

ALUMNI NEWS

Dinner Meeting

■ The November Dinner Meeting of the Alumni Association will be held on November 16 at the Pasadena Athletic Club. Speaker of the evening is to be Henry Duque, President of the Los Angeles Police Commission. His talk on "Police, Public Enemies, and the Public," will give the police commission side of the recent investigation of the Los Angeles police department.

Dinner is at seven; the bar will open at six.

Life in Japan

Tomizo Suzuki received his B.S. in Engineering at Caltech in 1928. After graduation he worked for several years for the American Bridge Company in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, then returned to his native Japan to go with the Hazama-Gumu Company, one of the largest contracting concerns in structural work. During the war he was in Japanese Intelligence. His family was living in Hiroshima when the atomic bomb was released, but they were not immediately affected because their home was in a canyon on the outskirts of the city.

Since the war Suzuki has served as liaison officer for the American Occupation Forces. In the letters below—written to Loren Blakely '23—Suzuki not only brings us up to date on his own activities, but manages to convey pretty graphically what it's like for anybody to live in Japan today.

May 19, 1949

My dear Mr. & Mrs. Blakeley:

For unduly long time I failed to write you, but am certain that all of you are well and prosperous. I was transferred to Eta Jima, an island off Jure (naval base), where Japanese Naval Academy was situated until the end of the Pacific War. We are doing construction and maintenance work here.

My family still lives at No. 708 Kozaki-cho, Sekimachi, Suzuko Gun, Mie Ken. They are fairly well except Toshiaki, my eldest son 13 years of age, who attends a Junior High School, has some trouble with his lungs and is absent from school since January of this year. He has improved considerably, but still has slight fever occasionally. We have tried to give him foods containing proteins, fats, and vitamins, which are not easily secured in these days when inflation is prevalent, as far as circumstances permit.

Recently, I was asked to present my record of schooling and occupations (employment) to the main office in Tokyo. They in turn presented it to G.H.Q. If they approve, I am entitled to go to the States for one month and inspect various engineering works there. (It is said that U.S.A. will pay our transportation and hotel expenses.) I wish I can go to America and see things there and meet old acquaintances, friends, and relatives.

August 5, 1949

How are you all in these days when it is unbearably hot? We in Seki are comparatively well in spite of intense heat and high humidity. I came back from Eta Jima to Seki on July 19. We had a typhoon on July 28-29 which passed through Mie Prefecture and caused damage aggregating to Yen 150,000,000.00 in this prefecture alone. I suffered from sunstroke for several days, but am now fairly well. Toshiaki has improved much; he attended school starting with the latter part of May—increasing school hours by degrees. He made fairly good marks for the term before summer vacation, which started on about 15th of July. But the Doctor says that he must take as much nutrients as possible (proteins, fats and vitamins). Yoko, our daughter 15 years of age, seemingly has similar tendency as Toshiaki due probably to insufficiency in

nutritious foods.

Well, the package through CARE has reached us. It contained the following articles:

1 sack Domino cane sugar	1 sack Omar flour
2 pkg. Uncle Ben's Rice	1 box Sterling salt
2 pkg. Converted rice	1 can Capitaro soya bean oil
6 cakes Toilet soap	4 cans Phillip's Delicious
2 cans Bonita (Lima, Peru)	corned beef loaf
2 cans Plymouth Rock beef	1 can Fruit drop
1 can Swanson Dried and whole egg	1 can Marusho shoyu (sauce)
1 can Swift's Brookfield powdered whole milk	1 can Richmond coffee (1 lb.)
	1 Towel

They all are precious to us and are hard for us to secure by ordinary means. We all are glad to receive them, and will try to give them to our weak children. I wish to thank you immensely for your kindness thousand times.

September 29, 1949

The long, sultry summer has almost gone, and it is rather cool at times at night and in the morning. I have been in Atsugi for more than 40 days; we have urgent work here so I do not go out of the Camp very often. We work every day in the week, plus all night when we are asked to complete certain jobs in time.

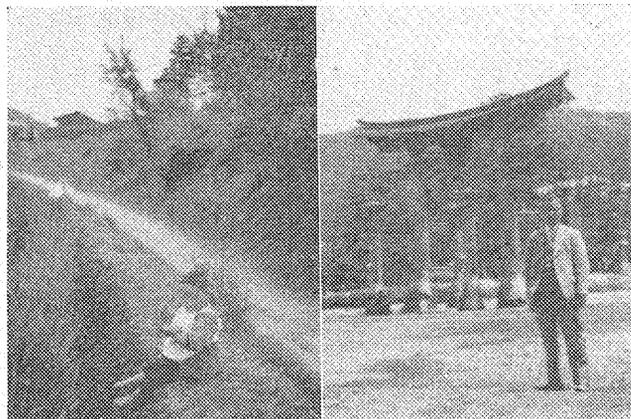
Probably in a month or so, I may be able to return to Tokyo Main Office to stay there for sometime. Our activities will be concentrated on the construction of dams, harbors and highways in future. Maybe we rely upon American Capital more than ever before.

I am suffering from lack of proper dormitory to stay in since I moved here. As I expect to stay in Tokyo-Yokohama Area for a number of years, I wish to find a house for my family. However, housing shortage is so acute here that it is almost impossible for me to locate a suitable house in or near Tokyo. Only means to solve this problem seems to be to construct a house of our own. A small, standard house costs us about 300,000 or 400,000 yen, which is about \$1,000 in U. S. money. In spite of the inflation, our income is so low that most of us do not make so much money in these days. The trouble is that I neglected to build a house prior to the Pacific War when we could build a house 36' x 24' at about 2,000 yen, which corresponded to about \$700 at that time. Somehow, however, I must find a house so that the family may live together as it should.

Although we had typhoons and heavy rains our crops of rice and other cereals may be above average. Already pears, apples, chestnuts and other fruits of the season are displayed in fruit stands, and persimmons and mandarin oranges will come out soon. It is becoming to be good hiking season; hills and mountains will be covered with gorgeous hues of scarlet and gold leaves amidst evergreen trees. Before long, hunters will be busy in chasing wild hogs, deer and duck. In the meantime, our struggles continue forever!

We hear that the Russians now possess A-bombs. But our desire will be "NO MORE HIROSHIMAS" for centuries to come.

Sincerely yours,
Tomizo Suzuki



Two members of the Suzuki family: Left—Two-year-old Shinji waits at the roadside while his mother picks wild flowers and edible grass. Right — Tomizo Suzuki.