The Newsletter For The Japanese American Historical Society Of San Diego

SUMMER Issue 1999

Volume 8 Number 2

A Moment in Time Classic Photos from the JAHSSD Archive



A Japanese Garden Gateway on Point Loma - 1919

Mr. Joseph Sefton was a wealthy San Diegan whose estate on Point Loma had a panoramic view of the city. Like his neighbor E.J. Campbell, Mr. Sefton constructed a Japanese garden following World War I utilizing local Issei labor. This photograph, taken April 24, 1919, shows the garden and three of the Issei involved in the landscaping. Wearing suit and cap on the left is Mr. Kasuke Hashiguchi, an accomplished gardener.

A \$50,000 grant has been awarded the *JAHSSD* to produce a 26-minute educational video documenting the evacuation and resettlement of San Diego Japanese Americans during and after World War II.

An accompanying interactive teaching curriculum will target middle school, high school and college students.

The California Civil Liberties Public

Education Program (CCLPEP) announced the grant on June 1.

The project was proposed by the REgenerations Oral History Team, which has been documenting local resettlement stories since 1997. Team members included Don Estes, Susan Hasegawa, Debra Kodama, Leng Loh and Joyce Teague. Each of them will have a role on the project staff under Susan's direction. Karen Kawasaki, a Mt. Carmel High School teacher and JAHSSD board member, will develop the curriculum.

A consortium of community groups has agreed to lend formal support to the project, including the San Diego JACL, Kiku Gardens, the Buddhist Temple of San Diego, the Images Theater Troupe and the San Diego Public Library.

An advisory board consisting of local scholars, Nisei detainees and Sansei and Yonsei educators will lend its expertise to the production.

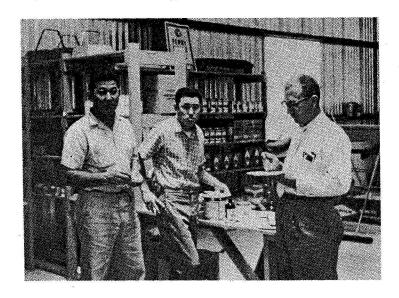
More information on this exciting project will appear in the next issue of *Footprints*.

President's Message

(See the letter insert from President Elaine Hibi Bowers to Steven Hill, assistant to San Diego Mayor Susan Golding, regarding JAHSSD's seeking space at the former Naval Training Center for a future museum site and Hill's response.)

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A young Ben Segawa, center, is seen here with Tosh Hasegawa (R) and Bob Grove (L) at Grove Chemical Company's warehouse in Chula Vista - July 1961

TIA JUANA RIVER VALLEY MEMORIES

By Ben Segawa

Years pass too quickly and memories reflect on days gone by, the good times and the bad. My childhood memories are full of indelible images of living on a farm near the Mexican border. Before WWII, the Tia Juana River Valley was active with Japanese farmers, just like my family.

We moved to the south side of the valley around 1933. We were as close to the Pacific Ocean as you could get and still have productive farmland. I was not in school yet. I must have been less than four years old. Looking into my mind's eye, I can still see all the Nikkei families and farms in the area.

Down Monument Road near Hollister were Windy and Mary Marumoto. He was our fearless leader and JAHSSD board member Jeanne Elyea's father. He kept things alive. He was a man who was small of stature but whose personality could fill a room. Windy planned many of the social activities in our small community near the border. When I think of him, I remember a very funny man who could tell a joke (usually off-color) with the best of them. It was hard not to laugh when he told a story, that is, if you could understand him. He spoke three languages: Japanese, English and Spanish and often spoke them in the same sentence. All of the growers had much love for the man.

Occasionally, Mary's family -- The Wada's -- would come from Redlands to stay with them. Her brothers, Ted, Frank and Bob were regular

DATES TO REMEMBER

June 27, 1999 JACL Picnic 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Crown Point Shores

July 12-14 Zen Lite Trip LV*
July 31, 1999 Obon Odori 6 p.m.

Buddhist Temple of San Diego

Aug. 6-8 Buddhist Temple LV Obon Trip* September 5, 1999 Bazaar 11 a.m.

Ocean View UCC

Sept. 6-8 Vista Center Fujinkai LV Trip* September 9, 1999 - Japanese Friendship Garden

Building Dedication - Balboa Park

*-Call Miki or Ralph Honda for info

visitors. Bob and I even attended Emory Elementary School together.

Across the river and further west than us were Toki Yano and his family. Their farm was located on the very west end of Sunset Street. Next to them were the Furuta Family. Last I heard, Dr. Tokuji Furuta was teaching at UC Riverside. After the war, the Furutas relocated to Chicago where they still live. Next to the Furutas were Tats Hirata and his family.

Continuing eastward, I can see Sammy and Mary Itami's farm. Sammy passed away not too long ago. He and my oldest brother, George, were fast friends who shared a love of motorcycles. Neither of them could afford to own their own bike, so they bought one together. I can still hear the sound of their

motorcycle.

Further east on Sunset across Hollister was the Imaizumi clan. Next to the Imaizumis was Kenbo Iguchi and his family. Their family was like ours. We had 10 kids and they had seven. Fred and Penny (Isen) Iguchi were around the corner on what is now 27th Street. Penny recently lost his wife, Haru Helen, who was Sammy Itami's sister. Another sister, Mits, was married to Tom Sugioka, who lived with the Iguchis. Mits has long since passed away but Tom continues to live in Imperial Beach.

Down the street from the Iguchis was my best friend, James Kida, and his family. Another friend, Jimmy Kido, and his family lived west of them.

Kazukiyo and Shig Oto and their family had the farm on the highest ground in the valley at the corner of Leon and Hollister. Kazukiyo passed away recently but Shig now lives in Encinitas.

In those days, farming was truly a job that required

See Tia Juana River Valley page 9

Poston III Reunion: Two Perspectives

The 9th Poston III Reunion By Yuki Kawamoto

They came from 12 different states and from as far away as England and Hawaii. Close to 450 people gathered in Reno, Nev., on April 26, 27 and 28 at the Eldorado Hotel and Casino for the Ninth Poston Camp III Reunion. The reunion was hosted by the San Jose group and ably chaired by a Sansei, Glenn Tsutsumi. It was three days of fun, meeting old friends, reminiscing and meeting some new friends, plus some fun at the casino. Included among the reunion activities were the Monday night buffet dinner for Roku I, II and III and block 308; a golf tournament; class of '44 reunion lunch; slot tournament; Tuesday night banquet; and the sayonara brunch Wednesday morning.

About 54 San Diegans attended, including our JAHSSD president, Elaine Hibi Bowers and our executive director Ben Segawa. From Lawrence, Kan., came Barbara Washler Curry, one of our camp teachers. Among former San Diegans attending were: Paul Arakawa, Michiko (Date) Eguchi, Tosh Fujimoto, Ruth (Sato) Fukuchi, Edythe (Hirase) Harada, Jim and Ryo (Sugaya) Momo (Kamiura) Hashiguchi. Babe Karasawa, Dr. Thomas Kikuchi, David Kikuchi, Kikuye (Kawamoto) Koga, Midori (Koba) Koga, Terry (Hamaguchi) Mizufuka, Josie (Hirai) Nishida, Paul Okimoto, Lily (Iguchi) Onizuka, Paul and Mariam (Kikuchi) Oyama, June (Watanabe) Shimazu, Jim Tajiri, Yo Takehara, John and Kiyoko (Kushino) Takemoto, Sam and Pat (Goto) Takeshita, Jim and Helen (Kawamoto) Urata. Frances (Toyama) Uyesaka, Haruyo (Hirai) Yabu, Eunice (Hirase) Yamane. Anna (Kikuchi) Yamauchi and Akira Yonekura.

The reunion was a low-key affair, but those in attendance had a great time. The Tuesday night banquet was emceed by former San Diegan Babe Karasawa, and part of the entertainment was provided by Yo Takehara and Terry (Hamaguchi) Mizufuka, both former San

Diegans.

Tom Segawa took second place in the slot tournament. In a pre-reunion drawing, this writer won an upgraded room. The Jacuzzi in the room sure felt great! In the golf tournament, Hank Yamada was the winner of "B Flight" and landed one of the closest to the pin. Other San Diegans and former San Diegans winning prizes in the golf tournament included Jimmy Urata, David Kikuchi, Steve Sato, Pauline (Date) Nakamura, Terry Nishida and Walt Fujimoto.

The next Poston III Reunion was awarded to San

Diego and scheduled for 2001. **Ben Segawa** accepted the duties on behalf of the San Diego group. The dates and site will be selected later.

(We hope we can count on everyone for their assistance.)

Reno Reunion

By Elaine Hibi Bowers

The big attraction, of course, was the people who came, after more than a half-century since camp. Did you find yourself talking to someone, your eyes darting from face-to-badge-back-to-face? Then your mind's eye seeing the person as you remembered them and doing a Hollywood-type fast forward adding instant aging features. And voila! Instant recognition!

The slots tournament was an exciting event for the San Diego contingent. Tom and Aya Segawa good-naturedly had signed up to help the cause (\$20 donation per person). As luck would have it, and luck definitely was there, Aya did fine. Then Tom played for the big prize. His cheering section, led by Judy Hibi and Aya, were hoarse with screaming "Come on, Tom!" Their enthusiasm paid off. Tom took second place and came in the chips, all because he was trying to do a good deed.

Whatever happened to "Japanese time?" For the 6 p.m. Tuesday night banquet, three of us came down a few minutes late and couldn't find a table with three seats together. Everybody else was already there!

There was one compensation for me. I wound up sitting with an interesting conversationalist specializing in a fascinating topic: Food! Food can be such a mystery. One hardly knows what's really good for us to eat. We eat by faith, luck and alot of washing. **Debra Shimaji**, a food scientist from Fresno, makes a study of this and knows what's really good, or not good, to eat. What a useful occupation.

Breakfast the next morning was from 7 to 10 a.m.. We were there a little after 7. Late again! Everyone must have been right at 7 or earlier. Quite incredibly, the majority had finished their breakfast by 8:30 and

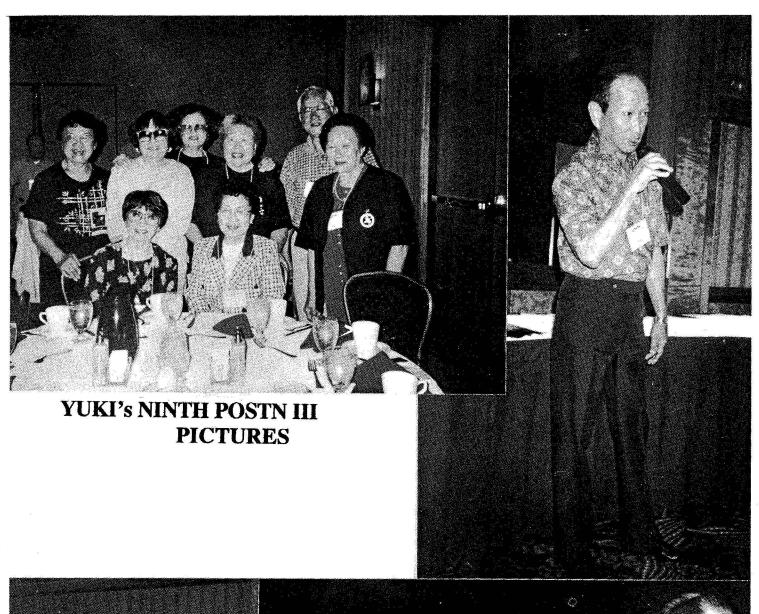
left the room.

The weather was fine and temperate at the beginning but on the last day, I awoke and looked out the window. Not quite fully awake, I thought: "It's raining — sideways? How odd. On closer inspection, I realized it was snowing! Of those who drove to the reunion, I can only hope they made it home safely.

The big news for San Diegans is that the next reunion is scheduled to be in San Diego in 2001. The last one in San Diego in 1991 was unforgettable, the best of all reunions, including a "planned" sensational fireworks show, thanks to the America's Cup celebration.

We have great expectations for the next one as well.

Stay tuned for more information later.







CHANKO-NABE

By Joyce Teague

When asked to start a regular column for "Footprints," the only thing I really fretted about was what to call it. Writing assignments are fun, finding topics are no problem, and "deadline" has long been my middle name. But coming up with an appropriate title for a column which, like Seinfeld's long-running sitcom, would essentially be about Nothing? That was a real head-scratcher. My gut feeling-pun intended-was that it should have to do with food...Japanese food. For me. there is hardly a happier subject.

Like most Sansei I know, I have just enough Japanese language skills to allow me to point expertly at wax food models in restaurant window displays. My first impulse was MAZE GOHAN. Maze (pronounced "mah-zeh") gohan is hot rice with other ingredients added, usually after the rice is cooked. To me, it means different flavors mixed together to form a pleasing and satisfying dish. It also suggests the

America-as-melting-pot metaphor.

I consulted my bilingual friend Masumi, a Japanese native working in the Bay area. Masumi's suggestion was Yose-nabe ("yoh-seh nah-beh"). Yoseru means "to gather". Yose-nabe is a bubbling potful of many different ingredients of the cook's choosing -- meat, fish, veggies, tofu, konyaku, and so on. Usually rice or noodles are added to the broth already made tasty by the variety of cooked ingredients.

The bonus appeal of this title was that it included part of my maiden name, Nabeta! YOSE-NABE-TA! What a bad pun-nothing could be bettah. No bettah. Nabeta. Perfect! Now all I had to do was write an

article...

When I sat down at the computer this morning, the first thing I did was check the day's results of the May Grand Sumo Tournament (Natsu Basho) now taking place in Tokyo. Following sumo results on the Internet is in fact how I met Masumi, a long-time sumo fan who contributes regularly to an on-line mailing list which shares information and enthusiasm about all aspects of Japan's ancient sport. As I tracked discussions about favorite rikishi (sumo wrestlers), another favorite food phrase caught my eye: CHANKO-NABE.

Chanko-nabe is a nutritious one-pot stew that is every rikishi's staple food. It is a large pot of fish and veggies and whatever the cook has handy. Served with copious amounts of rice and washed down with bottles of beer, this is how the sumotori is able to gain so much weight during his early training. This is in fact how I have reached near-sumotori proportions myself, although the process has taken many years during which I substituted squares of See's Nuts 'n'

Chews for the bottle of beer.

According to Masumi, there are two theories about what *chanko* means. *Chan* means "father" and *ko* means "child." In the context of sumo, the oyakata (training master) is *chan*; the rikishi is *ko*.

The second theory is simpler: *chanko* refers to the type of cooking pot used for Chinese soupy dishes. Both ideas make sense, but Masumi claims that no one

really knows which is the origin of the term.

Well, no matter. CHANKO-NABE strikes me as a tasty way to bring whatever's in the kitchen to a simmer and share it with whoever's at the table. Heck, even *Nothing* tastes pretty good if the company's right!

VFW POST 4851 SEEKS NIKKEI VETS BURIAL SITES IN S. D. COUNTY

The Japanese American VFW Post 4851 is seeking community assistance to locate burial sites of San Diego County Nikkei veterans other than those buried at Fort Rosecrans.

Min Sakamoto, post judge advocate, explains the cemeteries would place flags at each burial site on special holidays or occasions such as Veterans Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Flag Day, etc.

If you can help, send the information giving the name of the veteran and the cemetery where the veteran

is buried to: Min Sakamoto

5286 Churchward St. San Diego, Ca. 92114

The VFW will compile a list of those veterans buried in locations other than Fort Rosecrans.





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Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego

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May 18, 1999

Mr. Steven Hill Assistant to the Mayor 202 C Street, 11th Floor San Diego, CA 92101

Subject: Letter of Interest, Naval Training Center (NTC) Property

Dear Mr. Hill:

The Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego is a California nonprofit (503-c) public benefit corporation organized in 1991.

We are interested in space at NTC to include a museum for public displays of artifacts and for secure storage of archival materials. We are a local resource for schools and the general public interested in the Japanese American experience; and we would like to be a resource for the entire community, for all groups, drawing from our inventory of oral histories, photographs and other materials relating to an unique episode in American history.

Our past exhibits have included *The Hundred Year Road*, curated by our historian, Professor Don Estes, at the San Diego Museum of History, Balboa Park, for which we provided docents for approximately 2,000 city and county public school children as well as the adult public. We also were privileged and honored with a rare visit by a group of legendary 442nd veterans for whom we had a special showing. Additionally, at the San Diego Main Public Library, in sponsorship with the American Association of Libraries and the Smithsonian, we provided a corollary exhibit for *A More Perfect Union: Japanese Americans and the Constitution*, covering the World War II evacuation, relocation, and military service of Japanese Americans.

We have broad-based support and cooperation in the community from the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) San Diego Chapter, VFW Post 4851, Buddhist Temple, Ocean View United Church of Christ, Japanese Christian Church, etc.

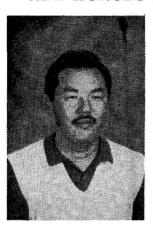
Inasmuch as we are serious in our intent and interest, we respectfully request serious consideration of this request. We also would appreciate any further information and assistance in this endeavor that your office may provide.

Sincerely yours,

Elaine Hibi Bowers President (619/421-3525)

Mr. Steven Hill, Assistant to the Mayor, called me May 19, 1999, to say that he was forwarding our request for consideration and that probably around July or so we would be receiving more information. - Elaine)

ADL HONORS SANSEI TEACHER



Mt. Carmel High School human relations teacher Douglas Kamon has been presented a \$500 Educator Appreciation Award from the Anti-**Defamation League's** A World of Difference Institute.

Kamon, a Sansei whose parents and grandparents were interned at Gila River during WWII, was honored for a class

project gauging students feelings about the impacts of prejudice, racism and hatred.

The ADL also awarded a matching \$500 award to Mt. Carmel High for Kamon's project titled "Culture at the Mount."

Kamon's program was one of 21 nominated. Only two teachers were honored. A panel of five judges considered the programs nominated and judged the impact of each on students and the school. The programs also were evaluated on whether the program could be used to train other faculty and school staff

Kamon's program involved his utilizing students in his human relations class to videotape 300 hours of interviews with fellow students concerning the current culture at their school.

The taped interviews were used to create a presentation on diversity, town hall discussions were held and surveys were conducted before and after the program.

A videotape of that program was made available to other schools in and out of the Poway Unified School District.

After the April 20 shooting incident at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., Kamon challenged his human relations class students to get out and prove that Mt. Carmel HS was not immune to possible similar incidents at their campus.

He then held a "Town Hall Meeting" led by his students discussing the shooting incident as to why it happened and whether it could have been prevented and

whether it could happen at Mt. Carmel.

Participants then were asked to complete a survey to gauge their opinions on issues such as campus safety and security, accessibility to guns, impact of threats and bombing scares at the campus and other school.

Survey results and videotapes of students giving opinions will be presented to administrators by Kamon.

Congratulations on your award, Mr. Kamon, and good luck on your future endeavors.

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blood, sweat and tears. The farmers did everything themselves. The implements were all horse drawn. Nothing was motorized or electrical. Everyone had to help on the farm, including mothers and children. We all had jobs to do whether it be picking, planting, or packing. It was very physical.

But life on the farm was not all work and no play. We attended beach parties in Imperial Beach. I remember there were games for all ages. Those beach parties are among my happiest memories of early

childhood. But, there were bad times, too.

In 1937, for instance. Tijuana's Rodriguez Dam was releasing water because of heavy runoff from rains that filled the dam to overflowing. Because the valley was down river, the entire area was flooded. Water filled the Tia Juana river bank to bank from Monument Road on the south to Leon Street on the north. Our 60-acre farm was completely underwater. Lucky for us, our home was on the high side. As water crept close, my Dad decided we should evacuate. We all piled onto a horse-drawn cauliflower wagon. But it was too dangerous. We returned to the house. A Coast Guard bi-plane dropped us a note wrapped around a heavy object urging us to hang tight; that help was on the way. A boat with Coast Guardsmen aboard came by and evacuated us to higher ground where we stayed at a dairy farm for weeks until it was safe to return.

My Dad learned from that terrible experience and moved our farm farther north and east to Sunset and Hollister between the Itamis and Imaizumis. We

stayed there until war came.

Writing this article has made many old memories come alive again. The hardworking Issei farmers, the simple things we Nisei kids did for fun, and most of all, the friends I made then that I still have today. Too many of them have passed on. Others have moved away. But memories of them are tucked away safely in my mind where I can pull them out now and then and reminisce about days gone by.

Rev. Tesshi Aoyama: New Buddhist Minister

By Joyce Teague

With the departure last year of Rev. Akio Miyaji from the Buddhist Temple of San Diego, the bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America moved quickly to find a suitable replacement. Rev. Tesshi Aoyama, 58, was transferred to San Diego last September to serve as resident minister to the 200-member Buddhist congregation. Prior to his assignment here, Rev. Aoyama served the Marysville Buddhist Temple in Northern California for 25 years. A 19th generation Jodo Shinshu minister, who was

born in Toyama-ken, Japan, Rev. Aoyama graduated from Ryokoku University before moving to the U. S. in 1966. He completed his advanced studies at both Yale University Divinity School and the San Francisco Theological Seminary. His training in pastoral counseling is unusual among his Buddhist peers, and he has considerable experience working with the elderly in hospital and hospice settings, and with families in grief counseling.

Rev. Aoyama has written several books, mainly sharing the Nembutsu teaching while recounting his experiences in religious counseling. Two of these -- Reaching Out and You Are Not Alone -- are available in English. A Spanish translation of You Are

Not Alone is currently in the works.

As Aoyama-sensei better acquaints himself with the local Nikkei community, he wants to become involved with hospital care as he was in Marysville. He also offers counseling on an individual basis and wants people to know he can be reached at the **Buddhist Temple 239-0896.** On the lighter side, he has a brand new set of golf clubs and is looking for tee time

to improve his game.

Very much in partnership with Aoyama-sensei is Alice, his wife of 25 years. A lively personality in her own right, Mrs. Aoyama is quick with a friendly hello and a helping hand. The Aoyamas have two sons, Tessho, a student at Long Beach State, and Jeff, who is attending Yuba College with plans to transfer to Southwest College in the fall. The Aoyamas live in Chula Vista.

FOOTPRINTS MILLENNIUM YEAR FUND RAISING PLANNED

The start of a new millennium (or is it the end of an old one?) is closing in fast now. Less than 200 days to go.

Footprints is hoping to conduct a year-end fund-raising campaign for the **JAHSSD** with a year-end issue (in December) by publishing New Year's or New Millennium greetings from members or families for a minimum \$10 donation for each message.

We would like to include you or your family

members among contributors.

We have only two more issues to go this year. In future issues, we hope to include sample message you might want to use for your greetings.

The funds raised in this manner will help defray organizational expenses, including printing costs of

Footprints.

Please think about it. We will begin accepting such

messages immediately.

We thank you for your past support and hope we can count on your future support.

IN MEMORIAM

The JAHSSD notes with great sadness the passing of San Diegans and former residents of our community. We extend our heartfelt condolences to their families and friends.

Fuji NOMURA - April 6, 1999
Tatsumi MATSUMOTO - April 24, 1999
Ryohe "Roy" NOJIMA-May 6, 1999
Joseph OWASHI - May 6, 1999
James Masae YAMAGUCHI - May 25, 1999
Yoshio KOIKE - May 26, 1999
Ichiye OCHI - May 28, 1999

CAUGHT DOING SOMETHING NICE

We regularly like to acknowledge the acts of folks who have assisted us since the last issue of our newsletter. In this issue we wish to acknowledge the following:

San Diego Chapter JACL, the San Diego Public Library, Buddhist Temple of San Diego for their organizational support of our successful grant application to the State Librarian's Office for the California Civil Liberties Public Education Fund (CCLPEF).

Vernon Yoshioka, who spoke to Ms. Sherri Baber's third grade class at Sherman Elementary School in San Diego. A school many downtown Nisei remember. Vernon talked to the class about relocation and redress and reports that Ms. Baber had prepared the class and that there were lots of good questions.

Yukio Kawamoto and Don Estes for organizing and setting up the photograph display seen at Buddhist Temple of San Diego's June Bazaar. The historic photos from our collection illustrated the Temple's seventy-five years of activity and service to the local Nikkei community.

Membership News

We thank the membership for responding promptly to the membership renewal letters. It is through the generous support of our members that we are able to continue our efforts in recording and publicizing the history of Japanese Americans in San Diego. We are embarking on a campaign to increase our membership to broaden our support. Accordingly, we are enclosing the JAHSSD membership brochure with this issue of the *Footprints*. Please pass the brochure along to a family member, relative or friend who is not now a member.

We are also reaching out to non-member San Diegans and former San Diegans who registered for the Ninth Poston III Reunion in Reno by sending them a complimentary copy of the *Footprints*. We invite those receiving the complimentary copy to join us. We would be more than happy to include you in our membership.

A warm welcome to new members Hiroshi and Emiko (Yato) Takusagawa of Gardena, who joined as Charter Life Members, and to Chiyeko Yagi, who joined as a Senior Member. We also thank Mary Tanizaki for upgrading her membership to Charter Life.

JAHSSD gratefully acknowledges the following who recently renewed their memberships:

Bruce and Sharon Asakawa Tim Asamen Ann Tsuchiyama Carlin Ruth Fujimoto Kimie Fukamizu Elizabeth Hatashita Toru Hirai Harry and Misako Honda Harvey and Rose Itano Robert and Edna Ito Sakie Kawahara Umeko Kawamoto Karen Kawasaki Frank and Tami Kinoshita Guy and Toshi Kiyoi Tomiko Kozuma Yoshiko Kuyama Leng Loh Glen Masumoto Taro Matsui Takenori Muraoka Ritsu Nabeta Sumio and Fumiko Nakamoto Jill Nakamura Tom and Elizabeth Ozaki Grace and Hiroshi Sawasaki George and Karen Shinzaki Howard Takahashi John and Kiyo Takemoto Bill and Joyce Teague Azusa and Haruko Tsuneyoshi John and Amy Yamamoto Joseph and Elizabeth Yamada

A GOOD SUMMER READ

Don Estes

...We cheated, we lied, we were honest, we were brave, we stood on burning sands and made our decisions, each according to his own conscience.

-- Hiroshi Nakamura in *Treadmill*

Recommending a book for someone is very much like recommending a plumber to a friend. Much the same can be said for recommending books, but I think this is a book that many of you will thoughtfully enjoy and may even recommend to your family and friends.

Hiroshi Nakamura was born in Gilroy in 1915 and died in Los Angeles in 1973. After graduating from Gilroy High School, Hiroshi spent one year at San Jose State and then transferred to UC Berkeley where he graduated in 1937 with a major in zoology and a minor in journalism. Like many pre-World War II Nisei he discovered there were no jobs for Japanese Americans outside the Nikkei community and so he went to work in a Japanese drugstore in Los Angeles as a clerk.

In the Spring of 1942 the 27-year-old Nakamura and his family were rounded up and sent to the Salinas Assembly Center, Poston II and finally to the Tule Lake Segregation Center outside Newell, California.

During his whole detention experience, Nakamura carefully noted all he observed, heard and experienced and Treadmill: a documentary novel was the end result. Today, his book stands as the only published novel about the impact of relocation and detention on a Nikkei family written while these momentous events were taking place.

The central character of the story is Teru Noguchi, a young junior college student, and oldest daughter of a Salinas farm family. Caught up with her family in the whirlwind of events that followed the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the novel opens with Teru's father being taken by the F.B.I. As the family faces removal and exile, more responsibility falls on Teru as her Issei mother slips slowly into a mental breakdown

while her family struggles to survive.

Nakamura's writing is powerful and graphic. It is one of those books that the reader knows intuitively is written by someone who experienced the events and places described. There is also a certain rawness to Nakamura's story written as it was immediately following the end of World War II. The anger of the events had not yet been masked by the passage of time. Other novels have been penned about camp but do not have the immediacy or intimacy demonstrated by Nakamura. Those who are familiar with the writings of Toshio Mori and his vivid short stories of pre-war Nikkei life will recognize the style. It grabs you by the throat and by the heart and shouts out, "He was there."

Submitted for publication in the late 1940s, many editors thought well of the story, but felt it was "too sensitive" an issue for publication. Over forty years later, Dr. Peter Suzuki discovered a copy of the manuscript in the National Archives and carefully guided the present work to publication. For this effort we should all be grateful. As Teru writes to her friend Sally.

We who have passed through evacuation have learned a lot. We mustn't forget.... Love, Teru.

Treadmilt: a documentary novel by Hiroshi Nakamura, Mosaic Press, 1996.

COME SEE "THE RABBIT IN THE MOON"

The Main Branch of the San Diego Public Library has announced that they will be previewing for the public the new video production "Rabbit in the Moon" by Nikkei film maker Emiko Omori.

The presentation of the 1999 Sundance Film Festival award winner for cinematography will be held at the library's auditorium on Monday, June 28th at 6 p.m. and is open to the public free of charge. The Main Branch of the San Diego Public Library is located at 820 E Street.

Award winning cinematographer Emiko Omori renders a poetic and illuminating picture of a deeply troubling chapter in American history through the eyes of her older sister and other detainees.

The video deals with the Nikkei camp experience and the issues of loyalty and collaboration as well as personal reflections. This much discussed production should not be missed in its first San Diego showing.

Don Estes, Professor of History at San Diego City College will facilitate a discussion following the presentation.

Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego 1999 Membership Application

(INCLUDES FOOTPRINTS NEWSLETTER)

	Initial Application \Box	Renewal Application 📮
٥	\$20 Individual	
	\$30 Couple	Name (please include title, e.g., Mr., Mrs. etc.)
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