

THE NORTHWEST TIMES

The Only All-English Nisei Newspaper in The Pacific Northwest

Established January 1, 1947

Published every Wednesday and Saturday of each week. Editorial offices at 304 Main St., Seattle 4, Wash. Phone SENECA 5594. Office hours: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily except Sundays and holidays.

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Subscription Rates:
One month..... \$.75
Six months..... \$4.25
One Year..... \$8.00
Classified Advertisement:
Per word insertion..... 5 cents
Minimum charge..... 60 cents

Editorial

Junior Chamber Deserves a Hand

The Washington State Junior Chamber of Commerce has launched its first state-wide "Invite A Million" campaign and deserves a good hand for initiating a movement which should benefit all of us.

It is fairly common knowledge that the tourist industry is the second largest in the state. Last year, for instance, 900,000 tourists spent \$100,000,000 on their visits in Washington.

The Junior Chamber plans to distribute 200,000 post cards to the residents of the state. We will then be asked to mail these cards to our friends throughout the nation, adding to the cards a personal request from us to them.

With 200,000 cards being sent out, it is not at all unlikely we can get a million tourists in the state this year and if we follow the arithmetical pattern set by the 900,000 visitors last year, we should benefit to the tune of an extra \$11,000,000 over last year's figure.

At any rate, the cards will be furnished without charge to the people of the state through business houses. For the price of a one-cent postage stamp we can not only send our friends an invitation, but can publicize the beauties of Washington through the set of eight pictures on the face of the card.

This seems to be one of those meritorious efforts in which everybody benefits and nobody loses.

Get your card this month from some business where you are a patron.

keeping up with the times:

Japan's New Constitution Gives People A New Hope

—by hideo hoshide

A YEAR AGO THIS WEEK

...Japan underwent a great social and political reform. The new Constitution, which went into effect on May 3, 1947, gave the Japanese people the same political and civil rights as are enjoyed by the peoples of Western democracies. It gave them these rights on paper, and under the supervision of the Supreme Command for the Allied Powers (SCAP), the Japanese people do in fact enjoy these rights in large measure.

By studying the events which led up to the promulgation of the new Constitution, we can speculate on what lasting effect, if any, the new constitutional reform will have upon the Japanese.

AT THE POTSDAM CONFERENCE

...on July 17, 1945, the Big Three, the United States, Russia and the United Kingdom, declared in their terms for surrender that the "Japanese Government shall remove all obstacles to the revival and strengthening of democratic tendencies among the Japanese people."

After General MacArthur ordered the Japanese Government on Oct. 1, 1945 to effect the liberalization of the Constitution and after the Emperor appointed Prince Konoye to head the Constitutional Problem Investigation Committee, the Government Section of the SCAP under Brigadier General Courtney Whitney took over the task of drafting the constitution.

Premier Shidehara accepted the American draft of the Constitution as his own and on March 5, 1946 Emperor Hirohito issued an Imperial Rescript declaring that it was his "desire that the Constitution of our Empire be revised drastically upon the basis of the general will of the people and the principle of respect for the fundamental human rights."

WHAT THE EMPEROR

...had announced to his people was something of a precedent. Under this Constitution, the Emperor became a mere "symbol of state". It placed sovereignty squarely in the hands of the people. As General MacArthur stated it:

"It (the Constitution) establishes governmental authority with the predominant power vested in an elected legislature, as representative of the people, but with an adequate check upon that power, as well as upon the power of the executive and the judiciary, to insure that no branch of government may become autocratic or arbitrary in the administration of affairs of state."

HOWEVER SUPERFICIAL

...many of the political reforms since the surrender the fact remains that, under the occupation, the Japanese people have been able to enjoy a greater measure of political freedom and civil justice than they have ever known before.

This is important for it is only through the continued and full enjoyment of these political and civil rights that the more liberal and progressive forces can win popular support and political power. Perhaps the biggest problem for the peacemakers will be to devise a method of control which will insure these rights for the Japanese people when General MacArthur and his men withdraw from Japan. The Allied post-occupation aims in Japan should make it possible for Japanese reformers to have the right to organize and educate their fellow citizens in the democratic way of life without suppression.

Against U.M.T.



WASHINGTON, D. C.—(Sound-photo) — Seymour Linfield, above, Veterans Director of the National Wallace-For-President Committee, and Representative of the Progressive Citizens of America, testified against universal military training and refused to give a Senate committee a yes or no answer on whether he has been a member of the communist party.

Businesses Houses for Sale

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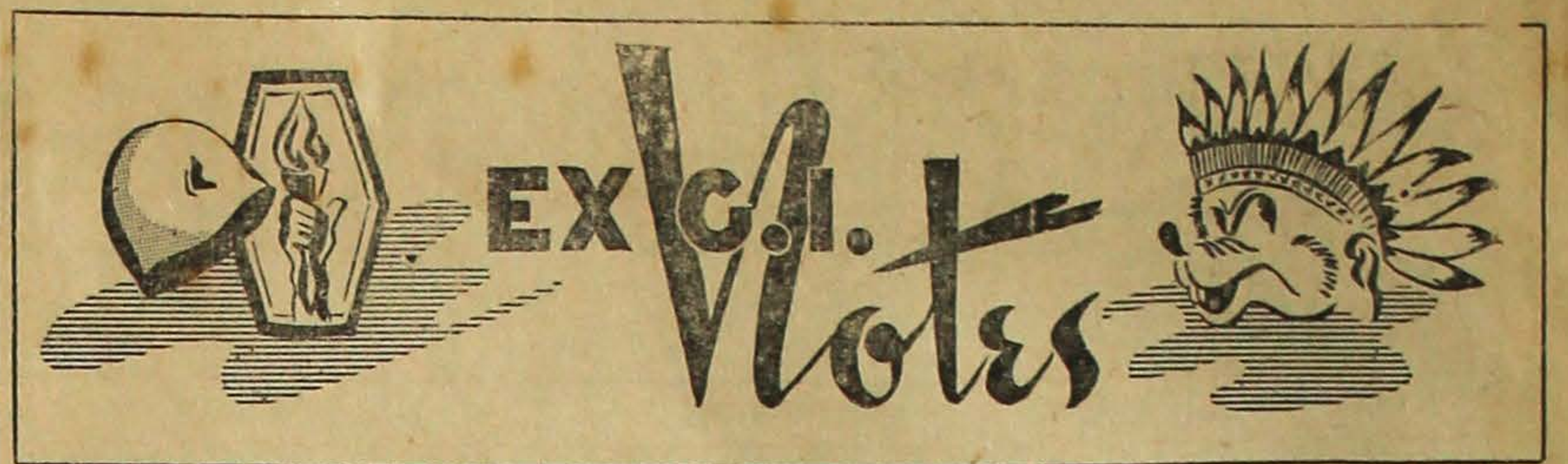
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COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

This column has, several times in the past, devoted itself at some length upon the topic of the desirability of and need for, a general and representative organization in the local Japanese community.

A small group of civic-minded individuals, acting unofficially, is quietly sounding out public opinion on the subject, and approaching the various organizations and groups in our community for their ideas and reactions.

While present plans are only tentative, it is the consensus of interested parties that any community group to be organized should be as large and inclusive as possible, thus aiding the group to be truly representative of the community.

The arguments for such an organization are too well known to be repeated over and over. It is to be hoped that this latest attempt to fulfill a community need will not expire through neglect and indifference on the part of the general public, when there is so much that should and can be done for community welfare by such an organization.

DECISION OF THE WEEK

As far as minority groups are concerned, the most important decision handed down by the Supreme Court of the United States this week was the one dealing with restrictive covenants in real estate. In a 9-0 decision, the high court held that restrictive covenants violated the Four-

HERE AND THERE

We suppose our readers have noticed the newspaper sketches of the proposed King County Veterans' Memorial to be erected at Washelli. The Memorial, which will cost approximately \$75,000, will be about 50 feet in height and will have a chimes tower. Truly, a beautiful and inspiring memorial to our servicemen who fell in battle...

Nisei Calendar

- MAY
29—Y. B. A. memorial service at Buddhist Church from 7:30 p.m.
JUNE
4—Annual JSC picnic
11—Lotus Y. B. A. graduation dinner party honoring all 1948 high school graduates at Buddhist church from 7 p.m.
27—Lotus Y. B. A. Shoyukai picnic. Site undecided.
JULY
4—Nisei Veterans' committee to sponsor Fourth of July sports dance at Palladium Ballroom with Jackie Souders and his orchestra.
SEPTEMBER
5—Bazaar-carnival to be sponsored by Lotus Y. B. A.
10—Post-Labor Day skatefest to be given by Rissho club in Rollerland. Skating hours will be from 10:30 p.m. to 12 midnight.
OCTOBER
2—25th anniversary dance to be sponsored by Lotus Y. B. A.

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