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BOOK REVIEW: Allan Beekman
New Translation of Pioneer Work

BOTCHAN, by Natsume Soseki, tr. by Alan Turney, 163 pp. (In UNESCO Collection of Representative Works), George Allen and Unwin, London; dist. in U.S. by Crane-Russak and Co., New York.

In 1895, Kinnosuke Natsume, later to be known as Soseki, left Tokyo to teach at the middle school in Matsuyama, Ehime prefecture. For a person of his background, born and bred in Tokyo and a distinguished graduate of Tokyo Imperial University, the move was unusual. Though the reasons

are obscure for his leaving himself to teach in an unimportant school, two things of note sprang from the experience: in this new position he won his future wife and he accumulated memories on which he would draw for Botchan, the work that would firmly establish his literary reputation.

After two unhappy years studying in England, he returned to teaching in Japan. While engaged in this ungenial occupation, he made his literary debut in 1905 with I am a Cat, (PC, Aug. 25, 1972). In the same month the first installment of the satirical I am a Cat appeared, he also published The Tower of London (Rondon-to), an essay akin to a prose poem about the historic British fortress and prison.

Botchan followed in 1908. A favorite among the works of this most loved of Japanese authors, Botchan is a popular vehicle for TV and movies. Interpretations Vary
Fans of Japanese movies may remember a recent version of Botchan in which Kyu Sakamoto played the title role. To his bewilderment, on the train going to Matsuyama an erotically inclined woman addresses him as Botchan.

For even to the Japanese the term appears to bear various interpretations. Nicknames and Impressions
When Botchan starts work at his school, he privately nicknames each faculty member according to the impressions made. Thus, the headmaster becomes Badger; the second headmaster Red Shirt. The art teacher becomes Clown; the head mathematics teacher, Porcupine; the English teacher, Green Pumpkin.

Botchan forms likes and dislikes, trust for some and distrust for others. He dislikes and distrusts Red Shirt and his sycophant, Clown. Dislike and distrust ripen into resentment when Red Shirt transfers Green Pumpkin to a school in faraway Nobeoka in order to steal the exile's fiancée, Porcupine and Botchan plot to expose and punish Red Shirt and Clown.

With his conditioned respect for personal privacy, the Western reader may be offended by the forthright meddling in other lives by the two conspirators. He may wonder, too, if the crude machinations of the conspirators may cause more mischief than the intrigue they presume to requite.

No such doubts disturb Botchan. To him, the problems of the world are in clear black and white, with good guys opposing bad guys. As a good guy, he returns to Tokyo, and the adoring Kiyo, convinced of the rectitude and propriety of his childish behavior.

'Japan Beautiful'
TOKYO — Mainichi Daily News has published its 1974 edition of "Japan Beautiful" (#600), English - language guidebook on sightseeing in Japan. The Ocean Exposition 1975 in Okinawa is the cover story.



CHRISTMAS CHEER—Deni Uejima, San Gabriel Valley JACLER, heads the 1973 PSLWDC Christmas Cheer campaign now underway, which has a goal of \$10,000 so that 1,000 needy Asian Americans in the Southern California area may have a brighter Holiday season.

Dogwood trees planted in Tokyo

TOKYO—In 1912 when Tokyo Mayor Ozaki presented cherry trees which now bloom annually in Washington, D. C., Americans in return sent dogwood saplings but these were scattered at many places, making it difficult to locate them.

As a 50th anniversary project, the Tokyo Rotary decided to build a dogwood garden in Tokyo. The Almond Rotary Club in Pennsylvania donated 300 dogwood saplings in 1971, which were temporarily planted in Shinjuku Gyoen Gardens.

Eventually they will be in the Imperial Palace plaza. The first group of saplings were planted by the Tokyo Rotarians at Kitanomaru Park on Oct. 31.

Returned land from U.S. military in Japan to be converted into parks

TOKYO — Some 200 acres of the U.S. military base (Camp Asaka) returned to

Japan last year will be converted to parks and recreational use, according to plans of Saitama Prefecture and three cities in the area — Asaka, Wako and Niiza.

It completely excludes apartment complexes, because the cities cannot handle the financial burden for more schools and sewage disposal. Water is also in short supply.

Camp Asaka consists of some 780 acres but only 36 percent of the land was returned in June. Saitama Prefecture has also rejected housing be constructed on the 400 acres of Johnson Base which was returned at the same time.

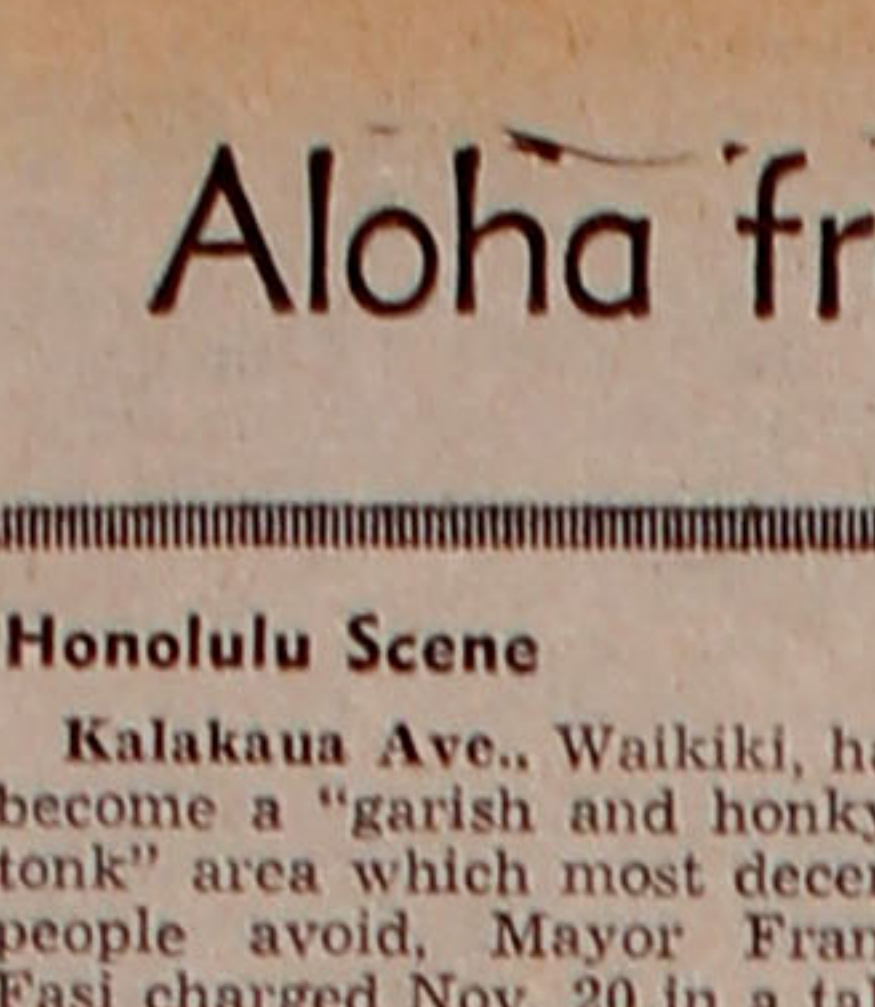
Business Ticker

About 1,110 employees of the Hawaiian Electric Co. walked off their jobs at 12:01 a.m. Nov. 19 in the first large scale electric company strike in island history. Signal Properties, Big Island landholder, has given up 775 acres of state-leased land to Orchid Island, a subsidiary of Tokyo Co. of Tokyo because of "extreme economic hardship."

The state board of land and natural resources approved on the parcel in Lalamilo, transfer of the 25-year lease Waimea, in the South Kohala district of the Big Island. Signal Properties spent \$102,423 on the land since winning a lease for it from the state in 1968.

Aloha from Hawaii

by Richard Gima



Honolulu Scene
Kalakaua Ave., Waikiki, has become a "garish and honky-tonk" area which most decent people avoid. Mayor Frank Fasi charged Nov. 20 in a talk before the Oahu Assn. of Evangelicals at Ala Moana Banquet Hall. He told his audience his ambition is to restore "honesty, morality and pride" to Honolulu. If someone proposed restoring Waikiki to its old self, Fasi asked, "Would you call him square?"

Crime File
Circuit Judge Allen Hawkins has dismissed charges of illegal possession of a gun and barbiturates against Masao I. Tsukiyama, 44, reputed crime syndicate figure. David Hobler, Tsukiyama's attorney, told Hawkins that the search of Tsukiyama's car on Jan. 23 was improper because police arrested him first and got his glove compartment key before they had cause to believe the gun and pills were there.

Sports Scene
Waianae High School football team, champions of the public schools on Oahu, beat St. Louis High School, private school champions, 6-0, Nov. 23 at Honolulu Stadium. It was the Islands' first Oahu Bowl prep football championship. . . . Honokaa High's football team is the Big Island's 1973 champions. It had a record of 7 wins and 1 loss. Others in the Big Island Inter-scholastic Federation finished in this order: 2. Hawaii Prep (5 wins, 2 losses, 1 tie); 3. Kona-naevana, 5 and 3; Hilo, 3, 4 and 1; Kohala, 3 and 5; and Ika'u, 0 and 8.

High school football results: Honokaa 42, Hilo 0 (Honokaa wins Big Island championship); Waianae 30, Kauai 0 (Waianae wins Kauai championship); Waianae 13, McKinley 6 (Waianae wins Oahu public school championship); St. Louis 21, Punaohu 20 (St. Louis wins Oahu private school championship).

Jim Henry
Sakura Script
Where Do I Go from Here?

WHERE ARE THEY NOW— The differences in language and customs and way of thinking, as well as the fact that the former-soldier husbands' social and economic position did not measure up to the brides' expectations, broke up some of the marriages.

EASY JAPANESE IN A MINUTE
Umare wa dochira desuka? (Where were you born?)
Shigoto wa dochira desuka? (Where do you work?)

MINI/VIEW ODDITIES — Japan are colored blue because the rat research laboratory at Kyoto University has found that rats don't like that color. . . . There is an estimated 30 million bicycles in use in Japan, of which more than half are ridden by primary school and junior high school children. Almost all of the children learn to ride the bike about the time they are 5 or 6. . . . Ninety-five per cent of the Japanese in Japan eat at least twice a day, moreover, people in their 30s eat more rice than those in any other age group. . . . Ever notice that there are no flower children only once or twice a week. . . . Trash containers in

PURELY PERSONAL OPINIONS
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