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FEB. 11-17, 2000

In Search of Earl M. Finch

By MARTHA NAKAGAWA
Assistant Editor

Although Earl Melvin Finch touched the lives of thousands of Nisei soldiers, his own life is shrouded in mystery, due in part, because the man rarely spoke about himself.

"Whenever he met with the Nisei, he never said things like 'This is what I did' or 'Let me show you these pictures,'" said Mark Santoki, editor of the *Hawaii Herald*, who wrote a four-part series on Finch. "He was always into what you did

Santoki. Through the years, it had always come up in conversations with the Nisei veterans and in reading numerous books on them. But it wasn't until a year ago that Santoki started to pull the bits and pieces together into a whole.

In the process, Santoki found that several Nisei had named their sons after Finch, although the sons have no idea who Finch is, and that one of Santoki's uncles through marriage was Finch's greatest beneficiary. Seiji Finch Naya is one of two sons adopted by Finch.

But to Santoki's surprise, when he shared his discoveries with his uncle, even Naya, a two-time NCAA boxer and current director of economic development and tourism in Hawaii, was dumbfounded.

"Finch rarely talked about himself that even my uncle didn't know what he did," said Santoki. "I told my uncle that Finch started a foundation to help Japanese students to study in Hawaii. My uncle said, 'Oh, no. I don't think he could have done that because to start a foundation, you've got to do this and this. And you've got



In this undated photograph, Earl Melvin Finch (center) is flanked by variety show host Ed Sullivan (right), future U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye (standing behind Finch) and his Nisei "boys."

and what your goals were. He didn't like to talk about himself."

Santoki found Finch's story so compelling that he is now writing a book on the man's life. "In all my years in journalism, I've never come across a story where I can keep lifting different rocks and finding something new. Usually after a couple of months, I get bored and move on to the next subject, but with this subject, people keep calling me up and writing me letters. It hasn't stopped."

Santoki even received a letter from a Brown University neurosurgeon, who is originally from Mississippi. This neurosurgeon was so struck by Finch's contributions that he purchased space on the Japanese American National Museum's donor wall in memory of Earl Finch.

Finch's name was not new to

Earl Finch: One Man USO

(Editor's Note: This abridged version originally appeared as a four part series by Mark Santoki in the *Hawaii Herald*.)

Earl Melvin Finch, born in Overt, Miss., on Dec. 15, 1915, is the first of two sons born to Paul and Aloise Finch. The family was so poor that Finch's father, a sawyer, could not afford shoes for his son to attend school. By the time Finch turned 10, he quit school and worked to help sustain his family.

At the outbreak of World War II, Finch volunteered for the U.S. Army but failed his physical.

See ONE MAN USO/page 5

to know these kinds of people." He almost doesn't believe that a guy with a fifth-grade education can do 10 percent of what Finch was able to do. — The beauty of all this is that Finch could hobnob with the generals and celebrities, and yet he had the common touch."

But not everyone supported Finch. Among Finch's Hattiesburg neighbors, Finch was ostracized as a "Jap lover," and even his fiancée broke off an engagement after Finch started interacting with the Nisei soldiers, according to Santoki.

Santoki also collected documentation showing that Finch was under investigation by the FBI as a possible spy for Emperor Hirohito. Even Hawaii's Emergency Services Committee suspected Finch of being a con artist, trying to swindle money from the Nisei.

"I have one account where Finch is walking with Nisei men in New Orleans and the FBI came up to him and stopped him for his ID," said Santoki. "Finch was shaking, but things like this

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Vice President Gore Proposes \$4.8 Million Initiative to Preserve WWII-Era Internment Camps

Vice president Al Gore announced on Feb. 2 that the most comprehensive report ever on the history and status of World War II internment camps will be released this week, and proposed \$4.8 million for a new initiative to help preserve several of these sites throughout the West.

The National Park Service report, which is now available, describes the history and current conditions of relocation centers and other facilities where approximately 120,000 Japanese Americans were interned during WWII. The administration's FY 2001 budget will seek funding to acquire some of these historic sites and to construct visitor facilities and exhibits.

"The relocation and internment of American citizens during World War II is a vital chapter in our history," said Vice President Gore. "Today we take an important step to honor and preserve the experience of Japanese Americans who paid a dear price and persevered during one of our nation's most trying hours."

The Park Service report, titled "Confinement and Ethnicity: An Overview of World War II Japanese American Internment Camp Sites," is the most exhaustive survey ever of the 36 sites associated with the relocation and internment of JAs during the war.

The sites, most in remote areas of the West, include War Reloca-

tion Centers, Citizen Isolation Centers, Assembly Centers, U.S. Department of Justice Centers and other facilities.

The proposed FY 2001 funding would be used to construct a new visitor center at the Manzanar National Historic Site in California; to acquire and protect other former camp sites; to construct an interpretive exhibit near a former work camp in Arizona; and to begin a Park Service study of "World War II on the Home Front."

"We salute the administration for this effort to preserve the camp sites," said JACL national president Helen Kawagoe. "It is important for this nation to maintain the sites as an important part of our history."

JACL has been working with the administration to coordinate efforts towards the preservation of the former camp sites.

"This is truly a remarkable initiative on the administration's part," said John Tateishi, JACL national director. "The Japanese American community has struggled for years to find ways to preserve the sites of the former camps. What the administration proposes under this program will achieve what we've struggled to accomplish for decades."

"Tateishi added, "This administration has been very supportive

See CAMPS/page 7

Justice Department Says Nuclear Scientist Should Remain Jailed

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON—The Justice Department says former Los Alamos nuclear weapons scientist Wen Ho Lee should be denied bail because he still could disclose secrets about the U.S. arsenal.

Responding to Lee's appeal of a Jan. 4 ruling that he should remain jailed until trial, the government said on Feb. 1 the scientist still could have information about seven missing computer tapes containing classified material.

"Lee could communicate the location of the tapes and facilitate their use by an unauthorized possessor," the government said. "The fact that numerous countries would be interested in acquiring the highly sensitive information that Lee downloaded, and could provide safe haven to Lee, weighs heavily in favor of detention."

The U.S. attorney's office in Albuquerque, N.M., mailed its response on Feb. 1 to the U.S. 10th

Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver. The brief, which asks for oral arguments on the matter, contends a lower court properly found that Lee's release would endanger the nation.

The brief argues the government provided "clear and convincing" evidence that Lee poses a risk to national security if he is released pending trial; that other factors weigh in favor of detaining him; and that there is no way to reasonably assure the national security if he is released.

Lee's attorneys asked the appellate court last month to release him on bond, arguing that his right against self-incrimination was violated and that prosecutors failed to prove he was a flight risk and a danger to the community. The attorneys contend he was denied bail in part because he did not provide more information about seven missing computer tapes.

Lee, 60, who has been charged

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Monterey, California
June 26-July 2, 2000

20 weeks

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JACL Calendar

National

Mon., June 26-Sun., July 2—36th Biennial JACL National Convention: Doubletree Inn, Monterey, Calif.; special rate for JACL conventioners. Reservations ASAP: 831/649-4511, <www.doubletreemonterey.com>.

Eastern

WASHINGTON, D.C.
Sat., Feb. 19—JACL matinee: "Snow Falling on Cedars." RSVP and details: Laura Nakatani, 703/519-9376, e-mail: nakatani@earthlink.net.
Fri.-Tues., March 31-April 4—Washington, D.C., Leadership Conference: Doubletree Hotel. Info: Tom Ehrlie, 415/921-5225.

Midwest

CHICAGO
Sat., Feb. 19—17th Annual Lunar New Year Celebration Dinner by Asian American Coalition of Chicago (JACL co-founder); see Community

COMMUNITY Calendar

The Midwest

CHICAGO
Sat., Feb. 19—17th Annual Asian American Coalition of Chicago's Lunar New Year Celebration Dinner: Navy Pier; awards, "open mike" forum; hosted by the Pakistani American community RSVP: Larry Schectman, 773/275-9292.

Intermountain

SALT LAKE
Thurs., March 4—National JACL Credit Union annual meeting: Little America Hotel, 500 S. Main St.; business meeting & children's entertainment 5 p.m., buffet dinner 6 p.m., entertainment 7:30 p.m.; RSVP by March 2: 801/355-8040.

Pacific Northwest

PORTLAND
Sat., Feb. 19—Opening of the Heart Mountain photo exhibit at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 117 N.W. 2nd Ave. Info: 503/224-1858.
Fri.-Sun., Aug. 11-13—Greater Portland Reunion, "Nikkei Futures 2000: Doubletree Lloyd Center Hotel; mixer, banquet, tours, golf tournament, picnic, etc. Info: Kennie Namba, 503/258-0848, Kurtis Inouye 503/682-

Calendar

Pacific Northwest

ALL PNW DISTRICT CHAPTERS
Sun., Feb. 13—Special Tribute and Obento Lunch: 2 p.m., Kabuki Restaurant, 2919 S. 38th St., Tacoma; co-sponsored by Nisei Veterans Committee. Info: Elsie Taniguchi, 206/824-2402.

NC-WN-Pacific

CONTRA COSTA
Mon., March 1—Scholarship application deadline: Info: Yoko Olsgaard, 415/201-0969.

FREMONT

Sun., Feb. 13—JASEB Crab Feed: see Community Calendar; helps to arrive by 3:45 p.m.

WATSONVILLE

Mon.-Thurs., April 24-27—Senior Center Tour to Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, etc. Info: Carmel Kamigawachi, 831/722-1930, Shig Kizuka, 831/724-0116.

Pacific Southwest DISTRICT COUNCIL

3238.

Northern California

BAY AREA
Tues., Feb. 22—TV Broadcast, "Regret to Inform," 10:30 p.m., KCSM.

BODICA BAY

Through March 6—Exhibit, early 20th century woodblock prints by Kawase Hasui, Hiroshi Yoshida, Toshi Yoshida; Ren Brown Gallery, 1781 Highway One, Info: 800/585-2921, <www.ren-brown.com>.

EAST BAY

Sun., Feb. 13—20th Annual JASEB Crab Feed: 4-7 p.m., Albany Veteran's Memorial Hall, 1325 Portland Ave.; takeout available. Tickets: Esther, 415/223-2258.

PALEO ALTO

Sat., Feb. 12—Concerts, "Harmony 84" Japanese women's choir: 4 p.m. & 7 p.m., Aldensgate United Methodist Church, 4243 Manuella Ave. Advance tickets are advised: 650/948-4664.

SAN FRANCISCO
Sat., Feb. 26—Tenth anniversary celebration of exhibit, "Strength and Diversity—Japanese American Women, 1885-1990": 6:30-9 p.m., Grand Hyatt at Union Square, 345 Stockton St.; Rep. Patsy Mink, keynote speaker and honoree. Info: National Japanese American Historical Society, 415/921-5007.

Sun., Feb. 27—Program and Film Screening, "We Served With Pride:

Sun., Feb. 27—PSWDC Quarterly Meeting: JACCC, 240 S. San Pedro St., Little Tokyo.

Sun., Feb. 27—2000 District Oratorical Contest: 11 a.m., JACCC, 244 S. San Pedro St., 2nd Floor, Little Tokyo; open to high school students 16 or older. **Application deadline, Feb. 24:** Info: Gerald, PSW District Office, 213/626-4471.

ARIZONA

Wed., March 1—Application Deadline for Sara Hutchings Clardy Scholarship: Info: Kathy Inoshita, Scholarship Committee Secretary, 623/937-5434.

SOUTH BAY

Wed., March 1—Application Deadline for Kiichi Egashira Memorial Scholarships: Info: Christine Shimane, 310/715-2039. ■

DEADLINE for Calendar is the Friday before date of issue, on a space-available basis.

Please provide the time and place of the event, and name and phone number (including area code) of a contact person.

The Chinese American Experience in WWII"; 1:30-3 p.m., Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave., Box Office: 415/392-4400.

SAN JOSE

Sat., Feb. 19—Yu Ai Kai Crab/Spaghetti Feed: 6 p.m., San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin Annex; "crab" race, "No Attendance Required" fund-raiser drawing. Tickets, info: 408/294-2505; e-mail: yuailkai@prodigy.net.

STOCKTON

Fri., Feb. 18—San Joaquin Nisei Farmers League Annual Banquet: 6 p.m. social hour, 7 p.m. dinner and program; Waterloo Gun and Bocci Club, 4343 N. Ashley Ln.; speaker, Attorney General Bill Lockyer. Info: 209/465-1754.

Southern California

LOS ANGELES

Fri.-Sun., Feb. 18-20—Award-winning play about the 100th/442nd RCT, "Our Hearts Were Touched With Fire": Japan America Theatre, 244 S. San Pedro St., Little Tokyo. **Order tickets ASAP:** JACCC, 213/680-3700. Schedules: Hideo Anzai, 949/752-5670, Louise Sakamoto, 310/327-3169.

COSTA MESA

Wed., Feb. 23—An Evening with the Hon. Tsuneo Nishida, Consul General of Japan: reception 6 p.m., dinner & keynote speech 6:30-8 p.m., Westin South Coast Plaza Hotel, 686 Anton Blvd. **RSVP by Feb. 18:** Japan America Society, 213/627-6217 ext. 17. ■

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE PROGRAMS

LOS ANGELES; Sat., Feb. 19: 2-4 p.m., Japanese American National Museum, 369 E. First St., Little Tokyo; focusing on the Japanese Latin Americans; tribute to Michi Weglyn, performances, awards, reception following. Reservations required: 213/625-0414. **Sat., Feb. 19: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.,** JACCC, 244 S. San Pedro St., 2nd Floor, Little Tokyo; featured speaker, Dr. Mitchell Maki, author, "Achieving the Impossible Dream: How Japanese Americans Obtained Redress"; refreshments. **RSVP by Feb. 16:** Info: Gerald Kato, PSWD office, 213/626-4471.

NEW YORK CITY; Sat., March 4: 1 p.m., Japanese American United Church, 7th Ave. between 24th and 25th; a tribute to Japanese American women with special memorial for Michi Weglyn. Info: Julie Azuma, 212/807-8104.

PHILADELPHIA; Sat., Feb. 19: 2-4 p.m., Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, Community Room, 18 South 7th St., between Market and Chestnut; speakers: William Marutani, Grace Uyehara, Tak Moriuchi; moderator, Teresa Maebori; refreshments; free to JACL members and friends. Info: Toshi Abe, 609/683-9489, e-mail: ToshiAbe@worldnet.att.net.

SACRAMENTO, CALIF.; Sat., Feb. 26: 6 p.m., Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church, 6929 Franklin Blvd., South Sacramento; keynote speaker, Jerry Enomoto, U.S. marshal for Eastern District of California and head of the national JACL LEC; showing of new videos on the evacuation and return; entertainment, karaoke. Info: Toko Fujii, 916/421-6968. **Sat., March 4: 2-4 p.m.,** Florin Buddhist Church YBA Hall; "Voices from the Past—Lessons for the Future," Lawson Inada, speaker; \$10 general, \$2 students. **RSVP by Feb. 22.** Also, free historical exhibit, 5-7 p.m., on March 4, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on March 5.

SALT LAKE CITY; Mon.-Sat., Feb. 14-19: Day of Remembrance Display; University of Utah Marriott Library; artifacts, photographs, memorabilia. **Wed., Feb. 16: Art Talk: "An American Diary" by professor Roger Shimomura;** 7 p.m., Salt Lake Art Center, 20 S.W. Temple; explores the internment camps through his mother's diary entries. **Sat., Feb. 19: "Utah Japanese American Veterans: A Proud Legacy";** 5:30 buffet reception for keynote speaker Rep. Robert Matsui, Salt Lake Art Center, 20 S.W. Temple; Tickets, info: Floyd or Irene Mori, 572-2287, Diane Akiyama, 266/2248. **Sat., Feb. 19: "Utah Japanese American Veterans: A Proud Legacy";** 7:30 p.m., Salt Lake Art Center, 20 S.W. Temple; free program honoring JA veterans; video, awards presentation, wartime exhibits; keynote speaker, Rep. Robert Matsui.

SAN FRANCISCO; Sun., Feb. 26: 3 p.m. program, 5 p.m. candle-lighting ceremony; 5:30 reception; AMC Kabuki Theatre, 1881 Post St., Japantown; keynote speaker Eric Yamamoto of coram nobis team; music, dance, poetry. Advance ticket discount: 877/243-3778; group rates: Donna, 415/567-5505.

SAN MATEO, CALIF.; Sat., Feb. 19: "A Community Commemoration of the Day of Remembrance"; 5-8 p.m., San Mateo Buddhist Temple Hall, 2 S. Claremont; exhibit of camp artifacts; keynote address by JACL executive director John Tateishi, installation of chapter officers, rededication ceremony, music from the '40s, etc. Info: Mary Jo, 650/593-7358, Kate, 650/574-6676.

ST. PAUL, MINN.; Sat., Feb. 19: 2-4 p.m., Minnesota History Center, 345 Kellogg Blvd. West; honoring WWII internees and unsung heroes who helped JAs build new lives in Minnesota; Kogen Taiko, personal testimonies, more.

WASHINGTON, D.C.; Sat., Mar. 4: 1 p.m., Japanese American United Church, 7th Ave. between 24th and 25th; info: Courtney Goto, 212/353-9146. ■

Anti-illegal Immigrant Billboard Goes Up Again

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

BLTYHE, Calif.—An immigration-reform group has erected an anti-illegal immigrant billboard near the California-Arizona border, prompting the ire of civil rights leaders who say they will fight to remove it.

The sign, posted along Interstate 10, reads: "Welcome to California, the illegal immigration state. Don't let this happen to your state." It's the third time since 1998 the coalition has purchased billboard space along the interstate.

"I've got no doubt that our detractors will try to deface it," said Barbara Coe, head of the Huntington Beach-based, California Coalition for Immigration Reform.

Hispanic leaders say they ob-

ject to the message because they believe it targets their ethnic group.

"We are fed up with this, to be quite honest," said Benny Diaz of the League of United Latin American Citizens. "Where is the spirit of brotherhood to your fellow human being?"

But the coalition defends the message on the billboard, saying it is a factual statement and not intended to be racist.

"I suggest they get their own billboard and express themselves any way they want," said coalition member Lesli Blenkhorn.

The first sign was erected in May 1998 but taken down after law enforcement officers were called to a heated exchange between Hispanic activists and California Coalition for Immigration Reform members. ■

Attorneys Say Will Use Insanity Defense in Uyesugi Trial

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU—Attorneys for Bryan Uyesugi have formally notified the Circuit Court that they will rely on an insanity defense when Uyesugi goes on trial on May 15 on charges of murdering seven fellow Xerox workers.

Attorneys Jere Fonseca and Rodney Ching filed formal notice on Feb. 4.

Uyesugi, 40, is charged with first-degree murder and seven counts of second-degree murder in the shootings at the Xerox building on Nimitz Highway on Nov. 2.

Three court-appointed mental health experts who examined Uyesugi found him to be suffering from mental problems and delusions but they concluded in separate findings that he did not fit the legal definition of insanity.

The defense lawyers have retained their own mental health

experts and will seek an acquittal based on insanity.

If convicted of the first-degree murder charge, Uyesugi would be sentenced to a mandatory life term without parole. If acquitted on grounds of insanity, he likely would be committed to Hawaii State Hospital for an indefinite period.

Circuit Judge Marie Milks has been named to preside at the trial of the man accused in Hawaii's worst mass slaying.

Milks is no stranger to high-profile trials.

She also presided at the trial of Orlando Ganal Sr., who was convicted of Hawaii's previous worst mass slaying.

Ganal is serving a life prison term without the possibility of parole for murdering five people in August 1991.

Milks has been on the Circuit Court bench since 1984. ■

Fox, CBS Make Commitment to Diversity

By Associated Press
and Pacific Citizen Staff

Seven months after the NAACP threatened lawsuits and boycotts over the lack of minorities on TV series, Fox and CBS became the last major broadcasters to sign commitments to make the picture more ethnically diverse.

Both Fox and CBS will add executives in charge of diversity who will implement and monitor network efforts, it was announced at separate news conferences held by the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People, the Asian Pacific American Media Coalition, the National Latino Media Council and the American Indians in Film and Television.

"This has been a long, arduous process," Kweisi Mfume, NAACP president, said Feb. 3.

The agreement will bring "real, meaningful, lasting change," he said.

"We commend FOX and CBS for taking a positive step toward more full inclusion of all Americans at all levels of their business," said Norman Mineta, former U.S. congressman and chair of the APA Media Coalition. "We look forward to working with FOX and CBS in an advisory capacity to ensure that long-term change will be in progress, and monitoring their efforts in the implementation of the agreements."

The network agreements, much like those signed by NBC and ABC last month, focus on

changes in minority representation throughout the companies — both on-screen and off. Minority recruitment will be considered in executive job evaluations.

"We feel it's enormously important, it's very good for business, and most of all it's the right thing to do," Fox Entertainment President Doug Herzog said of his network's initiative.

"The agreements we have reached with FOX and CBS hopefully will signal the end of 'whitewashing' of television," said Karen K. Narasaki, executive director of the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium. Leslie Moonves, CBS Televi-

Like the Fox agreement, the CBS pact was virtually devoid of numbers that might provide measurements of success. But the network executives said they were committed to the effort — and Mfume said biannual evaluations were planned.

"It's not a matter of having come a long, long way, but of still having a long way to go," Mfume said.

The end result, Mfume said, should be creation of television that consumers can feel good about and new opportunities in the entertainment industry for men and women of color.

Although most criticism was directed at the four major broadcast networks, Mfume said he hoped cable channels and other broadcasters would use the agreements as a basis for self-examination and change.

The networks opened negotiations

"The agreements we have reached with FOX and CBS hopefully will signal the end of 'whitewashing' of television."

Karen K. Narasaki

sion president and chief executive officer, said the CBS agreement reflected commitments he made in November at a Los Angeles hearing on diversity held by the NAACP.

"We're not only putting it in writing, we're putting our money where our mouth is," Moonves said, citing such programs as the upcoming Latino Grammy Awards and the drama series, "City of Angels," with many Black writers and a largely Black cast.

CBS promised to increase the number of development deals with minority writers, producers and "other talent for the 2000 fall season and beyond."

With civil rights groups after the NAACP last summer floated the threat of a TV boycott or legal action because of the lack of minority actors on the fall 1999 schedule of new shows.

In the spring Mfume said the coalition intends to expand its focus to include the motion picture industry. He expects conversations with studio heads to be held after coalition members have had a chance to evaluate their goals.

The coalition of various civil rights groups represented a united front, contrary to an earlier squabble in which there was criticism of Mfume for cutting a deal with NBC independently in January. ■

By Associated Press
and Pacific Citizen Staff

Political Prisoner Freed Thanks to College

CARLSLE, Pa.—Song Yongyi, a Dickinson College researcher who was a political prisoner in China, says he owes a debt of gratitude to the American school which campaigned to get him freed and recently honored him on Feb. 1.

Song, who suffers from colon cancer, was detained in August and later charged under China's vague secrets law. His detention shocked the American academic community, while the U.S. government and members of Congress lobbied China for his freedom.

He had been collecting newspapers and documents concerning the Cultural Revolution, the period from 1966 to 1976 when Mao Tse-Tung unleashed a wave of violence against opponents and a million people were killed. Song, who is from Shanghai, spent five years in prison during that time, accused of being a "counterrevolutionary."

State Department officials said the Dickinson College campaign played a major role in putting pressure on Chinese authorities. The campaign attracted more than 4,500 signatures and respected China scholars. China's interest in gaining entry into the World Trade Organization was also said to play a role.

Asia Society to Be Renovated

NEW YORK—The Asia Society, an educational and cultural institution, will begin a massive \$30 million renovation pro-

ject that will not only double the Society's exhibit space, but will expand its performance art programming by upgrading audio and visual facilities.

Currently sitting in temporary quarters on Park Avenue, it recently opened an exhibit of religious sculpture from South and Southeast Asia.

The renovation, to be completed in the fall of 2001, will reconfigure the interior space of the bottom three floors of the eight-story, red granite structure. The original building, which opened in 1981, consisted of two floors of gallery space while the other six were occupied by offices.

Founded in 1956 by John D. Rockefeller III, The Asia Society is a nonprofit, nonpolitical organization dedicated to building bridges between America and Asia.

Hyundai Employee Files Reverse Discrimination Complaint

PORTLAND, Ore.—William H. Brown, a former employee of Korean industrial giant Hyundai, has filed a discrimination complaint, claiming the managers of a semiconductor plant in Eugene fired him because he is white.

Brown claimed that one of his Korean managers repeatedly yelled, "You are a dog," at him, and that Korean workers were routinely favored over white employees.

The complaint to the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries states that "Korean or other Asian employees often make human errors in the processing of silicon wafers, costing the company a considerable amount of money. Yet no discipli-

nary action is taken against them."

Brown was making \$68,000 a year as a technician when he was fired on Feb. 12, 1999. He now teaches at a community college in Salt Lake City but is seeking reinstatement as part of the complaint, said Gene Mechanic, the Portland lawyer representing him.

The state has already forwarded the complaint to the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) regional office in Seattle, which is handling the investigation, Mechanic said.

This case follows a California jury ruling last April that Hyundai violated civil rights law by telling a corporate headhunter to avoid sending the company women job applicants.

Thal Town Becomes Newest Ethnic Enclave

LOS ANGELES—City officials and leaders of the local Thai community joined between 400 and 500 people on Jan. 29 to officially dedicate a six-block area of Hollywood Boulevard as Thai Town.

It becomes the latest cultural district in a city which already boasts Little Tokyo, Chinatown, Koreatown and Olvera Street.

There is a large Thai concentration in East Hollywood, with Thai bookstores, video stores, markets and restaurants. In front of the Thailand Plaza mall and food court, a Buddhist monk, blessed one of the blue-and-white Thai Town signs that will designate the area's Western and Normandie Avenue boundaries.

Elvis impersonator Kavee "Kevin" Thongpracha, 60, who has been emulating "The King" in

Thailand and the United States for 40 years, also attended the dedication ceremony, saying the neighborhood designation will help people from his country feel like they have a piece of their culture in America.

From Los Angeles to San Bernardino, Southern California is home to about 80,000 Thai Americans, many of whom emigrated within the past 30 years.

Vets Group Offers Membership to South Vietnamese Soldiers

WESTMINSTER, Calif.—The Orange County chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America announced on Jan. 29 it is offering associate memberships to former South Vietnamese soldiers who fought along with U.S. troops during the war.

There are about 40,000 veterans of the South Vietnamese army in the county, said Mai Cong, president of Vietnamese Community of Orange County, a nonprofit social services center.

More than 1,000 Vietnamese Americans responded during a trial period offered by the chapter in November and December, said chapter secretary Greg Esclair.

However, it was unclear how many new associate members the offer will actually attract or what services they will be eligible for, said chapter president John Lynch.

The announcement of the special membership came as more than 30,000 people gathered in Little Saigon to celebrate Tet, the Vietnamese New Year. The area is home to the largest concentration of Vietnamese in the United

States.

Vietnam Veterans of America has 525 local chapters and a national membership of about 50,000. Members receive a variety of services, including legal assistance to those seeking benefits and services from the government.

'Pearl Harbor' Film in the Works

HONOLULU—Hollywood is knocking on Honolulu's door as location scouts have begun searching for sites to film Walt Disney Co.'s "Pearl Harbor," a historical drama about Japan's attack on the naval base during World War II.

Producer Jerry Bruckheimer ("Top Gun") and director Michael Bay ("Armageddon"), whose scouting team has been looking at actual Pearl Harbor sites, said the tale will be set months prior to the bombing and will focus on two brothers who fall in love with the same woman. One remains in America, while the other joins the British Royal Air Force.

The story will be written by Oscar-nominated screenwriter Randall Wallace ("Braveheart"), according to "The Hollywood Reporter."

Filming is expected to begin in Hawaii next spring, with plans to also shoot in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Mexico and England.

The film is said to be the highest budgeted project for a live-action adventure. Initially reported to rival the cost of "Titanic" at \$200 million, it has been scaled down to \$145 million. That would still make it the most expensive film shot in Hawaii since Kevin Costner's 1995 "Waterworld," which ran over budget at \$185 million. ■

National Newsbytes

National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium Produces New Census 2000 Video in 11 Asian and Pacific Islander Languages

The National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium (NAPALC) announced the availability of an instructional video titled "Census 2000: A Guide for Asian Pacific Americans." The 20-minute video, made possible through AT&T, explains the importance of full participation in Census 2000 for the APA communities and provides instructions on how to complete the census form.

The video was produced in 11 Asian and Pacific Islander languages and dialects including English, Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean, Vietnamese, Tagalog (Filipino), Ilocano (Filipino), Hmong, Lao, Khmer, Thai and Samoan.

The video provides an overview of Census 2000, including how census data is used, and discusses the importance the census data will have for the future of the APA communities. The video also reviews in detail questions found on the census form and includes instructions on how to answer them accurately.

The U.S. Census Bureau estimated that 2.3 percent of APAs were undercounted in the 1990 Census. Undercounts are considered significant since census data is used for hundreds of purposes, from the apportionment of congressional seats and the creation of legislative districts to the allocation of over \$180 billion in fed-

eral and state funds for programs such as education, transportation and health care.

"The video, produced with significant in-kind support from the National Digital Television Center, a subsidiary of AT&T, has been distributed nationally to Asian language TV stations and community organizations. KSCI and the International Channel have committed to broadcasting the video."

"Since many members of our community are immigrants who are unaccustomed to completing the census, having a culturally-specific video in several Asian Pacific languages goes a long way toward reaching the hardest-to-reach people in our community," said Karen Narasaki, executive director of the Consortium.

"A census awareness campaign among Asian Pacific Americans is one of the most important initiatives we support," said Esther Silver-Parker, AT&T Foundation president. "An accurate count is important not just to Asian Pacific American communities but is fundamental to Census 2000 overall."

The Census 2000 video is part of a comprehensive campaign by the Consortium — Asian Pacific Americans Count in Census 2000 — to inform and educate the community about the latest census. The campaign is the largest na-

tional educational initiative aimed at APAs in the United States and the Consortium is also producing flyers, posters and a media kit in several major APA languages. In addition, the Consortium staff is traveling across the country conducting briefings and workshops for local community organizations involved in Census 2000 education and outreach.

Affiliates of the Consortium include the Asian Law Caucus in San Francisco, the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund in New York, and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California.

In California, the Asian Pacific American Legal Center is spearheading the California Asian Pacific Islander Census 2000 network initiative, a collaboration of five groups working to implement an aggressive community education and outreach campaign. The Asian Law Caucus, also a member of the California Census 2000 Network, is leading Census 2000 initiatives in San Francisco; and the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund is targeting its efforts to in New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts.

The Consortium is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the legal and civil rights of APAs through litigation, advocacy, public education and public policy. ■

COMMENTARY Manzanar Preservation Plan Needs Support

By RICHARD GODFREY
National Park Service

The relentless and bitter winds from the Sierra Nevada blow through Owens Valley and into the Manzanar National Historic Site, in eastern California today, the same as they did from 1942 to 1946 when up to 10,000 Japanese American citizens and Japanese aliens were interned there in what has since been described as one of the greatest constitutional injustices in American history.

Today little remains of the Manzanar War Relocation Center barracks and other buildings in which families of Japanese descent were placed during World War II.

Under a plan by the National Park Service, segments of the camp will be restored on the barren landscape. The purpose of the restoration is to depict the life of inmates at Manzanar and nine other camps that were created for relocation of persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast following the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Plans for the restoration of Manzanar include the entire barbed wire perimeter fence for the 500-acre camp residential area, one of eight watchtowers, a barracks, internment garden and ponds, and the auditorium which will serve as a visitor center. These restorations, along with the National Park Service exhibits, will give visitors a sense of what Manzanar was like when it was an internment camp.

Many of the younger people in the camps volunteered or were drafted into the U.S. military. The

100th Battalion/442nd Central Postal Directory of JAs became one of the most decorated in the war in Europe.

Others volunteered to serve in the Military Intelligence Service. Internees at Manzanar were allowed to leave for jobs in other parts of the country provided they had a sponsor. Older people and children were the main populace by the time the camp closed in November 1945.

Many leaders have since spoken out about the injustice to U.S. citizens. Anticipated exhibits by the National Park Service will feature discussions on constitutional protection, including Milton Eisenhower, who in his book, "The President is Calling," asked, "How could such a tragedy have occurred in a democratic society that prides itself on individuals' rights and freedoms?"

A plaque at the Poston, Ariz., Relocation Center captures the spirit of the restoration project at Manzanar. "May it serve as a constant reminder of our past so that Americans in the future will never again be denied their constitutional rights and may the remembrance of that experience serve to advance the evolution of the human spirit."

For information on Manzanar National Historic Site, contact Kari Coughlin at 760/878-2932. For information about the fundraising effort, contact National Park Service Historian Stephanie Tothman at 202/220-4139 or National Park Foundation Representative Jack McLenahan at 202/785-4500. ■

Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies Appoints Rodney Salinas as Executive Director

The Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) board of directors announced on Jan. 31 that Rodney Salinas has been appointed as new executive director.

Salinas, having just finished his duties as national finance director of the Jon Amores for Congress campaign in West Virginia, took office last week.

APAICS is a national nonprofit educational organization that was founded in March 1995 to enhance the participation of APAs in public policy on a national level.

Norman Y. Mineta, vice president for special business initiatives at Lockheed Martin and APAICS chair, said, "We are so pleased to have Mr. Salinas as our

new executive director. His strong political background and unwavering commitment to the Asian Pacific American community is just what the institute needs."

Salinas will be following in the footsteps of the first executive director, Frances Lin Youngberg. Under Youngberg's leadership, APAICS became a leading national voice for the community.

Salinas received a master's degree in political management from George Washington University. From 1997 to 1999, he was the program director for the Arthur S. Flemming Awards Program, a private-sector awards program for federal government employees. He also worked with U.S. Sen. Jim Jeffords to create the Potomac Regional Education Partnership

(PREP), a collaboration focused on improving education and the work force in the Washington metropolitan area.

From 1997 to 1999 Salinas was appointed by Mayor Marion Barry Jr. to serve on the District of Columbia Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, where Salinas tackled such issues as economic redevelopment, hate crimes, and public safety.

Salinas is no stranger to APAICS, having played major roles during the successful Gala Dinner and Political Education Conference. He has also represented the National Federation of Filipino American Associations as the national youth director and was profiled in the April 1996 edition of *Filipinas Magazine*. ■

President Clinton Nominates Tanoue, Houseworth to Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

President Clinton on Jan. 31 announced the nomination of Richard C. Houseworth and Donna A. Tanoue as members of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Tanoue, of Honolulu, has been the chair and a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation since May 26, 1988. Previously, she was a partner with the Hawaii law firm of Goodwill Anderson Quinn & Stifel, which she joined in 1997.

From 1983 to 1987, she served as commissioner of financial institutions for the state of Hawaii where she was the chief regulator of state-chartered financial institutions and served during one of the most difficult periods in the

history of the state financial services industry. Industry leaders credited her with helping to restore financial stability to the state's then troubled thrift and industrial loan company industry and ushering in an era of tougher, more thorough regulation of financial institutions. Tanoue received her bachelor's degree from the University of Hawaii, and her doctorate from Georgetown University Law Center.

Richard C. Houseworth, of Paradise Valley, Ariz., is the superintendent of banks for the state of Arizona. He has served as the U.S. alternate executive director of the Inter-American Development Bank, as both a consultant to the assistant secretary of the

treasury for international affairs and the director of the Export-Import Bank of the United States. Houseworth received his bachelor's degree from the University of Kansas and also attended the Pacific Coast Banking School.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) is an independent agency which insures banks and thrifts, and resolves and liquidates failed institutions. It also has regulatory functions such as examining state-chartered banks periodically. It is one of four federal bank thrift regulatory bodies, with the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), the Board of Governors, the Federal Reserve System, and the Office of Thrift Supervision. ■

PSWD Names Oratorical Contest in Honor of Dr. Roy Nishikawa

The JACL Pacific Southwest District board of directors voted unanimously to name the PSWD oratorical competition the Dr. Roy Nishikawa District Oratorical Competition, to be held every other year in conjunction with the JACL national convention.

Nishikawa first joined JACL in 1936 and went on to serve tirelessly at the chapter, district and national levels. Among his many contributions, Nishikawa was the national JACL president from 1966-68, as well as the founder of

the Southwest Los Angeles JACL chapter in 1948 and the Wilshire JACL chapter in 1960. Recognized as the JACLer of the Bium in 1970, Nishikawa continues to build his legacy by serving on the national JACL investment policy committee and the JACL PSWD Trust Fund committee.

Nishikawa said, "I am very honored and happy that the district is sponsoring this event." He plans to attend the competition and greet the participants.

The first Dr. Roy Nishikawa

Oratorical Competition will be held on Feb. 27 at the Japanese American Community and Cultural Center, 244 S. San Pedro St., 2nd Floor, Los Angeles, at 11:30 a.m.

This year's topic is "How would the Japanese American Community differ today, if Japanese Americans were not interned during World War II?" Deadline has been extended to Thursday, Feb. 24. For more information, contact Gerald Kato at the PSWD office at 213/626-4471. ■



Blue Shield of California offers group health care coverage to current JACL members age 18 and over who reside in California. Plans may include a wide range of benefits, including vision care, worldwide emergency coverage, dental care, prescription drug benefits and more. For more information about these plans, call the JACL Health Benefits Trust today at 1-800-400-6633. Website: <http://www.jaclhealthbenefits.org>

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ONE MAN USO

(Continued from page 1)

cal exam due to a heart ailment. After his brother Roy was inducted into the military and shipped overseas, Finch decided to perform his patriotic duties by offering hospitality to local soldiers.

Finch, then living in Hattiesburg, opened the Earl Finch Company, an army surplus store that offered clothes and goods to thousands of soldiers stationed in nearby Camp Shelby. He also fed and entertained soldiers from all backgrounds — American, Chinese, French, British.

Finch met his first Japanese American soldier in the summer of 1943. In standard Finch style, he invited the men for dinner. Years later, Finch recalled this encounter, saying "they looked like the loneliest human beings in the world."

Finch's mother, although confined to a wheelchair, prepared a hearty meal for her unexpected guests that evening. During dinner, Richard Chinen explained to Finch that they were volunteers from Hawaii for a segregated 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

To Finch, these men were nothing like what Mississippi Congressman John Rankin had accused them. Rankin had publicly denounced the Nisei, saying they "are being sent into the South where we don't want them and where an invasion would surely occur if the Axis ever attempts it," and suggested that "instead of sending these Jap troops into Mississippi as they are now doing, they should be put into labor battalions and be made to do manual labor."

The next day, to Finch's surprise, he found the Nisei on his porch, talking and laughing with his mother. This was the first time any of the soldiers Finch had invited had returned, and they had even bought roses for Finch's mother as a show of appreciation. Impressed by this reciprocity, Finch began his lifelong commitment to helping Nisei gain acceptance into American society.

Initially, Finch focused on the Hawaii Nisei, but when he learned

about the plight of the mainland Nisei, whose parents were incarcerated in U.S. concentration camps, Finch extended his invitation to them as well.

Finch entertained thousands of Nisei soldiers. Anecdotal stories by the Nisei recall incidents where Finch on several occasions bought watermelons and had them delivered on ice so the men could enjoy them upon their return from an exhaustive march.

Other accounts show Finch purchasing Japanese food such as soy sauce, bamboo shoots, tofu and Asian vegetables from Chinese restaurants in Chicago and New York. He also imported Bergamot mangoes and Cuban pineapples, and donated them to the mess halls. Another time, Finch invited more than 600 Nisei to his ranch and held a barbecue.

In the spring of 1944, Finch held a dinner for 50 Nisei at a Little Rock, Ark., restaurant. The event, later recounted by Chef Maurice Zolotow in a November 1945 Saturday Evening Post interview, had shocked the culinary community when Finch instructed the chef to serve a 30-pound tuna raw. That night, every chef, cook and busboy in Little Rock was on hand to get a glimpse of the men eating raw fish.

Finch even sponsored Nisei sports teams because the 442nd included some of the best athletes in the country. When the Southern Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Swimming Championships were held in New Orleans, Finch arranged for 10 Nisei to compete in the event. He took care of everything from reserving practice time at the University of Southern Mississippi's swimming pool to paying for train fare and hotel room at the posh Roosevelt Hotel. The Nisei, several of whom were members of Pu- uene's famed "Three-Year Swim Club," dominated the event and clinched the team title. The victory was later celebrated at a fancy dinner, all compliments of Finch.

Since the Nisei were neither welcomed at the "White USO (United Service Organization)" nor permitted into the "Black USO," Finch helped form the "Aloha USO,"

which became a lifeline between Camp Shelby Nisei soldiers and the outside world, particularly to interned families.

For Easter 1944, Finch held a fundraising drive among the Nisei to raise donations for the camp children. More than \$2,500 was collected, of which Finch had personally donated \$300.

On a more somber note, Finch became the executor of some 1,500 Nisei wills as the "Purple Heart" battalion went into combat. In one year, Finch logged in more than 75,000 miles to visit parents of fallen Nisei soldiers as well as visiting the wounded in hospitals.

Other activities Finch organized included gathering volunteers from the 442nd replacement soldiers to form the "Shelby Serenaders," a musical group. Finch, out of his own pocket, flew the "Serenaders" to New York and booked them at the ritzy Waldorf Astoria so the men could entertain the wounded at the Halloran General Hospital.

Following a second successful "Serenaders" performance at the Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C., Finch sponsored a tour of the band, which ultimately performed for more than 25,000 wounded soldiers in hospitals across the nation.

In January 1945, Finch reserved the ballroom at the Hotel Astor in New York and held a huge bash for 150 returning soldiers. The event prompted the New York World Telegram to dub Finch the "One Man USO."

In June of that same year, Finch rented the Stevens Hotel Ballroom in Chicago and invited Nisei from Vaughn General Hospital in Chicago, Percy Jones Hospital in Michigan and Bushnell General Hospital in Utah. For most Nisei veterans, this was their first reunion.

At Valley Forge Hospital in Pennsylvania, Finch met Pfc. Yoshinase "Turtle" Oniya, who had been blinded during combat by a "Bouncing Betty" anti-personnel mine. Through Finch's help, Oniya was introduced to Audrey, a German shepherd seeing-eye dog who would be his lifelong companion.

As WWII came to an end, Finch found himself on the West Coast where he helped many Nisei families reunite. He is believed to have been in Los Angeles between 1945-46 and possibly until 1947. Some newspaper accounts refer to Finch

as the "unofficial mayor of Little Tokyo," as he helped returning Nisei families find jobs or gave them loans to start a business.

On March 5, 1946, Finch made a 25-day visit to Hawaii. This time, the tab was picked up by the Hawaiians, who formed the Earl Finch Reception Committee, headed by Bert N. Nishimura and Farant L. Turner.

Finch received a hero's welcome as hundreds turned out to greet him at Honolulu Airport. From the airport, Finch's police-escorted car was followed by a 100-car motorcade to Iolani Palace, where he was welcomed by Acting Gov. Gerald R. Corbett and the Royal Hawaiian Band. At city hall, then-Mayor Lester Patrie presented Finch with the key to Honolulu. Finch also paid his respects to the dead at the newly constructed WWII memorial, and wept as he recognized many names inscribed into the stone.

The next evening, more than 1,500 people packed the Palama Settlement Gymnasium to honor Finch with a luau. The entire room stood up as Finch rose to speak. In his speech, Finch said the following: "Many of the men I knew are not here. Many of them were killed."

All I tried to do for them in my small way was to entertain them. I tried to show that I had faith in them. When the event was over, Finch remained at the door to thank each guest.

On Maui, Finch was greeted by gold star mothers and received the key to the county by Al Spenser, then board chairman of Maui. At Wailuku Ball Park, the residents honored Finch by holding the largest "hekka" party in the history of the Valley Isle. Finch was so busy personally greeting some 1,500 people that he had no time to eat. (He later enjoyed scrambled eggs at Tohi Anis's home, the Maui Reception Committee chair).

The next day, Finch paid his respects at the Lahaina war memorial, and remembered the gold star mothers, presenting each woman with a lei. Before his departure to the Big Island, Alice Johnson recognized Finch with a new song titled, "Earl Finch, Godfather of the Soldiers of Hawaii."

On the Big Island, Finch continued to be greeted and feted by thousands. At one luau honoring Finch, 350 volunteers served up 10 kalua pigs, 200 pounds of salmon, 100 cases of beer, 150 cases of soda, 600 pounds of rice, 500 pounds of chicken and 500 pounds of poi.

Finch also made his way to Kauai where he visited several schools. At Windward Oahu, Finch consoled gold star mothers and paid tribute to 14 Nisei killed in action by financing a memorial in their names.

Finch's final reception was on March 29, where more than 2,000 people turned out, and he was presented with a \$10,000 check to continue his mainland hospital visits.

During his speech, Finch thanked the audience but also urged them to remember the wounded. "Yesterday afternoon, I visited Schofield Barracks Hospital where I met a veteran who hadn't had a caller for three months. He cried when I came to talk to him. You don't have to go with a big basket of gifts. Just a big handshake to tell him, 'I hope you get out soon.'"

A month later, a tsunami devastated the Big Island on April 1, 1946. The tidal wave left 159 people dead, including 21 students and teachers from Leupoldhoe School. After hearing the news, Finch visited several Hattiesburg schools, including an African American school, and was able to collect \$150. In a letter to a Hawaiian chaplain, Finch wrote: "This is not a large sum. But I sincerely feel that this is an expression of love that our children have for the children of Hawaii, a love that children the world over have for another."

In the ensuing months, Finch continued to receive the war wounded and visited more than 3,000 hospitalized Nisei in Philadelphia, New York and Chicago.

In 1947, Finch and Tatsuo "Tats" Matsuo pulled together the entertainment for the first Hawaiian "Go For Broke" carnival, which was held to raise an estimated \$125,000 to build a clubhouse. The

pair spent two weeks in Hollywood, but this was 1947, and many performers had never heard of the 442nd nor even knew where Hawaii was located. But Finch paid cash up front, and was able to interest several entertainers, among them Martha Raye, Eppie Pearson, the Berry Twins and the Berry Brothers.

In 1949, Finch permanently moved to Hawaii, and joined forces with veterans Harold Watanabe and Ken Okamoto to form the Asiatic Trading Company, an import-export business.

In 1950, Finch journeyed to Tokyo where he was reunited with Nisei soldiers from Fort Snelling and the Presidio, who were serving as interpreters and key officials in U.S. military. He also met with then-Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida. Although the trip was originally meant to explore business opportunities, Finch saw the need to help the Japanese devastated by the war and went on a tour of Japan's orphanages, passing out hundreds of blankets, 20,000 lollipops and 10,000 comic books that he had brought with him from Hawaii.

The following summer in 1951, Japan sent its national amateur boxing team to compete in Hawaii. The youngest of the Japanese pugilists was an 18-year-old orphan named Seiji Naya. Since Finch was considering establishing a foundation which would sponsor Japanese students to study at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and on the mainland, he financed the first scholarship with Naya in mind.

On March 15, 1952, Finch returned to Japan to seek support for his foundation, and brought with him 10,000 letters from Hawaiian children that he had solicited, 10,000 pieces of candy, 50,000 lollipops. In Tokyo, Finch hosted a party for 10,000 underprivileged children where the "Shelby Serenaders" entertained and the Tokyo Flyers baseball team made an appearance.

After Finch made arrangements with the U.S. Department of State and Ambassador of Japan for Naya's visa, Finch welcomed his "adopted" son at Honolulu Airport on May 28, 1952. Sponsoring Naya did not curtail Finch's activities in Japan. In December 1953, Finch collected more than 8,000 pounds of donated clothing from the people of Honolulu to donate to 20 orphanages in the Tokyo area.

In 1957, Finch "adopted" another 18-year-old Japanese, Hideo Sakamoto. Although Finch treated Naya and Sakamoto as his own sons, he was barred from legally adopting them due to the boys' age and Finch's single marital status.

Finch and MIS veteran Ralph Yempuku saw the potential of the emerging rock 'n' roll movement and brought several acts to Hawaii. Finch hobnobbed with the likes of Fabian, Chubby Checker, Frankie Avalon, the Beach Boys, Jerry Lee Lewis, Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, Neil Sedaka, and Bo Diddley, just to name a few. The partners even hosted a presidential campaign benefit featuring Frank Sinatra on Oct. 2, 1960, for then-Sen. John F. Kennedy.

But by 1965, Finch had lost contact with many of his Nisei friends who had families of their own. Naya and Sakamoto had also left home, and for the first time, Finch was a man without a cause.

In August 1965, Finch passed away alone at his home.

At his funeral, more than 300 people packed the Central Union Church to pay their last respects. The 442nd Veterans Club handled all the arrangements. Although Sen. Daniel K. Inouye could not attend, he sent a telegram. "We know he suffered from criticism from his neighbors. He was spat upon by some of them. But he continued in his pursuit of human brotherhood. After the war, he moved to Honolulu and became the first honorary member of the 442nd."

"Here was a man who started his one-man civil rights movement 22-1/2 years ago without fanfare, without demonstrations, without violence. And I think in many ways he was successful. We thank God that Earl Finch was there to greet us in Mississippi." ■

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From the Frying Pan

By Bill Hosokawa

Larry Tajiri, a Better Choice

If you are of my generation, which means you were an adult or close to it during WWII, you might have been surprised to see that this newspaper on Jan. 1 profiled the late James Omura as the journalist among "Influential Japanese Americans of the Past Century."

You might have asked, as I did, what about Larry Tajiri?

There is no doubt that for a brief time during the war years Omura exercised an important influence on the JA community. As the English section editor of a Japanese language newspaper in Denver, he espoused the cause of a handful of Nisei at the Heart Mountain WRA camp disobeying the Army's orders to appear for medical examination prior to induction under the Selective Service Act. Editorially, he encouraged their contention that the government had no right to call them into military service until it restored their civil rights.

For this activity he was accused by the government of sedition and tried in federal court. He was acquitted although draft resisters he supported were found guilty and sent to prison.

Neither the draft resisters nor Omura's stand for them was popular with JAs fit the time. Many of them felt then, and still do,

that in that volatile era such resistance to government policy endangered the future of all JAs. Only decades after the war, when in a changing social and political environment some of the draft resisters began a demand for apology, was Omura resurrected from obscurity and hailed by some as a champion of justice. An apology from whom is not clear, although JACL has been mentioned.

The importance of the cause Omura supported is attested to by the fact that more than a half century later the matter of draft resistance by a handful of Nisei is an issue that continues to split the JA community.

Now about Tajiri. He was a professional newspaperman who volunteered in early 1942 to take over the *Pacific Citizen*, then a struggling JACL organ published sporadically. He understood that members of the JA community, about to be exiled in scattered detention camps, needed some kind of publication to keep them informed, to provide an editorial voice, to sustain morale and to fight ignorance, misunderstanding and prejudice in the greater American public.

Tajiri and his wife Guyo, working at starvation wages, published *P.C.* weekly from Salt Lake City throughout the war years

and for nearly a decade after that during the period of rebuilding broken lives.

P.C. was the only link many Nisei had with widely scattered friends. Tajiri's courageous editorial fight against bigots and racists encouraged them, gave them hope that some day things would be made right. *P.C.* Under Tajiri's editorship was a morale-builder, an educational tool, an inspiration during the darkest days for JAs. Tajiri made it their voice of defiance against the bigots. It is difficult to over-state the importance *P.C.* was to JAs and their stirring recovery from the disastrous war years. He left a noble heritage for succeeding editors.

This is a position that I'm afraid is not clearly recognized by some of those who reached adulthood after the war years. They correctly see heroism in Omura's gutsy stand, but they may not understand the profound influence that Tajiri had on the survival, postwar reconstruction and restored self-esteem of the JA community. And this newspaper's recognition was about influence, wasn't it? ■

Bill Hosokawa is the former editorial page editor for the Denver Post. His column appears regularly in the *Pacific Citizen*.



East Wind

By Bill Marutani

Kibei, Nisei, Strandeers

IN A PREVIOUS column in this space, the topic was the differences between mainland Nisei and Hawaiian AJAs (Americans of Japanese ancestry). In a study by Japanese researcher Yuki Kikuchi, she concluded that Hawaiian AJAs tended to be more "direct and cheerful" whereas the mainland Nisei were preoccupied in "emphasizing" their American-ness over their Japanese American-ness.

Interesting. I'd never heard it put quite that way.

ON THE SUBJECT of "differences," I've often wondered about differences between Nisei and Kibei. For present purposes, I define "Nisei" simply as persons of Japanese ancestry born and educated in the United States. "Kibei" as an American of Japanese ancestry, also born and educated in the United States who acquired a meaningful part of their early education in Japan. (What constitutes "meaningful" I leave that entirely up to you.)

THE FIRST KIBEI I met and got to know was one of the Taketa twins from the O'Brien area of White River in the state of Washington. I was then in my early teens. While laboring in the fields, this Taketa Kibei would sing Japanese songs. Silently listening, I even picked up a few songs. His twin (Nisei) brother, on the other hand, although friendly, was not given to joining his brother in belting out *naniwa-bushi* (a form of Japanese singing).

SINCE THEN I've met and become acquainted with a number of Kibei fellows, principally in the internment camps (Tule Lake) and military service (Ft. Snelling, the MIS). During a tour of duty in postwar Japan I met yet another grouping of young Nikkei: Western educated who, at the outbreak of the Pacific war, were stranded in Japan, many obtaining employment as trans-

lators with the occupation forces. A good number of such Nikkei were Japanese Canadians, a few from the United States.

While stationed in Sasebo (Kyushu) I'd occasionally phone the regional headquarters (in Kyoto). Nothing sinister, just routine calls utilizing the existing Japanese telephone lines. In placing long-distance calls, the procedure was to notify the Japanese operator ("Shigai-one-gai-shimasu") giving her your name and rank. Upon my doing so, the line momentarily went dead. Then the operator inquired, in perfect English, "Are you, by any chance, from Kent, Washington?" At this point, the line again went dead, this time at my end. I was absolutely floored. It turned out that the operator had been a friend of a fellow whom I had known since childhood. Yes, it's a small, small world after all.

But I digress. Back to the Kibei-Nisei comparison.

BASED UPON my observations of and acquaintanceship with Kibei, I've tentatively formulated certain generalizations as to the differences between Kibei and Nisei. Kibei's core sense of his/her self-worth having been developed in a social milieu where his/her race was a non-factor or, at worst, a neutral factor, the Kibei has fewer hang-ups than U.S. Nisei. Consequently, Kibei folks much more readily adopt positions, including those considered by Nisei to be "sensitive" and controversial. The Nisei seeks to "play it safe." *Enryo* (reserve; reticence) permeates many facets of the Nisei being.

There will be voices — among Nisei and Kibei, and others — rebuking much, if not all that's been proffered here.

Oh, well. ■

After leaving the bench, Bill Marutani resumed practicing law in Philadelphia. His column appears regularly in the *P.C.*

COMMENTARY

Rebuttal to Yamada Letter of January 7, 2000

By WILLIAM HOHRI

Gerald Yamada, Esq., legal counsel to the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, in his letter to J. Carter Brown, Jan. 7, 2000, lists three statements from a letter by professors Yamamoto and Iijima as allegations easily dismissed as untrue and as part of a specious smear campaign. He also attacks professor Rita Takahashi and her 1980 doctoral dissertation, of all things, for misconstruing the wartime role of the JACL and argues, believe it or not, that the Japanese American Redress led to redress payments to Japanese Americans for their wartime exclusion and detention.

Professors Yamamoto and Iijima state that Mike Masaoka "proposed a 'suicide battalion' of Japanese Americans," "proposed... Japanese Americans be branded..." and "failed to support the first Japanese American redress legislation (introduced) in 1979." Are their statements true or easily dismissed as untrue?

The assertions about the "suicide battalion" are found in the "Final Report" written by Mike Masaoka on 22 April 1944, page 53; in "Nisei, the Quiet Americans," by Bill Hosokawa, Morrow, New York 1969, pages 271-2; and in "They Call Me Moses Masaoka," by Mike Masaoka and Bill Hosokawa, Morrow, New York, 1987, pages 80-1. The assertions about "branding" are documented in the Minutes of the Special National Council Meeting, JACL, First Session, page 15, March 8, 1942. The assertions of Masaoka's opposition to compensatory redress to individuals and the first redress legislation, introduced by Mike Lowry, are printed in the Hearing before the Committee on Governmental Affairs, United States Senate, Ninety-Sixth Congress, Second Session on S.1647, March 18, 1980, and the Hearing before the Subcommittee on Administrative Law and Governmental Relations of the Committee of the Judiciary, House of Rep-

resentatives, Ninety-Sixth Congress, Second Session on H.R. 5499, June 2, 1980. The assertions are supported by documents and cannot be dismissed as untrue. Given the sources, these charges are hardly the stuff of a "specious smear campaign."

Yamada's effort to deny Masaoka's authorship of the proposal for a "suicide battalion" is strange. Yamada seems to change his mind as he writes and affirms not only Masaoka's authorship but the proposal's benefit when he writes: "Mr. Masaoka's proposal was rejected initially but later accepted by the federal government resulting in the formation of 442nd Regimental Combat Team." Yamada then credits Masaoka's "proposal" for making a "substantial contribution to the war effort." (He ignores the reckless arrogance of that part of Masaoka's proposal that would have asked, serve as hostages to ensure the loyalty of the suicide battalion. I can almost hear, from the Great Beyond, my Issei father-in-law's loud and angry "WHA-A-A-TT.")

Unfortunately, the only proof Yamada offers for this is that Masaoka made the proposal about a year before the establishment of the 442nd RCT was announced in 1943. This fallacious reasoning has a Latin expression, *post hoc, ergo propter hoc*, or after this, therefore because of this. Put prosaically, the argument that the roster's crow causes the sun to rise fails to convince. More importantly, he ignores the role of the 442nd RCT's predecessor, the men of the 100th Infantry Battalion (separate) from Hawaii who were being trained for combat before the announcement of an all-volunteer combat unit, and went into combat months before the 442nd joined them in Italy. Of course, neither unit has ever been considered to be a suicide battalion. These men were courageous and loyal, not suicidal.

A more compelling reason for

raising the all-volunteer unit can be found in the calculations by the War Department in November 1942: restoring military service for Nisei volunteers and conscripts would add the equivalent of a full division to the U.S. Army.

Yamada uses most of his report to deny that Masaoka recommended branding of JA laborers as a security measure in 1942. What his letter tries to explain away is a brief and simple report recorded in the Minutes, Special National Council Meeting, JACL, First Session, March 8, 1942, which includes: "He recommends one of the three following methods: 1. Be put into Labor Concentration camps to be farmed out to large sugar beet combines as cheap laborers. 2. The Japanese internees be brought in for road making. 3. The Japanese be branded and stamped and put under the supervision of the Federal government." The question he discusses at length is what is the antecedent for "He"? Is it Mike Masaoka or someone else?

Grammatically, it is clear that it is Mike Masaoka. Appearing at its beginning, "Mr. Mike Masaoka" is the only name that appears in this short, 104-word paragraph. Stylistically, each of the reports recorded in this portion of the minutes begins with the name of the person giving the report and uses a pronoun to refer to the person subsequently.

As for redress, in the Senate hearing of March 18, 1980, Masaoka proposes a "lump sum public fund" in preference to individual compensation and suggests that the fund could be "used to protect the rights of all Americans — not just Japanese Americans." He then expands the fund's reach "to help boat people or other refugees from political persecution and from national calamities." Noble causes, indeed, but not redress for individual JAs. Three months later in the House hearing he simply states, "We, both in the JACL and in the Nisei Lobby, oppose this particular bit of legislation."

Masaoka here is speaking for the Nisei Lobby and the bit of legislation is the Lowry redress bill, a bill to provide redress as compensation to individuals. In a colloquy with the House committee, he launches an attack, with stunning overkill, against the bill's provision to grant redress to the estates of the deceased, largely Issei, by arguing this provision could provide redress payments to the former Japanese enemy. Wow!

In Yamada's attack on professor Takahashi, he attempts to argue that her statement, "It will be seen that the WRA [War Relocation Authority] and JACL collusion caused a great deal of unrest and bitterness among the evacuees," accuses the federal government of being the enemy. For his authority, he quotes from "Webster's Third International Dictionary (Unabridged)" and forced me to make a trip to locate this dictionary. I was stunned to realize that he was confusing an example in the definition with the definition itself. The example states, "<acting in [collusion] with the enemy>." An example is not part of the definition. An equally proper example might have been, "<the husband and wife, acting in collusion, attempted to defraud the Internal Revenue Service>." And it would not mean that the WRA and JACL were husband and wife.

Yamada also tries to belittle Takahashi's dissertation as being unpublished. Few dissertations

are ever published. Takahashi's, however, happens to be an exception and continues to remain under consideration for publication by a publisher. Yamada even belittles the doctoral dissertation as "an academic exercise" and recklessly cheapens the doctoral degree.

Yamada's praise for the JA Creed seems to know no bounds. He writes that the creed appeared in the Congressional Record in support of redress legislation. "Hence, every person who received a redress payment benefitted [sic] from the statement of principles in the Japanese American Creed." The roster's crow does cause the sun to rise, according to Yamada.

Can this conflict be resolved? I think so. Both sides would first have to agree that if these statements by Masaoka on the suicide battalion, branding, and opposition to redress are true, then his words and name should not be included on the memorial. Once this rule is agreed upon, we can submit the allegations at issue to a panel of impartial Asian American scholars in a public hearing. The panel could listen to and question representatives of both sides and then make a ruling. I don't think Yamada's definition of "collusion" or his belittling of professor Takahashi's dissertation and the dissertation process need be dignified by this treatment; they should be dismissed out of hand by both sides without any further debate. ■

\$4.8 Million Initiative Will Preserve Internment Camps

(Continued from page 1)

of the Japanese American and Asian American communities. We truly do appreciate the president's initiative to save the camps forever."

"I am pleased to see the Administration recognize the great value in protecting World War II internment and relocation sites," said Congressman Robert Matsui. "By preserving these sites for future generations of Americans to visit, a terrible but important chapter in our history stays relevant."

"The Administration's proposal is a fitting memorial to the injustices and indignities so many of our fellow Americans suffered a half-century ago," said David Harris, executive director of the American Jewish Committee. "The preservation of the internment sites will create a permanent object lesson of a tragic story of intolerance and betrayal — a betrayal of those who were sent to the camps and a betrayal of the American soul, which is defined by its unique commitment to human rights."

Among the individuals and organizations expressing their support for the \$4.8 million initiative to preserve the WWII camps are Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.), Congresswoman Robert Underwood (D-Guam), chairman of the Congressional Asian Pacific Caucus; Organization of Chinese Americans; National Asian Pacific American Bar Association; National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium; Asian Law Caucus; Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund; and the Asian-Pacific American Legal Center.

Copies of the Park Service report are now available from the National Park Service's Western Archeological and Conservation Center (WACC) in Tucson, Ariz. To request a copy, contact the WACC via e-mail at waccsup@nps.gov or via fax at 520/670-6525. "Attention Superintendent." ■

LEE

(Continued from page 1)

with transferring nuclear weapons information from Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico to unsecured computers and tapes, has said he destroyed the missing tapes after losing his security clearance.

But the Justice Department said they couldn't confirm what happened to the tapes.

After interviewing over a thousand witnesses, examining four terabytes of information, and engaging the national intelligence agencies, the FBI could not find a single piece of evidence that would suggest, much less prove, that the tapes had in fact

TENET

(Continued from page 1)

of his security clearances last August over the dispute, found himself defending the CIA's handling of the case for a second day on Capitol Hill.

During the Feb. 3 session of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Sen. Wayne Allard asked why Deutch was being treated differently from Wen Ho Lee since "both of them made similar mistakes in the fact that they both had information that was very important to this country on unsecured computers."

Lee has been indicted for mishandling nuclear-weapons secrets, is being held without bond and could face life in prison if he is convicted.

"In one instance, there is an intent to do harm to the United States. That's a legal judgment that's been made. In the other in-

The White House's proposed FY 2001 budget would fund the following:

Manzanar National Historic Site Visitor Center

In 1992, Congress passed bipartisan legislation to create the Manzanar National Historic Site, a former internment camp, as a unit of the National Park System. The administration's FY 2001 budget will seek \$4.2 million to construct a visitor center to house administrative offices and to provide information on the history of the site. The proposed funding builds on the work of numerous local and national groups, including Save America's Treasures, a public partnership between the White House Millennium Council and the National Trust for Historic Preservation; the National Park Foundation; the Manzanar Fund; the Manzanar Advisory Commission; and the JACL.



Land Acquisition and Exchanges to Protect Former Sites

The Interior Department's FY 2001 budget also will seek \$500,000 through the Land and Water Conservation Fund to protect former internment sites through purchase or land exchange. These sites include internment camps in Wyoming, Utah, Idaho and Arkansas. Currently, portions of the sites are in private ownership. The Bureau of Land Management would administer this multi-state program and work in partnership with local landowners, historic preservation groups and other stakeholders. Land would be acquired only from willing sellers.

U.S. Forest Service Interpretive Exhibit

As part of the multi-agency initiative, the U.S. Forest Service's FY 2001 budget will seek \$112,000 to construct an interpretive exhibit on the Coronado National Forest in Arizona. The proposed exhibit would be named after Gordon Hirabayashi, a JA who was interned at a nearby work camp.

National Park Service Study of "World War II on the Home Front"

The budget also would seek authorization and funding for the National Park Service to conduct a "Special Resources Study" of WWII sites in the United States that have historic significance. The Park Service proposes to study industrial sites, prisoner or war camps, and internment camp sites at Tule Lake in northern California and Granada in eastern Colorado. The study would include recommendations about how best to preserve and manage specific sites, including possible inclusion in the National Park System. ■

been destroyed," the government said.

The government said it had uncovered evidence that Lee had deleted many of the classified files he downloaded to the unsecured computer, but he didn't begin erasing them until after the FBI interviewed him on Jan. 17 and Feb. 10 of last year.

Lee has pleaded innocent to 59 criminal counts under the Atomic Energy and Espionage acts. He has not been charged with espionage. If convicted, he could be sentenced to life in prison. A trial may be a year away.

The government also said Lee should remain in jail because of his strong ties to Taiwan, his professional contacts abroad and his

ability to speak Chinese.

Lee was fired in March, a month after he failed questions on a polygraph test that lab officials said asked whether he had passed information and classified codes to a foreign country.

On Dec. 29 in Albuquerque, N.M., U.S. District Judge James Parker rejected Lee's request for bail, referring to the missing tapes and citing the potential for "enormous harm" to the nation.

Lee's attorneys have said that, during the FBI's previous interviews of Lee, agents lied to him about his earlier polygraph tests and threatened him with references to Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, the only Americans ever executed for espionage. ■

stance, a similar legal judgment was not made," Tenet said. The CIA referred the Deutch matter to the Justice Department, but Justice decided not to prosecute. "I don't think the cases are similar. That's not to say that this case involving the former director is not serious. If it was not serious, I would not have taken the action" in revoking Deutch's security clearances, Tenet said. Tenet also said that Lee has been accused of transferring classified computer files to other computers, while Deutch for the most part created the sensitive files himself while working from home. Tenet declined to discuss new revelations that an e-mail from a Russian scientist was found on the hard drive of one of Deutch's CIA-issued home computers, and that someone in the Deutch household had used the computers to access "high risk" sites on

the Internet, including pornography sites.

"I can't and I won't," Tenet told the Armed Services panel. He said the material should have remained confidential, and that Senate and House intelligence committees were pursuing the matter. "Let the matter rest there," he said.

Committee Chairman John Warner called the reports of Deutch's computer behavior "very disturbing."

In testimony a day earlier to the Senate Intelligence Committee, Tenet said there was no evidence that Deutch's unsecured home computer had been hacked into by foreign adversaries. But neither was there any sure way to tell that it hadn't been, given that the technology exists for such intrusions, he said.

"There was enormously sensitive material on this computer, at the highest levels of classification," Tenet said. ■

Obituaries

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Fubayashi, Thomas Akira, 90, Chicago, Jan. 1; Kula Maui, Hawaii-born; survived by daughters Ellen, Tammy; sons Wendell, Craig; 14 gc.; 16 gc.; 7 step gc.; predeceased by wife Virginia.

Hamada, June Chizuko, 62, Las Vegas, Jan. 10; Hiroshima-born co-owner of Hamada Restaurants and Tour Services; survived by husband Yukio; son Howard; daughter Bernice Sadamune (Los Angeles); 5 gc.; mother Asako Ishino (Tokyo); brother Tadanori Imamura (Tokyo); sister Tina Hamble (Los Angeles).

Hamaguchi, Ken, 77, Livingston, Jan. 9; member of the Yamato Colony pioneer family; Nisei WWII veteran; survived by wife Tamiye Tsujihara; daughters Sandra Hocker, Linda Kida, Vickie Woods, Shelly Kulk; brother Atsushi Ken; sisters Minnie Sasaki, Kiyo Shoji.

Hanami, Kiichi, 90, Los Angeles, Jan. 9; Fukushima-born; survived by son Jiro and wife Aiko; daughter-in-law Kazuko Hanami; daughter Shizuko Kano and husband Hiroyuki; 5 gc.; gc.; brothers in Idaho; brother-in-law Tomeo Hanami and wife Yasuko.

Hashimoto, Shizue Shirley, 82, Los Angeles, Jan. 3; Los Angeles-born; survived by brother Akira Hashimoto and wife Margaret; sister Kikue Okuda.

Hayashi, Riki, 101, Monterey Park, Jan. 5; Mei-ken-born; survived by son Masanobu and wife Sachiko; daughter Miyoko Tanaka (Japan); 5 gc.; 5 gc.

Hata, Sachiyo, 80, Montebello, Jan. 10; Portland, Ore.-born; survived by husband Haruo; daughter Lillian Kitagawa and husband Victor; 1 gc.

Hirahara, George, 94, Los Angeles, Jan. 4; Wakayama-born, formerly of Wapato and Yakima, Wash.; survived by son Frank and wife Mary; 1 gc.; sister Rosie Uyeda (Seattle).

Jimura, Shizu, 96, Los Altos, Jan. 2; Yamaguchi-born; survived by daughter Florence Nakano and husband Jack, Margaret M. Abe; 5 gc.; 4 gc.; predeceased by husband Fred I.

Kitagawa, Martha Masa, Los Angeles, Jan. 2; survived by sister Grace Kunishima; brothers Fred, George and wife Lillian, Ben and wife Fudge, Tom and wife Mary.

Kondo, William A., 72, San Jose, Jan. 10; survived by wife Jeanne; daughter Karen Shimozaki and husband Kenneth; 2 gc.; brothers George and wife Frances (Sacramento), Toshiyuki and wife Suzuki; sisters Yuki Ambo and husband John (Montebello), Irene Hirota (San Jose). Predeceased by son Richard.

Koyama, Samuel Masaru, 69, Los Angeles, Jan. 4; Los Angeles-born; survived by wife Tazuka; son John and wife Joycelyn; daughters Lily Taguchi and husband Dan, Julie Nakama and husband Steve; 5 gc.; brothers-in-law Yukio Iseri and wife Yoshimi, Teruo Iseri and wife Nobue; sisters-in-law Michi Uchino and husband Bill, Nobu Iseri.

Kudo, Dr. Albert M. "Bert," Albuquerque, N.M., Jan. 26; professor in the University of New Mexico's Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences for 33 years; survived by wife Marge; daughters Alyssa K. Nunez and husband David, Shana L. Buckley and husband Brian; 2 gc.; sister Mae Arima (Seattle); brothers George Akira and wife Mary (Washington), Minoru and wife Judy (Toronto).

Morishita, Jundo, 96, Chicago, Jan. 3; Kumamoto-born; survived by wife Lillian; son Ronald; daughters Carol, Joyce, Arlene; 3 gc.; 3 gc.; pre-

deceased by sons Ray and Clarence.

Nawata, Miuki, Sacramento, Jan. 18; formerly of Berkeley; survived by husband Masami; daughters Phyllis Takahashi and husband Gene (San Mateo), Janet Sayama and husband Fred (San Jose), Susan Kadani (Sacramento); 8 gc.

Ohata, Fumiko, 73, Long Beach, Jan. 4; Yamaguchi-born naturalized U.S. citizen; survived by son Ronald N. and wife Fujie; daughter Susan Naomi Chinn and husband James; 3 gc.; sister Takako Tanaka; sister-in-law Toshiko Yoshioka and husband Hideo (Lodi); brothers and

This compilation appears on a space-availability basis at no cost. Printed obituaries from our newspapers, are welcome. "Death Notices," which appear in a timely manner at request of the family or funeral director, are published at the rate of \$19 per column inch. Text is reworded as needed.

sisters in Japan.

Oka, Etsuo, 75, Long Beach, Jan. 3; survived by wife Takiko; daughter JoAnn Massa; son Steven; 1 gc.; sister Himelko Schulte.

Okamoto, Masaru, 93, Los Angeles, Jan. 9; Hiroshima-born; survived by daughter Naomi Okamoto; sister-in-law Misako Yokomi.

Onizuka, Stella K., 93, San Rafael, Jan. 8; survived by sons Alan (Cupertino), Galen (San Rafael), Wayne (Rohnert Park); sisters Sue Okamura (San Mateo), Yoshi Mizono (Langley, Wash.); 8 gc.; 2 gc.; predeceased by husband Frank S.

Oye, Ben, 67, Oxnard, Jan. 10; survived by wife Hideko; son Michael; mother Shizue; brothers Hiromu and wife Shigeko, Sho and wife Akiko, Dr. Ken and wife Kazuo; brother-in-law Shigeru Fukui and wife June.

Samura, Hisayo, 90, Los Angeles, Jan. 6 service; Seattle-born; survived by daughter Toshiko Favela and husband Richard; 3 gc.

Takenaka, Tsuru, 99, West Sacramento, Jan. 5; survived by daughter Chizuko Sue Tyson; predeceased by husband Senno-suke.

Tokumoto, Henry Hideto, 80, Hanford, Jan. 9; survived by wife Kay; brother Shigeo. ■

DEATH NOTICE

HARRIET CHISEKO NAKAGAWA
MARINA, Calif.—Harriet Chiseko Nakagawa, 90, passed away Dec. 27, 1999. She was born in Sacramento and lived in Auburn, Calif. for 40 years before moving to Marina last year. Her husband Bunni, former manager of Auburn District Fair and son Ronald preceded her in death. Harriet is survived by her sons Clayton of Sacramento and Gordon of Marina; brothers Saburo and Tom Hirokawa; sister Yoshi Kawamura; eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

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Doi Honored at Marin JACL Annual Dinner



PHOTO: WES DOI

Toyoko Doi was honored at the annual Marin JACL dinner on Jan. 23, at the North Sea Village restaurant in Sausalito. Doi was recognized for her active participation in Marin JACL as a cabinet member since the chapter was first organized in 1977. Also pictured is Dr. Steven Gotanda.

John Tateishi, JACL national director and one of the founding fathers of the Marin JACL, gave the keynote speech.

President of the chapter, Carol Hayashino, along with her cabinet members, were installed by Tateishi. Cabinet members are: president: Carol Hayashino; vice president: Dr. Roland Minami; membership chairperson: Jim Ueda; treasurer: Gene Oishi; newsletter: Dr. Robert Koshiyama; official delegate: Pat Orr; recording secretary: Dr. Steven Gotanda; correspondent secretary: Masu Fuji; board members at large: Dr. Don Nakahata and Bob Ni. ■

FINCH

(Continued from page 1)

didn't stop him from helping the Nisei."

In his quest to piece together Finch's life, Santoki is still searching for the motivating factor for Finch's generosity. "I have many theories but that is definitely the \$20,000 question — why did he do what he did?"

One theory is a simple one: that Finch desired friendship.

A second theory is that Finch was sympathetic to the underdog because despite widespread anti-Semitism in the Deep South, Finch had a Jewish childhood friend. Add to that his wheelchair-bound mother, who may have faced discrimination due to her inability to walk.

A third theory is that Finch, a non-educated, non-religious man who became rich very rapidly due to his business interactions with the military base, may have been influenced by the philosophy of Huey Long, whose treatise "Share the Wealth" was popular at the time. In it, Long advocated that no American should have more wealth than should share it with others.

This theory seems plausible to Santoki since, in his interviews with the veterans, many have told him something along the lines that: "Ey, I was a nobody. Nisei had money, they didn't have power, they were nobodies. Now, this guy takes you to New Or-

leans, takes you to the Oyster Bar, he buys all your drinks and then afterwards takes you home. Do you think he was thinking 20 years down the line he's going to get something out of you?"

Supporting this theory is the fact that Finch died with little money. "People like to think that he was very, very wealthy, and his own brother thought Earl was very rich, but when he died, Earl didn't have that much money left," said Santoki. "But considering how much he spent, you would think he had a lot of money."

Another theory is that Finch may have been a homosexual. "Finch publicly denied that he was gay, and obviously if he came out and said, 'Yes, I'm gay,' during that period of time, there would have been serious repercussions on him," said Santoki.

The most common answer Santoki receives when questioning the veterans about Finch's sexuality is that for all Finch has done for the Nisei, it doesn't matter whether Finch was gay or straight.

"I've been told that it doesn't matter," said Santoki. "For what he did for these guys in the hospital when nobody was visiting

them, they don't care. It's one of the furthest things from their minds."

Whatever Finch's sexual inclination, Santoki is on a mission to resurrect Finch's contributions.

"I think an awareness of what he contributed to the Nikkei community was very much lost between generations," said Santoki. "I think the more I got into the research about the kind of contributions he made to the Nisei, in particular, when they really needed assistance was that all of the hundreds, if not thousands of beneficiaries have a real obligation to make sure that Finch's contributions to them is not lost in history. ... I have a real sense that I want to perpetuate the example that he set for people of color, the sense that your priority in life should be to help people."

To this end, Santoki is asking for the public's help. He would like anyone who knew Finch to contact him.

Mark Santoki can be reached at the following: Hawaii Herald, 917 Kokea Street, Honolulu, HI 96817-4528; phone: 808/845-2255; fax: 808/847-7215; email: santokim001@hawaii.rr.com. ■

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| COPPER SPRING ADVENTURE (10 days) | FEB 20 |
| JAPAN 1949 ADVENTURE (Takayama Festival, 12 days) | APR 11 |
| FRENCH IMPRESSIONS (11 days) | MAY 22 |
| JCCONC NIKKEI PACIFIC NW CRUISE & LAND (7 days) | MAY 27 |
| CANADIAN ROCKIES / VICTORIA (8 days) | JUNE 14 |
| TAUCK NOVA SCOTIA (8 days) | JULY 16 |
| GRAND PRINCESS MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE (14 days) | SEPT 6 |
| TAUCK COLORADO NATIONAL PARKS (10 days) | SEPT 14 |
| BEST OF HOKKAIDO plus TOHOKU (12 days) | SEPT 23 |
| TENNESSEE / BRANSON / KENTUCKY (Shoji Tabuchi Show, 9 days) | SEPT 30 |
| EAST COAST & FALL FOLIAGE (11 days) | OCT 1 |
| JAPAN AUTUMN ADVENTURE (12 days) | OCT 12 |
| INDOCHINA DISCOVERY (16 days) | NOV |

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| 4. Washington D.C. Cherry Blossom Tour | 4/10-4/18 | Yuki Sato | 1,799 |
| 5. Japan Spring Ura-Nihon Tour | 4/20-5/1 | Toshi Mizuno | 2,995 |
| 6. Aoi Festival & Kii-Shirahama Onsen Tour | 5/8-5/18 | Miki Ebata | 2,990 |
| 7. Mackinac Island & the Great Lakes | 5/12-5/21 | tba | 3,079 |
| 8. England, Scotland & Wales | 5/17-6/1 | Galen Murakawa | |
| 9. Japan Tohoku Tour | 5/15-5/28 | Ray Ishii | |
| 10. China Special & Hong Kong (Japan stopover) | 5/17-5/31 | Toy Kanegai | 2,695 |
| 11. Japan Special Summer Tour | 6/26-7/6 | Galen Murakawa | |
| 12. Italy & Passion Play | 6/28-7/7 | Toy Kanegai | 3,549 |
| 13. China Yangtze River & Hong Kong | 6/18-7/5 | tba | 3,095 |
| 14. Canadian Rockies Tour | 7/8-7/14 | Tracy Taguchi | 1,299 |
| 15. Scandinavia (Denmark, Norway & Sweden) | 7/27-8/7 | Bill Sakurai | 3,364 |
| 16. Nebuta Festival & Onsen Tour | 7/30-8/9 | Miki Ebata | 3,050 |
| 17. Rhine River Cruise w/ Switzerland | 9/23-10/5 | Toy Kanegai | 3,499 |
| 18. Alpine Countries & Passion Play | 9/26-10/8 | Ray Takeda | 3,299 |
| 19. Japan Hokkaido Tohoku Tour | 9/26-9/29 | tba | 3,495 |
| 20. New England & Back Roads Fall Foliage | 10/2-10/9 | Ray Ishii | 1,449 |
| 21. Japan Setouchi 4-Bridge Tour | 10/5-10/13 | Miki Ebata | 2,795 |
| 22. Takayama Festival & Gero Onsen Tour | 10/7-10/15 | tba | 2,695 |
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| 29. Chichibu Yomatsuri & Kusatsu, Hakone Onsen Tour | | | |

Nov. Miki Ebata 2,890

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