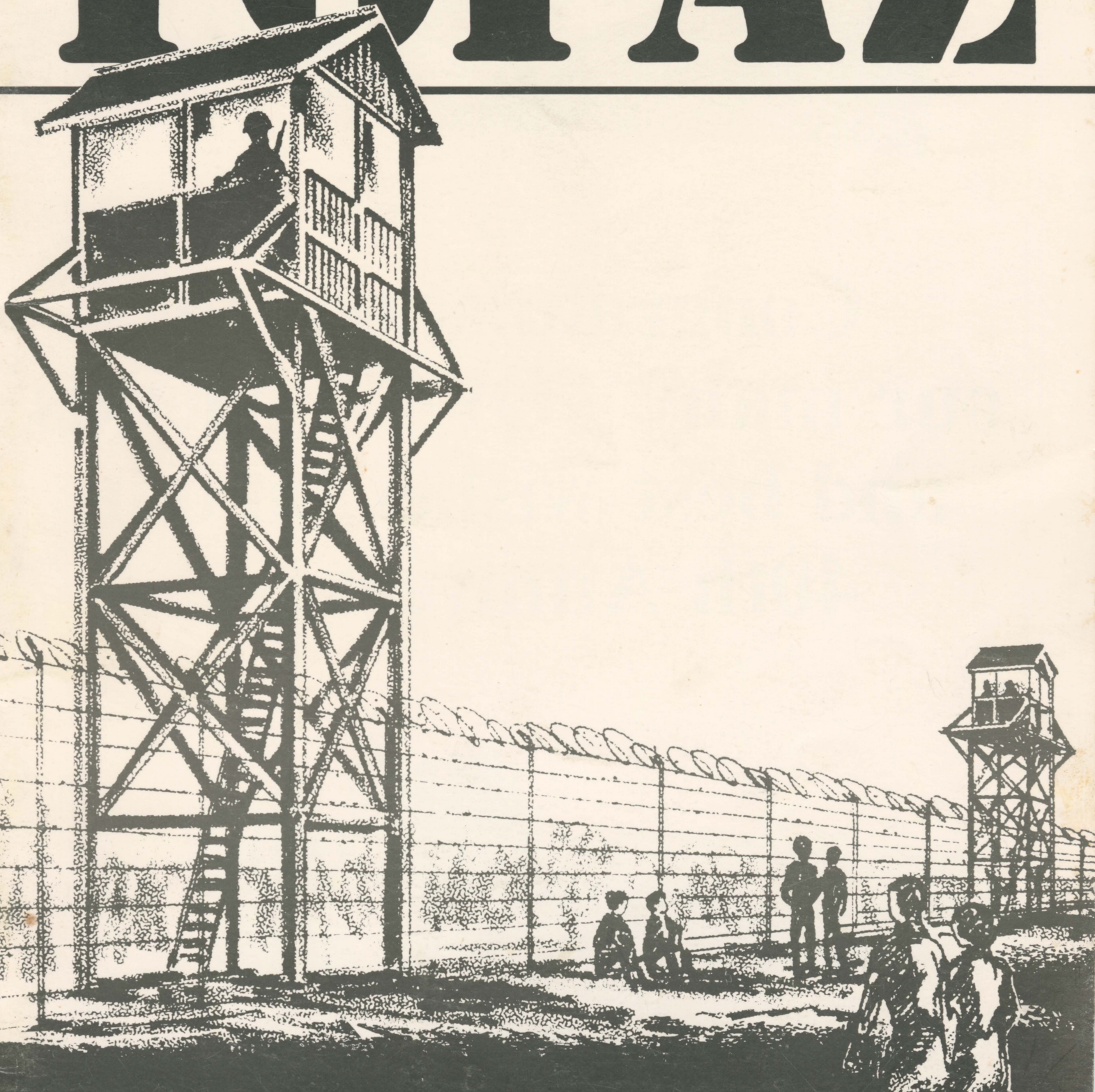


TOPAZ



40th YEAR TOPAZ REUNION

SPONSORED BY CLASSES OF '43 & '44

SEPTEMBER 24 & 25, 1983

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA



**Congratulations to
our many TOPAZ friends
and best wishes on our
40th Anniversary.**



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This booklet was made possible through the efforts of the reunion committee who contributed suggestions, time and work. A special thanks to all the advertisers.





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Proclamation

WHEREAS: The CLASS of 1943 and 1944 of TOPAZ HIGH SCHOOL was established 40 years ago during a difficult time of war hysteria, and at a time when teachers, books, supplies and other essentials to learning were hard to come by; and

WHEREAS: Even with these problems, the TOPAZ CLASS of 1943 and 1944 graduated one hundred percent of its students; and

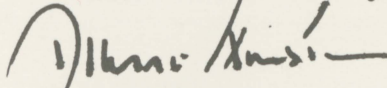
WHEREAS: The men and women of this class also served honorably and with great distinction in the armed services of the United States, including such highly decorated units as the 442nd "GO FOR BROKE" and the 100th Battalion, where they became the "secret weapon" in the Pacific Theater and served as intelligence agents, interpreters and translators; and

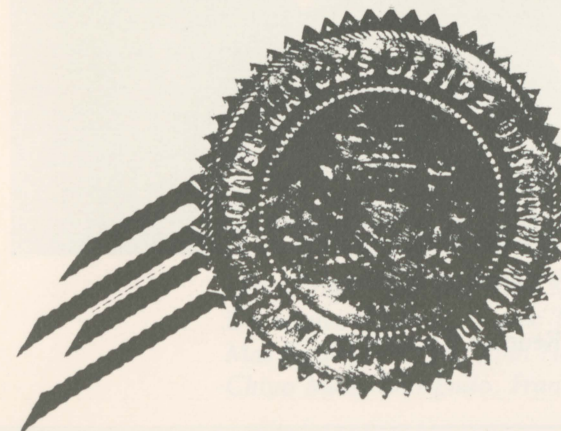
WHEREAS: Members of the TOPAZ CLASS of 1943 and 1944 were relocated from San Francisco during World War II, but they have returned to our City and have contributed invaluable to our progress and prosperity; and

WHEREAS: The TOPAZ CLASS of 1943 and 1944 is holding a 40th Anniversary Reunion here in our City on September 24, 1983; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, Dianne Feinstein, Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco, do hereby heartily welcome and pay tribute to the Alumni of TOPAZ HIGH SCHOOL and do thank them for contributing so much to the City and County of San Francisco.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City and County of San Francisco to be affixed this fourteenth day of June, nineteen hundred and eighty-three.


Dianne Feinstein
Mayor



Welcome

September 24, 1983

Dear Classmates, Faculty, and Friends:

Welcome to the Topaz High School Reunion. Your hosts are the Classes of 1943 and 1944, respectively.

In 1943 we learned a poem and we would like to open with that same poem tonight:

*A candle's but a little thing
It starts with just a piece of string
By dipping and clipping with gentle hand,
It gathers wax upon the stand
Until complete
The snowy white
It glows with a warm and mellow light.
Life is like a piece of string
Each deed we do a simple thing
Yet, day by day as on life's strand
We work with gentle heart and hand
It gathers love, makes dark days bright
And glows at last with a lovely light.*

Our days at Topaz High School were like that. It started like a candle with a limited understanding. It required a growth in understanding as the sense of our worth developed in the individual. Growing in the "Camp" environment required watchfulness every day and guarding the actions that we took. When a certain level of maturity was reached, our worth glowed with a warm and mellow light, just like the candle.

It is seldom that a person can have the satisfaction, however bitter it may be, of reading an opinion by Mr. Justice Robert H. Jackson, who in 1944 charged that the United States Supreme Court's majority validated the principle of racial discrimination in an emergency and he warned that this principle is a "loaded weapon ready for the hand of any authority that can bring forward a plausible claim of an urgent need."

It is not our intention to dwell on that difficult and troubled time. Rather, it is our intention to do two things: First, we would like you to have a wonderful reunion, sharing memories, stories, anecdotes, and recollections. Second, some reflections will be offered bearing upon some of the attitudes that we perceived as influencing the total pattern of conditions that tended to create the environment in which all of us were exposed. With the expectation that these two tasks can be accomplished, we will be so bold as to suggest some attitudes that we might adopt individually, and collectively, in an effort to avoid a recurrence of the 1942 situation.

It is only proper that we list an acknowledgment before the task is complete. Everyone of us should be eternally grateful to the staff and faculty, for their attitude and dedication throughout the internment period. No one of us can appreciate the host of pressures that were focused on the faculty. They came from differing viewpoints in America, from a host of supporters of one cause or another, from different factions at Topaz, and we hesitate even to guess the number of viewpoints expressed by the graduates. The staff and faculty held to the view that the incarceration was not the end; but rather an opportunity for rebuilding on proven foundations.

And now to pull this all together. Where do we stand? We were shaken in 1942 but we still stand strong, formidable, enduring; chastened by the experience but determined that there will be no recurrence.

Our final acknowledgment is to the many friends and countless strangers who have articulated a desire to wish us well in our 40th Reunion — to all these and many more, we are deeply indebted.

The Reunion Committee

The Reunion Committee

Co-chairmen:

Mas Kawaguchi and Ki Tanamachi

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Mas Ashizawa | Frances Kimura Morioka | Paul Takata |
| Chiyo Matsuzaki Endo | Hank Obayashi | Frank Takeuchi |
| Chiyo Sonoda Futagaki | Tets Ochi | Stan Tsujisaka |
| Dr. John Hada | Machiko Nakamura Ota | Dr. Himeo Tsumori |
| Fumi Manabe Hayashi | Koji Ozawa | Lumi Uchiyama Tsumori |
| Henry Hidekawa | Bill Sakai | Helen Mori Ushijima |
| Sumi Honnami | Tomio Sakurai | George Yamamura |
| Yone Kato Ito | Daisy Uyeda Satoda | Mary Ogawa Yoshitomi |
| Sadame Hara Kojimoto | Amy Hosoda Shimamoto | Tom Yoshitomi |
| Ed Kubokawa | Kim Takata | |
| Lilliam Kajiwarra Matsuda | Shogi Takata | |



Left to right: Sadame Hara Kojimoto, George Yamamura, Bill Sakai, Dr. Himeo Tsumori, Frank Takeuchi, Hank Obayashi, Henry Hidekawa, Mas Kawaguchi, Dr. John Hada, Machiko Nakamura Ota, Kiyoshi Tanamachi, Chiyo Matsuzaki Endo, Frances Kimura Morioka, Tom Yoshitomi, Stan Tsujisaka.



Roy Matsuda Shig Futagaki

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*Greetings
and
Best Wishes*

TOPAZ HIGH REUNION



Greetings



Dear Friends:

I am very pleased to learn that Topaz High School graduates of 1943 and 1944 are gathering here in our City on September 24 to celebrate their first Class Reunion.

All San Franciscans join me in expressing our heartfelt Welcome and our very Best Wishes for a successful and rewarding evening. As painful as some of our members' memories may be, you may all be assured that we never intend to forget what happened to Topaz High School, nor to ever permit such conditions to occur again.

Topaz High School graduates distinguished themselves on behalf of our nation during World War II and in the years since, and we are most grateful for your exemplary public services.

Have a great Class Reunion and thank you for your invaluable contributions to our community.

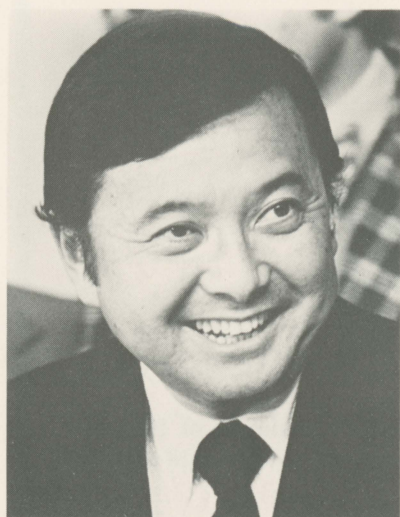
Warm personal regards,

Sincerely,

Dianne Feinstein
Mayor



Greetings



Dear Friends:

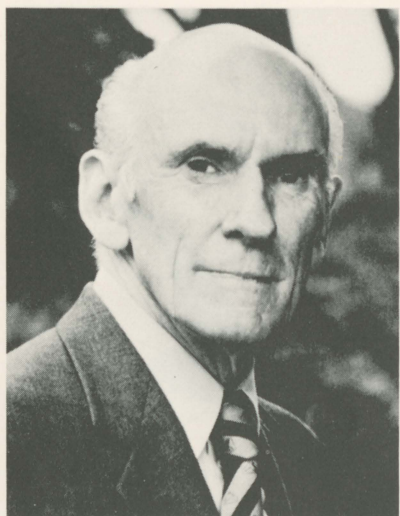
It is a pleasure and honor to extend my warmest aloha on this first reunion of the Class of 1943 and 1944 of Topaz High School. Please know that you have my heartfelt hopes for a most memorable and enjoyable celebration.

Times of difficulty are a true test of our abilities, our ideals and our courage. To succeed and flourish as leading members of our communities, as you have done, is indeed a tribute to your outstanding personal strengths.

You have provided a source of lasting inspiration to others by your ability to rise above the forces of bigotry and ignorance through determination, fortitude and faith in our nation. Your exemplary achievements demonstrate the enduring virtues of our American system, for which so many have fought and sacrificed.

Aloha

Daniel K. Inouye
Daniel K. Inouye
United States Senator



Dear Friends,

I'm pleased to send my warmest greetings to the Topaz High School classes of 1943 and 1944.

As Japanese Americans who graduated from high school in a World War II relocation camp, you experienced discrimination and endured hardship at an early age. Yet, through this unfortunate period of our history, you proved unquestionably your deep loyalty to the United States by serving courageously in both our Armed Forces and our communities.

The story of Topaz High serves as a reminder that we must ever be vigilant against any assault on our Constitutional guarantees of freedom and equality. Your continued participation in civic affairs work not only to insure this but also to create a better world for all of us.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Alan Cranston
Alan Cranston
United States Senator



Greetings



Dear Alumni of Topaz High School:

Please accept my best wishes on the occasion of your first class reunion. As an "alumnus" of Heart Mountain, Wyoming, I am well aware of the achievements of the 1943 and 1944 classes from Topaz. Your contributions to the war effort, and to progress in the nation in the nearly four decades since, give you good reason to celebrate so many years of dedicated service to America. You have my congratulations for a job well done and my best wishes for continued success in all your future endeavors.

Again, please accept my warmest regards on this important occasion.

Sincerely yours,

Norman Y. Mineta
Norman Y. Mineta
Member of Congress



Greetings and congratulations on the occasion of your 39th and 40th reunions!

The confidence and optimism which you display in your lives, and on this bittersweet occasion, show to the world your triumph over the terrible injustice which was done.

Today you send the world a message of courage and of hope. You are an inspiration to all who seek a better and more peaceful world.

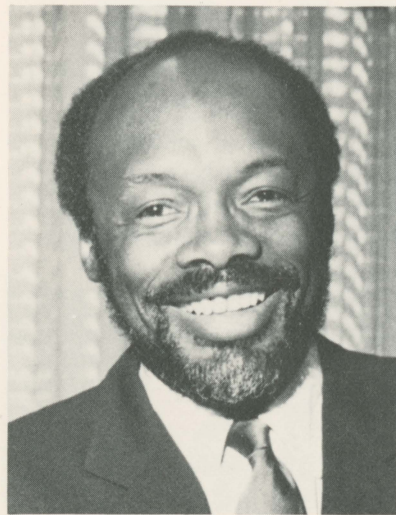
I wish you happiness and success in your individual lives, and a reunion full of joy.

Warmest personal regards,

Sala Burton
Sala Burton
Member of Congress



Greetings



It gives me great pleasure to write this letter of welcome to the Topaz High School Classes of 1943 and 1944.

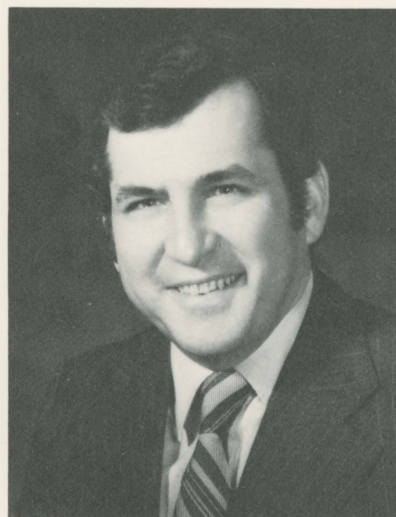
Your fine citizenship, loyalty and scholastic accomplishments are legendary. The Issei, Nisei, and older Sansei have always demonstrated extraordinary perseverance, spirit and strength — from the anti-Asian laws at the turn-of-the-century to the relocation experience, these qualities have never waned. You have experienced and survived one of the most outrageous acts this country has ever committed.

As you may know, I have participated in the efforts of redress and reparations through personal testimony and legislation. You can be assured I will continue to work in the areas of educating the public and seeking justice for the wrongs committed in this state.

Again, my sincere best wishes to the alumni of the Topaz High School. History will show your graduation classes to be made up of fine citizens and exemplary members of our society.

Sincerely,

Willie Lewis Brown, Jr.
Speaker of the Assembly



It is an honor and a privilege to welcome the Topaz High School Class of 1943 and 1944 on the occasion of your reunion.

Like many of you, I enlisted in the armed forces to serve our country during World War II. Unlike you, I didn't suffer the indignity of being forced from my home simply because of my heritage.

The obstacles you had to overcome serve as a reminder to us and to future generations that the rights and freedoms we enjoy as citizens of the United States should never be taken for granted. You can be proud of your many contributions to the betterment of our nation.

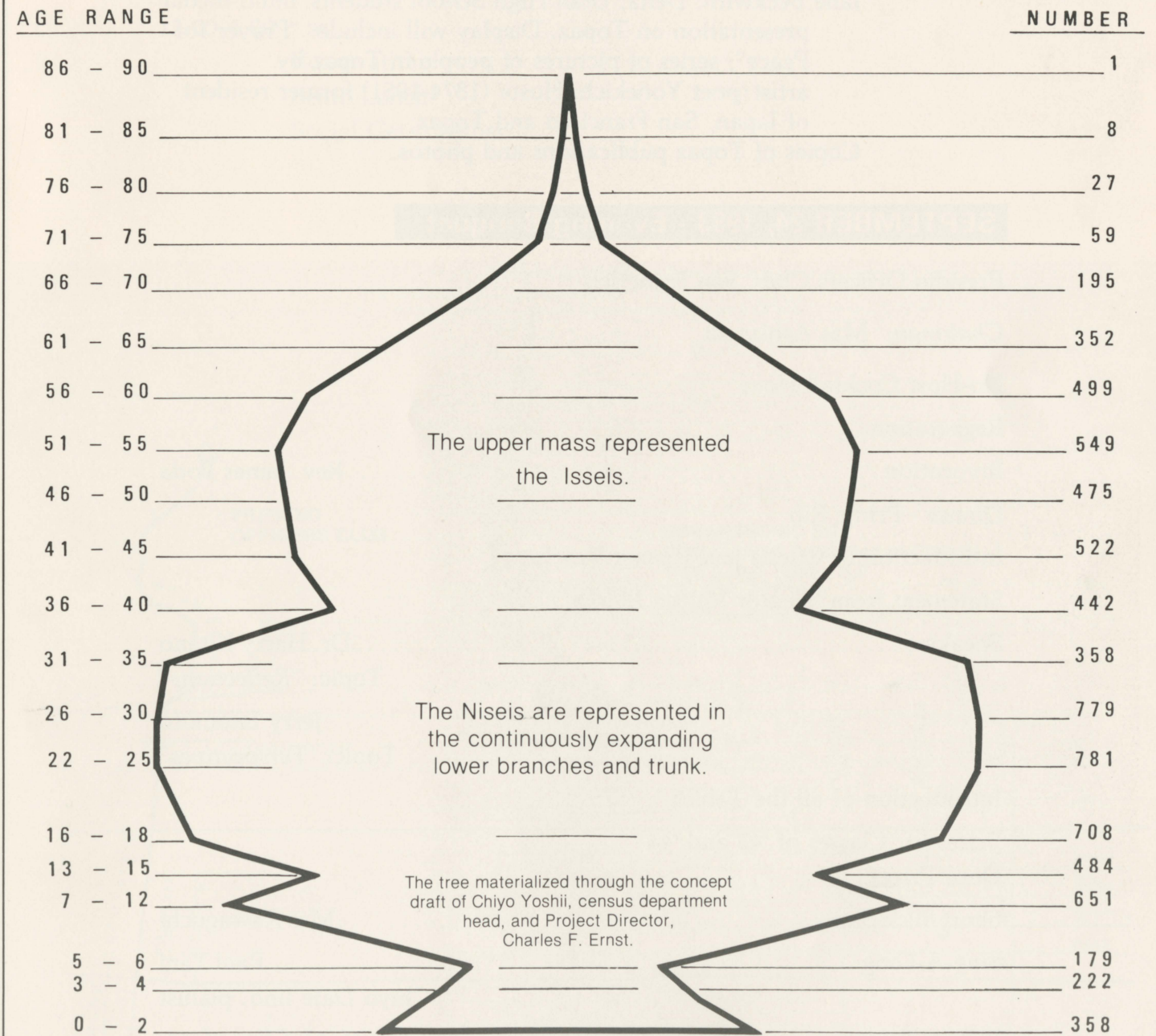
Please accept my congratulations and best wishes tonight.

Sincerely,

Louis J. Papan
Chairman, Assembly Rules Committee

Tree of Topaz

The Tree of Topaz was the official shield of the Topaz Relocation Center representing the number of people in graphic form.



Program

SEPTEMBER 24, 1983 - Afternoon

"Topaz Remembered"
 JAACL Hospitality Room
 1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco

12:00-4:00 p.m.

Film - Dave Tatsuno
 Slides - Mas Kawaguchi
 Jane Beckwith: Delta, Utah High School students' multi-media presentation on Topaz. Display will include: "Prayer for Peace"; series of pictures of people in Topaz by artist/poet Yonekichi Hosoi (1874-1951) former resident of Japan, San Francisco and Topaz.
 Copies of Topaz publications and photos.

SEPTEMBER 24, 1983 - Evening Banquet

Presidio Officers Club, San Francisco

Chairman: Mas Ashizawa

No-Host Cocktail Hour

Registration

Invocation Rev. James Toda

Dinner - Prime Rib

Introduction of Guests and Former Teachers

Statement from Senator Milton Marks

Speakers Dr. Harry Kitano

Topic: "Reflections"

Jerry Enomoto

Topic: "Perspectives"

Introduction of all the Tables

Prizes for Classes of '43 and '44

Door Prizes

Short Slide Show Mas Kawaguchi

Sing-A-Long Paul Tani

Chiyo Date Iino, pianist

Picture Taking Class of '43; Class of '44;

Rest of Group

Dancing (Upstairs)

Program

SEPTEMBER 25, 1983

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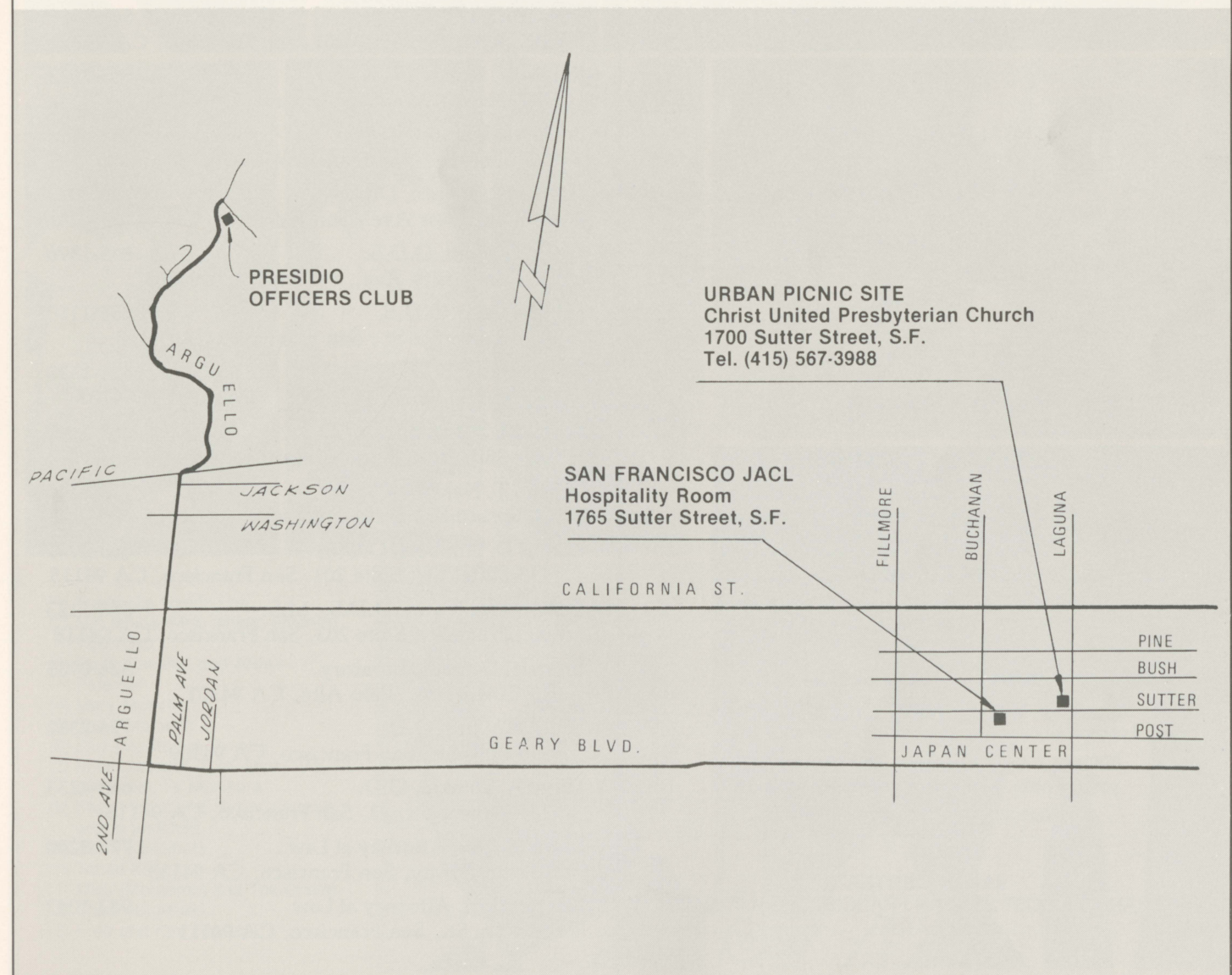
Chairman: Ki Tanamachi

12:00-4:00 p.m.

Registration

Bento Lunch

Social Get-together



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| Robert K. Kiyasu, M.D. | 386-4600 |
| 3905 Sacramento St., San Francisco, CA 94118 | |
| William S. Kiyasu, M.D. | 752-8038 |
| 3905 Sacramento St., San Francisco, CA 94118 | |
| Maybelle S. Okawaki, M.D. | 922-4277 |
| 403 Laurel St., San Francisco, CA 94118 | |
| Himeo Tsumori, M.D. | 776-5295 |
| 2107 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, CA 94109 | |
| John Umekubo, M.D. | 931-5182 |
| 1674 Post St., #3, San Francisco, CA 94115 | |
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| 563 Clay St., San Francisco, CA 94111 | |



Who Are They?

- (1) Annabelle Uyeda Lee
- (2) Min Ishida, Mrs. Ishida, Shichiro Yokomizo
- (3) Tsuki (Takaha) and Arthur Peterson
- (4) Mary McMillan
- (5) Shinji Momono
- (6) Shiz (Moritomo) Tanabe
- (7) Rose (Adachi), Tom, Dee (Ty's girlfriend), Ty Miyahara
- (8) Eiko (Hosoi) and Hiro Katayama with grandchild
- (9) Harry Kawabata
- (10) Tomio Katsura
- (11) Miyo (Moritomo) and Tok Onoda
- (12) Chiko Haramaki
- (13) Fred and Kim Hayashi.

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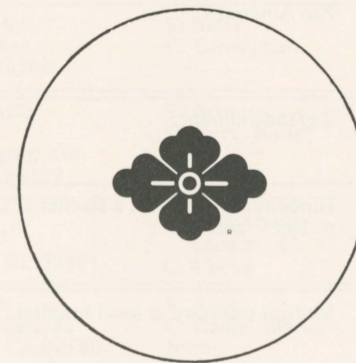


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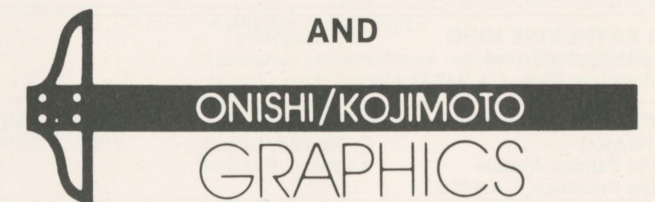


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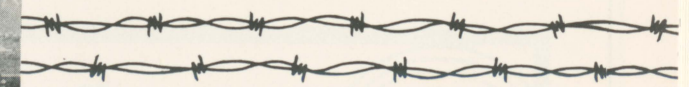
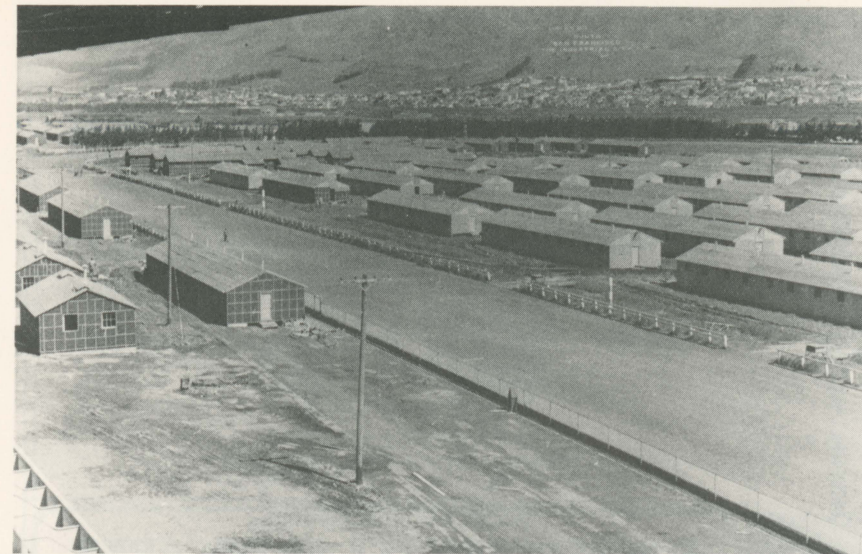
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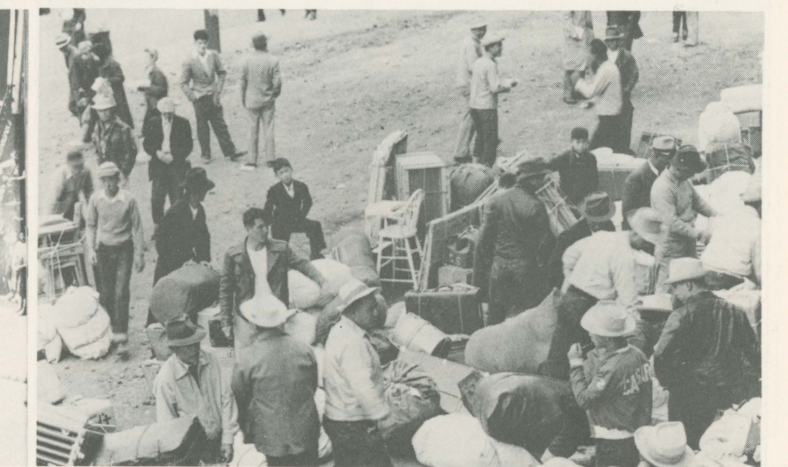
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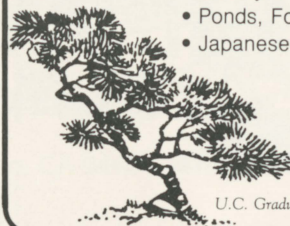
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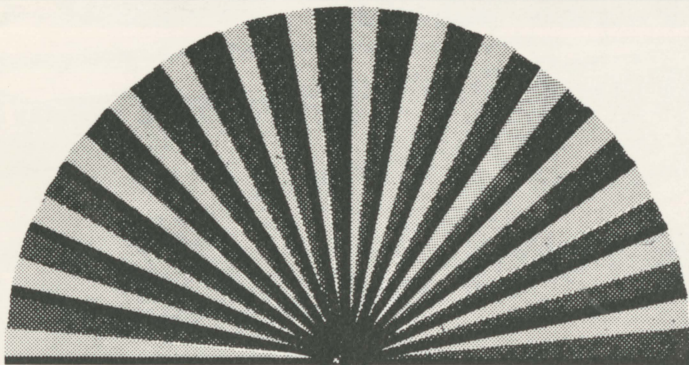
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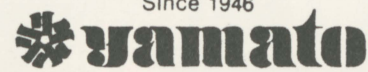
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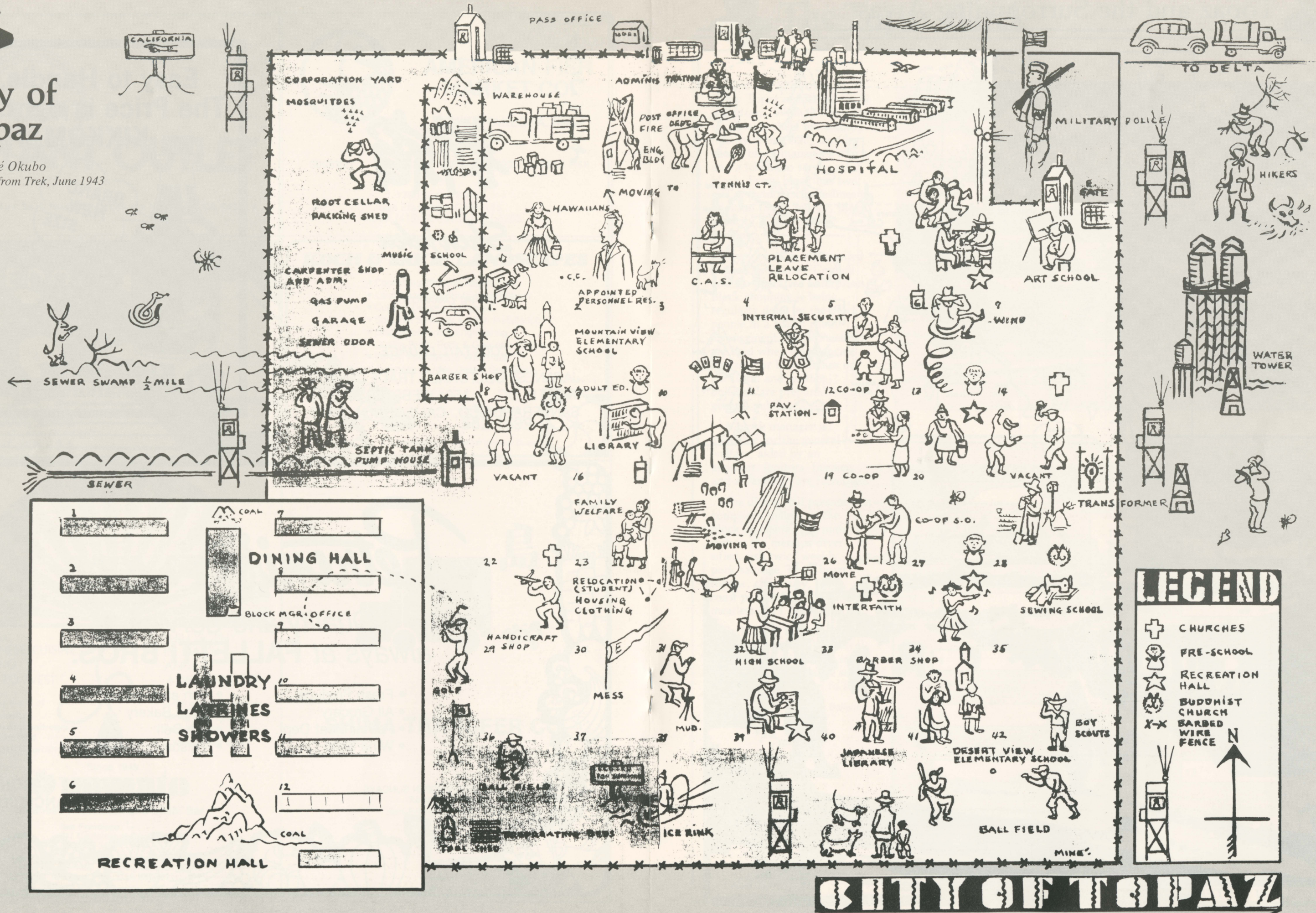
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City of Topaz

By Miné Okubo
Reprint from Trek, June 1943



LEGEND

- ⊕ CHURCHES
- ⦿ PRE-SCHOOL
- ★ RECREATION HALL
- ☸ BUDDHIST CHURCH
- XX BARBED WIRE FENCE

N
↑



Topaz and the Surrounding Areas

FOSSILS



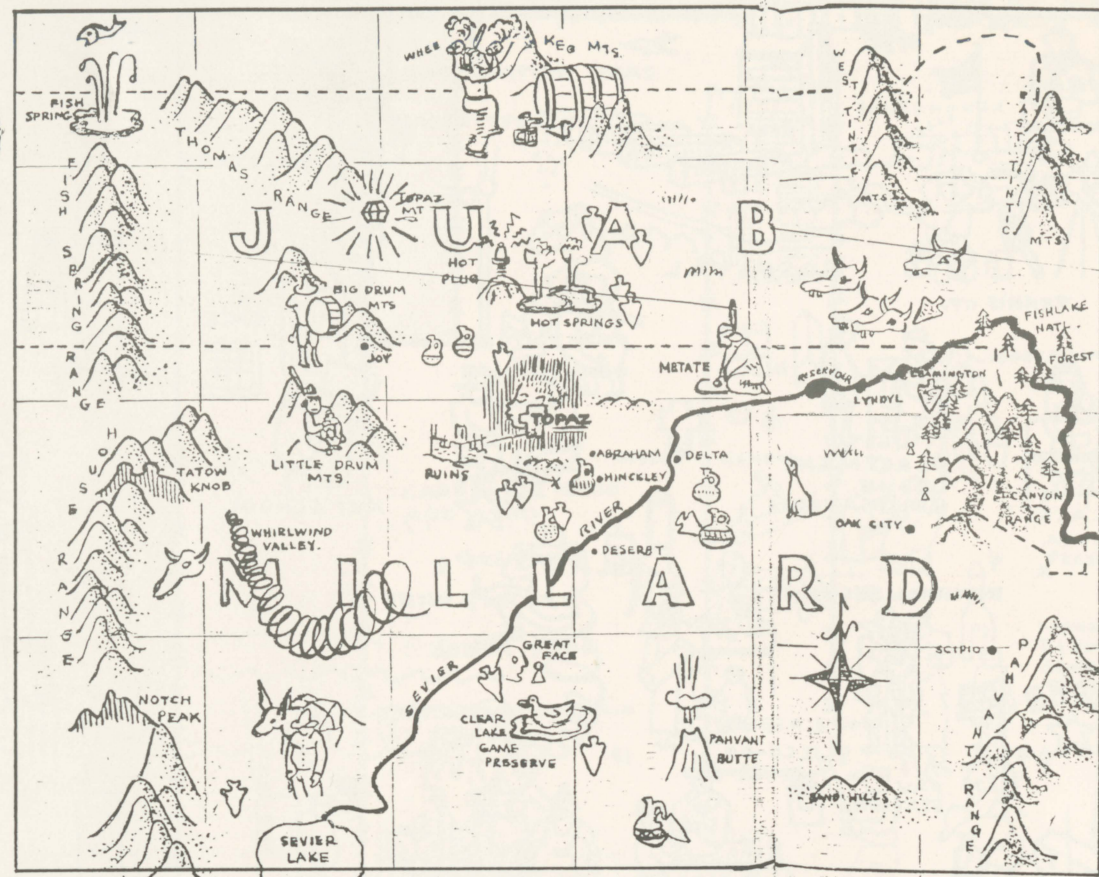
POTTERY



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The Topaz Block

Welcome to our block! Every Topaz residential block is uniform. With 12 barracks to a block, there are a community dining hall, laundry room, block manager's office, and a latrine to serve each block. Every block has two sets of outdoor clotheslines in addition to the indoor. Block capacity is 250 to 300 persons.

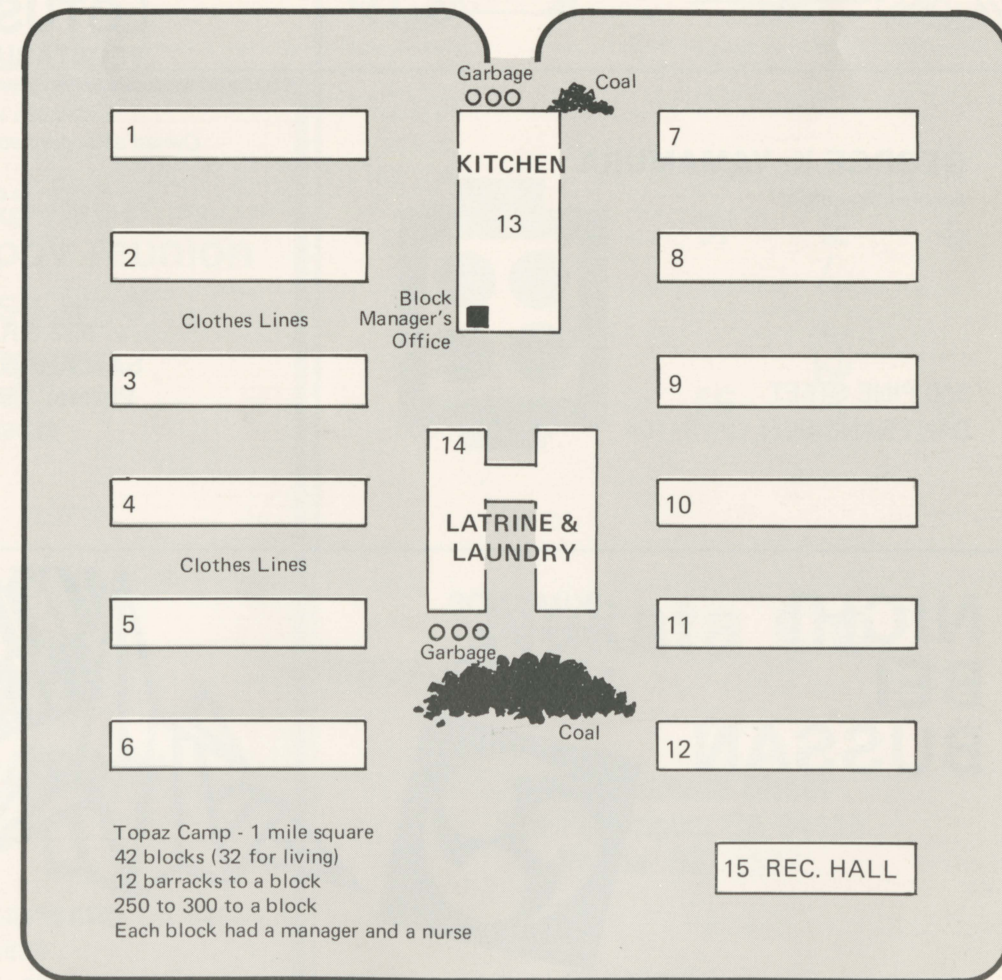
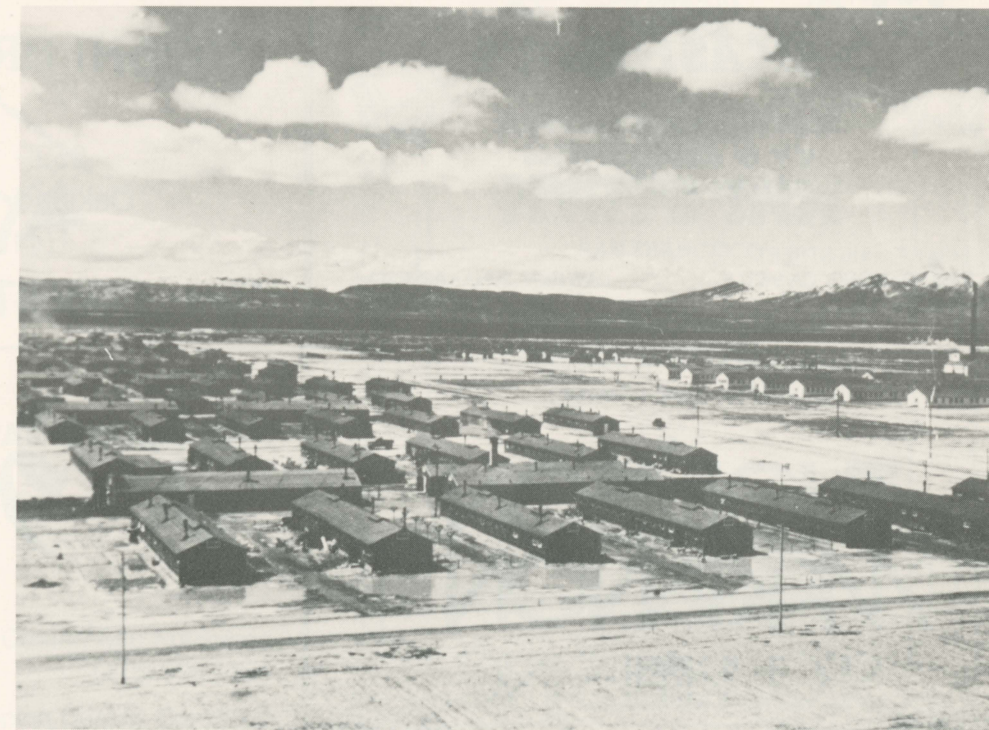
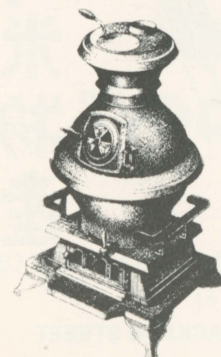
Every block is represented in the Community Council and Co-operative Enterprises. Block shopping is being regularly done by the block people in a round robin arrangement. Block meetings are held when emergencies and regular block issues occur. Oral and written bulletins are prepared for the general public.

A block manager is available for the general welfare, aided by an assistant. Janitors, firemen, and a yardman are furnished.

The dining hall personnel is composed mainly of the block residents. The main dish in the menu is diversified: fish twice weekly, pork sausage, liver, heart, tongue, chop suey, tripe, roast pork, spare ribs and meatless days.

Each block has its nurse who first handles all medical cases arising within her section. For an ambulance service she is the person to see.

—From Welcome to Topaz Bulletin





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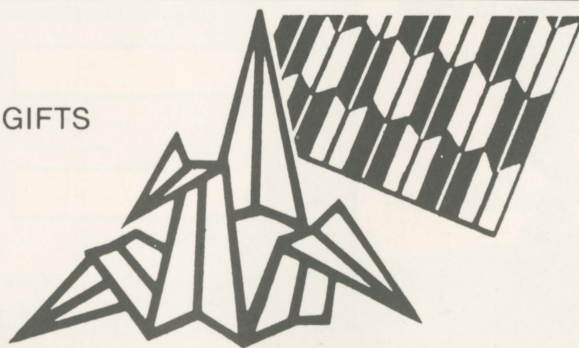
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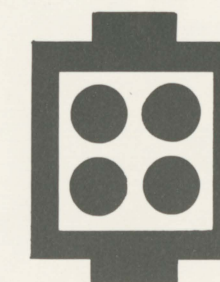
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memorable, happy reunion
and to those who
made it happen.

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We tagged our baggage with the family number, 13660, and pinned the personal tags on ourselves; we were ready at last.



Topaz, Utah

Compiled from Topaz Times, Trek, Citizen 13660 by Miné Okubo.
Edited by Fumi Manabe Hayashi

Topaz was located in West Central Utah in the Sevier Desert. The extremes of temperature ranged from 106° in the summer to 30° below in the winter. The rainfall averaged 8 inches and the wind blew all of the time.

1942

September 11, 1942

214 volunteer workers from Tanforan arrived at Delta. They were greeted by Director Ernst.

September 15

The Topaz Times was started by Henri Takahashi and Lily Tamaki. Originally, the paper was a single mimeographed sheet issued three times a week. Later the Times became a daily with a Japanese and a comic section. All news was censored by the administration staff.

September 17

The first contingent of evacuees arrived from Tanforan. They slept on mattresses stuffed with straw. There were open water ditches. Residents often fell into the ditches.

October 4

Dillon S. Myer, WRA Director, arrived from Salt Lake City.

October 15

The first movie, *Daltons Ride Again*, was featured at Rec. 22.

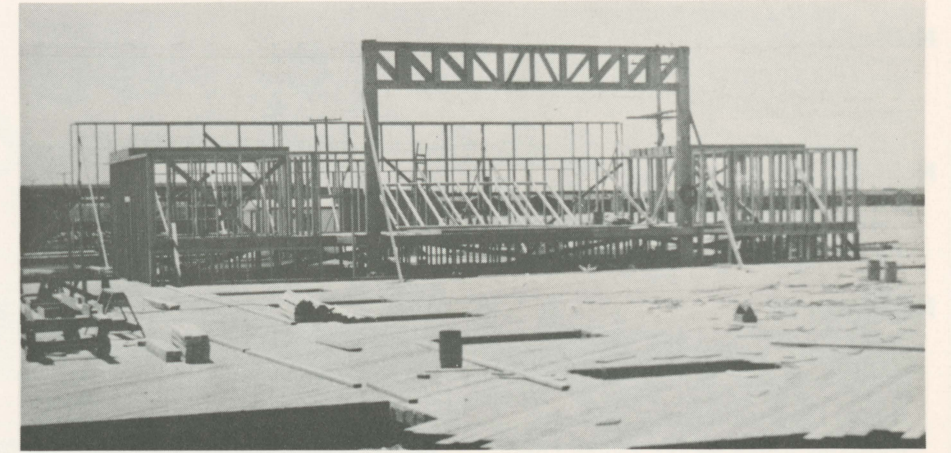
October 18

The Topaz Hospital was dedicated.

October 30

Registration for Topaz High began. The school followed a modification of California and Utah education codes. A "Code Curriculum" was adopted. There were 17 caucasian and 14 resident teachers.

The coal shortage was at its height. The first snow fell on Topaz.



The beginning of Topaz High School Auditorium.



Assembly time.

November 2

The Constitution of Topaz was drafted.

November 26

Turkey was served in all of the dining halls.

November 28

Volunteers, including a detail of the Military Police, and staff teachers, helped the maintenance division winterize Block 32 for Topaz High. All day classes have begun.

The town bell was formally unveiled at the High School Plaza.

Basketball game: Topaz All Stars vs. Delta High at Rec. 34.



'49er hopefuls!



Cheerleaders take advantage of half time.



Topaz Hi Queens.

December 24

The skating rink south of Blocks 37 & 38 was completed. The rink was designed by Moto Takahashi.

December 25

A white Christmas. Turkey was served.

1943

January 1

Mochi was served in the mess halls.

January 14

Gov. Herbert B. Maw of Utah was the honored guest.

The TREE OF TOPAZ representing the population of this Center was designated the official shield.

February 8

Lt. William L. Tracy announced the policies of the War Department in forming a Nisei Combat Unit.

February 10

Tuesdays and Fridays were designated as meatless days.

March 1

Topaz announced the volunteering of the three Yoshino brothers.

March 22

The number of volunteers for the army rose to 112.

April 11

James H. Wakasa was shot and killed by a sentry on guard.

June 25

196 graduating seniors celebrated Senior Week with an outing, Baccalaureate Service and a Senior Prom. They graduated in caps and gowns at the High School Plaza.

Highlights of the school year included basketball and track teams that performed very well against neighboring schools - Delta, Fillmore and Hinckley. Performances of *Our Town* and *Little Women* were well received. Also memorable was the exciting *Play Day Mud Brawl*. Publications included the yearbook *Ramblings* and *Topazette*.

July 6

A gala July 4 Carnival raised money for student scholarships.

August 10

Dr. Golden L. Woolf resigned as principal. He has been recalled to Brigham Young University where he is a Professor of Secondary Education.

August 13

30 Seniors received their diplomas in the midsummer graduation.

Many seniors have been accepted to various Midwest and Eastern colleges and universities.

August 14

The Army recalled reservists from this Center.

August 26

The Gym/Auditorium has been completed.



Singing Topazians.



Extra! Extra!



Topaz graduates.



The movie theatre.

Topaz, Utah

September 11

Topaz became one year old.

The Gripsholm sailed from New York.

1944

April 2

First batch of tofu from the Center's tofu factory was distributed to the mess halls.

May 3

Topaz High tracksters in dual meet at Fillmore.

May 19

Sgt. Ben Kuroki visited Topaz. He received a warm welcome.

May 30

Charles F. Ernst, Project Director, left for Washington, D.C. for overseas duty with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. He served as Project Director from September 1, 1943 to May 30, 1944.

May 31

Agricultural section got 5000 meat chickens.

June 2

127 Seniors graduate.

Climaxing a week of senior activities, 127 seniors graduated.

Welcome Address:

Kiyoshi Tanamachi, Class President

Valedictory Address:

Sumako Aihara

Salutatory Address:

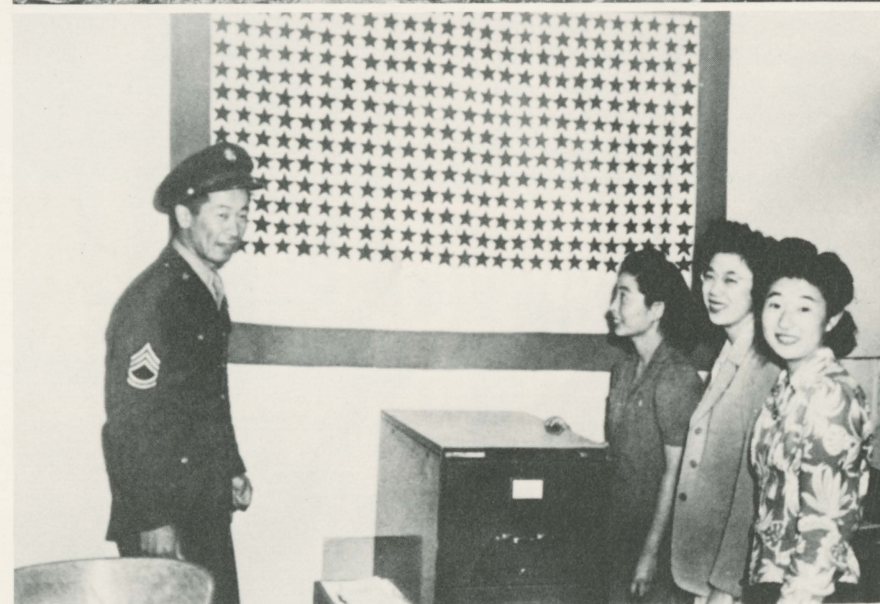
Shichiro Yokomizo

Violin Selection:

Junko Maida

The class was addressed by

Assistant Project Director, Roscoe Bell.



Topaz, Utah

1976

Monument placed at Topaz.

1980

August 16

35th Reunion of the Class of 1945, Topaz High.

1982

August

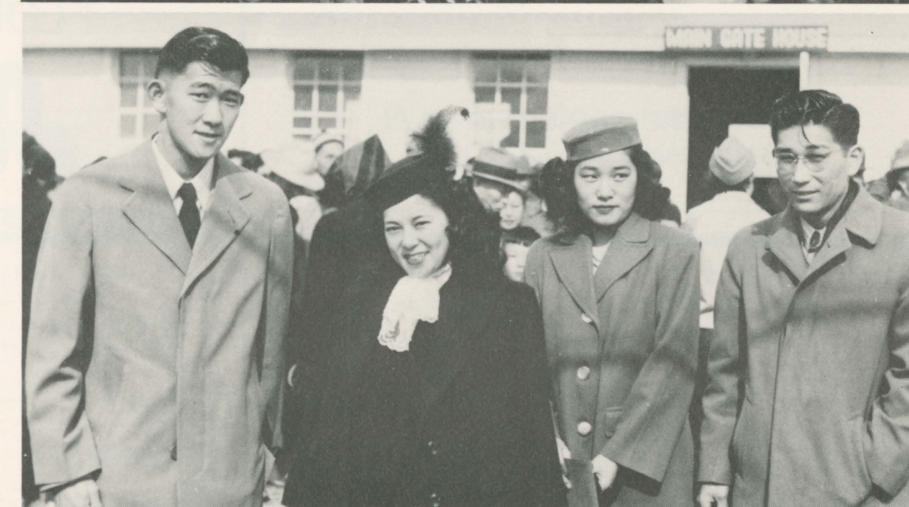
Reunion Committee for classes of 1943 and 1944 began working.

1983

The Journalism students at Delta High School, under the direction of Ms. Jane Beckwith, began to look for stories about Topaz. They were amazed to find little information in their libraries. So they decided to research and record first-hand stories from the local residents who were involved with Topaz.

1983 from the Delta Students

Now almost 40 years later, the desert near Delta, hasn't healed even though the barracks were moved in 1945. And the people who still live in the town haven't forgotten when trains brought 500 Japanese at a time, or the fresh fish market that sprang up then, or some of their friends with names like Yasuda or Kawakami that they still exchange Christmas cards with. Nor have the Japanese Americans forgotten. Some of them return periodically to the 17,000 acres of desert land with its one square mile of abandoned camp site. They look for remnants of the past and seek solace by telling the story of relocation. Though it was tragic and unhappy, they are proud that most of them faced the trial with courage and dignity befitting the traditions of their people, all the time hoping that by the telling, it may prevent another such tragedy from happening.





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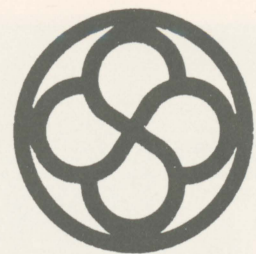
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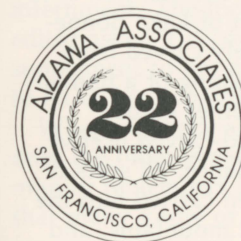
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Local Look at the Topaz Japanese Relocation Camp at Delta, Utah

By The Delta High School Journalism Class
under the direction of Jane Beckwith

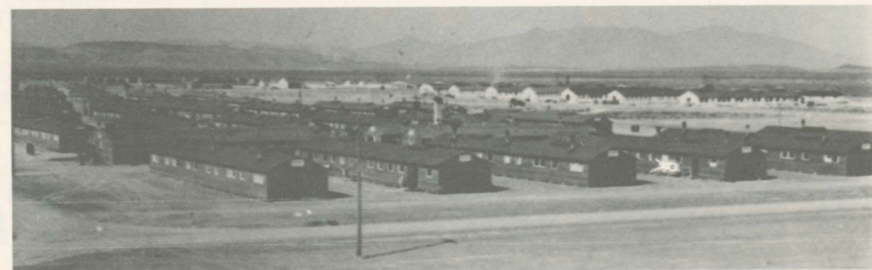
For most things 40 years is a long time. It's long enough to see a baby mature to adulthood, long enough to work and retire from a job, long enough for modes of travel and communications to improve many times. But for some things 40 years is insignificant. The desert of Utah is like that. Once it is marred, it may never heal. The human heart is like that and so is the mind.

On December 7, 1941, an event occurred that effected such a type of destruction on the world. Human lives were destroyed at Pearl Harbor and the resulting mourning took an immeasurable toll on others. But one group of people whose story, until recently, has not been effectively told was the 120,000 Japanese American citizens living on the Pacific Coast who became the object of what the Commission on War-time Relocation and Internment of Civilians called "decisions of race prejudice, war hysteria and a failure of political leadership."

They were forced, by the February 1942 signing of Executive Order 9066 to "relocate" from the designated military areas of the Pacific Coast states and Arizona, to ten camps inland. President Roosevelt's order applied to all Japanese Americans without benefit of trial or hearing, even though 70,000 were American citizens by birth and 40,000 more had lived in this country for more than 25 years. Some were only 1/16 Japanese.

The story of Japanese Internment is a long and complicated situation, but one that is very important to the history of the nation as a democracy and to the Japanese Americans who were dispersed all over America after the war rather than returned to their centrally located homes on the coast. It is also important to the history of Delta, Utah, because one of those "relocation" centers was 17 miles from there.

Topaz, named for the gems in a nearby mountain, or Central Utah Relocation Center, as it was first known, was the fifth largest city in Utah with its peak population of nearly 8,500 citizens. Most of the internees were from the Berkeley, California area near San Francisco. In March of 1942, they were moved from their homes in the lush, green hills to Tanforan Race Track where



they lived in horse stalls and make-shift housing. By September they were transferred to the unfinished barracks of the Topaz camp in a barren desert that wasn't even very appealing to local Deltans used to the bleak terrain.

Now almost 40 years later, the desert near Delta, hasn't healed even though the barracks were moved in 1945. And the people who still live in the town haven't forgotten when trains brought 500 Japanese at a time or the fresh fish market that sprang up then, or some of their friends with names like Yasuda or Kawakami that they still exchange Christmas cards with. Nor have the Japanese Americans forgotten. Some of them returned periodically to the 17,000 acres of desert land with its one square mile of abandoned camp site. They look for remnants of the past and seek solace by telling the story of relocation. Though it was tragic and unhappy, they are proud that most of them faced the trial with courage and dignity befitting the traditions of their people, all the time hoping that by the telling, it may prevent another such tragedy from happening.

As journalism students of Delta High, looking for stories for our school newspaper, the subject of the Topaz Camp was suggested for articles; however, after going to the school library and the public library we were amazed at the lack of information on the camp. That was when we decided to research and record at least the local history of the camp while firsthand stories were still available and make the information acces-

sible to other classes and community organizations.

We went into the community and borrowed pieces of memorabilia that had been made or found at the camp site. This included jewelry made of shells found in the silt that had once been at the bottom of Lake Bonneville, birds delicately carved from wood, a cement casting of a human form, arches and other garden decorations, a hand-carved license plate for an ambulance, all sorts of rocks that had been carried into the camp from distant mountains, and other items.

Then we interviewed people who had some connection to the camp: a civilian guard, a Navy officer who had been fighting in the Pacific before being a fireman at the camp, a realtor who helped secure land and water for the site, a local doctor who practiced at the camp, Herbert B. Maw, the Governor of Utah during World War II, a secretary in the administration building, an educational administrator, and others.

The Japanese American Citizen League donated a video tape about the camp that was produced by a Utah TV station, and we recorded Dr. Leonard Arrington, author of *The Price of Prejudice* and another tape about the literature of the camp.

We re-discovered newspapers and magazines published at Topaz and we xeroxed articles from the local weekly paper for the years of 1942 and '43 and compiled a bibliography of works in libraries in our state that could be acquired through inter-library loans.

We took field trips to the camp and photographed what the camp site looks like today. These were barracks that are now sheds and houses in the community.

We were asked to host the opening session of the International Conference on Redress and Relocation sponsored by the University of Utah. When the conference returned to the Salt Lake campus, we heard Min Yasui speak. His case opposing curfew for Japanese Americans was heard in the Supreme Court. Just this spring he filed a quorum novus for a petition of re-hearing that case.

At that conference we also heard poet Lawson Inada discuss the effect of the camps on the literary history of the Japanese American community. Later he accepted an invitation to teach in our schools for four days.

Perhaps the most important production was the school newspaper which was devoted to the subject of internment. The local newspaper editor asked if it could be used as a supplement to her paper and was sent to all of her subscribers.

What was once a subject which only the older generation in our community remembers is now a subject that many know of. We, the younger generation, learned from people with a living memory and now we are telling that story to others.

From our association with members of the Japanese American community, ties between us have developed. People from all over the country have donated materials and written to us telling of experiences in the camp.

Buddhists from Salt Lake City traveled three hours to hold a memorial service at the site. They visited Delta High, even though it was a Sunday, to see our project. Grace Oshita gave a presentation at the camp site telling what it was like to be a high school student there.

Almost 40 years after the camps, the Congressional Commission will reveal its recommendations for redress and reparations of the \$400,000,000 lost by the Japanese Americans in property and personal goods. And our project will go on, because even if a settlement is reached, the issue of internment will not be completely healed, hopefully it will never be forgotten. □



TOPAZ 1942-1946

SITE OF TOPAZ, A WORLD WAR II INTERNMENT CENTER

In the never ending struggle for human dignity, there was enacted on this spot an event of historic significance for a nation and its people.

During World War II

this was the site of an internment camp, complete with barbed wire fence and armed sentries, for 8,000 of the 110,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry, who for no justifiable reason, were uprooted from their homes and interned by their own government. They were the victims of wartime hysteria, racial animosity, and a serious aberration of American jurisprudence.

That a nation dedicated to

the principle of individual freedom and justice through law would, under the stress of war, allow this to happen - and then recognizing the injustice of this action, hastened to soften the effect of this action and make restitution.

And that a whole generation of a people, whose life and spirit was shattered and marred, would with courage and hope and perseverance, fight back to re-establish themselves in the American stream of life and were successful - are facts of sufficient historic importance to be remembered forever.

So in this Bicentennial Year 1976,

we dedicate this site as a reminder that the lessons of history need always be heeded in forging a more perfect form of human relationship.

TOPAZ MONUMENT DEDICATED 1976

It reads:

TOPAZ 1942-1946

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Mas Kawaguchi & Ki Tanamachi
Co-chairmen
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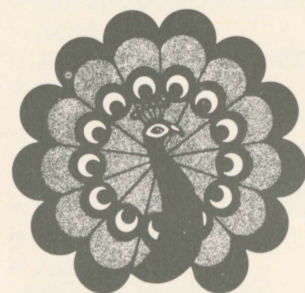
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Mike Y. Ichimaru, President

Remembering Topaz and the Classes of 1943 & 1944

*May the good memories, the fulfillment
from challenges met, and the
sharing of happy moments at this reunion
rekindle warmer friendships in the years ahead.*



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