

# CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



The Manzanar Reunion, held on June 29, 1974 at Los Angeles at the Proud Bird Restaurant, was without doubt, a smashing success.

The classmates who attended, the teachers who graced our company, the interested friends of Manzanar, and the hard working committee had a most unusual and enjoyable evening filled with nostalgic entertainment, short speeches and lots of prizes. The consensus of all was that the next reunion should take place in five years instead of ten because of creeping age and so mark 1979 as the target year. No matter what happens to the world, the Manzanar Reunion Committee is starting to formulate plans for this great event. If any of you have any ideas as to what kind of a program format we should have, please write to us and use our address c/o Merit Savings and Loan Association, 324 East First Street, Los Angeles, California 90012. Volunteers for the planning committee are most welcome.

The finances of the reunion resulted in a surplus and will take care of the souvenir booklet cost which we hope will serve as another "fond memory" of Manzanar, our reunion, and your rich life beyond that for all those who attended as well as those who couldn't.

It certainly has been my pleasure in working with so many, many, hard working committee members. The reward for all of us was the great enthusiastic response of appreciation, warmth and camaraderie rendered by back slapping, hugging, kissing and general libelous lying about each other's health, looks and shames. Let's do it again! For those that couldn't make it, I don't know how to tell you but if you need inspiration, consolation, some ego building and just plain fun, don't miss the reunion in 1979. The details of the 1979 happening will be mailed out about six months ahead of time and we encourage everyone sending their "okane" promptly so that we can plan on the number of people attending in a more organized fashion. Yoroshiku onegai shimasu.

*Everyone* is looking forward to 1979. You have plenty of time to shape up and train for it. Look your best or make what you have presentable for all of your Manzanar classmates and friends. See you for sure in 1979.

Gratefully,

Bruce T. Kaji  
Manzanar Reunion Chairman



## SPECIAL AWARDEE



Toyo Miyatake is 78 years old. He was born on October 28, 1895 in Kagawa-Ken, Japan. He arrived in the U.S.A. in 1909 at age 14, via Seattle with his mother and two brothers to join their father who had come ahead to begin a confectionary business "Sho-Fu-Do" in Los Angeles.

Toyo decided to become a photographer at age 21. He took classes taught by the late Harry Shigeta, Master Photographer and well-known lecturer.

Toyo married Hiro in 1922. Together they established a studio in Little Tokyo that same year. The children are Archie, Robert, Richard and Minnie Takahashi. He has 10 grandchildren.

Toyo's career was at its highest when World War II broke out. The studio closed, equipment stored in warehouses, except for one lens which he kept with him, and he and his family were taken to Manzanar Relocation Center with thousands of others. With that lens he built a camera and was soon back taking photographs of camp life. First secretly, but shortly had full support of camp director Ralph Merrit and was made official photographer. He also supervised the general photography work and took the portrait pictures for the Manzanar School Annual published in 1944-1945.

When Toyo was released from Manzanar, he like many others had to start over again. But with the aid of his wife, family and friends, he was back in business at the present studio.

Since then, his Manzanar photographs have been used extensively in many publications and also were shown through many exhibits, the largest being at the Los Angeles County Museum on two different occasions.

Mrs. Hiro Miyatake passed away in January, 1972. Now retired, Toyo still takes an active interest in his studio. As an active retiree, he has spent much time on restoring his collection of old glass plate stereo positives of the "Meiji Era (1868-1912)" taken by the late Tetsujiro Sato. From the glass plates, he made negatives and was able to reproduce excellent enlargement. This collection will be on exhibit at the California Museum of Science and Industry, 700 State Drive, Los Angeles for two months beginning May 29, 1974 through July 28th, 1974.

Last year, 1973 he marked his 50th year in the photography business.



# MANZANAR HIGH SCHOOL

Class of 1943 & 1944

## JOINT REUNION

PROUD BIRD RESTAURANT

Grand Ballroom East

11022 Aviation Blvd., Los Angeles, California

June 29, 1974

Cocktail Hour  
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Dinner  
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

### Program

#### MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Arthur "Rabbit" Katayama

#### WELCOME ADDRESS

Bruce Kaji

#### INTRODUCTION OF CLASS PRESIDENTS

Floyd Tanaka, W 1943 • Yoshikatsu Nakayama, S 1943

Yoshiaki Nakayama, W 1944 • Arnold T. Maeda, S 1944

#### PRESENTATIONS

Assemblyman Paul Bannai • Councilman Gilbert Lindsay

#### ENTERTAINMENT:

Tak Shindo — Movies of Manzanar • Louis Frizzell • Harry Tashima • Mary (Kageyama) Nomura

#### DANCING

Keith Williams Orchestra

#### GENERAL CHAIRMAN

Bruce Kaji

#### CO-CHAIRMEN

Mary Enomoto (Kinoshita)

Jun Okimoto

Rosie Kakuuchi (Maruki)

The Reunion Committee gratefully acknowledges the following firms and individuals for their generous donations:

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Photographs of Manzanar — Courtesy of Toyo Miyatake

### Lest We Forget

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James Aiso • Florence (Ban) Akiyama • Yoshio Kusayanagi • Masaharu Marumoto • Kiyo Mio • Roy Nakashima  
Lily Omura • Eva (Tamaki) Kamiya • Mitsuye Takemiya • Hitoshi Yasuda • Masako Yokomori

#### CLASS OF 1944

Naruye (Hasegawa) Akiyama • Chieko (Kami) Higashi • Hiroko Iriye • Ayako Kato • Teiji Ohara • Haruko (Ogi) Uyeda





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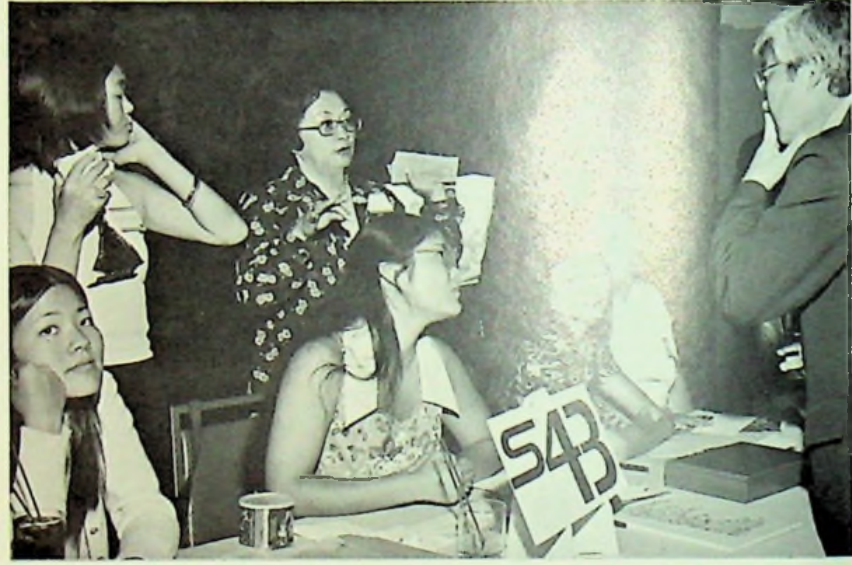
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# OUR WORLD

Today, whenever the subject of evacuation and relocation centers are discussed, it seems that they are treated as stark examples of the injustice of military expediency in time of war — something that should never have occurred. But it did occur and we, the graduates of a high school located in

Manzanar could do better than to merely bemoan an irreversible experience.

Yes, we remember the barbed-wire fences, the grim-faced guards, the raging dust storms, the ugliness of tarpaper and pine barracks, the lack of privacy, the loss of homes, the separation from friends and loved ones, and above all, the feeling of abandonment by our own country. But these memories alone

do not describe the total impact of Manzanar upon us as individuals.

Can we look back and see that while we were imprisoned in that desolately beautiful valley, a community flourished? Can we remember that this strange city was a study in democracy in which unselfishly, doctors, scholars, artists, scientists, farmers and laborers all worked to make Manzanar a bet-



ter place? The sick were cared for, the young were taught, the hungry were fed, the distressed ministered to, and everywhere, beauty began to soften the harsh surroundings.

And inspired by all of this, we attacked with zest our youthful endeavors as students. For here, a democratic society was wisely nurtured by an administration and staff whose own examples of faith in us and in America served as

unforgettable reminders of the principles upon which this nation was founded. If the people cared for each other and the community, it was in response to those who cared enough to live and work among us.

So it was from this "Our World" we were launched to pursue our private dreams before the ultimate outcome of the world struggle was

even known. And it is this world of Manzanar that brings us together tonight feeling that our reunion is just a little bit special. Furthermore, if we have achieved some measure of success in our own pursuits, is it not incumbent on us to remember the lesson of caring enough to help meet some of the problems which still confront the people of our larger world today?

By: Mrs. Rose (Hanawa) Tanaka



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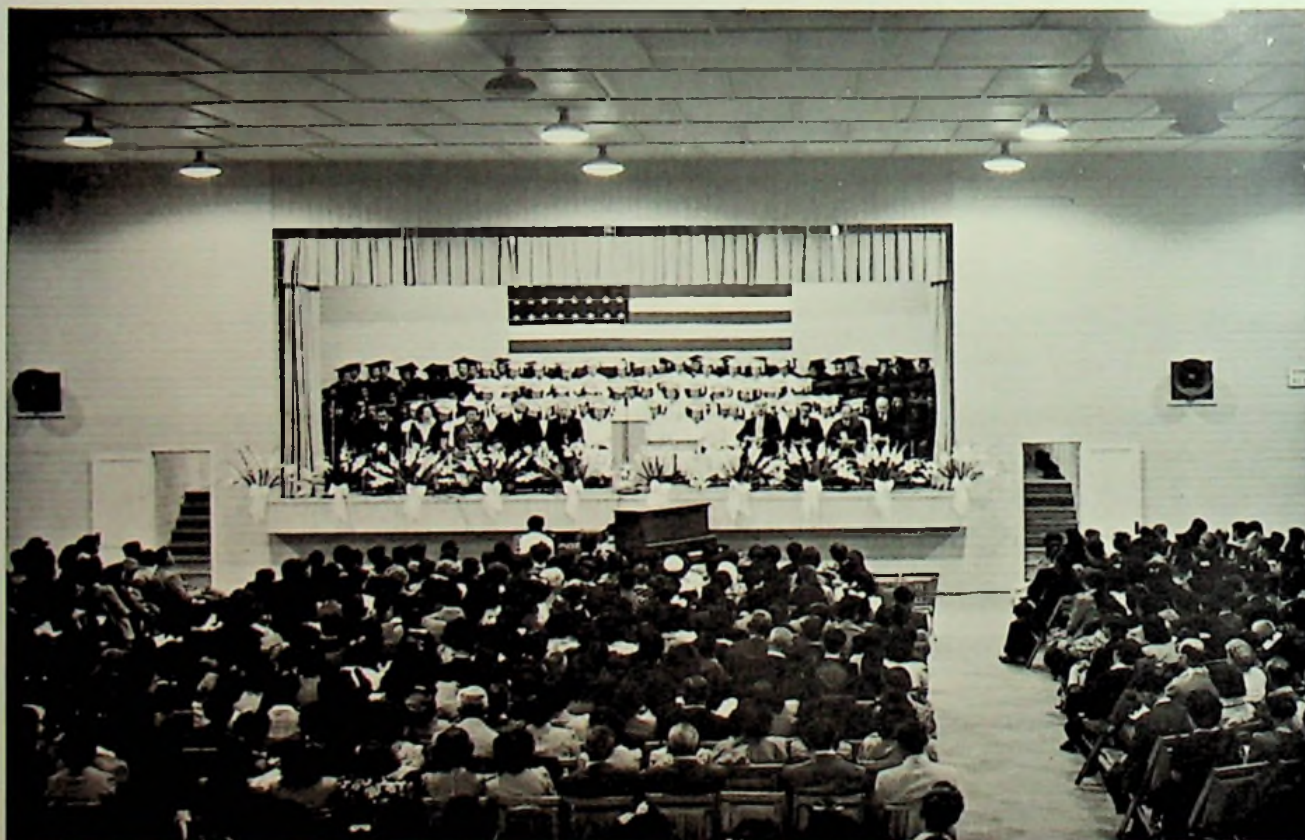
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I am pleased to extend warm greetings and good wishes to everyone attending the 30-year reunion of the Manzanar Relocation Camp class of '44.

As you gather together from your separate walks of life, you today have been united by a common link. This occasion will allow an opportunity to reacquaint yourselves with those who share with you those times which perhaps bring back mixed emotions. Reunions such as this serve as a reminder that brotherhood and freedom must go hand in hand. It is my fervent prayer that we in this great nation will never allow a situation to arise again that would jeopardize the liberties of our fellow citizens.

Best wishes for a most memorable and enjoyable reunion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Ronald Reagan'.

RONALD REAGAN  
Governor

