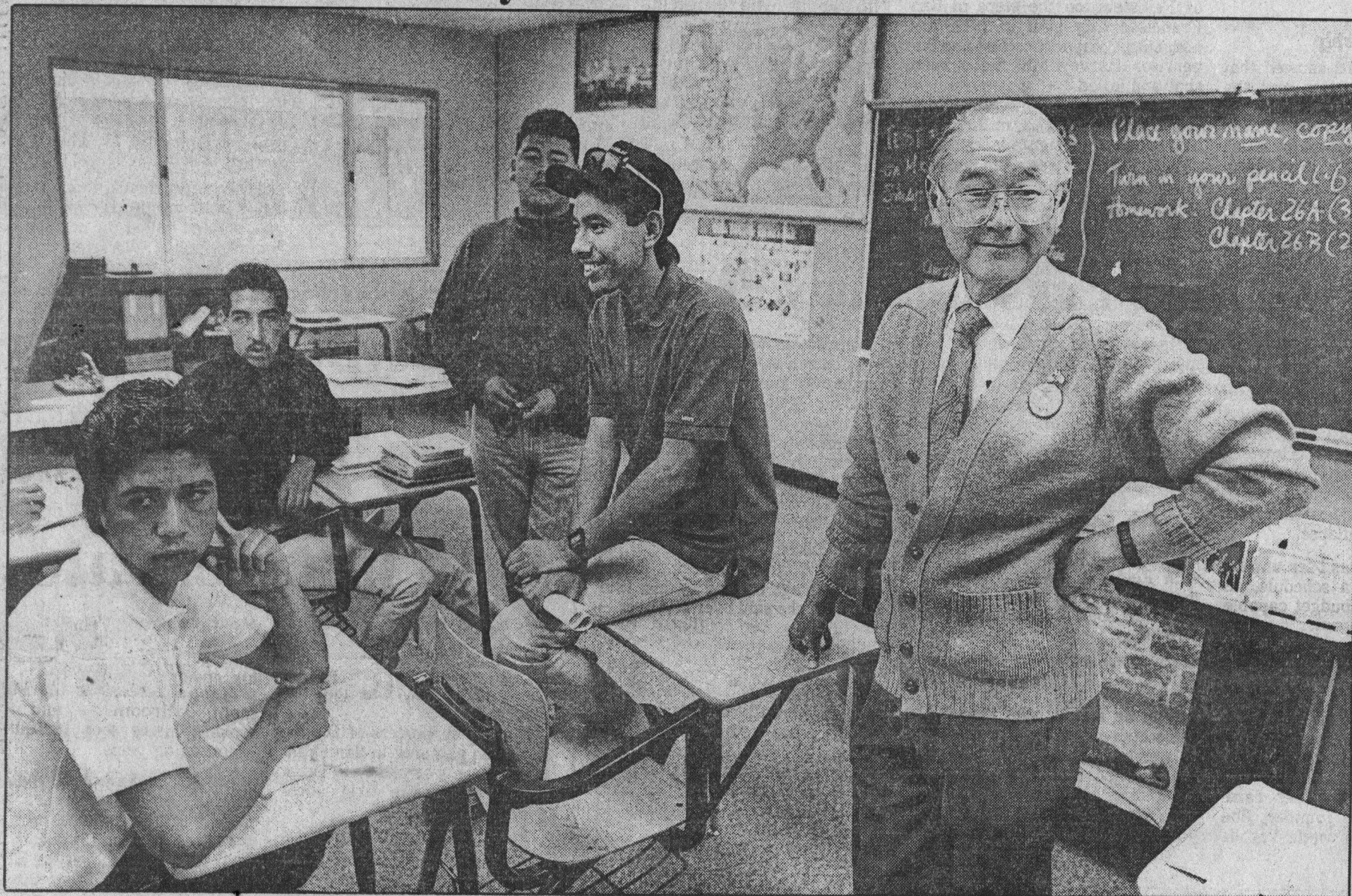


# Antidote for shaky times

6-6-90 EARTHQUAKE 1989 - WATSONVILLE



Len Lahman — Mercury News

Mas Hashimoto gathers with students in the portable classroom that will be his home base for two more years

## Teacher creates stability amid change

By Ken Peterson  
Special to the Mercury News

Mas Hashimoto spent more years in Room 6 at Watsonville High School than most people do in their homes.

So when earthquakes routed him from his classroom of 28 years, it probably came as no surprise that he moved swiftly to make his replacement classroom feel like he's always

been there, a source of stability for his shaken students.

"I've tried to make the classroom as pleasant and meaningful to youngsters as possible," Hashimoto said Tuesday. "Some teachers have been hesitant. They're keeping their things in boxes. I say, 'Why let the kids suffer?'"

Classwork — including finals that start today — will go on as usual until school lets out on Friday. And the 1943

war bond posters he found when a colleague retired are up on the walls, just the way they were in Room 6.

For all but two of his 30 years as a teacher, Hashimoto worked in that downstairs room in the high school's main building, teaching U.S. history to two generations of students.

The vintage 1917 building survived the Loma Prieta earthquake, but damage from aftershocks in April con-

vinced school officials that it was no longer safe.

Now Room C-11, in a portable building a block away, will be his home for the next two years.

Hashimoto, 54, a Watsonville native who grew up a few blocks from the school, says he's trying to maintain stability for the sake of the students who "have enough anxieties and prob-

See TEACHER, Page 2B



Len Lahman — Mercury News

War bond posters line new classroom wall just as they did in old school

## Fate of old school is undecided

TEACHER, from Page 1B  
lems at home."

It wasn't easy, he admits, particularly during the week before portable classrooms were available.

"I've always said that a good teacher could teach in a bus," he said. "But my patience was tried a little bit."

That's because he had to teach 30-student classes that were

crammed onto 18 stools in the auto shop.

"It was a little different," Hashimoto said. "I just told them to use Dial soap, shower in the morning before they came to class. The kids were fantastic. They can adjust to almost anything, they have so much flexibility."

While Hashimoto is prepared to spend the next two years in

the portable room, he's also eager to get back to work in his old classroom.

The entire building had undergone a major renovation just two years ago. Now, Pajaro Valley Unified School District officials have to determine whether they can afford to rehabilitate the William Weeks-designed structure, or whether to raze it and build new classrooms.