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### The Mystery of Jujiro Wada

In 1875, Jujiro Wada (1875 - 1937) was born in Ehime Prefecture, Japan (Figure 1) (Yukon Government, n.d). In 1891, he stowed away in a tea chest on a freighter to San Francisco from Japan (Yukon Government, n.d). In 1937, he died in San Diego (Yukon Government, n.d). After stowing away, he rendered great achievements for the North, Yukon and Alaska. Mikio Ueoka from NPO: Jujiro Wada Memorial Association said that

a majority of Yukoner unfortunately believed that Jujiro Wada's main working place was Alaska. In fact, his main working place was Yukon. After 1918 (end of the World War I (WW I )), he was suspected a spy so, his achievement was deleted and the newspaper was not reported his great works. Yukoner did not know his great jobs in that time. In our generation, Yukoners still believe that Wada is Alaskan, not Yukoner (personal communication, May 10, 2016)

In my paper, I will prove about Jujiro Wada's great achievements which are the Yukon Quest, the Iditarod, and an espionage.



Figure 1: This photo may have been taken when Wada returned to Japan for a visit (Yukon Government, n.d).

Yukon Quest trail distance is approximately 1,000 miles, over 1,600 kilometers (km) between Whitehorse, Yukon and Fairbanks (Figure 2) (Honda, 2009). The Yukon Quest is one of the toughest dogsleds races even though it is difficult to finish the race. According to the official Yukon Quest website (2016),

“the Yukon Quest Trail follows historical Gold Rush and mail delivery dog sled routes from the turn of the 20th Century. Once the transportation “highways” of the Northern frontier, the Yukon Quest Trail now comes alive each February with the frosty breath and haunting howls of hundreds of sled dogs. Up to 50 dog teams consisting of one human ‘musher’ and 14 canine athletes tread across some of the last pristine wilderness remaining in North America”.

In 1976, the Yukon Quest was started to design by four mushers who were Roger Williams, Leroy Shank, Ron Rosser and William "Willy" Lipps (Yukon Quest, 2016). In 1983, the conversation was held by four mushers, and then they talked about “what-ifs” (Yukon Quest, 2016),

- What if the race followed a historical trail?
- What if it were an international sled dog race?
- What if the race went a little longer?
- What if it even went up the Yukon River?

In 1984, the first Yukon Quest was held. 26 teams took part in the Yukon Quest and 20 teams arrived in the goal where is Whitehorse and 6 teams dropped out along the way (Yukon Quest, 2016). The first Yukon Quest champion is Sonny Lindner, he completed the race in just over 12 days (Yukon Quest, 2016). The Yukon Quest has been run every year since 1984. The Yukon

Quest Trail follows historical Gold Rush and mail delivery dog sled routes from the turn of the 20th Century (Yukon Quest, 2016).

In the fall of 1902, Jujiro Wada discovered a gold mine in Tanana, Fairbanks, and he went straight ahead to Dawson City to apply for the registration for mining a gold (Torigai, 2006, p. 4). A newspaper which was *Yukon Sun* reported on Wada's great incident, and Tanana Stampede was outbreak (Figure 3) (NPO: Jujiro Wada Memorial Association, 2015, p. 1). Therefore, Tanana Stampede Gold Rush was occurred by Jujiro Wada (NPO: Jujiro Wada Memorial Association, 2015, p.1). Today, the Yukon Quest uses the trail which is that Wada went to Dawson City from Fairbanks (NPO: Jujiro Wada Memorial Association, 2015, p.1). On the eve of the Yukon Quest meet, 2007, the exhibition which was Jujiro Wada's accomplish a great achievement was held by the Human-rights Association (NPO: Jujiro Wada Memorial Association, 2015, P. 10).



Figure 2: The map of Yukon Quest (Honda, 2009)

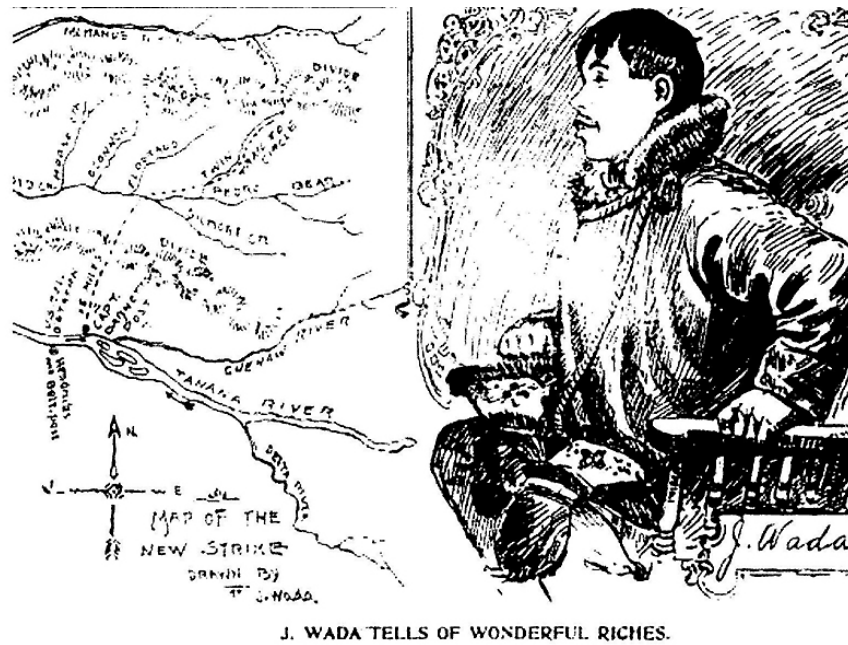


Figure 3: Wada talking about the discovery of the gold mine in Tanana  
(NPO: Jujiro Wada Memorial Association, 2015, p. 1).

“Iditarod is a city, a river, and a race” (McPherson, 2014). Iditarod in the Athabaskan means “distant” or “distant place” (McPherson, 2014). Diane Johnson who was Iditarod’s director of education said the last great race about Iditarod Dogsled Race (McPherson, 2014). Iditarod trail distance is approximately 1,150 miles, over 1,800 km between Anchorage and Nome (Bowers, 2012). In addition, the Iditarod has a northern and southern routes (The Iditarod Dog Race, n.d). Basically, even-numbered years are the northern route, odd-numbered years are the southern route (The Iditarod Dog Race, n.d). The Iditarod Trail follows historical incident, a large diphtheria epidemic threatened, and mail delivery dog sled routes from the turn of the 20th Century (NPO: Jujiro Wada Memorial Association, 2015, p. 2). In 1973, the first Iditarod Dogsled Race officially was held by Joe and Vi Redington (Bowers, 2012).

In December 1909, Seward Chamber of Commerce invited Jujiro Wada, because Seward Chamber of Commerce would like to blaze a trail from to the newly discovered gold mine at Iditarod (Torigai, 2006). Other members were Albert Lowell, Dick Butler and Frank Cotter (Alaska Jujiro Wada Memorial committee, 2011). The second Tanana Stampede was occurred by this team of blazing a trail including Wada (Torigai, 2006). More than that, in February 1924 in Nome, a large epidemic threatened by diphtheria (The Iditarod Dog Sled Race, n.d). Unfortunately, an aircraft could not fly by the hardship weather but, expert pilot was not there (Wanwans, 2012). In Nome, there were a lot of native Inuit children who did not have immunity for diphtheria epidemic (The Iditarod Dog Sled Race, n.d). Therefore, people in Nome needed a medicine as soon as possible. The Iditarod trail was used to carry the medicine by dogsled teams (The Iditarod Dog Sled Race, n.d). The Iditarod trail was saved thousands of people in Nome.



Figure 4: The Iditarod trail route map of a southern and a northern

(The Iditarod Dog Sled Race, n.d)

In 1914 or 1915, the Cordova Daily Times post an article which was accusing Jujiro Wada of being a Japanese spy (Alaska Jujiro Wada Memorial committee, 2011). After WW I , anti-Japanese movements were starting all over the North America (Alaska Jujiro Wada Memorial committee, 2011). Therefore, it was just misunderstanding that Wada was spy (Alaska Jujiro Wada Memorial committee, 2011). Based on the article, “Wada’s backpack was found which apparently contained a very detailed and accurate map of Alaska with all the gold deposit sites and the routes” (Alaska Jujiro Wada Memorial committee, 2011). However, Wada was a prospector and a surveyor so he needed a detailed map by natural (Alaska Jujiro Wada Memorial committee, 2011). During Wada was suspected the Japanese spy by people, he concealed and his great achievements was deleted (Alaska Jujiro Wada Memorial committee, 2011). Mikio Ueoka from NPO: Jujiro Wada Memorial Association said that

“during the suspected spy incident, Wada could not enter to the America. Therefore, he had to move the working place in Canada such as becoming a researcher of oil mine for the government of Canada, explored the Arctic area along with the whole watershed area of the river Mackenzie. Unfortunately, almost his works were not posted by a newspaper because people suspected Wada Japanese-spy” (NPO: Jujiro Wada Memorial Association, 2015, p. 2 & personal communication, May 10, 2016). On September 5, 1914, his daughter, Himeko (Helen), appeared the article for finding Wada by *Dawson Daily News*

(Figure 5) (Yukon Government, n.d).

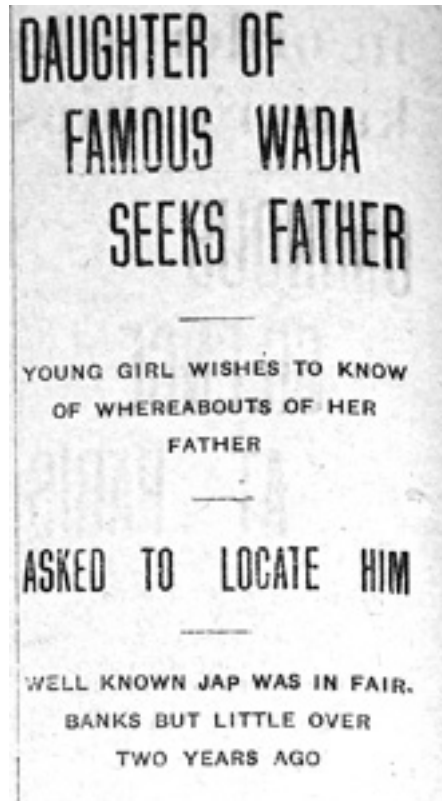


Figure 5: The article for finding Wada by his daughter (Yukon Government, n.d)

Two of the biggest dogsled races in the world, Yukon Quest and Iditarod, were based on the trail cultivated by Jujiro Wada. If he was not in Alaska and Yukon, these dogsled races and Tanana stampede might not exist today. Lately his life, he ran around Yukon with dogsleds for a survey even though he was suspected spy. In addition, the grand total of his mileage with dogsleds in Alaska and Yukon was estimated approximately 44,000 km (26,000 miles) from when he started to mush (Yukon Government, n.d). he had some other name nicknames. In 1906, he became a king to control three villages of Eskimo as he was dedicated to the improvement of their indigenous life. People called him “The King Wada” (NPO: Jujiro Wada Memorial Association, 2015, p. 2). In 1907, he won the in-house marathon of 50 miles (80 km) in Norm consecutively and admired as “The Great Wada” (NPO: Jujiro Wada Memorial Association,

2015, p. 2). On May 23 and 24, 2015, the musical which was Chasing the Aurora, the Samurai Musher the Tale of Jujiro Wada from Japan (Figure 6) (NPO: Jujiro Wada Memorial Association, 2015, back cover). According to the latest Yukon Quest result, Japanese female musher, Yuka Honda, finished 9th place (Yukon Quest, 2016). It was first time female Japanese musher to stand a podium. Likewise, in 1997, Keizo Funatsu finished 5th place as acquiring Rookie of the Year Award (Yukon Quest, 2016). It was first time Japanese musher to stand a podium. In our generation, Jujiro Wada is one of the icon for bridging Japan and the North America.



Figure 6: The poster of musical which was Jujiro Wada's story  
(NPO: Jujiro Wada Memorial Association, 2015, back cover)



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