



EXPO '94

HISTORIC

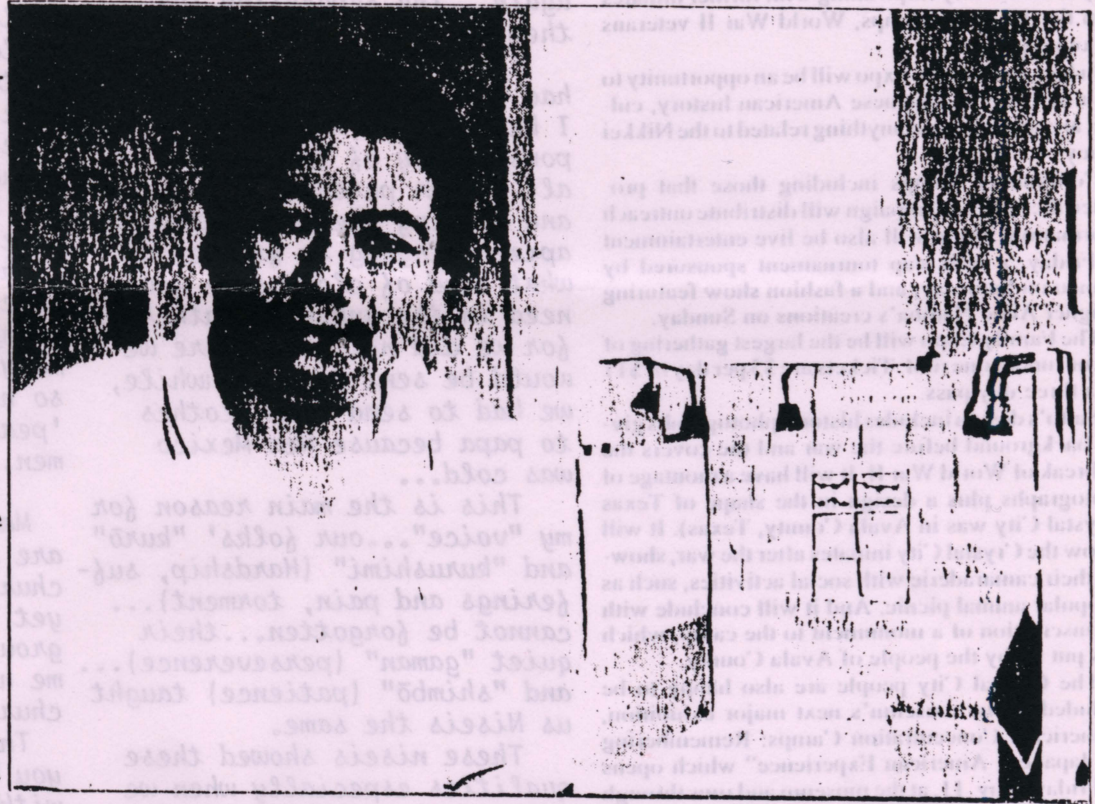
Crystal City Remembered at 'Family Expo'

The article on the right was in Sept. 21st Rafu Shimpo, Japanese newspaper. Wayne Saito has been working on our Crystal City Internment Camp booth with Tak Takeuchi. Toni Tomita, Miyo Eshita and Tak have been going to all the meetings at the L.A.J.A. Historical Museum. Our C.C. group are the most "together" group, and the set-up is now almost ready.

A general C.C. meeting was held Saturday, Sept. 24th, giving the members who attended, the latest up-to-date explanation of what our booth will show, and how the booth now is doubled its size with the Peruvian group joining us. Chieko Kamisato of L.A. and Libby Yamamoto from Richmond attended this meeting and gave us their input and ideas. They also were able to discuss the display with Wayne Saito.

Meanwhile, the C.C. members who attended the meeting also assisted in getting the picnic photographs packaged and ready for mailing...we gathered so much wrapping tubes, paper towel tubes and Chieko brought 5 ft. long tubes...so I won't have to have you save those tubes for the next two picnics, at least!... Thank you—all very much!

Wayne Saito worked on the "Museum of Tolerance" about the Holocaust..the article left out Ms. Jeane Manjo of Marysville who works with Wayne and is helping us.



Designer Wayne Saito has volunteered his time and talents to help the Crystal City Committee present their story at the upcoming "Family Expo: Sharing the Japanese American Legacy" at the Los Angeles Convention Center on Nov. 11, 12 and 13, sponsored by the Japanese American National Museum. He is pictured here with a model of the group's exhibit space.

Designer Wayne Saito helps the committee present the wartime story of the Justice Department's alien detention center.

For designer Wayne Saito, the Japanese American National Museum inaugural "Family Expo: Sharing the Japanese American Legacy" set for the Los Angeles Convention Center on Nov. 11, 12 and 13 is a great personal opportunity.

Saito, proprietor of Wayne Saito Design, was asked by former inmates of the World War II Crystal City camp to help design a presentation of their story which could be assembled in a booth at the Family Expo.

Saito is a family friend of Tak Takeuchi, one of the leaders of the Crystal City Committee and though Saito's parents weren't confined there, he agreed to donate his time and skills to design the booth.

"I've worked (as a designer) for 14 years," Saito explained while visiting the museum, "and this is the first time I've been able to do something for me, that meant something personally to me."

Saito's parents were held in War Relocation Authority (WRA) camps just as 120,000 other Japanese Americans during World War II, but like many Nisei, they were reluctant to talk about their experiences.

In working with Tak Takeuchi and his sister, Toni Tomita, Saito had the opportunity to learn more about their experiences and the experiences of their Issei parents at Crystal City.

Crystal City was not run by the WRA, but administered by the Justice Department. The population originally consisted of Issei men, most of them leaders of the community (Buddhist priests, language school teachers, Japanese association officials), who were picked up by the government within days of the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.

At the end of 1942, the Justice Department decided to make Crystal City into a "family camp" and allowed the families to join their Issei relatives. But, Crystal City was different from the WRA camps in that German and Italian internees also were confined there. The Japanese Peruvians, who were kidnapped from their homes in South America with the intent of being used in prisoner exchanges during the war, lived in Crystal City.

(Cont'd on page 2)

(Cont'd from Page 1)

"I never knew anything like this existed," Saito said of the Crystal City experience. Which is often true of other Japanese Americans and certainly the mainstream American population.

Former Crystal City inmates have found that many people are unaware of their experiences. So, they were delighted at the opportunity to share their story at the Family Expo along with former inmates from the 10 WRA camps, World War II veterans and other groups.

In fact, the Family Expo will be an opportunity to learn more about Japanese American history, culture, arts and craft and anything related to the Nikkei legacy.

Community groups including those that promoted the redress campaign will distribute outreach information. There will also be live entertainment on Friday, a milk cap tournament sponsored by Slameo on Saturday, and a fashion show featuring designer Anne Namba's creations on Sunday.

The Family Expo will be the largest gathering of its kind under one roof. Tickets are \$5 per day or \$11 for a three day pass.

Saito's design includes historic photographs giving background before the war and the covers the outbreak of World War II. It will have a montage of photographs plus a design in the shape of Texas (Crystal City was in Avala County, Texas). It will follow the Crystal City inmates after the war, showing their camaraderie with social activities, such as a popular annual picnic. And it will conclude with the inscription of a monument to the camp, which was put up by the people of Avala County.

The Crystal City people are also happy to be included in the museum's next major exhibition, "America's Concentration Camps: Remembering the Japanese American Experience" which opens on Friday, Nov. 11, at the museum and runs through October of 1995. The exhibition will focus on 11 camps instead of the 10 WRA camps.

The Family Expo and "America's Concentration Camps" are just part of the museum's Family Expo Weekend. Other events include the inaugural International Nikkei Symposium on Friday, Nov. 11, at the Los Angeles Hilton & Towers; the annual Fall Dinner honoring Sen. Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii on Saturday, Nov. 12, at the L.A. Convention Center; and the third annual National Invitational Golf Tournament at the Dove Canyon Country Club in Orange County.

For more info on the Family Expo and any of the museum events, please call (213) 625-0414.

This article listed *Crystal City* as being in 'Avala' County. Actually, it is 'ZAVALA' County in Texas. We are grateful to the people in Zavala County for remembering our wartime experience.

Even today, many niseis do not realize, recognize or respect our unique camp. To them, the ten relocation camp was all important... and it was, however, you know, our fathers and mothers suffered greatly. Not only was there sudden ar-

rest, and not having a father and/or mother around the house (and believe me, the house is very empty) but not knowing where he/she was taken to, if/when we would ever be able to see or reunite with him/her again...the separation for them must have been tremendous.

I was 13, but felt that I had to watch over my mom...and I know that mom felt the responsibility of taking care of all of our personal belongings and packing the two suitcases apiece, trying to figure out what kind of clothes we would need in the unknown weather... for we did not know where we would be sent to...meanwhile, we had to send warm clothes to papa because New Mexico was cold...

This is the main reason for my "voice"...our folks' "kurō" and "kurushimi" (Hardship, sufferings and pain, torment)... cannot be forgotten...their quiet "gaman" (perseverance)... and "shimbō" (patience) taught us Niseis the same.

These niseis showed these qualities especially when we reached Uruga, Japan. Under extreme difficult situation, the fellows kept watch on all of our luggages in frigid empty warehouses 24 hours until many of us left for our own destination...different part of Japan... "Mijime-na-kuni".

To this day, whenever we have picnics, banquets, reunions etc., our Issei folks are given royal treatment... real "Oya-kōkō" niseis (dutiful towards parent).

The examples that our Issei parents have lived, is the "O-te-hon" we Niseis received, (model)... (I hope Yamashita-Sensei will note all the Nihongo I learned in his class). (Sensei said Japan was "Mijime-na-kuni"... (Miserable, wretched country)... and it was. I doubt if I would have learned what "mijime" was until I saw Japan after the war.

10th World Buddhist Women's Convention held

On September 2nd to 4th in Anaheim, CA, 3,500 Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Buddhist women met. Tomo Mizukami (sorry I wanted to name you girls) and Akemi Yasuda put in long hours working in registration. 1800 people came from Japan and the rest were from Brazil, Hawaii, Canada, Mexico and the United States. One person came from Australia...

The convention was a great success. With the world changing so rapidly, these many religious movements are so necessary to bring about 'peace and harmony' amongst men.

Many of our C.C. workers are involved with their own churches, organizations, etc. yet have time to give to our group. Toni was also telling me how she's so busy with her church...

Thank you very much all of you for your continued work with the C.C.A.

NOW...THE BIG FAMILY EXPO is coming in November...HELP HELP HELP...We really need many helpers to volunteer for manning the booth during the three days and nights, putting up and taking down the booth and the displays...we could use all the help that you can give us...a form is included in this newsletter to put down your day and the time you will be able to be at the booth. Onegai-shimasu.

I do hope many of you and your family will make this a MUST event...Many of your children and grandchildren will learn what their grandparent and parent lived through...we would encourage schools and other learning institution come...inform and educate the people!

Letters to the Editor

Dear Dr. Shimatsu: 8-18-94

By pure happenstance, someone showed me a copy of the Aug. 1994 Crystal City Chatter, and I read it with particular interest. One of our oldest family friends in San Diego, where I grew up, are the Kaneko family -- Mr. (Kaku-aki) and Mrs. (Otari) and their seven children of Lemon Grove, CA. They were part of the Peruvian contingent and were imprisoned in Crystal City for part of the war years. They left for New Jersey and the Seabrook Farms and eventually ended up in San Diego.

I have written a few earlier pieces on the Justice Department camps and plan to write more about the Justice Department camps -- to include Crystal City. I did not know about the existence of your group and find it gratifying that all of you have decided to make this a vital organization.

The C.C. Chatter includes the opportunity to order a T-shirt and the Crystal City Album by Joy Gee. Could I order both? In the event that the Crystal City Album is already sold out, even a Xeroxed copy would be sufficient for my needs to insure that my information about the Crystal City camp is as accurate as possible.

We also have a Japanese American archives collection at the University of Washington library entitled "Shorai No-Tame-Ni" (For the Future). One scholar has called it the second best in the nation. I mention it to ask whether you might not consider donating a complete copy set of the Crystal City Chatter newsletters (originals if possible, but Xerox copies for those missing originals) and we can start a Crystal City journal collection for use by students and scholars. There is a great

deal of interest in all the camps and, as you know, there is sparse information available about the Alien Internment camps run by the Justice Department. For example, just this year, over seven professors from Japan have or will come to our campus to look at Japanese American materials with especial interest on the World War II era. Newsletter such as C.C. Chatter will be even more valuable as the years go by: they should be preserved and made accessible in a variety of places. If the expenses involved in doing for whatever reason, appear to be too great, please let me know so that either my Department or the UW Library can help defray the costs. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Tetsuden Kashima Ph.D.
Associate Professor

* * * * *

Shortly after this letter, and after sending promptly the Album and T-shirts, and the Chatters to the "Shorai-No-Tame-Ni" Library, I received another letter from Dr. Kashima...

8-30-94

Dear Dr. Shimatsu:

All the materials that were sent -- T-shirt, Crystal City 50th Anniversary Reunion Album and the back copies of the Crystal City Chatter -- came in the mail yesterday. All of you have undertaken an important task in documenting and publicizing this important Justice Department camp. And all the work is of magnificent quality -- from the impressive and informative newsletters, the handsome album to the beautiful T-shirt. Thank you for sending them.

I will take the newsletters to Ms. Karyl Winn, Head Archivist, UW Library for inclusion in our Japanese American "Shorai-no-tame-ni" (For the Future) collection. She will be in touch with you soon.

Although I have not had time to do more than skim the 50th Anniversary Reunion book at this time, I am most gratified to see that our family friends, the Kanekos are represented in it (see page 172, Mrs. Otari Kaneko). And it was a surprise to see my article excerpted in the book as well (see page 32). The manuscript I am working on has a section on the Crystal City camp. It is a large scale endeavor and includes as well, the particulars from that chapter as well as some updated information.

I hope to continue corresponding with you and your organization in the future. My family were placed in the WRA Topaz camp but I am vitally interested in all the incarceration centers run by the U.S. government during WW II. Please put me on your mailing list to receive the Crystal City Chatter and as a monetary contributor to its continuation

Sincerely yours,

Tetsuden Kashima, Ph.D.
Associate Professor

* * * * *

Dear Dr. Kashima,

I thank you very much for your letters and for your dedication in writing about the Justice Department camps. We Crystal Cityites have been working hard in getting ourselves recognized, even at the Japanese American Historical Museum here in Los Angeles. It is rewarding to know that you not only recognize us but commend our group.

The Chatter is definitely a "work of love". I had no idea that I would continue to put a newsletter together for our 440 plus readers since our reunion in 1988, but here I am still pounding the typewriter, and trying to keep the news of our group circulating...to inform and educate.

When Chris Komai of Rafu Shimo interviewed me why I

(Cont'd from page 3, "Letters")

8-25-94

Dear Michael and Mieko,

I named it 'Crystal City Chatter'...I had no answer for, it was just an impulsive thing... to write about the wonderful reunion we had in Buena Park in 1988...and I've just continued. Since then, we had another fantastic reunion in Monterey last October. The Northern California Crystal City friends worked very hard and the result was GREAT!!!.

For the first time we had the Peruvian group join in with us...many traveling so far...from Peru, Japan and all over the United States.

I'm proud of our group!!! Perhaps because our folks had to go through real tough time and all of us felt the fear and the separation from one or both parent...we are tied close together...whatever the reason is, the tie is there.

Thank you, and you are on our mailing list for the C.C Chatter.

With deep appreciation,
Sumi S-U.

* * * * *

Dear Sumi,

Your C.C.C. is the greatest thing for me...(that plus the Pacific Citizen to keep in touch with the Nisei World. We moved here from San Francisco almost 14 years ago and now my trips to California have been a bare minimum -- it's once a year, maybe, daughter in Fremont had a baby last year. We miss lots of things about California.

Thank you for your continued fun, heart-warming, informative, "Natsukashii", reading. Congratulations to you and all the successful C.C. Reunion and C.C. picnic again this year...Sounded like you all had such a great time!

I'd like to place an order if it's not too late for: Crystal City Album and the "Years of Infamy" book.

Please send to: Michael Oda in Plantation, Florida.

Also a P.S. from his wife Mieko Oda, "Keep up the great work - and please keep well."

o o o o o o o

I thank you for those very kind words and thoughts. I do hope that one of these days, you both will be able to join in on our get-togethers. We do have fun (and we eat well). The C.C. Association work hard to do a "bang-up" job in their effort to make the reunions, picnics, banquets, etc. not only a success, but very enjoyable and memorable.

You can then extend your trip to see your daughter and your grandchild...better yet, have them join in with our growing number of sansei and yonseis who all enjoy the festivities when we have one.

Perhaps you could come to the coming EXPO '94 at the L.A. Convention Center, the Annual Dinner on Nov. 12th, Saturday, and also visit our J.A. Historical Museum in Lil Tokyo. Some of the men from the Museum have gone to Heart Mountain, Wyoming to dismantle a barrack, and bring it here across the street from the Museum. It is 'once-in-a-lifetime' event!

Sincerely,
Sumi S-U.

REGISTRATION FORM

For the Annual Fall Dinner at the Los Angeles Convention Center

@ \$75.00 per person Saturday night, November 12

NAME _____ How many _____

ADDRESS _____

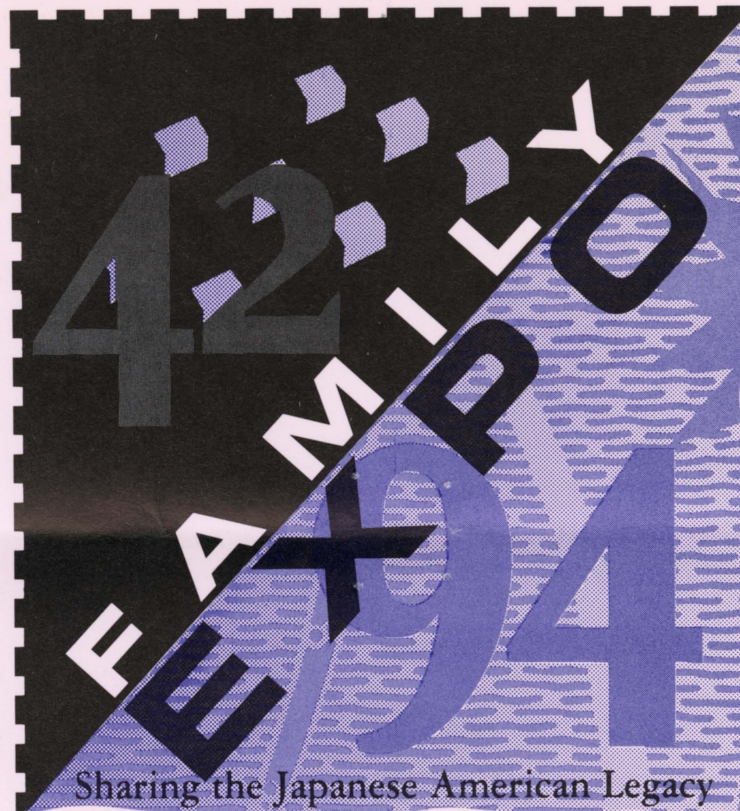
Please return form to: Crystal City Association with a check... Camarillo CA 93010

DONATION

We are also requesting donation for the expense of Crystal City Internment Camp booth and the display that will be set up for November 11, 12, and 13th. Above all, please try to come to this 'Once-in-a-lifetime' Japanese American World War II Experience.



P R E S E N T S



Sharing the Japanese American Legacy

WEEKEND

Nov. 11-14, 1994

November 11-13

at the Los Angeles Convention Center
1201 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles 90015
Friday, 11 am – 8 p.m. • Saturday, 10 am – 6 pm
Sunday, 10 am – 5 pm

Family EXPO: Sharing The Japanese American Legacy

...From the events of World War II –
Celebrating the present – Looking toward
the future.

- 100 booths and displays
 - Community and reunion groups
 - Arts and crafts sales
 - Books, souvenirs
 - Cultural demonstrations
- Live entertainment
- Children's Activities – Milk Cap Tournament, Saturday, Nov. 12
- Anne Namba Fashion Show
Sunday, Nov. 13, 10:00 – 12 noon
Fashion Show tickets, \$25, \$20 for Museum Members. \$50 reserved seats.

Tickets \$5 a day or \$11 for 3 day pass.
Discounts for advance sales, seniors, students,
Museum members. Children under 12 FREE.
FREE Shuttle from Convention Center to L.A.
Hilton and Museum.

Friday, November 11

at Los Angeles Hilton & Towers
930 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90017

International Nikkei Symposium

- 9 am – 4 pm
- Distinguished speakers from Brazil, Canada, Japan, Mexico, Peru and the United States
 - Discussions, presentations, keynote luncheon program
- \$50 registration fee, \$35 for Museum Members.

Opening Friday, November 11

Continues through October, 1995
at the Japanese American National Museum
369 East First St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

The Opening of "America's Concentration Camps: Remembering the Japanese American Experience."

- Eleven camp site layouts
 - "An American Scrapbook" Video
 - Photographs, artifacts, personal stories
 - Reconstruction of actual camp barracks
- Museum admission, Adults, \$4.00, Seniors & Students, \$3.00, Children under 5 Free.

Saturday, November 12

at the Los Angeles Convention Center

Annual Fall Dinner

Honoring U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye
6:00 pm – Tickets \$150 and up.
Community tables of ten \$750.

Monday, November 14

at Dove Canyon Country Club

National Invitational Golf Tournament

\$500 Individual golfer.
Fee includes cart fee, continental breakfast,
box lunch, awards dinner.

- Putting contest • Beat the Pro
- Silent auction • Long hitting contest

Travel arrangements, American Airlines discounts,
Tokyu Travel America, Inc., (800) 252-0109 or
(310) 320-7600. Discounted rates at
the Downtown Los Angeles Headquarters Hotel,
Los Angeles Hilton & Towers, (800) Hiltons,
(213) 629-4321.

Family EXPO, Dinner, Fashion Show and Golf
sponsorships available.

**For more information call
213/625-0414**

JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM
369 East First Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 • (213) 625-0414

in November, 1994



The opening of
AMERICA'S CONCENTRATION CAMPS:
Remembering the Japanese American Experience
November 11, 1994 - November, 1995
in the Museum's Theater Gallery

An exhibition featuring 10 camp site layouts, "An American Scrapbook" video, photographs, artifacts and stories — plus ways to add your own story. Featuring, outside the museum, "Remembering America's Concentration Camps: The Heart Mountain Barracks", a reconstruction of an actual internment camp barracks.



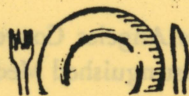
FAMILY EXPO:
Sharing the Japanese American Legacy
November 11, 12, 13, 1994
at the Los Angeles Convention Center

Commemorating the events of World War II — celebrating who Japanese Americans have become — looking toward the future.

Booths and displays from camp and military reunion groups, community organizations and clubs. Lectures, panel discussions, food, music, performances, arts and crafts, children's activities, fashion show — activities for the whole family.



INTERNATIONAL NIKKEI SYMPOSIUM
November 11, 1994
at the Los Angeles Hilton and Towers



ANNUAL FALL DINNER
November 12, 1994
at the Los Angeles Convention Center

Call (213) 625-0414 for more information



JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

1994 Annual Fall Events

November 11-14, 1994

The Japanese American National Museum will host several major events November 11-14, 1994. These events provide sponsors opportunities for visibility and participants opportunities to network with business, educational and community leaders and national organizations.

This year the Museum will be hosting two first-time events: an International Nikkei Symposium at the Los Angeles Hilton & Towers and "Family Expo: Sharing the Japanese American Legacy" at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

Proceeds from the Dinner and the National Invitational Golf Tournament provide vital funds for programs and operations of the Museum. Sponsorship packages are available.

• **INTERNATIONAL NIKKEI SYMPOSIUM - Friday, November 11, 1994**

- Los Angeles Hilton & Towers, Los Angeles, California

The Japanese American National Museum is hosting the first International Nikkei Symposium that will bring together representatives from Brazil, Canada, Japan, Mexico, Peru and the United States. Discussion topics to be addressed will include: "How to preserve Nikkei culture" and "How to educate others about the experiences and culture of people of Japanese ancestry." During the luncheon program, information on Nikkei history and current issues in each country will be shared.

• **"FAMILY EXPO: SHARING THE JAPANESE AMERICAN LEGACY" - November 11-13, 1994**

- Los Angeles Convention Center, Los Angeles, California

The "Family Expo: Sharing the Japanese American Legacy," will provide an opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to better understand the Japanese American experience from World War II to the present. Visitors will be able to view memorabilia from relocation camps and veterans organizations.

The Expo will provide a setting for old friends to reminisce and for young people to learn more about Japanese American history and heritage. Live entertainment, community organization booths, arts and crafts displays, presentation of educational materials, a fashion show, and children's activities are being planned.

The Family Expo is being held in conjunction with the Friday, November 11 opening of the Japanese American National Museum exhibition, "America's Concentration Camps: Remembering the Japanese American Experience."

• **ANNUAL FALL DINNER - Saturday Evening, November 12, 1994**

- Los Angeles Convention Center, Los Angeles, California

The Annual Fall Dinner will be held at the Los Angeles Convention Center. This year, the Museum will award the Honorable Daniel K. Inouye, U.S. Senator, the Distinguished Medal of Honor for his lifetime of public service.

• **3rd ANNUAL NATIONAL INVITATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT - Monday, November 14, 1994**

- Dove Canyon Country Club, Dove Canyon, California
Limited field

This year's tournament will be at Dove Canyon Country Club, an exclusive Jack Nicklaus Signature golf course. Dove Canyon is California Golf Magazine's number one rated private course in Orange County. Golfers will enjoy captivating views of the Cleveland National Forest, lush green fairways, the mahogany club house, gift accessories, breakfast, lunch, dinner, and competing for prizes and trophies.

The Crystal City Album

We are trying to get reprints of the Album. We had no idea that there would be such a demand, but Joy out-did herself...it's a historical document, one of a kind of a Justice Department camp, and we would like this album available at major university libraries. She is looking into reasonable price for reprint but unless the volume is large, the cost is high. However if we have enough people ordering the albums, we will be able to get the album at a reasonable price. Meanwhile, please fill out the form below if you would like to order the album. We will notify you when it is available.

Toni Tomita will have an album (tied down with chain or rope) at the L.A. Family Expo '94 in November for everyone to look through, and if they are interested in the album, we will have a form for them so that we can send them an album when we get reprints. She will also be at the booth, guarding the album with her life! Actually, we are requesting volunteers to man the booth...please check the form below and send it to the Chatter address. Thank you...

ORDER FOR ALBUM

Album _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CRYSTAL CITY ASSOCIATION
FAMILY EXPO EXHIBIT
LOS ANGELES CONVENTION CENTER

I will volunteer to work in the C.C. Exhibit as follows:

- Thursday, November 10 Set-Up Crew
Friday November 11 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
3:00 pm to 5:00 pm
5:00 pm to 8:00 pm *
Saturday November 12 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
12:00 pm to 2:00 pm
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Sunday, November 13 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
12:00 pm to 2:00 pm
2:00 pm to 5:00 pm *
Monday November 13 Tear-down Crew

*(May put away items on table; order forms, books, etc. and leave before the last hour, depending upon attendance in booth at that time).

NAME _____ PHONE _____

RAFU SHIMPO

OCHAZUKE

2094: Little Tokyo Celebrates Its Inaugural Rokusei Week

BY JAMES FUJITA RAFU CONTRIBUTOR

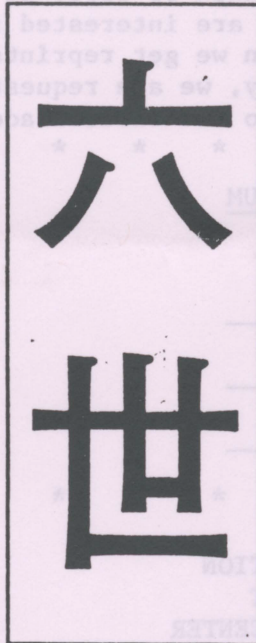
Hi. My name is James Ken Fujita. I am 21 years old. I currently live in Rancho Palos Verdes and grew up in Torrance. I have eaten plenty of teri-beef sticks and dango at many obon festivals and I am only now learning Nihongo.

I was born in Tokyo, Japan. My parents are Ichiro and Judith White Fujita, from Tokyo and Alton, Ill., respectively. Now then, for the trip to Kauai and \$10 million, what am I?

Wrong! The correct answer was, "This is a trick question, isn't it?" or "You're a terrific writer." Who are you, anyway, to decide for me what I am?

Of course, for all practical purposes (surveys and the sort) one could tell immediately, that I am a Japanese American. You probably know that already because you are reading the Rafu, not La Opinion. And my multiethnic, mixed-race roots tell you that I am half-Japanese, a "hapa." But reach down to my generation and it gets more complicated.

Never mind that I am a member of that mistreated group "Generation X," which supposedly defines me as slacking, whiny, Nir-



vana fan or a square peg without an easily identifiable slot to be stuffed into. Drink Sprite, dude.

But it's bad enough sometimes being stared at by certain types trying to figure out what I am without being asked by fellow JAs, "So, you're a Sansei, right?"

When people ask me that question, I often answer something like, "I'm a half-Japanese Japanese American Nisei-han born in Japan but raised (20 years, 6 months) in L.A.," even though I know that doesn't really explain who I am. Mostly, I pass myself off as a Nisei, except when people look at me funny for not looking old enough to remember

Vietnam, let alone "the war."

Maybe I'm missing something. Most immigrant groups—in fact all American minorities including "White people"—have some form of determining surface characteristics

and tormenting them. It helps give people a sense of community, or at least, tribal links.

However, for some JAs it seems to become an obsession with labels, and for others, it becomes one of those gray areas that ought to give us all split personalities, and it bugs me. Why should JAs divide us up into smaller and smaller groups? To what point should we continue to do this?

Aren't we all supposed to be equally diverse, able to accept ourselves for who we are, what we are and where we are? OK, so we're not a nation of Love, Peace, Happiness and Wood\$tock '94 (recent events reference!). But I was under the impression we were supposed to be a nation of racial equality, in name, if not in fact. That sort of shoots a hole in the -sei theory of separating JAs, shouldn't it?

By now, you should either be agreeing with me or sticking this in the recycle/burn pile. I don't care what you think, or how you label me. I know who I am, and that is really what matters.

(Ochazuke is a staff-written column which appears every Thursday. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of The Rafu Shimpo. The views are not a result of being in the heat too long.)

I had Yuki Nonoguchi save this article...only because I found that prejudice and discrimination is very strong in Nihonjin...It is still strong in Niseis...as you well know that I have been fighting recognition of our internment camp with fellow Niseis. Wouldn't it be wonderful when all of us could shed this small-minded-ness...and accept one another with respect? Sumi

CRYSTAL CITY CHATTER

CAMARILLO CA 93010



TAD & SATOMI ISHIDA

SAN FRANCISCO CA 94116