

2081

C-81-4

August 3rd 1942.

The B. C. Security Commission,  
Marine Building,  
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sirs:-

Re Fumiko Shirakawa, Decd.

In connection with the recent death of one Fumiko Shirakawa at Bridge River on the 26th ultimo, who died from pneumonia under circumstances which indicated according to the Coroner's report that she only had one visit from a doctor, the following report from the Coroner is submitted for your information:-

"May I call to your attention that there are some three hundred Japanese residing at Bridge River at the present time, and approximately 400 at Minto City about 30 miles away. At the time this death occurred there was no doctor available to serve these people and so far as I am aware they are still without a doctor. Dr. King, of Bralorne, now cares for Pioneer residents as well as those of Bralorne, and with two hospitals to operate as well as his daily calls has no opportunity to visit these communities.

"May I suggest that urgent representations be made to the Security Commission in this connection."

I have the honour to be,  
Sirs,  
Your obedient servant,

Deputy Attorney-General.



**D. Ashby**  
PHONE 25 P. O. BOX 793  
BRALORNE, B. C.

2082

July 31st 1942.

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SAH AUG 3 1942  
File No. C81-4

The Honorable,  
The Attorney General,  
Victoria, B.C.

Sir,

re. Fumiko Shirakawa, dec'd.

Herewith report of Inquiry into death of the above deceased. In view of the fact that no medical practitioner was available to certify as to cause of death, Dr Hewitt the only Doctor who had been in attendance having proceeded to eastern Canada I felt it advisable under all the circumstances to make an investigation.

May I call to your attention that there are some three hundred Japanese residing at Bridge River at the present time, and approximately 400 at Minton City about 30 miles away. At the time this death occurred there was no doctor available to serve these people and so far as I am aware they are still without a doctor.

Dr King of Bralorne, now cares for Pioneer residents as well as those of Bralorne, and with two Hospitals to operate as well as his daily calls has no opportunity to visit these communities.

May I suggest that urgent representations be made to the Security Commission in this connection. Voucher in favour of myself is attached hereto.

Yours very truly,

*Ashby*

Coroner.



"CORONERS ACT."  
(Sec. 7, Subsecs. (2) and (3).)

(Coroner's Report Form of Inquiry.)

2083  
BRALORNE, B.C.

July 8th 1942., 19

Report of INQUIRY as to cause of death of

FUMIKO SHIRAKAWA.

Age 21 sex female Birthplace Vancouver, B.C. Date of death July 26th 1942.

Nationality Canadian. Race Brown.

Remarks I was notified of the death of above deceased, Sunday, July 26th at about 10.00 a.m. Proceeded to Bridge River, reaching there that afternoon. Viewed the remains, and held inquiry on Monday July 27th as to cause of death. From information obtained it would appear that the deceased contracted a cold early in July, the patient's condition did not improve and a few days before her death became much worse, developing a severe cough. No doctor had been summoned until Friday July 24th, when Dr Hewitt of Pioneer Mines who was passing through Bridge River enroute to the coast was called in. He prescribed for the patient and diagnosed the case (over)

Where found in bed, at Bridge River B.C.

Found by Shizu Nishi,

Post-mortem findings No marks or wounds on the body. Mustard plasters stuck on the soles of the feet.

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Wounds, etc. None.

Address of deceased Bridge River, B.C.

Address of next of kin Sennosuke Nishi and Shizu Nishi, Bridge River B.C.

Opinion of Coroner

Death due to collapse, caused by over exertion while in a very weak condition, and suffering from pneumonia.

Municipality or district responsible Unorganized.

Undertaker Vern Hawken, Brexton, Buried at Vancouver, B.C.

H. Ashby, Coroner.



2084

as Pneumonia. He instructed the parents to keep the patient in bed for at least two weeks. Cough was relieved by medicine supplied by the doctor, he also left a number of Frosst's 217's and a bottle of Sulfathiazole tablets with instructions as to their use. There being no local medical practitioner deceased was cared for solely by relatives except for the one visit by Dr Hewitt. Early Sunday morning deceased got out of bed and proceeded to bathroom, this despite Doctor's instructions that she was not to be allowed out of bed. On the Sunday morning deceased had stated that she felt quite well, but shortly thereafter collapsed and died. Deceased was the adopted daughter of Mr & Mrs Nishi, who are Japanese born, but naturalized. The Father is confined to his bed as the result of a stroke suffered three years ago.



2085  
re: Fumiko Shirakawa, Deceased. July 26th 1942.

Statement of Sennosuki Nishi and Shizu Nishi, Bridge River,  
B.C. foster parents of above deceased.

The deceased was adopted by us sometime ago <sup>at the age of six</sup> ~~after the~~ death of her mother. About thhree weeks ago she caught a slight cold, and could not get rid of it. about ten days later she stayed in bed with it, but got up and was about the house at intervals until about three days ago when she went to bed and stayed there. At the request of the Security Commission Dr Hewitt of Pioneer visited her on Friday, July 24th at about 8.30 a.m. at that time he was on his way to the coast. Dr Hewitt stated that she had pneumonia, that she was very weak and we should keep her in bed for at least two weeks. He said that he would drop in again in about a week's time. The Doctor gave her medicine to stop the cough that was bothering her, and also some pills to be taken as he directed. There was no apparent change in her condition until ~~she~~ just before she died. On Sunday morning, July 26th when we first saw her she seemed to be in the same condition as on the previous night. Just before 9.30 a.m. she suddenly became worse, moaned slightly and died. Her general health had been good, she had had colds before, usually at the time of changes in weather, but had never before had to go to bed on account of illness.

Taken before me at Bridge River,  
B.C. July 27th 1942.

*H. Ashby*  
Coroner.

*S. Nishi*  
*Shizu Nishi*