



Photos courtesy Trinidad History Museum

The visiting Ogawa family includes, from left, Ken Ogawa, Janice Ogawa, Gaylene Uyemura and Dean Ogawa.



Holy Name Society Troop 269, Trinidad's sole remaining Boy Scout troop, welcomed Eagle Scouts Dean and Ken Ogawa back to Trinidad.

The Ogawa family re-visits Trinidad

By PAULA MANINI
Special to *The Chronicle-News*

A special reunion took place in Trinidad on July 22 when the Ogawa family visited their hometown. Siblings Dean, Ken, and Janice and their cousin Gaylene Uyemura joined old friends for an evening filled with personal stories and community history. The event was courtesy of History Colorado's Trinidad History Museum and its program series entitled, "Celebrate Japan!" Dean gave a wonderful presentation about his parents, Bob and May Ogawa, and his uncle Sam and aunt Margaret Uyemura. He

used family photographs taken in Los Angeles, Camp Amache, and Trinidad. The two couples founded the Trinidad Greenhouses after they were released from Camp Amache, the World War II internment center for Japanese Americans near Granada. All four were relocated to the camp from California after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Once released from Camp Amache, the two couples showed remarkable perseverance and hard work to triumph over adversity. They moved to Trinidad and established the Trinidad Greenhouses, constructing the buildings and growing business from the ground up. They jointly owned and operated the greenhouses for more than 30 years.

The four children attended local schools, graduated from Trinidad High School, and were involved in many community activities. As members of the Kiwanis

Boy Scout Troupe 265, Dean and Ken became Eagle Scouts.

For those who may have missed it, Trinidad State Junior College videotaped the presentation, which will be available on cable television in the near future.

"Celebrate Japan!" is supported in part by the William and Alice Hosokawa Fellowship of the Japan America Society of Colorado; Friends of Historical Trinidad; Colorado Garden Show, Inc.; City of Trinidad Tourism Board; City of Trinidad Arts and Cultural Commission; Bar NI Ranch Community Service Fund; and Emory Tilden Trosper Jr. of Trinidad and Tokyo.

Next up in the program is the Lantern Festival with Taiko drummers on Aug. 14. For information, contact Paula Manini, Director of the Trinidad History Museum, at (719) 846-7217.

Judge orders 16 names reinstated on Apache recall petition

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will join Mayor Pro Tem Chuck Henry and Mayor Jesse Johnson, who are also facing recall.

In his ruling, Paternoster said that the 16 are legally registered voters who reside within city limits and because of this, they should not be denied their right to vote, or in this case, their right to sign a legal recall petition. In one instance, a Raton resident moved 20 yards next door on the same lot that he owned and his address changed by four numbers. His name was purged because his new address did not match the address listed on his voter registration.

Trinidad woman proves her mettle in gunsmithing

By SANDRA K. VELTRI, Ph.D.
Trinidad State Junior College
Special to *The Chronicle-News*

Did you wake up one day and say, "I know what I want to be for the rest of my life!"? If you did, congratulations! Most people fell into their career path by accident. If they are lucky, they love their jobs. If they are really lucky, they can support themselves and their family.

Consider this, how many young women have ever considered gunsmithing as a career choice? What the heck is gunsmithing, anyway? Guns and ammo are certainly not the everyday topic for most females. This is certainly true of Yvette Gonzalez, extraordinary female gunsmith.

Yvette started out by earning an associates degree in mechanical engineering from Texas State Technical College in 1993 (this is where she actually met her husband, Speedy Gonzalez). Yvette learned to run the common machines used in the gunsmithing trade, such as lathes, mills, and grinders. Yvette was the only female in the program and certainly had to prove and set herself apart from her male peers.

She was able to secure a job with a company named Doskocil Mfg., the largest manufacturer of high quality injection molded plastic gun cases and pet products in the world, and renewed her friendship with Speedy Gonzalez and eventually married. While both working for Doskocil, Speedy continued to build his personal rifles for benchrest competitions around the world from their shop at home. Through their travels together to matches across the country, Yvette became more than just a spectator of the sport of benchrest and began to compete along side Speedy. As a team, they were often unbeatable at the matches they attended. The resulting success of the pair led to other competitors wanting the same quality of rifles that Yvette and Speedy had on the firing line. When orders began to mount, Speedy turned to the most logical choice for a partner who shared the same dedication to quality and precision - his wife, Yvette. Since she was able to run the machinery, it was a simple task for Yvette to apprentice under Speedy. He taught her the secrets of close tolerance barrel fitting and chamber-

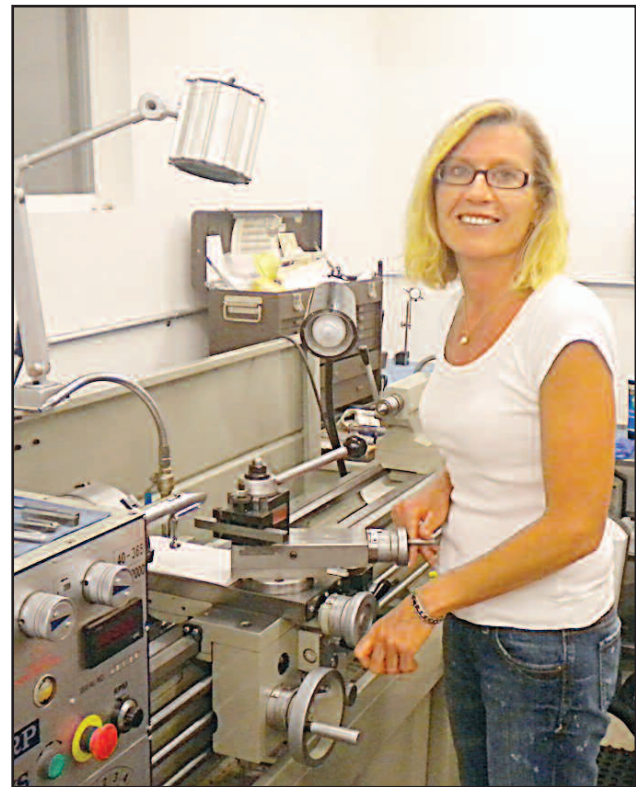


Photo courtesy of Trinidad State Junior College

Yvette Gonzalez has proven that women can excel in gunsmithing. She custom builds shooting rifles and shoots competitively as well.

ing, as well as the art of stocking the modern competition rifle and swaging her own jacketed match bullets. She rapidly became the envy of many of her male shooting counterparts as her knowledge of gunmaking and competition reloading exceeded theirs (she did report that on her own she is able to create a rifle from start to finish, but her specialty was the barrel work that had to be held to tolerances of no more 0.0003 or less - that is 10 times finer than the thickness of the average sheet of paper).

The demand for the custom rifles created by Speedy and Yvette grew so large that their jobs with Doskocil were history and they opened up their own full-time shop called S.G. & Y. Precision Rifles. Yvette became not only one of the "guys" in the shop, she was also the customer service representative, payroll clerk, inventory control officer, and FFL compliance officer; just to name a few positions. She had also become a world class benchrest shooter.

When asked what obstacles a female considering gunsmithing should prepare herself for, Yvette was quick to point out that some customers did not really believe a female could build a rifle. Furthermore, they definitely did not want a female working on "their" rifle. She explained that this is such a male-dominated field that most do not expect a female to be able to "hold her own" in the profession. Females need to be ready to prove themselves over and over again. She recalled a customer who had come to pick up his rifle and became very irritated when he was informed by Speedy that

Yvette had done the work. A few days later he apologized, saying that it was the best shooting rifle he had ever had. From that point on, he requested that Yvette chamber all his barrels (during her career, Yvette has beaten many of the same men who doubted her gunsmithing abilities).

She is quick to note that females make wonderful gunsmiths because they have excellent eye-hand coordination, are patient, and have a great eye for detail. Yvette feels that the gunsmithing profession is a wonderful career choice for females who are creative, like to work with their hands, and take pride in their abilities. She said that while it can be a difficult field to break into, it is very rewarding.

Yvette noted that she and her husband have re-built their shop at their home in Trinidad to once again build rifles and offer the services they were world famous for. Her husband, Speedy, is a faculty member at Trinidad State Junior College and he is passing on his abilities to the next generation, but the desire to build their own rifles is still there. Yvette is ready to again help her husband create these wonderful pieces of art made of space age carbon fiber and the finest stainless steel available. She wants to assist the female who may be interested in gunsmithing as a profession to make that decision. She believes that gunsmithing and competitive shooting can encourage young females to have positive self image, self-worth, and pride in her unique abilities as a woman. Ladies, can you handle the challenge?

Programs welcome new coolers at fairgrounds

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funds. Priscilla "Pete" Fraser, executive director, and Lonny Medina, administrative assistant with South Central Council of Governments (COG), helped contribute about \$13,000.

This has been a need for a long time, according to Commissioners Gary Hill, Jim Vigil, Fraser, and Salazar.

For years, the county did not have the capacity or the capability to bring certain kinds of perishable commodities because the county did not have the storage or refrigeration to hold these items until they could be handed out.

With food stamp cases high right now due to the downturn in the economy, this was an ideal time for the county to obtain the funds for this project, according to Hill.

County Deputy Administrator Leslee Fresquez added, "The cooler and freezer will now allow DHS to receive different types of commodity foods than they are accustomed to receiving - items such as fresh fruits, cheese, eggs, and meats. DHS was not able to distribute some of these

items before."

Fresquez also thanked TJ's Refrigeration, the general contractor that installed the cooler, the Department of Corrections, who helped out with painting and clean up, and Ernie Gutierrez, maintenance for DHS.

"Ernie was invaluable in making sure the improvements here at the fairgrounds were a success," Fresquez added.

Frazier said, "We at COG were happy to team up with the county and DHS for this project. This is truly what COG is all about. I want to thank all three commissioners for helping on this project and working together with all working governments."

"I want to thank DHS, COG, DOC and Leslee and my fellow commissioners for all of their hard work on this project," Commissioner Hill said. "I think in these hard economic times, we are looking at this to really help our community out and help the commodities program. I wish times were better right now and this project will help people out right now."

Saturday's Folsom bash celebrates Smithsonian music exhibit

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The New Harmonies exhibition, co-sponsored by the Folsom Museum and New Mexico Humanities Council as a "We the People" project, will remain on view daily through Sept. 18, after which it will move to Santa Rosa, NM. The Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street (MoMS) program is designed to present such exhibits throughout America; nearly 800 exhibitions have been presented since the program was launched 14 years ago.

New Harmonies, the sixth MoMS exhibition, tells the American musical story through photographs, instruments, lyrics, and artist profiles. It demonstrates the role American roots music has played in the development of today's commercial rock, country, blues, gospel, pop, and hip-hop gen-

res. As the exhibition proceeds around the country, focusing on rural areas, each venue is encouraged to add its own contributions.

The Folsom Museum and New Mexico Humanities Council are supplementing the exhibition not only with all-day performances by Bayou Seco Saturday, but also with a two-month long program of lectures, demonstrations, and performances at the Folsom schoolhouse and the Des Moines schools. The Chronicle-News will preview these programs as they approach.

Because the New Harmonies exhibition is too big to house in the Folsom Museum itself, Marge and Jim Atwater offered to house it in their old Folsom schoolhouse. That will be especially helpful Saturday as crowds descend on the venue for a day of festivities, food, and celebration.

THE CHRONICLE-NEWS
Proudly Serving Southeastern Colorado and Northeastern New Mexico
(USPS 110-040) 200 West Church Street • P.O. Box 763, Trinidad, CO 81082
(719) 846-3311
FAX: (719) 846-3612
Members Associated Press - Colorado Press Association.
Periodicals Postage Paid For At Trinidad, CO.
Published Daily
Except Saturday and Sunday
©2006 The Shearman Corp.
www.thechronicle-news.com

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Business Hours:
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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On my Angel's birthday

You have been my angel for 51 years and I still love you the same as I did back in 1959.

Love, John