

By Mike Masaoka

Washington Newsletter



JACL's Civil Rights History

Washington
Whether one knows it or not, or whether one acknowledges it or not, the real history of the JACL—in the main—ever since its inception in 1930 as a national organization has been the story of a civil rights struggle, the seeking of those constitutional rights that are the legal birthright of every American-born citizen, even those of Japanese ancestry.

JACL is no latecomer to the civil rights movement. JACL was an active leader in the field when civil rights was not a headline cause. True, most of JACL's civil rights activities concerned those of Japanese ancestry. This was natural, since many of the basic civil rights of Japanese Americans were not recognized. And, while those of Japanese ancestry may have been a primary beneficiary, almost every civil rights advance also benefited many others.

Naturalization

By persuading Congress that naturalization examinations for those over the age of 50 and who had resided continuously in the United States for more than 25 years could be taken in other than in the English language, thousands of Europeans (many more than all the Asians that benefited) also became naturalized citizens.

By abolishing total exclusion in immigration for Asians, the way was prepared for the abandonment of the national origins formula that limited immigration from all Old World countries on a racial basis.

JACL Successes

A short summary of JACL successes in civil rights may be illuminating. In the mid-thirties, JACL successfully achieved congressional enactment of two statutes. One authorized expeditious naturalization for Nisei and other women who married Japanese nationals, including Issei, and prevented the automatic loss of such citizenship in future marriages. The other provided for the naturalization of Issei, and other Orientals, who served honorably in World War I and were promised citizenship by a 1917 law.

Legitimate Role

In the great civil rights movement that is taking place now, JACL recognizes its legitimate role. Because of its limited membership and facilities, and because of its background, JACL cannot assume the leadership, even if it wanted to. And certainly it acknowledges that other Americans more deprived and disadvantaged than Japanese Americans must take the lead, as they are doing.

Wartime Activities

JACL also had to request the Government to allow Japanese Americans to serve in the armed forces against the Japanese and the German enemies, to permit evacuee students to enroll in high schools, colleges, and universities outside the camps, to clear evacuees to leave the WRA centers to aid in the war effort, etc.

And, after World War II, JACL again had to resort to the judiciary to declare that the rights of an American of Japanese ancestry to receive land was identical to that of other native-born citizens, to hold that the anti-alien land laws were unconstitutional, and

NEWS CAPSULES

Politics

Lt. Gov. Robert H. Finch is supporting Los Angeles City Charter Amendment No. 4, to allow Japanese American employees of the Dept. of Water and Power to regain pension rights lost as a result of involuntary relocation and internment during World War II. "We have a responsibility to the men of California who have loyally served their country both before and after the war," Finch said. "The citizens of Los Angeles now have an opportunity to rectify an injustice which has been allowed to go uncorrected for too many years."

Steve Dol and Yone Satoda of San Francisco are to be appointed co-chairmen of the No. Calif. Nisei Friends of Senator Kuchel Committee.

Military

A Peru-born Nisei, S-Sgt. Julio Shinji Kaneko, in the Army six years, was killed in the U.S. Army, was killed in Vietnam on Mar. 17, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kakuaki Kaneko, 3221 Vista Ave., Lemon Grove (near San Diego) learned. He had been in Vietnam since July.

Pan Am will offer service men reserved seats for \$82.50 on its weekly flights between Honolulu and Los Angeles effective April 23. Eight days are excepted from this rule during 1967 and 1968. Military standby fare is \$55. Sen. Dan Inouye is co-author with 20 others of S. 1181 to exempt a soldier from service in the combat zone when he is the sole surviving son of a family.

Rep. Spark Matsunaga is sponsoring a bill providing for an average overall increase of 5.4 pct. in veteran pension payments.

A Bolivian Nisei, Armando Minoru Yoshida, 46, has been promoted to major general in that country's air force, according to Yasushi Ikado, La Paz Japanese Assn. president, visiting Japan. Yoshida's older brother Masayoshi was once governor of the Bolivia National Bank.

Flowers-Garden

Alice and Art Ito of Flower View Gardens were named decorating florists of the annual Las Floristas Headdress Ball to be held April 28 at the Beverly Hilton. At previous functions, the Ito's have entered award-winning floral headpieces. A California State Highway Division landscape architect Roy M. Imai of Sacramento, is now a full-time landscape architect for the City of Sacramento. A native of Japan, he first lived in Clovis and attended school there and graduated from Cal Poly Pomona in 1965. East Bay Landscape Gardeners Assn. will participate in the 1967 Calif. Garden Show May 5-14 at Oakland Coliseum. Its entry last year won second prize for overall structure. Joe Tomianga is chairman of the 1967 entry.

Agricultural

Don Kurihara, citrus nurseryman in Tulare County and trustee in the Cutler-Orosi school district, was appointed by Gov. Reagan to the 24th Agricultural District board of directors. Orange County strawberry growers, mostly Japanese American, have increased their per-acre production by nearly half within the past five years, according to Carl Samuelson, president, Council of California Growers. Figures show a yield of 20 tons per acre as compared with 13 tons per acre in 1960, selling from \$8-10 million worth each year. New cultivating practices initiated by Univ. of California pomologists have boosted the production, Samuelson said.

Senior poultry husbandry major at UC Davis, Mrs. Kiyu Morse, daughter of the Ken Akabas of Stockton, received the Asmundson Achievement Award as the outstanding student in the department. . . . Yuba City peach and tomato grower Mas Oji was voted to the California Canners and Growers board of directors.

Press Row

Limited exemption from anti-trust laws to newspapers which are compelled to operate through mergers or other joint publication arrangements because of economic distress would be granted in a bill recently introduced by Hawaii Congressman Spark Matsunaga. "Without a joint operating arrangement, people in at least 13 U.S. cities (including Honolulu) may be deprived of independent news and editorial service," he said.

Sister Cities

Collection of photos and art pieces from high school students in Gardena's sister city of Ichikawa will be displayed during April-May at the Sumitomo Bank in Gardena. . . . The City of Glendale, Calif., ended a two-year search to situate a Japanese sister city shrine from Hiraoka (now Higashi Osaka). A wooden area on the Diehrich Reservoir property off Campbell St. was selected over the previous proposed site in Brand Park, where a Moorish style residence (now a library) is the chief attraction.

Delano JACL president Paul Kawasaki was elected chairman of the Delano People to People Committee. He and Dr. Clifford Leader, who visited their Japanese sister city of Arida, showed slides at a Sister City Night attended by 100 residents. Exhibits from their Italian sister city of Asti and from Arida were also displayed.

Business

A former realty salesman Raymond M. Akashi, who hails from Merced, succeeds Marvin Uratsu of Richmond as Japanese sales representative for American President Lines, San Francisco. Uratsu resigned last fall to enter the investment field. . . . Kikkoman International named Minoru Sakaguchi of Pasadena as its general manager for the Los Angeles office, succeeding Soheli Ishii who has returned to Japan. Kikkoman imported 3 million gallons of shoyu to the U.S. last year.

A \$450,000 account from the Fresno Redevelopment Agency for its General Neighborhood Renewal Area study will be deposited with the Bank of Tokyo of California branch in Fresno.

Music

Among the participants in the Berkeley Junior Bach Festival concerts this month are four Sansel: Shinji Eshima, Gen Fujioaka, Ellie Nishi of Berkeley, and Eugene Nishinaga of Fairfield. There were 301 applicants between the ages of 4 and 21 applying for 76 positions. . . . Conductor Seiji Ozawa will be guest conductor of the New York Philharmonic for two Lincoln Cen-

ter Festival concerts July 7-8, when Honegger's "Joan of Arc at the Stake" and a new work commissioned by Lincoln Center from Lukas Foss will be heard. . . . Violinist Hiroko Toba, scholarship student from Matsumoto, Japan, at Ft. Wright College of Spokane, appeared with the Seattle Philharmonic and Port Angeles Symphony orchestras as guest soloist playing the Sibelius Violin Concerto. She had studied 10 years in Japan with Professor Suzuki.

School Front

Hawaii Circuit Judge Allen Hawkins is hearing testimony to determine whether the McCully Japanese Language School should be returned to its prewar owners. Kiyoshi Shimizu, who spent four years in a Mainland relocation center during WW2, said he acted out of fear when he helped sell the school for \$18,000 to the City in 1942. The three buildings and 60,000 sq. ft. lot are now worth \$500,000, according to the acting city corporation counsel William Yim. Steve Kikuchi of Toppensish was elected student body president of Washington State University, defeating two other candidates. He is majoring in mathematics. . . . Spokane JACL president Sam Nakagawa's son Jun is the student body president at Glover Jr. High School. . . . There are 76 students in the Japanese language class at Seattle's Franklin High school but only 26 at Ingraham, according to Helen M. Kwapi, director of foreign languages, Seattle Public Schools. JACL was in the forefront promoting the teaching of Japanese in the public high schools in the state of Washington.

Entertainment

Mako, nominated for the Academy Awards Best Supporting Actor for his role in "The Sand Pebbles", will direct the East West Players in its workshop production of "Darkness Before Dawn", an original play by Soon Tark Oh. Auditions for Oriental actors will be held April 3-7 at Bethany Presbyterian Church, 1629 Griffith Park Blvd., 8 p.m. The East West Players are best known for their production of "Rashomon".



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By Bill Hosokawa

From the Frying Pan

Denver, Colo. **A MATTER OF CULTURE**—Americans have become sophisticated enough these days so that they don't expect every Nisei to speak with authority on Japanese culture, philosophy, politics, economics, architecture, the tea ceremony, food, hotels, the wonders of Kyoto and Nikko, the price of pearls and the schedule of the super-express bullet train running between Tokyo and Osaka. Matter of fact, most Nisei know exceedingly little about these matters, which is expectable when their entire lives, and virtually all their interests, have been in the United States.

There are times, though, when one wonders whether we shouldn't know a bit more than we do about our ancestral heritage. Such a time came recently when the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies—an egghed type organization where business executives are encouraged to think deep thoughts and exercise their bodies amid the splendor of the Colorado Rockies—announced its third annual Far Eastern Thought Seminar. Discussions are to focus on the thought of Japan, India and China.

The announcement says the Japanese readings will include selections from "The Tale of Genji," the world's first novel written by Lady Murasaki in the year 1004, some 400 years before Chaucer's time. The announcement goes on to say: "Zen Buddhism, a philosophy carried by Japanese thinkers beyond the original Buddhist sources, is an intensely interesting part of the program. Readings from Chikamatsu (the Shakespeare of Japan) open the path of the Japanese mind, as do such concepts as 'face', 'giri' (obligation to family, friends) 'on' (obligation arising out of a debt or assistance given), 'mono no ware' (the essential sadness of things)."

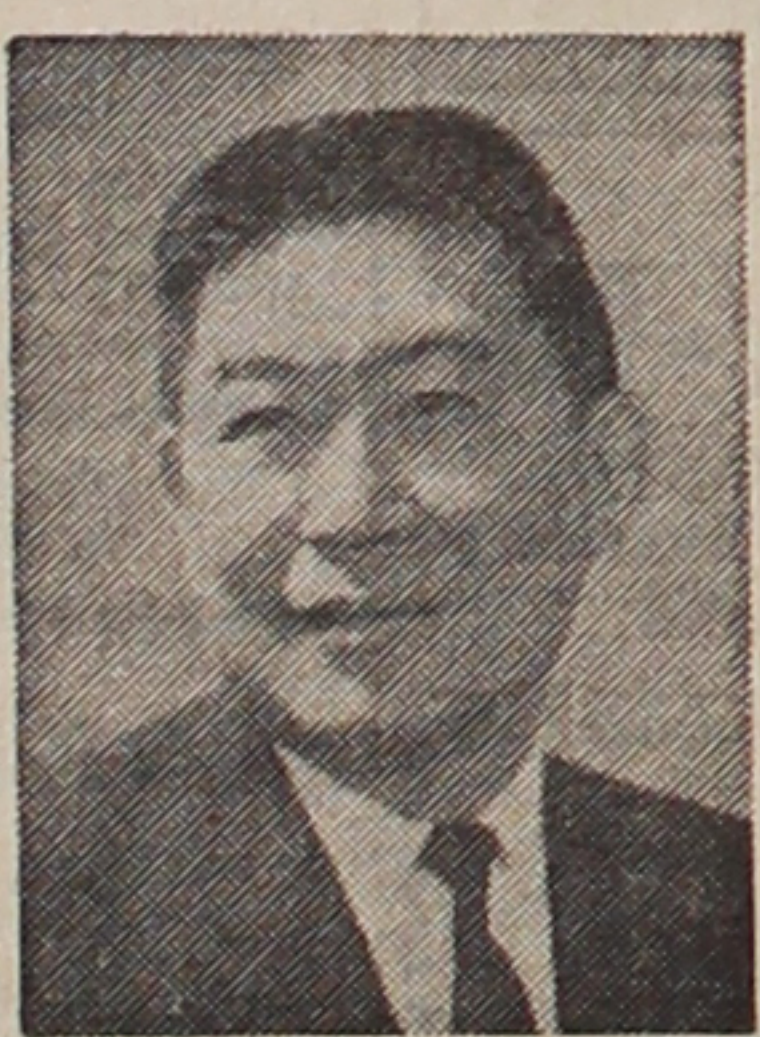
NISEI ANGLE—There is, of course, a Nisei angle to the Aspen Institute. Ben Yoshioka, who grew up in Colorado, is in general charge of arrangements for the Institute and usually spends a part of his summers in Aspen. Yoshioka is an executive of the Container Corporation of America whose late chief, Walter P. Paepcke, was responsible for changing Aspen from a lonely ghost town into a culture and ski center.

But to get back to the Institute itself, is there a place for Asian thought in contemporary American life? Can one learn enough about it in a two-week seminar to be meaningful? The folks at the Institute seem to think so. The announcement is reassuring: "Far Eastern Thought seems exotic, impractical and out of reach. Yet Aspen seminar participants have demonstrated strikingly that they can take readily to the ideas of the East and can understand them on both intuitive and emotional grounds. Once understood, these ideas have often led to a reappraisal of the participant's own values in a way that makes their lives richer, calmer and more interesting."

THE RESULTS—Despite this glowing endorsement for Japanese philosophy, reason would indicate that it isn't the cure-all for the tensions and frustrations that are such a large part of life in the competitive American society. Yet, when busy business executives plunk down the kind of money the Aspen Institute gets and spend two weeks reading and thinking and discussing, Far East thought must have something of considerable value to contemporary Americans.

On the basis of cost alone, few Nisei will be able to attend one of these seminars. On the other hand, it seems something of a shame that they could not have drawn on their own cultural backgrounds for an understanding of the matters that will be studied. Still, if an understanding can be intuitive as well as academic, perhaps many Nisei do have that kind of understanding without being actively aware of it. It is difficult, however, to see how Japanese thought can make life "richer, calmer and more interesting" with the income tax deadline just around the corner.

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(Special to the Pacific Citizen) **NEW YORK** — "We need to stand up, unafraid and unashamed, to be counted as charter members of the SOS—the Society of Squares—dedicated to the defense and the support of an old American ideal: patriotism."

With these words Allan Bosworth, author of "America's Concentration Camps," challenged the 420 JACLers and friends who had assembled at the Park 100 Restaurant here Feb. 25 to install the chapter's 1967 Board of Directors.

Oldest of the four Eastern District Council chapters, New York welcomed several guests from Philadelphia and Washington to help celebrate its 23rd birthday.

The installation dinner was arranged by Murray Sprung, chapter vice-chairman, who with his wife Mary, both long-time JACLers, has ably performed this task for several years. Sprung also acted as M.C., introducing important guests, as well as the speaker, and kept the program right on schedule.

Socializing and Cheers

The dinner menu was acclaimed by all; there was no elaborate supplementary program; the affair was characterized chiefly by the socializing and good cheer of friends old and new, many of whom, because of the peculiar geography and transportation patterns of the metropolitan area, do not meet often, and so cherish this annual festive occasion.

Chapter Call Board
Long Beach-Harbor JACL
Oriental Fantasy: Long Beach-Harbor District JACL youth program will be beneficiaries of the annual Oriental Fantasy dance on Saturday, April 15, 9 p.m., at the Harbor Community Center, 1766 Seabright.

West Los Angeles JACL
State Legislature: At the dinner meeting scheduled at the Surf Rider Inn, Santa Monica, on April 1, 7 p.m., State Senator Robert Stevens will speak to the West Los Angeles JACL on "What's Happening in Sacramento" and present a personal picture of the many problems of the State which are currently of much concern.

Nisei Ambassadors
CHICAGO — The Chicago Nisei Ambassadors junior drum & bugle corps makes its 1967 debut April 2 at the Chicago Armory. An all-musical show with added performances of national D&B groups from Wisconsin, the Queensmen of Kenosha and the Mariners of South Milwaukee, will sparkle the "Spring Co-Motion" concert.

tive social or community program. New York's by-laws provide for the election of a revolving Board of 12 Directors, who choose officers on an annual basis.

The 1967 Board members are: Min Endo, Joe Harada, Joe Imai, Moonray Kojima, August Nakagawa, Lucile Nakamura, Tami Ogata, Jack Ozawa, Gerhard Spies, Murray Sprung, Rei Suzuki, Liz Tsukada.

Bosworth's Remarks

In his talk Captain Bosworth reminded that it was exactly 25 years and six days ago that President Roosevelt had signed Executive Order No. 9066, which started the wheels of Evacuation rolling. He briefly traced the history of the United States through colonial times, the drive westward, the Gold Rush, and the arrival in California of the then coveted agricultural workers from Japan.

He touched on the labors, achievements, struggles, and hardships of these pioneers, up to the cataclysm of 1942 and the hysteria that led to the internment. He spoke glowingly of the work and the leadership of JACL during those difficult days.

He reminded that a large part of the demonstrated courage and faith had roots in the Japanese spirit of bushido. Ad-

JUVENILE PROBLEMS WILL NEVER CEASE

FOWLER — "There will be juvenile problems as long as humanity exists," according to Superior Judge Milo Popovich, who addressed some 40 Fowler JACLers here at a recent dinner meeting at Bruce's Lodge. Atty. Mikio Uchiyama introduced the guest speaker.

Judge Popovich said some of the youngsters appearing before him need a hair cut, their appearance slovenly. Many of them, including girls, are between the ages of 13 and 25.

He cautioned parents to watch their children at all times. He also said farmers will have to pay more taxes for maintaining youngsters in jail, courts and probation homes or youth camps in the years to come.

Gardeners trim trees at Salinas Yamato cemetery

SALINAS — The Salinas Landscape Gardeners Assn. members trimmed and squared the cypress trees to vastly improve the appearance of Yamato Cemetery, the Salinas Valley JACL reported. The chapter is custodian of the grounds.

The chapter annually conducts Memorial Day services at the cemetery and at the Garden of Memories.

CALENDAR OF JACL EVENTS

- March 31-April 2 MDYC-Detroit Jr. JACL hosts: Spring workshop.
- Berkeley JACL Invitational basketball tournament.
- April 1 (Saturday) Stockton—Jr. JACL Mtg, 1225 N. Hunter.
- Portland—Oriental potluck dinner, Nichiren Buddhist Church, 6:30 p.m.; Jefferson Choir entertaining.
- April 1 (Saturday) West Los Angeles—Dinner Mtg, Surf Rider Inn, 7 p.m.; State Sen. Robert Stevens, spkr.
- April 1-2 IDC-IDYC—Boise Valley JACL hosts: Quarterly session, Caldwell, Idaho.
- Monterey Peninsula—Spring potluck, 6 p.m.
- April 4 (Tuesday) Wilshire-Uptown—Ed. Mtg. St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 8 p.m.; members welcome.
- Hollywood—Ed Mtg. JACL Regional Office, 7:30 p.m.
- April 6 (Thursday) Puvallup Valley—Mtg. Tacoma Buddhist Church, 8 p.m.; Police Sgt. Stan Zetterberg, spkr.
- April 7 (Friday) Venice-Culver—Charmes dance, Parkview Women's Club, 3725 Don Felipe Dr., L.A., 8:30 p.m.
- San Jose—Jr. JACL Mtg. Bank of Tokyo hospitality room.
- April 8 (Saturday) Venice-Culver—Comm. Ctr. cleanup day.
- Twin Cities—Jr. JACL spring show rehearsal.
- April 9 (Sunday) Delano—Community picnic.
- Dayton—Swim party.
- April 11 (Tuesday) New York—Ed Mtg. Japan Society Bm 1921, 8:30 p.m. supper.
- April 12 (Wednesday) Venice-Culver—Ed Mtg

dressing particularly the young people, he urged them not to forget that that tradition is part of their heritage, as well as the spirit of Nathan Hale and Patrick Henry, patriots who by today's standards would undoubtedly be "squares."

As a token of regard and gratitude, the chapter presented to Capt. Bosworth a miniature sterling silver hotel.

Bosworth stayed on long after the traces of the delicious meal had been cleared away, chatting informally and autographing copies of his book, some seventy copies of which were sold on the spot.

Cal-Western agent sets all-time high

SACRAMENTO — California-Western States Life Insurance Co. announced that Bill T. Yamashiro of Los Angeles has established an all-time high among the company's agents for the amount of life insurance in force.

Cal-Western Life President Robert E. Murphy stated that Yamashiro's \$13,900,000 of insurance broke a long-standing record.

"The almost \$14-million of insurance he has put into force," Murphy pointed out, "is a remarkable record for a man who has been in the business only ten years."

Yamashiro is the only Nisei on the Mainland to have qualified for the elite Million Dollar Round Table during each of his ten years in business. He is also a charter and life member of Cal-Western Life's President's Council of million dollar producers, has been either president or chairman, on the board of each of the firm's Leading Producers Club conferences, has been named to the President's Top Ten each year since coming with Cal-Western Life, as the number one man on eight occasions, and has earned the National Quality Award eight times.

Magnolia Residence fund supports Y-Teen program

LOS ANGELES — A Y-Teen program for Oriental girls is being supported by funds derived from the sale of Magnolia Residence, once a dormitory of Japanese young women in Boyle Heights.

This past month, three Y-Teen clubs were organized in the southwest L.A. area, according to Mrs. George Nakatsu, local YWCA program director.

To explain the program to interested mothers, Mrs. Robert G. Blanchard, L.A. YWCA president, will meet with them at the Santa Barbara Savings & Loan April 6, 7:30 p.m.

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Aloha from Hawaii

by Richard Gima

180 Kanoena St., Wailua. He is the 80th island man to die in Vietnam. . . A dying man's last wish was fulfilled Mar. 27. **Louis Piacenza**, 65, of Los Angeles, who died Mar. 18 at an L.A. hospital, had requested that he be buried at Punahoa after his death. Piacenza was a law librarian at UCLA.

During WW 2 he was stationed in Hilo while in the Navy. . . Capt. **Cornelius A.L. Lau**, commanding officer of the Armed Forces examining station at Ft. DeRussy until Dec., was killed Mar. 20 while on a search and destroy mission in South Vietnam. He was the 81st island man to die in the war.

He was a 1949 Farrington High School graduate with an active ROTC record there and enlisted following his graduation. . . Seaman Apprentice **Roy K. Nakamura**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Uechi of 2138 Kailhi St., has been selected as Co. Honor man for his boot camp company at the San Diego Naval Training Center. . . Army Capt. **Arthur S. Kubo** of Wahiawa has received the Legion of Merit for base development construction work in three areas in Vietnam. Kubo, 2622 Nonoho St., is headed for Ft. Greeley, Alaska, and work with a nuclear reactor there.

His father is Police Capt. Earl Kubo, head of the Wahiawa station. . . **Ismael C. Omandam**, jet mechanic at Hickam AFB, is the 1966 regional winner in the air carrier category of the Federal Aviation Agency mechanic safety awards competition. He lives at 98-096 Kanuku Place, Aiea, with his wife and eight children.

Traffic Death . . .

Robert Kato, 15, son of Mr. and Mrs. Haruo Kato of Kukuila, Kaula, was rushed unconscious on the pre-dawn freight plane Mar. 19 to

Queen's Hospital in Honolulu, after being injured in an automobile accident near Koloa. . . **Henry Kogachi**, recently attended a Security Life of Denver conference in Mexico City. . . A Big Island educator was in satisfactory condition Mar. 21 in Hilo Hospital after an early morning fall into a stream on Kinohale St., Hilo. He was **Henry T. Lum**, 56, the Dept. of Education's educational TV specialist for the Big Island. Lum suffered head injuries in the fall into the Waiohala Canal near the Hilo Fire Station about 1 a.m.

Duke Kahanamoku has left Kaiser Hospital following ulcer operation Feb. 15. Duke, who had half of his stomach removed, said, "The doctor did a good job. I walk around a lot now. My legs are getting strong again."

Yat Loy Co. is giving up after 69 years in its King St. location in downtown Honolulu. Gradually downtown shops are closing up or are relocating to the Ala Moana Center, where most Honoluluans do their shopping.

Scholarship

(Continued from Front Page) must be of Japanese descent or be recommended by the chapter. Membership in JACL either by the applicant or his parents is not a requisite, but the student must be sponsored community **Nakagiri** pointed by a JACL chapter in his out.

Receipt of other scholarship awards will not disqualify candidates, he added. **Kumamoto** said the kit is two-way because one pocket contains instructions for the chapter and the other pocket for the nominee.

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