



Hi Everyone...

Happy post-Easter, post-Illana Matsuri, post-tax-time, post Fuji Matsuri, Sekku (both girls' and boys' days, etc. etc...down here in Southern California, it seems like we are skipping spring and going into summer...hot and smoggy.

I'm sure many of you who suffer from allergies have had one of the worst seasons this year!! Kleenix Co. must be very happy along with the anti-histamines that many people have been taking...well, it is a big nuisance!

Meanwhile, the 50th Anniversary Reunion group met at the San Jose Buddhist Church Annex on March 14, 1993...the attendees were: George Kodama, Mas Okabe, Ray Yamagishi, Tets and Rose (Taniguchi) Fujii, Joy (Nozaki) Gee, Mabel (Higashi) Higashi, Toy Higashi, Sadako (Kai) Ikeda, Kay Kawashima, Fudge Kodama, Shoji Koga, Mas Koketsu, Lucy (Okazaki) Matsumoto, Kiyo Mizukami, Frank and Ida (Kuge) Morikawa, Kanji Iishijima, George Okabe, Tako Sera, Grace Shimizu, Jane (Kawamoto) Takagi, and Libia (Maoki) Yamamoto.

The committee would like to have you mail back response to the questionnaire that had been sent out. PLEASE SEND THIS IN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE...Thanks...

For you Golfers...
Friday, 8-8-93, 11 a.m...Optional tournament at the Rancho Canada Golf Club limited to 24 golfers.

Saturday, 8-9, 9 a.m...Old Del Monte Golf Course, adjacent to the Hyatt Hotel.
Entry fee: \$57.00.

Prizes: 3 places for the winners of each flight:
1st Flight: 0-20 handicap
2nd Flight: 21-36 " & over
3rd Flight: Ladies 0-36 H.
Prizes to be given at the awards presentation.

For Sightseers and Shoppers... The committee have many interesting places to visit...all arrangements will be made after a response survey is made... so stay tuned in...the questionnaire is to be sent out soon...

We hope to have younger Sansei and Yonsei group attending...Saturday afternoon a Panel Discussion will be held...what it was like in Crystal City Internment Camp...the Japanese Americans, Japanese Hawaiians, and Japanese Peruvians...Grace Shimizu will be offering the experiences of the Japanese Peruvians, Ella Ohta Tomita on the Japanese Hawaiians, and myself on the Japanese American group.

There will be questions and answers...so anyone interested in this very special camp, the only family internment camp during the W.W. II...please join in. This will take place Saturday afternoon 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Hyatt Hotel.

The youngsters (our children), are welcome to join in on all the activities as well as the banquet. Please let them know that they're VERY WELCOME TO JOIN US OLDIES!.. (but goodies...amazing how time has just flown somewhere...and we suddenly added some numbers...wow where has time gone and what happened in between?)

Reunion news will be sent out as I hear from the committee..I'm sure that they will be sending you a program of the three days' events...and registration forms.

Kim Hayakawa Takahashi sent an article that her sister Chiyoko Masumoto sent from Chula Vista... "An Often Overlooked Injustice".. about the Shibayama family being deported to the U.S..into Crystal City Internment Camp along with about 2,000 other Japanese living in Peru. It was in The San Diego Union-Tribune, on March 27, 1993.

This article caught the eyes of other C.C. friends...they all sent me clippings for this news-

letter...thank you Chiyoko, Kim, Toshi Kamatani Nakagawa, Mas Okabe and also to Hatsie Kanagaki Matsutani for sending me an article in the Contra Costa Times, Apr. 22, '93 on "Project Documents History of Japanese Internees from Peru"...about our friend Grace Shimizu who started the Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project, and writes and sends out newsletter to former Peruvian group all over...Canada, Japan, Hawaii and Mainland U.S.

I am grateful for your interest in being a part of this newsletter...and for your many donations...Thank you, Thank you, THANK YOU EVERYONE OF YOU.

Now for an article I have received from Kim Takahashi.

WHAT ARE SENIORS WORTH ANYWAY?

We are worth a FORTUNE!!! Remember old folks are worth a fortune, with SILVER in their hair, GOLD in their teeth, STONES in their kidneys, LEAD in their feet, and GAS in their stomachs. I have become a little older since I saw you last and a few changes have come into my life since then.

Frankly, I have become quite a frivolous old gal. I am seeing FIVE gentlemen every day. AS soon as I wake up, WILL FOWER helps me get out of bed. Then I go see ANN. Then CHARLIE HORSE comes along and when he is here he takes a lot of my time and attention. When he leaves, ARTHUR RITIS shows up and stays for the rest of the day. He doesn't like to stay in one place very long, so he takes from joint to joint. After such a busy day, I'm really tired and glad to go to bed with BEN GAY.

What a life! P.S. The preacher came to call the other day. He said at my age I should be thinking about the here-after. I told him, "Oh, I do all the time. No matter

where I am, in the parlor, upstairs, in the kitchen or down in the basement I ask myself.. "What am I here after?"...

Thanks Kim...I find myself ALWAYS thinking about the hereafter...

Thank you Etsu Ichikawa Osaka of Portland, Oregon...she sent a list of C.C. "Missing" Persons...I have added them to my mailing list for the C.C. Chatter newsletter. I sent a copy of this list to Grace Shimizu for her mailing list, and to Min Akiyoshi and Mas Koketsu for their mailing list...I'm very grateful to you for taking the time and effort for this...

To many of the Northwestern friends...the 7th Pan American Nikkei Conference is being held in Vancouver, B.C. at the Pan Pacific Hotel on July 1 to 4th, 1993. The topics are:

- NAFTA, Effects on Americas
- Comparative Social History
- Human Rights
- Role Models
- Educating the Youth
- Dekasegi
- Experiences of Nikkei in North/South America from W.W. II
- Nikkei Seniors
- Others: Cultural Exchange

Intermarriage, etc.

There will be an International Nikkei Golf Tournament on July 3rd and 4th; a major Karaoke contest on July 4th, and perhaps a gateball tournament. (?)

There may be workshops on business exchanges. They are planning a conference in four languages. They are hoping for about 600 to 800 people.

Contact Ms. Shigeko Ando of PANA Canada; [redacted] Vancouver, B.C.; Canada V6B 3T5.

I do hope that some of you will be able to meet with this group...and if anyone of you do, I would appreciate your input...let us know all about it...thanx.

The telephone number is:

Fax [redacted] .or [redacted]

I wish them great success!!!

It is very commendable that there are groups like this and also Grace Shimizu's group who continue to work for the many Nikkeis...it takes so much time and work...DEDICATION...COMMITMENT...CARE FOR OTHERS...all of us benefit from these souls...thank you so very much....

I have also received photos of C.C. friends from Yae Aoki Suyenobu...(my how young everyone looked...these shall be forwarded to the Reunion committee so they can have them on display at the Reunion. Thanks a lot Yae...Really appreciate it!!!

Received a note from Meg Yoshimura in March...he and his wife Atsuko made a short visit to Gardena...but left for Japan again. He doubts that they be able to attend the Big Event in Monterey in October but says... "Please give our regards to all who we know"... "Someday we'll see each other again"...we will miss them in October...and his singing...but Meg, keep up your singing in Japan...we'll be awaiting for your performance at our picnic or some C.C. gatherings...so...take care, and we thank you for your very generous donation...

I hope that many of you responded to the S.O.S. on album for the coming reunion Joy and her group are putting together...if you haven't gotten your ad, picture, whatever together to put into the album, you have until June 30th...but they would like the \$\$\$ first. One whole page is \$175., half a page is \$110., quarter page is \$70., and one eighth page-\$45. If picture or snapshot is sent, black & white prints better...remember to put your name and address on the back of your photos...we can then return them to you after the Monterey Reunion.

Many of you have jotted me a note with your contribution to this newsletter, to donations to the C.C. Chatter, to give me news...that "I'll see you in Monterey!"...I have a

wonderful feeling that it's going to be a BIG, WONDERFUL REUNION...and we will have a lot of people...so...let us all meet in Monterey Oct. 8th to 10th...

There's been questions... "Will there be a pilgrimage trip to Crystal City in the near future?"...Yukiko Fukuda of Honolulu asks...I do know that Ella Ohta Tomita is getting few Hawaiian group together to go to North Carolina where 25 people were first taken to from Hawaii...she is taking care of the Hawaiian-Japanese group presently, so perhaps you can inquire...her address is: [redacted] Honolulu, HI, 96821; phone no. is [redacted] ...

I had at one time thought of a trip to C.C. but received only couple of interested persons...IF there are interested people, please drop me a line. Perhaps, we could plan a trip in the future. I know that I would definitely like to make that trip...so let me know!

In the last issue of this newsletter, I reduced articles down, and I apologize...the print was so small and some of the print was difficult to read...so I will print normal size so you won't have to use a magnifying glass or squint.

I'm sorry to have to notify you that our friend Ed Oda has passed away end of February...many of the C.C. friends were at the funeral...although it was not a happy occasion...it was good to see many familiar faces...our sympathy with the family...it's doubly hard as it was just a year ago that Bob Oda passed away. I know it is very difficult to overcome the grief of losing loved ones...

Ty Nakamura is well...well enough to be back playing golf. Take care now...and don't play too hard...

EVERYONE, PLEASE DO TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR HEALTH...WE ARE AT A VULNERABLE AGE NOW!!



LAMORINDA

Project documents history of Japanese internees from Peru

By PAM KING
Staff writer

When Grace Shimizu was growing up, her father never talked about his past. It wasn't until she was in college that she learned how Susumu Shimizu came to the United States from Latin America, and why he was a gardener instead of a businessman.

Shimizu was a Japanese immigrant living in Peru when the United States entered World War II in 1941. He had been operating a charcoal business in the city of Chiclayo for 18 years when he and 1,800 others were rounded up and deported from Peru to Crystal City, Texas, to spend the rest of the war designated as "enemy aliens" in a Department of Justice internment camp. Only 100 internees ever returned to their homes in Peru; the vast majority were sent back to war-devastated Japan, some during the war in hostage exchanges.

"Only now," Grace Shimizu said, "we are beginning to realize the extent of the impact of this experience for these people and the succeeding generations."

In 1991, Shimizu noted that the history of Japanese-Peruvians was being lost as former internees died. She started the Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project to document the experiences of those who were deported from Peru and interned in the United States.

"A lot of this is personal for us," said Shimizu, a legal secretary who lives in El Cerrito. "We want to preserve our family histories."

"But, beyond that, this is an aspect of Japanese-American history that needs to be recognized and incorporated into our U.S. history. Obviously, we don't want this kind of legalized kidnapping ever to happen to us again, or to anyone else. Using civilians as hostages is a gross violation of human rights."

Shimizu said the oral history project also provides information and referrals for Japanese-Peruvians seeking reparations from the

DISCUSSION

What: Panel discussion on the deportation and internment of Peruvian Japanese during World War II.

Where: Soda Activity Center, St. Mary's College, Moraga.

When: 7 p.m. Tuesday

U.S. government. Japanese-Peruvians living in the United States are concentrated in Los Angeles, the Bay Area, New Jersey and Chicago, Shimizu said.

"My parents were never bitter," said Nobli Stienecker, who was born in Lima, Peru, and spent three years in the camp at Crystal City as a young child. "They never expressed any animosity against the government of either Peru or the U.S. They actually thought they were fortunate because this turned out to be a better place to raise their children."

Many Japanese moved to Peru in the early 20th century, when the United States was restricting Far Eastern immigration. The Japanese presence in Peru remains a significant one — Peru's President Alberto Fujimori is of Japanese descent. Stienecker said her aunt, who was not selected for deportation in 1942, still lives there with her cousins.

Even though her parents ultimately adjusted to the United States, Stienecker said the forced deportation from Peru was wrenching for them. Her father had owned businesses in Lima — a barbershop, a banana plantation and, finally, a bakery — but he had to work two janitorial jobs in Los Angeles once he realized he would not be permitted to return to Peru. She said he wouldn't bring her younger brother to work with him, because he was embarrassed for his son to see the kind of work he did.

Stienecker, who is assistant to St. Mary's College's dean of liberal arts, arranged next week's panel discussion, which is co-sponsored



SUSAN POLLARD/TIM

NOBI STIENECKER takes orchids she grows at home to her office at St. Mary's College in Moraga. Stienecker remembers the gardens in a Texas internment camp for Japanese-Peruvians, where she was sent as a 5-year-old during World War II.

by the school's departments of history and anthropology-sociology. Along with Shimizu, who will describe the oral history project, two former Crystal City internees, Eloy Maoki of Richmond and Arthur Shibayama of San Jose, will speak.

"It's been an interesting life for all of us, in spite of what we went through," said Stienecker, 54. Her memories of camp life are vague although she does not believe she was mistreated. Her older sister, she said, has blocked from her memory the entire experience.

Shimizu said the founders of the oral history project had to educate themselves about the background details of the Japanese-Peruvian experience so they could intelligently interview the former internees. Now adequately informed, they are seeking bilingual translators and transcribers, because many of the older Japanese-Peruvians are fluent only in Japanese. Shimizu also is developing a volunteer network in Japan, because the majority of the former camp dwellers now live there.

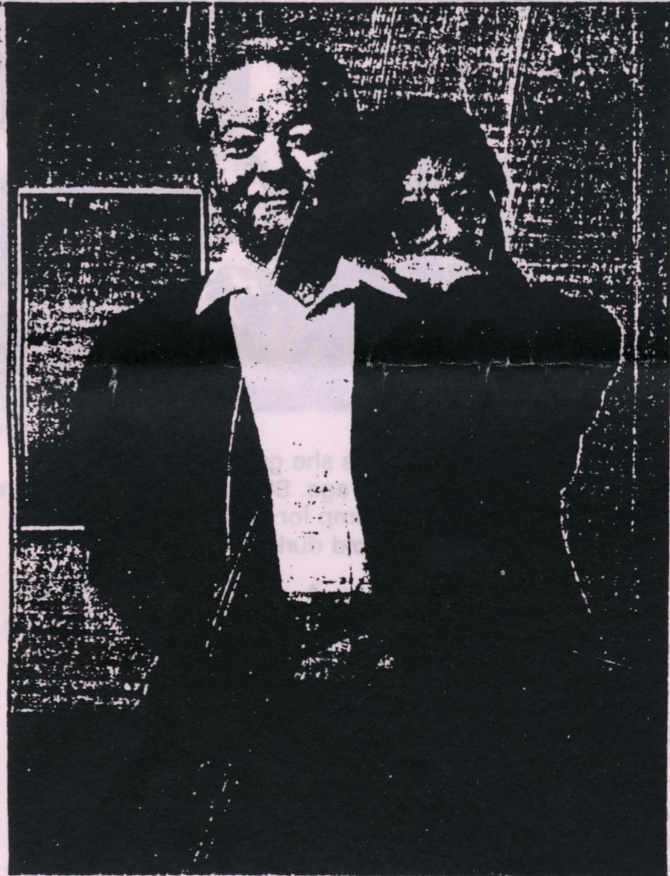
In October in Monterey, a 50-year reunion of former internees from Crystal City will provide an opportunity for Shimizu to conduct interviews, and to encourage family members to collect other interviews. The National Japanese American Historical Society is helping Shimizu spread the word about the project.

"There just hasn't been a lot of discussion about this situation," Shimizu said. "The former internees were just struggling to re-establish their lives, and didn't have access to information. And now the history is dying away."

This was sent in from Hatsie Kanagaki Matsutani, Walnut Creek, CA..the pictures all copy dark...so my apologies to those in the pictures..Nobi Stienecker, Art Shibayama, Fusa Sumitomo...I could cut out the photos but maybe even tho' it's real cark, it shows a bit...anyway, it's the best we can do.

Few months ago, I received a book, "The Japanese Texans" by Thomas K. Walls...from George Okabe who thoughtfully sent me the book and earlier an excerpt of the book...it describes how Crystal City Internment camp was started...the many Japanese brought from Latin American countries, especially Peru...there were two other internment camps in Texas...Kennedy and Sea- (Cont'd page 4...)

An often-overlooked injustice



KNIGHT-RIDDER

Art Shibayama and his sister, Fusa Sumitomo.

In WWII, Latin nations sent Japanese to U.S.

By **DONNA KATO**
Knight-Ridder News Service

Twice, maybe three times, Fusa Shibayama watched her father climb to the top of the family's house, then leap off where the roof abutted a heavily forested hill. To elude authorities, he would vanish as quickly as a frightened animal into the trees and mountains hugging the city of Lima, Peru.

But that last time, in 1944, government agents knew just how to flush him out of hiding. They jailed 12-year-old Fusa and her mother.

For two days, they sat in a tiny cell of the municipal jail and waited. Sure enough, Yuzo Shibayama soon materialized. For the safe return of his daughter and wife, he agreed to prepare the family for a voyage to a country he had never been to — a country he had no desire to see.

The Shibayamas had become snared in a U.S. effort to use Japanese-Latin Americans in hostage exchanges with Japan. Cooperating Latin American countries saw the economic advantages of seizing the immigrants' assets, and Peru was the

Internees

Japanese became pawns in Latin American game

most enthusiastic of the cooperating nations. Shibayama and his family were deported to the United States immediately.

Shibayama had called Lima home for more than two decades. He came from Japan as a teen-ager in 1921, joining a bachelor society of expatriates who had gone to South America to seek their fortunes.

He first worked for an uncle in the coal business, saving every spare cent. Later, he would wed a young woman from Fukuoka, Japan, in an arranged marriage. By the time his sixth child was born, he would own a shirt manufacturing plant. He had lived through typical immigrant struggles, but now had a house with servants, and a chauffeur to drive the children to school.

Called security risk

But just when he began to call himself successful, he was told by Peruvian and U.S. officials at his deportation hearing that they had reason to believe he was a security risk because of his ethnic ties to Japan.

The young girl who watched her father disappear into the mountains is now 61 years old. Fusa Shibayama Sumitomo has two grown sons and lives in San Jose. She and her 62-year-old brother, Art Shibayama, sit in his Willow Glen dining room, trying to reconstruct their family's history, filling in each other's blanks in a time line that spans more than 50 years.

Some things they can't quite pinpoint, but what they both remember is the turmoil that began to surround their friends, and eventually their family, after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941.

Even though the Shibayamas were living in a country that wasn't directly involved in the war, they were soon forced to become involved along with more than 2,200 others of Japanese ancestry who were living in Latin American countries.

When the United States entered the conflict, about 20,000 Japanese-Peruvians were living throughout Peru. What happened to about 2,000 of them from 1942 to 1945 is being called by scholars and lawmakers one of the most shameful wartime schemes ever carried out by respectable nations.

(Cont'd from page 3...book, "The Japanese Texans by Thomas K. Walls) govillie Internment Camp. There were Japanese picked up in Ecuador and Colombia, however, they were mostly Japanese diplomatic and consular personnel...the vast majority of Latin American-Japanese were from Peru. The writer was born in Tokyo, Japan...his mother, an American-born Nisei and father a member of the American Occupation Forces stationed in Japan following W.W. II. For further information pertaining to this book, the publisher is, The University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures at San Antonio...address: Department M(J); The University of Texas; Institute of Texan Cultures at San Antonio; P.O. Box 1226; San Antonio, Texas.... 78294-1226. Snapshots printed in the book of the guard tower, guard patrolling the camp, C.C. school chorus, Elementary school graduation 1945, Federal High School graduation, 1945, football team Wildcats from the FHS '45 yearbook Roundup, yell and song leader picture of Vi Nozaki, Edison Uno and myself from the '45 Roundup and another page of snapshots from the Roundup...my how young we all were then.

Thank you George for the book...you continued donation not only toward this newsletter but for coffee, etc. at our C.C. cabinet meetings are appreciated greatly...now you're working with the 50th Anniversary Reunion to be held in Monterey...we are all grateful for all these people working many hours to make it a great success for all of us!

It is difficult to believe today, for many of the younger Nikkei group that Mr. Shibayama's trying to elude the F.B.I.'s/government agents from arresting them, they ran and hid wherever they could...I recall in Little Tokyo, L.A., I lived on First St. and many people ran through our building trying to hide, especially on December 7th & 8th, 1941.

About a dozen Latin American countries cooperated with the United States in deporting "suspect" Japanese immigrants and their offspring to Justice Department camps, which were separate from the 10 internment camps that housed 120,000 Japanese-Americans. Most of the Latin American families ended up in a compound in Crystal City, Texas.

Rounding up community leaders

The majority of those deported were successful farmers, businessmen and professionals like the elder Shibayama. As community leaders, they were told they were suspected of being loyal to Japan.

The real reason was made clear by war historians and State Department participants, such as John Emmerson, author of "The Japanese Thread" and the U.S. diplomat in charge of selecting the internees in Peru. The United States wanted to use the Japanese-Latin Americans in hostage exchanges with Japan.

"After inciting security mania among our own citizens, our government persuaded our allies in Latin America to do the same," says Professor Roger Daniels of the University of Cincinnati, an expert on U.S. internment issues.

"No one had to know the real reason, and no one had enough insight to ask questions back then," he adds. "Even today, the Peruvian story is a shrouded chapter of internment history that even many Japanese-Americans are unfamiliar with."

Indeed, for the first time, the annual Day of Remembrance programs in Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Jose this year were dedicated to the Japanese-Peruvian-Americans and their ongoing struggle to obtain a formal apology from the U.S. government.

The Day of Remembrance commemorates the anniversary of Executive Order 9066, the February 1942 order that set up the internment camps. Since the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, the anniversary has become a day to herald victory for the Japanese-Americans.

Shut out by technicality

The irony is that the act — in which the U.S. government apologized to Japanese-Americans for its wrongdoing and Congress approved \$20,000 in redress for each internee — shuts out many of the Japanese-Peruvian-Americans be-

cause of a technicality in the immigration law. They entered the United States without documents and did not become legal residents until nearly 10 years after the war.

"What happened to Japanese-Latin Americans is a horrible injustice, and the United States bears a good share of responsibility for it," says Rep. Norman Mineta, D-San Jose. "I hope that by building an awareness of their story, we can move toward redressing that injustice."

David Monkawa, a spokesman for the National Coalition for Redress and Reparations in Los Angeles, adds: "However you look at it, the basic wrong is that a people's human rights were violated."

The group, which was at the core of the decade-long fight for the Japanese-Americans, now is trying to draft a strategy for the Peruvian cause. "It's a very difficult case legally," Monkawa says, "and we can no longer expect to generate the type of emotion that the original movement did."

The Shibayamas were imprisoned in Crystal City until September 1946. The elder Shibayama hoped to return to Peru, but was told the Peruvian government would not take the family back. Only Japanese-Peruvians with Peruvian spouses could return.

Shibayama was a man without a country, and his options were to go back to Japan or to find a sponsor in the United States. About 1,700 of the deportees who were imprisoned in the U.S. camps were forced to go to Japan — a country most had left as teen-agers or had never visited.

Shibayama was one of 300 who decided to remain in the United States. He died in 1976.

Time is running out

Time is running out for many of the Peruvian-Japanese-Americans. If they were adults in the 1940s, they are in their 70s and 80s today. They are weary and reluctant to relive their ordeal after half a century, and it is their children and grandchildren who have taken up the fight.

"When I finally started to ask my dad about his life, he was typically silent and brusque with his answers," says Grace Shimizu, who heads the Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project in San Francisco. The project, begun about 2½ years ago, makes her the unofficial authority on the whereabouts of the surviving Japanese-Peruvian-Americans, yet she's not sure how many are alive or live in the United States.

Her mailing list, which includes descendants, has 130 addresses — about 30 in the San Francisco Bay Area, about 50 in Southern California and the rest scattered throughout the country.

"We don't know who is around and who left for Japan or Peru, then came back," says Shimizu, who is conducting the project with the help of the Japanese-American community and the National Japanese-American Historical Society (NJAHS) in San Francisco.

After moving to Chicago, Art Shibayama contributed to the family finances by working odd jobs, as did his father. Then, in 1952, he was drafted into the Army to serve in the Korean War. While in the service, he was told he was still an undocumented immigrant and was advised to re-enter the United States through Canada.

Shibayama went to mechanic school on the GI Bill and became an auto mechanic in Chicago. In 1971, he followed Fusa and two other sisters to the San Francisco Bay Area with his wife, Betti, and two children.

He bought a house in Willow Glen and opened a gas station a few miles from his home. Glaucoma forced an early retirement in 1987. Since then, he's focused his energies on obtaining some sort of government recognition of what his family went through.

"If there had been no war and if we had stayed in Peru, I would have gotten an education, and I know my parents would have had a better life," Shibayama says.

Little can be done

"Based on the way the law is set up, there is very little that can be done legally," says Shibayama's attorney, Richard Konda of the Asian Law Alliance in San Jose. "We're hopeful for an amendment or a cleanup bill connected to the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 that will rectify their situation."

Adds Daniels, the Cincinnati professor: "From the other side, you are going to hear from those who argue that the Peruvians who became U.S. citizens probably had a better life in the long run and that it's never as bad to treat foreigners poorly as it is your own people."

For Art Shibayama and his sister Fusa Sumitomo, such arguments miss the point.

"Our struggle has to be noted," Shibayama says. "It must be included in the history books so that it won't happen again."

I'm sure that there are many other stories on the Isseis arrest...this is where it would be so helpful for all of you to write of their experiences...it should never be forgotten... the 24 hours removal of Terminal Island family Dec. 7th...the families where both of the parents were arrested leaving their children without any adults to care fo them...people who chose to move to inner states instead of the camps, facing severe racial hates, finding their wells with garbage and craps dumped in, this Issei mother cried in my office how she felt so frustrated, not able to fight back... the racial slurs in town...Mr. Horie of C.C. crying how he was kicked and beaten during interrogation at Santa Fe, NM..."Why...I'm just a farmer, I didn't do anything, I didn't know anything...but they kicked me off the stool, and hit my head with rifle butt...please tell my story...don't forget what happened to us". This happened at a C.C. picnic, many, many years ago...but I can still hear his cries...

Many of you may have "forgotten" or were too young to remember, but if any of you do recall, jot it down...I will try to put them together...as painful as it is, it should never, ever be forgotten.

The resettlement back to wherever your family moved to...the difficulties...how many families shared a house, the hostles, hotels that accommodated families to work at menial jobs, wages until they were able to re-build once again...for their children.

Some of you went to Japan...what it really was like...some worked in military outfit.... some of you attended Japanese school....your thoughts, feelings...IT WAS A DIFFICULT LIFE! BUT YOU ALL MADE IT!!! WITH FLYING COLOR!!!! HURRAY...BANZAI...YOU MADE IT...IT MADE YOU!! THIS then is your history...YOUR SUCCESS.... BOY, WEREN'T OUR ISSEI PARENTS GREAT? THEY GAVE TO US PRICELESS HERITAGE! KANSHA KANSHA.

After meeting with the So California CC former Japanese-Peruvians who were little children in camp...I was profoundly amazed that all of them were so proficient in Spanish, Japanese and English. I questioned how they were so "smart".... and able to read, write and speak all three languages so well and they reminded me that in Crystal City, they were in all day Japanese classes every day (whereas we had American school, they did not have Spanish speaking school), and spoke Spanish at home, and they all had to learn English when they resettled in the United States. They didn't have much choice.

It seems like such a long, long time ago.... another lifetime...another period...yet it was in our lifetime...fifty years ago.

What always intrigued me was the ingenuity, the creativity of these Japanese people. I was always amazed that in each camp, people made their bleak room, house "homey", the gardens... Japanese mini-style, ponds, rock gardens...all made the bleakness attractive...the artifacts that were made from manzanitas, and other desert hardwood...pen, letter opener, cigarette holders, tray, getas, name plates...were made with broken Coca Cola bottles because the men were not allowed to own any tools (dangerous) so they created tools out of the bottles, sanding them with rough concrete or stones, then, polishing them with cloths...preferably flannel to bring out the shine from inside the wood...

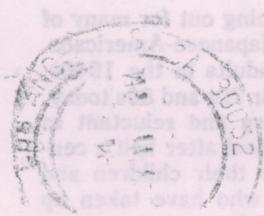
Some of the Niseis, and women carved little birds, fishes, etc. out of pine wood from ends of crates...(mom made 2 birds)...they were so colorful and cute.

The farmers took this time to rest so they did not plant vegetables...city people like my father had fun planting every type of vegetables and enjoyed manicuring every inch of their prize veges...

The lifestyle of imprisoned but not defeated souls...WHAT GREAT SOULS! So long for now.....

CRYSTAL CITY CHATTER

Camarillo, CA 93010



TAD & SATOMI ISHIDA
SAB FRANCISCO, CA 94116



Attorney General Janet Reno
Department of Justice
10 Constitution Avenue, N.S.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Reno,

I urge your Administration to bring a more just approach to the Department of Justice's Office of Redress Administration (ORA) -- the agency formed to redress the injuries caused by the unconstitutional internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

I appreciate the ORA's diligence and efficiency in processing the great majority of claims to date. However, I believe that the ORA's interpretation of the redress law has become increasingly narrow, denying redress to persons who plainly suffered great injustices by our government's wartime policies. For example:

The redress law provides that persons born in any internment camp should receive redress. Yet I am informed that a number of children born in camps to veterans of such units as the 442nd Regimental Combat Team have been denied redress. During the war, some wives of those GI's obtained leaves from camp to visit their spouses. When the husbands left to fight in Europe or the Pacific, the wives returned to camp. The ORA has interpreted the law to exclude any child born in camp after the mother's return, claiming that she returned "voluntarily." In essence, the ORA blames the mother for returning to camp even if she had no place else to return to.

There are also the Japanese Peruvians and other Latin Americans of Japanese ancestry who were forcibly brought here and incarcerated in U.S. internment camps for the purpose of prisoner of war exchange. Within some of these families, one is eligible for redress but another is not -- even though they were interned at the same time and under the same conditions. This discrepancy is due to the fact that the government considers eligible only those who were granted permanent residency status retroactive to their initial date of entry. All the others are not eligible because they are considered to have been "illegally" in the U.S., even though they were brought here, admitted and incarcerated by U.S. agencies.

There are other compelling cases where individuals have been ruled ineligible, such as the children of the repatriates, and Japanese Americans in Hawaii and Arizona, who suffered great losses of liberty and property.

I urge the Department of Justice to thoroughly review its policies which deny redress to any category of persons who did in fact suffer losses of civil liberties during the war. As part of this process, I urge you to meet with organizations such as the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations (NCRP) and others representing persons denied redress and fully and fairly respond to their concerns.

With the passing away of many of the survivors of the internment period, there is an urgent need to correct the injustices in the redress process as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

(Signature)

(Address)

OVER 2,000 PERSONS DENIED REDRESS

Even Some Born in Internment Camps Are Unfairly Excluded

While most eligible Japanese Americans have already received redress for the wartime internment, it is not widely known that the Office of Redress Administration (ORA) has so far denied redress to over 2,000 applicants. Many of these are appealing their cases.

The National Coalition for Redress/Reparations (NCRR) and other organizations believe that the ORA has wrongly denied redress in a significant number of these cases, due to an overly restrictive interpretation of the redress law. We appreciate the good work the ORA has done on the majority of cases, but we are working together with other groups to change the ORA's narrow interpretation.

NCRR supports all those who have legitimate claims because they were interned or otherwise unjustly deprived of liberty or property due to the exclusion, internment and related government wartime actions.

Children of the 442nd

The ORA's own regulations specifically state that persons born in an internment camp are eligible for redress. However, the ORA has denied redress to a number of individuals born in camps, saying that their mothers had left the camps and "voluntarily" re-entered camp.

Many of those born in camp were the children of men in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, whose mothers left camp for a last visit with their husbands before the men left for the battlefield. Being pregnant and having no one to turn to outside the camps, the women in fact had no realistic choice but to return to the camps. Because of this, it is unfair to deny redress to their children.

Japanese Peruvians

There are also the Japanese Peruvians and other Latin Americans of Japanese ancestry who were forcibly brought here and interned for the purpose of prisoner of war exchange with Japan. Within some of these families, one person is eligible for redress but others are not -- even though they were interned at the same time and under the same conditions.

This discrepancy is due to the fact that the government considers eligible only those who were

later granted permanent residency status retroactive to their initial date of entry. All others are not eligible because the government claims that they were "illegally" in the U.S., even though they were brought here, admitted and incarcerated by official U.S. agencies.

Attorney General Janet Reno

We simply want to ensure that all those who legitimately deserve redress, actually get it. We think the best way to do this is to take our concerns directly to Attorney General Janet Reno. The ORA is part of the Justice Department that Reno heads up as Attorney General.

Reno has stated that she will approach every issue with the question, "What's the right thing to do?" and that she wants to "give every American a reason to believe that the Constitution is a living document that means something." For these and other reasons, we believe that she may be open to such a meeting.

Other Appeals Cases

We cannot describe all other appeal cases here, but they include: those born outside of internment camps who were interned when their mothers returned to camp; children internees who were involuntarily sent to Japan along with their parents as part of a prisoner of war exchange; families living just outside of the exclusion zone (e.g. near Phoenix) who were denied access to their jobs, schools and health care in the exclusion area.

Grassroots Action

To prevent a significant number of people from being unjustly excluded from the redress program will require a united community effort and grassroots action. It took some 10 years of hard work to win the redress law -- let's pull together to make sure that it is carried out fairly for all those it was intended for.

We ask you to support our letter writing campaign by spreading the word and giving letters to family and friends.

National Coalition for Redress / Reparations (NCRR)
1911 Bush St. #1-G, San Francisco, CA 94115
Phone: (415) 922-1534