



## A 1943 Letter from George Tokuda, living at the Minidoka Relocation Center, to Clara Kane in Mukilteo

*George Tokuda was born in Japanese Gulch, attended Rosehill, and left Mukilteo after the Crown Lumber Mill closed. He wrote this letter in 1943 to Clara Kane, a Mukilteo resident who had been friends with many of the Japanese, teaching them English. In 1972, Mukilteo's Pioneer Day honored the former residents of Japanese Gulch, and Clara Kane was a special guest. George Tokuda became a pharmacist, opening two drug stores in Seattle. His son Kip was elected as a Washington state representative and his daughter Wendy became a newscaster on a San Francisco television station, voted the most popular telecaster in the Bay area several times.*

*Thank you to Thelma Kane for sharing this letter with the Mukilteo Historical Society.*



Clara Pokswinski Kane

7-9-F  
Hunt, Idaho  
March 24, 1943

Dear Clara,

Remember me? This is the kid that used to haunt your home day and night; the one who formerly raided your cherry orchard; the one that was always at the door the day you baked those delicious home made breads; the kid who to this day often reminisces about those boyhood days when life was so beautiful and full of anticipation and dreams. Today, a little bitter perhaps, but still hopeful, I am living in this concentration camp, looking only for the day when that day of freedom will again be mine. Fortunately, the parents, brother, his wife and I are in the best of health...Here's hoping that your family and Pokswinski's are all well.

You will know by now that both stores that I worked so hard to attain are just memories. I have lost everything totally... to me at one time worth at least ten thousand dollars... the fruit of my seven years of hard work and sacrifice. When I last visited you with my American gal friend...that was when I had just cleared my debts and had begun to realize the fruits of my work. I left it in hands of people I trusted...but becuz they had no business experience...and maybe lacked a little unselfishness...I have thrown everything to the winds. Today I stand just where I began...but I haven't given up...I did it once and feel I can do it again.

My friends have been more than true and kind to me. I have about four

American families in Seattle that have meant so much in this chaotic world... they have really made it easier for me...in fact no Japanese have ever treated me as kind as they. One Chinese friend whom I hold so dear even came over to Idaho to visit me and to see that I was all right. So Clara, this world isn't so bad after all...there are a few things yet that make life worth living. If this world has ever been in such a mess before...that I wouldn't know...but it sure has opened the eyes of a lot of us...and with me...just changed my philosophy of life overnight.

This camp by all means is no Shangri-La or a paradise as a lot of outsiders are led to believe. Of course we cannot complain...yet. I do miss the freedom, the luxuries, American friends and the city life that I have been so accustomed to. This life in a place like this is deteriorating to one's mind...we cannot help but get stagnant. My only pastime is reading... attend a miniature movie once a week...and work at the hospital for nineteen dollars a month the rest of the time. The kids are going wild... there is no such thing as discipline... they go to school yes...but heaven knows what for. They are learning the art of poker games, dice and all the rest that help corrupt the younger generation's mind. I am at present seriously thinking of going outside... probably to the middle west...but that is just tentative plans. I have to get out before it is too late...hate to think of landing at Sedro Wooley or Steilacomb.

(cont'd on page 3)

Lisa Romo

## Message from our President

Hello Everyone –

I hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying our beautiful weather!!!

As with any sunny day in the Pacific Northwest we find people outside..... a lot of people outside. And that is certainly true at the Light Station. We opened to the public in April as you know and have already had over 3,000 visitors. This number isn't truly accurate since it does not include those who arrange for private tours and/or weddings, but our Saturday and Sunday volunteers can tell you that the weather certainly does affect the numbers.

We know the total number of visitors isn't the 'be-all-end-all' part of the Historical Society: it's the experience our visitors have, the moments and memories created by visiting the Light Station. Of course, those moments and memories are enhanced by the work of the garden committee and all the flowers that have been planted; the work of the gift shop buyers and all the scouting and purchasing of items we carry; the work of the City of Mukilteo and the landscaping & repairs they (in conjunction with our maintenance committee) complete; and, of course, the work of all our volunteers and their dedication to the experience, safety and time spent at the light station. The reason I believe we have the numbers we do is due not only to the historical value of the Mukilteo Light Station BUT ALSO the work of all those involved who keep it a great place to visit.

The Historical Society had an excellent turnout at Pioneer Cemetery on Memorial Day to honor those who gave their lives protecting our freedom. Your Board coordinated the event and even with a slight disagreement with the weather (I requested a non-rain day) it was an event I was proud, humbled & blessed to have attended.



Flags at Pioneer Cemetery for Memorial Day

We have a few upcoming events . . . our Pioneer of the Year Ceremony and the Lighthouse Festival [as well as our monthly meetings held at Rosehill Community]. Check your schedules and plan on attending a few of these if you can.

Next month's membership meeting will have a guest speaker, Chad Kaiser, who has a wealth of knowledge on lighthouses and Fresnel lenses.

I'll keep this message from the president short as I plan to get outside and enjoy that beautiful sun. Hope you do the same.

Best regards, Lisa Romo ♦

### Mim Loree Celebrates

March 17, 2013 - St. Patrick's Day and also Mim Loree's 90th Birthday! (She



Mim Loree being serenaded .

always makes it clear that she's NOT Irish.)

A fantastic celebration was held at Rosehill in the Senior's room. Her two daughters worked on the party for a couple of months while Mim was inviting almost everyone she was coming in contact with, including her cat's vet and the mailman! Mim had her son and his family from NJ, both her daughters, here in WA, and many grandchildren on hand to celebrate this milestone birthday.



Mim Loree serving cake.

Huge silver balloons stating "90" greeted you at the door. Mim asked for no gifts, so instead, fragrant, colorful flowers were spread like a garden before her on her table. More flowers, inside a ribboned woven basket, decorated each table. A side wall held a delicious catered spread of appetizers, sandwich fixings, salads and two awesome birthday cakes. Punch, coffee, soda and tea were also served. No one went away hungry.

Mim was kept busy reminiscing with many, many friends and dear acquaintances. The room had a hum of cheerful voices and many hugs were shared. Mim just glowed with happiness.

By the time the evening ended, she had almost lost her voice. This was a birthday that gave Mim, and those who attended, wonderful memories to last for years to come. ♦



(1943 Letter cont'd from page 1)



Seventh and Eighth Grade classes, September 1924, at first Rosehill School. Tsynneoshi Tokuda is in the second row from the front, on the far right. Is this George Tokuda?

You no doubt have heard that the army is taking in Nisei Japanese as volunteers into the army. Most of the friends I have have volunteered and they leave sometime this week for Shelby Mississippi. I have made up my mind to wait for the selective service...If this were in Seattle prior to the evacuation I would never thought of hesitating...but at that time the army didn't want us.

This camp has a population of approximately nine thousand. There are forty-four blocks. Each block is comprised of twelve barracks, dining room, laundry room, recreation hall and showers. It is more or less a community affair...with as much privacy as a goldfish. We live in a one room apartment...with a stove that burns coal. Makes me think of the shacks we lived in Mukilteo only we have just the one room here.

Weather is nothing like the mild climate we are accustomed to in the Puget Sound Area. However, we are gradually getting acclimated to the severe weather...and have at last somewhat gotten used to it. Some days, we have snow, rain, a fifty mile gale, hail, and sunshine all in one day. The dust storms are terrific...

sometimes beyond human endurance. So you can see, this is not such a haven of peace and contentment as we read in the papers concerning this place.

Please give my sincere regards to Angy and Merle...and grandmother. How is Pat...tell him I sure miss my beer and that bottle...of bottled happiness. I sincerely hope that this will be over soon and that we can see each other again.

Sincerely, George Tokuda ♦

### MHS Calendar

September  
6th, 7th &  
8th -  
Lighthouse  
Festival



September 7th - 3pm, Pioneer of the Year Ceremony, in front of Qtrs. A ♦

### Opening Day 2013

Mukilteo Light Station opened on April 6th for the 2013 season.

Christopher Summitt welcomed guests and volunteers to the light station. Robert Smith, aka Peter Christensen, shared Mukilteo history throughout the day with visitors to the tower.



Robert Smith and Christopher Summitt opening day at the light station

Mukilteo Boy Scout Troop 16 performed the flag raising ceremony with the flags whipping in the breeze. Once the flags were in place, it was noticed that the state flag was upside down. This was corrected quickly, with few aware of the mix-up. ♦

### Where's the Lighthouse sign?

Did you notice volunteers are hanging the large Lighthouse sign on the gate in front of the garage now? Yes, someone thought that this sign would be more visible to cars coming down Front Street in this position. **Great Idea!**



Thank you to whoever decided we needed this change. ♦

## **Madeline LaBeau Kuykendall**

### *Mukilteo's Pioneer of the Year*



Miss Madeline LaBeau,  
1941 High School Graduation Photo

Madeline LaBeau Kuykendall jokes that the stork did not bring her—she came to Mukilteo by train... three days after being born in Seattle on October 3, 1923. Madeline was the middle child in the family, for her parents had already adopted in 1917 an infant son, Malcom “Frenchie” LaBeau, and then they gave birth to another daughter, Kathleen, in 1928. Her parents, Kate and Louie, raised their growing family in the LaBeau home at the corner of Loveland Avenue and Fifth Street.



The LaBeau Family;

From left, in back: Malcom (“Frenchie”) and Louis.  
In front, Kathleen, Kate, and Madeline.

Madeline's Mukilteo roots run deep.

Her mother, Kate, was one of the four daughters of Louis and Mary Foster, who operated the Bay View Hotel in Mukilteo in the early 1900s. Madeline's younger sister, Kathleen, married Ken Mortimer, and they lived in the Mukilteo family home with their daughters, Renee Mortimer Ripley and Lynne Mortimer Howard.



The Bay View Hotel at the corner of Park and Front Streets. Madeline's grandmother, Mary Foster, ran the hotel with the help of her four daughters.

Madeline loved growing up in Mukilteo. She remembers fondly going swimming at the beach, if Ekie was available to serve as lifeguard, and she recalls her early piano lessons provided by Hazel Dudder. Most of all, she remembers roaming all over old town Mukilteo during the care-free and innocent years of her childhood. When it was time to come home, her mother would shout her name. (Other parents had other “ringtones”: Bevo Dudder Ellis says her mother would yodel, and Tude Zahler Richter remembers her father's distinctive whistle).

Madeline began school in a brand new building in the fall of 1928, for the original Rosehill school building had burned to the ground just six months earlier. She especially remembers her fifth grade teacher, Mina Graham, who was her favorite of them all.

In 1941, Madeline graduated from Everett High School, following which she attended Northwest Bible College in Seattle. There she met and fell in love with Virgil Dickinson; they were married in 1943 at the Mukilteo Presbyterian Church, just three blocks from the LaBeau home. Then the couple moved to Nebraska

where Virgil served as a pastor in Norfolk and Pender. Their daughter, Linda, was born in 1945, followed by son Mark in 1947. They were living in Seattle, serving another church, when Virgil died in 1953 at the young age of 32.

In 1956, Madeline moved with her two young children to Eugene, Oregon to take a clerical job at a lumberyard. Madeline met and married Jack Kuykendall who swept her off her feet in 1968: “he showed me the world” is the way Madeline puts it. Their happiness lasted for another 30 years, before Jack died in 1997. Madeline now lives in Hillsboro, OR, just outside Portland. She enjoys Sudoku, jigsaw puzzles, needlework, and gardening...and her fond memories of Mukilteo.

MHS members and the public will have an opportunity to listen and learn from Madeline when she plays a prominent role in a discussion of life in Mukilteo from the 1920s to the 1940s. This program will take place at the MHS meeting on Thursday, August 8, at 7:15 p.m. She will also ride in the parade at the Lighthouse Festival on Saturday, September 7, and then be honored at a reception at 3:00 p.m. at the Lighthouse, where she will be officially honored as our Pioneer of the Year for 2013. ♦

### **Pioneer Cemetery Cleaning**

On Saturday, May 18th, Sally Morrison, Mitch and Becky Owensby, John and Ann Collier, Nancy Joao, Joanne Mulloy, Lynette Stefansson, and Lucy Gorman and her friend Joy prepared the Pioneer Cemetery for Memorial Day.

In addition to scrubbing tombstones, the volunteers placed country flags and white crosses, according to the provided map, representing all identified as buried at this site. ♦



## Mass Planting - Year Three



This year's mass planting on the light station grounds took place on Saturday, June 1st.

In just one hour, 374 plants were planted. Nineteen MHS members and two walk-ins, for a total of twenty one volunteers, accomplished this task. And without the two "augermen" this year - Mitch Owensby and Neil Anderson – the time would have been double.



"Augerman" Mitch Owensby

Two more garden beds have been adopted this year, for a total of ten adopted beds. Lynette Stefansson and Joanne Mulloy are now maintaining

the Hosta bed and the Aster bed on the east side of Qtrs A. Big thanks to all of our adopters and all who participated in the mass planting.

A special thanks to Deby Kohlwes of Grounds Professionals who not only selected the healthy large plants, but delivered them to our shed and provided a special soil amendment to kick start them. And to Sally Morrison, who donated a large bag of cocoa bean husks which were used to mulch the beds in front of the tower. Thank you, Sally, for providing that delicious chocolate aroma as we worked.



Char Keane oversees planting in the raised flower bed.

Make sure you stop by the light station soon to enjoy the results of this project. ♦

## 2013 Program Schedule

The following programs have been planned for MHS monthly membership meetings:

*July 11th - "History of Washington Lighthouses," Chad Kaiser, Fresnel Lens Specialist*

*August 8th - "Pioneer of the Year, Madeline LaBeau Kuykendall", Ann Collier*

*September 12th - "City of Mukilteo", Joe Hannan*

*October 10th - Bev Schreiber, local artist*

*November 14th - Year in Review and Volunteer Appreciation", Lisa Romo*

Meetings start at 7:15pm. ♦



**Mukilteo Historical Society Inc.**  
304 Lincoln Avenue, Suite 101  
Mukilteo, WA 98275

## 2013

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*Mim Loree*

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### MHS Website

*www.mukilteohistorical.org*

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