Astronaut's death remembered

As the space shuttle Challenger blasted off Jan. 28 from Cape Canaveral, a delegation from Hawaii made up of 64 relatives and friends of astronaut Ellison Onizuka were on hand to witness the launch.

"It was a beautiful blast-off and I could picture Ellison in the spacecraft," said Norman Sakata of Hilo, Hawaii. "Then suddenly there was an explosion... and everybody was yelling. He exploded, 'Dad!' and 'No, no.'"

Three rows away from Sakata sat Onizuka's immediate family: wife Lorna, daughters Janelle, 16, and Darien, 10, mother Mitsue, brother Claude, sisters Shirley Matsukawa and Nancy Sakakobi, with their husbands and children. Three days later at the John Onizuka Center in Houston, the family members were again assembled—this time for a memorial ceremony.

Speaking before a gathering of about 15,000, President Reagan eulogized each of the seven Challenger crew members in turn.

"We remember Ellison Onizuka, who, as a child running barefoot through the coffee fields and macadamia groves of Hawaii, dreamed of someday going to the moon," Reagan said of the 39-year-old Sansei from Kona. "Being an Eagle Scout, he said, had helped him soar to the impressive achievements of his career."

Also attending the ceremony were JACL President Frank Sato and Buddhist Churches of America Bishop Seigen Yamada, reminders of the fact that Onizuka was both the first Japanese-American and the first Buddhist to go into space. JACL and BCA held a joint memorial service Feb. 4 at Buddhist Church of San Francisco.

During his first flight on the shuttle Discovery in January 1985, a flight shrouded in secrecy because of his security clearance, "Day of Remembrance" events included tributes of "Day of Remembrance" resolutions from local and state government representatives, the program and open to the public.

Three days earlier at the John Onizuka Center, Los Angeles, a delegation from Hawaii attended. "We remember Ellison Onizuka," a Nihonmachi Outreach Committee member who called Fujita’s treatment "travesty in the exam process." James Saka argued that testimony heard last year supported claims that the person who rated Fujita’s performance was unfamiliar with her work, that it had been decided in advance that no one from Harbor-UCLA Medical Center (where Fujita worked) would be chosen, and that a male who did not meet the prerequisites was allowed to take—and pass—the exam.

He argued that the commission’s proposed remedy—to give Fujita a revised appraisal of promotability score—would be useless because her name would still appear "on a death list." He also claimed that this may have been Fujita’s last chance to reach Committee. Info: Richard, (213) 623-5088.

Decision in Fujita complaint stands

by J.K. Yamamoto

LOS ANGELES — The County Civil Service Commission has refused to change its finding that pharmacist F. Carol Fujita was not discredited against by the County Health Services Dept. when she applied for the position of Pharmacy Supervisor III in 1983.

Commissioner George Nojima, N. Keith Abbott, Ernest Goodman, Tom Salaca and Cecilia San­ doval were not swayed by objections presented Jan. 15 by Hai­ tia's attorney Russell Jungener, who called Fujita’s treatment "a

Mourners pay their last respects at a Feb. 2 memorial service held at Nish Hongwad Buddhist Temple in Los Angeles. Friends and relatives of Onizuka and representatives of numerous local organizations attended.

Sen. Paul Simon (D), an original cosponsor when the bill was introduced in May 1985 by Sen. Spark Matsu­ na (D-Hawaii)

Onizuka’s death emphasized impossible now. He and I share this feeling as Continued on Back Page
**Wartime state employees sought**

OLYMPIA, Wash. — State Rep. Gary Locke (D-35th District) plans to introduce a bill during the current legislative session that would permit municipalities to grant redress to Japanese American citizens who were interned or forced to resign during World War II.

Fujita, who presided over the redress commission, said he had compiled statistics that indicated that every county in Washington had lost 30% of its county pharmacies due to internment. The bill, if passed, would restoration funds to any Japanese American employee, he said.
Dancers to present lecture/performance

SAN FRANCISCO — Dancers Brenda Wong Aoki and Sachiko Nakamura will lecture on and demonstrate performance pieces Feb. 14, 8 p.m., at Christ United Presbyterian Church social hall, 1700 Sutter St. (at Laguna).

During a visit to Japan last year, Nakamura and Aoki performed with Theatre of Yugen at Taktehbu Expo and the Kaisei-kan Theatre in Tokyo. They received training in arts heretofore limited to men from kyogen master Mansaku Nomura in Sendai and noh master Shiro Nomura in Tokyo. Both men are designated Cultural Properties by the Japanese government. Training intensively in these disciplines since 1979, Aoki has performed in over 20 traditional kyogen plays and noh adaptations. She also dances and sings in Jefferson-Sawaguchi music videos "No Way Out" and "Laying It on the Line."

Nakamura, founder and former director of the Asian American Dance Collective, is also an actress who has appeared in "Asa Ga Kimashita" by Velina Houston and in several Asian American Theater Co. plays. Aoki and Nakamura team with two musicians in the performance group SoundSee.

The program is free and open to the public. Sponsored: Center for Japanese American Studies.

Yamamoto's works published in Japan

TOKYO — A collection of works by Nisei writer Hisaye Yamamoto entitled Seventeen Syllables: 5 Stories of Japanese American Life has been published in Japan by Kirihara Shoten, Inc.

The short stories "Seventeen Syllables: "Vonoko's Earthquake," "The Legend of Miss Sasegawa" and "The Brown House" and the essay "Life Among the Oilfields" are printed in English. The book also includes introductions and notes in Japanese by Robert Rolf and Norimitsu Uyeyama.

Info: Kirihara Shoten, 24-45 S.Koenji Minami, Suginami-ku, Tokyo 166; (03) 314-8101.

Two added to JA museum staff

LOS ANGELES — Japanese American National Museum project coordinator Nancy Araki has announced the hiring of Dean Toji and Akiko Takeshita as JANM staff members.

Program coordinator Toji, a native of Los Angeles, has worked in public television news at KCET, was art director of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center publication Counterpoint: Perspectives on Asian America, and was involved in a UCLA/Veterans Administration project on the health status of atomic bomb survivors.

He has also been active in community organizations, including Little Tokyo People's Rights Organization, in which he served as co-editor of the Nikkei-Sentinel newspaper, and Friends of Atomic Bomb Survivors.

Project secretary Takeshita, formerly of San Francisco, has been active in such Bay Area community organizations as the Manzanar and Tanforan committees, Asian Student Union and S.F. Konko Church. A graduate of S.F. State University, she is a former staff member of the National JACL redress program.

JANM, which is currently negotiating with the City of Los Angeles for a lease on the old Nishi Honganji temple in Little Tokyo, is the permanent museum site. It is engaged in development work in architectural and exhibit design and in the research and collection of artifacts and photos.

Staff members can be contacted at JANM's temporary administrative and archival offices, located at 941 E. 3rd St., Suite 201, L.A., CA 90013. Office hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

GFB's Tanaka leaves for Hawaii

SAN FRANCISCO — Fifty friends and associates gathered Jan. 24 to bid farewell to Chester Tanaka, who is taking a temporary leave of absence from his position as executive secretary of the National Japanese American Historical Society of Go For Broke, Inc.

Tanaka is accompanying his wife Missy, who has accepted an 18-month assignment to set up an early childhood education curriculum program at Kamehameha School in Honolulu.

Tom Kawaguchi, executive director of NIIAHS, said that Tanaka will be active as the group's representative in Hawaii.

In that capacity, Tanaka will meet with Smithsonian Institution officials who will visit the Islands in March to gather materials for an exhibit on the Japanese American experience scheduled to be part of the Smithsonian's centennial of the Constitution in 1987.

He has also been assigned the task of returning the diaries of 200 Japanese American soldiers of the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team. The diaries were confiscated by the Army in 1943 and only recently uncovered in the U.S. Archives and retrieved by NIIAHS.

Tanaka has been associated with Go For Broke since its inception five years ago, when it assisted the Presidio of San Francisco Museum in presenting a photo exhibit on the 442nd. Following the success of that showing, the organization assisted the Presidio Museum in presenting the "Vonoko Samurai" exhibit, which featured the Nisei of the Military Intelligence Service who fought in the Pacific.

NIIAHS has since showcased the "East to America" exhibit, which follows the struggles of the earliest Japanese immigrants to the U.S. This exhibit was first shown at Angel Island, the port of entry for many Issei.

The group is currently serving as the Smithsonian's primary resource center for assembling artifacts from JA history for the 1987 exhibit.

The only legacy one should leave their children is Roots, Dignity, and Wings.
Onizuka's Message to Youth

The following commencement essay was written by the late Ellison Onizuka for JACL's 1984 scholarship yearbook.

I am very pleased and extremely proud to have the opportunity to congratulate the exceptionally talented, dedicated, and motivated young men and women who are recipients of JACL distinctions and scholarships. You young men and women have demonstrated extraordinary academic talent, while simultaneously assuming critical positions of leadership. You have exercised responsibility with care and capability, and you have been motivated in all your activities by a strong sense of achievement merged to an enthusiasm for commitment.

You are recipients of JACL distinctions and scholarships. You are team captains and school letter winners. Not only are you writers, musicians, and debaters, but you are also national poetry award recipients, nationally recognized young artists, and national debate team winners. Most importantly, you have applied yourselves in your pursuit of greater achievements and demonstrated your will to be leaders in your communities, extracurricular activities, and the competitive environment around you.

You are part of the Japanese spirit and courage which have helped to build a great nation. What a tribute you are to the sacrifices of your parents and grandparents. What a proud realization of the Issei promise, a disciplined and principled, you have demonstrated that the tremendous possibility for even greater achievements, is too compelling, too exhilarating to surrender to the forces of inertia. Fulfill the real best in yourself. Actualize the opportunities before you.

As a member of our American space program, I see first-hand what intelligence, creativity, energy, dedication, and determination can accomplish. And I know that each of you possesses these same qualities. Each of you has a personal dynamism capable of full realization through important contributions.

Do you realize that in many cases your accomplishments are beyond those achieved by your age by men and women today? You are leaders, not followers, at the culmination of great achievements, you are also at the threshold of even greater accomplishments. In what for me as an American astronaut is perhaps, a very natural analogy to offer, I would like to suggest that like our country's Space Shuttle, you are at the beginning of a new era of exploration, with a long and remarkable career ahead of you.

At this point in time, the Space Shuttle has demonstrated that it has the capabilities to confront the challenges which the future holds for it, but there is so much more of which it is capable. And, if we were to presumptuously stop or curtail our space venturing activities merely to sit back, we would have no possibility of the extraordinary accomplishments. I truly believe that in the final analysis, all previous efforts on behalf of human space adventure would have been wasted.

Like our country's Space Shuttle, you have demonstrated that you have the capabilities to confront the challenges which the future holds. But the demand now is to fulfill your promise, to crystallize what is yet your potential.

Aristotle was once asked how much educated men were superior to those uneducated. "As much," he said, "as the living are to the dead." You young men and women have made available to yourselves what, in all men's history, has been the single finest achievement—the development of the individual mind. As educated young men and women, disciplined and principled, you have experienced the triumph of extending your talents and appreciating your abilities.

In the process, you have explored the ideas of your heritage, and synthesized the accomplishments of generations. By better understanding the history and traditions which have preceded you, you have better discovered the mysteries and potential within yourself.

And that potential, that tremendous possibility for even greater achievements, is too compelling, too exhilarating to surrender to the forces of inertia. Fulfill the real best in yourself. Actualize the opportunities before you.

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The Saga of War Orphans

ON JAPANESE TELEVISION recently, the latest contingent of now middle-aged "war orphans" was featured on national viewing in the effort to locate relatives in Japan.

In an earlier column (Jan. 24 PC) we had reported about the wartime episode in Marchurina where, in the aftermath of WW2, a number of Japanese residents left their minor children in the care of Chinese families; that in the ensuing 40 years, these young children were raised in the Chinese culture with awareness, in varying degrees, that they were of Japanese lineage—"Nikkei."

And under the sponsorship of the Japanese government, various contingents of these "orphans" have been visiting here seeking parents and/or relatives—any clue to their roots in Japan.

EAST WIND

Bill Marutani

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EACH ORPHAN APPEARED on television, obviously nervous, and desperately expectant. Each was introduced in his/her Chinese name, often accompanied by a map showing the neighborhood in which each resided or was believed to have been left by their departing Japanese parent(s).

Only one remembered her Japanese name; another only recalled that phonetically she was called "Shizuko" or something similar to that. Yet others sought to describe the kind of clothing they were wearing, when their parents/deposed them with a Chinese foster family. They were gone from two months to ten years.

All spoke in Chinese with a Japanese interpreter translating. Almost any clue which might help in the identification was mentioned: number of members in the overgrown or overcrowded occupation of father ("the rode a red horse"); birth marks; bodily injuries (burns of the back, a partially severed finger, a damaged finger tip; a bad cut on the left wrist, etc.); prominent facial features; and of course, their Chinese foster parents.

THE FOLLOWING DAY, the late evening news reported that six of them have been identified as relatives. The one who remembered her Japanese surname and given name was reunited with her mother and siblings in Hokkaido. An
**Showing Responsibility**

**BY THE BOARD**

*by Yosh Nakashima*

At its most recent meeting, the National JACL took an action which reaffirmed the September 1985 request to transfer budget funds to the Legislative Education and Deligation Committee. I don’t doubt that the Redress program is issue is the highest priority of the East Wind

Continued from Previous Page

other was shown in a tearful reunion with her mother—to whom she bore a striking resemblance. Of those shown on television with parents and/or a sibling, a family resemblance could be seen.

These “orphan’s” appeared on television attired in Oriental clothing andaddresses to St. Louis, and he takes considerable pleasure in preparing Chinese and Japanese dishes on weekends for his family.

Recalling the marvelous New Year festivities and King Tigeruwa used to prepare in Denver, Leadership Recruitment and Development, Women’s Concerns and a few others.

Paper-up service is excellent. We give due some long-range assurances of spiritual and a sense of tangible financial support. If the present trend continues, that sense of financial support will not be forthcoming soon. It can realistically run out of funds. At some time when we have the capable executive staff leadership which has put us in a position to bring in new immigrants from the private foundations and private sector; that aspect will be in jeopardy if we don’t then start running a deficit budget.

We must continue to show responsible leadership that assures a strong financial base and a balanced program that assures a future for JACL. We must ensure that they have the intent and purpose of JACL and not dwell in history. We are aware of serious attention and must take high priority is our National staff. Whether executive, junior executive, volunteers who contribute more than others to the program has the potential of being a future on behalf of all of us. They provide full service to all sectors of our membership as well as for the community at large within which they work and live. We can be in danger of vanishing even though the setting is in the heart of the American Midwest.

The Nicei have always supported the Sansei in their work, showing their appreciation through financial and personal support to local political will be successful, yet on the other hand fearful of what success may mean for the continuance of the foster family.

The saga that continues to grip the American Midwest. Again, it is the message of the Redress program that continues to grip the Japanese community.

There is the emergence recently of some who feel that the whole “ballgame” would come to a screeching halt if they dropped out. That attitude is that of a super ego and there is no place within the framework of a Redress program for those persons.

No one, I repeat, no one is irreplacable. There are those who contribute more than others but the ultimate result is a team effort. Of course, we must recognize some for their special contributions but we must give all of us credit for the ultimate result when it happens. Group dynamics will surely give credit and recognition for those who deserve it and one need not seek it too easily.

Finally, recognizing the need for the present trend toward Redress effort, at what point in this effort do we seriously look to another funding source or mechanism? We need some recent information and advice from experts that we can use another funding source other than that now in place. We implemented what we did in 1980 based on valuable information at the time.
Coordinating Constituents

Sen. Daniel Inouye, who usually avoids predicting the outcome of a bill, has made a positive assessment of the redress bills. This bill will result, he said, encouraged all of us to participate in the lobbying for redress.

All four Japanese American members of Congress are up to the challenge of mobilizing the constituents to seek support for H.R. 442 and S. 1003, initially from the members of the congressional committees where the bills are assigned and also any member who will co-sponsor the bills.

The gauntlet was passed to the over 500 people who attended the Pacific Southwest Japanese American Citizens League (PSW JACL) lobbying session on Jan. 17 to honor and express appreciation to Sen. Daniel Inouye, Rep. Norman Mineta and to raise funds for the JACL-LEC lobbying program.

PSW Accepts the Challenge

Over 30 people representing JACL chapters, National Coalition for Redress, Redress/Reparations, the California Nikkei veterans' groups, Japanese American Republicans and the National Republican Party met Jan. 19 at the PSW JACL lobby office with Grant Ujifusa, LEC legislative strategy chair, and LEC's executive director (inset). The redress workshop focused on sharing information about the LEC lobbying activities and the need for increased and diversified lobbying activity in PSW JACL districts, where so many members of Congress have yet to support the redress bills.

Two representatives in PSW identified as members of the Judicature Committee were William Dannemeyer (R-93th Dist.) of Fullerton and Carlos Moorehead (R-22nd Dist.) of Pasadena. Also discussed were Sen. Pete Wilson, co-chairman of the U.S. Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, and Rep. Daniel Lungren (R-42nd Dist.) of Long Beach.

Lungren served on the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians and supported its recommendations except for individual payments to survivors of the internment camps. Because he served on the CWRC, it will be important for him to continue to hear from his constituents.

At the conclusion of the workshop, I was asked to present a PSW coordinating committee form to volunteers from this group who should try to meet on a monthly basis to carry through plans to expand constituent contacts with the MCs.

There were 15 volunteers, including Ron Tsui, PSW redress chair, who will chair the committee; Ken Inouye, PSW governor; Mote Nakasako, chief of the Veterans Services division of Los Angeles City; and leaders of a Southern California Nikkei veterans' organization; Lance Izumi, president of JA Republicans; Bert Nakano of NCRR; and redress chapter or chair presidents Tomoko Tsuchida, Phil Shigekuni, George Kodama, Harry Kawahara, Gary Itano, Ken Hayashi, Yoil Senzaki, Mary Ogawa and Ron Shiono.

They were installed by No. Calif.-W. Nevada-Pacific District director George Kondo on Dec. 6 at Apts Seascape Lodge. JACL national director Ron Wakabayashi addressed the meeting.

Chapter Pulse

Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE—Peter Irons, an attorney who helped reopen the wartime Supreme Court cases of Fred Korematsu, Min Yasui and Gordon Hirabayashi, spoke at Milwaukee JACL's inaugural dinner Jan. 12 at Country Gardens Restaurant, Irons, who is also associate professor of political science at UC San Diego and author of Justice At War, emphasized the injustice of the internment and the need for redress/reparations work toward resolving the injustice.

Watsonville

WATSONVILLE, Calif.—Newly elected chapter officers are Ger­ ry Kondo, president; Norman Nakano, 1st vp; Doug Nakashima, 2nd vp; Gini Bianchi, secretary; Rosie Torasaki, treasurer; Ben Shikumoto, auditor; Willie Yahiro, youth di­ rector; and Harry Fukutome, official delegate. They were installed by No. Calif.-W. Nevada-Pacific District director George Kondo on Dec. 6 at Apts Seascape Lodge. JACL national director Ron Wakabayashi addressed the meeting.

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SACRAMENTO — The many who attended the annual install­ation dinner Jan. 13 at the his­toric Francis Monti Winey were treated to a speech by Sen. Ken­ neth H. Ozawa, an attorney for Calif. Gov. George Deukmejian.

West Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES—WLA general meeting will be held on Feb. 10 at the Norton Sherry Elementary School, 12700 Comforth Ave. The chapter's 1986 program will be presented at the meeting. Day of Remembrance will also be discussed. Guest speaker R.H. Eaton of GTE of Calif. will speak on the recent telephone deregulation and long distance calls. All chapter members are urged to attend.

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**NEW HEAD OF NISEI VETS SWORN IN**

LOS ANGELES—George Nishinaka, retired executive director of Special Services Group, was installed as president of the 1986-42nd Veteran’s Committee on the 26th annual installation dinner at New Otani Hotel Jan. 23.

With several guests speaking and recognizing the work of the Japanese American GIs during WWII in fighting bigotry at home and the discrimination abroad in the European and Pacific theaters, Nishinaka reminded the audience that the effort will continue the challenge to carry on the battle against prejudice, discrimination and injustice reforms.

Former Congressman Col. Christopher Keegan, who instilled the officers, said he would never forget the heritage he brought with the 100th and 42nd and neither should the rest of America.

Gardena Councilman Mas Fukai presented a special resolution on the group to behalf of Supervisor Kenneth Hahn.


The State of California has already passed legislation authorizing $750,000 for establishment of a museum provided the City of Los Angeles adds another $1,000,000. Negotiations with the city are in the process of completion, he added.

The state and city have shown their interest, and the community will follow through, Sunoo concluded. “It’s in your hands.”

Nishinaka’s cabinet is composed of Richard Shinto and George Higa, vice-presidents; Mino Kamishii, treasurer; Henry Sakata, secretary; and trustees Min Sumida, Monte Fujita, and Dr. Arthur Sakamoto.

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A "Journey" Worth Taking

The Japanese American Journey—The Story of a People (Japanese American Curriculum Project, 1985) is an informative, sensitive and relevant book. Intended for 5th- to 8th-grade students, it is written in a clear, straightforward style.

The first section chronicles the history of the first immigrants to come to America, the settlement patterns, the environmental, social and political conditions, and the years of struggle and endurance.

The authors describe specific examples of Issei in agriculture, Issei in politics, the effects of such laws as the Oriental Exclusion Act, the Alien Land Law and Executive Order 9066, and the daily encounters with hostility rooted in racism and economic motives.

The section goes on to discuss issues that are alive today, such as redress, anti-Asian violence and the rising immigrant population.

Each chapter begins with a re-cap of the preceding events, which helps students to understand and develop some perspective on the material.

The second section, which contains several biographies of early Japanese Americans, was particularly enjoyable. There are tales of pioneers such as Joseph Hecox, the boy who left Japan in 1846 for the life of a sailor and became the first American to join the Japan Line; and George Shima, the man who developed and re-clamed the swampy Joaquin Delta into one of the richest farmlands in the world. There is the story of Daniel Inouye, the first American of Japanese descent in Congress; and the story of Anna Nakai, who was bom in Hawaii when Pearl Har­bor was bombed, who served in the armed forces during WW2 and is today a U.S. senator. All are very readable.

Each story depicts the extreme hardships that were encoun­tered. The thread through each biography tells of the strength of each person and his/her family to endure and overcome in the face of obstacles, and that person's important contributions to this country.

The final section has three wonderful short stories from contemporary authors Yoshiko Uehara, Toshi Yoshide, and Fung-Pang Yee. Each selection sensitively relates personal experiences from a young person's viewpoint. With the growing number of Asians in the American population, there is an urgent need to share Asian American stories. Too often people substitute inadequate textbook images and distorted media im­pressions of Asian American experiences. There must be a greater emphasis in the schools on educating students about Asian America.

The educational representation must show the diversity of Asian American history. The long history of contributions by Asians in building this country; and the inherent right to full citizenship of Asians and all ethnic groups in the American scene. This book can be a valuable resource for both classroom texts and programs on American history. It provides a balance of historical facts, biographical sketches of positive role models, and relevant short stories.

Los Angeles—The Japanese American Cultural and Community Center's "Challenge Countdown" can scan into print in October with a goal of $2.3 million, is within 20% of reaching its goal, according to Tosh Terasawa, JACCC president and chair of the campaign.

"But the last 20% is always the hardest to raise," he added.

Terasawa said the fund drive to pay off the mortgage and estab­lish an endowment fund got its impetus in late 1985 when the National Endowment for the Arts gave JACCC a challenge grant of $250,000 to be matched 3 to 1 within three years.

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S. Frank Miyamoto

Social Solidarity

Among the Japanese in Seattle—A classic piece that was written in 1942 about the Japanese community within the larger context of the major society and historical period within (immigration, evacuation, repatriation, etc.)

Mine Okubo

Citizen 13660

This book covered all the bombing and fascism of the days, all the pain and much of the humor that were from the parade of citizens interned—MOJ-Pacific Citizen.

Yoshiko Uehara

Desert Exile

The Uprooting of a Japanese American Family—A personal account of the experiences of a family who lived through the years of World War II internment in the Utah desert.

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A Garden of Friendship

by Shigeya Kihara

The Garden of Peace is a gift from the people of Japan to the people of America memorializing the mutual respect and friendship of two great military leaders, Fleet Adm. Chester Nimitz and Field Adm. Heihachiro Togo. Deep in the heart of Texas, in the small town of Fredericksburg, unknown to most Americans and Japanese, the Japanese gift was dedicated on May 8, 1978, in the hope of eternal peace, friendship and understanding between Japan and America.

Toward the end of 1900, Mid-shipman Nimitz, just graduated from Annapolis, happened to be on the USS Ohio in Tokyo Bay and was sent to join in a celebration of Japan's triumph over the Russian Baltic Fleet in the Battle of the Japan Sea, one of the greatest sea battles in history. Togo, who had studied modern naval tactics in England and France, saluted Nimitz and talked to him for ten minutes. It was the start of a lifetime of mutual respect and friendship between the two admirals.

As captain of the USS Augusta, flag officer of the U.S.A. Atlantic Fleet, Nimitz and his men marched in the state funeral for Togo in Tokyo in 1934.

When Nimitz sailed into Tokyo Bay on his flagship, the USS Missouri, in September 1945, he visited Togo's flagship, the Mikasa, and was surprised to see that it was being vandalized for souvenir, which he stopped immediately.

He wrote an article for Bungei Shinju, appealing to the people of Japan to save and restore the ship, and made a personal donation to start a fund drive. Nimitz also started a movement to restore the Togo Shrine in Harajuku, which had been damaged and was in disrepair after the long war.

On May 27, 1951, the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Japan Sea, Nimitz represented the U.S. Navy in a ceremony celebrating the restoration of the Mikasa.

Following is a sampling of reactions from around the country to the Jan. 21 ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals that the lawsuit filed against the government by National Council for Japanese American Redress should be allowed to proceed (see Jan. 31 PC).

Sen. Spark Matsunaga (D-Hawaii): "The decision of the Appeals Court is good news not only for those Japanese Americans it affects, but for our country as a whole. The majority ruling in this case affirms the Justice delayed is justice denied... Implicit in this opinion is a recognition that the federal government erred... It is important to realize, however, that this ruling does not affect reparations legislation currently pending in Congress, which is designed to accord official recognition of the injuries inflicted by unjustified and illegal government action which will sponsor a resolution to all those interned, including those who may have received as little as $10 on the dollar for lost property under the American-Japanese Evacuation Claims Act of 1948..." (The Appeals Court ruled that anyone who received compensation under the Act cannot be included in the class action suit.)

D. Dinkins, Manhattan Borough President: "An honest accounting is long overdue for the victims of President Roosevelt's 1942 Executive Order No. 9066... It saddens me that our government has to this day refused to acknowledge and right this wrong. The U.S. government must recognize its responsibility to... those Japanese Americans interned in WWII. Monetary compensation for the losses suffered are long overdue. In addition, a formal admission of wrongdoing must be given..."

Anchorage Daily News Jan. 22: "The wheels of justice move slowly. They have moved much too slowly for thousands of Japanese Americans—including some Japanese Americans who feel the ruling is the proper one, given what these citizens have suffered and lost. It's also a reminder that the federal government has not justly compensated the surviving 400 Aleuts—there were originally 800—since they were removed from their homes during the Aleutian campaign and interned for the duration of the war..." Fiscal conservatism is all the rage in Washington this year. But surely Congress and the courts can find their way to indemnify these Americans... It's been four decades since the war ended; it's time enough to make restitution..."

San Jose Mercury News Jan. 23: "Government cannot use the law to shield itself from the consequences of breaking the law. That's why it was right for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit to rule in a 2-1 decision... that 19 Japanese Americans, four of them from San Jose, may proceed with their damage suit..." It is doubtful that the 19 plaintiffs will collect anything near the estimates based on an average of $250,000 per individual interned, and there are good fiscal reasons to hope they won't. But it does not alter the essential fact: They are entitled to their day in court.

"Having had that, it would be tragic if in pressuring their individual claims they inadvertently undercut congressional efforts to extend and increase compensation..." (For the losses suffered are long overdue. In addition, a formal admission of wrongdoing must be given...)
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LETTTERS

Continued from Page 5

chapters (Houston being guilty of this in the past). For non-journalists, it may be difficult to generate articles on a regular basis, similar to a student responding to the task of writing a term paper. Perhaps I can pinpoint individuals to specifically report on, it might assist you in this endeavor.

My personal feeling about the articles in the PC: actually, I like the non-JACL, non-Nikkei news articles addressed by some of the JACL-related ones, i.e. about Chinese Americans and other Asian Americans. Here in Houston, the Asian Americans are a lot more interested in the group as a whole, and seek news of all Asian ethnic communities. There are so many news items that never get printed or reported in our two major newspapers (Houston Chronicle and Houston Post) that Asian Americans feel they are simply ignored, or that the execution of some sort is practiced. We make headlines in terms of "Asian Culture Wave" or "Asian Businesses Threaten Local Establishments.

-Contrary to someone's opinion, I welcome abstracts or reports from other newspapers if the article/news story is important.

-About one-fourth of the comments from the board members appear to have been written because of ignorance and belong to the "garbage" category. I agree with what Nacional chief editor James Ono said in "The Editor Replies" (Jan. 17 FC). It is true that some of the Houston PC readers say that news articles affecting Nikkei in

ONIZUKA

Continued from Front Page

Americans of Japanese ancestry: the excitement and disbelief of reaching a goal our parents never thought attainable.

A moment of silence was observed Jan. 31 at University of Colorado, where Onizuka earned bachelor and master's degrees in aerospace engineering in 1969 and where he and his wife met.

In Onizuka's native Hawaii, a tape of a speech he gave in the state Senate chambers in April 1985 was played there the day of the fatal accident. A singer sang two of Onizuka's favorite songs: "E-Kolu Meanui" and "Kona Kai O'pua"—before the Senate adjourned. Speaker Henry Peters called for a moment of silence in the state House to "pay our tribute, honor, respect and aloha.

Onizuka's dream of becoming an astronaut, which he said began at age 13, would not be realized until 1978, when he was accepted by NASA as a candidate for the space shuttle program.

Prior to entering the space program, he served in the Air Force as a test flight engineer, pilot and instructor. He was a major on his first shuttle mission and had been promoted to lieutenant colonel before his last.

Onizuka had been hoping to reach a goal our parents never thought of, to the program."

"I wish to commend you for reflecting the wide and critical concern I wish to commend you for a publication which truly encourages consciousness with the community," said Bob Shimabukuro, whose apparent commitment is to help individuals have no idea of what it is going to happen.

Statement of origins, variant publications which truly encourages consciousness with the community. Thank you for your continued efforts.

-It is true that some of the Houston PC readers say that news articles affecting Nikkei in Houston are lacking, and they only skim through the paper. If I ask them how to "pep up" the PC, they will usually say "have more Nikkei news," but such individuals have no idea of what specifically they mean—although I notice a mentality of the National Enquirer type of sensationalism-seeking attitude.

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