

# PACIFIC CITIZEN

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## Ancient stone anchors off California shores cited as pre-Columban visit by Asian sailors

SAN DIEGO, Calif.—An archeologist said he is now convinced that Oriental sailors "discovered" the New World more than 1,000 years before Christopher Columbus.

Dr. James R. Moriarty, professor of archeology and history at the Univ. of San Diego, said he believes that the most compelling evidence of early trans-Pacific voyages is five Oriental stone anchors found in the ocean floor off Southern California.

The subject was presented May 20 at a lecture sponsored by the local chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America at the university.

"Investigations of the sites and analysis of the anchors now demonstrate their origin and some reasonable estimate of their age," he said in an inter-

view. "They are approximately 1,500 to 2,000 years old."

One of the doughnut-shaped anchors was dredged up from a depth of over 1,000 meters off Santa Rosa Island in 1975. Moriarty said the other four anchors were found in shallow locations, which he refused to identify.

"The sites are still under investigation and we don't want them plundered by a bunch of divers," he explained. "You can say they are in the Los Angeles-Santa Barbara area."

Moriarty said the anchors have been under intensive study for over a year and, although they have not been specifically dated by chemical techniques, a comparison with Chinese records and materials has erased doubts about their origin and antiquity.

We can now say that these stone anchors originated on the Asian mainland," he said.

Moriarty said much of the research verifying the authentic character of the anchors was done by Larry Pearson of Los Angeles, an underwater archeologist.

Moriarty also cited a recent study of West Coast historical records that established that Chinese and Japanese mariners made at least 27 "accidental voyages" to North American shores within historical times up to 1919.

"All of the vessels were junk-like ships and boats not much different or less seaworthy than ancient Oriental vessels," he noted. "It seems reasonable that accidental voyages also could have occurred in prehistoric times."

Moriarty counts as addi-

tional evidence the discovery of broken pottery in Peru, which although it was American made, bears striking resemblance to 1,000-year-old Jomon pottery of Japan.

### Legend of Fu-Sang

Moriarty said that while some scientists still question the evidence for trans-Pacific prehistoric voyages, a growing number of investigators are accepting the theory.

He said the more recent discoveries, such as the anchors, provide a possible explanation for the Chinese "Legend of Fu-sang," written by a Buddhist monk in 600 A.D. The legend describes the discovery by Chinese mariners of what they called the "Diety Islands," a land of strange herbs, fruits, woods and people.

—San Diego Union

## Mansfield sworn in as U.S. envoy

WASHINGTON — Former Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield was sworn in as U.S. ambassador to Japan on May 26 with his wife Maureen holding the Bible. Administering the oath was retired U.S. District Judge William B. Jones.

## Umemoto out-spent and out-voted

LOS ANGELES—Kaz Umemoto, in his second try for a legislative seat, ended No. 4 in the special 46th State Assembly District primaries last week (May 24).

A voter turnout of 32% exceeded the county registrar's prediction of 25% as the Nisei architect-urban

planner garnered 2,064 votes (8.2%) in the 12-way race for the Democratic nomination. Front-runner Mike Roos faces Republican Dan Smith in the runoff.

Understandably disappointed with his tally, Umemoto cried money was a decisive factor as Roos had spent more than \$100,000 to win the nomination and virtual victory as the district is heavily Democratic. But Umemoto said he was heartened by the involvement of young people in his campaign.

"If they keep involved we will be able to put something together later—not parti-

arly for me — but perhaps for another candidate," Umemoto said.

## Mark centennial of Nikkei Christians

NEW YORK—The governing board of the National Council of Churches formally adopted a "Message to the Japanese American Christian Community" on the founding of the Japanese Gospel Society — first organized Japanese Christian group in the U.S.

The message came on May 6, with ceremonies in honor of the founding in October.

## Tape supplement for Nihongo textbooks in U.S. available

LOS ANGELES — California Japanese Language Schools Assn. said its long-awaited tape cassette supplement prepared for Japanese-language students in America will be available in July.

The material, prepared under auspices of the Japanese Ministry of Education and funded by Japan Found-

### Sumitomo Bank

SAN FRANCISCO—Sumitomo Bank of California is seeking approval to open its first branch at Pershing Ave. and March Lane in Stockton. It already has permission to open new offices in South San Jose, Japan Town San Francisco, Fresno, City of Industry and La Palma for an overall statewide total of 29.

dation, accompanies textbooks currently in use at the primary and first grades, according to Yoshichika Nikaido, CJLSA president.

Five additional sets are to be completed, according to Yoshiko Tanaka, who supervised the taping session in Japan, and Osamu Mizutani, director of the Japanese Language Research Institute.

CJLSA emphasized the textbooks are needed to make use of the cassettes. JACL-sponsored classes may inquire by writing to: Japanese Language School Unified System, 1218 S. Menlo Ave., Los Angeles 90006.

## JACL's reply to CRA summons: 'quash it!'

LOS ANGELES — Served with a summons for alleged unlawful detainer by the Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles May 20, the JACL in response asked the municipal court to quash the complaint.

It was pointed out that CRA had collected payment of rent for the suite of offices JACL and Pacific Citizen occupy in the Sun Bldg. through the month of May.

Sun Bldg. tenants had been informed to leave by May 15 to either the old Nishi Hongwanji Bldg. or old Union Church, which are being renovated. It appears some of the tenants can be moved by the end of this week, the CRA indicated.

Karl Nobuyuki, national executive director, who quartered himself in the JACL regional office during the past week because of the summons said all National JACL board members have been sent background documents and an overview of the situation as of May 23.

JACL's contention is that the old Nishi Hongwanji Bldg. is "unacceptable and unsafe", thus not in keeping with the CRA's agreement to relocate JACL to a site equal to or better than the present offices. Meantime, CRA has refurbished the offices as far as practicable with new roofing, carpeting, paint job, plumbing and wiring. Air conditioners and wall heaters have been installed.

Plans were to relocate JACL and PC to the third

floor of the old Nishi Hongwanji. Because of need for additional space, the ground floor with a Central Ave. entrance is being improved for the JACL regional office. Occupancy of the latter quarters can be expected by mid-July.

The CRA complaints were served upon Mike Ishikawa, PSWDC governor; Al Hata-te, PC Board chairman, and Glen Isomoto, regional director.

Kenji Machida, PSWDC legal counsel, was appointed by national JACL legal counsel Frank Iwama of Sacramento, to act of behalf of National JACL in the case. Machida said the law firm of Cummins, White & Breidenbach has been retained to represent JACL. A conference by the principals was scheduled for May 31.

The JACL decision to stay in the Sun Bldg. came when the PSWDC executive board unanimously voted May 18 to have its regional office remain despite the May 15 eviction date. The district council at its regular quarterly session the following Sunday, May 22, ratified the decision.

National President Jim Murakami and Nobuyuki, who were present, supported the decision. That it was National JACL's case—and not the district council—became known that day when it was ascertained the original rental agreement with CRA in September, 1972, had been signed by Al Hata-te, then national JACL treasurer for the national organization.

## Civic Center planners sign



Monterey Park, Calif. Mayor George Ige (center) signs a multi-million dollar contract with architects Jerry Ishino (left) and Frank Sata to design the city's new civic center complex, consisting of a city hall, police and fire departments and to be architecturally congruous with the existing library and community center. Sata has specialized in civic centers, including those in West Covina and Carson. Ishino has designed many offices for major business groups, such as the Bank of America.

## Asians for death penalty

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—All three Asian Americans in the state legislature have voted for reinstating capital punishment for 16 specified types of first degree murder.

Sen. Alfred Song last Friday was among 27 in favor of legislation now before Gov. Brown, who is expected to veto it. Senate action

was for concurrence of Assembly amendments.

In mid-May, Assemblymen Paul Bannai and Floyd Mori were among the 54 ye votes cast — exactly two-thirds needed in the 80-member House to override a veto.

Mori viewed death penalty "as one of several necessary measures to counteract the

Continued on Page 7

## Washington state passes foreign resident tuition bill

OLYMPIA, Wash. — The Washington state legislature last week (May 27) passed the bill granting resident tuition privileges to students whose parents are employees of foreign employers and here as nonimmigrants with an E-1 visa.

Pacific Northwest JACL District Governor Edward Yamamoto of Moses Lake, who spearheaded the campaign over the past several sessions, was told the bill

(SB 2113, authored by State Sen. Nat Washington) had passed the House and now in conference in the Senate to work some differences which were added by the House.

In early 1975, Columbia Basin JACL became aware of the plight of Japan Air Line employees stationed at Moses Lake. While their children are on a registration par with all other pupils through grammar and high school, upon entering college they are required to pay the foreign student tuition rate which is nearly three times the resident rate (or about \$1,200 per year in the case of the Univ. of Washington).

Yamamoto said it was unfair after it was determined foreign students in Japan were being treated equally with native students. The Council for Post-Secondary Education had endorsed the legislation.

## Jojoba oil sold to Tokyo perfumery

SAN DIEGO, Calif.—A Tokyo-based cosmetic firm, Koei Perfumery, will purchase 5,000 lbs. of jojoba oil at \$5.50 per lb. from Apache Marketing Cooperation Association, in San Carlos, Arizona. Jojoba oil is the only known, natural substitute for the vanishing sperm whale oil.



### Emperor decorates former L.A. resident

LOS ANGELES — Yutaka Katayama, former chairman of the board of Nissan Motor Corp. USA, commemorated his decoration from the Japanese Emperor of the Ranju Hoshō—Blue Ribbon Medal for outstanding achievement in education, philanthropy, medicine, land development and other fields which benefit the general welfare—by donating \$1,000 each to the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center and the Japanese Retirement Home.

"I owe it to the people in the Japanese community in Southern California who gave me their support (for contributing to good Japan-U.S. relations)," he said in a recent letter from Tokyo.

### San Jose's Fuji Towers now filled

SAN JOSE, Calif. — The 140-unit, six-story Fuji Towers for senior citizens is a year old and has 100 pct. occupancy. Some 120 residents and members of the San Jose Buddhist Church Housing Corp., sponsors, gathered April 20 to commemorate the opening.

Mrs. Natsuno Kimura was introduced as the first tenant by Jimi Yamaichi, board chairman, Mrs. Kim Futagaki is the eldest Issei and Mrs. Annie Witek is the senior of all at age 90.

Proposal for elderly housing was initiated in 1972. Henry Yamane served as chairman through the construction phase. Swenson Co. of San Jose built the project at No. 5th and Taylor. Sam Tashima is manager. Other board members include:

Akira Kamiya, Yosh Uchida, Kats Tokunaga, Tom Yuki, vp; Bob Yoshikawa, exec. asst.; Yoneo Bepp, Yohio Ando, Frank Higashi, Mike Honda, Duncan Iwagaki, Stephen Nakashima, Bill Thompson, George Yamaoka, I.K. Ishimatsu and Henry Yamate.

### Issei church starts consumer protection

EL CERRITO, Calif.—With a one-year \$7,500 grant from the National Commission for Racial Justice of the United Church of Christ, the Sycamore Congregational Church began a consumer protection project with Japanese-speaking residents here in April.

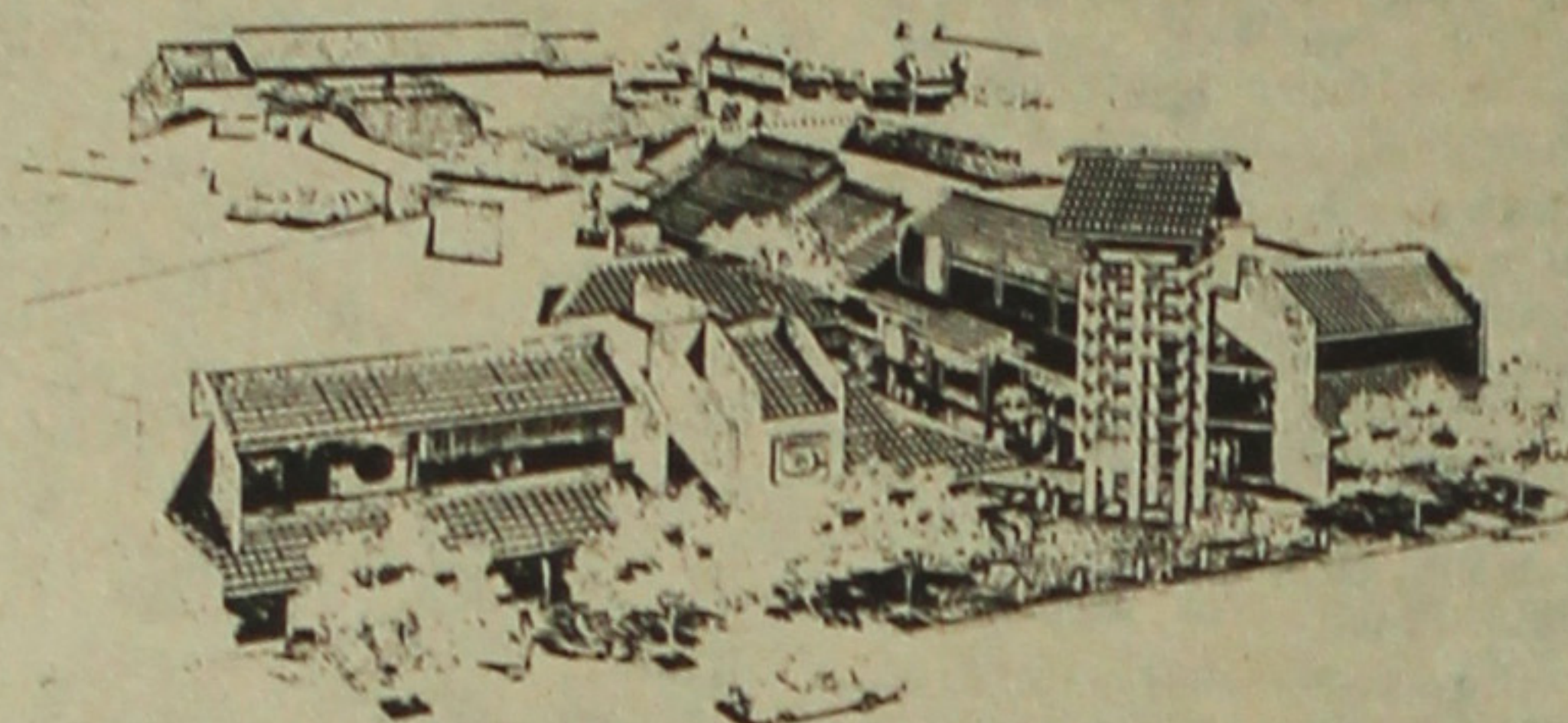
The Rev. Kenichi Otsu, graduate student from Kyoto at Pacific School of Religion, is researching the extent of consumer problems within the Japanese-speaking community. Case studies are to be shared with other Japanese groups and consumer protection organizations.

Those with problems may call Rev. Otsu (845-6388) or the Sycamore Church, 1111 Navellier St. (525-0727).

### Church bazaar

ALAMEDA, Calif.—The Alameda Buddhist Temple bazaar carnival will be held June 25-26 at the church grounds, 2325 Pacific Ave., with Ichiro Nishida and Kiyoshi Naito as general co-chairmen.

## Completion of Japanese Village Plaza projected for July 1978



Japanese Village Plaza—the artist's view

LOS ANGELES—Construction has begun on Japanese Village Plaza, a \$5 million specialty theme shopping center in the Little Tokyo redevelopment area.

The project, permitting Little Tokyo shopkeepers to continue their historic role of providing for community needs, was designed and funded by local businessmen, working with the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), which is also funding an adjacent building. The developer, David Hyun, an architect, and most of the 21 limited partners are long time area residents.

The 2.4 acre plaza will reflect Japanese architectural tradition. The tiled, wood and stucco structures will flow from First to Second Street near Central Ave. through a winding, open mall in a setting characteristic of a small Japanese village, featuring blue tiled roofs, exposed wood beams and windows reminiscent of shoji patterns.

In addition to the shops retailing such items as books, shoes and clothing will be stores stocking authentic Japanese products and three major restaurants.

Ninety percent of the tenants will be small "mama and papa" stores. The CRA building will house dis-

placed business tenants from the Weller Street area, while the main mall will house tenants from other sections of Little Tokyo.

From the beginning, Hyun's proposal for a shopping center stressed the importance of a project which would provide a home for the area's small businessman.

"The central purpose behind this community project was the preservation of the rights, interests and livelihood of the people who historically lived here in Lit-

tle Tokyo," Hyun said. "The approval of our project by the CRA means the little businessman displaced by the renewal of the area will have a place to go."

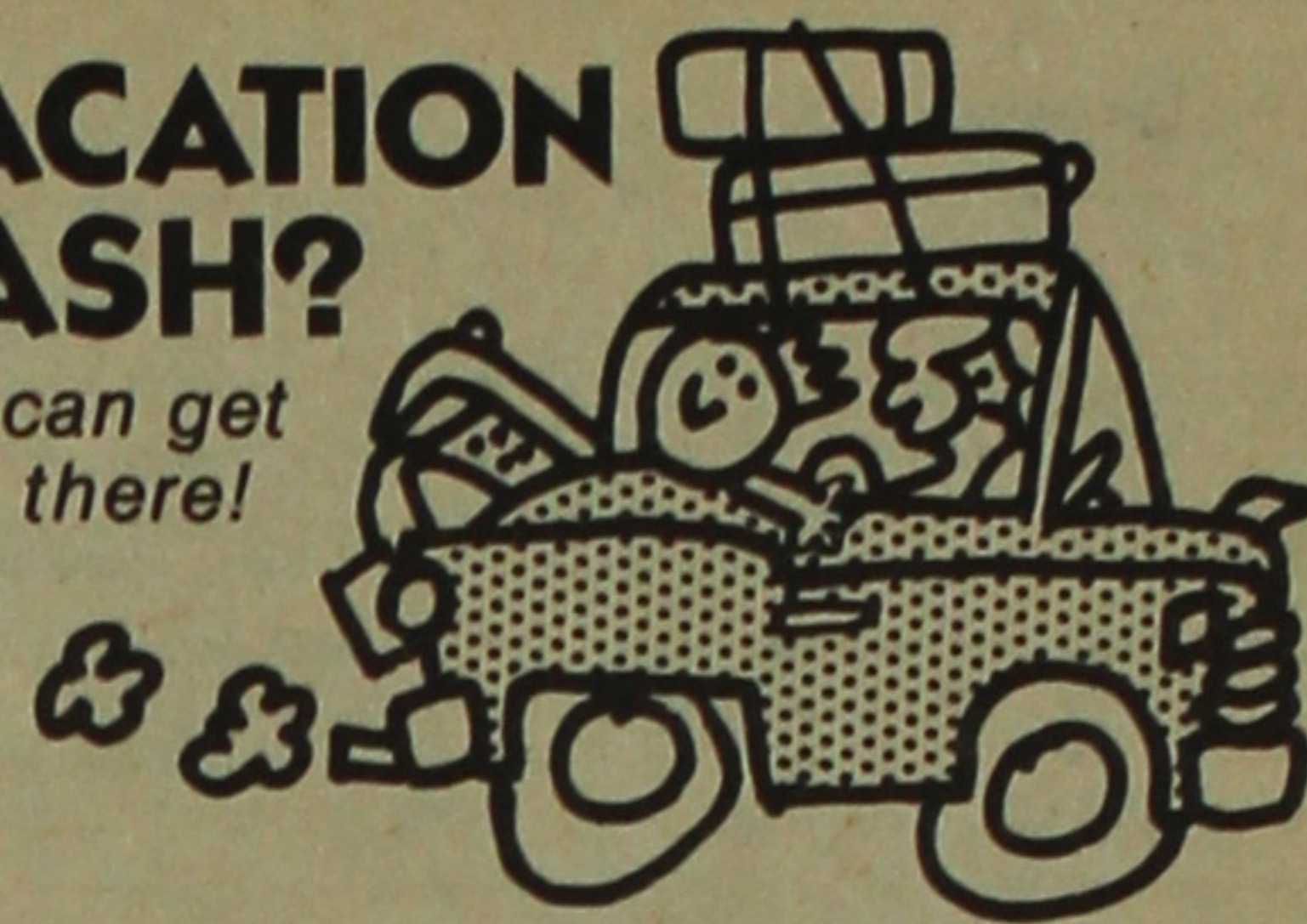
Hyun's plans also called for maintaining current proprietor rates. Rent is projected at 46 cents per sq. ft., compared to a 75 cent. per sq. ft. rate prevailing in other Southern California theme malls.

Hyun gained CRA approval as developer for this project by working closely both with the CRA Board of Commissioners and leaders of the Nisei community. One of Hyun's big supporters has been S.K. Uyeda, owner of a local department store in Little Tokyo and one of the partners in the venture. Uyeda has emotional as well as economic ties to the area. Uyeda was selected by the War Relocation Authority to be the first evacuee to return to Little Tokyo. Other

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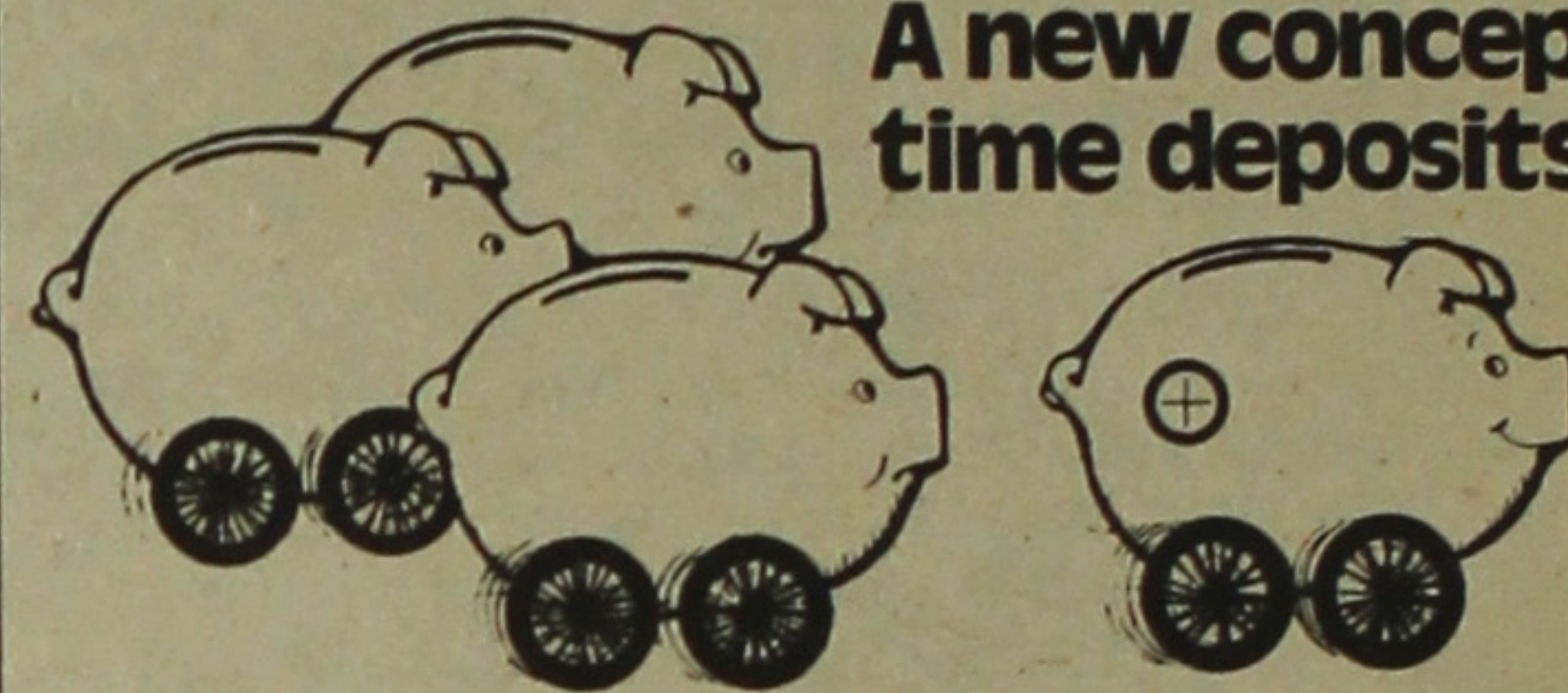


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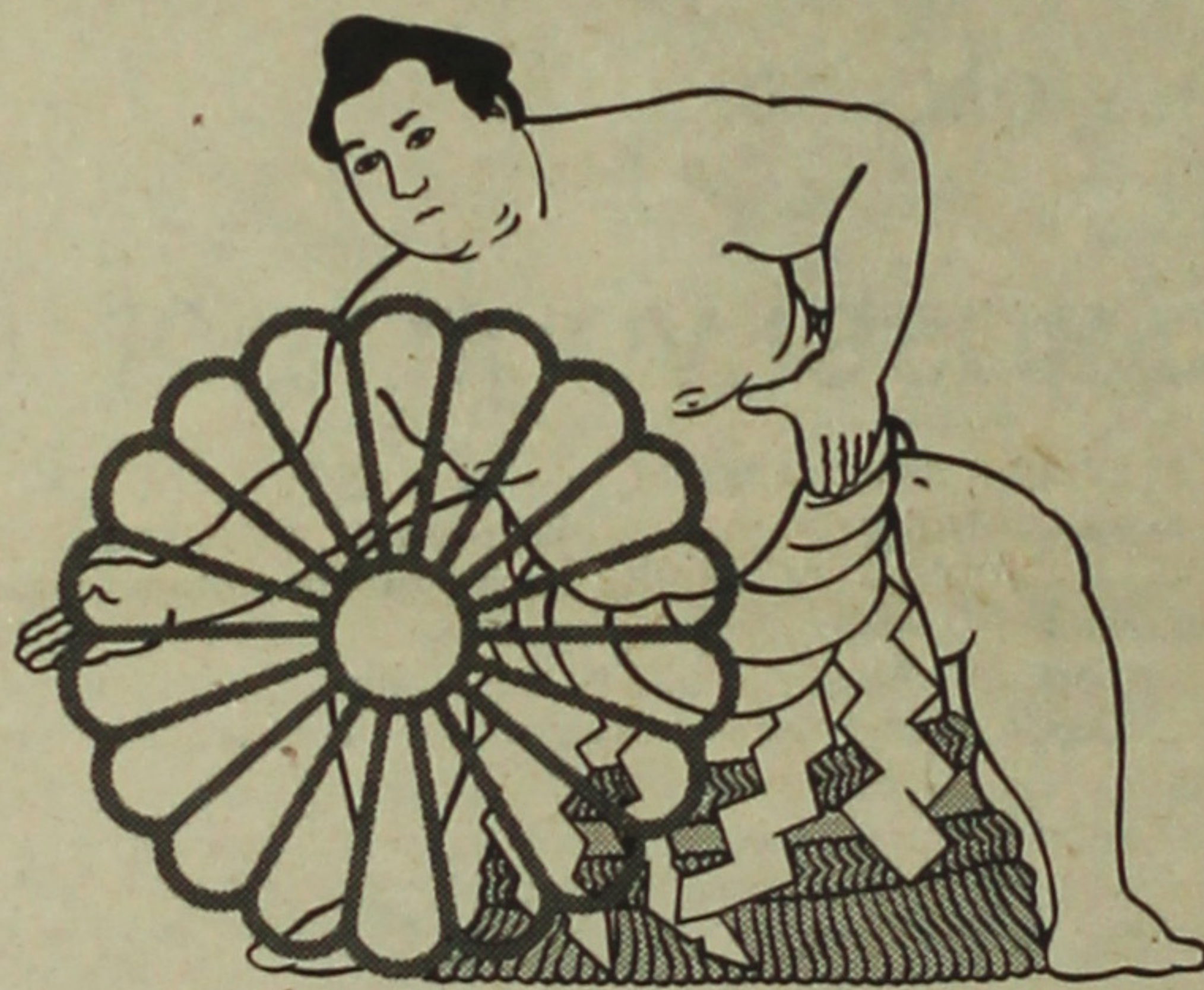
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EDITORIALS:

Social Security

The Social Security system is one of the legacies of the New Deal. It is facing serious financial problems. Since 1975, the system has been paying out more benefits than it has taken in—and if the current trend were allowed to continue, the system would be bankrupt by 1983.

This is an aspect that the Nisei Retirement Planning Conference which JACL had co-sponsored with the National Institute of Mental Health last fall in San Francisco by-passed in their regular discussions as that was not the reason for gathering the meeting.

But problem of restructuring social security has become basic and real to any retirement planning. Retired people are living longer. Disability benefits have increased dramatically since they were introduced in 1957. High levels of unemployment have meant reduced funding. Adjustment in benefits to account for inflation have greatly increased the total sum of payments. And as the rate of population growth declines, the balance shifts more and more to the elderly side: there will be fewer workers contributing to the fund and a larger number collecting payments.

President Carter has made sweeping proposals to correct faults in the Social Security system, such as the elimination of the future benefit adjustment made five years ago, elimination of ceilings on the tax which employers pay based upon a worker's salary and allowing use of general funds from Treasury to make up for lost income when unemployment goes over 6%. As expected, the President's program has touched off a lively debate over who will foot the bill for funds needed to restore financial integrity to the system.

Since over 104 million Americans pay taxes into Social Security and some 33 million receive benefits, public attention to this debate will be widespread and the consequences—social and political—of whatever package Congress accepts will be manifold.

Social Security has proved its value over the past 40 years. It has become a striking example of how government, business and labor can work together to foster a common social good. The task of restructuring Social Security will require hard choices. When people and politicians discuss the relative merits of the President's plan, social and economic questions should be addressed rather than ideological purity or political expediency.

So ingrained is this Social Security system, one wonders how the JACL-NIMH Nisei retirement planning conference might have ended if the conferees went on the assumption Social Security had become bankrupt about the time most of the Nisei generation were stepping into retirement.

Lesson of Narita

Removal of the symbolic steel towers at Narita, where local farmers and sympathizers oppose the opening of the new Tokyo International Airport, has cleared away a major obstruction but the basic problems continue—such as noise pollution, supply of jet fuel and transportation of passengers to and from the airport.

Many homes near the airport are still exposed to excessive noise. Airport authority is concerned about fuel supply since the union in charge has some extreme radical activists. And the question over adjusting the workload between the present Tokyo International Airport at Haneda and the new airport remains unresolved. The hope is that all problems are resolved before the new airport opens. The problem has persisted for over a decade because the government failed to take heed of the interests of the local people.

The lesson of creating a better living environment, as we all know, is not limited to Narita.

Historic Landmark

Hotel del Coronado is being designated as a National Historic Landmark—where Edison installed the lighting system in 1894, where seven Presidents (Harrison, McKinley, Taft, Wilson, Roosevelt, Johnson and Nixon) have slept, and only incidentally where the Pacific Southwest JACL District and San Diego JACL held a joint installation dinner nearly four years ago.

The honor being bestowed upon the 90-year-old hotel reminds us of JACL efforts a decade ago to have the monument for Nisei GIs at the wartime evacuee camp at Rohwer, Ark., similarly designated. Of all the camps, JACL continues to feel Rohwer has the merits to muster the wide popular support needed to convince the National Park Service.

Comments, letters & features

JACL Insurance

Editor:

Our organization presently provides health insurance coverage for approximately 17,000 members. I was involved in the formation of the Northern California Western Nevada District Council/California Blue Shield Group Health Plan which was started in 1965. At that time, we felt that a health insurance program should be made available to our members as an additional service for our hardworking and dedicated JACLers. As you know, insurance coverage is the type of program that group participation has advantages over individual involvement.

In our plan's short history, the membership has grown to about 4,500 subscribers and now involves five district councils. I am sure that other plans are experiencing similar increases in enrollment. Presently, most health insurance plans operating under the National JACL require that all adult subscribers be JACL members. Along with this rather sudden increase in the membership, I have observed that active participation in our Chapter, District and National Activities has not increased at the same corresponding rate.

Now that I am a co-chairman of the National JACL Health Insurance Commission, I would like to take this opportunity to once again make an appeal to all JACLers, especially, those enrolled in our health insurance programs to set aside some of their spare time to participate and

support our many local and national level activities. This participation can also be in the form of financial support.

Through the years, many of our members and their families have benefitted by having the privilege to be a part of this program. In return, I would think that one way to show their gratitude would be by actively supporting us. I am sure they haven't joined JACL just for insurance coverage.

In closing, I will interject an analogy which involves the fable about the

dog and his tail. The way things are going, our insurance program will eventually be controlling JACL. They can help us change this trend.

JOHN YASUMOTO
Co-Chairman
Nat'l JACL Health
Insurance Commission
San Francisco

Short Notes

Editor:

Inadvertently, several words were

left out of the last paragraph of the Frying Pan column of May 20 referring to George Togasaki and the Rev. Hiram Kano. The affected sentence in corrected form should read: "They had met for the first time when Togasaki returned to San Francisco after serving in the U.S. Army in France."

BILL HOSOKAWA

Denver

Tell us what you think ... briefly.

HISTORY

Continued from Page 2

Issei pioneer Ichitaro Taniguchi said that when he arrived in the U.S. in 1914, "I worked mostly in sugar beets. There were a few people working on the railroad, and my father-in-law was working on the Guadalupe bridge."

Records show the first Issei came in the 1890s and tilled sugar beets in the fields and worked in the sugar mill. That handful grew to 600 by 1903. Fifteen years later, a Buddhist church was established along with a Japanese lan-

guage school.

By 1921, Hyoichi Ninogawa, Setsuo Aratani and Shin-kichi Inouye saw a potential for vegetable farming and within a few years changed the whole face of Santa Maria valley from growing sugar beets and white beans to cauliflower, broccoli and lettuce.

A Japanese Methodist Church was established in 1926, while the Japanese American Citizens League developed into one of the busiest organizations in Santa Maria a decade later.

The Japanese Americans owned 60 businesses in and

around Santa Maria with a population of some 1,500 in 1935.

Following Pearl Harbor the picture changed. The population was shipped off to camps.

When the war ended they had difficulty coming back.

"People weren't too enthusiastic about having the Japanese back," said Frank Ito, who came to Santa Maria in 1931 as a pharmacist.

But all this was years ago, Ito noted.

"We're accepted 100 percent now," he said. "Now, we're just like one of the bunch." □

CHIAROSCURO:

Sansei youth not 'turned off' to JACL

By FLOYD SHIMOMURA
Sacramento JACL

On Monday, May 9, I had the opportunity to speak to Mr. Ishida's Asian American History class at McClatchy High School. The subject I was asked to discuss was, of course, JACL.

Most of the students were Asian. Many, I would guess, were of Japanese ancestry. I think most of us who are involved in JACL believe that teenagers are, for some

reason, "turned off" to JACL. That is not true. In fact, that probably gives us more credit than we are entitled to, since it presumes some prior knowledge of the organization.

The truth is that the high school students are not "turned off". Most simply don't know anything about the organization, its purpose, or its history. After a rather cursory overview of JACL highlighting its origin, size, organizational

structure, goals, and some of its more notable achievements, the students — although not clamoring to sign up immediately — appeared to have a positive impression of JACL as "a nice organization".

This experience revealed a basic insight into our current problem of attracting more young people into the organization. The problem is not so much hostility on the part of the young, but lack of knowledge.

The solution, of course, is

to create mechanisms whereby the young can come into contact with JACL and learn about its purpose and goals. I think classes such as Mr. Ishida's should be encouraged. I think our Chapter should attempt to gear more of our activities to attract participation from the young. Perhaps, the reestablishment of a JAY's Chapter in Sacramento might be possible.

With your assistance, maybe this information "gap" can be bridged. □

A Corner for Our Guests:

A fishing story with a Kanaka accent

Over the years, Hichi Matsumoto has been entertaining followers of his reports of the 232nd Engineer veterans in the 442nd Veterans Club newsletter out in Honolulu. It's a style of writing seldom seen in a Mainland publication. A Nisei may not have difficulty understanding the "buddahead" patois; others might. Check with the nearest "kanaka" for translation.—Editor.

By HICHI MATSUMOTO
(442nd Veterans Club Newsletter)
Honolulu

We call ourselves fishermen but "hontoni yuttara" we're more than that. Always, when we go out our intentions are catching fish, more the merrier, but on occasions we bring home a bagful of "ogo" and nothing else. There's nothing wrong with that but no need skill for picking "ogo". One consolation is that nobody ever did turn down a package of "ogo no omiyage" yet.

In all honesty the three of us (The Beeg Fisherman,

Gary Kawate & the I.R.) can qualify for membership in the "Good Guys Club". It happened this way. "Kaerishina" one Sunday afternoon from a day of basking in the sun in Keehi Lagoon, a tri-maran skippered and manned by two haoles ran aground due to some strong winds, tide coming in fast not to mention some poor seamanship. On orders from our skipper (you must know who), all three of us jumped overboard and went to the rescue and after some groaning and grunting had the boat in navigable waters in short time.

Thinking about it now, the "omoshiroi" part is when all five of us were in the chest-deep waters and pushing the tri-maran off the reef, the two haoles in unison said "heave" and us buddaheads said "yoisho". The language different but the "imi" is the

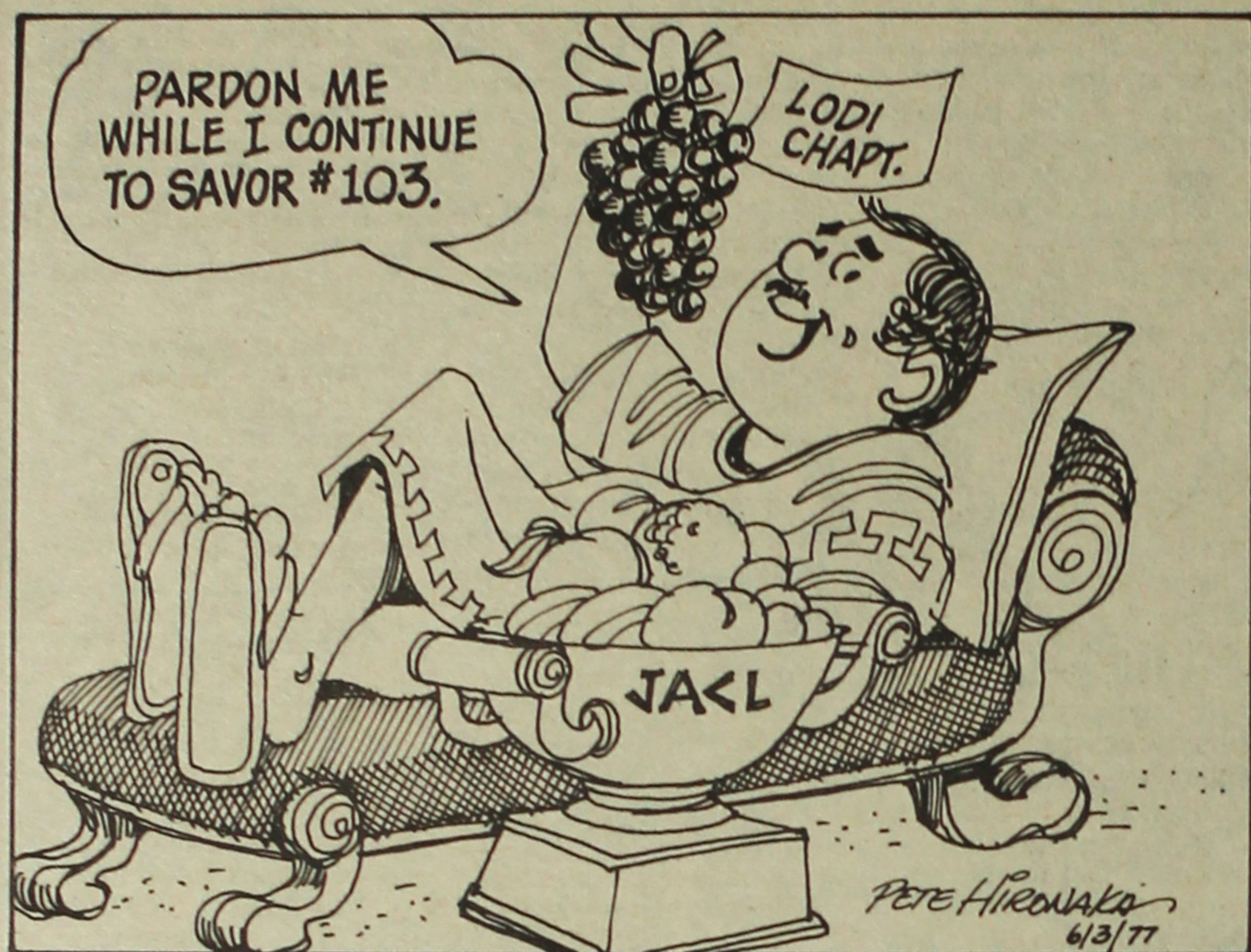
same and with everybody contributing his all, the difficult turned into a routine job.

On another Sunday, Gary "mega tsuite" caught all the fishes himself. The Beeg Fisherman's total was a big "0" (hajimete) but made up filling his bag with "ogo", the kind big plastic bag you use for your trash. Him "ni katen" because as he picks it off the ground, "sono mama" lock stock and barrel, it goes in the bag. Later on the boat, he "wakeru" the spoils into smaller plastic bags and stamps "no kawarini" give 'em to his customers. "Yorokonde" they go crazy, he says.

We don't know if we are the hard luck guys but B.F. always tells us how many big fishes Stanley Nakamura and he caught the last time out—they usually go on Wednesdays. Wonder if he tells Stanley the same thing

on Wednesdays that he tells us on Sundays.

Our last time out, the "okazuya" kaukau we bought was tasty but the end result was nasty. Something that we ate must have "ataru" us guys because all three of us had diarrhea and for one guy from the mouth too. Everybody went eat up their share at "hiru" with the attack following not too long after. The first one had his pauhana time. The second guy that night "yonakani" and the third guy must have had a delayed action because the "akuruhini" he spent more time than he cared sitting on the throne. One thing we all agreed, the okole "meniota." The Beeg Fisherman made it known loud and clear, it's "bento" from home from now on even if it's only Vienna sausage and "musubi". □



From the *Frying Pan*: Bill Hosokawa

## The Charm of 'Genji'

Denver, Colo.

You would hardly expect that a column on an 11th Century novel written by a Japanese noblewoman would stir up much response from Pacific Citizen readers. But after conducting this column for 10, these many years, I have learned that anything is possible.

The column of April 29 entitled *The Tale of Genji* resulted in communications from two readers, which is two more than most of these columns draw. They both make a point, or several of them, so I'd like to share them with you.

The first is from Warren Tsuneishi of Bethesda, Md., who modestly failed to identify himself as chief of the Orientalia Division of the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. Let me quote from his letter:

"Bill Hosokawa is entitled to his likes and dislikes, and I can't complain too much if he finds it difficult to stay with *The Tale of Genji* long enough to finish it since I have the same trouble myself with books I should read, like *War and Peace*. I find it a little sad, however, when he asks rhetorically: 'Is it wrong or undesirable or unnatural or odd that a Japanese American should be more interested in African art, Indian sand painting, Italian operas, Russian literature, Renaissance painters or Strauss waltzes than kabuki and Hiroshige prints?' Sad because Murasaki Shikibu's *Genji*, as a masterpiece of world literature, should be a part of the intellectual baggage of every modern reader—and not just Japanese or Japanese American readers."

Then Dr. Tsuneishi suggested that my basic orientation is "skewed toward things of value in the Western tradition," one indication being that I wrote that Johan Gutenberg "invented movable type some 450 years after Lady Murasaki completed her manuscript."

"Practically everyone," Tsuneishi admonishes, "knows nowadays that printing in virtually all of its aspects was and is a Chinese invention."

"Paper was invented in China in the 3rd Century of the common era. Printing was

invented in China probably in the 8th Century, although the earliest extant samples of printed texts come from the peripheries of the Chinese cultural sphere in the form of printed Buddhist texts from Korea (dated possibly 751 C.E.) and from Japan (dated ca. 767-770 C.E.).

"So printing was known in Japan for over 200 years by the time Murasaki committed her romance to paper in the first quarter of the 11th Century. Shortly thereafter, in the 1040's, a Chinese documentary source informs us that an artisan named Pi Sheng invented ceramic movable type. The early use of cast bronze type in Korea is well known ... Gutenberg's 'invention' and contributions were substantial; his printed books remain unsurpassed. He is indeed the 'father of modern printing'—in the West—but he did not 'invent' movable type printing."

Tsuneishi concludes by promising to finish *War and Peace* if I agree to do the same for *Genji*. He also suggests that I read the new Seidensticker translation instead of the older Waley. "Waley's translation," he says, "is sometimes more his own invention than Murasaki's fiction."

The other communication is from Ruth Schneideman of Whitestone, N.Y., who also encourages me to tackle *Genji* but gives me contradicting advice. "*Genji* is really quite fascinating," she writes, "the Waley version (is) more readable than the new Seidensticker translation. Once you start, it grows on you and in my case, I could not put it down. I also had, like yourself, felt that I should read it, and was so immeasurably enriched and have since sought out various translations for the sheer pleasure of it. It has created in me an insatiable appetite for things and matters 'Heian-jidai'."

As soon as I have stood in a corner for a reasonable length of time in penance for wrongly crediting Johan Gutenberg, I shall make another attempt at *Genji*. But maybe I'll try Shogun first—no cultural masterpiece but a rousing tale nonetheless. □

## Reconciliation—1977 Style

By Robert E. Sheridan, M.M.

Maryknoll, N.Y.

For the remainder of my life, beautiful San Francisco will represent an even more beautiful vision; a little Japanese (Rokuro Tomibe), standing on the dais of the Presidio Officers' Club on Feb. 13, 1977, bowing in the graceful Japanese style, accepting the plaudits, the cheers of his former prisoners from the Baguio civilian POW camp in the Philippines some 33 years ago. Here was a man who had had virtual life and death power over 500 of us, who left our camp in disgrace—because he had been too kind to us—now receiving applause from more than 200 survivors of that internment prison, who had come from all sections of the States, Canada, Japan itself. It was a tribute, not only to this one son of Nippon but an evidence of a very deep secret in the human heart: a spirit of reconciliation.

In that banquet hall were men and women who had memories of friends, children or husbands who had been on the Bataan Death March or the horrors of Camp O'Donnell down the line from us, or those ships that started for Japan, thousands dying before reaching their destination ... The rape of Manila, we all lived through after our last minute transfer to Bilibid prison within the environs of Manila ... These memories yielded to higher instincts, reconciliation or making friends again as the dictionary has it.

It is common knowledge that the Japanese government has made special efforts in this field as has the new administration in Washington. Yes, it answers a very vital search and the scene at the San Francisco banquet hall is something to remember and share with others, not only in tomorrow's world but even today.

A year ago, a phone call suggested to a fellow in-

ternee that we might have a small reunion, for a dozen or so. It was agreed to take soundings for our February anniversary of release by the 37th Division of Ohio. The first response was encouraging to a degree but, in the process, I wrote to Mr. Tomibe in Kyoto and invited him, satisfied that his coronary would hardly permit such a long trip. His reply indicated that he had been able to get medical clearance, that he would be present.

When this word was spread in a second newsletter, the avalanche began, a much larger hall was necessary, media people sensed a story; they took pictures on Feb. 13, of Mr. Tomibe, interviewed various people.

The *piece de resistance* was experienced after cameras and busy reporters were off to another assignment. Rev. Carl Eschbach, UB, from Dayton, Ohio, had been our representative in dealing with our captors and he asked Canon Vincent Gowen, Anglican, to say the grace before a sumptuous meal. (Seventh Day Adventists who were present had their meatless menu).

Between brief announcements and courses, four trained vocalists added to the nostalgia by singing some of the camp favorites, Mary Dyer, Baptist, the Ave Maria of Schubert; Marvin Dircks, Mennonite, led us in the singing of the Battle Hymn of the Republic, after an earlier solo.

The younger generation—well represented in the throng—recalled Patsi Robinson as one of theirs and she brought her guitar from Phoenix, softly sang a prison song, "I Believe in the Sun" but for the only time in her career, broke down, unable to continue. A transformed audience was visibly affected.

After Mr. Tomibe read a ten minute speech, he presented each of us who had been in the camp with a me-

dallion, fashioned in Japan, commemorating our reunion. It was my privilege to speak for those gathered, thanking Mr. Tomibe whose integrity and compassion we had experienced in that long, long ago.

San Francisco suggested the Prayer of St. Francis, "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" which a refreshed Patsi Robinson, with her older sister, softly, slowly, expressively sung. And then an album of exquisite pictures of San Francisco was presented to our guest of honor. Without a signal, the pentup feelings of all broke loose, an emotional binge would be a proper description, and there was a standing, cheering, applauding 200 plus remnants of a POW camp expressing their respect for one who rose above the brutality of the era.

When Marvin Dircks returned to lead us in "God Bless America"—the song that instinctively came to our lips back in 1945 on our taste of freedom, we were limp but sang with gusto; our cup of happiness was overflowing and one Presbyterian remarked to me: "Just like a Methodist Camp Meeting."

In October, Mr. Tomibe is coming to the Midwest and East; plans are in the making to share this decent gentleman (he is a Buddhist, a retired businessman of 65) with an even larger segment of our people. His English is not the best but "what you are speaks so loudly that I cannot hear what you say" applies to this man whose presence within our shores allowed more than 200 of us to experience the inexpressible peace that reconciliation can produce.

Fr. Sheridan, 76, was one of the key organizers of this tearful reunion of a Japanese civilian POW camp commander in the Philippines with his former captives.



Photo by Dr. Marshall Welles

Rokuro Tomibe (left) and Fr. Robert Sheridan





