

PETER IMAMURA

Issue Hunting?

An interesting issue was raised during one of the workshops during the Tri-District meeting April 4.

Former National Director J.D. Hokoyama presented some of the aspects of Operation '80s—JACL's Educational Program which, among its proposals, stresses the importance of educating the general public and the youth on the Japanese American community to promote a better understanding of Nikkei culture and experiences.

However, Gene Takamine, a Sansei attending the workshop, commented to Hokoyama that although these ideas were certainly important, it appears as if the JACL was merely "issue hunting"—i.e. standing behind popular issues in order to maintain its existence and draw in members. Incidentally, the Selenoco JACL chapter president added that he wasn't trying to downgrade the JACL, but brought the issue up because he wanted to know how more Sansei, Yonsei and future generations could be encouraged to join the Citizens League.

The point here is not to criticize nor defend his view. But the issue is one which needs to be considered. How will the JACL attract more youth? Takamine suggested more "professional" programs, which might be made up of groups of doctors, lawyers, etc., who could offer career advice to youths. Hokoyama said that such programs may not be feasible, because of budgetary reasons.

Other members at the workshop added that the JACL is certainly important in that it helps Nikkei youth to understand their own culture, and there are very serious racial issues which concern Asian Americans today, from anti-Asian activities to the effects of the U.S.-Japan trade issue.

Yet it seems as if there are a lot of Sansei and Yonsei who really aren't that interested in the JACL, which in some ways may be understandable, since everyone has personal matters which don't allow any time for organizational interests. In a sense, many Sansei and Yonsei are complacent and feel they don't need the JACL—especially if they've "made it" in their own profession and feel that the JACL doesn't really offer them much (except, perhaps a weekly newspaper and health insurance).

How can the JACL attract more Sansei and future generations? That is a question the organization certainly cannot ignore, especially in light of these troubling, cynical and apathetic times.

Seinan hotline: 734-2175
LOS ANGELES—Seinan Community Center established a 24-hr. hotline (213) 734-2175 for Japanese-speaking individuals. The bilingual hotline for those in need of emergency help is (213) 734-4800.

June 15 deadline for Clavell literary prize

LOS ANGELES—The third annual American Japanese National Literary Award will be presented to this year's best short story entry at the Miss Sansei California Beauty Pageant on July 18 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, it was announced April 6 by Fred Ishimoto, chairperson of the AJNLA.

The 1981 award will go to the writer of this year's finest short story reflective of the Japanese American (Issei and Nisei) experience. The experiences of Japanese in Canada and South America are also eligible.

The winner will receive a \$1,000 cash prize and a trophy which will be presented by "Shogun" author James Clavell.

Eligibility for competition is limited to persons with at least one parent of Japanese ancestry. The contest, otherwise, is open to all persons regardless of age or amateur/professional writing status.

All entries must be original and previously unpublished fictional material, written in English (1,500 to 2,000 words) and incorporating some aspect of the Japanese American, Canadian or South American experience.

Entries will be retained by the AJNLA for the use by the foundation for documentation, history or publication or any other use to support the AJNLA Foundation.

All entries must be postmarked by 5 p.m. June 15. For information write to: American Japanese Literary Award, c/o Shipley-Ishimoto, 8721 Sunset Blvd., Ste 210, Los Angeles, CA 90069 or call Fred Ishimoto (213) 652-7067.



LOVELY CANDIDATES—The largest field to seek the Miss Gardena JACL title in recent years will compete at the chapter's annual coronation dinner-dance April 18 at the Holiday

Day Inn, Torrance (l to r): Cheryl Yasukochi, Tami Yanagi, Doreen Asato, Pat Gehr, Fay Murakawa, Yuko Kikukawa, Jill Fukuda, Michelle Miwa and Sheri Munekata.

JACL Nisei Relays seeking queen

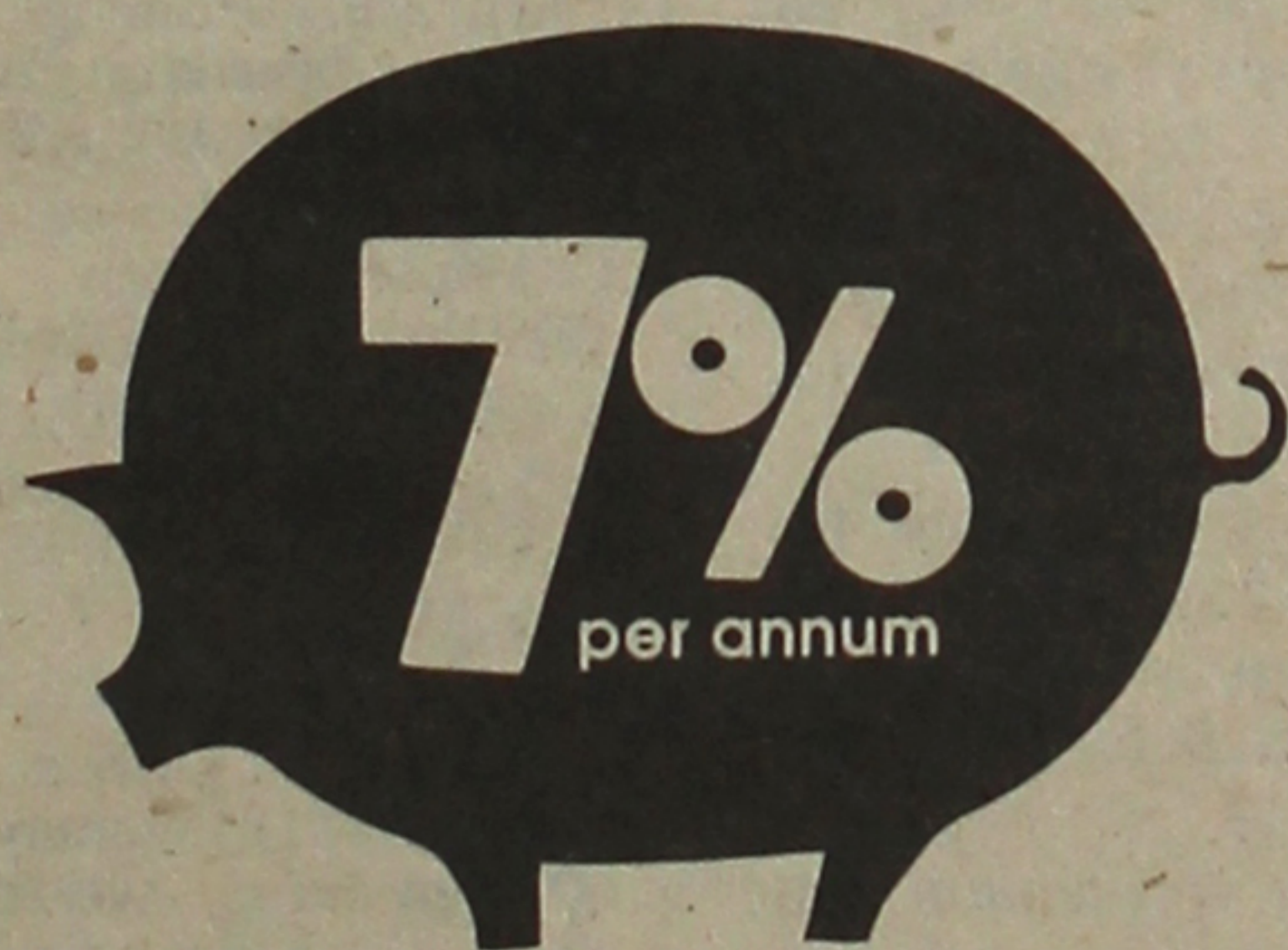
PASADENA—The 1981 JACL Nisei Relays, sponsored by the PSWDC, will hold its Nisei Relays Queen Contest May 31 at the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center, 12953 Branford St., Pacoima, Ca. All JACL Chapters with or without a track team may send in applications for queen contestants to Mack Yamaguchi, Contest Chairman, 1751 Belmont Ave, Pasadena, Ca. 91103. For information call (213) 797-7949 or 383-4809.

L.A. to celebrate Heritage Week

LOS ANGELES—The third annual Asian Pacific Heritage Week will be celebrated May 7-14, highlighting the many contributions of the Asian Pacific community. A kick-off dinner is scheduled for May 7 at 7 p.m. at the Miriwa Restaurant.

The East/West Players will perform a special opening night production of "Godspell" May 14 and there will be arts and crafts as well as cultural exhibits throughout the week. For information call the mayor's office at (213) 485-4420.

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WLA wine-tasting to mark 10th annual

LOS ANGELES—West Los Angeles JACL Auxiliary's 10th annual wine tasting at Yamato will be held Sunday afternoon, April 26, 12:30-3:30 p.m. at the noted Japanese restaurant in Century City. A traditional fundraiser of merit, proceeds in the past have been showered on community projects, it was reminded by Mitsu Sonoda and Aiko Takeshita (473-0629), co-chair. Joe Minervini, wine connoisseur, is bringing the top California wines. For tickets, \$7, call Toy Kanegai (820-3592).

South Bay Keiro resets kickoff to April 26

GARDENA, Ca.—The April 12 kick-off luncheon for the South Bay Keiro Fund Drive was postponed to Sunday, April 26, 12:30 p.m., Nisei VFW Hall, 1964 W. 162nd St., Gardena.

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Bunny Brunch for the Whole Bunch.

Celebrate Easter Sunday, April 19, in the delightful setting of Commodore Perry's with a Sunday Brunch that won't quit. At least until 7:00 P.M.

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Adults: \$12.00. Under 12: \$7.25.
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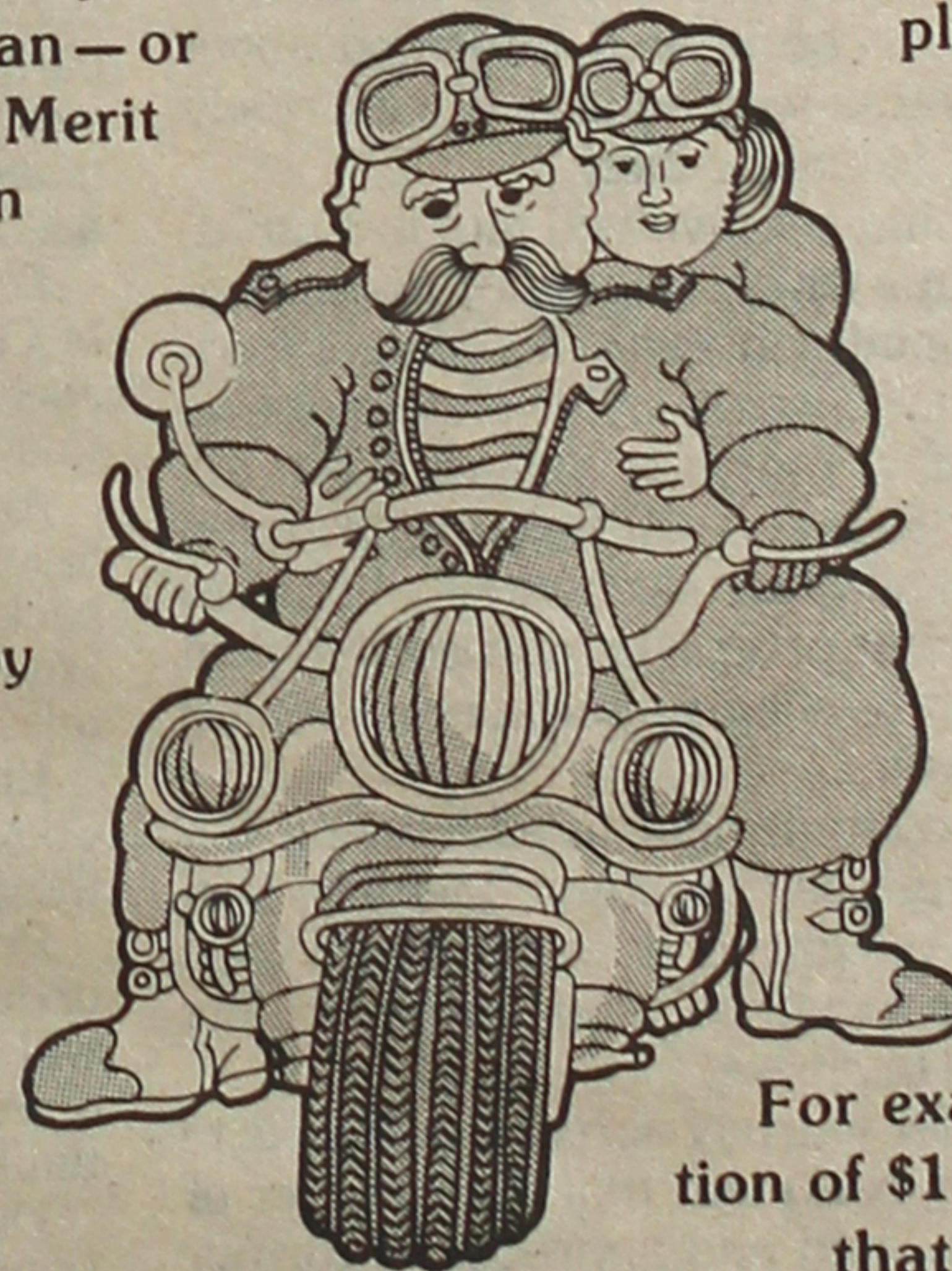
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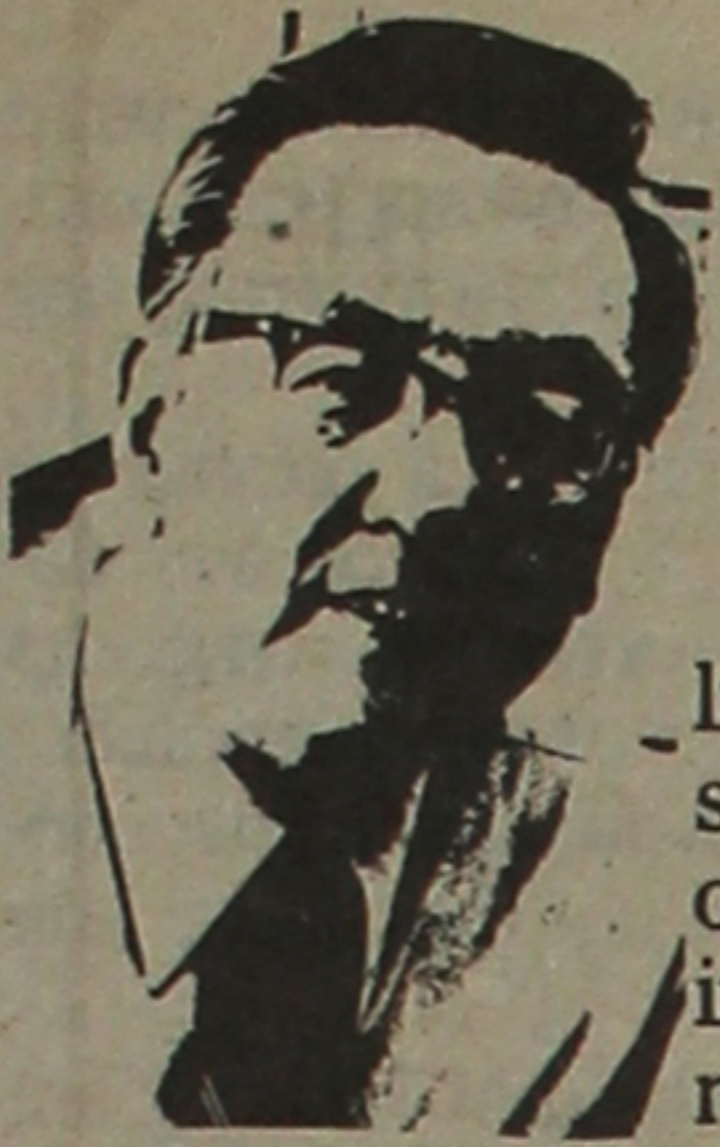
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FROM THE FRYING PAN: by Bill Hosokawa

Dramatic But Little Known Stories of WW2

Denver, Colo.

One of the immensely dramatic but little known—at least in this country—stories of World War II is the account of what happened to Japanese colonists in Manchuria and North Korea immediately following the surrender. After the United States dropped its nuclear bombs, Soviet armies knifed into Japanese-occupied Manchuria while the settlers fled in terror to escape pillage and rape.

A few Nisei were involved in this sidelight of history. Shin Higashi, a native of Canada, was working as a newspaperman in Manchuria. He was captured by the Russians, sent to a prison camp near Lake Baikal, as I recall, and it was years before he was permitted to return to Japan where he joined the Tokyo bureau of the Associated Press.

And, if I remember correctly, Betty Yumori of Los Angeles can tell a harrowing tale of fleeing from North Korea with her family just a jump ahead of the onrushing Russians.

Some years ago I interviewed a Japanese woman in Tokyo who, as a school teacher in Manchuria, had sud-

denly found herself responsible for leading several score of her pupils to safety. There was no time to return the children to their parents. She herded them into the freight cars of an evacuation train and somehow managed to get them out of the country, evading rampaging enemy troops, overcoming hunger and thirst, quieting fears, eventually returning them to families or relatives. No doubt she was one of the unsung heroines of that desperate time.

* * *

All this came back to mind recently after reading a story in the Japan Times about 47 men and women of Japanese parentage who had come from their homes in China to seek parents, brothers, sisters and other relatives in Japan.

These people had been told by their adoptive Chinese parents that they were orphans. But there is no way to tell how many had simply become separated from their natural parents in the confusion of their evacuation and had been rescued by kind-hearted Chinese.

The Japan Times story said 24 of the visitors were able to locate relatives. One man, 36, found his Japanese mother and sister after 35 years separation. A woman, 39, now a teacher, located her father; they had so much to

talk about but since she spoke only Chinese the language barrier blocked communication.

All of the 47 had to return to China, but some indicated they would ask their foster parents for permission to return to Japan to live. Yet, one must wonder what kind of life awaits them in a nation to which they have no ties other than blood. What kind of cultural adjustment can they make after growing up as Chinese?

These people visited Japan at the invitation of the Health and Welfare Ministry. An official said 800 Chinese have reported to the Japanese embassy in Peking that they were separated from their Japanese parents. Many of them will be visiting Japan in coming months in search of their families.

It is difficult not to think that under other circumstances—for instance a frantic evacuation from the West Coast if there had been an invasion—numbers of young Nisei might have been separated for various reasons from their families.

Almost every week we read about the families of Vietnamese refugees being reunited in the United States after years of searching. The men in uniform can expect to die, but hapless civilians are the innocent long-suffering victims of war. #



EAST WIND: by Bill Marutani

Yes, We Care: Indeed

Philadelphia

BECAUSE COMMENTS BY our JAACL leaders on matters of national and international attention do not regularly appear in these pages, there may be a tendency on the part of readers to mistakenly conclude that such matters are not of major concern to the

JAACL or to its members: the recent assassination attempt upon our President, the revolting horror of the perverted killings in Atlanta, the crisis in Poland, the delicacy of peace in the Mideast, the unrelenting encroachments by the U.S.S.R. with its Cuban tool, the shuttle-flight of "Columbia" to outer space—just to list a few. That we are not given, at least in these pages, to seize upon

the news of the day, week or month, may well be explained by a number of factors. One of them clearly is *not* indifference.

AT THE OUTSET, the *Pacific Citizen* is, and has been, a weekly publication; it is not, and does not purport to be, a source for current news that one can easily pick up in your local, daily newspaper. Nor should it be. Moreover, because it is a weekly, current news would no longer be "current" by the time it appeared in these pages.

ALSO, BECAUSE OF limited space, the information in these pages are, and properly so, focused upon those subjects of interest to Nikkei throughout these United States that we otherwise would not receive. For this columnist, for example, this weekly publication is a precious supplement for information

that we obtain from daily newspapers, news magazines, and other publications.

FROM THIS WRITER'S perspective, there are other reasons that are endemic to our cultural values. Thus, we are generally not given to wailing over something that we have no immediate control or cannot change. While the initial spate of reactive writing that appeared following the recent assassination attempt on President Reagan was to be expected, and understandably so, there were times that this writer thought "enough is enough." When President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas almost 18 years ago, I was so affected that I could not even read about it or view photographs of the event: I would simply turn past the pages that re-reported that terrible day. I have some of the same feelings today about the attempt on President Reagan; it is not quite as emotional for me because, thank God, the President escaped fatal injury.

THE KILLINGS IN Atlanta trigger a sickening, emotional reaction. Just as it does for all Americans. If the appropriate forces were not doing all that is in their power, surely we would speak up. But they are doing all they can, everyone, to bring to bay the killer or killers involved. Emotional outbursts can add nothing, even though we feel them, pent up.

IN MANY SITUATIONS, words are trivial. All-too-many, however, seem to feel that vocalizing helps. Perhaps to the vocalizer, it may. But after having expended one's energies vocalizing, and then sitting back, is an empty exercise.

SO, SEEMING SILENCE is not to be equated with indifference. We care. Very much so. #

REDRESS

Continued from Front Page

end. Tie all parts together. Be direct and use simple language. Try not to get side-tracked on the way to your points by non-essential detail.

A good beginning might be: My name is _____, and I am going to talk about A, B and C. (The middle part would be A, B, and C). The end would be the conclusion—what A, B and C mean to you or what you think the Commission should do. Be explicit, not implicit.

5—Be prepared to have only 3-5 minutes to speak. In preparing your testimony for oral presentation, underline those parts that are necessary and discard the other parts if you are pressed for time. Everyone will be

SEKO

Continued from Previous Page

father. His family lacked no material comfort. He was known for his generous contributions and good deeds. While he was in his prime, he died suddenly. Years later, I met one of his sons, whom I had not seen since his childhood. I asked what image he carried of his father. A thoughtful moment passed. The answer, "My father was a good provider." It is not an uncommon epitaph. I have heard it often, applied to both the living and dead.

That snowy, spring night in our house, Darci Sakata showed her father a coloring book. He put his arm around her and listened with rapt attention. When the recitation was completed, his daughter ran off happily to join her brother and cousins. Frank returned to the adult conversation. No one noticed the pause during the child's interruption. It was so natural and graceful. The way it should be, always should have been. I remembered the Nisei father, the "good provider." And the times when his children begged for attention. "Later," he told them. "Don't bother me now. Later, when daddy has time." His time ran out first.

There has been a lot written and said recently about generational differences. A subtle suggestion of Nisei superiority

emerges. A sort of flaunting of values and accomplishments. Young Frank Sakata is a promising, rising business executive. He is probably as competitive and ambitious as any successful Nisei ever was. But I can't help liking and respecting Frank more than many of my contemporaries.

The reason was obvious that night, when we were saying our good-byes. "Daddy," said Darci, throwing her arms around her father. He held her tightly and rocked her back and forth. I caught the glint of the tiniest golden earrings as she tossed her ebony hair. Laughter spilled like music across the room. I heard its echo in my head for quite awhile after they left. #

able to submit written testimony, so if you are invited to address the Commission, you should mention (after you introduce yourself) that you have submitted written testimony and that you will be giving only the highlights. Even though you will prepare and rehearse your presentation thoroughly, try to deliver it without "reading" a statement. Talk to the Commission, instead of giving a speech.

6—Avoid repetition and exaggeration. Any overstatement will cast doubt on your whole testimony. More important, it will taint the testimony of everyone else.

TWO AREAS APPEAR TO NEED IMPROVEMENT

1—People were very good at describing *what* happened to them and their families (FBI arrests, camp conditions or incidents), but not as good at saying *how* these events affected their lives. Since one of the purposes of the Commission is to determine the impact of EO 9066 and camp, Commissioners will likely ask many questions in this area.

2—People generally did not have a clear idea of what they wanted the Commission to recommend—what, if any, remedies Congress should make.

Partly to address these concerns, CCRR is planning a "remedies forum" and mock hearing, scheduled for May 23 in Seattle. For information, call the JAACL PNW District office, (206) 623-5088. #

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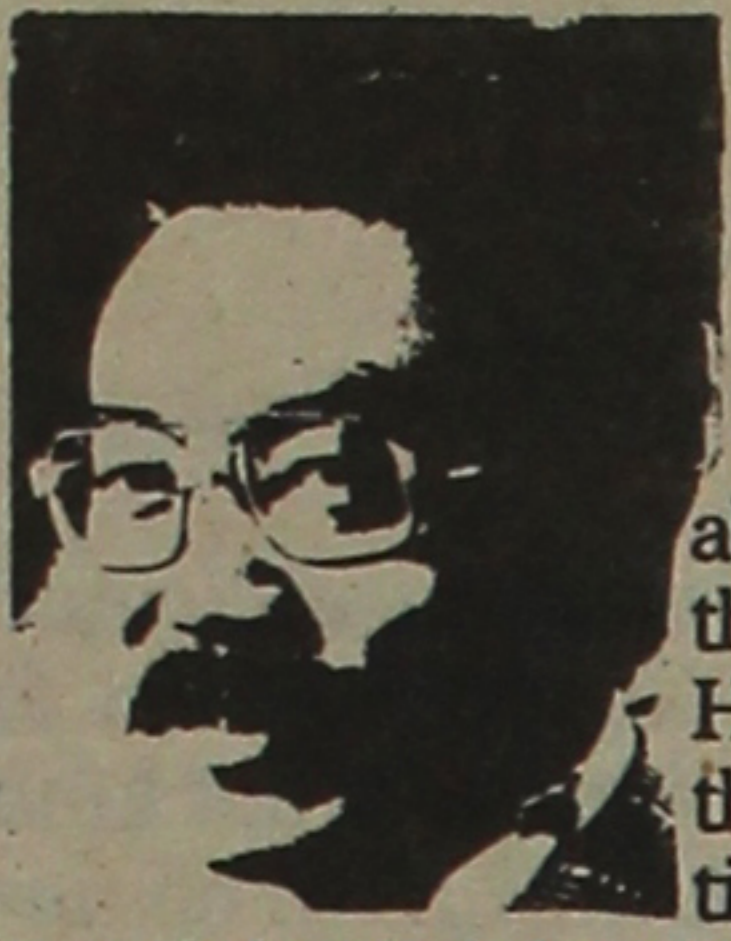
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FROM PACIFIC SOUTHWEST: by John Saito

Courageous Ladies

In the past, I have written brief articles about Dr. F. Carole Fujita, a pharmacist with the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Initially she grieved, through departmental channels, a promotion that was promised her but never followed through by the department. After her department failed to respond favorably to her grievance she took her fight to the civil service commission. The commission ruled in her favor and found that she was a victim of discrimination. They recommended that the Health Department promote her to the next available pharmacy supervisor position. At this point the department becomes very suspect in its efforts to comply with the recommendations of the commission. Also there are other very questionable moves, which appear retaliatory, made by the Health Department.

The department's first offer of a promotion was to a position

that had very little possibility of upward mobility and also the strong possibility of facility closure. She, along with her attorney, refused this offer. We later found out that other, more desirable positions which were not mentioned to her were offered to other pharmacists on the promotional list. Part and parcel of her case is the supporting witness testimony given by a fellow pharmacist, Dr. Charles Hayase. Dr. Hayase was also up for promotion but it appears that because his testimony supported Dr. Fujita, he was passed over during a very recent promotion, but to complicate the matter another Asian American was used to be promoted over Dr. Hayase.

The support committee for Dr. Fujita has been working very closely with her. The fight has been long and arduous and by no means over. The strain and stress is beginning to show on Dr. Fujita. She constantly states how grateful she is for the community support she is receiving and she could not continue her struggle for fairness if it were not for the moral and tangible

support she had and has been receiving. Equally courageous in this struggle is Irene Hirano, who has guided the support committee at the personal sacrifice of taking time away from her work and family.

At times when our cause appears victorious, a barrier or roadblock appears, and causes feelings of frustration and depression but it is precisely at this point that we have shown group support and not lost sight of what we had set out to accomplish.

Not only is the struggle draining Dr. Fujita physically, psychologically but also financially. Legal fees are not that cheap and they mount daily.

A successful chow mein fund-raiser was held in January but those funds have been expended. Another fund raiser is planned for June 7 at the Gardena Buddhist Church. Tickets are \$5.00 and will be available from members of the support committee but also at the Regional Office. #



BY THE BOARD: by Dennis Kunisaki

It's Over!!

Los Angeles

After 48 hours of socializing with old friends and making many new friends, attending educational and informational workshops, I would be remiss not to share some of my PERSONAL reflections on the California / Nevada / Arizona / Japan / Hawaii Tri-District Conference over the April 3-5 weekend in Los Angeles.

Obviously, the presence of Commissioner Joan Bernstein, and JACL's National Committee for Redress Chairperson Min Yasui, added tremendously to the program. Likewise, the absence of Nisei actor Yuki Shimoda, due to health problems, made me sad and concerned for Yuki and hoping for his speedy recovery.

However, during our closing session on Sunday morning (Yes, it was terrible having to get up so early!!) several comments were offered which weren't expounded upon but which, I feel have definite bearing on the continuance of JACL as a viable organization.

Yosh Nakashima, the Governor from Northern California, in recapping the Aging and Retirement workshop, remarked that one of the speakers alluded to the Nikkei's view of volunteerism. It was pointed out that in the larger society, it is an acceptable practice and standard operating procedure for people to step forward and offer their time and or services to an organizations' leaders. However, the Nikkei attitude, generally speaking, has been to sit back and wait for leadership to offer an individual invitation.

Later Mitsu Sonoda, from the West Los Angeles Chapter, offered a comment during her report on the International Relations Workshop, regarding the lack of women on the program and in the decision-making process. Along these same lines, I

was earlier approached by two Chapter Presidents, one from the NC-WN-PD and one from the PSWD regarding the presentation of a resolution supporting and endorsing the formation of a Women's Leadership Caucus (They decided not to present this for some unknown reason).

I always thought that I was the only governor with the problem of not having enough people who are willing to step forward and say "I'll do it." The famous last words I always hear as Governor are, "That's a great idea; I'll help but I won't chair it!" Apparently, most JACLers are given this line immediately upon joining, since I hear it is prevalent in other districts also. It is up to each of us to decide whether or not we want to put the Nikkei attitude about volunteerism to rest. That concept more than any other will determine the JACL's future existence.

We were quite fortunate in that two individuals, Mas Dobashi, from East Los Angeles, and Kiyoko Fukumoto from Pan Asian, stepped forward and volunteered not only to chair this Tri-District Conference but also to rally their respective chapters to act as a coordinating committee. JACL being only a small part of Mas' and Kiyoko's community involvement, they had every opportunity to use those "famous last words", but happily (for my sake) they didn't.

Which brings me to the involvement of women in the JACL. Speaking only about PSWD, I know there hasn't been a conscious effort to promote or restrain any particular group. Therefore, we who have been elected or appointed to positions of leadership, must depend upon the other volunteers to give us input and feedback.

Therefore, I strongly believe in and support the concept of forming a Women's Leadership Caucus in the JACL. Women can, and should, have a viable voice in the decision-making process. It will provide a vehicle for those "chauvinistic males" (which I have been accused of being more than a few times) to obtain information and insight. I hope that such a body is organized and, if a token M.C.P. is needed, I might even volunteer, if specifically asked. (A little humor, folks!) #

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