

LOS ANGELES CEREMONY

City workers fired during WW2 receive payment, apology

LOS ANGELES—Shortly after Pearl Harbor, Los Angeles mayor Fletcher Bowron forced the city's Japanese American employees to resign. To justify his action, he said, "No one may look into the mind of an Oriental... if one has been selected for an important role... with respect to securing information and transmitting it or taking part in a fifth column activity... [he] would take every precaution to ward off suspicion by proclaiming loudly his loyalty to the government of the USA."

42 years later, the Los Angeles city council passed and Mayor Tom Bradley signed into law an ordinance providing \$5,000 each to 30 former city employees and 6 survivors of others who have died.

In a Sept. 5 ceremony at City Hall, 22 of the recipients were on hand to receive their checks and city proclamations extending "apologies and regrets to those Japanese American citizens who suffered hardships and inconveniences resulting from the United States' actions in 1942 and in particular to those Japanese American employees of the City of Los Angeles whose employment was disrupted by administrative action taken by the city."

Speakers included Bradley, council members David Cunningham (who introduced the measure), Zev Yaroslavsky, Joy Picus, and Gilbert Lindsay. As he introduced the recipients, Bradley said, "We cannot compensate them for their loss, hurt and suffering... We

regret the action taken by others and hope this eases the bitterness and hurt they suffered."

Expressing their approval of the reparations payments were JACL national director Ron Wakabayashi, PSW district governor Harry Kajihara, Debbie Nakatomi of Asian/Pacific Women's Network, and Manzanar Committee chair Sue Embrey. JACL presented plaques to Cunningham and to his aide, Dennis Nishikawa, for his role in locating the former employees.

Referring to redress bills pending in the House and Senate, Wakabayashi said, "This sends a message to Congress that those who know the Japanese Americans best—their community and neighbors—say this is the right and moral thing to do."

Healing Wounds

K. Patrick Okura, a Los Angeles native who became a city personnel examiner in 1938, called the apology and payment "a historical and meaningful event... I have waited 42 years for and one that now terminates some of my personal frustrations and heals some of my psychic wounds."

In 1942, Washington Post columnist Drew Pearson wrote that "a Japanese American disguising himself as an Irishman by the name of K. Patrick O'Kura" had infiltrated the city government with 50 espionage agents (the number of JA city employees) and planned to sabotage the Water and Power

Dept. when Japan attacked the West Coast. Mayor Bowron later described Okura as "the most dangerous Japanese American in the country."

"When this hit the headlines of the Los Angeles papers, I was called to the mayor's office and asked to resign," Okura recalled. "I refused, and the following day the mayor personally called me in and requested my resignation. I again refused and following a confrontation I was fired. When the Examination Dept. received this news, the entire staff staged a one-day walkout."

Okura moved to Nebraska, where he worked as a psychologist at Father Flanagan's Boys' Home. But the accusations made against him in 1942 "prevented my seeking federal employment for 25 years." Okura credited then-Congressman Spark Matsunaga with clearing his name in 1968.

Mabel Ota, who in 1962 became the state's first Asian woman to be a school principal, was forced out of her job at the LAPD's fingerprint bureau in 1942. She was interned in Poston, Ariz., where her diabetic father died and her daughter suffered brain damage during delivery. Like Okura, she said that the city's action "has brought back my faith in America."

Ota plans to donate the redress money to JACL, a church community center, a UCLA scholarship fund, and a senior citizens' center.

Anchorage testifiers back redress for Aleut and Nikkei evacuees

by Ronald K. Inouye

ANCHORAGE—Supporters of redress greatly outnumbered opponents as Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) of the Senate Subcommittee on Civil Service, Post Office and General Services conducted a daylong hearing on redress bill S 2116 at the old Federal Building Aug. 29. About 100 people attended.

In 1942, nearly 900 Aleuts were evacuated from their villages because of the danger of a Japanese attack. Housed by the Dept. of Interior in abandoned fish canneries and other long uninhabited sites, over one tenth of the Aleuts died from lack of adequate shelter, medical care, and sanitation facilities. Their villages were looted by U.S. servicemen, who left behind potentially dangerous war debris.

The bill embodies recommendations made last year by the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, which include establishment of a community trust fund, individual payments to surviving evacuees, restoration of village churches destroyed or damaged during WW2, and removal of military debris from inhabited areas.

Referring to the bill's proposed per capita payments, Ray Gauthier, a Vietnam veteran held captive for 11 months in the Mekong Delta, said, "Nobody gave me \$12,000 when I got back." Gauthier was the lone anti-redress testifier.

Aleut Redress

Gov. William Sheffield was among the witnesses supporting compensation for Aleuts and Japanese Americans. Community representatives Philemon Tutiaakoff of the Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Assn., Agafon Krukoff of the Aleut Corporation, Father Paul Merculief of the Aleutian Housing Authority, Vincent Tutiaakoff of Unalaska Village, William Ermaloff of Nikolski Village, and legal counsel John Kirtland gave testimony similar to that which they gave before a House subcommittee in June (see July 13 PC). Former evacuees from the villages of Atka, St. George, St. Paul, and Akutan also supported the Aleut portion of the bill.

A delegation of St. George evacuees now living in Anchorage testified generally in support of S 2116 but argued that its major benefits, such as restoration of churches, cleanup of WW2 debris, and construction of village community centers, would serve only evacuees who still live in the villages. Since WW2, a large number of evacuated Aleuts have moved to urban areas. Stevens urged the former St. George residents to work out their differences with the Aleut leadership which assisted in drafting the bill.

Alaskan Nikkei Evacuated

Nikkei living in Alaska were interned along with those on the West Coast. Among those testifying on the Japanese American portion of the bill were William Kimura, Amelia Kito, Pauline Moto Hathaway, and Ronald K. Inouye. All supported the provisions of S 2116. Hathaway and Inouye urged that the unevacuated Alaskan Native wives of interned Issei men be included as beneficiaries.

A number of Issei men were married to Eskimo, Indian, or Aleut women and had families. The majority of the wives and young children remained in Alaska when the men were taken away (although male children over 16 were also evacuated). Many of the wives were illiterate and had no means of providing for their children. The situation became more tragic when many of the elderly Issei men died in the camps.

Nisei vets' resolution passed by Am. Legion

SALT LAKE CITY—A resolution declaring the WW2 internment of Japanese Americans an injustice and recognizing the contributions of Nisei servicemen in Europe and the Pacific was passed by the American Legion at its national convention Sept. 3.

Submitted by the Illinois delegation, the resolution concurs with the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians that the internment was caused by "war hysteria, racial prejudice and political expediency" and praises the Nisei of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and Military Intelligence Service.

The resolution resolves that the American Legion "set forth principles against a recurrence of such a tragedy in deprivation of human rights, to uphold the ideals of what this nation fought for and that the rights of citizenship in no way depend on race or ancestry."

Originated in Chicago

Although a motion was made to table the resolution, it was turned down by voice vote before the final voting took place.

The resolution was originally adopted by Chicago Nisei Post 1183, then by Illinois' 1st Division and by the Department of Illinois. Former Nisei Post commander Art Morimitsu attended the convention as a delegate and led the Illinois delegation's move to have the resolution passed.

A similarly worded resolution was passed at the Veterans of Foreign Wars national convention held in Chicago last month. To help build support for the resolution, Morimitsu helped coordinate the showing of the "Go For Broke" photo exhibit at Daley Center Plaza.

Opposition to Redress

Resolutions opposing reparations for Nikkei internees were submitted last year both at the VFW and American Legion national conventions.

Continued on Next Page



Photo by Jon Takasugi

Mayor Tom Bradley signs resolution for Lily Kataoka, widow of former employee Takio Kataoka.

All-Chinese American unit different from 442nd

By Elizabeth Lu, East West

SAN FRANCISCO—Walk down the street and ask any stranger whether he has heard of the 987th Signal Operations Company, and you will probably get a blank stare. In contrast to the celebrated 442nd, the all-Japanese American combat unit which served in Europe during WW2, the 987th, the only all-Chinese American Army unit, has maintained a low profile.

Few people know that up to 150 Chinese American men from all parts of the country were organized into a special unit and trained at Camp Crowder, Missouri. Even fewer know that these men served in Yunnan province in China under Gen. Joseph Stilwell. That will change, hoped some veterans, when members of the 987th hold their first reunion in San Francisco this month.

Of course, another major reason for the reunion is to give old friends an opportunity to get together again. Although a good number of the men live in California, the rest are scattered all over the country. For the reunion, veterans and their families will be flying in from places such as Kansas, New York, Tennessee, Maryland, Texas, and Hawaii.

The 987th has been wanting to get together from some time. "Fellas kept calling me to organize it," said retired Col. Thomas Lew, who somehow ended up as one of the reunion organizers. When asked why the men asked him to plan the reunion, Lew joked, "probably because I was the guy they loved to hate... I had a reputation as being very GI, as the guy who sticks to regulations."

As members of a signal operations compa-

ny, the men of the 987th provided radio communications for the allied forces in the China-Burma-India (CBI) theater. They were stationed in Kuming and various other locations in China's Yunnan province and worked with and trained the Chinese forces.

The fact that the 987th was comprised entirely of Chinese Americans did not seem to bother the men who served in it. "It's not a matter of discrimination," opined former staff sergeant Wood Moy, who pointed out that the Air Corps and other units had both Caucasian and Chinese American members.

Language Problems

Although some of the veterans surmised that the unit was formed because the military leadership believed a Chinese-speaking unit would be able to work better with the Chinese forces, the fact was that not all of the unit's members, many of whom were born in the U.S., spoke Chinese.

Moreover, the mainly Cantonese-speaking 987th was unable to communicate with the Mandarin-speaking Chinese forces. The ironic result was that members of the 987th trained their Chinese counterparts in English with the help of English-to-Mandarin translators provided by the Chinese government.

An additional twist was the fact that the 987th also included men who, being newcomers to the U.S. when drafted, spoke no English. Under the law at the time, non-citizens were prohibited from signing up for the military, but in time of war, non-citizens could be drafted to serve in the armed forces. Approximately half of the men in the 987th were non-citizens, estimated Lew.

In contrast to the 442nd's Japanese American soldiers, who reportedly raced each other to the recruiting office in order to join the Army, nearly everyone in the 987th was drafted. "Nobody went willingly," recalled Moy.

There were, however, those who were eager to join. Lew, who emigrated from Canton as a six-year-old, remembered that when his whole graduating class at San Rafael enlisted and he was still a civilian, he felt that he was not doing his share.

"I felt I was not doing my patriotic duty," remarked Lew, who insisted that there was no pressure from the public or anyone else to join. He did not recall any open discrimination against Chinese Americans because of the war against Japan.

The average age for the young recruits of the 987th was about 23. Their actual ages, however, were probably higher than what their registration records showed because many came to the U.S. as "paper sons." It was not uncommon for a soldier in the unit to be 10 to 15 years older than what his papers showed.

Picked Up as Spies

The Chinese American men were summoned from all over the country and packed off for basic training at Camp Crowder. The unit encountered no major problems in Missouri, but Lew did recall one incident that now evokes more chuckles than resentment.

It happened one night in Fayetteville when some men in the 987th were looking for directions to their training site. "Before too long, why, the sheriff and deputy surrounded us," remembered Lew. "They thought the Japanese had invaded the United States."

The men were marched into the county jail despite their protests that they were Chinese American GIs. The sheriff and his men took a "you can't fool us" attitude and thought the Japanese had pulled a fast one. Release came only after the sheriff confirmed with the commander at Camp Crowder that the men were indeed American GIs.

Danger But No Combat

Due to the nature of their assignment, the men of the 987th did not encounter the level of

combat which confronted the 442nd. Nevertheless, the unit did have its share of close calls.

For example, just getting from California to Kuming proved to be a harrowing experience because the small transport ships had to make the journey unescorted. Of the three liberty ships which left the port of Wilmington, only the one carrying the 987th made it safely. The other two fell victim to enemy submarines.

Although the 987th was well received by the Chinese forces and was not assigned to an area actively engaged in combat, Lew recalled that toward the end of their stay, the unit "faced some fireworks, not from the Japanese, but from the local forces."

Lew explained that one Chinese commander disobeyed Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek, causing open fighting between the factions. The men of the 987th "literally had to crawl on their tummies to escape the cross-fire."

"Unfortunately, because of the location, our talents were not fully taken advantage of," Lew observed. "If the dialect had been Cantonese, we would have been even more effective."

Catching Up

The reunion will provide an opportunity to get together for the first time in nearly 40 years. As Lew's newsletter put it, the entertainment will be a parade of skinny GIs turned fat and coiffed GIs turned bald.

The participants will also catch up on how their buddies are doing. Many may already know that Moy, who starred in the highly acclaimed film "Chan is Missing," is a successful actor.

Some may not know, however, that former staff sergeant Hop Louie Woo, known for his fondness for gambling while in the Army, has done extremely well for himself with his avocation. Lew recalled that he used to tell Woo, "Don't gamble. You're not going to get anywhere in life with gambling." Now Lew is unlikely to make such a comment to Woo, who is now executive vice president for Caesar's in Las Vegas.

News in Brief

County pays \$25,000 for bias

LOS ANGELES — Ventura County paid \$25,000 to a former employee who had been discharged because of his race and national ancestry, announced attorney Gerald Sato Aug. 28. Yilian Tchu, in a federal lawsuit, alleged that in August 1981 the county removed him from his auditor's job for "budgetary reasons." Yet, Tchu contended, white auditors with less seniority were kept on the job and non-Asians were hired to replace him.

In an out-of-court settlement, Tchu was awarded back pay to August 1981, less actual earnings for the period.

Radio host apologizes, quits

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—Radio talk-show host Morton Downey, saying he had displayed a "lack of sensitivity," resigned from station KFBK Aug. 24. The day before he repeatedly used the word "Chinaman" in an ethnic joke, and when Tom Chinn called to complain, shouted at the city councilman on the air.

Downey, who was married for 15 years to a Asian woman, said he did not think "Chinaman" was derogatory but that he had received "an avalanche of [disapproving] phone calls."

He was not the only one. After Downey's resignation, a large number of persons called both the radio station and Chinn to express their dislike for Asians. KFBK reporter Ed

Fong told the Sacramento Bee that one caller told him that, "They nearly blew my head off in Vietnam, and now I'm unemployed and those guys are riding around in Cadillacs. Don't tell me to be nice to Asians."

TV news graphic corrected

LOS ANGELES—While KTTV's news anchor was reporting that former city employees of Japanese descent had received compensation for their wartime dismissal on Sept. 6, the Metromedia station (Ch. 11) projected a graphic artist's drawing in the background. Sketched in behind strands of barbed wire was the Japanese flag.

Viewer Frank Suto and JACL regional director John Saito complained to Bill White, producer of the station's news program. The following day, KTTV's newscaster noted that those receiving compensation were Americans. In the background an American flag replaced the Japanese flag.

LDP sends officials to Dallas

TOKYO—Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party sent high officials to observe the Republican national convention in Dallas this month, reported the New York Times. Because the officials who went to Dallas were of higher rank than the ones selected for the Democratic convention, LDP members have expressed unhappiness at the party's "conspicuous tilt toward the Republicans."

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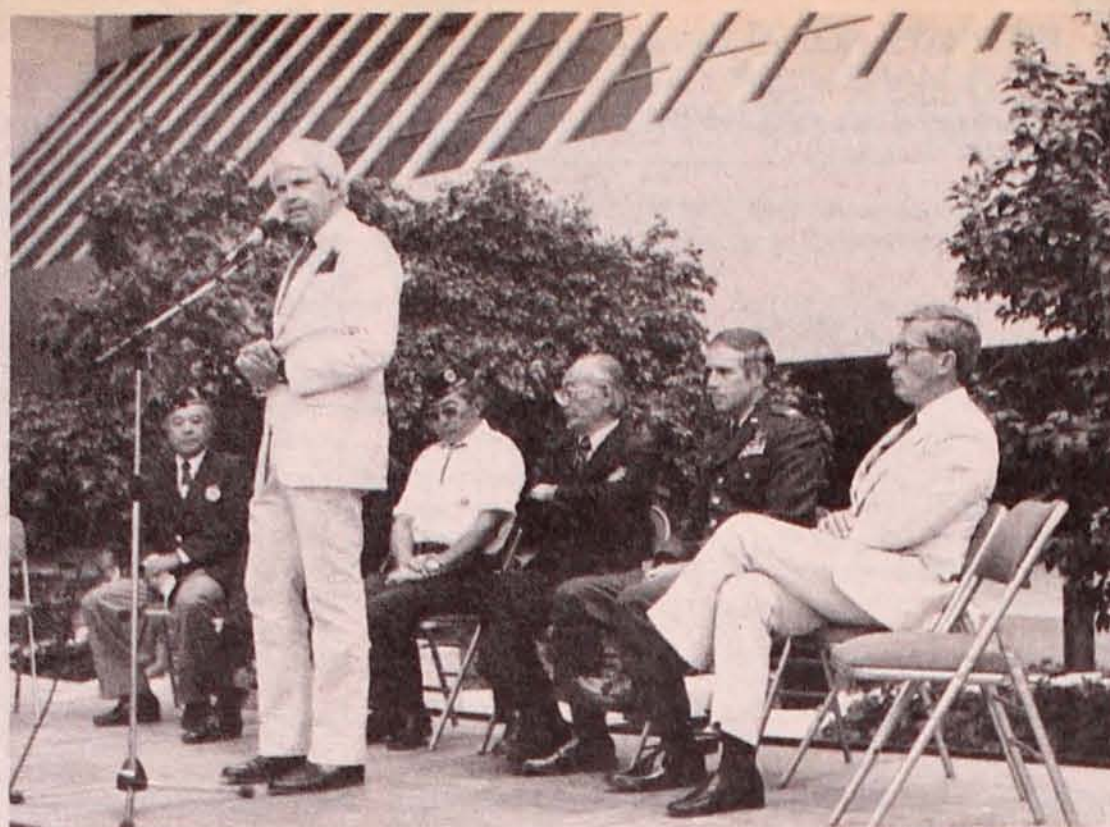
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Dedication held for 442nd exhibit

DENVER—One of the "Go For Broke" traveling exhibits was dedicated at the First Interstate Bank Tower Bldg. Aug. 30 and will be on display until Sept. 14. The photo display depicts the exploits of Nisei who fought for the U.S. during WW2.

Among those participating in the noon hour ceremony were Gov. Richard Lamm; Denver mayor Federico Pena; Col. Raymond Hunter, vice commander at Lowry AFB; Robert Lee, board chair of First Interstate Bank; Min Yasui, JACL redress chair; and Harry Nakagawa, commander of American Legion Nisei Post 185. Tom Masamori was emcee.

"The State of Colorado and the whole of the U.S. owe a debt to the Nisei soldiers of the 442nd. But that debt can never be repaid," said Lamm. "They fought with more valor and vigor than any unit in the U.S. Army. It is the shame of America that we treated a whole people as we did." Lamm also noted that over 75 local Nisei (from the Amache intern-



In praise of the 442nd—Gov. Richard Lamm speaks at dedication. Sitting are (from left) Tom Masamori, Harry Nakagawa, Minoru Yasui, Col. Raymond Hunter and Robert E. Lee.

ment camp) were killed in action.

Yasui said that Nisei servicemen fought and died "because we knew that despite what had happened to us, the U.S. represented the highest ideals of liberty and justice."

JA church celebrates 70th anniversary

GARDENA, CA—Founded in Aug. 1914 as a mission headed by Rev. Haruye Shibata,

the Gardena Valley Baptist Church, now under Rev. Eishi Hirose, will celebrate its 70th anniversary Sunday, Sept. 16.

Guest speaker Rev. Roy Ishihara of Central Kona Church on Hawaii's Big Island will address the 9 a.m. worship. A celebration luncheon follows at Queensway Bay Hilton in Long Beach, where church pioneers will be remembered, including the late Dr. Ralph Mayberry, who helped and encouraged countless Japanese Americans in the camps during WW2.

While the prevailing Baptist Mission policy after the war was to assimilate the churches, Mayberry sensed the need to rebuild the Japanese community and have a permanent site for worship and purchased the property where the Gardena Valley Baptist Church now stands.

Its Sunday school has over 500 enrolled and church membership has grown to over 600 from a Bible class of 20 in 1914.

Time capsule on display

LOS ANGELES—Little Tokyo Centennial's time capsule, which is to be filled by contributions from the Nikkei community, is now on display at Joseph's Men's Wear, 238 E. 1st St.

The capsule, 4 ft. high and 18 in. in diameter, is a contribution of Mrs. Chiyo Machikawa and Mr./Mrs. Yoshi Koyasu, longtime Little Tokyoites.

Frank Omatsu, time capsule committee chair, suggested items which indicate the lifestyle of the 1980s and historic material covering the first 100 years would be suitable for the capsule. It is to be reopened 100 years hence.

Details for submitting items are to be announced when the capsule forms are ready, Omatsu added.

Community affairs

BERKELEY, Calif.—East-West Counseling Center sponsors a lecture and panel discussion on Asian-Caucasian marriages, Thursday, Sept. 20, 1524 Oregon St., 7:30 p.m.; \$5 donation. It is estimated that 60% to 70% of Japanese Americans in California marry non-Japanese, the majority of whom are white. Information: 540-5373.

SAN FRANCISCO—Detective Sam Shikaze returns in the premiere opening of "Once Is Never Enough," by Rick Shiomi, Marc Hayashi and Lane Nishikawa. Presented by Asian American Theater Company, the play opens Sept. 21 at the People's Theatre Coalition at Fort Mason Center and runs Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 7 p.m. (Detective Shikaze was first introduced in the award-winning "Yellow Fever.") Reservations: 566-1605.

SAN FRANCISCO—National Federation of Asian American United Methodists holds its quadrennial general assembly Jan. 31-Feb. 3, reports the Rev. Jonah Chang, executive director. Each of the local 200 Asian American churches will be able to send one clergy and one lay delegate to the assembly. In addition, each jurisdictional Asian caucus and each ethnic group within the broader Asian category may send one clergy and one lay delegate. The Rev. Lloyd Wake is federation president.

LOS ANGELES—Visual Communications, a nonprofit Asian Pacific American media resource and production center, recently received \$4,500 from the Montebello Women's Club.

LOS ANGELES—Japanese American Republicans host a luau Sept. 28, 6:30 p.m. at Sir Michael's Restaurant, 6309 E. Washington, City of Commerce, it was announced by Ruth Watanabe, JAR president. Robert K. Dorman will be guest speaker. For reservations: Ruth, 617-3545.

SAN FRANCISCO—Japanese American Democratic Club holds its 8th annual dinner in the Emerald Room of the Holiday Inn on Van Ness Blvd. and Pine St. Friday, Sept. 21. San Jose congressman Norman Mineta is guest speaker. Cocktails are at 7 p.m. and dinner is at 8. The cost is \$35 per person or \$350 per table of 10 people. Contact: Robert Kuwamoto, 861-0578 or Jane, 285-0642.

LOS ANGELES—Kinnara Taiko performs at the 3rd annual Watts Towers Day of the Drum Festival Sept. 23 at Watts Towers Art Center, 1727 E. 107th St. The Senshin Buddhist Temple-based group performs at 1 and 5 p.m. Other festival performers include Max Roach, Billy Higgins, Poncho Sanchez, Koba Ladzekpo, and several others.

PENRYN, Calif.—Placer Buddhist Church, 3192 Boyington Rd., holds its 20th annual autumn festival and food bazaar Sept. 22 and 23, starting at 11 a.m. both days. Cultural events will include musical performances, demonstrations of bonsai, flower arranging and calligraphy, and handicraft displays. Advance dinner tickets are available from church members at \$4.50 each.

PORTLAND—Artquake, a festival of arts and crafts, performing arts, and food held Sept. 21, 22 and 23 in the south downtown blocks, will be highlighted by a celebration of the Sapporo-Portland Sister City Program's 25th anniversary. Cultural events will include traditional Japanese dances and folk songs, a koto jazz group, and a Japanese brass band.

VETERANS

Continued from Front Page

At the New Orleans VFW convention, commander-in-chief James Currieo withdrew his resolution because of pressure from the 14 Nisei posts in California and other VFW members. Currieo's position prompted the Nisei vets to draft the civil rights resolution for this year's convention.

The anti-redress resolutions introduced at the American Legion's Seattle convention were sponsored by delegates from Washington and Pennsylvania. Morimitsu and T. Jack Uno of Seattle Cathay Post contacted influential legionnaires to oppose the resolutions, which were removed because of a technicality.

ABC responds to Olympic 'Jap' protest

LOS ANGELES—During the Olympics, many Nikkei were surprised and angered when a U.S. gold medal winner referred to his opponent as a "Jap" during a nationally broadcast interview. JACL PSW regional director John Saito, who sent ABC president Rooney Arledge a telegram of protest shortly after the incident, recently received a response from the network—but not the kind he had hoped for.

Randy Lewis, who was interviewed by ABC's Russ Hellickson after defeating Japan's Kosei Akaishi in freestyle wrestling, said, "I figured I would have a pretty wild match with that Jap." Nikkei viewers who called the JACL office were upset that both Hellickson and the network as a whole allowed the slur to pass without comment.

In a letter to Saito dated Aug. 21, ABC's audience information manager Christopher Morgan wrote:

"Mr. Rooney Arledge has asked me to convey his personal regrets because you were offended by our coverage of Randy Lewis's comments during the Olympics. However, he would also like to point out that Mr. Lewis is not an employee of this network and ABC has no control over Mr. Lewis's opinions or the expressions he uses to voice those opinions.

"We have tried to track down the exact comment Mr. Lewis made, but were unsuccessful, since yours is the only complaint we have received. Unfortunately, most of the interviews during the L.A. games were live, and as a result, there was no way to know what an interviewee would say until the time of the actual interview.

"Please be assured that it is not the policy of ABC to portray any racial or ethnic group in a negative light. We are proud of our network's wholehearted commitment to fairness and equality for all people."

Saito said that the issue was not whether the network knew what Lewis was going to say, but rather what it did about the remark after it was made. In his telegram, Saito had demanded "an immediate correction and apology." He also doubted Morgan's claim that ABC could not confirm Lewis's exact words.

As for the statement that only one protest had been received, Saito said, "They're lying through their teeth." His office has received copies of letters written to ABC by concerned individuals, including one signed by the mayor and city council of Gardena. Angry viewers have also phoned the network and sent complaints to the U.S. Olympic Committee and to Lewis himself.

A number of Nikkei who called JACL and the two local JA newspapers said they strongly suspected that a similar remark about Blacks, Jews, or another ethnic group would have caused an uproar and made headlines. The "Jap" remark appears to have gone unnoticed by the media.

Rather than lodge another protest, Saito said he planned to have the "Jap" incident mentioned along with other complaints being presented to ABC by Americans Committed to the Olympic Spirit. The coalition of minority organizations, in which Saito represents JACL, does not feel ABC lived up to its "good faith" agreement to portray minorities in significant numbers during its Olympic coverage.

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Calendar

●SEPT 15-16
Los Angeles—Friends of Little Tokyo book fair, Jprz Village Plaza

●SEPT 15 (Saturday)
Washington—Arigato picnic at Lake Accotink, 11am-4pm; lunch at 12n; info Kris Ikejiri, 447-4155

Salt Lake—Issei luncheon, Buddhist Church, 211 W 100th South, 12n

●SEPT 16 (Sunday)
Contra Costa—Barbeque at El Cerro Comm Cntr, 4-9pm; prgm featuring schol winners 6:30-8pm

●SEPT 19 (Wednesday)
Los Angeles—Stonebridge Productions present concert by The Krush of Hawaii, JACCC Japan Am Th, 244 S San Pedro; 7 and 10pm; reserv (714) 639-1007/(213) 488-9868

●SEPT 21 (Friday)
San Francisco—Kimochi golf tournament, Peacock Gap Golf & Country Club; tee-off 12n; register 931-2294

●SEPT 21-23
Tule Lake—pilgrimage to former

internment camp; info Kathy (415) 922-8898/387-5276; Tom (408) 275-8797

●SEPT 22 (Saturday)
Watsonville—50th anniv celeb, Buddhist Temple, 6pm; info Wally Osato, Bx 163, Watsonville 95077

PSWDC Redress Cmte—Benefit prgm, Nakaoka Mem Cntr, 1700 W 162nd, Gardena; bento 6pm, film ("Nisei Soldier") & discussion 7pm; guests Norman Mineta, Bert Nakano, Joyce Okinaka, Lorrie Bannai, John Tateishi; info 626-4471

Los Angeles—Singer Andy Russell sings "Music of the 40s" at JACCC Japan Am Th, for Jprz Retirement Home benefit; 4 & 7 pm; reserv 263-9651

●SEPT 29 (Saturday)
San Francisco—Calif Jprz Alumni Assn schol dinner/dance, Jprz Pavilion, Cathedral Hill Hl, Van Ness & Geary; 6:30pm; info 921-5225

●OCT 6 (Saturday)
West Valley—Golf tournament, Riverside Golf Course, Coyote. \$18 fee to Ray Uchiyama, 19595 Via Escuela Dr., Saratoga 95070

EAST WIND: by Bill Marutani

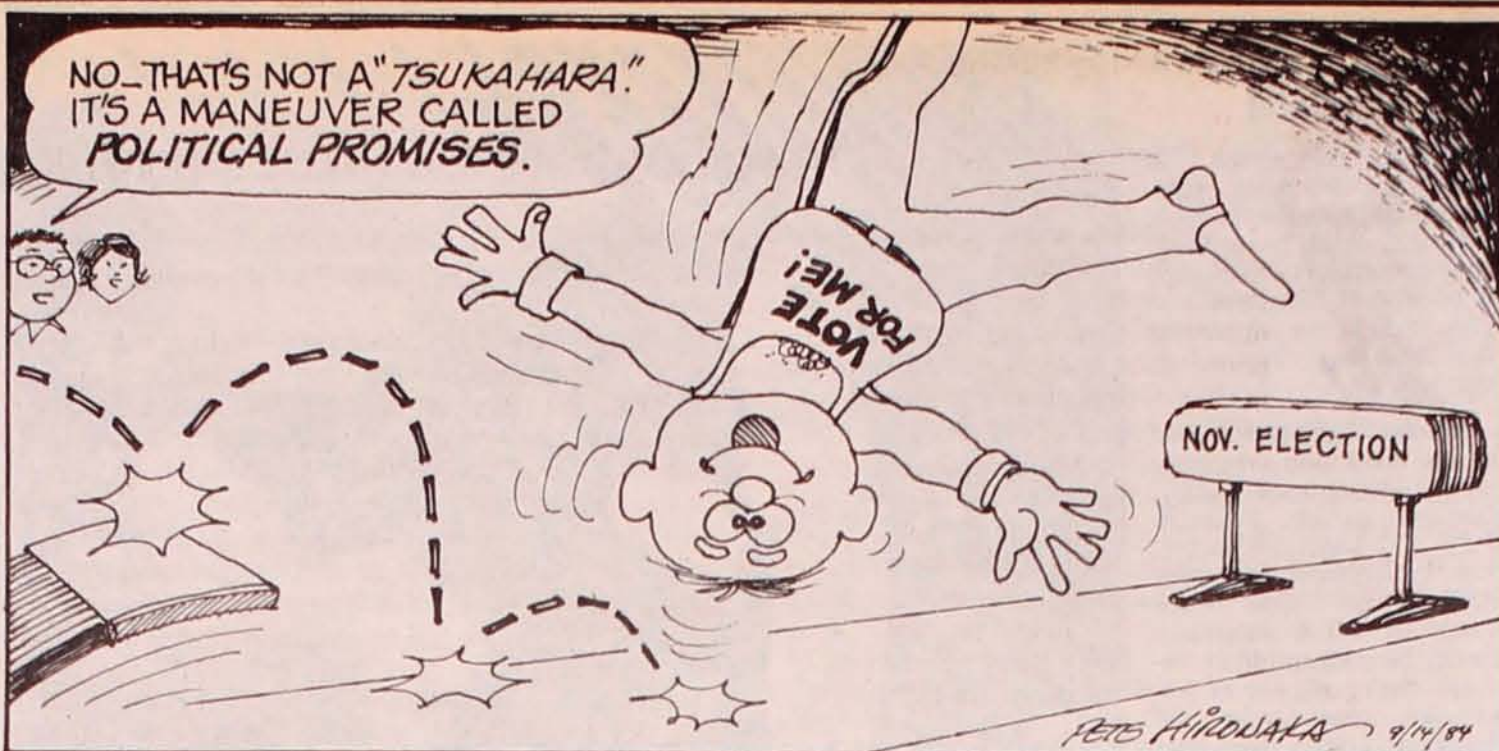


Learning While Earning

DURING MY YEARS practicing law in Philadelphia, I experienced a varied practice, representing those of modest means (Issei and the so-called war-brides) as well as wealthy Republican municipalities in the nearby suburbs, and even some national and international corporations. And, yes, there were a few matters for some Nisei. But since practically no Nisei was involved in a business proprietorship in Pennsylvania, we did not have the privilege of providing commercial legal services to them. Except one.

IN THE ADJOINING county of Montgomery, in the municipality called Lansdale, there existed—and continues to exist—a unique business: chick-sexing, entering into contracts with hatcheries through the United States as well as Europe and South America, which contracts would then be subcontracted to chick-sexors. This "niwatori-no-kambetsu" provided many a Nisei chick-sexor with generous financial returns, particularly at a time when avenues to livelihood were limited. Many Nisei veterans were able to get back on their feet following their discharge from military service.

THE BUSINESS WAS founded in 1937 by a determined, hard-working fellow from Terminal Island (Calif.) by the name of S. John Nitta—"Shigeru" to oldtimers. Upon graduation from high school, and along with many other Nisei facing bleak economic times, John looked about for a way to survive. After rejecting suggestions that good money could be made as a masseur or as a radio operator aboard a tuna boat, he boldly turned to the then little-known art of chick-



sexing, i.e., eliminating the cockerels from the pullets so that the poultry farmer's expenses are halved by feeding and maintaining only egg-producing birds.

There was only one place where John might pick up this then closely-guarded secret: he proceeded to Nagoya, Japan, and went to school there. With the art firmly learned, he then returned to the United States and opened up a school to share the secret. Thus was born the American Chick Sexing School which boasts many graduates, some of whom undoubtedly are reading these very words. At first, there were so few students—just one at the beginning—that the school's expenses far exceeded income.

THEN, THE BUSINESS named "Amchick" (short for "American Chick Sexing Association") was formed, entering into general contracts with hatcheries throughout the United States. But here again, at the beginning it was tough going. How does one convince a

skeptical farmer that one has the ability to segregate, by sex, day-old chicks? But John persevered, and grew. Today, his oldest son David is firmly in charge—in the vein of his father, which is a hard act to follow.

IT WAS NOT easy for John. He was the oldest of five children when his father passed away. John was 12 years old. He was then attending school in Wakuba, Wakayama, but returned to the United States to complete his education—and work. His mother struggled and managed to raise all the children. She's still alive today, bless her.

AS A LAWYER serving and working with John, I learned a lot about being a careful craftsman in reviewing documents and drafting contracts. I can afford to admit this now because he no longer pays me for that education I received from him.

CLIFF'S CORNER: by Dr. Clifford Uyeda



Plight of Koreans in Japan

In an unprecedented move, the JACL National Council in Honolulu expressed through a resolution their concern for the plight of Korean residents in Japan, who even after many generations still face severe social discrimination and live under insecure legal status. The resolution was introduced by the Golden Gate JACL chapter of San Francisco.

JACL delegates were reminded that historically the Japanese cultural heritage is interwoven with that of Korea. Many well-known scholars and artisans of ancient and modern Japan trace their ancestors to Korea.

Early in the 4th century, the populations of whole villages were brought over from Korea to Japan. Ayabe, the brocade-makers' guild, was formed by the "men of Han." The mother of the legendary Prince Shotoku (Shotoku Taishi, 572-622 A.D.) was Korean. By end of the 7th century, over one-third of the noble families of Japan claimed Chinese or Korean descent. The Satsuma and Imari ceramic wares were established by Koreans. Kang Hong, one of the foremost Confucian scholars of the time, was brought to Japan (16th century) as a prisoner of war by Toyotomi Hideyoshi.

In post-World War II Japan, Rikidozan (1924-1963), who became the idol of Japanese wrestling fans as an ethnic "Japafese" hero, was a Korean. He was born Kim Kwang-Ho on the outskirts of Seoul, and became Mitsuhiro Kanamura in 1939

when all citizens of imperial Japanese territories were ordered to Japanize their names. He acquired his Japanese nationality through being adopted by Minosuke Momota, an avid sumo fan.

Isao Harimoto, the greatest hitter in the history of Japanese baseball, was a Korean (Chang Hun). Masaichi Kaneda, who holds most of the major pitching records, was a naturalized Korean (Kim). He later became manager of the Lotte Orions.

Continued on Page 7

Judge Raymond Uno is running for 3rd District Court

Raymond is currently a Circuit Court Judge. He is running for 3rd District Court, State of Utah



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- Past National Legal Counsel, JACL
- Member, National JACL Redress Committee
- Co-Chairman, National JACL Biennial Convention, 1976-1978
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ISSN: 0030-8579

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Published by the Japanese American Citizens League every Friday except the first and last weeks of the year at 244 S. San Pedro St., Los Angeles, CA 90012; (213) 626-6936. • 2nd Class postage paid at Los Angeles, CA. • Annual Subscriptions—JACL member: \$10.00 of national dues provides one-year on a per-household basis. Non-members: \$18, payable in advance. Foreign addresses: Add U.S.\$8. • News or opinions expressed by columnists other than the National President or National Director do not necessarily reflect JACL policy. Submitted articles and letters should be typed double-spaced. Deadline is the Friday before date of publication. • National JACL Headquarters, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115, (415) 921-5225

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Typesetting: Mary Imon Layout/photog.: Jon Takasugi
Holiday Issue: Charles Fullert Mailing: Mark Saito

Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Citizen, 244 S San Pedro St # 506, Los Angeles, CA 90012-3891.

FROM THE FRYING PAN: by Bill Hosokawa



These Soldiers Not Just Fading Away

The fellows down at Nisei Legion Post 185 dedicated the "Go for Broke" exhibit here in Denver the other day. Gov. Dick Lamm, who opposes cash redress payments as a matter of principle, was there to say a few heartfelt words on behalf of the Nisei sacrifice during WW2, and so was Denver Mayor Federico Pena.

The exhibit, of course, is a deeply moving memorial to the Nisei infantrymen who served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the 100th Battalion, and in the Pacific as well, and paid such a devastating price in blood. But what impressed John Coit, who wrote about the dedication ceremony in the Rocky Mountain News, was the advancing age of the men who had gone through WW2.

"Martial music blared from a loudspeaker, and four old men in blue caps and matching two-tone shirts stood at ease with the flags of Colorado and the United States," Coit wrote. And further down in his column, Coit said of Gov. Lamm: "He stood with the rest of the

dignitaries on the platform as the four old soldiers posted the colors, still sharp as knives when they cut the corner."

Coit is still a relative youngster and perhaps it is understandable that he saw guys like Henry Amano, Yosh Arai, John Noguchi and Jun Oya as old soldiers. Well, shucks, the war they served in was four decades ago and the years understandably have added frost to their hair and pounds to their waists.

And of course they deserve to be called old soldiers in a respectful manner. But the feats of courage they and their buddies demonstrated should remain young forever in our memories, and that's what the pictorial exhibit is all about.

I've said it before in this space and I'll say it again. We Japanese Americans owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the guys who had faith enough in our country to swallow the humiliation of evacuation and incarceration to volunteer for military service. It is not overly dramatic to say that they wrote the message of Japanese American loyalty with their blood and all of us are

beneficiaries of their sacrifice.

Many of those who volunteered for service were under enormous hostile pressure from peers who saw neither wisdom nor logic in fighting for a nation that had betrayed them. There was much that was persuasive in the argument that the U.S. should do right by Japanese Americans before they agreed to fight for it.

But the Nisei volunteers, and the draftees who followed them, laid down no preconditions. That was not the time for bargaining. It was unfair that they should have to demonstrate a loyalty that should have been obvious, loyalty that should have been assumed.

But that's not the way it was. And so these fellows who have grown into old soldiers shook off the jeers and hostility of those of lesser faith, were bloodied in battle, lost good buddies, and it is only proper that we should commemorate what they experienced.

Old soldiers indeed. That is a description that they can accept and proudly wear as a badge of respect, admiration and affection.

More Comments on Senate Redress Hearing

The Aug. 29 Los Angeles Times printed two letters in response to its coverage of the Aug. 16 Senate redress hearing. L.R. Kado of Gardena wrote:

"The comment by retired Col. Frederick Weiner... certainly reflects some lopsided thinking. He believes the U.S. government should only apologize to the Japanese Americans... if Japan apologizes for Pearl Harbor."

"Weiner needs to get one thing straight. The Japanese Americans put into those prison camps were just that—they were Americans of Japanese descent. They consisted of second and third generation U.S. citizens whose constitutional rights were ignored."

"Just as Weiner is of European (or whatever) descent [and] no longer holds allegiance to his ancestral homeland... those Americans of Japanese descent had no military allegiance to Japan whatsoever. There wasn't one incident where these Japanese Americans committed any form of sabotage or espionage."

"Weiner's remark confirms that he saw... Japanese Americans not as Americans but as foreigners. How many generations down the line does one have to be in order to become an American? Only when there's no color in his skin? I'm a third-generation American who speaks only English and an

American in every way that Weiner can claim to be. I refuse to be rubber-stamped as a foreigner because I have a different hue to my skin than he does!..."

Keeping Track

"...[T]he German Americans and Italian Americans were able to evade mass evacuation... [W]hat put the Japanese Americans into those camps back in 1942 was racism."

"The colonel's remark makes me believe that even in 1984, one's skin color can still be held against an individual in this country of ours. Because of this, those affected by discrimination will have wounds that cannot heal, wounds that will potentially fester for generations to come."

Douglas Campbell of Culver City wrote:

"Weiner's words imply that all West Coast persons of Japanese extraction who were interned were co-aggressors with the Japanese government during WW2, and that their incarceration in the concentration camps is therefore justified."

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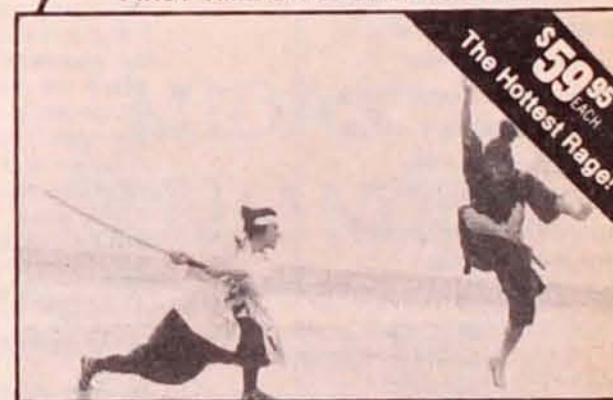
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Letters

Readers get mad as Sam plays it again

Pacific Citizen I love you ... but I'm appalled that you would print the picture (Aug. 24 PC) of what is probably the world's ugliest man on page 1 or for that matter on any page of any issue. And also there's this article in which different unpatriotic Americans voiced their poisonous opinions as to what was going on in those days of infamy when we were imprisoned in U.S.-style concentration camps.

I especially wish to comment on two of those most knowledgeable "know it all" nothings. The retired U.S. Army colonel from Phoenix (I wouldn't honor him by using his—or is it a her?—name) cites a public lie. Well,

the big lie is him for chances are he wasn't even around Dec. 7, 1941, for he proves what a school boy he is in his completely ignorant and what has to be the most un-American, irresponsible remark I've ever heard: "a Chinese American, a Filipino and a Jap—and a Black, I beg your pardon ... attacking Japanese ethnics".

Then there's this Caucasian Rachel Kawasaki with her ludicrous statements. No doubt that this one is now a divorcee and doing nothing but screaming vindictiveness and bitterness because of it.

Sayonara and drop dead to these two bums and all others

that think sick as they do.

CHIYEKO HEDANI
Costa Mesa, CA

S.I. Hayakawa epitomizes the current cultural dilemma of Nikkei in America. Japanese Americans are at a crossroad. Our fate depends on how we approach the future: as a close-knit ethnic group or a watered-down version of our predecessors.

With individuals like Hayakawa running their mouth off in public, who needs role models? Or enemies, for that matter? While many consider Hayakawa to be an educated person, I choose to believe that he is a fool, a traitor, and a heartless politician who will do anything to prove his American-ness to his Anglo cronies who pat him on the

back for being a good old boy.

As a Sansei, I am concerned for redress. As an American, I am disturbed by Hayakawa's predilections about the camp experience. After all, where was he?!

THOMAS OKAZAKI
Arcata, Calif.

Personal endorsements

I am writing to voice my response to Fred Hirasuna's letter (Aug. 31 PC), regarding the nomination speech made by the outgoing national president for one of the candidates for the next biennium.

My comment is not with regard to the propriety of what was done but with the issue of rights. Each member of JACL has a right to his/her personal opinion of the issue of support for an individual candidate

for any JACL office. I would strongly oppose any attempt to prevent the right of free speech in any campaign in future national conventions. The right to voice one's opinion, and that was only that, should not interfere with the delegate's ultimate right to cast their vote as they chose to do.

It was made clear that person or persons who endorsed a particular candidate did so as an individual and not as the spokesperson for a chapter, district or national JACL. Office holders must not voice personal opinions when voicing a position or policy statement for the group they represent unless authorized to do so by that group; however, with regard to nominating and seconding speeches, each person can voice personal opinion.

The delegates are intelli-

gent enough to make their own decisions as to their vote. I have heard too often the comment: Why did you not speak? Your comments were relevant and important in the final consideration of how to vote.

I would hope that whatever side you were on, that we go on from here to assure an effective and strong JACL. Assumptions are dangerous, and I would hope that each delegate did their homework and listened and came to their own decision as to how to cast their vote for the many offices. I don't believe that votes were cast based on assumptions. Many things were done differently this past convention with regard to campaigning. Everything done was within the realm of properness and fairness.

YOSHIO NAKASHIMA
San Francisco

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U.S.-Japan workshop panelists stress understanding

By Yasumasa Kuroda
(Special to the Pacific Citizen)

HONOLULU — Minister William Clark Jr., deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, and Minister Michihiko Kunihiro, chief of economic section at the Japan Embassy in Washington, D.C., were honored as keynote speakers at the JACL convention workshop on U.S.-Japan relations Aug. 15. Chairing the workshop was Frank Iwama. Panelists commenting on potential role of JACL in U.S.-Japan relations were JACL President Floyd Shimomura, Tokyo Chapter President Dick Yamashita, and David Nikaido of Washington, D.C.

Minister Clark spoke very positively of recent developments in the U.S.-Japan bilateral relations. He cited increased high-level contacts between the two countries since President Reagan's visit to Japan last November. The secretaries of state, defense, treasury, and agriculture as well as the vice president have visited Japan in the recent past. He also reported progress made in regard to various trade and defense issues, which constitute the two most important issues in U.S.-Japan relations.

An impression one received by listening to his remarks is that, although not all the problems were solved, much progress has been made and is being continued to be made. Particularly in regard to defense issues, Clark declared that, "The relationship between the U.S. and Japan has never been better." To buttress his point, he reported that Japan's increase in defense expenditure almost equaled that of the U.S. in recent years and that, "This achievement eclipses the NATO nations' average increase by a factor of four, and this was achieved in spite of severe budget constraints in Japan."

Increasingly Important Relationships

He placed these remarks within the context of the increased importance the Pacific and Asian nations have to the United States as indicated by the volume of trade between the two areas, which "exceeded our trade with Europe by \$29 billion" last year. He also noted that Ambassador Mike Mansfield has called the relationship between the U.S. and Japan "the most important bilateral relationship in the world."

Clark pointed out the responsibility of those who understand both countries. They must form a "bridge" and "often take positions that are not popular and say things that need to be said." He ended his presentation by emphasizing the growing strength of the relationship between the two countries.

Second keynote speaker was Minister Kunihiro from Washington, D.C., who represented the Japan side of the panel. Kunihiro's presentation began with his recollection of earlier years in Los Angeles when he developed close relationships with many Japanese Americans. He described how hard Japanese Americans worked to achieve today's success in American society. He referred to himself as "one of your Japanese 'cousins' from across the Pacific."

Friction Inevitable

Kunihiro considers the past 10 years as the decade of growth in the development of a partnership between the two countries. He believes that certain frictions are inevitable in this process of rapid growth. However, he believes at least some frictions arose because of "Japan's *amae* (dependence) toward the United States." He is also quick to point out that political frictions between the two nations were often caused by unilateral U.S. decisions. He probably was referring to such incidents as what the Japanese referred to as the "Nixon shocks" of July 15 and Aug. 15, 1971. Nixon unilaterally made a decision to visit China and to impose a 10 percent surcharge on all imported items from overseas in 1971.

Nevertheless Kunihiro sees "more frequent and wider consultations or at least a better exchange of information" in recent years. He did not forget to state that "American exports to Japan are growing three times faster than the average growth of U.S. exports to the rest of the world."

His views of future were divided into two parts also. Kunihi-

ro hoped that Japan will: (1) "show initiative in playing an international role commensurate with its economic strength," (2) "continue to open up and internationalize its economy," (3) promote more "cultural exchanges," and (4) "expand cooperation with the United States in the joint effort to promote peace and economic development, and to maintain security, in the Pacific."

Kunihiro hopes that Americans will: (1) "take pains to study more closely and assess more accurately the changes taking place in the dynamic Japanese society," (2) understand domestic politics in Japan more, (3) "address problems with Japan with an overall view rather than focusing attention on single issues," and (4) "place more emphasis on the area of cooperation, rather than the problem areas between our two countries."

It is of interest that Kunihiro too noted that recent shift of U.S. interest towards the Pacific area. He ended his presentation by noting how impressed he was with the biennial report of the JACL U.S.-Japan Relations committee and promised Japan's support in the JACL's efforts to build better U.S.-Japan relations.

JACL Speakers

The first JACL panelist was David Nikaido, who told us about the Washington, D.C., chapter's efforts to develop closer personal relationships with Japanese diplomats in Washington. Nikaido emphasized the need for Japanese Americans to get to know Japanese and for them to get to know us better.

Floyd Shimomura focused his attention on the Japanese investments in America and its impacts on Japanese Americans. The recent case of Vincent Chin points to the need for us to make further efforts to improve the relationships between the United States and Japan, he concluded.

Dick Yamashita commented on the need to know facts, as Minister Clark had pointed out. He alluded to the United States and Japan as having the most important partnership in the Pacific while at the same time being the two most advanced nations in the world.

The chairman then described the JACL's U.S.-Japan Relations committee work. In 1981, then-president James Tsujimura visited Japan and met with Prime Minister Suzuki and others. In 1982, the JACL passes a resolution calling for better U.S.-Japan relations. In 1983, Shimomura and Ron Wakabayashi were invited to visit Japan and they met with the prime minister and other important figures. Following Iwama's summary, the three JACL panelists spoke once more expanding on remarks made earlier and commenting on each other's points.

Approximately 45 minutes were devoted to questions and answers from the audience.

Questions ranged from the discussion on unitary tax to handicapped American tourists in Japan. Perhaps some of the more useful information that came out of the session included such suggestions as one made by Minister Clark, who said that each local chapter should work with Japan America Society chapters.

Nikaido suggested that we invite Japanese diplomats and businessmen to our local chapter functions as a means to learn more about Japan and also to establish better personal relations with Japanese nationals in the United States.

The workshop was attended by well over 100 people, most of whom stayed through the long sessions that lasted two and a half hours. The absence of women on the panel was conspicuous and regrettable, for they have provided perspectives on U.S.-Japan relations that are more varied and practical. Notwithstanding this limitation, the workshop provided the audience with a macro-view of what is happening in U.S.-Japan relations accompanied by numerous facts as well as some practical suggestions. All those who attended session — including the speakers — seemed to be in agreement that there is much work to be done and that we should start with learning more about each other.

KOREANS

Continued from Page 4

The Japanese entertainment field is filled with superstars of Korean ancestry: Hibari Misora, Keiko Matsuzaka, Hiroshi Itsuki, Harumi Miyako, etc.

During World War II 350,000 Koreans were conscripted into the Japanese armed forces. Additional tens of thousands were mobilized into labor forces. Over 200,000 Koreans were among the two-million "Japanese" killed or missing in action during World War II. Among the atom bomb casualties at Hiroshima and Nagasaki were nearly 50,000 Koreans.

Today, there are nearly a million Koreans residing in Japan. Three-quarters of them were born there, and many are third and fourth generations. However, they have been unable to escape their alien status through naturalization without renouncing their Korean names and ethnic identity.

JACL delegates at the convention accepted the Golden Gate chapter's statement that JACL, as an organization committed to civil and human rights, has a natural and special interest in the similar rights of residents in their ancestral land, Japan.

The Japanese American experience has taught us that a

nation's commitment to democracy is reflected in the manner in which it treats its minorities. Japanese Americans take pride in the heritage of their ancestral, and believe that the Japanese government's granting of an opportunity for equal franchise with dignity to her Korean residents is a human rights issue of great importance to all citizens of the world. It is an act which could also enhance Japan's image abroad.

Setting an Example

As one of the leading industrial states, Japan's practice in dealing with its minorities is being scrutinized the world over. Japan is no exception to the ethnic heterogeneity of most modern industrial states. The American experience has taught its citizens a sense of ethnicity that takes pride in more than one heritage. It is a concept that makes democracy work in multi-ethnic America. It is a perspective which, when implemented in Japan, will bring recognition and respect to Japan as one of the world's moral leaders.

The JACL National Council instructed the organization to bring its expression of concern to the attention of the government of the United States through its State Department.

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Photo by Ron Masamori

Receiving a little help—Among this year's Denver community scholarship winners are (from left, sitting) Sachi Hamai, Hiroko Tagawa, Tammy Miyoshi, Naomi Tobo, Joy Yamada,

da, Kelly Kawamura. Standing are (from left) K. Teri Nakauchi, Shaw Ito, Shirlene Kitashima, Kevin Tani, Alan Tanaka, John Miyahara, Scott Hirose, Russell Kobayashi.

Denver Nikkei community awards 32 scholarships

AURORA, Colo.—Approximately 400 persons attended the 29th annual Japanese American Community Graduation Program last June at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel. Ninety Denver area high school graduates were honored.

After the Mile-Hi JACL established a scholarship in memory of the late chapter president Harry Sakata in 1956, other organizations began to form what is now a community-wide scholarship program. Today, 32 grants, gifts and scholarships are awarded, ranging from \$200 to \$750.

Among the awards are those from the following organizations and funds:

Gary Higa Friendship, Cindy Yamamoto Memorial, Denver Nisei Bowling Assn., Optimist Club Central, Tri-state Buddhist Temple, Denver Buddhist Temple, Mrs. I. Uyeno, Simpson United Methodist Church (Noel Hagiya award and others), Nisei Post 185, Denver School of Judo (Fred Noboru Okimoto award), Mile-Hi JACL, John T. Horie, Flanagan Associates/Tony Gist, Brighton Japanese American Assn., Japanese Assn. of Colorado, Community Graduates Committee, Gov. Ralph L. Carr memorial, Dr. Takeshi Ito award, Fresh Vegetable Package Co., Nisei War Memorial.

Chapter Pulse

Chicago

CHICAGO—Seven high school seniors received a total of \$5,500 at a scholarship luncheon this past June. Scholarship winners were: Mary Shimizu, American Legion Nisei Post 1183 and Japanese American Assn. awards; Kevin Matsushita, Tahei Matsunaga award; Robert Asakura, Hiroshima Kenjinkai/Frank M. Kono and General Mailing Service Sales Co. awards; Wako Takayama, Karen Ideno, and John Kim, Japanese American Service Committee/Sam Fukaye scholarships; Diane Iko, Chicago Chapter JACL.

Due to a lack of qualified applicants, the Chicago JACL/Dr. Thomas Yatabe and the Mas Nakagawa memorial scholarships were not awarded this year. Next year's scholarship fund is expected to approach \$10,000.

Pat Yuzawa Rubin chaired the scholarship committee.

Marin County

CORTE MADERA, Calif.—A benefit showing of Steven Okazaki's "Unfinished Business" is slated for Saturday, Sept. 22, 7:30 p.m., at Marin County Day School performing arts building, 5221 Paradise Dr. The one-hour documentary examines the cases of Fred Korematsu, Gordon Hirabayashi, and Min Yasui, who defied military curfew and internment orders in WW2. Information: 897-8006 (eves).

Sonoma County

SEBASTOPOL, Calif.—Two family movies will be screened at the chapter's semi-annual benefit movie night, Friday, Sept. 14, 7:30 p.m., at Memorial Hall. Both are in Japanese with English sub-titles.

"This Is Noriko" shows the daily life of a girl born without arms. The award-winning comedy-drama "Ojyu Hoshio" is the second feature.

Contra Costa

RICHMOND, Calif.—Old prescription eyeglasses can be unearthed from desk drawers, dusted off and sent to the Contra Costa JACL to help the needy in Third World countries.

The lenses are sent to the Nikkei Lions Club of San Francisco, who in turn forward them to the Lions Eye Foundation for project "Hope." The metal or partially metal frames will be sent to a metal reclaimer, who will pay a small sum to help the chapter's finances.

Glasses may be set to John Shinagawa, 3011 Phillips Ct., Richmond, CA 94806.

Tulare Kings

VISALIA, Calif.—A combination business meeting and barbecue, with election of officers, takes place at the Ozawa residence, 3418 W. McCormick, Saturday, Sept. 29, 7 p.m. Also on the program is a showing of the JACL videotape, "A Tale of Nisei Retirement."

Watsonville

WATSONVILLE, Calif.—Three local scholarships were awarded by the chapter: Kip Mihara received \$500 and will attend UC Berkeley to pursue a career in medicine. Janice Sakata received \$250 and will attend Pomona College. Francine Tomosawa received \$250 and plans to transfer to UC Berkeley after two years at Pacific Union College.

Dr. Conrad Hamako was scholarship committee chair.

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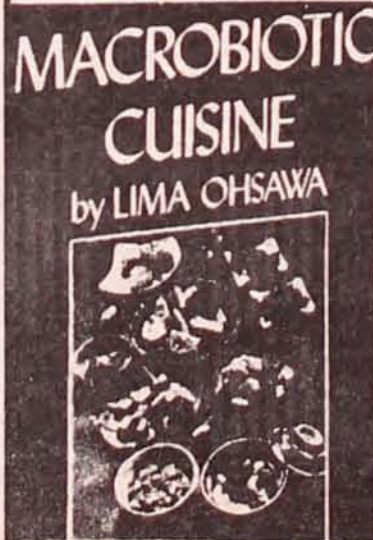
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Tangible thanks—Author and longtime JACL supporter Thomas Taro Higa of Honolulu studies the plaque recognizing his many contributions to the organization. He was honored at the convention's Aloha Banquet.



Helpmate—Hawaii's First Lady Jean Ariyoshi (center) talks with May Doi, Gardena Valley delegate (left) and Cherry Kinoshita of Seattle, JACler of the Biennium, during reception.



Gubernatorial address—Gov. George Ariyoshi speaks to conventioners at Washington Place, the governor's official residence.



Photo by Allan Beekman

Anticipation—Luau-goers (above) watch baked pig being unearthed from underground oven.

End of the week—Attending the Sayonara Banquet (at left) were Irene Hirano, women's concerns committee chair; Patrick Ogawa, Downtown Los Angeles Chapter president; Rose Ochi, vice president for membership; and Isamu Noguchi, a Japanese American of the Biennium.



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The personal recollection (as told to Anne Butler Poindexter) of a charter member of Florin JACL, Imahara and his young family of 10 were evacuated to Arkansas in 1942. They begrudgingly settled after the war in Louisiana (Chicago was too cold, and to hell with California), where he successfully ran a nursery business and saw to it that nine of ten children finished college. One of the few first-person Nisei histories to be published, the fifth daughter encouraged her dad to write what had happened to him and the community, how he felt and survived.

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LITTLE TOKYO LIFE (No. 33)



This one (PC: July 23, 1942) is about Little Tokyo. Many of his early pieces bore no titles. This column (with comments added) is one of few describing what it was like in Little Tokyo in the '30s.

By Larry Tajiri

Japtown was always on the wrong side of the tracks.

In Los Angeles, it was called Little Tokyo, a collection of cafes, drug stores, noodle joints, department stores, barber shops and a store with live eels swimming in a tank in the window. It once had three daily newspapers, each with its page or two of English type for the nisei. (The PC style for Japanese words was "lower case" those days.)

Before Roosevelt and 3.2 (beer), it had its bootleggers and its speakeasies. Before Mayor Bowron and reform drove the underworld further underground, it had its gambling hall (see July 6 PC "Yamato Hall") and its bookies. The Daily Racing Form was available at the magazine stand alongside the Boston culture of the Atlantic Monthly. And in those days when jobs were scarce the boys from Hawaii would stand on the street corners with their guitars and sing soft island songs. Little Tokyo had its share of love and laughter, births and deaths. It was Middletown with an Oriental accent.

We remember Little Tokyo best the day of the earthquake in '33 (March 10) when panic hit Los Angeles and the 28-story city hall did a hula. The window of the store with the eels was shattered and the eels were slithering down the walk into the gutter. Most of the people of Little Tokyo gathered in the big parking lot back of the Tomio building (currently the S.K. Uyeda Bldg. at First and San Pedro) and waited for doomsday.

We rushed back to the news plant (the Kashu Mainichi, 339 E. 2nd St.) and put out an extra ("gōgai"). Looking back now, we wonder why. The earthquake was hardly news to people of Los Angeles and of Little Tokyo, but it seemed the thing to do. Later, past midnight, we climbed into a jalopy and went down to Terminal Island where the fishermen lived (the other close community to the epicenter offshore.) That was the other time Terminal Island was evacuated. The fishing village was deserted, except for a few sturdy nisei guards warming themselves over a fire. There had been rumors of a tidal wave and the people had evacuated to the heights of Dominguez hills. We came back in the dawn past soldiers on guard in the debris-cluttered streets of Long Beach and through the fallen storefronts of Compton. A lot of people (about 100) had been killed that day and the story had an angle for the vernacular press because several Japanese had been among the dead. We had coffee at an all-night joint and then went back to work.

Everything revolved around First and San Pedro streets in those days. Little Tokyo had its share of excitement. The publisher (Mr. Sei Fujii) was shot one night by a pair of would-be assassins and for a while we worked behind steel plates on the windows. (Small warehouses built in the 1880s—and the Kashu Mainichi was in such a structure—had solid iron shutters covering the doors and windows.) They used to change the lock on the door every week and we were always getting confused about the keys.

On New Year's eve, the night of the big flood, somebody tore down the back door of the plant and set fire to the press. The

'Wrong Side of the Tracks'

reasons for all this were immersed in Japtown politics (Nisei journalists often referred to Little Tokyo that way in conversation—but seldom in print). The nisei never cared enough to figure it all out. The world of the issei was an alien world, clouded by the intricacies of the Japanese language.

Little Tokyo was home. Little Tokyo meant America to a lot of nisei but it was just a curiosity to the tourists. Ten or twenty thousand of them would come down on the night of the (Nisei Week) festival to watch the floats and the dancing in the streets. It was all quaint to them, a sentence in a strange Oriental tongue, punctuated by the flickering light of Japanese lanterns. Little Tokyo was a place to work and place to sleep to most nisei. Sometimes it was a place to have fun and a place to eat chow mein or "nabeyaki udon," which are noodles cooked in an earthenware dish with mushrooms, chicken and green onions.

In a few months the people of Little Tokyo will be scattered via wartime urgency to the deserts of Arizona, the bottomlands of the Mississippi or the ranchlands of the Arkansas River valley. Little Tokyo today is a ghost town with only the signs of the three Chinese cafes to give it light at night. The Miyako Hotel is now the Civic and the "America We Are Ready" sign of the JACL's anti-axis committee hangs wanly now over an empty storefront. The mice and the rats in the aging buildings must be having slim pickings.

All the Japtowns are ghost towns now—on the wrong side of the tracks.

FEEDBACK—Comments on this series received during the recent convention in Honolulu were most kind and most appreciated. Some who did not know the prewar scene of Little Tokyo found inklings of their own Japanese towns up the coast reflected in the series. Some wondered if this collection of sketches might someday be in book form. "It's not in the cards, right now," I ventured. "But, it will go into the Little Tokyo Centennial time capsule."

And from K. Patrick Okura, now of Washington, D.C., (here this past week when the City of Los Angeles presented its reparation check to Nisei city employees who were summarily dismissed from their jobs because of their ancestry in early 1942) comes this note about another Nisei star of prewar Hollywood days. "During and after dancing at the Hollywood Bowl with the Michio Ito group, Lily Arikawa spent considerable time playing small parts in Hollywood. After her debut as the queen riding the Long Beach city float at the Tournament of Roses in 1937, which won the theme prize, she continued to appear in several films, such as 'Oil for the Lamps of China' with Pat O'Brien; 'Stowaway' starring Shirley Temple; and in 'Marco Polo'. Recommended by Michio Ito, choreographer Leroy Prince chose Lily to double for Anna May Wong (since she doesn't dance) in a picture. But since the Sino-Japanese entanglement was in progress, Anna May Wong objected to a Japanese American doubling for her, so Lily never got that dance sequence..." Of course, Lily is Mrs. Okura today.

About Anna Mae Wong, her folks ran a huge hand laundry operation on the same block where we grew up in the late '20s (Temple and Figueroa area). Her younger brother Henry was an ROTC cadet officer at Belmont High in the mid-'30s, probably the first Chinese American officer there. Other famous names from this neighborhood include Col. Young O. Kim (ret.) of the 100th Infantry and his sister Willa, New York costume designer. Their parents ran a grocery store at Temple and Flower... Little Tokyo history is this way—a mix of people of various backgrounds.

The Thousand Club Kiss

By Dr. Frank F. Sakamoto,
1000 Club Immediate Past National Chairman

HONOLULU — The "Thousand Club Kiss," delivered at the national convention in Hawaii by Ellen Kubo and Mitzie Baba, was enthusiastically received. They did a great job of rounding up new Life Members for the JACL Thousand Club by promising to kiss anyone on both cheeks simultaneously if they would become life members (\$500 one-time contribution.)

Frank Kasama from Fremont, Calif., immediately became a recipient of the kisses. Pacific Northwest District Governor Denny Yasuhara, observing Frank, was next in line, followed by JACL legal counsel Frank Iwama, who thought it was a lot of fun and became a "Lifer." Then came Ted Inouye and Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific Governor Yosh Nakashima. Lily Abiko of San Francisco didn't care to be kissed by a member of her own gender but nevertheless thought it was a lot of fun and became a "Lifer," as did Rose Tani of Stockton.

George Baba, who didn't need to pay to kiss his wife, nevertheless did and said, "Put my name on the Lifer's list." Dr. Kenneth Takeda of Lodi asked for just a little kiss. Harry Kawahata and Tetsuya Kato also signed up after receiving "the treatment." Mickey Ichijui of Pacific Grove joined up, as did Alan Nishi of French Camp. Our good friend John Yasumoto said, "Please accommodate me for this is the first time I'm getting something for joining anything besides getting a handshake from (the late) Mas Satow."

Karl Kinaga from San Jose, breathless after receiving "the

treatment," asked to become a Life Member. Shea Aoki of Seattle requested life membership in the Century Club in memory of her late husband, Jiro, a long-time JACL stalwart. Also, Dr. William Takahashi, formerly of Seattle and now of Boulder, Colo., joined up as did Roy Makino of Woodland Hills, Calif., and Gregory Ono of Bridgeton, N.J. Barry Saiki of the Japan Chapter, a retired colonel, said he had never seen anything like this and of course, signed up. Mats Murata of French Camp and Albert Dohi of Gardena also received this "friendly persuasion" and became "Lifers."

Father Clement, a.k.a. Fr. JACL himself, celebrating 30 years as a JACler, gave me a list of prospective Thousand Club members. Among them were Richard N. Tokumaru of Goleta, Calif., Kiyoko Hanamura of Upland, Yosh Kojimoto of San Mateo, Henry Oshiro of West Covina, and Pauline Layher of Honolulu.

Tom Shimasaki, who celebrated 50 years as a JACler, gave me a \$1,000 check for the Mike Masaoka Living Memorial Fund, thus making him a Mike Masaoka Fellow.

Sen Nishiyama, whom I persuaded to become the Japan Chapter Thousand Club Chairman, promptly recruited Jack Ishio, Tom Sakamoto and two others.

Thanks to all for being such good sports and for believing in the JACL and the Thousand Club. Many objectives were accomplished by all of us working together and I am certain that redress will be successful. Let's have a big celebration in Chicago in 1986!

by Harry Honda

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People

Awards

Don Kazama, outgoing chair of the Seattle-King County Advisory Council on Aging, was the recipient of one of the Washington state governor's awards for distinguished volunteer service. The category in which Kazama won his award was for "the volunteer who has provided broad and exceptional leadership to a cause, program or project which re-

sponds to human needs and has advanced the whole field of volunteerism." Kazama's main advocacy was for minority and limited English-speaking populations.

Organizations

Vanessa Y. Chong was named executive director of American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii. She succeeds Linda Hills, who will become director of the San Diego ACLU chapter. Chong has been Hawaii ACLU program director since 1981 and previously worked for Oahu YWCA.

Education

Arthur Akinori Hashizume, a graduate of Roosevelt High

School (Calif.), was awarded the \$4,000 Home Savings of America Career Awareness Program scholarship. He maintained a 4.0 GPA and perfect attendance while participating in extracurricular activities and winning other awards. He plans to study electrical engineering at Occidental College.

Sports

Gloria Takagishi finished the 100-mile Western States Endurance Run July 8 as one of 250 runners who took less than 30 hours to complete the grueling course. Snow, heat, and altitude (the trail drops some 22,000 feet) plague the athletes from Squaw Valley to Auburn.

Deaths

Seattle resident Theresa Takayoshi, 66, died Aug. 23. Born to a Japanese father and an Irish mother, she married a Nisei and was interned with her husband and children in Puyallup and Minidoka during WW2. They lived in the Midwest before returning to Seattle. A member of Washington Coalition for Redress, Takayoshi testified before the CWRIC in 1981 and is one of the former internees interviewed in John Tateishi's "And Justice for All."

Rev. Enryo Unno, Buddhist Churches of America minister emeritus, passed away in Los Angeles Sept. 1. He began his BCA ministry in 1934, first serving at Berkeley Buddhist Church and later serving temples in San Luis Obispo, Stockton, Marysville, Guadalupe and Los Angeles. He retired in 1970. He is survived by w Hana and s Rev. Dr. Taitetsu and Rev. Dr. Tetsuo Unno.

Alice Nagata Matsui, 64, of Sacramento, mother of Rep. Robert Matsui, died Sept. 4 following a heart attack. She had recently retired from a post with the State Franchise Tax Board. Also surviving are h Yasuji, d Barbara, br Eddy, sis Sally Takeda and Jean Fong.

Mine Kido, 78, of San Francisco suddenly died Sept. 7 at her home. Final rites were conducted Sept. 12 at Christ United Presbyterian Church. Widow of the late Saburo Kido, wartime National JACL president, she is survived by d Rosalyn Uno, s Laurence (Anaheim), Wallace (Boston), 4 gc, br Clark (Honolulu), Harold (Culver City), Roy Hashimura (Okla.), sis Sumi (Riverside, Ca.).

Eldest of the Harada children, she was born in Riverside, was married in 1928 and lived in San Francisco until the Evacuation, then moved to Visalia, evacuated to Poston, Ariz., and resettled in Salt Lake City during WW2. After the war, the Kidos moved to Los Angeles. In 1972, they returned to San Francisco where she was active in senior citizen community work, ceramics, bonsai and arts. A lifetime JACL member, she served on the Pacific Citizen staff in the 1930s and again in the 1960s.

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Contributions to Pacific Citizen For Typesetting Equipment

As of September 8, 1984: \$8,031.70 (373)
\$2 from: Frank Hayashida.
\$10 from: M/M Daniel Hara, Cecilia Ishibashi.
\$25 from: Frank/Setsuko Inami, Harry/Janet Kajihara, Kay Kaneko, Calvin/Misao Sakamoto.
\$30 from: Yoshio Nakashima.
\$50 from: Contra Costa JACL, Alice Sakai and two anonymous donors.
\$100 from: Kenji/Allyce Fujii, Ernest/Sachi Seko, Sonoma County JACL.
Last week's total: \$7,379.70 (358)
This week's total: \$652 (15)

Thank you!

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(Year of Membership Indicated)
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Active (previous total) 1,749
Total this report: #26 29
Current total 1,775
AUG 27-31, 1984 (29)
Chicago: 11-Willie Aki, 6-Dr Ben Chikaraishi, 31-Lester G Katsura, 16-Ben Terusaki, 2-Dr Theodore T Yenari.
Diablo Valley: 22-Yukio Wada.
Downtown Los Angeles: 4-Merit Savings & Loan Association, 3-Patrick Logawa.
Fresno: 1-Henry H Kubow, 3-Fusa Mikami, 7-S H Mikami, 1-Ted M Nakata.
Marysville: 23-Takeo Nakano.
New York: 28-William K Sakayama.
Pacific Long Beach: 22-Dr Masashi Itano*.
Placer County: 30-Tom M Yego, Jr.
Portland: 6-Sho Dozono.
Reedley: 29-Masaru Abe, 11-Stanley Ishii, 17-Eddie M Yano.
Sacramento: 9-Dr Ernest Takahashi.
Salt Lake City: 13-Jimi Mitsunaga.
San Francisco: 13-Otagiri Mercantile Company, Inc*.
San Jose: 34-Dave M Tatsuno*, 23-Henry T Yamate.
San Mateo: 15-Gary Ota.
Seabrook: 16-Morio Shimomura.
Seattle: 28-Mabel K Ida.
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Department of Parks and Recreation, Gabilan Mountains District
P.O. Box 1110, San Juan Bautista, CA 95045 (408) 623-4526
Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area
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NISEI IN JAPAN: by Barry Saiki



'Japan Experts'

The longer I stay in Japan, the more I realize that I cannot be a Japan expert, so I am mildly amused when people who have worked in Japan for a few years representing U.S. firms or who have studied or done some research on special phases of the Japanese economic, political or social structures are categorized as "experts."

Bluntly speaking, any foreigner who regards him or herself as being a Japan expert is either an egotist or a dunderhead. Admittedly, there are a number of persons who are extremely knowledgeable in certain fields, among them former U.S. Ambassador Edwin Reischauer and writers like Donald Keene and Frank Gibbons. To this group could be added a number of former Nisei like Mas Ogawa (former Japan Times editor), Welly Shibata (Mainichi Daily), Chugo Koito (Kyodo News and UN University), Kay Tateishi (AP) and about a dozen others who have earned their living as journalists with the local media. From the business field, such individuals as Shig Yamada (Duty Free Shoppers), George Tanaka and Kiyo Nogami (Nissei Co.), Mas Kono (JTBI & New Otani), Sen Nishiyama (U.S. Embassy & Sony Corp.) and scores of others can be added as experts in some fields.

Then, there are about a dozen foreign correspondents who have been in Japan from a dozen to 35 years. Some have married Japanese women and have become almost bicultural. Yet, most of them are too modest to say that they are "experts."

A foreigner coming to Japan tends to move within certain narrow circles, especially if he looks non-Japanese or does not speak the language. His impressions are formed from what he can glean within his small circle of associates. This is further narrowed by the reluctance of these associates to say things which may offend him.

What can be said is that Japan has changed completely and dramatically in many respects but that it still retains some basic elements of its ethnic background. Without some knowledge of prewar Japan, the postwar period, the startling phenomena of the 1960s and 1970s and the changing aspirations of the current generation, an observer's viewpoint can cover only one small tile of the mosaic pattern.

If one is to understand the psyche of a nation more intimately this can best be done through osmosis, or the continual association with all types of people and situations. A good understanding can be achieved by massive reading of

the vernacular publications and literature, but such knowledge needs to be verified by actual experience.

For example, a Sansei who works for a major Japanese corporation will gain a truer picture of the Japanese society than a scholar who visits Japan for one or two years' research, because he will acquire a "gut" understanding of what makes his associates tick. He will encounter the *sempai-kohai* relationships, the *chugen* and *oseiko*, the *sobetsukai*, *tsukiai*, *oiwai* and even *koden* customs and may relieve his overtime frustrations by taking up *karaoke* or *mah jong*.

If you listen to several knowledgeable persons talking about Japan there will be many differences in opinion, proving that while much of the mystique of Japan has been exposed, differences in interpretation still remain.

Thus, as I ride the commuter train every morning and evening for fifty minutes, listening to the casual conversations or observing my fellow passengers reading or standing in silence, I realize that I am still learning. The more than 11 million people in Tokyo do not represent Japan, so I watch the wide varieties of programs on Japanese TV, realizing that these programs present items and stories that have commercial appeal and not the down-to-earth roots of the Japanese people.

Explaining Japan is like explaining the English language—there are more exceptions than general rules. At best, one can write about some rules and some exceptions.

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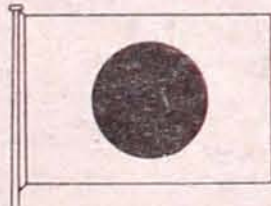
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