News in Brief

Liu killer now says murder was not ordered
TAIPEI—Bamboo Gang leader Chen Chi-li, convicted in April of killing Chinese American journalist Henry Liu in Daly City, Calif., last year, recanted earlier testimony May 10 by saying that he had not been ordered to kill Liu by Vice Adm. Wang Hsi-ling of Taiwan’s military intelligence agency. Chen’s new story supports Wang’s testimony that he had told Chen to “teach Liu a lesson”—but not to kill him—for criticizing Taiwan’s government. Jerome Garchik, an attorney for Liu’s widow Helen, still believes high government officials were involved. “We feel that there’s a cover-up,” he said.

Navajos resist government relocation orders
BIG MOUNTAIN, Ariz.—In what the New York Times calls “the largest mandatory relocation of civilians since the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II,” the government plans to redistribute 1.8 million acres of mineral-rich land by requiring 10,000 Navajos to move from their ancestral land. The move was a victory for the Hopi tribe, which claims the Navajos took their land a century ago. But 7,000 Navajos have not left despite the July deadline. “No matter what they do, we are going to stay,” said Roberta Blackfoot, a Navajo who has lived on Big Mountain all her life.

Noguchi Garden Museum opens in New York
LONG ISLAND CITY, N.Y.—The Isamu Noguchi Garden Museum, with 24,000 square feet of exhibition space and an outdoor sculpture garden, opened May 11. It features over 560 sculptures, models and photos spanning the 80-year-old Noguchi’s 69-year career as an artist. Located at 32-37 Vernon Blvd. (corner of 10th St.), it is open Wednesdays and Saturdays, noon to 5 p.m. (Call (718) 294-7088 for appointments.

Board tackles redress, other issues
SAN FRANCISCO—Highlights of the National JACL board meeting held May 16-19 include the following decisions:

—Redress lobbying duties will be officially transferred to the Legislative Education Committee (LEC) effective June 1.

—There is a need for chapter redress pledges to come in on a more consistent basis.

—Delegations to Japan, such as the recent Sansei delegation invited by the Liberal Democratic Party, have been sanctioned as formal delegations of JACL. The U.S.-Japan Relations Committee, in consultation with the national director and the chair of the governors’ caucus, will work on a selection process for future trips.

—Chapters will receive a 20% rebate on annual earnings from $500 life membership dues.

Photo credits:
June 14, 1985

Board members listen to a slide show about the new Noguchi Garden Museum.

Lawyer honored at Nisei servicemen’s reunion

by Robert Shimabukuro

LOS ANGELES—The WW2 1800th Army Engineer General Service Battalion honored their longtime friend, retired Major Hyman Bravin, at their 6th and final “official” reunion at Akasa­ka Hanfan Restaurant on May 11.

Receiving a plaque recognizing his contributions in helping members of the 1800 change their discharge status from “blue” to honorable, civil rights attorney Bravin spoke of the courage, industriosness, loyalty and commitment to democratic principles exhibited by the off­ma­ligned battalion.

“Clean Records”

“These men had absolutely clean records. They were consid­ered suspect only because they could not speak English very well. It was a terrible form of discrim­ination.”

In reference to the concentra­tion camp experience, Bravin said that Japanese Americans were the ones who could and should lead the country in getting along and remaining groups to­gether and seeing to it that a con­stitutional ban on any president or congress putting minorities into camps be instituted.

He also reminded those in attendance that an “attack against one minority is an attack against all minorities” and that each group must make it their busi­ness to know what is happening in other minority communities.

Burden Lifted

Cedrick Shimo, one of the or­ganizers of the event, opened the evening with a tribute to Bravin and those 1800 members who have passed on. “This affair tonight...is so special, special be­cause tonight we honor Mr. Hy­man Bravin who was instrument­al in helping us right a wrong, and helping lift a burden that so many of our members have been carrying for almost 40 years. The majority of the members in at­tendance tonight are those that were directly helped by him, and we are here to say thank you.”

During those dark days of 1942, little could we imagine or even hope that we would ever be accepted into the American society. However, we now know that American democracy does work; for here we are today almost fully accepted and able to live in dignity to enjoy the fruits of freedom and democracy. But may I remind everyone not to be come complacent, for there are signs that something similar could happen again....

History of the 1800

After dinner, Shimo gave a brief history of the 1800. The orig­inal 325 Quartermaster Corps was formed in early 1942, made up of men who had volunteered for the Army prior to December, 1941. Included were those of Ger­man, Italian and Japanese/Kibei ancestry who were considered potential “trouble makers.” The 325 was the forerunner of the 1800 formed in 1944.

The 1800 was basically a “pick and shovel” brigade, used to re­pair roads, bridges and fences damaged by training maneuvers of regular combat units. Many of the members said that they were treated much like prisoners of war. Kyoshi Kawashima, who in Dec. 1941 had his “blue” dis­charge changed to honorable with the help of Bravin, said, “Every member in this organiza­tion lived under a depressing at­mosphere similar to that of a prison camp.

Protested Internment

What was the reason for their treatment? The fact that they were of Japanese ancestry didn’t help. That most of these men were Kibei and had a little difficulty with the English language contributed somewhat to their problems also. But most of their difficulties stemmed from the fact that they protested the incarceration of their friends and relatives. In ad­dition, the infamous questions 27 and 28 of the “Statement of U.S. Citizenship of Japanese Ances­try” (loyalty questionnaire) caused many of these men need­less suffering.

Continued on Back Page
Support for exhibit of JA story planned

WASHINGTON—Japanese American war veterans and others concerned with remembering the exploits of volunteers Nisei served in World War II are invited to a special organizational meeting of the Veterans Administration Friday, June 6, 7 p.m. in Room 119 of the Veterans Administration headquarters building.

The purpose of the meeting is to organize an area support group for the 1987 national exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution featuring the Japanese American experience in the United States from the times of the earliest Issei pioneers, through the evacuation and relocation of World War II and including the postwar legislative and litigative achievements of this nationality minority. Special emphasis will be given to the volunteers who served in the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team as well as Military Intelligence Service specialists who served in the Pacific.

Other possible projects, such as a commemorative stamp, a memorial monument on the Avenue of Heroes leading to Arlington National Cemetery, and special ceremonies in 1987 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 442nd’s memorial monument on the Avenue between H and I Streets building is on Vermont Avenue.

Federal regulations require assistance for exhibit for Broke, Inc., Thursday, June 26-28 at UCLA. The registration deadline is June 1st.

The theme of the international forum will be: The Growth and Future of Asian American Media—Aesthetics, Forms, Issues and Community. Topics include: Adaptations of Forms: Performing & Media Arts; Asian American Aesthetics; The Community and the Public; Images: Portrayal and Response; and Mainstream and Independent Media and Survival Strategies.

Participants will meet in panel sessions, workshops and screenings. Workshops include: radio and audio production techniques; working with actors and actresses; contract negotiations and marketing and distribution. Individuals will also be able to meet with funding sources on an appointment basis.

Conference organizers plan to strengthen the national Asian American media network; to encourage support for Asian American media and to facilitate networking among minority and non-minority media makers, artists, civic leaders, funders and mainstream media institutions.

NAATA is a nationwide organization of professional and community media persons and groups who are committed to advancing the presence and involvement of Asian Americans in media.

Media conference at UCLA set for July

LOS ANGELES—The National Asian American Telecommunications Association (NAATA) will convene its National Asian American Media Arts Conference, 1985 on June 26-28 at UCLA. The registration deadline is June 1st.

The theme of the national forum will be: The Growth and Future of Asian American Media—Aesthetics, Forms, Issues and Community. Topics include: Adaptations of Forms: Performing & Media Arts; Asian American Aesthetics; The Community and the Public; Images: Portrayal and Response; and Mainstream and Independent Media and Survival Strategies.

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Legislative aide picked as staff director

WASHINGTON — Rep. Mervyn Dymally (D-Calif.) has appointed James Fukumoto, as staff director of the Subcommittee on Postal Personnel and Modernization. In naming Fukumoto to one of the highest staff positions created by congressional statute, Dymally said, "I'm most gratified to have obtained Mr. Fukumoto's expertise...in the federal administration of civilian personnel matters" at Yale and his doctorate at Harvard, both in political science.

Fukumoto graduated from Long Beach Polytechnic High School in 1966 with honors, he received his M.A. from Johns Hopkins University in 1962 and his Ph.D. from the London School of Economics and Political Science in 1967.

Prior to coming to Dymally's office, Fukumoto was Director of Policy and Special Projects of the Dept. of Health and Human Services' Office for Civil Rights.

Commenting on his selection to the staff directorship, Dymally observed: "I believe that Jim Fukumoto has demonstrated excellent leadership last year on the crucial Simpson-Mazzoli Immigration bill; on the Japanese American Redress and Reparations bill, and most importantly, on the Civil Rights Act of 1984, which passed [in the House]. We will be protecting the hard-earned rights and benefits for all federal employees through the hard work ahead of the entire Committee this year."

James S. Fukumoto

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Freeze campaign elects AA as co-chair

BERKELEY, Calif.—Local Asian American peace activist Lyle Butch Wing was recently elected co-chair of the National Bilateral Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign. The Freeze Campaign is the largest peace organization in the U.S. and affiliates in all 50 states. It currently focusing attention on the nuclear arms race through a pic nic at Prado Regional Park, 16700 Ericvl Av. in Chino, Sunday, June 9, 10 a.m. P.m. Drawings for prizes will be held every five hours. Prizes include $50 cash, an electric typewriter and a Sony Watchman. For more information, call the center at (818) 960-2066 or 337-0129 on Tue.-Fri. mornings.

HUNTINGTON BEACH, Calif.—The Sister City Assn. of Huntington Beach holds its first annual Japanese cultural Festival Sunday, June 2, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at Huntington Beach Civic Cen ter's outdoor amphitheater, 2000 Main St. (corner of Yorktown). Performances of taiko, koto, classical dancing, folk singing, flower arranging and aikido will be featured along with art exhibits and Japanese food. Funds will go to the city's student exchange program with Anjo, Japan. Contact: Mary Ann Tamura, (714) 526-0404.

SACRAMENTO—San Jose Taiko Group performs at American River College, 400 College Oak Dr. on Saturday, June 1, 7-9:30 p.m. For tickets, call the college business office (443-8481), Student Activities (443-8471), The Yomiuri (443-8801), Sakura Gifts (443-8380) or Asian Legal Services Outreach (447-7711). Admission is $7.

MARYSVILLE, Calif.—The Yuba, Sutter, Butte and Colusa county reunion will be held Sept. 27-29. The schedule is: Friday—registration all day, golf and fishing in the morning, registration, luncheon and local tours in the afternoon, dinner and dancing in the evening; Saturday—brunch and fishing in the morning, registration, luncheon and local tours in the afternoon, dinner, dancing in the evening; Sunday—fishing in the morning, registration, lunch and local tours in the afternoon, luau and dance in the evening; a fundraiser. For information and reservations, call (818) 960-2566 or 337-9123 on Tue.-Fri. mornings.

Pan Asian group to honor professor, Kiku Gardens board chair

SAN DIEGO—The Union of Pan Asian Communities awards ban­quet and fundraiser will honor 12 individuals who have contributed to the welfare of the community on Thursday, May 30, 6 p.m., at Hotel Del Coronado, 1500 Orange Ave. Among the honorees are Dr. Peter Iorns, UCSD professor, cor­ am obis attorney and author of Justice At War: The Story of the Japanese American Internment Cases; and Moto Asa­ kawa, board chairman of Kiku Gardens Senior Housing, Inc. Tickets, which are $75 each, can be reserved through Vernon Yo­ shinaka (402-2010) and UPAC (222- 6904, day). Proceeds go to UPAC's social service programs.

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NORTHWEST ORIENT
The world is going our way.
Honorable Dr. S. B. Woo

The evening began at the Pan Asian Association in the State of Delaware. Dr. S. B. Woo was the recent elect Governor of the State of Delaware. A few months ago, our paths had briefly crossed and we paused to chat. It turned out that he and his wife had contributed to my election campaign when I ran for office some eight years ago. But this was now to be the first opportunity that I had to hear him speak, something to which I had been looking forward for some time.

Any Asian American who can do what he did, against the odds that he faced, has my profound respect and admiration.

A COLLEGE PROFESSOR by vocation, the Lt. Governor is a delightful personality. Born overseas and coming to the U.S. at age 19 years, he speaks English with a charming accent—generously sprinkled with mischievous humor. As Inspector Anthony Wong at our table commented, "He's a master at one-liners." In a light vein Dr. Woo referred to the unbelieving comments of others when he announced he would seek office—no less as a Democrat in a Republican state: "Woowho? Then with a twinkle in his eye, he reported that after he had won the election, the comments shifted to "Woowow won!"

The HIGHEST OFFICEHOLDER of Asian ancestry in the nation, Dr. Woo urged all Asians to dare to run for political office, to get into the mainstream of our society—including, he added, the women. Referring to the card of generics "China's Chance," he suggested it had a new meaning. He was, of course, the living proof.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE at that evening was another public official of Asian background, Commissioner Bhargva, who was elected as a commissioner in one of our suburban neighborhoods. His key to attainment of his goal: hard work, hard working, door to door, steadily and unrelentingly.

Dr. Woo referred to this same formula, urging that there was nothing that one could not achieve with desire and work.

Many of us Nisei have heard the same message from our parents. Apparently it works: witness Lt. Governor Woo and Commissioner Bhargva.

SOMETHING STRUCK ME, not for the first time. The phenomenon of individuals born in Asian subculture, bulk-stocking communities. His key to attainment of his goal: hard, hard working, door to door, steadily and unrelentingly. Dr. Woo referred to this same formula, urging that there was nothing that one could not achieve with desire and work.

Many of us Nisei have heard the same message from our parents. Apparently it works: witness Lt. Governor Woo and Commissioner Bhargva.

Chapter Pulse

Heroes and the Trade Deficit

As you are probably aware, not all the items printed in this column are to be taken seriously. But there are certainly some requests that are made that are indeed honest appeals for information. For example, a few weeks back I asked if any of you out there had any heroes, Asian American heroes. So far the response has been overwhelming. Two responses. Come on, folks. Just jot down the names and mail them to me. If you don't have any, write anyway and let us know that too.

One of the responses, from Kathy Aoki in San Francisco, listed journalists Bill Hosokawa, Ben FORRESTER and Wendy-To- kuda, Giant pitcher Atlee Hammaker, and actors Mark Hayashi and Pat Morita.

The second response from one who wanted to remain anonymous said that she didn't have any Asian American heroes but liked black writers Maya Angelou, Alice Walker, and Louis Farrakhan.

That gives us quite a range—from Bill Hosokawa to Louis Farrakhan. About as incongruous as the "Pope and Michael Jackson tied for 10th." I guess nobody can say that this is a homogeneous group of readers. And from only two responses!

Another request: Please fill out the Recruitment and Leadership Survey which we printed a few weeks ago. It's information that the Recruitment and Leadership Committee must have if it is to proceed in an organized fashion.

And now it's time for the Bob and Mike view of U.S.-Japan trade relations and how the deficit came to be. As we all know, Japan was devastated after WW2 and occupied by the United States. During that time, the Japanese, seeking to please their occupiers, asked, "What do we do now?" U.S.: Get your steel industry going.


A few years down the road, Japan asks, "What do we do with the steel and the ships?" U.S.: Build cars. "Ship 'em out." Japanese: We don't know how to do that.

U.S.: Here's a book. Here's some cars. Figure it out.

Japanese: What do we do with them?

U.S.: Sell them to us! If you can build cheap cars, we'll buy them. Japanese: What else?


Japanese: What do we do with the finished products?

U.S.: Sell them to us! If you can build them cheap enough, we'll buy them.

Japanese: Okay.

Go on, and on, and on until the 1980s.

U.S.: You can't sell us any more cars. You can't sell us any more steel. You can't sell us any more electronics. Japanese: Growing population? U.S.: Because you don't let us sell our stuff in your country. Japanese: What have you got to sell?

U.S.: Well, one of our leading export industries is armaments. We sell arms all over the world. Want to buy some? Japanese: We can't. We cannot arm ourselves. You put that in our constitution.

So that, my friends, is why there's a trade deficit. Japan cannot buy what our country manufactures best. Enough food for thought for the week.

Salinas Valley

SALINAS, Calif.—Million Day Services will be held on May 27 at the Garden of Memories, 10 a.m. and at the Yamato Cemetery, 11 a.m.

Seabrook

CENTERPTON, N.J.—President Frank Satou is the featured speaker at this year's Graduation Banquet to be held at the Centerport Golf Club on June 15. Also scheduled at this banquet is the installation of officers.

Lake Washington

MERCER ISL., Wash.—"Yankem Samura," a film produced in Japan about the experiences of Nisei soldiers who served as interpreters during WW2, will be shown at the June 15 chapter meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the John Matsumoto home, 3748 80th Ave. SE, Mercer Island. Those attending are asked to bring hors d'oeuvres, dessert or beverages. Call Tets Yasuda, 747-2583, or Susie Aoyama, 885-0764 if attending.

Gilroy

GILROY, Calif.—The annual chapter Red Cross Blood Drive held at the Community Center netted 84 pints of blood from 101 donors. Thanks go out to Alakno Okiwa who headed the various committees.

The annual community picnic at Christmas Hill Park on June 30 at 3 p.m. will honor graduating seniors. Erik Nagareza chairs this event.
Intelligence, Round Eyes and Perfect Teeth

FROM THE FRYING PAN:

Bill Hosokawa

The last few times in Japan we didn’t go bar-hopping. We walked to a very pleasant and leisurely dinner together in which we did more talking than drinking. Then they drove me to the hotel. That was just dandy with me.

We never discussed the reasons for the difference in behavior but I knew. And they knew that I knew.

For one thing, they were older. Their lives weren’t in good shape any more, and besides it was prohibitive to get to one of the bars. A clear head at a relatively moderate hour.

But the real reason was that many of them were retired or semi-retired and no longer on the virtually unlimited expense accounts that perks of Japan’s executives. If there was a big bar bill, and there always is a staggering one after touring the kinds of bars we used to, it would have to be paid out of their own pockets. That isn’t the way the game is played.

What recalled all this was a story by Yajyu Okada published in the magazine “Shukan Daya­sondo,” translated and released recently to the U.S. press by the Translation Service Center. It said that there are some 160,000 nightshades in Japan, 3,000 on the Giza alone, spending about $800 million last year. Some bars, of course, take in more money than others. The secrets of success are not so much the quality of the booze but a good location and beautiful hostesses.

Some hostesses are hired by the bars but, says Okada, many on the Giza are independent entre­preneurs. They “rent” space like a real estate agency and stock their bar in exchange for the customer. They make money by buying empty bottles, paying as much as 50 percent of the gross to the boss, man­orially or otherwise.

“Popular free-lance hostesses earn more than $400 a month,” Okada reports, “and a handful of superstars make $12,000 to $20,000.” Needless to say, many have a higher income than the customers who come to enjoy their company.

One enduring question: “Bar owners compete fiercely to get women who can attract well-heeled cus­tomers. Outstanding hostesses are not so much corporate headhunters as entire execu­tive teams to another firm. What assets make up the profile of a good hostess? A chief hostess is quoted: “Good looks, especially large round eyes and perfect teeth. Coroners’ work is better than surgery can correct defects.” Further, she says, perfect grooming and charm are important. Most important is intelligence. A hostess must be able to converse with her customers on a variety of subjects.

So now you know.

Group Decision-making: “Subarctic Survival Situation”

The second part of our Tri-District workshop was led by Byron Kunisawa, management consult­ant with the Asian Pacific Cultural Prevention Resource Center. Byron explained the “Subarctic Survival Situation,” which gave participants an opportu­nity to exercise their decision-making and leadership abilities within a small setting.

Participants broke up into small groups of 10 or 12 and imagined themselves to be survivors of a plane which crashed over the Arctic. Their task was to rank in order fifteen miscellaneous items which were salvaged from the plane according to how important each item was to their survival.

Each person ranked the items first individually and then as part of their group. Groups were advised to come up with their rank­ings on a consensus basis, and to try to avoid voting, which reduces discussion and interaction and splits the team into “winners” or “losers”.

PORTLAND — JACLers join the 5th annual Black United Front March Against Racial Violence," April 6. Pictured above (in the foreground with the dark glasses) are: Roberta Wong, Connie Masuoka, and Mickey Yousuke. Below, Sharon Hashimoto and Homer Yasaki also participated in the march and rally.

Portland TV shows focus on redress

PORTLAND, Ore.—Joyce Caw­thorne reads Janice Mirikitani’s poem, “Breaking Silence,” and Min Yasui the maritime histor­ical and judicious history of redress on “Northwest Faces,” a series which aired and in the minority communities on May 25, at 8:30 a.m., Channel 8, KGW-TV. Cawthorne said that photo­graphs from the California His­torial Assn. publication, “Exec­utive Order 9080,” are used as a backdrop for the poetry reading.

Yasui traces the history of the internment cases and the ongoing legislative attempt to attain re­dress for those Nikkei who were incarcerated during WW2.

The Japan Times
that since “they kept asking us for an opinion, we kept giving a straight answer.”

Question 27 asked if the men would be willing to serve on combat duty wherever ordered. Said Shimo, “Now tell me, have you heard of any army of any country asking their soldiers for an opinion?” He added that many would have gone, but still would have been “unwilling.”

Shimo also was interrogated by the FBI. He was asked what he would do if the Japanese army invaded the United States. "If the American guards pointed their guns at the attackers whether they be the local populace or the Japanese army, I would stand side by side with those American guards."

"On the other hand, if it were the Japanese army that was defending the camps, I would stand shoulder to shoulder with them. My reasoning was that everything I had left worth living for was in Manzanar, and that I would be willing to fight and die with any defending of that camp whether they be cowboys, Indians, Japanese or American."

For that statement, Shimo was demoted to buck private again. He was discharged as a buck private after close to 4 years of service.

Discharge From Camp Shelby

The 1900 was stationed at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. When the war came to an end, many of the 1900 were called before a Special Hearing Board to determine their discharge orders: a dishonorable discharge in which one’s civil rights are taken away, a “blue” discharge in which a soldier loses everything except his civil rights, or an honorable discharge.

Then-captain Bravin served as defense counsel to 71 of those who were asked to appear before the board. Shimo was the interpreter for the Kibei soldiers. Bravin said that at the end of the hearings, he felt that all 71 would receive honorable discharges. There weren’t any good arguments against any of the men, he said, and he left the army feeling pretty good about the whole affair.

It was only in 1981 when Kawashima called him for some help in getting an honorable discharge that Bravin realized that many had received less than honorable discharges.

At considerable expense to himself, Bravin made the Kawashima case a successful test case whereby over 30,000 members had their discharges reversed to honorable discharges.

In 1981, after the case was reviewed, Bravin told the New York Post that the case will permit up to 300 other Nisei ex-GIs to simply apply to get their “less than honorable discharges made whole.”

Present at the dinner as a guest of the 1900 was Masao Kataoka, a member of the Fort McClellan, Ala., resisters. Kataoka was court-martialed and sentenced to 30 years in the federal penitentiary for “willful disobedience of an order of his superior officer.”

The men at McClellan refused to continue combat training until they had assurances as to the safety of their family and friends in camp. “They kept telling us that we were fighting for freedom,” said Kataoka, “but whose freedom? All we wanted was security for our families before continuing training. We feared we would all go before a firing squad, but we wanted to bring attention to the matter.”