



Nikkei Images

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JCNMAS Office
511 East Broadway
Vancouver, B.C.
Canada V5T 1X4

tel: (604) 874-8090
fax: (604) 874-8164

jcnmas@bc.sympatico.ca

Fanny Bay ... A Once Busy Logging Centre by Rick James



Deep Bay Logging's 'Shay' pulling a load through the Fanny Bay claim, 1941. — Tadashi Kagetsu Collection

Mention the name Fanny Bay and its oysters or the Fanny Bay Inn (FBI), a favourite pub stop for Vancouver Island Highway motorists—that usually comes to mind. But sixty years ago the quiet mid-island community wasn't as tranquil as it is today. Then it was the noisy centre of serious industrial activity. Two railway logging outfits had laid track up Cougar Creek canyon and were taking out a prime stand of timber.

The larger of the two camps was owned by the Victoria Lumber and Manufacturing Company (VL&MC), one of the first big forest corporations to log coastal British Columbia on a major scale. The VL&MC was financed by a large syndicate of American interests which included timber baron

Frederick Weyerhaeuser. In 1880, the group bought 100,000 acres of prime Douglas fir in the Esquimalt and Nanaimo (E&N) railway belt around the Chemainus and Nanaimo areas. They also purchased a Chemainus lumbermill and made it one of the largest and most modern in B.C.

The January 26, 1939 Comox District Free Press reported that the VL&MC, "...whose mill is the largest on the island, recently purchased 4,000 acres in Block 34 in the Tsable River area" and that a camp was going to be built just off the highway. Once they purchased the Tsable river claim, the company laid track up the valley floor of Cougar Creek to the Northwest, built a camp a few miles back (the company probably

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decided that a bush camp was more conducive to production than one just down the road from the FBI and a huge bridge across the Tsable River.

The provincial government's new Inland Island Highway project has been touting the bridge they are building across the Tsable River Canyon as a marvel of engineering. What they probably aren't aware of is that an old-time logging company crossed the canyon nearly forty years earlier. The massive railway bridge that VL&MC built required so much quality first growth timber that it was called the "Million Dollar bridge".

Part of the lower reaches of the VL&MC track was shared with another outfit, the Deep Bay Logging Company owned by Eikichi Kagetsu, who had been working in the area since the early 1920s. Kagetsu, a native of Wakayama in the south of Japan, was a decorated Russo-Japanese War army veteran. He left his homeland in 1906, tried his hand at various jobs in Canada and began an independent logging operation once he assembled enough funds to buy 160 acres of timber at Sechelt.

After overcoming some early setbacks, the ambitious zaimoku (timber) entrepreneur formed the Deep Bay Logging Company in 1923 and with \$120,000 of capital purchased 3,000 acres of timber at Fanny Bay. A small settlement was built in the bush to house the workers and their families. There was also a mess hall for the bachelors, a meeting and recreation hall and eventually a language school. Eikichi Kagetsu remained living with his family in West Vancouver and brought them over to Fanny Bay in the summertime. Since he ran the logging operations and store



Probably Tsurutaro and Susumu Kagetsu standing by Deep Bay Logging's small 'Climax' locomotive; [date unknown] — Tadashi Kagetsu



Deep Bay Logging crew sit on loaded flat cars, [ca. 1941] — Tadashi Kagetsu Collection

(and generally acted as the Camp's mayor) Tsurutaro Kagetsu, Eikichi's younger brother, brought his family up in the Fanny Bay Camp.

When Deep Bay Logging commenced their Fanny Bay operation, they used a 29-ton coal fired 'Climax'

"Deep Bay Logging was in an advantageous position: it had track laid through twenty year's supply of standing timber just waiting to be cut."

engine. The company built about nine miles of mainline that left the highway and went straight back into the hills where a number of spurs split off into the timber. The old "locie" driver, Bill Surgenor, often recalled that since a proper bed for the track wasn't laid

the engine spent as much time off the track as on it. The company bought a 65 ton wood fired 'Shay' geared engine in 1932, but the Department of Railways closed them down until they reinforced and upgraded their bridges.

Bill Surgenor's two sons, Earl and 'Tyke' (Bill junior), worked for Deep Bay Logging in the 1930s. (Since Japanese Canadians weren't allowed steam tickets, Caucasian crews ran the locomotives and steam donkeys). Tyke fired the Shay locomotive run by his father while Earl fired the little Climax. The Climax pulled three cars on the grade while the larger Shay was capable of handling six.

Tyke Surgenor remembers that the locies weren't any problem but that the gas speeder ran away on them twice. The accident in 1932 occurred after a crew had taken the speeder up a disused spur line to retrieve a car loaded with eight tons of steel rails. The weight was too much for it to hold, however, and it ran away with four men aboard to collide with the Shay backing a load of logs into the spur. The impact killed one and injured the rest when the steel broke loose from the pup trailer and drove forward through the speeder.

The bulk of the #1 Douglas fir was loaded as raw logs on to steamships and shipped to Japan, with the surplus sold in the domestic market or to the United States and England. When the War in Europe commenced in 1939 it fuelled a massive demand for lumber. Deep Bay Logging was in an advantageous position: it had track laid through twenty year's supply of standing timber just waiting to be cut. As a result, Eikichi Kagetsu was well on his way to becoming a baron when

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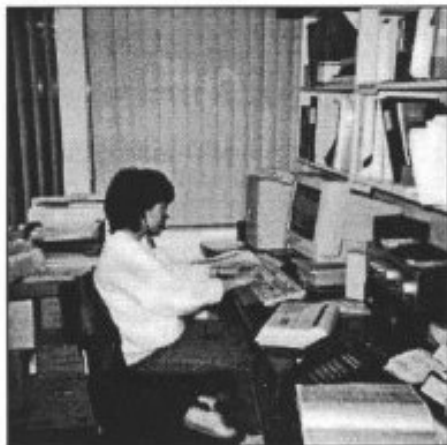
JCNMAS Year-End Archival Report

Originally presented at the September, 1998
JCNMAS Annual General Meeting

Prepared by Shane Foster

JCNMAS Archivist/Archives Program Coordinator

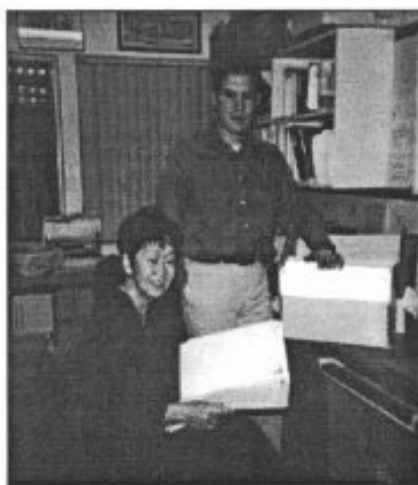
During the past year, the JCNMAS has accomplished a great deal and experienced a number of changes. In addition to accessioning, arranging and describing an ever growing collection of archival materials, the Archives has also ventured into other areas — working to increase public exposure for our Society and to make our collections more easily accessible to the general public. Many of our activities have been geared towards our anticipated move into our new facility at Nikkei Place.



*Liz Nunoda (Volunteer) transcribing
an oral history interview — 1998*

Public Relations

The Archives created displays this year which were presented at a number of venues — our open house and an NNHC dinner both in February, and an



*Shane Foster (Archivist) and Minnie
Hattori (Office Assistant) — 1998*

exhibit which was sent to the Topaz reunion in California in June. The creation of displays is a relatively new function of the Archives, fostering a greater understanding of our activities and mandate. Archives in general tend to suffer from a lack of exposure and as a result, the general public tends to know very little about them. I hope that future displays will continue to educate researchers about not only our collections, but also our function.

The past year, the Archives has been responsible for editing and producing the JCNMAS periodical *Nikkei Images*, and also contributes a regular column to the *JCCA Bulletin*. These activities also increase our exposure, while serving to educate readers.

Researchers

The primary goal of our Archives and Society in general has been to

promote awareness of, and to educate the general public about Japanese Canadian history. The Archives is now utilized by researchers from all parts of Canada, Japan and the United States. During the past year, we received a number of unique researchers in our Archives, many involved with the filming of documentaries and major motion pictures such as "Snow Falling on Cedars". Academics from major universities, a plethora of elementary and high school students, individuals researching their family histories and people wanting general information about the Japanese Canadian community have also visited the Archives.

We have also received a number of requests for "talks" on the history of Japanese Canadians and Powell Street walking tours. I have personally given at least 7 talks and slide show presentations to various groups interested in Japanese Canadian history. The talks have been very successful, often provoking thoughtful and insightful questions.

An interesting fact to note is that the majority of the researchers who use our facility are non-Japanese.

Archives Development

Responsible for a functioning archives, my main concern as Archivist has been to create and manage a setting which affords the best possible care and attention to the Japanese Canadian community's archival records. I understand the necessity to maintain and further my professional knowledge so that I can deal with the new

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complexities and demands of our expanding collections.

As a result of this issue, I have concentrated my efforts on upgrading our standards as an archival and academic institution. I have attempted to make our collections more accessible to the public by improving our finding aids for researchers. I have also concentrated on updating our records descriptions to meet archival standards.

I have also tried to streamline the manner in which we obtain archival donations, emphasizing the necessity of maintaining a healthy balance of records which relate to a donor's lifetime activities/accomplishments and records which contain intriguing subject matter. Research requests directly reflect the need for such a balance.

Some of the larger collections of archival materials that we have obtained over the last year include the papers of Winifred Awmack, a retired teacher at Tashme highschool and the papers and oral histories that Catherine Lang used to create her book, **O-bon in Chimunesu**. We have also obtained many photographs, documents and have conducted oral interviews with a variety of individuals.

Grants

The Archives applied for and obtained a number of grants over the last year. A grant from the Community Archives Assistance Program (CAAP) allows us to scan photographs and make them available on our computer database. In the near future, researchers will have direct computer access to a particular image that they may be interested in.

We have also obtained a grant from the Canadian Council of Archives in 1998 to purchase a hygrothermograph (temperature/humidity reading device).

The most recent grant that we obtained was a Summer Career Placement Grant from Human Resources Development Canada. From June to September, we hired Reiko Tagami, a

fourth year English Honours student at U.B.C. Reiko was of great assistance to our archives, assisting with the arrangement and description of a number of archival collections, scanning photographs, assisting with the editing of Nikkei Images, conducting oral histories, assisting with our Powell Street Festival display, as well as many, many other activities. Reiko has been a joy to work with, and continues to work on a volunteer basis.

Museum/Archives Collaboration

It has become very apparent to me that we, a small community organization, must work together to accomplish our goals. Since the establishment of our museum in 1995, the Archives has become more involved with exhibits and dealing with the incorporation of artifacts to the Society's collections – both typically museum-related activities. While there are many differences between the museum and archival professions, maintaining a shared mandate has allowed both museum and archives staff to work together efficiently, striving for peak levels of professionalism at all times. ☞

Statistics

Researchers

Researchers	Approx. 350 individuals
Telephone inquiries	Approx. 175 calls

Collections

Number of graphic materials	Approx. 3000 graphic materials
Records	Approx. 32m of textual records
Oral histories	Approx. 300 interviews

FALL/98 DANCE LESSONS

FOR BEGINNERS

Waltz, Polka, Cha-cha , etc. and Line Dancing

Held at the JCCA in the NNHC Activity Centre
(511 E. Broadway, Vancouver, B.C)

Starting October, 1998 (Friday evenings)

For information: contact Minnie Hattori
(604) 591-3177 (evenings)





Nikkei Uprooting During World War II

by Dr. Midge Ayukawa

The passage of time has diminished the memory, and Redress has partially eased the pain of the Japanese Canadians who were uprooted during World War II. Their descendants and post-war Canadian Nikkei have some knowledge of the interior internment communities such as Tashme, Slocan, New Denver, the "self-evacuation" centres, and the sugar-beet farm experiences in Alberta and Manitoba. Most Canadian Nikkei have heard of the American camps such as Minidoka, Manzanar, Tule Lake, Poston, Topaz, Gila River, etc. Yet, how many of us know that Nikkei in Peru, Mexico, Australia, and S.E. Asia were also forcibly removed?

When the Japanese Canadian National Museum & Archives Society was invited by Chuck Kubokawa, the Chair of the Topaz Reunion Committee to participate and "share [our] untold internment experience", the JCNMAS accepted and four of us, Karen Hayashi, Sakuya Nishimura, Eric Sokugawa and myself from the Society

"Yet, how many of us know that Nikkei in Peru, Mexico, Australia, and S.E. Asia were also forcibly removed?"

and Charles and Lillian Kadota attended the Reunion on May 29-31 in San Jose, California. Karen and I were panellists in the forum entitled "Lasting Effects of Internment". Karen's talk covered the topic but others in the panel described what happened to the Nikkei in our respective countries; in North America, Latin America, and S.E. Asia.

Enrique Shibayama, a retired successful businessman from Mexico

City explained that although there are now 15,000 Nikkei in Mexico, in December, 1941, there were only 1500, two-thirds of whom lived on the Baja peninsula. Those in the Baja had to relocate at their own expense within one week after receiving their orders, to the Mexico city area, 2000 miles inland. The journey took six to eight days and two elderly Nikkei and an infant died on route. Other Nikkei



such as those who lived in Veracruz, on the Gulf of Mexico, were also ordered inland. Shibayama related a bizarre story of a seventeen year old Issei who had written a letter to friends in Japan joking that he would go to Washington to kill the President if a war started. The letter was intercepted and he was imprisoned in a special camp together with "dangerous" Italians and Germans. It was necessary for the Mexican Nikkei to survive on their own resources after they relocated. Many were aided by other Nikkei who had been living in the Mexico City area. He cited in particular, Sanshiro Matsumoto, a florist. The majority of the dislocated Nikkei settled down, established successful business, and never returned to the Baja.

The Peruvian story was told by Arturo Shibayama (no relation to

Enrique) who was one of the 1,800 Peruvians who were captured and deported to the United States during the war. There were 26,000 Nikkei in Peru, of which 90% lived in the Lima area. Arturo was born in Lima, the son of an importer who owned a department store. Anticipating arrest, Shibayama, Sr. went into hiding, but when his family was taken into custody, he turned himself in. The family was separated, taken to New Orleans, stripped and fumigated, and then imprisoned at Crystal City. There they were reunited but they remained there for two and a half years. According to Arturo Shibayama and other literature which was distributed, the 1800 Peruvians were among 2,264 Nikkei from thirteen Latin American countries who were imprisoned by the United States government which planned to use them as hostages in negotiations for Americans held in Japan. Over 500 Japanese Peruvians were included in two POW exchanges in 1942 and 1946. After the war, Peruvians remaining in

"...there were seven camps in which the Japanese Australians, and other Nikkei from elsewhere."

the US were "illegal aliens" and were to be deported, but the Peruvian government refused re-admittance. Nine hundred were exiled to Japan but 300 remained in the U.S. and fought deportation through the courts. Arturo told his personal story of how he had received a draft notice in the fifties, but could not receive his American citizenship until 1970. It has been recently announce that the Latin American Nikkei alive on August 10,

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1988 were eligible to receive \$5000 as Redress, far less than their North American counterparts.

An especially interesting story was the experience of Nikkei in South East Asia. Most of us have been aware that Australia had been proclaimed a "white country" in the early 1900s and had vehemently kept Asians out — so it was a surprise to hear Evelyn Yoshiko Suzuki's story. In the mid-1800s, Japanese pearl divers went to Thursday Island, off the Northern coast of Australia. Loud opposition by white Australians stopped non-white immigration in 1901. Evelyn's father had immigrated in 1901, and a grandfather, a boat-builder from Wakayama, in the 1890s. Evelyn was among the 1400 Nikkei who were in Australia in December 1941. She said that there were seven camps in which the Japanese Australians, and other Nikkei from elsewhere in S.E. Asia were imprisoned. There were 900 in the camp where Evelyn and her family were held. They were provided with rice and army rations and they worked in clothing factories for one Australian shilling (approximately ten American cents) per day. In 1946, the majority were "repatriated" to Japan but 150 remained in the camp, waiting for tribunal hearings. Later, 19 were deported but the rest were released in August 1947. Evelyn said that there were presently 20,000 Nikkei in Australia.

The speakers were only allotted eight minutes per person, so it was difficult for me to tell the full Canadian story, but somehow it was managed by emphasizing two points — the government's lack of planning, and its goal of keeping the cost of the uprooting to a minimum. Since the audience of approximately 900 were predominantly American Nikkei, the

two American speakers touched upon different aspects of American Nikkei history. Harry Honda, Editor Emeritus of the *Pacific Citizen*, gave a short explanation of early JA immigration and anti-Asian laws that had plagued the Issei. John Tateishi, the former Redress Chair, eloquently summarised the American struggle for redress and touched briefly on the Latin American one.

Karen's address dealt with the "lasting effects" based on her studies of Canadian Nikkei. It provoked a good deal of questions and debate by not only those who had experienced the wartime incarceration, and but especially academics who were also conducting studies.

The majority in the audience were those American Nikkei who had been uprooted from the San Francisco Bay area to the Utah camp of Topaz where 8,130 were housed in 42 blocks and fed in halls. Most had been among the 10,000 held until October, 1942 at the Tanforan racetrack while the barren valley at the edge of the Sevier Desert was being transformed for the internment. At the Reunion there were displays of art-work and photos of daily scenes at Topaz. Many showed considerable emotion while they viewed those scenes of the past, but in their everyday demeanour there was little evidence of long-term pain. Most had survived the internment, resumed their lives, succeeded, and raised well-adjusted offspring. At the banquet there were young people wearing "yonsei", and "gosei" T-shirts designed by artist Nobe (Noe) Yamabe. My souvenir of the memorable weekend is a T-shirt also designed by Yamabe, "Top 100 Reasons You Know You're A J.A." It most aptly describes us older Nikkei too. ☞

Computerization of the 1901 Canada Census — A New JCNMAS Project

Reported by Mitsuo Hayashi
(JCNMAS Volunteer)

The British Columbia Genealogical Society is currently transferring the 1901 Canada census to computer files and has requested the assistance of the Japanese Canadian National Museum and Archives Society in checking Japanese names. JCNMAS volunteers have been reviewing census data sent by the Genealogical Society. The census provides surnames, given names (or initials in the case of most Japanese), sex, marital status, birth dates, immigration dates, naturalization dates, religion and occupations. Most of the Japanese names on the three sets of data I have reviewed to present (two sets for Richmond districts and one set for a

Burrard district) were recognizable. However, for the first of the Richmond district data sets I reviewed, names were not given for most of the supposedly Japanese respondents and the very few names given looked more Chinese than Japanese. Sexual, familial and occupational compositions of Japanese communities can be gleaned from the second Richmond and Burrard district data sets.

As there is so little documentation in the census on early Japanese inhabitants in Canada, this project will hopefully provide some extremely important information! ☞



(Continued from page 2)

war in the Pacific broke out in December 1941. A few months later all of Kagetsu's assets were confiscated.

The Fanny Bay claim has been the subject of a number of paintings by well known Westcoast logging artist, Bus Griffiths. The retired hand logger knows the area well as he's lived there for over fifty years. He started work in Deep Bay Logging's claim in the fall of 1944, two years after Kagetsu's crew left. There had been a number of railway logging companies on the Westcoast owned and worked by Japanese Canadians but all the camps had been seized and the crews interned in 1942. H.R. MacMillan gained possession of the Fanny Bay timber rights and contracted out the logging to Tsable River Logging, (a truck logging company that had been working out of Port Coquitlam on the Lower Mainland).

After he got the Fanny Bay contract, Jack Fletcher, owner of Tsable River Logging, sent Bus Griffiths and a 'Cat' driver over to build roads into the timber. When Griffiths arrived he was surprised to find that Fanny Bay's "Jap Camp" was no ordinary logging camp. Instead it was a small village, whose cluster of houses were complete "with their furniture, washing machines...everything left behind." There was a laundry shed,

fish cleaning house and steam baths connected water flumes which ran from wells in each home's backyard.

The Griffiths learned that the village had some 100 to 200 residents in its day and that there were as many Japanese Canadian children in the Fanny Bay school as Caucasian students. Bus's wife, Margaret, was impressed with the site's attractive appearance recalling that it was "like a scene from a Japanese calendar." There were gardens and fruit trees everywhere and the residents had built covered wooden walkways with climbing roses growing over them.

It's been 55 years since Deep Bay Logging was forced off its claim and the alder and undergrowth have almost completely obliterated the fallen timbers and cedar shakes of the quaint village that was once located behind Fanny Bay. Today, the right of way for the new Inland Island Highway likely passes right through the site. Few, if any, of the project's crew would know the background to the hundreds of rusted cans and broken shards of porcelain pottery that their equipment must have unearthed. ☹

Anyone with information about Eikichi Kagetsu please contact his son who is writing his biography: Tadashi Kagetsu, 435 Dutton Dr., Lewiston, NY 14092 USA



Mochi-Tsuki!

Come and participate in a traditional Japanese Community event sponsored by the Japanese Canadian National Museum & Archives Society!

Date: Sunday, December 27, 1998

Time: 12:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Place: JCCA Activity Centre,
511 East Broadway, Vancouver, B.C.

- Mochi making demonstrations by the Japanese Canadian Gardener's Association
- Participate in sampling mochi
- Bake sale

To pre-order your mochi call before Dec. 10, or for further information regarding admission and activities call :

Minnie at (604) 591.3177 (evenings), or JCNMAS at (604) 874.8090



Thank you from the JCNMAS

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Ms. Evelyn Terada



*On Behalf of the
JCNMAS
We Would Like to Wish
Everyone a
Season's Greetings!*

Events Calendar

Fall '98 Dance Lessons -

Contact Minnie Hattori for dates
and cost: (evenings), (604) 591-
3177

Mochi Tsuki! -

Sunday, December 27,
12:00 PM - 4:00 PM, 511 East
Broadway: Phone to pre-order
mochi (before Dec. 10),
admission information and
further details. Minnie Hattori
(604) 591-3177 (evenings) or
JCNMAS (604) 874-8090.

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JCNMAS Office
511 East Broadway
Vancouver, B.C. V5T 1X4 Canada
tel: (604) 874-8090
fax: (604) 874-8164
jcnmas@bc.sympatico.ca

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