



NIKKEI IMAGES

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A History of the Steveston Judo Club by Jim Kojima



Steveston Judo Club officials and tournament contestants. (Kuramoto family photo, 1938)

Prior to the Second World War, judo in Steveston was included within the structure of the Steveston Seinen-kai (Youth Club). The Officers of the 1927 Club were President Takeshi Yamamoto and Vice-President Seichiro Mizuguchi. Tom Doi was the Athletic Group Director of the Seinen-kai and also the leader of the Judo Division.

A room 30 feet by 40 feet was rented from the Steveston Japa-

nese Language School to start the judo club. Steve Sasaki, the father of

judo in Canada and head of the

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NNHC
7:30-9:30 PM, May 24, 2002

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Powell Street Festival
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University of Victoria Conference
*Changing Japanese Identities in
Multicultural Canada*
Aug. 22-24, 2002

Unveiling of Japanese Canadian
Fishermen's Statue in Steveston
Sep. 20, 2002

Nikkei 125 Celebration Dinner
NNHC
Sep. 14, 2002

Nikkei Week Celebrations
NNHC
Sep. 14-22, 2002

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Vancouver Taiiku Dojo, was requested to give instructional assistance to this new club. Since proper tatami (judo mats) were unavailable, the floor was strewn with straw and then covered with canvas to give the judokas (judo students) a safe and hard surface to practice on. Since there was no central heating, judokas had to go to the club one hour prior to practice to fire up the wood stove to heat up the room. On some nights, when it was very cold, the canvas would be glittering with frost. These were the days when volunteers had to find wood, cut it up and haul it to the Steveston Japanese Language School. After a hard night's practice the students and instructors always looked forward to a hot Japanese-style bath. This large, deep bath for four people was built by Seishi Mukai and Soichi Uyeyama and was heated by wood. The instructors only received tea and gas money as remuneration for volunteering their time and, in some instances, money.

Tom Doi was appointed as Chief Instructor of the judo club. The Head Instructor was Steve Sasaki of the Vancouver Taiiku Dojo. Other instructors were M. Takahashi, Y. Mukai, J. Edamura, S. Kamino, H. Kondo and Kanezo Tokai.

The dojo (club) operated from November through to April, the off-season for the instructors who were all fishermen. The Steveston Kendo Club used the facilities on alternate nights. However, bamboo slivers splintered from the kendo fencing swords caused injuries to the judokas, so the kendo club moved to another location, allowing the judo club to operate on a daily basis. The club at that time had a membership of 60 senior and 30 junior judokas.

A tournament was held in Steveston every spring with admission by donation. The monies raised were used to operate the club for the next year. The club would travel by

truck under a special permit granted by the police to attend the various tournaments in the Lower Mainland. They would leave early in the morning whenever the tournament was in Mission or Haney and arrive back in Steveston around one o'clock the next morning. To participate in a tournament at Chemainus on Vancouver Island, the judo club would rent a seine boat (large fishing boat).

The normal tournament schedule for the day would be a Ko-Haku Shiai (competitors lined up by Grade), Dojo Shiai (team competition), Yudansha Shiai (black belt competition) and a Mudansha Shiai (under black belt competition). The judo competition rules established by the Kodokan Judo Institute were used for judging at the tournaments.

Tom Doi served as Chief Instructor from 1927 to 1940 and H. Nishi served in the same capacity from 1940 until the club was disbanded in December 1940. The Canadian Government considered martial arts a sport dangerous to national interests.

In British Columbia there were nine judo clubs before the war. These were Vancouver, Vancouver Kitsilano, Vancouver Fairview, Steveston, Haney, Mission, R.C.M.P., Chemainus and Woodfibre.

In 1932 Dr. Jigoro Kano, the founder of judo, visited Vancouver after visiting the United States, which was an honour and a privilege to all judokas. Dr. Kano recommended that the Vancouver Taiiku Dojo be renamed the Vancouver Kidokan and all the other clubs in British Columbia be considered a sub-division of the Vancouver Kidokan. For example, Steveston Kidokan Shibu would be a branch of the Vancouver Kidokan. In 1936 Dr. Jigoro Kano again visited Vancouver on his way to the Olympics being held in Ger-

many. He convened a meeting at the Nippon Club of Vancouver and outlined the principles of judo and a code of ethics for all judokas to follow. In short, he stressed that judo involve not just physical development but more importantly the development of the spirit or soul. Teaching the spirit of judo is very important in getting this sport accepted by the general public. Dr. Kano emphasized the primary objective of judo was to put forth one's best effort and not in winning or losing. He developed the practice of judo into a system for training the mind and the body. He emphasized two principles: **MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY AND MUTUAL BENEFIT AND WELFARE.**

Dr. Kano enunciated his code of judo on a brush statement written in 1938, which is on display at the Steveston Judo Club. He also wrote brush statements for the Vancouver and Vancouver Kitsilano Judo Clubs. Mr. Tom Doi kept the Steveston artifact during the war and returned it when the judo club was started again in 1953.

In 1938, Dr. Kano, although not feeling well, visited Vancouver on his way home to Japan from an International Olympic Committee meeting in Cairo, Egypt. At this meeting, the IOC agreed to hold the 1940 Olympic games in Japan, but it was cancelled because of the war. Unfortunately, on his way home from these games, Dr. Kano passed away aboard the *HIKAWA MARU*. The Steveston Judo Club sent their condolences to the Kodokan Judo Institute, the headquarters of judo. Japan did not get the Olympic games until 1964 when judo was included for the first time.

The Canadian War Measures Act disbanded the Steveston Judo Club in 1940. The Steveston Judo Club members were very active in assisting the Japanese community

during the trying days of evacuation. The members from the club ended up all across Canada and some never returned to the West Coast.

In 1949 the Japanese fishermen were allowed to return to the West Coast and they started coming back to fish. In early 1952, Yonekazu Sakai, a former judo member, met with Tom Doi and discussed forming a judo club. Tom Doi called a meeting of all pre-war black belts, which include Soichi Uyeyama, Seichi Hamanishi, Kanezo Tokai, Takeo Kawasaki, Kunji Kuramoto and Yonekazu Sakai. This group of black belts was instrumental in organizing the present Steveston Judo Club. The group did not have funds to buy tatami and to rent a facility. They requested a loan from the pre-war Steveston Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Society. Tom Doi and Takeo Kawasaki met with Genji Otsu, in charge of the pre-war Steveston Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Society funds, for a non-interest bearing loan. Otsu granted a loan to the group to start the club. In 1955 the Steveston Judo Club paid back the loan from the Steveston Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Society.

In the fall of 1953, the group rented the back room of the Steva Theatre and covered the floor with used tatami. The instructors were Tom Doi, Yonekazu Sakai, Kanezo Tokai, Soichi Uyeyama, Seichiro Hamanishi, Takeo Kawasaki and Kunji Kuramoto. The club started with a membership of 80 judokas (senior and junior).

At the beginning of the Club, the instructors volunteered their time and money to ensure a successful club. Club dues and monies raised at tournaments were used by the club to send athletes to tournaments to gain experience, to bring in instructors from elsewhere, to buy judo mats (one judo mat 6 feet by 3 feet costs

\$200 each) and other equipment.

The judo club kept moving to larger facilities to accommodate the growing membership. The club moved to the former pool hall at 3500 Moncton Street in 1954, to the Red Cross Hall on 3rd Avenue and Chatham Street in 1955 and to the Steveston Buddhist Church on Chatham Street in 1956. This constant moving was a deterrent to the growth of the club and so the Steveston Judo Club Ko-En-Kai (Booster Club) was formed to raise funds and secure a permanent building for the club. The Ko-En-Kai approached Mr. Ken Fraser, Manager of B. C. Packers Ltd., who agreed to donate the land owned by B. C. Packers Ltd for the building site.

About this time there was a drive to build a Steveston Community Centre. The judo club was approached to consider joining the community group instead of building a facility exclusively for the Japanese, as was the case before the war. After much discussion, the judo club agreed to join the Steveston Community Centre building fund and transferred the Steveston Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Society money (\$15,000) into the Centre building fund with the following conditions. The Steveston Judo and Kendo Clubs, when the latter was formed, would have training facilities and the Centre would be completed within two years. The Steveston Community Centre was completed in 1957 and the Steveston Judo Club moved into the Centre and the Steveston Kendo Club was eventually organized.

The Steveston Judo Club kept growing and many of their athletes became Canadian champions and also won many medals on the international scene. Prior to 1971, discussions occurred of Richmond's possible projects for the British Co-

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lumbia Centennial celebrations. The Steveston Judo and Kendo Clubs discussed with the Community Centre Directors a proposal for a Martial Arts Centre (first one of its type outside of Japan), which was subsequently submitted to the Richmond Centennial Society. The Martial Arts Centre became one of three Centennial projects in Richmond. Arnaulf H. Petzel, a German architect, designed the building. Petzel lived in Japan for 35 years and was profoundly influenced by Japanese concepts of form and space.

The Steveston Community Centre Society Fund Raising Committee was committed to raise \$95,000 for the Martial Arts Centre. The Judo and Kendo Clubs held many fund raising events, solicited individuals and approached many organizations, local fishing and net

companies, the Vancouver Japanese Businessmen's Association and the Consul-General of Japan. When the building was completed, the Steveston Community Centre Society had raised \$45,000 and the Steveston Judo and Kendo Clubs \$40,000. The Clubs borrowed \$10,000 from a bank and paid this back within two years. The Opening Ceremonies for the Martial Arts Centre took place on March 18th, 1972. Officials in attendance included the Consul-General of Japan, Richmond Mayor Henry Anderson, M.P. Tom Goode, M.L.A. Ernie Lecours, British Columbia Centennial Committee Chairman Laurie Wallace and President of the Steveston Community Society Ted Lorenz. Along with the dignitaries, the Steveston Judo and Kendo Clubs invited many high-ranking instructors from Japan. The

Steveston Judo Club officially invited Sumiyuki Kotani, 10th degree black belt.

Since the Official Opening of the Martial Arts Centre, high-ranking international instructors, many of whom were Olympic and World champions, have visited and coached our members. These instructors have conducted national and provincial seminars and training camps, which have benefited Steveston Judo Club members and the community-at-large.

In 1973 the Steveston Karate Club was formed as part of the twinning with Wakayama City in Japan. Mayor Shozo Ujita, a 9th degree black belt in karate, sent a letter to Mayor Henry Anderson to include karate in the Martial Arts Centre. The Steveston Judo and Kendo Clubs cooperated by allowing the Karate Club to use their facilities on selected nights. The first exchange between the twin cities was a karate instructor, Mr. Takeshi Uchiage, who is still the Head Instructor of the Steveston Karate Club.

The Steveston Judo Club took 22 members to Japan for the first time in 1985. The members went to Tokyo and stayed at the Kodokan, the headquarters of judo. The team went to Wakayama City for 3 days, and then went on to Osaka and thereafter to Tokai and Kokusai Budo Universities. This was a dream come true for club members, affording them an opportunity to visit the birthplace of judo and to see some of the great and present judokas in action. a



Steveston Judo Club officials and members. (Kuramoto family photo, 1954)

Pilgrimage to Manzo Nagano's Grave Site by Stan Fukawa

Masako (my wife) and I took the Bullet Train from Shin Osaka to Hakata and transferred to the Express to Nagasaki. We were on a trek to the last resting place of a Canadian hero and a kind of ancestor to all Japanese Canadians. We thought it most fitting to honour Manzo Nagano

as the first Japanese immigrant to Canada during the 125th year since his arrival, by making a pilgrimage to his grave.

When I told the Rev. Paul Nagano that we were planning to visit his grandfather's grave, he advised us to let the Mayor of Kuchinotsu

know that we were coming and I did so. Since I had earlier pictured us quietly slipping in and out of the seaside community to pay our respects as visiting tourists, I was not prepared for the warm and generous welcome and the formal recognition that we received. Of course, as I was



Manzo Nagano's gravestone in Kuchinotsu. (Stan Fukawa photo, 2002)

going as the President of the Japanese Canadian National Museum who was taking pictures for the Museum's collection, I was probably given a warmer welcome than someone going as an individual traveler.

On the morning of the visit, in April, 2002, the Mayor of Kuchinotsu arrived in Nagasaki with other staff to pick us up at our hotel. They escorted us to the Prefectural Government complex where we were welcomed by the Governor of Nagasaki Prefecture. Governor Kaneko had fond memories of Canada as he had spent three months here in his youth, including a period of home stay. He introduced us to a Quebecoise who serves as International Relations Coordinator in his International Affairs Division and was into her third year on his staff. From Nagasaki, we drove past the potato fields and some beautiful coastline.

At Kuchinotsu, we were

welcomed by some Town Councilors and more staff. These included Mr. Kazuaki Nagano, Manzo's great nephew, who is the town's Chief Financial Officer; as well as Mr. Shiraiishi, the Emeritus Director of the Town's Museum. Although the town's population is under 7000, 70 people are employed by the town and the town office seemed to be bustling. Mayor Mihara hosted a welcome luncheon featuring some wonderful seafood, both raw and cooked. It was easy to accept his claim that they had the best fish in Japan. The raw lobster was wonderfully fresh and sweet.

After luncheon, a party of about 20 people including 2 priests, accompanied us to Manzo's grave which is in a Zen-sect, Soto-subsect graveyard of the Gyokuhoji Temple. There are several markers in Japanese directing the way, "To The Grave of Manzo Nagano, First Japanese Immigrant To Canada." Manzo's grave overlooks the sea and is in a group with the graves of his brothers. One of Manzo's great nieces was among the people present for the service.

After the offerings of flowers and incense and the chanting of a sutra, the session ended with a brief interview by three newspaper reporters and the community video people. A picture and article appeared in each of the Asahi Shimbun, the Nagasaki Shimbun, and the Nishi Nihon Shimbun on the following day.

We moved on to the Town Museum, an impressive cluster of five buildings - two of which had been customs houses for the port. Kuchinotsu has had a turbulent past and an importance not usually seen in such small towns. It was a major port of entry for the Portuguese missionaries in the 16th century and at one point all of the villagers were baptized in a single ceremony. When the Shogunate turned against Europeans and Christianity, the Christian

Shimabara Rebellion began in the town of Kuchinotsu and the villagers were among the 37,000 Christian men, women and children slaughtered after the Shogun sent 120,000 troops to stem the revolt. To repopulate the Shimabara peninsula, the authorities required feudal lords in the rest of Kyushu and from Shikoku to send settlers.

When the age of steam ships arrived, Kuchinotsu became important as the port through which the coal from the Miike mine was shipped to Shanghai and other foreign ports. The Mitsui Co. then dredged the waters closer to the Miike mine so they could load coal without sending it through Kuchinotsu, whereupon many people lost their jobs. This forced many men from the village to become seafarers, beginning a tradition that made Kuchinotsu the highest per capita source of seamen in the nation, with more than one sailor per two families. The young Manzo Nagano left home as part of this outward movement as a stoker on the British steamer *ARGUS*, bound for Shanghai three years before he jumped ship in New Westminster, B.C. Canadians will be drawn to the Manzo exhibit by the large Canadian flag on the wall above the showcase which includes photos, articles and a genealogical chart showing his wives (he had 3), children and grandchildren. Mount Manzo Nagano, named by the Canadian government in his honour, is shown, as is its scaling by Tak Ogasawara, Randy Enomoto, et. al. (see the NAJC website).

On the darker side, Kuchinotsu was the port through which young women who were often tricked into some kind of servitude were sent off to foreign destinations to become prostitutes. The Museum has a room devoted to these so-called "*Kara-yuki-san*"— women

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bound for tragic lives abroad who were an important export that sent in money to an impoverished homeland that had few other sources of foreign funds.

You can get to Kuchinotsu by bus from Nagasaki JR station with one change of buses at Obama. The trip takes two hours but the scenery is so beautiful and interesting that the time passes quickly. The mayor says he will welcome visitors who let him know in advance that they want to visit Manzo's grave and will add English signage. He is seriously considering a visit with members of his Town Council to the Nikkei Week Kick-off Dinner on Sept. 14 and other events (co-sponsored by the JCNM) to help us pay tribute to that adven-

turous young man from his home village who came to Canada 125 years ago.

If you are traveling in that part of Japan, you would be advised to drop by at Unzen, Japan's first National Park and a sister-park, I was told, to our Banff National Park. It has many boiling and steaming springs and a gory footnote is that these were used by the Shogun's forces to torture Christians into recanting their Christian faith. If you had not changed buses at Obama but stayed on, that first bus would have arrived at Unzen. You might choose, as we did, to spend several hours at Kuchinotsu, and then spend a night at Unzen to enjoy the hot spring baths—a favourite Japanese pastime.

Nagasaki is also a wonderful tourist town and is worth two days on its own. Outside Nagasaki there are also Huis ten Bosch—the 17th century Dutch village theme park, the pottery towns of Arita and Karatsu, and the recreated 2000 year-old Yayoi culture community of Yoshinogari. All of these have international connections which you can read about and marvel in before you leave on your travels. The Kyushu Ceramic Museum in Arita is worth the trip to that town all by itself. If you've not ventured to this part of Japan before, you must go.

(For the address of the Kuchinotsu Town Hall, contact me at sfukawa@idmail.com.) a

Richmond Tall Ships 2002 by Harold Steves



Photo scanned from National Institute for Sea Training brochure

Steveston's Historic Cannery Row will host a flotilla of majestic tall ships from around the world this summer during Richmond Tall Ships 2002.

First to arrive will be the magnificent four-masted Japanese training vessel, **NIPPON MARU**, tying up July 11th to 17th at the Number 3 Road Pier, just east of Steveston Harbour. This pier is being reconstructed by the City of Richmond especially for the **NIPPON MARU**, which is 361 ft long and requires

deep-water moorage.

During her visit to Steveston the crewmembers and trainees of the **NIPPON MARU** will be hosted at the Steveston Martial Arts Centre and Japanese Cultural Centre. Events like dinner, softball game, tours, judo and kendo, etc are being considered. Anyone able to take cadets on a tour or help in any way should contact Kelvin Higo, who is helping organize events on behalf of Richmond Tall Ships and Jim Tanaka of the Wakayama Kenjin Kai, who is orga-

nizing a luncheon or dinner.

From August 8th to 12th another 25 to 30 tall ships will berth in Steveston Harbour for a major maritime festival featuring fun and affordable activities for the entire family. Plans include a spectacular Parade of Sails, tours of the Tall Ships, an art and cultural festival, festive food and drink, with children's, family and other marine activities. Among the visiting ships will be the **EUROPA** from Holland and the **R. TUCKER THOMPSON** from Australia. They

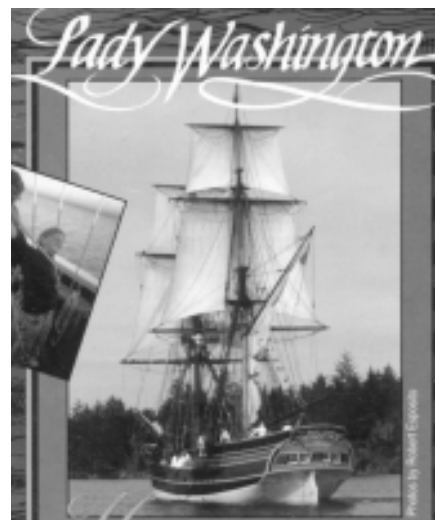


Photo scanned from LADY WASHINGTON tour schedule.

will be sailing to Steveston from a similar Tall Ship event in Yokohama, Japan. A third ship, the **LADY WASHINGTON** from Grays Harbour, Washington, is a replica of the first American ship to visit Japan. In 1750 she anchored at Wakayama and today has close ties with Wakayama and flies the flag of their Rotary Club.

Today the Port of Steveston remains Western Canada's largest commercial fishing port and is home

to several significant maritime heritage sites: the Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site, the Britannia Heritage Shipyard, the Murikami house and boat works, and Garry Point Park. There will be festival events at each location.

One hundred years ago the world's biggest and fastest clipper ships came to Steveston's bustling Cannery Row to load salmon from more than a dozen canneries, and lumber from the Number 1 Road

wharf. They raced around The Horn (the southern tip of South America) to be the first to reach the distant European market. Now the Tall Ships have returned to race down the coast from Steveston once again. So many spectacular ships under sail will be a sight to remember.

For further information call Harold Steves at 604-277-7759 or visit the official Tall Ships website: www.richmond tallships.ca

New Denver Revisited Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Forced Relocation of Japanese Canadians July 26 - 29, 2002

In 1942, Japanese Canadians were forced out of the B.C. coast and relocated outside of the 100-mile radius of the B.C. coast. Many were sent to relocation camps, internment camps, and New Denver was one of them. New Denver is the only camp that still has internment houses, and also has the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre.

The year 2002 marks 60 years since the forced removal of Japanese Canadians from the coast of British Columbia. To commemorate the 60 years since this forced removal, the Kamloops & Area Chapter of the National Association of Japanese Canadians, in cooperation with the New Denver Kyowakai and the town of New Denver are organizing a Reunion in New Denver and an Internment Camp Tour. At the same time, the Okanagan Buddhist Churches will be holding an Obon Service, and an Obon Odori (Festival dancing). We cordially invite all Japanese Canadians from across Canada to this Reunion/Obon to renew acquaintances and make new friends.

The Kamloops & Area NAJC is organizing this Reunion Tour and the tentative itinerary is as follows.

Day 1 - Friday, July 26 - Leave Kamloops (or Kelowna) in the early

morning by bus and travel to New Denver. On the way, stop at the Halcyon Hot Springs. Accommodation in New Denver and Nakusp.

Day 2 - Saturday, July 27 - Leave in morning by bus on an Internment Camp tour (Roseberry, Sandon, Kaslo, Silverton). In evening, attend the Reunion Banquet in the school gymnasium in New Denver.

Day 3 - Sunday, July 28 - Pancake Breakfast, Lunch and Bento supper in the Park. Visit Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre. Buddhist Obon Service in afternoon. Obon Odori in the early evening.

Day 4 - Monday, July 29 - Bus back to Kamloops or Kelowna. Visit Bay Farm, Popoff, Lemon Creek, Slocan and Greenwood on the way home.

Tour package includes: bus transportation to New Denver from Kamloops (or Kelowna) and back, hotel accommodation on the 26, 27, 28 on a two-sharing basis, all meals on the 27th and 28th, including the banquet and entertainment (Uzume Taiko and Karaoke), and entrance into the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre. Cost is still to be determined, but will probably be in the \$300 range. If enough interest, a bus will also leave from Vancouver with cost in the \$350 - \$375 range. If three or

four share room, or if you drive on your own, cost will be less. If you wish a single room, cost is considerably higher.

Accommodation and eating facilities are very limited in New Denver. Hotels in New Denver, Nakusp and Silverton have been "block booked" by the Kamloops NAJC, and the Kamloops NAJC will be assigning the rooms, and catering most of the meals. If necessary, rooms will also be booked in Nelson, with bus transportation to and from New Denver.

If interested in attending, phone or fax to (250) 376-9629 or e-mail to najc.kamloops@telus.net or write to Kamloops & Area NAJC, 160 Vernon Avenue, Kamloops, BC V2B 1L6 and we will send you further information and registration forms. Even if you plan to be there on your own, and stay in campers or with friends, please register with the Kamloops NAJC if you wish to take in any part of the festivities. Register early as space is very limited. Deadline is June 20, 2002.

And, for those traveling from the East, you may also wish to take in the Vancouver Island Obon Tour which takes place on the following weekend, August 3-4. Make this the year that you "travel B.C." a

Nikkei Week 125

Planning for the Nikkei Week festivities this September are going ahead with the development of a program that should excite members of the Japanese Canadian community. There will be a celebration banquet on the first night, Sept. 14, followed almost a week later by the unveiling of the Fishermen's statue in Steveston on Sept. 20.

There are plans for an Internment Reunion O-bento event

possibly on Sept. 19, which can still change in many ways, depending on the kind of response that the Nikkei Week Committee is able to obtain from a sample survey of Internees. A taiko evening is under consideration.

Matsuri type events such as food-booths and folk dancing will occur on the week-end of the 20th to 22nd. The Museum will have an exhibition on the themes of 125 years

since our first immigrant and 60 years since internment. Lectures, workshops and films will round out the program. Keep your eye on notices in the more frequently appearing Japanese Canadian news publications. Contact Stan Fukawa (604-421-0490) or Frank Kamiya (604-929-4476) if you have any questions or suggestions, as they are on the Nikkei Week Committee. a

University of Victoria Conference

August 22-24, 2002 are the dates for the conference, "Changing Japanese Identities in Multicultural Canada." Coming in the 125th year since Manzo Nagano arrived in New Westminster, the program covers a broad range of topics from

immigration to oral histories, women's issues, identities both internally and externally-imposed, media and politics, cultural retention, multiculturalism, economics, Japanese as a heritage language, religion, art, language policy, early

entrepreneurs, youth and aging.

Featured speakers include Roy Miki and Terry Watada. For the latest program updates, registration materials and recommended hotels, check the website: <http://web.uvic.ca/~capijfk> a

Toyoaki Takata, 1920-2002 Eulogy by Stum Shimizu

Toyoaki Takata, eldest son of Kensuke and Mitsuyo Takata, was born on January 14, 1920, in the district known as Esquimalt, directly west of Victoria, Vancouver Island.

He grew up in a home not unlike many of the cottages seen in Ontario's vacation country. As Toyo recalled it, the house and surroundings located in a woodland forest of towering hemlock, cedar, spruce and fir was a storybook environment. He often reminisced about his good fortune to have grown up during his teenage years in this "near paradise". Remembrance of the feeling for this place and environment stayed with him for the rest of his life.

Prior to the Takata family locating in their home in this woodland known as Gorge Park, Mr. and Mrs. Takata and Toyo went to Japan in 1925 and Toyo went to school where he received his early primary education in the Japanese language. They returned to Canada in 1927 and eventually his father and uncle negotiated a lease arrangement

with the B.C. Electric Co. that owned the property.

With the encouragement of the Company, a Japanese garden was developed complete with eight teahouses of various sizes, a pavilion housing a confectionery store and several private reception rooms for private meetings, functions or dining, etc. There were ponds with water lilies, connecting bridges and stone lanterns located in appropriate places. It became one of Victoria's spring and summer attractions, both for the local gentility as well as the tourists.

Toyo worked from time to time at the various activities associated with the business but his main job was as a cashier at the confectionery counter. He would be occupied on weekdays after school and on weekends from the time it opened on May 24 until closing, the day after Labour Day. The Japanese Tea Garden at Gorge Park was the place to have brunch or afternoon tea and during the busiest times, many Victoria Issei and Nisei were

employed.

Toyo was kept busy with other responsibilities, including the requisite half hour daily homework on the Japanese language, this under the tutelage of his mother. He was also responsible for maintaining a good supply of wood to be used during the season in the wood burning stoves in the tea house kitchen as well as a supply for Japanese-style baths, several of which were attached to the family's dwelling and stoked from the outside firebox located beneath the steel-sheeted bottom of the "Nihon buros".

Toyo received his primary schooling at the Lampson Public School and secondary education at the Esquimalt High School. Because Esquimalt was a small community, many of his Grade 1 classmates graduated with him to become his high school classmates. Toyo spent 80 percent of his life and working career in Toronto, but he never lost contact with the men and women of his growing-up years. He made at least two to three visits to B.C. each

year to visit and reminisce with these old friends. His heart and soul remained in British Columbia throughout his life.

Toyo graduated in the spring of 1938 from Esquimalt High School and acutely aware of the gathering problems and possibilities of war in Europe, enrolled in the Sprotts-Shaw School of Commerce to learn the clerical and administrative aspects of office work, particularly typing. He expressed it this way – “*When I’m drafted or conscripted, the last thing I want to do is to carry a rifle and kill someone with it.*”

To celebrate graduation, his classmates decided to travel to Vancouver’s Hastings Park to take in the Pacific National Exhibition. This was during the busiest time at the Tea Gardens and his uncle was not overly sympathetic to Toyo leaving the pavilion store unattended. Toyo was able to find a replacement which met with his uncle’s approval. It happened to be my oldest brother, Kunio. So Toyo made his first visit to Hastings Park with his friends accompanied by younger brother, George, who somehow managed to be included. Toyo and George had a great time, the first trip that either had taken off the Island.

In April, 1942, the Takata family, now consisting of four brothers and two sisters joined other

Japanese Canadian families from lower Vancouver Island, and Toyo ironically made his second trip off the Island to internment in Hastings Park. Toyo soon found employment in the B. C. Security Commission office and while his two younger brothers later went to Slocan to help prepare places for displaced families, Mother and Father Takata with two daughters and a younger son moved to Sandon. Toyo remained in Hastings Park almost to its closing date before joining the two brothers in Slocan. For several months he taught English at Glenmere High School, an Anglican-sponsored school for the displaced Japanese Canadian children. Shortly before moving to Toronto, the family was reunited in Sandon.

In August, 1944, his sister Toshie who had relocated to Toronto at an earlier date found accommodations for the family in Mimico. Toyo’s first job in Ontario was on night shift at the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co.

In May, 1945, the family purchased a house on Sumach Street in Toronto’s Riverdale Park area. Toyo after trying several other jobs eventually established a lithographing business, which he operated out of the basement of the family home.

Settling into the daily routine of life in Toronto, Toyo immersed himself in the activities and cultural affairs of the Japanese Canadian community. For a period of four years (1948-1952) he assumed the editorship of the English Section of **The New Canadian**. He also served as President of the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre. He married Martha Hori, a well-known musician and performing artist.

Toyo’s most important and lasting contribution resulted from his innate curiosity about the Issei immigrant from Japan. His research uncovered the fascinating adventures of Manzo Nagano and the discovery that this person was the first Japanese immigrant to set foot on Canadian soil in 1877. As a result of his publication and publicity of this discovery and at his urging, Japanese Canadian communities across Canada celebrated a Centennial Year in 1977. His research also culminated in the publication of **Nikkei Legacy** in which he chronicled many of the interesting adventures and trials of our earliest pioneers.

2002 marks the 125th anniversary of the beginning of the Japanese Canadian community in Canada and it is fitting that we celebrate Toyo’s life today, a life so dedicated and so well lived. a

Paul Kariya Heads Pacific Salmon Foundation

A salmon conservation organization has chosen Paul Kariya as the new Executive Director of the Vancouver-based Pacific Salmon

Foundation. The foundation is a charitable organization that funds volunteer-driven projects to conserve

salmon in communities throughout the province. Paul Kariya is on the Board of Directors of the JCNM.

KAMPAI: WINE TASTING Wines from Around the World

Location: NATIONAL NIKKEI HERITAGE CENTRE

6688 Southoaks Crescent, Burnaby, BC V5E 4M7 (at Kingsway and Sperling)

Time: 7:00 pm - 9:30pm, Friday, May 24, 2002

Includes: Wines from Chile, France, Italy, New Zealand, Spain, Canada & more
Sushi hors d’oeuvres, fresh BC wasabi, Specialty Costa Rican Coffee
Silent Auction, Door Prizes and Entertainment included

Tickets: \$40.00 / person, call 604-777-8000 or fax 604-777-7001, *Space is limited. Reserve early.

2002 A.D. - 60th Anniversary of Internment

Tom I. Tagami's internment article will be continued in the fall issue.

Angler P.O.W. Camp 101 by Carl Yokota



NHK camera-man, Junichi Tanaka, Ken Hibi and Johnny Umakoshi looking for the former Angler P.O.W. Camp 101 site. (Ken Hibi photo, 1988)

With the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the anti-Japanese feeling in Canada only escalated. In March of 1942, the British Columbia Security Commission was established which resulted in the systematic round-up, detention, and forced evacuation of 21,000 law-abiding Japanese Canadians to interior road camps, farm labour camps, relocation sites, and prisoner of war internment camps. For those men who defiantly opposed the actions taken against them and the split up of their families, and who posed a military security threat in the eyes of the authorities, their fate resulted in banishment to prisoner of war camps such as Kananaskis-Seebe P.O.W. Camp 130 in Alberta, Petawawa P.O.W. Camp 33 and Angler P.O.W. Camp 101, both in Ontario. The Japanese Canadians initially imprisoned at Kananaskis-

Seebe and Petawawa would eventually be transferred to Angler P.O.W. Camp 101.

On May 28, 1942, twenty-six year old Shigeo Yokota arrived at the Vancouver Immigration Building. For the next few weeks, he would be placed in armed detention with other Japanese Canadian men. The military and security authorities in charge were quickly moving on their goal of forcefully removing all Japanese Canadians, especially men aged eighteen years and older, from within the 100 mile west coast security zone. On June 16, he along with 189 other detained men were put on a military-guarded train bound for Angler P.O.W. Camp 101. Four days later on June 19, the train reached its destination in the wilds of Northern Ontario. Over the next four long years these prisoners of war, through no fault of their own or disloyalty to

their country, would endure through one of the bleakest times of their lives. On May 25, 1946, nine months after Japan's military surrender and the end of World War II, our father, P.O.W. # 187, and his remaining fellow internees, were finally released from Angler. Wearing the clothes they had first arrived with and carrying their belongings in suitcases and parcels, the men marched out the main, barb-wired gates of Angler P.O.W. Camp 101 and were marshalled onto a westbound train headed for Vancouver.

Through an agreement between the Dominion of Canada and General Douglas MacArthur, the Supreme Allied Commander, a total of almost 4000 Japanese Canadians, the majority having been born in Canada, were to be "voluntarily repatriated" to Japan. Beginning on May 31, 1946 there were a total of five deportation voyages to Japan. On June 16, 1946, our father was among over 1100 people who were loaded on board the second of these repatriation ships, the U.S. troop carrier, SS General MC Meigs. The SS General MC Meigs was earlier dispatched from San Francisco especially for this military assignment. On June 28, the ship arrived at the Japanese port of Uruga, which is located south of Yokohama. For many of the captive passengers it was their first trip to Japan which further added to an already uncertain future. Our father would not return back to Canada until 1951, but only after he applied for re-admission and it was verified by the Office Of The Commissioner, Department of Citizenship And Immigration in

Ottawa that he was a bona fide Canadian citizen.

Our late father kept very little written information on his internment years and rarely spoke about his four years in Angler. Only the dates and some short notes were kept, written on a plain piece of writing paper for his records. To find out more about this infamous P.O.W. camp, I reviewed key book sources such as Robert K. Okazaki's "The Nisei Mass Evacuation Group and P.O.W. Camp '101'", Roy Ito's "Stories of My People", Yon Shimizu's "The Exiles", and was also delighted to learn some insight from 84 year-old Mr. Ken Hibi of Thunder Bay, Ontario who himself was also interned in Angler Camp 101. Mr. Hibi was born in Steveston as our father, and was kind and generous enough to respond to an inquiry I had made earlier to the Lakehead Japanese Cultural Association offices in Thunder Bay.

You will not find the former Angler P.O.W. camp on any road maps. From Thunder Bay, Ontario it is about 235 kilometers east on the Trans Canada Highway near the

Angler Creek highway marker on the northern shores of Lake Superior. The town of Marathon, Ontario is a few miles east of the marker. Access to this site is along a rocky road off the Highway where one has to hike in by foot about a mile south until you reach the CPR mainline railway tracks. The remains of the infamous prisoner of war camp is now covered up with trees and heavy brush with very few clues to its past. But as Mr. Hibi, two other former Angler internees, Junichi Tanaka and Johnny Umakoshi, and a Japanese documentary film crew from NHK Wakayama City discovered in the fall of 1988, a small number of items found were undeniable. Articles such as rusty buckets, kettles, pots, a large kitchen stove, a broken toilet, and remains of a concrete water tower foundation were found. It took the men four hours from the time they pulled off the Trans Canada Highway to locate this long forgotten part of the Northern Ontario wilderness. For the visiting former Angler internees and their Japanese guests it was a successful all-day long journey, complete with a *bento* lunch.



Ken Hibi with artifacts found at Angler P.O.W. Camp 101 site. (Ken Hibi photo, 1988)

Surrounded by hills, Angler P.O.W. Camp 101 was a large compound built on flat ground comprised of five main inmate huts. Four of the huts were living quarters, each with their own washroom, laundry area and showers. The fifth building housed the camp kitchen/mess hall and a library/school/shop area. There was also a detention facility, a recreation hall, an infirmary, and a canteen/supply hut. Each of the inmate wood-framed huts was in the shape of the letter "H". The four living quarter huts held approximately 180 men per building. In front of the buildings was a large field for the men to assemble, exercise, and spend their free time. The camp guards and commandant had their buildings on the outside of the barbed-wire facility. But the most notable reminders about internment camp life were the six armed, guard towers surrounding and overlooking the compound, the three distinct barriers of barbed-wire fencing, and the notorious inmate uniforms made of denim material with their sewn, large red circles on the shirt backs and red stripes down the pant sides. The large red circles were actually meant to be easy targets for their armed captors. In the winter, the inmates suffered through the severe Northern Ontario temperatures and snow storms at times dropping to 60 below zero. According to Mr. Hibi, temperatures were so cold that if an inmate were to venture outside his hut and closed his eyes, the eyelids would be quickly frozen shut, and his exhaled breath would be instantly crystallized.

To maintain their spirits, the internees participated in martial arts such as judo and kendo, played in a small camp band, wrote haiku and studied English and Japanese. Mr. Hibi held an interest in kendo so assisted the chief kendo instructor.

Continued on page 12

In the summer, the men would play baseball in the open field, and in winter the inmates would be allowed, surprisingly as I learned, to ice skate on the flooded ball field. Although the men received their daily food allotments, during the winter months when the supply train would get bogged down in the snow, food would be rationed with only potatoes and bread available to eat. Mr. Hibi recalls eating eggs and toast often as well. On occasion, the inmates would receive from the Japanese Red Cross special care packages containing such items as rice, *shoyu*, and curry powder to help supplement their rationed food supplies.

Daily routine was very regimented, military style. This meant having to get up to reveille at 6:00 a.m., followed by breakfast, daily rollcall and headcount, garbage

duty, morning work detail, lunch, afternoon work detail, supper, another headcount, and lights out at 10:30 p.m., with no one allowed outside until the next morning. Work details would consist of cutting down trees or unloading coal from boxcars. Strict camp rules meant that any inmates found outside their assigned huts after curfew would be fired upon by the armed guards. Just like in the military, the camp prisoners had to ensure their beds were made up neatly, the toilets, showers and laundry areas washed out daily, the hut floors cleaned, the hut stoves properly maintained, and even the camp infirmary had to be kept spotless.

Sadly, not all the Angler P.O.W.'s made it through safely. Two men died enroute to the Camp, five

men died while interned, and five other men passed away shortly after their release. Forcibly separated from their families, these deaths can only be seen as nothing less than tragic.

Sixty years have now passed since honest, law-abiding Japanese Canadians were first rounded up by the authorities, stripped of their personal belongings and properties, separated from their families, and banished to destinations unknown and inhospitable to them such as Angler P.O.W. Camp 101. The once sprawling, armed compound which housed a total of 769 internees is now covered in dense bush and rarely visited. It appears the Northern Ontario wilderness has quietly reclaimed a significant reminder to one of the darkest times in Canadian history. a

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