

# Former Student Tells of Life in Russian Prison In Siberia

(Editor's Note: Seiichi Sakamoto, an Aggie-Ex of the Class of '38, returned to this campus recently with one of the most unique personal experience stories ever to come from a former student. His tale of involuntary service in the Japanese Army during the war is an exceptional story in itself. The Japanese-American has an even more exceptional experience to relate—that of being a Russian prisoner for five years. In view of the present world situation, we consider that story extremely pertinent and enlightening. For that reason we are printing it in two installments so that none of the detail need be left out. Today and tomorrow you can read that story as told to Battalion Reporter Dale Walston.

By DALE WALSTON  
The amazing experience of Seiichi Sakamoto, Class of '38, read like a movie scenario, complete with dungeons, mid-night interrogations and imprisonment in Siberia. The experiences, though are true. The small, thin-faced Japanese-American seldom lost the smile on his face as he looked back into the last decade. But the smile failed to hide the weary look that testified to the truth of his tale. But let's begin where he did. It was 12 years ago—1928. "Sako," as he was nicknamed, was just another A&M student. Good-natured and studious, he became very well-known before receiving his degree in Agronomy that June. Like many other graduates he returned to San Antonio to work for his father. His family had left Japan when Sakamoto was two to settle in Texas. A decision in 1941 set Sako on the trail that was to end in a Russian prison camp. It was then that he decided to study the Japanese language back in the homeland of his parents. Unable to return to this country after the outbreak of the war, the Aggie-Ex remained in school until 1943 when all students were drafted for the Japanese army. Since he was born in Japan, he was forced to enter the Japanese Infantry. Through a request to a friend

Sakamoto avoided being sent to the front lines to fight against his adopted country. He went instead to China to fight Chinese Communists who were infiltrating into Manchuria. Malaria put him out of action soon after he reached China. He immediately began to devise a means to return to this country. A suspicious commanding officer warned him that if he tried to escape he would have two alternatives. Either the communists, who had his forces surrounded, would kill him or the Japanese would recapture him and hang him. Nothing remained but to stay with the Japanese army. Sako, after many requests, suc-

ceeded in being sent to school in Harbin, Manchuria, to study Russian. After graduation in 1945 he worked as a monitor of Russian broadcasts. The Japanese at this time were afraid of invasion from Russia. It was while he was engaged in this work that the Russians captured him. Sako's captors assured him that he and other prisoners would be sent back to Japan after the war. In August, 1945, he and the other prisoners left by train for Vladivostok, where they expected to take a ship to Japan. During the night, however, the train was rerouted and the prisoners arrived instead in Birakan, Siberia. Sakamoto's hopes of returning to

America were shattered. He was put in a labor camp and again assured that he would soon be sent to Japan. He worked in the Russian forests and lumber mills. The Russians allowed no outside communication—the group was cut off completely from newspapers, books, and radios. The work day was twelve to fourteen hours long and prisoners were given approximately one hour each day between work and time to retire. Sako utilized this brief time to teach his friends English. He also managed to write and distribute around the camp articles on western culture, Christianity and history.

In 1946, the ex-student began to notice a definite change in the attitude of his captors. Where they had formerly praised President Franklin D. Roosevelt as one of the greatest political figures of the day, they now began to run him down. They especially played down American participation in the recent war. Furthermore they burned the articles Sakamoto had written and forbade him to write more. In place of his teachings, the Russians substituted their own schools, teaching the doctrines of the Communist Party, Materialism and Marx's Political Economics. Sako refused to attend. Food for prisoners at this time

consisted of practically a starvation diet. Daily rations included only 330 grams of black bread, 500 grams of sorghum, 50 grams of dried fish, 48 grams of sugar and 8 grams of oil. And to obtain even this meager food supply the prisoners were required to complete the "norm" of work which they were assigned. Sakamoto was called before Russian officers to explain why he wasn't participating in the Russian schools. His refusal to deny Christianity and worship Stalin as a god, placed him under suspicion. The next four months found him constantly watched by a Russian woman spy. (To be continued in tomorrow's Battalion.)

Seiichi Sakamoto, left, '38, discusses old times with Classmate J. Wayne Stark, director of the Memorial Student Center. Sakamoto was held in a Russian Prison Camp for five years after being pressed into service in the Japanese army during the war.

# The Battalion

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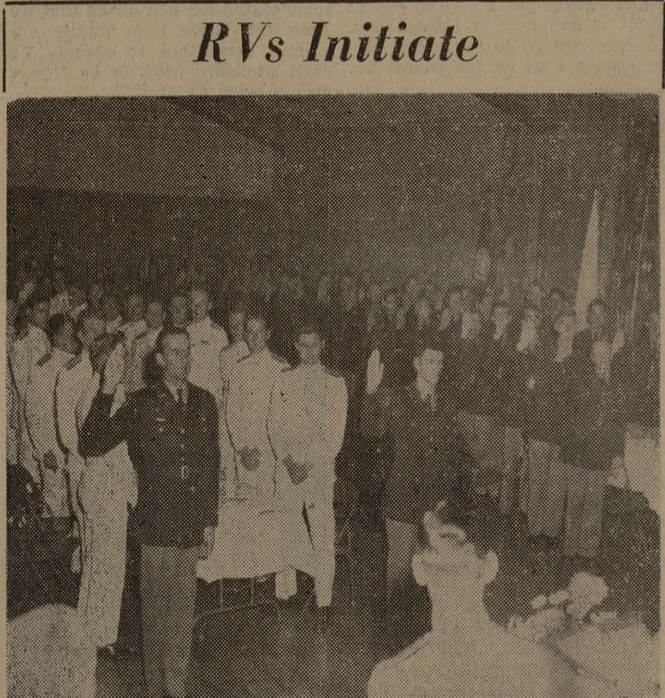
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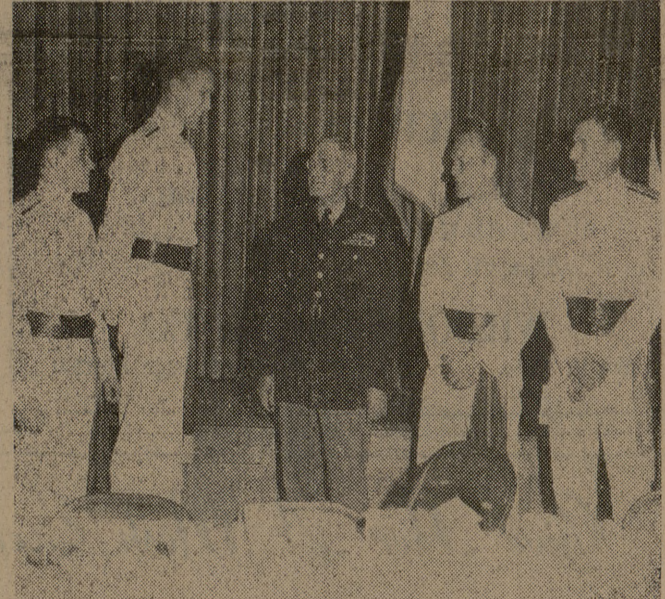
## Aggie Players Open '50 Season With 'Kind Lady'

By ALTON WAYNE  
The curtain goes up at 8 p. m. tonight on the Aggie Players' first dramatic offering of the 1950-51 season, Edward Chodorov's three-act psychological thriller, "Kind Lady."

of the characters is British. Director C. K. Esten has decided to do away with the usual British accent and have the Players deliver their lines "straight." The Players' last production was also laid in London, and Esten feels that two dialect productions in a row might tend to pall on Aggie audiences. Taking the role of the "Kind Lady" is Alice Burke, who is appearing in her first Aggie Players production. Wayne Davis has been cast as Henry Abbott, the part-time artist and criminal who locks her into her own bedroom and leisurely disposes of her lifelong collection of art. In the supporting cast are Pat Morley, cast as Rose, Mary's servant murdered at Abbott's orders. Phyllis Glanning, Mary's niece, is played by Sarah Puddy, while her fiancée, Peter Santard, is played by Doyle Smith. Lucy Weston, Mary's best friend, will be acted by Jean Robbins. Four of Henry's cohorts and accomplices in the crime—Mr. and Mrs. Edwards and their daughter, Aggie and an unscrupulous character known only as "Doc," are played by Gordon Milne, Florence Farr, Theresa Renghofer, and Don Demke, respectively. Chodorov's play is in the nature of a "flashback." Action opens in a prologue which takes place at the present time. A banker, played by Harry Gooding, calls on Abbott to submit an income tax form for his approval, but accidentally meets Miss Herries. She tells him the story of her imprisonment, and the three acts of her play are her story. In an epilogue, Mary gives the banker, Foster, a note for the police. In what has been called one of the most tense and gripping moments in the American theater, Foster must decide whether to believe Miss Herries' story or to brand her an idiot and a liar and give her note to Henry, who suspects that she has given it to him. In addition to being the Players' first play for the current semester, "Kind Lady" is also the first directed for the group by C. K. Esten of the English Department, recently appointed group sponsor and director. With 23 years of writing, acting, and directing behind him, Esten has done a masterful job of putting together a difficult and demanding play in only five weeks of rehearsal time. Almost all of the cast will be new to Aggie audiences. With the exception of Sarah Puddy, Gordon Milne, and Wayne Davis, the entire cast will be appearing for the first time before Assembly Hall footlights.



New members of the Ross Volunteers are administered the oath at the annual initiation banquet of the company in the MSC Ball Room Tuesday night. Charles Easley and James Anderson represent the group of incoming members.



Top officers of the RV Company talk with Maj. Gen. Williston B. Palmer after the initiation banquet Tuesday night. They are from left to right Tom Royder, C. C. Taylor, General Palmer, Bill Parse, and Noble Clark.

## Senator Hints Price-Wage Controls Soon

Washington, Dec. 7 — (AP)—Senator Lehman (D-NY), one of the administration's regulars, told the Senate yesterday wage and price controls undoubtedly are coming "soon."

He pegged the argument that Congress should act promptly to continue rent controls, which are due to expire at the end of this month except in communities which vote to keep them until next June 30. He was far from alone in anti-inflation to take strong steps to set curbs on both prices and payrolls. Chairman Maybank (D-SC) of the Senate Banking Committee said it is essential that the government "get at this inflation right away and stop it in order to preserve the economy of the United States. Senator Capehart (R-Ind) suggested that he be given to an even more drastic move. He said the administration should seriously consider "freezing" all prices and wages right where they are. He suggested that such an across-the-board freeze would avoid "disrupting the economy later by a possible rollback of prices."

## Vishinsky Attacks Peace Movement

Lake Success, Dec. 7.—(AP)—Andrei Vishinsky attacked today a 13-nation appeal to Communist China to stop at the 38th parallel in Korea. His opposition and reported objections by Red China's envoy apparently doomed the desperate plea of Asian and Middle East countries for an end to the fighting. Diplomats said Wu Hsia-Chuan, ambassador of the Chinese Communists, countered the peace appeal last night with an unofficial demand to know why it was being sent only to his government. He was said to have insisted it should be sent also to the United States. Red China and Russia both charge the U. S. is the aggressor in Korea. **Peace Appeal** No word came from Peiping on the peace appeal. The general assembly went ahead in an extraordinary session with plans for a fast airing of the crisis. The assembly voted 51 to 5 to send to the political committee a six-power demand for U. N. action to stop the Chinese Communists. **Statement Authors** The 13 countries are India, one of the prime movers; the Philippines, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Burma, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Yemen. **Peace Appeal** An American delegation spokesman made it clear the U. S. had nothing to do with the 13-nation plea. He said the U. S. delegation was not asked to give its approval to any implications in this appeal, nor has it given any favorable or unfavorable comment. Vishinsky declared there have been no facts to show the armies of the Chinese people's republic intervened in Korea. He said the only document before the assembly was the "notorious" MacArthur report "which was submitted by this evil genius of our day who VISHINSKY, Page 6)

## Intolerance' For Film Society Movie

D. W. Griffith's "Intolerance" will be presented at the third meeting of the Film Society Monday night at 7:30 in the YMCA chapel, Herman Gollob, president, announced today. Griffith, one of filmdom's earliest pioneers, laid the groundwork for much of Hollywood's present-day technical prowess. Among his contributions are the panoramic shot, the close-up, and the flashback. "Intolerance" is a motion picture landmark chiefly because it contains many technical innovations which, at the time of the film's release in 1918, were revolutionary. Other films scheduled to appear in future meetings are "All Quiet on the Western Front," "The Good Earth," and "The Thin Man."

## Rifle Team Slates Meet Saturday

The A&M Rifle Team will attend a shoulder to shoulder meet against Texas University and Arlington State College at Arlington on Dec. 9th. The team is composed of Russel Durrill, Orville Schlinke, Roland Zapata, John Rowe, Duane Unrue, and William Rainwater. The team fired against University of Virginia last week and won by 71 points, team coach Sgt. Reese, said today. A special meeting of the team has been called for Wednesday night, 7:15 at the rifle range. All members are requested to attend.

## Allies Dug In For New Stand In North Korea

Tokyo, Dec. 7.—(AP)—Allied troops rallied today on a new dug-in defense line 58 miles inside North Korea with hopes that favorable mountain positions, air support and their outnumbered manpower might stem the Chinese Red tide. A hundred thousand enemy troops are estimated in the frontal array against them with 70,000 to 80,000 more in reserve. To the north and east of the new line, U. S. Marines and Doughboys and Allied U. N. forces of the Tenth Corps were fighting in snow and bitter cold in efforts to escape widely encircling Chinese man-traps. The Eight Army's western defense is manned by the survivors of Gen. Walton H. Walker's force that outnumbered 110,000 troops before it was forced into retreat late in November. The defense is pegged on the Yellow Sea coast and extends 60 miles inland on an arc to Koksan. It is 53 miles southeast of the Red Korean capital of Pyongyang. General MacArthur's headquarters described the U. N. line as running east and north from a tributary of the Taedong River—near the port of Chinnampo—back down to Koksan, 35 miles north of the main highway to Seoul. American troops joined forces on the snow-swept northeast front for an escape drive through a Chinese trap. They pushed into Koto today after a bitter battle through heavy Chinese resistance south of the Changjin Reservoir. **Eight Miles in 25 Hours** It took them 25 hours to batter their way eight miles from Hagaru. The first elements of two marine and two infantry regiments made their way into Koto at 7:45 a. m. (5 p. m. EST Wednesday). Associated Press correspondent Jack Macbeth, the only correspondent in Koto, said eight hours later they "are still coming into Koto today."

## 'Great Issues' To Be Offered During Spring

Several speakers for the Great Issues course, to be held during the spring semester, have been engaged, Dr. S. R. Gammon chairman of the Great Issues Committee, announced today. A budget of \$2,800 was made available by the college to obtain speakers. One of the notables already scheduled for the spring calendar is Eric Sevareid, one of CBS's leading news commentators, who will speak Feb. 9 on "Washington vs. the Country." James C. O'Brien of the Federal Security Agency will be on hand Feb. 19 to discuss "Manpower Resources in Time of National Emergency."

Mrs. Vera M. Dean, editor of the Foreign Policy Association's publications and authority on international affairs, will discuss "The Next Phase in US Foreign Policy" March 7. The last two speakers that have been scheduled to date are William L. Shirer, noted MBS news commentator, who will speak on "Our Struggle for Survival" March 26, and Felix E. Larkin, Counsel for the U. S. Department of Defense who will discuss "Our Current Defense Problem" on April 2. Negotiations are in progress by which the Committee on Great Issues hopes to add two or three more competent speakers to the list, Gammon said.

## Ithyologists End Guadalupe Survey

Thirteen Ithyology students under the guidance of F. T. Knapp of the Wildlife Department recently completed the first complete survey of the species of fish present in the Guadalupe River System. About 40 different species were found from the mouth near Tivola to the headwaters near Kerrville. At present it is not known whether any new species were taken. Complete data of the survey should be available within two weeks.

## Aggie Metallurgist Presents Paper

Robert L. McGannon, Metallurgical Engineering student from Wink, presented a technical paper at the joint meeting of the Texas Local Sections of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers in Lubbock, Dec. 1 and 2. Attending the meeting with McGannon, was faculty representative, Joe A. Laird, assistant professor of Petroleum Engineering.

## Tau Beta Pi Initiation Banquet Slated Dec. 13

Seventeen student members and 19 alumni members will be initiated into the Texas Delta Chapter of Tau Beta Pi on Dec. 13. Initiation for the 36 new members will be held in the lecture room of the chemistry building at 5 p. m., Wednesday. Oscar H. Koch, consulting engineering assistant with Koch and Fowler, Dallas will speak at the banquet to be held in Sbia Hall at 7:15 Wednesday evening. **Faculty Advisors** Faculty advisors for the club are H. W. Barlow, Dean of Engineering; S. J. Buchanan of the C. E. Department; Norman F. Rode of the EE Department and W. E. Street, head of the Engineering Drawing Department. The Delta Chapter, received their charter on Oct. 11, 1948 after many years of effort on the part of the engineering department and the college. **Requirements** Present requirements for entrance into the chapter require a first semester junior to have a grade point ratio of 2.75 or greater. A second semester junior needs a ratio of 2.25 or greater and any senior must have a ratio of 2.17 or greater. Acceptance is based on character, leadership, campus activities along with the high grade-point ratio. The figures for admittance are based on the top eighth of the junior class and the top quarter of the senior class. These figures are revised slightly each year according to the size of the graduating class for that semester. All members of the club are asked to pick up their banquet tickets from Mrs. Coleman in Dean Barlow's office before Saturday.

## France to Call Meeting to Talk Rearing Plans

Paris, Dec. 7 — (AP) — France announced last night she will call a meeting of the Western European nations in Paris next month to draw up plans for a European army. Information minister Albert Gazier said this and confirmed that France had agreed to immediate formation of West German combat teams in Atlantic nation forces which would defend Europe against Communist aggression. Previously the French had held out for creation of a unified European defense ministry before using German troops. Faced with the worsening Korean situation, the French officials said the German units would be accepted as an emergency measure. **Some Progress** In London, the North Atlantic Pact deputies reported "some progress" tonight toward an agreement on how to bring West German troops into western defense forces. Authoritative sources here said behind-the-scenes political maneuvering had averted a threatened collapse of the French cabinet over rearming Germany. Socialist Guy Mollet, French minister of state charged with council of Europe affairs, was reported ready to resign from Premier Rene Pleven's coalition government early today in protest against a Dutch plan for recruiting German troops which the Atlantic pact deputies are considering. The Atlantic pact deputies' spokesman in London indicated their negotiations on German rearmament have entered a possibly a final phase. The Dutch plan is reported to provide for a civilian high commission to handle recruiting of 150,000 German troops. These would be seeded in brigade units of from 4,000 to 6,000 in Atlantic Pact forces in Europe. A West German spokesman said yesterday the plan was unacceptable, that it "discriminated against West Germany."

## Journalism Head To Address Confab

Donald D. Burchard, head of the Journalism Department, will address the Texas High School Press Association twice during its meeting at TSCW, Thursday through Saturday. As principal speaker at the meeting, Burchard will first address the general assembly, consisting of some 700 high school boys and girls at 1:30 p. m. Thursday. His subject "Twenty Thousand Ways—All Journalism," will point out the advantages of including some journalism courses in any college curriculum. Another talk to a smaller group will be given later Thursday afternoon on the principles of news writing. Poultry Husbandry students will make a two day inspection trip to Nacogdoches and Center, Friday and Saturday. The class, will investigate new methods of raising broilers and inspect the broiler packing plant at Nacogdoches. Over 500 broiler houses have been built the last two years in the North East Texas area. John Moosberg, Shelby County Agent, will supervise the trip.

## Poultry Class Sets Trip to East Texas

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