

11.3.12

Crystal City Chatter

Issue 115

Nov. 2012

Chatter Has New Address

Greetings from Northern California! It's been quite a busy September-October...packing all the accumulated stuff and moving it all, in storage for a short while, then moving it into a nice cozy little home up here in Castro Valley. It wasn't a move I had thought about but getting older, my children were concerned and wanted me closer to one of my daughters up here in Castro Valley so I sold my home in Camarillo that I enjoyed for over thirty years, and came up here where the air is crisp and the water is wonderful...we had 'well water' in Camarillo and it was so full of calcium, sulfur, other stuff we used to buy bottled water for drinking and cooking...now it's all coming out of the faucet!!!

Amazing how things accumulate...evacuating with two suitcases to relocation camps, it starts to again accumulate with P-coat and by the time we were going to Japan, there were so many stuff to eliminate and just pack necessity...(actually, most things were necessary in Japan, for after the war they really had very little...especially food...remember Uraga?

Anyway, it's been quite a chore...getting rid of stuff...packing this and that...getting boxes here and there...having garage sales to get rid of stuff...and donating to charitable groups for those things that didn't sell...renting U-Rent truck to carry all the stuff, storing them for awhile until the home up here is finalized in the deeds, etc...getting all the stuff into the house and making it homey...it's quite a chore but with so many hands helping us, we are now comfortably settled in a nice home. It took a lots of helping muscles to move all the boxes, etc.

So, when you have any news for the Chatter, please send it up here...either by e-mail or snail mail...e-mail address is [redacted] and the snail mail is [redacted] Castro Valley, CA 94546...

So, if my address is Young Ave...you think I will get or stay young? Wouldn't that be nice? I'm always young in spirit so that's no problem...

Shinnenkai Luncheon

Toni Tomita and I talked on the phone the other day and she said that since I wasn't down in So. Cal to arrange the luncheon this year at the Empress Sea Food Restaurant in Gardena, she was looking for someone else to take charge...and also the date will most probably be changed to accomodate few of the CC friends...she will send out the invitation as I sent her the list of people that I usually sent out the postcards to...however, if some of you out-of-towners would like to join in, please contact Toni...her telephone is 626-280-6922...I doubt that I could join you this time...one of these Shinnenkai luncheon, I'll try to join you.

Vegas Trip

The Vegas trip will change this year...California Hotel will be very busy and many rooms have already been reserved so she said that it will be on May 14, 15, 16, 2013...and the application will be in the February issue of the Chatter. So you can then fill in your information and send it to Toni by end of April...I don't know if I can be there at Vegas but if I do, I'll probably fly there and not take the fun bus ride...and you all know what I mean by "Fun Bus Ride"...Playing Bingo, drinking wine...and all the goodies that many of the CC Friends bring and distribute in the bus...

The World Series

I was never a baseball fan as much as I was Laker fan...however, I understand that you have to subscribe to watch Lakers on T.V. now...well, up here, it's been very exciting watching the San Francisco Giants win the World Series...they won and I found out that there's a player whose nickname is "Panda"...and he hit three homeruns, which I understand is what Babe Ruth, Reggie Jackson and another fellow hit...so it was a record too...I enjoyed watching the games, however, in pouring rain, snow-sleet...wow, I didn't realize that they play through such adverse weather either...

I'm also going to have to read the sports section of the newspapers to see how the new Laker team will be playing...it should be sensational!!! Rah, Rah, Rah!!! Go Lakers!!!

David Ono to Show New Documentary on Medal of Honor Recipients

KABC news anchor David Ono has not been resting on his laurels since his last appearance at the Go For Broke National Education Center's Evening of Aloha.

At the 2011 gala, held shortly after the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony in Washington, D.C., Ono showed his documentary "Witness: American Heroes," in which he not only interviewed veterans of the 100th Infantry Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team but also visited sites in Italy and France where the Nisei soldiers fought their toughest battles.

The documentary has won a number of honors over the past year, but between awards ceremonies Ono has been working on a follow-up that focuses on Nisei recipients of the Medal of Honor, and he plans to show it at this year's Evening of Aloha, to be held Saturday, Oct. 13, at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites in Los Angeles.

Response to "American Heroes" has been "extremely positive," Ono said. "Since the minute we ran it at the event and ran it on TV, I've gotten so many requests from people wanting copies, (including) a lot of teachers who wanted to show it to their classes. A lot of veterans' groups have asked me for a copy. I try to get it out to as many people as possible especially if they have a cause."

One of the more rewarding experiences was presenting the documentary at the federal courthouse downtown to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. "It was standing room only, filled to the brim with judges and attorneys. So many people showed up. It was a really positive event." The documentary has also traveled to San Francisco and Hawaii.

In terms of awards, "we had a really good year with this piece," Ono observed. "American Heroes" won the Edward R. Murrow Award for best video news documentary in Region 2 (California, Guam, Hawaii, Nevada) from the Radio Television Digital News Association; an AAJA Asian American Journalists Association) National Journalism Award in the Asian American and Pacific Islander issues category; and a Los Angeles Area Emmy Award.

The Emmy ceremony was a milestone for Ono, who was nominated for six awards and won three. In addition to the statuette for best arts and culture/history piece, he received one for writing "American Heroes" and another for his body of work as a hard-news reporter. Although he was previously honored for his coverage of the Tohoku tsunami and an interview with President Obama, he said, "Three is the most I've won at one time" and added that it was "pretty awesome" because many people get multiple nominations but leave empty-handed.

Since Ono had also committed to hosting the Nisei Week Queen Coronation the same evening, he left early and didn't know he won a third award. "I assumed, since nobody called to tell me, that I didn't win... Then somebody congratulated me on the phone Sunday afternoon... That was a pleasant surprise."

The Medal of Honor story is one that Ono wanted to tell last year but had to omit due to time constraints -- the documentary was limited to less than 25 minutes because of commercials.

During World War II, the only Nisei soldier to receive the Medal of Honor was Pfc Sadao Munemori, who sacrificed his life to save his comrades from a grenade. The Army later reviewed the medals that were given to Japanese Americans and upgraded 20 medals that were given to Japanese Americans and upgraded 20 of them to Medals of Honor, which were presented by President Bill Clinton in 2000. One of the recipients was Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii), who lost an arm in battle.

"The Chapter on Medal of Honor winners is a very important chapter when it comes to the 442nd," Ono said. "(GFBNEC Executive Director) Don Nose and I met earlier this year, and we want to make a real focus on this."

"the chapter on Medal of Honor winners is a very important chapter when it comes to the 442nd," Ono said. "(GFBNEC Executive Director) Don Nose and I met earlier this year, and we want to make a real focus on this." The new piece will include some footage shot in Europe last year, "but we will also bring in a lot of local touches," Ono said. "Four Medal of Honor winners lie within 12 feet of each other at Evergreen Cemetery... The recipients had family in internment camps. All four killed, all from So. California. It's a real local story, but with their smaller story we get the bigger story of the Medal of Honor" Ono, who is still putting the piece together, said it is tentatively scheduled for broadcast on Veterans Day. It doesn't have a title yet.

Crystal City: In the Shadows of WRA Camps

susie Masuda Sasagawa

The heartwarming and heartwrenching article "Words I Can Live By" written by Soji Kashiwagi (published July 16-22, 2009) regarding the Tule Lake Pilgrimage has stirred, once again, my feelings about my internment at 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 Relocation 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 that 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 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 of 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 1960s. 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 JACL 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. I is only lately that I have seen Crystal City mention.

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 alone people here in the United States regardless of camp location and experience. We were all victims (Cont'd on page 4)

("Crystal city: In the Shadow of WRA Camps" cont'd from page 3)

of the war and should not be treated any differently. My father truly wanted to contribute to the USA 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.

This article was sent to me couple of years ago, however, it was misplaced with other papers, but in my moving up here to Northern California, I found that it is still important enough to print it in this chatter. We are always "forgotten"...Even the Japanese American National Museum group of people said "Oh Crystal City, where they kept 'Bad people' in"...yes, we had to fight that one too...If one considers all the Buddhist, Shinto priests, Japanese school teachers, all the community leaders, Tenrikyo, Konkokyo, and other religious priests as 'bad people'...I wonder what makes the niseis and sanseis working at the museum become? I just know it took Sei Dyo, Toni Tomita to get us into the Museum...and guess what...our camp is the only group who raised how much hundreds of thousands of \$\$\$ for the Museum...no other camp was asked to go out and raise funds for JAN museum. Ironic isn't it? But that's the way it was at the Museum...Katte neh!

Toxins From Hot Car

Please do **NOT** on A/C as soon as you enter your car.

Open the windows after you enter your car, and then turn on the AC after a couple of minutes. Here's why:

According to research, the car's dashboard seats, A/C ducts, in fact ALL of the plastic objects in your vehicle, emit Benzene, a cancer causing toxin.

A BIG CARCINOGEN. Take the time to observe the smell of heated plastic in your car when you open it, and BEFORE you start it up.

In addition to causing cancer, Benzene poisons your bones, causes anemia and reduces white blood cell. Prolonged exposure will cause Leukemia and increases the risk of some cancers.

It can also cause miscarriages in pregnant women.

Acceptable Benzene level indoors is:

50 mg per square feet.

A car parked indoors, with windows closed, will contain: 400-800 mg of Benzene.

If parked outdoors, under the sun, at a temperature above 60 degrees F, the Benzene goes up to 2000-4000 mg, 40 times the acceptable level.

People who get into the car, keeping the windows closed, will inevitably inhale, in quick succession, excessive amounts of the BENZENE toxin.

Benezene is a toxin that affects your kidneys and liver. What's worse, it is extremely difficult for your body to expel this toxic stuff from your body.

So friends, please, open the windows and doors of your car - give it some time for the interior to air out - (dispel the deadly stuff) - before you enter the vehicle.

Thought: "When someone shares something of value with you and you benefit from it, you have a moral obligation to share it with others."

This is what snopes.com says: "It is not the air conditioning in the car, but the Benzene - producing agents that cause cancer."

Working on myself is probably more than enough to keep me busy.

Frankly, inching along is probably just about all I can handle right now.

Japan's Great Quake and Tsunami: Looking Back, Looking Ahead George Toshiio Johnston

Anniversary of what is now known as the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami was on March 11th...Despite its official death toll of nearly 16,000 -- probably closer to 20,000 when factoring in those still missing and those who died later from related but indirect causes -- this calamity may not be the worst-ever caused by nature.

But the Tohoku jishin and tsunami is probably the worst such event of contemporary times when adding to the death toll the devastation wrought by property and infrastructure damage, and the havoc inflicted upon a nation's economy, domestic and global.

The after effects of the event still reverberate today, nearly a year from March 11, 2011. It was for this reason that KABC news anchor David Ono recently traveled to Japan for a few days in the middle of February to re-visit the effects of the tsunami in some of the hardest hit areas. His reports aired in L.A. on Channel 7.

I spoke briefly with Ono, whom I wrote about recently in my column with regard to the excellent documentary. Witness: America's Heroes" that he produced about Japanese Americans who served the U.S. armed forces during WWII. With this latest work, Ono has come through again, this time with this series of reports from Japan.

Ono told me that last year he traveled to Japan to report on the devastation caused by the tsunami, but because of damage to transportation routes, not to mention a lack of resources like electricity and gasoline, most of his reporting was confined to Tokyo, not the Tohoku region. This time was different. This time he was able to go to Ofunato, Rikuzen Takata, and Kessennuma.

Comparing the Japan tsunami to Hurricane Katrina a year from disaster, Ono said Japan is far ahead of where we were in the aftermath of our disaster. But in both cases, he feels that life will never be the same for many survivors.

In his first story, Ono interviewed baker Kenji Saito of Ofunato, who witnessed his business and hometown get wiped out by the tsunami and managed to record what happened, first on his iPhone and then on a digital camera. Ono's report includes Saito's video, and it is both mesmerizing and horrifying.

As relayed in Ono's report, Saito evacuated his staff from the building. Then he ran up the same hill that saved his life when a tsunami hit 50 years earlier, when he was a boy. He switched cameras and recorded the ocean's surge. Captured also are his heart-rending wailings as he watches the ensuing water-borne devastation.

"Japan is the most-prepared country in the world when it comes to earthquakes and tsunamis," Ono said. "but they still got to a mode where they thought the seawall, which is only six feet tall, will protect them. A tall building will protect them. Our car, they can hop in a car and drive off real quickly and that will protect them. And they were absolutely wrong." It added up to a false sense of security, he said, noting that government figures showed 42 percent of coastal residents failed to evacuate. An example of someone who didn't evacuate but instead drove to Kessennuma's port to attend a meeting after the quake struck is L.A. resident Masako Unoura-Tanaka, whom Ono interviewed for the reports. I also had a chance to speak with her about her close call.

Unoura-Tanaka whose parents hail from Tohoku region and whose husband is architect Ted Tanaka, was in Japan to help her father sort out the affairs of his wife and her mother, who died a few years ago. Driving with her aunt Noriko, they experienced the very strong, long-lasting earthquake at 2:46 p.m. while en route to a 3 O'clock meeting with an attorney. Despite the earthquake's strength, they thought nothing of continuing to the meeting in the car. After all, Unoura-Tanaka said, Japan experiences many earthquakes and they personally had no fear that it had triggered a devastating imminent tsunami. She noted that just a scant time before March 11, there was a tsunami that hit but only measured about 50 centimeters.

Upon arriving at the lawyer's office, they were told a tsunami was coming. Public address systems began blaring warnings. They decided to drive back to Noriko's home, but the street was now packed with cars, yet seemingly lacking any sense of urgency as they patiently waited for lights to change.

(Cont'd on page 6)

("Japan's Great Quake and Tsunami:" cont'd from page 5)

Unoura-Tanaka said, however, she began to get a bad feeling about the situation. While her aunt wanted to stay in the car, she wanted to get out and run rather than be stuck in traffic. Finally, aunt Noriko relented and they started on foot, parking the car near a restaurant. (Being a polite Japanese woman, Aunt Noriko wanted to stop and tell the owner she'd be back as soon as possible to retrieve her car...Meantime, the tsunami was quickly coming their way.

In a strange twist of fate, as they hurried through the town they encountered a young man named Daisuke Watanabe. Unoura-Tanaka asked him where to go and what to do. They didn't yet know it, but Watanabe who was off-duty at the time, was a member of Japan's coast guard and saw video of the incoming water on his cellphone. He simply said, "Follow me!". He led them to a two-story building and to get in, they had to climb a couple of fences, not easy for middle aged and one elderly woman. But, as Unoura-Tanaka told me, people are capable of extraordinary feats when it's a matter of life and death.

Soon, they were in, but the building wasn't tall enough and it was becoming engulfed in water, even though they made it to the roof. Fortunately, next to it was another taller building, close enough for them to climb to. With the water at Unoura-Tanaka's waist, Watanabe and her aunt pulled her up to the taller building. They were joined by another woman and her cat and there they stayed, surrounded by water, fires, cold temperatures and falling snow. Until they were rescued the next day, they ate brownies that Unoura-Tanaka had brought from Los Angeles as "omiyage". It was a very close call, but she lived, unlike many others. She calls Watanabe her hero.

Back to Ono's reporting, he said the significance for Southern California residents of last year's quake and tsunami in Japan is what it portends for us. While we historically are not prone to tsunami, quakes are another matter -- and maybe a big quake could spawn a tsunami. If it happens, we need to learn from Japan's experience and heed warnings to evacuate instead of going to the beach to check it out. It also goes without saying that we are probably less prepared at the governmental level than Japan was, so we need to prepare for a quake on our own.

10 Super Foods

1. **Sweet Potatoes...**One of the best vegetables you can eat...loaded with carotenoids, vitamin C, potassium and fiber
2. **Mangoes...**Just one cup of mango supplies 100% of day's vitamin C, 1/3 of a day's vitamin A, a decent dose of blood-pressure-lowering potassium, and 3 grams of fiber. It is one of the fruits least likely to have pesticide residues.
3. **Unsweetened Greek yogurt...**Non-fat plain Greek yogurt has a pleasant tartness that's a perfect foil for the natural sweetness of berries, bananas, or your favorite breakfast cereal.
4. **Broccoli...**has lots of vitamin C, carotenoids, vitamin K, and folic acid. Steam it just enough so that it's still firm and add a sprinkle of red pepper flakes and a spritz of lemon juice.
5. **Wild Salmon...**the omega-3 fats in fatty fish like salmon can help reduce the risk of sudden-death heart attacks. Wild caught salmon has less PCB contaminants than farmed salmon.
6. **Crispbreads...**Whole-grain rye crackers, like Wasa, Kavi, and Ryvita - usually called crispbreads are loaded with fiber and often fat-free. Drizzle with a little honey and sprinkle with cinnamon to satisfy your sweet tooth.
7. **Garbanzo Beans...**as; beans are good beans...rich in protein, fiber, iron, magnesium, potassium, zinc. They're so versatile..just drain, rinse, and toss a handful on your salad into stew curries, and soups; mix them with brown rice, whole wheat couscous, bulgur, or other whole grains.
8. **Watermelon...**is a heavyweight in the nutrient department...about 2 cups has 1/3 of day's vitamin A and C, potassium, and healthy dose of lycopene for only 80 fat-free calories.
9. **Butternut Squash...**Steam a slice squash, or buy peeled diced butternut squash...bake in oven or stir-fry, or in a soup...lots of vitamins A and C and fiber.]
10. **Leafy Greens...**Kale, collards, spinach, turnip greens, mustard greens, and Swiss chard...are jam-packed with vitamins A, C, and K, folate, potassium, magnesium, calcium, iron, lutein, and fiber. Serve with a splash of lemon juice or red wine vinegar.

Mac Arthur's Memoirs

His First Meeting with Emperor Hirohito George Yoshinaga of Rafu Shimpō

It's about the surrender of Emperor Hirohito to General MacArthur nearly 67 years ago.

"In his memoirs, MacArthur wrote about his first meeting with Emperor Hirohito at the conclusion of the Second World War.

'Shortly after my arrival in Tokyo I was urged by members of my staff to summon Emperor Hirohito to my headquarters as a show of power. I brushed aside the suggestion. To do so, I explained, would be to outrage the feelings of Japanese people and make a martyr of the Emperor in their eyes. No, I shall wait and in time, the Emperor will voluntarily come to see me.

'In this case, the patience of the East, rather than the haste of the West, will best serve our purpose.

'The Emperor did indeed shortly request an interview. In a cutaway, striped trousers and top hat, riding in his Daimler with the imperial grand chamberlain facing him on the jump seat, Hirohito arrived at the embassy.

'I met him cordially and recalled that I had at one time been received by his father at the close of the Russo-Japanese War. He was nervous and the stress of the past months showed plainly. I dismissed everyone but his own interpreter and we sat down before an open fire at end of the long reception hall. I offered him an American cigarette, which he took with thanks. I noticed how his hands shook as I lighted it for him.

'I tried to make it easy for him as I could, but I knew how deep and dreadful it must be in agony and humiliation. I had an uneasy feeling he might plead his own cause against indictment as a war criminal.

"There had been considerable outcry from some of the Allies, notably the Russians and the British, to include him in this category. Indeed, the initial list of those proposed by them was headed by the Emperor's name. Realizing the tragic consequences that would follow such an unjust action, I stoutly resisted such efforts.

'When Washington seemed to be veering towards the British point of view, I had advised that I would need at least one million reinforcements should such action be taken. I believed that if the Emperor were indicted and perhaps hanged as a war criminal, military government would have to be instituted throughout all Japan and guerilla warfare would probably break out.

'The Emperor's name had then been stricken from the list. But of all this he knew nothing. But my fears were groundless. What he said, was, "I come to you, General MacArthur, to offer myself to the judgement of the power you represent as the one to bear sole responsibility for every political and military decision made and action taken by my people in the conduct of the war."

'A tremendous impression swept me. This courageous assumption of a responsibility implicit with death, responsibility clearly belied by facts of which I was fully aware, moved me to the very marrow of my bones. He was the Emperor by inherent birth but in that instant, I knew I faced the First Gentleman of Japan in his own right."

In continuing with this subject, another writer wrote to George Yoshinaga..."In 1955, I was a Japanese Government-invited States Scholar from Burma (now Myanmar) studying international law at the University of Tokyo Law School. Just a handful of foreign students at that time – ten years after the end of World War II.

"Burma was the first country to sign a treaty of peace and friendship and war reparations. In that treaty was a clause for Japan to invite and open the higher institutions of education to Burmese students and scholars. So I was one of the first Burmese sent to Japan under that treaty.

"Yokota Kisaburo was the dean of Tokyo University Law School and professor of international law. He soon after became the chief justice of the Japanese Supreme Court. From the very first day of being his student, he kept telling me and his staff and law school assistants that the new Burmese students, educated through the medium of English, must be assigned the special law school project to conduct research with permission of the Ministry of Education and the GHQ, Mac Arthur's command post in Tokyo, focused on the events and the inner working within the Allies culminating in the preservation of the Emperor and the Peace Constitution imposed on Japan.

"Prof. Yokota and the academics at the law school were consumed with wanting to know...the actual deliberations, the dissensions and the conflicts that transpired within the alliance and how and why Mac Arthur practically overruled the rest and imposed his will based on (his) evaluations and historical justifications...

"Before commenting on your column, let me just mention that MacArthur, after his infamous defeat in the Philippines, buried himself in the study of Japanese history, accepting that one cannot defeat the enemy you don't know. He was determined to not only know but to fully understand and appreciate where the Japanese were coming from.

"Historical events since then have proven that he achieved that goal with flying colors. (Cont'd on page 8)

"MacArthur's Memoirs" cont'd from page 7

He was perhaps the only one in the entire alliance who realized and came to the conclusion, even before, during and after the invasion of the Japanese mainland islands, that without the Emperor it would be an impossible task to occupy, pacify and govern the proud Japanese people.

"Prolonged colonization was against all American principles and definitely unworkable.

"When MacArthur took command of the GHQ in Tokyo, the Allies wasted no time in presenting to him the proposal to declare Hirohito... (as a) war criminal to be tried along the same lines as the Neuremberg Court. Some of the documents indicate that some Allies wanted to remove Hirohito and his immediate family to some undisclosed location so the Japanese people would not be able to rally around the imperial family for resistance.

"Now the readers will be surprised and interested to know MacArthur's mindset was quite far from these matters of war and victor's prerogatives. His main concern at that time was the lowly private GI 'who is going to get lost in a devastated Tokyo without any road sign in English.'

"So, the first order issued by MacArthur was to change all road names and signs into English, simple enough for a 'private GI' to understand and follow. Starting from A-Z and then A1-Z1 and so on.

"Here was a man whose main concern was the welfare of his common soldier -- not to rush with what must be done to the Emperor. He ordered that the Emperor stay put and remain in his palace and his well-being taken care of. He was rumored to have stated that his barging into the Imperial Palace was out of the question.'

"He also ordered that should there be a need to communicate with the Emperor, the established Japanese protocol must be followed. He expressed to his immediate staff that 'to humiliate someone in defeat' is not what Americans do.

"So, when the time came to meet Hirohito face-to-face, the Allies and the protocol people at GHQ made so much fuss, which to MacArthur was simply to humiliate Hirohito -- until recently a living god. The Allies and the protocol people proposed that MacArthur receive the defeated Emperor come up to his desk. The general rejected all of that and said he would do no such thing.

"In face, he first wanted to call on the Emperor but the Allies were distraught. He compromised and agreed to receive him, in his own way. He said to his staff, 'The man is coming to see me and the least I can do is to meet him at the doorsteps of the building and escort him to my office.' And that was how he received Hirohito.

"Even at the last moment, he was prevented from opening the door of the Emperor's car. There was a photo taken at the steps in most history books. So, it was not at the embassy but at the GHQ. "Another note of interest was that while Hirohito and MacArthur were getting acquainted, there was a 'peeping Tom' behind the curtain of the general's desk. That was Mrs. MacArthur, given special permission by MacArthur to witness history in the making.

"Unfortunately, the general ended his impeccable military career with a blemish, but to the Japanese people, especially the imperial family and women, he was a true gift from the Sun Goddess."

Just Thanks

Gail Miyasaki, Rafu Shimpo

To our Nikkei World War II vets, thank you! Lives saved, lives lost...we owe you a debt of gratitude, beyond what words can ever express.

The warriors of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service (MIS), 1399th, Womens' Army Corps and others who served during this war did so admirably.

Making a commitment to preserve such historical events in Japanese History, The Rafu Shimpo and Japanese American Living Legacy collaborated on this first project to produce an extraordinary 400 page paperback.

"What's great about 'Proud to Serve' is that it's a grassroots project where everyone donated their time and effort to ensure that the story of Japanese Americans' military service during World War II is never forgotten. It shows what's important to our community and to our country." said editor Chris Komai.

Uprooted from West Coast homes after Pearl Harbor, Executive Order 9066 declared that all persons of Japanese ancestry be detained in internment camps for the duration of the war. Families were forcibly evacuated, sacrificing their homes, belongings, businesses and integrity.

Despite being deemed "enemy aliens" by our government, thousands of these young men and women volunteered to fight for our country. Courage, Spirit, Humility, Loyalty.

The Congressional Gold Medal for distinguished achievement presented to the 100th, 442nd and MIS in 2011 was recognition proudly received...being the most highly decorated of all U.S. military troops.

Vice Admiral Harris Discusses His Issei Heritage

In his position as assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Vice Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr. is often seen traveling with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton as her military liaison, including spending several days last week at the United Nations General Assembly meeting in New York City.

As someone who has served in every geographic combat command and in such critical operations as Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom and Odyssey Dawn in Libya, he is ably suited to take on the enormous responsibility that his current job entails.

It hasn't always been smooth sailing for Harris' steady climb up the military chain of command. His journey to the Pentagon had the humblest of beginnings. The only son of a Navy chief petty officer and a Japanese postwar bride, he grew up on a small farm in rural Tennessee. Born in Japan a little more than a decade after World War II and moving to Tennessee at age 2 in 1958. Harris recalls feeling different from his Southern classmates -- especially when it came time to eat the bento lunch prepared by his Japanese mother.

When he whined to her about the fact that he looked more Japanese than American, she responded in a way that he will never forget. She went to a PTA meeting dressed in the only thing she brought from Japan -- full kimono, geta, obi, the whole thing." Harris adds respectfully, "She taught me to be proud of my ethnic heritage."

Not only was she a role model for hapa son, but she also set the example for her three younger sisters, all of whom followed in his mother's footsteps by coming to America after marrying U.S. Navy men.

Harris says he learned "giri" (duty or obligation) from his Issei mom, who grew up in the privileged Kobe neighborhood of Ashiya, only to have her family's property destroyed during the war. After surviving the devastation of wartime Japan, she married an American and experienced more hardship.

"She came to America, she adapted with grace and became a U.S. citizen in 1974. Before she passed away in 2008, she told him that the proudest thing she ever did as a citizen was to vote.

That sense of giri has been passed on to her son, whose personal decorations include two Distinguished Service Medals, three Defense Superior Service Medals, three Legions of Merit, and two bronze Stars.

"I'm an America, first, foremost and always," says Harris, "but there will always things my mother re-presented for which I am proud."

Harris remembers first hearing about heroism of Japanese American soldiers when he saw the 1951 film "Go For Broke." "It gave me something to be proud of." Harris recalls. "They were in the military and they became heroes." It's a story that stayed with him as he went from the U.S. Naval Academy to postgraduate studies at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, Georgetown's School of Foreign Service, and Oxford University.

Still, when he first learned about the men who served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 100th Infantry Battalion and Military Intelligence Service, he didn't realize that their families were being held in camps. When he learned those once little-known facts, it made their heroic contributions all the more significant.

It's a story he will be honored to share with others at the annual Evening of Aloha dinner. "I've drawn a lot of strength from their story and I think all Americans can draw strength from them." he says. "It's a great story that unfortunately is not known broadly, and should be taught in schools."

Harris cites organizations like the Go for Broke, National Education Center, the Nisei Veterans Committee in Seattle, Japanese American Veterans Association, Japanese American Citizens League, Federal Asian Pacific American Council, Asian American Government Executives Network, and Pan Pacific Americans Leaders and Mentors for furthering important work towards this end.

He notes that he was privileged last year to attend the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony in Washington D.C. to honor the World War II veterans and looks forward to a rare trip to Los Angeles to pay tribute to them once again.

"Take all the things I've done in the military," he goes on to say with humility, "It would never begin to compare with what those men went through. Just the fact that they and their families were booted out of their homes and then what they accomplished -- that's huge."

(Cont'd on page 10)

"Vice Admiral Harris Discusses His Issei Heritage" cont'd from page 9

Harris is a keynote speaker at the Go For Broke National Education Center's Evening of Aloha to be held on Saturday, Oct. 13, at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites in Los Angeles.

Sorry, it's past the date...but since this Chatter is going out in November...lots of the news is old by the time you receive it...

Mental Health Rules

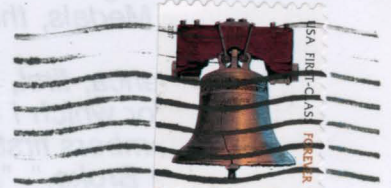
1. **Have a hobby:** Acquire pursuits which absorb your interest; sports and nature are best.
2. **Develop a philosophy:** Adapt yourself to social and spiritual surroundings.
3. **Share your thoughts:** Cultivate companionship in thought and in feeling. Confide, confess, Consult.
4. **Face your fears:** Analyze them; daylight dismisses ghosts.
5. **Balance fantasy with fact:** Dream but also do; wish but build; imagine but ever face reality.
6. **Beware alluring escapes:** Alcohol and opiates may prove faithless friends.
7. **Exercise:** Walk, swim, golf, play tennis - muscles need activity.
8. **Love:** But love wisely. Sex is a flame which uncontrolled may scorch; properly guided, it will light the torch of eternity.
9. **Don't become engulfed in a whirlpool of worriers:** Call early for help. The doctor is ready for your rescue.
10. **Trust in time:** Be patient and hopeful. Time is a great therapist.

* * * *

Obituary: Our heartfelt sympathy and condolence to Fumi Myoshi Barnes and her family, for the loss of her husband and father, Bill Barnes.

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