

Stanley Kaizawa Interview July 5, 2000

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A juicy morsel for the press. Yasosuke, Mitsugoro to be, he got so tired of the responsibility for being a major actor, divorced his first wife and married again. (Takeshi) Teshima sends me these clippings about the scandals.

[Picture showing (John) Boruff and (Hal) Keith, probably November-December 1945, with Zenshinza actor Chojuro and a translator Clifford Konno.] I was in the Army with him, but his story is awful. He took advantage of his position. He served in the Pacific and got a field commission as a lieutenant. Then when he went to Japan he became head of motion pictures of CI&E (Civil Information and Education). He demanded things of Shochiku and Toho. He got Toho to give him an actor as his mistress. Then Clifford's wife came from the States to live with him. In those days, families could come over. But he kept on living with his mistress. So the wife went to Clifford's boss and told him Clifford doesn't come home, and when they checked they found he was patronizing a number of hotels and restaurants and the bills were always covered by Shochiku. He was arrested, put in Yokohama stockade, and then went over the wall, escaped and melted into Japanese society. It was all in Stars and Stripes. And was never found. One time I was at Kanto Haiden, when CI&E (Civil Information and Education) was in Radio Tokyo, I bumped into Clifford at Radio Tokyo. What are you doing Saturday, he asked. He took me to a restaurant in Shinagawa in the gay quarters. We had a table, with him at the head. He had 4-5 geishas. We drank a bit and reminisced about being in the Army together. He said I've arranged with the madam for you to stay with one of the girls. I was escorted upstairs, and there the girl was crying. What is the matter, I asked. I don't want to do it, I don't want to do it, she cried. I told her to go home, she didn't have to do anything. That was the way he was. Anyway Clifford was a disgrace.

[Hirono says (Clifford) Konno translated film scripts for CI&E (Civil Information and Education) since Boruff went home around January 10 1946, perhaps Konno took over the film job from Boruff and from (David) Conde.] I remember visiting him because we had been friends in the Army before, and he acted like a shogun.

CI&E (Civil Information and Education) never meddled or said you can't do this play because it is feudal or anti-occupation. It kept within its bounds.

I've been suppressing this knowledge because we were close, in the same company at Camp Savage, in the same barracks, but this guy later turned out to be very leftists, communist. This is a part of Hawaiian history. There were a number of Japanese [Americans who were very leftists in the labor unions. Eddie Kaneshima who was in the theatre section of CI&E (Civil Information and Education). In Minneapolis, at the Casablanca, we were drinking together and a couple of marines came in, who had been in the battle of Guadalcanal, and said, you damned Japs. We were in uniform. Eddie went for them, fists were flying and the bouncer separated us. It wasn't a big affair, people jumped in and said you were fighting together not each other. Anyway, Kaneshima was of Okinawan descent. And they were from "naichi," while the bulk of immigrants were from Hiroshima, Yamaguchi, Fukushima, and Fukuoka. The issei had prejudice

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against some from outside, like Okinawa, who also often raised pigs and were looked down on. Eta on the mainland handled animals. So this prejudice existed among the issei. The Okinawans felt suppressed. But the nissei and sansei didn't care. Nakama, Higa, Oshiro, Shimabukuro are Okinawan names. They were active opposing the Big Five and seeking economic justice. Ten nissei were tried for their leftist labor stance, both before the war and later. Close friends of mine, the Kuwai's who were in CCD (Civil Censorship Detachment)-now live in Stanford-used to often talk about the injustice of the Big Five system. I don't want to be linked to Eddie. I remember one night, we were drinking at the club, and we decided to go out. We all got into a jeep, and as we drove along the moat, another guy in the jeep sarcastically said, "Ah, breath in the imperial air." And I realized I shouldn't be with these guys. Too leftist. I haven't seen Eddie in 30-40 years, and I feel uneasy about his leftist feelings because of my background. Eddie and I both roomed in the Yaesu Building but we had very little social contact. Most of my social contact was with the CCD (Civil Censorship Detachment) personnel.

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Misao Kuwai said to me, look up my good friends look up Dr. and Mrs. (Aiko) Reineke. I didn't, but if I had, my civil service career would have been gone. They had people watching them. It was just luck. I didn't know anything about them. They were fired, and then won a law suit to be reinstated. All my career has been intelligence, working against communism, against Russia. I visited Eddie's mother and she was so happy that I visited her and updated her on her son. Francis (later Frank) Motofuji was in CI&E (Civil Information and Education) as a civilian. He and I went to UH (Univeristy of Hawaii) together and went into the Army together, to Camp Savage and MIS (Military Intelligence Service) language school together. He loved kabuki and he went to theatre all the time. He married a white Russian woman.

The nisei are very proud of our behavior, of having been moderately successful, and having suffered to achieve that. So when a nisei does something disgraceful, we all feel the humiliation. And we are proud of our companions' success. We worry that the sansei don't uphold our traditions.

Stanley (Kaizawa) does not remember the January 1946 articles about kabuki going down the tubes.

[Were there translators in CCD (Civil Censorship Detachment) whose job it was to read the papers and see what they were saying about theatre?] I don't recall that (Richard H.) Kunzman or (Kenneth) Cameron sent word down to Earle (Ernst) to have one or two people screen the papers. I don't think so.

Earle (Ernst) knew ever so much more about kabuki than Faubion (Bowers). Earle (Ernst) was all eyes and ears (learning). Earle (Ernst) was introduced to kabuki by Faubion (Bowers), he learned from Faubion (Bowers) later when Earle's (Ernst) books was praised and became the standard history of kabuki, I think Faubion (Bowers) became resentful and in later years felt jealous. I know both personalities, and I think it was really uncalled for when Faubion (Bowers) tried to smash Earle (Ernst). So Earle (Ernst) was going to file suit. I remember I was at Earle's (Ernst) home and he told me he was going to sue, but then Faubion (Bowers) backed out. [or backed down?]

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I never heard about terakoya jiken while I was in CCD (Civil Censorship Detachment), only from you (JRB—James R. Brandon) during these interviews. EE (Earle Ernst) never mentioned it. [Earle (Ernst) wasn't in Japan then.] [But Stanley (Kaizawa) responded to FB (Faubion Bowers)'s request for Terakoya information! (Faubion) Bowers mistakenly says it occurred at Teigeki, showing how little FB (Faubion Bowers) knew about the terakoya incident. Why is he asking Stanley (Kaizawa) about it?] Faubion (Bowers) had a good linguistic mind, and he could learn a language quite well in 6 months of a year. His spoken Japanese was good, but his reading was less good. ]

Teigeki didn't really do kabuki. It was run by Toho. It did musicals and ballet and I went 4-5 times to Mid-Summer Night's Dream, which ran for 90 days, a long run. We sat in the special booth in the back.

The male reporter with Toki from Engekikai had the article in which Yoshida said that EE (Earle Ernst) should be credited with saving Kabuki. It wasn't only (Faubion) Bowers, (Faubion) Bowers, (Faubion) Bowers. (Faubion) Bowers spoke sarcastically to Yoshida and didn't respect him. EE (Earle Ernst) did treat Yoshida well. Faubion (Bowers) took advantage of his position. Faubion (Bowers) was a good writer.

FB (Faubion Bowers) made a point of making a few deletions as part of his strategy of getting Chushingura approved.