

Lyman: The Nisei Personality—



By Bill Hosokawa

From the Frying Pan

Denver, Colo.

NEW YEAR'S—Can't ever recall eating more abundantly, doing less, and enjoying more televised football than I did New Year's Day. Matter of fact, it was about the fattest, laziest holiday season in memory, and I enjoyed every bit of it but not without a small sense of guilt.

Guilt about what? Well, for one thing, that I had it so soft and pleasant and easy while so many good Joes are having to fight my war for me in Vietnam. Not that I would be capable of taking my place alongside these fighting men. Too many winters have passed for that, and it's part of the lottery of life that some must march into combat while others keep the home fires burning.

Still, there is such an enormous gulf between the affluent American standard of living and what we require of the men who defend that standard for us, that one is led to wonder about the injustice of it all.

RETURN TO YESTERDAY—The farther the Nisei get from their Japanese origins, the more enthusiastically they seem to observe ancestral traditions, like the New Year feast. Even though the Issei population in this area has dwindled tragically this past year, the two main suppliers of Japanese provisions hereabouts, Granada Fish and Pacific Mercantile, did a landoffice business at year's end supplying Nisei tables with exotic foodstuffs.

Nisei housewives who in their youth were just too busy to bother learning how to prepare New Year goodies have, somehow, found both the time and skill to set handsome tables. The significance of ancient observances may have been lost over the years, but the food tastes as great as ever.

CONVERSATIONS—Between Christmas and New Year's Day, the Simpson Methodist Church here hosted a young people's conference attended by delegations from Seattle, Portland, Spokane and Ontario, Ore., as well as by local Sansei and Nisei. On New Year's Eve, just after the young Christians had gone home, the Mile High JACL chapter held its annual installation dinner-dance at which the oldtime standbys were outnumbered by younger men and women.

While both functions could be considered great successes, and were marked by lively activity, some interesting questions also were being asked. It may or may not have been a coincidence that strong supporters of both events asked the same question: "Are functions such as these necessary?"

In an earlier time I probably would have answered flatly in the negative. But on these occasions I had to qualify my reply: "If they're serving a useful purpose, they ought to be encouraged."

On the surface, they do seem to be serving a useful purpose, and not the least of these is a stirring of minds so that the participants are questioning the value of their activities. What could be healthier than that?

INTEGRATION—Several weeks ago we reported that Mr. and Mrs. Shizuo Yamada and their daughter, Florence Li (which is the spelling she prefers) had taken over management of the dining room of Leyden-Chiles-Wickersham American Legion Post No. 1, the largest Legion Post in the country. The day after Christmas the Yamadas and Mrs. Li were hosts at a dinner for nearly 400 guests, mostly Issei, to introduce their operation.

For those who remember the Legion's bitterly anti-Issei stand after Pearl Harbor, it may be hard to believe the banquet hall echoed with the strains of Japanese folk songs and Banzai cheers for the Yamadas as the evening became more convivial.

Annual Meeting Jan. 29

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Dr. Roy M. Nishikawa, Chairman: JACL Office Advisory Committee: 234 S. Oxford Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90004

(Continued from Front Page) things to make his life satisfactory in a spiritual sense rather than purely monetary and economic. Probably would be a musician in some large municipal symphony orchestra or through his love of music be a teacher in some university. He never would be very rich but probably won't regret, and through his music he will live a full rich life, that's about all."

Another Example

I think you can sense the powerful degree of difference between the Issei and the Nisei, but let me show you another example just to make the point very well. They showed a girl a man working in a farm field and an older woman about his age looking at him and in the forefront of the picture was a young girl with books under her arm. They said write a story.

An Issei response went this way: "This child is going to school. It is morning and her parents are farmers. They work and she is off to school. Her mother wants her to do well in school. In the end this girl goes to school to improve herself and she wants to grow up to repay her obligations to her parents."

Role of Pressure

As you can see, the orientation of the Issei vis a vis the Nisei is quite different than the view the Issei had of themselves or even toward their own children. The Issei orientation shows up all the time as "I will do this," "I want to do this," "I will study hard," "I will get ahead," or the projecting of the I to a he. Nisei also believe that the person will get ahead, but not without tremendous pain and not without tremendous guilt feelings involved with his connections with his parents and his obligations to them. Moreover, the Nisei shows up over and over again as acting successfully in response to pressures outside of him rather than acting successfully because he himself wants to. This is one of the most intriguing differences that was discovered over and over again between Issei and Nisei.

The Rorschach Test showed something else and this was quite fascinating. The Nisei workers were regarded by their fellow Hakujuin workers as very able guys. The bosses regarded them that way too. They worked hard, they worked overtime, they were friendly on the job, generous, they never complained, they lived good home lives; they were a model image of happy, contented, hard working guys. This was the view of their bosses; this was the view of their fellow workers—paragons of working man's virtue on the middle class level. And the Nisei gave off that image to those who talked to them. It was only with the Rorschach Test they began to discover something different. The Rorschach Test reveals what is hidden, even to the person himself. For the Nisei who appeared to be very content, happy, and getting-along-in-an-easy-going-fashion turned out to be nervous, upset, to have violent guilt feelings, and violent anger. For instance, the Rorschach ink blot was interpreted by one Nisei as a cauldron of fire, or a monstrous holocaust which indicated to the researchers that below the level of consciousness there was a seething cauldron of

psychological difficulties, that this Nisei lived by "keeping the lid on" all the time. Well, that's as far as the researchers got, and they wrote up a very interesting essay about this.

Personal Observations

Now my own observations have gone a little further than this, though I cannot claim the kind of scientific veracity and the kind of testing that these other scientists had done. What has struck me about Nisei is that they appear content, happy, blase, and sophisticated. In fact, the Nisei appear as the urban American man, par excellence. Moreover, Nisei are very conscious about their urbanity. San Francisco Nisei, for instance, distinguish between themselves and those "unsophisticated" Nisei who come from country towns. Moreover, this distinction finds its expression in social organization. During my undergraduate years at the Univ. of California a dormitory for Japanese was very well known in the circles in which I traveled for housing only rural Nisei. Urban Nisei not only never lived in this dormitory, but also had nothing to do with those who did live there. The relations between these two were based in part on different judgments of sophistication. The rural Nisei regarded the urban Nisei not so much as sophisticated but rather as wild and dangerous; the urban Nisei regarded the rural Nisei as unsophisticated, full country "hicks."

This sophistication was one of the things which at first impressed me. The model for this kind of sophistication was actually described 90 years ago by a German sociologist by the name of Simmel. What he pointed out was that sophistication involves a destruction of one's nerve endings, the inability to be astonished. One of the characteristics of urban Nisei, in my observation, is this inability to be astonished. Especially is this true in interpersonal relations. Nisei expect one another and themselves to act so that nothing appears too surprising or startling. The tone of voice, which for most Hakujuin is an indication of relative significance of insignificance, is not

Documentary on Hawaii Issei pioneers previewed

HONOLULU — A two-hour documentary, in color and sound, "Life in Hawaii," was previewed here last week at McKinley Auditorium.

The film depicts the hardships of the Okinawan pioneers who began to arrive in Hawaii 65 years ago for work on the sugar plantations. It shows immigrants cutting and hauling cane to the whistle of the whips of the overseers. It was filmed at a cost of \$15,000 and took seven months to complete.

It is intended for showing in Japan.

such an indicator among the Nisei. Moreover, should Nisei depart from this mode of conversation, mechanisms of social control are introduced to bring them back into line. One is not acting properly if one, in the language of my contemporary Nisei adolescent friends gets "carried away"—becomes intense and visibly interested. My Nisei friends constantly corrected me for being "carried away." The appropriate behavior in conversation, one of my Nisei friends used to say to me, is to be democratic, to allow everyone to say whatever he wants, and, most important, not to indicate whether one is really interested or not interested in the subject under discussion. This is an important example of that blazeness, which is a very central feature, I think, of Nisei character.

'Samurai' Characteristic

What bothered me, what I tried to explain to myself, was how such a characteristic could develop, how can one in fact develop this kind of character? It is my thesis that this character-type, even though not recognized by Nisei themselves, is a kind of trans-Pacific distortion of the character of the Samurai warrior. The central character trait of the Samurai warrior is, in fact, self control. I am sure that everyone in this audience saw that very great movie in which Toshiro Mifune starred, a three part film, called "Samurai." One of the things that movie explains, what Toshiro Mifune has to learn in order to become a Samurai, is that it is not enough to be skillful with the sword. That is only a necessary but not a sufficient characteristic of a Samurai. What he has to learn is character control, character management, and character management means the resistance of his own impulses. All through the film he makes the mistake of getting angry, pulling out his sword and wanting to fight, only to have the Buddhist Priest reprove him even when he wins. Similarly in the great Japanese film "The Seven Samurai" the cardinal distinction between the five who are Samurai and the two who are not, the young boy who is a novice and the rural peasant—played by Toshiro Mifune again—trying to become a Samurai, is that they haven't developed complete character management. The quintessence of Samurai character is presented in the fellow who almost does not speak at all, the man who hardly opens his mouth, who sits by a tree and pretends to be asleep, but who, when action is necessary, without a word pulls out his sword, fights valiantly, and then retires.

Hurt Subdued

What is perhaps unique is the type of character which is developed by persons who are under this authoritative system. For the type of character, the character which is being internalized is a character which in fact refuses, or tries to refuse, to show hurt in any visible way. Let me give you some extreme examples: the most extreme—and I don't think this happens often but this was related to me by an Okinawan-descended Nisei—is this: He tells me that when he was a little boy his father used to give him haircuts and purposely slice his ear with the scissors. He would scream and his father would hit him across the face as hard as possible and say, "you don't scream; Japanese boys don't scream." And so he learned not to scream. The other instances are by no means so severe, in fact, the use of physical violence is not widely known: It is oral mechanisms that usually operate. The child learns very quickly that if he stands relatively unashamed, unshamed and unharmed even at the very moment he is being harassed, he is regarded as a proper son. If he doesn't, he is often teased into it. Mothers will say, "You are acting like a little girl." And she will tease him into not acting like a little girl.

Character Control

Complete character control. How can this kind of character control in fact be created? My argument is that for Nisei, at any rate, this character control arises in part accidentally as an unanticipated consequence of two features

Japan Air Lines planning opening of two routes to New York, Moscow

SAN FRANCISCO—Inauguration of two major air routes—one around the world via San Francisco and New York and the other the first service between Tokyo and Moscow over Siberia—will give Japan Air Lines claim to the title of world's fastest growing airline in 1966.

Rights for the round-the-world service were included in a new aviation agreement signed by Japan and the United States Dec. 28.

JAL President Shizuma Matsuo said immediately after the signing that although the date of inauguration is undecided at the moment, flights could begin in the latter half of 1966 if details can be planned quickly enough. JAL already operates extensively in Europe and has the necessary trans-Atlantic rights from Great Britain.

Agreement with the USSR for a joint operation by JAL and the Russian line Aeroflot is predicted shortly. The trans-Siberian route is the shortest air route between Europe and Asia. Three to five hours could be cut from the present flying time of about 17 hours.

Silk Road Flights

JAL has already announced the addition of Teheran and Amsterdam to its routes in the coming year. Amsterdam will be served on two of JAL's five weekly polar flights between Japan and Europe beginning in April. Teheran will be a part of call on two of the three weekly "Silk Road" flights which link Japan and Europe via India.

Increased flights over existing routes will give added convenience to the rapidly growing number of Americans visiting Japan. Thirteen flights a week from San Francisco and daily service from Los Angeles are listed on the spring schedule. On the return leg, five of the Los Angeles-

JACLer to assist education workshop

LOS ANGELES—Mrs. Toshiko Yoshida of Southwest L.A. JACL will serve as a resource personnel during the all-day workshop on education and anti-poverty program sponsored by the American Assn. of University Women, L.A. branch, at the University Women's Club this Saturday. She is expected to answer questions about the Japanese Americans.

Aloha From Hawaii: Richard Gima

HONOLULU — Sadaharu Oh, slugger of the Tokyo Yomiuri Giants, arrived Dec. 16 for a week's vacation. Keith Takahashi, Berkeley Sansei, is a general assignment reporter on the Honolulu Advertiser. The Rev. Theodore K. Chinen, chaplain at Oahu Prison, is the newly-elected president of the Naturalization Encour-

bound flights will originate in Hong Kong. Still more flights will be added to JAL's Asian routes. Tokyo-Hong Kong service will be increased April 1 to 20 flights per week, including two over a new Tokyo-Nagoya-Fukuoka-Taipai-Hong Kong route.

The projected growth is based on JAL's remarkable record in 1965. On international routes the airline carried 418,213 passengers, 38 per cent more than in 1964. JAL carried a total of 168,140,000 ton-miles of passengers, cargo and mail, an increase of 34 per cent.

To make schedule increases possible, at least two DC-8 jets will be added to the company's present fleet of thirteen Douglas and seven Convair jets in international service.

Within Japan, JAL will become an all-jet airline on April 1, when it is scheduled to have its six Boeing 727 jets in service.

Nat'l JACL credit union meeting set

SALT LAKE CITY—The National JACL Credit Union nominating committee announced for election to the Board of Directors the following incumbents:

Ichiro Doi, Kay K. Terashima, and George Yoshimoto (Salt Lake JACL); George Y. Fujii (Mt. Olympus JACL).

Rupert Hachiya (Salt Lake) was re-nominated to the Credit Committee ticket.

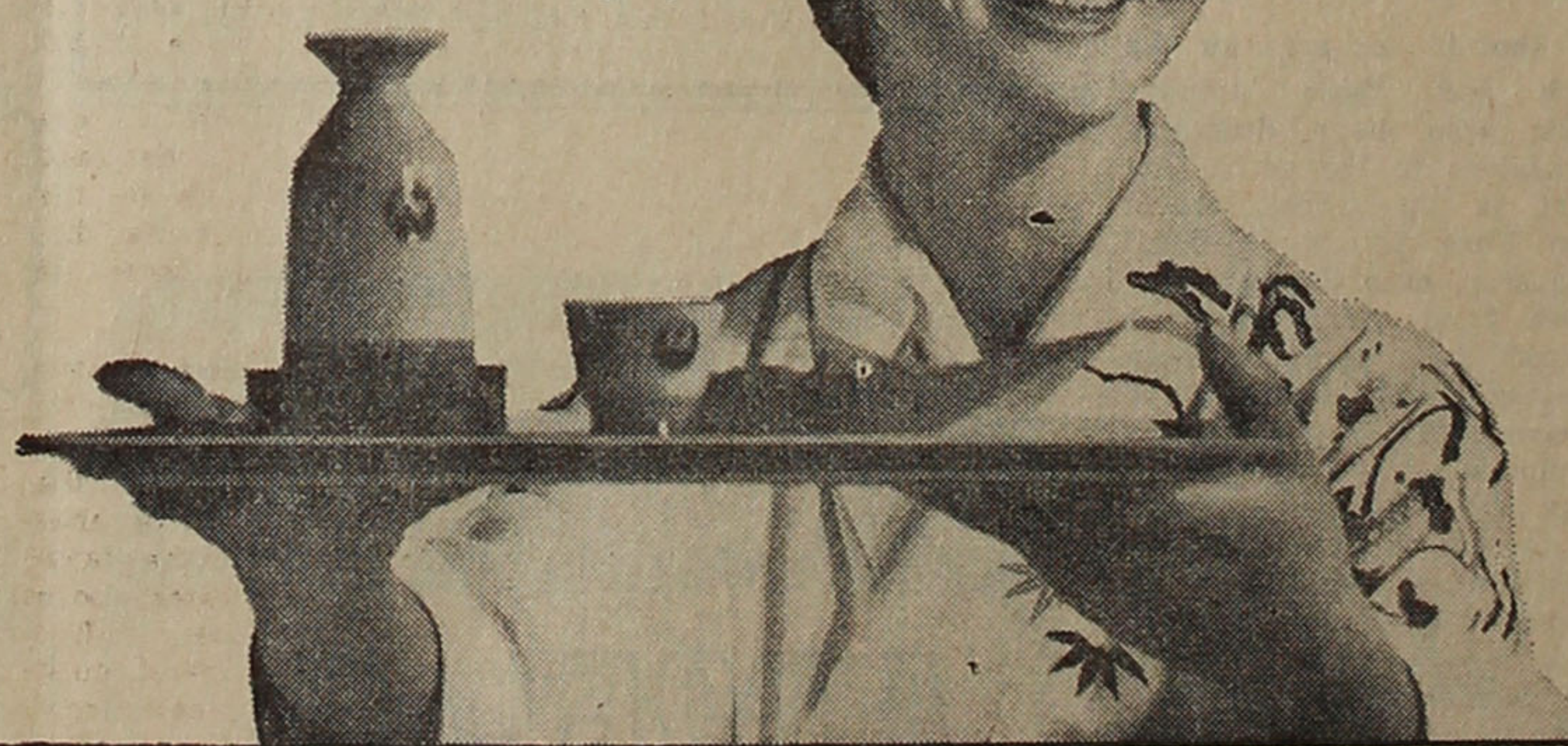
Members also may nominate others at the annual meeting to be held on Jan. 29 at the Salt Lake Buddhist Church. The election will be held at the annual meeting.

Oakland president

OAKLAND — Shizuo Tanaka was installed as Oakland JACL president for the new year Dec. 7 at Acts Buffet. Tad Hirota of Berkeley, long-time JACLer, was installation officer.

What other airline says,

"Irrasshaimase?"

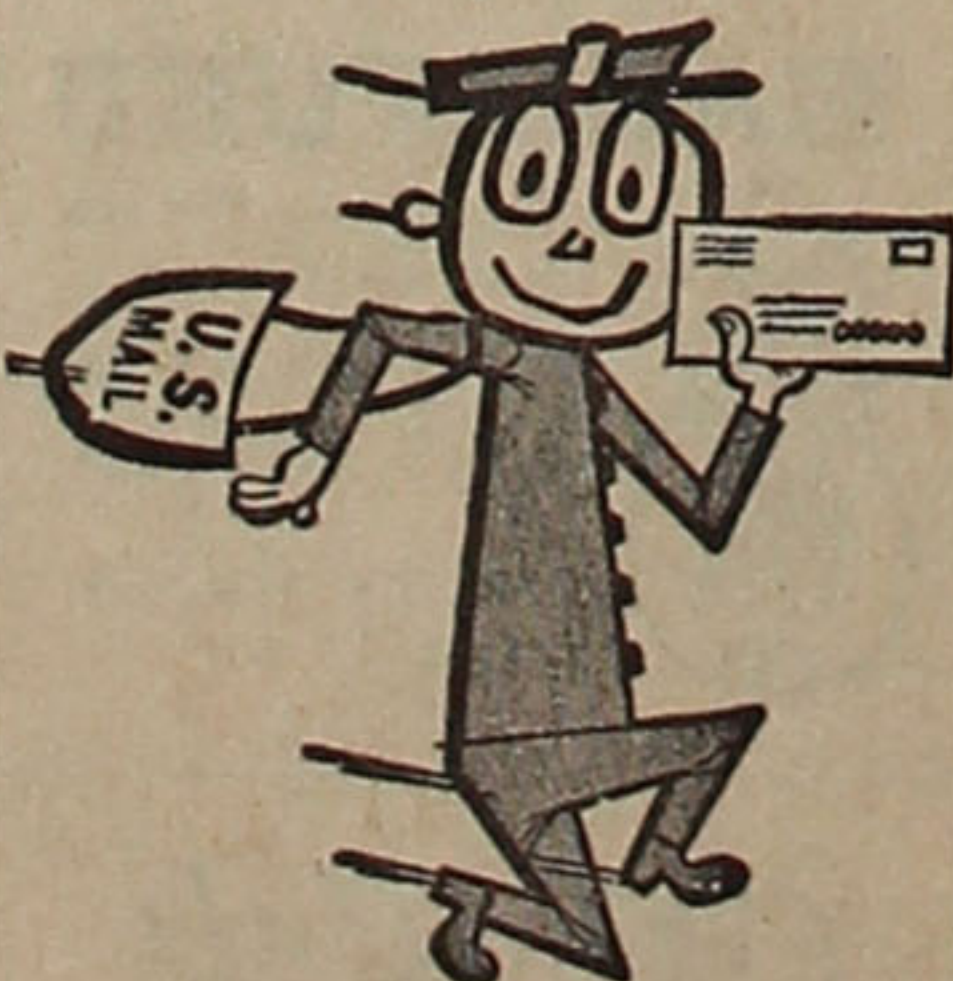


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Frankly Speaking: Carol Hasegawa U.S.-Japan Cooperation in Science

Washington aspect of the program since so few Americans go to Japan for any length of time compared with the countless Japanese counterparts who come here.

Purpose of the program is to carry out the recommendations made by President Kennedy and Prime Minister Ikeno in 1961 when they agreed that cooperation in science would be beneficial to both countries.

CALENDAR OF JACL EVENTS

- Jan. 11 (Tuesday) Venice-Culver-Bd Mtg, Betty Yumori's res., 8 p.m. San Jose-Jr. JACL Mtg, Wesley Methodist Church, 7:30 p.m.

CINEMA

Now Playing till Jan. 18 Kedamono no Ken "SWORD OF THE BEAST" Makjiro Hira, Go Kato Shima Iwashita, Goichi Mihara

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MASATO DOI APPOINTED TO HAWAIIAN COURT

Gov. Burns Names Youngest Circuit Judge to 6-Year Term

HONOLULU - Gov. John Burns appointed Masato Doi, 44, unsuccessful candidate for the Honolulu mayorality in 1964, to succeed Judge Frank A. McKinley to the First Circuit Court of Hawaii. Doi will be the youngest circuit judge in Hawaii.

Doi was active in the New York JACL while studying at Columbia. He is married to the former Sachii Yamada of Los Angeles.

Burns appointed Bernard H. Levinson to succeed Judge John F. Dyer, and reappointed Judges Gerald F. Corbett, Allen R. Hawkins, Tamao Menden, William Z. Fairbanks, and Albert M. Felix.

Circuit judges are appointed to six-year terms. Because of the admission of Hawaii to statehood in 1959, when the entire Circuit judiciary was appointed, nine of the 12 judgeships became vacant in October last year, within eight days of each other.

Tashiro Still Serving By staggering appointments to the bench, the administration hopes to avoid a recurrence of the situation where many judgeships may become vacant at the same time.

From 1948 to 1960, he served as assistant and deputy county counsel, following a two-year spell as an attorney with the U.S. Dept. of the Interior in Washington, D.C.

Hawaii

(Continued from Page 4)

tional Security Seminar conducted by the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. Oyasato was recalled to active service for a brief period in 1951 during the Korean conflict as a training officer at the Hawaii Infantry Training Center, Schofield Barracks.

As a reserve officer, Colonel Oyasato was former commanding officer of the 100th Battle Group, 442nd Infantry. His last reserve assignment was as commanding officer of the Honolulu Detachment, N.P.T.C., an Army Reserve intelligence unit.

Oyasato lives at 1561 Halekua Dr. in Aiea Koa with his wife, the former Natsue Ogata, and their two children, Susan, 5, and Dan, 2.

Apprenticeship

(Continued from Page 4)

OJT program should write the Dept. of Industrial Relations, Division of Apprenticeship Standards, P.O. Box 603, San Francisco 94101, or the district offices throughout the state.

Hanna also pointed out to JACL that because of the non-discriminatory policy in these programs, if any applicant should have cause to feel he has not been given a fair chance to compete for training opportunities, his division be notified.

Sen. Abe rumored for Hawaii supreme court HONOLULU—State Sen. Kazuhisa Abe, president of the Hawaii senate and a Big Island Democrat may retire from active politics at the end of his present term in 1966.

An attorney in private practice at Hilo, Abe is believed to be in line for an appointment to the state supreme court, sometime after the 1966 elections. Reliable sources have also said that Gov. John Burns has expressed interest in such an appointment.

Abe is one of seven senators elected from the Big Island, which under reapportionment, is expected to be reduced to three senators before the 1966 elections.

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Matsumoto

(Continued from Page 2)

officially concurs in the bombing of North Vietnam as something unavoidable. Many Japanese, however, cannot help but feel the war in Vietnam is a fight between unequals, and like most people, they sympathize with the underdog.

According to a public opinion survey conducted by the Asahi Newspapers, 90 percent of our people are aware of the war in Vietnam, while 60 percent of us are against the bombing of North Vietnam.

Security-Nat'l Defense I must hasten to add, however, that a more sober, a more realistic and a more constructive process of thinking has recently started among political leaders and among intellectuals.

Some Japanese leaders have been talking directly to some Peking leaders to try to persuade them that such an improvement presupposes a better understanding by them of America's policy on their part.

Japan wants to be friendly with the United States for the sake of her own national existence. She also wants to have normal intercourse with Communist China, her neighbor.

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Christmas Cheer '65 falls \$116 short of goal; reserve fund meets deficit

LOS ANGELES - Total contributions to the 18th annual Christmas Cheer fund came to \$2,383, according to Cheer chairman George Fujita.

The final report showed \$2,287 distributed to needy Japanese in Los Angeles County. Administrative expenses amounted to \$212.70, with the deficit being paid from the Cheer Reserve Fund.

Sparky's daughter in debut as ballerina

WASHINGTON - Diane Matsunaga, 11-year-old daughter of Congressman and Mrs. Spark M. Matsunaga of Hawaii, made her debut here as a ballerina in the Washington Ballet's presentation of "The Nutcracker" on Dec. 27.

Diane appeared as a toy soldier, on the same stage with internationally famous artists Marjorie Tallchief of the Harkness Ballet and Attilio Labis of the Paris Opera.

When queried on whether or not Diane was going to make the ballet her career, Matsunaga stated that he would be pleased if she would, for the Washington School of Ballet has strongly urged that she do so, but he was leaving the decision for Diane to make.

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