



From the Frying Pan

Bill Hosokawa

Powell, Wyo.
FORGOTTEN CHAPTER—For better or worse, the town of Cody, Wyo., became closely associated with the Heart Mountain War Relocation Center. It was about a dozen miles southwest of the camp and much WRA business was transacted there. About the same distance in the opposite direction—northeast of the camp—was Powell, virtually the same size as Cody. Cody was the cowboy town, its outlook directed toward ranching, oil and big game hunting in the mountains to the west. Powell was a farming center and seemed to have relatively little to do with the camp.

But Powell now has a two-year school called Northwest Community College, and I've been there twice in recent years at their invitation to talk about the Heart Mountain camp. The most recent time was a couple of weeks ago. Students and townspeople have heard vague stories about camp. It was 30 years ago that almost overnight a concentration camp mushroomed on the sagebrush flats and quickly became the third largest city in Wyoming with a population of 10,000. So now they want to hear the story first-hand. What whets their interest is that the oldtimers, the ones who knew about the camp from personal experience, are reluctant to talk about it.

"Maybe it's a sense of guilt," said Jeanne Adams, the town librarian.

"But these people had nothing to do with the Evacuation," I said. "They shouldn't feel any personal guilt."

"I think they may feel guilty that they didn't do more for the evacuees," Mrs. Adams said, and we let it go at that.

Mrs. Adams is taping a series of interviews with pioneer residents of the area to record its history. We taped an interview about the camp, but how can you tell that story in 45 minutes? It is just impossible. Still, the interview will give those who ask about the camp a bit of background. The library, Mrs. Adams said, gets numerous inquiries about Heart Mountain and she is frustrated by her inability to provide information. The library has incomplete files of the Heart Mountain Sentinel, the weekly newspaper published by the residents, and she is anxious to fill in the missing numbers.

Later, at the college, I met a number of the men and women who as homesteaders were given some of the land cleared by the evacuees or land which was made feasible for farms by the irrigation ditches the evacuees completed. They told me that about all that remains of the camp is the tall brick chimney of the boiler that served the camp hospital. One said there had been talk some time ago about tearing down the stack, but the homesteaders wanted to retain it as a landmark.

There is one other remnant, the framework of the community honor roll that once listed the men and women from Heart Mountain who had gone into military service. About all that remains is the framework. The names, painted on asbestos wallboard, were obliterated by win and sun and rain long ago. "We should have taken care of that honor roll," one woman told me sadly. Perhaps it is not too late to save what is left.

Several of the homesteaders said that each summer a few Japanese Americans with out-of-state cars drive into the area. They seem to be looking for the barracks where they lived, but the townsite is long gone, replaced by neatly tilled fields. Some stop to talk with the homesteaders, and there is a certain rapport among them. The homesteaders are aware of the work the evacuees did, and they know from their own experience what it was like to live in the area before fields could be sowed and substantial homes built.

One homesteading couple showed me a handful of small white stones, about the size of a half dollar, each with a Japanese character written on it. They were found in a 55-gallon drum buried near the site of the Heart Mountain cemetery. A barrel full of white stones, thousands of them, all bearing Japanese characters, presumably written with an ink brush. What were they? What was their significance? They gave me some, and I promised to find out and let them know. Can anyone help me?

AS IT WAS: Mas Satow

This Memorial Day

"Come to the Ad Building. There's a call for you from Washington," read the message delivered to my barrack at Amache. It was the first part of February, 1943, following the War Department's announcement that Nisei would be accepted as volunteers for military service. A registration was going on for those who wished to volunteer and to sign up evacuees for leave clearance.

Administration sponsored mass meetings of all the males in camp had been held several days previous. Fortunately our camp Administration had the foresight not to call in the Issei, for the registration would have required them to forswear allegiance to any other country than the United States, which of course they could not do. Much confusion resulted from unanswered questions as to the interpretation of Questions No. 27 and No. 28. The result of the initial sign up indicated few volunteers for the Army, and a substantial number of "no-no's" to No. 27 and No. 28.

My first reaction to the message was I don't know anyone in Washington, but I tried down to the Ad building and found my caller was Col. William Scobey, Executive Assistant to John J. McCloy, Assistant Secretary of the Army.

"How come you have so few volunteers?" he asked. I reminded him he should know how everyone felt about the evacuation and detention of American citizens. On top of this, our Army classification was 4-C—the category of aliens ineligible for Army service.

"The Army doesn't classify; it's the War Manpower Commission. The Army is convinced of the loyalty of Japanese Americans," he added.

"The fellows don't like being in a segregated Army unit just for Japanese Americans," I told him. Scobey replied, "Mr. Satow, if your boys were

This is the first of a series of personal recollections and observations of our National JACL Director-emeritus, Mas Satow, now senior advisor to the president, Sumitomo Bank of California.)

SAN DIEGO ASIAN GROUPS IN PLEA TO COUNTY B'RD

Union of Pan-Asian Communities Urge Fair Hiring Plan

SAN DIEGO, Calif.—A newly formed union of local Asian community groups have asked the county Board of Supervisors to take steps toward adopting hiring, funding and anti-discrimination policies relating to their ethnic communities.

Vernon T. Yoshioka, acting chairman of the Union of Pan-Asian Communities of San Diego County (UPAC), told the board. "We became increasingly aware of the fact that the local government of San Diego did not appear to be cognizant of the needs of our individual ethnic communities."

UPAC, which was formed in February, has representatives from the Chinese, Japanese, Guamanian, Korean, Filipino and Samoan communities and represents about 40,000 persons in San Diego County, Yoshioka said.

Fair Share
He asked the board to take steps to assure a proper percentage of Asians were employed by county agencies; consider funding Asian programs with revenue-sharing funds; guarantee Asians employed under the Public Employment Program (PEP) would be given permanent county positions, and elimination of discriminatory personnel practices and rules dealing with Asian persons.

In referring the group's request to the county chief administrative officer for review, board chairman Jack Walsh said he did not know of any personnel practices which would discriminate against Asians but said he would not discount the possibility that some county regulations adversely affect particular ethnic groups.

He asked Yoshioka to document any instances of such policies to the CAO for his review.

List Underway
Yoshioka said later that the UPAC was compiling a list of such practices which included requiring Asians to undergo reevaluation when applying for county accounting or nursing positions after they had already passed state qualifying boards. Yoshioka said this policy was not applied to Caucasians applying for similar positions.

Denver dedicates Sakura Square

DENVER, Colo.—Dedication of the \$4 million Sakura Square May 12 marked major milestones in the 6-year history of the Buddhist Church here, in redevelopment of the Skyline Urban Renewal Project, and the quality of cultural attractions in downtown Denver.

Sakura Square was developed by Tri-State Buddhist Church Apartments, Inc. James Kanemoto, president of the non-profit corporation, dedicated the building complex "in memory of the men and women of Japanese ancestry who brought Oriental art, religion and culture to the Rocky Mountains and to those who continue to sustain and cherish this heritage."

The dedication ceremony also launched the grand opening of Sakura Square and the start of the Square's first annual Cherry Blossom Festival which continued through May 20.

Dedication Rites
Scheduled speakers at the dedication ceremony, in addition to Kanemoto and Master of Ceremonies Kenzo Fujimori, were:

Colorado's Lt. Gov. John Vanderhoof; Denver Mayor Bill McNichols; Bishop Kenryu Tsuji of Buddhist Churches of America, San Francisco; and Frank Torizawa, president of the Sakura Square Merchants Assn.

Special Buddhist rites for dedication were to be performed by Bishop Tsuji and the Revs. Yoshitaka Tamai, Noboru Tsunoda, and Unryu Sugiyama, all of the Tri-State Buddhist Church.

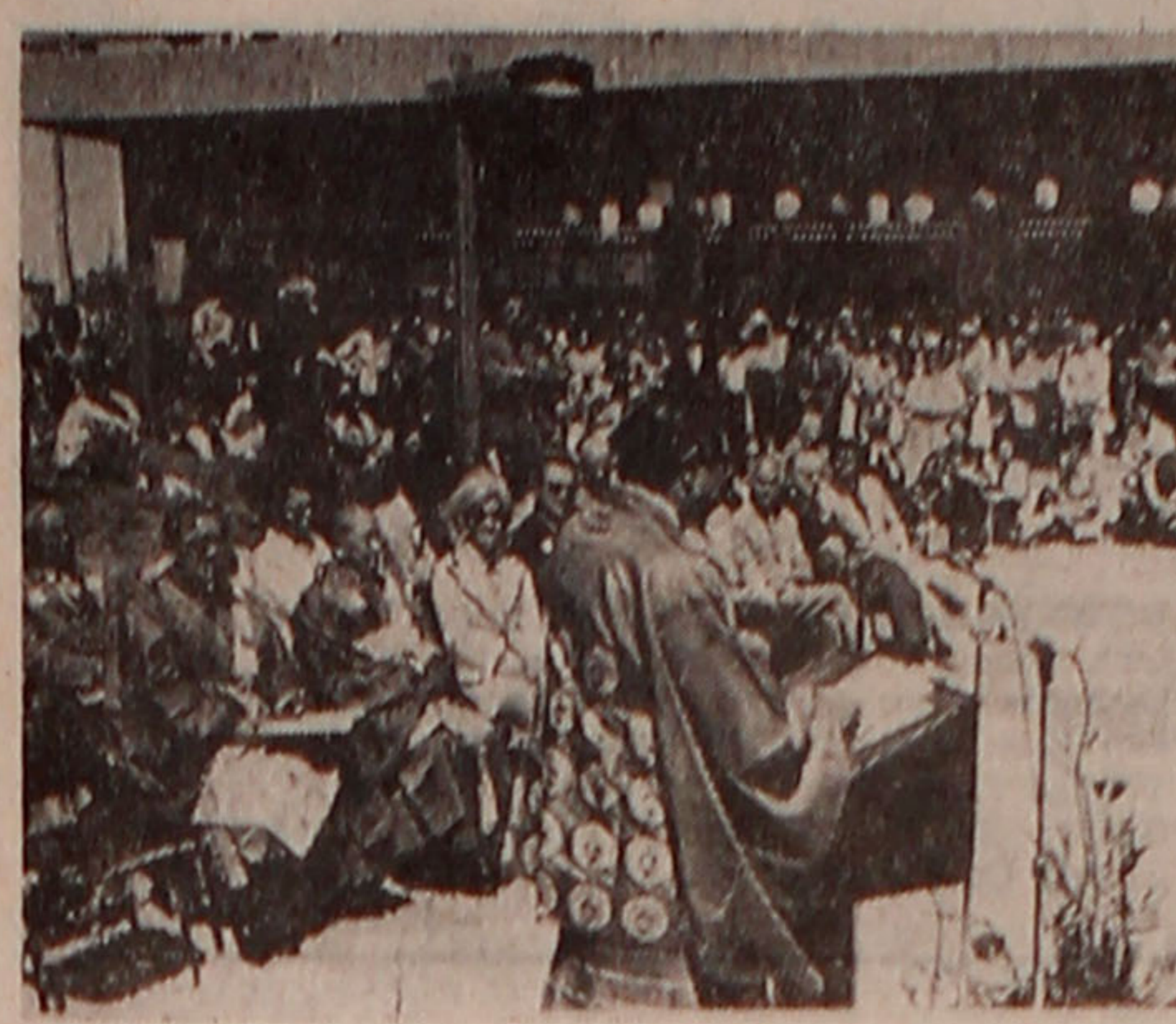
Matajiro Watada, Chairman of the Komon (Tri-State Buddhist Church advisory board) was to present certificates of appreciation for assistance in development of Sakura Square to representatives from:

Denver Urban Renewal Authority (DURA), Denver Regional Office of the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, Denver Inquiring Office of the Federal Housing Administration, Bertram A. Bruton and Associates, architects for the development; and Sid Grazi, of Titan Construction Co., general contractor.

Sakura Square is part of the \$121 million worth of redevelopment completed or under contract in the 27-block Skyline Renewal project.

Also dedicated was Tamal Tower, the Square's apartment building named after the Tri-State Buddhist Church's Minister Emeritus, the Rev. Yoshitaka Tamai, who has been with the church for more than 40 years. Albert Watada is president of the Tri-State Church.

Cherry Blossom Festival through the week included Japanese arts and crafts shows, bonsai and ikebana, Japanese songs and dances,



SAKURA SQUARE—Bishop Kenryu Tsuji of the Buddhist Churches of America addresses dedication of the \$4-million Sakura Square in Denver, May 12. Part of the 27-block downtown urban renewal project, Sakura Square is bounded by 19th, 20th, Lawrence and Larimer Sts. It includes a 204-unit 20-story Tamal Tower apartment, commercial space, gardens, parking and the Tri-State Buddhist Church complex.—Tom Masamori Photo.

exhibitions of karate and Japanese fencing, tea ceremonies and Buddhist religious rites.

Sakura Square
Sakura Square is on a block bounded by 19th, 20th, Lawrence and Larimer Streets. It includes the 20-story Tamal Tower (155,000 sq. ft. of residential building space) containing 204 apartments built under the FHA's Section 236 subsidy program for low-to-moderate income tenants, 39,000 sq. ft. of commercial space devoted to shops and restaurants with Oriental themes, Japanese gardens, 130 off-street auto parking spaces and related facilities.

In addition, the existing 18,500 sq. ft. Denver Buddhist Churches on the block is being extensively remodeled and expanded with 13,500 sq. ft. of new building space at a cost of \$75,000. President of the Denver church is Edward Nozawa. Ground breaking for that project was held April 8. The work is to be completed by Dec. 1, 1973. Architect for the church expansion project is the ABR Partnership of Denver. The general contractor is Newstrom-Davis Construction Co. of Denver.

The church is one of eight branches of the Tri-State Buddhist Church covering the Denver region and serving as the spiritual and cultural center for almost 1,000 families of Japanese ancestry in Colorado, Wyoming and Western Nebraska.

Renewal Project
In 1968 when the Skyline Urban Renewal Project began, a question arose over the future of the existing church. A proposal evolved whereby the church building would remain and be remodeled and the rest of the block would be developed by the church's non-profit corporation.

On Feb. 26, 1970, DURA approved sale of land on the block to the development corporation. The church continued to own its property including land area of 13,300 sq. ft. On March 5, 1971, Tri-State Buddhist Church Apartments, Inc., completed its development plans and purchased 93,100 sq. ft. of land from DURA for \$188,800. Ground breaking for the Sakura Square development was held March 19, 1971.

The apartments, commercial space and parking area are managed by Sakura Square Management Corp., with Kenzo Fujimori and Floyd Koshio as co-managers.

Tamal Tower's 204 apartments include 85 efficiency units renting at \$101 per month, 102 one-bedroom units at \$115, 17 two-bedroom units at \$135. Twenty per cent of the units are covered by the FHA's rent supplement program which provides a direct subsidy for low income tenants. The apartment building has a penthouse which includes a lounge, recreation area, kitchen and laundry facilities.

Open Space
Forty per cent of the complex is in open space including a second story pedestrian plaza and sections of Japanese gardens. A pedestrian bridge is under construction at the second story level to link the pedestrian plazas of Sakura Square with the plaza level of the Volunteers of America commercial complex and apartment house to the west across 19th Street.

Life without vision is one without a future. Once I had a beautiful friend, who wrote me occasional notes. They had an almost mystical way of arriving just when I needed them. One in particular, I shall always remember.

The last note I received from Larry Tajiri read, "Hang on to your dreams. They're nice things to have."

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Financing for Sakura Square was arranged by Robert G. Boucher, president, First Denver Mortgage Co. The construction loan was provided by the First National Bank of Denver and the long term mortgage loan is being provided by Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.

Among the tenants for commercial space in Sakura Square are Restaurant Kyoto, international restaurant chain based in Kyoto, Japan; Nakai Gift Shop; Sawada Beauty Salon; Haws and Co., art and jewelry store; Akebono Restaurant; Granada Supermarket; and Pacific Mercantile Co., an Oriental foods firm. Akebono, Granada and Pacific Mercantile have been in operation in the area for many years.

Montebello JWC Cited for decade of aid to Keiro

LOS ANGELES—The Montebello Japanese Womens Club, CFWC, was presented a certificate of appreciation from the Keiro Nursing Home for its decade of service to the facility at a recent meeting.

The club has contributed more than \$12,000 as well as donated many knitted and hand-sewn items for the patients at Keiro through the years. The club name will go on the Community Organization Honor Roll plaque hung in the nursing home, according to Edwin Hiroto, administrator.

The recognition plaque was donated by the Westside Optimist Club, which also donated more than \$5,000 to the facility and contributed volunteer man hours to it.

Hiroto, in making the presentation of the certificate to Ritsuko Kawakami, president of the Montebello club, declared, "Community support is much more than a 'one-time' contribution. Rather, as recognized by the 37 members of your club, there is a continuing need for support, because Keiro Nursing Home has a continuing commitment to meet the needs of our issei patients."

PRIORITIES

Continued from Page 1

picture, maybe what we need now is for some Nisei parent to analyze the Sansei! I wonder what game the Nisei parent would be playing?

In brief, the authors seem to have been carried away by their own notions and views. They have missed the basic intent of the Manzanar dedication; namely, to symbolically convey the fact that a group of American citizens were, indeed, denied their constitutional rights and summarily detained in concentration camps by their own government. That is the message.

Constitutionally and democratically speaking, a vital issue requires a 2/3 vote and not a majority vote. Our Constitution protects us in this regard so that 51 people can't tell 49 people what's good for all of us. So why wasn't there a public hearing regarding Manzanar? And why was public debate denied?

More importantly, when are people going to learn to discuss ISSUES and not personalities? Why character assassination?

By the way, the FBI and the Justice Department are not the best sources (and sometimes a're no source whatever) regarding the Executive Order. The Department of the Interior and the Military and The Library of Congress.

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