

THE GREAT FANTABULOUS PICNIC!!!

WOWEE! What a Success! You know what I mean if you were at the picnic...over 300 people...so many of you from far away places...out of town, out of state...even out of country... (Keigo Takeuchi from Switzerland). We're so happy that you joined in and made it a great event!

To top it off, we also had 6 Issei friends: Mrs. Fukunaga, Mrs. Hatanaka, Mrs. Ogawa, Mrs. Ohmaye, Mrs. Yoshida, and Mr. Okamoto. It is always special to have them join us!

And the mountain of "Gochiso" ...We have been spoiled by Gochi-san" by his fantastic food. He always manages to cook tasty yummy food...and while we filled our tummies, we were entertained by the talented Yokotake Family Band. Their music both Japanese and popular American songs were enjoyed by everyone. I saw many young tots singing along and swaying to "A Whole New World" from Walt Disney's Aladdin. There were over 75 lil ones enjoying the picnic fun...

The band also played for our

CRYSTAL CITY INTERNMENT CAMP TO BE INCLUDED AT THE L.A.J.H. MUSEUM

I'm very happy to inform you that we are accepted to be included in the Nov. '94 to Nov. '95 display along with the ten relocation camps...and I am very, very grateful to Noby and Aya Yamakoshi (Hosaka) for their assistance and their support. As all of you know, I have been fighting for this along with Sei Dyo and Toni Tomita and others so our fathers and mothers memories of their sufferings...their tears...fears...anxieties will be remembered. It's to them that I'm so dedicated...that somehow, their stories will never be forgotten!

Although the door opened to us, artifacts and original photographs, etc. has to be in the museum by August 8th, so Toni Tomita flew up to Sacramento to pick up these important items from Joy Gee, Kanji Nishijima and Tomi Tanaka (Matoba). They were so warm and so helpful, Toni couldn't express her gratitude enough to the group up there for their total support.

THIS IS WHAT MAKES OUR CAMP PEOPLE SO UNIQUE...TOTAL SUPPORT! TOTAL CARE! TOTAL DEDICATION! Thank you all...when we go to all the meetings that we have attended at the L.A.J.H. Museum, it shows, because we are together and such a tight group.

No matter what anyone says...OUR CAMP IS THE ONLY INTERNMENT CAMP! NO OTHER CAMP IS OR EVER WAS AN INTERNMENT CAMP! The others

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hi,

I was somehow "anointed" by Sumi Shimatsu to be her successor. Let me tell you, those are some big shoes, figureatively speaking, to fill.

I took this position on the condition that Sumi will continue to be the editor of our lifeline, "The C.C. Chatter,"...indefinitely...she is our own "super info highway" keeping us abreast of what is going on among our C.C. friends. Sumi, on behalf of all of us, I want to thank you for your leadership for past several years. "Domo arigato gozaimasu. Yoroshiku tanomi-masu." as I will be in touch with you often as you are now my adviser/mentor.

Some of you maybe wondering which Takeuchi family I belong to. I am one of six Takeuchi siblings, Miyo, Takashi, Keiko, Tomoko, Itsuko and Kenji who was born in Texas. I was the one who used to do the Japanese dances and "Shibai" with Keigo Takeuchi. My name changed to 'Toni' while I was a school girl in Shaker Heights, Ohio after the war. The reason was 'Tomoko' was too difficult for my two young charges to say besides, did I want to be called "nanny" at the ripe old age of 14?

Anyway, now that I have just retired after 33 years with the Los Angeles Unified School District, I'm happy to serve as your C.C. president. I look forward to your support and am open to any and all suggestions as to how I can serve our association.

Ondo dances...and not only the ladies danced, but some of the fellas... Mas Okabe is an experienced dancer... and Charles McCullister did very well for a beginner...then we did the "Hakujin Ondo,"...Line Dancing that Paula Shimatsu led us in, doing the "tush push, hip-hop," etc. So many people joined in, it was really lots of fun, and very enjoyable! We must do it again!

The races were very creative and different...many of the people commented on the ingenuity of the races and games. It was fun for the non-participants to watch these unique games. We are very grateful for Sei Dyo's sons who "volunteered" their services. Thanks fellas.

Ben Takeuchi's daughters shopped for all the prizes and on top of that they introduced us to POG contest. I know that many of you did not know what POG was, however, you soon found out at the picnic, and the little ones were ahead of us...they knew what POGS were...(I remember it as "milk tops")

Dottie Hatanaka filled a jar with jelly beans and peanut snacks with a prize of \$25. inside...Derick Shimatsu won; the grand prize for the raffle drawing, a VCR, was won by Sab Uyeji. Congratulations!

The whole day was filled with FUN, FOOD, and FRIENDS!

* * * * *
ARIGATO COLUMN

- ...to all the donations for the picnic and for the C.C. Chatter.
- ...to those who donated all those great raffle gifts, even from Hilo, Hawaii...Thanks Shiz.
- ...to Yamashita Sensei for calligraphy of "WA" (peace, harmony) and in English Crystal City Camp for our T-Shirts.
- ...to Curtis Oda (Eddie's son) and his North Star Silk Screen Co. for doing our T-shirts (Sensei's "WA")
- ...to the Hosakas for all those delicious fruits...they were so sweet and juicy.
- ...to all the cookie bakers, lemon and brownie bakers...finger jello makers, mmmmm mmmmm they were soooo good.

...to all the hardworking "volunteers" you help make this picnic a GREAT SUCCESS!

...to those of you who are the first ones and the last one out of the park...to open up...post signs and balloons...then finish up scrubbing and cleaning the kitchen and making sure that the park area is as clean as (More clean) before...you know who you are (so do I)...YOU'RE THE GREATEST! You're always there and always have been there!! WE THANK YOU!

(Cont'd from page 1, col. 2)

were relocation camps...people were relocated from the West Coast to these ten camps. No one was arrested. No family member (s) were separated. There were no hearings or interrogations as did our fathers and mothers who were arrested. No mails were censored in any of the relocation centers. Visitors were allowed in these camps; not in internment camp. If there were visitors, (usually sons going off to war) it was for only 5 minutes in a special area. It was more of a prison atmosphere, not at all like any of the other ten camps. Therefore, I correct those who use the word "Internment" camp loosely in reference to the other relocation centers. I'm sure they consider me being very "ururai" and "picky" but none of them saw what you and I saw, nor have gone thru. It's easy to use the words lightly, but I cannot accept interchanging this word. Crystal City was the ONLY Internment camp and none of the other ten camps have the right to use this word. I feel very strong about this.

I will continue to inform and educate anyone who would like to know...wherever I go...I WILL NOT FORGET THE ISSEIS' INJUSTICE...we cannot!

I remember my father at the age of 93...he was senile and his memories became totally blank on present day events but was able to recall things that occurred in the past...he was found sitting on his bed, filling his pillow case (pillow was removed) with things from his drawer...my sister asked what he was doing, he answered, "The guard told me to pack up my belongings because we were going to be sent to another camp." My sister then told him that the war was over, he was

so relieved, he sobbed, "Ah yokatta, yokatta, doko ni mo ikitaku nakatta." (Ah, good, good, I really didn't want to go anywhere). Isn't it a shame that even at this ripe old age, he was still haunted by the earlier memories?

THE 50th ANNIVERSARY ALBUM

There's not enough superlative words to describe our fantastic album that Joy Gee had put together! It is a masterpiece! We have a complete information book about our unique camp! I'm sure all of you are thrilled over this album. So much information and entertainment.

Can you imagine the task of filing and categorizing each photograph, articles, picking out all of the photos to be used...these tasks were accomplished by Kanji Nishijima...no easy task...going through books, articles to include in the album; getting permission from authors to take excerpts from their books; the hours of editing besides the hours of computer page-making course every day; and whatever else that Joy had to do to make this Album...well, I just cannot rave enough about...this is an Accomplishment!!! A Great Accomplishment!!!

This little newsletter that I put together is always such a BIG job to me...checking, making sure you haven't left any important article out...I don't know how many times I have started and began over on this...so what Joy has done...WOW, it's great!

Due to the long hours at the computer, it had a high price of "Carpel Tunnel Syndrome"...so Joy had surgery recently...well, Joy, you're not suppose to work in the yard while healing...the weeds will still wait for you so take it easy okay?

Anyway, we all thank you Joy for this very special Album. My children will also have a good reference to where their grandparents were and how it was in camp for their mom...

Thank you from all of us!!!

It must have been quite a task to package, stamp, and mail out all the albums...and all the trips to the post office...I'm sure that all of you were glad when the last group of Albums were sent out. "Yare yare."

C.C. MEETING, AUG. 6th

A meeting was held at Sei Dyo's Trailer Park Clubhouse with Toni Tomita presiding. We had a great turnout (we always do). Toni brought us up-to-date on the Museum's acceptance with deadline for materials to be turned in by August 8th. All items must be original print. We had very little time to gather these memorabilia and artifacts but Toni flew to Sacramento to pick up many things that Joy Gee, Kanji Nishijima and Tomi Tanaka (Matoba) had. She was grateful to our Sacramento friends for their total support and hospitality!

Irene Hirano, Director of the Museum came to the meeting, and we are grateful to her for taking time out of her busy schedule to attend our meeting. She explained how the Museum has its program set up for the many facets of Japanese history. She assisted us for the EXPO event and gave us information that we had questions about.

Ben Takeuchi is the chairman for the EXPO exhibit. He introduced us to a professional designer, Wayne Saito who showed us a small model he made of the 10 X 10 booth that we will have to display our artifacts, photographs, map, etc. Toni brought many albums, photos, etc. from Sacramento, and many of us also brought our albums, letters, etc.

Unfortunately, all these photos show are clubs, sports, school, different events, but nothing shows the difficulties that our parents had to go through nor the censorship, the reality of a prison-like camp.

It looks like we had good times and had fun in the camp. There's very little pictures of actual arrest, how the home looked like after the F.B.I.'s searched all the drawers and closets. We have nothing to show where fear and anxiety ate into our fathers and mothers heart...and even the children...the fear of what happens after the family is torn apart...father, mother or both are no longer home...where are they, what was going to happen to them...what was going to happen to us. I know these feelings very well.

There's no picture of the jail they were in, or the C.C.C. camp, or Sand Island...it cannot take pictures of what they all felt...and no one knew when they would ever see family again.

The meeting ran long, but we were able to finally select the photographs to depict pre-war, war-time, camp location, then the post-wars. It was difficult to choose from so many albums...but we finally were able to give Toni our votes and so Wayne Saito will be given these after we have many of these photos enlarged...thanks to Tom Ikemiya. Tom also went with Toni and Ben to the Museum to see if the camp map would be accepted as Crystal City's exhibit part of the Nov. 10, 1994 to Nov. 1995 Camp exhibit to be shown...it was accepted.

We appreciate all the work that Tom and his son Jeff have done for us with picnic photographs, group and other photographs, etc.

This year, the picnic photographs were taken by Linda Okamura (group) and candid shots by Nicole Higashi. We thank these young girls for their shutterbug talents.

By the time we finished and had things cleaned up, it was after 6:00 p.m...but it was great to see what we have accomplished. Thanks Toni! Another meeting is set for Aug. 15th.

PRECIOUS LETTERS-DOCUMENTS

While we looked over many of the documents, albums, etc. we came across some rare records that I did not know existed.

The following pages 5 and 6 shows letters written from Mr. Ichimaru Okazaki to Sid during the war, it was also his way of learning English...so there's some of the Japanese character written below, then the English words...I requested these couple of pages to share with you. I was especially moved by the two sentences on the 6th page, 4th sentence from the bottom..."Please remember that your father has done nothing against the United State. So I am sure I will be able to return home soon".etc.

I recall my father also believing that he would never be arrested because he never did anything bad or wrong. He donated \$200. to Dai Ichi Gakuen...Japanese School.

There were copies of hearings, interrogation...Tomi Tanaka got from Washington D.C. in The archives. It is amazing because I did not they existed. Tomi and her brother Hideomi Matoba and sister Matsie went to the capital to get these copies...they are very invaluable.

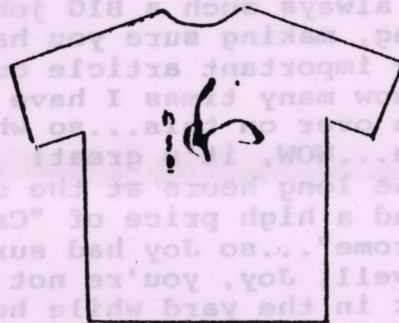
ORDER SHEET

T-Shirt...Calligraphied by Bishop Yamashita:

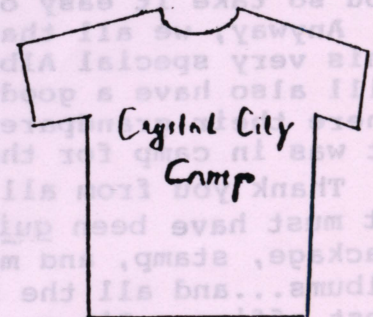
- Large and Medium: \$15.00
- plus postage: 3.00
- Crystal City Album by Joy Gee \$20.00
- plus postage: 3.00
- "Years of Infamy", book Michi Weglyn \$15.00
- plus postage: 3.00
- (Best book about Japanese American experience WW II)
- Joy Gee

Send your order with your check to:

CRYSTAL CITY CHATTER
[Redacted]
CAMARILLO CA 93010



Front



Back

I am sure Peace will come in the near future,

nothing daunts me for I know I am innocent

10/15

家族再会、請願書 = 書

I fear nothing for I know I am innocent

I am enclosing a sample petition for the reunion of our family. Please read it carefully and send a

petition somewhat like it to proper authorities,

I suggest that you consult some competent person in your camp and have him phrase the petition.

This petition has been used by the Japanese families at Twin Falls Relocation Center in Idaho.

The army authorities here have given permission to send it to our homes, the petition should be sent with the signatures of yourself and children. You could send it with the signatures of all the wives and children of the internees, who are in your center.

I hope this petition will receive a favorable response and we will be reunited as soon as possible

10/20

友人 = 家族、亦先此致

Thank you very much for looking after my family,

It must be a lot of trouble for you, but please

look after my family in my absence

look after my family in my absence

Keep away from a bad company

Tell the children to keep away from bad company

40/c
收寄人
王福吉

I hear that the Internees will be permitted to join their families in the near future

I hope this will be realized soon as soon as possible

nothing will make me happier than to be permitted to live with my family

Oh how happy I would be if this should be realized

I want to be with my family

I miss my family here.

收寄人
境遷

My only regret is that I am being separated from my family I am looking forward to being reunited with you all sometime in the future = Near future

I am looking forward to seeing you all again

Thought I can not tell about the future this may be realized in the near future.

So don't get discouraged = disappointed

萬向
修

原中請
文

Please remember that your father has done nothing against the United State. I am sure I will be able to return home soon In regard to this matter I believe that you and I have to file Petitions to proper authorities

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sumi,

"...I'm still excited over that "Super" picnic we had. And what a treat and delight to see so many out of town guests! And it was real joy to have Joy Nozaki Gee join us too. She wrote me right away, saying, "The C.C. Association picnic once again demonstrated what a group can do with cooperation from all. It was hugely successful, and the distance from which people came (Switzerland, etc.) testifies to the bond and affection we all have for one another."

Congratulations Sumi and to your hard-working committee for another memorable and successful event!
Love,"

Miyo Eshita (Takeuchi)

Hi Miyo,

I thank you for your congrats. You and many other C.C. workers made it successful with your dedication and your total support! Joy is right...we have a SOLID GROUP with close bond, and we all work together very well. It is all TEAMWORK! Rah Rah Rah!

Dear Sid,

"Was good to see you at the picnic. We hosakas thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. Please find enclosed a small contribution in appreciation for the C.C. Chatter"...

Thanks",

Sayo Kubo (Hosaka)

(I deleted few sentences Sayo, but I felt it was a bit embarrassing... however, I thank you for your kind thoughts...Sumi)

Dear Sayo,

It was so good to see you, your brother George, Mae, Aya and Noby Yamakoshi there...almost all of the Hosakas...thank you for joining us.

Sincerely, S.

Dear Crystal City-ites,

An enthusiastic thank you for a job well done at this year's picnic! Having many fond memories of attending Crystal City picnics as a child, I am always eager to share the experience with my husband and in particular, our 7 1/2 years old son.

This is his 3rd picnic and already he looks forward to running the races, winning prizes, goofing around with family members, eating delicious food and most of all, having access to all the soda he usually is denied.

Hats off to those of you who have dedicated so much time and effort in helping to bring these picnics to fruition time after time. Please know that your hard work is noticed and appreciated by many of us. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Nicki Yokota (Shimatsu)

Hi Nicki,

Thanks for the contribution to this newsletter...mom needs all the help she can get...but honestly, our children and now their children all look forward to this great event. They have grown up with this wonderful group. Now Chris can look forward to his 4th picnic.

MEMO (Copy sent for our info)

TO: Crystal City Reunion 1993 Committee
FROM: Co-Chairman George Kodama

Greetings: Our congratulations to the album committee and to Chairpersons Joy Gee and Kanji Nishijima for the job of excellence.

People who have perused the album are amazed at the professionalism, the extensive and well-researched records and the poignant human interest stories of the Crystal City experience. This Crystal City album is a legacy for generations to come.

A supplement is forthcoming and upon its completion, we should be able to close the final chapter of the 1993 Crystal City reunion.

Thank you for your patience as the executive committee moves to finish this final task. Have a great summer!
George

This letter was received today, in time for this edition...the "supplement" that George mentions is a supplement to the album that Joy is working on. Those of you who ordered the album will be receiving it when it is printed and mailed out.

We congratulate the No. Cal Reunion group on continuing to keep in contact with each other...maybe we could have another reunion up there in 2-3 years? How about San Jose or Sacramento?

FAMILY EXPO: Sharing The Japanese American Legacy

The Japanese American National Museum will host Family Expo at the L.A. Convention Center. It will be from Nov. 11th to Nov. 13th. It is an opportunity to inform and educate the general public, young and old what happened to the Japanese American during World War II. There will be booths with different camp, veterans' organizations, other community booths...

There will be arts and crafts displays, live entertainment, food, etc. It will be held in conjunction with the opening of the J.A.N. Museum exhibition, "America's Concentration Camps:"

There will be dinner at the Convention Center Nov. 12th. I will be taking reservation for the C.C. tables. Please send me number attending with a check for \$75.00 per person.

A Golf Tournament will be held on Monday November 14th at Dove Canyon Country Club. It is limited to 180 players. Put your reservation in early.

There will be further information in following newsletter.

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Talking to Joy Gee via AT & T, pertaining to "Internment Camp" used by the Relocation Centers... "They are TECHNICALLY INCORRECT". So there!! Just as I have been saying...from our great writer-editor of our Album...however...the Justice Dept. and other wartime record does show our camp to be the ONLY Internment Camp...

"The time to relax is when you don't have time for it" Harris, King Features Syndicate..

On a sad note, Mr. Kazumasa Hayakawa passed away last month. We send our deep sympathy to the Hayakawa family for their loss.

Sid Okazaki gave me the note that Kim Hayakawa Takahashi sent...

"Dear Crystal City Association,

Thank you for all the sympathy cards and support we received from so many of the Crystal City members.

The family really appreciated all the kind words.

Please accept our donation in memory of my father.

Thank you."

Kim

Thank you very much Kim for your generous donation (Koden gaishi)...we hope that you and your family are well and know that we all felt regrets for your loss.

* * * * *

We thank J & T Copy Service in Gardena for their assistance in getting these newsletter copied and put together. They have been prompt and have been giving us wonderful rates...so thanks fellas...we really appreciate it!

all 440 of us!

Crystal City Chatter

Camarillo CA 93010



TAD & SATOMI ISHIDA

SAN FRANCISCO CA 94116