

James Y. Nakamoto.

"FULL-BLOODED AMERICANISM"

With full expression of loyalty toward the nation and its institutions we are gathered on this occasion to uphold the ideals and purposes of American citizenship founded on the principles laid down by the forefathers of our country.

Realizing this responsibility, the fourth biennial Northwest district convention of the Japanese American Citizens League now convened in Yakima reflects the sentiment, spirit, and determination of the American citizens of Japanese ancestry to lay a course by which they can best serve the nation. On this occasion in particular the members of the second generation should pause and consider the places that they are to occupy in the life of the nation.

The special problem of the second generation is two-fold. In the first place we owe it to ourselves not to become a lost element in the American melting pot. At the same time, and here is the second big task, we must remain loyal to all the ideals of American citizenship. Stated more briefly, the second generation must not lose itself, and at the same time it must not make of itself an unintegrated group in the American life.

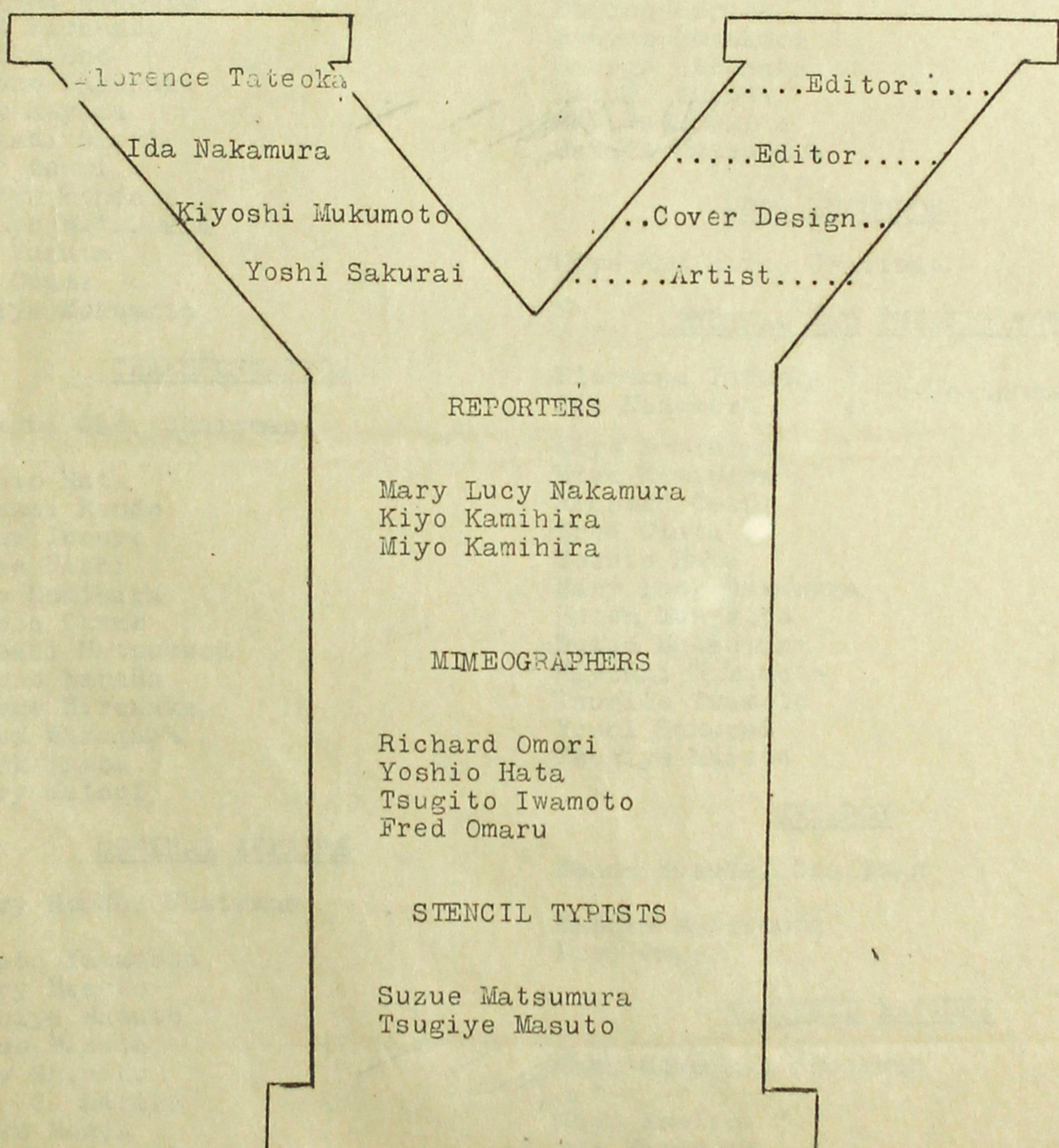
The one solution that seems to have the greatest possibilities for us is full-blooded Americanism. Full-blooded Americanism does not mean a blind nationalism. Rather, it means the healthy well-rounded political, social and economic development of the individual so that he may be a loyal citizen.

Off hand it appears that the problem deals with each member of the group as an individual and as a whole. Only if each member works to develop himself will he escape becoming a part of that indeterminate mass that makes up the melting pot. Only if we as whole work to inculcate in all our members the true spirit of American patriotism can the group escape the unhappy fate of being a clan apart from the rest of American life.

With a full understanding of this position we must remember that we are part and parcel of the national life. No particular racial group can claim for itself a monopoly on the spirit of Americanism.

Yet, to weave the strongest and most beautiful pattern of American life, it is essential that we become a contributing element in the national life stream of full-blooded Americanism.

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GENERAL

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FORMAL OPENING

The convention was formally called to order by Saburo Nishimura, temporary chairman. A flag ceremony, lead by Yakima boy scouts, and the national anthem sung by the audience opened the program of the morning. Roy Nishimura, general chairman of the convention, was then introduced. A moment of silent tribute to the memory of Japanese Pioneers and to those JACL members who have passed away, was then observed. Mr. F.V.Tozier, personal representative of the Honolulu Mayor H.C.Temple, welcomed the delegates to the city of Yakima. "We are happy," he said, "that you visit us as a group of good citizens who believe in the America of democracy, and as individuals who will never sway to the "isms" of foreign countries." A telegram of greetings and congratulations from the Northern California District Council was read by Mr. Saburo Nishimura. Greetings from the presidents of the seven chapters of the Northwest, and the Idaho Committee were extended by chapter presidents. Mr. Walter T. Tsukamoto, national executive secretary was introduced.

"The second generation Japanese Americans must improve upon the fabric of our citizenship in order that we may weave it into the thread of American life" was the suggestion offered by James Sakamoto, National President. He mentioned that although the Nisei were being doubted as to sincerity of purpose and national loyalty, "we must never disown America even if America disowns us".

Bids for the honor of holding the 1939 convention in their respective home communities were entered by Tacoma, Mid-Columbia, and the Seattle Progressive Citizens' League. "Tacoma, Tacoma, rah, rah, ran! Extrah---extrah---read all about it" and a dozen newboys from Tacoma chapter passed out handbills to the general audience on which was conspicuously lettered "Be the Guest of Tacoma and Puyallup in the Beautiful City of Destiny Labor Day, 1939." Mr. Ted Nakamura, in enumerating the advantages of the Puyallup Valley and City of Tacoma, mentioned that there were "at least, no fear of being scalloped by Indians," that there were plenty of "peace and quiet", and that the "weather might be uncertain". In speaking for the Mid-Columbia chapter, Minoru Yasui of Hood River, extended an invitation to the group to visit "God's country, where the lovely panorama of hills and woodland provides inspiration for noble thoughts and ideals". "Then you get a bid from Tacoma and Puyallup, who are in our back yard", began Takeo Nogaki, vice-president Seattle League, "it's about time for Seattle, the QUEEN City" to put in a word", whereupon followed a dissertation of the advantages of holding a JACL Convention in Seattle. Ted Nakamura, by the way, promises all delegates to the Tacoma convention one head of lettuce.

The keynote address was given by Seattle attorney, Clarence T. Arai. "The JACL organization has kindled a spirit of group consciousness among the Nisei" stated Mr. Arai, after outlining the growth of the Citizens League movement. As Americans we have many obligations; namely, that of participation in the community, at the polls, and to maintain these American institutions which are being threatened at the present time. We, also have an obligation, as Nisei, to make the Japanese people understand in America, and to act as diplomats of goodwill between our two mother countries.

A motion was made by Hito Okada and seconded by Ted Nakamura that the Northwest District Convention send a telegram to the Watsonville convention now in session, conveying greetings.

NOON LUNCHEON

Harry Honda acted as toastmaster with Kiyo Kaminira as chairman at the noon luncheon given by the Yakima JACL and the Yakima Valley Japanese Association. Mr. H. Tateoka, secretary of the local association spoke on behalf of the Association. After that the introduction of outstanding delegates and leaders was made: Mr. Forrest La Violette, instructor of Sociology at the U. of Washington and Mrs. La Violette; Mr. John A. Rademaker, also instructor of Sociology at the University; Mr. James Y. Sakamoto, National President of the JACL; Mr. Walter Tsukamoto, National Executive Secretary of the JACL. The official delegates from Idaho were introduced: Raymond Hashitani, Lilly Takeuchi, and Henry Suyehira.

Pep songs were led by Jiro Aoki of Seattle.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS

Three round table discussion groups were held in the afternoon dealing with the Nisei Development program. The Commission on Research and Records was divided into two groups: Problems of Economic Adjustments with Mr. Frank Miyamoto as chairman and Professor John Rademaker as discussion leader; Problems of Social and Civic Adjustments with Miss Mary Mori as chairman and discussion leader, Prof. Forrest La Violette. The Commission on Program was led by Mr. Hito Okada. Resolutions were suggested to be presented in the general assembly.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The general assembly was called to order by Roy Nishimura who asked for new recommendations and resolutions for J. A. C. L. Resolution suggested by Mr. Clarence T. Arai:

1. Reaffirm our faith in the purposes and standards of our nation.
2. Oppose all alien agitation; good laws.
3. Become united and cooperate with all organizations of community and nation.

Those resolutions were seconded and carried.

Resolution given by Frank Miyamoto, chrmn. of Commission on Research and Records:

1. We should be able to express ourselves clearly in defining and discussing problems of records, and economic welfare; The J. A. C. L. should institute a program of forum discussions so as to provide adequate and expert information for individual members, and also facilitate a better co-operation with the American community.

Seconded and carried.

Resolutions suggested by Section B. of Problems of Social and Civic Adjustments by Mary Mori:

1. Accept responsibility of welfare of nation, state and community next page.
2. Each chapter carry on discussion of local problems especially of juvenile delinquency.
3. Discuss problems peculiar to local group.
4. Study culture and history of Japan to get better understanding to give to Americans.

Seconded and carried.

ORATORICAL CONTEST

Speaking with force and expression Masako Tsujikawa of the Valley Civic League won the right to represent the Northwest at the National oratorical contest. "Government Of the People, For the People, By the People" was the title of Miss Tsujikawa's speech.

Hitoshi Tamaki, although handicapped by a cold, was judged close second. Mr. Tamaki is from Tacoma. He may possibly accompany Miss Tsujikawa to Los Angeles as secord speaker from the Northwest. Mary Kawamura of Seattle was declared third winner and will be an alternate to the national oratorical contest. Both were presented silver cups.

Other speakers were Marjorie Matsushita, Yakima, Jessie Iwatsuki, Mid-Columbia; Mary Kondo, Portland, and Shigeru Sasaki, Puyallup. All the speakers were presented certificates of participation from the Northwest District Council Board.

Judges of the contest were Honorable Judge Dolph Barnett, Mrs. E. Woodcock, and G. W. Van Horn. Musical numbers given during the contest were: violin solo by Yoshiye Morinaga accompanied by her sister Hisayo, piano solo by Hisayo Morinaga; and a trio selection by Edward Munekiyo, Mary Lucy Nakamura and Florence Tateoka.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY cont.

Resolutions suggested by Commission on Program by Hito Okada.

1. Registration week for young people to record ages--voting age.
2. Each chapter sponsor an annual membership drive.
3. Organize council to get in touch with public.
4. Organize and sponsor Americanism nights to disseminate ideals and culture of Japanese.
5. Take an active part in city wide festivals.
6. Have public relations chirmen.
7. Take part in constitutional week.

WHEREAS, the Japanese American Citizens' League was founded upon the principle of maintaining our American institutions, and WHEREAS, there exists today a problem of combating the sinister force of Communism, which seeks to undermine the same, now THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the Japanese American Citizens' League in a District Convention held at Yakima go on record:--

1. That we reaffirm our faith in the founders of the Republic and uphold the true principles of Americanism;
2. That we oppose all those alien agitators which seek the overthrow of our government and demand the passage of stringent laws for the deportation of such persons,
3. That we are united in our stand against Communism and pledge ourselves to cooperate with the American Legion, Veteran of Foreign Wars, and the L. A. R. in their splendid fight to preserve our American institutions against such alien propagandists.

GENERAL NEWS

DANCE

The Sayonara Ball, which is being held from 9:00 to 12:00 in the Yakima Chamber of Commerce auditorium, is to be sponsored by the Japanese American Citizens' League of the Yakima Valley. Ozzie Olson's eight piece swing band will furnish the rhythm. The intermission numbers will include song and dance numbers by Betty and June Fujimoto of Yakima.

Jimmy Umemoto is general chairman of the affair.

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OUTING

Despite cloudy skies, the outing at Esbach Park was attended by 300 delegates of the JCL convention. Under the direction of Fred Omaru and Jesse Nishi, the general program included a baseball game, swimming, boating, community singing, dancing, amateur contest, and picnic luncheon.

Great interest was shown at the ball game between the Northwest Board and the All-Stars. The All-Stars, under the captainship of Harry Honda defeated the Board by a score of 11-9. The Board lineup included: Hito Okada, Clarence Arai, Kaz Yamane, Ted Nakamura, Ted Nakashima, Harry Masto, George Yasumura, Takeo Nogaki, Saburo Nishimura, and Roy Nishimura; while All-Stars included: Charles Kambe, Johnson Shimizu, Koge Fujikara, Tsujito Iwamoto, Geo-Yamauchi, Harry Honda, Roy Hashitani, Harry Sugihara, Geo. Doi, and Jack Koyama.

Genial Hito Okada of Portland was the Major Bowes of the amateur program. Contestants were Ray Hashitani, tap dancer; Suma Tsuoci, Tom Mayeda, and Kay Yamane, vocalists. Very appropriate prizes were given to each.

Miss Yoshiye Masto took charge of the Picnic lunch.

BANQUET

The banquet, under the chairmanship of Mary Shimizu, was held at the Commercial Hotel at 7:00 o'clock this evening. Miuki Omaru was acting chairman. Hito Okada was toastmaster.

For the program, Kazu Okamoto from Spokane, sang. A vocal selection was also offered by Miss Alyce Hashitani. Captain Walter Tsukamoto, national executive secretary of the J.A.C.L. was the main speaker. Other speakers of the evening were Mrs. Stanton, Regent of the Narcissa Whitman of the D. A. R. and Mr. James Y. Sakamoto, national president of the JCL.

The honored guests of the evening were: Mr. P. D. Tozer, official representative for Mayor Harry C. Temple; Mr. G. C. Baer, managing secretary of the Yakima Chamber of Commerce; Mr. W. R. Anderson, president of the Yakima Chamber of Commerce; Mr. Carl Thacker, president of the Eagles IOOF; Mr. S. Kurokawa, representative of the great Northern Daily; Mr. H. Tatcoka, representative of the North American Times; Mr. Geo. W. Clark, commander of American Legion, Post #36; Mrs. O. K. Battle; Mrs. Etha Woodcock; Mrs. U. C. Dingle; and Mrs. Sellman, all of the D. A. R.

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