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News in Brief

Comparable pay idea ridiculed by rights leader

WASHINGTON—Expressing his "personal opinion," the chairman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights said Nov. 16 that comparable pay for women was "the looniest idea since Looney Tunes came on the screen."

Comparable pay would give the same salary to persons in jobs that are different but that have "comparable worth": librarians and plumbers, for example, or secretaries and truck drivers.

The rights panel will take up the subject formally in early 1985.

U.S. sues city for bias

SAN FRANCISCO—The U.S. Justice Dept. filed suit against San Francisco Nov. 13, contending that its fire department has pursued "policies and practices that discriminate against black, Hispanic and Asian persons." The suit asks for a court order requiring the department to hire such workers "on an equal basis" with non-Hispanic whites, but does not seek hiring quotas, which the Reagan Administration opposes.

The civilian labor force in San Francisco is 21.7% Asian, 12.7% Black, and 12.3% Hispanic. Among the 1,427 firefighters in 1983, 36 were Asian; 80, Black; and 88, Hispanic.

Man jailed for beating

HOUSTON—A man who beat a Chinese college student to death after a minor automobile accident was sentenced to 5 years in prison Nov. 2. Gary Sidney, 22, was earlier convicted of aggravated assault in the Aug. 23 death of Xining Chen, 28.

When the two men locked their car bumpers in a traffic accident and got out to separate them, Sidney started hitting Chen, leaving when the victim was unconscious.

L.A. may enlarge council

LOS ANGELES—City council members tentatively agreed Nov. 14 to authorize a charter amendment to expand the 15-member body by two seats.

Mayor Tom Bradley and others favor the move to create two districts composed largely of Asian and Latino residents. Councilman Gilbert Lindsay, whose district includes the mostly commercial Little Tokyo area, was the most vigorous foe of the proposal.

Monterey Park officials still rankled by Asian-gang stories

by J.K. Yamamoto

LOS ANGELES—Monterey Park city councilwoman and former mayor Lily Lee Chen said she was disturbed by last month's news reports that her city is in the middle of an Asian gang war.

Testifying before the President's Commission on Organized Crime in New York Oct. 23, Monterey Park Police Chief Jon Elder had said that Asian gangs "are struggling for control of the lucrative criminal enterprises in the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Valley, including gambling, illegal alien smuggling, extortion, protection and narcotics distribution rackets." More than 38% of the city's population is Asian.

"While I can control street crime, I can't control the racketeering-type crime... If we don't address this problem strongly, Asian organized crime will end up being the No. 1 organized crime

problem in North America within the next five years," Elder warned.

Testimonies regarding the activities of Chinese, Japanese and Vietnamese gangs in the U.S. made headlines across the country. The headline for an L.A. Times article about Elder's testimony read, "Asian Crime War Rages in L.A. Suburb."

Chen, who last year became the nation's first Chinese American woman mayor, said Nov. 17 that she took such reports "very personally."

"We're working so long and so hard to try to make our city even a better place to live. We are achieving racial harmony. The Asian Americans are contributing to the economic vitality of our city. Young children are in the schools and doing well." She complained that the media focuses on "negative dramatization" such as the crime hearings rather than posi-

tive developments in the Asian community.

Chen was about to leave for San Antonio, Texas to make a presentation on behalf of Monterey Park, which is one of the finalists for the All American City Award. She feared that questions about gangs awaited her in Texas as well.

Expertise Needed

According to Chen, Elder was asked to testify because Monterey Park's police force, one-third of which is Asian American, had developed expertise in dealing with crime in the Asian community. "What he indicated to the commission was the fact that it does take a specialized group of personnel to deal with this problem, and that California... does have a large, new Asian population—they face problems, just like any other emerging group—and that the state of California really is in need of support beyond the local level to

deal with this problem.

"He certainly did not say that the problem only happens in Monterey Park... and it was very unfortunate that his statement was taken out of context," said Chen. "... Why do we have to be singled out? Simply because some problem exists, all of the law-abiding, contributing Asian American citizens have to become the victims of the situation."

Monterey Park Mayor David Alamada, Chamber of Commerce president Gregory Tse, and other city officials have also gone on record as calling the reports "misleading," "exaggerated" and "outrageous."

Testifiers at the New York hearings linked criminal activities in the U.S. with the Chinese Triads of Taiwan and Hong Kong, the Yakuza of Japan, the influx of Vietnamese immigrants and the traffic in narcotics from Southeast Asia.

James Harmon, the commission's executive director, said the gangs have created "enclaves of terror" in various Asian communities. "For the residents and businessmen of these enclaves, being an American means something different than it does for you

Continued on Page 2

Nikkei in West succeed in bids for state, local seats

Following is a continuation of election reports of interest to Asian Americans.

Two city council races in California ended in defeat for one Nikkei and victory for another. In Santa Ana's Ward 5, Harry Yamamoto lost to Daniel Griset, 15,445 to 20,069. Among the three elected to the Guadalupe city council was Saburo Watanabe with 400 votes. The other two, incumbents A.D. Julian and F.T. Almaguer, received 433 and 284 respectively.

In Colorado, a retired Nisei farmer was elected commissioner of District 3 in Weld County. Democrat Frank Yamaguchi unseated Republican incumbent John T. Martin 6,541 to 6,474 even though the area is predominantly Republican. The Oregon-born Yamaguchi was farming in California's Orange County at the time of the WW2 evacuation. He moved to Weld County from the Poston, Ariz. internment camp in 1943 and now lives near Platteville.

Both of Hawaii's incumbent congressmen easily swept aside their opponents. Cecil Heftel (D-1st) garnered 114,884 votes to Republican Will Beard's 20,608 while Daniel Akaka (D-2nd) beat Republican A.D. Shipley, 112,377 to 20,000.

On the Big Island, winners included Richard Matsuura in the state senate race for the 2nd district; in the state house elections, Harvey Tajiri in the 2nd district and Dwight Takamine in the 4th; Jon Ono, who was automatically reelected as county prosecutor;

and Russell Kokubun, Merle Lai, Lorraine Jitchaku and Stephen Yamashiro on the nine-member county council. All are Democrats.

In the Kauai state house race for the 51st district, Democrat R. Kawakami was unopposed. In the county mayoral election, Democratic incumbent Tony Kunimura bested Republican Eddie Sarita, 10,241 to 8,118. Among the seven Democrats elected to the county council, former councilwoman JoAnn Yukimura was at the top of the list with 13,062 votes. Also elected were Norman Akita and incumbents Jesse Fukushima and Ronald Kouchi.

On Maui, Democrats who faced no opposition included Mamoru

Yamasaki (state senate, 4th district), Herbert Honda (state house, 8th district), and Charles Ota (county council, E. Maui). Some of the contested council seats were won by Bob Nakasone (At-large), Wayne Nishiki and Elizabeth Liu (Central Maui), and Goro Hokama (Lanai).

On Oahu, Democratic challenger Erick Moon was soundly defeated by Republican incumbent Charles Marsland for the position of Honolulu prosecutor, 57,943 to 157,437.

Winners in the state senate races include: Ann Kobayashi (R-14th), Richard Wong (D-20th), Norm Mizuguchi (D-21st), and Patsy

Continued on Page 4

Uno overcomes obstacles in win

SALT LAKE CITY—As a result of the Nov. 6 election, Judge Raymond S. Uno made Utah history by becoming the first circuit court judge to unseat an incumbent district court judge, the first minority to be elected or appointed to a district court, and the last person to gain a judgeship in a contested election.

He is the last because voters also approved Proposition 3, which dictates that incumbent judges will run for retention on the basis of their records rather than against challengers.

Uno, a 5th Circuit Court judge since 1978, narrowly defeated incumbent 3rd District Judge Ernest Baldwin, 113,048 to 107,194, despite two handicaps—running against an incumbent and, unlike his opponent, not being listed as a judge on the ballot.

Uno believed his support came primarily from minority groups and lawyers. Some concern was voiced, however, that Hispanic voters might interpret instructions on the Spanish-language ballots to "Vote for one"—translated as "Vote por uno"—as instructions to vote for the challenger rather than the incumbent.

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Photo by Ron Masamori

EXEMPLARY SERVICE — Tom Masamori of Denver accepts the Minoru Yasui Community Volun-

teer Award from William Walters, former chair of awards committee, on Nov. 10. (Story, page 2.)

Masamori honored for service

DENVER—Tom T. Masamori received the Minoru Yasui Community Volunteer Award for the month of November 1984 at ceremonies held at the Denver Buddhist Church Nov. 10. More than 150 friends, relatives and members of organizations assisted by Masamori attended.

Masamori was recognized for his 40 years of community ser-

vice, which began immediately after his return to the United States in 1944 after service with the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Europe. His family was interned at the Poston WRA camp in 1942.

In Denver, Masamori undertook his life's work in photography. Once forbidden by wartime decree to operate a camera, the Pescadero, Calif., native has donated thousands of prints and hundreds of hours of service to community groups.

He has served in almost all offices of the Nisei Post #185, American Legion, since 1946; he has

assisted and headed various JACL programs, including chairmanship of the Denver Community Scholarship Awards program, which he continues to assist. Other groups benefitting from his service include: the Tri-State Buddhist Church, Japanese Methodist Church, Denver School of Judo, Japanese Assn. of Colorado, Denver Sister Cities International, Colorado Heritage Center, Central Optimists Club, Adult Education Tutorial Program, Muscular Dystrophy Assn., and Easter Seal campaign.

As part of the awards ceremonies, \$2,000 was awarded to organizations designated by Masamori.

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Tinsel town courage described by actor

LOS ANGELES—Sam Waterston is pleased that he was able to portray a lead character in "The Killing Fields," a new movie about the war in Cambodia. And, in an interview with Los Angeles Times reporter Roderick Mann, Waterston had special praise for David Puttnam: "Here was a producer gambling \$18 million on a movie of high purpose without a major star like Paul Newman to carry it. Not only that, but he was using a first-time director and had an Asian as one of the two chief characters in the story. Now that takes guts...."

In the movie Haing S. Ngor, a Cambodian refugee, plays the friend of Waterston's character, a New York Times reporter.

No. 2,318

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Chapters to get \$10 for each new member

SAN FRANCISCO — A one-time only rebate is being offered to JACL chapters for each new member recruited between Nov. 1 and Dec. 31, announced Rose Ochi, vice president for membership. Headquarters will remit \$10 per member, an increase of \$8 over the current rebate.

For purposes of the contest, a new member is defined as anyone who is not a current member.

The National Board approved the end-of-year membership drive at its meeting in October.

GANGS

Continued from Front Page

or me. Extortion, corruption, protection rackets and murder are an accepted fact of everyday life."

New York businessman Edward Tse Chiu Chan and former South Vietnamese prime minister Nguyen Cao Ky (now of Westminster, Calif.) were said to be underworld crime bosses, though no corroborating evidence was produced.

An LAPD detective, George Min, said that Yakuza members used local Japanese Americans as interpreters and guides.

Despite such charges, L.A. area Nikkei seem largely unaffected. A spokesman for the Gardena Police Dept. said that he had received no inquiries about Yakuza activities in that city (except from another newspaper). JACL PSW director John Saito and J.D. Hokoyama of the Ethnic Concerns Committee also had nothing to report.

Letters

Women leaders

I recently attended a Geraldine Ferraro rally and was enthused to see so many women (and some men) and to hear the same statements advocated by JACL's women's concerns committee:

—women are the backbone of many volunteer groups.

—women leaders should not be seen as a threat to men.

—some women want to share the responsibility of leadership.

—most importantly, women want to have a choice—to be a leader or not to be a leader.

Now's the time for action! Chapters will be installing officers for the coming year. Many Nisei women, hopefully, want to take on more responsible positions. Many JACL women sell themselves short because they don't realize the natural abilities they possess. Compared to men, most women are better listeners, more communicative, more social, and more sensitive and, unlike the Sansei women, they have contacts—an invaluable asset in a volunteer organization. One of the goals of younger women is to establish support networks. Many JACL women already have that informal network through years and years of social contact.

YOU WOMEN OUT THERE! You can make a difference in the organization. Think about running

for a JACL office, be it at the chapter, district or national level. We can make a difference, if we try!

SANDI KAWASAKI
Monterey Park, CA

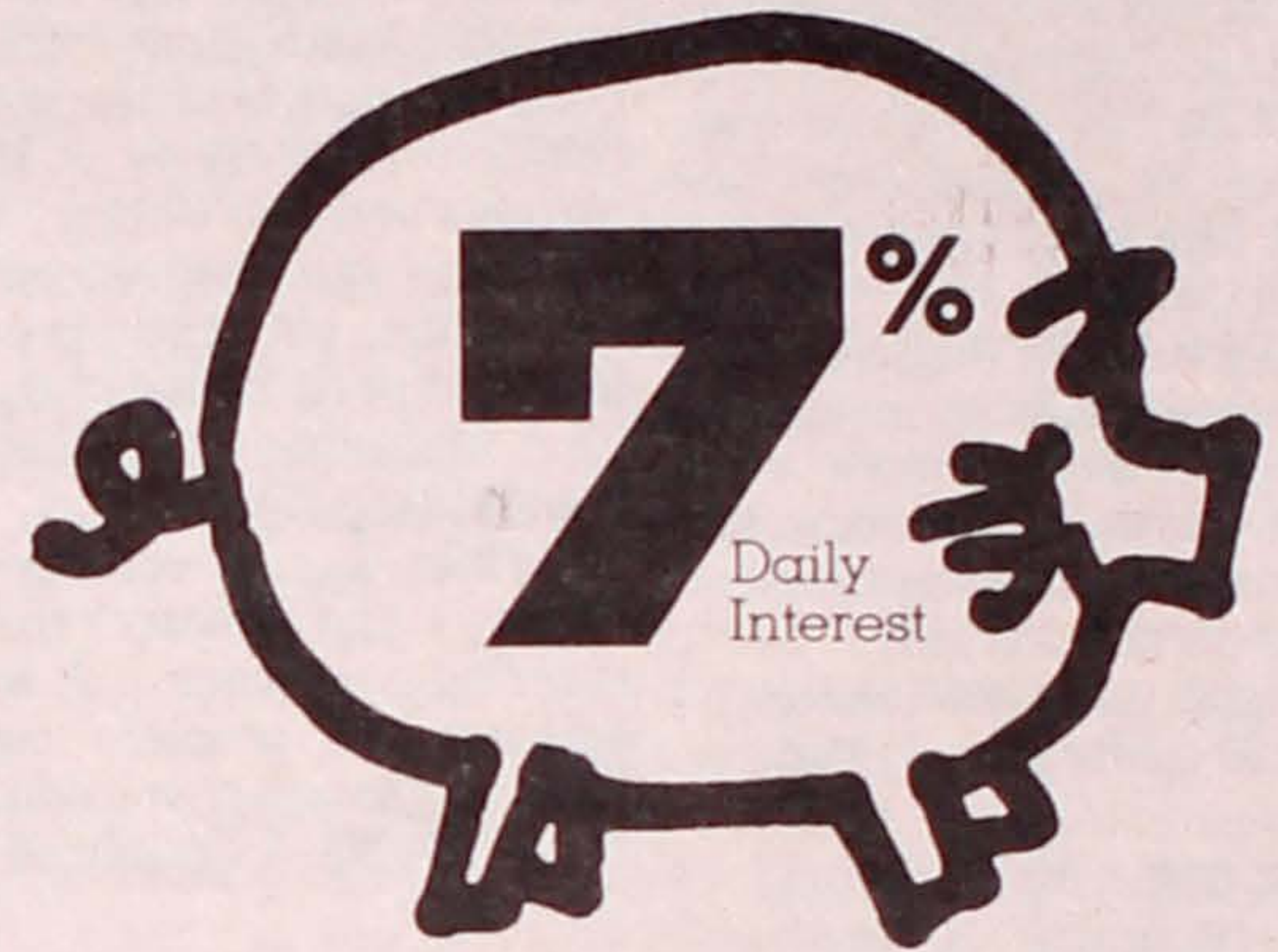
A welcome move

That JACL is finally and officially supporting the NCJAR suit is welcomed even though the latter is regrettably derailed—hopefully temporarily. The delay underscores JACL's "memoire courtoise" (short memory) and inability to learn from the past; it is still the middle-of-the-road body with like mind. However, it is equally regrettable that NCJAR could not "proselyte" JACL earlier. Was it a struggle of bureaucracies, timing, money, or personalities?

Isn't it time for NCJAR to reconsider enabling legislation? A senate bill (sponsored by a single senator or more) could overcome the statute of limitation ruling invoked in the suit. (See *Dr. Beatrice Braude v. U.S.*, Jan. 1980, her suit against the government was eventually brought 27 years after her dismissal for alleged security reasons.) Moreover, the recent federal district court decisions (Hirabayashi and Korematsu) tacitly waived the statute of limitations.

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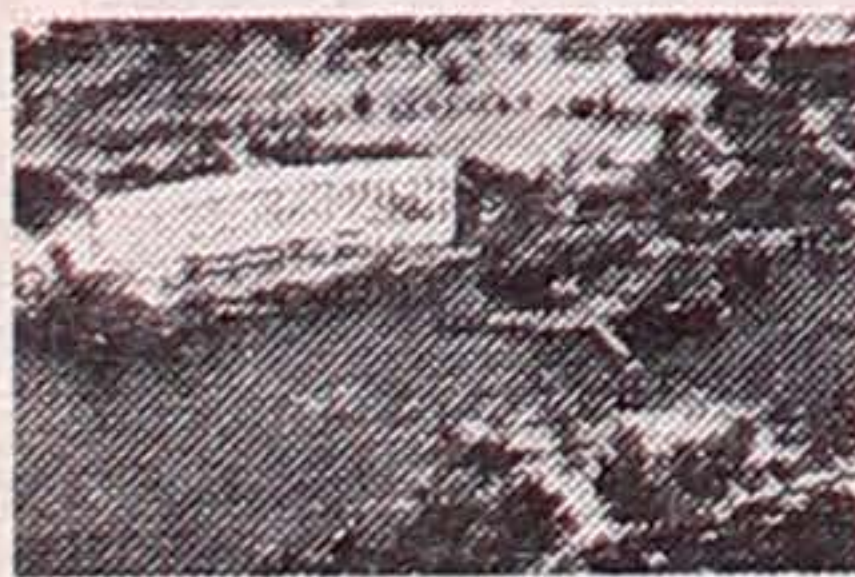
KAUAI RESORT,
Kauai - From \$51



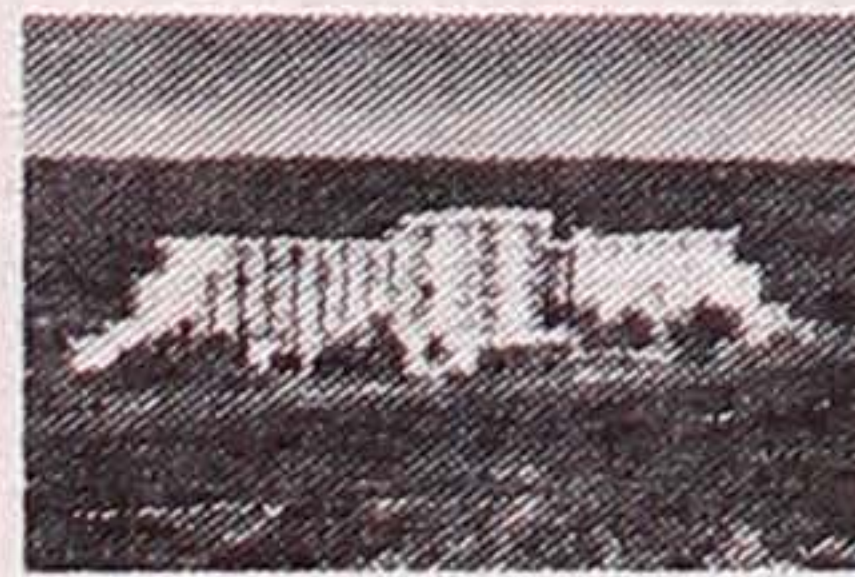
MAUI BEACH,
Kahului, Maui - From \$45



MAUI PALMS
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Senior home is pet project

Kibei philanthropist feted

LOS ANGELES—Described as by one admirer as a businessman, fisherman, world traveler and genuine philanthropist, Fred Isamu Wada was honored by over 1,200 at a testimonial banquet Nov. 14 at the Bonaventure Hotel. Proceeds from the \$100-per-plate affair go to the Japanese Retirement Home, one of Wada's pet projects.

Although Wada told the audience that "one needs failures to understand success," a review of the 77-year-old Kibei's career showed a string of successes seemingly unbroken by failure.

The son of a fisherman from Wakayama-ken, Wada was born in Bellingham, Wash. and spent part of his childhood in Japan. Returning to the U.S. at age 12, he moved with his father from Seattle to Terminal Island in California and worked at a produce stand, eventually earning enough money to open a stand of his own.

Beginning with a \$300 investment, he was able to start three thriving produce markets in Oakland at the age of 22. He organized independent market owners by forming the East Bay Food Dealers

Assn.

By the time war with Japan broke out, he was married and had three children. Before the mass internment of West Coast Nikkei, he leased land in rural Utah and invited 25 families to participate in a communal farming operation. The colony disbanded at war's end and Wada returned to Los Angeles with a family that now included a fourth child.

Starting from scratch, he re-established himself in the produce business and soon had a chain of 17 stores with the main supermarket, known as Farmer Fred's, in Huntington Park.

Wada was instrumental in bringing a team of Japanese swimmers to Southern California in 1949. They were the first Japanese athletes to enter an international competition since the end of WW2. Wada also had a role in making Tokyo the site of the 1964 Olympics. Most recently, he served on the L.A. Olympic Organizing Committee.

While promoting Japan's bid for the '64 Olympics in Sao Paulo, Brazil in 1959, Wada took note of efforts in the Brazilian Nikkei

community to establish specialized housing and medical care for the elderly. From then on he was dedicated to providing similar facilities for Nikkei seniors in the U.S.

He became involved with the Nikkei-run City View Hospital in L.A. and spearheaded the campaign to purchase land for and construct the Keiro Home in 1969 and to acquire a building for Minami Keiro in 1973. He was also

the driving force in fundraising and negotiations that led to the purchase of the Jewish Home for the Aged for \$1 million in 1975. Now called the Japanese Retirement Home, the Boyle Heights senior citizen facility is undergoing a \$6.5 million expansion.

\$25 Million Donated

At the dinner, Wada expressed pride in the contributions made by Nikkei to City View, the Keiro Homes and JRH, which have a combined value of \$25 million. "The older folks will be able to live the rest of their lives in comfort," he said.

Also addressing the gathering were Japanese Consul General Yoshifumi Matsuda, who was to leave the next day for reassignment in Tokyo; Tom Maruyama, who has worked with Wada in the produce business for 50 years; and Sidney Kronental, a Wada associate of 40 years in the world Olympic movement. Presentations were made by Kenji Ito for the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Koshiro Torii for the Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Southern California, and John Fu-

Vintage photos of NW grace 1985 calendar

SEATTLE—To help raise funds for a major photo exhibit of pre-war life in the Pacific Northwest (see Nov. 2 PC), the local organizing committee has published a 1985 calendar with sepia-toned copies of some of the photographs to be shown. The calendar may be purchased for \$4.50 (includes postage and handling) from Hideo Hoshide, 6969 Seward Park Ave. S., Seattle, WA 98118; (206)725-6906.

September's photo, circa 1917 (left), shows Shoichiro Katsuno and his uncle, Hakuichi Ito, driving a Mack truck loaded with produce to take to Pike Place Market.



Community Affairs

LOS ANGELES — Univ. of So. California presents a seminar on ethnicity and ethnic organization, Thursday, Dec. 13, 4:30 p.m., in Rm. 317 of the Annenberg School of Communications. Dr. Andrei Simic discusses "Ethnic Formal Organization and the Nature of Hyphenated Ethnicity." Dr. James Yu focuses on the Korean community; Dr. Marie Weil on the Vietnamese community. Admission is free. Informal discussions follow over dinner at the USC Faculty Center. Information: 743-3331.

East West Players announces that the season's first play in progress, Karen Yamashita's "Hiroshima Tropical," is performed Sunday, Nov. 25, at 2 p.m., and Monday, Nov. 26, at 8 p.m. The play is set in the Brazilian rain forests of the 1970s. Audiences are invited to a discussion after each performance. Tickets are \$5.50. Information: 660-0366.

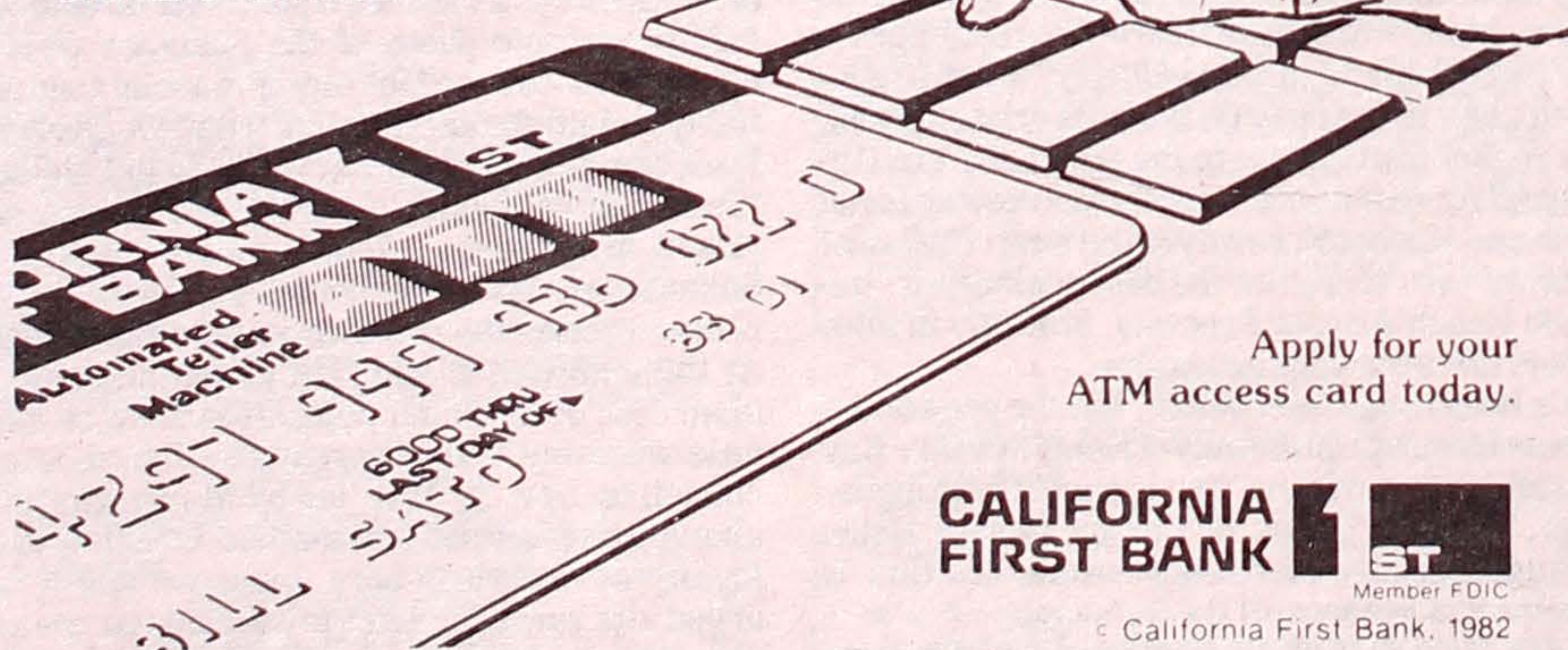
SAN FRANCISCO—SoundSeen, a performance art group featuring musicians Mark Izu and Lewis Jordan and dancers Sachiko Nakamura and Brenda Aoki, presents "The Land of Ooz and Oz" Nov. 29, 30, and Dec. 1, 8:30 p.m., at the Gumption Theatre, 1563 Page St. Tickets are \$6 in advance, \$7 at the door. Information: 647-9343, 824-3308.

OAKLAND, Calif.—A benefit screening of *Unfinished Business*, Steven Okazaki's film about Gordon Hirabayashi, Minoru Yasui and Fred Korematsu, takes place Saturday, Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m., at the Lake Park United Methodist Church, 281 Santa Clara Ave. Guest speakers are Korematsu and attorneys Dale Minami and Don Tamaki. Proceeds benefit Committee to Reverse the Japanese American Wartime Cases. Information: 922-8898, 621-2493.

EL CERRITO, Calif.—Berkeley JACL and Berkeley United Methodist Church sponsor a New Year's Eve dance Monday, Dec. 31 at El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Dance music by George Yoshida and his Sentimental Journey combo. Limited ticket sales to Dec. 23 from George Oyama, El Cerrito, 525-5784; Calvin Yamashita, San Leandro, 276-7667; Paul Takata, Berkeley, 525-4277; Ted Iida, Richmond, 234-0881; Shig Furuta, San Francisco, 668-1363; Nobu Kono, S. San Francisco, 756-8193; Terry Yamashita, El Cerrito, 237-1131; Bea Kono, Albany/Berkeley, 527-8141. Tickets are \$17.50 in advance, \$22 at the door (includes o-bento). Proceeds benefit East Bay Japanese for Action.

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One Brief, Shining Moment

EAST WIND

Bill Marutani



STARTING FROM ABOUT fifth grade, along with many other young Nisei boys, parental guidance directed us to attend judo classes where we were drilled two or three times a month in various *nage*'s as well as how to take a fall without being injured. The discipline of the instructors was tough: absolutely no "monkey business." None. Whatever aggressions as may have been pent up inside were quickly dissipated in the grunts and groans of a *shi-ai*. It was far more than learning self-defense; it involved mental discipline—although at that early age, for us it was simply a matter of *iji*. Some labeled it "make-girai."

JUST ABOUT EVERY boy fancies himself as being tough, however one may define that characteristic. Back in youthful

days, it simply meant being able to take it and dish it out. In the intervening years, we learned that it means something quite different in mature years. Whereas a hard-hitting football player might have been looked upon in awe as being tough, we later learned that true toughness was exemplified by the likes of Mohandas K. Gandhi.

But with a lad learning judo, one was tough by the number of competitors that one could best.

I STILL RECALL that among my age contemporaries, there was a hard core of competitors who were extremely difficult to best. To name a few: Frank Doi, Joe Kadoyama, and the Yoshizumi brothers—Ben and Sueo. Throw in the grunts, the *iji*, add *ude*, whatever—these fellows were tough hombres. Win one over any of them and you were on top for a month, until they slammed you ignominiously the next time around.

Our Caucasian classmates, operating under the uncertainty of the mystery of all this ju-ee-jit-oo stuff, played it safe and generally left us alone. I don't recall ever resorting to judo in the schoolyard, or elsewhere for that matter.

Topics for 1985 Tri-District conference set

FRESNO, Calif.—Started in 1973 with each of the three JACL district councils in California-Nevada-Arizona taking turns hosting a weekend series of penetrating workshops during the odd-numbered years, the seventh Tri-District Conference planning committee met Nov. 10 to set the schedule for April 19-21, 1985, at the Fresno Hilton.

Workshops being organized by the district councils are as follows:

- 1—NC-WNPDC: Interracial Family; Aging & Retirement; Chapter Newsletters; 2—PSWDC: Ethnic Concern, Women's Concerns; 3—CCDC: Socio-Political-Economic Impact of the Pacific Rim on California; 4—Special: Greater L.A. Singles program; Young Adult Leadership Development within JACL.

Each district will produce its own workshop papers, line up speakers, panelists, etc. Because of the schedule, workshops will be set concurrently. A mixer will precede on Friday night, lunch will be "as you please."

The Tri-District highlight, leadership development within JACL, has been scheduled to start Satur-

day during conference dinner and continue into the evening.

This workshop, which is being geared to young adult, college graduates and interested JACLers, will cover such topics as: JACL officers, why should I join?, why JACL?, current concerns of Sansei parents, turning over the reins, leadership in other arenas—politics, media, corporate sectors.

Separate district councils convene Sunday morning, followed by a 60-minute chapter newsletter workshop and the wrap-up reports until noon.

Registration fee to include dinner will be \$30. Other details, such as the names of speakers, specific topics, etc., will be announced.

Chairing the breakfast meeting was Tom Shimasaki of Tulare County for the host Central California District Council. Attending were:

- Harry Kajihara and George Nakano, PSWDC; Mollie Fujioka, Bob Ouye, NCWDC; Peggy Liggett, Maude Ishida, Frank Nishio, Fred Hirasuna, CCDC; Ron Wakabayashi, and Harry K. Honda.

'TIS THE SEASON FOR EXPRESSING GRATITUDE... SO...



With one exception.

THE PLACE WAS Camp Robinson, Arkansas. I had just completed my basic infantry training and was awaiting orders. (The unit with which I had trained had been shipped out to help contain the enemy in the Battle of the Bulge.) A contingent of new recruits had just arrived and entered my barracks, empty except for this lone soul lying on his bunk, reading. There's always at least one guy among recruits who has to prove that he's tough. Especially in wartime and particularly

if he happens to be the biggest in the group who sees "a little Jap" who's minding his own business. Big Buster's challenges continued to escalate and there shortly came a point where, much as one would otherwise like, one is not permitted to continue to mind one's own business.

So we took it outside. Big buster or not.

THIS GUY CHARGED, and if thundering footsteps could kill, I was a goner. But as any judo novice knows, use your adversary's momentum to your own

advantage. We applied *tominage*, whereupon a hulk of human beef went up into the air, came crashing down on its back, knocking the breath out of him. We promptly applied a headlock to immobilize this race-baiter. (The peace that we thereafter enjoyed during the remaining brief stay was absolutely divine.)

That was the first, and last, time that we ever applied what we learned in judo. We must confess that at that moment, it was worth all those months that we drilled in the *do-jo*.

ELECTION RESULTS

Continued from Front Page

Young (D-23rd).

Those reelected to the state house include: Joe Leong (D-14th), Bob Nakata (D-15th), Marshall Ige (D-17th), Donna Ikeda (R-21st), Barbara Marumoto (R-23rd), Ken Kiyabu (D-26th), Brian Taniguchi (D-27th), Dave Hagino (D-29th), Mazie Hirono (D-32nd), Dwight Yoshimura (D-36th), Dennis Na-

kasato (D-37th), Donna Kim (D-40th), Tom Okamura (D-41st), Clarice Hashimoto (D-42nd), Mitsuo Shito (D-45th), and Paul Oshiro (D-46th). Keith Kawabata (D) lost to incumbent John Medeiros (R) in the 19th, Jim Shon (D) lost to incumbent Marvin Dang (R) in the 28th, and challenger Michael Liu (R) defeated incum-

bent Byron Baker (D) in the 34th.

In the State Board of Education elections, winners included: Randal Yoshida, Hatsuko Kawahara and Akira Sakima (At-large); Mike Matsuda (Honolulu); Mako Araki (Central Oahu); Ronald Nakano (Leeward Oahu); Meyer Ueoka (Maui County); and Sherwood Hara (Kauai County).

LITTLE TOKYO LIFE (No. 42):

by Harry Honda

Dominguez Hills

A 1918-era U.S. Geological Survey map on Dominguez Hills shows the Gardena Japanese School, precursor of the Gardena JCI, near Avalon and 160th—about three miles east of the JCI today. Of course, Gardena's eastern edge is by Vermont Ave.—one of the longest north-south streets in the county or in the U.S. for that matter. Moneta Gakuen, founded in 1911, was south of Gardena.

Dominguez Hills, basking under a 1984 Olympic aura with its bike stadium on the Cal State campus, was studded with oil wells and refineries. To the south and west, Issei and Nisei tended to their truck farm crops—especially strawberries—and big nurseries. Today, houses occupy the nursery lands and industrial parks have replaced the farms. Many warehouses and offices bear names and logos from Japanese industry, which are located close to the busy boulevards criss-crossing this region from Watts to the north, the Los Angeles River to the east, San Diego Freeway to the south and Harbor Freeway to the west. The latest freeway (and therefore the best engineered: Redondo Beach-Artesia Freeway, State 91) in town makes this area very accessible.

It's been mentioned before, but the prewar Japanese farming community of Bangle (where Kay Tateishi grew up in the '20s) is part of Dominguez Hills. Today it's part of Carson (where Helen Kawagoe is city clerk)—a community that is worth a Sunday spin off the freeways.

JACL held its 1982 national convention in sight of these hills. Gardena is well known for its Japanese American atmosphere (about 20% of its pop-

ulation of 45,000) and achievements (Ken Nakao was voted its first mayor citywide in '72 though he held that office in 1968 when selected in the city council). The spanking new Japanese Cultural Institute has a 70-year history; the elegant Buddhist Church (a tourist attraction today) dates from 1926 (when it was located at 165th and Main); after WW2 some of the major Japan firms (Toyota, Honda, Datsun, etc.) chose the Gardena-Torrance area to set up shop.

ADD TORRANCE—Perusing a new pictorial, "Historic Torrance," by Shanahan-Elliott (Legends Press, Redondo Beach, 1984), there is a list of 26 Japanese surnames from a 1922 directory, a 1927 panoramic photo of the Sakutaro Omatsu berry farm—where Del Amo Financial Center is today, a faithful narrative of what the Torrance Issei-Nisei endured during WW2. John Tateishi's "And Justice for All" is cited; his mother was raised in Torrance; John's father-in-law Paul Shinoda, who had greenhouses on 10 acres in Torrance, recalls his pre-Evacuation frustrations. At the outbreak of war, the co-authors note almost 10% of its 12,000 population were of Japanese ancestry and reported the Torrance city council on Dec. 12, 1941, led by Mayor McGuire, unanimously passed a resolution attesting to the loyalty of American-born Japanese and it was urged the same be read to students in the city schools... Our thanks to Councilman George Nakano for showing us his book and copies of the council minutes.

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A Clear-eyed Look at Aging

FROM THE
FRYING PAN:

Bill
Hosokawa



There aren't very many Issei oldtimers left. Increasing numbers of Nisei are entering retirement and nursing homes and Sansei have reason to be concerned about aging relatives. Aging and retirement problems are as much a part of JACL's program as providing scholarships for students and getting singles together. Those are the facts of life.

For these reasons publication of the English translation of *The Twilight Years*, a novel by Sawako Ariyoshi (Kodansha, \$14.95) is timely. When it was published in 1972 in Japan under the title *Kokotsu no Hito*, it sold a million copies the first year.

The story is set in contemporary Tokyo. The principal characters are Akiko Tachibana, a middle-aged working mother, and her father-in-law, Shigezo.

When Shigezo's wife dies unexpectedly, Akiko and her own family notice Shigezo has become quite senile. They do not know whether the condition was brought about by the death of his wife, or whether she concealed his gradual deterioration.

Akiko's husband refuses to take an active role in caring for his father, and the burden falls on her. Shigezo's body is healthy for his age, but his mind deteriorates steadily. He acts first like a child,

then like a baby. He cries when he is hungry, which is often. He wanders away from home. When he wakes up at night he is unable to find his way to the toilet and Akiko must sleep in the same room with him to take him outdoors. Eventually he becomes incontinent and Akiko must wash him and diaper him.

Physicians are unable to do anything for Shigezo. Tokyo's facilities for caring for the aged, particularly the senile, are totally inadequate. There is no place to send Shigezo; he must be cared for at home, his every need provided for and watched continually so that he does not harm himself or those around him.

Yet, when Shigezo falls ill, Akiko and her family desperately seek to prolong his life. They realize he, and they, would be better off if he died, but obsessed by a feeling of guilt they do everything possible to save him.

Akiko's work in a law office suffers. She feels an obligation to her employers, yet Shigezo's de-

mands place a cruel burden on her time and energy. Shigezo's son is immobilized by fear that he, too, will become senile some day and is of almost no aid to his wife. Akiko's teen-age son, in a thoughtlessly candid moment, says he hopes his parents will not live too long.

In a sense, it is a dreary story of sadness and travail. Yet there is so much of it that is true to life and this makes the book difficult to put down. Sawako Ariyoshi provides no answers; she merely states the problem in a morbidly fascinating fashion.

Despite differences in culture, customs and values, millions of Japanese families, American families, families in the entire industrialized world, face problems similar to that of the Tachibanas'. The problem of what to do with the elderly whose bodies have outlived their minds cries for a solution, and no one has come up with one.

Ariyoshi herself will not pose a problem for her family. Her recent death was attributed to an overdose of sleeping pills on which she had long been dependent.

Liggett elected Central Calif. governor

FRESNO—Peggy Sasashima Liggett, 1st vice-governor, was elected Central California District Council governor at the 35th annual convention held here over the Nov. 10-11 weekend at the Hilton Hotel. She succeeds Maude Ishida of Tulare County JACL, who was CCDC's first woman governor. Liggett, an attorney by profession, hails from the Fresno chapter.

She and her cabinet officers were installed en masse with the 1985 JACL chapter officers by Ron Wakabayashi, national JACL director, at the convention dinner

Sunday. The '85 chapter presidents are:

Gene Tsukamoto, Clovis; Ben Nagatani, Delano; Tom Nagata, Fowler; Ken Yokota, Fresno; Bill Tsuji, Parlier; Curtis Koga*, Reedley; Dallas Kanagawa*, Sanger; Shin Mukai*, Selma; Kay Hada, Tulare County; (* - re-elected).

Central California continues to be the lone JACL district council which convenes annually and swears in its chapter officers en masse. Wakabayashi read off the list of 100-plus Japanese names without a hitch during the swearing-in rites.

Chapter Pulse

Carson

CARSON, Calif.—A family Christmas party will be held Saturday, Dec. 1, at 6:30 p.m., in Dolphin Park, 21201 Water St. Santa will give gifts to children up to 12 years of age.

Members are asked to bring a tree ornament and a dish for potluck supper. Names and ages of children attending should be sent to Ruthie Sakamoto, 438 W. Carson, Carson, CA 90745 as soon as possible.

San Diego

SAN DIEGO, Calif.—This year's installation dinner program includes the honoring of Nikkei who served in the U.S. armed forces from 1941 through 1945. Principal speaker for the evening is Eric Saul, curator of the Sixth Army Museum, San Francisco.

The banquet is on Sunday, Dec. 2, at the Kona Kai Club on Shelter Island. A no-host cocktail hour starts at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20. For reservations, call Mas Hironaka, 230-4174; Yachi Kubota, 238-0334; or Mas Asakawa, 453-2739.

San Mateo

SAN MATEO, Calif.—Tomodachi Senior Women's Club of the San Mateo JACL Community Center presents its second Holiday Boutique on Friday, Nov. 2, 2 p.m. to

8 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 1, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The center is located at 415 S. Claremont St.

Zabuton, crib futon, aprons, and wall hangings decorated with sashiko (hand stitchery), yukata-cloth luncheon sets, tree ornaments, doll clothes and bonsai are some of the items available. Complimentary sushi and wine will be served to holiday shoppers.

Sale proceeds benefit the JACL community center programs.

West Valley

SAN JOSE—On Monday, Nov. 26, the West Valley JACL Senior Club opens its annual Christmas boutique at 1545 Teresita Dr., across from the Westgate Shopping Center. Hours are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays (except Tuesday), and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays.

Such items as futons (for adults and babies), cushions, hand-screened towel and pot-holder sets, T-shirts, aprons, and other Oriental goods will be sold.

The chapter holds its annual Mochi-Tsuki Day on Saturday, Dec. 1 at the Senior Center. Preparations begin at 5 a.m., with actual pounding at 6:30 a.m.

Since most of the seniors are frail, all members between 17 and 70 are encouraged to participate. The finished mochi may be purchased by helpers only.

THE FIVE MINUTE GIFT That Lasts All Year...

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The State of California has permanent full-time, civil service jobs installing, maintaining, and repairing electrical equipment. The salary is good, and the benefits amount to an additional 30% in income. Openings for "Electrician I" are expected with a variety of departments in the COUNTIES of FRESNO, LOS ANGELES, NAPA, ORANGE, RIVERSIDE, SACRAMENTO, SAN BERNARDINO, SAN FRANCISCO, SAN LUIS OBISPO, SANTA CLARA, VENTURA and YOLO.

REQUIREMENTS

Either Apprenticeship Only: Completion of a recognized apprenticeship for an Electrician;

Or Experience Only: Four years of experience on varied types of electrical installation and repair work;

Or Education: Associate degree or Certificate in Electrical Technology; **and Experience:** Two years of experience on varied types of electrical installation and repair work.

HOW TO APPLY

—Pick up a State Application for Examination from any Employment Development Department office. Send your completed application to the address below. It must be POSTMARKED BY NOVEMBER 29, 1984.

—If you are applying under the "Apprenticeship Requirement", you must state on the application the place and date of the completion of your apprenticeship. If you are applying under the "Experience Requirement", you must fully describe the types of work you have performed.

California

State Personnel Board

801 Capitol Mall Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 322-2530
Deaf Device (916) 323-7490

Equal Opportunity in Action!

PAINTERS WANTED \$1,929 - \$2,116 Monthly

Men and women wanted for permanent full-time, year-round jobs. Full civil service benefits, which amount to an additional 30% in income. Openings are expected over the next year in the COUNTIES of LOS ANGELES, NAPA, SAN JOAQUIN, SAN LUIS OBISPO, VENTURA and YOLO.

REQUIREMENTS

Either Apprenticeship Only: Completion of a recognized apprenticeship in painting and finishing.

Or Experience Only: Four years of varied experience painting and finishing wood and metal surfaces.

Or Education: Associate of Arts or Certificate of Arts in Painting and Finishing; **and Experience:** Two years of varied experience painting and finishing wood and metal surfaces.

HOW TO APPLY

—If you are applying under the "Apprenticeship Requirement", you must state on the application the place and date of the completion of your apprenticeship. If you are applying under the "Experience Requirement", you must fully describe the types of work you have performed.

—Pick up a State Application for Examination from any Employment Development Department office or phone the State Personnel Board. Your completed application must be POSTMARKED BY NOVEMBER 29, 1984. Mail it to:

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