

MEMORIAL DAY...THE HOLIDAY THAT SAYS..."SUMMER IS NOW HERE!!!"

Yet, Memorial Day is more than the beginning of summer...it meant a lot... it was a day set aside to remember all the men/women who gave up their lives... to keep this country safe.

Freedom really isn't free...and I am grateful to be living in his country and having had so much...it took Uruga...it took Japan, and life there to appreciate all that we take for granted.

So, in my moment of quiet and meditative feeling, I do thank the many sacrifices... those who gave their lives, and their families who had to feel the loss...I'm very grateful to the 100th, 442nd, the MIS...all the fellows who opened the doors for all of us Niseis...their "Go for Broke" broke the many areas that were closed to us...and so it goes..."Kokoro kara kansha..." (Gratitude from the heart).

And Summer is now here! Disneyland's got it's new fiberoptic light entertainment, Seaworld has Wild Arctic, Knotts has lots of rollercoaster going up and down and so does Magic Mountain. ...but I'll take Sequoia, Kings Canyon, Grand Teton, etc...Enjoy whatever...

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Changes, Cycles, and Passages -----

Retired educator? I tell my friends that I have been recycled! Little did I realize saying "Yes" to part-time work would evolve into many full time work days. It has been interesting to see that what we called an eclectic approach to teaching reading in the 50's is now called a balanced literacy program. Seems the best teaching practices remain constant through the years. It is also exciting to see the enthusiasm of the teachers and administrators that are part of the Early Literacy Cadre that I work with. Their task is to help implement a balanced literacy program throughout the LAUSD. Change takes time; hopefully the Cadre will be given time to affect a change before a new mandate is delivered.

(Cont'd page 2)

"JUSTICE DEPARTMENT - INTERNMENT CAMPS: CRYSTAL CITY"

April 17th, a panel discussion was held at University of Washington's Kane Hall. Sponsors included the Smithsonian Institute, the University of Washington Libraries, the Kenneth S. Allen Library Endowment Fund, The Japanese American Youth Society, The American Ethnic Studies Department, and Seattle J.A.C.L. (Excerpts of the discussion, page 3 - 5).

Sachi Sasaki Maehara accompanied me to Seattle. The weather was great...expecting rain as forecasted, Sachi and I took our sunny So. Calif. sunshine with us..(although we had drizzle on Saturday, April 19th).

We had Satoru Ichikawa (who's drawing of the C.C. camp is on the cover of our Album), his brother Akira who came from Lithbridge, Canada, and Kazzie Takahashi Katayama, and Grace Shimizu...meeting Dr. Kashima who arranged this discussion was not only a pleasure but he is so down-to-earth and his real concern and commitment of all those Isseis who were arrested and taken to the many detention camps...his writings ("American Mistreatment of Internees During WW II: Enemy Alien Japanese", and a Foreward he wrote for "Personal Justice Denied".) and his introduction for this panel discussion reveals so much abuses, threats, of physical harm, physical beatings, and the killings that occurred.

Many of us never knew what our parents had to bear in those detention camps...like my father who would never tell me what occurred at the hearings and interrogation...his reply to me was always, "it's better not to know..."... "Shiranai hō ga ii"...and I'm sure many of the parent who was arrested did not tell their family...their children, their sufferings...they would only say that they missed their family... therefore, we never really knew until we read these books by Dr. Kashima, and Fukuda-san's book...

(Cont'd page 6)

Toni T. Tomita

President's Corner, Cont'd

Rrrring! "Hi, this is Kay Kaneko from Kona!" That was my first inkling of the current exhibit at JANM, "The Kona Coffee Story: Along the Hawaii Belt Road". (The exhibit will close on June 9, 1997.) Turns out that Kay Uno Kaneko's husband, Ed, is the project coordinator for the Kona Coffee History in Hawaii. After retiring as the highest ranking Asian in the FAA, Ed returned to his roots and started a coffee farm on Kona. He and Kay were in LA for many weeks helping to set up the exhibit as well as participating in demonstrations and workshops. A few of us former Crystal Cityites had lunch with Kay -- Sid and Yukie Okazaki (Kay and Yukie went to same nursing school), Betty Kaneko Inouye, Sumi Koketsu Yamaguchi, and Kaz Ichikawa. At the opening of the exhibit were also Ruby Sakurai and her sister, Betty Fukunaga. We sipped some delicious Kona Coffee while learning about the history of coffee growing and how the coffee is grown and processed. Kay is no slacker herself, having co-authored a book, "Kona Coffee Days", a delightful children's story based on oral histories and the authors' personal experiences. (The book is available at the JANM Gift Store.) She often goes to Washington D.C. as a member of the National Association for Family and Community Education. One of their projects is advocating better television programming for children. Mahalo, Kay, for renewing old friendships!

\$120,000 plus and still growing! Many thanks to all of you who have participated in our Crystal City Campaign for the Japanese American National Museum. The groundbreaking ceremonies are over, the fences are up around the area where the Heart Mountain barracks stood, and soon the Phase II building will be a reality. We were the smallest camp, 2000+ internees of Japanese descent, as opposed to the 10 WRA camps, but thanks to you and your soliciting of friends, children and other relatives, we will soon reach another plateau -- \$150,000. It's not too late to be a part of the CC donor wall listing. Please send all donations to the Japanese American National Museum, Attention: Florence Ochi,

Los Angeles CA 90012 AND labelled "Crystal City". Many, many thanks to Yae and Sei who never said, "Impossible", to Florence Ochi who constantly buoyed our spirits and said "It's doable" and to Fred Hoshiyama who changed the word into "I'm possible".

Passages -- Frank M. Eshita (1920-1997)

It must have been hard for Frank, a quiet, introspective man, to have married into the Takeuchi family of six siblings, very close-knit and at times, very boisterous. After all, when he married my sister, Miyo, his family consisted of only his mother and himself. His father died when he was 16 and his brother died in Poston when Frank was 21. Miyo is our "ne-san", the oldest - our second mother. Through the years, all of us brothers and sisters have encroached on their life together with our woes and our joys. Yet Frank was always there for us as well as for his family. Frank would stop by after his fishing trips to share his catch or to give pointers on how to take care of the plants. Quietly, unbeknownst to me, he would bring weedkiller and spray the yard or drop off nutrients for my dormant cymbidiums. He went to my children's homes to prune the trees and bushes or to plant flowers. All in his quiet, unobtrusive way. He shared his love of fishing with all his nieces and nephews. Frank left a legacy of love and happiness. He believed in truth and simplicity and shared his belief that it was the little pleasures that made life the most gratifying. Yes, Frank was a quiet man but his actions spoke the loudest.

\* \* \* \* \*

Thanks Toni for taking time to do our newsletter's column...busier than a bee, you somehow manage to do so much for so many...thank you for continuing with Crystal City Association...WE NEED YOU...so don't burn the candle on both ends, please!

Going to Frank's funeral...and representing Crystal City...being with so many of the CC people...how sad to have to see friends decrease each year; but to have unexpected, sudden tragedy...it is such a shock and unbelievable thing; our deepest sympathy to Miyo and family... Take care y'all...please...

SURVIVORS OF THE JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT - CRYSTAL CITY INTERN-  
MENT CAMP, TEXAS.

Panel Discussion:

Akira Ichikawa, PhD  
Satoru Ichikawa  
Kazuko "Kazzie" Katayama  
Sumi Utsushigawa-Shimatsu  
Grace Shimizu  
Dr. Tetsuden Kashima  
Moderator

(Article from Northwest Nikkei  
Ken Mochizuki)

"When Kazuko 'Kazzie' Katayama meets other Nisei, the most asked question arises: 'What camp were you in?'"

She replies: 'Crystal City.'

The usual response: 'Where's Crystal City?'

Sumi Shimatsu, a Los Angeles native, remembered in 1988 when the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles was planning a future exhibit on 10 World War II internment camps for Japanese Americans, The Crystal City, Texas Internment Camp was not on the list.

When she asked museum officials why not, she said they responded, 'You mean the place for 'bad people'? The museum officials regarded Crystal City as the '11th camp,' she said.

For six years, Shimatsu fought to have Crystal City included in the museum. 'Crystal City was not the 11th camp,' she said. 'We were the first camp.'

#### CRYSTAL CITY

To help educate even Japanese Americans about the Crystal City camp, the Japanese American Citizens League Pacific Northwest District sponsored 'Survivors of the Justice Department Crystal Internment Camp, Texas Panel Discussion' on April 17 at the University of Washington.

This event was part of the on-going exhibit at the University about the Japanese American World War II internment, 'A More Perfect Union.'

For years preceding the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States government gathered names of persons believed to be 'dangerous' to national security. On Dec. 7, 1941, federal

## Crystal City: forgotten World War II camp



Photo by Jon Honda

Sumi Shimatsu, right, a survivor of the Crystal City internment camp and repatriation to postwar Japan, greets an old acquaintance before participating in a panel discussion at the University of Washington on the Crystal City camp.

agents arrested thousands of nationals, mainly from Japan, Germany and Italy. Those arrested were imprisoned at 34 camps around the country supervised by the U.S. Department of Justice and the War Department.

The Crystal City camp, located in southern Texas, became the location to reunite families with the Issei internees. The panel discussion about Crystal City, the lesser-known of the internment camps, was 'the first of its kind in the State of Washington,' said Tetsuden Kashima, professor of American Ethnic Studies at the UW and discussion moderator.

#### Katayama's Story

Delivering an emotional testimonial, Katayama recounted how she was the eighth child to be born in her family, but the first one to survive. Of 12 children born, only four daughters lived past childhood. Living in Seattle, her father worked as a foreman for the Kodiak Fisheries Co: Just before World War II, her family was 'just starting to gain economic stability,' she said.

Then during the morning of Feb. 21,  
(Cont'd page 4)

Then during the morning of Feb. 21, 1942 -- her 11th birthday -- Katayama remembered 'two strange men' searching her home -- even searching the little pockets' of her and her sisters' dresses. She learned the men were FBI agents who came to arrest her father. She recalled protesting, that they couldn't take her father away on her birthday.

That night, she recounted crying herself to sleep. Questions swirled in her mind; Why did they take her father? As the oldest child, would she have to work to support the family?

'For the first time in my life, my safe, secure, protected world was vanishing overnight,' she said. 'It was the loneliest, saddest, darkest day of my life.'

Katayama's father was never charged with committing any crime. She said the only apparent reason for his arrest was because he was a factory foreman and 'community leader.' Her father told her years later that, as he watched his family vanish from sight at the train station, it was the first time in his life that he broke down and cried.

Along with her mother and sisters, Katayama was interned at the Puyallup Fairgrounds and then at the Minidoka camp. By 1943, she and her family were reunited with her father at Crystal City. The reunion left her with 'the strangest feeling,' she said -- a sense of relief that responsibility for her family was off of her and back to her father.

Her family lived in a duplex and was able to eat together again. However, with her father missing from the family for over a year, Katayama's baby sister, Midori, was afraid of her father. 'It was the hardest for me to see the hurt on my father's face' she recalled.

As World War II ended, Katayama's family was given the choice of staying in the U.S. or returning to Japan. Her parents engaged in heated discussions until late at night: How could they stay in a country that had done this to them? Yet, how could they live in a war-devastated Japan? Her Mother was now expressing herself, which she didn't do before her husband was taken away, Katayama said. Her father 'wasn't used to hearing opposing opinions.'

The family elected to return to

Seattle. Despite all that happened, Katayama remembered that her father always emphasized to 'look forward.'

### Shimatsu's Story

Sumi Shimatsu said the only reason why her father was whisked away from Los Angeles was because he donated \$200 -- 'a lot of money at that time,' she said -- to the Dai Ichi Gakuen, local Japanese language school. He was 65 years old when arrested and 70 when the war ended.

Reunited with her father at Crystal City, she recalled how all newspapers and magazines mailed to any inmates were confiscated because they might be carrying secret messages.' Internees were allowed to mail out two letters per week, which would be heavily censored. Her family chose to go to Japan after the war.

Traveling on a train from Crystal City to Seattle, she recounted that the 'last time I saw Seattle was 52 years ago.' Her glimpse of Seattle was very brief, as she lifted one of the shades drawn over the train windows, a soldier came by 'and the shade was slammed down on my nose,' she said.

Shimatsu recalled the 17 miserable days of traveling by ship to Japan. Passengers wore life jackets while asleep -- rumors spread that mines would be floating around the Pacific. Docking at Uraga, she saw its harbor with sunken ships...so the ship could not dock... everyone had to be taken ashore by the barge...baggages and all of us...!I was so worried how my elderly Issei parents could climb down the rope ladder...I could not watch them climb down while the ship and barge were tossing up and down...side by side...it was a wonder everyone somehow were able to leave the ship, to the barge, to land...no one fell in the rough winter ocean.' A Japanese school teacher on board convinced that Japan had won the war, did not believe that Japan lost...even when the sampan boatman told him so.

As for living in postwar Japan, Shimatsu summed up the experience as 'terrible.'

'I learned what we in American never experienced -- the devastation of war and the people who had to survive over there.' she said. No food, jobs, nothing...as Yamashita Sensei said, 'Mijime na yononaka'...(miserable world)

(Cont'd page 5)

At the age of 18, Shimatsu returned to Los Angeles. After attending reunions for Crystal City survivors, she concluded that its former internees are going 'very well' and have 'done the impossible'.

'I am very proud to be one of them,' she said.

#### Satoru Ichikawa's Story

At age 14, Satoru Ichikawa began his two years at Crystal City -- 'doing what teenagers do except behind barbed wire,' he said. As the bus he rode pulled into Crystal City, a former camp for migrant laborers, he was immediately struck by the 'sweet smell of orange blossoms' and a statue of the Popeye cartoon character in the town square. Crystal City was the 'spinach capital of the world,' he said.

He recounted his father, Rev. Tatsuya Ichikawa, being arrested in Seattle and held at the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service building on Seattle's Airport Way. For two years, the only contact his family had with his father was through censored letters as the Justice Department shuttled Rev. Ichikawa between camps at Missoula, MO, Camp Livingston, LA, Santa Fe, NM and Crystal City in 1944.

Ichikawa recalled how blankets were dyed black to make bathrobes. During his presentation, he displayed a map he drew of Crystal City while incarcerated there. He and his teenage friends sneaked into it as 'one way to get away from camp.'

He attended the camp's Federal High School. All the 'A' grades he earned there were 'downgraded' to 'B's' when he returned to schools in Washington state -- because the state thought its school system superior to that of Texas, and/or because camp grades were 'not taken seriously,' he said.

Ichikawa's map also indicated where German nationals -- trapped in the U.S. when World War II broke out -- lived in Crystal City. As a naive teenager, Ichikawa said he sometimes interacted with the Germans by joining them in their chants of 'sieg heil' with shouts of 'banzai'.

#### Akira Ichikawa's Story

Akira, younger brother of Satoru, was beginning the first grade when he was sent with his family to Crystal City. Ten years ago, Ichikawa, professor of political science at the University of Lethbridge,

Alberta, Canada, conducted a survey of former Crystal City inmates.

Survey results showed that 90% of the inmates were separated from their fathers for up to three years. The average age of the incarcerated fathers was 47; 40 was the average of their wives. Children averaged 10-11 years old.

In many cases, mothers 'had to shepherd a family of pre-schoolers all by themselves,' he said.

Eighty percent believed their fathers were arrested because they were 'Japanese community leaders.' A third were members of families which did return to Japan. Ichikawa called the 'repatriation' to Japan a 'second, crueler ordeal' than internment in the U.S.

Ichikawa had also collected letters and other writings of the Issei fathers which recounted their imprisonment in the Justice Department camps. The writings show the emotional agony of being separated from their families and is 'contrary to the stereotype of the stoic Issei,' he said.

#### Shimizu's Story

Scheduled to be included in the panel, Prof. Kashima relinquished his time to Grace Shimizu, founding member and project coordinator of the Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project. Shimizu thanked Prof. Kashima and said that a 'connection' between Japanese American and Japanese Peruvian experiences 'is now being recognized.'

Of the 300 Japanese Peruvians remaining in the U.S., 100 were finally allowed to return to Peru. Those who stayed were allowed to become U.S. permanent residents in 1952.

#### Prof. Kashima's story

Prof. Kashima told how his mother had packed a suitcase and had it ready in case his father, a Buddhist priest, was taken away by the FBI.

'He never had to use it -- others did,' Kashima said. No charges were ever brought against Japanese Americans and Peruvians, nor were there any proven cases of them aiding the Japanese enemy during World War II.

'Yet,' he said, 'everyone was treated as if they were guilty.' 'I thank Kashima Sensei for this opportunity...to continue informing and educating the public about Crystal City.'

"Justice Dept..." Cont'd from pg 1

It was an evening with Marion Goshō Fukuma and her husband Mike sitting in the audience with about 150 people sitting and listening to each of us tell the story of Crystal City from our memories...reading the first chapter from Karen Riley's dissertation papers, "Schools Behind Barbed Wire: A History of Schooling in the United States Department of Justice Internment Camp At Crystal City, Texas, During World War II, 1942-1945... (More on this in next issue...) which described our repatriating to a defeated country, Japan... our experience in Uruga...how "migime" (Miserable) it was...everyone on the panel had their memories and stories to share...how young 11 years old Kazzie was affected by her father's arrest... how Satoru visited German camp area, how Akira remembered his very young and hopping on ice trucks, milk trucks..his nickname "Sluggo" (Shiz remembers how cute he was...they were neighbors).

Questions were answered...one that was brought up was "why these people were arrested...what did they do..."... it's so hard for many to believe that there were no reasons given...many were leaders of their communities, priests, teachers, etc, the women...most were wives, mothers...some were head of women's club, association...

After the discussion, people came down to greet us...and three women with teary eyes hugged me...shook my hand for telling the story about Uruga..they were Uruga survivors...Mrs. Shimizu related that her blankets and what luggage they had were all stolen in Uruga. How devastating! Uruga was bad enough, to have everything stolen must have been catastrophic!

I'm very grateful to Dr. Kashima for arranging this discussion to inform and educate the public about this least known camp...the only family internment camp during WW II. I'm only too grateful for any and every opportunity to speak about our camp...what and how it affected our Issei parents should never occur again...their "gaman and gambaru Ikioi" ... "shimbō"... (persevere and stand firm) ... (patiently bear with)...all that they suffered...the unknown alone was enough to worry the spouses...that Satoru and Akira's mother who had to pack and take clothings and necessity for 7 children,

taking care of them...wow, that must have been quite hands full...that is how many large families had to pack and move...

It was a very memorable evening..

\* \* \* \* \*

Letters Received from Fellow Panelists

April 29, '97

Dear Members of the CC panel:

Before it gets too long I thought I'd send you a composite picture of the panel discussion. (I tried copy but black & white doesn't come out) As you can see the picture is not of first quality, but I think it will help us remember the event. Pardon me if there is any misspelling.

It was a memorable evening to meet the Crystal City-ites after some 50 years. I learned a lot myself from the stories that you related of your experience. There were others in the local area who had Crystal City connections whom I met after the discussion.

I'd like to thank Dr. Tets Kashima for arranging the whole thing and helping to inform the general public of the WW II internment camp that was not too well known.

Sincerely, Sat Ichikawa

April 30, '97

Dear Sumi --

Thanks for your nice note. I must say I enjoyed being on the panel with you and the others recently. I enjoyed hearing about the experiences you had upon reaching Uruga, Altho' "distress" may be a better word than "enjoy". The hardships we faced (our parents and older siblings) pale by comparison; and that you can relate this with so little bitterness has to be an object lesson to "yancha" (mischievous) like me whose recollections are blurred and amplified by others who knew much more. When you're as young as I was, there must be considerable appropriating of memory from older associates.

Anyway, I'm glad I had an opportunity to meet you and to put a face on the Crystal City Chatter. It's been awhile, but please use the enclosed (\$) for a few more issues of the Chatter...and, regards to Shiz the next time you see her.

Sincerely, Akira Ichikawa  
P.S. Enclosed postcard of Lethbridge U.  
Cont'd on page 7)

Letters from Fellow Panelists, Cont'd

May 5, 1997

Dear Sumi,

It was a real pleasure finally meeting you and a great honor being on the panel with you. Now, I learn, we even have a common bond - our special birthdays - one which we can never forget! (Her father was arrested on her 11th birthday in '42, Japan surrendered on my birthday in '45). Yes, I too was greatly relieved I didn't lose my voice that evening (she had started laryngitis) (but the next 2 days!) and happy to hear from Dr. Kashima that his students appreciated the panel's presentations. It was a very informative, special evening for me too!

Dr. Kashima thought it might be fun for the CC group to meet for dinner one evening so I volunteered to contact Sat and Marion. After many telephone exchanges we arrived at a date available and agreeable with all of us - Aug. 9th, Saturday. Dr. Kashima expressed interest in attending and of course, you are more than welcome to join us. Hopefully, Sat and Marion will be able to contact others who might also be interested in getting together. Just let me know if you're interested Sumi - for reservation purposes - and I'll get back to you as soon as I locate a 'good' place for the get-together dinner. Hope you can make it!

With affection, Kazzie T.

P.S. Enclosed several copies of Northwest Nikkeis in case you didn't receive one.

Well...thanks to all the panelists... Kazzie, the honor is mine to be able to join in with all of you...each discussions and talks increases more informations, knowledges, what other families had to face...each one has memories of their own...I tried having a copy of the picture Sat put together...it may not be real sharp, but the Chatter will try its best...

Thank you for your invitation to the get-together dinner...those of you up in Washington-Oregon...it may be a chance to meet and have a wonderful togetherness...IF I can make it Kazzie, I will call you ASAP. Thank you.

\* \* \* \* \*

BRIAN YAMAKOSHI PERFORMS IN THE NETHERLANDS

Recently Brian Yamakoshi, koto virtuoso of Paris, France performed as soloist with the Nieuw Ensemble in the cities of Amsterdam, Eindhoven, and Maastricht in the Netherlands. He performed the famous Chinese composer Qu Xiao Song's work with the Nieuw Ensemble, the most famous concert music ensemble of the Netherlands consisting of: strings, wind, and percussion instruments. He had received standing ovations in all the cities.

He will participate in the "Year of Japan" in various cultural programs in Paris, France sponsored by the Japanese government in the immediate future. He will appear as soloist with the Britany Orchestra in a province of France in January 1998.

(Cont'd on page 8)



Pictured here left to right are panelists: Akira Ichikawa, Grace Shimizu, Satoru Ichikawa, Kazzie Katayama and Sumi Shimatsu. Dr. Tetsuden Kashima, moderator, is at the podium.

Brian Yamakoshi, Cont'd

He had performed in Chicago and Carnegie Hall in New York city. Brian had concerts in twelve countries in the world and plans are under way to have a concert tour in the United States in the new future.

He is son of late Noby Yamakoshi and Aya Yamakoshi.

He had studied in Japan with koto masters Keiko Nosaka and Kinuko Shirane after first studying with Keiko Kanogawa in Chicago, Illinois.

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Thank you Aya for sending this information for the Chatter...I hope many of the readers will be able to enjoy listening to this Koto Virtuoso...I know that I would love to listen..O-koto is so lovely...I play my tape "Roku-dan" as I work on the Chatter. Let us know when he'll be in L.A...

\* \* \* \* \*  
Letters to the Editor:

Dear Sumi:

Been wanting to write you ever since that fabulous birthday party you put on for Sensei. Wasn't that great fun? It was wonderful seeing everybody again. I am sorry that a heavy schedule, abetted by the need to complete and do things before leaving for Japan to teach English and be gone for three months have kept me from writing sooner.

George Okabe's children put on a great 75th birthday party for him last week. There must have been about 50 people. Crystal Cityites and spouses present included Kanji and his wife Shiz, and Tomi Matoba Tanaka with husband Jim. Mas Okabe came in from San Jose looking ten years younger and better looking sans his beard that he was sporting at the Crystal City 50th Reunion. Shiro Akiyama was also present.

It was amazing Kanji was able to join the celebrants, as only a week ago, he had collapsed with a heart murmur problem, had a pacemaker installed on Sunday, and was released on Tuesday, He looks healthy as ever.

I spent an enjoyable Easter weekend in Palo Alto, where son Bruce lives with his family, and daughter Robin and husband came in from LA.

Robin put on a particularly delightful and festive Easter egg hunt for Bruce's son Kirby, 2, and his friends and parents, 19 in all, including his sister Keri, 7 months. This was followed by a delicious brunch, which a few hours later followed by a big potluck Easter dinner at Bruce's in-laws place at Los Altos Hills, a sitdown for 23.

Til later, with loads of love,

Joy Nozaki Gee

\* \* \* \* \*  
Joy left on May 2nd for a three-month stint of teaching English to junior high and adults in the public schools in Kaizu Japan. Kaizu is located about one hour south of Nagoya...Joy will be joining a friend who left earlier in March to visit relatives before classes begin. They expect to return to the United States on July 31.

\* \* \* \* \*  
March 31, '97

Dear Sumi,

I enjoyed reading the March issue of Crystal City Chatter.

My parents and I were possibly one of the last to leave the internment camp as we departed on March 9, 1947. Since we were from the east coast my parents decided to settle in Virginia. My mother, Maruko Ishiyama, now 94 years, and I want to join your tour with the Crystal City group, to the Spinach Festival, from Nov. 14-16. Also wherever else in Texas you may go. She does not want to go on to Las Vegas because we live in Denver Colorado. We look forward to meeting you.  
Sincerely, Haruko Ishiyama.

Dear Haruko-san,

THE DATE TO THE SPINACH FESTIVAL HAS BEEN CHANGED TO NOV. 7-9...I was not notified of the change and fortunately Grace Shimizu of the Peru-Kai informed me of the dates when we were together on the panel Discussion up in Seattle last month. I called Crystal City and found that they have the Spinach Festival ALWAYS on the second weekend of November...so I hope you can change your flight.

I'M STILL WAITING FOR INFO ON GROUP RATE FROM L.A. TO SAN ANTONIO AND BACK... SOME VIA LAS VEGAS, OTHERS DIRECT...BUT ALL I RECEIVED YESTERDAY WAS FLYERS AND GUIDES IN SAN ANTONIO...I ALSO RECEIVED THE RATES FOR TRANSPORTATION FROM SAN ANTONIO TO CRYSTAL CITY...BUT ALL THAT WILL BE IN THE NEXT ISSUE (HOPEFULLY).  
(Cont'd on page 9)

Letters to Editor, Cont'd

March 31, 1997

Hi!

"Nagaraku gobusata shite sumi ma-sen" (Sorry for long absence...) it's been a rough two years but well..it's a long story. We thought this year might be better, but "Oshogatsu so-so we almost lost Jim again. He's still going for physical therapy but is coming around. Anyway..I "baby sit" Roxanne's two boys all week - and few weekends too since the two often insist on coming over to "tomaru" (stay over) They're such great grandchildren! They keep us young.

I'm just dropping a short line to let you know that I would like to have information regarding the Texas journey sent to me. I am still interested. A few years ago, I did get to go to San Antonio, but just didn't have enough time to arrange transportation to CC from there. "Zannen deshita" (Regrettable).

Thanks for your continued hard work.

Ella Ohta Tomita

Aloha Ella,

Sorry to hear about Jim...I hope he is feeling better...We're all at that vulnerable age...the so called "Golden Year" is also one of "Watch your health time"...all of us should take care of our intake...exercise...and life one day at a time, the best we can...and enjoy!!!...grandchildrens are precious and life is precious...

Toni and I are really trying to get all information we can on our trip to Texas...it's so frustrating...but somehow, if we're to go, it will happen!!! I'll write as soon as I hear okay? Meanwhile, hang in there, take care and hello to Jim.

Sincerely...sumi

April 6, 1997

Dear Sumi,

I'm putting into action what has been in my thoughts for months. Enclosed is a check to help defray costs. Your article about the 10% who are carrying the burden of expenses for the newsletter and mailing was the "kick in the pants" I needed.

I could not find a listing of your phone number.

I'd like more information about the

trip to Crystal City.

1. Is this a bus or air trip"
2. Where is the group staying?
3. How many days will the group spend in C.C.
4. Can an individual arrange her own transportation and still participate in the activities of the group?

Thank you and your group for your efforts in keeping the Crystal City experience alive and all that you're doing for posterity.

Sincerely, Dorene Tsukida

Dear Dorene,

Didn't mean to "kick you in the pants" however, it has helped in many donation. It costs about #350.00 each time we mail out the newsletter so somehow we need the \$\$\$ to pay not only for the postages but for the copy service and the material that we always have to use...fortunately, the CC Chatter mailers, Tomo Mizukami, Akemi Yasuda, Dottie Hatanaka, Sachi Maehara, Yuki Nonoguchi and I are all volunteers so we are grateful for their time and effort...

So thank you...for all the donations received...the Chatter continues...

We hope to fly to San Antonio...then take a group bus that I have had rates for quoted as about \$16.50 from San Antonio to Crystal City and back. This Valley Transit is available for other points in Texas so I'm grateful To Miguel Delgado for getting us this info.

We are staying in San Antonio but no hotel has been quoted for us...I'm still waiting for information on this from a person that was recommended to us in a travel agency...More information will be available when I find out okay? Stay tune into the Chatter...Thanks.

Always, sumi

\* \* \* \* \*

GET WELL PRAYER AND THOUGHTS TO:

Sei Dyo...who finally finished his series of Chemotherapy...hope you're gaining some strength back Sei...lots of love.

Kanji Nishijima who had pacemaker placed in...and also had another hip operation...he had the other side done earlier...

"DAIGI NI...GENKI DE" (TAKE CARE)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Belated thank you to Bishop Yamashita Sensei and his family for their generous donation to the Crystal City Association upon the celebration of his 88th birthday. What a "medetai" (joyous) party...it was a big funtime...and Sensei was younger...as his students just grew older... I know that his children were able to see how his students thought so much of him...it was a real warm and wonderful celebration!!!

The Chatter thanks Miyo Eshita and family for their generous donation to the newsletter in memory of her late husband, Frank...Arigato...

To ALL THE FRIENDS AND FAMILY who donated to the Japanese American National Museum...we Crystal City Association raised over \$120,000. and still growing...a list of campaign donors was going to be in this newsletter, however, there were names that were not included, so until we have a complete listing, (up-to-date), the Chatter will not print the names...it would be unfair to those who have given and their names not included...both in the donors list and on the Donor Wall Listing. So...hopefully, ~~the list~~ will include everyone to date for the next newsletter...meanwhile, we welcome more donation...so "Dozo enryo sezu ni, onegai shimasu". (Please don't hold back...give...)

\* \* \* \* \*

OBITUARY:

Our deepest and heartfelt condolences to: The ESHITA family...Miyo and her family on the loss of her husband, FRANK ESHITA.

The FUKUSHIMA Family... on the loss of YOSHINORI F.

\* \* \* \* \*

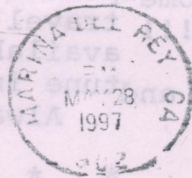
*"Let a joy keep you. Reach out your hands and take it when it runs by."  
Carl Sandburg*

*"Among those whom I like or admire, I can find no common denominator, but among those whom I love, I can; all of them make me laugh."  
W.H. Auden*

\* \* \* \* \*



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