

Photo by J.K. Yamamoto

**Veteran support**—Robert Ichikawa (left) and Col. Young Oak Kim (ret.) answer questions about their WW2 experiences at redress fundraiser held Sept. 22 in Gardena, Calif. Rep. Norman Mineta, John Tateishi were among other speakers. (Story on page 2.)

## Racism implicated in fatal stabbing of student

MARTINEZ, Calif.—Recalling the fatal stabbing of his close friend Thong Hy Huynh, Duc Nguyen was one of two Vietnamese students to testify before a superior court jury in the trial of James Pierman, who is accused of murdering Huynh in May 1983. Both were students at Davis High School at the time.

Pierman, who was 16 at the time of the killing, is being tried as an adult. If convicted in this non-capital case, he could be sentenced to up to 25 years in prison. The trial, which began Sept. 11, is expected to continue into October.

Testifying through an interpreter, Nguyen said that he and three other Vietnamese students had been the target of racial taunts for at least three weeks before the fatal stabbing, the San Francisco Examiner reported.

Nguyen told the jury that he and his three friends were walking back to classes after lunch when they were confronted by Pierman and Russell Clark. Nguyen said he ignored Clark's challenge to fight until Clark pushed him and then hit him in the mouth. Pierman, he said, had been "holding a knife and waving it."

At one point, Nguyen said he was hit in the eye and knocked to the ground. "I couldn't see anything. The first thing I realized when I opened my eyes was that Thong was lying on the ground. I thought he was just unconscious," he recalled.

Nguyen choked up and had to pause in his testimony as he talked about trying to help Huynh, who was mortally wounded from a single knife wound to the heart.

"He [Pierman] took out the knife and waved it in front of our faces," said Bon Chau, another Vietnamese student involved in the fight. "Then he put the knife back in the sleeve of his shirt and said to the fat guy [Clark], 'You go ahead and hit one of them. If they hit you, I will use the knife.'" Both Chau and Nguyen testified that they did not actually see Pierman thrust the knife into Huynh.

Defense attorney William Maas said that Huynh accidentally fell on the knife during the fight, and that Pierman immediately used his shirt to try and stop the bleeding, saying,

"It was an accident. I didn't mean to do it."

Jurors, however, listened to a tape of Pierman's statements to the police shortly after the incident. The statements, asserted the prosecution, contradict what the defendant now says happened at the time of the stabbing.

"Two things that were pointed out during the testimony were that Pierman used a lot of 'F' words toward the Vietnamese students and derogatory words relating to their being Vietnamese and from Vietnam," said Diane Tomoda, a spokesperson for the Coalition of Asians for Equal Rights.

The Sacramento-based civil rights group had been hoping to monitor the trial, but according to Tomoda they have been unable to recruit enough court watchers. The trial had been moved to Contra Costa County because of the pretrial publicity in Yolo County.

In an earlier decision, Judge Richard L. Patsey denied pretrial motions to use Pierman's past record as evidence in the trial. District Attorney David Henderson said that Pierman kept an ax, a large knife, a smaller knife, and a baseball bat in his car, all of which he needed for "the people who crossed his path." —From a report by East West.

## Bendetsen claims U.S. internment camps were not compulsory

WASHINGTON—This year's House and Senate hearings on redress bills HR 4110 and S 2116 have called witnesses both for and against redress, and the Sept. 12 hearing of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Administrative Law and Governmental Relations was no exception. Following are excerpts from testimonies given by two men directly involved in the WW2 internment of Japanese Americans.

**Karl Bendetsen**, former Provost Marshal General's Chief of Aliens Division and former Assistant Chief of Staff for Civil Affairs, Western Defense Command:

"Executive Order 9066 did not direct or authorize internment of those excluded from a military area... All were free to go anywhere else they wished. Many thousands did. Internment in WW2 refers exclusively to individual cases of enemy aliens... found by the hearing judge individually to be a dangerous alien enemy. There were completely separate internment facilities for these people operated by the Dept. of Justice..."

"There was no intention in the first instance of providing any housing facilities for the excludees until it became absolutely clear that substantial numbers of such residents were unable to relocate themselves..."

"Countless Japanese moved out of assembly centers to the interior with the assistance of the Wartime Civil Control Administration and many, many others moved at will from the relocation centers. They were encouraged to do so. They were not interned... They had free room and board. No families were ever separated. Education and medical care was provided. The Japanese themselves administered the relocation centers..."

"The Wartime Civil Control Administration carefully and separately stored the household goods of all evacuees. In each case, a detailed inventory was taken and each family was issued warehouse receipts. For those who evacuated themselves and took up residence elsewhere, the WCCA arranged the shipment of their possessions in each case at no cost to the family... When the relocation centers were emptied, each evacuee obtained his household goods at no cost..."

Continued on Page 6

## Ebens receives stiff sentence in Chin slaying; plans to appeal

DETROIT—Ronald Ebens, who beat Vincent Chin to death with a baseball bat in 1982, was sentenced Sept. 18 by U.S. District Judge Anna Diggs Taylor to 25 years in prison for violating Chin's civil rights.

Judge Taylor, who could have given Ebens life imprisonment, allowed him to remain free on personal bond for 30 days. He will be required to turn himself in to authorities unless he can post a \$20,000 cash bond by Oct. 18. Attorney James Shimoura of American Citizens for Justice, the Asian American community coalition formed in response to the Chin killing, expressed certainty that Ebens would post bond.

The judge also ordered Ebens to undergo alcohol abuse treatment. During the trial, he claimed that he had had "too much to drink" prior to the slaying.

Ebens and his stepson Michael Nitz pursued and attacked the 27-year-old Chinese American following an altercation in a Highland Park night club. They were originally sentenced to probation and fines by Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Charles Kaufman in March 1983, but nationwide protests over the light sentences, especially from Asian Americans, led to federal charges that the two murdered Chin because of his race. In June 1984, Nitz was acquitted and Ebens was found guilty on one count.

Ebens, who told Judge Taylor he was "sorry for what happened," later told reporters that he expected a lengthy sentence. "Every-

thing that could be thrown at us in this trial was thrown at us. That's the way the whole trial went. Now it depends on the Court of Appeals. If there's people on the appeals court with good common sense, they'll see it my way."

Shimoura said that it would take "at least a year" for the appeal to be heard in court.

Speaking for Lily Chin, the victim's mother, ACJ president Helen Zia said that "she does not feel there is any punishment that these two men could receive which would approach the punishment they inflicted on her son... and there is no way that they can understand the pain they inflicted on the people who knew and loved Vincent."

Zia also said that Mrs. Chin was upset that Nitz was allowed to go free. "It bothers her that she could run into him on the streets or anywhere."

### Appeals Pending

In summing up the trial, Zia said, "We are satisfied that a fair hearing of the facts occurred... and we feel that today's sentence is in keeping with the law on the punishment for this crime... It is our hope that today's sentence sends such a message to all, that attacks against Asian people are also against the law."

But she stressed that "there will be further legal battles." While Ebens appeals his conviction in federal court, concerned Asian Americans will be appealing Judge Kauf-

man's original sentence of probation and fines.

Shimoura explained that despite the successful prosecution of Ebens on federal charges, there remained a "public policy question" about how homicide cases are handled in Michigan. It is still possible, he said, for state judges to pronounce sentence without a prosecutor or district attorney present, as Kaufman did last year.

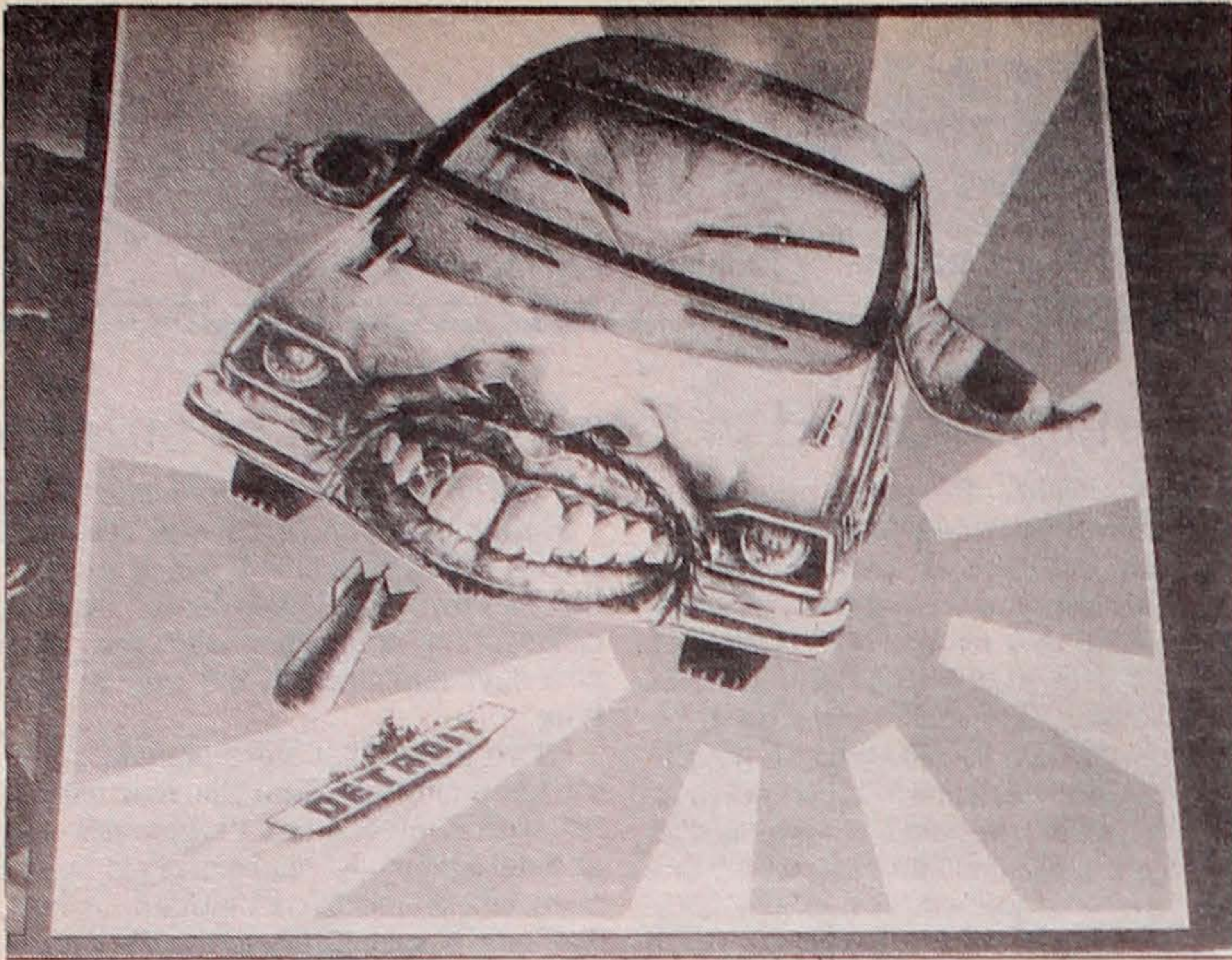
In addition, Mrs. Chin has filed a \$6 million civil damage suit against Ebens. Like the state appeal, it is still pending. Zia said that ACJ will be following each case.

Frank Eaman, one of Ebens' defense attorneys, said he was "shocked" by the sentence. "Anytime two judges can look at the same set of facts and one comes up with probation and the other comes up with 25 years, our courts are in trouble."

In asking for leniency from Judge Taylor, Eaman had described Ebens as "a good neighbor and generous friend" who "for 30 minutes went berserk and acted out of character." Ebens' attorneys have contended that Chin's death was the result of a drunken brawl without any racial overtones.

Prosecuting attorney S. Theodore Merritt had asked for a 30-year sentence, saying that "the crime has to be the most serious on any legal or moral scale." U.S. Attorney Leonard Gilman said that 25 years was "an eminently fair sentence for the circumstances of a brutal killing."





Poster at Six Flags Auto World, Flint, Mich.

## Michigan Asians protest racial caricature

FLINT, Michigan—On the day that Vincent Chin's killer was sentenced, American Citizens for Justice protested a display at Six Flags Auto World which, in the words of ACJ president Helen Zia, represented "the kind of racial defamation that killed Vincent Chin."

One of the theme park's exhibits, entitled "Life, Courtesy of the Automobile," includes a poster showing a flying car with such caricatured features as buck teeth and slits for eyes—"reminiscent of WW2 propaganda art," wrote one reporter—bombing an aircraft carrier labeled "Detroit" with Japan's wartime flag forming the backdrop.

In a letter to Thomas Major, vice president and general manager for Six Flags Flint, Inc., Zia wrote, "We feel that there is no place for such racist displays, and certainly not where children and visitors to our state can be influenced by such propaganda. This kind of racial stereotyping encourages the kind of antagonism that led to the racially motivated attack and killing of Vincent Chin..."

Prosecution witnesses at the trial of Ronald Ebens, who killed Chin after a barroom fight, said that Ebens, a former auto worker, used racial slurs and appeared to blame Asians for the state of the auto industry.

Zia also charged that the display is illegal because Auto World is federally funded and is therefore prohibited from using racially derogatory materials. In addition to asking Auto World to remove the poster, ACJ has re-

leased photos of the display to the media and various community organizations.

ACJ member James Shimoura found this incident frustrating because it indicates "the public still has the perception of Asians as a sneaky, subhuman group" despite the "long ordeal" of the Chin trial, which he said was meant to show that racial scapegoating for economic problems would lead to increased prejudice and violence against Asian Americans.

### 'Not Offensive'

In an interview with the Detroit Free Press, Auto World public relations manager Kathy Schoch dismissed charges of racism by saying that the poster is no more offensive than others in the same exhibit.

One, she said, shows a Texan's car decorated with steer horns while another shows "the Batmobile parked outside the Silly Savage Saloon. It's done in pink so it might be seen as depicting homosexuals. And there's a used-car salesman in a loud plaid coat with a large nose that might be taken as a Jew."

Schoch said that the exhibit has to be viewed in context. "The pictures poke fun at all kinds of people—rednecks, housewives and Texans... We haven't had any comments or complaints about it. Six Flags has a good relationship with the Japanese. We hosted a delegation from Japan—manufacturers and businessmen who want to start a motorcycle museum and came to see how we did it."

## Redress leaders give good news, bad news on efforts in Congress and the courts

By J.K. Yamamoto

GARDENA, Calif.—A congressman, a veteran, a coram nobis defendant and representatives of three redress organizations gave a progress report on the reparations movement before an audience of over 250 at the Ken Nakao Memorial Center Sept. 22.

### Tense Redress Hearing

John Tateishi, JACL's national redress director, said that he was encouraged that the House held hearings on redress legislation this year, but added that the Sept. 12 hearing held in Washington, D.C. "didn't go that well. The atmosphere was best described as tense, unfriendly, and acrimonious." The comments of anti-redress testifiers, he said, "seemed more acceptable to the committee than were the comments of two Japanese Americans who talked about their experiences."

He recalled that when former internee Kiku Funabiki testified that her family was interned after her father was arrested by the FBI and taken to a prison camp, a subcommittee member "said that as they had no source of income, perhaps the government was kind in its action of putting them in camp."

Such attitudes did not surprise him. He said there has been and will continue to be "an awful lot of resistance from members of the House who are not familiar with Japanese Americans." He reminded the audience that the House redress bill, HR 4110, has only 105 co-sponsors, less than half of the 218 needed for passage. The Senate bill has 20 co-sponsors; 31 more are needed.

"Money isn't the issue," Tateishi said. "It is the vehicle for what we are trying to seek"—honor for the Issei, who are "still suffering from what happened to them in 1942," and removing the "sense of defamation of who and what we are as Americans" that Nikkei have had since the internment.

He urged the audience to "continue the struggle—it's worth it, and it's important." Future generations of Japanese Americans, he said, "shouldn't have to grow up as we did."

### 'Must Understand Environment'

Rep. Norman Mineta (D-Calif.), one of the co-sponsors of HR 4110, also stressed the difficulties redress legislation would encounter in Congress. "Perseverance and stubbornness count for a lot. If we are to be successful, we must understand the environment in which we must operate."

He said that one of the purposes of the redress bills is to prevent the recurrence of an act like the WW2 internment, but "we seek to make them law at a time when strong statements in support of civil liberties seem out of fashion."

Mineta recalled that when he attended an official briefing after the 1979 takeover of the American embassy in Iran, "they were talking about rounding up all the Iranians." To

understand what happened in 1942, he said, "All you have to do is take out the word 'Iranian' and replace it with 'Japanese'... there is a tendency to find scapegoats and pick on them in difficult times."

Bert Nakano of the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations (NCR) said that the Nikkei community is not politically homogeneous but "had to unite in a common goal" with regard to redress. Despite past tensions between different redress groups, he said, the movement has "always been moving forward." NCR is an all-volunteer organization which, like JACL, is pursuing redress through congressional legislation.

Nakano, a Jesse Jackson delegate during the Democratic convention, stressed the importance of working with and enlisting the support of non-Nikkei groups, particularly other minorities. "Efforts for successful passage will have to be intensified within and without the community."

Attorney Joyce Okinaka spoke for the Chicago-based National Council on Japanese American Redress (NCJAR), which is appealing the recent dismissal of its \$24 billion class action suit against the federal government. Despite the setback, she said, "the whole effort has been extremely valuable. It

Continued on Page 7

## Former POWs oppose Aleut compensation

ANCHORAGE—Giving millions of dollars to Aleuts who were interned during WW2 would be nothing less than a "giveaway," two former American POWs said Aug. 29.

The veterans expressed their dissatisfaction as they stood outside a room where Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) was conducting hearings on a federal bill that would do just that.

"Nobody gave me \$12,000 when I got back," said Ray Gauthier of Anchorage, who was held captive for 11 months in Vietnam's Mekong Delta. "The U.S. government gave me only \$5 per day when I was captured. When I got home, my family was destroyed. I was divorced and didn't even know it."

Gauthier is state director of the Veterans of Foreign Wars' POW/MIA activities. He was accompanied by Joe Opalka of Eagle River, commander of the Alaska chapter of American Ex-Prisoners of War. Both said they were officially designated as VFW representatives to speak in opposition to the Senate bill.

If the bill becomes law, each living Aleut

who was interned will be eligible for \$12,000. The measure also includes \$38.6 million for removing debris left by the military on the islands and \$1.4 million for the renovation of Orthodox churches that were ransacked.

### Critical of Stevens

Both Gauthier and Opalka were highly critical of Stevens, saying they were not notified of the hearings or given an opportunity to get on a witness list to express the views of their organizations.

Stevens, after being told of the disgruntlement, said at the opening of the daylong session that three separate notices on the hearings were published in local newspapers, and that he would try to accommodate all who would like to make a statement. [Gauthier was allowed to testify at the hearing.—Ed.]

"My wife and I both read the newspapers every day, and we didn't see anything," Opalka said.

"I saw nothing in the press," Gauthier said. "Just look who's in there. It's 99% native."

—from the Anchorage Times

## Documentary of Nisei's 'Unfinished Business' to be screened

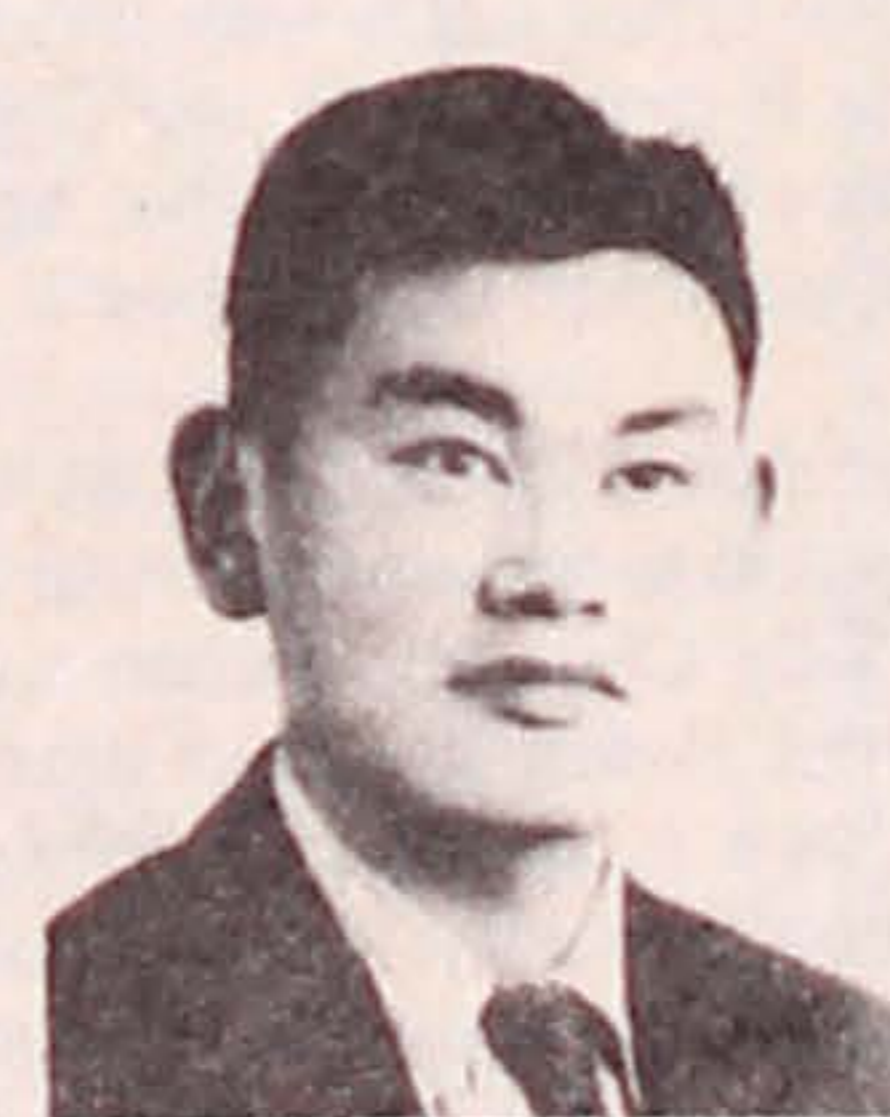
GARDENA, Calif.—Steven Okazaki's film "Unfinished Business" makes its Southern California debut Oct. 6, 7 p.m., at the Gardena High School auditorium, 1301 W. 182nd St. The recently completed documentary deals with the WW2 internment of Japanese Americans and three Nisei who fought the government's actions in court—Fred Korematsu, Gordon Hirabayashi, and Minoru Yasui.

All three attempted to test the constitutionality of the government's actions against Japanese Americans by deliberately violating curfew and exclusion orders. Their cases eventually went to the Supreme Court, which upheld their convictions and ruled that the evacuation and internment were militarily justified.

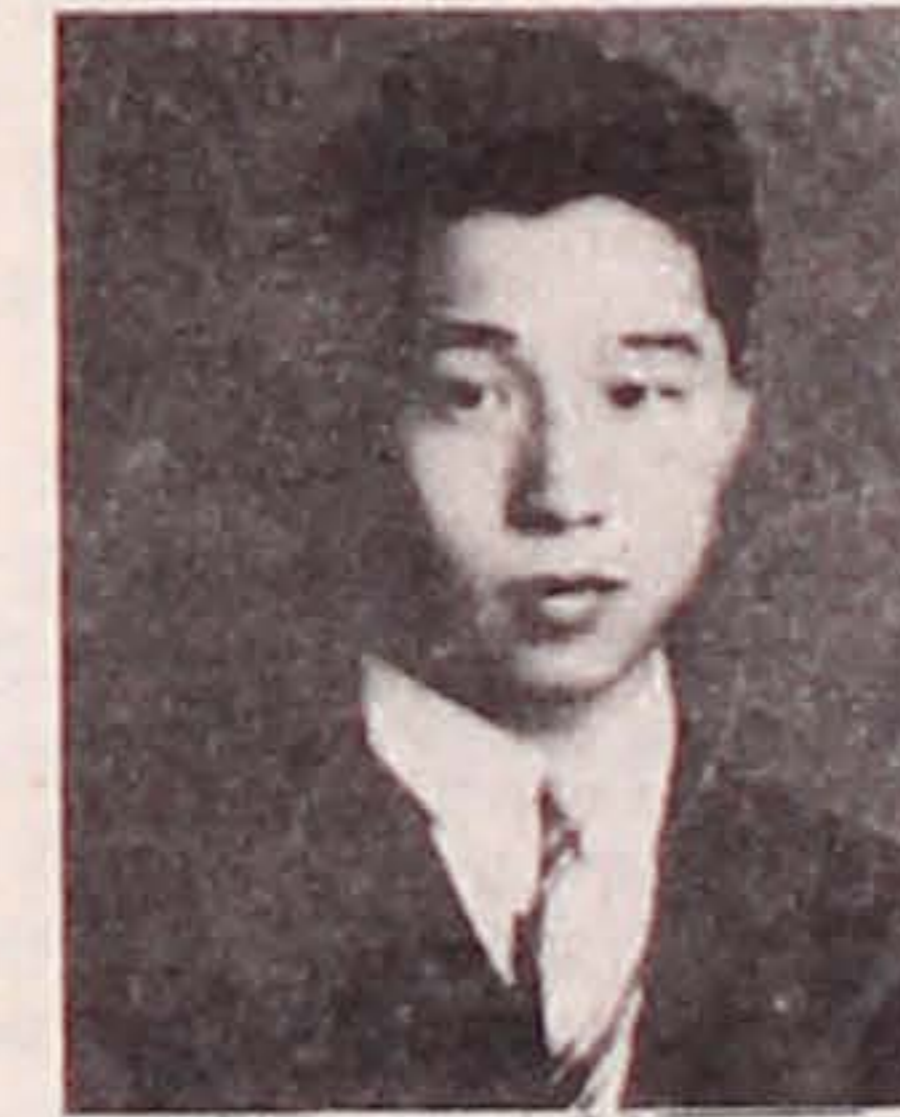
The cases were reopened last year on the basis of newly discovered evidence, much of it from government archives, that the government gave the Court false or misleading information to the effect that Japanese Americans had actually committed acts of espionage.

Speakers will include attorneys Dale Minami and Lorraine Bannai, both former Gardena residents who represented Korematsu in his successful effort to have his conviction for evading the internment vacated. The judge in the case also accepted Korematsu's petition alleging wrongdoing on the part of the federal government. The other two cases are still pending.

Producer/director Steven Okazaki will be on hand to discuss the making of the film. The



Fred Korematsu  
(age 21)



Gordon Hirabayashi  
(age 24)



Minoru Yasui  
(age 25)

program will be hosted by actress Kim Miyori, formerly of NBC's "St. Elsewhere."

The Gardena showing is part of a fundraising drive to offset production costs and to enable the film to be distributed on a wide scale. Nikkei community leaders feel "Unfinished Business" could be helpful in educating the general public about the internment.

Local organizations endorsing the program include the Torrance, South Bay, Long Beach Pacifica and Gardena chapters of JACL; National Coalition for Redress/Reparations, So. Calif. Regional; Japanese American Democratic Club; Japanese American Republicans; 100th/442nd Veterans Assn.; Gardena Valley Baptist Church; Gardena Buddhist Church Senior Citizens Club; Gardena Valley

Japanese Cultural Institute; and So. Calif. Asian Pacific American Law Students Assn.

Regular admission is \$5. Sponsors (\$50) and patrons (\$100) will be listed in the program for the evening if their donation is received by Oct. 3. Silver patrons (\$250) will receive a video copy of the film, and golden patrons (\$500) will receive a video copy and a signed limited-edition poster by Hideo Yoshida. Those receiving videos can choose either VHS or Beta.

The tax-deductible contributions should be made payable to Torrance JACL—Film and sent to Glenn Oshima, P.O. Box 7506, Torrance, CA 90504. Contact Ryo Komae at 324-8382 or Evelyn Yoshimura at 680-3729 for further information.



## Miyori mourns her death in 'St. Elsewhere'

By J.K. Yamamoto

LOS ANGELES—No one was more shocked at the sudden death of Dr. Wendy Armstrong than Sansei actress Kim Miyori. Dr. Armstrong was the character Miyori portrayed on NBC's popular "St. Elsewhere" series until producers decided to "kill" her last season.

In the show, Armstrong was "depressed about life in general," Miyori said. She had realized that she didn't really like medical school, she was suffering from bulimia, and one of her patients had lost a baby because of an incorrect diagnosis. Armstrong died from a drug overdose. Miyori found the suicide "a bit contrived" because her character did not have the type of personality that was prone to dependency.

More importantly, the killing of Armstrong was not her decision at all. "It was very sudden," she recalled. "She was killed in episode twenty-one and I found out about it midway through episode twenty." Although she voiced her objections, she had "no power whatsoever" to change the decision.

Miyori felt that her character's demise was bad for Asian television portrayals in general as well as a personal blow. "Opportunities for Asians to portray mainstream American professionals are few and far between," she said, adding that the role was not stereotyped and that very little reference was made to the fact that she was Asian.

(Her character's last name is Armstrong because the role was originally intended for a



"pert redhead." After Miyori was cast, the producers "never bothered to change her name." Her explanation for the last name is that Armstrong's mother was widowed and remarried.)

Stereotyped roles are something Miyori is quite familiar with. She said that within a two- or three-year period, she had ten roles as a prostitute. She has also encountered what she

calls the latest stereotype of Asian women—television news anchors patterned after such real-life newscasters as Connie Chung or Tritia Toyota.

She sees the elimination of stereotypes as a two-way street. In the wake of protests by minorities over various movies and TV shows, she said, "The industry is afraid to write things for minorities."

Based on her own experience, she thinks that many Asian viewers "are not vocal and they don't write unless they're really incensed about something." In addition to protesting negative portrayals, she recommends that Asians "take five minutes to jot down a postcard and give producers and writers strokes" if they see television portrayals that they like.

"I realized that after two years of being on the show, I had only gotten one fan letter from an Asian," Miyori noted, adding that supportive letters from Asians began to pour in only after her character was killed.

To help increase this kind of positive feedback, she is taking part in an awards program being put on next year by the Assn. of Asian/Pacific American Artists in honor of producers, directors and writers that have promoted positive, true-to-life images of Asians.

A large part of the problem is ignorance rather than discrimination, she said. "We need to educate these people—tell them what the story is."

A native of Santa Maria, Calif., she attended University of Utah as a dance major and then entered the theater-dance program at

Carnegie-Mellon University. She performed in musicals in Pittsburgh and later New York, where she had one of her most memorable roles in "Pacific Overtures." She found the experience enlightening because "I had never had an opportunity to work with a group of Asian actors and actresses."

Miyori went on to appear in "Zoot Suit" on Broadway and in Los Angeles. She thought it amusing that she was in a play about Chicano life in L.A. during WW2 because "period-wise, I should have been in camp."

Miyori's father was interned in Gila River, Ariz. during the war and "talks very little about it." Appearing in a TV show or film about the camps would be educational "for the public and to me as well," she said.

In the meantime, she would like to increase her involvement with the local Japanese American community. She participated in this year's Nisei Week festivities and was recently given the National Network of Asian/Pacific Women's Silk Wings Award for her role in "St. Elsewhere." She will also host a benefit showing of the film "Unfinished Business" on Oct. 6 in Gardena. Such activities "help me know who I am and what my parents and friends of my parents went through."

She also hopes that future Asian American performers will have Asian role models. When asked who her role models are, she can name actresses such as Katharine Hepburn, but no Asian names come to mind. Through such characters as the late Dr. Armstrong, she thinks that situation can be changed.

## Woo wins in Delaware primary

NEWARK, Del.—Dr. S.B. Woo received 14,112 votes (41.6%) to Cook's 10,560 (31.1%) and Dave McBride's 9,241 (27.2%) in the Sept. 8 primary. 25.8% of the state's

131,000 registered Democrats voted.

Woo, a physics professor at University of Delaware, will face Republican Battle Robinson, an attorney, in the November election. The current lieutenant governor, Mike Castle, is running for governor.

In addition to Democrats, Woo is working to win over independents, who make up 22% of Delaware's registered voters, and hopes to garner some Republican votes as well. Chinese Americans across the country contributed to his campaign chest, which totaled over \$200,000.

Born in Shanghai, raised in Taiwan and Hong Kong, and educated at Georgetown College in Kentucky and Washington University in Missouri, Woo has lived in Delaware for more than 20 years.

## East-West Players to open 19th season with Gotanda play

LOS ANGELES—East West Players' roster of productions for the fall season has been announced by Mako, director of what is believed to be the nation's oldest Asian

American theater group.

Now in its 19th year, EWP's theme this season is "Still Growing, Still Going Strong" as it presents four plays, four works in progress, and eight new play readings.

Philip Kan Gotanda's "A Song for a Nisei Fisherman" opens the season Wednesday, Oct. 10. Two West Coast premieres by two New York-based Asian American writers follow: "An American Story" by Ernest H. Abuba and "Monkey Music" by

Margaret Lamb. Rounding out the winter/spring presentations will be the classic "Threepenny Opera" by Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill.

As part of its Works in Progress series, EWP will offer: "Hiroshima Tropical" by Karen Yamashita; "Songs of Harmony" by Karen Huie; "The Gambling Den" by Akemi Gikumura; and "Shin Sekai" (New World) by Velina Houston.

The theater is located at 4424 Santa Monica Blvd. For details, call (213) 660-0366.

## Cultural Activities

FRESNO, Calif.—An exhibit of photographs from Ansel Adams' 1944 book, "Born Free and Equal: the Story of Loyal Japanese Americans," will be on display at the Fresno Metropolitan Art Museum from Oct. 4-Nov. 25. The well-known photographer, who died earlier this year, is best known for his outdoor pictures but also took pictures of camp life at Manzanar.

EL CERRITO, Calif.—Sakura Kai, West Contra Costa County's Japanese Senior Citizen's Center, co-sponsors the eighth annual art exhibit-auction Oct. 6, 1-7 p.m. at El Cerrito Senior Center, 6500 Stockton Ave. The works of 50 prominent Asian American artists will be featured. Admission is \$2.50. Contact: Amy Shinsako, 526-8580.

PORTLAND, Ore.—"Asian Point of View," an exhibit of Oregon Asian artists, will be on display Oct. 9-27 at the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Hall, 315 NW Davis St. Works include calligraphy, ceramics, textiles, paintings, photography, sculpture and multi-media. Portland JACL is co-sponsor. Opening night reception is scheduled Monday, Oct. 8, 4-8 p.m. The hall is closed Sundays.

"Theater of Yugen" will perform Oct. 30, 7:30 p.m. at the Portland Art Museum's Berg Swann Auditorium, it was announced by Japan America Society and the Japanese Consulate General here, co-sponsors. The group combines traditional Japanese theater with Western elements. Yuriko Doi, director, will speak on Kyogen. Admission is free but seating is limited. For information, call 221-1811.

## Community Affairs

BERKELEY, Ca.—Hale and hearty in semi-retirement, David Tatsuno of San Jose, owner founder of Nichibe Bussan of San Jose and San Francisco, will show two films that he took under water Saturday Oct. 13, 11 a.m. at the Berkeley JACL Drop-In Center, Hearst St. and Martin Luther King Jr. Way. Tatsuno will show films taken 40 feet underwater on the shark reef with monstrous 8-ft. sharks in bay. At the Cozumel Island, Yucatan Peninsula, he took shots 80-90 ft. under the water, showing giant groupies.

PASADENA, Calif.—Cultural and ethnic groups will stage the Pasadena Cultural Festival on Saturday, Oct. 20, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Memorial Park, corner of Walnut & Raymond, in cooperation with the City of Pasadena. Mack Yamaguchi, active JACLer, is treasurer of the Festival committee.

## Community Organizations

SAN JOSE, Calif.—The Asian Americans for Community Involvement of Santa Clara County, has moved its office to 516 Marth St., San Jose 95112. Open house will be held Oct. 3, 4-7 p.m. The AACI organized in 1973 advocates on behalf of Asian Pacific Americans. For information, call 998-1544.

LOS ANGELES.—The community-based, non-profit Asian Rehabilitation Services, 601 S. San Pedro St. (623-2313), is in need of volunteers to act as classroom and/or work evaluation aides, according to ARS director Diane Poon Lee and Joan Abe, language and education service supervisor. ARS provides vocational rehabilitation services to disabled individuals of Asian or Hispanic background who have little or no English ability.

The Downtown L.A. chapter of the American Assn. of Retired Persons meets on the first Mondays. The Oct. 1 meeting will be held at the JACCC Room 410 from 1:30 p.m. Its programs are of interest to persons 50 years and up. For details call Mable (263-8469).

## Seattle Area Prime Properties

• **Neighborhood Shopping Center.** Site on 10.2 acres located in Federal Way, WA., 20 miles S of Seattle. Zoned for neighborhood shopping center. Primary market pop: 45,000. Utilities to site. Area properties to capture majority of population growth for next 15 years. Asking price: \$1,250,000.

• **Kent CBD Office Complex.** Three buildings with on-site 70 parking stalls and total net rentable area of 12,565 sq. ft., full occupancy. Only \$900,000. Negotiable down payment & terms. Will consider contract, exchange, assumption or syndication arrangement. Adjacent parcel available for expansion.

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• **Commencement Bay View Condo Site.** 27 acres on Marine View Drive with approved internal road concept. Panoramic view for 60 plus condos (PRD required), only \$345,000.

• **Medical Office Building Site on Kent West Hill.** 45,080 sq. ft. site allows up to 15,000 sq. ft. building. City Master plan permits rezoning. Utilities stubbed to site. \$260,400 (includes house). Free look period. Option to obtain rezoning. Negotiable down payment and terms. Corner site with project 1985 AWD of 10,000 cars.

• **Apartment Site Next to New Shopping Center (300,000+ sq. ft.).** Kent East Hill location. June, 1984 vacancy rate 5%. Site zoned RM 2400, allows 64 units on 3.5 acres. \$320,000 (excludes two houses on sites). Utilities available. Negotiable down payment and flexible terms.

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EAST WIND: by Bill Marutani



## The Voice from Central Cal

ONE OF OUR favorite features in this newspaper is the letters-to-the-editor section. Often containing spontaneous expressions of opinions and concerns, we find it refreshing. Even when we sometimes may not agree with some views expressed. One contributor whose views we've unwaveringly regarded with the highest respect—even on those few occasions when we might not have fully agreed with him—has been longtime, loyal JACLER from Central California, Fred Hirasuna. Even before we met Fred, his reputation for forthrightness and impeccable integrity was known to us. We knew the appraisal was objective, for it came from a business competitor of his. And the years fully confirmed the appraisal.

AND SO WHEN we read Fred's recent letter (Aug. 31 PC), we paid close heed. In his cogently articulated expression of concern, Fred voiced surprise and indignation over a JACL national president engaging in partisan electioneering by giving a nominating speech in favor of one of two competing candidates. We join Fred in his reaction. The JACL national president is indeed supposed to be the president of *all* districts, *all* chapters and *all* members—and in affirmatively and actively taking part in political partisanship, the office went against, as it turned out, practically half of the membership's vote.

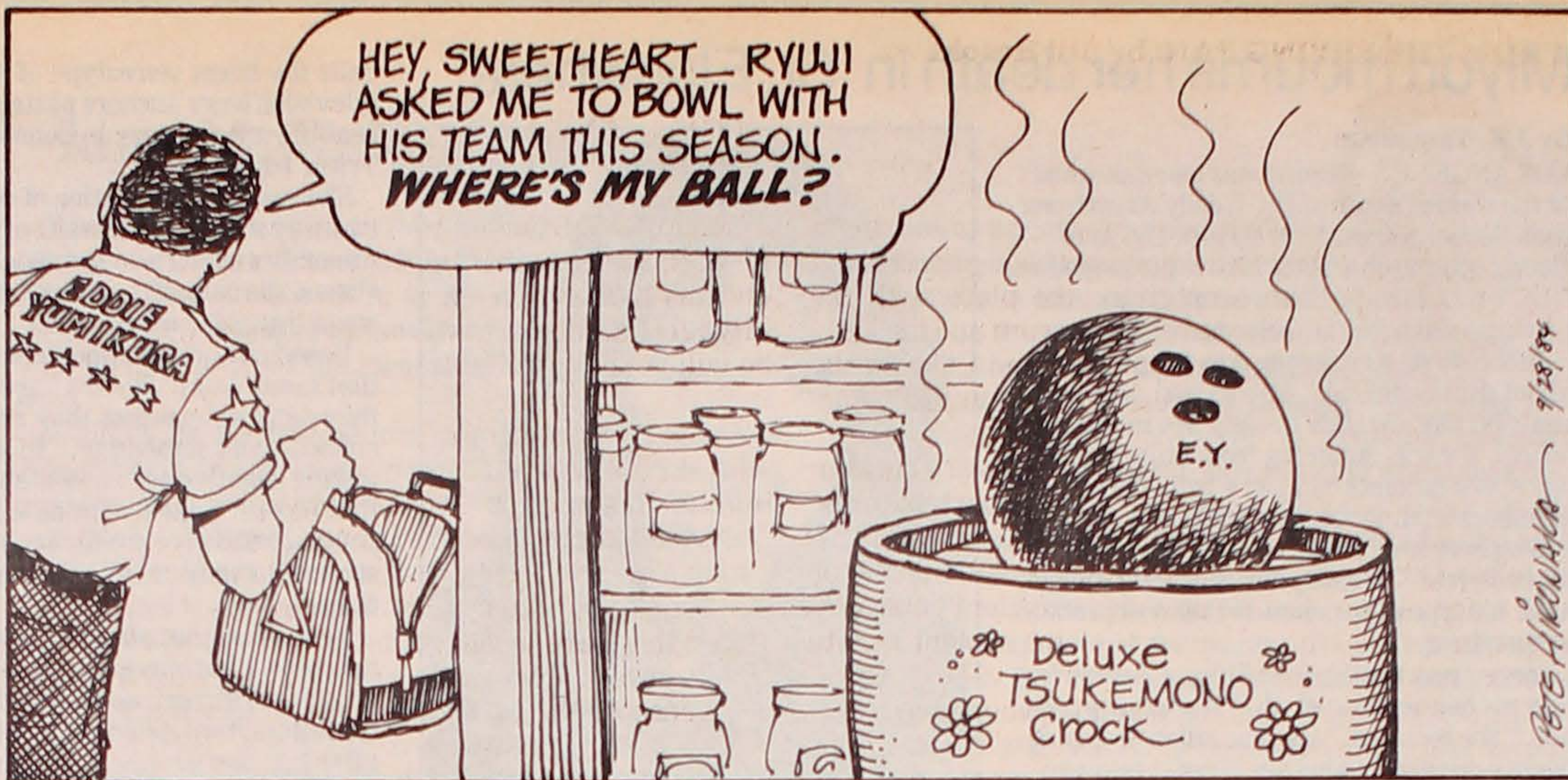
ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER, by which National Council affairs are governed, unmistakably contemplates that the president of an organization shall be impartial and nonpartisan. Thus, the rules direct that the president may vote in a *ballot* election, i.e. a *secret* vote; further, in non-election matters the president might cast a vote if it would change the result, and then only as the *last* vote. It is clear from the rules that the president is to be above partisanship. Were it not so, we'd elect a "partisan" rather than a "president."

ASIDE FROM RULES, however, there are a number of good reasons why a president, or officer, should not engage in partisan politics within this civil rights organization. First, it constitutes an abuse of power entrusted to them by the membership. Second, such perpetuation of power has a tendency to stagnate the organization, shutting out new blood, new ideas, new directions. Thirdly, if a house-cleaning should ever be needed, it becomes difficult when the rascals handpick successors who may be beholden to those who anointed them.

At this point, we openly state that we are not suggesting any negative implications to or for the presidency of newly elected national president Frank Sato. Indeed, we wish him good luck and a fruitful tenure.

OF ALL ORGANIZATIONS, though, JACL should not be hammered into the fiefdom of some cabal. It might be okay for the Kremlin or some tin-horn dictator in a Banana Republic to handpick a successor. In a civil rights organization, in particular, such actions might be regarded as obscene. We trust that this current JACL Board will forthrightly and promptly go on official record that national officers are not to become involved in organizational partisan politics.

THIS CARD-CARRYING MEMBER will be watching these pages, along with many other concerned members, for a report that such action has been taken by the National Board.



## Letters

### Only skin deep

In her Sept. 7 letter, Sandi Kawasaki unintentionally did more to illustrate what is wrong with beauty contests than what is good about them.

Although she stresses that candidates must have such qualities as poise, charm, maturity and self-confidence, she plays down the overriding factor in such contests—how physically attractive the women are. Certainly the candidates have their academic achievements and career goals, but they are essentially being awarded scholarships and other benefits on the basis of their appearance.

While this is fine as far as the contestants themselves are concerned, what kind of values are we perpetuating within our community? Kawasaki calls the contest "a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity" that gives one "a chance to meet influential people who could help to further your career goals, and if you want to, it's there for you to take advantage of." Provided, of course, you meet certain standards of beauty and charm. If you have the misfortune of not looking like an Asian Miss America, then no amount of poise or maturity will get you in touch with those influential people. At least, that is what is implied here.

If having been in a beauty contest will help one get into law or medical school, then our society is in trouble. And if being a crowned queen waving from a Nisei Week parade float is the pinnacle of community involvement, then our community is in trouble. Because the underlying message is that for women to succeed, the bottom line is whether they look good or not.

Is this the kind of activity JACL should be promoting?

BRENDA HAYASHI  
Gardena, Calif.

### Kiss off!

The article by Frank Sakamoto entitled "The Thousand Club Kiss" appalled and offended me greatly. As a member of the JACL (and Thousand Club, no less) and a believer in the principles on

which the JACL is built, I find this kind of incident intolerable.

Sakamoto's light-hearted talk of "receiving the treatment" from two women as incentive to become Thousand Club Life members (at \$500) made my stomach turn. The logical question emerges: What would people have "received" for a \$1,000 membership?

Whether swept away by the enthusiasm generated at the convention or the "good intent" by the participants in this "folly," it becomes painfully clear that this organization is in dire need of remedial assistance when it comes to issues of concern to women.

Name Withheld by Request

### A downer

Robert Shimabukuro's article on his impressions of the convention was excellent. He expressed much of my own sentiments. Unlike Shimabukuro, I have attended many other national conventions and I have usually come home inspired, enthusiastic and ready to roll up my sleeves and go to work. After this last convention, I am depressed and discouraged by the lack of leadership, imagination and vision in our present organization.

Please stick around, Robert Shimabukuro. We need people like you. You sound like a leader to me.

CHIYE TOMIHIRO  
Chicago

### Army intelligence

So some quid nunc retired Army officer thinks the evacuation of JAs from the West Coast of the United States was a military necessity. That wasn't the consensus of the FBI headed by Edgar Hoover at the time.

The ulterior motive of the enforced incarceration was the avarice of the covetous neighbors and friends who ended up plundering the property and valuables of many law-abiding citizens who were uprooted without any due process of law.

Ironically, the evacuation denied the Army access to many qualified linguistic personnel who were thrown into camps. How long did it

take to train linguists in the Japanese language? At least six months or more... while intelligence reports were waiting to be interpreted, evaluated and disseminated. A great many GIs could be wiped out during that time without the valuable intelligence needed on the front lines. Instead of using a positive approach, the time, money and energies were directed to satisfy the self-gratifying personal gains and motives of the demagogues and streetcorner vigilantes. I reckon a great many of those who made a "killing" by virtue of the evacuation are pushing up daisies so they don't have to answer to anything. The lobbyists of the era must have done quite well for themselves also.

KATSUMI YAGURA  
Harbor City, Calif.

### Voting

Fred Hirasuna in his letter in the Aug. 31 issue said "only chapters can cast votes in these elections!" That was my understanding, too.

But the voting in the two contested election were 58½-56½ and 59½-55½ or a total of 115 votes. The JACL has only 114 chapters.?????

YAS ABIKO  
San Francisco

The JACL Constitution also gives each of the eight District Youth Council chairs a vote in the National Council.—Ed.

When I read Fred Hirasuna's letter about nominations and endorsements by national officers, I was very surprised. Mr. Hirasuna states that "it should be understood that nominating speeches and seconding speeches" of candidates "can be made only by official delegates." If this statement was true, the legal counsel/parliamentarian would not have allowed non-delegates to participate in the election process.

We all know that only chapter delegates can vote for the candidates, but I don't understand why Mr. Hirasuna has an aversion to having national officers endorsing candidates. In his own statement, he concedes that chapters that have a strong commitment to a candidate will not be swayed by an endorsement.

Our national officers have a first-hand working relationship with many of the candidates and I for one appreciate their insight. To me, the national officers, who were voted in by the national council and the district governors, who were voted in by their respective chapters, have received our confidence in their ability and judgment.

Working with my district governor, I've learned that he has integrity and is a hard-working dedicated JACLER. If he endorsed a candidate, I would seriously consider his choice. At the convention, the delegates have access to the candidates; however, we would not be privy to all their strengths and weaknesses. Therefore, when I made my choice for national officers, I considered endorsements by people whom I respect, and the written and oral presentations by the candidates.

SANDI KAWASAKI  
Monterey Park, Calif.

### 'Search' completed

Thank you over and over for your promptness and kindness in putting the search item (Letters, Aug. 17 PC) out for William Makino. I have a warm letter from him with a clipping from your paper sent by a friend who thought there might be a connection and there was!! It was quite a T.V. type bit of detective work. Nori Makino in Seattle, whom I located at the library here in Seattle thinking she might be related, got in touch with the Japanese American Citizens League who suggested I write you and put in an ad possibly but you acted at once. A friend of William's mother who is living in the Bronx, active and well at 93, wrote to me with her address so I sent her a birthday card for old times' sake (I am 82 myself.) William received a clipping from a well wisher and wrote me a lovely informative letter. I shall write him at once. He is dismantling and selling his home so suggested I dispose of the teaset possibly in my family, one of whom used to play with Bill as kids. Sincerely, in appreciation

JANE R. FARRELL  
Phoenix, AZ

ISSN: 0030-8579

# pacific citizen

Published by the Japanese American Citizens League every Friday except the first and last weeks of the year at 244 S. San Pedro St., Los Angeles, CA 90012; (213) 626-6936. ● 2nd Class postage paid at Los Angeles, CA. ● Annual Subscriptions—JACL member: \$10.00 of national dues provides one-year on a per-household basis. Non-members: \$18, payable in advance. Foreign addresses: Add U.S.\$8. ● News or opinions expressed by columnists other than the National President or National Director do not necessarily reflect JACL policy. Submitted articles and letters should be typed double-spaced. Deadline is the Friday before date of publication. ● National JACL Headquarters, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115, (415) 921-5225

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Circulation: Tomi Hoshizaki, Mitsuko Sakai  
Typesetting: Mary Imon  
Holiday Issue: Charles Fullert  
Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Citizen, 244 S San Pedro St # 506, Los Angeles, CA 90012-3891.

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FROM THE FRYING PAN: by Bill Hosokawa



ing Pat Morita.

We finally got around to making a trip to the neighborhood popcorn and film emporium, the place with the discarded chewing gum and the icky-sticky spilled-and-dried Coke on the floor, to see "The Karate Kid" starring

As you may surmise, big-theater movies are not high on our list of priorities, but it seemed important to see this one which has Morita being mentioned prominently for an Oscar nomination. Whether he will make it or not, I don't know. But he provides excellent entertainment in a film which, because of the violent karate scenes, has been rated PG.

The story is fairly simple. Daniel, a young teenager, moves from New Jersey to Los Angeles with his mother who has found a new job. But Daniel's adjustment to new friends and a new school is far from smooth. He finds himself the target of a gang of tough, violence-oriented rich kids who are into karate, not as a means of self-defense, but for aggression.

## The Karate Kid's Mentor

Daniel is befriended by Mr. Miyagi, excuse me, Mr. Miyagi, the custodian at the apartment where Daniel and his mother live. And in his own quaint way Mr. Miyagi (Pat Morita), who believes one learns karate so he will not have to fight, teaches Daniel to defend himself.

Morita, better known as a comedian, plays his role with skillful understatement with fine bits of endearing humor. In some respects Mr. Miyagi is the Japanese American stereotype. He loves bonsai. He speaks English brokenly. He lives in a run-down part of town in a house surrounded by a handsome Japanese garden.

And there are incongruities which will be obvious to Nisei viewers. For example, Mr. Miyagi is portrayed as a veteran of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in World War II, and there is a scene of deep pathos in which it is revealed that his wife died in childbirth at the Manzanar camp while he was fighting in Europe. Yet Mr. Miyagi makes a point of his youth in Okinawa where he learned the techniques and the philosophy of karate from his father.

All of this indicates he arrived in the U.S. some years after the Japanese exclusion act and he was in the 442nd despite his alien enemy status. How come?

But these are insignificant details in the telling of a delightful story made all the more attractive by Morita's acting skill. Has anyone protested that the stereotypical Mr. Miyagi character is offensive and demeaning? I have not heard, but it would not be surprising if someone did indeed raise the cry of racial insult. We have come to expect them as a matter of routine.

But from my admittedly elderly point of view, Mr. Miyagi comes through as a likable, sympathetic personality anyone would be happy to call friend. As a matter of fact, I've known a number of Issei whose mannerisms, whose pointed use of a limited English vocabulary, and whose philosophy of life was totally Mr. Miyagi. And it is a tribute to Pat Morita's acting skills that he makes Mr. Miyagi so believable and lovable.

Acting skill is what the Oscar is all about, isn't it? I hope Morita gets his nomination, and the Oscar, too.

MOSHI-MOSHI: by Jin Konomi



## Happy Valley Lost

The recent racist incidents in Monterey Park (May 11 PC) give the appearance of having been only minor unpleasantness, but actually they may have been the outcroppings of a vein of hostility that lies very close to the surface stratum of apparent harmony. Whichever they were it saddened me to reflect that we Asians are foreordained to live in constant expectation of incidents like these, or worse, that we must pay this extra price for the privilege of living in this land of opportunity. Am I being too pessimistic?

But really I was saddened to read that PC item for another, entirely private, reason. Monterey Park had been a special place for me, a sort of private Happy Valley where I spent a few happy hours of my youth more than fifty years ago. This kind of thing shouldn't be happening there.

In 1927-28 I was a fifty cents an hour hand for the M.M. Nursery, Vermont and 61st Street, in Los Angeles. As part of my job I was often sent to the nursery's growing yard in Monterey Park to dig young citrus trees for sale at the nursery. The yard was about two acres in area, nestling against gently rolling hills on two sides and screened by stands of trees on the other two, and was completely cut off from the rest of the world. Working there in absolute silence and solitude, at my own pace, free to indulge in my own thoughts without interruption, was the most enjoyable part of my job, and I used to look forward to the assignment.

In 1928 I returned to USC after a four-year layoff. What I saved at the nursery and earned during summer vacations was enough to cover the tuition, textbooks and other major outlays. But for day-to-day existence I had to work at produce markets Saturdays and Sundays at 40¢ an hour.

### Life on a Dollar a Day

Indulge me in a little digression, for how I spent the \$32 a month—\$40 every third month—may be of interest to some of

you for comparison with figures for later years... Four other students and I bached together in a big two-story, four-bedroom house one block from the campus. Each man's share of the monthly expenses (rent, utilities, telephone, food, and incidentals) rarely exceeded \$23. There was a roomy back-porch with two galvanized sinks (how we miss those now-adays) where we did our own washing. It was only when the shirts started to take on the dingy grey which was the telltale hallmark of home laundry, or their collars and cuffs started to fray, that we sent them out to a commercial laundry. Not only did they come back snow white, but with their collars and cuffs turned. All this, believe it or not, for only two for a quarter. The few dollars left over at the end of the month allowed me to see second-, or third-run movies at 25¢ or so, splurge on a real dinner at Leighton's cafeteria downtown, all you can eat for 45¢, to make up for all the stews and tough round steaks (what can you expect for 25¢ per pound?) and occasional abominations such as mutton chop suey. Amazingly, in spite of the austere diet, we all seemed to thrive. Ah, how wonderful youth was!

Come to think of it, there seemed to have been a more equitable balance in those halcyon days between what you earned and what you had to spend.

Among students from Japan, teaching *gakuen* (Japanese language school) was the choicest *Arbeit*. It was dignified, physically untaxing, and paid well. Somehow, in spite of my superior (I conceitedly thought) knowledge of Japanese and English, all such plums passed me by. So for two and half years, I slaved in produce markets, polishing apples, getting soaking wet washing carrots and spinach, and stacking those dirty Burbank potatoes which were coated with the fine black grime from the tule peat soil of the San Joaquin Valley. (I wonder what happened to them? You don't see them anymore anywhere.)

Continued on Page 10

Convention Whing Ding:

## Gila River II Reunion

By Dr. Frank F. Sakamoto

HONOLULU—With an excess of 480 enjoying the mood music of the Islands, palm trees and wahines, the Hawaiian Revue took off with singing and dancing to open the Whing-Ding. B.J. Watanabe of New York brought her troupe to entertain and Eddie Jonokuchi of Milwaukee led us in many favorite songs. Our own Chiye Tomihiro of Chicago also helped in the festivities. Many other participants came on stage to climax this evening.

I want to thank them all with a special thanks to Chuck Kubokawa, who had the foresight to bring along song sheets and he also led us in his solid baritone voice. Our good friend Fr. Clement gave greetings along with a prayer to go forward and meet the challenge of today's concerns. There was something of interest for all those who attended that evening and I thank the host committee.

For the price of \$10 per person, we had delicious sashimi, sushi, cracked crab and other delicacies, in addition to a chef slicing beef to dip with au jus. The ice carvings were spectacular. I asked Dr. Alvin Onaka, one of the hosts, how his committee could provide such food so reasonably. It turns out that through an error, food was ordered at the cost of \$28 per person.

An artist was present making sketches of the attendees to take back as remembrances of this event. The results were so complimentary he was kept quite busy.

At the same time, the Gila River Camp II Reunion was in high gear. Dr. Jim Araki, Molly Ozaki, Yoshi Nakamura, Yoshi Iwashita and Grace Tanaka were among those who came by to say hello. Henry Nagahiro and his friends were having a great time. I hope everyone found each other for a grand reunion. At this time, I haven't been able to get a list of all Gila Riverites who attended. Those who missed it, let's try to get together in Chicago in July, 1986.

Thanks for a great Whing-Ding and Reunion.

## Letters

Continued from Page 4

### Nisei Aging Project

I was shocked to read about JACL convention workshop on aging and retirement (Aug. 31 PC) in which K. Patrick Okura assumed the role of disseminating materials from the "Masuda survey." This was, in fact, known to Seattle area Nikkei as the "Nisei Aging Project" and was much more than a survey, (it being an in-depth study of the lives of over 200 Nisei participants. The work was, of course, initiated by my late husband Dr. Minoru Masuda, but from the very beginning he worked with Dr. Donna Leonetti to establish the project, and it was she who carried out the entire project after Min fell ill in its first months. I am astonished

that no credit for this enormous effort was given in the aging and retirement report. In addition, Dr. Leonetti worked closely throughout the project with a 20-member Japanese American community advisory and resource committee. This work provided an opportunity for on-going discussion of the findings from the Nikkei community. Some copies are available from Dr. Donna Leonetti, Dept. of Anthropology, Univ. of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195.

In an effort to utilize materials from a research project, it is essential to involve the researcher if correct understanding of the findings is to occur. Correct understanding lies at the basis of their usefulness to the community.

From my perspective as a member of the Nisei Aging Project community advisory committee, the summary provided in the PC article of Mr. Okura's synthesis of the "survey" is not accurate. Such irresponsible reporting also damages the credibility of the study in which so much effort and money was invested. The study is, in fact, a precious record which we leave to our children of the challenges faced in the lives of the Nisei generation. I cannot urge strongly enough that both (1) the researcher be involved in interpretation of her findings for community use and (2) the researcher be given proper credit for her work.

HANA MASUDA  
Seattle

It is regrettable the PC coverage of the Convention workshop was found wanting in failing to credit Dr. Leonetti. Apologies to all concerned for leaving the impression that Mr. Okura was going to disseminate materials of the study, rather than his urging JACL ought to assist to make the findings better known. Regrets aside, the Nisei Aging Project story is one that should be told in-depth in the PC. —GM/Op.

### Typesetting Fund

Here's my small (but affordable) contribution to your typesetting fund.

HOWARD IMAZEKI  
San Francisco

I was surprised to learn about the PC typesetter fund.

That goes to show you I haven't (in my wonderful life as a retiree with lots to do and not enough time to do all the things I have on the roaring fire) been paying too much

attention to everything that's pertinent to PC. Please accept my small donation...

BUDD FUKUI  
Seattle

In our last newsletter, chapter members were requested to send \$2 to PC's typesetter fund. However, to speed up the process and as a token of its appreciation to PC for its gallant fight to preserve the freedom of information for its subscribers, the Salinas Valley JACL chapter voted to donate the enclosed amount... Keep up the battle for freedom of the press.

VIOLET de CRISTOFORO  
Redress Chair  
Salinas Valley JACL

Hope this helps you reach your goal...

HI/BETTY AKAGI  
Alameda JACLers

A note to say "hi" to an old friend... and a little something for the typesetting fund.

JEANNE KONISHI  
Salt Lake City

Just taking the PC space and opportunity to say thanks in print.—GM/Op.

### 'Bakappei'

Re: East Wind (Aug. 31 PC), I suspect "bakappei" has the following analogy and derivation:

I-NAKA-PEI—a country bumpkin, a hick. PEI (or HEI as in "heitai"—soldier) is a "derogatory/slighting" term for a man or woman.

BAKA-PPEI—foolish fellow, a dummy. (BAKA means foolish, stupid.)

YASUO ISHIDA  
St. Louis, Mo.



**HEARING**

Continued from Front Page

"Many evacuees owned very excellent truck gardens and truck farms. I arranged with the Agriculture Dept. to bring about the harvesting of all crops. Sales were made by the Department at auction. The cash payments were handled at my request by the Federal Reserve District and their funds were deposited in the bank accounts of each evacuee—no exceptions...

"I know evacuees of senior age who intensely wished to testify before the Commission [on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians]... They wished to say that they were free to be anywhere in the U.S. except the West Coast. Others who were first in an assembly center and then in a relocation center wished to tell that they were free to leave, that there was no internment... Those who wished to testify adversely to the falsehoods of the proponents... were physically intimidated by the proponents of the Commission, some of whom were not even born until after WW2... They booed and hissed me...

"MAGIC [decoded Japanese diplomatic cables] totally refutes the irresponsible statements and findings of the Commission... MAGIC clearly and conclusively establishes that there were many [Japanese Americans] who were actively disloyal and that the loyalty of others would necessarily be uncertain if a Japanese attack on the Pacific coast would have been made...

"To conclude, as has the Commission... and as stated in HR 4110 that President Roosevelt was motivated solely by political and racial considerations is irresponsible and libelous...

"[Supreme Court case defendant Fred] Korematsu was not excluded from the military area because of hostility to him or his race... [but because] the military authorities feared an invasion of our West Coast...

"War imposes hardships which cannot be compensated by the government. Servicemen are separated from their families, fami-

lies are broken. The consequences of wartime are cruel when a nation must defend itself."

\* \* \*

**Edward Ennis**, former director, Alien Enemy Control Unit, Dept. of Justice:

"Beginning December, 1941, Asst. Secretary of War [John J.] McCloy and Lt. Gen. J.L. DeWitt, commanding general of the Western Defense Command... began to confer with Attorney Gen. [Francis] Biddle... on any special measures which should be taken... for security of the West Coast. At first, small zones around military and naval installations from which persons could be excluded were suggested by Gen. DeWitt, and the Dept. of Justice advised that... entire groups, such as all persons of German or Japanese ancestry, could not be barred on a racially or nationally discriminatory basis without evidence against individuals.

"As these discussions proceeded, anti-Japanese hysteria arose alarmingly in the press and among the public... Walter Lippman, a distinguished and generally responsible journalist, [wrote] in his nationally syndicated column that people could not resist being removed from a battlefield, which, of course, the West Coast was not and never became. The Calif. Attorney General... joined in such preposterous charges as that failure of sabotage was proof that the Japanese community was awaiting a more strategic opportunity for such treason.

"The farmer organizations seized the opportunity to obtain, at bargain prices, the farms of their citizen neighbors of Japanese ancestry by urging Congress to support the expulsion... Under this pressure, the West Coast delegation at a meeting instructed me to tell the Attorney General that if the Dept. of Justice would not remove all persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast, the military authorities would be urged to do so... The virulent racial discrimination against

U.S. citizens of Japanese ancestry was neatly summarized in Gen. DeWitt's deathless phrase that 'a Jap is a Jap'...

"Attorney Gen. Biddle, supported completely in this matter by Director [J. Edgar] Hoover of the FBI, explained to these War Dept. officials that there was no evidence that warranted removal... from the West Coast. Reports from Naval Intelligence supported this view. Mr. Biddle stated that the Dept. of Justice would not conduct such an exclusion... and taking these people from their homes and farms where they were productive in the war effort and rendering them a useless burden on the government... President Roosevelt, over Attorney Biddle's objections that the proposed exclusion was not justified by any substantial security evidence, accepted the War Dept.'s recommendation and issued Executive Order 9066...

"It is of interest to note that no similar action was proposed in Hawaii, where a much larger percentage of population was of Japanese ancestry but there was no similar economic pressure for evacuation...

"The War Dept... concealed from the Dept. of Justice that it had prepared a report on the evacuation... which asserted factual support for the evacuation which was incorrect and untrue... It was published without

review or corrections when the Korematsu case was in the Supreme Court... This conduct strikingly disclosed the War Dept.'s own doubts about judicial acceptance of the justification for the evacuation which it had swallowed whole from DeWitt...

"In fact, no basis for the drastic military evacuation was ever established before or after that disgraceful event. Japanese Americans as a group proved entirely loyal to their country of birth or adoption... By their conduct, the Japanese Americans have established a strong claim upon our government for recognition of and redress for the harsh discrimination and detention they suffered...

"Several years ago, hundreds of demonstrators in Washington against the Vietnam War were awarded damages in court for their temporary detention by the police. Congress appropriated millions of dollars to pay for this very temporary detention.

"It is urged that this committee recommend that... surviving victims of this evacuation be financially reimbursed... It takes the government of a great sovereign people... to voluntarily and magnanimously admit a wrong and grant amends well within its means. I strongly believe ours is such a government."

**Chapter Pulse**

**Alameda**

**ALAMEDA, Calif.**—The chapter's annual Issei Appreciation Dinner will be held Oct. 6, 5:30 p.m., at Buddhist Temple of Alameda, 2325 Pacific Ave. Issei members, parents of Nisei members, and other Issei living in Alameda are being invited. Dinner is free for Issei and \$7.50 for all others. Checks should be made payable to Alameda JACL and sent to Nancy Tajima, 1165 Sand Beach Pl., Alameda, 94501 by Sept. 26.

**Fresno JAYs**

**FRESNO**—The Fresno JAYs sponsor a college and career information workshop for youths 13-21 years of age at Fresno City College, 1101 E. University, Student Services Bldg, 2nd Flr Counseling Center, Oct. 17 at 6 p.m. Information will be given on applying to colleges, seeking financial aid, and choosing a career (EUREKA, a computer career guidance program, will be made available to interested students). A complimentary dinner at Straw Hat Pizza will follow. Contact: Kristie Peterson, 227-3527, or Debbie Shikami, 224-3700.

**Golden Gate**

**SAN FRANCISCO**—The half-hour video presentation, "A Tale of Nisei Retirement" starring actor George Takei and veteran film-stage actor Jim Hirabayashi (professor of anthropology at San Francisco State), will be shown at the Golden Gate JACL meeting Monday, Oct. 15, 8 p.m. at Christ United Presbyterian Church lounge upstairs. Greg Marutani and Marion Wake lead the discussion following the presentation. Chapter announcements precede at 7:30.

San Francisco Center for Japanese American Studies is co-sponsoring.

**Las Vegas**

**LAS VEGAS**—The annual Las Vegas JACL luau will be held Oct. 21 at Paradise Park with George Goto (384-7263) coordinating the activity. A general meeting is also scheduled.

The chapter celebrated its 10th anniversary Aug. 19 at Osaka Restaurant with 45 members and scholarship winners Minna Miyamoto and Christine Sakahara present. Amy Thompson emceed, Wayne Tanaka chaired the scholarships and Sam and Eiko Nakanishi of Osaka Restaurant outdid themselves hosting the event. George Goto recalled the chapter's past achievements.

**Marina**

**LOS ANGELES**—A Hawaiian luau to be held Oct. 21, 5 p.m. at Venice Community Center, 12448 Braddock Dr., will feature kalua pig and lomi lomi salmon as well as hula dances performed by Ka Po'e Hula O Wahinealii with Kumuhula Clorice Nuh. Admission is \$16 (tax deductible). Contact: Ed Goka, 327-7143, or Akimi Kodama, 822-5528.

**New York**

**NEW YORK**—An all-day conference on interracial relationships will be held Sept. 29, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Japanese American United Church, 255 7th Ave. between West 24th and 25th streets. Topics include: interracial marriages that work; reasons why people date and marry interracially; and tips on raising a bi-racial child. Admission is \$10. Lunch will be a potluck, so participants are asked to bring a dish. New York JACL and Japanese American Counseling Center are co-sponsors. For further information, call: Phil Nash, 807-9591 or 563-0890 (day); Fumi Raith, 961-6654 or 787-7741 (day); or Julie Azuma, 219-3658 or 719-4922 (day).

**Calendar**

JACL-sponsored events are prefaced with name of the JACL unit (chapter, district, national) in boldface. Social affairs of Nikkei community/church groups are listed as a community service. Where fees/reservations are involved, an "info" contact is required. Items should be submitted in writing to the PC Calendar editor.

- **SEPT 28 (Friday)**  
Los Angeles—JA Repub fund-raiser, Michael's Rest, Commerce, 6:30pm; info 617-3545.
- **SEPT 29 (Saturday)**  
New York—Inter-racial Rel conf, JA United Ch, 255-7th Ave, 9:30-4:30, info Phil 807-9591, Fumi 961-6654, Julie 219-3658.  
West Los Angeles—BBQ/Las Vegas Nite, Sawtelle Institute, 6:30pm; info Fred 828-9805.  
Los Angeles—Church Faire, Union Ch, 12n-7pm.  
San Francisco—Calif Japanese Alumni Assn schol awd d/d, El Dorado Rm, Cathedral Hill Htl, Van Ness & Geary, 6:30pm; info 921-5225.  
San Francisco—Kimochi Home bnft: "Sensei Live!" Galleria Dsgn Ctr, 101 Henry Adams S, 6:30pm; info (415) 922-9972.  
San Francisco—CJAS theater party: "Once is never enough," info Joyce 387-4271.  
Seattle—7th ann'l Asn Dnr Festiv, Chinese Baptist Ch, 5-8pm.  
Tulare County—Barbecue, Ozawa res, 7pm; JACL videotape "A Tale of Nisei Retirement".
- **SEPT 29-30**  
Gardena—23d ann'l Gardeners Assn cult prog, Ken Nakaoka Mem Ctr; info 327-0220 x341.  
San Francisco—15th Aki Matsuri, Japan Ctr, Nihonmachi, 11am-5pm.  
Fresno—1st J-Town reunion, Holiday Inn; Sat—noon picnic, eve banq, Sun—sightseeing.
- **SEPT 30 (Sunday)**  
Los Angeles—Bazaar, Keiro Nursing Home, 4pm.
- **OCT 2 (Tuesday)**  
Sacramento—Nikkei Sgls mtg, Sumitomo Bank, 7:30pm; info Kiyo 366-6608, Jim 635-7264.
- **OCT 5 (Friday)**  
San Francisco—JCCNC gndbrkg, 4pm, 1850 Sutter St.
- **OCT 6 (Saturday)**  
Torrance—Film: Okazaki's "Unfinished Business"; Gardena HS, 1301 W 182nd St, 7pm; So Cal premiere.  
West Valley—Golf tourn, Riverside Golf Course; \$18 fee to Ray Uchiyama, 19595 Via Escuela Dr., Saratoga 95070.  
Long Beach—Ann'l sukuyaki, Grace Presby Ch, 4:30-7:30pm.  
Seattle—Oriental Food Baz, Blaine Mem Ch, 11am-7pm.
- Los Angeles—Church Faire, Union Ch, 12n-7pm.
- **OCT 7 (Sunday)**  
Monterey Peninsula—JACL-Issei Kai luncheon.  
West Covina—Aki Matsuri, ESGV JCC, 12n-9pm.
- **OCT 11 (Thursday)**  
Los Angeles—JA Dem Club rptn for Rep Norm Mineta, Miriwa Rest, 6-8pm, info (681)-7056.
- **OCT 12 (Friday)**  
New Mexico—Dist sess welcome, Cal Mary's House, 1317 Los Arboles, Alb.
- **OCT 13 (Saturday)**  
MPDC—Dist sess & banq, Classic Hotel/Albuquerque.  
Los Angeles—25th anny L.A.-Nagoya Sister City Matsuri.  
San Francisco—Nisei & Retirement Wkshp, Sumitomo-Buchanan St Mall, 1-4pm, Dennis Hayashi, Madge Bello, spkrs, "Legal Rights of Retiring Nisei".
- **OCT 14 (Sunday)**  
Arizona—Gen'l election/potluck dnr mtg, JACL Bldg, 5pm.  
San Francisco—Ann'l food fair/bazaar, Christ Uni Presby Ch, info 567-5505.  
Seattle—Drum-Bugle Corps sukuyaki/chicken dnr, Buddhist Ch, 11:30am-7pm.
- **OCT 15 (Monday)**  
Golden Gate—Mtg, Christ Uni Prsby Ch, 7:30pm; "A Tale of Nisei Retirement"; George Takei, spkr.
- **OCT 17-21**  
Philadelphia—Asn Amer Film Festival, 17th opener: "Nisei Soldier," International House, 3701 Chestnut St, 7:30pm; info 387-5125 x222.
- **OCT 19 (Friday)**  
San Francisco—CJAS mtg, JAA Bldg, 8pm.
- **OCT 21 (Sunday)**  
Contra Costa—Redress Fd bnft, Maple Hall, San Pablo Civic Ctr, 5pm, "Nisei Soldier" film.  
Las Vegas—Luau, Paradise Pk; info 384-7263.  
Marina—Luau, Venice Comm Ctr, 12448 Braddock Dr, 5pm; info Ed 327-7143, Akemi 822-5528.  
Sacramento—Ikebana Int'l 25th anny show, Shepard Garden Ctr, 3330 McKinley, 1-6pm, Sun 10-4.
- **OCT 26 (Friday)**  
San Francisco—Okazaki film: "Unfinished Business," Palace of Fine Arts, 7:30pm; info Asn Law Caucus, 835-1474.

**Contributions to Pacific Citizen For Typesetting Equipment**

As of Sept. 22 (409) ..... \$8,811.45  
Last week's total (385) ..... 8,308.45  
Total this week (24) ..... 503.00  
\$ 2 from: John Urabe, M/M T Andy Matsui.  
\$ 4 from: Craig/Cederic Otsuki.  
\$ 5 from: Miyoko Aoyagi, Hiroshi/Aiko Kitaji, Jack/Mitzy Masuda.  
\$10 from: R E Michaelson, Henry/Fumi Irinaga, Saburo/Dorothy Tanaka, Hi/Betty Akagi, George Kondo.  
\$15 from: Jeanne/James Konishi.  
\$20 from: Budd S Fukei.  
\$25 from: Sayuki Matsui, Dick H Fujioka, Thomas Y/Sonoko Kamidoi, Howard M Imazeki, Masaaki Hironaka.  
\$30 from: Terry Itano, in memory of Toyoki Seriguchi.  
\$40 from: Tetsu/Michi Iwasaki.  
\$50 from: Salinas Valley JACL; Wilfred/Violet De Cristoforo, M/M Ken Osaka, Marysville JACL.  
THANK YOU!

**1000 Club Roll**

(Year of Membership Indicated)  
\* Century; \*\* Corporate;  
L Life; M Mem'l; C/L Century Life  
**SUMMARY (Since Dec. 1, 1983)**  
Active (previous total) ..... 1,798  
Total this report: #28 ..... 28  
Current total ..... 1,826  
**SEP 10-14, 1984 (28)**  
Berkeley: 11-Sherrie M Matsubara.  
Chicago: 15-Dick Nishimoto.  
East Los Angeles: 31-Dr Robert T Obi.  
Fresno: 10-Fusayo Fujimura, 2-Dr Donald Kunimitsu, 2-Dr Vivian Kunimitsu, 20-Dr Kenneth S Masumoto, 3-Lily Suda, 2-Michie Tanida, 3-Ray Urushima.  
Gardena Valley: 2-Frances Kaji.  
Marin County: 13-James O Wright, Jr.  
Marina: 2-Howard Okumura.  
Milwaukee: 14-Henry K Kanazawa.  
Monterey Peninsula: 29-George Kodama.  
New York: 29-Dr Harry F Abe.  
Pasadena: 29-Jiro Oishi.  
Philadelphia: 25-Chiyoko Koiwai.  
Placer County: 5-Cosma Sakamoto.  
Puyallup Valley: 5-Thomas T Shigio.  
Salt Lake City: 21-Raymond S Uno\*.  
San Francisco: 10-Roger Fleischmann\*, 17-Frank H Minami.  
San Jose: 4-Frank Ito, 3-Richard K Tanaka.  
Snake River: 29-Mas Yano.  
Sonoma County: 29-Edwin Ohki.  
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BY THE BOARD: by Harry Kajihara

## Five PSW Goals for '85

(In two parts)

The 28th Biennial National JACL Convention has just concluded. This very nearly marks the mid-point of my 1984-85 governorship. It is an appropriate point to review the progress of Pacific Southwest District on its plans and programs and to update our goals. I also wish to share with you my aspirations for JACL, and in particular, PSWD, so we can all pull together to achieve success.

When I first took office in November 1983, my two top priority goals were (1) to increase membership and (2) to meet our redress pledge apportionment. These two remain top priority goals. There are other initiatives developing at the district level to launch this coming year:

- 1—By December 1985, increase membership to 9,000.
- 2—Fully meet our redress pledge apportionment through 1986.
- 3—Develop a model Ethnic Concerns Group.
- 4—Initiate a Youth Development Program.
- 5—Initiate an effective "Liaison with the Chapter" project.

**MEMBERSHIP**—The National JACL budget for the upcoming biennium approaches \$1.25 million. A large proportion of the income comes from membership dues. If the National JACL could amass \$10 million in its various endowment, Masaoka, 1000-Clubber, and other funds, the interest could provide \$1 million to defray National's operational expenses. Membership dues could be kept down, new programs could be funded, services could be expanded, the necessary staff to perform the myriad of work could be hired, and so on. Sadly, \$10 million is hard to come by and even a modest \$1.25 and \$2.00 membership dues increase comes under fire by a few.

So what must we do? We must increase the sorely needed funding base by increasing membership. And we should not be clamoring, waiting, or expecting a neat panacea for increasing membership from National. Yes, there are important roles that National JACL should take on that will affect JACL membership, such as representing the organization in an effective manner on the national scene, producing attractive, high-quality membership brochures, etc. There is certainly a role that the district can and should take on pertaining to membership increases. However, the key to increasing membership, the "selling of the JACL," exists at the chapter level. The undertaking of varied projects and programs that serve and fit the needs of the people in the community where the JACL chapter exists is the way to increase JACL membership.

A PSWD membership contest, patterned after the National's, was initiated in 1984 under chairmanship of Ron Doi, member of the Gardena Chapter and PSWD Board. In ac-

cordance with the PSWDC action at the February quarterly meeting, chapters increasing membership over the 1983 membership figure will receive \$3 per each new member, provided the District membership increased in the National contest ending in July 1984. Awards are to be presented in February 1985.

For information, the membership trend for PSWD over 1981, 1982, and 1983 is 8,081; 8,054; and 8,200. A 5% per year increase in PSWD membership will achieve the goal of 9,000 members on Dec. 31, 1985.

**REDRESS**—In FY83, the PSWD met fully its redress pledge apportionment of \$37,840. The pledge received was \$43,480.24. The pledge not received totaled \$5,808.12. Twenty-one of 33 PSWD chapters raised 100% of their apportionment. One chapter, San Gabriel Valley, was not able to participate in the redress fundraising program in FY83. The San Fernando Valley Chapter was the first and only chapter in PSWD to raise and submit all three years' pledge in FY83. Santa Barbara is the second chapter in PSWD to donate all three years. Also, active San Fernando Chapter members Don and Betty Yamaoka donated \$7,500 to JACL redress program. The San Fernando Chapter's total was \$12,918.16. Gardena Valley Chapter, having the second largest pledge apportionment among PSWD Chapters, raised and submitted the full amount of \$4,235. So far, in FY84, 19 out of 33 PSWD chapters have submitted 100% of their pledge apportionment. The pledge funds submitted, to date, total \$26,886.98; \$15,216.14 remains to be raised.

The PSWD has been on target submitting its redress pledge apportionment using the advanced and extra funds made available by San Fernando Valley, Santa Barbara, and the Yamaokas. However, the extra funds are rapidly depleting. I ask the chapters that have been unable to raise their pledge apportionment (and I fully appreciate the hard work in fundraising) to double and triple their effort to meet their apportioned share.

At long last, the stereotyped image of the "quiet, obedient" Japanese American should be null and voided. We have stood up and spoken out, challenging our government to correct the grave injustice inflicted on Japanese Americans and our loyal alien-by-U.S.-law parents. I am proud that we have undertaken the redress pursuit. In the year 2020, when our grandchildren and their children read about this segment of the JA history in these United States, I want them to be proud of what we did in the eighties. I'm sure you all do! We must see this redress pursuit to a successful end!

**To Be Concluded**

explained.

Yasui himself was a guest speaker. "If we lose, we'll file another appeal," he said, expressing his willingness to take the case to the Supreme Court again. Yasui, who is redress chair for JACL, also described the exploits of the 442nd to illustrate the loyalty of Japanese Americans during WW2. During the Gothic Line campaign, he said, Nisei soldiers climbed up nearly perpendicular hills to surprise the enemy, and those who accidentally fell to their deaths did not cry out for fear of alerting the Germans.

"In their memory, their honor, we must achieve redress," he declared.

Loni Ding's documentary "Nisei Soldier" was shown, followed by a question-and-answer period which gave the audience an opportunity to ask Kim and fellow 442nd veteran Robert Ichikawa about their wartime experiences.

Bacon Sakatani showed slides of his visits to the sites of the Heart Mountain, Wyoming "relocation center" and the citizen isolation camps in Leupp, Arizona, and Moab, Utah.

The program was sponsored by the following chapters of Pacific Southwest District JACL: South Bay, Greater L.A. Singles, Torrance, Progressive Westside, San Fernando Valley, Venice-Culver, West L.A., Arizona, Marina, Downtown, Selanoco, and East L.A.

## Cooking Classes

By MATAO UWATE

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LITTLE TOKYO LIFE (No. 35):

by Harry Honda



## Ayumi-no-Ato

When Masami Sasaki, 96, known by the Issei-Nisei community as the chili pepper king, passed away earlier this month, the brief obituary (Sept. 21, PC) was gleaned from a Little Tokyo writing project that has been on the back-burner for the past

year. The project's greatest exponent was the late Paul C. Takeda, literally the publisher-editor of "Ayumi-no-Ato (Footprints)"—a fascinating collection of vignettes and pictures about the Southern California Issei. One of the stories which had been translated from Nihongo to English related the experiences of Masami Sasaki—as recorded by Takeda about five years ago.

Several editions of Ayumi-no-Ato have been published by Pioneer Center, where Takeda was general manager until retirement, when he was able to spend more time with his pet project. Pressure was upon us at the Pacific Citizen, which was asked to set the English version into type. More pictures had to be gathered for an English version to assure wider appeal. The translations had to be polished. Even ever busy Nisei artisans and writers were called to expedite the project, a first edition in English of Ayumi-no-Ato featuring at least 12 Issei men and women with prospects of future editions if it were a smash-hit.

Perhaps some Sansei out there might just come on board and help complete this. It appears the Sansei are more accommodating with their time and energy on behalf of the Issei.

## Time capsule deposit forms available

LOS ANGELES—Little Tokyo Centennial's time capsule is on display at Joseph's Men's Wear. It will be buried just before Christmas in front of the Japan America Theatre in the JACCC Plaza to be reopened in 100 years.

That is the brief timeline for the Little Tokyo centennial finale, according to capsule chair Frank K. Omatsu, who said capsule deposit forms are now available in most Little Tokyo business houses, including the banks.

The form, calling for a description of the item, should be mailed to the Time Capsule, 244 S. San Pedro St. #501, Los Angeles, CA 90012. If in the decision of the committee the item is found to be of significance, a call would be made after Nov. 1.

"We want to show what it was like in Little Tokyo in 1984," Omatsu explained, though no guidelines were announced. Such historic items as the Little Tokyo Centennial Committee's "100 Years in Pictures" (\$20 in the bookstores), 1984 Olympic memorabilia, Centennial

mementos and a scrapbook of news clippings are being deposited, he added.

Tritia Toyota's News-at-Four TV one-hour special on Asian Americans on videocassette has been offered, Omatsu added, but there was question whether it could be usable in 100 years. The capsule, which is 4 ft. high and 18 inches in diameter, is to be filled with nitrogen to assure protection of the items from oxidation.

Individual business cards will be accepted at \$5 each. But persons donating acceptable items may attach the card to the item free of charge. The contribution will go toward cost of burying the capsule.

Cost for the capsule has been covered by two \$2,000 donations from longtime Little Tokyoites, Mrs. Chiyo Machikawa and Yoshi Koyasu.

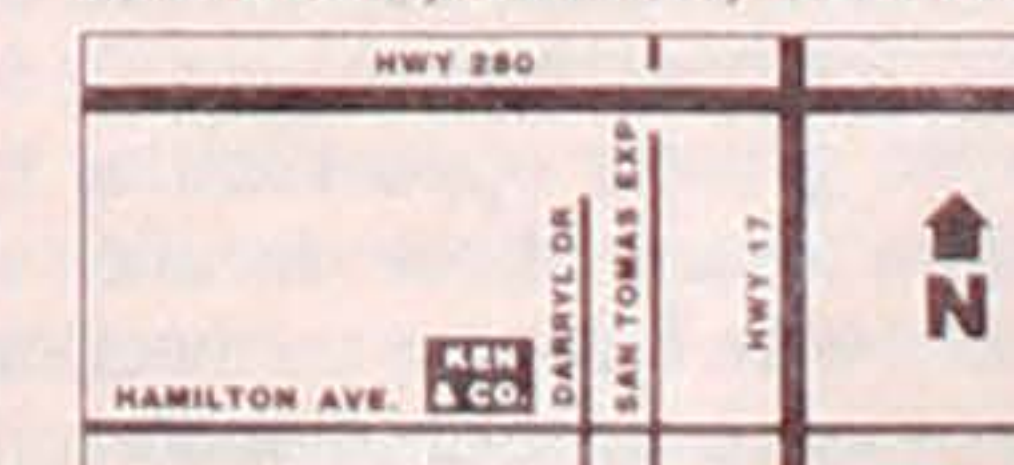
Among the Little Tokyo shops with capsule deposit forms are Joseph's Men's Wear, Asahi Shoe and Toyo Miyatake. Or write to the Time Capsule committee.

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## Unique Adventures in Brazil

### Personal Contacts and Family Visits

By Misao Sakamoto

I became friendly with a delegate from Brazil at the Pan American Nikkei Conference in Lima, Peru, in July 1983. During our conversation at the Japanese Embassy reception, he expressed mixed feelings about the next conference scheduled to be held in São Paulo, Brazil, in summer of 1985.

He looked at the large gathering enjoying the elaborate buffet dinner in the backyard and commented, "It takes a conference like this to make one aware of one's ancestral heritage. I am glad I came here, but I am a little skeptical about a conference in Brazil." He lowered his head in a thoughtful mood and continued, "We do not have a strong and cohesive Japanese community in São Paulo as they do here in Lima. You see, the Japanese in Brazil have so much freedom; we do not have discriminatory problems as you do in North America."

He explained that Japanese people were not placed in detention camps during World War II—unlike some of the Japanese in Peru and the Japanese people in the United States. Consequently, there was no need to establish a strong ethnic organization to fight for social and political justice. Economic opportunities are unlimited if one wishes to get ahead. Many are pursuing professional education.

He continued, "Oh, many are entering politics too. We have four elected officials of Japanese ancestry in the city government and three in the state government. A couple have been appointed to federal positions—just like your President Reagan's cabinet."

From different people I had heard the story of Hiroo Onoda, which seemed to illustrate this perspective of personal and economic freedom and unlimited opportunities in Brazil. I would hear a person say, "Onoda san was erai hito da na—Mr. Onoda is a great man. *Kanshinda*—very impressive."

Who is this man who has captured the admiration of the Japanese community in Brazil? Mr. Onoda was a 2nd lieutenant in the Japanese army who made world headlines in the spring of 1974 when he emerged from the Philippine jungle. After he was formally discharged from the army, he went to Brazil and was offered free land by its government. He cultivated the land in the Brazilian jungle. He became a successful farmer. He also wrote an autobiography entitled, "No Surrender—My 30-year War." In it he wrote of his experiences of solitary existence for 30 years on the Lubang Island in the Philippines long after Japan's surrender in August 1945. This book has been translated into many languages throughout the world; Mr. Onoda is getting richer collecting the royalties. In fact, I understand he is a millionaire now.

#### The Kamata Family

There were other Japanese who achieved financial success and developed high social status in the community. Sometime in the spring of 1983 in Palo Alto, we met Mr. and Mrs. Kamata through a mutual friend. Calvin played a game of golf with them. They were in Palo Alto on business and invited us to visit them at their home in São Paulo.

I contacted the family when we were in São Paulo. I soon became aware of their status as Mr. Kamata drove us to his home in a private wooded estate. As we entered through the locked gate he pointed out, "This house belongs to the president of the Coca Cola Company." After a short drive, he pointed his finger at another direction and said, "This house belongs to the president of Pan American Airlines; and that house belongs to the president of IBM."

Mrs. Kamata bowed and greeted us in formal Japanese style. When we were seated, she rang a silver bell—and in came the Brazilian maid bringing a tray of hors d'oeuvres and cocktails. She looked beautiful with her olive complexion and wearing a turban and a flowing skirt.

Mrs. Kamata, petite with fair complexion and dark black hair, looked beautiful in her bright red long skirt and white blouse. She remained very genteel and demure throughout the evening and did not readily participate in our conversation. I directed some questions to her and hoped that she would be more assertive. But she maintained the image of a stereotyped Japanese woman—sweet and reticent—and allowed her husband to carry on the conversation. She was born in one of the Pacific Islands occupied by Japan and arrived in Brazil after the war. Both learned to speak Portuguese fluently. She explained that her two children were studying in the United States.

Mr. Kamata came to Brazil 27 years ago without much substantial means to support himself. Japan, defeated in the war, was a small country with limited resources to provide for its own people. He felt there were greater opportunities for him in the Western world. Within nearly three decades he became a prominent entrepreneur with business connections in many places. He felt that there were unlimited opportunities in Brazil as long as one had the motivation and perseverance to pursue one's goals. Being a businessman, he expressed much concern for Brazil's present economy. This modest man sitting across from us looked as though he carried the burden of Brazil's 90 billion debt on his shoulders. He explained that

neither he nor some of his business associates had ever heard of the Pan American Nikkei Conference until he received my letter indicating our trip to South America.

#### Retirement from a Plantation

The next evening we visited my relatives, Mr. and Mrs. Sakugawa. They arrived from Japan about 55 years ago. Both had worked on a banana plantation in the Amazon Valley. They recalled their hard years of labor under the Italian plantation owners. They moved to São Paulo to meet the educational needs of their eight children. They had a small family business; both are now retired and enjoying a leisurely life with their family.

They arranged for the family clan to gather in their modest home located in an unpretentious neighborhood. We enjoyed a potluck Chinese dinner in a warm and familial atmosphere. There was some inter-marriage in this family so some of the grandchildren had different and attractive features. I thought some of them looked Polynesian while others looked European.

Meeting relatives for the first time was both an emotional and hilarious experience for me. First there was the formal greeting in Japanese with Mr. and Mrs. Sakugawa and a polite expression in acknowledging our relationship. But once the formality was over, I felt as though I had known them for years.

All those who gathered—daughters and sons-in-law, sons and daughters-in-laws, and the numerous grandchildren were most friendly and gregarious. They were as curious about us and of our life in North America as we were about them. Questions after questions came from Rosa, who teaches English at a private school: "What kind of work do you do? Are there many Japanese in California? What languages do your children speak?"

More questions were asked by others who needed to have them translated into English. I sensed a feminist attitude when Rosa commented, "I teach on Saturdays only. My children are young and I need to stay home during the week. I hate housework. Teaching gives me a chance to get out of the house and get in contact with other people." Turning her head toward her husband she continued, "It's Luiz's turn to watch the children on Saturdays. I need my freedom too."

Rosana Sakugawa Ramos, who was an exchange student to Maryland, shared her "American experience" with us. A year of study in this country had inspired her to pursue a career in either journalism or literature. With a twinkle in her large brown eyes she asked, "Auntie, what kind of coffee do you drink? Americans drink such light coffee that you can see the bottom of the coffee cup."

"Here in Brazil," I retorted, "you can hardly see the sugar buried in the bottom of the coffee cup. How can you drink such thick, black and bitter coffee?"

#### Linguistic Differences

There was so much warmth and laughter in our conversation that the decaying Brazilian economy was of no concern to us that evening. The Portuguese language sounded strange to me and we all laughed as I tried to simplify my Japanese and English so we could understand each other.

But what impressed me most was the use of the Portuguese language in the home. The adult children all spoke Portuguese to their parents, and Mr. and Mrs. Sakugawa responded in Portuguese. What a contrast with my own family! I did not dare to speak English to my parents—this would have been considered most discourteous. And neither did my parents learn to speak English.

Language carries a certain image. The younger ones addressed us as *ojisan*—uncle and *obasan*—auntie. Only Rosa called us "Mr. Cal" and "Misao." Upon our return to the hotel, Calvin remarked, "I didn't mind being called Mr. Cal, but I surely felt funny when they called me *ojisan*."

This visit cemented a warm relationship for me. My relatives also had never heard of a Pan American Nikkei Conference. They were thankful, however, that such a conference in South America enabled me to visit them and share the common roots of our heritage from far-away Okinawa, Japan, from whence our parents had emigrated.

The Japanese I had contacted consider Brazil their home. The status of the business representative is somewhat controlled by the home office in Japan. But they have indicated that they would prefer to live in São Paulo than in Japan. Mr. Sakugawa commented, "I returned to Okinawa only once when I was married and brought my wife to Brazil with me. This is my home and I have no sentimental ties with Japan other than corresponding with my relatives."

The early immigrants have adapted well by learning the native language and assimilating into the new society. The expansive country and the social climate in Brazil offered them a better livelihood. They are proud of their present living conditions and achievements after many years of hard labor in the banana and coffee plantations. These immigrants and their descendants have been able to maintain an acceptable living standard in spite of the poor economy, abject poverty and unemployment that threaten Brazil today.

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Mine Okubo **Citizen 13660** 1946: 209pp (1983 Reprint) List: \$8.95 (soft)

The book has captured all the bumbling and fumbling of the early evacuation days, all the pathos and much of the humor that arose from the paradox of citizens interned. (—MOT, Pacific Citizen)

Yoshiko Uchida **Desert Exile** 1982: 160pp List: \$12.95

A personal account of the Berkeley family who lived through the sad years of World War II internment in the Utah desert.

John Okada **No-No Boy** 1980: 176pp List: \$6.95 (soft)

First published in 1957, it received little attention and its author died thirteen years later believing Asian Americans had rejected his works: a story of Ichiro Yamada who chose to go to federal prison rather than serve in the U.S. army during WW2. His struggles and conflicts upon his return to his family and to the realities of postwar America are revealed in this angry and intense novel.

C. Harvey Gardiner **Pawns in a Triangle of Hate** 1981: 248pp List: \$25.00

The full account of a little-known chapter of WW2 history—the evacuation of nearly 1,800 Japanese from Peru to the U.S. Some were exchanged for U.S. prisoners of war in Japan, fewer than 100 returned to Peru. Gardiner (who testified on this phase before the Committee on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians) relates the policies of the U.S. and Peruvian governments that resulted in U.S. internment.

Takeo Ujo Nakano with Leatrice Nakano **Within the Barbed Wire Fence** 1981: 136pp List: \$11.50

A Japanese Man's Account of His Internment in Canada Even in this period of anxiety and sadness, Nakano, an accomplished poet, turned to writing poetry (tanka) for sustenance.

Monica Sone **Nisei Daughter** 1979: 256pp List: \$7.95 (soft)

With humor, charm and deep understanding, a Japanese American woman tells how it was to grow up on Seattle's waterfront in the 1930s, then be subjected to "relocation" during WW2. First published in 1952.

Bienvenido N. Santos **Scent of Apples: A Collection of Stories** 1979: 200pp List: \$7.95

Sixteen stories dealing with the lives of Filipinos in America—the barbers, cooks, munitions workers, clerks, students and aging Pinoy—comprise the first collection of his works to appear in the U.S.

Two Plays by Frank Chin **The Chickencoop Chinaman and The Year of the Dragon** 1981: 171pp List: \$22.50 and \$8.95 (soft)

As a portrait of an Asian American's furious struggle for identity, 'The Year of the Dragon' is a searing statement, a powerful cry—The New York Times.

Louis Chu **Eat a Bowl of Tea** 1979: 250pp List: \$7.95 (soft)

A landmark in Chinese American literature when it was first published in 1961, it is the first novel to capture the tone and sensibility of everyday life in an American Chinatown.

James Morton **In the Sea of Sterile Mountains** 1980: 294pp List: \$7.95

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Ronald T. Takaki **Iron Cages: Race and Culture in 19th Century America** 1982: 379pp List: \$9.95

A highly individual, discerning and provocative analysis of white America's racism from the time of the Revolution to the Spanish-American war...immensely readable.—Publishers Weekly.

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## Convention workshop focuses on discrimination

By Chizu Iiyama (Berkeley JACL)

The message from the National JACL convention held in beautiful Hawaii on Aug. 13-17 came over loud and clear—JACL is a dedicated civil rights organization and its main focus in the coming years will be working with other organizations for justice and equality in our country.

From its intensive work with redress, a vastly important civil liberties issue for ALL Americans which will be argued before the Congress in the next few years, to the JACLer of the Biennium awards to outstanding members, Cherry Kinoshita of Seattle and James Shimoura of Detroit, JACLers confirmed its commitment to civil rights. Kinoshita was honored for her work on redress; Shimoura for his active involvement with a coalition of organizations and citizens protesting the disposition of the Vincent Chin murder case in Detroit.

Furthermore, Senator Daniel Inouye's excellent speech at the Sayonara Banquet on Aug. 17 underlined the need for JACL to work with all minorities on issues of racism in our country.

### Latest Manifestation of Racism

And so it was with the Ethnic Concerns workshop on Aug. 15. Panelist John Saito, PSW regional director, recently appointed L.A. city human relations commissioner and currently serving on the Calif. Attorney General's Commission on Racial, Ethnic and Religious Violence, brought in the latest manifestation of racism—the use of the derogatory term "Jap" during an interview by an Olympic wrestler on ABC television. He used this example to show that Nikkei have become very alert to these incidents—that they not only brought this to his attention, but they had also called ABC directly with their complaints.

Chuck Kubokawa, JACL vice president of public affairs and director of community relations at the NASA Ames Research Center, pointed out that often the cases of racism against Nikkei are covert. He gave as an ex-

ample the employment situation in his agency—that there are 17 Blacks and 7 Chicanos in higher management positions but no Asians. He declared that a time when Asians are being featured on magazine covers as a minority "who has it made" because of their drive for education, the reality of job discrimination and no-promotions undercuts the myth. He contended that as international tensions rise, violence against Asian Americans will rise. He underscored the need for education, for textbooks that depict the history of minorities in a realistic fashion and highlight their contributions to American life.

### Nikkei in Hawaii

Univ. of Hawaii professor Franklin Odo, department chair of ethnic studies, gave a scholarly dissertation of the Japanese Americans in Hawaii. He recounted the story of their rapid rise after World War II in the economic, social and political life of Hawaii, based in part on the favorable climate engendered by the exploits of the 100th/442nd Infantry, the participation of Japanese Americans in the labor organization drive of ILWU among the plantation workers and the ensuing political base in the Democratic party. He warned about some of the changes in Hawaiian economic life in which some of the multinational corporations are shifting their investments to areas of cheaper labor, such as Central America or Asia, and their effects

## Crumpton awarded JACL Hayashi law scholarship

PHILADELPHIA.—Cynthia P. Crumpton, enrolled in her first year at Willamette University Law School in Salem, Ore., has been awarded the National JACL Thomas T. Hayashi Law Scholarship, announced Dr. Tom Tamaki, selections committee chair.

Crumpton, of Milton-Freewater, Ore., is the first Eurasian American to win this scholarship, named after the Nisei attorney and JACL leader whose contributions have resulted in the establishment of this scholarship, the only national JACL award administered by the Eastern District Council JACL.

### Well-Traveled

The daughter of Howard and Yoshie (Ogai) Pevehouse, she graduated with honors from the Chofu High School in Tokyo, Japan, in the spring of 1974. She attended Brigham Young University in Provo, Univ. of Kansas in Lawrence, and Eastern Oregon State College in La Grande, receiving her B.S. degree from

on the current situation. He suggested that Japanese Americans in Hawaii may face some situations of racism and discrimination similar to the Nikkei on the mainland.

The discussion from the floor centered on the role of the JACL in dealing with racism. All speakers underlined the need for JACL to work actively on a local and national basis with other Americans—Asians, Blacks, Chicanos ... and other Americans of good will.

the latter institution in the spring of 1983. In all her undergraduate studies, she was on the honor roll, with her undergraduate work maintained at a grade average of 3.68.

She was active in journalism at Oregon State College, beginning as a reporter, then becoming an assistant editor and business manager before being named the editor-in-chief of the Eastern Beacon, the college newspaper. She won honors as editor of the student newspaper, as well as being active in various student activities, especially in the arts field.

In stating her goals in applying for the scholarship, Crumpton emphasized her interest in the field of human services. Having spent her childhood years in Japan, she hopes to continue her studies in Asian and Japanese law not only at the Willamette University Law School but also at the Univ. of Washington.

### Ten-Year History

On the selections committee were Ronald Inouye of New York City, Kiyomi Nakamura of Seabrook, N.J., and Harry Takagi of Washington, D.C. Mike Masaoka, chairman of the National JACL Thomas T. Hayashi Law Scholarship Committee, noted that this is the 10th annual award to be granted to a student of Japanese ancestry who is interested in a career in the law as a means of serving the public, especially in the civil rights and international law fields. The scholarship is for a total of \$2,100, being for \$700 for each of three years in an accredited law school.

## Constitutional Amendments:

### PC Bylaw

HONOLULU—The only constitutional amendment passed at the National JACL Convention here clarified the responsibilities of the National Director and authority of the Pacific Citizen Board over PC personnel and subscription fees collected by Headquarters.

The other amendment proposals failed. One called for centralizing membership renewal through headquarters rather than chapters and the others would have added the immediate past president to the National Board in a non-voting capacity.

The PC board of directors, chaired by Hank Sakai this biennium and Dr. Clifford Uyeda the previous biennium, contended the JACL by-laws clearly gave the PC board business and editorial responsibilities though it became ambiguous during the 1982 National Board meeting at Gardena where the JACL legal counsel was of the opinion that JACL staff (including the PC's) was a responsibility of the National Director.

Another paragraph was added to the by-laws (Article IX) relating to the duties of the National Director: "Section 3 (c). The Pacific Citizen and its staff shall be responsible to the National President, National Board and National Council through the Pacific Citizen Board. Pacific Citizen funds shall be clearly identified in the overall National budget as subscription income and disbursed to the Pacific Citizen."

The by-law required a two-thirds majority to pass. An overwhelming 100 chapters voted in favor of the motion introduced by the San Diego JACL.

Uyeda explained the PC Board can directly supervise the PC staff (now 11 in number, full, seasonal or part-time) and that PC subscription fees (\$10 per subscription on a one-per-household basis) collected with National dues would be forwarded in full to the PC account.



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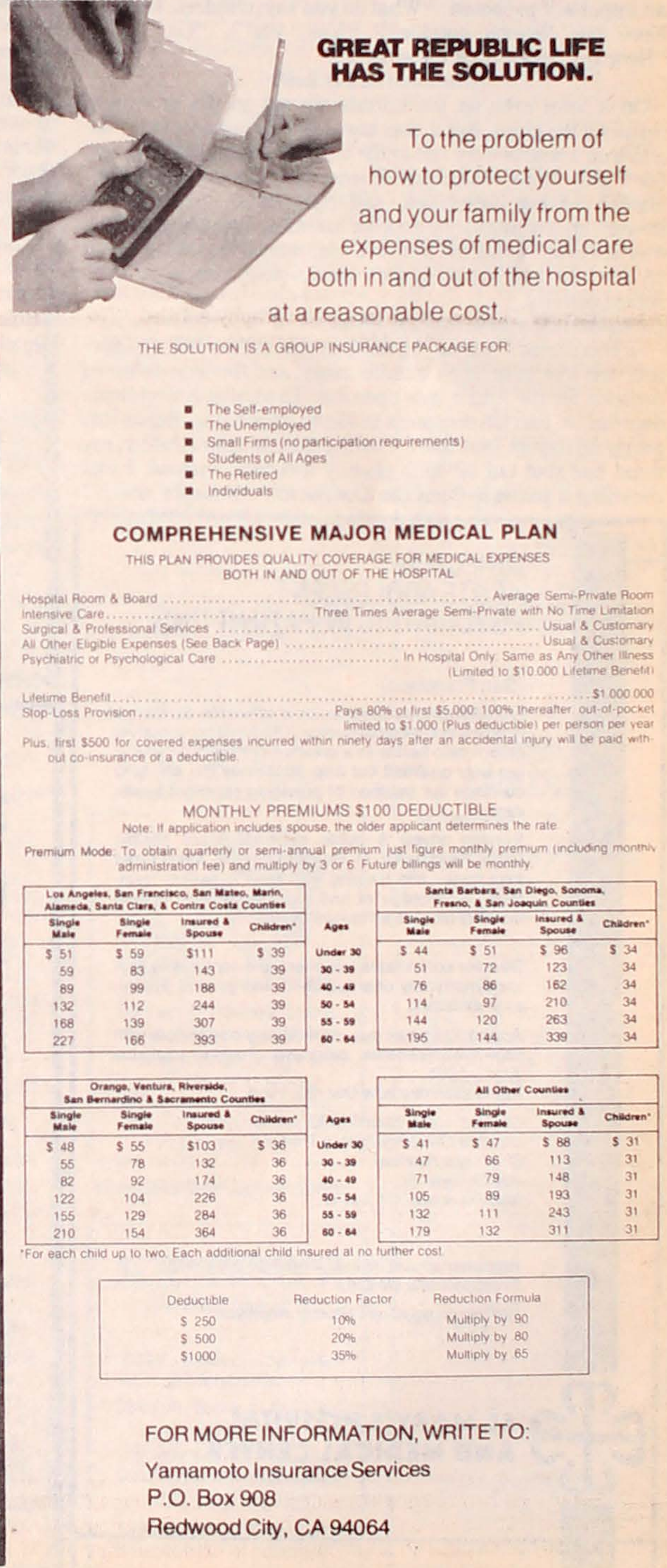
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# MOSHI-MOSHI

Continued from Page 5

I was getting heartily weary of the endless struggle when Mr. Matsuyama, my former boss, brought me the offer of a teaching job at the newly created Saturday Gakuen in Monterey Park. The salary was a disappointing \$30 per month, 7% to 25% less than what I was making at the produce markets. But with strict economy, abolishing such extravagances as movies and cafeteria dinners, I would be able to scrape by. What was most attractive was the prospect of being able to lead a normal student's life for the first time since I came to America. So I jumped at it.

## Teaching Nihongo on Saturdays

The *gakuen* was held in a classroom of the elementary school. Come to think of it, such an arrangement may have been irregular, I did not know of any other *gakuen* using public facilities. Probably the truck farmers of Monterey Park had established such an amicable relationship with the community that their request was granted without opposition. Or their spokesman or spokesmen had such a genius for persuasion that they could talk the school board into granting them such a special privilege. I am sorry I never thought of finding out at the time.

Only a few Saturdays were enough to make me realize that the knowledge of the language in itself did not equate with the ability to teach. If the children learned any Japanese, credit is due more to their eagerness to learn than to the teacher.

There was one gorgeous day in the spring of 1932. All through the first two hours my eyes kept on wandering out of the windows and over the green hill rising from the edge of the playground. I had an overwhelming desire to go out there, sit in the grass, and bask in the sun. Something of my restlessness must have communicated to the children, for their attention too began to wander. About five minutes into the third hour, on an impulse, I proposed: "What do you say, children, shall we have our lessons outside?" "Yes, yes!", "Oh, let's", "Hooray!" came back the answers.

## Afternoon on a Hillside

On a level area on the hillside we sat on the grass and resumed the class. But it was immediately apparent that the children's hearts were not in the lessons. I declared a recess. Soon they were scattered all over the hillside, gamboling about, chasing butterflies, and each other, picking wild flowers and calling to one another in shrieks and whoops. They seemed to be having the time of their young lives, as if playing on the hills had not been their accustomed recess or after school activity.

I walked up a ways and sat down.

At this period I was facing the first crisis of my life. Graduation was less than three months away, and the long-deferred decision for the future was upon me. There was a worldwide depression, and job prospects in Japan were bleak. But on this gorgeous day as I sat there viewing the panorama below, my mind had shut out all such gloomy thoughts. Instead, I was recalling a passage from the *Confucian Analects* which I

had read shortly before I came to America.

One day the Master asked his highest disciples what they aimed to accomplish in life. They all talked about their grand ambitions in spirited terms. Only Tseng Hsi remained silent, softly strumming his zither. "What about you, Tseng?" Confucius urged. Tseng stood up and said, diffidently: "I have no great ambition such as my friends talked about. What I want to do now is to go to the River I with some children, there to bathe. Then to go up the hill to the Rain Altar, there to play the zither and sing with the children." The Master said: "I am with Tseng." At that moment, I too was with Tseng.

Fifty years. Half a century. It is a long time to remember back. The names of the children and their parents and their faces, the rattly Garvey Road bus chugging through the desolate boondocks of East Los Angeles, the long, straight country lane under an arcade of eucalyptus trees by which I reached the elementary school, and many other details of those old days flash back to me in disjointed fragments like pieces of an old tapestry that has crumbled with age. Only the children's hillside frolic has remained in my memory as a vivid, complete tableau to this day.

## A Sense of Loss

Some years back a friend of my wife's wrote to tell her that she and her husband had moved to Monterey Park where they had bought a new home. I learned then that the sleepy little hamlet of old was no more, that it had grown into a satellite city of Los Angeles. Ridiculously—for the place was not my town—I was filled with a sense of loss. Through the vicissitudes of the post-graduation years, I had always entertained the vague desire some time to revisit the place, look for the old site of the growing yard where I used to toil to save the tuition money, and roam in the hills where the children of the Saturday Gakuen frolicked. I felt like an old fool to have held onto such a silly sentimental notion. If ever I had gone back there without forewarning I would have felt as Gertrude Stein did when she went back to Oakland and saw her old neighborhood: "There is no there there!"

When Monterey Park elected Lily Chen mayor the story made the news and I learned that the city now had a population of over 50,000. Then came the PC story about the racist incidents. Reluctantly I had to admit the obvious truth. Monterey Park was no special place but just another California community with all the potentials for growth, and for all the maladies attendant upon growth.

The children of the Saturday *gakuen* must all be over or nearing sixty. I wonder if they still remember me? Or, do they share my sentiment about Monterey Park of half a century ago?



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# People

## ● Awards

Four Los Angeles Nikkei architects will be honored for their achievements by the Asian American Architects and Engineers, So. Calif. chapter, when the seventh annual awards banquet is held Friday, Oct. 5, at the Biltmore: **Kazumi Adachi**, **Kenneth Nishimoto**, **Tom Makino** and **George Shinno** (founder and past president of AAA&E).

The awards will focus on their contributions in design, planning and development of Little Tokyo through major architectural projects.

## ● Education

**Naomi Iwata-Sanchez** of Kirkland, Wash., was appointed director of personnel and executive assistant to the Seattle Community College District chancellor. She is currently assistant for human resources for Gov. John Spellman and has worked as community services manager for the King County Dept. of Youth Services. She has also been involved with Asian Counseling and Referral Service, JACL, United Way, and the Mayor's Task Force on Asian Community Police Relations for the City of Seattle. In her new position, she will administer personnel functions supporting the district's three campuses and office, which include 800 faculty and 500 staff members.

**Dean and Mark Yasuda** of Interlake High School in Washington helped steer their team to a first-place finish in the annual American High School Math Exam. Dean, who starts at University of Washington this fall, was among 50 high school students nationwide who qualified to compete in the USA Mathematical Olympiad, a test given to the nation's brightest math prospects. Dean and Mark's parents are Tets and Yo Yasuda of Lake Washington JACL.

**Marlon Okazaki**, a student from Yale Univ., is traveling along the East Coast this summer as one of 44 students selected nationwide to participate in the Japan-America Student Conference. With an equal number of Japanese students, the group visits historic sites, the state department, the capitol, and the U.N. and meets with government, business, and academic leaders.

Recipients of the 16th annual Glenn N. Nishizawa Memorial Scholarship awards were **Ha Thanh Luu** of San Gabriel High, who received \$700; **Maria Arenas** of Belmont High, \$400; and **Jayne Okazaki** of Roosevelt High, \$200. Named after a Sansei killed in Vietnam in 1968, the award is given to students planning to enroll at California State University, Los Angeles.

The college-bound high school graduates who received the Koo-mei George Kato Memorial/Niles Rotary Club scholarships this year were **Steve Fudenna** of Washington High in Fremont, \$500; **Craig Nakashima** of Arroyo High in San Lorenzo, \$300; and **Lisa Kimura** of Mission San Jose High in Fremont, \$200. Fudenna will attend UC Berkeley, Nakashima will attend Sacramento State, and Kimura will attend University of the Pacific.

At the annual Spring Asian Pacific banquet in Century City, L.A. Trade Tech dean Evelyn Wong presented community college scholarship awards to **Kevin Takaki** (Dorsey), **Alice Soo** (Mark Keppel), **Somany Khieu** (San Pedro) and **Nam Phan** (Pierce College). The award funds were raised by the Asian Pacific Assn. of the Los Angeles Community Colleges.

## ● Government



Dr. Andrew Hashimoto

**Andrew Hashimoto, Ph.D.**, was one of 10 federal employees who received the 1983 Arthur S. Fleming Award, given to those who have made outstanding contributions to government service. Awardees must be younger than 41. Hashimoto was honored for his research on the conversion of biomass into methane and livestock feedstuff. A supervisory agricultural engineer at the Roman L. Hruska U.S. Meat Animal Research Center, he is recognized as an authority in the area of agricultural waste utilization.

Oakland-born Korean American **Gene Roh, 44**, was appointed by the county board of supervisors as Yolo County's chief administrative officer—a \$55,846 post which attracted over 70 applicants nationwide. He was head of the Yolo County probation department since 1978 and is the top-ranking Asian American in county government. He, his wife Brenda and two children live in Davis.

The retirement of **Tadao Isomoto**, 62-year-old chief of the Bureau of Sanitation and Los Angeles' only Asian American ever to run a city bureau or department, was announced on Aug. 31. Isomoto and his family joined other Japanese Americans forced by the U.S. government into con-

centration camps during World War II. He returned to work for the Dept. of Water and Power in 1946 as an engineer's aide.

## ● Health

**Dr. Janet Iwatsubo-Tamura** received the 1984 Outstanding Service award during graduation ceremonies by the UC San Francisco School of Pharmacy. She was also runner-up for the Bowl of Hygieia award, which is given by graduates and faculty to the person they feel will be the greatest credit to their profession.

**Sen. Daniel Inouye** (D-Hawaii) was recently honored with a plaque of appreciation from the public health academic institutions in Asia and the Pacific basin for his leadership in helping to establish the Asia-Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health which was chartered in January to collaborate in research, training and service for the benefit of the entire Asia-Pacific area.

## ● Science

**Dr. Gordon Sato**, director of the W. Alton Jones Cell Science Center in Lake Placid, N.Y., was elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences, an honorary society that advises the government on issues involving science and technology. Election to the academy is one of the highest honors that can be accorded a scientist, and there are only 1,428 current members. Sato is a tissue culture and cancer research specialist who also works with algae as a source of food and fuel.

## ● Sports

**Diana Handa** of Gardena, Calif., has been appointed head athletic trainer at CSU-Los Angeles. She is one of the few female trainers who will work with men's and women's teams. An honors student at CSU-Long Beach where she competed in gymnastics and taught, Handa has also served as interim athletic trainer at Mt. San Antonio College and CSU-Dominguez Hills.

## ● Radio-TV

Past president **Robert E. Takeuchi** of the Japan America Society of So. California was elected Sept. 6 to the board of directors of KCET, Community TV of Southern California. A partner in the law firm of Kindel & Anderson, he currently chairs its international group and is a member of the Japan-California Economic Advisory Council, Pasadena Urban Coalition and the L.A.-Nagoya Sister City Affiliation.

## ● Entertainment

On film location shooting "Pale Rider" starring Clint Eastwood in a Warner Bros. production at Sun Valley, Idaho, is **Tama Takahashi**, USC cinematography graduate, according to her parents, the William Takahashis of Boulder, Colo.

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# Study shows Nisei have 'alarmingly high' diabetes rate

By Frank Abe

SEATTLE—A new survey of Nisei men and women in the Seattle area reveals an alarmingly high rate of diabetes, much higher than that experienced by Japanese in Japan or by white Americans. The doctor who conducted the study says the explanation may lie with the dislocation Japanese Americans suffered as a result of their wartime incarceration.

Dr. Wilfred Fujimoto, an endocrinologist at the University of Washington, says the preliminary results show a 12.1% incidence of diabetes among Nisei men and 8% among Nisei women. Fujimoto says that compares to a rate of 2.9% among comparably-aged Japanese men in Japan and a 4.1% rate among white American males. Seventy-five Nisei in King County were studied.

To explain his findings, Fujimoto theorizes people of Japanese extraction are predisposed to develop diabetes, but may not manifest it unless they have grown up with environmental factors that bring out the disease, such as stress, diet, or the level of one's physical activity. He says there is much to distinguish between the social environments of Japan and America, including the nature of competition.

### Linked to Internment

"Japan has a highly homogeneous population, almost 100% pure Japanese, whereas with the racial mixture found in the U.S. there are many potential sources for stress that arise not only because of different races working together, but also because competition is considered to be at the basis of almost everything in American life," said Fujimoto in an interview with KIRO Newsradio.

"One of our theories is that the life experience of the Nisei may have significantly contributed to the development of this disease," said Fujimoto, who considered what sets the Nisei apart from the Japanese in Asia, with whom they share the same genes, and from white Americans, with whom the Nisei share the same environment.

"There is some evidence that in diabetes the ability to maintain a good tolerance for glucose may be worsened by social stress." He distinguishes between acute stress that may be suffered in a traumatic accident or serious illness and prolonged, low-grade stress such as that endured during the WW2 years, in which 120,000 Japanese Americans were forced from their homes and businesses on the West Coast and imprisoned in desert camps in the interior of the U.S.

"The chronic stress that we're talking about is the fact that one now has to go through your adolescence and early life getting back what you thought your parents had gained when they had migrated to the U.S. from Japan, to have to try to get all of that back, at a time when most Nisei would normally have been well on their way to greater economic stability. Most of that probably was postponed for 10 or 15 years because of their war experience."

### 'Status Incongruity'

Fujimoto says many Nisei men with diabetes in his study have generally completed only technical school, while they have a household income almost exactly the same as that of college educated Nisei. In seeking an explanation, Fujimoto says, "There is a condition called 'status incongruity' where one's economic status doesn't match up with one's educational status. You've attained as much as your neighbor in terms of economic stability, in spite of the fact that you have not had as high an education level.

"If you think about that, that usually means that individual may have had to work harder to reach that point. It's interesting that the Nisei men who have diabetes do have this 'status incongruity.' He's had to struggle a lot more, he may be happy

now, but what has he gone through in order to reach this present level? What has he had to give up, what has he had to do? I think that's something we need to really look at. They may have given up more in terms of their health than one may have realized, and this is the type of thing that really you don't know about until many, many years down the road."

He adds, "The Nisei men with diabetes appear to have a higher rate for high blood pressure, and if high blood pressure rises with stress, this would also fit in our theory that a stressful situation may be associated with the development of diabetes."

Many Nisei tell stories about friends they knew in camp who have since died in their fifties of various stress-related disorders, and they blame the camps for the early deaths. Fujimoto says he believes that scientific evidence, if studied carefully, could back up such anecdotal evidence.

### Further Research Needed

Fujimoto says further research must include a study of the Sansei. "If [the high incidence of diabetes] is all due to the major shifts in economic status and social status that the Nisei experienced in growing up, then the Sansei should not be showing the same rates for diabetes. One of our future goals is to look at the Sansei and see if this is true." Fujimoto says the likelihood of developing diabetes increases with age, so a study of the Sansei must wait until they reach the current age of their parents.

Diabetes is a condition in which one is not able to use sugar in the body, resulting in a rise of glucose in the bloodstream to a level where the sugar spills into the urine. Symptoms include excessive urination, excessive thirst, and weight loss. The University of Washington is a leading institution in the study of the disease.

Fujimoto says his work confirms an earlier study which compared rates of diabetes among residents of Hiroshima prefecture and their Nikkei descendants who had emigrated to Hawaii. He says other studies show high blood pressure and coronary artery disease are two other disorders from which Nikkei appear to suffer in greater rates than the general population.

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