



# Redress Reports

## CWRIC

Continued from previous page

prised of two groups—Concerned Japanese Americans (CJA, a member organization of the National Coalition on Redress/Reparations) and the JAACL New York Chapter—was responsible for mobilizing the local Nikkei community for the hearing.

Michi Kobi, co-chairperson of ECJAR, credits CJA for being the "main thrust" that was responsible for bringing the CWRIC hearing here. Originally, New York was not among the designated cities.

Details into the lives of former internees who were employed by Seabrook Farms after their WWII incarceration were brought to light by Charles T. Nagao. He testified about 3,000 Japanese Americans lived and worked at Seabrook Farms as laborers at the starting wage of 53 cents an hour. "Promotions to top positions," however,

"were only available to Caucasians," claimed Nagao, who added, "During one hard season, the laborers were required to work a ten-to-twelve hour shift."

Under close questioning by Mitchell, Nagao clarified his statement by stipulating that the 53 cent-per-hour wage was the going rate at the time in the U.S. and that Caucasian employees were also subjected to the twelve-hour work shifts.

### Plight of Peruvian Japanese

The CWRIC hearing also disclosed more information on the plight of Peruvian Japanese who were removed from their residences and transported to detention camps in the United States.

Seika Morono, a Nisei, read the testimony of his father, Ginzo Morono who was unable to attend the hearing. His father was detained with 60 other Japanese in Peru on Jan. 6, 1943. For two days, he was given no food while being transported on a truck that dropped

them off at a port.

He was then placed aboard a ship bound for San Francisco. Six months later, he was reunited with his family in an internment camp at Crystal City, Texas, a detention center established for internees with families.

According to Morono, 3,000 were interned at Crystal City along with some German Americans. Half were Japanese from Peru; the other half were relocated Japanese Americans.

Like Nagao, the Morono family moved to Seabrook Farms to seek employment. However, Morono's testimony stipulated that he was paid an hourly wage of ten cents, unlike the 53¢-per-hour rate cited by Nagao.

Yet, in spite of this experience, Morono's son concluded in a quivering voice filled with emotion, "We're proud to be naturalized citizens of the U.S."

### 442nd Veterans Testify

Among the non-Japanese testifying was Norman Kurlan, an American Jew who served as an officer for the 442nd regiment. He recalled the "bitter irony" that he witnessed in the treatment of Nikkei.

"While our regiment was training at Camp Shelby, I went to a relocation center in Arkansas, where I saw families being incarcerated.

"While we were fighting in Europe and suffering great casualties (over 900 Purple Hearts were awarded), their (Japanese American soldiers') families were in concentration camps."

Another 442nd veteran was William Kochiyama, a local Nisei who tried to enlist in the armed forces

All branches of service replied, "No Japs wanted," he said. He also had previously faced "a wall of prejudice" in seeking jobs and was even denied membership in a labor union because of his racial background.

Kochiyama drew the longest applause of the day when he criticized the testimony made by John J. McCloy, then Assistant Secretary of War. McCloy's testimony before the CWRIC in Washington Nov. 3 caused the Washington audience to respond with laughter and hisses when he maintained the internment of Japanese Americans was "humanely conducted".

Commenting on McCloy's opinion that many Japanese Americans would have opted to return to Japan if the Battle of Midway had been a defeated cause for the U.S., Kochiyama exclaimed with a raised voice, "I deny that we would have turned 'turncoat' if the Battle of Midway would have been lost."

Kochiyama claimed that a number of Japanese Americans in New York City were whisked off to Ellis Island for a while after the Pearl Harbor incident. While acknowledging that most New Yorkers of Japanese ancestry did not suffer much racism, he informed the Commission that Mayor La Guardia of New York had strongly opposed the resettlement of Nikkei in New York City after the camps were closed.

Kochiyama outlined a four-point redress program that included the Aleuts: (1) \$50,000 for each internee, (2) establishment of a community fund, (3) reversal of the Supreme Court decisions justifying the forced relocation of American citizens, and (4) educating

the American public about this historical event.

### Educating the Public

Flemming had earlier referred to the need to educate the public during his questioning of Dr. John Coventry Smith of the National Council of Churches. "Those recommendations (that the CWRIC will issue) will gather dust unless there is popular opinion backing us up," Flemming stated. He then urged Dr. Smith to spread his accounts of the evacuation through his church organization in order to educate the public.

Marutani followed Flemming's statement with a warning about the future. "Should we engage in hostilities with Cuba, what happened to the Japanese Americans might happen to the Cubans in Florida." Like his other comments, this remark by the Nisei judge was applauded by the audience.

Throughout the testimonies, Flemming and Marutani repeatedly had to ask the testifiers to specify the form that the reparations should take. Most of those testifying answered in monetary terms, except Tadashi Tsufura, a local school principal. His esthetically detailed suggestion of a war memorial was viewed as "creative testimony" by Flemming.

Tsufura recommended a permanent garden monument be placed near the Lincoln Memorial. "The land plot should have ten boulders serving as benches, with the names of the ten internment camps (inscribed). The remaining area should be a garden with 110,000 or more pebbles to com-

memorate the number incarcerated."

### CWRIC Probe Hit

At the hearing the CWRIC was also subjected to criticism. Dr. Howard E. Spragg, executive vice president of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries of the United Church of Christ, expressed that he was "amazed and ashamed at the CWRIC for trying to discover if an injustice was done to the loyal Japanese American citizens."

When questioned by Marutani, Spragg said that he could not recall any instances of injustices performed against German Americans or Italian Americans near his church in Chicago's South Side.

Also criticizing the Commission was CJA. In a flyer signed by Sashu Hohri and Yuri Kochiyama, the co-founders of CJA charged that the Commission was insensitive in demanding that all witnesses speak English. Moreover, CJA was upset at the fact that Reynolds, the only Black "accepted on the agenda by the Commission was to speak against our cause, furthering division between Japanese Americans and Blacks."

Nor was JAACL's role during the relocation to be void of criticism. Jack Tono of Chicago, one of 112 draft resisters imprisoned, claimed that the JAACL tried to make them change their minds in resisting the draft by using "scare tactics".

"The JAACL left us high and dry and turned their back on us. I still feel the knife in my back," he commented.

## MDC raises \$28,000

CHICAGO—A check crediting the JAACL Midwest District fundraising effort for redress has been forwarded to the national office in San Francisco. According to Henry Tanaka, chair of the Midwest Redress Committee, the amount raised by the nine Midwestern chapters totals \$28,068.

Tanaka commended each Midwest chapter for its diligent efforts, adding that "the work is not complete and the money raised to date indicates the commitment of the district on the issue of redress." Tanaka also stated that "future fundraising to reach the \$30,000 goal is anticipated and should be realized because of the demonstrated commitment of the district."

Tanaka called for an aggressive public education campaign in anticipation of the future legislative effort that will be required. "The Midwest District is planning to solicit the support of its many organizational friends," Tanaka said. He further indicated that the support of the total JAACL will be needed to fulfill the goals of the overall redress effort.

Min Yasui, National JAACL Redress Committee chair, acknowledged receipt of the funds Dec. 3 and noted: "We most sincerely appreciate the support evidenced by the Midwest JAACL chapters, because we know that in the months ahead, we need to begin background and preparatory work for the legislative campaign in Congress to exact meaningful legislation for redress and reparation."

Yasui added that chapter redress representatives will be asked to cultivate contacts with U.S. congressmen and senators for support when JAACL's bill on redress is proposed. He pointed out that in any legislative effort in Congress, backing from all parts of the country is crucial. A national legislative campaign will require the coordinated efforts from each JAACL district.



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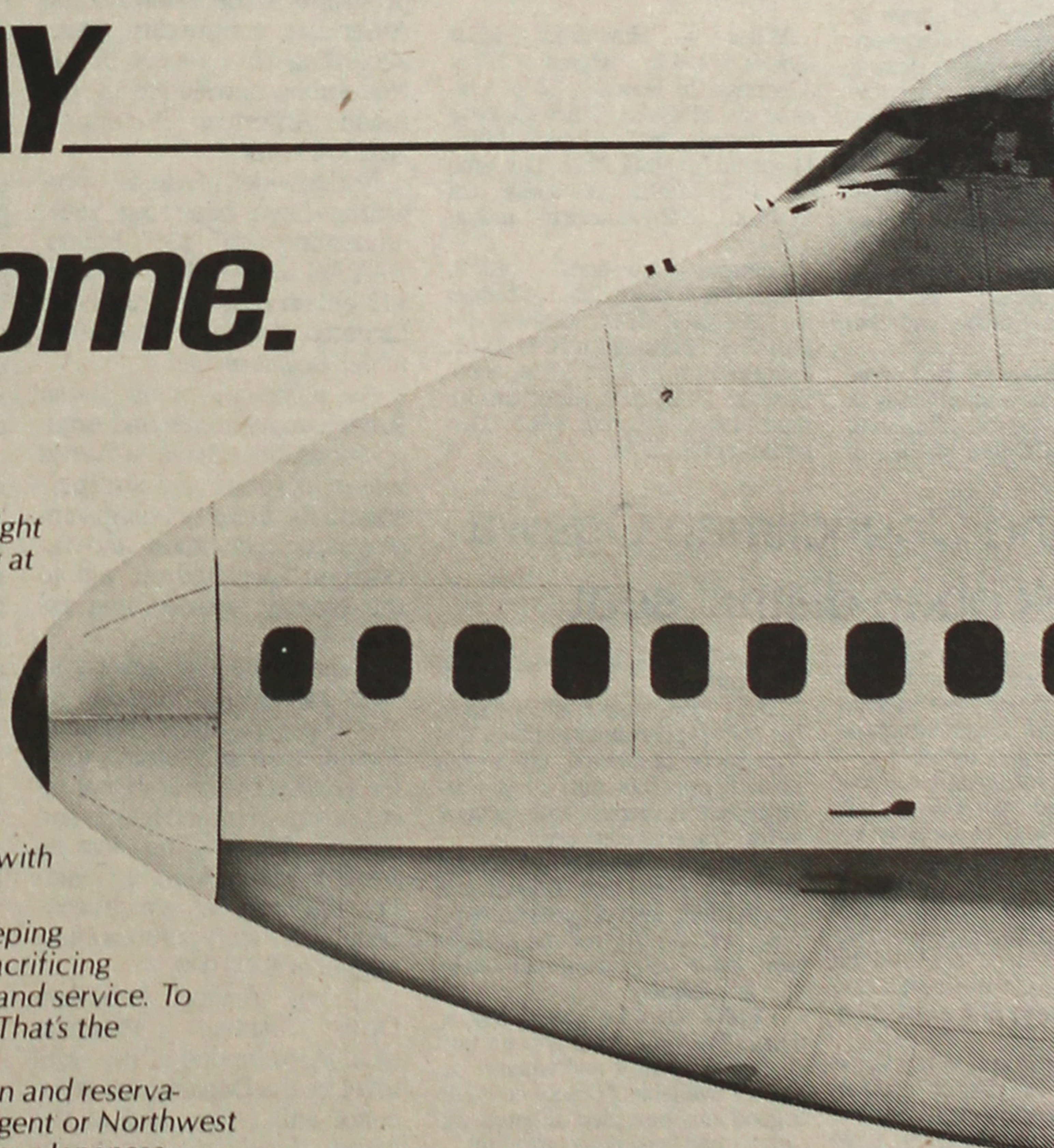
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FROM THE FRYING PAN: by Bill Hosokawa

## MIS: A Secret to All But the Nisei

Denver, Colo.

Paul Sakai, who left the U.S. Army some years ago with a colonel's eagles on his shoulders, dropped in the other day for a brief howdy. He was on his way home to Baltimore, Md., after attending the U.S. Military Intelligence Service reunion in San Francisco.

Francisco.

Somehow, it had skipped my notice that Sakai had been among the MIS fellows who had performed such yeoman service in the various Pacific theaters during World War II. He had been one of the few to, somehow, escape the Army's dragnet that either kicked most Nisei out of uniform soon after the attack on Pearl Harbor, or relegate them to permanent K.P. Almost before he knew it Sakai found himself with an infantry outfit landing in North Africa. So how did he happen to wind up in the military intelligence language school? I asked him about it.

Back in 1940 Sakai was one of the depression-era Nisei youngsters in Seattle who despaired of ever finding a decent job opportunity, given the Depression and the closed doors facing Japanese Americans. So, like Minoru Yamasaki, a former neigh-

bor, and Toge Fujihira against whom he had played basketball and football in the old Courier League, and Tooru Kanazawa who had written about those games, Sakai set out to seek his fortune in New York City.

There was a lot of warlike talk in the air. Congress approved compulsory military service, just in case. Young men were required to sign up for the draft. Secretary of War Henry Stimson pulled some numbers out of a fish bowl to determine in what order the men would be called up for a year of military training. Sakai's number was the fifth to be drawn. He didn't have to worry about job-seeking any more. Uncle Sam had one for him.

He was a well-qualified infantryman when the war broke out and he saw a lot of combat in North Africa. But what he hadn't counted on was the little bugs that cause dysentery. He caught one of the darndest cases of amoebic dysentery that anyone ever caught and he was shipped back to a military hospital in Utah preparatory to being mustered out.

Sakai wasn't ready to be retired. He asked for limited service and was transferred to the staff of the Military Intelligence Language School in Minneapolis where, even though he didn't qualify on the basis of language, he got to know the students who were being prepared for translation and interrogation duty in the Pacific. Eventually he decided to make counter-intelligence

a career, serving in Japan and Germany and a number of state-side posts before retiring as a full colonel.

The reunion was held in conjunction with the opening of an MIS exhibit in the Army Museum at the Presidio in San Francisco commemorating the achievements of the 6,000 Nisei linguists who were an American "secret weapon" in the Pacific War. The exhibit is well-deserved recognition of the tremendously valuable role these men played in various parts of the vast Pacific front, ferreting out information that shortened the war and saved uncounted American lives.

There seems to be little doubt that so far as the Japanese high command was concerned, the Nisei linguists were a secret weapon, or if they knew, they didn't know what to do about them. But it is not accurate to say the linguists were "one of the best-kept secrets" of the war that had been "an untold military secret until only very recently."

There was hardly an adult among the 110,000 Japanese Americans in the relocation camps who didn't know what their sons, husbands and friends in the Pacific theater were doing. And one of their sources of information was the Pacific Citizen which carried many a story about the heroism of Nisei linguists. But the word never got to Tokyo during the war, and that says a lot about loyalty. #

EAST WIND: by Bill Marutani

## The Disappearing Art

*kon, konbu, kazunoko, or katsuo-boshi*, to name a few. And as for *yasai*, why that would be something that came from the fields less than an hour ago. A devotee of health food fads could not do better. Come to think of it, in retrospect it's a real paradox that we view those days as being ones of "poverty", although in a material or economic sense they surely were. But in terms of bodily sustenance, as one looks back, we were "in clover".

THERE WERE ALSO some food sources in the wild that we enjoyed, including of course not only *matsutake* (food for the gods, and just about as rare and expensive, too) but also *warabi, kikurage*, and at times *gobo*. Since being uprooted and being placed into a concentration camp in 1942, I've had the pleasure of tasting *warabi* but twice: once on the East Coast at a gathering of Tom and Mary Murakami's (they apparently scoured some woods to find them) and another time at Ben and Betty Yumori's in Culver City, California. Getting back to *matsutake*, I understand that from time to time, some one seeks to cultivate some soil containing the spores, but no one has yet been able to unlock Nature's secret. If one

ever does, (s)he'll be an instant success.

WELL, "TEMPUS FUGIT" as they say, and we've moved on to other gustatorial delights, not necessarily exotic but new to us. As a lad, raw oysters (Olympia kind) and raw clams were rejected, but no longer today. Out this way, we suggest you try snapper soup which is thick in consistency and looks a bit like *miso-shiru*: excellent with a dash of sherry, particularly on a cold day. Philadelphia scrapple takes a bit of getting used to, something that I've not done; too greasy. But out here they sell tons of it, for breakfast. Also, if you're ever out this way at the right time, by all means try our white corn, sometimes known as "Silver Queen". Absolutely the best. I had assumed that such corn was available wherever corn grew—which is just about anywhere—but a Californian recently informed me that it was not available out there. A shame. And soft-shell crabs are also a treat. I was surprised to learn that the Japanese, with their island-nation, are not familiar with soft-shell crabs, which one eats "as is" after broiling.

BUT WHEN IT comes to *oshogatsu*, there's but one spread. And I miss those days.

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### Fujima Kabuki show scheduled Jan. 8

LOS ANGELES—"Dances of the Kabuki," featuring Los Angeles artist Fujima Fujisumi and Tokyo artists Fujima Fujiko and Fujima Rankei, will be performed Friday, Jan. 8 1982, 8 p.m. at the Wilshire Ebell Theater, 4401 W. 8th St. For ticket info call (213) 939-1128.

### Mochitsuki at Wesley UMC

SAN JOSE, Ca.—The Wesley United Methodist Church will hold its annual Mochitsuki on Dec. 28, 29 and 30, with orders taken during the day (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) at the church office, 566 North 5th St., (408) 295-0367 or 295-0368.

### Oshogatsu fest

SAN FRANCISCO—The 11th Annual Oshogatsu Festival will be held Saturday, Jan. 23 on Post St. between Webster and Fillmore Sts. and in the Japan Center Theater. For info call Naomi Mizushima (415) 563-8052

### Calligraphy exhibit on 'Dog Year' motif

OAKLAND—An exhibit of brush calligraphy on clay, fiber and paper with motif for the Year of the Dog (1982) by Joyce Block will be held Dec. 17-Jan. 17 at the Zee 7/8 Gallery, 360 Alcatraz Ave. A slide presentation, "Calligraphy is..." will also be held Jan. 14. For more info call (415) 653-6910.

### New Year's Eve dance party set

EL CERRITO, Ca.—A gala New Year's Eve party being planned by the Berkeley and Contra Costa JA CL is for those who really enjoy ballroom dancing and will take place Dec. 31, 9 p.m. at the El Cerrito Community Center. George Yoshida's Sentimental Journey Band will provide the music. The Sansei-led four piece band is composed of Yoshida, drums; Randy Senzaki, tenor sax; Bill Carpenter, bass, tuba; and Jim Leiby, piano.

### Japan firms hire 100,000 Americans

BOSTON—The number of Americans employed by Japanese companies in the U.S. had risen to about 100,000 in 1979, according to the Japanese Consulate General's office here. The data, based on figures released by the Japan External Trade Organization, also reveals that the number had increased rapidly from 63,547 in 1977 to 79,470 in 1978—a 25.1% increase—and to 95,313 in 1979—a 19.9% increase.

This last figure represented 5.8% of all American employees of foreign companies in the U.S.

### Taro Yashima book signing party Dec. 19

LOS ANGELES—Artist/writer Taro Yashima will help bring in the holiday cheer by appearing for a special one-day book signing party, Saturday, Dec. 19, 1-5 p.m. at Amerasia Bookstore, 338 E. Second St.

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# U.S. opens up files on WW2 germ warfare

CHICAGO—Quoting from declassified material kept at Ft. Detrick, Md., Army headquarters for biological research, John W. Powell discloses in the October issue of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists that American prisoners of war were among the 2 or 3,000 Chinese killed by Japan's germ warfare experiments during WW2 in North China.

After the war, U.S. officials granted war crime immunity to the Japanese involved in exchange for data they had developed, despite knowing it was possible some Americans had died in the experiments, according to Powell, a China-born writer who had served with the Office of War Information during WW2.

An FBI memo in 1956 confirmed that captured Americans were used in the tests being conducted in the war against the Chinese and Soviets, the article stated. Experiments took place outside Harbin.

Powell is writing a book about biological warfare and obtained some of the material under the Freedom of Information Act.

(On file in the PC morgue is a report from Jung K. Chung of Ft. Washington, Md., seeking indemnity be paid by Japan to families of the Chinese prisoners and a memorial established for medical research. He said he had written to President Carter and members of Congress for a full investigation to a Washington Post report he found Nov. 18, 1977 datelined Tokyo that contended there was a U.S. military cover-up of the WW2 crime.

(The Tokyo story reported on the controversial TV documentary shown over Tokyo Broadcasting System by Haruko Yoshinaga on the secret germ warfare experiment, which was disbanded one

month before the war ended in 1945. The project titled "731", was under command of the Army surgeon, Gen. Shiro Ishii, whose experimenters continued to meet annually.

(The documentary noted all evidence of the secret operation and the buildings were destroyed. The remaining prisoners were either murdered or forced to commit suicide. Yoshinaga had pieced her documentary through interviews, finding four willing subjects.)

**More Secret Experiments**  
In Tokyo, former Lt. Gen. Saburo Endo, 88, told the Mainichi Shimbun Nov. 12 that a clandestine Japanese Kwantung Army unit used ultrahigh electric current in experiments on Chinese prisoners in 1933 at a secret base in Jilin Province, northeast China.

The experiment lasted about two hours, Endo revealed, but he did not know if the prisoners were electrocuted. He was asked by an army surgeon to inspect the campsite, which was staffed by a dozen medical officers and men. Then a major, Endo said he did not report to superior officers about the experiment.

## Dinner for Issei housing nets \$12,400

OAKLAND—A fundraising dinner for East Bay Issei Housing at the Silver Dragon Restaurant here raised \$12,400. Ike Nakamura, EBH vice-president, announced that the organization has now acquired \$124,700 from various donations, including the funds raised that evening.

## '82 Asian American calendar on sale

BOSTON—The Asian American Resource Workshop, a non-profit community arts organization in Chinatown here, announces the sale of its 1982 Asian American Calendar featuring photos, illustrations and poetry from various Asian groups in the U.S. Traditional dates significant in Asian American history are also included. For more info contact the Asian American Resource Workshop, 27 Beach St., 3rd Floor, Boston, Ma. 02111, (617) 426-5313.

Tell Them You Saw It in the PC

## Calendar Non-JACL Event

- DEC. 13 (Sunday)  
Philadelphia—Christmas party.  
Reno—Inst dnr, Ctr for Religion & Life, 6pm; Ron Wakabayashi, spkr.
- DEC. 17 (Thursday)  
Houston—Christmas party, Anheuser-Busch-7 Up House.
- DEC. 19 (Saturday)  
San Jose—Yu-Ai Benefit mochitsuki (2da), Buddhist Church.
- DEC. 20 (Sunday)  
San Francisco—Nisei & Retirement Program Christmas party, Mas Satow JACL Bldg., 2-5pm.
- DEC. 31 (Thursday)  
Berkeley/Contra Costa—New Year's Eve party, El Cerrito Comm Ctr, 9pm-1:30am.

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