BETTY AOKI INUI

Betty (Nee Aoki) Inui lives at a wonderful retirement community, Timber Ridge at Talus in Issaquah. I met her shortly after moving here myself five years ago. I discovered three Bulldogs lived near each other at Timber Ridge. When I first spoke with Betty and she said she attended Garfield, of course, my first question was, “When did you graduate?” She replied, “I didn’t. . . .” And she hesitated for a moment. It didn’t take long for me to reflect on what came next. She said she and her family were sent to an intern camp at the outbreak of World War II. She then asked if I would like to see her Bulldog annuals, which she still keeps close by. I was honored, and looked at the two of them for several days before returning them to her. The first annual was filled with scores of the wonderful comments we all have in our annuals, like, “I enjoyed getting to know you in home room, … I hope we have math again next year, … You were such an inspiration to me … I really admire you!”

In the second annual there were a total of less than ten: “I hope we are sent to the same camp … I hope that I get to see you again … Let’s remember each other …”

In her biography for Timber Ridge, she wrote: “Betty was an educator in the Seattle public schools and (her husband) was an international businessman….” Her story was of course very moving. I asked if I could tell others about her, and she replied, “Oh, yes, I want my story to be told.”

When I spoke to her yesterday, she was bright, cheerful, and very gracious. She is close to 98 years old, and is still interested in her story being told.

Eric Leberg  
Class of 1964