

California Nisei Awarded Medal of Honor

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Youth to Die in Gas Chamber For Murder of Nisei Veteran

Associate Who Sought to Avoid Trial by Feigning Insanity Ruled Sane by Stockton Judge

STOCKTON, Calif.—A 22-year old youth will go on trial on April 11 in Superior court for the brutal beating and murder of George Yoshioka, 33, wounded veteran of the 442nd (Japanese American) Regimental Combat Team, in Stockton on Nov. 16. One youth, Leroy Bob, 21, already has been found guilty of Yoshioka's murder.

S. J. Johnson, charged with the murder of the Nisei veteran, attempted to avoid a murder trial by feigning insanity but his effort was spied on March 11 by administration of a "truth serum" widely used by medical officers during the course of the war.

Johnson appeared Monday before Superior Judge Raymond Dunne who not only found him sane but ordered him to trial on April 11.

Johnson's companion, Leroy Bob, has been sentenced to die in San Quentin's gas chamber.

After pleading not guilty and not guilty by reason of insanity to Yoshioka's death, Johnson put on such a display of irresponsibility last week that he was removed to the Stockton Hospital for the insane.

His attorney demanded a sanity hearing in advance of the murder trial. The court appointed two alienists to examine Johnson.

In court it was disclosed that Johnson, while a patient at the hospital, had been examined by the hospital's new superintendent, Dr. R. B. Toller, recently a Naval medical officer.

Dr. Toller testified he had given injections of sodium amytal to Johnson, a drug used during the war to quiet victims of hysteria. While under its influence Johnson so far relaxed as to confess his participation in Yoshioka's slaying and further to expound on how he feigned insanity.

Evidence so obtained has never before been admitted to court. Belief was expressed Judge Dunne had established a precedent.

Yoshioka, a native of San Jose, Calif., was serving with the Japanese American Combat Team in Europe. He was beaten to death with an iron pipe on a Stockton street while in the city to visit friends.

Nisei Veteran Notes Restrictions Against Minority Housing

LOS ANGELES—Tad Masaoka, youngest of the five Masaoka brothers who served in the Army during the war, told members of the Los Angeles Youth Council here recently that Japanese Americans, among them many returned veterans, face a severe housing shortage in the Los Angeles area because 40 per cent of the houses available are withheld from them, and from other non-Caucasians, because of restrictive covenants. Masaoka was introduced by Frank Sinatra who acted as moderator of the Youth Council's discussions on how the youth of Los Angeles could best combat discrimination.

Hailey Sentenced to Year In Prison for Terrorist Acts

OAKLAND, Calif.—Superior Judge Edward Tyrrell on March 9 sentenced Robert F. Hailey, 33, farm tractor driver, to a year in Alameda County jail for firing his shotgun at the homes of two families of Japanese ancestry near Centerville on Sept. 16.

Frank W. Creely, Hailey's attorney, pleaded in extenuation that the defendant's younger brother had been tortured to death by

New Evacuation Faces Residents In L. A. Area

2100 Returnees Still Housed in Federal Emergency Units

LOS ANGELES—Another evacuation faces 508 families of Japanese ancestry, now housed in temporary projects operated by the Federal Public Housing Agency, following an indication by the Los Angeles office of the WRA that plans are being made to close the temporary shelters.

The evacuee families have been living in the Federal emergency projects following their return from war relocation centers.

The Rafu Shimpō reported on March 8 that E. Price Steiding, Los Angeles officer for the WRA, told evacuees at a meeting on March 7 at the Lomita Air Strip that "official word from Washington within two weeks or so will determine the outcome of these projects."

Steiding urged the families to be prepared to leave when the time came to leave and encouraged them to seek permanent housing.

It was reported that there are 193 family units, comprising 815 individuals, in the Lomita project alone. There are 123 families and 545 persons in the Winona project in Burbank.

Approximately 2100 persons of Japanese ancestry who lost their homes as a result of the evacuation and have been unable to find permanent housing since their return from the relocation centers will be affected by the closing of the projects.

Approximate populations of other emergency projects in which the returned evacuees are housed were given as follows: Hawthorne, 403; El Segundo, 135; Santa Monica, 159; Magnolia, 118; and Santa Ana, 82.

erators of the Youth Council's discussions on how the youth of Los Angeles could best combat discrimination.

Sinatra read the war record of the five Masaoka brothers, one of whom was killed in action during the 442nd Infantry's rescue of the "lost battalion" in his introduction of Tad Masaoka.

Red Cross Official Impressed by Nisei Kindness to Children

HARTFORD, Conn.—Joseph G. Farrell who returned home recently after three years as an American Red Cross field director with the famous 442nd (Japanese American) Combat Team declares that his major impression of the Nisei GI in Italy was the "love and kindness" shown by the Japanese American soldiers toward the Italian children, as well as for their poverty-stricken parents.

Few American GIs "had more Italian civilian friends or homes to visit" than the Nisei soldiers, Farrell said.

"Everywhere I went, from Naples to Milan and even into Switzerland, officers and enlisted men, nurses and Red Cross girls—all went out of their way to tell me that I was working with the grandest outfit over there."

Farrell said that the Nisei troops made a "host of friends" among members of the American Army while in Italy and France and that these friends would "stand by" the Nisei when they returned to the States.

California Seeks Confiscation of Farm Property

Coachella Valley Land Involved in Latest of Alien Land Act Cases

RIVERSIDE, Calif.—Twenty-five acres of valuable Coachella Valley land are involved in a petition on file this week in Superior Court seeking its escheatment to the State.

The defendants are Hikotaro and Ai Nagata and several of their children who are American citizens.

Plaintiffs are County Counsel Earl Redwine, R. J. Switzer, his assistant, and Robert W. Kenny, Attorney General of California, and Everett W. Mattoon, assistant.

Judge R. A. Moore issued an order to show cause why the land should not be declared escheated, with the defendants to appear May 28. The petition was brought under the Alien Land Law of 1921, which bars property ownership to aliens of Japanese and other ancestry "ineligible to citizenship," and seeks an accounting for the property since April 7, 1931, when it was sold to Yemi Nishimoto Watanabe, a citizen of the United States, who less than two years later conveyed title to a 15-year old daughter of the Nagatas.

Tule Lake Paper Ends Two Years Of Publication

NEWELL, Calif.—The Newell Star, official news agency of the Tule Lake WRA center, ended publication with the March 1 issue after two years of publishing for the most strife-torn of the War Relocation Authority camps.

The first issue of the Newell Star appeared Feb. 26, 1944, to take the place of the center's earlier paper, the Tuleani Dispatch, which suspended publication after the center's two-month general strike late in 1944.

The Newell Star is closing down because of the immediate closing of the Tule Lake center, according to Iwao Namekawa, editor.

Namekawa credited Allan Markley, John Bigelow, Ralph Brown and Robert H. Moss with aiding in the publication of the Star.

Nation's Highest Honor Given Japanese American Who Gave Life to Save Comrades in Italy

Evacuee Volunteer from Manzanar Relocation Center Fought as Member of 100th Battalion of Famous 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Italy

WASHINGTON—Private First Class Sadao S. Munemori, of Los Angeles, California, an American born Combat Infantryman of Japanese descent has been awarded the nation's highest military award, the Congressional Medal of Honor, posthumously.

A squad leader in the 442nd Combat Team, the Japanese American unit which distinguished itself throughout the Italian campaign and later in Germany, Private Munemori singlehandedly destroyed two German machine guns, killed three and wounded two of the gunners and then gave his life by hurling himself upon an exploding grenade to save the lives of two comrades last April in Italy.

The nation's highest military award was presented to his mother, Mrs. Nawa Munemori, of Los Angeles on March 13 at Fort MacArthur, Calif. Col. Evans Crowell made the presentation.

On April 5, 1945, the 100th Infantry Battalion launched an offensive along the western slopes of the Appennine Mountains in Italy in an attempt to break a stalemate which had lasted six months. The attack on "Hill Georgia," in the vicinity of Serravalle was spearheaded by Company A, Private Munemori's unit. Following a ten minute artillery barrage on the German positions, the troops of Company A ran toward their objective in an effort to reach advantageous positions before the defenders could recover from the shelling.

As they advanced to within fifty yards of the summit, German machine guns, rifles and machine pistols began firing from a series of trenches so constructed as to cover all avenues of approach with heavy fire. Although the early morning darkness made the enemy fire inaccurate, the enemy hurled numerous hand grenades forcing the attackers to seek cover.

Grenade fragments wounded the leader of the foremost squad and Private Munemori, assistant leader, took command. Leading his men carefully through a minefield, Private Munemori advanced to within thirty yards of the trenches. One enemy machine gun directly ahead forced the advancing squad to take cover in shallow shell craters.

Private Munemori took six hand grenades and crawled to within fifteen yards of the machine gun. He threw the grenades one at a time and wrecked the machine gun, wounding two crew members.

Private First Class Akira Shishido, of Kohoka, Paia Maui County, Territory of Hawaii, was a Browning automatic rifleman in the lead squad at the time and Private Jimi Oda, 2523 Orchard Avenue, Ogden, Utah was assistant automatic rifleman. These two eyewitnesses told the story of their leader's subsequent actions.

"We advanced nearer the objective until another machine gun opened up right there," Private Shishido reported. "Private Oda and I scrambled into a shell crater and Private Munemori crawled back and joined us. The Germans began hurling grenades again. Ten or twelve landed near our crater, but we were unhurt by the explosions."

As Private Munemori crawled back towards the crater, more grenades were hurled. One grenade bounced off his helmet and rolled into the shell hole occupied by Privates Shishido and Oda. Private Munemori leaped upon the grenade, covering it with the upper part of his body and hunched his shoulders and bent his head down so the burst would not leak out. The explosion killed him almost instantly. Private Oda escaped with a fragment in his eye, and Private Shishido suffered concussion and partial deafness but their lives were saved. Later the platoon with the help of a reinforcing platoon forced the Germans to withdraw from their strategic positions.

Born August 17, 1922, Private Munemori graduated from high school, after which he held a position as a sales clerk. He was inducted into the Army November 2, 1942, from his native city of Los Angeles. His mother and a brother then moved their

(Continued on page 2)

Martial Law Used by Army To Restrict Rights of Nisei

HONOLULU—A frank admission by a high Army official that the loyalty of Hawaii's Americans of Japanese ancestry did not have the same status as other American citizens under martial law in Hawaii in the days following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor was made during the secret hearings of the Roberts commission in Honolulu in January, 1942, it was revealed in Washington recently when the Congressional investigation on Pearl Harbor made public the

transcripts of the Roberts commission hearings.

Following a vigorous defense of the loyalty of Hawaii's Americans of Japanese ancestry by Mayor Petrie of Honolulu, Maj. Gen. Frank R. McCoy, one of the members of the investigating commission which was headed by Associate Justice Owen Roberts, told the Honolulu mayor that the Army was able to place restrictions on the Japanese Americans under martial law which they were not able to do under normal conditions.

Japanese American Veterans, People of Hawaii Join in Huge Welcome for Earl Finch

Blinded Nisei Greet "One Man USO" Upon Latter's Arrival at Honolulu Airport; Heavy Schedule of Receptions Set for Visitor

HONOLULU—Yoshinao Omiya of Honolulu and Earl M. Finch, businessman-rancher of Hattiesburg, Miss., had a touching reunion at John Rodgers airport in Honolulu on March 5—a reunion which will set the pattern of thousands in Hawaii in the next few weeks.

Mr. Omiya, who lost the sight of both eyes on Nov. 5, 1943, while fighting with the 100th Infantry Battalion of Japanese ancestry, in Italy, was among hundreds of Japanese American veterans who greeted Mr. Finch, widely-known benefactor of Hawaii's Nisei soldiers, as he arrived by Clipper to be their guest for 25 days in Hawaii.

With Mr. Omiya was his dog, Audrey, which Earl Finch had helped obtain for the blinded Nisei veteran.

As Earl Finch stepped from the plane Mr. Omiya placed a lei about his neck while a Hawaiian trio sang a song. A procession of 100 cars then moved through the city to Iolani Palace where Gerald Corbett, acting governor, welcomed the visitor.

It was stated that the welcome was remarkable even in Hawaii for a civilian arriving with no official status, but the Hattiesburg man, who became famous as a "one-man USO" for Japanese American soldiers, had gained wide fame in Hawaii.

Earl Finch had invited two lonely Japanese American soldiers from Hawaii home to dinner in 1943 in Hattiesburg and this led to his entertaining thousands of other Nisei GIs in all parts of the country.

Honolulu newspapers carried several full pages of advertisements by local business houses welcoming Earl Finch.

A visit to the mayor of Honolulu, placing a wreath at the war memorial and an outdoor feast at which Mr. Finch was the guest of honor and which was attended by more than 3,000 guests marked the first two days of Hawaii's reception to Earl Finch. During his three-week stay Mr. Finch will visit veterans he befriended and their families on all of Hawaii's islands. He will also visit the families of men he knew who gave their lives with the 442nd Combat Team in Italy and France.

On March 12 Mr. Finch left Honolulu by plane for Hilo. He was welcomed in the Big Island community by representatives of Hawaii County, the Hilo Chamber of Commerce, the Veterans Committee and the AJA Veterans Social club. A banquet at the Hilo Yacht club was a feature of his first day on the Big Island. On March 13 he was a guest at a lunch at Honuapo beach which was given by Japanese Americans of the Kau district. He was entertained by veterans and members of the community of the Kona district on Wednesday evening.

Kohala veterans and their families played host to Earl Finch on March 14 and on the following day

Barber-Shop Quartet Contest Planned for Nisei GIs in Italy

LEGHORN, Italy—Among the extra-curricular activities of the 442nd Infantry which are scheduled for this month is a barber-shop quartet contest, according to Lieut. Yale Latin, regimental special service officer.

The winning quartet among the Japanese American personnel of the 442nd will be given a seven-day pass to Rome.

he was given a reception in Honolulu.

It was announced in Honolulu by Walter Y. Mihata, chairman of the Earl M. Finch reception finance committee, that the committee would accept monetary gifts which will be presented to Earl Finch with a request that it be used for morale work among Hawaiian soldiers still in hospitals on the mainland and in training camps.

The Taxi and Drivers Union provided free taxi service from Honolulu to the Pan-American Airways airport for persons greeting Mr. Finch.

More than 1,000 persons attended a reception luau at Palama settlement gymnasium on March 6. Bert N. Nishimura was chairman of the event. Speakers included Masao Yamada, president of the 442nd Veterans club; Walter Y. Mihata, president of the interpreters group; Mitsuyoshi Fukuda, president of the Territorial Club 100; Dr. Katsumi Kometani, president of the Honolulu Club 100, and military and civic officials.

Ten Nisei Attend YWCA Convention

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.—Ten Nisei women were among the delegates to the national convention of the YWCA which was held here recently.

Among the Nisei delegates were Mrs. Ruth Tambara of St. Paul, Mrs. Nobuko Suzuki of Seattle, Yoshiko Aiki of Denver and Mrs. Fujiko Y. Thomas of New York City.

Fright-Makers Shamed Into Silence by Loyalty of Nisei

LOS ANGELES—There are no more "incidents," such as those with which a sprinkling of native hoodlums sought to frighten the Pacific Coast Japanese into remaining east of the Sierras, Rodney Brink, Los Angeles correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor, reported in a March 5 dispatch to his newspaper.

Mr. Brink estimated that these "incidents," involving either violence or the threat of violence against returned evacuees of Japanese ancestry, number about 200, and that twelve of these involved the use of firearms—shots fired chiefly into the air to "scare" returnees.

"There was a period when it ap-

peared that the hoodlums were trying to set up a wave of such incidents, for fright purposes, but many fine soldiers and officers who had fought side by side with the Nisei or Japanese American soldiers both in Europe and in the Pacific, came into California and told of the unwavering bravery and stout service of the Nisei comrades — and shamed the fright makers into silence and inactivity," Mr. Brink reported.

The Monitor correspondent said that the "epic story of the evacuation can only be told in its dimmest outlines, for the numerals 100,000 represent that many men, women and children, and for each individual there was a great, enforced adventure, sometimes heart-breaking, sometimes pleasurable."

Mr. Brink said the "last step" of the four-year experience has been taken now by most of the evacuees.

Reporting that the Southern California office of the War Relocation Authority is under orders to close its doors permanently on May 15, Mr. Brink reported that some 265 families of returned evacuees are still being housed in Army and Navy barracks or hospital buildings, simply because there are no quarters to which they can move. Families are being placed on farms and elsewhere, and the Monitor writer reported that the WRA expects to have all of them on a self-sustaining basis before May 15, when the local office closes.

U. S. Attorneys Alerted to Back Civil Liberties

Attorney General Clark Orders Officials to Protect Minorities

WASHINGTON — Attacks on the rights of racial minorities in the United States prompted Attorney General Tom Clark on March 6 to order all United States attorneys to give special care to protection of human rights and civil liberties.

"The civil rights of minorities in this country were never under greater threat than at this time," Clark said. "It is my purpose to protect human rights and civil liberties, wherever they are infringed, to the full extent and intent of the Constitution and of statutory provisions."

"We have come thus far in the unsettled postwar period without great disorder. However, symptoms of increasing intolerance have been noted recently."

"It is my desire that you immediately devote special attention and investigation to protection of all Americans in their civil liberties, regardless of race or color. Special attention should be paid to laxity or inefficiency of peace officers of any category."

NISEI CHILDREN DEPORTED WITH ALIEN PARENTS

LOS ANGELES—The Times reported that "several dozen" children, American citizens by right to birth, were deported to Japan along with their parents on the S. S. Marine Wolf which sailed for Hawaii on March 6 from Los Angeles harbor.

The paper said that the parents of the children were being repatriated to Japan and that their American-born children were accompanying them.

The deportees number 62 of the 151 persons of Japanese ancestry on the Marine Wolf. The remainder were returning to homes in Hawaii. Among this group were a number of Japanese American Army veterans.

Post-War Plans for Davis County Group Discussed at Meeting

FARMINGTON, Utah—Several local organizations which have assisted in the relocation of Japanese Americans in Davis county met at the courthouse in Farmington on March 5 to report on assistance they had given and to discuss post-war plans for the evacuee group.

Japanese American children are "above average students" in Davis county schools, E. J. Hartvigsen, superintendent, reported, stressing that school policy treats them as individuals and does not recognize racial lines.

Mark Johnson of the FSA emphasized that his agency would grant loans to any farmer, regardless of ancestry. DeLore Nicholas, farm agent in Davis county, said that most of the Nisei resettling in the area did so because they liked agricultural work in this locality.

The Red Cross reported that four per cent of its family service cases handled were those of returning Japanese American veterans and their families.

Alien Japanese GIs Take U. S. Citizen Oaths

Both Assigned to Duty at Military Language School

FORT SNELLING, Minn.—Two Japan-born GIs, Staff Sgt. Kiyonao Okami and Pvt. Ikuo Watanabe, both of the military intelligence service language school at Fort Snelling, took the oath to become citizens of the United States in a ceremony recently at the U. S. district court in Minneapolis.

Sgt. Okami, an instructor in the Japanese language at Fort Snelling, was born in Tokyo and graduated from St. Paul's University in the Japanese capital city in 1936. He came to America as a student in 1936 and graduated from Kalamazoo college. When the war broke out he went to work for OWI in New York and worked there until Oct., 1945 when he volunteered for the Army.

Pvt. Watanabe, a native of Kumamoto-ken, Japan, was brought by his parents to Hawaii in 1916 when he was only six years of age. He is a newspaper veteran of six years of reporting for the Hawaii Herald of Honolulu. In August, 1945 he volunteered for the Army and was one of a number of aliens of Japanese ancestry who were accepted for service.

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Congressional Medal of Honor Awarded to California Nisei

(Continued from page 1)

home to Manzanar, California. After basic training at Camp Robinson, Arkansas, further training qualified him as a cook, supply clerk, ammunition carrier, and finally, as a Browning automatic rifleman. Promotion to private first class came on September 7, 1943. Ordered overseas, Private Munemori arrived in Italy May 8, 1944. Six weeks later, for exemplary conduct in action against the enemy during fighting on the Anzio Beachhead, he was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge. Prior to his death he had fought in the Rome-Arno, French and German campaigns.

Following is the official citation:

"Private First Class Sadao S. Munemori, an assistant squad leader of Company 'A', 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, fought with great gallantry and intrepidity on April 5, 1945, near Seravezza, Italy.

"When his unit was pinned down by grazing fire from the enemy's strong mountain defense and command of the squad devolved on him with the wounding of its regular leader, he made frontal, one-man attacks through direct fire and knocked out two machine guns with grenades.

"Withdrawing under murderous fire and showers of grenades from other enemy emplacements, he had nearly reached a shell crater occupied by two of his men when an unexploded grenade bounced on his helmet and rolled toward his helpless comrades. He arose into the withering fire, dived for the missile and smothered its blast with his body.

"By his swift, supremely heroic action Private Munemori saved two of his men at the cost of his own life and did much to clear the path for his company's victorious advance."

Tule Lake Camp Census Notes Low Figure

Population of Newell Center Drops Below 2500 for First Time

NEWELL, Calif.—The population of the Tule Lake WRA center, once the most populous of the camps, dropped below 2500 this month, as approximately 1800 persons left the center between Feb. 17 and March 2.

The biggest relocation week in history was marked Feb. 17 to 23, when 900 persons left for resettlement in various sections of the United States.

By the first of March nearly 11,000 persons had relocated from Tule Lake since lifting of the West Coast army exclusion orders.

With continuous receipt of releases for Tule Lake residents from Washington, the administration of the camp expected that the remaining population eligible for resettlement will be cleared in a short time, to bring about the closing of the center, which WRA continued to operate after Jan. 31 to provide relocation facilities for persons released by the Department of Justice.

Sheriff Reports Suicide of Evacuee

OREGON, Ill.—Sheriff William H. Hungerford reported last week that a Japanese butler on the Albert Martin estate near here had burned himself to death in an incinerator on March 2.

The butler, Paul Yoshiharu Kasugi, who came to work for the Martins after being evacuated from the West Coast in 1942, left a note in which he declared he was committing suicide, the sheriff said.

Nisei Union Leaders Arrive on Coast for Training Program

SAN FRANCISCO — Eleven members and officials of locals of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, CIO, in Hawaii, among them several Nisei, arrived in San Francisco recently to begin an intensive five-week training program in union organization and activities.

Studies in trade union problems with Harry Bridges, Louis Goldblatt, J. R. Robertson and other ILWU officials conducting the sessions will feature the training course.

The Hawaiian labor representatives are Hideo Okada, Yasuki Arakaki, Fred Kamahoa, Dominador Agayan, Constantino Samson, Elias Domingo, Leocadio Baldovino, Thomas Yagi, Yoshikazu Morimoto, Harry Kamoku and Webb Ideue.

Membership of 336 Reported at Fresno CCYBA Meeting

FRESNO — A membership of 336 following the recent drive was reported at the Central California Young Buddhists Association meeting on March 10 at the Fresno Buddhist church.

Hiroshi Mayeda presided. A picnic was planned for March 31 in the Sanger foothills with Tomiko Okuda, Kinu Fujinaga, Robert Kimura and Sakaye Oga-wa in charge of details.

Alma Kurisu was chosen editor of the monthly publication and Manabu Fukuda, Fusa Sasaki, Tomiko Okuda, Herky Yamaguchi, Fred Nishida, Tom Okubo and George Okazaki as members of her staff.

Dillon Myer to Talk To Philadelphia Group

PHILADELPHIA — Dillon S. Myer, national director of the War Relocation Authority, will be the main speaker at the "Report to the Community" program which will be given on March 25 by the Japanese American Committee of the Council of Social Agencies at the Social Service building.

Mr. Myer is expected to discuss the present status of the relocation program of the WRA.

Hiroshi Uyehara, president of the Nisei Council will discuss relocation conditions in Philadelphia.

Nisei Fireman Returns to Duty



NEW YORK—Joji Furuya, 28 only Japanese American fireman in New York city, stands on a fire engine wearing his helmet and raincoat—an alert ear cocked for incoming alarm signals. The Nisei fire-fighter returned to duty recently with Engine Co. No. 67 of the New York City Fire Department after more than three years in the Army with the rating of sergeant. Furuya left his post on the back step of a fire truck to go into service on Dec. 16, 1942, and found himself on the back of an Army fire truck with the 1203rd Engineers fire-fighting platoon in the Rhineland and Rome-Arno areas. A graduate of George Washington high school in New York Furuya lives at 89 Washington Terrace with his mother, brother and sister. When he entered the Army he was a fourth grade fireman and now, on his return to duty in New York, he becomes a first grade fireman in the city's department. He received a Purple Heart for a wound suffered in action in Italy.—(Acme photo.)

Poston, Manzanar, Rohwer Centers, Long Empty, Officially Closed by Relocation Authority

WASHINGTON—Three of the four remaining war relocation centers, operated during the war by the War Relocation Authority, were closed out at midnight on March 9.

The closing of the camps at Poston, Ariz., Manzanar, Calif., and Rohwer, Ark., came more than four months after the last evacuee of Japanese ancestry had left the barracks cities.

This week the Tule Lake camp at Newell, Calif., which also is being rapidly depopulated, remains as the only relocation

Returned Evacuee Commits Suicide In Seattle Home

SEATTLE — Leaving a suicide note, Seita Aoki, 68, hanged himself by a window-sash cord secured to the top of a door in his apartment at 6931 Holly Park Dr. last week.

"Everyone has done much for me," Aoki wrote, according to a translation of his note which was given to the coroner by his widow. "I do not want to be in obligation to all any more. This is a selfish thing to do, but at the present moment, this is all I can see."

442nd's Cagemen Lose Main Zone Finals to All-Stars

LEGHORN, Italy — The 442nd Regimental Combat Team's basketball squad, champions of the Ivy League season, lost the PBS Main Zone championship to the PBS All-Stars, 49 to 43, in a fast game before 2000 fans on Feb. 17.

Nine hundred men of the 442nd were among the spectators.

On Feb. 15 the 442nd team nosed out the PBS All-Stars 40 to 44.

California's Supreme Court Asked to Rule State's Alien Property Legislation Invalid

Racist Background of Law Cited by A. L. Wirin In Brief; Tribunal Postpones Consideration Of Oyama Test Case Until June Meeting

LOS ANGELES—The California State Supreme Court was asked on March 9 to reverse a twenty-five year old ruling upholding the constitutionality of the state's anti-alien land law.

In a brief filed in behalf of Kajiro Oyama and Fred Oyama, defendants in an escheat case, Attorney A. L. Wirin charged that the law was enacted and enforced "intentionally to discriminate" against persons of Japanese race.

"The law is the result of race prejudice; it is the product of race-baiting groups in California fomenting racial prejudice to serve their economic and political interests," the brief declared.

Also urged in the brief is that, under California law, once title was invested in the Nisei, Fred Oyama, by transfer of property to him, the property may not be escheated, no matter what the issue father, Kajiro Oyama, did thereafter.

The brief further charges that the suit against the Oyamas is invalid by the statute of limitations, which requires that suits be filed within a certain number of years after the original act of transaction. The brief declares that a suit to escheat property must be filed within one year after the transaction.

The brief contains a history of the activities of the racist groups in California from 1910 to 1945, and undertakes to prove that the alien land law was adopted as the result of the race prejudice which these groups stirred up. The groups listed include the Native Sons of the Golden West, and the Joint Immigration Committee. The activities of the various "investigating committees" of the California Legislature, showing their racial prejudice, are recounted in the brief.

Such discrimination, it is stated in the brief, violates the pledges of our government in the United Nations Charter when this nation pledged to promote "human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race."

The brief concludes: "Our military forces are now in Japan to bring to the Japanese people in Japan the principles of American democracy and fairplay. What about fair play for the loyal Japanese residents of California? This court can protect them, and thus protect at the same

time all minority racial groups, by sweeping the Alien Land Law clean off the California statute books. Its further 'enforcement' stultifies our international policies abroad, as it undermines the bases of our democratic way of life at home."

If the California Supreme Court upholds the claims in the brief and rules that the alien land law is now unconstitutional, the effect of the decision would be to require that the approximately fifty pending escheat cases filed by the Attorney General against Japanese in California be dismissed; and Japanese aliens would be permitted to own and operate land in California just as are all other aliens.

Should the Supreme Court merely uphold the claim that an escheat suit must be filed by the State within one year after the original transaction, the effect will be to require the dismissal of all of the cases now pending in California, since in all of them the original transfers took place many years ago.

It is expected that a large number of organizations will also urge the Supreme Court in a brief which they will file separately as a "friend of the court," to hold the alien land law unconstitutional. These organizations include labor unions as for example the CIO, and the American Civil Liberties Union, the Japanese American Citizens League, the Civil Rights Defense Union, the National Lawyers Guild and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Originally set for hearing on 8 at Los Angeles, the case was postponed until June in order that it might be heard by the California Supreme Court at the same time that there come on for hearing a number of appeals involving the constitutionality of housing restrictions against Negroes and other "non-Caucasians."

Newspaper Seeks Community Action to Assist Evacuees

Santa Ana Register Notes Plight of Returnees in County

SANTA ANA, Calif. — The Santa Ana Register on March 9 published an editorial plea "to interest the entire community" in helping relocate displaced evacuees of Japanese ancestry now sheltered in emergency housing at Santa Ana Air Base.

Noting that the Santa Ana Air Base property will be declared surplus on March 30, the Register said that the barracks occupied by Japanese and Japanese Americans who have returned from relocation centers but have been unable to obtain permanent housing will have to be vacated.

The newspaper reported that 78 returned evacuees were now in the barracks at the air base, among them 27 elderly, totally unemployable men and women who are over 65 and under the care of the county hospital.

"Because alien Japanese are not permitted to become citizens they cannot receive old age pensions, and since many of them were migratory farm workers, they are not eligible for unemployment insurance," the Register said.

Three of the evacuees at the air base have chronic ailments and have been in the county hospital since their return, the paper said. Of the other 51 persons living in the barracks, nearly all of the employable members are working at the present time. They are picking oranges, doing farm work, and

a number of middle-aged women are doing housework.

"Employment is made more difficult as the barracks are a mile and a half from the nearest transportation," the Register added.

The Register said that every effort has been made by the WRA to find housing for these persons who were removed from their homes in 1942 and the WRA will continue to attempt to find housing until its office closes on May 1.

"It is felt, however," the Register said, "that the responsibility belongs largely to the community since all of these people have been legal residents of Orange County for many years."

CHICAGO CHAPTER DELEGATES PLAN PARLEY REPORTS

CHICAGO — Delegates to the recent JACL national convention in Denver will present reports to members of the Chicago JACL at a special chapter meeting on Friday, March 22, at Hull House, 800 S. Halsted St., Dr. T. T. Yatabe, Midwest regional director of the JACL, announced this week.

A get-together social with refreshments and entertainment will follow the business meeting. Members and friends are being urged to attend.

Among Chicago's representatives at the Denver convention were Noboru Honda, Dr. Masakada, Mari Sabusawa, Mary Suzuki and Dr. Yatabe.

Purple Heart Group Elects Nisei to Post

SPOKANE, Wash.—Spady Koyama, Nisei veteran who was wounded in action in the Philippines, was elected sergeant-at-arms of Spokane chapter 208, Military Order of the Purple Heart, last week.

PACIFIC CITIZEN

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LARRY TAJIRI EDITOR

EDITORIALS:

Medal of Honor

The War Department announced this week that the Congressional Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military award, had been bestowed posthumously on Sadao Munemori of Los Angeles who was 22 years of age when he gave his life in Italy on April 5, 1945.

On Wednesday of last week the mother of this Nisei hero, Mrs. Nawa Munemori, stood proudly on the parade-ground at Fort MacArthur in California as the citation honoring her son was read and she received the ribbon and the medal he had won. The citation noted that the extraordinary heroism of this young Japanese American had been "above and beyond the call of duty." It also noted that he had hurled himself on an exploding grenade to save the lives of his two Nisei comrades of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

The award of the Medal of Honor this week to Sadao Munemori was the first to an American of Japanese ancestry, although at least six other Japanese Americans have been recommended for this highest of awards for valor. The achievement is one of singular importance but what is more extraordinary is that Sadao Munemori, then only some months out of Lincoln high school in Los Angeles, was one of the 110,000 persons of Japanese ancestry who were evacuated from the West Coast in 1942 and placed in war relocation centers. The Munemoris were sent to Manzanar and there were barbed-wire and watch-towers and MPs to see that none of the evacuees wandered beyond the small confines of the camp.

Sadao Munemori volunteered for the Army. He was placed in the 442nd (Japanese American) Combat Team and went overseas with the unit in April, 1944. He was killed a year later in Italy in the final great offensive which ended the war in the Mediterranean. The fact that a young American who was evacuated from his home and sent to an inland camp because of his race went on to win the Medal of Honor in his country's service is a lesson for bigots and for all who would arbitrarily discriminate against any person because of his race or creed. It is a lesson which must be learned from the sacrifices which Sadao Munemori and the 23,000 other Japanese Americans, and the many more thousands of other Americans who have known similar prejudice, have made as members of the armed services.

It is altogether fitting that the democracy in which Sadao Munemori had faith and for which he gave his life has chosen to honor him with the highest award it can bestow.

Martial Law

The frank, if rather bald, admission by Maj. Gen. Frank R. McCoy that the Army used martial law in Hawaii to achieve a degree of discrimination against Americans of Japanese ancestry which would not have been possible in the absence of military rule indicates that Army officials in Hawaii, for a time at least, used the same racial yardstick in the arbitrary determination of loyalty which Lieut. Gen. John L. DeWitt utilized in the Western Defense Command.

Gen. McCoy's declaration, made at the time of the Roberts commission's hearings in Honolulu in Jan., 1942, is an indication that the power vested in the military commander under martial law can easily be perverted to achieve objectives beyond the do-

main of a military officer. The United States Supreme Court on Feb. 24 ruled that martial law, even in wartime, does not give military authorities the right to usurp the functions of civil courts. The Supreme Court held that the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus in Hawaii under martial law was illegal.

The disclosure of Gen. McCoy's statement on the limitations of the rights of Japanese Americans as a special group under martial law reveals the wide latitude of discretionary power permitted military commanders in the existence of martial law and is, in itself, an example of the abuse of that power. In a time of peace it would be well to reexamine and define rights of military officers under martial law conditions.

Misinformation

The Hearst Herald-Express (Los Angeles) is guilty of deliberate misinformation in its recent editorial on Hawaiian statehood. In this editorial the Hearst paper noted that the Native Sons of the Golden West were actively opposed to statehood for Hawaii because such recognition would mean, in the words of the Herald-Express, that "more than 100,000 Japanese residents of Hawaii would then become American citizens."

The attempt to resort to race-baiting in an effort to defeat Hawaii's bid for statehood will fail because there is not an element of truth in the contention that the admittance of Hawaii as the 49th State will change the status of its Japanese and other aliens. At the present time there are 160,000 persons of Japanese ancestry in Hawaii, of whom more than 120,000 are American citizens by right of birth. The status of the 26,000 Japanese aliens in Hawaii will not be affected by statehood, nor will their present right to travel to and from the United States mainland as legally resident aliens be changed whether Hawaii become a State or remains a territory. The "Japanese issue" which has been raised by the opponents of statehood is a wholly extraneous one and must be considered an attempt by statehood opponents to use racial and war incited prejudices to block the progress of Hawaii.

If the Native Sons and similar groups are basing their opposition on the ground that statehood would make citizens out of Japanese aliens in Hawaii they are on untenable ground.

Aloha, Mr. Finch!

Earl Finch of Hattiesburg, Miss., on the fifth of March came "home" to Hawaii.

For four years the businessman-rancher of Mississippi had made the Japanese American GI his full-time job. Friendship was his business.

His parties, certainly, were fabulous. He engaged circus teams to entertain at ranch parties he threw for the boys. He took a hundred men at a time to his dinner parties.

It is hard not to dwell on the outer, physical aspects of the tremendous work he did for these AJAs, but it might be remembered that he carried on a tremendous correspondence with hundreds of people he had never seen—the families of his GI friends.

Since he first stepped off the plane in Honolulu on March 5 to be met by blind Yoshinao Omiya, once of the fighting 100th Infantry Battalion, he has been feted, hailed and loved by thousands upon thousands of persons. He has been wine and dined and cheered, not in tribute to his work and friendship, but in demonstration of the great love he gave and won from the GIs of Japanese ancestry.

Persons who were never among Earl Finch's soldier friends but who have read and heard of him are glad today that he has returned—if only for a short while—to the men he loved.

Parents of Heroes

In recent weeks, in ceremonies held in Hawaii, California, New Jersey and in many other States, the alien parents of Nisei servicemen have received many of the Army's high awards for valor which have been posthumously awarded to their sons killed in battle. These Issei wear these medals proudly in memory of their sons. But while they wear the medals they know that our present immigration laws deem them "ineligible to citizenship." Legislation to give these parents of Nisei heroes the right of naturalization would be in full accord with the principles for which their sons fought and died.

Nisei USA

by LARRY TAJIRI

Combating Racial Stereotypes

The distortions and myths which have been propagated by the racists about the first generation Japanese in America long have colored our national thinking regarding this group as similar distortions and similar myths have obstructed a clear and sane approach to the problems of other racial minorities.

Sensationalism of the Sunday supplement variety has stressed the strangeness, quaintness and the differences particularly of America's non-Caucasians. Members of racial minorities as well as members of the Caucasian majority generally have accepted racial stereotypes in their consideration of the various race groups which comprise the American people. Some of our literature and much of our humor have exploited racial differences which actually do not exist or which, if they do exist, are sheer exaggerations of actual fact.

Stereotyped portraits of various groups have been limned upon our national consciousness such as that Scotsmen are thrifty, Jews crafty, Negroes lazy, Chinese inscrutable and so forth. Anyone who has accepted a view commonly expressed in California that Filipinos are jazzed-up freaks who frequent dance halls and brothels should read Carlos Bulosan's "America Is in the Heart," published this month by Harcourt, Brace and learn of the terrible degradation which has been forced upon the Filipinos in America by social ostracism and economic discrimination. The Filipino is the current recipient of the designation and the accompanying prejudice inherent in the term "little brown brother" which was bestowed in earlier days by California race purists of the Native Sons type upon the Chinese and the Japanese.

During the anti-evacuee hysteria on the West Coast in 1943 and 1944, spokesmen for such groups as the Remember Pearl Harbor League revived and repeated almost verbatim the myths and distortions which were used effectively in the Yellow Peril campaign following the first World War and which were powerful factors in influencing public opinion toward the passage of the Alien Land Law in 1921 and the Asiatic Exclusion Act in 1924. Charges that the Japanese in America worked long hours, undercut prices and wage rates, bred large families, practiced Shintoism and the like were heard on the West Coast after the evacuation and these were virtually the same arguments which were utilized for a definite political advantage in the early 1920s. And these same arguments about the California Japanese differed little from those used against the Chinese at the time of the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act in the 1880s.

An example of the persistence of racial myths is shown in an instruction booklet which was prepared by a government agency (not the WRA) for the use of its agents in interviewing Americans of Japanese ancestry for jobs. These agents were told in the instructions, later reportedly withdrawn, that the working of the "Japanese mind" is almost foreign to the conception of a Western-thinking person. This booklet also cited various stories regarding Nisei which tended to cast discredit and doubt upon the loyalty of members of the group but in no instance was any of the stories documented with names and dates. They were mainly rumors and fabrications, typical of which is that of a Nisei domestic who was asked by her employer before Pearl Harbor what she would do in the event of war between the United States and Japan. The girl replied, according to the booklet, that she would kill her employer and his wife. This story was repeated long after Pearl Harbor, even though there was not a single instance of violence by a Nisei against any employer.

After Pearl Harbor one of the stories which was widely repeated was that of Togo, the gardener, who told his employer that "next year" his employer would be working for him. This story was carried in various newspaper columns during the time of the evacuation. Incidentally, it is a direct parallel of a story which has been widely repeated in the South regarding

the "Eleanor clubs," which did not exist, and the alleged determination of Negro servants to have their white mistresses working in the kitchen "by Christmas." Stories of this type, relayed as gospel, are part of the racial mythology which must be swept away.

Persons of Japanese ancestry in America have had their pamphleteers and their publicists but there have been no literary craftsmen with a national audience to question the racial stereotype of the Japanese which has been fashioned by such novelists as Peter B. Kyne and Wallace Irwin and such columnists as Damon Runyon whose favorite name for the Japanese in America is "Skibbles."

Irwin's Hashimura Togo, the schoolboy who mangled the English language, long has been a stereotype upon which many latter-day characters on stage, screen and the radio were based. Both Irwin and Kyne did jobs of vicious racism as part of a national campaign by California Jap-baiters in 1920 which were designed to attract national attention to California's "Japanese problem." Irwin's "Seed of the Sun" appeared in the Saturday Evening Post and Kyne's "Pride of Palomar" was published serially in the Cosmopolitan. The late V. S. McClatchey, who was a directing force in the campaign for passage of anti-Japanese legislation, told the writer in San Francisco in 1936 that the Irwin and Kyne novels, published in book form after their serialization, were part of the planned propaganda against the California Japanese. In the Kyne novel the protagonist, a native Californian, demands "Jim Crow" cars for Japanese in the State and one of the scenes in the book is that of a Japanese farmer who dumps his farm produce into the ocean, at a time when many are hungry in America, in order to keep up farm prices. This incident shows how the racists worked both sides of the street in their campaign of rumors and misinformation. They argued that the Japanese farmers were underselling the market but at the same time they also declared that Japanese farmers were destroying produce in order to keep prices high.

Besides the Irwin and Kyne books there were a large number of magazine articles and fiction which plugged the same theme and the racial myths propagated during the 1920s were revived after Pearl Harbor and undoubtedly affected public attitudes, as well as those of military officers since they are not immune from such propaganda. Similar myths regarding persons of Japanese ancestry in Hawaii were repeated by many erstwhile reputable witnesses in hearing before the various commissions investigating the Pearl Harbor disaster. The transcripts of these hearings are now a part of the public record and some have been published by the Star-Bulletin in Honolulu. They look silly today, in cold print, particularly in view of the magnificent record of Hawaii's Japanese Americans during the war, but they were not silly at the time they were expressed, for they were responsible in helping to determine military and public policy toward Japanese Americans.

Nisei, as well as members of other minorities, should make a determined effort to explode all prevalent racial myths else these, too, one day may influence public policy.

NEW SERISAWA PAINTINGS SHOWN IN LOS ANGELES

LOS ANGELES—Sueo Serisawa's new paintings went on exhibition last week at the Daltell Hatfield galleries.

Six of the recent paintings by the Japanese American artist, now a resident of New York City, are being shown in the current exhibition.

"The several paintings of his wife, of his child's toys and a cowboy and the rich-colored roof scene show him developing his graceful, natural style with fine results," Arthur Miller, art critic of the Los Angeles Times, commented on March 10.

Vagaries

Nisei-Baiters . . .

A certain amount of Nisei-baiting is expected in California this summer. With an important election campaign already under way some politicians will do or say anything to break into print. Taro Yashima, the anti-militarist artist and cartoonist who eluded the Fascists and found refuge in America in 1940, recently visited Japan as a member of the U. S. Strategic Bombing survey. In Japan he found his seven-year old son who had survived the war. Yashima's new book will be called, "Horizon Is Calling," and is scheduled for publication by Henry Holt. . . Henry Kawada, a member of the New York JACL, took part in a sketch with Helen Hayes and Canada Lee during the recent FEPC rally at Madison Square Garden in New York in which the New York JACL was a participant.

Atiscope . . .

Edward J. Ennis, director of the Alien Enemy Control Unit of the Department of Justice, resigned last week to resume his private law practice. . . Among the for-fung publications of U. S. GIs is "ATISCOPE," published for men of the Allied Translation and Interpretation Service in Tokyo. Sgt. R. T. Misaki is editor with Sgt. S. Okada, T/5 T. Nagayama, Pfc. M. Kinoshita, T/4 A. Tamura and T/5 E. C. Flagg as assistants. . . Michio Ito, internationally-known dancer who was interned in the U. S. after Pearl Harbor and returned to Japan on the Gripsholm, is now the stage director for the shows at the new Ernie Pyle theater for U. S. GIs in Tokyo. The Ernie Pyle theater was formerly the Toho Theater.

Swim Star . . .

Chiyo Miyamoto, the Hawaiian Nisei girl who is the former national AAU women's medley swimming champion, may come to the mainland to go to college next fall. . . Many Canadian newspapers, among them the Winnipeg Free Press, sharply criticized the Canadian Supreme Court's decision upholding the government program of deporting Japanese and Japanese Canadians. . . Toy Tomanaka, Hawaiian boxer who lost both legs as a result of Japanese bombing during the Pearl Harbor attack, recently was married to his childhood sweetheart, Haruko Morita of Hilo. The former boxer was injured at Kukui and Nuuanu streets in Honolulu when a bomb dropped in the vicinity, killing three other Nisei boxers, Paul Inamine, James Koba and Freddie Higa.

Salute . . .

An article on the Nisei by George Garrett will appear in a forthcoming issue of "Salute," new veterans magazine which is being edited by former staff members of Yank and Stars and Stripes. . . Frank Mechau, noted western artist who died suddenly in Denver last week, was the brother of Vaughn (Bonnie) Mechau, reports officer at Heart Mountain and "editor" of the Sentinel. . . The Pacific Citizen's farthest subscriber is a Royal Air Force officer in the Malay States.

Eligibility . . .

Most newspapers garbled the story regarding the eligibility of Nisei caught by the war in Japan to return to the United States. It was reported that only 100 of the Nisei in Japan were eligible to return, giving the impression that only this number out of a much larger number would be permitted to come back to America. Actually, the story noted that only 100 out of 300 to 400 who had applied to occupation authorities in Japan were eligible at present to return because they had been registered with the Japanese government during the war as American citizens and did not participate in any war activity. Others will be processed to determine whether they are eligible to go home to America under regulations which will be promulgated by U. S. authorities. . . It's reported that the Japanese Foreign Office seized control of the American Nisei Association in Tokyo at the time of the outbreak of the war and sought to force the Nisei to renounce their citizenship. . . Most of the Nisei in Japan at the time of the out-

Washington News-Letter Noted Political Observer Favors Dispersal of Nisei

By JOHN KITASAKO

Washington, D. C.

Mr. K. K. Kawakami, dean of Japanese journalists in America, lives quietly in Washington, D. C., observing the international scene from the vantage point he has occupied these past twenty-three years. The man who in his time has authored more English-language books on Japan's political affairs than any other Japanese is currently writing his autobiography and on the side contributes articles to the North American Newspaper Alliance syndicate and various publications.

He has not had very close contact with Nisei in recent years, but through the pages of the Pacific Citizen, he says he has kept himself posted on their problems and needs.

He was pleased to learn of the large number of Nisei who have relocated in the Midwest and East. The dispersal of Japanese in western America to points east through the WRA program is in accord with his own thoughts along this line.

Years ago, says Mr. Kawakami, there were some Nisei who favored the concentration of Japanese on the West Coast so that Nisei, through unity and numbers, could form a strong political bloc and become a potent factor in California's economy.

He argued against this stand, because he felt that before the Nisei could develop power politically or economically, agitation would set in, and would result in the creation of a series of devices to keep the Japanese down. That was exactly what happened, as the Nisei know all too well today, with the evacuation marking the triumphal climax of the well-organized campaign of the anti-Japanese interests.

Nisei will do best by themselves socially and economically by not gravitating toward the centers of Japanese population on the West Coast, but by striving to become assimilated in areas east of the Rockies.

Back around 1910, Mr. Kawakami thought a number of the Nisei would grow up to be radicals or socialists, or even Communists. He believed it would be inevitable in view of the oppressive circumstances under which the Nisei were being raised. A situation in which people are hemmed in by social and economic restrictions usually breeds radicalism, he figured.

We asked him if he felt the

Nisei had grown up to bear out his beliefs. No, not to the extent he had imagined. Not only that, but he thinks they have maintained their equilibrium quite well, and have capably appraised events and circumstances.

This has been especially manifest in the reaction of Nisei to the irresponsible acts of the West Coast persecutors. Nisei on the whole have shown a remarkable ability to take it. And they must continue to do so, says Kawakami. In the face of prejudice, they must assiduously guard against becoming bitter, and must strive toward real patience and understanding.

He is pleased to note this attitude of patience, as well as tolerance and courage, in the vigorous editorials of the Pacific Citizen and in the Nisei he has talked with.

Patience will yield beneficial results. It takes time for a minority group to get adjusted, especially in the wake of a bitterly contested war. But every racial group in America has had to have time to prove itself and come into its own, and the Nisei, he is sure, will arrive through the continued exercise of self-control and patience.

POSTSCRIPTS: May Hamada, of WRA, recently became engaged to Sgt. Keith Kaneshiro, returnee from the Tokyo strategic bombing survey. . . Hideo Noguchi, 442nd veteran, is working as an electrical engineer in the television division of the Federal Communications Commission. His wife Lily is with Reconstruction Finance Corporation. . . The Rev. Henry Bennett, for many years a missionary in Japan and who served with the bombing survey, spoke to a gathering of Nisei last Sunday at the Evangelical Reformed Church. Mrs. Lillian Takeshita arranged the meeting.

Majority of Nisei GIs Queried In Tokyo Believe Long Military Occupation Needed for Japan

TOYKO—The majority of American GIs of Japanese ancestry, interviewed at random in Tokyo recently, believe that the military occupation of Japan should be continued until a democratic form of government is firmly established.

In interviews published in the Feb. 23 issue of "Atiscope," the Nisei soldiers declared that the occupation of Japan must accomplish the democratic reconstruction of the defeated nation.

The following were typical of the views of Nisei GIs interviewed in Tokyo:

T/4 Fred Sado, Tacoma, Wash.: "It should last until the Japanese educational system is democratically reconstructed and the ideas be grasped and successfully put into practice."

Pfc. Josaburo Shimozono, Reedley, Calif.: "The occupation should continue until the economic and political system is completely revised and put into working order."

Pfc. Sam Mikami, San Diego, Calif.: "If America plans to show Japan the democratic form of government, I'd say it will last a long time, for democracy is still a strange thing to the Japanese people."

Pfc. Johnny Niizawa, Turlock, Calif.: "Until the industrialists who have denied the freedom of enterprise to the common people are stripped and a democratic form of life molded into a smooth-functioning machine."

break of the war were either students or visitors. A large number of this group were unable to obtain passage on ships for the United States when war threatened in the fall of 1941.

Pfc. Harry Hata, Torrance, Calif.: "Until the imperialistic form of government is completely replaced by the democratic form of government."

T/5 Tom Kono, Sacramento, Calif.: "From the way things are progressing, that is to say, the reconstruction of war damages, I'd say the occupation will be much shorter than the number of years anticipated."

T/5 Dave Hironaka, Detroit, Mich.: "I think it will take at least ten years to even lay a foundation for a representative form of government."

T/5 Robert Ban, Los Angeles: "Occupation should last another 20 years. That means a personnel with higher wages, including the occupational troops."

T/3 Roger Takemoto, Los Angeles: "It should last until the Japanese government can take care of itself."

T/5 Tak Aoki, Seattle: "It will not be necessary for any great power to occupy Japan for any length of time, for the Japanese people are quite willing to go their own way with a representative like Gen. MacArthur protecting their interests."

T/5 Steve Oka, Seattle: "About a couple of years to straighten and organize Japan."

Pfc. Dan Mashihara, Alameda, Calif.: "Five years will be necessary for the reconversion of Japan."

T/3 Masato Fujii, Chicago: "I can't say in exact number of years, but it will be quite sometime before we can leave the people to govern themselves. There are centuries of feudal thinking to be counteracted."

From the Frying Pan

By BILL HOSOKAWA

Would the Atom Bomb Make a Big Noise?

What made him ask the question, we shall never know. It was bedtime, and as he lay stretched and luxuriating in the comfort of his bed asked:

"Dad, if they blew up the world with atomic bombs, would it make a big noise?"

What was that? A big noise? The first thought that occurred was that there would be no one left in this world to determine if it were a "big" noise, or just an ordinary noise. But we said: "Yep, it sure would."

Then he shouted as loudly as he could: "Bang!"

"Gosh," he said, "I bet an atomic bomb would make a noise louder than I can yell. How many bombs would it take to blow up the world? Two? Three?"

A moment later he was asleep, deep in the untroubled sleep of a 5-year-old kindergardener exhausted by a day of glorious new discoveries, of learning, of play, of frustration and triumphs.

Later we heard a newscast and came away depressed. Nothing but alarms on the air—defiant words, charges and countercharges, forebodings.

The voice of the brave new world that trumpeted such hope on VE-day and VJ-day is a feeble piping now. The calls for understanding and common sense are strained, almost hysterical in their urgency.

There is a need now as never before for world statesmanship. But no man has come forth with a magic formula. Even the great warrior who rallied Britain in her darkest hour and who carried her to triumph had only a plan whose essence was that of the discredited old scheme of power politics.

In short, his solution was that of pitting one combination of nations against another, each threatening the other with destruction and forcing the maintenance of a precarious peace.

Perhaps there is no magic formula. Perhaps the answer to peace is to be found in the hearts of Dads whose little sons ask: "If they blew up the world with atomic bombs, would it make a big noise?"

Nisei Maturity

If any further proof were required, the JACL convention in Denver showed beyond doubt that the Nisei as a group has reached maturity.

Maturity is more than just a matter of balding foreheads and expanding waistlines. Maturity is more than a matter of home ownership, comfortable business connections, an ability to enjoy cigars and afford rich foods.

More and more Nisei suffer

from and enjoy these outward manifestations of maturity, but in addition they have demonstrated an ability to work together, an awareness of the world about them, and a will to guide their destinies.

There was a purposefulness about the Nisei convention assembled, and it bespeaks well of their desire to fulfill their responsibility as citizens.

A few California towns still display "No Japs Wanted" signs. A West Coast informant reports that in one town the "Japs" has been crossed out on a prominent sign and someone has chalked in its place the word "Okies."

Yank Legion

The A. V. C. News, published by the American Veterans' Committee chapter in Spokane, Wash., publishes a letter regarding a new World War II vet organization called the Yank Legion.

The letter says an AVC member asked what the Yank Legion proposed to do about Nisei and Negro vets.

"That came up in Portland, the national headquarters," the Yank Legion man said, "and they decided that Japs aren't eligible. We have to let the colored people in. I guess, but they'll have separate posts. You won't have to associate with them."

The letter adds in a post script that the AVC man wasn't converted.

We close the column this week in what we think is a note of hope.

Dr. Mits Nakata, a dentist, returned to Portland, Ore., some time ago after serving out the war as an instructor at the navy's language school in Boulder, Colo.

He sought a job at a chain dental office, primarily to regain his professional touch. The manager was skeptical. If you change your name, he told Dr. Nakata, we might be able to use you.

Dr. Nakata refused. He got the job anyway. Now he's the most popular dentist in the establishment.

Organized Community Activity For Japanese Americans Extended to Other Groups

NEW YORK—The impetus furnished by experiences with relocation of evacuated persons of Japanese ancestry and an awareness of the growing minorities problem were cited on March 9 by Lawrence Davies, San Francisco correspondent of the New York Times, as reasons for the formation of a State Council for Civic Unity in California, the first statewide organization of its kind in the country.

Probably not more than half of California's pre-war Japanese and Japanese American population of 90,000 has taken up residence in the State now, Mr. Davies noted, but stated that even this number of residents of Japanese ancestry posed problems which were absent before the evacuation, when their presence in the State was taken for granted.

"War industries brought to the West Coast many times the pre-war number of Negroes living here," Mr. Davies related. "Negroes moved into former Japanese areas and overflowed to establish, in some cases, new community racial residential patterns."

"A year and a half ago there were not more than a half-dozen community groups in the State dealing with racial matters. Now, however, so conscious have many Californians become of their responsibility for promoting a tolerant attitude toward minorities

that affiliation with the new council is expected by going organizations in at least 125 cities and towns.

Noting the growth of organized race relations activity in California in connection with the return of Japanese Americans to the State, Mr. Davies noted:

"When the Army and the Supreme Court began making possible the return of Japanese to California and other Coast States, the Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play was engaged actively in preparing communities to receive the evacuees. Headed by President Robert G. Sproul of the University of California as honorary chairman, with Mrs. Ruth Kingman of Berkeley as executive secretary, and numbering civic, educational, labor and religious leaders on its board, the committee eventually concluded that the best chance for integration of the persons of Japanese ancestry into communities was the creation of organizations broadly based on the rights of all minorities.

"Field workers of the American Council on Race Relations, with headquarters in Chicago, surveyed West Coast communities and reached the same conclusion. An increasing number of community organizations such as civic unity councils, fair-play committees and interracial committees was the result."

PROFESSIONAL NOTICES

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HONOLULU—Soichi Sakamoto, who was born in Hawaii 40 years ago, has never had a swimming lesson in his life but he is one of the world's foremost swimming coaches.

Sakamoto, who was appointed swimming coach at the University of Hawaii this year, has never engaged in competitive racing in an official aquatic meet. He conceived and developed his own tutoring methods and tried them out in the irrigation ditches of Maui.

Sakamoto has developed many of the foremost swimmers in the world today. According to Russ Newland of the A.P., Sakamoto may take fullest credit for the following world and national champions:

Bill Smith, holder of a dozen world's and American records from 200 yards up to a half-mile.

Kiyoshi (Keo) Nakama, who won 16 American titles and set the world's record for a mile free-style champion, now in the Army.

Takashi Hirose, 1941 National AAU 100 meters free-style champion, now a student at Ohio State university. According to Newland, Sakamoto thinks Hirose, also a

veteran of the 442nd Combat Team, is the best sprinter produced in Hawaiian waters since the reign of the great Duke Kahanamoku.

Joe Balmores, 5-foot 5-inch Filipino now in the Army, who won the 1941 National AAU 300-yard medley and the breast-stroke events.

Shiyoko Miyamoto, 21-year-old girl student at the University of Hawaii, who was a champion at 14 and who has the National AAU 300-yard medley record to her credit.

Sakamoto has led four Hawaiian teams to the mainland and has returned home with three national team championships.

The Japanese American coach was reared on a plantation on Maui and taught himself to swim in an irrigation reservoir. While employed by the school department on Maui, he started teaching swimming as a hobby 15 years ago, training his proteges in the irrigation canals, according to Newland.

His Alexander House, Maui teams became known all over the swimming world and his Nisei swimmers competed in many foreign countries.

Some of the swimmers he trained competed for the 442nd Com-

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SOCIAL NOTES

NEW YORK CITY—Miss Hisa Kobayashi, formerly of Berkeley, Calif., and more recently of Salt Lake City, where she was connected with the War Relocation Authority, was married to Francis M. Kudo of Hawaii at an informal wedding on March 3 at the Japanese Methodist church in New York City. Miss Mine Okubo was the maid of honor and Mitsuao Harry Ono was the best man.

PUEBLO, Colo. — Miss May Hidaka became the bride of Mr. Ernest Y. Nagata on Feb. 22 at ceremonies held at the Northern Avenue Methodist church with the Rev. F. Yoshioka officiating. Her only attendant was Miss Minnie Hidaka and the best man was Sanzo Shigetani. The couple plan to make their home in Honolulu, Hawaii.

bat Team, winning the Southern AA title at New Orleans in 1943 while the unit was in training, and winning the Mediterranean Theater championship in 1944 and 1945.

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Report Stories of Nisei GIs Counteracted Coast Bigotry

LEGHORN, Italy — "Well deserved publicity of the achievements of the 442nd (Japanese American) Regimental Combat Team has served to counteract much of the bigotry and hoodlumism that has been expected upon the return of the Nisei to the West Coast," Melvin Harter, administrative assistant of the Church Federation of Los Angeles, wrote recently to Col. V. R. Miller, commanding officer of the 442nd.

Mr. Harter, who formerly managed the Aloha USO at Hattiesburg, Miss., during the 442nd's training period at nearby Camp Shelby, praised the 442nd for its achievements and assured the unit of the church federation's support of the Nisei.

Mr. Harter noted that he was an "avid reader" of the Pacific Citizen since the 442nd went overseas.

"You certainly have every reason to be proud of your men," he told Col. Miller.

He added that since the facts of the achievements of the 442nd

overseas had been told to the people of the West Coast, anti-Nisei incidents "have almost become a thing of the past."

College Conference Postponed One Month

LARAMIE, Wyo. — The Intermountain Intercollegiate conference originally scheduled to be held March 23-24 in Denver, Colorado, has been postponed until April 20-21, it was announced this week by Yoshiko Ito, publicity chairman.

Nisei Girl Joins With Hilda Simms In Harmony Program

CHICAGO — A Nisei girl joined with a noted Negro actress to participate in the first of a series of musical programs, "The People in Their Music," which was presented last week at the Parkway Community House in an attempt to foster interracial understanding and friendship in Chicago.

Taking part in the initial program were Hilda Simms, young star of "Anna Lucasta," and Suzanne Tory, a Nisei girl who is the business manager of the community house.

Vital Statistics

BIRTHS

To Mr. and Mrs. Masato Yoshikawa, 4404-B, Tule Lake, a boy on Feb. 17.

To Mr. and Mrs. Inosuke Tashimatsu, 7612-A, Tule Lake, a girl on Feb. 19.

To Mr. and Mrs. George Yoshimura, 7308-C, Tule Lake, a girl on Feb. 20.

To Mr. and Mrs. Jack Iwata, 1518-F, Tule Lake, a girl on Feb. 21.

To Mr. and Mrs. Setsuo Izumi, 8102-B, Tule Lake, a girl on Feb. 23.

To Mr. and Mrs. Seizo Tamura, a boy on March 5 in Red Bluff, Calif.

To Mr. and Mrs. John J. Iwasaki, a girl on March 1 in Sacramento.

To Mr. and Mrs. Riechi Oyama, a boy on March 2 in Los Angeles.

To Mr. and Mrs. Noboru Soeda, a boy on Feb. 16 in Santa Maria, Calif.

DEATHS

Seita Aoki, 68, on March 6 in Seattle.

Paul Yoshiharu Kasugi on March 2 in Oregon, Ill.

Mrs. Tamekichi Yamanaka on Feb. 27 in Lodi, Calif.

Soroku Kimura, 68, on March 5 in Ogden, Utah.

Yasuo Ikuma, 62, Kaysville, Utah, on Feb. 24.

Yoshino Kuichi, 69, Bingham, Utah, on March 4 in Salt Lake City.

MARRIAGES

Hisa Kobayashi to Francis M. Kudo on March 3 in New York City.

Yoshiko Kimura to Etsuo Hirose on Feb. 27 in Gallup, N. M.

Mary Yasuko Momii to Hideo Higa of Honolulu, T. H. on March 10 in Brighton, Colo.

Shizue Hamamura to George Yanari on March 3 at Rocky Ford, Colo.

Kiyono Miura to Yoshio Hironaka on March 8 in Chicago.

Midori Fujii to Ikken Momii on March 7 in Denver.

Alyce Asaka to Liemt. Masakiyo on March 10 in Chicago.

Emi Sumi to Itsuo Fukuda on March 10 in Los Angeles.

Fuji Kashiara to Sgt. Ken Okamoto of Honolulu on March 5 in Sacramento, Calif.

Yaeko Yotsuya to Shoji Goi on March 3 in Sacramento.

Mary Tateyehara to Hubert Nakanishi on Feb. 15 in New York City.

Ishio Enokida to Takeko Kodani on Feb. 27 in Los Angeles.

Toshiko Tara to Masato Tsudama of Alamosa, Colo., on March 4 in Fresno, Calif.

Nisei Opens School In Optometry Field

CHICAGO — A school giving post-graduate courses to the doctor in order to acquaint him with recent advances in contact lens fitting, visual training and visual analysis and procedure has been opened in Chicago by Dr. Newton K. Wesley, it was announced here this week.

Known as the American Optometric Center, 59 E. Madison street, Chicago 2, Illinois, the school will serve doctors wishing special training in these fields.

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RELOCATION DIGEST

CHICAGO — Speaking in Japanese, Pvt. Herman Nash addressed the Midwest Buddhist church at its regular Sunday morning service on Jan. 27, according to the Midwest Dharma. Pvt. Nash urged that Christians and Buddhists make a diligent survey of the other's practice of faith "so that along with economic and political unity, there will come about a religious harmony among the people."

PHILADELPHIA — Pussy willow and forsythia decorated the International Institute hall on Sunday, March 3, as Philadelphia re-

settlers gave a "Thank you" tea in honor of individuals and organizations who have helped in the resettlement of the Nisei. The American Friends Service Committee, International Institute, the WRA, the hostel board, Federation of Churches, W.I.L. and other organizations were present. Arrangements were made by Hiroshi Ueyhara, chairman of the Nisei Council, and Grayce Kaneda. Philadelphia Nisei have marked March 14 for a Nisei-Issei lecture on "Southern Japan Today," with Tohu Kachi, Nobuyoshi Nakamura and Notoru Tamimoto, all of whom have just returned from Japan, as speakers.

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Stay of Deportation Asked Until Congress Acts on Bill

LOS ANGELES — A brief was forwarded this week by Attorney A. L. Wirin of Los Angeles, in behalf of 61 Japanese aliens awaiting deportation, to the Board of Immigration Appeals at Washington, D. C., urging that deportation be held up until Congress can act upon the pending Eberharter Bill. This Bill, sponsored by the American Civil Liberties Union, would amend the present Immigration Law so as to permit the Attorney General, in hardship cases, to stop deportation if Japanese aliens, on the same basis as may now be done, under the present Immigration Law, in cases involving aliens of non-Japanese descent.

The present law permits the Attorney General to allow deportable aliens to remain in the United States, upon a showing of hardship, excepting in cases where the

alien is "ineligible to naturalization." The Eberharter Bill would wipe out this discrimination in the Immigration Law. The deportation cases pending before the Bureau of Immigration involve Japanese aliens who came to the United States as merchant traders or otherwise temporarily; and who are now technically deportable because they have overstayed their resident in the United States.

Also urged in the brief is that deportation of Japanese aliens solely because of race, violates their constitutional rights.

Other attorneys appearing with Mr. Wirin are John Maeno, James C. Purcell, Yasui and Ando, Joseph Omachi, Gus S. Solomon, Lafayette J. Smallpage, Elmer Yamamoto, Kenji Ito and K. Doi.

Joining in the brief are Saburo Kido for the Japanese American Citizens League, Arthur Garfield Hays and Osmond K. Fraenkel for the National Offices of the American Civil Liberties Union and J. B. Tietz, for the Southern California Branch of the A. C. L. U.

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ANYONE knowing the whereabouts of PVT. TERRY T. OGAWA, 39913881, formerly with the 232nd Engineers (Combat Co.) Sep., or his parents, please contact Miss Masa Matsumoto, Route 2, Box 171-D, Glendale, Ariz.

DAN OTA, ASN 39916729, formerly of San Francisco and Topaz. I would appreciate any information as to Dan Ota's present address. Eichi Tsuchida, 5911 Potrero Ave., El Cerrito, California.

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INFORMATION wanted by a friend as to whereabouts of Harry Tomita, wife and two children. (Parents formerly lived in Redlands, Calif.) Notify Katie Kohn, 5746 Fulton Ave., Van Nuys, Calif.

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