

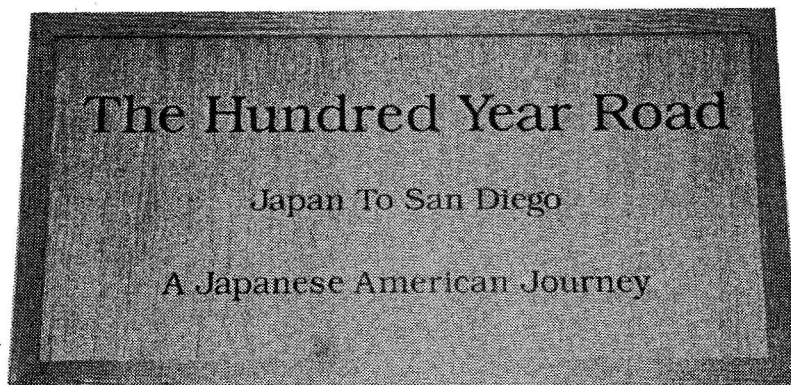
# **FOOTPRINTS**

*Impressions from where we were to where we will be*

The Newsletter for the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego

Spring Issue 1997

Volume 6 Number 1



## **ONE HUNDRED YEAR ROAD: FROM HERE TO WHERE?**

"The One Hundred Year Road: Japan to San Diego. A Japanese American Journey" exhibit officially opened Feb. 15 drawing a crowd of over 300 people to the Museum of San Diego History in the Casa de Balboa Building just west of the Space Theater in Balboa Park.

The exhibit of artifacts and photos and featuring a section of a relocation camp barrack built by Frank Wada was put together by Prof. Don Estes and his work crew. The JAHSSD and San Diego Historical Society are co-sponsoring the display.

It will remain on display through Aug. 10 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays. **JAHSSD** members are admitted free by showing their membership card. The museum is open free to the public on the second Tuesday of each month. Regular adult admission is \$4.

Whether one has to pay or not, we feel it is well worth it. We would encourage everyone to take their children and grandchildren to view it.

The opening night crowd raved about it. San Diego History Museum people were heard to say "it's the best one we've had here."

A bigger room probably would have served us better but what Don and his crew accomplished in the confined area was somewhat miraculous.

Workers worked until 4 a.m. to finish the exhibit on time for its 10 a.m. Jan. 18 debut.

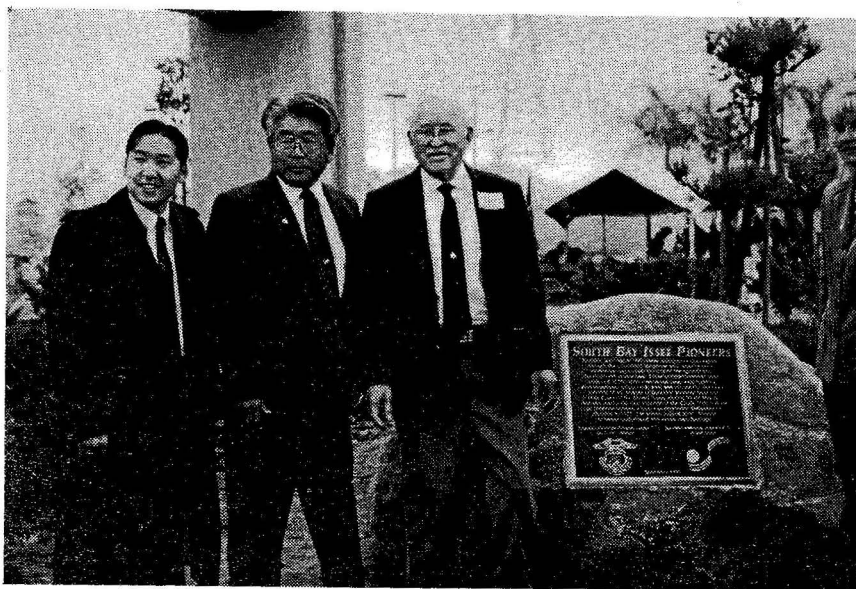
School groups and adult groups have been visiting the exhibit almost daily. The museum has asked representatives from the Japanese American community to act as docents for the visiting groups to explain the exhibit pieces. Elaine Hibi Bowers has been serving as docent but we are in need of volunteers to help on other occasions. The museum docent and Elaine are willing to teach volunteers to fill the bill and will be holding a class.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

**A reminder...if you forgot to renew your 1997 membership, please do so now. The membership period is from January thru December. Just fill out the form found elsewhere in this newsletter and send it in with your dues. Thank you.**

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## MONUMENT UNVEILING

By Harold Kuhn

Past Commander VFW Post 4851

Stop by the corner of Broadway and Palomar in Chula Vista and you will see a small Japanese Garden. There is a large boulder with a plaque placed in it. This plaque is dedicated to the Issei who were responsible for the development of this area.

The JACL and the JAHSSD hosted the dedication ceremony. Some of the dignitaries present were U.S. Representative Bob Fillner, Chula Vista Mayor Shirley Horton, and new Chula Vista Councilmember Mary Salas. Members of various other organizations were also present.

The inscription on the plaque reads as follows:

*INITIALLY ARRIVING IN 1885, THESE IMMIGRANTS FROM JAPAN, THROUGH THEIR INTELLECT, DILIGENCE, AND TENACITY MADE NUMEROUS MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THIS AREA. THESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS WERE ACHIEVED AT THE SAME TIME AS THE ISSEI WERE FIGHTING DISCRIMINATION, UNFAIR LAND LAWS, AND ULTIMATELY, THE MASS REMOVAL OF ALL PERSONS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY FROM THE WEST COAST OF THE UNITED STATES DURING WORLD WAR II. THIS SITE MARKS THE FINAL LOCATION OF THE CHULA VISTA GAKUEN OR JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL, WHICH WAS ORIGINALLY DEDICATED ON OCTOBER 6, 1925. THE SCHOOL HELPED NISEI CHILDREN TO BETTER UNDERSTAND AND HONOR THEIR HERITAGE.*

My first impression on hearing of this dedication was that at long last the First Generation of Japanese (Issei) are finally receiving the recognition that has been due them for a long time. My many conversations with both the Nisei and Sansei have shown me that, unlike some of the other pioneers in the United States, the Japanese suffered many indignities such as unfair laws which prohibited them from owning land, and discrimination in many other forms. Even though they were citizens of the United States, the Nisei were put into concentration camps with all other people who had Japanese surnames.

After suffering all these indignities in silence these same Japanese came back to this area and started all over again. Meeting with the same hatred and fear that put them in the camps in the first place, they were able to persevere. The succeeding generations will forever be in debt to these Issei pioneers. It is my hope that all Japanese stop by the corner of Broadway and Palomar and pay tribute to those who made all that they have possible.

## President's Message

"The HUNDRED YEAR ROAD" exhibit is now open for your pleasure and enjoyment. After endless hours and days, Historian Don Estes and his crew have put together a magnificent historical display. It portrays the contributions and impact of Japanese Americans in San Diego.

This is one exhibit you should take your children and friends to view and absorb. A camp barrack's room that Frank Wada built is an emotional sight. Look at the small details. The model does bring back memories.

Your Historical Society is pleased to present this exhibit to San Diego. This is one of the many projects that we are involved in.

As always I solicit your support so we may continue to tell our story, preserve our heritage and honor our Issei forefathers.

Ben Segawa

## CAUGHT DOING SOMETHING NICE

Our organization would be in deep tsukenomo if it were not for the generous unstinting support of our members and friends. The JAHSSD would like to acknowledge the following folks for their assistance.

**Mrs. Dorothy Smith and family** - for their thoughtful donation of three water color paintings of Poston as it appeared in 1944.

**Mrs. Sumiyo Kastelic** - for her recent donation of \$500, continuing her generous and ongoing support of the JAHSSD's historic photo archival program.

**Mr. Samuel Coolidge Yamaguchi** - for his gift of a variety of personal items including a number of one-of-a-kind artifacts connected with his service in the 442 RCT. Also included in the gift are photographs, plaques, medals, awards, books and documents connected with Mr. Yamaguchi's military service and his 33 year career with the U.S. Postal Service.

**Mrs. Elaine Hibi Bowers** - for her willingness to serve on an "on call" basis as a docent for groups wishing guided tours of our museum exhibit at the Museum of San Diego History. Elaine also deserves a big "thank you" for organizing a team of docents and assisting with their training.

**Mr. John Rojas** - for his continuing support and his

donation of a 1920s sake bottle unearthed in south Chula Vista. A similar style bottle is shown on the cover of the 1997 Japanese American National Museum's calendar.

**Mr. Joe Yoshioka** - We appreciate his donation of the picture of the fishing boat he skippered.

Our very successful opening reception at the San Diego Museum of History on February 15th, which hosted over 300 members and friends, could not have been carried out without the help of:

**Jeanne Marumoto Elyea** who organized the entire reception for the JAHSSD. A very heart felt **Domo Arigato Gozaimashita** also goes out to **Bill Elyea** and **Howard McLemore** for toting, lifting, delivering, and doing whatever was required. **Susie Yamada**, **Linda McLemore**, **Allyne** and **Melinda Tachiki** and **Mary Marumoto** for making the sandwiches and assisting with set-up and clean up. **Mits** and **Yukio Kawamoto**, **Grace Segawa**, **Grace Tsuida**, **Carol Estes** and **Matthew Estes**, all of whom set-up, served, cleaned up and in general did what was needed to be done. **Naomi** and **Mitch Himaka** of **Kei Dan Floral Design** for the flowers and beautiful centerpiece. **Ben Segawa** and **Yukio Kawamoto** donated, a delicious as well as beautiful sheet cake which was baked and decorated by **Luann Torio Lee**, who herself donated a second sheet cake for our guests. For their financial support we would like to thank and recognize, **San Diego Chapter Japanese American Citizens League**, **Sumitomo Bank of California**, and **Union Bank of California**. All in all, it was a real community effort.

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### ORIENTAL ZODIAC (PART II)

#### 2002: The Year of the Horse

1990 1978 1966 1954 1942 1930 1918

Cheerful, popular, skilled at paying compliments but impatient. Skillful at handling money. Independent. Wise, intelligent and good with their hands but quick to anger. Compatible with Tiger, Dog and Sheep but never a Rat.

#### 2003: The Year of the Sheep

1991 1979 1967 1955 1943 1931 1919

Elegant, creative, accomplished in the arts and passionate by nature but shy, timid, pessimistic and puzzled about life. Deeply religious but clumsy in speech. Compatible with the Rabbit, Boar or Horse. Should avoid the Ox.



#### **2004: The Year of the Monkey**

**1992 1980 1968 1956 1944 1932 1920**

Very intelligent, influential. Good politicians. Thirsty for knowledge, talented and inventive but easily discouraged. Have good memories and able to recall fine points and details with ease. The Dragon or Rat are compatible but not the Tiger.

#### **2005: The Year of the Rooster**

**1993 1981 1969 1957 1945 1933 1921**

Deep thinkers, always busy and devoted to their work. Sometimes selfish. Eccentric with habit of speaking out when they have something on their mind. Compatible with the Ox, Snake or Dragon but should avoid Rabbits.

#### **2006: The Year of the Dog**

**1994 1982 1970 1958 1946 1934 1922**

Honest, loyal, leader of men. Inspires confidence in others, knows how to keep secrets private. Generous, marked for success. Cares little for wealth but always manages to obtain money when needed. Horse, Tiger or Rabbit people are compatible but stay away from the Dragon and Sheep.

#### **2007: The Year of the Boar**

**1995 1983 1971 1959 1947 1935 1923**

Shy but short-tempered but hate to quarrel. Affectionate and kind to loved ones. Tremendous fortitude and great honesty. Don't make many friends but when they do, they make friends for life. Have great thirst for knowledge. Rabbit and Sheep make best partners. Avoid the Snake.

#### **2008: The Year of the Rat**

**1996 1984 1972 1960 1948 1936 1924**

Ambitious and honest but love to spend freely on themselves. However, they do not lend. Quick to anger but with ability to control it. Dragons, Monkeys and Ox are compatible. Stay away from Horses.

### **OUT OF THE BLUE**

by Don Estes

Sometimes good things just happen. As most of our readers are now aware, our society's first major museum exhibit is on display at the Museum of San Diego History in Balboa Park until Aug. 10, 1997. Many of you also have seen the feature article that was written by Angela Lau for *The San Diego Union-Tribune* of Feb. 24, 1997. What many may not know

is that Ms. Lau's article was syndicated and picked up by newspapers throughout Southern California and as far north as San Lorenzo. One of the papers reprinting the story was the *Orange County Register*.

Shortly after the article appeared in the *Register*, Ben Segawa, president of the JAHSSD, received a telephone call from Mrs. Dorothy Smith of Burbank, Calif. Mrs. Smith explained that she had read about our exhibit and immediately thought of her mother-in-law, Mary Courage Smith.

Mary Smith had been a teacher at Poston where she was deeply moved by the "unjust and sad situation that existed there," Dorothy Smith explained. She loved the children and loved to teach them. The relocation experience notwithstanding, Mary Smith often remarked to her family that her time at Poston was one of the most challenging, but also one of the best times of her life. She made many friends at Poston and remained in touch with them throughout her life.

After leaving Poston, Mary Smith traveled to Hawaii, where she continued to teach and make more Nikkei friends. It was in Hawaii that Mary was reintroduced to Viola Smith, who also had taught at Poston. Viola, in turn, introduced Mary to her brother, and within a short time, the two former Poston teachers and friends became sisters-in-law.

Mary Smith continued to teach in Washington state after her marriage. After retirement, she taught dyslexic children and later wrote books on the subject. She also taught literary classes for adults who had never learned to read. She retired a second time at 72 because her eyesight was failing. She then applied to the Peace Corps hoping to teach overseas, but was turned down because of her frail health. Mary then decided on a cruise around the world, where on her own initiative, she established a class and taught the ship's crew English.

See *Out of the Blue* page 8



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**THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING A DOCENT FOR  
"THE HUNDRED YEAR ROAD:  
JAPAN TO SAN DIEGO, A JAPANESE-AMERICAN JOURNEY"**  
BY ELAINE HIBI BOWERS

Museum of San Diego History  
Casa de Balboa Building on El Prado  
(West of the Space Theater)  
Balboa Park, San Diego

Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday

Admission: Adults \$4, Seniors \$3, Children under 13 free

Note: NO CHARGE WITH CURRENT JAHSSD MEMBERSHIP CARD

Also: The 2nd Tuesday of each month is a free day

This exhibit shows, not only, that a picture is worth a 1,000 words, but that a survivor of discrimination and WWII incarceration has the added attraction of being almost worth 1,000 pictures. People are just thrilled to have a guide with a Japanese face, a living, breathing, speaking relic who actually lived through all of this.

Word spread, and we soon had too many requests for tours, from middle schools, high schools, colleges and elderhostelers. To our first docent ("a person who conducts groups through a museum or art gallery") training session came Naomi Himaka, Yuki Kawamoto, Ben Segawa, and the 3 "Maskateers": Asakawa, Hironaka, and Honda. Mas, Bruce and Yuki immediately thereafter conducted their first tours and actually seemed to enjoy it.

However, we do need more volunteers, if only to do just one tour. It would be very helpful. Don't be shy. Believe me, in less than an hour you will be well-prepared and equipped to handle a tour from your unique point of view. And you will see what is most amazing is that the exhibit then takes on a new dimension and almost seems to come to life!

My best experience was to take my own children through. For them, it was a sobering, eye-opening experience to learn of this portion of their heritage. I truly believe you also will have the same impact, with your individual input, on your family and friends. If we don't do it, who will?

Use this exhibit. It provides an extremely convenient, comprehensive, compact vehicle to tell the Japanese American experience which, apparently, is hardly being taught or mentioned in text books.

Perhaps a life you touch might someday make a difference through increased awareness and understanding. You won't regret it.

Call me (Elaine) at 421-3525, or any JAHSSD board member (phone numbers listed elsewhere in this publication).

PLEASE DON'T WAIT.

The exhibit closes Aug. 10, 1997

## DOMO ARIGATO GOZAIMASHITA

LIKE MOST WORTHWHILE ENDEAVORS, THIS EXHIBIT IS THE PRODUCT OF A COMMUNAL EFFORT. IT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE GRACIOUS SUPPORT OF THE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY. THE JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND THANK THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THOSE LISTED BELOW.

Nancy Araki  
Motoharu Asakawa  
Florence Asakawa  
George Asakawa  
Toshiko Asakawa  
Eric Christiansen  
Ponce Duran  
Mary Duran  
Bill Elyea  
Jeanne Elyea  
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Matthew Estes  
Toshiye C. Estes  
Fujino Family  
Susan Hasegawa  
Robert Hasegawa  
John Hashiguchi  
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Naomi Kada Himaka  
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Frank Wada  
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Greg Wada  
Robert Wada  
Jim Wilsterman  
George Yamamoto  
Kengo Yamamoto  
Tom Yanagihara  
Alice Yano  
Vernon Yoshioka  
Shinobu Yoshioka

## A BIG THANK YOU

The JAHSSD wishes to thank the following people who helped put the 100 Year Road exhibit together:

Don Estes, the Main Man

Eric Christiansen - all phases

Machi Uchida - design, pack-up, set-up

Jim Wilsterman - design, set-up

Rev. Akio Miyaji - all the kanji work

Frank Wada - Poston room

Tom Kuge - painting the hall

Cruz Nanez - painting, hauling large exhibit items

Matthew Estes - painting, hauling, set-up

Susan Hasegawa - set-up

Naomi Himaka - set-up

Mich Himaka - set-up

Carol Estes - set-up

Yukio Kawamoto - set-up

Mike Ito - driver hauling Poston room

Steve Kobayashi - Frank Wada's crew

Glenn Kobayashi - Frank's crew

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## FROM YUTAKA'S COOKBOOK

From late 1942 through spring, 1943, Yutaka Kida worked in the mess hall of Block 330 at Poston III. While there, he carefully maintained a record of the menus for the block. From Yutaka's notebook dated March 16, 1942:

**BREAKFAST:** (1) Orange, Cream of Wheat Mush,  
(2) French Toast, Butter, Syrup, Coffee.

**DINNER:** Country Fried Steak, Country Gravy,  
Spinach and Egg, Lettuce Salad with Thousand Island  
Dressing, Lemon Souffle Cake, Bread and Jam.

## Yutaka's Lemon Souffle Cake

10 quarts of hot water  
2 pounds of sugar  
1 pound of oleo  
3 cups of lemon juice  
6 lemon rinds

1 pound of sugar  
2 1/2 pounds hard flour  
20 egg yolks  
1 quart cold water

2 cups egg whites  
2 cups sugar  
vanilla

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*Out of the Blue continued from page 4*

Mary Courage Smith, teacher, humanitarian, adventurer and friend, died in 1979, one week before her 90th birthday. Among her possessions were three framed, watercolor paintings of Poston that Mary had kept on her walls for years. After the death of her husband, and living in a small retirement apartment in Phoenix, Mrs. Smith chose to give the paintings to her daughter-in-law, Dorothy, so she could see them when she came to visit her grandchildren.

On March 20, 1997, Dorothy Smith transferred ownership of the three paintings to the JAHSSD. In her letter to Ben, Mrs. Smith wrote:

*"I wanted to find the right place for Mary's pictures, and was delighted when I came across the article about your historical society. I know Mary would be very pleased her pictures found such a worthy place to be."*

Acknowledging Dorothy Smith's bequest on behalf of the membership and board of the JAHSSD, Ben Segawa wrote, *"Through your gift you have become not only a celebrant, but a guardian of the Japanese American experience. For that and everything else you have done, you have our gratitude."*

Sometimes good things do "just happen."

## REgenerations COMING

Working in a consortium with the Japanese American National Museum, the Chicago Japanese American Historical Society, and the Japanese American Resource Center/ Museum of San Jose, our JAHSSD has received, and will share in, a \$62,000 grant from the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund.

The grant, which is designed to initiate a series of local oral histories centering on post World War II Nikkei resettlement, will assist in training of interviewers, transcribers, and video camera persons. The grant will also cover major costs involved in the collection and transcription of at least ten interviews in each of the consortium areas.

Representing the JAHSSD in this joint partnership is Susan Hasegawa, our Regional Coordinator and a graduate student working on her second master's degree at San Diego State University. Serving as the Regional Scholar for the project is Don Estes,

Professor of History at San Diego City College, Charing the consortium is Darcie Iki, Life History Curator at the Japanese American National Museum.

If you are contacted by Susan for assistance in this project, we urge you to help as much as possible.



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Editors:	Michio Himaka
	Yukio Kawamoto

**Footprints** is a publication of the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego. Subscriptions are free with membership. Comments and questions from readers are welcome. Please address your letter to:

**Footprints** Editor  
P.O. Box 620988  
San Diego, CA 92162-0988



JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO  
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(JANUARY-DECEMBER)  
(INCLUDES **FOOTPRINTS** NEWSLETTER)

Initial Application

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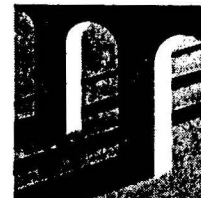
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January 29, 1997

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Mr. Ben Segawa

Japanese American Historical Society  
of San Diego

442 Sandy Creek Drive

Bonita, CA 91902-0231

Dear Mr. Segawa:

The San Diego Historical Society is pleased to offer free admission to the Museum of San Diego History to members of the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego during the run of *The Hundred Year Road: Japan to San Diego, a Japanese American Journey*, on display from January 18-August 10, 1997. We hope your members will also enjoy viewing the other exhibitions on display at the Museum during their visit, as well.

The Society deeply appreciates the fact that so many of your members have loaned items for display in the exhibition. We are delighted to offer free admission to all of your members during the run of the show as our way of saying thank you.

We have notified our admissions staff that your members will present their Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego membership cards for identification.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nichole Keith  
Director of Development