



LA VOZ

NARFE Chapter 186 Newsletter
Santa Fe New Mexico

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PERUVIANS IN SANTA FE DURING WORLD WAR II

At the October 8 Chapter meeting, Janice Baker, a Chapter member, spoke about her recent research on a link between Santa Fe and Peru during World War II.

During World War II an internment camp to hold people of Japanese descent was located in Santa Fe, in the current Casa Solana subdivision. The camp was not part of the War Relocation Authority (WRA) system, which ran the large camps in which US Japanese were interned. Instead, the Santa Fe camp was a Department of Justice camp, run by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. In these camps, the US interned Axis nationals from Latin American countries as part of the effort to safeguard the Western Hemisphere. The Federal Government selected the site for the Santa Fe camp in February 1942.

At the time of the Pearl Harbor attack, Peru had a Japanese community of around 26,000, mainly shopkeepers in urban areas. Native Peruvians viewed them with suspicion and fear. When the US government asked Latin American nations to imprison their Axis nationals, Peru's President replied that Peru would not imprison its Japanese, but it would gladly have the US intern them.

During the next two years the US sent seven ships to Lima and carried away about 2,000 Japanese Peruvians, plus some from neighboring countries, plus some German and Italian nationals. US ships took the Japanese from Peru to Panama, where Axis nationals from many Latin American countries were grouped together and then transported to New Orleans. Japanese families from Peru were sent (p.2)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanks to Barbara Mandel, Chapter 186 is again publishing a newsletter. It has been a long time between letters.

• The Chapter membership continues to grow; we now have 167 members. Unfortunately, less than 25% are attending our monthly meetings. In order to entice more of you to attend, we will be having a special December meeting. More on that later. Just to let you know what you have missed, the following speakers have made presentations in the last six months:

• Linda Rundell, State Director of BLM

- Tom Van Valkenburg, former Director of the NM Forensic Crime Lab
- Frank Mulholland, NM Securities Div. on scams to avoid
- Pablo Sedillo from Sen. Jeff Bingaman's staff

At the present time, I communicate via e-mail with about one-third of the membership. In addition to this newsletter, I attempt to keep you up to date on legislative issues and other information from our National Office. If you would like to receive these e-mails, never more than 2-3 per month, please send your e-mail address to:
micpat@cybermesa.com

FEDERAL HEALTH FAIRS

In November six Federal agencies in Santa Fe will hold health fairs to inform employees about their health insurance options. This year, as in the past, the Santa Fe NARFE Chapter will participate in the fairs to provide information on our organization and chapter. A list of the fairs follows. If you worked for one of these agencies, you might want to drop by its fair to say hello to former colleagues and/or to explain the benefits of NARFE. Note: You must bring a PHOTO ID to get into the fair. For more information, call Janice Baker at 471-2448 or

Mike Sullivan at 471-9351.

Tuesday, November 20
2:00-4:00 p.m. National Park Service

Thursday, November 29
9:00-11:00 a.m. National Guard (bring TWO photo IDs)
1:00-3:30 p.m. US Forest Service/Bureau of Land Management

Friday, November 30
8:30-9:30 a.m. US Courts
10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Indian Health Service
2:30-4:30 p.m. US Postal Service

PERUVIANS IN SANTA FE DURING WORLD WAR II (Cont)

mainly to the Crystal City internment camp in Texas. Single men, or men traveling without their families, came to Santa Fe.

In 1942 and 1943, the US government used more than 2,800 Japanese from Latin America in exchange for US civilians trapped in territories that Japan controlled in the Pacific. About half the Japanese in the exchange program were from Peru.

At the end of the war, the US wanted to return the remaining Japanese from Latin America back to their countries. The Peruvian government refused to accept its Japanese, although it did take back its German nationals. The

US deported about 1,000 Latin American Japanese to Japan. A few went willingly because they had lost everything in their home country and had no ties to the US. But others were deported against their will; they wanted to go home to Latin America.

Nationwide, a total of 365 Japanese Peruvians fought a legal battle against deportation to Japan; 81 of them were in the Santa Fe camp. They all wanted to return to Peru. When the Santa Fe camp closed in April 1946, they resettled to other communities as their legal cases continued. In early 1950s, new US laws suspended deportation orders for Japanese nationals remaining in the US and allowed them to apply for US citizenship.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

As of October 1, the Santa Fe Chapter had 167 members.

Pass on the following information to your friends and colleagues who are current Federal employees: Nationwide, NARFE is recruiting active Federal employees by offering a special rate on new memberships until January 1, 2008. Throughout the remainder

of 2007, an active employee may join NARFE for \$25 annual dues, which includes chapter dues. As long as the new member remains an active employee, annual dues will remain at the special rate of \$25.

Anyone---active or retired---joining NARFE on or after January 1, 2008 will pay annual dues of \$33.

ATTENTION SENIORS

In case you have not heard, on the first Wednesday of every month Albertson's gives a 10% discount on most items to seniors.

HONORARY MEMBERS

Do you know anyone who is at least 85 years old and has been a NARFE member for at least 20 years? They are eligible for Honorary Membership. In addition to a certificate, such members will also receive free National and Chapter membership in perpetuity.

DECEMBER MEETING

On December 10, the Chapter will host its annual holiday meeting. You and a guest are cordially invited. The Chapter will pick up the tab. We will convene around 12:30 at the Kingston Residence and enjoy appetizers, adult beverages, and good fellowship. About 1:30 we will be served in the dining area. The menu includes two salads, stuffed chicken breast, citrus rice, and asparagus. Pecan pie will be served as dessert. All items will be served so there will be no long line at the salad bar. Reminder-we are starting later than normal, 12:30. Mark your calendar.