

HARRY HOEGH, 88:

Selma JACL remembers

By MAX KAWANO

Selma, Calif.

Harry Hoegh (pronounced Hoi) was a Selma High School teacher who tried to tell the Army during the hectic days after Pearl Harbor that it was wrong to evacuate persons of Japanese ancestry from California.

When he passed away on Jan. 27, 1978 at the age of 88, there were many Issei and Nisei mourners who remembered the "sensei" who each day of the Evacuation went to the trains and helped the evacuees carry their heavy suitcases. He also visited his former students in the Gila River Relocation Center in Arizona, slept in the bar-

racks and ate in the mess halls in order that he might experience what the internees were experiencing.

A Fair Play Committee member, he welcomed the evacuees back to California in 1945 and tried to see that they were not mistreated by "patriotic" neighbors or misinformed students at school. In the process he was called a "Jap lover" and the lawn at his home was desecrated.

A native of Minnesota, Harry Hoegh's teaching career in Selma began in 1927. Through the years he came to know and respect the hard-working Issei farmers whose children he taught.

His philosophy in education and humanitarian ideas endeared him to the minorities whose cultural and ethnic background he bridged. In 1960 he was the recipient of the Freedom Foundation Medal. The Selma Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, at its 10th anniversary banquet in 1960, accorded him special honors.

Harry Hoegh had a memory that surprised many Sansei students with the statement, "I taught your mother" or "I taught your father". He was a familiar figure over the years at funerals of parents of his

former Nisei students and often times came by way of taxicab in his later years after having suffered a mild stroke.

The City of Selma's highest honor, the Citizen of the Year award, was presented to Harry Hoegh in 1974. In 1975 the newly-built Selma High School Library was named "The Harry Hoegh Library". He was heard to say, "There's plenty of room for expanding minds to grow here" on his tour of the new facility.

The Selma JACL recognizes and honors a great educator, humanitarian and friend, Mr. Harry Hoegh. □



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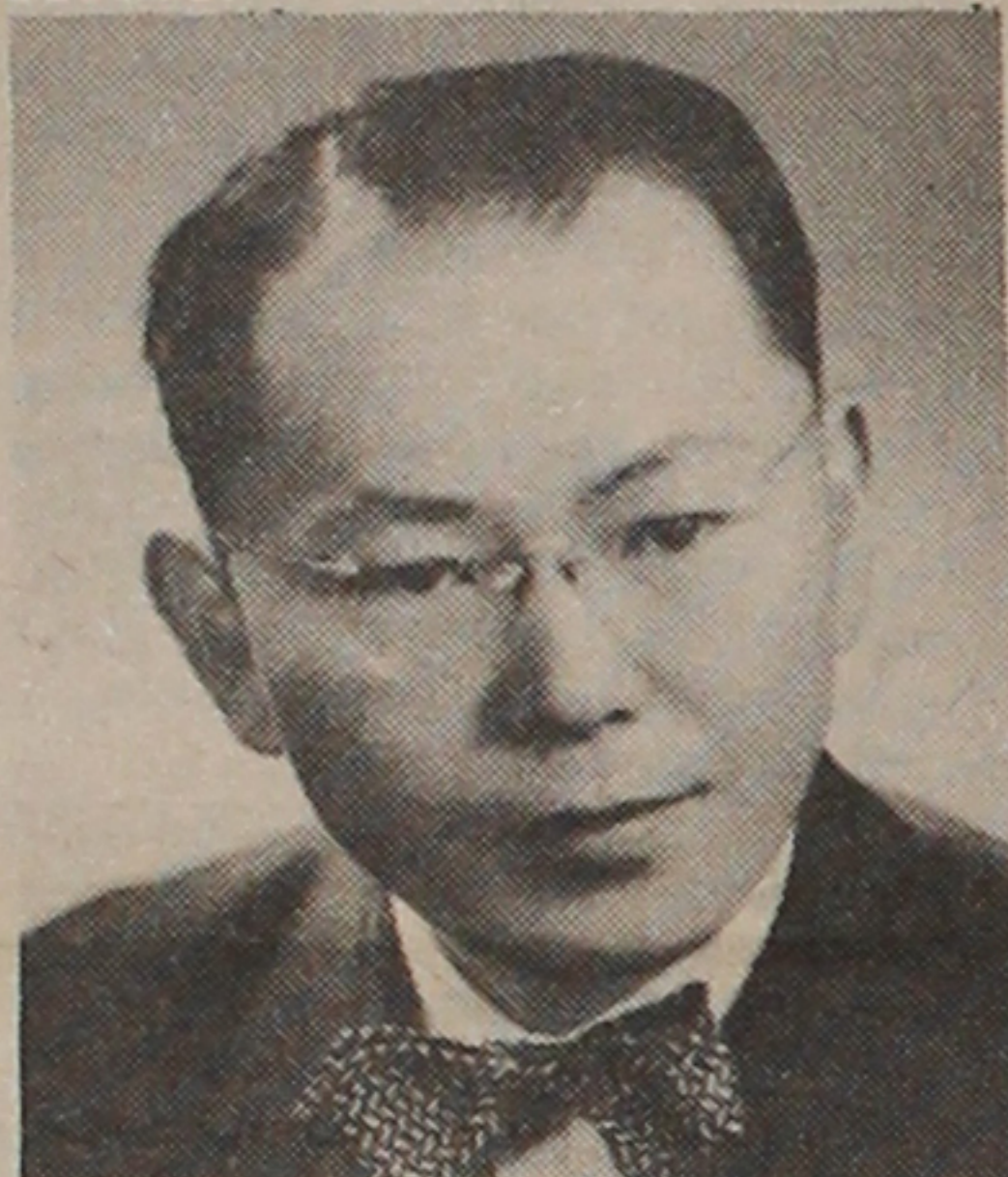
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EIJI TANABE, 67:

Little Tokyo and JACL leader

LOS ANGELES — Funeral service for Eiji Eddie Tanabe, 67, was held Mar. 16 at the Koyasan Temple under direction of Fukui Mortuary. In ill health for nearly 10 years after suffering a stroke, he died Mar. 10 at the Minami Keiro Nursing Home.

geles) and grandchildren. His son Robert preceded him in death in 1974. □



Eiji Tanabe (1947 photo)

One of the most active community leaders in prewar and postwar Little Tokyo life, Tanabe was born in Spokane, Wash., educated in Japan at the Aoyama Gakuin but had spent most of his life in Los Angeles.

A prewar Japanese language school instructor and English editor of the Kashi Mainichi, Tanabe taught Japanese to Army intelligence officers at Michigan, then joined the National JACL staff at Salt Lake City and later was assigned as regional director at Los Angeles in 1947. As JACL staff member, he prepared the Japanese language news releases and brochures. As regional director during the resettlement period, he helped Issei and Nisei evacuees find housing and employment.

Several years later, he resigned from JACL, headed the Miyako Travel Bureau and became involved in community affairs. He was among the founders of Nisei Week Festival, Inc., was Downtown L.A. JACL president in 1949, taught Americanization classes to Issei and engaged in Japanese relief and CARE projects. He headed many other community projects, such as Nagoya sister city, Issei indigent fund drives and eventually was elected president of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce in 1961.

He is survived by widow Miyeko, two sons Jack (San Francisco), Roy (Los An-

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