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(213) 626-6936

Friday, September 18, 1992



GOING UP—Structure begins to take shape on Poston monument.

Poston memorial nears completion

The Poston Memorial Monument is now 80% complete, according to Ted Kobata, construction chief. The white marble concrete monument is hexagonal in design. It features a 9-foot tall stone lantern with a 3-foot diameter shaft extending the monument to a total height of 29 feet. It is centered on a 12-sided and spoked 60-foot diameter raised plaza. The tip of the monument is 35 feet above the surrounding terrain. The 200 foot square plot of ground will be landscaped with 15 Washingtonia Palm Trees and will be irrigated by a designed drip irrigation system.

A group of volunteers from Sacramento have been in Poston for the

See POSTON/page 2

Contributions

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Information:

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For 442 it's 50

HONOLULU—Fifty years to the day (March 24-28, 1993) nearly 3,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry (AJA) assembled on the grounds of Iolani Palace to be sworn into the Army. The veterans will once again gather in Honolulu for their 50th anniversary reunion.

The five-day reunion will feature many events, including a parade, banquets, speakers, golf tournament, fashion show and a memorial service at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Punchbowl crater to honor their fallen comrades-in-arms, it was announced.

Veterans from throughout the islands and across the U.S. Mainland will be converging at reunion sites in Waikiki. Mayors from the French townships of Bruyeres and Biffontaine are planning to attend, "for they and their people have never forgotten the heroism of the American soldiers who liberated them from Hitler's grasp," noted Arnold Hiura, reunion media coordinator.

The saga of the Nisei GIs after Pearl Harbor will be retold to poster-war generations in special fashion

See 442/page 8

Redress amendments unanimously pass House

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Redress took its first step towards completion as the House of Representatives Sept. 14 passed legislation to authorize further payments by a unanimous voice vote. H.R. 4551 increases the amount of funds authorized by the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 by an additional \$400 million. The additional money compensates for an estimated shortfall in funding for the redress program and would make possible the payment of an additional 20,000 former internees.

In a statement following the vote, Rep. Robert Matsui noted that President Bush has already indicated he will sign the redress legislation if passed in the Senate. Similarly, JACL indicated that the White House issued a Statement of Administration Policy in support of the bill and urged Congress to expedite the enactment of the legislation. The White House said that funds "sufficient to finance all payments to internees pursuant to H.R. 4551" are available if Congress acts quickly.

Matsui, an original co-sponsor on the bill, said, "This is a major step forward for completing redress. There was literally no opposition to the redress extension in the House, which speaks well for the education process that has gone into the entire redress debate over the past six years."

Matsui and Rep. Norman Mineta were on hand during the vote to lend their support and each submitted statements in support of the bill.

Mineta said, "Today, I can only echo what I said five years ago. This is a glorious day. The House has reaffirmed our Constitution and the promise made in 1987 to lift the unfair stigma of disloyalty for Americans of Japanese ancestry forcibly relocated and interned by the U.S. government during the Second World War."

JACL applauds House vote

The JACL hailed the passage of H.R. 4551 as the first major step in obtaining full justice for Japanese American internees during World War II.

"Based on today's House vote, we hope the Senate will quickly follow suit and pass S. 2553, the Senate companion bill, and that the President will sign the measure before this Congressional session ends," said Dennis Hayashi, JACL national director.

'We encourage everyone to contact their senators and urge them for quick action on the bill.'

—Karen Narasaki

Karen Narasaki, JACL Washington, D.C. representative, said that constituent pressure is still crucial for Senate passage. "We encourage everyone to contact their senators and urge them for quick action on the bill."

The Washington D.C. representative acknowledged the work of Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA.) and Rep. George Gekas (R-PA.), who managed the bill for their respective parties.

Aide says Bush to support funding

Before the House passage of the redress bill, Clayton Fong, President Bush's deputy assistant for public liaison, in an open letter to the Japanese American community, indicated the President's



CLAYTON FONG

support for the completion of redress funding and the availability of additional funds.

In the letter, dated Sept. 4, Fong reiterated the Bush administration's position that a budget offset is required before additional funds can be authorized for redress. However, Fong states that the Bush administration has found a way to provide funding.

"As of today, sufficient offsets exist to fund reparations funding for the additional internees," Fong said. "The administration urges Congress to act immediately, while this window of opportunity

See BUSH/page 2

Income drops for all—including Asian Americans

The 1991 income and poverty numbers show the effects of slow economic growth during that year, the Census Bureau data of the March 1992 population survey of some 60,000 households nationwide indicated.

Real (after adjusting for consumer price changes) median household income decreased 3.5 percent to \$30,126. Income based on three-year averages (1989-1991) nationally was \$31,026; for metropolitan New York was \$36,864; metropolitan Los Angeles \$35,522.

For Asian and Pacific Islanders, real median household income declined by 9 percent from \$40,068 to \$36,449. Furthermore, their median over the past two years (1989-90) has declined a total of 8.1 percent from \$39,654 to \$36,449.

The median household income of whites dropped by 3 percent (\$31,569). The medians of blacks (\$18,807) and Hispanics (\$22,691) were unchanged.

Poverty up 14%

The 1991 national poverty count was 35.7 million or a rate of 14.2 percent (up .7%) from 1990 figures. The official income and poverty definitions are based on pretax money income excluding capital gains and disregards the value of non-cash benefits, such as employer provided health insurance, food stamps or Medicaid.

In the Asian-Pacific community, the 1991 poverty rate was 13.8 percent, not significantly different from the previous year, the Census Bureau pointed out. The rates of whites (11.3%), blacks (32.7%) and Hispanics (28.7%) were unchanged.

About one million Asian-Pacific Islanders and 1.2 million blacks were poor in

See CENSUS/page 2

Ninth arrest made in murder of Vietnamese

Cornell Springs, Fla., police arrested Michael Barychko Sept. 8 in connection with the racially motivated killing of Vietnamese American student Luyen Phan Nguyen. He is the ninth man to be arrested; eight others were arrested immediately after the Aug. 17 slaying.

Two of the nine men, John Liptak and Michael Primato, were released Sept. 8 without being charged. The seven others were formally charged with second degree murder. Although Florida has a hate crime statute, it does not apply when second degree murder is charged.

Expressing concern about the release of the two men, Dennis Hayashi, JACL national director and member of the National Network Against Anti-Asian Violence, said, "Given that these two men were among the first group of suspects arrested, we are surprised that they were not formally charged."

Daphne Kwok, executive director of the Organization of Chinese Americans, said, "The inability to charge this case as a hate crime is appalling given the serious racial overtones of this case."

Nguyen died of injuries sustained after he was attacked by a group of party-goers when he objected to racial slurs.



Kristi goes pro; holds option on Olympics

Kristi Yamaguchi, the 1992 gold medalist in women's figure skating recently decided that she will turn professional. Undecided whether she will compete in the '94 winter games in Lillehammer, Norway, Yamaguchi has until Feb. 19, 1993 to decide whether to reapply for amateur status. Under a new rule passed by the U.S. Figure Skating Association, professional skaters may apply and skate in Olympic competition.

In other news on the Olympic champion:

● Yamaguchi was selected Sept. 8 to be the grand marshal for the 22nd Fiesta Bowl Parade in Tempe, Arizona. The parade is nationally televised and is Arizona's largest single day event attracting over 300,000 spectators.

● Recently turned professional, Yamaguchi will be competing in the World Professional Skating Championships. Upcoming dates are: Landover Md., Dec. 12 and the Challenge of Champions, Los Angeles, Dec. 17.

Newsmaker

Ross Harano named Illinois elector



ROSS HARANO
A first in Illinois

CHICAGO—Ross Harano was recently confirmed as the Illinois elector for the Electoral College for the 1992 presidential election by the Democratic Party of Illinois.

He is the first Asian American to be confirmed for this position by the Democratic Party of Illinois.

Harano's duties as elector, according to Gary J. LaPaille, State Democratic Party of Illinois chairman, will be to vote for Bill Clinton and Al Gore

when the Illinois Electoral College meets in Springfield after the November general election.

A longtime activist in the Democratic Party, Harano said, "I am honored by this appointment and to be one of 22 electors from Illinois casting an electoral vote for the next president and vice president of the United States."

Harano is currently the co-chairman of the Asian Pacific American Democratic Council of Illinois and was a member of President Jimmy Carter's Trans-

ition Team in 1976. In 1978, he was the Democratic candidate for the 48th Ward Alderman.

Adrienne Goodman, 9th Congressional District Democratic State committee woman, in nominating Harano, said, "Ross Harano has been in the forefront of advocating for Asian American issues within the Democratic Party and it is appropriate that he represent the 9th Congressional District which has the largest Asian American population in Illinois." □

Nikkei caught in Hawaii storm

Los Angeles municipal court judge Richard Hanki was vacationing in Kauai when he was hit by Hurricane Iniki on Sept. 11. He rushed down from the mountains to be with his sister-in-law in Pua Loke, when the hurricane hit.

In a Los Angeles Times interview, Hanki said, "I never thought it would be like this," pointing to a one-ton container that the storm had thrown over the top of the house of his sister's neighbor.

Bill Kaneko, Honolulu Chapter, JAACL, president, said steps are being taken to assist in the aftermath. "We were lucky on Oahu," he said. "While the chapter has no members on Kauai, 'we need to help here,' he added. □

Civil rights champion Rauh dies

WASHINGTON—One of Washington's best known champions of civil rights, Joseph L. Rauh Jr., suffered a massive heart attack at home and died Sept. 3 at Sibley Hospital. He was 81.

National JAACL staff members remember his eloquent support of redress for Japanese Americans as general counsel with the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (of which JAACL was a founding member) and his role with all the major civil rights legislation of the 1950s and 1960s.

The Mike Masaoka Distinguished Public Service Award for the 1972 was accorded to the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights and Rauh accepted the award during the national JAACL convention that year in Washington.

Rauh also served as JAACL counsel in the case of yen deposit claims

against the prewar Yokohama Specie Bank and successfully gained the prewar exchange rate (Y4 = \$1) rather than the immediate postwar (Y360 = \$1) rate for claimants.

The Cincinnati-born son of German immigrants, Rauh graduated from Harvard in 1932, went on to Harvard Law School and after graduation in 1935 was hired as law clerk to Supreme Court Justice Benjamin Cardozo.

He joined the Army in World War II and served in the Philippines.

He began his private practice upon return to Washington in 1947 and into public life for the cause of civil rights and D.C. home rule.

Rauh once said, "What our generation has done is bring equality in law. The next generation has to bring equality in fact." □

Asian Pacific Women's conference set for Oct. 2-3

WHAT: Asian Pacific Women's Network 1992 National Conference.

WHEN: Oct. 2-3

WHERE: Sheraton Miramar, Santa Monica, Calif.

SPEAKERS: Keynote: Irene Navidad, former president, National Women's Political Caucus; Gloria Ochoa, Santa Barbara, Calif., County supervisor; Mae Ng Gulp, director, Office of Equal Opportunity, Federal Depository Insurance Corp.

COST: \$150, non-members, \$125, members.

INFORMATION: Marcella Low, 213-244-2529; Nan Taketa, 310-782-1698.

LOS ANGELES—Sexual harassment, the glass ceiling, the L.A. riots, and child care are among the topics to be discussed at the Asian Pacific Women's Network's 1992 National Conference.

Entitled "Shaping Our Future," the two-day conference, sponsored by the Gas Company and Walt Disney Imagineering, will bring together Asian Pacific American women leaders from across the country.

The conference will also feature exhibits on career and personal growth opportunities and a networking reception.

The highlight of the event will be the annual Woman Warrior awards dinner Oct. 2, honoring women who have contributed to the advancement of Asian Pacific American women.

Honorees include Sud-ha Pennathur, president, House of Executive Editor, Ms. magazine; Patricia Eng, executive director, New York Women's Shelter; and Rosemary Dannon, general manager, KSCI-TV Channel 18, Los Angeles.

APWN, founded in 1980, is dedicated to empowerment of Asian Pacific women. The organization's activities are divided into civil rights, professional development/personal care, and community service categories.

APWN, in conjunction with KSCI-TV Channel 18, produced a documentary on domestic violence that was subtitled in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese and aired nationally. □

WANTED:

Asian Pacific American Organizers

From Korean seamstresses in garment shops in New York City, to Vietnamese food processing workers in Houston, Texas, to Pilipino nurses in Los Angeles, workers are organizing unions to gain power on their jobs and a voice in their communities.

The AFL-CIO Organizing Institute and the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA) are sponsoring a joint program to recruit and train Asian Pacific Americans to organize workers into unions.



Join the Movement That's Giving Power Back to the People

If you have the desire to organize for social justice, find out more about the Organizing Institute and the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO. Applications for a special organizing seminar in Los Angeles on October 16th-18th are now being accepted. If you are interested in becoming a union organizer, contact Charles Chang, AFL-CIO Organizing Institute, 800-848-3021; or Chung-Wah Hong, APALA, 202-842-1263.

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Los Angeles: 8-9 October, 10 am - 7 pm
Cedar Room, Century Plaza Hotel & Tower
New York: 31 October - 5 November, 10 am - 7 pm
Conrad Salon, The Waldorf-Astoria

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Short takes

Asian store closes after shooting

HOUSTON — Last July 24, Vietnamese immigrant owner Hung Nguyen of a minimart in the far southwest Houston area shot and killed a Black youth at the store over a stolen beer.

After months of protests from Black groups from the inner city as well as a show of support by neighbors in the predominantly Black middle-class community of Briargate where the store is located, Nguyen is closing shop, according to the Dallas Morning News this past week (Sept. 6).

Nguyen, free on \$150,000 bond, is awaiting grand jury action. Meanwhile, his married sister, Paula Nguyen, said she tried to weather the daily picketing and calls for a boycott but decided that it was too much. "I tried to work it out, but these people would not cooperate. I felt I could not continue business that way," she explained.

Ida Warren, president of the Briargate Community Improvement Association, said she had no problems with her. "It's really bad this happened, but the worst thing was people coming out of (inner-city Houston) to protest. We don't represent ourselves like that."

The Council of Asian American Organizations rejected the charges of racism against Asians but acknowledged that there are legitimate grievances against Asian-owned businesses, spokeswoman Glenda Joe said. □

— from Herb Ogawa

N.Y. Times renews redress support

Editorial support for redress was renewed Aug. 5 by the *New York Times* as the National JACL

Convention opened in Denver. The *Times*, commenting on HR 4551/52553, the Civil Liberties Act Amendments of 1992, declared: "Congress has no excuse to underfinance the program. The amount is relatively small, the moral imperative large." □

Group promotes racial unity

Seattle Councilwoman Martha Choe has quietly formed the Asian/Pacific-Black Coalition of community, business and student leaders to address social, economic and cultural forces that fuel racial misunderstanding.

Though the 20-member coalition was formed in May in the wake of the Los Angeles riots and has met three times, its members have been quiet because they wanted to nail down a concrete plan, Choe explained. □

Hawaii rejects 'Yen' evaluation

The Hawaii Supreme Court on Aug. 26 held the value of land is not dependent on the amount paid by Japanese buyers for comparable properties.

In a dispute between the city tax assessor and Mary G. Steiner over the appraised value of her Black Point lot, the lower circuit court had agreed with Steiner that the value should be lower than the city's appraisal (\$2.1 million for the 46,000 sq. foot lot in 1988-89; and \$2.7 million for 1989-90).

The high court set the assessed value even lower at \$2 million for 1988-89 and \$2.5 million for 1989-90, saying property should be assessed at its intrinsic value which, the court indicated, is still extremely difficult to determine. □

DIRECTOR OF FUND DEVELOPMENT JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

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- Ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing.
- Knowledge of JACL, its organization, programs and activities, preferred, but not required.

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Responsible for all aspects of national fundraising efforts, including direct mail, special events, proposal writing to foundations and corporations.
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Agenda

JACL

1000 Club

Mas Kinoshita and Kiyoo Sakahara won the 1000 Club trophies in the annual Seattle and Puuyallup Valley JACL-sponsored golf tournament held at Allenmore Golf Club in Tacoma on Aug. 26. Other winners were:

MEN-Harry Kodoshima, Bob Ohashi, Jiro Yoshitake, Jim Murakami, Jim Matsusaka, Joe Sasaki.

WOMEN-Mary Shinbo, Ayako Hill, Reiko Strauch, Shoko Tanaka, Hazel Calhoun, Reiko Teubota.

Last year's winners, Reiko Teubota and Bob Murakami, co-chaired the 1991 tournament. The awards dinner followed at the Poodle Dog Restaurant in Fife. Besides the \$100 support money from the two chapters, Seafirst Bank's Jerry Iwasa, Puget Sound Bank of Tacoma, Teubota Industrial Supply and Bob Murakami provided the golf ball prizes.

San Jose

Fifty pairs participated in the annual San Jose JACL doubles

tennis tournament at West Valley College on Aug. 1, it was announced by Sayeko Nakamura, tournament director. The first and second-place winners were:

MEN'S "A": John Kawasaki/Allen Taira, Rich Mori/Wayne Leong (Flight B). "B": Chris Yasukawa/Tony Toy, Ron Lee/Dennis Tran (Flight B). "C": Tadd Tom/John Victoriano & Buck Wong/Tad Kawamoto. "D": Emile Melan/T. Ueese & Joe Galkowski/Andy Anderson.

WOMEN'S "B": Sachiko Saigusa/Michiko Morita and Chris Tomomatsu/Linda Kelling. "C": Carrie Ishibashi/Mariann Kanemoto and Tomoko Karube/Takami Minemura.

'Remembrance' at Topaz observed

DELTA, Utah—Memorial Day appeared bright and sunny for the 25 Salt Lake pilgrims heading for the 50th anniversary Day of Remembrance at the Topaz campsite here. Many brought umbrellas as rain had been forecast, but no one thought to bring mosquito repellent as the monument

site was swarming with them. Jeff Itami of the Salt Lake Chapter chaired the program at the monument site. Delta High School teacher Jane Beckwith gave an overview of Topaz. An awards ceremony followed at the Delta City Council chambers where plaques were presented to Utah Gov. Norman Bangert and to Beckwith.

After the picnic lunch in the city park, a tour followed of the Delta City Museum, dedicated to the Central Utah (Topaz) camp. Amidst the warm hospitality from residents of Delta, the visitors agreed, "The mosquitos weren't so bad, after all; it had been a truly memorable Day of Remembrance."

Bangert was honored by the Utah JACL chapters for his support for redress. During the mid-'80s when legislation was moving through Congress, he wrote letters to each member of the Utah congressional delegation, strongly endorsing redress. It was recalled that his father had always expressed dismay over the injustice of EO 9066. Dorothy Mooso of the governor's office accepted the plaque.

Personally speaking

Seiki Muroeno, 47, one of three executives responsible for The Chase Manhattan Private Bank's international operations was promoted to senior vice president in March, and is headquartered in Hong Kong.

A native son of Bridgeton, N.J., he is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ginzio Muroeno, both pioneer members of Seabrook Chapter, JACL. He is also the first Asian American ever to be promoted to the level of senior vice president at the bank.

A 1966 graduate in business management from Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pa., where he starred in football and with an MBA in 1968 from The American University, Washington, D.C., Muroeno began his career at Chase as a market research analyst in 1969. He was a division executive in Chase's corporate banking department before joining the Private Bank in 1979.

By 1987, he was assigned to Hong Kong and was a Southeast Asia regional manager, then the Asia/Pacific area manager from 1989. As senior v.p., he continues to be responsible for all private banking business throughout the Asia/Pacific region.

*North Hollywood (Calif.) High basketball star **Suzi Shimoyama**, voted Mid-Valley Player of the Year, was hailed as the Southland's top Sasei high school athlete as she received the Oliver/Pacific Heritage Bank Trophy. Presentation was made at the 75th Olivers' reunion luncheon Aug. 8 at the Quiet Cannon Restaurant, Montebello, Wendell Yoshida, girls' basketball coach at Peninsula High School, Palos Verdes was keynote speaker. His teams were five-time CIF champi-

ons, sporting a 33-0 record from 1987 to 1991. Shimoyama, whose mother is of Irish ancestry, also received a \$1,000 Oliver Club scholarship, a plaque from L.A. County Supervisor Mike Antonovich and plans to continue playing for UC Berkeley women's basketball team, though her participation this year is on hold due to a knee injury.

Southern California criminal attorney and Los Angeles Police Commissioner **Michael Yamaki** was named to the University of West Los Angeles board of trustees. Grateful to the university to pursue a career in law, and 1977 graduate from the university's law school, Yamaki viewed the appointment to the board as his chance to give something back to the school. "The University of West LA enabled me to pursue this goal by offering a flexible schedule which allowed me to keep my full-time job," he said. He earned his juris doctorate degree in three years by attending night school, which recently relocated from Culver City to Inglewood. Yamaki has also served as vice-chair of the Committee of Bar Examiners and as a member of the State Bar's ethnic minority relations committee.

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Kevin M. Tamaki, 34, of Santa Monica was named its West Side Los Angeles area manager and an Asian Pacific community liaison. His contacts with the community are in mid-Wilshire, Koreatown, Hollywood and points west to Santa Monica. AUC Santa Barbara graduate in political science with a master of urban planning from Michigan with a teaching credential, he previously worked as a public works coordinator and outside plant engineer.

***Yukiyasu Togo**, senior ranking Toyota Motors official in the U.S., was conferred an honorary doctor of letters degree Sept. 17 from CSU Dominguez Hills for his leadership in philanthropic efforts, community (JACCC, Japan America Society, Japan Business Association) and other non-profit organizations (United Way, Boy Scouts of America) despite his busy business responsibilities as chief executive officer of Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A. "Mr. Togo is an ideal example of the type of human being we at Dominguez Hills hope our students will embody once they have completed their education," CSUDH president Robert C. Detweiler said. Togo began his career with Toyota as a salesman more than 30 years ago.

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Opinions



From the frying pan

BILL HOSOKAWA

As a live witness to Evacuation

Fifty years, a half century after the Evacuation, has the time come to put that deplorable event behind us? Has the time come to put aside the unforgettable and go on to other things?

Well, fortunately most of us went on to other things long ago, rearing families, working for a living, seeking whatever enjoyment there is to be found in life and making our small contributions to society.

But recently, after visiting with a local high school class, I was reminded afresh that the memory of the Evacuation needs to be kept alive. I'd like to share with you excerpts from letters the students sent me after talking with them about the Japanese American experience:

"Thank you for coming to our school and telling us what it was like for you during the war. I learned a lot about how it was in the concentration camps."

"Some of the things you said I took to heart because I know how you must have felt when you were in this camp."

"The things you said were very sad and

almost unthinkable to do to someone. I could expect that to be in a movie and not in real life."

"You had a lot of very interesting facts and I learned a lot."

"It made me think about how other people treat people just because of their skin color or ethnic background. It's really sad to know how your people were treated."

"I learned stuff I didn't know."

This last is exactly the point—to teach kids stuff they didn't know about human rights and the sanctity of the constitution and what happens when people get excited and forget about principles that govern our country.

Their teachers know, if only vaguely, about what happened to a then unpopular Japanese American minority in 1942. They could tell their students about that episode, but then that would be just another classroom lecture with no particular impact. But if someone who had first-hand experience could be enticed to come to class and talk to the kids, now that would make them

sit up and listen. So history teachers and social science teachers look for former evacuees who would be willing to give up an hour to come to class and talk about their experiences.

A long, long time ago a doddering old Civil War veteran came to my grade school class and talked about what it had been like during the War Between the States. I don't remember the details of what he said, but I do recall that he stirred an interest that I satisfied by going to the library and picking up books about that time.

It's just a bit demoralizing to think that I am now cast in the role of a doddering old witness to history, helping kids to remember what was and is important to us Americans.

The Evacuation was a sad episode in America's history which deserves to be remembered," the teacher wrote in a note accompanying the letters from the students.

If I can help kids learn and remember, then it's an hour well spent. ☐

IN-SIGHT

Reaching for 30,000

By LILLIAN C. KIMURA
JACL National President

In its report, the Select Committee on Organization Structure articulated a vision of JACL having 30,000 members by the year 2000.

I pledged in my campaign for the presidency to work on increasing membership. All chapters should make membership a priority issue and set a goal for a certain number of new members each year. At the same time, we need to retain the current members.

As the New York Chapter president, I have received in the past few months at least 10 inquiries about JACL membership. And this was with no effort on our part. Some of the inquirers have friends or relatives who are members in other chapters. Three of them were interested in medical insurance. (My response to them was I hoped they were not interested in JACL just to have medical coverage.) Some of the others seemed genuinely interested in getting involved. This is an encouraging sign.

These are some thoughts about membership. In a metropolitan area such as New York, a phone listing is a great help. People look us up in the white pages. (It also has its disadvantages since we get all kinds of calls. Like the time a fellow called trying to get in touch with young Asian men to pose for a calendar featuring all males. I think he didn't have any money to pay for the models.) The New York JACL number is hooked directly to my office line so if I am not in, my secretary takes messages. We used to have an answering machine. But to reach a "live" person on your first call is an advantage.

The call is followed up with a letter thanking the prospect for his/her interest and a copy of our most recent newsletter is enclosed. But we need more materials such as a generic membership brochure to which we can add our own chapter programs/emphases. We should order extra copies of the *Pacific Citizen* to enclose. If the person is interested in Blue Cross/Blue Shield, we give Frances Morioka's name and number. In her run for Youth Council chair, Kim Tachiki had some great ideas on membership among her campaign materials.

A membership should be given to a scholarship winner. And why not to one who doesn't win?

We need to let each other know when one of our members moves.

We need parents to interest their children in JACL since discrimination and prejudice will not be going away any time soon. Better yet, parents should let us know if they have children living and working in our area. (I'm waiting for Bob Sato of Seattle to give me his son's address. He has moved to New Jersey to work at our new Nordstrom store.) Gwen Muranaka and Frances Okuno have pooled their creativity on the gift subscription cartoon appearing in the *Pacific Citizen*.

We need to sponsor interesting programs (following the Program for Action) in which members can participate.

Finally, one of the notes I received recently was from Mako and Diane Aratani, formerly of Milwaukee. Diane was the president of the Wisconsin Chapter for several years and was a familiar figure at conventions. Well, they moved to Tucson AZ and Diane asks members having family or friends in that area to contact her. Maybe a chapter could get started. They can be reached at 7581 East Dos Mujeres Road, Tucson, AZ 85715.

That's "30" for now. ☐
Lillian Kimura's columns appear regularly in the *Pacific Citizen*.



East Wind

BILL MARUTANI

Green card 'alien' residents

WITH JAPAN'S ECONOMY perking right along over the past decade, its standard of living constantly rising (the highest life longevity rate in the world), the high demand for labor (which has somewhat sagged in the past few quarters), I had assumed that very few Nipponese ever applied to emigrate as permanent residents to other lands. Even including our great land of U.S.A. And so, it was a bit of a surprise to me to read that even as recently as 1991, some 100,000 Japanese had applied for U.S. resident alien status. So much so that in Nippon some enterprising promoters have launched a business assisting and otherwise facilitating the application and clearance process.

MORE PARTICULARLY, under a project known as the "Diversity Immigrant Visa" program, initiated last year to speed up the processing of applications for alien permanent residency, up to 40,000 visas for the U.S. have been made available over a three year period. With nationals of 34 nations eligible to apply under this program, the right to a visa is parcelled out on the basis of a lottery—hence nicknamed "the green-card lottery." Of course, all applicants are subject to meeting the usual

requirements governing health, good character, and so forth. Well, believe it or not, in the first year of this program, some 6,400 Nipponese gained a green card—said to be the third largest group led only by the Irish and then the Polish. One estimate of the number of Japanese applicants was set at 100,000 persons. It is reported that one applicant submitted 750 applications—no, that's not a typographical error; the figure is "seven, five, oh"—before he made a "hit" in this green-card lottery. (That fellow must now be working in some government bureau down in Washington, D.C.; he already has a lot of friends there.) Thereafter our government changed the rules: only one application per person.

THE PROCESS of making application is not a simple one, involving no less than some twenty or so forms to be filled out. And no doubt because of this daunting challenge of bureaucratic paperwork, expediting entrepreneurs sprouted up. Charging \$320,000 (about \$2,600 U.S.) per head, if a company processed only one-tenth of the reported 100,000 applicants (let me get my calculator)—why, that comes to \$26 million dollars, a tidy sum.
Even to a Mr. Perot.

BUT THE QUESTION arises: Why would the Japanese, who are going like the proverbial "gang-busters" economically, want to leave the Land of the Rising Sun and head anywhere else, even to our grand U.S., to set up new roots? Well, according to the report that I read, while much of the impetus is said to be the restiveness of the younger element of Japan—to see and be a part of our great America—there could be the factor that those matriculating at U.S. institutions of higher learning, benefit by the lower tuition rate for a U.S. permanent resident.

THERE ARE SOME, however, particularly the *kaisha* (business) people—who whether they know it or not—are setting roots deeper and deeper in America, although holding green cards with every intent of returning to Japan. In the meantime, they are absorbing American T.V. (one can watch Japanese videotapes only so long), go see the Dodgers or the Yankees and acquire a fan's affinity for the hometown, listen to their offsprings adopting American culture and ways, and so on.

Well, you know the rest of the story. It has a familiar ring. ☐



