

TOPAZ TIMES THE CITY

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TOPAZ REUNION PLANNED IN '98

Reunion Committee '98

Your Reunion Committee is on the move again. A meeting was called by Fumi Hayashi on February 7, 1997, to determine the final disbursement of monies left from prior Class and Camp Reunions. A Committee of Six was formed in 1993, charged with the responsibility of disbursing the major portions of the fund to worthwhile organizations, promoting the education of what happened to their fellow Americans who happened to be of Japanese ancestry during WW II, and other worthwhile projects. The Committee was also charged with retaining seed money for another reunion to be held within five years. The five years will end in 1998.

- Fourteen members met and decided it would be worthwhile to hold



1942. Rare photo of Tanforan Assembly Center from the National Archives, shows the racetrack just prior to being readied for internment.

another Reunion. Prior turnouts have been great and many kept asking when the next reunion would take place. IT WILL TAKE PLACE ON MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND OF 1998. • Chuck Kubokawa was the unanimous choice for chairing this committee and he has graciously accepted the chairmanship. Fumi Hayashi will be the right arm person as vice chair. The Committee has tentatively decided that the reunion will be a two-night, three-day affair starting with a Friday Night Mixer, Saturday morning activities as desired, Saturday Night Banquet and Sunday Brunch/Picnic. • The Committee would like to hear from former reunion attendees and others as to what your thoughts and desires may be and what activities should take place at the Reunion to make you attend and make this the best of all Reunions. Therefore, we are requesting all former Topazans to take an active role and come up with ideas which we can include in the program. The sooner you get your ideas to the Committee the better chance there is of its inclusion. Send your requests and ideas to: Tomi Gytoku, 826 38th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94121. The Committee meets on the first Friday of every month starting at 1 pm at the Eden Nikkei Community Center in San Leandro. Feel free to join us. Please send us any address corrections.

TOPAZ MUSEUM RECEIVES CLPEF GRANT

Rick Okabe

The Topaz Museum Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that it has received one of the 100 grants made by the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund. (CLPEF) The Topaz Board will be reprinting "The Price of Prejudice" written by Utah Professor Leonard Arrington. Copies of the book will be redesigned, photos added, and will be distributed to schools and libraries in Utah and the San Francisco Bay area. • "The Price of Prejudice" is a heavily-researched, scholarly dissertation detailing the internment of over 8,000 Japanese-Americans during the outset of WWII. The book was written from an historical, factual viewpoint as opposed to the many internment books written from an emotional viewpoint. It was presented at a Faculty Honors Lecture at Utah State University in 1962 by Prof. Arrington. • Topaz was located 16 miles outside of Delta, Utah. Some 17,000 acres of land surrounding the camp were acquired by the government in order to support the camp. The internees assisted in raising turkeys, chickens, hogs and cattle, wheat and vegetables on ranches and farms a few miles outside of Topaz. In spite of the fact that most of the internees were not farmers, they raised over \$500,000 worth of agricultural products. • In recounting the dismantling of the camp, Professor Arrington states that the buildings, valued at the time at \$4.5 million dollars, were given to Utah schools, or sold to local farmers. One of those buildings is now the restored recreation hall which is the centerpiece of the Topaz Museum. • The museum board plans to update the booklet with an addendum chapter telling of internment events in the 35 years since the paper was first published.



1987. Prof. Arrington.

1942. Tanforan Assembly Center, view from bleachers. Hastily constructed barracks are shown inside the circular track. In the beginning, many internees were forced to sleep in horse stalls.





1942. Tanforan Assembly Center mess hall. Group finishing meal. Note flowers on table, an attempt to make it as home-like as possible.

Approximately 100 new photographs will illustrate the book. The grant allows 2000 copies to be printed and donated to schools and libraries in Utah and the San Francisco Bay area so that students and the public will have a factual account of the Topaz experience. Topaz alumnus and graphic designer Ted Nagata will design the new publication. • By the distribution of this book, the Topaz Board believes it can help fulfill the mission of the CLPEF to "sponsor public educational activities so that the events surrounding the exclusion, forced removal and internment of civilians and permanent resident aliens of Japanese ancestry will be remembered, and so that the causes and circumstances of this and similar events may be illuminated and understood." • The Topaz Board is looking for photographs that might be included in the reprint. Anyone with photographs of the Tanforan Assembly Center or Topaz Internment Camp are requested to contact Ted Nagata (801 363-7935). All photographs will be returned unharmed after computer scanning.

JANE BECKWITH HONORED BY STATE OF UTAH

Ted Nagata

Ten Utah women were honored for their contributions to Utah's economic, social and cultural climate in a ceremony held in the Gold Room in the State Capitol building on March 13, 1997. Jane, president of the Topaz Museum Board, received the award for her work in organizing the Topaz Museum Board and for her work as a teacher. Delmont Oswald, director of the Utah Humanities Council, introduced Jane and presented the award. He cited Beckwith's other awards, but concluded that her most significant contribution is her work on the Topaz Museum dedicated to preserving the history (some are hesitant to recognize) of a people treated unfairly by their own country.



Jane Beckwith and Delmont Oswald after the ceremony.

TOPAZ GRADUATES RECEIVE BELATED DIPLOMAS

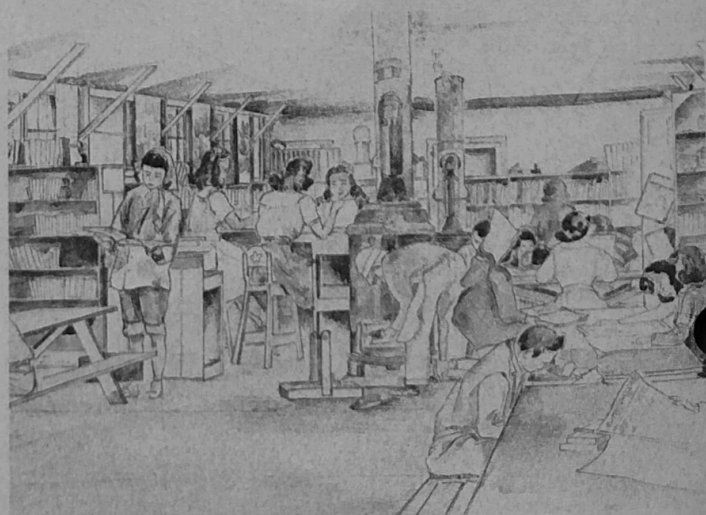
Robert Maggiora

Former teacher, Topaz High School On May 6 Marge and I attended an amazing and wonderful "Coming Home" graduation ceremony held in the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium in San Francisco. The sixty-seven proud high school graduates (all in their sixties and early seventies) stood proud as this story had its beginning many years ago. • Shortly after the beginning of World War II, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 mandating that persons of Japanese ancestry, including some 120,000 individuals of all ages residing in three Western states were to be uprooted and placed in camps because they were considered a threat to security. • While the camps were being built, Japanese American families from the Bay Area were temporarily placed in what was called the Tanforan Assembly Center, a racetrack and horse stables in San Bruno. • Japanese families were given only limited time to hastily sell or store their personal belongings (homes, businesses, cars, property), in most cases resulting in great personal and economic sacrifice. They were next moved to one of ten hastily-constructed internment camps surrounded by barbed wire and under 24 hour daily surveillance by armed guards in watch towers. These 1997 San Francisco graduates and their families were interned at the Topaz, Utah War Relocation Authority Center where I met many of them as I served in my first teaching assignment. • Among many other losses, they missed the privilege and honor of graduating with their former classmates at their own schools. The San Francisco Unified School District Board of Trustees decided to belatedly recognize these former Japanese students and at the same time teach the lesson of "this must never happen again" to the assembled audience of present day high school students who have studied World War II, taken U.S. government classes and read stories about internment life. • The sixty-seven graduates entered the auditorium to the traditional strains of "Pomp and Circumstance", applause, flash bulbs and media lights and cameras. San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown, school district officials and a member of the Board of



1943. Robert Maggiora

1944. Ella Honderich's prolific sketches of life at Topaz are perhaps the most definitive visual descriptions of camp life available. Her husband Walt worked at Topaz and being a Swedish immigrant, she did not speak English fluently. Instead, she let her drawings speak for her. It is believed she had completed over 60 sketches of Topaz.





1944. Relocation staff gathers for group portrait with "Shaggy" the dog. Emil Sekerak is on far right.

Diplomas (cont. from page 2) Supervisors spoke eloquently of the injustices done these people whose only "crime" was their Japanese ancestry. Present day students cheered as the Japanese names were carefully pronounced and schools attended were announced. The graduates received honorary diplomas as they assembled on stage. To my knowledge San Francisco Unified is the only school district to make this honorable and symbolic apology, much more important to the honorees than the \$20,000 redress paid them a few years ago by our nation as the result of 1985 legislation. • We also attended an emotional and happy reunion of Topaz students and faculty members at a celebratory dinner following the ceremony. We arrived home in Santa Rosa in time to relive highlights of this special event on TV's ten pm news. The smiling faces of the sixty-seven Japanese graduates were again memorable and poignant.

Jane Beckwith recounts the graduation ceremony . . . "Pomp and Circumstance," the traditional anthem for graduation resonated in the San Francisco Civic Center to mark a ceremony honoring former students who were unable to graduate with their classes because of their forced evacuation. 67 students marched down the aisle in May while teachers such as Eleanor Gerard Sekerak, Joe Mori, Joe Goodman and Robert Maggiora looked on. Mayor Willie Brown spoke and urged the audience to never "remain silent or inactive" should another injustice of this type be suggested. Mas Kawaguchi helped organize the program which also featured speakers Harry Kitano, Eleanor Sekerak, Janice Mirikitani and others. Many of the students had been interned in Topaz. They traveled from places as far away as New York City and Tokyo.

TOPAZ MUSEUM PLANS MOVE FORWARD Jane Beckwith

The Topaz Board met in an all-day meeting in March to plan for the future, finalize work on the Civil Liberties grant, and introduce new board members, Rick Okabe and Bill Sugaya. Rick, who hails from Chicago, has been working with the Board since 1994 when he became interested in the Topaz Museum project. Prior to moving to Salt Lake City he lived in the Bay Area and was active in JACL functions. Although never interned, his parents were in Tule Lake before relocating to Chicago. Rick almost single-handedly wrote the Civil Liberties Grant in a very short period of time. His efforts made it possible for us to reprint one of the first

publications about Topaz, "The Price of Prejudice," written by Leonard Arrington in 1962. (See another article in this issue.) • Professor Arrington was teaching economics at Utah State University when he researched and wrote about Topaz. He currently serves on the Topaz Museum Board. • Another new member of the Board is Bill Sugaya of San Francisco. He was born in Topaz but after internment did not return to camp until 1996. While there, he felt such a connection to his past and the Topaz Museum project that he volunteered to be of help to the committee. He works for Carey and Co., Inc., an architectural firm that specializes in restoration projects. • One of the main items of business was to ratify by-laws and elect officers for the Topaz Board. Now the Topaz Museum is a 501 c3 non-profit organization separate from the Great Basin Museum, which had up to this time been a "parent" entity. Jane Beckwith was elected president with Rick Okabe, secretary, and Ted Nagata, treasurer. Following the meeting on the next day, the Topaz Board drove to Delta, toured the site, and met with the Great Basin Museum Board to iron out specifics regarding a mutual arrangement for the two Museums. It was nice to have Californians Chuck Kubokawa and Bill Sugaya join with us. • Grace Oshita, Salt Lake City; Leonard Arrington, Salt Lake City; Charlotte Morrison, Delta; and Dave Tatsuno, San Francisco round out the Topaz Board.

TOPAZ THIRD GRADE DIARY OFFERS UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE

Fifty years after Miss Anne Yamauchi Hori's third grade class wrote and illustrated their "Daily Diary" at Topaz, the class was reunited in October 1996 to renew their friendships. All this came about because two BYU professors recognized the fresh approach the diary offered in studying internment. Dr. George Chilcoat and Dr. Michael Tunnell visited Topaz prior to 1994 and while in Delta saw a copy of the diary in Jane Beckwith's possession. Two of her students had found out about the diary when they interviewed Dr. Wanda Robertson in Salt Lake City in 1983. Robertson had placed the diary in the Utah State Historical collection. She had been one of the principals at an elementary school in camp during WWII. Chilcoat and Tunnell contacted members of the class by telephone, then published a children's book based on the diary. They also located the teacher, Anne Yamauchi Hori's husband, Saburo. Unfortunately a short while before, Mrs. Hori had passed away. Their book, entitled "The Children of Topaz" recreates several of the diary pages as well as giving a brief history of Topaz. Members of the class organized a reunion held in Berkeley. Margaret Hamachi Shimada, Grace Hayashi Okamoto, Jane



1944. Miss Anne Yamauchi Hori's third grade class kept a diary, a new book on Topaz was written based on its unique perspective. The class held a class reunion in which 22 of the original 27 students were contacted.

DAVE TATSUNO'S MOVIE INDUCTED INTO LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Copies of Dave Tatsuno's historic footage taken in Topaz are still available for \$100 donation to the Topaz Museum. Earlier this spring the National Film Registry announced only 25 movies were selected for induction into the Library of Congress. Dave Tatsuno's color home movie, made in Topaz, beat out nearly 1000 other movies to make the list against Hollywood's professionally produced films. Only one other home movie has ever been included: Abraham Zapruder's footage of President Kennedy's assassination. • In 1942 Dave's camera was sent to Walter Honderick, who worked in the camp. He then gave it to Dave who took shots of friends and family, being careful not to photograph the guards or the barbed wire fence. He took the film outside the camp to be developed when he was on trips buying for the co-op store. • The Topaz Museum has been fortunate to be the recipient of Dave's generous offer to provide copies of his film along with other footage for a \$100 donation. Parts of his movie have been used in other films, but this tape includes about 45 minutes of camp shots and Topaz reunions.

TOPAZ BOARD HIRES MUSEUM CONSULTANT

At the March board meeting, Rich Pulsipher of Consortium West, was hired to begin master planning the displays for the Topaz Museum. Award winning Consortium West has had 30 years experience, working all over the world planning displays based on history. • In June, Rich Pulsipher and two others from the company spent a full day in Delta getting a feeling for what will become the site for the Museum. They also travelled to Topaz and spent much of the afternoon swatting mosquitoes and investigating the history of the camp through the artifacts left there. Pulsipher said, "This is an exciting project not only because of its historic significance but because it will be a unique museum." In June the company met with a group of internees for in-depth interviews. In conversations with Pulsipher, we learned it is common to first establish priorities and a master plan concept before constructing a building. He said the exhibits should dictate the building design (not vice-versa). The master plan should also help in future fund-raising once people can see what they are donating for.

1942. Tanforan mess hall. Internees cleaned their plates on the way out.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT Jane Beckwith

My, that headline sounds too highfalutin'. I think it should read: "Message from someone who has been working on the Topaz Museum for a long time." That sounds more accurate. But now that I have been officially selected as the president of the Topaz Board, I would like to share some of the personal thoughts I have been having about the project. • Trying to

1988. Former Topaz residents visit site. L-r: Toaru Ishiyama, Tetsuden Kashima, Tata Koga, Takako Tsuchiya Endo, Grace Oshita, Harry Kitano, Dorcas Nakao, Toyko S. Kawakami.



establish a museum on Topaz has been a lot of work, but every so often something happens that refreshes my energy and helps me refocus. Yesterday I received a package from Ian Tanamachi, son of Kiyoshi. He sent me several Topaz artifacts, yearbooks and photographs, from his father's estate. I met Mr. Tanamachi once when I was invited to a reunion. I remember how gracious he was to me. • I used to look at a copy of the Rambler (Topaz yearbook) when I was growing up because my own father, as the editor of the local paper, helped with the photography at camp. But the interesting artifact that Ian sent was Ki's diploma. I couldn't help but recognize it as a simple "Goes" form used by printers who haven't the means to print a fancy border. Nothing fancy or even official looking about this diploma. Then down in the corner I saw the imprint of my father's publishing company. How strange for Ian and me to be connected, in a loose way, by our fathers. Thanks to Ian for sending those precious items. • Another situation that I have been worrying over for a long time, is the condition of the site. Although it is on the National Register of Historic Places, that does not protect it from the private owners. I can't emphasize enough that we must band together to save the site before it is destroyed. Topaz is one of the few camps that hasn't suffered major development, although that might be just around the corner for Topaz. • Finally I was invited to speak at Bates College in Maine. I know that that college accepted two or three relocatees during the war, so I was happy to be able to tell the students about the history of Topaz. Following my presentation, one student said that while he thought it was a good idea for me to work toward a museum for Topaz, that he personally didn't have much faith in trying to change others' attitudes of prejudice and hate. Nor did he have any faith in the power of the individual against government strictures. I was sad and surprised that a student so young could be so cynical, but more concerned that none of the other students in the class disagreed with him. Later at another session with some of the same students I asked if they agreed with him and they said no, but didn't want to say that in class. Why is it so easy not to come forward on behalf of fairness? Until it is easy, we all have a lot of work to do.

INFORMATION

Our mailing addresses contain many duplicates and "dead" addresses. Please let us know if you have been receiving more than one newsletter. It is expensive but the only way we can correct this is to send this issue out using first class postage and make changes accordingly. Also let us know of friends who would like to receive the Topaz Times. For newsletter stories, photographs or corrections, contact Ted Nagata, 801 363-7935, fax 484-0851, 1416 E. Perrys Hollow Dr. SLC, UT 84103. Donations may be sent to PO Box 241, Delta, UT 84624.

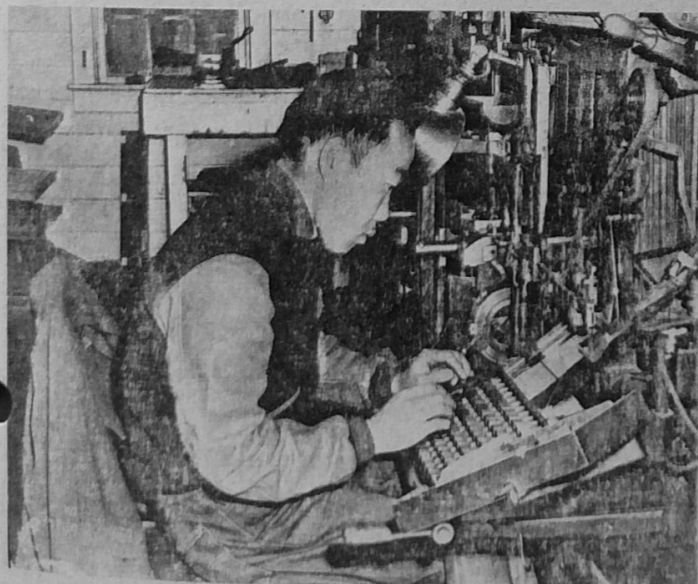
HEART MOUNTAIN NOTES

Powell, Wyoming: The Heart Mountain Foundation is conducting its first, official membership drive since its formation last year as a nonprofit corporation. The mission of the new organization is "to memorialize and to educate the public about the significance of the historical events surrounding the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, and especially the experiences of Japanese Americans who were interned at the Heart Mountain camp near Powell, Wyoming". The first membership meeting will be held in Powell, June 20-21. For more information call 307-754-3471.

DONOR BOARD GROWS

As of June 1997, the donor plaque has approximately 70 names commemorating loved ones. The idea was introduced and began in May of 1995 as a way to remember those who were interned at Topaz. The large oak board located in the Great Basin Museum, is well over half filled. For \$500, donors can have 25 words placed on the name plates (2 1/4" x 4 1/2"). Two families can go in together for one plaque or you may increase your donation to total \$500. If you would like to donate (money or artifacts) to the museum, please write Box 241, Delta, Utah 84624, or call (801) 864-2098. Additional funds are needed for museum construction, exhibits and newsletters. Thank you so much for all your past support. The board would like to acknowledge and thank the Topaz Cruise 1996 for their generous donation of \$1300 from the recent cruise.

1943. Harry Yasuda, typesetter, moonlighted for Frank Beckwith's newspaper in Delta. Because he earned over \$16 per month, the WRA authorities charged him rent for living in a Topaz barrack.



1943. Ella Honderich sketch of Topaz women in a doll-making class.



1944. Honderich sketch shows father dutifully giving baby a bath near pot-bellied stove. Hot water is kept on stove, mother crochets at table (all furniture is hand made) while "bachan" looks on. There was no running water, therefore the water bucket made many trips to the laundry.

SAD NEWS ABOUT THE TOPAZ SITE

Jane Beckwith In each newsletter I try to keep people informed about the developments around the site itself. Unfortunately I have more bad news, not only is property changing hands, but now the expanse of ground (several hundred acres) on the east side of the camp has been plowed and is ready for cultivation. The site is such a precious resource for all people, it needs to be saved from the encroachment that is creeping toward it. Please consider donating to the Museum to help preserve the site. Once it is damaged, that resource will never be reclaimed. The Topaz site has more remains of front steps, walkways, foundations and artifacts than any other campsite, yet the thrust to save it lags. More vandalism has occurred at the marker. Two names have been scratched into the metal where the inscriptions are. That will probably never stop, but allowing homes to be placed on the site should be stopped.

TOPAZ CRUISE '96 *Chuck Kubokawa*

VANCOUVER - VICTORIA - SAN FRANCISCO OCTOBER 1- 6, 1996 One thing we all agree on--the trip was wonderful, but too short. We had a very friendly group and a good time was had by all. After a scenic motorcoach ride from the Seattle airport we were met at the Chateau Granville by our Vancouver welcoming committee: KUNI AND KIYOCHI KUMEKAWA plus AKIKO TOHMATSU REDLINGER who passed out personalized sightseeing, restaurant and shopping tip guides. As the rest of the day was free, we followed their suggestions and had a great time exploring Vancouver. Our city tour on Wednesday was fun and still left us with time to do additional sightseeing and shopping. • The

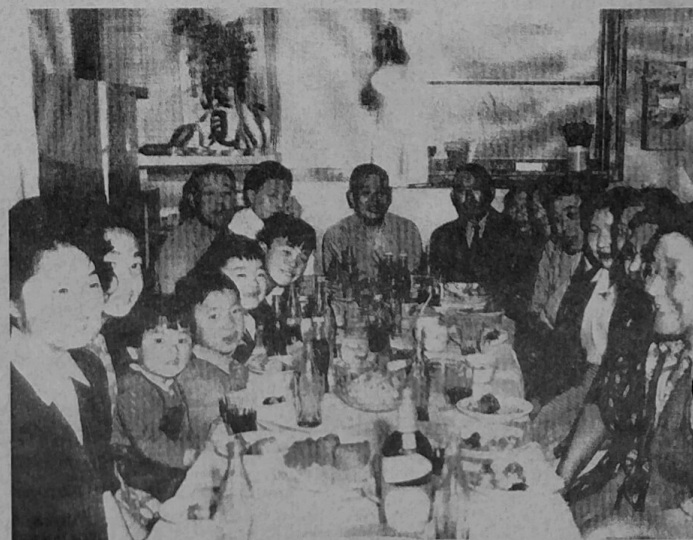


1943. Mine Okubo (right) and friends work on early Topaz publication.

friendship dinner that night at the Flamingo Restaurant was a great experience. Our seating arrangement of six Topazans and four Canadians at each table provided the opportunity to compare our experiences during WWII as prisoners of our respective governments. MIDGE AYUKAWA, historian from Victoria, gave a very informative talk comparing the experiences of Japanese in Canada and the U.S. as well as their exclusionary ordeal in wartime exile. FUMI HAYASHI-MANABE related her personal experience from the time she first started school unable to understand English, through her high school years in Tanforan and Topaz, to her leaving camp for St. Louis to attend college. HARRY HONDA, editor emeritus of the Pacific Citizen, the bi-weekly organ of the JACL, provided a general overview of evacuation and incarceration of 110,000 Japanese Americans from the West Coast and a description of the ten wartime internment centers under the supervision of the War Relocation Authority. Honda also described the enemy alien internment center for families at Crystal City, TX. which was operated by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, which also held captive some 2,000 Japanese Latin Americans, mostly from Peru, who were held as hostages to exchange with American civilians impounded in Japanese prison camps in various parts of Asia. He detailed the detention camps in New Mexico, Montana, Louisiana and Texas, which housed Issei community leaders who were arrested as "dangerous enemy aliens". • We were able to thank our new friends with an "orei" to the Japanese Canadian Citizens Association (JCCA) and the Japanese Canadian National Museum and Archives Society (JCNMA) for their hospitality and friendship. We appreciate the thoughtfulness of our Canadian friends in driving us back to the hotel in the rain. • Thursday was spent running around the city until we reported to our ship, the ms Noordam of the Holland America Line. Dinner that night, as well as all our other meals, was great --lots of choices. People

were busy checking out the bars, casino, movies, beauty parlor, exercise room, decks, and the other amenities available. After a very smooth overnight trip, we reached Victoria where a double decker bus took us on a tour of Victoria which included the Butchart Gardens and high tea at the Empress Hotel. • The seas were a bit rough leaving Victoria for the cruise down the coast. But everyone was up bright and early the next morning and enjoyed a smooth sail from then on. Wasn't it fun to dress up in fancy evening attire for the Captain's Dinner? Thanks to Awana Travel and Holland America for the cocktail party on Saturday night. The committee played Topaz Bingo which had everyone hustling around for signatures to fill up their squares. The big winner was our adopted Topazan HARRY HONDA who promised to share his prize with wife MIRI. • Photo albums with Holland America's logo were presented to DR. MASAKO MIURA, our oldest traveler at 82 year, and to BEVERLY MILLER, the "baby" of the trip at 41 years young! A travel bag with the ship's insignia came in mighty handy for FLORENCE & STEVE MIYASHIRO of Kauai who traveled the farthest to join our cruise. • Everyone won a prize: either logo items from the ship's gift store or "scratch off" gaming tickets. The committee purchased the official group picture for each family or individual. We are sorry that many of you are not in the photo. Enclosed is an identification listing of the group. The Topaz team got skunked in the Trivia Contest, CHUCK KUBOKAWA, Salton Sea was not the answer and your protest fell on deaf ears. • Lots of visiting went on. You could count on a friendly face or an empty chair awaiting you in the Lido Cafe or the Piet Hein Lounge. We were envious of the many family groups aboard who were having a ball: ROBERT & TOSHIKO AKAMATSU with son DON of Madison, WI. accompanied by another son BOB from Detroit; THE MIYASHIROs of Kauai with daughter STEPHANIE of Berkeley; SAM & ROSE, the "Bridge Player," NIEDA of Tiburon who talked his sister JUNE ASHIKAWA into going on this trip; the vivacious TAKARUWA sisters --MAY KIMURA from Los Angeles, TOMI GYOTOKU from S.F. and KAY COOPER from San Ramon. • Almost like family were their good friends MIMI IWATSU of Concord, EMI NAKAHIRO of Mill Valley, and her in-laws SUMI & KEN MARUYAMA of Dana Point, and MARIANNE OKAWA of Bellevue WA. WALTER & HARUMI SERATA enjoyed watching his kid brother HENRY & wife ADELINA dancing up a storm every evening, seasick and all. Our travel agent SUE SASAGAWA along with husband BILL, took seasick remedies to all our incapacitated travelers the second night out. But not on those errands of mercy were his brother and wife, JAY & SUSIE SASAGAWA of Palo Alto who were busy dancing, dancing! • Genial cruise treasurer MIN and wife TAKIKO SHINODA of San Leandro with their daughter and son-in-law JANET & RON

1943. Unidentified family prepares for birthday meal. Meals in barracks were rare, most internees ate all meals in the block mess hall.



McELHANEY of Knoxville TN talked it up with various group members. We found out from YOSHIKO & FRED SHINODA also of San Leandro that the latter is 12 years younger than Min! Another pair of siblings we kept running into time and again were HISA KUMAGAI of Davis and her kid sister KIYO TOMOMATSU of Van Nuys, accompanied by their spouses LINDY and MUDDY, respectively. What a pleasant surprise for HELEN UTSUMI of S.F. and her sister EVELYN YOSHISATO of Castro Valley when they ran into sisters SHIZUE SAKAI of San Jose and TOSHI HAGIMORI of So. San Francisco. This foursome was able to reminisce about their days as roommates in Salt Lake City right after leaving camp way back in the 40's.

• The most popular gang had to be the Momii family. And that included RICK & YAS with daughter, the actress JUDY MOMII-HOY, from LA; TAK & MOLLY and daughter, photographer KATHY PALAPAZ of Berkeley, and JAMO & FUMI of Menlo Park with their daughters SUSAN HARTMAN of Washington, D.C. and BEVERLY MILLER of Redmond, WA. To show how hospitable our group is, Fumi's sister AIKO NAKAHARA and hubby PETER of San Jose, two more "adopted" Topazans, won two of our grand prizes. • The "singles" had their fun, too. STANLEY KANZAKI of New York found his fellow travelers so friendly that he is thinking about making a possible move to the Bay Area in the near future. FLO & HARRY NAKAMURA of San Francisco had so much to talk about with their dinner companions, SACHI & TAD MASAOKA of San Mateo, that they were shooed out of the dining room every evening. A lot of oldtimers remembered when TAMAYE & GEORGE MORINO of Richmond ran the Morino Bros. grocery store and chandlery on Sutter Street in San Francisco. • Our peripatetic "oldsters," 81 years old MITSIE YATABE was leaving for a tour of Japan two days after returning home to El Cerrito; and DR. MIURA of Aptos already had her bags packed with summer clothes for a meeting-vacation in Kanai, followed by a trip to L.A. Congrats on the spectacular photo exhibit on display in Albany by our very talented TAD & KIYO ESHIMA of Berkeley --dramatic architectural



1944. photo of Topaz pre-school.

and structural shots by Tad, and beautiful close-ups of exotic flowers by Kiyo. Coming in under the Golden Gate Bridge on a very foggy San Francisco Sunday was an incredibly awesome sight. A rare 90 plus heat wave greeted us that day, too. • Committee veterans of countless Topaz treks, reunions, exhibits: BOB UTSUMI, accompanied by wife YAS; DAISY SATODA, With seldom seen and long-suffering spouse YONE; plus FUMI HAYASHI, MIMI IWATSU, TOMI GYOTOKU and our cruise chairperson CHUCK agreed this was one of our best gatherings with the coolest people aboard! Thanks to each of you for making this trip so special. • Our Canadian friends have indicated that they are interested in making the reverse trip in the Spring i.e. fly down to San Francisco, spend a few days here with Topaz cruise members and other interested persons to continue the dialogue on discussing our respective wartime experiences, and then cruise back to Vancouver. Other Canadians would like us to return to Vancouver to spend time in a more informal setting talking about mutual happenings. • Please send us your suggestions re destinations if you would be interested in other trips with our Topaz group. Would appreciate any feedback, good and/or bad, on any of the above plus

1944. Unidentified Topaz class, perhaps 6th grade.
Can you identify anyone, the school, or the class?



Cruise '96. NOTE: We have printed copies of the speeches given by Midge Ayukawa, Fumi Hayashi, and Harry Honda at our friendship dinner in Vancouver. Please send us a large self addressed stamped envelope if you would like a copy of any of these speeches. We will be sending refund checks to those of you who were unable to take the Vancouver City Tour because of the switch in days from Thursday to Wednesday. Any requests or inquiries can be sent to Daisy Satoda, 109 Gladeview Way, San Francisco, CA 94131. Tel/Fax (415) 821-0164.

Kawaguchi Imura, Roy Takeuchi and Mae Yanagi Ferral were able to contact 22 of the 27 students. Over fifty people attended the celebration. The surplus funds from the reunion were donated to the Topaz Museum. Several plaques that commemorate Ms. Hori and her class are now in place at the Museum. Book information can be obtained from Prof. Tunnell at (801) 226-7581. Many bookstores carry the book.

TOPAZ MUSEUM BECOMES NON-PROFIT CORPORATION *Rick Okabe*

In order to apply for the CLEPF grant, the Topaz Museum board incorporated as a charitable, not-for-profit corporation. Incorporation papers were filed with the State of Utah in December, 1997. In May of this year, the Board received a ruling from the IRS, qualifying us as a 501 (c)3 tax exempt organization. *This means that any donations received from individuals are fully tax deductible.* It also means that there are more potential sources of funding from foundations, corporations and other organizations. The Topaz Museum Board has been operating as a part of the Great Basin Museum ever since the donation of the recreation hall by the Jeffery family in 1991. The board wishes to thank the Great Basin board for its support and cooperation in the past and is looking forward to a continuing relationship as the new museum takes shape. We would also like to thank Sharon Lamb, a GBM board member who has kept our books and financial records since the project was initiated. We are indebted to her gracious, volunteer support for the past six years. She recently received an award as "Outstanding Volunteer" from Millard County.

NIKKEI CELEBRATE 100 YEARS IN UTAH *Ted Nagata*

Japanese-Americans living in the state celebrated 100 years in Utah in conjunction with the Utah Centennial 1896-1996. The celebration was held in August at 3 locations and it was particularly gratifying to have so many out-of-town Utahns return for the celebration. The picnic was attended by over 500 people, the Kanojo fashion show had over 700 people and the Centennial Banquet was attended by over 850 people including many Utah dignitaries. Golf was great at



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1996. Above, JA Centennial banquet was attended by over 850 people. The Picnic featured Ogden's Buddhist Church taiko drummers.

Eaglewood and the 296 page history book was an immediate sellout and orders are being taken for a reprint. The reprint will include the addition of a 32 page addendum which will contain photos of all the Centennial events. The JA Centennial committee is in the process of donating 335 history books to schools and libraries throughout the state. Our original goal to honor our Issei and Nisei pioneers and document their history was achieved. The JA Centennial was the largest Nikkei event ever held in Utah. History books can be ordered by calling toll free 800 544-8828. Cost is \$40 each, books contain 296 pages, 62 chapters and over 500 historic photos.



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