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Friday, January 24, 1992

More hate crimes

Asian American businesses hit with racist graffiti

By GWEN MURANAKA
Assistant Editor

LOS ANGELES—Six Asian-owned businesses were spray-painted with racist graffiti during the late night and early morning of Jan. 8-9. The perpetrators spray-painted "F--- Chinese Black Power Love Always R.I.P." on the walls of the Ramco Liquor Mart in South Central Los Angeles. In a reference to the 15-year old Latasha Harlins who was shot and killed by Korean storeowner Soon Ja Du last year, the vandals also wrote on a number of the locations, "Latasha Harlins R.I.P." Other places hit with similar graffiti were Tim's Kitchen, Saki Liquor Store, a Mobil gas station, and HoSoKai Restaurant.

Speaking from Los Angeles Police Chief Daryl Gates' office, Sgt. Howard Yamamoto said, "It appears to be the same people. They were all in the same area. I called 77th precinct and they didn't have any reports of similar incidents. It leads me to believe that it's the same people."

Yamamoto said that there weren't

any robberies or confrontations with the victims. At the Mobil gas station, the perpetrators put garbage in the gas pumps and tried to set them on fire. According to Yamamoto, the Sheriff's Department Arson Squad has been called in to investigate.

The sergeant said that some of the victims had already

See GRAFFITI/page 5

L.A. official wants investigation of beating of Thai woman

LOS ANGELES—In an update on the beating of a Thai woman in Compton who was mistaken for Korean, Supervisor Kenneth Hahn recently announced that the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission will be investigating the attack.

"This senseless act of violence must not be tolerated," said Hahn. "I am pleased that my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved my motion for a thorough investigation of this incident."

The incident occurred Dec. 4 when Kenneth Sadberry and Lewis Harris are alleged to have smashed the windows of the car driven by the 36-year old woman and proceeded to pull her out of the vehicle. An off-duty RTD police officer intervened and both men have been charged and arraigned.

"As elected officials, the Board of Supervisors has to take a leadership role in promoting understanding and cooperation between the African American and Korean communities," said Supervisor Hahn.

Mexican American who was interned dies at 67

LOS ANGELES—The Japanese American community mourned the loss of Ralph Lazo, 67, of North Hollywood who died New Year's day of liver disease. Lazo, a Mexican American, voluntarily went to Manzanar with his Japanese American friends and is believed to be the only non-Japanese person who didn't have a Japanese spouse to enter the camps. He was buried Jan. 7 at Glen Haven Memorial Park in Kagel Canyon, California.

As a teenager, Lazo entered Manzanar on May 16, 1942, where he stayed until 1944. Speaking to the *Pacific Citizen* in 1944, Lazo said, "My Japanese American friends at high school were ordered to evacuate the west coast, so I decided to go along with them. Who can say I haven't got Japanese blood in me?"

Nineteen years old at the time, Lazo added, "I cast my lot with the Japanese Americans because I did not believe that my friends of Japanese ancestry were disloyal to the United States."

In the *Rafu Shimpo*, Sue Kunitomo Embrey, chairwoman of the Manzanar Committee remembered Lazo as a warm and caring friend. "Even though he originally went to Manzanar to be with his friends, he realized the magnitude of what happened, and in later years he spoke before students and teachers groups," said Embrey.

During the World War II, Lazo served in the South Pacific earning a bronze star. Throughout his life, he retained his close ties to the Japanese American community, speaking for redress and contributing funds. Lazo is survived by sons, David, Daniel, daughter Laura Thibodeaux, and sister Virginia Lazo.



TOKESHI
Monitoring situation

PSW gets bomb threat

Woman promises attacks on Day of Remembrance

Staff and JACL reports

LOS ANGELES—The Pacific Southwest District office of JACL received a bomb threat on its answering machine sometime between Jan. 13 and 14 after the office had closed for the evening.

The woman caller said, "I'll show you a year of remembrance you dirty Japs. What we remember is Pearl Harbor. The only good thing George Bush ever did was throw up in the lap of a Jap. Filthy animals. You just watch out for bombs planted around your Day of Remembrance. We'll get you, you dirty pigs."

The caller's threats refers to Day of Remembrance, the 50-year commemoration of the signing of Executive Order 9066. In correlation with the anniversary, there are activities planned in Los Angeles and around the country.

Although more than a dozen racial hate letters have been sent to the office after reparation payments began in 1990, this was the first bomb threat, according to Jimmy Tokeshi, regional director of the Pacific Southwest district.

Sgt. Howard Yamamoto of the Los Angeles Police

Department's Community Relations Division said, "I've notified Central Division of the dates Feb. 15 and 16 (the dates for the Day of Remembrance). The cars in the area and the footpatrol are going to know about it." Yamamoto said that at the moment there were no plans for additional security. "Hopefully, nothing's going to happen. I would say the vast majority of the time these don't pan out. If they're going to do it, they do it and

notify you afterwards," said Yamamoto.

"We strongly condemn these acts of intimidation," stated Dennis Hayashi, national director of the JACL. "We certainly take threats of any kind seriously and are therefore

'Hopefully, nothing's going to happen. I would say the vast majority of the time these don't pan out. If they're going to do it, they do it and notify you afterwards.'

Sgt. Howard Yamamoto
Los Angeles Police Department

working closely with law enforcement officials. At the same time, this will not deter us from continuing our work particularly in the area of hate crimes and public education and advocacy. This is a perfect indication why we must do that," said Hayashi.

Stand up to threats, newscaster says

By HARRY K. HONDA
Editor emeritus

LA MIRADA, Calif. — Tritia Toyota, KCBS-TV anchorperson, was still "on ACTION News" Saturday night (Jan. 18) at the 26th annual Selanoco JACL installation dinner at the Holiday Inn. Toyota



"Let's show up... We need to continue to be vigilant; we must stand together

Tritia Toyota

opened her talk with a commentary on current events that included the bomb threat made on the PSWDC JACL Office telephone answering machine earlier in the week. She anticipated "the L.A. Police Department will treat the threat as a racial hate crime and that the police would initiate full security measures."

As she reread the message that she had broadcast, it was a complete shock to some of the 130 members and guests present.

Despite the threat to plant a bomb at the Day of Remembrance program Feb. 15 at Little Tokyo's JACCC, "let's show up" at the event, she urged. It also means that "we (Asian/Pacific Americans) need to continue to be vigilant; we must stand together that things are tough and it's not going to get better" as she focused on the need to act cohesively in matters of combatting racism.

As for Nielsen ratings, the veteran newscaster said she has yet to find an Asian home with that box, but urged viewers to call in whether they agree or disagree, whether it's good or bad on what they see

See TOYOTA/page 4



PLAYERS—From left, Tom Donaldson, Sab Shimono, and Francois Chau star in "Uncle Tadao."

Play shows another side of internment experience

By GWEN MURANAKA
Assistant editor

In the playwright's notes for R. A. Shiomi's new play *Uncle Tadao*, currently showing in its premiere production at East West Players in Los Angeles, Shiomi recalls sitting at the Redress Commission Hearings in Seattle and seeing, "tears flowing out, as one after another, these proud and stoic Issei and Nisei told

Theater review

See REVIEW/page 3

Japanese Canadians come to life on stage

By GWEN MURANAKA
Assistant editor

Speaking about *Uncle Tadao*, the new play about Japanese Canadians, playwright R. A. Shiomi said, "It (the Japanese Canadian internment experience) is a peculiar mirror for Japanese Americans. It's so similar, but slightly different."

Shiomi, a Japanese Canadian Sansei has been a playwright/screenwriter for 10 years writing such plays as *Rosie's Cafe*, *Play Ball*, and *Yellow Fever*

which won several awards and was produced off-Broadway in New York. His latest, *Uncle Tadao*, currently in production at East West Players in Los Angeles, won the 1990 Ruby Schaar Yoshino Playwriting Award sponsored by JACL and is being shown in correlation with 1992 Day of Remembrance activities and the 50-year commemoration of the signing of Executive Order 9066.

Uncle Tadao was commissioned by the Redress Implementation Committee and is a commentary



SHIOMI

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Assistant Editor: **Gwen Muranaka**

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Calendar

Florida

Delray Beach

Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 22-23, Hatsume festival, presented by Morikamai Museum, dance, crafts, exhibits, 4000 Morikami Park Road, Delray Beach, Fla., 33446. Information: 407/499-2557.

Arizona

Scottsdale

Friday-Saturday, May 15-17, 53rd Infantry Association's 32nd annual reunion, Safari Resort, Scottsdale. Information: Joe Allman, 602/942-2832.

Utah

Salt Lake City

Saturday, March 21, annual meeting of the National JACL Credit Union, 999 South Main, Salt Lake City, 6 p.m., cocktails, dinner, 6:30 p.m. Business meeting and elections. Tickets: \$10, advanced reservations, members; \$12, non-members; \$15 at the door. Information: 801/355-8040; 800/544-8828.

California

San Francisco Area

Sunday, Feb. 2—Nisei Widowed Group monthly meeting, 2-4 p.m. Information: Elsie Uyda Chung, 415/221-0268, or Yuri Moriaki, 510/482-3280.

Saturday, Feb. 29—Crab and Spaghetti feast, Sequoia Chapter,

JACL, 5 to 8 p.m., Palo Alto Buddhist Hall Gym, 2751 Louis Road, Palo Alto. Donation: \$14. Information: Tats Hori, 415/948-6575; Al Nakai, 415/322-6125; Aki Yamamoto, 415/965-0671.

Feb. 1-8, 1992—Asian Skiers Intl. Assn.'s 5th biennial Asian Ski Week at Sun Valley Idaho. Information: Asian Skiers Intl. Assn., P.O. Box 30155, Oakland, CA. 94605 or 1/800/283-2337 voice mail #08941.

Aug. 3-8, 1992—JACL's 32nd Biennial National Convention, "JACL: Solid as the Rockies," Denver. Information: 303/892-6003. San Francisco area

Fresno

Wednesday, Feb. 19, dedication of California State Historical Landmark, Fresno District Fairgrounds. Landmark commemorates Fresno Assembly Center. Program and speakers. Information: Dale Ikeda, 209/226-6484, or Mas Masumoto, 209/834-3648.

Los Angeles

Saturday, Feb. 8—Visions for Keiro Mardi Gras '92, 6 p.m., Sheraton Grande Hotel, 333 South Figueroa St., Los Angeles. Featuring music of June Kuramoto, Mariko Nishizu, Howie Hiyoshida. Tickets: \$50. Information: Margaret Endo, 213/263-5693.

Sunday, Feb. 9—The West L.A. Japanese American Community Center and Senior Citizens will be

PSW meeting date changed

The regular monthly PSW District Board meeting normally held on the first Monday of each month has been changed from Monday, Feb. 3, to Sunday, Feb. 2, at the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center, 244 S. San Pedro St., Los Angeles, 2nd floor conference rooms, 3-5 p.m. Information: 213/626-4471.

holding their 1992 New Year's and Seniors Recognition Party from 2 pm at Japanese Institute of Sawtelle. Donations \$15 per person. Seniors who will be 80 years old or over in 1992 will be honored. Information and reservations: Kobashigawa 310/826-8915. Takayama 310/479-1150. Deadline is Feb. 3 (Monday)

Saturday, Feb. 15—A candlelight memorial tribute to those incarcerated and those who passed away in camp will be held from 5 pm. to 6 pm. at JACCC Plaza. Ceremony will include a procession through Little Tokyo.

Friday-Saturday, Feb. 14-16, 42nd annual Nisei Veterans of Foreign Wars Reunion, Gateway Plaza Holiday Inn, La Mirada, Calif. Business meetings, banquet, service, and recreation. Information: Robert M. Wada, 714/992-5461.

Saturday, Feb. 29—Installation dinner, Japanese American Historical Society of Southern California, 6:30 p.m., Holiday Inn, Torrance Gateway. Reservations: 310/326-0608.

Chicago redress workshop set

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Office of Redress Administration (ORA) will conduct a workshop in Chicago to assist Japanese Americans with their redress cases.

It will be held Wednesday, Feb. 5, at the Japanese American Service Committee, 4427 N. Clark St., Chicago, from 4 to 7 p.m.

Ventura County

Saturday, Feb. 1—Installation dinner, Ventura County Chapter, JACL, Lobster Trap Restaurant, 3605 Peninsula Rd., Channel Island Harbor, CA, 6:30 p.m., \$25 per person. Speaker: Bob Bratt, Office of Redress Administration director.

Reminders

● 53rd Infantry Association, 32nd annual reunion, Friday-Saturday, May 15-17, Safari Resort, Scottsdale, Ariz. Information regarding former members should be given to Joe Allman, 3234 W. Mercer Lane, Phoenix, AZ, 85029-4204; 602/942-2832.

● "Diversity, Representation and Empowerment: Asian American Studies in the 1990s," Association of Asian American Studies Ninth National Conference, Thursday-Sunday, May 28-31, San Jose State University. Proposals for papers, panels, and workshops considered. Information: Wendy L. Ng, 408/924-5594; Steve Fujita, 408/554-6880; Alex Yamato, 408/924-5751.

● Annual Lunar New Year banquet, Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, Thursday, Jan. 30, 6 p.m. cocktails. Tickets: \$75 for members, \$125, \$250, \$350. Information: 212/226-1066.

● Installation dinner, Ventura County Chapter, JACL, Saturday, Feb. 1, Lobster Trap Restaurant, 3605 Peninsula Rd., Channel Island Harbor, Calif., 6:30 p.m. Bob Bratt, Office of Redress Administration director, speaks on redress experiences and latest information on third distribution plan. Tickets: \$25 per person. Information: Janet Kajihara, 805/983-2612, Morris or Cherry Abe, 805/484-1570, or Joanne Nakano, 818/991-0876.

● Exhibits commemorating 50-year anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's signing of Executive Order 9066, and Manzanar photographs by Ansel Adams. Saturday, Feb. 15, through Sunday, March 1, UCLA's Wight Art Gallery, Los Angeles. Hours: Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.;

Information: Janet Kajihara, 805/983-2612, Morris or Cherry Abe, 805/484-1570, or Joanne Nakano, 818/991-0876.

Sacramento

Saturday, Feb. 22—9th Annual Crab Feed, 7235 Pritchard Road, Florin Y.B.A. Hall, \$20 per person, cocktails, 5 p.m. Information: 916/383-1831.

Calendar items must be submitted at least THREE WEEKS in advance of the day of event. Include day or night phone numbers for further information.

Museum seeks volunteers

LOS ANGELES—Volunteers of all ages and skills are sought by the Japanese American National Museum for its opening set for late April or the beginning of May.

Especially needed are Japanese-speaking volunteers who can spend four or five hours telling the public about the unique experiences of the Japanese American community.

Other needs: those who can work with handicrafts, tell Japanese fairy tales, and handle office work, collections, and translation.

"It's a chance to do meaningful and satisfying work and become a valued part of the museum team," said Dorothy Tanaka, director of volunteers. "The museum will contribute to ethnic understanding and cultural diversity in America."

Information: Dorothy Tanaka, 213/625-0414.

Wednesday-Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. Free admission. Information: 310/825-9345.

● Day of Remembrance, 50-year anniversary of Executive Order 9066 sponsored by the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations, 2-4 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 15, Japanese Cultural and Community Center of No. California, 1840 Sutter St., San Francisco. Key-note address: Rep. Norm Mineta, plus Office of Redress Administration speaker. Entertainment and exhibits featured. Information: 415/922-1534.

● Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education conference, Thursday, Feb. 27, through Saturday, Feb. 29, Sheraton Los Angeles Airport Hotel (pre-conference workshop, Wednesday, Feb. 26) Theme: "Strengthening Our Voice." Dinner-recognition ceremony, Friday, Feb. 28, 6:30 p.m., honoring California's six Asian Pacific American chancellors and presidents: Chancellor Chang-Lin Tien, University of California, Berkeley; President Bob Suzuki, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; Chancellor Ronald Kong, San Jose Evergreen Community College District; President Jack Fujimoto, Los Angeles Mission College; President Stan Chin, Los Medanos College; President Evelyn Wong, West Los Angeles College. Workshops featured. Information: 714/564-6141.

● Homecoming '92, National Association of Japanese Canadians, Oct. 9-11, 1992, Hotel Vancouver, 900 West Georgia St., Vancouver, British Columbia. Early registration fee: \$120 until May 31; after, \$145. Information: Tatsuo Kage, 604/681-5222.

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WRITER

(Continued from page 1)

on the redress movement in Canada and how it affects one Japanese Canadian family.

Shiomi said, "Uncle Tadao is a reflection of things I saw in Toronto. In Toronto, there were major kinds of controversies and different ideas of how it (redress) should be implemented. There were times it was quite chaotic."

Jack Tanaka, a character mentioned by *Uncle Tadao* protagonist George was, according to Shiomi, "a composite character of those who wanted to make a quick deal with the government. There were people who wanted to take a token settlement."

Though there are similarities between the Japanese American and Japanese Canadian internment experience, there are also profound difference. According to the book, *Justice In Our Time: The Japanese Canadian Redress Settlement* by Roy Miki and Cassandra Kobayashi, Canadian internees were not allowed to return to the coastal areas until April 1, 1949; while Japanese American began returning to the West Coast by January 1945. Japanese Canadians were not allowed to join the armed forces until January 1945 and then, only as interpreters. In the agreement forged out between the Canadian government and the National Association of Japanese Canadians, individuals were paid a sum of \$21,000; while \$12 million was set aside cultural, education, and social activities and \$12 million for the creation of a Canada Race Relations Foundation which would work to foster racial awareness.

"Redress was a form of catharsis for Japanese Americans and Japanese Canadians. Just to deal with that issue and just to have the government admit they were wrong," said Shiomi.

"I often think the Japanese Canadian internment was in fact worse... mainly because the government action was farther reaching. In the Japanese American situation, the Mitsui/Endo case was won and the (United States) government realized that they couldn't hold the Japanese Americans, the government could not tell them where to go. In Canada, there were still Japanese Canadians in camps after the war in 1949. There was a deliberate policy to disperse the Japanese Canadian community. Not a temporary act, it was a plan to totally disperse the Japanese Canadian community," said Shiomi.

"It (the Japanese Canadian internment) had a much more powerful effect on submerging the psyche of Japanese Canadians. They felt even less empowered, felt less inclined to stand up to the powers of the government."

For *Uncle Tadao*, Shiomi interviewed Issei and Nisei about their experiences before and during the war. The title character, Uncle Tadao, came from Shiomi's interviews. "A lot of the monologues from the older brother came from an interview with a Nisei fisherman. Out in B.C. before the war there was a certain kind of romantic notion. There was a certain kind of heroic individualism within the context of being Japanese Canadian that was the anchor of their identity before the war that was lost."

Speaking about the play itself and the turbulent holiday gatherings of the Uchida family that form the structural motif of *Uncle Tadao*, Shiomi said, "In a strange way, the family gatherings that so many of us remember are those kinds of gatherings. They are on one level a reuniting of family, and on a deeper level a cause for anxiety—are we going to deal with each other on a much deeper level. There is an often an agreement not to talk about things. In this family, I have that motif there to start confronting things. I like the juxtaposition of celebration and exploration."

On the production of *Uncle Tadao*, Shiomi had praise for Phillip Kan Gotanda who directed the East West production. "In a sense, officially, it's the first time we've collaborated. We have been good friends for ten years. Informally, we would help each other with plays. Because this was my first family play, when I thought of who I wanted to be my dramaturg, I thought of Phillip, because Phillip almost specializes

in family plays," said Shiomi. Gotanda, a noted playwright himself, has written such works as *the Wash* and *Yankee Dawg You Die*, in addition to his directorial work. Speaking warmly of his colleague Shiomi said, "He helped me through some major decisions. We had a great time. Phillip's work as a dramatist and a director are tremendous."

WHAT: "Uncle Tadao"

WHO: Written by R.A. Shiomi; directed by Phillip Kan Gotanda; starring Sab Shimono.

WHEN: through Feb. 23: Thursday, Friday, Saturday evenings, 8 p.m.; Sunday matinee, 2 p.m.

WHERE: East West Theatre, 4424 Santa Monica Blvd, Los Angeles, Calif.

TICKETS: \$16 for Thursday evening and Sunday matinee; \$18 for Friday, Saturday evening; student, senior, group discounts available. 213/660-8587.

INFORMATION: East West Players, 213/666-1929.

Shiomi also praised East West Players, founded in 1965 as the country's first Asian American theater. "East West has been very supportive. Because you have Hollywood here, there's such a great pool of actors," said Shiomi.

For the future, Shiomi working on a couple of screenplays, but has no firm plans at the time; however, he wants to continue to explore the Japanese Canadian experience in all its facets. "I'm thinking about moving towards more contemporary forms of play. Until now, I have written mostly about the Nisei experience. I would like to deal with more of the Sansei experience." In a reference to *Uncle Tadao* and the ill-fated

romance of the Japanese Canadian son with an Italian Canadian girl, Shiomi said, "I would like to explore more of how they interact with characters from the mainstream. Maybe the next play would be the romantic tragedy of Ronald and Anita."

REVIEW

(Continued from page 1)

their story." Shimono uses the redress movement as the catalyst for the action in *Uncle Tadao*. In the play, the daughter's participation in the fight for redress sends her father, George Uchida, on a nightmare journey of the soul, forcing him to confront his past through the heroic figure of his older brother, Tadao.

Uncle Tadao presents a side of the internment that may be unfamiliar for many Japanese Americans—the Japanese Canadian internment and redress experience. In the play, the internment isolates each member of the Uchida family within their own personal doubts and anxieties, with the death of Uncle Tadao while he was in a camp in Ontario for "trouble makers" hanging as a wraith over the family.

George's reaction to the internment is to repress what happened and his silence strangles the family. The play is a showcase for the lead actor and Jim Ishida plays George with a blustery anger, a proud man unwilling to face his own frailties. (Note: Ishida is the understudy for George, the part is played by Sab Shimono) The character George is a Japanese Canadian Willy Loman confronting with his own fragile psyche, the dissolution of a family and the destruction of his own faith in justice. Like the hero of *Death of a Salesman*, George sees the past in a vision of his older brother, Tadao,

played by Francois Chau, is a gallant figure bedecked in fishing gear, pulling salmon out of icy waters. His presence, (he even grabs a beer out of the refrigerator) as an omniscient witness to George's misery, provides a mythic subtext to the play—the voice of those Japanese Canadians who never came out of the camps, who never told their story.

An intense and powerful family drama, *Uncle Tadao* is a steady eye looking at the pain of the internment and how it's transmitted intergenerationally. The cast is a standout ensemble of Asian American actors including Saachiko as Bachan; Dian Kobayashi, who gives George's wife Mary a quiet strength and grace; Shaun Shimoda as the son Ronald; and Chi-en Telemaque as daughter June. Tom Donaldson as the white next-door-neighbor, Tom Wilson, broadens the canvas of the play and brings strength and dignity to what could have been a broad caricature. The direction by Phillip Kan Gotanda, also a playwright who authored such plays as *The Wash*, *Yankee Dawg You Die*, and *A Song For a Nisei Fisherman*, shows a deft sense for family drama, both drawing you into the drama and remaining nonintrusive. If there is one complaint about the play, after the harrowing crescendo that is the plays' climax, the denouement seems hurried and smacks of a yearning to wrap things up quickly and cleanly. But *Uncle Tadao* presents a story that is important for both Japanese Americans and Japanese Canadians. As we remember 50 years ago the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the evacuation order and the barbed wire, it is also time to remember what happened to Japanese Canadians. *Uncle Tadao* is an ephemeral ghost reminding us of our past and forcing us to confront it.

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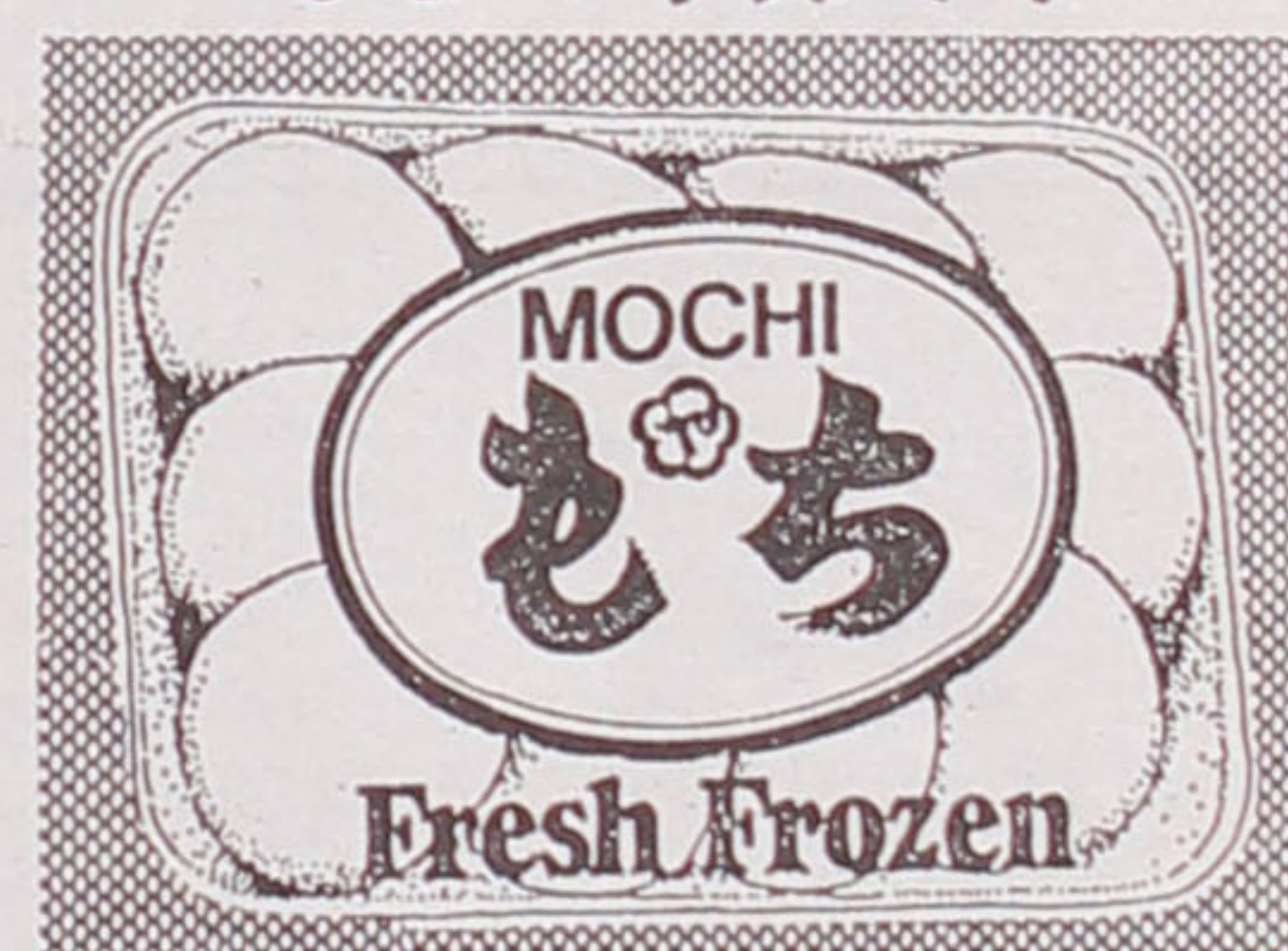
Jiro Ishizaka, chairman of the board of Union Bank, will be honored with the human relations award of the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Jewish Committee Jan. 30 in Los Angeles. Ishizaka will be recognized for his leadership in civic and cultural activities and for his efforts to build bridges of mutual respect and understanding between the diverse peoples in Los Angeles. The honoree is a director of the Los Angeles World Affairs Council, a member of the boards of the Los Chamber of Commerce, Junior Achievement of Southern California, KCET, the Music Center, and many Japanese cultural organizations. Ishizaka is also a trustee of the California Institute of the Arts and the L.A. Chamber Orchestra, and vice chairman of the Japan Business Association.

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Opinions



From the frying pan

BILL HOSOKAWA

A connection: tree rings and big earthquakes

A recent issue of the Japan Pictorial magazine carries a story about a 91-year-old tree doctor who talks to his patients. His name is Koji Yamano and he is said to carry on a one-sided conversation with ancient trees he treats for rot, broken limbs and other ailments. Sometimes he offers prayers for their return to health and his success indicates that his encouragement is being heard.

I mention this by way of introducing a Sansei scientist who conducts biopsies on old living trees and autopsies on long-dead trees to learn what happened centuries ago. He is Dr. David K. Yamaguchi, a dendrochronologist at the University of Colorado's Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research high in the Rockies.

He studies tree rings. Each tree ring, he explains, represents a year's growth and the ring's relative thickness the growing conditions of that year. "Just as each product in a grocery store has a particular bar code, every tree growing in the forest has a bar code reflecting year-to-year climate variations," Yamaguchi says.

By comparing tree rings in dead trees—from a beam in an old house, for example, or trees preserved in tidal mud or layers of volcanic ash—with rings in living trees like bristlecone pines more than a thousand years old, scientists like Yamaguchi can read stories of what happened before other records were kept.

While a graduate student at the University of Washington, Yamaguchi studied tree rings near Mount St. Helens which had just blown its top. His studies indicated that one of that peak's major eruptions had occurred in 1480, more than 50 years earlier than previous estimates, and that there had been other eruptions about 1800. That information helps scientists to predict when the next eruption might come.

Yamaguchi is co-author of several papers reporting tree-ring evidence that a great earthquake hit the Pacific Ocean coast of the state of Washington, just north of the Columbia River, in the spring about 300 years ago.

That was some time before anyone with

a notebook and ballpoint pen was on hand to record the event. But the evidence is there in the rings visible in the remains of Sitka spruce and Western red cedar that somehow have been preserved along a 60-mile stretch of coast. How can they pin it down to the time of year? Because trees grow most rapidly in the spring, and some of these trees died rather quickly when that coastal area sank or the tsunami that followed the earthquake inundated the land.

I am not expert enough to translate all the scientific language in the papers, but I gather that the evidence Yamaguchi and his associates have uncovered indicates that there's a pretty good chance of another big earthquake in the same general area in the not distant future.

Before you become hysterical, it might be well to remember that earth scientists are inclined to speak in terms of centuries if not eons. So I'm not sure it's time to start worrying yet if you own real estate in the neighborhood. It's nice to know that we have friends, including a smart young Japanese American, looking out for us. **PC**

Letters

PC letter policy

Letters should be brief and are subject to editing. Please sign your letter but make sure we are able to read your name.

Include mailing address and telephone number. You may fax letters to 213/626-8213 or mail them to Letters to the Editor, *Pacific Citizen*, 701 East Third St., Los Angeles, CA, 90013.

Critical of Hosokawa MIS column

Your 26 Nov. 1991 edition of the *PC* (From the Frying Pan-Defense Language Institute at Monterey) led me to conclude that Bill Hosokawa has hypocritically decided to get aboard the MIS bandwagon. While recently working on a book project, I had the opportunity to interview several men who were connected with the MIS and was shocked to learn that Hosokawa had a low opinion of the late Joseph D. Harrington's book, *Yankee Samurai* which was devoted to the exploits of Nisei soldiers in combat in the South Pacific, Southwest Pacific and China-Burma-India theaters of operation, and the Aleutian Islands. According to my source, Hosokawa scoffed at the book as analogous "to a telephone book" which, I suppose, meant it's just a bunch of Nisei names with little else in the way of substance as to its contents. Which raises a question in my mind: Where did Hosokawa serve during WW II?

As long as Hosokawa plans to continue writing, he needs to take greater care in his research; the fourth Japanese language instructor of the MIS in Nov. 1941 was Mr. Shigeya Kihara, not a Mr. Kariya.

Paul H. Ito
Monrovia, Calif.

More controversy on veterans monument

This letter is in reference to the photograph and caption on Page one, *Rafu Shimpo*, Tuesday, Nov. 26, 1991 titled "Veterans Monument Model." (It is indeed a very controversial issue.)

It capsulizes the unpopular concept of the 100/442/MIS World War II Memorial Foundation (100/442/MIS M.F.), Mr. Young Oak Kim, President.

The (100/442/MIS M.F.) attempts to memorialize living Japanese American veterans and civilians, who were instructors in the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) rather than bona fide Japanese American war dead.

This controversy has created a rift in the Japanese American community.

The Japanese American community, holding to its cultural heritage of respect for the dead, prefers the names of the war dead not to be commingled with the living, safely returned Japanese American veterans and civilian (MIS) personnel.

Cooler heads have advised a compromise.

The Memorial Monument at the First Street North Project should be inscribed with only the names of those who made the supreme sacrifice in all the wars and conflicts of the United States of America.

The four Congressional Medal of Honor (CMH) recipients will have a place of honor on the memorial. The only living entity on the memorial will be Korean War (CMH) awardee Hershey Hiroshi Miyamura.

The brilliant war record and valorous magnificent gallantry of the famed 100/442nd Regimental Combat Team can be inscribed and the courageous daring of the Military Intelligence Service can be preserved on the Memorial for eternity.

A bridging or connector of this memorial monument to the Japanese American National Museum would introduce those interested to a Veterans Honor Roll dedicated to the Japanese American veterans.

The Honor Roll can depict the exploits of the 100/442nd Regimental Combat Team as well as the contributions of the Military Intelligence Service. The heroism of other Japanese American servicemen can be elaborated upon as deemed by the Museum.

This combined tribute to the dead as well as to the living veterans should be a universally acceptable compromise.

Robert Hayamizu
Los Angeles, Calif.
Chairman,
Memorial Monument Committee,
Nisei Veterans Coordinating Council



East Wind

BILL MARUTANI

An inspiring pair

LOCATED IN DENVER, Colorado, the all-AJA Legion Post 185 must surely be among the outstanding veteran organizations in the land. Among other things, it has its own post facilities with a restaurant serving delicious *nihon-shoku*. The AJA veterans in this Rocky Mountain region were responsible for erecting in the region one of the first monuments (some time in the 1960's as I recall) to AJA service-people with a design so fine that it was copied by a U.S. Navy unit. Legion Post 185 also generously extends its concerns and hands out to the community at large, contributing monies to a home for the handicapped, providing college scholarships, sponsoring boys for Boys' State and extending similar sponsorship to Girls' State as well. This extension occurring during the post commandship of a Nisei lady, Dr. Florence Uyeda-Miyahara.

If we are to be honest with one another, now that has to catch one's attention: a Nisei woman heading a post consisting of Nisei male veterans.

I HAD THE pleasure of meeting Flo-

rence, an M.D., and her pathologist husband, Ben, last year in Denver. I soon discovered that the "Uyeda" in her name is from the well-known and admired Uyeda family from Northern California; many JACLers got to know Daisy Uyeda who was Mas Satow's "right arm" for a number of years. Many of us saw Daisy at national conventions using a stenographic machine to record minutes of the proceedings. Daisy has now been married for a number of years to Yone Satoda, the latter once having well served as JACL National Treasurer.

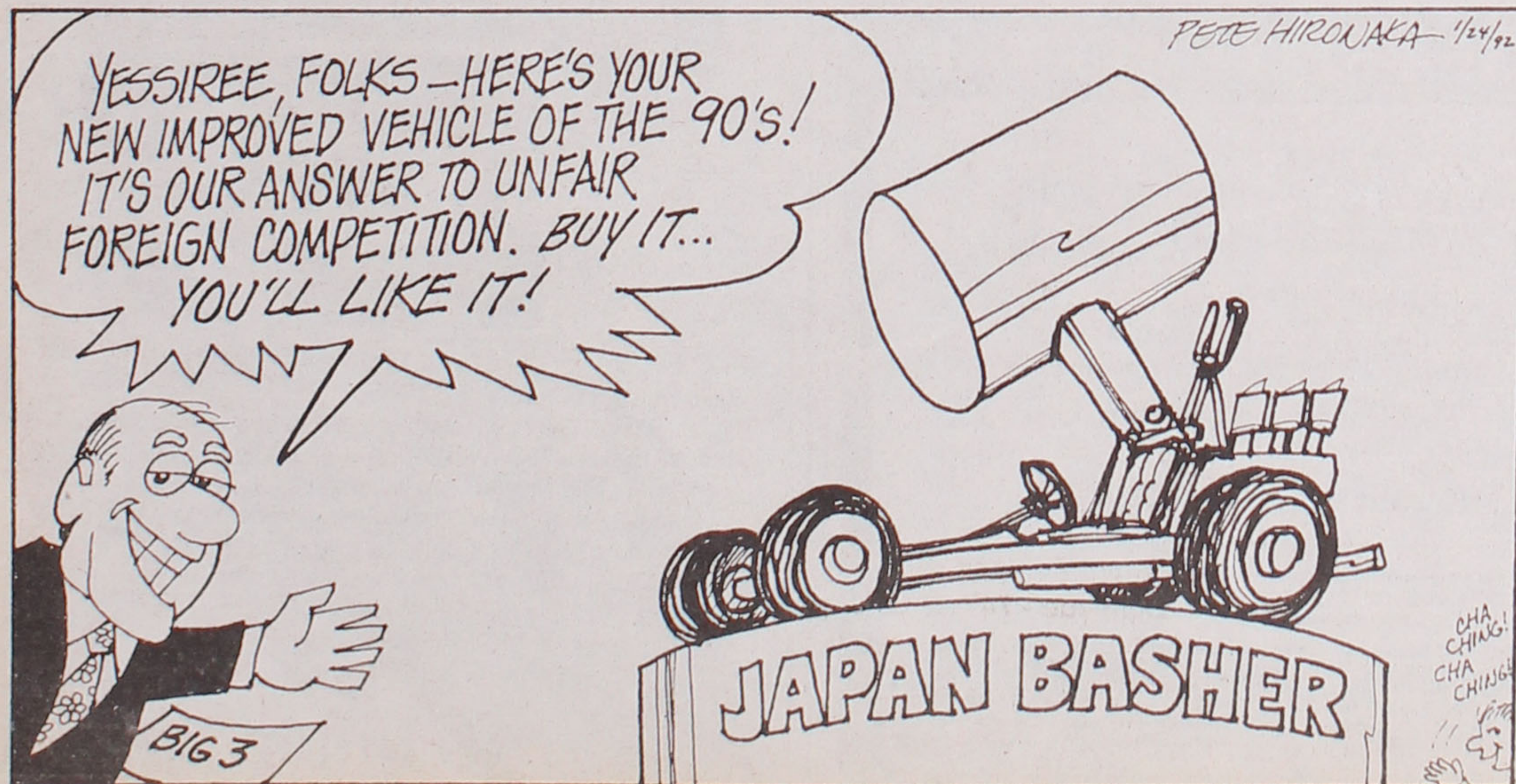
But back to sister Florence and her being elected in 1988 as Post Commander, of Nisei veterans no less.

FROM TANFORAN with her Uyeda family, Florence was moved to Topaz where she continued to work as a nurse's aid, leaving the latter camp to join the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps, after which she served in the Air Force Nurse Corps. After serving stateside in military hospitals, she was sent overseas to the Philippines. Following her return to the U.S., she elected to obtain a medical degree (pediatrics) from the Uni-

versity of Colorado Medical School, thereafter serving at Children's Hospital in Denver. In those two long sentences, I've covered a number of years, and I'd like to shift back to Topaz for a moment to relate an incident which provided a hint of the course this lady was to take. At Topaz, insisting that she was being illegally detained, she attempted to depart the camp until the MP's tracked her down.

THE FOLLOWING episode, which I extracted from a publication from the Rocky Mountain area, provides an insight as to the kind of post commander Legion Post 185 had under Florence. In conjunction with its annual picnic, one of Post 185's members telephoned Florence to ask her to bring *musubi* (rice balls). To this request, Florence replied: "Listen, I'm commander of the post. Doesn't the auxiliary (supplemental group comprised mainly of member's wives) do that kind of thing?" When the inquirer allowed that was so, Florence suggested, "Well, then call my husband." The member did, and Ben brought the *musubi*.

See EAST WIND/page 5



San Diego Japan Festival scores

SAN DIEGO—Japan Festival '92, a week-long series of events focusing on Japanese business and culture, was held Jan. 12-19 bringing together members of the Japanese community with American and Mexican leaders.

"It was a success," said Barbara Burton, chairman of the Marketing Public Relations Committee. "The attendance and participation was beyond expectation. At the first luncheon we expected about 160 or 150 people, 250 people showed up and they were registering at the door." She estimated that between 1,500 and 2,000 attended various portions of the cultural and business events.

Highlights of the festival included:

- Yukio Matsuyama, director and chairman of the editorial board of the Japanese newspaper, *Asahi Shimbun* giving the keynote address at the opening luncheon held Jan. 13 at the U.S. Grant Hotel in San Diego.

- A continuing exhibit featuring works by contemporary Japanese calligraphy artists entitled, "Japanese Calligraphy" at the Keller Art Gallery Visual Arts Center, Point Loma Nazarene College, Jan. 16-Feb. 1.

- A day in Tijuana, Mexico Jan. 16 touring Japanese business ventures in Maquiladora.

- Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Taizo Watanabe discussing U.S. - Japan relations at the banquet held at the Mission Valley Marriott in San Diego Jan. 18.

Burton said, "It was our premiere festival. More than a year ago, several organizations got together and decided to join forces and plan a festival that included more than just cultural events."

Although they are still in the development stage, Burton said she hopes that there will be a Japan Festival '93. "The festival was such a success, we're going to build on what we did this year. We're doing the right things, let's just do more of it," said Burton.

GRAFFITI

(Continued from page 1) painted over the graffiti before the police arrived. "(The feeling was) 'Hey I don't want to advertise and let these people get a better hand,'" said Yamamoto.

Jimmy Tokeshi, regional director of the Pacific Southwest District of JACL, said about the most recent incident, "It is evidence of the escalation and threat of anti-

EAST WIND

(Continued from page 4)

Ben and Florence haven't slowed down a bit: last year, they volunteered as missionaries in building a church in a remote area in the Philippines. By the way, both will be flooded to learn of this column, wondering how I dug up all this information. But I'm sure you, the readers, agree that it all makes for interesting and inspiring reading.

Asian violence. We've been monitoring Korean-black tensions because of the broader implications for the Asian Pacific Islander community. The Compton attack on the Asian woman, the recent string of six racial vandalisms, reveal the seriousness and scope of the problem."

Speaking about tensions within the Korean and African American communities Tokeshi said, "There needs to be frank discussion into what the problems are and what both communities can do. Unless there is a concerted effort by local and state officials to begin addressing the problems, with tempered enforcement and exacting condemnation and sensitivity to

the concerns of all communities, I think we're going to see a bad situation get worse. And unfortunately, people are going to get hurt."

Tokeshi added that there needs to be discussion about problems within America's inner cities. "Until there is a hard look at the inner cities, things are going to get worse. The decline of the inner city will lead to the decline of America as a whole. Unless you begin to hear people addressing the problems of the inner city, there's going to be serious problems."

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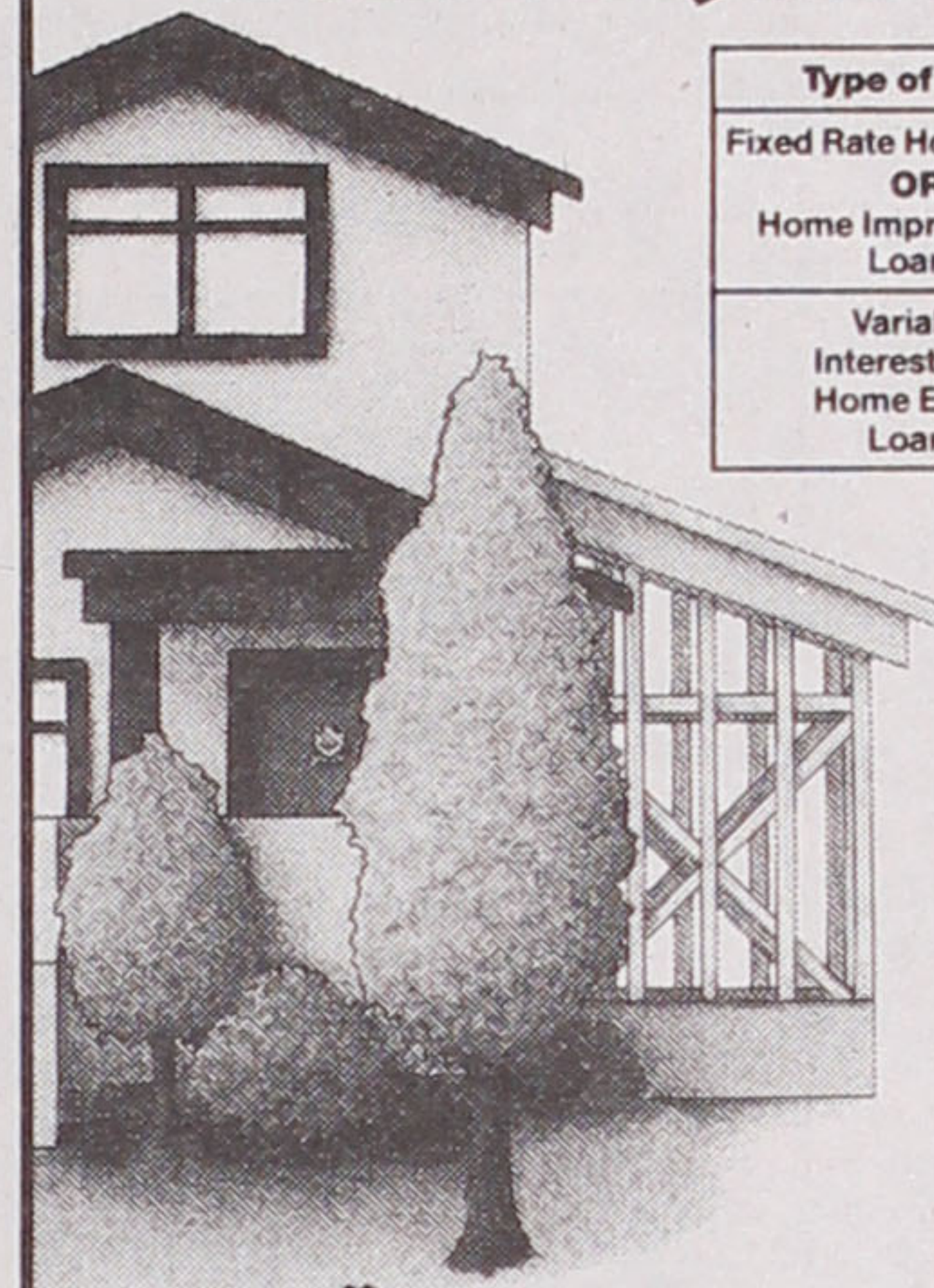
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Business

Here are some good tips to protect your credit status

Anyone who has had to live with a damaged credit rating knows that this can cause problems for years and years—by restricting one's ability to obtain consumer loans, credit cards, auto financing, and even to purchase a home. Credit history also can affect one's employment or promotion opportunities. Negative information can remain on your credit report for seven years, bankruptcy for up to 10 years.

Los Angeles-based Union Bank offers these tips to consumers to help them protect their good credit.

- Don't obligate yourself to monthly payments beyond your ability to pay them. This may seem simple; but breaking this rule is the most common cause of credit problems.

- Avoid impulse spending. Think about a potential purchase and determine whether it fits into your budget.

- Pay your bills promptly. Payments more than 30 days past due can show up as delinquencies on your credit report. Often, this is the result of simple carelessness, rather than a monetary problem.

- Pay your property, state, and federal taxes on time. Failure to do so can result in claims against your property that can show up on your credit reports.

- Evaluate bargains carefully. If the cost is beyond your means, it's no bargain.

- Scrutinize your monthly bills to stay aware of your family's spending habits and to ensure that the charges are in fact yours.

- If you're going to be late with a payment or can make only a partial payment, contact your creditor in advance. Most creditors are willing to make special arrangements if the circumstances warrant.

- If you're denied credit as a result of a bad credit report, you are entitled to copy of that report at no charge. However, you must contact the credit agency yourself.

- If you think your credit report is in error, you have the right to challenge it and to demand that the reporting agency investigate it. Consult the credit reporting agency involved for information about that process.

- Recognize that lenders make decisions on the basis of your apparent ability and willingness to

repay a loan. If your payment history is shaky and reflects lateness or delinquencies, most lenders will be reluctant to extend you credit.

- If you find yourself in a financial bind, contact your creditors. Don't try to dodge them or be evasive. They will want to work with

you through the difficult times.

- Consumer Credit Counseling Service is a non-profit organization that assists consumers in working out of financial crises. Call them at 800/388-2227 to obtain the location of a nearby office for arranging a counseling session.

Sign of the times



Asahi Breweries, Ltd. has added to the art deco look of Los Angeles with its new four-sided, 4,800 sq. ft. sign 200 feet atop a building in the Miracle Mile area of the city. The sign features two miles of neon and advertises the company's beer.

New securities firm started

I. Beth Renge recently created Renge Securities & Co., Inc., one of the nation's first 100 percent Asian American and woman-owned municipal investment banking. Renge, a 10-year veteran of the securities industry, serves as president and CEO of the firm headquartered in San Francisco.

The company specializes in providing services to municipalities in the areas of underwriting and defeasance banking. In creating the firm, Renge said, "Municipal policies to promote diversity in the engagement of professional firms can work better if those firms truly represent the populations which are served. It is particularly important that Asian American communities not be excluded from this process."

Renge is a former officer of Dean Witter Reynolds and Kidder Peabody's San Francisco offices. She has also been ac-



I. BETH RENGE

tive in a number of civic affairs, including appointments to the board of directors of the American Red Cross; the YWCA; the Japanese American Citizens League; and the Japan Society of Northern California.

Obituaries

Abe, Tsugi, 89, Laguna Niguel, Dec. 13; Hawaii-born, survived by sons Albert, George (Hilo), William (Hilo), daughters May K. Love, Alice Ho, Kathleen Arakaki (Pearl City), 10 grandchildren.

Adachi, Wakako, 98, El Cerrito, Dec. 23; survived by sons Hideyo, Toshitatsu, daughters Fujiko Ogata, Sonoko Yamashita, Satoko Ruby Hiramoto, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Fujimoto, George, 70, Oxnard, Nov. 27; Hopland, Calif.-born, survived by wife Sumiko, sons David, Russell, 1 grandchild, brother Yukio, brother-in-law Seiso Kono, sisters-in-law Yukiye, Yoshiko and Setsuko Kono.

Fujioka, John R., 63, Kingsburg, Dec. 6; Selma-born, survived by wife Rose, son Ronald, daughters Doreen Doi, Karen Uemaru, 1 grandchild, sister Sachiko Araki.

Furuichi, Katsumi, 46, Monterey Park, Dec. 21; Okayama-born naturalized U.S. citizen, survived by wife Shinobu, sons Richard, John, parents Kameji and Kaneyo (Jpn), brother and 4 sisters (all Jpn).

Hamai, Masaru, 78, Monterey Park, Nov. 27, Hawaii-born, survived by wife Mary Harue, son Louis, daughter Hiroko

Robinson, 3 grandchildren, sister-in-law Hideko Hamai (Jpn).

Hamano, Muraji, 75, La Mirada, Dec. 10; Wakayama-born, survived by wife Tazu, sons George, Richard, daughter Margie Hamano-Currier, brother Hiroshi, sisters Donna, Ann M. Sato.

Hanamoto, Henry H., 79, Chicago, Nov. 26; survived by wife Namiye, daughters Karen Yamasaki, Linda Heckman, 3 grandchildren, brother Ben, sisters Grace Tagupa, Mary.

Hanawa, Jeannette, 68, La Feria, Texas, Nov. 7; Elk Grove-born, survived by husband Henry, sons David, Ben, Larry, brother Yosh Murata (Shelton, Wash.), sister Helen.

Imagawa, David T. Ph.D., 69, Los Angeles, Nov. 29 of myocardial infarction; Isleton-born professor emeritus, pediatrics and microbiology-immunology, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, Torrance, internationally known immunologist-virologist who was most recently involved in AIDS research; survived by wife Aiko, son David K. M.D., Ph.D., daughter Karen Imagawa M.D., brother Sharkie (La Jolla), sisters Ethel

See OBITS/page 8

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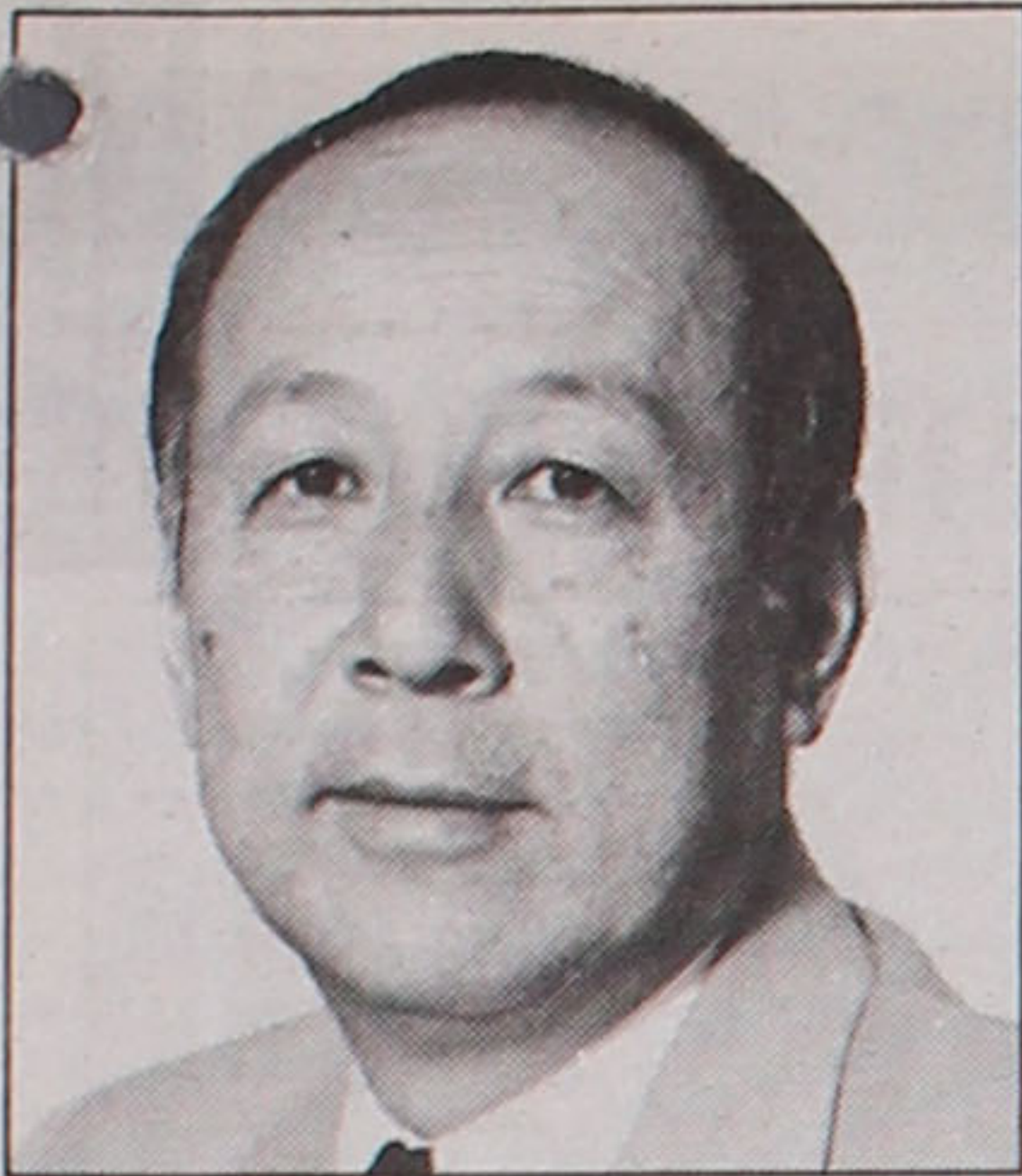
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TEISEI KURAHASHI

Former steel executive joins Keiro Services

LOS ANGELES — After completing a 32-year career in the steel industry, Teisei "Ted" Kurahashi was welcomed last October 1 by Los Angeles Keiro Services as its new chief executive officer.

Previously executive vice president of Nippon Steel USA and general manager of its Los Angeles office since 1981, Kurahashi confided that his big career change from steel to health care for Japanese Americans stems from his appreciation of the hard work and contributions of the Issei and Nisei "who made it much easier for Japanese companies to successfully do business with the United States. I have always felt a tremendous amount of gratitude toward them and see working at Keiro as a way to repay them for their effort."

Kurahashi was involved in international trade since 1960, has traveled extensively in the United States for Nippon Steel, experiencing considerable success.

The most rewarding aspect of working with residents of the Japanese Retirement Home, the Keiro Homes and the Intermediate Care Facility has been the smiles that he sees often on their faces. "My wish is to make our residents feel happy and cared for. That is what Keiro is here for."

Kurahashi's day-to-day operation as CEO involves supervising a staff of 375 and a volunteer corps of 370 at four facilities.

Keiro currently cares for some 523 residents. The renovation of the old Keiro Nursing Home is underway to provide 87 more beds.

He hopes to strengthen Keiro's organizational structure through greater teamwork.

"Since Keiro is supported by the Japanese American community, we are working to take more cost-cutting measures and maximize our services to our seniors," he said.

Looking forward to the community for direction and feedback, Kurahashi added, "Anyone is most welcome to call me or to visit me here. Keiro was developed by the community and is supported through their efforts. So, I'd like their input. I want to listen to them." He can be reached at 213/263-1007.

Whereabouts

● **Tom Obata** of Hollister Ca. Served in the 85th Infantry Battalion at the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor, was subsequently transferred to Arkansas. Please contact: Allan Treuer, 1150 Alki Ave., Southwest, Seattle, WA. 98116; 206/935/9350.

● **William Endo**, last seen in Gardena, Calif., area. Call your brother at 206/723-6807 or write to William Endo, 4817 S. Morgan, Seattle, WA, 98118.

● **Linda House**, born Feb. 16, 1943, married Takao Matsuda in Tokyo and had their first child, Mimi, in 1974. They moved to California in about 1976, and perhaps to Oregon in 1991. Write to Wayne Sourwine, 1012 S. Wells Ave., Reno, NV, 89502.



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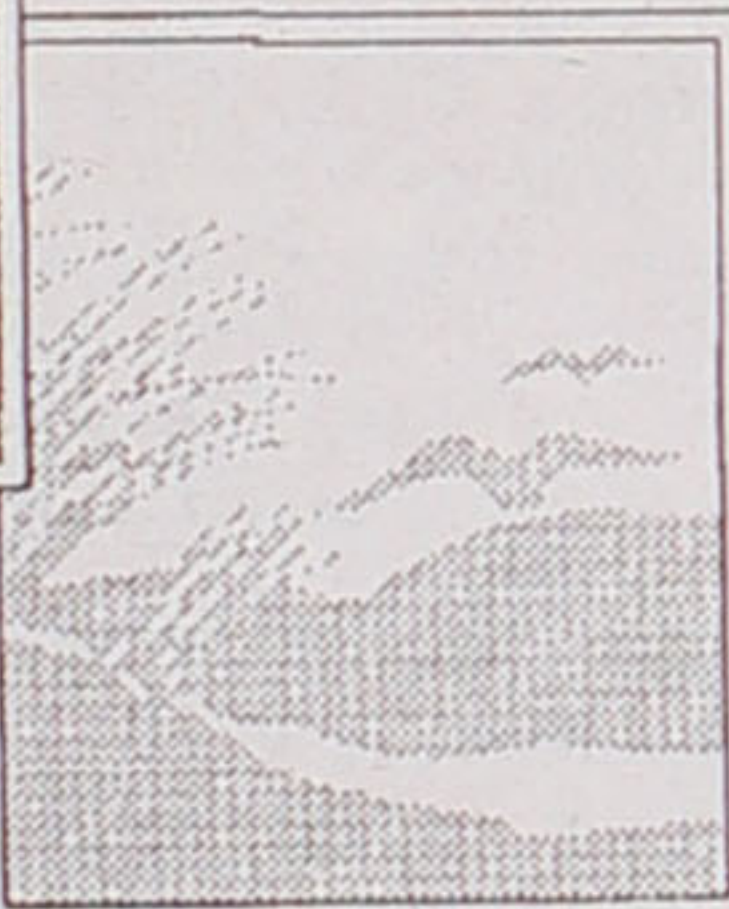
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Travel

Observations traveling through Japan

By Bill Marutani

With the thought that some comments of a Japan tour might be helpful to others, I share a few (superficial) observations. Not having been in Japan for about five years, I had forgotten that most public toilets have no paper towels; more than once after dutifully washing my hands found myself helplessly looking for a way to dry my hands. As for the cleaning lady barging into the men's section, after a momentary startle I paid no attention. Toilets (*te-arai*) are not coed — although I'm sure there are some in Japan (just as we have them on our airplanes), the ones I've seen were designated usually with an illustrative silhouette. Away from the metropolitan areas, some may be marked in kanji characters only, in which instance one should have some awareness what these characters look like. For "men" (*otoko*) the character consists of the kanji character for "field" (a rectangle consisting of four rectangles) below which is the character *chikara* (meaning "strength"). But perhaps the easier way to make the distinction is to describe the kanji character for "women": *onna* looks like a bow-legged figure with a staff across the shoulder area. (I've mentioned before how male-oriented Japanese culture is.)

IN HOTELS, whether in the U.S. or elsewhere, I've gotten into the habit of checking where the emergency exit is — in case of fire — noting whether it is to the left or right upon emerging from my room. In Japan, more often than not, the *hijô-guchi* (emergency exit) has a green lighted sign above it. If the exit is not at the end of the hall, then count the number of doors from your room to the exit door — so you can locate it in the smoky confusion. When going to sleep, always keep the room-key next to your night table. In case of fire, be sure to take the key with you; you don't want to be trapped without a retreat back into your room. Of course, when first seeking to leave your room and you touch a door knob that is hot, it's better not to go out into the hallway into a raging fire.

I've never had to resort to these safety precautions, but if it should help me only once, that's good enough. Anyway, I sleep more peacefully that way.

ELEVATOR CONTROL BUTTONS can be, and usually are, doggedly confusing whether in the U.S. or Japan. (The soul that designed the layout so that the "emergency" button is right in the same row as the "open" and "close" buttons, and often in the

same uniform black color, should have been fired long ago.) In Japan, to exacerbate this confusing state of elevator controls, the "open" and "close" designations are in kanji. I don't recall seeing any Braille symbols — arrow points pointing inward ("close") or outward ("open") — on any of the elevators in Nippon. (I hasten to add, however, the Japanese pedestrian system is to be highly commended in thoughtfully providing for the visually handicapped, as witnessed by sidewalks having inlays underfoot to guide the pedestrian, with dot inlays to alert the blind pedestrian that (s)he has reached an intersection, plus the musical traffic signal to convey audible signals to indicate directions for which the traffic light is red and green.) But getting back to those elevator control buttons, I've seen more than one American push the wrong button. Perhaps it might be helpful to describe the kanji character. Both characters for "open" and "close" consist of a basic kanji which looks like a saloon's swinging door (it's read as *mon* and means "gate"). Inside that swinging gate the writing differs: the word for "open" has what looks like a *torii*, whereas the word for "close" resembles a figure as if kicking a ball, one foot being up in the air. So those not familiar at all with *nihongo* (Japanese language), when you're next in a Japanese elevator, check for these symbols: the "kicking figure" is kicking shut the door; the *torii* gate is the opening entry.

Well, so much for erudite instruction in "Nihongo 101."

TAKING TAXI CABS, I had to remind myself not to touch the door of a taxicab — either getting in or out: the doors operate automatically under the control of the cabbie, and if you interfere, it can gum up the works. Not only that, you'll have one upset cabbie. The best rule to follow: don't touch any cab handles; leave it up to the cabbie. When walking the sidewalks, one must remember this is not the U.S. with wide and generally unobstructed sidewalks: in Nippon, many places have no sidewalks, and any strip presumably for pedestrian travel is shared by telephone poles, bicycles — in either direction, and often vehicles and motor scooters veering dangerously close. This includes Tokyo where a bicycle cut so close to me that the handlebar hooked my wristwatch and dropped it to the street. Bicycles veer in and out ala kamikaze, and it is literally dangerous to suddenly move left or right or to stick one's arm out to

point to something.

Agreeing to meet at some designated place, even be it someone as familiar as your spouse, can present unanticipated problems. At the Hiroshima railway station, I was to meet wife Vicki in front of the station. Vicki is of Japanese ancestry as I am, and in the U.S. such a meeting designation would present little or no problem. But that morning in Hiroshima, I had to screen every female passerby to make sure that we didn't miss each other. As I was eyeballing every *josei* (woman) going by, I began to feel uneasy that those passing by were suspecting something strange about this edgy fellow eyeing the passing crowd.

VENDING MACHINES everywhere, vending almost everything: soda, Calpis, cigarettes, coffee, ice cream, sake, candy, etc. (One reader wrote me that the Japanese had renamed "Calpis" because in English translation it sounded like "bovine urine," hardly an appetizing drink. But I want to assure that reader that it's still "Calpis," in Japan, anyway.) In Sapporo, on an early morning walk — my mental timeclock had not yet adjusted to Nippon time — I noted one cigarette machine loaded with various brands of cigarettes so I made a count: 54 brands.

There are other items that might be touched upon, such as the difference between "Hikari" and "Kodama" bullet trains, as well as their scheduled stops; *eki bento's* (train station packaged lunches); cost of foods (small cup of coffee at McDonald's noted at about \$1.30); bringing along a collapsible suitcase (you always buy more than expected); use of *takkyu* (baggage forwarding, surprisingly reasonable and quite reliable) to relieve you from lugging needless weight on your trip, which was intended to be an enjoyable one; that all — and I do mean all — toilet fixtures bear the label "Toto" (Wizard of Oz's Dorothy's dog's name, wasn't it?); the top service rendered by a Japanese gasoline station (I thought we were landing on an aircraft carrier or making a "pit stop" with the number of attendants that speedily gassed us up and sent us on our way); the soft roll of Kyoto-ben, especially when the speaker (a woman on a bus) was relating humorous incidents.

But you can go there and experience these things first hand.

Marutani, retired judge and currently is a Philadelphia lawyer, writes the East Wind column for Pacific Citizen.

Obituaries

(Continued from page 6)

Umeda (Minneapolis), Dora Kamo (Honolulu).

Inouye, Henry H., 85, Montebello, Nov. 18; Nagano-born naturalized U.S. citizen, survived by wife Hiroko, sons H. Shinichi, J. Hiroshi, daughter Julia Takeda, 2 grandchildren, brother-in-law Frank Suzawa, sisters-in-law Teruka Fujii (Jpn) and Tomika Suzawa.

Ishino, George A., 82, Richmond, Nov. 26; San Jose-born, Japan-educated, taught Japanese to U.S. servicemen, retired UC Berkeley ground maintenance department employee, survived by daughter Naomi Lidicker (Berkeley), sons Raymond (Chicago), Edmund (Denver), Victor (Alameda), Ronald (Los Angeles), predeceased by wife Sanae.

Ishiwata, Naka, 90, Santa Monica, Dec. 15; Kanagawa-ken born naturalized U.S. citizen, survived by her son Kazuo, daughters Toshiko Nakano, Emiko Kumazawa (both Jpn), 4 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, sister Sen Skino (Jpn).

Kabashima, Naoye, 87, Los Angeles, Dec. 11; Kumamoto-born naturalized U.S. citizen, survived by sons David, Paul, Masao, John, daughters Naomi Donegan (Colorado), Marjorie Kabashima, 3 grandchildren.

Kajiya, Harue F., 78, Anaheim, Dec. 15; retired piano teacher.

Kami, Fumiyo, 71, Hacienda Heights, Dec. 3; Utah-born, survived by husband Oscar, sons Richard (Las Vegas), Edward, 2 brothers Sadao and Tamotsu Inaba, 5 sisters Jane Yamamoto, Jean Kami (Arizona), Helen Yano (Utah), Hanako, Sue George (San Diego), brother-in-law Hisao Kami.

Nishiki, Thelma H., 79, Los Angeles, Oct. 19; Kona-born, survived by husband Charles, son Clayton, daughters Lenore Ishimi (Hawaii), Dale Matsuno, Trude Rafferty, 10 grandchildren, 5 brothers and 1 sister.

Nishimura, Frank T., 77, San Francisco, Dec. 15; Fresno-born, survived by wife Sumiko, son Arthur N., 4 daughters MerryC, Katie Brennan, Margie M. Shiozaki, Nancy K. Garvin, brother Eddie, brother-in-law Mutsuto Kihara, 4 grandchildren, 1 grandchild.

Nitta, Kosami, 86, Stockton, Nov. 18; Hiroshima-born, survived by sons Warren, Motoo, daughter Julia Furuoka, 4 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, sister Masae Yamada (Jpn), brother K. Kubo (Brazil).

Noda, Masahiro, 73, Lake View Terrace, Calif., Oct. 25; San Fernando Valley-born, survived by wife Tomiko, son Dave, daughters Elaine Mercurio, Patty Nishimura, 6 granddaughters, mother Teru, brother Tamotsu, sisters Mitsue Oyama, Yasuko Nagata, Haruko Asari.

Okubo, Susan Shizue, 85, Los Angeles, Nov. 29; Toyama-born naturalized U.S. citizen, survived by daughters Ruby Sumiko, Helen Nishida, Jane Kazuko, sons Henry H., Jim, 11 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, sister Misao Konishi (Jpn), in-law Yukino Harada.

Onami, Yaeko, 73, West Los Angeles, Nov. 20; Villa Park-born, survived by husband Tadashi, sons Stanley, Steven, daughter Janice, sister Ayako Kanemura, in-laws Tadayoshi Onami (Jpn), Satsuke Abe.

Sakamoto, Edna, 75, Los Angeles, Dec. 26; Oregon-born, survived by son Kenneth Kumasawa (Concord), daughter Eileen

Morris (Boise), 6 grandchildren, great-grandchildren, sisters Judy Takahira, Alice Nishimoto, other sisters in Japan.

Sakogawa, George I., 87, Walnut Grove, Dec. 6; Kumamoto-born, survived by daughter Margaret Shigio, 2 grandchildren, son-in-law Ronald Shigio.

Yamada, Haruko, 65, Seattle, Oct. 26.

Yamauchi, George Tateshi, 78, Torrance, Dec. 21; Lompoc-born, survived by wife Elsie, son Gary, daughter Keiko Tokeshi, 5 grandchildren, sister May Minami, brothers-in-law Tom Fukuoka, George Yamauchi (Portland).

Yamakawa, Mabel, 72, Sacramento, Nov. 15; survived by husband George, daughters Ardene, Gayle Ishihara, Donna, 1 grandchild, sisters Yukiko Yagi, Hanako Yagi, brothers Tatsuo and Masato Egi, brother-in-law Shioichi Yamakawa, sister-in-law Masami Tsuda.

Yamamoto, Sasayo, 99, Sanger, Dec. 14; Hiroshima-born, survived by sons Ben, Jim, daughters Teruyo Yoshimura, Fumiko Kato, Yoshiko Yamamoto, 9 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren.

Yamanaka, Kazuo, 78, Chicago, Dec. 7; Florin-born Kibei, survived by wife Kasumi, sons Osamu, Cary, Wayne, Jay.

Yamashita, Nakaye, 97, Los Angeles, Dec. 11; Fukuoka-born naturalized U.S. citizen, survived by her sons Frank, Hiroji, daughters June Kawano (Oceanside), Lillian Komatsu, Miyo Abe, 16 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, sister Chiyo Mori (Jpn).

Yanari, Yachiyo, 89, Gardena, Dec. 16; Fukuoka-born naturalized U.S. citizen, survived by sons Fred, Ralph, daughter Yeiko Miwa, 5 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren.