



Nikkei Images

JAPANESE CANADIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM & ARCHIVES SOCIETY

Spring 1999

Vol. 4 No.1

ISSN # 1203 - 9017

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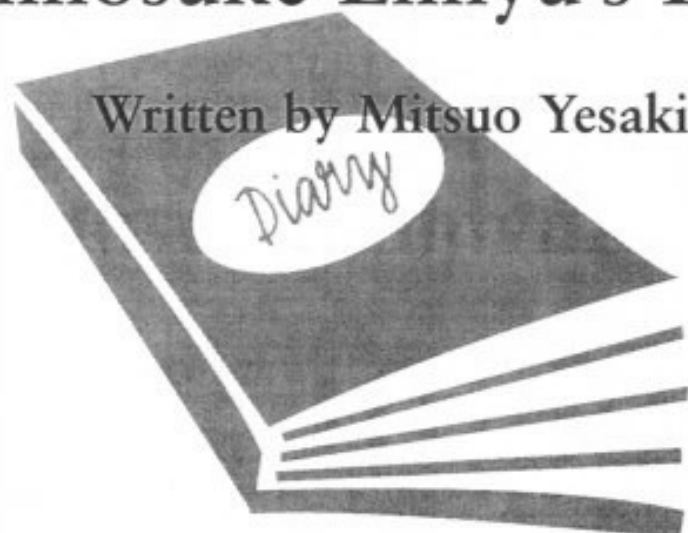
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**Pacific Boat
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Sannosuke Ennyu's Diary



Photocopies of Sannosuke Ennyu's diary are on file in the Japanese Canadian Collection of Special Collections at the University of British Columbia Library. Mr. George Brandak kindly loaned the original copies for translation. The diary gives a rare glimpse of the daily lives of Japanese immigrants on the northwest coast of British Columbia in the 1890's. The diary was translated by Sakuya Nishimura and edited by Mitsuo Yesaki.

Sannosuke Ennyu was born in Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan and graduated from college (most probably the Fisheries College, Tokyo) in March 1894. The Japanese government wanted to develop a salmon canning industry and encouraged fisheries graduates to study canning methods used on the Pacific Coast of North America. The government was willing to pay steamer fare to British Columbia for Ennyu, but unwilling to pay him a salary. Consequently, he had to support himself by working at whatever jobs were available, but

was still obliged to submit reports to the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce of his observations in British Columbia.

Ennyu left Yokohama on May 19, 1894 on the steamship TACOMA. Third class fare to Victoria was \$45. There were 64 Japanese and 10 Chinese passengers in third class steerage. Ennyu travelled with Shiga Aikawa, one of the first Japanese to fish the Skeena River.

Other members of the party were Naganobu, Shimoyama, Hoshino and Inoue. The TACOMA arrived in Victoria on June 5. After a few days of sight-seeing, they went to Vancouver on June 12 and left the same evening for the Skeena River. They arrived in Port Simpson on June 17 after stops at Alert Bay, Rivers Inlet, Bella Bella and eight canneries on the Skeena River. There were 83 Japanese working in canneries on the northwest coast; 9 at Rivers Inlet, 74 on the Skeena River and 20 on the Nass River.

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(Continued from Page 1)

Thirty of the Skeena River Japanese worked at the Inverness Cannery, 14 at the North Pacific Cannery, 8 at the Carlisle Cannery and 2 at the Aberdeen Cannery. Approximately 200 men and women were employed at each cannery.

Ennyu started working at the Inverness cannery on July 9. Workers were paid 12.5 cents per hour and 15 cents per hour for over-time. Carpenters earned 30 cents per hour or \$3.00 for a 10-hour day. Fishermen were paid 6 cents per sockeye. The cannery was closed for the season on August 4 after producing 7,800 cases of canned salmon. Ennyu's earnings for the canning season was \$17.50, with \$4.00 deducted for room and board. As the coastal freighter fare to the Skeena River was \$13.25, his net income for the canning season was \$0.25.

Eight of the Inverness Cannery Japanese returned to Victoria after the cannery closed. The remainder stayed on at the Inverness Cannery and sought whatever employment was available to earn pocket money. They fished dogfish and rendered the livers into medicinal oil. They cut trees for firewood which was sold for \$2.00 per cord. It took three men an entire day to cut a cord of wood. Four of the men earned \$29.50 for their labours. They hunted deer for meat and may have sold the hides. Ennyu lists the prices for hides as follows: bear-\$30, deer - \$0.75, sea otter - \$200, fur seal - \$20 and seal - \$0.75. They tended a small garden and sold vegetables in Georgetown and Port Simpson. They also kept pigs and chickens.

The Japanese essentially lived off the bountiful sea and land. They caught herring, gimbo (?), immature salmon, 4 types of soles, smelt, and perch with castnets. They gillnetted 150 trout on one occasion. This catch was eaten fresh, dried and salted, and processed into kamaboko. They made niboshi by steaming and drying "cucumber fish". They gathered sea cucumbers, sea urchins, abalone, crabs and clams. They harvested many types of seaweed, much of which was dried. With tansai (a type of seaweed), they made soy sauce. They shot ducks and deer for meat. From December

2 to January 25, Ennyu recorded 31 deer kills, some of which were preserved in salt. They made bread and udon.

The isolated Japanese immigrant communities on the northwest coast were essentially cash-less societies. The only food items Ennyu records purchasing were sake and a sack of wheat (?). His clothing purchases included a pair of shoes for \$2 and a shirt for \$0.75 on one occasion and a shirt and towel on another. Ennyu was invited to dine with Japanese on his travels to other canneries on the

"The isolated Japanese immigrant communities on the northwest coast were essentially cash-less societies"

Skeena River. On a trip to Port Simpson, Ennyu treated himself to lunch at the local hotel.

Japanese continued to observe the holidays of their homeland. The Inverness Cannery group celebrated Emperor Meiji's birthday with a dinner of chicken and sake. Seventeen Japanese gathered for a New Year's Eve party to usher in 1895 with whiskey and song. Ennyu performed a sword dance. For the New Year's Day celebrations, they drank sake and played "shogi" and "go". Ennyu longed for the traditional Japanese New Year's Days dishes, such as "mochi", "toso" (special sake for the New Year) and "kazunoko".

Ennyu and friends spent much of January hunting deer. During the latter part of the month, they shot two to three deer per day. Another announcement was issued by the authorities stating that deer hunting was prohibited until September and hunters apprehended with more than two deer would be fined \$100. Ennyu also set a gillnet in the river and left it overnight. He caught 50 dogfish, four of which were larger than 2 meters.

In mid-February, Yoshizawa and Ennyu went to Port Simpson to purchase four bags of turnips. In late February, Aikawa, Hashimoto and Ennyu made an excursion to the islands where they were

stranded by three successive storms. They were forced to reduce consumption to two meals per day as their food supply was exhausted. They made a gruel with one cup of rice, some potatoes and seaweed. When the storm finally abated on February 28th, they travelled to the abandoned dogfish reduction plant at Refuge Bay (?). They purchased rice, flour, tobacco, canned salmon and milk at the company store. A Caucasian who lived in a company house was repairing his boat. They arrived at the Cassiar Cannery (?) on March 2nd where there were a few Japanese. Mr. Hamanaka invited them to lunch. They visited a boat works operated by a Caucasian a short distance from the Cassiar Cannery. He was building two boats, one cost \$130 and the other \$125. They arrived in Port Essington at 3 PM on March 3rd. Mr. Ishida operated a charcoal factory with two other men. Ennyu and companions returned to the Inverness Cannery on March 5th. They dug one box of clams that evening.

On March 7th, Yoshizawa, Naganobu and Ennyu decided to fish eulachon on the Naas River. They departed on their fishing boat and under sail and oars arrived at Naas Harbour about 5 PM and at Cascade Cannery at 7 PM. They continued their trip and arrived at Kincolith on March 10th. There were about thirty houses, a church and a store, but the harbour was not safe. They were notified by the Native Council that Japanese were required to pay \$20 to fish eulachon. However, the local police officer advised them that a fee was not required. They arrived at Mr. Davy's camp on March 11th, but the river was still frozen. The eulachon season on the Naas River starts in mid-March and lasts for about three weeks. The Naas is one of three rivers renowned in British Columbia for its eulachon runs. The other two are the Kitimat and "Kelelope" (?) Rivers.

After their arrival at Davy's camp, they spent three days cutting firewood. On March 16th, they were informed by a Native that the eulachon were running. The bag net was prepared and 200 eulachon were caught on the first set.

(Continued on Page 7)



UNEARTHED FROM THE SILENCE

at the Richmond Museum

Right now, at the Richmond Museum, an exciting new exhibition explores the history of the Japanese Canadian community in Steveston. We first reported on the development of this exhibition in 1996. Three years later, we are excited and relieved to say that the project is complete and the exhibition is open!

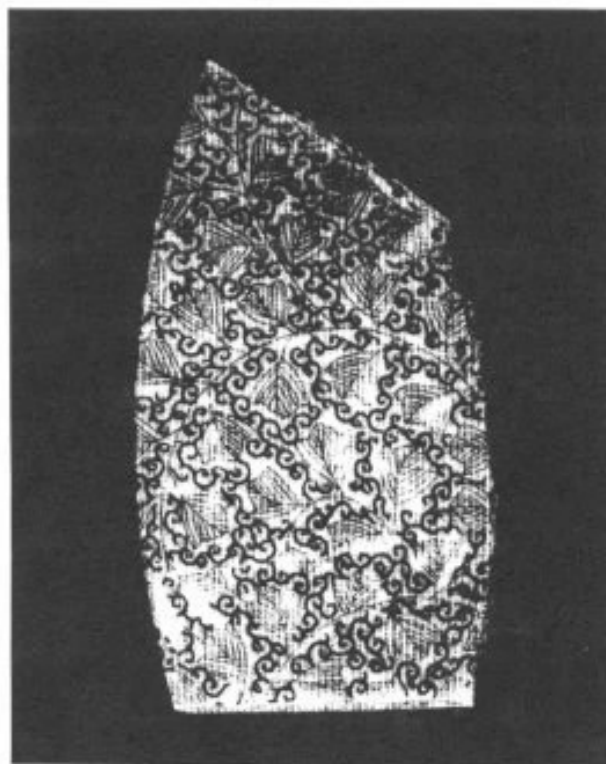
The exhibition was created through a unique partnership between the Japanese Canadian national Museum & Archives Society, Richmond museum and Britannia heritage Shipyard. The idea for the project started in 1994 when archaeological materials that were Japanese Canadian in origin were discovered at the Britannia Heritage Shipyard during the installation of new water and sewer services. Britannia staff realized right away that the materials were significant and called in a team of archaeologists.

The many fragments of rice bowls, bottles, tea cups, etc. found during the excavation were the "springboard" for the *Unearthed from the Silence* exhibition.

They were brought to life by stories and memories of people who generously shared their time and searched through their closets and old albums for photographs, documents and objects. These personal treasures and other materials help to tell a story of early Nikkei life in Steveston: photographs of fishermen at work and cannery housing; a turn-of-the-century passport, a fisherman's diary; a boy's kimono - all these and more are part of the display.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend a very special thanks to all of the individuals who assisted us with the exhibition - the list is extensive and we couldn't have done it without them!

The *Unearthed From the Silence* will be on display at the Richmond Museum at 7700 Minoru Drive until June 19, 1999



Unearthed From the Silence

November 19, 1998 - June 19, 1999

Reception: Thursday, November 19 at 7:00pm

Richmond Museum

Richmond Cultural Centre Complex
7700 Minoru Gate,

Richmond, B.C. V6Y 1R9 Tel: 231-6457

Hours: 9 am-9:30 pm daily
10 am-5 pm wknds

In partnership with the Richmond Museum,
Britannia Heritage Shipyards, & the Japanese
Canadian National Museum & Archives.

We gratefully acknowledge support from City of Richmond,
Government of British Columbia through the British
Columbia Arts Council, British Columbia Heritage Trust,
and Canadian Heritage.



Richmond
Museum





JCNMAS NEWS AND EVENTS

International Research Project

The JCNMAS is participating in the **International Research Project (INRP)** which is being co-ordinated by the **Japanese American National Museum**. This is a collaborative research project that focuses on the evolution of Nikkei cultures and societies throughout the world. There are eight countries involved; Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Japan, Mexico, Paraguay and Peru. Professor Audrey Kobayashi of Queen's University is serving as Consultant/ Co-ordinator for the Canadian Nikkei and liaison between the JCNMAS and INRP. Dr. Midge Ayukawa, historian and Board Member of the JCNMAS, is the Bibliographer/ Researcher and will be responsible for the development of the Historical Overview, selected Annotated Bibliography and Nikkei Directory. The "Top 100" entries to the bibliography were submitted as requested at the end of November.

New Board Members Appointed to the JCNMAS!

We welcome the following 2 individuals to the JCNMAS Board of Directors. We Hope that they enjoy their experiences working with us during their terms! We look forward to working with them and getting to know them better!

Stanley Fukawa

Stan Fukawa graduated from Abbotsford Senior High School in 1956. He attended Keio University, Tokyo as an exchange student on a World University Service Scholarship in 1958-59. He returned to the University of British Columbia and graduated with a B.A. (Sociology and Asian Studies) in 1961. He continued his studies at the London School of Economics, University of London on a Commonwealth Scholarship and where he received a M.A. (Sociology) in 1964.

Stanley was a staff member of Malaspina University-College from 1971 to 1994 where he taught classes in the Social Sciences and Modern Languages Departments. He spent his Sabbatical Leave as Visiting Professor at Obirin College, Tokyo from 1989 to 1990.

Stanley has been very active in community affairs with membership in many societies and committees on Vancouver Island and has participated in numerous conferences. He has also been involved in various projects promoting Japanese language and culture. He received the "Canada 125 Medal" in Nanaimo for community service in 1992 and the "B.C. Eliminates Racism Together Award" as Chair of the Nanaimo-Ladysmith School District Race Relations Committee from 1996 to 1998.

Henry K. Honda

Henry Honda graduated from Killarney Secondary School in 1990 and was awarded the "Most Outstanding Character" Scholarship" by the Vancouver School Board. He obtained a BA (Political Science) from the University of British Columbia in 1994. He continued his studies at B.C. Institute of Technology and graduated with honors from the Financial Management Program in 1996.

Henry is currently articling with Deloitte & Touche Tohamatsu International Chartered Accountants with hopes of receiving his CA designation in May 1999. He has participated for various community fund-raising events and was the recipient of the Vancouver City Council "Citizen Award" in 1990.



Resource Development Workshop

The Japanese Canadian National Museum and Archives Society held a Resource Development workshop in the afternoon of January 10, 1999 at the JCCA office.

Grace Eiko Thomson was the facilitator and Frank Kamiya the Chair. Fourteen members participated in this workshop, the objective of which was to discuss means for raising funds for the proposed National Nikkei Heritage Centre.

A projected budget of the next two years was submitted by Henry Honda at the workshop. It included the costs of the Museum inauguration in the Fall of 2000 and the concomitant assessed needs for increased staff positions. Also included in this proposed budget were funds for equipment (furniture, appliances, fixtures) and operations (preparation and implementation of exhibits and educational programs).

Several methods of fund-raising were identified. These included special events, direct mail/response, entrepreneurial, grant writing, major gifts, planned gifts through personal solicitations (i.e. coin boxes) and membership.

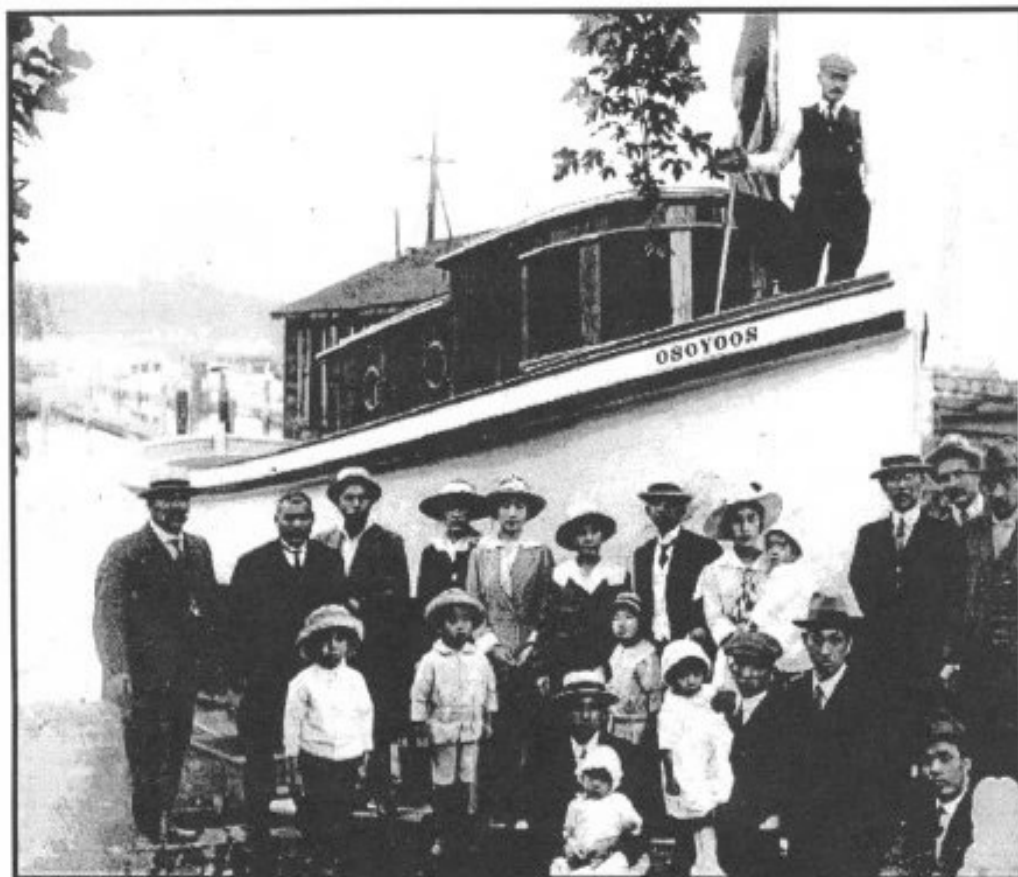
Due to time constraints, the workshop dealt with only one of the suggested methods of fund-raising, that is, special events. Past fund-raising events were listed and reviewed and new suggestions were also made. The following is a list of events proposed from the floor. The manure sale and mochi-tsuki are successful annual events which will be continued as will the 50/50 draw. Those assigned " - " were rejected, whereas those with " * " were deemed interesting and merited further study. A voluntary coordinator/researchers were appointed for each event and were asked to report back to the chair at a later date with the proposed time, date, name and number of volunteers required, as well as the approximate cost and funds projected to be raised.

LIST OF PROPOSED SPECIAL EVENTS

- +1. Manure and plant sale (1999): Frank Kamiya, Joseph Fry, David Yamaura

- +2. Mochi-tsuki, bake sale (1999): David Yamaura, Dick Nakamura
- 3. Flea market: too labour intensive, little return, reconsider in 2001.
- 4. Fashion show: reconsider later
- *5. Public events (1999)
Video, film and slide shows: Reiko Tagami, Susan Sirovyak
Travel themes; Minnie Hattori
Cooking classes; Stan Fukawa, Reiko Tagami
Minnie Hattori
- *6. Concert/Shibai/Performance (2000-2001);
Midge Ayukawa, Minnie Hattori, Grace Eiko Thomson.
- *7. Dinner/Dance (Spring 2000); Frank Kamiya, Minnie Hattori, Susan Sirovyak
- *8. Heritage cookbook (2000); Reiko Tagami, Grace Eiko Thomson
- *9. Wine tasting/ sake tasting (early 2000);
Minnie Hattori, Yoshi Kariatsumari, Karen Hayashi
- +10. 50/50 draw; approved for every function
- 11. "Antique Road Show" (2001)
- 12. Croquet fund-raiser; (to be researched later)
- 13. Karaoke nostalgia night
- *14. Food booth at Powell Street Festival (1999)
Joseph Fry
- *15. Famous peoples' auction, (2000-2001), Roy Hamaguchi, Grace Eiko Thomson

Events under consideration will be selected on the basis of their potential for raising funds, attracting new sponsors and donors, providing information and gaining a wider audience and membership to the JCNMAS. Also, the events must be cost-effective in terms of the number of volunteers and their time.



The Pacific Boat Building Company

Reported by Mitsuo Yesaki

This photograph was obtained during a visit last autumn to Japan. From the name of the vessel, I was able to obtain the registration number and the details of its particulars in the Ship's Registry of the Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans. It was built by the Pacific Boat Building Company of Bunji Hisaoka in Coal Harbour in 1917. The vessel was 37.2 feet in length, 9.5 feet in breadth, 4.4 feet in depth and powered by a 2-cylinder, 15 HP gasoline engine. It was built for Alfred Wolesley LePage of Gosse-Millerd. However, this company is not included in the Vancouver Directory for 1917 and in a list of Coal Harbour boat works compiled by Bob Cuthbert, a volunteer at the Vancouver Maritime Museum. This list includes only two Japanese boat works for the Coal Harbour area. The Bidwell (1927-1932), which was renamed the Union (1933-1942), Boat Works of Tom Nakamoto and the K & M (1937-1942) Boat Works of

Saijiemon Kuramoto and Jitsuji Madokoro.

Henderson's Vancouver Directories for 1910 and 1911 does list the Pacific Boat Building Company at 1773 West Georgia Street with T. Matsumoto and M. Ezaki as managers for these respective years. There is no record of this boat works under Bunji Hisaoka. However, there is another photograph of the Hisaoka's Pacific Boat Building Company in the collection of the Japanese Canadian National Museum and Archives Society. Furthermore, Mamoru Madokoro is of the opinion that this boat works was operating up to 1942.

I am not been able to identify any person in this photograph. If anyone can identify these people or has further information about the Pacific Boat Building Company, please contact the Japanese Canadian National Museum and Archives Society.



(Continued from Page 2)

They had eulachon for supper, which were delicious. On March 18th, they caught 300 eulachon and a basketful (700 fish) on each of the following days. Four of them operating two nets caught 26 baskets on March 21st and a boat-full the following day. The catch fell to 350 fish on March 23rd, but from March 25th to April 1st, they caught 143.5 baskets of eulachon. During this period, they dried and salted some of the fish. They spent two days cutting firewood and then from April 8th to 23rd, in processing most of the eulachon into oil. The eulachon fishing season was officially closed on April 20th. Their production for the season was 23 cans of oil. The lids were soldered tight onto the full oil cans. They traded 3 cans of oil for needed supplies; one gallon of the oil was worth 6 dried halibut and two pairs of shoes. They gave 20 cans to Davy's grandmother in appreciation of his teaching them how to catch eulachon and to render it into oil. They also salted eulachon in a large barrel and packed dried/smoked eulachon on skewers into a box.

Davy and his family returned to Port Simpson on April 26. They made 90 cans on eulachon oil during the 1895 fishing season. Ennyu and colleagues returned to the Inverness Cannery at midnight April 28th. On their way, they passed Mr. Davie's potato farm. They gathered "kailop" (bull kelp) near Port Simpson, which they cooked with salted eulachon into a delicious dish. During the first half of May they smoked eulachon, cut firewood, ploughed their field and made a fence around the field with discarded gill-net webbing. They decided to try salmon fishing during the upcoming season. In the interim, Naganobu, Hashimoto, Takabayashi, Hoshino, Koma-san, an unidentified Chinese man and Ennyu went to the Skeena Cannery (?). Five of the group sought cannery work while Koma-san and Ennyu tried bear hunting up the Balmoral River from May 12th to 28th. This venture was probably motivated by the \$30 price for a bear skin. Ennyu reported sighting a bear during this period, but was unable to shoot it. They found a large waterfall and visited a popular hot-spring during their wanderings. They sighted 6 boats near the Balmoral

Cannery which were surmised to be fishing for spring salmon. Their expenses totalled \$4.90 (\$3.50-bag of rice, \$1.40-bacon), thus each person was out \$2.45 for this bear hunting venture. Their daily food expenses during this 16-day venture was \$0.15 per person.

Ennyu spent the early part of June around their domicile tending the garden and the pigs. He started preparations for the salmon season by baking cookies on June 10th. He left with Koma-san the following day for the Skeena Cannery (?). They started repairing the cannery fishing boat on June 13th and received the net on June 15th. They spent \$13.55 for food which included half a bag of rice, coffee, butter, lard, ham, sugar, tomato, etc. The fishing season started at 6:30 hours June 16th. The following table shows the weekly numbers of days fished and sockeyes caught.

Date	Days fished	#sockeyes
June 16-21	6	71
June 24-28	4	279
July 1-5	5	141
July 7-12	6	293
July 15-19	5	496
July 21-26	6	573
July 29-Aug. 1	4	179
total	36	2,032

They returned to the Inverness Cannery to quit fishing for the year. However, the manager asked them to continue fishing so Koma-san complied, but Ennyu stayed ashore and obtained work in the cannery. Their earnings from fishing totalled \$130.26 (6 cents X 2,171 sockeyes- this figure is more reliable than the daily counts). Their food expenses was \$27.10 during the 50 days spent salmon gillnetting, for daily expenses of \$0.27 per person. Each person's share of the catch was \$65.13. Koma-san's expenses (food and personal effects) was \$20.80 and Ennyu's was \$17.55. Each of them also had to pay a \$3.00 tax (fishing license ?). Koma-san's earnings from fishing was \$41.33 and Ennyu's was \$44.58. From his earnings, Ennyu paid Koma-san \$8.00 for the rifle used in hunting bears.

On August 7th, Mr. Taira, who worked at a Japanese charcoal factory near the

North (?) Pacific Cannery, drowned when the boat he was returning home on was swamped by a large wave. Forty-seven Japanese came to the Inverness Cannery to dredge for his body, which was never found. Ennyu travelled to Port Simpson to report Mr. Taira's accident.

Ennyu was elected secretary of the Japanese community and kept the minutes of all meetings. Ennyu left Inverness Cannery with 7 other Japanese on August 14th. Enroute to the Cassiar (?) Cannery, they spent the night at the Japanese charcoal factory. They arrived at Cassiar the following day and continued on to Spokeshore (?) the next day. They tried fishing for coho salmon while there and caught 20 fish. It did not pay so they quit.

On August 24th, Ennyu and four others contracted with Kaneam (?) to provide 100 cords of firewood for making charcoal. They moved into an empty saw mill house in Spokeshore and celebrated the occasion with sake. Mr. Takada changed his mind about cutting cordwood and found work in a saw mill. The remaining workers included Ishibashi, Nishimiya, Naganobu and Ennyu. They started cutting firewood on August 29th and continued until October 2nd. During this period, they logged approximately 19 days with many days lost because of heavy rain. They took three days to load the firewood onto a scow and then moved the scow to Kaneam on October 5th. They unloaded the scow in 2 days and returned to their work camp. They resumed cutting firewood for 16 days from October 11th through November 17th. The four workers cut 52 cords of firewood for which they earned \$156. Expenses for food was \$95.35 and for personal effects was \$69.35 for a total of \$164.70. The \$12.70 shortfall was covered by sale of excess food and the assistance of acquaintances.

The four wood cutters worked 81 days. Their daily food expense was \$1.18 for the group and \$0.29 for each worker. They augmented their food supply by hunting game. Ennyu records members of the group shooting a blue heron which was eaten with freshly made udon and a duck eaten with Chinese wine purchased for \$1.00.



Thank you from the JCNMAS!

Donations to JCNMAS from Dec. 1998 to June 1999

We gratefully acknowledge the receipt of financial donations from these individuals.

Michiko Ayukawa
Mark T. Ando and Associates Ltd.
Canadian International College Inc.
Carroll Baldwin & Family
Doris Bean
Mr. & Mrs. Norman & Flo Chin
Mr. & Mrs. Ron & Bebe Chin
Mrs. Vivian Ettinger
Mr. and Mrs. M. Haraga
Michiko and Miyuki Hirano
Mr. & Mrs. M. Hattori
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Joan Inouye & Ken Tsujiura
Judy Inouye
Mr. & Mrs. M. Ito
Mr. & Mrs. Tatsui & Susan Iwamoto
Japanese Canadian National Redress Foundation
Mr. Gordon Kadota and Family
Kanaye Y. Kagetsu
Mr. S. Kamachi
Mr. Kiyoshi Kitagawa
Allan and Mitsue Kobayashi
Harry and Yasuko Komori
Mr. & Mrs. Yosh & Gail Kariatsumari
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Mary Kwong & Family
Julia Lis
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Mr. Mike and Mary Tanaka
Mr. and Mrs. Mitsuru Tanaka
Mr. G. Thomson
Nobu Tsuyuki
Mrs. Akiko Wakabayashi
Mr. & Mrs. B. Yamaura
Mr. & Mrs. David & Bev Yamaura
Mr. & Mrs. Sam & June Yamamoto

Events Calendar

(July 31 and August 1)
Annual Powell Street Festival
- at Oppenheimer Park,
Vancouver. Come enjoy
the celebration!

(August 1)
Cannery Days '99 - Gulf of
Georgia Cannery National
Historical Site. JCNMA is
a partner in this event which
features the Japanese
Canadian fishing community
in Steveston

Nikkei Images is published by the
Japanese Canadian National
Museum & Archives Society

Issue Editor: Shane Foster
Assistant Editors:
Stanley Fukawa, Mitsuo Yesaki

Editorial Board: Stanley Fukawa, Grace
Hama, Frank Kamiya, Grace Eiko
Thomson, Mitsuo Yesaki

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