

Crystal City:

Nichi Bei Times

In the Shadows of WRA Camps

Susie Masuda Sasagawa

The heartwarming and heartwrenching article "Words I Can Live By" written by Soji Kashiwagi (page 3 of this Chatter) regarding the recent Tule Lake Pilgrimage has stirred, once again my feelings about my internment at the Crystal City Internment Camp in Texas, and how some Japanese Americans view World War II internment camps.

I have been trying for years, along with many other former internees from the Crystal City Internment Camp, to open the eyes of those who have segregated camps into categories when recognizing them after the war. We all know that not one person, regardless of the camp they were in, was found guilty of any crime.

Our mother, with five children, experienced the last two years of her internment in Crystal City. We were in Rohwer, Arkansas WRA internment camp until the U.S. government decided to allow us to rejoin our father who was arrested by the FBI and taken away from us soon after Pearl Harbor was attacked. My father was a Japanese community leader in Lodi, California where I was born, We were separated for two years. It was devastating especially for my mother.

The Crystal City Internment camp is where our family was reunited with our father. He also had a choice of reuniting with us in Tule Lake, but heard about the problems at the camp and felt Crystal City was a better choice. After the war I was told that I was in the camp of the "bad people" just as the Tule Lake internees were referred to. Yet, Tule Lake was never ignored when camps were mentioned. According to the U.S. government, Crystal City was considered to have "dangerous aliens." They were community leaders like my father, also Japanese school teachers, Buddhist and Christian ministers, martial arts instructors, businessmen, physicians, dentists, etc. These were people who made a difference in all communities improving the lives of "Japanese Americans." Why were they considered dangerous and looked at as "bad people" by our own peers when monuments were in the planning stages to honor all Japanese family internment camps in the U.S.?

Crystal City was the only official "internment camp" under the Justice Department: all others were referred to as War Relocation Authority camps. I can understand the use of "internment camps" now, so why have we not been included when all family camps are mentioned? I have often wished that someone would write about Crystal City in the way Soji Kashiwagi wrote about Tule Lake and recognize the injustice we struggled through for many years after the war, especially the parents. Several of the former Crystal City Nisei in the Los Angeles area went to Washington D.C. and pleaded with the planning committee of the National Japanese American Memorial Monument for equal representation with Crystal City on the monument wall along with the 10 WRA camps. Our representatives were rejected by their peers with their request and left for home in tears.

I have a dear friend, Sumi Shimatsu, in Southern California who has been putting together the *Crystal City Chatter* newsletter for many years, keeping all of us in touch and informed in all areas of news concerning former Crystal City families. She, also, touched many people outside of our camp group.

In the past and present, I have run into Japanese Americans in California who have never heard of Crystal City even to this day. I have had several opportunities to talk about my camp experience at my children's elementary school, high schools, local junior college, and to other groups that have invited me to share my experience.

I would like to mention one outstanding Crystal City former internee. Edison Uno. He was a professor at San Francisco State University at the time he passed away and in his memory the Edison Uno Institute has been set up in his honor. He was the instigator of the Redress Movement. I remember attending a rally at Stanford University with my sister when he came to talk about redress in the 1960's. I was so proud of him -- his family was our neighbor in camp. It was Edison who proposed a resolution to the National Council of the Japanese American Citizens League to seriously pursue redress. Edison's resolution was approved and the JAACL hired John Tateishi to direct the Redress Movement after Edison passed away. He played an important role in the lives of the Japanese Americans, and yet Crystal City where he was interned has been ignored for many years. It is only lately that I have seen Crystal City mentioned.

I have talked with my family and friends, even people of all races about Crystal City being ignored, and it is hard for them to understand what the problem is since we are all (Cont'd on page 2)

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one people here in the United States regardless of camp location and experience. We were all victims of the war and should not be treated any differently. My father truly wanted to contribute to the U.S.A. and loved this country in every way. Who is to say or judge who is good and who is bad?

I have written to Sen. Daniel Inouye several times regarding the National Monument in Washington D.C. He was kind enough to answer my letters, and is in agreement with me that we truly are one people. He informed me at that time that Crystal City is now mentioned on a list of all Justice Department camps where men and a few women were incarcerated. In honor of the Issei who suffered and were humiliated with handcuffs and arrested, I believe it is time for healing even though most of the pioneers are gone. How sad that Redress was not approved in time for many of them. Let the Nisei, their children and grandchildren be proud of their parents and grandparents' past. We are all Japanese Americans now and the rest is history. I'm sure that we all agree that segregation and discrimination in any form cannot be tolerated.

(Yes, Suste, somehow even Japanese American National Museum personnel said that Crystal City was for "bad people" ...how Set Dyo, Toni Tomita and I fought them and got them to accept our camp at the Museum...it angered several CC friends for being told this. Toni had to fly to Sacramento to get papers that the Museum accepted as proof of our camp's existence and how having most of the Hawaiian internees were Buddhist priests, Tenrikyo, Shinto priests, Japanese Language school teachers could be "bad"... you can call it pure "ignorance" but having to prove to our fellow niseis, really was quite a difficult thing. I know that Joy Nozaki Gee and I tried to get Cherry Tsutsumida to get Crystal City Internment Camp recognition, however, talk about hitting a stone wall, Cherry didn't want to hear any part of it. Kiyo Jean Ito Kariya was there in Washington and tried to get our camp recognized...however, I guess being on the wall with Santa Fe Detention Camp is better than nothing. We tried but failed...thank you for the article you wrote to Nichi Bet Times, which is another Japanese American Newspaper that is no longer printed.

Also reading Mr. Soji Kashtwagi's article about Tule Lake and the "Yes Yes" "No No" questions, I was able to get a better picture of Tule Lake and the many who were sent there especially after the Loyalty Oath questionnaire. Being younger, I did not know the exact question of the Loyalty Oath and I do know that many also had to obey their parents and their desire. Thank you Suste for sending this article for the many readers who may for the first time realize the difference between Tule Lake and Crystal City.

"Uncle Shig and the Junkman" by Victor Muraoka; Rafu Shimpo

A "junkman" in the early 30's and 40's were like the dumpster divers of today. They were scavengers or shady traders sometimes paying a little as they could get away with. They gathered anything of value and usually got around with a horse and wagon. We used to see them in the farm country fairly often.

Time was April 1942; the place was Vanowen Street and Coldwater Canyon Boulevard in North Hollywood at the farm of Shig Hamamoto's farm. We moved to the farm so that we could all go to the same camp during the evacuation, so the Muraoka family moved to Hamamoto's farm.

They were all waiting one morning to go to the Burbank assembly area, to be bussed to Manzanar Relocation Center in Inyo County. On that last morning at the farm, they got up early and was following Shig who was making sure of last minute details such as locking sheds, securing the farmhouse, and other stuff which didn't make sense since they were all going away.

As Shig was looking around, he spotted 2 "Junkmen" with their horses and flatbed wagons parked along Coldwater Canyon. He asked what they were doing there and one of them told him it was none of his business and it was a free country.

Since they were being forced into camp, that statement must have really p****d" off Shig. He yelled at them "I know why you're here; you're going to steal everything we leave behind!" Then he said, "I'll show you b*****ds", and started a fire, a huge fire. Then he started to throw everything into the fire, all the things we had to leave behind.

Tools, beds, tables, plows, household goods and all leftover clothes and anything we could not take with us.

As he tossed things into the fire, he was laughing like a madman and giving that "screw you" look at the junkmen. One of the junkman was heard saying "crazy b*****d" but there was nothing they could do but to go to other nearby farms where other Japanese Americans were being evacuated. There's no knowledge of how many farms were picked clean by these junkmen but at that time, who knew what became of things that were left behind?

Words I Can Live By

Soji Kashiwagi

If there's one thing I've learned after 30 years of writing, it's this: Words matter.

Words, and how they are used, have the power to uplift, soar through the sky and change the world, and the people in it.

"I have a dream," said Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Who can ever forget those words?

But words, used in other ways also have enormous power to hurt, kill and send people to the depths of despair. Adolph Hitler knew the power of his words.

It matters how we use them.

As Japanese Americans, key words were used against us before and during World War II that changed our lives forever. Some of them are painful. Here are just a few:

"Yellow Peril," "Good for nothing." "Jap Hunting License. "No limit."

Then, the forced removal of our community happened, and creative words were used like "Non-Alien" (referring to American citizens, the Nisei), and "Assembly Center" (temporary camp) and "Relocation Center" (permanent camp).

And then, in early 1943, our wartime leaders came up with more words, this time in the form of two confusing and ill-worded questions: The infamous "loyalty oath" questions 27 and 28.

Question 27

Are you willing to serve in the armed forces of the United States on combat duty whenever ordered?

Question 28

Will you swear unqualified allegiance to the United States of America and faithfully defend the United States from any and all attacks by foreign or domestic forces and forswear any form of allegiance or obedience to the Japanese Emperor or any other foreign government, power, or organization?

These were the words that were used to force Japanese Americans, age 17 and above, to answer either "Yes-Yes," or "No-No". But it's safe to say that these words, in the context of where they were, had a devastating effect on our community that is still felt to this day. Friendships ended, Lovers split, Families were torn apart. A community was fractured.

A "Yes-Yes" answer meant that you were "loyal" to the United States. Anything other than that was considered "No-No," and that individual was branded "disloyal" and sent along with more than 12,000 others to what became the Tule Lake Segregation Center for disloyal Japanese Americans.

"Tule Lake", Two words, when mentioned in our community, conjure up all kinds of emotion, usually negative.

"Oh, that was the trouble-maker camp."

"You're one of those disloyals."

In other words, "Tule Lake" equals: The "bad" Japanese Americans.

"Trouble-maker," "disloyal," "bad people" -- these are the words that have haunted those who were incarcerated and segregated at Tule Lake back then, and has followed them for 63 years since they left.

I have just returned from the 17th Tule Lake Pilgrimage held over the Fourth of July weekend at the actual Tule Lake campsite, and I listened to the words and stories of people who were there, including my mother, father and aunt.

Citing the U.S. Constitution, several of the "No-No Boys," now in their 80s and 90s, said they were deeply insulted by the questions. Angered and betrayed by the country they loved, they responded by saying "No-No", qualified their answers or flat-out refused to sign.

"I was fighting for our civil rights," more than one said. "This was not right, and we were protesting"

"I would have served, if they had released us from camp," said another.

Clearly, this was not a "black and white" issue. For some, it had absolutely nothing to do with loyalty or disloyalty, and everything to do with family.

"My mother insisted that our family stay together," said one. "That's why we said "No-No", so our family could stay together."

Here are some other things I learned at the pilgrimage; After segregation, (Cont'd on page 4)

("Words I Can Live By" cont'd from pg 3)

Tule Lake became a camp full of 18,000 inmates. Because of the chaotic and lawless environment that the camp had become -- due to WRA employees stealing food to sell on the black market, military police conducting dragnets throughout the camp and a culture of mistrust from insider "spies" on the WRA payroll -- the government put Tule Lake under martial law, 1,200 soldiers were brought in with tanks, machine guns and tear gas, and a stockade was built that included a jail, within what was already a jail.

Without being charged, protest leaders were thrown into the stockade or jail. Some were beaten, others were tortured, according to Tokio Yamane, who was imprisoned in the stockade with two other men; Yamane described the torture of fellow inmate Tom Kobayashi who was beaten with a baseball bat that broke into two from the force of the blow to his head. (At the pilgrimage we saw a DVD interview with Yamane, from his home in Japan. This interview is corroborated by FBI reports of the incident.)

Under duress, more than 5,000 individuals renounced their U.S. citizenship, and thanks to a special Federal law passed with them in mind, many of the 5,000-plus were legally shipped off to Japan, a country they did not know.

After digesting all of this, my thoughts return to the words, "disloyal," "trouble maker," and the "bad people" of Tule Lake, the ones who supposedly brought shame to our community for saying "No-No" when they should have said "Yes-Yes."

But after hearing the words from those who were there, I have to wonder: was it "disloyal" to cite one's civil rights and protections under the U.S. Constitution as their reason for protest? Does protesting an injustice make someone a "trouble maker" and a "bad person?" Wasn't the Boston Tea Party a form of protest? Isn't fighting for freedom and democracy the American way?

The saddest part about these words is that for many in our community, they have become the reality, the accepted words to use when describing the people at Tule Lake. Because of this, the "No-No's" and Renunciants have largely been shamed into silence, their stories ignored in our history, and they, as people, have placed in the margins of Japanese American society.

The tragedy of it all is that so many -- thousands -- have gone to their graves with this terrible burden and shame on their shoulders. And for those still living, the pain remains, unresolved, not only for themselves, but for their descendants as well.

On the bus ride home from the pilgrimage I asked a young National Park Ranger serving at Manzanar if he saw any differences between Manzanar and Tule Lake. He thought for a moment and said, "At the Tule Lake, and among the people I met, I felt a lot more pain."

And it's all because of words, these words that have caused so much pain and damage to members of our community, splitting us apart and turning us against each other. We have received redress and reparations, and an official apology from the President. Where now are the words that can begin the healing from within our community?

I, for one, will never use the words "trouble maker" and "disloyal" again to describe the people of "Tule Lake," Instead, I will use words to celebrate the fact that despite extremely difficult circumstances, we have MANY courageous stories to tell our future generations: The heroic and amazing story of the soldiers of the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team/Military Intelligence Service and 522nd Field Artillery Battalion; the independent spirit and dedication of Nisei women who served in the Cadet Nurse Corps and the Women Army Corps (WAC); the strength and perseverance of the Heart Mountain Resisters of Conscience, the devotion and hard work of the military protesters known as the 1800th Engineer General Service Battalion and last, but not least, the endurance and fighting spirit of the Rebels of Tule Lake.

Courageous, heroic, amazing, independent, dedication, strength, perseverance, devotion, hard-work, endurance, fighting spirit, Rebels. To the Sansei, Yonsei, Gosei, Hapa Nation and beyond -- these are words I have chosen to describe our greatest generation, and how they responded -- with enormous dignity and Americanism -- to the words and actions of a government that had betrayed them.

Embrace them all, choose your own, but know that they existed back then -- these stories and our people. And for all that they did, and for all that they suffered, I cannot help but say to them with deepest respect, gratitude and appreciation: "Thank you. Mahalo. Arigato."

And hopefully, now and in the future, they can all be accepted, recognized and acknowledged as the National Treasures that they are.

Amen

The Magic of Mushrooms

They safeguard against cancer...mushrooms are rich in disease fighting phytochemicals, and eating them regularly has been linked to a lower risk of breast cancer in studies of Chinese and Korean women. Mushrooms also prevent prostate cancer cells from multiplying in mice -- and might do the same in men.

They supply hard-to-get nutrients. One medium portobello mushroom supplies 21 percent of the recommended daily intake of selenium and one third your need of copper; it also has as much potassium as a medium-size bananas. Other varieties are just as rich in minerals, a recent analysis found. What's more, mushrooms retain their nutrients when stir-fried, grilled, or microwaved.

They help you cut calories. When ground beef was swapped out for mushrooms in lasagna, sloppy joes, and chili, adults consumed 400 fewer calories per day, according to a John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health study. Researchers estimate that if you sub mushrooms for ground meat in one meal every week, you can lose five pounds in a year. Just don't sabotage this fringe benefit by preparing mushrooms with loads of butter. Instead, toss them into a nonstick pan that's been lightly sprayed with oil, then saute on low heat until they soften.

Eat Better, Spend Less

Penny-pinch on organics...skip organic "junk" foods like cookies and crackers, but do go organic for milk. Most families drink milk every day and a couple of recent European studies suggest organic can be healthier than the conventional version. In those studies, organic milk contained 75 percent more beta-carotene, 50 percent more vitamin E, and up to 70 percent more omega-3 fatty acid.

Hit the deep freeze for produce...cold protects nutrients along with your wallet. In one study, frozen broccoli's vitamin C dipped just 10 percent in a year's time, while fresh broccoli plummeted 56 percent in seven days.

Don't snub store brands...Generic canned or bottled goods and cereals are often identical in quality to name brands. And picking brand X can make natural or organic items affordable.

Do it yourself...You can buy a loaf of whole grain bread for about \$4.00 -- or make seven or eight loaves from a five-pound bag of flour for about \$3. Automatic bread makers do all the work and are available for as little as \$25.00.

A New Way to Keep Bones Strong...You already know you need plenty of calcium and vitamin D to keep your bones strong. but surprising new reasearch suggests that another dietary move is just as important. The key: Go easy on carbs and sub in more fruits and veggies.

As a matter of chemistry, when you digest carbohydrates, the process turns your innards slightly acidic. That's a problem because a high-acid environment leaches calcium from bone. In contrast, fruits and vegetables create a skeleton-friendly alkaline environment. The American diet tends to be acid-producing -- particularly hard on older people, whose kidneys can't clear acid compounds as quickly.

Eating two vegetable or fruit servings at every meal, and eat no more than two daily servings of carbs like bread, cereal, and pasta will help.

When to Do-It-Yourself and When to See a Professional

Treat at Home:

Minor cuts or scrapes, minor burns (Do NOT use butter or oil), even minor sprains or strains, can all be cared for at home. Follow up with your doctor if you need to --- if your twisted ankle isn't getting better, for example, or your cut gets infected.

To make sure you're ready to care for minor issues, keep your first aid supplies up-to-date. You can buy a well-stocked kit from the Red Cross and at most drug stores. Add in any personal items you may need, such as medication, emergency phone numbers, or any other items your doctor may suggest. It's a good idea to keep an extra kit in your car, too.

Get Care Right Away:

These are serious warning signs or injuries. Do not "wait to see what happens." Get medical help right away if you experience:

- * Trouble breathing
- * Bad pain in the chest with sweating
- * Bad pain in the neck, shoulders, and arms

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(Cont'd "When to Do-It-Yourself--" from page 5)

Get Care Right Away:

- * Suddenly can't talk
- * Suddenly can't move one side of your body
- * Numbness on one side of your body
- * Suddenly can't see or have pain in one eye
- * Bleeding that is fast and/or can't be stopped
- * Pain from a fall or cannot get up from a fall
- * A sudden, severe headache
- * Passing out
- * Vomiting blood or what looks like coffee grounds
- * A burn that blisters or is larger than your hand
- * A deep cut (more than 1/4 inch deep)

When you call **9-1-1**, follow these directions:

- * Tell emergency staff what is happening.
- * Stay on the phone. The emergency operator will tell you what to do.
- * If you are told to, go to the hospital in an ambulance.
The paramedics can start treating you on the way to the hospital.
- * If you cannot reach emergency services, have someone drive you to the hospital right away.
- * Do not drive yourself unless you have no other choice.

This information is to help you be prepared.

Helpful Hints

*Use baking soda to exfoliate your skin...especially your face, neck, elbows and hands...pour about a teaspoon of baking soda into your hand, add a little water and gently massage it into your skin. Rinse it off with cool water and pat your face dry with a soft towel. Use this treatment three times in a week. The best part is that it's so inexpensive -- and it works just as well as, if not better than the expensive high-end products.

*Ants will never enter an area covered with Comet. Just sprinkle the cleanser whenever you see ants ...and they will go elsewhere.

To de-stink dogs that have been sprayed by a skunk, give the dog a bath and dry him a bit with a towel...then soak him in Pepsi-Cola...it takes the smell away as well as tomato juice, but it won't turn your dog orange, and there's a lot less mess.

Dab yourself with vanilla extract mixed with a little water before you head outside, and the black flies will leave you alone.

Add a few drops of your favorite essential oil to a bowl of baking soda for a wonderful familyroom air freshener.

If you have an unexpected encounter with poison ivy, you're gonna need to ditch the itch...but if you don't have any soothing Calamine lotion on hand, you probably have a few super soothers in your kitchen cupboard...Bathe in it...

Baking Soda

- * Dump 1/2 cup of baking soda into lukewarm water and soak for awhile.
- * Mix a handful of baking soda with just enough water to make a thick paste and spread it over the affected area. After the paste dries, take a hot shower to wash of the residue.
- * Go herbal -- make a paste using witch hazel instead of water, and smooth it on to the itchy rash. It'll give you a tingly, cooling sensation that's just what the doctor ordered.

Buttermilk

Dip a soft cloth into a cupful, and sponge it over your rashy skin.

Tomatoes

Cut a green tomato in half, and rub the cut part over the itchy bumps.

Banish B.O.

Feeling a little "ripe" this summer? It may just be the non-stop heat that's putting your sweat glands into odoriferous overdrive. Or it could be the food you're eating. So if you're going through deodorant like there's no tomorrow, and you still can't stop the smell, try these few dietary (Con't on page 8)

To those of us who have children in our lives
whether they are our own, grandchildren, nieces, nephews or students...
here are something to make you chuckle.

Whenever your children are out of control, you can take comfort from the thought that even God's omnipotence did not extend to HIS own children.

After creating heaven and earth, God created Adam and Eve.

And the first thing He said was "DON'T"

"Don't what?" Adam replied?

"Don't eat the forbidden fruit" God said.

"Forbidden fruit? We have forbidden fruit? Hey Eve, we have forbidden fruit"

"No Way!"

"Yes way!"

"Do NOT eat the fruit!" said God

"Why?"

"Because I am your Father and I said so!" God replied wondering why He hadn't stopped creation after making the elephants.

A few minutes later, God saw His children having an apple break and He was ticked!

"Didn't I tell you not to eat the fruit?" God asked.

"Uh huh" Adam replied.

"Then why did you?" said the Father.

"I don't know," said Eve.

"She started it!" Adam said.

"Did not!"

"Did too!"

"DID NOT!"

Having had it with the two of them, God's punishment was that Adam and Eve should have children of their own.

Thus the pattern was set and it has never changed.

BUT THERE IS REASSURANCE IN THE STORY!

If you have persistently and lovingly tried to give children wisdom and they haven't taken it, don't be hard on yourself.

If God had trouble raising children, what makes you think it would be a piece of cake for you?

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT!

1. You spend the first two years of their life teaching them to walk and talk. Then you spend the next sixteen telling them to sit down and shut up.
2. Grandchildren are God's reward for not killing your own children.
3. Mothers of teens now know why some animals eat their young.
4. Children seldom misquote you...In fact they usually repeat word for word what you shouldn't have said.
5. The main purpose of holding children's parties is to remind yourself that there are children more awful than your own.
6. We childproofed our homes, but they are still getting in.

ADVICE FOR THE DAY;

Be nice to your kids. They will choose your nursing home one day.

(Cont'd on page 8)

(Cont'd "Helpful Hints" from page 6)

adjustments -- your friends will appreciate the results!

- * Drink at least 8 glasses of water a day, and add a squeeze of fresh lemon to at least one of the glasses
- * Munch on plenty of uncooked fruits and veggies.
- * Eat yogurt that contains live, active culture of *Lactobacillus acidophilus*.
- * Snack on some pumpkin seeds.
- * Sip sage tea -- steep 2 teaspoons of dried sage in 1 cup of boiling water for 10 minutes, then strain and savor.

Avoid the Flu

Eat more apples, blueberries, broccoli, spinach, lettuce, and onions -- they all contain quercetin, a powerful anti-oxidant.

Wash hands often especially after handling door knobs, handles, etc...

Avoid people coughing and sneezing around you.

Stay home from work, school, etc., when you don't feel well. Rest and recuperate.

How To Plant Your Garden

First, you come to the garden alone...while the dew is still on the roses...

For the Garden of your Daily Living:

Plant three rows of peas:

1. Peace of mind
2. Peace of heart
3. Peace of soul

Plant four rows of squash:

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness

Plant five rows of lettuce:

1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind.
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce really love one another
5. Lettuce be thankful

No garden is without turnips:

1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for service.
3. Turnip to help one another

To conclude our garden we must have thyme:

1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for family
3. Thyme for friends.

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love...there is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow.

("ADVICE FOR THE DAY" Cont'd from page 7)

AND FINALLY

**IF YOU HAVE A LOT OF TENSION AND YOU GET A HEADACHE,
DO WHAT IT SAYS ON THE ASPIRIN BOTTLE:**

"TAKE TWO ASPIRIN" AND "KEEP AWAY FROM CHILDREN"!!!!!!

FAILURES...BUT NOT QUITE

He dreamed of a cockeyed intention that caused investors, metal engineers and experts at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to snicker. No way could a razor be made sharp enough to provide a clean shave and yet cheap enough to be thrown away when it was dull.

He talked some of his friends into trying his revolutionary new product and got mixed results. While some of them reported it gave them a great shave, others preferred their old strait razors.

He labored four years to produce the first disposable razor and another six years to market it. The experts felt they made the right prediction when only fifty-one blades sold the first year. But 90,844 were purchased in the second year and Kig Gillete's risk-taking innovation was on its way to revolutionizing shaving.

**To All The Kids Who Survived The
1930's, 40's, 50's, 60's and 70's!!**

First, we survived being born to mothers who soked and/or drank while they carried us
 They took aspirin, ate blue cheese dressing, tuna from a can, and didn't get tested for diabetes.
 Then after that trauma, our baby cribs were covered with bright colored lead-based paints.
 We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets and when we rode our bikes, we
 had no helmets, not to mention, the risks we took hitchhiking.
 As children, we would ride in cars with no seat belts or air bags.
 Riding in the back of a pick up on a warm day was always a special treat.
 We drank water from the garden hose and NOT from a bottle.
 We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle and NO ONE actually died from this.
 We ate cupcakes, white bread and real butter and drank soda pop with sugar in it, but we weren't
 overweight because WE WERE ALWAYS OUTSIDE PLAYING!
 We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights
 came on.
 No one was able to reach us all day, and we were O.K.
 We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scraps and then ride down the hill, only to find out
 we forgot the brakes, After funning into the bushes a few times, we learned to solve the problem.
 We did not have Playstations, Nintendo's, X-boxes, no video games at all, no 99 channels on cable
 no video tape movies, no surround sound, no cell phones, no personal computers, no internet or inter-
 net chat rooms...WE HAD FRIENDS and we went outside and found them!
 We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and teeth and there were no lawsuits from these accidents.
 We ate worms and mud pies made from dirt and the worms did not live in us forever.
 We were given BB guns for our 10th birthdays, made up games with sticks and tennis balls and al-
 though we were told it would happen, we did not put out very many eyes.
 We rode bikes or walked to a friend's house and knocked on the door or rang the bell, or just walked
 in and talked to them!
 Little League had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't, had to learn to deal
 with disappointment.
 Imagine that!! The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of. They actually
 sided with the law!
 This generation has produced some of the best risk-takers, problem solvers and inventors ever!
 The past 50 years have been an explosion of innovation and new ideas.
 We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned HOW TO DEAL WITH IT ALL!!
 AND YOU ARE ONE OF THEM! CONGRATULATIONS!
 You might want to share this with others who have had the luck to grow up as kids, before the lawyers
 and the government regulated our lives for our own good.
 and while you are at it, forward it to your kids so they will know how brave their parents were.
 Kind of makes you want through the house with scissors, doesn't it?!

More Health Food from Japan

We've seen green tea, edamame, sushi, miso, ramen, become popular "health food" in this country,
 however, now, they are listing Bonito flakes...or as we know it as "katsuobushi", for our dashi, but
 now, they are listing that "wakame, nori, hijiki, konbu" and other seaweeds are very healthy for you
 so they are processing these in the state of Maine, and are advertising it as good snack food to add
 to your popcorn...I've never tried it in my popcorn...and probably won't but do enjoy them in different
 Japanese food...and as healthy as "Natto" is, I doubt that it will be eaten by most of Americans...I
 don't know how many niseis, sanseis enjoy "natto" but it sure is good over hot rice!!!

**Merry Christmas, Happy New Year,
Thank You and Sayonara!**

It has been 22 years and this 102nd issue of the Crystal City Chatter, however, the funds have dried up, and with the continued inflation in printing cost and stamps...this little newsletter has come to an end.

Thank you very much for many notes, letters telling me how you enjoyed reading the Chatter...I also enjoyed looking for, putting together this newsletter. It's been a long time since our evacuation and internment days...and my memories of Crystal City is warm and fuzzy...my real "urusato" (home town) and met many of you as lifetime friends...and the many others who were not in Crystal City and have been reading this newsletter, we met and I've enjoyed your friendship along the way...life has been not only interesting but challenging and at times very very warm and wonderful...I thank each and every one of you.

Thanks to Haj and Yuki Nonoguchi for having us at their home many times to work on the Chatter, f for Dottie Hatanaka, Tomo Mizukami, Sachi Maehara, Yuki Nonoguchi and Akemi Yasuda for doing all the work, folding, taping, labeling and stamping the Chatter for many, many years...Thanks also to my children, Nicki Yokota, Dion Shimatsu-Ong, Paula Shimatsu-U, for sending many articles for the Chatter...and Mei Ling Shimatsu and Jeanine for helping me fold, label, stamp many times.

I do hope that your holidays be just as warm and enjoyable. Hoping you-all have a happy, healthy happy new year...and hopefully, I will see some of you at our annual Shinnenkai luncheon which is always held on the fourth Sunday of January...this year at Sambu, 8649 Firestone Blvd., Downey, CA 90241; Telephone (562) 869-1171...on January 24th, 2010...I will try to remind many of you somehow. Next year will be at our usual Sea Empress Seafood Restaurant, 1636 W. Redondo Beach Blvd., Gardena, CA 90247; Telephone (310) 538-6868...but that is two years from now in 2011.

Also, remember, our 2010 Vegas trip will be on the third Tuesday to Thursday in May...next year will be May 18, 19, and 20th so please mark your new 2010 calender for both the Shinnenkai and Vegas trip. Take care...stay well and it's been a wonderful 22 years with all of you. Sayonara. Sumi

ps...received several donation for another Chatter so will have another issue next year...

C [redacted]
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Camarillo, CA 93010



TAD & SATOMI ISHIDA
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