



Wait U. S. Supreme Court Decision on Appeal Filed Alien Land Law Test Case

WASHINGTON—The United States Supreme Court's decision whether or not to accept the Oyama Alien Land law test case for review may be announced this week.

Should established procedure be followed, the nation's high tribunal is expected to announce its decision on April 7 whether it will accept or reject the writ of certiorari asked jointly in suits filed by the Legal Defense Fund of the Japanese American Citizens League of Southern California and the Civil Rights Defense Union of Northern California.

Noted California Citizens Back Nisei Program

Week Elimination of Race Bans in Naturalization Law

LOS ANGELES—Prominent California citizens are supporting the Anti-Discrimination Committee's legislative program for eliminating race restrictions in the naturalization law as members of a newly-organized committee for equality in naturalization, it was reported here this week.

California members of the committee include:

Wallace B. Alexander, prominent clubwoman and civic leader, San Francisco; Dr. Monroe Deutsch, provost of the University of California, Berkeley; Galen Fisher, former YMCA secretary, Japan, Orinda; Robert W. Kenny, former attorney general of California, Los Angeles; Alfred J. Rosenberg, retired church leader, Los Angeles; Rabbi Irving Reichert, San Francisco; Bishop C. Reifsnider, Pasadena; Will Rogers, Jr., former congressman, Hollywood; Joseph W. St. John, attorney, Los Angeles; Mrs. W. Stilwell, Carmel; Dr. Lyman Wilbur, president emeritus of Stanford University; Mrs. Ward Thayer, prominent civic leader, Pasadena; Walter Wanger, motion picture producer, University City; Bishop C. Baker; Rt. Rev. Thomas O'Dwyer, Los Angeles.

The JACL-ADC office in Los Angeles added this week that R. C. ... owner and co-publisher of Santa Anna Register, Marysville Appeal-Democrat and other papers in Colorado, New Mexico and Ohio had consented to become a member of the Committee for Equality in Naturalization.

Hawaiian Senate Passes Passage of Farrington Bill

HONOLULU—A concurrent resolution supporting Delegate Joseph Farrington's bill in Congress to remove racial bars on naturalization introduced recently in the Territorial Senate by Senators Neal Paisdel and Francis Brown, of Oahu.

Nisei War Veterans May File Claims for Travel Benefits

WASHINGTON—Japanese American veterans who did not receive the full travel allowances which they were entitled to may file claims for the unpaid portion with the General Accounting Office, the Washington Office of the JACL Anti-Discrimination Committee learned this week.

Because of the confusion at the evacuation stations, many Japanese American soldiers who were being transported from the services were denied travel allowances to the point of their induction. In cases where the prospective dischargee was an evacuee and where he was transported near a relocation center, he should have received travel allowances to his pre-evacuation center. The JACL-ADC office discussed after discussions with government officials. This extra travel allowance applies only to those veterans whose present legal status is beyond their original in-

duction point or the place to which they received travel allowances. This means that many evacuees from the west coast and even from the Territory of Hawaii may be entitled to file claims for the unpaid portion of their travel pay.

Claimants may submit their requests for the unpaid portion of their travel allowances to the General Accounting Office, Washington, D. C. They must include information as to their pre-evacuation address, their relocation center address, their induction center address, their separation center address, and their present legal address.

While the Washington ADC Office emphasizes that the filing of claims with the General Accounting Office does not mean the automatic payment of these claims, it is pointed out that several similar claims have been paid by the government and that a precedent for such claims has been established.

Ask Continued Operation Of Winona Evacuee Project

Report Singer Threatened in Canada Debut

VANCOUVER, B. C.—News reports here stated March 31 that Hizi Koyke, star of the American San Carlo opera company, locked herself in her hotel room on the day of her appearance in Vancouver in "Mme. Butterfly" for fear that something might happen to her on local streets.

Miss Koyke said she begged the management to allow her to pass up the Vancouver engagement after she was warned in Seattle that she would be "mugged, hurt, possibly killed" if she appeared in public in Vancouver.

(Persons of Japanese ancestry are still excluded by the Canadian government from returning to the Vancouver area where a majority of Japanese Canadians resided before the war.)

"I will leave here as soon as possible," Miss Koyke told reporters. "If the Canadian government does not want people of Japanese ancestry here, I will not stay."

Expectant Mother Burned to Death in Lindsay Tragedy

FRESNO, Calif. — Mrs. Kiyoko Morita, 29, an expectant mother, was burned to death on March 28 when a gasoline tank exploded and sprayed her with flaming fuel.

The accident occurred at the Lindsay farm of the Moritas while Mrs. Morita and her husband were cleaning their yard.

Mr. Morita attempted to extinguish his wife's blazing clothes and later was hospitalized with severe burns.

The birth of the child had been expected this month.

Recruit Northwest Nisei for Occupation

SEATTLE, Wash. — Lt. Paul Sakai and T/Sgt. Spady Koyama of the Military Intelligence Service Language school at Monterey were scheduled to arrive in Seattle this week to recruit men in the northwest area for MISLS.

Recruiting headquarters for Lt. Sakai and Sgt. Koyama will be in the office of the Washington recruiting district at 4735 E. Marginal Way.

They will remain in Seattle until April 23 to recruit in the Seattle-Tacoma area, and will be in Spokane area from approximately April 24 to April 29.

Lt. Sakai is a former Seattleite and a veteran of the African campaign. Sgt. Koyama is a native of Spokane and veteran of South Pacific campaigns.

They seek both former graduates of MISLS and new recruits.

Consular Officials Caution Nisei in Japan on Elections

TOKYO—American consular officials in Yokohama this week warned approximately 15,000 American-born persons of Japanese ancestry now in Japan they would lose their American citizenship if they participated in the Japanese elections next month.

The consular officials explained that because of a desire to assist in establishing a democratic government in Japan, some of the American-born Japanese had voted in the April, 1946 election, without realizing that they had forfeited their American citizenship by doing so.

The Consular officials, however, urged the Japanese Americans to continue to use their knowledge of American democratic principles to assist occupation forces and the

Petitions Sent by Residents To Federal Housing Agency As Closing Deadline Nears

LOS ANGELES—The future of the Winona Federal housing project, last major remnant of wartime mass evacuation, hung in the balance this week as residents of the trailer camp sent petitions to Dillon S. Myer, national administrator of the Federal Public Housing Authority, asking for Federal action to prevent the closing of the project on June 30.

Petitions were sent by representatives of 970 residents of Japanese ancestry at Winona and by the 29 veterans' families which also are residing in the project.

The residents were informed recently that the project would be closed on June 30 when the government's lease on the property is terminated.

Community action in the Winona situation was considered on April 3 at a meeting of a committee of the Welfare Council of Los Angeles with local FPHA administrator, Stanley Abel, which was attended by Eiji Tanabe and Scotty Tsu-

Circuit Court Upholds DeWitt Exclusion Order

Reverses Lower Court Verdict on Individual Exclusion Program

SAN FRANCISCO—Reversing a lower court decision, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on March 29 upheld Gen. John L. DeWitt's actions in carrying out the individual exclusion of civilian Americans from the West Coast military area during the war.

(The decision upholds the constitutionality of Gen. DeWitt's individual exclusion program, under which a number of persons not of Japanese ancestry, were ordered evacuated and excluded from the West Coast. It does not affect the mass evacuation of persons of Japanese descent on the basis of racial ancestry.—Ed. Note.)

Sitting en banc, the court found that Gen. DeWitt had exercised his individual exclusion program "with commendable caution and diligence."

The decision came in the case of Homer Glen Wilcox, an official of Mankind United, who was ordered out of San Diego to Las Vegas, Nev., by Gen. DeWitt in 1942. Wilcox filed suit through A. L. Wirin of the American Civil Liberties Union and Federal Judge Pierson Hall of Los Angeles awarded him \$100 damages and found that he had been deprived of civilian rights.

The Circuit Court decision reversed Judge Hall and found that Wilcox had been expelled from San Diego after a hearing before a board of officers set up by General DeWitt.

chiya of the Southern California regional office of the JACL. Others at the meeting were: Genevieve Carter, secretary of the Welfare Council; Elsie Newton and Esther Bartlett of the International Institute; George Gleason and Dale Gardner of the Human Relations Committee; Floyd Covington of the NAACP; Zane Meckler, Jewish labor committee of the AFL; A. Blair, AFL Committee Against Intolerance, and others.

Tsuchiya questioned the government's policy of expending \$100,000 on the Winona project when only a one-year lease had been negotiated on the property. He asked that a copy of the lease agreement be shown to members of the committee.

Abel indicated that the Federal agency's hands were tied in dealing with the situation. He said that the FPHA could dispose of the 300 trailers at Winona but that the agency had no funds to use on moving or installing the trailers at new locations.

Members of the Welfare Council committee are expected to meet with the owners of the property, an aircraft corporation, to request an extension of the lease until other housing can be found for the tenants at Winona. It was indicated that the corporation sought possession of its property in Burbank in order to convert it to industrial uses.

It was reported that 172 families of Japanese ancestry, consisting of 970 individuals, including 504 school children, are at Winona. These families are among those who were returned to the Los Angeles area where they had formerly resided, following the closing of the war relocation centers in 1945. In addition there are 35 veterans families, not of Japanese ancestry, on the project.

Tanabe expressed the hope of the JACL that another "evacuation" of these persons, many of whom have been subjected to several displacements since their return to California, could be avoided.

Tsuchiya pointed out that the 500 children who were in school in the Burbank area would be seriously affected by another movement and that it would be difficult for them to find adequate school facilities in any other area if the residents at Winona were moved to some other district. He noted that there had been suggestions that another trailer project be established in either the Long Beach or West Los Angeles area to accommodate the people at Winona.

William Hiroshi Sakurai, director of the tenants council at Winona, expressed the hope of the residents that the project be continued until the housing situation in the Los Angeles area had eased sufficiently so that the tenants could find individual housing.

The JACL officials noted that at the time the project was instituted approximately 100 families of returned evacuees were receiving welfare funds. Now nearly all of the families are self-sustaining, but a new movement may make these families dependent on welfare funds once more, it was explained.

Sakurai said that the establishment of a camp in another area to house the Winona residents would result in losses of jobs by many of the camp's people who have found employment in the Burbank-Glendale district.

House Group Approves Bills For GI Wives

Spouses Now Refused U. S. Entry Because Of Japanese Ancestry

WASHINGTON—Two private bills to permit the "Japanese" wives of American servicemen to enter the United States for permanent residence under the Soldier Brides Act were unanimously approved by the Standing Subcommittee on Immigration and Naturalization of the House Judiciary Committee, the Washington Office of the JACL Anti-Discrimination Committee announced last week.

These two bills will be sent to the full Judiciary Committee for their approval. If the House committee reports them out favorably, as they are expected to do, the bills will be placed on the calendar for debate and action. Should the House pass these bills, they would be sent up to the Senate for their attention and action.

The two bills are H. R. 1935 and H. R. 2347, introduced by Congressman Francis E. Walter (D) and Louis E. Graham (R), both of Pennsylvania and both members of the House Judiciary Committee. In addition, Mr. Graham is a member of the Subcommittee on Immigration and Naturalization.

Congressman Walter's bill would permit Mrs. Seiko Jane Kimura, wife of Second Lieutenant Makoto M. Kimura, entry into the United States. Mrs. Kimura is a Canadian citizen of Japanese ancestry.

Congressman Graham's bill would provide for the entrance into this country of Mrs. Akiko Tsukado Miller, wife of Lieutenant (Junior Grade) John J. Miller. Mrs. Miller was born in Japan.

Both Kimura and Miller are still on active duty with the occupation forces. At the present time, both their wives are also with them overseas, Mrs. Kimura having joined her husband in Tokyo after their marriage in Montreal last summer.

"These two bills establish a favorable precedent for the other private bills on this same subject that are now pending before the House Subcommittee," Mike Masaoaka, national legislative director, who attended the hearings, declared. He also stated that he would press for early action on the private bills to permit the entrance of Mrs. Molly Enta Kitajima and Mrs. Edith Kawagoe, both Canadian citizen wives of Japanese ancestry of American veterans of Japanese ancestry.

Red Cross Official Praises Issei-Nisei Aid in Drive

OAKLAND, Calif.—A joint Issei-Nisei committee of the Oakland JACL chapter was commended for its participation in the Red Cross drive here recently by Harry West, head of the interracial division, for completing its quota within the record time of two weeks.

The committee was headed by Dr. Russell Wehara.

The chapter's membership drive was slowed down by the JACL's Red Cross campaign activities, but a total of 105 members have been signed to date, according to Toshi Minamoto, chairman. With four sections still unreported, it was expected that the 200 mark would be reached by the end of the campaign.

Nisei Officer Weds In Tokyo Ceremony

TOKYO—First Lieut. Kan Tagami of the U. S. Army and Sadae Suehiro were married here recently in a ceremony at St. Luke's chapel in Tokyo. Both are natives of Honolulu.

Minidoka Barracks Sold to Farmers

TWIN FALLS, Idaho—One hundred barracks, which once housed Japanese American evacuees at the Minidoka relocation center, were sold last week to bidders at a government sale at Hunt, it was reported here.

In addition, one mess hall, seven bath houses and three warehouses at the Minidoka camp, wartime home of 8,000 evacuees from the Pacific Northwest, also were sold.



They Were So Young

THE STORY OF THE 100TH BATTALION

By—Jon J. Chinen

(Continued from last week)

Sgt. William Yamada, our second in command, was the other original member of this squad. Bill was 28 years old. He stood only 5 ft. 2 inches; but he was stocky—with powerful rippling muscles. His long wild black hair and thick bushy eyebrows gave him a ferocious appearance; but he was gentle as a doe, with a warm, soft heart. He had been working as a labor foreman for a pineapple company on Maui, when he was drafted into the Army in 1942. Along with Robert, Bill had seen action since Salerno. And for outstanding courage at Rapido River, he was awarded the Bronze Star medal.

There was no roof on our "home." We learned that several days earlier the Germans had made two direct hits with their 170-mm shells and the falling stone and tile roof had buried alive four Americans of the 168th Regiment, who had been sleeping on the second floor. The debris had been cleared away, but the foul, nauseating odor—of a dead man—was still lingering in the room. The outer wall of the room adjacent to ours had a shell hole almost five feet in diameter. That room was bare, except for one picture on the wall—"Jesus Christ on the Cross!"

The fleeing Germans, and the Italians before them, had carried everything away. There wasn't any furniture in our home. For tables we used five-gallon cans; for chairs we sat on the floor—crosslegged. And, for beds, we gathered straw and grass from the fields around us. We hung our equipment on any handy projection; but we kept our rifles near at hand—for emergencies.

There was no plumbing in these Italian homes—no running water. The thing that puzzled us most was the lack of a bathroom. We hunted high and low, through every room, but were not able to find any toilet.

From the look-out post on the second floor of our building we were able to see the terrain around us. It gave us a queer feeling to see the flat, low ground we held. We knew, gazing at the near-by mountains, that the Germans were watching us. Everything seemed peaceful and quiet; but everywhere there were signs of a terrific struggle. Every house and barn had at least a corner knocked off; the majority were without roofs. Every fifty feet we could see a bomb or shell crater. Sometimes these craters were bunched close together, just like the freckles on a boy's face. Here and there, we could see dead cattle, oxen and horses—all killed by shells. Some, recently killed, were bloated twice their natural size; of others, only the skeletons were left behind. The stench was sickening, nauseating. Occasionally we were able to see a burned tank or half-track; close by in the grass would be the head or arm of a dead German.

Our movement was kept to a minimum; but we were able to see one or two of our men working on their tanks, carefully camouflaged and hidden in the shade. No matter how hard we tried, we were not able to see the Germans in their sector. But we knew that they could see us. Once we watched a person sneak out of his building to fix a telephone wire; a few minutes later, the Germans threw a score of rounds into that building. Fortunately, there was only one hit; no one was injured.

But the Germans were not always inaccurate. One early evening, when I was leisurely scanning the area, the Germans began to shell an abandoned building standing at a road-junction, 500 yards to our rear. The Germans' first shell was far over its target; the second was a little closer. The third was a direct hit through one of the open windows.

With their guns zeroed in, the Germans threw a concentrated barrage. They must have thought that the building was occupied—for they kept firing their artillery till the building was smashed to the ground. That evening I worked twice as hard to reinforce our home with sandbags.

CHAPTER THREE

Being awake during most of the night, we usually slept from dawn till twelve noon. Then, we had our "brunch"—a combination of breakfast and lunch, which chiefly consisted of buttered toast and hot coffee. The toast was simple, but very delicious. All we did was to butter both sides of a slice of bread, stick a fork into one end and hold it over our little Coleman stove. This toast was my specialty and it was good.

This Coleman stove was one of the most useful pieces of equipment that was issued by the Army. It is about 8 inches high, 3 inches in diameter, with folding legs which open to support a can or canteen cup. In Anzio nearly every squad had one of these stoves. We used it chiefly to heat our rations, make coffee and boil water for shaving—that is, when water was available.

From "brunch" till supper, we wrote letters, played checkers and cards, and discussed everything under the sun—from the enemy to our families back home. To make our card games interesting, we played for our weekly rations. At times we played for huge stakes and gambled one nation against another. We were not cheapskates!

We wrote letters whenever we could. For, more than anything else from home, we desired letters—letters that told us of the things we knew—of our beloved ones, of our friends, of the corner drug-store, the school, the playground. Letters, no matter how short, brought warmth to our hearts; we knew that someone back home still remembered and cared! To us "no news" did not mean good news; it only meant that no one remembered—that no one cared any more.

Every evening, when the mail was brought up from the rear with our ration supply, we eagerly waited for our names to be called. When a fellow received a letter, he was happy—his face

was one big smile. Now, he could tackle the whole world—let the Germans attack; he had his loved ones back of him! When a person did not receive any letter, he walked away from his buddies. He did not say anything; but, the eyes cast on the ground and the slow steps showed the pain in his heart.

When a person received a box of cake or cookies from home, he shared it with everyone—even if it meant that each person would receive only a mouthful. Snapshots were passed through everybody's hands over and over. We believed in "one for all for one."

The commanding officers knew of the preciousness of letters from home and they made every effort to forward them to the front. To us, letters were as valuable as food and water.

"Girls" was our favorite subject. No matter what we discussed—morning, noon, or night—it always ended up in "girls." Everyone had a special girl back home; but, now, tall short, thin, it made no difference. We only wanted to hear a soft, feminine voice.

I remember one of our short "bull sessions." We were all sitting and taking things easy just before a patrol, when Stan said, "Gee, how I wish I had a blonde with me now. Someone like Betty Grable."

"Yeh, a kingdom for a girl. But I want mine like Rita Hayworth," came in Edward. "Boy, oh boy!"

"Right now it makes no difference to me," added Mamoru. "After a pause, he continued, 'Why weren't you born a beautiful dame, Richard?'"

"Oh no! Not with that damn gleam in your eyes!" Everyone laughed.

"You know," said Mac Shinoda, from our weapons platoon with us now to give us machine-gun support. "Our American girls are the prettiest in the world—well developed with beautiful legs. And, so clean."

"Don't hit the foreign girls too hard," argued Edward. "I don't have the things our girls have. Notice the rags on the Arabs? Yet, among them, I saw some sweet dames. Same as the Italian girls."

"The Italian girls are no good," protested Toshio. "They're too fat after marriage!"

"Yeah. But see how hard they work?" Edward defended his choice. "Our girls are too conceited."

"Right," agreed Ray Nawili, also from the weapons platoon. "Remember that college dame in Washington, D. C. who broke Roland's date because he was only a high school graduate? If only I knew that Roland had won the Silver Star—posthumously."

"That's the trouble with some women," I added. "Education goes to their heads. If mine is pretty, with a sweet personality, and is able to cook I'll be satisfied!"

"Same here," joined in Bill. "Once I looked for glamour. Now, I only want a faithful companion."

"The women in the States are lucky," said Ray. "Out here they are glorified slaves."

"When I marry, I won't let mine work," boasted Robert. "She shall let her live like a queen."

"You better—" Richard was about to say something, but Bill yelled out, "Hey, it's time for patrol. Com'un. Let's get some of the beautiful Jerry dames and bring them home!"

"O. K. O. K." Everyone jumped to his feet and prepared to go hunting for the blonde Germans—the husky men to be killed, the luscious women to be captured alive!

Our supper was cooked from the "Ten-in-one" ration—supposed to contain enough rations for ten for one day. In the menu, we had canned goods of butter, cheese, pork sausage, corn, beef, carrots, peas, means—and dried fruits of peaches, apples and prune. Bread was provided every other day by the GI bakery on the beachhead. We supplemented these with anything we could find at night—steaks, rabbits, chickens and vegetables. The steaks came from cattle and oxen that accidentally stepped on peculiar mines that sent bullets between their eyes. Sometimes the steaks might have come from horses, I am not sure. The vegetables were anything green that did not look poisonous. We frequently ate flower bulbs—and they were good.

Edward Ogawa, who managed a huge restaurant in Lava Springs, Idaho, before his induction, was our butcher and cook. It was fun to watch him carve the meat; he did so gracefully. His specialty was broiled steak smothered with flower bulb bouillon soup powder. The best New York restaurant could offer a better steak.

But we surely missed our rice. "Oh how I miss my meals!" was a frequent cry among the boys. Those of other nationalities knew of our desire for rice and, whenever they had any in their ration, brought their share to us. In exchange, we gave them our bread or other canned goods.

As soon as dusk set in we started to work. Our duties were sometimes, all night long, half of the squad stood by in a machine-gun nest, while the others filled burlap bags with dirt to reinforce our shattered building. For our own protection, we were building a "home within a home." We knew that sooner or later the Germans would select our building as their target. And we wanted to be ready.

Then there were times when we went out on patrols—reconnaissance or combat. On motor patrols there were four or five men in a jeep who guarded our sector against enemy part-troopers and raiders. It was tough driving in the dark with

(Continued on Page 7)

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LARRY TAJIRI EDITOR

EDITORIALS:

Individual Exclusions

The Ninth District Circuit Court, sitting en banc in San Francisco, last week upheld the legality of Lieut. Gen. DeWitt's wartime program of the individual exclusion of American citizens whose presence in the West Coast area was considered inimical to the military defense of the area. Unfortunately, several West Coast newspapers have mistakenly interpreted the Circuit Court decision to be a validation of Gen. DeWitt's mass evacuation policy. The legality of mass evacuation was tested in a wartime suit in the Korematsu case, in which the United States Supreme Court upheld the military in a split decision, Justices Murphy, Roberts and Jackson dissenting.

Gen. DeWitt's individual exclusion program, which concerned West Coast residents not of Japanese ancestry, differed from mass evacuation in that specific charges were preferred and individual hearings held. Mass evacuation, on the other hand, was carried out on the basis of racial ancestry alone and no individual hearings or trials were permitted, nor could any of the mass evacuees appeal the military edict which ordered their evacuation and exclusion from the Pacific coast.

The Wilcox case on individual exclusions affects the issue of the evacuation of persons of Japanese ancestry on a mass basis only insofar as it provided a review of Gen. DeWitt's conduct and integrity while commanding the Western Defense area. It does not, however, affect the mass evacuation issue which already has been determined in the Korematsu case and which, according to Eugene V. Rostow and other constitutional authorities, should be presented to the Supreme Court again in time of peace. It is the conviction of these constitutional authorities that Justice Frank Murphy's dissenting opinion will one day be the majority opinion of the court.

Housing Restrictions

Real estate operators in a suburb of Oakland, Calif., are once again attempting to oust an American family of Japanese ancestry from a home purchased recently on grounds that occupancy of houses in the district are limited by a restrictive covenant to persons of Caucasian ancestry.

The case is one of many which have arisen in California in recent months, involving Americans of Japanese, Chinese, Negro, Indian and other non-Caucasian ancestry whose right to live in homes of their choice is denied by the existence of the racially restrictive covenants.

In the Oakland case the situation involves the family of William Utsumi who returned to California last year after residing in the eastern United States during the war. The suit, originally threatened by a neighborhood property owners group, the Alcatraz Improvement association, was withdrawn under the pressure of a mobilized public opinion. The Berkeley Interracial Committee, the Oakland Council for Civic Unity and similar groups acted swiftly to discourage the filing of the suit.

The suit recently was revived, however, and has been formally filed by two neighbors of the Utsumis, Russell L. Vonberg and his wife, Juanita. As in other restrictive covenant cases, the issue does not concern the desirability of the Utsumis as good neighbors or good citizens. It revolves solely on the fact that the Utsumis are not of the white race and therefore, in the eyes of the white supremacists, are not eligible for residence in the district.

In an age in which there is brave talk of

One World, restrictive residential covenants are an anachronism which cannot be tolerated.

Fighting Minister

The Rev. W. Sherman Burgoyne, the fighting minister of Hood River, was not working for personal recognition when, in the mid-war years, he fought for the evacuees.

But that beautiful Oregon valley, rich in beauty and in produce, became the pivotal point in the battle over the return of Japanese Americans to the West Coast. When the Hood River American Legion erased the names of 16 Japanese Americans from its war honor roll of servicemen, the whole country reacted in anger. From foreign battlefields, American servicemen recorded their "disgust" with the insult accorded Japanese American servicemen. The incident focussed the attention of the nation upon this small Oregon valley.

But the incident was only one of the many ramifications of the anti-evacuee feeling in Hood River. In the valley's economic life, in its social relationships—everywhere the hate crept in. In other Oregon cities, in California and in Washington one could be "neutral," but there was no middle ground in Hood River. One was either "for" or "against" the evacuees. Life-long friendships were broken over the question. Family relationships, in some instances, were strained.

The Rev. Burgoyne was the rallying point for the forces of democracy in Hood River. Against the opposition of the American Legion and organized anti-evacuee activity, he rallied the men and the women of the valley who believed still in the principles of justice and fair play.

In Hood River, where it was dangerous to defend the evacuees, the Rev. Burgoyne held to his belief that Americans can organize for democracy and win in the face of strong opposition.

Within a few days, this man, who did not carry on his fight for personal gain, will receive one of the Thomas Jefferson awards for the advancement of democracy.

He has been selected for this honor along with the former governor of Georgia, Ellis Arnall; Dr. Homer Rainey, former president of the University of Texas; Dr. Harlow Shapley, Harvard scientist; Margaret Halsey, author; and Frank Sinatra.

All of these persons, along with the minister of the small Hood River Methodist church, were named for the honor by 1000 organizations and 500 newspaper editors as the persons who had done the most in 1946 for the protection of racial and religious tolerance in their respective fields.

The Rev. Burgoyne today is a symbol of the many hundreds of men and women, some of them famous, others unknown, who fought for the welfare of the evacuees during the years of war.

Everywhere throughout the nation from the year 1941 to this date were men and women of the same strong conviction, of the same courage. When the Rev. Burgoyne receives his award in New York City this month, they will share that award with him.

And when, in a few days, the fighting minister from Hood River is awarded the Thomas Jefferson award, we believe his statement will be the same one he has made to countless persons in the past few years who have commended him upon his work:

To all of these people, the Rev. Burgoyne has said:

"The battle for American democracy happened to be here this year. We fought it and won. Next year it may be in your part of America and I'm counting on you to stand true."

The Right to Vote

The recent report of a provincial legislative committee in British Columbia which favored the extension of the right to franchise to Canadians of East Indian and Chinese ancestry, now barred from the exercise of the ballot, but which also recommended the continued denial of the vote to Japanese Canadians places these western Canadian politicians in the predicament of attempting to defend a position which is untenable from any concept of democracy and fair play.

If the recommendations are carried out, Canadians of Japanese ancestry in British Columbia will be the only group of citizens who will be denied the right to vote. The racist manifestation behind the denial of this fundamental right of citizenship to persons because of their Japanese ancestry will then be exposed in all its ugly reality.

Nisei USA

Notes From Prewar Columns

Rummaging around for an idea for the column this week, we came across some copies of columns we had written for West Coast papers from New York in the years and the months before the outbreak of war in 1941.

Some of the columns recall the shape of the world for the Nisei in their snug Little Tokyos in that pre-Pearl Harbor world. It was a world of everyday living, of a normalcy which we may not again know in our time. Yet the shadows of a war in Europe already had lengthened across the American land and there was a hint of a fear of what was inevitable and a touch of apprehension in the air. For the Nisei, however, a mass evacuation was undreamed of, although some restrictions were expected in the face of heightening tension in the Pacific.

Here is a paragraph from a column in 1941: "The loyalty of Hawaii's territory-born Japanese is unquestioned by political, civil and military officials. Congressional investigators have given the Hawaiian Nisei a clean bill of health, have lauded their citizenship. But with tension growing in the Pacific, people in the know report that the Army and Navy in Hawaii are taking no chances. U. S. military officials have compiled a long list of people of Japanese ancestry. These people will be promptly seized and tossed into concentration camps should any trouble break out in the Pacific. Although most of the names on the list are those of first generation Japanese, there are said to be many Nisei also on the roll..."

Shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor hundreds of persons of Japanese ancestry were taken into custody in Hawaii and interned. The group included a number of Japanese Americans. The post-war story, as Admiral Nimitz told a Congressional committee investigating Hawaiian statehood recently, is that there was no sabotage or other acts inimical to the United States committed by persons of Japanese ancestry in Hawaii or on the mainland. No charges were filed against those interned after Pearl Harbor. Some later were sent to mainland relocation camps and later released.

Some of the 1941 columns noted such items as these: The first three Nisei from New York City, Eiichi Kuwayama, Richard Kajikawa and Paul Sakai, went to Fort Dix for training as selectees. Sakai, who later served in the war in the Pacific as a member of military intelligence, was to become the only Nisei infantryman to take part in the North African invasion. Four hundred of the 700 men in training at Schofield Barracks in 1941 were of Japanese ancestry. Many of these men later became part of the now-famous 100th Infantry Battalion.

In 1941 Yasuo Kuniyoshi was exhibiting at the Whitney Museum and Sono Osato, featured for the first time in Col. de Basil's Ballet Russe, had scored a personal triumph with solo numbers in "Prodigal Son" and "Eternal Struggle" and was appearing with a company which included Baranova, Riabouchinska and Toumanova. Kikuko Miyakawa, who had come to New York from Los Angeles, had written a book of verse called "Starpoint." Toshio Mori's short stories were appearing in New Directions and other magazines. Nisei actors in New York were playing the roles of Japanese militarists in a March of Time feature called "Spoils of Conquest."

In the summer of 1941 Hizi Koyke, who returned to transcontinental tours with the San Carlo company in "Mme. Butterfly" this year, was appearing as the heroine in Maxwell Anderson's "Wingless Victory" in summer stock in New England, playing the role originally created by Katherine Cornell. Miki Morita, the actor, was teaching jiu-jitsu to the cast of Hal Roach's "Turnabout" in Hollywood and Tetsu Komai had a feature role in Bette Davis' "The Letter."

And a column in 1940 notes that Yoshio Nakamura, a hard-hitting lightweight from Hawaii, had been fighting main events in the eastern United States. Nakamura went back to Hawaii shortly before the outbreak of war. He enlisted and went to Italy with the 100th Infantry Battalion and became one of the greatest heroes of the One-Puka-Puka. He was killed in action at Cassino.

And more from pre-war columns:

Noboru Kamiya, young scientist at the University of Pennsylvania was being hailed for his experiments in measuring the protoplasm. Gyo Fujikawa was to do specialized work in field, commercial art, for the Department during the war at Walt Disney studios on a special contract. Makoto Haru, Greenwich Village sidewalk artist, was at his old stand on MacDougal street. Among his portraits were sorted personalities as Mrs. Roosevelt, Arturo Toscanini and Nova.

Here is a note from the 1940: "More than 100 New York area Nisei met last week to discuss the position of Japanese Americans in the event of tension in the Pacific. The meeting ended with an affirmation of loyalty to the U. S. and of the selective service law and other national defense measures."

Another 1940 column: "Recently concluded National convention in Portland demonstrated that Nisei leaders have awareness of the problems of Japanese American in relation to defense and other national questions but the organization's hand is tied on two of the crying needs of U. S. Nisei... jobs and housing. But the convention has the Nisei on record in defending the American democratic ideal."

In 1940 Life magazine spread on Americans of Japanese ancestry. A report from the quoting Relman Morin of the noted that many Nisei visiting Japan were obtaining reservations to sail for home as international relations grew more tense. Tsukamoto, then national president of the JACL, Dr. Harry Kimura and several other Nisei took part in the national skeet shooting championships in Syracuse, N. Y. Tsukamoto is now in Japan as an Army major while Dr. Kita is in Salinas after wartime detention in Chicago. Yoichi Hara, staff artist with NBC in New York had just recorded an album of songs for Decca.

A copy of a column written in August, 1940 and published in the Japanese American News of San Francisco gives us pause. We forgotten that we had ever written it and had not realized, at the time of writing, the portent of the subject matter. Here are three paragraphs from that column:

"Like something out of a science fiction story, the discovery of uranium or U-237. It is believed to have properties similar to the U-235, the splitting of whose nucleus is said to release energy far in excess of any other power known to man. One pound of U-237 is said to be the equivalent of a power source of 5,000,000 pounds of coal or 3,000,000 pounds of dynamite. The military significance of the fuel is that battleships, submarines and planes could be run on any appreciable weight of U-237."

"At present the United States, Japan and Germany are engaged in a three-way race to produce sufficient quantities of U-237. Details of the race are being kept quiet as the most important of military secrets by the respective governments, according to reports. News of this specific competition on three continents was revealed last weekend (April 5, 1940) by physicists attending the bicentennial conference of the University of Pennsylvania..."

U-237 later became top secret and its story was not revealed again, although it had been published in newspapers and magazines, until after Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

An atom was split and the world was changed. The comfortable normalcy of 1940 probably will not turn again.

Easter Service

FLORIN, Calif.—An Easter service has been scheduled for the Florin Youth Fellowship at the Sacramento youth group

