

I would like to preface this photo-booklet by tendering my apologies for having taken so long to realize its completion. Five years did seem like a short time when procrastinating but it has become inexcusably too long when we consider our very short remaining life span. I can only seek your understanding and forgiveness and can hope you can be charitable and sympathetic for my shortcomings. My family has more than prevailed upon me to this end. I am solely to blame and grateful for your patience. Your humble servant and hopefully still your friend—

Bill Suggema

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Without the freely provided organizational skills of the wives of the Okole House boys and their friends, this reunion would not have been successful. Jean Sakita, Joyce Satow, Sally Hammanishi, and Yoshiko Sugiyama truly extended themselves developing logistical support and controlling the costs. Jean's offering the hospitality of their new residence with a panoramic view was one of the highlights of the event. George S., Hideo, Satoshi, Tets and George G. used their separate automobiles to coordinate the events. The only hangups that occurred were when George S.'s car was locked in the parking garage when we returned late from our trip to Blake Island—we were threatened with "Sleepless in Seattle". A few others got lost trying to find parking at the waterfront and then returning to the hotel that night. The very alert female spouses truly made this an enjoyable and a remarkably safe three days. Special thanks and appreciation is extended to the artist Sally Hamanishi who developed personalized "OKOLE HOUSE" t-shirts. Extreme appreciation to Tadaye Kawasaki for putting her artistic talents in the final cut and paste job to the pictures that I was chicken to screw up.

But none of this would have been possible nor nearly as much fun if it hadn't been for the participation of all of you who made the effort to come out and make this happen! And thank you for all the photographs that you were willing to share. It was really good to see you all and renew our friendships. Okole House began and continues to be lively from its very beginnings and maintains its fun luster. May we never grow old!!! Until the next time!

George and Jean Sakita Hideo and Joyce Satow Sally (Masako Doi) Hamanishi William and Yoshiko Sugiyama

#### **HISTORY**

The Okole House story dates back to the summer of 1942 when Mas Hongo secured from the Tule Lake Housing Authority occupancy of quarters immediately next door to the Block Eight mess hall. The Block Eight mess hall was not completely operational at that time. The purpose was to provide mess service to the hospital dependent personnel. Hongo's end barrack room was occupied by Mas Hongo, John Kashiwabara, Tom Hara, and Hideo Satow when it suited their individual purposes. The male workers of the mess hall sought episodic shelter in the friendly atmosphere provided by Mas. The name Okole House was provided by Mas due to the disheveled condition following the occupancy of the mess crew. The largest membership at that time was from the Placer County and Sacramento areas. The Okole House provided a much needed outlet for the energies and ebullience of the youthful crew. It also provided athletic and social outlets as well as guidance from the older membership. The mix of the members and their interactions provided lasting friendships. The Okole House activities ended with the enforced segregation and separation of the entire interned population in the fall of 1943. The desire to reunite to renew friendships culminated in this reunion in Seattle, WA in 1993. The members had been scattered world wide during the fifty years intervening but were sufficiently settled to make such a reunion a reality. We would like to think that our mutual associations influenced this meeting and helped fan a steadying optimism with high hopes that have carried us through this last half century.



#### **ORIGINAL CAST OF CHARACTERS 1942**

Any attempts at listing the membership would be incomplete since the ages ranged from nine to thirty years of age. The oldest members could have been John and Harry Nakahara and the youngest could have been Ken Kashiwabara and Arthur Sugiyama. Among the members were: Mas Hongo, Tom Hara, Hideo Satow, John Kashiwabara, Mike Kashiwabara, Tom Kashiwabara, Chuck Hayashida, Jack Hayashida, Bob Hayashida, Stan Sugiyama, Bill Sugiyama, Andy Sugiyama, Teruo Hayashi, Ted Tsukiji, Nagao Tomita, Tom Ishibashi, George Sakita, Cal Fujimoto, Shig Takuma, Tom Oda, Ed Yoshikawa, Paul Ohmura, Yosh Yamamoto, Kay Hada, Mas Hada, Yosh Hada, Aki Hada, Mits Hada, George Goto, Earl Yonehiro, John Doi, Joe Yamamoto, John Nakahara, Harry Nakahara

### OKOLE HOUSE REUNION ITINERARY AUG 10 - 13, 1993

- 10 Aug 93 Check-in time 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Executel Best Western Hotel Pick up time 4:00 p.m. Arrive at Lobster House, Tacoma 5:00 p.m. Dinner 5:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. Depart to George Sakita's resident 8:00 p.m. Return to Hotel at 10:30 p.m.
- 11 Aug 93 Depart Hotel 9:00 a.m. for Museum of Flight After Museum of Flight depart for Seattle Waterfront for lunch Depart to Blake Island for dinner tour at Tillicum Indian Village Return to Hotel at 8:00 p.m.
- 12 Aug 93 Depart Hotel 9:00 a.m. for Seattle Center Seattle Space Needle for lunch 11:00 a.m. Tour of downtown and monorail trip Dinner at Benjamin Restaurant on Lake Union 5:00 p.m. Depart for Sakita's for farewell coffee 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Aug 93 Golf tourney with George Sakita or shopping with non-golfers Check out at 12:00 Tokyo Restaurant for sushi lunch in Bellevue

SAYONARA

### **ATTENDEES**

Ted and Gerry Tsukiji Tom and Rose Hara Nagao and Misao Tomita Mas and Flo Hongo George and Jean Sakita Sally Hamanishi John Kashiwabara Hideo and Joyce Satow Bob and Grace Hayashida Tom and Mary Kashiwabara George and Susan Goto Satoshi Nakahira Toshi Goto Abe Bill and Yoshiko Sugiyama





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# OKOLE HOUSE MAILING LIST

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Hada, Aki	3105 Newcastle Rd	Newcastle, CA 95678	
Hada, Kay	39378 Road 80	Dinuba, CA 93618	
Hada, Mas 'Rats'	4428 Poppy Hill Rd	Lincoln, CA 95648	
Hada, Mits	P.O. Box 85	Newcastle, CA 95648	
Hada, Yosh	9580 Rock Springs Rd	Newcastle, CA 95678	
Hara, Tonk	900 Vallejo Way	Sacramento, CA 95818	
Hayashida, Bob	5625 Barton Rd	Loomis, CA 95650	
Hayashida, Jack	5337 Lone Pine Rd	Loomis, CA 95650	
Hongo, Mas	605 Capistrano Way	San Manteo, CA 94402	415-344-1981
Kashiwabara, John	690 Havana St	Long Beach, CA 90814	
Kashiwabara, Tom	7887 Golden Field Way	Sacramento, CA 95823	916-392-2594
Nakahara, Harry	2065 Broadway (Office)	Walnut Creek, CA 94596	
Nakahira, Sat	4269 N 71st St	Milwaukee, WI 53216	
Ohmura, Paul			
Sakita, George	900 S Marine Hills Way	Federal Way, WA 98003	253-839-6190
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Sugiyama, Andy			
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