

September 17, 1973

Biographical Summary of Shosuke Sasaki:

I was born into a shizoku (samurai) family in the town of Ajisu, Yamaguchi Ken, Japan on March 26, 1912. I am not a blood descendant of the Sasaki family. Both my parents were adopted into the Sasaki family to continue the family name because the older Sasaki couple had no children. My mother came from a samurai family by the name of Tsuda which out-ranked the Sasaki family in feudal times. My father came from a shoya (village headman) family by the name of Eguchi.

My father was a graduate of Japan's first merchant marine school. On one of his trips to North America he sailed under a brutal ship captain whom my father could not stand. My father jumped ship at Vancouver, B. C. in 1884 and made his way on foot through the Cascades into the eastern part of Washington State and found employment in a railway repair gang. He was one of the very few Issei of that day who could read, write, and speak both English and Japanese. He had studied English from a British tutor in Kyoto in his youth for about a year. He also knew enough ju-jitsu to take care of himself. After he had established himself in this country in the restaurant business, he returned to Japan and re-entered the United States under a regular passport. It was on one his trips to Japan that he was adopted into the Sasaki family and married my mother. He kept his family in Japan saying that America was too rough a place for a woman of the samurai class. Four children were born to the couple. One of the children died in infancy. Of the three surviving children, I was the second.

My older brother was a juvenile delinquent and a youthful delinquent. He was expelled from every school in Japan that my mother could get him into. In despair, my parents decided to move the family to America where my father might be able to control my brother. I had completed first grade in grammar school in Japan and was in my second year, when in late April 1919 we took first class passage on the Arabia Maru of the Oseka Shosen Kaisha from Kobe, Japan and arrived in Seattle, Washington on May 8, 1919. After a couple of days, we went to Pomeroy, Washington where my father had a restaurant. Both my sister and I started school there in September of that year. My brother, however, within two months ran away from home. He was about 16 or 17 at the time.

at the age of 60

My father died in January 1924 and we moved to Seattle in order to be near other Japanese. My mother never bothered to learn English throughout her life. At around the age of 13, I began to work in the mailing department of a Japanese-language newspaper after school. My mother, sister and I got into the apartment house business around 1927 and ran apartment houses and small hotels until 1931 when we all became somewhat ill from over-work and moved from Seattle to an island in Puget Sound in order to regain our health. I was going to the University of Washington as a freshmen engineering student at the time. Then the Depression hit full force. Our bank failed and our stocks became largely worthless. We returned to Seattle late in 1932. I went to work for various business firms; none of which exist today. Finally in 1937 we had recovered enough financially so that I could go back to the University of Washington. I changed my course from engineering to business and graduated with honors in August 1939. I was admitted to Phi Beta Kappa in June 1940.

During the time from 1937 until we were forced into concentration camps in April 1942 my mother and I ran the Harding Apartments in Seattle on Jackson Street. We were imprisoned in the Puyallup Assembly Center from April 1942 until August 1942 and then <sup>was</sup> moved to the Minidoka Relocation Center where I stayed until the middle of December 1944. In Minidoka I worked for \$16 to \$19 a month at various jobs including ditch digger, ration office head, assistant fire department chief, and executive secretary of the Minidoka Cooperative.

I was employed by Standard & Poor's Corp. from January 15, 1945 until I resigned in November 1967. I worked as a statistician there most of the time and as a re-write analyst between the years 1949 to around 1952. It was in 1952 that I was able through friends to get the American Newspaper Guild to publicly oppose the use of the term "Jap". I also spent most of my spare time that year writing to newspapers and others in an effort to stop their use of the term "Jap". I made many friends at Standard & Poor's Corp. but was subjected to racial discrimination by the company's management. Some members of the management resented my refusal to engage in boot-licking and I made no secret of my pride in my Japanese heritage.

I did not have to stay in Minidoka as long as I did, if I had been willing to teach Japanese at the Navy language school in Boulder, Colorado. Despite urging from friends to fill out an employment application to teach there, I refused because I was a Japanese national at the time and I did not wish to ever have it said of me that I was a traitor to my country.

After considerable delay and soul-searching, I became an American citizen on May 24, 1954 at the Southern District of New York District Court of the United States. I do not regret having done so. I promptly registered as a Republican and voted regularly until I left New York in January 1969. The Republicans in New York were too "liberal" for me and I believe that I joined the Conservative Party in 1967 or 1968. I am a liberal in matters of racial injustice, but I am a conservative in fiscal and monetary matters. I can not believe that this country can simply spend its way into the Kingdom of God, especially when that money is being created by <sup>monetizing</sup> federal deficits or <sup>collected out of</sup> ~~extorted from~~ helpless average taxpayers.

After I was sure that the firm had an absolutely clean and honest record, I joined the brokerage house of A. L. Stamm & Co. late in November 1967 as a securities analyst. I was very well treated by the firm. Unfortunately, the company had just computerized its records and within a year it became apparent that the company records were becoming badly fouled up. People began to leave the firm to work elsewhere. One of my friends there obtained a job in Denver and asked me to move there and help him. I accepted his offer.

I resigned from A. L. Stamm & Co. in the middle of January 1969, got married, and moved to Denver late in January 1969, and joined the research staff of the Hamilton Management Corporation which runs the Hamilton Funds. My job title was Senior Financial Analyst.

My wife died of cancer in January 1970. In April of that <sup>year</sup> my mother died of pneumonia while on a short visit to my sister in Seattle. My life became extremely lonely. In the spring of 1972 I told the company of my wish to retire. At their request I stayed on until October of that year when I resigned and then moved to Seattle in November to be near my sister and her family.

I am enjoying my retirement. I am reading the many books on Japanese history and religion which I have accumulated over the years and until now lacked the time to read. I am also trying to regain my pre-1945 ability to read Japanese newspapers and books. I agreed to permit my name to be submitted for possible appointment to the F.C.C. with considerable reluctance.

The last time I heard from my brother was around nine years ago when he unexpectedly <sup>twice</sup> phoned. He was slightly drunk and it was obvious that he had not improved with the passage of time. Prior to that call we had not heard from him for almost 20 years. I do not know if he is living or dead or where he might be. He lives by standards totally different from those by which I have tried to live. I have a number of friends to whom I feel much closer than I do to him.

I have tried to live my life according to Confucian standards. I have made mistakes and I have hurt some people, but these were the result of my ignorance and stupidity and not the result of design or intention. I have never been involved in a law-suit and of course, I have never been arrested. I have received two tickets for traffic violations which cost me \$25 and \$35 respectively since I began driving, but that is all.

I am very much interested in Zen Buddhism. I have read a number of the books on Zen by Dr. D. T. Zuzuki and it is my hope that someday I shall be able to place myself under the direction of a Zen Master and spend full time in seeking Enlightenment.

If there is anything more about me that the reader wishes to know, he can reach me at the following address or telephone number.

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