

TOPAZ REUNION '98



C O N T E N T S

Welcome Message 2

The Committee 3

Schedule of Events 4

Video Schedule 6

Hotel Floor Plan 7

News Writer Describes Life of Japanese Camp 9

Haiku 13

Education in an Internment Camp 15

Directory of Registrants 27

Acknowledgments 37



TOPAZ REUNION '98

**DoubleTree Hotel
San Jose, California
May 29-31, 1998**

Welcome

Tomi Takakuwa Gyotoku
Andy Handa
Fumi Manabe Hayashi
Mary Mori Hiromoto
Bill Hirose
Yone Kato Ito
Mimi Kawashima Iwatsu
Helen Yamanashi Kato
Mas Kawaguchi
Chuck Kubokawa
Jamo Momii
Joe Mori
Sam Nakaso
Moses Oshima
Daisy Uyeda Satoda
Alice Mori Shibata
Min Shinoda
Anah Yamanashi Sugiyama
Paul Takata
Bob Utsumi

Greetings from the Topaz '98 Reunion Committee, and welcome to the "last?" Topaz reunion. Your committee has spent the last 18 months preparing for this reunion and planning the activities.

This reunion is unique in that we have invited our Nikkei counterparts from Canada, Mexico, Peru and Australia providing the stage for a panel to learn first hand about other internment experiences and exchange information about our unique historical backgrounds.

The three historical groups: National Japanese American Historical Society, Japanese American National Museum, and Topaz Museum have joined us to provide information and assistance to acquaint us with their organization and ways to preserve and document our history.

Activities scheduled for the reunion were planned to provide more than enough things to do to keep everyone busy for the entire weekend, so please take advantage of the scheduled events and enjoy yourself. The art exhibit, video show, printout of individual camp records, classes in genealogy search, walking tour of the San Jose's Nihonmachi, Japanese stores and restaurants, local museums, Nikkei lobby vendors, etc. have been arranged for your pleasure.

Please drop in at our hospitality suite for refreshments and a chance to renew acquaintances with your old camp friends and new friends.

Success of this reunion can only be realized by your personal involvement in all the activities we have provided. We have worked to make this reunion a memorable one for every attendee, so enjoy the reunion activities!

Chuck Kubokawa

Chuck Kubokawa, Chairperson

THE COMMITTEE



CHUCK KUBOKAWA
Reunion Chair
Forum



DAISY SATODA
Vice-Chair
Coordinator



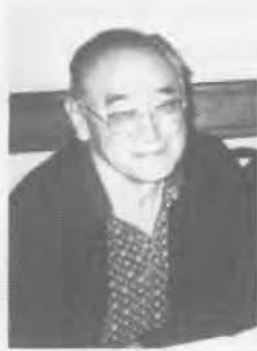
BOB UTSUMI
Treasurer
Budget



YONE ITO
Secretary
Booklet



PAUL TAKATA
Budget
Brunch



SAM NAKASO
Publicity



JOE MORI
Hotel Liaison
Activities



MOSES OSHIMA
Art Exhibit
Activities



TOMI GYOTOKU
Registration



MIMI IWATSU
Registration



MAS KAWAGUCHI
Vendors/Exhibitors



MARY HIROMOTO
Hospitality
Activities



ALICE SHIBATA
Hospitality



HELEN KATO
Banquet



ANAH SUGIYAMA
Banquet



ANDY HANDA
Activities



BILL HIROSE
Activities



FUMI HAYASHI
Activities



JAMO MOMII
Activities/Mixer



MIN SHINODA
Mixer/Decorations

Schedule of Events

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1998

1:00-6:00 pm	Registration	Gateway Foyer
	Individual Camp Record Computer Printouts	Gateway Foyer
	Art Exhibit	Monterey, 1st level
1:00 pm	Vendor/Exhibit Booths	Gateway Foyer
2:00-5:00 pm	Video Showing (schedule on page 6)	Chardonnay, 2nd level
3:00-6:00 pm	Hospitality	9th floor, suite 954
3:30 pm	Genealogy Workshop	San Martin, 1st level
6:00 pm	No-Host Social Hour	Gateway Foyer
7:00-8:15 pm	Mixer, Asian Buffet	Gateway Ballroom
8:15 pm-12 am	Greetings by Chuck Kubokawa Entertainment - Charles Wacky Sumimoto, MC Eden Aoba Taiko of San Lorenzo Line Dancing led by Eichi Toguchi Dancing - Music by DJ, Danny Itatani	

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 1998

9:00-11:00 am	Art Exhibit	Monterey, 1st level
	Open again: 2:00-6:00 pm and 9:30-10:30 pm	
9:00-11:30 am	Escorted walking tour of San Jose Japantown: churches, restaurants, stores, museums, Nikkei memorial sculpture by Ruth Asawa at Federal Building. (optional)	Meet at Gateway Foyer
10:00 am-6 pm	Registration	Gateway Foyer
	Camp Records	Gateway Foyer
10:00 am	Vendor/Exhibit Booths	Gateway Foyer
	Video Showing (see schedule, pg. 6)	Chardonnay, 2nd level
	Genealogy Workshop	San Martin, 1st level
11:30 am-1:30	Class and Group Luncheons (optional)	
	Jr. High Classes	San Martin, 1st level
	Class of '45	Yu-Ai Kai Senior Center 4th Street (near Jackson, Japantown)
	Class of '43-'44	Cathay Restaurant First Street (near Hwy 17/880)
	Faculty	New Pearl River 34 E. Rosemary (off First Street)

SATURDAY, MAY 30 (continued)

2:00-4:30 pm Forum: *"Lasting Effects of Internment"* Gateway Ballroom

Moderator: Chuck Kubokawa

A panel discussion on the continuing effects of the wartime internment of Japanese Americans during WWII with presentation from those who have experienced internment in Topaz, Canada, Mexico, Australia and forcibly moved from Peru, So. America to the U.S. Open question and answer period with audience participation.

Guest panelists are:

Mr. Harry Honda, Editor Emeritus, *Pacific Citizen*

Dr. Midge Ayukawa, Victoria University, Victoria, BC., Canada

Senor Enrique Shibayama, Mexico City, D.F., Mexico

Mr. Arturo Shibayama, San Jose (Peru, South America)

Ms. Karen Kobayashi, Simon Fraser U., Vancouver, B.C., Canada

Ms. Evelyn Suzuki, Sydney, Australia

Mr. John Tateishi, Redress Consultant, JACL

2:00 pm Genealogy Workshop San Martin, 1st level

3:00- 6:00 pm Hospitality 9th floor, suite 954

6:30 pm No-Host Social Hour Gateway Foyer

7:30 pm-12 am Banquet Gateway Ballroom

Entertainment - Bob Utsumi, MC

Speaker - DIANNE FUKAMI

"Preserving Japanese American History: A Sansei Viewpoint"

Fukami, a sansei TV producer, will discuss her current project on a multi-media history of the Japanese American redress and reparations movement entitled, *Due Justice*, per grant from Civil Liberties Public Education Fund.

Drawings - Mary Hiromoto

Special Recognition

Dancing - Music by George Yoshida Combo

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 1998

8:00-10:00 am Video Showing (schedule on pg. 6) Chardonnay, 2nd level

10:00-11:15 am Sayonara Buffet Brunch Gateway Ballroom

11:15-12 noon Program - Paul Takata, MC

Sing-A-Long - Paul Bell

**Topaz Reunion '98
VIDEO SCHEDULE**

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1998

- 2:00 pm **Tanforan: Racetrack to Assembly Center**
Producer/Director: Dianne Fukami
Persons interviewed: Maya Nagata Aikawa, George & Michiko Uchida, Tomoye Takahashi, Hid Kashima, Sox Kitashima, Dave Tatsuno, Yoneo Kawakita, Hiro Katayama, Sachi Kajiwara, Sugar Hirabayashi, Hiro Fujii, Yo Kasai, Chizu Togasaki, Tomoko Kashiwagi, Toru Saito, Jan Matsuoka.
- 3:00 pm **Topaz**
Producer: Ken Verdoia
Persons interviewed: Miné Okubo, Yoshiko Uchida, Faith Terasawa, Michi Okamoto Kobi, Sam Nakaso, Tad & Fumi Manabe Hayashi, Mary Kimura, Emil & Eleanor Gerard Sekerak, Amy Iwasaki Mass, Donald Nakahata.
- 4:00 pm **Starting Over: Japanese Americans After the War**
Producer/Director: Dianne Fukami
Approximately 32 people from the San Francisco Bay Area are interviewed.

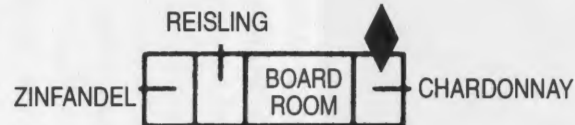
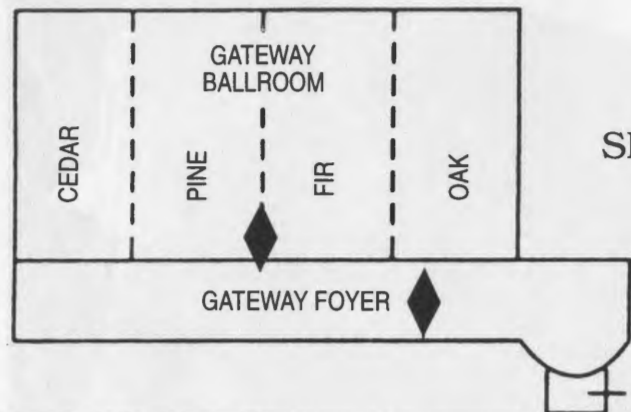
SATURDAY, MAY 30, 1998

- 10:00 am **Tanforan**
- 11:00 am **Topaz**
- 1:00 pm **Starting Over**
- 2:00 pm **Tanforan**
- 3:00 pm **Topaz**
- 4:00 pm **Starting Over**
- 5:00 pm **Watari Dori: A story of one person's personal account of a Canadian internment camp.**
Producer: Linda Ohana
An award winning documentary on Canadian Japanese internment and relocation.

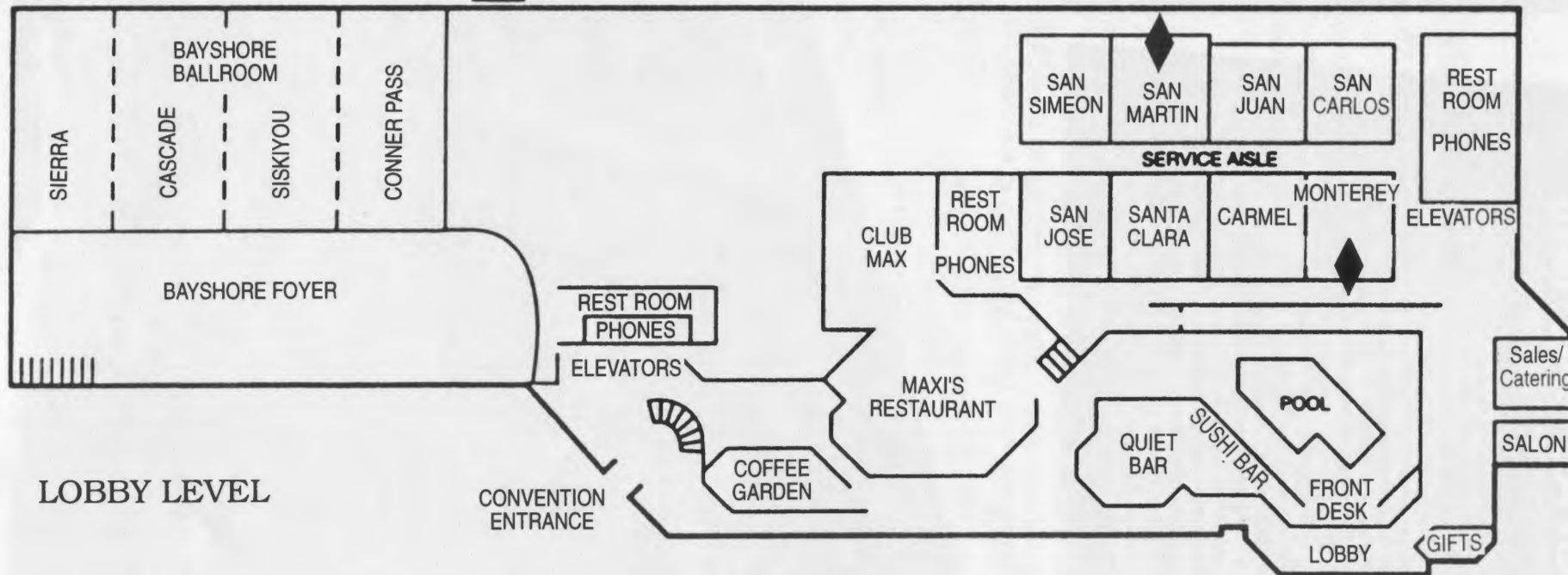
SUNDAY, MAY 31, 1998

- 8:00 am **By popular request**
- 9:00 am **Watari Dori**
- 9:30 am **Gaman: The Internment Remembered**
Producer: Steve LaRosa, KVIE-TV, Sacramento, CA
Persons interviewed: Mary Tsukamoto, Henry Taketa, Kiyoko Sata Viacrusis, Bob Kashiwagi.

◆ LOCATION OF ACTIVITIES



◆
9th FLOOR



DOUBLETREE HOTEL
SAN JOSE

Excerpts from a Salt Lake City publication
December 28-31, 1942

NEWS WRITER DESCRIBES LIFE OF JAPANESE CAMP

By Lincoln Thomson

A new culture and way of life is being born on the windy, cold desert west of Delta where, until last September, only wild bands of mustang and herds of sheep made crazy-quilt trails through the greasewood and sage.

Now, on that alkali flat, 8,500 Japanese Americans who were transported from the Pacific Coast when war broke out are adjusting themselves to a new way of life.

They are adjusting to a communal system of government, changing living habits and developing new arts and crafts with the little material at hand.

Visit Camp

Seeking to confirm or dispel hundreds of rumors that have found their way into the communities, newsmen from Salt Lake were invited to visit the Topaz Relocation Center and to see first-hand conditions there.

We did not find that the evacuees were eating better than the civilian population, we did not find any marble-tiled bathrooms, nor could any subversive element or signs of internal political ideological strife between Japanese-born and Japanese Americans be detected.

The camp consists of 42 blocks. Each block has twelve 20x120 barracks and in the center of each block is a community dining room, laundry, lavatories and showers for men and women. Each block houses 275 persons.

One of the main difficulties at present is the overcrowding of families and lack of privacy since the different apartments in the barracks do not consist of more than one room. The apartments vary in size according to the number of each family.

Food Situation

On the food situation, which has caused so much controversy, Brandon Watson, chief project steward, said, "Whatever is short for the civilian population is short for the project. If it were not for the Quartermaster Corps of the U.S. Army, we would be unable to get the needed food for Topaz.

"We are operating according to the Geneva Rules of War which say that prisoners must be fed the same rations as privates in the army that captured them. We are operating on the average of 45 cents per day per person."

Attend Schools

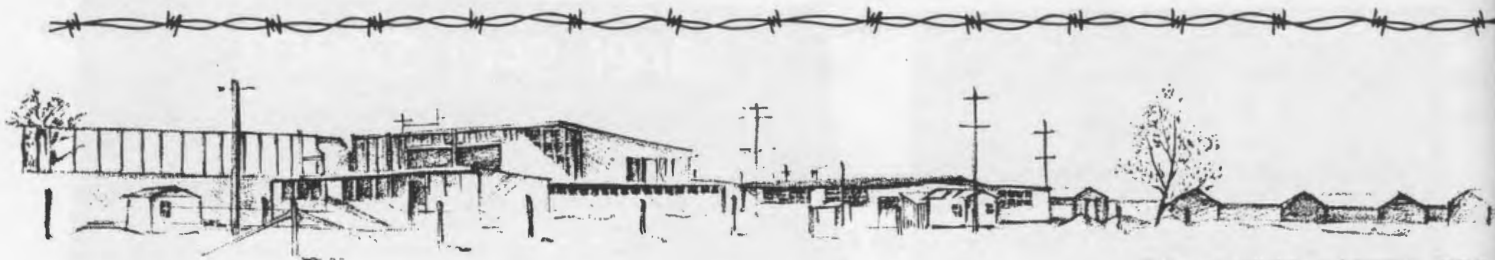
There are over 1,800 students in the elementary and high school divisions. There is no school building, but the students meet each day in the barracks assigned for that purpose, and there are practically no children of school age who do not attend.

The staff consists of three Caucasian teachers to every one Japanese American teacher. The Caucasian instructors receive wages comparable to teachers in the high-paid districts of the state. The Japanese American teachers receive \$19 per month.

(Continued on next page)



SAGE STREET, BLK. 3 TOPAZ, UTAH
TOPAZ RELOCATION CENTER
August. 8, 1943 By, Yoshio Wada.



THE HIGH SCHOOL OF TOPAZ, UTAH
TOPAZ RELOCATION CENTER
August 8, 1943 By, Yoshio Wada.

Full Curriculum

The schools have a full curriculum even down to agricultural and mechanical arts. Four-H Clubs and Boy Scout troops are now in the process of organization. This part of the program ties in with the high school and community activities section.

High School juniors and seniors are very conscious of college preparatory courses, but many of them seem discouraged because the majority of colleges will not accept them for matriculation. They are asking, "What's the use?" However, the National Student Relocation Council is now in the field sensing the pulse of communities where colleges are located to see if Japanese American students cannot be accepted. Some colleges have opened their doors to the evacuees, but the problem of finance is another problem for most of them.

Buddhist, Christians Unite

Religion, education and government do not suffer at Topaz because the inhabitants will not let them.

The people, who are predominantly Protestant and Catholic, meet each Sunday in the mess halls and hold their church services. The Buddhist religion is the only other religion which has representation at the camp.

Topaz has the distinction of being the home of the Buddhist Church in the United States. Its headquarters were moved from the Bay Region when the evacuees came to Utah. Christians and Buddhists have formed an inter-faith council – possibly the only merging of Christians and Buddhists in the world. The services in both churches were crowded.

Gives Freedom

The community government as designed by Charles F. Ernst, director of the project, is one which gives a maximum of freedom of democratic expression to the community. Director Ernst's

philosophy of political science is one of absolute freedom for the individuals, not one of repression.

Each block elects a representative to the town council. The representative must be 18 years of age or over and must be an American citizen. A chairman of the council is elected by the representatives. The Japanese-born residents take a part in the government in that they can be appointed as committeemen and on commissions.

Topaz is a religious, educational and political entity. Although it is an unfortunate chapter that must be written in American history, it is one that can bear much study.

Hospital Built

A 175-bed hospital is rapidly being completed with the latest equipment. There were 78 people in it last week.

The birthrate averages two per week. There are four doctors, all Japanese Americans, assisted by a corps of registered nurses, both Japanese and Caucasians. Student nurses will be trained.

Director Ernst said that the camp is trying in every way to make life bearable under many adverse circumstances, and that to his knowledge its occupants all are excellent American citizens or potential citizens.

Give Shows

During the Yuletide, programs are being taken to different sections of the camp which have Japanese plays, songs and dances. I attended one of these programs, which had in its troupe some of the finest thespians of the Japanese theater in this country. The repertoire of the actors was amazing.

The Japanese-born residents took the plays in to the last drop of the curtain. The younger generation seemed to enjoy much of the program, but due to the fact that many of them do not understand Japanese,

(Continued on next page)

nor the traditions of Japanese entertainment, I got the impression that many of them were laughing at the plays rather than with them.

One of the younger generation expressed himself as saying that he "thought the stuff was pretty corny."

Japanese Americans would much rather pile up the benches and tables in one of the community kitchens and jitterbug in their "zoot-suits" to the latest offerings of Cab Calloway and Tommy Dorsey.

They like to sing songs and are composing jingles about their life in Topaz. One of their favorite group of entertainers is the "Dam" Cossacks, which we can assure you has no connection with the Don Cossacks.

Art Taught

A new medium of art is springing up on that greasewood flat. Under the direction of Professor Chiura Obata, internationally famous artist, and teacher of art at the University of California, Berkeley, hundreds of Japanese-born residents and Japanese Americans are applying both old and new forms of the material to be found in the desert.

There could be no flower arranging because there were no flowers. But that did not stop the imaginative mind of Mrs. Chiura Obata, one of the first two or three flower arrangers in the country.

Madame Obata simply went into the desert and gathered greasewood and juniper. What she and her

students have done with these lowly, homely plants that only a desert would spawn, is indeed a revelation.

I saw some flowers that had been made from the wrappings of oranges that were amazingly life-like and done with the dexterity that only Japanese artist displays.

Cedarwood has been used to make all sorts of carvings from bowls to arabesques. Small greasewoods, junipers and other plants that abound in the desert have been planted near their tar-papered crackerbox homes.

In short, the people of Topaz have proved that a new culture can rise from a barren wasteland. From the old has been born the new.

No Bed of Roses

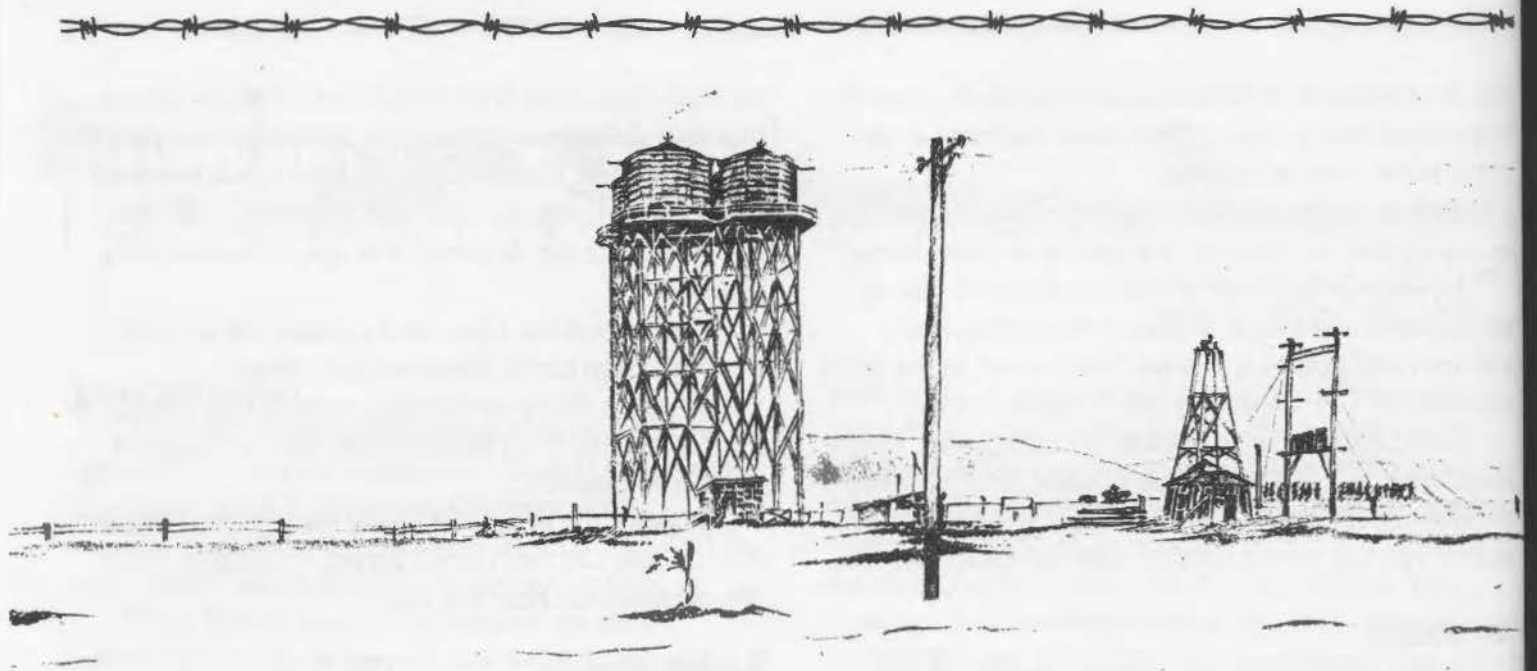
Life at Topaz is neither a bed of roses nor a bowl of cherries. If you had to live in its confinement, even though it is run with a maximum of freedom, you would feel as I did, that life at that isolated camp is more a bed of greasewood and a bowl of rice.

There is a certain sadness that pervades the camp – a certain futility that expresses itself not in undertones, but rather in overtones. Although I had a feeling that there was a maximum of freedom and minimum of repression, there are certain confining requirements which make for an unconscious viciousness. I found in many cases a prisoner frame of mind.

(Continued on next page)



TOPAZ HOSPITAL, TOPAZ, UTAH
TOPAZ RELOCATION CENTER
July 31, 1943 By, Yashio Wada



TOPAZ WATER TANK, TOPAZ, UTAH
TOPAZ RELOCATION CENTER
August 1, 1943 By Yoshio Wada

Possible to Leave

It is possible, however, to leave the camp if one has employment. Hundreds of Japanese Americans have been placed by the employment division of the camp.

In order to leave the camp, the individual's record is sent to the FBI at Washington for clearance. If there is nothing against the record of the individual who is seeking employment outside the project, applications are filled out for working permits. The person's record at the camp has much to do with his getting permission to work at another location.

Get Guarantees

Before leaving the project, employers must guarantee the prevailing wage and a place to live for the person who is hired. Any job may be accepted that is not in a restricted area. After leaving camp the individual may leave his job if he so desires, but he must notify Washington in case of change in address.

The War Relocation Authority is attempting to resettle the evacuees in the Middlewest – to get them dispersed so that no "Little Tokyo's" are formed.

Hundreds of employers are inquiring everyday for individuals they would like to employ. Claude C. Cornwall, head of the employment division of the camp, said that Salt Lake alone has asked for over

500 people. Housing and clearance is all that stands in the road.

In the project itself there is an employment bureau, and most of the people are employed at their former trades or professions when there is a call for their particular kind of services. If there is no call for the job for which they are trained, they may accept other employment if they so desire. There are over 3,000 people employed at present.

There is unemployment compensation up to 60 per cent of the individual's monthly salary. There is also a clothing allowance for those who work.

The War Relocation Board does not permit private enterprise. Due to the small monthly salaries which range from \$8 to \$19 per month, the government does not allow others to monopolize business. Thus, cooperatives have been set up to help the people provide those commodities which the government does not provide directly.

The system tries to provide services at cost. A nominal rental is paid for the use of the buildings which house the stores. At the end of each quarter rebate is made to the people in the cooperatives. ♦

Article and Yoshio Wada sketches courtesy of Bill Fujita

HAIKU

By Haruko Shirai Daté (1893-1948)

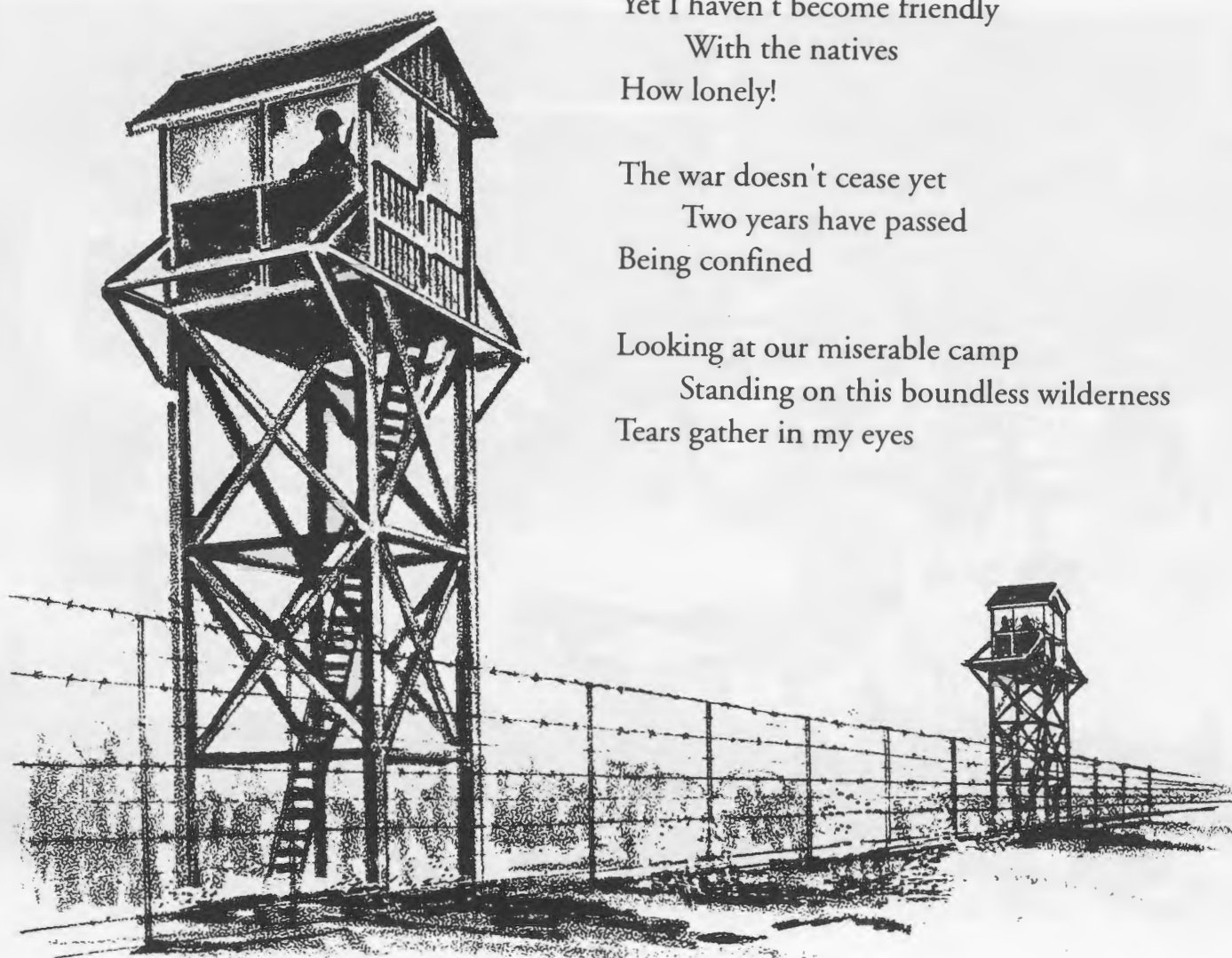
Driven away from here to there
Again we are to be thrown
Out of this
temporary lodging

A little child
Who has come
To say goodbye for their move
Just keeps smiling
I feel so lonely

For half a year
I have lived here
Yet I haven't become friendly
With the natives
How lonely!

The war doesn't cease yet
Two years have passed
Being confined

Looking at our miserable camp
Standing on this boundless wilderness
Tears gather in my eyes





EDUCATION IN AN INTERNMENT CAMP

By Daisy Uyeda Satoda

A condensed version of this article appeared in the winter 1998 edition of *Nikkei Heritage*, published by the National Japanese American Historical Society

I spent my entire high school years, from 1942-1945, behind barbed wire at Topaz, Utah. Topaz High School was housed in barracks, not weather-proofed for the freezing cold weather, in the desert wastelands of Utah, 17 miles away from the nearest town. Winters hit lows of minus 30 degree weather, and the summer heat soared to an incredible 106 degrees. Heating was provided by a pot belly iron stove, fed by coal, when available. School was dismissed on the days there was no heat. And, of course, we did not have air-conditioning for the hot, summer months.

The faculty was composed mainly of Caucasian teachers recruited from outside the camp who, for the most part, were not very good, since Utah laws required only two years of college to obtain teaching credentials. We often wondered what brought these people to teach in such a desolate place – was it compassion for our plight, the high salaries offered, or avoidance of military service? There were several conscientious objectors and a few former missionaries who were part of the teaching staff. The rest of the faculty was made up of resident internees who were paid \$16-\$19 a month, and who may have been qualified in their particular professional fields, but lacked teaching experience.

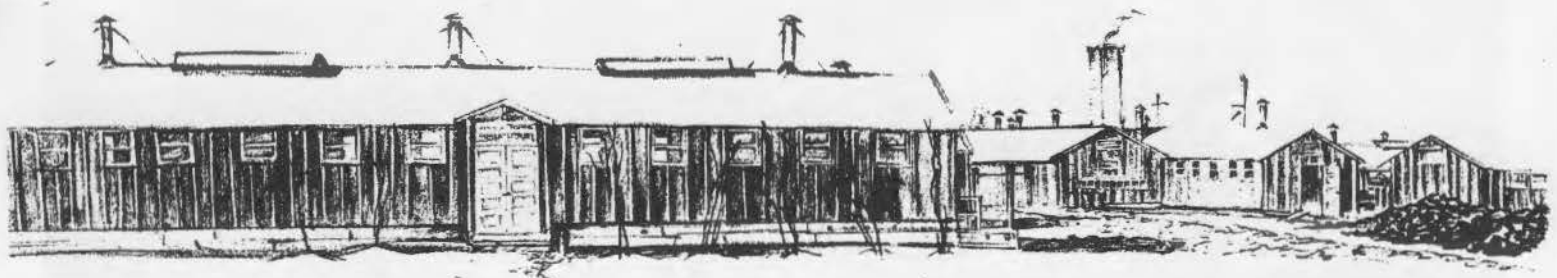
On the faculty were several dedicated teachers who pushed the students to excel knowing that the students needed great coping skills to survive a seemingly bleak future. Noting the shyness and lack of social skills in a number of students, one teacher stressed the importance of proper hand shaking procedure, and making eye contact in social situations.

Former students recall outstanding teachers like Mary McMillan, Eiko Hosoi, Rose Watanabe, Joe Goodman, Fumi Sugihara, and Eleanor Gerard. And then there was the teacher who usually dismissed her class by 10:00 a.m., because she was too drunk to continue. Toward the end of our confinement when a number of the faculty had left, several of our classmates and other former students were recruited to teach. Outstanding were Norman Hirose, who taught German and Physics, and his sister Lillian, who taught typing which provided many Topaz alumni with a marketable skill for career jobs, or part-time work during their college years.

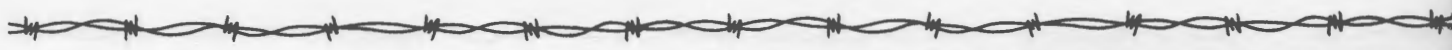
We did not have the "typical" classroom or students. Can you imagine taking science courses where there were no laboratories or supplies to work on experiments? Also, a school with students sharing outdated text books, mess hall tables seating eight students each, limited teaching aids, such as maps, blackboards, audio visual equipment, and even paper and pencils? The students cannot recall taking any books home, which meant there was not much homework either.

Former students rated the education at Topaz High in a range from very poor to excellent. Others felt the education received at Topaz was inadequate background for college. Several students who left camp before graduation had to repeat their Junior year because Topaz High School was not listed in a catalogue of nationally accredited high schools which was published in 1940, two years before the creation of Topaz.

(Continued on next page)



TOPAZ PUBLIC LIBRARY, TOPAZ,
TOPAZ RELOCATION CENTER
August 8, 1943 By Yoshie Wada



TOPAZ HIGH SCHOOL
(rear, left to right)
Machiko Nakamura Ota
Lucille Tanaka
Nami Joan Ihara Oshima
Muriel Matzkin Shapp
(teacher)
(front)
Michiko Nishimura Inouye
Hime Enomoto



We may question the quality of education in Topaz, but the standards of scholarship exhibited by the students must have been evident when one considers the number of students who went on to higher education and entered into diversified fields of endeavor. However, no curriculum could have readied the students to venture into a society that had previously banished them and placed them into detention. Yet, a number of former students took the attitude that said, "I can do anything. Just give me a chance," displaying the "Yamato Damashii" spirit of their forebears.

Most of the alumni contributing to this article recalled the uniqueness of the all-Nikkei student body which provided the opportunity to participate in school activities, including school government, sports, dances, socials, clubs, stage productions, school newspaper, year-book, etc., all positions which were almost impossible to attain at any "outside" pre-war school. These activities provided students with leadership roles and a great sense of pride in belonging to a peer group, devoid of white racism.

Because of the confinement and general restlessness regarding their future, behavior and attitude became a problem. Caught in the bind of an unstructured school system and teachers who had no control over their classrooms, students, mostly the boys, engaged in

rowdiness, cut classes, climbed out of windows, sassied the teachers, led mass walk-outs from classrooms, tossed hard snowballs at unpopular teachers, and other disorderly conduct. Popular teen-age jargon in Topaz included, "waste time," in response to any request or situation that was not to their liking; and also "no 'shimpai'," (don't worry about it).

This was also a time when nicknames were popular. We look back and smile when we recall classmates with such odd monikers as: *Bubbles, King Tut, Pee Wee, Beau Jack, Skinny, B.O., Tubby, Moon, Wyno, Tomato, Spider, Wacky,*, etc. Now we are aware that the following nicknames are politically incorrect and racist: *Chinky, Black Boy, Blackie, Sambo,* etc.

This unique high school in a town that was only a war time existence, provided a captive setting, isolated from the outside world, which resulted in the formation of lifelong friendships. This bond has resulted with my graduating class of Topaz 1945 keeping in touch with each other by holding reunions every five years since our 25th year in 1970, and continuing until our 50th year reunion in 1995. Since that time, because of our dwindling numbers, we have decided to meet every year. The camaraderie and the need to get together grow stronger with each succeeding year. Truly, our incarceration

(Continued on next page)

tion has created an inexplicable affinity which bonds us one to another, forever.

One of the most disturbing hardships for modest teenagers was the lack of privacy – communal showers and toilets, as well as lining up for three meals a day in mess halls, and fighting for space in the community laundry rooms where hot water was available only in the wee hours of the morning.

Families were crowded into single rooms with no partitions, and without running water or bathrooms. We leafed through the Sears Roebuck and Montgomery Ward catalogs to find suitable clothing on a government allotment of less than \$10 a month. Who can forget the oversize (size 44), black mackinaws, surplus from World War I, which was a G.I. (Government-issued) garment for protection against the bitter Utah winters, which was worn by men and women alike? This clothing item was like our school uniform.

The imprisonment of Japanese Americans was

financially and emotionally disastrous for our parents who lost everything, except their dignity. For the young people, some aspects of camp life bordered between carefree adventure and the irony of the uncertainty of their future beyond the barbed wire fence.

The uprooting, incarceration, and the subsequent government relocation policy, dispersed the Nikkei throughout the United States, resulting in a wider degree of forced assimilation into the American mainstream. Thus, too, the former students of Topaz High have indomitably survived this wartime travesty and continue to make a great contribution to American life. ♦

Contributing to this article were former Topaz High School students Marty Oshima Egan, Teri Nakamizo Fujikawa, John Juji Hada, Takuzo Andy Handa, Fumi Manabe Hayashi, Kenzo Ishimaru, Mas Kawaguchi, Sadame Hara Kojimoto, Chuck Kubokawa, Sachi Kawahara Masaoka, Howard Mizuhara, Bob Utsumi, Miye Yoshimori Yoshida, and Ron Tubby Yoshida.

▼ Jr. High Outing





BLOCK 13 BOYS

Standing: George Yoshida, Yosh Sato, Mac Kato, Sei Hirose, Chico Sunada, Sammy Nakashige

Seated: Don Utsumi, Robert Itashiki, Tommy Nishimura, Tad Hideshima, Hid Kato

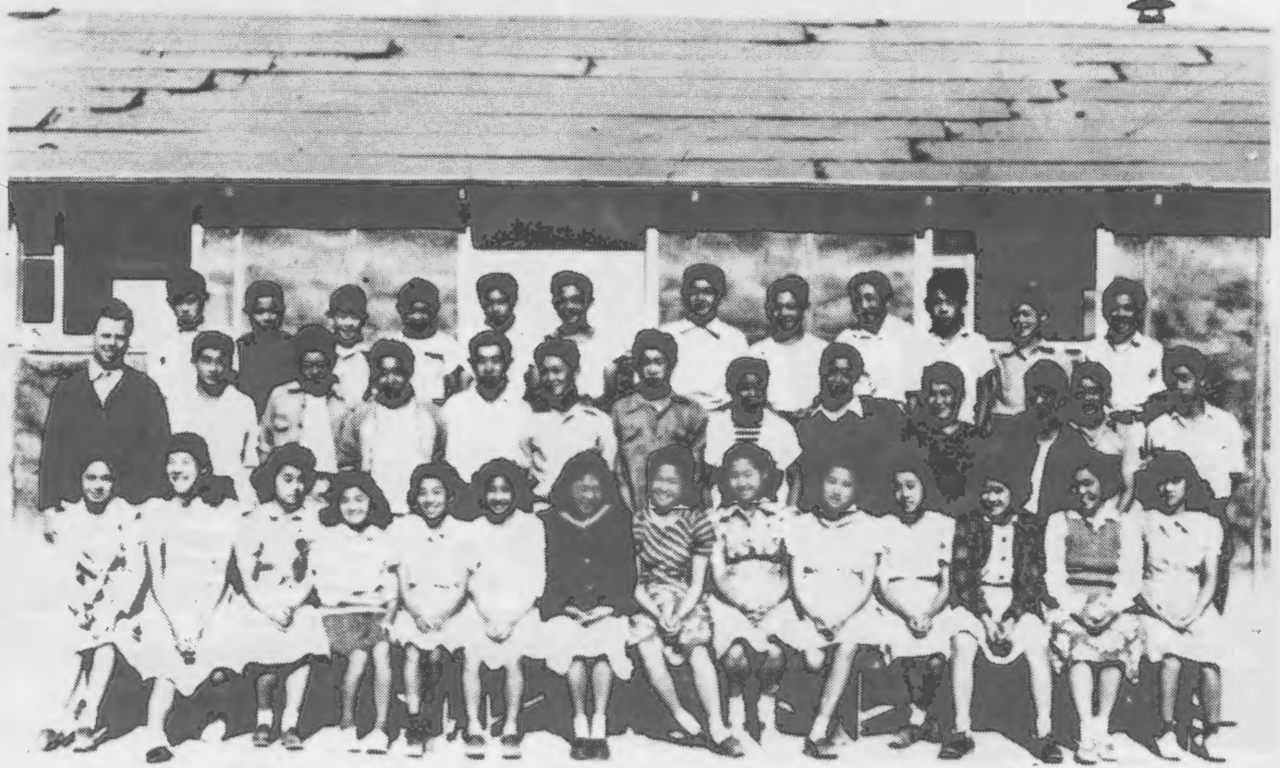


Topaz Sunday Service (Protestant)



Front: Rev. S. Shimada, Dave Tatsuno, ---Nugent, Bill Fujita

Back: ---Nugent, Grace Manabe Hattori, Rev. Carl Nugent, Fumi Manabe Hayashi, Arthur Hayashi



TOPAZ JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, JUNE 1943

Top row: Masaya Yagura, Herbert Nagami, Yoshio Ito, Edward Nishino, Sachio Takeda, Herbert Taketoshi, Joe Fukada, Billy Hirose, Frank Ura, Rentaro Hashimoto, Donald Utsumi, Iwao Nakagawa.

Middle row: Mr. Cummins, Yoshio Tsutsui, Saburo Matsuzaki, Akira Shigetomi, Kosei Kato, Mikio Tanaka, Takeo Yago, Kenji Harada, Harumi Mizote, Chiharu Kubokawa, Keiji Yamasaki, Iwao Ito, Hideo Imachi.

Bottom row: Mary Kita, Mary Kambara, Yuki Iwasa, Sumi Haramaki, Alice Mori, Kiyono Wada, Kimiko Yoshizawa, Michiko Kobayashi, Hana Sonoda, Isako Sawai, Martha Ono, Tazuko Tsugawa, May Hamasaki, Midori Ogo.



---, Tsuruko Kuwamoto, Nobuko Kuwamoto Okumura, Florence ---



Block 9 Picnic





▲ The Protestant Church Group

▼ Block 13





TOPAZ HIGH REUNION - CLASS OF '43 - September 1983

Top row, left to right: Moses Oshima, Frank Takeuchi, Rev. James Toda, Tomio Sakurai, Jim Kirihara, _____, Ken Shimomura, Mike Ichimaru, Tets Ochi, Takao Matsuzaki, Peter Kitagawa, Toa Momii, Shizuo Ozaki, Ed Kubokawa, Henry Obayashi

Next row: Dr. Himeo Tsumori, Bill Oshima, Dr. Frank Kami, George Yamamura, David Iino, Kiyochi Kumekawa, Florence Kazue Muneno, Sumi (Nakahiro) Maruyama, Mary Sutow, Edith Marubayashi, Chiyo (Matsuzaki) Endo, Mo Yanagi, Hayato Orikuchi, Paul Tani, Willy Naruo, Chiko Haramaki, Jim Hiro Nakano, Bill Sakai, Seiji Kaibe, Mas Kawaguchi

Next row: Machiko (Nakamura) Ota, Kuni (Sumi) Tamaki, Shinji Momono, Mas Ashizawa, Ich Nakamura, May (Honda) Shiozawa, Teiko (Hideshima) Kitagawa, Sachi (Honda) Barham, Kay (Tatsuguchi) Ushijima, Marion (Oishi) Suzuki, Ayako (Ota) Shimomura, Kiyo (Ito) Kariya, Frances (Kimura) Morioka, Hagiko (Teramoto) Kusunoki, Teri (Nakamizo) Fujikawa, Elsie (Mayeda) Honda, Joe Inatome, Masu Komatsu, Marion Nishimura, Betty (Toda) Tamura, Mary (Nishioka) Kaibe

Seated: Miyo Shinoda, Flo (Suzuki) Kubota, Miyo (Tanaka) Enomoto, Shiz (Moritomo) Tanabe, Annabelle (Uyeda) Lee, Kaoru (Kawahata) Nakamura, Grace (Matsuno) Handa, Haruye (Yoshiwara) Nakagaki, Flo (Yoshida) Kinoshita, Kay (Sakaguchi) Nakamura, Michiko (Hara) Kawaguchi, Kiyo (Tate) Otsuki, Yo (Nabeta) Doi, Miyo (Suzawa) Nakagawa



TOPAZ HIGH REUNION - CLASS OF '44 - September 1983

Top row, left to right: Yosh Takakuwa, Sam Fujikawa, Roy Harano, Kaz Yoshii, Tom Imagawa, Tom Yamane, Mac Yoshida, Shichiro Yokomizo, Shig Yoshimine, Sodie Ishida, George Murakami, Howard Mizuhara

Next row: Ki Tanamachi, Dr. Stan Sato, Ossie Tamaki, Hisanori Harlan Sano, Mas Oishi, Shun Ochi, Joe Ishizaki, Koji Ozawa, Steve Fujioka, Fred Hayashi, Tomio Katsura, Harry Hiruo, Pete Ito, Jim Morikawa, Ken Nihei, Jim Honda, Stan Tsujisaka, Yosh Fujita, Paul Kageyama

Next row: Hank Hidekawa, Natalie (Nakamura) Katayanagi, Satoko Mary (Igarashi) Okada, Lillie (Kawai) Urasaki, Miyo (Moritomo) Onoda, Tsuki (Takaha) Peterson, Lumi (Uchiyama) Tsumori, Chiyo (Sonoda) Futagaki, Amy (Hosoda) Shimamoto, Nobuko (Okamura) Obayashi, Sachiye (Dowke) Takeoka, Helen (Mori) Ushijima, Yoshiye Wada, Tomoe (Kanemasu) Kinoshita, May (Furuzawa) Kawaguchi, Yuri (Nakatani) Ichimaru, Katherine Miho, Alice (Iwaki) Oshima, Lillian (Kajiwara) Matsuda, Kazuko (Nose) Tanabe.

Seated: Kazuko (Hideshima) Quan, Namie Joan (Ihara) Oshima, Harry Kitano, Toyoko (Tsugawa) Fujii, Midori (Hashimoto) Kamei, Betty (Nakaso) Miyake, Fumi (Manabe) Hayashi, Yone (Kato) Ito, Pauline (Nakamura) Ishii, Mae (Hikido) Watanabe, Ada (Nakagiri) Kawamoto, Tomiko (Hase) Miyaoka, Tamaki (Tsubokura) Peterson.



TOPAZ HIGH REUNION - CLASS OF '45 - September 1983

Top row, left to right: Tosh Sakaguchi, Roy Iwata, Kenzo Ishimaru, Harry Kawabata, Somao Ochi, Ron Tubby Yoshida, Starr Miyagawa, Bob Utsumi, Daisy (Uyeda) Satoda, Yae (Yoshifugi) Tondo, Sadame (Hara) Kojimoto, Hiko (Yoshimine) Nakaso, Sam Nakaso, Yas Furuya, Jay Sasagawa

Seated: Hiro Okada, Marty (Oshima) Egan, Emi Nagasawa, Yoshi (Haramaki) Miller, Mits (Nakamizo) Fuchigami, Chiyo (Date) Iino, Kiko (Nakagiri) Ishida, Jacky (Suzawa) Takayanagi, Kazu (Nao) Harano, Tak (Doi) Nagata, Kazuko (Hideshima) Guan, Aileen (Yamate) Hirata, Wacky Sumimoto.

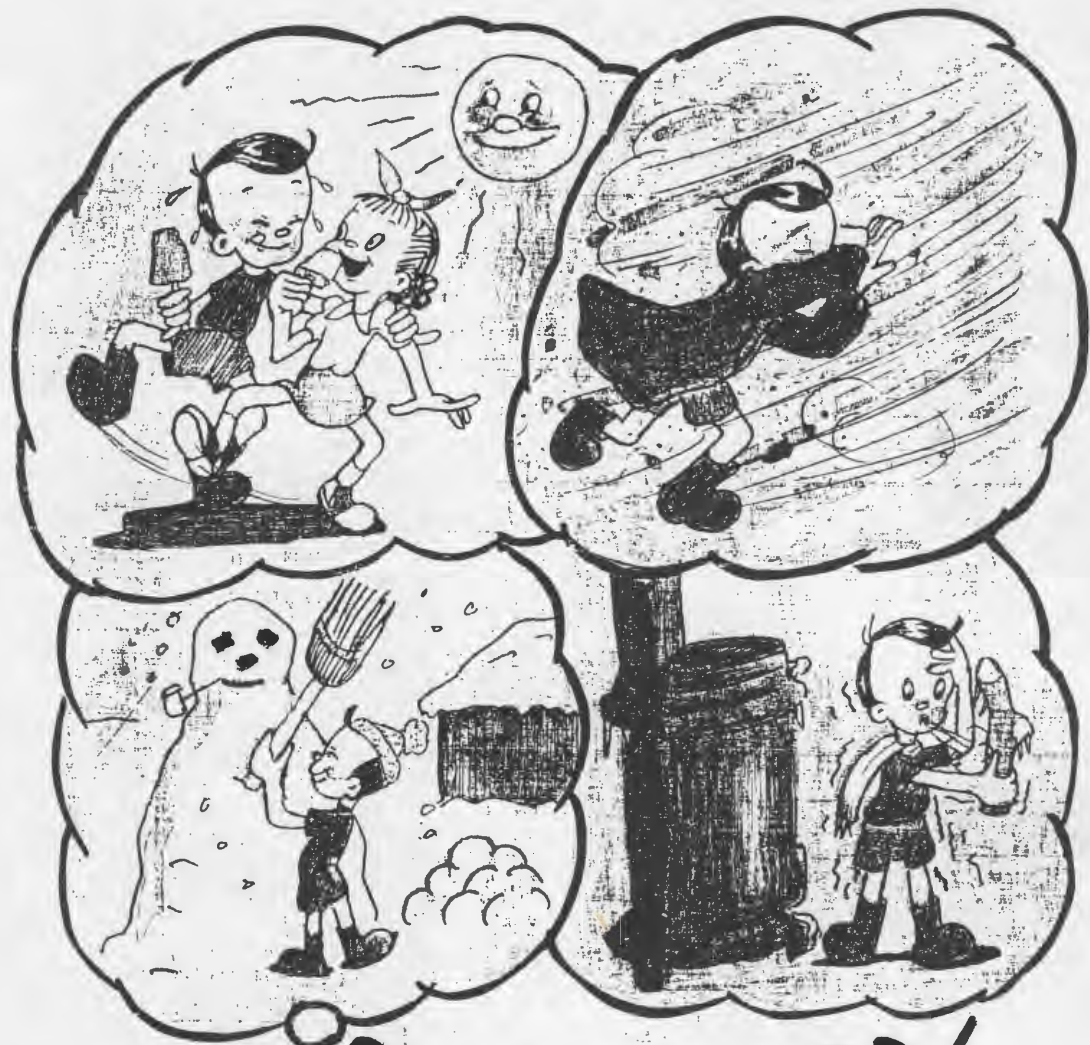
25



TOPAZ HIGH REUNION COMMITTEE - September 1983

Standing: George Yamamura, Tom Yoshitomi, Paul Takata, Ki Tanamachi, Paul Tani, Mas Ashizawa, Tets Ochi, Hank Obayashi, Frank Takeuchi, Daisy (Uyeda) Satoda, Fumi (Manabe) Hayashi, Bill T. Sakai, Koji Ozawa, Dr. Himeo Tsumori

Seated: Stan Tsujisaka, Hank Hidekawa, Lillian (Kajiwara) Matsuda, Frances (Kimura) Morioka, Machiko (Nakamura) Ota, Mas Kawaguchi, Yone (Kato) Ito, Sadame (Hara) Kojimoto, Helen (Mori) Ushijima, Lumi (Uchiyama) Tsumori, Chiyo (Sonoda) Futagaki, Amy (Hosoda) Shimamoto



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*The Topaz Reunion '98 committee wishes to express its grateful appreciation
to the following for their generous contributions and support:*

Japan Air Lines
Yamato Flight Kitchen
Snelling Personnel Services (Chris Utsumi-Puryear), Alameda
Karolyn Fujimoto Designs
Nobe Yamabe
Japanese American National Museum, Los Angeles
Yone Satoda
David Taxy Hironaka (in memory)
Richard's Jewelers
Helen Mori Ushijima, Orinda
Alice Mori Shibata, El Cerrito
Lynn Nakaso, Danville
Mary Mori Hiromoto, Walnut Creek
Growers Produce
Jack Hirose, San Francisco
Hats Aizawa, San Francisco
Yamane Jewelers (Tom Yamane), Los Altos
Café d'Espresso (Jensen Wong), El Cerrito
NB Department Store, San Jose
Helen Yamanashi Kato

•

PHOTOGRAPHS, PAINTINGS & ARTICLES SUPPLIED BY:

Daisy Uyeda Satoda
Bill Fujita
Chuck Kubokawa
Kimi Kodani family
Linda Shoji Chin
Jo Ann Tsujimura Johnson
Ibuki Hibi Lee
Yone Kato Ito

•

ILLUSTRATIONS BY:

Yoshio Wada
Bong Mo Yuen
Bennie Nobori

•

TOPAZ LOGO DESIGN

Nobe Yamabe

Jan # 1605

In Alien Regist. # 3937842

Ygo Sugar

3937847

Typy 9/23/43 - 9/30/45

Type of Fuel Depature - Term with just

