

LACCRR

A lot of us from the Little Tokyo Peoples Rights Organization joined an ad hoc group that was forming which became LACCRR. When it started to form, people from LTPRO wanted us to be part of it because we were victims of the camps and they felt that Nisei needed to be part of this group. We were a small group and we had to increase our base by going out there. At that time, our community was really gun shy. We'd say, why don't you come out to our meetings? ... don't you think we ought to do this or do that? And they'd say, "*no..no..no..no*, I'm not interested!" The earlier responses were like, "why do you want to do all this for? We don't want to start making waves!" But other people would say, "yeah, you know, you're right! We ought to do something about it!" So it was good that we did a lot of house meetings, church meetings and so forth. We went just about everywhere and we had to be real pushy! Many times people would say, I'm not sure that we're ready for this, but some church groups were very open. They'd say, please come and at least give us a presentation and then later on, we can have our own meetings. At least it was a good start.



We attracted people like Amy Ishii. Amy was very active and feisty. Her brother was Edison Uno, who was always seen as a maverick within the JACL. Edison was one of the earliest movers for redress and he felt really frustrated with some of the more conservative elements of the JACL, whom he had to struggle with. Amy said that in order to move the action for redress forward, he had to get into so many fights that she felt it was not worth giving up his health for. The Uno family had a history of heart problems, which eventually claimed Edison and Amy. She felt that she wanted to go with some other group like ours that was forming to struggle for redress. Amy brought other Nisei like her into our group but she herself never made it to see us win redress. She couldn't overcome her health problem.

Lillian & Bert Nakano (taken from interview for the Oral History Project. August, 2001)

