



# the Pacific Citizen

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Friday, February 15, 1991

## News

### FBI agent sees growing 'paranoia'

An FBI regional agent says he sees a growing "paranoia" over his organization's investigation of Arab Americans, according to a recent Los Angeles Times story.

Lawrence G. Lawler, special agent in charge of the Los Angeles bureau, said that the FBI has only contacted eight Arab American leaders in the area and that he told them the agency would help them in the event of any threats against them.

"I'm confused and I'm a little irritated frankly," Lawler was quoted in the Times. "It concerns me a lot, because I don't want that level of paranoia to be out there over FBI interviews of eight people. It's not deserved, it shouldn't be there, and it concerns me that it continues to be there."

The agent added that all eight contacts with Arab American leaders were completed Jan. 9, a week before the war began in the Gulf. Lawler said that the agency has no future plans to conduct further interviews.

The Times reported that these contacts are separate from an ongoing program to locate Iraqi nationals illegally in this country.

## Short Takes

**CHECK IT OUT** — Sumitomo bank of California recently announced two new checking account plans that offer extra benefits for customers 50 years old or over. Both plans offer unlimited check writing privileges, free personal checks, a specially designed ATM card, bonus interest rates on time deposits, free traveler's and cashiers checks and free money orders.

**SMART IDEA** — UCLA Extension and 35 other community organizations are offering a new Asian Pacific scholarship program that will provide tuition assistance to deserving students who would not otherwise be able to attend extension courses. Information: 213/206-8258.

**SOUP TO SUSHI** — A new edition of the Wesley cookbook has been published by the women of Wesley Methodist Church of San Jose. "Soup to Sushi" features more than 600 recipes, approximately 300 of which are Asian dishes. In addition, a special New Year's section is offered. Cost: \$18 plus \$3 for shipping. Write to Wesley UMW, 566 N. 5th St., San Jose, Calif., 95112.

**LISTEN UP** — The Southern California American Nikkei JACL and the Amerasian League will sponsor a poetry/prose reading featuring Velina Hasu-Houston, Jude Narita, Amy Hill, Joyce Nako, Thelma Seto, Mari Sunaida, Diane Ujiye and Teresa Kay Williams. The free event will be held Tuesday, Feb. 9, at 7 p.m. at the Security Pacific Bank, 2920 Sepulveda Blvd, West Los Angeles. Information: 213/822-1144.

## '92 Bush budget includes redress funds

### Staff reports

**WASHINGTON** — The Bush administration's budget request for fiscal 1992 submitted to Congress recently includes the full \$500 million authorized by law for Japanese American Redress. Fiscal 1992 begins on Oct. 1, 1991.

Grant Ujifusa, JACL-LEC Strategy Chair, said this week that a remote possibility exists that Congress will provide less than \$500 million as the 1992 budget is debated and takes shape.

"But for starters," Ujifusa said, "the Administration language in support of full funding

is very strong." Ujifusa said the budget proposal also calls for full funding in the sum of \$250 million for fiscal 1993 when the Redress program is scheduled to be completed.

The budget proposal includes these paragraphs:

"The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 provides for restitution payments to be made to Japanese Americans who were evacuated or relocated from their homes and interned during World War II. Payments of \$20,000 to each eligible individual will be made from this fund. The Act provides that no more than \$500 million

is to be provided in any year.

"The 1992 level provides for \$500 million. Consistent with section 209 of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Fund are entitlements for the purposes of the Congressional Budget Act. Appropriations to this account are discretionary. However, the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1990, included advance appropriations for 1991, 1992, and 1993, fully funding the entitlement payments. These payments are deemed to be mandatory for

the purposes of budget classification."

Ujifusa said Japanese Americans are indebted to Senator Daniel Inouye for the checks that have been and will continue to be sent to them. Inouye utilized a window of opportunity available in the fall of 1989 to make Redress payments "entitlements" which do not have to go through the complete and often chaotic appropriations process.

Beginning last October, approximately \$500 million have been distributed in individual checks of \$20,000 to the most elderly survivors of the Evacuation experience.



**ON A ROLE**—Actor-writer Lane Nishikawa performs a vignette in his one-man show, "I'm On a Mission From Buddha," playing at the Los Angeles Theatre.

## He's on an acting mission

### Lane Nishikawa on Asian experiences

By **RICHARD SUENAGA**  
Editor

Here he comes again.

Loaded for bare essentials—stage, lighting, just a few props. Armed with more words, thoughts, emotions and scenarios — all about Asian American experiences.

He gave us "Life in the Fast Lane" in the early eighties and now, a decade later, actor-writer Lane Nishikawa continues his odyssey of one-man shows with "I'm On a Mission From Buddha."

Nishikawa, 36, is in Los Angeles performing his production of 18 vignettes or characters gleaned mostly from his past.

It is, Nishikawa says, an extension of "Fast

### One-man show

**TITLE:** "I'm On a Mission from Buddha"

**ACTOR-WRITER:** Lane Nishikawa

**WHERE:** Los Angeles Theatre Center, 514 South Spring St., Los Angeles.

**WHEN:** Current run — Tues., Wed., Thurs., 8 p.m. (\$15); Fri., Sat., 8 p.m. (\$18); Sat., Sun., 2 p.m. (\$16); Sun., 7 p.m. (\$16).

**INFORMATION:** 213/627-5599.

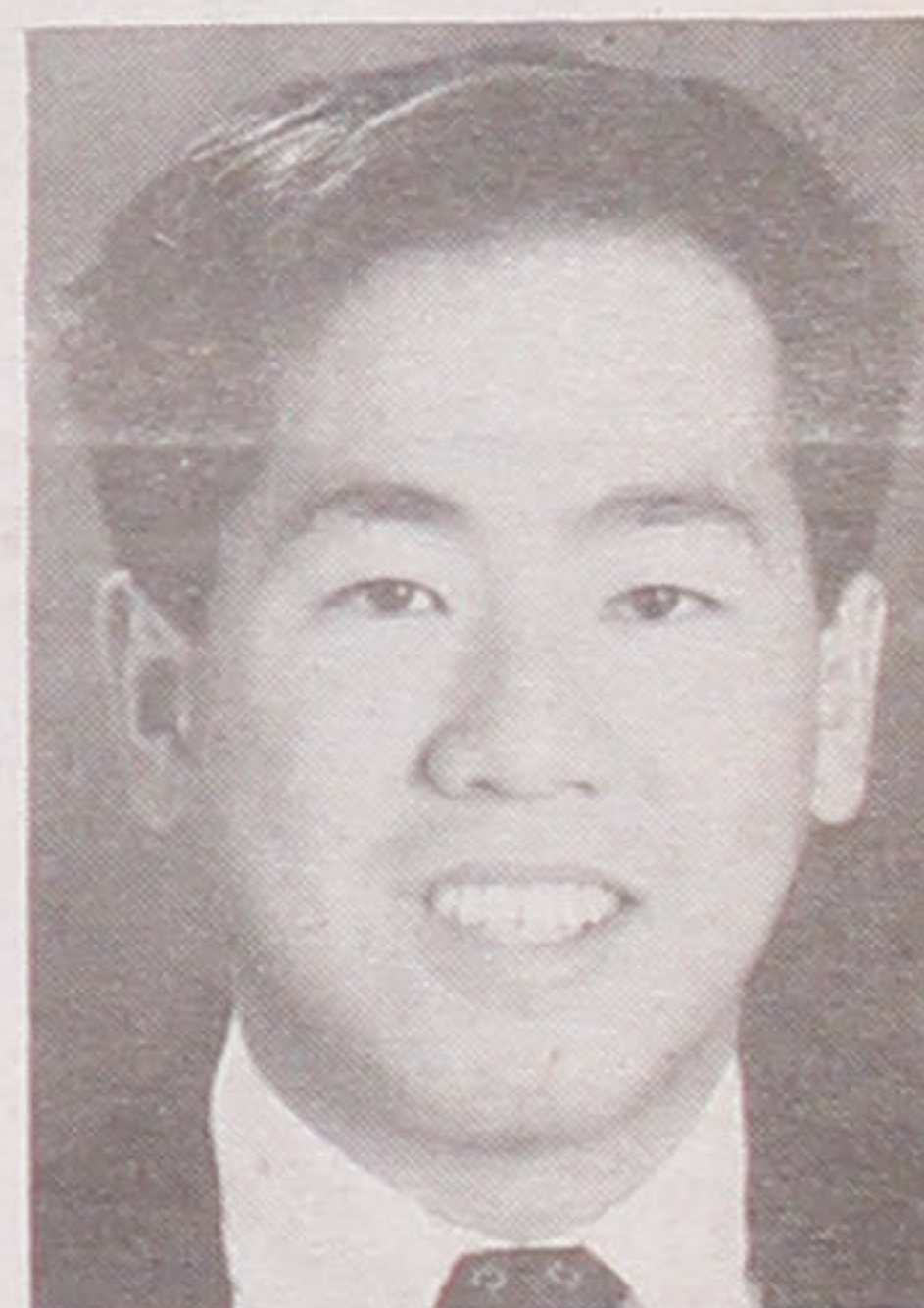
Lane. "This one is a series of characterizations, it's a number of different pieces, insights into Japanese Americans and Asian Americans," he says. "It's what a Japanese American writer goes through, based mostly on my

See **MISSION**/page 7

## California governor names Asian liaison

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.**—Gary Lew, who served as a legislative intern with then-Sen. Pete Wilson at his Los Angeles office and who assisted as the senator's Asian community liaison during his gubernatorial campaign, was recently appointed Gov. Wilson's liaison to the Asian and Pacific Islander communities.

Lew's role will enable him to get and do what he really enjoys doing — meeting people, learning what they think about different issues and offering his assistance on government-related matters, according to chief deputy director Bella Meese of the Governor's Office of Community Relations.



**GARY LEW**

Lew's prospect of success "are even brighter when you consider (his) unique blend of experience," she added. Of Chinese and Japanese ancestry (his Sansei mother was born in an Arizona internment center) who was born and raised in San Fernando Valley, Lee had graduated from Birmingham High, entered UCLA as a pre-med student, but augmented his personal knowledge of Asian culture with language and history courses and thus graduated in political science with an emphasis in international relations and a minor in business administration. His senior paper on the Japanese American internment was to have later pragmatic applications.

Although his understanding of issues affecting California Asian communities increased through each of his work-related experiences, Lew said his "biggest lesson on being Asian" occurred during his two-month solo tour of Europe after graduating from UCLA. "The countries I visited were beautiful but there wasn't really much diversity among the people, and at times this would create uncomfortable situations," he recalled. One uneasy feeling was his being mistaken by a group of French kids in Paris as Michael Chang—the tennis star. "But I sure don't see the resemblance."

## Radio star speaks on treatment of Arab Americans

Radio personality Casey Kasem will talk about the growing concern over treatment of Arab Americans at the National Coalition for Redress and Reparations' Day of Remembrance program. The event is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 17, at the Japan Theatre in Los Angeles.

Kasem, host of his syndicated top 40-style radio program and an Arab American, is actively involved in many causes, including positions

against nuclear arms and efforts to resolve the conflict in the Middle East, according to Guy Aoki, NCRR member.

"We're very excited at being able to include Casey as a part of our program,"



**CASEY KASEM**

Aoki said. "Unbeknownst to many, Casey has been a supporter of our fight to obtain redress, since 1985. Back then, we were thinking or organizing a large concert that would help raise funds to lobby Congress to get HR 442 passed. He and his wife Jean were even willing to forego attending a charity event in Miami in order for him to emcee ours. Unfortunately, the concert never came together."

The Day of Remembrance program is entitled "The Camps and Redress: Educating Our Future Generations." Other persons scheduled to speak or perform at the event include Aiko Herzig, Dan Kwong and members of the San Fernando Valley Mugen Taiko Group. Information: Alan Nishio, 213/985-5148 (days), or Kathy Nishimoto Masaoka, 213/665-5616 (evenings).



# Calendar

## • ARIZONA

**Feb. 23-24**—Matsuri (Festival) will be held at Heritage Square, 6th St. and Monroe, Phoenix, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Info: Joe Allman 942-2832.

**May 5-11**—Japan - Phoenix, Ariz., Conference on Womens Issues, Crescent Hotel, Phoenix. Info and registration packet, contact Global Interactions, Inc., 3332 West Thomas Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85017, tel. 602/272-3438, FAX 602/272-2260.

## • CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

**Present-Mar. 10**—Henry Sugimoto paintings, prints, watercolors, Kings Art Center, 605 No. Dooty St., Hanford, Calif. 12-3 daily, closed Monday.

**Feb. 18-19**—Fresno Assembly Center "Wall of Names" exhibit reception, preview of Memorial Plaque and Garden Area "Wall of Names", E.O. 9066 Day of Remembrance for the 5,000 Japanese Americans from the Central Valley at the Fresno Fairgrounds. Info: Mas Masumoto 209/834-3638; Elisa Kamimoto 209/441-1444.

## • CHICAGO

**Feb. 23**—Asian American Coalition of Chicago and Chinatown Chamber of Commerce, Chinese American Civic Council, Organization of Chinese Americans Host Organizations, 8th Annual Lunar New Year Celebration, 5:30 - 10 p.m. Cocktails, dinner, awards, Hyatt Regency O'Hare, New Grand Ballroom, 9300 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Rosemont, \$350 per table of ten, or \$35 each. Contact Pauline Luke, 312/842-0899, Elaine Louie 312/567-9493.

## • FLORIN

**Mar. 9**—9th Annual Time of Remembrance at Florin Japanese Buddhist Hall, 7235 Pritchard Rd., 7 p.m.

## • LOS ANGELES AREA

**Present-Feb. 16**—The Wash at Mark Taper Forum. Tickets: 213/410-1062 or 714/634-1300. Further info: 213/972-7373.

**Present-Mar. 16**—New works by New York painter Kikuo Saito at Salander-O'Reilly Galleries, Inc., 456 N. Camden Dr., Beverly Hills; Tuesday-Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Feb. 16**—Japanese dance artist Shizumi Manale combines elements of Japanese and

Western dance. Pomona College's Seaver Theatre, 8 p.m. on the Theatre's Main Stage. Admission \$7, general; \$4, students and seniors. Call box office 714/621-8525.

**Mar. 2**—Greater L.A. Singles JACL 9th Annual installation dinner, Sheraton Town House, Regency Room, 2961 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, no-host cocktails 6 p.m., dinner at 7. Cost \$27 before Feb. 25, \$30 after, payable to Greater L.A. Singles JACL, mail to Bea Fujimoto, 1120 S. Dunsmuir Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90010. Info: 213/935-8648.

**Mar. 4-6**—USC School of Business Administration and the U.S. Dept. of Commerce International Business Conference, Davidson Conference Center, USC. Info: John Windler 213/740-8990.

**Mar. 8**—Pacific American Ballet Theatre's First Annual Benefit Swan Ball, Biltmore Hotel Crystal Ballroom, no-host cocktail, dinner, program, dance, 6:30-12 p.m. Info: Norman Arikawa 213/519-3838 or PABT 213/515-3729.

**Mar. 8-9**—UCLA Dance Company presents its 26th annual concert at 8 p.m., Royce Hall. Tickets \$14, (students \$9) at UCLA Ticket Office. Info: 213/825-9261.

**Mar. 16**—Zen Deko, Children's Taiko (ages 7-18) at Japan America Theater. Info: 213/680-3700.

## • NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

**Sept. 27-29**—Tule Lake Pilgrimage, Tour of Tule Lake Campsite, Abalone Hill & Castle Rock Tour Workshops. Memorial Service, cultural program. Info: San Francisco: Julie Hatt 415/221-2608 (eve), East Bay: Stephanie Miyahiro 415/524-2624, San Jose: Tom Izu 408/292-6938, Sacramento: Diane Tomoda 916/443-6917.

## • NEW YORK

**March 1-3**—East Coast Asian Student Union 13th Annual conference, SUNY Binghamton, NY. Info: 607/723-4923.

## • PHILADELPHIA

**Feb. 18**—Lecture by Ronald Takaki, Goodhart Auditorium, Bryn Mawr College, 8 p.m. Reception following in Music Room, Goodhart. Info: 215/526-7350.

## • SALINAS

**Feb. 17**—Day of Remembrance at Salinas Rodeo Grounds; co-sponsored by Gilroy, Watsonville, Salinas Valley, Monterey Peninsula, San Benito County JACL chapters, 1 p.m., Shig Kihara, spkr; refreshments follow at Salinas Buddhist Church.

## • SAN FRANCISCO AREA

**Feb. 16**—NCRR Day of Remembrance, 2-4 p.m., 10th Anniversary of NCRR reception; Dr. Peter Irons, Monadel Hirsals of the Palestine-Arab Club, Sox Kitashima of NCRR, guest speakers, JCCNC, San Francisco.

**Feb. 22-24**—Asian & Pacific Americans in Higher Education conference, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Oakland, CA. Info: Judy Sakaki 415/881-3771.

**Feb. 22-23**—Asian American Writers' Conference at The University of California at Berkeley, Wurster Auditorium College Avenue. Info: 415/643-9921.

**Mar. 3**—Nisei Widowed Group, 2-4 p.m., at the home of Masa Sato. Info: Elsie Uyeda Chung (S.F.) 221-0268, or Yuri Moriwaki (E.B.) 482-3280.

**Mar. 3**—JASEB Crab Feed, Veterans Memorial Hall, 1325 Portland Ave., Albany. Info: Ben Takeshita (415) 235-8182.

**Mar. 9**—No. Calif. Japanese American Senior Centers Shinnenkai luncheon at Mountain View Buddhist Temple. Info: Mae Fujii Foo, Betty Black, 408/294-2505, Kimi Watanabe, 415/343-2793.

## • SAN JOSE

**Present to Apr. 10**—Yu-Ai Kai Japanese American Senior Center free tax help, provided by VITA sponsored by city of San Jose for seniors from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info: 408/294-2505.

**Feb. 17**—Day of Remembrance, annual candlelight procession, 6 p.m. at the San Jose Buddhist Church.

**Mar. 2**—Japanese American Resource Center steak BBQ benefit at San Jose Buddhist Church annex at 5:30. \$20 individual, \$35, pair. Payable to JARC, Mail & Info: Judy Niizawa, 834 Gary Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94086.

**Apr. 14**—Yu-Ai Kai Fashion Show, 12 noon, Red Lion Inn in San Jose. \$35, info: 408/294-2505.

## • SEATTLE

**Feb. 23**—Sale and exhibit of Japanese folk textiles, Honeychurch Antiques, 1008 James St., Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Info: 206/622-1225.

**Oct. 31-Nov. 3**—National Asian Pacific Bar Association national convention, Stouffer-Madison Hotel; theme, "Beyond the Barriers." Info: Sharon Sakamoto, chair, 206/682-9932.

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# Letters

## Wants to know sculptor

Enjoyed the pictures of the dedication of the bust of Minoru Yasui in the Sept. 14 issue of PC. No mention was made, however, of the sculptor. Would you happen to know who the sculptor is? It's a fine likeness of a great American.

CAROLE KAMIYAMA  
Everett, Wash.

*Min Yasui bust was created by Tsuyako (Alice Kaneko), a Denver Nisei who in mid-life changed her profession from beautician to sculptor. Our apologies for this late answer.*

## Give us credit

As a former chairman of the JACL national redress committee (1977-1978) and as a former JACL national president (1978-1980) involved in the campaign for redress for Japanese Americans, I have watched with dismay the JACL attitude that it had an exclusive claim on the successful redress campaign.

As I read the P.C. editorial (12/20/90) I was at first delighted that JACL might be finally acknowledging the other Japanese Amer-

ican organizations and non-Nikkei who also played major roles. This initial hope was soon shattered.

People like Edison Uno, the early Seattle group for redress, the NCRR, the NCJAR, numerous non-Nikkei individuals—they all played a major and crucial roles.

It is disheartening and embarrassing to see JACL attempting to take all the credit and belittling the efforts and contributions made by non-JACLers.

CLIFFORD UYEDA  
San Francisco, Calif.

## Oldest Asian Americans

Mike Masaoka wrote in the Pacific Citizen, January 4-11: "As the oldest . . . of Asian Americans . . ." We are not the oldest of Asian Americans. The Chinese are. They came around the period of the California Gold Rush, which was in 1849; the Japanese didn't start coming till after 1885.

In the same issue, the article headed "Anti-Japanese Hysteria . . ." mentioned that a Chinese American had been beaten to death by laid-off workers who blamed Japan's car industry for their woes. This is the story that seems to have taken on a life of its own, but the articles I read said that Ronald Ebens, the murderer, was not unemployed.

Most Nikkei also believe Ebens

made a remark that Japan's auto industry was causing unemployment, but what he said was something like, "It's because of you people that so many are unemployed." What did he mean by that? Only he knows. But he could have meant that Chinese immigrants were taking away jobs from the native-born people.

What most Nikkei don't know is that Ebens ate at Chinese restaurants, so Chinese were the Asians he saw and was acquainted with. One of the Chinese at the infamous bar told Cable News Network many years ago that he had been called a "Chink" by Ebens, and two newspaper accounts I read stated that Ebens asked passersby to help him find a "Chinaman" when he went looking for Vincent Chin.

But the root cause was never Japan's trade policies but an altercation over the dancers in the bar, and there were obvious racial overtones because Ebens took after Chin but ignored his white companions.

If you've read a lot of information about this incident and dug up the facts, you will find that it's far different from the story that has been circulated by the Nikkei media.

ED SUGURO  
Seattle, Wash.

Information: Barbara Taniguchi,  
209/439-8769.

**City of Phoenix Pacific Rim Advisory Council:** The organization presented one thousand cranes for peace to the people of the state of Arizona recently as a symbol for its wish for peace in the Middle East and a safe return of U.S. troops.

Participating in the project were Rosalind Ong-Onodera, Peggy Matsuishi, Dopris Asano, Helen Hirohata, Kathy Inoshita, Kane Akutagawa, Toby Kubota, Mae Komatsu, Masako Takiguchi, Hatsuko Moriuchi, Marilyn Tang, Joyce Hoffman, Martha Mason-O'Neill, Atsuko Mahr, Gloria Linstead, George Onodera, Thomas Kadomoto and Stephen Cloar.

Yamasaki, scholarship; Fumi Asano, health insurance; kathy Komure, newsletter; and Kimi Morinake, sunshine.

**Fresno Chapter:** A wall of names of Japanese Americans at the Fresno Assembly Center will be exhibited at the Fresno Fairground Feb. 18 and 19, according to Mas Masumoto, project director.

The exhibit, designed by landscape architect Paul Saito and similar to the Vietnam memorial, also acknowledges the historic role the Fresno Fairgrounds played in the evacuation.

In addition, assembly center photographs, artifacts and art will also be presented. A reception is scheduled for Feb. 18 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. as well as a family dinner.

# Agenda

## JACL

**French Camp Chapter:** New officers were recently installed: They are: Dr. Calvin Ota, president; Dean Komure, first vice president; Hideo Morinaka, second vice president; Mits Kagehiro, third vice presidents; Dorothy Ota, recording secretary; Florence Shiromizu, corresponding secretary; Tom Natsuhara, treasurer; Lydia Ota, publicity; Nancy Natsuhara, historian; Mats Murata and Katy Komure, official and alternate delegates. Chairpersons are: Tom Natsuhara, buildings/ground; Hiroshi Shinmoto, 1000 Club; Carl

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## Museum shows Matsunaga memorabilia

By HARRY K. HONDA  
Senior editor

As a proud start-up to the Spark Matsunaga Collection at the Japanese American National Museum, Helene Matsunaga has included the National JACL gold medallion conferred in 1972 upon Senator Spark Matsunaga as "Nisei of the Biennium," a pair of spectacles, a pen stand, a number of plaques, Army medals, photographs and campaign material, which were on display at the reception held Saturday (Feb. 9) at the Los Angeles Hilton Hotel. "There will be more material coming," she assured.

Responding to praises in tribute of the late senator from Sen. Dan Akaka, Sen. Dan Inouye (by letter), Rep. Robert Matsui Rep. Norman Mineta, Henry Y. Ota, JANM board president, and "Mo" Marumoto, reception emcee, Mrs. Matsunaga said, "Spark wanted to be best remembered as a peacemaker." Eldest son Keene Matsunaga (who resides in Southern California) added his father "had no greater joy than to inspire others for the cause of peace and justice."

Each related personal anecdotes also about Spark Matsunaga. Matsui called him the "Renaissance man with the softness of a poet." Mineta cited him as a "visionary leader who inspired public service." Sen. Akaka, who was first appointed and then elected last year to Matsunaga's seat in the Senate, remembered the hundreds of constituents—"the common folks—to feel like public dignitaries for having been invited by Sparky to be his luncheon guest in the Senate [and House] dining room."

Ota presented the museum's first Distinguished Medal of Honor to the late senator for his signifi-



**EXHIBIT**—Planning for the Japanese American National Museum's new facility are, from left, Akemi Kikumura, Sara Tomei, Gene

cant contributions to improve the quality of life among Japanese Americans. The Pasadena silversmith Harry Osaki has been commissioned to design a perpetual trophy.

The reception, chaired by JANM trustee Manabi Hirasaki, was attended by 300 members and guests, who were acknowledging Spark Matsunaga's untiring efforts in securing passage of the 1988 redress bill and his 28 years in Congress—14 in the House and 14 in the Senate.

### Annual Meeting

Elaine Heumann Gurian, deputy director of the Smithsonian American Indian Museum, spoke on the problems and advantages of running an ethnic museum, pointing out that "culture is always changing and expanding." That requires imaginative measures for a museum to portray. It also calls for wide participation and input from the community, she emphasized.

She said the Smithsonian, besides documenting the history and culture of Native Americans, is be-

ginning to loan out its collection for their use.

The museum slide show on the renovation of the old Nishi Hongwanji scheduled to open late this year highlighted the JANM staff presentations at the community meeting prior to the reception.

JANM Director Irene Hirano reviewed the activities of the past year, announced Phase I of raising \$10.2 million is near its goal and the first of the Heritage Film series will be an overview of the Issei to America.

Gene Takeshita, designer of the Issei exhibit, revealed it will be a walk-through landscape distilling the Issei "kimochi"—the intangible spirit—with elements set in a simple manner. He asked the Nisei to relate what they vividly remember the best about the Issei in helping the museum to tell the story.

Past board chair Bruce Kaji pointed to the role of volunteers as he spoke about the President's Council, organized this past year to ensure their effective integration.

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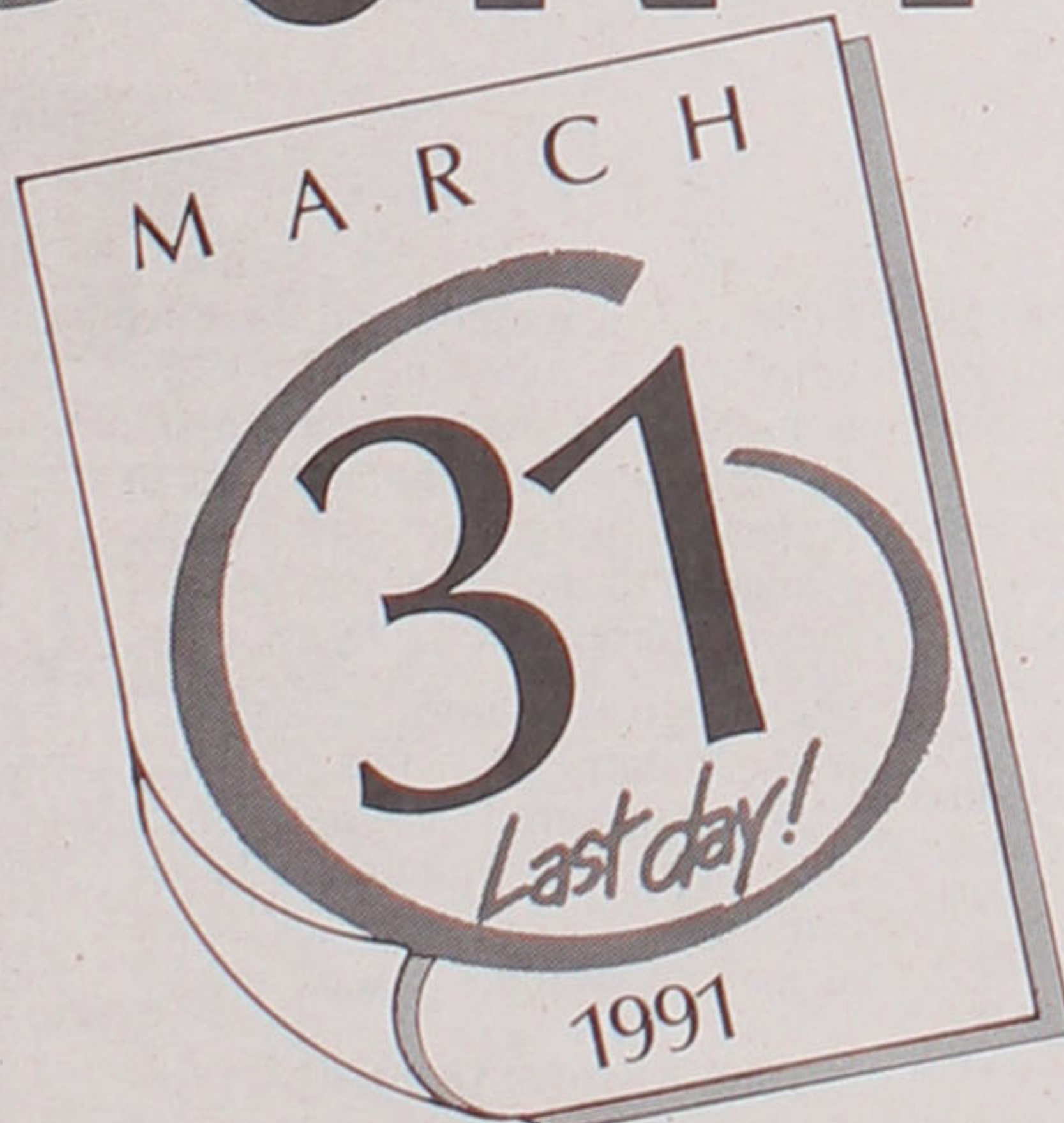
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## EDITORIAL OF THE PACIFIC CITIZEN:

### President Bush and Redress

Approximately two-fifths of Redress payments voted by Congress under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 have been made to Japanese Americans since the three-year-long program got under way last October. A long step was taken toward providing payments to the next two-fifths of those entitled to compensation when the Bush Administration's recent budget request for fiscal 1992 included the full \$500 million authorized for Redress.

This is in striking contrast to the \$20 million in the Bush Administration's first budget request. Why the difference?

Under provisions of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, Redress had to compete with hundreds of other worthy programs for appropriations. Aware of the possibility that Redress payments would not be completed until a large percentage of beneficiaries had passed on, Senator Dan Inouye of Hawaii undertook a successful campaign to make these payments an "entitlement" program to be completed in three years.

While an entitlement is not an iron-clad guarantee, it improves immeasurably the prospects of assured payment. Congress has the power to throw out an entitlement, but seldom does.

The efforts spearheaded by Senator Inouye have spared the community much anxiety as the annual federal budgeting process begins.

### A Change in the Air

There's change in the air and it's blowing this way. Just a quick glance at Pacific Citizen will tell you that. Yes, the look is different, especially on the cover. But beauty (hopefully) and change can be only skin deep. The real difference—even more hopefully—comes in content.

The newspaper's goal as a weekly will be to become more interpretive of the news, to provide insight, depth and further understanding of the issues that affect individuals and members of the Japanese American community as well as Asian-Pacific Islanders.

The Pacific Citizen will also be about people. We'll have names and faces from all over the country. Views, feelings, thoughts.

We care about what you think, about issues, about this publication. The message, then, is to stay in touch. Let us know what's going on in your part of the world. We'll be calling on you, too.

### 45 Years Ago in the Pacific Citizen

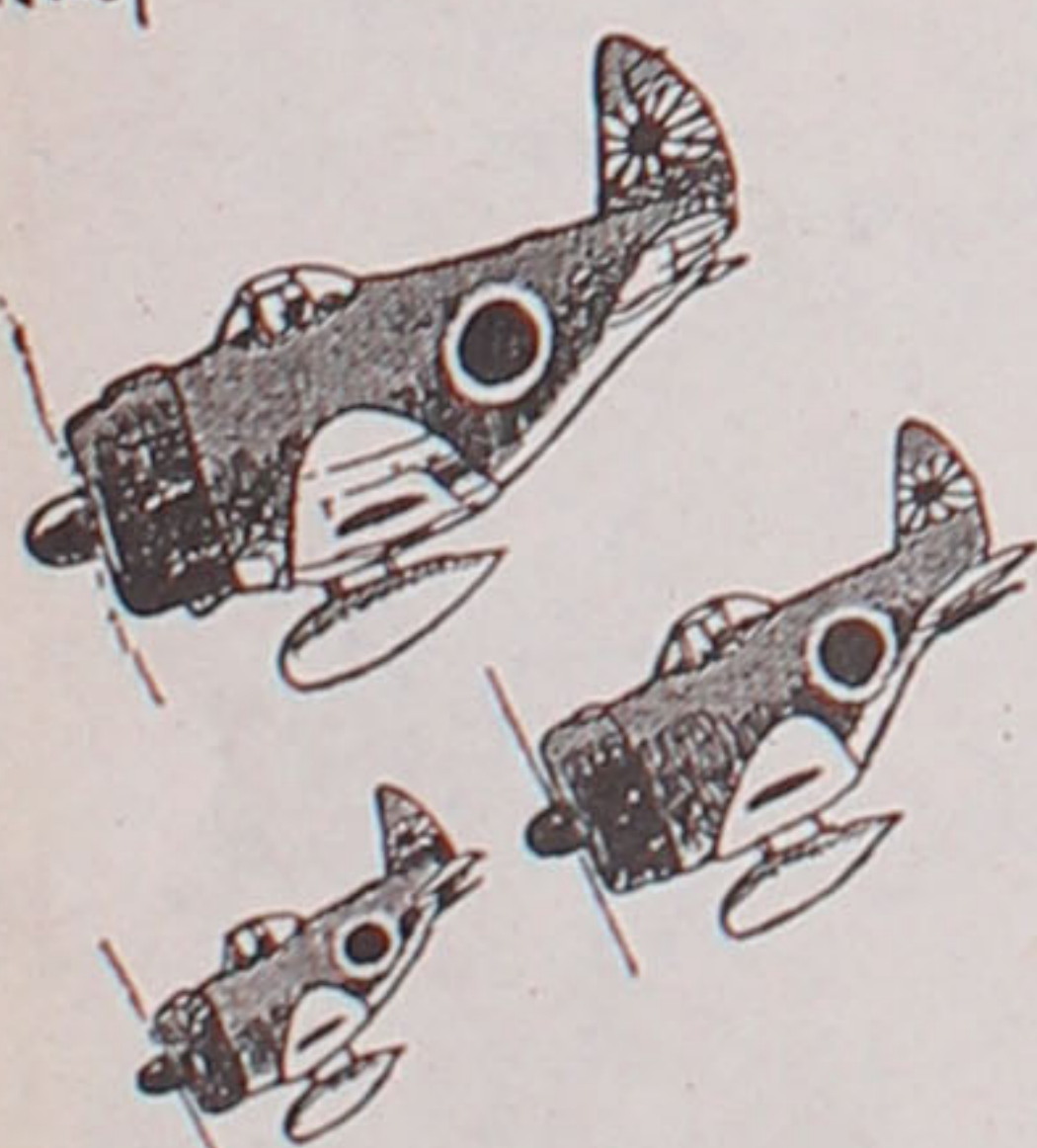
SEATTLE—Approximately 8,000 persons of Japanese ancestry have been repatriated to Japan through the Seattle INS district office according the district director R.P. Bonham.

MINNEAPOLIS—George S. Iwanaga, senior engineering student at the Univ. of Minnesota, was named to Tau Beta Pi, the highest honor in the engineering field.

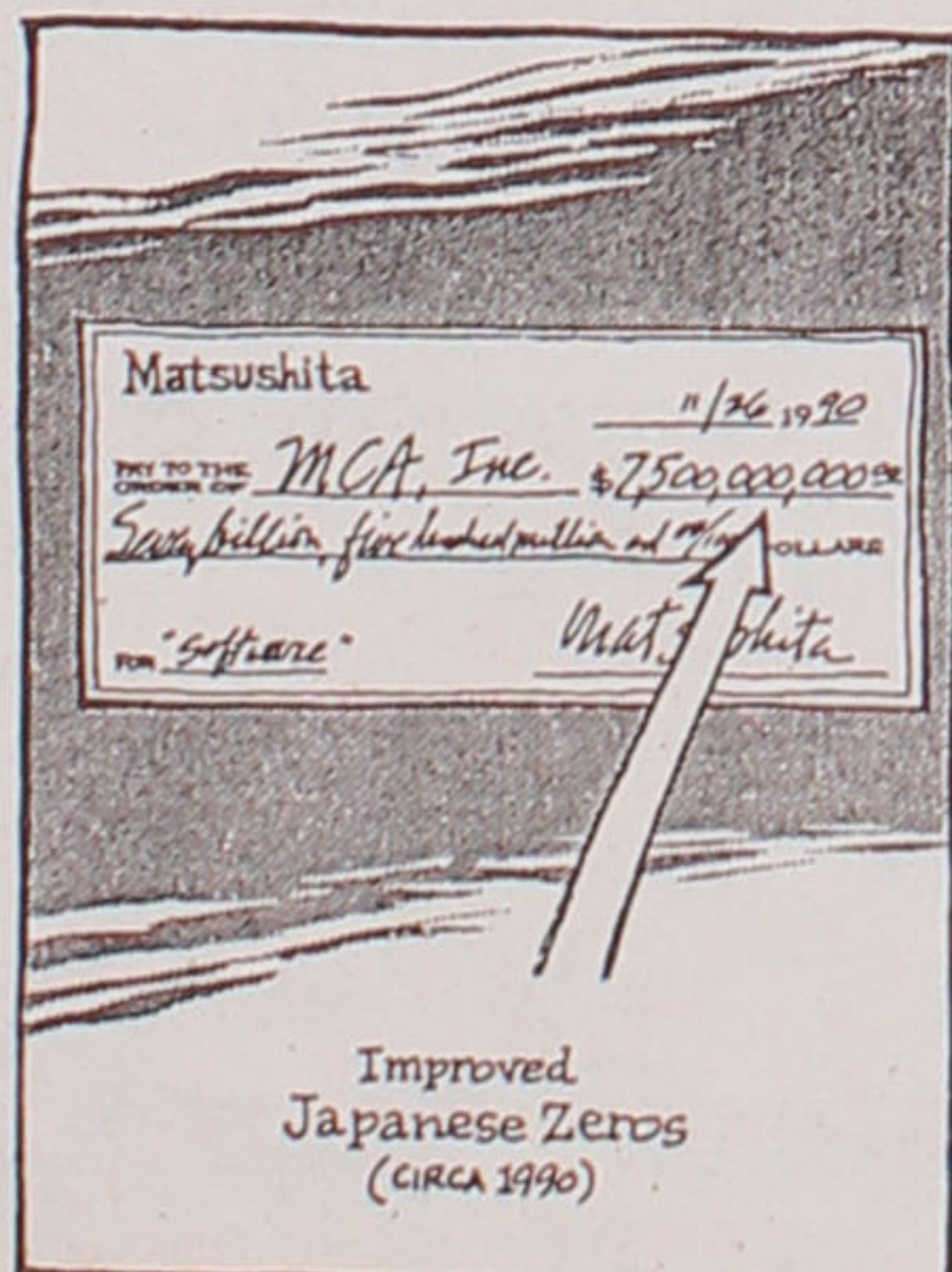
SALT LAKE CITY—Mrs. Alice F. Kasai was a recipient of the Salt Lake City Junior Chamber of Commerce's annual Americanism award "for outstanding individual contributions to community welfare and activities."

## Monitor

WIRELINE

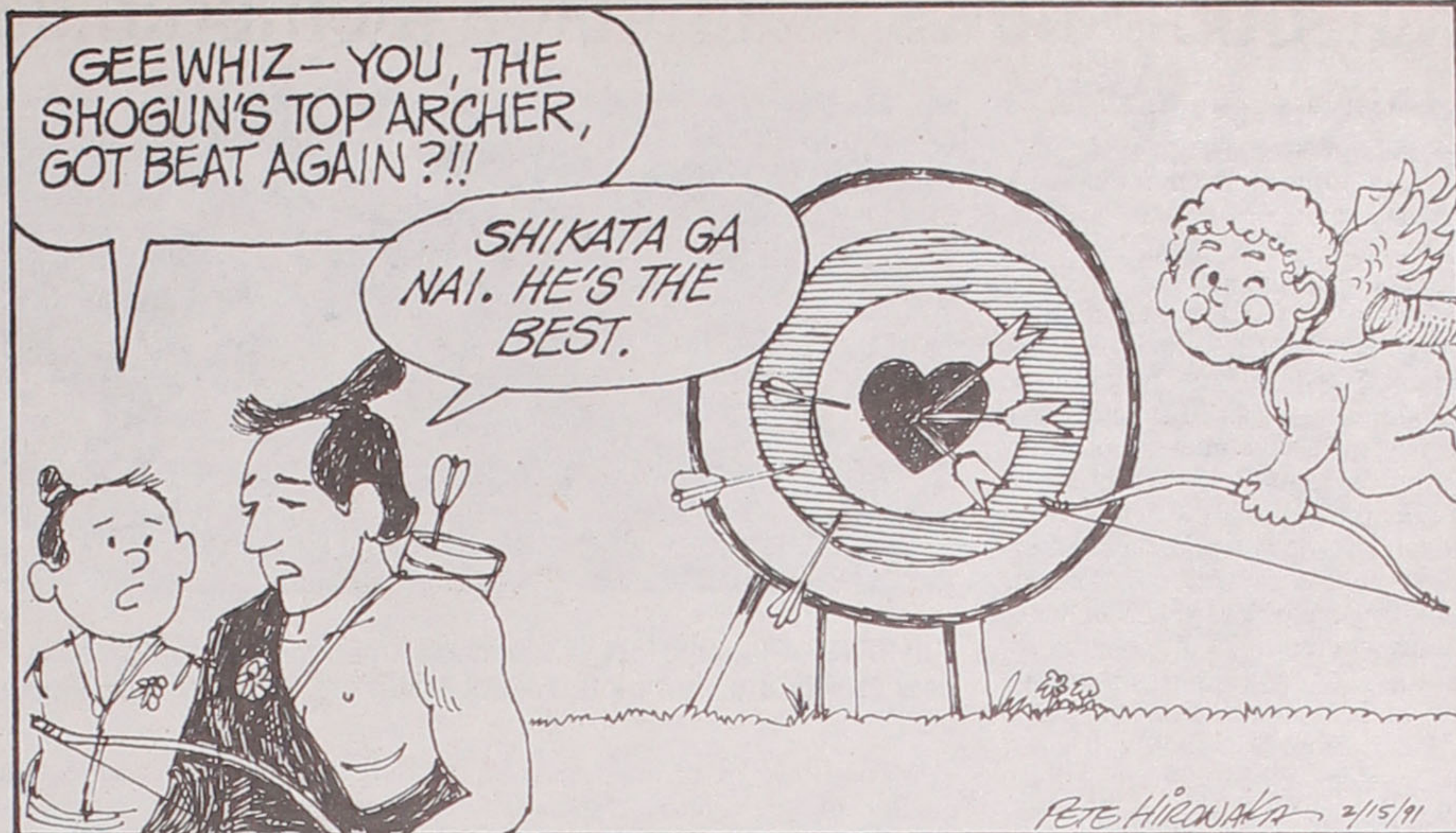


Japanese Zeros  
(circa 1940)



Improved  
Japanese Zeros  
(circa 1990)

Readers wishing to send items to the Monitor should address their submissions to the P.C. Editor.



PETE HIRAWAKA 2/15/91



### FROM THE FRYING PAN

BILL HOSOKAWA

### Items With a U.S. Brand

(BUT A PRODUCT FROM A THIRD WORLD COUNTRY)

After all the pins had been removed from the brand new shirt, I put it on to try it for fit. The girth seemed to be okay, although it seemed to stick out a bit much in front just above the beltline. That's becoming more and more noticeable of late.

But then, when I buttoned the cuffs, I found the sleeves to be an inch or an inch and a half short. My hands protruded uncomfortably. Strange. It couldn't be that my arms had lengthened, could it? I checked the label. It said the sleeve length was 32-33, which has been my size since I quit growing. But the label lied. When I placed the new shirt up against one of my threadbare old shirts, the sleeves were indeed shorter than advertised.

So the new shirt went back to the store. The clerk's reaction indicated he was accustomed to such complaints. He replaced the faulty merchandise without comment.

This time the sleeves were long enough but the collar was a bit too snug. Well, shucks, a fellow can get used to that or even have the button moved a smidgen if it became too uncomfortable.

These shirts bore proud and well-advertised American brand names that had built, deserved reputations for fine tailoring. But now the labels indicated that had been fabricated in some Third World country like Taiwan, Thailand or Indonesia or Jamaica or Bangladesh. I don't remember exactly, where some unskilled sweat shop worker probably was assembling shirts as quickly as possible under a piece-work arrangement.

Wherever these shirts may have been produced, the responsibility for their quality remains with the American firm that sells them under its brand name. It's difficult to understand why the U.S. managers don't comprehend this truth.

Some months ago I bought a pair of shoes bearing a respected American brand name. When I brought them home I found the left shoe had been made in Yugoslavia and its mate for the right foot had been manufactured in Spain or Turkey or somewhere like that. Shoes hardly require high technology for assembly and I suppose it is possible to manufacture the two sides

in different countries and mate them in some neutral warehouse.

Still, such a practice doesn't generate much confidence. Ultimately I took the shoes back for credit when a white stain, like salt, seaped through the leather whenever it became wet. I got no argument from the clerk.

This same sort of disregard for quality seems to be happening to a lot of American products and not just in the area of high technology. When wages climb, the jobs go abroad and quality flees with them.

The Japanese used to be notorious for their shoddy goods, but not any more. In field after field they are setting the standard for high quality, even though more and more of their production is being farmed out to Korea and Southeast Asia.

If they can demand, and get, high quality, why is it that Americans cannot from their overseas suppliers? Shirts and shoes aren't the same as VCRs? Right, which should be all the more reason to expect perfection in no-tech products distributed under American brand names.



### EAST WIND

BILL MARUTANI

### The 'Hanji'

MY UNDERSTANDING is that in the Asian culture, judges (*hanji* in Japanese) are held in high esteem. From my limited exposure to the Japanese legal system, the *hanji* is deemed honest, firm but humane, incorruptible, and if in error, ready to correct his/her oversight. I'd say those are traits worthy of adoption by all judicial systems, including our own. I would, however, add one other factor that I think is important: a sense of humor. Not in the sense of being humorous but, rather, maintaining a balanced perspective.

A RECENT ISSUE of the American Bar Association Journal carried an article that caught my eye; it was entitled "Few Asian-American Judges." Nationally there reportedly are 114 Asian American judges, the overwhelming majority of them being in the two states of California and Hawaii, 46 and 45, respectively. Add to that the six judges for the

State of Washington and the total comes to 97, leaving 17 for the remaining 47 states. Overall, particularly on the mainland, Asian American judgeships are largely relegated to the lower echelons of the judiciary.

Chicago, the third largest city in the country, only this past year acquired its very first Asian American judge, The Honorable James Fujimoto, who assumed the bench as an Immigration Judge.

THE ASIAN AMERICAN national bar group, the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (of which I happen to be a member) is formulating plans to correct the imbalance by working with other minority bar groups, namely the African American and Hispanic lawyers. Although there reportedly are 20,000 African American lawyers and 12,000 Hispanic lawyers, it is reported that there are only 850 African American judges and 90 Hispanic

judges. Accordingly to my calculator, that's a percentage, respectively, of .0425 and .0075.

Perhaps those statistics carry some kind of a message.

IN THIS PART of the country, we have an Asian American as well as a Hispanic judge at the general jurisdiction, trial level. Going back about two decades, exhortations were made to the leadership of the sizeable Puerto Rican community to press for representation not only on the judiciary but also in the legislative branch. I was somewhat anomalous at the time because there was an Asian American judge—but no Hispanic, in any branch of government. But that changed in the past decade or so, and I'm glad to report that Asian Americans sought to support such breakthroughs.

It had been long, long overdue. THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S office (in Philadelphia)

See EAST WIND/page 7



# Obituaries

**Francis Y. Tanaka, DDS**, Burien, Wash., Dec. 30 of leukemia: Family dentist, Seattle-born but grew up in Portland, Ore., where he was a childhood friend of the former Oregon governor Victor Atiyeh, graduated prewar from Portland's Washington High School, interned in Minidoka, resettled in Cleveland where he was drafted, transferred from the 442nd to the MIS and worked with Occupation forces in Japan. He graduated in dentistry from the University of Oregon in 1952, and began practice in Burien and later joined several other doctors to establish the Seahurst Medical and Dental Clinic. He was a Seattle 1000 Club Life member, charter and past president of the Burien Rotary (held a 36-year perfect attendance record), member of professional societies and national dental honorary, and was inducted by the UO Dental School into its Marquam Hill Society "for his dedication to his profession, his patients, his dental school, his community and his fellow man." Surviving are w. Kriss (Kodama), s. John, Rikio (Los Angeles), d. Tania, br. John (Portland).

**Mary T Takemori (nee Morio)**, 78, Midvale, Utah, Jan. 14: Longtime Mt. Olympus JACLer, v.p. membership, retired Veterans Hospital employee at Salt Lake City, Utah-born, survived by 7 gc Rick (Murray), Jeal (Centerville), Alan (Sandy), Bret (San Diego), Kirk (North Wales, Pa.), Travis, Kimm, br. Noboru (Bellevue, Wash.), sios Lily Chiba (Seattle), Michi Mano (Murray), and Sachie Kano (Roy, Utah). Husband Frank S (of Seattle) and s. Fred predeceased her. (She was just installed to the chapter office she held for many years only last Jan. 10. She is remembered as an individual who went the extra mile to help others. She served her community well, regularly performed little acts of kindness, visited with and transported Issei women to social events. Over the years, she was avid bowler, golfer and tennis player. Having lived prewar in Los Angeles, she spent a short time in camp and thus was among the first group of redress check recipients here.—Mt. Olympus JACL)

**Umeko Akiyama**  
Private funeral service for Mrs. Umeko Akiyama, 74-year old Mt. View, Hawaii born, resident of La Mirada who passed away on February 4 at Medical Center of La Mirada after a brief illness, was held on Saturday, February 9 at Fukui Mortuary Chapel with the Bishop Ryosho Kawai of Judo-shu Buddhist Temple officiating. The deceased is survived by her husband, Takeki, two sons, Wilfrid Shiochi (Lan Thi Huynh) and Rodney Mamoru (Lois) Akiyama, daughter, Arlene (Harry) Higa of Hawaii, seven grandchildren. Four sisters-in-law, Toshiko (Jiro) Ota, Tomiye Omon, Nobuko Toyota and Yuriko (Yoshimasa) Sugino, all four of Hawaii. Fukui Mortuary directors.

**Frank Senichi Kamino**  
Funeral services for Mr. Frank Senichi Kamino, Huntington Beach, CA born Nisei and a veteran of the Military Intelligence Service during WWII, who passed away Wednesday, February 6 at St. Johns Hospital, was held on Monday, February 11, at Koyasan Buddhist Temple. Kubota Nikkei Directors. The deceased is survived by his wife Tsuneko, two sons Michael Kiyoshi (Maureen) and Brian Yuji Kamino, a daughter Ms. Mari Frances Kamino, two grandchildren, six brothers Yoshio (Yoko), George (Grace), Tomas Tomie (Miyo), Roy (Nora Noriko), Nobuo (Romelia) and Herbie Takao (Sue Shizue) Izumi and a sister Mrs. Yoriko Teshima of Denver, CO, mother-in-law Mrs. Yai Suzuki of Japan, two brother-in-laws Yukio (Fumiko) and Akio Suzuki both of Japan and two sister-in-laws Mmes. Shigeko (Takashi) Kumasaka and Yoko (Hiroyuki) Tomita both of Japan.

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**Kaku, Akishi, 76**, Lindsay, Dec. 14: Lindsay-born, survived by w. Shizue, s. Richard, d. Dorothy Sato, 2gc, br. Shoji, Haruo, Meiya, sis. Momoyo Kubota.

**Kamikihara, Itsuko, 55**, San Mateo, Jan. 14: Kagoshima-born, survived by s. Yoshiaki, d. Atsuko Watanabe, 3gc, m. Mine Takayoshi (Jpn), br. Tadao, Isao.

**Kawa, Jake S, 72**, Clearfield, Utah, Sept. 8: survived by w. Yukie, children, br. Takejiro (Scottsbluff, Neb.)

**Kawai, Yoshi, 89**, Cupertino, Dec. 25: Marin County, Calif.-born, survived by d. Susie Otagiri, Tazuko Tanaka (Jpn), 2gc.

**Kimoto, John S, 78**, Chicago, Jan. 3 (funeral): survived by w. Lillian, s. Richard, Raymond, 2gc, sis. Takayo Motoyama, Chiyoko Fujioka, Yaeko Kimoto.

**Kimura, Mary, 89**, San Francisco, Dec. 10: Portugal-born, survived by William, d. Emily Ishida, Frances Morioka, 10gc, 10ggc. (Emily Ishida is a longtime staff employee at JACL Headquarters; Frances Morioka is the administrator of the JACL Blue Shield program.)

**Koide, Chiyo, 89**, Chicago, Jan. 3 (funeral): survived by s. Den, d. Toshiko, Ritzuko, Megumi, 5gc.

**Konishi, Marion Y, 74**, Chicago, Dec. 29: Guadalupe, Calif.-born proprietor of Kamehachi Restaurant in Old Town, survived by d. Sharon Perazzoli, Angela Nishi, 3gc, sis. Lily Nerio.

**Kumamoto, Masuzo, 96**, Fresno, Dec. 13: Hiroshima-born naturalized U.S. citizen, survived by w. Hisayo, s. Masuo (Cerritos), d. Kiyoko Shiozaki (Bellflower), in-law Tak Yamaguchi, d. Fusako Kumamoto, 10gc, 12ggc.

**Kuwano, Matsuzo, 94**, Sunnyvale, Dec. 22: Kumamoto-born, survived by s. Hisao, d. Hisako Ishizaka, Fukuko Takeuchi, Tsueko Boas, Mariko Kobayashi, gcs.

**Makishima, Isuyo, 99**, Sacramento, Jan. 3: Yamaguchi-born, survived by s. George, Haruo, d. Dorothy Matsumoto, in-law d. Tsugi, 18gc, 11ggc.

**Mametsuka, Kiyo, 57**, San Francisco, Jan. 3: San Francisco-born, survived by h. Bob Y. Kojimoto, s. Robert, Darryl, and d. Mona Mametsuka, in-law d. Gail Mametsuka.

**Matsumoto, Milton I, 68**, Sacramento, Dec. 8: Isleton-born, survived by br. Fred, Matsuo, sis. Chiyoko Okamoto, Yuki Takahashi.

**Mine, Kiyoko, 64**, Sacramento, Jan. 13: Stockton-born, survived by s. Kazuhide, d. Harumi, Hidemi, br. Isamu, Kaoru, Kiyoshi and Takashi Mizono.

**Miyaoka, Miyako, 86**, Salinas, Dec. 26: Hiroshima-born, survived by s. Tommy, Ben, d. Helen Yoneyama, 8gc, 10ggc.

**Mizote, Ruth Y, 78**, Hanford, Calif., Nov. 15: Okayama-born, survived by s. Walter, d. Louise Dwiggins, Minako Fukuda, 5gc.

**Morita, Masako, 77**, El Cerrito, Jan. 10: Mt. Eden-born, survived by s. Shigeru, d. Chieko Okamoto, 5gc, 1ggc, 7 br & sis.

**Murata, Toshio, 81**, San Francisco, Nov. 13: San Francisco-born, survived by w. Fujiko s. Arthur, br. Yukio, in-laws sis. Louise and Terry Murata, Taeko and Masako Yamamoto, br. Akira Kihara (Jpn), Masayuki Miyamura.

**Hara, Mito, 102**, Orosi, Jan. 8: Kumamoto-born, survived by s. Tadao, Akio, Hiroshi, 12gc, 8ggc.

**Higashino, Yaeko K, 68**, Sacramento, Dec. 10: Rupert, Idaho-born, survived by h. Roy, s. Gary Kawano, d. Gene Harper, Joyce Hamaguchi, 3gc, br. Eyon Kosaku, sis. Matsumi Audick, Harue Endo.

**Nakamoto, Dixie H, 67**, Concord, Calif., Dec. 17: Kona, Hawaii-born, survived by h. Richard, d. Debbie Harmon, Michelle Brush, s. Mark, m. Kimiyo Takahashi (Kona), br. Haruo (San Jose), Tsuneo (Pacifica), Tatsuo (Kona), sis. Gerry Harano (Chicago).

**Nakao, Isao, 90**, Sacramento, Nov. 1: Hawaii-born, survived by s. Johnny, Masami (Jpn), George, d. Misao Hada, Eiko Tabuchi, gc & ggcs.

**Nishi, Yosohachi, 72**, San Jose, Dec. 20 of heart attack: Santa Clara-born.

**Nishijima, Maru, 88**, San Jose, Dec. 8 of heart attack: Kumamoto-born, survived by s. Katsumi Hank, Bill, d. Sybil Bosque, 7gc, 8ggc, 1gggc.

**Yamashiro, Roy, 62**, Highlands Ranch, Colo., Dec. 14: Portland, Ore.-born executive with Federal Express, v.p. human resources development, doctorate from University of Kentucky, survived by w. former Jacqueline Paulson, d. Nancy, Mary Hutchison, br. Harry (South Pasadena), sis. Helen Murao (San Jose).

**Yamashita, Thomas I, 69**, Piedmont, Calif., Dec. 20 in Indianapolis: Oakland-born civil engineer, UC Berkeley graduate and worked with a Chicago-based firm for 31 years, survived by w. Carol Osako, s. John (Indianapolis), Bob, d. Lynn (London), sis. Chizu Togasaki, Iyo Tamaki, Kay (Chicago). [Condolences may be sent to the Thomas Isao Yamashita Memorial Fund, UC Berkeley.]

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## Personally speaking



### DELTA UYENOYAMA

Chairman Mike Antonovich of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors presented a county plaque to **Delta Uyenoyama** for winning the "1990 Circle of Service Award". Uyenoyama who works for the county's Chief Administrative Office received the award from the County Supervisors Association of California for his outstanding efforts in working with the state legislature in reforming the redevelopment law as well as informing and assisting other counties in developing their redevelopment policies.

**Rick Noji** of Seattle won the high jump at the Saskatchewan Indoor Games held in Saskatoon the first weeks of January with a leap of 7 feet, 5 inches.

**Norman Hayashi, 46**, was appointed by Big Island (Hawaii) Mayor Lorraine Inouye to be the new county planning director. For past two decades, he was civil service em-

ployee with the department, his current position being that of chief of the planning division. He grew up in Puna and received his education at the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

**Kei Yamagami**, formerly vice president in design of Gensler & Associates, Architects, announced the establishment of her practice in interior design, space planning, product design, at 305 Grant Ave., Suite S, San Francisco, CA, and in Tokyo, Japan.

**Lynn Kawamoto** was one of 10 people elected as a Cook County (Ill.) Circuit Court associate judge in a recent election. The results were announced by Cook County Chief Judge Harry G. Comerford's office. The 10 elected from among 20 finalists, chosen from an original field of approximately 220 applicants. Kawamoto, expected to be sworn in Feb. 1, will be the first Asian Pacific American to serve on the Cook County bench. She is also believed to be the first Asian Pacific American who will serve on an Illinois bench. Kawamoto has been with the State's Attorney's Office for nearly ten years, where she is currently supervisor of the Juvenile Division. She has tried cases in traffic court, done appellate work, tried misdemeanor cases before bench and jury, worked in the felony review unit as a consultant to the Chicago

Police Department, presented cases at Preliminary Hearing Court and to the Cook County grand jury. She has extensive felony jury and bench trial experiences. Kawamoto was also assigned to the special prosecution unit for gang crimes prosecutions to handle difficult gang-related trials and hate crimes prosecutions.

Hawaii Governor John Waihee reappointed 13 of his current cabinet members but named two new ones: **Sharon Miyashiro**, director of state Department of Personnel Services, and Brig. Gen. Edward Richardson, adjutant general of the new state Department of Defense. Miyashiro previously served as deputy director with the State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. She holds a law degree, a Ph.D., in gerontology and sociology, and taught at the University of Southern California. Other Nikkei cabinet members are **Russel Nagata**, Accounting and General Services; **Yukio Kitagawa**, Agriculture; **Yukio Takemoto**, Budget & Finance; and **Edward Hirata**, Transportation.

**Dorothy Ichiyasu**, U.S. Naginata Federation President, reported an American team and individual members competed with ten countries including Japan, England, France, Sweden, Canada, New Zealand, Belgium, Australia and Holland in the first International Naginata Goodwill Tournament held at the Dudokan in Tokyo, Dec. 9, 1990. Leading the American contingent was **Helen Nakano**, 51, of Torrance, coach/manager, who has

studied and taught Naginata for 24 years and is ranked 5-dan. Her husband is Torrance City Councilman **George Nakano**, a kendo expert.

**Michael Matsukawa**, a Willamette (Ore.) School of Law graduate from Kauai and who specialized in civil matters in Kona, Hawaii, was sworn in as the new corporation counsel on Mayor Lorraine Inouye's cabinet. He is retaining the entire staff of 10 attorneys of his predecessor.

California Attorney General Dan Lungren announced his intention to ap-

point **Robert Mukai, 45**, deputy attorney general in the civil law division, to be Chief Assistant Attorney General in the same division, government section, in Sacramento. His service in the Attorney General's office began in 1972. He has served as a part-time instructor of administrative law at CSU-Sacramento. He also served as a Peace Corps volunteer in India from 1966-1969. Mukai received his bachelor's degree in 1966 from UC Berkeley and graduated in 1972 from the UC Davis School of Law.

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CHANNEL ISLANDS ADVENTURE	APR 19 - 21
GRANDEUR OF RUSSIA TOUR	MAY 18 - JUN 01
CARLSBAD CAVERNS & EL PASO, TX TOUR	MAY 25 - 27
NEW ORLEANS TOUR	MAY 25 - 27
EUROPEAN INTERLUDE TOUR	JUN 10 - 23
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YELLOWSTONE TOUR AUG 31 - SEP 02	
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Nikkei Conference, Tokyo, Wakura Onsen, Kanazawa, Amanohashidate, Tottori, Matsue, Seto Ohashi Bridge.	
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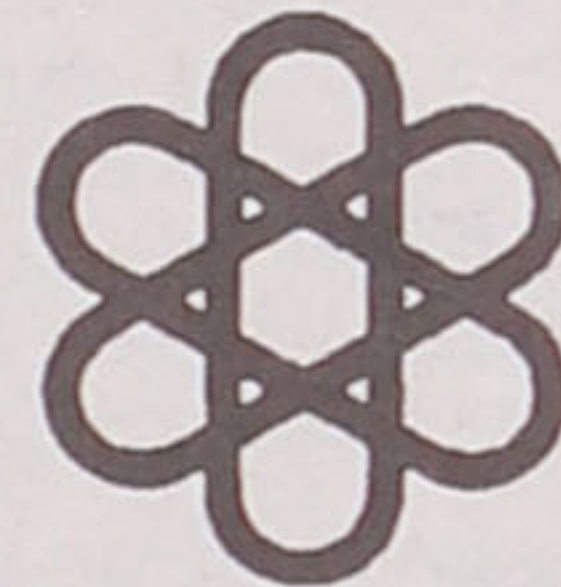
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SALT LAKE-YELLOWSTONE-TETONS-MT. RUSHMORE, Departure June 17, 1991 9 days/8 nights. Visit Park City, Grand Teton National Park, Yellowstone/Old Faithful, Cody/Bighorn Mts., Black Hills/Mt. Rushmore. (Includes 8 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 5 dinners).

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## Book marks

• The cover on the latest San Francisco State University's "FUSION 6: A Japanese American Anthology" (SFSU, Asian American Studies Dept., 1600 Holloway, San Francisco, CA 94132; 98pp, 1990) sports the July 1932 cover of "Reimei," a literary booklet by, for and about the Nisei. Pieces from late Carl Kondo and the late Iwao Kawakami (P.C.'s first editor in San Francisco), Yasuo Sasaki and Seda Shizuo Ito have been reprinted. The contemporary writers being published include Noboru Endow, Dina Harada, James Hiramoto, May Iwahashi, Susan Kitazawa, Manzen, Misao Sakamoto, Daisy Satoda, Diane Tani, Yachiyo Uehara, all from the San Francisco Bay Area, Lynne Kataoka from Central Valley, Margie Kado from Southern California, Calvin Manshio and Ernest Matsunaga in the Midwest and Russell Endo from the East Coast. In a spontaneous song, Daisy Satoda, known to old-time JACLers as Mas Satow's secretary and married to Yone Satoda, remembers her late brother Marshall (1937-1984) who was missed by the Uyeda clan at its first family reunion last summer — "What joy can there be in this reunion /

knowing you will not be there?"

• "KONA ECHO: A Biography of Dr. Harvey Saburo Hayashi" (Pacific Trade Group, 94-527 Puahi St., Waipahu, HI 96797, 109pp, 1990) by Dr. Jiro Nakano, a semi-retired Hilo cardiologist, is his third book. While its general focus is on the Japanese immigrants to Hawaii and centered about the life of the educator-publisher-doctor, Dr. Hayashi (1867-1943), the California connection of the 1890s in the early chapters gives it a rich early U.S. Issei tone. Dr. Hayashi was a graduate of Hahnemann Medical College in San Francisco in 1891. Though licensed to practice in California, he disliked the prejudice and discrimination against Orientals and responded to a call from his San Francisco friend Rev. Jiro Okabe, who had started a church in Hilo. Dr. Hayashi arrived in 1892 to care for "the most disadvantaged people of the day"—the Issei on the coffee farms and sugar plantation on the west side of the Big Island. An endearing last chapter reads like a tribute to his wife, Matsu, (and all Issei women and mothers, we add). She outlived her husband by 34 years and died in 1972 at the age of 95. Married in 1895, she was a dedicated wife and mother of 12 children. Nakano is the author of "Missionary Samurais" and "Behind the Wire," a WWII internee story.

## MISSION

(Continued from page 1)

own life."

"Buddha" has already received support from one cultural corner. KQED, a PBS affiliate in San Francisco, has already adapted the stage production for television audiences.

Nishikawa is not what you'd call an angry young man, but as a writer and actor he is steadfast in his convictions. An alumnus and former artistic director of the Asian American Theatre of San Francisco, he aims his art at many of the Asian stereotypes. "In my performance I try to show what Asian Americans are like. Asians aren't supposed to be funny so I do a stand-up comedian. We're not supposed to have rhythm, so I play a guy who does rap."

On a broader level, Nishikawa is also on a mission to broaden theatrical opportunities for Asian Americans.

"As far as acting goes, we're the same as blacks," Nishikawa says, "but we're also behind the times. They're aware, politically aware. We have Asian pioneers in acting but we don't have much visibility."

For Asian American actors to enter the artistic mainstream, Nishikawa says that independent filmmakers need to take more risks. "Why don't they take a chance and show Asian men with white women, or Asian men with Asian women?"

## EAST WIND

(Continued from page 4)

had never had an Asian American prosecutor. In my earlier years at the bar when I was even more naive, I had applied to the D.A. for a position on his staff. I was asked who my political sponsor was. ("Political who?") Perhaps to some extent it was that early rejection that motivated me, but when my own situation had somewhat improved, I suggested to the D.A. that he might affirmatively search for Asian American prosecutors. To his great credit, he was receptive and he acted. The D.A.'s office has had several Asian Americans on its staff, ethnically: Chinese, Japanese and Korean. In fact, the D.A. did a turnabout and solicited me for referrals.

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THE FEDERAL BENCH is also one of the major areas deserving of focus. On the federal (appellate) circuit court level, there is a Chinese American and a Korean American. I have no doubt whatsoever that there are well-qualified Japanese Americans whose services are being denied to our judicial system, much to its and America's loss.

We'll need to correct all this.

He hopes shows such as "Buddha" will help the situation. "The answer is for our work to be seen by as many people as possible."

While he laments the dearth of roles and opportunities, Nishikawa also points out that Asian American theater has made considerable progress. Fifteen years ago, he says, Asian American theater did not exist. "Now, major theaters are vying for it, like the Mark Taper."

Philosophically, the actor looks out a window and adds, "It'll take more highs and lows. It'll take more Hiroshimas, more plays, more visibility. It'll take more support for people like Wayne Wang and Steve Okazaki."

"Hey, maybe with Japan buying up all the studios, we'll have a chance."

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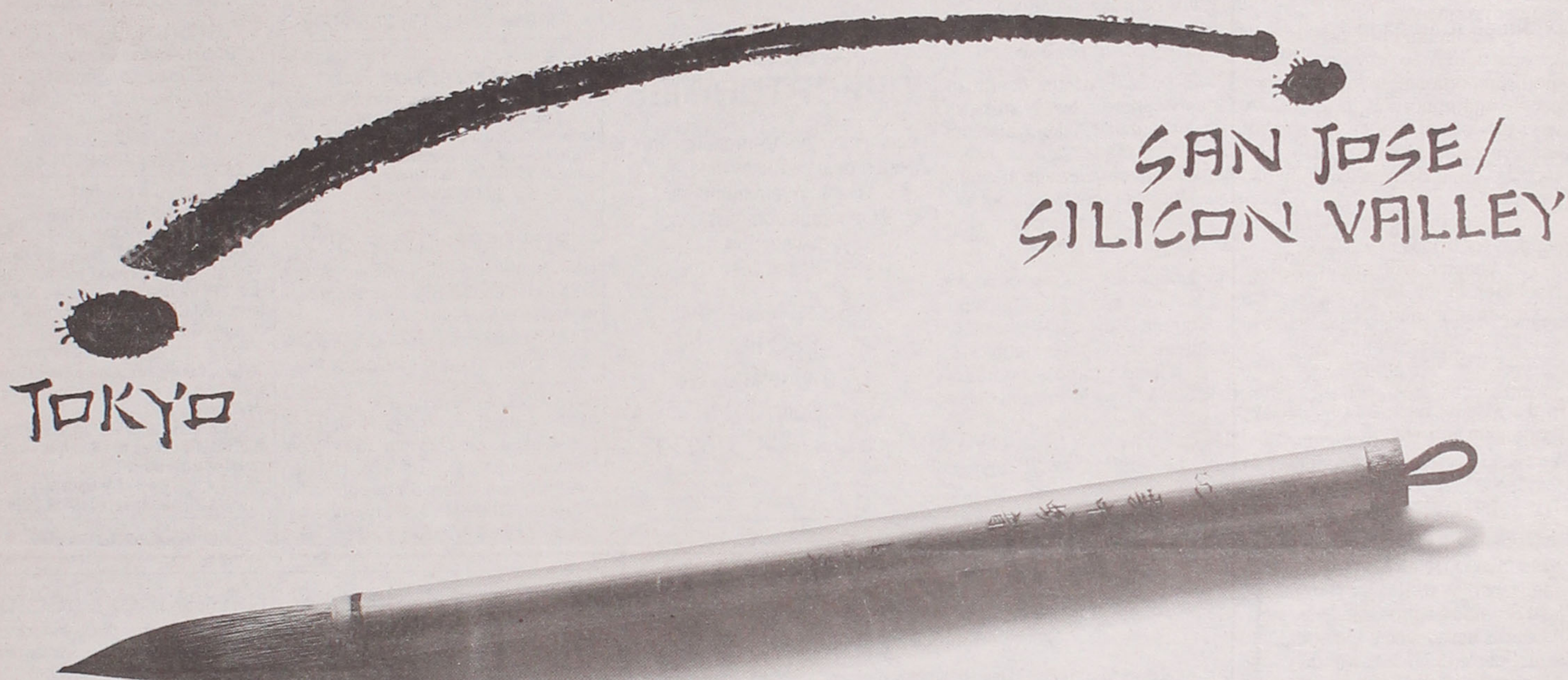
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