

NISEI VUE

THE JAPANESE AMERICAN MAGAZINE

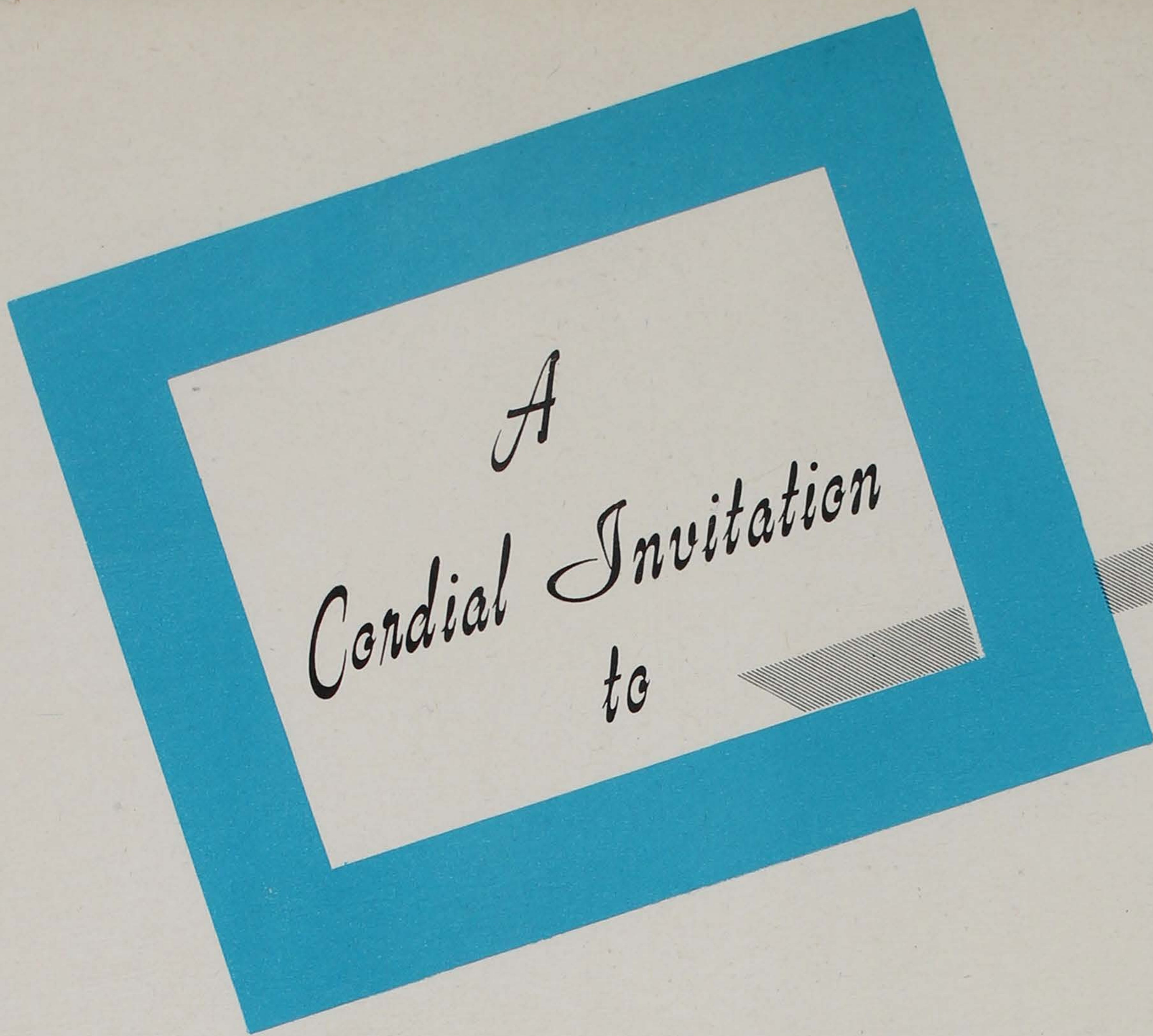


The Nisei Come of Age

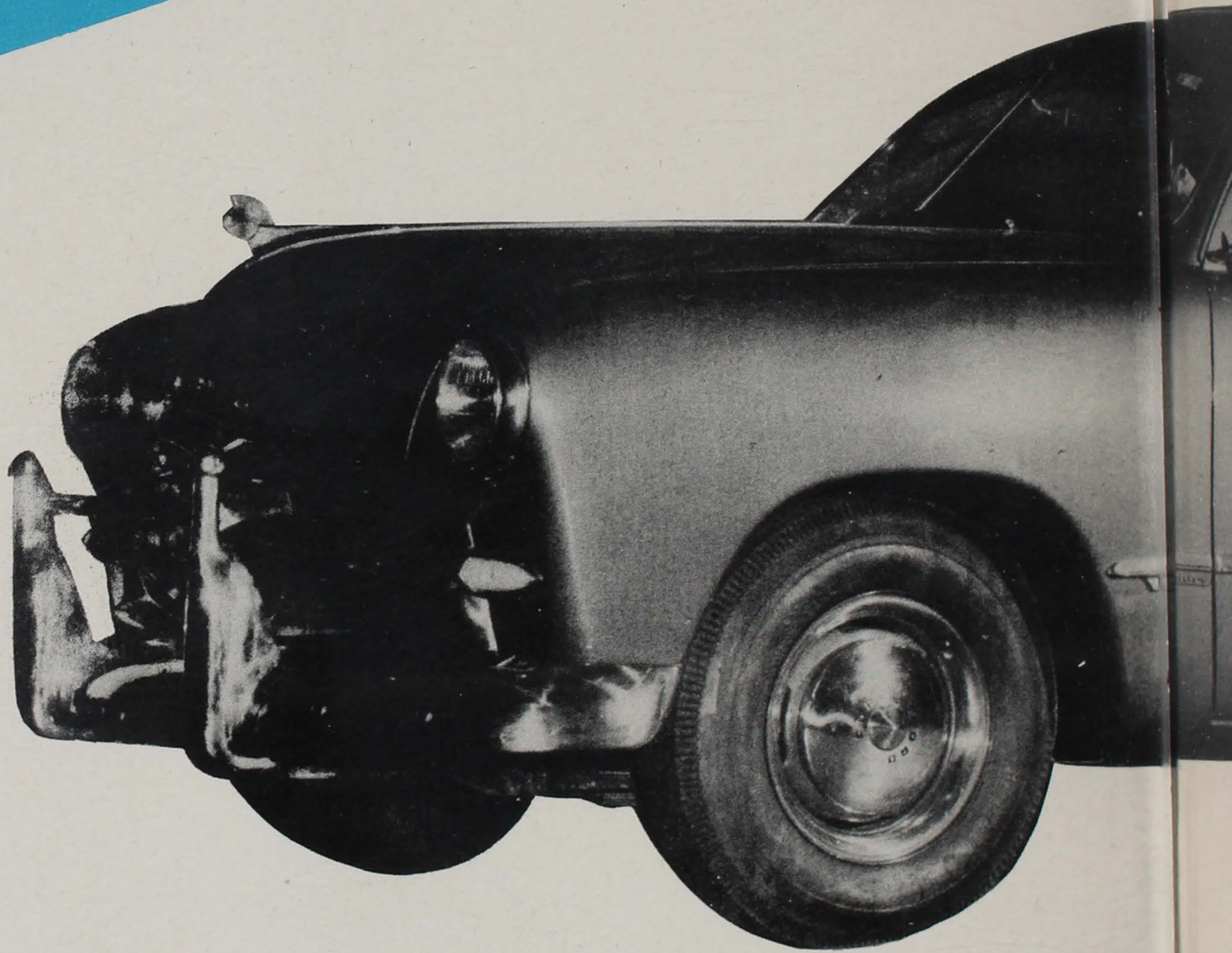
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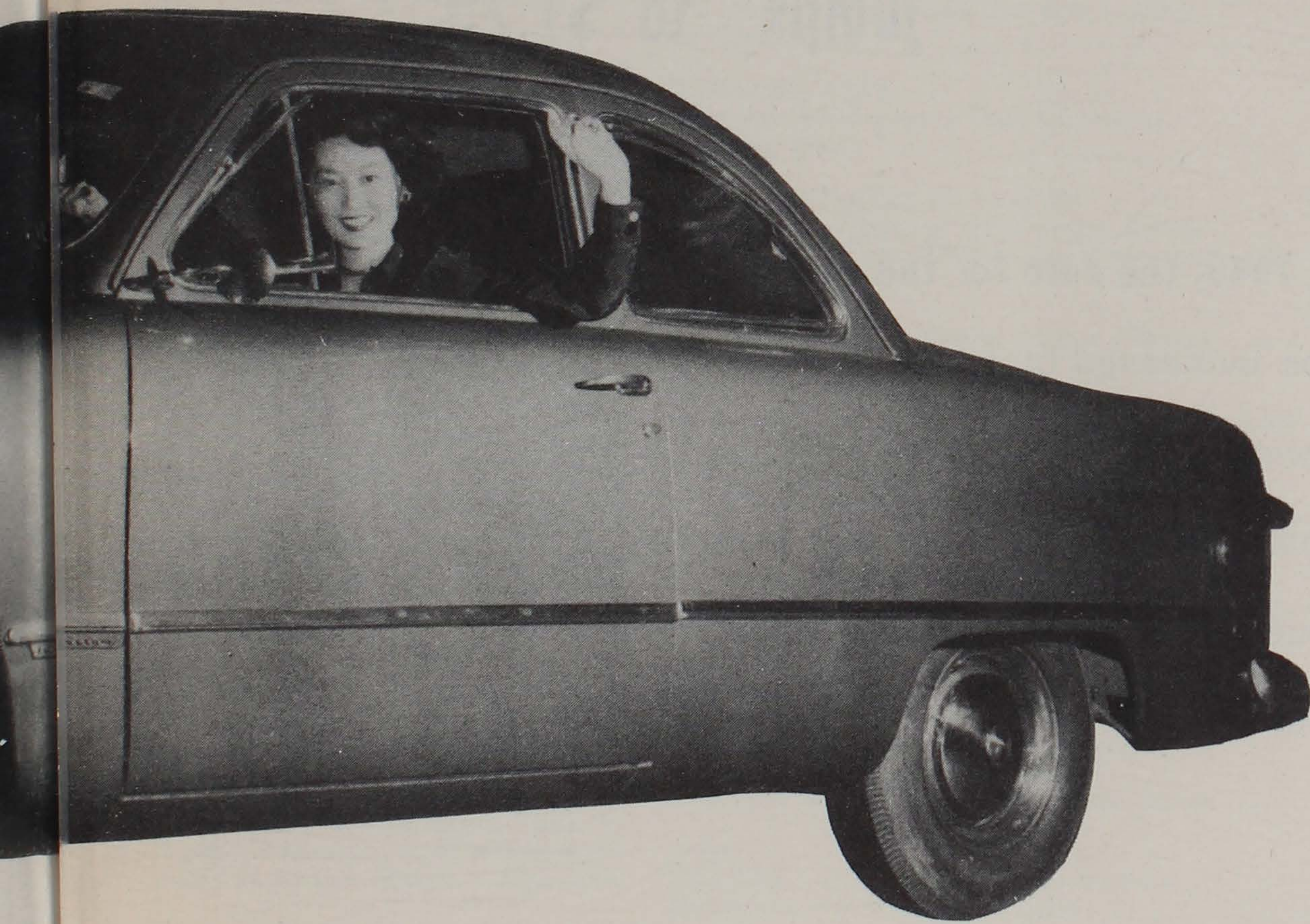
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the publishers of NISEI VUE

This Issues Cover

PEARL KUWABARA is Denver's contribution to this Issue's Cover. A photo by Hikaru Iwasaki for the "Nisei Vue goes Fishing in Colorado" story, it was so typical of Summer and the photography so excellent that NV editors were enthusiastic in promoting this pic to the Cover. Pearl Kuwabara, 18, and her friend June Aochi, 16, both Denver girls, may not have caught a lot of fish for the story but readers will agree they make nice scenery for any fishing spot.

EXCLUSIVE



KAY TATEISHI is the author of the exclusive story of the Fukui earthquake which appears in this issue. A former resident of Los Angeles, he has had over ten years of newspaper experience. Beginning his career with the Rafu Shimpō he has worked for the now-defunct Domei News Agency and the Nippon Times in Tokyo. Presently, he is interpreter-assistant for Carl Mydans of Time-Life.

Thanks!

The Editors of NISEI VUE say "Thanks" to its many readers and friends for their kind letters and notes of congratulations.

NISEI VUE, Vol. 1 No. 2 Published quarterly by the NISEI VUE Publication Company. Editorial and Executive Offices at 4901 Lake Park, Chicago 15, Illinois. Annual (four-issue) subscription \$1.00 up to October 15, 1948 and \$1.25 after this date. Printed in the U.S.A.

NISEI VUE

THE JAPANESE AMERICAN MAGAZINE

SUMMER, 1948
Vol. 1 No. 2

Table of Contents

FUKUI EARTHQUAKE Nisei reporter gives eye witness account of tragedy in Japan By Kay Tateishi	page 5
CANADA STORY The story of Canada's Nisei, their evacuation and relocation, parallels that of U.S. Nisei By Toyo Takata	page 9
KAWAKITA CASE California youth goes on trial for treason By Harry Honda	page 13
UNITED VETERANS OF FRESNO San Francisco Chronicle's Bob George writes about Nisei vets who didn't believe in segregated posts ..	page 16
VANPORT FLOOD Over 300 Japanese are hit by flood in Oregon	page 19
GOOD NEWS FROM WASHINGTON Hard fought-for Evacuation Claims Bill becomes law ..	page 21
THE UNIFIED NISEI VOTE? "There ain't no such animal" By Togo W. Tanaka	page 22
THE JAEL QUEEN CONTEST Nine finalists will be judged at Salt Lake Convention ...	page 23
LILLI ANN OKA The Nisei Ballet star is winning acclaim in Europe	page 28
NISEI HEROES BURIED AT ARLINGTON Two 442nd PFC's are the first Nisei to be interred in the shrine of national heroes	page 30
CARE Via CARE's special service Oriental Food Packages can now be sent to Japan	page 32
A SARONG Artist-photographer Mazawa drapes leftover drapery around Rosemary Yasuda	page 33
COOL IDEAS Here is how girls kept cool during the Summer	page 34
THE NISEI COME OF AGE By Elmer R. Smith	page 36
NISEI IN THE NEWS These personalities figured in the news this past season	page 38
NISEI VUE GOES FISHING IN COLORADO By Bill Hosokawa	page 41
AUTHORS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS	page 44

STAFF

STAFF: Publisher, Art Hayashi; Editor-in-Chief, Shigemi Mazawa; Managing Editor, Tom Tsuruda; Associate Editors, Emily Kuwada, Tad Hirota, Min Yasui, Mas Horiuchi and Miyo Hayashi; Secretary, Roxanna Takehara; Photographers, Ken Mazawa, Kiyoko Okawa, William Nakahara, Jon Onodera, Roy Hoshizaki, and Dave Takahashi; Technicians, Spud Tsuji and Hiro Okawa; Circulation, Mrs. John T. Doi. Offices, 4901 Lake Park, Chicago. Canadian Editor, Toyo Takata, 437 Sumach St., Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

NISEI VUE

Branch Offices

CALIFORNIA:

Branch Office Manager
Tad Hirota
3100 King St, Berkeley

PACIFIC NORTHWEST:

Branch Office Manager
Hiro Nishimura
115-18th. Avenue
Seattle, Wash.

INTERMOUNTAIN AREA:

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618 West First North
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Min Yasui
1917 Lawrence Street
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MIDWEST AREA:

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4901 So. Lake Park Ave.
Chicago, Ill.

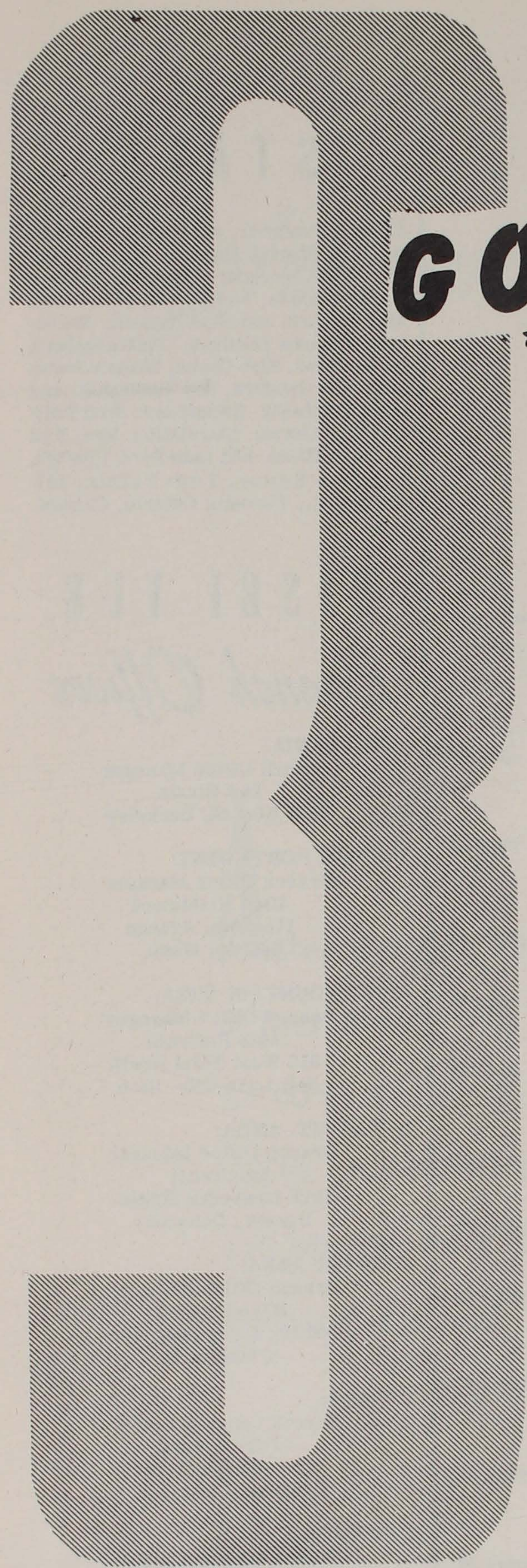
CANADA:

Branch Office Manager
Toyo Takata
437 Sumach Street
Toronto, Ontario

NEW YORK:

Branch Office Manager
Ken Hayashi
Ken Yasuda
107 West 88th. St.
New York, N.Y.

AGENTS: Sus Hirota, 1505 Second Ave. South, MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.; Mrs. Alice Morihiro, 1874 East 25th. Street, CLEVELAND, Ohio; Gary Oye, 747 West 20th., PHILADELPHIA, Pa.; Lilly Kobayashi, 608 N.W. Tenth Ave., PORTLAND, Ore.; Norio Wakamatsu, West 325 Trent Ave., SPOKANE, Wash.; Mas Kuraoka, 211 No. Bristol Ave., LOS ANGELES, Calif.; Sterling Sakamoto, SACRAMENTO, Calif.



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FIRE BREAKS OUT AFTER FUKUI CITY IS SHATTERED BY GIANT QUAKE, THE GREATEST TO HIT JAPAN SINCE 1922

EARTHQUAKE!

Caught in the quake, Kay Tateishi and his camera cover the Fukui tragedy

Kay Tateishi, ex-Californian and ex-columnist (Tish n' Tash) for the Rafu Shimpo, arrived in Fukui City, 300 miles northwest of his Tokyo home, together with Carl Mydans, TIME-LIFE correspondent, to cover an assignment about the virile little city's (pop. 75,000) remarkable postwar recovery. Six hours later, as he was supping in the mess of the U.S. Military Headquarters building in the heart of the city, the hottest piece of news to break in Japan since the war literally exploded in Kay's nonplussed face. The severest earthquake since 1922 knocked him to the floor. Kay crawled out into a heavily shaken city and immediately his keen newspaperman's mind began registering

copious mental notes. He wrote down accurate captions on the spot. Though much less at home with a camera than with a typewriter, the Nisei newspaperman also began snapping pictures with an inexpensive kodak camera which he had bought in 1940 just prior to going to Japan. He had seldom touched it, but he had taken it along to Fukui "just in case." The results were remarkable and won great praise from expert cameramen in Tokyo. On the following pages are Kay's eye-witness account and pictures of the Fukui destruction which killed and injured 13,000 inhabitants.

TURN PAGE →



HUGE DAIWA BUILDING lists drunkenly at 5:14 p.m. Soon gutted by fire, the building is smouldering rubble by morning.



THE FIRE has just broken out in the distant (5:27 p.m.) but the First Aid group calmly takes care of the injured and dying.



THE FOLLOWING MORNING. Fukui must rebuild again what had taken two years to recover after the B-29 raids in 1945.

THE FUKUI

Nisei Reporter, Kay Tateishi, of the quake which wipes out

In Fukui city, despite the summer heat, people were busy preparing for their second reconstruction anniversary. Shop windows were gaily decorated and bright paper lanterns were strung across the streets. Fukui, hit hard by B-29's in a July, 1945 raid, had rapidly emerged from the ashes and debris. Ninety percent of the city was levelled then. Today 60 percent had been rebuilt and her 75,000 people were proud--for their industry and sweat had made Fukui the fastest recovering, most prosperous postwar city in Japan.

At 5:14 p.m., June 28, however, a brave, courageous city was once again destroyed. It was the third largest quake disaster to hit Japan since 1891.

At that terrifying moment, we were about to finish our dinner. I was with Carl Mydans, TIME-LIFE Tokyo Bureau chief, and several military government personnel. The tremor savagely juggled the four-story ferro-concrete building with lightning speed and intensity. It shook up and down, sideways, zigzag, all jumbled together and threw us to the floor. Japanese shouted: "Jishin! Jishin!" (Earthquake! Earthquake!) Everyone near me made frantic efforts to scramble for windows and doors but the quake was so vicious it was almost impossible to climb through.

Instead of heading for the window, remembering a lesson experienced in a 1934 California earthquake, I tried desperately to cling to a strong pillar in the dining room. But the pillar kept bouncing me to the floor.

The dining room tables, the dishes, spoons, knives, forks bolted around like Mexican jumping beans. Ceiling lamps and fixtures smashed to the floor. Fire-extinguishers toppled and foamed like upturned beer kegs.

When the first quake had subsided somewhat I crawled out. Everyone was clinging to the lawn, frightened, surprised, horrified. I hit the turf, too, when another violent tremor madly rocked at 5:17. Then for almost 30 seconds the city was completely dead.

I saw a cloud of mustard-yellow dust rise towards the sky. All around us, with the exception of the ferro-concrete buildings, the ground was an eerie, insane conglomeration of flattened houses. The huge seven-story Daiwa department store directly across the street was listing drunkenly, its windows shattered.

Soon smothered sounds, small, pathetic cries and shouts swept the city. People, bleeding, crushed, began crawling out of collapsed buildings. I heard groans and cries for help. I helped a mother and her son tear through a crumbled wall and rescue her baby whom she tightly hugged to her breast and sobbed: "Yokkata! Yokkata!" (Oh! Good! Oh! Good!) Telegraph poles had toppled into the streets. Electric wires were dangling, making road passage difficult. Streets had cracked open. Streetcar tracks were twisted, uprooted or bent into huge loops. Some were snapped in two.

At 5:27 I saw a faint greyish wisp of smoke curl into the acrid, dust-filled air. Undoubtedly its source was a shichi-rin (charcoal brazier). It began curling from somewhere near the

EARTHQUAKE

gives an eye-witness account
two years of reconstruction

big Daiwa department store. A sudden wind fanned it into flames. And soon the entire area was swiftly afire. No one could fight it because the water mains were broken.

At 5:40 another tremor rocked the city. Everyone tried to scurry for shelter. In fright someone shouted: "Mata!" (Again!) Bricks, plaster, tile, broken glass crashed about and littered the ground. People frantically tried to rescue their family and friends or salvage their belongings. They crazily dug under the heavy flattened roof, through the smashed walls. But they constantly kept their eyes toward the raging flames.

One man rushed up and excitedly demanded: "A saw! My babies are pinned under!" A four year girl hysterically cried: "Kah-chan! (Mother!) Don't! Don't go! It's too late!" Her mother heedlessly tried to retrieve some bedding from their destroyed home.

I saw a mother carry her dead baby strapped to her back walking in a daze through the hot, smouldering fires. She cried: "I want to give him a decent burial." I saw a man carry his wife on his back covered with a thin blanket. Their five-year-old son clung tightly to his mother's limp hand. The man whispered in a choking voice so his son could not hear: "Mo akan no desue! ('Tis too late!)"

That night and throughout the next day there were numerous tremors. I heard one Japanese schoolboy, standing on top of the 300-year-old castle-wall overlooking the moat, as he watched the city burn and another tremor shake the earth, cynically say: "Namazu ga yoku abareru! (The catfish are certainly playful!)"*

I watched Japanese nurses carry a dead man on a flimsy Japanese billboard used as a stretcher and leave him outside of an improvised first aid camp inside of the old castle compounds. No one ever came to claim his body.

A woman with a baby in her arms looked longingly towards a crushed temple in an unburned area. I asked if everyone was safe. She thanked me and pointed her finger. "See that small section now reduced to ashes." I looked. She said: "I lost two of my babies there. They were pinned under when the jishin came. I tried to get them out but a fire which started from my neighbor's brazier spread too rapidly." She paused stoically staring ahead and added: "We stopped the fire."

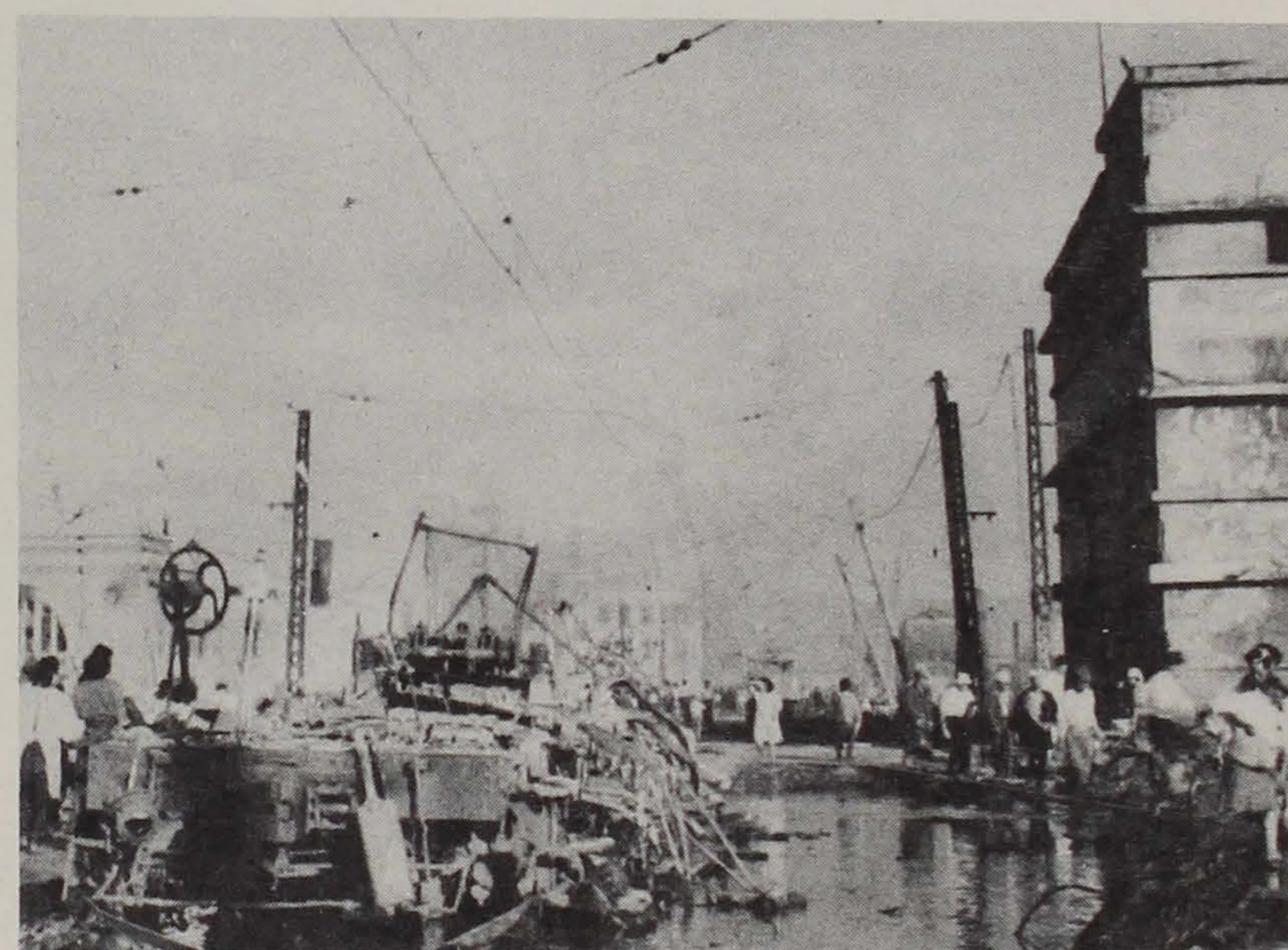
Fires began to die out after 2 a.m.. They, however, had devoured the heart of the city. By dawn downtown Fukui was shambles. But already the people who described the earthquake as more terrifying than the B-29 air raid were busy clearing away the debris to start again.

Some refugees were beginning to erect small shanties. These were pitiable things. But they were a beginning. One man and his family had reopened a little fruit shop less than a block away from the huge Daiwa department store. They had saved some of their watermelons and loquats. Now he had swept away the ashes and rubble and had set up a small stand over two boxes.

"We were burned out before," he said as he offered me a loquat. "But we rebuilt then. We will rebuild again."



DEVASTATED, Fukui goes down again. It was the fastest recovering and most prosperous city in post-war Japan.

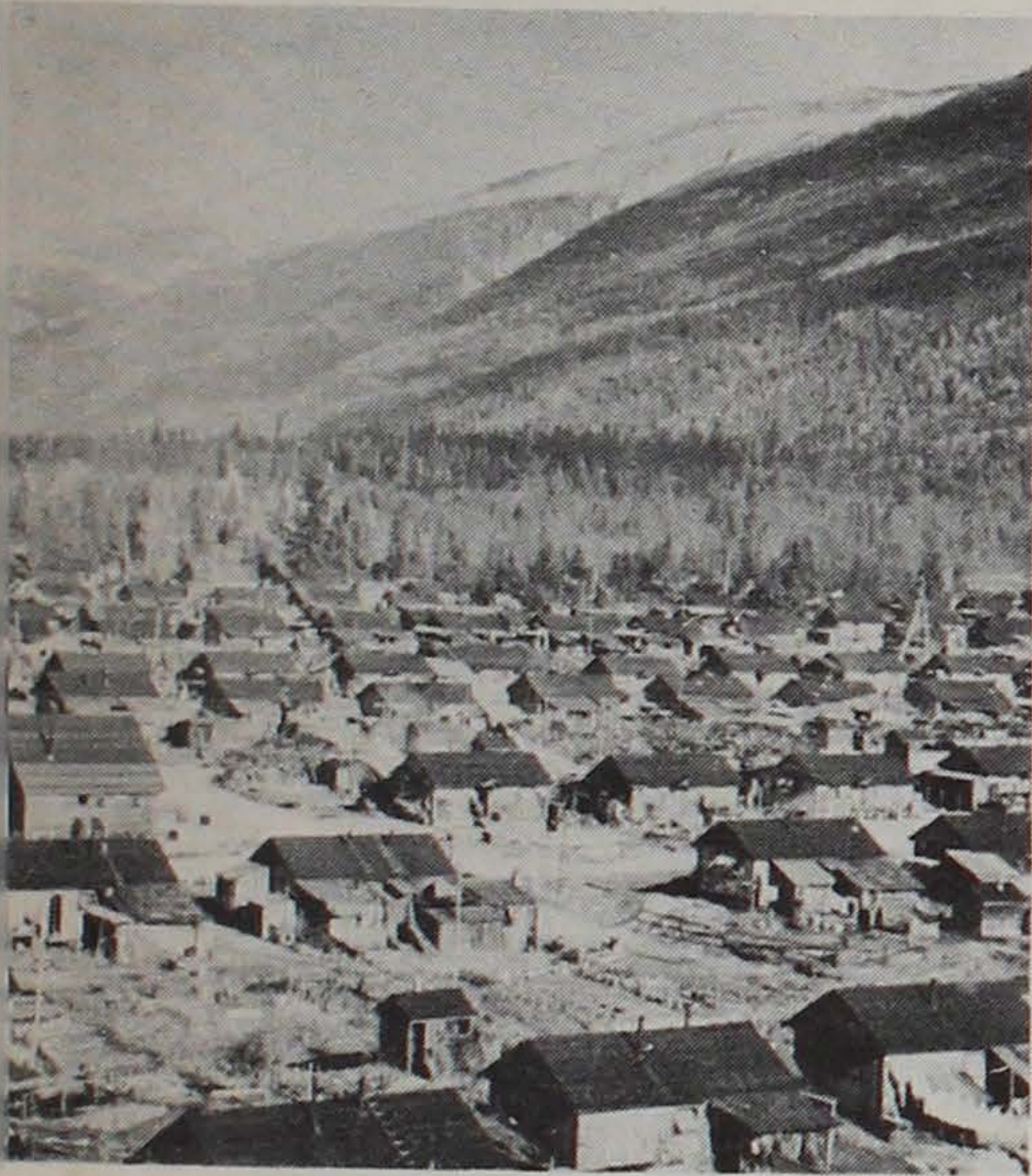


REMAINS OF A STREETCAR is seen in the foreground. Fire which followed quake burned out the heart of downtown Fukui.



UNTOUCHED BY FIRE, these houses were nevertheless damaged by broken water mains which flooded flattened areas.





T H E C A N A D A S T O R Y

The story of Canada's Nisei, their evacuation and relocation, parallels that of U. S. Nisei

BY TOYO TAKATA

IN FEBRUARY of the year following the outbreak of war with Japan, the Canadian Government designated a 100-mile stretch of Canada's west coast as the "Coastal Protected Area" and ordered the removal of all persons of Japanese ancestry, both aliens and citizens alike, from this zone. Affected were 22,084 persons or 94 per cent of the Japanese population in Canada. Approximately, 14,000 or nearly two-thirds were Canada-born.

By November, 1942, nine months after the issuance of the evacuation order, the mass exodus from the west coast was virtually complete. The bulk of the evacuees, 12,000 in all, were settled in eight government-provided relocation centers in British Columbia. Most of these were located at the site of exhausted or shut-down mines, commonly referred to as "ghost towns." To alleviate the labor shortage on sugar-beet farms which had a high wartime priority, 4,000 found new homes in the agrarian provinces of Alberta and Manitoba. About 2,000 men were sent to government high projects in interior British Columbia and north Ontario. Another 3,000 voluntarily departed for other approved localities at their own expense.

The housing centers were temporary war-time settlements where the evacuees would remain until such time as they were able to resettle in more permanent homes. Moreover, life in these centers, though hardly unbearable, was dissident and unproductive, and not conducive to normal existence. The same applied to the road camps where the men worked indifferently at 25 cents an hour.

The Government policy in regards to Japanese resettlement is one of Canada-wide dispersal, and the avoidance of concentration such as that which existed in British Columbia before the war. This, coupled with the still-hostile attitude of the west coast citizens towards the return of the Japanese-Canadians, has been

the motive behind the Government refusal to lift the bar to the Pacific Coast until 1949. Thus, every encouragement was given to evacuees leaving British Columbia for eastern points and from the outset of evacuation, there has been a steady exodus from the westernmost province. This movement reached its peak in 1946 when 4,000 relocated eastward. When another 4,000 went to Japan, that year saw the amazing drop of British Columbia's Japanese population from 14,716 to 6,776.

Further study of Canada's Japanese disposition reveals some interesting facts (See map on page 11). Prewar figures show British Columbia with 22,683 or 96 per cent of the total, while Ontario has a fraction of 1 per cent. Today, there are an estimated 6,000 remaining in B.C. which is less than 30 per cent of the present total. On the other hand, 7,500 or close to 40 per cent have established their homes in Ontario, two-thirds of them in the city of Toronto.

The earlier groups of evacuees settling in the east encountered more difficulties than the later arrivals. Many did not have friends or relatives whom they could rely upon in case of need. Evacuees were looked upon with mistrust by local citizens. Many doors were slammed in the face of room-seeking Nisei when owners discovered their racial identity. Employers, despite dire labor shortage, were apprehensive about accepting Nisei lest other workers become troublesome. A few who applied for business licenses were flatly refused on apparently racial grounds.

However, this situation could not long endure. Today, every indication points to the conclusion that the Nisei are settling down and establishing permanent homes. A recent survey showed that only 8 per cent indicated a desire to return to the West Coast. Therefore, when the exclusion order is lifted from the Coastal Area in 1949, it is assumed there will be no large-scale movement.

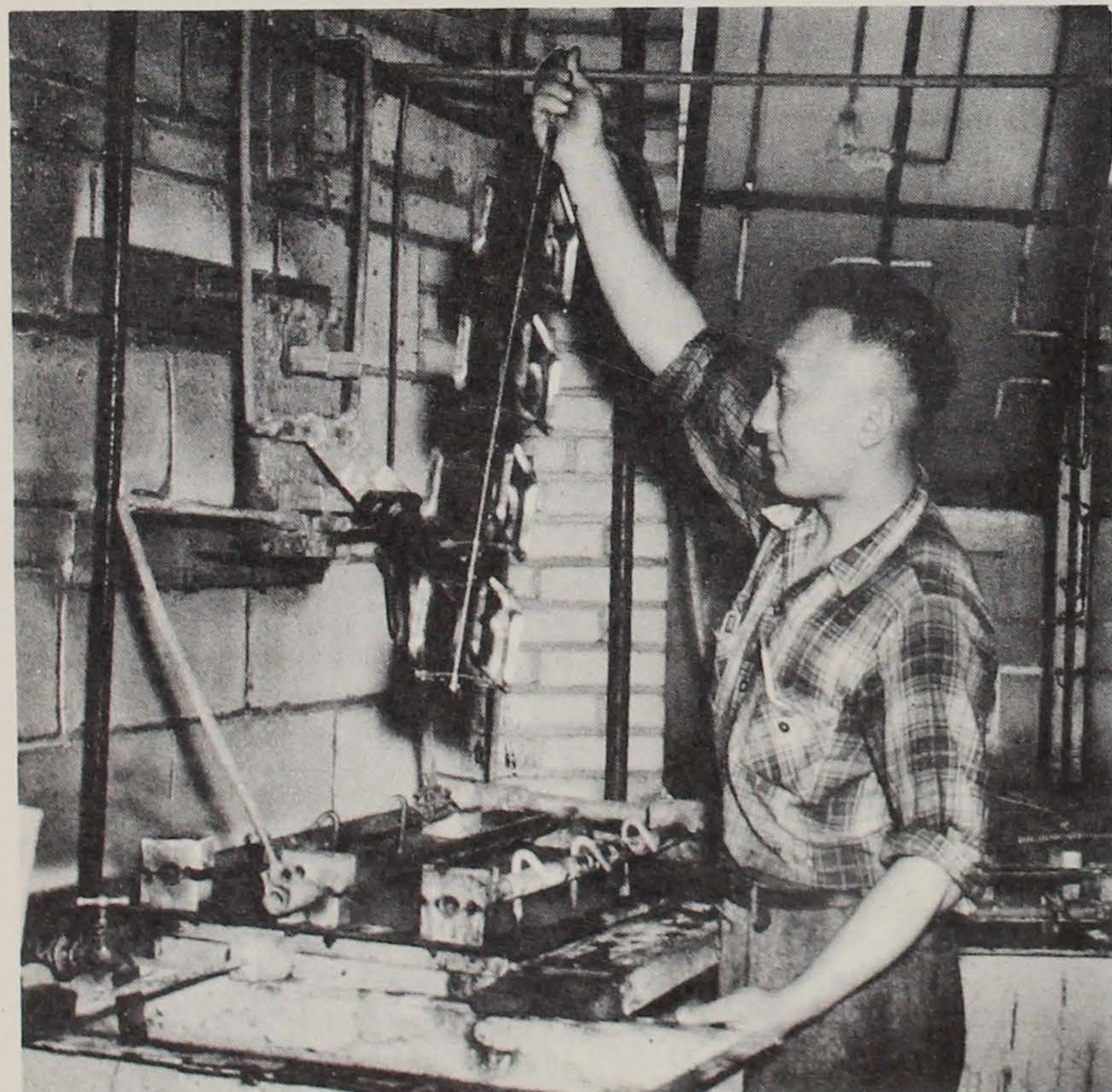
The Canada Story - CONTINUED



NISEI OFFICE WORKER were seldom seen outside of Japanese firms before evacuation. In Toronto now, many girls such as Kuni Noguchi hold office jobs in big business firms.



DESIGNING ENGINEER for a Toronto electrical firm is Roger Ogata. Before joining present firm ten years ago he worked on such odd jobs as houseboy, chauffer, cook.

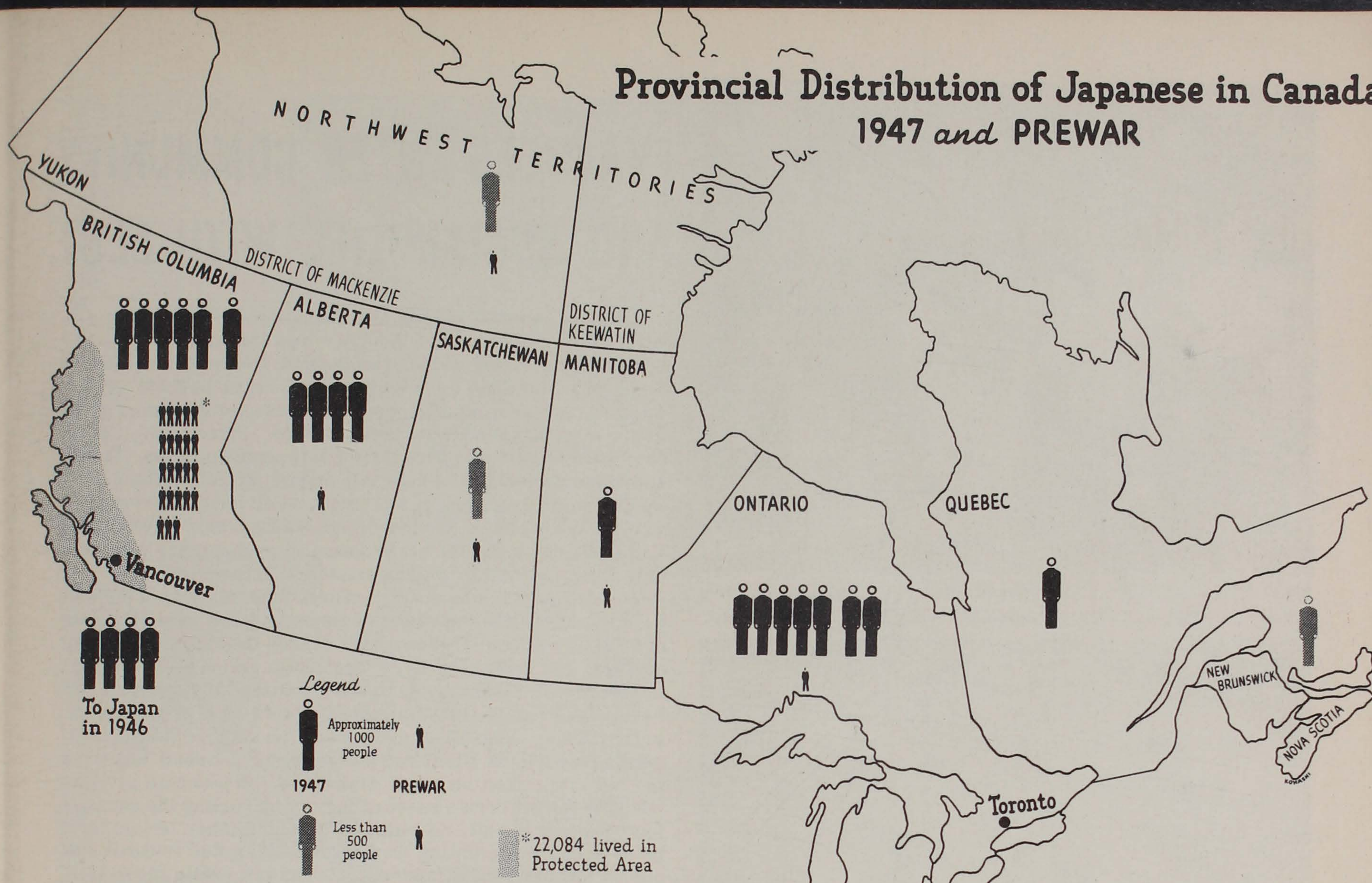


ELECTRO-PLATING job is handled by Kiyoo Tamura who learned work after relocation. All persons on this page were former West Coast residents who came to Toronto.



ARTISTIC TALENT is put to good advantage by Joanne Yatabe who hand-paints designs of her own creation on glassware. Such jobs were scarce for the Japanese on the West Coast.

Provincial Distribution of Japanese in Canada 1947 and PREWAR



TORONTO IS NEW POSTWAR CENTER OF CANADA'S NISEI

Toronto, Ontario, has become the mecca of Canadian Nisei. From a negligible prewar figure of 50 its population has swelled to an estimated 4,500-5,000. Nearly one out of every four Japanese Canadian is a Torontonian, and this eastern metropolis has replaced Vancouver as the city with the largest Japanese-Canadian community.

There are several reasons to account for this heavy influx into Toronto. Being the most industrialized center in all Canada, no other city offers as great a variety of employment. Also the many and varied social attractions in a larger community such as Toronto have appealed to a number of Nisei.

Here with its varied opportunities, the evacuees are to be found in nearly every field of endeavour. A survey conducted by the NISEI VUE revealed that at least 75 per cent of the Nisei are now engaged in an entirely different nature of work. Many have secured positions to fit their aptitude and training. There are Nisei draftsmen, chemists and commercial artists, unheard of before the evacuation. It can be claimed that many have now realized their aspiration as far as professional pursuits are concerned.

Before the war, British Columbia had many barriers. Aside from the limited field of work available, Orientals were barred from numerous vocations, either by law or common practice. To cite a few, they were not admitted to the bar, they could not work underground in mines, they were disallowed from becoming pharmacists, and they were barred from provincial civil service. The general policy of most firms was against the hiring of non-Occidental. Except for those employed by Japanese establishments, there were no Nisei white-collar workers. Thus hindered they had to work as cannery workers, millhands, and fishermen. The women generally found employment as domestics or dressmakers

or were seasonal workers in canneries and on farms.

With employers and fellow-workers alike, the Nisei in their new community has generally created a good impression. Mr. G. Ernest Trueman, the Japanese Placement Officer, has a file of unfilled positions specifically requesting Japanese. These offers are from firms which have had earlier experience with Japanese workers.

An impressive point in the employment picture in Toronto is the high proportion of Nisei girls in offices. A NISEI VUE poll disclosed that about one out of every three employed worked in an office which is surprising in that so far as is known, none has ever worked in a non-Japanese office on the West Coast.

Despite the inflationary upsurge of prices for homes, evacuee families are continuing to buy them, indicating they are seeking security and the permanency of residence in Toronto. At least 200 have been purchased, the majority within the past two years after prices had soared. This investment in homes has brought about a significant trend. Rather than concentrate in certain areas as was the case on the coast, they are dispersing to all sections of the city. This has about eliminated the possibility of a ghetto-like situation, often regarded as one of the factors behind the anti-Japanese agitation in British Columbia.

High costs and lack of accumulated capital have deterred the Japanese-Canadians from setting up businesses in Toronto. As they are more firmly established, however, it is expected there will be an increased number of Nisei businessmen. The outstanding accomplishment of an evacuee in Toronto is an enterprising young Nisei who heads his own record-player manufacturing firm and travels around in his own airplane.



FAVORITE PASTIME is five-pin bowling, Canada's leading indoor sport. Annual tournament is big affair in Toronto.



A NISEI VOTER, Romeo Nakasuji, makes use of newly-acquired franchise, votes in June 7 Ontario provincial elections.



SAFE ON THIRD! The Westerns, a Nisei entry in a local baseball loop, have made good showing and won host of fans.

EVACUEES ENTER COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL LIFE WITH ZEST

Another indication that the Canadian evacuees are re-establishing themselves in Toronto is the many social activities reminiscent of the prewar days. No less than a dozen Nisei organizations have sprung up to cater to their social, religious and recreational needs. Dances averaging nearly one every week and are always well attended. Protestants, Catholics and Buddhists all have their young people's group. During the summer months, a baseball league, girls' softball tilts, and tennis matches are in full swing, while picnics and cruises are always popular. Winter brings skiing treks, weekly bowling tourneys, a basketball league, and probably the first and only Nisei ice hockey loop in existence, into action.

The new settlers have not confined themselves to their own groups. Many are members of their neighborhood churches and Sunday Schools. They have joined unions, community centers, and social, hobby, recreational and other societies. In athletic circles, they have been particularly outstanding. Last year, a Japanese-Canadian played on a professional soccer team. Two Nisei are among the city's ranking table tennis players. A Nisei entry in a senior baseball league is the top attraction on local diamonds. A juvenile pitcher recently made Toronto baseball history by hurling the season's first perfect no-hit, no-run game. On another occasion, a local daily, commenting on a junior tilt, noted that the opposing pitchers were Japanese-Canadians, while the rest of both nines were Caucasians.

Politically, the Nisei are becoming more community-minded as shown by their keen interest in the recent provincial elections. Denied this right in British Columbia,* a very high proportion of the Japanese Canadians went to the polls, the majority for the first time in their lives. Some have even joined political parties and participated in their election campaigns.

** With the exception of ex-servicemen, no persons of Japanese descent in British Columbia may vote in elections. The Chinese-Americans and East Indians were granted the franchise in 1947.*



Though a comparative newcomer in the writing field, Toyo Takata of Toronto came through with a masterful feat in "The Canada Story." A ponderous assignment which required intensive research and survey polls, the story took Toyo six full months to write before the final draft was completed.



IN L.A. FEDERAL COURT, KAWAKITA (BACK TO CAMERA) IS ACCUSED AS HAVING BEEN PRISON CAMP LEADER

THE KAWAKITA CASE

California-born youth goes on trial for treason

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROY HOSHIZAKI

Since the latter part of June for five weeks a stream of former American POWs gave testimony of brutal treatment, not unlike those heard in war-crime trials in Tokyo, in a Federal district court in downtown Los Angeles. In the first treason case to be held in California, 35 ex-POWs recounted acts of brutality allegedly committed by the defendant Tomoya Kawakita, 26 year old and former resident of Calexico, Calif., who was interpreter at the Oeyama prison camp where the witnesses were put to work in the nickel mine and smelter.

Defendant Kawakita is the first Nisei to stand trial for treason against the country of his birth. He went to Japan in 1939 to study. During the war, he served as interpreter at the prison camp. When war ended, he applied for and obtained a passport at the American Consulate in Yokohama

and returned to this country in August, 1946. Last October, he was recognized at a Los Angeles department store by a former prisoner who reported him to the FBI. He was subsequently arrested.

Despite its ominous aspects, the trial appears to take place in an atmosphere of marvelous aplomb and dispassionate attention. The trial, thus far, has been remarkably free of group bias. Of interest is the fact that included in the jury of nine women and three men is a Nisei girl.

The prosecution rested its case on July 22 and the defense opened its arguments with 14 counts still charged against the defendant. The government retained the charge that Kawakita supervised and directed the forced labor of the American prisoners at the labor camp. The 13 other acts alleged abuse and brutal treatment of the prisoners of war by Kawakita.



CHARGED ON 14 COUNTS, THE DEFENDANT CONFERS WITH HIS ATTORNEY, MORRIS LAVINE

UNPANELED JURY VIEWS TREASON TRIAL

BY HARRY HONDA

"VETS RECALL JAP'S CRUELTY"

"NISEI BRANDED PRISON SADIST"

"TEXAS COWBOY DETAILS KAWAKITA TORTURE"

Distracting headlines as these since the middle of June have trifled with well-earned Nisei pride throughout the nation but particularly in Southern California, where a federal trial grapples for front-page prominence.

Everyday, the nightmarish tales of torture recalled by the American prisoners of war who were laboring for three years at the Oeyama prison camp are being read with quietism that is perplexing among the Southland Nisei. It bears out what a prominent Nisei newspaperman, Larry Tajiri, underlined in his column. "It is a tribute to the sacrifices of the Nisei GI's that the Kawakita.....case (is) not considered as reflecting the loyalty of the whole Japanese American population."

The average Nisei-on-the-street here attaches bearable insignificance to the Kawakita treason case. He excused the stress being made by newspaper that it was the trial of a Nisei for the only crime prescribed by the Constitution of the United States.

He catered, instead, to the disadvantage it had placed him temporarily by the subtle annoyance of the press but confident that whatever the outcome, he would still remain secure here.

A curious indifference was apparent from first day of the trial. How distinguishing it is for Miss Susan Nagumo, Nisei stenographer, to be accepted on a federal jury on such an important case as this -- the West's first treason trial! How intruding it is for the Nisei war dead coming home for reburial to find journalistic accounts on the same page as the treason trial! How compelling it is for the average Nisei to reserve the verdict of Tomoya Kawakita to that jury!

There are two topsy-turvy pictures of the Calexico-born Nisei painted by the opposing counsels to consider.

The first is that of a swaggering sadist who brandished a wooden samurai sword and abused American survivors of the Bataan march at Oeyama where Kawakita was employed as an interpreter. This portrayal of a stocky, bespectacled defendant has been presented by U.S. Attorney James Carter who recited 15 overt acts of treason charged in a federal grand jury indictment.

Another entirely different story is that given by

UNPANELLED JURY -CONTINUED

Morris Lavine, defense attorney. His Client was "just a young man born in Calexico who did Boy Scout work in his home town, helped his father in his grocery store and participated in the solicitation of Red Cross funds." After graduation from Calexico Union High School in 1939, he attended Meiji University to study the Japanese language. At the close of the war, young Kawakita appeared at the American Consulate in Yokohama, explained he had elected to assume Japanese citizenship during the war and his case was investigated for two weeks. He was then told that he had not surrendered his U.S. citizenship and that he would be eligible for a passport to the United States.

The position of the defendant is that none of the acts charged by the government constitute treason and that none of them were done with the intent to betray the United States, according to Lavine's opening statements. Kawakita made an election in March of 1943 which made him a Japanese national and that thereafter he owed his allegiance to Japan. Shortly thereafter, he was drafted under a wartime Japanese statute to work as interpreter at a Japanese ore and smelter works in lieu of military service. He was obliged to carry out orders of the Japanese military personnel assigned to run the camp.

Lavine revealed in court that Kawakita not only will deny committing the acts of brutality as charged but expected to prove that he did all he could to help the American POW's obtain needed food and medical attention.

Of sideline interest throughout the trial is the presence of his parents. They sit in the front row of spectators. His father stared ahead throughout the lengthy opening statements by both counsels and the reading of the indictment by the judge. His mother bowed her head as the accusations against her only son were recited.

In the review of the case by the government, the prosecutor declared that Kawakita reaffirmed his American citizenship in applying for passport in September, 1945, when he sought to return to this country. Instead of sticking to his job as interpreter as Fujisawa (another American-born interpreter at the camp) did, Kawakita undertook to act as foreman-supervisor of the laborers, dealt out punishment and was the general "cock-of-the-walk" in Japan.

With this diverse mixture of characterisations, the average Nisei-on-the-street in the Southland, where interest in this trial is continually stimulated by the press accounts, is kept in suspense. Not only the twelve jurors and the two alternates who consider the case in the courtroom, but the panel of unnumbered Japanese Americans outside the courtroom remains undetermined and analytic.

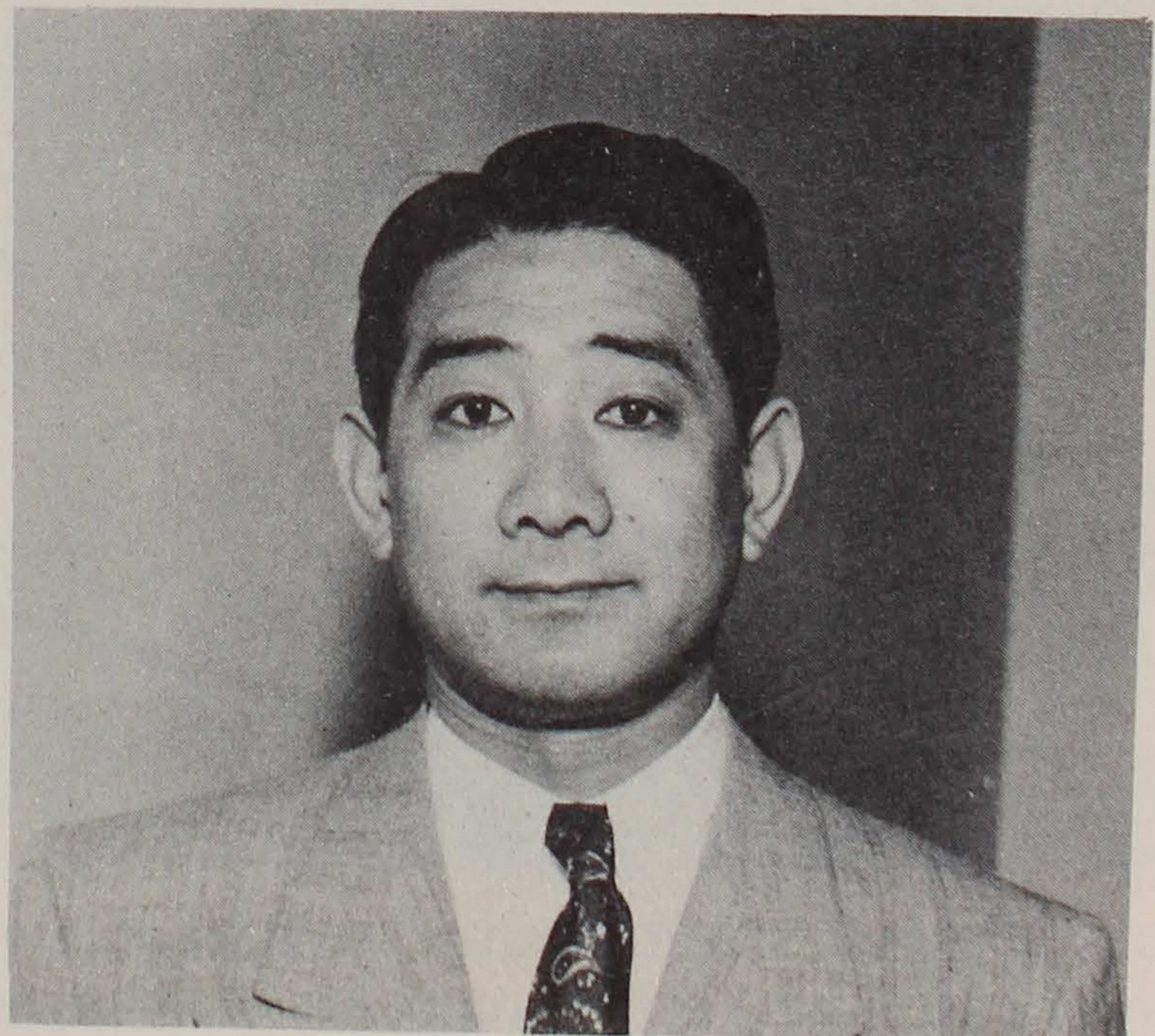
Never before has the statement of Daniel Webster been so profoundly significant to the Nisei in America. "The law: it has honored us; may we honor it.



HIS FAMILY, mother, sister and father (from right to left), are interested sideline spectators.



WITNESSES, former prisoners of war in Oeyama prison camp, testify in court of brutal treatment.



FROM JAPAN, Satoru Mori comes to testify that Kawakita was frozen to his prison-camp job.



POST COMMANDER, Walter Aufderheide of Post No. 4, American Legion, Fresno, Calif., receives United Veteran-sponsored resolutions from Dr. Hugo Okonogi and Y. R. Hiraoka.

UNITED VETERANS OF FRESNO

San Francisco Chronicle's Bob George writes about Nisei vets who don't believe in segregated posts

In December of 1946, a group of Nisei combat veterans of Fresno County took on a "new look." Out of a "bull session" came two agreements which made the United Veterans a reality. First of all, it was agreed that segregated posts of the American Legion or the Veterans of Foreign Wars were not the answer. Secondly, it was agreed that there had to be some way to channel problems common to all the Nisei and action had to begin somewhere.

These Nisei had come back to Fresno proud of their record overseas. They knew how to fight; they were sure that they weren't going to be left out of the veterans' fight, stuck off in some little post on the sidelines waiting to get in, just because they were Nisei. They weren't looking for sympathy or special considerations; they were looking for the respect that their war record demanded.

Fresno County wasn't doing too well in those days. All of the Nisei vets were hot under the collar about the dynamiting that had gone on. A whole lot of people were unhappy about the judge's remarks that this was a "white" man's country. The sheriffs were still stinging under Governor Warren's lashing at their inefficiency. Everyone knew that they hadn't been able to find the marauders who had gone over the countryside trying to burn sheds and houses, firing blindly at people or into homes.

Every vet at the meeting knew that there were two important things to get over to Americans. First, to find the best way to get these organizations to understand how the Nisei felt. Second, to make the Nisei feel a part of any large group. These same problems were being faced by Nisei vets all across the country -- New York, Cleveland, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Walnut Grove, and Lodi. They wanted an answer to the question, "What more could they do to show other Americans how they felt about this country?"

Okonogi, Hiraoka, Nakata, Nakamura, and the rest were sure that the service record of the Fresno County boys counted for something. Eight hundred and sixty-

two boys of Japanese ancestry had gone into the service. They had distinguished themselves with two Distinguished Service Crosses, eight Silver Stars, forty-six Bronze Stars, 236 Purple Hearts, 351 Presidential Unit Citations and twenty-seven had fallen in the service of their country. They owed these boys a lot. So did Fresno County for that matter.

If the other Americans only knew. They knew that there were a lot of things that needed further explanation -- not only to the veterans organization, but to every American. There were the escheat cases, citizenship for the Issei, fishing rights curbed by California law, and others.

This is where the "new look" started. A plan was proposed to get together a group of Nisei veterans, without any real organization, to channel various affairs through the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign War, and the city and county offices. These groups could talk to Congressmen and Senators in their behalf regarding legislative problems, legal cases, and community affairs. The United Veterans would establish a standing committee that will be posted on all current problems affecting the Japanese people and meet only when occasion demanded it.

With the adoption of the "new look" plan, the following results have been recorded since the Spring of 1947:

1. Gained admission for Nisei into the American Legion and the VFW in Fresno.
2. Discussed the repeal of the California fishing laws with Assembly men and Senators.
3. Sponsored a project to have all Issei declare intention of becoming naturalized citizens.
4. Initiated and steered passage of resolution for outright repeal of the Alien Land Law through the American Legion Fresno Post No. 4.
5. Compiled surveys for Congressmen to be used in naming the transport, U. S.S. Munemori
6. Bombarded Congressmen for passage of fair naturalization laws for all people.
7. Appeared before civic and religious groups asking for support in the passage

of legislation helping all Japanese.

8. Brought about unanimous approval by the American Legion Fresno Post No. 4 of a resolution in support of the Judd Bill (the citizenship and naturalization bill).

9. Discussed and are planning a way to aid the aged and indigent Issei in the County.

10. Standing as Honor Guards in memory of their buddies who fell in battle.

One can safely say with Shim Hiraoka, "This job hasn't been easy; but it has given us a chance to show that we want to work with all Americans, no matter what their race, color, or creed may be, in making a place of respect and responsibility for everyone."

It isn't just a Nisei job, and that is why the "new look" has worked so well.

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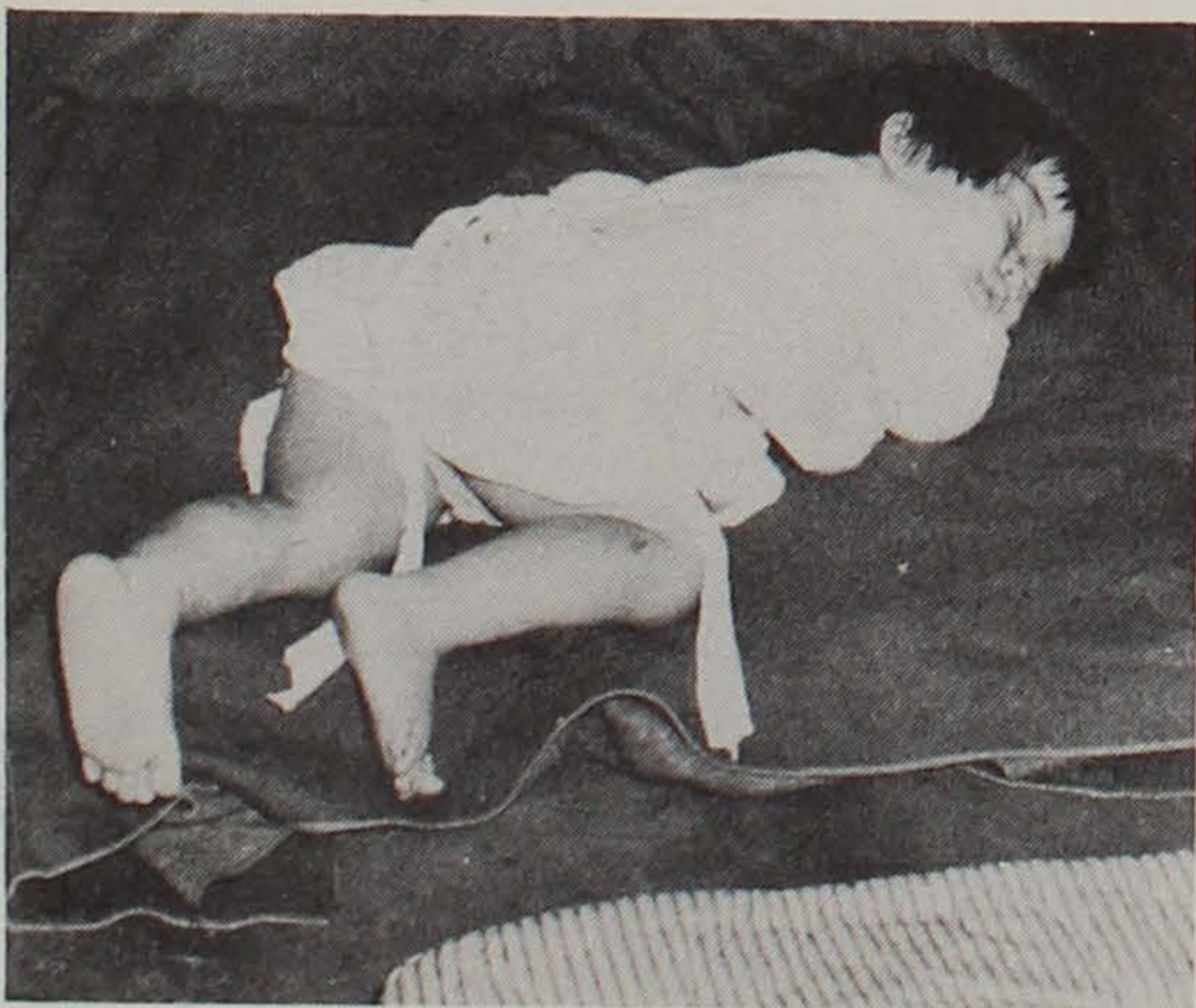
VANPORT FLOOD

Many Japanese hit

In a single day over 300 Japanese American evacuees from relocation centers who had barely settled down to normal living again in Vanport, a 60-acre wartime housing project just outside Portland, Oregon, were stripped of home and belongings. On Memorial Day, the massive Columbia, 15 feet above flood level, broke through a weekend dike and within a few harrowing hours completely wiped out Vanport's jerrybuilt houses. The aggregate toll: 18,700 homeless, three hospitalized, one missing, one dead.

Within a matter of few hours after the disaster struck, Portland area Japanese Americans commenced relief work and contributions of money, food and clothing began to pour in. Portland JACL members worked around the clock aiding the Red Cross and processing the stricken 300 evacuees. Relief drives were begun by Japanese organizations throughout the country. Toshi Kuge, president of the Portland JACL, reported total cash donations of nearly \$7,000 of which \$1,000 was diverted to the Red Cross. The Modern Food Distributors of Los Angeles was one of the first to voluntarily ship in food commodities. Portland churches, hotels and homes provided emergency housing.

Ten days after the Columbia rampage subsided the situation of the Japanese victims was reported well in hand and plans were laid to give the flood evacuees a much-needed boost to reestablish themselves.



SEPARATED from her parents, a little girl sleeps at a Red Cross aid station.



RESCUE WORKERS seek victims of the flood, which ripped through Vanport leaving hundreds of residents homeless and many drowned.

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Sacramento...*

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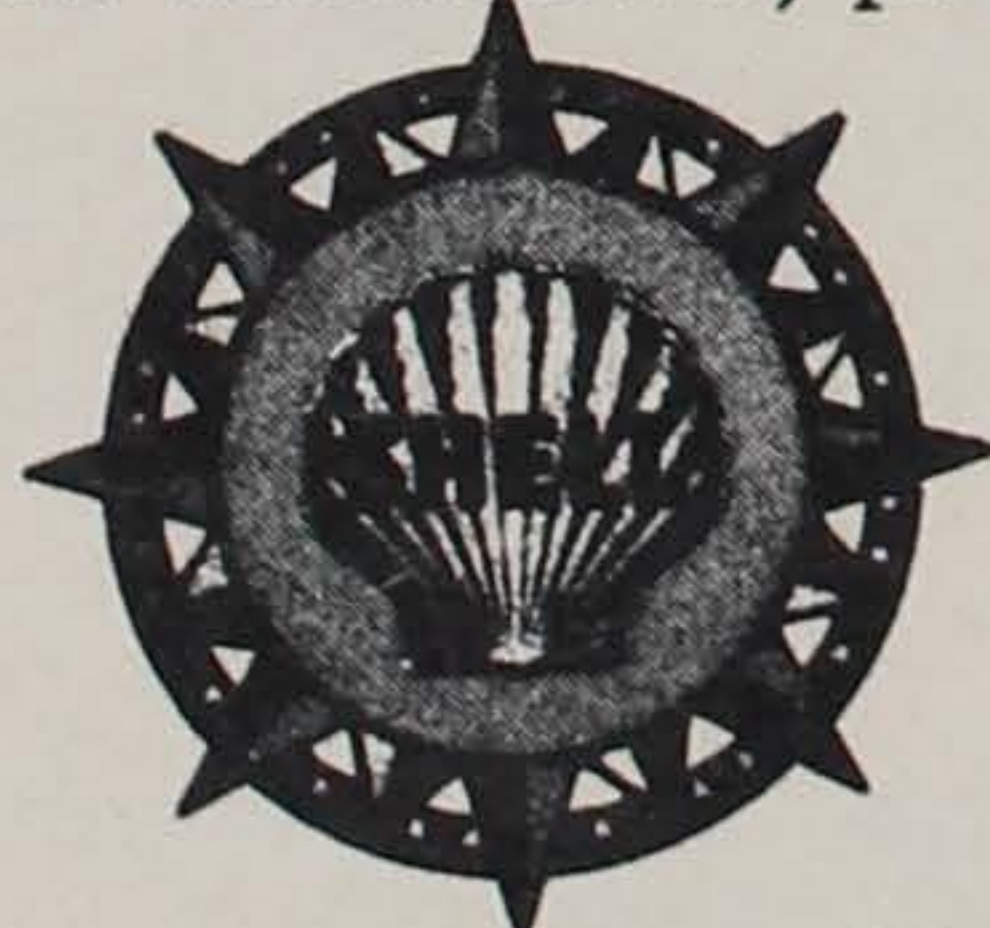
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**WIFE OF EDITOR
OF OREGON NIPPO
IS FLOOD VICTIM**



Mrs. Iwao Oyama (pictured above), 47, wife of the editor of the Japanese weekly Oregon Nippo, was the ninth victim claimed by the flood which completely wiped out Vanport where she had made her home for the past one and a half years. Earlier reported missing, her body was discovered 24 days after the disaster.

A well-educated woman (she graduated the Japanese Women's University in Tokyo) and a social leader in her community ever since she came to the United States in 1922, Mrs. Oyama rarely failed to attend local social gatherings. For the past 26 years she never missed Memorial Day services. But this year she decided not to attend. She was alone at home when the flood struck.

Her husband, unaware of the impending danger, went into Portland without her. After he went to his newspaper office the editor heard about the flood breakthrough over the radio. He called his daughter, Minnie, a registered nurse at Providence hospital, who rushed to Vanport in her car. The entrance to the stricken city was so jammed with traffic she was unable to reach her mother's apartment.

Over 600 Japanese and Caucasian friends attended Mrs. Oyama's funeral services and over 300 telegrams of condolence were received by Mr. Oyama.

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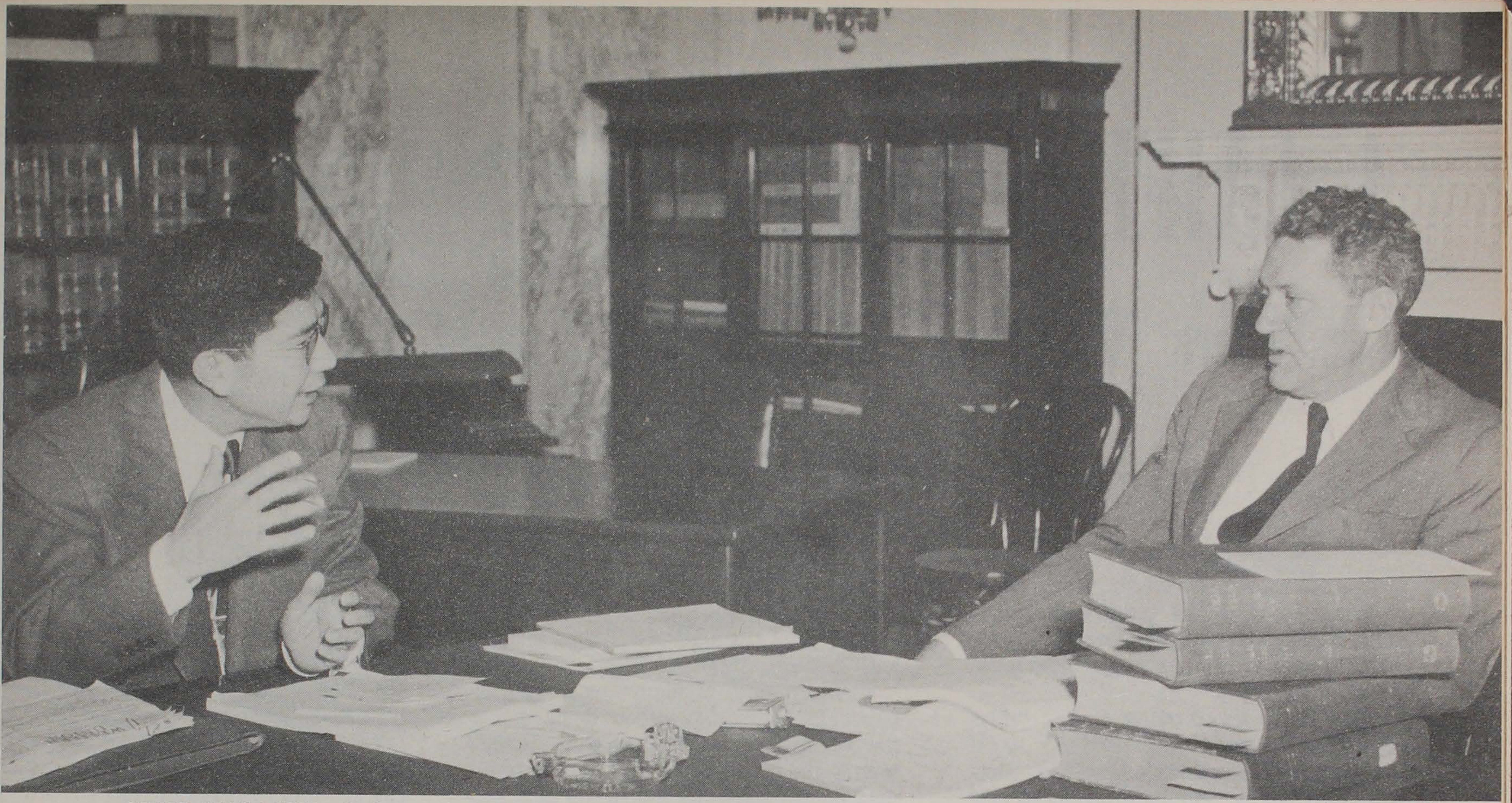
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MIKE MASAOKA strikes a typical pose at an evacuation claims hearing as he discusses the vital bill with Senator John S. Cooper of Kentucky, chairman of the Judiciary subcommittee on evacuation claim.

GOOD NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

Bill for indemnification

of evacuation losses becomes

law after two year battle

When 115,000 Japanese residents were forcibly removed from their West Coast homes in 1942, they suffered an estimated loss of \$200,000,000 worth of business and personal property. Most of the loss was incurred by the average wage-earner and small-business-owner who overnight had to dispose of their property -- either through abandonment or forced sales -- which they could not take with them into detention camps where they were concentrated.

Six years later, a sympathetic Congress unanimously concurred on the bill to rectify the economic injustices borne by the mass evacuation. The measure, which was signed into law by President Truman on July 2, authorized the government to settle damage claims for recovery of part of the loss incurred as a result of the evacuation. Briefly, the Evacuee Claims Act enables an evacuee to win simple compensation -- not to exceed \$2,500 -- without resort to extensive legal procedures. For larger claims it offered relief through Congressional private bills.

The bill took two years before it was finally passed and signed into law. Its successful culmination was a momentous victory of the Japanese American Citizens League, which sponsored the legislation, and its lobbying body (Anti-Discrimination Committee) which pushed the measure in Washington. Their's was a gruelling battle against an overbearing, jam-packed docket which narrowed the Congress down to pre-occupation with high-priority measures. Despite the recognized merits and justice of the evacuation claims bill, it was snowed under in the 79th Congress and narrowly missed a similar fate in the 80th Congress. Passage came only 15 hours before adjournment. Due to the flood of bills sent to the White House for signature on the closing day of the Congress, the President's signature to the evacuation bill was appended only 15 minutes before midnight of the ten-day deadline allowed.



MOST HELPFUL to the JAACL legislation was Representative Francis E. Walter of Pennsylvania mapping out strategy here with Mas Satow (national JAACL secretary) and Mike Masaoka.

A UNIFIED NISEI VOTE ?

"There ain't no such animal!"

by TOGO W. TANAKA

A well known Chicago Nisei, who swings a lot of weight in his own bailiwick, has deserted the Democratic Party after 16 years. He has registered as a Republican.

"Why?" we asked out of dinner-table curiosity.

His answer was a little involved. But patching together the main pieces of his dissertation, we got this impression. His close associates, his new Chicago friends, his cronies in the local service club -- all march in the G.O.P. column. He just naturally fell into step.

A little known Nisei, who smooths out dented fenders in a westside Chicago garage and who is roundly liked by his grease-smearred chums because he minds his own business, says he's going to vote for President Truman.

"Well," he says, "everyone else around here is Democrat. The Democrat Party is for us working people."

Did he listen to the Democratic Convention? No, he scarcely knew that Alben Barkley was Truman's running mate.

"Are you a Republican too?" we asked our amiable Nisei table companion to the right at a recent meeting.

Such a leading question can be gratuitous annoyance at times.

"No," he said patiently, "I'm a Wallaceite."

Thereupon he offered a brief description of the brisk, plain unadulterated honesty of the Progressive Party platform which had been announced that day at the new party's Philadelphia convention.

"Aren't you concerned about being associated with Communists?"

"No. They've a constitutional right to express themselves too."

Our friend is not a long-haired denizen of smoky intellectual garrets. He is a business man -- a real estate operator -- a relocatee from the far northwest, and a veteran of some of the 442nd's fiercest engagements.

"Indeed, a Republican year," we suggested, "are you going G.O.P. too?"

He caught the jibe and tossed it back with dexterous aplomb.

He is minister to many a staunch Republican. He is also without doubt one of the outstanding young Protestant clergymen in the midwest. People come from neighboring states for hundreds of miles around to hear him preach.

His private politics, it seems to us, runs considerably left of the G.O.P. center.

However, he does not vote, for technical reasons, being a citizen of another land, but he wields great influence among people who do. He inclines to favor Norman Thomas and Tucker Smith, the Socialist Party team.

And so it goes in '48 among the Nisei.

Even a cursory sampling of political preferences among the limited circle of one's own friends and acquaintances will reveal the wide dispersal of party loyalties among the Nisei.

You can confirm this impression on a national scale by classifying and cross-indexing Nisei political views as they crop up in the Japanese American press in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland, Seattle, Salt Lake, Denver, Chicago, and New York.

The Nisei Vote is a first-class myth and delusion. It is sliced in so many

ABOUT THE

Author

GUEST WRITER, Togo W. Tanaka holds the position of Senior Editor at the American Technical Society. He is featured columnist for both the Colorado Times and the L.A. weekly, Crossroads.

ways, and divided by so many issues, that it is as nonexistent as something a man from Mars might foolishly call the American Vote. There ain't no such animal.

You'll find vehement evidence of this fact in the political torpedoes now being launched by the Republicans at the Democrats, the Democrats at the Progressives (Wallaceites), the Socialists at all three, and the Southern Rump party at everybody.

The divided character of party affiliations and political opinions among the Nisei in '48 has produced a lively partisanship. Political activity has risen far above the apathetic prewar levels.

Even the somewhat innocuous and colorless pages of some Japanese American journals have suddenly become the slightly raucous marketplace of competing political hucksters.

Lately the persistent press releases of the Nisei Wallaceites have been competing for space, attention, and acceptance with the somewhat more ponderous efforts of the bludgeon-wielding Nisei Republicans.

As we go into the final lap of the shrill season, look to the Democrats, the Republicans, the Wallaceites, and the Socialists among the Nisei to step up the pace of their contest against each other to win the undecided Nisei vote.

A social psychologist or perhaps a psychiatrist might find more than passing fancy in scrutinizing the nature of the campaign appeals that each group makes to snag the wandering voter.

Even more than the average citizen, the Nisei in '48 has been made vote-conscious by the unprecedented number of bills affecting Japanese Americans, which were passed by the 80th Congress.

The spectacular performance of the Nisei who represent Japanese American wartime claims in Washington has aroused the Nisei from New York to Los Angeles to the importance and value of the vote.

This same performance has united them behind certain common objectives, such as equal naturalization rights for the Issei.

But this unifying experience has not even begun to bring the Nisei together in their opinions as to which political party will do the most to help achieve those objectives.

Thus, in November the Nisei will vote Republican; they will vote Democrat; they will vote Progressive; they will vote Socialist. They may even vote Vegetarian. But it looks like more of them will get out and vote than ever before.



J.A.C.L. Queen Contest

**'Miss JACL, 1948'
will be selected
from nine finalists**

Miss Venice shown here and eight other regional Nisei queens are the finalists who will compete in the third and last round of the nip-and-tuck Japanese American Citizens League's Queen Contest to be held on Sept. 4 at the League's Tenth Biennial Convention in Salt Lake City. Selection of "Miss JACL 1948" and her two attendants will bring to a close six colorful months of keen competition carried out throughout the country.

MISS VENICE J.A.C.L. is Miyoko Nishi, 19 and a student of dress designing. She weighs 98 pounds and stands 5 ft. 1 in.



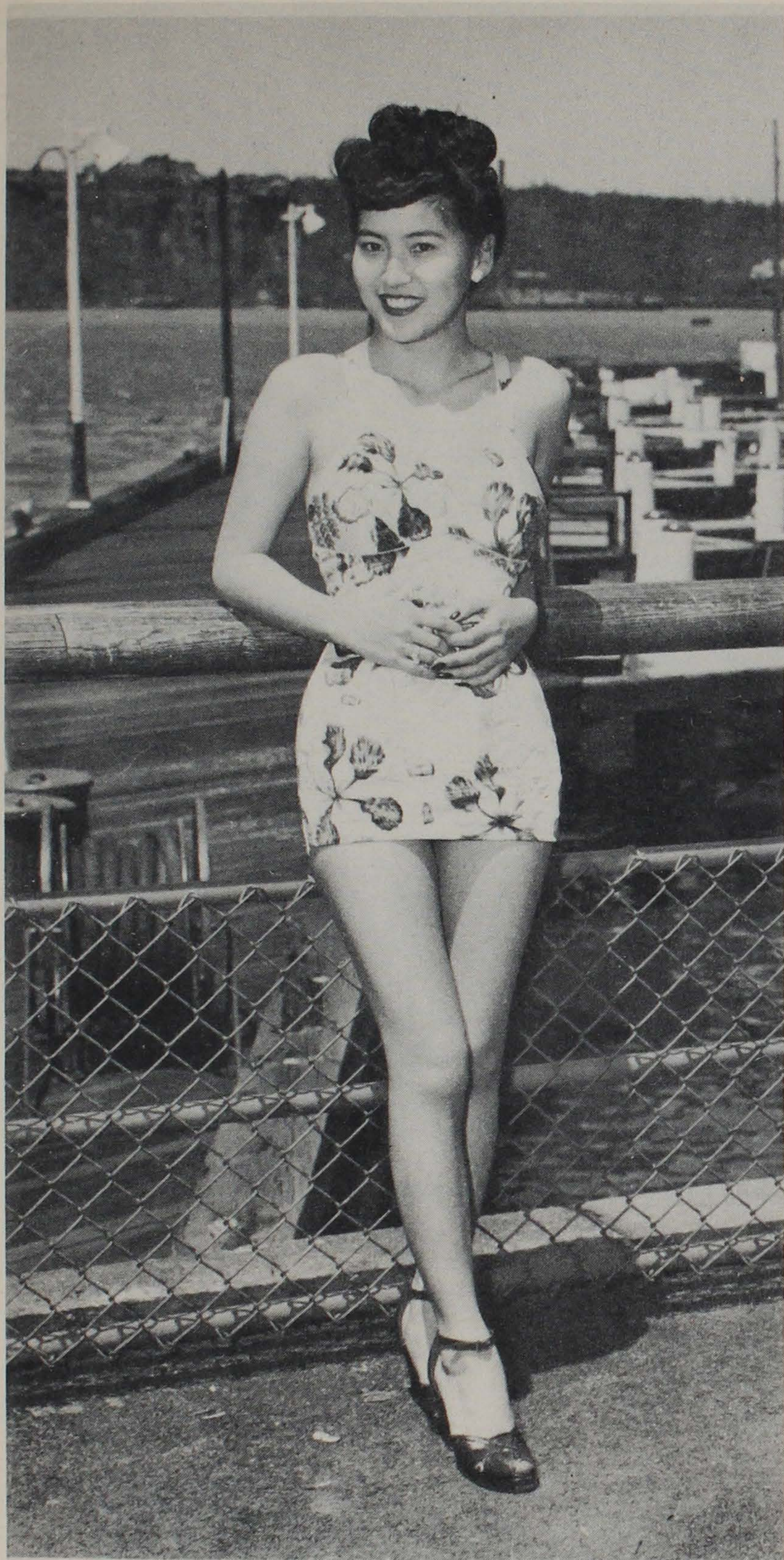
MISS CHICAGO J.A.C.L. is 20 year old, Julie Yoshioka, 5 ft. 2 in. and 112 pounds. Employed by dress shop in Chicago loop.



MISS PORTLAND J.A.C.L. is 5 ft. 2 in., Helen Kinoshita, 22. A lyric soprano, she is a talented singer. Works as secretary.

JACL BEAUTY

Nine regional winners will vie for honors on Sept. 4



MISS NEW YORK J.A.C.L. is Waseda International Institute graduate, Shina Kozai, age 23, 5 ft. 1 in. and 105 pounds.



MISS SALT LAKE CITY J.A.C.L. is 26 year old beautician, Rose Oda. She is 5 ft. 2 in. and weighs 108 pounds.

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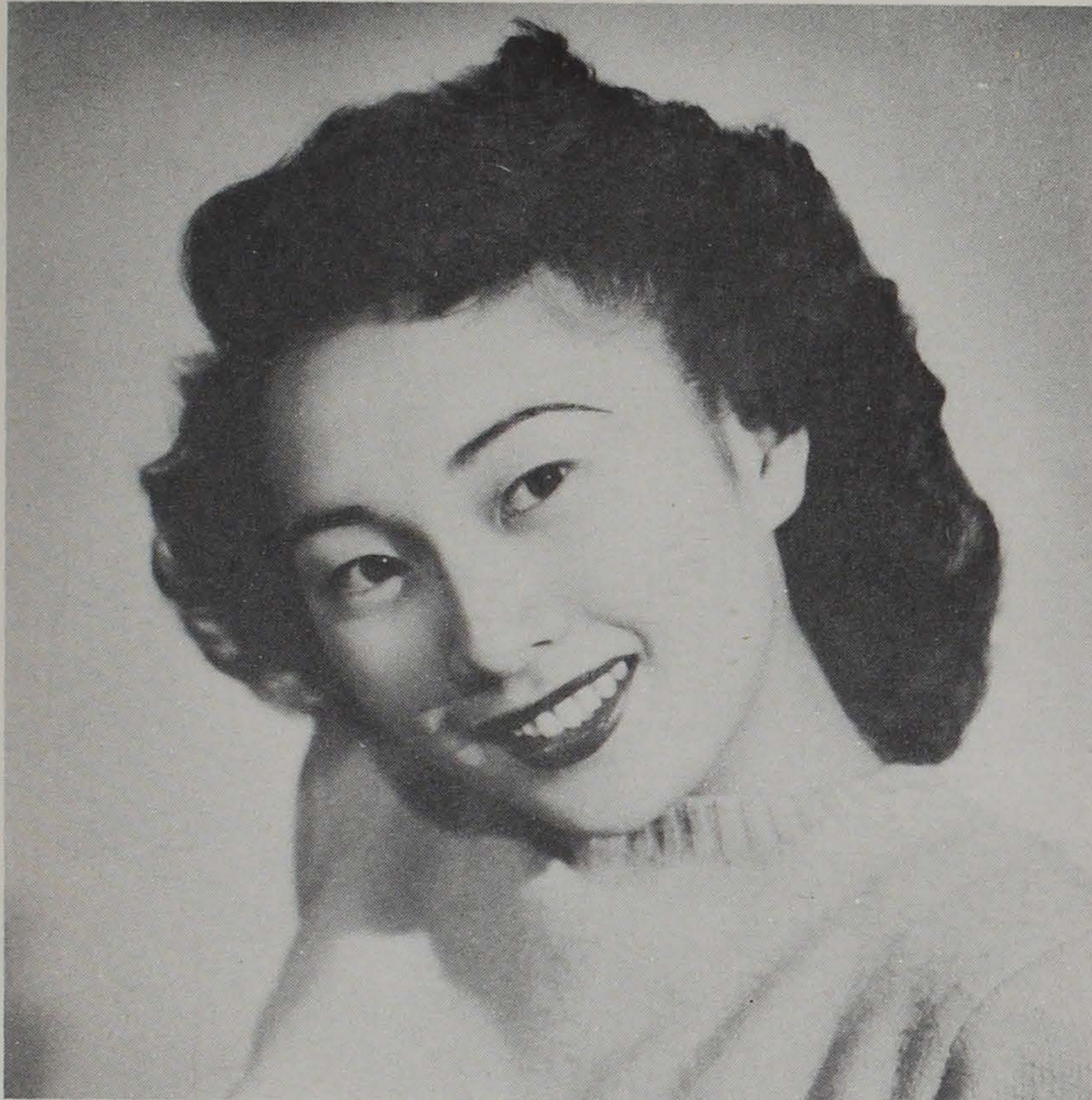


MISS LOS ANGELES J.A.C.L. is 20 year old June Yoshimoto, who stands 5 ft. 2 in. She's studying to become a beautician.



MISS OGDEN J.A.C.L. is stenographer, Elsie Yoshida, 24. 5 ft. 3 in. and 105 pounds, she was born in Reliance, Wyoming.

FINALISTS

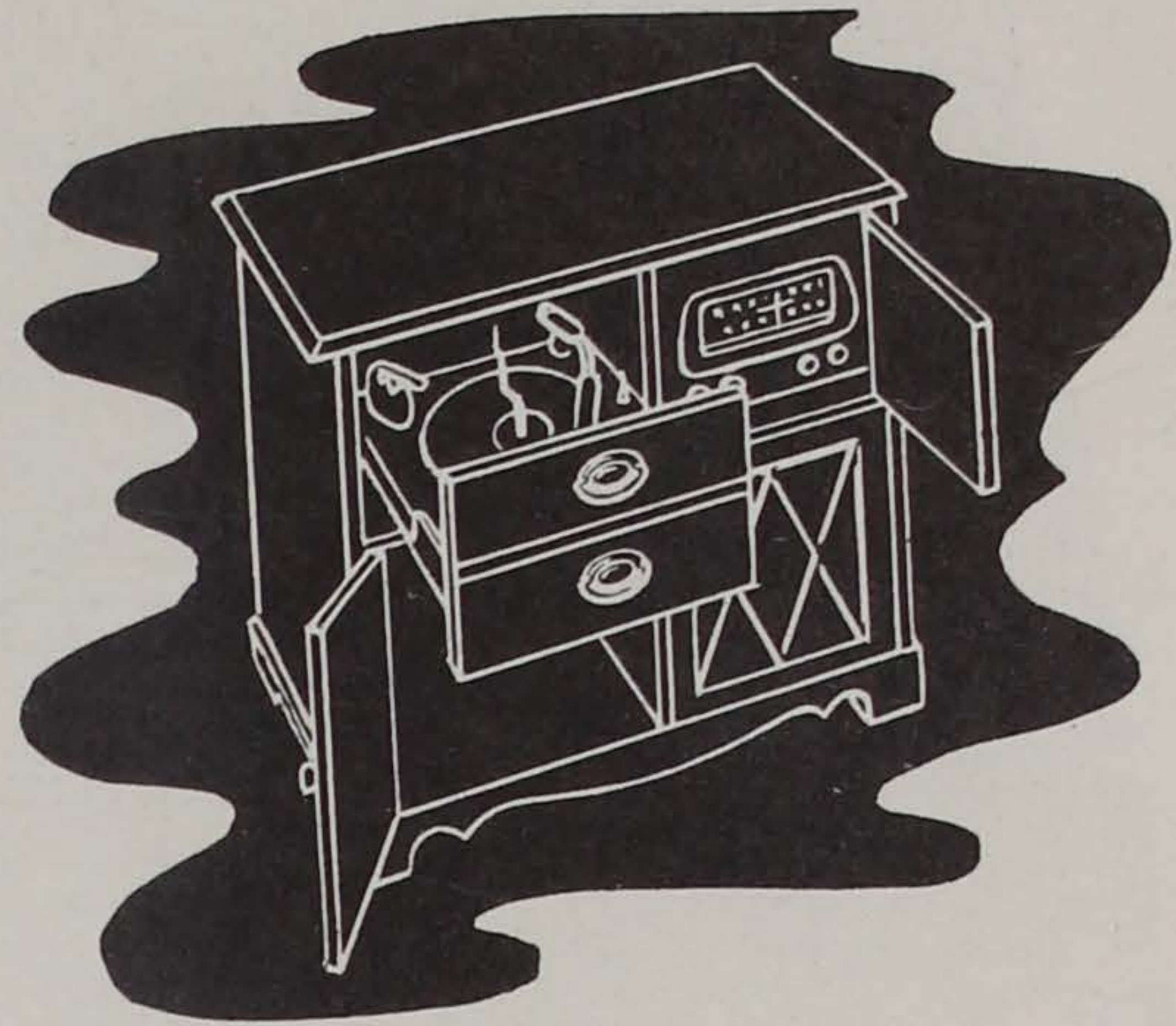


MISS DENVER J.A.C.L. is California-born, Rose Shiramizu, 18. A stenographer, she's 5 ft. 2 in. and weighs 104 pounds.



MISS POCATELLO J.A.C.L. is Betty Tominaga, age 21. Employed as a secretary, she stands 5 ft. 1 in. and weighs 105.

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Europe applauds Ballet star

LILLI ANN OKA

Of the thousands of young, starry-eyed girls, who aspire to become ballerinas each year, only a tiny percentage actually succeed in earning the coveted distinction. Only two Japanese-Americans thus far have carved sizeable niches for themselves in this artistic field. One is the well-known Sono Osato, who is currently starring on Broadway in the role of "Cocain Lil." The other is Lilli-Ann Oka, who this June began her second season with the newly organized Grand Ballet de Monte Carlo. Both are artists of the Russian ballet.

Miss Oka's fame is in the ascendancy particularly among European ballet lovers. During the past year which saw Lilli-Ann's maiden debut before the European footlights as a permanent member of a ranking ballet troupe, the Oriental ballerina danced her way into recognition as one of the most promising of younger artists of Russian ballet.

The great moment for the attractive Oakland-born dancer came last June in New York when she was invited by the Marquis de Queves to become a member of the Grand Ballet de Monte Carlo -- composed of the great artists of, Russian ballet in New York and Paris. Their maiden performance was presented at the Palace of Monte Carlo before the Prince of the Principality of Monaco. Hereafter during the ensuing months, Lilli-Ann performed in the top playhouses of France, Belgium, Holland, Portugal and Spain. The troupe's first season ended this April.

Lilli-Ann began her ballet training at the age of ten at the suggestion of friend who saw her do a Japanese classic dance. Her training interrupted by the war, she relocated to Chicago where her friend Sono Osato introduced her to Berenice Holmes, Sono's first teacher and one of the outstanding ballerinas in America. Miss Holmes was pleased by what she saw. Not only did she offer Lilli-Ann a full scholarship at her studio, but she trained her personally for two years. Lilli-Ann was continuing her studies in New York when she was invited to join the Grand Ballet de Monte Carlo.

The young ballerina's first public appearance was in Chicago with the Metropolitan Opera Troupe. She and three others were selected from over 300 applicants to fill four openings. By the time she appeared with the Madame DuBarry musical comedy show Lilli-Ann was attracting the attention of the critics. Just before signing up with her present troupe, Lilli-Ann was one of the ten selected to perform in elaborate Classical Ballet presentation at the Lewisohn Stadium in New York City.

EXOTIC ORIENTAL BEAUTY and her symmetrically perfect ballet legs have made Lilli-Ann an outstanding figure in many ballet numbers.



A MEMBER of the Grand Opera de Monte Carlo troupe, Lilli Ann Oka has made hit appearances in such famous European landmarks as the Paris Opera House (above).



VICHY FRANCE and Lilli Ann pauses to look at the street sign. Her second year in Europe, she has now become accustomed to its novelties.



PALACE OF MONTE CARLO, where the ballet star danced before the Prince of the principality of Monaco.



PFC FUMITAKE NAGATO AND PFC SABURO TANAMACHI OF THE 44ND. ARE LAID TO REST AT THE ARLINGTON

NISEI HEROES BURIED AT

**Two 442nd PFC's are the first Nisei
to be interred at the shrine
of national heroes**

On June 4, on the green slopes of the Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, the nation paid an unprecedented tribute to two Nisei privates who gave their lives for their country in World War II. Over one hundred of the nation's highest civilian and military dignitaries, including Gen. Jacob L. Devers, Chief of Army Field Forces, came to pay final homage that day to Pfc Fumitake Nagato of Los Angeles and Pfc Saburo Tanamachi, first persons of Japanese ancestry to be interred in the 84-year old history of this shrine of national

heroes. Both soldiers who volunteered for service were killed in action on October 29, 1944 while engaged in the famed 442nd Japanese American Regimental Combat Team's historic rescue of the "lost battalion" of the 36th (Texas) Division from a trap in the Vosges Mountains of eastern France. In this fierce five-day battle fought in freezing weather, the 442nd lost 200 killed and 800 wounded before they penetrated a virtually inaccessible wooded area and rescued 189 men who remained of the lost battalion.

Though the reinterment at Arlington was conducted for two men, the impressive funeral rites and eulogies symbolized a fitting tribute to all of the Nisei soldiers both deceased and living. Over 33,000, many of them volunteering from relocation camps, fought in World War II, about half in the Pacific against the Japanese enemy and the other half in Europe slugging their way up the Italian "boot." They suffered 5,000 casualties. The 442nd Combat Team, to which the two heroes belonged, is recognized as probably the most decorated unit in U.S. military history. Its 13,000 members won over 9,000 combat medals and seven distinguished unit citations. In 120 days of combat in Italy and France the 442nd suffered 9,486 killed and wounded.



NATIONAL CEMETERY (I.N.P. Photo by R.H. Brockhurst)

ARLINGTON



MILITARY SALUTE is accorded the many heroes who have recently returned from the battlefields. Many Japanese communities went to great lengths to see that their heroes were given full honors.

LOS ANGELES Photos by
ROY HOSHIZAKI



AT LOS ANGELES, Pfc. George Gushiken, 27, who was killed in action in France, is accorded full military honors. The hero, a member of the famous 442nd. Regimental Combat Team, once lived in Okinawa for nine years. Among dignitaries present at his service were Mayor Fletcher Bowron, Col. Neville Grow, and Sergeant Hideto Tanaka, who accompanied the body from the Oakland Q.M. depot.



CARE via CARE's special service Oriental Food Package can now be shipped to Japan

The nourishing batch of groceries shown above comprises the contents of the special Oriental Food Package assembled by CARE (Co-operative for American Remittances to Europe, Inc.) which U.S. citizens can now send to Japan, Korea and Okinawa. Weighing 29 pounds (seven pounds over present maximum weight allowed international mail packages), the relief parcel contains 19 items which were selected specifically to meet the needs and food tastes of the Oriental recipients. Complete cost, including guaranteed delivery, is \$10.00, duty-free.

For the first time since the war end, individuals wishing to send relief food parcels to the Orient can take advantage of the giant assembling and distribution system of CARE which in 1947 alone shipped 4,000,000 packages of food and clothing to 2,500,000 European families.

Contents

Rice	5 pounds
Flour	2 pounds
Kidney Beans	1 pounds
Miso	2 pounds
Shoyo	1 pint
Vegetable Oil	24 ounces
Peef in natural juice	15 ounces
Canned Fish	15 ounces
Apricots	1 pound
Raisins	1 pound
Egg Powder	8 ounces
Cocoa	8 ounces
Milk Powder	1 pound
Sugar	2 pounds
Salt	1 1/2 pounds
Soup Concentrate	1 3/4 ounces
Soap	6 ounces
Washcloth	1 only
Chocolate	8 ounces

CARE's service provides rapid and assured delivery without risk of loss of theft. CARE buys food by carloads, packages them and delivers them by shiploads. The donor merely sends the name and address of the addressee together with \$10.00 to any CARE office located in all the major cities. (It is advisable to consult the directory for correct address before making remittance.) The order is handled by a staff of specialists familiar with foreign languages, countries and cities, and a duplicate is sent by airmail to overseas offices which delivers the package. A signed receipt is then returned to the donor.

The first shipment of 10,000 food packages are now in Japan ready for delivery. Special clothing packages, which already are being sent to Europe, are expected to be added to the Orient program in the future-



ROSEMARY YASUI POSES PRETTILY IN THE KEN MAZAWA-INSPIRED SARONG OF DRAPERY LEFTOVERS

A SARONG

Is photographer's idea of
how to keep cool . . .

It doesn't take much to inspire NV's photographer-artist, Ken Mazawa. In this instance, it was a couple of yards of drapery leftovers. And draped on Rosemary Yasui, 15 year-old high schooler, it became a sarong -- makeshift, but attractive.

Thus, surrounded by a throng of spectators, Rosemary posed on the rocky

beaches of Chicago's lake-front, while Mazawa clicked away to his heart's content. Fastened together by only a few pins strategically placed, the sarong was definitely not of bathing suit calibre; however, as one witness commented while watching the posing model, "Taint much to wear maybe, but oh how it looks!"

Cool Ideas

Here's how the girls
kept cool
during Summer



The water is fine! Sue wears a light cream two piece elastic suit with green shark designs. To match is a gigantic towel which you can wrap around or spread out and lie on.

Photos by

JACK IWATA
Los Angeles, Calif.



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THE NISEI COME OF AGE

They're maturing in political, economic and social realms

By ELMER R. SMITH

The Nisei in America have upon the basis of cold statistics "come of age" as Americans. The majority of the Nisei are now in their 20th year or more, making them an active and legal member within a society along with millions of other persons of various breeds and births. The reports published before 1940, on the whole, listed the Nisei as a mere statistical figure to be included in a table listed as "American born Japanese." One may still find such figures published within recent years, but by and large there is much more recognition given the Nisei than previously. They have graduated from the vital statistics class to become Americans who live and die and make news in the process of being citizens. The answer for this change in status has been too often stated to be repeated here; we will be more interested in what the Nisei themselves may consider some basic problems as participating members of a large society and what some of them are doing about it. The time seems ripe for such an analysis and to view the broader meaning of "coming of age."

Many Nisei see themselves as having settled into a specific pattern of behavior within their community. They are willing to follow this pattern of behavior very much as a calm river is channeled between its well defined banks. A minority of Nisei feel that to be settled in such a pattern may become and is a dangerous thing; others seem to hold to the view that such a position is the safest condition in these rapidly changing times. Let us analyze some of the factors and points of view.

The present seem to be a period of political dilemmas, with various forces vying with each other for control of not only American political and economic life, but for much of the world as well. Many of the Nisei, inexperienced with the political maneuvering of party politics, have taken the attitude that it is none of their business as to what goes on in elections; they are but a small minority after all. As a result of this type of thinking and inexperience with political activities on a community scale, many Nisei have either refused to register, vote or take part in an active manner in political problems of their communities. This is not to suggest that all Nisei are thus inactive, there are outstanding exceptions to this statement, but it is safe to say that too many Nisei are classed as non-political minded. Here is a test as to whether the Nisei have "come of age" or not; to the present time it is very doubtful if they can pass this test as thoroughly as they might if each person recognized the duty placed upon him or her to carry out to the fullest the right given to participate in a democracy through political activities and interests. The Nisei, perhaps more than

any other group, should realize what a guarantee of civil rights means; it is high time they seriously considered how to enlarge and more adequately protect these basic civil rights of protection of the person, property, and equal representation before the law to all persons regardless of race, creed, color or national origin. Each Nisei can do something about this by becoming more political minded and politically active.

The economic sphere of activity within the United States has for the Nisei been fairly well conquered. Nisei are found in every conceivable type of economic activity, be that activity general labor, vocational or professional. The concentration of Nisei in unskilled work would be a hazard to future employment prospects. It would also mean that the Nisei's chances not only of getting ahead, but of keeping any employment at all would be greatly restricted. The interests of the Nisei are, however, often fairly narrow in relation to an overall participation in the economic life of a given community. It is realized that discrimination and to some degree segregation still keeps the Nisei on a marginal status relative to some types of economic participation, but this does not call for a refusal to join in other economic group activities when the opportunity is offered. It is through this process of expanding acceptance that one finally breaks into many other groups who previously held barriers against the Nisei. This does not intend to carry the implication that Nisei economic organizations need be eliminated, any more than it means that any specific group needs to have its specific organization eliminated, but it does imply that to participate in and belong to a Nisei organization alone is not enough to make the Nisei really "of age" in our complex economic world. The Nisei in this very rapidly developing economic revolution in which we find ourselves are called upon to share equally with all others the economic responsibilities not only on a local and national basis but upon an international one as well. This responsibility can be filled by broader participation within the various economic organizations, and by taking a wider interest in total economic problems and their suggested solutions. This is a measure of how effectively one "comes of age." This is not to imply that all Nisei are economically self-centered, but it does mean that all Nisei, all Americans, need to ask themselves to what extent they are participants in the directing of the economic life of the nation.

The social life of the Nisei is perhaps one of the most complex of all experiences involved in the "coming of age." It is here that we find specific individual experiences, early training and personal philosophy playing a very great part in the conduct of the individual. It is not for any one person to evaluate the rightness or wrongness of another's social activities and philosophy unless that activity or philosophy endangers the rights of others; that be as it may, it seems imperative that at this time some problems and basic principles should be presented as they reflect upon the social activities of the Nisei. It

About the Author:



ELMER R. SMITH, assistant professor in anthropology at the University of Utah and a fellow of the American Anthropological Association, is a contributor to the scientific journals and race relation publications.

During 1944-45, he was community analyst at the War Relocation Center in Hunt, Idaho. Later, he acted as consultant to the Department of Interior on the Japanese Resettlement Study. He conducted a survey of the Nisei in Seattle, Washington for the YWCA and the YMCA, and was recently given a grant by the Viking Foundation to conduct a similar study in the state of Utah.

Perhaps, an interesting sidenote would be that he is a member of the Pacific Citizen Bowling Team in Salt Lake City and bowls in the regular JACL weekly league. He held one of the ten top averages in the league. On bowling nights, he is referred to as "Elmermoto."

is realized that there are, on the whole, two schools of thought among the Nisei on how, when, and where Nisei should participate in social activities within their over-all community. One school of thought is the "assimilationist", the other the "Nisei group participationists."

The "assimilationists," among whom there are a fairly large number of Nisei of prominence, seem to hold to the idea that every Nisei must, during most of his or her social activities, be in a group where no Nisei are present or at best only a very small number. Further, they frown upon any sort of Nisei organization for the carrying out of the satisfaction of social

desires. The "assimilationist" also would have the Nisei become completely divorced from any sort of Japanese culture of whatever form or vintage.

The "Nisei group participationists," on the other hand, hold to the view that in a community where there are a fairly large number of Nisei, it is impossible for them to gain access to groups that are congenial to them, especially where in some activities, such as bowling, there is discrimination against non-Caucasian participation. They also argue that in our present society, by and large, non-Caucasians are eliminated from marriage with Caucasians; thus it becomes important, if not imperative, that the Nisei have groups made up of members of the opposite sex for the purpose of making acquaintances that may lead to courtship and marriage. People desire to feel at home in social groups; thus argue the exponents of this philosophy, one prefers to be in a group where he or she will be sure of being accepted and respected, and this can be expected more in a Nisei group than in a Caucasian one.

It seems to the writer that neither of these positions need to be taken and carried out in order to "be of age" in American society. I have stated elsewhere that "acculturation comprises those changes produced in a culture by the influence of another culture which results in an increased similarity of the two . . . it is a two-way process of the taking on of culture by individuals through contact and the making of the necessary adjustments and accommodations to one another's culture on the part of all groups and individuals concerned." This can be done by having organizations of one's own specific group and also by participating in the broader and more general activities of other groups. All must realize that the culture of the United States is made up of a large number of foreign cultural elements. It is doubtful if one could say that there has ever developed a highly particularized American type of culture to which all and everything must rigidly conform. The "national culture" of America has remained fluid, and the succeeding waves of foreign influences, instead of being utterly suppressed, have been free to blend and fuse with other cultural aspects found in America. With this principle in mind, it seems logical that the Nisei, with their bi-cultural environment inherited from their family and "semi-Japanese" environment, should not be radically different from other ethnic groups in a like position in America. The Nisei, in the opinion of the writer, are making out a process of acculturation of their own through the use of such elements in their cultural tradition inherited from their family background as are as meaningful to them in the total culture of America. The individual or group which unites in itself the heritage of more than one culture is one of the most important vehicles of social evolution and progress. The Nisei by taking neither of the radical roads previously listed are showing that they are indeed "coming of age" in the framework of the American tradition.

It is the duty of the new world, born out of an age of revolution and struggle, to reinterpret the meanings of the rights of man, a reinterpretation which must relate these rights to the rights of groups. Justice, law and freedom must be the compass bearings upon which we embark upon our exploration of the new social frontier, working intelligently with all other groups and individuals desirous of a "new birth of freedom." All of us have the responsibility to create the opportunity of growth and expansion for ALL the human beings who make up a people, and who participate in the virtues of a "free world." It is with this in mind that the immortal words of Abraham Lincoln come to mind. He said: "The dogmas of a quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present . . . As our case is new, so we must seek anew and act anew . . . We must disenthral ourselves . . ." The disenthralment from the dead hand of the past is the process of "becoming of age." I believe the Nisei in the United States, even with some short-comings, have entered that age!

NISEI in the NEWS

These personalities
figure in the news

Ensign Yoshiko Tanigawa

In their last July 27th issue, Look magazine "applauded" Ensign Yoshiko Tanigawa in their "Look Applauds" section. The pretty, Roseville, California-born Nisei girl is the first and only nurse of Japanese ancestry to be commissioned as a member of the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps. She is shown here at work in the Naval Hospital in Long Beach, California.

Photo: I.N.P. - U.S. Navy



Nisei in the News

Miss Bussei of 1948

JUNE MANJI (right) is "Miss Bussei of 1948" according to the Western Young Buddhist League who during their three-day convention (March 27, 28, 29) selected the pretty Marysville girl to reign over their Coronation Ball at the Park Manor Hall in Los Angeles. The winner represented the Northern California District. She is employed in civil service At Sacramento.



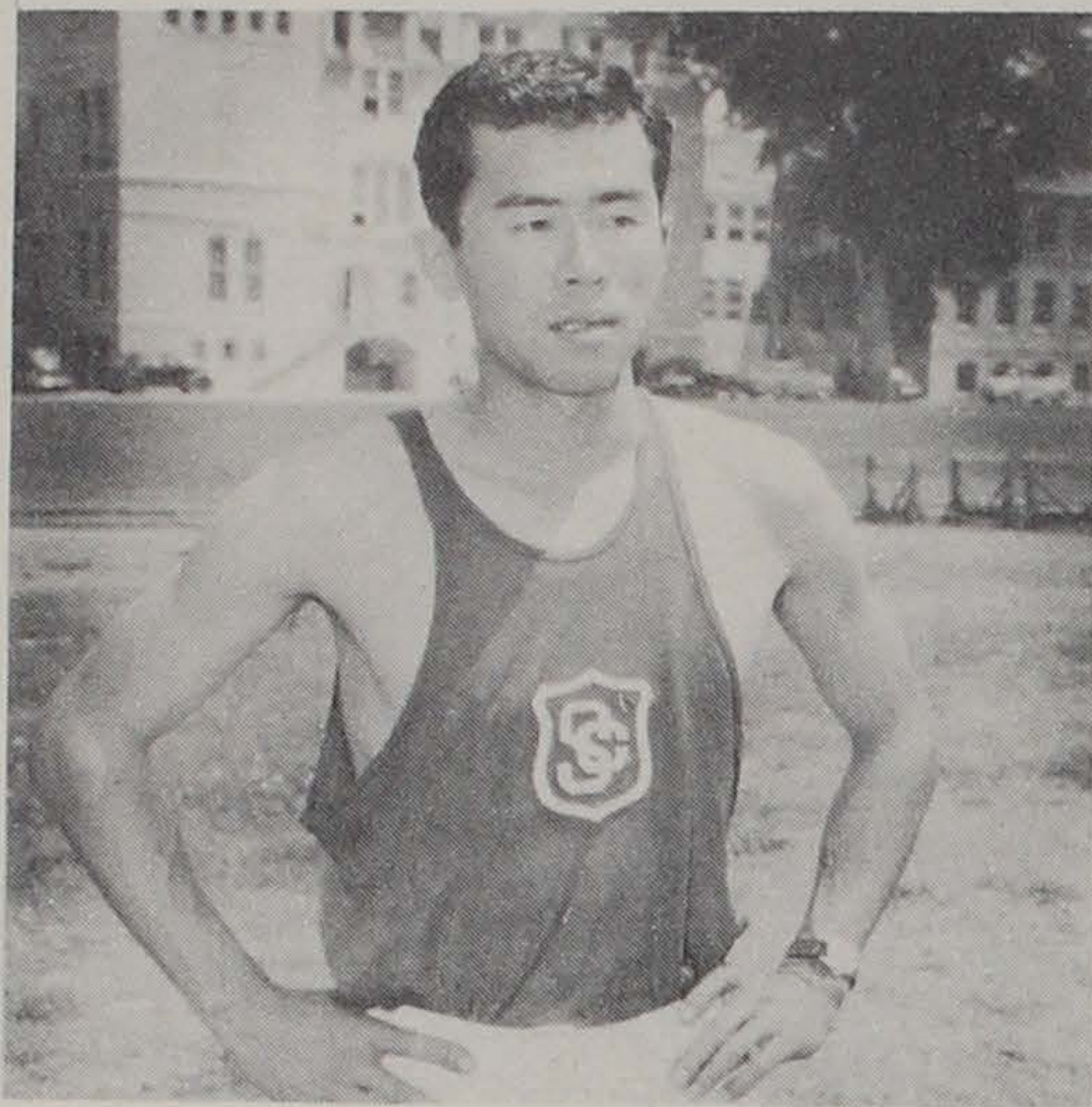
Poster Contest

Winner

BETTIE SAKAGUCHI, 14, is the newly elected student body president of Willard Junior High School in Berkeley, who took top honors in the California state Easter poster contest recently. She holds posters which won the State finals, including her own entry in the center. Posters will be used in the 1950 Easter Seal campaign for the Society for Crippled Children.

Nisei in the News - CONTINUED

Aihara missed Olympics but looms brightly as USC's 1949 track ace



Henry Aihara, who was the NCAA's 1945 broad jump champion with a leap of 23 feet 4 inches while performing for the University of Illinois' Illini, is shown in both still and action photos on the University of Southern California campus. Due to Pacific Coast Conference rulings, Aihara was ineligible this season, but looms as a Troy ace for 1949. As an unofficial member of the USC track squad, he won his broad jump event at the recent Compton invitational. (Photos by JACK IWATA)



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PEARL KUWABARA IN THE SWIFT WATERS OF COLORADO'S BEAR CREEK LEARNS HOW TO FISH

Nisei Vue Goes Fishing in Colorado

By Bill Hosokawa

PHOTOGRAPHS BY HIKARU IWASAKI

Pearl Kuwabara, who is 19, and June Aochi, a tender 16, are Denver girls who unabashedly admit they know nothing about fishing. For Coloradans, who take pride in the state's trout streams, this borders on sacrilege.

But both girls were persuaded without too much effort to accompany a special NISEI VUE fishing expedition when they were assured that (1) they would be lavishly photographed and (2) salmon eggs unlike worms do not squirm.

The girls garbed themselves in shorts, sandals, and other impractical attire, climbed aboard an automobile and headed for the hills. Thirty minutes later, they were up to their dimpled knees in the brawling, snow-fed waters of Bear Creek and smiling prettily for the photographer.

It mattered not at all that most expert fishermen consider ruggedly beautiful Bear Creek barren of trout. Even a 12-inch rainbow on the verge of starvation hardly would have gone for the girls' inexpertly cast bait. In fact, Pearl and June were highly decorative but otherwise superfluous accessories -- if you go fishing only to fish, that is.

One of these days, these two girls are going fishing in earnest. Maybe they'll try the headwaters of the South Platte, south of Denver, or the Big Thompson. They might give the Colorado river a fling up near Kremmling and Hot Sulphur Springs, the Yampa at Steamboat Springs, the world-famous Gunnison river, or Roaring Fork and the Frying Pan in the high, wild country above Glenwood Springs.

TURN PAGE →



LEARNING HOW is an important first step. Homer Yasui, brother of well-known Denver attorney, shows the girls how, though June seems to have other plans.



TROUT FISHING is big business in Colorado. Pearl listens to on-shore advice and looks hopeful and ready.



16 YEAR OLD, June Aochi displays a pretty figure and

COLORADO'S TROUT LURE

Trout fishing is big business in Colorado. The state game commission estimates more than 11 million trout were hooked, landed and eaten in 1946, more than 13 million in 1947. Last year, the state issued 276,735 licenses to fish (at \$3.00 each), including 9,308 non-resident three-day licenses.

To help mama and papa trout keep up with the demand, the state is planning to release some two million legal-size fish this year. Last year, a million and a quarter trout were planted in the most heavily fished streams and lakes.

From all indications, Colorado Nisei took home a generous share of the season's catch. Several score characters in Denver's Japanese community fall in the fanatic class when it comes to fishing; that is, any old



a happy smile while she nets a trout from Bear Creek

BIG FISHING BUSINESS

excuse is good enough to lure them away from the humdrum of making a living, and off to the sparkling streams. In fact, Colorado's unexcelled fishing is reported to have been a big factor in the decision of a number of Nisei not to go back to the west coast.

For some reason, Nisei fishermen -- except the out and out novice -- seem to be uniformly successful. They use the best equipment, of course, and most of them are gifted with a great deal of patience where catching a trout is concerned. They range out to remote spots and they have the persistence to whip a stream from dawn to dusk. But more than all this, they seem to have an intangible know-how that leads them to the most productive holes and riffles, to use the kind of bait that the fish are going for.



AFTER THE CATCH, the fishers relax to hear how Pearl lost "the Big One." Colorado with its many trout streams is one of nation's top fishing centers.



THE DAY'S CATCH nets six trout. Pearl and June, now enthusiasts, expect to go fishing again soon.

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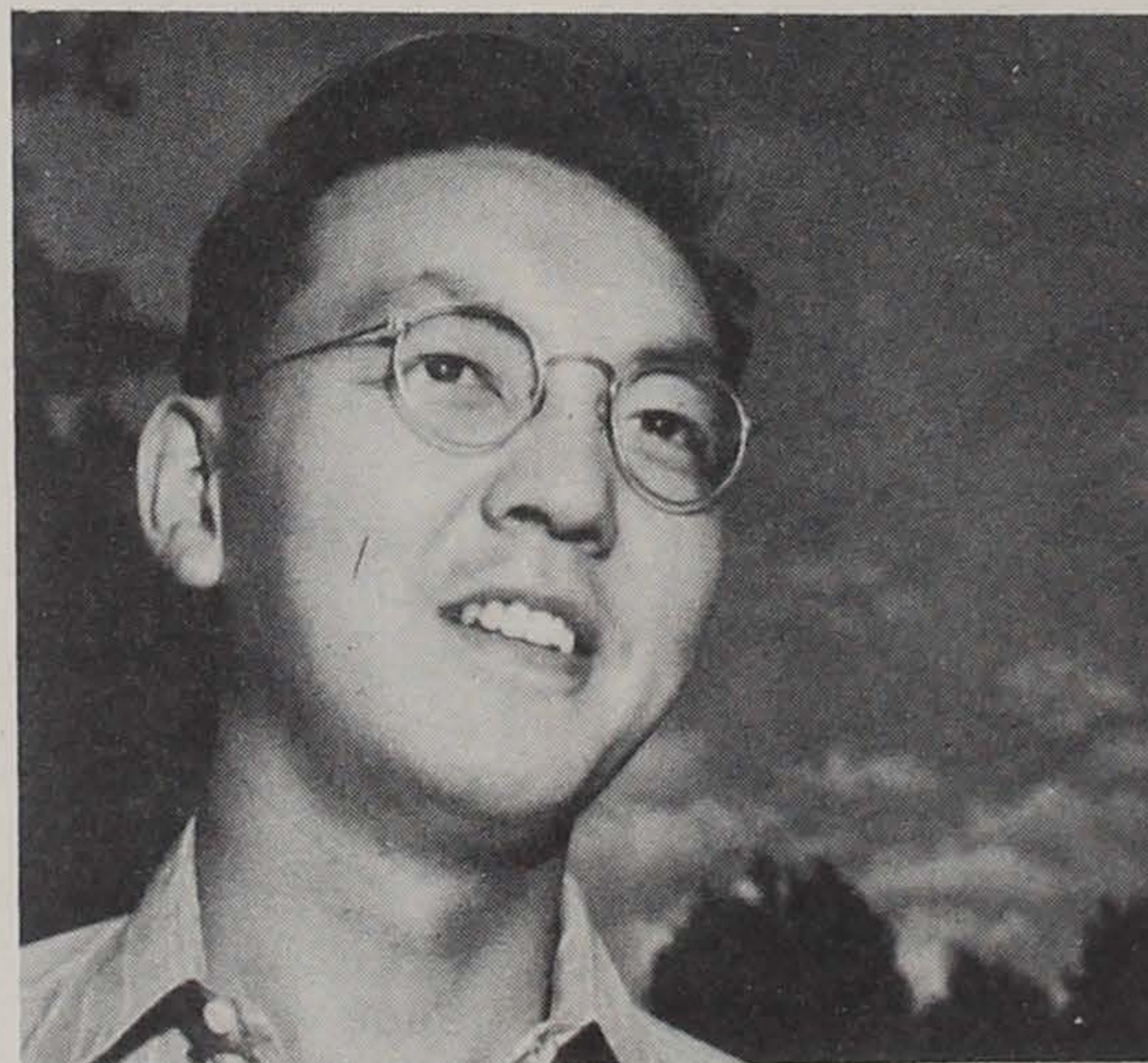
JON ONODERA: The Canada Story

Too preoccupied with activities of the Christian churches and his favorite sport, hockey, Jon didn't own a camera until five years ago when he came to Toronto, Ontario from an internment camp. Now he has gone into it whole-hog arousing the mocking irk, we are told, of his fiancée, Martha Yamazaki.



HIKARU IWASAKI: Fishing in Colorado

A San Jose boy who's been taking pictures since he was old enough to click a Brownie, Iwasaki is co-proprietor of the Wilshire Studio of Denver. His partner is Pat Coffey, one of the nation's outstanding free lance photographers. They do photographic work for Time, Life, and other national magazines. Iwasaki is still a bachelor and a very eligible one at that.



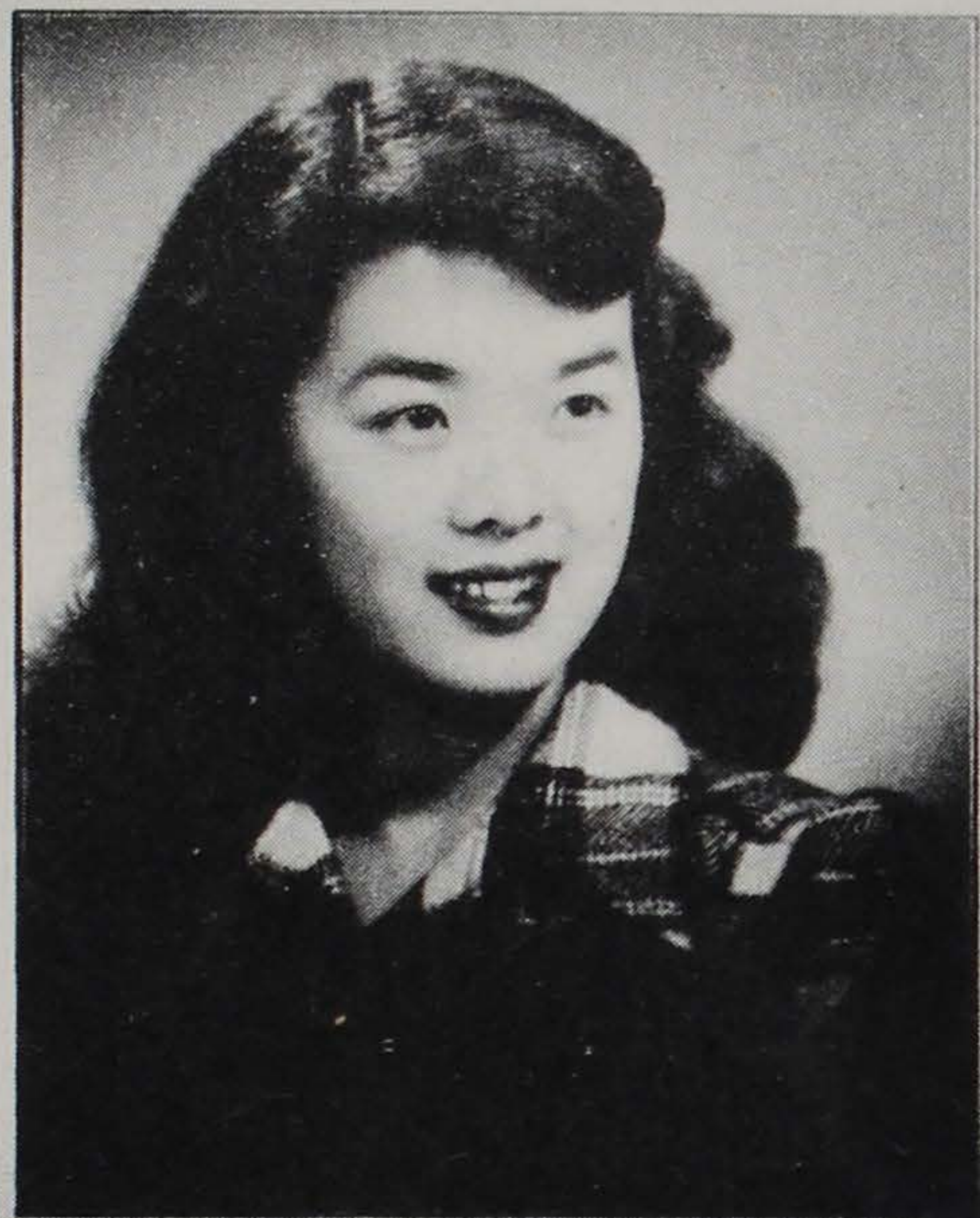
BILL HOSOKAWA: Fishing in Colorado

Started writing 15 years ago for the sport page of the Japanese American Courier in Seattle. Then over to the Orient as reporter and came back in time for the evacuation. At the relocation center, he edited the Heart Mountain Sentinel from which he went to the Des Moines (Iowa) Register. Shifted to the Denver Post two years ago, he's now assistant Sunday editor of the magazine section.

ROY HOSHIZAKI: The Kawakita Case

A prolific photographer, Roy received his training at three art academies in Milwaukee, the Photo Engineering Laboratory in Los Angeles, and the House of Photography in Kansas. He has worked as photographer at the Risko Art Academy, Wisconsin Advertising Agency and as instructor at the Wisconsin Art Academy. He is now co-proprietor of the House of Photography in downtown Los Angeles.





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