

Oral Hist.

and Each

Oral Histories

THE FIRST JAPANESE AMERICAN

AT DWP

ERNEST TAKUICHI FUKUDA

Interviewed by Dick Nelson

One of a series of oral histories covering the growth and development of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power as seen by the participants - its employees.

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Produced by

Special Projects Section
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Biographical Notes

Ernest Takuichi Fukuda

Born in Aiea, Oahu, Hawaii on July 14, 1903.

Parents: Kikumatsu and Yasu Fukuda.

Brothers and Sisters: One sister and two older brothers.

Married: Doris Asano Tanaka, August 3, 1929, at Los Angeles, California.

Children: One son, Paul, and four daughters, Dorothy, Mary, Irene and Shirley.

Grandchildren: Ten.

Schooling: Graduated from USC in 1927 with a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering.

DWP Background: Was the first Japanese-American to be employed by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. Entered DWP service April 23, 1928 as a Junior Topographical Draftsman. Retired on September 30, 1967 as a Civil Engineering Associate.

This is to certify that I have reviewed this transcript and attest that it is true and accurate. Also, by my witnessed signature below, I grant the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, or its designee(s), sole right to use this material in any way, and for any purpose, it deems appropriate.

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TAPE NUMBER: 1, SIDE ONE

ERNEST TAKUICHI FUKUDA

GIVEN MONDAY, APRIL 22, 1991

AT

HIS HOME IN GARDENA, CALIFORNIA

THE INTERVIEWER IS DICK NELSON

NELSON: Okay Ernie, are you ready?

FUKUDA: Yes, I am ready.

NELSON: Would you for the tape, give us an idea of where you were born and growing up and where you went to school?

FUKUDA: I was born in Aiea, Oahu, Hawaii on July 14, 1903. After graduating from McKinley High School in Honolulu, I went to the University of California, Southern branch at N. Vermont Avenue. It's UCLA now. After two years, I transferred to the University of Southern California. I finished my civil engineering at USC in 1927. Two weeks before graduating professor Robert M. Fox, USC's advisor of engineering students called me to his office and said, "I can get you a job as a surveyor's helper with a petroleum company." "Before graduation?" I reminded him. Professor Fox said, "I can take care of that and you can graduate." I replied, "I appreciate it very much and want to take it, but I have a plan to start a large farm with my two older brothers. My oldest brother can take care of the business of farming and finance and my second brother can take care of the office accounting and I will take care of the field work and irrigation and leveling and survey work." When I approached my older brothers with my plan, they felt that it was too premature. They were not quite prepared to take any big adventure plan that I had.

In the 1920's it was very difficult for Japanese-American college graduates to be hired in any position in private engineering companies. I personally found it to be true when I applied for jobs at many engineering companies in Los Angeles. In November 1927, I went to USC student employment office. The woman clerk in the office told me, "The customs broker needs a Japanese student who is taking foreign trade or economic course as a part-time worker. If you want to try it, I'll give you the name and the address of the company." "Yes, give it to me, I'll try

it. I went to see the customs broker immediately. He asked me, "What did you take up at school?" "I took civil engineering," I said. He said, "Oh no. Engineering has nothing to do with our business. I'm sorry I can't use you." I was silent for a minute then I said, "Yes, I took civil engineering course at USC and graduated and received my degree in B.S. in C.E., but how can you say, "I can't use you" unless you try me first?" He looked at me for a moment and said, "You are right. Here's your desk and you are hired. You can come only half a day, we will pay you half the regular pay." I said, "That's okay since it is my first job, I'll work regular eight hours and try to learn as much as possible." The customs broker needed a Japanese student because he was very busy with the Japanese import board business especially during the Christmas and New Year period. I learned a great deal about import and the relationship between the customs broker and the customs officials.

November, December and January were very busy months for the customs broker, but after February, the import business was very slow. In the middle of February I was laid off, but a week after being laid off I took a civil engineering draftsman's examination given by the City of Los Angeles. I passed.

NELSON: Okay, let me ask you some questions here regarding what you have said. While you were attending UCLA and USC, you lived with your brothers?

FUKUDA: I lived with my older brother, George, at the Japanese student's club near USC. Frank, our oldest brother, was in the Imperial Valley at El Centro. Tuition was very high and for both of us to go to USC. Older brother, George, said, "Why don't you go to UCLA" at north Vermont Avenue. It's a L.A. City college now.

NELSON: That was the original campus of UCLA?

FUKUDA: Yes, so I went there. Since I was not born in California, they charged me tuition, but it was not as high as USC. So I went there for two years.

NELSON: Where did you live at that time? You were living with your brothers?

FUKUDA: I lived at the Japanese Student co-op near USC with my brother and there were about 15 students there.

NELSON: It was in a big home?

FUKUDA: Yes, a big home. Three-story building with one bedroom on the third floor.

NELSON: The attic.

FUKUDA: Yes and it was only about a couple hundred feet from USC campus on 30th Street.

NELSON: Then when you attended USC you remained in those same quarters? You lived in those same quarters?

FUKUDA: I lived in the same quarters with the students who went to USC and I went to UCLA.

NELSON: Then after two years you transferred to USC?

FUKUDA: By that time, my older brother had graduated from SC.

NELSON: You talked about your dream at that time was having the farm with your brothers.

FUKUDA: My older brother what he did was before harvest time, he went around and looked at the farm. He worked for Eagle Packing Company as a buyer so he bought by acreage and the company paid the farmers at harvest time, they brought all the farm produce to the packing shed and his employer shipped that to Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, and those places.

NELSON: Where did you want your farm to be located?

FUKUDA: Imperial Valley.

NELSON: Had you been there?

FUKUDA: Oh, yes. My brothers farmed in the Imperial Valley and one year it was very good so my two older brothers decided to send their younger brother, me, to school and decided to come to Hawaii to see the parents and me. The older one said, "I'm going to take you to Los Angeles and send you to college." Surprise. I was going to register at the University of Hawaii, but came to L.A. with them and went to UCLA and then after one year my older brother had graduated from USC so after I finished two years in UCLA, I transferred to USC—they only had two year courses in those days at UCLA

NELSON: Did you work while attending school?

FUKUDA: No. After I graduated I had to look for a job so I tried a couple private engineers, but in those days it was very hard for Orientals to get the job. I heard about this customs broker so I went to see him. The first thing he asked me was what did you take at college. I said, "I took civil engineering." He said, "Oh we have nothing to do with engineering. I can't use you." So I thought for a moment and I said, "How can you say you can't use me unless you try me first?" He looked at me and said, "You have a point there. Okay, you are hired!"

NELSON: You remember that was only a half pay time, but you said you devoted your full time to learn the business. Do you remember what the pay was?

FUKUDA: About \$3 a day.

NELSON: And that job was at L.A. Harbor, at San Pedro or was it downtown Los Angeles?

FUKUDA: This broker had the office in an old building at Second and Spring so every time the ship came in from Japan, the broker gets the bill of lading from the Japanese importers and figures out the import taxes and all that and sometimes he gave me the job to figure that out. Then I had to go out and see each importer and get the money from them.

NELSON: How come you pursued an engineering background, got your degree, but wanted to go into farming?

FUKUDA: In farming my oldest brother could manage and the second brother could take care of the bookkeeping in the office and I take care of the field work having an engineering

NELSON: Irrigation systems and things like that. Your engineering would have been valuable.

FUKUDA: Yes and that's the plans that I had. That's why I didn't take the job offer from the professor.

NELSON: That was in 1928 then you were hired by the Department of Water and Power?

FUKUDA: After working for the private industry, I decided to try government work, engineering, and I found out that the only way to do this is to take the examination. So when I heard about this Water and Power job, I went to the City Hall to find out and I got the application and applied for the civil service examination. I passed I started from Assistant Draftsman.

NELSON: Junior Topographical Draftsman?

FUKUDA: Yes. I had to start from the bottom to take the examination so I started from the bottom. Fortunately I passed and then I got the call so I went for the interview and that was at Ducommun. Mr. Goit interviewed me and he hired me. That's how I got the job.

NELSON: Who was your first supervisor?

FUKUDA: Mr. Carl Bascom. He was a very nice fellow.

NELSON: You worked at the Ducommun Street office at that time?

FUKUDA: Yes.

NELSON: How did you get to and from work? Did you have a car or did you use a street car?

FUKUDA: No I didn't have a car in those days so I took a street car and got off at First and Alameda, then walked north about three blocks to the office.

NELSON: Do you remember the hours at that time?

FUKUDA: It was 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We started half an hour early because the water department working crew had to go out early before the traffic got heavy, so we started half an hour early to get all the papers ready for the foremen and the superintendents because they had to leave by 7:30 a.m.

NELSON: Was that a five day a week or six day, at that time?

FUKUDA: Five day.

NELSON: When was then your first promotion after that from Junior Topographical Draftsman?

FUKUDA: After working there for a couple months, the senior topographical draftsman examination was offered. So I took that and passed and Mr. Goit promoted me.

NELSON: And you remained at Ducommun?

FUKUDA: Yes.

NELSON: Did you then supervise, at that time, other draftsmen?

FUKUDA: No, I didn't supervise. My boss at that time was Mr. Carl Bascom. And then he took superintendent's job in the valley. He passed that examination. So Mr. Rener took Bascom's place. I took and passed the senior topographical examination and they promoted me.

NELSON: Was that Al Rener?

FUKUDA: Yes, Alexander Rener.

NELSON: He moved on up, promoted up into the water system as years went by, didn't he?

FUKUDA: Yes. So by that time Al Renner was in charge of the office and then Bascom became in charge of the whole group.

NELSON: Where were you living at that time?

FUKUDA: I was living with my folks. My folks came from Hawaii after I had graduated and so we lived near 35th and Normandie.

NELSON: So you were in the family home at that time?

FUKUDA: Yes, we rented the home.

NELSON: What business was your father in?

FUKUDA: My father was a farmer. When I went to high school, soon as the afternoon class was over, I had to come home right away to work in the farm...but I enjoyed it very much.

NELSON: Where did you learn English?

FUKUDA: We went to English school in Hawaii.

NELSON: You spoke Japanese at home and English so you learned both languages together?

FUKUDA: The English class started at 9:00 a.m. so we had to go to Japanese school early in the morning and start the class at 7:00 a.m. No! Earlier than that, about 6:30 a.m. and then we had to get out a half an hour before the English school started and the English school was about a mile away.

NELSON: Those were long days!

FUKUDA: Yes, those were long days. I am glad I went to Japanese school and learned some Japanese characters and all that because it came in very handy and when I came here, my new friends asked me, "How did you learn how to speak Japanese so good?"

NELSON: Where did you meet your wife and how did you two get along, and how did she get over here and all that?

FUKUDA: Her older brother, Emory, same age with me, went to school together, grammar school and high school. I came here to L.A. to go to school and he came to Los Angeles and he worked in the fruit stand as a salesman. Then later he started his own business after about a couple or three years. About the time I graduated, he started his own fruit stand in Santa Ana. So I helped him on the weekends. He needed the help but the first few months it was hard for him to pay the helpers so I helped him for a few months whenever I had free time. Then it was really hard for a single man to cook and go to work. His younger sister was in Hawaii too so she came here to help him. That's how I got to meet her and after about couple years, we got married.

NELSON: Where did you live after you were married?

FUKUDA: We lived in Los Angeles, 35th and Normandie. About three years later, we moved to 30th and Western.

NELSON: Near your parents, or with your parents?

FUKUDA: My father passed away early and my mother lived with us for a couple of years.

NELSON: So during the 1930's you were taking tests and moving up in the Department, different jobs? What were you doing after you became a senior draftsman?

FUKUDA: I got married to Doris after helping her older brother at his fruit stand. Then after we were married, she got pregnant and after that she never worked.

NELSON: She worked at the fruit stand at Santa Ana?

FUKUDA: Yes.

MRS. FUKUDA: Santa Ana, yes. I was helping my brother a lot. It was a fruit stand in Santa Ana, Fourth Street, I think.

NELSON: What were you doing at that time? What were the jobs that you were involved in with the Department of Water and Power that you remember during those times, during the 1930's?

FUKUDA: That was just drafting. The field crew installed the water main and they had to report to us so we took that report and put it on the map in ink.

NELSON: The exact location of the pipe, streets, or whatever?

FUKUDA: Yes, location, size and the fittings and where the fire hydrants are and all that.

NELSON: Who was your boss at that time, or who were your co-workers? Do you remember them at that time?

FUKUDA: We had the office up at Ducommun because we had to have a close contact with a foreman. Sometimes they reported their work but it was hard for us to understand, so we'd get in contact with them, especially in the morning before they go out. So we had to go to the office early in the morning.

NELSON: In those early days, do you ever remember seeing William Mulholland?

FUKUDA: I never saw him personally, no.

NELSON: What about Harvey Van Norman?

FUKUDA: Van Norman, I think I saw him a few times.

NELSON: Not to speak to or to be involved with though?

FUKUDA: Not about the job, no. The gap was too much.

NELSON: There at Ducommun, you were doing the drafting for the whole system? All of Los Angeles or just one section, one district?

FUKUDA: At that time it was one district. But it got so busy that it was divided into Hollywood, Central, Harbor and the San Fernando Valley, four districts. I got promoted and became a draftsman and then they divided the four districts into two, San Fernando Valley, Hollywood, Central and Harbor. So I got the San Fernando and the Harbor and Mr. Peters got Central and Hollywood.

NELSON: What was the gentleman's name?

FUKUDA: Mr. Frances Peters.

NELSON: So basically each of your sections did the same work, but for the different districts, same type of work?

FUKUDA: Yes, except different area.

NELSON: But that work was still done at Ducommun? You did not have to go to the Valley?

FUKUDA: Once in a while I went to the Valley and the San Pedro office to see if the reports are shown on the map. We had a big map, district map we used to call it.

NELSON: To make sure that those changes and additions had been added to it and bring it up to date?

FUKUDA: Yes. Then it got to a point where the job was getting piled up in the San Pedro office so that I was transferred there temporarily. The Valley office had an assistant draftsman. I had to bring the map up to date so that the superintendents knew where to go and where to install pipe. I went to that very nice office for a few months.

NELSON: You were living where at that time?

FUKUDA: In Los Angeles.

NELSON: So you took a Department vehicle?

FUKUDA: I drove my own car.

NELSON: This work in San Pedro, it was pretty much full time. You were just assigned to that office and because of the vast amount of work there was enough to keep somebody busy all day working at that?

FUKUDA: Yes, I got a DWP car from the garage every day. Then in San Pedro, we were so far behind that Mr. Goit said to me, "I'm going to send you to the San Pedro office every day to keep the map up to date." So I went down there for about a couple of months and he gave me mileage. In those days it was \$.06 a mile. So every day I had to report the mileage.

NELSON: You were driving your own car at that time?

FUKUDA: Yes, I was driving my own car.

NELSON: What kind of a car was that?

FUKUDA: Model T Ford.

NELSON: Good running?

FUKUDA: Yes, no trouble.

NELSON: Then what happened? You were, after drafting down at San Pedro, where did you go?

FUKUDA: I kept it up to date and then a draftsman was hired to go there and the draftsman took care of the San Pedro office. Same thing at the Van Nuys office.

NELSON: So you went back and continued working at Ducommun then after you had finished this?

FUKUDA: Yes.

NELSON: You had mentioned to me earlier, Ernest, that you were the first Japanese-American to be hired by the Department of Water and Power or the City of Los Angeles?

FUKUDA: Department of Water and Power and the City of Los Angeles. I was the first Japanese-American.

NELSON: To come on in a permanent job?

FUKUDA: Yes. So after a few years, other Japanese-Americans got the job, in other words I "broke the ice."

NELSON: You were the "trail blazer."

FUKUDA: Yes.

TAPE NUMBER: 1, SIDE TWO

ERNEST TAKUICHI FUKUDA

NELSON: Okay Ernest, we are getting through the 1930's from the drafting work that you did in the Harbor area, then you went back to Ducommun. You continued as a Senior Draftsman there, then what happened?

FUKUDA: Maybe if we can start from the time when the war broke out.

NELSON: Okay. Where were you on that day?

FUKUDA: Sunday I was at home at 30th and Western and we heard about Pearl Harbor and then Monday morning, I was kind of scared to go to the office. I drove an old Ford car and I was afraid that someone might attack me, but anyway I went. I was driving First Street going east at First and San Pedro the streetcar stopped so the passengers could get off. So I had to stop. Then one fellow who worked in the same office, saw me so he got off the street car and came to my car and got onto my car on the passenger side. I didn't see him. I heard someone opening the door, so I thought someone was going to attack me, it was a fellow worker. He sure scared me that time.

At the office, the boys were kind of quiet. We started work at 7:30 a.m., a half an hour earlier than the other offices because we had to take care of the field foremen and superintendents. So when I walked into the office, I didn't know what to expect, but when I walked in this fellow, Mike O'Neil...I didn't know what to expect, but when I opened the door, Frances Peters was right there and he looked at me and said, "Ernest, we are all for you."

Then I went to my table and the bell rang to work. There was a radio going on. So the boys stood around the radio listening to President Roosevelt making a speech on the war. We just stood there and listened to his speech, but the fellow workers never said a word to me. They just said hello and that's all. And I didn't know what to expect, but they were nice.

NELSON: Both of your families had many relatives and family member in Hawaii, but none of them were injured in the attack were they? There were some civilians that were hurt.

FUKUDA: No.

NELSON: So you continued working and there were no problems at your job?

FUKUDA: No.

NELSON: Good. Did you sense among the people who lived out here, were there any problems there?

FUKUDA: You mean the neighbors? No. I lived at 30th and Western and that was all Japanese and Caucasian and no ill-feelings. Everybody was nice.

NELSON: Then what happened?

FUKUDA: We worked for a few weeks, maybe about six months or so and then we had the order from the President to put us in the camp. I think the Mayor called all the division heads and had the meeting and since President Roosevelt decided to evacuate us, so all the division heads laid us off. We just got a notice from a certain day we are laid off.

NELSON: Was it indicated at that time that you would come back to work at some time in the future?

FUKUDA: We didn't know about that, but we were evacuated.

NELSON: How many, let me interrupt, how many Japanese-Americans were at the Department of Water and Power at that time? Do you have an idea of how many were working there?

FUKUDA: Maybe about five or six. I think the Mayor called the meeting of all the department heads and since the President

decided to evacuate us, the Mayor and the division heads agreed and we were laid off.

NELSON: So you came home not knowing what was going to happen tomorrow?

FUKUDA: Yes, we did not know what was going to happen. Then we got the order from the government to get ready to be sent to a camp.

NELSON: How did that order come? Did someone knock on your door? In the mail? You heard it?

FUKUDA: I think it was just from radio and newspapers and they gave the timetable. So on a certain day we had all the properties, household goods all packed and some who had to sell maybe 20 cents on a dollar or something like that.

MRS. FUKUDA: We went to Santa Anita first.

FUKUDA: People who used to live at Terminal Island, they just packed and left. They had to. The Government said leave. They only got 24 hours. Pack all of their possessions in 24 hours and leave.

NELSON: At that time, did you have all your children at that time? At the time of the evacuation.

FUKUDA: We had four. I remember we had to all assemble with our things. I had a house and I had a family. Mr. Rener said that he will rent our house and take care of it. So we left the furniture home, but we packed our clothing and had to go to a place on Vermont Avenue and 23rd Street.

NELSON: A bus was there?

FUKUDA: Yes. So we got on and put our bags and things on the bus and then it took us to Santa Anita.

NELSON: The race track?

FUKUDA: Yes, that's right. And they had tents and wooden buildings, just built temporarily. You walked the floor and it was only a 1 x 12 wall, the 1 x 12 was about 1/4" to 1/2" a space between and another family lived on the other side. So what we did was put the paper to cover the space between boards.

NELSON: Paper, blankets or anything.

FUKUDA: Yes. There was no ceiling so you could hear everything what they were talking.

MRS. FUKUDA: Al Rener, from DWP, took care of our home.

FUKUDA: Al Rener came to see us.

NELSON: Where? He rented out your home for you and took care of it. So when you came back, you had most of your belongings, and they were still in tact?

FUKUDA: Yes.

NELSON: How long were you at Santa Anita?

FUKUDA: Almost a year. About nine months.

NELSON: At the race track?

FUKUDA: Yes. That was terrible. Oh it was terrible.

NELSON: There were a lot of people there?

FUKUDA: Yes. There were thousands of them. After about a month or two, these young boys got kind of wild at night, so the MP came in with loaded rifles. So we were rushed to our barracks and for about a week or so they just rode around. Everything was just quiet.

NELSON: And you stayed there, you say, for nine months or so?

MRS. FUKUDA: Yes. We stayed there until we went to AMACHE, Colorado. Southeast of Denver.

NELSON: How is that spelled?

FUKUDA: A, m, a, c, h, e. It was in a gradual sloped hill. Nothing but brush and soft dusty soil. When the wind blows, whoosh.

NELSON: Was it like Manzanar?

FUKUDA: Yes.

NELSON: How long were you there?

FUKUDA: About three and a half years. During that time, there was a job offer for me and I didn't take it at that time. Just for the heck of it, I applied for Federal Civil Service from the camp, and they accepted me. So they said, "Come to Washington, D.C. and be at the office on a certain day." So I showed that telegram to the project director and said, "I got a telegram from the Army to report to work." I showed that to the camp director and he looked at it and he said, "I wish you would take it." I said, "If I take it, would you pay me my way to Washington?" He said, "Yes, we will pay you." So he bought me a train ticket and I went Washington. I talked to the fellow who is in charge of hiring and talked to him about where I was going to live. So he directed me to a certain place and it was inside the place. This was for the Army. So I worked there for about a couple of weeks and the Army booted me out.

The civil service at first has the power to hire and then the paper goes to the Army because my job was to test the captured equipment to see if it was something that was so good that the U.S. Army should have something like it. That was my job, to test it.

NELSON: Where was that, at Aberdeen? Washington, D. C. or Aberdeen, Maryland?

FUKUDA: Washington, D.C.

NELSON: You were alone? Your family was not with you?

FUKUDA: My family was in the camp. I stayed a couple of weeks, something like that and then I got a notice that I had to leave. They fired me. So I wanted to know why I'm going to be fired. This girl looked up the record and she said, "You belonged to a Judo Black Belt Association in Los Angeles." Boy they sure check very closely!

NELSON: You had belonged to it?

FUKUDA: Yes. I was very active in the Judo Association in Los Angeles. They had all the records. What could I say!

NELSON: Made you very subversive!

FUKUDA: So getting back to my apartment then I went to Cincinnati. The reason I went to Cincinnati is that when I was in camp, I applied to the private company for a job and I think the government, more or less, directed my application to Cincinnati to a private engineer. So they hired me. So I took the telegram to the project director and showed it to him and he said, "I wish you would take it." I said, "I'll take it." So I worked there for ... oh yes the private engineer bought a house and rented it to me. I had four children, so where could I rent a house with four children? They wouldn't rent, so he bought a two-story house and rented it to me. I paid about \$110 rent. When I got the job I had to come back to the camp to take my family out. The camp office took care of all these things for me and I got the tickets for the whole family to go to Cincinnati, Ohio.

I went to this private engineer's office and he said, "Oh yes, we will hire you. We will try and get the house for you." So they bought a two-story house and rented it to me. I stayed there about six. While we were there, my fifth child was born. By that time the war ended. The nephew of one of the engineer's was discharged a couple of months after the war ended so I got the notice from the engineer since one of the engineer's nephews came back.

NELSON: Out you go!

FUKUDA: Yes. So I decided to return to Los Angeles. I told him I have to arrange everything so it takes a little time and he said that was okay. I got the train tickets to return to Los Angeles. Me and my wife and five children.

NELSON: Came across country?

FUKUDA: Yes, five children. The youngest one was only a couple of months old.

NELSON: The youngest was born in Cincinnati?

MRS. FUKUDA: Yes. She was born in Cincinnati.

FUKUDA: We had to change the train at Chicago. We waited for about an hour to board another train and there was a big group of soldiers. So when the conductor said they were ready to board you, the soldiers rushed to the train. They wanted to get a place to sit. My wife carried the baby and we were way in the back so the sergeant stood up on the platform and he said, "Make way for the lady with the baby." They started to stand aside and let the lady with the baby board the train. I was really surprised. Then we found the last two seats that faced each other and got that one.

NELSON: Very nice.

FUKUDA: Yes. So the whole family was there and we got another forward seat facing each other right next to it. The G.I.'s never complained. One guy went up to the place where we put the baggage in, got inside there and slept there.

NELSON: So you came back to Los Angeles and back to your home then?

FUKUDA: Yes.

MRS. FUKUDA: New Year's in Los Angeles.

NELSON: New Year's of 1945?

FUKUDA: It took us about three or four days or trains. All this time we ate sandwiches.

FUKUDA: The train stops, and when it was time to eat I told my son, he was about seven or eight, so we got off the train to buy a sandwiches and I told him, "Yes, run and get on the train." So we ran, no trouble.

NELSON: Where did you live, when you came back. You probably had people living in your home?

FUKUDA: The home was vacant. Everything happened just right and the young family who has rented our place was ready to leave when we came home. So they left and we moved in right away.

NELSON: And you were met at the station by Mr. Renner?

FUKUDA: Yes. He came to bring us back to the place and he was very, very nice.

NELSON: Did you find your belongings pretty well in tact?

FUKUDA: Yes. The colored family took care of the place. They had lived next door to us anyway.

TAPE NUMBER: 2, SIDE ONE

ERNEST TAKUICHI FUKUDA

NELSON: Ernie, you and the family have gotten home after the war from Cincinnati and I am wondering now, maybe you could tell us how you went back to work with the Department of Water and Power since you had been laid off before the war.

FUKUDA: Yes, I got laid off, but that was with the understanding that they will, when I come back, they will take me back.

NELSON: And so you went back to work pretty quickly?

FUKUDA: Before I came back, I wrote to Mr. Rener and Mr. Goit and they said, "You can come back any time you want. Your job is ready."

NELSON: So you then went back? Was that pretty much the same job that you had left? They hadn't saved all the work the four years for you had they?

FUKUDA: The same job. They were very nice. One thing that really bothers me even now - the superintendent, the big boss who was in charge of water distribution, he was an old man and I got

back to the office and right, see here's the thing. (Fukuda taking a piece of paper and providing a drawing for Mr. Nelson), Manager's office and the door is here and my drafting table was here. He has to go this way to his office.

NELSON: He has to go right by you.

FUKUDA: Yes and I was sitting here and he passed by here and said, "I thought they shot you." Oh!

NELSON: That was not a joke?

FUKUDA: No! Not a joke, but I couldn't say anything! Oh I was so surprised! He just very softly, "I thought they shot you." And then goes into his office. Of course, he was in his eighties, you know. Those days Civil Service didn't have a regulation that he has to retire. He started as a laborer and he became in charge of the whole construction division. He was a very, very hard person to talk to, but I was working and he passed by and very softly he said, "I thought they shot you."

NELSON: Well I imagine there was a lot of work those first few years after a lot of projects had not been completed because of shortages during the war, a lot of maintenance probably hadn't or new construction hadn't been done, had been set aside, so you were probably pretty busy for a long time. What were you doing at that time? When you came back, were you basically doing the same job

as when you left?

FUKUDA: Yes. The same table!

NELSON: Then what happened?

FUKUDA: Nothing happened. I didn't say anything. And since the civil service is accepting my return, there was nothing he could do.

NELSON: Do you think that he did not want you back or was that just his way? Was he a hard man to get along with?

FUKUDA: Yes that was his way. So it kind of bothered me, but I just let it go.

NELSON: Then you continued working at that job? For how long?

FUKUDA: Until my retirement, of course, I got a couple of promotions after I took the exam.

NELSON: What projects, what were you doing later on? What type of work were you doing? You were still drafting?

FUKUDA: Yes, it was drafting and very little in the department that I worked, very little designing, figuring mostly figuring the cost of laying the pipe and how many people you need and all that.

NELSON: You had worked on some of the work on the second aqueduct, the second barrel? You had indicated the Cascades coming down the hill. You had done some design work on that?

FUKUDA: I think I went out to see the pipeline that brought the water from the Owens Valley, but I didn't do any work on those.

NELSON: Did Al Rener stay your boss during your career or did he retire?

FUKUDA: When I got back?

NELSON: Yes.

FUKUDA: Yes.

NELSON: And when you retired, was he still with the Department?

FUKUDA: Yes. He became Office Engineer.

NELSON: Well that's okay. Let me go back to the time you spent in the camp. Were you paid money, were you given money each month?

FUKUDA: When I was what?

NELSON: When you were in camp. Was the family given money each month or how did you purchase things?

FUKUDA: I worked as an engineer and received \$19 a month. My wife worked as a waitress at the mess hall and received \$16 a month.

NELSON: No one gave you any money? Some families, I would imagine, had no money after a few years.

FUKUDA: The government paid them for their clothing and things like that, but ours they didn't pay at all.

NELSON: How did your children attend schools while you were in the camp?

FUKUDA: Yes they attended schools. The schools were entirely separate. There was a shortage of teachers so I volunteered and taught math for a while. I was in charge of the engineering side of the whole camp.

NELSON: I was going to ask, how did you spend your time during the day? You had a job then?

FUKUDA: Yes, I had a job in the office and I did a little designing. I designed how to figure out the amount of water that we get from outside irrigation.

NELSON: The camp there was similar to the other camps? They were basically barracks that were divided for several families in a barracks where you lived?

FUKUDA: In the barracks you mean?

NELSON: Yes. There were about six separate families in one building with only one small room for each family.

NELSON: Then how was the cooking done?

FUKUDA: We all went to a big mess hall.

NELSON: Individual families did not cook then? You went to a mess hall and ate?

FUKUDA: Families did not cook.

NELSON: Did the other Department of Water and Power Japanese/Americans go to the same camp in Colorado? Did you see anyone that you knew at the camp?

FUKUDA: Yes.

FUKUDA: You see that was my last project design.

NELSON: On the second aqueduct, the Cascades system.

FUKUDA: Yes, I got the order from my boss to design this thing. See the second aqueduct water comes here and there's another pipe that goes along the highway into the reservoir, but sometimes when they had too much water, they would shut off the big pipe and let the water come up to this place. So I got this job and I tried about six, seven, eight different designs. I took it over to my boss and showed it to him and explain it and he said, "Try another plan."

NELSON: Who was your boss at that time, do you remember?

FUKUDA: Earl Snyder. Erland Snyder.

NELSON: Was that Smokey Snyder?

FUKUDA: Yes, Smokey Snyder and there was another guy. Smokey got this, so he gave it to me. So Smokey and I and another engineer up there. We looked down, the field I was scared.

NELSON: It was high up.

FUKUDA: Very high. How am I going to do this, I thought. They didn't want the pipe to come down. They wanted something fancy so the only thing to do was to have a flume thing, but if it's an ordinary flume, the water goes down so fast that we have to have an energy dissipaters. I tried different designs, but the boss wouldn't make up his mind.

NELSON: That was pretty much your last major job before you retired.

FUKUDA: Yes, it got to a point where I was getting kind of short in time, so I told the boys, "Let's go ahead with this one." Later, I sketched and showed it to him and he said, "Okay, let me show this to the Chief Engineer Nelson." So he showed it to Nelson. Nelson said, "Yes, this is what I want." So I went ahead with it. He wanted something that would attract the attention of the people who passed by. You know there is a highway there We have something spectacular.

NELSON: You retired and did you continue working or doing anything after retirement?

FUKUDA: What did I do? I worked in a real estate office for many years prior to having a mild stroke in September of 1990.

NELSON: You didn't start that farm in El Centro?

FUKUDA: No. You see my dad was a farmer. Of course it's just a small farm, but I liked farming.

NELSON: But you've never been able to doing any in your adult life?

FUKUDA: No.

NELSON: Then you stayed in that home on 30th and Western for many years?

FUKUDA: I stayed there for over 40 years.

NELSON: Then you sold it and moved here and have been here in Gardena for, your wife said, about twelve years?

FUKUDA: Yes. I sure hated to move out of that old building in 30th Street. You know it's just an old house, but so comfortable. It was so comfortable. We had a big parlor in the front and two bedrooms in the back and a nice garden in the rear.

NELSON: So you did get to do your gardening and your farming, but on a small scale!

FUKUDA: Yes.

NELSON: Well Ernie I sure appreciate you taking the time to talk to me this morning and thank you very much.

FUKUDA: Well I enjoyed it very much.

APPENDIX

LIFE HISTORY OF ERNEST T. FUKUDA

LIFE HISTORY OF ERNEST T. FUKUDA

I was born in Aiea, Oahu, Hawaii on July 14, 1903. After graduating from McKinley High School in Honolulu, Hawaii in 1923, I went to the University of California, Southern Branch, on north Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, where I majored in civil engineering. After two years, I transferred to the University of Southern California. I received my degree of Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering (B.S. in C.E.) from U.S.C. in 1927.

Two weeks before graduating, Professor Robert M. Fox, U.S.C.'s Advisor of Engineering Students, called me into his office and said, "I can get you a job as a surveyor's helper with a petroleum company."

"It's two weeks before graduation," I reminded him.

Mr. Fox said, "I can take care of that and you can graduate."

I replied, "I appreciate it very much and want to take it, but I have a plan to start a large farm with my two older brothers. My oldest brother can take care of the business of farming and finance; my second brother can take care of the office accounting, and I will take care of the field work, irrigation, leveling, and survey work. Again, I appreciate it very much."

When approached about my plan, my two older brothers felt it was too premature. They were not quite prepared to take on any big venture.

In the 1920's it was very difficult for Japanese-American college graduates to be hired in any position in private engineering companies. I personally found it to be true when I applied for jobs at many engineering companies in Los Angeles. They all said, "We just hired one last week. We will call you when there is an opening." But, they never asked for my telephone number.

In November, 1927, I went to the U.S.C. student employment office. The woman clerk in the office told me, "The Custom Broker needs one Japanese student who is taking up Foreign Trade or Economics courses as a part-time worker. If you want to try it, I'll give you the name and address of the company."

"Yes! Give it to me. I'll try it!" I answered.

I went to see the Custom Broker immediately. He asked me, "What did you take up at school?"

"I took Civil Engineering," was my reply.

He said, "Oh, no! Engineering has nothing to do with our business. I'm sorry, I can't use you."

I was silent for a minute. Then I said, "Yes, I took civil engineering courses at U.S.C. and graduated and received my B.S. in C.E. But, how can you say, 'I can't use you' unless you try me first."

He looked at me for a moment, and added, "Yes, you are right. There is your desk and you are hired! You can come only half-a-day and we will pay you half the regular pay."

I said, "That's O.K. Since this is my first job, I'll work regular 8 hours and try to learn as much as possible."

The Custom Broker needed a Japanese student because he was very busy with the Japanese import business, especially during the Christmas and New Year period. I learned a great deal about imports and the relationship between the Custom Broker and the customs officials.

November, December, and January were very busy months for the Customs Broker, but after February, the import business was very slow. In the middle of February, I was laid off. About a week after being laid off, I took a Civil Engineering Draftsman's examination given by the City of Los Angeles. Fortunately, I passed!

In April, 1928 the import business started to pick up. The broker sent me a letter asking me to return to work...this time, as a permanent employee with regular pay. However, at the same time, I received a letter from the Civil Service Commission requesting that I report to work at the Department of Water and Power, Water Operating Division.

I went to see the Customs Broker and told him that I was very happy that he wanted me back; but, I had taken the Civil Service Draftsman's examination and passed and received a letter for me to report to work.

The Broker said, "Well, I don't blame you. But, let me see the letter from the City."

I proudly showed him the letter and he remarked, "Send me anyone of your friends who is taking up economics in college."

I sent one of my friends who was attending U.C.L.A., majoring in economics. My friend was hired! And I was hired by the Department of Water and Power... the FIRST JAPANESE-AMERICAN to be hired permanently by the City of Los Angeles. That was on April 23, 1928...a date I shall always remember!

Since I was the first Japanese-American to be hired permanently by the City of Los Angeles, I worked very hard and diligently, and got along very well with my fellow employees.

DECEMBER 7, 1941! Japan attacked Pearl Harbor! On December 8, 1941, when I arrived at the office, one engineer came to me and said, "Ernie, we are all for you." All the other employees stood around the radio to hear the President of the United States, Franklin Roosevelt, make a speech to the Joint Congress that morning to declare war against Japan. All the employees were pretty quiet and tense that morning. After the announcement, my fellow workers tried to change the tense atmosphere by talking with each other.

January 27, 1942. Our office engineer, Mr. L. E. Goit, came to me around 9:00 a.m. and said, "Ernie, put on your coat and I'll take you to the Chief Engineer, Mr. Van Norman, because he wants to see you." I was expecting to be questioned by him. We entered the room, I was properly introduced, and we sat across Mr. Van Norman. He was facing sideways. He said, "Last night, all the department heads of the City of Los Angeles had a meeting with the mayor (Mayor Bowron) and we were told by the mayor to have all of the Japanese-Americans working for the City of Los Angeles to take 'leaves of absence.' Therefore, will you sign this 'Leave of Absence.'" He pushed the document across his desk for me to sign.

I was dumfounded! The office was very quiet and one could have heard a pin drop. I thought for about a minute. It was the public against me, I felt. I finally said, "O.K., I'll sign it."

I signed the document and Mr. Goit took me back to our office. Later, in the car, he said, "Ernie, I am very glad that you signed it." I was silent. Mr. Goit added, "You can say good-bye to your friends and leave, if you want."

I was numb, but managed to say, "Thank you."

I waited until all the employees had left. Then, I gathered my things and went home.

The Department of Water and Power paid me for the full month of January. The next day, Mr. C. V. Bascom, who was in charge of the office in which I worked, stopped by my house on his way home after work. He advised me that the Department of Water and Power paid me for the whole month of January, but, since I was laid off on the 27th of January, I was overpaid 4 days! The Department requested repayment for the 4 days of pay. Mr. Bascom was very uneasy, I know. I said, "O.K., I'll pay you."

How much I paid him, I do not know...but I did pay him.

In the following two or three weeks, I didn't know what I was doing. I was deeply concerned about my wife and four children (ages 3 to 10), about how the payment on my house would be met, and about how the daily groceries would be purchased.

One day, I went to "Little Tokyo" at First Street & San Pedro Street to visit a friend who had a bookkeeping business. He said, "Ernie, you're not doing anything now. I'm very busy prepparing the income tax reports for my clients...can you help me?"

I said, "You bet I can!"

For about 1½ months, he kept my family alive.

In April 1942, by Executive Order #9066 under President Franklin Roosevelt, we were evacuated to the Santa Anita Race Track where the Army had built barracks in the parking area. The whole race track was surrounded by a barbed-wire fence and guard towers were erected about every 300 feet apart with 2 soldiers in the towers with loaded rifles, watching us 24 hours a day.

After a couple of weeks at the Santa Anita Race Track, a former fellow worker, Mr. Alexander Rener, and his wife visited me. A 1x4 board fence about three feet high separated us. When I shook hands with him, I started to cry. Here I was, an American citizen, treated as a prisoner! I did nothing to deserve such treatment. After we talked for awhile, he gave me a sack of oranges for my children. We shook hands and parted. I turned around, walked a few steps with the sack of oranges, when one of the guards stopped me and without a word, took the sack of oranges from me, and handed it back to Mr. Rener.

Mr. Rener's sincere concern for my welfare was evident when earlier, he had told me, "Ernie, don't worry about your house. I will take care of it for you. I will rent it, and do the payment on the house for you."

Toward the end of September 1942, we were again ordered to get ready to move. We packed our belongings, boarded the train, and were taken to the southeastern part of the state of Colorado, near a small town named Granada. It took us four days to reach the new concentration camp. The guards told us to pull the shades down in the train, all the way to the new concentration camp.

The camp was about a mile from Granda and it was situated on a gradual, sloped terrain of sandy soil, completely surrounded by barbed-wire fences and guard towers. This camp was named Amache.

At Amache, we experienced our first severe cold winter. In January 1943, the temperature went down to -20°C!

After being raised in a warm climate (Hawaii and Los Angeles) our first winter in Amache, Colorado was like living in Hell. It was too cold for the children to go to school...they certainly were not prepared and had a very difficult time adjusting to the extremely cold temperatures. On such cold days, schools were closed and all of the outdoor work stopped. In April and May, the wind blew hard, causing sandstorms. The children going home from school in the afternoon were caught in the sandstorms, and they cried from the pain of being struck in their legs, hands, and faces by the sand.

In the barracks, we had all the windows closed, but could see sand coming in from the edges of the windows where they did not fit tight. This was because of careless work done by the carpenters, who were primarily concerned with completing their work as soon as possible. In the winter, when the wind blew, we could see the snowflakes blowing into our barracks, just as the fine sands did in the summertime.

The chef at each block had a very hard time providing decent food to the block people because he couldn't get enough help and did not have the proper supplies. He begged the block people to help him so that he could provide

decent food. Many people started to work in the kitchen and mess hall. The chef eventually was able to order proper supplies from the warehouses. It took about three months before the people were satisfied with the food.

The regular workers received \$16.00 a month, while the professionals such as, doctors, dentists, office managers, and the engineers received \$19.00. How the government decided to pay \$16.00 to the laboring classes and \$19.00 to professional people, nobody seems to know.

Prior to the relocation to Amache, I had applied for an engineering job with the Federal Civil Service. In the early spring of 1945, I received a telegram from the 6th Corps Area of the U.S. Army at Omaha, Nebraska, requesting me to report to work in Washington D.C. for an engineering job. I took the telegram to the Project Director, Mr. James Lindley.

I asked Mr. Lindley, "Doesn't the U.S. Army know that I am in a concentration camp in Amache, Colorado?"

Mr. Lindley did not answer me immediately, but after reading the telegram, he said, "I wish you'll take this job. If any problem comes up, the War Relocation Authority Office in Washington D.C. will be very glad to help you."

"If you promise to help me in case I get into any problem in Washington, I will take it," I replied.

In a few days, I went to Washington D.C. and from there I was directed to go to Ft. Belvoir, the Army Post about 15 miles from Washington. There, I was processed and given a room in the barracks on the post.

My assignment was to test the enemy captured water purifying equipment. I worked for three weeks and then, on one Tuesday afternoon, I received a telephone call for me to report to Lt. McCracken in Room 207C immediately.

When I went to Room 207C, Lt. McCracken was seated at a desk with two

sergeants. He introduced himself and the sergeants. The moment I sat down, he said, "Give me your badge." I took it off my shirt and gave it to him. The moment the badge was in his possession, he said, "Your service ended as of NOW!"

It was so sudden and cruel that I was speechless for a few minutes. Then, I said, "I'd like to know the reason why I am being fired so suddenly."

Lt. McCracken read one paragraph from a letter initiated by the Provost Marshall in Washington. It stated that I was being discharged because I belonged to the Judo Black Belt Association in Los Angeles.

I thought to myself, "How narrow-minded can the Army be!" There were three caucasian members with black belts in that association; one was an engineer in the Department of Water and Power...in the same division as I was; the second member was a sergeant in the Los Angeles Police Department, and the third member was the physical education instructor at Inglewood High School. These three caucasians belonged to the same Black Belt Association and just as active in the organization as I was. They are free and I was in the concentration camp, being watched by Army soldiers equipped with loaded rifles!

In April 1945, I went on to Cincinnati, Ohio from Fort Belvoir. I got a job at the Consulting Civil Engineer's Office. This engineering office was so busy that I worked 10 to 12 hours a day and I hardly saw my children. While in Cincinnati, I bought the newspaper every Sunday morning to see if there were any houses for rent. By the time I called the number listed for the various rentals, I was advised that I was too late. Houses for rent were very, very hard to find.

In June 1945 I found out that the War Relocation Authority received the order from Washington that the camps would be closed by August. Therefore, I told my employer that I had to return to the camp and get my family out.

Not only that, my wife was expecting a new addition to the family. Since I could not find a house to rent, I had to go back to Los Angeles with my family.

My employer then surprised me and offered to buy a house and then rent it out to me. He asked me to call my family from his office and tell my wife to bring the family to Cincinnati. His offer was so very generous but I advised him that it was imperative that I return to the camp and convince my wife to come to Cincinnati personally, and to also tend to the packing and the processing of the necessary papers. He said, "O.K. I will not hire anyone until I get the telegram from you."

The whole family expected to go back to Los Angeles to our home on 30th Street. I told my wife that we could not go back to Los Angeles because public sentiment was still negative and Mr. Renner had written to me to go east if I could find a job there. My wife was so intent in going back to Los Angeles that I had to show her Mr. Renner's letter. When she read it, she was so disappointed and the tears filled her eyes. At last, she consented to go to Cincinnati. I wired my employer in Cincinnati that we were coming.

We arrived in Cincinnati on June 19, 1945. This was my oldest daughter's birthday but there was no birthday party for her.

We stayed in a Cincinnati hostel for about two weeks. In the meantime, my employer got busy looking for a house for a family of six. By the end of June, we moved into a very nice, two-story house with 3 bedrooms and bath upstairs; a living room, dining room, kitchen and another bath on the main floor. There was a fireplace in the living room and the warm air flue was connected to the fireplace. The family was very happy with this house, although in October, I had to buy a ton of coal to warm up the house in the wintertime.

On October 10, 1945, our fourth daughter was born and we named her Shirley.

When I returned from the hospital that morning around 7:00 a.m., all the children were up and standing in the living room. They all asked in unison, "Boy or girl?" I said, "Girl!" My only son, Paul, said, "Unnnnnn...and limply sat down on the couch. He wanted a younger brother. Instead, he now had FOUR sisters!"

By December 15th, our home in Los Angeles was vacated by the tenants. Mr. Rener wrote to me and asked if he should rent it out. I consulted my family and they all out-voted me...we would return to Los Angeles. Immediately, I told my employer of our decision to return to Los Angeles. Fortunately, his nephew had returned to work for him after being discharged from the Army when the war ended. This time, my employer did not attempt to stop me from leaving. Truly, one cannot find a more compassionate employer than my employer, Mr. Louis Graff, who bought a house just to rent it to me so I would be able to return to work for him!

On December 25, 1945, my wife prepared a nice Christmas dinner and the whole family enjoyed it and we were all happy. The next day, December 26, 1945, we left Cincinnati by train and arrived in Los Angeles on December 31st.

Our dear friends, Mr. Rener and Mr. O'Neil met us at the Los Angeles Station and welcomed us home. That was one of my happiest moments.

Mr. Rener gave me the keys to my house and also a thick stack of rent receipts as well as receipts on the house payments.

The next day was New Year's Day, 1946. It was a Happy New Year to all except our family...we had a big job ahead of us to make our home presentable and livable once more.

On January 3, 1946, I reported to work at the Department of Water and Power, Water Operating Division at 410 Ducommun Street. I was very happy to be back at my own job at the old location. All of the office boys welcomed me back with warm handshakes and hugs.

I worked at the Water Distribution Division until 1962. Then I transferred to the Design Division when there was an opening. I was very happy about the transfer because it gave me an opportunity to design Water Works projects. Some of the projects were: 1) preparing the construction design of the water trunk line in LaBrea Avenue, from Stocker Avenue to Slauson Avenue, 2) designing couple of sections in the northern end of the Second Aqueduct, and 3) the final one on the very south end of the Second Aqueduct, called the "Cascades" at the very north end of the San Fernando Valley, eastside. The energy of the Second Aqueduct water flowing down this last hill is utilized to produce power near the Van Norman Lake. Occasionally, this plant needs a repair or check of some of the parts of the plant. At such times, the water valve is closed to stop the power operation. The water is diverted into this cascade, which is a concrete channel with concrete blocks across the channel to check the high velocity of water flowing in the channel.

A few months after the completion of this design, I retired from the Department of Water and Power.

Toward the end of July 1964, my good friend, Mr. Louis Gallasso, also an engineer, passed by my desk and dropped off the San Francisco Chronicle newspaper. He said, "Ernie, read this paper and do something!"

I read an article about a Mr. George Tanaka, who worked for the City of San Francisco. He, too, lost his job during the war. After the war, he returned to his old position. He had a caucasian lawyer friend who worked in the legal division of the City of San Francisco and he presented Mr. Tanaka's case to the San Francisco Council. The City Council passed it on to have the citizens of San Francisco decide on the issue in the City Charter Amendment Election.

With the favorable editorials in the San Francisco Chronicle concerning this Charter Amendment, Mr. Tanaka won his case in point by a large majority.

Mr. Tanaka received credit for the four years he had lost during the war and his final service record showed CONTINUOUS service.

The San Francisco Chronicle and Mr. Tanaka were very kind and sent me all the necessary records I requested...and they wished me luck!

But where was I to start? I did not have a lawyer friend in the Los Angeles City's Legal Department. After about two weeks, it just occurred to me: why not see the Councilman of my district? I called my Councilman's office and made an appointment to see him. I went to his office at the appointed time.

I entered the Councilman's office. His secretary showed me the way to the inner office and introduced me to him. His name: Thomas Bradley. Councilman Bradley stood up and shook my hand. That's when I noticed that he was a tall, impressive man; he was kind and gentle. I sat down across his desk and proceeded to tell him the purpose of my visit; of Mr. Tanaka's case in San Francisco; of my own dilemma, of my desire to seek action, but not knowing how to accomplish that. Councilman Bradley asked me a few questions and asked for all the information that I had. I gladly gave him my records, including the San Francisco Chronicle articles and its editorials.

Councilman Bradley said, "Thank you. I'll see what I can do about it."

Many phone calls and many letters were initiated by Councilman Bradley to the Water and Power Commissioners and also the Water and Power Retirement Board. He also called the San Francisco Chronicle to get their opinions and records.

My very good friend, Mr. Harold Graham, who was the president of the Water and Power Employees Association, as well as a member of the Water and Power Retirement Board, called me one day as he had also heard about my case and asked for some information. He worked very hard for my cause.

The record shows that it took two years from the time Councilman Thomas Bradley contacted the Department of Water and Power to the time he could present my case to the City Council.

The City Council decided that it should be voted upon by the citizens of Los Angeles. Therefore, it was presented to the people of Los Angeles as a Charter Amendment on April 4, 1967. The result of the election showed we won by 2½ to 1! I am, and will always be thankful that we won through the untiring efforts of Councilman Thomas Bradley.

My regular retirement was scheduled for 1968. However, in the early fall of 1967, I retired from the Department of Water and Power and took a trip to Asia for three weeks. It was a truly enjoyable trip and upon my return to Los Angeles, I got a job at Imbertson and Associates, designing and installing rubber dams. My new job took me to many interesting places...I traveled extensively for the company. I vividly remember places where the dams were installed: across the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania, across a small creek at the southcentral part of Tennessee; over a concrete dam spillway on an exotic island, Palau, in the southwest Pacific, and another in Denver, Colorado. I was also called to work in Hong Kong for two months to repair an old rubber dam.

In 1983, the State of California passed the Reparation Bill for all of the Japanese-American State employees who were relocated to concentration camps. The reparation was \$5,000 per person, to be paid over a period of 4 years. Later, other California Counties did the same, but they all were to pay \$5,000 to the recipients over a period of four years. I called Mr. Dennis Nishikawa of Councilman David Cunningham's office in the 10th District and discussed a possible reparation to the Japanese-American City employees who were dismissed after the declaration of war.

Councilman David Cunningham introduced the reparation issue in the City Council and after many discussions among the Councilmen, it was passed

unanimously. The City Council decided to pay each of the former City employees \$5,000. The City of Los Angeles is the ONLY government which has paid a lump-sum amount to the evacuees.

We owe a great deal to Councilman David Cunningham for introducing the bill before the Council and to the City Council for passing it.

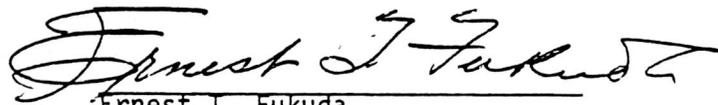
Also, we appreciate the Honorable Mayor Thomas Bradley for approving the measure wholeheartedly.

In addition, we are grateful to Mr. Dennis Nishikawa for investigating the matter thoroughly before presenting the issue to Councilman Cunningham.

All of the recipients of the reparation appeared at the City Hall Chamber to receive the checks from the hand of Mayor Thomas Bradley. Later, the elated recipients were invited to lunch at the City Hall Tower. After lunch, the recipients and their families enjoyed viewing the Ondo dance.

I have been happily retired now for fifteen years. My wife and I are health. My son, who is a doctor (internist) and his family are all healthy. My four daughters, their husbands and families are all healthy. Our families are very close and we get together quite often and have wonderful times.

I ask for nothing more than peace for all mankind.


Ernest T. Fukuda

H. A. VAN NORMAN
CHIEF ENGINEER AND
GENERAL MANAGER
OF WATER WORKS



207 SO. BROADWAY
LOS ANGELES
MICHIGAN 4211

BUREAU OF WATER WORKS AND SUPPLY

October 27, 1943

Mr. Ernest Fukuda
11 K - 3 E
Amache, Colorado

Dear Ernest:

I am certainly glad to hear that you have been granted registration by the State Board of Colorado and happy to have been of any service in assisting you in obtaining this registration. I hope that your prospects of a job with the Farm Security Administration have matured by now.

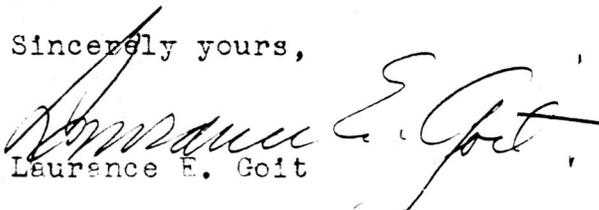
We are all very much interested in the pictures of your flume model. It is quite a different venture from working with water under pressure and confined in mains, and, as you said, it gives you valuable experience.

I think you would find living in Durango much more interesting than in the eastern part of Colorado. Mrs. Goit and I spent a night in Durango a couple years ago and it impressed us as being a rather nice clean place in comparison to many other mountain towns. I expect you are right about it being colder than Granada, but the buildings are substantial and built to be comfortable in that climate and the scenery will certainly be very interesting.

Your regular Leave of Absence forms are enclosed.

Mrs. Goit and I send our best regards to you and your family and hope that you will be successful in getting a chance at a new venture and successful in your work in it.

Sincerely yours,


Laurence E. Goit

LEG/MC

Enc.

L. E. 3017
OCT 13 1944

Dear Ernie.

I'm going to take a couple of minutes to scratch off a line to you because I am so conscious of the fact that it is too long since the last time.

I'll certainly be glad to give you a boost any time I can because of my sincere belief in you, and I hope that you will be able to make a good engineering connection. Would it do any good to write Mr. Hewitt a letter of commendation before he asks for a reference? (which he might not do).

I should have told you before + he expressed pleasure at + confidence in your sincerity.

Of course you have heard of Van's retirement + the appointment of Sam Morris as G.M. The rest of us are kept extra busy breaking him in, but there is no question but that he will be a good man to work with.

Many my best regards to Mrs. Fukuda. Hope she and the babies have kept well - hope they keep happy too but that is expecting a lot - Sincerely
Grit.

H. A. VAN NORMAN
GENERAL MANAGER
AND CHIEF ENGINEER

W. W. HURLBUT
CHIEF ENGINEER OF WATER WORKS
AND DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER

R. R. ROBERTSON
CHIEF ELECTRICAL ENGINEER AND
DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER

DEPARTMENT
OF
WATER AND POWER
THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

207 SO. BROADWAY
BOX 3669 TERMINAL ANNEX
LOS ANGELES 54
MICHIGAN 4211

February 14, 1945

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I have personally known Ernest T. Fukuda since April 23, 1928. On that date he was first employed by the Street Mains Division of the Bureau of Water Works and Supply of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. He was employed continuously as Draftsman and Jr. Engineer until January 27, 1942. This work was in the headquarters office of the Water Distribution Division on construction and maintenance work. During this time I was the principal assistant to the Engineer in Charge of the Water Distribution Division.

During these nearly fourteen years Mr. Fukuda was a loyal, competent and sincere employee--well liked and mixing with fellow employees. At no time did I hear him make any derogatory remarks against the United States of America nor could any of his actions be construed in that light.

His service record with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power follows:

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>Rate of Pay</u>
4/23/28	10/31/28	Jr. Topo Draftsman	\$125
11/ 1/28	3/ 8/39	Water Service Draftsman	\$155 to \$185
3/ 9/39	3/13/41	Service Draftsman	\$185 to \$195
3/14/41	1/27/42	Civil Engineer Jr. "A"	\$195 to \$215

My continuous employment with the Department of Water and Power dates from March 1907.

Very truly yours,

Emil W. Breitkreutz

EMIL W. BREITKREUTZ
Assistant Engineer of
Water Distribution

410 Ducommun St.
Los Angeles 12, Calif.

February 19, 1945.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I have known Mr. Ernest T. Fukuda since April 23, 1928. From that date until he was removed from his position, as a draftsman and Junior Civil Engineer, by the U.S. Army I have worked with him. In my opinion he is an honest, efficient, and co-operative man.

For the first few years we were co-workers and during the last five or six years Mr. Fukuda was under my direct supervision. I was intimately acquainted with him and considered him an American in every sense of the word. He was interested in his career as an engineer and tried his very best to live as an American.

He was interested in the Japanese wrestling called Judo and for quite some time Mr. Fukuda was a member of an exhibition team with two other Department of Water and Power men, Mr. R. Ashline and Mr. F.W. Peters. The teams purpose was primarily entertainment to spread goodwill for the Department of Water and Power at clubs and lodges. He was also instructor in Judo to a group of Japanese boys in Venice, California. My impression was that it was sport for the boys the same as baseball is to others.

Mr. Fukuda often told me that he would like to visit Japan but under no circumstances would he consider living there. His objection was that he didn't like their mode of living.

In closing I repeat - I have always found him honest efficient and a good American.



A. C. Rener
Office Engineer
Water Distribution Division
Department of Water & Power.
City of Los Angeles.

SAMUEL B. MORRIS
GENERAL MANAGER
AND CHIEF ENGINEER

LAURANCE E. GOIT
CHIEF ENGINEER OF WATER WORKS
AND DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER

CHARLES P. GARMAN
CHIEF ELECTRICAL ENGINEER AND
DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER

DEPARTMENT
OF
WATER AND POWER
THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

207 SO. BROADWAY
BOX 3669 TERMINAL ANNEX
LOS ANGELES, 54
MICHIGAN 4211

May 16, 1945

Dear Ernie:

I am glad to hear that after a little wandering you have a position with a cash salary attached to it. However, I appreciate your quandary in regard to housing your family. You would find the housing situation here just as serious if you did not own a place to move into.

The Department can use your services, and would officially welcome your return to Los Angeles as soon as possible. I am confident that there would be no difficulty whatever with employees of the Department. I am, personally, just a little dubious about the effect of your having to evict a negro family to gain possession of your home. This doubt is not based on any real knowledge of the situation in the Jefferson and Western district; the negroes may not be as strongly entrenched there as they appear to be in the First Street district.

I cannot attempt to definitely advise you on the advisability of returning to Los Angeles immediately, but I assure you that you would be welcome back in the Department's service.

Thank you for your congratulations upon my promotion.

Sincerely,


Laurance E. Goit

Chief Engineer of Water Works
and Deputy General Manager

Mr. Ernest Fukuda
2820 Winslow Ave.
Cincinnati 6, Ohio

LAURANCE E. GOIT

Consulting Civil Engineer

242 NORTH WINDSOR BLVD.

GLADSTONE 6269

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

HYDRAULIC CONTROL SYSTEMS
PIPELINE AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS
AUTOMATIC REGULATING AND CONTROL
DESIGNS

AMERICAN SOC. CIVIL ENGINEERS
AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSN.
REGISTERED CIVIL ENGINEER
CERTIFICATE NO. 1815

July 12, 1945

Dear Ernie -

Have been glad to hear from Renee that you have gotten your family together again & have a job that pays in cash. It has been a long hard full alright. But with your pluck and good sense - you were sure to make a good new start.

Also admire Mrs. Dufores' patience - the wrong kind of wife could have wrecked you with bitterness & resentment.

Well, its not tonight and I have to have to tend to. Continued good luck,
Ernie -

Sincerely
L. E. Goit



DAVE CUNNINGHAM
VICE CHAIRMAN
FINANCE & REVENUE COMMITTEE

City Council
of the
City of Los Angeles
City Hall

COMMITTEE
FINANCE & REVENUE
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CITY HALL
475 WEST 12TH STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
TELEPHONE (213) 475-3323

August 15, 1984

Mr. Ernest T. Fukuda
15000 Halldale Ave., #102
Gardena, CA 90247

Dear Mr. Fukuda:

Earlier this year, I introduced a motion to seek redress compensation for City employees of Japanese-American descent who were fired or forced to resign prior to the enactment of Executive Order 9066. My proposal was unanimously approved by the Finance & Revenue Committee under the leadership of Chairman Zev Yaroslavsky, myself as Vice-Chair, and Councilwoman Joy Picus, Member. Subsequently the motion was approved by the City Council on February 15, 1984; Mayor Bradley signed this legislation into law two days later.

Your application for reparations was received by the City Clerk and has been approved by the City Council. Although the remuneration is small, we hope this token amount demonstrates our City's sincere apology for the hardships you and your family have endured.

To highlight this historical event, your presence is requested for a presentation of reparations on Wednesday, September 5, at 10:00 am in the City Council Chambers, Room 340, City Hall. A reception in your honor will be held immediately following the ceremonies in the City Hall Tower.

In closing, reimbursement is available for travel and lodging expenses with a maximum of \$300 per recipient. If you wish to be reimbursed, please indicate this when you notify us of your attendance. Please bring with you all receipts to City Hall on September 5th.

For further information, to RSVP and to arrange parking, please contact Dennis Nishikawa by August 31 at (213) 485-3323.

Sincerely,


DAVE CUNNINGHAM
Vice Chairman, Finance & Revenue Committee


ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Chairman, Finance & Revenue Committee


JOY PICUS
Member, Finance & Revenue Committee

The Secretary distributed copies of the following letter from Councilman Thomas Bradley, dated November 28, 1966, addressed to the Honorable Board of Water and Power Commissioners with an attached motion presented by Councilman Bradley. The Secretary reported that this material was transmitted from the Board of Water and Power Commissioners with a request for review and recommendation.

"CITY COUNCIL
of the
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
City Hall

November 28, 1966

Honorable Board of Water and
Power Commissioners
111 North Hope Street - Room 1555
Los Angeles

Gentlemen:

An employee of the Department of Water and Power, Mr. Ernest Fukuda, suffered a break in service with the Department of Water and Power as a result of being involuntarily removed from Los Angeles and placed in a relocation camp during World War II because he was of Japanese ancestry.

In an effort to correct the inequity which resulted from this action, I introduced a resolution in the City Council which would amend the City Charter to provide that any person who suffered a break in service involuntarily because of relocation by the Federal Government and who subsequently returned to service with the City could have these years of service credited in the computation of time required for retirement.

Inasmuch as it appears that Mr. Fukuda and possibly one other employee with the Department of Water and Power are the only ones affected by this action, I would like to get the support of the Department of Water and Power in pursuing this matter. It will be appreciated if you will review the matter and make a recommendation to the Charter and Administrative Code Committee which will be considering the matter.

Very truly yours,

/S/ Thomas Bradley
THOMAS BRADLEY
Councilman, Tenth District"

TB:lc
Enclosure



THOMAS BRADLEY
COUNCILMAN
TENTH DISTRICT

City Council
of the
City of Los Angeles
City Hall

90012

COMMITTEES
STATE, COUNTY AND
FEDERAL AFFAIRS, CHAIRMAN
TRAFFIC
POLICE, FIRE AND CIVIL DEFENSE

March 1, 1967

Mr. Ernest Fukuda
2040 W. 30th Street
Los Angeles, California 90018

Dear Mr. Fukuda:

You are cordially invited to a short, informal luncheon to hear about the progress of City Charter Amendment #4. This proposal will provide pension credits for City employees of Japanese ancestry who were involuntarily detained in relocation camps during World War II and thus lost pension rights because of a break in service with the City of Los Angeles.

The luncheon will be held in the:

"CRUSADER ROOM"
Cave des Roy
Beverly Place and La Cienega
(One block north of Beverly Blvd.)
12:00 Noon, Tuesday, March 14th

The luncheon will give us a chance to talk informally and also to meet the City employees concerned.

We sincerely hope you can be with us.

Sincerely,

THOMAS BRADLEY
Councilman, Tenth District

TB:gs

RSVP: MA 4-5211, Ext. 3323



San Francisco Chronicle



Ernest T. Fukuda
2040 W. 30th Street
Los Angeles 18, Calif.

Dear Mr. Fukuda:

We hope the enclosed editorial about Proposition D and George Tanaka will be helpful. Mr. Tanaka now lives at 1671 Walnut in San Carlos, Calif.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Fisher
Carolyn Fisher
(Editorial Assistant)

August 6, 1964

Tanaka's Amendment

Will Right a Wrong

GEORGE TANAKA, who was born at Second and Minna streets and who went to school in the Noe Valley, speaks, although he is a Nisei, with that particular South-of-the-Slot accent which reminds San Francisco old-timers of the time when the Mission was Irish, the ballpark was at 15th and Valencia, and the 40 trolley car rattled away down the Peninsula.

Tanaka is thinking now of retirement after 39 years as head gardener at San Francisco General Hospital, a lifetime spent brightening that big brick institution for patients, staff and visitors.

He held that job back in 1942 when a few shells lobbed at Goleta from a Japanese submarine shook—and scared—the entire State of California. During the hysteria of those early World War II days, General John L. DeWitt issued his order excluding Japanese and Japanese-Americans from California.

TANAKA, his wife Hatsumi and their two small daughters packed their belongings and boarded a guarded Army bus in front of a church in the old "Japantown." They were held at Tanforan and were later taken to a camp in Utah, "relocated," as the government termed it.

Tanaka is not bitter. But he does have a modest request now. We strongly urge the voters of San Francisco to help him obtain it when they go to the polls Tuesday.

Proposition D on the ballot should be known as the Tanaka Amendment to the city charter. It will allow this faithful and hard-working city employee to obtain retirement credit for the three years and three months during which the Federal Government forbade him to live in the city of his birth and to hold his job. It will permit him to pay \$225 into the retirement funds for the payments he missed and to receive a pension increase of just \$354 a year in the late afternoon of his life.

Tanaka is but one of 110,000 West Coast Nisei and Japanese who went to the camps. He is, however, one whom you can help personally. Each "yes" vote for Proposition D will help right this wrong.

VOTE YES on PROPOSITION

D

To Correct An Inequity
In Civil Service Record

ELECTION JUNE 2, 1964



A Bill to Help One Man

The Board of Supervisors will decide Monday if a charter proposal to benefit one man should be given a spot on the June 2 primary election ballot.

It would restore to George Tanaka, 63-year-old head gardener at San Francisco General Hospital, three years and three months of pension credits lost while he was interned along with 5,000 other San Franciscans of Japanese ancestry, during World War II.

It is the first charter amendment ever prepared that would affect a single individual, according to City Attorney Thomas M. O'Connor.

IF APPROVED by voters, it would establish as law that internmen of Tanaka, or other Japanese-Americans, would not break continuity of their city job

for purposes of establishing pension rights.

Tanaka, who was born in a home at Second and Mission Streets, stands to pick up an additional \$3,893 in pension payments.

He would have to pay \$225.86 into the retirement system to make up for payments he missed while interned at Delta, Utah.

The \$7,479 in wages he lost are gone, as far as Tanaka is concerned.

"I'M NOT going to sue anybody for that," he said.

His service with the city began on May 12, 1924, when he became the hospital's head gardener.

Tanaka was interned by military order on April 1, 1942, and released July 1, 1945. Within a month he was back on the job.

Now earning \$745 a month, Tanaka said picking up the internment time would give him a pension amounting to 68 per cents of his salary.

LOOKING back 22 years, he said any thoughts of the injustice of being imprisoned were outweighed by the risks his and other Japanese families would have incurred by remaining in San Francisco.

"I know something about mobs," Tanaka explained.

"I remember what happened to property owned by German people during World War I—and the situation in 1942 was far more extreme than that."

"I was glad to go to the camp."

Tanaka, whose father was one of only three Japanese in the United States to become a naturalized citizen by 1875.

Help for a War Camp

Inmate 7 1954

The wheels of government began to move yesterday for George Tanaka, the 63-year-old head gardener at San Francisco General Hospital.

Board of Supervisors President Peter Tamaras asked the board to approve a charter amendment which would give Tanaka credit in the city's retirement system for the three years he spent in a Japanese relocation center during World War II.

CAMP

Tanaka, who has moved to San Carlos, had been working for the city for 18 years when he was forced into a relocation camp in 1942.

He came back to work in 1945, which means that his service to the city totals only 39 years, instead of 42.

Tanaka himself requested the charter amendment, which is subject to approval by the voters, when he learned it was the only way

Making Amends For 3 Lost Years

WED FEB 26 1954

George Tanaka is the head gardener at San Francisco General Hospital, a post he has held since 1924—except for three terrible years during World War II.

Along with some 5000 other Japanese-Americans from San Francisco, Tanaka was sent to an internment camp in Utah in 1942. When he was released in 1945 he returned immediately to his post at the hospital.

Now Tanaka is 63 and plans to retire soon—and yesterday the supervisors' Judiciary Committee moved to take some of the sting out of the memory of those three years.

AMENDMENT

The committee sent to the full board for approval a special charter amendment which says Tanaka shall not be penalized in his city retirement system credit for the time he spent in an internment camp.

The amendment, if approved by the full board, will appear on the June ballot.

Its passage would mean that Tanaka can retire credited with 41 full years of city service—and therefore receive 68 per cent of his \$745 monthly salary in retirement pay. Without the charter amendment, the gardener would retire with only 38 years of service—in effect being docked for the three involuntary years he spent in Utah.

FEAR

Tanaka now lives in San Carlos with his wife. He isn't bitter about his World War II experience—in fact he said



GEORGE TANAKA
No bitterness

that in 1942 he was "glad" to get his family out of San Francisco because of the strong anti-Japanese sentiment here then.

"You never know what mobs will do," he said.

Tanaka was one of the first Japanese to return to San Francisco from the camp in Delta, Utah, and he said the government used him as an example to prove to the Japanese remaining in the camp that they could return to a peaceful life here.

"People took pictures of me back on the job at the hospital and sent them to the camp to assure everyone that things were all right again," he said.

If the amendment is passed Tanaka will have to pay the retirement system \$225.86—the amount he would have normally paid in if he had been tending the hospital lawns from 1942 to 1945.

Average Service 27 Years

Mackey Top Retiree With 43 Year Career

Twenty-eight employees retired from the DWP on October 1 with an average length of service of 27 years. Topping this month's list in service time is Thomas A. Mackey, chief clerk, Commercial Division, who ended his career after 43 years. Employees retiring on October 1 are:

Thomas A. Mackey, chief clerk, Commercial Division, 43 years.

Developing a 1-acre avocado grove in Fallbrook, near San Diego, and possible trailer travel to the Olympic Games in Mexico City next year are on Mr. Mackey's retirement agenda. Born in Topeka, Kansas, Mr. Mackey received his education in his home state and has since taken several DWP-sponsored courses while with the Department. He served in the Army Medical Corps during World War II. Mr. Mackey is married. He enjoys spectator sports, and was formerly active in Department athletic teams.

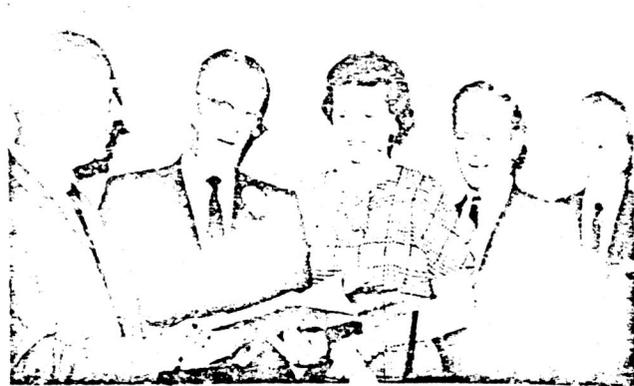
Leif A. Rosenberg, water service and maintenance foreman, Water Operating Division, 39 years, 10 months.

Ernest T. Fukuda, civil engineering associate, Water Engineering Design Division, 39 years, five months.

Mr. Fukuda, a native of Hawaii, completed high school before arriving in Los Angeles in 1923. He subsequently attended UCLA and USC. Prior to his DWP employment in 1928, he worked for a customs broker. Mr. Fukuda is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the American Water Works Association. He played an active role this year in promoting a favorable vote on the passage of a charter amendment granting service credit for retirement purpose for employees of Japanese ancestry who suffered a break in service as a result of their involuntary relocation during World War II. Mr. and Mrs. Fukuda have a son, four daughters, and three grandsons. Travel and woodwork will occupy much of his retirement time.

Francis W. Edmundson, machinist, Water Construction and General Service Division, 37 years, four months.

Mr. Edmundson, who has been a machinist for the Department since beginning here in 1930, was born in Los Angeles and attended Lincoln High School. He is married, having a son, daughter, and two grandchildren. With more leisure time at hand, Mr. Edmundson will be able to further pursue his interests of spectator sports and gardening. Future plans include travel to the South Pacific.



• A book filled with 43 years of memories is presented to Retiree Thomas A. Mackey (2nd from L) by Commercial Division Director William A. Jacobson (L). Those on hand for the event are (L to R) Mrs. Mackey, William D. Plumley, commercial executive assistant Valley Station, and Byron E. Stegner, Employees' Association representative.



• Retiree Richie E. Owen (2nd from L), along with Mrs. Owen (2nd from R) and daughter, Gwen (R), finishing through memory book presented to the retiree Roy T. Kiele (L), supervisor of Special Reports and Budget Section, Accounting Division.



• At a Water Operating Division celebration Retiree Francis W. Edmundson (2nd from L) prepares to accept scroll from Edward Silva (L), field superintendent, while looking on are Mrs. Smith, Patrick D. Docherty (2nd from R), West District superintendent, and Horace H. DeWitt (R), engineer in charge.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

ELIAS MARTINEZ
CITY CLERK



WHEN MAKING INQUIRIES
RELATIVE TO THIS MATTER,
REFER TO FILE NO.

OFFICE OF
CITY CLERK
ROOM 395, CITY HALL
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
485-5705

TOM BRADLEY
MAYOR

April 23, 1984

Ernie Fukuda
15000 Halldale Ave #102
Gardena, CA 90247

Dear Mr. Ernie Fukuda

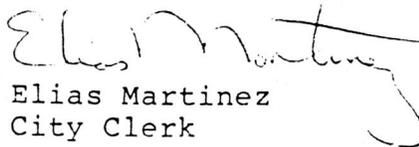
The Los Angeles City Council has approved a recommendation that Japanese Americans forced to leave City employment in 1941-42 be given a reparations payment of \$5,000. The Mayor has concurred in this action by the Council.

The action taken by the Council provides that payments shall be made to past or present employees who are of Japanese ancestry and whose employment was affected by Administrative Action in January 1942. Payment may be made to the employee, a surviving spouse, surviving children, or to the deceased employee's estate. Application for payment may be made by the employee or by one of the survivors mentioned above. Application will not be accepted from any other person. The payment will not exceed \$5,000 for each employee.

Application may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office, Room 395, City Hall, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California, 90012. All applications must be submitted by November 15, 1984. Payments will be made beginning July 1, 1984, and will continue until all applications have been received and determinations made for payment eligibility.

Those persons filing applications are encouraged to provide as much information as may be available so that payment approvals can be made as quickly as possible.

Sincerely yours,


Elias Martinez
City Clerk

EM:cd

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

ELIAS MARTINEZ
CITY CLERK



OFFICE OF
CITY CLERK
ROOM 395, CITY HALL
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
485-5705

WHEN MAKING INQUIRIES
RELATIVE TO THIS MATTER,
REFER TO FILE NO.

81-3206 and S2 thru S34

TOM BRADLEY
MAYOR

CD

July 10, 1984

Applicants-See List attached
to file.

- City Clerk-Administrative Services (with list)
- Controller (with list)
- Treasurer (with list)
- City Administrative Officer (with list)
- Data Service Bureau (with list)
- Water and Power Commission-Attn: Judith Davison (with list)
- Councilman Dave Cunningham (with list)

RE: REPARATIONS PAYMENT TO FORMER EMPLOYEES OF JAPANESE DESCENT WHO
WERE FORCED TO LEAVE CITY EMPLOYMENT IN 1941-42

At the meeting of the Council held JULY 3, 1984, the
following action was taken:

Attached report adopted..... X

" motion " ().....

" resolution " ().....

Ordinance adopted.....

Motion adopted to approve attached report.....

" " " " communication.....

To the Mayor for concurrence.....

To the Mayor FORTHWITH.....

Mayor concurred..... 7-9-84

Appointment confirmed.....

Appointee has/has not taken the Oath of Office.....

Findings adopted.....

Negative Declaration adopted.....

Categorically exempt.....

Generally exempt.....

EIR certified.....

Tract map approved for filing with the County Recorder.....

Parcel " " " " " " " "

Bond approved.....

Bond is No. _____ of Contract.....

Resolution of acceptance of future street to be known as
_____ adopted.....

Agreement mentioned therein is/are No. _____
_____ of Contracts.....

Elias Martinez
City Clerk
ab

E. Fukuda

January 18, 1967

Mr. Kenneth Martens, President
Water and Power Employees Association
General Office Building

Dear Ken:

This letter is a further endorsement of the proposed Charter Amendment to permit our Retirement Plan to give credit to four Japanese-American employees who were removed from their jobs during World War II.

This proposed amendment was passed unanimously by both our Retirement Board and the Board of Water and Power Commissioners.

The television, radio and other news media have indicated their support to this amendment.

I believe our Association can be of untold help by formally endorsing this proposed Charter Amendment and requesting other associations to likewise endorse and publicize it. I would also like to see our Association allocate approximately five hundred dollars to cover the cost of printing brochures or bumper stickers in favor of this Charter Amendment.

I trust you will give this your serious consideration.

Very truly yours,

Harold H. Graham
Past President of Association
Member W & P Retirement Plan

bcc: E. Fukuda

"CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA

November 16, 1966

ALL CITY DEPARTMENTS

FORTHCOMING CITY ELECTION

The Charter and Administrative Code Committee of the City Council has requested that all boards, commissions, and heads of departments be reminded of the following dates related to the forthcoming City election:

WEDNESDAY, May 31, 1967, the date of the General Municipal Election.

THURSDAY, March 2, 1967, the last date the City Council may order the City Attorney to prepare resolutions placing measures on the ballot.

The Committee further wishes that all said boards, commissions and heads of departments be also advised that said Committee has designated the following date as the deadline date for submission in writing by City departments of Charter amendments and measures which are proposed for placement on the General Election Ballot:

WEDNESDAY, January 11, 1967, the deadline date for City departments to submit ballot measures to the Charter and Administrative Code Committee of the Council.

Please note that proposed bond issues must be submitted to the Mayor no later than FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1966. - (150 days prior to election - Mayor's directive No. 7)

/S/ A. Rinati

Clerk, Charter and Administrative
Code Committee

AR:pt"

January 13, 1967

Mr. Kenneth J. Martens, President
Department of Water and Power
Employees' Association
Room A-5

Dear Mr. Martens:

The Water and Power Retirement Board and the Water and Power Commissioners recently approved and proposed a charter amendment that will, if passed by the voters, give four Japanese American Water and Power employees credit for service toward their retirement allowances. This charter amendment will be presented to the electorate at the April 4 election.

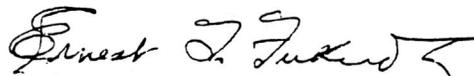
These four long-term employees respectfully solicit your aid in publicizing this charter amendment to your members and to other organizations in the City of Los Angeles.

The endorsement of this charter amendment and any other help you can give us will be greatly appreciated.

As soon as a number is assigned to this proposed amendment I will inform you.

If additional details are necessary or desirable I will be happy to furnish them to you.

Sincerely



ERNEST T. FUKUDA

ETF:gs

July 1964

Louie Baccus

Aug 6, 1964

Received letter from S.F. Chevise
Carolyn Fish -
Jo. Tenaker

Sept 3, 1964

Letter from Bradley -
Copy of letter to S.F. & to
our Gilmore Tillman

Sept 28 '65

Our Retirement Bd. ~~is~~ passed
Regarding Amendment of Charter
Sec 220.1 (C) (L)

Nov 28 '66

Letter from Bradley to W & P Bd.

Dec. 1 '66

Retirement Bd passed.

Dec. 8, 1966

W & P Bd passed.

Jan 3, 1966

Letter from Bradley to place on
April 4 Ballot - Charter Amendment.

~~Jan 11, 1966~~

~~NBC. reports.~~

April 5, 1966

~~Our~~ People of Los Angeles
passed the Charter Amendment
2 1/2 to 1.

Graham

January 18, 1967

Mr. Kenneth Martens, President
Water and Power Employees Association
General Office Building

Dear Ken:

This letter is a further endorsement of the proposed Charter Amendment to permit our Retirement Plan to give credit to four Japanese-American employees who were removed from their jobs during World War II.

This proposed amendment was passed unanimously by both our Retirement Board and the Board of Water and Power Commissioners.

The television, radio and other news media have indicated their support to this amendment.

I believe our Association can be of untold help by formally endorsing this proposed Charter Amendment and requesting other associations to likewise endorse and publicize it. I would also like to see our Association allocate approximately five hundred dollars to cover the cost of printing brochures or bumper stickers in favor of this Charter Amendment.

I trust you will give this your serious consideration.

Very truly yours,

Harold H. Graham
Past President of Association
Member W & P Retirement Plan

bcc: E. Fukuda



THOMAS BRADLEY
COUNCILMAN
TENTH DISTRICT

City Council
of the
City of Los Angeles
City Hall
90012

COMMITTEES
STATE, COUNTY AND
FEDERAL AFFAIRS, CHAIRMAN
TRAFFIC
POLICE, FIRE AND CIVIL DEFENSE

April 14, 1967

Mr. Ernest T. Fukuda
2040 West 30th Street
Los Angeles, California 90038

Dear Mr. Fukuda:

I wish to congratulate you upon the wonderful results
at the April 4 election on Charter Amendment No. 4.

I realize the time and effort you spent working toward
the success of this Charter amendment. The results

May I extend every good wish for your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Thomas Bradley
THOMAS BRADLEY
Councilman, Tenth District

TB:lc

Fick...

April 10, 1967

The Honorable Thomas Bradley
Councilman, Tenth District
City Council of the City of Los Angeles
City Hall
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Mr. Bradley:

The registered voters of Los Angeles have voted overwhelmingly for the Charter Amendment No. 4 for which we are very thankful. This was the result of your efficient campaign assignments and cooperation from the various groups and organizations on our behalf. We thank you very much for your effort.

Please let us know if there is anything we can do to reciprocate.

Yours truly,

Signed by Harold Goham

