

**"SHINNEN OMEDETO GOZAIMASU
Mata Kotoshi mo Yoroshiku Onegai Itashimasu"**

Happy New Year! Let's enjoy another great year together again! Hoping that your holidays were warm, wonderful and memorable...we'll be having our Chinese New Year soon, February 16th...the year of the rabbit...so "Gung Hey Fat Choy"...The Japanese American National Museum had their Opening Celebration and a banquet on Friday night. It was quite an evening...the new Pavilion sparkled and people in their dressy clothes gathered to marvel at the "dream come true" addition to the JAN Museum.

CONGRATULATIONS to all the Museum personnel. Built ON TIME, and WITHIN THE BUDGET...so rare in today's world. They organized parking by valet so well...they closed off E. First St. by San Pedro and allowed guests with valet parking on the dash board to enter and have the many valet there take care of our vehicles.

There were 18 of us C.C. members there: Maru and Jordan Hiratzka, Sid and Yukie Okazaki and their daughter Julie, Yae Aihara, Tomo Mizukami, Akemi Yasuda, Ruby Sakurai, Toni Tomita, Yone Takeuchi, Miyo Eshita and her daughter Pauline Carrillo, Sei and Yets Dyo, Fumi and Ty Nakamura and myself. Yae's friend Helen Erlandson from East Lansing MI joined Yae...Sachi and I met her in New York when we attended the Museum Exhibit opening at the Ellis Island last April.

The banquet was held in a huge tent next to the old Museum on Central Avenue. There were about 1350 people at the banquet, (I heard) so, it was a very big tent. The program included many introductions, speeches, etc. and we were treated to a special O koto program with Brian Yamakoshi, son of the late Noby Yamakoshi and Aya Hosaka Yamakoshi who flew in from France. I've always wanted to hear Brian play the Okoto ever since we had write ups in the past Chatters of his performances all over Europe. He played "Midare Rinzetsu" and "Allegro and Finale from 'Monologos Linearis - Fantaisiepour Koto' a treize cordes" composed by Brian himself. It was wonderful!

The Los Angeles community joined in on the opening celebration Saturday and Sunday with 100 Taiko, the Hiroshima Concert, variety of activities and performances.

Come visit the new Pavilion! Many of you have contributed through our C.C.A. drive that raised \$185,000. for the Museum. You'll be proud of this new addition that houses our Japanese, Japanese American History, culture, camp experience, the many wartime GI's who fought for our country...so much now housed in a big, beautiful edifice.

When you look at the glassed square exhibit with dirt from each camp, Crystal City has in it a tablecloth with autograph of Mrs. Mizukami's block in Poston and friends in Crystal City. Tomo was so surprised to see her mother's tablecloth folded... "Natsukashii" (memorable)...

Having been born on East First Street pre-war, memories of the many "Omatsuris" (Festivals), the colorful Nisei Week Ondo, the many sumos, judos, Odori Recitals at Koyasan, Yamato Hall, other temples...eating at the little "hole in the wall" Sushiyas and Udonyas, the San Kwo Low and En Tō Low (better known as Far East Cafe)...Hori Shokai and Asia Shokai, Asahi shoes...on and on of old memories...some came back after the war, many didn't...now, the NEW Lil Tokyo with the Otani Hotel and their garden upstairs...the new beautiful oteras that has archetecture and gardens as in Japan...the Japanese Village...Mikawaya still around with Hashimoto no obasan, still going strong at 98, still working on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

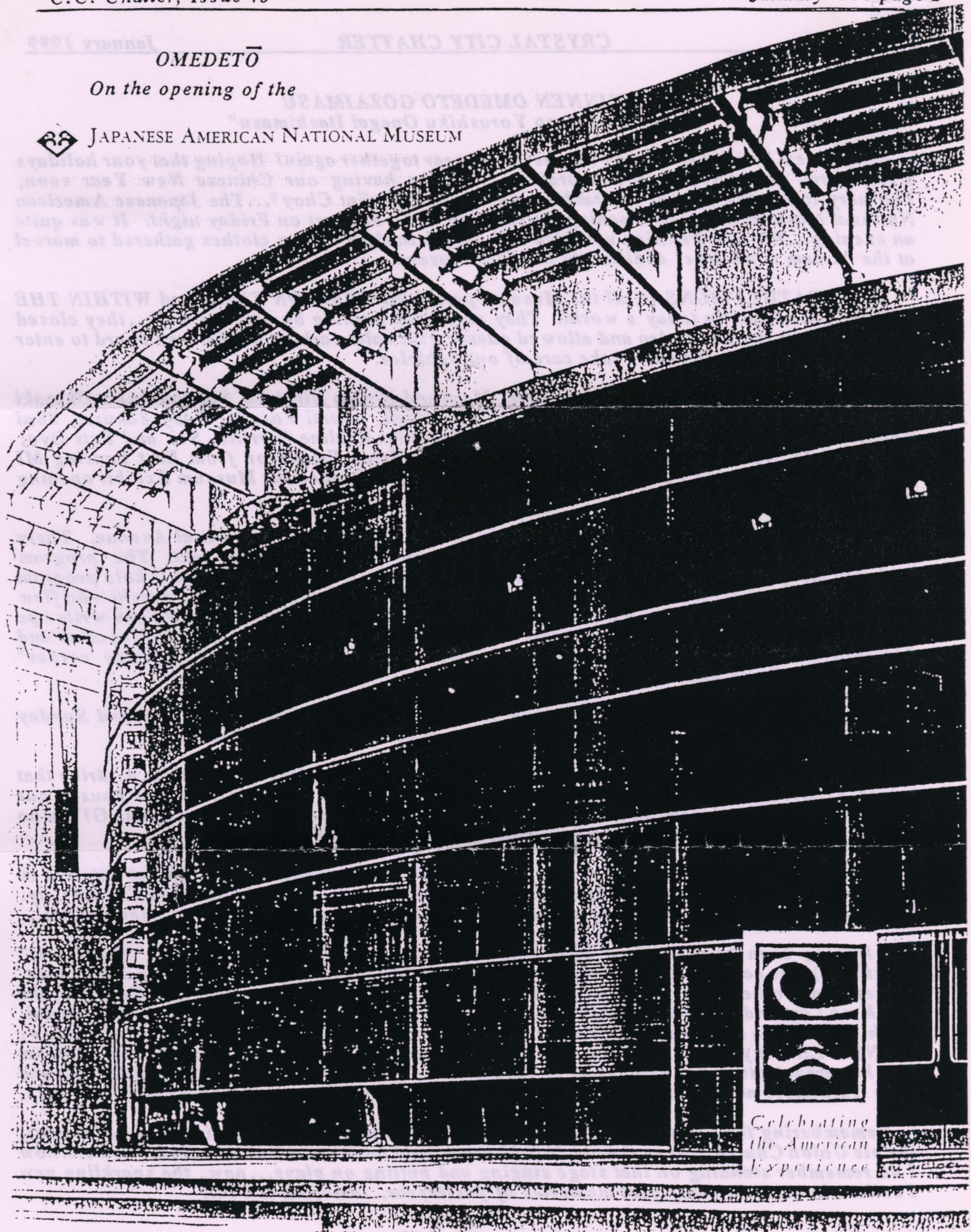
Remembering the Sugar Bowl, Atomic Cafe (Tomo and I saw the old sign in the Museum), the ole Union Church...even the old JAN Museum held our Daichi Gakuen talent shows...how I do remember standing on that stage singing and putting on plays...now, the sparkling new Pavilion houses the many past memories of yesteryear...amazing isn't it?

OMEDETŌ

On the opening of the



JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM



Celebrating
the American
Experience

BRIAN YAMAKOSHI

Growing up in Chicago, Brian Yamakoshi had a propensity for music. As a youngster, he learned to play the guitar at the age of six and the piano when he was nine. But, Brian's life changed forever when he took up the koto at the age of 13. It was on this musical instrument, part of the zither family, that Yamakoshi would devote his life and it would carry him all over the world. And he would change the koto and music in general on his journey.

The son of Aya and the late Noby Yamakoshi (a former Japanese American National Museum Trustee who was honored by the Museum in 1997 posthumously), Brian began performing in public at recitals and avant-garde musical activities in London when he was 21. In 1981, Yamakoshi moved to Japan and studied with several of the most renowned teachers of the koto, including Keiko Kanogawa, Kinuko Shirane and Keiko Nosaka.

Yamakoshi continued to explore new territory for the koto, performing in Minoru Maki's Kabuki Opera in 1984. That year, he also gave his first Tokyo recital, and one year later, performed in the Carnegie Recital Hall for his first New York recital. By 1986, Yamakoshi was playing in ensemble and as a soloist in concerts all over the world, including in Asia, Europe and throughout North America. Along the way, he pushed the envelope of music.

"Although I use a traditional Japanese musical

instrument as my medium," Yamakoshi once explained, "my desire is to create new music which avoids restrictive musical forms. One way this can be achieved is to play completely improvised concerts. . . ."

That idea manifested itself with Yamakoshi's collaboration with *Butoh* dancer Goro Namerikawa and the dance group Sankajuku. In the late 1980s, he worked on doing more improvisation on the koto while playing such musical forms as the blues, jazz and rock. His work caught the attention of other musicians and in 1989, Yamakoshi began recording at Peter Gabriel's Real World Studio with musicians such as guitarist David Rhodes.

Continuing to innovate and create new music, Yamakoshi conceived of the 25-string koto in 1990. His performing and recording schedules were both full, playing concerts from Japan to Italy and recording with the French group *Silent Voices* and with Akira Inoue/David

Rhodes along with Peter Gabriel and Akiko Yano using the new musical instrument he had conceived.

Yamakoshi continues his journey, which has led him to the Japanese American National Museum and the opening of its new expansion Pavilion. His presence at the Opening Celebration Dinner is no coincidence. He has been preparing for these sorts of milestones since he was 13.



"DOMO ARIGATO GOZAIMASU"

For the many "Get Well" cards, and in Holiday cards.

I thank each and every one of you for your kindness in caring, praying, thinking of my health and well being. It was almost embarrassing to have so many of you send me words of concern. Thank you very, very much. I am back to my ole self, however, am taking good care of this body...it rests whenever necessary and doesn't keep goin' on and on like the pink bunny of Energizer...this bunny ain't a "dumb bunny"...I've learned from my experience... otherwise, I'll probably have Sensei get after me for being a "baka" who doesn't learn a lesson.

Thank you very much for your generous donation. Many of you have sent \$\$\$ for this newsletter and am grateful for the stamps have gone up from 32 cents to 33 cents...I'm glad that the new Chinese New Year postage stamps of the Year of the Rabbit is 33 cents...Every year I have started the Chatter out with the Chinese New Year postage stamps so we start out with the 33 cents Rabbit...let's hope that it will be a good, healthy, prosperous year for all of you...Gung Hey Fat Choy! It starts on February 16th this year!

I won't be able to put in all the notes and messages in all the cards received but will put in as many as possible...couple of letters, you'll enjoy...one from Joy Nozaki Gee and the other from our red-headed friend Charles McCollister.

Meanwhile...the Opening Ceremony book of the Japanese American National Museum has given our Crystal City Association half a page so Toni Tomita sent in the design below. Bob Oda who had the turtle designed for our camp continues to grace our thoughts and feelings. I'm grateful for this "shibui" (quiet, subtle) design of our friend, "kame-san", the turtle.

A Vision Fulfilled, A Promise Kept.



"Generation to Generation"

Crystal City Association

Crystal City, Texas Internment Camp – Immigration and Naturalization Service
Justice Department

December 19, 1998

Dear Sumi:

When you told me about Toni, I was so horrified that I wrote her immediately and gave her the same cease and desist advice you gave her: STOP! This unforgiving sense of duty can be so detrimental.

You're probably thinking I just wrote the other day, but this is a holiday greeting to wish you the very best Christmas and a Happy New Year and a great 1999.

I had two new fun experience this year: (1) I grew a giant pumpkin and (2) gave a public harmonica performance.

It was loads of fun to grow that giant pumpkin. It grew at an astounding rate, bigger in the morning than the afternoon before, and bigger in the aft than in the morn. It eventually attained the size of 38 inches in diameter, 40 inches in height, and nine feet in circumference before it settled down to add heft. Since it was planted right in the front part of my veggie garden, it had quite a coterie of regular visitors who came to regard it as "their" pumpkin. When it matured (you look at the stem), I didn't know where to weigh it, so entered it in a Great Pumpkin Festival in Elk Grove where they weigh the entrants. It was fun watching the pumpkins getting weighed: the fork lift would come up a path with hay bales on either side, balancing a heavy pumpkin on its forks, and it was rather like a beauty contestant coming up the runway. When it reached the weighing area, volunteer UC Davis fraternity boys stood ready to shove the pumpkin onto a large circular tarp with numerous built-in handles and then hoist it onto a huge digital scale to the oh, ah, and cheers of the festival goers. My pumpkin came in at 460 pound to be 10th of 70 pumpkins and it took six guys to do the lifting. The winner was a 719 pounder and required nine men. But a pumpkin at Half Moon Bay weighed over 1,000 pounds. A friend had a lift on his pickup, so that is how we got it on and off my pickup, plus four men from my neighborhood who were dragooned into shoving it on and off the lift. My friend with the lift took it to Palo Alto for me to Bruce's place, and it was a neighborhood sensation.

Now for the harmonica playing, which is a good study of how much gall is summoned when the challenge cries for a rescue. I used to play creditable piano recitals and play passable guitar, but I only play harmonica by ear, and rarely, so any harmonica rendition is often a precarious one. One time I thought I would accompany my harmonica with my guitar, and since I can't play both at the same time, taped the harmonica. Then poised with my guitar, I played the tape, and the sound that came forth filled me with eye-popping horror. And I didn't play the harmonica again for many, many years. Why then would I commit an act so flagrant as playing the harmonica as part of entertainment for our own Club Christmas party? Easy. The seed was planted a couple of years ago, when a Palo Alto singles club fellow

played "Auld Lang Syne," at his Club function, and his performance seriously hyperinflated my harmonica ego. He played the same "Auld Lang Syne" another year, and my harmonica got an irrepressible itch.

Now we are in the 1998 season when the Sacramento, San Jose, San Francisco and East Bay nikkei single clubs are busy going to each other's Christmas parties. A couple of Sundays ago at a party in Alameda, I saw Mr Harmonica, and promptly asked him to play a duet with me at our party the following Sunday. He said a San Jose fellow played too, so roped him in and we were now a trio and we would play "Auld Lang Syne."

On the day, the Palo Alto fellow deemed a rehearsal was not necessary for such a simple song, and since it was his standby, I went along with his recklessness. I warned the audience however, and sure enough, as a starter, the trio did not start together. Halfway through, I was one measure ahead of the others, so I waited for them and we then managed to play and finish the second half together. I told the audience our solos will be much better, but thought it prudent to quickly add we may be worse. I said I would go first to set a low standard with "Turkey in the Straw", which I had been practicing like the dickens the whole week. It went well with no face losing mishaps. The Palo Alto fellow did elementary renditions of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" and "Jingle Bells" as his solos, and I had to exercise great restraint to not accompany "Twinkle" with fancy runs. The San Jose fellow is a Grand Master of Harmonica and did a jolly medley of Christmas songs wearing a Santa cap. The audience loved it all.

Did a bit of fundraising too, making speeches to groups and buttonholing prospects. Am pleased to report that the Sacramento Region committee for the Nisei War Memorial in LA surpassed its \$75,000 goal for 1998 by 69% to \$127,000 so far. Together with 1997, we have raised \$202,000. Our team did the best of 15 teams, ahem.

Until later. Take the best of care of yourselves.

Love,

From Joy Nozaki Gee, Sacramento CA

Charles Mc Collister, Simi Valley

Dear "Mrs. Shimatsu":

My Christmas is ruined!! I was in the midst of preparations for the season (cards, packages, parties, etc.), to relax, I opened the days mail - the cards and the "Chatter".

I fell off the stool at your news of your collapse and emergency. I am in a state of shock and have taken to my bed. To me you were the healthiest of us all - I was counting on you to be there for us when we became ill -

Little did we know you were so busy taking care of others - you forgot to take care of yourself! Not going for check up in over 20 years??? If I have any funds left over after Christmas - I'm going right over to your son's Toyota dealership (The Oxnard Toyota where my son Lukas works) buy myself the biggest vehicle on the lot and drive right over and run you down in your own driveway!!

As Ann Landers says - "Ten thousand lashes with the wet noodle" for you! Popeye will not be happy when he hears this news - I shall have to report to him!! All he'll say is "eat spinach".

(Cont'd on page 7)

(Cont'd from page 6, Letter from Charles)

Yuk! Enough of this "Tongue lashing" - as my B/P is now soaring.

We all love you Sumi - rest - rest - rest. Get well and stay well!! God Bless You -
Charles Mc Collister

YE OLD TYME CHRISTMAS LETTER OF THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1998 Charles Mc M.

Only one year away from the Millennium and counting. Are you ready?? Are you ready?? I still enjoy travel and did 3 big trips this year. (Charles works for United Airlines) The total Solar eclipse in February off the Caribbean Isle of Aruba was just magnificent! I was on a ship and we floated under the sun while the U.S. Navy P-3's buzzed us - all watching the dazzling show in the sky. It was "awesome"...The last eclipse of this century coming up on August 11, 1999 will pass over Europe and Turkey - skies are clearer in Turkey so I hope to go there to view it. Hope I see you there! It's late November and I've just returned from a month in my beloved EGYPT!! (my 5th trip to that fabled land) Traveling and digging with a group of world renown archeologists, we got to see things which had been locked away and tombs unopened for 3-years. The head of the antiquities dept. did travel with us, along with the Egyptian FBI and 2 trucks of soldiers, so we felt safe and secure.

We were the very first "foreign devils" to actually drive thru the entire Egyptian-Libyan desert as rough "roads" are just now opening. We visited the Siwa Oases where Alexander the Great went to consult the Oracle. The temple is still there to walk thru after these 2000 years. We continued thru the Bahariya Oasis, Farafra Oasis, Dakla Oasis and the Khargha oasis, all wonderful before re-entering the Nile Valley at Luxor. The country has changed for the better. The people now welcome visitors and I heard school children, villagers, people on the street saying "welcome to Egypt" 10 to 12 times a day. The begging and hassling of bygone years are over. What a great change. The local, common folk now visit their ancient monuments and care about their fantastic heritage.

The highlight of my years' travel was my journey to the top of the world - THE NORTH POLE!! Yes, it's true, I did it. Only a few hundred have ever reached it - mostly explorers 100 years ago and military. I went on a Russian NUCLEAR ICEBREAKER from Murmansk, Russia to the Pole and back. It was 2 weeks round trip. Our astronaut, Buzz Aldrin, and Hugh Downs of ABC's "20-20" were with us. Our cabins were directly across from the 2 reactors, so we're probably good and "nuked" by now. Heh, heh. Weather was 32 degree daily, 24 hours of sunshine, 38 polar bears and assorted walrus and seals. At the Pole, the Russian sailors, dove into the Arctic Ocean for a bracing swim. I couldn't let the Russians beat us, so I took a swim - ONE MINUTE!! At water temp of 28 degree, it was "real cool man"! What a fantastic adventure. Our expedition should air on ABC TV's "20-20" soon. Watch for it. Nope, didn't see Santa at the Pole...it was July and he was on vacatiion.

To "rest up", I flew to London for a week of theater, enjoyed a month on Amtrak train all over the USA, several trips to Chicago to visit my brother John and sis Kim, various film festivals, and attended my 2 family reunions.

Yep, I'm still with the electric car. It will be 2 years old on Dec. 5th. I love it still, and am looking forward to the new nickel metal batteries model next year. This Christmas will be spent flying to Sweden with my brother, John, piloting the airplane, and my sis, Kim, "serving" in the cabin. Pray for me that I make it back alive!!!

MAY GOD BLESS YOUR ALL AT THIS JOYOUS TIME OF THE YEAR AND MAY YOU ALL BE FINE IN 1999.
Charles Mc Collister

Letters to the Editor, Cont'd.

Dear Mrs. Shimatsu,

Thank you for the Crystal City Chatter, I found the letter that I wrote printed in it and was quite surprised. Upon reading your answer to my question, I was so pleased that I had called my mother and my brother. Miracles can happen if you really keep up with it. Up to this Thanksgiving, we did not know my grandfather's Japanese name. As I wrote in the letter, we knew his name as Frank. During the Thanksgiving holiday, my son had homework where he was to make a family tree. My son asked my mother what his great grandparents' name were. She remembered that my aunt had sent my father long ago a family tree of the Nakamura's. She started to search for it, but was unable to find it. Though the tree was not found, she finally had the courage to open a brief case that was never opened since my father's death eight years ago. It had a lot of important document about my father that we did not know and in it was the Japanese Family paper that showed that my grandfather's name was Sadamu. Right after that, your newsletter came. Now we know for sure that our grandfather was in Crystal City during the war.

Enclose is a check to cover for the album. All of us are now more than eager to know everything about Crystal City. If there are any information on Sadamu Nakamura, please let us know. I really like to thank you and Mr. Okazaki for everything. If it were not for that article in Rafu Shimpo, I would have never been able to accomplish this far.

Sincerely,

Sandy Suzuki,

Dear Sandy...I'm so glad that we were able to locate your grandfather's name in one of the list we have of those who were interened in our camp. I hope that if there's any reader out there who knew him or of him, that you would contact the Chatter so we can give further information to Sandy.

Sincerely.....sumi

In ROMAJI...

Akemashite Omedeto Gozaimasu

Kyonen wa gobusata bakari shite omōshi wake gozai masen deshita. '99 nen mo yoroshiku onegai itashimasu.

Minasan karada odaijini shite kudasai. Gokenkō wo oinori itashi masu. Watashi no hō mo okagesama de minna tasha de gozaimasu. Gokyushin kudasai...

Nobue Nishii, age 99

Nishii-san,

Teinei ni otegami arigatō. Obasama no genki na okao, 99 no toshide mada kenkō de picnic ni irashite kudasatta no...domo arigatō...kotoshi mo genki de, tassa de neh...Watashi tachi nisei no katagata mo minna ikioi yoku, genki o dashite, oba-san ni makezuni mainichi kenkō ni kurashi masu...

sumi yori

Dear Sumi...my mother (Mrs. Nishii) and I were shocked to learn of your illness and hospitalization. you with your vim, vigor and vitality that I always tell my sister, (also 70) about. You're always looking after the smallest details of all CCA activities we've taken part in. My mother and Mrs. Kaneko always mention the warm feelings they get when we attend the get-togethers, with all the special attention.

My mother extends her best regards and wishes you improved health and happiness in the New year. Please do be a little selfish with your time and regain your optimal health! Take care!

Love,

Alice Nishii Matsumoto

ARCHBISHOP NITTEN ISHIDA'S
Calligraphy Works to be Donated to the JAN Museum

Renko Ishida Dempster, daughter of the late Archbishop Ishida of Seattle, Washington is donating her father's calligraphy work to the JAN Museum. She met with the curator Jim Gatewood, through Yae Aihara, and offered the Museum Nitten-Sensei's great calligraphy. The late Bishop Kenko Yamashita, who himself was a great calligrapher commented to me that Nitten-Sensei's calligraphy was the best of both Japan and United States... when Sensei give such praise, YOU KNOW, that Archbishop Ishida's calligraphy is really great! I think it is wonderful to have his work gracing our new Museum Pavillion... I have seen the snapshots of the many works that Nitten-Sensei has done, when I met Renko-san up in Seattle couple of years ago.

The Calligraphy works will be donated in the name of Crystal City Internment Camp... it will be wonderful and the CCA is very grateful to Renko-san for her generous donation in our camp's name. I know that he was respected greatly in camp...

Many people even today, do not realize that Crystal City Internment Camp had 43 of the Buddhist Priests, many Shinto, Konko-kyo priests, other Japanese ministers of Tenrikyo, the Seicho-no-Ie church, etc... I still hear that they must have been arrested because they were "bad"... the CREAM OF THE CROP... LEADERS... TEACHERS... MINISTERS/PRIESTS... I wonder when... if... the public will be taught... and will learn the truth?

Thank you Renko-san for your donation to the Museum in CCA's name... we all appreciate your generosity... and the Museum is the place to grace your father's great works!

"MIZUHIKI"

A Book on Guide to Japanese Paper Cord Weaving

This book is written by Mrs. Haruko Shimizu ... whom I have met in Seattle, Washington couple of years ago, when I went to University of Washington to be a part of the group who spoke about our experience in Crystal City Internment Camp. Mrs. Shimizu has been teaching Mizuhiki and has received a honorary name of "Shun Setsu" (Spring Snow). She is the only teacher of this art in the west coast... creating decorations for many celebrations and also for American holidays.

You probably have seen all these decorative knotted red and white colored twines. The custom of tying mizuhiki decorations has existed in Japan for festive occasions. There are colorful, decorative artwork made of different colored twines... it's really beautiful! The book has many colorful pictures, and step by step guide from the simplest to other more complicated artwork.

I urge many of you to not only look through this lovely book but to try your hand in tying these artistic, colorful "musubi" or knots... some in forms of animals, birds, etc.

Mrs. Shimizu went to Japan, the famous camp of Uruga, when we were repatriated after the war... December 1945... and had suffered the many difficulties of having to return to such a terrible situation... it is so good to know that she came back, and is a very successful teacher and artist in this work of Mizuhiki.

Message from Yuriko Tanaka from Lima, Peru

...(Excerpt from Christmas Card)... "Gobusata Shimashita"... "Rainen Mo Yoroshiku!".. (It's been some time... let's enjoy next year...) (Very difficult to translate some Japanese Sayings) "Next year on May, the Peruvian Nikkei will be celebrating the Centennial of Immigration to Peru, also their 8th Peru-Kai Reunion in Lima. Hopefully many of you will join us."

Yuriko Tanaka, December '98

THAT MYTHICAL "PERFECT" DIET

So many today are looking for that "perfect" diet...WOW potato chips supposedly no fat, cut the fat out; eat more protein. No, reduce the protein; consume more carbs. Don't drink fruit juice with a meal. Fruits and veggies are good for you...so many weight-loss centers... hundreds of diet books, advice for trimming that extra pounds...eating small meals more often ...everything from Weight Watchers with the Duchess of York...or Suzanne Somers...or who else? Richard Simmons? Let's face it...there is NO ONE DIET that will work on everyone!

So is it exercise? Walking? Jogging? Running? Aerobic? Dancing? Working out at a gym with a trainer?

Take it easy...don't get involved in something that's not comfortable...or go to extreme. Enjoy whatever activity you take up...if you don't enjoy it, forget it! Eating less and more often on a balanced diet helps...

So many of my friends and I have discussed our "apple" figure instead of the ideal "pear". New drug orlistat is supposed to prevent the body from absorbing some fat from food...supposed to promote weight loss...but be careful...many of these "new" chemicals are not proven safe...and according to the health article I just read recently, our "tummy" falls because the lower abdominal muscles are thinner and cannot hold up our intestine...but if our intestine doesn't hold too much food, the lower intestinal muscles would be able to hold our tummy up...

Drink a glass of water before meals (a little lemon juice seem to fill you better), and eat slow...chew well, eat sensible...and enjoy...less fat, less salt helps...just enjoy!

OBITUARY: Our deepest and heartfelt condolences to: The family of Yoshinori Honda for their loss of YOSHINORI HONDA

Kimi Hayakawa Takahashi and her children and their families for the loss of her husband and their father SHIGERU TAKAHASHI.

- "Friends are lights in winter; the older the friend, the brighter the light" Roger Rosenblatt
- "If you smile when no one else is around, you really mean it" Andy Rooney
- "We're all only fragile threads, but what a tapestry we make" Jerry Ellis

CRYSTAL CITY CHATTER
[redacted]
CAMARILLO CA 93010



TAD & SATOMI ISHIDA
[redacted]
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94116



"GUNG HEY FAT CHOY"

