

pacific citizen

National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

October 26, 1984

Newsstand 25¢ (50¢ Postpaid)

244 S. San Pedro St., #506, Los Angeles, CA 90012-3981 (213) 626-6936, 628-3768

ISSN: 0030-8579 / Whole No. 2,312 / Vol. 99 No. 14



Rosalind Chao



Tritia Toyota

Photos by Allison Tsukimura

Toyota, Chao advise assertiveness

by J.K. Yamamoto

LOS ANGELES — When Tritia Toyota was just another reporter at KNBC (Ch. 4), she was at her desk one day while all the other reporters were out on assignment. A producer burst into the room shouting "I need a reporter quick!" He took one look at Toyota and ran out of the room.

But the story has a happy ending. She followed the producer and confronted him, saying, "Look, aren't I a reporter?" Not only did she get to cover the story, but from then on "it wasn't going to be as easy to overlook me." Toyota now anchors the station's news show every weeknight.

She and actress Rosalind Chao discussed their careers and the problems they faced along the way before a crowd of mostly Asian American students at UCLA Oct. 15.

Toyota had an MA in journalism when she was hired by KNBC 13 years ago, but she was chosen partly because she was "a triple minority—young, Asian, and female. I fulfilled a lot of quotas." She added that her BA in home economics was valued more than her journalism degree because "they wanted me to do vegetable

reports" as a consumer affairs expert.

Once she had gotten her foot in the door, she sought "to build a foundation as a competent reporter who also happened to be a minority." She had to be "thick-skinned" because of some adverse viewer reaction when she first went on the air. And there were other problems.

"When I started, I was extremely lost. I was on the air live three weeks after being hired," she said, recalling her unfamiliarity with scripting, working with camera crews, and other aspects of the job. "At first I did not ask questions or make waves."

The turning point came when she challenged the producer who was about to pass her over for someone else. At that moment, "I decided to go after something by myself." She described her start in newscasting as "a long, arduous personal quest to assume identity, behavior, patterns of action for which I had no background. I wasn't raised that way."

Her advice to aspiring Asian American journalists was that "You can be aggressive, you can let people know what you want. You can't hang back."

One-Dimensional Roles

Rosalind Chao plays Soon Lee, a Korean war bride, in the CBS series "AfterMASH." Although a part in a network TV show would not be taken lightly by most actresses, Chao said, "I came this close to not taking the role. At the time I felt, I'm an Asian American. Why should I have to shuffle around [in a subservient role]?"

After college, Chao was "working non-stop" as an actress but was discouraged to find that "every role was basically the same." Typically she played a young girl living in Chinatown whose uncle, grandfather or some other male relative gets kidnapped. "Inevitably," she said, the key to the plot "is a missing vase from Hong Kong." Another recurring role was as "a spy someone falls in love with."

She finally declared she would do no more stereotyped roles—and did not work for a year.

When she accepted a role in a TV pilot as a young Chinese girl in a citizenship class, she did not regret it. "It was a small role, but I ended up building it into a larger role."

As a result, the producers became interested in developing a series about the Asian American experience. Although the network turned down the idea, Chao was encouraged that there were in-

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Survivors of U.S. atomic bombs seek information, aid

By Brenda Paik Sunoo, East West
SAN FRANCISCO — The statistics are alarming:

- 1,000 Japanese American hibakusha (Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bomb survivors);
- 5,000 Marshallese Islanders;
- 50,000 uranium miners;
- 100,000 residents of Nevada, Utah, Arizona and California downwind from test sites;
- 250,000 atomic veterans (U.S. servicemen exposed to radiation in Japan or nuclear test sites);
- 250,000 Nevada and Pacific test site workers;

—250,000 laboratory workers in research and development of nuclear weapons.

They represent more than a million Americans who have survived U.S. atomic bomb production, testing and use since the 1940s. This figure does not include the 25% expected cases of birth defects resulting from radiation exposure.

"I am impressed by the courage of people here today," said Rev. Nobu Hanaoka, co-chair of the First Radiation Survivors Congress held in here Oct. 12-14.

More than 160 delegates came to share experiences, provide mutual support and "break down the stonewalling of the nuclear establishment" by formulating concrete strategies.

Dorothy Legaretta, another co-chair, was 17 years old in 1944, when she earned 50¢ an hour working in the Berkeley labs dur-

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News in Brief

Suspected killer caught

SEATTLE — Wai Chiu "Tony" Ng, the third suspect in last year's mass slaying at the Wah Mee Club, was apprehended Oct. 4 in an apartment in Calgary, Alberta's, Chinatown. Ng faces 13 counts of first degree felony murder. Each count carries a maximum sentence of life in prison.

Two other men, Benjamin Kin Ng and Kwan Fai "Willie" Mak, were convicted last year of aggravated first degree murder for their roles in the murders of 12 men and one woman at the gambling club. Ng was sentenced to life in prison; Mak was given the death sentence.

Court backs vote count

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The superior court here denied a motion filed earlier this month by a coalition of Asians, Hispanics and others to prevent the secretary of state from counting the votes on Proposition 38 (see Oct. 5 PC).

The coalition filed an appeal

Oct. 12 with the state supreme court.

Proposition 38 directs the state legislature to urge the federal government to change provisions of the Voting Rights Act that require bilingual materials in certain districts.

'Canada will apologize'

OTTAWA — Japanese Canadians can expect an apology and a serious consideration of compensation for their wartime internment, said Multiculturalism Minister Jack Murta recently.

Ark Miki, president of the National Assn. of Japanese Canadians, welcomed the promise by the new Progressive Conservative government. Former prime minister Pierre Trudeau had opposed compensation, saying redress would mean no end to such attempts to "rewrite history."

Murta said he was considering the establishment of a committee to look into the issue of financial compensation.



Photo by Clark Pittman

ONE WHO LEAPED—Rep. Robert Matsui (D-Calif.) tells a crowd of about 100 at L.A.'s Music Center how he attained his congressional seat and emphasizes that

risk-taking is an important part of achieving leadership roles in politics. The Oct. 17 program was sponsored by Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics (LEAP).

OCT 26 - DO NOT REMOVE

Member FDIC

Curator Saul to speak at Nisei veterans exhibit

FRESNO, Calif. — Eric Saul, curator of the Presidio Army Museum in San Francisco, will give an account of the exploits of the Nisei soldiers during WW2 at a reception to honor those veterans, Saturday, Nov. 3, at the Fresno Metropolitan Museum, from 7-9 p.m.

Tickets for the reception are \$12.50 and sales are limited to 600. Tickets may be obtained from Ken Yokota, California First Bank, 1458 Kern St., Fresno, CA 93706, 233-0591; from presidents of JACL chapters in Clovis, Fowler, Sanger, Parlier, Reedley, Selma, Tulare County and Delano; or from the Central Calif. District Council office, 912 F St.

The event is sponsored by the A.L.L./JACL, VFW Post 5869, VFW Post 8499 and the Metropolitan Museum.

On display at the museum through Dec. 9 are the Go For Broke and MIS photo exhibits as well as photos taken at Manzanar concentration camp by the late Ansel Adams. The show also includes photos of the local Japanese American community up to the time of the internment.

The A.L.L./JACL Chapter emphasizes that the exhibit is a valley-wide project. Having sent 700 letters to valley schools, the chapter anticipates conducting many tours for schoolchildren during the next month.

The museum is located at 1515 Van Ness and is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. each weekday except Monday and from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

Community Affairs

SEATTLE—Nisei Veterans Bazaar will be held Nov. 4, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., at Nisei Veterans Hall, 1212 S. King St.

Univ. of Washington's Huskies basketball team opens its 1984-85 season with an exhibition game against Meiji Univ. of Japan on Friday, Nov. 23, 7:30 p.m., at Hec Edmundson Pavilion. Information: 623-5088.

LOS ANGELES—Little Tokyo Health Fair takes place Saturday, Nov. 10, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Union Church, 3rd and S. San Pedro Sts. Information: 680-3729.

Koreisha Chushoku Kai holds a luau with entertainment and food, Friday, Oct. 26, 10:30 a.m., at Nishi Hon-

gwanji, 815 E. 1st St. Tickets \$4 (under 60), \$3 (over 60). RSVP: 680-9173.

The Osaka-based Folklore Assn. presents Nihon Minyo Hyakusen Cultural Mission at Japan America Theatre, 244 S. San Pedro, Nov. 2, 8 p.m. Free ticket information: 680-3700.

Washington Medical Center Volunteers sponsor a sidewalk sale Saturday, Oct. 27, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of the hospital, 12101 W. Washington Blvd. On sale will be clothing, dishes, games, records, furniture, and baked goods.

MARYSVILLE, Calif.—A reunion of former residents of Yuba, Sutter, Butte and Colusa counties is being planned for the weekend of Sept. 27-29, 1985. Past residents of the four counties wishing to attend or to receive more information are asked to send their names and addresses to Mazie Sasaki, 938 Chestnut St., Yuba City, CA 95991 by Dec. 15.

SAN FRANCISCO—Nihonmachi Legal Outreach celebrates its ninth anniversary Friday, Nov. 2, at the Green Room, Veterans Bldg., War Memorial and Performing Arts Center, 401 Van Ness Ave. Cocktails begin at 6 p.m., followed by dinner, program, and dancing. Tax deductible tickets at \$35 must be purchased by Oct. 29. Information: 567-6255.

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif.—"Yankee Samurai," the exhibit of photos and memorabilia about the internment of Japanese Americans and the exploits of the Nisei soldiers, is displayed at the Monterey Conference Center from Nov. 7 to Nov. 12. The exhibit is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Japanese American veterans will conduct guided tours, and several mini-theaters will offer continuous showings of the documentary "Nisei Soldier." Information: 242-8184.



Dr. Yoshiye Togasaki (center) Tateishi (left) and National Director with JACL Redress Director John Ron Wakabayashi.

Former L.A. employee donates award to JACL

SAN FRANCISCO—Yoshiye Togasaki, M.D., one of the first Nisei women to practice medicine, recently contributed \$5,000 to the National JACL redress campaign. Dr. Togasaki was one of

the 36 Nikkei who were awarded \$5,000 from the City of Los Angeles for wrongful termination during World War II. In handing the contribution to JACL National Director Ron Wakabayashi and Redress Director John Tateishi, Dr. Togasaki expressed a hope that her action would stimulate others to come forward to support the campaign.

Tateishi expressed special appreciation to Togasaki, noting that she had maintained a substantial level of correspondence to her colleagues in the medical field, urging their support for the redress campaign. Togasaki, active in medical circles and the Nikkei community, has spoken out on redress for many years.

Reunion of Tule Lake internees slated for '85

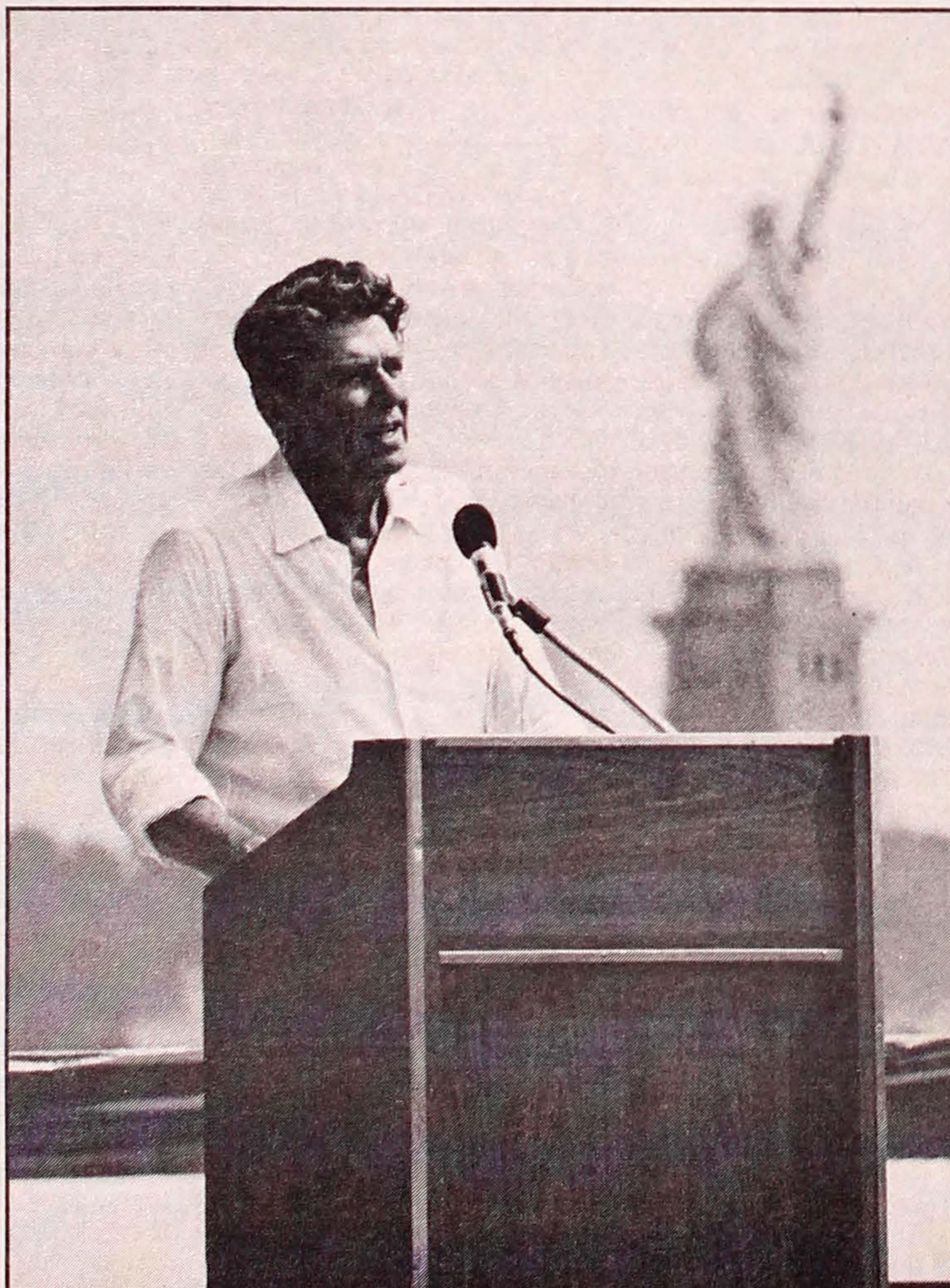
SACRAMENTO—The Tule Lake Reunion '85 will be held here at the Red Lion Inn May 24, 25 and 26. Attractions include tours, golf, picnics, music, dancing and historical exhibits. Registration forms will be available early in 1985. For further information, write to: Tule Lake Reunion '85, Tom Fujimoto, Chairman, P.O. Box 22386, Sacramento, CA 95822.

Fellowships available

WASHINGTON—The American Sociological Assn. Minority Fellowship Program has announced the availability of doctoral fellowships in sociology for 1985-86. The purpose of the awards is to recruit persons who will contribute differing orientations and creativity to the field. Prospective and current graduate students who can approach research on mental health issues relating to minorities from an indigenous perspective will be selected for these awards. The program is open to students beginning or continuing studies in sociology departments.

Applications must be received by Feb. 1, 1985 and awards will be announced by April 15, 1985.

For application forms, write: Minority Fellowship Program, American Sociological Assn., 1722 N St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.



PRESIDENT REAGAN

In 1980, Ronald Reagan opened his campaign for president with a pledge to all Americans for a new beginning, one filled with hope and promise and secured by a stable and lasting peace, economic vitality and a return to basic family values. Americans of all nationalities, races and backgrounds have contributed greatly to America's new beginning and continue to exemplify the qualities President Reagan and Vice President Bush believe are essential for a strong and free nation.

Opportunity, hard work and faith in God and family are the building blocks of the future and the basis of President Reagan's new beginning for America.

Working together, we can build a brighter future.

REAGAN-BUSH '84

Leadership That's Working

Oyaji Syndrome

EAST
WIND

Bill
Marutani



WHETHER IT BE consciously or unconsciously—and we submit that it is mostly the latter—among some Nikkei, and in Nisei in particular, there is a residue of mental outlook that might be labelled “the Oyaji Syndrome.” What this means is subservience to the oyaji, the boss. Who the boss is varies according to the setting: it may, indeed, be one’s superior at one’s place of employment; most often it is some public authority or entity; we’ve even noted an instance where some JACL district governor is accorded omniscience simply by reason of being an office-holder. “Oyaji knows best.”

It’s all rather pathetic, rendering yourself into an unquestioning vassal. Downright un-American.

A POSSIBLE SOURCE of this mental framework may have been the respect-for-authority

teachings drummed into us by our Issei parents. Thus, whether it be parents (including others’ as well as your own), teachers, the policeman or the public figure, one was taught to respect and to obey. In this superior-inferior relationship, much could be endured in the name of “respect.” There was something almost perversely noble about being a silent, suffering martyr—not simply “even,” but particularly when that oyaji had acted unjustly, was repressive.

WE PAUSE HERE for a moment to make it abundantly clear that we by no means advocate a social order with anything other than defined lines of authority. We need such lines, if nothing else, to be able to fix responsibility. Anarchy may be fine in mud wrestling or demolition derby, although even both of those “sports” have defined rules—elusive as such may be.

BUT GETTING BACK to this oyaji syndrome. Old habits die hard, particularly if one doesn’t even realize that (s)he’s operating under such habits. And sometimes good habits can become bad ones if misapplied. Respect and obedience are noble virtues, but they become avenues of degradation when given to injustice



and repression. There is nothing noble in stoically suffering injustice, like some fictitious movie samurai, at the hands of those who would degrade you as a human being, as a citizen.

IF THE AUTHORITIES today falsely accused you of disloyalty, in effect confiscated your property or otherwise caused you to lose your worldly possessions, and they followed up by summarily uprooting you and incarcerating you—is it enough that the oyaji simply dismiss it all with “We operated under a misapprehen-

sion. Sorry.”? If that is our American way of making amends, then why is a certain former general suing for \$120 million when he lost no property, was not accused of disloyalty, was not incarcerated, but he feels his reputation was impugned?

And in his case, at least, his parents remained untouched. (Can you say the same about your parents, grandparents, children, spouse, etc.?)

THE ROMANTICISM of suffering injustice stoically and in silence is fine for the make-believe

of movies. But our Issei parents and their offsprings were not incarcerated in make-believe barbed-wire compounds; they did not lose make-believe farms and properties for which they had worked and sweated so much; their pride which was crushed was not make-believe. The only make-believes were the false charges, the baseless suspicions, the implication of disloyalty.

It is time we stop thinking like vassals. It is time that we think and act like the Americans that we are.

Letters

Saiki Responds

I was delighted to read Mr. Mark Ishimatsu’s letter criticizing my views and I generally agree with much of his statements in regards to the development of general laws on physical sciences and the progress achieved thereon.

Nonetheless, my basic premise was not that Japan can only be truly understood unless a person completely immerses himself into Japanese culture, although this would undoubtedly help. Verification by actual experience will provide the person much more earthy, realistic feelings about Japan, just as one must climb a mountain to experience the shortness of breath, the oozing sweat, the aching legs, the coldness of high altitude and the exhilaration of ultimate success. Practical experience is an extension of academic knowledge, and is also a foundation of academic knowl-

edge.

To elaborate further, the status of being a Japan expert cannot be acquired even by most Japanese themselves, let alone foreigners. Even the most knowledgeable of the Japanese associates I have met over a period of 35 years would never admit that they are experts. This may be partially attributed to the traditional Oriental element of modesty. Recently there are several Japanese TV personalities who purport to be experts, but are not so respected by viewers.

On the other hand, a number of people are recognized as experts by those around them. In other words, expertise is not self-declared. It is conferred upon the person by his associates and by the public.

A classic example may be the case of Lafcadio Hearn, known in 19th-century Japan as Koizumi Yakumo, who spent his entire

adulthood (mostly in Shimane, also Kumamoto) teaching and who wrote countless stories about the mystique and the legends of Japan; yet, he was not completely accepted by the society of his time. It was only years after his death that he gained repute as an authority in his specific field.

As for making use of scientific facts as the foundation for further progress, I heartily agree with Mr. Ishimatsu. Still, there are major differences between physical and social sciences. As an economics major at U.C., the first precept I was taught was that economics and the social sciences were not exact sciences. There are too many variables which cannot be controlled as readily as in lab experiments. Let’s take the case of discrimination.

How far have we come towards its universal elimination? As long as individuality exists and is recognized and revered, as long as families, groups and nations exist and as long as we are affected by the variables in our education and environment, it is doubtful whether racial discrimination, let alone personal bias, can be completely eradicated; yet, we need to work on it on a personal, local and national basis.

Even in the so-called classless societies, one sees the bias in nationalities (e.g. Uzbeks, Tatars, Mongols in USSR), the desire for political asylum, the imprisonment of dissidents and the stratification of privileged classes. The political systems that recognize individuality also endeavor to curb personal excesses by pro-

mulgating laws to protect the public interest and the minority groups.

Defying basic economic laws, abetted by Keynesian principles, we continue to amass huge deficits for future generations to bear and to fall into the trap of \$300 billion loans to South American countries, which need IMF loans to keep barely ahead of defaulting due to high interest rates.

Rather than dissuading people from studying to become Japan experts, my column was intended to point out that acquiring expertise is a never-ending task. In other words, a foreigner cannot become more Japanese than the Japanese themselves.

I was pleased that at least one person in Houston had read my column and was interested enough to offer his thought-provoking opinions.

BARRY SAIKI
Tokyo

Kawasaki Update

With reference to my letter (9/7 PC), Mrs. Rachel Kawasaki telephoned me, talked for an hour, and assured me that she was not the Mrs. Kawasaki I had known in Poston. I am convinced (now) that the Mrs. Kawasaki I knew was “Rita”, not “Rachel.” Odd coincidence—both Caucasian, both married to a “Kawasaki.” Mrs. (Rachel) Kawasaki and I finally reached agreement! We agreed that we disagree—but without being disagreeable about that fact.

I arrived at the opinion that she is one who consistently distorts her view of “facts” or “evidence”

(both “pro” and “con”) to fit what she believes. I do believe that she is honest, but misguided.

This letter is written at her request.

DAVID C. MOORE
Phoenix, Ariz.

Is This the New Japan?

Recently, a young Japanese couple on their honeymoon was involved in a one-car accident while enroute from Las Vegas to the Grand Canyon. Their car rolled several times and the woman suffered a fractured neck vertebra. The man was in a coma for three weeks.

As they did not speak much English, the hospital called us to ask our help with the patients. We spent considerable time and effort with them at the hospital. As he refused to eat the hospital fare, we made miso shiru, tsukemono and other Japanese goodies to take to them at the hospital. In time they were released and went back to Japan. It has been over two months but we have not heard a word from them. We are amazed at the manners or the lack of manners of the modern Japanese young people. This certainly would never have happened in our generation.

Later we had one Japanese boy stay with us during a group tour. We chauffeured him and some others of the group to many places and activities as requested by them. In the last two months since he has gone, he has never sent us a postcard or letter.

In contrast, we hosted two

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ISSN: 0030-8579

Nat'l JACL Headquarters, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115,
(415) 921-5225

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 members: \$10.00 of national dues provides one-year on a per-household basis. Nonmembers: \$18, payable in advance. Foreign addresses: Add U.S.\$8 • News or opinions expressed by columnists other than JACL staff do not necessarily reflect JACL policy.

OFFICERS

Frank Sato, Nat'l JACL Pres. Henry S. Sakai, PC Board Chair

EDITORIAL / BUSINESS STAFF

Editor: Karen Seriguchi Asst: J.K. Yamamoto, Henry Mori
Advertising: Marie M. Ozawa
Circulation: Tomi Hoshizaki, Mitsuko Sakai Mailing: Mark Saito
Production: Mary Imon, Jon Takasugi
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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pacific Citizen,
244 S. San Pedro St., #506, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

Japanese American Methodists and Charity

Several weeks ago, at the centennial celebration of the Pine United Methodist Church in San Francisco, the proposed \$5 million Asian American Endowment Fund came up for lively discussion. What the assemblage voted to do says a great deal about the church in the general sense, and about Japanese Americans.

The endowment fund plan, adopted by the National Convocation of Asian American Methodists back in 1983, was its response to the mother church's decision to concentrate support on minority ministries. The endowment fund would be raised by Asian Americans from Asian Americans and controlled by Asian Americans for the benefit of Asian American churches.

The need for money was obvious. Large numbers of Koreans, Chinese, Filipinos, Taiwanese and Indo-Chinese, as well as Pacific Islanders, had immigrated to the United States in the last decade, bringing with them more than their share of economic and sociological problems. Many were Methodists and many who were not looked to the church for aid. There were congregations to be formed, ministers to be trained and churches to be built. There were young people to be coun-

FROM THE FRYING PAN:

Bill
Hosokawa



seled and social services to be dispensed, jobs to be found and education to be encouraged. But the church's resources were inadequate to undertake these responsibilities.

In past decades thousands of immigrants and their offspring, primarily Japanese, had been assisted in diverse ways by the church. At Pine alone, some 6,000 Issei had studied English. Now the need was primarily among new Americans of other ethnic groups.

The Japanese Americans today are a small minority within the Asian American United Methodists. They have only 24 organized congregations, some of them far from prosperous, among approximately 250 Asian American churches. But as a group they are better established economically, and in keeping with that status it was suggested that \$1 million,

one-fifth of the goal, would be their suitable share.

That was the point of discussion at the Pine centennial. It was brought out that Japanese American churches as a whole are also hard-pressed and raising a million would, to phrase it gently, would not be easy.

But if a million were to be raised, would it make more sense to keep it to underwrite the needs of their own very important programs? Or, even with the knowledge that most of the Endowment Fund would go to churches of other ethnic groups, would it be the charitable and Christian course of action to support the overall effort?

It is a tribute to the maturity of the Japanese Americans that they voted unanimously to put their own needs aside for the time being, join the group and help meet the more critical needs of their less fortunate brothers and sisters. In a sense, there is an element of the traditional Japanese concept of *on-gaeshi*—repaying a debt of honor and obligation—that seems to be involved.

There's been a lot of talk about united Asian American activity. This commitment represents a concrete act of cooperation and compassion.

Chapter Pulse

Downtown Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES—Dick Yamashita, president of Marcom International, Tokyo, is the guest speaker Wednesday, Oct. 31, Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, 2nd floor conference room, 244 S. San Pedro St.

His topics are "Recent Issues In U.S.-Japan Relations: The View From Tokyo and Washington, D.C." (3-5 p.m.) and "Sanga Moyu, Japanese Americans and U.S.-Japan Relations" (7:30-9:30 p.m.).

Yamashita, a native Stockton, Calif. Nisei with more than ten years of experience in Japan, is the Japan Chapter JACL president, an officer of American Chamber of Commerce in Japan, and the co-founder and former co-director of U.S.-Japan Trade Study Group.

The meeting is open to the public at no charge. Further information can be obtained from Patrick Ogawa, 628-2725; Richard T. Kenmotsu, 972-4000 x211 or Glen S. Fukushima, 489-4000 x284.

Houston

HOUSTON—Asian American Bar Assn., Council of Asian American Organizations and JACL are sponsoring a special appearance of James Shimoura, authority on violence against Asian Americans, Saturday, Nov. 17, 2 p.m., at the Four Seasons Hotel, 1300 Lamar. Shimoura, a practicing attorney, was instrumental in the civil rights prosecutions arising from the Vincent Chin murder in Detroit. He is active in the Asian/Pacific Caucus of the Democratic National Committee and is one of the founding members of the American Citizens for Justice.

For information, contact Roberta Yang, (713) 783-2016, or Betty Waki, (713) 643-1338.

San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO—The JACL chapter is soliciting applicants for its annual scholarship to a deserving high school graduate. This year's scholarship will be \$1,000. Any student graduating from high school in 1985 who is a member, or whose parents are members, of the San Francisco chapter is eligible to apply.

The scholarship will be awarded on the basis of: academic achievement; demonstrated leadership, community involvement and commitment; defined purpose for higher education; written essay: "How you perceive your future role in the Japanese American community"; and a personal interview, if necessary.

The essay should express the applicant's perception of the role he or she intends to take within the Japanese American community. This may be in the form of a professional career, as a volunteer in one or more community service organizations, or both. The essay is limited to no more than 250 words.

All applicants will be required

to complete a short application form which is available at the counselor's office of local San Francisco high schools or by contacting Karen Taketa, scholarship chairperson, at 399-5871 (day). All information submitted by applicants will be kept confidential. All applications must be postmarked no later than Dec. 10, 1984.

Marin County

SAN RAFAEL, Calif.—The eighth annual No. Calif.-W. Nevada-Pacific JACL District Council volleyball tournament will be held Sunday, Nov. 18, at the Terra Linda High School gym.

JACL chapters and Japanese American Youth groups may enter teams in this tournament. All players must be JACL or JAY members or have membership within the family.

Teams will be scheduled for seed play in the morning rounds and championship and consolation rounds in the afternoon. Of the six players on the court, at least two must be women. The tournament begins at the 320 Nova Albion Way school gym at 9 a.m. Rubber-sole shoes must be worn on the courts.

Registration is \$30 for initial team entry, \$10 for additional chapter teams and must be submitted by Nov. 9. Additional information may be obtained from Dennis Sato (415) 897-8006.

San Jose

SAN JOSE, Calif.—JACL is sponsoring a day at the Bay Meadows Horse Races on Nov. 25, 1984. Cost is \$24, which includes admission, program, buffet luncheon at the Turf Club, and transportation by Southern Pacific Railroad. Attire for men is sports coats and collared shirts; for women, pant suits or dresses. For further information and to make your reservation contact the JACL office, (408) 295-1250 or Joe Hironaka, (408) 292-2914. Deadline is November 11.

Sonoma County

SEBASTOPOL, Calif.—The chapter's second annual Sushi Nite takes place Saturday, Nov. 10, at the Memorial Hall. Organizers remind members that last year's sushi sold out in 45 minutes and an early arrival is recommended. The event starts at 6:30 p.m.

West Valley

SAN JOSE, Calif.—High School seniors who are either members or whose parents are members of the chapter are invited to apply for scholarships. The amounts of the scholarship vary from year to year, but this past year the chapter awarded one \$750 and two \$500 scholarships.

The criteria for selection are: GPA, extra-curricular activities, community services, written essay, and recommendations. The deadline for filing an application is December 1, 1984.

On Board Members' Endorsements of Candidates



BY THE BOARD:

Henry Sakai

A couple weeks ago I was in Reno and talked to Wilson Makabe and he mentioned a couple of things that I feel should be clarified. Wilson said that he and some other JACL delegates at the convention were a little upset by my article explaining why I endorsed Frank Sato for president. They felt that I had used my authority of PC board chair to get the article in for the convention.

As most of you know, I have written more articles in the PC than any other board member because I feel it's important to convey information to the membership. Anyone who had written an article could have had it included in that issue so there wasn't any preference to my article, and besides I wrote it as being "By the Board" and not as PC board chair. I think the National Board members have a responsibility to give the membership their objective views and recommendations; otherwise it's very difficult for the members to know what candidates or issues to support.

The other thing that Wilson mentioned was that these people thought that I might have made a deal with Frank Sato so that he would re-appoint me as the PC board chair. First of all, anyone who has worked with me in JACL knows that I don't make deals.

Second, I said in 1982 that this was my last term of being in JACL after thirteen years; had I the desire and energy to stay active I would have run for president. So to imply that I made a deal to support Frank Sato is an insult and reaffirms my decision to retire.

As for national officers nominating candidates, I agree with Fred Hirasuna that the president should not nominate his successor. That probably applies to any officer nominating his or her successor. As far as National Board members supporting candidates, I don't have any problem with that. Both candidates had support from board members.

Min Yasui campaigned early and did an excellent job and I thought he might go to the convention with enough committed delegates. I think a lot of people felt he got a raw deal on redress and had been shoved aside from the com-

mittee. I don't know why or how it happened but I think he got shoved aside, too. At last February's board meeting—when the new redress organization was presented—there were a number of us who asked about that. Min was there and when asked, he said he could live with it, so the board approved the reorganization. Had Min spoken out I think the board would not have approved the change.

As I stated in my article, as chairman of the LEC (Legislative Education Committee), Min will be back playing a major role in redress.

I hope I've clarified for those delegates who thought there was some ulterior motive for my supporting Frank Sato for president. Also, I appreciated Wilson Makabe being frank with me so that I could respond to these comments.

Salinas Valley to host district meeting

SALINAS, Calif.—Acting Governor Mollie Fujioka will call to order the fourth quarterly meeting

Midwest District to meet Nov. 16-18

DETROIT — Midwest District Council's fall meeting will be hosted by the Detroit Chapter Nov. 16-18, announced Governor George Sakaguchi.

Agenda items include district redress programs, the budget, human rights, ethnic concerns, membership recruitment, and objectives for the coming year.

of the N. Calif.-W. Nevada-Pacific District Council on Nov. 4. Salinas Valley Chapter hosts the meeting at the Barbary Coast Inn, 808 N. Main St.

Reports from the leadership workshop, aging and retirement, redress and program committees will be heard. New business includes the nomination and election of the district board for 1985-86, and a discussion of proposed changes to the National JACL bylaws.

For further information about the meeting, call (415) 921-5225.

'I Will Not Plead Guilty'

Kim Myong Gwan, 33, a North Korean resident of Japan, who lives in Kyoto, is the third "foreigner" to bring the fingerprinting issue to trial following his arrest for violation of the Alien Registration Law in July last year. He is a teacher of cultural anthropology at Kyoto Seika College, specializing in the area of human sexual behavior.

"The debate over fingerprinting is not just limited to the issue of equality under the law. What I want to point out through my court battle is that this is another example of the outright official discrimination against minority groups here."

Koreans in Japan were technically made into "foreigners" under Article A of the San Francisco Peace Treaty signed in 1952 which states: "Japan, recognizing the independence of Korea, renounces all right, title and claim to Korea, including the islands of Quelpart, Port Hamilton and Dagelet."

"But," he questions, "where in this sentence is there anything about the citizenship of Koreans living in Japan?"

Shoichi Yokoi and Hiroo Onoda are two former Japanese servicemen from World War II, who recently returned to Japan after more than 20 years of hiding in the

jungles of Philippine Islands. They received pensions and benefits, covering their duty up until their return to Japan, which totaled over 20 million yen.

Teruo Nakamura is another such man, who returned from Mindanao Island in the Philippines seven years ago. But being a Taiwan national, also under Article A of the San Francisco Peace Treaty, the money paid to him as a foreigner was a mere 65,000 yen, as compensation for his duty plus a one-way trip fare back to Japan calculated at the rate of 39 years ago.

The Korean atomic bomb survivors are no exceptions. They have no access to the government medical plan for which their Japanese counterparts are entitled.

"Their purpose in keeping us 'foreigners' is to shuck off their responsibility for 36 years of colonial invasion." Some may argue that there have been some changes in the official treatment of Koreans recently in the wake of domestic and international protest. For example, the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunication this year has hired, for the first time in history, two third-generation Koreans as delivery personnel. "But I think no fundamental changes are expected at least within the next 10 years, you

Candidate's postwar years in south central L.A. recalled

LOS ANGELES—In a campaign effort to "Keep America Strong," Republican nominee Echo Goto for the 29th Congressional District seat has accumulated many achievement awards and honors for her civic and business endeavors in south central Los Angeles the past three decades.

Her retail floral shop on S. Central Ave. near Florence Ave. had escaped the rampage of the 1965 Watts riot as her Black neighbors and friends stood watch, it was recalled when she announced her candidacy against veteran Augustus Hawkins, the Democrat incumbent.

A believer in community involvement, she has received many commendations: Senior Citizens Community Service;

Outstanding Community Service awards from Firestone-Florence Chamber of Commerce (1976), from Kedren Health Center (1980); Civic Involvement Award from City of L.A., Merit for Community Service from County of L.A., Volunteer Service Award from L.A. City Schools; National Hospital Award from DAV Auxiliary; PTA Honorary Life Membership Award.

For commercial improvement of the area, she spent countless hours to promote business and industry in south central L.A. She has been accorded a National Recognition Certificate in Business Revitalization Program, Asian American Business Alliance achievement award, Urban Core Multi-Versity Award,

and honors from Sur Este Retail Floral Assn.

As a do-er in civic affairs, she was recognized by the L.A. County Public Library, Toastmistress International; served as commissioner: Martin Luther King Jr. General Hospital; active with the Ikebana International, Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Southern California, Gardena Valley JACL, Watts NAACP, Cosmopolitan Republican Club; and L.A. County Republican Central Committee.

A 30-year resident in the district, she was born in Orange County and educated in Montebello. Echo Goto's family includes three grown daughters: a registered nurse, a pharmacist and a businesswoman.

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Calendar

●Through Nov 4

Seattle—Momoko Iko's 'Flowers and Other Household Gods' perf by NW Asn Am Th, Nippon Kan Theatre, Wed-Sat, 8pm; info 624-8800

●Through Nov 11

San Francisco—"Once Is Never Enough," by Rick Shiomi, Marc Hayashi, and Lane Nishikawa, pres by Asian Am Theater Co; tkts 566-1605

●Through Dec. 9

Fresno—Go For Broke photo exh, also photos of Manzanar by Ansel Adams, Metro Art Mus

●Through Dec 16

Los Angeles—"Song for a Nisei Fisherman," by Philip Gotanda, with Robert Ito, East West Players, 4424 Santa Monica; tkts 660-0366

●OCT 26-27

Portland—Last wknd to see 'Asian Point of View' exh of Asn Am artwork, Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Assn Hall, 315 NW Davis St; 12n-6pm; free; info 282-9208

San Francisco—June Watanabe Dance Co performs 'E.O. 9066' and other works, New Performance Gallery; info 924-0187

●OCT 26-28

LOS ANGELES—Nat'l Asn Am Studies Conf and Nat'l Asn Pac Am Law Students Conf; info 825-2974/825-1304

●OCT 26 (Friday)

San Francisco—Okazaki film: 'Unfinished Business,' Palace of Fine Arts, 7:30pm; spkrs Gordon Hirabayashi, Fred Korematsu, Min Yasui; info Asn Law Caucus, 835-1474

El Segundo—Ind Order of Foresters honors Dr Jack Fujimoto, Hacienda Htl, 525 N Sepulveda, 7pm; info 390-4502

●OCT 27 (Saturday)

Seattle—Theatre of Yugen performs Japanese Noh and Kyogen, UW Piggot Aud, 7pm; free; info 682-9107

Sonoma County—Chapter celebrates 50th anny and holds keiro-kai

●OCT 30 (Sunday)

Portland—Theatre of Yugen, Art Mus Berg Swann Aud, 7:30pm

●NOV 2 (Friday)

New York—"Asian Americans in Corporate America" is topic of forum, AT&T hqds aud, 550 Madison Ave.; 7pm, free

●NOV 3 (Saturday)

Placer County—Capt Gordon Nakagawa guest spkr at ann'l Goodwill Dnr, St. Joseph's Parish Cntr, 11610 Atwood Rd, Auburn, 6pm

●NOV 4 (Sunday)

NCWNP District—4th qtrly mtg, Barbary Coast Inn, 808 N Main, Salinas, CA; info (415) 921-5225

●NOV 5 (Monday)

Los Angeles—Am Assn of Retired Persons mg, JACCC, 244 S San Pedro, Rm 410, 1:30pm; topic supplementary ins to Medicare. Info (213) 293-3165, 263-8469

PSW contest still on

LOS ANGELES—Chapters in the Pacific Southwest District still have time to enter the district's membership contest, which ends Dec. 31. The membership base will be the Dec. 31, 1983, count as published by National JACL headquarters.

For each new member, \$3 will be awarded to the chapter. For example, a chapter with 200 members as of Dec. 31, 1983, and 250 members as of Dec. 31, 1984, will receive \$150.

In the National JACL membership drive, which ended June 30, PSW was awarded \$855 for having increased its membership by 171, reaching 102% of the previous year's total.

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Time to Address Violence

There is little question in my mind that increase in anti-Asian sentiment in this country is a very real phenomenon. We've been looking through the reporting of

MUSUBI

by
Ron
Wakabayashi



these incidents over the past few years and noted some patterns that may be of interest and concern.

Americans of Japanese ancestry are not often the victims of the most violent acts that take place. Newcomers are targets far more often. It may be that a life experience in this country for the better than 80% of Nikkei who are American-born provides us with some devices to recognize and avoid the most dangerous situations that confront us. New immigrants or newcomers often have not developed antenna sensitive to the intergroup conflicts and the racism that, unfortunately, rears its ugly head in a particular American style. The life experience of being born and raised in an environment where you are the majority population may not refine sensitivities that minorities in America routinely develop as a basic defense mechanism. This may explain attitudes about minority status on a continuum. Japanese nationals, in particular Japanese businessmen in the United States, have a hard time understanding this. Our recent

experience with Americans of Japanese ancestry in Hawaii at our Honolulu site for our national convention, reflected an attitude different from that of the mainland Nikkei, and numbers and concentration of population help explain some of the differences in perception and attitude.

Perhaps this explains to some extent why new immigrants are more often the victims of racial violence than American-born Asians. Obviously, the issue is more complex than a single factor. Nothing, however, can justify that such violence is becoming so frequent.

Violence is the most measurable indicator of racism. It is only the tip of the iceberg. The media images of Asians in recent movies may be another indicator of the increased racism. The proliferation of statements from various opinion-makers in government and big business that carry racial innuendo may be yet another measure. The increase in the presence of bumperstickers with racially biased messages might be another. The graphic at Six Flag Autoworld in Flint, Michigan, that the American Citizens for Justice has attacked, is only the most recent.

The "Goals and Objectives" statement that the National Board is studying as the foundation for JACL activities for this biennium has addressing the rise in anti-Asian sentiment as one of the cornerstones of our program. It is the issue that has crossed the line between a concern to condition. It is not something that sits on the horizon. It's in the front yard and it's time that we take a shovel to it.

His Lordship: Tonosama

(1)

No doubt you've seen some samurai movies. In those pictures the *tonosama* was usually a shadowy presence with no part in the action, more a part of the setting like the stock shot of the castle donjon in the title scene. Have you ever wondered about him? Probably not. But in a remote, indirect way he may have a great deal more to do with you than you suspect. For instance your recent ancestors may have been samurai in his service, on permanent half-pay for some generations. Or peasants who had to surrender half of their harvests, sometimes 60%, also for generations, while generations of *tonosama* lived in the lap of luxury. There are many facts and stories about *tonosamas*, some amusing, some that make you angry, but all more or less surprising. I would like to share them with you. But first, what *tonosama* was.

He was one of the 280 or so vassals of the Tokugawa shogun who ruled Japan as so many independent states until the Meiji Restoration. These, called *daimyos*, held hereditary fiefs (*han* in Japanese) varying in size and yield from Kaga's 3,500 square miles (approximate) and 1,000,000 *koku*

MOSHI
MOSHI

by
Jin Konomi



rice to some petty lords with a few square miles and 10,000 *koku*. *Koku* is about 5 bushels or 180 litres.

Though hereditary lords of their *han*, unlike the dukes and counts and barons of medieval Europe they did not own the domains over which they ruled. They only had the prerogative of levying tributes, services, and taxes. It was the peasants who owned the land.

Created by the political genius of Iyeyasu, the founder, the Tokugawa shogunate existed solely for the purpose of perpetuating itself. To this end it pursued a ruthless, cynical policy of keeping its vassals financially drained and politically impotent. One instrument of this policy was the irregular, but frequent assessment of special duties and public works for which the *daimyos* were required to provide the expense and man-

Continued on Page 8

Letters

Continued from Page 4

young girls from the "Up With People" group, one girl from New Hampshire and the other from Mexico City. We have had nice thank you notes from these girls.

Is this truly the New Japan?
Haji de wa nai desho ka?

WILLIAM SHIMASAKI
Flagstaff, AZ

Amache Monument

It has been just over a year since we dedicated a monument at the Amache Relocation Center.

It was a project of love and concern of all those who helped make it a reality. And during the past year a number of former internees have visited the site, plus there have been families who

have made a special pilgrimage.

Our club made a pilgrimage one week prior to Memorial Day in which many of our friends participated and helped us clean up and place flowers on the remaining headstones and the memorial stone.

On Oct. 7 we made our fall pilgrimage to the site to clean up and pay homage to those who suffered and died there. Again, many of our concerned friends accompanied us for which we are very grateful. Forty people made the 240-mile trip from Denver and returned last Sunday with the oldest Issei lady 90 years old to a Yonsei of 12 years.

I would appreciate a small note in the PC of our pledge to maintain the site for all those who helped us. NOBUO FURUIYE
Denver

More on endorsements

I commend Judge William Marutani ("The Voice From Central Cal," 9/28 PC) for setting the record straight concerning the rule governing the conduct of national officers, particularly the national president, during elections.

Judge Marutani concisely stated the appropriate passages from Robert's Rules of Order and provided an insightful analysis of the possible consequences when such rules are ignored.

Unfortunately, the error which occurred at the national convention cannot be changed. But hopefully this organization is now more aware of and sensitive to the proper conduct befitting national officers and the order of business.

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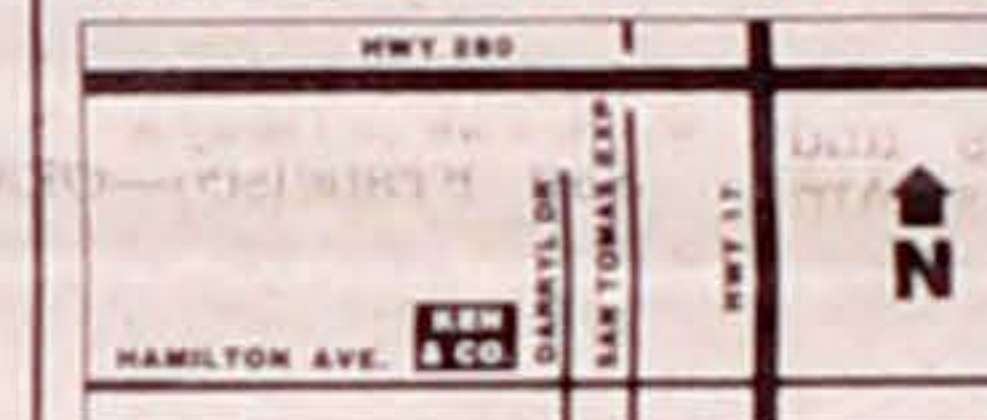
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New member rebate for year-end offered

SAN FRANCISCO—A one-time \$10 rebate offer to JACL chapters

for new members recruited between Nov. 1 and Dec. 31, 1984, was announced by Rose Ochi, national vice president of membership.

Membership at 97%

SAN FRANCISCO—As of Sept. 30, national JACL membership was 97% (25,593) of last year's comparable total of 25,890, according to National Headquarters membership coordinator Emily Ishida. The 1983 calendar total was 26,420.

The current incentive to chapters to solicit new members is \$2. A "new" member is defined as anyone who is not a current member. The dues rate is set at the 1984 level. "It is imperative to provide an end-of-the-year impetus to chapters to stimulate membership recruitment," Ochi added.

Central Calif. to focus on redress, education

FRESNO, Calif.—"Redress—Do We Ask Too Much?" is the topic of a special program during the annual Central California District Council convention, Nov. 10-11.

Congressman Charles "Chip" Pashayan has agreed to speak on the efforts to eliminate monetary payments from redress legislation and why there is support for a more limited redress program, at Saturday night's program and dinner. John Tateishi, national JACL redress director, has been invited to present the arguments for passage of all the recommendations of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians.

Election of district officers for the 1985-86 term are also part of the Saturday evening program.

The Sunday, Nov. 11, session begins with reports and resolu-

tions at 10 a.m. National Director Ron Wakabayashi and newly elected President Frank Sato will make presentations.

Three separate workshops, co-sponsored with the state superintendent of education's Council for Asian Pacific Affairs, are offered on Sunday as well. Topics range from curriculum planning, career counseling, staff development, and anti-Asian violence.

Due to an unexpected news assignment, Ken Kashiwahara will be unable to speak Sunday evening. The dinner's keynote speaker will be determined soon.

Cost for Saturday's dinner is \$12. Registration and dinner for Sunday is \$15. Registrations should be mailed to Mike Yatabe, c/o California First Bank, 1458 Kern St., Fresno, CA 93760, by Oct. 29.

Sato sketches goals and objectives for 1984-86 at Nat'l Board meeting

By Harry Honda

SAN FRANCISCO—National JACL President Frank Sato's executive forte permeated the first full-fledged agenda under scrutiny of his 17-member National Board and nine-member professional staff over the Oct. 19-21 weekend here at the Masao W. Satow Bldg.

Sato generated a "fresh and constant look" of JACL's goals and objectives for the 1984-86 biennium during the Friday night session.

He engaged the board to "define" important program areas that would enhance the JACL image overall from the board, through the staff, to the districts and local chapters.

As a document, Sato viewed the emphasis will be fluid, keeping one or putting away another as the situation might demand, but

by the Chicago convention in 1986, "we—the board—can look for the milestones of accomplishments, look back to the progress that has been made, as well as point to direction."

In the ensuing weeks until the next Board meeting scheduled here Feb. 8-10, the specifics are to be examined and selected.

"Our goals are wide-ranging and far-reaching for the 1980s," Sato said in his opening remarks. "We shall continue to develop relevant and successful programs that meet the need of Japanese Americans... We shall seek to enhance (JACL's) national presence and prestige, expand our ability to understand and influence official Washington." (Sato, incidentally, is a part of the official Washington executive branch as inspector general of the Veterans Administration, a posi-

tion filled by the President and confirmed by the Senate.)

Document 'in Brief'

Here is Sato's draft document of Oct. 2 with his comments:

Overall goals are noted in the JACL Constitution: 1—Promote the interests of Japanese Americans and uphold the civil and human rights for all; 2—Preserve cultural heritage; 3—Promote understanding between all ethnic groups; and 4—Encourage good citizenship.

On strengthening the organization, the five goals as envisioned by the National JACL president are: 1—Enhance the image ("We should continually strive to enhance the image and prestige of the JACL as a relevant, national, human and civil rights organization."); 2—Expand membership (to 50,000 this biennium which he felt was "do-able."); 3—Reassess communication effectiveness (i.e., the Pacific Citizen, national convention format, youth speech contests, annual report to the membership); 4—Reassess organizational responsibility and capability (especially when turnovers occur); and 5—Broaden and bolster the financial base ("a strong need is here").

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MOSHI-MOSHI

Continued from Page 7

power. In all the 265 years of the regime the only major construction (I know of, that is) a shogun paid for out of his own coffers was the shrine at Nikko.

Another device was to hold the *daimyos'* wives, heirs designate, and retired *daimyos* hostage in Edo, and to require the *daimyos* themselves to spend alternate years in Edo. The expenses of separate Edo households, and the annual trips to or from Edo were staggering. The sizes of the retinues and equipment were prescribed by protocol according to the sizes of the *han*, and unnecessarily large and elaborate. For instance, the procession of the Kishu *han* (520,000 *koku*) consisted of nearly 400 men including various carriers and about 40 pieces of equipment.

The great pomp and circumstance with which the procession was conducted were strictly for

show put on only when coming into and leaving Edo, and passing through castle towns along the route. The rest of the travel was in broken formation to minimize the retinue's fatigue. The *dochu-bugyo* (something like the quartermaster) found a way to cut the expenses: instead of having the porters accompany the procession all the way, he hired them at each way station to the next lay-over station.

One year the *bugyo* of a certain western *han* ran out of money when the cortege reached the Hakone gateway. He hired the porters nevertheless, let them carry the luggage to the next station over the pass, and welshed on the pay. The porters were angry but there was nothing they could do. They swore revenge and nursed their anger. The chance came for them the following year. When the same *han* on the way home hired them they carried the luggage up the pass, and at the

summit threw down everything on the road and blew. The party was stranded and unable to move. The *tonosama* fretted and fumed. Finally the men, most of them samurai, carried the lordship's palanquin, and the enormous quantity of luggage down the rugged hill road to the next station. The *tonosama* was an overgrown brat with no understanding of the realities of the world. So he summoned the *bugyo* and gave him a severe tongue-lashing. After sending off the procession, the *bugyo* committed *harakiri*.

I read about this incident in three books. None of them explained how the procession reached Edo the first year, and how it continued the long journey home the second year. Everywhere the new *bugyo* must have had to bear the humiliation of conducting the tour on lean budget, but his lordship presumably was never made to realize how desperate his situation was.

Bookshelf

Catch Up (2)

If anyone is wondering why "Catch Up #2", the PC Bookshelf is trying to catch up on the variety of books for review. Some are recent, some are not.

• Three recent books from Univ. of Hawaii Press are now available through the PC Book Dept. *Japanese Culture* (\$24 cloth, \$12.95 pb) by H. Paul Varley, professor of Japanese history and department chair in East Asian Languages and Culture at Columbia University, updates (2nd edition was published in 1977) what many regard as the most balanced and comprehensive presentation on the cultural history of Japan. The first chapter—Emergence of Japanese Civilization—has been expanded with new material. Its final chapter on the present age focuses on the cultural consequences of Japan's defeat in World War II in visual arts, literature, theatre, cinema, architecture and the new religions. And the chapters in between, blessed with illustrations, but not enough for a neophyte, bridge the 2,000 years with grace and precision.

• *Hanahana: An Oral History Anthology of Hawaii's Working Peo-*

ple (\$14.95) by Michi Kodama-Nishimoto, Warren S. Nishimoto and Cynthia A. Oshiro of the Ethnic Studies Oral History Project at Univ. of Hawaii delves into the lives of workers on the sugar plantations. The men and women in the book relate the prime of their lives between 1920 and 1960, when the Islands' social and work structure changed from Big Five control to multi-ethnic participation.

Some 250 working people were interviewed over a seven-year period of the project and the editors selected 12 for this book to vividly show the values and lifestyles of a number of different communities in Hawaii.

Of particular interest

were the two Nihonjin: Honolulu boat builder U-saburo Katamoto was picked up by the FBI on Dec. 7, 1941, and detained on the mainland for the duration, and picture bride Osame Magano who with her husband turned a coffee shop into a hotel in the Kona district of the Big Island. One of her sons was on the mainland when war broke out and wound up in a WRA camp teaching English to the old people.

Nine other titles have also been published by this project, including *Uchinanchu: A History of Okinawans in Hawaii* (U of H Press, 696pp, \$25), a 1982 best seller which has been reprinted.—HKH

(Price as of June 1, 1983)

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ATOMIC BOMB SURVIVORS

Continued from Front Page

ing the famed Manhattan Project. She was exposed to radiation that she says subsequently affected her child, who died at age 4. "Nuclear testing must be seen as a health hazard," she declared.

Research Needed

Kanji Kuramoto, a *hibakusha*, was on a visit to his sick grandmother in Japan. He and his family were caught in Hiroshima during the war. He was 19 and a student in Kyoto when the atomic bomb was detonated Aug. 6, 1945. Returning to Hiroshima two days later in an unsuccessful search for his father, he was exposed to radiation. He suffers from diabetes, as do many survivors.

He is currently president of the Committee of Atomic Bomb Survivors (CABS), an organization representing 1,000 *hibakusha* living in the U.S. All four chapters—San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, and Hawaii—were represented at the conference.

"We need a research foundation in the U.S.," Kuramoto stated. Explaining how the burden of proof is on the victim. "As long as no fact-finding is done, the government won't give us anything."

Several speakers told of their frustrating experiences attempting to seek access to information. Records have been "sanitized" and "lost due to unexisting fires."

Dottie Troxell worked with radioactive materials in top secret weapons programs at the Bendix lab in Missouri. She suffers from health problems such as cataracts and cancer and has a genetically affected son. "Lost records? What about missing doctors?" she said, referring to doctors who had conducted tests but now could not be located.

Another complaint was that materials sent back to inquiring victims under the Freedom of Information Act had missing pages and blocks of deletions. Letters would often get responses like "Still Classified."

Atomic veterans have a particularly difficult time receiving any type of compensation because of the Feres Rule, which prohibits lawsuits by former servicemen and family members for injuries received in the line of duty.

However, the growing network of atomic radiation survivors hopes to propose congressional hearings and to develop an omnibus bill that would cover all survivors.

Pat Broudy, an atomic widow from Laguna Miguel, Calif., is litigation chair for the National Assn. of Radiation Survivors (NARS). Her husband died of radiogenic cancer after participating in nuclear tests at the Nevada test site.

She has filed a lawsuit against the federal government charging that her late husband "should have been monitored for radioactive health effects after his discharge from service." Should her case win (it is scheduled for a Nov. 6 hearing), it will have challenged the Feres exclusion to the Federal Tort Claims Act.

A NARS death certificate study shows that radiation survivors are dying at an average age of 52, compared to the average lifespan of 74 for others.

Genetic Damage

Among the most stirring testimonies were those of "atomic parents." Jackie Maxwell of Layton, Utah moved the audience to tears. She is the wife of ex-POW Al Maxwell, who was exposed during the clean-up of Hiroshima. Out of six childbirths, only one child has lived. The fact that the other five were genetically damaged went against statistics that such cases occur only once in every six million cases.

The congress concluded with several proposals. Jean Quan, one of the organizers of the meeting, said, "Next year is the 40th anniversary since Hiroshima-

Nagasaki. Our network hopes to launch nationally coordinated activities to do further education about all atomic survivors." Pointing out that even studies conducted in Japan are controlled through American research institutions, she added that "Access to information is a must."

Compensation Proposed

Another proposal involves getting compensation for low-radiation victims. Currently, the government will not give aid to victims who received under five rems of radiation, which is equivalent to 1,000 X-rays per year. This would deny "downwinders," those exposed to radiation from the Nevada tests, any compensation.

However, on May 10, in a landmark decision by U.S. Dist. Judge Bruce S. Jenkins, ten plaintiffs were awarded entitlement to approximately \$2.6 million in damages for various types of leukemia, breast cancer and adenocarcinoma of the thyroid, ailments which they claimed resulted from radiation exposure.

Because of the multi-ethnic nature of the gathering, which consisted of whites, Blacks, Asians, and Native Americans, many participants said they felt renewed hope compared to the days when no one even knew about the tests.

Continuing Work

George Seabron, a Black American seaman exposed to radiation at Operation Crossroads in the Bikini Atoll in 1946, said, "I'm constantly in pain. Every year gets worse, but I never quit working. That's what keeps me going."

And work they will. Next year, during the 40th anniversary of Hiroshima-Nagasaki, Ri Silgun, chair of the 540-member Korean Survivors Assn. in Japan, hopes to see a worldwide peace conference held in Hiroshima to further educate and unite all of the people. "After all," he said, "nuclear bombs show no discrimination."

NATIONAL BOARD

Continued from previous page

And five specific program goals were presented: 1—Vigorously promote Redress legislation (especially raising funds in support, "without it we are in deep trouble"); 2—Promote international U.S.-Japan understanding ("the entire board needs to be on top here"); 3—Establish the leadership development program (as mandated by the National Council meeting in Honolulu); 4—Promote human and civil rights (with Japanese American issues as a primary consideration); and 5—Develop/strengthen emerging programs (i.e., women's concerns, aging & retirement, cultural heritage, national singles' concerns, interracial issues).

Presidential Appointments

Nominations of JACLers to 36 national committee chair positions were also submitted. With advice and consent of the National Board, Sato appointed (or reappointed*) the following:

Ken Nakano* (Lake Washington)-Jim Tsujimura* (Portland), A-bomb survivors; Ron Yoshino* (Chicago), convention board; Wes Iijima (Twin Cities), employment practices; Jim Shimoura (Detroit), ethnic concern; Steve Doi* (San Francisco), Hq. Bldg. Fund; Suzanne Nakayama (Berkeley), insurance; Shig Wakamatsu* (Chicago), JARP; B.J. Watanabe (New York), Pat Ogawa (Downtown L.A.), leadership development and recruitment; Floyd Shimomura, legal counsel; Frank A. Iwama, of counsel (both of Sacramento); Joanne Kumamoto* (Downtown L.A.); Ronald Kunisaki (WDC), membership development;

Clifford Uyeda (Golden Gate), Pacific Citizen Board chair; Chuck Kubokawa (Sequoia), PANA; Minoru Yasui (Mile-Hi), redress; K. Patrick Okura* (WDC), Satow Memorial Fund; Janice Yoshiwara (Puyallup Valley)-Lori Inagaki (Marin), scholarship; Midori Watanabe (Gtr L.A. Singles), singles concern; Tad Hirota (Berkeley), 1000 Club; David Nikaido (Washington, D.C.), U.S.-Japan Relations; Mika Hiramatsu-Mei Pramenko (youth members to the Nat'l Board), youth; Irene Hirano* (Downtown L.A.), women's concern.

Others are to be announced after contact is made with the nominee.

Public relations was reactivated with George Wakiji (WDC) and another person in the San

Francisco Bay area to co-chair to work with staff "on enhancing broader media coverage."

While district integration of most national committees was being encouraged, availability of funds severely limits its function "as a whole" and mode of communications, national director Ron Wakabayashi pointed out. Nonetheless, district governors were expected to nominate members from their area to most national committees, such as insurance, ethnic concern, youth, nominations, employment practices, recognitions, etc.

Sato regretted the lack of nominees from the Intermountain and Central California areas.

Other Matters Presented

Board took action on:

1—Accepting the Governors' Caucus proposal to raise another \$3,100 for JACL's redress committee with an allocation going to certain districts for educational purposes: CCDC, \$300; PNWDC, \$300; IDC, \$300; Mountain Plains, \$1,200; \$500, NC-W-PDC, \$500; PSWDC \$500.

2—Approving a one-time year-end membership rebate offer to chapters; \$10 for each new member recruited Nov. 1-Dec. 31, 1984.

3—Referring to committee a proposal that JACL membership be a consideration for a National JACL administered scholarship award.

4—Establishing an ad-hoc Programs for Action oversight committee for a one-year period to set staff priorities and review all grant applications to assure consistency.

The Governors' Caucus agreed to assume an on-going role to assist National establish a communications network through computers, with focus on the operations in the Washington Office, which has only an electric typewriter. This office could use a personal computer now, Sato added. Caucus chair Denny Yasuhara (Spokane) hoped JACLers with knowledge of systems would be able to assist.

Other meeting dates were announced: Nov. 17-19—JACL Legislative Education Committee, Nat'l HQ; August '85—EDC-MDC Convention, Milwaukee.

From the Univ. of Washington Press

New and Distinguished Books in Asian American Studies

(By special arrangement with the Univ. of Washington Press, the Pacific Citizen offers 12 books in Asian American Studies on a "direct shipment from UW Press" basis. Some of the books are in the PC Library for review but not available for sale here.)

CITIZEN 13660

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

Paperback (\$8.95) due early fall. The Uprootings of a Japanese American Family
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.

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.

C. Harvey Gardiner

Pawns in a Triangle of Hate

1981: 248pp

List: \$25.00

The Peruvian Japanese and the United States

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.

Monica Sone
Nisei Daughter

1979: 256pp
\$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.

Carlos Bulosan

America Is in the Heart: A Personal History

1973: 352pp

\$7.95 (soft)

First published in 1946 and out-of-print for many years, the Filipino poet reminisces of his boyhood, his coming to America, the years of hardship and bitterness here during the '30s.

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

The Chinese in British Columbia

Since the gold rush days of 1858, the Chinese have made important contributions to British Columbia, despite being subjected to racism, bigotry and the rough edges of a pioneer society.

Ronald T. Takaki

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1982: 379pp

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Pacific Citizen

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National JACL leaders draft goals statement for next biennium

National President Frank Sato developed and distributed to members of the National Board a document which summarizes the broad "Goals and Objectives" for the 1984-86 biennium. He also requested and received comments from National officers and committee members. The following summary prepared Oct. 9 does not contain all the specific narrative but does consolidate and reflect the comments which had

come in various forms.

Among those forwarding written comments were: Minoru Yasui, Greater Los Angeles Singles JACL, Yosh Nakashima, Miki Himeno, Molly Fujioka, George Sakaguchi, Cherry Kinoshita, Frank Sakamoto and Gene Takamine. Verbal comments provided to the National President in the course of conversation also contributed to this document.—Ron Wakabayashi.

GOALS TO STRENGTHEN ORGANIZATION

Development of a positive perception of the JACL.

National Planning: Codify and analyze relevant resolutions of previous conventions; create national network for input or analysis and future directions; study external trends, statistics, networking with other organizations; report analysis and recommendations to National Board to give input to Plan of Action not later than six months before the next biennial convention.

Utilization of the JACL Long Range Planning committee report, presented during the 27th (Gardena) convention as a guideline to direct the JACL.

Completion of the Personnel Manual.

Initiate a cookbook approach to hosting a National Convention.

Awards & Recognitions: Make inquiry of JACL leaders throughout the nation about possible adjustment(s) to National awards and recognitions; Solicit of chapter and district leaders, recommendation of special recognition for local outstanding service to

JACL and to their community by a member within their area; Recognize Headquarters staff for their tireless effort on our behalf by profiling in the Pacific Citizen; develop appropriate recognition of the Sansei.

Participate in a proposal to change the nomination mechanism and selection of National committees.

Improve communications within the JACL.

Facilitate vertical movement of information and resources in the organization.

Increase membership by developing programs and implementing existing programs to attract Sansei and Yonsei.

Raising adequate funds for the activation of the LEC.

Development of a revenue base outside of membership dues.

Diversification and expansion of organizational funding base.

Reappraisal of the National Youth program.

Bylaw clarification on those sections pertaining to Youth membership.

PROGRAM GOALS

Aging & Retirement: To complete distribution of video project, "Tale of Nisei Retirement" for chapter program capabilities; to seek an NIMH grant to be matched with in-kind services to utilize research findings of the late Dr. Minoru Masuda of Seattle; to encourage and co-sponsor A&R community workshops.

Minorities: Encourage chapters to identify issues that are of importance to minority communities.

Recruitment and Leadership Development: To establish JACL select committee for recruitment and leadership development (accomplished at last Convention); to develop commitment and leadership; to recruit younger Japanese American members lest JACL cease to exist.

Scholarships: Disseminate national scholarship information to districts and chapters; encourage and support local scholarship programs; maintain and improve scholarship programs; study feasibility and analyze procedures and present system for district rotation to judge scholarships.

Utilization of scholarship winners as interns at the chapter or district level.

Utilize programs, such as scholarships, to develop membership (i.e.), require membership as a prerequisite for scholarship consideration).

Singles Concerns: To establish a National Committee for Singles Concerns (accomplished at the last Convention), to conduct and complete within one year, a study of JACL single members; to recommend programmatic additions and/or changes at National and chapter level; to seek to attract and retain more JACL single members; to establish a national network of JACL singles; to assist chapters and groups who want to organize or become affiliated with JACL; to provide appropriate social events/workshops at district meetings, National conventions, singles conferences; to maintain a singles column in the PC, emphasizing new items of special interest.

Student Aid: Publicize availability of financial assistance; select worthy recipients; Increase funding available for Student Aid.

Veterans' Affairs: Sensitize communities of Nikkei veterans' role and their importance to the Redress movement; work together with veterans of the 100th, 442nd and MIS; encourage JACL involvement with Nikkei veteran exhibits in local cities and at the Smithsonian (upcoming); write articles for the Pacific Citizen, convention booklet, etc.; a commemorative stamp for Nisei veterans.

Encourage the greater participation of women in the JACL.

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(Year of Membership Shown)

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Summary (Since 12-1-1983)
Active (previous total) 1,902
Total this report: #31 ... 28
Current total 1,930

OCT 9-12 1984 (28)

Berkeley: 31-Albert S Kosakura.

Chicago: 18-Omar Kaihatsu*.

Cincinnati: 33-Masaji S Toki.

French Camp: 20-Hiroshi Shinmoto.

Fresno: 25-Dr Hideki Shimada, 26-Dr Otto H Suda.

Hollywood: 4-Raymond Chee*.

Japan: 5-George I Nakamura*.

Marina: 19-Dr Roy T Ozawa.

Omaha: 18-Fern Watanabe, 19-Harry G Watanbe, 10-Albert W Noble.

Placer County: 16-R E Metzker.

Sacramento: 25-George Hamai, 29-Kanji Nishijima.

Salinas Valley: 29-Frank K Hibino.

San Diego: 30-Dr Shigeru Hara.

San Francisco: 27-Henri Takahashi.

Seattle: 29-Richard K Murakami, 23-Dr Roland S Kumasaka.

Stockton: 23-Roy S Nakashima, 11-T Ted Yoneda.

Twin Cities: 29-Dr Gladys I Stone, 28-George M Yoshino.

Venice-Culver: 32-Mary E Wakamatsu.

Ventura County: 29-Willis Hirata.

Washington, DC: 6-Michio Nakajima.

West Valley: 17-Dr Seiji Shiba.

CENTURY CLUB*

7-Omar Kaihatsu (Chi), 4-Raymond Chee (Hol), 1-George I Nakamura (Ty).

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People

Business

Peter E. Hosokawa was promoted from vice president to senior vice president of the United Bank of Denver, Colorado's largest financial institution. A graduate of the Univ. of Denver, Hosokawa previously was an officer in the First National Bank in Portland, Ore., and the Union Bank in Sacramento and San Francisco.

Religion

National headquarters of the Buddhist Churches of America has announced the appointment of Rev. Shinshi Ohseki as resident minister to the Seabrook Buddhist Church in New Jersey. He replaces Rev. Yasufumi Sato, who has been assigned to the Hongwanji Mexico Missionary Project.

Education

Seventy-four high school seniors in Hawaii are semifinalists in the 30th annual National Merit Scholarship program. They will be among 15,000 nationwide competing for some 5,500 awards in 1985. Nikkei students include Tracy M. Na-

kama, Garret T. Okamoto, Timothy Oshima, Castle High; Nona R. Asato, Cheryl Y. Hayashi, Takahiko Kimura, Kyle K.S. Okimoto, John S. Sasaki, Cynthia Y. Shimoda, Claire Taise, Michael A. Tottori, Iolani School; Sharon Ko, Kailua; Richard H. Kodama, Janice K. Soneda, Sean R. Wakayama, Kalani; Betty Lou Watanabe, Kapaa; Keith M. Miyake, Kauai; Robert T. Nakatsugi, McKinley; Terryjane Nii, Mililani; Greg R. Arakaki, Kyle A. Serikawa, Moanalua; Neil K. Kanehiro, Robert S. Kawashima, John M. Kubodera, Ross H. Wakai, Jon M. Yamashita, Punahou; and Kanji Takahashi, Waiakae.

A father (Yoshimi Shibata, 68) and his son (Michael, 28) received college degrees together last June at UC-Davis's college of agriculture and environmental sciences. The elder Shibata had enrolled at UC-Berkeley in '35, transferred to Ohio State in '38, and returned to Berkeley for business courses and managed the Mount Eden Nursery, which his father had started in 1916. He was short a few credits when his father died in 1947 and, with his brothers, took over management of the family enterprise. When the younger Shibata re-enrolled last fall to complete his studies, Yoshimi remembered his lifelong dream for his B.A. degree and successfully accomplished his mission.



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Moriguchi given honor

SEATTLE — City officials and business leaders honored International District businessman Tomio Moriguchi for his contribution to cultural understanding and international trade.

Moriguchi is president and manager of Uwajimaya, an Asian food and specialty products business founded by his father. He was cited by Seattle city councilwoman Dolores Sibonga for his work in establishing business exchanges with the Pacific Rim.

The Oct. 3 reception was hosted by the Washington Asian American Elected Officials, Boeing Co., Northwest Airlines, Pacific Northwest Bell, Seattle-First National Bank, Touche Ross and Co., and Uwajimaya, Inc.

Moriguchi is a past national



Tomio Moriguchi

JACL treasurer and currently serves on the endowment fund committee.

State legislator expresses education concerns

HONOLULU—Hawaii's educational system not only needs dollars to improve, it also needs to be restructured.

That's the view of state Rep. Ken Kiyabu, head of the House Finance Committee, who recently met with newsmen to discuss his concerns about public education.

Among the suggestions Kiyabu had was for the governor to appoint a superintendent of education, reassign resource teachers to decrease class size, and emphasize vocational education which can tie in academics. "If a student wants to fix that carburetor, he has to realize he's got to

know how to read the manual," Kiyabu said.

"It's my 10th year in office and we haven't seen much change" in the public school system. He and Rep. Robert Bunda, a committee member who also attended, added that one of the biggest worries is that many parents aren't concerned about their child's education.

"Many principals and instructors sometimes get tired and frustrated with day-to-day problems," Kiyabu said. "Those who are found to excel in their field should be rewarded."

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Unique Adventures in Brazil

Next year's convention of the Pan-American Nikkei Assn., will be held in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

By Misao Sakamoto

The hotels we stayed in Brazil served various brands of yogurt. Among these was the "Yakult" brand. I became fascinated by this name. I later learned of its origin as I became acquainted with Yoshikawa-san, the local Yakult representative.

His office closed for one day due to the workers' strike. He invited Calvin and me and another friend to visit the Yakult farm. (Others in our group had already left São Paulo.) I was happy to get out of the busy industrial city and see the countryside.

The 5,000-acre Fazenda Yakult, located about 62 miles out of São Paulo, started its operation about 15 years ago. As we rode along, the farms and the green rolling hills reminded me of Northern California. We stopped for refreshment and relaxation at the private resort operated by the management. Here I enjoyed the restful and serene atmosphere alongside a lake.

We rode up a little way and visited the dairy and observed the mechanical milking of the cows. The 2,500 cattle had all been imported from Canada. The veterinarian, who is from Japan, explained the operation of the dairy. He had just returned from Canada where he had gone to purchase more cattle.

Leads to Long Life

The research of Yakult yogurt started before the war. It developed into an international business after World War II. Dr. Minoru Shirota, of Kyoto University, had lived among the natives in the remote part of Russia where healthy people lived to be over 100 years of age. Through his research he concluded that their health and longevity were due to their diet, especially to their consumption of yogurt.

The bacteria in Yakult yogurt is alleged to be more effective than that in other brands in combating stomach cancer. Dr. Shirota's research studies attracted many foreign doc-

tors to Japan specializing in stomach ailments.

The Yakult enterprise has expanded outside Japan to Mexico, the Philippines, Thailand, Hong Kong, Singapore, Korea and South America.

In Brazil this company also turned to farming to resolve the economic restrictions placed by the government; profits from investments could not be taken out of the country. It re-invested its resources in additional land and in developing farm labor employment for the natives. Now the large supply of apples, coming from the colder area in southern São Paulo, has replaced apples previously imported from Argentina. We saw these large red apples bearing the "Yakult" brand when we stopped at a nursery-fruit market enroute to the fazenda (farm).

Japanese Produce

Japanese are teaching the natives to raise strawberries. They also brought persimmon seeds from Japan and these fruits are now readily available as are the tropical fruits papayas, guavas and pineapples. The papayas in Brazil tasted much better than those in

Hawaii.

Those who are familiar with baseball might be interested in knowing that the Yakult Swallows from Japan who play against the Yomiuri Giants do their training in Yuma, Arizona.

We stopped at a produce market on our way back to São Paulo. Here they were mostly Japanese. It was late in the afternoon and many huge trucks were coming into the city to unload their produce. We wandered about the large market which was divided into many sections. I was impressed with the quality of the corn, broccoli, eggplants, celery and other vegetables.

Many young men and women were setting up the market for the next day's business. I tried to converse with a young Japanese couple. I noticed their blank expression. Feeling frustrated I asked, "Nihongo wakarimasu ka? Do you understand Japanese?" They merely shrugged their shoulders. (Sorry me no speak Portuguese!)

Many Japanese raise flowers and strawberries outside of São Paulo. They are known for their well-maintained farms. From some Japanese I heard the smug expression, "If

you see flowers grown in straight rows, then you know they are Japanese. But if the rows are crooked, then you know they are other nationalities." Such a statement was usually followed with laughter.

In 1979 when Calvin and I took a Caribbean cruise we became friendly with a couple who had lived in Brazil for many years. The man was the photo-journalist for LIFE Magazine.

"Amazon Valley was a wild jungle," he told us. "The Indians and Europeans couldn't do anything with it. It took the Japanese to cultivate the land. Today the best fruits and vegetables come from this area. The Japanese worked hard and they are the best farmers in Brazil."

The early immigrants worked under harsh conditions in the Brazilian jungle cultivating coffee, bananas, and sugar cane. Today their families operate their farms outside São Paulo and have established an excellent reputation for their farm products.

I did not see Toyotas and Datsuns gracing the streets of São Paulo. But I saw Yakult yogurt, Yakult apples and other fresh, tropical fruits gracing the buffet tables in hotels.

Asian role models feted

OAKLAND, Calif.—Asian Community Mental Health Services held its 10th anniversary celebration Oct. 12 at the Berkeley Yacht Club. The program honored people who have made significant contributions to the community and who have served as positive role models in promoting better mental health, among them Bradley Wong, a high school student who protested his school's portrayal of Asians during a "theme day" celebration; Atlee Ham-maker of the San Francisco Giants and Assemblyman Tom Bates.

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Issei in Brazil face difficult old age

SAO PAULO, Brazil—Almost eight decades have passed since the first Japanese emigrated to Brazil and other South American countries. Many of the Japanese emigrants are now experiencing the problems which accompany old age.

Approximately 60,000 of the 800,000 people of Japanese descent living in Brazil are over 60 years old, according to estimates made by the Foreign Ministry and the Japan International Co-operation Agency, and some of the emigrants are more than 80 years old.

The percentage of elderly among the ethnic Japanese populations of Peru and Argentina is roughly the same.

In addition to the illnesses associated with old age, many of the elderly Japanese emigrants suffer from loneliness because they have no surviving relatives, and are unable to speak the language of their adopted country.

When JICA conducted a survey of housing and nursing home facilities for elderly Japanese living in South American, it learned that many of the elderly Japanese were living in miserable conditions.

The three nursing homes for Japanese in Brazil were understaffed and unable to cope with the hundreds of elderly occupants, some of whom were also

suffering from senile dementia and alcoholism.

Despite pleas for assistance, the Foreign Ministry and JICA have not taken any significant steps to remedy the plight of the elderly Japanese living overseas, although workers in the welfare facilities for the aged have been invited to Japan, and financial assistance has been provided to a small number of needy households.

The elderly Japanese emigrants are seeking old age pensions from the Japanese government, and the construction of medical facilities and nursing homes.

However, when the pension issue was brought before the Diet, the Health and Welfare Ministry voiced its opposition, saying, "in principle pensions are to be paid only to those who are residing in Japan."

Noboru Hidaka, the superintendent of a nursing home in Hoya City, is conducting a drive to garner assistance for the elderly Japanese emigrants in coordination with the Sao Paulo Japan-Brazil Relief Association.

"Are the voices of those who are weak and far away never to be heard? [This issue] should be actively addressed by fellow Japanese," says Hidaka.



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