

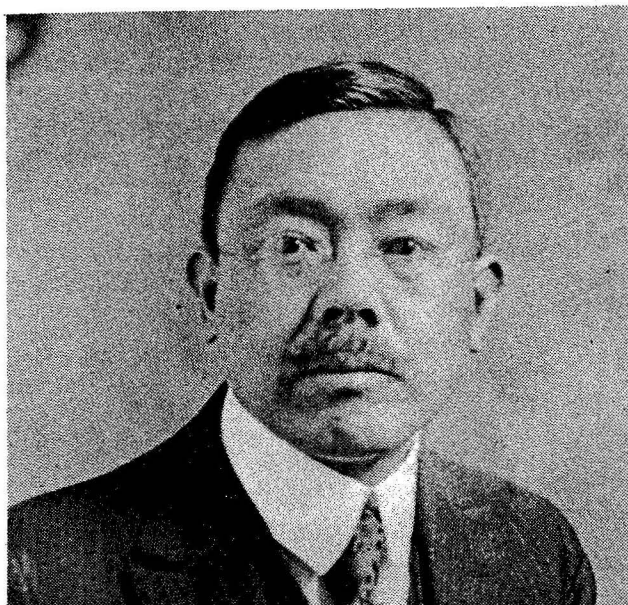
FOOTPRINTS

Impressions from where we were to where we will be

The Newsletter for the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego

Winter Issue 1997 - 1998

Volume 6 Number 4



FATHER OF AN INDUSTRY

by
Don Estes

While it is impossible to trace the genesis of the Issei interest in Southern California's commercial tuna fishery, most authorities agree that one of the men most involved in pioneering the local tuna industry was Masaharu Kondo.

The man who was to play a major role in shaping a regional industry was born in Kyoto in 1877, and grew to manhood in Japan's ancient capital city. As a young man, he attended the elite Tokyo Imperial University where he majored in agricultural sciences, a curriculum that included fisheries and oceanography which were to hold a life-long interest for Kondo.

After graduation, he was hired to teach at the Imperial Fisheries Institute where he was eventually appointed to the school's board of commissioners. While serving in that capacity, Kondo was invited to undertake a tour of the world to study the fishing

technologies of other nations.

Arriving in Los Angeles in 1908, Kondo visited both the San Pedro and San Diego areas and quickly realized the untapped potential of Southern California's fishery. After completing his tour, he returned to Japan and was able to raise sufficient financial backing to allow him to establish a fishing company in San Diego.

See Father of Industry page 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we begin a new year, my thoughts focus on our past events. Your Historical Society has been very busy. For instance, our activities have included:

1. Sponsoring and setting up numerous exhibits.
2. Sharing our experiences with students.

3. Interviewing many of our own community members for the ReGeneration Project.

Our mission is, and has always been, to record and share the cultural heritage and experiences of our people. With limited resources, it is difficult to do a complete job.

With the theme of our annual meeting this past year being "Family History," I would encourage each family to record your history. Some day, you, your children and grandchildren will cherish it, not regret it.

With hope that the start of this new year finds everyone in good health, the board and I wish everyone a happy, prosperous and healthy new year and hope we can depend on your support during the coming months.

Ben Segawa
President

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CAUGHT DOING SOMETHING NICE

The JAHSSD would like to acknowledge and thank the following individuals for their generous contributions to the ever-growing collection of our society.

Mr. Shig "Blackie" **Matsushita** for his donation of a carved and painted panoramic view of Poston Camp III.

Mrs. Tamiko Koide **Kinoshita** for her gift of three original oil paintings painted by her mother, and well-known local artist, **Mrs. Miwa Koide**. We also would like to recognize the additional gift of four panoramic photos of the local Nikkei community dating from 1926.

Dr. Azusa **Tsuneyoshi** of Twenty-Nine Palms, California, who attended our annual meeting in October and allowed our society to copy several photographs from his collection for inclusion in our growing photo archive.

Reverend Akio **Miyaji**, and Mrs. Jeanne **Inouye**, for their invaluable assistance with the photo history display your society fabricated for the dedication of the San Diego Buddhist Temple's new Sangha Hall.

We want to acknowledge and thank Mr. Masami **Honda**, Mr. James **Yamate**, Mrs. Dorothy **Yonemitsu**, and Mr. Joe **Yoshioka** for their active participation in our ReGenerations resettlement study.

Father of Industry continued from page 1

In 1912, Kondo organized the M.K. Fishing Company and applied to the Mexican Government for an exclusive fishing concession in Baja California at Turtle Bay (Bahia Tortugas). With the approval of the concession, Kondo began to bring the first contract Japanese fishermen to Mexico. With these Issei fishermen came a technology that soon spread along the entire West Coast and became the basis for an industry.

Among the innovations that were introduced to this area by Kondo's men were the use of the long, flexible Japanese bamboo pole equipped with a new type of lure called a "squid." Other techniques like

"chumming" to create feeding frenzies among the schools of tuna, and fully refrigerated boats with long-range radios followed.

At the cannery his men built at Turtle Bay, Kondo, for the first time, successfully developed a technique for canning abalone whole. There, in Baja California, his men also dried abalone for shipment to San Diego and later distribution to Hawaii and Japan. Former employees of the M.K. Company remember that it was common occurrence to find abalone stacked ten to twelve deep at places along the Mexican coast.

Members of the local Nikkei community still recall the huge piles of dried abalone awaiting shipment that were kept in the company's shed at the Santa Fe wharf on San Diego Bay. A few also remember sneaking into the shed as youngsters and appropriating a dried abalone for an illicit afternoon snack.

In 1931, beset by the great depression and the expropriation of his cannery at Turtle Bay by the Mexican government, the Issei entrepreneur returned to Japan to seek new financing, but was unable to raise the funds necessary to save his company from bankruptcy.

Masaharu Kondo never returned to the United States. He died in Tokyo in 1948, but his legacy was the great tuna industry of Southern California.



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TRACING YOUR NIKKEI ROOTS

Those who attended our Annual meeting in October heard a discussion and received handouts on outlining some of the ways Nikkei family records might be obtained. Mich Himaka covered methods of obtaining personal and family records gathered by the U.S. Government during World War II that are now deposited in the National Archives. Mich related his efforts to recover his file and exhibited copies of these documents which ran over fifty pages.

Mich was followed by Don Estes who discussed the types of family records available in record centers in the U.S. and Japan that can be used to help trace Nikkei families.

To obtain copies of your personal records from the National Archives you must first request a copy of
See Nikkei Roots page 3

your file. These records usually include medical, educational, employment and property records. It is not uncommon to find that your file also includes personal background and genealogical information.

You can receive not only your personal file but the files of deceased members of your family. Mich pointed out that he was able to obtain the files on both his parents and an older sister who is now deceased.

To obtain these records you will need to supply the full name of the relative, provide the relationship, date of birth and date of death. It is also helpful if you can provide any nicknames that might have been used while they were in camp. The approximate date of evacuation and the camps of residence is also requested if known.

The National Archives estimates the average cost to be approximately \$20 per case file. When you request files, the National Archives will send you an order blank informing you of how many pages are in the file you are requesting and the total cost of reproduction and shipping. Expect that the turn around time for the National Archives will be at least 12 weeks.

Mich pointed out that the National Archives also requires a copy of a death certificate if the individual whose records you are requesting was born after 1921. As he stated in his talk, it is Mich's guess that if you were born before 1921 the National Archives assumes that you're already gone.

Requests should be directed to: The National Archives and Record Administration, Attention: Textual Reference, Washington, D.C. 20408.

If you would like a copy of both handouts mailed to you please send a self addressed, stamped envelop with .55¢ return postage to: Genealogy, JAHSSD, P.O. Box 6220988, San Diego, CA 92126-0988.

NEXT ISSUE: TRACING YOUR ROOTS TO JAPAN

FRANCES CUSHMAN PIERCE DEC. 31, 1907-NOV. 2, 1997

It is with deepest regret that we report the passing of our beloved **Frances Cushman Pierce**, principal of Parker Valley High School during our early World War II years of internment in Poston III, Ariz. Miss Cushman, as we knew her, was a native of Liberty, Mo. The word we received was that she passed away on Nov. 2, 1997, in Vancouver, Wash. She had been living in recent years in Roswell, N.M. Miss Cushman is survived by two adopted daughters; eight grandchildren; and one brother. We extend our deepest sympathy and condolences to her family. It was her encouragement during her years as principal

that enabled so many of us to return to the "outside world" and resume our lives and seek our goals. For that, we owe her a great debt of gratitude. She will be sorely missed by all who were touched by her kindness.

IN MEMORIAM

The JAHSD notes the passing of the following San Diegans and former residents in recent months. We extend our condolences to their families and friends.

David **ARATA** - December 1997
Smiles Kinoshita **ASADA** - November 14, 1997
Frances **CUSHMAN-PIERCE**-November 2, 1997
Asako **FUJII**- November 28, 1997
George **FUJITO** - November 10, 1997
Harold Susumu **IKEMURA** - September 1997
Masami Sam **ITAMI** - November 19, 1997
Chiyeko **HOSAKA**- October 31, 1997
Carl Kaoru **KADA** - October 12, 1997
Kunio **KAWAMOTO** - November 22, 1997
Koji **KONISHI** - December 1997
Yoshio Buddy **MAMIYA** - August 1997
Yasushi **NAKAMURA**- December 17, 1997
Laurie **OKUMA**- November 27, 1997
Tetsuji (Joe) **OKUMA** - October 22, 1997
Sumie **OKUNI**- September 7, 1997
Mary Kikuye **OTSUKA**- December, 1997
Alyce Ayako **OWASHI**- December 21, 1997
Taiji **SANTOHIGASHI**- December 16, 1997
Kiyoko **SANTOHIGASHI**- January 3, 1998
Jimmy Hajime **SHINOHARA**-October 6, 1997
Hideko Patricia **SUMI** - August, 1997
Joseph Yonezo **TANABE** - August 26, 1997
Mark W. **TSUIDA** - November 17, 1997
Yoshimi **UYEJI**- December 12, 1997
Tomi **YADA**- October 28, 1997

NEW MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

At its November meeting, your Board of Directors voted to establish a new membership category for full time students. Effective immediately any full time K-12 student, or a student currently enrolled for at least 12 undergraduate units or 9 graduate units may join the JAHSSD for \$15 per year.

This is a perfect chance for young people to help preserve the Nikkei past for our future.

The new membership, like all memberships, will date from the time of joining. You might consider a membership for a child or grandchild.

Answers to Remember When?

1.-l	4.-t	7.-h	10.-s	13.-r	16.-d	19.-q
2.-i	5.-a	8.-e	11.-n	14.-o	17.-c	20.-k
3.-j	6.-b	9.-p	12.-g	15.-f	18.-m	

MORE MT. CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL POETRY ON THE
"100 YEAR ROAD" EXHIBIT

41

JAPANESE

Raiding
Privacy
killing
hope
accusing
loyalty
hating
citizens
ruining
lives
destroying
dreams
accepting
situation
forgiving
past.

loving
all
learning
from mistakes,
calling
for action
uniting
a nation.

Azucena Faus

A hundred year road
Making Japanese Americans move
Everyone is the same
Rights were not practiced
Invaded by Americans
causing pain and suffering
An American is an American

- Melvin Clemente

Melvin Clemente

milce
Throckmorton

Remi: The American Dream differs between people,
but they share a common bond.
The end result is happiness and nothing more.
How happiness is achieved lies deep inside an
individual.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

By Yukio Kawamoto, Membership Chair

I want to thank all the members for your past support by joining the JAHSSD. Without that support, the JAHSSD would not have been able to get off the ground nor accomplish as much as we have to date. I hope all of you will continue to support the JAHSSD.

Welcome to new life members **George and Toshiko Asakawa** of Yellow Springs, Ohio and to **Sumitomo Bank of California** (Mrs. **Agnes Benson**, Vice President and Manager of the San Diego branch) who joined as a corporate member. We also welcome **Yoshito and Marleen Kawahara**, **Thomas A.O. Kelly**, **Jodi Masumoto**, **June Shimazu**, **Pam Springer** and **Mary Tanizaki**, who joined recently as annual members. We appreciate all of your support.

Our membership reaches far and wide. We have members from as far away as Japan and Holland, from Hawaii, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Washington state, and from throughout California. If you have any friends who are former San Diegans, tell them about us and invite them to join the JAHSSD. I'm sure they will enjoy reading our newsletters. Some members have provided gift memberships for their relatives and friends. Why not consider a gift membership for your out-of-town relatives and friends this holiday season?

As noted in the Fall 1997 issue of *Footprints*, we are changing some things in the way we handle membership renewals. Instead of having the membership run from the first of the calendar year to the end of the year, the membership year will run from the anniversary month that you joined JAHSSD until the end of the same month next year. For example, if you joined in June 1994, your membership year 1997/1998 will run from June 1997 to June 30, 1998. The expiration date of your membership will appear in the upper right corner of the mailing label on each issue of the *Footprints*. In addition, beginning in 1998 we will be sending you a reminder approximately one month before your membership expires. We hope we will have your full cooperation in sending in your annual dues promptly when you get the renewal notice.

REMEMBER WHEN?

Go back some 60 years in your memory bank to 1937-38 and try to remember where some of us lived in San Diego County. See if you can match the address on the left with the family names. (This is

according to the 1937-38 Yearbook and Directory published by the Rafu Shimpo Japanese language newspaper.)

1. 3510 Adams Ave., SD
2. 534 Island Ave., SD
3. 1960 Bayfront, SD
4. 1850 Main St., SD
5. 318 31st St., SD
6. Rt. 1 Box 37 El Cajon
7. 3112 L. St., SD
8. RFD 1 Box 382, Nat'l City
9. Rt. 1 Box 294-B, CV
10. Rt. 1 Box 304, CV
11. 1327 G St., SD
12. 1112 W. Kalmia, SD
13. 604 Third Ave., SD
14. P. O. Box 64, SD
15. 6360 Benson Ave., SD
16. 460 I Ave., Coronado
17. 2118 Irving Ave., SD
18. 516 Fifth Ave., SD
19. 1315 Crosby, SD
20. 2912 K St., SD

- a. Y. Sawasaki
- b. H. Takasaki
- c. N. Tomiyama
- d. I. Tsuneyoshi
- e. T. Ozaki
- f. E. Ito
- g. S. Takehara
- h. K. Tsunoda
- i. K. Katsumata
- j. Fish Camp
- k. R. Tajiri
- l. K. Hashiguchi
- m. K. Kondo
- n. T. Taniguchi
- o. H. Honda
- p. K. Mayumi
- q. Nakamuras
- r. S. Takemoto
- s. S. Muraoka
- t. I. Kawamoto

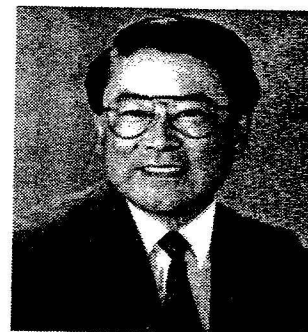
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SWIFT FIGHTER

MAYBE I AM JUST SCARED OF WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME
IF I DO NOT SWING MY SWORD AROUND VERY CAREFULLY.
WITH ALL OF THIS PADDING PROTECTING MY FACE
AND MY ABILITY TO WIN ANY AND EVERY RACE.
I AM SAD FOR THE JAPANESE BUT THERE IS NOTHING I CAN
DO
TO PROTECT THE LIVES OF MY PEOPLE SUFFERING
THROUGH AND THROUGH

By melissa
widerborn

Debi Liu

Real American?

I was born in here, so
I thought that I am a citizen.
I thought that I am ^{an} American citizen
But they did think that,
they think I will betray.
They think I am Japanese
They don't understand what I feel,
because they are white, not like me.

Dreams

For some reason I can't walk freely
Down the streets because people stare at me
My parents told me that the streets were going to be
paved with gold
But all the things I see here in California are
very old
Hopefully some day my family will feel free and
have a healthy and wealthy time
And have our dream of just being accepted and equal
be able to shine
I know some day this dream will come true
And everyone's else's American dream will too

Teresa Occiano

AMERICAN DREAM

Striving to be the best,
never getting any rest,
constinently achieving, always grieving,
doing the best you can is all part of the master plan,
to make ends meat and stay on your feet,
for the dream is to be just like everybody.

Brandy R. Chavez

They came to this land to start
a new life
they arrived in boats with out a wife
they worked all day and slaved away
hoping they could pay their families
way.

Poem
Museum of San Diego History

Carrie Stephens
June 6, 1997
period 4

Rocky Road of Life

Why is life so tough,
I am only 12 and things are rough.
My family is always looked down on
Just because of our race,
I don't understand the hatred
We just have a different face.
We've worked so hard to achieve success,
Night and day, without any rest.
And once we almost reached the top,
But we were stripped of our things
And forced to live locked up.

Japanese Americans

Barbie
Per. 4

Through time they have paid,
for something unexplainable,
lived in concentration camps,
w/ public bathrooms,
small cramped space,
w/ kendo for recreation.
Trapped for years,
did the best they could,
treated like animals,
Came to America for a bright future,
which ended in a wish,
Set free one day,
many stayed w/ no where to go,
No money,
Nothing
What do we do?
Where do we go?
How do we begin again?

Charlene Tambalo

Little Barrack

Little wooden space

Unfair treatment

Little food

Great adjustment

Little things to do

No where to hide

Little possession

Make the best of what you have

Museum of San Diego History

Billy Ratz
per. 3

I solated

N o freedom

T errified

E ager to be free

R aped of life

N o Privacy

M en away at war

E ager to be with families

N o respect

T aken from their homes

C ollected

A mputated from society

M ade fun of

P roven to be innocent

MACMILLAN 1511111
Lit per. 3

Japanese In The Camps

Independent

No one cared about them except for the others at the camps

They had nothing

Eating was horrible, small portions everyday

Rooms were made of wood, cardboard, and what ever else they could find

No privacy

Many lives were destroyed at these camps

Enemies to many people, the Japanese that is

No one there to help them out

This awful thing happened to the Japanese

Crowded rooms

Animals is how they were treated

Money was not for them and if so it was nothing to live on

Poor is how they lived at these camps

Smells of all different things, which weren't pleasant

Kevin Trembl
Per. 4

The American Dream

The American dream,
where do I get it.
I travel, I work,
I strive to survive.

They offer streets of gold,
they give dark alleys of stones,
they say it's the land of the free,
but here we are trapped behind fences.
The American Dream,
I guess it's not for me.

Sean
Santiago

Sean
Santiago
6/12/97

I need to escape this place, this hell.

It makes me sick every day of my life.

Scorpions, rattlesnakes, centipedes, ants and
worm just around the corner looking for
something to prey on. The environment,

plagued w/ diseases with no cures. Filthy

people around you with viruses and germs.

Being a soldier is hell. Please tell me

why I am fighting for the wrong

country - I know, it's for freedom and

for a better future but please, can

someone please tell me when this

war will end.

POSTON III Y.B.A. BOOK FOR SALE

In 1945, the Young Buddhist Association of Poston III published a pictorial book, "Mohaveland," as a record of people and life in Poston. The JAHSSD has reproduced the book and it is now available for sale. Although the book was published by the Young Buddhists Association, we believe that it is of general interest and a valuable publication, not only as memento of the times, but in giving a glimpse of camp life to our children and grandchildren.

If you would like to order a copy of the book, please fill out the order form and send it to the address indicated on the form along with a check made payable to "JAHSSD"

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Masato Asakawa, Treasurer

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San Diego, CA 92162-0988

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Please attach camera-ready ad or your business card (for individual section). If you do not have camera-ready artwork, we will attempt to assist you in designing an ad for an additional charge.

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Newsletter Staff

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

JAHSSD
Michio Himaka
Yukio Kawamoto
P.O. Box 620988
San Diego, Ca 92162-0988



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TO: JAHSSD VALUED MEMBERS

JAHSSD Board invites the membership's input in planning future activities. Tell us what you want. Feel free to brainstorm, be creative, suggest something different and new. Your idea could be just the needed spark to result in the occasion of the year, a "why didn't we think of this before?" event.

The following is just a guideline. Expand at will

ANNUAL FALL MEETING:

Meeting only _____ w/Brunch _____ w/Lunch _____
w/Afternoon Tea _____ w/Dinner _____

BEST TIME FOR EVENT:

Sun _____ Mon _____ Tue _____ Wed _____ Thur _____ Fri _____ Sat _____
Morning _____ Afternoon _____ Evening _____

SITE: Church/Temple _____ VFW _____ Southwestern College _____

Other suggested sites _____

PROGRAM IDEAS / TOPICS OF INTEREST:

Subject:

Speakers:

Panels:

FUNDRAISERS:

Day Trips to: Santa Anita _____ Los Angeles area Museums
(e.g. Getty, Norton Simon, Huntington, Other) _____

3 - 5 - 7 Day Cruise:
Mexico _____ Alaska _____ other _____

Poston/Laughlin _____ Local "Las Vegas Night" _____
Social/Dance/Bridge, etc. _____

FOOTPRINTS Newsletter suggested themes:

JAHSSD Critique, additional thoughts:

Name (optional):

Please return in provided envelope, and thanks for your support.

Elaine Hibi Bowers, Vice Pres., for the Board