

SEND
THE IRRIGATOR
To Friends and Former
Residents

The MINIDOKA Irrigator

Serving In The Armed
Forces From Hunt
498
Including 206 Volunteers

Volume IV, Number 11

HUNT, IDAHO

Saturday, May 6, 1944

MINIDOKA ROARS WELCOME TO KUROKI

PICTURES TELL STORY OF GREETING TO NISEI WARRIOR

Thousands See Hero In Triumphant Entry; Fetes Honor Nisei

Luncheons, Teas, Dinners, Dances Dominate Gala Program

To the thousands of long awaiting residents T/Sgt. Ben Kuroki, No. 1 nisei war hero, gaining this title through his accuracy behind a Liberator machine gun, actually came into existence at Hunt this week. As the Sergeant entered the gateway of Minidoka the intensive program for this historical occasion including the parade, reception, press conference, speeches, banquet, baseball games, queen coronation, and dances unfolded.

Among the many events for his visit here the highlight features were, the sightseeing tour of the camp, the IRRIGATOR press conference and his crowning of the Hunt High School May Day king and queen.

Invited to many informal parties, and get-togethers by the various organizations throughout the camp, Sgt. Kuroki "let his hair down" and enjoyed them immensely. These affairs revealed his ingratiating personality of a "regular fellow."

Winding up the program for the week will be the inductee dance with Sgt. Kuroki as the guest of honor.

The loyalty and sincerity of the nisei war hero will leave a deep and indelible impression in the hearts of every Minidokan.

After the brief welcome at the main gate, Sgt. Kuroki was taken on a parade in a jeep which took him all over camp. Residents, including the school children, workers, and appointed personnel staff members were all out to greet the hero.

Hundreds of residents dropped in at D. H. 23 Tuesday night to meet and shake hands with the Sergeant. Co-chairmen for this affair were Mrs. Paul Shigaya and Mrs. Edward Osawa.

The IRRIGATOR staff members had a chance to really get acquainted with the air hero at their informal press luncheon and conference Wednesday afternoon in the office. Rousing games and exchanging autographs highlighted the entire afternoon.

"I crown thee Queen Katy of May Day" . . . with these words Sgt. Kuroki placed the crown on Hunt High School's Queen of May Day, Katy Matsuda yesterday morning; and thus the May Day Madcap got underway.

A brief welcome was tendered by H. L. Stafford, project director, city councilmen and the welcoming party. As Sgt. Kuroki stepped into the awaiting jeep, which was decorated with streamers and welcome signs, the Drum and Bugle Corps struck up with their music and from the ad area Sgt. Kuroki

Spain Consul To Visit Here

A visit by the Spanish consul is expected within several weeks' time, the Community Council was informed this week.

The consul will visit the project to investigate the treatment accorded Japanese nationals and also to gather the results of a census which will be conducted among the nationals residing here.

A committee was chosen from the Japanese nationals to meet with the consul at a joint meeting held by the Council and the Coordinating commission Thursday afternoon.

On the committee are: Dr. Paul Shigaya, Nomura, K. Kuraoka, N. Uyeda, H. Hatate, G. Mihara, S. Hosokawa, K. Yamada, D. Kanaya, R. Akiyama, chairman, K. Takeda, R. Sano, Kari Tambara, R. Yamashita, S. Ikoma and Jack Chikata.

Enlistment Of Nisei WACs Sought by Army

Representatives of the Women's Army Corps recruiting service will be here to take applications for nisei WACs, according to a letter received here from Fort Douglas.

The Fort Douglas headquarters has been authorized to take the applications of a total of 33 nisei WACs.

Applicants must be between 20 to 50 years of age and proficient in English, both written and spoken. The physical standards for enlistment are the same as those prescribed for other applicants, except that the minimum height has been lowered to 57 inches and the minimum weight, 95 pounds.

Sgt. Kuroki in his speech gave a review of his experiences from the time of his induction up to the present time.

Thursday evening, Sgt. Kuroki spoke to the appointed personnel and visiting Lions' Club members and family from Twin Falls in the hospital dining hall. He received an ovation that lasted nearly five minutes.

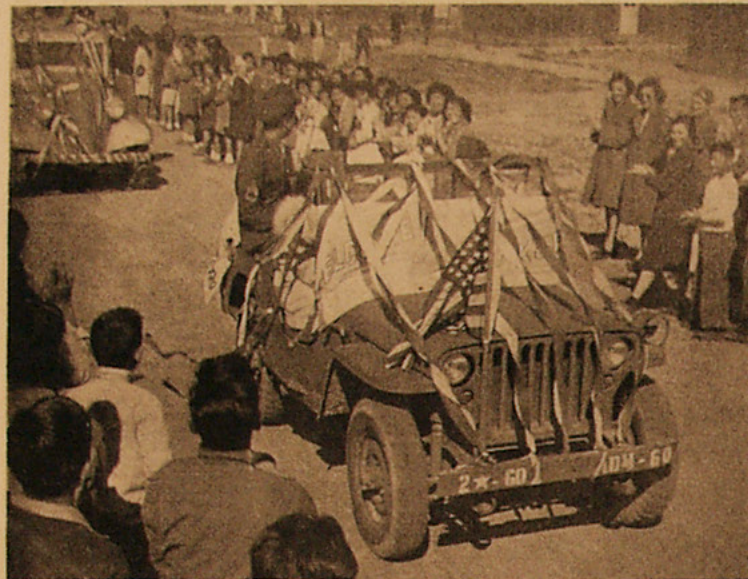
He spoke again to the residents in Area B Thursday evening in D. H. 34.

THE COURAGE OF A HERO...
Sergeant Ben Kuroki will leave Hunt Sunday, but the memories of his visit will stay with us a long time. His courage in facing, first, racial discrimination and secondly, the dangers of 30 bombing missions should serve as an inspiration to all of us. He is a good example to keep in mind for those boys and men of Hunt who are being called to fight for their country and also for those of us who can help win the war by our actions on the home front.

We read a lot about morale of the fighting men. The civilians at home are called upon to lift this morale. In this case, the visit of an outstanding Nisei war hero boosted the morale of Hunt in no small way. The record of this modest, unassuming young man clearly demonstrates that every young man in this project can contribute greatly to winning the war and insuring a better place for himself in the America of tomorrow.

Sergeant Kuroki could rest on his great combat record and his medals, but he does not choose to do this. He doesn't want to stop fighting until the war is over. I think he has something there for all of us to think about.

H. L. STAFFORD, Project Director.



Upper left: Pretty girls at Hunt High School attract Sergeant's attention from all else as his jeep proceeds in parade—Upper right: (left to right) Sergeant Kuroki enjoys a laugh with Assistant Directors Miller and Davidson at one of Project Director Stafford's wise cracks at the Main Gate—Right: Council Chairman Fujii welcomes Kuroki to Minidoka—Above: Boy Scout drum and bugle corps thrills tots at Huntville Elementary School—Lower left: Hunt High School girls enraptured as Sergeant Kuroki passes in his jeep.

Inductees Placed On Reserve List

Arriving almost simultaneously with T/Sgt. Ben Kuroki on Tuesday morning were the 51 Hunt inductees who reported to Fort Douglas last week for their final physical examination. These men have undergone their final phase of induction and are now on the enlisted reserve list awaiting their assignment. They are subject to a

Hitoshi Kanzaki Leaves

Another reservist, Hitoshi Kanzaki, left Friday evening for Fort Douglas, Utah, according to Victor McLaughlin, assistant relocation program officer.

On April 22, four reservists left the center and were assigned to Camp Blanding, Fla.

24 hour call and may go out to work if they can be contacted within this time.

Men who have passed their pre-induction physicals and have their certificate of fitness as well as the reservists are now given the same privileges as army personnel. Under the military courtesy these men may take five guests or their entire family out on a one-day pass and those outside the center may visit here on a non-paying visitors status. It was stressed by Norman Braden, statistics officer, that these men must have their certificate of fitness before these privileges would be granted.

Co-op Sells OPA Released Shoes

The local dry goods stores are carrying ration free, the OPA release on low priced children's shoes at a very substantial reduction until May 20, announced Y. Urakawa, educational director of the Co-op.

In conjunction with this sale, dry goods stores are featuring a reduction sale on all merchandise, Urakawa stated.

Secretary Ickes Charges Governors With Prejudice

Bricker, Edge, Mayor LaGuardia Accused Of Racial Discrimination

WASHINGTON—Interior Secretary Ickes Thursday accused Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia of New York City and two Republican governors, John W. Bricker of Ohio and Walter E. Edge of New Jersey of "racial discrimination" on the question of resettlement of Japanese Americans, according to Associated Press reports.

In a statement, the Secretary Ickes said they have expressed a belief that law-abiding Japanese in this country are not entitled to the same privileges as non-Japanese, and said these opinions "seem ominously out of tune in a nation that is fighting for the principles of democracy and freedom."

"This is a strange fife and drum corps to be playing the discordant anthem of racial discrimination," Ickes said. "Strangers by far than fiction."

"The mayor of New York City, who has fought long and vigorously for racial equality and justice, carrying the flag, must be shocked an disturbed to find the drummer boy from New Jersey on his left and the fife from Ohio flanking him on the right. I cannot but believe that he has joined this company through accident and misunderstanding rather than by deliberate choice."

Ickes, upholding the policies of the war relocation authority which recently was made a part of his department, accused Bricker "not only of prejudice but of disregard of the facts" in a Los Angeles speech the Ohio governor made last week. He said Bricker was "trying to further his presidential aspirations" and that he "deliberately kicked the constitution in the teeth."

The secretary quoted Bricker as saying that after the war each west coast community should determine for itself whether people of Japanese ancestry should be permitted to return to their former homes, and of charging the war relocation authority with releasing disloyal persons.



Two Win Honors At Ohio Wesleyan

George Hara, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Hara of 25-1-F, and George Umemura, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Umemura of 15-12-H, were recently elected to the Phi Beta Kappa recognition group for freshmen and sophomores at Ohio Wesleyan University, according to word received here.

Both of the boys made 3.3 average grades or better last semester, to be placed in the honorary society.

The MINIDOKA Irrigator

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PROBLEMS OF COOPERATION

High up on the list of essential requirements for teamwork within any cooperative are duties and responsibilities of the board, the manager and employees be set forth and clearly defined. This statement should clearly indicate the flow of authority from membership to board to employees.

It is up to the board, as the servant of the members, not bosses, to interpret the will of the majority on matters of policy, and to set those policies. It's up to the board to see that each one concerned cooperate and carry those policies out.

It's up to the manager to carry out the policies laid down by the board. It's up to the manager to organize the business in such a way that the employees have definite duties and responsibilities. It's up to the manager to see that the employees are trained for better jobs and that they are given opportunities to find out what all the co-op shooting is about.

The board recognizes that in order to do his work well the manager must have authority equal to his responsibility. As a specialist in management he is the one to hire and fire, set forth hours, duties and responsibilities for each employee, to recommend raises and promotions, to outline an operating program for the year and to recommend new lines for expansion.

In aiming for the goal of cooperation within the co-operative, he should underline the absolute necessity for everyone to use tact and diplomacy in dealing with others, but he should also stress the need for open and frank discussions between manager and board, and manager and employees. It is up to the manager to give the board complete reports every month, advising them of every problem which may arise. It is also up to the manager to let the employees take a real part in operating the business so that they may look upon it, not as a "meal ticket," but also as part of a movement which is making an important contribution to better living with more security for the members and their children, and the community.

Monthly meetings at which the employees learn more about their jobs and more about their cooperative should be the regular agenda on the manager's calendar. Here and not at a board meeting, is the time and place for open and frank discussion of manager-employee problems. The point is that frank criticism should be welcomed and encouraged and talked out in the open. And in all cases the attitude in presenting criticism should be helpful and constructive.

—James Wabasse.

Ben Kuroki—American

He is a slender young man, this Sergeant from Nebraska. His demeanor is friendly and his manner is open and as straightforward as the bullets that spat out from the turret gun on his plane upon the enemy. He has the face of a Japanese but the mind and heart of an American.

The ensuing days that followed Pearl Harbor and the flak-filled skies and the constant association of his buddies "over there" made him what he is today. On his chest Tech. Sgt. Ben Kuroki wears ribbons, battle stars and oak leaves, signifying his earning two Distinguished Flying Crosses and an Air Medal—visible proof of his part in this war. But in his heart he carries no hatred except for the principles of the Hitlers and the Tojos.

Out of the horrible crucible of war, he has emerged a hero, but a hero who wears the same size hat as any other John or Jane Doe.

Out of the troubles and heartaches experienced in the Air Corps he has learned the value of fighting and living together. He has learned that in combat, race has nothing to do with obtaining a common goal. He has also learned that every man must do his share to be able to "hit the target" and a person who "freezes to his guns" is indeed a dangerous fellow and an extra burden.

Back in the States, he discovered while recuperating on the Pacific Coast that men who fought in Guadalcanal and the South Pacific bore him no hatred. These things and much more he has learned. These things he has told us in person during his stay here.

When we think of all he has done, we cannot help but stop and weigh the consequences of his heroic deeds. We cannot help but acknowledge the fact that because of Ben Kuroki we have a powerful weapon in our hand with which to combat the enemy at home—people whose ideas and thoughts run along Fascistic lines.

He is to us the personification of these brave and intrepid men who are fighting on the Italian front with the 100th Infantry, the 442 Combat Unit, the men who are just now beginning to don Uncle Sam's uniform. There is only one Ben Kuroki but there will be many more who will follow in his footsteps to prove the loyalty and integrity of the Japanese Americans to the United States.

In his talks he made it clear beyond a doubt of his purpose in visiting the relocation centers.

He came not to influence the draftees or any other erroneously imagined objective, but to inform us on what is going on outside and also to learn what we, who live in confinement, are thinking about.

Through his talks we have been informed about the attitudes of the Caucasians on the outside, we have learned that we have many friends and through his deeds and efforts we are better equipped to face the outside world and be able to walk the streets unafraid.

To be able to glimpse a hero in the flesh is a thrill in itself. To learn what he is thinking about is a fascinating study. We who live such dull and monotonous lives have had the opportunity during the past week to touch the tinsel and glamour that always surrounds a celebrity.

Ben Kuroki is paving the way for others to follow and though we may not be able to sport any medals we, too, can do our share in helping to build a better understanding between the many races that constitute America.

Sgt. Kuroki, who never knew prejudice in his life until his induction into the army, had to learn the hard way to convince his fellow citizens of his sincerity and loyalty. The lessons he has learned can well be emulated by all of us regardless of race.

The sooner we realize the value of working together and doing our share in the terrible war, the sooner the situation of misunderstanding and the tragic consequences can be remedied.

"I'll never forget . . ." said Sgt. Kuroki in relating his varied experiences. We, too, must never forget the lessons we have learned and be able to be big enough to be able to see beyond our noses.

"I'll never forget . . .", he said, when he spoke of his leaving and once again entering the harbor in New York City.

Until one realizes the value of the principles for which we are fighting, will we ever win in our fight against prejudice and intolerance. With his slender hands, Sgt. Kuroki hammered at the enemy with all his strength to prove his loyalty. In his courageous battle with the enemy abroad and at home, he is emerging the victor.

He has proved to the best of his ability that he is truly an American in the best sense of the word.—Sgt. Ben Kuroki—American.—kt.

"There but for the Grace of God . . ."

Led by the Drum and Bugle Corps, colorful parade was winding its way through the center, while residents lined the highway to catch a glimpse of the returned hero.

The Sergeant was sitting in the jeep, waving at the crowds. "Look," a young girl nudged another, "Over there, in that corner, away from the rest of us."

The other girl looked, and she saw an aged mother, clutching her apron, watching the passing nisei hero, with tears streaming down her face.

"He Looks Shy, but Can't Tell About Men"

"Gee, he looks shy, wonder if he'll give me his autograph . . ." wistfully a pretty girl resident said during the parade.

"Try, he might just sign his name quicklike—but even just his name . . . Hurry . . ." Hopeful quote from the other.

The girls ran forward, the Sergeant turned around with a smile, and asked her name. "May . . . With a 'e' or a 'y'?" "Y." So the hero wrote, "To May. Very best wishes, Sgt. Ben Kuroki."

And that's how those girls found out the celebrated gunner wasn't shy with girls.

Sgt. Kuroki Makes Little Boy Happy

Among the many admirers of Tech. Sgt. Ben Kuroki was a little boy of about 6 years. Shyly he approached the sergeant at the reception held at D. H. 23 and in a very low voice asked if he could see his medals. Sgt. Kuroki bent over and the little boy grinning from ear to ear reached his tiny hands out to feel the distinguished medals. The happy boy scarcely having time to say thank you ran out the door to tell his friends that he had talked to the hero. Incidents like this has proven the love of the hero for children.

Overseas Mail Must Bear APO Number

All publications or letters not bearing A. P. O. numbers cannot be distributed and dispatched overseas, according to information received by the post office from the War Department. Also A. P. O. air mail must be pre-paid at the rate of 6 cents per half ounce.

Effective immediately, postmasters will decline to accept publications addressed to Army personnel in care of postmasters at ports of embarkation unless the A. P. O. number is included in the addresses.

Aliens Requested To Report Change Of Address

All aliens residing in relocation centers are requested to submit an alien registration change of address card to the Alien Registration Division of the Immigration and Naturalization Service at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, according to N. Braden, Statistician.

The new change of address cards will be available to all the project residents through the block managers this week. Braden stated that it is important that every alien obtain one of these cards and, after filling in the information requested on the card to mail it at once. The cards are already addressed, and require a one cent stamp.

Notices will be posted in all the

From All of Us . . .

Like little children waiting for any event the staff members of the IRRIGATOR were hovering around the ad area Tuesday morning to get a glimpse of the hero. Due to the kind heart of Mr. Beeson the entire staff was able not only to see the hero but to follow the parade route seated comfortably in a CAR. Thanks a lot from all of us to you, Mr. "Joe" Beeson.



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- Oatmeal Cookies, doz. 20c

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JEROME, IDAHO



Young America claims its toll as Boy Scouts work the Sergeant overtime signing autographs.

—WRA STAFF PHOTO



Sergeant Kuroki's autograph in demand as parade starts at Main Gate.

—WRA STAFF PHOTO

Appointed Staff Members Voice Praise of Hero

Unanimously agreeing that T/Sgt. Ben Kuroki is a typical American hero, members of the appointed personnel issued various comments on the much-celebrated turret gunner.

Project Director H. L. Stafford stated simply, "I'm convinced that Sgt. Kuroki typifies and demonstrates the Japanese American citizen."

"The visit of Sgt. Ben Kuroki to Minidoka comes at a very opportune time," R. S. Davidson, assistant project director in charge of project operations said. "The hero of the nisei is in a position to give first hand information to young men of draft age. From his personal experience, the Sergeant can relate to other young men what they may expect from army life, the treatment received by an American of Japanese descent, and the reception given to a soldier returning from the battle front.

"Our residents looked forward to Kuroki's visit with anticipation. During his stay he is being kept busy with meetings, parties, dinners and speaking engagements.

"He is a modest man, a splendid representative of nisei loyalty and manhood. We welcome Sgt. Kuroki and trust that his visit is a pleasant one for him."

"May he help all of us to keep the creed he lives by. 'Though some individuals may discriminate against me, I shall never become bitter or lose faith!'"

"That is a challenge to all." R. A. Pomeroy, assistant director of community management, remarked, "He seems extremely modest, almost to the point of shyness. Modesty in a man of such achievement is certainly wholesome and refreshing."

D. W. Miller, assistant director in charge of administrative management, was heard to comment, "He is an interesting young man and a typical American citizen."

"My greatest impression," said A. M. Kleinkopf, superintendent of education, "was that he is a very modest young man who doesn't give himself all the glory which is due him. Also he well represents the Midwest type of American hero, a hero who thinks with a background that is entirely American."

Jerome T. Light, high school principal, quoted his impression as "A typical American soldier who has been through the mill, knows what he is fighting for, and desires furthermore to help in the solution of one of the most perplexing problems in the development of real Democracy."

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NOTICE!

ADDITION TO THE BY-LAW

ARTICLE IV, SECTION C, PART 4

"In the case of a person who is no longer residing in the project, who withdrew from membership and turned in to the Cooperative his stamp book at the time of his departure, a patronage refund check for the number of patronage stamps current at that time contained in such stamp book shall be mailed to him at his last known address when the refund payment for that period is made."

MINIDOKA

CONSUMERS' COOPERATIVE

HUNT, IDAHO

LEATHER CIGARETTE CASES — WALLETS

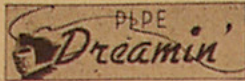
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Feminine Morale Soars As Sgt. Denies Rumor

There was one rumor that the interviewing reporter wanted Sgt. Kuroki to deny, and vigorously. A vicious rumor that was undermining feminine morale to an appalling measure. Oh, she prayed, please deny it, Sergeant.

Luncheon In "Press Style" Given Sgt. Kuroki

Tossing all formality aside and forgetting Emily Post for the day, the IRRIGATOR staff and ex-staff members gave Tech. Sgt. Ben Kuroki a rousing time in a genuine "press style" at a luncheon Wednesday noon at the office, 22-7-E.

One day Sgt. Kuroki spoke of the hills and valleys of California, the wide expanse of the foaming surf of the Pacific and it made one who has lived in the green fertile valleys of the Northwest, very, very homesick.

Just a few words from his lips, and the mind was opened and the remembering of those familiar scenes drenched our souls and we slaked our parched minds with the imaginary ocean breezes and the pungent odor of the Douglas fir.

The sight of our young nisei hero pitching the first ball the other day awoke the hope that one day our little brothers would forget about guns and planes, latrine hide-outs and laundry room "playgrounds" and be able to play in a real sandlot again where no water towers, bleak barracks or barbed wire would mar their childish horizon.

It was a lot of fun to see such a "dignified" person as a hero scrambling for a seat when we played "Barn's On Fire." We were designated as horses, cows, chickens and pigs. I wonder what he was supposed to be?

All things must come to an end sometime and this week, too, will soon come to a close. Many are the incidents and thoughts we will carry through the days to come. Let us hope that this brief interlude when Sgt. Kuroki visited us will somehow brighten the dark days for us and give us the courage and high hope that will enable us to hit a home run in our fight against intolerance and race prejudice.

An unforgettable episode was the sight of Sgt. Kuroki in a jeep, shivering inwardly in the chilly morning air, outwardly smiling and waving friendly greetings to the residents who saw him as he passed by.

The excitement of the little children of Stafford school who made



Receiving line at reception to Sergeant Kuroki at D. H. 23. Left to right, Seiichi Hara, general chairman; Yoshito Fujii, chairman of Community Council; Mrs. Fujii; Project Director Stafford; Mrs. Stafford; Sergeant Kuroki; Mrs. Edward Osawa; Mrs. Paul Shigaya.

Local USO Holds Public Reception For Distinguished Visitor Tuesday

Filling D. H. 23 to its capacity Tuesday evening, Tech. Sgt. Ben Kuroki was received by hundreds of admirers eager to shake hands with their No. 1 nisei war hero. Mingling about in the patriotically decorated hall were men, women and children who were individually introduced to the sergeant and many were seen asking for his autograph.

Hunt Delegates Return from Topaz

The formation of a new corporation, The Buddhist Church of America; establishment of an assistant minister training school in Topaz; plans for sending nisei ministers to army camps and formation of a Bussei group in the free zones, were the main topics discussed at the National Buddhist Convention which was held in Topaz, April 28-30, according to Rev. T. Terakawa, one of the representatives from Hunt.

Fujihara Returns

Continuation of the YWCA as youth builders withstanding war time pressure to become a straight recreational agency, was one of the main factors stressed at the YWCA center regional conference which was held in Chicago, April 18-21, according to reports from Yoshie Fujihara, club supervisor, who represented the Hunt center.

PTA Meeting To Be Held May 12

A meeting of the Stafford School P. T. A. will be held May 12 in D. H. 32 at 7:30 p. m. A report on the State P. T. A. Convention which was held at Idaho Falls on April 19-20 will be given by Mrs. C. T. Aral.

YBA Elects Officers

The newly organized YBA of Hunt elected the following officers last Sunday after service: President, Hiroshi Nakayama; Vice-Presidents, Tobe Matsuzaki and Marcelline Uyeji; Recording Secretary, Mary Matsumoto; Corresponding Secretary, Mary Masunaga; Treasurer, Shigeto Ishikawa; and Publicity, Mitsuo Yasuda and George Kitamura.

FINE QUALITY WOOLENS . . .

Advertisement for L. B. WOOLEN & TRIMMING CO. featuring 100% virgin wool jersey, 52" wide, at \$1.95 per yard. Complete range of colors. Firm Mounish Suitings, Gabardines - New Colors, Skirt Ends, Trouser Lengths. New Cottons, Prints, Strutters, Luannas, Crepes - for Dresses, Slacks, Sportswear. 530 S. Los Angeles Street, Los Angeles 13, California.

Miss Y. Tsuji Announces Troth

Mr. and Mrs. Iwajiro Tsuji of 6-9-E announced the engagement of their daughter, Yoshiko, to Paul Minato, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kōichi Minato of Salt Lake City, and formerly of Hunt.

Miss Hideko Tsuboi Reveals Betrothal

With tiny cards tucked between dainty napkins at an afternoon luncheon, the betrothal of Miss Hideko Tsuboi, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kakichi Tsuboi, 6-4-E, to Michio Shimomura, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Y. Shimomura, 6-5-F, was revealed. The announcement party was held last Sunday afternoon at S. H. 6.

Miss K. Ishihara Weds Pvt. Nagata

In an impressive afternoon ceremony on April 22 at the First Methodist Parsonage in Minneapolis, Minn., Miss Kumiko Kay Ishihara, daughter of Mrs. M. Ishihara of 7-2-A, became the bride of Pvt. Harry M. Nagata, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Nagata of Jerome, Arkansas. The Rev. Virgil A. Kraft officiated the marriage service.

Ex-Huntite Tells Troth In Chicago

Miss Tamiko Takenaka, eldest daughter of Mr. T. Takenaka, 15-7-C, announced her engagement to Harry Fukuda in Chicago on Sunday, April 23.

Orchestra Film Dance Scheduled

A novel orchestra film dance will be sponsored by the Community Activities next week, featuring eight well known orchestras, according to reports from the C. A. office.

Suburbanites Hold Dance

Promising a gala evening of smooth dancing and refreshments, the Block 2 Y. P. C. or the "Suburbanites," will hold a dance with "Journey To a Star" as a theme, on May 13 at D. H. 2 from 8 to 12 p. m. A prize for the first couple to arrive at the dance will be given, and the doors will close at 9 p. m.

Rugged Japanese American Hero Just A Regular "Joe" At Heart

Much has been said and written about Sgt. Ben Kuroki, hero, but not much is known about "Ben" the personality, a guy with a special sense of humor, quick intelligence, and who's a heck of a good "Joe."

When he threw the first ball at the All-Star-Wolverine game last Thursday, that true pitch wasn't born of sheer will-power. His arm was recognized in Hershey High School where he earned the three-year letterman stripes as a star varsity pitcher and stellar basketball forward.

Not only was he an outstanding athlete but he served in the capacity of vice-president of both his junior and senior classes. He belonged to a nisei baseball team in his home town, which "was almost all made up of the Kuroki brothers" the Sergeant said with a laugh.

The third son of Mr. and Mrs. Somsuke Kuroki, the gunner has four brothers and five sisters. Wonderful letters of encouragement from his family played a not minor role in keeping the future hero batting during his black days of cruel discrimination.

Although an agreeable person who has little dislikes, he lists making speeches as his pet peeve, with making more speeches showing a close second.

His favorite sports shift from time to time, and at the present he favors ping-pong. He likes swimming.

He enjoys movies, coles, and used to prefer Lana Turner, "but not anymore, because she got married."

True to his home state, which he declares is the best darn state in the union "and I've been in 32 of the 48 states," he picks out Robert Taylor as his pin-up boy because "he comes from Nebraska."

Just as every other soldier and civilian, he has postwar plans which includes the setting up of the Kuroki Matrimonial Bureau and taking out Hedy Lamar, "but seriously," he said, "I'm interested in chemical engineering and would like to study up on it."

John Patrick, noted California author, autographed two of his books to Sgt. Kuroki and his sister, and donated them to the Hershey High School library.

"The girls around here are bashful," he replied to a question regarding a comparison of the Mt. Mountain, Nebraska, and Hunt girls. "They seem to shy away, and aren't as open and friendly as the girls from California. And that goes for the boys, too."

On his third finger right hand, he wears an Egyptian ring which he bought from an Arab for 40 cents after his first mission. He considers it his good luck charm, because it has carried him unscathed through 29 more missions.

He is a JACL member and was quoted as saying, "I'm a firm believer in the JACL. It is the only really worthy organization working for the nisei."

And that's how the interview ended. And somehow Sgt. Kuroki makes one feel that for a hero who has earned two Distinguished Flying Crosses, air medal, four oak leaf clusters, three stars for three major battles, "and don't forget, a good-conduct medal, too," by battling through not only shrapnel and flak, but worse than that, distrust and prejudice, he's a great personality, and a swell guy to know.

He's the kind of person who makes one feel warm inside after a few minutes conversation. Maybe that's part of a definition of a hero—any.

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