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The Case for Redress—Part 3

(The following is a continuation of the text of "Japanese American Incarceration: A Case for Redress," a booklet issued by the National Committee for Redress of the JACL.)

Because of the long background of prejudice and stereotypes the public found it easy to believe the false stories. High federal officials knew the facts, but they kept silent. By mid-January 1942, public opinion began to turn against the Japanese Americans. Elected officials, city councils, and civic organizations in California, Oregon and Washington demanded the ouster and incarceration of all Japanese Americans.

Earl Warren, then attorney general of California, made the incredible statement that the very absence of fifth column activities by Japanese Americans was confirmation that such actions were planned for the future. Warren also claimed American citizens of Japanese ancestry were more dangerous than nationals of Japan.

There were a few isolated acts of violence committed against Japanese Americans, but there was no reason to believe the entire Japanese American population was in danger. If there were any threats, it was the job of local police and sheriff departments to provide protection. Also many Japanese Americans were perfectly willing to take whatever risk necessary to protect their homes and property.

EXPULSION AND DETENTION

Like the immigration exclusion campaigns before, the California lobby pressured the federal government to remove and/or lock up all Japanese Americans. Oregon and Washington supported California's demands, but the rest of the nation was generally unconcerned about the tiny Japanese American minority. There were many important and real war problems needing attention, but the West Coast pressure groups seemed preoccupied with the elimination of Japanese Americans.

President Franklin Roosevelt eventually yielded to the pressures from California and signed Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942. Roosevelt signed the order despite objections from Attorney General Francis Biddle, who felt it was unconstitutional, and FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, who felt it was unnecessary.

Executive Order 9066 broadly authorized any military commander to exclude any person from any area. The presidential order did not mention any specific group, nor did it provide for detention. However, there was an understanding among high officials that the authorization was to be used for the purpose of removing and incarcerating the Japanese Americans. Also due to the lobbying from California, Congress backed the Executive Order by passing Public Law 77-503, which authorized a civil prison term and fine for a civilian convicted of violating a military order.

General John L. DeWitt, military commander of the Western Defense Command, thereupon issued a series

of over 100 military orders applying exclusively to civilians of Japanese ancestry living in the West Coast states. The sole basis for DeWitt's orders was ancestry; he was often quoted as stating: "Jap's a Jap. It makes no difference whether the Jap is a citizen or not." He further masked the issue of citizen rights by using the term "non-alien" to refer to United States citizens in all of his written orders.

It should be noted that martial law was not declared on the West Coast; (Continued on page 2)

Wendy Yoshimura Files Appeal of Conviction

SAN FRANCISCO—Wendy Yoshimura, who made headlines when she was arrested here with Patricia Hearst three years ago and who was subsequently convicted on a weapons possession charge, appealed that conviction late last month.

The 35-year-old artist-activist has been free on \$50,000 bail since shortly after she was sentenced to one to five years in prison last year.

Dennis Riordan, deputy state public defender, told the district court of appeals that Miss Yoshimura's trial "was turned into a circus by the prosecutor's inflammatory and improper use of Yoshimura's association with Patty Hearst."

"Hearst and Yoshimura had never heard of one another in 1972, the time of (Wendy's) charged crimes. No evidence exists to link Yoshimura to any crime of which Hearst or the Symbionese Liberation Army has been accused."

Said defense lawyer James Larsen, the prosecution's evidence "didn't relate to events of 1972," but to Miss Yoshimura's underground travels with Miss Hearst and fellow fugitives.

The Japanese American woman said that she has been working in a Berkeley restaurant and in a senior citizens programs.

Milwaukee Paper Hits Hayakawa Redress Stand

Taking a position contrary to that expressed in a recent Wall Street Journal editorial entitled "Guilt Mongering," which sided with Senator S.I. Hayakawa in opposing the current JACL drive for redress for wartime evacuees, the Milwaukee Journal on Aug. 12 chided the Senator for being "an extraordinarily forgiving man (who) offers to turn the other cheek, not primarily on his own behalf but on behalf of thousands of fellow Japanese Americans who were cruelly uprooted and placed in internment camps in the western U.S. during World War II."

The Milwaukee Journal conceded that "animosity (against Japanese Americans) has diminished," but went on,

"... we do not agree that the restitution effort does more harm than good. In the first place, those who were uprooted suffered real

Basement Workshop in Asian American Folk History, Arts Event

The Basement Workshop will hold its first Asian American Folk History and Arts Festival, called "ASIAN-AMERICA CELEBRATES," tomorrow and Saturday, Sept. 15 and 16, at its seventh-floor quarters at 199 Lafayette St.

The Basement, which houses the Asian American Resource Center and is a center for both visual and performing arts, is presenting the two-day festival as a benefit showcase for Asian American art, crafts, dance, drama, films, music, photography and poetry.

Exhibits and demonstrations will include slide shows and tai chi and kung fu demonstrations. On view will be paintings by local artists, and from time to time there will be poetry readings, film screenings and music and dance. For children, there will be games as well as other activities. Available on both days will be Asian foods.

It all begins at 7 p.m. tomorrow, continuing through 12 midnight. On Saturday, the doors will open at 12 noon and remain open until midnight. Admissions is \$3 for one day or \$5 for two days; for children under 12, 50 cents. Schedule information may be obtained by calling 925-3258 or 925-3264.

Chelsea Street Fair To Spotlight Racism

A street fair which aims to show how racism hurts the Chinese section of Manhattan in such areas as housing, health and education will be held on 17th Street between Eighth and Ninth Avenues on Sunday, Sept. 24, from 1 to 5 p.m.

Sponsoring the event is a coalition of organizations including the Union of Activists, formerly Asian Americans for Action.

Scheduled features of the fair will be entertainment, a rummage sale, and food and plant booths.

damages and have a right to seek recompense. Furthermore, anything as serious as the wholesale violation of the basic rights of Japanese Americans shouldn't be pushed into the nation's subconscious."

The editorial continued, "... the public needs to be reminded occasionally that the veneer of civilized conduct is thin, that some future national emergency could revive hostile feelings and provide the pretext for again persecuting a minority."

It concluded, "Thus, Hayakawa's 'forgive and forget' attitude about the internment may be commendable up to a point, but he should be careful just how much he encourages Americans to forget. There is a lesson in the mistake this nation made when it summarily deprived a whole category of people of their freedom. That lesson must not be forgotten, because it can help Americans avoid the same tragic error again."

George Shimamoto To Head JA Ass'n

George G. Shimamoto was elected president of the Japanese American Association of New York for the coming year at its 28th annual meeting and the first held in its new quarters at 7 W. 44 Street, on Aug. 31.

Outgoing president George Yamakawa was named Honorary President of the Association.

Elected to serve as vice presidents were Kanae Akiyama, Dr. Robert K. Emy, Toshi Miyazaki, Francis Y. Sogi and George Yuzawa.

Noboru Sato was selected executive secretary; George Y. Hara, treasurer; Shigeichi Matsukawa, assistant treasurer; and Chosuke Miyahira, Frank M. Okamura and Naohiro Sasaki were named auditors.

Four former presidents, Shig Kariya, Hiroshi Matsuo, Kyuichi Sugihara and Stanley T. Okada, were selected to act as advisors.

The following persons were named to head committees:

Finance, Jiro Murase; Welfare, Thomas Takubo; Scholarship, Yoshi T. Imai; Membership, Kazuo Mitsuya; Culture, Isaku Kida; Document, Fumie Adachi; Nisei, George Mukai; Public Relations, Edward M. Kurokawa; Seinen, Toshio Kiso; Social, Riki Ito; Women, Chiyo Kikuchi; Trade, Mozart H. Ishizuka.

Chosen to be directors of the organization were the following:

Jean Eno Ahearn, Mitsue Azuma, Keiichi Fujii, Rev. Haruyoshi Fujimoto, Rev. Justin Haruyama, Toru Hayashi, Dr. Teruo Hirose, Koji Ichida, Eiji Ishii, Sanko Kajihara, Tooru Kanazawa, Tsutomu Karino, Joe Katagiri, Kumiko Konaka, George Kyotow, Tomeji Maruyama, Tamehei Matsumoto, Tsugie Matsuo, Shigeo Mayeda, Takeji Miura, Ben S. Moribe, Toshio Morimoto, Dr. George Nagamatsu, Frank K. Okazaki, Bunji Omura, Suekichi Sada, Kimiyo Satow, Rev. Hozen Seki, Dr. Seiichi Shimomura, Takao Shimura, James Shiono, Toshio Soeda, George Sugai, Henry Sugimoto, Masato Takeda, Masaji Takeuchi, Kikue Tanaka, Yaye Togosaki, Charles Uehara, Makie Yamada, Tetsuo Yamazaki and Kentaro Yasuda.

Robert Ingersoll Is Japan Society Head

Robert S. Ingersoll, deputy chairman of the Board of Trustees, University of Chicago, former U.S. Ambassador to Japan and Deputy Secretary of State, was elected Chairman of the Japan Society at a recent meeting of the Society's board of directors. Mr. Ingersoll, who takes office immediately, succeeds John D. Rockefeller 3d who died in an automobile accident in July.

The Japan Society, which is located at 333 E. 47 St., was founded in 1907 as an association of individuals and corporations actively engaged in bringing the peoples of Japan and the United States closer together through cultural and educational discussions, studies and exchanges.

United Church to Mark 25th With Weekend Events

A three-day celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Japanese American United Church will get underway at 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 22, with a supper meeting at which the youth will be addressed by Dr. Paul Nagano, pastor of the Japanese Baptist Church of Seattle, Wash., who will be the principal guest speaker during the weekend.

The United Church, a product of the merger in 1953 of three Japanese churches in the city, actually has a history which dates back to about 1894, when emissaries of the Christian faith carried their message to Japanese seamen and others who were then living in boarding houses near the Brooklyn Naval yard.

Visitors to the church, at 255 Seventh Avenue, will be able to view an exhibit of old photographs compiled by Kanae Akiyama and a special commemorative painting by Henry Sugimoto which will be unveiled during the Sunday worship service on Sept. 24.

Other special events planned are a luncheon honoring church members who are 75 years or older, arranged by Mas Hoshino and Hiroshi Matsuo; special music by the choir under the direction of Mari Stenzel; and a playlet written by Robert Stenzel especially for the anniversary to be performed by George Mukai, Harry Kuwada and Toshiko Narita.

A commemorative plate has been designed by Miyo Endo and executed by the firm of Mikasa for purchase as a memento of the anniversary. Also available will be an anniversary booklet, a collection of thoughts and meditations, prepared by Joe Katagiri and illustrated by Ryotaro Tokita.

A pot luck supper is being arranged by Betty Kanagaki and Kimi Yuzawa for Sept. 23.

Dr. Nagano, the keynote speaker of the weekend celebration, is a third-generation Japanese American and the grandson of Manzo Nagano, the first Japanese to settle in Canada, in 1877. Born in Los Angeles, he was ordained an American Baptist minister in 1943. During World War II, he served as minister to Japanese American servicemen who were attending the Military Intelligence School at Camp Savage and at Fort Snelling, Minn. He is currently National Director of Asian American Ministries for the American Baptist Churches, U.S.A.

Sugimoto Painting On Magazine Cover

The cover of the September issue of RESPONSE, a monthly publication of United Methodist Women, bears a reproduction in color of one of Henry Sugimoto's paintings of life in the wartime internment camp in Arkansas.

Reproduced within are a number of Mr. Sugimoto's paintings of the camp experience which were exhibited in a comprehensive show at the Interchurch Center here in March.

Redress—

(Continued from page 1)

the writ of habeas corpus was not suspended; the civil courts were in full operation, and anyone charged with espionage or sabotage could have been brought to trial. It also should be remembered that of the 1,100,000 nationals of enemy nations living in the United States in 1942, less than 4% were Japanese nationals.

DeWitt first announced that all persons of Japanese ancestry must leave the Western half of the West Coast states and the Southern half of Arizona, and urged the affected people to move inland "voluntarily." Approximately 10,000 tried to comply, mostly moving in with relatives in the Eastern half of the West Coast states and interior states. Many, however, were forced to turn back by hostile crowds and armed posses.

American citizens of Japanese ancestry were placed under curfew, included with nationals of Japan, Germany and Italy. American citizens of German and Italian ancestries were not restricted in any way.

DeWitt then announced that all persons of Japanese ancestry would be expelled from the Eastern half of the West Coast states as well and prohibited from any further "voluntary" migration. He ordered

them to maintain their residences until ordered to report for detention. Beginning in March 1942, DeWitt ordered all persons of Japanese ancestry in California, plus parts of Arizona, Oregon and Washington to turn themselves in at a temporary detention camp near their homes.

The rationale for these actions on the West Coast was "military necessity," but such a claim was inconsistent with the fact that Japanese Americans in Hawaii were not similarly subjected to wholesale and indiscriminate incarceration. Hawaii was 3,000 miles closer to the enemy, and in far greater danger of invasion and sabotage. The military commander in Hawaii decided that "military necessity" there required the vast majority of Japanese Americans to remain free to help maintain the islands' economy.

Like the initial FBI roundups on the mainland, some Japanese nationals in Hawaii were imprisoned on an individual basis and held in prison camps on the islands or transferred to the mass detention or smaller internment camps on the mainland. Only 1% of the Hawaii Japanese population was incarcerated.

DeWitt's detention orders were ostensibly for the purpose of protecting the West Coast against sabotage and espionage, but babies, orphans, adopted children, the infirm and bedridden elderly were also imprisoned. Children of multiple ancestry were included if they had any Japanese ancestry at all. Colonel Karl Bendetsen, who directly administered the program, stated: "I am determined that if they have one drop of Japanese blood in them, they must go to camp."

Non-Japanese spouses, adoptive parents, and orphanage directors were forced to surrender their children for incarceration or enter the camp themselves. The only exceptions were for those confined in prisons or asylums, and the few adults with 1/32 or less Japanese ancestry who could prove they had no contact whatsoever with other persons of Japanese ancestry.

There were 15 temporary detention camps scattered throughout Arizona, California, Oregon and Washington. They were mostly county fairgrounds, race tracks, and livestock exhibition halls hastily converted into detention camps with barbed wire fences, search lights and guard towers. Each camp held about 5,000 detainees, except for the Santa Anita Race Track near Los Angeles which held over 18,000 and Mayer, Arizona which held only 247. Living quarters consisted of horse stalls, some with manure still inside.

Japanese Americans had to leave their homes with only a few days' notice and could take only what they could carry with them. Property had to be hurriedly sold, abandoned, given away, left in insecure storage or unpredictable trusts. Crops were left unharvested. Many lost titles to homes, businesses and farmlands because taxes and mortgage payments

became impossible to pay. Bank accounts had already been frozen or confiscated as "enemy assets," and there was little source of income within the camps.

The incarceration of Japanese Americans was accomplished district by district over a five month period. DeWitt methodically issued detention orders almost daily, each applying to a new locale. As the orders progressed through the Eastern half of California, Japanese Americans in the Eastern halves of Oregon and Washington fully expected their turn would be next. They stripped their possessions down to the bare essentials that they could carry, just as the others had been required to do. They lived day to day, unsettled under the constant threat of imminent proscription, but the actual detention orders never came.

Government actions also encouraged private harassment; for example, in one town outside the official expulsion area, the entire Japanese American community was boycotted and forced to leave town.

In June 1942 the U.S. Navy won a decisive victory at the Battle of Midway and the tide of war shifted in favor of the United States. Japan was no longer militarily capable of attacking the West Coast or even Hawaii. The U.S. government and military were aware of this fact, but they relentlessly went ahead with plans to build permanent mass detention facilities in the interior desert and swamp regions.

At great cost and despite the critical shortage of materials, the government built 10 mass detention camps in the isolated areas of Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Idaho, Utah and Wyoming. The vast majority of Japanese Americans were moved from the temporary detention camps near their hometowns to the permanent camps several hundred miles away after the threat of invasion had vanished. Each of the permanent camps held some 12,000 Japanese Americans, and a total of about 120,000 Japanese Americans were ultimately detained.

The inland camps were located in desolate areas and were surrounded by a high barbed wire fence, sometimes two such fences, sometimes electrified. Guard towers were placed at strategic intervals, and any Japanese American leaving without permission was shot. Dozens of detainees and internees were shot and wounded, and eight were killed by guards (1 at Central Utah, 1 at Gila River, 2 at Manzanar, 1 at Tule Lake, 2 at Lordsburg, 1 at Fort Sill). Living quarters were crowded and there was no privacy. Large extended families or groups of unrelated individuals were squeezed into tiny unpartitioned 16 x 20 foot units.

(To be continued)

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Frank Okazaki Wins Aobakai Tournament

BY GENE KUBO

Shooting a steady game, the long-driving soft ball, Frank Okazaki took home the first prize in the New York Aobakai Golf Club August tournament held at the Blue Hill Country Club, N.J., with a net 72.

Joe Imai and Gene Kubo also had net 72's, but claimed second and third prizes due to higher handicaps.

Fourth and fifth prizes were taken by George Kusaka and Minoru Sato with some sharp putting. The long ball slugger, but sometimes erratic Ted Sakai steadied himself to grab sixth place.

In the battle for the club championship, stylish Glenn Ikeda defeated Takeo Takahashi; and Shuji Aoe defeated Uharu Shimamura in a very close match. Ikeda and Aoe will meet next month to decide who will be the club champion for 1978.

Poet, Critic to Read, Talk About "Haiku"

Kenkichi Yamamoto, a leading Japanese literary critic, and Mori Sumio, a noted haiku poet, will discuss the current status of haiku in Japan on Sunday, Sept. 17, at Japan House, 333 E. 47 St., at 2 p.m.

Mr. Yamamoto is the author of a book on Basho, a 17th century haiku poet. Mr. Mori, winner of this year's Yomiuri Award, will read some of his own works. A display of shikishi (poetry written on rice paper panels) by leading haiku poets will be on view on the same day.

Admission is \$2 per person.

MOVIES

BLEECKER ST. CINEMA, 144 Bleecker St. (674-2560)
Sept. 19—"Woman in the Dunes," directed by Hiroshi Teshigahara from the novel by Kobo Abe; and "The Sound of Waves," directed by Senkichi Taniguchi from the novel by Yukio Mishima.

CARNEGIE HALL CINEMA, 7th Ave. near 57 St. (757-2131)

Sept. 21—"Death by Hanging," directed by Nagisa Oshima; and "The Face of Another," directed by Hiroshi Teshigahara from a novel by Kobo Abe, with Tatsuya Nakadai.

THE GALLERIES

Viridian Gallery, 24 W. 57 St.—Group show by gallery artists, including Tazuko Fujii, Oi Sawai, Mizue Sawano. Through Sept. 23.

Bank of Tokyo Trust Co., 5 World Trade Center—"Japanese Artists in New York," includes paintings, sculpture, graphics by Shozo Nagano, Jun Fujihara, Mizue Sawano, Toshiko Uchima, Nanae Momiyama, Ryo Tokita, Takeshi Kawashima, Ken Wakashima, Tadashi Asoma, Shunji Sakuyama, Masaaki Sato, Ansei Uchima, Kenji Nakahashi, Sumiye Okoshi, Masami Kodama, Seiji Saito, Osamu Shimoda, Ushio Shinohara, Hiroshi Karaya, Kunio Izuka. Through Sept. 29.

Azuma Gallery, 142 Greene St.—Gen-yu Masaki Fujimoto. Calligraphy of English words rendered Japanese-style. To Sept. 25.

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To Hire Seniors For Outreach Jobs Here

Governor Hugh Carey recently announced that a task force of older workers will be mobilized to conduct a Community Outreach Program to the Elderly (COPE) in six urban areas in the state under a grant from the New York State Department of Labor. Particular stress will be placed on the recruitment of persons aged 60 and older for the part-time positions.

COPE will link senior citizens with programs dealing with nutrition, crime prevention, Supplemental Security Income, and food stamps, as well as inform them about housing laws and various local programs.

Gov. Carey noted that efforts will also be made to recruit older persons (minimum age 45 years) whose unemployment insurance benefits are scheduled run out as well as those who are seeking reentry into the labor force. The COPE jobs will last 14 weeks, 20 hours per week, and pay \$3 per hour. Workers will be based at 80 Centre Street, but will go into neighborhoods to provide outreach services. There are no income limits for applicants.

As recruitment and training will begin soon, anyone who is interested in applying for a position should go to 1515 Broadway at 44 Street, 7th floor, and ask to see someone from the office of the New York State Office for the Aging, which is open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is advisable to avoid lunch hours.

Anyone who encounters difficulty with the application process or in securing information about the program is asked to contact Japanese American Help for the Aging at 840-6899.

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