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Friday, August 31, 1990

THE JOB KEPT HIM YOUNG:

No. Cal-Western Nevada-Pacific JACL Director Retires After 15 Years

By J.K. Yamamoto

Hokubei Mainichi

SAN FRANCISCO—George Kondo, who has retired after 15 years as director of JACL's Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific District, says his job kept him young.

"When I joined JACL (as a staff

His successor has yet to be named. Kondo remains active as president of the California Japanese American Alumni Association, which awards scholarships to Nikkei UC students, but plans to "phase out" from that position as well.

George and Chie Kondo, who live a block away from JACL National Headquarters in San Francisco's Japantown, plan to relocate next spring to Pennsylvania, where their daughter, Jean Weigl, lives. Their son-in-law is a tenured professor at Pennsylvania State University.

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GEORGE KONDO

member), I was 61 already," he recalled. "I'm 76 now. People say I don't look it. It's because I work with young people."

NCWNP is the largest of the eight JACL districts in terms of membership. Kondo estimated that the district's 35 chapters have a total of 10,000 to 11,000 members. The Pacific Southwest District is running a close second.

During his tenure, Kondo was involved in starting seven new chapters—Lodi, Tri-Valley, Solano, Diablo Valley, Honolulu, Hilo and Japan.

"I installed officers in practically every chapter in my district," he said, adding that he would have visited the Hawaii and Japan chapters had the budget permitted it.

Kondo also stated with pride that he never missed a district council or executive board meeting since he took the job in October 1975.

Kondo was born in Berkeley and received his education there, graduating from the University of California in 1934. He and his wife Chie were married in 1940 and interned in Tanforan and Topaz in 1942. They were able to leave camp by securing jobs as domestics in the suburbs of Chicago.

When Kondo later sought work in Chicago, he continued, "Every place I applied for a job had said, 'Gee, we'd like to use you, but I'm afraid of what the other employees will say.'" He was finally hired by an Italian-owned produce market, where he worked as an office manager until he returned to California.

Before moving to San Francisco, Kondo lived in Oakland and ran a laundry in Berkeley. "I abandoned it because there was no profit in it at all. . . . Competition was rough," he said.

While living in the East Bay, he became active in a variety of civic organizations, including the Oakland-Fukuoka Sister City Society, YMCA, Rotary Club, Golden Gate Optimists and Berkeley JACL.

His involvement in the local JACL chapter prepared him for his next job. "I think any regional director should have JACL background. . . . You have to have maturity in a position like this, and knowledge of JACL."

Rockefeller Residency on Ethnic Studies Set

LOS ANGELES—Rockefeller Residency fellowships in the humanities for the 1991-92 are on the theme, "Intergenerations: Generational, Cultural and Community Change" in the Asian Pacific American society, it was recently announced by the UCLA Asian American Studies Center.

Application deadline is Dec. 31 of each year, which includes submitting a detailed statement of the project, a vitae, sample of work and three letters of reference. Fellowship terms range from three to 10 months of residency with stipends from \$8,000 to \$30,000. For details:

Russell Leong, Program Coordinator, Asian American Studies Center, Rockefeller Fellows Program, 3232 Campbell Hall, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90024; (213) 825-2974.



Photo by Alvina Lew

THE 1990 NISEI WEEK queen Sandra Ann Posey receives crown, red cape and sceptre at the Festival's Coronation festivities at Century City Plaza. She was sponsored by Gardena Valley JACL.



EDISON UNO CIVIL RIGHTS AWARD recipient Ralph Neas (left), executive director of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, Washington, D.C., is congratulated by Cressey Nakagawa, National JACL president, who made the presentation during the national convention of the Organization of Chinese Americans on Coalition Building. Neas was unable to be present at the JACL convention in San Diego to accept the award last June. The Washington affair on July 13 included representatives from the National Council of La Raza, American Jewish Committee and the National Urban League.

Cemetery Accused of Anti-Asian Bias; Manager Denies Charge

SAN JOSE, Calif. — On Aug. 2, a class action lawsuit filed against Oak Hill Memorial Park, San Jose's oldest and largest cemetery, alleges that management discriminated against Asians by discouraging them from buying burial plots, the San Jose Mercury News reports.

The suit also charges that cemetery workers comingled and improperly disposed of cremated remains.

According to a deposition by a former sales executive, Oak Hill's long-time manager, William Ray, was adamant that Oak Hill not turn into a "chink" cemetery.

Ray categorically denied the allegations, saying they were made by a disgruntled former employee.

The May 30 deposition, taken under oath, was by Jimmie Don Johnson, who left Oak Hill last September.

He said that he learned of an Oak Hill policy that discouraged selling plots to Asians shortly after he began work at the 300-acre cemetery in November 1987.

Johnson informed officials at Services Corporation International, the Texas-based owner of Oak Hill, who ordered Ray to stop that practice.

But the practice continued, said Johnson. "Bill Ray would not stop it. He told me that I did not understand that people in California did not like Asians."

Johnson presented copies of memorandums he sent to regional officials of Services Corporation in Seattle and their reply.

One memorandum, dated July 22, 1988, is addressed to both Ray and Johnson from Lee Leikam, a regional vice president for the company. Leikam wrote: "As we discussed, price books dated May 1, 1988, had 'This is an Asian area only' typed on the pages. All copies must be pulled and destroyed. We cannot restrict the sale of spaces to certain ethnic groups."

"When Bill got the letter, he got unhappy with me again and told me to keep my goddamn mouth shut," Johnson said.

When told of Johnson's comments, Ray denied there was any discrimination or that he used the derogatory term.

The "Asian only area" designation was solely for the direction of sales people, Ray said, explaining that there are certain sections where people of specified religious denominations preferred to be buried.

He said that Oak Hill has sold burial plots to people of all ethnic groups, including Japanese, Chinese and Vietnamese.

The complaint about the treatment of remains follows a similar suit against Cedar Lawn Memorial Park in Fremont.

An excavation of a maintenance yard adjacent to the Fremont cemetery last month uncovered "hundreds if not thousands of pounds" of cremated human remains, said San Jose attorney John Tyndall.

The current crematory operator at Oak Hill previously worked at Cedar Lawn, and both cemeteries are owned by the same corporation.

After seeing the news accounts of the discovery, Patricia Fukui of Tracy, Katherine Brown of San Jose and others contacted Tyndall with similar complaints about Oak Hill. Both women are named as plaintiffs in the suit.

Resolution 7:

JACL HQ Rebuts Uyeda's 'Accusations'

SAN FRANCISCO — Accusations have been made by Clifford Uyeda regarding the "JACL Presidential Select Committee's Report on Resolution 7," it was noted by National JACL Headquarters in a six-page rebuttal issued Aug. 17.

This committee Report was presented to the National Council, during its recent session in San Diego last June 18-22, concerned JACL's policies and actions taken towards the World War II draft resisters. The text of the release continues:

Resolution 7 had been introduced by the Seattle JACL at the National Convention in 1988. Referred to by its authors as a "healing resolution," it called for an acknowledgement by JACL that a broad class of Japanese American internees labeled the "No-No Boys" and World War II draft resisters were caused injuries and pain by actions taken by the JACL. The JACL National Council in 1988 authorized a study by its Presidential Select Committee of the facts and background surrounding Resolution 7. A central concern by the National Council was that the Sansei, in particular, did not have sufficient knowledge of such historical facts to judge the propriety of the action called for by Resolution 7.

In the opinions published by Uyeda [refer to "Cliff's Corner" in this issue] attacking the Report of the Presidential Select Committee, he fails to fairly point out that this Report was exactly the Report directed to be produced by the JACL National Council.

The Report specifically addresses itself to the subject matter of Resolution 7 which was JACL's policies and actions that affected the broad class of persons referred to as the "No-No Boys."

Almost conveniently Uyeda also omits any mention of the fact that the JACL National Council, consisting of delegates from all parts of the country, accepted this Report at its meeting in June 1990. [Incidentally, Uyeda was unable to attend this convention due to the serious illness of his wife.—Ed.Note.]

The National Council did so in order to consider what action should be taken on the subject matter of the "No-No Boys" raised in Resolution 7. The Seattle Chapter came forward at the National Council and declared that it had conducted its own independent study of the facts regarding the "No-No Boys" and the issues raised by its Resolution 7.

Substitute Resolution 13

From its study the Seattle Chapter concluded that its Resolution 7 was overly broad and not consistent with historical facts. The Seattle Chapter therefore offered its substitute Resolution 13 which read as follows:

"Now therefore be it resolved that the JACL recognize that those Japanese American draft resisters of World War II, who declared their loyalty to their country, but who were also dedicated to the principle of defending their civil rights, were willing to make significant sacrifices to uphold their beliefs of patriotism in a different form from those who sacrificed their lives on the battlefields; and that they, too, deserve a place of honor and respect in the history of Americans of Japanese ancestry."

The National Council considered Resolution 13 in light of the conclusion set forth in the Report of the Presidential Select Committee which read (in part):

"The JACL did not have complete control over the community or over the decisions of the time. The organization did adopt a policy of cooperation. The community impact of their decisions, however, and the leadership roles that they voluntarily assumed, placed a heavy responsibility upon the JACL leadership to act in the community's best interest. Disagreement over their choices was and is inevitable. Sometimes, it is not clear whether an individual's

Continued on Page 2

NEWS IN BRIEF

Toronto Senior's Home Given \$1.15 Million

TORONTO—The Japanese Canadian Redress Foundation announced June 9 it has awarded Momiji Health Care Society of Toronto a grant of \$1.15 million for construction of a Toronto seniors' care center. It was the largest amount approved by the JCRF to date. The foundation, administered by Japanese Canadians, was given \$12 million from the Canadian government to "help stimulate interest and rebuild the Japanese Canadian community."

Meanwhile, the individual redress program giving all eligible a sum of \$21,000 is nearly complete, according to the Redress Secretariat in Ottawa, which has received 18,065 applications, with 1,668 remaining to be processed as of June 11. The government had only expected 12,000 applications.

Visual Communications Celebrating Its 20th Anniversary Nov. 17

LOS ANGELES—A spectacular 20th Anniversary celebration at the Japan America Theatre on Saturday, Nov. 17, is being planned by Visual Communications.

Noted musicians Johnny Mori, Dan Kuramoto and June Okida Kuramoto of "Hiroshima" and a unique visual display executed by Asian Pacific media artists will be featured, it was announced by Douglas Aihara, chairman of the V.C. board of directors.

V.C. was founded in 1970 with assistance of National JACL and the Pacific Southwest JACL District in response to needs for audio-visual educational materials. One of its first major projects was the innovative photo cubes on the WWII internment story constructed at Robert Nakamura's home.

It has produced video material for Asian American Drug Abuse Program, Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics and the Japanese American Citizens League and more recently co-sponsored a month-long Asian Pacific American film festival with UCLA.



20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION—Visual Communications celebrates its 20th anniversary with two major grants: \$7,500 from the J. Paul Getty Trust Fund for an anthology on Asian Pacific media art over the past two decades, and a \$25,000 matching grant from California Community Foundation. Pictured are (from left) Chairman Douglas Aihara, VC Board of Directors; Executive Director Linda Mabalot, and Jack Shakely, president, California Community Foundation.

San Gabriel Valley's Aki Matsuri on Oct. 6

WEST COVINA, Calif.—East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center's 18th annual Aki Matsuri will be held on Saturday, Oct. 6, 1 to 10 p.m. at the center, 1203 W. Puente Ave., it was announced by chairman Ray Takai.

Cultural displays, bonsai and martial arts, food and game booths and ondo from 7 p.m. celebrate the beginning of the fall (Aki) season. Proceeds will aid various organization and the center.

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A PRIVATE IMMIGRATION BILL:

San Diego State's Sanae Takahashi Receives Wide Support in Bid to Stay

By Edna Ikeda

SAN DIEGO — Sanae Takahashi is an energetic 25-year-old resident student here whose apartment reflects her love of color and music. On the wall are colorful posters that say "San Francisco." A Japanese wooden doll and stuffed caveman sit next to her television set. She has many tape cassette crates to hold her collection of rock-and-roll music. She loves watching late night talk show hosts like Arsenio Hall and David Letterman. She also enjoys learning guitar.

Talking with this lively young woman, it is hard to believe she was the victim of a brutal kidnapping. In 1983, she was raped, shot, and left on a beach to die. She was 17 years old at the time, an exchange student attending Mar Vista High School in Imperial Beach.

Takahashi remains confined to a wheelchair because of the bullet that pierced her spine. "I have been very busy to deal with what I have to deal with right now," she said. "To be able to go on with everyday life."

BACK AT SAN DIEGO— "When I was in Japan, I stayed in the hospital for a year just because I didn't have anywhere else to go. My family had to rebuild my room for me, and it took a long time. It wasn't easy to make a very simple modification of the house."

She led a reclusive existence in Japan. She remembers that she was unable to attend her high school because of lack of transportation and public facilities. She considered taking a correspondence course but worried about life after graduation.

However, generous support from the San Diego community made it possible for her to return and enroll in school. She was sur-

prised by the extent of the support, more than 7,000 letters, mostly from total strangers and many with small amounts of money enclosed. The Chamber of Commerce in Imperial Beach set up a trust fund which defrayed \$30,000 of medical bills and living expenses.

In May 1989, Takahashi was graduated with a bachelor's degree in social work at San Diego State University (SDSU). She has been taking summer school classes in management accounting. This fall, she returns to SDSU to work on her master's degree in accounting. She notes, "Right now I just wanted to make myself more employable than I can as a social worker."

She receives strong support from family and relatives in Japan. She is grateful for the kindness of her host family, who took her in for half a year. Her paraplegic host father showed her how to be mobile. She was befriended by SDSU professor Dan McLeod, who made arrangements for her to attend classes. The university waived her tuition so she can afford to stay here.

Last July, Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-Calif.) introduced a private bill that would allow Takahashi to become a permanent resident. The bill, H.R. 2882, recently passed by the subcommittee, must go through committee and the floor. Takahashi must be interviewed by the Immigration and Naturalization Service before the bill proceeds further.

"If I'm not a student, I don't have the status to stay here. But with me back to school, it should be taking a few years. Hopefully, this bill will pass by that time," she said.

She remains optimistic that it will pass and notes, "It's really slow but it's moving."

Letters of support for Sanae Takahashi's bill, H.R. 2882, may be sent to Rep. Jack Brooks, Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, 2449 Rayburn Bldg., Washington, DC 20515; Rep. Hamilton Fish, 2268 Rayburn Bldg., Washington, DC 20515.

Letters urging the INS to speed up the interview process for Takahashi may be sent to Immigration and Naturalization Service, Western Service Center, P.O. Box 30115, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677-8115.

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RESOLUTION 7

Continued from the Front Page

actions were an expression of her or his private views. But if they were closely associated with the JACL, especially as an officer or staff person, and they acted in a way that affected others; they either knew or should have known that even expressly individual acts would be interpreted as JACL's and would have community impact.

Committee's Conclusion

"An organization such as the JACL has a responsibility to protect the members of its community. For its part, and in the context of the times, JACL's values of patriotism and loyalty almost demanded cooperation from the government. A current similar circumstance would insist that the organization hold the government to its constitutional commitments and, by that standard, it can be concluded that the JACL leadership of that day could have protested the inevitability of their situation.

"...the Presidential Select Committee concludes and recommends that the National Council of the JACL appropriately acknowledge that those so-called draft resisters who clearly professed their loyalty to America and were otherwise willing to serve in the armed forces of the United States, but for the deprivation of their constitutional rights by internment in America's concentration camps, were honorable and loyal Americans who fought for the same constitutional rights as those Japanese American men who were in the active service in the defense of this country.

Resolution 13 was unanimously adopted.

In attacking the Report of the Presidential Select Committee, Uyeda does not state what facts pertaining to the issues raised by Resolution 7 are not covered in the Report. If the Report fails to include whatever facts that Uyeda thinks are pertinent to the "No-No Boys" issue and the circumstances of the draft resisters, at least the National Council should not be criticized by Uyeda for taking the action that it did on Resolution 13. As the article in the *Hokubei Mainichi* on July 6, 1990 pointed out, the several draft resisters who sought recognition of their plight appreciated the action of the National Council. So should Uyeda.

Uyeda Calls It a 'Whitewash'

In his attempt to continue controversy, Uyeda argues that the Report was not done by an independent group, it was a "whitewash", that the Report was not issued on schedule and that "JACL has tried to manipulate history to improve its image." Such charges are unfair for a whole host of reasons.

In the first place, the referral of Resolution 7 for study to a Presidential Select Committee by the National Council was a motion (passed in 1988) made by a representative of the Golden Gate Chapter. The study was to be made by the organization with its own financial resources for its National Council. The only offer made by

East Bay Nikkei Service Group Adds Personnel

BERKELEY — Japanese American Services of the East Bay (JASEB) has announced the addition of two new members to its staff, Joyce Sakai and Laura Takeuchi.

Sakai will serve as JASEB's executive director. Originally from Walnut Grove, she was director of the Asian Community Center of Sacramento Valley, Inc. in Sacramento.

Among the programs she helped to develop was the Asian Community Nursing Home, a 99-bed skilled nursing facility designed to meet the dietary, linguistic and social needs of Asian elderly.

Takeuchi, a native of Walnut Creek, joins JASEB as its new accounting officer.

Uyeda to the JACL National Board was to set forth in a memo dated Sept. 7, 1988 in which Uyeda, as president of the National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS), suggested an academic conference on the issues raised by Resolution 7. That memo read in part as follows:

"It would seem most proper to have this issue documented, presented and discussed outside the JACL in a controlled and dignified academic atmosphere.

"The purpose of the conference would be to gather accurate historical facts and documents for discussion by participants from both sides of the historical controversy. Conclusions can be drawn by scholars from the published proceedings of the meeting."

"The Japanese American history is the function of the NJAHS. We would like to explore the possibility of organizing such a conference. The project happening, of course, will depend on obtaining adequate funding. We wish to explore outside funding sources."

Uyeda's Conference Plan

As it turned out, Uyeda did not have the authority to make such an offer. On Sept. 26, 1988, he wrote a letter to Cressey Nakagawa, JACL National President, in which Uyeda withdrew his earlier offer by stating that the Board of Directors of the NJAHS rejected the idea by a 2-1 vote.

"The NJAHS board of directors was polled regarding the possibility of the NJAHS sponsoring a conference on the issue."

"The board rejected the idea 2 to 1. Therefore, the NJAHS cannot sponsor such a conference."

On the charge that the Report of the Presidential Select Committee on Resolution 7 was a "whitewash," Uyeda does not even attempt to document and state what facts regarding Resolution 7 were "whitewashed". Instead of being forthright, he focuses upon the role of a researcher hired by JACL to perform research work for the Committee. His charge appears to be that the Committee was somehow not responsible for preparing a report on Resolution 7 as directed by the National Council and that the researcher was supposed to be the author of the final Report on Resolution 7. The absurdity of the charge is clear, it was added.

The unfairness of this attack is that Uyeda should have known about the limited role of the hired researcher if he had bothered to read the Pacific Citizen, or asked the Chairman of the Presidential Select Committee. He made no such effort, nor did he seek to develop his understanding about the detailed process of research work that was assigned to the researcher.

So that the research work and study process by the Committee and JACL is not further distorted by Uyeda or anyone else, an explanation is in order. Because the JACL has its own archival materials that could reflect upon the historical facts of the World War II period and the activities of JACL in connection herewith, the JACL National Board di-

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USA Today Devotes Opinion Page on Japan-Bashing

WASHINGTON

USA Today devoted its entire opinion page of Thursday, Aug. 2, to the subject of "Japan Bashing," centered around the refusal of the Selma (Ala.) Country Club to permit a Japanese executive of Honda Motors to join the club.

Hiroshi Isogai, manager of the Honda Motors ignition lock plant in Selma, which employs 38 Selma residents, was banned by the all-white membership of the club.

The newspaper noted criticizing Japanese products is good business and criticizing Japan's restrictive trade policies is fair. However, exploiting fear and prejudice is not fair. Such tactics encourage discrimination, USA Today said.

"It's time we quit blaming the Japanese for our problems and face the facts. It's not the Japanese fault that some U.S. businesses are becoming less competitive.

"A new Labor Department survey says U.S. factory productivity gains lagged behind all but Sweden among the world's 11 major industrial countries last year.

The editorial continued, "Don't bash the Japanese. Bash our government. Bash business. Bash our schools. And bash yourself if you can't wait until tomorrow to buy what you can't afford today.

"Japan is not our enemy. Our enemies are low saving rates, low investment rates and too much borrowing. . . The best way to compete with the Japanese is to roll up our sleeves and get down to work."



LEGAL EAGLES—Illinois Attorney General Neil F. Hartigan meets with Asian American Bar Association of Greater Chicago and pledges support of its efforts to have an Asian American appointed to the bench. (From left) John Lee, Committee member, Legislative and Judicial Developments Committee; Sandra Yamate, Vice President; Attorney General Hartigan; Sandra R. Otaka, Co-Chairperson, Legislative and Judicial Developments Committee; Ernest Ling, Co-Chairperson, Legislative and Judicial Developments Committee.

Chicago Asian American Lawyers Seek Appointment of Own to Judicial Posts

CHICAGO — The Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Chicago Area (AABA) is spearheading action on the issue of getting qualified Asian Pacific Americans appointed and/or elected to the bench in Cook County, Illinois.

There are no circuit court or associate judges of Asian Pacific American descent in Illinois, which has the fourth largest Asian Pacific American population in the United States. The item has been on the wish list for years in Chicago's Asian Pacific American community, which numbers an estimated 350,000-400,000.

In May, AABA leaders met with Cook County Chief Judge Harry G. Comerford, who expressed his support for the concept of diversity on the bench by stating, "All elements of our community should be represented in the judiciary." Sandra Otaka, co-chair of AABA's Legislative and Judicial Developments Committee stated, "Judge Comerford was very responsive to the concerns of the Asian Pacific community." In addition to AABA's making contact with the appropriate judicial

parties, writing editorials to emphasize community awareness of the issue in the Asian press, and starting a general awareness campaign in the legal and major media press, AABA has requested support and advice from influential governmental and bipartisan party leaders.

Salt Lake JACL Hosts Sister City Group

SALT LAKE CITY—The Salt Lake JACL hosted its 13th post-Pioneer Day (July 24) Parade picnic for children and chaperones visiting from Matsumoto, Salt Lake's sister city in Japan, on the lawn of the Capitol Bldg.

Site of the Japanese-style picnic, which have been staged annually at the Jordan Peace Garden where the Japanese gardens are located, was changed this year to the Capitol grounds where the statue of Philo T. Farnsworth, father of modern TV, was unveiled.

After a week of American-style cooking, the Japanese students are craving for *Nihon-shoku*, which the JACL families have been providing at these picnics, according to Jeff Itami, chapter president. Attending were a group of 36 students, chaperones and city officials, led by board superintendent Yoshio Matsumura, host families, local city, Sister City officials, JACLers and Joanna Wong, Chinese Citizens for Action president.

Over 75,000 Cambodians Living in So. Calif.

LOS ANGELES—Over 75,000 Cambodians, the majority of them being refugees of the Pol Pot regime which has reigned for the 15 years, are living in Southern California with the largest concentration of 45,000 in Long Beach, according to Jonathan Freedman, a San Diego writer.

'Project Amends' Granting Diplomas to Evacuees Lauded

SAN FRANCISCO—The *San Francisco Examiner*, in its Aug. 8 editorial, applauded "Project Amends," which was started by a Fresno-area woman who felt the pain of never seeing her former classmates at the 1942 class reunions.

The project, started by Phyllis Bilbo, was to have hundreds of imilar classmates of 1942 whose high school graduation was interrupted by "their abrupt and unconstitutional internment during World War II" to receive their diplomas from the original high school.

Almost a half a century late, 25 Japanese Americans—now in their 60s—received their high school diplomas this summer. Fresno High School vice principal Larry Powell located 85 graduates from the Fresno school district and mailed 50 diplomas to those who couldn't attend the recent ceremony.

Of the ceremony, Powell said, "It was a truly a moving experience. We want to reach everybody we can."

The editorial added: "Project Amends is a more personal effort to compensate for the emotional loss. Even though it comes half a century late, its symbolic value will be lasting. We applaud the project and hope it reaches every living Japanese American member of the class of 1942."

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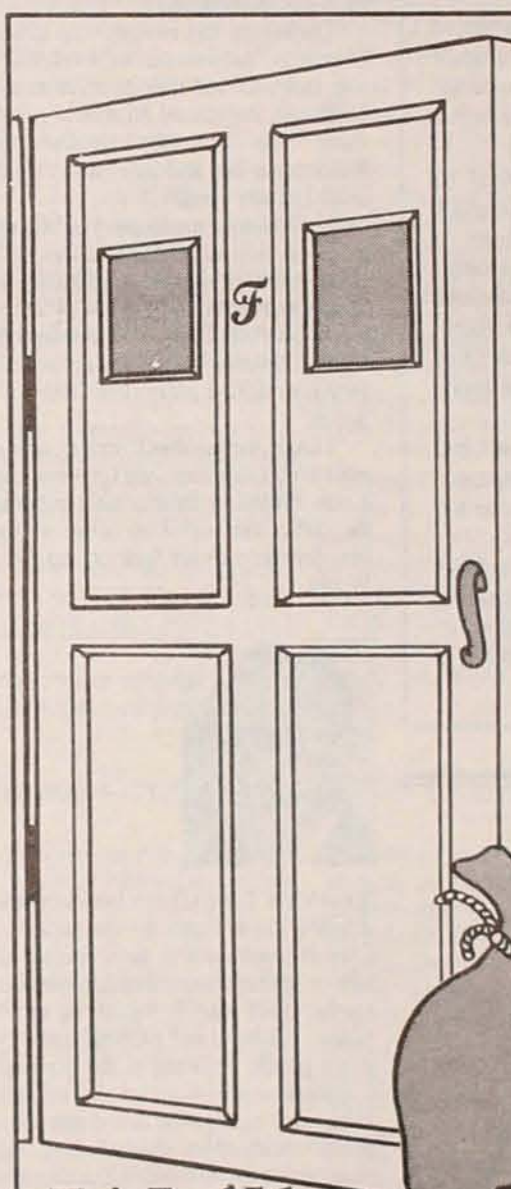


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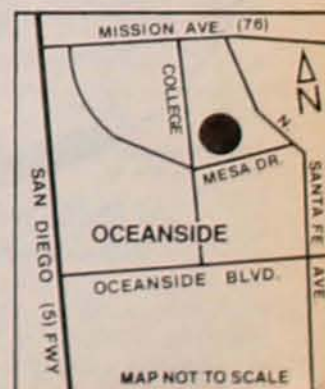
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THE PACIFIC CITIZEN

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EDITORIAL OF THE PACIFIC CITIZEN

Just Kidding, Just Kidding

On the wackier side of American service clubs, it is not uncommon for program chairmen to perpetrate an elaborate hoax on the members. A couple of decades ago they would come up with someone who could speak with a phoney Russian accent, introduce him at a luncheon meeting as a Soviet commissar and have him make an outrageous speech about how communism would bury the democratic nations.

More recently the speaker might be a fake Arab sheik talking about how his country would shut off the U.S. oil supply if Americans didn't abandon Israel. And someone in the audience, who had been prepared for the role, would stand up and denounce the speaker and maybe threaten to punch him in his big fat nose.

Eventually, of course, all but the most dense would catch on that a hoax was being pulled on them and everyone would enjoy a big ha-ha.

A few weeks ago the pranksters at Sacramento's Downtown Rotary Club scheduled "Takashi Yamamoto, the Donald Trump of Japan." Speaking through a Japanese American interpreter, he promised some lavish gifts while announcing grandiose plans to buy a swank local country club, a hotel and even the state Capitol.

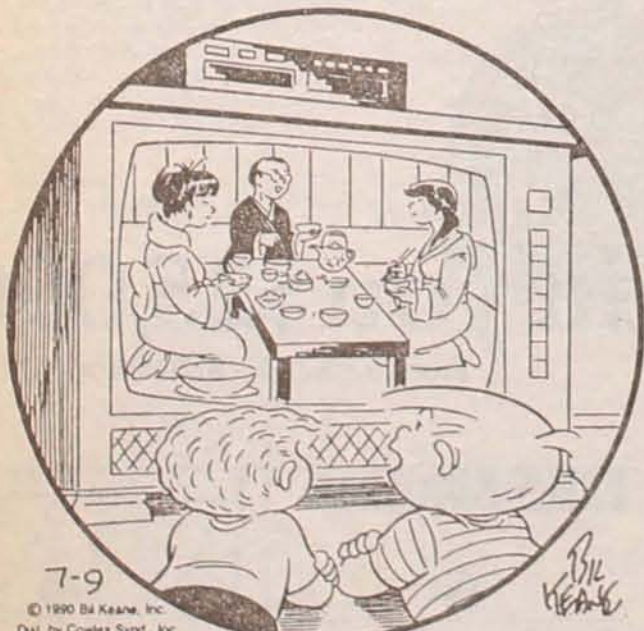
Ordinarily, service club high-jinx don't get the attention of metropolitan newspapers. But the *Sacramento Bee* reported the spoof as a spoof in a news story, and mentioned it in a local column.

"It was the Rotary's periodic attempt to dupe its 400-plus members," the *Bee* reported. "The topic of Japanese-American relations were selected because of the high visibility of Japanese investment in this country. The gag also may have had the unintended effect of showing how willing Americans are to accept the notion that Japan is raiding the United States."

If we had our druthers, we'd rather that some other subject had been chosen for the good-natured spoof. The matter of Japanese investment in American real estate has been allowed to become too sensitive for comfort.

Yet there was something reassuring in that when the subject was brought out in the open and spoofed, many of the city's leading businessmen could put the issue in perspective and laugh about it. If there is a lesson here, it is that what appears to be a problem is less formidable when confronted in the open.

MONITOR

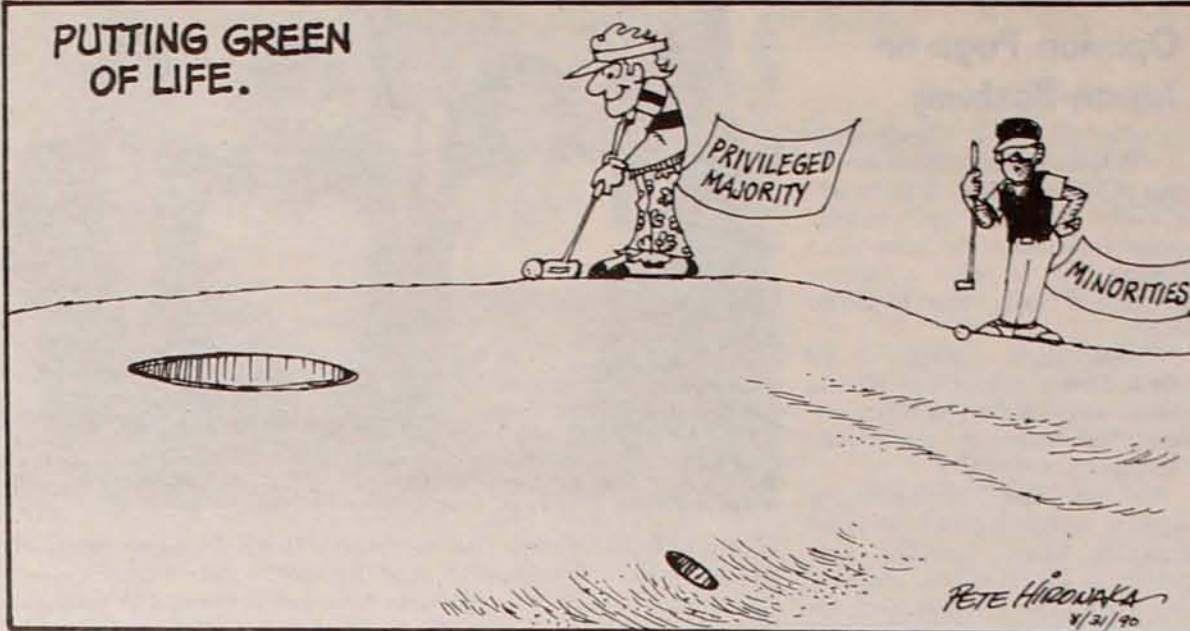


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"At least we're still ahead of the Japanese in chairs."

Readers wishing to send items to the Monitor should address their submissions to the P.C. Editor.

PUTTING GREEN OF LIFE.



FROM THE FRYING PAN

BILL HOSOKAWA

Tourists in Quest of History or a Good Time

Kenichi (Keith) Nishitani is employed by one of Japan's giant industrial companies. He has spent several tours of duty in the United States and although he is currently stationed in Japan, he comes to the U.S. on business not infrequently.

"During my last business trip to San Francisco," he wrote to me recently, "I was lucky to find time to drive to see California Registered Historical Landmark No. 815, the site of the Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Farm colony in El Dorado County."

The Wakamatsu colony, you will remember, was the ill-fated effort by a small band of Japanese political refugees to establish a farm colony in the Sierra foothills east of Sacramento in 1869. It failed within two years and the survivors drifted away. Nishitani continues:

"I found the landmark under California's bright sunshine, and for a moment I was buried in meditation, recalling the difficulties faced by some of the first Japanese to set foot on the New World.

"On a separate occasion I drove to Colma, a few miles south of downtown San Francisco to visit the Japanese cemetery. There I prayed for the repose of the souls of three members of the Kanrin Maru's crew—Minekichi, Tomizo and Gennosuke—who died on the first voyage of a Japanese warship to the U.S. in 1860.

"I had picked a sunny day. I bought some flowers and presented them to the tombs of the seamen. These visits gave me an opportunity to understand the part played by pioneer Japanese in launching commercial intercourse between our two countries."

The letter continues at some length, but I think you get the drift. Nishitani-san has made the effort to learn something of the history of early relationships between the United States and Japan. He takes time from his busy schedule to visit historic sites and to appreciate their significance.

I thought about Nishitani-san one recent day in Los Angeles when I saw a

group of Japanese tourists—45 or 50 of them of various ages—straggling along behind a flag-bearing tour leader.

I did not bother to learn their destination. Perhaps it was Disneyland or a fried chicken lunch at Knott's Berry Farm, or maybe even the waterfront at Long Beach. Or it could have been an excursion to gawk at the palatial homes of Hollywood personalities behind wrought iron gates, or a shopping expedition to the swank emporiums of Rodeo Drive.

Wherever it was they were bound for, they showed little comprehension and no visible enthusiasm. What will they have accomplished by their day's activities? Not much, I'm afraid, except that they will have some souvenir photographs to mount to an album as a reminder of their American expedition.

And I couldn't help but contrast their tour—not at all inexpensive after paying the handsome fees tour agencies charge—with Keith Nishitani's search for history and understanding of what has preceded our times.

EAST WIND

BILL MARUTANI

Racism in Advertising



I HAVEN'T READ any books by this fellow Lee Iaccoca, the head of Chrysler motors. I've seen enough of him on television commercials with his macho spiel that I regard as racist tinged. (There is one message that carries a punch: referring to the Chrysler Corporation mini-vans which continue to be rated highly—he denigrates competitors with "We showed them the way, and they still haven't gotten the hang of it.")

SOME AUTO DEALERS have come out with commercials soaked with racist messages. For example, I understand there's one Pontiac dealers' TV ad running in the New York area which opens with the announcer intoning: "Imagine a few years from now. It's December [7th?] and the whole family's going to see the big Christmas tree at Hirohito [Rockefeller] Center." Then ominously: "Go on. Keep buying Japanese cars." The ad concludes with "Enough already."

The only thing left out were "Tora! Tora! Tora!"

BELL TELEPHONE placed an ad seeking to promote legislation to enter the information generating business. According to a description reported in the *International Herald Examiner* (July 12th), the headline reads: "First it was consumer electronics. Then it was the automobile industry. Is our tele-

communications industry next?" Below that is a photograph of a stern samurai fighter, crouched and seemingly ready to pounce. This particular ad was reportedly pulled by the J. Walter Thompson ad agency after the Japanese Embassy lodged a complaint.

PROCLAIMING innocence, those responsible for the ads disclaim any venality, contending (presumably with

a straight face) that the ads are not meant to offend any group, or that they were done with a sense of humor. (Sound familiar, *déjà vu*?) Another reasoning justifying the ads: "We don't think of them as anti-Japanese. We think of them as pro-American."

Bull.

THE JAPANESE are beating us at

Continued on Page 6

In The Pacific Citizen 45 Years Ago

SALT LAKE CITY—"Under existing plans the 442nd Infantry Regiment will not be redeployed to the Pacific as occupation troops for Japan," Assistant Secretary of War John J. McCloy declared earlier this week in a telegram to the *Pacific Citizen*. The wire was an answer to a request by this paper for confirmation of a radio report that the Nisei unit was scheduled for occupation duties.

SACRAMENTO—The state Board of Equalization disclosed that Nisei who have returned to California and seek retail sales permits are being asked to present written assurances that neither the Army or Navy Departments object to their return here for the purpose of entering business.

LOS ANGELES—There will be no more "Little Tokyos" when the Japanese Americans are reestablished in Southern California, according to one WRA official. Elbert Cochran of the War Relocation Authority told the Exchange club that "One thing is for sure. There will be no more Little Tokyo. Such a segregated district was a bad thing for Japanese Americans and for the community."

AMACHE, Colo.—The *Granada Pioneer*, evacuee-edited relocation newspaper, will suspend publication in two weeks, according to acting reports officer Melvin McGovern.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editorial Was Unhelpful

The PC's June 22 editorial states that the Smithsonian exhibit "A More Perfect Union: Japanese Americans and the U.S. Constitution" clearly shows that given the long history of racial discrimination against Japanese Americans, it is apparent that under the stress of war, "nothing the Nisei generation could do in 1942 could, or would, have changed the course of events... the cards were stacked against them from the very beginning, and those who out of psychotic malice or with the false wisdom of hindsight continue to bemoan Nisei and JACL 'errors in 1942 are baying at the moon.'"

I agree that the evacuation was certainly not a product of wartime hysteria. There was prejudice and racial discrimination against Japanese from the beginning, and white racist organizations with slogans like "Get rid of the Japs" and "Keep California White!" had lobbied for decades.

But in the debate over whether JACL acted wrongly during the evacuation period and over whether an apology is owed the draft resisters, I, like many Sansei, feel that I'm caught somewhere in the middle. I have great admiration for those Nisei who stood up for their constitutional rights and refused to be drafted. At the same time, I feel that a lot of the anger and criticism being directed at JACL should be directed at the U.S. government and the white racists. They are the real villains. But JACL is an easier target.

But—"psychotic malice and the false wisdom of hindsight"? An editorial expresses the official position of the newspaper, and the Pacific Citizen is the official newspaper of the JACL. I thought that the current JACL leadership is trying to help resolve this conflict. I don't think that using such insulting and inflammatory terms helps the situation at all; it just creates more bad feeling.

PATTI ADACHI
Chicago

Inspirational Convention

The 1990 JACL Biennium Convention has ended. Has its underlying spirit? No, I don't think so.

After walking into the room on Day One and listening to the course of business, with its audience interaction, it became quite apparent that the true resource of JACL was in its individual members. The matured wisdom of original members, the strength and drive of young commitment, the seasoned knowledge of repeat delegates, the fledgling curiosity of attentive minds, all generated a sense of aliveness, of communicable passion, of transferrable involvement which I began to feel to be the source of the spirit underlying and maintaining JACL. I thank the participants of the convention for being so inspirational.

SUSAN KORNS-HAUTEFEUILLE
Tokyo, Japan

Thanks From a Nikkei

The April 27, issue of the Pacific Citizen carried an editorial on the use of the word "Nikkei," in which mention was made to my article in the Nisei Veterans Newsletter published in Seattle.

I feel honored to have my name printed in that connection and belatedly wish to thank you for making reference to my article. Several of my friends called regarding your editorial and confessed that they had never known the true meaning of the word "Nikkei."

Thank you.
TAKASHI MATSUI
Seattle

Chapter Newsletter Exchange

My name is Ken Nakagawa and I'm editor of the Tokyo JACL Chapter Newsletter. We are interested in forming a newsletter exchange with other JACL chapters.

In our next newsletter, tentatively set for August release, we will be focusing on certain educational issues in Japan. We have been able to secure many articles that will be written by mainly young JAs.

There seems to be a curious interest from the stateside in what the Japan Chapter is doing. As the attraction and interest for Japan continues to grow for Japanese Americans, we have been increasing our membership to reflect the trend that increasing number of JAs are coming to Japan for work, education, etc.

We are hoping the Japan chapter newsletter will help feed information to interested parties in the stateside. If you have any questions, you can contact me at 3-17-17-202 Kamiyoga; Setagaya-ku, Tokyo; Japan 158.

KEN NAKAGAWA
Tokyo

Involving the Readers

Thank you for your new feature, "Monitor." Great idea.

It's so easy to get complacent. Racism is a part of the social fabric of nearly every country in the world. Educating the ignorant and the outright redneck is a continuing process and Monitor keeps the issue in front of us.

I'm also glad you're asking your readers for submissions. PC's readers are far-flung and we should all be doing our bit by keeping our eyes and ears open.

Maybe we could also submit items that are positive about Asians?—aside, that is, from plaudits on our high educational achievements. Nice to hear, but that's gained the status of a cliché. What do you think?

MITSU Y. CARL
Falls Church, Va.

Lessons from JACL

This is a hate letter! (about hate, in response to Mrs. Kinoshita and Mr. Igasaki, June 22 P.C.). The process of examining the emotion hate and then writing about it must have been a terrible strain on both of them.

Mrs. Kinoshita and Mr. Igasaki have brought out some very good points in the two articles. I am sure they could have easily mentioned other things if it were not for space limitations. I cannot speak for others, but when studying geography in grammar school, I was taught that Asia had over 500 million Chinese—during the 1930s—that Africa had almost as many blacks, and that South America had more of "a whole bunch" of different kinds of people than North America and Europe had white people. Therefore I'm puzzled when Mrs. Kinoshita writes that there is a white majority.

I am pleased to read that Mr. Igasaki is coming along with the Hate Crimes Statistics Act and will be interested in finding out "who did what to whom" and the reasons for doing it. I had really thought that any crime was an act of hate (what is the reason for a crime other than hate?). Also, his remark in favor of Connie Chung was enlightening. When I was a kid a "chink" was a wadded up rag or piece of wood which we stuffed into leaky walls to stop a draft. When did the meaning change?

The JACL is definitely needed to educate dumb characters such as myself. In the short time that I was involved with the JACL, I learned a number of concepts which I didn't think of before joining, but eventually dropped out (but did not lose interest) when it became very obvious that "Nikkei only" were wanted.

Mostly, I was amused at myself for forgetting some of the lessons I learned while in childhood. I am a "railroad brat," continuously being relocated and never "fitting in" any place, so it took me a while to really understand the emotions of being yanked out of the West Coast and dumped in the middle of nowhere as the Japanese Americans were.

For some reason I felt closer to the people who were in Asia during the late '30s and early '40s than I did to the people who stayed in camp, but I'm learning. I hope nobody thinks the JACL is not needed.

C. WALLER
Lafayette, Ind.

Likes Op Ed Section

I have been thoroughly enjoying your paper of late. There are so many excellent articles (cover to cover they are read), but if you were to ask me what part of the paper is enjoyed most, I would have to say that it's the editorial page and the page across from it.

The June 22 column by Paul Igasaki on "Racial Violence and the JACL" really spurs us to stay on our toes, both to be good representatives of the Japanese American community in the USA, and also to "respond sharply to ads," as Mr. Igasaki wrote, ads which utilize "stereotypic imagery to win support for repealing antitrust laws," to work hard for civil rights, etc. Mr. Ryuichi Imagawa's article, "Wanted: A New Bridge Across the Pacific," was so very good; and on page 7, "Origin of the Japanese People" was read with keen interest.

Thank you for your excellent paper!
MARGARET BOROWIEC
Levittown, Pa.

Letters to the Editor should be typewritten (double-spaced) or legibly hand-printed and no more than 200 words. A contact phone number and address must be included or P.C. will not print the letter. Longer letters may be subject to editing.

U.S.-JAPANESE RELATIONS

ED MITOMA

What's Wrong With Being a Bridge to Japan? Nisei Have a Vested Interest in Its Well-Being

Because of World War II, it has been prudent for Japanese Americans to keep our distance from Japan. But, forty-five years have passed and our situation and that of the U.S. and the world has changed drastically, in ways that no one could have imagined. In that time, the Japanese Americans have entered the American mainstream and we have gained redress for our WWII incarceration. Within the past twenty years, Japan has established itself as a world-class industrial power. Japanese products are seen all over the world and thousands of Japanese companies have established operations again, all over the world. Japan has become a full

member of the industrial world community and is becoming influential in foreign policy, financial, industrial and technical areas.

But all is not right with Japan and the outside world. Japan exports more than it imports. Restrictions other than tariffs make foreign penetration into Japanese markets difficult. The Japanese indirect approach is not well understood to outsiders. Although because of outside pressure and internal effort, relations with Japan is improving, it is slow going and misunderstandings abound.

There is need for Americans to know the Japanese better. There are need for

bridges. Ever since the Japanese first settled here, there have been cultural organizations for odori, ikebana, the martial arts, tea, folk arts, and etc.—these have been bridges. "There are the Sister City Associations—bridging people to people. And, most active are the Japan-America Societies."

Steve Clemons of the Japanese American Society of Southern California says: "The Society exists for one reason, and that is to bring together the Japanese and American communities and to promote understanding. The bridge-building process is to get people together and then to ensure that the Japanese have the kind of contact with Americans that will make them a more integral part of the community. They are residents here; their firms are incorporated in the U.S. They are part of our communities and it's very important to integrate them."

We Americans of Japanese ancestry (AJAs) have a vested interest in the well-being of the U.S.-Japan relationship. AJAs are of the same race as the Japanese from Japan and are often mistaken for Japanese. AJAs are affected when the relationship becomes difficult. As Ambassador Mizoguchi said at the JACL Convention Workshop, "JACLers should talk of U.S.-Japan relations not only to Americans but also to the Japanese here in the U.S."

So, what can the JACL do? We can become a bridge. We can, at the "grass-roots" level, get to know the Japanese from Japan in our community (which is the most important step); we could institute an organization-level people-to-people program possibly with U.S.-Japan scholarships and even exchange trips to and from Japan. Admittedly, such programs take much effort and funding. We can start planning within our National U.S.-Japan Educational Committee. What it really takes to start things rolling is the interest and support of our membership.

As Bill Marutani and others have often cautioned, we must take care not to become a spokesperson, a "bridge," for interests of Japan. Even Ambassador Mizoguchi stated at the workshop: "You (JACLers) should not be an advocate of Japan for you are not Japanese but are Americans."

KONDO

Continued from Front Page

"When you get older, you want to stay with your family," said Kondo. "... I'll enjoy my time with my grandson."

As for the future of JACL, he remarked that with the passage of redress—the top priority for the past decade—"it's up to JACL to think of something" to interest new members.

Anti-Asian sentiment is one area of concern, he said. "A lot of young people don't feel it, but there's subtle discrimination, and one of these days they're going to feel it... If they want to get promoted, they'll find out that they're being passed over for somebody else."

While many young people join the organization because their parents are members, "they should join because they feel that it's a necessity," he stressed.

Kondo will not be leaving California unnoticed. Chapters in different parts of the district—Monterey, Watsonville and Salinas Valley, Stockton and French Camp, Fremont and Eden Township—are planning retirement parties.

"It was work and fun, too," he said of his years as regional director. "I made a lot of good friends... everlasting friends."

CLIFF'S CORNER

DR. CLIFFORD UYEDA

National JACL President (1978-1980)

JACL's Report on Dissidents



The JACL national council, meeting in Seattle for a national convention in the summer of 1988, promised a thorough study with all appropriate documentation toward understanding the dissidents issue faced by JACL during WW II.

The immediate question became: Would it be an investigation independent of JACL control? How would JACL avoid the perception of a white wash? The answer seemed to be in JACL retaining the service of a third-generation Chinese American attorney with academic credential. Could her report be free from JACL censorship? It was not to be.

JACL had originally promised revealing the report by April, 1990. April came and went. The next promise was a week before the national convention in mid-June.

A few days before the convention, I stopped by the JACL National Headquarters. "We're still working on it," came the reply.

The report was not made available to the membership until the convention

in San Diego. It was a 28-page document, based upon the original, a meticulously researched report (single spaced) of over 100 pages submitted by the investigator.

Most of the documented findings embarrassing to JACL had been deleted. It was precisely these deleted statements by the then JACL leaders which had divided the wartime Japanese American community. Deleting them removed the possible understanding of the events of the time.

The true historical facts are sure to become a common knowledge soon. JACL has once again tried to manipulate history to improve its image. This action does just the opposite.

Organizations, as well as individuals, can err. The honest reckoning and admission of past mistakes can improve the organization's image. The Pacific Citizen editorial (6/29/90) proclaimed: "Let the healing begin." The JACL censorship of the report, however, has lit another fire in the 48 year old controversy.

National Council Action on Resolution

As a commentary to what transpired at the last San Diego convention when the Seattle resolution was on the floor, the JACL Japan Chapter representative's report made in their August newsletter is being reprinted for the record. Clay West and Susan Korn-Hautefeuille were the Japan Chapter delegates. West is an associate at the Matsuo & Kosugi law firm in Tokyo.—Ed. Note.

By Clay West

While a main theme of the convention was a focus on the future, the JACL also addressed, and responsibly handled, a difficult issue from the past. The delegates were set to discuss a potentially divisive issue in the form of a proposed resolution that the JACL National Council acknowledge that JACL erred in its counsel to the Japanese American community in the early days of the war and in its harsh reactions towards Japanese American dissent. This proposal had been submitted by the Seattle Chapter at the previous convention and tabled for further discussion pending the findings of a special Presidential Select Committee.

The Seattle Chapter also submitted a proposal for consideration at the present convention that instead essentially urged the JACL to acknowledge that expression of loyalty can be manifest in many individual forms and to express its regret over any pain or bitterness caused by the JACL's failure to previously embrace this principal.

Anticipation and tension mounted

with discussion of a request from a non-delegate for permission to have an outside company film the discussion of the first proposed resolution. The request was (in my opinion, properly) denied.

The findings of the Presidential Select Committee were then discussed. Prior to further discussion and voting, the Seattle Chapter offered to withdraw the first proposal, pending disposition of their second proposed resolution.

The second resolution, which was consistent with the recommendations of the Presidential Select Committee, was adopted and the first proposed resolution was permanently withdrawn.

Although some may have been disappointed in the handling of this issue, I saw it as a responsible approach and resolution. The first proposal itself was submitted as a "healing resolution," one that would enable the association to take a principled stand that might lay a foundation for healing a long festering wound. The second proposal could serve that purpose, but perhaps only after due attention was paid to the overall issue through the work of the Select Committee and the adoption of its findings into the permanent records of the JACL. It would be hard to say that the issue was swept aside.

The report will stand, even if only as a starting point for future research. For now, the JACL must continue looking to the future, for we have no shortage of current demands on our resources.

THE NEWSMAKERS



DR. ROSA KANASHIRO

► **Rosa Kanashiro de Escalante**, president of the pharmacy section at the Chemico-Pharmaceutical College in Lima, Peru, was among three Japanese Peruvians elected to the National Congress this year. The lone Nikkei senator, she is a member of Cambio 90, the same party as President Fujimori. The others elected to the House of Deputies are **Guillermo Yoshikawa Torres** (Cambio 90-Arequipa) and **Lucila Jiroko Shinsato de Shimabukuro** (Cambio 90-Huanuco). Senators and deputies serve five-year terms (1990-1995).

► **Ricky Izumi**, 29, of Cerritos, Los Angeles County, is one of Calif. Gov. George Deukmejian's appointees to a commission that will set next year's salaries for legislators, the governor and other state officers. Izumi, a Republican, is the owner of Southbay Music Co. in Gardena and a consultant to small businesses.

► Seattle's Department of Community Development has named **Susan Kunimatsu** as its coordinator for the International District. Kunimatsu will staff the International District Special Review District Board and coordinate issues and projects that affect the International District. Previously a land use analyst at the Seattle Department of Construction and Land Use, Kunimatsu is a registered architect and has worked for private architectural projects, including rehabilitation projects.

► **Robin Florence Koda**, Sansei in the 1990 Traveling Fellowship Competition at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago was awarded the John Quincy Adams Fellowship of \$5,000, the largest amount granted in the 3-D competition. Approximately, eighty students receiving their Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts degrees competed in the category of 3-D (sculptural work). In Chicago, her works are offered through Perimeter Gallery and also can be viewed this coming September at the New Art Forms Exposition. Robin received her bachelor's degree from the University of California at Davis and her Master of Fine Arts degree from SAIC in June. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Koda of South Dos Palos.

Tell Them You Saw It
In the Pacific Citizen

3 Japanese Families File \$11.5 Million Suit Over WDC Metrobus Accident

WASHINGTON—Three Japanese families whose teenaged daughters were injured in a Metrobus accident last March 20 filed a \$11.5 million suit here July 14 against Metro, General Motors Corp. and Vapor Corp., the bus and door manufacturers.

The suit alleged negligence in the design and maintenance, manufacture and installation of the door which burst open as the bus was starting around Chevy Chase Circle. The three girls were standing in the rear aisle as the bus started; one lost her balance and grabbed at two companions. All three fell against the double rear doors. The left door burst open, throwing all three to the street.

The three girls, Toshie Nakajima, Reiko Higashino and Kaori Fukumura, all 17, and classmates from Ursuline Academy in Hachinohe, Aomori-ken, were on a 2½-week U.S. tour, riding a Metro bus to the 4-H headquarters where they were staying.

36th Infantry Reunion Inviting Nisei Veterans

SAN ANTONIO, Texas—The 36th Division Association issued an early call to Nisei veterans for the San Antonio chapter's second reunion here at the Tropicano Hotel April 11-13, 1991.

Hotel rooms for two will cost about \$65 a day. For those who have never been here will find San Antonio a beautiful and unique city.

EAST WIND

Continued from Page 4

our own game of capitalistic competition, the Yankee ingenuity that once held sway in our land, including the ability to produce top quality goods in quantity. No one is forcing Americans to buy Japanese automobiles; indeed, Americans are pushing them, Americans are buying them, and Americans are producing many of them (Honda Accord, manufactured in Marysville, Ohio, being the top-selling automobile in the United States). In this first half of this year, Japanese cars accounted for 28% of all sales in the U.S.—up four percentage points from the comparable period last year while U.S. manufacturers dropped by a similar percentage.

RESORTING TO macho racist posturing or complaining is antithetical to our American sense of fairness and decency, and it surely is not a substitute for workmanship reflecting the care of craftsmanship—whatever it is that we do. As our Issei parents drilled into us: "If mediocrity succeeds, everyone would be a success."

AN OVERVIEW ON THE 'OFFICE OF REDRESS ADMINISTRATION':

Two Years Ago on Aug. 10, President Reagan Sets Government Motion for Apology and Redress

Editor's Note: This is the first of five articles by and about the Office of Redress Administration. We hope these articles will better inform our readers about the activities of ORA, and assist them in securing their redress payments.

WASHINGTON—When George Matsuda received an oversized brown government envelope from Washington, D.C., he opened it to find a letter, a form, and two pages of instructions from the Office of Redress Administration. Also enclosed was another brown envelope, which the letter explained he should use to return documents to Washington.

The letter started out by telling him something he knew: that he may be eligible to receive a \$20,000 payment from the government in redress for the four years of his life forcibly spent in a "relocation center," surrounded by barbed wire. The letter was signed by Robert Bratt, Administrator for Redress.

Like nearly 25,000 other Japanese Americans this year, George filled out the form, a legal form known as a "declaration," and mailed it with the requested document, a telephone bill with his address printed on it, back to the Office of redress Administration.

A few weeks later he received another letter, which said that they had now determined that he was definitely eligible for payment and would probably be receiving a check in October. George shrugged his shoulders. It all looked pretty official, but honestly, what did his phone bill have to do with his internment?

Where did this office come from? Who is Robert Bratt, and what does he know about those four long years? Why did they want his address when they already knew it? After all, they'd just sent him something.

These are good questions. So, for George Matsuda and the other approximately 25,000 individuals who may have wondered the same thing, an explanation is in order.

The Office of Redress Administration, known as "O.R.A." was established within the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice in September of 1988, shortly after the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 was signed into law by former President Ronald Reagan. This Act includes provisions for a national apology and redress payments to Japanese Americans who were evacuated, relocated or interned by the U.S. Government during World War II. It also assigns responsibility for the administration of redress to the Attorney General. He, in turn, established ORA.

According to the Civil Liberties Act, ORA must endeavor to identify and locate all eligible for redress payment, without requiring application, within one year of August 10, 1988, the date that the Act was signed into law. To aid in this project, the law instructs the Attorney General to encourage individuals who may be eligible, through a public outreach campaign, to volunteer their current address to the Justice Department. The law provides a definition of eligibility, and includes specific instructions about how payments are to be made.

Robert Bratt, already the Executive Officer of the Civil Rights Division's Administrative Office, became Administrator for Redress when he petitioned the head of the Civil Rights Division for the position. He felt that the program presented a tremendous but intriguing challenge. Though he can never fully appreciate the real experience of those years behind barbed wire, he and his staff now know just about everything there is to know about the internment.

Bratt began his administration by devising a three-phase plan for the implementation of redress: (1) Identify and Locate Eligible Persons, (2) verify identity, and (3) provide payment.

In order to identify and locate eligible persons, ORA began by collecting all available records from the internment, and transferred into computers the most important information from them. This alone was a complex and difficult project. The records of the internment are now 45 years old, and are of many kinds. Huge rosters from the relocation centers, microfilm containing forms completed for each internee when they entered camp, sailing lists from ships that sailed to Japan, index cards kept by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and many others, were found in locations as far flung as the University of California and as close to home as the National Archives, across the street from the Justice Department. To seek information about the former internees, ORA staff has travelled to places like Crystal City, Texas, Kansas City, Missouri, and Bainbridge Island, off the coast of Seattle.

The object of this research has been to obtain the names of all those who are eligible for redress, so that ORA can begin to locate these individuals today. Historical evidence is necessary in order for ORA to determine eligibility for payment. Now that these historical records have been gathered, the challenge is to link them with current names and addresses.

THE CALENDAR

• BERKELEY

Oct. 6—"A Sentimental Journey"—A Sansei Celebration of the Nisei, North Berkeley Senior Center, 7-11:30 p.m. Program and dance. \$10. Info: (415) 237-1131.

• LOS ANGELES AREA

Present-Sept. 16—"A Bomb Beauties at Burbage Theatre, 2330 Sawtelle Blvd., W.L.A. Info: (213) 478-0897.

Present-Sept. 29—"Paper, Glass and Shadow," paper assemblages by artist Kathleen Nojima at Kikuyu Gallery in Glendale. Info: (818) 957-2283.

Sept. 6-10—Modern Masters of Japanese Cinema, five-day showcase of 16 classic films from Japan at the Directors Guild Theatre in Hollywood. The works of Kurosawa, Kenji Mizoguchi, Yasujiro Ozu, Kon Ichikawa, Masaki Kobayashi, Hiroshi Teshigahara and nine other Japanese masters.

Sept. 16—So. Calif. Nikkei Singles' carnival/picnic 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at El Dorado Park in Long Beach. Info: (714) 528-7837.

• ORANGE COUNTY AREA

Aug. 31-Sept. 2—International Street Fair, Opening ceremony 7 p.m. Friday, downtown plaza. 5K Fun-Run Sunday, Sept. 2, Irvine Regional Park. Hotline (714) 633-6449.

• SAN DIEGO

Sept. 9—Japan Day at Balboa Park, 1-4 p.m., free. Koto music, martial arts, sumie brush art. Info:

(619) 234-0376.

• SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

Sept. 2—Natl. Japanese American Historical Society's fundraising picnic at Shibata family's Japanese garden in Mt. Eden. Tickets \$25. Info: (415) 431-5007.

Present-Sept. 2—Song of the Brush, paintings by Shioh Kato at Gallery Piazza in Sausalito. Info: (415) 331-6711.

• SEATTLE AREA

Present-Sept. 3—Bumbershoot, the Seattle arts festival celebrates its 20th anniversary. Arts, music, poetry, food & cultural events. Info: (206) 622-5123.

Present-Sept. 2—"Views and Visions in the Pacific Northwest, paintings, sculpture, ceramics, glass, prints and photographs by Pacific Northwest artists including Paul Horiuchi, Kenjiro Nomura, Roger Shimomura, Kamekichi Tokita and Patti Warashina, Seattle Art Museum, Volunteer Park, Tue.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Thu. till 9 p.m., Sun. noon-5 p.m. Admission: \$2 adults, \$1 seniors/students. Info: (206) 625-8901.

Sept. 8—First Hill Lions Club sukiyaki dinner 4-7:30 p.m., Blaine Memorial Methodist Church, 3001 24th Ave. S. Cost: \$6 adults, \$4 children 10 and under. Proceeds go to the scholarship fund.

Sept. 9—Seattle Japanese Community Service presents a Japanese variety show sponsored by Shunju Kai and the North American Post, 1 p.m., Pigott Auditorium, Seattle University campus. Admission: \$10, students/80 and over \$8. Info: (206) 323-0250.

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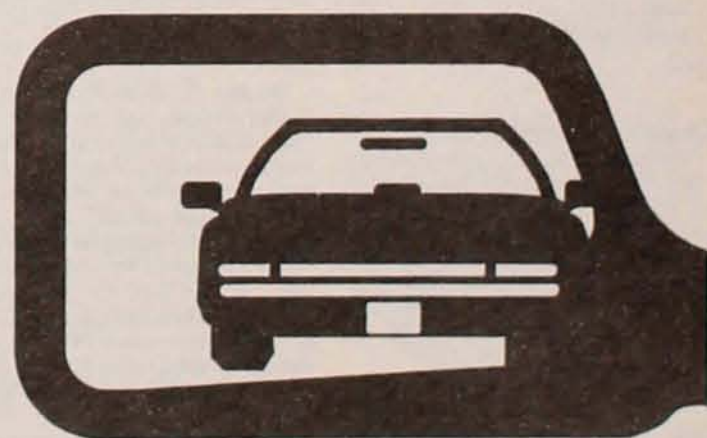
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Nurse, Three Doctors Who Toiled in WWII Concentration Camp to Be Cited

LOS ANGELES—Four Nisei pioneers in the health profession—James M. Goto, M.D., George Kambara, M.D., Robert Obi, M.D., and Yone Akita, N.—will be honored by the Japanese Community Health, Inc., at its second annual recognition dinner Saturday, Oct. 6 at the Biltmore Hotel.

For dinner information: call the JCH, Inc., (213) 620-0160.

Personal Profiles

Akita, 83, was the first Nisei nurse in California, being credentialed in 1920 after training at Angelus Hospital, then affiliated with USC, and was nursing supervisor at the Japanese Hospital, then worked in surgery at Cedars of Lebanon from 1935 until Evacuation, which found her at the hospital in Manzanar for 3½ years. She returned in 1945 to Los Angeles and resumed her duties at Cedars and retired in 1971. She was the eldest of four children; her father Sanshichi was among a group of Japanese merchants who came to the U.S. to visit the world's fair in the 1880s and was the first permanent resident Japanese in Los Angeles County in 1890. He opened a restaurant at First and San Pedro and later a bamboo furniture shop at Fourth and Spring Sts.

Goto, 79, was the first Nisei to enter the USC medical school in 1932 and later as intern at L.A. County General Hospital, where he completed residency in surgery and pathology. He was the first Japanese in Southern California to pass a civil service medical examination in 1938, and qualified as a deputy coroner. With Evacuation, he and his doctor-wife, Masako Kusayanagi, were members a five-doctor team which established the 200-bed hospital at Manzanar. Two years later, Goto and his wife were transferred to Topaz (Utah) WRA's hospital. In 1945, he returned to Los Angeles for private practice in Little Tokyo and taught surgery at USC Medical School and White Memorial Hospital. Now retired from practice, he has been married twice. The eldest of eight children, he was born in Garden Grove where his father farmed; his mother, a nurse in the Russo-Japanese war, encouraged his career in medicine. An avid fisherman, he operated a chartered fishing boat, "Lucky Dok," and a tackle shop in Little Tokyo, supported community sports activities and founded a local Nisei weekly, *Crossroads*, in the 1950s.

Kambara, 74, and his wife, May, a registered nurse, spent their first Evacuation year at Tule Lake where he headed the eye-ear-nose-throat clinic at the hospital and she was supervising nurse in surgery. He then moved to Memphis, Tenn., to complete his residency in ENT (the war had interrupted his training at Stanford/Lane Hospital in San Francisco) and later in ophthalmology at the Univ. of Wisconsin. In 1948, the Kambaras settled in Los Angeles where he set up his office and taught at the College of Medical Evangelists (now Loma Linda University). He just retired this past June after 42 years of practice. He hails from Sacramento where his father, Motomu, owned a pair of shoe stores and was active in the Japanese community.

Obi, 72, was a third-year pre-med student at USC when WWII broke out. He worked as an extern at Santa Anita Assembly Center and in various hospital capacities at Amache WRA camp, but spending much of his time as an X-ray technician. He left camp in 1944 to work as a biochemist in Detroit, resumed his medical studies at Wayne State University and earned his medical degree in 1948. He and his wife, Michi, returned to Los Angeles and he interned at County General Hospital and in residency in anesthesiology. He became chief anesthesiologist at the Japanese Hospital in 1951, its medical director in 1960 (which eventually became City View) and retired in 1985. He received emeritus honors from the County/USC Medical Center Attending Staff Association, has been long active in the community, including several terms as East L.A. JACL president and in the Japanese American Medical Association. His father Rikizo began a furniture business in Little Tokyo.

UYEDA

Continued from Page 2.

rected that research be conducted to assemble all possible information relevant to Resolution 7. Since Resolution 7 was focused upon the "No-No Boys", research work could have been narrowly limited to documents and other materials in the 1943 through 1944 period.

Instead the National Board decided to authorize a broader research outline for the purpose of not overlooking pertinent documents in the JACL archives and elsewhere that could shed light on the issues raised by Resolution 7.

That research outline included: the activities and relationship of JACL with governmental agencies prior to December 7, 1941; the JACL response to the declaration of war with Japan; the JACL response to the military orders and curfew; the JACL decision to cooperate with the evacuation; the action JACL initiated in the community; the JACL position on the legal test cases; the JACL relationship with the WRA and other governmental agencies; JACL activities in the camp; the JACL position and actions on the Loyalty Oath; the JACL position and actions on the war resisters and the WRA segregation process.

To perform this research work, a researcher, Deborah Lim, was hired in June, 1989. A lawyer by training and an instructor in Asian American studies, Ms. Lim's assigned responsibilities were to gather current papers and publications pertinent to the study on Resolution 7, research JACL's archives on its wartime position relative to the purposes of the study, conduct archival research, research and review oral history collections and finally, extract and assemble all such information for submission to the Presidential Select Committee in narrative form. The Committee received the then available assembled information in the late Fall of 1989.

After the Committee reviewed the research material thus compiled by Ms. Lim, the Committee asked her to complete her research, conduct additional oral interviews, and prepare and restructure her research product with a presentation of all factual information. A final research compilation was submitted to the Committee in the Spring of 1990. At the time that Ms. Lim submitted her research work to the Committee, additional research materials requested from other libraries, such as the ACLU archives and others, had not been received by JACL and the Committee.

The task of the Presidential Select Committee was to review the research material compiled by the researcher and to then cause a Report on Resolution 7 to be written for distribution to the JACL National Council. Ms. Lim was asked by the Committee if she would prepare a draft of a final Report. She declined to do so. Thereafter, in late May, and in early June, 1990, after materials from the ACLU were received, a final Report focusing upon the issues raised by Resolution 7 was prepared for and approved by the Committee for distribution.

Any fair person who studied Resolution 7 would appreciate the fact that the wide-ranging study by the Committee insured the completeness of research for all factual information that could be related to the issues covered in Resolution 7. All of the collected reference materials and books written about this period by other authors were not included in the final Report to the National Council because all such information was not pertinent to Resolution 7.

As to the unrelated reference materials, the Presidential Select Committee clearly stated in its introduction to its Report on Resolution 7 that: "The Committee's research compilation on areas unrelated to Resolution 7, but designated by the JACL National Board will be provided for the National Board."

To charge that it was the intention of the Presidential Select Committee to withhold such information from JACL is nonsense.

Finally, to the charge that the Report on Resolution 7 of the Presidential Select Committee is an attempt to manipulate history by JACL to improve its image is no more than a naked attempt to inhibit the healing process that must take place in our community. Such unfair accusations to discredit the Presidential Committee Report which was unanimously adopted by the National Council and thus to minimize the significance of the Committee's conclusion are appalling. The JACL stands by the Report and its conclusions.

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OBITUARIES

Kimiaki Nakashima, 72: Editor

A 1939 graduate of the Univ. of Washington, Kimiaki Nakashima of Montreal, Canada, died June 19 of cancer. As founding editor of the monthly *Bulletin* in 1946, he had relinquished the post only recently because of his illness. Over the years, the Nakashima house was a beehive of newspaper activity under his leadership with the volunteer staff. He also founded the Montreal chapter of the Japanese Canadian Citizens Association. In 1977, the Japanese government decorated him with the Order of the Sacred Treasure, 5th Class. The first Japanese Canadian to be admitted to the Institute of Chartered Accountants in 1950, he retired in 1988 as a partner in the Montreal branch of Peat Marwick Mitchell. Surviving are w Rei, s Douglas, d Paris, sis Teiko (Sherman, Texas), Miyoshi, Ruiko (Garden City, NY), br Norman, Edward.

Rev. John G. Young, 88, Claremont, Aug. 11, in termment in Honolulu, Japan, China mission, YMCA director in Hawaii, decorated 4th Order of Sacred Treasure, survived by niece Jeanne Runge (Charlotte, NC).

Shizuko Fujimura, 76, Venice, July 10; Gifu-born, survived by h Rev. Bunyu, s Dr. Stanley F. (India), Dr. Robert F. Ige, n Rev. Maki Fujimura (Jpn), in-law Kazuko Okuma (Jpn).

Riki Okanishi, 100

LOS ANGELES—Funeral services for Mrs. Riki Okanishi, 100-year-old Issei resident of Los Angeles, were held on Thursday, Aug. 20, at the West Los Angeles United Methodist Church, 1913 Purdie Ave. A native of Ishikawa-ken, she is survived by her sons Masao (Yoneko) and Hideo (Emiko), daughters Fumi Ishihara, Kimiko (Arnold Tadao) Maeda and Natsumi (Yoshio) Akiyama, and seven grandchildren.

Henry Hajime Kazato, M.D., 79

FRESNO—Dr. Henry Kazato died peacefully in his home Aug. 21. Memorial services were held Aug. 25 at the Japanese Congregational Church, where he was a guiding force in a church that his parents Jisaku/Toyo Kazato, help to found. An active Fresno JACLer who established two permanent scholarships and had worked as membership chair, the chapter designated a college scholarship in his honor. Donations to the Dr. Henry Kazato Scholarship Fund should be sent c/o Fresno JACL, 912 F St., Fresno, CA 93706.

A physician and surgeon for 45 years who practiced in Fresno's Westside, Dr. Kazato encouraged young people to become future physicians, nurses and medical technicians by welcoming them to the unique experience of working in a doctor's office. A native of Fresno, he was graduated in 1933 from UC Berkeley with BA in Arts and Sciences. He received his medical degree from UC San Francisco School of Medicine in 1940 and interned at Fresno General Hospital. During WWII, he and his family were sent to Poston II where he was clinic physician. After the war, he established his practice in West Fresno, was professionally active in the American Academy of General Practice and local medical societies. A pioneer in the use of computers in private practice, he was quick to adopt new technologies and demonstrated his ability to keep abreast of medical progress when, at age 68, he passed the examination for the American Board of Family Practice.

A devoted husband for 49 years, he is survived by his wife Faye, s Dr. Ernest, d Janice Ann Dorby (Huntington Beach), Ige Amy Dorby, sis Helen Hasegawa, music teacher, br Hugo, attorney.

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George K. Nakano, 75, Sunnyvale, July 5; Santa Clara-born, survived by w Tamaye, s Russell, d Carol Kono, Denise Young, 5gc.

Shozo S. Narasaki, 75, Santa Ana, July 17; Compton-born, survived by w Toshiye, s Takeshi, d Tamaki Rogers, Kotoye Nakanishi, Shizuye Carlson, 8gc, 1ggc, br Masao, Mike, sis Shizuye Sakai.

Tetsuo Hadeishi, 58, Kensington, Calif., July 16; Hiroshima-born, survived by w Chikako, s Hajime, d Yasuko, m Fusaye Hadeishi.

Thomas M. Ito, 75, Los Angeles, July 15; Berkeley, Calif.-born, survived by w Mary H., s Carl (Ariz.), Louise Mayemura, m Jayne Hepperle, 5gc, br Sam (Nev.) Albert, John, sis Dorothy Kojima, in-law br Tom Masumiya (Stockton), George Masumiya, Ted Kanekuni (both Orange County).

Helen Kajino, 80, Redondo Beach, Aug. 1; Hawaii-born, survived by s Allan K.

Fumiko F. Masuda, 73, Los Angeles, Aug. 7; Hawaii-born, survived by s Paul, Kiyoshi, d Shirley Ito, 1ggc, 4cc, br Sohei Miyasato (Hawaii), sis Matsuko Otaga, Hideo Oyakawa.

Hajimu H. Masuda, 74, Hawthorne, Calif., Aug. 5; woodwind instrument player with the Kotobuki Band, survived by br Hiro, sis Kay Higuchi (Gardena), Emiko Komai (Torrance), Masae Arima (Gardena), Tayeko Iwanaga (Torrance).

Louie Masuda, Gardena, Aug. 1; survived by w Yoshi, s Craig, Glenn, Darres, br Sueno, br George, Ben, sis Haru, Nancy, Stimi, Lillian.

Emiko Nakamura, 63, Acampo, July 24; Stockton-born, survived by h Harry, s Norman, Nelson, d Nadine Kelly, Nancy, gcs.

Seiichi Nobe, 85, Los Angeles, Aug. 7; pioneer Little Tokyo Nisei businessman, survived by w Yone, sis Aiko Hori, br-in-law of William Arai, Theodore Arai, Toyo Arai, Virginia Matsui, May Ishida, Catherine Nobe.

Sami Okada, 96, Stanton, Calif., July 24; Hiroshima-born, survived by s Yutaka, Manabu, Shigeru, d Alice Matsui (Camarillo), 1ggc, 17ggc, br Takuma Sugano (Japan).

Eloise Wada Raper, 58, Yuba City, July 21; Ukiah-born, survived by h David, s Phil Kinoshita, Fred Raper, d Marsha Kinoshita.

Robert S. Takakuwa, 84, Culver City, July 23; Honolulu-born, survived by w Grace, s Ty (Japan), Walter, Ken, Arthur, 5gc, sis Miho Nakatsuka (Japan), in-law sis Ishiko Takakuwa.

(Mrs.) Hajime Takeyama, 92, San Jose, July 26; Hiroshima-born, survived by s Hiroshi, Sadao (Japan), Ray, d Sadako Saito, Hanami (Japan), 14gc, 20ggc, br Satoshi (Japan).

Joyce S. Yamaoka, 67, Westminster, July 23; Sacramento-born, survived by h Tony Y., s Rick, Thomas, Tony Jr., d Lily Hara, 9gc, m Shizuyo Hiroshima, br Kenneth, Larry (both Ventura County), sis Agnes Chiya.

JACL PULSE

■ FLORIN

Florin JACL sponsors fall talent show Oct. 12 at Sacramento Buddhist Church; dancers, vocalists, pianists, instrumentalists, etc., are encouraged to participate. Info: Pearl Zarilla or Paul Takehara (both 916) at 635-2815 or 363-8800.

■ HOUSTON

General membership meeting of Houston JACL chapter was held at the Tokyo Gardens Restaurant, 4701 Westheimer. The meeting had been called by President Mas Yamasaki. A report on the past National Convention was given by Betty Waki, MPDC Governor, and official delegate. Scholarship Chair, Sut Oishi, updated the Ray Okumura Scholarship Memorial program. Discussion for the remaining activities for the current year followed.

■ MARINA JACL

Man Talk/Woman Talk, discussion to explore Male/Female differences and communication styles, cultural values that may interfere with dating, barriers to effective communication and steps one can take toward enjoying a satisfying relationship. Led by Alan Nagamoto Ph.D. Clinical Psychologist and Co-coordinator UCLA Stress Clinic. Sept. 6, 7:30 p.m. Burton Chace Park. Information, Joy Murosaki (213) 473-8908.

■ POCATELLO-BLACKFOOT

50th Anniversary Reunion of JACL membership from Rexburg, Idaho Falls and Pocatello, Sat., Nov. 3, at Cactus Pete's in Jackpot, Nevada. Banquet, keynote speakers (including Natl. Pres. Cressey Nakagawa), renewing old friendships and meeting new friends.

■ SAN DIEGO

San Diego JACL and Union of Pan Asian Communities present Kon Ichikawa's classic film "The Burmese Harp" on Sun., Aug. 26 at 3 p.m., Kiku Gardens, 1260 3rd Ave., Chula Vista. Donation \$4. Info: (619) 230-0314.

■ STOCKTON

Tomo No Kai Grand Canyon Tour, hosted by Stockton Buddhist Temple, Sept. 18-25, 1990; \$620

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■ TRI-VALLEY

Mixed Doubles Tennis Tournament. Cal State Hayward, sponsored by TGR-Valley JACL, Oct. 6. Info and application form: (415) 846-4165

■ WHITE RIVER VALLEY

The White River Valley chapter is commemorating its 60th Anniversary on Sat. Sept. 15, at a potluck held at the Senior Center in Auburn, WA from 1 - 4 p.m. All members 75 years and older will be recognized, and all former presidents will be honored. They will be coming from Tokyo, Japan, Ontario, OR and Seattle, WA, as well as from the local community. Cherry Kinoshita will be the featured speaker, and Michelle Cullen will be a soloist. The Pacific Northwest chapter and friends in the community are encouraged to attend. For further information contact Dan and Grace Hironaka (206) 852-5076.

Items publicizing JACL events should be typewritten (double-spaced) or legibly hand-printed and mailed at least THREE WEEKS IN ADVANCE to the P.C. office. Please include contact phone numbers, addresses, etc.

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