

Despite the passage of time, as *yanacunas* they were dedicated to growing cotton and currently are owners of this land. They cultivated potatoes and vegetables for their own consumption and supplied the large population who lived in the area of Callao, locally known as *Chalacos*. They also grew flowers they sold on the local market.

The reminiscence of the past brings us back to that old *Hacienda San Agustín* that could only be reached by a dirt road and had an entrance close to the obelisk of Fanning Square.

Carriages hauled by mules or horses were the only means of transport surrounded by large willows and eucalyptus trees, natural windbreakers and the adobe walls that surrounded the nearby dairy stables, one of which was owned by Kintaro Ichiki.

The mouth of the Rimac River with its crystal clear waters was a favorite place to find small fish and crayfish.

Today large trucks, small busses locally called *micros* and cars travel along this road, although it is still unpaved. The water that used to be clear is currently muddy and polluted as it flows towards the sea.

Each farmer cultivated a different crop such as celery or onions. There was a two-story manor built in brick and mortar and a large deposit that housed tractors and trucks to be used during sowing and harvest as well as a space to keep the seeds for next year's harvest.

Gone were the days of the old houses made out of *quncha*, wood and plaster and the long tables, water wells and the water pump, light by old-fashioned lanterns and the hearth burning in the kitchen.

Most owners are Japanese or their descendants.

### ***Michiko Kameko***

Her maiden name was Michiko Kanashiro. She arrived to Peru on January 5, 1936, summoned by her father (yobiose). First she worked at the restaurant on Puno Street in Lima. Two years later, she changed to the store on Aumente Street.

Her father wanted to have another kind of store, a tinsmith's shop (kanamonoya) and sell pots, teakettles, etc. He wanted to give an advance payment and enter the *tanomoshi*, but this became an impossible dream because of the war and the death of his son.

Michiko got married in 1945 and together with her husband Tadao Kameko, moved to San Agustín as farmers. She had three children: Miguel, Olga and Alicia.

*Michiko Kameko, one of the pioneers of Hacienda San Agustín*



The early loss of her husband Kameko san in 1951 forced her to work in the fields with the help of her brother-in-law and her relatives sharing the 9.54 acres of land growing cotton, sweet potatoes and bananas

This hard and self-sacrificing work allowed her to become a partner in the fishing business named the *Awora Fishing*. She shared royalties with Toyama Zentaro, Yamashiro Hisashi, Nakamoto Senkichi, Kochi Seizo, Kameko Takehiko, Kameko Alejandro and Kuniyoshi Kama.

After two years of a financial boom she decided to become a partner in a larger company that had 15 members, called Continental Fishing. Unfortunately, the company failed due to the high rates of interests and the withdrawal of anchovy from our coast.

In the peaceful countryside, she now shares the joy of watching the seeds grow, the harvest and the market sale next to her son Miguel's wife

She tells us that oddly enough Miguel was born in the farm but not for the farm

He is an electrical engineer graduated at the State Engineering University, but really is a doctor at heart

Michiko states *"that children must freely choose their own careers and future. Maybe I did not give enough support in that choice"*. she reflects with some signs of regret

***Some of my personal satisfactions?***

*"My children and my relatives I supported them the best I could. Having fulfilled my job at the Okinawan Women's Association of Peru when I was president in 1992 and my work during the Uchinanchu Taikay Okinawan Festival "*

***What do you expect from your grandchildren?***

*"Each must trace their own future, be punctual, strong-willed and honest "*

***What about the Centennial celebrations?***

*"That depends the desire for self-improvement in each activity. I have full confidence in the leaders "*

***Katsuro and Hirono Fukazawa***

Katsuro and Hirono came from the Yamanashi Prefecture. Katsuro worked as an employee at his brother-in-law's store in downtown Lima for eight years. Later, he traveled to Japan to marry Hirono and returned to Peru

He then became independent and left his brother-in-law's store. He was an able farmer and noticed that almost everyone drew water from artisan wells in the ground with a bucket and rope in unsanitary conditions

He knew how to make a hand pump and installing one in an existing well. He extended a long pipe and covered the well to avoid contamination. He then installed a second pump but this time he introduced the pipe into the ground until he reached the groundwater to pump the water

With this ingenious system he had learned in Japan, he began a business installing hand pumps. At the request of some customers, he had to travel to the provinces bringing his pumps and tools with him loaded on a wagon

He traveled to remote places on a small airplane

In 1940, he moved to Mr Shimura's farm located on the Baquijano Estate in the Port of Callao

His first crop was bananas which helped improve his economic situation. When demand changed he switched to cotton growing until he ultimately abandoned the farm because of the expansion of urban development as a result of the growth of the population.

Katsuro, a very dynamic man of principles was an activist in the Temperance League that discouraged liquor drinking.

He sponsored many institutions that sprung up in the post-war. He was an active President of the Yamanashi Shimbokukai, the Pacific Club and the Estadio La Unión S. A.

In Callao, he was President of the Central Japanese Society, the present Peruvian Japanese Association of Callao. The Government of Japan gave him a medal of honor for his achievements

Hirono, his wife, is an exemplary mother. Her children are Augusto, who is an architect, Bertha, Teresa, Fidelina and Luis have all been successful in the careers they chose thanks to the wonderful education they received. She has dedicated part of her daily work to help others and has been past president of the Peruvian Japanese Women's Association (Fujinkai). The Government of Japan also acknowledged her merits

Katsuro and Hirono Fukazawa deserve honors for their work, honesty, and service toward their fellow men and women. They are an example for future generations



*Katsuro Fukazawa*



*Katsuro Fukazawa and his wife Hirono*

### ***Kame Higa***

She arrived to Peru in 1929 (yobiose) from Chatan, Okinawa, aboard the Ginyo Maru and established herself in Montenegro, an old quarter of San Agustín

Shunzo Higa arrived first, in 1925 They had eight children, four boys, and four girls All of them are farmers, some work in San Agustín, others in Chacra Cerro At present, they grow staple food

Kame lives peacefully in her ample and comfortable brick house She is a healthy woman and spends her free time knitting She chats with her spiritual counselor once a week

She visited Japan in 1975, but she felt like a tourist arriving in a foreign country. She did not feel the thrill she expected and did not find her childhood friends "*Peru is better*" she says . She is now 87 years old

**Have you been at the Jinnai Center?** "*Yes, I went there two years ago*"

**Wouldn't you like to participate?** "*There is no bus to go there and my children work in the fields not really .. But I do go to all the activities developed in San Agustín*" she joyfully declares

We talked to Tatsuo, one of her sons and member of the Irrigators Committee (water use and management) and of the San Agustín Youth Association He said, "*We tried to create a garlic export company but, in view of the volume demanded, the irregular harvests and different qualities of garlic, the product was not accepted in foreign markets Economic support and a more comprehensive marketing study are needed Our immediate problem is the airport expansion We are at the appraisal stage If we have to leave our lands, I would probably take up farming elsewhere as a hobby with the money we will receive by selling our land*"



*The Port of Cerro Azul  
199A*

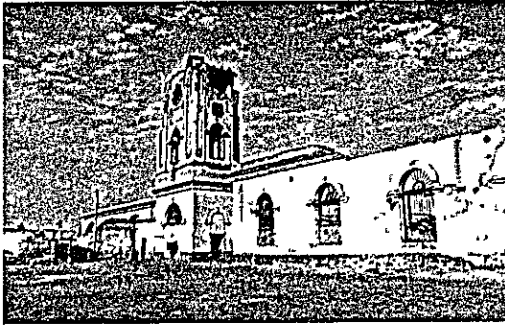
## *Cañete*

The Province of Cañete, barely 145 kilometers south of the Lima the capital, is particularly important for the Nikkei Community. This area has many Pre-Columbian ruins and was the scene of several events during the conquest of Peru. Cañete is blessed by wonderful natural resources and its shores are washed by the vast Pacific Ocean on the west. At sunset, the blue-green ocean takes on different hues.

The Cerro Azul Bay was witness of the arrival of the first group of Japanese farm hands on *Sakura Maru* on April 3, 1899. An endless sea journey across the Pacific Ocean from Yokohama brought them to the Port of Callao where they stayed on board for just a few hours. Then the northbound ship set sail again leaving the immigrants at different ports along the Peruvian coast according to their working contracts. Finally, the return trip south ended when they cast anchors offshore the Cerro Azul Bay.

Thanks to an old photograph rescued by relatives of Saturnino Francia Mendoza, a former customs employee, and owner of the restaurant *Restaurante Don Satu*, we were able to enjoy these old photographs.

The picture shows the Cerro Azul Bay, the rocky cliffs, one called *El Fraile*, bales piled on the dock, the numerous workers and, the waiting train.



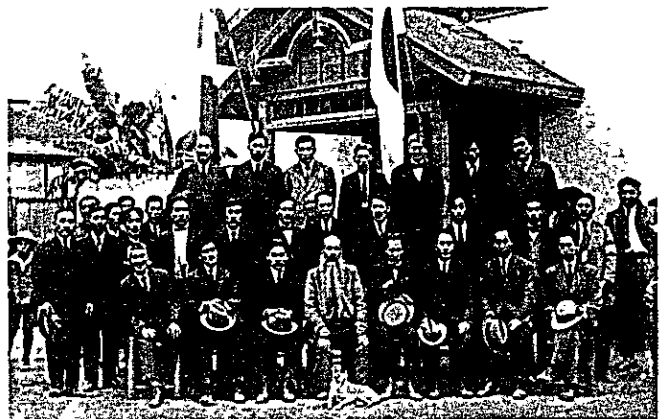
*The Hacienda Santa Barbara sugar mill*

Two hundred and twenty-six workers arrived in Cañete to work at *Haciendas Casa Blanca, Santa Bárbara* and *La Quebrada* owned by the British Sugar Company Limited. President Augusto B. Leguía was directly involved in the company. Apparently the original owner of *Hacienda Casa Blanca* was Enrique Swayne. The Convent of La Buena Muerte owned *Hacienda La Quebrada*, *Hacienda La Arona* belonged to Paz Soldan y Unánue and *Hacienda Santa Bárbara* was the property of Manuel Barrenechea.

Our tour of the place took us to the Cerro Azul stone beach. We photographed the remains of the old dock and climbed the Camacho Hill. Here we found old adobe constructions dating back from pre-Inca times. We went to the top of the cliff called *El Faro* or the Lighthouse that probably guided ships into the bay to load sugar cane products.

Cerro Azul is very strategic because of its pier. Coal-driven trains chugged their way from *La Quebrada, Unánue, Montalbán* and *Casa Blanca* picking up sugar cane. The loaded wagons then headed for the Santa Bárbara sugar mill.

Here at *Hacienda Santa Bárbara* we looked at the remains of the old sugar mill. The rundown tower still has its bronze shield as a relic from



*Immigrant pioneers at the first Buddhist Temple in Santa Barbara*

the past. The symbol of the British Sugar Company looked like the chrysanthemum flower, the emblem of the Imperial Court of Japan, with 14 sharp-pointed petals.

The old Japanese laborers lived in houses made of reed and adobe with plastered walls and bamboo and wood ceilings. The doors were tall, in colonial fashion. Irrigation channels flowed nearby.

The owner of this *hacienda*, Manuel Barrenechea, treated his workers well and is fondly remembered.



*Hacienda Casa Blanca*

### ***Hacienda Casa Blanca***

*Hacienda Casa Blanca*, owned by the Swayne Family, was one of the main places where Japanese immigrants established themselves. They founded primary schools (Shiogakko), the cemetery, steam baths (furo) and the Japanese Community Secretariat headed by Masanobu Aoki Yamada. At present, it is known as a small village called Laura Caller.

The most important families who settled in Casa Blanca were the Aoki and Maeda families. They established flourishing businesses such as bakeries, pastry shops, small restaurants, and shops.

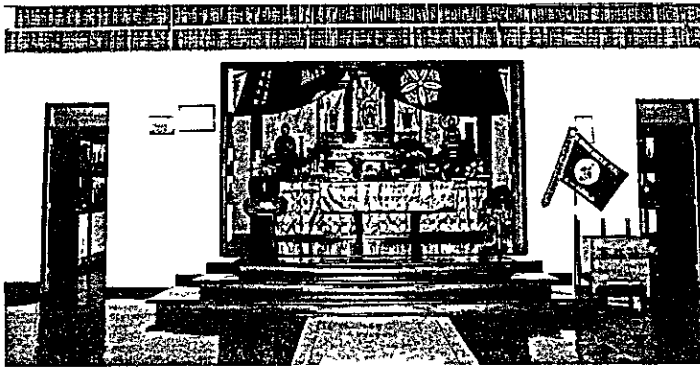
The rest of their countrymen worked as barbers, tailors, farmers, fishermen, and fruit tree growers.

Parents still kept the tradition of asking for the hand of marriageable young women. Their consent was the sole requirement for the wedding to take place. Gifts for the occasion were omochi, yokan and different types of cakes in fine gift boxes.

The Furo or steam bath was run by coal. There was also a water-filled tub to bathe in with soap and water before going into the steam bath. A strict order was kept, first the men went in, then the women and lastly the children.

Parents taught honesty and respect towards people. Primary school reinforced these lessons.

The Emperor's birthday was a festive day with parades and typical food: makizushi, sashimi, tofu, osushi, sake.



*The Jionji Temple*

Large colonial balconies, wagons, the stone mill and some reed and adobe houses are reminiscences of the old Casa Blanca sugar cane plantation. Now, cotton, corn and fruit trees are grown in those fields.

### *The Jionji Temple*

This temple is where many pray to their ancestors and

worship, a place where many families keep alive the memory of their dead relatives (*ihai*) whose names are written on small wooden boards.

Religious fervor accompanied the first Japanese immigrants in their hardships. They were alone when they died, as family and friends were far away but they had spiritual consolation in Mr. Ito.

The first priest, Tadan Ueno, arrived on the second trip in 1903 and built the first temple at *Hacienda Santa Bárbara* in 1908. By this time, there was quite a large number of Japanese children living there and the temple was used as a school.

The second priest was Senho Saito, who took charge of the temple in 1916 after Ueno went back to Japan. Saito died three years later but not before he imparted spiritual peace to his friends. Afterwards, Kumazo Sugai took care of the religious services until Michi Oshio arrived in 1921 and was in charge of the temple up to 1926. The Jionji Temple was moved to 28 de Julio Avenue in the town of San Luis.

Father Kenryo Sato arrived with his wife in 1926. The temple was somewhat neglected because Sato lived in Lima. But he did give spiritual support and comfort to many Japanese along the coast.

At the Jionji Temple, there is a framed document in which the Japanese Consulate requests J. M. Arizola, sanitary doctor in Cañete, to grant Kenryo Sato permission to gather the mortal remains of immigrants who had died at the *Haciendas Santa Bárbara, Casa Blanca* and *La Quebrada*.

Sato gathered the bodies of 686 Japanese and buried them in the southern part of *Casa Blanca* at the foot of the *Cerro de Oro*, just next to the Chinese cemetery.



The cemetery is visited every six months during the Ohigan and Obon celebrations

Shodo Nakao succeeded Sato, but he was removed from his post for not acknowledging the Jionji Temple. Jisaku Shinkai, a carpenter who lived in Lima, took over the religious responsibility during this emergency. He became priest once Nakao returned to Japan after his wife died.

Shinkai busied himself registering data on the members of the community. But then war broke out and changed the Japanese's religious life. Shinkai rebuilt the temple and kept records. He died of a heart attack on February 21.

After this misfortune, the Japanese Society of Cañete took care of the temple. Shortly after, in 1960, Professor Ryoko Kiyohiro, a resident of Callao, was asked to tend the temple. In 1961, Kiyohiro was invested priest by Zenkio Komagata, from Hawaii, who was visiting Peru.

The new Jionji Temple, erected in 1967, is kept in memory of the Japanese immigrants for their tenacity and sacrifice as an example for future generations.

The inscription on the bronze plate reads

*Inaugurated on October 9, 1967*  
*Godparents His Excellency Saburo Kimoto,*  
*Ambassador of Japan to Peru and wife*  
*Cornerstone Kichiji Koseki and wife*  
*President of the Central Japanese Society. Harumi Suenaga*  
*President of Fujinkai Kimiko Fujii*  
*President of the Japanese Society of Cañete Alejandro Kina*  
*Peruvian Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry*  
*Tatsuaki Mabuchi*  
*President of the Reconstruction Commission Masao Nakachi*  
*President of the Collection Commission Eicho Higa*  
*Treasurer of the Collection Commission Sengo Nagatani*  
*Spiritual Counselor 6<sup>th</sup> Ryoko Kiyohiro*

At present, the Peruvian Japanese Association of Cañete headed by Miguel Gusukuma takes care of the temple (1997).

Tradition is kept alive during Ohigan and Obon festivities. The City of Cañete and the Peruvian Japanese Association hold a Buddhist ceremony at the temple. Authorities and members of the community participated in the religious ceremony.

After Reverend Ryoko Kiyohiro died, there were no priests available so several others helped with the rituals. Some of these people were Iwazo Nakao, later Ichikawa Sadao, Tokuda Gien and Yoshinobu Uku. Some innovations were introduced in the ceremonies like the way of saying prayers, placing macko (incense) on pieces of hot coals to generate smoke and the well-known «zenko».

Since 1996, Bishop Inoue Hakko of the Jodo Shinshu Honpa Honganji Temple in Sao Paulo, Brazil and Reverends Gustavo Javier Aoki and Terada Narabini, have celebrated the religious ceremonies and renewed the cult of our ancestors leading the congregation in more active prayers. Bishop's Inoue's messages are highly motivating and humane.

During the 1996 Obón, the people of San Vicente in Cañete participated in the Bon-Odon in a unique way.

### *Cemeteries*

The mortal remains of the first immigrants were rescued from the *Haciendas Santa Bárbara, La Quebrada* and *Casa Blanca* and now lie buried in the *Casa Blanca* Cemetery thanks to Reverend K. Sato. A dirt road leads to the foot of *Cerro de Ojo* near the Pan American Highway.

A mausoleum represented by a great cross has inscriptions on the main base in reference to the first immigrants. There are also tombs and niches of the community in Cañete.

There is another smaller marble cross in San Vicente that also pays tribute to the Japanese Colony and to their beliefs.



*The Board of Directors  
of the Peruvian Japanese  
Association of Cañete*

## *The Peruvian Japanese Association of Cañete Cañete Nikkei Kyokai*

Founded in 1956 by pioneers Pedro Tachibana and Araki Suehachi, the Cañete Nikkei Kyokai was joined later by Shiguemoto, Fujii Kenichi, José Takahashi, Eiji Matsuoka, Oniki Tokuzo, Masami Shimazu, Alejandro Kina, Alberto Fullea, Julio Kawano and Roberto Fujii. Miguel Gusukuma is currently the President of the Association.

Documents were lost during the 1970 earthquake so it is possible that some names have involuntarily been omitted from this list. We apologize to the descendants of those involved and to the Nikkei Community as well.

Some of the goals of the institution are to develop cultural, sports and social activities and to maintain and preserve the Jionji Temple and the Casa Blanca Cemetery.

### *Works*

- In 1962, the mausoleum of the first immigrants of the Cañete Valley was inaugurated
- In 1967, the Jionji Temple was built in San Luis
- In 1968, the social locale was opened
- In 1967, the new Jionji Temple was opened in San Vicente, the capital of the province of Cañete. The ashes (rikotsu) and small

wooden boards (ihai) of approximately 2,000 deceased, among immigrants and their descendants, are deposited at the temple. It was built with the cooperation of entities and the Japanese Community in general. Two festivities are celebrated each year. Ohigan in March and Obon in August. These ceremonies have been highlighted by the active participation of high rank Buddhist priests from Japan, Brazil, Argentina and Mexico.

***List of people who have participated in Local Government of the Province of Cañete***

Marcos Malvayashi Mori, Mayor of the District of Imperial

Alejandro Kina Kina.

***Deputy Mayor of the District of Imperial 1973-1976***

Augusto Yamada Odzeki.

<i>Provincial Councilmen</i>	<i>1986-1989</i>
Works Councilman	Teodoro Ysagawa Oshiro
Revenue Councilman	Masaro Noda Morimoto
Public Services Councilman	Luis Hata Hata
Sports Councilman	Oscar Kina Kobashigawa

***Distinguished Sportsman***

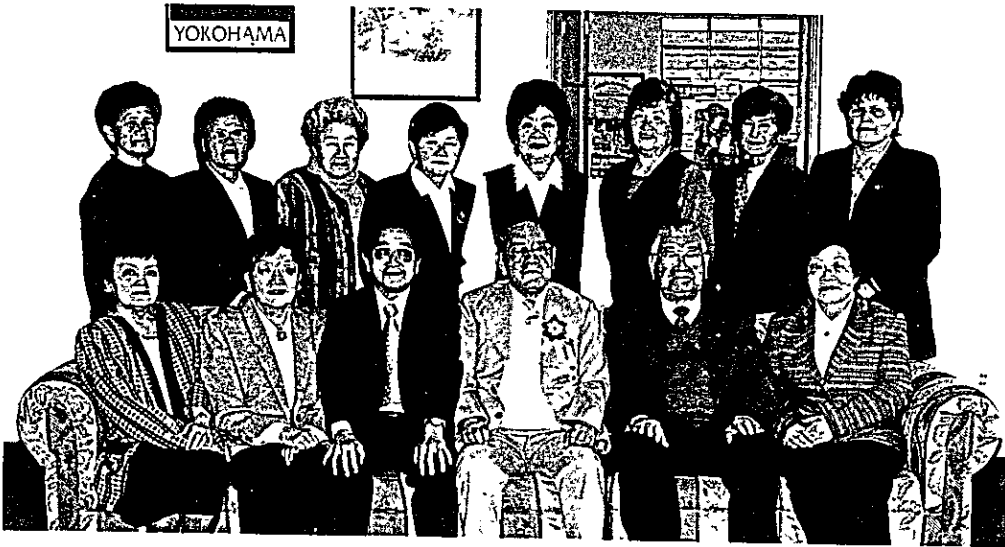
Juan Nakahata, Alianza Lima Football Club player and member of the National Peruvian Team

***Board of Directors***

Miguel Gusukuma Gusukuma, Jorge Kina Makiya, Ana Kawano de De La Cruz, Manuel Kohatsu Kanashiro, Eduardo Kadena Odo, Sabino De La Cruz Basurto, Fernando Asato Asato, Luis Kina Kina, Teodoro Ysagawa O, Jorge Asato S, Jose Kadena, Augusto Kanagusuku and Alejandro Okuma

***Fujinkai***

Gloria Kina de Asato, María Miyashiro de Gusukuma, Juana Govea de Kohatsu, Yolanda Oshiro vda de Kina, Maria Oshiro de Kina, Norma Shnzato de Kina, Alicia Noborikawa de Kanagusuku, Margarita de Kina and Isabel de Takahashi.



*The Board of Directors of the Peruvian  
Japanese Association of Huacho  
1998*

## *Huacho*

The Japanese immigrants established the Japanese Society of the Huacho Valley in November 1917. They elected Kisaku Tanaka as their first president. In March 1950, the name was changed to the Japanese Society of Huacho.

In 1925, the Japanese Community was composed of 150 families and they needed to open the Huacho Japanese School.

Due to the war, some Issei migrated to other places, others died and only ten people remained. In 1978, an agreement was reached to dissolve the association.

The young Nisei formed the *Circulo Social Nisei Huacho* (CSNH) encouraged and supported by Juan Shimabukuro. Between 1955 and 1962, many cultural, sports and social activities were organized.

When Juan Shimabukuro heard about the Issei's decision to dissolve the Society, he proposed that Nisei should participate in the Society. The conservative Issei did not like the idea at first.

In 1983, the Peruvian Japanese Association of Huacho agreed that Nisei form part of the board. There was greater

*The Huacho Casino*





Juan Shimabukuro Yamashiro  
leader of the Peruvian Japanese  
Community of Huacho

integration and new members signed up. They had the right to choose and be chosen as members of the board.

The agreement with the main entity blazed the trail for the present Peruvian Japanese Association of Huacho, with Nikkei participation without neglecting the Nisei Social Circle.

Nisei have preserved the memory and respect of their ancestors by building an Obelisk with Irei Hi Japanese calligraphy at the Huacho cemetery. Former Consul Tooru Watanabe did the writing. There is also a cross in Humaya, located 30 minutes from Huacho, where immigrants worked as farmhands.

Humaya was a plantation where Japanese grew sugar cane and cotton. Plantation owners here were inflexible and abusive. Long hours in the field brought about malnutrition and, to make matters worse, endemic diseases such as malaria that struck the weakened laborers. Very soon, the Japanese population was wiped out. This is a sad episode in the history of the Japanese immigration. Today, there is only the cross that is visited every year.

Vilcahuaura was another area highly populated by Japanese. Many descendants from that locality have high positions in the community. Kiyomi Morimoto, the daughter of Japanese teacher Gunichi Chida, is the wife of counselor Masao Nakachi. There is also Doctor Violeta Yoza de Iwamoto. Shuso Tosa, Jinmei Yoza and their family are fondly remembered.

We interviewed Ume Arakaki, mother of former mayor Jose Arakaki at the Hall of Presidents of the Nisei Social Circle of Huacho, which is now the seat of the Peruvian Japanese Association of Huacho.

*"I was born in Okinawa, Nakagusuku-Son on September 2, 1910. I arrived to Peru in 1926, at the age of 16, on the Anyo Maru. I do not have very good memories of the long trip because I was seasick most of the time locked up in my cabin. I remember that when I arrived to Callao, we went ashore on a little boat. I was afraid of the people, there were unfamiliar faces and I didn't understand what they were saying. I was baffled because they kept poking me."*







## *Presidents C.S.N. Huacho*

Juan Shimabukuro Yamashiro	1955-1962
Julio Matzumura Matzumura	1962-1964
Juan Shimabukuro Yamashiro	1964-1967
Luis M Okabe Mamiya	1967-1968
Juan E. Sameshima Sameshima	1968-1969
Juan Kian Futenma	1969-1971
Rosario Matzumura Matzumura	1971-1973
Francisco Matzumura Matzumura	1974-1978
Victor Gusukuma Takushi	1979-1981
José Arakaki Oshiro	1982-1984
Santiago Ramirez Suarez	1984-1987
Fortunato Sasaki Ytho	1988-1989
Julio César Matzumura Kasano	1990-1993
Juan Shimabukuro Yamashiro	1994-1999



*Board members, members and relatives  
of the Peruvian Japanese Association of  
Huaral*

## *Huaral*

Members of the community established in Huaral shared some of their personal experiences with us. We were able to learn about the historical past of the Chancay Valley and how Japanese immigrants became involved in their activities. They referred to great pioneers like Ikumatsu Okada and his partner Hatsusaburo Motomishi, who progressed from laborers to tenants. Together with Japanese sharecroppers they became very influential due to their prosperous economic and social activity.

Okada had numerous Japanese sharecroppers at the *Haciendas La Huaca, Caqui, Miraflores, Jesus del Valle* and *Jecúan*. Many *tambos* or stores and *rancherías* were opened. All these changes brought about the growth of the Peruvian Japanese Community in the Chancay and Huaral Valleys.

### *The Peruvian Japanese Association of Huaral*

On January 26, 1956, nineteen Nikkei of the Valley of Chancay gathered at Jorge Higa's house in a sector of the former Esquivel Plantation known as *El Puquio*, with the noble intention of forming a Nisei association. Simón Shunke's proposal of incorporating the Century Club, founded in 1950, was accepted. At the suggestion of Felix Sanefuji, the association

was called *Asociación Nisei del Valle de Chancay* or the Nisei Association of the Chancay Valley

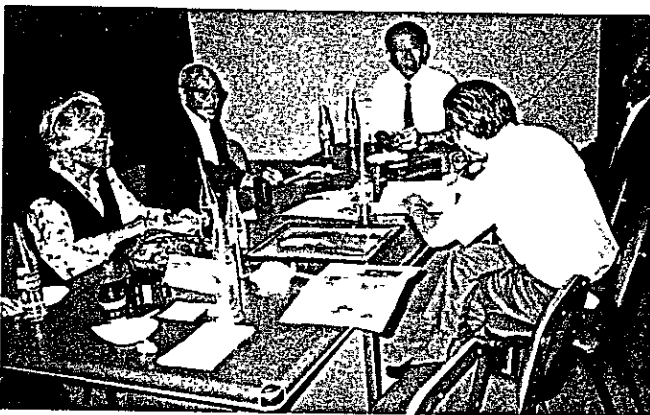
The following people attended the meeting Nazario Fujimoto, Simón Shinke, Toribio Kawanishi, Víctor Takeda, Simón Higa, Pedro Sasaki, Felix Sanefuji, Jorge Higa, Enrique Oshiro, Juan Higa, Emilio Maeda, Benito Otsuka, Enrique Tawara, Manuel Hirano, Pedro Nakayama, Augusto Kian, Benito Shinsato, Juan Oshiro and Maximo Utajara

Guidelines were established to prepare the bylaws and Nazario Fujimoto was elected as their first president The association was founded on April 29, 1956, at a General Assembly attended by 167 Nikkei members Its mission was to instill ethics and civics, two important behavior standards for the spiritual formation of youth and the community This is achieved through sports and cultural activities

The name of the Nisei Association of the Valley of Chancay was changed to the Peruvian Japanese Association of the Province of Huaral, Gun Nikkei Jin Kyokai, on November 3, 1978 This was after 22 years of hard, yet productive work, pursuing our ancestors' legacy "Union, Fraternity and Progress" The association still perseveres in its goals and organizes cultural, educational, social, sports and recreational activities

Some of the Association's activities are to

- encourage and contribute to the progress of the Province of Huaral.
- foster friendship, fraternity and solidarity bonds between the members and the community.



*Interview with  
Mitsuko Kobayashi, Toshio Maeda  
and Simon Shinke  
1997*

*Parade of the  
Peruvian Japanese Community  
of Huaral on the Centennial  
of the Japanese Immigration to Peru 1999*



- sponsor educational centers and programs within its influence area
- strengthen social, cultural, sports and recreational bonds with similar institutions of the locality and others
- contribute to the welfare of its members and the community.

As concerns education, the association sponsors the Inka Gakuen School. To date, it offers pre-elementary, elementary and secondary education. It also organizes agricultural and livestock fairs and has an active participation in the community. Member Roberto Hosaka Kondo is Councilman and Deputy Mayor of the Huaral Municipality.

### ***Board of Directors - Presidents***

Nazario Fujimoto Fujimoto, Jorge Higa Higa, Enrique Miyashiro, Santiago Igei, Sosaku Fukuda, Sadao Suzuki, Toshikey Yoshikawa, Ginyu Igei, Simón Shinke, Gohei Takahashi, Toshio Maeda, Juan Ishizawa, Juan Otsuka Otsuka

Francisco Maeda, Oscar Fukuda Fukuda, Amador Suzuki Suzuki, Roberto Hosaka

## *Supé San Nicolás Shoogo Fuyokai*

This is the Peruvian Japanese Association of Supé San Nicolás, a branch of the main institution

*Hacienda San Nicolás* first hired 150 laborers from the Yamaguchi Prefecture in 1899.

In 1907, two Japanese immigrants were buried at the new cemetery

In 1937, Sukeo Isayama, a successful businessman owner of a large establishment, founded the Supé San Nicolás Shoogo Fuyokai branch together with Sadao Iwasaki, Tadayuki Ogata, Alberto Okumura and Mizumoto

In addition to organizing traditional festivities such as the Emperor's birthday, and the New Year (Oshogatsu), they have the mission of taking care of the Japanese cemetery that is considered to be the pride of the community

During the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Japanese Immigration to Peru, the cemetery was remodeled and a party was held at the *Pesca Peru* Fishing and Sports Complex

For three decades, Gerardo Miguita was in charge of the cemetery. He shared the responsibility with Tadayuki Ogata, Alberto Iwasaki, Manuel Ogata, Juan Noze, Demetrio Konno, Pedro Okuma, Jaime Muroya, Carmen Nagasaki, among other members

Japanese immigrants from San Nicolás formed an association in Lima. Its first president was Pedro Isayama. Other presidents were Carlos Nonogawa and Francisco Uycyama. They sponsored various activities at San Nicolás from Lima

Two distinguished persons born in San Nicolás are Venancio Shinki, a worldwide renowned painter and journalist Ricardo Mitsuya Higa, the first Nikkei bullfighter in the world



*Hacienda San Nicolás*  
1925

## *Hacienda San Nicolás*

Two of the places where the largest number of Japanese immigrants arrived in 1899 were San Nicolás and Cañete. Other immigrants arrived to these lands between 1915 and 1920 in groups of 300 per ship. Sometimes, San Nicolás looked like a Japanese city during the Emperor's birthday, Japan's national holiday.

Life was hard at the plantation, the owners were abusive, and this triggered complaints and relocations.

The immigrants' living conditions were very poor. The kitchen was also the dining room and there was no bathroom. Insects were common and disease was rampant. The only medical center was always full of sick people. You had to know someone with influence to get health care or even a death certificate. As a result, despondent laborers ran away.

At one time, everyone was so sick that they were only waiting for new immigrants to arrive to take their places. The newly arrived were horrified when they saw their countrymen's condition. They fled in panic after seeing so many tombs, including those of the foreman Kuahara Setzuo and that of Sugimoto Syunjiro, among others.

In 1920, when the cemetery was restructured for the first time, tombs were looted. A 5-meter tall monument was built with the names of the deceased. A landslide later destroyed part of it and a collection was carried out in Lima to repair it.

Between 1935 and 1937, when sugar cane was grown on the plantation, a member of the Jewish Community had the idea of planting flax that was in great demand in Europe because of the war. An agreement was reached and the harvest paid off well. Production increased when flax was planted for a second time. However, this gentleman disappeared and there was no other buyer. The current *Hacienda Paramonga* bought the plantation at a very low price. It is said that the Jew had conspired with third parties to ruin the plantation.

There were constant floods in this area and drainage pipes had to be installed to channel the water to other places. Blueprints were designed after an extensive study, but these were lost and, as a result, the future crops were ruined and this brought about the downfall of the *hacienda*.

With time, the immigrants' houses disappeared altogether covered by floods and when an earthquake hit them.

Some houses made of adobe, reed and plaster with wood columns and beams still remain where the Japanese immigrants used to live. The roofs are thatched with ditch reed, and the houses have tall wooden doors, large windows, a wide inner patio next to a dirt patio and traces of other rooms.

Light came through windows on the roof. Some had a sliding system while others closed and opened by means of a string, a reminder of the old houses.

Today, the inhabitants are small farmers from the highlands.

The plantation house is in shambles but it still bears evidence of its past. There are wood constructions with beautiful balconies, large windows (the glass is broken now), and a former church with vaulted ledges and arch windows.

*Faculty and students of the San  
Nicolas School 1931*



The former hospital or health care house is still well preserved. We were all fond of the second floor balconies

The sugar cane plantation yard, where the big machines were located, is now used to dry maize

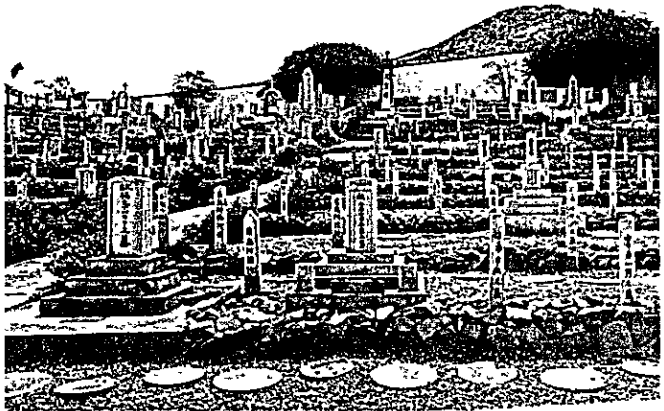
There was a big theater house on the other side. Only the cement remains. Farmers who came after the Japanese used the wood to repair their homes after the earthquake. Weeds cover the desolate yard.

### *The Cemetery of Hacienda San Nicolás*

Japanese immigrants kept the custom of honoring the memory of the dead. They established their own cemetery in each of the haciendas where they worked and where their countrymen died. Their intention was not discriminatory. It was because they did not want to be disturbed during their rites.

Upon entering the cemetery, you can see small monoliths with Japanese inscriptions forming small steps similar to the Inca farming terraces. A mausoleum exhibits the following inscription that tells the tale of the immigration:

*We pay homage on the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the arrival of the first group of Japanese immigrants, 150 of whom established themselves at Hacienda San Nicolás*



*The San Nicolás  
Cemetery*



The cemetery was built in 1907, rebuilt in 1935, almost abandoned during World War II and reopened on November 24, 1948, by Consul Zenji Iwamura and representatives of the Lima, Callao, Cañete, Huacho, Huaral and Barranca Japanese Societies.

There is another mausoleum on the top part with an inscription in Spanish and Japanese that reads-

*May we never forget the tombs of your forefathers*

On one of the walls, an inscription in honor of Julio Chuzo Fujii reads

*Here lie the mortal remains of Julio Chuzo Fujii, born in 1890 in Ito, Province of Hiroshima, Japan, first-born child of Eisuke Fujii and Hama de Fujii*

*At age 16, driven by his ambitious and enterprising spirit, he came to Peru as an immigrant. In the year 1917, after years of hard work in farming and business leading an exemplary life, he founded the Suetomi Company in Lima. He was helped and encouraged by Peruvian and Japanese friends.*

*He was the first to import and sell Japanese goods, little known then in South American markets. Unfortunately, the Suetomi firm was closed by the Government of Peru in 1940 due to World War II.*

*Julio kept the best memories and gratitude for Peru and Peruvians all his life until he died on August 19, 1967, in Tokyo, Japan.*

*He was Vice President of the Nippo Peruvian Society, and a distinguished member of various cultural and welfare societies of the Japanese Community. The Government of Japan, in acknowledgement for his contribution in increasing trade and strengthening friendship with South American countries, granted him a posthumous award of the "Chrysanthemum Medal in the 4<sup>th</sup> degree".*

*Former Consul Masaki Yodokawa*

*July 11, 1972*

The following inscription is found on Sukeo Isayama's tomb

*To Sukeo Isayama He arrived from Japan at the young age of 24 from his native Fukuoka and established deep roots in this fertile land of sweet sands and clear skies*

*During the 56 years he lived in San Nicolás he went through all the odds and hardships of the history of this town, shared in its struggles, problems and dreams*

*He fostered Peruvian Japanese friendship He was respected and loved like a true patriarch by local inhabitants for his qualities as leader and organizer and his hard working spirit*

*Thanks to the self-sacrificing care and protection of Sukeo Isayama, we now have the most beautiful Japanese cemetery in America*

*He understood that the ashes and the traces of the first courageous Japanese immigrants who arrived to Peru should not be lost He assumed the huge responsibility of watching over the bones of the dead and became the supreme guardian of this sacred cemetery*

*He performed this beautiful and self-sacrificing task with a tender, yet firm conviction and a particularly touching care*

*But his great dream was to make this memorial park one of the most beautiful and lasting cemeteries in honor of all those who left their homelands in search of a better life in this blessed land, Peru*

*Thanks to his initiative and effort he made the Japanese Community in Peru and the San Nicolás Community cooperate in remodeling this cemetery until this beautiful dream came true*

*Till the day he died, he persevered in his noble task Unfortunately, he died before seeing his work finished*

*Amongst a crowd of grieving men and women, both young and old, his coffin was borne down a dusty road from his old home to his final resting place, here at the cemetery*

*'THANK YOU ISAYAMA SAN', thank you for protecting and encouraging us to rebuild and beautify this sacred burial ground.*

*We owe it to you You were not able to admire your work during your lifetime But now you rest in it Enjoy it and Rest in Peace*

The goal of the present Board of Directors of the San Nicolas Association is to preserve their forefathers' resting place by taking care of the small cement monoliths, and the steps, rehabilitating roads and repairing fences Canals built on the slopes of the Chimu Cápac Hill have helped mitigate water seepage, which caused frequent flooding of the grounds

A watchtower was built to detect intruders and avoid thefts There used to be a permanent guard but due to lack of money only a gardener can be afforded

Nisei have cooperated since 1970 They were in charge of organizing the festivities for the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Immigration Together with Ogata Tadayuki and Fumio Noze, they are responsible for the care and upkeep of the cemetery among other activities

### *Takako Noze*

Takako Noze, manages a small store and is a symbol for her generation She is 93 years old and her recollections are sometimes vague Nevertheless, she remembers and recognizes people she has not seen for many years This happened to Ricardo Mitsuya, when she inquired about his sister and mother before her mind clouded a little again She remembered the plantation and mentioned that Sukeo Isayama was a hard-working and organized man She lived at the plantation, but after the earthquake she moved to the store she has now She lives with daughter Adriana and Fumio

She confided she did not feel well at times and then added, "Where are you from? You all look the same"

She courageously struggled through life but remained humble She has lived a serene life and has gained the respect of her neighbors who work in the fields Now, she enjoys the sea breeze and watches the green corn and sugar cane fields, which remind her of her youth at the plantation She listens to birds singing and confuses the sound of traffic with the rattling sound of the donkey-driven carriages that still jolt by just like they did 100 years ago.

*Takako Noze*



## *Supé: the Port and the City*

We watch the Port of Supé, with boats and ships outlined against the horizon  
A century ago, part of the group of immigrants disembarked here a place  
where so much fish is captured for the fishmeal industry

### *Tomiko Ogata*

Tomiko Ogata lives in the City of Supé. She tells us her story with the aid of her small treasure, a booklet where she keeps precious memories of dates and past events

She arrived in 1931 aboard the Heiyo Maru to meet her husband Tadayuki who had arrived some years before. At present, she is a healthy and vivacious 89-year old woman

Little by little, nostalgic thoughts of her native Kumamoto faded away as she made the acquaintance of other young girls during the trip. They sang and watched the endless sea and the birds hovering overhead when they approached some port. Not everyone was from Kumamoto, some came from Fukuoka. She noticed that an immigrant disembarked in Panama.

She was somewhat apprehensive at the beginning when she saw the barren dunes and the people. She remembers some were well dressed, but barefoot. The adobe houses had no light. With time, she adapted herself to the circumstances. At the nearby *Hacienda San Nicolás*, she had the chance to mingle with her fellow countrymen during the festivities to honor the Emperor's birthday called Tenchosetsu, and Undokai. She was happy watching the children in school with Professor Mochizuki and working in the fields.

She and her husband established a thriving business, but then World War II broke out and news of plunders in Lima. Rumors stated that the street riots were spreading to Huacho, so they were forced to close their shop and hide. Tadayuki had to find work in the fields clearing the underbrush to feed his family. This circumstance confirmed the idea of going back to Japan. Tomiko's parents were summoning her to go back home, but the war had also affected them.

When we asked her about her trip back home she said, "*I had the opportunity of traveling to Japan and meet my relatives and friends but time and years erase the most beautiful memories of your youth. The aged faces and snow-white hair, they are now old people like me. It reminded me of the story of 'Urashima Taro', I don't want to go back*



*Tomiko Ogata*

*agam Maybe if Tadavuki goes Now, with seven children and fifteen grandchildren I enjoy myself peacefully ”*

There are four diplomas hung on the wall at her house One is from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, the other from the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and others She also keeps a kimono

*Note - Urashima Taro is a children’s story about a fisherman who rescued a turtle. In retribution, the turtle took the fisherman to the Emperor’s palace at the bottom of the sea It was like a paradise and he lived there for three years But he became homesick and asked to return to his village Upon arriving, he discovered that three years at the bottom of the sea had been 300 years on land*

## ***Paramonga***

Just like in San Nicolás, the Peruvian Japanese Community makes its annual ceremony at the Paramonga Cemetery, which is smaller, but follows the same structure as the rest and has a fence around it

A mausoleum holds the remains of the pioneers who worked in the fields of *Hacienda Paramonga* A plaque summarizes the story

*In posthumous homage to the Japanese immigrants who died in Paramonga.*

*Out of 774 Japanese immigrants who arrived to Callao on the Itsukushima Maru on December 21, 1904, one hundred established themselves at this plantation Hacienda Paramonga marks an important place in the history of the Japanese immigration to Peru*

*Japanese settlers worked very hard to establish themselves in Peru and help its economic development*

*Then successors followed their example until World War II broke out The Japanese living in the plantation had to abandon the fruit of half a century’s work and head for different directions*

*Ten years vanished like smoke. The tombs of the pioneers were neglected during this time People of all races and nationalities around the world honor and care for the tombs of their ancestors*

*Later, the need to rehabilitate the cemetery prompted the residents of this plantation and nearby places to hold an assembly During the*

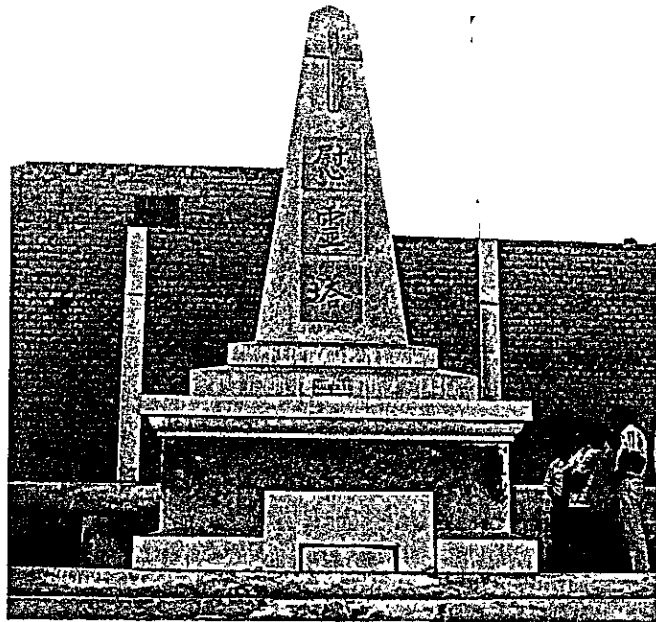
meeting, a unanimous decision was made to establish a Fund Raising Commission for the Cemetery of Paramonga. The Japanese Society of Pativilca and Barranca sponsored it. Likewise, Takayasu Tsuda, Consul of Japan in Lima and the newspaper *Peru Shunpo* supported the idea. Takayasu and the institutions mentioned above organized another Fund Raising Commission in Lima headed by Yoshisada Muramatsu. Thus, the rehabilitation of the cemetery became a nationwide enterprise for the entire Japanese Community. During the work, 472 unidentified graves were found. They were certainly those of the pioneers, so they were placed together in a single mausoleum, which was baptized and blessed by the Reverend Father Yonekawa. The godparents were Seigoro Kawamoto and Luisa S. Valledinestra.

Paramonga, August 15, 1950

The Rehabilitation Commission of the Japanese Cemetery

Kenji Takaki

President



*The Japanese Cemetery of Paramonga*

### *Santiago Enomoto*

Santiago Enomoto was determined to give proper burial to his fellow countrymen who had left their native land in search of a new future

After a painstaking yet unusual ordeal, he found the mortal remains of the immigrant pioneers that had arrived on the *Itsukushima Maru* in 1906

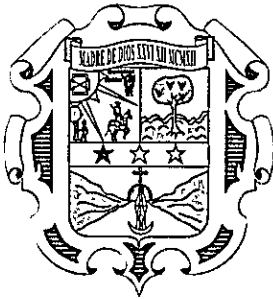
He arranged for the *Hacienda Paramonga* to donate a nearby plot of land and began to build a fence around it. Workers and bricklayers of the area did not want to help, guided by their superstitions and fear of ghosts

When the fence was finished, he began to unbury the dead and relocate them in their new resting place. His surprise was great when he found that the bodies were almost intact thanks to the nitrous soil of the surroundings. With eight friends, he began to identify each body. He collected most of the names from the graves, but 164 bodies remained unidentified. These were buried in the mausoleum built in the central part of the cemetery

Denji Santiago Enomoto was born in Fukuoka. He arrived to Peru on May 13, 1928, at the age of 25. He worked as a Japanese teacher. He taught the daughter of the Consul of Japan in Lima at that time. Later, he tried his luck in the District of La Victoria in Lima. First, he bought a restaurant and then switched to a poolroom and bar on Palacio Street. A few years later, he worked for the Pedro Martinto Firm until World War II broke out and he was forced to quit his job. His next job was buying and selling coal brought from Paita and Chiclayo. He was in this activity for many years until he definitely established a shop that was a grocery shop, a bazaar and a toy shop, all in one.

He was awarded a medal during the celebration of the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Japanese Immigration to Peru

# Department of Madre de Dios



**Capital** Puerto Maldonado 256 m a s l  
**Political Division** 3 provinces and 10 districts  
**Population** 71,796 inhabitants  
**Surface Area** 85,183 km<sup>2</sup>  
**Weather** Warm tropical humid

## Provinces

Manu, Tahuamanu and Tambopata



The Explorer's Inn where many scientists stay



A view of Lake Cocococha



The Main Square of Puerto Maldonado surrounded by gardens







*Martin Takahashi and friends*

## *Puerto Maldonado*

Our plane trip to Puerto Maldonado, capital of the Department of Madre de Dios, took us over the fertile jungle's luxurious vegetation. We saw the great Madre de Dios River winding its path through the jungle like a giant snake. Some of its tributaries are the Tambopata, Iñapari, De las Piedras and the Manu Rivers. We could not help but imagine those brave pioneers who conquered these lands little by little, learning to live with Mother Nature. These were the men who blazed the trail for others to follow. According to Maria Kohagura Gahona, a second generation Nikkei, they arrived to Puerto Maldonado between 1908 and 1937.

She says that the first immigrants who arrived to Madre de Dios used two routes: the Paucartambo land route from Cuzco and the Candamo-Tambopata river route. Those who arrived from Paucartambo settled in Iberia and Iñapari.

Native oarsmen of the *Huarano* tribe who lived in lower Madre de Dios transported the Japanese who arrived to Puerto Maldonado by the Puno-Candamo-Tambopata-Madre De Dios river route in canoes. They knew the rivers and were experts in this kind of work. Some of the immigrants settled in *Pueblo Viejo* while others found work in small farms.

In 1912, during the term of President Guillermo Billinghurst, the region was raised to the category of Department and landmarks were placed

Ikeda Kinsuke Tomi, Koga Akira and Koga Sakae were among the first Japanese to arrive at Puerto Maldonado They challenged the waters of the Tambopata-Candamo River and became expert oarsmen and steersmen They transported their fellow countrymen and provisions

In January 1925, a great flood forced the inhabitants of Pueblo Viejo to seek higher grounds There, they founded this city

Takeichi Kaway, Nakahara, Shigeo Futagaki, Inoue, Yonekura Uno opened a barbershop, Raichi Noda and Seijuro Saki a tailor's shop and Sato a photo studio

In 1910, Takahashi, Yoshikawa and Hashimoto arrived with their wives Yukichi Futagaki made noodles, candy and crackers His son Shigeo made gelatin from cow's and chicken's feet

Isuyama san worked growing sugar cane in the Tambopata village to obtain brandy

Asakura brought sugar mills from Bolivia and boiler that had formerly been used in a large boat that he adapted to be used as rice mill and also as a means of generating electricity

Okimura made cigarettes.

Nakahara brought the first phonograph

Tabata and Miura, both fishermen, prepared «shuokara» from fish roe and guts



*Members and Board Members of the Peruvian Japanese Association of Madre de Dios*

Miura san settled at Lake Valencia

Murakami earned his living tapping rubber trees «shiringa»

Most of the Japanese from this group became farmers. They introduced new food elements like the Kuri (breadfruit tree), Shioga (ginger), Daikon (turnip), Negui (stem onion), Kiuri (cucumber, gherkin), Nazubi (eggplant), white and purple Satoimo (*hualusa* potato)

Nagaremoni, Nakahara, Uno and Kaway planted the first mango trees around the Main Square. They are still standing

The pioneers founded a Japanese Center, which was located on the present Billingham Street, between the police headquarters and the Santa Rosa School. Its last president was Noda. It was expropriated in 1942 as a result of World War II.

The Japanese immigrants instilled their customs of work, honesty, respect and paying homage to the dead

### *María Kohagura*

We visited María Kohagura's 5-hectare farm. She told us that it used to be bigger but the Agrarian Reform expropriated 70 hectares in 1970

In addition to the different species of trees and shrubs, she has a small zoo where she keeps typical animals from the area. We saw a *picuro*, an animal similar to the *tonsoco*, which has very tasty meat; the *añuje*, a small rodent and the *san san*, a bluish-colored bird

Her grandson interrupts our conversation. He wants to show us a sloth, locally known as *un Pelejito*, making its way through the thick jungle. Here, the trees are so close to each other that the sunrays barely penetrate. We noisily trample through dry leaves and branches to take a look at El Pelejito but he is very difficult to spot. Finally, María points at a ball of thick hair and we watch him moving slowly from limb to limb

All the while, mosquitoes bit us mercilessly in the green and dark thicket

María's husband showed us one of the sugar mills that Asakura had brought from Bolivia. It was manufactured in England in 1896. Now, they use it to extract homemade sugar cane syrup. The sugar mill, originally drawn by mule or ox, has been adapted to operate with a motor by means of a set of pulleys

María Kohagura's husband used it to harvest the annual honey. From 1940 to 1948, he sold brandy. He enjoys the quiet countryside and



Martin Takahashi a Nikkei pioneer of Puerto Maldonado

supports his family with his fruit trees, vegetable garden and an exotic plant greenhouse.

*Don't you think we live a quieter life here? What kind of life does a renowned professional lead*

### **Martín Takahashi**

Martin Takahashi is respected and admired by the people of Puerto Maldonado. During our visit to his home, he told us part of the story

*"My father, Sumatsu Takahashi, from Ehime, arrived at the Port of Mollendo in 1909. He stayed in the Tambo Valley with three other families, Takahashi, Yoshikawa, his wife Osono and my uncle, for one year. After their*

*contact at the Tambo Valley ended, they traveled towards the jungle following the Arequipa-Tuapata railroad route and then on foot. They reached Sangaban but they had to go back because they could not go down that route. They decided to take the Tambopata-Crucero-Aricona-Limbari-Okoneku-Quitun-Sagraiio-Santo Domingo route, and then continue to la Pampa, Guacamayo and Puerto Candamo following hidden paths, sailing in canoes and crossing bridges. They settled down at the head of a ravine. There, my father opened a post. There were no people in that area. I was born in 1913. We were eight brothers and sisters: my sister Sadako, me, Martin (Satoru), Matsutaro, Bunkichi, Mitsue, Futako, Masako and Sumiko. Two of my brothers and sisters live in Japan and one in Brazil.*

*The Japanese who established themselves in farms had big houses, sometimes two. One was used as a dwelling place and the other served as a storehouse where the rice mill, fan and other equipment were stored. During rainy days, everybody took shelter in the storehouse and continued working. They went to town to do their shopping on Sunday, their only day off.*

*In January 1925, there were 500 people in Pueblo Viejo, 150 of which were Japanese.*

*That same year, a great flood covered the whole town. People took refuge in higher grounds. The Japanese designed and built the Main Square."*

**How did they build the houses?...** *"The owner of the post prepared the materials and invited friends on Sunday. About 30 or 40 people came, including cooks and they worked until noon until the house was upright"*

*Before World War II there were 220 Japanese. The well-built Japanese Center was expropriated during the war and everything was lost, including the ping-pong tables. I submitted a complaint through the Embassy many years ago, but there was no answer. Now, I am trying to establish a new center for our benefit with our contributions and those of the children that are working in Japan.*

**Did you study at the Japanese Center?**

*No, there were some well-prepared immigrants that officiated as teachers. Shitomi san taught me at the farm. Doctor Hori used to teach downtown. I keep a wardrobe with Japanese writing and a soroban. My brother's studied downtown. I don't speak Japanese, but I understand a little.*

*Koga was an oarsman and he made a good living transporting goods and people down the rivers. He was a short well-built man. He knew how to protect himself well in the jungle.*

*Yoshikawa was the first carpenter.*

*A few worked tapping rubber trees (shuringa). Most of them were farmers.*

*Martin remarked that his Golden Wedding Anniversary will be in 1999.*

**Rosa Ventura, Martin's wife**

**How did you meet Martin?** *"I used to work at Mr. Kaway's house. Martin often came to visit him and that is how I met him."*

**What was your idea of the Japanese people?** *"Well, I really didn't think about it. My parents were opposed to the relationship. My mother didn't want to hear a word about it. But you have to fight for what you want. I am happy now."*

**And your relationship with the Japanese?** *Well, I met Martin, we got married and his countrymen*

*Inauguration of Mausoleum at the Puerto Maldonado Cemetery*



*Members of the Peruvian Japanese Association of Madre de Dios with members of the Book Commission*



*accepted me They are very fond of me The elderly Tamura, Cicuta, the baker they are all fond of me "*

**And what about the Japanese's wives?** *"No problem at all Almost all of them are from the area One thing though, Japanese have very strong character but they are respectful "*

**What custom have you learned from Martín?** *"Oh! To eat rice without salt I never learned to use ohashi (chopsticks) "*

**What about Japanese music?** *"I love it Friends used to come to the house to sing It made me a little sad because you could see they were homesick Martín didn't drink but his friends did, they were sakenomi "*

### ***Jorge Takahashi***

Then we interviewed Martín's son, Jorge, a Sansei married to a Peruvian.

**What is your opinion of the Japanese people?** *"I don't see any difference "*

**What about your children's future?** *"My son nicknamed «Gringo» is 12 years old and his last name is Takahashi He wants to be a professional, get an education and leave this place "*

A Japanese descendant is honest, hardworking and respectful.

Jorge Takahashi works at the head of the water company (SENAPA) and cooperates with Mayor Santos Kaway He worked as dekasegi in Japan for three years but his bet is on Peru At the same time he is finishing his college studies in forestry engineering

He points out that when his fellow countrymen return from Japan they will come with a new vision, a positive one for Peru He is thankful and respects his father's and grandfather's teachings

### ***The Puerto Maldonado Cemetery***

We visited the mausoleum erected during the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Japanese Immigration to Peru in the Puerto Maldonado Cemetery The graves are kept in a closed area

# Department of Piura

**Capital** Piura 51 m a.s.l.  
**Political Division** 8 provinces and 64 districts.  
**Population** : 1,449,656 inhabitants  
**Surface Area** 35,891 km<sup>2</sup>  
**Weather** Tropical and dry.

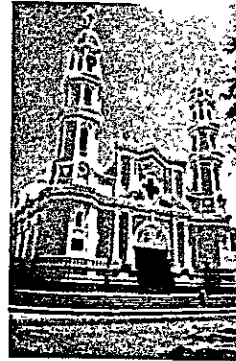


## Provinces

Ayabaca, Huancabamba, Morropón, Paita, Piura, Sechura, Sullana and Talara.



The Cathedral of Piura one of the most unique architectures on the coast of Peru



A gold statue of Venus found in Ayabaca an example of the skilled craftsmanship of Venus goldsmiths





*Members and relatives of the Peruvian  
Japanese Association of Piura*

## *The Peruvian Japanese Association of Piura*

The Peruvian Japanese Association of Piura founded by 45 Nikkei on January 20, 1991. The ceremony was registered in the Associations Book of the Piura Public Registry

Its first president was charismatic Julio Fujihara. During his management, he kept a fraternal and solidary relation with board members of the main Peruvian Japanese Association. He affiliated his association to the parent house and implemented regulations and guidelines according to the bylaw objectives.

Lucy Morimoto de Takeda heads the present board. She has been elected twice and has achieved the goals of projects that have given the institution a good image and prestige in Piura and within the Nikkei Community of Peru.

One of the institution's social works is the inauguration of the *San Martin de Sechura* Special Learning Center on April 14, 1996. It shelters mentally impaired children of the locality. The project was financed entirely by



the Embassy of Japan through its Ambassador and friend of the association, His Excellency, Morihisa Aoki, who attended the ceremony. Political, local, provincial and regional institutions were also present at the inauguration.

The association actively participates during the Jubilar Week of the anniversary of the City of Piura. A cultural program is presented which has disseminated traditional arts such as origami, bonsai, the tea ceremony, shiatsu, martial arts, Japanese food, Japanese pictures, Japanese miniatures, Japanese dolls, Ikebana for children and adults, posters and pictures of the Japanese political, religious, social, sports and cultural scenario. It is a way of thanking the people for harboring their ancestors in this beautiful and warm northern land.

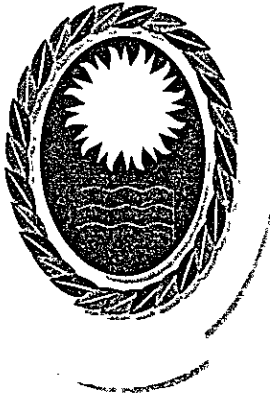


*Landscape of the old city of Piura the port and fishing center surrounded by calm seas and white sandy beaches*

The institution's most important achievement was the construction of the fence of the institution's premises located in the El Bosque Housing Development. It was financed by a US\$ 5,000.00 loan, which has been paid to the Peruvian Japanese Association. Luis Sakoda and Elena Kohatsu at the head of a delegation attended the inauguration ceremony. The most important events of the day have been kept in a photo album and in film for future generations to cherish.

The III Pre-Assembly of the PJA Provincial Representatives was held on August 30 and 31, 1996. Different recreational and tourist activities were carried out around the region's traditional places. More than 150 Nikkei from Lima, Callao, Huancayo, Huaral, Barranca, Cuzco, San Martin, Trujillo, Chimbote, Chiclayo and from the various PJA member institutions participated.

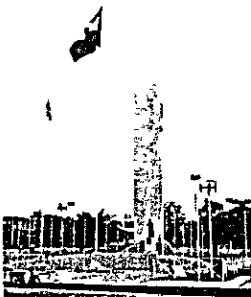
# Department of Ucayali



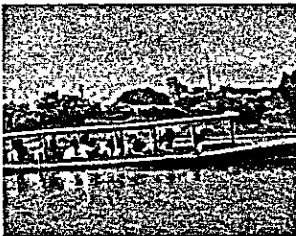
<b>Capital</b>	:	Pucallpa 154 m a s l.
<b>Political Division</b>	:	4 provinces and 14 districts
<b>Population</b>	:	351,179 inhabitants
<b>Surface Area</b>	:	102,410 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>Weather</b>	:	Warm and humid

## Provinces

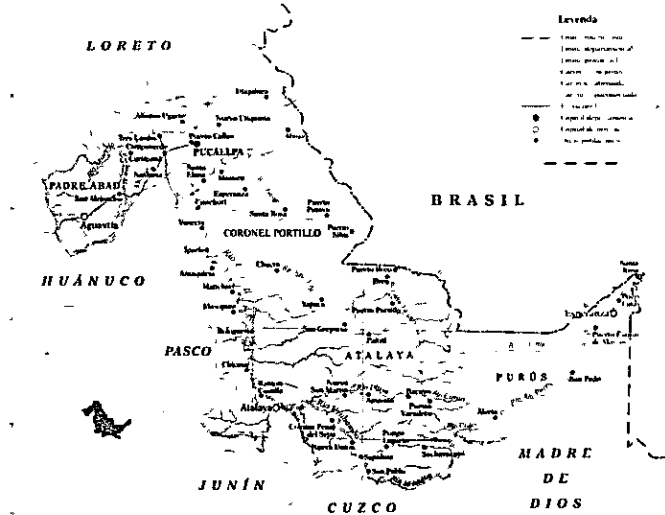
Atalaya, Coronel Portillo, Padre Abad and Purús



The Main Square of Pucallpa



The typical means of transportation along the Ucayali River



## *The Peruvian Japanese Association of Ucayali*

Japanese and their descendants living in the City of Pucallpa founded this institution on February 26, 1988. At a General Assembly meeting held at 645 Atahualpa Street, they elected their first Board of Directors made up by:

David Yamashiro	President
Masao Watanabe	Vice President
Luis Arturo Miyake	Secretary
Isao Sasagawa	Treasurer
Luis Makiya	Member
Yoshio Watanabe	Member

The following are members from the localities of Pimental, Pucallpa and Nueva Requena that were present at this Assembly.

Sadao Ijichi, Masao Watanabe, Roberto Watanabe, Satoru Hashiguchi, Isao Sasagawa, Hirotsugu Shishido, Susumu Watanabe, Kesaichi Miyana, Jorge Hashiguchi, Kenia Hasegawa, Tetsuo Shiota, Koyo Takeda, Hideo Noji, Enrique Watanabe, Luis Miyake, Luis Makiya, Lorenzo Toguchi, Héctor Tsuchiya, Humberto Yoshidaira, Carlos Uehara, Yoshitero Yamaguchi, Pedro Kanto, Yoshio Hasegawa, Luis Feijó, Simeón Hoyokawa, David Yamashiro, Pedro Funamoto, Oscar Fukuda, Yasunori Miyasaki, Dionisio Katayama, Andrés Katayama, Augusto Fukahara, Ricardo Tamaki, Guido Nitzuma, Augusto Matsuda and Kiyoshi Watanabe.

This Board of Directors registered the association in the Public Registries

In 1990, a new facility was acquired at 238 Manco Cápac Street appraised at US\$90,000.00 with a US\$52,699.23 donation from JICA, a US\$16,500 loan from the Peruvian Japanese Association and a US\$ 37,300.77 contribution from some members

Due to difficulties to maintain the place and pay loans, the facility was sold at US\$100,000.00. The money was used to pay off all debts.



*The Katayama Family at the Peruvian Japanese Association of Ucayali*



*The Nizuma Family at the Peruvian Japanese Association of Ucayali*



David Yamashiro President the Peruvian  
Japanese Association of Ucayali

Members, specially children took interest in the Japanese language At first, Japanese was taught by JICA volunteers and Miyoko Ichikawa, a teacher who boosted language learning in Pucallpa A former scholarship student of JAEC, William Ruiz is now in charge of teaching.

The library has been implemented with school equipment for Japanese language teaching and has received support from APJ and JICA

Recreational activities are held as well as the local activities of the Peruvian Japanese Club and they invite non-Japanese to these events

In 1996, the Embassy of Japan in Peru helped build the Sakura Shelter for handicapped people in the community of Yarinacochas and a Medical Center in Iparia

Due to the dekasegi phenomenon, activities have diminished Teaching Japanese to children is the only regular activity

David Yamashiro, President of the Peruvian Japanese Association of Ucayali, Mayor of the Coronel Portillo-Pucallpa Province and board members, Augusto Paredes Owaki and Luis Miyake, together with William Ruiz, have coordinated the activities

According to David Yamashiro, classrooms and a fence will soon be implemented in two primary schools thanks to the support of Perú Hokkaido Shimbokukai Among its activities, the present board of directors will be renewed and homage will be paid to Japanese immigrants in Ucayali

### ***The Colonization of El Pimental***

On May 5, 1967, five Japanese farmers arrived to Pucallpa from Manaus, Brazil They were Masao Watanabe, Satoru Hashiguchi, Yoshio Hasegawa, Sadao Ijichi and Hideo Hoji, who were later joined by Julio Matsufuji from Iquitos

With the help of an engineer, José Cárcamo Vega, manager of the Agrarian Bank, they began to separate the land to plant peppercorns After searching for many days, they found the right place on kilometer 5 of the Tournavista Highway They started the *El Pimental* Community. Kasachi Miyanaga, Toshio Yamaguchi, Yasunori Miyasaki, Isao Sasagawa, Susumu Watanabe, Hirotsugu Shishido, Koshi Hashiguchi,

12 Japanese families and 30 Peruvian families who were farmers, joined them later. This is how the peppercorn cultivation started in the Peruvian jungle.

In 1968, the number of Peruvian settlers increased to 60 families. Production started the following year.

In 1972, 350 tons of peppercorns were produced equivalent to 50% of the domestic consumption. The Government of Peru awarded the *Orden de Caballero Oficial* to the *El Pimental* Cooperative. It was the only cooperative that has been awarded this honor.

In the 80s, free importation of pepper from Brazil, the largest producer in the world, affected the *El Pimental* colony. A disease caused by a fungus called *Fusarium* shriveled the crops.

His Excellency, Ambassador Hiroshi Nagasaki, visited Pucallpa and witnessed the sad situation. He immediately made arrangements before the JICA authorities to commission an expert in the matter. From 1982 to 1983, an engineer by the name of Ohdo worked in Pucallpa and solved the problem. During this period, the international price of the product fell and affected the production in Peru. As a result, the "Von Humboldt" Reforestation Project was implemented.

*El Pimental* received support from JICA and specialized engineers arrived. Tamura, an expert in rice and irrigation, Ichikawa, specialized in tropical cultivation, Goto specialized in the construction of dams. Through the *Tamura Cocha* Project, they succeeded in expanding rice cultivation and irrigation hectares.

Tamura planted different varieties of rice and got the best results from the Korean variety. It was improved at *El Pimental* and is known in the market as *Pimental N°4*.

Ohdo and Goto imported the *Pañuero one* variety which is much more resistant to *Fusarium*.

Thus, *El Pimental* surmounted the agricultural crisis and is now being reactivated. New crops include palmetto, *camu camu*, a Brazilian shrub called supplejack (*Paullinia cupana*), cashews and peppercorns as well as continuous reforestation.



Augusto Paredes Ovaki, Isao Sasagawa and Doctor Raul Ishiyama at the *El Pimental* Ranch in Pucallpa.

第貳航路四十五周年記念

一九五一年十一月二十三日  
於ハルディン・ペルー不撮影



*Survivors of the Duke of White the 2<sup>nd</sup> ship that transported Japanese immigrants to Peru*







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## *Personal Experiences*

*The stories told by each person have woven the fabric of events of the pioneers who traveled from such a distance in search of a new destiny in this land called Peru.*

*The Centennial of the Japanese Immigration to Peru is a part of our history and our Peruvian Japanese identity*

*"Personal Experiences" describes the tale of men and women who had courage, perseverance, honesty, self-sacrifice and solidarity towards their fellow men, women and community. The way they pursued their livelihoods is an example to be shared with future generations*

*We have included examples such as Yoshitaro Amano who, ever since he discovered an arrowhead as a young boy, later in life became devoted to preserving one of Peru's millenary archeological heritages*

*This part of the book explains how a member of our community helped to develop epidemiological medicine to control prevalent diseases as well as the discrete work of charity carried out by one of the first midwives of the Peruvian Japanese Community*

*It also mentions successful businessmen who generously offered their economic support for the establishment of the entities mentioned herein*

*A description is given about contributions made by the Peruvian Japanese Community in the field of education, the noble task of developing teaching and learning skills, in industry, research and the lovely vocation of helping others.*

*World War II left its scar upon us, but it has also given us the opportunity of rendering homage to the anonymous heroes lost over the horizon . far from their native land*

*Each step of the way on this trip throughout Peru following the route previously made by the pioneers, gave us the opportunity to see valuable photo albums, listen to beautiful stories, amusing anecdotes and fascinating tales. Our notebooks are filled with these memories, but unfortunately many will remain stored in our computer . until somebody else wishes to navigate and salvage the rest*

## *Yoshitaro Amano*

To talk about Yoshitaro Amano is to have a dialogue with history. The Centennial of the Immigration to Peru is nurtured with personal experiences. It is about pioneers like him and his great research, entrepreneurial foresight and philanthropic work. The Amano Museum is an invaluable cultural legacy for our community and for Peru as well.

Yoshitaro Amano, a mechanical engineer, was born in Yokohama. His adventurous spirit took him to Central America where he made a fortune in Costa Rica and Panama before traveling to Peru in 1929.

His inquisitive nature led him to the ancient ruins of Machu Picchu, the hidden city of the Inca's, and thereon to every corner of Peru in search of archaeological relics such as *huacos* or ceramic vessels, woven pieces of cloth and other objects found in native burial grounds.

He became fascinated with archaeology at the age of twelve, when he found a stone arrowhead in the island of Hokkaido, Japan. This fossil triggered his vocation for research. Years later expert scientists informed him that it was 40,000 years old and came from the Ice Age.

Yoshitaro Amano dedicated most of his life to research the Chancay Culture, that dates back to 8,000 B.C. He collected objects such as huacos and weavings that make up 90% of the collection of his museum. During his lifetime he had the great satisfaction of exhibiting his collection in Japan in 1958 and 1961. His Imperial Highness Hirohito and Empress Nagako, Prince Akihito and Princess Michiko, Ministers, Ambassadors, government officials and the public visited this exhibition.

Pre-Colombian motifs on the ancient Chancay pottery and fabrics attracted the attention of Japanese designers, who inspired by these, designed modern fashion.



*Yoshitaro Amano*



*Chanca's Potter*

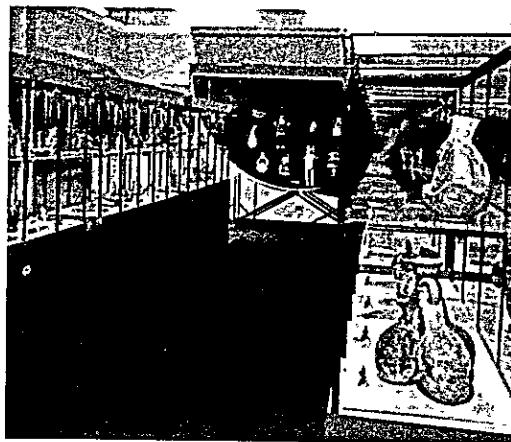
Yoshitaro Amano's wife, Rosa Miyoko Watanabe de Amano, and their son, Mario, are currently the guardians of this legacy. Rosa, a wonderful hostess to scores of visitors, is also an expert in the Chanca Pre-Colombian Culture. Engineer, Augusto Watanabe, heads the Amano Museum Foundation. Some of the members of the foundation are eminent people of the Nikkei Community and the entrepreneurial and cultural milieu.

Yoshitaro was a man who had an entrepreneurial foresight. During the anchovy boom of Peru he decided to work in the fishing industry and also helped to organize poultry breeders of the COSACEL Cooperative Company.

His altruistic spirit led him to donate large pine plantations and the breeding center he had established in Concepción, Chile.

As a teacher, he wisely instilled in generations of archeology students, all his wisdom and knowledge. He is the pride of our community and the world.

Yoshitaro Amano... A Japanese that made history.



*The Amano Museum*

## *Katsuo and Miyoko Fukuda*

*Hacienda Huando* and *Esperanza Baja* (Fukuda) located in Huaral are famous known in Peru for their orange and tangerine groves

Katsuo Fukuda and Sadao Suzuki arrived in 1929

Miyoko Oshiba de Fukuda explains that she arrived to Peru in 1935, as a “yobiose”, together with her brother-in-law, Sosaku Fukuda, his sister, Masue, and, Sadao Suzuki’s future wife, Sadako. They established themselves at Katsuo Fukuda’s house, her future husband and a successful farmer. He worked at *Hacienda Huarabi* owned by his godfather, Benjamin Roca, that was located on the road to Canta. Eventually, they became partners and as a team were very successful growing fruit such as oranges, apples, melons and grapes.

There was no written document on the fruit production partnership. His brother was now with him. In 1937, a friend of theirs called Genji Numura, suggested that they buy land in Huaral. In those days the land was a huge desert with rolling dunes. The first crops did not turn out well because of the saltpeter in the ground. So these farmers began to experiment and decided to flood the soil with fresh water. They struggled with the land until they reaped the first results.

Japanese farmers that worked as sharecroppers in the neighboring haciendas owned by Ikumatsu Okada used to say that the Fukuda Family had bought a “sand pit”. They predicted that nothing would grow on that land and that soon it would be fallow.

While the orange plantation took five years to grow, the family cultivated tomatoes, melons, watermelons and staple foods in order to make a living. These were years of sacrifice and frugality.

The Fukuda Family was a pioneer growing melons, but these did not sell in large quantities in the market.

During World War II, members of this family were put on the deportation list for the concentration camps in the United States. Police Director, General Edilberto Salazar, a former neighbor and godfather of their children Oscar and Esther, supported the Fukuda family.

*The Fukuda Family Standing  
Katsuo and Miyoko Seated Sosaku and Masue*



Little by little they purchased plots of lands next to *Hacienda Esperanza Baja* to grow orange trees. European immigrants, previous owners of these lands, had abandoned them because they lacked specific knowledge concerning the type of soil.

Land rehabilitation demanded studies and sacrifice. At night, The Fukuda Family took advantage of the water distribution to “wash the soil” and make it fit for cultivation. Little Oscar participated and the women prepared hot soup for the workers.

Katsuo and Miyoko’s children, Oscar, Angélica, Ana and Cesar, and Sosaku and Masue’s children, Esther, Esperanza and Carlos, grew up as brothers and sisters. Together with Uncle Suzuki they formed a closely-knit family. The children went to elementary school in Huaral. For their secondary education, the boys attended the Salesian Brothers boarding school in Lima and the girls went to the large state school Miguel Grau in Magdalena.

Oscar, Carlos and César studied at the *Universidad Nacional Agraria de la Molina*. Angélica and Esperanza studied family education and decoration at the *Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú* and Ana studied architecture at the *Universidad Nacional de Ingeniería*.

While they studied, the boys would help their parents with the farm work, especially with the orange grove and, the girls would help raising chicken.

When their son Oscar, an agricultural engineer, returned from studying abroad in Japan, he noticed that the changes made by Velasco Alvarado’s administration and the Agrarian Reform affected the lands. He managed to introduce a paragraph on the reform article through poultry breeders declaring that lands used in breeding animals should be respected. He then changed his activity to poultry farming.

Katsuo Fukuda taught his fellow countrymen Spanish and history. He decided to become a Peruvian citizen to protect his land, but he was unsuccessful. As a result, he unfortunately lost a large farm, tractors and trucks.

Then the Fukuda Family decided to become poultry breeders to protect their lands. These included part of the orange groves, which the municipal authorities defended since it contributed to Huaral’s greatness and prosperity.

Under Oscar Fukuda’s management, the family prospered and continued with the poultry farm. They started growing oranges and staple food too.

Miyoko Fukuda says that thanks to Yoshitaro Amano, the *hacienda* was a tourist attraction for Japanese visitors, especially on Saturdays and Sundays. However, her children were not happy because they had to be at the disposal of guests and visitors and do the dishes on their day off. Even Cesar (Boku), the youngest of her children complained "Mother, I am not going to get a girlfriend if I work so much."



Miyoko Fukuda  
at her thriving orange grove.

*What about your grandchildren's future?*

"Well, about my grandchildren they are all well. Four are happily married. One lives in the United States, another in Mexico and a third lived in Brazil, but moved to Japan. They went abroad to find better living conditions during the terrorist period. You know, the sad event about Cesar. We lived through times of stress and insecurity, particularly in Huaral. Fortunately, things are peaceful today."

*What is your opinion of the Centennial celebrations?*

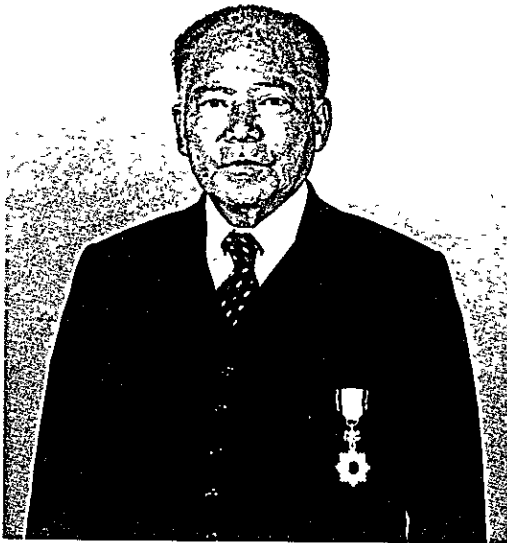
"Japanese people went through many ordeals but they managed to survive. I feel very excited about celebrating the Centennial. Senior citizens are very well treated, with respect and consideration. I am looking forward to the celebrations at the Junnai Center with all my friends. It will be a compensation for all those difficult years."

*Was your husband ever acknowledged for his work?*

"Yes, the Government of Japan bestowed him with a posthumous medal in the 5<sup>th</sup> degree. My brother-in-law got one in the 4<sup>th</sup> degree and Suzuki in the 6<sup>th</sup> degree."

*And have you received any special distinction?*

"I received an acknowledgement from the Huaral authorities and recently, from the Shizuoka Prefecture."



*Ginyu Igei*

## *Ginyu Igei*

Ginyu Igei was born the paradise island of Okinawa where he studied to be a teacher. He gained the respect and appreciation of the Peruvian Nikkei Community for his hard working spirit, knowledge and vocation to serve others

He came to Peru in 1934 with his wife at the age of 26 upon the request of the Government of Japan. The Parents Association of the Chancay School had asked for a Japanese teacher. He disembarked at the Port of Callao and traveled to Chancay where Japanese farmers grew cotton. He immediately took charge of their children's education. He worked at the Chancay Nihonjin Shogakko School for three years and then started

working at the Nanko Gakuen, a school in Carabayllo, which belonged to the *Hacienda Gallinazos* until 1941

After he stopped teaching, he began to work as a sharecropper growing bananas. During World War II, he was on the Government's deportation list. His arrest was avoided thanks to Doctor José Antonio Lavalle who guaranteed his sojourn at his farm.

In Lima, he entered into a partnership with José Díaz, a piano repairman. They set up a business on *Calle Confianza*, buying and repairing pianos. The business was successful because they had two warehouses. At one time they had 60 pianos. He used US\$10,500 of his capital stock to write and publish 20,000 copies of a Japanese language textbook approved by the Ministry of Education of Japan that he distributed at language academies.

Eventually this partnership ended and since the law in those days did not allow him to work, he returned to the countryside again, this time to *Chacra Cerro*. He leased a small farm from a man by the name of La Rosa. They had to "fix" a document to allow him to work and he did so for six years. Later, he was called again to teach in a small school in the neighborhood of Matute, in the District of La Victoria. There was not enough money to pay the teachers' salaries, so Mr. Igei used part of the money he obtained from leasing his farm in *Chacra Cerro* to complete



the payroll He left *Chacra Cerro* and leased 30 acres in Chancay, where irrigation was better and allowed him to plant cotton and potatoes Planting the latter gave him more satisfaction He was awarded a prize for being the first to grow potatoes in Chancay and to disseminate its cultivation He also planted seedless watermelon and pumpkin With this income, he was able to buy a tractor and business flourished.

Mr. Igei was one of the people who helped clear the land bought by *Asociación Estadio La Unión*. Many generous families cleared the 100,000 m<sup>2</sup> field of stones and weeds Mr. Igei lent his tractor and also contributed with a substantial amount of money

Ginyu Igei's leadership is widely known He is considered a patriarch of the Japanese Community. He is past President of the Okinawan Fraternal Association, the Japanese Society of Chancay Valley, the parent institution of the Japanese Peruvian Association, the Nikkei Cultural Foundation of Peru (The Immigration Museum) and Vice President of the Centennial Celebration Commission of the Japanese Immigration to Peru, just to mention a few

He is always chosen to give speeches in Japanese He does not require any written speeches because his knowledge and memory are remarkable

His great work was rewarded when the Government of Japan bestowed him with a medal for his service to the Japanese Community.

*"I am happy and I feel well here I am a Peruvian by naturalization"*

**Any messages to future generations?**

*"Study, be respectful and acknowledge the pioneers' greatness".*

**Tell us about your work and support to the AELU.**

*"They asked me to be then President but I did not accept because I saw that my work had concluded I always thought of young people and time has proven that I was right "*

**UNLIMITED GENEROSITY** Thank you Ginyu Igei





*Kannosuke Iida*

## *Kannosuke Iida*

Juan Iida, is currently the Director of the Immigration Museum and of the Nikkei Cultural Foundation of Peru. He is a scholar dedicated to the history of the Japanese Peruvian Community.

We found him at his office behind his desk. His work consists of taking notes and compiling stories. He has various magnifying glasses with which he tries to identify old photos and documents. He seemed surprised at our interview.

*Mr. Iida, is Kannosuke Iida a relative of yours?*

*"Yes, of course, he was my father. He was the 1<sup>st</sup> President of the Central Japanese Society in Peru in 1917. My father was born in Hisai in the Mie Prefecture in Japan. When he finished his secondary studies he traveled to Tokyo where he studied agronomy at Tokyo University.*

*He worked at the Toyama Prefecture for a short period of time as an agronomist. He came to Peru in the first group of Japanese in 1899 under contract for the Morioka Company."*

*Excuse us for the interruption Mr. Iida, but when we read about Kannosuke Iida, it was reported that he arrived on the second trip in 1903.*

*"Well, I thought so too. But he appears on the Sakura Maru's passenger list as foreman of the Hacienda Santa Clara. Later he substituted Yoshuro Tagusan as manager of the Morioka Company in Lima.*

*I was born in 1913 and remained in Lima until the age of 6. I traveled to Japan with my parents to study. At the Mie Prefecture, I studied through secondary school and I had to work to help my mother Toyota when my father suffered an accident. Nevertheless, he returned to Peru."*

*What made you return to Peru?*

*"I missed it very much, but when I was here, I felt homesick for Japan."*

**Did you come by plane?**

*"No I came by ship The voyage lasted 45 days All the passengers became one great family (dokokai) Some brides (hanavome) came on the ship to meet their future husbands There were some newly weds too, Rodolfo Matsuda's parents"*

**Did you like any girl on the ship?**

*"No I was too young In Lima, I worked as an employee at Casa Hayashi, an import company It was confiscated during the war With my savings, I was able to buy a store in Abajo el Puente, the District of El Rímac The place on Trujillo Street 363 was called Bazar Juanito and was very popular*

*I began to work as Director in the Perú Shūmō Newspaper. Before that, I accompanied Dairo Hasegawa, Saburo Yagui, your father Makoto Tsuneshige, Mr Tahahashi and others selling shares to build the newspaper I still had the store but, General Velasco's Government passed a law mandating board members to be Peruvian by birth*

*The first Directors were Dairo Hasegawa and later Tsutomu Ito"*

**When did you begin to work at the Museum? He pauses and then says:**

*"Chivoteru Hiraoka, President of the Central Japanese Society summoned me during the celebrations for the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Japanese Immigration to Peru when the Museum was built Mr Hiraoka called me then The first Director was Heichi Amemiya who held the position for a year"*

**I see you are compiling data. Are you planning to write a book?**

*"Well, I am making a list of the first immigrants But the Okinawan Association has given me another assignment a file of names and places in Japanese"*

**What is your goal?**

*"To finish this list"*

**Could you tell us something about your family?**

*"I am married to Clementina Yuzuriha and I have four children Rita, the eldest, Federico, Lucio and Claudio*

*Clementina, as you know, belongs to the first class of the Japanese School in Callao She studied Pharmacy at the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos".*

*Why of course... Takae san. She was one of the first women to finish post-secondary studies. Her work is well known not only as President of the Fujinkai but also for her enterprising spirit and vocation of helping others. She is quite an example to follow. Maybe she is a better example than you, but this is just a joke (joodan). Her father built the great schools such as Lima Nikko of Callao and others...*

*"You seem to know more about it than I do . ha, ha"*

*Any messages for future generations?*

*"I want to tell them to be proud of being a Japanese descendant They must study and know the Japanese language. a lot of them are forgetting it We must imitate the Chinese who try to instill this idea in their children"*

*Can you comment on the Immigration Centennial?*

*"I am old, I no longer want to hold a position"*

*I was asking you about the festivities.*

*"The Japanese Community in Peru is strong and organizes many activities that other communities don't Well . it must be celebrated on a grand scale of course The Japanese Peruvian Association must foster good relations with people from other countries, with the Chinese, Italians and others I never see them come around the Museum"*

*That is being taken care of. The Museum has to be publicized.*

*"I made a recommendation that it should be compulsory for the schools of the Japanese Community to organize field trips to the Museum Prefecture entities should also be encouraged to organize visits to the Museum It is somewhat small and not readily visible*

*The Peruvian Japanese Association and the Commission are aware of that. The Museum should also launch a more aggressive publicity campaign... Don't you agree?*

*Thank you for your time.*

## *Seguma Kitsutani*

During these 100 years of the Japanese Immigration to Peru, many men and women greatly helped to build the Japanese Community in Peru. The names of these trustworthy representatives of the Japanese Community in Peru should be engraved in gold letters for their outstanding participation in the history of our community

One of these men was Seguma Kitsutani, a 4<sup>th</sup> generation descendant of the Morikoo Dynasty. He was raised according to the spiritual and philosophical Bushido teachings. At the age of 22, he was appointed official of the multi-national company Itoshu in San Francisco and lived in the United States for six years.

He started a jewelry business and managed to accrue capital. When he was 27, he heard from Teikichi Tanaka about the Japanese Immigration to Peru and decided to establish a company here.

He arrived to Lima in 1901 and opened Casa Kitsutani. The city only had 350,000 inhabitants at that time and the Japanese Community was hardly noticeable yet.

His store was on *Plateros de San Agustin* Street. He sold a wide variety of products at retail and wholesale prices. Products included Japanese food, canned products, all types of fine liquors and wines, tools, medicine and others. Silk, toys, jewels, cosmetics, semi-precious stones and porcelain were imported from the Orient and Europe. The fine quality of products offered clients a touch of distinction.

When he decided to liquidate Casa Kitsutani and change to the name of S G Kitsutani, he called his nephew Kosuke Kitsutani, who had been an orphan ever since he was five years old and was the son of the eldest brother called Tsunosuke Kitsutani. In this manner Kosuke came under his care and after earning a degree in Economy at the University of Waseda, came to Peru.



*Seguma Kitsutani*

Seguma Kitsutani was an experienced and sophisticated man who was keen on formalities. His aristocratic air reflected his high lineage. He had fine manners, was always dressed elegantly, was strict and had an enterprising spirit. He spoke English, French and Portuguese in addition to his mother tongue and managed himself remarkably well in Spanish.

He was a friend of President Leguía. They shared mutual interests such as attending the Equestrian Club.

We would not be exaggerating if we were to admit that the deep affection for the Japanese Community and the close bonds of friendship between Japan and Peru actually began when Teikichi Tanaka and Seguma Kitsutani became friends with President Leguía.

In his adult years, the Navy Ministry of Japan sent Teikichi Tanaka to Boston on a scholarship. Leguía, who would later be elected President, was also on a scholarship in Boston at the same time. They quickly became friends and Teikichi Tanaka spoke to Seguma Kitsutani about Peru.

Kitsutani Shokai soon prospered and his business grew. In 1904, his brother Nobosuke Kitsutani arrived from Japan with a considerable family capital stock. Soon, they opened branch stores of Casa Kitsutani in different places of Lima. They also established a bamboo furniture factory on San Pedro Nolasco Street and three branch stores in Arequipa. Other businesses

were a tannery, a wool warehouse and a cotton-ginning factory.

The Lima branches were opened in this order: *Plateros de San Agustín* (1901), *La Merced*, *Mercaderes* (1904), and *Bodegones* (1908) that would become the head office and *Portal de Botoneros*. One of the three branches in Arequipa was opened in 1904. In 1910, he imported Japanese bamboo furniture for middle and high-class families.

*Seguma Kitsutani, relatives and friends at his home at Quinta Heeren*



The Kitsutani Family took up residence at the *Quinta Heeren*, where the Consulate of Japan had its temporary seat. Seguma Kitsutani was the Plenipotentiary Consul until the definite Consulate of Japan was established.

Seguma Kitsutani's desire to know other parts of the country took him to *Arica* and *Tarapacá* on the southern part of Peru. His trip to the Andean region gave him the idea of exporting alpaca, vicuña and sheep wool in addition to semi-precious stones and minerals. He reaped a considerable profit from this enterprise.

He visited all the plantations where Japanese immigrants lived and gathered information and stories. He also expanded his business and started exporting sugar cane and cotton. His interest in salt mines was not successful.

He contributed to the country's progress through his exports. On one occasion, he started to inquire about the price of exporting oil but then realized that the scope of such a project was out of his reach.

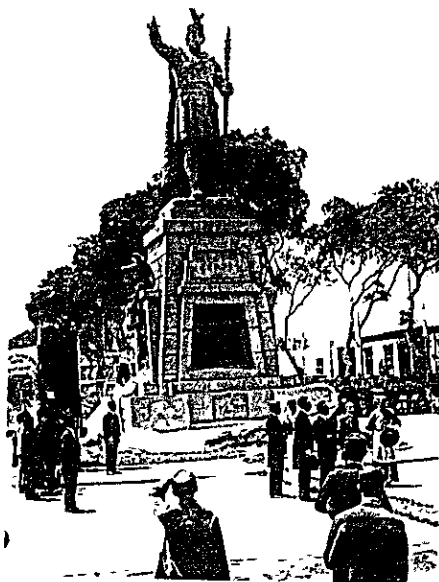
He also visited the jungle but was unable to find skilled workers for his projects.

Seguma Kitsutani was a visionary and his family business thrived during Leguía's Administration which lasted eleven years. The Japanese Community also fared well in those years.

In 1921, during the celebrations for the Centennial Anniversary of the Independence of Peru, the Japanese Community donated the monument of Manco Cápac to the District of La Victoria. A Naval Training Fleet from Japan arrived in Callao to participate in the celebrations. Seguma Kitsutani, head of the Central Japanese Society, was guided by his great friend and successful entrepreneur, Ichitaro Morimoto.

His cooperative spirit and service to Japanese immigrants and the activities developed during his management have marked a milestone in Japanese - Peruvian relations. This is a matter of pride and satisfaction that will be cherished forever in our memory.

These were the circumstances surrounding the foundation of a school for the Japanese Community that began to take root.



*The unveiling ceremony of the Manco Cápac statue with Counselor Yamasaki, Seguma Kitsutani and Ichitaro Morimoto and President Augusto B. Leguía in 1926.*



*Seguma Kitsutani and board members of the Central Japanese Society*

*Palacio de Gobierno* always welcomed Seguma Kitsutani and each year he would dedicate a whole page on the newspapers to pay his respects to Peru on its national holiday

Since 1923, a series of misfortunes befell Seguma Kitsutani that began when the sale of bamboo furniture was no longer profitable. Later an entire shipment of wool from Arequipa was lost in a fire that broke out in Yokohama during the earthquake that hit Japan

in 1925 In 1927, another wool shipment was lost when the *Anyo Maru* caught fire near the coast of Mexico In both cases, he did not collect any insurance policy. Finally, the 1927 "Silk Crisis" heavily affected S G Kitsutani & Co since the company stored silk products in Yokohama, San Francisco and Lima and, it was unable to sell these goods because there was a surplus of supply, and then the New York Stock Exchange plunged

Bank deposits in Tokyo and Yokohama were frozen as a result of the financial instability of Japan With the purpose of reorganizing or perhaps liquidating the formerly prosperous Casa Kitsutani, known as S G Kitsutani y Cia, Seguma called his nephew Kosuke Kitsutani, the eldest son of his brother Tsunosuke Kitsutani, and an orphan who was put under his guardianship When Tsunosuke graduated from the University of Waseda as an Economist he came to Peru The financial instability of Japan in those days, shadowed the events, and Seguma was unable to move the funds in his bank accounts in Tokyo and Yokohama

This entire crisis brought about the collapse of this successful family business Seguma sought help from some of his friends, but unfortunately Suzuki Yone Shoten could not offer him any aid due to the rice price war in Japan Neither could his wealthy friend in Huaral, Ikumatsu Okada, who had just bought plantations in northern Peru and was sorry he was unable to help because he foresaw difficult times with the World Bank. As a last resource, Kitsutani appealed to the Government of Japan to re-float his business but his plea was unanswered

Bankers who used to bow down to him now rejected him with false courtesy They began to press him and legal action was brought against him by a group of helpers and "friends" who turned their backs on him and sued him. Sentei Yaki was his only friend and a trustful official who



would later become president of the Central Japanese Society. He accompanied him to his farewell dinner party at the "La Cabaña" Restaurant after the Consulate incident mentioned above

All of these unpredictable events contributed to Seguma Kitsutani's tragic decision. In February 1928, he decided to take his life. He previously extended a white blanket on the floor of the main room of his house as a symbol of purity, honor and forgiveness for all those that had been affected by the economic disaster and committed suicide.

His brother Shinsuke Kitsutani, former president of the Central Japanese Society, also died in Japan in August, 1929.

In view of these sad events, the family is sure that their father, the sole survivor of the family in Peru in those days, wanted to keep public opinion out of the way and discretely take matters into his own hands.

Today, at the threshold of the new millennium, this is part of our past, and although it marks a time of sorrow, it nonetheless will not affect our future generations.

The Centennial Book Commission wishes to thank the Kitsutani Family, specially Raymundo and Luis for sharing these events with us.

Life is made of success and failure. We deeply regret the above described events. Seguma Kitsutani was a true example of courage, nobleness and honor. Future generations never forget this.



*Elena Miyoko Yoshida de Kohatsu*

## *Elena Miyoko Yoshida de Kohatsu*

Elena Miyoko Yoshida de Kohatsu was an exceptional woman. She was well known in the Peruvian Japanese Community for her innate qualities, vocation of serving others and her indomitable spirit. She will always be fondly remembered.

Her charm, humbleness, simplicity, capacity for hard work and knowledge helped her develop activities in each position she held. She was President of the Women's Peruvian Japanese Association, the Emmanuel Orphan Home Association, the Urakense Association and the Peruvian Japanese Association.

A graduate of the Lima Nikko 17<sup>th</sup> Class after finishing her secondary studies, she was accepted at the School of Medicine of the *Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos*. Unfortunately, she had to abandon her studies for personal reasons. She managed the Peruvian Japanese Polyclinic for ten years. Her expertise on the subject and her capability

greatly improved services provided by the polyclinic. It eventually became one of the most prestigious health care centers of Peru.

Her leadership was first perceived at the Peruvian Japanese Women's Association. There, she developed numerous social outreach activities. In merit of her work, she was elected president for two periods: from 1971 to 1972 and from 1978 to 1979.

In 1991, she was elected President of the Peruvian Japanese Association of Peru. She was the first woman to head the governing body of the Peruvian Japanese Community. She developed her work with sobriety, capability and intelligence.

After her term as president ended, she continued supporting it. This time, she directed the Senior Citizens Recreational Center, one of her most cherished dreams. The idea was born during the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Japanese Immigration to Peru.

To facilitate the daily attendance of ojuchan and obaachan to the center, she established a home-to-home pick up program with the support of Shiawase volunteer women. She also helped develop various physical, mental and cultural activities. The unique program was considered to be very successful indeed. It led philanthropist Ryochi Jinnai, who donated the recreation house, to accelerate the construction of the ten-story building that bears his name.

Parallel to the activities mentioned, Mrs. Kohatsu was also actively involved in the Emmanuel Home for orphans. The promoters of the home were Mother Clara Tome and Father Manuel Kato.

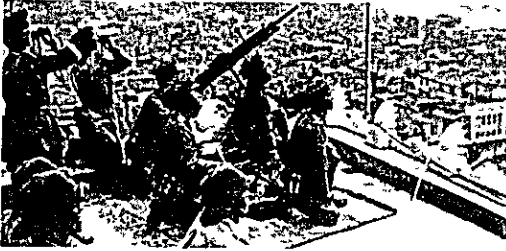
Elena Kohatsu was an excellent teacher at the Urasenke Association, the traditional Tea Ceremony learning school.

She was a board member of the Nikkei Cultural Foundation of Peru. Their main concern was the preservation of the immigrants' heritage at the Immigration Museum. She was also president of this last institution.

Thanks to her perfect command of both Japanese and Spanish, she acted as hostess and interpreter for visitors on several occasions. She gained their respect as well.

In 1996, the Government of Japan bestowed her with a medal. Her last public appearance was at the reception given to her by the Japanese Community for her prolific work. It was also the unannounced farewell of her definite parting. Her death was deeply felt. The community regretted that she would not be present at the celebrations of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Japanese Immigration to Peru, which was her greatest dream, one that she had worked so hard for.

She left us with the humbleness that was one of her main traits. She was an uniquely gifted woman, an exemplary mother, a very capable leader and an ideal work mate due to her moral standards and perseverance.



*Japanese soldiers during  
World War II*

## *Chikara Kubo*

Most probably nobody remembers the name of this man from Cañete except Peruvian Nikkei who were at the Crystal City and Kennedy concentration camps. After serving his term in confinement compelled by the American troops, he was exchanged as a war prisoner. He had to fight on the side of the

Japanese army in Manila, capital of The Philippine Islands

He was an anonymous hero of this unfortunate war as were other Peruvian Nikkei such as Jmei Sakuda and Noburo Tajima from Lima, Nishimura from Oroya in the Department of Junin, Tamashiro, Fukuda, Kiushigue Kanashiro and Kazu Miyagui from Callao, among others. They fulfilled their obligation with honor and conviction.

Chikara said that they had arrived in Manila on the Teia Maru on November 6, 1943, six days after the Republic had been proclaimed with other 1517 Japanese citizens and Nisei who had been deported from North, Central and South America. There were also eight Spanish diplomats (Spain was neutral at that time) on their way to Japan.

A military atmosphere reigned on board the Teia Maru. Young male Japanese were dropped hints to sign up as military recruits as soon as possible. A Military Attaché of the Japanese Embassy in South America questioned certain Nisei. Chikara and his friends also found out that there were a few "Tokko Keisatsukan", the Special Political Affairs Police, as crewmembers of the Teia Maru. This convinced a greater number of volunteers to stay in Manila.

A wave of sadness invaded each and everyone when they stepped ashore. In a way, they regretted their decision, especially when the sound of the "gong" announced the departure of the ship. Slowly, the ship began to move and they watched until it disappeared in the horizon. Of the 111 people who were left in Manila, 62 were assigned as civil attachés to the army (these were married men) and the remaining 49, who were bachelors, to the navy, also as civil attachés. Soldiers were classified in this order: Gunjin (military), Gumba (gentlemen), Gum-bato (pigeons), Gun-ken (dogs) and Gunzoku (poor devils). Peruvian Nikkei belonged to this last category. They were given domestic and military training. Their obligations included bedtime and rising hours, shifts and check-ups (revisions). Discipline was harsh.

The Gunzoku or poor devils were in charge of carrying the thousands of heavy rice sacks from the ships to the dock. The work was considered so harsh that they were known as the Teia Maru “coolies”

Chikara also remembered his friends, and songs like *Muñequita Linda*, *Amapola*, *Isabelita*, from the time he used to live in Peru

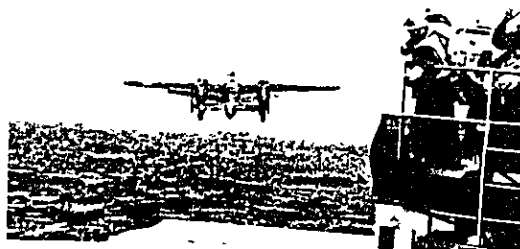
He told us how he had to carry a bayonet on patrol shifts with the Nikket. Then, he relived the aftermath of destruction and desolation following the terrifying American air raid. Like in a movie, his recollections moved from his dead friends to his escape through the jungle near Manila, hungry, searching for food and striven by a driving urge to survive.

Then, there was his experience with a captain nicknamed “Oni chusa” (Captain Devil) because he always assigned the hardest tasks. One time, during an air raid, a bullet exploded on some ammunition boxes piled in the center of the dock and went off like fireworks. There was an antiaircraft machine gun nest on the other side that apparently was firing at random. The Captain yelled at Chikara Kubo and ordered him to go tell them to cease fire because they were wasting the Imperial Army’s bullets. *“I had to drench myself with bucketfuls of water and get on the dock protected by a galvanized sheet. I crawled very, very low on the ground, specially when I came near the ammunition boxes that were still exploding.”*

He continued his amazing story telling us about the long marches carrying injured people, climbing the mountain following the river course. Sometimes they had to walk on the dry riverbed and others they waded the river in the jungle thicket. All the while, mosquitoes and gadflies constantly bit them. A worm called “hiru” was a real nuisance. It fell from trees and would stick to a person’s neck. They were undernourished and the most had fever caused by malaria. They endured the pain of extricating the worms from their eyes and fell deep asleep because they were exhausted. He remembered how the atebrina (a medicine) found in an American soldier’s knapsack saved him from malaria. While they were in the jungle, the Japanese army surrendered. Afterwards, he was rescued and left Manila on board the ship Liberty.

These anonymous heroes deserve our deepest gratitude and acknowledgment. They unjustly suffered deportation and separation from their families. Like Chikara, they had to fight a war in the Philippine jungle taking sides with Japan.

Chikara Kubo passed away not long ago and thanks to Olga Kitsutani we were able to rescue these historic events.



A Japanese bomber



Sada Kuniyoshi

## *Sada Kuniyoshi*

Sada Kuniyoshi dedicated her life aiding women during childbirth. She is the symbol of a group of experienced women like Yoshikata Konobu in Lima, Chuo Watanabe in Barranca, Chinen and Tomona in Callao, who were the “sambasan” or obstetricians and midwives of their community.

Sada Kiyari was born in Aza Tsuha, Nakagusuku, Okinawa, on February 8, 1905. She was born prematurely as a result of an accident suffered by her mother Tsuruko when she was 7 months pregnant. Unfortunately, her mother died. Maybe this unfortunate event contributed to her decision of becoming an obstetrician. Her father, Seiko, remarried and she was raised by her father’s second wife

and adoptive mother, Kamado, who nurtured her with love. She studied in her hometown Kanagusuku Tsuha Gakko, at the Okinawa Ken Ritsu Bion. She obtained two professional degrees: as a nurse and an obstetrician.

Sada arrived to Peru in 1927 on the ship Anyo Maru, summoned by her brother Seishin. She married Shintetsu Kuniyoshi, a native of Ginowan, Okinawa, in 1928. They had four children: Teru, Julio, Rebeca and Dora who all became successful professionals.

Sada voluntarily assisted pregnant mothers, wives of farmers, poultry breeders and small businessmen, as an obstetrician who provided her services free of charge despite the fact that she herself had economic difficulties. *Haciendas* such as *Comuco*, *San Agustin*, *Bocanegra*, the distant *Calera* or *Yerhateros* were familiar to her. She would arrive on bicycle, tricycle, and donkey and sometimes, streetcars part of the way, and continue on foot, crossing dirt roads and plantations until she reached the house of the expecting mother.

In ramshackle houses, she would use her resourcefulness to set up a makeshift aseptic labor room where she would accompany the woman in labor for hours and even days. She would generously provide all the assistance required and even cook food. In those days, houses had dirt floors, kerosene lamps provided the light, water was pumped from the groundwater and wood or coal was used as fuel for cooking.

Once the baby was born she would clean and dress it. She often made the baby's diapers herself. It was her custom to present the mother with the "oshime kaba"

She is remembered by mothers and children who were lucky to have her by their side for her perseverance, patience, strong will and love for her fellow men and women

Our reminiscence of Sada Kiyari Kuniyoshi also stands as a testimony of our gratitude to all the Japanese nurses and midwives who worked for the Peruvian Japanese Community and local inhabitants of Peru as well. Their discrete and self-sacrificing work of delivering children into the world will always be remembered



*Jin ichi Maruy*

## *Jin ichi and Kikue Maruy*

Jin ichi and Kikue Maruy came from Hiroshima and Fukuoka respectively. Their son, Gerardo Maruy Takayama is an outstanding member of the Peruvian Japanese Community. He is a second generation "Nisei". His life style reflects the shushin he always mentions that are the moral conduct and values instilled in him during his childhood.

We all know Gerardo Maruy as a man of action but at the same time he is easy to talk to and good-natured. But in the privacy of his home he is modest and forgets his great achievements.

He started telling us that his father Jin ichi was native of Hiroshima. He was not sure if he arrived on the first or third trip.

I looked in the files at the Museum but I couldn't find anything. Then I gave up. Maybe he came to Peru as a stowaway. ha ha.

*Did he establish himself in Huacho since he arrived?*

*No, first he went to Hacienda San Nicolás in Supe. They say my father knew how to cook well so the foreman sent him to the kitchen instead of the fields. This saved him from the hard work according to my father's friend Mr. Mishima. Afterwards, a group of them escaped.*

*And what happened next?*

*Well, my father didn't talk much at that time, so he always held minor posts in the community.*

*However, I've seen old pictures of him in Huacho accompanied by distinguished people.*

*He had a hotel in Huacho, Los Andes Hotel. The office of his Huacho - Huaura Bus Company was on the second floor. He only had one bus (chuckles).*

*Do you know who was the ticket man? Mr. Ryoko Kiyohiro. Afterwards, he was a schoolteacher and a spiritual guide as bonzo.*



*My father fired him because he did not charge the Japanese. He had great respect for my father.*

*My brother Nicolás and I were born in the Hacienda in Huaura after his journey through the Hacienda Pando. Then he went to Liberalta in Bolivia where my sister Kazuko was born. In Bolivia he made puffed rice, which he sold in paper cones.*

*How many brothers and sisters were you?*

*Six altogether, but three have died.*

*My mother Kikue was born in Fukuoka .. it's a miracle we were not Kumamotans ha ha*

*He returned to Huacho, went on to Chuncha and later to Puna where he established ice-cream parlors. He finally returned to Huaral where he died at the age of 58 run over by a car.*

*What about the war?*

*I remember the plunder because I was at Mr. Tanaka's house. He was the director of the newspaper Lima Nikko. The other newspaper was Perú Jho.*

*Do you personally have any experience of the plunder?*

*Well, it was a nightmare. I was just a boy at the time and we took shelter at the Japanese school. Then the earthquake happened. What I remember the most is when I was at the Lima Nikko, playing baseball on Sundays as part of the Shoren team who played against the adults.*

*My experience at a Peruvian school was very hard. I had been accustomed to being with Japanese children. Now I had to be with others in 5<sup>th</sup> grade of elementary school. First in the Colegio Moderno, then, Colegio Modelo where there were already many other Nikkei. There was no discrimination. We discriminated ourselves. That is why when the Colegio La Unión was being designed, I did not agree at first because of that experience. My opinion was that we should be in state schools from the beginning.*

*Jun ichi Marín with his sons  
Nicolás and Gerardo*



*Where did you train?*

*At the Matamula Park, which reactivated itself with the Lima League*

*What were your favorite games as a child?*

*La bata that resembles baseball, marbles, top, kites, cup and ball*

*Did you go to the movies?*

*It was forbidden to go when I was at the Lima Nikko. But I went frequently when I was in secondary school. My favorite movies were The Lone Ranger, The Mongo Invasion, The Green Hornet and many others.*

*What other things did you like?*

*Wrestling with Ulsamei, the Mountain Man, the champion, Antonio Roca, Joe Colbert. Then I found out it was Tongo and I didn't go anymore.*

*Tell us about your activities within the community.*

*First came baseball, we established the Jesús María Club in 1945. Manuel Kawashita, Kohatsu, Tanimoto, Kuzuma, Tajima, Santiago Sakay, the Morioka brothers, Koide, were all young players. We dedicated ourselves entirely to that sport. Of course we had social activities as well. Once a year we would go to a carnival party or participate as athletes in the Undokai.*

*Did that group participate in the 47-48 International Competitions?*

*Yes, it was in the Lima Bolivian Games at the Fanning fields (Lima Nikko). We were part of the national team together with Manuel Kawashita (catcher) and I was pretty good at it.*

*Then 9 of us went to the Brazil South American Championship in 1957.*

*What other activity have you developed within the community besides baseball?*

*I participated in a Koohaku Utaggasen organized by the Peruvian Japanese Women's Association, the*

Gerardo Maruy



*Fujikai It was the first event of its kind in Peru I was the captain of the white team We did so well that we were invited to the International Competitions at the Estadio La Unión And that's all folks! Ha! Ha!*

*What positions have you held?*

*First, I was President of the Jesús María League, then at the Peruvian Baseball Federation and later at the Peruvian Sports Institute Afterwards, I returned to the Federation where I have stayed up to now*

*Tell us about the Peruvian Japanese Association*

*They called me when Soei Yamakawa, who later became President, was there Then, the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commission called me about the Centennial*

*What has been your greatest satisfaction?*

*The 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, when the Junmai Center for the ojuchan and the Japanese Peruvian Theater were built*

*Do you have any hobbies?*

*Fishing in Huacho But I have hardly practiced*

*Tell us something about your business activities*

*I started with my brother in the store and I liked it I was lucky to establish myself in a wholesaler area behind Congress The establishment is called Maruy and it is well known for its shirts, socks and other articles*



*The Lima Baseball Team*



*Gerardo and Isabel Maruy*

*Do you have any political experience?*

*Once a Nikkei group called me to become a congressman, even though I wasn't fully convinced. They coaxed me, but it didn't work because it wasn't easy. Later I became the official candidate in the District of Jesús María for APRA during the municipal elections.*

*And what would you like to say about your wife Sawachan?*

*My greatest reward in life was to marry Isabel Sawako Saito. Her father was from Ibaraki and her mother from Nagasaki. There is no one from Ibaraki, luckily. (laughter)*

*How many children do you have?*

*Patricia, Natalia, Aldo, Bruno and Gino.*

*What do you expect of the Centennial?*

*Well, I hope that it will be a celebration for everybody of the Nikkei Community. I hope everyone enjoys it.*

*What would you like to say about the future of the Nikkei Community?*

*The Nikkei formation is in its schools and institutions. I see that they will prosper well.*

*Which would you choose as the most important, handing down values or the economic aspect?*

*Values.*

Thank you, Gerardo, for the satisfaction of this interview. Gerardo Maruy, a top sports leader, president of the governing body, who has had the double responsibility of being in charge of the 90<sup>th</sup> and the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commissions, a singer and master of ceremonies, with an excellent sense of humor. He is a successful entrepreneur, director of a newspaper and a benefactor of many welfare institutions. Fortunately for us, he has not been successful in politics.

## *Ichitaro Morimoto*

The Peruvian Japanese Community will always remember Ichitaro Morimoto with affection and gratitude because he was one of the great promoters of the Japanese Immigration to Peru

Ichitaro Morimoto was born in the City of Tottori on June 18, 1872. He studied at the Senkyo elementary school, at the Tottori School, at the Osaka Business School and Literature and English at the "Eybun" School in Tokyo. He fell ill in his fourth year of Law studies at the "Doshisha" Christian University of Kyoto and was forced to return to his hometown.

He was appointed head of the Japanese newspaper "Nichibei" for three years in the City of San Francisco. He returned to Japan in 1899 and started working at the Ozawa Import Export Company in Kyoto.

He married Yuki Shiotani at the age of 29. Three years later, he accepted Teikichi Tanaka's offer to work for him at his company and set off for Peru.

When Teikichi Tanaka's company went bankrupt, Morimoto opened a wicker furniture store on Nazarenas Street and then a store that sold Japanese arteles on the seventh block of Baquijano Street in Lima.

After a brief sojourn in Japan, he returned to Lima in 1917. He was a founding member of the Central Japanese Society and has been elected president five times.

In 1926, he was awarded the *La Orden del Sol* by President Leguía. He and his wife became citizens of Peru shortly after.

In 1933, he became General Manager of *Compañía Desmotadora Hualal S.A.*, a cotton ginning company. That same year he traveled to England, France, Italy, Egypt and Japan to make inquiries on business and industrial affairs.

He was deported to a concentration camp in Texas during World War II. Three years later, he returned to Peru and founded "Medi-Dent", a company specialized in dental equipment. He was also founder and



*Ichitaro Morimoto*

president of an agricultural company, *Compañía Agrícola Esmeralda S A* in Cañete He did not have any children of his own, he left a legacy of effort and dedication to his nephews and descendants

He felt a deep affection for Peru, which he considered his second homeland His philanthropic work was perpetuated when he donated 2,162 hectares of land in Tingo Maria to the Agricultural Youth Club under or SCIPA (1954)

This huge plot of land cost around half a million soles at that time It had approximately 30 million cubic feet of marketable wood resources

He donated 477 acres of land to the *Junta de Asistencia Nacional* and more than 55 thousand square meters of land in the District of El Agustino in Lima for poor children who earned their living selling newspapers He also sponsored a missionary school.

He was a promoter and the first President of the La Unión Stadium and was known to be very fond of young Nikkei sportsmen who admired him very much.

The following was his speech on the La Unión Stadium the day it was inaugurated

*The La Unión sports field should keep pace with our times It should not only be used by athletes to train, but also be a civic temple for future generations in which the motto "A healthy mind in a healthy body" will come true Our youth is our hope for tomorrow*

These beautiful prophetic words spoken by Ichitaro Morimoto, will linger in our memory over years to come



*Ichitaro Morimoto delivering a speech during the unveiling ceremony of the Manco Capac Statue*

## *Tsunekichi Ooshige*

The story of Tsunekichi Ooshige will never be equaled due to its unique characteristics

Tsunekichi Ooshige was born on March 6, 1878, in the City of Yanai-Shi, a region of Ooaza Yanaitsu in the Yamaguchi Prefecture. He was the third of five brothers and sisters. His mother was the eldest daughter of a Samurai family. She died at the age of 41, when he was barely 11 years old. Tsunekichi was unable to finish elementary school because he had to help with the housework. In addition, he had to work with his father at the candle factory, the family business. At the age of 17, he volunteered for the Navy. He had always dreamed of traveling abroad but he was not accepted because of his frail teeth. One day, he was returning from Koojiro when he met Momoi-san, a friend's father. He asked him if he would like to register to emigrate to Peru. Tsunekichi accepted and the man gave him an application form to fill out. It also had to have his father's seal or "Inkan" giving his authorization. His father would not give him the authorization, so one day, he took the "Inkan", sealed the application and took it to the Municipality. Afterwards, he told his father the truth and asked for his forgiveness. He promised him that when he had saved 500 yens he would return immediately. He finally convinced his father. He traveled by train from Yanai to Kobe. During the trip, a mother and her child got on the train and Tsunekichi gave her his seat. The woman turned out to be the wife of a hotel owner in Kobe. In gratitude for his kindness, they gave him lodging.

The trip to Yokohama was very difficult. When they arrived they were registered by the Morioka Company and put on board the Sakura Maru, on February 8, 1899.

In Kobe, each one was given a light-colored linen suit, socks, army shoes, a white shirt, a tie and a boater hat.

When they changed from the ship Ikaei Maru to the Sakura Maru, everyone protested because the latter was smaller and they thought it would sink. The Morioka representative convinced them that the Sakura Maru was a much safer ship. During the voyage, a mump epidemic broke out, which not only affected passengers but crewmembers as well. Tsunekichi did not get sick so he was put to work carrying coal and



*Tsunekichi Ooshige*

oiling the machines. When he arrived to Callao, he received 100 yens in reward. Some employees of the Morioka Company disembarked at this port. The ship continued its journey. In *Ancon*, some of the passengers went ashore and headed to the *Puente Piedra*, *Collique*, *Caudevilla*, *Vásquez* and *Santa Clara* Plantations. The rest of the immigrants disembarked in Supe, among them, Tsunekichi Ooshige. He had been assigned to the *Hacienda San Nicolás* like the rest of the people from Yamaguchi-Ken. Those who came from Hiroshima-Ken went to *Hacienda Huanto*. A few weeks later, many of them were dissatisfied and decided to quit the job. They got on board a train that took them to the Port of Supe. They managed to get on a cattle transporting ship bound for Callao. Some employees of the Morioka Company were expecting them. They were taken to a big house on Colón Street. Whenever they went out, people would stare at them curiously. One day, Mr. Tanaka paid them a visit and brought with him a very important person. It was Augusto B. Leguía, friend and classmate of Teikishi Tanaka and future President of Peru. He decided to take Tsunekichi to work at the house of his cousin's fiancée, Mercedes Ayulo. Later, he met her fiancé, Doctor Alejandro Puente Salcedo. When the couple got married, they took Tsunekichi and the housekeeper to their new home. Mercedes Ayulo de Puente hired a teacher to help Tsunekichi to read, write and speak Spanish.

He went through an unfortunate experience when his father did not receive the money he had saved, because of a corrupt employee.

In the summertime, the family would stay at their vacation house in Chorrillos. Tsunekichi would sit on a large rock warmed by the sun.

At the beginning of 1911, Mr. Puente offered to take him to England but Tsunekichi wanted to go to Japan. He stayed there for a year and a half. He got married but unfortunately his wife could not have children. He decided to return to Peru.

He continued working until the middle of 1916. He quit his job and again traveled to Japan. A few months later, he decided to return to Peru. His family accepted but only if he got married. So, he married Masumoto Shun in February 1917. He began working at Casa Kitsutani until it closed in 1928 when Seguma Kitsutani died. He and Masumoto had two boys, Antonio Tsunetaro and José Jiro and two girls, Mercedes Masako and Antonia Toshiko.

In summary, he led a quiet and happy life surrounded by happy events. Tsunekichi Ooshige died on May 15, 1951, in the City of Lima.



## *Victor Kazuki Tateishi Tateishi*

The present generation might not know who Victor Tateishi was

He came from a very humble family. When he was very young, he used to help his family selling okashi (Japanese pastries). He had to go from Chorrillos to Callao, that is, from one end of the city to another. He went by streetcar visiting the houses of Japanese families.

Ever since he was little he had problems in one of his eyes that lasted until he was an adult.

He was an outstanding student at the Lima Nikko Japanese School and belonged to the 5<sup>th</sup> graduating class. His classmates and teachers admired and respected him for his intelligence and leadership.

He was a good sportsman and in his youth he was part of the Shoren Club, a renowned sports club during the pre-war.

He later founded the Diamante Club. It excelled in baseball games played against the teams: Capital, Gigantes, Jesus Maria, among others. At Estadio La Union, this club won many football championships against clubs such as Cherry, Hinode, Sakura, Jose Gálvez, Unión Pacifico, San Agustín, among others.

His command of the Japanese language enabled him to work at the Japanese newspapers of that time.

His vocation of serving others and concern for abuses committed against Issei of that time (1940-1960) influenced his decision to study law at the *Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos*. His graduation was interrupted when, notwithstanding the fact that he was a Peruvian, he was unjustly taken to a concentration camp in the United States together with other Nikkei families.

He finally graduated when he returned. He became the first Nikkei lawyer who offered professional counseling to all members and institutions of the Japanese Community and the Embassy of Japan as well.



*Victor Kazuki Tateishi*

It is worth pointing out that few Nisei were professionals in those days

Eminent people of that time like Ichitaro Morimoto, Yoshisada Muramatsu, Fernando K. Sakata, Gonsuke Sugumar, Masaki Takuma, Eicho Higa, Wakamatsu Sakata, Senshun Yagui, Hidenaga Ikemiyashiro, Arturo K. Amemiya, Alberto and Pedro Nabeta, Katsuro Fukazawa, Ryoko Kiyohiro, Masakichi Gabe, Kaoru Hirata, Tomeo Aoki, Yasuzo Goto and many others would always go to his office for counseling and help

He was known for his generous and noble disposition. His fees were reasonable and he lived modestly.

He had an active participation during the visit of Olympic Japanese swimmers thanks to his many Brazilian Nikkei relatives and friends.

He offered his advice to purchase the plot of land for La Unión Stadium. He suggested that for security reasons, as a result of past experience for instance, expropriations and plunder, that the land should be purchased by a legal entity.

Since the Issei trusted him deeply, he was a member of almost all the Boards of Directors of *Estadio La Unión S.A.* This trust was also the reason why in 1961, the Issei board members decided that the management of the stadium would be transferred to the Nisei. Victor Tateishi was put in charge and he assumed the Presidency of *Asociación Estadio La Unión* during 1961, 1962 and 1963.

In 1958, Nisei who turned 21 were having problems obtaining their personal identification cards. When Victor Tateishi found out about this serious inconvenience he summoned a group of older Nisei to help solve the problem. After many months of endless efforts, the Electoral Committee had to revoke its arbitrary decision and issue the document that accredited Nisei as Peruvians. Once more, Victor Tateishi had indefatigably worked to abolish an act of unfairness.

During General Velasco's military government, many Nikkei had problems enrolling in secondary state schools. Victor Tateishi actively encouraged the construction of a school within the premises of *Estadio La Unión* so young Nikkei could continue through high school. Today, the school *Colegio Cooperativo La Unión* is a wonderful reality and helps to form excellent professionals and citizens.

During the celebrations of the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Japanese Immigration to Peru in 1979, thanks to one of Mr. Tateishi's wonderful

ideas, the First Symposium on the Japanese Immigration was organized by *Asociación Estadio La Unión*, the Lima Nikko Alumni Association and the Peruvian Japanese Association and sponsored by the Embassy of Japan

Representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, the United States and Peru participated in this event. As a result of this symposium, Mexico organized the first Pan-American Nikkei Convention in 1981. It was agreed during the meeting that the Pan-American Nikkei Association would be created and this was made formal at the end of that same year at *Estadio La Unión*

Today, thanks to Mr. Tateishi's initiative, the Pan-American Nikkei Association has united Nikkei from the entire continent.

In merit of his great contribution in benefit of the Nikkei Community of Peru and Japan, the Government of Japan bestowed him with the Sacred Treasure Order, the Golden Rays and the Rosetta in the 4<sup>th</sup> degree

Victor Kazuki Tateishi Tateishi died on August 22, 1981. He left behind his self-sacrificing wife Viviana Fusako Saito de Tateishi, his two sons Víctor and Luis, married to Luisa Takechi and Rosa Serruto respectively and six grandchildren: Viviana and Victor Tateishi Takechi and Luis, Victor Gustavo, Francisco and Fernando Tateishi Serruto

May the celebrations for the Centennial of the Japanese Immigration to Peru help us remember people like Victor Kazuki Tateishi Tateishi with gratitude, nostalgia and sincere affection. They gave so much of themselves without asking for anything in return, always showing their generosity and vocation to serve others of the Nikkei Community



*Dr. Makoto Tsuneshige at his office*

## *Makoto and Sadako Tsuneshige*

The Constitutional Province of Callao represents the point of arrival of the *Sakura Maru* and 81 other ships that brought Japanese Immigrants to Peru. With time, it became a place where several activities flourished.

One of those distinguished persons of the port was Makoto Tsuneshige and his lifetime companion Sadako Fukuda. They arrived from the Yamaguchi Prefecture in 1917 and 1921, respectively.

After working in the north of Peru at *Hacienda Roma*, he and his wife settled in Callao. They lived on Saloom Street 118, in a house built of adobe and reed. It had a small balcony and a flat roof where he kept his treasured fighting cocks in wooden cages among flowerpots. According to him, his cocks were the "Japanese shamū" specie crossed-bred with the English and Chilean type because of their speed.

He had many neighbors and friends. He lived across the street from the market place and half

a block from Saenz Peña Avenue where there were many Japanese-owned businesses. For example there were the Ishibashi Kinzo, Tagata Yukino and Takazawa Kīno's stores, the Nakamura Bungo and Aguenta Chotoku's dairies, the small neighborhood restaurant of Ueda, the Furuya Kesaharu noodle factory, Miyasato Kamekichi's glass store, later owned by Kesakichi Ajito, Iwaichi Naganuma laundry shop, Suguiyama Kinsaku and Mazuno's carpenter shop, Miyagui and Uyema's stores, Matsukawa Guentaki and Uza Tokusei barber shops, the hardware stores owned by Inayoshi, Watanabe and Miyano and Nakandakari and Ikehara Kojiroo photo studios.

Tsuneshige was the only "docutoru san" (doctor) in Callao, which included *Haciendas San Agustín, Bocanegra, Taboada, Oquendo Santa Rosa* and *Marqués*. His knowledge of epidemiology, pharmacology and internal medicine permitted him to offer assistance to the Japanese

population of the port. He also gave his support to students of the Callao Nihonjin Shogakko (José Galvez)

He did not have a fixed working schedule since his services were required at odd hours. Sometimes he had to get out of bed in the middle of the night to go see a sick patient.

He would often have to travel in trucks in the dark over dirt roads used by pack animals rather than vehicles to go see a patient at an hacienda. He had to endure jolts, bounces and just

At one time he had to go see a two-year old little girl who lived in a reed house with a dirt floor, lighted by a kerosene lamp. They had to pump water and the room had a long table with wooden benches. The little girl's breathing was agitated, her eyes were watery and she had a constant cough that prevented her from falling asleep. The diagnosis was pneumonia. The doctor put some medicine in his aerosol equipment to help her breathe.

He prepared the medicine in his small laboratory. He had a small milligram weighing scale, test tubes, beakers, flasks and a mortar. He would measure and weigh the ingredients for each ailment.

He would purchase the ingredients for his pharmaceutical preparations from Carlos del Pozo, a chemist and pharmacist owner of the *Humanitaria* drugstore. He would get medical counseling from his great friend Doctor Alfredo Porras, Head of the Milk Program at the Health-Service Clinic and Director of *La Beneficiencia*.

His fishing hobby is another chapter of his life. He was always elegantly dressed and was very eloquent and well spoken. He was very punctual and would often repeat *Don't be late for your appointments, always respect other people's time*. He was loved for his respectability, ethics and charisma.

He was a friend of many eminent people of the community. There are pictures of him and Seguma Kitsutani, Ichitaro Morimoto, Sentei Yaki, Nonosuke Murono, Tadao Taniguchi, Yoshisada Muramatsu, Eichō Higa, grandfathers Diro Hasegawa and Kiso san, Naganuma, Nakamura Bungo, Kintaro Ichiki, Tagata, Faustino Sakata, Nakanishi Senkichi, Nashiro Shuzo, Yuzuriha, Fukazawa Katsuro, just to mention a few. There were also his fishing friends: Kiyari, Kina, Tsuchikame, Matsukawa; the cock-fighting circle

Mr and Mrs. Tsuneshige with sons Roberto and Juan



Aguena, Asato, Chavez, Albarracín and Cárdenas who worked at the port and “Don Pedrito”, a hot herbal beverage street vendor

He was a baseball promoter together with Akimoto at the Cherry Club

He founded Boocho, the current Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Association of Peru

The Medical Association of Peru awarded him a diploma as a posthumous homage acknowledging his work in benefit of the Peruvian Community, through National Council Resolution N° 1815-CN-99, in October 1999, by Doctor Maximiliano Cárdenas Díaz, Dean of the Medical Association of Peru

His wife, Sadako, brought the first “Koto” (a horizontal string instrument) to Peru in 1921. She was a pioneer in playing and teaching the instrument. She participated with her occasional students in various artistic events. Everyone remembers the events organized by Luis Shimazaki who played the violin, Mr. Okada on the shakuhachi, (flute), Mrs. Ichikawa on the shamisen (a three-string musical instrument) and Mrs. Carmen Rosa Shimazaki who performed the dance.

Her students Shizuka (who recently passed away) and Kioka, daughters of Iwaichi Naganuma, still remembered her and have taught their daughters.

Makoto and Sadako knew how to instill the greatest legacy to their children through education and their invaluable contribution of principles and values.



*Music Festival  
Shizuka and Kioka Naganuma  
(koto) Mrs. Ichikawa  
(shamisen) and  
Mr. Okada  
(shakuhachi)*

## *Sentei Yaki*

Even though he is far away in time, he is acknowledged here in our hearts

On the night of November 3, 1997, during the celebration of the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Foundation of the Japanese Peruvian Association of Peru, each of the former presidents was awarded a diploma and a pennant with the emblem of the Peruvian Japanese Association. In this way, the members of the Executive Council expressed their gratitude at this unforgettable ceremony.

Children and relatives of the late pioneers were deeply moved as they received the award in their name. It symbolized their work in benefit of the institution and the Nikkei Community.

It was a valuable incentive for the still vigorous former presidents and the second generation nisei who follow in the path of the Immigration Centennial.

It was gratifying to see Germán Yaki after so many years. It was like going back to the past and seeing the tall figure of Sentei Yaki, his father, one of the great pioneers of the immigration. He sheltered and offered material and spiritual help to many immigrants.

Sentei Yaki introduced the «tanomoshi», a savings and loan system, into Peru. It allowed immigrants to have new opportunities after their contracts expired as farm hands on the green sugar cane fields. The commitment was based on keeping one's word.

He was the first president of the Okinawan Fraternal Association. He was also member of the Central Japanese Society. Both entities had the privilege of benefiting from his erudite knowledge in addition to his service vocation and kindness. He was a pacifier by nature. He brought the community together during disagreements.

I had the privilege of knowing him when «Grandpa» Diro Hasegawa took me to the fabulous store *Pluma de Oro*, in the heart of Abancay Avenue. It was quite a thrill!

The shelves of the store were beautifully decorated with stationary, a variety of loose-leaf folders that were in fashion those days for college



*Sentei Yaki*

students, the unaffordable gold Parker pen, which came in a box with a gold pencil as well, the Esterbrook fountain pen with exchangeable numbered pen tips, a wide range of inkwells and inks. Parker, Waterman, Pelikan, slide rulers, and a spinning world map. It was a dazzling sight.

On another shelf at the other side of the store, sports gear was displayed: a round football ball without a valve or laces, a fantastic basketball, gloves, baseball bats and balls, tennis and ping pong rackets, different kinds of weights, knee pads, suspenders, ankle supports among other objects. Everything one could get at the end of the summer job. I could imagine myself dressed in a multicolored sweatshirt and pants wearing studded football shoes or famous spiked shoes.

I can remember the male personnel wearing ties. These were Roberto Yanagi and Augusto Shimose on the first long shelf with the desk chief Juan Yokoyama. I remember the women in their dusters, Alicia Takata, Rosa Nakashima, Carmen Inoue and Zoyla Shironoshita deftly and quickly attending the huge crowd of customers. Other attendants were Furushio, Oscar Kaneshigue, Pedro Minami, among others. At the cash register, Angelita Murayama later substituted by Rosita Tome and Irma Watanabe. Shizutoshi Miyasaki was at the head of the sports section. There was also young Terukina and Germán Yaki and Andrés Nakaya worked in the Accounting Department. Close by, Alejandro Moriyama was in charge of arranging the pens on the shelf.

I see the tall figure of Mr. Sentei Yaki, with his fine glasses and beautiful tie, walking through the store watching the work of each of his close collaborators.

I remember counting the wrapping paper that came in packages of a hundred. I had to climb up a small ladder to reach books and notebooks on the large shelf and hand them down to the attendants. This was the

first task of occasional helpers. At the end of the day, the merchandise sold was replaced on the shelves again, the store was swept and then we went home on the streetcar. Then there was teatime of course. Each one had a sandwich bought at the Anya brothers' restaurant (Julio, a nose, ear and throat doctor at the Polyclinic). At the end of a sales campaign, we would go to a Chinese restaurant or to the restaurant at the corner to celebrate our success.

*Sentei Yaki surrounded by  
La Pluma de Oro staff*







*Sentei Yaki and personnel of La Pluma de Oro during a field trip*

After a few weeks, I was already familiar with my tasks thanks to the support of the permanent personnel and I began selling too

Mr. Sentei Yaki treated me with deference thanks to his friendship with my father and «Grandpa» Hiro. We spoke in Japanese and sometimes he would have me run special errands for him.

He was an excellent administrator who took care of the possessions of the founding members, Murono and Ohashi, its owners were in the United States. Their attorney, Diro Hasegawa, represented them.

Germán, Andrés and Oscar, sportsmen of the famous Cherry Club, would tell me about their adventures and activities, including the fabulous carnival dances of that time.

Alejandro Moriyama of the San Jose Club, used to play ping-pong at the famous «*quinta*» (a group of town houses with a common entrance) where numerous Japanese lived who at one time gave glory to Peru.

Germán Yaki was not only a member of the Cherry Club but was also a member of the board of the Catholic Cultural Association in the 50s. After he traveled to the United States and graduated. He was part of the managing staff at Sears in San Isidro. He earned great prestige that took him to Brazil on his way to success.

We met twice. First at the funeral of one of the great glories of our national sport, Humberto Suguimizu, who has been named one of the greatest Nikkei sportsmen. Now, during this 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, which has permitted us to relive our memories again, we wish to tell him that our friendship is everlasting.



*Soei Yamakawa and his wife Shizuko*

## *Soei Yamakawa*

He is remembered at the Peruvian Japanese Association of Callao as a bright President with a marked vocation to serve others, a concern for the children's and young people's education, family members of the community that lived in the Port of Callao.

He was a patient, altruistic, intelligent and enterprising president during his administration of the Peruvian Japanese Association's main entity

Soei Yamakawa was born in the paradisiacal island of Okinawa on October 30, 1917. He arrived to Peru at the age of 17. He worked at his brother's store on Malambitos Street. Afterwards, he established a soy sauce factory, "Yamakawa Kyodai"

After the misadventures of World War II that affected all the Japanese people, he found his way again thanks to his efforts and dedication. This time, he established a soft drink factory in 1947.

He married Shizuko Tsuja in 1948 and established an alcohol factory in Barranco, near the famous Balta movie theater.

He purchased a big plot of land on Argentina Avenue in Callao and transferred his soft drink factory called *Kola-Callao Las Chacaritas*.

During the anchovy boom, Mr. Yamakawa founded a corporation called *Peruvian Pacific Fishery* that produced fishmeal.

Later he purchased two fishing boats, San Isidro I and II with another objective in mind, to supply his own factory now called *Ocean Perú*.

It is worth pointing out that their Imperial Highnesses, Prince Akihito and Princess Michiko had a chance to visit the famous *Ocean Perú* fishmeal-processing factory installed in the Port of Callao. It was during the Prince and Princess' visit to Peru in 1967 when they attended the inauguration of the Peruvian Japanese Cultural Center.

He bought shares in the San Antonio Fish Cannery that was later expropriated during Velasco Alvarado's Government.

Soei Yamakawa was Chairman of the Board of *Pescandina* (formerly *Victoria del Mar*), and also of the former whaler company Kinkai, a subsidiary of the multi-national Japanese company New Nippo (Nihon Hogen)

He is former President of Motobu Chojinkai and the Nikkei Cultural Foundation, among others

In merit of his work in benefit of the community in general, the Government of Japan presented him with a medal in 1987.

He and his wife, Shizuko, had the joy of sharing a family together with their children: Isabel, Ana, Nelly, Héctor and Hugo. Each have become successful professionals

Isabel nicknamed *Chabela* is an official of the Japanese airline company ANA at its operation center in the United States

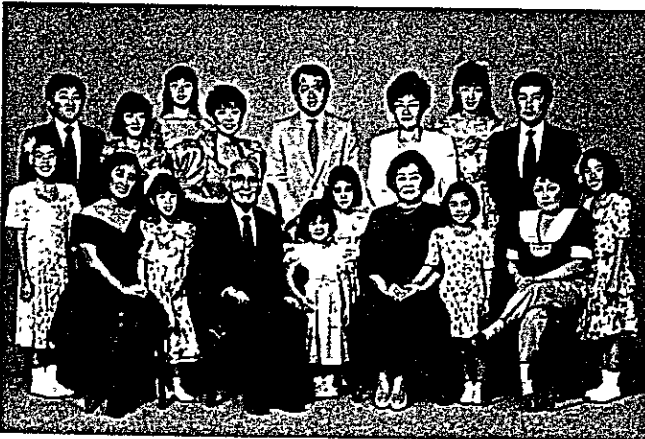
Nelly (Akemi) is a businesswoman in Los Angeles.

Hugo (Masito) is manager of the kamaboko manufacturing company, also in the United States

Ana (Mitchan) is a well-known entrepreneur in Lima

Héctor is a director at AELU and ANC He is a former executive of *Minero Perú* and has currently started a business growing *Camu Camu*, a tropical fruit that grows in the jungle of Pucallpa

Soei Yamakawa was an exceptional man, a counselor and friend who left us his legacy...a path for us to follow



*The Yamakawa Family*







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## *Nikkei Identity and Integration*

*Since the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to Peru up to World War II, Nikkei were referred to as "japonesitos". After the war, Nikkei wanted their offspring to be recognized as full-fledged Peruvians since this was their fatherland*

*One of the first ways of demonstrating national pride for Peru was to become involved in sports, and the Nikkei gradually became members of national sports teams*

*Nikkei earnestly tried to blend with Peruvians through the arts and other cultural and professional activities. The first and most outstanding artists were painters*

## *Sports, the first door towards national identity*

Sports allowed the Nikkei to demonstrate their sense of pride and national identity as Peruvians as members of the national sports teams

The first Nikkei that had the honor of representing Peru were baseball players. Our ancestors brought the love for this sport from faraway Japan and it was the most popular sport among the immigrants and practiced in every Japanese school. It was the most popular sport among the Nisei of that time who actually played very well, so much so, that 80% of the national team was made up of Nikkei. Some we remember are: Manuel Inokuchi, Jorge Ouchida, Carlos Gabe, Carlos Fuchikami, Gerardo Maruy, Antonio Fukushima, Luis Takechi, Manuel Kawashita, Manuel Ugamoto, Héctor Koga, Javier Shiraishi, Luis Matsuda, Arturo Kakutani, Eduardo Maruyama, Carlos Hayashida, Andrés Saito, Manuel Nakahara, Victor Yoshikata and César Gabe.

Other members of Peru's team were: Ernesto Moromisato, Teruo Agarie, Jorge Aoki, Edmundo Aoki, Teruo Okuma, Nelson Okuma, Aldo Maruy, Bruno Maruy, Gino Maruy, Enrique Sakoda, Datchi Sano, Milton Shirakawa, Arturo Kakutani Jr., Takashi Soeda, Rafael Chang, Gerardo Umemoto, Marco Miyasaki, Luis Okuma and the brothers Milton and Jean Higuchi.

The Nikkei pre-junior and junior baseball teams have also had the honor of winning national baseball championships in the junior and pre-junior

and children's leagues.

In this last category, they became the South American champions in 1994.

Nikkei have excelled in other sports and have successfully represented Peru. Humberto Sugumizu has been World Sub-Champion in Billiard twice, in addition to the Pan-American Champion, Latin American Champion,

*Second place at the I' South American Championship Sao Paulo - Brazil 1957*

