

SPECIAL HOLIDAY ISSUE



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NIKKEI 2000 AND BEYOND

JAPANESE AMERICAN
NATIONAL MUSEUM

December 1987

OUR MUSEUM IS BECOMING A REALITY!

... *It is a dream and a promise being fulfilled.* And, during this special Holiday Season, it gives us a chance to reflect upon our achievements and what lies ahead during the New Year.

A year ago we projected that 1987 would be a *landmark year* for the Japanese American National Museum. And it truly has been.

Last February, the former Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple in Little Tokyo officially became ours — thanks to a fifty-year lease with the City of Los Angeles.

Then, the Museum received a total of \$1.75 million in renovation grants from the city and the state of California. And the federal government, through the National Endowment for the Humanities, has assisted by underwriting the long-range planning for our exhibitions.

Additional property adjacent to the Nishi will soon be made available to the Museum. This will enable us to significantly expand our exhibition capacity — and will further assure us of becoming a world-class museum.

We have nearly completed a nationwide search to employ a museum director. Further, we are expanding our Board of Trustees and developing a national Board of Governors.

I am especially pleased to report that *Senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga* have enthusiastically agreed to serve as *co-chairmen* of our Board of Governors.

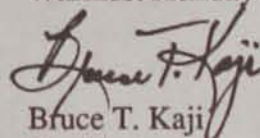
So, you see — a lot has happened! And it *could not have happened without the support and encouragement* of hundreds of people who — like yourself — truly want the Japanese American National Museum.

But, there is still *much more to do.* This is why I respectfully ask you to consider making your own financial commitment toward this project at this critical early point in its development. And *what a wonderful way to help celebrate the spirit of this Holiday Season.*

Your help is needed to continue the momentum as we prepare for the national capital fund raising campaign and continue our essential ongoing activities during the coming year.

Your generous gift of \$50, \$100, \$250 or more . . . or *whatever amount* you feel you can share . . . will make an important difference. Your gift at this time will help assure our Museum's continued successes throughout the coming year.

Warmest Holiday Greetings,


Bruce T. Kaji
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P.S. So, please, mail your Museum gift today while you're thinking about it. Just complete and return the contribution reply slip below. Once again, **thank you** for caring.

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About Our Contributing Artists

Victor Cook is an assistant animator. He is the creator of "Knee High," which appeared in the *Korea Times* in Los Angeles. His cartoons have also appeared in the Orange County *Daily Pilot* and *Rice* magazine. He currently resides in Woodland Hills, California.

Stuart Iwasaki is a graphic designer for the Mainland Company of Crazy Shirts, Inc. and a freelance illustrator/designer. Currently, he resides in Long Beach, California.

Tom Mazzocco is an assistant animator and has worked on such shows as "He-Man" and "Brave Star." He is also a freelance graphic designer.

Erne Ogawa, a commercial artist, lives and works in Anaheim, California. A former member of the now-defunct performance group "Akazaru," Ogawa also paints and does freelance illustration in his spare time.

Megan Schleitwiler is the grand daughter of Vincent Tajiri, this year's recipient of the American Japanese National Literary Award. Schleitwiler, 15, attends Lane Tech High School in Chicago. In her spare time, she enjoys writing poetry and the performing arts.

Alan Takemoto is a freelance illustrator, living and working in Los Angeles.



The JACL World to Come, According to Toffler

SOcial critic and author Alvin Toffler, in his 1970 best-seller, "Future Shock", describes the emerging changes to communities, organizations and individual living patterns. Two decades have nearly passed since its publication by Random House/Bantam Books and changes continue to exceed beyond expectations as the world confronts the 21st century.

This look at the Japanese American community, the JACL and the world to come was the theme of this year's Pacific Citizen Holiday Issue. Judging by the mail, there were not many takers to ponder on this theme in print. However, everyone we had questioned in the months prior to starting production was intrigued by what the future might bring.

The passive person waits for the parade to pass. The active person wants to help shape that which is to pass or have some control over one's destiny.

Be that as it may, self-elocution into the future philosophically or logically can't be more than your particular capacity. Not being a futurist, we toyed with Toffler's chapter on the "Coming Ad-Hocracy" to measure the trends with respect to the future of organizations and relationships of members in and out of organizations—government, industrial, business, etc. Where *organization* was mentioned, we substituted such institutions with which we (or you) are most familiar. Try: JACL, Pacific Citizen, your chapter... We can inject here that "ad-hocracy" has been inside JACL for many bienniums.

In brief, what does Toffler say about JACL as an organization? Of course, this is an interpretation of what "Future Shock" portends for the future of organization in general.

Toffler says everyone knows some faceless bureaucrat invented the all-digit phone number, the ZIP code, "do not fold, spindle or mutilate" tab cards—to accommodate the burgeoning population. Until Reagan came, bureaucracy was groaning toward a super-bureaucratized future. (Toffler didn't foresee the dismantling of the feds but he asked why we weren't setting up barricades against a more regimented future.)

With the breakdown of bureaucracy, Toffler describes the new system taking its place, calling it "ad-hocracy" which is structured to roll with the changes, whether it be people, place or things. The structure is not permanent. Bureaucracy calls for a sharp division of labor (something we in this newspaper operation do not find cost-effective).

Observes Toffler, the endurance of some organizations is tied to the people in it: is it a clique, coffee-break group, faction? (Some JACL chapters appear to be likewise. Such organizations cease to be when members lose interest and stop coming.)

Evidence is widespread as to the

shrinking durability of organizational relationships. He points out: "This upheaval... is shown by how fast tables of organizations keep changing, titles change, jobs are transformed, responsibilities shift..." (JACL, in fact, has been changing its national board structure since it was founded 50 years ago—though not every biennium.)

THE new ad-hocracy is identifiable by the tag. In organization life, we're seeing a "select committee," "project" or "task-force" being assembled to solve specific, short-term problems. The list from inside JACL would be too long, but the most notable would be the 1968 JACL Planning "Commission" which delved into executive reorganization. Till then, JACL work was shuffled through standing committees comprised of members with staff assigned for support.

It is predicted by 2001, the U.S. work force will be two-thirds non-routine—organizations will be relying on transient teams and task forces most heavily. Seemingly permanent organizations will be infiltrated with such transient cells.

JACL should be open to operate similarly. Such "throw-away"-type committees, while not replacing the functional, permanent types, warns Toffler, will drain both people and power. It will come to lines of authority being shaken and reshaped, and people having to cope with greater changes. Even a voluntary-type organization will face such a turn of events, we conclude.

In the future, as routine operations are assumed by computers, such automation is leading the way to the overthrow of bureaucracy, Toffler projects. It means more energy going toward solving non-routine problems, which requires creativity and sensitivity.

Can you imagine, however, JACL run by computers? In many respects, production of the Pacific Citizen has been automated. A case in point: last July, the P.C. office acquired an IBM-AT clone for its accounting department. It has been PC advertising-business manager Rick Momii's challenge to accommodate the accounting needs into the database. That he has done, designing the program to accomplish the first mission: keeping track of the ads and automating the billing process, an ordeal in the past as our former office secretary Jane Ozawa will testify. And many more missions face the office computer.

And JACL by computers? Its multi-faceted accounting system is in the process of being fashioned in-house for the computer, which National Headquarters has—thanks to the Mountain Plains District Council. The other districts are expected to assist in this effort with suitable contributions in kind, talent or money. No

store-shelf package will suffice.

Membership renewal process is already automated—thanks to the P.C. As a process, Dr. David Miura, then P.C. Board chair, and Jack Matsueda of San Diego had proposed a plan in 1966—has it been that long ago? From the ideas of that plan—it has evolved to using the P.C. mailing system ensconced at Japan Orient Tours' mainframe since 1981. The system continues to be refined as in the nature of the computers. One of these days JACL membership will be renewed through your home phone, which will also tell your bank to transfer the dues. What will the chapter membership committee do, you might wonder. Toffler says such "bureaucracies"—and we picture this committee thusly—will decline and be replaced.

IN 1970, Toffler was saying transience—high mobility—would reign within and between organizations, never-ending reorganizations and a constant generation of decay of temporary work groups. Old-fashioned loyalty to organizations shouldn't be expected. Rather "professional loyalty" will emerge—people being loyal to their profession, not the organization. Thus, it appears JACL has acknowledged the need to breed a JACL professional at the national level. Internships at Headquarters addresses that prospect. That's exciting to old time JACLers, no doubt. The JACL "pro" at the local level abound in the Mas Hironakas, Alice Kasais, Jim Murakamis and Henry Tanakas in communities around the country, speaking in defense or advocacy of the Japanese American cause and rendered on a voluntary non-paying basis. (These are but a few names. Remind us that the P.C. will need to develop a directory of these local leaders in homage to their dedication.)

JACL in year 2001 will see a new organization man. Toffler envisions him (or her) as a free-swinging, perhaps a folk hero in the industry, ours is the nonprofit tax-exempt status (if it's still in the books), and affiliated to many organizations but not committed to any, willingly employing his skills and creative wits to solve the problems with the equipment and staff provided by the organization.

Toffler further says he'll stay as long as the problem interests him. He is committed to his own career, his own self.

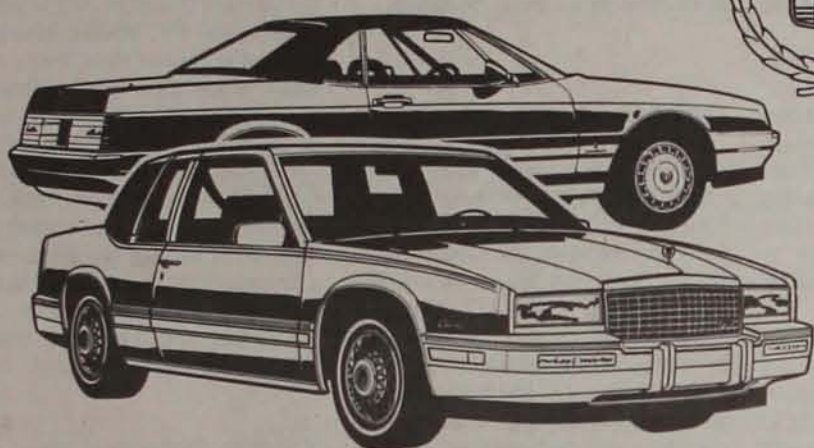
In the world of ad-hocracies, JACL can look forward to a free-swinging in charge, unafraid of defeat or adverse opinion, according to Toffler's "Future Shock." A free-swinging entrepreneur in industry may not be attracted to ethnic causes but the professional who wants to tackle this particular kind of problem should know it'll never disappear in this imperfect world.

—Harry K. Honda

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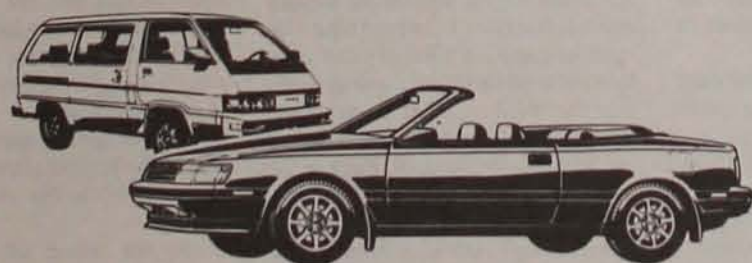
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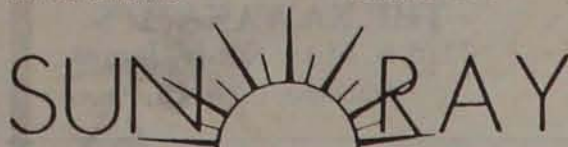
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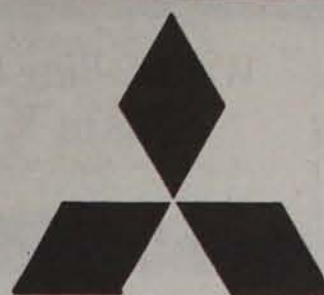
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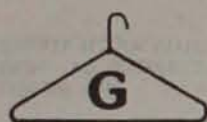
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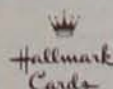
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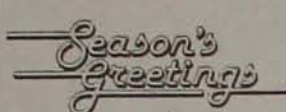
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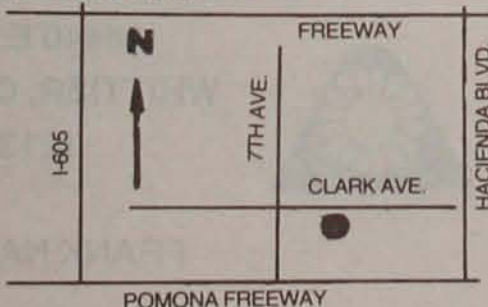
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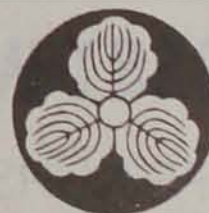
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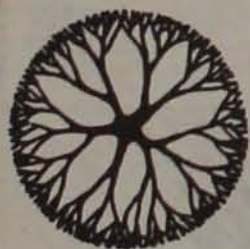
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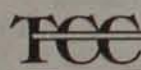
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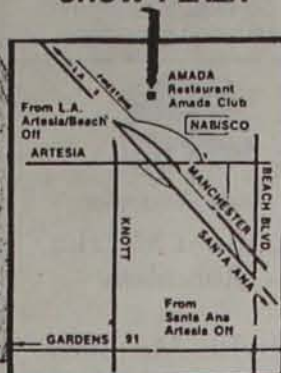
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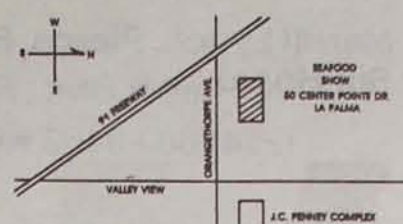
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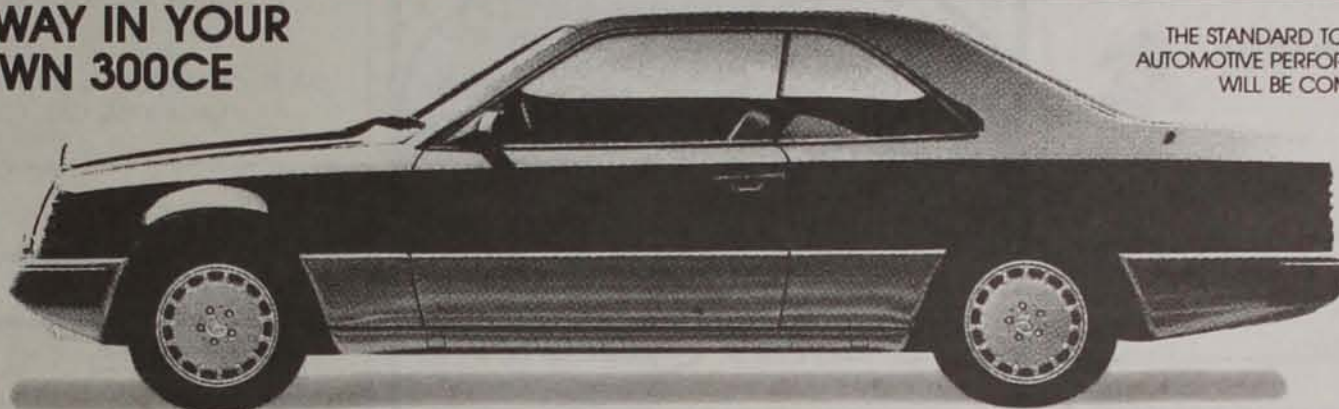
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JACL and the Nikkei in 1992

By Bill Hosokawa

My assignment is to look five years into the future of JACL as an organization and Japanese Americans as a people.

I am not at ease with the role of prognosticator. I am more comfortable as a reporter examining and writing about the present and the past. But if past is prologue, I may have established a basis from which to peer into the murky future, so I shall give it a try.

Add five years to 1987 and we get 1992. By 1992 many of us Nisei, already in our twilight years, will no longer be here. Time has a way of changing the makeup of organizations as well as the vigor and outlook of individuals. In another five years the influence and mindset of the Nisei generation will have disappeared. The Sansei will be in the full flower of maturity. The Sansei will be the movers, the shakers, the thinkers and doers, and the Yonsei and a scattering of Gosei will be starting their careers.

Now, for the moment, let's look back into the past, back to 1941 when the world as the Nisei knew it was shattered by the outbreak of war. The Nisei at the time averaged 18 years of age. The Japanese American communities were under the leadership of the Issei, and understandably they were reluctant to yield their prerogatives to callow and inexperienced Nisei.

Suddenly that Issei leadership vanished. The Federal Bureau of Investigation swooped down on Japanese American communities and jailed the top level of Issei leadership. That created a yawning leadership vacuum and the Nisei were drawn into it. The Nisei served valiantly but their youth showed. They were denied the advantage of gradually phasing into positions of responsibility. It is to their credit that once they got their bearings, they were able to provide a positive, pragmatic and largely wise leadership.

The inevitable displacement of Nisei from community leadership roles, now under way, has been more graceful. So the transition from the Nisei era to the Sansei era, in a time of relative normalcy, has been smoother and more reassuring. That transition is proceeding at an increasing pace, and I would like to believe this is as much a sign of Sansei willingness and ability to shoulder responsibility as a diminishing of Nisei vitality.

What will be the nature of Sansei leadership? I believe it will be wise, mature, competent, confident of its abilities, broad-gauged and fully at ease, and without self-consciousness in spanning social, cultural, ethnic and economic differences.

Having said that, I must add that I believe the Sansei leadership with exceptions will be less diligent in pursuing the common goals that have kept JACL together. There are several reasons.

First, Nisei inherited the Issei work ethic. Nisei were brought up with the philosophy that anything worth doing had to be done well. Unfortunately we have seen a diminution of that work ethic throughout American society.

Second, much of the Nisei effort was driven by a quiet sense of desperation. We had to struggle for virtually everything we sought. While it is true that many problems remain, that desperation, thank goodness, is largely a thing of the past. It may be hard to believe at times, but we live in a better society and are justified in expecting additional improvements over the next five years.

Third, the opening of society and of opportunity has broadened our fields of interest and activity. There are numerous other concerns to address so that, in view of the diminishing urgency of ethnic matters, the priority assigned to them will fall.

However, the broad-gauged Sansei outlook mentioned above is, in my opinion, unlikely to do much for an idealistic concept now struggling to get off the ground. That would be the idea of bringing the various minorities of Asian and Pacific Islander background into an Asian American coalition to exert a political, moral and perhaps economic force.

The idea's largest handicap is that although the various ethnic groups have some physical similarities, at this stage they share virtually no commonality of interests other than, perhaps, a fondness for rice. To cite one example, the unhappy reality is that many Japanese Americans look askance at the economic aggressiveness of Korean immigrants and see them more as a problem than ethnic allies. We can sympathize with the adjustment problems of Hmong tribesmen thrust into an urban American setting, and offer a helping hand, but a political or social alliance with them is hardly realistic. A Japanese American has more in common with his Caucasian or Hispanic or black neighbor or co-worker than with a recent Asian immigrant.

There is also the delicate matter of turf. Each Asian minority has its own pride and, speaking in broad generalities, my experience has been that they do not take readily to cooperation with other minorities. Nor are they happy to accept the leadership of others.

While it is true that all Asians share some problems of discrimination in a predominantly white society, many Japanese Americans find it awkward if not difficult to remind the tortured victims of Communist savagery that it was our efforts and our ordeals that enabled them to immigrate to the United States. Certainly we deserve credit for breaking down the anti-Asian bias in immigration and naturalization laws. But to make much of it projects, unfortunately, an unwanted image of arrogance and superiority. In time an Asian American coalition may become practical. For the immediate future the problems seem to loom larger than the potential benefits.

Now, let's take another look at 1992. It marks the 50th anniversary of one of the saddest and most outrageous events in the history of American democracy. In 1942 President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 which authorized suspension, on a racially selective basis, of the rights of citizenship guaranteed by the Constitution.

As the blue ribbon Congressional Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment found, E.O. 9066 was unjustified and the Evacuation it authorized was the result of "race prejudice, war hysteria and a failure of political leadership."

It is repeating the obvious to say that E.O. 9066 had a profound effect on us. It disrupted the orderly pattern of our communities and our individual rights and in some instances, destroyed life itself. It raped the nation's democratic ideals and besmirched its self-esteem. Forty-five years after the event, we continue to seek redress for that outrage. For a decade, redress has dominated the attention, energies and resources of JACL to the detriment of other important concerns.

This past year JACL's redress campaign scored a resounding triumph in its first major test, a far greater triumph than many thought possible. What started out as a divisive issue within the Japanese American community has become a rallying point in the fight for redemption. The U.S. House of Representatives took up H.R. 442, a bill expressing an official apology for the injustice of the Evacuation, and authorizing (but not actually appropriating) a \$1.25 billion trust fund out of which each surviving evacuee would be paid \$20,000. The vote of the 435-member House was 243 for and 141 against.

As this is written, the Senate has not scheduled a vote on its version of the bill, S. 1009. Grayce Uyehara, JACL-LEC executive director, reported on Oct. 8 that the Senate leadership considers S. 1009 a high-priority bill which is likely to be voted on this year. Since the measure has 76 co-sponsors in a body of 100 members, it would appear to be headed for approval handily, although co-sponsorship isn't necessarily assurance of a vote when the chips are down. Unfortunately, after Senate approval a presidential veto is considered a possibility largely because of the measure's cost in a time of huge budget deficits.

A veto would make the whole issue iffy. It takes 67 votes for the Senate to override a veto. Assuming not too many co-sponsors will decide to abandon the bill and support the president, there would seem to be a reasonable chance that the Senate will vote to override. The problem is greater in the House. Although the 243-141 tally was an impressive margin for a human rights measure that has become highly politicized, the affirmative vote falls 47 short of the two-thirds necessary to override a veto.

I will not venture to guess the ultimate fate

Continued on Page A-25

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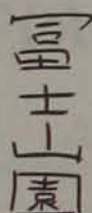
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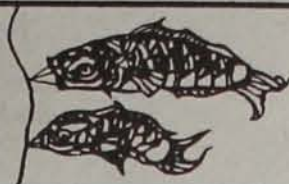
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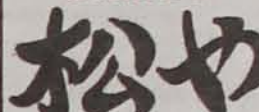
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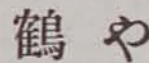
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Wishing you a Happy New Year

The Chicago National JACL Convention was informative and inspiring. My thanks to all those whom I came into contact with for your helping hand.



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HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM JAPAN

The annual yearend greetings to "X" number of friends, which come to \$2.15 postage and \$1.00 per card, have convinced me that both the PC and the chapter can profit instead of the post office, if I paid for my holiday message.

This year, instead of going to the U.S., we travelled in late August to Hiroshima, Hakata, Beppu, Saiki (in Oita), Nagasaki and Saga to explore further the family roots. At Otake in southwestern Hiroshima, we climbed to the old castle site of the early 17th century, built by Fukushima Masanori (daimyo from 1602 to 1619). This hill provided a clear view of Iwakuni in nearby Yamaguchi. The site was obviously chosen to keep watch over the Mohris, who had been expelled from their native Hiroshima to Yamaguchi by Shogun Tokugawa Iyeyasu, circa 1602, after Sekigahara. Two and a half centuries later, the Choshu (Mohris) and the Satsuma (Shimazu of Kagoshima) clans spearheaded the overthrow of the Tokugawas, leading to the Meiji Restoration. The Choshu and Satsuma samurais dominated the first three Cabinets of Japan.

Both the Saiki and the Mohri families had moved to the Hiroshima area in the 12th century from Kyoto, the former as custodians of the Itsukushima Shrine. Thus, southern Hiroshima came to be called the Saiki "kori" and later "gun" or county. The city of Saiki in Oita originated in the latter 16th century and has no direct connection with Hiroshima, even though its last daimyo was a Mohri.

In spite of the revaluated and overvaluated yen, many friends managed to visit Japan this year: Bill Himel and daughter, Washington DC; Fred Oshima, Salinas; Jim Kanemoto, Longmont; Jack (later) Kiyo Hirose, SF; Toy Kanegai, LA; James Iso, Sacto; Yukio Kawamoto, Washington DC; Noby & Tami Yoshimuras, SF; Kay and Kei Hisatomis, Pendleton, OR; (by phone) Terry Ishihara, Detroit & Frank Inami, Livermore; Glen Fukushima (at FCC — Foreign Correspondents' Club press, briefing), Washington DC; Tats Hori, SF; Fred Fujimotos, Kona, Hawaii; Gene Uratsu, Marin; Bob & Yoshie Hosokawas, Sarasota, FL;

Chuck Kubokawa, Palo Alto; Dr. Dennis Ogawa, Hawaii; John & Nellie Noguchis, Fremont; Peter Okada, Seattle; and Nancy Araki & Bruce Bruce Kaji, L.A.

Fifteen people assembled to chat with Bill and Alice Hosokawa at FCC on November 21: Ex-Amb. Henry Shimanouchi, Exec. Sec. Japan-America Soc. Mas Ogawa, ex-AP Kay Tateishi, ex-Domei Dei Inoshita, Mainichi Daily Welly Shibata, top interpreter Sen Nishiyama, ex-Fairchilds Pub. John Fujii, ex-Radio Press H. Ogishima, JACler Bert Fujii, For. Cor. Lee Chia & wife Topaz, Rose Ochi of L.A. and myself. Eye witness conversation flowed uninterrupted; for this group in their 60s and 70s, except for Rose, represented more than one thousand years of U.S. and Asiatic history, including more than 350 years of journalistic experience.

In visiting Japan, those without expense accounts, look for "morning service" coffee and special lunches. Eat anywhere if posted prices are reasonable. Use rail passes for extensive domestic travel.

More maddening than prices of daily necessities is the current price of land. A small house one hour from Tokyo was 25 million yen twenty years ago, of which 75% was cost of land. That same property today is priced at 300 million yen (\$2.15 million) of which 95% is cost of land. A recent TV program reported that the value of all real estate in Tokyo and Kanagawa areas was more than that of the entire U.S. This outlandish price is one reason why the Japanese are compulsively buying properties in Hawaii, LA, New York and even Las Vegas; and in some cases, creating ill will among local residents.

About 80 alumni hosted a Pregame Rally for the visiting Bears alumni, including Bill Fujita of Berkeley, at FCC when UC came to play Washington State in Tokyo on November 29. Tie score: 17 to 17.

A cheerful holiday season and an even better new year to all friends, JACLers, MISers, former Stockton Assembly Center and Rohwer Center residents.

The Year of the Dragon (tatsu) may cause some projects to drag-on, but traditionally, it is the year of advancing good fortune. Thanks for books: Ken Nakano, Kirkland; Harry Honda, and Bill Hosokawa.

BARRY SAIKI

JACL in the Year 2000

By Clifford I. Uyeda

The year 2000 in America began with a heavy heart. The sidewalks were crowded with Americans of all colors. Marching down the broad boulevard were men in para-military uniforms, a drum and bugle corps, pretty girls in shorts twirling batons. The day was spectacular. The stars and stripes fluttered in the sun, and beside it marched a gigantic flag with a black logo on a blood red field. The crowd was silent, and grim.

Since nearly a decade ago, the America's Patriotic Party (APP) members had steadily gained in both houses of Congress. Their platform was to bring America back under the first Naturalization Act of 1790 which allowed only "free white persons" to become American citizens. In the bicentennial since that law was passed, the APP proclaimed that America had fallen into the hands of undesirable aliens, many from the third world.

The APP platform mandated not only to stem the tide of foreigners entering America, but to cleanse from within. The repeal of the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 was high on their agenda. The Native Americans, they contended, had given up the rights to their ancestral land when the first European set foot on it.

How did America get this way? What had eroded our Constitution and our Bill of Rights? Their bicentennial birthdays, in 1987 and 1992 respectively, had come and gone. The celebrations were still remembered with nostalgia, but their application to the daily lives of America was only a memory.

The JACL, like other so-called civil rights organizations, had contributed to the erosion of our Constitution. They had put their own interests above that of the sacred document. They looked inward to their own supposed welfare and disregarded the ideals promised for all Americans. They became self-centered, myopic and bureaucratic. Ever since the 1980s, the National JACL's million dollar annual budget had room for only \$20,000 in actual programs.

For the JACL, the abandonment of the commitment to the Constitution and Bill of Rights began over half a century ago, during one of the greatest constitutional crises in America. The JACL instructed its people to discard their rights under the Constitution in the hope of reaping favors in later years. They did not even try to understand the dissidents among them, but publicly branded them "disloyals" and helped report them to the federal authorities.

When, some 30 years ago, the local JACLers

formed an ad hoc committee to repeal Title II of the Internal Security Act of 1950, which cited the incarceration of Japanese Americans as precedent and authorized the president to imprison any person on mere suspicion without evidence, the committee was opposed by the National JACL leaders. The determined ad hoc committee members fought on anyway, and were successful.

Sixteen years ago, attempts by JACL chapters to directly protest the Japanese government's treatment of its Korean residents was branded by the National JACL as interference in the internal affairs of the foreign government and rejected.

Only 13 years ago, when federal authorities arrested and attempted to deport seven selected Palestinians and a Kenyan wife of one of the seven as undesirable aliens under the McCarran-Walter Act of 1952, many JACL chapters and some JACL district councils protested the government's action. They proclaimed the issue was not only that of the Palestinians, whatever the viewpoint and whether or not they agreed with them, but a civil rights issue for all Americans.

There were rabbis and Jewish organizations protesting this same government action. The National JACL, however, declined participation for fear of possibly losing some Jewish congressmen's support for the Japanese American redress bill then before Congress. The First Amendment safeguarded the freedom of speech and association of all those residing in the United States. The Fifth Amendment guaranteed due process applicable to the proceeding in all courts in the United States.

The National JACL also declined to take a position on President Reagan's nomination of Judge Robert Bork to the Supreme Court, although most board members believed that his confirmation would be a setback for minority and women's rights. The decision was again based on the status of the redress campaign. A minority of JACL board members wondered how JACL would be perceived in the eyes of other civil rights organizations, especially the ones that were supporting the Japanese American redress bill. The other two community based redress groups—the National Coalition for Redress & Reparations and the National Council for Japanese American Redress—had come out against Bork. Three of JACL's eight districts had passed an anti-Bork resolution.

The JACL national body had always lagged behind its own local and regional bodies in upholding the civil rights issues on which the organization was committed through its constitution.

The structural reorganization in the National JACL began in the late 1980s. The concept of decentralization seemed to be gaining momentum. More funding, more voice, more programs and more policy decisions at the chapter and district levels were being sought. National Headquarters was seen as primarily assuming the informational, supporting and coordinating functions. The organizational bureaucracy needed to be drastically cut back.

Is this how the JACL will be remembered in the year 2000?

The National JACL gains prestige, recognition and influence through the effectiveness of the chapter and district programs. The Pacific Citizen, editorially and financially independent from the national body, can be the watchdog of JACL activities—probing, analyzing and reporting as it sees JACL from the membership point of view. The national organization's politicking at the expense of its civil rights obligation is ultimately self-defeating. This is not political naiveté. The commitment to the JACL's constitutional goals is the organization's stability and strength.

Democracy is a constant struggle between forces. Silence, in itself, is neither virtuous nor righteous. No matter how noble the principles expressed, however, if an individual or an organization is perceived as mostly self-serving and indifferent to the same principles when applied to others, there is an immediate erosion of trust and support. The National JACL needs to return to the basic principles for which it was founded—the civil and human rights of all the people.

The forces bent on abolishing the progress of the biennium by espousing hate would be ashamed to march in the streets of America. Their places would be taken by the show of multi-ethnic solidarity. The working together of the diverse racial groups toward a common goal for the benefit of all is the brilliance which makes America both unique and a model for the rest of the world. The cooperation, respect for diversity, and the sharing in the contributions of each ethnic group are the cornerstone of America's power and greatness. We are the microcosm of the world of tomorrow.

Clifford Uyeda is a retired pediatrician, past National JACL president and a two-time past P.C. board chair. He is also involved with the National Japanese American Historical Society.

ILLUSTRATION BY TOM MAZZOCCO

Nikkei Leadership in the 21st Century

"Boldness has genius, power and magic in it"
(Goethe)

As we enter the 21st century, the Asian American community is faced with both opportunity and peril. A wave of anti-Asian violence has raped our community; major corporations and government agencies continue to discount Asian Americans as top management personnel; racial discrimination is still a reality. Yet as this country enters a new era, the rising influence and power of the Far East into the world market could potentially create great opportunity for the Asian American. Japan continues to have a major economic impact on the states; the prospects of China's trade policy creates new avenues for U.S. business; Korea's industrialization plays a greater role in bridging the gap between East and West in fostering negotiations for business and government in a world where Asia beckons with greater power and influence on international events.

Torch Passed

It is also a time when, in our Nikkei community, the symbolic torch is being transferred from the Nisei to the Sansei. The

passage signifies four decades of the struggle, betrayal, hard work and success of 110,000 of men, women and children who some forty years ago were detained behind barbed wire. As the Sansei torch-bearer—educated, westernized, motivated and mobile—carries the legacy of the Nikkei community into the 21st century, he must face the domestic and global influences which surround him. These forces can and will cause our Sansei runner to fall and stumble throughout the years; but, they could create winning opportunities for him, if taken advantage of. The question becomes at what level, magnitude and vigor will the Sansei take us into the new generation.

Leadership Development

To enhance the mobility of the Nikkei community, there has been an emerging emphasis on leadership development. The success of JACL's Washington D.C. Leadership Program, Pacific Southwest District's "Making a Difference" Leadership Conference and the Los Angeles Program on Public Recruitment and Leadership Development have spurred on skills building training grounds for JACL members. Consequently, the inception of the Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics (LEAP) has proven to be critical in addressing issues of leadership within the Asian American community. Under the premise that leaders can be developed, public speaking, people management, negotiation, and problem solving are some of the many skills which are being taught throughout the country to our young Nikkei leaders.

Yet the progress this community will

achieve will also require the type of leadership that we read about in autobiographies and history books; that of John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr., Winston Churchill and Mahatma Gandhi, which reflect deep-seated commitments and far-reaching visions. In a complex society, we need the foresight to foster leaders who are reflective thinkers and have the ability to motivate large communities and constituencies. We will require inquisitive minds to probe, ask questions, and search for solutions of global and widespread concerns. We need to adopt new attitudes and approaches and to support individuals who will carry the torch with courage and strength.

Participation

Furthermore, people at all levels must be willing to risk and take action for community and personal concerns, realizing that we can make differences in this world. Each of us needs to take the responsibility to participate in decision-making in government, business and politics, and to exercise the rights as citizens that were granted to us 200 years ago. We need to take a larger part of our personal agendas; domestic issues where private production is low and public spending is high; international concerns where human rights and peace are at stake. This sort of compelling idealism, encouraging drastic, positive change can thrust this community into much success as we enter this new era.

Bill Kaneko was recently elected vice governor of JACL's PSWDC.

HOSOKAWA

Continued from Page A-15

of the Redress bills. But the determination and dedication of those carrying on the good fight give me confidence that by 1992, the 50th anniversary, we will have come out of the shadow of our deplorable experience. I trust that by then JACL's efforts not only will have won us complete vindication, but equally important, have impressed on our fellow Americans the fragility of freedom and the need for eternal vigilance to preserve it. In fact, the lesson of how freedom can be destroyed by fear, ignorance and insensitivity in a time of stress may be the most important product of our sacrifice. And once this has been accomplished, JACL will have the luxury of changing from what is primarily an advocacy organization to a service organization.

Let us look back once more. JACL was less than a dozen years old when war came in 1941. Its staff consisted of one person, Mike Masaoka, who only a few weeks earlier had observed his 26th birthday. His

salary was \$125 a month. The organization was so short of funds after the war that his journeys between headquarters in Salt Lake City and Washington, D.C., were by bus.

Yet it was this organization that hammered away at the collective American conscience and persuaded Congress to approve a number of milestone human rights measures. The most important of these was the Walter-McCarran Act. Passed over a presidential veto while Masaoka lobbied frantically, it brought sweeping reform to racist immigration and naturalization laws and made null and void a variety of discriminatory federal, state and local statutes. It is no exaggeration to say this measure opened the way for the broad voting rights, education rights, and civil rights reforms of a decade and a half later.

The Redress campaign is yet another step in the long struggle. Lest we be discouraged by the slow grinding of the wheels of justice, let me remind you that in addition to the matter of monetary compensation, there were at least two other key objectives.

One was to heighten public awareness of the assault on our democratic freedoms so as to diminish chances of its repetition in some future crisis. Large segments of the nation had never heard of this violation of

Constitutional rights, knew of it only vaguely, or if they knew, were content to let it be forgotten. JACL has succeeded in getting this matter on the front burner of Congressional attention. The findings of the Congressional Commission, now on the record for all to see, have been given extensive media attention. Our painful history is no longer a dark secret hidden away in a closet of shame.

A second objective was to win a public apology. True, only the House has gotten around so far to this important gesture of contrition, but we must recall that at least three presidents have admitted the Evacuation was a mistake.

Harry Truman was the first. Gerald Ford was next, removing all doubt about the elimination of E.O. 9066 by ordering its repeal in 1976. Jimmy Carter followed when he signed the measure creating the investigatory commission.

Two out of three is not a bad batting record. Unfortunately we are playing a game infinitely more serious than baseball; fortunately we are still at bat.

Earlier, I spoke of JACL as a service organization. What are some of the services it might be concerned with in 1992?

Continued on Page A-43



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A

s we approach the year 2000, and move from the Computer Age into the Age of Time Travel, what is in store for America in the field of education?

Beginning at its highest level, the universities and colleges, what is now a wave will become a deluge. In 1981, 49 percent of America's 4.2 million 18-year-olds were in some form of higher education. Since the

percent from Pell Grants, and 2.8 percent from additional federal funding. And, as tuition at prestigious universities (Harvard, Stanford, M.I.T., Yale, Princeton, etc.) rise yearly, we may see these institutions sadly becoming even more exclusive enclaves of upper middle-class or upper-class families, those able to afford the steep fees.

Teacher Certification

What of teacher certification for public schools? What was begun a few years ago in teacher certification (CBEST for California National Teachers' Exam) might by 2000 A.D.

teachers who were raised using computers will be in the classrooms, and their familiarity and facility with computers and word processors will see creative uses of equipment in classrooms. Where teachers now rely on commercial, prepackaged materials, there will be more teacher-generated programs for computers. Teachers will begin using computers even in literature and humanities classes, where programs can be adapted in part to fit the technology.

Communities and businesses will become more involved in education. All schools will

Education in the Future

By Betty Kikumi Meltzer

high school diploma is even a now common item, only a further degree will distinguish the eligible from the non-eligible in higher-paying professional positions by 2000 A.D. Thus, universities should see a rush of applicants. Juniors and seniors in high schools will begin taking advantage of special courses now available to them at local colleges.

Rising Costs

This enrollment rush will bring about a major problem in funding. With tax-supported community colleges and universities vying for the taxpayers' money, community colleges will adjust their function to become the first two years of a student's four-year higher education plan. Thus, most vocational training now offered in community colleges will be relegated to high schools, and community colleges will have to take on a more academic demeanor. High schools, conversely, will have to upgrade their vocational offerings to give intensive training that will give students job-entry skills.

Rising costs for tuition and college fees will intensify. In 1987-88 college costs, according to the College Board, rose five to eight percent. At a time when more federal aid to education would not only be welcome, but embraced with gladness, President Reagan and Congress have cut federal aid to education. This trend will continue into the year 2000. In 1980, about nine percent of all funds for higher education came from federal sources. About 42.9 percent of that total came through Guaranteed Student Loans, 15

lead to national certification for public school teachers. Even Mary H. Futrell, National Education Association president, supports the creation of a national board for professional teaching standards for individual states.

Size-wise, schools will be fewer and larger. Within the last five years the average elementary school went from 391 to 403 students, and by 2000 that number should reach 500. Instead of building new plants, school districts will use existing sites and increase class size and add portables to meet the burgeoning population.

Within the U.S., population shifts will move school-age children further into the Sunbelt, with California, the Southwest and Florida gaining students. Mobility of parents seeking better jobs and opportunities will influence this trend. Even within the growing states, school-age population will shift to areas of less expensive housing, large industries and service-related jobs.

Curriculum in elementary and secondary schools will see a more problem-oriented approach, with an increased use of societal issues for study units, especially in language arts and social studies. Even in science, issues such as environmental control, proper use of resources or toxic wastes might lend themselves to thematic approaches to teaching.

Computer Use

Computer use will proliferate. By 2000,

have site councils composed of faculty and staff, students, and parents. Private foundations will begin funding public elementary and secondary schools in much the same way that the Ford Foundation, Atlantic Richfield and others now fund research grants and chairs at universities. Cooperation between schools and certain industries and corporations will see employees from large companies either volunteering their time at local schools or being subsidized by their companies to teach part-time at local schools. Corporations will also provide funds, equipment and materials to schools, as over a thousand businesses in the Dallas-area have done by adopting about 200 schools in that city.

Future Education and Asian Americans

What does this mean for Asian Americans? We will have to rely heavily on local scholarships and scholarships from businesses and other benefactors, since federal financial grants are based on family income, mortgages owed, number of family members attending college, and other factors which comprise what is termed "need."

However, even with higher tuition, we will see more Asians in higher education, especially in fields in which we presently constitute an unusually high percentage—medicine, physics, math and computer-related work. Refugee Laotians, Hmong and

Continued on Page A-62



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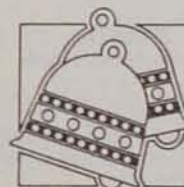
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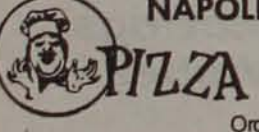
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Tug of a Japanese

By Jimmy Tokeshi

1 1:56 p.m., Dec. 31, 1999
A 1930s glass doorknob cleanly reflects the face of an affable middle-aged Japanese man. Sitting quietly on the white tile of the bathroom floor, he makes himself comfortable. A brown paper bag in the shape of a box is nestled between his legs. He sits with his back against the tub; the dripping faucet brings to his mind a question which has annoyed him for most of his life. "Why doesn't someone come up with a washer that won't wear out? I can't understand it."

Scratching his forehead in disbelief, he thinks about his receding hairline. A mole on the top left side of his head, which he rarely ever noticed in high school, is now frequently visible when his hair isn't moussed just the right way.

"What a place for a mole. Of all places. And that woman who kept staring at it. I couldn't believe it. She just stared at it. God, it made me feel like I had a third eye or a dookie on my forehead. She's lucky she didn't take a tissue to it."

Smiling and shaking his head, he makes sure his thinning hair covers his nemesis. His large brows and deep eyes now wander into the bag. Only in shorts and sandals, he pulls the paper bag away from the navy blue box and sets it on his lap. He likes the feeling that comes along with an annual ritual.

"Yup, buddy boy, hee hee . . . it's a dirty job, but somebody's got to do it."

He opens the lid and casts the box aside; an embroidered navy blue pouch with a gold tie appears. It's furry hard touch causes his palms to sweat with eager anticipation. Suddenly, an unexpected but expected knock at the bathroom door disturbs his excitement.

"Hank, are you laughing at your little self again? If you are, can I join? I could use a good laugh, too."

"You know, those Japanese jokes are gonna have to stop if you ever want to get me in bed again," he says. He reaches up and turns the glass knob.

A petite Japanese woman in an oversized shirt leans against the doorway. With her hands in her jeans, she commands a presence which demands attention, especially when things like a leaking faucet don't get tended to. Thin and simple, she looks past the man on the floor at the dripping water in the tub. Her eyes bug out playfully as she points at the faucet. "Well!?"

"I owe you money or what?" He tilts his head and gives her a wink.

Shaking her head, she gives him the stink eye. "I swear, you're so irresponsible."

"Please honey, stop. I'll fix it later. Or am I gonna need the catchers' mask again, because I don't think I look so good in the fall line of domestic black and blue. Summertime

would be okay, if you could wait, because then at least I could get a tan to cover the bruises."

Susan smiles. "Well, if I spank you, the only one who'd know would be me and you wouldn't need the catchers' mask."

"Spanking's good, unless of course, you decide to bite." Hank with his biggest and roundest eyes looks up at her and winks again. He then unties the blue pouch and pulls out a fifth of Crown Royal.

Laughing, Susan steps over his legs and sits next to him. "You like my bite, huh?"

"Only when it hurts."

"Now what would your mother say?"

"Dame desu yo."

"Which means?"

"You bad boy."

With a smile, Susan nudges Hank and kisses him on the lips. He immediately begins fanning his face as if he had a jalapeño.

Susan grins widely while scanning the bathroom. "I hope we're not spending New Years in the bathroom."

"Why not the bathroom? You have toilet-san right there in case Ralphie makes an unexpected call, and now that you're here, what else could a guy want?"

"How about a mind?"

"Cute . . ."

"I have a question. Does wanting to spend New Years on the bathroom floor have anything to do with being anal . . . or is it oral?"

"It's primarily because of an oral fixation we Japanese males have. You know, the lack of maternal nurturing during infancy."

Maternal nurturing?"

Yeah, you know, nothing to hang on to . . ."

"Jesus, next you'll be talking about Mishima again."

"Hey, now there's a guy who knew what was happening to the Japanese."

"Really?"

"The westernizing of Japan polluted the culture, just like the war and the trade embargo made it corrupt to have a Japanese face."

"The martinis at dinner must have been too much for you honey."

"And besides, what other place would be more appropriate to spend New Years than the bathroom floor?"

"Next to the bedroom and the kitchen floor, I don't know."

Raising his brow with approval, Hank gets up and reaches for two coffee cups on the

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ILLUSTRATION BY VICTOR COOK



ILLUSTRATION BY ERNIE OGAWA

Looking for Some Love

By Naomi Hirahara

You don't have to tell me the details, I saw her in the hospital." Wearing a mid-length leather fringe jacket, Terry ran his long fingers through his matted black

hair. His thin eyes were tinged red.

"Mr. Yamamoto, just humor me, please. I want to complete this report before six, then we can both go home." Sgt. Wonder Johnson turned around to face the large computer screen.

Terry couldn't believe that anybody would want to hurt Mitsuko. A short, stumpy woman, she had a friendly, plump face in the shape of a triangular rice ball. The type of face that foreigners felt safe enough to approach in the cold streets of Los Angeles. But then they could sense that Mitsuko was one of them.

Now she lay in the hospital, in a long room with eleven other beds. All twelve of them were in a coma. There were no television monitors or video cassette machines. The only sound was the dripping of liquids into tubes fastened onto their wrists.

"Suffered a blow to the head with a blunt object at approximately 22:00 on Dec. 12, 2015. Possible weapon is the dull end of a samurai sword mounted on the wall." The computer sounded off the detectives' report. Sgt. Johnson pursed her lips. "Are you familiar with this sword?"

"That must have been my Dad's . . . He's been collecting those things for a while now." Terry paused. "But then, I haven't been in that house for over seven years."

"Seven years? What kind of relationship do you have with your father?"

"What are you, a cop or a shrink?"

"Look Mr. Yamamoto. I don't care that you're some kind of cult music figure, you'll still have to cooperate."

"Let's just say my Dad didn't appreciate my choice of a career."

"All right, Mr. Yamamoto, I'll be a cop. What were you doing last night at 10 p.m.?"

"In concert, sergeant. And I have 60,000 witnesses." Terry pointed to the entertainment section of a day-old *Herald Examiner* resting on the policewoman's desk. The tabloid featured his wide, ruddy face. He had a slip of a smile, and his eyes were narrow crescents. "L.A. Boy Comes Home" the headline read. "Yamamoto to Bring New British Consciousness To Rock 'n Roll."

"I'm not a woman beater," Terry said. "She was my mother."

The sergeant gave Terry a hard look. "She is your stepmother," she corrected.

"Computer says that she's a processed bride."

Terry remembered seeing Mitsuko's face for the first time—on a computer hologram. He was seven years old, and watched as his father ripped open a cardboard package he received in the mail. His father removed a thin diskette and flipped it into his computer. Images of different Japanese women appeared

in their living room. Some faces were long and angular, others as round as a white onion. But they all had that look of innocence, of a time long past.

"Come look with me," he said to Terry.

"Pick out your new Mommy."

The sergeant put on her headphones and softly spoke into a microphone. "Computer says that they can't locate your father. Have you any idea where he is?"

"No." Terry shook his head.

"Harry Yamamoto. Retired Navy engineer. Veteran of Persian Gulf War," the computer responded.

"Yeah, that's him. The war corroded him, I think." Terry stopped himself before he spoke about his father's strange mood swings. Sometimes in a drunken stupor, he muttered something about the dead bodies floating in the water, about being set-up by the government.

"What do you mean, 'corroded'?"

"Well, for one thing, he would take off all of a sudden, especially when he got older. Without saying anything."

"Yes, we are aware of his past disappearances."

"So it's no big thing that he's missing. He'll be back."

"It may be no big thing to you, Mr. Yamamoto. But it is highly suspicious . . . And another thing—do you have any contact with your natural mother?"

"Not since she took off. That was seventeen years ago . . . when I was seven."

Adjusting her headphones, Sgt. Johnson listened attentively. She then asked, "You didn't know anything about her work, did you?"

"What work?" Terry could only remember community meetings with other Asian faces and paper cups steaming with green tea.

"Well, that's all for now. Don't go too far, Mr. Yamamoto."

"I won't, sergeant. I have a show tomorrow."

Terry jumped out of his Laotian convertible, and walked into the Irwindale Coliseum. Empty concert halls, especially large ones, gave him the chills. He could smell a flat, artificial stench in the stadium. Just last night, the stands were filled with kids and adults who loved him, embraced him, listened to him. He couldn't do any wrong. And now it was all gone.

One of his bodyguards, Saul, stopped him before he went on stage. "Terry, there's a lady waiting for you in the locker room. She says she's your mother."

The woman was beautiful. Her translucent skin glowed with shades of pink and light green under the locker room lights. Her straight black hair was cut bluntly at her shoulders. Terry walked into the light.

"Terry." She smiled. "You're so big."

"Damn," he said softly, "damn." I knew I shouldn't have come back to L.A. I should

have stayed in London. There were too many ghosts around here. Too many poisonous spiders spinning their webs around him.

"I know you must wonder why I'm here. I saw your picture in the paper, and I had to come. You see, I'm back, too."

"Quite convenient," Terry finally said. "Your little boy makes good and now you want to see him."

The woman's face cringed, and then relaxed. "You were always on my mind. I kept tabs on you when you were growing up. I knew what grades you were getting. The types of friends you had. Everything."

Terry frowned. "How did you know? How could you know?"

The woman looked frightened for a minute. "I just knew. I had some contacts."

"So what are you doing now, Barbara?"

Terry's arms were stiffly crossed. "Or maybe I should ask what have you been doing?"

"I'm a bank officer with Kyodo Bank. I was transferred to the L.A. branch last year."

"Was it that?" Terry suddenly said. "Was it your damn career?"

"No." Barbara let out a hollow laugh. "You and your father were the most important things to me."

"What's this about your work? What kind of trouble were you in?"

Barbara walked away and looked at Terry's costumes hanging on a portable rack. "Your music is causing quite a sensation here," she said.

"Well, I guess that's what I'm paid for."

"It could be dangerous," she said suddenly. "I mean, the white South Africans didn't like your song about the civil war there."

Neither did the American Supremacists, thought Terry, remembering the screenfuls of hate mail. "That's just fine with me . . . I don't think great-grandfather would've liked it either."

"Your great-grandfather?"

"You know, Dad's grandfather. The one in the concentration camp."

"Oh." Barbara walked around the benches. "Terry, remember when I taught you all those songs—church, Japanese folk, and the others? You caught on right away. It was eerie. You sang before you could really talk."

Terry was silent.

"And then I bought you that play guitar, remember. When the other boys had lazer guns, you'd pretend shooting them with the neck of your guitar. It was so cute."

Terry glanced at his watch. "Barbara, what do you want?"

"Can't you call me Mom?"

"No." Terry hit one of the metal lockers. "I can't call you Mom. I won't call you my mother. Mothers don't just walk out, they're not on temporary consignment. Mitsuko's been my mother."

"Mitsuko. She's a hired wife. A processed bride. She's paid to take care of you. She's not your flesh and blood."

"Stop it, Barbara." Terry's square jaw was clenched.

Barbara covered her mouth. "I didn't mean

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Farming in 2001, the Return of Momotaro



ILLUSTRATION BY ALAN TAKEMOTO

Once upon a time in a land most had forgotten there lived an old Sansei man and his wife. They were farmers, so naturally they had very little money. But they were even poorer for they had no children.

Long ago, after taking one look at how hard their parents had to work, most other Sansei had quickly left the farm.

"Am I a fool to have stayed a farmer?" asked the old man.

"No, you are not the fool," said his wife. She thought herself a greater fool for marrying a farmer.

"At least we have our health and self-worth," said the old man.

"And the lottery," added the old woman.

One day the old woman went to wash some clothes in the nearby peripheral canal. No sooner had she begun her washing than she saw a huge peach floating down the water. It was the size of a beach ball.

"Ara?" she thought, "was this another wonder hybrid of university research? Or was it a mutant from an overzealous farmer and his chemical fertilizers?"

But this was a truly beautiful peach, the biggest she had ever seen. So she pulled it from the canal and dragged it home for her husband.

When the old man returned from the fields he too was amazed at the size of the peach. "What a wonderful peach," he said and scratched his head, trying to remember the variety name. "It looks like a Sun Crest peach," he finally spoke, "long ago obsolete because it had a wonderful taste but short shelf life."

"Ooooh, the work of those evil Ogres," blurted the old woman. She squinted her eyes and tightened her lips in anger. "They try to control and manipulate our markets. But we will never sell out to them!"

"No, never!" said the old man and clenched his fists.

Meanwhile, the old man's stomach growled with hunger. "Gee . . . this peach is almost too beautiful to eat," he commented.

"Yes, a work of art from nature," said the old woman.

Then they looked at each other and an evil grin spread across their faces. "And art should be enjoyed!" they shouted in unison and grabbed for knives.

"Wait, don't cut me!" said a voice inside the peach. The peach then began to glow brightly; it soon split open and a beautiful boy jumped out.

The couple were astounded. They stared at one another and wondered if they had spent one too many years alone on the farm.

But the baby said, "Don't worry. The god of heaven saw how lonely and poor you were and sent me here to be your son."

Soon everyone was very happy and the couple took the baby to be theirs. Since he was born from a peach, they named him Momotaro, which means peach boy.

Even though they loved Momotaro, the couple felt badly because they were so poor. Often the mother apologized to Momotaro, "Please forgive me son, we are so poor we cannot even afford a Macintosh Apple for you."

"Do not worry mother," said Momotaro. "I have grown up in the countryside with birds

and vineyards and peaches all around me. You have given me all the true riches in the world."

The mother was overjoyed to hear this and stopped regretting the day she quit trying to be a supermom and resigned from her professional career and threw out her "Dress for Success."

Once the father asked Momotaro, "What do you want to be when you grow up, son?"

"Father," said Momotaro, "I can't decide . . . I'd like to be an artist or perhaps a farmer like you."

The father's eyes filled with tears as he realized he would have to make do with only his social security retirement income.

"Mother and father," continued Momotaro. "I want to do something meaningful, to share my vision with the world, to sit around with my peers and search for excellence."

After a short pause the father cleared his voice and said, "Momotaro, couldn't you do something a little more secure and important? Maybe become an accountant? Or pharmacist?"

But Momotaro stood erect and drew his sword. "I am a warrior. I battle evil forces. That is my calling in life!"

Both parents shook their heads and wondered where they went wrong.

One day, when Momotaro was about fifteen years old, he told his parents, "Mother, father. I must do something to help the family farmers of the world. We are starving and will soon become extinct."

"I must journey to the island of the Ogres where an organization of evil lives. These are beings who are poisoning small farms. These are forces who think of farming only as a business and are not concerned about how things grow. They base all their decisions only on short term profits. They think food is just something to be consumed and has no meaning."

"They don't care about how food tastes so long as it looks good. They just add flavoring with the right marketing and sell the world their products. This is wrong."

The old man and woman were surprised to hear this, but had grown used to Momotaro's speeches. They were also very proud of Momotaro wanting to help other people instead of wanting a new "Z" car. So they fixed him a good lunch and Momotaro began his journey.

As Momotaro traveled to the island of the Ogres, he met a spotted dog.

The dog growled and said, "I represent all the small farmers of the world. Why are you leaving your family to make trouble?"

"A talking dog, how strange," thought Momotaro. Then with some quick thinking, Momotaro spoke, "I am Momotaro, a poor farmer like you. We farmers of the world must unite, we have nothing to lose except our shirts."

The spotted dog thought, "Could this be their long awaited leader? But how successful could this Momotaro be, he didn't even drive a BMW?"

Then Momotaro gave the spotted dog some brown rice sushi from his lunch. It tasted strange, nutritionally correct, but an odd way of packaging culture. The dog felt sorry for the boy warrior and said he'd go along and help Momotaro fight the Ogres.

Momotaro and the spotted dog kept walking and soon they met a monkey.

"Stop," said the monkey, "I represent all the consumers in the world who buy fresh fruits and vegetables. Why do you leave your farms and make trouble?"

"A talking monkey, how strange," thought Momotaro.

Then the spotted dog and monkey began to fight.

The dog said: "You are my enemy, you do not buy my fruits and force me to keep planting newer varieties that only look better and bigger."

The monkey said: "Me? You are the enemy. I haven't eaten a fresh, juicy peach in years. Everything tastes like cardboard and is hard as rocks."

"Stop!" ordered Momotaro, and he threw the monkey a fresh slice of Sun Crest peach from his lunch.

Suddenly the monkey stopped fighting and said, "Ah, what a wonderful aroma and taste, like a peach is supposed to be. I will join with you to fight the evil Ogres who keep such flavorful peaches from me."

Momotaro and the spotted dog and the monkey kept walking. Suddenly they met a pheasant.

"Stop," said the pheasant. "I represent all the environmentalists of the world. Why do you leave the farmlands to make trouble?"

"A talking pheasant, how strange," thought Momotaro.

Suddenly the dog and monkey and pheasant started fighting.

"You are my enemy," said the dog. "You keep hurting me with more and more regulations. You want to starve me by keeping my fruit from the market."

"You are my enemy," said the monkey. "You have forced the small farmers out of business with your regulations. Only plastic fruits and vegetables are left for me to choose from. Even then, you try to scare us all with your media hype of chemicals in our foods."

"You are my enemy," said the pheasant. "You dogs keep using more and more pesticides that poison the environment. You monkeys keep supporting the big corporate farms and chemicals companies who fight us with their political cronies."

"Stop," ordered Momotaro. But the fight continued and Momotaro's shirt was torn off. Suddenly the pheasant stopped fighting when he saw Momotaro's tan.

"Ara?" said the pheasant. "Momotaro, you are tanned on the arms only up to your elbows. And a dark 'V' is branded on your chest at the neck line. You have a true farmer's tan, Momotaro!"

"You must be a real farmer who works out in the sun. You are not an absentee landlord who hides in darkness of those tax shelters. They could never have a tan like you. I will join and fight the Ogres."

Still, the pheasant had some reservations. He wondered if Momotaro had a politically correct ideology. So the pheasant asked Momotaro if he supported the "Save the Whales" campaign.

Momotaro realized this was a final test of his leadership. He thought for a wise moment and answered: "No, but I like to fly fish."

"Oh," said the pheasant. "Not another purist." He felt sorry for Momotaro and decided to march with this army to the island of the Ogres.

So with Momotaro as their general, the spotted farmer dog, the consumer advocate monkey, and the environmentalist pheasant all became good friends and followed their leader faithfully.

At the edge of the sea they equipped small boards with sails and windsurfed to the island of the Ogres. When they came within sight of the island, they saw the Ogres had built a huge fort and painted it multinational green.

The dog and monkey and pheasant became scared. But Momotaro said, "Remember, we are chosen people to till the earth, we have a

Continued on Page B-51



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and
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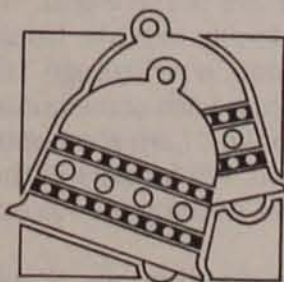
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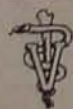
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Pacific Citizen Holiday Issue: Dec. 18-25, 1987 Sec. B—9

Will Japanese Americans Become Extinct?

By George Toshio Johnston

Are Japanese Americans still going to exist in the 21st Century? It's a valid question which seems to be a question gnawing at the hearts and minds of quite a few Nikkei. But, what does that question *really* mean? What is implied, it appears, is "Will there still be Japanese Americans of full Japanese ancestry?" The question has another sentiment lurking below it, one that seems to imply that only one who is of "full" Japanese ancestry can be Japanese American.

Japanese Americans, having endured discrimination and racism, should realize the folly of this. This line of thinking is based on the erroneous assumption that "Americans of 'full-Japanese' ancestry are in danger of disappearing." There are white supremacists who feel the same way about whites. To believe this is ridiculousness, especially for Caucasians in this country, since they outnumber everyone else. Of course, there is no way to know what will happen. My gut feeling, for what it's worth, is that plenty of Japanese Americans of full Japanese ancestry will always be around.

Is being "full" Japanese American better than any of the alternatives? Being of Japanese-only (or white or black or Hispanic or whatever you can come up with) ancestry isn't better than being of part-Japanese ancestry; furthermore, being of bi-racial/bi-cultural (or multi-racial) ancestry isn't better than being white or Japanese. This should go without saying, but many people still don't get it.

Among the many advances the Americans can be proud of is the eradication of anti-miscegenation laws; Japanese Americans helped this advance. Any man can marry any woman; any woman can marry any man. Yet this very right seems to be the source of the paranoia that Japanese Americans are going to "disappear." After all, "out-marriages" (including Japanese/Chinese, Japanese/Filipino, etc.) are supposedly higher than marriages between "full" Nikkei. The response to such a statistic should be "So what?"

There was a time, during the "out-white the white folks" mentality, that some Japanese Americans of either sex would consciously *not* date other Japanese Americans (or other Asian Americans). Stupid as it sounds, it still exists to some degree; I've known some people like this. Individuals have their own rationalizations for such behavior; to play amateur psychologist for a minute, maybe some of these people were uncomfortable with confronting their ethnicity; maybe it was rebellion against their parents, who kept pushing "suitable" Japanese Americans at them. Maybe it was subliminal self-hatred.

Perhaps it was brainwashing from TV and movies, where the attractive, glamorous, desirable women and the heroic, dashing, handsome men are white.

To base one's reasons for love and attraction on such absurdities is as sad as a three-legged dog. And to consciously exclude an entire portion of the human race, especially one's own group, for such reasons, is idiocy. Hopefully, today's Nikkei decide

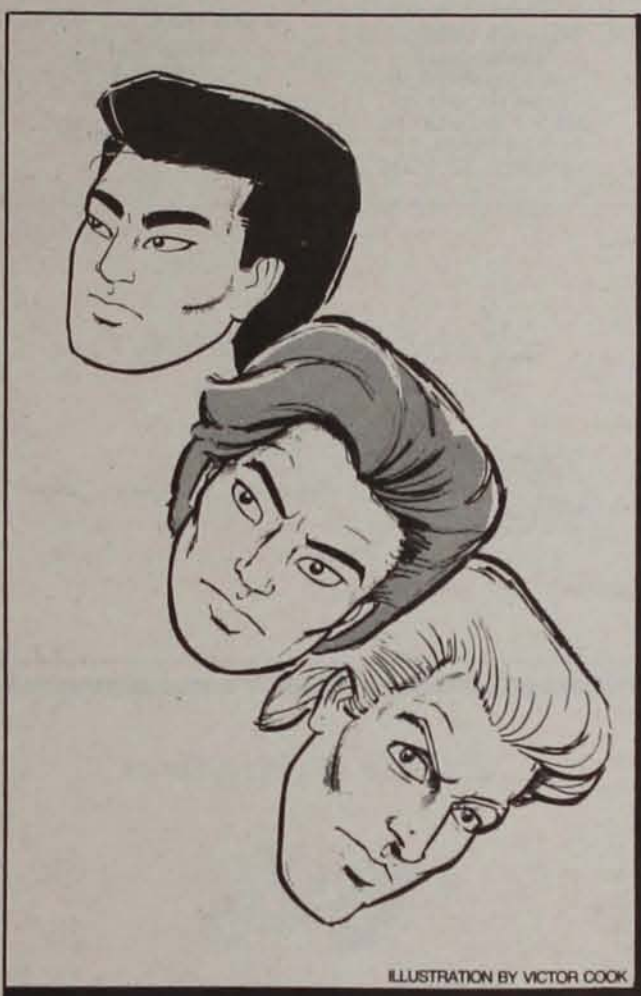


ILLUSTRATION BY VICTOR COOK

who to be attracted to for the *right* reasons, and not feel uncomfortable whether the person is or isn't Japanese American.

On the other hand, were the positive contributions and history of the Nikkei in America to disappear, a misfortune *would* occur. The same is true for any group in this land. But suppose the worst "fears" of certain Nikkei were to happen, that by, say, 2072, there were no "full" Japanese Americans left. First of all, such a thing, while being neither good nor bad, would be highly unlikely. But what *if* it happened? Who would populate the Nikkei bowling leagues? Who would fill the ranks of the taiko groups? Who would make mochi during New Years? Who would pass on the stories? It would have to have to be the part-Japanese, of course. "Japanese American" encompasses these people, too.

The number of "part" Japanese Americans is much less than that of "full" Japanese Americans. The numbers have grown, however. Supposedly, over 50 percent of Japanese Americans outmarry, usually to Caucasians; should they have kids, they will

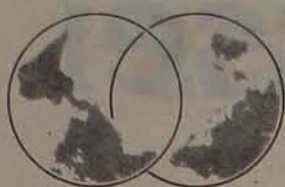
be, racially speaking, "Eurasian (*not* Amerasian; that covers a whole different spectrum)."

Quite a few of the part-Japanese Eurasians, though, are the result of post-WW2 Japanese "war brides" who married white American servicemen; also in this group, though smaller in number, are those of black/Japanese ancestry. The amazing thing about this group is that some of these people are culturally more "Japanese" than, say, Nikkei of Nisei parents. Because of their cosmopolitan genes, they can also be more "mainstream" than the "full" Nikkei. This seems to be a source of resentment (or sometimes, grudging admiration) on the part of "full" Nikkei. It's sad, but true; it's also unnecessary, ludicrous, ignorant and pathetic.

The immigrant "war-bride" doesn't always run in the same circles as the Japanese American; as a result, they and many "part-Japanese" Nikkei from this background don't participate in "traditional" Japanese American culture. This is a shame, but part of the blame must go to traditional Nikkei culture, which, while usually friendly and accessible, can be standoffish and aloof to "outsiders." Of course, this is understandable given general human nature and the forces that shaped the Issei/Nisei/Sansei psychology. Yet, it is the same, lamentable treatment some Japanese Americans have received from "white" culture. To complain about and fight against discrimination is admirable; to perpetuate such behavior, especially by a group that has tasted the bitterness of discrimination, is sickening. How many "part-Japanese" Nikkei are out there who don't even know about the goings on of Japanese Americans? How many are overlooked because of non-Japanese surnames? How many are out there who wanted to connect, but feared rejection? Where are the overtures of welcome?

If the Japanese American legacy is to be carried on, it will be by people of all backgrounds, including "full" and "part" Japanese; flexibility and accommodation will have to be the guiding lights. Alienation and condemnation will be the enemy. This is where the JACL could be involved in some enlightened action (and for you wags out there, "JACL" and "enlightened action" in the same sentence is *not* a contradiction in terms).

Although now just a handful, some "part-Japanese" Nikkei, (including Japanese/other Asian Americans) are presently involved in the JACL. JACLers, who seem to find it difficult enough to generate interest in the JACL in their own progeny, to their credit, do not discount individuals of part-Japanese ancestry. What else can the JACL do? Generally speaking, outreach, education and dialogue will be necessary as we approach the end of the year 2000. It could be awkward and clumsy at times. But realistically, what alternatives are there? To do otherwise would be sad, indeed.



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Friday, April 1, 2005

JACL & Bork: No Decision Yet

'Watch and Wait Approach'

SAN FRANCISCO — After hours of deliberation and a fistfight, the JACL National Board decided again to defer action whether or not to oppose the nomination of Judge Robert Bork to the Supreme Court. "It's still too tough to call," said JACL National President Billy "Biff" Yanagi. "We don't want to step on anyone's toes or hurt anybody's feelings. Really, it's a no-win proposition."

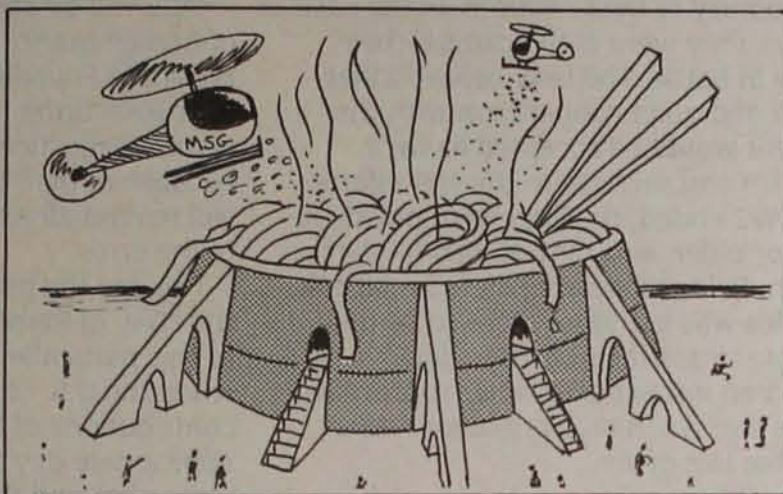
Bork was nominated by then President Ronald Reagan in 1987 to fill a Supreme Court vacancy; most civil rights groups expressed public opposition to the controversial Bork. The National JACL Board voted to defer taking any action on the matter so as not to jeopardize the then pending redress movement. The point was rendered moot when the Senate voted overwhelmingly to reject Bork's nomination.

The matter cropped up once again for the JACL when it was discovered that no action was ever taken on the Bork matter. A resolution was made to investigate the situation and see if a symbolic vote could be made. "To me, it was somewhat like the discovery in the '70s that Executive Order 9066 had not been rescinded," said Maxine Higa, the JACL Board member who proposed that the vote be made. "When I discovered that the matter was largely forgotten, I thought that we should take care of the unfinished business and vote, even though the case was closed."

Debate on the matter was heated; some argued that "the JACL could be sticking its neck out too far, resulting in a backlash" by government officials. Rachel Ayako Martin felt "that action was necessary ... otherwise, we'll be seen as a toothless tiger." Tim Watanabe expressed a similar viewpoint, saying, "We're a civil rights organization; Bork's record was not favorable to civil rights. We should oppose this guy." Tyrone Ito disagreed: "We've got a pretty big agenda with the government; if we rub some politicians the wrong way, it could work against us. I say we take a watch and wait approach."

The meeting was marred by a shouting match that turned to fistfights during a recess. A board member, who asked for anonymity, said, "Maxine (Higa) and Ralph (Miyamoto) were yelling at each in the hallway, right in each other's faces. Then, in the heat of the argument, some spittle from Maxine hit Ralph's tie, so he pushed her. That did it ... they were at each other like white on gohan, until we dragged them apart."

After order was restored and apologies exchanged, the meeting continued, with the final vote 8-6 to defer action on the Bork situation.



Artist's Rendition by Tom Mazzocco

OODLES OF NOODLES—Helicopters dump MSG and other seasonings as a finishing touch onto the Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, the temporary site of the world's largest bowl of ramen. The stunt cost an estimated \$10 million.

Largest Bowl of Ramen Unveiled

LOS ANGELES — You might say that whoever tops this record will really have to use his noodle; the Guinness Book of World Records, arbiter of the unusual, trivial and occasionally foolish, last week officially recognized the world's largest "bowl" of ramen. The bowl of ramen was actually Dodger stadium, filled to the brim with steaming soup, vegetables, egg slices and tons of noodles.

The record, a stunt masterminded by Ken Hakuta (alias Dr. Fad) and financed by Osaka Ichiban, cost an estimated \$10 million and took three months to plan. To fill Dodger stadium took 10,473 tons of water or 1,047,300 gallons. Also involved were 4,000 tons of spinach, 3 tons of monosodium glutamate, 1,000 tons of eggs and 6,000 tons of other assorted vegetables and seasonings. The noodle total came to 10,000 tons.

"The technology involved was staggering," said Hakuta. "Osaka Ichiban had to build extra factories to make the noodles; even then, they had to sub-contract out. To heat the water, we had to get the Air Force to train its space platform lasers right into the heart of the stadium."

Hakuta, who made his fame and fortune with fads, came up with the

idea "because, well, basically, I needed the money. My last venture, the plutonium marmalade, went nowhere. So, I figured that if I could make the world's biggest bowl of ramen, I could get into the Guinness book, get Osaka Ichiban some publicity and feed the hungry people of the world."

Osaka Ichiban is now distributing the ramen to homeless shelters across the nation and other countries of the world. Mayumi Kawada, spokesperson for the food manufacturer, said, "When I first heard the idea, I thought it was absurd. But after thinking about it, I realized it could be done and that tens of thousands of hungry people would get a nice, hot bowl of ramen. I really think it was worth it."

In a related story, Kim Chee King of South Korea is planning to make the world's largest bowl of kim chee; the tentative site is the Seoul Olympic Stadium. According to the company, the ramen stunt introduced the world to ramen; this stunt, which is planned to be even bigger, should introduce the world to kim chee.

Clean up of Dodger stadium is almost finished; stadium officials believe it will "be better than new" and just in time for spring training.

'Reverse Eyejob' Trend Booms

Eye-reshaping surgery now has a new slant, so to speak. For years, it was fashionable for Asians to get "eye-jobs," according to Peggy Toichi, assistant to Dr. Ronald S. Matsunaga, the renowned Beverly Hills cosmetic surgeon.

"Most of our patients were Asians who wanted 'rounded eyes,'" said Toichi. "But now, with more business with Japan and mainland China, we're getting requests from hundreds of non-Asians wanting 'reverse eyejobs.'"

Spurred by the recent "Japan craze" on the heels of Japan's February acquisition of Hawaii, Toichi says that Matsunaga's office has been bombarded by single eyelid mania.

"I've never seen anything like it," Toichi declared. "And to think all this time, Japanese Americans have been coming in to have the opposite procedure. Now, they'll have to have

the entire operation done over again!"

Whether or not the operation results in increased business income is debatable. However, according to Howard Stewart, a ten-year sales veteran of General Motors of Japan, the operation has made a "night and day difference." "Ever since my eye-job, not only do I see things differently, but so do the Japanese businessmen I work with," gushed Stewart. "My sales quotas have increased 60 percent! I should have had it done years ago."

According to Toichi, requests have also increased for breast reductions and rhinoplasty operations. One man even, says Toichi, wanted to find out if he could have his knees shortened.

"I told him it was out of the question," she snorted. "We can do elbows but not knees."

Aloha, Japan

Sayonara, Hawaii!!

HONOLULU, Japan — After 45 years of statehood, the Hawaiian islands were purchased from the C.S.N.A. government by Japan for \$25 billion. The sale, conducted because of a massive C.S.N.A. foreign debt, was done with the full approval of all three branches of the federal government. President Ron Reagan, Jr., who was in Honolulu for the official sales ceremony, commented, "I don't think anyone in the mainland will miss it; most people didn't realize it was part of the Consolidated States of North America anyway." Meanwhile, Vice President Imelda Kobayashi said, "Isn't it amazing ... 65 years ago, the Japanese bombed the island and now they've purchased it. At least now we can finance the Strategic Defense Initiative."

Reaction was not all positive, however, as former Hawaii Senator Daniel Inouye, 82, told the Pacific Citizen, "This is a disgrace, a total disgrace. We fought so hard for

statehood, and now we get sold down the river to pay off our debts and buy more weapons." Despite Inouye's opinion, not all residents of Japan's 48th prefecture seem too alarmed. "Da kine ting don' bodah me, brah," said Bling Bling Takahashi Smith-Chung, a 19-year old Honolulu resident. "As long as I got plenty pakalolo and a good wave, I don't care no how."

Prime Minister Shinichi Butayama of Japan also seemed pleased with the sale, saying, "I think this (is a) good deal for all parties involved. Japanese people love Hawaii. Japanese people buy anything they love. Bah, ha, ha!"

One of the provisions of the sale was that C.S.N.A. armed forces remain on the islands, with financial backing coming from the Japanese government. Also, since the Japanese plan to utilize Hawaii as a resort state, special laws were enacted exempting Hawaii residents from Japanese tax, educational and other legal requirements.

Hayakawa Takes Youth Serum; Now a Thirty-Five Year Old

SAN FRANCISCO — At a bizarre press conference straight out of a B-Grade science fiction movie, a man claiming to be S.I. Hayakawa, 99, a former U.S. senator from California and ex-president of San Francisco State University, announced that he had taken an experimental "youth serum" and is

whole works, not to mention fingerprints," said Dr. Marvin Mayeda, a noted gerontologist from New York. "If this is for real, then this could be the biggest breakthrough in the history of medicine. But until Tannenbaum releases his data, which he is unwilling to do, I just can't believe that that guy is the real Hayakawa."



S. I. Hayakawa



The 'New' Hayakawa?

now the equivalent of a 35-year old man.

Sporting a beard instead of a tam-o'-shanter, the youthful looking Hayakawa, who was recently revived from cryogenic hibernation, appeared with scientist Dr. Nathan Tannenbaum. "I feel fantastic! I can't wait to get to work. I am the luckiest man on the planet," said Hayakawa. According to Tannenbaum, who did his undergraduate work at San Francisco State, "I've been working on this formula for 22 years, and I thought that there would be no one better to give first dibs to than Sam. I've been an admirer of his since I first heard about him."

Skeptical observers still weren't quite convinced about the validity of the claims. "I want to run some tests, blood, skin, chromosomal, the

Tannenbaum claims he revived Hayakawa from suspended animation, then immersed Hayakawa in a tank filled with the "youth serum," which Tannenbaum said was a "DMSO-based freon combination." During the press conference, at which no questions were allowed, Hayakawa said he was coherent throughout the age-regression process and that it felt as "refreshing as a cold shower on a July afternoon."

Hayakawa ended the press conference by saying that he was "glad to be back" and that his first ambition was to "hunt down the punks who insulted me back in '68 (referring to when he was acting president of San Francisco State during a time of student unrest in 1968). I can't wait to beat the stuffing out of 'em, semantically speaking."

In Memory of Our Issei

By Tom Takeuchi

Most of them are gone now. And the redress law came too late for most of the Issei who had immigrated to America before 1924 when our government passed a law prohibiting any more immigrants from Japan (until it was repealed in 1952).

The redress bill had been introduced to provide \$20,000 to each of the 60,000 survivors and the establishment of a trust fund for public education to prevent the occurrence of a similar incident—the mass incarceration of a people because of their ancestry—as happened to some 110,000 persons of Japanese ancestry during World War II.

By the turn of the 21st century, I am confident the redress bill will have passed.

A Forgotten People

The redress bill did not provide anything for the other 60,000 who had died. Most of them were the Issei, who suffered much more than the survivors, who were mostly under age 18 when the Evacuation occurred.

The Issei, who spent most of their adult lives toiling and raising a family, were denied by law from becoming naturalized citizens (until 1952). They experienced racial prejudice and could not own their homes or farmlands. Despite these difficulties, they realized this country was better for their children. They enjoyed watching their children grow up to become good citizens. When war was imminent, several ships were provided for those Issei who sought to repatriate, but most

of them chose to stay even though they were humiliated by the country of their adoption. For the Issei, WW2 was a war between their "fatherland of birth" and their "motherland of dreams." Like the American forefathers who fought in the Revolutionary War, it was a choice between the country of their ancestors and the country of their children. In the case of the Issei, they were in the camps; their sons were in battle. The Issei believed that obedience and quiet cooperation with the government would be accepted as their contribution and sacrifice to the war efforts.

After WW2 ended, the Issei were mostly in their 50s or older, and they all had to start over again. Relocation camp life was difficult, but America was friendly—more so as they were happy to see their children and grandchildren not experience what prevailed before the war when race prejudice was a more visible fact of life.

The Year 2000

Our Issei will be best remembered by preserving the culture they brought to this country. Japanese culture has been blended into the American culture, which already contains the cultures from around the world. I see American culture as the forerunner of a culture which will eventually unite the world in peace and prosperity. Thus, by remembering the Issei through the preservation of their culture, we shall be contributing to world peace.

JACL will have established an Issei memorial fund to build and maintain as many Nikkei cultural and community centers throughout the country. Already such centers exist in many areas where large concentrations of Japanese Americans reside. In time, there will be one in every community large enough to have a JACL chapter.

These centers will be a showplace for Japanese culture. Its library will be open to the public. Japanese films will be shown. Stage productions and talent shows, classes in

Japanese language, handicraft, flower arrangement, tea ceremony, the classical dances, taiko and martial arts will be on its calendar. Tournaments will be scheduled for enthusiasts of such traditional Japanese games as *gō*, *shōgi*, or *karuta*.

Day of Remembrance

JACL will be observing Feb. 19 as "The Day of Remembrance," the day in 1942 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued his Executive Order 9066, which led to the wartime injustice of incarceration of a people because of their Japanese ancestry. The day will remind all Americans against a repetition of the error.

The day the president signs the redress bill, the "Day of Remembrance" will be changed to this particular day. It will also be the day when the U.S. officially recognizes the contributions of the Issei. It will be an appropriate day for the Nisei-Sansei-Yonsei to remember and thank the Issei. It ought to be the day when all Americans proudly join in the celebration for it will show by action that this is a great country and a true champion of human rights.

Since the end of World War II, the United States and Japan have been united by a bond of mutual understanding and respect. Together, the two nations welcome the coming of a new Pacific era. Together, they are destined to make great contributions toward a more peaceful and prosperous world.

The Nikkei in the 21st Century will be in an envious position of being in the right place at the right time. They will have the distinct honor of shouldering the "bridge of good will" across the Pacific. The bridge will be the gateway to a "better world." On the horizon awaits the golden opportunity for the Nikkei. They will remember the Issei and will the challenge. They will prove worthy of their heritage.

Tom Takeuchi resides in Gresham, Ore.

National JACL Credit Union: Then, Now and 40 Years Hence

By Shigeru Ushio

The summer of 1943 was a time of transition—transition from the shock of Pearl Harbor and the trauma of the Evacuation and Incarceration to the daily problems and frustrations of picking up the shattered threads of life and of beginning

anew.

One of the many concerns confronting people at that time pertained to finances and the availability and access to trustworthy financial institutions.

Almost daily, the National JACL Treasurer Hito Okada, holding forth in the old Beason Building in Salt Lake City, was besieged by myriads of practical every day questions and problems that plagued the evacuees coming out of the camps:

"Hito, where can I get auto insurance? No one will write it for me."

"I need to borrow some money to get to a job back East, but there is no credit available."

Continued on Page B-13

NATIONAL CREDIT UNION

Continued from Page B-12

"Hito, the banks wil not accept my deposits because I have no permanent address. I don't want to carry too much cash with me."

"I need housing. How do I go about getting it?"

To alleviate the lack of banking services and credit for the evacuees, Okada turned to the then fledgling financial movement, known as the credit union, to provide a place for the people to save their money and also a place for them to borrow money at a fair and reasonable rate of interest.

In basic operations, a credit union resembles the old "tanomoshi" run by the Issei pioneers in that people with similar interests and backgrounds get together and save their money together and loan out that money to its own members. The credit unions are a bit more sophisticated. They are incorporated under state or federal supervision and are issued formal charters.

Credit unions are regulated by duly-enacted credit union by-laws and government regulations, and are audited by state or federal commissioners of financial institutions. Credit unions have certain tax advantages because they are recognized as nonprofit, people helping people, cooperative enterprises that encourage thrift among members and provide a source of fair credit for its members.

Enlisting the aid and cooperation of five local Utah residents (Bill Yamauchi, Kay Terashima, Jun Kurumada, Yukus Inouye and Shake Ushio) as charter members and legal incorporators, Okada organized and managed the National JACL Credit Union for the benefit of all JACL members. Bill Yamauchi served as the first president of the National JACL Credit Union and when he moved to Idaho, Shake Ushio took over the reins of the credit union and served as president for 36 years.

Although the board of directors met faithfully once a month to set the policy for the credit union, and the three-member credit committee regularly met each week to approve or disapprove of the loan applications, the bulk of the work was done by Okada.

As manager-treasurer of the organization, Okada worked almost full time on credit union business without receiving any remuneration whatsoever during its early years. If the credit union had a good year, a token "orei" of a few hundred dollars was voted for Hito. It was only after the credit union was well established that Okada went on the payroll with a modest stipend.

By his great personal sacrifice, and singular dedication to this admirable cause, Okada exemplified the true meaning of volunteerism and service to one's fellowman. Because of him and others that supported him and worked with him and still others that followed in his footsteps, the National JACL Credit Union has become an institution of great value for many JACL members.

In the beginning, there was a flurry of activity and growth as those close to the movement participated in the plan. Subsequently, it became a matter of

education and encouragement as the concept of this unique plan of self-help and service became better known. As was to be expected, initially there was a waiting period for those desiring loans. Today, there are ample funds available for qualified members desiring a loan.

It was a banner day at the credit union when a dividend of 3% was declared on all savings when the banks were only paying 2-1/2% interest on their deposits. Better yet, though less publicized, was the fact that credit union loans were charged only 1% per month on the unpaid balance, whereas rates elsewhere were 2% and 3% or more per month on the unpaid balance. In differing degrees, the same sort of benefits are available to credit union members today.

Other benefits inherent in credit union membership included free life insurance matching the amount of savings (up to \$2,000 originally and presently up to \$4,000) and free loan protection insurance which pays off a loan in the event of the borrower's death. Also, credit disability insurance is available for those that want it.

Atrue story is on record about an evacuee who relocated back East and then decided to go back to his hometown in California. He passed through Salt Lake City where his car broke down. He looked up his friend Okada for advice and learned about the credit union. As a consequence, he joined, borrowed \$1,000 on his signature and put it back in the credit union as his share account. He then borrowed \$2,000 by putting up the newly acquired used car as a collateral.

Tragically, on his way home, he had a terrible auto accident and was killed. A redeeming factor in this tragedy was that because of his visit to the credit union office, his family received the \$1,000 in his share account and the \$1,000 matching insurance, plus what the auto insurance company paid for his demolished car. His signature loan of \$1,000 and the car loan of \$2,000 were cancelled out by the loan protection insurance.

Adhering to the credit union slogan, "Not for Profit, Not for Charity, But for Service," the National JACL Credit Union slowly but steadily grew and expanded its influence in the financial affairs of its membership. It took twenty years of patient promotion and rendering of valuable service to its members for the credit union to reach the asset level of one million dollars. Five years later, the two million dollar asset level was reached. Since then, the rate of growth has steadily accelerated. Today, with nine million plus dollars in assets and an equity account reaching almost a million dollars, and a very sound program in place, the National JACL Credit Union stands ready to provide increasingly valuable services to its membership.

The volunteer leadership consists of a well balanced seven-member board of directors of three veteran members in Nob Iwamoto, Skip Tabata and Shake Ushio; two women in Jane Omura and Jeanne Konishi; and two relatively younger members in Ted Nagata and Steve Tachiki. Nagata is the chairman of the board. The credit committee consists of veteran Rupert Hachiya as chairman with Ken Nodzu and Hide Fujikawa as members of the committee. The supervisory committee is led by Mary Umemoto, along with Louise Oshita and Lynn Koga. All are extremely dedicated volunteer credit union people who are serving

without any remuneration.

The salaried staff members include Terrell Nagata as president and manager of the credit union; Lynn Aoyama and Cathy Shigarami as loan officers; John Kikuchi as collection manager; and Hope Tokunaga and Hide Fujikawa as part time personnel. Attorney Frank Nakamura helps on legal problems for the credit union.

In today's troubled financial climate, in which many thrift organizations have gone bankrupt and some banks and savings & loan companies are experiencing difficulty, and the bulls of the stock market are being harassed by the bears, the credit unions generally are in fine shape and expanding rapidly.

In the State of Utah, where the National JACL Credit Union is chartered, about 70% of all families now belong to one credit union or another. Within this family of credit unions, our JACL Credit Union is rated very favorably in terms of stability and soundness and growth. Moreover, all member's shares are insured up to \$100,000 by NCUA, a federal credit union insurance corporation and arm of the U.S. government.

From a humble, but very practical beginning, through years of steady and solid growth, to a position of strength and promise, the National JACL Credit Union has progressed to a point where it now stands poised to leap into the 21st century.

"Where there is no vision, the people perish."

But with vision and with dedicated work, the people and people's institutions, will not perish but flourish and succeed.

Looking down the corridor of time, forty years hence, well into the 21st century, we can envision our credit union being bigger and stronger and serving ever more JACL members. Judging from the achievements of the past and projecting an accelerated growth pattern for the next half a century, our JACL Credit Union can conceivably grow to 10,000 members and \$100,000,000 in assets as a very conservative projection. This presupposes that post-redress JACL will continue to be a viable force in the Japanese American communities and be a member-oriented organization.

We further envision branch offices in areas of significant Japanese American populations or some sort of chapter related liaison to encourage responsible membership recruitment and service. To match the projected expansion of JACL Credit Union membership and activities, undoubtedly, there will be renewed consideration of expanded full financial services such as credit cards, share drafts or checking privileges and other innovative services available today and in the future.

The future looks exciting and promising. We invite all responsible JACL members to join in this people-oriented, mutually beneficial, financial service for JACL members.

Shake Ushio is a founding member of the national JACL Credit Union. The retired insurance man currently resides in Salt Lake City.



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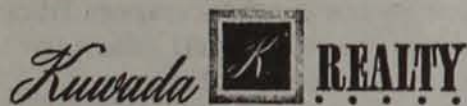


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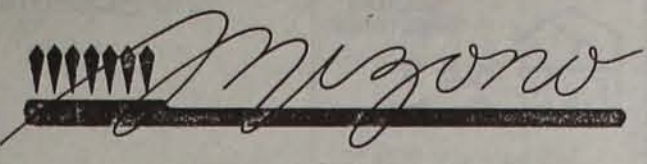




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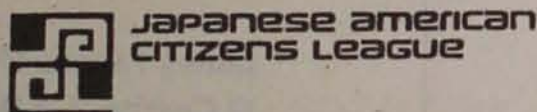
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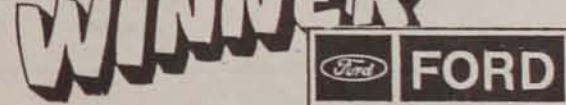
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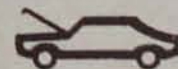
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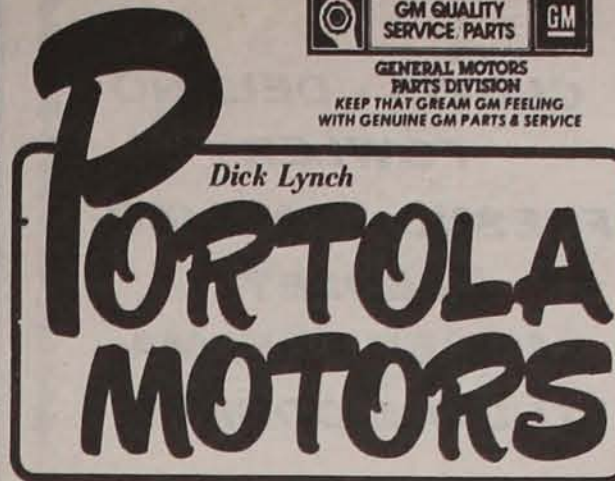
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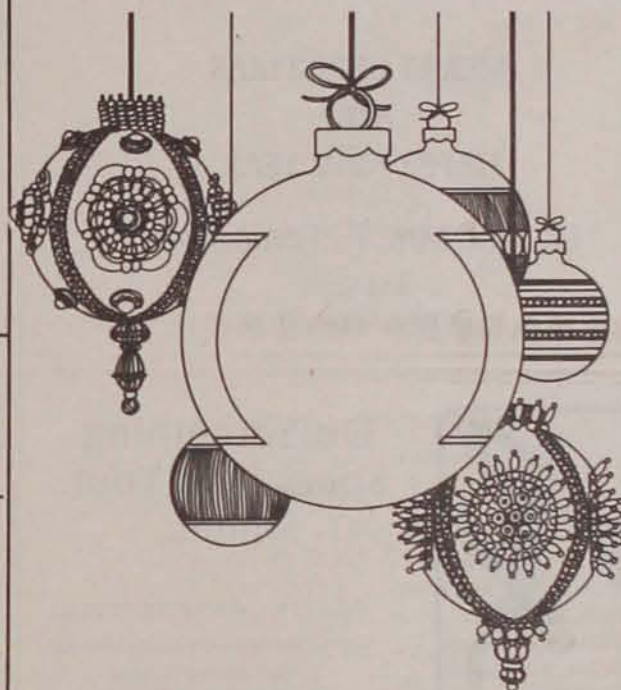
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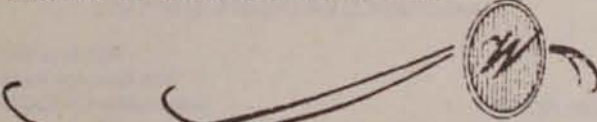
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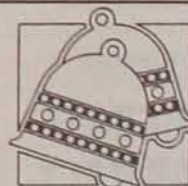
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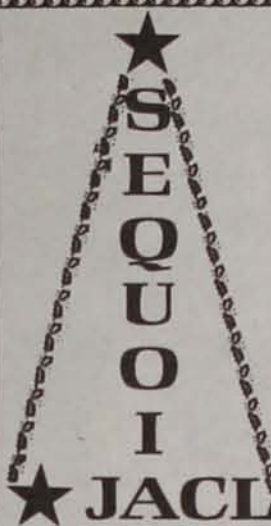
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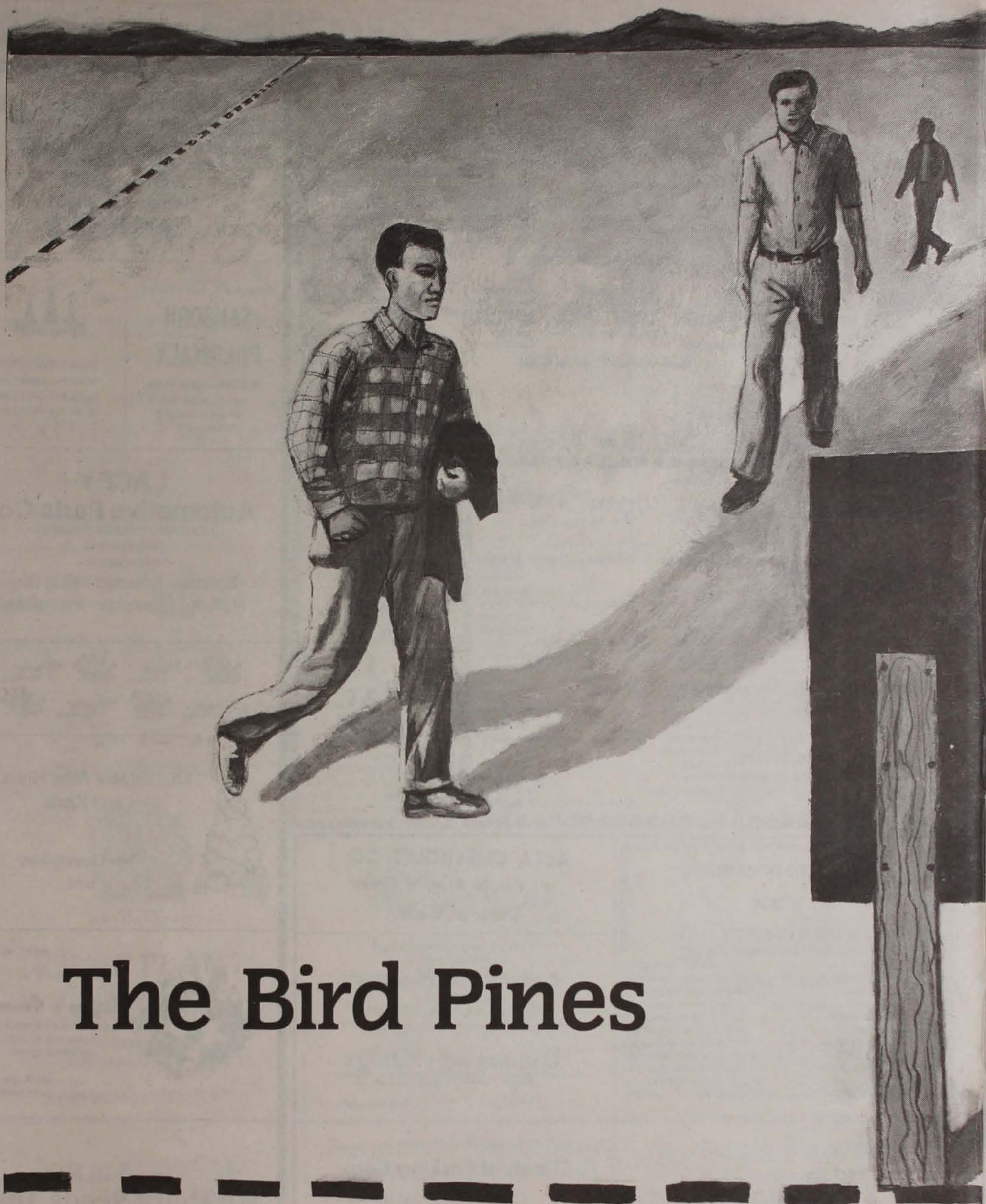
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The Bird Pines

The following story won the American Japanese National Literary Award for 1987.

By Vincent Tajiri

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Those of us born to an earlier generation have had certain days indelibly etched into memory. We can recall, with emotions that still surge, where and what we were doing on December 7, 1941; November 22, 1963; and those appalling days in 1968 when Bobby Kennedy and Martin Luther King were killed. Then there are days privately remembered . . .

A clear-bright April Sunday on the front-side of Easter. Late as usual, I come gunning the family's Model A four-door down L Street. Tires squeal as I right-angle into the worn asphalt strip where the stark Cape Cod of the Japanese Congregational Church—rising lonely from alongside an abandoned railroad spur—appears isolated from the rest of San Diego.

The Ford bounces hard over the railroad tracks and I swerve into the dirt parking area with a slamming of brakes. Behind me a dust cloud rises to hang suspended in the still air. Shimmering, it thins in the slanting rays of the early spring sun.

The chapel is small, at best it will seat 200. White-painted walls glow in the diffused daylight from frosted glass windows that line each side. The congregation is standing, singing a hymn. I make a performance out of an exaggerated bit of tip-toeing down the aisle, forcing my way into a pew seat next to Cubby. Cubby stands around six feet or more

ILLUSTRATION



and weighs over 200 pounds which, for these Depression days, is not only oversize for a Nisei but more than adequate for any 17-year-old, regardless of race, religion or creed. Since I barely top Cubby's shoulder, we make a real life version of "Mutt and Jeff," like in the comics. Cubby grunts a greeting and a wide smile splits his face.

Before being seated, there is a prayer during which I spot Jin Hashioka two aisles down and to the right. Every group has its Jin Hashioka. He's the kid cursed with two left feet at an age when all life depends upon athletic competence. He is destined to

become the go-fer, the scorekeeper, the team manager, and invariably the guy to be left in the woods holding the gunny sack when snipe hunting. Jin is a sweet innocent, a true believer, and at this moment his undivided attention is directed at Reverend Komatsu who has moved from prayer to sermon with more a comma than a period. I, too, begin by listening carefully but, as always, my attention starts to drift. All it takes is a movement, a cough, a whisper from one of the guys and the good Reverend slowly fades into a subliminal mist as his voice becomes a monotonic drone.

"Where ya been?" Cubby whispers.
 "Workin'."
 "Oh yeah? Where?"
 "Market. S and K Produce."
 "Rug-ged!"

(Cubby knows the strong-back-no-brains regimen of wholesale produce markets. Two shifts a day is what I put in. Each averaging from five to six hours of muscle-tearing, back-breaking labor. Figure on driving time, eating time and-whenver possible—a quick soak in a hot bath and there aren't many hours left

Continued on Page B-48

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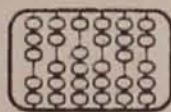
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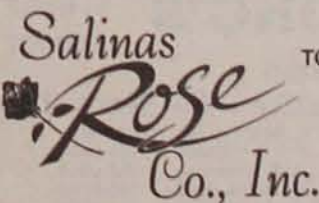
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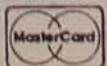
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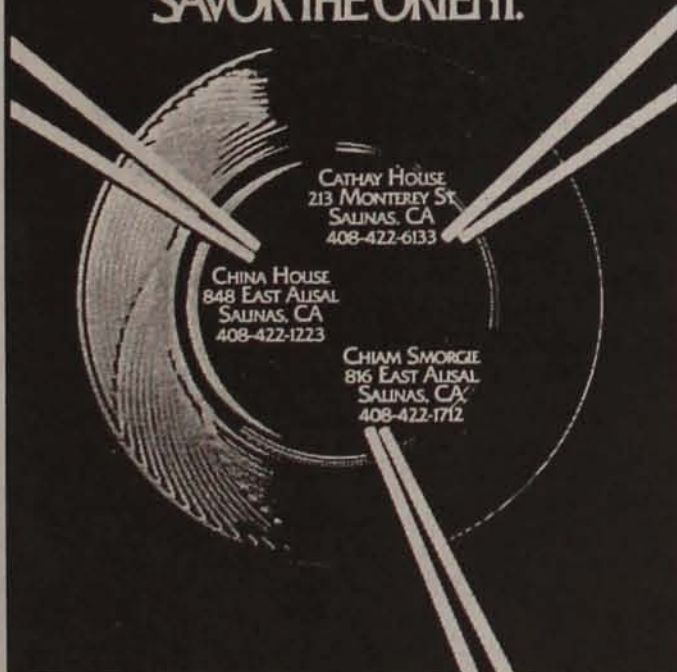
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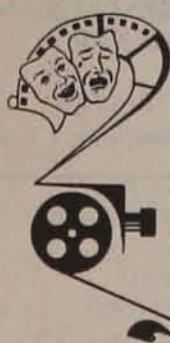
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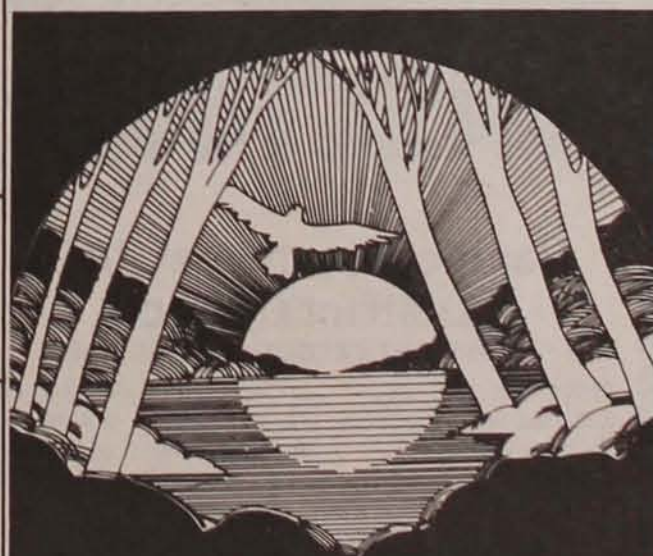
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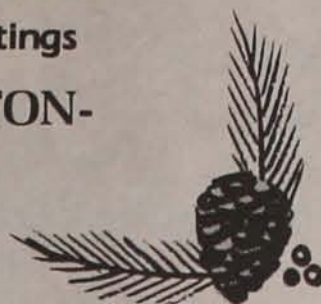
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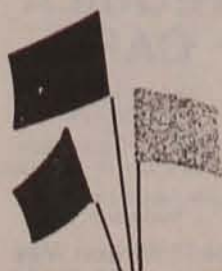
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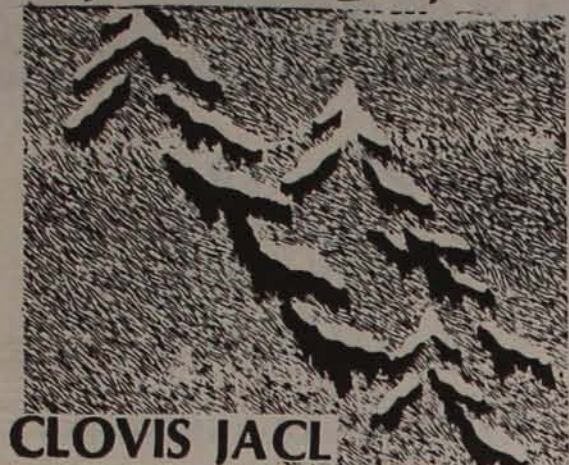
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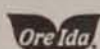
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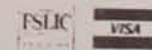
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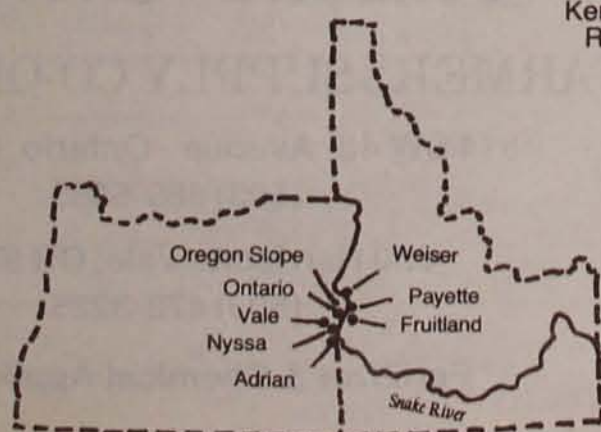
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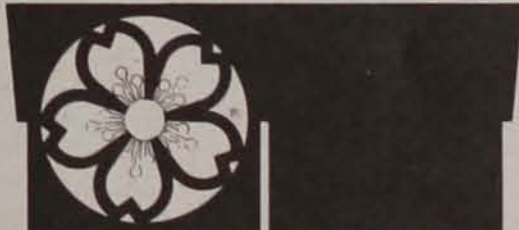



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BIRD PINES

Continued from Page B-29

over for sleeping. Seems like no sooner I fall into bed, then Mom is shaking me awake. I usually arise confused—uncertain whether it's time for the 5 a.m., or the 6 p.m. shift and not really caring. A fast meal—is it breakfast or dinner?—and it's back in the car and the drive to where Shig, the manager with the mouth and demeanor of a drill sergeant, awaits. The trucks will be lined up to waiting to be unloaded in the evenings and loaded in the mornings. "Wha'sa malla?" will be the gibing query. "*Andare, pronto!*" in colloquial Spanish, the cliché command.)

I pull a pack of Beech Nuts out of my pocket, offer one to Cubby who takes it. Extract another. Slide off the outer wrapper and carefully remove the tinfoil. This slab of gum goes into my mouth. The tinfoil is smoothed and carefully refolded down its length, the length halved, quartered, then rolled tightly and bent into a "V". Next, comes a thick rubber band from my pocket. I loop it over the thumb and forefinger of my left hand. The tinfoil "V" is hooked over the rubber band, drawn back, the left hand is raised quickly and the missile released. Two rows down Jin's head jerks abruptly and his left hand reflexively finds his neck. He turns quickly. Glowering, he scans the pews behind him. His eyes end their search and the glower softens into a grin.

Cubby and I are focused intensely on Reverend Komatsu.

The sun has moved to its noon zenith. It is bright without heat. The guys have gathered around my car. It's only a year since the family moved here from L.A., yet the quick acceptance, the easy camaraderie, has made it seem as if I've lived here much of my life. But now, having had to work immediately after graduation in February because of Pop being disabled in an auto accident, I've not seen the guys for at least two months, and the reunion is good. What adds to the electricity today is that Cage is back. Cage, the former leader of the Young People's League and the basketball team, is on Spring Break from Cal-Berkeley. With his short-billed blue and gold frosh cap adding an incongruous touch to blue-serge-suit dignity, he is regaling a gathering crowd with anecdotes about college life. Girls in bright spring dresses—crinolines starched and meticulously ironed—encircle him. They giggle, eyes dancing. Much of Cage's appeal comes from his brash, *hakujin*-like cockiness. He has none of the self-conscious obsequiousness that marks the behavior of so many Nisei. At this moment he is Marco Polo returned from a distant land with fascinating tales about its customs and rituals. Jin, Karl and Cubby will be graduating in June and are especially interested. Jin wants to make it to Berkeley. Karl has applied to Stanford but will end up, at his dad's insistence, at Waseda. Cubby has been told that a good season may bring him a football scholarship to San Diego State.

The girls, reacting to some sort of cue, begin to leave with obvious reluctance. Mary, prim and proper in a full-skirted plaid with white collar and cuffs, holds her ground as she asks, "Will you be able to come to the Planning Committee meeting Thursday?"

Cage grins, "I'll see. My dad wants to take off and go fishing."

"Try real hard," Mary implores sweetly. She is the new chairman of the Young People's League.

The guys have climbed into my car. In the back, Cage squeezes in between Karl and Jin. Cubby is next to me. "Hey, man, put it in gear," he says with that wide grin breaking his face.

I turn on the ignition and the Model A rattles into life. I shift into reverse and accelerate backwards in a quick quarter-circle. Again, the dust rises. "Where we goin'?" I ask.

No one knows or seems to care. It appears sufficient that we are together and the moment be sustained. Graduations, colleges, work—adulthood with all its responsibilities encroaches. Sensed is the realization that our carefree, boyhood days are running out and too soon we will be going separate ways.

By habit, I follow L Street to where it runs into 5th and turn north—passing Island Street where Pop's office waits, still unoccupied. On Broadway, where movie palaces with flashing neons and blinking light bulbs compete for the matinee trade, I take a left, heading west. As we pass a giant marquee: "DEANNA DURBIN in 100 MEN AND A GIRL," Cubby gives Jin a malevolent grin, "How many times have you seen it?"

Jin grabs his heart, slumps in his seat and rolls his eyes in a mock swoon. "Just three times—so far," he sighs.

"Well, what about Judy Garland?"

The answer is a passionate moan. Jin's love of movies and teen-aged actresses is a running tease with Cubby.

I follow Broadway to the Coast Highway, turning north past the row of aircraft factories to my right and the uncluttered acreage bordered by chain-link fencing that is the municipal airport to my left. Within minutes we are passing Mission Bay, then Pacific Beach, following without destination a blacktop ribbon marked at intervals by crooknecked metal posts bearing replicas of mission bells with the hand-lettered legend: "*El Camino Real*," the King's Highway. Checking the gas gauge, I turn into a Richfield station which doubles as a grocery store.

As the attendant cranks in the gas, checks the oil and cleans the windshield, Cage, Jin and Karl amble into the store, emerging minutes later laden with Cokes, 7-Ups, and potato chips. I give the attendant a buck for five gallons and get change.

"How much for the soda?" I ask Cage.

"No sweat. Karl popped," he answers.

With Karl it's truly no sweat. His dad does well in import-export. On Sundays last fall, I'd gone out with Karl and Cubby to the golf course where, to avoid green fees, I'd pose as a caddy and then tee up on the second green and play up and back using Karl's clubs, cautiously stopping short of the 18th. Karl usually picks up the tab for Cubby who plays with his dad's clubs. Aside from Karl, I don't know any guys our age who have their own matched set of Spauldings.

"Knock! Knock!" Cage says between bites on some chips.

"Who's there?" Jin asks.

"Barry!"

"Barry who?"

"Barry me not on the lone prairie."

There are grunts, groans and grins.

"As long as you're knocking, how about some Knock Poker?" I ask, pulling a deck of Bicycles from the glove compartment.

Cubby grunts, Jin nods, Karl looks over at Cage who shrugs an assent.

I deal the cards. Knock Poker is a bastard child of a liaison between Draw Poker and Gin Rummy. Five cards are dealt to each player, the balance placed in the center with one separate card exposed. Each player, in turn, can choose to draw blind from the pack or take the exposed card. Whenever one wants to terminate the game, he does so by knocking. At this point anyone can raise or fold. We play penny ante with a nickel limit. True to her sex, Lady Luck favors the monied and Karl fills inside straights, pulls the case Ace for a full house and, grinning, fans out a straight flush when I knock with four Treys.

By this time, we've polished off the food and it has come to me what I really want to do. Only a few miles up the road are the breathtaking heights overlooking the Pacific that is Torrey Pines. To my limited knowledge, it is the most exciting vista in all the world. I pull out of the station and head north. I've driven this piece of highway to L.A. so many times before but it was always with Pop and there was something I've wanted to try but never dared with him in the car.

It may be something endemic between the Issei and Nisei but there never was much communication between Pop and me. The forty-two years that separate us was a gulf measurable in light years; we are not only of different eras, but of contrasting cultures. He came to this land in the early 1890's at the age of 15; enrolled in high school and worked as a houseboy while pursuing his schooling. He learned to write English with a sweeping Spencerian script; became so enamored of Shakespeare that he could quote, with dramatic intonation, favored monologues of MacBeth, Hamlet, Mark Anthony and Polonius; worked as a day laborer, a draftsman, a surveyor, and for a period owned a bicycle shop where he did quite well until bad loans, poor business decisions, personal extravagances and the age of the automobile, brought him back to square one.

During his prime he was a bit of a dandy. He shared ownership of a horse which he would ride, nattily-attired in a custom tailored riding habit, pale yellow silk shirts, and highly-polished cavalry boots. He affected a thick mustache and with his high cheekbones, double-lidded Caucasoid eyes, cut a handsome figure. In the ethnic community theater he was invariably cast as the dashing leading man—the naval lieutenant. There are photographs of him in such a uniform, posing with cast members. Other photographs show him proud and meticulous in suits tailored to measure, a gold watch chain girdling his vest, and all this sartorial splendor topped by a bowler set a rakish tilt. Then came the Great Depression and there was little place for an alien whose talents leaned towards the esoteric. Someone who, while awaiting dinner, could sketch a bowl abundant with oranges, apples and bananas, shaded and highlighted to photographic realism; who, in an unguarded moment might be overheard

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BIRD PINES

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reciting Shakespeare, or coaxing exotic melodies from the *shakuhachi* flute kept in its purple velvet pouch.

Then, there was that letter to his first son (to be found years later, never mailed), describing in prose that approached poetry, the brilliance of the sunset on the day that son left home to work in a distant city.

He tried selling water coolers said to be cast of some miraculous health-preserving clay. Conceivably, he harbored ambivalence about these claims for sales were few and far between. It didn't take long before he'd given up selling water coolers to accept a position as the executive secretary of the Japanese Farmers' Association. Now here was a job more fitting to his strange melange of talents. He was to spend much of his time on the road visiting farmers, checking crops, publishing a bulletin with current market prices, and generally serving as a liaison between farmers and wholesalers.

During my eight and tenth years, I was chosen to accompany him on the more lengthy trips that took him into the Imperial Valley, Fresno, Stockton, and once as far east as Phoenix, Arizona. My presence on these trips seemed to be solely to keep him company, perhaps to make sure he didn't fall asleep during the long stretches of night driving. I learned to read road maps so, when asked, I could indicate how many miles we were from the next town. Beyond that, very little passed between us. "Hungry?" Pop would ask rhetorically as he pulled into a roadside cafe. "Pee?" when he stopped for gas.

After my tenth year, I was seldom asked to join him on those trips until he moved to a similar job with the Vegetable Growers' Association in San Diego. That was the summer of my sixteenth year and I was told to catch a Greyhound and join him. The expectation now seemed to be that in my advanced years I might learn enough about the business to provide some assistance. Were this the intent, the knowledge would have had to come by osmosis because the intervening years had done little towards improving communication. My contribution was limited to answering the office phone when he was out and sharing the driving on long trips.

It was while I was at the wheel between San Diego and Los Angeles that I remember Pop breaking the comfortable silence we shared. "See those pine trees?" he'd asked. I glanced to my left where strange, twisted trees rose precariously from jagged slopes overlooking the sea. The incompatibility between these rocky cliffs and the trees was obvious. The land had no want for this intrusive growth and offered neither footing nor nourishment. The elements were natural collaborators: the winds that swept in unhindered from the sea were often brutal and in winters carried the chilling bite of frost. During summers the sun burned relentlessly hot. Still the pines clung tenaciously to this inhospitable terrain, contributing much to the beauty and permanency of the land.

I'd noticed the trees before, but only casually as components of an exciting panorama. Born of the city, my knowledge and observance of nature had been pathetically limited. Constraint learned over the years limited my reply to a nod.

"How do you think that they got there?"

"Don't know."

There is a long pause. When he spoke again, his voice is reflective, "Maybe, the birds. Birds that fed on pine nuts on nearby islands resting here before moving on. In their leavings are seeds still undigested that find refuge in the crevices. The fortunate of these seeds will find enough soil and moisture and take root, the most stubborn survive. They will be shaped and strengthened by adversities. A species not to be found elsewhere. A Japanese gardener will take some to landscape a garden. He will be asked, 'What kind of pine is this?'

"The gardener will scratch his head. He'll remember the birds that stopped so often on the high cliffs overlooking the sea. 'These are born of birds,' he will say. 'Very special. These are *tori* pines.'"

I looked over at Pop. He was smiling.

It is a long, steep grade and I've learned the need to floor the accelerator as I approach it. Halfway up the engine begins to labor and I have to shift into second and then into low before reaching the crest. It is here that everything changes. The arrow-straight uphill climb rolls into a ninety-degree turn with a sharp descent to the ocean floor below. Atop, and seemingly at the edge of the world, one gazes out at a spectacular sweep of land, sea and sky. Magnificent as it is, it is a view upon which the driver does not linger. For, beyond the low, corrugated guard rail that marks the turn, one can see a frightening drop of several thousand feet to the bottom of a narrowing canyon where the wash from the ocean gleams mirror-black against reddish sands. I negotiate the curve and, as we begin the descent, shift back into high. The car, following the gravitational change, picks up momentum and I take the action I'd thought about so often: clutch and shift into neutral. Unhindered by gearing, the car quickly picks up speed as it plunges down the long incline towards the endless stretch of ocean shimmering far below.

"Wa-hoo!" It is Cubby shouting. There are accompanying howls from those in the back. Unexpectedly, Cubby reaches across me and turns off the ignition—the steering wheel lock will not come until years later—and the comforting roar of the engine is silenced. Only the brakes, worn and uncertain, can control our descent. As our speed increases the only sound is that of the wind.

"Sixty . . . sixty-five . . . seventy," Cubby is shouting. I nervously switch my gaze back and forth from the road to the speedometer. "Se-ven-ty-fiiive! Eiighhh-ty! Nigghhnn-teeeee!"

The sun is bright. The speckled macadam blurs. The yellow dividing line wavers like a streamer caught in a gale. The air booms through open windows. The sea—highlights dancing from waves—rushes towards us. Fifty yards from the shoreline the highway turns sharply northward. Just beyond the turn there is a slash of paving that leads directly to the beach towards a narrow pier that resembles a gnarled twig stretching into the sea. Now the incline begins to level and the speedometer needle retreats. I turn the ignition key back on, clutch, shift into high—the engine roars back to life and I begin to breathe again. Seconds later we are at the bottom of the grade. Drawn by the excitement of the moment, seduced by the sparkle of the sea, I cross over the highway onto the asphalt strip that leads to the beach.

Never will I recapture the sheer exuberance of that moment. We had come hurtling from the sky (remember the first, frightening drop on the old Ocean Park roller coaster?) and landed safely on this deserted, idyllic beach. We burst free of the car, adrenaline pumping, pulse racing. The sun warms, the breeze refreshes, the high-pitched squeal of seagulls counterpoints the rhythmic slap of a gentle surf. We're alive and well and on the most beautiful beach in all the world. Never have I seen sand so white—surely it must be laundered and bleached daily.

"Wa-hoooo!" Cubby shouts.

"Go! Di-e-go" is Cage's accompaniment.

Karl is grinning. Hunching his shoulders slightly, he walks towards the pier. Jin leans on the Ford's fender, giggling, "Boy! Was that nifty!"

Elated and breathless, excitement pulsates within us.

Ten feet from the car there is this bright metal sign secured to two posts anchored into soft sands. It measures something like two feet across and three down. Neat black lettering on vanilla white—everything here is so immaculate.

Cage, legs spread apart to steady himself, hands thrust into pants pockets, is reading the sign. "*Kaoru!*" he calls sharply, "Hold it!"

Karl stops, startled. It's not just Cage's tone but seldom has anyone besides his parents called him *Kaoru* since grammar school. He walks back to where we've gathered around the sign. Nothing is said. There are no sounds aside from the lonely cry of seagulls, the surf slapping wooden pilings. Time moves on tortoise feet. Cage turns and goes back to the car and climbs in. One by one we follow. Only Cubby is left, reading and rereading the sign in obvious disbelief. Finally, uttering an obscenity he turns real fast and joins us. At the slam of his door, I start up the engine and this time, carefully, deliberately, wait for a break in the traffic before moving onto the blacktop to start that long climb up towards Torrey Pines.

As we reach the crest I look beyond Cubby at the twisted trees so alien to this stretch of land that eons ago had risen torn and craggy from the sea. Here from seeds come by chance, a unique species shaped and strengthened by adversities has taken root, laid claim to their pieces of land, and stands firm against the onslaught of the elements. I think of a stern, proud man who hides his partially paralyzed body behind a closed door in a darkened room. Fading sepia images of a young man—three-piece suits and bowler—come to me. I see him where Cubby sits. Speaking to me at length for the first time in such a long while. Smiling at the tale he has fashioned: "The *tori* pines. Where else is such a species?"

It is Jin—baby-faced and naive; often inept, but always lovable Jin—who breaks the stillness, if only for a moment.

"Well, at least we're billed over dogs and other animals," he says to no one in particular.

Silence enshrouds us in our private worlds again. As I top the crest there is only the sound of the engine and that of air rushing through the open windows.

"Knock! Knock!" Cage says.

"Who's there?" Jin asks.

"Boo!"

"Boo, who?"

"Don't cry little boy," Cage answers

ILLUSTRATION BY MEGAN SCHLEITWILER

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LOOKING FOR SOME LOVE

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that . . . She seems like a good woman."

"Mitsuko's in the hospital right now, with a gash on her head as big as the Pacific Ocean."

"No. When did this happen?" Barbara looked pale.

"Last night. Know anything about it?"

"No, of course not. I was home last night."

"Were you with anybody?"

"No . . . no, I was alone."

"You're lying, Barbara. What are you hiding?"

"Nothing." Barbara picked up her briefcase.

"Wait. You know something."

"I need to go now. Take care of yourself."

Barbara's platform heels clunked against the linoleum floor. She turned around before she left. "You know, there's a cost to it all," she said and walked out the door.

Terry felt an urgent need to see Mitsuko. Please be conscious, he said to himself as he sped down La Cienega Boulevard. He needed to talk to her. She would tell him the truth. Mitsuko had been his anchor in L.A. His father and mother had floated away, without any explanations. When he reached his teens, he lost his desire to know about what was really going on. After all, most of his friends' families were twisted and confused. You learned not to ask questions. The answers might hurt too much.

But now Terry wanted to know. He could escape back to London. He had a way out. This was the time to find out if anybody really cared about him, here in L.A.

When Terry opened the door to the coma room, he saw the doctor looking at Mitsuko's monitors. "How is she, Dr. Rodriguez?" Terry asked.

The balding doctor shook his head. "No change, Terry. I was hoping she would show some signs of improvement."

"It's been only a day, right? She has lots of time."

"Terry." The doctor hesitated. "I should tell you that we can't hold her for more than a week."

"What are you talking about?"

"I guess you've been away from the States for a while. This hospital limits coma patients to one week."

"What happens if she's not out of it by then?"

"You'll have to transfer her to another facility, maybe a subhospital."

"What are you talking about? She won't get the same kind of care there. If it's money you want—"

"I'm sorry, Terry. Let's just hope something will happen in the next couple of days." Dr. Rodriguez walked out the door.

Terry sat in the chair by Mitsuko's bed. "Come on, Mitsuko. It's me, Terry. Tadashi, remember." Terry hoped saying his middle name would lead to some response.

Mitsuko's eyes remained closed. She looked so helpless, but Terry remembered how gutsy she had been in the past. His father had forbade any musical instruments in the house, saying it was for sissies and drug addicts. He had even thrown away a guitar that he found hidden in the closet. But Mitsuko kept buying the used guitars, in spite of Harry's warnings.

Terry cleared his throat. "You know, I don't know anything about you. Just that you're from the side of Japan that snows. You never acted like you were sad, but you must have been, huh?" There was no answer from Mitsuko.

Terry stood up. He wasn't going to find out anything now.

Thank you, thank you." Terry's deep voice echoed throughout the stadium. The palms of people rippled like brown grass in the wind. Screaming and whistling filled the air. In the distance, large red flags with a black emblem were being waved back and forth.

Terry's face was flushed, and his whole body throbbed. He loved this. He had power over all of them. He could shape their thinking, whether they knew it or not.

"For my next and last song," the din increased, "I wanted to do a new song just for you."

"I love you, Terry." A blond teen-ager screamed near the stage, before being subdued by a security guard.

"It's called—'Processed Bride.' And it's dedicated to a friend, a special person in the hospital." The crowd roared again.

A spray of blue lights showered Terry as he picked up his guitar.

*Processed bride, processed bride
Why you come so far
Processed bride, processed bride
Looking for some love*

*The land is full of strangers
Soon she's slave of the nation
The land is full of promises
No where to be found*

*Processed bride, processed bride
Why you come so far
Processed bride, processed bride
Looking for some love*

*Your U.S. man never smiles
No one knows what you're thinking
Look at the bathroom mirror
Wonder who that is*

*Processed bride, processed bride
Why you come so far
Processed bride, processed bride
Looking for some love*

Tears and sweat were spilling from Terry's face. The people were on their feet, closely pressing against the stage. Out of the corner of his eye, Terry saw a flash of red.

He raised his guitar. "Thank you. Thank you again. And God bless." He ran off stage, followed by the rest of the band. "Fantastic," "great night," "good song," Terry heard the words, but only saw Mitsuko in his mind. Suddenly Saul stepped in front of him. "It's that lady again. She got backstage, and she's with some guy."

Barbara looked in shock. "They're out there. You have to leave now."

'What the hell—" Terry stared at the man next to her. His hair was thin and speckled with gray. Deep lines marked his fallow skin. "What the hell are you doing here?"

"We have no time." Barbara pulled at Terry's wet shirt.

Terry stood firm. "I don't know what you two are pulling, but I have an encore to do." The stadium was reverberating.

"You can't go out there." Barbara's eyes were glazed over with an opaque film.

Terry stared at Barbara and his father, together.

"What your mother's saying is that you're in danger," Harry finally spoke.

"You two planned this whole thing."

Barbara and Harry moved away from each other. "All this time," Terry continued, his eyes following his father. "When you left, you went to see her, didn't you?" Light rain began

to fall. "And what about Mitsuko? Did she even know?"

"Dammit, it was all for you." His father's voice began to rise. He turned away towards the locker room.

"Terry, there are dangerous people out there. Supremacists who want you to be quiet."

Terry remembered the red flags waving in the distance. "Hey, they're not going to kill me on stage."

"You don't know," Barbara began crying. "How could you know? I was the one who got the dead cats, the threats, the crosses. We cleaned up everything, kept you away from it all."

"What are you talking about?"

"They came after me. If I didn't stop my speeches . . ."

"What speeches, what's going on?" The drummer started hitting a beat.

Harry walked back and faced Terry. "Your mother spoke out, spoke out for new immigrants. Against the quotas. She got a lot of media attention. There were forces that feared that ordinary people would join Barbara. They knew how charismatic she could be."

"They're getting stronger now, more of a voice," said Barbara. "Some are even getting elected. They have a network to keep tabs on people. People like you."

"You're lying—both of you. You always have." Terry looked at his father. "And you never liked my music. You can't stand that I made it on my own."

"I don't understand you. I never really did." Harry's face was calm. "It's like your mother. Why did she have to speak out? But she had to. And I let her. But they took something away from her, dammit. And it never has come back."

"I don't believe you."

Harry continued. "I could tell you had a gift. It scared me. I didn't want your music to destroy you."

"Look at what they did to Mitsuko," Barbara suddenly blurted out.

Suddenly Terry grabbed his father's arm. "You don't think—"

Harry shook his head. "Mitsuko was mentioned in that Examiner article. Maybe some of the radical ones thought they could get to you through her."

"I don't know. I don't know about this, Dad."

"I married her so you would have a mother—a whole mother. So you would be safe." Harry reached out to Terry.

"Hey, Terry," Saul came from behind a curtain. "Kroner's yelling his pants off. He wants you on stage."

"I have to go," Terry said to his father.

"Don't. Don't." Barbara was sobbing.

"It's okay, Mom. I think I know the costs."

When Terry ran on stage, the crowd exploded like a giant firecracker. Maybe he could stay here in L.A. for a while. At least until Mitsuko got better. Terry picked up his guitar and faced the crowd. The red flags in the distance were closer now, much closer. As Terry started to sing, the flags unfurled in the wind. The lights above the stadium illuminated florescent beams through the flags, spreading a deep redness into the faces in the crowd. Terry sang louder. He wasn't scared. After all, this was his home.

Naomi Hirahara, formerly a reporter for the Rafu Shimpō in Los Angeles, is a freelance writer.

TUG OF A JAPANESE

Continued from Page B-1

sink, then sits back down.

"The one with the hippos is yours. I'll take the one with the cats. I don't know why I took the one with the cats. I hate them little beasties." Hank twists the cap off the bottle of Crown and offers a chance for a smell.

"It was definitely the martinis," says Susan.

"Hey, remember when we first met. You were working as a hostess for that goof-ball Japanese restaurant."

Susan laughs as Hank splashes a quarter cup for her and himself.

"I couldn't believe those sushi guys wearing those ten gallon hats and cowboy boots, and that confederate flag," he says. "I swear, remember the stuffed snakes and the buffalo head? I'm surprised they didn't start whistling Dixie."

"Yeah, it was a bit much . . ."

"I mean, give me a break. America is great and everything, but come on. What ever happened to pride in your heritage and all that. Those sushi guys looked like they came out of Lite beer commercial. The only thing missing was Rodney Dangerfield saying 'Sayonara.'"

"Come on Hank. You're being a bit sensitive, aren't you?"

"Sensitive!? Why should being Japanese take a back seat to being American? I don't like seeing all those Japanese jokes. Did you see the new line of Japanese joke books? It's like the cool thing to do. And what's worse are those Japanese suckers who don't care."

Susan rolls her eyes back into her head.

"Hank, you're falling behind."

"Okay, so I'm sensitive. But it's healthy. It keeps the blood circulating and my grey matter happy."

Hank cocks his head back, taking the last drop of Canadian whisky. Picking up the bottle of Crown, he pours a half cup for each.

Susan nods her head with approval.

"Thanks."

"So do you get my point . . . ?"

"Oh, I understand what you're saying. I just think you're a bit extreme."

"Sensitive, okay, but the last thing I am is extreme."

"Then why are we drinking on the bathroom floor?"

"So I'm a little extreme. It's good to be extreme now and then. It keeps you young and rehabilitates any grey matter that may have been lost during the '60s."

"If you have to rehabilitate anything, the '60s were too good to you, so stop making me jealous."

"Okay."

"Hey. All of a sudden, I remember all those big dinners they had when the last bunch of pre-World War Issei passed away. And the Hiroshima walk on Washington after we dropped the bomb. Too bad about Nisei Week, but there's Asian Week . . ."

"I'm not talking about those things. I'm talking about how people just point to

Japanese food or buildings or gardens and say that's what being Japanese is about. It's sick."

"But sweetheart, we're in America."

"What does that have anything to do with being Japanese American?"

"It's just that times change and so do people."

"You know what I hate about you? You're so middle of the road."

"I'm Japanese. I can't help it."

Hank laughs and looks at his watch. "Rats. It's 12:01. We missed New Years."

"Well, you can still kiss me just the same."

Hank bends down to put his cup on the floor. He kisses her full on the lips. "Happy Year 2000."

"You too. Oh, and honey?"

"Yes."

"Don't get mad."

On New Years? No way."

"Your mole is showing."

Jimmy Tokeshi, 25, is JACL's PSWDC youth representative.

BIRD PINES

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laughing, giving Jin a hug.

This time we all laugh. We are on the downhill side, heading home, and the engine no longer labors.

(Epilogue: With the exception of Cubby—who, in 1943, volunteered out of Poston to show up in Shelby all gung ho, go for broke and every bit a dumbassed rookie eager for the piece of shrapnel that would find his gut—that was the last time I saw any of the old gang. The following Wednesday, I went to San Francisco where I was hired as a reporter by an ethnic newspaper. I passed by Torrey Pines and that virginal beach on three more visits to San Diego. The first to pick up clothes

and scant belongings to make my move permanent. Two years later, for Pop's funeral. The last time was late dusk, the day after Thanksgiving 1941. On my way back from furlough, I was in the cab of a semi I'd hitched south of the river. It was too dark to see anything.

The driver had said something like, "Too bad we didn't come by here an hour earlier. The view at sunset is really great."

I most likely took out a pack of Luckys, offered him one, lit my own. "Yeah, I know," I probably replied.)

Vincent Tajiri is a retired photo editor of Playboy magazine. He currently resides in Van Nuys, California. His older brother Larry was a former editor of the Pacific Citizen.

RETURN OF MOMOTARO

Continued from Page B-5

place in the balanced world. Gambatte!" With that, Momotaro gave everyone white scarfs to wrap around their necks, which the dog and monkey and pheasant slowly put on with great reservation.

The pheasant took off first and flew over the fort walls and began to attack the heads of the Ogres, better known as CEO's. From the air he dropped lawsuits and leaflets and launched non-violent protests that exploded into full scale media events.

The Ogres countered with their crack troops called public relations specialists. They refused to take heed of the pheasant's attacks and shouted back their battle cry: "Profits, profits, the profits shall inherit the earth!"

Meanwhile, the monkey slipped into the fort and opened the gate. He also attacked the Ogres where it hurt the most, in their pocketbooks. The monkey ran shouting, "Demand good tasting produce! Ask your grocer, 'whatever happened to those juicy peaches?' Hit 'em with your dollars, make demands!"

The Ogres shuddered with these words. Magically from the sky fell a supply side economic curve and knocked down the front lines of the Ogres.

"Yes, we have power!" shouted the monkey. "We demand to know more about our foods."

Suddenly through the air flew a tree-ripened peach. It landed atop the Ogres and exploded with a fresh aroma and taste that captivated them. They began surrendering to their primal senses and soon good taste was awakened in them. A bunch of juicy grapes flew through the air, slightly amber but heavy with natural sweetness. These too crashed on the Ogres

and they stopped fighting.

Of course, the spotted dog was launching these bombs. Natural goodness was the greatest weapon he had. He continued with a barrage of oranges and fresh strawberries and tender asparagus that melted in your mouth. The aroma and fragrance of the fruit and vegetables energized the monkey and pheasant even more and they forged onward with renewed vigor.

In a last ditch effort, the Ogres unveiled their ultimate weapon: chemical warfare. They aimed MSG missiles at the pheasant and uncovered a vat of gibberellic acid that they would pour on the monkey and prepared to launch a cloud of sulfur dioxide gas that would drift over the dog and his fresh produce. These were doomsday weapons and the dog, monkey and pheasant halted their attack.

Momotaro stepped onto the battleground and raised his sword. He pointed it to the gods of morality and said, "By the power in me, I stop this violence. We farmers of the world appeal to your moral convictions and sense of justice."

"We do not come here to conquer. We come only to educate you and carve a niche in the marketplace. We seek a right and just home for our produce. If you do not believe in the dignity of our art and profession, then you many destroy us now."

With that, he laid down his sword and motioned to the dog to hold onto his peaches and the monkey to cease attacking the pocketbooks and the pheasant to drop the lawsuits.

From high above, the single beam of light shot out of the clouds. It struck the Ogres and their color changed from green and instead became a rainbow. The Ogres

themselves began shaking and a cloud of dust engulfed them. They began to crumble and a panic swept through them like Black Monday.

From the heavens a voice called forth, "Momotaro, you family farmers will have a place on earth. Farming is not just a business, food is more than a commodity. Thank you, Momotaro, for reminding us of this."

With that, treasures of gold and silver and lottery tickets came raining down upon all of them. They quickly gathered them up and returned to Momotaro's home. They would be rich now with the knowledge they had shared with the world and Momotaro wanted to repay his parents for all the love they had given him.

But when he entered his house, he found a message on the telephone answering machine. His father and mother said: "Momotaro, we have heard of your great victory over the Ogres. We are indeed very proud of you and your treasures."

"But Momotaro, we are growing old. You know what they say, 'You can't take it with you.' We have taken a turn-around bus trip to Reno and for next weekend we have an overnighiter for Vegas. We'll talk when we get home."

Momotaro smiled and laughed with his newfound friends, the spotted dog, monkey and pheasant.

David Mas Masumoto was the recipient of the American Japanese National Literary Award for 1986. He is the author of Silent Strength, a collection of short stories, and Country Voices. Currently, he resides in Del Rey, California.

Happy New Year

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SHIMOURA, Jim/Toshi24753 Mulberry, Southfield 48034
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SUGIYAMA, Herbert/Yoshiko14727 College, Allen Park 48101
SUNAMOTO, Isao/Hifumi5191 Lumley, Detroit 48210
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TESHIMA, Dr JohnPO Box 575, Southfield 48037
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USHIRO, Yoshio/Jean19658 Hardy, Livonia 48152
WATANABE, Frank/Margaret; Keri30420 Lyndon, Livonia 48154
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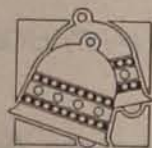
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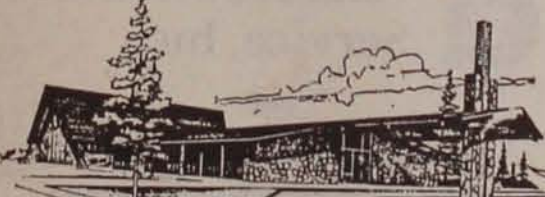
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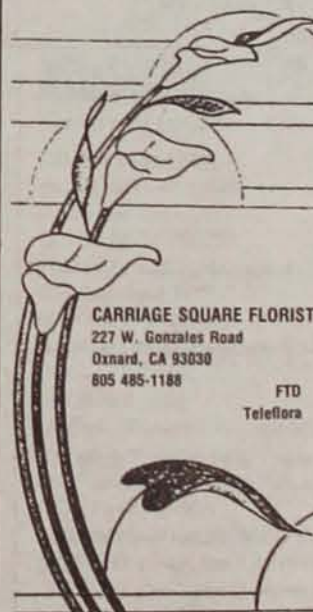
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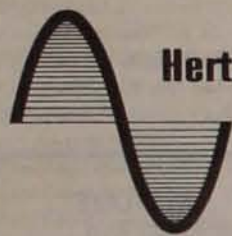
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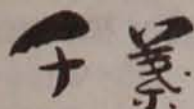
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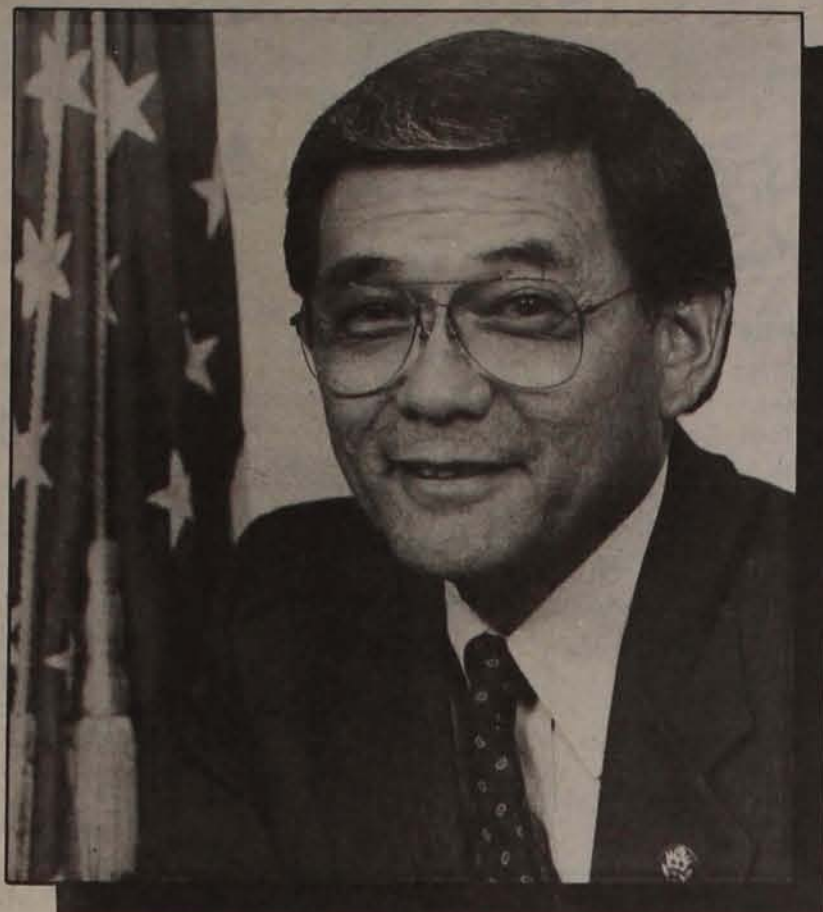
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A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

from the New Mexico JACL Chapter

Heavenly Father, we call you by many names, The Enlightened One, Allah, Jesus. During this holy season we thank you for all the gifts you have given us, for our brothers and sisters who are white, black, brown, red and yellow, many of whom were compassionate and understanding in our times of travail.

We pray that when we suffer from the actions of the few who would dislike us because of our ancestry, you will not let us forget the many who judge us on the content of our hearts and souls. We pray that you will give us the courage to confront and expel the prejudice and selfishness that lies in our own hearts, and replace it with love and understanding for all people. Amen.

Feliz Navidad



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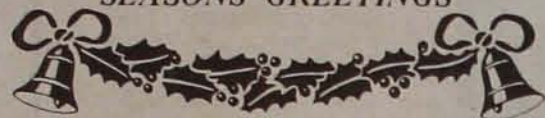
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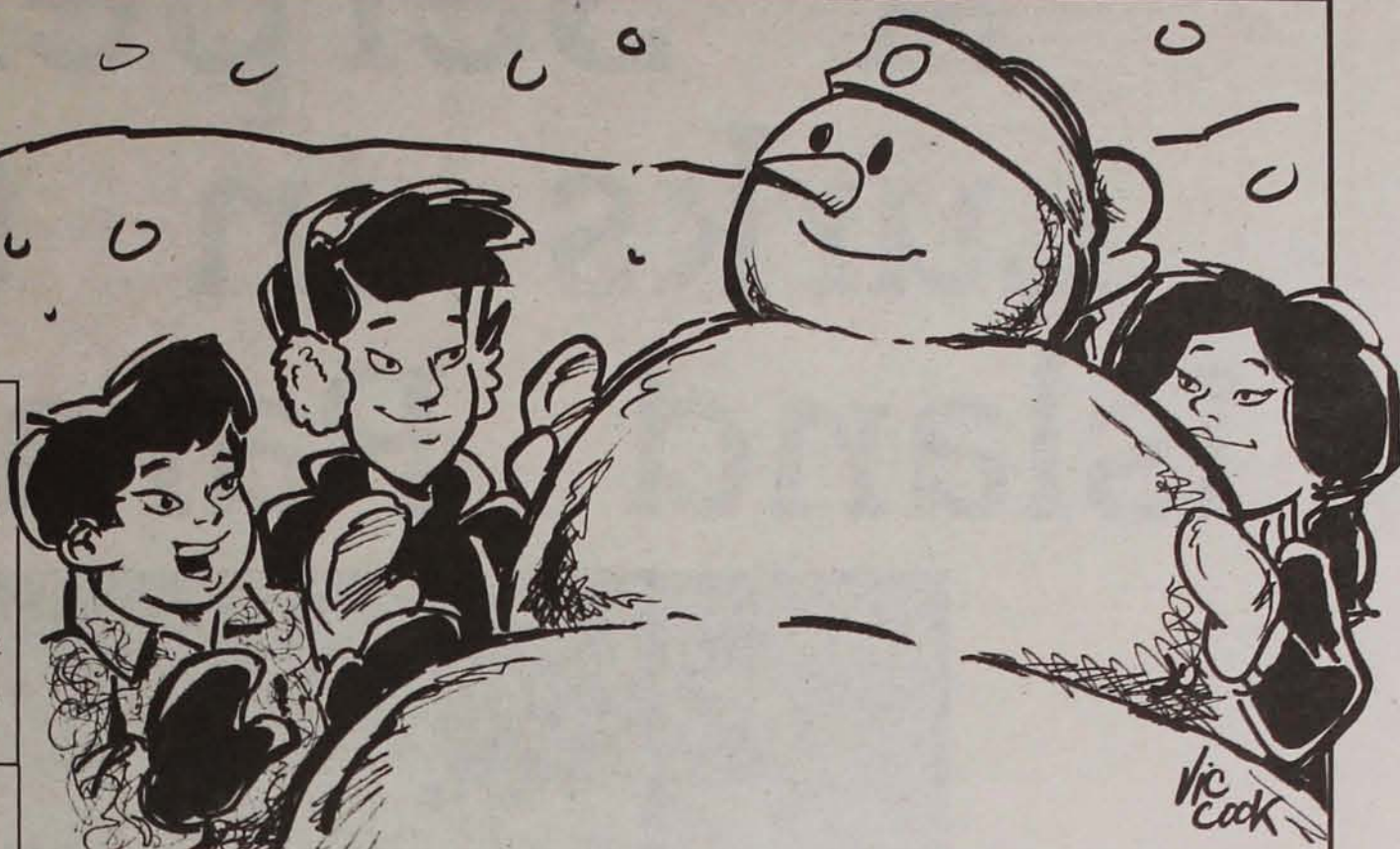
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A Serpent Lurks in the Island Paradise



State Capitol, Honolulu. Though only 23 percent of the population, the Nikkei hold 40 percent of the elective offices.

By Allan Beekman
(Photos of Hawaii by Author)

My view of what the situation of the Nikkei of Hawaii may be in the year 2000 is conditioned by a residence of more than a half-century in Honolulu, the capital of the islands, and my observation of them throughout this period. I have seen them go from the bottom to the top of the social and economic heap, in many cases in a single generation. So in my prognostications I concede their drive to succeed and balance it against the forces I see that oppose it.

Fifty years ago the chief industry of Hawaii was sugar; the social system of the islands derived from it. The planters needed labor to cultivate the plantations and had sought it abroad, importing it from China, Korea, the Philippines, Portugal and Japan. The planters strove to keep labor from uniting for more pay and better working conditions by playing the national groups against each other.

In order to communicate easily with the residents, the newcomer, then as now, needed to spend time and effort learning the thieves' cant of official Hawaii.

The aboriginal tongue was in decline, but it had bequeathed words to daily speech that still find currency. Thus, the Caucasians, except those of Portuguese ancestry, were

known as *haoles*. The aborigines classified themselves as Hawaiians and were so classified by the *haoles*, though most aborigines had become Hawaiian only after being subjugated by Kamehameha, chief of the island of Hawaii, beginning in 1795.

A person of undiluted aboriginal ancestry was classified as "pure Hawaiian", the diluted as "part Hawaiian." By implication this classification made all others "no-part Hawaiian," even though locally born and bred. The *haoles* too were thus stigmatized, but in control of the educational system and organs of propaganda. They bore the stigma with fortitude—swaggered it off—by comparing their status with that of their underlings.

Nikkei Listed 'Japanese'

Even the locally-born Nikkei, for instance, were registered in the public schools as of Japanese nationality. Consequently, they were not only no-part Hawaiian but identified as if of foreign nationality. This is in contrast to the *haoles*, whose Americanism was unquestioned despite what they had done to Hawaii.

The effectiveness of the local indoctrination was such that no evidence exists of a Nikkei ever protesting the stigmatization despite the hardship it brought him or her.

When Japan invaded China in July 1937, community resentment against the Nikkei spilled over into help-wanted ads in the classified section of the English language dailies, stipulating "No Japanese need apply."

The rejection reached a crescendo when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor.

A movement arose to segregate and intern the Nikkei on the island of Molokai where, in the words of Frank Knox, secretary of the Navy, "they can be made to work for their living and produce much of their own food. . ."

John A. Balch, chairman of the board of Mutual Telephone, Honolulu, thought that such treatment fell short of the requirements; he advocated exiling them from Hawaii permanently. Though these sinister plans failed realization, the Nikkei fell afoul of another obstacle.

Photograph on Badge

The Hawaii of that time was an armed camp, with access to the industry within it requiring official approval and a pass manifested in a badge with a photograph of the wearer. Many Nikkei failed to qualify. On the face of the badge of those who did was inscribed "restricted," so that the wearer was somewhat in the position of the Jews and alleged Jews in Nazi-occupied Europe who were compelled to wear the Star of David to mark them for ostracism.

Hatred of the Nikkei was fostered by news of Japanese atrocities in the war zones carried side by side with news of the local Japanese. This encouraged evasiveness among the Nikkei; some solved the problem, at least to their own satisfaction, by identifying the enemy as Japs—100 million of them—a disinherited branch of the Japanese living in

Hawaii.

Sympathizing with the semantic plight of the Nikkei, many of whom subscribed to his paper, the editor of the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* identified the locally born Nikkei as AJA's (Americans of Japanese Ancestry), a handy term for headlines in a press plagued by paper shortage. It also rendered the Nikkei no worse than alloyed Americans, though they continued to be no-part Hawaiian. Use of the AJA acronym somewhat ameliorated the effect of the Japanese atrocity stories, though it would be a long time before the term gained general currency.

Nikkei Better Off

The Nikkei bore the affronts and discrimination with dignity. And since most were barred from earning the flood of war-money that flowed in Hawaii, many contented themselves with jobs in the private sector or with furthering their educations so that when peace broke out, and those who had used war for income were dropped from the payrolls, the Nikkei were better established in the community than they had been in the first place.

Many of the returning Nikkei veterans, having performed with distinction in the armed services, took advantage of the GI Bill of Rights to get a higher education that previously might otherwise have been beyond their reach. They quickly ascended into the professions and other places of social status and influence. Other Nikkei went into business or government service. Success being the norm, they became an economic factor to be reckoned with.

Money talks. The community adjusted to the new Nikkei language of affluence. Nikkei salesmen came into demand. The pendulum swung so much in the favor of the Nikkei that in the '50s, the help-wanted ads tended to stipulate "Japanese preferred."

A *haole* applying for a job might be told with a sneer, "We hire only Japanese." The prospect of foreigners displacing Americans in a community at least technically American raised such indignation that the legislature was constrained to pass legislation prohibiting such ads. Nevertheless, when an employer phoned in a request to the Government Employment office, the recipient of the call would ask, "What nationality?"

Nikkei in Politics

The Nikkei were on the rise in the political field as well. Under territorial status, Hawaii had a governor appointed from Washington,

Nikkei were elected to office. However, with the Issei barred from citizenship and the ballot, and the locally-born just beginning to come of age, the Nikkei were considered a negligible political factor. During the war, all Nikkei stopped seeking political office for fear of exacerbating the rampant anti-Japanese sentiment. For some time afterwards, they were represented by only a single member in the Legislature.

Determined to alter this situation, the returning Nikkei veterans became active in the Democratic party. In the Democratic revolution of 1954, the Democrats seized control of the legislature for the first time in 54 years.

Statehood was granted Hawaii in 1959, and with it the right to full representation in Congress and the right to elect the governor. In due time the bugaboo of those opposing statehood came to pass: a "Japanese" governor presided over the Capitol.

The two senators from Hawaii are Nikkei and so is one of the two members of the House of Representatives.

If we exclude the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, in the election of whose officers those identified as no-part Hawaii are disbarred from voting, the Nikkei hold 40% of the elective offices. This though they constitute



Honolulu Mayor Frank Fasi and his wife leave Kawaiahao Church following services preliminary to a tree-lighting ceremony, Dec. 12, 1985.

only 23% of the population and though the political fervor of the '50s has subsided somewhat. And not only are most of these Nikkei office holders married to Nikkei, which, in a way, increases their political influence, so are some of the non-Nikkei office holders. These include the present governor, John D. Waihee III, and the mayor of Honolulu, the boundaries of which encompass the entire island of Oahu; likewise, the mayor of the island of Maui.

Postwar Rise of Tourism

A peculiarity of the postwar economy has been the shift from sugar as the main industry. Before the war, tourists tended to be wealthy mainlanders who arrived by ship. The postwar shift to air travel has brought hordes of middle-income tourists.

The affluent, postwar society of Japan, especially with the appreciation of its yen against the dollar, has brought great numbers from Japan. The Japanese tourist comes well supplied with money and with the custom of being expected to distribute gifts when returning home. He spends four times as much as the tourist from the mainland.

Some local Nikkei, with varying degrees of qualification for the post, serve as tour drivers for these Japanese tourists, or work in positions where they can capitalize on this lucrative market.

Among the tourists have been Japanese entrepreneurs who have found in Hawaii a means of using their surplus dollars. Real estate prices are high here by mainland standards but low by the standards of Tokyo. Consequently, the Japanese have bought up golf courses and hotels and invested in various businesses.



Senator Daniel K. Inouye

Ala Moana Shopping Center

One of the most striking signs of this Japanese investment to the average resident is the Ala Moana Shopping Center, which just about everyone in Honolulu uses. Ala Moana (Ocean Street) was built on what in early postwar days were still duck ponds and dumping grounds. It is today among the 50 largest shopping centers in the world and the largest open mall shopping center. It comprises 50 acres, with 1,500,000 square feet gross leasable area and 180 stores. It opened in 1959 and has more visitors than Disneyland—over 37 million a year. Here the local residents mingle with swarms of tourists.

In 1983, the Japanese firm of Daiei Hawaii Investments purchased 60% of the shopping center; Equitable Life Assurance owns the other 40%. Outwardly there has been no great change since Daiei took over the center except for the increased number of Japanese tourists that might have come about anyway. But the informed take notice of the growing influence of Japan in Hawaii and the increased prestige of the Japanese language, no longer the speech of an unfranchised laboring class but of powerful financial tycoons.

The influence of the Japanese language is not only apparent in the speech of the visiting Japanese and those who reside here but in the store windows of the more enterprising merchants who inform the shoppers that Japanese is spoken within. And it is not only the spoken language that is apparent, but the written too, which will probably cut a greater figure.

Probably it is much cheaper to publish Japanese works in Hawaii than in Japan. Consequently, among the Japanese industries springing up here, we may expect publishing to take a preeminent place, which will mean more persons coming from Japan to share in this industry and more prestige for the Japanese language.

Local Nikkei Posture

Where do the local Nikkei who insist on being identified as Japanese fit into this picture? When the war ended, many had flocked to join such organizations as the Honolulu Jr. Japanese Chamber of Commerce (Nihonjin Shōkō Kaigisho). One wonders if they could have foreseen this situation.

Most of the Issei have passed from the scene. The Nisei, too, tend to be elderly. The newcomer Japanese [shin-Issei] tends to be a highly educated person who would probably define a Japanese as one who speaks Japanese as his mother tongue, reads and writes it with facility, is steeped in Japanese culture and conversant with the literature, the arts, history and geography of the country and is

Continued on Page A-43



Senator Spark M. Matsunaga

but elected its own legislature, city and county officers. Beginning in the '30s, a few

The AJAs in the 21st Century

By Barry Saiki

In about a dozen years, the 20th century will ultimately end, leaving behind a brilliant and creative record. Humanity will also inherit a frightening future, as long as the threat of nuclear war remains unresolved.

Clearly, the 20th century has seen the greatest progress in all scientific and technological fields; for, it fostered and widely dispersed the fruits of evolutionary advances in many areas of human endeavors. It brought the family autos, refrigerators, air conditioners, new construction materials; new serums, biotics, laser surgery and improved health care; diodes, transistors, semiconductors, word processors and computers; airplanes, helicopters, jets, international airlines, satellites and space explorations; video, fiber optics, faxes, copies and robotics.

It also harnessed the atom and hydrogen energies and created missiles and nuclear warheads. While the atomic power plants have produced cheaper energy reducing the use of fossil fuels, the problem of nuclear waste disposal remains in limbo even as we produce more radioactive wastes. Can atomic wastes be neutralized by new concepts in applied nuclear physics? Surely, the scientists who find the means to neutralize the deadly half lives will earn Nobel prizes, along with the successful researchers in cancer and AIDS.

Amidst the profusion of facts, activities, events and key achievements of the 20th century, the cosmos of the Nikkei society is but a small iota. It is important only to those of us who were directly or somewhat involved. The 20th century happened to be the time frame of the AJAs in the United States.

It started humbly with the gradual inflow of Japanese immigrants to Hawaii and the West Coast until the total stoppage in 1924. The 1920s and 1930s saw the growth of Nisei culture in the Nihonmachi and the farming areas.

That culture was both American and Japanese, with the ethnicity being largely molded by the racial bias that pervaded the coastal states. In Hawaii, it was the vested land interests that inhibited the faster development of economic and political strength.

World War 2 and the evacuation were the calculated results of the anti-Orientalism bred and nurtured on the West Coast by various self-seeking groups. The trials of the war years were redeemed: by those who bided patiently for the restitution of their constitutional rights, by Nisei soldiers who fought in both Europe and the Pacific, by individuals who contested the legalities of the evacuation, by Tule Lake dissidents who felt disinherited on moral and other grounds and by those who resettled in the Midwest and East in order to build new futures in the United States.

In the postwar 1950s and 1960s, as the fences of the enclaves were removed, there came the era of emancipation, with the elimination of restrictions on residences, marriages, citizenships and job opportunities. It took the full 20 years of these decades to cast off the last vestiges of anti-alien laws and covenants, with the last

being removed during the civil rights period of the 1960s.

The 1970s and 1980s brought the fulfillment of middle class living. The Sansei and Yonsei came of age, largely unaffected by the earlier years of prejudice. The once inviolate taboo of intermarriage was breached, as more than 50 per cent of the Nikkei married Americans of other ethnic stock. The war brides were the first echelons. Less concerned or conscious of their ethnic backgrounds, these later generations have moved into the typical American life stream.

As we go into the 1990s and the 21st century, some may be concerned about the future of the AJAs. Objectively, the melding of the Nikkei into the American melting pot is an inevitable outcome.

Some JACLers may fear that the AJAs will disappear as an identifiable group in the 21st century and that the organization will only be retained by those who maintain ethnic marriages, Japanese family names and cultural interests, to include traditional arts, crafts and sports. After all, the fourth and fifth generations have become fully American and tend to form their concepts of Japan from the U.S. news reports and articles, which are scanty and often misinformed.

Will this mean the end of JACL and the Pacific Citizen? Or is there a continuing need for these to serve as instruments to surveil and to protect the rights of the ethnically identified Japanese Americans.

The answer is absolutely yes. While those who are interested in JACL for its present programs and activities may decrease, the basic needs for both will continue to exist. That is, as long as the seeds of discrimination remain entrenched in the minds of some bigoted sectors of the American public.

The 1980 census revealed that there were more than 700,000 persons of Japanese ethnic descent. These include an estimated 200,000 newly immigrated Japanese: the war brides, the quota immigrants, the commercial and student entrants and expatriates. While it took three generations for the prewar Nikkei to become classified as full-fledged Americans, the newcomers can be assimilated within their lifetimes in the less discriminatory environment of today. Yet, these Nikkei need the JACL even more than the prewar descendants.

Once redress has been successfully concluded, the JACL and Pacific Citizen should consider expanding their horizons into two areas: the enhancement of U.S.-Japan relations and building a viable cooperation with other Asian minorities which are faced with the same problems caused by ethnicity.

As long as the Nikkei and the Asians retain semblances of their racial origin in appearance and in names, there will recur the question of discrimination. In this respect, all Asians are no different than the Jews, who remain organized and ready to challenge biases of racial discrimination.

Without a reputable organization to represent the interest of the minorities, the voice of the individual can carry no weight in terms of legislative and political actions.

The Dream

*I helped my naked
and scarred mother into the
tepid bath of
water.*

*Her limbs weak: a skin
skeleton: muscle and breasts
hung*

*like strung out dough on
racks. Legs bloated with fluid.
Her once aromatic
hair dyed dead to uphold
a pretense of youth. Scars of*

*past operations
stitched her body with an
abstract of pain and
long standing suffering.*

*I called
her "okiyakusan" as she*

*had called me while
washing her child. We laughed. She
playfully splashed me.
I scrubbed her back noting the
pronounced widow's curve of age.*

*Gravity pulled her
down toward the elements
of her beginnings.
She looked at me with empty
mucus webbed eyes and in a*

*moment of clarity
told me of her dream.*

*"I
was a little girl
sleeping in a field of wind
and grass near Genyo, above
the stream where little sister
drowned
so many years ago.
I could smell mandarin oranges, so sweet.
The rain woke me gently, like
okasan's soft voice.*

*My eyes opened slowly.
I could see. I could see right
across the field, through the mountains
across the field, through the mountains
and beyond.*

*But then I awoke. I am still blind."
I held her tight and
I felt her spirit crying.*

*She's gone now. Bathing
is no longer love or care.
I cannot see as clearly*

*as my mother, but
I do pray that dreams can come
true.*

Dreams can come true.

—T. Wada
April, 1985.

Pacific Citizen is well named and should become the key media that upholds the rights of all minority groups from the Pacific areas. The JACL in turn should seek firmer coordination with other Asian minorities, be they interested groups or individuals. Only then, can the heritage of the Nikkei in the 20th century continue to blossom on into the 21st century.

Barry Saiki, a retired army officer, works for a public relations firm in Japan. He was one of the early editors of the camp newspaper in Rohwer, Arkansas and hails from Stockton, California.

BEEKMAN

Continued from Page A-41

loyal to the institutions of Japan, including the emperor. Such a definition renders ludicrous the identifications of the local Nikkei as Japanese.

But if, on the one hand, the Nikkei who identify themselves as Japanese become an object of ridicule to the informed, they become an object of obloquy to the uninformed. To the uninformed, the Japanese seemed fairly harmless when they toiled as unskilled laborers on the plantations. The situation is completely different when they are running the government, presiding over the courts and buying up choice property. The anguish caused by this situation, which the carefully controlled press occasionally permits to find expression in its letters to the editor column, need not cause rejoicing.

As one Nikkei remarked, "We seem to have replaced the *haoles* as whipping boy."

Nikkei Situation Worsening

The *haole* is blamed for the ills that beset the community, and for at least some of which he is responsible, could bear up under the flagellation. Now that his despicable no-

part Hawaiian status is exposed to the scrutiny of the world he may be relieved to shift much of the burden on to the Nikkei.

The Nikkei is in a much worse situation. Truly the horizons of at least some have widened from education in the mainland and tours abroad. The more progressive have come to realize that the problems of the mainland Nikkei concern them too.

But when I hear one remark on the ignorance of the mainlander who, on being told he is being addressed by a Japanese, compliments the speaker on her command of English, I am reminded of the small boy observing an older brother on parade and crying out, "Look, they are all out of step but Johnny!"

And when one gleefully remarks that the *haoles* are jealous, as many of them are, I reflect on how much harm the jealous can cause.

Jealousy Gone Wrong

I am reminded of a humble German soldier who before WW2 lived in the List Regiment barracks in Munich, occupied with a make-work project inspecting gas masks to keep himself from starving. He was an ignorant

man who had served all through the war and never risen above the rank of corporal.

He had seen the old Germany perish to be replaced by the new Weimar Republic. He saw Jews, and persons he fancied as Jews, in positions of power and was jealous. His name was Adolf Hitler. The time would come when he would be able to give expression to his jealousy with terrible consequences to those who had provoked it.

We live in a nationalistic, xenophobic world. Within our own nation, we must live in harmony. We cannot do so by identifying ourselves as of foreign nationality and flaunting that identification on every possible occasion.

When I speculate on what may be the situation of the Nikkei in Hawaii in the year 2000, my pessimism is only leavened by the hope that some charismatic character may arise among them to lead them out of the wilderness.

Allan Beekman, author of Hawaiian Tales and The Niihau Incident, has contributed to the P.C. holiday issue since the 1940s. He also supplies the P.C. with news from Hawaii.

HOSOKAWA

Continued from Page A-25

A particularly urgent service is care and assistance for the elderly, a rapidly growing segment of our population. I think it is accurate to say that the Nisei as a whole have been frugal and provident, despite the economic setback of the Evacuation, and are capable of looking after themselves in their sunset years. For them, expansion of programs to help prepare for that time is essential. But inevitably there are, and will be, those who need help beyond that available through community agencies, a special kind of help to add comfort and richness to what remains of their lives. It is not in our culture to leave them to the mercy of impersonal social service agencies. So that is one of the programs with which JACL will be deeply involved in 1992.

A second is cultural awareness. Younger JACLers may be surprised to hear that many Nisei in their youth were anxious to deny their cultural heritage. It was tough being a Japanese American. Even the schools encouraged the offspring of recent immigration groups to scorn their roots in favor of a homogenous America. Later, during the period of rising political tensions between the United States and Japan that led to war, some accepted the false thesis that to be interested in anything Japanese was, somehow, being disloyal to the United States.

Today we understand America's strength is in its cultural diversity. We are confident enough of our status as Americans to know that interest in a foreign culture is not a sign of disloyalty to our own. But already we have lost touch with the strengths and beauty and certain ethical concepts that have helped to make Japan admirable. So I think that five years hence we will be involved much more than now in promoting appreciation of our cultural roots.

A related service would involve programs for young people of Sansei and subsequent generations, many of whom are of mixed heritage. Confused about their identity, searching for a niche in society, some are groping. They have much to contribute, and

we will be the poorer if we do not tap their resources.

Five years from now, in keeping with the change in JACL's mission from advocacy to vigilant surveillance, I see a substantial revision in the national organization's structure. Surveillance is less exciting than advocacy. Membership is likely to be more difficult to maintain. This is a trend already under way. It may become more difficult to sustain the kind of headquarters infrastructure that now serves the organization. I would not be surprised to see a reduction in the size and functions of the national office, a stronger presence in Washington, and a greater role for regional offices in providing services of more local concern.

A logical question at this point is this: How will the outcome of the Redress campaign affect the future of JACL?

I believe what is perceived to be the "success" or the "failure" of Redress will not alter the course of JACL, but only affect the speed at which it progresses on that course, which is toward a smaller, leaner organization.

If JACL achieves every Redress objective, I fear membership is likely to decline because of the perception that there are no more dramatic and significant goals to seek, no more dragons to slay.

On the other hand, if the Redress campaign falls short in any significant manner, the unfair, vicious and familiar cries about JACL having sold the community down the river will be heard again with adverse results on membership. Some people have long and unforgiving memories; 45 years after the Evacuation JACL is still being criticized, wrongly I believe, for its decisions in 1942.

So either way, the organization has some intense planning to do if it is to remain viable.

Now let me turn to Pacific Citizen, possibly the most visible part of JACL. Like most other publications, P.C. is faced by ever increasing costs. Today it costs more to edit, print, distribute, and maintain this newspaper than it takes in from advertising and subscription fees. It cannot

Without P.C., the organization would find it substantially more difficult to maintain membership.

What should be the future of P.C.? What will it be five years from now?

There are several possible courses. One is to change Pacific Citizen from a newspaper that tries to be of interest to all Japanese Americans, which it is now, and make it a smaller and less expensive membership publication. But this flies in the face of the fact that P.C. is an incentive for joining JACL.

Another course is to raise National JACL dues, which include a P.C. subscription, to the point where enough funds can be provided to meet the deficits in P.C.'s budget. However, consider that many members find JACL's dues structure to be excessively high already.

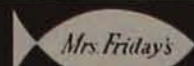
What is the solution? There is only one: To make Pacific Citizen such a vital, interesting, indispensable publication that no Japanese American would want to be without it. Only then does it have a chance to become self-sustaining. But that is easier said than done, and reaching that high plateau will be expensive in the early stages.

Before the next five years are up, JACL's membership must determine what it wants to do with its publication, the medium that holds its membership together. The P.C. dilemma has been with the organization for at least three decades. We've blundered along without settling anything, and perhaps the solution is simply more of the same. Unhappily, nothing in my experience suggests a viable solution will be reached by 1992.

Let me conclude with at least one happy thought. I believe that in the next five years JACL's membership will become more confident of the goals it aspires to, more sure of itself, more assertive and therefore more productive. It will be a leaner, more agile, more effective organization. Of one thing I am confident: For the span of the next five years, and probably for many more after that, it will continue to be a necessary organization.

(Editor's Note: This article is adapted from the keynote address delivered by Bill Hosokawa at the Tri-District JACL convention in Denver on Aug. 6, 1987.)

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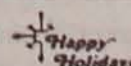
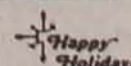
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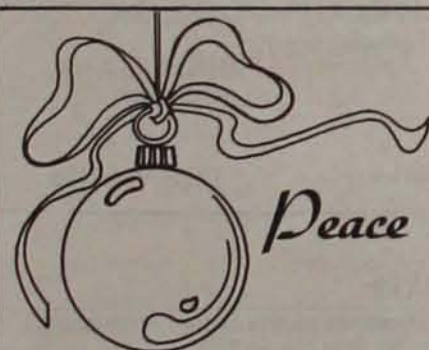
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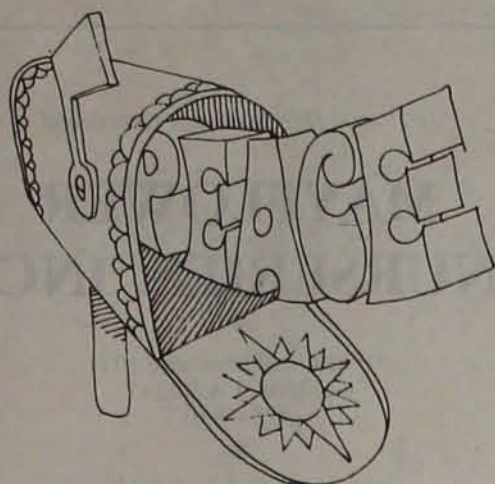
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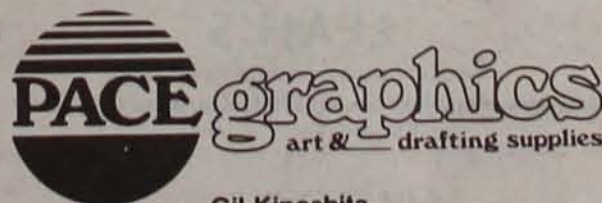
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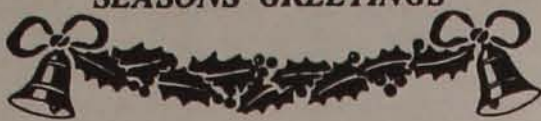
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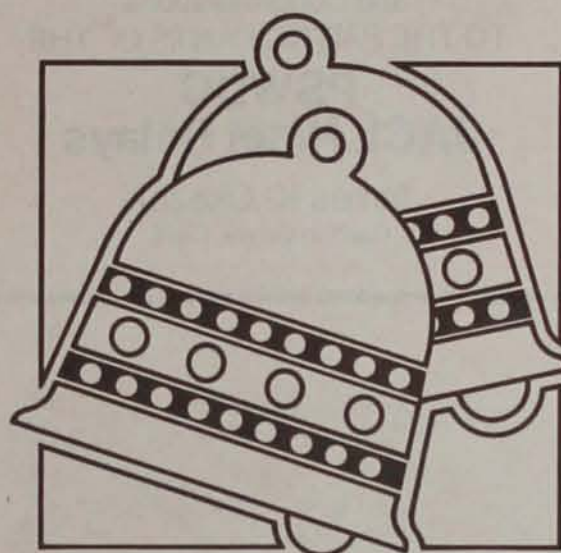
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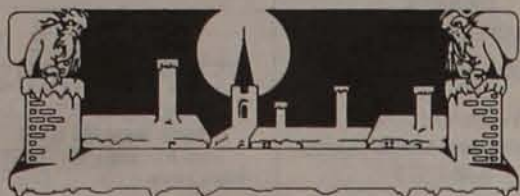
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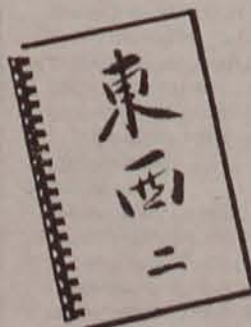
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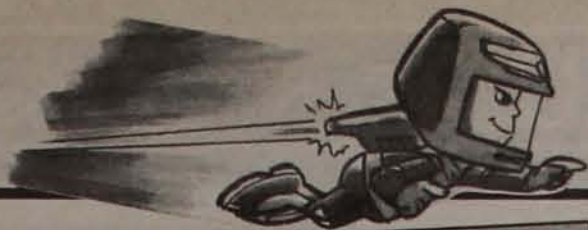
The PC People Who Count

This is a continuation of a tradition started in 1978 with respect to JACLers who help make possible this mammoth Holiday Issue — the "PC People Who Count" — the chapter officers, members, volunteers and specially designated PC Holiday Issue representatives. This is our way of thanking them for their "come through" spirit for the Pacific Citizen.

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The children at Maryknoll were asked to give their insight as to what the future would look like in the 23rd century. I was especially pleased to find that most of the world's problems were solved and that the Christian Churches will be united. I hope the readers will find their writings just as enlightening as I did.

For the reader's insight, this was a voluntary assignment for the students. It is in no way a literary masterpiece, but the heartfelt thoughts of elementary school children.

—Richard Imon
Maryknoll School Religious Ed.

A Cleaner World

Kullen Ozaki
Grade 5

"In the future at Maryknoll, I think it will be a much cleaner, safer place. On field trips, the school bus can warp to any planet we want. Instead of papers, it will be computers; we can store erasers, pens, etc . . .

"The teachers will be robots [and] store everything that humans know."



No Pollution

Yuko Kato
Grade 4

"I think the future will look very different, and a little bit more non-complicated. There might be sliding doors that go up and down or side to side in houses, buildings, offices, etc. . . .

"There can also be cars, trucks, and motorcycles that don't use gasoline so they don't pollute the air."



A Bigger Church

Shiori Sugawara
Grade 5

"I think that the Maryknoll Church will be bigger than the one now. Maybe the priest would wear the vestments only on lent. And maybe there would be more than 3 altar boys. And maybe the school will be up to high school level."



New School Uniforms

Hiroshi Yamauchi
Grade 6

"I think in that in the year 2000, the students in Maryknoll School will change. There may be Japanese, Chinese, Koreans and Filipinos . . .

"Perhaps in the year 2000, student uniforms at Maryknoll School will change. They will have white with stripes on the shirt. Their pants will have a stripe with red numbers to find the students . . . When you lose something you will have to go in the lost and found. Each morning everybody will gather up and then announce a lost jacket. If it is nobody's, the school will see or give it to the poor people."



Easier World

Christy Kamimura
Grade 4

"I think in the future, everything will be very easy. Everything will be working by a touch of your finger. If we were living in the future today, everything would be noncomplicated.

"In the future, there may be computers to talk to when you are lonely, and to get answers from for any questions that you may have. Also in the future, the value of money might be changed.

"In the future, life will be very different from today."



All Would Have Homes

Masateru Chae
Grade 6

"I think the future will really be different from now. The people will probably live on different planets. And they would wear clothes that could make them float or fly through the air. The cars would probably hover or fly through the air, and they would probably go over 500 miles per hour. The schools would probably be all on one planet and the kids would probably have to travel over a million miles every day to go to school . . .

"The people [would] care more about everything that happens in the universe. And in the future there [would be] no more starving people and all would have homes, food, clothing and a family to go to."



A Whole New World

Brendan Lee
Grade 5

"What will happen in the year 2000? Well no one really knows. But we do know there will be a whole different generation. Cars might be flying in the air. People might use shuttles to go on vacation. We might use jets to go to work. Perhaps people will have different shapes. Maybe we'll be speaking a different language . . .

"Maybe we'll need to use air tanks and helmets to survive. We might have to use special clothes to protect our bodies. Children probably won't have to go to school because they will be too smart . . ."



Faster Transportation

Lawrence Nabewari
Grade 6

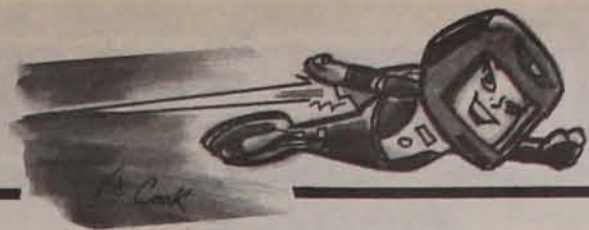
"I think in the future, transportation will be much faster . . . There will be planes that can fit 100 people in it. There will be planes that could travel twice as fast as they can now. Boats will be larger so people can trade more at a time. Ships will travel at 1,000 miles per hour. Cars would talk and solve any problems.

"There will be rockets as tall as Mt. Fuji. People would go to other planets for summer vacation. There will be computerized shoes that go wherever the person wanted to go . . . Transportation will be made of metal which will not break and catch on fire.

"I think [the future] will be interesting. I hope I live there when it happens."



What Do the Kids Think?



Robots as Teachers

Yukiyo Nakada
Grade 5

"In school, the teachers will be robots. There will be no computers because the computers will teach you things and talk to you. The students won't have to bring anything with them. The robot teachers will [supply] many things for you . . .

"On the playground, there would be rollercoasters and spaceships to go on. There will be automatic swings and see-saws for little children to go on."



No Earthquakes

Akie Fukinbara
Grade 6

"About 400 years from now, . . . we might have inventions that could stop earthquakes. They would have something that could attract or collect the energy of force under the earth, in the faults."



Robots for Friends

Stedman Ng
Grade 4

"When the 21st century comes, we will have changes. The cars will levitate in the air. The teachers will be robots. A house will have in its backyard a tennis court, swimming pool and a deck . . . if you get tired of swimming then you could press a button and then the pool will disappear and up come a tennis court.

"If you cannot get anyone to play with, then you can get a robot to play with you."

Church as Palaces?



Christine Flandes
(Teramoto)
Grade 6

"In a 1,000 years, the [church] might look like a palace. Inside might have a statue of Mary and God. I think the church would be one family. There will be many priests, bishops, and deacons . . .

"There might even be Japanese priests. Maybe there would be all kinds of priests of every country. There might not just be one kind of nationality."

An Easier Place



Daniel Oyama
Grade 5

"I think the future would be like people flying around with jet packs to go to school and work and other places in. And I think the future would be better because of the new things. People would like it because it would be easier for them."

A Peaceful Place?



Daniel Mukai
Grade 6

"I think most of today's problems will be solved. All the war weapons will be destroyed. People will find cures for diseases like AIDS. All the countries will be peaceful by sharing things. The smog will be gone because of new kinds of cars that do not produce smoke. All the races of people would be equal. People will not pay to get things. They would go in a shop and get things free. Maybe the poor will have shelter and food. Perhaps nobody will be killed."

Cure for AIDS



Yukari Yamane
Grade 6

"Today, there is a very scary disease called AIDS. Everyday there are maybe more and more AIDS patients. So in a few more years people with AIDS may increase to more than 40,000 people . . .

"But maybe in around ten years or more, there may be a cure. Perhaps a cure that won't hurt. A cure that you won't feel but is very effective. The technology today is growing, so in the future maybe a lazer goes right through you and cleans your blood. Or another cure may be getting a shot and there is a medicine that runs through you and mixes with your blood and cleans it."

Maryknoll as Toy Store



Takuma Wakasugi
Grade 5

"In the future, I think the school will be old and rusty and dirty. And maybe the cars will be different and the teachers will already be gone . . . Maybe the place where the school was will turn into a market or toy store, and the toys and food might be different from now."

Good Grades Rewarded



Sandra Koike
Grade 6

"I think in the future if you get good grades, you will either get a car, \$1,000 or \$100. When you get good grades for three years, you will get the double amount that you get for a year.

"I think when the students sell chocolate bars, they will be \$5 each and the size will be 5 inches big. The prize will be, for first place, a trip to Moonaloon. It is a place on the moon just like Disneyland. Second prize will be a machine gun and third prize will be an automatic air conditioner. Fourth prize will win a trip to Venus. Fifth prize will be a flying motorcycle."



No Diseases or War

Kenji Mukai
Grade 4

"The future might turn into a punky place or nice place. I wish it would be a peaceful place without war, battles or killings."

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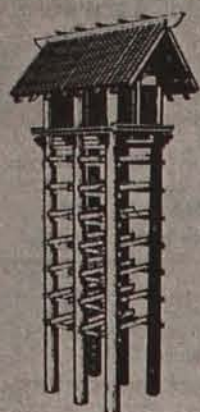


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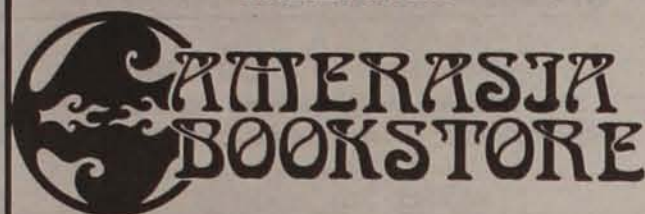


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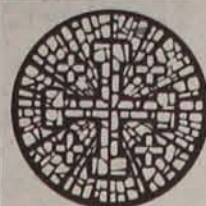
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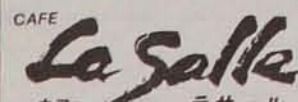
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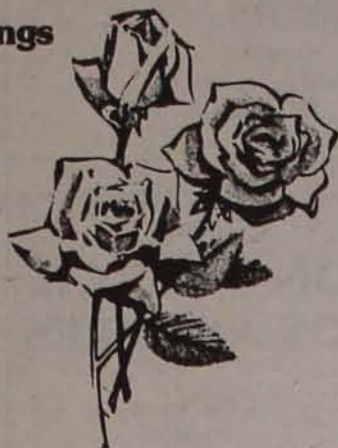
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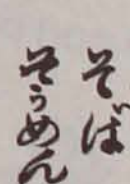
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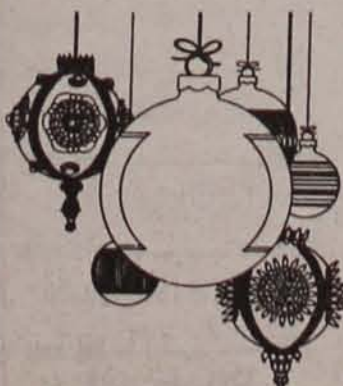
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Christ is born at Bethlehem.

Sand Castle of Dreams

By Ken Mochizuki

The sea returned to reclaim its own. The advancing tide smoothed the sandy shore and filled children's pits, erased messages of love and crumbled crude castles of sand.

A gusty storm slapped drops of rain on the sliding glass door,

reminding me I was a prisoner confined to the indoors. The motel room that could be a condo hadn't changed. I turned the heat higher to dry out after the walk through town, after I had revisited and relived the same sounds and smells: the coffee brewing, pastries baking and moist wood burning—all mixed with the salty breeze of the sea. The streets were deserted, and so were the gift shops, restaurants and art galleries. A painting that hung in one gallery had disappeared: a Wall Street Icarus dressed in a three-piece suit and clutching a briefcase, with his wings of dollar bills disintegrating because he flew too close to the sun.

I was surprised that I acquired the same room. A year ago, everything done in here slipped away quickly, with time not spacious enough to cram all of it in. I stood close to the heater and stared out the glass door, trying to experience it all again and how it felt to hold her as the sun bathed and heated us until becoming a red sphere sinking into an endless sea. I tried hard because it was chilly and raining. The color of the water almost matched the sky—gray on gray.

She was out there. Somewhere.

A year ago.

It was September and the Pacific Northwest summer would soon end. She sat next to me in my RX-7 as we cruised down 101 through the thick evergreen forests of Washington. Her hair fluttered with the wind blowing through the sunroof. I appreciated the way the sunlight highlighted her high cheekbones and buoyant eyes, and tinted strands of hair auburn. She never looked dishevelled, no matter how the hair arranged itself on her head. I had gazed at that face many times before in the glow of streetlights seeping through my bedroom curtains, and in the radiance of optimistic dawns. Record this moment, well, I thought, for someday it could all be in the past.

She always talked about the ocean and how the water did something to her, how it washed away defenses and fears, opening her up. We drove to the Oregon Coast where it was sunny and clear—a rarity—then ended up at Cannon Beach.

The lonely resort community of Cannon Beach earned its living from the couples who visited; they held hands and strolled along the town's sidewalks, getting to know each other and getting to know each other all over again. I would give her the best and that meant the most luxurious motel room we could find. It stood isolated atop a hill, with a trail leading directly to the beach. The new complex smelled of freshly cut wood. Inside our room, a sliding glass door faced the ocean, providing us with a picture window sunset.

Then we preferred a roomful of night instead of a world of day. Noon became morning and lunch turned into brunch. She and I went through every art gallery and shop in Cannon Beach.

We finally hit the beach by late afternoon. The surf rolled gently and licked at our soles which left tracks in the damp sand. Further away, white-haired sunbathers flew kites. Children's laughter and playful screams resounded between the crash of waves.

She sat down on a twisted log eroded smooth by time. I sat next to her. She remained quiet, staring out at something or nothing far away. I watched those eyes that always spoke before her words. She seemed on the verge of blurting out something that could not be withheld any longer. But I wasn't going to ask her what it was and I scanned the infinity of the ocean, trying to see what she saw.

"You know what?" she said, still watching the waves.

"No . . . what?" I replied.

"I am going to do it."

I heard what she said, but needed confirmation. "Huh?"

"I'm gonna go through with it," she said. "Remember when we talked about this a while ago?"

I remembered all right, but it went past me then, since I nodded absent-mindedly to everything she said, being more interested in watching her talk or noticing how other guys watched her than in listening to what she said.

"When?" I asked.

"Pretty soon."

I turned and faced her. "What for?"

"It's just something I need to do now," she said, looking down at the sand. "I just have to get it out of me."

"Why can't you do it here?" I asked. "Take a break, take a vacation, but you don't have to stay somewhere else to do it."

"I've never been on my own and I've always depended on other people," she said, gazing back out at sea. "I wanna become stronger."

"What do you mean, 'become'? You have

everything here. And because you got it all means that you are."

"No, I don't have everything," she calmly said. "People don't know my job . . . it's all I've ever done since school. Sure, it makes a lot of money and people are gonna think I'm crazy to quit it, but there's gotta be more than just doing that."

I tried to conceal my desperation. "C'mon, just tell me or anybody what you want us to do for you."

"It's nothing that anybody can do for me. It's just something that I gotta do . . ."

A preview of the future ran through my mind: I would be sitting at the bar alone and hoping to get lucky, hoping to meet someone like her again; going to the movies and hoping nobody would see me alone; reading the Sunday paper on a Saturday night.

"After I do this," she said, "I can settle down and decide what I wanna do. Then, I wouldn't mind falling in love with somebody."

I tried to pinpoint where I had gone wrong and where I didn't give or provide enough. I searched through all the dates and dinners and movies and our first time out and the nights we made love . . .

"Let's face it," she said, "us Sansei . . . we're too soft."

I realized what she knew, but I didn't feel it like she did. It came with the tide: a voice from another land pulling her way past the horizon. This beckoning instilled in her a yearning to return to the soil that nurtured her roots.

Trying to throttle all emotion, I said, "How much longer do we have?"

She smiled and took my hand. "This isn't the time and place to talk about this, is it? C'mon," she said, pointing to a man-made reef further down the beach and resuming her cheerful stance, as if the conversation about her leaving never took place. "Let's go over there."

The embankment jutted into the water, waves rolling past it on both sides. We scrambled up the piled rock and walked over broken logs strewn across the top, balancing ourselves on them like we were a tightrop act.

She pulled out her Instamatic and took a picture of me sitting on one of the logs. Then it was my turn to take one of her. I peered through the viewfinder and composed the picture that would be all that I would have left of her—a photograph on my wall and my only link to what was.

We got down off the rocks and walked again along the beach. I held her closer and glanced back. A wisp of fog had floated in, enshrouding the embankment. We left a trail of footprints in the sand that grew longer, until our spot, that rocky mound, disappeared in the distance.

That was a year ago.

The rain had stopped and wet sand caked on my sneakers. The clouds parted a bit and sunlight poked through with firm shafts of gold over the ocean. I found that embankment again and it hadn't changed. The surf continuously advanced and withdrew, pulling the sand on this beach to her distant shore somewhere past the curve in the earth. I started back to my car to drive it alone up 101. Seattle was three hours away and I would listen to the tapes from back then that now served as reminders of a better time. I looked behind me and saw the single set of footprints that led back to the place where we had laughed, taken pictures and built a sand castle of dreams with the bonds of memories shared.

This story was the winner of the Third Institute for Japanese American Literature (IJAL) Contest, sponsored by the Kyoto Seika University in Kyoto, Japan.

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New York/Canada Fall Holiday Tour (8 days) ... Sep 27
New York, Corning, Niagara Falls, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Adirondack Mts.
Japan Autumn Holiday Tour (10 days) ... Oct 16
Tokyo, Lake Kawaguchi, Hirayu Onsen, Masumoto, Takayama, Gifu, Kyoto.
China Tour (19 days) ... Oct/Nov
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EDUCATION

Continued from Page A-27

Vietnamese, who began joining our school population about seven years ago, have now adapted to our way of life and are attending universities. By 2000, their children will be ready for college.

Along with more students in the classrooms, more mothers will be in the work force. Asian American women in the past were often reluctant to leave young children in child-care facilities or with babysitters, but with more Asian American women in the professions, we will see 50 percent of mothers of four-year-olds working. This will call for more daycare centers or combinations of daycare centers/schools, where kindergarteners will be accepted at four years of age.

As American businesses recently began looking toward Japan for advances in management techniques and production

strategies, so we will begin to examine Japan's educational structure, for critics will still be wondering in 2000, "Why Johnny can't read or compute as well as Toshiro in Japan."

However, educators who have watched and evaluated Japanese schools will point out that Japan's educational methodology results in obedient, fact-filled students who are often restricted in creativity and free expression. Japanese education relies on structure, rote and the exam system, factors which work well for its society. Teamwork and the group are more important than is individual creativity. This idea is well suited for building automobiles, but in education it does not necessarily provide fertile ground for innovation and creativity.

Long Range Problems

Even by 2000, education will not have solved certain long-existing problems. There will still be a percentage for whom the education system will prove inadequate. As a matter of speculation, one would imagine a slightly higher illiteracy rate in the U.S. in

2000 than in 1987 because of the overuse of television sets and VCRs. With a substantial reliance on audio-visual stimuli for learning, and with less reliance on the written word, malapropisms, misunderstandings and shallowness of comprehension might become a way of life for a small percentage of our student population. Attention spans might dwindle to the 10 or 15-minute intervals to which TV viewers have become accustomed.

However, education in 2000 will continue to realize the challenges, adapt to the changes, and incorporate whatever technique, technology or style is necessary to educate the majority of our children well. With Aristotle, education was outdoor and peripatetic. It may be that again in 2000 A.D.

(Betty Kikumi Meltzer, 53, is a teacher/librarian and lives in Cherry Valley, Calif. She is a member of Riverside JACL, as was her late husband. Their daughter, Eleanor Kikumi, attends Georgetown and their son, Abraham Chuichi, attends Harvard.)

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ISHIDA, HARUO, KIA April 6, 1945, Mt. Belvedere, Italy, s/n 39380759.
OBA, STANLEY T. KIA April 10, 1945, Panania, Italy, s/n 37076399.
MORIHIRO, ROY T. KIA April 14, 1945, Castelpoggio, Italy, s/n 35842206.
MURAKAMI, KIYOSHI KIA April 19, 1945, Ft. Bastione, Italy, s/n 39930023.
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