 28

West Los Angeles JACL's Shinnen-kai for Issei and Nikkei seniors 55 years and older will feature the Kikawa Dance Group and a potluck lunch on Sunday, Jan. 28, 1 p.m. at Mahood Senior Citizens Center, 11338 Santa Monica Blvd.

Those not contributing to the potluck, being prepared by the seniors, are expected to donate \$2. Food arrangements are be-

ing coordinated by Toy Kamegai (820-3592).

### ● West Valley

#### MON. NIGHT DINNER WITH DANCE PLANNED

San Jose West Valley JACL installation dinner will be held on Monday, Jan. 29, 7:30 p.m., at the Pinehurst Inn, 1520 The Alameda. Allan Gray's combo will play for a dance to follow.

Dr. Gisaburo Kiyose, guest speaker, will talk on the origins of the Japanese language. Ben Takeshita, NC-WNDC governor, will be installing officer. Howard Watanabe is the new president. Its Uenaka will be emcee. Reservations may be made with Ed Kawahara (241-3489). #



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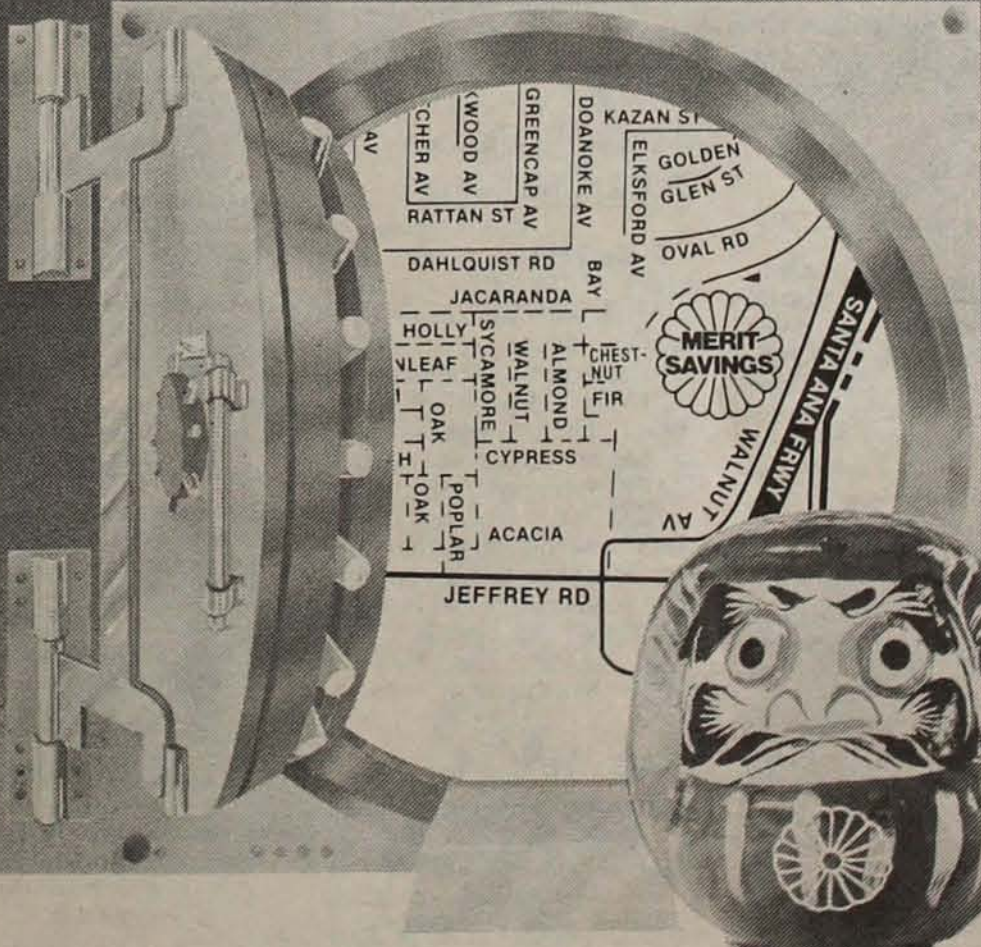
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## 4th Friday Focus

Continued from Page 3

During this past holiday season, as in past such times, there was the bittersweet realization of good friends and JACLers now gone. Out of respect to those who devoted so much of themselves to JACL, what we are now discussing should take on even more significance. To me, the "bottom line" is to determine what JACL wants for its future, which then dictates the "modus operandi". As I look around me, I see little future in confining our concerns in a tunnel vision fashion to "Japanese American" problems. Every day we are shocked by the "Guyanas" and other horror stories of our time. It is still a matter of "perspective", do we want to use the truly proud heritage of JACL as a springboard to the future, or do we choose to live the past vicariously? If we choose to live in the past, we will die with it. I see that as no phony dramatic saying, but a

very real one.

I just read the "Five Things Wrong with JACL" piece by Dr. Nakashima, and was struck by its timeliness relative to what we are considering. It just happens that I agree and disagree with the article.

I agree that the JACL has indeed too often "lived in the past" and that it has too often not accepted criticism and dissent gracefully and constructively. Hopefully such is not the response to Dr. Nakashima's views.

I do not agree that the JACL, or its organ the Pacific Citizen, dwells unnecessarily upon negative matters, discrimination, etc. As I see it, one of our major problems has been a lack of sensitivity to social problems and issues. We do not need a national organization to espouse the virtues of our Democracy. We do need to be informed and prodded, if necessary, so that JACL can be a part of making things better. Isn't that what it's all about? #

## Manzanar Project workshops slated for Phase II plans

### Sacramento

Public workshops on the Manzanar project will be held in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Orange County by the State Department of Parks and Recreation within the next few weeks.

The Manzanar project, located in the Owens Valley between the cities of Independence and Lone Pine, was the site of the internment of 10,000 Japanese Americans during World War II.

The upcoming workshops are the second in the planning series. Planners will present a draft of a proposed long-range plan which is based on public comments and suggestions received at the first workshops on alternative plans held in November, 1978, and on letters and

communications received at that time.

Workshops are scheduled as follows:

(1) Jan. 31, 7:30 p.m. at Little Tokyo Towers, 455 E. Third St., Los Angeles (between San Pedro and Central); (2) Feb. 7, 7:30 p.m. in Mas Satow Bldg., 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco; (3) Orange County date to be set; (4) Lone Pine in March.

### Ex-PSW director moving to Seattle

#### Los Angeles

Craig Shimabukuro, former PSW-JACL regional director, is moving to Seattle to become executive director of the Employment Opportunity Center, 4726 Rainier Ave. South, effective Feb. 12. His wife Vicky and three children will join him later. A farewell party is being planned for Feb. 2, 5:30 p.m., at his present office, 4209 Santa Monica Blvd. (660-7830). #

### Asian-Pacific b&w photo contest on

#### Los Angeles

Asian/Pacific black & white photo contest with winning selections to be on exhibit during the first Asian Pacific Cultural Heritage Week May 1-10 at William Grant Still community art center was announced by the JACL Regional Office.

Judges are director Tom Garver of Newport Harbor Art Museum, screenwriter Desmond Nakano and Hollywood producer Tony Bill.

For details, check with Wayne Shimabukuro, 626-4471. #

### Chris-Wish Tree winners selected

#### Los Angeles

The Chris-Wish Tree Drawing held at Japanese Village Plaza on Dec. 30 drew a triple winner in Tom Mikami, an accountant. He won first and second grand prize monies of \$750 plus a gift from Jeans Pacific Golf & Tennis. Winning a \$250 second prize, was Tom Miyadi. Winners were drawn from 15,000 entries. #

Our nation needs to clear away the guilts, enmities and recriminations of the past. —JIMMIE CARTER

### 10th Manzanar pilgrimage April 28

#### Los Angeles

The tenth annual pilgrimage to Manzanar will be held on Saturday, April 28, with the late Rev. Sentoku Mayeda to be especially remembered at the event, it was announced by the Manzanar Committee. He was the Buddhist priest who originated the pilgrimage idea. He passed away last May 30.

Manzanar Committee is also involved with the National JACL Redress Committee plans for "Day of Remembrance" activity on Feb. 19.

To raise funds for the pilgrimage, the Manzanar Committee is silk-screening the committee logo on T-shirts. For details, write to: Manzanar Committee, 1566 Curran St., Los Angeles, Ca. 90026 (213-662-5102). #

### Poston I High reunion July 28

#### Los Angeles

Poston I High School students will hold a gala reunion July 28 at the New Otani Hotel.

Mary Nagata Hino ('45) and Edwin Hiroto ('44) are co-chairing the organizing committee. #

## Calif. Dateliners

Asian Legal Services Outreach, 2200-6th St., Sacramento 95818 (916-444-2678) received two grants totaling \$16,000 from the United Presbyterian Church Sierra Mission Area and the United Methodist Church Commission on Religion and Race to assist low-income Asian and Filipino residents. ALSO is now seeking a bilingual staff attorney for its outreach-education program. Application deadline is Jan. 31.

Bilingual "Homemakers" to baby-sit for elderly or disabled Nikkei are in demand, according to Noboru Hasegawa, a Nisei Sr. Citizen Project coordinator (625-3146), who announced the next American Red Cross class will commence Feb. 20 and last through Mar. 9 on a

daily basis from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the new Japanese Union Church. Compensation comes from the county.

On Feb. 3, the L.A. City Asian American Employees Assn. honors U.S. District Judge Robert Takasugi at a Chinese New Year banquet to be held at the Golden Palace Restaurant, 913 N. Broadway, cocktails at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7:30. For reservations, phone Maui Wong, 485-2891. Cost per person:

\$13.50.

## Wash. Dateliners

Asian and Pacific American Federal Employee Council in Washington, D.C., celebrates the lunar new year Feb. 3, 8 p.m., with a reception featuring Asian hors d'oeuvres and music at the Rayburn House Office Bldg. Gold Room (Rm. 2168A-B).

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## HARRINGTON

Continued from Front Page

had given their word and planned to keep it until death, even though the rules had been changed.

What follows is the story of how an oppressed segment of America's citizenry quietly served the land they loved.

Ben Obata had no idea he was to be part of this story. On Dec. 7, 1941, he got the news of the Pearl Harbor attack while watching a Sacramento basketball game. To Ben, an employee of the State of California's sales tax division, Australia was a faraway place with kangaroos. He would get a first-hand look at it, but first the State would fire him, John Arifuku, and other AJA's in a blatantly racial action.

Don Oka was to see the Aleutians and Tinian. He was sacking groceries that Sunday in Los Angeles, wondering whether the part-time job would support his art studies until the draft caught up with him. Nor was Suyeki Okumura thinking much of war. He was resting from a job hunt in New York, hopeful his law degree counted for more in the East than in "No Japans Wanted" California.

Malaria, dysentery and mite typhus were still strangers to Henry Gosho as the son of a Seattle pharmacist arrived at church for choir practice. He would meet them later in Burma. In San Francisco, Kay Kitagawa's slight frame was flopped on a sofa, his radio tuned to hear New York's Philharmonic Orchestra. No daydream Kay had that Sunday could possibly have included his one-day interpreting for Gen. Douglas A. MacArthur.

Frank Inami was making the weekly change of bedding at Jappa Sappa Chi, 1777 Euclid St., Berkeley. That was the name given a Nisei-founded clubhouse by whimsical students who knew their slanted eyes precluded admission to any fraternity at the University of California.

Nor did four Nisei soldiers have any idea of what the future held. Pvt. James Shohara was munching brunch at Ft. Warren, Wyoming, his mind on a dance scheduled for that night in Cheyenne. Rumor had it that some Nisei girls might show up, a rare treat. In South Carolina,

two Nisei were getting off duty at Ft. Jackson's base hospital. Joe Akiyama headed for the movies, but all Akira Abe wanted was a hot shower. To the north of San Francisco, on Bodega Bay's beach, Ron Chagami whiled away the day with his fiancée. He learned about the attack while he stopped to buy gasoline on the way home.

The quartet, like 5,000-plus other AJA's then wearing khaki (the Navy and Marines routinely told Nisei "We don't take Japs!") were short-timers, checking off on calendars their time left to serve. Caucasian buddies seemed to accept them all right. For some Nisei, life in the service was O.K. A goodly number had won fast promotions in the rapidly expanding Army for the vigorous way they applied themselves to mastering military skills. More than one felt he had, like the semi-literate prewar Regulars who bossed him about, "found a home in the Army." In 1941 a military career loomed brighter than a series of continuing turn-downs, once someone noticed your eyes were slanted, did. Meanwhile, life trudged along. No Nisei interviewed by the author remembered thinking that Japan and America might come to a sudden clash of arms. The majority expected one, but not for a while, and the rest hoped the flowering furor would die down.

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HENRY GOSHO



ARTHUR KOMORI

There were two Nisei GI's who did expect war to break out at any time, but they weren't actually in uniform that day. Arthur Komori and Richard Sakakida weren't supposed to be in uniform. The two Army sergeants were spies!

The pair had been recruited on March 13, 1941, in Hawaii, by an organization calling itself the Corps of Intelligence Police. Enlisted as sergeants without any training (Sakakida would retire a Colonel without ever being taught how to fire a gun), they were spirited out of Honolulu a month later in the Army transport Republic, posing as "workaways" enroute to Manila. There, while the ship's captain toasted in his cabin the health of a Filipino immigration agent, Komori and Sakakida were slipped over the side in darkness. Each was

assigned a hotel where he was to stay, and each given 100 pesos (\$50). Dick Sakakida was provided a cover job with Sears Roebuck. Komori, who had earned a degree in English at the University of Hawaii while getting a private pilot's license that let him indulge in his flying hobby, snared a spot with Domei, the Japanese news agency. Both passed themselves off as ship-jumping merchant seamen who were anti-American and wanted to dodge the draft. It helped that the liner SS Cleveland had recently been in port. The assignment of the two, if they could fool the proper principals, was to keep an eye on Japanese nationals in the Philippines capital.

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Both men, who'd been selected after intense investigation and rigid screening while at school in Honolulu, succeeded admirably. Komori ingratiated himself so well that, when Philippines Constabulary members smashed their way into Domei's offices on the day of the attack, bayonets at the ready, they found Komori sharing a toast with elated Japanese newsmen. Sakakida did at least as well. On July 26, all Japanese funds in

Continued on Next Page

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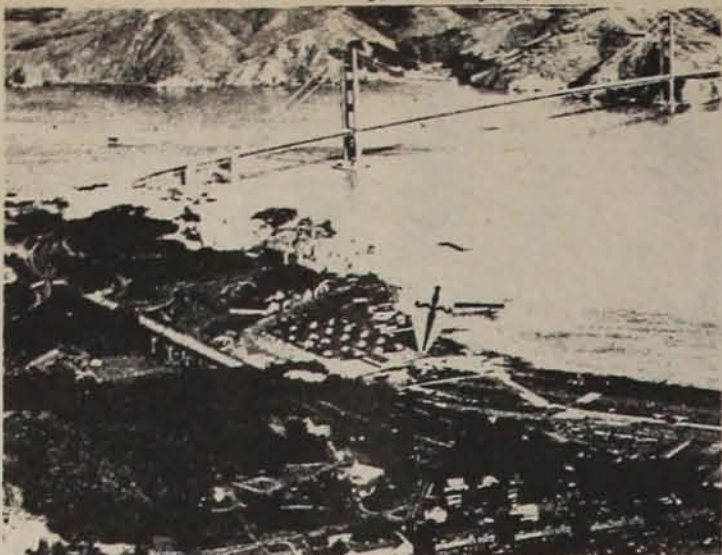


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Airview of Presidio of San Francisco, the MISLS convening in a hanger (dagger pointing approximate location).

## HARRINGTON

Continued from Page 9

the U.S. and its territories had been frozen by Pres. Franklin Roosevelt. The manager of Sakakida's hotel, knowing he was bilingual, asked him to help other tenants prepare financial statements and claims. Making these up got Sakakida a mass of inside information on dealings between Japanese nationals and certain Filipinos of questionable loyalty. All information gathered by the two Hawaii Japanese was passed via mail drop to intelligence officers working for Gen. Douglas MacArthur, then commanding all forces in the Philippines.

Once war broke out, the two Nisei climbed back into uniform. Both saw combat on Bataan and Corregidor. Komori, although he didn't know of it for years, was subject of a rumor that flashed through Honolulu right after the Pearl Harbor attack. This was a false report, given much credence, that a Japanese pilot had been shot down, and found wearing a McKinley High School class ring. Komori was well-known for his sports prowess, having won a swimming letter at the Univ. of Hawaii. It was also known widely that Komori was a pilot. And, of course, he had disappeared mysteriously, eight months before.

Some other Japanese in uniform had an idea that war was imminent, but that was only because Lt. Col. John Weckerling and Capt. Kai Rasmussen kept saying so. The two intelligence officers commanded 60 Nisei GI's who were studying the Japanese language in San Francisco. Isao Kusuda was one of these. He lived and studied in an abandoned airplane hangar almost directly under the southern end of Golden Gate Bridge. Kusuda was one of 40 students to sur-

Throughout all those centuries, complications piled up. Three new sets of syllables were spliced into the original system, so that Japanese could have a syntax and grammar. Oriental nuances, subtleties, shadings and gradations were added, until each *Kanji* ideograph had as many as 25 different "readings." Still more variations were contrived, as the Japanese language got molded to reflect who was communicating with whom, about what, and his station in life with respect to the other.

Because of the vast disparity between English and Japanese, hundreds of thousands may have needlessly died in the Pacific. Author John Toland provides a clue to this in "The Rising Sun." With few peers as research-historian-writer, Toland spells out in pitiless clarity the difference between what Tokyo leaders wanted said and what U.S. Secretary of State Cordell Hull actually heard or read—and vice-versa—during the fearful fall of 1941. A reader must decide for himself whether translators on both sides truly were competent linguists—proficient in both languages—and whether any used his unique position to crank personal prejudices into the mass of exchanged communications. On fact, however, does emerge crystal-clear from Toland's meticulous work on the original instructions, their encoding, transmission, decoding, and the way they were interpreted by either side. When peace was at risk between Japan and America, neither Tokyo nor Washington actually knew what the hell the other was talking about!

Small wonder, then, that Japanese officers felt safe marking maps, battle orders, mine-field charts and anything else in "plain" Japanese, not bothering to encode it, and that they continued this practice throughout the war. Or that Japanese pilots and radio operators made the bulk of their broadcasts "in the clear," confident no *gaijin* would know what they were sending. Few foreigners did, until language-trained Nisei began arriving on the scene.

It was no easy task to convince top military officials that the U.S. ought to have lots of Japanese-speaking specialists wearing khaki. All too many seniors were men of small minds and large prejudices, who for years resented letting intelligence officers have cushy duty in foreign capitals to study foreign languages. One Navy officer, Ellis Zacharias, fought the good fight for years, but several items militated against his success. For one thing, the Navy routinely rotated all its officers for "rounding off," language specialists included. They were not kept in shore billets where their value was greatest but were sent to sea, where language skills meant nothing. I co-authored a work with Zacharias' cousin and learned of several other strikes against the man. He was bright, aggressive, and a Jew. None of these endeared him to peacetime minds more bigoted than bold. Except for thrusting Reserve commissions on nearly everyone he met who had some knowledge of the Japanese language, and hi-jacking 50 sets of Naganuma readers out of Japan against

the wishes of a man who had the near-monopoly on teaching the language to foreigners, Zacharias accomplished little of what he hoped for, before the war started.

U.S. Army officers had a little more luck, possibly because they had deeper insight into Nippon's war machine. They went on maneuvers with the Japanese army. Some even observed combat in China and Manchuria. As ground-pounders, infantry officers could more easily elude their "bear leaders," and catch sneak peaks at the forbidden. Bear Leader was the nickname Japanese officers gave any of their number whose job it was to escort visiting foreigners, knowing his job was to lead them around by the nose, showing them every courtesy but nothing of military value. John Weckerling and Kai Rasmussen did get a few furtive snapshots, but that was it except for what they could memorize. Few American naval officers got on board any Japanese ships for other than ritual ceremonies. The U.S. Navy remained blissfully unaware that Japan had the world's best torpedo, its largest and fastest destroyers, plus mid-

Continued on Next Page

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# HARRINGTON

Continued from Previous Page

get submarines, and that it was building super-battleships so large that a special ship had to be designed for ferrying their massive gun turrets down from Ominato, in northern Japan, to where the behemoths were being constructed.

Convinced that war was coming, Army intelligence pressed home forcefully the subject of language training expansion. Colonels Carlisle C. Dusenberry and Wallace Moore raised the subject frequently at the War De-

partment and were ably supported by Col. Moses W. Pettigrew, a man never publicly acknowledged for originating the idea of an all-Nisei combat unit. (Others claimed the honor after Nisei covered themselves with glory in Europe.) Pettigrew cared for little other than studying the Japanese character. During 1937 he drafted an intelligence study of Japan's intentions, based on his appraisals of national character. When unearthed 10 years later, it read like a scenario for the Pacific war. This trio was en-

couraged by Col. Rufus S. Bratton and finally achieved its objective.

Bratton was rated by his associates as tops in Army intelligence. It was Bratton who, on Dec. 7, end-ran all Army channels early in the morning, trying to tell Chief of Staff Marshall personally that "the Japanese are going to attack us somewhere, around one o'clock Washington time." Bratton had earlier marked Pearl Harbor on one of his charts as a possibility.

Marshall could not be found. He had gone off on a business-as-usual, peacetime Sunday morning horseback ride, leaving no word as to his itinerary. What he did leave was a legacy of doubt for the "conspiracy" theorists, men who became convinced that Japan was somehow lured into attacking America by men close to Pres. Roosevelt, or by Roosevelt alone.

The War Department finally ordered a language school to be established. Location was in the Presidio of San Francisco, under the 4th Army, commanded by Gen. John L. DeWitt, a man whose name would become anathema to Japanese-Americans. This seemed an ideal location because the prime source of student input, Nisei already in the Army, were nearly all in West Coast camps.

Lt. Col. John Weckerling, then in Panama, was told to get the operation going. His search of the Presidio grounds turned up only one available facility—an abandoned airplane hangar. Crissey Field hadn't sheltered an aircraft for some time when Weckerling visited it in September, 1941. Although elated to have been pulled out of the Canal Zone, where a forthcoming war would surely have stranded him, the Louisiana native was getting frustrated. How in the hell was he to clean up this rundown shack, furnish it, pay staff, and train a bunch of soldiers in the world's toughest language, all on a piddling \$2,000? That's what the War Department had allowed him for the task.

Weckerling had one good thing going for him. That was his back-up man, Kai Rasmussen, only man in the U.S. Army to speak Japanese with a heavy Danish accent. A dauntless driver, possessed of boundless energy, Rasmussen considered the word "failure" his personal enemy. Unable to speak a word of English on arrival in the U.S. during 1922, Rasmussen won admission to West Point two years later. For him, problems were opportunities to surmount challenges.

The Dane, in turn, was fortunate in his own back-up man, an unflinching reflection of himself named John Fujio Aiso. The pair rapidly accumulated respect and admiration and then spent it like money in a juggernaut effort to keep Pacific field commanders supplied with linguistics. Neither would end up loved but both would live in contented self-respect, surfeited with evidence of accomplishment.

While Weckerling was still in Panama, Rasmussen had met with nearly every mainland Nisei on active duty during 1941. The Louisianan, helping out with recruiting, located Aiso in an Army post outside Los Angeles. The Burbank-born lawyer, 31, was not exactly intrigued with Army life. A *cum laude* Brown graduate with a doctorate in jurisprudence from Harvard, who had taken special additional studies at Chuo University in Tokyo, the stocky Aiso had been greeted by an Army classification specialist with, "Just what we need—another god-damned lawyer!" and assigned to the motor pool. He was issuing spare parts there and, by admission, "doing a lousy job of it," when Weckerling sought him out. An offer to make him chief instructor at the new school did not appeal to Aiso. He wanted to serve his remaining four months, get out, get married, and resume his law practice. "No, thank you, sir," was his response.

The lean West Point grad laid a hand on the shorter man's shoulder, looked deeply into his eyes, and said, "John, your country needs you!"

Tears glistened when Aiso recounted this to the author. "No one had ever called it my country before, Joe," he said. "The sonofagun had me hooked."

Weckerling had luck with instructors, too. Right in the San Francisco area he found Akira Oshida and Shigeya Kihara. Eager as other AJA's to show their patriotism, both immediately donated their personal libraries, free of charge, to the pitiful collection of texts on hand, and made copies of everything for everyone. Kihara and Oshida stayed on with the language effort long after America realized that arrogant spouting of English was not the best way to communicate with people of other tongues. They eventually retired from well-appointed offices at the Defense Language Institute in the Presidio of Monterey, but their first organizational meeting was held while seated on orange crates and discarded apple boxes in the basement of 4th Army headquarters.

When war broke out, Kihara had to make a dash for his brother Hayato's house, to scoop up the rest of his Japanese magazines and other useful material before the FBI confiscated them. Paradoxically, what the Army needed to help win the war was contraband if found in the hands of Issei or Nisei.

The fruits of Rasmussen's viewing foray through Army camps were bitter. Fiercely determined that their children get the education denied themselves, Issei became America's only ethnic group that did not put their offspring to work. To these fugitives from the farms of Hiroshima and Kumamoto, education was the golden key that opened all doors, and schooling stood paramount among a family's goals. No child left school, even in the hardest of times, without long adult discus-

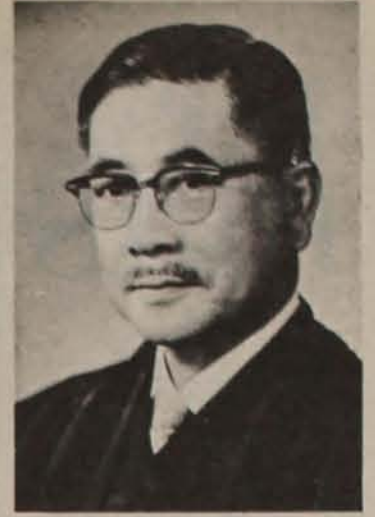
sion that included comment from neighbors and friends. In the case of one parent's death, a child might be allowed to interrupt education temporarily, but as soon as the family's economic situation got better, back to school he went. Many a Nisei graduated from school three to six years behind his peers, but graduate he did, with Issei urging him to be American as possible.

The Naganuma Readers are a Japanese near-counterpart of America's renowned McGuffey's set. Using these, Rasmussen tested the linguistic abilities of nearly 4,000 Nisei in uniform. And found them, sadly, wanting. Less than 10% could read, write or speak more than a few words of their parents' mother tongue. Slightly more than 100 could be rated as "somewhat competent" in Japanese. Of the 60 finally selected for the Military Intelligence Service Language School's first class, Weckerling said that not more than 15 could be considered true linguists—proficient in both languages. The findings were an awful shock to the War Department. These Japanese, damn it, weren't Japanese! In fact, they were too damned American!

Nisei had become "too damned American" with a vengeance. Issei achieved that goal for their children despite prejudice, discrimination, burnings, beatings, laws that forbade their buying land, and more laws that prevented other Issei joining them where Liberty lifted her lamp beside the golden door. Everyone and everything, it seemed, conspired to thwart the efforts of these newcomers to equip their children for achieving the "American way of life," but against all odds the Issei succeeded. Nisei became the most educated ethnic group in the U.S.

Never before—or since—did the American public school system so measure up to its potential as it did with Nisei. America, not Japan, was their land, and is. English, not Japanese, was their mother tongue, and is. The Army's language school, as a result, was hard-pressed to find enough qualified people to fill its first rickety seats, but Nisei gave their very best effort. They had to, lest parents wail that "All Japan would be ashamed!" of Japanese whose sons failed them.

Sixty students sat down to studies at Crissey Field on Nov. 1, 1941, at the MISLS (they and successors would call themselves "MIS'ers"). Iwao Kawashiri was there because he'd been promised a sergeant's three stripes if he completed the course successfully. Meanwhile, he was a lot closer to his San Francisco home than he had been at Ft. Lewis, Washington. Isao Kusuda had no idea at all what G-2 meant when he was recruited but figured it might be interesting when a friend said it was "map reading, drafting, and stuff like that." For Gene Uratsu, schooled in Japan and therefore a Kibei ("returned



John Aiso

American"), the whole thing was fascinating. "There I was," he said, "a farmboy turned soldier, studying a language I already knew, in the wonderful city of San Francisco. It was the happiest six months of my entire life!"

Some students thought the Army was starting an all-Asian unit. Others thought they'd be teaching English to Kibei soldiers, men who'd been sent to Japan by parents for part or all of their educations, and who usually came back bereft of English altogether. Most Kibei had to re-enter American schools, at lower levels, to catch up on the language.

Fred Hiroshi Nishitsuji was in the first class. His name gave evidence of the Japanese language's complexity—or richness. Issei took great pains in selecting their children's names. The "American" ones had to be as unlike Japanese ones as possible, but the Japanese names had to reflect qualities or virtues that parents hoped a child would exhibit throughout life. A minor industry, that of selecting names for a fee or as a favor, was extant in the Japanese culture. Help was often sought from longtime friends, better-educated associates, or council of elders. Naming a child, like picking a bride, was a step not taken lightly.

Among other readings, Hiroshi can be seen as "wide, broad, or understanding." Fred Nishitsuji's mother and father chose the reading, according to him, for "doctor" or "professor". They then prayed he would become one or the other. A later student at MISLS was Hiroshi Tanabe. His parents read the name differently. "They hoped I would grow up broad-minded, or intelligent," he recalled. So—two boys, two sets of parents, two interpretations. Parents took whichever *Kanji* reading seemed apt, or suited perhaps a thought or sound, to give their child's name the meaning desired. A father might pick the reading of a character that pleased him most. Or a character that seemed to have great beauty. Or one that seemed most manly. Or, in some cases, was easier to read or write. The language offered broad latitude for this. Tomio Ichikawa's father was able to "read" his name as "Boy who climbs high, beautifully," but George Inagaki's father didn't take as much trouble. Having chosen a

Continued on Next Page

## YANKEE SAMURAI

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## HARRINGTON

Continued from Previous Page

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MISLS instructor Shoji Tanimoto teaches enemy military tactics.

sturdy Anglo-Saxon name for his son, the senior Inagaki then took the nearest Japanese phonetic equivalent and made the boy's other name Joji.

Early-arriving language students pitched in to refurbish the old hangar. Wooden horses were obtained and planks laid across these to form desks. Discarded theater seats were seized upon for chairs. Crude partitions were erected to separate classrooms from office spaces, and bedding was lugged into adjacent sleeping quarters. Student life was extremely spartan, except in one respect. Food was delicious! MIS'ers were fed at the 4th Army's school for cooks and bakers, where one could almost dine like a gourmet on the cooking samples. But a student had to run like hell, both ways, to eat and get back to class on time, because of the tight study schedule.

Bunks were tiered three-high and sometimes posed problems. Kazuo Kawaguchi was the largest man in the Presidio class. Tall for a Japanese, he towered over his buddies, who called him "Anchan" (Big Brother). "He was also our best sake drinker," one recalled. The first few weekends of school were peacetime ones, occasions for big busts in San Francisco's Chinatown. After some parties, short-legged friends of Kawaguchi's, trying to get him into his topmost bunk, often propelled him over the top of it.

At one point Gen. DeWitt himself visited the school.

He sat down behind Roy Kawashiri and told him before leaving, "Let me know if there's anything you need." Kawashiri was shocked, a year later, to read of DeWitt's telling a Congressional committee, "A Jap's a Jap—you can't change him by giving him a piece of paper." DeWitt, who by that time had herded 110,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry into concentration camps, claimed that their citizenship made no difference. Weckerling and Rasmussen got their project off the

starting blocks on Nov. 1, as year course when, "Air raid directed. Five dozen men Pearl Harbor. This is no was to be a rigorous one—drill," thundered at them.

To Be Continued

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