

RESISTANCE: treatment for 60-minute documentary

We open with Jimmie Omura and Frank Emi reminiscing at the federal courthouse in Cheyenne, Wyoming, where they were tried for conspiracy, with the reporters who covered the trial.

Japanese <sup>heroic tradition</sup> ~~folklore~~ that underlies the resistance: Nisei daughter Monica Sone tells the story of Momotaro, the Peach Boy; Shosuke Sasaki tells how the story of Chushingura, the loyal 47 Ronin, underlaid the resistance at the camp at Minidoka. The Issei vision as expressed in the Nippon Kan theater in Seattle, and Zen man Guntaro Kubota's wood-framed building in Santa Clara.

Before the War: Jimmie Omura and Bill Hosokawa play on different Nisei basketball teams in Seattle. Omura founds Current Life, the Nisei magazine of literature and politics. Hosokawa on the JACL vision for the future. Kozie Sakai opens his grocery in Mountain View. Frank Emi's grocery in Los Angeles.

Pearl Harbor: JACL leader Tokie Slocum leads FBI raid on Issei organizations. The Bay Region Council for Unity meets in sculptor Isamu Noguchi's Montgomery Street workshop. Recording of Mike Masaoka intoning JACL Creed. Omura's historic first attempt to sue for reparations meets with silence.

The Tolan Committee: Masaoka pledges JACL cooperation. Omura condemns eviction and JACL. Masaoka explains why he unalterably opposed all test cases.



RESISTANCE: treatment      page two

In camp: Hosokawa edits the Heart Mountain Sentinel. On the outside, Omura edits the Rocky Shimp. Scene from The Purple Heart on America holding Japanese Americans hostage to protect captured flyers.

The Loyalty Questionnaire: Kiyoshi Okamoto forms Fair Play Commiteee of One.

Restoration of the draft: The Fair Play Committee draws packed houses. Omura's newspaper snapped up. Sentinel and Pacific Citizen editorially attack resisters. Transcript of Emi's interrogation by camp director. Gloria Kubota types bulletins for the FPC, then hides them in her laundry basket when FBI comes searching. Gloria on giving birth to son and naming him "Gordon" after Gordon Hirabayashi. Sylvia Toshiyuki dodges the FBI and runs bulletins for Omura to publish. Omura refuses to forward mail to FPC to avoid conspiracy charge. JACL urges prosecution of the resisters.

Draft evasion trial of the 63 resisters: JACL sends Min Yasui to break the "gang spirit" of the resisters in prison. Resisters consider shaving their heads to mess up their identification in court. Attorneys come close to fistfight at trial.



Arrest of the FPC leaders: Emi poses for family photo expecting to be arrested. Omura finds letter he wrote from jail in brother's apartment. George Nozawa on the letters he carried between Emi and Kozie Sakai.

Conspiracy trial of the FPC and Omura: the last supper before the trial, the FPC leaders accuse Omura of being a spy for government. Omura doesn't talk to them for rest of trial. His wife taunted for ordering hamburger instead of steak. Newspaper articles by Vern Lechliter in the Wyoming Eagle.

Prison: George Nozawa meets Gordon Hirabayashi at McNeil Island. The FPC leaders stage a judo demonstration at Leavenworth. Toru Ino breaks a man's leg, gets sent to solitary, gets a philosophical idea about incarceration, and to test it arranges to get sent back to the hole. JACL opposes parole for resisters.

The convictions of the FPC are reversed on appeal. The resisters are pardoned Christmas Eve, 1947.

Postwar ostracism: Nisei conspire to get Omura fired from every job but one, so broke he walks home to save busfare and throws up from hunger. After snide remarks at bowling alleys and golf courses, he stays away from Nisei community and gives up on the great Nisei novel he'd planned to write. Frank Okada on his



RESISTANCE: treatment      page four

brother writing No-No Boy.

The restoration of camp history through Days of Remembrance and redress.

The restoration of resisters' history: Emi and Omura rediscovered by historians after exclusion from Hosokawa's JACL histories. Omura given Lifetime Achievement award by Asian American journalists. The Lettuce King Frank Kawahara thanks Emi for what he did for Japanese people.

The JACL confronts its history: Masaoka admits things he wrote then don't look so good today. Nisei Vets stall apology resolution at 1988 Seattle convention. Narrower acknowledgement adopted at 1990 San Diego convention, where cameras are banned.

Coda: Resisters and writers gather on a college campus to talk about their history and pass it on.