



Nikkei Images

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Newsletter of the Japanese Canadian National Museum & Archives Society, Vancouver, British Columbia

An Old Image Springs Back to Life



First Tashme Wolf Cub Pack, Tashme, B. C., August 26, 1944. The pennant to the left reads, "Do your best," and "Good Hunters," and there is a wooden wolf's head totem on the pole. See page 2 for names of cubs and leaders. *JCNMAS 95/101.2.003a; courtesy of Takashi Negoro.*

In February of 1996, the JCNMAS sent Executive Director Michael Wilson to Lethbridge with a photographic exhibit that was set up at the NAJC Seniors' Conference. Among the photographs that we chose for the exhibit was the one shown above, of the Tashme Wolf Cub pack. This photograph had been added to the archival collection through the courtesy of Tak Negoro, one of the cubs photographed that day. We had a wide variety of other images in the

conference display, with people, buildings, activities, and the like — but the most popular images by far were those of groups like this. People would gather at the photographs, both to find themselves and to try to identify the others. The group photographs, it turned out, brought back a flood of memories.

This provided us, as we had dared to hope, with a special benefit: it would be possible to identify some (and perhaps all) of the people in many of the archival photographs.

From the standpoint of historical research, this was a marvellous opportunity.

Among the Lethbridge visitors was Tsuyoshi (Terry) Yasunaka, of Montreal. Terry readily found himself in the Wolf Cubs photograph and was able to identify several others. He knew that several of the people were now in the Toronto or Montreal areas, and offered to pursue the matter further. We made a copy of the photograph and forwarded it to him.

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From the editor

The first year of development for a society is a time for great anticipation and ambitious plans. It is also time for sober reflection as we come to grips with the time, effort, and facilities needed to bring plans to reality. In closing Volume 1 of *Nikkei Images* we look back upon 1996 with a sense of achievement. It was a very good year!

Our membership has grown to more than 80 and includes people from across Canada as well as in the United States and Japan. We hope to increase this number significantly in the year ahead. Articles about our plans and programs have appeared in newspapers and magazines. Successful grant proposals and fund-raising events have allowed us to upgrade our facilities and to initiate research and display projects. These funds have also allowed us to bring on additional part-time staff.

Untold hours of committee meetings and individual efforts were devoted to the initial tasks of creating policies and guidelines for the operation of the museum and archives. For some, this seemed endless, but once past these preliminaries we will be able to function much more effectively as an institution. To all who have taken part, to those who have given their support or donated materials, and to those who have visited or contacted us, we offer our very best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year!

The Japanese Canadian National Museum & Archives Society gratefully acknowledges the support and financial assistance of members, donors, volunteers, the Japanese Canadian Redress Foundation, the National Association of Japanese Canadians, the Japanese Canadian Citizens Association of Greater Vancouver, the British Columbia Community Archives Assistance Program, the B.C. Heritage Trust, The Department of Canadian Heritage (Young Canada Works), and Human Resources Development Canada (Summer Career Placements).

More about the Cover Photograph

Names of Tashme Wolf Cubs, August 26, 1944 (identified by Vic Kadonaga), from left to right by rows:

Back row: Tatsuo Koyanagi (Bagheera), Jim Shino (Baloo), Shige Yoshida (Scoutmaster), Vic Kadonaga (Akela), Tsutomu Nakayama (Raksha)

3rd Row: Gene Shin, Harry Nikaido, Sotaro Kitamura, Makoto Kanamoto, Atsushi Tonogai, Tsutomu Adachi, Hiroshi Tanaka, Takashi Negoro, Noritsugi Suzuki, Azusa Takahashi, Masaru Yano*, Mitsugi Shimozawa, Kanao Abe, Tatsuo Morishita, Tokio Nagami

2nd Row: Frank Okubo, Ken Kadonaga, George Yanagawa, Hiroshi Horita, George Hasegawa, Frank Miyahara, Hiroshi Ota, Takayuki Seki, Akira Kawai, Yoshinori Taguchi, Bobby Ota, Tsuyoshi Yasunaka, Tsuguo Matsumoto, Fred Tanaka, Morio Omiya, Jimmy Abe

Front Row: Hideo Aoki, Isamu Kobayashi, Frank Teshima, Hiroshi Nikaido, Yasuhiro Abe, Mamoru Yamane, Shiro Mukuda, Sho Takashima, Bobby Motokado, Minoru Doi, Mitsuhiro Tehara, Jun Hamada, Shoji Nishihata, Jerry Masuda, Osamu Misumi

* not positively identified

Absent: Tadashi Nishimura, Tommy Oki

Vic Kadonaga recalls that the wooden wolf's head totem (at left) was made by a Mr. Yoshida (not Scoutmaster Shige Yoshida). The group did not have badges, so special ribbons were made to commemorate achievements, and at awards ceremonies the ribbons were first placed around the neck of the totem.

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To our delight, Terry was able to get in touch with Vic Kadonaga, of Hamilton, Ontario. Not only had Vic been the cubmaster, "Akela," at the time of the photograph; he also had a full list of the cubs in the pack, along with their subgroup leaders (see accompanying box). The following description is in his words, as written to Terry Yasunaka, August 16, 1996.

"Glad I've had a few days to gather some information in response to your query with respect to that group photo of the First Tashme Wolf Cub Pack of 1944. I made 2 lists for you:

My first list is the complete roster of the Cub Pack around 1944-45. You will remember that the smallest unit was called the "Six" with a Sixer (you were one) as leader. Our Cub Pack consisted of 8 Sixes, each named after a colour, making a total of 48 cubs altogether. That's a huge pack, probably twice the size of most cub packs. I couldn't have managed it without the help of some wonderful assistants.

My second list is the names of the people in that photograph of the Pack, the list you wanted. For the most part it was fairly easy attaching names on the first list to the faces in the picture. Fortunately the cubs had been seated in order by sixes and I was able to reel off the names rather quickly. However I ran into problems when some of the faces and names didn't seem to jibe or agree, until I realized that some of the lads were not sitting with their proper unit or six. So I had to "eye-ball" it directly — even using a magnifying glass — and rely on my memory of 52 years ago. I hope I have correctly identified them all, but one.

As you see, I've asterisked Masaru Yano* because in my heart I'm not positive the lad in the picture is he. For one thing he's in the wrong place (so are a number of others), furthermore he just doesn't look like Masaru, as I remember him. ... There were 46 lads present for that photo. Tommy Oki and Tadashi Nishimura were absent, and neither of them looks remotely like the

boy in the photo. So if it's not Masaru, who on earth can he be? It's a puzzlement."

Vic Kadonaga's list for the photo appears on page 2, and we are extremely grateful for his efforts in identifying the cubs. Jesse Nishihata, of Toronto, and his brother Shoji, of Richmond, B.C., examined the photo at the NAJC annual meeting in July, 1996. They were able to provide independent identifications of some of the cubs. However, the question as to Masaru

Yano still remains. Can any of our readers provide additional information?

Scoutmaster Shige Yoshida, truly a legend for his efforts in organizing Japanese Canadian cub and scout troops, also appears in the photo. His efforts on Vancouver Island and at Tashme were discussed by Catharine Lang in the *JCCA Bulletin (Geppo)*, October, 1996, and have been commemorated by the "Lone Scout" wall mural in Chemainus, B.C.

Michael C. Wilson

First Tashme Wolf Cub Pack, 1944-1945

compiled by Vic Kadonaga, Hamilton, Ontario

Cubmaster: "Akela" Vic Kadonaga

Assistants: "Baloo" Jim Shino

"Bagheera" Tatsuo Koyanagi

"Raksha" Tsutomu Nakayama

Black Six

Hideo Aoki, Sixer
Isamu Kobayashi, Secondar
Frank Teshima
Hiroshi Nikaido
Yasuhiro Abe
Mamoru Yamane

Grey Six

Shiro Mukuda, Sixer
Sho Takashima, Secondar
Bobby Motokado
Minoru Doi
Mitsuhiro Tehara
Jun Hamada

White Six

Shoji Nishihata, Sixer
Jerry Masuda, Secondar
Osamu Misumi
Hiroshi Tanaka
Frank Okubo
Takashi Negoro

Red Six

Ken Kadonaga, Sixer
George Yanagawa, Secondar
Hiroshi Horita
George Hasegawa
Frank Miyahara
Hiroshi Ota

Blue Six

Takayuki Seki, Sixer
Tadashi Nishimura, Secondar
Masaru Yano
Akaira Kawai
Yoshinori Taguchi
Bobby Ota

Brown Six

Tsuyoshi Yasunaka, Sixer
Tsuguo Matsumoto, Secondar
Fred Tanaka
Morio Omiya
Jimmy Abe
Noritsugu Suzuki

Tawny Six

Gene Shin, Sixer
Harry Nikaido, Secondar
Sotaro Kitamura
Makoto Kanamoto
Atsushi Tonogai
Tsutomu Adachi

Green Six

Azusa Takahashi, Sixer
Kanao Abe, Secondar
Mitsugi Shimozawa
Tatsuo Morishita
Tokio Nagami
Tommy Oki

Looking Back at 1996:

by

Naomi Sawada

Curator of Programs, JCNMAS

January 28, 1996. **Open House**, NNHC Activity Centre, Vancouver. The turnout was great! Members and guests came to see displays, to chat, and to find out about the JCNMAS and our plans for the future in Nikkei Place. Photo: JCNMAS.



February 24, 1996. **Leap Year Dance**, Capitol Hill Community Hall, Burnaby, B.C. Members, volunteers, and supporters showed up in western gear and dancing boots for this "Klondike" get-together. From left: Ray Ota, Misao Fujiwara, and Wes Fujiwara. Photo: JCNMAS.

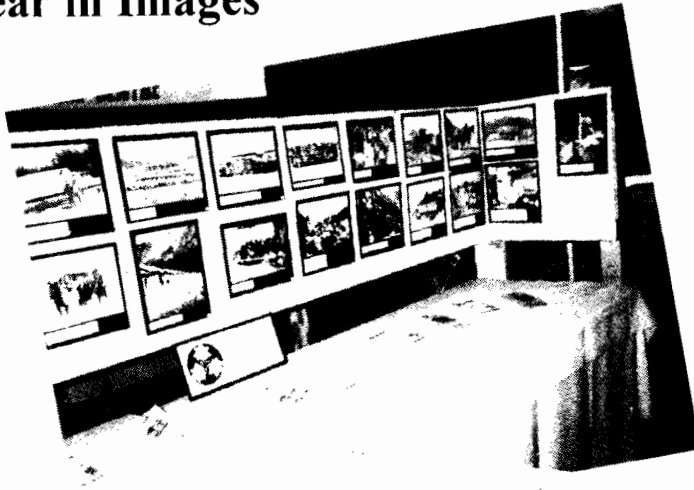


February 9-11, 1996. **The Oral History Workshop, "Voices,"** opening evening, NNHC Activity Centre. Sponsored by the Vancouver Storytellers' Society, the UBC Museum of Anthropology, the City of Vancouver, and the JCNMAS. Many people from B.C., Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, and Washington state participated. In back row, right of centre: JCNMAS presenters, Minnie Hattori (l.) and Naomi Sawada (r.). Photo: Y. Kariatsumari.

February 23, 1996. **Heritage Week**, Richmond Centre Mall, Richmond, B.C. Community organizations, including the JCNMAS, came together to talk and to promote their activities. Left to right: Harold Steves, Richmond City Councillor and heritage activist; Frank Kamiya, JCNMAS President; and Suzi Petersen, JCNMAS Executive Secretary. Photo: B. Petersen.



A Year in Images



February 23-25, 1996. Our display at the **NAJC Seniors' Conference** in Lethbridge, Alberta — with special thanks to Hanae Iwaasa-Robbs and her volunteers for the supporting frame! Photo: Dick Nakamura.

June 23, 1996. Fun and games at **Volunteer Picnic**, Rocky Point Park, Port Moody, B.C. Photo: M. Wilson.



August 3, 1996. **Powell Street Festival**, Vancouver. Norm Tsuyuki (front) and David Yamaura (back) identify faces, remember acquaintances, and share stories at the JCNMAS exhibition, "Our Mothers' Patterns." The exhibition featured the role of dressmaking and sewing schools in the community before and during wartime. Photo: M. Wilson.



August 4, 1996. **Powell Street Festival**. Backstage at the JCNMAS fashion show, "Printed Patterns and Patterns Printed," Japanese Language School, Vancouver. From left: Yvonne Kitade, Mary Ohara, and Minnie Hattori, dressed in 1930s and 1940s fashions from the collections of Mary Ohara, Mary Seki, and costume historian Ivan Sayers. Photo: M. Wilson.

From Shoeboxes and Dresser Drawers: The Development of Our Archives

by **Shane A. Foster**,
*Archivist and
 Archives Program
 Coordinator, JCNMAS*

In 1980, the Japanese Canadian History Preservation Committee (JCHPC) was established. Working as a subcommittee of the Greater Vancouver Japanese Canadian Citizens' Association, a group of dedicated volunteers were intent to preserve the historical legacy of a community in deep transition. Because the first-generation Japanese Canadians (Issei) were elderly and passing away, there was an urgent need to document the life histories of those pioneers who were still living. As a result of this factor, as well as increasing recognition for the importance of social history, an oral history project was created. The goal of the project was not only to document the life stories of members of the community, but also to capture the unique dialects and customs of the community's members — characteristics that seemed to be slowly disappearing as modern generations adopted a more "westernized" way of living.

As the oral history project grew, other ways to document the history of the community began to be implemented. As a result, an archives was established to obtain and house representative graphic and textual materials.

The uprooting and relocation of Japanese Canadians during World War II was an event that led to unique experiences and strong sentiments. It was clear that families recognized that their photographs from the internment camps were very special. Much of the archival material maintained by the JCHPC consisted of photographic images from this era. From people's

personal collections of material hidden in old shoeboxes and dresser drawers, a rich accumulation of historical resources began to develop. Images of unforgotten friends who had moved across the country after the war and images of camp activities gradually began to fill a small area in the Japanese Canadian Citizens' Association office.

As with almost all archives, what appeared to be a small project quickly escalated into a very time-consuming and detailed activity. With its growing dedication to the collection, preservation, and interpretation of archival materials, the JCHPC began to operate as a fully functioning archives. In 1993, it was decided that a name change to the Japanese Canadian Archives (JCA) better reflected the status of the group.

The Archives' main source of funding was derived from project-based grants administered through the National Association of Japanese Canadians and the Archives Association of British Columbia (Community Archival Assistance Program). Funding obtained from these sources allowed me to be hired, initially as Archival Technician, for the purposes of arranging and describing the JCA's collection according to archival standards and principles. A temporary part-time Archival Consultant was also hired to assist with these procedures.

During this time period, the JCA gradually came to be recognized by both the archival community and the general public as an important resource centre for the study of Japanese Canadian history. Consequently, researchers began to utilize the collection of photographs, documents and oral histories for academic purposes. With a growing focus on intercultural and ethnic studies in the school system, students were able to have access to a documented history of

the Japanese Canadian community, which had previously been virtually ignored.

The profile of the JCA was further increased by participation in events such as the Pan-American Nikkei Association Convention in 1993 and the International Nikkei Symposium in Los Angeles in 1994.

In addition to having established itself as an academic institution, the JCA became important for other reasons. It took on the role of serving as the collective memory of the Nikkei community. Often the first response by individuals doing personal research in the Archives was to search for and identify images of their families and friends. They would then often tell anecdotal stories beginning with "I remember when..." or "Do you remember...?"

By 1995 the JCA was also regularly being approached with potential donations of historical artifacts. It became clear that, while textual records, photographs, and oral histories played a vital role in documenting the history of Japanese Canadians, it was equally important to preserve the three-dimensional objects that had come to represent the Nikkei community. With internment and the loss of most personal belongings, it was apparent that there were actually very few "historical" objects remaining in the possession of Japanese Canadians. A great urgency was felt by the JCA to obtain those few materials that were available, before they would be forever lost. In July, 1996, the JCA officially became the Japanese Canadian National Museum & Archives Society (JCNMAS), with major funding support from the National Association of Japanese Canadians.

Rather than operating the museum and archives as two separate entities with different mandates and policies, the JCNMAS has strived to coordinate

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the two so that they complement one another. The most recent JCNMAS exhibit, "Our Mothers' Patterns," reflected a project that utilized a variety of materials — photographs, documents, clothing, and sewing implements — to create a memorable retrospective of dress-making in the Japanese Canadian community.

The goal of the JCNMAS' Archives will continue to be to preserve the history of the Japanese Canadian community for present and future generations. At all times, the professional principles and ethics established by the archival community at large will guide its various activities. With regard to its collecting practices, as the Japanese Canadian community evolves, so will the Archives. The Archives will not only continue to acquire and interpret early Japanese Canadian history, but will also track the more recent accomplishments of the community.

In dealing with the Society's collections, I have been able to see in the history of the community a reflection of

my own family's development in this country. My work for the Society has also given me the opportunity to meet Japanese Canadians from all walks of life. Their enthusiasm and spirit have given me a profound sense of what my responsibilities are to my community and heritage.

Shane Foster is a sansei whose family lived in Steveston before the war. He received his B.A. in History from Simon Fraser University, where he also received additional training in Archival Procedures. He started with the JCHPC as a volunteer and is now on full-time staff as Archivist.



Archivist Shane Foster (foreground) and Executive Director Michael Wilson at JCNMAS office, second floor, 511 East Broadway, Vancouver. Shane's computer contains the growing archival database that is now available for use by researchers. Photo by Sue Raymond (JCCA).

Volunteers from Japan Assist with Archival Work

Volunteer assistants from Japan are helping with the development of our museum and archives programs. Some, like Chiharu Harada, have been visitors referred to us through volunteer organizations. Others, such as Junko Sato, from Ochanomizu University in Tokyo, have been students visiting Canada for language training. Sayuri Tsuruta, while a student in the Archival Studies program at UBC, brought professional archival skills in addition to her abilities in translation.

Since the fall of 1995, through what has become a continuing program, students from the North Vancouver campus of Canadian International College have assisted with translation and description of documents in the JCNMAS archival collections. CIC students receive course credit in

Experiential Studies for this work. We would like to acknowledge, with sincere thanks, the efforts of Takeshi Omori, Rina Suzuki, Mohito Kojima, and Sayuri Maki. These students, along with our other Japanese volunteers, have contributed significantly by translating or describing documents written in Japanese script. In return, they have learned about the history and culture of Japanese Canadians — knowledge that the returning students will carry back to Japan to share with others.

Michael C. Wilson

Experiential Studies at Canadian International College

Canadian International College is a residential college for second-language

students from Japan. CIC has campuses in North Vancouver and Nelson, B.C. and its students learn English not only through language courses but also through content-based courses in disciplines such as Geography, History, Ethnic Studies, Business, Computing, and Environmental Studies. The college offers certificate programs in International Studies and in Hospitality and Tourism, and a four-year diploma program in International Relations. CIC provides a comprehensive learning environment that promotes independence of spirit and understanding of other peoples and cultures and of co-existence, developed from a sense of world community.

In the Experiential Studies programs, students develop cross-cultural skills and self-confidence through activities in the community, applying classroom learning to real-life

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situations.

Service learning is a component of this program and is an annual course in which students are placed individually in non-profit organizations. There they have opportunities to serve the community, learn about Canadian values with respect to volunteer activities, and study the structure of the non-profit organization. They also can further develop their interpersonal, communication, and reflective skills.

The students are called "Service Learners" rather than "volunteers" because they receive academic credit for their work in these organizations. In this respect they are similar to students in the Co-op programs at other colleges and universities. Typically they are second- or third-year students. The non-profit organization is asked to evaluate each student's progress, thus having direct input in the assignment of final grades.

This program also prepares our

third-year International Relations students to take part in fundraising for non-governmental organizations in Mexico, involved in community building activities, a school created by community mothers, and a street children program. The students visit Mexico for three weeks to learn first-hand how their efforts have helped to make a difference.

Jen-Beth Fulton,
Program Assistant,
Canadian International College.

NEWS & EVENTS

Mochi Mania

Sunday, January 26, 1997

1:30-4:00 pm

NNHC Activity Centre

511 East Broadway, Vancouver, B.C.

FREE ADMISSION

Everything you ever wanted to know about mochi, but were afraid to ask! The JCNMAS, Greater Vancouver JCCA and the Vancouver Japanese Gardeners' Association present an afternoon of demonstrations, displays and information all about mochi. Come and see traditional mochi pounding techniques, learn about its history and try a sample!



Tak Negoro (standing) and Frank Kamiya pounding rice into mochi, 1988. Photo: Minnie Hattori. A much younger Tak also appears in our cover photo!

Heritage Week Events: February 16-22, 1997

JCNMAS OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, February 16, 1997, 1:00 - 5:00 pm

NNHC Activity Centre

with a special presentation of the "Unearthed from the Silence" Project, 4:00 - 5:00 pm

To kick off Heritage Week, we are opening our doors for the 2nd Annual JCNMAS Open House on February 16, 1997. Highlights of the afternoon will include small displays, tours of the Archives, refreshments, and door prizes. From 4:00 to 5:00 there will also be a special presentation and slide show of the work that is being done to prepare for an exhibition of Japanese Canadian archaeological materials from the Britannia Heritage Shipyard Site, Steveston (Richmond), B.C., by Dr. Michael Wilson.

JCNMAS AT THE RICHMOND CENTRE MALL

February 21 & 22, 1997

Mall hours

Come to visit our information table and get your Heritage Passport stamped at the Richmond Centre Mall as we join dozens of other groups for a celebration of heritage in Richmond!