

FOOTPRINTS

SPECIAL TENTH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

The Newsletter for the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego

FALL 2002

VOL. II NO. 3

JAHSSD ANNUAL MEETING CELEBRATES 10th ANNIVERSARY

"BRIDGE—Past to Future" is the theme of the JAHSSD Annual Meeting to be held Saturday, October 12, at 11 a.m. at the Buddhist Temple of San Diego. Doors will open at 10 a.m.

The Society will be celebrating its first decade with a special program recognizing our past, with an exhibit of recent acquisitions; the present, with the recognition of three long-time community leaders with the Kansha Award; and the future, looking ahead to what's in store for the Society.

Masami Honda, Dr. Randall Phillips, and James Yamate are this year's very deserving Kansha Award recipients.

The keynote speaker will be Yuko Kaifu from the Japanese Consulate General in Los Angeles. After holding a number of positions in the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Kaifu was assigned to Los Angeles in September of last year. Her previous assignment was the official interpreter for her Majesty the Empress of Japan.

We hope all of you will mark the date on your calendar and plan to honor our Kansha awardees, welcome Mrs. Kaifu, and enjoy the program and exhibits. Last but not least is our wonderful raffle with lots of fun prizes!

The exhibit and program are free and open to the public, but the bento lunches (\$17) must be reserved in advance. Deadline for bento reservations is October 2. An order form has been included with this issue.

A PROUD LOOK BACK

Ben Segawa, Executive Director

In the summer of 1991, a successful Poston III Reunion was held in San Diego. Many of us who had such a great time organizing the event hated to see it come to an end. With the encouragement of former San Diego Public Librarian Miss Clara Breed, we started to meet again. Thus began the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego.

Through the efforts of many helpful individuals like attorney Linda Noda Hobbs and certified public accountant Jerry Segawa, we were able to become a federally approved nonprofit organization in October of 1991.

Over the past ten years, our involvement in the community has been vast. Several of our exhibits have been displayed all over the County and in other parts of the country. For example,



1991 Poston Reunion Exhibit Committee, the nucleus of JAHSSD (left to right): Carol Estes, Don Estes, Kathy Segawa, Frank Wada, Jeanne Elyea, Aileen Fukamizu, Aiko Owashi, Ben Segawa.

Southwestern College and the San Diego Public Library both showcased "A More Perfect Union," in association with the Smithsonian Institution. The San Diego Historical Society in Balboa Park hosted "The Hundred Year Road," which was very well-attended. In Parker, Arizona, some of our exhibits from previous Poston III Reunions were displayed. All of these exhibits were assembled by our nationally renowned historian, Don Estes, San Diego City College professor, and an expert on local Japanese American history.

Another one of our more prestigious accomplishments during the past ten years was producing and distributing the documentary *Democracy Under Pressure* in 2000. With a grant from the California Civil Liberties Education Program and generous support from many of our members, the co-producers (Debra Kodama and Leng Loh) and a terrific production team created a 30-minute videotape on how internment affected San Diego's Japanese American community. To date, we have distributed over 500 copies of the program to all area senior high schools, junior and middle high schools, community colleges, and public libraries.

This newsletter, *Footprints*, has always been a favorite benefit of many of our members. Several of you have written about how you look forward to each quarterly issue. Previous editors—Jeanne Elyea, Masato Asakawa, and Mich and Naomi Himaka—all diligently worked to make sure each issue was full of interesting articles, photographs, and items. And I can tell that current editor Joyce Teague is no different. Although we've had a change in editors, the quality of this publication remains the same: excellent.

Continued on page 3

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 and extend our gratitude for the contributions of the following individuals:

We want to thank Joe Yoshioka for his generous donation of books and notebooks on navigation that he used during his long career as a local commercial fisherman and navigator. Joe also donated the bayonet, canteen and web belt he carried throughout World War II.

We appreciate the donation of John and Tsune Hashiguchi of an Arizona ironwood tablet and a candle holder, both made at Poston Camp. Both items are welcome additions to our collection of camp-related artifacts.

Aki Tomyama donated a trunk and artifacts from Manzanar Camp which belonged to her aunt, Mitsuko Hamano.

Our thanks also go to Alice and Ken Matsumoto for their loan of materials made by Alice's father, Reverend Guzei Nishii, which were centerpieces at this year's Bon Odori exhibit at the Buddhist Temple of San Diego. The Matsumotos were also kind enough to allow us to copy two photo albums dating from the 1930s to add to our photo archive.

Continued on page 9

IN THIS ISSUE

JAHSSD's Tenth Anniversary.....	1
A Proud Look Back.....	1
Dates to Remember.....	2
Caught Doing Something Nice.....	2
President's Message.....	3
2002 Kansha Award Recipients.....	3
In Memoriam.....	4
JAHSSD: Ten Years Old.....	4
Celebrations.....	8
Chanko-Nabe.....	8
A Moment in Time.....	10
Beauty and Barbed Wire.....	10
Membership News.....	11
Looking Back, Looking Forward.....	11
Letters.....	12
Room With a View.....	12
Total Kaos.....	13
Nagasaki Journey Photographs at MoPA.....	14
IANM All Camps Summit.....	14
"Calling Tokyo" Debuts in San Diego.....	15
Santa Fe Historical Marker Dedication.....	15
Journey to the United States, Part I.....	17
Poston III Reunion.....	18
Camp Kooskia, Part II.....	18
Kino, 1993 Keynote Address.....	19
First Decade Photo Journey.....	22
JAHSSD Timeline: Event Highlights.....	26

DATES TO REMEMBER

- SEPT. 1 – OVUCC Annual Bazaar, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.
 SEPT. 1– 31 – "Beauty and Barbed Wire," JAHSSD Exhibit on art created in camp, S.D. Public Library, 820 E St., during regular library hours. Free
 SEPT. 4 – Lecture on WWII Draft Resisters: *Free to Die for Their Country*, 6:30 p.m., SD Public Library.
 SEPT. 14 – Friendship Garden Benefit Taiko Concert: San Jose Taiko, 7 p.m., ECPAC, 619/232-2721
 SEPT. 20 – BTSD 7th Annual Golf Tournament, Eastlake Country Club, 619/239-0896
 SEPT. 21 – Asian Pacific VFW Post 4851 Fund Raising Dinner. Call VFW for tickets, 619/477-9782
 SEPT. 25 – "Women, Work, and Writing: An Evening with Gail Tsukiyama," author of *Samurai's Garden* and other novels, will talk about the craft of writing, 6:30 p.m., S.D. Public Library. Free
 SEPT. 26 – Ken Mochizuki on his book, *Baseball Saved Us*, about baseball and a Nikkei boy interned in camp, 10:30 a.m., S.D. Public Library. Free
 OCT. 2 – Deadline for JAHSSD Annual Meeting bento orders. 619/690-1151 or 858/270-0733
 OCT. 3– 6 – 3rd Annual San Diego Asian Film Festival, Hazard Center Madstone Theatres. Program and info: www.SDAFF.org
 OCT. 4 – "Calling Tokyo: Japanese American Radio Broadcasters during World War II," 3:30 p.m., Hazard Center Madstone Theatres. 619/291-7777
 OCT. 5 – "Calling Tokyo: Japanese American Radio Broadcasters during World War II," 1:30 p.m., Joan Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, USD. 619/260-4600
 OCT. 6 – BTSD Food Festival, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Purchase tickets in advance: 619/239-0896
 OCT. 9 – Japan Society Banquet, Hyatt Regency, 6 p.m. 619/233-6873
 OCT. 12 – JAHSSD 10th Anniv. Meeting, BTSD Annex. 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Exhibit and program free; lunch must be ordered in advance. 619/690-1151 or 858/270-0733
 NOV. 3 – Eitaikyō Service, 10 a.m., BTSD

CORRECTING A CORRECTION

In the story about Mission Valley in the Spring 2002 Issue, one of the kimono-wearing young ladies on p. 15 is Chiyoko Honda, not Chiyeko Honda. The young lady whose name the author couldn't remember is Fusako Tsuneyoshi, identified by her brother Motoo Tsuneyoshi, who is no relation to Ms. Honda. Stay tuned to see if we have to add a third correction to our previous corrections!

PROUD LOOK BACK continued from page 1

I could go on about many of our other accomplishments—like providing numerous guest speakers to area schools, or becoming a resource for many local news media. But I believe one of the most important elements we have is all the people who have been a part of this historical society for all of our ten years. Without the hard work of people like Jeanne Elyea, Mich and Naomi Himaka, Don Estes, and Yukio Kawamoto, many of these successes would not have been possible. Yukio is a good example of the kind of hard-working individual we have in our organization. In charge of membership, he maintains our member list, tracks and reports monthly changes, and sends a letter of welcome to new members. He creates the beautiful awards given to the Kansha awardees and helps with set up of our exhibits. It is this kind of selfless support that is the heart of our organization.

We have grown steadily over the years. We now have 400 members in our little historical society. Many live here in San Diego but others are scattered across the country and even overseas.

No review of our first ten years would be complete without including our annual meetings. These luncheons have become a community tradition, with attendance increasing every year. Guests always look forward to hearing the keynote speaker, expressing appreciation of the recipients of our Kansha Awards, and possibly winning one of our famous door prizes! I would like to add a personal thank you to the Buddhist Temple of San Diego for allowing us to use their facilities for this event.

As I look back at what we have done as a formal organization since 1991, I am amazed and proud of what we have accomplished. I hope each of you are equally pleased. It is my hope that in the next ten years we will realize our greatest accomplishment: moving into a permanent home.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Vernon Yoshioka

It's a good thing our Editor has pushed and prodded this President into writing again. I seem to have a natural aversion to writing, even though I talk a lot. The rest of the JAHSSD Board of Directors have a good sense of purpose and are guiding us in achieving our goals.

We had an excellent one-day exhibition on August 4, 2002, during the Obon Celebration at the Buddhist Temple of San Diego. The display highlighted the Buddhist influence and involvement during the internment years. Thanks to those who put it all together under the leadership of Don Estes and Joyce Teague.

On August 14, 2002, the Board met to plan the details of the next annual meeting which will be held on Saturday, October 12, 2002. This will be a big event in that it will be the 10th anniversary celebration of this organization.

We were also very fortunate to have Gwen Momita step up and volunteer to join our board, and also tackle the position of Secretary. Needless to say she was accepted onto the board with a unanimous and elated vote. WELCOME GWEN!

We are currently considering participation in the creation of a new group which is attempting to preserve and promote the Asian Pacific Thematic District in downtown San Diego. This is an eight-block area which overlaps the Gaslamp District, and encompasses the area where a lot of old Japanese residences and businesses were located. Don Estes was the natural and most knowledgeable contact for this endeavor, but he is just too involved with our other activities to be able to take on more meetings and activities. As the figurehead for our group, I attended a working session on Saturday, August 18, and was very encouraged to see what had been done.

Michael Yee, from the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum, has been the sparkplug who is carrying on the vision laid out in the City of San Diego document entitled the "Asian Pacific Historical Thematic District Master Plan". Michael is the son of Wayne T. Yee, an Aeronautical Engineer, whom I had the pleasure of working together with over a 25-year period at Teledyne Ryan Aeronautical (small world). We have not yet officially voted to become a part of this group, but I believe it's a natural complement to our activities. I find a lot of the information under discussion to be very interesting because of what I had learned from Mas Hironaka and his early years there. The proposed name for the new group would be the "Asian Pacific Historic(al) Collaboration." Send us your thoughts on this endeavor.

Lastly, I think we have reached the participation level of 400 members. We are continuing to grow with the help of all of you. Membership is on a 12-month basis, which begins when you apply, thus as renewals come due we sometimes lose a few people, or I could be more certain of our current number. However, we do need your help in continuing to promote our group and its purpose. Share your *Footprints* and maybe others will want to have their own copies.

We also need to hear your stories to enlarge our data base of Japanese American history. Thank you for being a part of JAHSSD. If you'd like to step up your involvement, we can still use more volunteers for the board.

2002 KANSHA AWARD RECIPIENT PROFILES

On October 12, JAHSSD will give the Nikkei community a chance to thank three special San Diegans whose efforts on behalf of others make them stand-outs.

The Kansha Awards were established by JAHSSD in 1998 to recognize people who often work quietly behind the scenes to make sure that people get the help they need; or that their organizations run smoothly; or whose impulse to make sure good things happen is not just second nature, but acted upon time and again.

This year, the beautiful Kansha Award will be presented to Masami Honda, Dr. Randall Phillips, and James Yamate. The following profiles were written by the Board members who will be making the presentations at the Annual Meeting.

Continued on p. 4

IN MEMORIAM

IAHSSD 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.

KAZUKO KAWANO ~ May 18, 2002

JOHN TADAO HOSAKA ~ July 5, 2002

ALBERT KENICHI MATSUSHIMA ~ July 14, 2002

YURIKO RILLO ~ July 18, 2002

FUJIE YAMAGATA ~ August 6, 2002

TADAO MITSUDA ~ August 13, 2002

BILL HIDEO KARAMOTO ~ August 16, 2002

2002 KANSHA AWARD RECIPIENTS continued from page 3

MASAMI HONDA

by Joyce Teague



The oldest of six children, Masami Honda was born and raised in a San Diego farming family and attended San Diego public schools. From a young age, he proved to be a natural leader. He was among the few young adults who took over responsibility for the Buddhist Temple of San Diego after its Issei leaders were arrested in the wake

of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Like most San Diego Nikkei, the Honda family was interned at Poston Camp III. There Mas was active on the Camp Council and involved with overseeing camp-wide activities. As the person chosen to represent the Buddhist Temple's governing body during the war, he learned a lot about legal matters which proved invaluable in the crucial period following the War when the temple was trying to be reestablished. Mas' people skills and "can do" attitude were also required during a sometimes contentious period where temple leadership was evolving from Issei to Nisei.

It was the untimely death of his mother which brought him back to San Diego from New York where he hoped to resettle after the War, and he decided to stay. He reestablished a landscape gardening business, married Ruth Kodama, and resumed his involvement in Temple life. They eventually had three children (Stanley, Amy, and Meggie) of whom he is extremely proud. The family lost Ruth, a writer and poet who was active at the Buddhist Temple in her own right, in 1980.

Over the past 50 years, Mas has held seats of responsibility as a Scout leader, on the Buddhist Temple Board, as chair of countless committees, the JACL, and the Gardeners Association.

Wherever he felt he could be useful, he was there.

In 1983, Mas moved to the newly-opened Kiku Gardens as a charter resident. He helped Dr. Harry Hashimoto as Assistant Manager for its first seven years, and was Manager for three more before being forced to retire in 1992 for medical reasons.

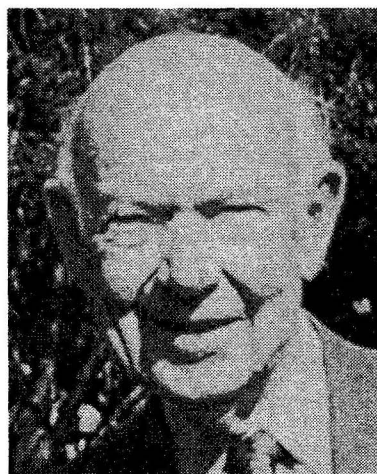
Masami turned 85 last August. Despite some health problems that have vexed him in the last decade, he has only slowed down a little bit! He drives residents to nearby stores weekly and to Clairemont at least three times a month to shop at the Asian food markets there. He continues to serve Kiku Gardens and its residents as a night manager, advocate, supply unloader, bus driver, office volunteer—a sort of Emeritus-of-All-Trades position, if you will. He says after 20 years of doing everything there, "it all became automatic."

"Once in a while, there's one or two problems," he says, "but you take care of it. *I really enjoy it.*"

After 85 years, it's about time the Nikkei community formally thanks Masami Honda!

DR. RANDALL C. PHILLIPS

by Don Estes



If you've attended any local Nikkei activity since 1995, you've no doubt noticed a tall, distinguished gentleman in attendance. That man is Dr. Randall Phillips, Honorary Consul General of Japan in San Diego and a recipient of one of this year's Kansha Awards for distinguished service to the Japanese American Community.

Dr. Phillips was born in Santa Maria, California, the son of Glenn R. and Ruth E. Phillips. He attended the University of Southern California and the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration.

As an ordained Methodist minister, Dr. Phillips served several large churches in the Los Angeles area. In 1978, he joined the faculty of United States International University as an administrative vice president. In 1985, he was appointed the University's Senior Vice President, a position he held until his retirement in 1993. He now holds the title Senior Vice President Emeritus of the university.

In 1995, the Government of Japan, acting upon the recommendation of the Foreign Ministry, appointed Dr. Phillips the Honorary Consul General of Japan in San Diego. In that position he is a member of the local consular corps where he served as the Corps President from 1998 to 1999.

With his appointment, Dr. Phillips instituted a new policy of openness and energetic involvement with the Japanese American community. Dr. Phillips has become a familiar figure at all

DR. PHILLIPS continued from previous page

community activities and has made it a special point of becoming a member of a number of Nikkei organizations.

He is presently a trustee of the San Diego Sister Cities Foundation, chairman of the Japanese Friendship Garden Association Board, and honorary advisor and director of the Japan Society of San Diego and Tijuana, to mention but a few of the organizations he's involved with. In what passes for his spare time, Dr. Phillips is a dedicated hiker, traveler and an avid reader. He has a special love for Dixieland music.

During his tenure, Dr. Phillips has made a special point to advise, assist and support numerous Nikkei individuals and organizations. Through his actions, he has demonstrated that he wishes to not only assist people, but build bridges between them. In recognition of his efforts, the JAHSSD Board is pleased to present this year's Kansha Award to Dr. Phillips.

JAMES YAMATE

by Bob Batchelder



In addition to a lifetime of hard work farming and raising a family, James Masunobu Yamate has a distinguished record of service to his country and the community.

James was born and raised in Modesto, California, and educated at Modesto Junior College and the University of California, College of Agriculture at Davis. He was drafted into the Army on

Dec. 1, 1941, seven days before Pearl Harbor, and served as part of the Medical Corps in the 71st Infantry Regiment of the 44th Infantry Division, a mostly Caucasian unit. James saw heavy combat duty in Europe and was awarded two Bronze Stars for bravery in action.

After WWII, the Yamate family relocated to Chula Vista where they farmed for almost forty years. It was here that James met his wife, Yuri, from National City. They were married in 1950 and have three children (Susan, David, and Carolann) and two grandchildren. Although the Yamates grew a variety of vegetables, tomatoes were their specialty and even today the Celebrity tomatoes grown in James' backyard garden are highly prized. James retired in 1985.

Countless activities that define our community have benefited from the leadership and participation of James Yamate. And to all of these he brings an outgoing personality and friendly smile.

James has been a leader in the Japanese Christian Church since he joined in 1947. He has served as Board Chairman, Trustee Chairman, and on countless committees.

He has served on the Kiku Garden Board of Directors since its founding. Before that, he was a member of the planning

committee that nurtured the concept of a retirement home for Japanese Americans.

James has also served on the JACL Scholarship Committee since 1957, first as chairman and now as a committee member. As an active member of the Japanese-American VFW, James also worked on scholarship activities for that organization.

He participates in Chula Vista civic activities and served as a fund raiser for the South Bay YMCA. James is also a member of the Odawara Sister City Board which promotes friendship with Chula Vista's Sister City in Japan.

James also helps behind the scenes in many different ways: at weekly Senior Citizen lunches, volunteering in a number of Japanese Friendship Garden activities, and delivering truckloads of yellowtail or albacore to be enjoyed by the residents of Kiku Garden.

Because of his leadership and participation in so many of the institutions and activities that are important to the San Diego Nikkei community, James Yamate is being recognized this year by his community with the Kansha Award.

JAHSSD: TEN YEARS OLD

by Michio Himaka

The seeds for the organization were planted 11 years ago when San Diego hosted the sixth Poston III Reunion, its second such assignment.

Able co-chaired by Masato Asakawa and Yukio Kawamoto with the late Ben Honda serving as advisor, the reunion went off virtually without a hitch.

The main theme of the reunion was "Reflections," a retrospective of where we were in 1942-45. The main attraction was an exhibit of Poston memorabilia, the assembly of which was placed in the able hands of Ben Segawa, assisted by the likes of Don Estes, Frank Wada, Jeanne Marumoto Elyea, Elizabeth Kikuchi Yamada, Aileen Fukamizu Oya, Aiko Ozaki Owashi, the late Katherine Tasaki Segawa, Nob Takashima, George Oki and Danny Tsuchida.

Frank's model barracks unit was the cornerstone of the exhibit and it drew rave comments from those in attendance. The exhibit also featured photographs, items and artwork made by Poston residents during their internment.

Many of the items and artwork loaned to the reunion committee were priceless. Some were offered to the community at large if someone was willing to take charge of them.

Ben and Don accepted them on behalf of the community, called some of the exhibit committee members and met at the Segawa home to discuss forming a historical organization of San Diego's Japanese American community.

Some of those individuals who turned out for the first meeting included Ben, Don, Jeanne, Aileen, Kathy, Tom Ozaki, Masato Asakawa, Yukio Kawamoto, Elaine Hibi Bowers, Sachi Nishida, Linda Noda Hobbs, Carol Iguchi Kawamoto and Jerry Segawa.

Ben was chosen to serve as the organization's president with Masato serving as vice president, Elaine as treasurer, Yukio as

Continued on page 6

secretary and Don as historian. The rest made up the Board of Directors.

"Although she wasn't on the board, Kathy was one of the prime movers of the organization," Jeanne recalled. "She played a big part in our getting us started and organized."

One of the first decisions the board made was to publish a quarterly newsletter. That task was placed in the able hands of Jeanne, who gave it its name, *Footprints*, and created its motto, "Impressions from where we were to where we will be." The first edition appeared in the fall of 1992 and was mailed to the community at large for free. Jeanne and the Marumoto family financed the first edition in memory of her father, Kikuichi (Windy) Marumoto.

In his first "President's Message," Ben wrote: "As a result of the overwhelming enthusiasm that was experienced at the Poston III Reunion, the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego was formed. All of us who were part of this great event realized the interest that existed in our heritage in this community. The mission statement adopted by the Board of Directors defines our goals: To establish, operate and maintain an historical, scientific, cultural, literary and educational organization for the recognition and preservation of the contributions and influences of Japanese and Japanese Americans in San Diego and continuous areas. We welcome your support in this exciting endeavor. I know the months and years to come will be very meaningful and fulfilling to all who participate. It will be your legacy for future generations."

Initial membership grew from the board members to 72. Today, we have 400 members. And the membership dues and newsletter ad costs remain the same as when the organization started. What a bargain! Name something else today whose cost has remained the same as ten years ago!



First Annual Meeting, VFW Hall, October 1993

The society's first annual membership meeting took place Oct. 2, 1993, at the VFW Post 4851 Hall in National City with a guest speaker, an exhibit of historical photos and artifacts and a bento lunch catered by Ichiban Restaurant, all for \$8. What a deal! (The bento cost in 2002 has more than doubled—to \$17.)

In April 1994, the JAHSSD took on a major undertaking sponsoring a community-wide testimonial at the Town and Country Convention Center honoring Dr. Francis I. Tanaka for all of

his contributions to the community.

The fall 1994 issue of *Footprints* focused on some of our WWII veterans. Articles were written about Hideo Ochi, Lloyd Ito, James Yamate and Hank Wada and the winter issue had an article on another veteran who asked he not be identified.

The JAHSSD Poston photo collection was put on exhibit at the Los Angeles Convention Center in November 1994 and later put on display at the Southwestern College Library



JANM/JAHSSD Exhibit L.A. Convention Center, 1994

In March 1995, the society sponsored a bus trip to Laughlin with a side visit to Poston, wartime home to so many San Diegans. The low-light of the trip was that two buses—TWO!—broke down and delayed the groups' return home. One bus breakdown occurred near Needles and the second near Escondido. The buses arrived back in San Diego at 2 a.m.

In April 1996, members of the Board traveled to Parker, Arizona, to meet with members of the Parker Area Historical Society to talk about their wartime experience living in Poston. The trip



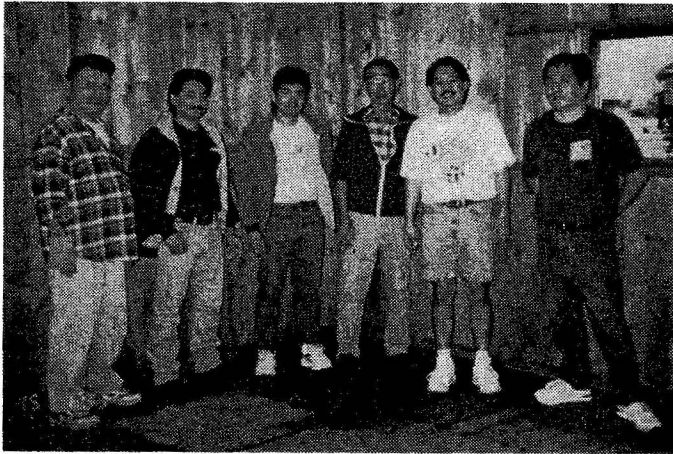
JAHSS members in front of old barracks now in Parker, Arizona

enabled Board members to tour Parker to see some old but familiar sights: some old barracks, some still tar-papered, some converted into living homes. About 200 Parker residents turned out for the meeting, the largest gathering ever, we were told.

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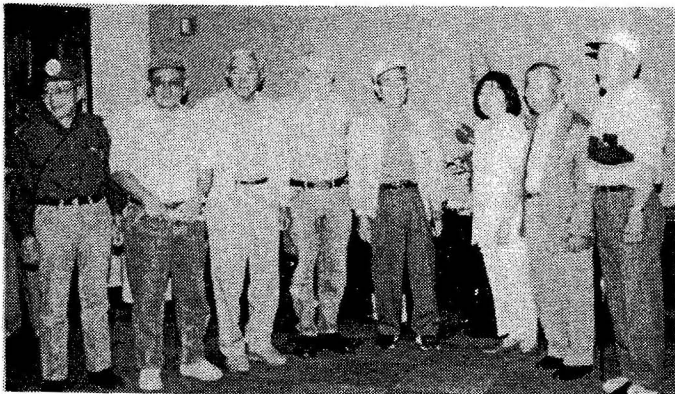
The reception we received was more than cordial. It was a complete contrast from the greeting we received when we first arrived in Parker on our way to Poston decades earlier.

Our Fourth Annual Meeting was a tribute to the veterans of the Second World War, Korea and Vietnam with our featured speaker, Col. Christopher J. R. Keegan, USA ret., who served as a company commander with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. He commanded Co. H, 2nd Battalion, 442 RCT. Keegan told the gathering that the 442nd received only one Medal of Honor during their service but deserved many more. Congress reviewed the wartime commendations of the 442nd and President Clinton upgraded 20 of 47 Distinguished Service Crosses to the Medal of Honor, including one to George Sakato, uncle of Grace Segawa.



100-Year Road Exhibit construction crew

On Feb. 15, 1997, the JAHSSD opened another major exhibit, "The Hundred Year Road, A Japanese American Journey," at the San Diego Museum of History. The exhibit again featured the model barracks unit built by Frank Wada and his crew—Steve and Glenn Kobayashi, Abe Takehara and Greg and Frank Wada Jr.—along with artifacts and photos of San Diego's Japanese community dating back to the earliest 1900s. The exhibit ran through August 10, or almost six months. The opening night crowd raved about the exhibit saying, "it was the best one we've ever had here" at the museum. Members, notably Elaine Hibi Bowers, acted as docents for visitors.



Don Estes and Elaine Bowers with members of Company E at 100-Year Road Exhibit, San Diego Museum of History

On April 19, 1997, 39 members of Co. E. 442 RCT (Southern California Chapter) gathered in San Diego for a reunion and visited the "One Hundred Year Road" exhibit. Frank and Jean Wada were hosts for the reunion.

On July 20, 1997, the San Diego Public Library, JAHSSD and the San Diego JACL sponsored a six-week exhibition of the traveling Smithsonian exhibit, "A More Perfect Union: Japanese Americans and the Constitution." The JAHSSD supplemented the traveling exhibit with materials from our own collection to illustrate the local camp experience.

On Oct. 24, 1998, the JAHSSD took its first step to honor members of the San Diego Nikkei community for their many contributions. The first recipients of the Kansha Awards were Rev. Akio Miyaji, Mrs. Misao Kawasaki, Mrs. Ruth Takahashi Voorhies, Mrs. Susan Hara Namba and Mrs. Toshiye Sakaguchi Kiyoi. Each received a beautiful plaque made by our own master carpenter, Yukio Kawamoto. Recipients have said the plaques are the most beautiful awards they have received.

Recipients of the Kansha Award since that inaugural year include (in 2000) Tom Yanagihara, Shinobu Yoshioka, and the late Joe Owashi, whose family members accepted the award.

In 2001, the award was presented to Agnes Benson, K. J. (Jimmy) Takashima, Fred Katsumata and the late Ben Honda.



Nobuko Sato studies a group photo at the 2001 Poston III Reunion

In June 2001, San Diego again played host for the Poston III Reunion, this one the tenth in the series of reunions. Ben Segawa served as reunion chairman. Fortunately for those of us growing older, we received a lot of help from people who were not even interned with us. To them, we give a loud "thank you." We could not have pulled it off without their assistance.

Another most significant note for the Society is that with the 2002 Spring Issue of *Footprints*, we got ourselves a new and professional Editor to take over the duties. She is Joyce Teague. We hope everyone will give her all their support because it is not an easy task trying to get people to meet deadlines. Trust me.

CELEBRATIONS!

Community Milestones of Note

Congratulations to **DEREK INOUE** (son of Craig and Jeanne Inoue) and **MARI PULLEN** (daughter of James Pullen and Gale Kaneshiro), high school graduates who were each awarded \$400 scholarships by the Buddhist Temple of San Diego at the Obon Service. Derek will attend UCSD and Mari will begin studies at Tufts University this fall.

The Temple also gave a \$300 scholarship to each of the following college students: **ERIN HAMADA** (daughter of Gary and Norma Hamada); **DOUGLAS HIDINGER** (son of Ronald and Holly Hidinger); **KEVIN HILL** (son of Ed and Miyo Hill); **KAREN SAKAI** and **SANDRA SAKAI** (daughters of Jeff and Kathy Sakai); and **KACIE YAMADA** (daughter of Patrick and Diane Yamada).

Congratulations to **GEORGE** and **MIYAKO TACHIKI**, who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary with family and friends at the Catamaran Hotel on Sept. 7.

VERN WUTZKE, JR. and **KERI OESTERLING** of El Cajon announced their engagement on August 17. An August 2003 wedding is planned. **TOMOKO NAKAMURA** and **MICHAEL LEWIS HOLMES** were married July 19 at the Buddhist Temple of San Diego. **SHAWN MIDORI YOSHIMOTO** and **FRANK JOSEPH GWYN** were married July 20 at the Catamaran Hotel.

KYLE MASARU YANAGIHARA BAKER was welcomed into the world July 17 at Grossmont Hospital. Parents are Michael and Carol Baker. Grandparents Tom and Sumi Yanagihara report that Kyle's big sister **CAITLIN** and big brother **CHARLES** are overjoyed at having a baby brother!

EMMA AKIKO MATSUMOTO was born August 7 to Rick and Jenny Matsumoto and older brother, **CLAYTON ERIC MATSUMOTO**. The proud grandparents are Ken and Akiko Matsumoto and Bob and Ronda Jackson.

KATIE SANTOHIGASHI, a junior at La Jolla Country Day School, was chosen to participate in a three-week Edu-Culture International summer program, living with a host family in Lyon, France. Her mother **BETTY SANTOHIGASHI** joined her at the end of the session for a week's tour of Northern France.

ROY MURAOKA was honored by the Japanese Friendship Garden for his contributions to the Garden and the greater community. The recognition was made at the annual Festival of the August Moon on August 16.

KATSUMI J. (Jimmy) TAKASHIMA was recognized for his many years of service to the Buddhist Temple in charge of the Temple's Eitaiyo and Scholarship Funds. Although he has officially retired from those positions, he retains the title of Advisor. Mr. Takashima was presented with a plaque in appreciation of his dedication at this year's Obon Service in July.

If you or a family member are celebrating a special anniversary, achievement or milestone, please send us the details, and we will gladly share the news in an upcoming issue.

CHANKO-NABE

by Joyce Nabeta Teague

Fig Beetles

As I sit on our living room couch, my back to the window which looks out onto our patio, I hear an occasional loud *buzz-plunk* sound which tells me it is late summer in San Diego.

The odd sound is a giant green Fig beetle (*Cotinus mutabilis*) confused in its flight by our patio covering and knocking itself senseless against the white fiberglass panels or smack into the window pane. The beetle is usually stunned, lands on its back and struggles with legs in the air till it somehow rights itself and flies clumsily off. Sometimes they end up in Barker's water bucket, treading feebly on the surface till they are ousted by a passing human type.

Somewhere in our neighborhood, there is a fig or peach tree loaded with ripe fruit. You would think the tree is right in our back yard for all the glistening green beetles that are droning around. Lots of local folk call these things June bugs. But the true June bug is a much smaller brown insect that shows up in early summer. Another telling identifier is that the Fig beetle is active during the day while the June bug prefers flying around after the sun has set.

In the early 90s at our first home in Azalea Park, we had a huge old fig tree in the side yard. Each summer, dark-purple globes of succulent fruit would ripen on its heavy branches. The figs looked like miniature hot air balloons suspended upsidedown, and they were delicious.

Unfortunately, you had to be very careful when reaching to pluck a fig, for it might have attached to the other side a Fig beetle silently having a good gorge. Sometimes there would be four or five guys enjoying one fig. But there was always lots of fruit to share with the beetles, so we didn't mind.

Our daughter stayed out of the side yard altogether during fig season because the beetles would dive bomb anything nearby that moved, particularly (it seemed to her) little girls desperate to avoid them. It's aggravating, but the beetles really do seem to aim for the human head as if it were a humungous fig! It's as if our scalps are emitting an irresistible fruity essence and as soon as you step outside, the beetles are drawn to you like a magnet.

This year, with so little rain in San Diego, the appearance of the Fig beetles seems late in the season. But this seems not to deter them in their mission, which seems to be to buzz drunkenly around, seeking out ripe fruit...and your head.

By fall, having gorged on fruit, bumped into countless noggins, and (*quickly skipping over the birds-and-bees part*) mated, the life of these beautiful creatures is spent. We find their shiny shells scattered in the back yard, particularly near the compost heap. The next generation of fig beetle will overwinter underground as a huge unsightly white grub about the size of your little finger, munching roots and compost. When it is ready to pupate, it forms a hard casing out of soil and makes its transformation inside. When the ground is sufficiently moist—like after a decent rain—it appears above ground as a lovely, green-backed beetle.

In its maturity, the Fig beetle is a nature's wonder of glittering green and gold. In flight, its wings flash an iridescent purple-black.

Continued from previous page

Casings of scarabs like these were used as jewelry by ancient cultures. And yet we mostly dismiss these brief-lived creatures with no appreciation of their beauty and function. One website I consulted even suggests, "Children can tie threads to them and make tethered aircraft. They are very durable."

Another, focusing on the beetle as pest, says the best way to disrupt its life cycle "is to kill the adults, and a good tool to use is an old tennis racket. This will give you good exercise, too."

These two semi-comical suggestions bring to mind a line from Shakespeare, which I think goes: *Like flies to little boys are we to the gods—they kill us for their sport.*

We humans are very skilled at using what is around us for our own benefit and amusement. Not only do we appreciate great beauty, we can also trivialize and destroy it. I suppose it is in our nature, as much as it is in the Fig beetle's nature to knock into things as they seek food.

But we have more in common with this silly beetle than first meets the eye. Don't we find ourselves careering from obstacle to obstacle, focused on the paycheck, crashing against deadlines, getting stunned by the unexpected? Knocking noggins with our parents, our coworkers, our shortcomings? Yet in most regards we know we are valuable, capable of good works, compassion and grace.

A little perspective is a healthy thing. While you can gloat that you are *much* smarter than a Fig beetle, even that clumsy little creature is beautiful when seen from the right vantage.

CAUGHT DOING SOMETHING NICE continued from page 2

Micko Kodama and Bill and Joyce Teague loaned Buddhist altars (*obutsudan*) made in camp.

Several of the artifacts that enhanced our Obon exhibit were loaned by Yoshie Okuma. Use of her book and camp-produced pamphlet was very much appreciated. Ann Ong also was kind enough to allow us to copy family photos of the camps and use them in the exhibit. Others who contributed to the exhibit were Yuki Kawamoto and Mitsuyo Hamano (courtesy of Aki Tomiyama).

The exhibit could not have been physically set up without the hard work and creative energy of our great volunteer work crew. Our thanks to Carol Estes, Mich and Naomi Himaka, and Mits and Yukio Kawamoto for all their help. Assisting in the gathering of loan artifacts were Bill and Joyce Teague. Their combined efforts on the exhibit produced terrific results. The exhibit was highly successful and produced a lot of traffic, interest, and positive comments for only being open four hours.

Eiko Masuyama of Los Angeles, who brought her very interesting "Buddhism in the Camps" exhibit down from Los Angeles to partner with our display, generously presented our Society with a \$50 orei at the closing of the exhibits.

Joyce Teague, the moving force behind the Buddhist Temple's Obon Again Shop, was once again kind enough to allow us to preview the shop for the purchase of items of historic and

cultural significance for our collection. Thanks, Joyce!

A very welcome addition to our photo archive was made by Ritsu Nabeta, who let us copy photos from the camps at Tule Lake and Manzanar. She also donated several camp-published books and papers for which we are very grateful. Fred Nabeta also loaned us an unusual group portrait taken at a Poston Camp I funeral which was copied for our archive.

Mary Itami thoughtfully donated an original panoramic photograph of the Buddhist Temple of San Diego's 50th Anniversary to our photo archive. We appreciate her ongoing support of our efforts to archive original images of the local Nikkei experience.

Thanks also to JAHSSD members George and Sakiko Sekiguchi of West Los Angeles who donated an original panoramic photograph of students and teachers at Vista Junior High School in 1927. The children of many of the pioneer Vista families are in the photograph including Yosh and Fumi Tanida, Taizo Ikemi, and George, Tosh, Isamu, and Sakiko Hasegawa.

Assisting with the loan of camp art work for our exhibit, "Beauty and Barbed Wire," currently on display at the San Diego Public Library were: Sakiko Kada, Alice Matsumoto, Aki Tomiyama, Yoneko Okamoto, Katherine Himaka and Michio Himaka. Giving up a Sunday afternoon—of a three-day weekend, no less—to put the exhibit up were Don Estes, Naomi and Mich Himaka, and Mits and Yukio Kawamoto. Thank you all for your efforts to bring a part of the Nikkei camp story to the greater community.

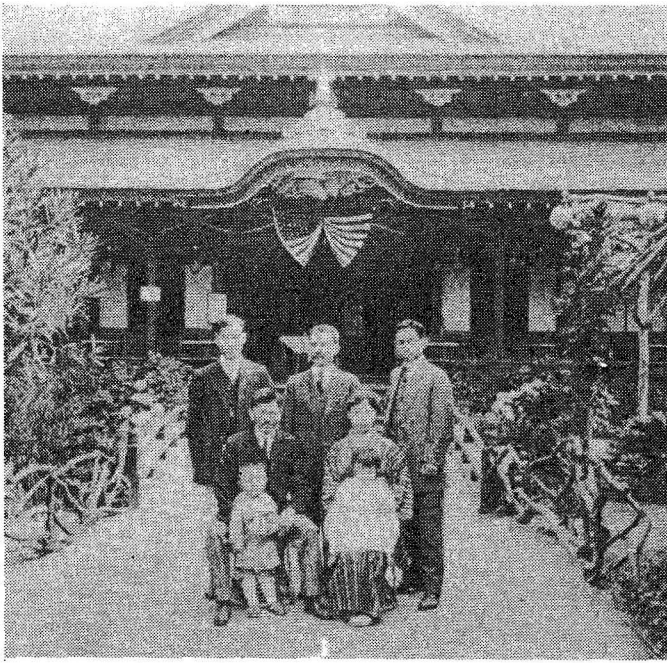
Our thanks to June Hosaka for donating a doll skirt given to her before she left Poston III. We are trying to determine who made it and gave it to her, as she can't remember.

Big thanks to Jeanne Elyea, Andrew Marumoto and Noriko Inoue in aiding the Board in its efforts to mount a useful website by the end of the year. You'll find Noriko's business card elsewhere in this issue.

Last but by no means least, we are grateful to Yuki Kawamoto for acting as secretary pro tempore the last few Board meetings; and a big welcome and applause to Gwen Momita for stepping forward to take over secretarial duties.



Akiko Matsumoto and Dr. Randall Phillips enjoy Eiko Masuyama's visiting exhibit, "The Buddhist Church Experience in the Camps, 1941-1945," at the BTSD Bon Odori, August 3, 2002



The Asakawa s in front of the Japanese Tea Pavilion, June 26, 1917

A MOMENT IN TIME: Classic Photos from the JAHSSD Archives

by Don Estes

Generations of San Diegans have looked to Balboa Park as a weekend sanctuary of relaxation, enjoyment and spiritual regeneration. Before World War II, one of the most visited areas of the park was an elegant wooden building with upswept eaves popularly known as the Japanese Tea Pavilion.

Surrounded by what was at the time one of the West Coast's most extensive Japanese-style gardens, the pavilion was originally built for San Diego's Panama-California Exposition of 1915.

Modeled in the style of a Japanese Buddhist temple and prefabricated in Japan, the building was constructed in 1914 utilizing Japanese workers and construction techniques. With the conclusion of the exposition in 1916, the City of San Diego had decided to close the building when it was suggested that a local Japanese couple, Hachisaku and Osamu Asakawa, would be willing to operate the tea pavilion as a private concession. The city was agreeable to the proposal with the understanding that no public monies would be used for the maintenance and repair of either the building or the garden.

At the time, Hachisaku was the manager of the Yamato Company which specialized in Japanese art goods and was located at 927 Fifth Avenue. As a practical matter, the operation of the pavilion fell to Osamu who had come to San Diego from Japan to join her husband in 1914.

In 1915 a son, Moto, was born to the couple to be followed in 1918 by a second son, George. The brothers grew up in Balboa Park living next to the San Diego Zoo. As a boy, Moto remembers that the park at night seemed especially dark and scary because the pavilion was surrounded by tall trees and the nocturnal

sounds of the zoo's animals could be heard all night.

One night when Moto was about eight, a Green Monkey escaped from the zoo and took refuge in the tea pavilion. The noise caused by the wayward simian woke Moto who went looking for its source. In a darkened hallway, he suddenly came upon the monkey who was, no doubt, equally surprised. When Moto raised his hand to protect himself, the monkey, as he puts it, "took a gouge out of my palm."

Since the family was responsible for the upkeep of the building, Moto recalls that one of the brothers' chores was taking down the shoji screens every year and gluing new rice paper to the wooden frames. The boys would soak the frames in the koi ponds, scrape off all the old paper with a Japanese knife, then glue the new rice paper squares on.

The family continued to operate the tea pavilion and maintain the garden until the outbreak of World War II. As an established community leader who had served as the president of the local Japanese Association, Hachisaku was arrested on the evening of December 7. Shortly thereafter, Osamu and the family gathered up their personal possessions and moved from the park where she had lived since 1917 to a small house on Morena Boulevard. They remained there until their removal to the Santa Anita Assembly Center, and later to Camp III at Poston, Arizona.

During World War II, much of Balboa Park was closed to the public and used as a rehabilitation area for patients from the Navy Hospital. In November 1954, the president of the San Diego Zoological Society, Milton G. Wegeforth, requested the city give the zoo the two acres containing the unused pavilion and by now badly deteriorated garden for the construction of a "children's zoo." In April 1955, the forty-year-old structure and gardens were bulldozed out of existence.

Shortly after the razing, Moto obtained permission from the City to check the park dump for any usable parts of the building. The only recognizable items were pieces of the seven stone lanterns that had graced the garden. Today, one composite lantern stands in the garden of Moto's home.

BEAUTY AND BARBED WIRE

Art and artifacts produced in America's World War II concentration and internment camps will be on display September 1-30 at the San Diego Central Library in downtown San Diego.

Drawn from the collections of the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego and its membership, the exhibit features hand-made items for daily use as well as pieces designed for decoration or adornment. The collection are examples of the creativity of the detainees held in War Relocation Authority camps and of the internees held in United States Department of Justice camps from 1942 to 1945. Also on display are the tools fabricated by the artists to produce these items.

Artists represented in the display were held in the camps at Gila River, Arizona; Poston, Arizona; Rohwer, Arkansas; Tule Lake, California; Santa Fe, New Mexico; and Crystal City, Texas.

The exhibit is located on the first floor of the library and can be viewed during regular library hours.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Yukio Kawamoto, Membership Chair

As we celebrate our 10th anniversary of the JAHSSD, I would like to thank all the members for their support. Without your support, we would not be where we are today as a visible key organization in the community.

I would especially like to thank those members who have been with us from the beginning in 1992.

They are: Frank & Jean Boyd, Johnny Dunkle, Jeanne Elyea, Don & Carol Estes, Frank & Suye Fujikawa, Sue Gerrish, John & Tsune Hashiguchi, Art & Judy Hibi, Holly & Ronald Hidinger, Osao & Setsuko Himaka, Grace Igasaki, Isen Iguchi, Mary Iguchi, Chikaye Itami, Rose Itano, Hiroko Ito, Sakiko Kada, Arthur & Lillian Kaihatsu, Paul Kaneyuki, Yukio & Mitsuko Kawamoto, Eiji Kiya, Calvin Koseki, Roy Kusumoto, Shizue Maruyama, and George & Chiyoko Masumoto.

Also in this group of original members: Ken & Akiko Matsumoto, Linda McLeMore, Chieko Moriyama, Kiyoshi Nakamura, Fred Nakatani, Ken Nishi, Emiko Obayashi, Norman & Rebecca Obayashi, Michael Okuma, Shirley Omori, Shig Oto, Aiko Owashi, Susumu & Tami Satow, Ben Segawa, Randall Segawa, Chizuko Shinzaki, Yukiko Sugiyama, Kimiye Tachiki, Katsumi Takashima, Jane Takeshita, Mitsue Tanaka, Mitsuo Tomita, Masayoshi & Grace Tsuida, Peggy Tsurudome, Kenneth Uyeda, Magotsugu & Masako Uyeji, Saburo Uyeji, William Vetter, Rose Watamura, Shizu Watanabe, John Jr. & Amy Yamamoto, Mitsuye Yamamoto, Florence Yamashita, and Tom & Sumi Yanagihara.

A warm welcome to our new members: Nancy Martinez, Jeanne Inouye, Asa & Jaime Enochs, Kiyoko Kitagawa, Janice Schell, Fred M. Nabeta and Fred F. Nabeta (all gifts of Bill & Joyce Teague); Mr. & Mrs. Michael Segawa, Rev. Eric Segawa (all gifts of Debra Kodama); and Sam Yamaguchi. We are pleased to have all of you as members of our Society. A big thank you to Bill & Joyce Teague and Debra Kodama for providing the gift memberships.

We thank the following for renewing their memberships: Tyler & Peggy Tanaka, Dell Farnham, Pam Springer, Jodi Masumoto, Eileen Katayama, Tom & Taeko Udo, Pat (Goto) Takeshita, Toshio & Mary Abe, Aya (Hosaka) Yamakoshi, Yoko (Mayeda) Hashima, Harry & Cleo (Hirai) Yabu, Janes and June Tajiri, Rose Itano, Ichiro & Chieko Saito, and Drs. S. S. & Nori I. Komorito.

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

by Jeanne Elyea



A founding member of JAHSSD, Jeanne was also the first Footprints Editor. She also served as President from 2000 to 2001.

When asked to recall a few memories of what we have accomplished since our inception ten years ago, the saying, "We've come a long way, Baby," came to mind.

Our grassroots beginnings sprang out of the 1992 Poston Reunion and what started as a small group of us just trying to collect some artifacts and photos into an organization that promotes education through presentations and displays and through a variety of community and national endeavors has created a name well-known for our hard-work and achievements.

When we began, Doug Urata held a workshop for us at the San Diego Buddhist Temple. We had no idea where we were going and certainly didn't know what we were in for. We were, you could say, "clueless in San Diego." Doug helped to organize us into a non-profit organization with by-laws, organizational structure with officers and committees, and we were to start to establish goals and a mission statement.

With hardworking committee members in place, we began with a membership list that has grown from 10 to 400 and a treasury which we hope will eventually help finance a home for our artifacts and photo collection. We hold successful annual meetings with guest speakers and displays and present our Kansha Awards honoring worthy San Diegans for their unselfish contributions to the Nikkei community. We have a small speakers bureau whose presentations at various schools and organizations have been well received. We talk primarily about our internment experiences. Making these presentations not only helps inform others of what really happened, but it also is a self-cleansing experience, "good for the soul." We have actually had students

Continued on page 12

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tell us "You are our heroes." We extend an invitation to any of you who would like to join us on our Speakers Bureau to please do so.

As for the beginnings of *Footprints*: Somehow, I was chosen, elected, volunteered??? to start our first newsletter. The first issue was only four pages and I donated the cost of printing and mailing in memory of my Dad, Kikuchi Marumoto. Since I had little, or rather, NO computer skills and in those early days there were no newsletter formats or computer programs like we have today, we had to do everything from scratch. We literally cut and pasted by hand.

I was fortunate to have a young man named Rick Johnson, working at Southwestern College as a clerk, who was very proficient on the original old, old IBM computers. Rick created and designed our first newsletter and developed our total format at no cost to us just because as a hapa he wanted to help us get started.

When Rick left for a better job, my husband Bill had to take over the computer part. I typed in all the articles and he had to get the articles to fit in areas when they could not go. The old computers did not allow for pictures and articles to be placed at angles, there was no scanning of photos, no changing fonts in the middle of the page, etc. We could at least cut and paste on the computer by this time.

As the years went by, I was finally able to convince "GOOD OLD" Mich Himaka to take over as Editor. I knew that Mich was far more qualified than I was. I am a nurse practitioner, he was a reporter for the *San Diego Union*. Anyway, with Naomi's hard work as the Production Editor, the newsletter grew and grew to the size it was when Joyce Teague took over as present Editor. In comparing my first newsletter to the present one, it's like comparing a flyer to a magazine. Kudos to Mich, Naomi and Joyce.

We have come a long way, but we still have an endless journey in finding a permanent location, collecting historical material, and sharing our educational information with others.

LETTERS: THE BON ODORI EXHIBITS

Members of the JAHSSD Board:

On behalf of the Buddhist Temple of San Diego, I wish to extend a most gracious thank you for giving the Sangha members, friends, and community the opportunity in sharing the temple's experience during WWII. The exhibit blended very nicely with the Buddhist Camp Experience exhibit provided by Ms. Eiko Masuyama of Los Angeles.

Thank you to Don Estes, Yukio Kawamoto, Joyce Teague and many more members of the JAHSSD involved, whose hard work and dedication to this project must be truly commended.

It was wonderful to have shared the temple's past with the present during a most festive and religious observance of Obon. Many individuals expressed nice comments regarding the exhibits. The JAHSSD has done so much for the Buddhist Temple, as well as the community, in sharing the heritage that we so gratefully cherish. We look forward to many more opportunities of reflection.

Gassho,

Ralph Honda, BTSD Board President

Dear Joyce,

A quick note to thank you very, very much for all your efforts in promoting the exhibits...what a wonderful turnout! The Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego exhibit was great! I'm so glad that we were able to exhibit together.

Please extend to your Board my appreciation for being allowed to share the exhibit on the Buddhist Camp Experience. It was a pleasure and privilege to be a part of the Society's exhibit. [The] publicity that you put together was awesome... how could it miss!

Take care,

Eiko Masuyama

A ROOM WITH A VIEW

The following are excerpts from two e-mails sent by Board member Karen Kawasaki, who has settling into her job teaching history at an International Baccalaureate school in Panama City.

July 30, 2002

Hello everybody,

I hope all of you are well. It is pouring out there and I feel as though I need to find a guy and get on a big ark with all the other creatures two by two. Wow.

Today, I accomplished three big things: I turned over my many documents to my school so they can get started on my work visa, I opened up a bank account (those two tasks alone took all morning), and I started moving a few boxes into my new apartment. Yesterday, I obtained a post office box. Things are moving along.

I love my new apartment—it is on the 12th floor and has a gorgeous view of the bay AND air conditioning in the bedroom and living room. It is nicely furnished, and the owner even left dishes and glasses I can use. It is in a very nice neighborhood, complete with many shops, parks, the bay, and people walking small dogs. I will email you a photo as soon I get settled. I will probably spend tomorrow going to buy things to put in my apartment, like towels, sheets, a desk. It is nice to feel almost settled.

Below is my mailing address, but please do not send anything that won't fit into a post office box or I will have to pay customs fees.

Karen Kawasaki

Apartado 0832-2579, World Trade Center
Panama, Republic of Panama

A note about my address: *apartado* means "post office box." My post office is located in the World Trade Center building. I live in Panama City, so the word Panama occurs in my address twice—for the city and the country.

I don't have a phone number yet, but I cannot imagine any of you wanting to pay outrageously to call when email is so much faster and cheaper. Stay well. I miss you, but am adjusting. I love it here!

August 19, 2002

Hi all:

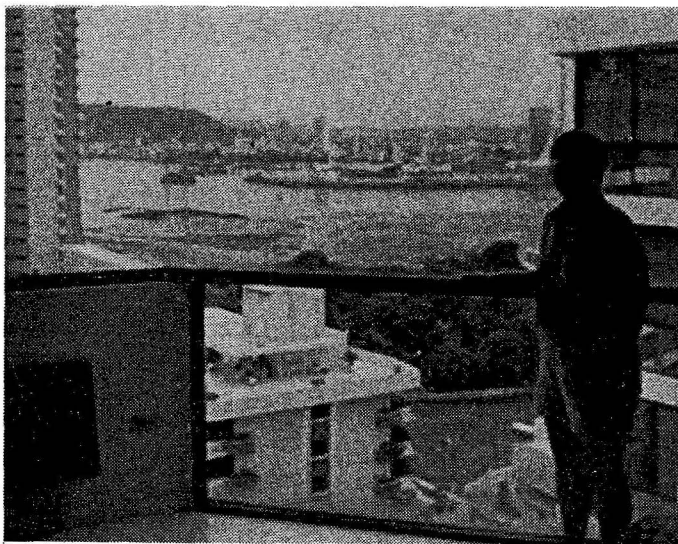
I hope you are well. We are now entering week two of school here in Panama City. It has been stressful at times to adjust to a whole new school's culture, and to try to get around without a car. I have started to think seriously about buying a car, but they are more expensive than in the states. I am enjoying my neighborhood very much. There are a few kosher delis, a Chinese market (with all my favorite things), several grocery stores, and a synagogue with a resident goat who is very friendly!

For the past three Fridays, there have been fireworks in my neighborhood, although I am not sure of the reason for them.

I have had various repairmen in to fix the curtains, blinds, washing machine, lights, you name it. One of my co-workers thinks I break things just so I can have company—not true, of course. The other day I flooded my kitchen by mistake. I had inadvertently left the water for the washing machine on after the repairman had gone. Oops. Like I said before, every day is a new adventure!

The principal took the new teachers on a tour of the city this past weekend. I am picking up a few new Spanish words every day, but since everything is done in English at school, it is tempting to not practice. My students are very nice, and we are getting used to each other. My juniors and seniors in the IB History classes are sharp! I will definitely spend lots of time reading.

Thanks for all of you who have been emailing. It really helps to hear from people back "home." I've gotten homesick a few times, but being so busy during the days has helped with that dilemma.



Karen silhouetted against her view of the Panama City bay

I am attempting to email a photo attachment of the gorgeous view from my window. I have basically the same view from my living room and my bedroom (which you can enjoy in person when you visit)!

Stay well. Good luck with the start of your school year, wherever you are!

Saludos,
Karen

TOTAL KAOS:

The World of Rap and Text Emceeing

by Derek Inouye

Derek, a Yonsei, graduated from Mt. Miguel High School last June with highest honors. He wrote this essay last year about one of his main interests as a senior. Derek will attend UCSD this fall as an undeclared major.

Like Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, school is just part of the persona that makes me unique. At school I am an attentive and participating student. However, at home the focus changes to nonacademic activities. Trying to live the average teenage life while juggling grades, church, work, and the latest "gossip" is not the easiest thing to do, trust me. To help relieve stress, I turn to friends, sports, and more recently, the World Wide Web, that vast land of "dots" and "coms" in which I have found my new "Home Page," a free message board (a web page allowing persons to post or reply to statements broadcast by other internet surfers) called "Total Kaos."

"Total Kaos" is not, however, like most other websites. "Total Kaos" is home to a new genre of entertainment called text emceeing. Text emceeing is a form of poetry with emphasis on lyrical content. It's a true test of wit, grammar, metaphor, and skills that I find invigorating and, most importantly, fun.

Before I stumbled onto the website, I had been fond of writing poetry and submitted my poems into several competitions, often winning recognition and earning a place in poetry collections. But the "send one hundred and five dollars to have your biography next to your poem" idea did not thrill me, and soon became a nuisance. So I began to explore new search engines to submit my forms of expressions so that others could view my work.

Living in a Spring Valley "ghetto" and surrounded by an ever-present hip-hop scene, it seemed only natural that I express my emotions through raps. Although rap is often associated with negativity and violence, I tried to shed light through eloquent and descriptive raps on "Total Kaos." Not only did I find this kind of poetry fascinating, but I was also soon receiving compliments on my writing style and moving up to the highest class of rappers. (The site is divided into three classes, with Class A being the highest.) Over time, my at-first simple techniques elaborated into more prolific and profound verses. Who ever would have thought that a 17-year-old Japanese American could claim so much notoriety from his peers within several weeks? Certainly, I never could have predicted it.

From my after-school experiences on the message board, I have learned perseverance and determination, developed leadership skills, and above all, learned respect for others. Through critiques from peers, I have learned to be critical of my own poetry. Because I now rank among the major online rappers, I help set the standards for those trying to work their way up the "rap ladder." I have proved to those involved with the message board that anyone can do something as long as they set their mind to it.

Continued on page 14

"NAGASAKI JOURNEY" PHOTOS AT MOPA

The Museum of Photographic Arts (MoPA) in Balboa Park is featuring an exhibition of photographs taken by Japanese photographer Yosuke Yamahata the day after the atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki on August 9, 1945.

Nagasaki Journey: The Photographs of Yosuke Yamahata, August 10, 1945, will be on display in the museum September 1 through October 20, 2002.

Yamahata was dispatched immediately after the bombing by the Japanese Imperial Army to document what they called the "new style of bombing." He arrived the day after the bombing and walked through the city for 15 hours, taking 119 photographs, which compose the most extensive record of this event known to exist.

Most pictures of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were taken after clean up had commenced, and fail to capture the intimacy and apocalyptic quality of Yamahata's photographs. The exhibition includes 55 photographs taken by Yamahata of the immediate aftermath of the bombing, a Pacific War-Atomic Timeline, 11 educational text panels, and a 128-page book, entitled *Nagasaki Journey*. Also included is a 28-minute film, played in MoPA's galleries, telling three stories, those of two Japanese survivors, and one of a U.S. Marine who entered the city after the bombing.

The Nagasaki images were not publically displayed until the 1950s. This will be the first showing of the exhibition in San Diego. This exhibition is an excellent tool for those who are too young to remember the era it portrays; and a necessary one for us all, bringing to mind the prescient phrase, "those who forget history are doomed to repeat it." For more information, call MoPA at 619/238-7559.

JANM ALL CAMPS SUMMIT

The Japanese American National Museum is sponsoring the All Camps Summit, November 15-17, in Los Angeles. The program includes:

Sharing the Experiences: Participate in dialogues and discussions with former internees, educators, scholars, students, family members and others interested in ensuring that the story is never forgotten.

Preserving the Stories: National Museum staff will conduct workshops and provide demonstrations on how to document and preserve your stories, photos and other important and priceless memories for your family and future generations.

Preserving the Sites: Representatives from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and National Park Service will provide general information about historic preservation and an opportunity to address particular issues related to the preservation of the camps.

The Friday schedule (November 15) will include registration and a focus session with both the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service at the Westin

Bonaventure Hotel & Suites. A behind-the-scenes tour of JANM in the evening.

The Saturday schedule (November 16) will be at the Bonaventure and include registration, continental breakfast, national speakers, luncheon, dialogue sessions and workshops throughout the day. An All Camps Reunion reception will be held that evening.

The Sunday schedule (November 17) will be held at JANM and will include a continental breakfast, exhibitions, and behind-the-scenes tour.

Special room rates are being offered to attendees by the Bonaventure, but reservations must be made through JANM.

Please call Yukio Kawamoto at 619/286-8203 for more information about the schedule, Summit reservation costs, hotel reservation costs, and/or reservation forms.



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(619) 660-9865

TOTAL CHAOS continued from page 13

Finally, I have the utmost respect for others giving their all. Everyone affiliated with the Total Kaos community gives the one hundred and ten percent that a professional football player would give to his team. Each rapper is as determined as I am to be perfect at the art of poetry, and for that, they have earned all the respect that I can give anyone.

After hours of homework and studying, my relief from the mounds of books and dozens of assignments occurs seated in front of a module which is not large enough to take up a classroom or an amusement park, but large enough to fill my brain with the wonders of words and art: my computer. Going to "Total Kaos" has given me appreciation for poetry and English as well as insight into metaphors and analogies that, for me, surpass those given in textbooks. Through this activity, I have learned the true value of expression.

"CALLING TOKYO" IN SAN DIEGO

A new documentary, "Calling Tokyo: Japanese American Radio Broadcasters during World War II," has been selected as a feature at the 2002 San Diego Asian Film Festival. The festival takes place October 4-6 at Hazard Center's Madstone Theatres in Mission Valley.

"Calling Tokyo" was produced by Gary Ono of Simi Valley, California, who decided to tell the story of his father's civilian role during World War II. Sam Masami Ono was one of a handful of Japanese Americans who assisted in the joint U.S.-British wartime strategy of broadcasting radio propaganda to Japan.

This group of Americans, mostly Kibei (American citizens educated in Japan), were recruited for their fluency in both English and Japanese. Their operation was conducted out of Denver, Colorado.

Ono had wondered why his family, interned at the WRA Amache Camp, was able to leave the camp to join his father in Denver. Ono's father never discussed the broadcasters. He passed away in 1981.

Ono's brother Victor, born in Denver in 1944, was doing some research into his own eligibility for redress money when he stumbled across another veteran broadcaster who revealed their father's wartime role.



U.S. Office of War Information and British Political Warfare Mission radio broadcasting personnel and their families. Sam Ono is fourth from the left, standing in the back. Denver 1943

Ono at first financed the 48-minute documentary using his share of redress money, and was able to complete the project with a grant from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP).

The San Diego Chapter of the JACL is sponsoring the SDAFF showing of "Calling Tokyo" on Friday, October 4, 3:30 p.m. at the Hazard Center Madstone Theatres. Call 619/291-7777 or log onto www.SDAFF.org for festival information.

There will be a second screening Saturday, October 5 at 1:30 p.m. at the Joan Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice on the west end of the USD campus, 5998 Alcala Park. Call 619/260-4600 for more information.

Gary Ono will be on hand at both screenings.

SANTA FE MARKER DEDICATION

by Akiko Matsumoto

This past spring, my husband Ken and I attended the dedication of a historical marker recognizing the site of the former Santa Fe Internment Camp which had existed from March 1942 to April 1946. This was a Department of Justice internment camp administered by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. It had once held more than 4,000 men of Japanese ancestry during World War II.

The new granite marker is located at Frank S. Ortiz Park on a hill which overlooks a subdivision where the camp was formerly located. The site is just a few miles west of downtown Santa Fe and is framed by the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in the east. From the main parking lot, the marker site is a short walk up a small slope from the children's playground. Another access route from the rear of the marker (with disabled parking spaces) has a beautiful long and curving stone walkway flanked by trees which looked beautiful despite the drought Santa Fe was experiencing.



U.S. and New Mexico flags unturled prior to plaque unveiling. Subdivision in background is the site of the former camp.

We were surprised by the attendance which we had naively thought would include a few local dignitaries and a handful of people. More than 250 people from different parts of the country were in attendance on this extremely windy, sand-blown day.

In spite of being covered from head to toe with Santa Fe soil, we enjoyed the very impressive dedication ceremony and luncheon which followed. Among the speakers were: Dr. Thomas Chavez, former director of the Palace of the Governors Museum of New Mexico; the Mayor of Santa Fe, Larry Delgado; Col. Joe Ando, USAF, Ret.; and Lt. Col. R.C. Doc Weaver, USAF, Ret.. (Both former officers were Co-Chairs of the Historical Marker Committee.)

Others speakers included: Bill Nishimura, 82, of Gardena, who had been 22 years old when he was brought to Santa Fe from Tule Lake Camp; Patricia Benoit, daughter of a former Public Health nurse at the camp who spoke on behalf of her elderly mother; Dr. Gus Tanaka, whose father, Dr. Benjamin Tanaka had

Continued on page 16

been the camp doctor; and Jerry West, son of a former guard, who later shared a notebook filled with drawings his father had made when he worked at the camp.

Also, attending the dedication with their wives were: Korean War Veteran Hiroshi Miyamura, a Medal of Honor Recipient; and Vicente Ojinaga, Bataan Death March survivor who supported the marker, which to me was particularly heartening.



Display board at the Santa Fe dedication luncheon

By way of background, it was just a few years ago that I noticed a news article noting a controversy which had been going on in the city council in Santa Fe, N. M. It alluded to efforts by a small group led by Col. Joe Ando, USAF, Ret., to recognize the site of a former internment camp and to establish a historic marker there. This effort apparently had met with strong opposition by a group of veterans who had fought in World War II against Japanese. Eventually, after much heated discussion, a vote of the City Council was taken which resulted in a tie. Mayor Larry Delgado broke the tie with his vote in favor of erecting the marker.

My mother, Nobue Nishii, and I became interested in this controversy for personal reasons. As happened to many other leaders in Japanese communities, my father, Guzei Nishii—then a Buddhist minister in San Diego—was arrested and jailed on December 7, 1941. He was taken to Missoula, Montana and subsequently to Lordsburg and Santa Fe. There, he and others were subjected to interrogations and hearings and held without just cause. Additionally, my uncle—a Buddhist minister from Hawaii who was first interned at Tule Lake—was transferred to the Santa Fe camp and received the same treatment.

In recalling those difficult days with my father absent, my mother often mentioned that, due to the kindness of friends like the Mamiyas, she was able to make a long bus ride with two toddlers (my brother and me), from Denver, Colorado to the Santa Fe Internment Camp to visit my father. Our family was later to be reunited in Crystal City, Texas.

Years later, my mother was very happy to hear of efforts to recognize the camp where so many men of varying ages and health status had been taken, held and separated from family and close ties. The marker project was begun years ago by Joe and Millie Ando, who started working on it after they first heard that ex-internees visiting Santa Fe would look for the site of the former

camp but were unable to find it.

Last September, while at a Crystal City get-together, my mother expressed a desire to attend the upcoming Santa Fe marker dedication. Knowing that an important part of history would be preserved for future generations was very important to her. We looked forward to attending the dedication together when the project was completed.

Unfortunately, my mother passed away on December 23, 200, at age 99. Ken and I are glad that we were able to attend this important marker dedication, a lasting memorial tribute to the men who were held there.

The inscription on the marker reads:

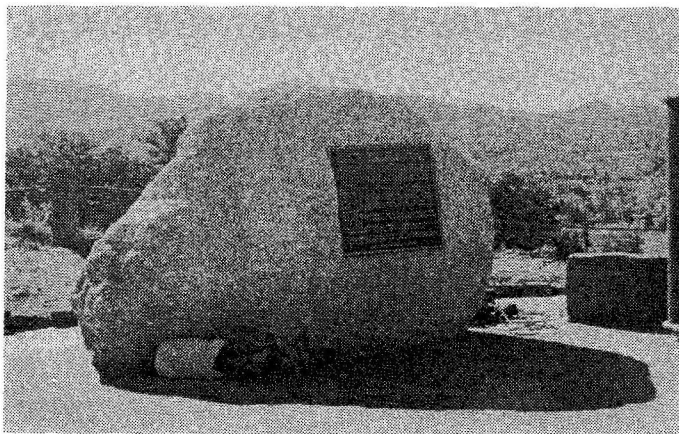
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE SANTA FE INTERNMENT CAMP

At this site, due east and below the hill, 4555 men of Japanese ancestry were incarcerated in a Department of Justice Internment Camp from March 1942 to April 1946. Most were excluded by law from becoming United States citizens and were removed primarily from the West Coast and Hawaii.

During World War II, their loyalty to the United States was questioned. Many of the men held here without due process were long time resident religious leaders, businessmen, teachers, fishermen, farmers, and others. No person of Japanese ancestry in the U.S was ever charged or convicted of espionage throughout the course of the war.

Many of the internees had relatives who served with distinction in the American Armed Forces in Europe and in the Pacific.

This marker is placed here as a reminder that history is a valuable teacher only if we do not forget our past.



Santa Fe Camp Historical Marker unveiled, April 20, 2002

We sincerely appreciate the dedication of Joe and Millie Ando and the rest of the Historical Marker Committee. The Committee continues to collect camp data (copies of photographs, news articles, journals, letters, documents and other artifacts) for the Fray Angelico Chavez History Library and Photographic Archives of The Palace of the Governors Museum in New Mexico.

JOURNEY TO THE UNITED STATES:

The Akiji Watanabe Story

by Fran Wada

With this issue, we begin the serialized story of pioneer San Diego Issei Akiji Watanabe, researched and written by his daughter, Frances Watanabe Wada of Seattle. We thank Fran for her permission to reproduce her father's story for our readers.

Early Immigrants

During the Meiji period (1868-1912) in Japan, the country was just emerging from a closed feudal society. New political, economic and educational reforms were taking place, and these changes did not come about easily. There was widespread poverty throughout the country, and the move towards industrialization was slow. Factions differed vehemently in their views for organizing the new central government, but there was agreement about the importance of education to prepare citizens to help to build a modern society. Likewise, the Japanese military saw that a knowledge of Western technology would be necessary for Japan to become a competing world power.

During the period between the late 1800s and the early Twentieth Century, many of the Japanese male immigrants came to the U.S. for various reasons: to escape poverty, to elude Japanese conscription laws, to study, to "get rich." Some came as political refugees.

Many came hoping, after working a few years, to return to Japan with enough money to retire or set up a business of their own. While in America, they would learn the English language and obtain knowledge or skills that would enable them to be successful in Japan. Indeed, Japan needed such people to help build their society and for a time did encourage emigration for this purpose.

Some were able to return as planned; but for most, money was hard to come by. Work was often in menial labor, and wages were low. However, they realized that in spite of the hardships they encountered, the opportunities were greater in America than in Japan. They stayed on, eventually raising families and taking up roots in a new land.

Many of the men came as laborers to work the sugarcane fields in Hawaii, and once their contracts were up, they settled on the islands permanently. Others moved on to the Mainland for work in the canneries, railroads, or on farms, while some left for the West Coast with dreams of starting their own businesses.

Many emigrés however, went directly from Japan to the Mainland of the United States. One such person was my father, Akiji Watanabe.

Single-minded Perseverance

My father had a strong desire to come to America since graduating from high school. It may be that this feeling started earlier, but unfortunately, his journals offer no clues as to when this dream started or what promoted this interest.



Akiji Watanabe, year unknown

Perhaps he was swept up by the influences of the changing society of the Meiji period and the opening of opportunities in the West. Perhaps he had learned about America from books or from someone who had been there, which piqued his curiosity. Perhaps he wanted to go for religious or economic reasons.

Whatever the underlying motive, I believe that he must have had an inward spirit of adventure and an undaunting faith in the unknown. To leave the security of one's own country and go to a faraway land with very different language and customs, especially in those days, would require someone with courage and a strong belief in oneself.

~To be continued next issue~



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POSTON III REUNION DATE SET

The committee for the 2003 Poston Camp III Reunion has announced it will be held March 24–26 at the Golden Nugget in Downtown Las Vegas. Details will accompany registrations forms which are to be mailed in November.

If you are interested in attending but have not received their original flyer, the committee requests you contact them at mdjost@lightspeed.net, or write: Poston III Camp Reunion, 7015 S. Willow Ave., Fresno, CA 93725.

You can also fax your request to 559/897-0733. Co-chairing the event are Sammy Nakagawa and Franklin Abe with Ada Yamamoto handling registration.

CAMP KOOSKIA, IDAHO: 1943-45

by Dr. Priscilla Wegars

Dr. Wegars, a historian, spoke on this little-known Japanese internment camp (pronounced KOOK-see) at the San Diego Public Library on April 4, 2002, in a program co-sponsored by the Library and JAHSSD. With her kind permission, the following concludes the excerpts of her research papers about the camp.

A Dr. Brown, who made a camp inspection, was appalled to learn that the 104 volunteer internees were not supplied with safety equipment for such a dangerous undertaking in which they were involved. The engineer in charge brusquely informed him that safety helmets, safety boots, safety belts, goggles and other such equipment were considered to be clothing, not equipment. He told the doctor that the Immigration Department was supposed to furnish the internees with clothing and declined to supply any safety equipment.

The doctor also determined that the internees had had no physical examinations. Eventually, he conducted them himself and found that 99 of them were "physically capable of performing arduous physical labor." Eight others would be permitted to perform only light duty and one man was blind in one eye and would not be allowed to handle any dangerous equipment whatsoever.

Dr. Brown interviewed the internees privately and learned they were very unhappy. Apparently the guards were treating them as prisoners rather than as internees. Although they tried to communicate their dissatisfaction to the outside world, their remarks were subject to censorship when they wrote relatives and friends.

The internees drew up a petition detailing their complaints and submitted it to Bert Fraser, the officer in charge at Fort Missoula. The internees requested eyeglasses, adequate clothing, wage adjustments, better dental care and better emergency medical and first-aid facilities. They also asked that they be treated as internees and not as prisoners. They demanded that if conditions did not improve, they would seek transfer to Fort Missoula's internment camp.

Because the internees were crucial to the success of the road building project, the next few months saw many changes

and improvements. Morale improved considerably when the Kooskia Superintendent Deane Remer resigned. He was replaced by Merrill Scott, who was intensely disliked by some employees but viewed more favorably by the internees. One official visitor noted that Scott seemed to know every internee by name, had direct and personal contact with them and that they held him in highest esteem.

The internees said they "felt fortunate to be in custody of a real American as decent and benevolent as Mr. Scott and requested that this fact be transmitted to the Japanese authorities in charge of the American nationals interned in various places in Japan."

Once conditions improved and internees achieved better treatment, they settled into their highly regulated daily routine. Their typical day began with the clanging of a gong. After they cleaned up, a breakfast signal was sounded they marched to the mess hall where a typical breakfast consisted of stewed figs, fried eggs, toast, butter, bran flakes and coffee. At 7:25 a.m., the work call sounded and the internees assembled into crews for assignments. The crews were loaded onto trucks with their guards and supervisors to be dropped along various points along the Lochsa River.

Some crews cleared brush and debris from new portions of the right-of-way. Some removed the shale slides that tumbled down the canyon side onto the road. Some manned jackhammers to prepare for blasting away rock points that jutted out. Other crew members drove large dump trucks, ran compressors, fed or operated rock crushers. Some helped with the shop mechanics or assisted the heavy equipment operators. The major piece of equipment, a large power shovel, was operated by Milt Barton, a Public Works Bureau employee. Other internees helped the man they called the "powder monkey," whose important and dangerous job was to store, place and fire thousands of dynamite charges to blast through the Lochsa Canyon rock. Internees were used to assist him even though they were not supposed to handle explosives.

Barton's son, Mickey, said the relationship between the construction group and the Japanese internees was excellent. "My father was impressed with the attitude and work ethic of the Japanese. Though lacking in highway construction skills, they were fast learners and demonstrated very little animosity as a result of being interned," he said.

The internees worked until 11:30 a.m. and returned to camp for lunch, which might typically consist of meatballs with Creole sauce, julienne potatoes, creamed new turnips, turnip-carrot salad, fruit Jell-O, milk and coffee. After lunch, at 12:25 p.m., they returned to work until 4:30 p.m. when they were returned to camp. After they showered, they went to dinner at 5 p.m. A typical dinner might consist of egg foo yung with steamed rice, army fried potatoes, head lettuce, apple and milk or coffee. When meals included rice, the cooks prepared 100 pounds of it. Although the internees were fed food similar to that fed Army troops, they preferred fish and rice. One month, the meat consumption was so light that the unused ration points would have purchased another 900 pounds of meat.

The internees had Saturdays and Sundays off as well as the free time after dinner. They participated in arts and crafts, visited the canteen stores, fished, gathered wild foods, such as edible ferns and mushrooms, played cards and gambled, gardened,

CAMP KOOSKIA continued from page 18

watched movies and listened to the radio, played music, produced their own camp newsletter, went on outings, adopted pets including a fawn they named Mary, read and studied, engaged in religious activities, played sports and games, received occasional visitors and wrote letters to relatives and friends. The canteen stores sold cigarettes, novelties, trinkets, gum and candy as well as some clothing items. They also sold fishing licenses to the internees for \$2 a year. They often went fishing after supper and were allowed to fish downstream unsupervised. The internees were allowed to carry a certain amount of cash at a time and some used it to gamble. If they lost, they would arrange to get more, claiming they had spent it at the canteen.

The internees were occasionally allowed to leave camp for unsupervised outings. One of those was what they called their Anniversary Picnic in May 1944. Several group photographs were taken. The picnic was arranged as a way to show the Caucasian construction personnel who supervised them. The internees planned all of the activities and cooked the food, which consisted mainly of Japanese cuisine. The menu included plants, such as the fiddlehead ferns they harvested in the woods. The guest enjoyed themselves immensely and Milt Barton termed the menu "a feast." The internees also went on another outing on the Fourth of July where they purchased \$200 worth of prizes at the canteen and doled them out as prizes for races and games they held. Christmas meant special privileges for the internees and New Years meant a special meal.

The internees were permitted several types of written communication with the outside world but their letters faced inspection by censors. Any forbidden statements were deleted from their mail.

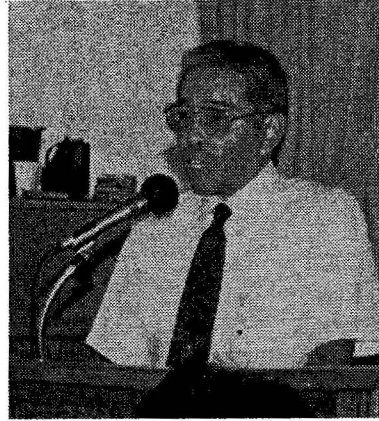
The Kooskia Internment Camp was a successful experiment utilizing Japanese internees as volunteers to build a portion of the Lewis-Clark Highway between Idaho and Montana. Besides helping a much-needed road progress towards completion, the project enabled incarcerated internees to again become productive members of society. Although the work was tiring, difficult and sometimes even dangerous, the men appreciated the opportunity to receive fair wages in exchange for performing useful work. Once their grievances were resolved, they became exemplary workers, earning praise and respect from their Caucasian supervisors and from Immigration and Naturalization Service personnel. Doing road work allowed them to regain much of the self-respect that many of them had lost through the humiliation of having been so unjustly interned.

Today, there is little to be seen at the former Kooskia camp. Although Canyon Creek still gushes into the Lochsa River, almost nothing remains to remind us of the camp's contribution to Japanese American history.

(In the postscript to Part I of this series, readers were asked if they could identify a former San Diego photographer Dr. Wegars said went to Kooskia as a volunteer. Mrs. Masako Shima came up with the answer: Sakaye Ed Yoshimura. I thank her for her assistance. ~M.H.)

KINO (Yesterday)

by Mich Himaka



Mich was the keynote speaker at JAHSSD's First Annual Meeting on October 2, 1993, at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4851, 541 East 24th Street, in National City. The speech was taped and later transcribed by Don Estes. This slightly edited version contains a rich description of a bygone era in San Diego.

Ben said his speech was going to be very short, but you know they say that when meetings start to go too long, people. All the listeners start smiling a little more, and what it all means is that all those people out there are having sexual fantasies.

I'm glad to see you guys are still able to smile. But anyway, welcome to our garage sale. I see, by the way, my in-laws are out there, so I can't talk about them. And my sister's here. Tsuidas are here too, huh? So then the Ozakis got back from England, I didn't think they were going to get back, so they're out. So my speech is going to be a heck of a lot shorter. Maybe not as long as Ben's. I hope not anyway, huh?

Anyway, *kino* is yesterday, of course, and when you think about it, our whole lives are nothing but kinos. In my case that's about twenty-two thousand of them. I know that not all of our kinos are memorable, but there has got to be a lot of good times that we remember—good memories, that we can look back on and enjoy.

Our *ashitas*—tomorrows—who knows what's in store? Do we really want to know? Are they going to be enjoyable? Do we even know if we are going to be here? But *kino*—that's like money in the bank. It's our pocket full of memories, and we can pick and choose what we want to remember of our kinos, and hopefully we'll all remember the good things, the pleasant things: our family, our friends, the good times we had together.

My kinos go back only thirty years—you're supposed to laugh—the grey in my hair is just an illusion. Let me give you a suggestion here if I could. Someday, when you have a moment, try and sit back and think of the earlier years, and try to remember what your earliest recall is, of anything. Whether it be an event or an incident. And then try to remember how old you were.

In my own case, I picked my earliest remembrance as going to an exposition in Balboa Park. I remember seeing a muscle man-type posing and flexing. I remember seeing an old car that was all full of holes. I learned later that was some notorious gangster car. And I remember being in a building, and inside there's a balcony all around. While working for the newspaper [San Diego Union], I went through some old clips and I found out that there was an Exposition in 1935. So I would have been three years old, and that's the earliest thing I can recall, and if

that's good memory, then that's something I recall, and it just stands out.

I have a lot of people to thank for my kinos, other than my own family of course. People I remember while we lived in the downtown area.

It was downtown, not Fish Camp where the Gaslamp Quarter is today. We used to walk to Fish Camp from downtown along the railroad track to the foot of Crosby Street. I think a lot of you remember where Fish Camp was right? My dad and I used to go to the country a lot to deliver tofu. So I remember a lot of those trips, too.

Downtown. Who can ever forget Nanking Cafe? Where they made the best Chinese food in town, and they always did, right up to the time they closed—this year, I believe.

How many of you here, the older people, remember the Mamiyas' barber shop? It was on Island between Fifth and Fourth...no Fifth and Sixth. I used to ride the barber shop chair that wasn't in use...twirl around. I remember Umeko's dad reading the newspaper a lot. I remember all those different colored tonics and shaving lotions after shave lotions all lined up against the window. I used to get my hair cut there for what—a quarter?

And then there was the Poppy Cafe at the corner of Fifth and Island that was run by the Yamasakis. There was a sushi-ya run by the Fujimotos between Fourth and Fifth. And the Nippon Shokai, on the corner of Fifth and Island. I remember Mr. Shima, Akira-san (he was my baseball partner), Mr. Imamura, Mr. Kubo, and up the street on Fifth there was the Takahashi Pool Hall.

I don't know how many of you know this, but upstairs above the Takahashi Pool Hall, there was a place where the family lived and I had special privileges to climb the stairs and on occasion visit with Mr. Kondo who was bedridden. I remember that. They were really pleasant visits, and I enjoyed them. I remember Mrs. Takahashi, Ruth and Kikubo, they were all special people in my life.

Up the street there was the Kawasaki store, and I visited Yuriko (who is no longer with us), Tracy and Seiso. ABC Pool Hall, the Yamadas...Bob Yamada, who is no longer little. The Frisco Cafe, the Kawamoto family. The Nikko Low where Mr. Oto worked. I don't know how many people remember all these things. Then Kuratomi's shoe store. Sun Cafe on Market Street, run by the Obayashi family. The Yanagiharas lived on Eighth Street where I guess the Obayashis lived at one time. Then there were others who had businesses in that area, like Hironakas, Tsumagaris, Suzukis, the Izumis, the Ishibashis.

There were produce markets in the area where my sister and I used to skate and they used to give us apples and oranges for nothing. The Takemotos ran the little diner where they had chili and gohan, fish sandwiches—great food. I know everybody is saying that all I'm talking about is food here.

And there was Fish Camp...and who could ever forget that place if you've been there. Like I said, we used to walk there from downtown along the railroad tracks. These were homes to Japanese fishermen. They were on piers that loomed over San Diego Bay. San Diego Bay, that's the original sewer outfall where all the stuff used to be.

I remember our visits to the Okamoto family were a major part of our kinos. The Tsunos and Obayayashi family. The

Enomotos and the Sakaguchis. and the Matsumotos. I remember the Ochi brothers, especially during the mochitsukis. Mochitsuki—that's a special event I wish my boys could have experienced. There was a story my Dad told us when we were kids about this man who went around selling bakery goods, I guess, to all the Japanese families. This man asked one of the residents there, "How do you say 'fresh bread' in Japanese?" So whoever it was, being a prankster, said, "You tell them it's *kusatta* bread-o." And he sold out every time.

In another section of Fish Camp, the Nakamura family lived there, the Minamides, the Hibis, the Sekis, the Nakamotos, the Asakawas, the Kawamotos. They were all special people. People who I remember from way back. I guess I am really that old, huh? I remember our skiff rides to the Coronado Islands. Those are good times.

How many of you can remember that place in Northern San Diego area they called Hokkaido? Three hands, four hands. I guess they called it Hokkaido because it was in the Northern part, huh? Anyway, it was across from where Solar is now. Around the area of Palm Avenue and Pacific Highway. Kettner? I remember some of the families there were the Tsuidas and the Takeharas.

And then in the South Bay when we used to deliver tofu with my Dad, there was a lot of families there, farmers. I remember we always stopped at the Uyejis in National City. I was just asking Kottie today about that house that they lived in. It was a two-story house. He says it's no longer there, but every time I think of that house, it reminds me of that house in *Psycho*. Remember that? Two-story house up on a lonely hill. But it's no longer there. I really miss that, too. That was the first place I met—I had a passing acquaintance with a bee there, for the first time in my life. I always wondered how come they flew so slow? I found out.

And then going further south in National City area, we used to go to the Ozaki family's, Tom and Art Ozaki's family, and then the Iguchi family's, the Yonekuras. On other trips, I remember visiting the Mukais, the Kidas, the Oguras. It just so happened that Mrs. Kida and my mother were school girl chums in Japan, and Mrs. Ogura and my Dad were neighbors in Japan, so our family relationship goes way back.

Kinos. I had a lot of good ones in my life time. I really enjoyed them, and I really enjoy recalling them, even though mysister says it kind of ages me. But it's fun to talk about the old days.

Continued on page 27

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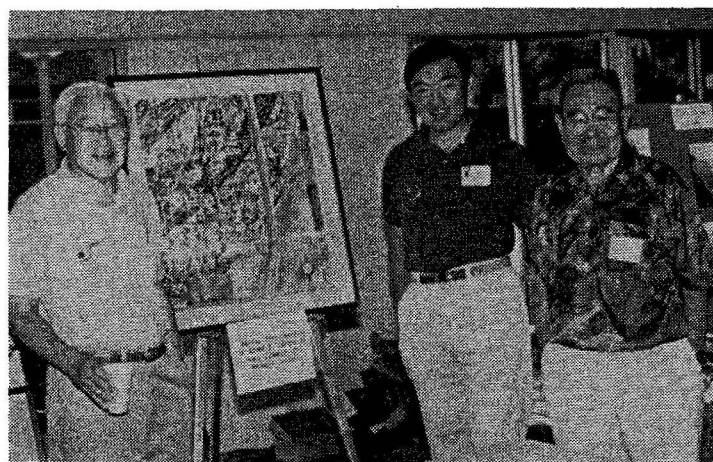
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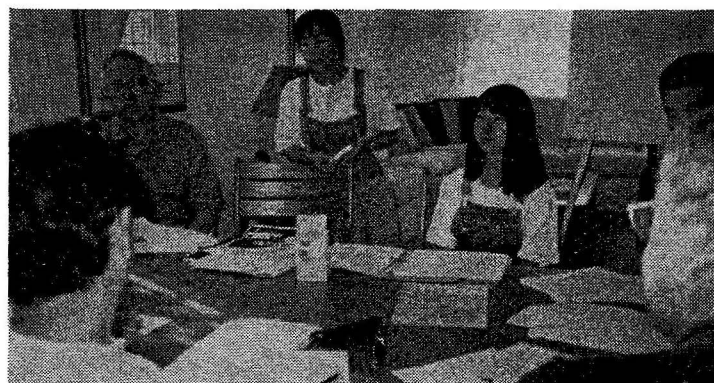
JAHSSD: THE FIRST DECADE



(Above) 1993 Annual Meeting: Elaine Bowers, Taka Sawasaki, Beverly Sawasaki, Terry Nishida

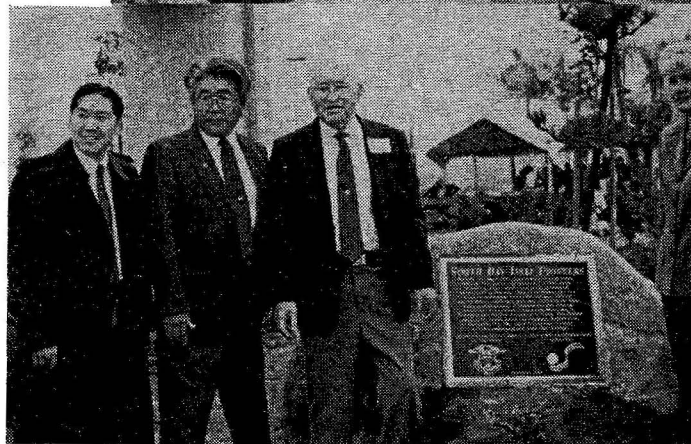


1995 Annual Meeting: Ben Segawa, Bruce Awakawa, Moto Asakawa



(Above left) 1995 planning meeting with Jeanne Elyea, Masato Asakawa, Don Estes and Ben Segawa

(Above) 1995 planning meeting with Masato Asakawa, Mich Himaka (foreground); Yuki Kawamoto, Susan Hasegawa, Maki Okimoto, Todd Himaka (partially hidden)



(Above) 1996: Joe Horiye, Roy Muraoka, Ben Segawa and Chula Vista Major Shirley Horton unveil the South Bay Issei Pioneers Monument

(Right) 1997: BTSD Sangha Hall dedication exhibit: Yoshiko and Adm. Kenzo Sato, Don Estes



(Left) 1997: Set-up of 100-Year Road Exhibit

2002: Vista Shokenji Taiko, BTSD Bon Odori





(Above) 1997 Sangha Hall Dedication: Carol Estes, Rev. Akio Miyaji, Don Estes

(Below) 2000: Ben Segawa hands the gavel over to Jeanne Elyea at her Installation Dinner



(Above) 1998 Annual Meeting, BTSD Annex



(Left) 1998 REgenerations interviewee Dorothy Yonemitsu receives a transcript copy from videographer Leng Loh as Debra Kodama looks on.



(Right) 1999: REgenerations interviewee Joe Yoshioka shows his ship travel scrapbook to project members Don Estes and Susan Hasegawa



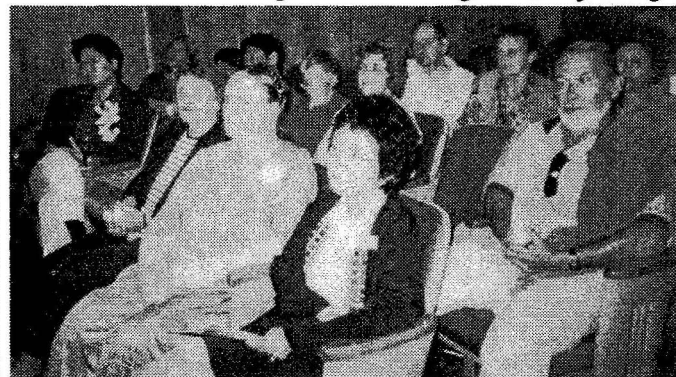
(Left) 2000: JAHSSD members watch as City Council-member Chris Kehoe introduces a measure to rescind 1942 wartime Resolution 78331 against the Japanese return to the West Coast. It passed unanimously. An earlier attempt by JACL to have it rescinded by the City Council failed in 1972.



(Below right) 2000: Audience members listen to the panel discussion at Democracy Under Pressure debut. The audience was so large an extra showing was quickly arranged



(Above) 2000: Joyce Teague, Yuki Kawamoto, Susan Hasegawa and Don Estes, Democracy Under Pressure debut



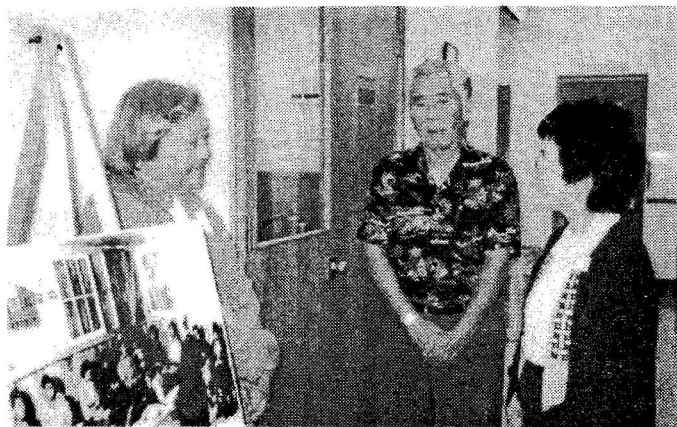
(Left) 2000: Mich and Naomi Himaka and Bob Batchelder talk to guests at Democracy Under Pressure debut, S.D. Public Library



(Left) 2000: Democracy Under Pressure panel discussion with Debra Kodama, Don Estes, Susan Hasegawa, Ruth Voorhies and Ben Sewaga, S.D. Public Library

(Below left) 2000: Miyo Hill, Tom Yanagihara and Jeanne Elyea, volunteers for the video premiere

(Below right) 2000: Jimmy Takashima, winner of the Kansha Award, with Takashima family members



(Left) 2001: Emi Shimizu flanked by friends at the Ninth Annual Meeting
(Below) 2001 Annual Meeting: Toshi and Guy Kiyoi



2001: "Bob's Buddies" participate in the MS Walkathon: Bob and Hisae Batchelder, Virginia Loh, Jeanne Elyea, Karen Kawasaki, Yuki Kawamoto





(Above) 2001: Kansha Awardee Agnes Benson with husband John



(Above) 2001: Sumi Yanagihara, Sam Nakamura at the Poston III Reunion exhibit

(Below) 2002: Karen Kawasaki accepts a gift at her bon voyage party



(Left) 2002: Visitors at two "Buddhism in Camps" exhibits, BTSD Bon Odori

(Left and right below) 2002: Yuki Kawamoto, Don Estes and Mits Kawamoto preparing for the Bon Odori exhibit



IAHSSD TIMELINE:

Highlights of Our First Ten Years

Compiled by Yuki Kawamoto

1992. IAHSSD chartered as a non-profit corporation by the state of California. By-laws developed and documents prepared by attorney Linda Noda Hobbs as a prerequisite for application for corporate charter. Founding Board of Directors were: President, Ben Segawa; Vice President, Masato Asakawa; Secretary, Yukio Kawamoto; Treasurer, Elaine Bowers; Historian, Don Estes; Board Members Jeanne Elyea, Mich Himaka, Linda Noda Hobbs, Carole Kawamoto, Sachi Nishida, Tom Ozaki, Aileen Oya. IAHSSD logo designed by Gary Hamada adopted. Inaugural issue of *Footprints* published with Jeanne Elyea as editor. Sponsored bus trip to dedication of monument at site of Poston War Relocation Center. Produced video "Poston Reflections" from slide presentation made at the 1991 Poston III Reunion. After initial membership campaign, membership consisted of 25 life members and 52 regular members.
1993. Tax-exempt status authorized by the Internal Revenue Service and the Franchise Tax Board. Thanks to CPA Jerry Segawa who prepared application documents for the tax exemption. Oral history project established with Mas Hironaka as first interviewee. Many items donated for the IAHSSD collection. First annual membership meeting held at VFW Post 4851 in National City with Mich Himaka as guest speaker; first public exhibit of donated artifacts and photos shown at meeting. Mas Hironaka appointed as advisor to the board.
1994. Hosted testimonial dinner for Dr. Francis I. Tanaka, who was honored for his many years of dedication to the health care of the Japanese American community of San Diego; over 500 people attended. Participated on "Day of Remembrance" panel at UCSD. Provided speakers and photo displays on the Japanese American experience at various schools and organizations. Chaired committee to develop plans for a monument commemorating the site of the former Gakuen in Chula Vista. Set up exhibit for Poston Booth at the Family Expo held at the Convention Center in Los Angeles and sponsored by the Japanese American National Museum. Mas Hironaka becomes full-fledged member of board. Set up photo display for Asian Thematic Historical District at the Horton Grand Hotel. Provided photos, documents and historical material for the NHK (Kindai Eiga) video titled "*Sekai Kokoro no Tabi*" (Memorable Journey). Received \$2000 grant from the California Council for the Humanities to develop a traveling photo exhibit on SD's Nikkei community.
1995. Sponsored pilgrimage to Poston by bus and 2-night stay in Laughlin, Nevada. Exhibit set up for Family Expo displayed at Southwestern Community College in Chula Vista. Sponsored piano and organ recital by Elaine Bowers at St. Marks Lutheran Church in Chula Vista.
1996. Panel discussion, together with photo display and slide show, held at Parker, Arizona for a Parker Area Historical Society meeting; approximately 200 people from the Parker area attended. Mich Himaka takes over as editor of the *Footprints*. Participated in the Marine Corps Recruit Depot's Asian Heritage Week where the Wada brothers, Bob, Hank, and Frank, discussed their military experiences. Walking tour of Poston sponsored by the Parker Public Library led by Don Estes. Col Keegan, former company commander of 442 RCT guest speaker at annual membership meeting. Also, panel composed of WWII veterans Min Sakamoto, Joe Tanabe, and Jim Yamate spoke at the meeting. Board met with JANM representatives Irene Hirano and Nancy Araki to coordinate activities. Poston photo exhibit displayed at West Coast Asian American Studies Conference at UCSD.
1997. Set up a major exhibit on the history of Japanese Americans in San Diego, "*Hyakunen no Michi: The Hundred Year Road*," at the Museum of San Diego History in Balboa Park. Exhibit curated by IAHSSD historian Don Estes, and made possible through donation and loan of historic items by members and others in the community. Exhibit visited by many groups from schools, elder hostel and others, including veterans of E Company of the 442 RCT. Co-sponsored dedication of the Chula Vista Gakuen monument at the corner of Broadway and Palomar. Participated in an oral history project, "REgenerations," together with historical societies from Seattle, San Jose and Chicago on resettlement after relocation camp incarceration during World War II. Project funded by a grant from the Civil Liberties Public Education Project and coordinated by JANM. Local effort on the project led by Susan Hasegawa along with team members Carol Estes, Don Estes, Debra Kodama, Leng Loh and Joyce Teague. Ten persons selected for initial interviews. Co-hosted with the San Diego JACL a reception for the opening of the Smithsonian Exhibit, "A More Perfect Union," at the San Diego Public Library. Don Estes and Ben Segawa led a tour of Poston sponsored by the Arizona Humanities Council. Todd Himaka joins board. Reprinted *Mohaveland*, a photo book originally published by Poston III YBA in 1945. Set up photo exhibit on the history of the Buddhist Temple of San Diego at dedication of temple's new Sangha Hall. Also set up photo exhibit on Poston III at UCSD Day of Remembrance presentation.
1998. Susan Namba, Rev. Akio Miyaji, Mrs. Misao Kawasaki, Toshi Kiyoi and Ruth Voorhies honored at annual membership meeting with Kansha Awards. Hon. Gale Kaneshiro, Judge of San Diego Municipal Court was guest speaker. Nancy Cowser and Karen Kawasaki join board. Oral interviews continue, including interviews funded by San Diego chapter of JACL. Copies of REgenerations transcripts presented to narrators.
1999. IAHSSD exhibit focusing on Japanese Americans in the South Bay opens at Chula Vista Heritage Museum in January with reception. Ben Segawa resigns as president and Elaine Bowers assumes office. Planning begins for IAHSSD documentary video, *The Day the Devil Wept*, which was subsequently re-titled, *Democracy Under Pressure: Japanese Americans and World War II*. Documentary project headed by Susan Hasegawa and Don Estes and produced by Debbie Kodama and Leng Loh. Initial funding for project provided by a \$50,000 grant

from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Project. Vernon Yoshioka, Bob and Hisae Batchelder join board. Dr. Satsuki Ina guest speaker for annual membership meeting. Set up photo exhibit for Buddhist Temple's annual bazaar.

2000. Jeanne Elyea assumes post as President in place of Elaine Bowers who did not seek reelection. Naomi Himaka joins board. Membership provided whole-hearted financial support to supplement initial funding for the video project as result of solicitation letter. Premiere of video, *Democracy Under Pressure*, held at San Diego Public Library in May. Free copies distributed to all libraries, public and private junior high schools, senior high schools, colleges and universities in San Diego and Imperial Counties, along with curriculum guide developed by Karen Kawasaki. Copies made available to members and public for a donation. JAHSSD agrees to host next Poston III reunion to be held in San Diego in 2001. JAHSSD instrumental in having the San Diego City Council rescind a 1943 resolution recommending against resettlement of Japanese Americans in San Diego. Harry Honda, Editor Emeritus of the *Pacific Citizen*, guest speaker for annual meeting. Joe Owashi (posthumously), Tom Yanagihara, Shinobu Yoshioka were Kansha Award recipients.

2001. Award of Merit plaque awarded by Congress of History to JAHSSD for *Democracy Under Pressure*. JAHSSD's team "Bob's Buddies" participates in Multiple Sclerosis Walkathon in support of treasurer Bob Batchelder. Assisted Jeff Brodie of the Smithsonian National Postal Museum with their exhibit "Forwarding Address Required," by providing photos as well as historical consultation. Also consulted and provided historic photos for the Smithsonian Museum's November 2001 issue of their magazine for students in grades 3 to 8, "The Smithsonian in the Classroom." In addition to hosting the June Poston III Reunion, JAHSSD set up exhibit for the reunion, which was well received by attendees. *Democracy Under Pressure* screened at San Diego Asian Film Festival in September. Darcie Iki of JANM and coordinator of the REgenerations Project guest speaker at annual meeting; Ben Honda (posthumously), Agnes Benson, K. J. Takashima and Fred Katsumata were Kansha Award recipients. Joyce Teague and Debbie Kodama join board.

2002. Vernon Yoshioka takes over as president for Jeanne Elyea and Joyce Teague takes over editorship of *Footprints*. Co-sponsor with the San Diego Public Library a 9-month series of public programs to mark the 60th anniversary of Executive Order 9066. First of the series was a showing of the documentary, *Of Civil Wrongs and Rights: the Fred Korematsu Story*, with a discussion by Dr. Peter Irons of UCSD and his part in uncovering evidence that reversed Korematsu's conviction. Other programs in the series included: Ruth Okimoto on how Poston came to be; Jeanne Houston on her book *Farewell to Manzanar*; a reading of letters to librarian Clara Breed by students of Karen Kawasaki from Mt. Carmel High School. Co-sponsored an art and writing contest for public and private school students with the National Japanese American Historical Society of San Francisco. Development of strategic plans led by Robert Ito. Continued participation in the MS Walkathon. Karen Kawasaki takes leave of absence from the board to accept a teaching contract in Panama. Gwen Momita joins board to replace Karen Kawasaki

as secretary. Set up an exhibit at Buddhist Temple of San Diego's Bon Odori, titled "San Diego Buddhists in Camp: How Our Temple Survived Internment" to complement a photo exhibit "The Buddhist Church Experience in Camps, 1942-1945" by Eiko Masuyama. Our current membership stands at 399 which includes 111 life members.

KINO continued from page 20

It's a reflection of having had a good time in my life, I guess.

Those of you out there who I know have had some good and enjoyable experiences and kinos, I would encourage you—would encourage all of you, to write them down. Write down what you remember. Write down anything you remember about your parents; grandparents, if you had any. Pass them along to your own kids, and your grandchildren and great-grandchildren in some instances, and give them something to remember. You or your parents, grandparents.

Give them an idea of what the Issei parents were like, and give them an idea of how tough it was on them. Let them know it was not easy for them. You think about it, with World War II, the Issei, you know they had to make two starts in life. First, when they came here from Japan, and second after the war. I ask you what other people in this country had to do that? It was not easy for them.

If you're worried whether if you can write well or can articulate what your thoughts are—well, don't worry about it, just write it down. If you send them to the Historical Society, some of us can look it over and try to make it readable, if that's what you are worried about. If it's all right with some of you and if you're interested, we can publish them.

That's the kind of thing we're looking for. It doesn't matter if your parents or grandparents were well-known in the community. They all had something to contribute, every one of them. It's something we can all treasure. I'm sure you all have some remembrance of our community before the war. Something that you can all contribute.

Give it a try. Write it up and send it in. Put your phone number on it and if we have any questions, we will call you. If it's all right with you, we'll publish it.

I think I've gone on too long here. I thank you for the time and thank you for the patience, and I'm glad so many of you are smiling out there. Thank you.

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JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO

Joyce Teague / Michio Himaka

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The Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego is a nonprofit organization whose goal is to acknowledge and preserve the contributions of the Japanese American community to the City and County of San Diego. *Footprints* is the quarterly publication of the JAHSSD. Subscription is free with membership. We welcome your articles, stories, letters, comments. Send them to:

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Buddhist Temple of San Diego

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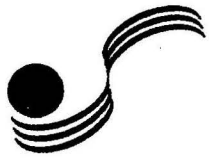
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Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego

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...or bring them to the Annual Meeting on October 12. Deadline for submission is Nov. 15.

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