

From the Frying Pan

Bill Hosokawa

Communications specialist appointed community relations exec in Colorado

LAKEWOOD, Colo. — Carol N. Thomas, Ph. D., began her duties last month (Jan. 8) as coordinator for community relations, a position comparable to director of a municipal human relations agency...

our thoughts in different ways to make sure everybody understands us. Better explanations can avoid a lot of animosity. In our communications we do a lot of assuming and we often make false assumptions — we assure we are understood.

She is the third Nikkei on the Mainland appointed to head an agency of this type. Preceding her are Phil Hayasaka and Minoru Yasui.

Hayasaka has headed the Seattle Dept. of Human Rights since 1963 when it was then an advisory commission and then established as a permanent agency in 1969. Yasui was appointed in 1967 as executive director of the Denver Community Relations Commission.

Lakewood City Administrator Walter C. Kane revealed Dr. Thomas was selected from among 30 applicants and was a unanimous choice by the oral interview board. The position was established in the 1974 budget, supervising three community service representatives and reporting directly to the city administrator.

Daughter of the Edward Kuruharas of Hilo, she is married to Richard E. Thomas, a Denver electrical engineer. She received her doctorate in communications from the Univ. of Colorado, her masters from Washington and bachelor degree from Howard Payne College. Her educational background and experience involved working with citizen groups through the Rocky Mountain federal region, California and Hawaii.

Prior to joining the Lakewood city staff, she worked as a communications specialist for American Technical Assistance Corp., Denver; taught communications at the Univ. of Colorado campuses at Boulder and Denver and also taught at Bakersfield High School and at Hilo High School.

Currently she is designing a communications program to help city staffers become better listeners. "We have to work out a better system of getting citizen response," she said.

"I guess I was the only inland governor who expressed a willingness to take the Japanese from the coast states. I told my secretary that this would finish me politically in the state and my prediction came true. Interpreting the Constitution as a lawyer, I could take no other stand. That part of the Declaration of Independence about all men being created equal and being guaranteed equal rights as citizens has no amendment excluding Japanese, Jews, Catholics or anyone else. This is war, and we have to protect our country against enemies, but to condemn an entire race and refuse to accept American citizens of that race into our state seemed wrong to me."

Ralph Carr made one more bid for public office. He ran for governor in 1950, but died before the election. The public was amazed that he left an estate of only \$2,500. Among the floral tributes at his funeral was one from the Denver JAACL chapter. It was in the shape of a pair of boxing gloves in memory of "the champ."

On the Margin

By Kats Kunitisugu

THE NOGUCHI CASE . . . FIVE YEARS LATER

During the past week, I have been helping Budd Fukel of Seattle gather some additional material for a book he is writing, which discusses in part the Noguchi case.

The passage of time gives one a perspective on an event that is difficult to achieve while one is involved in it on a day-to-day basis. One can stand back now and see the whole picture, rather than the strokes. At the same time, certain details which were ignored in the rush pop up now to claim one's attention.

I hope his constituents in the Gardena area remember Hahn's performance when the chips were down, rather than his handshaking appearances at VFW dinners and gardeners' installations when Hahn runs again.

Dr. Noguchi is still the chief medical examiner of Los Angeles County, the highest placed Japanese American in county government. His office has been moved from the cramped quarters in the Hall of Justice to new facilities near the USC County Medical Center. I don't know if the USC and UCLA Medical Schools are still less than cordial to the coroner, but Dr. Noguchi is still determined that the coroner be his own man and not the hand-picked candidate of the medical schools or the medical associations.

And his example of courage five years ago marked a

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munications media, such as the press wire services not only of the United States but of Japan, as well as of national and international organizations concerned with human rights and dignity, individual and group welfare and opportunities, etc., not to mention the national and international foundations and associations that grant funds for special projects in the humanities, civil rights, racial and religious discrimination and persecution, etc.

The right person in New York City could probably accomplish more for the "good" of Japanese Americans and JAACL than in perhaps any other community in the entire United States, with the possible exception of Washington, D.C.

Considerations of space do not permit me to expand and expound on my twin propositions for public relations at this time. Perhaps in subsequent columns, I may do so.

In the meantime, however, because of the critical importance of effective public relations for JAACL and Japanese Americans, and with due regard for both the organization and individuals of Japanese ancestry in the United States, may I invite individual JAACLers and others not in the organization to give these few thoughts the benefit of their thinking and to communicate their comments to National JAACL Headquarters, Attention the JAACL PR Commission. And, in that communication, can any think of two more effective places in this country than Washington and New York for JAACL leadership and activity in this sphere of public relations?

Drug abuse info

SACRAMENTO — Professionals and persons associated with drug abuse prevention programs now have access to computers at the State Health Dept., UCLA and at Mills College to retrieve information. Data of individual patients are not contained.

STATE SEN. ALFRED SONG

Korean American to run for third term; was first Asian state solon

SACRAMENTO — Senator Alfred H. Song (D-Monterey Park) announced that he would campaign for a third four-year term in State Senate.

His best known bills are the Song-Brown Family Physicians Training Act and landmark legislation creating new protections for consumers in the areas of warranties and credit cards.

"Song, a Democrat, is a graduate of the University of Southern California where he earned the degrees of Bachelor of Science, Juris Doctor, and Master Laws.

He established a successful law practice in Monterey Park and began his political career by winning a seat on the Monterey Park City Council.

Song was elected to the Assembly in 1962 and 1964. In 1966 he won election to the State Senate and was re-elected in 1970 with 70 percent of the vote.

In addition to the Senate Judiciary Committee, Song serves on the Senate Committee on Business and Professions, Health and Welfare, and Local Government. He also represents the Senate on the Judicial Council of California and the State Health Planning Council.



LOS ANGELES—Being recognized for contributing much of their adult lives to the Scouting program by the Los Angeles Area Council are three one-time Eagle Scouts who were conferred the council's highest honor, the Silver Beaver, at the annual recognition dinner Feb. 6 with 1,100 adult leaders present. They are (from left) Harry Yamamoto and his wife, attorney Frank Chuman and his wife, and Benjamin Kondo, M.D., and his wife.

Three L.A. Nisel conferred Silver Beaver award

LOS ANGELES — Three Nisel were among 88 recipients of the Silver Beaver, highest area council Boy Scout honor, at the Hollywood Palladium Feb. 6. They were past national JAACL president and attorney Frank F. Chuman; Harry Yamamoto, co-owner of Towne Distributing Co.; and Benjamin Kondo, M.D.

Chuman began his scouting activities when in 1930 he joined Troop 33 of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, attaining his Eagle rank in 1935. Until Evacuation, he was junior asst. scoutmaster with the troop and since his return to Los Angeles has been serving scouting in an executive capacity.

Dr. Kondo started scouting life in 1927 with Troop 145 of Maryknoll School, attaining his Eagle rank in 1929. While attending UCLA, he was scoutmaster of Troop 110 of Evergreen Baptist Church. His son Leroy is also an Eagle Scout.

Yamamoto has been with Koyasan Church's Troop 379 for 23 years, twenty of them as head of the troop's parents association.

During the evening, Brian Oki of Troop 719 (Gardena Valley District) delivered his prize-winning speech on "getting involved to make the world a better place in which to live." He is the son of the Masao Oki of Gardena.

—Kashu Mainichi Photo.

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by Jim Yoshida with Bill Hosokawa Foreword by Senator Inouye

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Jose. It also takes in communities to the south and southwest as Cupertino, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Monte Serrano on the westside, plus Campbell, Morgan Hill, San Martin and Gilroy on the southside.

The weekend Gubser declared he would not run, the San Jose Mercury-News published the December, 1973, Diridon Research Corp. survey on "most respected public figures." For the third consecutive year, Mayor Minela ranked as the most respected individual in the county. Trailers were Rep. Charles Gubser, Rep. Pete McCloskey, Assemblyman John Vasconcellos and State Sen. Alfred Alquist.

Ethnic studies

SAN FRANCISCO — Established five years ago, CSU-San Francisco's Asian American studies department this spring semester offers 31 courses. Six of them deal with the Japanese.

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