

AHHHHH SPRING...(?)

Spring...or is it? It's been super cold...rain...snow up in the near mountains yet, and New York was in the 80's until we got there...then it was as though we took our rain and old weather to "Big Apple"

According to the TV, the wild poppies are having their best show after the super wet-season and weather being just perfect for them...I haven't gone out there this year but several times I have seen the carpet of orange with the spectacular blue of the lupines. There's also a solid yellow carpet of very tiny wildflowers (don't know the names), and it's Mother Natures "showtime" in a big way...

The cherry blossoms, the quince, crabapple blossoms, and other flowering trees, shrubs were beginning to show off too...Macy's Department store had their yearly flower show...their first floor's full of colorful flowers... like those in San Francisco!

ELLIS ISLAND

"AMERICA'S CONCENTRATION CAMPS: Remembering the Japanese American Experience."

Exhibit by Japanese American National Museum...Opened April 3.

This exhibit was created by the JAN Museum and presented by the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc. at the Ellis Island Immigration Museum. It will run through to January 5, 1999.

The barrack that was displayed across from the JAN Museum in Los Angeles last year was shipped to Ellis Island and has been erected at the entrance of the Ellis Island Museum with the guard tower behind.

There were about 40 who went as a group from Los Angeles, and others who joined us in New York to be at the special reception at the Special Members' Preview Reception which was held on April 2, 1998 with many VIPs and special guests along with the many Museum members and docents who assisted.

It was a huge success...they did not expect the over 600 guests at the reception...there were so many dignitaries, unfortunately, the acoustics were so poor, the sounds bounced around and we could not hear the speeches that they gave...it was still a grand evening!!!

Bravo JAN Museum...and the hard working workers!!! The memories of the injustice will be on exhibit for one year... Hopefully, it will enlighten many, many people!

If you're in New York...go see this special exhibit...it is displayed well!

* * * * *

"From the President's Corner"

will be in the next issue after our CCA meeting May 16.

* * * * *

OUR FRIEND, ADVISOR AND TEACHER, YAMASHITA-SENSEI PASSES AWAY.

Sadly, Yamashita-Sensei passed away in his sleep February 20th...he had been ill with liver disorder, and was losing his strength and health...yet, had his acute awareness and sense of humor...his children took such good care of him...constantly watching over him, taking him to his doctors, giving him his medication, etc. etc...I know that they feel the great void he has left...the Crystal City friends were at his funeral...it will be one of the most memorable and elaborate service that I know I will ever see...bishops from Japan, from Hawaii, and here...and 30 priests up on the platform all covered in white...it was... with dignity and grace...

Sensei missed his 88th birthday by 11 days, yet, the Crystal City students and friends enjoyed a birthday party last year...his "Kazoe no 88th birthday"...(Japanese age of 88), and the Zenshuji Temple and friends had a 88th birthday last November with even a Japanese "belly dancer"...(can you imagine?)...at the Quiet Cannon Golf Club in Montebello...where ten of us C.C. friends gathered to enjoy his special day...it was wonderful! Yae Aihara gave a speech in Japanese about Crystal City Internment Camp...many there were from Japan,

(Cont'd on page 2)

"SENSEI"...(Cont'd from page 1)

and did not know about camps, especially our Crystal City Internment Camp...many never knew that we had Japanese Language School...those of us who had one hour after American School, but those who had everyday, all day Japanese School...Sensei was impressed with Yae's speech...I told him that somehow he had taught well...in the daily all day class but somehow I didn't do as well in the one hour after school class...yet I must admit that it was fun in his class...he talked of his life in Japan...youthful days...etc...he was able to "talk" to us, and wasn't the disciplinarian that many Japanese School teachers were...and I appreciated his respect and understanding of the niseis...

He always called us niseis..."warui yatsuras"...(bad guys)...with a big grin...

We will miss him...greatly!

* * * * *

THE "BIG APPLE" EXPERIENCE

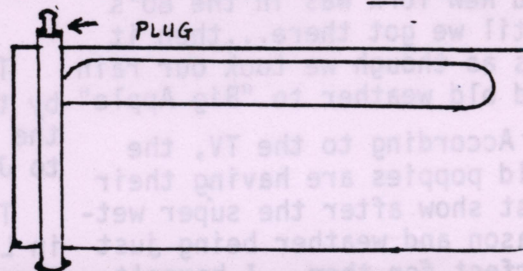
Yae Aihara, Sachi Maehara and I were three from Crystal City Internment Camp who attended the opening of the JAN Museum's "America's Concentration Camps: Remembering the Japanese American Experience", at the Ellis Island Museum in New York...however, we met Al Matano formerly from Hawaii (Cherry Matano's brother) at Ellis Island...so four of us represented our C.C. Camp.

Yae had several of her childhood friends join her in N.Y. and attend the reception...one Helen Yorozu Erlandson is a cousin of George and Mas Okabe...her brother Bill knew them way back when...and Yone Tajitsu Nash from New Jersey...(Helen flew in from Michigan)...she had another friend whom I did not meet join them...they all were childhood friends in Seattle...it was fun to be with them...(more on Yone and the surprise she got).

It was supposed to be real warm and in the 80's in New York before we got there, however, it became rainy and cold when we arrived...we must've taken the El Nino weather from the West Coast...it really got cold and windy...

We stayed at the Mayflower Hotel, across from the Central Park...it's an old hotel but kept up quite well, however...it was very puzzling for Yae, Helen and I to find this strange looking pole about 14 inches high, and about 2 inches in diameter outside of the bathtub...it stood there puzzling us as to what it was...there was a metal pole in the center of this object...and Yae kept fiddling around with it...but gave up on what it

was supposed to be...and took a shower...next Helen took a shower...but noticed that the water was rising...so she got out and figured that the drain must have gotten plugged...she and Yae tried to figure out what happened and Yae guessed that perhaps, that strange object was the plug to the bathtub...after jiggling the metal pole in the center, the tub held the water...and we knew then that IT was a tub plug...



Many later had no idea what this object was either...Florence Ochi also told some of us how she didn't know what it was...and was nervous as the water kept inching up as she showered and shampooed her hair...and with suds in her hair, she climbed out and did not know how to drain the tub full of water...it was "funny" later, as we all shared our own experiences.

In spite of such "unusual" experience, the hotel was located in a convenient, nice area, and many took advantage of shows, museums, delis, Tavern in the Green...a very interesting and nice restaurant in the park.

Macy Department Store is really huge...and they had their 'White Flower' Flower Show...I have gone to the Flower Show in San Francisco many times, taking my friends there to show them the colorful flowers, and plants displayed all over the showcases, etc. on the first floor...even their show windows with moving animals and flowers, flowers, flowers...it is very spectacular...try to catch it in San Francisco Macy around April...we then tried TODAY SHOW...

...One cold morning, Richard Murakami 'suggested' that we wait outside NBC and wave our hands...get the attention and advertise the Ellis Island exhibit by the JANM...he had a purple poster of the Museum and had on a purple Museum sweatshirt so we were all ready to support the exhibit...needless to say, Friday morning, April 3rd...we took taxis and got to NBC (across from Rockefeller Center) at 5:00am...Yae really didn't want to go...but she was going to be there and SUPPORT...so Sachi, Yae and about a dozen or more of us stood, shivering and froze...from 5 to after 7...it was well worth it as Richard was interviewed and told "the world" about the exhibit...the camps, etc. IT WAS WELL WORTH IT!

Campaign for Justice

Redress Now for Japanese Latin Americans!

A Coalition Founded By:

National Coalition for Redress/Reparations Japanese American Citizens League*

American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project*

P.O. Box 214 Gardena, CA 90248

(213) 626-4471

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your generous support of our campaign to seek redress for the thousands of Japanese Latin Americans whose liberties were taken away by the United States during World War II. It is very encouraging to be able to rely on community support such as yours to keep our campaign moving.

As you may know, on August 28, 1996, we held a successful media conference at which we announced the filing of the class action suit against the U.S. government and the launching of the Campaign for Justice. The lawsuit asks that all those Japanese who were forcibly brought here from their homes in Latin America and imprisoned in U.S. camps be included in the 1988 Civil Liberties Act. The Campaign not only seeks the legal settlement of the case but also widespread education of the Japanese Latin American experience that has been excluded from American history for much too long. We must learn from each other the true history of our people so that such clear violations of human and civil rights are never committed again.

In March of 1997, Campaign for Justice sent a delegation of former internees, legal counsel and supporters to Washington, D.C. to deliver to over 4,000 letters that urge President Clinton to order a settlement in the lawsuit. The delegation also met with and garnered the support of Representatives Patsy Mink (D-HI), Xavier Becerra (D-CA), Tom Campbell (R-CA), Robert Underwood (D-GU) and former Congressman Norman Mineta.

Another delegation traveled to Washington, D.C. in early October, 1997 and moved Congressmembers to sign a letter to President Clinton urging him to grant redress to the Japanese Latin Americans. Under the leadership of Representatives Mink and Anna Eshoo (D-CA), 80 members of Congress, including two members of the Senate, signed this letter.

Most recently, thanks to the support of people like you, a 26-member community delegation traveled to Washington, D.C. once again to meet with Congressmembers and attend a hearing at the Federal Court of Claims where the government's Motion to Dismiss and the Japanese Latin Americans' Motion for Class Certification was to be brought before the judge. At the hearing, the government requested a two-week delay in the judge's decision in order to consider settlement.

Although the trip was successful, there is still much more work to be done. Please write your Congressional Representatives and ask them to endorse the Campaign. Write to the Office of Redress Administration and urge them to find an administrative remedy to this injustice. If you haven't done so already, please write a letter to President Clinton and ask him to stand up for justice and settle the lawsuit.

Your help would be very valuable in spreading the word and getting friends, family, and colleagues at work to support the Campaign. If you'd like to help on this or any other projects of the Campaign for Justice, please call Julie Small at (310) 473-6134 or the Campaign at (213) 626-4471 for meeting times and dates and what you can do to help!

Your kind and thoughtful support helps us to keep fighting for the justice that is long overdue to the Japanese Latin Americans. Thank you again for your interest and support. We hope to continue hearing from you throughout our campaign. We'll keep you posted!

Sincerely,
Campaign for Justice

Dear Sumi: On behalf of the Campaign for Justice, I want to thank you very much for your kind donation. Your continuous support means a great deal to us. We are all very anxious to see justice, however in spite of several trips to D.C., we have no settlement yet.

Alice Kishimoto

"CAMPAIGN FOR JUSTICE" CONTINUES

I know that many of you may think that this campaign is over...it is far from over, and the fight continues by the few who are putting in their effort...they are limited in time... until August of this year so we would appreciate all your help...I've heard from some that those Peruvians who did receive their apology and redress are not giving the support to those who haven't received theirs yet...PLEASE...HELP THOSE WHO ARE STILL FIGHTING FOR THEIR REDRESS.

In New York, at the special program at Ellis Island on Saturday, April 4th, after the few people speaking about their experiences during the WW II, camp days, etc., and they wanted to know if anyone else would like to say something, I stood up to tell them the story of Crystal City Internment Camp and our fathers and the mothers who were arrested, separated from the families, and having had to come to Ellis Island because 97 of us could not board the S.S. Gripsholm for the second repatriation to Japan...that 21 went to Crystal City and the 76 were sent to Tule Lake, California...at that time, I also mentioned (as I always do) the 2-300 who were sent there from Hawaii, the 1000 from Peru and the 1000 or so from Tairiku or this mainland...how the Peruvian Japanese were 'kidnapped' for hostages to be exchanged for POWs, etc. and that they suffered and are still suffering from the injustice of not receiving their redress...wherever I could, I 'talk' and 'educate'...the public for so many are not aware of what we know...

A month ago, at our small Hallmark store, I became friends with the clerks and manager... and the manager asked if her son who's in highschool in Ventura could interview me about the wartime camp? I always welcome anyone interested in our experiences...so we set up a time and day...her son, a 16 years old, came with a tape recorder and interviewed me for an hour and a half...I had told him that I was his age in Crystal City, Texas...and after listening to my experience...he told me he would have been 'p----d", had it happened to him...well, I told him I was, but that was then...and hopefully, this kind of situation will never occur again to American Citizens...I heard that he got A+ for his talk...

My grandson Christopher also interviewed me and wrote on this subject during Easter vacation...and I told him I was about one year older than him, when the war began, and when my father was arrested and mom and I had to take care of all the belongings, pack what you could carry and go into camp.

So PLEASE...HELP ALICE NISHIMOTO, CARMEN MOCHIZUKI, CHIEKO KAMISATO...ON AND ON, OUR DEAR PERUVIAN FRIENDS...FIGHT THIS INJUSTICE...THEIR FIGHT IS STILL NOW...LET'S STAND WITH THEM IN UNITY...SEND THE NEEDED \$\$\$ TO HELP THEM WITH THIS FIGHT!!! PLEASE!!! THANK YOU MUCHLY!!

* * * * *

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Today was my sister Amy (Masuda) Nishikawa's birthday. She was born on St. Patrick's Day. Enclosed is a donation for the "Campaign For Justice" for the Peruvians. I pray that they get their redress soon. I have also enclosed a small donation for stamp for the Crystal City Chatter which I look forward to receiving.

Thank you for keeping us all updated on all the Crystal City news and your super effort.
Sincerely, Lury (Masuda) Yonago

Thank you very much for your donations. I have forwarded your check to the Campaign office [redacted] Gardena CA 90248...and the response is the note Alice Nishimoto wrote on the bottom the the Campaign letter on page 3. Amy was so lovely and sweet...and passed away so young..."oshi katta"...(regretfully)...life is very unpredictable...thank you very much for your donation...and am very glad that you enjoy what news we have. Always... sumi

* * * * *

Thank you for your support for Campaign for Justice. The enclosed (check) is for the Chatter.
Love, Haru (Inaba) Kuromiya

I'm grateful for your continued support for the Peruvian friends...I know that your group the National Coalition for Redress and Reparations have really been working hard for their Cause...Many, many thanks...
Love, sumi

ELLIS ISLAND MUSEUM
Special Program "All Camp Reunion"

April 4, 2-4 pm

A special program was offered to the visiting public to have a combination of testimonial accounts of life in camp during the WW.II. A lecture hall was filled...there were three speakers who gave their "stories", each ten minutes time. A busload of 46 people came from Seabrook, New Jersey.

Lillian Kimura of New York Museum opened the program and how this exhibit came about... Karen Ishizuka of the JAN Museum then spoke about this exhibit and how they were able to get the barrack and the guard tower shipped and constructed in front of the Ellis Island building; the many who contributed to the success of its exhibit...

Mas Okui spoke of his personal experience of going into Manzanar Relocation Camp and how he remembered his youthful time in communal living...which most of those who went to other camps recalled the similar feelings and experiences...

Suki Ports who is a native New Yorker...a Quaker by faith and a sansei...was not allowed to visit those internees who were held in Ellis Island...

It was interesting to hear Mr. Naoye Suzuki who was one of the 279 Japanese interned in Ellis Island when the war started on December 7th, 1941, along with 248 Germans and 81 Italians. He was 23 years old, working for the Mitsubishi Company, and was the youngest to be arrested by the FBIs.

Mr. Suzuki said actually 121 Japanese were arrested on December 7th...and by mid December it grew to 279...he said that for those who were arrested and put into Ellis Island for suspicion of spying, it was ironic that, from Ellis Island, they could see in full view, the Brooklyn Naval Harbor with all the Naval ships coming in and going out every day, morning and nighttime...

The daily routine was being awakened at 5:30 a.m.(for no real reason), breakfast at 7:30, Lunch at 11:30 and dinner at 4:30...they were allowed to go outside in a small courtyard when the weather was good for "exercise", but no real sport or group activity was offered. He said that to this day, he cannot stand pig's knuckle with saurkraut, for they had it every week... and on fridays, they had some "smelly" fish dinner. He also said that he cannot stand mutton stew that was given every week...(I agree...in Heart Mountain, we had mutton stew and wow, I really couldn't stomach the smell nor the 'oiliness'.) He said the Germans were so happy to receive his portion of the pig knuckles w/saurkraut...

They never had toasts so they would take the bread from their breakfast and take it up to their dormitory and place them on the radiator...by night time, they would become harder...it was their way of doing something with what they were given...they also created ways of 'ironing' their shirts, T-shirts by placing them wet on the side tile of the shower stalls and letting them dry...and they looked well pressed. Ingenuity...amazing how camp life stirred awake the creativity in the many, in very camp...so many birds carved out of crate ends...castor beans into lovely lapel pins with 'hechima'gourd backings...

Mr. Suzuki felt bad for the Isseis who suffered the most. Many worked for the Japanese Consulate and had lost their jobs immediately when the war began, having no family and their bank 'frozen' because all Japanese banks were immediately closed and funds frozen, so they had no funds available for their living expense...they also had difficulty in any jobs due to clearance from the government.

Many of those held in Ellis Island, were there from one to four months to two years. A Rev. Alfred S. Akamatsu from the New York Methodist Church visited them time to time with books, etc. He met his wife who was a member of this church, and through these visits, got to know Mary who later became Mr. Suzuki's wife. She was there at this ceremony...a very gracious, lovely lady. Mr. Suzuki read one of the books that Rev. Akamatsu brought, U.S. Constitution, and so at one of the hearings, he brought it to the attention of the officials there of the constitutional rights of an individual...and that allowed his release from Ellis Island. However, they gave him 24 hours to leave New York, and with nowhere to go with no funds, again he was assisted by Rev. Akamatsu to go to a friend of the minister in Chicago, with enough money to get there...

He was surprised that Yae Aihara and I were there Sept. of 1943 for 4 days and 3 nights.

("Ellis Island" Cont'd from page 5)

August of 1943, the Gripsholm, an exchange ship was taking the second group of Japanese to Japan from New Jersey harbor...since many of the men were not able to join their family in the 10 relocation camps, many chose to go to Japan to reunite the family. My two older sisters were in Sendai, Japan because they were visiting our grandfather, when the war began and they could not return, therefore, my father requested to go to Japan. On August 26, I was out on the Heart Mountain farm several miles outside of the camp, when a pickup came to go back to the camp because mom and I had 2 hours to pack up and leave for Missoula, Montana to join up with those who left camp couple of days earlier...to then take a train to New York.

Miss Mary Pagoda, a very kind school teacher chaperoned us to Missoula...on bus, train and finally reached Missoula Detention Camp...the very first camp that arrested men on Dec. 7, '41 were sent to...there were men all lined up staring at mom and myself, for they said they hadn't seen Japanese woman or a child since they were arrested...that was over a year and a half since we saw them looking at us...meal time, they brought out their precious Japanese food that they were had kept..."tsukemono" (Japanese pickles), "Tsukudani" (prepared seaweed), "furikake" (seasonings to put over hot rice)...etc. they had cherished, and wanted to share it with mother and myself...they had tears streaming down their face, asking me how old I was...remembering their children and wondering how big they were now...it was heart-wrenching to see them and talk to them...how they must suffered being separated from their wives and children...I knew then that my father must've felt the same.

After having our baggages inspected for any paper, magazines, pictures, confiscating anything that they said might contain 'messages' to Japan, our baggages were closed and the next day, after breakfast, we got on a train and headed out towards New York...on the way, we were given shots for smallpox and typhoid fever...(all those shots in camp too), it took four days to get there, then transferred to bus and reached the harbor where we saw the Gripsholm by the deck. We got there close to noon...and were still standing there until late afternoon...they (the officials) told us that don't worry, they'll put us up in Waldorf Astoria...however, it was at Ellis Island that we were taken to via the U.S. Coast Guards...by the time we got to the Island, it was dark, and bright searchlights were focussed on us as we walked up from the boat to the building by 2's...and it was scary to know that there was gun aimed at your back as you walked up and into the building...we women had a dormitory with metal cots and old, stained cotton mattress (no sheets) and blanket...the men were in another dormitory below us.

This is where I first met Yae Aoki, and her mom, and Yae Kanogawa Aihara and her brothers Stogie and Reo. The Matsudos and the Matsushimas were also there...we awaited decisions on what was going to happen to us and where we were going to be sent to...we were left behind, but our luggages all went to Japan...at this time of the evening, we still didn't know if our fathers were on board the Gripsholm going to Japan or not...we were not fed lunch or dinner... Next morning, at breakfast at the dining room, we looked for our fathers and reunited for the first time since they were arrested...as I recall, the breakfast consisted of corn flakes, powdered milk and no sugar...yuk.

I recall meeting and talking with two young Japanese POWs that were behind another section of the building...wire barrier between us...and they wouldn't give their names as they felt so humiliated for being captured and wanted to be known as 'dead heroes' in Japan...they could not humiliate their family that they allowed themselves to be captured alive...they wanted so much to see us Japanese, Japanese-Americans...their longing to capture something familiar with Japan was really "kawaiiiso"...(pathetic). I felt so sorry for them...they wouldn't even tell me their names...so young...

Those of us whose fathers were arrested and were from Lordsburg, N.M., chose to go to the family internment camp in Crystal City, Texas, and the others were sent to Tule Lake, CA. We took a train ride to Texas...5 days and 4 nights...it took a whole day to cross Texas...and the air conditioning on the train wasn't working, and Mr. O'Rourke, head administrator of Crystal City was on board, and at one train station, bought the children ice cream because it was so hot in the train.

When we arrived in Crystal City, the statue of Popeye was there and when Yae Aoki met her friends...Maru Okazaki, Toki Tanimoto, Chonda, Toshi Kamatani...they all welcomed her back to C.C...and so began our lives in CC. Camp...

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you very much for your kind expressions of sympathy and videotape of brother Alan's speech at the Crystal City Pilgrimage. We will cherish the video tape in memory of Alan. The last time I was able to visit and speak with Alan in person was last December 6th when he came to inter his wife's ashes in San Francisco. At that time he told me about the wonderful pilgrimage you people organized in Crystal City. He talked about what a well organized group the Crystal City Association was and was very impressed with all your presentations at the ceremony.

The Taniguchi Family sent \$500. to the JANM to have Alan's name put on the Windows to the Future in his memory and I requested that the amount be credited to the Crystal City Association Campaign.

I am enclosing a small check to defray some of your costs for the videotapes and Crystal City Chatter. Thanks again.

With warm appreciation, Izumi Taniguchi

I thank you in behalf of the CCA for your "Windows" in memory of your brother Alan. We met him in Crystal City and appreciated his work on the marker that stands in C.C...I'm very glad and grateful that he was able to be there in November...it was shocking to hear of his demise because he was so healthy and seemed to be in good health then...

Thank you very much for your donation.
Very sincerely, sumi.

* * * * *

Enjoying your newsletter. As a member of the Admiral Nimitz Foundation, I was at the yearly symposium when I met Alan Taniguchi. He had a very distinguished career. I notice that you are located in Camarillo. One of the members of our amateur radio network (JAARS) is John Mitsuuchi who has a green house business in Camarillo. I talk with him on the radio when he is not too busy. Perhaps you may know him or know of him. If so, please extend my best regards to him.

The main reason that I am writing today is that another radio amateur, Tats Tajima, in Alameda, CA sent me the U.S. Dept. of Justice, Civil Rights Div. Office of Redress Administration's List of Unknown Historical Records. This publication lists the names and control numbers of internees in the various camps who have become "unknown" -- that is, they don't know what happened to them because they have-

n't been able to locate them. Enclosed is a Crystal City list with names and in some cases the ages and control numbers of those who are listed as unknown. Perhaps some of your readers might know who they are and where they are now. If so, the number to call is 1-888-219-6900. The operator will ask you to spell out your name, registration number, your message and phone number. They said they will call back within ten working days.

Perhaps if the list is published in your Crystal City Chatter newsletter it might help the Redress Administration find out what happened to these people.

Take care.

Michael Hoshiko
W9CJW

Thank you very, very much for your involvement...it's always great to be in contact with those who commit their lives for causes and support...met a whole bunch in my late N.Y. trip to the Ellis Island Museum...am very, very grateful for the committed group of Japanese Americans...the Isseis, Niseis paid too high of a price to sit back and let the "history" go by...

Am now listing the names here and now!

Unknown Historical Records in Camp Order

NAME	YOB	CONTROL NUMBER	ALL CAMPS
GUSHIKEN, TSUNE	1910	10078	CC
ICHIKAWA, TATSYA	1903	10134	MS SF CC
KUMAMOTO, SHUNSUKE		10322	MS SF CC
MATSUMOTO, GEORGE S	1903	10375	CC SF
MATSUMOTO, TSUYOSHI		10386	MCCLELLAN
MIYAO, YOSHIGE		10430	CC
MORIOKA, TSUMESHI		10450	SF CC
NISHIE, GUZEI		10515	MS SF CC
OYE, FRANK M		10585	SF CC WRA
SAWAMURA, SHIGNORI		10626	BS CC
SHIMIZU, SENGO	1906	10643	SF CC
SHIROTA, ISEYO		10664	CC
SUGANO, CHUICHI	1905	10674	SF CC
SUGIMACHI, MITSUE M		10676	CC
TADANO, FRANK T	1909	10695	CC
TAGUCHI, GENBEI		10698	BS CC
TAKASHIMA, TSUME		10709	CC
TAKEDA, HIROJI	1910	10711	BS CC
TAKEMOTO, NOBUYA	1905	10715	BS SF CC
TAKEUCHI, BOKUHEI H		10719	SF CC
TAMAKI, YOSHIO		10729	SF CC
TANIGUCHI, TAKEZO		10743	SF CC
TORIYE, TOSHIDE	1904	10758	SF CC
USUI, TORU	1905	10780	CC MS SF
WADA, MASAKIRO		10790	SF CC WRA
WADA, MIKIO	1904	10791	SF CC
YAMAGISHI, SEIJI		10814	BS CC
YAMASHITA, YEIJI	1904	10842	SF CC WRA
YASUDA, MASATO J	1903	10850	SF CC
YASUDA, SEIICHI	1906	10851	SF CC
YOSHIMURA, KENSAKU	1904	10867	SF CC

So if any out there knows of these people, please call 1-888-219-6900.

I do not know John Mitsuuchi...and did not know of his green house business...regretfully.
Thanks again ... sumi.

"LETTERS" (Cont'd from page 7)

This morning I was interviewed by Monica Henriquez, a native of Venezuela who now lives in London. She is employed by Luisa Films in London.

Of course she wanted to talk about the Camp, and I think she must have special interest in the Peruvian Japanese.

I let her make a copy of your article, "Crystal City Internees Recall Injustices" and also your address from the Crystal City Chatter. I hope you approve.

Soon after I mailed a December note to you Toni gave me the good fact that you have six children instead of five. That was good news and I even thought that number doubled would be a blessing. Now I need to know about grandchildren.

I am thankful to receive the Crystal City Chatter and often read each one more than once.

Best Wishes, Lee Lunz

Just as I wrote Lee Lunz, I thought how short it looked in contrast with my maiden name, which is Leona Fay Mc Gilvray, but even that doesn't equal your name.

I have a negative reaction to being called Leona because my mother never call-ec me that unless she thought I had done something wrong. -o-

Thank you very much for passing on the article about Crystal City to Monica H. I received a telephone call from her from San Antonio asking me questions about the camp and I was able to fill her in...it was strange that she was a native of Venezuela, yet she had a precise British accent...

Well, you wanted to know about my grandchildren...I have 9...one will be 24 in August and has graduated from 4 years university in Japan, fluent in Japanese, a granddaughter in Puget Sound U. in WA, a junior there, a freshman grandson in U. of Santa Barbara, a granddaughter graduating high school in Fountain Valley; a grandson Christopher who went to Crystal City, going on 12, a granddaughter 12 years old and quite an artist, another granddaughter 9, grandson 8½ and the youngest grandson 6½...they grow too fast.

I am grateful that you enjoy the Chatter...take good care of yourself and enjoy...

Very sincerely, sumi

* * * * *

Happy Valentine! At our age, we get valentines from our grandchildren, and it is warm and fuzzy. My grandson even made

me a Valentine mobile made out of a paper plate and decorated with paint and glitter.

Interesting that we are on a website. Will have to check it out. I've had to do research on the Peruvians and our fathers recently, and discovered what I needed in the Album, so was glad to have included all that. I don't know if Leslie Burns would gain much by interviewing me that couldn't be gained by perusing the Album. The most important influence for me in Crystal City was Dr. Mori and Sensei, and that needs no further elaboration. That meant enough to me that I remember saying it was worth going into camp even though war did have its terrible impact on everybody's lives.

The other day while rummaging through my trunks in the storeroom looking for something, came across the duffle bag that belonged to my Father. (The Travels of An Internee Duffle Bag on Page 9).

Finally decided I should give time to going on the Internet and using e-mail, and it is loads of fun. Do you have an e-mail address? Please e-mail me if you do. joy@iphonemail.com.

Sorry to hear that Sensei is not up to par. Hope he will soon be feeling much better. I remember my fencing coach, with whom I was friends for over 40 years since my Cal days, and we used to meet at the Nut Tree once a month for lunch, was 91 when she passed away. She was alert and mobile to the end, but she said all her parts were wearing out. I get all these health newsletters, and right now, anti-oxidants seem to be the rage. I take 300 mg of grapeseed extract a day, and glucosamine sulfate, 1500 mg for my arthritis a day too.

Noticed Akebono is in the news. Watched the Nagoya sumo tournament on TV for nine days, beginning with the 7th day when we discovered it, and he is good. The only time he lost was when he was concerned about his brother, who had lost two straight, and if he were to lose one more, he would be demoted in rank. But he pulled through ok, and Akebono didn't lose another one after that. Didn't know he was a Hawaiian. Some of the other Hawaiian look it, but Akebono has a cherubic Japanese little boy look.

Til later, take the best of care of yourself.

Love,

Joy Nozaki Gee

Thank you so much for your interesting letter and input...the article about the Duffle Bag is great...if only it could talk neh...I myself think Sensei and Dr. Mori were my mentor, teacher, support, etc...they influenced my life greatly...I was very fortunate to have been close to Sensei the last several years...I've watched, and listened and have learned so much.

THE TRAVELS OF AN INTERNEE DUFFLE BAG

Late in March 1942, with evacuation imminent in about a month, two FBI men and our local heriff knocked on the door of our home in Arroyo Grande, CA. That knock was not totally un-expected, for two waves of arrests since December 7, 1941 took away our Japanese farmers who were officers of the school PTA and Growers' Association (considered "dangerous leaders")). As no Japanese knew who would be next, many had their suitcases packed, including Father. Now the roundup was of Japanese priests and teachers, and both Father and Mother were teachers. Father, a Waseda University graduate, majored in English, and in those early days when Emperor Meiji was still alive, his class has only four English majors. He taught school after graduation, married Mother, then decided he wanted an American degree, and attended University of Washington where he received his Master of Arts degree. While here, Father found the American way of life more to his liking than the rigid social customs of Japan, and decided he would rather teach Japanese in the U.S. instead of teaching English in Japan. Mother was also on the arrest list, but our hometown sheriff looked at sister and me and said, "We can't take both parents. There are minors here." So Mother was spared.

This duffle bag supplanted the suitcase that Father took. It must have been issue to him at Tujunga, California, where he was first taken, then it accompanied him to Lordsburg, New Mexico; Santa Fe, New Mexico; back to Lordsburg, then to Crystal City, Texas, a family reunion camp where we joined him from Gila Relocation Center after two years of separation. When the war ended, Father decided he could not support his family as there were no Japanese schools to teach, and he had no skills in the occupations available to issei at that time whereas he could always teach English at a Japanese university. So the duffel bag accompanied the family to Japan, where Father worked for the U.S. Occupation Forces as interpreter and translator, and after the departure of the American military, he taught at the Saikyo University in Kyoto.

When Mother returned to the U.S. after Father's death, the duffel bag came back with her. When she came to live with me in Sacramento, the duffel bag went into the storeroom, and came to light the other day when I was rummaging in a trunk for sweaters she had knitted for my children and which I now wanted to give to my grandchildren.

Duffle Bag donated to
Cal State University at Sacramento
by Joy Nozaki Gee
daughter of Kiyoshi and Toyoko Nozaki
February 13, 1998

* * * * *

Your father really was as Sensei said, "sugureta hito" (outstanding person)...intelligent and great...Sensei often talked about your father, and as Toni often talked about the story that always hung up in front of your home in C.C. with drift woods, other articles...etc.,.. his imaginative mind entertained many minds as they must have waited for the next article... now if only the Duffle Bag could talk and tell us what it has seen and heard...thanks Joy!!!

* * * * *

"IT'S A SMALL WORLD"

As Mr. Naoye Suzuki, who was interned in Ellis Island during WW II, Yone Nash (Yae's friend from New Jersey pg. 2) asked him if he knew her brother-in-law, Yuji Kawamoto...he played the flute...and Mr. Suzuki remembered him playing the flute at Ellis Island...he then remembered that Mr. Kawamoto was couple of years older than him, and that they were the youngest internees on the Island...that most of those arrested and interned in Ellis Island were much older...many worked for Ambassador Horiuchi, and with the Embassy. Yone's nieces came to the "All Camp Reunion" to listen to the speakers, so they were able to meet Mr. Suzuki to listen to 'life in E.I. wartime'...it was amazing how someone knew someone here and there...

I met several people who knew my husband...good childhood friends...they tell me how they grew up together, going to the 20th Street Church...and saying, "your husband was so cute when he was small"..."his hair was so red"...my..if Kiyo heard that, I think he'd blush red!!!

Mr. Suzuki asked me if I ever had 'scrambled eggs' for breakfast any of the mornings...I did recall once...he asked me was it the day we were leaving...I recalled yes...it was...he said any morning they had scrambled eggs, someone (s) was being released from Ellis Island.

VISITING SEABROOK FARM MUSEUM

Monday, April 6th, eleven of us went to Seabrook Farm Museum...Bill and Emi Shishima, (Bill drove our car), Mas and Elaine Matsumoto, and myself in one of the Ford Explorer (?), and Richard and Masako Murakami, Harold and Barbara Keimi, Sachi Maehara and Sadako Sogioka in the other...it was about two hours drive from our hotel. It was an experience just to keep putting money out for the tolls...and it runs up fast...the ride was smooth and nice.

The Seabrook Farm Museum is well presented...with model of the farm, etc. displayed, many, many pictures, mementos on the walls...we were warmly welcomed by Ellen Nakamura, the president of this well maintained Museum...it is staffed by John Fuyuume, Director, Ellen Nakamura, the president, Setsuko Fuyuume, Sunako Oye (Sunkie), Laye Nagahiro, Elaine Yellin, Dorothy Peterson, Esther Ono, (President of JAACL) and Mimpo Hirota...they had Seabrook's 50th year Celebration on October 8-9, 1994. They graciously gave us their album for that reunion, along with booklet and literatures about this farm that employed 1500 Japanese, Japanese Americans and Japanese Peruvians...I asked how many of the Peruvians came here from Crystal City, and I was told that 600...that's a lot of the C.C. friends who stayed, worked and then resettled elsewhere...

The barrack-like housing were still being used, and low-income people are still living in them...it was a place for many to stay awhile, to regroup their family and move on during and after the war...many really had no idea what to do or where to go...they had sports group, activities...like a mini-camplike lifestyle...it did offer opportunity for many.

After a visit there, we drove to Atlantic City to see the Casinos...and I did see the Boardwalk and the Atlantic Ocean with Sachi and Sadako...so it was a very memorable trip!!! I really appreciate Bill, Emi, Mas, Elaine, Richard, Masako, Harold and Barbara for including Sachi, Sadako and myself on this trip...thanks a lot...we really appreciated it very much.

* * * * *

OBITUARY Our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Yamashita Sensei's family...Reiko, Tesshu and Hiromi..REV. KENKO YAMASHITA ...he was Crystal City's friend to the "Yancha Bozu's...Warui Yatsura, etc" ohh how we will all miss him!!!

* * * * *

"To open our own heart like a Buddha, we must embrace the ten thousand joys and the ten thousand sorrows."

Jack Kornfield

"To meditate is to listen with a receptive heart"

" "

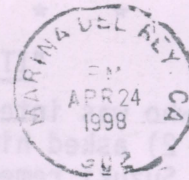
"Things to do today: Exhale, inhale, exhale. Ahhhh"

" "

* * * * *

Crystal City Chatter
Sumi Shimatsu

Camarillo, CA 93010



TAD & SATOMI ISHIDA
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94116

Practice Random Kindness
and
Senseless Acts of Beauty

41162002+1342