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TOPAZ H439

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT

TOPAZ, UTAH

SECOND HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT AT TOPAZ

by

Russell A. Bankson

PROJECT REPORTS DIVISION
Historical Section

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January 31, 1944

SECOND HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT AT TOPAZ

The second high school commencement at Topaz Relocation Center was held on the evening of Friday, January 21, in the new civic auditorium which was completed only a few weeks previous. There were 82 members of the mid-year class.

While the first commencement last June was held outdoors in the afternoon, the present graduation was the occasion for a center-wide night gathering under the roof of a pleasantly heated and well-lighted building -- a contrast which marks the steady development of facilities at Topaz.

Where the attendance in June was limited because workers could not attend the ceremonies, this time the graduation drew a representative audience from throughout the center that practically filled the auditorium to the seating capacity of nearly 1400.

Commencement activities started with the Baccalaureate Service in the auditorium, Sunday evening, January 16.

The senior prom was held on Wednesday evening, January 19, also in the auditorium. This affair was one of the most elaborate social events ever sponsored by the younger group in Topaz. The large building was decorated in such a manner that it appeared to be a fairy land of color, with

subdued lights giving a sort of irradiant glow to the entire arrangement of bunting paper.

The central theme of the decorative display was the mortar board of the graduates, with streamers extending from various parts of the auditorium to the mortar board, which was silhouetted in stronger lights.

The junior high school held services on Thursday evening, January 30, in the auditorium when 33 students were advanced to the senior high school rating.

The program for commencement was carefully arranged. It opened with a double piano duet played as the candidates for graduation marched down the main aisle and up a flight of steps to the stage in a double file, all capped and gowned.

Yoshio Fujita was the general chairman for the evening's program while Helen Fukui and Harry Kitano were the two class orators, using as their commencement theme, "Building the Peace of All Nation Upon the Youth of Today." Several musical numbers were interspersed throughout the program. The principal address to the graduates was delivered by Project Director Charles F. Ernst, who spoke on the theme of having faith and strength to go forward to meet the dangers ahead.

Following the recessional, the Parent Teachers' Association sponsored a reception which was held in the dining hall of Block 32, which is the high school block. Hundreds of parents and friends of the graduating seniors flocked to the reception where there was a brief program of singing and where

refreshments in the form of punch and cake and cookies were served.

EXHIBITS OF THE BACCALAUREATE SERVICE AND THE GRADUATION EXERCISES ARE LISTED AS FOLLOWS:

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|---------|---|--|
| EXHIBIT | A | Baccalaureate Service Program |
| | B | Translation of Sermon in Japanese by
Rev. Tetsuro Hashima |
| | C | Graduation Exercises Program |
| | D | Invocation Prayer by Rev. S. Shimada of
the Topaz Protestant Church |
| | E | Welcome Address by Yoshio Fujita, Chairman |
| | F | Commencement Address by Helen Fukui |
| | G | Commencement Address by Harry Kitano |
| | H | Address to Graduates by Project Director
Charles F. Ernst |

BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

Sunday evening
January 16, 1944
7:30 PM

PROGRAM

Chairman.....	Principal D. B. Nuttall
Prelude.....	Miss Fumi Hanabe
Invocation.....	Rev. S. Shimada Minister of the Protes- tant Church
Hymn.....	"Come Thou Almighty King" Congregation
Sermon in English.....	Rev. S. Tsukamoto Minister of the Protes- tant Church
Sermon in Japanese.....	Rev. T. Washima Minister of the Buddhist Church
Hymn.....	"O Lord and Master of Us All" Congregation
Benediction.....	Rev. S. Shimada
Postlude.....	Miss Fumi Hanabe

Baccalaureate service sponsored by the Inter-Faith Council

Translation of Sermon in Japanese by Rev. Tetsuro Kashima.

Baccalaureate Service - January 18, 1944

I congratulate from the bottom of my heart all of you who are graduates.

We must be thankful to the staff of the school and the members of your families for putting you through high school in spite of this war.

Some of you may go into further study in colleges or directly into social life after graduation. However you have finished one of your steps.

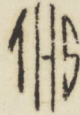
I think it is an important thing for you at this time to think over the matter of education; it is of no use saying that school education is generally the education of knowledge. This education has to be a foundation for the social life. There is no end of education for it is a lifetime job. You must not forget that now is the time to let your four years of high school education bloom and bear fruit. You must not be self-satisfied with the education you had in your past. Especially from the stand point of character building and social education, you are not yet completed. If education is an accomplishment to perfect knowledge, mind, and will, you have only achieved a part of mental education.

It is an essential thing for you to be more careful in personality building, moral education, or education as a man of social life.

EXHIBIT C

Graduation Exercises

Topaz High School



"Build the Peace of All Nations Upon the Youth of Today"

HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

8:00 P. M., January 21st

Nineteen Hundred and Forty-Four

SENIOR CLASS OFFICERS

President.....	Harry Kitano
Vice President.....	Yo Kishii
Secretary-Treasurer.....	Himeko Enomoto
Class Sponsors.....	Miss Eleanor Gerard
	Mr. Masao Yabuki

Program

Processional "Pomp and Circumstance".....Double Duet
 Aiko Takita, Shizu Kashiwabara
 Lily Ann Harada, Florence Yamada

Pledge of Allegiance.....Led by Chairman Yoshio Fujita

The National Anthem.....The Graduates and the Audience

Invocation.....Rev. S. Shimada
 Minister of the Protestant Church

Address of Welcome and Introduction of Speakers.....
 Chairman Yoshio Fujita

Theme: "Build the Peace of All Nations Upon the Youth
 of Today".....
 Helen Fukui, Harry Kitano

Selections.....May Hayashida, Chizu Ishida, Fumi Manabe
 "Londonderry Air".....K. T. Hinkson
 "Lift Thine Eyes".....Mendelssohn

Presentation of Classes.....Principal D. B. Nuttall

Presentation of Diplomas.....Superintendent L. G. Noble

Address to Graduates...Project Director Charles F. Ernst

Class Hymn: "Song of Peace".....Graduates
 Guest Soloist, Kaoru Inouye

Recessional "Pomp and Circumstance".....

A reception will be given by the P.T.A. in D. H. 32 for
 the graduates, their parents and the faculty following
 the graduation exercises.

Graduates

Adachi, Sachi
 Aoki, Yoshiko
 Endow, Makiko
 Enomoto, Himeko
 Fujita, Yoshio Richard
 Fukui, Helen Matsuko
 Harano, Roy Yoshiharu
 Hashimoto, Midori
 Hayashi, Yukio
 Hidekawa, Henry Kiyoshi
 Hironaka, Minoru
 Hiruo, Harry
 Igarashi, Satoko
 Ihara, Namiye B. Joan
 Inai, Naomi
 Iwanaga, Patricia J. Aiko
 Kanemitsu, Tomoe
 Kanzaki, Sekio
 Katsura, Tomio
 Kawai, Lillie
 Kawamoto, Ayako
 Kitano, Harry Haruo
 Kimura, Machiko
 Mori, Helen Misako
 Moritomo, Miyoko
 Nagai, Hiroshi

Nakabayashi, Fumiko
 Nihei, Ken
 Nishikawa, Michiko
 Ochi, Shunsuke
 Sagimori, Minoru
 Saiki, Yoshiko Grace
 Sasamoto, Nobuo
 Sayegusa, Grace Yukiko
 Sonoda, Chiyo
 Takaha, Tsuki
 Takakuwa, Yoshio
 Takata, Paul Hisashi
 Takeshita, Nobuko Bette
 Tamaki, Osamu
 Tanaka, Yoshiko
 Taura, Mas Bill
 Tsujisaka, Jun Stanley
 Tsumura, Hanako
 Tsurui, Yoshiko Mae
 Tsuyumine, Kayoko Florence
 Uchiyama, Lumiko
 Wada, Yoshie
 Yago, Hideko
 Yamanaka, Mary
 Yamashita, Michiko
 Yoshii, Kazuo

SONG OF PEACE

This is my song, Oh God of all the nations,
A song of peace, for lands afar and mine,
This is my home, the country where my heart is,
This is my hope, my dream, my shrine.
But other hearts in other lands are beating
With hopes and dreams the same as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
And sunlight shines on clover leaf and pine;
But other lands have sunlight too and clover,
And other skies are sometimes blue as mine,
Oh hear my song, thou God of all the nations,
A song of peace for other lands and mine.

The High Seniors wish to extend their appreciation
to the Parent Teachers Association for the reception
and to the Low Seniors for assisting in general
arrangements.

Invocation Prayer by Rev. Shigeo Shimada

Our Father, as we gather here for the last time as students of Topeka High School, we lay before thee, the meditations of our hearts. May they be acceptable in thy sight. We lay before thee also the results of our labors already accomplished in the school. May they be deemed worth of thine approval.

Our Father, our hearts are full of joy and thanksgiving at the end of one stage in our life journey. We praise thy holy name for thy guidance, mercy, and protection throughout our school years. We thank thee that thou hast given us many gifts of thy bounty which we have been privileged to enjoy during our days in school.

Our Father, we are now at the new dawn of our life. Our coming life is entirely in thy hand. We expect many difficulties and hardships before us.

Be with us always wherever we may go, and give us courage and strength to overcome all temptations, trials, and difficulties which we will meet in the days to come.

Increase our loyalty to all those to whom we owe obligations which we can never repay -- our homes, our schools, and our nation.

We pray thee, oh Father, for thy abundant blessing upon all teachers and administrators who have made it possible for us to receive the advantage of this education.

Our Father, as we leave our beloved school, we pray

thee for thy merciful blessing upon our alma mater which has been the light of our hearts and wisdom. May it be more and more, not merely a place of mental development but of spiritual awakening, a place where vital decisions may be reached, great purpose molded and high character accomplished.

We ask it in His name. Amen.

WELCOME ADDRESS BY YOSHIO FUJITA

Honored guests, members of the faculty, fellow graduates, and friends: We are gathered here tonight in this spacious auditorium to witness the graduation exercise of the class of January, 1944.

We, the graduates, are indeed fortunate for it is from this point that we shall be able to venture into the future confronting us. Some of us may take the road to higher education; others will fashion their future with the knowledge received in their high school studies.

As we venture forth into this troubled world, thoughts of our high school days will drift back to us. We shall miss the ever-persistent bell which summoned us to classes, we shall miss the classroom incidents, the assemblies, the dances. We shall miss the wise and helpful guidance of our principal and the faculty--they who have given to us their undivided personal direction and influence. The joys and pleasures that were ours in Topaz High School will soon remain but a memory.

Reviewing the history of our class, we find that upon entering Topaz High School in September, 1942, we were recognized as the class of June 1944. By September 1943, a change in policy from the yearly promotion system to the semester basis enhanced us with the new title----the Class of January, 1944.

As Seniors we assumed senior responsibilities, - the qualities of leadership, cooperation--and helped to fashion the spirit

of Topaz High, which will guide us through the darkest hours of our days. Then, the taking of senior pictures, the measuring for caps and gowns, the rehearsals for graduation made us realize that graduation was indeed upon us.

We note the rapid developments which have been achieved. From a small tiny seed in the desert, Topaz High School has bloomed into the beloved school of today.

The steady growth of the library, the extra curricular activities and the construction of this auditorium have all contributed to the development of Topaz High School.

Credit should be bestowed upon the members of the faculty, who through their untiring efforts have made Topaz High the accredited high school which it is today; an equal to all other Utah high schools.

We, the graduates, are proud of the students who have developed friendly relationships here in Topaz and among the outside schools, either through the field of competitive sports or through the dramatic presentations. We, the graduates, are proud of the fact that through our small contributions, we are able to leave Topaz High School a better place than it was back in 1942.

As we stand here ready to accept the challenge of the future we will forever remember the influence exerted upon us by our Topaz High School. With this in mind, we, the graduating class of January 1944, cordially welcome you to this commencement exercise.

B COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS BY HELEN FUKUI

Build the Peace of All Nations on the Youth of Today

Building the peace of all nations on the youth of today is truly a challenge to our graduating class. Whether we will be able to meet that challenge depends solely on how we mold our lives today. All of the knowledge, ideals and desirable traits which we have acquired during our high school years, will help us in meeting this challenge.

Have you seriously thought of your plans for the future?

The world is desperately in need of the clear eyed vision of youth, devoid of hate, greed and prejudices, to help solve our postwar problems. It is a chance for us to give of ourselves to something truly worthwhile. Something which is bigger than ourselves. Something, which when accomplished, will outlast our lives and the lives of generations to come. That something is the lasting peace of all nations. And even if we cannot fully accomplish this task, we can at least lay the foundations for it. We are being given the opportunity to fulfill Christ's preaching of the Sermon on the Mount.-- Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they shall be called the Children of God."

The task of building a lasting peace will not be easy. We have a gigantic job ahead of us. A job which not only takes into consideration the people of America, or the people on our continent, but all the people on the face of the earth.

We cannot expect to live with security in a world half rich and half pauperized. So long as any people are convinced that they are being discriminated against in the sharing of the world's goods, we may expect violence to grow from that conviction. Therefore, as a postwar problem, we must take into consideration the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the whole world. There are at present half a billion men, women and children in the axis occupied countries, who are dying of diseases and starvation. These areas are breeding places for all the diseases of the body and spirit that are born of starvation, suffering and death. To help these people get back on their feet again will be a major undertaking.

A second problem is the children of Europe, and of the war torn world. Picture these poor innocent victims of war, crying or bewildered in the midst of bombed cities and burning homes. Thousands have lost their parents and know not where to find them. Many of these children have never enjoyed a pure bath of health giving sunlight. They are so undernourished that they are susceptible to the slightest disease. Is it just that the children of half the world are healthy, happy and well educated, while the other half are hungry, bewildered and uneducated? Something must be done immediately to help them.

These are only two of the problems which we must undertake to accomplish a lasting peace. But before I name anymore, I would like to list a few of the objectives which we must

endeavor to attain.

Our objective would be to find a common ground for all nations. We must fulfill Tennyson's dream of A World Federation. We, the youth of all nations must learn to work together as one unit, to have peace, through common military security; prosperity, through common economic life, and freedom, through a common Bill of Rights.

Will we be able to reach these high objectives? That, I repeat will depend solely on how we mold our lives today.

To me, education stands out as the foremost factor, influencing a possible peace of all nations. The mind of the youth is flexible, and if certain ideals and beliefs are instilled in them, they would gladly die for their beliefs. Take for example, what Hitler has accomplished in ten short years, by instilling in the youth of Germany, his beliefs that they are a super race, and their destination is to rule the world. He has indoctrinated this belief to such an extent that the Germans have conquered over three-fourths of the old continent. If Hitler was able to fulfill his ideals through the strength and vitality of Germany's youth, then it is inevitable that the youth of all nations together will be able to accomplish a lasting peace, if the right ideals are instilled in them.

Looking at our graduating class today, we know that our education cannot stop now, for in high school we have merely learned the art of learning. We must become better educated,

so that we will be able to solve the postwar problems wisely, and for the good of all concerned.

Not only must we worry about our education, but we must take into consideration the education of all the youths in the world. Education in the future should not stress so much the material learning, but it must stress the teaching of the kind of knowledge and character required to maintain a just and lasting peace. We must give the youth a worthwhile purpose in living. Not a purpose of acquiring material wealth, but a purpose of acquiring spiritual wealth.

A problem of course will be to appeal to the Axis youth, especially the German youth, and if possible get their cooperation.

It would be a simple method of obtaining a lasting peace if the youth of all nations learned the same things, and believed in the same ideals and philosophy of living. When we arrived at such a situation, all the nations of the world would be so busy working as one unit to obtain a lasting peace, there would be no time for wars. In fact wars will be outdated.

Commencement time is a sudden break with the past. It is a new opportunity. Responsibility has begun. Life has come upon us. The joys of opportunity of securing a lasting peace has been given to us twice within the span of a lifetime. We failed the last time, but we dare not fail again or our civilization will surely slip back.

Our class is small in number, and may be compared to a small insignificant seed which had it's start in a desert. It may take that seed a long time to develop, but as it does, it's influence will spread far and wide. We may think of it now as a small graduating class in a desert High School, but if each of us shoulder the task of building a lasting peace, our graduation will be memorable.

Our immediate task is to go out into the American community and become accepted as one of them. Then we will be able to prepare ourselves to undertake that task of building a lasting peace of all nations.

I hope that our graduating class will make worthy contributions toward that ideal goal.

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS BY HARRY KITANO

Many vital questions and problems face the youth of today. These problems are similar to those faced by the youth of yesterday, but we have the advantage of knowing their mistakes. Their mistakes should give us a guide, so that we may not make the same mistakes over again.

The sooner the leaders and peoples of the different nations realize that cooperation begins at home, the better. A nation which is in economic or political chaos cannot contribute much toward a better world. Even after the war, if the people of a nation have to face the prospect of bleak years of waging uphill fights against misery, disease, starvation, and other ugly specters of evil, selfish influences which create the conditions of all wars, then the winning of this war will not have accomplished much.

It seems that nations have been successful in making war, but nations have never yet been successful in making a lasting peace. More and more, the resulting peace has led to a more wide-spread catastrophe. The Peace of Versailles in 1919 is a good example of the catastrophic complications resulting from peace.

The Peace of 1919 concentrated much too heavily on political questions, and it failed to deal sufficiently with economic and social problems.

There are now two main ideas of peace concerning this present war. The first school wants a definite peace on positive and definite terms, derived from world experience.

The second school favors an infinite peace. Their aims are magnificent, but their ideas are somewhat unreal and impractical. Both schools of thought have some wonderful ideas and thoughts, but these were the same verbal roads that led toward the treaty of Versailles. We must not make a similar mistake again.

A lasting peace never can be obtained by military or naval might alone. If some groups think that they are better than others, if people think in the terms of racial superiority, then peace is virtually impossible. The problem of "race" and "war" is a close parallel to the economic class conflict. The fight between "have" and "have not" nations are similar to the fight between "superior" and "inferior" nations.

Peace must be a product of mutual respect, equal status and opportunity. The leaders of peace must find ways and means to remove the myths of racism from the minds and hearts of the world, to teach them that prestige springs from good will, that safety of economic, family and national values lies in justice and in friendly relations between races and groups -- for peace is a creature of mind and spirit.

Therefore, we the youth of today must face a post-war tomorrow with open hearts and minds. Post-war hate, kindled by bombings, sufferings, starvation, disease, death of dear ones and propaganda will blind the people's sense of justice. We must brush aside our petty prejudices and work for the good of the world. We nisei must set an example for the peoples of the earth, by overcoming the bitterness caused by evacuation and continue on toward making a friendly understanding among the peoples of this nation. We must

think, talk and act equally and friendly toward caucasians, negroes and other orientals as hate has never yet overcome the problem of hate. Our job as graduates is to pave the way as smoothly and as gently as we can for our posterity. It may take a long time, but if the seeds are planted and nurtured, the plan will grow.

Therefore, I say, "We must build the peace of all nations upon the youth of today", because the youth of today will be the leader of Tomorrow.

Speech to the Graduating Seniors by Project Director Charles F. Ernst.

Mr. Fujita, Superintendent Noble, Mr. Nuttall, Graduates, Parents, Friends, Neighbors in Topaz.

If we could, like these graduates, just by a flip of our tassels make ourselves over from one form to another in stature and development then life would indeed be easy. You who are parents have looked forward to this day with unwavering faith in your son's or daughter's ability to accomplish graduation for high school. Never, I assume, has there been a day when the outlook for a graduate was so filled with uncertainty as to what lies ahead for him in the future.

Many of you are acquainted with the Chinese symbol for Crisis which, though indicating danger, yet carries thought of opportunity. To me it seems very fitting that these high school graduates tonight should keep in their hearts through these troublesome times, the faith of their father and mother and go forward.

This class has a right to have faith. This class is graduating on the very day when by announcement of the War Department they may see the accomplishment of that task which a year ago those volunteers who left Topaz and other centers determined to do in behalf of all nisei.

Topaz tonight is again joined to the rest of the country; we are again more than ever a part of the United States. We are no longer on a desert away from the mainstream and currents of life. We have regained membership in the natural American Society.

So in a brief word, may I assure you that today as you graduate; today as our President has assured you -- you belong and you have the right to stand shoulder to shoulder with the rest of the young men and women in the United States and of the rest of the world to further plans for a peace which will rest upon the youth of the world.

Yes -- there is danger for our security in any crisis.

But with the faith you have inherited from your parents you can sense the opportunity which crisis also contains for those who are prepared for its responsibilities.