



FOOTPRINTS

Impressions from where we were to where we will be

The Newsletter For The Japanese American Historical Society Of San Diego

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Mr. Genzo Seki honored as the "youngest" person attending the reunion at the age of 94. With him are brother-in-law Sam Nakamura and daughter Judy Seki Kikuta

10th Poston III Reunion Is A-Okay

Almost 490 former internees and their family members attended the 10th Poston III Reunion held June 1-3 at Mission Valley's Doubletree Hotel, including more than 300, who came from out of the county.

Most of the comments about the reunion were positive, although there understandably were a few complaints.

The best thing about it was that those in attendance were looking forward to the next one, tentatively scheduled in 2003 to be hosted by the Central California delegation headed by Sammy Nakagawa. The initial indications were that it might be held in Las Vegas. We'll wait word on that from the host committee.

In accepting the responsibility, Sammy's comments were that it would be difficult to top the one just held. (Note to Sammy: Like they said in the movie, "Field of

Dreams," 'Build it and they will come.')

They came from as far away as Honolulu, HA. (Yo Takehara, (former San Diegan), Floyd (Mikio) Nishida); Walden, N.Y. (Grace Hiratsuka Onishi); Willoughby Hills, OH., (Kuniko Ford); Morton Grove, IL., (Frank and Margaret Hiratsuka); Champaign, IL., (Nori Komorita); Chicago, IL., (Arnold Watanabe); and Lawrence, KA., (Barbara Washler Curry).

It was especially gratifying to see Mrs. Curry and Mrs. Vivian White Calhoun of Mission Viejo, CA., join us. Both were former teachers, who volunteered to join us in camp. Mrs. Curry, who has attended almost every reunion, taught high school while Mrs. Calhoun taught fifth grade.

We hope more of our teacher-friends can join us at our next reunion understanding that health concerns are a primary problem for all of us. So, stay healthy, everyone!

The reunion committee, headed by Ben Segawa, were most gratified by the number of people who attended. The Saturday night banquet attracted 487 people, three short of a full house.

The program featured keynote speaker, Dr. Ruth Okimoto (Block 327), a former San Diegan now living in Berkeley, and Dennis Patch and Jon Villalobos of the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) council.

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Dr. Okimoto told those in attendance how Poston was selected to serve as a relocation center. (The government wanted us to establish an irrigation system so the Indian tribes living within the CRIT boundaries could become more self-sufficient and build adobe school facilities. The irrigation system remains in use today to help the tribes grow their cotton crop. The Camp I adobe school facilities are in disrepair but the tribes hope to rebuild and preserve them.)

Patch and Villalobos spoke about CRIT's future hopes of preserving old Poston I camp buildings, such as the adobe school auditorium, and rebuild a model block using some of the old barracks buildings still in existence in the Parker, AR., area.

Dr. Okimoto said later that she plans to have both men meet with other Poston internee groups to discuss the restoration and preservation project throughout the state. They plan also to meet with federal government and Arizona state officials to seek their backing and financial assistance for the project.

Their presentations at the reunion drew many favorable comments from those in attendance.

Don Estes, **JAHSSD** historian, said he will remain in contact with Okimoto, Patch and Villalobos to keep track of the project. He also plans to meet with other San Diegans who were in Poston to seek their professional input for the project just as former Manzanar residents did in putting together a similar project at that camp site. *(Stay tuned for future reports from Don.)*

Since there are so many San Diegans who were interned in camps other than just Poston III, the reunion committee opened the reunion to those residents and it proved to be quite a successful move.

Not only did we have a lot of people from other camps attend the reunion, we also had a lot of help from people who were not even in relocation camps!

Without their help, it would have been very difficult to put this reunion together. The committee thanks them very much.

In addition, four very outstanding prizes were donated for the Saturday night banquet drawing, all of them handmade. They included a clock donated by **Yukio Kawamoto**, a combination clock-weather vane donated by **John Benbow**, a silver pendant donated by **Jim Tajiri** and a wooden vase donated by **Min Koide**. Any one of them would have been an outstanding first-prize in themselves so we drew the winning numbers and had the bearers pick the prize they wanted for themselves. We thank the donors for their contributions.

The banquet also featured outstanding and very meaningful invocation and benediction respectively by the **Rev. Jim Yanagihara**, a former San Diegan and former Block 330 resident and the minister at the San Luis Obispo Buddhist Temple, and the **Rev.**

Paul Nagano, a former Block 327 resident and serving the Council for Pacific Asian Theology. **Rev. Nagano** also conducted a service for the Christian constituents after the Sunday brunch.

The reunion exhibit, again headed by our historian, **Don Estes**, drew a lot of praise and comments from those attending. In fact, Don reports, the exhibit prompted some people to donate items for the society archives.

(NOTE: We are always on the lookout for such items that people may no longer want to keep. We welcome any such donations, which can be deducted for tax purposes.)

The reunion booklet, co-edited by **Liz Yamada** and **Bubbles Shimasaki** and with the help of **Karen Tani** and **Kaori Toda**, got good reviews from those in attendance.

"I read it from front to back and gave it to my daughter to read," one person said. "It was very interesting."

(NOTE: Booklets are available at \$10 a copy and can be purchased through the JAHSSD.)

We also had "40 very happy golfers" at the Vineyard Golf course, reported the golf committee. One of those "very happy golfers" was a committee member, **Pauline Nakamura**, who with her partner, took first place. (And what was she doing on the course when she should have been helping getting the other golfers off their marks?)

The **Class of '44** luncheon went well at the Viejas Casino with **Yuki Kawamoto** and **Masato Asakawa** in charge. We understand that emcee **Jim Tajiri** did an outstanding job of keeping everyone entertained and presented each class member a personally crafted gift.

The **Old Town Trolley Tour** of San Diego also drew much favorable comment from those who went on the tour.

For the trolley tour, we thank **Steven Marumoto**, for donating the use of the trolleys.

The committee also would like to thank **Arnold Seko**, **Jody Karamoto**, **Nancy Cowser**, **Bob**, **Hisae** and **Kira Batchelder**, **Naomi Himaka**, **Vernon Yoshioka**, **Dorothy Asakawa**, **Joyce Teague**, **Susan Hasegawa**, **Don** and **Carol Estes**, **Bill Elyea** and **Les Tachiki** among others who helped those of us who were in camp for all their help in putting the reunion together. If we forgot anyone, it is an inadvertent omission. These people showed up at almost all of our meetings or just plain hustled in getting items donated for our prize list or giveaway items.

The committee voted unanimously to make donations to the San Diego Buddhist Temple; the Japanese Friendship Garden, which was vandalized shortly before the reunion; the Central Cal committee hosting the next reunion in 2003; the Poston Restoration project and the JAHSSD.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Aug. 4, 2001 Obon Odori - Buddhist Temple
@ 5 p.m.

Sept. 2, 2001 Ocean View UCC - Bazaar
@ 11 a.m.

Oct. 20, 2001 JAHSSD - Annual Meeting
Luncheon Buddhist Temple @ 11:30 a.m.

4 to Receive 2001 Kansha Awards at Oct. 20, 2001 JAHSSD Annual Luncheon Meeting

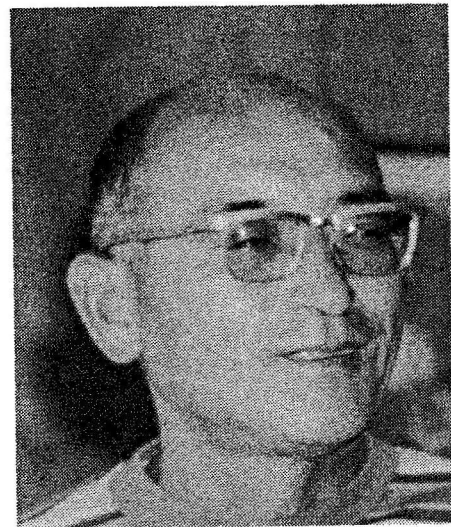
Four past community leaders have been named to receive the 2001 **Kansha Awards** for their roles in bettering our community.

The recipients named by the **JAHSSD** board to receive the awards at its Oct. 20 annual meeting at the Buddhist Temple of San Diego are **K. J. Takashima**, **Agnes Benson**, **Fred Katsumata** and posthumously to the late **Ben Honda**.

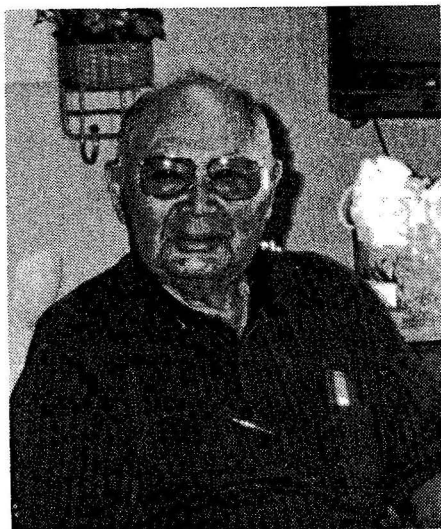
The meeting is scheduled at 11:30 a.m. and will feature **Darcy Iki** of the **Japanese American National Museum** as the guest speaker.



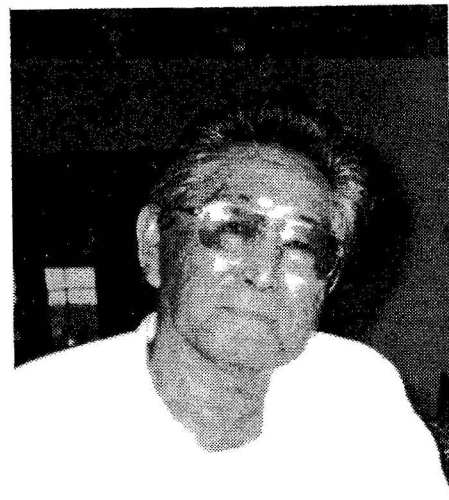
Agnes Benson



Fred Katsumata



K.J. Takashima



Ben Honda

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.

Umeharu T. YAOTANI - March 21, 2001
Janice Yaeko SWARM - March 22, 2001
Melegrito Akemi KITAMURA - March 25, 2001
Ema J. YAMADA - April 8, 2001
Jane Yoko GOLD - April 11, 2001
Taro MATSUI - April 29, 2001
Kenshi TACHIHI - April 30, 2001
Mitsue FISHER - May 1, 2001
Olive Y. SUZUKI - May 9, 2001
Fumiko Mary Tanaka MITSUUCHI - May 9, 2001
Mikazu KAMINAKA - May 10, 2001
Mabel Nakamura HIBI - May 17, 2001
Mitsuko TACHIHI - May 20, 2001
Ruth T. WATANABE - May 24, 2001
Takako KOTTONG - June 5, 2001
Sophie T. SHIMAMOTO - June 9, 2001
Fred Tomo HOSAKA - June 9, 2001
Kimiyo Kiyomiya SKETO - June 12, 2001
Cayetano "Kimo" DELIMA - June 14, 2001
Yoshio MATSUMOTO - June 23, 2001
David SUEHIRO - July 1, 2001
Henry Kenji "Kenbo" IGUCHI - July 3, 2001
Tatsuko MURAYAMA - July 6, 2001
Isamu "Jimmie" MATSUHARA - July 11, 2001

Buddhist Temple Marks 75th Year

By Joyce Nabeta Teague

The Buddhist Temple of San Diego celebrated its 75th anniversary with 300 members and guests attending a special service April 8 held in conjunction with its annual Hanamatsuri service commemorating the Buddha's birthday.

Bishop Hakubun Watanabe of the Buddhist Churches of America officiated at the service assisted by the Rev. Tesshi Aoyama, resident minister here, and former San Diego ministers the Revs. Koju Terada, Kakuei Tada, Akio Miyaji and Shiro Nishii and the Rev. Shinji Okada of the Pasadena Buddhist Temple.

Temple President Bill Teague emceed the afternoon luncheon, which honored Sangha members who also turned 75 years or older this year. Other special guests included the former ministers' families who came from as far as Oregon to help celebrate.

A congratulatory letter from Gov. Gray Davis

and proclamations from the City of San Diego and the County Board of Supervisors also were presented to temple officials. The observance also included an exhibit of black and white photographs of the Sangha and past activities was featured provoking much reminiscing among those in attendance.

A heavy rain drenched the area the day before but cleared up in time for temple members to pose for a panoramic photograph taken by Alan Miyatake of the Toyo Miyatake Photo Studio.

Coming Full Circle

Under anniversary committee Chairman Tom Yanagihara the theme, "Coming Full Circle," was selected as the anniversary theme. A calligraphy circle drawn by former minister Akio Miyaji represented the Sangha's determination to return to the original intention of the temple founders. The symbol also acknowledges the past while looking purposefully to the future.

Ambitious Fund-Raising Campaign

Last year, the temple's ways and means committee chaired by Ralph Honda set a goal of \$300,000 to fund both the celebration and the long-needed repairs and improvements to the temple building and grounds. The generosity of the Sangha and the community has been very gratifying. By the year's end, the repairs and improvements will include re-roofing the main building and annex, painting both inside and out, handicapped ramp access to the buildings, new fencing, new windows, screens, stairway, guardrails, new flooring, reupholstered pews, new padded chairs and a new sign for the Market Street entrance.

Some improvements have been generously donated by Sangha members. These include resurfacing and cleaning of the parking lot, new religious scrolls for the Sangha Hall and landscaping design and maintenance.

The Celebration Continues

Other projects associated with the anniversary include a cookbook, commemorative T-shirts and taking photographs of all temple members for an anniversary book to be published at the beginning of 2002. The temple will be soliciting congratulatory and "in memorium" ads from businesses, service organizations and individuals for inclusion in a hardbound anniversary book. Contact the temple (619) 239-0896 for more information.

Heartland
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Audrey Barry
10016 Campo Road, Spring Valley, CA 91977
Ph: 619-670-9953 Fax: 619-670-3397

IN GRATITUDE

The membership and the Board of Directors of the JAHSSD gratefully acknowledge the following donations to your historical society.

Ponce, Mary, Poncano and Lindy Duran in memory of **Dr. John Estes**
Yoshiko Hasegawa in memory of **Dr. John Estes**
Dr. And Mrs. Michael Inouye in memory of **Dr. John Estes**
Frank Kastelic Sr. in memory of **Dr. John Estes**
Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Kastelic in memory of **Dr. John Estes**
Elaine Kanai Kinsey in memory of **Dr. John Estes**
Capt. and Mrs. Hank Levien in memory of **Dr. John Estes**
Mr. And Mrs. Ken Matsumoto in memory of **Dr. John Estes**
Dr. And Mrs. Phillip Ordnung in memory of **Dr. John Estes**
Arnold K. Watanabe in memory of **Dr. John Estes**
Mr. And Mrs. William Wong in memory of **Dr. John Estes**
Mr. And Mrs. Joe Yamada in memory of **Dr. John Estes**
Arnold Watanabe for the publication of the *Footprints*
Ben Nakahara for the Poston III Reunion and Exhibit
Jane Kazumi Sakamoto for Photo Fund
Baughn Morikawa for Photo Fund
Frank Fujimoto (San Jose) to JAHSSD

A Moment In Time

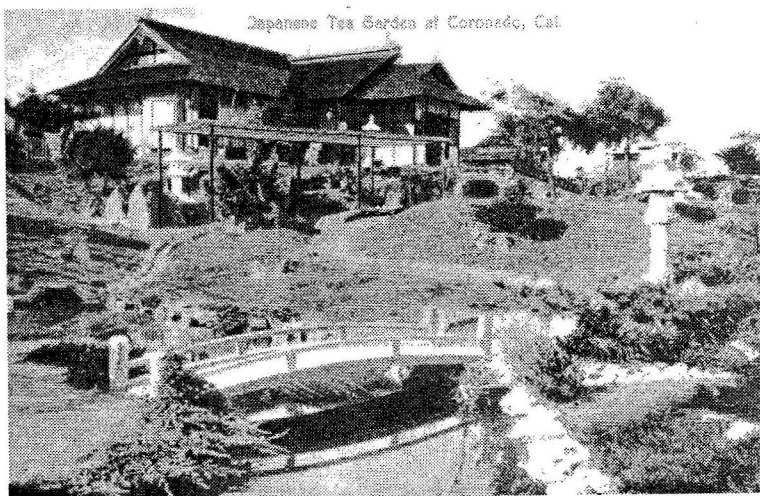
Photo From the Archives of the JAHSSD
by Don Estes

One of the developing gems of Balboa Park is the **Japanese Friendship Garden** located just east of the Organ Pavilion.

Today, when most San Diegans hear about a Japanese garden, they either think of the **Friendship Garden** or, if they're old enough, the Japanese garden that was an integral part of the Japanese teahouse that was built for the 1915 **Panama-California Exposition** in Balboa Park.

Actually, the roots of local Japanese gardens go back to 1908 when the San Diego Nikkei community was just taking form.

George Turner Marsh (1855-1932), a San



Francisco businessman with an interest in Japanese arts and culture, developed a special love of Japanese-style gardens. In 1898, Marsh was initially responsible for the construction of the garden that would later become the basis for the now famous Japanese garden in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park.

At the beginning of the 20th century, Marsh planned and constructed two other Japanese-style gardens -- one in **Pasadena**, and the other in **Coronado**. Except for the garden he constructed in Golden Gate Park, the Coronado garden located across the street from the **Hotel del Coronado** attracted the most public attention.

With the strong support of local millionaire cum hotel owner and booster, **John D. Spreckels**, Marsh leased land from the Coronado Beach Company for twenty years at the rate of a dollar a year. Construction on Marsh's garden began in 1904 and featured winding paths amid summer houses, bridges, gates, and rustic shelters. The garden even featured a theater for Japanese acrobatics and a tea house.

Spreckels' Hotel del Coronado already employed a number of **Nikkeijin** as gardeners, housekeepers and cooks, but now others were hired as rickshaw men to pull guests from the hotel down Ocean Boulevard to the teahouse.

In January and February 1905, Coronado was struck by a series of major storms that, among other things, ruined the **Japanese Tea Garden**. The original site was abandoned and the facility moved by Marsh to nearby property owned by Spreckels where the garden was rebuilt and opened to the public for the next 30 years.

Midori Koba Koga remembers her mother, **Shizue Tsuneyoshi Koba**, worked at the garden beginning in the 1920s. Later, in the 1930s, **Mrs. Koba** worked with **Mrs. Haruyo Hatada**, who lived at the garden for a time. **Midori** recalls that she

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Mabel Chizuru Nakamura Hibi
Oct. 31, 1913 - May 17, 2001



Thinking of Grandma

by Jon Hibi Bowers

(Editor's Note: Jon, living in England, was unable to attend the memorial services for his late grandmother, Mabel Chizuru Nakamura Hibi, who passed away May 17 at age 87 but he e-mailed the following eulogy to be read at the services. We thank his mother, Elaine Hibi Bowers, for permitting us to use it here.)

Thinking back on her life, I am left wondering, "What did she leave behind? How did she impact my life? What did she mean to me?"

She taught us that eating fish and rice and fresh vegetables is important for good health long before the experts discovered it. She taught the value of hard work, being honest, the importance of family and the incredible good fortune of having Japanese blood.

She cooked the best "gomoku" and fish cakes around. They have fish cakes here in England but, unfortunately, they don't go by Grandma's recipe!

She always tried to give us something whenever we visited her -- lemons, an avocado, persimmons, fish, cookies -- whatever she might have. She always wanted to give.

I will never forget her story about the 100-pound bat-ray she caught in San Diego Bay with a piece of string tied to her wrist on one end and a baited hook on the other. I must have heard it 100 times but I could always hear it one more time.

But my fondest memories are of her teaching me to fish. Not many people learn to fish from their grandmothers but probably more should. She

helped instill a love of fishing that is there even when I can't get on the water for weeks or months at a time. It's a love that is not dependent upon, but merely enhanced by, catching fish. If someone has not grown up with fishing in their blood, it is difficult to grasp. It takes discipline to get up at 5 a.m. and concentration to try to figure out what clues are available like: What's the tide like? What's the history of this spot? The barometer? Birds and other wildlife? Water conditions? Etc. Read in nature to try to understand the constantly changing puzzle that is fishing. Or you can simply cast out and spend time with friends and nature, if the fish interrupt the conversation, that's okay, too.

It seems so odd that she's gone. As a Christian, I am also dealing with what happens now to her. It's pretty difficult to imagine that we are now eternally separated. It is the ultimate question and I guess we'll all have to wait for the ultimate answer.

She has left a lump in my throat right now. That's a good thing, I guess. It means that she is sorely missed. It shows that she is loved. It makes me want to teach my daughter to cook, to have respect for her family and nature, to love fishing, to get a good education and to work hard and earn her way through life. I want her to know all about the values from her great-grandma that became a part of me. Maybe one day, my daughter will teach her grandchildren to fish.

President's Message

We had a successful, albeit exhausting Poston III Reunion June 1-3 at the Doubletree Hotel in Mission Valley. When we first started over a year and a half ago, Margaret Lee, hotel director of convention services, said, "You people are certainly starting early." However, for all the time and effort we put in, the time passed too fast. Special kudos to Hisae and Bob Batchelder for their hard work and assistance (and they weren't even in camp with us!) Without Hisae's overwhelming ideas and energy, she and I would never have gotten the great goodie bags made and filled with donated logo items. We also had fun lunches at the Batchelder residence with the decoration committee, who not only made paper flowers but the 3-D cranes, which we gave out to persons over 85 at the reunion. We had 500 registered attendees and numerous visitors to see our exhibit, which was put up by our historian Don Estes and his work crew, to whom we owe a great debt of gratitude.

Not only do we have seed money for the next host
See President's Message page 7

committee, we have materials and computer data and discs, which we did not have when we started our reunion. I would like to personally thank all the members of the various committees for jobs well done.

Naomi and Mich Himaka as usual have produced outstanding quarterly newsletters and we thank them very much for all their hard work and for all the countless donations of flowers and time, as well as all their work on the Poston Reunion. We published an extra Spring edition, which included a special "Do We Ever Remember Poston?" insert, which was handed out to each of the people attending the reunion.

Don Estes and Susan Hasegawa continue their work on our oral interview project and our REgeneration Project, completed last year, through the Japanese American National Museum can be seen on the Museum website. Our video, "**Democracy Under Pressure: Japanese Americans and World War II**," featuring **Ruth Voorhies and Ben Segawa** was shown in a corner of the exhibit area at the reunion and was available for purchase through our organization for \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. The video has already received **The Award of Merit** awarded for significant contributions to the preservation and development of history for this region by the Congress of History for San Diego County.

I represented the organization at the community Memorial Day Service May 28 at Mount Hope Cemetery for the wreath presentation.

Our members -- **Don Estes, Mich Himaka, Yukio and Mits Kawamoto, Ben and Grace Segawa, Vernon Yoshioka and myself** -- spoke at Mt. Carmel High School, West Hills High School, Abraxas High School and Fuerte Elementary School. Vernon also spoke to the San Diego City Attorney's Office. We still are in need of volunteer speakers to share not only their internment experiences but also any past Nikkei experiences, such as former 442nd RCT members. Please step forward and volunteer (although we know GIs were told NEVER to volunteer for anything!)

We are still seeking a permanent display site for our artifacts and photo collection. We have several contacts for such a site, including the Japanese Friendship Garden and the Naval Training Center property. If you have any suggestions or have anything to donate, please contact our organization.

I'm sure I haven't covered all the areas I needed to and missed thanking a lot of people who have helped us this year, but I'm having a senior moment. Break time! Domo arigato.

Jeanne Marumoto Elyea, President

CHANKO-NABE

By Joyce Nabeta Teague

Summertime in San Diego. Can there be anything better? Strolling along the beach, watching surfers offshore catching waves. Putzing around the backyard in the early morning and plucking a lusty, red tomato off a bush before the birds find it. Getting off work a little early so you can take the kids to see a summer blockbuster for twilight-hour prices.

For a lot of us, summer also means thinking about starting that long-delayed exercise program. Thinking about taking the dog up to Chollas Lake and walking him briskly past the honking geese he longs to wrap his jaws around. Thinking about peddling the bike to the library instead of driving the car. Thinking about propelling the little kick-scooter on the park walkways past the astonished kids on their skateboards.

Thinking about exercise. Okay, so you caught me. I'm not *doing* exercise. But I have a good excuse: Billy Blanks and TAE-BO.

Billy Blanks is a compact hunk of glistening muscle who looks boffo in a blue Spandex jumpsuit. TAE-BO is the vigorous form of kick-boxing exercise he claims to have invented by combining Tae Kwando with boxing. TAE-BO infomercials are so seductive that it's amazing everyone in America doesn't own a set of his tapes already. After all, that advertisement is probably being aired on one channel or another at least 24 hours a day, isn't it?

On-screen, sincere testimonials come from devoted, formerly flabby Beverly Hills housewives whose lives apparently lacked meaning until they joined Billy's class. Still, I am not yet among the legions who claim Billy Blanks as their lord and ab-master. I lack the coordination to punch my left arm out to the right while thrusting my right leg out to the left, all the while bobbing frenetically back and forth in rhythm AND (very important) remaining relatively upright and not crashing into the TV monitor.

Frankly, it's hard to imagine myself in that classroom with Billy. All of the devotees in his commercials are sheer muscle and determination, sweat pouring off 'em like waterfalls, their shiny arms and legs pistons of steel, punching and kicking out at the invisible enemies of Sloth, Gluttony and Denial. Nowhere in sight is an extra-fluffy, sallow-complected, bleary eyed person like me, bouncing against the driving beat, occasionally falling into a wall, all the while grinning like a ninny. When I see THAT person in the background of a TV ad, stumbling around in total TAE-BO ecstasy, THAT'S when I'll whip out my checkbook and zap a check off to Billy for my set of tapes.

My daughter assures me, however, that TAE-BO is a very good workout. I do believe her. In fact, I can
See Chanko-Nabe page 20

A Moment in Time continued from page 5

and Mieko "Meggie" Hatada had lots of fun running around the grounds. She also remembers catching polliwogs that kids fed to the koi and a bell at the gate that was "gonged" as folks went through one of the gates.

Marsh's garden continued to delight several generations of locals until Col. Ira Copley bought the Spreckels estate and closed the gardens to the public in 1939. Like it's sister facility in Balboa Park, the Coronado Japanese garden did not long survive with the on-set of World War II.

Caught Doing Something Nice

As a society, we are always grateful to our members and friends who see their way to help us in carrying out our mission to preserve all elements of Nikkei history here in San Diego. We would like to recognize the contributions of the following individuals:

Frank Wada for loaning his to-scale reproduction of a camp barracks unit. Frank's room was the anchor piece for the **JAHSSD** exhibit at the **10th Poston III Reunion**. Assisting Frank in the construction phase was **Abe Takehara**. Furnishings contemporaneous with the room were loaned by **Jeanne Marumoto Elyea**, **Hiroshi Kubota**, **Abe Takehara** and **Don Estes**. The room was accompanied by a scale model unit also built by **Frank Wada**.

Directing the crew that assembled the room and later put it away was **Bill Elyea**. Assisting Bill with the set-up and tear down was **Frank Wada**, **Michael Elyea**, **Les Tachiki**, **Howard McLemore**, and **Nobuya Murakami**.

The exhibit set-up crew for the **Poston III Reunion** included **Carol and Don Estes**, **Susan Hasegawa**, **Mich and Naomi Himaka**, **Jodi Karamoto**, **Mits and Yukio Kawamoto**, **Ben and Grace Segawa**, **Arnold Seko** and **Joyce Teague**. **Vernon Yoshioka**, who spent a lot of long hours in the exhibit deserves a big thanks for acting as our security chief, and **Norris Nagao**, who served as **Vernon's** relief so he could go eat. Finally, for providing us with every type of assistance, including coming all the way from Chicago, IL., a tip of our caps to **Arnold K. Watanabe**.

Assisting with the critical success of the exhibit through the loan of their precious artifacts were **Jeanne Marumoto Elyea**, **Carol and Don Estes**, **Sakiko Kada**, **Richard "Babe"** and **Mary Karasawa**, **Harry and Mari Kowase**, **Hiroshi Kubota**, **Kiyo and Hideo Ochi**, **Yoneko Okamoto**, **Aiko Ozaki Owashi** and

Masako Shima.

Speaking to local groups about the Nikkei experience is another important function of our society. **Vernon Yoshioka** spoke on the relocation experience to members of the **San Diego City Attorney's Office** as part of their **Asian Pacific Heritage Month** observations. **Mich Himaka**, **Jeanne Marumoto Elyea** and **Mits and Yukio Kawamoto** made presentations on their camp experiences to a class at **Abraxas High School** in **Poway**. **Susan Hasegawa**, **Mich Himaka**, and **Ben Segawa** served on a panel moderated by **Don Estes** discussing the pre-World War II **San Diego Nikkei** community. The panel was part of an education summit sponsored by **The Japan America Society of San Diego and Tijuana** held at **San Diego State University**. **Mich Himaka** and **Don Estes** talked about **Poston** and internment to 90 fifth graders at **Fuerte Elementary School** in **El Cajon**, where **Mich's** son, **Keith**, teaches second grade.

New Donations and Acquisitions

Essential to the society's health and viability is our ability to build and add to our collection of historic photographs, artifacts, books and other printed materials. The **JAHSSD** would like to acknowledge and thank the following members and friends for their generous donations to our collection:

The people of Block 308, Poston III for the copy of the **Block 308 Block Study** published September 2000.

Ernie Hiratsuka for his donation of the **Hokubei Mainichi** dated Saturday, May 5, 2001 with a story about the **Clara Breed Exhibit** at the **National Postal Museum**.

Mr. And Mrs. John Hashiguchi for the donation of a hand-made sprinkler can fabricated by his late father, **Kasuke Hashiguchi**, at **Poston III**.

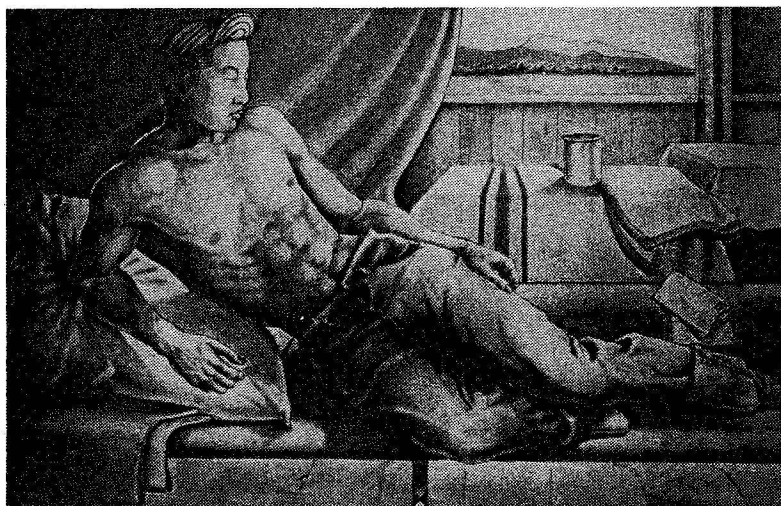
Emily Kuwada Igarashi of **San Mateo** for the donation of two hand-drawn WWII dance posters and two social invitations from **Poston III**.

Emiko Iwakiri Kamiura and the **Kamiura** family for the donation of a 1945 copy of the **Parker Valley High School** annual **Campus Echoes**.

Tami Koide Kinoshita for the donation of two paintings by her mother, **Mrs. Miwa Koide**. The gifts were designated as door prizes for our annual meeting to be held Oct. 20, 2001.

Tom Kida for the gift of a brass printing plate used to print vegetable labels for the **Kida Brothers Farms**. In addition, **Tom** has donated several wooden **Kida Brothers** labels to our society. **Tom** has also allowed us to extensively copy from his collection of photographs dating from the 1940s and loaned us some

See New Donations and Acquisitions page 20



**Shinkichi Tajiri:
Truly, A Man For All Seasons
- Part II -**

(With permission, we continue excerpts from the autobiography of distinguished artist, Prof. Shinkichi George Tajiri, a former San Diegan, now a resident of Baarlo, The Netherlands.)

On Feb. 19, 1942, Executive Order 9066 was signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Military zones were designated giving the U.S. Army authority to exclude any or all persons. We Nikkei slowly became prisoners of war. In March, we were placed under a curfew. From 8 p.m. to 6 a.m., we were not allowed outside our homes unless we had a special pass. Soon, an evacuation of an entire ethnic group from the West Coast began.

We were simply rounded up and dumped into "assembly centers" and "internment camps." We were allowed to take only what we could carry. We burned a lot of our belongings and the rest -- the valuables along with our furniture, clothing, books and the like -- we locked into one room of a house my mother had just bought. We rented the house to a young couple from the Midwest who had moved to California to work in the war industries. They looked honest and promised to take care of our things. We had no choice. We were to be evacuated within a few days.

Later, when we were in Poston, we heard that our house was stolen. Most single-family homes in Southern California were made from wood and placed on concrete pillars. Our house, with everything in it, was literally uprooted, placed on a large mobile platform and moved to another location. To this day,

we have no trace of it, nor have we received any compensation. What I regret most, besides the heirlooms, is the loss of volumes of photo books my father kept, a pictorial history of my family from the time he arrived in the U.S. in 1906 until he died in 1939. Nothing remains. On the opposite coast -- in New York-- my oldest brother, **Taneyoshi Larry**, was a foreign correspondent for the Asahi newspapers in Japan. When the Asahi offices were closed, he and his wife **Guyo Marion** returned to San Francisco and took over the *Pacific Citizen* (PC), the monthly news organ of the **Japanese American Citizens League**. With evacuation looming, he moved the PC offices to Salt Lake City, UT., where **Larry and Marion** continued to publish it as a weekly. The PC continued to fight for Nikkei civil rights and attacked the distorted news being spread by the large West Coast daily papers.

In 1952, **Larry** accepted a position with the **Denver Post** and eventually became the newspaper's drama and film editor. He became the first Nisei to write a daily column, "**The Spectator**," for a large metropolitan paper. When he died in 1965, **Columbia Pictures** premiered "**The Ballad of Cat Ballou**" in his honor. The proceeds established the **Larry Tajiri Memorial Foundation** in Denver.

On Pearl Harbor Day, **Takeshige Vincent**, the third son, was shooting cardboard targets on an army rifle range while undergoing his basic training. **Vincent** was later reassigned to the **442nd Regimental Combat Team** at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, where we trained together. Being married, he remained at Camp Shelby as a cadre and trained the 442nd's recruit replacements. After the war, he worked as a photographer. In 1954, he became the Director of Photography and Picture Editor for *Playboy Enterprises* where he worked until his retirement in 1971.

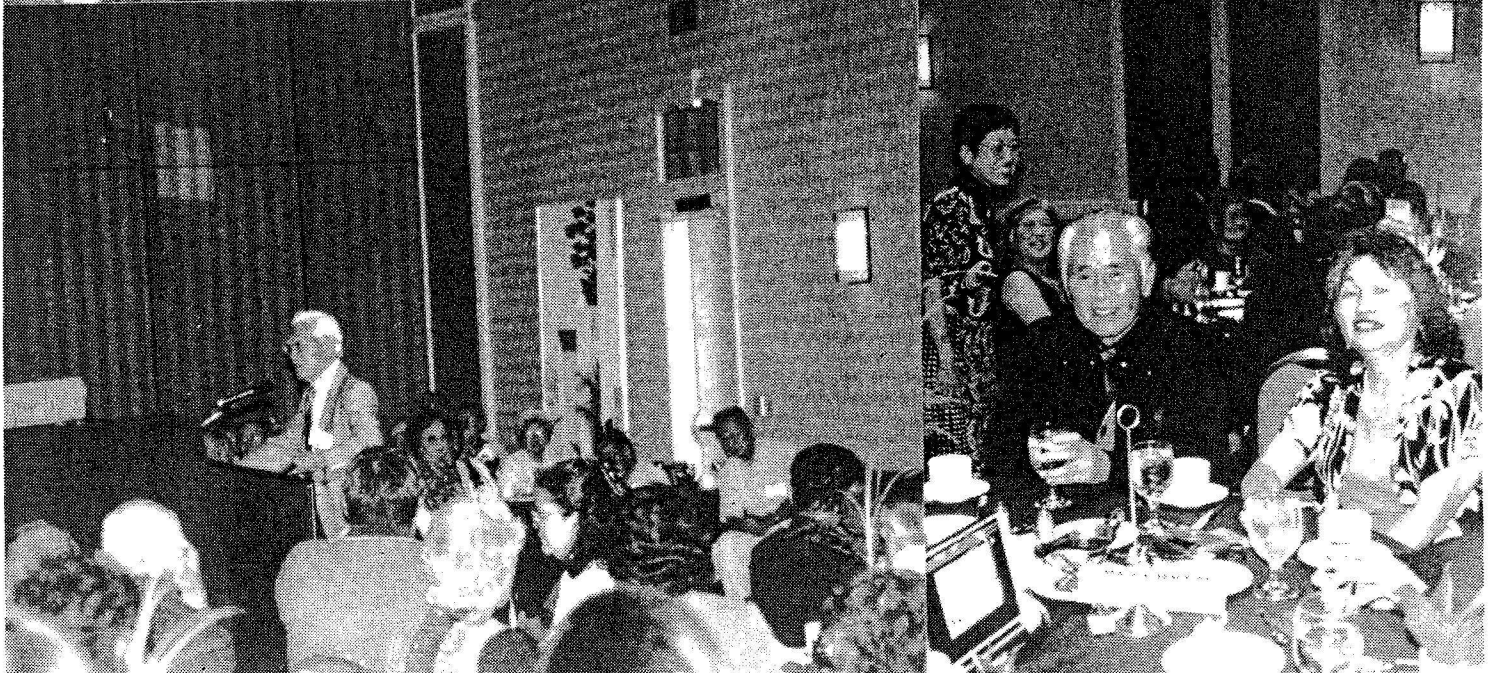
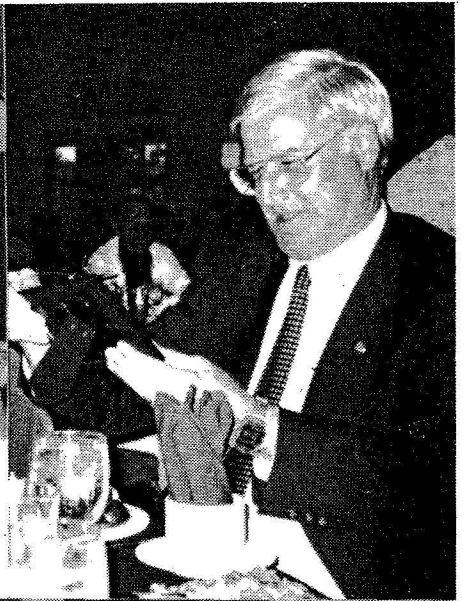
- To be continued -
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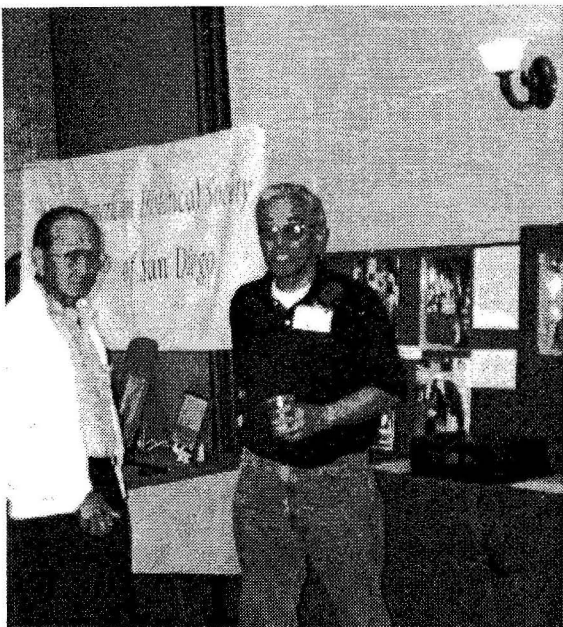
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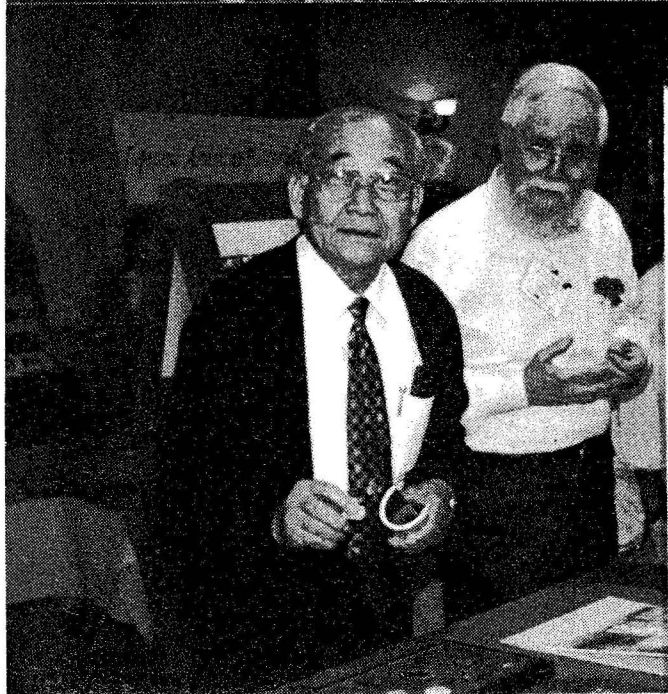
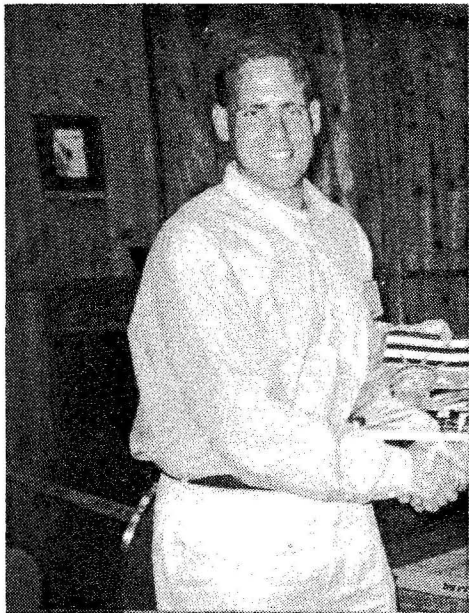




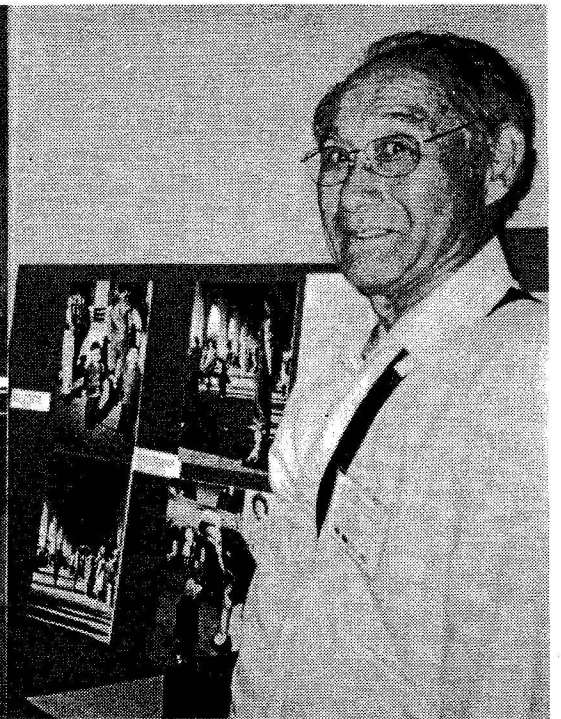




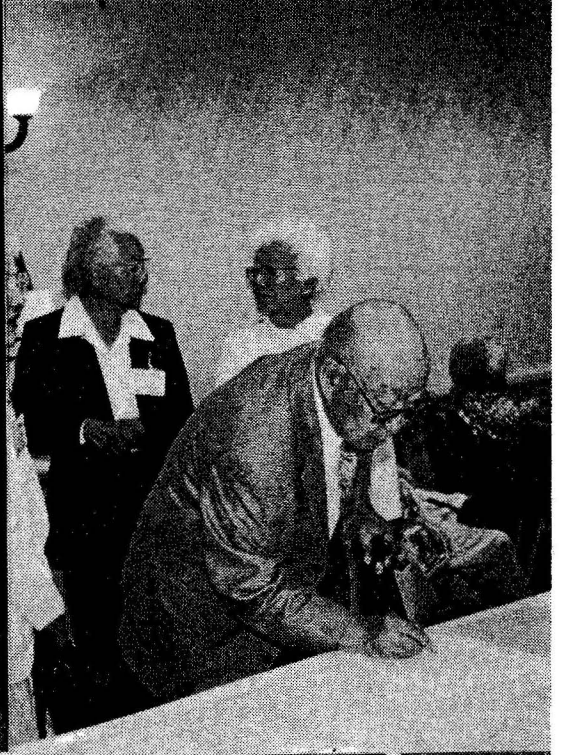




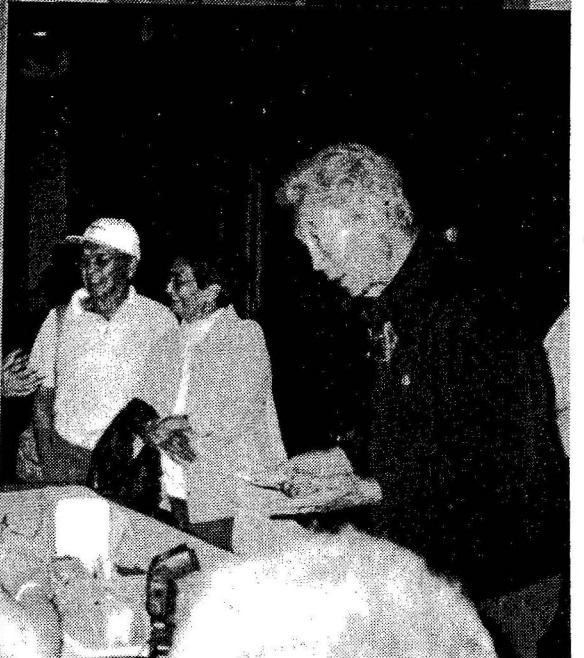












## **We Get Letters**

**Dear Don:**

You and your staff did such a beautiful exhibition display. I especially liked the way **Miss Breed's** name plate was in the "middle" of the exhibit giving the feeling that she was being honored.

**Florence (Ishino Enomoto)** and I really enjoyed the reunion so very much; meeting people we hadn't seen in years. Best wishes to everyone.

In friendship,

**Margaret Ishino**

*Los Angeles, CA*

**Dear Don:**

The reunion is over, but I find myself thinking and rethinking the events of the past weekend. One of the most memorable is seeing old friends again -- but equally meeting new people.

Thank you so much for enabling all of us to view the exhibit at the reunion. It was very moving, and it added to my desire to know more about my parent's life in San Diego.

In a visit to the home of the **Kamiura** sisters after the reunion, we were recalling our childhood years before the war. **Martha (Yamamoto) Yamagata** from Chula Vista related how the FBI went to her home with guns drawn to arrest **Mr. Date**, who was visiting the Yamamotos. I also learned that the **Kamiura** children (all small) hid when they heard the FBI was coming to their home. I mention this only to relay that there are many personal stories of pre-war evacuation preparation out there so there's a wealth of information that may not yet have been tapped. In Seattle, there is a concentrated effort to tape and preserve these personal stories.

Most Sincerely,

**Fran Wada**

*Seattle, WA.*

**To all the gang:**

Each one of you has been so nice it makes it very hard to put so much gratitude into a single card. But, if each one of you will read between the lines, you'll know this brings a "thank-you" more sincere than words could ever show.

These names stand out -- **Don and Carol Estes, Susan Hasegawa, Naomi and Mich Himaka, Yukio and Mits Kawamoto, Vernon Yoshioka.** I can't remember all the other names. Everyone helped to make me feel at home.

Thanks to all of you,

**Arnold Watanabe**

*Chicago, Il.*

**Dear Don,**

The birth and growth of the **JAHSSD** is amazing. The quality of the camp reunions they host reflect the seriousness of the your group.

No need to thank us for the posters! I was pleased when **Yuk (Kawamoto)** said you would take them. When I saw them as I prepared for the Block 308 gathering, I knew they would evoke our tender years in camp and just hated to throw them out. **Ben Fukutome**, who was a teacher in camp, kept them and the other relics all these years. Most of us have regrets about so much of the memorabilia we discarded as life went on, and while these posters are not as profound as much you have accumulated, they reflect an indomitable spirit in the kids, don't you think?

The San Diego kids were real leaders in camp, often intimidating those of us from small towns. It is a standing joke in my relations with them that I remind them of the hard times they gave us.

Thanks for the kind words on "**308--Our Story.**" Our block has maintained a connection and have met separately at the reunions for all the years since it became a campwide event. It was a labor of love which has warmed our bonds with one another.

My best wishes are with you as you seek a permanent home for your collection. It deserves it!

Kind regards,

**Emily Igarashi**

*San Mateo, CA.*

*(At the 10th Poston III Reunion, the folks of Block 308 very kindly donated two hand-drawn dance posters from camp to the JAHSSD Poston archive. (Editor))*

**Dear Don and Carol:**

Greetings from Washington, D.C.! I hope you have recovered fully from your efforts at the Poston III Reunion. From my perspective, it seemed to be a great success. You and the **JAHSSD** made me feel very welcome and I appreciate your generous hospitality.

In my opinion, part of the joy in what I do is derived from meeting new people, exchanging ideas and information, and forming lasting partnerships and friendships. You provided me with much joy throughout this experience.

I hope you will convey my best regards to your colleagues at the **JAHSSD**. I enjoyed meeting them and putting faces with names. Everyone made me feel very welcome at the reunion and I appreciated that very much. I would enjoy working with them in the future.

Thank you again,

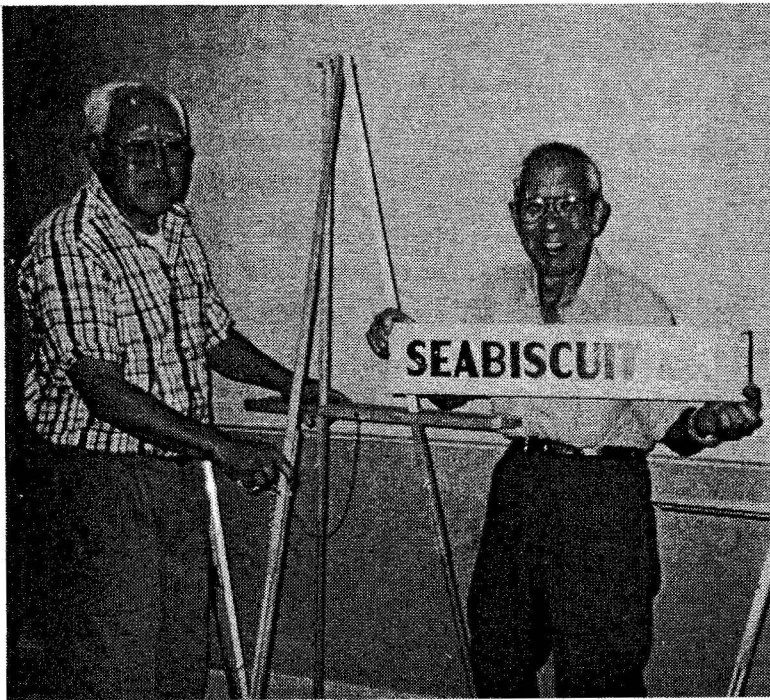
**Jeff**

**Jeffrey Louis Brodie**

*National Postal Museum Washington, D.C.*

*Letters see page 19*





Arnold Watanabe of Chicago presents Ben Segawa with a street sign he rescued from Santa Anita Assembly Center in 1942.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

What's a black derby hat, a U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps coffee cup, an empty Fugetsudo Box, and a Rancho Del Yano vegetable lug label got in common?

Answer? They're all items found in the collection of the JAHSSD.

There are many ways you can become an active part of the JAHSSD. We are always seeking individuals willing to speak to school groups on the local Nikkei experience. You will never be asked to go out alone unless you wish to. We normally send several people to participate in speaking engagements.

Without the help of many members and friends, our job would be virtually insurmountable. You can assist us by donating or loaning old photographs for copying. We would accept clothes, books, ceramics or "things" that are connected with the Nikkei experience. Our collection includes things like fish hooks, hats, dishes from the old Miyako Restaurant, kendo and judo gi, items made or used in camp, military uniforms and decorations. The list goes on and on. You'd really be surprised what we're interested in preserving. Give us a call.

Since we are a California 503 (c) non-profit organization, the JAHSSD will provide you with documentation supporting your charitable tax donations. Oh, and we never turn down money either.

Any of the following members would be glad to talk to you about donations:

Jeanne Elyea (619) 690-1151, Ben Segawa (619) 481-1736, Yukio Kawamoto (619) 286-8203, Joyce Teague (619) 527-7855 or Vernon Yoshioka (619) 461-2010.

Or, please feel free to contact any member of the JAHSSD board listed on the last page of this newsletter.

*Letters continued from page 19*

Dear Dr. Estes,

The exhibit at the 10th Poston III Reunion was outstanding and the Historical Society of San Diego is to be commended on the beautiful work on preserving and enhancing the photographs and artifacts of that terrible period of our lives and the impact it had on both the first and second generations of the diverse Japanese communities living on the West Coast of California, Oregon and Washington. So many Americans living in the Midwest, South and East have never even heard of what happened to the 120,000 Japanese population during WWII and after, unless they had direct contact with (the evacuees). Thank God for historians and other scholars who have helped us preserve the events. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

**Dorothy Takahashi Treakle**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Tracing My Family Roots (Part I)

By Mich Himaka

I never thought I would ever visit Japan. Not in my lifetime, anyway. I knew only one cousin, I thought, and she was 81 now.

I had heard there were second cousins but I had no idea who they were. I knew Mama's family name was Taka. I learned that after obtaining records from the National Archives. I didn't know if anyone on Papa's side might still be alive.

I checked with my late cousin **Itsuro Seko's** widow, **Kimi**, living in Cerritos and she was aware of a niece (her late brother-in-law's daughter) named **Sachi Seko** living in Miwasaki-cho, Shingu-shi, Wakayama-ken. Her father (my cousin, **Tokiro**) had passed away a year ago last May. I met him once several years ago when he visited the U. S. for the only time.

Kimi said there was a second cousin of mine named **Akira Taka** living in the same village of Miwasaki. He was the son of Mama's cousin, who was just a year younger than she was. Apparently they had been raised *Tracing My Family Roots* see page 18



Grace Tsuida, Yuki Kawamoto, Mits Kawamoto  
Mas Asakawa, Dorothy Treakle, Jim Tajiri (back row)

## Class of '44's 57th Year Reunion A Hit

By Yuki Kawamoto

Nostalgia reigned as some 35 classmates, spouses and friends of the Parker Valley High School (Poston Camp III) Class of 1944 met for lunch on June 2, 2001, in the Dream Catcher Showroom of the Viejas Casino to celebrate the 57th year reunion, an offshoot of the 10th Poston III Reunion.

Among those attending were former student body presidents **Yo Takehara** and **Masato Asakawa**, former senior class presidents **Walt Fujimoto** and **Yukio Kawamoto**, and former teacher, **Barbara Washler Curry**.

The group enjoyed getting reacquainted, reminiscing and just having fun. **Jim Tajiri** was the emcee and provided the highlight of the get-together. He surprised and amazed all those in attendance with his singing, accompanying himself with a guitar. Through narrative and song, he carried everyone back through prewar years, Pearl Harbor, evacuation, Santa Anita, Poston III, school days, graduation and relocation. Songs he sang included "Praise The Lord and Pass the Ammunition," "Stage Door Canteen," "On The Atchison, Topeka and the Santa Fe," "Shina No Yoru," "Sentimental Journey," "Red River Valley," "Silent Night," "This Is The Army, Mr. Jones," "White Cliffs of Dover," "Always," "White Christmas," "Moonlight Becomes You," "I'll Walk Alone," "Let's Take the Long Way Home," "Good Night Ladies," "Pomp and Circumstance," and "God Bless America" during which the whole group joined

Jim in singing it.

Not only did Jim provide the entertainment, but he provided the door prizes for all those in attendance. All in all, it was a great reunion and one of the best class reunions ever. Special thanks go to **Mas Asakawa** for making the arrangements for the facility and the lunch and for providing everyone with a hand-made white chocolate candy in school colors.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Tracing My Family Roots continued from page 17*

like sister and brother.

That was all fine. One problem though. I worried how I would be able to communicate with them. After all, Mama had been gone since 1966 and my Japanese language skill was virtually nil. Kimi gave me Akira's telephone number in Miwasaki and told me to call him.

Sure. Right away, I thought. I worried that I would have trouble getting beyond, "Ano ne." In fact, I was sure that would be the extent of my conversation with him.

What to do. I called my good buddy, **Rev. Jim Yanagihara** in San Luis Obispo and his wife, **Patsy**. I explained my dilemma. His response? A big hearty laugh! I said, "Let me talk to Patsy." She got on the horn and I explained my problem.

She asked, "Do you want me to call for you?"

I said, "Would you?"

"Sure," she said. And she did, telling him that we would be in Japan in April and that I would like to visit Miwasaki and go "haka mairi" to see where Mama's parents' grave site is.

It turned out Akira is eight years my senior. (Yeah, there are people older than me!) And he told her he would be glad to see us.

After 10 days touring to various places, I finally decide to call Akira myself to tell him we will be arriving in Shingu on April 20. I find that I am able to get beyond "ano ne."

- To Be Continued -

### Gifted Crane

*My Crane...*

*charming, long-necked bird  
turquoise wings,  
beak and tail tipped  
in black.*

*Flew with me from San Diego  
to Lawrence, Kansas.*

*Now sits proudly  
across my table and calls, "ohayo."*

**Naomi,**

Many thanks to you and all the wonderfully talented ladies who worked so hard for the reunion. It was great!

**Barbara (Washler) Curry**

*(Editor's Note: Mrs. Curry wrote all the ladies who worked on the cranes to thank them individually, I'm told.)*

-----  
**Dear Mich,**

Congratulations! The Poston III Reunion was fantastic! The speakers at the banquet were great. The exhibit was especially interesting to first-time attendees like my daughter and granddaughter. They were not aware of many things about the internment. It opened their eyes!

**Sammy Nakagawa** mentioned perhaps Las Vegas in two years. See you then. Take care and again congratulations.

Sincerely,

**Doris (Kuwada) Kunimura**

*Gilroy, CA.*

PS Please thank **Allyne Tachiki** for sending me a copy of the registration early. We needed to count number of 308ers.

-----  
**Dear Ben & Mich:**

Our thoughts are full of wonderful memories of the recent weekend in San Diego at the Poston III Reunion!

Your hard-working committee is to be complimented for the organization of all the activities from Friday to Sunday. We appreciated all the pre-reunion communiques which kept us all abreast of your plans for the reunion and which added to our anticipation of a meaningful weekend. Please convey our grateful appreciation to all the members of your committee.

We were especially impressed with the exhibit on display throughout the weekend. All the photographs and tangible reminders of Poston III brought forth feelings of sadness for the event that dislodged us from our homes but also feelings of pride for the resiliency of the Issei and Nisei in spite of the difficulties and harshness of camp life. We were

not aware that what was shown was only a small portion of the materials in storage. Please extend our thanks to **Don Estes** and others who were responsible for putting together this wonderful exhibit.

Most sincerely,

**Fran (Watanabe) and Tad Wada**  
*Seattle, WA.*

**Dear Mich:**

Hope you and **Naomi** have recovered from the busy weekend. I really enjoyed the reunion! You all did a great job.

Take care-

**Ruth (Okimoto)**

*Berkeley, CA.*

-----  
**Hi, Hisae:**

That was a really nice reunion in S. D. Hats off to the committee for pulling off a great one. Guess you don't know me but I was one of those fortunate ones that got to taste your Mom's delicious prize-winning Old Fashioned Sunshine Cake. I also got a copy of the recipe. I made the cake and it was good but since I didn't have cake flour, it did make a difference. Anyway, it was good and enjoyed by all. My husband is the one who took the pictures. We also enjoyed the goodies in the Hospitality Room. Take care.

**Ben and Terrie Inouye**

-----  
**Hi Yuk,**

Thanks for the kind words. What a relief now that it's over with! Must admit I put in quite some time on learning how to play that guitar. Had many doubts along the way. Plan now to continue into next semester - intermediate guitar! Also thanks for the help and support in getting the luncheon off the ground and then setting and sorting out the door prizes.

I don't remember if I pointed out to you that in addition to the various symbolic aspects within the design of the pendant that I fabricated and donated another element included was the fact that part of the gold used for the shaft of the arrow, which was in form of the Poston Monument, came from **Tooru Hirose**. He and his wife visited our restaurant/gift shop in Carmel shortly after the 9th Poston Reunion. I showed them some of my jewelry work. Several days later, after they returned home, I received a small packet in the mail without a return address. It contained three pieces of old gold jewelry and an unsigned note requesting that something nice be made. The timing of the packet and a postmark of San Jose revealed who sent it.

A picture taken of the pendant. When I get it, I will send a copy and the written comments to **Tooru**. Arigato and gambatte kudasai. -- **Jim**

Letters see page 17



*Chanko-Nabe continued from page 7*

personally attest to this because she brought the tapes home during winter break a few years back and went through one of them as I was (pant, gasp) couch carroting nearby, **WORKING HARD ON A CHANKO-NABE COLUMN**, and sweating up a storm. Oh, no -- that was HER sweating up a storm! But I was burning lots of calories yelling encouragement. My forehead even grew a little moist at the effort.

"You go, girl!!! Kick butt!!! Enlarge your abs and flabs and knobs or whatever!!!"

I appreciate being related to someone who strives to improve herself inside and out. It's amazing to me this someone is actually my offspring, for I myself don't seek to improve anything about me, but just preserve what's hanging there in various areas by a thread.

And now, as I think even harder about exercise, whole new possibilities open up to me. Thinking about exercise starts me thinking about food, which gets me mumbling about what I can eat. Talking surely burns more calories than thinking. But if I start **EATING** food, won't that pleasurable action *use even more calories than talking or thinking combined*?

Or if I simply furrow my brow while thinking, I am certain countless milligrams of fat will melt away by summer's end. I'm getting hungry worrying over this. Time to go into the kitchen and head-scratch over what to have for dinner.

Hmm, if I use both hands to scratch my head, will I double the number of expended calories?

Happy summer, everyone!

\*\*\*\*\*

*New Donations and Acquisitions continued from page 8*

of his collection of black, white and red abalone shells for a current display.

**Hiroshi Kubota** for the donation of a hand-made and hand-forged wood plane and chisel belonging to his late father, **Imataro Kawamoto**.

**Roy Kusumoto** for the donation of an envelope postmarked "Poston Dec 2, 3:30 PM 1944 Ariz."

**Henry T. Mukai** for the donation of a copy of the *Los Angeles Examiner* dated Wednesday April 8, 1942, with stories relating to the removal of San Diego's Nikkei community.

**Fran Watanabe Wada** of Seattle, WA., for permitting us to copy her work, *The American Saga: The Story of George Akiji & Kesaye Watanabe 1908-1976*. Fran is a former San Diegan and has eloquently chronicled the story of her parents time in the United States with photographs and documentations. In addition, Fran has given us permission to re-print portions of her book in future issues of the *Footprints*.

**Arnold Watanabe** of Chicago, IL., for donating a *Seabiscuit Avenue* sign he rescued in August 1942 from the **Santa Anita Assembly Center**, and the donation of a 1941 copy of San Diego High School's annual *The Gray Castle*.

## Membership News

By Yuki Kawamoto

A warm welcome to the following members who recently joined the JAHSSD: **Ty and Michele Hoffman, Larry Kida, George and Betty Wakiji, Micko Koba Kodama and the Rev. Norma Nomura DeSaegher**. A huge thank you to **Hisae Batchelder**, who provided the gift membership for the Wakijis.

We also thank the following who recently renewed their memberships: **Toshio and Mary Abe, Tim Asamen, John and Jill Damrose, Kimie Fukamizu, Yoko Hashima, Masami Honda, Chiz Imoto, Robert and Edna Ito, Sakie Kawahara, Yoshito and Marleen Kawahara, Michael Kawamoto, Ben Kitahata, Guy and Toshi Kiyoi, Frank and Janet Koide, Hiroshi and Yayoi Kubota, Mary Marumoto, Glen and Roslyn Masumoto, Ritsu Nabeta, Hideo and Kiyoko Ochi, Steve Sato, Grace and Hiroshi Sawasaki, Hideko Shimasaki, George and Karen Shinzaki, John and Kiyo Takemoto, Howard Takahashi, Azusa and Haruko Tsuneyoshi, James and Helen Urata, Tad and Fran Watanabe Wada and Chiyeko Yagi**. Thank you to **Suye Mayumi Fujikawa**, who paid for the membership renewals of **Christy Vikander, David Fujikawa, Sharon Bristow, Karen Hart and Takashi Mayumi**.

## ROY S. YONEKURA

Certified Public Accountant

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