



Volume 02

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Topaz Reunion set for Aug. 31

By Fumi Hayashi

Under the direction of Bob Utsumi, a delicious lunch has been planned at the Radisson Miyako Hotel in San Francisco's Japantown on Aug. 31, 2002 for all former Topaz residents, their families and friends. The hospitality room will be open at 10:00.

The lunch committee: Paul Takata, Mas Kawaguchi and Daisy Satoda with the help of Himeo Tsumori, Tosh Sakaguchi, Hank Hidekawa and Asaye Ashizawa promise an enjoyable time of new and renewed friendships.

Chuck Kubokawa has arranged ample time for everyone to get together, mingle and exchange camp stories. Alice Shibata and Helen Kato will assist with hospitality and registration.

Bill Sakai will have information on the status of the recently vandalized Topaz Monument in Utah and JAACL fund raiser to replace that structure.

Registration packages will be mailed out by Takiko Shinoda before the end of June. If you have not received your packet by July 7, and you wish to receive one, please call: Bob Utsumi (510) 531-4384, Yone Ito at e-mail baachyon@cs.com; or Anah Sugiyama (510) 568-4545.

The hotel has set a strict limit of 400 for lunch. The first 400 paid responses will be issued tickets. The cost of the affair is \$35.00 per person.

This is in remembrance of the 60th anniversary of Executive Order 9066. We are all looking forward to seeing you.

Ted Nagata resigns from Board

After considerable service to the Topaz Museum Board, Ted Nagata tendered his resignation in October.

He had been a founding member of the Board and had helped in numerous projects including the reprinting of "The Price of Prejudice," designing and editing all of the "Topaz Times" newsletters and designing the letterhead and business cards used by the Board.

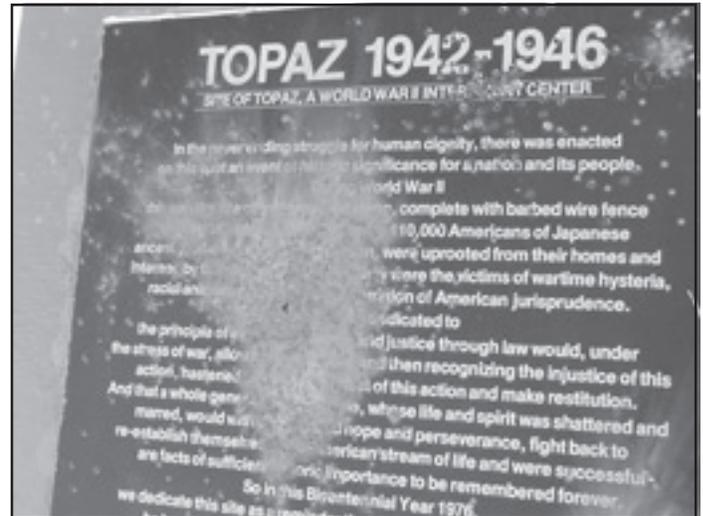
He was instrumental in reproducing photos that are on display in the restored recreation hall. His advice and insight on the restoration of that building was one reason the project earned an award from the Utah Heritage Foundation.

Besides actively working toward the building of the Topaz Museum, his financial donations to the cause were considerable.

Ted recently retired from his graphic art business in Salt Lake City, where his designs are well-known including the logo of the Snowbird Ski Resort and the first design used to lure the Olympics to Salt Lake City.

He is helping the JAACL chapters re-design the Topaz monument. According to Floyd Mori, JAACL president, the new monument will be replaced within the month. He said that the entire old marker will be torn down and a new marker will replace it.

Everyone on the Topaz Board extends their thanks to Ted for his help.



Monument severely vandalized

By Jane Beckwith

By now you all know that the Topaz Monument placed at the site in 1976 by JAACL groups from Salt Lake City was vandalized beyond repair last October.

Unfortunately this wasn't the first time the marker was defaced. Several times in the last three years the plaques were pried off and thrown into the greasewood beyond the fence.

Ron Walkhorse who lives on the southeast corner of the site has found the metal plates and re-fixed them to the concrete monument. In fact he fixed them so well that this time the vandals could not pry them off, and instead chose to shoot them with a shotgun at point blank range making it impossible to read the inscriptions.

The Topaz Museum Board offered a \$500 reward for information regarding the tragedy, but no one came forward. However, many people in Delta were outraged by the senseless act.

When I took some students to the site with a TV crew, people had left two bouquets of fresh flowers, a small pin of a golden angel and a medallion of Jesus. It was very touching.

I believe that the vandalism has actually quickened people in Delta to be more aware and more sympathetic to the history of Topaz. Coming just about a month after Sept. 11, many people were outraged by another cruel and foolish display. I can't say that no further vandalism will occur in the future, but more people are thinking about how to prevent it.

Millard County Sheriff, Ed Phillips, has pledged to step up patrols to the site, and some of the people who live on the way to Topaz have agreed to call the police if they hear something unusual.

The monument, a Bicentennial project, was dedicated by Lucy Beth Rampton, Utah's First Lady in 1976. Millard County officials as well as members of the Nikkei communities in Salt Lake City and San Francisco took part in the unveiling ceremony.

Preview of this newsletter

By Jane Beckwith

Sometimes when I get a newsletter, I am too busy to sit and read it from front to back. I have often wished that I could glance through a summary and then if I wanted more information go to the article. So that's what this is, a summary of the newsletter.

Inside you will find articles on —

- the Topaz Pilgrimage sponsored by Delta residents
- news on the Topaz Reunion in San Francisco on Aug. 31
- the vandalism at the Topaz site
- land acquisition by the Museum Board
- stories from former internees who returned to Topaz

In addition to those stories, there are snippets about other things including a digitization project that is being offered by universities in Utah. There is no article about the possible Heritage Corridor that is being introduced in Congress. That information was in the last newsletter. As a summary of that article, one county in Nevada and Millard County in Utah are working very hard to make a portion of Highway 6 and surrounding areas into a National Heritage Corridor. Things are looking quite good and that may become a reality soon.

I really hope that some of you will be able to come to the Topaz Pilgrimage on Aug. 10. It is so wonderful that Delta people want to sponsor the day. Their enthusiasm is high and the goal is to make this a yearly event. Please come and support their efforts.

Come to the Topaz Pilgrimage on August 10 in the Delta City Park

Delta to host Topaz Pilgrimage Aug. 10

Mark Aug. 10, 2002 on your calendar as an historic day. It will be the first time that Delta will host a Topaz Pilgrimage. Delta residents have planned a day that will be interesting for the whole family.

Hoping to make the history of the camp more active, more interactive, Deltans decided that they wanted to begin a festive day that celebrates as well as teaches about Topaz.

The day will be full of activities beginning with an early morning bike ride to the site. Yes, a 16 mile bike ride! It won't be a race, but just a leisurely spin out into the fields winding to the site. Once there docents will give tours through the blocks. Shade, water and a rest area will be provided.

For those who would prefer to drive cars instead riding bikes, that's no problem. They can drive and arrive in time for the tours.

Back in the Delta City Park will be a program that will honor former internees and spotlight Deltans who worked at that camp. There will be a couple of speakers and then a barbecue luncheon with hamburgers. If we can find some willing Nikkei cooks, we will attempt a Japanese picnic lunch, also.

Taiko drummers will come from the Ogden, Utah area. That should wake up the populous. Other events in the park will be entertainment booths for the children, and adults, too.

Videos will be shown in nearby offices and the Delta City Library, and there will be driving tours around town to point out some of the buildings that were moved from camp to Delta after the war.

Tours at the site will resume for those who missed them in the morning.

In the evening will be a "big band" dance in the park pavilion.

Deltans are excited about the day and hope that former internees as well as interested people from all over the state will come. You are all invited.

Visitor brings 1942 news clipping of Topaz dust storm

Since the last newsletter was published, Topaz has had many interesting visitors. One of the liveliest was Hana Enomoto, 92, at the time of her visit. She was in camp from Sept. 1942 until Feb. 1943.

After camp Hana lived in Salt Lake City where she raised a family and worked at the Westminster College Library until she was ninety.

Her grandson, Steven Enomoto, drove her to Delta for the day.

They brought a clipping from a newspaper that included an account of a dust storm at Topaz. Mrs. Enomoto wrote the description in a letter to a friend in Palo Alto. The newspaper was not identified on the clipping.

"A Dust Blitz Engulfs Topaz: Former P.A. woman describes storm: Wednesday morning dawned chilly and bright. The sun shone on rooftops white with snow and on grounds covered with patches of snow and frosted drifts of dust. Our footsteps resounded on frozen soil in a crunchy manner. Only the layer of dust that covered floors, beds, tables, everything, remained in mute evidence of the violent dust storm that blew all of Tuesday, November 3, from early morning far into the night, with only a brief lull shortly after dinner.

"This is the opening paragraph of a letter from a former leader in Japanese-American activities in Palo Alto, Mrs. Hana K. Enomoto, to a friend here. It describes the dust storm which recently swept the relocation center at Topaz, Utah, and made the residents glad their wartime quarters were not larger and therefore buried under more dirt.

"Heavens were aflame: Usually the roseate glow preceding the rising sun is concentrated to the eastern mountain between which the sun makes its glorious entry into the wide expanse of blue sky overhead," she writes. "This Tuesday morning the entire heavens were a riot of flame red and orange while the clouds were ominously black in contrast. We remarked

among ourselves how they resembled the colored scenes of the movies depicting the skies before a terrible storm.

"Slowly at first the wind came up with small swirls of dust sweeping in its wake. Around 8:30 a.m. when all the women folks were busy carrying pails of water from laundry to homes to do their morning mopping and cleaning, the wind began to blow in earnest Between the crevices, up from the floorboards, in through the cracks of the ill-fitted window frames, every where, the fine powdery dust seeped in. The very air we breathed was dense with fine particles of dust and bore an indescribable odor, perhaps typical or peculiarly Topaz's own."

"Mrs. Enomoto was among those who ventured forth into the storm as she had a knitting class across the camp. Completely wrapped up and with a mask over her nose and mouth she made the trip across and back.

"A short lull: After dinner that night, there was a short respite and everyone settled down with a breath of relief. But "again the small gusts grew in volume and the clouds of dust outside were so thick that only bed seemed the solution.

"With covers pulled well over ears and head we snuggled down to hear the wind tug wildly at the tarred paper on the roof. Loose pipes were clanking. After an interminable period, the patter of rain could be heard on the roof. The dust seemed to have subsided and quiet fell over the camp....

"Soon after breakfast the sun quietly rose and everybody was engaged in an orgy of cleaning. The better part of the morning was taken up in first sweeping then mopping over and over again to remove the imbedded dirt. I am sure I was not alone in giving thanks, just this once, that our 'home' occupied so small a space."

Topaz listed as one of the top places to see

by Jane Beckwith

In September someone sent me a copy of a newspaper travel section from The Gazette, a Colorado Springs, CO publication. The front page article was reprinted from The Dallas Morning News, by Larry Bleiberg, Mary Ellen Blotter and Kathryn Straach.

The feature listed 225 places in the country that everyone should see to celebrate the 225th birthday of the USA.

Number 86 on the list said, "Visit the Topaz Relocation Camp Site, near Delta, Utah, one of the 10 former camps used by the U.S. government to intern people of Japanese ancestry during World War II."

Other items mentioned included numbers 94. Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, 109. Gems and dinosaur bones in Rapid City, South Dakota, and 8. The Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada.

Another interesting place to find a reference to Topaz was on the Dec. 9, 2001 ACT test given to high school students as a prerequisite for college enrollment.

One of the reading passages focused on Nikkei authors Yoshiko Uchida and Joy Kogawa.

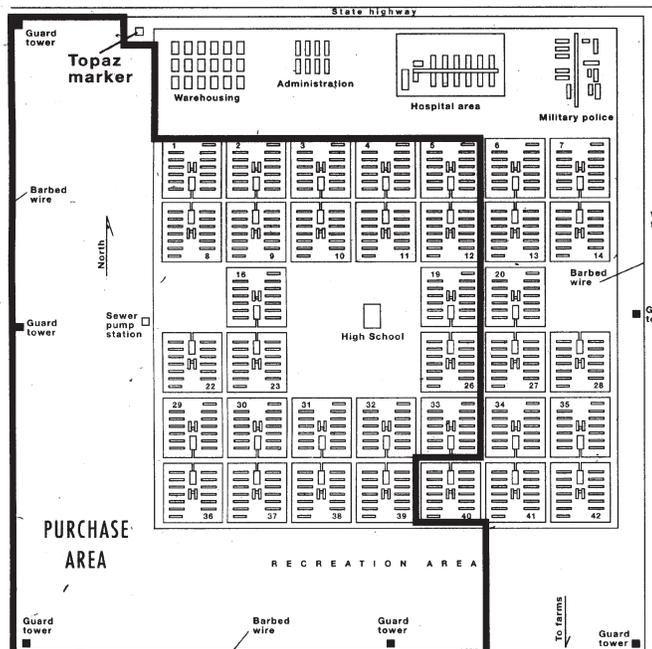
Ms. Uchida was in Topaz and after camp wrote many children's books and "Desert Exile." Ms. Kogawa wrote "Obasan" about her experience in Canada during the war.

The section of the test recounted Uchida's family being in a horse stall at Tanforan and then moving to Topaz, "a bleak internment camp in the Utah desert."

My students were surprised to read about the history from their own backyard in this nation-wide test.

Dave Tatsuno's son honored with torch run

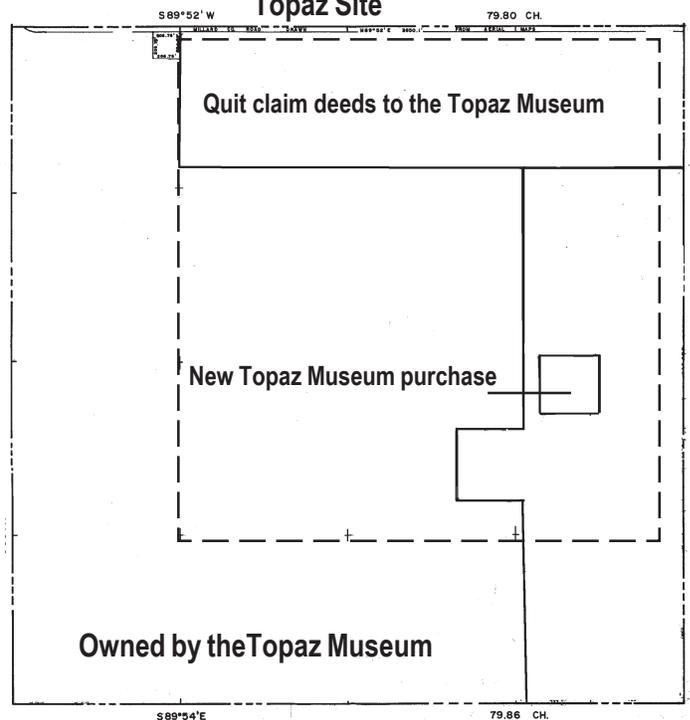
Rod Tatsuno, Dave Tatsuno's son, was a torchbearer for the 2002 Winter Olympics. Rod lives in Ketchum, Idaho but ran in Twin Falls. He was born in Topaz and said carrying the flame to Utah was a "redemption of sorts."



This map shows the land that the Topaz Museum owned last year, 415 acres. Now the Museum owns 520 acres out of the 640 total acreage of the site.

SECTION 20, T16S, R8W, S.L.B. & M. (MA 15)

Topaz Site



New property purchased by the Topaz Museum Board

Good news regarding land acquisition

After 1993 when three houses were built on the northeast corner of the Topaz site, the Topaz Museum Board knew it was imperative to buy as much of the land as possible to stave off further development. The Board acquired 415 acres thanks to the considerable effort of Aaron Peskin and Nancy Shanahan from San Francisco.

The north 100 acres of the camp, consisting of the warehouse, administration, hospital and military areas were purchased after the war by a group of Deltans who used the military area as a loading dock for a fluorspar mine located in the West Desert.

Now, thanks to the effort of Pat Finlison of the law firm Waddingham and Peterson in Delta, most of that land will be transferred to Topaz Museum Board ownership through quit claim deeds.

One more parcel of land was purchased outright by the Board, so the total land that will be protected from further development is about 520 acres of the 640 total that originally comprised the camp.

Website in the works for Topaz

Watch for a website for the Topaz Museum Board to come on line the end of July.

The Board received a grant for the construction and maintenance of a website which will be revised occasionally and will be able to link to other sites.

Many agencies have posted web pages regarding internment, but this one will be dedicated exclusively to Topaz.

Utah digitization project will record Topaz photos

In an effort to encourage small museums to take advantage of new technology, the universities in Utah are offering to digitize 100 photos for free. After the first hundred the museums must write a grant to continue the work. When the photos have become computer compatible, the museum will identify them and then they can be placed on a website for access. Watch the Topaz website for news of this project.

Shimomura and friends return to Topaz

By Yukio Shimomura

I was in the third grade at the Desert View School when I went to camp. Later I moved to Ogden, UT and formed life-long friendships there.

In July 2001 my friends and their wives and my wife and I returned to Topaz to trace my internment. Here is my account of the visit.

A Trip Down Memory Lane

What does Topaz mean to me today? At 66 years old and finally retired, why does it mean so much to me that I understand the years that I was in the camp? After a lot of introspection I have a few thoughts.

When the war started with Japan, I know my parents and grandmother were thrown into turmoil. My two brothers were teens, my oldest brother in his senior year of high school, my middle brother in junior high.

My recollection was rekindled when my classmates [from Ogden] that I had known from grade school through high school decided to have a reunion once a year after our 65th birthdays. We decided to meet somewhere that is of interest to the whole group (Jim and Joan Hurst, Mt. Green, UT; Bob and Connie Hazen, Bountiful, UT; Jerry and Marilyn Peterson, Wolfe Creek, UT; Paul and Sheryl Bingham, Ogden, UT; Karen Hill, Magna, UT and my wife and me from Campbell, CA).

To my amazement, Topaz was the place chosen! Why? They had heard bits and pieces of my experience and their curiosity was piqued when two of the couples saw the Topaz documentary on PBS.

We had arranged a barbeque dinner and re-showed the video tape. Later we drove to Delta and met with Jane Beckwith for a tour of the site and the town. In Delta we saw the barracks that had been sold and moved from the camp to Delta. They were in various stages of use, from barns to dwellings, still! I couldn't imagine seeing them in use, today.

The Great Basin Museum displayed memorabilia that was significant, shells used in decorative ways, toys, high school yearbooks, paintings, and much more.

The preserved barrack with its tar paper and period windows, the masonite floors, the 2 x 4 furniture and the pot bellied coal stoves brought back a flood of memories.

At the Topaz site, after the 16 mile ride, my emotions bubbled to be able to see where our family lived for two plus years on block 27, barrack 4, room E.

What I saw: The desert ground, a fine clay mixed with alkaline salt, the cindered roads that are slowly disappearing but are still apparent, the foundations for the boiler room, shower area, toilets, laundry room: the outline where the sewer pipes were dug up from the boiler room area, the leftover coal pile, the outlines of the disintegrated sheet rock that surrounded the barrack to reduce the wind chill and keep out wildlife. The outline of the rock gardens with possible ponds. Hundreds and hundreds of nails rusting, sheet metal parts from the chimneys. The view of the desert. The view of the mountains. Lizards.

With all of the above, the emotions: In the past when I have tried to explain internment to anyone that was interested, it was hard to get them to understand. But now I am at peace with the experience. Gone is the anger, gone is the heartache. I am left with a feeling of: yes, it happened; yes, our family survived; yes, my brothers helped my parents stay in the US; yes, my brother Ken, left the camp to go to college, only to be drafted in into the US Army; yes I now have friends that have walked the ground at Topaz with me. Together we cleaned the dust and dirt off our shoes. We felt the heat, the stifling heat in the model barrack in Delta. We imagined the cold in the winter without any insulation in the walls. We saw that pot bellied stove, we saw pictures and paintings from the camp. We heard the stories from the internees on the tape.

It feels good that I now feel that I am understood about the camp. I don't have to paint a picture for my friends. They have shared enough of the experience that they can understand. They all expressed their appreciation



This is one of the many photos taken by Tokuye Sato during camp.

Two interesting collections donated to Museum

Over the past year, two people have donated interesting collections to the Museum.

Eddie Ichioka had saved cots and mattresses from camp. He and his wife brought them to Delta on their way to a vacation in Park City. The three cots were in excellent condition and the mattresses identified with an inscription that established their connection to camp.

Tokuye Sato's hobby in camp was photography. He had many rolls of film that he did not develop until years after leaving camp. His considerable donation of photos taken in camp give a personal glimpse of life during internment.

The range of subjects is interesting, including shots in the hospital and administrative areas, families and baseball games. Sato's friend, Dr. Jim Goto, allowed him to develop his work in the hospital.

His work was displayed in Gardena, CA in March through a grant from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program.

for the day at Delta and Topaz.

Next step: Our family, sons and daughter and grandchildren will come to Topaz and have the same experience I had with my friends. That would be my wish. Another wish I have is that the camp and the memories be preserved. I am looking forward to the archaeological survey that will be completed in the fall [2001]. The desert is reclaiming the camp site and it will not be long before many of the memories are dim, unless we come together to preserve as much as possible.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to save the stories and the site.



Tokuye Sato's photo collection was recently shown in Gardena, California.

More books published about Topaz

Two new books that touch on Topaz have been published by Heyday Books in Berkeley.

They are "Unfinished Message: Selected works of Toshio Mori" and "Only What We Could Carry."

Toshio Mori was interned at Topaz and set some of his short stories in camp and in Delta. He was a member of the Trek staff and published "Yokohama, California" in 1949 and "The Chauvinist" in 1979.

Lawson Inada, who writes the introductions to both books, said that "Yokohama, California" is "strong sentiment, certainly, for it is moving literature. This is what it is to be alive: the very strength of humanity."

Martin Naparstek writing a review of "Only What We Could Carry" in "The Salt Lake Tribune," said, "The book teems with small surprises that meld into a large mosaic, a singular picture from a thousand tidbits. It is the work of a master editor."

All-Camp Summit: Ensuring the Legacy

The Japanese American National Museum will be holding a reunion and planning conference on Nov. 15-17, 2002 in LA.

Other sponsors of the meeting include camp reunion groups, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the National Park Service in the Pacific West Region, and others.

For more information call (213) 625-0414.

Topaz was designated a Save America's Treasures project in 1999 by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and received a Getty grant to document the archaeology at the site.

Former barrack shows name of internee

On the way to the Topaz site visitors can see many buildings that once were at Topaz. The conditions of the buildings vary. Some have been refurbished into homes and can barely be recognized. Others still retain the tarpaper on the outsides of the buildings.

One barrack that has been a farmer's workshop and garage for many years, also has two original doors, the outside door and one that would have led to an apartment on the left.

Scratched on the second door is the name "May Yoshikawa." The wood has dried making it impossible to get a "rubbing" of the name, and photographing it is almost as difficult. Still the name is legible.



Another set of photos donated to the Topaz Museum include this photo of a soldier standing in the military compound with a shotgun.



Cement marker for pet "Tippy" who died Aug. 31, 1944.



This is a cement slab found in the archaeological survey done by SWCA.

SWCA finishes archaeology survey

Preservation survey efforts at the Topaz Camp were completed in January. The Topaz Museum Board contracted with SWCA Environmental Consultants after the Topaz site was nominated to be a Save America's Treasure project. The Getty Foundation made money available to all SAT projects to complete the next phase of their mission.

SWCA conducted an archaeological survey of 415 acres of the 640 acres that comprised Topaz city. The survey included identifying features and unique artifacts within each block, photographing such features and artifacts, using Global Positional System units to mark the locations of specific features and preparing sketch maps of the blocks owned by the Topaz Museum Board.

The majority of the work was carried out by Sheri Murray Ellis, SWCA's historical specialist, who studied the Japanese American internment experience as part of her graduate studies.

The fieldwork was completed in the form of notebooks with maps, photographs and historic information regarding the camp. The final report describes the existing conditions of the site and provides suggestions on how the Board might best preserve and interpret the site for visitors.

The Board faces many challenges to preservation at Topaz, including but not limited to the remoteness of the location, persistent vandalism and

modern residential development on portions of the main complex.

Ms. Ellis said, "The site is truly rich in features that can be used to further tell the story of the internment experience. These features are often small, though, and require that visitors walk around the grounds to view them."

Casual observations by Ms. Ellis during her fieldwork suggested that most visitors to the site stop at the existing monument, but do not actually set foot on the remainder of the camp complex. The management plan prepared by Ms. Ellis provides recommendations for ways to encourage visitors to explore the residential blocks in a manner that enhances their experience, but also protects the resource itself.

Some possible interpretive activities may include walking tours (guided and self-guided) and an on-site visitors' center/museum.

Jeff Stvan, an archaeologist with a background in museum interpretation, was hired by SWCA specifically for this project.

As part of the management plan, the possibility of partnering with local land management agencies, primarily the BLM, and state preservation agencies was also explored as was the possibility of increasing the site's historical status from a National Register listed site to a National Historic Landmark, Heritage Area or Monument. The benefits and drawbacks of the various types of partnering was discussed in the final report.

Plan your accommodations for the "Ties that Bind" Topaz Pilgrimage on Aug. 10 in Delta

Delta offers over 200 motels rooms and an RV park with hook ups.

Best Western Motor Inn	435-864-3882
Budget	864-4533
Super 5	864-5318
Rancher	864-2741
Van's	864-2096
Diamond D	864-2906
Antelope Valley RV Park	864-1813

The town has 15 eating establishments including an authentic Chinese restaurant.

The address of the Topaz site is 10000 West 4500 North. There are several routes to take to get to the site. One of them is marked with highway signs. The others are marked with street signs. Knowing the address of the camp makes the journey simple.

Bring the whole family to
commemorate the 60th anniversary
of the opening of Topaz

To help us plan for the Pilgrimage we would appreciate a rough count. If you would like to come please tell us how many will be in your party.

I'd like to come to the Topaz Pilgrimage and will have _____ in our party.

Mail to: Topaz Museum, P.O. Box 241, Delta, UT 84624

Memories of Mine

by Jane Beckwith

I first met Mine Okubo in 1984 when a mutual friend, Michi Kobi, took me to her NY apartment. Michi was armed with a fresh peach pie. But that pie was nothing in comparison to the fresh, fire and beauty in Mine's face. She was radiant, perhaps she wore a colorful blouse or scarf. I don't remember the specifics. I just remember her flashing eyes and that wonderful voice, vibrant and alive.



We ate the pie. I sat on the two steps leading to a sort of patio. Potted plants were stacked in the windows, a dish of Japanese crackers looked like they had just been set out for the visitors. We were all tucked in by the hundreds of canvases lined up against the walls and in the little side room, blocking the paths from the bed to the kitchen. She lived in a studio apartment in lower Manhattan crammed with 40 years of prolific work.

She showed us her latest paintings, bright forms, pure colors, red and yellow, a chicken, geometric and wide.

Later that evening after the pie and tea, we made our way to the World Trade Towers, rode the elevators up to the viewing deck and watched the lights flick on in the biggest city in the world, New York. For the first time I understood the magnitude of the Grand Canyon. I thought how odd it was to be standing in New York and thinking about the Grand Canyon, a reversal of sorts – a yin/yang, man/nature, up/down place – my hair blowing, Mine's voice, peach pie, a most satisfying evening.

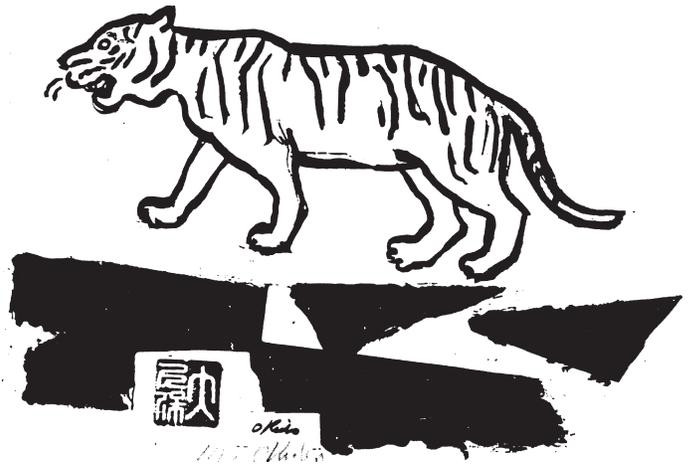
Then we walked to a busy reclaimed historic part of the city to eat. I don't remember the geography, but the place was packed with food marts and people. It was noisy and aromatic, a visual delight for me, someone from the western desert of Utah. Mine had softshell crabs, unheard of in that desert, and she insisted that I have one. My, my she was right, very tasty. All of a sudden a fire alarm split the air, but I was the only one who even considered evacuating. Everyone else at the table continued to eat. Those in line for food continued to order. Within minutes firemen were dragging hoses through the crowd. Still no one moved. We tried to talk over the sirens as if they were a mere annoyance. The place never was evacuated, and I don't recall if the firemen rolled up their hoses and left or not.

Following that visit I received many letters from Mine. Some were xerox copies of notes to her wide circle of friends, some, when I lived in Japan, much more personal, and always passionate, driven, excited about her work. Many times she railed against the art establishment. She wanted a door to walk through, not such a narrow crack to squeeze and struggle with.

More often than not the letters were illustrated in some wonderful way, a bird under my address on the envelope, a cat inside the letter or a girl with an umbrella. I have saved a file about three inches thick of her notes and cards. Before computers when I had to read many different students' handwriting I could whiz through those letters, but tonight thumbing through them again, I struggled with the loops and counterloops calling up the muse of handwriting to read them.

When I returned to visit her in her apartment in 1999, she greeted me and my friend at the bottom of the steep staircase of her apartment house. She was shocked that I was so tall. She might have been shorter, but her face was still radiant and glowing with the excitement of a child expecting a party. We went up the stairs and found a place to sit.

Of course the years had produced more canvases, less room to negotiate. She put water on to boil. I had remembered to bring a pie but instead of a tastefully small peach pie, the only thing I could find at a restaurant along the way was a blueberry pie that was at least 15 inches across. We all laughed that a pie could not only be that big, but that heavy and not slide out of the flimsy box it was in.



Every year Mine sent New Year's cards all hand printed to numerous friends.

I was amused that she had a line up of Beany Babies on the bed. She laughed and joked about how cute they were. But soon started showing us the paintings some rolled up and some still on frames at the front of the room. There were large pieces, expressive faces, pink cats, women in hats, paintings from camp. Mine was so caught up in the explanations of her work that my friend began taking notes. It was a stunning afternoon, but not over yet. And the water kept boiling away. She hardly noticed that I got up and turned off the stove as she pulled out just one more painting and then another and one more.

When we decided we would take her to a late lunch she chose a favorite Japanese restaurant several blocks away. Walking spryly, she told us about her last bout in the hospital and her frustration of being taken in an ambulance so that the whole neighborhood was privy to her plight. Ah the drama of the telling, both my friend and I hung on every word.

Once seated in the restaurant she was all business ordering this and that, betting my friend that she could out eat him sashimi for sashimi, and she did.

Before returning to her apartment, we stopped by a farmer's market and she oogled the tomatoes, bought apples and this and that, giving us advice on what had the best taste. She was a New Yorker and thoroughly at home.

When we passed the park she suggested that we watch the squirrels, so we sat in the shade of deep green trees and watched them frolic over the benches and up the trunks. It was as if she knew each one, their various personalities. She laughed at their antics and pointed out another performer here and there. Finally we walked by a statue of Gandhi, paused to take a snapshot and then saw her back to her house.

That was in October of 1999. Once back in Delta, I called her on the telephone several times, happy to hear her laugh or call someone an "idiot," pleased at all the life she had. Naturally I was very glad to know her.

Mine passed away peacefully at seven a.m. on Feb. 10, 2001 in New York City.

Bring the whole family to the Topaz Pilgrimage in Delta to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the opening of Topaz on August 10



Ties that Bind

Come join the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the opening of Topaz

- * Early morning bike ride
- * Tours of the camp site
- * Educational program
 - * Videos
- * Children's activities
 - \$\$ Luncheon
- * Taiko drummers
- \$ Big band concert and dance

- \$\$ small charge
- \$ Donations
- * Free to the public

August 10, 2002
Delta City Park and Topaz site
Delta, Utah

For more information call
435 864-2098
435 864-2279

Sponsored by the Topaz Museum Board and Delta residents



Topaz Times June 2002

Topaz Museum

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Bring the whole family to the Topaz Pilgrimage in Delta on August 10, 2002 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the opening of Topaz.