

FOOTPRINTS

Impressions from where we were to where we will be

The Newsletter for the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego

SUMMER 2002

VOL. II NO. 2

A MOMENT IN TIME:

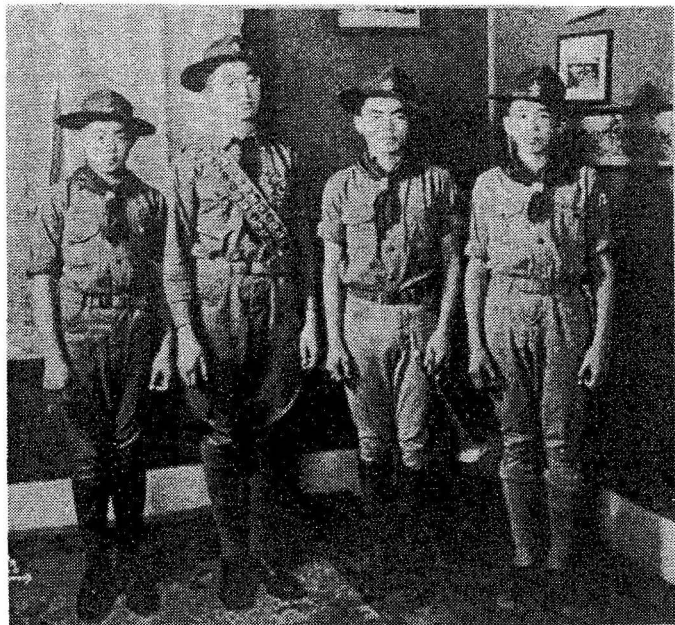
Photos From the JAHSSD Archives

by Don Estes

While many of the pioneer Issei families living in pre-World War II San Diego fully expected to eventually return to Japan one day, at the same time, they also wanted their Nisei children not only to fit into American society, but develop a set of positive values as well.

To help meet these desires, many Nisei boys and their Issei dads joined the Boy Scouts of America. The Scouts were originally founded in Britain by Sir Robert Baden-Powell in 1907. Brought to the United States by Chicago businessman W.E. Boyce, the Boy Scouts of America was founded on February 8, 1910. The program's obvious appeal saw the movement expand rapidly throughout the United States and by December 1916, San Diego's Troop I was organized.

Since churches have historically been major supporters of Scouting it's not surprising that the Buddhist Temple of San Diego and the Ocean View United Church of Christ each sponsored a troop.



Showing Scout Spirit: (left to right) Min Hatada, Azusa Tsuneyoshi, Hide Takeshita and Haruki Koba, circa 1932

The Buddhist Temple was the first local Nikkei institution to sponsor a Boy Scout troop. Under the leadership of Reverend Yoshinao Ouchi, Troop 72 was organized in August 1932.

Assisting in leading the troop were Azusa Tsuneyoshi as the first Scoutmaster; and Masami Honda, Kiyoshi Nakamura, and Tom Tsunada as Assistant Scoutmasters. Troop members included Kikuo Takahashi, Min Nakamura, Minoru Hatada, Nobuo Honda, George Hosaka, George Nishigaki, Henry Hashiguchi, Takeyoshi and Takenori Ohara, Sam Takeshita, Isamu Nakamura, Tets and Osa Himaka, Masao Hosaka, Kuni Kawamoto, Takeo Asakawa, Leo Hashiguchi, Hide Takeshita, Haruki Koba, Nob Kawamoto, Ichiro Saito, Kiyoshi Nakagawa, and Fred Hashiguchi.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

JULY 7, 2002 – JACL Picnic, Crown Point, 11 a.m.

JULY 21 – Ocean View UCC Picnic, Standley Park, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

JULY 27 & 28 – Vista Buddhist Temple Obon Summer Festival, 12 noon-8 p.m. (760/941-8800)

JULY 28 – Obon Service, Mt. Hope Cemetery, 8:30 a.m.

JULY 28 – Hatsubon, 9 a.m., Obon Service, 10 a.m., Buddhist Temple of San Diego

JULY 28 – “Everyday Buddhism: How to Practice Buddhism Without Becoming a Monk.” Lecture by Rev. George Matsubayashi, BTSD, 1:30 p.m.

AUG. 3 – Bon Odori: Gathering of Joy. Dance, music, taiko, food, Obon Again Resale Shop, BTSD, 5-9 p.m.

AUG. 3 – Photo Exhibits: “Buddhist Church Experience in the Camps, 1942-1945” and “San Diego Buddhists in Camp,” BTSD, 5-9 p.m.

AUG. 6 – Enemies: World War II Alien Internment, a lecture by author John Christgau, co-sponsored by JAHSSD, San Diego Central Library, 6:30 p.m.

AUG. 16 – Festival of the August Moon, Japanese Friendship Garden, 5:30-8:30 p.m. (619/232-2721)

AUG. 17 & 18 – Annual Rummage Sale, BTSD, hours TBA (619/239-0896)

SEPT. 1 – Ocean View UCC Annual Bazaar. Eats, treats, and family fun galore, 10 a.m.

SEPT. 14 – Friendship Garden Benefit Taiko Concert, East County Performing Arts Center (619/232-2721)

SEPT. 20 – BTSD 7th Annual Golf Tournament, Eastlake Country Club (619/239-0896)

OCT. 6 – BTSD Food Festival, 11-4 p.m.

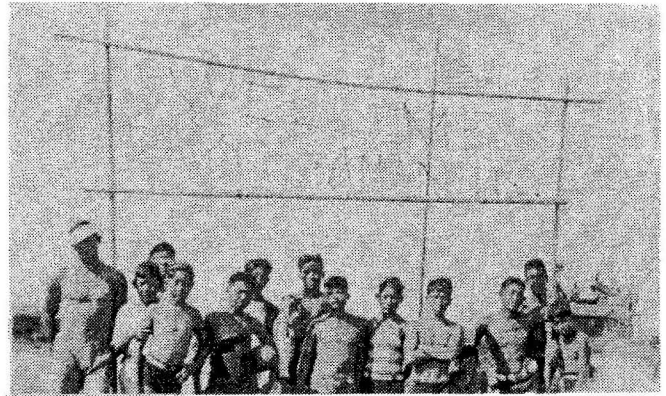
OCT. 12 – JAHSSD 10th Anniversary Membership Meeting & Luncheon, BTSD Annex, hours TBA

MOMENT IN TIME continued from page 1

Troop 72's adult committee included Harumi Hiyama, Minetaro Hosaka, Kosaburo Nakagawa, Kikuji Kawamoto, Shoichi Hosaka, Hachiro Honda, Johichi Tsunada, Chosuke Himaka, Ikuyo Takeshita, Buemon Ohara, and Iwaguma Tsuneyoshi.

Troop 52 was chartered at the Ocean View Church in 1933 under the leadership of John Yamamoto who became the troop's first scoutmaster. Later, Fred Katsumata and Fred Ono would undertake the leadership. Reverend Harris Rummel and Frank Otsuka were among the first committeemen.

Charter members of the troop were James and George Suzuki, Seiji Kiya, Joe Sakamoto, Minoru Tsumagari, Takeharu Taniguchi, Ben Matsumoto, Hayao Abe, Yoshiyasu Morishita, Iwao Ishino, Reichi Nakazawa, and Motoharu Asakawa. The troop eventually numbered thirty-two Scouts.



Scoutmaster John Yamamoto (left) and members of Troop 52 at Tijuana Slough campsite, circa 1933

Surviving members of both troops fondly remember beach campouts, hiking up Mt. Miguel, and camping at the Tijuana Slough.

Being Nikkei troops, both organizations took their menu planning and eating very seriously. As one leader recalled, “There’s nothing like making tempura for 30 boys – it takes all day.”

CAUGHT DOING SOMETHING NICE

The JAHSSD wishes to recognize and thank the following individuals for their support of our efforts to preserve the local Nikkei experience for the future. Posterity’s knowledge and understanding of the past depends on our efforts today.

Jeanne Elyea, Mich Himaka, and Mits and Yukio Kawamoto teamed up in April to speak to three U.S. History classes at Scripps High Ranch School.

Ben Segawa, one of our most active speakers, single-handedly spoke on relocation and Poston to an eighth grade U.S. History class at the San Diego Jewish Academy.

Mich Himaka and Don Estes spoke to over 75 fifth graders at Fuerte Elementary on life at Poston Camp during World War II.

Once again, Certified Public Accountant, Roy S. Yonekura, has generously donated his professional assistance to our Historical Society by helping us file our tax statements with the IRS and the California State Franchise Board. These annual statements are necessary to maintain our tax exempt status. We realize how fortunate we are to have the assistance of a real pro like Roy who also maintains a busy tax and accounting practice in Bonita.

A big thank you to Dr. Mike Inoue of Kyocera who has offered to our photo archive copies of photographs he took during the June 2002 visit of Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force Escort Flotilla One commanded by Rear Admiral Shun Shinohara.

During the visit of the JMSDF, a detachment of officers and enlisted men visited the grave of Seaman Tsunejiro Toya at Mount Hope Cemetery. Retired Rear Admiral Kenzo Sato of Bonita kindly has allowed us to copy a group photograph taken during the ceremony.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Vernon Yoshioka

Here we are with the Summer Issue, and I still haven't gotten organized. Our Editor has pushed and prodded this President into recording something for you, the membership; but it just doesn't look or sound like it was written by a writer. Luckily, the rest of the JAHSSD Board of Directors have a good sense of purpose and can guide us along toward the future.

We held a one-day planning session on April 20, 2002, under the able leadership of our own Robert Ito as facilitator. We began with the Mission Statement of the JAHSSD, and moved forward from there. We didn't take the normal time for team building and getting to know one another, due to the shortness of time for this effort. But we were able to arrive at a working document to guide and channel our efforts for up to three years, or possibly a year or two if we're lucky.

***Mission Statement:** The JAHSSD 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.*

In summarizing some of the goals and objectives we set for the near and far term, we identified a need for more help. The timetables and personnel for each of these objectives will be fluid because of circumstances and the fact that this is a volunteer organization.

1. We want to establish a museum to house and display our many artifacts.
2. We want to increase our visibility and membership.
3. We want to be financially solvent and self-sufficient when we have our facilities.
4. We want our membership to participate in the life of the organization.

There is some good news for the membership, as a result of the planning session. Our Treasurer, Bob Batchelder, determined that even with the increased costs of publishing and mailing the *Footprints* Newsletter, and the other costs associated with running this organization, we can survive without raising our dues. The generosity of our members and friends will allow us to continue to keep our dues *at the same level since the organization was founded ten years ago*. This may not be possible when we begin to operate and maintain a facility for our museum.

We do need to bring new bodies and thinking into the Board of Directors in order to continue the progress we have already achieved. Right now we need a Secretary who is computer literate, able to record the minutes on a laptop in real time. Karen Kawasaki is taking a leave from the Board because she will be teaching history in Panama for two years. (Can you imagine, she thought it would be too difficult to take the minutes over the phone each month and then distribute them from Panama!) Let us know if you have the interest or the time to help us out of a serious predicament.

The Board has been meeting monthly at Fong Fong restaurant on about the third Saturday of each month for breakfast and a little business. Join us for the food and fellowship, and receive the prestigious title of JAHSSD Board Member.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Yukio Kawamoto

A warm welcome to our new members: Thomas and June Hamada, Dr. Joe Takehara, and Susie Nishimura. We are pleased to have all of you as members of our society. A big thank you to Sakie Kawahara for providing the gift membership for Dr. Takehara and to Misako Honda for providing the gift membership for Susie Nishimura.

We thank the following for renewing their memberships: Harry and Misako Honda, George and Karen Shinzaki, Michael Kawamoto, Ann Tsuchiyama Carlin, Kimie Fukamizu, Ritsu Nabeta, George and Betty Wakiji, Micko Kodama, Chiz Imoto, John and Kiyo Takemoto, Chiyo Nakagawa, Glen and Roslyn Masumoto, Janet Roberts (gift of Suye Fukikawa), Hasegawa General Store, Taye Hashiguchi, and Rev. Norma Nomura DeSaegher.

Also, Chiyeko Yagi, Tim Asamen, Asusa and Haruko Tsuneyoshi, Sumio and Fumiko Nakamoto, Grace and Hiroshi Sawasaki, Masaharu Tsuida, Sakie Kawahara, Hiroko Ito, Ben Kitahata, Howard Takahashi, Hiroshi Kubota, Ted and Fran Wada, James and Helen Urata, Hideko Shimasaki, Frank and Janet Koide, Mary Marumoto, Karen Tani, John and Jill Damrose, Guy and Toshi Kiyoi, Hideo and Kiyoko Ochi, and Masami Honda.

We currently have 389 members, including 111 life members. Although the majority of our members are from the San Diego area, we have members from up and down California, from 14 different states outside of California, as well as members from Japan and Holland.

We invite our members to ask their relatives and friends to join JAHSSD and support our efforts to preserve the history of Japanese Americans in San Diego. I am sure that they will find the *Footprints* very interesting and well worth the cost of membership.

OUR TENTH ANNIVERSARY...

With the next *Footprints*, we'll be celebrating the Tenth Anniversary of JAHSSD with a look back at how our organization got its start, featuring highlights as recalled by the past presidents and others who were there from the beginning.

Our celebration will continue **October 12 at the Tenth Annual Membership Meeting & Luncheon**. We invite ALL of you to come to share our pride in past accomplishments and support the Society's role as preservers of the San Diego Nikkei community's legacy. Plus enjoy a really great lunch, keynote speaker, exhibits, our fabulous raffle, and more! We'll again be giving the Kansha Award to standout contributors to the community. So mark the date. Details forthcoming!

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.

Henry H. Saito - March 15, 2002
 Hajime Tashiro - March 15, 2002
 Shigeru Kosha - March 20, 2002
 Kiku "Kiko" Huber - April 5, 2002
 Haruko Muraoka - April 13, 2002
 Yoshiko Takashima - April 21, 2002
 Mitsuko Adachi Yoshioka - April 30, 2002
 Paul Y. Naitoh - May 1, 2002
 Yoshiko Kimura - May 2, 2002
 Jimmie Tsurudome - May 8, 2002
 Yukie Yagade - May 8, 2002
 Roy Torao Morinaka - May 11, 2002
 Yasue Esther Tachiki - May 12, 2002
 Tamiko Iwashita - May 13, 2002
 Yoko Rueckert - May 2002
 Kazuko Kawano - May 2002
 George Minoru Higuchi - May 25, 2002
 Rumiko Tokuko Eisenman - May 26, 2002
 Raymond T. Doi - May 28, 2002
 Sachiko Thayer - May 29, 2002
 Noboru Yamamoto - May 31, 2002
 Yumiko Cantor - June 5, 2002
 George Akira Ono - June 6, 2002
 Masako Laurence - June 11, 2002
 Norikazu Yukawa - June 29, 2002
 Akira Kurashige - July 4, 2002
 John T. Hosaka - July 5, 2002
 Noriko Keiser - July 10, 2002

Japanese Friendship Garden Presents

"The Evening Thunder with San Jose Taiko Drummers"

September 14, 2002

7:00pm to 9:00pm

Experience the powerful, spellbinding
 artistic taiko performance...

An Event to Benefit the Garden

Tickets available at the
 Japanese Friendship Garden Office:

Donation \$50 Gold \$40 Silver \$30 Bronze

For additional information call 619-232-2721

Your payment is your reservation

POSTON RESTORATION UPDATE

Dr. Ruth Okimoto, Chair of the Nikkei ad hoc Poston Restoration Committee, visited Poston for a week in April 2002, to meet with members of the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT).

After visiting the site of the Camp I auditorium and viewing the clean-up efforts resulting from last year's fire that destroyed most of the building, Dr. Okimoto met with members of the reservation's Education Committee.



Fire destroyed the Camp I auditorium in 2001

The CRIT representatives expressed continued strong support for the originally announced plan to restore a demonstration camp block of 14 barracks anchored on the auditorium and school site. The tribes are still committed to the dedication of 100 acres adjacent to the Camp I school site.

Dr. Okimoto is optimistic that with the leadership of the tribes, the project will be brought to reality.



FATHER'S DAY FUN: Sumi Yanagihara and grandson Charles Baker take the lead in a three-legged race at the annual Buddhist Temple of San Diego picnic, Rohr Park, June 2002

"BUDDHISM IN CAMPS" EXHIBIT VISITS SAN DIEGO

The Buddhist Temple of San Diego will host a special exhibit, "The Buddhist Church Experience in the Camps, 1942-1945," during the annual Bon Odori on August 3. Assembled by Eiko Masuyama of the Los Angeles Betsuin, the photographs and memorabilia will be on display in Annex Rooms 1 & 2 from 5:00-9:00 p.m.

Ms. Masuyama writes, "This is the story, through the eyes of the internees, through photos, written materials, and remembrances told verbally, of the Buddhist experience in the camps. Internees who meticulously recorded and annotated the church camp events via photos, articles, and memory, to be recalled now and recorded in history."

Ms. Masuyama began compiling information and photographs about Buddhism and internment when she realized how little had been written on the topic. Recently she applied for and received a CCLPEP grant, which is awarded by the California State Library to educate the public about the World War II internment experience.

"The Buddhist Church Experience in the Camps" is being shown at various Obon festivals throughout Southern California during the summer months. Ms. Masuyama continues to build her collection of oral histories and artifacts and is interested in talking to anyone willing to share their experiences about any aspect of Buddhism in the camps. She will be with the exhibit all evening but can arrange to come to San Diego earlier that afternoon to meet with people who would like to talk to her.

Interested parties can contact Ms. Masuyama by calling (310) 926-3994, sending e-mail to imasuyama@bell.k12.ca.us, or by stopping by her exhibit site on August 3.

JAHSDD to Open Companion Exhibit

You can also view a related exhibit inspired by Ms. Masuyama's project entitled, "San Diego Buddhists in Camp: How Our Temple Survived Internment." It will share the same space at the BTSD on August 3. Sponsored by the Japanese Historical Society of San Diego in conjunction with the Buddhist Temple of San Diego, the display of photographs and artifacts seeks to illustrate the theme of Buddhism and internment from a local perspective, focusing on San Diego Buddhists who were interned. The display will be curated by Don Estes, Professor of History at San Diego City College. Local visitors to the display will likely locate parents, friends, and neighbors among the photographs.

(Dr. Estes is seeking last-minute additions to the exhibit. Please see the article which follows for details.)

Both these rare displays are a special opportunity for the community to see the role a religious faith played in enabling some internees to achieve a sense of normalcy while living under abnormal conditions.

Both exhibits will be open from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

They are free and open to the public. The Buddhist Temple is located at 2929 Market Street. You will find the flyer for the event on p. 14 of this issue.

CAN YOU HELP US?

JAHSDD, BTSD Seek Buddhist Memorabilia for Special Exhibit

Were you interned during World War II? Did you attend Buddhist Church or participate in Buddhist activities while in any of the camps? Teach Sunday School? Belong to a church-sponsored youth group?

The Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego, in conjunction with the Buddhist Temple of San Diego, is seeking photos and artifacts to illustrate the local Buddhist experience in camp. The exhibit will take place at BTSD on August 3 during the temple's Bon Odori.

JAHSDD's display, entitled "San Diego Buddhists in Camp: How Our Temple Survived Internment," is being put together to complement Eiko Masuyama's visiting photo exhibit, "The Buddhist Church Experience in the Camps, 1942-1945," which will be featured at this year's odori. (See preceding article for details.)

Both exhibits are free and will be open to the public between 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. that evening, preceding and during the Obon dancing.

Examples of items we're interested in for the display:

- Photos of Buddhist Church services, Sunday School, activities in the camp
- Photos of San Diegans participating in Buddhist activities
- Ojuzu, okesa, butsudan, or other Buddhist items made or used in camp
- Religious-themed art, carvings, or craftwork produced in camp
- Gatha books, song books, service programs, etc.
- Young Buddhist League-related photos or memorabilia
- Your thoughts and memories on the topic.

Any artifacts will be borrowed for the duration of the exhibit and returned safely to the owner. All photos displayed will be copies of your originals.

If you would like to loan JAHSDD any of the above—or related—materials, please call Joyce Teague (619/527-7855) or e-mail teague-family@att.net. Please keep in mind it will take us some time to copy, enlarge, and mount the photos, so please act as soon as possible.

Thank you in advance! The materials you loan us will help shape a picture of how local Buddhists and the local temple survived the internment years.

CHANKO-NABE

by Joyce Nabeta Teague

You Are What You Ate

By the time this column appears in print, our daughter's June wedding will be history, and our current plans and anxieties will have miraculously transformed into funny family stories about which cousin leaped around with an ice bucket over his head, which groomsman tumbled down into the canyon while leaping for the garter, and which auntie danced a drunken *lambada* till dawn. Or so I imagine, because our family is not nearly as colorful as most, though certainly not for lack of trying.



Asa and Jaime Enochs, Japanese Friendship Garden, June 2002

At this point, we can only assume the happy event will unfold as planned and that torrents of rain will not ruin the outdoor gathering for which we've made absolutely no contingency plans. We are certain of a few things, though. We know the event will be a joyous one. We know the bride and groom will be stunning, even if their wedding finery is rain-drenched. And we know the *parents* of the bride and groom will be mere shadows of our present selves because the four of us are locked in a fierce diet duel which only Mr. Death or the wedding date will end.

What is at stake is a weekend vacation for two in Seattle. This wager came about because Bill and I decided at the end of last year to lose some pounds before stepping into our wedding outfits. Big events like weddings encourage big decisions. Did I really want to be escorted down the aisle looking like there were two people sharing my dress?

I'm built rather like a stocky sumotori. A tsunami would be hard-pressed to knock me over, that's how low I am built to the ground. To say I could afford to lose some weight is like saying it would be a *good thing* for Martha Stewart to get another phrase to be known by. A *really* good thing, if you catch my drift. And Bill was growing so used to his cute little paunch, he was tempted to give it a name. Let's just say we could both benefit from some serious attention to our caloric intake.

Coincidentally, Pete and Pat Enochs—parents of our future son-in-law, Asa—had come to the same conclusion on their own:

Let's drop some pounds so we can boogie all night at the party, was how they looked at it. So we playfully agreed to a little competitive dieting as diversion to the drudgery of counting calories. They live in Auburn, California, so we would share by e-mail a monthly report on pounds dropped and chide one another to Slimming Success.

I have never stuck to any kind of diet regimen (except The Fabulous Joyce Teague Eat More Diet) for longer than a week. Bill thinks of Diet as a legislative body in Japan. So we are really very poor candidates for a weight-loss wager.

But we soon discovered our competition was pretty serious about winning that Seattle weekend. Pete and Pat run a wonderful restaurant in Auburn called Latitudes, which consumes most of their time and energy. So the idea of a few days' get-away is a tempting prize.

We were warned that Pat especially likes to win and has been known to (*gasp*) cheat at family board games! Bill and I got a taste of her tactics when, arriving in San Diego to check out restaurants for the rehearsal dinner, she gifted us with delicious candied nuts from Ikeda's and a lot of great booze! Insidious (*munch, eat, yum*), why, she can't *possibly* think we'd be *this* easy to defeat (*swill, slurp, burp*)...

Because we're competing as couples, we had to do an initial combined weigh-in. I will spare you the numbers, but suffice it to say that both couples were Heavier Than a Hummingbird But Lighter Than a Humvee.

As for contest rules, they were very simple:

1. Metabolife is CHEATING!
2. Amputation is CHEATING!!
3. ABSOLUTELY NO CHEATING!!!

Well, of course, we've all been doing our share of fudging. For instance, should we let all those good candied nuts from Ikeda's go to waste...or to *waist*?

Continued on next page



NAOMI HIMAKA

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SPRING VALLEY, CA

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Post-Wedding Update

Pete and Pat extended the wedding celebration by closing their restaurant for a week and flying down early to stay with us. The competition was officially over, and we ate several delicious meals together at favorite San Diego eateries. It did not rain on the wedding day. Not a single guest fell into the canyon. The event was happy, Jaime and Asa were radiant, and we parental types had succeeded in shedding several pounds over the months—*about 50 altogether*—and were feeling pretty sassy about it. Thus I can truthfully report the four of us looked *mahvelous* at the wedding and did indeed boogie-oogie-oogie all night, much to the horror of the youngsters dancing around us.



The post-wager look: Pat and Pete...



...and Joyce and Bill, heading for the dance floor

Who won the wager, you wonder? Pete and Pat shed the most pounds. But the idea of spending the weekend in Seattle was so appealing, the four of us decided that later this year, we'd all go there *together* for a get-away. Celebrate our new status as in-laws. Maybe come up with another friendly wager involving eating. Or...maybe try to regain some of that lost weight?

Now that's what I call a real weight-loss win-win.

NEW CONSUL VISITS SAN DIEGO

Mrs. Yuko Kaifu, newly assigned Consul at the Japanese Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles, recently visited the San Diego area where she was introduced to members of the local Nikkei community by Dr. Randall Phillips, Honorary Consul General of Japan in San Diego.

Mrs. Kaifu was posted to the Los Angeles Consulate in September 2001 from her position as the official interpreter for Her Majesty the Empress of Japan. Her present assignment is to assist Consul General Masaharu Kohno, who assumed his post in May of last year.

One of Mrs. Kaifu's assignments is to liaison with the Nikkei communities in Southern California. On May 21, she spent the day in San Diego visiting the Japanese Friendship Garden and meeting community representatives. Professor Don Estes made sure she received a copy of the JAHSSD video, *Democracy Under Pressure*.



Dr. Phillips presents Mrs. Kaifu with JAHSSD video

Mrs. Kaifu graduated from Nara Women's University with a BA in Sociology and joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1982. While serving at the Japanese Embassy in Ottawa, Canada, she attended Queen's University and earned an MA in Sociology.

She has held a number of positions with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs before being posted to Los Angeles. Mrs. Kaifu is married to Mr. Masaki Kaifu, a television producer specializing in animated programs. The couple have two young children.

We extend our welcome to the whole Kaifu family and hope they have an enjoyable stay in Southern California.

ERRATA

In the story about prewar Mission Valley in the Spring 2002 Issue, one of the kimono-wearing young ladies on p. 15 identified as Chiyeko Honda is actually **Chiyoko Honda**. Thanks to her brother, Motoo Tsuneyoshi, for the correction.

CELEBRATIONS!

Community Milestones of Note

On June 2, **ROY MURAOKA** was recognized by the Japanese Coordinating Council (ICC) as Women's Forum Citizen on the Year. Roy was then called out by the Japan Society of San Diego and Tijuana for the City of Chula Vista Humanitarian Award, presented to him on June 27 at the San Diego Country Club.

CAROL KAWAMOTO, President of the San Diego Chapter of the JACL, was named JACLer of the Biennium. The award was created by the National JACL Board in 1955 to honor the outstanding members of the national organization who contribute to the strength and growth of the JACL. Carol is the first San Diegan so honored.

JAIME TEAGUE and **ASA ENOCHS** were married June 8 at the Japanese Friendship Garden in Balboa Park. Rev. Akio Miyaji officiated. The couple are graduates of U.C. Berkeley where they met as freshmen. Jaime is a secondary teacher credential candidate at SDSU and Asa is employed by ONA, Inc., a landscape architect firm.

PASTOR NORMA DESAEGHER has been elected Moderator of the United Church of Christ Southern California/Nevada Conference.

KRIS ASAKAWA, son of Glen Asakawa and the late Jo Ann Yamaguchi Asakawa, and grandson of Moto and Florence Asakawa, is headed for Miyazaki Prefecture this month to teach English in the JET Program. He graduated last June from SDSU with a B.A. in Japanese. Also moving to Japan to participate in the JET Program is **JASON OKUHARA**, son of Roy and Karen Okuhara. He just received his B.S. in Computer Science from U.C. Irvine.

Other college graduates: **CHRIS YAMAUCHI**, U.C. Santa Barbara (B.S., Mechanical Engineering); **EMI TAKEGUCHI**, Cal State-Long Beach; **DAVID IWASHITA**, USC; **TOMOYE NAKASHIMA**, Cal. State-Northridge.

High school graduates: **JENNIFER HOSAKA**, Eastlake; **DEREK INOUE**, Mt. Miguel (will attend UCSD); **STACY MOMITA**, Serra; **MARI PULLEN**, Francis Parker (will attend Tufts University); **JESICA SEIFERS**, La Costa Canyon; **KEVIN UYEJI**, Mount Carmel.

More student stand-outs: **ERIC FUJIKAWA**, as student body president, was the key speaker at his middle school promotion; **COURTNEY OKUHARA** is one of 14 youths to participate in a two-week summer youth exchange program in Kyoto sponsored by the Buddhist Churches of America.

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.

SHINKICHI TAJIRI:

Truly, A Man For All Seasons

Last Part in a Series

Shinkichi George Tajiri is a renowned artist and distinguished professor who lives in Baarlo, The Netherlands. Prior to World War II, Professor Tajiri and his family lived in San Diego and, like the other members of the local Nikkei community, were forced into exile in 1942 by Executive Order 9066. With his kind permission, we reproduce here the final edited portion of Professor Tajiri's autobiography.

Just after eleven in the morning of August 9, 1945, a single American B-29 bomber released an atomic bomb over Nagasaki. It exploded 1,500 ft. above the ground, leaving half of the population of 260,000 dead, wounded or missing. It devastated Nagasaki and killed most of my Father's relatives who were living there. On August 14, the Japanese military surrendered.

I was demobilized on January 9, 1945, and went to join my mother in Chicago where she had relocated after three years in the camp. My two younger brothers were then in the regular U.S. Army, and my mother and sister were living on the South side near the University of Chicago where my sister was enrolled in the Department of Anthropology. Shortly after I arrived she left for Tokyo as a civilian employee of the Army. After completing a one-year contract as a secretary, she became a reporter and subsequently the regional editor for the Army newspaper, *The Stars and Stripes*.

I applied for the G.I. Bill and was accepted at the Art Institute of Chicago. Unfortunately, it was full and I couldn't get a place until autumn. In the meantime I got a job at the Matsumoto Antique Repair Shop in the "Loop." I made little hands and feet for broken Meissen figurines.

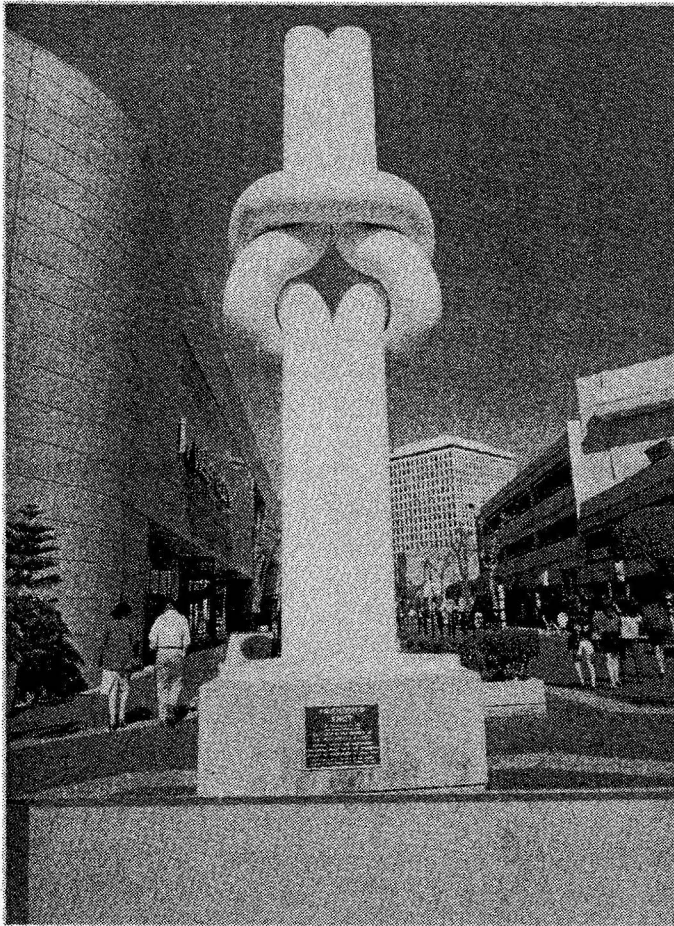
Three Issei, one Kibei and two Nisei were working in the shop. One of the Nisei was a guy who blinked a lot and always wore a double-breasted suit and a bow tie. The other, Sylvia Omoto, a beautiful and talented young artist from Hawai'i, was already at the Art Institute. The atmosphere in the shop was busy and homelike with haiku shouted back and forth the whole day. Unhappily I couldn't understand them since I never learned Japanese.

In September, I got into the Institute and completed one school year. I remember the stimulating art history course offered by Katherine Blackshear. She started in Mesopotamia and was working her way West when I decided to leave the United States. The racial climate after the war wasn't too healthy for a young Japanese American. America suffered enormous casualties in the Pacific theatre and I reminded many people of their recent enemy. As a result, I was frequently subjected to racial slurs. Under these circumstances I felt it would be difficult to realize myself in the United States. I heard that the great cubist sculptor Ossip Zadkine had opened

a school in Paris that was accredited by the Veterans Administration. I wrote to him and was accepted.

The first twenty-four years of my life, except for one year in an American-style concentration camp and three years in the U.S. Army—twenty months in Europe during World War II—I spent in the United States as a free person. My parents were living in the U.S. at the time of my birth, so according to the laws of the country I was an American citizen and entitled to full civil rights. This did not prevent my imprisonment along with 120,000 other Japanese Americans, of all ages, after the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 by the Japanese military forces.

The incarceration and above circumstances convinced me to leave the USA shortly after I returned from the war in Europe. I have been living in Europe since September 1948.



Friendship Knot of 1981, Little Tokyo

Professor Tajiri continued his education in Europe, later becoming a distinguished teacher himself. Eventually, he and his family settled in the Netherlands where he resides today and continues his art. Professor Tajiri has become famous for, among other things, his monumental sculptures which includes a number of "Friendship Knots." An example of his work, this one dedicated to the memory of pioneer Issei Dr. Morinosuke Kajima, stands in the Little Tokyo neighborhood of Los Angeles where Professor Tajiri grew up. ~D.E.

PANAMA CITY, HERE I COME!



Karen Kawasaki shows her Panama photo album to Debbie, Garrick and Jilly Kodama. Taken at Karen's JAHSSD bon voyage party at the home of Bob and Hisae Batchelder, June 20

We received the following e-mail from Karen Kawasaki in New Mexico where she was receiving training to prepare her for a two-year stint at an International Baccalaureate school in Panama City. She is on leave from Mt. Carmel High School where she teaches U.S. History. Karen has been serving faithfully as JAHSSD Secretary and we will miss her tremendously. We look forward to periodic updates from her during her stay in Panama.

Hi all: I hope you are all well, and that you are enjoying a relaxing summer. I've said goodbye to all of you over the past couple months, and I hate these extended farewells, but I wanted to let you know one last time before I left the country how much I appreciated your being a part of my life and that I will miss you.

I am now sitting in a college library in Las Vegas, New Mexico. This town of 16,000 people is the closest town to Montezuma, New Mexico where I will be next week at training to teach IB History...

I leave for Panama City a few days after I get back from IB training. It has been an exciting, but exhausting month since Mt. Carmel's school year ended...I'm still quite tired from moving all of my stuff out of my classroom! I've been working on moving out of my condo and putting my life in order. Every day brings a new errand to run or somebody I have to call to arrange a service...It's overwhelming at times. My moving out of the country hasn't really hit me yet...

I'm sure when I board the plane for Panama City in 9 days, the reality of my decisions will finally start to sink in. But this move is a good one for me, perhaps the best decision I've made for myself in the past two years! I'm excited, but a little nervous.

Stay well, and please keep in touch via email if you can. I'll miss you. See you in 2004! I will send my snail mail address in Panama City once I find a place to live, but mail delivery will take about two weeks (life has a different pace in South America!).

Saludós,
Karen

A RENDEZVOUS WITH HISTORY

by Don Estes

It goes without saying that most Americans know of the December 7th attack on Pearl Harbor, but even today, very few have ever heard of, much less know about, the place where World War II first came to America's mainland.

Today, Ellwood Beach is a beautiful stretch of white sand west of Goleta in Santa Barbara County. In February 1942, however, the beach that was about to have a rendezvous with history was the site of the Barnsdall oil field and a Richfield gasoline cracking plant.

Following the Pearl Harbor attack, the Japanese Navy ordered six patrol submarines to take up station off the West Coast of the United States. Between December 18, 1941 and February 23, 1942, they launched attacks on eight merchant ships and one fishing boat. Of these, six ships were sunk, including the *S.S. Montebello* which went down in a thousand feet of water off Cambria with a reported 74,000 barrels of crude oil which she still carries to this day.

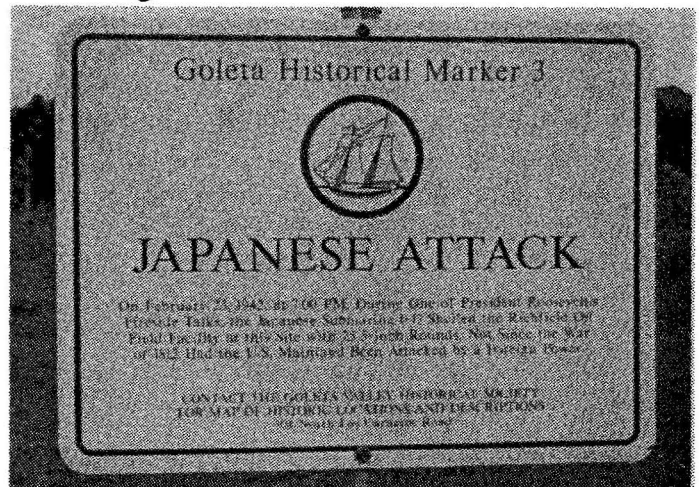
On the evening of Monday, February 23, at 7:00 p.m.—four days after signing Executive Order 9066—President Franklin D. Roosevelt spoke to a nation at war in one of his now famous Fireside Chats. At about that same time, Captain Koso Nishio ordered the submarine I-17 to open fire on Ellwood Beach and its petroleum facilities. The resulting bombardment represented the first time the mainland of the United States had been intentionally attacked by a foreign government since the War of 1812.

In 1954, Captain Mochitsura Hashimoto, himself a decorated submarine commander, wrote that during World War II, orders to carry out shore bombardments were not popular with Japanese submarine captains. Most captains considered the risk to their boat and crew too high when compared with the tactical benefits. Given the distances involved, Hashimoto stated, "...It was quite useless to aim for a small target, and the usual practice was to plaster a particular area with the idea of frightening the populace."

Aside from an estimated \$500 in damage to several sheds punctured by shrapnel and a number of craters scattered throughout the area, little physical damage was done in the attack. In one footnote to the history of World War II, Army Captain Bernard Hogen was wounded several days later while attempting to defuse an unexploded Japanese shell. He spent the next fifty days in the hospital and achieved the distinction of being the only U.S. serviceman in World War II to receive the Purple Heart Medal for enemy action on the U.S. mainland.

The attack on Ellwood Beach had dire domestic consequences. It was cited by Lieutenant General John L. DeWitt as yet another excuse for incarceration and removal of the West Coast's Nikkei population he so badly wanted to lock up, the Constitution notwithstanding. The I-17 with all hands on board was sunk off New Caledonia on August 17, 1943, by a New Zealand trawler and U.S. naval aircraft. A Japanese "Long Lance"

torpedo fired by the I-21 at the *SS Montebello* was later recovered from the Santa Barbara Channel, can be seen today at the San Diego Maritime Museum.



Goleta Historical Marker 3

Today, the site of Captain Nishio's attack is marked by Goleta Historical Marker 3. Gone are the derricks and oil tanks that offered such tempting targets. In their place are the Sandpiper Golf Course and the ultra-exclusive Bacara Resort and Spa. If you're ever driving north on Highway 101, get off at the Glen Annie/Storke Road off-ramp in Goleta. Go left to Hollister Avenue. Turn right on Hollister to the turn-off for the Sandpiper Golf Course Clubhouse. Park your car and walk toward the beach. Next to a very nice public bathroom, you'll find the easily identifiable sign.

WE GET LETTERS...

Dear Professor Estes:

A belated explanation about the *suzuri-ishi* which I donated to the Historical Society last year.

The *suzuri-ishi* (stone for making sumi ink) is a product of Nachi, Wakayama-ken Japan, an area famed for its *kuro ishi* (black rock) from the Nachi River. It was given to my father, Rikizo Ujyeno, when he left Japan [for the U.S.] in 1897 at the age of 19.

This *suzuri-ishi* is unique in its shape. Because it was a reminder of his home town, my father treasured it for years until his death in Chicago in 1957. I was fortunate to inherit it and used it for *sumi-e* (brush painting) which I never mastered.

Since it is such a unique *suzuri-ishi*, I would like to see it preserved for future generations of Nikkei to appreciate. That's why I have entrusted it to you and the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego.

Sincerely,
Ritsu Ujyeno Nabeta

Dear Mrs. Nabeta: Thank you once again not only for your generous donation, but for providing us with the background for your father's *suzuri-ishi*. Having this type of information provides a much needed "human dimension" to our artifacts which we then can pass along to those viewing our exhibits. ~D.E.

MORE LETTERS...

Ben Segawa visited Susan Stark's 8th grade class at the San Diego Jewish Academy in Del Mar to talk about internment. These are excerpts from the thank you letters he received afterwards from the students.

Thank you so much for coming to our school and teaching us about the detention camps and what happened to the Japanese in our very own city. I couldn't believe that even in San Diego the Japanese people who had lived here for all of their life were sent away to the middle of nowhere...I was mostly shocked about our country's not so glorious past. The government confused citizens with enemies. I hope that internment camps will never spring up again in our country. ~Matthew F.

It was great to have a more personal point of view rather than the textbooks which are extremely boring. I enjoyed being able to ask you questions. You made me realize how Japanese Americans must of felt when they were forced to relocate to unfamiliar areas and [how] they felt when they had to make the difficult decision of what to take with them and what to leave behind. ~Bryan E.

From your presentation I learned a lot! I learned how many internment camps there were in the United States and where they were located. I also learned that other Asians wore pins so they wouldn't be confused with the Japanese. This reminded me of when the Jews had to wear yellow stars to say they were Jewish. ~Jaimie B.

I was very touched and moved by your story. I briefly had heard about what happened to the Japanese Americans in the past, but I never knew very much about it. Now, thanks to you, I have a better understanding of what happened. I was very upset to hear that America convicted you just because of your race. By telling people your story you are preserving history and I greatly appreciate what you are doing. ~Reuben W.

I am very sorry about your past, but its good that you are going around teaching students what went on...I am very glad that you came to speak to us because now I know that things like this didn't only happen to the Jews, but other minorities as well. ~Jessica R.

I especially love learning about the past and when someone that lived that past comes and tells us, it is much better than reading [about it in] a book. ~Carlos E.

When my class and I first started studying about the Japanese-American internment camps, I was actually angry that the event was compared to the Holocaust. I was angry because the Holocaust is and always will be a part of my family's past. I was under the impression that these...camps were fun and vacation like. Thank you very much for coming to my class and opening my eyes to the cruel treatment that occurred to you and many

more families. If it wasn't for you I would have still been blind to this horrible point in history. ~Alex N.

I am a mixed race child and I have hated learning about discrimination and destruction of cultures. My dad is African-American and his mother was part Cherokee Indian. I am very disgusted by the treatment of African-Americans, Japanese Americans, and others. Thank you for sharing the horror of discrimination with my class. ~Jake F.

I not only learned about the internment camps, but things you should know about life too. One of the main things was that is it very important to not judge people by their appearance. When you walked in the room, we could have all saw you as a Japanese. But when you walked out we saw that we were wrong. You are an American and speak perfect English. Years from now I will remember this. ~Jessica S.

Being American-Mexican, I was able to understand some of your feelings. Before you talked to us, I saw you as a Japanese. After the talk, I saw you as a pure American with Japanese culture. I had the wrong idea of people like you, but now I know the right one. After you left, I couldn't believe how prejudiced I was before you taught me many values in life...I admire how hard you have tried for discrimination to be destroyed. ~Galia B.

I must admit I prejudged you and thought you were probably from Japan. However, I soon found out you were born here and you are, in some ways, even more American than I am. I really got so much out of your visit. ~Denise G.

One part of your presentation I found interesting was when you talked about the living conditions. I cannot imagine living in a dusty wooden barracks without a bathroom for four years. I hope nothing like those camps ever happens in the United States again. ~Eli F.

You have taught me what a true American is. It is not a white Caucasian male, it is an American born person who is loyal to their country...Before you came to talk to our class, I thought the people like you who were sent to the internment camp would always change their views on America. From what I've seen, the American-Japanese continued to view themselves as loyal, patriotic Americans. I really appreciate you teaching this to me, and I hope to see you again soon. ~Joey G.

ROY S. YONEKURA, C.P.A.

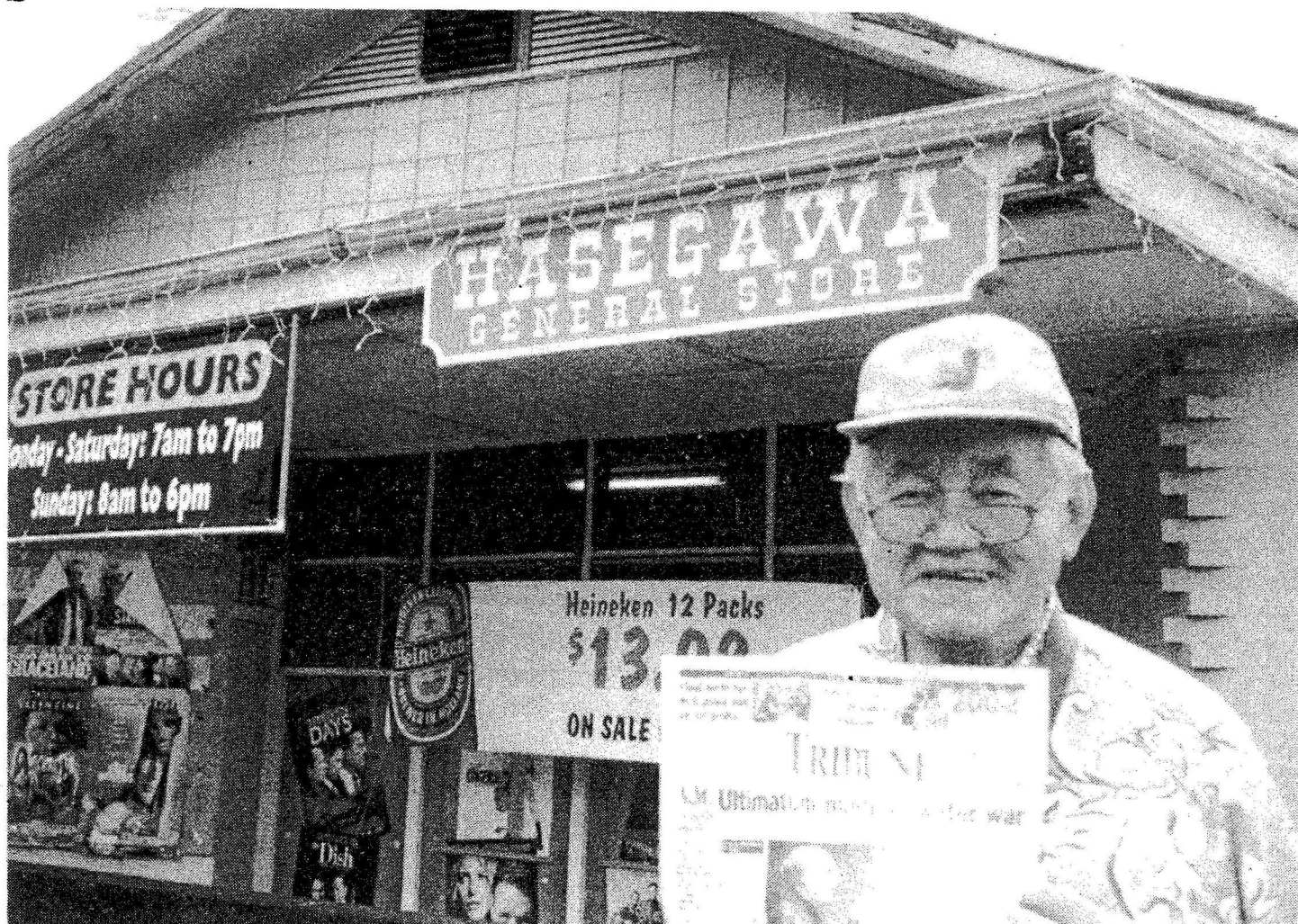
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IT PAYS TO BE A JAHSSD CORPORATE MEMBER: Society member Harry Honda of Roland Heights, Calif., stands outside our Corporate Member HASEGAWA GENERAL STORE in Hana, Maui

JSSDT SEEKS HOST FAMILIES

The Japan Society of San Diego and Tijuana, together with the executive committee for the 54th Japan-American Student Conference (JASC), are seeking San Diego families to host two JASC delegates for two nights and three days.

Founded in 1934, The Japan-American Student Conference strives to promote peace through mutual understanding, friendship, and trust between the two nations.

In past years, the delegates have described the homestay program as one of the best and most memorable activities of the Conference. The homestay program provides the delegates with an opportunity to eat home-cooked food, relax, and learn about the daily life of an American family.

The homestay program will be held in San Diego August 17-19 (Saturday-Monday). Each host family will have two delegates, an American and a Japanese, of the same gender. Host families will be invited to attend the final forum and reception.

Details about the forum and homestay program are available from Patrick Graupp, JSSDT Executive Director, 1250 Sixth Avenue, Suite 226, San Diego, CA 92101-5035. Phone: 619/233-6873 or e-mail: <jssdt@sbcglobal.net>.

"DEAR MISS BREED"

by Mits Kawamoto

In the period before World War II, Clara Breed, the Children's Librarian at the San Diego Public Library, befriended many Japanese-American children who checked out books from the library. After the Pearl Harbor attack, all of the Japanese families were forced to evacuate. On the day they were to leave from the Santa Fe Depot in downtown San Diego, Miss Breed was there, passing out postcards to the children and encouraging them to write to her.

Upon relocating to Santa Anita and eventually Poston, many of them did correspond with her. They told her about camp life and expressed their feelings about the incarceration. She tried to fill some of their needs and sent them flower seeds, crossword puzzles, pens, stationery, candy and gum. She also sent books to individuals as well as for the camp library. For three years, she was the children's link to the "outside" world, a faithful friend.

Clara Breed kept all 250 letters from her young friends, each a record of life in the camps. These letters have become collections in the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, and the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego.

Some of the letters are also included in an exhibit by the National Postal Museum (a part of the Smithsonian Institute) in Washington, D.C.

On April 18, 2002, these letters were the focus of a Day of Remembrance program co-sponsored by the San Diego Public Library and the JAHSSD. Karen Kawasaki, a history teacher at Mt. Carmel High School and JAHSSD Board member, presented six of her students, Liane Lam, Sophia Kim, Anton Palma, Reinaflor Layug, Sarah Messali and Falon Bollig, who read segments of letters written by six of the correspondents. The presentation took place in the Auditorium of the Central Library downtown.



Portraits of letter writers who corresponded with Miss Breed

As their youthful portraits looked out at us, we listened to the words—written almost 60 years ago—of Katherine Tasaki, Fusa Tsumagari, Louise Ogawa, Tetsuzo Hirasaki and Margaret Ishino. One of the students, Reinaflor Layug, even sang a song which had been included in one of the letters: *Oh, Fellow Campers*, to the tune of *Oh, Susanna*. All of the students did a commendable job, and their efforts made for a successful evening.



Mt. Carmel student readers (left to right): Anton Palma, Reinaflor Layug, Liane Lam, Sophia Kim, Sarah Messali and Falon Bollig

Clara Breed was the Head Librarian of the San Diego Public Library from 1945 until her retirement in 1970. Before she died in 1994 at the age of 88, she was honored as a special guest at the Sixth Poston III Reunion in San Diego in

ANSEL ADAMS' MANZANAR PHOTOGRAPHS AVAILABLE ONLINE

"Suffering under a Great Injustice," Ansel Adams' photographs of Japanese American internment at Manzanar, are now available in their entirety on the Library of Congress' American Memory Website.

The rare set of photographs documenting Japanese Americans interned at the Manzanar War Relocation Center was made available on the web site on February 20, the 100th anniversary of Adams birth. The collection can be found at <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aamhtml/>.

The collection features 209 photographic prints and 241 original negatives taken by Adams in 1943 of Japanese Americans who were relocated from their homes during World War II and interned in the Manzanar War Relocation Center in California. For the first time, researchers are able to see online the photographs Adams made of what Congress declared in 1988 the "grave injustice" done to persons of Japanese ancestry during the war. The Web presentation also includes digital images of the first edition of *Born Free and Equal* which was based on his work at Manzanar.

As America's best-known photographer, Adams is renowned for his views of Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada. He made photographs that emphasize the natural beauty of the land.

By contrast, Adams' photographs of people have been largely overlooked.

The evacuation and relocation of Japanese Americans struck a personal chord with Adams when Harry Oye, his parents' long-time employee who was an Issei in poor health, was summarily taken into custody by authorities and sent to a hospital halfway across the country in Missouri. Angered by this event, Adams welcomed an opportunity in the fall of 1943 to photograph internees at the Manzanar War Relocation Center.

Adams produced an essay on the Japanese Americans interned in this beautiful but remote and undeveloped region where the mountains served both as a metaphorical fortress and as an inspiration for the internees. Concentrating on the internees and their activities, Adams photographed family life in the barracks; people at work—internees as welders, farmers, and garment makers—and recreational activities, including baseball and volleyball games.

Adams donated the original negatives and prints from his work at Manzanar to the Library of Congress between 1965 and 1968. (Information excerpted from e-mailed press release.)

1991. She will always be remembered as a special friend to the children of San Diego, and as a beacon of light during those dark days of World War II when Japanese Americans had so few supporters.

THE BUDDHIST CHURCH EXPERIENCE IN THE CAMPS, 1942 - 1945

AN EXHIBIT OF PHOTOS, ARTICLES & MEMORABILIA



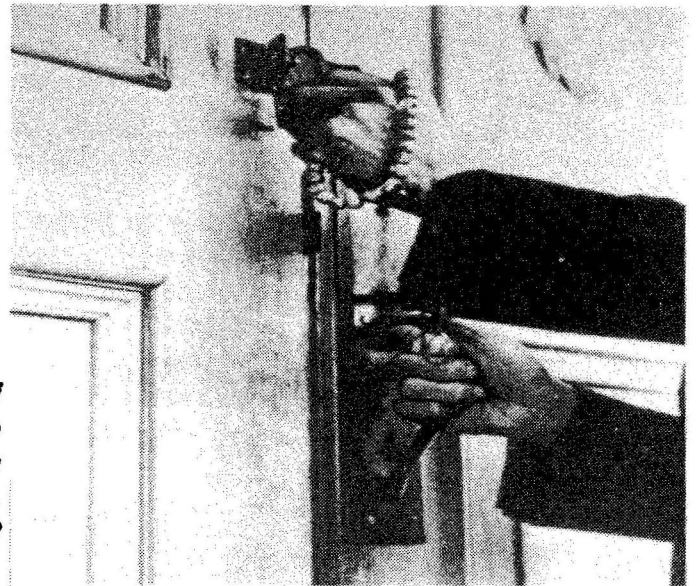
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A POEM

by Liane Lam

Curry Chicken and Soy Sauce

What does it mean to be Asian?

For me, being Asian is waking up on a Sunday morning
to the sweet smell of incense at Grandma's house,
or the eye-watering smell of "White Flower Oil" ointment,

Being Asian is sipping Chai tea and eating samosas
on a Friday afternoon,
or making roti while chatting with your mom
on a Saturday afternoon,

Being Asian is reading the Chinese gossip magazines
to find out if Vivian Chow is still married,

Being Asian is looking forward to Moon Day
to eat the savory Moon Cakes,
or receiving "Lucky Money" at Chinese New Year,

Being Asian is having a constant craving
for Boba milk tea, like myself,

Being Asian is putting a sacred, symbolic dot
on your forehead to ward off the evil eye,

Being Asian is sitting down to curry chicken and
soy sauce to enjoy every bit of it.

BON APPETIT!



Liane Lam is a senior at Mt. Carmel High School. She was one of the participants in the Day of Remembrance program featuring the Clara Breed Letters at the Central Library last April (see "Dear Miss Breed" on p. 12 and photo of students on p. 13). Her teacher, Karen Kawasaki, describes Liane as "half Chinese, half Indian, and completely interesting." Karen thought Footprints readers might enjoy a glimpse of what's inside a high school student's head.

I CUDDA BEEN A CONTENDAH!

by Mich Himaka

"I cudda been a contendah!" laments the Marlon Brando character in the movie, *On The Waterfront*.

Brando played a punch-drunk fighter who had been asked to throw a number of fights, most of which he probably could have won legitimately.

I remember those words because I cudda been a contendah, too, in a recent contest they held in Montpelier, Vermont. I'm pretty sure of that.

If only Naomi hadn't thrown away my favorite ones. The ones with the worn-out soles, tears on the sides, broken shoe-strings, dog poop. My favorite old tennis shoes. (Back east, they call them sneakers. I never got used to hearing them described that way. They were always tennis shoes.)

Anyway, they had this contest in Montpelier to find the worst, smelly sneakers. The news article described them as having been left in the rain, worn to mow the lawn, dragged through mud. Contestants came from as far away as Alaska to try and overwhelm the judges with their foul-smelling entries in the Annual Rotten Sneaker Contest.

One kid sang a rap song telling how his father made him keep his sneakers on the fire escape. But the winner was a 9-year-old boy from New Milford, Connecticut, who took the top prize of \$500. His sneakers had walked through cow pies on his parents' dairy farm.

Cow pies? How can they be worse than dog poop?

I cudda been a contendah! \$500! Agh!



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HUNG WAI CHING: EULOGY, Part II

by Ted Tsukiyama, 442nd RCT Vet.

(Editor's note: This is the second half of an appreciation of Mr. Ching given in Hawaii by Ted Tsukiyama, a lawyer and 442nd veteran/historian in Hawaii. The efforts of Mr. Ching following Pearl Harbor show the influence just one determined person can have on the fate of others. We thank Yo Takehara for sending the eulogy which has been edited for length.)

Back at Camp Shelby, the high brass of the 442nd was going crazy trying to figure out who this "Bossy Chinaman" was, always accompanied by ranking officers and who could order all kinds of changes in the 442nd organization. Little did they realize that his demands carried the authority of Gen. Emmons, the military governor of Hawaii; Joe Farrington, Hawaii's delegate to Congress; War Secretary McCloy; and eventually even the White House itself.

Earlier in the war, Mr. Ching's influential Quaker friend had introduced him to Eleanor Roosevelt and they quickly became good friends. She gave Mr. Ching an open invitation to visit the White House anytime. On one of those visits, as Mr. Ching was telling Mrs. Roosevelt about the "Japanese situation in Hawaii," she said, "The President should hear this," and took Mr. Ching upstairs to talk to President Roosevelt.

Mr. Ching recalled that he talked to the President for 40 minutes but was so nervous and excited that when the President offered to light his cigarette, he put it in his coat pocket as a souvenir and burnt a hole in his new suit. But he remembered that one thing he told the President was that Gen. Emmons and FBI Chief Shivers were doing a great job back in Hawaii, had security well in hand and that there was no necessity for a mass evacuation of Japanese from Hawaii. As we all know, Hawaii never suffered the same tragedy of mass internment of Japanese as happened on the West Coast of the mainland.

After returning to Hawaii from Camp Shelby, Mr. Ching spoke before countless business groups and civic organizations praising the military records and achievements of the 100th and 442nd. His constant message and plea was: When the boys come home from the wars, accept and treat them as full American citizens, open up greater job opportunities for them and help them finish their education and vocational training. After the war, Mr. Ching led the way in helping returning veterans rehabilitate back to civilian life, return to their old jobs or get placed into banks and Big Five jobs previously inaccessible to persons of Japanese ancestry. He headed the Veteran's Memorial Scholarship Fund and obtained scholarship aid to help needy veterans finish their education and vocational training.

One of Mr. Ching's favorite scholarship stories is about a veteran who needed help to go to journalism school and Mr. Ching tapped one of the Big Five businessmen for funds to finance this veteran's schooling. He said the donor went to his grave never knowing or realizing that he had helped finance the

education of Koji Ariyoshi, who would become publisher and editor of the Honolulu *Record*, the chief critic and anti-Big Five newspaper in Honolulu!

Mr. Ching told of another of his VVV and 442nd boys who was attending Chicago Law School who called and asked Mr. Ching if he could get a \$300 loan to finish law school. Mr. Ching sent him the \$300. "You know, after that guy came back to Hawaii, he not only paid back the \$300 but he contributed every year many, many times over that \$300 so that others could get the same breaks." That veteran became the leading labor lawyer in Hawaii and wound up as a justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court, Justice Edward Nakamura.

One of the most notable persons Mr. Ching helped, however, was not a veteran but the former Hawaii FBI Chief Robert Shivers. Shivers [told] Mr. Ching how he wanted to retire in Hawaii and asked his assistance to get him the job as U.S. Collector of Customs. The Japanese community raised funds to send Mr. Ching to Washington, D.C. to see Mrs. Roosevelt. He told her how much Shivers had done for the people of Hawaii during the war and was well deserving of the job. Mrs. Roosevelt said she "would talk to Henry." Mr. Ching asked: "Who's Henry?" Henry was Henry Morgenthau, the Secretary of the Treasury and head of U.S. Customs. She got Shivers the job all right but Mr. Ching told the author, "You know, I really wanted that customs job myself. Hey, as collector of customs, I could control the opium trade to Hawaii and become a millionaire!"

Mr. Ching ended his life far from being a millionaire. In fact, he never used his wartime position of power nor his high-placed contacts to gain any benefit or profit for himself.

Mr. Ching's place in Hawaii's wartime history is secure. At the centennial celebration of Japanese immigration to Hawaii in 1986, Hung Wai Ching was nominated as one of 24 non-Japanese, and the only one of Chinese ancestry, who had made significant contribution and support to [the] welfare and progress of Hawaii's Japanese during their 100-year history. Mr. Ching has been recognized not just locally but as a national historical figure. He called me not too long ago and said his grandson, Christopher, had called him from Los Angeles excited to tell him that he saw Mr. Ching's picture in a museum. Mr. Ching asked what kind of museum would be showing his picture and I told him it's the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles [where] they have a photo and story about him in the history of the Japanese American experience during World War II. I urged him to go see it the next time he went to Los Angeles.

Following a trip to Los Angeles, Mr. Ching said he went to the Museum but they wanted him to pay admission. He told them, "You got my picture in there. I just want to see my picture." The lady replied, "Five dollars, please." So, Mr. Ching turned around and walked away. I got after him telling him, "Hung Wai, you tight Pake, you. You don't want to shell out \$5 to go in and see just how much all the Japanese in the United States remember you, honor you, and want to thank you for all you did for during the war!"

Mr. Ching's place in history [was] further revealed directly

to his son, King Lit Ching, one day on a visit to New York when he was introduced to a mainland-born 442nd veteran who asked him if he knew a Hung Wai Ching. King Lit told his father: "When I told him Hung Wai Ching was my father, he really flipped. He told me all about you and he cried, Pop. The man cried. It was kind of embarrassing but then, I was so proud!"

All of us from the 442nd know exactly how that veteran felt. Those were tears of gratitude. He cried for all of us. But it is now time to say "goodbye" to Hung Wai. So on behalf of all of "Hung Wai's Boys," I will simply say:

"So long, Hung Wai. You did one helluva job for us. Thanks for everything. Aloha!"

HOW TO OBTAIN PERSONAL RECORDS FROM THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

IAHSSD periodically reprints this guide in Footprints to assist anyone interested in obtaining copies of War Relocation Authority case files on individuals who were in internment or relocation camps.

Individuals seeking such records for themselves or a family member must write and make requests for such files. The records include medical records, employment records, background information, school or education records, property records and genealogical information among others. For instance, you might find the names of your grandparents in your parents' files.

You can order your own personal file or the files of any deceased relatives if you have the necessary information.

You will need the full names of relatives, their relationship to you, date of birth, date of death, nicknames they might have used in camp, dates or approximate dates of evacuation, and all the camps where they were interned.

It will cost a few cents for each page and some of the pages might be repetitive.

The National Archives will send you an order blank telling you how many pages your requested file(s) run and it will say how much you will be required to pay to obtain what you ordered or want. It will take a few weeks before the files arrive.

If the person now deceased was born after 1921, you will be asked to submit a copy of the death certificate.

To get your own file, for instance, state you were evacuated from San Diego, California, on April 8, 1942, and were first sent to the Santa Anita Assembly Center. Then around August 27, 1942, your family was sent to Poston Camp III in Arizona. If you can remember, add the date you left Poston. Give your full name, nickname, date of birth, and family number (if you know what it was).

If you have any questions, the National Archives telephone number is (202) 501-5395. A sample letter requesting information for a deceased relation follows in the next column.

SAMPLE REQUEST LETTER

National Archives & Records Administration
Attn: Textural Reference
Washington, D.C. 20408
[Date]

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is _____. I would like to obtain copies of War Relocation Authority personal case files for my [father, mother, sister, brother] who has passed away.

Deceased's Name:

AKA or Nickname: (if any)

Date of Birth:

Place of Birth:

Date of Death:

Place of Death:

Evacuated from:

Date Evacuated:

Camps Where Interned: (list all camps)

I understand there will be a per-page charge for each file requested.

Thank you for your assistance.

(Signature)

Type your full name under your signature

Address

City, State, Zip

IN GRATITUDE

The Membership and the Board of the IAHSSD gratefully acknowledge the following donations to the ongoing work of the Historical Society:

Mr. and Mrs. Mich Himaka

in memory of

Mrs. Mitsuko Yoshioka

Mr. George Higuchi

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Friends of Joe and Mits Yoshioka

in fond memory of

Mits Yoshioka

CAMP KOOSKIA, IDAHO: 1943-45

by Dr. Priscilla Wegars

Dr. Wegars spoke on this little-known Japanese internment camp at the San Diego Public Library on April 4, 2002, in a program cosponsored by the San Diego Public Library and JAHSSD. With her kind permission, the following is excerpted from her research papers.

The Kooskia (pronounced KOOS-key) Internment Camp was an obscure, virtually forgotten World War II detention facility located in a remote area of north-central Idaho between May 1943 and May 1945.

The "enemy aliens" of Japanese ancestry came from Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, Utah and Washington, as well as Peru, Mexico and Panama.

They were enlisted to build what would become the present (Lewis and Clark) Highway 12 between Lewiston, Idaho, and Lolo, Montana, parallel to the Lochsa River.

On the morning of May 27, 1943, a "curious crowd" assembled at the Lewiston Union Pacific train depot to greet what the *Lewiston Morning Tribune* called "the Jap special," a train carrying 104 Japanese under the supervision of the federal Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization assisted by six husky, armed members of the Border Patrol. The Japanese were taken up the Clearwater River to Kooskia.

Internee Sakaye (Ed) Yoshimura wrote to relatives in Poston describing the journey: "We spent three days and three nights on the train playing poker-games, sleeping and enjoying the scenery along the road through New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Oregon, Washington and on the heart of the State of Idaho. We got off the train at a little town in Idaho called Kooskia at about 5 p.m. Then on a truck into the mountains about 30 miles and we finally landed at our destination."

The Kooskia Internment Camp consisted of buildings and facilities of the Canyon Creek Prison Camp, a federal work camp for prisoners who helped build the Lewis and Clark Highway between 1935-43. The federal prisoners moved out in May 1943 and the Japanese moved in a week later.

The Japanese interned there were all male volunteers ranging in age from the low 20s to the mid-60s. Even though they were volunteers for the project, they were still unconstitutionally incarcerated and were not free to leave. They formed a cohesive unit defying racist stereotyping to win praise and admiration for their work ethic and their successful achievements.

A 1929 Geneva Convention document specifies how prisoners of war should be treated and says internees could not be conscripted for the kind of work at Kooskia so the internees were all volunteers. They were paid \$55 or \$65 a month with a \$10 deduction for special clothing. Camp workers working in the kitchen and laundry and so on were paid 80 cents a day. By the end of May 1943, there were 104 Santa Fe internees who committed to Kooskia solving the camp operation problem. All of the income was distributed equally among the entire group of volunteers.

The volunteers listed a variety of reasons for volunteering for road work. Kizaemon Momii transferred to Kooskia so his son could visit him before joining the army. Kinzo Asaba and Shohei Arase wanted to be closer to their families interned at Minidoka. James Yano just "wanted to get away from dusty, dry" Santa Fe where he was interned. Kosaku Sato volunteered so he could pay the rent on his second-hand store in Seattle so his son could join the army and not have to worry about the payments.

Japanese Peruvian internees Koshio Henry Shimabukuro (Shima) and his father, Taro, were at Kennedy, Tex., where there was nothing to do. Altogether, a total of 256 men were detained at Kooskia during the two years it was open but not at the same time. Some remained the entire two years.

The internees began writing to friends and relatives shortly after they arrived at Kooskia. Initial letters revealed a deep appreciation for the natural scenic beauty of the site.

"It's a paradise in the mountains! It reminds me so much of Yosemite National Park," wrote Yoshito Kadotani.

Of their living conditions, their reactions were mixed. Hisahiko Teraoka wrote: "Rooms are heated with steam. Each one is provided with a private locker, a table and chair are shared by two and the beds are double-decked. The floors are painted brown, the walls varnished and the ceiling are white plaster boards. There are many windows which give us plenty of light and ventilation."

According to letters to relatives, the work the internees were required to perform was not easy. Yoshimura wrote: "It's not merely a job but a he-man's job. I drive a dump truck and you ought to see the size of the truck. A great big monster as big as (a) locomotive and as husky as a war-tank."

T. Mitsu Shiotani wrote: "We are building a road between Idaho and Montana. It is (a) very, very mountain(ous) region. Most of us cut brush and trees from mountainside and burn them clear to the ground for steam shovel to work on. I do the burning most of the time, sometimes I work with axe and shovel. So far, I worked 15 days. It is not too easy for me but I think I can keep it up. Some young fellows do real heavy work such as driving heavy truck, drilling rock with pneumatic machine and cutting huge tree with a big saw etc. One fellow almost went over into the river with his big dump truck but he managed to jump off just in time. So far, we have had no accident. It is not so dangerous as one is inclined to think of...road building, providing one takes reasonable precaution."

Although safety should have been a supervisory concern, it wasn't. A doctor making an inspection visit learned that the day before, an internee had his ear nearly severed by a falling rock. The doctor was appalled when the engineer in charge very brusquely informed him that safety helmets, safety boots, safety belts, goggles, etc., were considered by him to be clothes, not equipment. He stated that the Immigration Department was supposed to furnish the clothes and he would not give the Japanese working on dangerous project any safety equipment whatsoever.

~ To be continued in the Fall Issue of Footprints. ~

(At the Central Library presentation, Dr. Wegars said there was a former San Diego photographer who went to Kooskia as a volunteer, but long-time residents could not recall the name. Can one of our readers identify this individual? ~M.H.)

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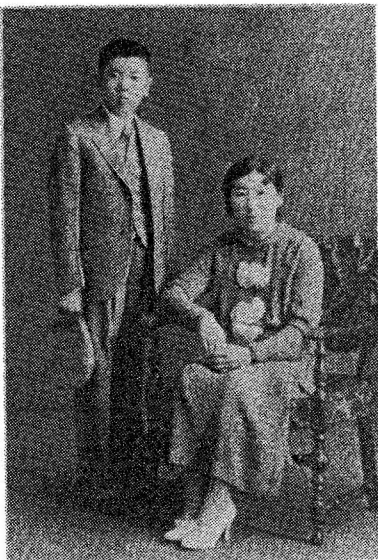
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