



"Gung Hei Fat Choy"...Happy New Year...the Year of the Rooster...so Cock-a-doodle-doo to you...I know you-all would like to see a great year...a turn-around from all the recession, etc... The Reunion group have been meeting, getting ready for the BIG reunion Oct. 8-10... Don't miss all the activities that are being planned...from golfing, fishing, sightseeing shopping, to banquet, Friday night mixer, panel discussion to Sayonara brunch on Sunday.

Some of you received information packet from Min Akiyoshi along with booklet ads. There will be more sent out very shortly...to everyone... also, Joy Gee, chairman of the booklet requests many of the ads be for businesses and for commercial ads...many are including family snapshots, children, grandchildren...we welcome all to place your ads as soon as possible...it does take time to put a booklet together...

Last month, I received an invitation to join in on a Japanese-Peruvian "Get-Together" from Grace Shimizu and Libia Yamamoto. We met at Sweet Inspirations Conference Room, an exclusive clothing factory created by Chieko Kamisato...(really beautiful clothes...WOW).

There were around 26 people there, including Sachi Maehara and myself...Grace and Libia updated everyone about their redress/reparations payment...I learned of their difficulties in getting their redress...many were even having difficulty proving entrance to the United States.

An article about their history is reprinted in this newsletter...I know that you will realize their difficulty. Most of those attending the meeting will come to the Reunion in Monterey.

I understand that there will be 50 Crystal City Peruvian-Japanese attending the Monterey Reunion from Japan. Grace and Libia are letting many of the C.C. Peruvian people know and will be on the Panel Discussion to be held on Saturday after lunch...they will have their own luncheon on Saturday, the 9th of October...so do contact them...Grace Shimizu in Berkeley... Libia Yamamoto in Richmond; Chieko Kamisato or Mas Suetsumatsu

After the meeting few of us got together at Azuma Restaurant...it was a fantastic, warm fellowship...we asked Tomo to join in with us...and I felt so much warmth and friendliness...it's going to bring the whole Crystal City people together for the very first time...and it is GOOD!...

A copy was made of an article by J.K. Yamamoto in Hokubei Mainichi with a picture of Libia's mother, Hitomi Maoki, 90 years young...unfortunately, trying to print it in this newsletter was just black-grey splotchy-ness, so I'm sorry but I could not get it in this newsletter...

An article in the Rafu Shimpō was sent by Tomo about Libia's talk in San Francisco and San Jose about her experience...Peru to C.C. camp...etc. (reprint in this newsletter also).

A letter was received from the 7th Pan American Nikkei Conference in Canada. A copy is reprinted in this issue. Somehow Crystal City Association is recognized. Any of you up in Vancouver, you may want to attend this meeting and send us a report...

A family Christmas newsletter came from Kay Uno Kaneko with information about her folks, brothers history...also their very interesting life...going from Arlington, VA, to Washington DC, to Hawaii, to Guam, Hawaii, to Japan...now back in Hawaii...and

now they have 2 acres of Kona coffee farm...and so many activity...you'll probably read it in the booklet at the reunion...the list of both of their activities are enough for a dozen people... It is commendable...so very dedicated...Kanshin, kanshin!

Another letter was received from Sadako Kai Ikeda pertaining to the money we used in Crystal City. I called it plastic coin however, the word is "fibre token". She inquired at the coin show that was in Santa Clara and sent me a copy of this money... she copied word for word from a microfiche...which was very difficult for her to read from... (Thanks Sadako). This article is also in this newsletter.

To many of you who have sent me letters, donations for this newsletter, thank you very much. It is the blood and breath of the Crystal City Chatter...it keeps it alive and well.

You can see how all of you are keeping this news circulating and more and more, we are becoming solid group...now all together...the Hawaiian group, the Peruvian group and the "Tairiku" or the U.S. group...I do not forget the couple from Marshall Island...Imakita-san...nor the couple from Alaska...many of the Crystal City Internees came into camp after the Hawaiian group returned to their home in Hawaii, and some of us went to Uruga, Japan...then to many parts of Japan.

When I undertook writing and sending out news to C.C. friends little did I realize that the work would become bigger and bigger...and that so much letters had to be answered...so much recognition from many people...it is heartwarming to have had the opportunity to see a seed sown, grow, and grow...then begin to flower...I feel very grateful that all of you have cared and involved yourself to our camp life and friends. Thank you all...very, very much!

JAPANESE PERUVIAN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

1992 marks the 50th Anniversary commemoration of Executive Order 9066, which led to the forced evacuation and internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. The Japanese American community is drawing attention to our experience to reaffirm our struggles and achievements and with the hope that such a violation of civil and human rights not be repeated.

As the internment experience of Japanese Americans is becoming more widely acknowledged and understood, there is still more about that period of Japanese American history which needs to be revealed and shared.

It is still a surprise for many to learn that persons of Japanese ancestry were forcibly deported from Peru and incarcerated in internment camps in the United States during World War II. This is a little known part of history linking together the peoples of Japan, the United States and Peru.

The Little Known Story of the Japanese Peruvians During WWII

From 1942 to 1945, the US government orchestrated the forcible deportation of over 2260 persons of Japanese ancestry from 12 Latin American countries; their transport over international borders; and their internment in US Department of Justice concentration camps, for use as exchange hostages with Japan. Of these, about 1800 (80%) were Japanese Peruvians. Many of these Japanese Peruvians were interned in a former migrant labor camp at Crystal City, Texas along with Italians and Germans (many of whom were also deported from Latin America) as well as Japanese Americans. This violation of civil and human rights was not justified by a security threat but rather was an outcome of historic racism, anti-foreign prejudice, economic competition and political opportunism during time of war.

The hardship of the Japanese Peruvians did not end with the close of WWII in 1945. By the end of the War, the remaining 1400 Latin American Japanese who had not been deported to Japan were considered to be illegal aliens and deportable by the US government. The Peruvian government at first refused to readmit any Japanese Peruvians, even those who were naturalized or native-born Peruvian citizens. As a result, between November 1945 and June 1946, over 800 Japanese Peruvians were deported to war-devastated Japan. By January, 1947 about 300 Japanese Peruvians remained in the US. They fought deportation through the courts and most were paroled to Seabrook Farm in New Jersey. It was not until June 1952 that these Japanese Peruvians became eligible for permanent residency. Many later became American citizens.

What is the JPOHP?

The Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project (JPOHP) was formed in 1991 by Japanese Peruvians and their families to document the experience of those who were forcibly taken from Peru and interned in concentration camps in the United States during World War II. Through the preservation of these remembrances we strive to deepen our understanding of the rich texture of our past -- with the hope that such violations of civil and human rights not be repeated by any government during times of peace or war.

The Project goals are

- (1) to collect and conduct oral histories,
- (2) to educate ourselves and others about the Japanese Peruvian experience during WWII,
- (3) to promote dialogue and interaction among the Japanese Peruvians and the broader society in the US, Peru and Japan,
- (4) to provide information and referral for Japanese Peruvians seeking reparations.

Please join us in preserving this part of our history.

If you would like to share any comments or suggestions or would like to know more about our Project, please contact us at the National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS).

If you would like to make a financial contribution (which is tax deductible), we would welcome it very much! Please make your check payable to NJAHS and send it to:

National Japanese American Historical Society -- JPOHP
1855 Folsom St., #161
San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 431-5007.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

The article beside this column was written by Grace Shimizu who is heading the Peru-Kai and is writing newsletter for the group. Her father was in Crystal City and although she is young as my daughters, she is very thorough in her research, and is very organized in her presentation...I learned so much just being in the group that met in Gardena last month...it is so great to have such dedication...and the assistance they give to all the people of Peruvian-Japanese group. They are indeed very fortunate to have her working on their behalf.

When Sachi and I were at this meeting, it was like we were the older Nisei group because these Peruvian-Japanese C.C. men and women said they were 6, 7 years old or even younger in camp...made me feel like older person of 15, 16...oh well, I'm now at the age when my father was arrested and taken away...life goes on.

The Hawaiian-Japanese group had the most Japanese priests and school teachers...they were so much more reserved and "quiet"...I always wondered then later realized that they had to since they were more or less in these chosen field...the "straight and the narrow"...I guess that's why the "Tairiku" kids or the U.S. Niseis seemed more of a "delinquent" in that they wanted proms and dances...and enjoyed sports and whatever social we could have...

We had only one prom...and homecoming queen only once...but it was fun...the one slumber party that we girls had at Harrison Hall was fun...Miss Goldsmith was our chaperone at the time and the pillow fights and all night chit-chats were memorable...those of you who were there remember the red lipstick on your forehead that you thought I put on you...that was Shiz Ochiai Kato..the quiet one...never could trust quiet people.

Many of the Peruvian gals were in the Girl Scouts...all the drills and orders in Japanese...I know I would be able to march with the Japanese Army even today. Libia Yamamoto and I were laughing that we still remember the Girl Scout song...we must all get together at the Reunion and sing that song! Mrs. Sakai was one of the leaders with Dr. Mori...(I met her in Honolulu with her daughter Lillian Yuriko Kimura in Nov.)

Memories of so many things...we can do a lot of reminiscing at the Reunion...some of you who went to Uraga...we must get together and talk over what all of you did after you reached your destination in Japan. THAT was a test of FAITH AND INDURANCE!!!

Last week I was watching the Grammy Awards. Well, I really must be from the "Long Ago and Far Away" time. Many of the "music" lost me and I just could not enjoy it, nor did I feel that they were music...and wearing diapers, wierd outfits and costume, and if I'm not wrong, I thought I saw a "katsura" on a person...with some wierd outfit...I could only relate to the 40's song and some 50's, 60's or even 70's...but what they had on... was pure noise and more and more ridiculous clothes...even wearing them backwards...well that puts me back to the Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Jimmy Dorsey, Benny Goodman, etc., etc. "I remember when" is the theme now.

Meanwhile, the music I enjoy is catagorized as "elevator music".

In the "GET WELL" column...Ed Oda is in intensive unit...emphysema...hoping that you will start getting stronger, feeling better, and be able to return home...hospital life is rough...so get well soon Eddie...also... heard that Ty Nakamura was in hospital with chest pain...but with medication, he was able to not only go back home, but was out playing golf last week...WAY TO GO TY!!! Rev. Yoshida had surgery in December, removing cancer from his stomach...I saw him a week ago, and although still weak, he looked good, and seems like he will regain his health and strength...BANZAI...Stay well neh!

I know there are others out there who are or have been ill or injured...do take care of yourself...!

It has been a very WET winter...and you must be tired of all the muddy slides and problems that you hear of all over Southern California...I feel sorry for the many people affected by these slides...it is so devastating. Everything is just so soggy... it's squish, squish, squish...Camarillo is usually mild all year around but somehow the rain struck heavy at times and 15 broccoli pickers were helicoptered out last week... yesterday, thunder and lightening played up in the sky...but no rain around my home...so I thought it was just light and noise...but just up the hill between Thousand Oaks and Camarillo, it hailed so fast and hard, there were 5 inches of hail/snow and they had to close the highway 101 for one hour until the highway was cleared...the Conejo Grade is a very steep hill so I understand that there were cars that were slipping and sliding..so Camarillo does have its excitement at times.

The poor farmers have so much water in their strawberry field...much of the produce are drowning...I guess they should have planted rice.

240 inches of snow up at Mammoth Mountain. Lucky skiers...let's continue to watch water use.

INTERMENT CAMP TOKENS

By Jack F. Burns, A.N.A. No. 9214

From the time the United States entered World War II until the latter part of 1942 the Immigration and Naturalization Service of the United States Department of Justice provided for the temporary detention of enemy aliens. These aliens were apprehended at the outbreak of the War by the I & N Service under enemy alien proceedings pending issuance of final orders on their disposition. When ordered interned, they were transferred to internment camps which at that time were operated by the United States Army.

Early in 1943 it became necessary for the Army to provide internment quarters in the United States for prisoners of war. This resulted in turning over the responsibility for the custody of enemy alien internees to the I and N Service. All such internees totaling 4,120, were then transferred from Army camps to those under the jurisdiction of the I & N Service. In addition to enemy aliens apprehended in continental United States this group included those from Puerto Rico, Alaska, the Panama Canal Zone, Hawaii and Pacific Islands. It also included those brought from Latin America to the United States for internment and repatriation who had been delivered to the Army. At the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 1943, there were 9,220 enemy aliens in the custody of the I and N Service. Of this total 5,988 were from the United States and Puerto Rico. 2,349 from Latin America and 883 from Alaska, Hawaii and other Pacific Islands. Included in the 5,988 were 428 voluntary internees, i.e. families of interned enemy male adults.

Many tragic situations arose when the heads of families were separated from their families when interned. A decision was reached in November of 1942 to establish family camp facilities, making possible a program of reuniting families. Thereupon through an arrangement with the Farm Security Administration a migratory labor camp in Southern Texas was made available to the I and N Service for this purpose. This camp at Crystal City, which is located approximately 110 miles southwest of San Antonio had facilities at that time to accommodate seven hundred persons. Its capacity was gradually expanded and by June 30, 1943, it was capable of housing 2,150 persons: upon completion of construction in progress it was intended to accommodate a total of 3,200 persons. The camp which was used solely for the internment of enemy aliens and their families had a population at the end of the fiscal year 1943 of 1,282 individuals, consisting of 367 men, 358 women and 557 children. The majority were Japanese with a few Germans and others from Latin American countries. A greater total population was reported by June 30, 1944, when the program had been largely completed.

The activities at the Crystal City camp were in many respects similar to those of typical small towns. Every effort was made to make living conditions as normal as possible within the confines of an internment camp. Housing was provided for individual family units where they could prepare their food in accordance with their individual and racial tastes. A grocery store, meat market, canteen and clothing store were set up and operated to provide the necessities of everyday living.

A monetary system utilizing fiber tokens as a medium of exchange was instituted to control the distribution and measure the value of the merchandise and subsistence items stocked in the stores. The tokens were allotted to the internees at the basis of the size and composition of their families and were used in exchange in predetermined quantities of food, meat, clothing and the other items which were provided. Thus the families continued to practice thrift and to engage in household budgetary planning and at the same time had some freedom of choice on purchasing the items which they preferred.

The tokens were used from 1942 at the time of the opening of the camp until it was closed in February 1948 at which time the remaining tokens were to have been destroyed. Unfortunately a copy of the written instructions which was available while the camp was in operation could not be located at this time by the officials of the I and N Service. Present I and N personnel who were directly connected with the operations at Crystal City recall that the tokens were used in denominations ranging from 1 c to \$5.00 in three colors of fiber, red, green and brown. Notwithstanding this information the only tokens of this series which have been located to date are gray fiber in denominations of 1 c, 5 c, and 25 c and are described as follows.

- 1 c Gray-colored fiber round 17 mm plain edge.
Obv INTERNEE CANTEEN in center DEPT. OF JUSTICE curving above I & N SERVICE curving below and separated by dots all within plain rim.
Rev 1 c in center ONE curving above CENT curving below all within plain rim.
- 5 c Gray-colored fiber, round 23 mm plain edge.
Obv Similar to above except within toothed rim.
Rev 5 c in center FIVE curving above CENTS curving below, all within toothed rim.
- 25c Gray-colored fiber, round, 25 mm. plain edge.
Obv Similar to above. Note: First letter in CANTEEN missing.
Rev 25c in center ONE curving above QUARTER curving below, all within toothed rim.

Jack F. Burns is on the staff of Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa. and serves as honorary Research Associate in the Section of Coins and Medals. He would greatly appreciate any additional information concerning other varieties of these tokens.

(Sadako Kai Ikeda)

The above article taken from May 1962 issue of THE NUMISMATIST

A reminder from Joy Gee ...information packet will be sent out to everyone this week...please fill out about father/mother arrested, when, how; a short anecdote on camp... good or bad...funny or sad...these memories will be preserved in the album.

Family achievements, success individually or as a family...whatever you would like to share with your C.C. friends, please send it.

REMEMBER...PLEASE... THE ADS ARE NECESSARY TO COVER COST OF ANNIVERSARY ALBUM...SO WHETHER IT BE COMMERCIAL...BUSINESS... PERSONAL...FAMILY...WE ASK YOUR HELP...

DEADLINE DATE IS JUNE 30th...WE MUST HAVE ALL ADS AND CHECK IN BY THIS DATE...IT IS URGENT TO GET ALL MATERIAL TOGETHER BY THIS DATE...JUNE 30th.

Okay? Thanks from the committee in charge of C.C. 50th Reunion Booklet!!!

One of the Peruvian-Japanese C.C. friends that I met at the meeting in Gardena last month made a comment that not only did he read every word I wrote but that I sure squeezed every space on each paper...I guess I have a bit of Scotch in me...trying to put in as much and getting by on one postage stamp. Thank you readers for reading this newsletter...please share your thoughts or anything interesting that I could print for everyone...

If there are any artifacts, documents, paintings, pictures, memorabilia from Crystal City, we would like to hear from you...these are being collected for our Los Angeles Japanese Historical Museum...and copies of articles, pictures, etc., we will share with San Francisco Japanese Historical Museum and Honolulu Japanese Historical Museum...presently, many articles of interest is sent to and shared with Grace Shimizu and Libia Yamamoto for the Peruvian-Japanese Newsletter... and with Ella Ohta Tomita for the Hawaiian Japanese Historical Museum. Thanks again...Sumi S-U.

Northern California Day of Remembrance Programs Highlight Japanese Peruvians

Libia Yamamoto will speak about her experience being forced from her home in Peru to a camp in Texas during World War II.

A Japanese Peruvian incarcerated in Crystal City, Texas will address the annual Day of Remembrance programs held this month in San Francisco and San Jose to commemorate the Japanese American internment experience.

The program in San Francisco will take place on Feb. 20 at 2 p.m. at the Japanese Cultural and Community Center, 1840 Sutter Street in San Francisco. Sponsored by the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations (NCR) of San Francisco, the event will be free of charge.

The San Jose program is being sponsored by the Nihonmachi Outreach Committee (NOC) of San Jose. Also free of charge, the program is scheduled for Feb. 21 at 6:30 p.m. at the San Jose Buddhist Church, 640 N. 5th St.

Fifty years ago Japanese Peruvians were sent to U.S. internment camps along with Japanese Americans. However, officials in Washington have decided that the 1988 redress bill does not apply to all Japanese Peruvian internees, leaving these individuals ineligible for compensation.

During World War II, some 1,800 Japanese Peruvians were brought to the U.S. from South America and placed in internment camps. This action took place with the full cooperation and involvement of U.S. officials.

In her book "Years of Infamy," Michi Weglyn documents the possibility that the U.S. wanted the Japanese Peruvians for potential hostage exchanges with Japan, or as a possible "reprisal reserve."

Libia Yamamoto, one of the Japanese Peruvian internees, will be among those speaking at the Day of Remembrance program this year.

In 1943, Yamamoto was seven and a half years old and known by her family name, Maoki. She resided with her parents and two siblings in northern Peru. In January of that year, Peruvian authorities took her father into custody.

The rest of the Maoki family was rounded up in July of 1943 and were sent along with other Japanese Peruvians to internment camps in the U.S.

The family arrived in New Orleans and was sent to the Justice Department internment camp at Crystal City, Texas. They were to remain there for four years, until 1947.

The Maoki family's ordeal did not end with the war. After 1945, Japanese Peruvians were caught in a complicated legal tangle because Peru would not them back and the U.S. decided they were illegally in the U.S. and thus could not stay.

According to a government commission, most of the Japanese Peruvians were deported to Japan, the only country that would accept them. Many of these individuals had never been to Japan before this occurred.

After seven years of legal uncertainty, and due largely to the efforts of attorney Wayne Collins and others, many Japanese Peruvians finally won permanent resident status from the U.S. government.

Years later, after the redress bill was enacted in 1988, Yamamoto applied for and was ruled eligible for redress payments. Unfortunately, the Office of Redress Administration (ORA) has ruled that many other Japanese Peruvians are not eligible. The difference is apparently a legal technicality: whether they were granted permanent resident status retroactive to their dates of entry to the U.S. or not.

The ORA estimates that about one out of five of the estimated 330 formerly interned Japanese Peruvians who remain in the U.S. are not eligible for redress payments.

"We were all in the same situation," said Yamamoto, referring to the Japanese Peruvians internees. "It's not fair that some are included (in the redress payments) and some are not."

The Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project in San Francisco, which Yamamoto is part of, is working for inclusion of all interned Japanese Peruvians in the redress payment program.

Those involved in the project are also organizing a 50 year reunion of Japanese Peruvians in Monterey this October.

For more information about the San Francisco program, call (415) 922-1534.

Call Jiro Saito at (408) 267-3140 during the evening for more information about the San Jose event.

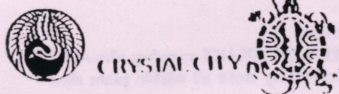
Please send packet and money to Min Akiyoshi, Davis, CA 95616.

Make check out to: CRYSTAL CITY 50th REUNION BOOKLET..

Black and White photos print better. Please put your name and address on the back of all photos sent in... they will be returned. The photographs can be enlarged or reduced... and remember to send a drawing of how you would like your ad to appear.

Any questions should be sent to Min Akiyoshi at the above address... HURRY, HURRY, HURRY!!! Time is getting short and they need all the help we can all give them.

Also, remember if you have any memorabilia to share with us.



Crystal City Camarillo, CA 93010

