

# TOPAZ TIMES

## THE CITY

Volume 00 Number One

July 2000

Published by the Topaz Museum Board

### Leonard J. Arrington, Topaz scholar and board member dies

The Topaz Museum Board and anyone interested in history of the West were all saddened by Leonard Arrington's death in February 1999. His generous nature regarding his work on the history of Topaz showed him to be a true friend of the Museum. His outstanding research and writing brought him many awards and respect of other scholars. • The honor lecture, "The Price of Prejudice," written when he was a professor at Utah State University in 1962, was the first accessible history of Topaz written in Utah. His scholarship and research was a seminal effort in revealing the facts of the camp. Later he allowed the Topaz Museum Board to reprint the work and add photographs to augment the text. He asked for no royalties. That book was printed from money received from the Civil Liberties Public Education Program grant. He participated in the leadership of the International Conference on Relocation held at the University of Utah in 1983. • In January 2000 Arrington was nominated as one of the Top 20 Most Influential Utahns of the 20th Century. He was cited for his work as an LDS Church Historian and author of "Great Basin Kingdom." Only months before he died he completed a history of Idaho. He served on the Topaz Board from its inception until his death, giving freely of his time and advice. • Upon his passing, the governors of Utah and Idaho issued declarations honoring his work as a historian and humanitarian. Utah Governor Michael Leavitt's declaration said in part, "Whereas, Leonard led the way in the historical study of Utah women, produced a path-breaking study entitled, "The Price of Prejudice: The Japanese-American Relocation Center at Topaz, Utah during World War II," and studied many aspects of Utah's history... I, Michael O. Leavitt, Governor of the state of Utah, do hereby commend Leonard J. Arrington for his lifetime contributions to the state of Utah as a scholar, historian and friend." • He wrote several books on Utah, set up research study centers at BYU and Utah State and



Prof. Leonard J. Arrington shown in 1987.

won the David Evans prize for biography. He was named a Fellow of the Society of American Historians. His influential scholarship will live for years to come.

### Spend 5 nights and 6 days with Canadian Nikkeis

Chuck Kubokawa

An invitation has been extended by the Canadian Nikkeis to all Topazians and friends in the US Nikkei communities to join them on a bus tour of all the ghost towns and mining towns in which they were interned during the war years. • This unique trip for the American Nikkeis who will be able to see the areas and conditions in which the Canadians existed, although a couple of the areas have been turned into vacation spots. • When the Topaz group visited with the Canadian Nikkeis three years ago, we invited them to our Topaz Reunion in San Jose on May 29-31, 1998. They came, enjoyed and learned about our camp life and the internment of Nikkeis from Peru, Mexico, Canada, Australia and Southeast Asia. They also socialized and shared experiences with us. The exchange of information established a relationship with them, broadened our perspectives and enriched our lives with firsthand information that had never been published. • We are now being given an opportunity to share their information by seeing their camp museum in New Denver and by touring Kaslo, Greenwood, Lemon Creek, etc. and by meeting with their community in three rural towns while breaking bread rather than eating rice with them. Reservation deadline is July 21. The trip includes having lunch or dinner at Kelona, New Denver, and

Topaz water tanks, reported to be among the largest in the world, at the time.



Vernon. Many Topazians requested the tour. • The trip, scheduled September 17-21, will begin and end from Vancouver, BC and will take five nights and six days, ending at the grand opening of the Canadian Nikkei Cultural Centre in Burnby, Vancouver, BC on Friday, Sept. 21, 2000. • Specific data regarding extra days, pre or post, and the final schedule of the tour can be arranged with Iwata Travel in Vancouver. • The cost is \$655 (Canada) per double occupancy, \$930 (Canada) single for the land tour only. The Canadian rate of exchange means the actual cost is much less. Reservations are limited. •

**Reservation deadline is July 21, tentative schedule:**

Sept. 17: Leave Vancouver at 8:00 A.M. for Vernon for lunch. Travel to Kelowna for winery tour. Check into Grand Okanagan Lakefront resort. Casino visit. Sept. 18: Leave Kelowna for Greenwood Museum. Continue through Grand Forks, Castlegar, and Nelson to the Ainsworth Hot Springs Hotel. Lunch enroute. • Sept. 19: Circle tour of Kaslo, Sandon, New Denver, and Slokan. Lunch at New Denver. Return to Ainsworth Hot Springs. • Sept. 20: Travel to Revelstoke toward Kamloops and dinner. Check into Fortune Hotel. • Sept. 21: Travel to Fraser Canyon to Vancouver. Arrive at 3:00 P.M. • Costs include: Bus for five days, accommodation and gratuity for driver, hotel rooms, tax and GST, hot spring passes, Iwata Travel escort, museum leaders, admission to New Denver Internment Centre and all Nikkei Community meals. • Signup for this tour should be made with the Japanese Canadian National Museum (JCNM) 511 East Broadway, Vancouver, BC V5T 1X4. Phone: (604) 874-8090. Fax (604) 874-8164. E-mail: jcnm@telus.net. • Other questions can be answered by Chuck Kubokawa, 3365 Stockton Place, Palo Alto, CA 94303-4202. Phone: (650) 494-7862. E-mail ckub@jps.net.

**Ann Hibino's work continues**

Some of you may have known Nobu Ann Kumekawa Hibino and her work on behalf of the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund. She visited Topaz shortly before the tragic accident that took her life in 1998. She was so supportive of the Topaz Museum's efforts that her untimely death seemed even more tragic. But her legacy of community service continues in Portland, CT where she lived and in the students her work has helped. A newspaper article written in 1997 chronicled her life of service which included literacy campaigns, Head Start programs, work with low-income resident housing issues, nuclear waste curriculum projects and more. The Student Relocation Fund continues to award scholarships to immigrant students as a reciprocal payment for help Japanese-American students received during WWII. 260 students have received nearly \$180,000 in funds to help them reach their higher education goals and contribute to



*Salt Lake City Veterans' Memorial shown being dedicated in 1947 to Japanese-American soldiers who died in the service of their country.*

their communities. Included in this newsletter is more information about the fund.

**Millard County lists Topaz veterans on memorial**

The nation-wide interest in making memorials for veterans has come to Millard County. Next November a list of names of all military men and women who have lived in the county will be unveiled in Fillmore, the county seat. Part of that list will include people from Topaz. The dedication of the memorial will be November 4, 2000 at 11:00 am in Fillmore, Utah. Retired dentist Harold Harada from Azusa, CA will be a featured speaker. Because of the unusual circumstances of Topaz, people were included on the list if they, or their families were interned at Topaz, whether they were inducted from the county or not. • According to some sources, over 400 residents from Topaz were in the armed services. It was difficult to find that many names, but the memorial in Fillmore will be able to accommodate additional names should someone have been left out. One source said 15 were killed in action, another source said 12. This list



*Topaz Gold Star mothers who lost sons fighting for America.*



includes 15 who were killed in the service of the United States. • Please check the following list for accuracy (Two listings for "Mori" have no first names.) then send any additions or corrections to Frank Thomas, Holden, UT 84636 or Jane Beckwith, Topaz Museum, Box 241, Delta, UT 84624 by July 31, 2000.

**World War I:** Keitaro Tsukamoto, N. Suzuki. **World War II:**

Chester Abe, Bert Akiyama, Shiro Asahina, Paul Asano, Roy Ashizawa, Yuki Nakamura Ashizawa, Isao Baba, Junji Doami, Frank, Dobashi, Shizuo Doiguchi, Warren Eijima, Minoru Endo, Sam Fujikawa, Henry Fukui, Sot Furuya, Toi Furuya, Yasumasa, Furuya, Yasumitsu Furuya, Shigeru Futagaki, John Juji Hada, John Hanamoto, Harold Harada, John Y. Harano (kia), Michael Mitsuru Hata, Robert N. Hata, James Akira Hayashi, Paul Hayashi, Tad Hayashi, Henry Hidekawa, Noboru Hideshima, Tad Hikoyeda, Kiyosi Hirano, Roy Hirano, Jackson Hirose, Kiku Hiroshima, Shoji Horikoshi, Robert S. Hoshino (kia), Haruo Ichiyasu, Edwin Iino, William Iino, Roy Y. Ikeda (kia), Sam Ikeda, Mas Imada, Heiyu Imai, Tomo Inabu, Joe Toshio Inatomi, Eddie Ino, Joe Ishizaki, Mas Isobe, Susumu Iwasi, David Iwatsu, Seji Kaibe, Nobuo Kajiwarra (kia), Frank Kami, Yonezo Kamishita, James S. Kanada (kia), Alice Noguchi Kanagaki, Takaaki P. Kashima, Taro Katayama, Saburo Katagawa, Henry Kato, John S. Kato (kia), Joseph H. Kato, Kazuo Kato, Yas Henry Kato, Ben Kawaguchi, Katsumi Tom Kawaguchi, Kojiro Kawaguchi, Masaru Kawaguchi, Tadayuki Kawaguchi, Effie Kawahara, Shigeru Kawamoto, George Kayano, Shigeru Kayano, Al Kimoto, Jim Kimoto, Tad Kimoto, Joe Kimura, Rusty Kimura, Saburo Kitagawa, Peter Kitagawa, Tamiji T. Kitagawa, Kozo Kitamura, Tamio Kitano, Yutaka Koizumi (kia), Chiaki Kojimoto, Mitsunobu Kojimoto, Nobuo Kono, Kiyoshi Kusunoki, Yoneo Maruyama, Ken Matsuda, Frank T. Matsui, George T. Matsui, Isamu Matsukawa, Joe Matsuki, Paul Matsuki, Frank Matsumoto, Kiyoshi Midzono, Yosh Mihara, Timothy Misokami, Tak K. Misumi, Tom T. Misumi (kia), M. Mitsutani, Jack Mizono, Bill Mizuno, John Mizuno, Mori, Mori, Haluto Moriguchi, Ginzo Morino, Kenji Morino, Aki Moriwaki, Shigeru Motoki, Tokiwo Murakami, George I. Nakamura, Jim Nakamura, Tyler Nakamura, Jim Nakano, Hisashi Nakao, Minoru Nakayama, Shig Nakayama, Tomio Nakayama, Makoto Nao, Hideso Neishi, Ken Nihei, Hiroshi Nishikubo, Raymond H. Nomura, Henry

Obaysahi, Shunsuke Ochi, Tetsuo Ochi, Agnes Ogi, Bill Ogo, Hiroataka Okada, James S. Okamoto (kia), Toru Okawachi, Teiji Okuda, Teizo Okuda, Yuki Kawaguchi Okuda, Frank E. Okuno, Hiroshi "Kasab" Onishi, Daniel C. Ota (kia), Shizuo Ozaki, Koji Ozawa, Masami Sado, Tom Sagimori, Tamemasa T. Sagimori (kia), Leo Saito, Masaaki Sakaguchi, Bill Sakai, Hisaji Sakai, Tomio Sakurai, Hisanori Sano, Sekio M. Sanzaki, Naoharu Satake, Ned Satake, York Sato, Eichi Shibata, Matt Shigio, Kenichi A. Shimomura, John Shinagaswa, Kiyoshi Shiramizu, Shigeomi Shiroishi, Chuji Sowa, Tsutomu Sumimoto, Hiroshi Sugiyama (kia), William Suyeyasu, Ken Suzuki, Teruo Tabata (kia), Wally Takaguchi, Sanzui Takaha, Yoneji Takaha, Shigeharu Takahashi, Paul Takata, Taro Takeda, Shizuo Taketa, Masakazu Taketoshi, Ichiro J. Takeuchi, Bert Takizawa, Osamu Tamaki, Satoshi Tamura, Toshio Tamura, Harry Tanabe, Kiyoshi Otto Tanamachi, Jiow J. Taniguchi, Tsutomu Tatsuno, James Y. Toda, Tom Tomioka, Joe Tondo, Stanley Tsujisaka, Himeo Tsumori, Isao J. Tsuno (kia), Guy Uyeyama, Hisashi Watanabe, Mas Yago, George Yaki, George Yamasaki, Motoichi Yanagi, Frank Yano, George Yano, Warran Yano, Joe R. Yasuda, Satoshi Yonekura, Hitoshi Yonekura, Alex Yorichi, Ronald Yutaka Yoshida, Kiyoshi Yoshii, Tad Yoshii, Mine Yoshimine, Joe Yoshino, John Yoshino, Paul Yoshino, Tom Yoshitome. **Korean War:** Carvin Dowke, Bill Hirose, Chuck Kubokawa, Edwin Takahashi and Bob Utsumi. This list was compiled by several people, Mas Kawaguchi, Mitzie Tarver, JAVA representatives, Grant Ichikawa, Min Endo, Jim J. Yamashita, Fumi Hayashi, Ted Nagata, Chuck Kubokawa, Jane Beckwith and others. Researchers used issues of the Topaz Times and the Millard Co. Chronicle. Frank Thomas is very enthusiastic about the project. Thank you for all your help. • If anyone would care to donate to the memorial, please send a check to Frank Thomas, Holden, UT 84636.

**Donation plaques represent support for the museum.**

The first donor board for the Museum has been filled. The concept of the board with individual plaques was introduced at the dedication of the restored recreation

hall. Since then donations have come in steadily from all sectors, businesses, foundations and agencies, but mostly from individuals. The plaque contains 90 brass plates each representing a donation of at least \$500. • A new donor board was made recently, and Paul Seo, of Creative Awards in Salt Lake City, donated his labor and materials



Co-op staff. Included: Meg Takezawa secretary, M. Tsujisaka (with kids), Toby Kuruma, Jiro Nakaso.

for the second donor board. • The funds generated from the plaques have been used by the Topaz Museum Board for several projects that all help to preserve the history of Topaz. For the first project the Museum Board restored the recreation hall which visitors are able to walk through. Being able to go into the building gives visitors a fuller appreciation of what it was like to live in a barrack with its extreme temperatures and few amenities. Housed in the recreation hall are artifacts that originated at Topaz and a "mock" apartment that is 20' by 16'. There is a display of stoves from camp, two from recreation halls and two from barracks as well as furniture built by internees while in camp. Also on display is a photo exhibit that shows camp life. In addition to the restoration of the recreation hall, the funds have been used to purchase 415 acres of the camp site and the subsequent surveying of that property. • Aaron Peskin and Nancy Shanahan from San Francisco negotiated the purchase. We appreciate the donation of their time, expertise and energy. • Other money has been expended for a second printing of Leonard Arrington's book, "The Price of Prejudice." Initial funds for that printing came from the Civil Liberties Public Education Program grant. A copy of the book was given to all schools and public libraries in Utah and in the Bay Area. A few copies are still available for \$22.00 including shipping. • Another major project, but one that was funded by grants rather than the donations, has been an initial study of the possible displays that will be in the Museum. This study was done by Consortium West, a Salt Lake City museum design agency. The majority of the money will go towards constructing a building to house the Museum.

1943. Desert View Elementary, 4th grade class. There were two elementary schools in Topaz, the other was Mountain View Elementary.



## A personal note to all of you

Jane Beckwith

As the Topaz Museum Board we have tried to have a newsletter every March since we began our project to establish a Museum. I don't know if any of you missed us, but it's been over two years since our last newsletter. It's not that the work toward a Museum hasn't gone forward; in fact, so much has occurred that the size of this newsletter should be quite weighty. Let me catch you up on some of the accomplishments. • Most of you know that the Board approved the purchase of 415 acres of the site. (There are still several parcels of land that need to be



Jane Beckwith and Kimi Kodani Hill.

preserved, the 100 acres that comprised the administration area, hospital and military headquarters, 34 acres near blocks 5-7 and 12-14. The people who put a house on block 41 are selling 13 acres and their house.) • The Board was given an award from the Utah Heritage Foundation and became a Save America's Treasures project and grant recipient. (See articles in the newsletter.) Both of those applications took a great deal of time. • This year has been a big year for tours to the site. I have guided almost 300 people, including Boy Scouts, junior high classes, commercial tours and interested

individuals. I have also presented programs in Salt Lake City. • We managed to become a line item on the county budget, although we didn't get any funding from them. Still we are not required to pay property tax for the site acreage. • I have answered numerous letters and e-mail from people looking for information about the project. One man is searching for a woman named Jane Akimoto, who wrote to his uncle for five years. She was a nurse in Salt Lake City during the war, but the man who wrote the letter to me has been unable to locate her. If anyone knows her, he would be happy to hear



## Topaz Museum Donor Board

The following inscriptions have been entered on the commemorative donor board which will be placed in the Topaz Museum. To have your name included or to honor someone in your family, please send a \$500 (or more) donation to the Topaz Museum, P.O. Box 241, Delta, UT 84624.

### American Express Philanthropic Program

Joe Kawakami

Dorothy and Motoichi Yanagi

In memory of Yasuo Abiko, Lily Abiko

In loving memory of Mary Hatsue Shimamoto from her children Joanne Kiyoko Tohei and Hiko Shimamoto

In memory of father James G. Nagata Ted and Yeiko Nagata

In memory of mother Toshi Nagata Sam and Carol Nagata Tanaka Dianne Nagata

In memory Lillian "Anne" Yamauchi Hori the families of Ron and Kay Wornell Greg and Joyce Pratt John and Margaret Hori and Saburo Hori

Carvin T. Dowke

Jane Beckwith

Takako and Takeshi Endo

Keyko Tsuchiya Hall

Michihiko Hayashida

Bette Hamachi

Edward and Yuriko Ishii

In memory of Arthur Tadashi Hayashi 1922-1994

Eldro Jeffery Family

Mitsugi Kasai

Edward and Tama Koda

Toyo Suyemoto Kawakami

Soichi Kojima

Kengo Kawashima

Glenn and Yoshiko Kumekawa

Millard County Tourism

In memory of Pat and Liz Pace, Bill and Wanda Pace C.N. Pace

Rick and Karen Okabe

Topaz Reunion '92

Ben and Grace Oshita

Return to Topaz '93

Emil and Eleanor Gerard Sekerak

Doris Tono

Toshiko Sagimori Yoshida

In memory Yuki and Nobukichi Takakuwa 22-4-B Yoshi, May, Tomi, Kay, and Michi

Anna E. Sundwall

Utah State Centennial

Dave and Alice Tatsuno

Robert and Yasuko Utsumi

### Mine Okubo

In memory of Tanekichi T. and Chiyo S. Mori Family of Joseph H. and Emma Y. Mori

In Memory of Toshio Mori, Author Editor of Trek

Nakamizo Family Hideji and Kane, Hisa Deguchi, Eiko Tomiyasu (Kiyo) Teru Fujikawa (Sam), Mits Fuchigami (Tosh)

The Yamashita Family, Toyoji Yamashita, Lee Sets Boyar, Miki Yamada, Mas Yamashita, Morio Yamashita, Nob Yamashita, Miyo Ujiye, Kaz Nakaba, Sachi Ueda

In memory of George Gentoku Shimamoto, Masayo Shimamoto, Teruko S. Neuwalder and Lily A. Tashima 36-9-B

Gihei and Sachi Takeuchi From John, Frank, Edward, Roy Takeuchi and Margaret Tsujimoto

In loving memory of Toshiro Minamoto from Harue Minamoto, Gay Minamoto Kaplan, John Minamoto and Edwin Minamoto

In honor of Emil and Eleanor Sekerak Joe and Nan Inatome

In memory Michio "Mike" Suzuki Born in Oakland, California Nami Suzuki Peter and Teri Suzuki, Linda H. Suzuki

Japanese American Citizen League 1994 Salt Lake City Convention

In memory of Dr. Shin Tanaka

In memory of Sachiko H. Miura Wataru and Bruce S. Miura

In memory of our parents Kichizo and Misao Kanzaki, Issei Pioneers, Albert, Helen, Milton, Kaye and Stanley

In loving memory of Shinji Omura and Toyome Nishi Omura From their grandson Joel Omura Kurihara

In memory of Tom Morita

Gibbs M. Smith, Larry McKown

Topaz - a repass of infamy to Japanese Americans Dr. Himeo and Lumi Tsumori

In memory of Frank A. Beckwith Contributor to Trek magazine

Millard County Centennial Committee

October 26, 1996 Reunion of Lillian (Anne) Yamauchi Hori's 1943 Topaz Third Grade class Dr. Paul and Helen Yamauchi

In memory of Dr. Shin Tanaka Isao and Kimi Tanaka, Susan Hellerud, Mariko Tanaka, Dr. Taro Tanaka

Anne Yamauchi Hori's Topaz Class in 1943

Children of Topaz Class Reunion, 1996

Hank Obayashi

Terrell T. and Leah H. Nagata

Topaz Reunion Cruise, 1996

In Memory of Magotaro Hirose, Shigeno Hirose, Motoko Hirose Kanzawa, George Hirose, Jack Hirose, Frank Hirose, Bill Hirose

Kimi and Juniichi Kami, Uta and Carl Hirota

Sanshiro and Ise Oshima

Mr. and Mrs. Yoshitomo Honda and Family Mrs. Yuko Mayeda and Family

In memory of Michi Tani Sugawara, Paul Tani

With Fond Memories of Our Loyal Japanese American Friends: Mike Rose Insurance Agency and Family Members: Heber, Dora, Mike, Elaine, Debbie, Lewis, Caleb, Chris, Zach, Allysa, David, Ami, Julie, Clay, Dale and Jordan

Kiyoshi Tanamachi

Anonymous

In memory of Junzo Fred Hibino and Ito Kawakami Hibino From Yosh and Yuk

In memory of Keiroku and Haru Kumekawa Nobu K. Hibino

Rob and Jill Droubay and family

In Memory of Orvil and Donna Jeffery

M Tsuchiya Family 9-11-E

In Memory of sister Chiyo C. Taketoshi Block 34

Hisayo W. and Harry J. Kiyomura Hisayo W. Kiyomura Topaz Block 26

Kenji and Amy Ota

Takasaburi Sekino Sakae Sekino Alice Satsuko Sekino Warren Tatsuo Sekino Block 35

Mr. and Mrs. Harris Simmons

In memory of G. Gentoku and Masayo Shimamoto 36-9-B

Zions Bancorporation Foundation

Nobu Kumekawa Hibino

Kei and Dale Nakano

In memory of Anne L. Yamauchi Hori

Samuel T. Yanagisawa

Harue Minamoto

Mary Kawaguchi Uchiyama and Aiji Uchiyama

In memory of Thomas and Tsune Matsuoka and Tomiko Hino Block 12-D-5

In memory of Toby and Kimi Ogawa Block 7 Topaz

In honor of Mr. and Mrs. Dave Tatsuno Joe and Nan

In memory of Anne Yamauchi Hori Teacher of "The Children of Topaz" May 30, 1998 Topaz Reunion

Thomas J. and Mary Ann Hibino

## I'd like to donate to the Topaz Museum.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

*The Topaz Museum is a 501(c)3 tax-deductible, non-profit organization.*

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

(Any amount is appreciated. A \$500.00 donation will give you a plaque on the donor board.)

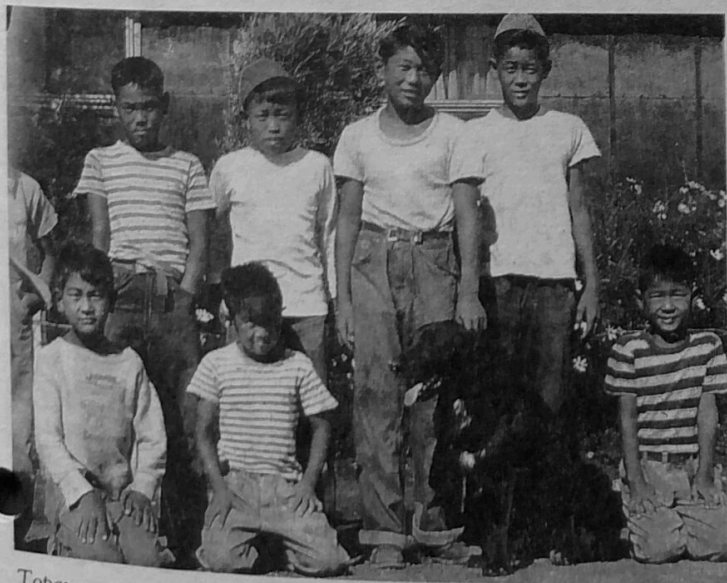
Please fill out the desired inscription here:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

from you. • Ted Nagata designed and printed the post cards that you received with this mailing. • Fumi Hayashi and Takako Endo initiated similar projects, making network from camp into posters and note cards. Those, too, are available for purchase. • We have sold so many copies of "The Price of Prejudice" that we will probably reprint that soon. • Unlike barracks, there are only portions of four dining halls left in the area, and one was stripped of its siding just this year. I don't know of any other dining halls in the state. They are much more scarce than barracks, but distinctive with their rounded roofs. The school district has one on its property. • Now the Board will begin on the Getty Grant that will help us with long-range planning to protect the site. We are working with the Denver office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. • June 27 was Mine Okubo's 88th birthday. We all send a warm wish. Finally, the effort to find service men from Topaz was a big project. Frank Thomas, co-chairman of the effort to honor veterans from Millard county, was so enthusiastic to include names of men and women from Topaz that I hope someone will acknowledge his work, or better still, attend the unveiling of the monument on Nov. 4, 2000 in Fillmore. Thank you to all the people who sent in names. • The above list looks simple enough on paper, but my duties as a high school teacher seem to expand each year? or am I just getting older? Best wishes to you all and thank you for your help.

### **Topaz High School Reunion, 1943-44**

Reunion of the Topaz High School Classes of 1943 and 1944 announced your reunion committee has made plans to have a great get together and fun afternoon on Sat. October 28, 2000 at the Japanese Community and Cultural Center of Northern California, 1840 Sutter St., San Francisco. You will be able to spend an afternoon



Topaz youngsters include: Yas Suzuki, Saburo Suzuki, Seichi Suzuki, Ted Nagata, Kiyoshi Sakakura, Roy Nakagawa, and "Laddie".



A large Topaz family. Can you identify the family?

chatting with old friends, eating hor d'oeuvres, conversation, drinks, conversation, delicious dinner, conversation, topped off with line dancing by a renowned dancing instructor. Tell your friends and join us in renewing past friendships and reminisce about those days of our youth. Time is passing too rapidly. Let's have a great time together. • Parking will be available at the Japan Center garage at 1660 Geary St. Committee members include Chiyo Sonoda Futagaki, Fumi Manabe Hayashi, Hank Hidekawa, Yone Kato Ito, Frank Kami, Mas Kawaguchi, Frances Kimura Morioka, Moses Oshima, Bill Sakai, Paul Takata and Himeo Tsumori.

### **Topaz Museum and Site Project awarded preservation grant from Save America's Treasures Fund**

Delta, UT Jan. 6, 2000 The Topaz Museum Board was awarded a \$16,000 grant from the Save America's Treasures Preservation Planning Fund of the National Trust for Historic Preservation for the Topaz site project. The grant must be matched dollar for dollar by the Museum. The Museum was among 37 recipients of the grants provided by the J. Paul Getty Trust for the Save America's Treasure Program to help ensure historic sites, buildings and district nationwide remain an important part of America's heritage. • "Good planning is key to the success of any preservation project," said Richard Moe, president of the National Trust. "By providing the wherewithal to make these grants, the J. Paul Getty Trust has helped ensure the organizations will have the plans needed to carry out their individual projects effectively." • The Topaz Museum project was named one of 200 Save American Treasures in October 1999. There are only two SAT projects in Utah, the Fort Douglas compound which will play a role in the 2002 Olympics and the Topaz project. • The planning fund grants, ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000, went to nonprofit organizations and local, state and tribal government agencies. Selection criteria



included geographical and cultural diversity, urgency of the project, historic, cultural and architectural significance and potential to catalyze the preservation of other historic places. Two hundred applications were received. • The Topaz Museum Board bought 417 acres of the Topaz site, hoping to stave off the development that is beginning at the site. Since 1993 five families have put up houses on the historic site and moved there, damaging the historicity of the southeast corner of the camp. • Save America's Treasures is a public-private partnership between the White House Millennium Council and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, dedicated to the celebration and preservation of our nation's threatened cultural treasures. The Millennium Committee to SAT is led by Honorary Chair Hillary Rodham Clinton and co-chairs Richard Moe, President of the National Trust, and Susan Eisenhower, granddaughter of former President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

### **Topaz Museum project earns 1998 Heritage Award**

The Topaz Museum Board is one of twelve individuals, projects and organizations recognized by the Utah Heritage Foundation at the Annual Heritage Awards Dinner on Oct. 16, 1998. Each award recipient made an outstanding contribution to preserving Utah's heritage. According to UHF Executive Director Lisbeth Henning, the 1998 projects represented a wide variety of preservation efforts throughout Utah. • The award recipients were selected by a jury of professionals in design, construction and preservation. "The [Topaz] Board has taken bold steps to preserve a national historic treasure, the Topaz Internment Camp, and has purchased over 400 acres" [of the site] said the UHF spokesman. • On hand for the award ceremony were Mr. and Mrs. Ted Nagata, Mr. and Mrs. Rick Okabe and Jane Beckwith, all Topaz Board members. • Established in 1966, the Utah Heritage Foundation is the first state-wide preservation organization in the western U.S. The non-profit membership organization's goal is to preserve, protect and promote Utah's historic built environment.

### **Zions Bancorporation and CEO contribute to Topaz Museum**

The Topaz Museum Board is happy to acknowledge two generous gifts from Zions Bancorporation and its CEO Mr. Harris Simmons totaling \$10,000. Two years ago Zions Bancorporation bought 63 branches of Sumitomo Banks in California. With this newly established connection between Utah and Sumitomo's customers, Topaz Museum Board members contacted Harris Simmons, president of Zions, who expressed a desire to learn more about the plans for the Museum. • Ted Nagata, Rick Okabe and Jane Beckwith met with Mr. Simmons to explain the possible directions of the Topaz project. They showed him maps of the camp and artifacts made and found there. Mr. Simmons was interested in the work and wrote a personal check to the Museum, promising more once a few items from the project were reviewed. Simmons expressed his personal feelings about internment and his family's respect for Japanese and Japanese Americans. The combination donation is the largest yet received by the Museum.

### **About the Topaz Times**

*Chuck Kubokawa*

Did you know that the Topaz Times newsletter is mailed to approximately 2,100 former internees, their families and Topaz friends? The cost to publish the newsletter amounts to approximately \$2500 per issue. Postage alone is about \$800 for this issue. Luckily much of the cost is pro bono as Jane Beckwith handles most of the writing and mailing, Ted Nagata is editor and has been doing the visual layout

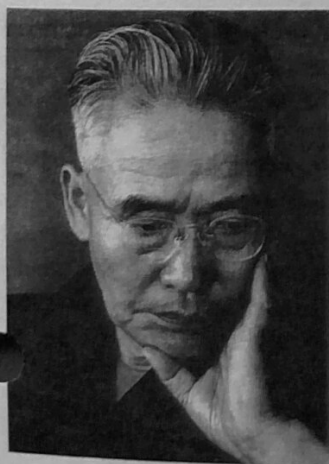


*Digging ditch for the co-op soda fountain pipe. Included: Sam Furuichi; Toby Karuma; Dave Tatsuno, dry goods manager; Toby Ogawa, general manager.*

setup, and Jane's sister who runs a print shop in Delta does the printing. You can say the newsletter comes from the area where the Topaz Times was originally created by internees. • The Topaz Museum board members feel that the newsletter is the best medium for keeping everyone informed about what has been going on relative to the museum, reunion committee and other scheduled activities of the Topaz internees. Your input would be helpful too, whether it be an article, monetary support for the newsletter, artifacts for the museum or any other assistance that you can provide to preserve the history of Topaz and its residents. A recent gift of a hand-made chest of drawers from Topaz was received from Eleanor Yamamoto Nakamura for which we are most grateful. Please provide us with your thoughts and constructive criticism. • The Topaz Reunion Committee (California) has graciously provided \$750 in funding to help pay for the publication of this issue. The Topaz Museum Board thanks the Reunion Board for their support and looks forward to others, individuals or organizations, to help in the future. *Topaz Reunion Board (CA):* Paul Takata, Bob Utsumi, Fumi Manabe Hayashi, Daisy Uyeda Satoda, Mas Kawaguchi, Chuck Kubokawa, Annah Yamanashi Sugiyama, Yone Kato Ito, Moses Oshima. *The Topaz Museum board (Utah) consists of:* Jane Beckwith, Ted Nagata, Rick Okabe, Grace Oshita, Chuck Kubokawa, Charlotte Morrison, Bill Sugaya, Dave Tatsuno *emeritus*.

## Obata's "Topaz Moon" arrives in bookstores

Kimi Kodani Hill, granddaughter of Chiura Obata, came to Delta on her way to Salt Lake City where the most recent book about Topaz was being published. While in Delta, she presented a public slide show on her grandfather. About 40 people attended. Later that night she and her father visited Topaz by moonlight. In April the book was released by Heyday Books. • Subtitled "Chiura Obata's Art of the Internment," the book presents over 100 paintings and sketches done during Obata's



Topaz artist, Chiura Obata

internment period in Topaz. The images are accompanied by a text drawn from letters by Obata and his wife, Haruko, family documents and interviews with family and friends. • "This book is a testament to Obata's artistic genius and undefeatable spirit. In this master's hand, we see a record of the internment that both acknowledges and transcends the sorrows and humiliation of the time," states the



Top: Entrance to Obata dwelling in Topaz, November 1942. Middle: The Topaz Times in production, December 4, 1942. Bottom: Hatsuki Wakasa, shot by MP April 11, 1943.

Heyday catalog. • Chiura Obata was born in Japan in 1885. He began training in sumi at the age of seven and was an apprentice to a master painter at age 14. He immigrated to California in 1903, established the East West Art Society in 1922, exhibiting with other Japanese, American, Russian and Chinese artists. • In 1932 he was hired to teach classes at UC Berkeley. Of course his internment in 1942 interrupted his career. In 1965 he was awarded the Emperor's Medal in Tokyo for his contributions in promoting understanding between Japan and the U.S. • Ms. Hill

began her research on the book fifteen years ago by interviewing her grandmother and friends. She conducts slide lectures of Obata's life and artwork illustrating the effect of the forced evacuation. For more information she can be reached at P.O. Box 5354, Berkeley, CA 94705

## Dave Tatsuno retires from Board

After many years of lending his name and energy to the Topaz Museum Board's work, Dave Tatsuno has asked to retire from his board position. His activities in the Nikkei community have been legendary securing him a place in the hearts and friendships of people across the country. His generosity toward building a Museum manifested itself in his donation of his home movie which the Board used as a gift to those who donated \$100 to the Museum. The video made from 8mm film shot in camp is one of two home movies now housed in the Library of Congress. (The other one is the film taken during the Kennedy assassination.) • Dave's energy and sparkling wit continue to encourage those who come in contact with him. He and his wife, Alice, have made countless contributions to causes and friends. He has made presentations to groups and schools



hoping to give a better understanding of internment. • Jane Beckwith said, "Without Dave's help and encouragement, the Topaz Museum Board would not have been able to accomplish as much as it has. His cordial exuberance has made a big difference." Dave will move to the position of Member Emeritus, with many thanks from the Board.

## Utah US Highway 50 to become Heritage Corridor

Community leaders from Austin, Nevada to Delta, Utah have joined forces to establish a Heritage Corridor that will highlight the cultural and natural history along US Highway 50, once called "The Loneliest Road in America." The Topaz Museum and site will become part of the corridor. • Later this year Nevada and Utah congressional delegations will take the proposal to Congress for official designation. Highway 89 in Utah has received some publicity as a Utah Heritage Highway and the towns along it plan celebrations to encourage tourists to visit that area. • The Nevada/Utah area invites people to discover the Great Basin National Park with its ancient

bristlecone pines and Lehman Caves, mining operations, local celebrations of parades, rodeos and horse races along the route. For more information call the White Pine Co. Chamber of Commerce at 775-289-8877 in Ely, Nevada or the Delta Area Chamber of Commerce at 800 864-0345 or visit the website at [www.millardcounty.com](http://www.millardcounty.com).

## Financial Report

*Ted Nagata, Topaz Museum treasurer*

Year ending 12/31/99	
First Security MMKT	\$31,737.50
Zion's Bank MMKT	68,314.89
Zion's Bank Checking	344.47
<b>Total ending balance</b>	<b>\$100,396.86</b>
Income, donors, book sales	\$16,386.48
Income, Zion's interest	2,472.19
Income First Security interest	1,495.74
Calculation error	-20.00
Expenses*	-9,103.49
<b>Net Surplus</b>	<b>\$11,270.92</b>

\* Major expenses include rent \$1,800, exhibit design balance (Consortium West) \$4,000



## Topaz Museum

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1943, Topaz teachers. Included: Ellen Henderson, Lottie, Vera Black, Mrs. Merrill, Ed Harris, Eloise, Eleanor Gerard Sekerak, Liz Boardman.