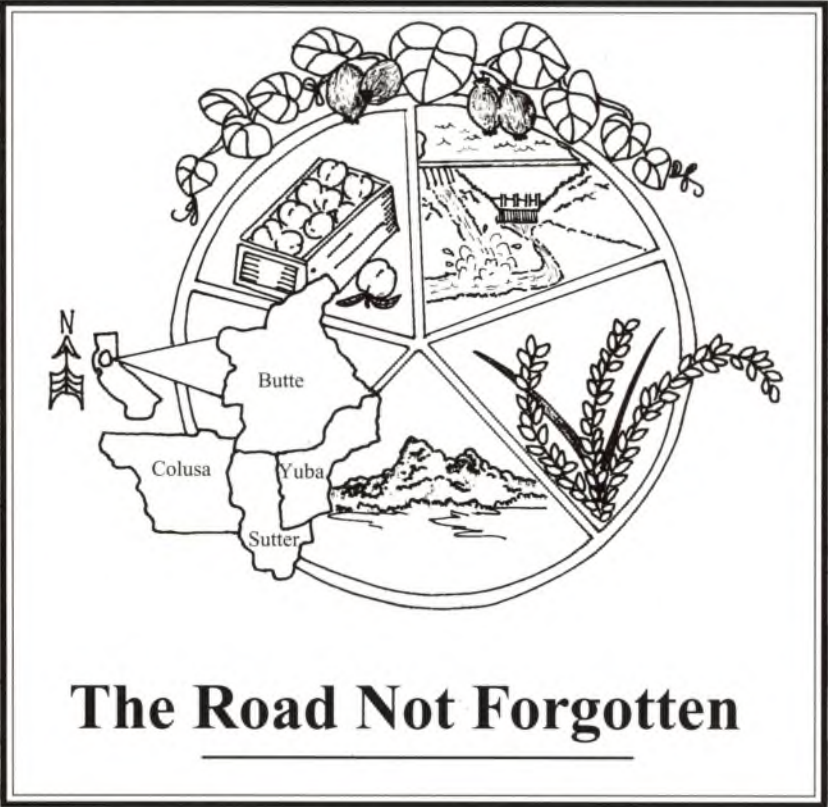


OKIDOI YOKOTOBI SHIMIZU  
KURIHARA  
TOKUNAGA  
HATAMIYA  
TANABE UY  
NAKANO F  
FUKUMITSU  
NABETA OK  
AOYAMA WADA TAKABAYASHI



## Foreward


For over 100 years, Japanese and Japanese Americans have settled in communities in Yuba, Sutter, Butte and Colusa Counties. Five generations; first (Issei), second (Nisei), third (Sansei), fourth (Yonsei) and fifth (Gosei) have lived and worked in these Northern California counties. There are innumerable historical accounts in the lives of these people that had never before been recorded to leave for future generations.

Lost opportunities to gather and preserve information have made it difficult to research the past. But through the interest and devotion of several area Nisei and Sansei, and the Marysville Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, this book project of historical accounts and photographs has been made possible. It has been a labor of love.

It is hoped that what is being presented will also be of value to former Japanese American residents whose ancestors had resided here. We are aware that there are still many untold stories. However, we hope that future researchers will some day fill in and complete the rich history of Japanese descendents in the four counties.

 *Terry Ishimaru Itano*  
Terry Ishimaru Itano

*Frank Nakamura*  
Frank Nakamura  
*Fred Okimoto*  
Fred Okimoto

 *Gerald K. Tsuruda*  
Gerry Tsuruda

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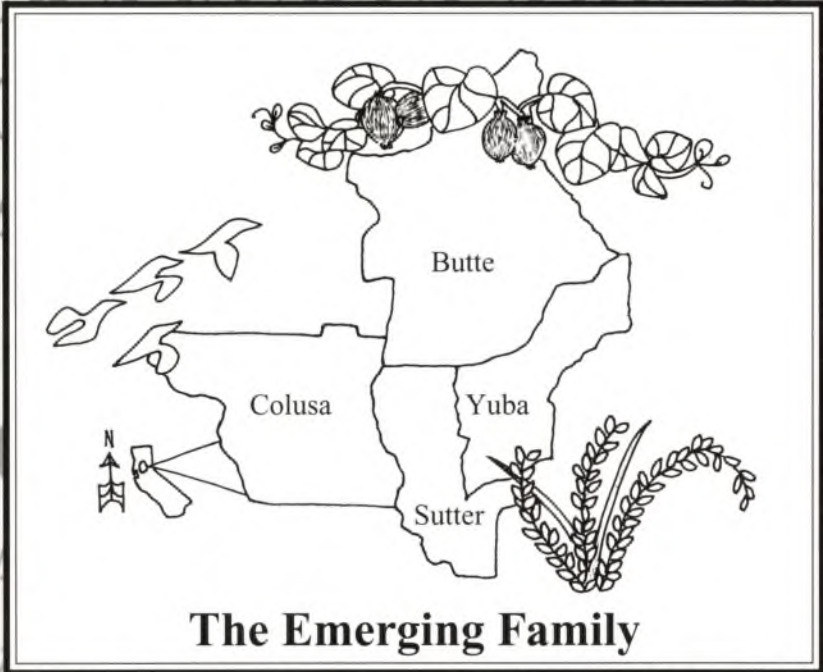
**Glossary**

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SASAKI OKIDOI TANIMOTO UYENO  
OKIMOTO HIRAI KURIHARA KADOI  
YOSHIMURA FUKUI ABE TOKUNAGA  
TOKUNAGA OBAYASHI  
OJI NAKA MANJI  
KOZUMA URA ABE  
MATSUMOTO OKOTOBI  
IWAMURA SHIMIZU  
TAKABAYASHI OSUMI TOKUNO OKI  
NISHIKAWA KOMATSUBARA MATSUI  
TOYODA MURAKI KINOSHITA TSUJI



## Coming to America

There can be few sights as dismal as the strange shores of an alien land. America, to the new immigrant from Japan, must have seemed from the deck of his vessel, a bewildering welter of white faces and tall buildings. As he landed, he was beset by immigration officials speaking to him in an unknown language. His future must have seemed precarious, but only for a little while, because he would soon hear someone shouting, "*HIROSHIMA NO HITO, KO-CHI NI OIDE*" (all people from Hiroshima come over here).

People from other kens were waiting to welcome their newcomers. They might be friends and relatives or they might simply be people from the same Japanese county. In any case, the welcoming and socialization of the new immigrant began in the hands of other Issei. He was provided food and lodging, helped to find employment, and invited to share recreational and religious activities. Internal factors, such as similar language, food habits, and common experiences, and external pressure from a hostile American community served to strengthen the cohesiveness of the organized group into which he had been introduced. The ethnic community was of great value in making life in America successful and comfortable for the Japanese immigrant.



**Ichi Mizusaki Nakamura's arrival in Seattle (1906)**  
She travelled to Wheatland via San Francisco,  
viewing the remains of the Great Earthquake.

The first Japanese immigration to the United States were students in the period from 1868 to 1885. Other early arrivals came from Hiroshima and Kumamoto. Some came by way of the Hawaiian Islands, where they had been plantation workers. By 1900, about 2,000 Japanese a year entered the U.S. both from Japan and Hawaii.

It is not definitely known when the first Japanese came to the Yuba-Sutter area. In 1891, three Japanese came to work at a pear orchard in Biggs, California (Butte County). In 1893, the U. S. Immigration Commission reported a group of Japanese employed as hop pickers in the Marysville district.

The first Japanese to permanently settle in the area was a Mr. Uchida, who opened a Marysville restaurant in 1900. In the same year, three vegetable farmers, Mr. Ota, Mr. Murata and Nakamura, began operations in the vicinity of Yuba City. By 1906, Durst Hop Ranch in Wheatland had a large labor camp that employed 300 Japanese laborers. In 1900, Mr. Nakamura went to the Hop Ranch and worked until 1907. He left and moved to Marysville and bought a boarding house from another Japanese.

Many other Japanese were employed in pear production. In 1900, there was a Japanese labor camp at Reed Ranch, a pear orchard along the Feather River in Yuba Co.



**Teru Takabayashi (1934)**

There was a “Japanese Town” in Marysville situated in “Old China Town”, adjacent to the Yuba River levee. It was bounded by First Street on the south, Third Street on the north, Oak Street on the west, and A Street on the east. Most urban Japanese lived in this area. Between 1900 and 1910 there were one barbershop, one food store, three restaurants and four combination boarding house - dry goods - food stores. Owners lived in their places of business. A state Department of Census showed in 1909 only three children in school. Many laborers were provided meager housing (by the employer) on whatever site they were working on. They also moved from place to place. Although the “Japanese Town” was in Marysville, the Yuba-Sutter Japanese considered themselves as one Japanese community. Japanese in Sutter County would buy their needed dry goods and food in Marysville. There never was a “Japanese Town” in Sutter County. Most all were migrant workers or lived on the land site where they worked.

By June 17, 1915, there were 400 Japanese in Yuba County and 300 in Sutter County.

Ref: This information was compiled by volunteer, Danetta Washam, from a thesis from Chico State College: *“The Settlement Pattern of the Japanese in the Yuba-Sutter Area of California”* by Sadao Sud Itamura.



Naturalization Class at Yuba College (March 23, 1954)

### Colusa's Japan Town

“Japanese town” was intermingled with what was commonly labeled “Chinatown”, where the Chinese had settled, perhaps as much as a generation earlier. The two races, who traced their heritage and culture to a similar or common origin, lived in harmony in an area bordered to the North by the levee, to the South by the alley between Main and Market, and to the East and West by 5th and 10th Streets, respectively.

Understandably, there were undercurrents of tension between them when their homelands were engaged in conflict. This, however, did not extend to the American born children who were only incidentally interested in what happened in Asia.

To the Japanese and Chinese, the “ghetto” was a refuge from the alien world around them. It fulfilled their physical and social needs, as much as it disciplined their lives.

For the Issei, accustomed to the rigid family and social structure of their homeland, the Japanese community was merely an extension of their lives before emigration. But, for the Nisei, their American born and oriented children, the “town” was both a haven from the sometimes hostile larger community and a prison.

In the 20s and 30s, Japanese town remained relatively unchanged except for births, deaths and the departure of some families for the “old country”.

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Ref: Akiji Yoshimura, A Brief History of the Japanese in Colusa County, 1969.



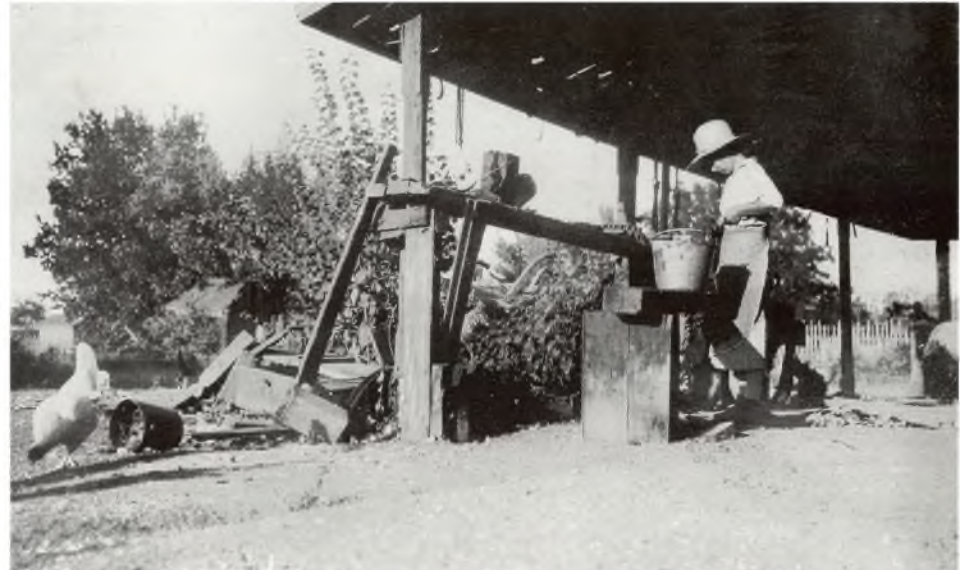
## Picture Brides

When a man living in America desires to marry, but is unable to go home to Japan, he writes to his parents requesting their assistance in finding a suitable woman for his bride. The parents, following usual customs and rules, find an eligible bride. Then they intimate to the girl's parents their desires to secure marriage for their son in America. The parents of both parties inquire into the character, social standing, family relations, genealogy, health and education of the young man and woman. If the investigation proves satisfactory, both to the parents and to the prospective groom and bride, the man in America sends his photograph to the woman, and receives her photograph in exchange. If this "interview" through photographs is satisfactory to both parties, the nuptial knot is tied at a ceremonial dinner in which the groom, living in America, is naturally absent, but which is attended by the bride and the parents and relatives of both sides. This done, the parents register the marriage with the proper authorities. This marriage has been regarded as valid by the Japanese and American governments. The practice was abolished on February 25, 1920, by an understanding between the State Department and Japanese government.

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Ref: Japanese Association of America, "Statistics Relative to Japanese Immigration and the Japanese in California" 444 Bush St., San Francisco, Revised January, 1920.

In the 1930s, opportunities for Nikkei workers were in reasonable abundance. The difficulty was the adjustment of the picture brides who participated a much more idyllic environs. The Issei women made her presence known on the fields and orchards as well as in the kitchen. They showed true grit in their everyday toil.



Mrs. Mitsuru Okidoi at the "Boomer House" on 7-Mile House Road (circa 1925)

Mrs. Motome Yoshimura remembers with clarity, "my husband led me to believe that he had leased farming property, when in fact, he was a common laborer...and searching for his face at the dock, I was dismayed how sunburnt he was." Wearing homemade sunbonnets, men's pants and shirts, the new bride quickly learned to thin peaches and to make do with strange accoutrement.

**Early Families**



**Bunda Tokuno family (circa 1915)**



**Yoshizo and Chise Manji (circa 1920)**



**Kitora Yokotobi with children (circa 1927)**



**Masao Tanisaki family (1928)**

The pre-war era evokes memories of adversity, broken fortunes; reversals for the Issei women, but only in retrospect. Hardship was accepted, rationalizing that others lived under identical conditions; it was the norm.

This was especially true for those living in the isolation of the country. Teru Takabayashi summarized the loneliness as timeless--days and nights of endless chores with spotty visits from two or three women acquaintances...no shopping sprees.

Spartan home furnishings were, for the most part, typical at the work camps---a table, chairs/benches, iron cots or woodframe beds with springs.

Purity and California Market were the supermarkets of the time; JC Penney, King's, Schneider's, Woolworth's were patronized, as well as the Japanese stores, the latter providing an added social element. Shopping for the rural folks meant spending a good portion of a day in Nihonmachi. Stated May Nakao, "It took us for-

## The Hard Road

ever to go to Marysville." Simple pleasures came in the form of 5 cent ice cream cones (3 scoops)---three flavors---vanilla, chocolate and strawberry, or with an extra



**Okidoi Farmhouse**

jingle of coins, a soda fountain order, and for lunch, a bowlful of hot noodles.

Some of the youths living in the country sensed the difference between themselves and the city boys. Keiji Yoshimura "felt like a country boy" in the midst of his

Colusa peers, who ordered hamburgers, ice cream sodas with aplomb and acted with a large dose of confidence and infallibility, flair and dash.

Early morning chores, not uncommon for school-age children, were necessary to sustain the family life. Alice Komatsubara Nakamura recalls the physical difficulty at age 7, "picking prunes, peaches or strawberries before school ...clean the water tank above the house after school."

Some children were designated lesser albeit necessary tasks. "...cooked meals...parents worked out. One dish--uri (squash), bacon, water, shoyu with rice. Younger sister protested after repeat menus."

-Mas Tanisaki-

Recalling a Crosby kerosene refrigerator purchased in Marysville, Stanley Marumoto: "...light with match at the bottom...asbestos-lined...2 gallons of kerosene...two weeks' (supply)."

Mother would typically have in her worldly possession, a Singer treadle or hand-operated sewing machine for mending and patching, and time permitting, a dress for self or daughter. Other household items included the indispensable washboard/galvanized washtub, and pressing iron (with or without charcoal cavity). Few owned luxury items coveted by the have-nots: living room and dining sets, a rolltop desk, an upright piano, built-in fireplace, 'chikuonki' (Victrola).

Living in the country meant, for the most part, no indoor plumbing. Thus outhouses and 'o-furo' (bathhouse) were first to be erected when relocating. Handpump and water trough (wood or metal pipes) were installed while the womenfolk unboxed kitchenware and prepared their first meal.

Mother picked up the "American way" by osmosis. Children brought home new ideas from school: how to dye Easter eggs, celebrating birthdays and making sandwiches

for lunch in lieu of 'nigiri' (rice-balls). Mom (and Papa) made Sake, root beer; baked biscuits and pies, the latter three were encouraged by the offsprings. The perishables were stored in an ice-box (sometimes homemade with a wooden box with burlap



**Akijiro and Hanako Yoshimoto and family**

dripwater system). After electricity was in, refrigerators and washers were purchased in the mid-'30s from N. Nakamura Company (easy payments available). Telephones were almost non-existent. A locked door was unheard of, besides, who had the key?

*"When I look back about growing up, it was really great because of the exposure; everything was natural, human...right from wrong was always respected."*

-George Nakao-

Discipline was applied, more often than not, with few words of admonishment. To be censured---shame, disapproval, disgrace--all practiced from early childhood and meted out by both parents, instilled bedrock values.

*"...dark room!!!!"*

-Henry Okano-  
(an incorrigible lad)

*"...tramps used to leave a sign on our door that (said)... 'stop here, free food'. My mom used (to feed) any tramp...jelly sandwich and a whole watermelon. There...railroad tracks running all along, they would get off and stop by...they didn't have time (to work)...we never asked them to work."*

-Tommy Kinoshita-

### Wonders of Medicine

*"Never went to the dentist...no toothaches, until I went into the Army." Bob Nakamoto, adding, "...broken arm...cranking crank-case of the truck ...x-ray at the doctor's office, doctor said that when (the bone is) broken, it heals stronger than original...like welding."*

*"Grandmother used to catch live rattlesnakes and preserve them with alcohol...leave them in for about a year...(then) take the snake out, throw it away and use the alcohol. (For) toothache, one dab on it, it stopped. (Snaring the rattler) little stick with loop string...sack...in jars...couldn't hurt the skin...once the skin was broken it was no good...had to have it alive, have to put it in the bottle live, alcohol...something about the venom...Always had on the shelf---these jars of rattlesnakes."*

-Jim Fukui-

Natsuyo Tsukimura picked up a sure-fire cure for a throat ailment from *Shufu no Tomo* ladies' magazine: saturate a piece of clean gauze with fresh ground ginger juice and apply directly on the afflicted site---overnight recovery, soreness and hoarseness vanished!

"Jintan" was the Japanese medicinal pill for stomach problems in the Ichiro Yoshimura home. And home was where birthing took place for most Nisei babies with the Issei midwife in total control.

As a family, or with friends the young Nisei went to the movies. "...10 cents...Gridley theater (is) still there...saw *Gone With the Wind* in 1939."

-Esther Ozawa Matsumura-

*"First (American) movies...State (Theater)...(later) Lyric, Liberty."*

-George Ishimoto-

*"Take 10 bottlecaps and 10 cents, would get you into the movie...Zorro, Lone Ranger (serials)."*

-Jim Fukui-

*"...for 10 cents we could go see a cowboy movie and go across the street and there was a place called Quality Shop, and get ice milkshake for 10 cents and still had 5 cents left over."*

-Frank Hatamiya, Sr.-

## Times of Courage

Commenting on a life in the '30s of a widowed mother, Joe Ide wrote of Mrs. Sono Hamahashi, who became Ide's "adopted mother", when living in Colusa as a teenager: "The fact that my mother was fighting a long bout with tuberculosis at home kept worried neighbors from letting their kids play with me. Jack (Hamahashi) was the only one who would step foot into our yard ...because of this bond...the entire Hama(hashi) family accepted me without question...My mother, two sisters, and a brother had all succumbed to tuberculosis, one after the other, and I was the only child left. My dad ran a store in another town (Yuba City) and could only come home...once or twice a month... I remem-

ber how the town mourned Mr. Hama's passing, and how terribly sad I felt for Mrs. Hama and the eight kids...but, she just rolled up her sleeves and went to work running the fish market herself and raising the children...Above the din of her own household, Mrs. Hama had heard my lonely whistling, and soon I was calling her "Mom"...I was now Child No. 9...another mouth to feed...The family lived behind (their) fish market... Business was bad, and there were days when the only sale was a 10 cent loaf of bread...meals were usually a soupy rice concoction with bits of sweet potato and fish. They were downright poor...the thought of poverty never occurred to the younger ones as long as there was a dime or a quarter in the cash register."

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Ref: *Rafu Shimpo*, Dec. 20, 1972

Budgeting was done by instinct. When the children were small and unable to supplement income, tonsorial needs were met by Mom's deft hands and clippers. Otherwise, it was 25 cents at Ota's and Toyoda's. Likewise, shoe repair was handled by the father, option being served by Mr. Taketa, a cobbler. Comic books were bought with hard-saved pennies and later swapped with pals.

Japanese was spoken at home in the presence of the parents, but English was the mother-tongue for the children.

Breakfast was typically American, but a hearty Miso-shiru (soup) was not entirely omitted during the winter months. Lunch and supper were consistently down-home cooking---Japanese rice and 'okazu', as vegetables and chicken were readily available in the backyard, or if Mom learned American cooking, the table was laden with "... *home-made bread, biscuits, cakes, cookies, yeast rolls, bacon and eggs, toast.*"

-Roy Hatamiya-

Mother worked from dawn to dusk and beyond, quite often in the orchards and fields as well as at home. "*Mother drove the car...1926...she got her driving license in 1930 she had a big stomach (pregnant) when she had to learn how to drive because with so many children and with Dad working on the rice farms, she didn't know when the emergency was going to be, she had to learn to drive...she had her own car...had to oil water pump daily (pumping station). Shaved ice with 'azuki' (red bean) topping...to Dad in the fields.*"

-Lillian Manji-

Most families maintained communications with their parents in Japan until the war. "*Mom sent old clothing back to Japan.*" said George Nakao, adding that at age 7, he went to see his grandparents off (to Japan) riding the Sacramento Northern Railroad and staying overnight at the San Francisco Aki Hotel. "*Fifty (people were) from here.*" The grandparents successfully ran a chicken ranch in Hiroshima, successfully employing American know-how.

## Times of Crisis



**Hutchins House - Senichi Hatamiya residence (circa 1920s)**

George Iwanaga and family felt the adverse affects of the December 1955 flood. They were temporarily stranded at their home (currently the Oswald-Tudor Fire Station site). Uncle Aki Iwanaga somehow, from somewhere, managed to hail a copter ride to the house. The family was instructed by the bullhorn to cross the road to the Barry School, where they boarded the craft. Mark recalls “...*all I can remember about the ride was that it was noisy!*” They were served the holiday fare, compliments of the Air Force before returning home, where fortunately because of the high grounds, their home was spared from water damage.

A levee break in December 1937 was pin-pointed to East Biggs, flooding Gridley, to Highway 20 at Seven-Mile House and between Sutter City and the By-Pass according to the 1995 summer exhibit on floods at the Sutter County Memorial Museum. The flood destroyed one-half of the peaches at the Hatamiya’s District 10 orchard, however the 2-story home was not inundated, “...*(our home) was a hostel.*”

-Roy Hatamiya-

The evacuation to the Hatamiya’s “... *(was because) it was higher up.*”

-George Ishimoto-



High-water watch was monitored by Wheatland residents in the 1955 flood, “...kept watching how high the water was,” according to Toyomi Nakahara. Fortunately, Wheatland was spared.

While in Tudor, “...water...up to the eaves, (we) went to a Woodland Motel...five days...(later) to in-laws in Fresno, and then to John Sasaki’s home in District 10.”

-Gus Tsuda-

The flood waters stopped at George Washington Boulevard, Richard Kinoshita recounting that Christmas Eve, returning to his Railroad Avenue home three days later in a rowboat, “‘Where’s my house?!’ ...inside the orchard...lost everything, everything was ruined...we had all the wedding gifts from 1954 packed in the closet, never opened...ruined...the water went above the ceiling ...our ranch was all gone...all the trees were absolutely laid down flat! We had to start all over again.” Two days prior just past midnight on the 24th, Kinoshita added, “I drove the jeep, boy, that water was chasing you all the way down Bogue Road...close to midnight when the levee broke. I picked one guy up on Bogue...he was running. I said, ‘Hey, you better get in because there’s no way you’re going to beat the water!’”

The Red Cross assisted in the aftermath “with rent payment...beds”, commented Jeanne Nakamura Tokunaga. Other assistance came in form of cash from the Nikkei community at large. An adhoc committee led by Dan Nishita and Frank Nakamura was formed to coordinate and to disburse the gifts to Nikkei victims in the weeks to follow; treasurer Frank Okimoto’s recollection, “the first round of payments was \$250 per family...second was something like \$83-\$85.” The county museum noted that in early January 1956, a special committee, which included Mas Oji, was appointed by the Grand Jury foreman to inquire into the tragedy and to consider the possibility of conducting public sessions and to make recommendations upon their findings.



Mori Tanimoto in flooded orchard (1955)

School Days



District 10 Grammar School (circa 1935)



Colusa Grammar School (circa 1930)

Early Nikkei students in area schools:

<u>School</u>	<u>Student</u>	<u>Grad</u>
Marysville HS	Edward Takahashi	1924
Wheatland HS	Ben Fukui	1946
Gridley HS	Sadie Tominaga	1932
Yuba City HS	Kimiko Kurihara	1926
	Kimiko Yokohama	1928
	K. Saito	1931
	Sam Kurihara	1932
Colusa Grammar	Isamu and Akira Yamamoto, enrolled 8-23-15 Amy Yamamoto (sister) enrolled 9-18-18	
Colusa HS	Tsugio Ota	1929
	Yoshio Toriumi	1929
Live Oak HS	Gracie Hatamiya	1939
	George Okamoto	1939
Franklin Grammar	Hilda Shingu enrolled 1924	
Sutter HS	Hilda Shingu	1936
	Alice Shingu	1937
	Johnny Yoshimoto	1938

"...walked to Bridge Street School...came home for lunch, school served milk (midday snack)."

-Bob Nakamoto-

"...went to school (same class) with George Ishimoto...ran into George Takimoto at the (Marysville) reunion a few years ago...first time since grammar school days."

-Satoko Hara Harada-

Covering speedball, basketball and baseball for the Live Oak High School paper, "Acorn", sports editor George Okamoto laughingly recalls that "We were always at the bottom of the league, cellar, so it was hard to write about the game."

## Early Recreation

Playgrounds were not always open to the Nikkei, "...those days, we knew that we were restricted to the levee area, we just knew."

-Keiji Yoshimura (Colusa)-

Public swimming pools, too, were off-limits in Colusa, whereas, the pools in Marysville were not. Most opted for swimming in the ditches, canals and ponds. Two drownings did occur.

Other recreational diversions were sandwiched between school hours and chores for the typical young Nisei child. Still others remembered only the "*hard times, no time to play*". For them, matinees at the downtown movie houses (with nickel candy bars in the lobby) were denied. A treat to an ice cream cone or fountain edible was not to be theirs. Those who did indulge in these small delights frequented the Hashimoto Dry Good Store and Ice Cream Shop or Furuta and the Maruyama confectioneries.



For little or no money, the younger generation would enjoy the carnivals around Ellis Lake.

Photos of Sonja Henie, Dorothy Lamour, Kay Francis, Priscilla Lane and others were captured by a Kodak Duo-620.

*"I liked to experiment taking pictures in the movie theater..."*

-Jack Tanimoto-

Children with allowances were able to acquire marbles in the Japanese Town shops. Comic books played a role in fantasies, as kids swapped perused copies with friends; home construction of scooters and kites were activities for the creative minds. Jump ropes and jacks were the toys of female bonding. Dolls were not very common.

Although Nikkei groups had entries in the downtown parades, very few attended these celebrations. Rare photographs of the hub parades were taken by Toshio Tsukimura and are currently in the Sutter Community Museum archives. Annual circuses on 10th and J Streets were likewise infrequented. Colusa Nikkei were more actively involved in town parades.

On the waterfront, motorboat racing was undertaken by brothers George and Stanley Marumoto on Ellis Lake in the '50s. Kie Maruyama built a vessel from scratch that was lake-worthy.

## Cultural Assimilation

Among the most unusual Nikkei pastime activities in the rigid, harsh, culturally-isolated pre-war years, ballroom dancing would have to be on the top of the list. Attired in a tuxedo and patent shoes, Dick Yamachi was welcomed on the dance floors of dance halls including the old Marysville Hotel ballroom in the '30s. Light fantasies cut through the discrimination so overt in the social structure and climate of that era. His early aspirations and reasons for undertaking so daring a move are unknown but the presumably fluid movements and proper decorum vouchsafed his entry and stay for the evening. Mas Tanisaki: *"Dick wore tux, mingled in with the Hakujin (Caucasians)...a socialite."*

Upon learning of her husband's early secret passion, *"I knew he had a tux, it was in the closet...never danced with me!"*

-Mary Yamachi-



Wedding of Dick and Mary Yamachi (circa 1940)



The Hatamiya kitchen of the '40s



The Sasaki family in the early '50s



The Toyoda house on 2nd St., Marysville



The harmonious 5-piece Vel-Tones led by saxophonist, George Nakao, and composed of mixed ethnicity, had its beginning in the late '50s. And even to this day, the band responds to requests at special events and gatherings, most currently at the 1995 Tule Lake reunion in Sacramento.

**Tones**



It was inevitable when Rock n' Roll hit the airwaves and the concert stages that the Sansei would not be far behind. The years 1966-1970 saw the "Nitewatch Men" lead the wave of electronic sounds with Wayne Inouye, Tim Uno and Paul Tanabe, Jr. in a mixed group, followed by the "Open Road" and "Made in Japan" whose music resounded in the gyms of high schools locally and out of town---on drums, Phil Nakamura; Brian Nakagawa and Gordon Nakagawa, guitar; Kenny Uyemoto, bass guitar. For a feminine touch, Debbie Kinoshita, was recruited from time to time in the percussion section, scraping the Guiro gourd, tutored on the spot! Dances held in the gyms often times enabled the musicians to loosen-up playing basketball before the dance.

When asked of the primary vocation of his father, “*Hana!*” responded Yorimi Matsumoto with a chuckle. Facetiousness aside, “hana” (Japanese card game) did play a major role in the simple pleasures and diversion of the '20s and '30s for the Issei father, while the Issei mother steadfastly remained at home with the never-ending chores.

Today, on Sundays, one can find the same ladies, now widowed, with friends at alternating homes to play a fast game of “hana”. Most pressing needs merely a memory now, the ladies indulge in the game with tea and pastry and a bowl of dried lima beans (chips to be replaced by monies, a nickel a game).



Participating in the grand parade at the 15th annual San Francisco Cherry Blossom Festival in 1982, two “Mothers of the Year” were honored, including Fumiko Komatsubara, age 75, of Yuba City. Nominated by Fumi Yoshimoto, the citation noted that the awardee was “*the very epitome of the ideal mother with all of her womanly qualities of motherhood - so wise, so very generous with her time and worldly goods...guided her family with loving care...lending of her experiences with the community.*”

On October 10, 1868, more than one-hundred years ago, this item appeared in *the Colusa Sun*.

“Baldwin’s Troupe of Japanese jugglers gave one of their interesting shows on Thursday night. It is hard to say whether a more clever lot of BARBARIANS ever were grouped together before. Some of their gymnastic feats border on the marvelous.”

This is perhaps the first recorded presence of Japanese in Colusa. The news story may have been unnecessarily harsh, in reference to the culture of the performers or their lack of it, but it was no less uncharitable than the attitude of the government of “Mikado”, which established an “Office for the Study of Barbarian Books” in 1856, in order to acquaint its subjects with the Western World. Before Commodore Perry and his “Black Ships” arrived at Yedo (Tokyo) in 1853, Japan had endured almost 200 years of isolation from all foreign influences.

### Early Press

From a review of the performance of the Royal Matsuda and Troupe of Japanese performers in Marysville, which appeared in the April 30, 1903 edition of *the Marysville Daily Appeal*.

#### NORRIS & ROWE'S CIRCUS

A Performance Which Delighted All Who Saw It Yesterday

“The little Japs in their tumbling act gave a wonderful performance, many of their feats appearing almost marvelous.”

“The entertainment was much better than on the last occasion it was here, as the Japs that were introduced for the first time this year gave much strength to the performance.”

One of the earliest crimes involving the Japanese in this area appeared in *the Marysville Daily Appeal* on June 28, 1903.

#### STABBED TO DEATH

Japanese Near Biggs Kills Companion and Escapes

“Another murder was added to the list of Butte County crimes Friday, one of the Japanese employed at the Hatch and Rock Orchard near Biggs, being stabbed and killed by another Japanese.”

“There is quite a band of Japs engaged in picking apples at the orchard. The Chico Record says that on Friday morning S. Kimuri (sp.) and H. Nobe quarreled over a ladder. Nobe drew a large pocket knife, and with a vicious jab sent it into Kimuri’s right breast, severing one rib and penetrating the right lung. Kimuri fell and Nobe immediately sought safety in flight, nor has he been captured. The affray took place about 6:30 o’clock, and before Dr. Caldwell, who was summoned from Biggs, could arrive on the scene, Kimuri died.”

From a *Marysville Daily Appeal* article on July 7, 1903.

#### THE FEATURES OF THE CELEBRATION MARYSVILLE OBSERVANCE OF THE FOURTH A GRATIFYING SUCCESS

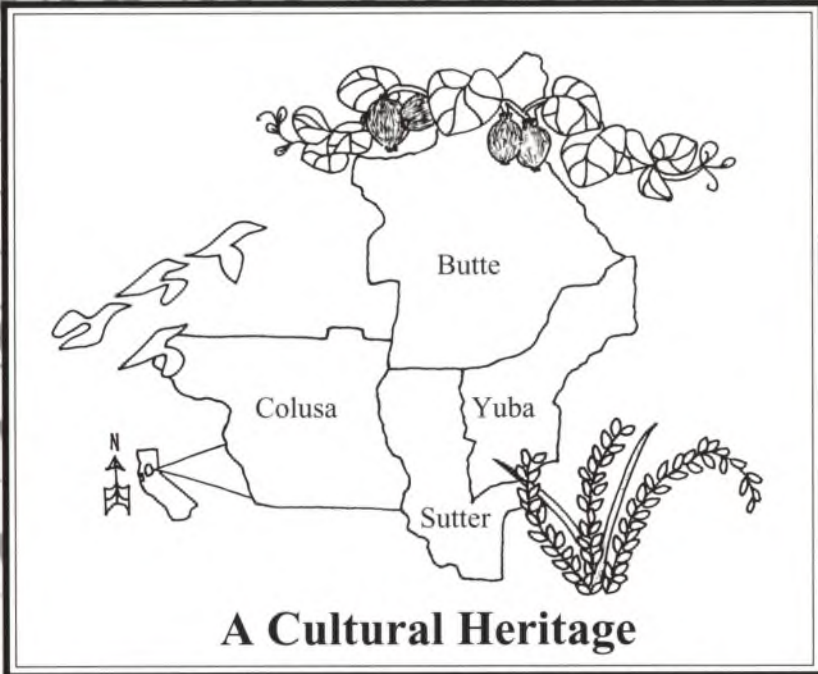
Japanese Fireworks

“In the evening the Japanese, not to be outdone in patriotism by their Chinese brethren, gave a display of fireworks across the river, between D street (replaced by the E street bridge) and railroad bridge. They decorated the Island with lanterns. A large number of persons stood on the levee and D street bridge to view the displays, the effect being very pretty.”

#### Newspaper Accounts



KOYAMA NAKAHARA TSUKIMURA  
OKI TANISAKI OSUMI YAMAMOTO  
TANABE NAKAO TAKIMOTO NABETA  
FUKUMIT TANISAKI  
OBAYASHI KAWA ITO  
INOUE YEMOTO  
MARUYAMA MURAKI  
HATAMI HIKAWA  
UCHIDA KODANI TOMITA NAKANO  
NAKAGAWA OKAMOTO YOKOHARI  
FURUTA YOKOTOBİ GOTO TANAKA



## The Beginnings

The Japanese who came to America felt an immediate need for some religious organization, in order to look after the problems associated with life and death, such as funerals and memorial services. In the early days informal prayer meeting groups were established, and it was not long before most immigrant communities had full-fledged priests and churches. Prior to the establishment of a Buddhist Church in the four counties, many of the Issei parents sent their children to Christian Sunday schools, such as the Methodist Sunday school pictured here. Although many families now attend a multiplicity of area churches, the Buddhist Church was a hub for early Nikkei activities and a cultural bridge. The Buddhist Church is the primary focus of this chapter.



**Mrs. Nora Blackburn with Sunday School class that met at the Japanese Young Men's Club**

**Marysville Methodist Sunday School on NW corner of 2nd and B Street, taught by Taylor, Kline and Blackburn**

## The Buddhist Church in the Four Counties



Rev. Chonen Terakawa (1936)

The Sacramento Betsuin (temple) records show that the first regional Buddhist service, a funeral, was held in a Marysville home in 1901. Between 1902 and 1907 four more family services were conducted by Sacramento ministers. The Colusa Japanese community began a nursery school, first purchasing property in 1913 according to “Zaibei Nihonjinkai”, a 1940 publication by the organization and that Chico, Colusa and Oroville communities began a bi-weekly service in 1931. The existence of a Seinenkai, Gakuen and the Fujinkai in Palermo is docu-

mented in the “Hokubei Kaikyo Enkakushi”, a 1936 publication by the Buddhist Church of America Headquarters, San Francisco.

The Marysville Buddhist Church minutes of 1907 recorded the initial request of the Sacramento Buddhist Church by Kumazo Murata of Yuba City to conduct services in Yuba City, followed by a visit to Sacramento by Buntaro Nakamura in 1908 concerning an establishment of a branch of the



Lord Abbot Kosho Otani and Lady Otani with Rev. Hoshin Fujikado (1952)

Sacramento Jodo Shinshu Church in Marysville. Services were conducted in the homes of Sekizo Kuroda, Buichi Watanabe, Kumazo Murata, Saiichiro Hiraoka and Buntaro Nakamura. The practice of holding religious observances in the homes of the faithful continued until 1918.

**1918** The first formal meeting place was a leased building located on the southwest corner of B and Second Streets in Marysville almost directly across from the present church. Services were conducted monthly at this location.

**1920** A leased building was remodeled and services were continued.

**1930** The leased building was destroyed by fire and the Japanese community members met to formulate plans for a structure that would serve as a church and also as a community gathering place.

**1931** The Buddhist Church Corporation purchased a lot on the south side of the Gakuen and began construction. In 1929 the Gakuen Corporation and the families of Buntaro Nakamura and Nobujiro Nakamura purchased a vacant lot on B Street between 1st and 2nd Streets. Upon completion, the structure was dedicated in April 1931.

The first cabinet was formed in May with Kumaichiro Wada as president. November, the Fujinkai was organized and an education program for the children was formulated.

**1932** April, a girls' organization, the Sumire Kai, was organized, later to be affiliated with the Young Buddhist Association.

**1934** October, Mr. Mishima arrived to act as an assistant minister in the absence of a resident minister.



**Dinner for the Abbot at the Senichi Hatamiya home**

**1935** The Young Men's/Women's Association was organized in January and installation officiated by Abbott Shojyo Ohtani in February.

Over the years many changes have been made with the major addition being the multipurpose hall completed in October 1972.

The Buddhist Church has also been the center of many activities in the post-war era and Japanese Americans of all

religions from the four counties have participated.



Dedication of Buddhist Church Building in 1931



Northern California Young Adult Buddhist Association Conference in Marysville (Dec. 1, 1957)



**Marysville Buddhist Sunday School (June 1, 1958)**

Sunday School or Dharma School was instituted in April 1931, and the peak enrollment was 141 students in 1971.



## Chigo

*Childrens' Festive Procession*





## Fujinkai

The Senior Fujinkai was organized in November 1931 under the leadership of Ichi Nakamura, Motoya Nakamura, Shige Maruyama, Shina Okimoto and Tamaru Wada and assisted in organizing the Sumire Kai (Young Womens' Club) in April 1932.

In March 1954, with Rev. Hoshin Fujikado as advisor, the Junior Fujinkai was founded to assist the Senior Fujinkai, and to give assistance to the Sunday School programming. The Junior Fujinkai has now advanced to the Senior organization.



## YBA

The Young Buddhist Association, a direct outgrowth of the Sumire Kai, was chartered in January 1935, later to be known as the YMWBA (Young Men's & Women's Buddhist Association.)

The Young Adult Buddhist Association was started March 1957 under the leadership of the Rev. Kiyoto Nagatani. This was to be a group which would be undertaking the transition of the Church operation from the Issei to the Nisei.

**Hoyukai**

In 1974 the Hoyukai was formerly organized under the name of Issei Kai to set up programs for the Issei. The name change came in 1976 and was made an affiliate of the Buddhist Church.



**Honoring the Issei (1949)**



**Hoyukai (1981)**

## Dobokai

The Dobokai, the culinary group of the Church, has for many years been instrumental in the fund-raising dinners, in addition to a number of banquets, including non-church events.



Special Dobokai Egg Ingredient Recipe for Makizushi---original recipe from Fumiko Komatsubara, handed down to Nobi Tokunaga and May Nakao (contemplated here by Isao Tokunaga).

6 eggs, beaten into a mixture of:  
2 Tbsp. cornstarch  
2 Tbsp. water

Add to the above mix:  
2 Tbsp. sugar  
1 tsp. Ajinomoto  
1 tsp. salt  
1 drop yellow food coloring

Fry in non-stick skillet.



Buddhist funeral service held in 1939



**Early Buddhist funeral held in Marysville in the early 1900s**

“Shojin Gochiso”: meals served after the funeral for the surviving family members, according to Frank Okimoto, included vegetables only, no meat or fish partaken.

## Early Funeral

“Buddhist funeral services were held at Gridley Thursday over the remains of Nankatni (sp. - Nakatani), the Japanese suicide, who was found hanging from an almond tree in the Hatch and Rock Orchard. The Gridley correspondent of the Chico Record says that the ceremony was in favorable contrast with the average Chinese funeral, with the beating tom-toms and the weird music and the baked pigs.

Izumita, a Buddhist priest from Sacramento, conducted the service and the whole affair, which was a Buddhist ceremonial, was decorous, and the Japanese in attendance testified to the respect in which they held the dead by depositing flowers and paying close attention to the service.

The priest read the service from a book in a singing tone, occasionally raising the book before his face. At the close of the ceremony the priest cut off a lock of the dead man’s hair and, enclosing it in an envelope, put it on the coffin. Pieces of money were also laid on the bier.”

Ref: The July 18, 1903 edition of the Marysville Daily Appeal.

The old Marysville Cemetery, located north of the city, has a section designated for and by the Japanese community. According to the 1915 minutes penned in Japanese by the Japanese Association 'kanji' (secretary), the chronology of the establishment of the cemetery is as follows:



Y. Kotoura, K. Murata, T. Kitahara, S. Yoshizaki, N. Nakamura, T. Watanabe, M. Uyeno, S. Kawamoto and K. Amakawa.

September 25, 1927: A benefit movie was held, the proceeds were used to purchase the plot.

October 7, 1915: A group of Japanese Association members met to discuss the feasibility of purchasing a section of the existing Marysville cemetery.

August 14, 1927: A committee was formed by the Association to undertake the first steps to purchase a plot. Committee was comprised of: S. Yano, M. Matsuno, B. Nakamura, M. Yamazaki,

Rev. Tesshi Aoyama researched the Marysville City Council records in the summer of 1982, after discovering the Japanese plot was not on the cemetery map. Further search of the City Council files unearthed minutes dated May 19, 1927 referring to the Japanese request. Thus with this corroboration, Dan Gray, owner of Lipp and Sullivan Funeral Directors officially registered the existence of the Japanese plot and has been included in subsequent map drawings.

A tombstone marked "Muenzuka" (Unknown) was purchased and engraved by the Danjo Seinenkai (Young Men's Organization) and a dedication service was held on May 30, 1923. President of the organization was listed as Mr. Yoshikawa and Mr. Otabe, 'kanji'.  
 Ref: *History of the Big Four* published by the Japanese Assoc. of Marysville -1932.



## Grave of Kuni Masumizu Wakamatsu Colony Pioneer, Colusa Cemetery

“In the Colusa Cemetery is a tombstone bearing the inscription: “IN MEMMORY OF KUNI MASUMIZU, DIED September 13, 1915, AGED 66 YEARS.” Memory is spelled with three “M’s,” and on the reverse side of the headstone are etched Japanese characters which read “MASUMIZU KUNINOSKUE NO HAKA” or “The grave of Kuninosuke Masumizu.”

“Kuni Masumizu as a youth of 20 was one of the party of some 35-40 Japanese, who came to the United States in May 1869. The party, probably the first organized immigrant-colonists to come to these shores from Japan...from Aizu Wakamatsu, arrived at Gold Hill in El Dorado county on or about June 8, 1869, to establish a farm settlement. The site, known as the “Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Farm Colony,” has been designated a California Registered Historical Landmark (No. 815) by the State Department of Parks and Recreation.

“The Colony was short lived, and except for three persons who are remembered for diverse reasons, the settlement was to dissolve into



historical oblivion.....Okei Ito, a nursemaid, died at the age of 19...Matsunoskue Sakurai, a “samurai”...faithfully served the pioneer Veerkamp family until his death...and the third and probably the oldest survivor Kuni Masumizu,...a carpenter by trade...reported to have helped...build the historically renowned two-story Coloma Hotel...that Kuni later helped to build the Fresno Buddhist Church.

“Kuni married a Negro woman, and several children were born of this union. (Descendants of Kuni live in the Sacramento area). Kuni served as “tsuben” or interpreter for his fellow countrymen who were to arrive in later years.

“...it is (a) fact that he spent his final years in Colusa working at his trade...Oldtimers of the area remember Kuni in his waning years as a lonely old man, who fished in the Sacramento River and sold his catch to eke out a meager

living. Kuni died in 1915, but for many years his grave remained unmarked, until 1926 the Japanese community of Colusa raised funds to erect a suitable monument in memory of the first of the Japanese pioneers.”

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Ref: Akiji Yoshimura, *A Brief History of the Japanese in Colusa County*, 1969.

**Marysville Gakuen**



**Groundbreaking for Marysville Japanese School (Gakuen) (1926)**  
Buntaro Nakamura performed the honor.



## Colusa Gakuen



**Marysville Japanese School**



**Marysville Gakuen students and parents (circa 1918)**

...The language school was the civic and social center of the Japanese community. It was the meeting place for such organizations as the Japanese Association, the Buddhist Church, the Young Men & Women's Association, Boy Scout Troop #25, the Fujin Kai (Women's Club) and the Fukei Kai (P.T.A.). It served as the stage for student plays, talent shows, speech contests, religious and cultural observances, and treated impartially Buddhist festivals and Christmas parties or "send off" banquets for Nisei draftees and the "Tenchosetsu" (Emperor's birthday).

At least once a year, Japanese movies were shown at the schoolhouse for the purpose of raising funds to operate the school. Before talkies, the film was given a voice by a "benshi" (narrator), who spoke all the parts both male and female, young and old, while his wife supplied the background music by stroking a 3-stringed instrument called a "shamisen." The list of projectionists included Tochuken Namiemon, Hiroshi Imajo, Ban (father and son), and George Matsui.

Ref: Akiji Yoshimura, *A Brief History of the Japanese in Colusa*, 1969.

*"...rode the streetcar to Marysville to the Gakuen (from Yuba City)...(later) from Wheatland by a stage bus, River Auto State, main transportation to Marysville...went to Gakuen (despite the distance)...would get to the school late because of the schedule...sometimes stayed overnight at the Maruyama's."*

-Toyomi Nakahara-

By mid-1970s, the vibrant student population dropped in number to fill a single classroom. *"...first period we sang songs...then conversation...20-minute break, Nakagawa Store...used to get snacks."*

-Lori Fukui-

## Shibai

The sharp clacking of the 'hyoshigi' (wooden clappers) and the drawing of the curtain across the stage heralded the first act of the year's production, "Matsu no Roka", a gripping episode from the centuries-old classic play, "Chushingura" a tale of vendetta, the ultimate sacrifice of the 47 Ronin.

After weeks of rehearsals at the director's (Mr. Nakasono) home, the protagonists, recruited from the Japanese Town residents, costumed and made up in the 1700 Samurai era, were ready for the long-awaited Shibai (play). Mrs. Natsuko Matsumoto reminisced about the New Year's extravagant production: "*Yu-mei deshita (they were famous).*"



Shibai production performed during New Year, 1936

From the north, droves of Nikkei motored down for the annual performance. “...4-hour round trip in our model T from Chico.”

-George Kochi-

Mrs. Nakasono, who provided the Samisen background music, and Gakuen teacher, Mrs. Goda, who choreographed, orchestrated the dressing room activity---donned lavish silk rented kimonos, elegant wigs, ornate accessories and applying impassive white mask makeup. “*Alice Watanabe in Samurai makeup!...costumes and makeup, so authentic, so professional. We lived in the country so couldn't participate...too far.*”

-Mary Okidoi Amemiya-

Elaborate props were constructed by the menfolk while the stellar roles were undertaken primarily by the young women. Thespians Alice Goda, the hero, Lord Oishi; Momo and Dolly Kitahara; Alice Yamasaki; Harry Kawamoto; Chiyoko Charlotte Maruyama, Yawara Tekawa, Kojiro Wada; Kei Yokotobi; Setsuko Hayashi; Masako Manji; Kie Maruyama; Takashi Sasaki; Mazie Sasaki as the child Sambaso, scampering across the stage signaling the opening scene with a lantern; Chiyoe Manji as the beautiful Okaru; and Mr. Nagao as the dastardly Lord Kira. “*My part...mostly crying in my 'sode' (kimono sleeve).*”

-Chiyoe Manji Kobayashi-



Young Shibai actors

These productions had their final curtain call in 1936 when the Nakasonos returned to Japan (accompanying ‘starlet’ Chiyoe Manji).



**Hanamatsuri**

*Flower Festival*



**Hinamatsuri**

*Girls' Day*

## Miss Bussei

*Young Buddhists*



**Carolyn Kadoi Manji, Northern California Miss Bussei - 1958**

## Cultural Programs



**Hiroko Ishimoto with floral display at  
Yuba-Sutter Arts Council Exhibition**

The Butte-Sutter and Yuba County Cultural Program for fourth-graders had its initial beginning in the '60s, when Sachi Okimoto and Hiroko Ishimoto were approached by a school teacher to make a presentation of things Japanese. Program coordinator, Irene Itamura, explained the purpose of the program, *"to illustrate that America is comprised of a variety of cultures, all Americans, who crossed different oceans at different times."*

In time, the program expanded to three counties enlisting Marysville and Yuba City Nikkei to assist in the cultural outreach program.

**Picnics**



**Early Marysville area picnic (circa 1913)**

The sign (barely visible on the far left) translates as "Enryu kai" (picnic).

## Happy New Year



**Riwa Tanimoto, Hikoichi Tanimoto and Kanekichi Okimoto  
enjoying Japanese picnic**

Dobuzuke Recipe handed down from Mrs. Ichi Nakamura to Hatsue Nakamura:

2 ricebowls cold leftover cooked rice  
1/2 cup raisin  
1 cucumber or Uri

Add just enough water to hold the rice together. Add enough salt to make it salty. Add raisins and mix thoroughly by hand. Slice vegetable lengthwise and place on top of mixture. Leave overnight or two. Remove, slice and mix in rice-raisin mixture, adding salt to taste. Mixture should be salted and mixed well each day to prevent souring. May be kept in the refrigerator.

“Akemashite shinnen omedetoh gozai masu...” (Happy New Year). New Year’s Day was preceded by days of preparation in the kitchen by the women-folk. Centerpiece was a bright red lobster, or a delicate crescent of a carp. “...cooked kujira (whale)...fish in a strainer, pour boiling water through, serve.”

-Ikuto Nabeta-

Mochi-tsuki (rice-cake preparation) was the advent to the holiday season. “Mochi-tsuki with the Hiraokas, the Marumotos and the Kawamotos.”

- Stanley Marumoto-

The male members of the family would set out early on New Year’s Day for a round of visits exchanging greetings and breaking bread. The hosts would be the women members of the family graciously serving their splendid culinary delectables and libation, hot Sake. “Dad would go to (all the) Japanese homes all on one street; then that night, the whole clan, the Tanimotos, the Ozawas, the Mihos would come to our house.”

-May Nakao-

“100 pounds of mochi rice...Mother did the “turning”...used “koji” as a starter to make Sake...50 gallon wooden barrel in the kitchen...Root beer with Hire’s root beer extract...bottled...over-fermented.....explosion!”

-Ken Tanabe-

George Ishimoto remembers playing ‘karuta’ (card game) “...New Year’s...(when) we were bored in the wintertime...sometimes we have a big fight (over the outcome).” Mothers invariably called out the verses from the master set.

**Marysville Buddhist Church**

**Ministers**

Rev. Chonen Terakawa	1936-1939	Rev. Kiyoto Nagatani	1955-1958
Rev. Koshun Sasaki	1939-1940	Rev. Daisho Tana	1958-1959
Rev. Enryo Unno	1945-1948	Rev. Koju Terada	1959-1970
Rev. Hoshin Fujikado	1948-1955	Rev. Koken Sakai	1970-1973
		Rev. Tesshi Aoyama	1973-

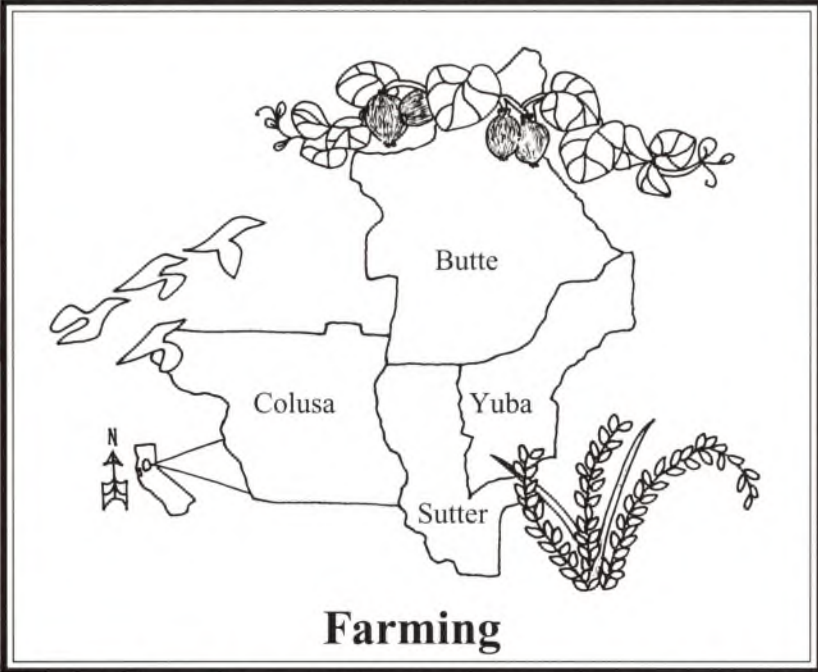
**Presidents**

Kumaichiro Wada	1930-1942	Kazuo Kakiuchi	1987	Mamoru Tanimoto	1989
Shizuo Nakao	1945-1952	Terry Manji	1988	Ikuto Nabeta	1990-
John Kazuso Sasaki	1953-1954				
Kazuo Nakagawa	1955-1957				
Frank S. Nakao	1958				
Kenjiro Yoshikawa	1959-1961				
Kazuo Sasaki	1962-1963				
Frank N. Okimoto	1964-1965				
Dan F. Nishita	1966-1967				
Frank F. Nakamura	1968				
George K. Matsumura	1969-1970				
George S. Matsumoto	1971				
George H. Inouye	1972				
Shurei A. Matsumoto	1973-1974				
George H. Inouye	1975				
Clark Y. Tokunaga	1976				
Ikuto Nabeta	1977-1978				
Clark Y. Tokunaga	1979				
Gilbert Azama	1980-1981				
Fred Matsui	1982				
Frank F. Nakamura	1983				
Fred Matsui	1984				
Bob Hatamiya	1985				
Ray T. Fukui	1986				





TOMITA ISHIMOTO FUKUI HONDA  
IWANAGA NAKAGAWA TOKUNAGA  
ONO MIYASAKO MARUMOTO TAKEI  
YAMACH SUEHIRO  
IMAMOTO KODAMA  
YAMACH ATANABE  
KUROTA AKIMOTO  
USHIHARA SHIHARA  
KAWAMOTO FUKUMITSU ISHIGAKI  
NAGAO SAITO KITAHARA HARADA  
KAMIKAWA MURATA KOCHI UYENO



## Ikuta, the “Rice Wizard”

Around 1908, American farmers tried to grow rice in the Sacramento River Valley in soil that was unsuitable. Deeming that rice needed the richest earth procurable, they utilized some of their best tracts with disappointing results. On this fertile land the rice thrived so luxuriantly that it ran to stock instead of to ear, and what grain there was did not ripen until well within the rainy season, which made harvesting extremely difficult.

To aid the rice-farmer, a United States Governmental Experimental Rice Station was installed at Biggs under the direction of Dr. Jones of the Federal Department of Agriculture, but it was not until 1911 that this investigation achieved results, and, by that time, the American pioneers in rice planting had taken to other crops.

However, in 1910, a Japanese by the name of Ikuta had ingratiated himself with Dr. Jones at Biggs and followed the latter's experiments with an eye to one more attempt at rice cultivation on a commercial basis. Strange though it may seem the American scientist, in 1911, discovered that not rich but poor soil was most suitable for the growing of rice under the climatic conditions of the Sacramento River

Valley.

This startling information must have been greeted by the astute Ikuta with extreme though suppressed excitement, for poor land meant cheap land. Anyway, before the news had a chance to spread, the Japanese under the leadership of



Ikuta descended on the Sacramento Valley counties of Colusa, Glenn, Butte, Yolo, Yuba and Sutter in considerable numbers and began to buy up waste land at less than two dollars an acre. The areas they purchased consisted of hard-parched soil, containing alkali and good up to then for little else than a species of coarse salt

grass. It must be assumed that the Japanese did not divulge what they intended doing with the land, or they would not have been able to acquire it as such a low figure.

When they thought they had sufficient acreage, Ikuta and his compatriots set to work with a will.

They plowed and irrigated, established nurseries, and transplanted the young shoots in a thoroughly business-like manner. A year or two passed in this preliminary work, and then, to the surprise of the white farmers round about, it was suddenly evident, that what had long been considered profitless land gave in reality the best returns.

Americans, now fully aware of what they had missed, scrambled for any alkali charged land that was left, and they, too, took up the cultivation of rice.

By 1919, rice had become one of the most important crops of the state, thanks to the perseverance of Dr. Jones of Biggs. However, the numerous Japanese farmers, who had benefited beyond measure from the American's discovery, knew only Ikuta and, ascribing their affluence solely to his initiative, honored him with the title of the “Rice Wizard”.

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Ref: Bunje, Emile T. H., Ph.D., *The Story of Japanese Farming in California*, Reprinted in 1971 by R and E Research Associates.

The introduction of rice to Colusa County in 1911, and its rapid expansion from 75 acres to 12,000 acres by 1915, was to attract hundreds of Japanese investors and laborers to Colusa. In the heyday of rice farming, in which the Japanese played a major role under such men as R. Takata, O. Noda, K. Ikuta and K. Sato, the Japanese community of Colusa had a population of 400-500 residents, permanent and seasonal. Hardly a Japanese of the times escaped the magic touch of rice farming in Colusa Co. It is said by the old-timers with a twinkle of amusement, that the “rice barons” of the era lived “high on the hog”, taking in the bright lights of San Francisco and tossing their money around with reckless abandon, so uncharacteristic of the usually frugal Japanese. But those were fabulous times, when fortunes were made and lost. The records of the County reveal that many corporations and partnerships were formed by the Japanese for the purpose of farming rice, bearing such imposing fictitious names as the US Farmers Co., Star Rice Co., Chico Rice Co., Grimes Rice Co. and others involving vast acreages and considerable capital.



The promises of fortunes to be made in rice lured Japanese from many areas. The largest number of recorded agreements appear in 1919. The following year tragedy struck, and many were to lose their investments, some their life savings. It is interesting that the U.S. Department of

Agriculture established a rice experimental station near Biggs in 1912; its purpose to find a variety of rice best adapted to valley conditions. After importing thousands of seeds from various countries, it selected an early variety of Japanese rice as most desirable. It is of further interest, perhaps not without a note of irony, that while Colusa County has become one of the highest rice producing counties in the U.S., today only one Japanese American is engaged in rice farming on a limited scale in a county where once their par-

ent generation had helped to pioneer the industry. The exodus away from Colusa began about this time, disillusioned Japanese salvaging what they could to return to the Bay Area and other employment through which they had earlier saved their money to invest in rice farming.

Ref: Akiji Yoshimura, *A Brief History of the Japanese in Colusa County*, 1969.

**Colusa**

**INCREASE OF LAND VALUE UNDER  
THE CULTIVATION OF JAPANESE IN CALIFORNIA  
Colusa - Rice Field**

**Before 1913**  
***\$30 per acre***

**In 1918**  
***\$200 per acre***

Ref: *The Japanese Farmers in California*, by Toyoji Chiba, Dir. of Japanese Agriculture Assoc. of California  
( Reprinted from *the San Francisco Chronicle*, 1/16/1918)

## How Japanese Labor Came to California

When the Chinese exclusion law was enacted in 1884, a great demand for farm labor was created in California. It was just at this time that agriculture in California was undergoing a transition from raising grains to fruit crops. Hence a great shortage of mobile labor was felt keenly throughout the State. To fill the gap thus created, Japanese labor was introduced.

It is interesting to note that in 1917 the Japanese farmers in the State produced nearly 90 per cent of the total crops of strawberries and cantaloupes, 80 percent each of the total crop of onions, asparagus, tomatoes, celery, lettuce and cut flowers; 55 percent of cabbages and seeds; 40 percent of the potato crop; 20 percent of the total crop of beans and cotton; 10 percent of the total grapefruit and rice crops. Very few Japanese farmers were engaged in extensive agriculture which required machinery. However, they occupied an important place in truck gardening and demonstrated their genius in intensive agriculture.

Anti-Japanese agitation, influenced by labor unions, finally resulted in the Gentlemen's Agreement of 1907 between the Japanese and American governments.

The Gentlemen's Agreement prohibited the immigration of Japanese laborers, both from the Hawaiian Islands and from the Japanese mainland. Thus the supply of Japanese farm laborers and railroad workers was entirely cut off.

Passage of the Anti-alien land law of 1913 was another blow to Japanese farmers in California.

The anti-alien law prohibited the Japanese from owning land and limited the period of leasing to less than three years. Consequently, the Japanese farmers lost their interest in the land and gradually left farming. In 1917, nearly twenty Japanese farmers, with a total acreage of 1,000 acres, sold the land. Fortunately, most Japanese farmers remained to have a strong impact on agriculture in California.

Ref: "*The Japanese Farmers in California*", by Toyoji Chiba, Director of Japanese Agriculture Assoc. of California.  
Reprinted from *the San Francisco Chronicle*, Jan. 16, 1918.

**Farming in the  
Early Years**

The rural scenario in the 1920s and the 1930s for the Nikkei was essentially very much like any American vignette, drama unfolding in its daily struggle. The Alien Land Law of 1913, the 1924 Oriental Exclusion Act, the Depression era, the floods and the evacuation, however, complicated and compounded the problems of Nikkei survival.

*"...no price one year (Depression), peaches were a total loss,"* recalled May Nakao. Families supplemented father's income by raising vegetables, wine grapes and strawberries to be sold to grocers in close proximity.

*"Mom couldn't get it (cash) to the bank fast enough...she used to put it in a coffee can and buried (it)...the only one who knew where it was."*

-May Nakao-

*"Peaches were sold to the cannery for \$4 a ton during the worst year."*

-Toshiko Hatamiya Minabe and  
Kikue Hatamiya Tomita-

**THE JAPANESE AGRICULTURE  
ASSOCIATION**

**The Japanese Agriculture Association was organized in January 1915, at the insistence of the leading Japanese farmers of the State. The association had been conducting educational work and a systematic campaign for the betterment of conditions among the Japanese farmers in California. It had given farmers technical advice, assisted them in marketing their produce and promoted their agriculture interests. In 1918, its membership consisted of over one thousand Japanese farmers in Northern California.**

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Ref: "The Japanese Farmers in California" by Toyoji Chiba, Reprinted from the San Francisco Chronicle, Jan. 16, 1918.

Still others, undaunted, set up fruit stands on a roadway, *"...had a fruitstand...I used to sell. Barry and Garden Highway...main route to Sacramento...selling watermelons for 10¢ a piece, cantaloupes, 2 for 10¢ or 5¢ a piece."*

-Tommy Kinoshita-

To circumvent the Alien Land Law, "...used H\_\_\_\_ F\_\_\_\_\_ 's name."

-Jack Tanimoto-

Truck farms abounded from Butte County to Tudor, East Marysville to Walton Avenue (Yuba City), Live Oak to Yuba City Garden Highway. East Marysville site on 15th and Sampson, known as Schimpfville after the Schimpf family, boasted ten truck farmers: Fuchigami, Goto, Hayashida (Ellis Lake), Kosaka, Kuroda, Murata, Shidawara, Takimoto, Uyeno and Watanabe. Across the Feather River, west end of the present 10th Street Bridge were truck farmers and residents in related agriculture: Hiraichi, Kagawa, Manji, Murata, Nakahira, Nakamoto, Ota, Tanaka, Wakayama, Yano and Yoshikawa. Mr. Wakayama sold bread, eggs and other staples, in addition to vegetables.

*"Father delivered vegetables to stores and families (1910-1928) in a horse and wagon."*

-Bob Nakamoto-

A number of Caucasian gentlemen farmers leased property to the industrious Nikkei. (Dr. Hoffman, who also met the health needs of many Nikkei.)

Those who held a managerial position on the farmlands fared considerably better: working for California Lands' ranches (foreclosures) assured them a year-round work and salary. Vineyards first, orchards later, Mas Tanisaki's father worked as a contractor on Smith and Walton Roads. Depression era left a deep impression on young Mas: *"...in Sacramento...saw Caucasians sitting on the sidewalk...blocks and blocks...some had carts (containing) beautiful bananas."*

Andross family farms employed Tommy Kinoshita's father as foreman at Barry Road, *"...Oyaji (Boss) would pay my dad a lump sum cash and then my dad used to figure it out...Soroban (abacus) and pay the workers."* The family was allotted a small acreage to grow watermelons, cantaloupes, *"...(buyers) used to come all the way from San Francisco."*

Ken Tanabe cannot forget how diligently his father kept a daily log on farming, as did many others, who referred to the chronicles season after season.

Orchardists' private holdings averaged 20 acres. Thompson seedless grapes, olives, peaches, prunes, plums, walnuts, almonds and other crops added amply to the cornucopia of the northern valley. Mothers and daughters picked fruit side by side in simmering valley

heat with anticipation of downtown shopping in the fall.



Toshio Tsukimura (circa 1925)

Arriving in U.S. as a youth, filled with curiosity, adventurous spirit and a sense of unfettered freedom, many eagerly succumbed to the call of the railroad, for a dollar a day. Prior to rice farming at 7-Mile House and Live Oak, Hatsune Kadoi's father worked as section foreman out of Roseville.

Henry Okano's father began with the arduous railroad work, followed by farm work in Marysville, the Durst hop ranch in Wheatland with Japanese, East Indians and Filipinos. Mother prepared meals for about 15 workers, receiving assistance from another worker or another Nikkei woman. Provisions were purchased for the most part in Japanese town, an all day affair. Horse and buggy ride and a lunch at one of the boarding houses provided respite from the most pressing needs, typifying the life of the area farmer.

There were some unusual occupations, as well. George Nakagawa remembers well that his father insisted that Tets (Jim) learn the chicken sexing operation in Nagoya, and for a time worked for a Chico-area poultry ranch after his return from Japan.

Miyoko Nakahara's grandfather cared for five Great Danes at the Warren Whitney ranch in Wheatland, while Grandmother Tomita worked as a domestic at the Whitney's San Francisco home.



**Yokotobi Celery Farm (1922)**

(the area was more recently occupied by Palace Meats, in Yuba City)

On the west end of the 5th St. Bridge were the Yokotobis. On the outskirts of the city limits were the Kinoshitas (Barry Road), Nakamuras, and Sanuis (Walton Road). River-bottom harvesting saw the Tanabe family (D St. Bridge).

While yet a teenager, Roy Hatamiya recalls, his father worked for Di Giorgio (Naumes) on the Reed Ranch as a foreman of a Japanese crew. A Chinese cook taught him to cook and there was also a stint in Suisun orchards.

Michiko Yoshimoto Furuta helped her father irrigate as a child, *"...if the ditch breaks, he has me shoveling it, he sits there and watches me...(I was) chubby, so I was strong."*

Two young girls, Jeanne Nakamura Tokunaga and Masuko Toyoda Shimamoto, used to accompany Jeanne's grandfather to the Yuba City truck farmers to pick up vegetables: *"Terry Manji and Mako (his brother) standing by the road with a clod of dirt...would start throwing it (at the truck after it passed-by)."*



**Portable Pump for Water Drainage Hatamiya Farms, District 10 (1941)**

*"Father (and Uncle Shiro) arrived through Vancouver Island, worked for the Northern Pacific Railroad at \$1 a day, sent money to his father in Japan."*

-Roy Hatamiya-

A centenarian, Mrs. Yoshimura remembers the beehives tended by Yoshimoto while raising beans in Colusa. Japanese camps in rural Colusa were referred to as the "Jap Camp", while similarly a road in Yuba County was named "Jap Road" later to be changed to "Tanabe Road."



**Frank and Shizuo Nakao with son George (1934)**

Roger Chandler recalls a number of Japanese working at the Chandler ranch picking cherries prior to the war - Mr. and Mrs. Toshio Tsukimura, the camp cooks; Kay Fujiwara, a Nakao and a Yamachi, among others.



Rice farming was undertaken by the Tanimoto family when most Gridley Nikkei were toiling in either the peach orchards or row crops, as did the Marubashi, Uchihara, Kadoi and Kagehiro families.

Biggs and Gridley farmers initially grew beans, alfalfa and later become orchardists. Early rice farming began experimentation with sweet rice in the '30s: *"(In 1931) we got seed...(an) envelope from Japan...each year he (father) planted to make more seed...50 acres...sold 50 sacks of seed to Koda Farms...I'm sure he's the only one that started the sweet rice...(there are) 2000 kinds, varieties, he had 400...(one variety) Corona..."*

-Chiyoe Manji Kobayashi-

Mr. Manji also experimented in rice seed planting, Chiyoe recalling that her father told her that the dry rice seed scattered by force of wind (by plane) resulted in clumping during irrigation; by soaking the seeds overnight in water, the seeds would drop into the soil by the added weight of moisture thus avoiding a clustered mass.

From the Yolo County farmland, the Oji Brothers, in 1948, eyed the northeast, to Sutter County farmlands. *"We had better opportunity for farming...more land available...it was fairly easy to buy land, direct contact with landowners...first, at O'Banion Road and Highway 99...tomatoes, sugarbeets and seed crops...moved to Tudor...at peak, 5000 acres."*

- Mas Oji-



Maintaining the vast amount of equipment, retiree Art Oji also supervised *"rice harvest, 1000 acres...we really used our 2-way radios."*

Prior to WWII, Henry Oji and his father farmed in Santa Maria; thence to Gila Internment Camp, followed by ranching in Colorado (sugarbeets and rowcrops) where Mas joined the venture. In Yolo County, Art, having served in the MIS, became part of the growing enterprise in 1949.



Conversion to or adding on different crops was not uncommon. After departing from the ricelands, the Tanimotos ventured into peaches and much later (post-war) kiwi fruit farming, experimenting with a horticulturalist. The new, exotic fruit, generally not known in the U.S., would be planted as a secondary crop. Various

stages of production and marketing were nurtured with patience and hope. The vine-supporting T-bar was a Tanimoto innovation quickly adopted by others, New Zealand in particular, from whence the kiwi fruit was first exported and grown commercially. New Zealand also uses Tanimoto packaging methods.



*"...we could have had the T-bar named after our name, but..."*

-George Tanimoto-

In season, asparagus was picked in Lodi by many, again to augment the family income, or to build-up savings for college. Opportunities for Nikkei workers were in reasonable abundance. As the early arrivals of the Nikkei from Hawaii would prove, exchanging machetes (sugarcane, pineapple groves) for pruning shears was not necessarily difficult.



**Shiro Hatamiya - Live Oak (circa 1925-26)**

*"...even (in) the wintertime, used to rake the brush after they pruned the peaches...one-cent a tree,"* recalling a more leisure period, Hana Matsuri (Flower Festival) was observed when the almond blossoms cloaked the orchard, two, three families would gather to view the panorama while enjoying their 'obento' (lunch).

-Sam Kurihara-



**Jack Tanimoto (1957)**



**Mori and Jim Tanimoto (1940)**



**Robert Kodama**

**Henry Kodama**

Photo used by Caterpillar to advertise tractors in 1957.

### The Mystery of District 10

Where are districts 1 through 9 and 11 through infinity? "District 10" --- what is it???? It's been referred to time and time again in San Francisco society pages, sports sections and Herb Caen's columns in the '70s alluding to its legendary but not mythical Neverneverland of the great white hunters---Billy Martin, Robert Stack and other celebrities guested with District 10 landowners, seeking respite from their respective career demands, yearning for a sky full of ducks or fields of grazing pheasants.

District 10: derived its designation from the State Reclamation Agency. Water districts were numbered sequentially beginning with #1 in the order of need and establishment and now number well into a thousand, hence, District 10 was presumably established early on, in the second half of 1800s. Mystery solved.



Post-war pear packer, Fumi Fukui Fukumitsu



John S. Oki and man's best friend (shovel), during irrigation time



The Okidoi farmhouse complete with furo (bath), which is the tiny structure on the right-side (circa 1925).



A turkey farm at 7-mile House, on Highway 20 in Yuba County, owned by the Iseri family circa 1925-1930.



**Japanese community float entry in the Colusa Harvest Festival Parade (1941)**

The first job in the town of Colusa, for Richard Kinoshita's father, was as a chef: *"Father knew how to make pies and biscuits...(later) caught stripers (Feather River) to feed the workers. ...no limit on poles...half dozen hooks...left out all night...next morning pull this thing out...fish on each hook."* Regarding medical bills, physician's (Dr. Lindstrum) housecall would require *"cash or vegetables or fruit."*



**Packing beans on a Colusa Co. farm**

## Durst Ranch

### Site of Wheatland Hop Riot, 1913

Today, most of the old hop kilns are gone, but the four standing are in the area where one of the earliest labor disputes in California took place. Although many Japanese worked as hop pickers (total numbers vary from 75 to 1,000), they *“were among those who walked out from the beginning of the strike, they withdrew from the area because of their fear that non-Japanese strikers might lose the support of the traditionally anti-Oriental AFL. These Japanese inserted ads in the Japanese language press asking their countrymen to stay away from the Durst Ranch ...”* *“This was a meaningful gesture of working class solidarity and should be remembered by all of us,”* as told by Karl Yoneda, *“100 Years of Japanese Labor History in the USA.”* According to Mr. E.C. Horst, Jr., the Durst Ranch employed Japanese as steady year-round labor as well as hiring them as seasonal laborers.



**The Hop Kilns of Wheatland (1995)**

At the Wheatland hop ranch: Henry Okano recounts his father working *“with 30-40 work horses, plowing or pulling wagons...horse-kicking...hop-cutting (knife wounds)”* were tended to by the company physician. The 1912-1913 hop riots did not involve any of the Nikkei workers according to Sam Kurihara, whose family lived a short distance away. In the post-Prohibition era, Frank Nakamura recalls, helping his father *“plant hops on the riverbottom (of the Feather River)...for 10¢ an hour, 10 hours a day.”*



Post-war saw several changes in the four counties. Many Nikkei did not return, leaving gaps in agriculture and business environs. Boarding houses, pool halls, public ofuro were gone. Organized sports, kendo, New Year's Shibai productions were not reactivated. Farmers, whose properties were maintained by Caucasian friends during internment were able to return to their orchards and fields, albeit, from scratch, and in time were able to increase tenfold and more, enjoying a new found favorable juncture of circumstances.



**Henry Kodama (circa 1950)**

In addition, Nikkei newcomers coming northward from adjacent counties found Sutter County in particular, potentially an agricultural Mother Lode. Today, agriculture can boast of diversified crops in addition to the old standby crops---sugar beets, kiwis, persimmons, Fujii apples, nectarines, cherries, asparagus, tomatoes, freestone peaches, pumpkins---enhancing and boosting area economy once again.



**Oji Brothers Vine Seed Harvest - 1978 (top)  
and Tomato Harvest - 1978 (bottom)**



**Butte, Colusa, Sutter and Yuba  
Post-War Agribusiness Families**

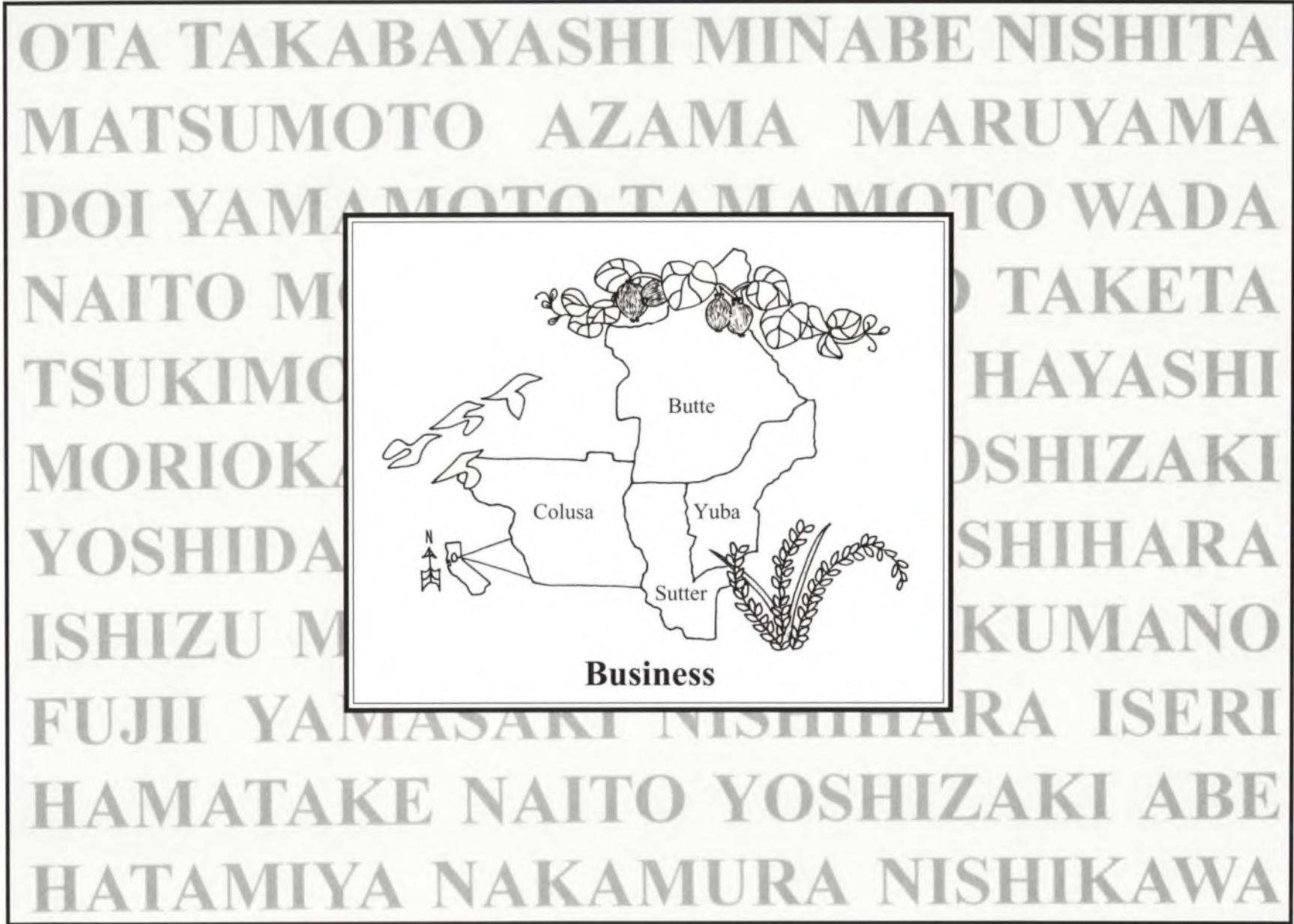


- 1. Abe
- 2. Ariyama
- 3. Doizaki
- 4. Dote
- 5. Fujii
- 6. Fukui
- 7. Fukumitsu
- 8. Furuta
- 9. Hamatani
- 10. Harada
- 11. Hasegawa
- 12. Hashimoto
- 13. Hashioka
- 14. Hatamiya (Dist 10)
- 15. Hatamiya (Live Oak)
- 16. Hatanaka
- 17. Heya
- 18. Hirai
- 19. Herota
- 20. Ichikawa
- 21. Inouye, George M.
- 22. Inouye, George H.
- 23. Inouye, Robert
- 24. Ishimoto
- 25. Itamura
- 26. Itano
- 27. Ito
- 28. Iwamura
- 29. Iwanaga
- 30. Kadoi
- 31. Kagehiro
- 32. Kakita
- 33. Kawasaki
- 34. Kawata
- 35. Kimura
- 36. Kinoshita
- 37. Kitani
- 38. Kobayashi
- 39. Kochi
- 40. Kodama

- 41. Kodani
- 42. Komatsubara
- 43. Koyama
- 44. Kozuma
- 45. Kurihara
- 46. Manji
- 47. Marubashi
- 48. Marumoto
- 49. Matsui
- 50. Matsumoto (Marysville)
- 51. Matsumoto (Yuba City)
- 52. Matsumura (Marysville)
- 53. Matsumura (Yuba City)
- 54. Miyasaka
- 55. Morishita
- 56. Morita
- 57. Muraki
- 58. Nabeta
- 59. Nakagawa, Fred

- 60. Nakagawa, Kazuo
- 61. Nakahara
- 62. Nakamoto
- 63. Nakamura (Yuba City)
- 64. Nakano
- 65. Nakao, Frank
- 66. Nakao, Shizuo
- 67. Nakasu
- 68. Nakatsu
- 69. Nishikawa
- 70. Nishita
- 71. Obayashi
- 72. Oji
- 73. Okamoto
- 74. Okano
- 75. Oki, John
- 76. Oki, Paul
- 77. Okidoi
- 78. Okikawa

- 79. Osumi
- 80. Sakamoto
- 81. Sasaki (Dist 10)
- 82. Sasaki (Yuba City)
- 83. Shimada
- 84. Shimamoto
- 85. Shimizu, Masao Ben (Wheatland)
- 86. Shimizu
- 87. Shingu
- 88. Tabata
- 89. Takabayashi
- 90. Takamoto
- 91. Takeshita
- 92. Takimoto
- 93. Tanabe
- 94. Tanimoto (Gridley)
- 95. Tanimoto (Yuba City)
- 96. Tanisaki
- 97. Tokunaga
- 98. Tokuno
- 99. Tomita
- 100. Tsuda
- 101. Tsuji
- 102. Tsukimura
- 103. Tsutsui
- 104. Uchida
- 105. Uyemoto
- 106. Watanabe
- 107. Yamaguchi
- 108. Yamamoto (Wheatland)
- 109. Yamamoto (Yuba City)
- 110. Yokohari
- 111. Yokotobi
- 112. Yoshikawa
- 113. Yoshimoto
- 114. Yoshimura
- 115. Yukawa



## Early Beginnings

Downtown Marysville was the business hub for area residents prior to WWII. Visiting the downtown area was an all-day trek for some and a source of entertainment for many. And to think that people complain today about crossing over the bridge.

*"Father rode horseback to Marysville over a covered bridge (spanning) the Feather River ...washed out in 1907."*

-Richard Kinoshita-

The way to Marysville from Barry Road (Yuba City) "...Garden Highway...Government housing camp at the Yuba City airport---all this was river bottom...nothing but oak trees. The main body of river had a levee, the main secondary levee, in case the water got high, came all the way over to here (Barry Road). The road was right on top of the levee...narrow 2-lane. We used to play on this river bottom."

-Tommy Kinoshita-

## BYRON HOT SPRINGS

The only resort in all Northern California open in the winter.

All the comforts of home, Elevators, Electric Lights, Steam Heat in every room.

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Ask anyone that has tried the water of these Springs, and they will tell you that for Rheumatism, Gout,alaria, Kidney and Stomach troubles, Byron Hot Springs excel them all.

Hot Mineral Baths in Main Hotel. Bath rooms steam heated. Male and Female attendants. Resident Physician. Trained Nurses.

Rates in Cottages, \$17.50 per week. In the Hotel, \$21.00 per week, up. Call at this office for booklets.

H. R. WARNER,

Hotel Manager

## THE RENTON

712 Sutter Street

San Francisco, Cal.

**MARYSVILLE STABLE**  
Formerly Gillespie's, 418 C St.  
**LIVERY AND FEED**  
The best of care and attention given to both regular boarders and transients. Livery outfits promptly furnished  
Phone Red 97. O. J. ADAMS, Prop.

## Toyo Restaurant

K. KOURA, Proprietor.

307 Second Street - - - Marysville.

**SHORT ORDERS 15 CENTS.**

With Tea, Coffee or Milk.

Pork Chops	Mutton Chops
Plain Steak	Sausage
Hamburg Steak	Liver and Bacon
Veal Steak	Liver and Onions
Bacon and Eggs	Eggs, Any Style
Fried Ham	Fresh Fish
Ham and Eggs	Fried Oysters, Any Style
Oyster Stew	Style
Fried Oysters, Any Style	Chicken

**DINNER 15 CENTS**

Including Soup.

Chicken, Any Style  
Stewed Beef Spanish  
Irish Stew  
Lamb Stew Pot Pie  
Lamb Stew Vegetable  
Lamb Stew Fricassee  
Lamb, Currie and Rice  
Lamb Cutlets, Green Peas  
Frankfurter Sausage and Sauer Kraut  
Hamburg Steak, Spanish Sauce  
Pork Sausage Spanish  
Boiled Beef Spanish  
Pigs Feet and Cabbage  
Corned Beef and Cabbage  
Breast of Lamb Breaded  
Rolled Hamburg, Tomato Sauce  
Kidney Stew on Toast  
Liver with Bacon, Cream Sauce  
Brains Breaded in Butter  
Short Ribs of Beef Tongue

ONE WEEK, 22 MEALS, \$3.00

## THE ARLINGTON,

Commercial Travelers.  
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S. LEWEK, Proprietor.

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Stop at the

## Hotel Elwood

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Table Service first-class.

W. J. JASPER, Prop.

Daily Appeal on file: APR 11

## THE SAN FRANCISCO Oyster and Chop House

Telephone Red 1612.

313 THIRD ST. (Formerly Eberlein's)

Oysters, Fish, Game, Steaks, Chops etc. The best in the market in season.

Oyster Loaves and Cocktails. Families supplied with Oysters cooked or raw.

Anything at any time from Sandwiches and Coffee to a Fine Meal.

GABRIEL & EUSTATHIOW,  
Proprietors.



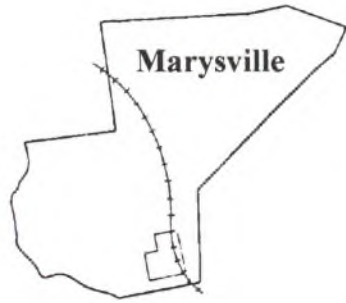
Reprinted from the May 4, 1905 edition of the Appeal-Democrat.

The 1905 Sacramento telephone directory (Sunset Telephone and Telegraph Co.) listing of Butte, Colusa, Sutter and Yuba counties indicates only a handful of Nikkei business and resident customers:

<u>Town</u>	<u>Customer</u>	<u>Phone #</u>
Chico-	Godo, Geo Restaurant	Red 1451
	Nishimoto, F.K.H.	Red 391
	Shima, Miss Take	Red 12
Colusa-	Japanese Employment Office	Red 142
Marysville-	Nippon Restaurant	
	Uchida, M. Restaurant	Red 87
	Tamaki, S.B.	Main 91
	Tokio Restaurant & Lodging House	Black 222
	Yoneda, H. Grocer	Red 1492
	Yoshida, I.	Red 1336



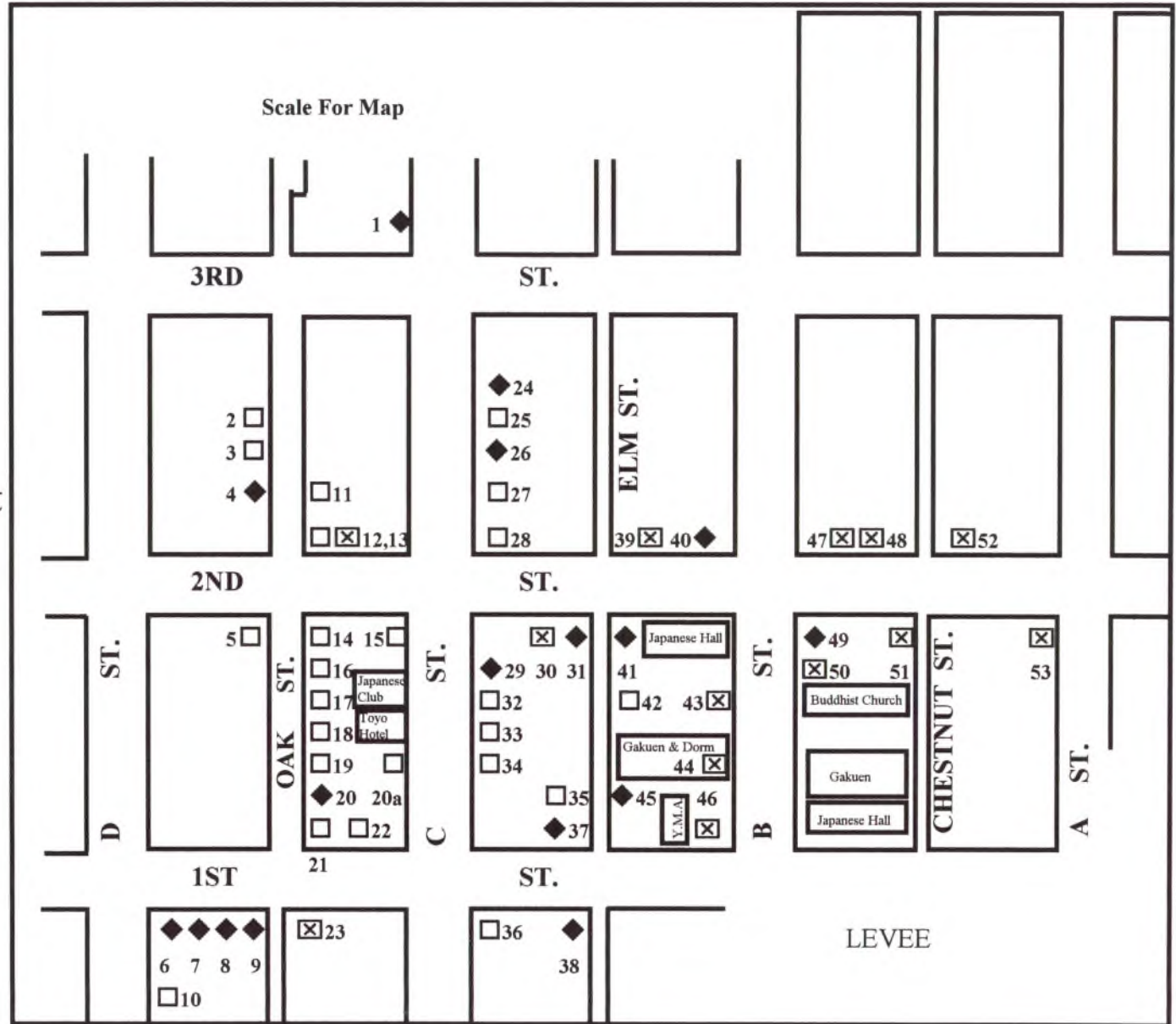
**Taketa Shoe Repair - C Street, Marysville**



**Japanese Town  
Business District  
1941**

Key:

- Business
- ⊗ Residence
- ◆ Combined



<b>Businesses:</b>		<b>Residences:</b>		<b>Combined Businesses/Residences:</b>	
2	Yoshida Noodle	13	Yoshikawa	1	Nakagawa
	Yoshizaki Business/Resid.	23	Nakanishi	4	B. Nakamura Store & Boarding House
3	Bath and Barber	30	Murayama	6	Okimoto/Ota's Barbershop
	Nakamura/Toyoda	39	Pete Tanaka	7	Hiraoka
5	Ideal Clothing	43	K. Hayashi	8	Tamamoto
10	Dr. Ishizu	44	Iseri and Matsumoto	9	Yamamoto
11	Doi's Garage	46	Nakahara	20	Kitahara Pool Hall
12	Hayashi Fish	47	F. Nakamura	24	Wada Cleaners
14	T & M Store	48	Toyoda	26	Yamasaki Grocery
	Yamahata Store	50	Hamatake	29	Taketa Shoe Repair
15	Union Market	51	B. Nakamura	31	White Star Laundry
16	Mori	52	F. Doi	37	Maruyama
17	Kamiya	53	G. Nakamura	38	Inouye & Iwanaga
18	Kawasaki			40	Morioka
19	Nikoniko-Do			41	Nishihara Garage
20a	Kie's Fountain			45	Yoshimura
21	Opera Rooming			49	N. Nakamura and Tsukimoto
22	Kumano Barber				
25	Wada Shoes				
27	Kawamoto Restaurant				
	Poppy Cafe				
28	Yokotobi Store				
32	Kumano				
33	Nakamura Garage				
34	Nakamura				
35	Hashimoto				
36	Naito				
42	Nagai - Dentist				

Poolhalls provided respite and recreation for the young men. *“(My job was) to rack the pool table,”* commented Ichiro Yoshimura, whose family business ventures included Tofu-ya, boarding house and the poolhall.

Nikkei vendors, Naito, Nakagawa and the Yamasaki stores, regularly visited the outlying rural areas in the pre-war years with their staples and fresh items, all manner of savory comestibles. *“Couldn’t afford to buy anything but he (Tets Nakagawa) used to come anyway.”*

-Bob Nakamoto-

During the Depression era *“we continued to live on D Street even after we closed business. Father pruned...Mom packed pears in the summer...Joe Ota (barbershop) had the front part of our building.”*

-Helen Okimoto Iwamura-



Store owner, Fusaji Yokotobi, and canine friend





Augmenting income for the merchant families generally meant the father working on the farm, usually during the harvest, leaving the mother and older children to tend the store. Such was the case for the Yokotobi family who first started the Corner Fish Market (including the inevitable tofu), then acquired a cafe “*across the street...no tables, (only) counter with stools for about 10...Chinese fellow, cook...brother Kei and another brother helped at the grocery store.*”

“*We used to own about 20 acres, where Peach Tree Club is now. Then the war came and we lost it.*”

-Ida Yokotobi Tanabe-



**B. Nakamura Co. - Boarding House and Grocery (circa 1917)**

A barber shop/bath house occupied the adjoining building. The bath house consisted of 4 tubs in separate rooms with one huge water heater to serve all.

### The Toyo Hotel



Mazie Sasaki and Manabu Tekawa  
in front of family hotel (1932)

The Toyo Hotel, with accommodations for 20 boarders and guests, required outside help for the kitchen and general maintenance including “nanny care”. Hotel laundry was sent to the Kamiya’s laundry and the family laundry was done with a wringer-washer, a pulley line on the 2nd floor. Once a community hospital, the only trace of the 3-story edifice is the outdoor cemented pond which once held Japanese imported goldfish.



The Sasaki family (1929)



The 2-story Okimoto building, still standing today, boarded in-transit workers. “*Nihon-buro* was built in the back end of the property... (had) two stoves, gas... wood burning stove for heat... bought ice cream from a B Street wholesaler... the soda fountain counter was all marble, mirrors on the wall, stools with wrought iron legs...” recounts Frank Okimoto, adding that candies were displayed “in glass canisters two-foot tall and set on the floor, and more candy jars sitting on (their) sides on the counter.” Note pool players. Photo taken in 1925.



**Mr. Toyoda in front of Doi's Garage (1927)**

The Toyoda barbershop had at their disposal three chairs for customers, not excluding Caucasians, Latinos and African-Americans, and like most Japanese-town establishments, included o-furo plus a shower.

In Marysville, Mas Tanisaki remembers vividly the Kawamoto public bath, “...*Japanese baseball team comes and they would take a bath...it was hot... (they came out) to the street completely nude...with a towel!*”

Most Nikkei grocers carried o-tofu as did Bob Inouye’s family when they ventured into retail, leaving the orchard business. “*Bob’s nickname was ‘Tofu’*”, evoking memories of Nihon-machi for Gay Inouye.

Unlike today, burglar alarms were not installed. For the most part the proprietor would merely close the door, indicating the end of the business day. And yet, Jack Hamahashi recalls a frightening childhood incident, memories refreshed by a Rafu Shimpo article written decades later by a family friend (see also the Family). Relaying the details to sister Louise Fukumitsu “*Mom was in the back room...there were two men...took money from the cash register and cigarettes. The door was quickly locked after*”, thwarting brother’s attempt “*to get the license number*” of the getaway car.

Dry goods stores carried in their inventory all sundries necessary for basic needs and comfort: mothers selected yardage to sew sunbonnets and armcovers (sleeves) to protect from the simmering summer sun, dust and minor annoyances.

Popular Chinese restaurants were the King’s Inn and Mama’s Place in Marysville where families had their infrequent night out, a Chinameshi.

The back door of the King’s Inn on First and C Streets was a favorite pit stop, “*(Fred Ong would) give us a big chunk of Chashu...we would take it and go to the movies.*”

-Jim Fukui-



“Marcel” hot curling iron coiffure was the rage in the '30s in the Nihon-machi beauty salons. Home-brewed beer was available after Prohibition at home and in the poolhalls. Then underage, Sally Nakatsu recalled the time she was very nearly apprehended by the law enforcement. *“I was selling them homebrew beer from the ice chest...I didn't know the difference. A fellow from the Alcoholic Department came in...didn't fine me...he said (that) he was watching from across the street.”*

Crime in Nihon-machi was very nearly non-existent. *“(There were) one or two (police) cars...one fire engine...police mostly walked their beat...maybe 4 policemen...I recall some killing...Filipino got killed...another person was run over by the (train)...squash, squash, gruesome sight.”*

-Yorimi Matsumoto-

On rare occasions townsmen would notice an ambulance or a patrol car. The police had their beats but rarely exercised their authority. Fire trucks were more visible as a fire station was within walking distance and fires were not uncommon and well-attended by spectators.

The vitality of the Nihon-machi was amplified on the 4th of July *“...firecrackers...out on the streets...(firecrackers were) legal...”*

-Terry Manji-





The Union Market is assumed to be the first to “showcase” produce and application of water spraying-misting, methods learned from a Los Angeles market by George Nakamura, son of proprietor Buntaro Nakamura. Meat was purchased from Tommy Ow’s Palace Meat Market, whose son worked along with Ben Honda in the Nakamura grocery store. Pictured above are Frank Nakamura and Al Kamei (circa 1935).



**Boarding House Furo-ya (circa 1940)  
Kamekichi and Shige Maruyama**

Both Mazie and Takashi Sasaki remember that brothels existed in their midst, *“(Marysville was a) wide open town...(Japanese) lived among the brothels...(were) friends with them...Caucasian, one Chinese...we knew the madams...2-story buildings...catered to few Japanese...(the women) hardly left their brothels...syndicate transferred (them) by limos...\$2 fees, (ages were) 20s, madams were older...prostitutes were probably the first to wear slacks with high heels.”*

*“One of my friends picked me up (when I went into town)...we used to watch (through the window)...we were just kids.”*

-Jim Fukui-

*“She was the most famous prostitute...upstairs (above the boarding house) she (the madam) owned my uncle’s building...Ann Davis...she was a high class prostitute...my uncle would make me go upstairs to pay the rent...I thought to myself ‘I hope nobody sees me’...separate outside stairs...beautiful girls...high class people (clients)...Nihonjins, too...people that stayed at my aunt’s boarding house used to go...at least 3 girls (prostitutes)...she just took the cream of the crop...really famous...she was there (at) evacuation time.”*

-Sally Nakatsu-



*“Gave money, bribes...she never got caught...they know she ran the business...bribery all way around. (I) met her (Davis) in the living room, decorated real nice...she made good money...very nice...I guess when I first knew her she must have been about 30...she was loaded...she always used to use the Yellow Cab.”* Another business

in Nihon-machi was a gambling house. *“They had a Japanese, a bouncer...any Japanese caught going to the Chinese gambling house was beaten almost to death...(bouncer) must have come from Japan because he was an elderly man...(owners from Japan) they must have been. (Also) there was a black family on B Street and they were very nice people...father was a barber...I think the name was Brown.”*

-Sally Nakatsu-

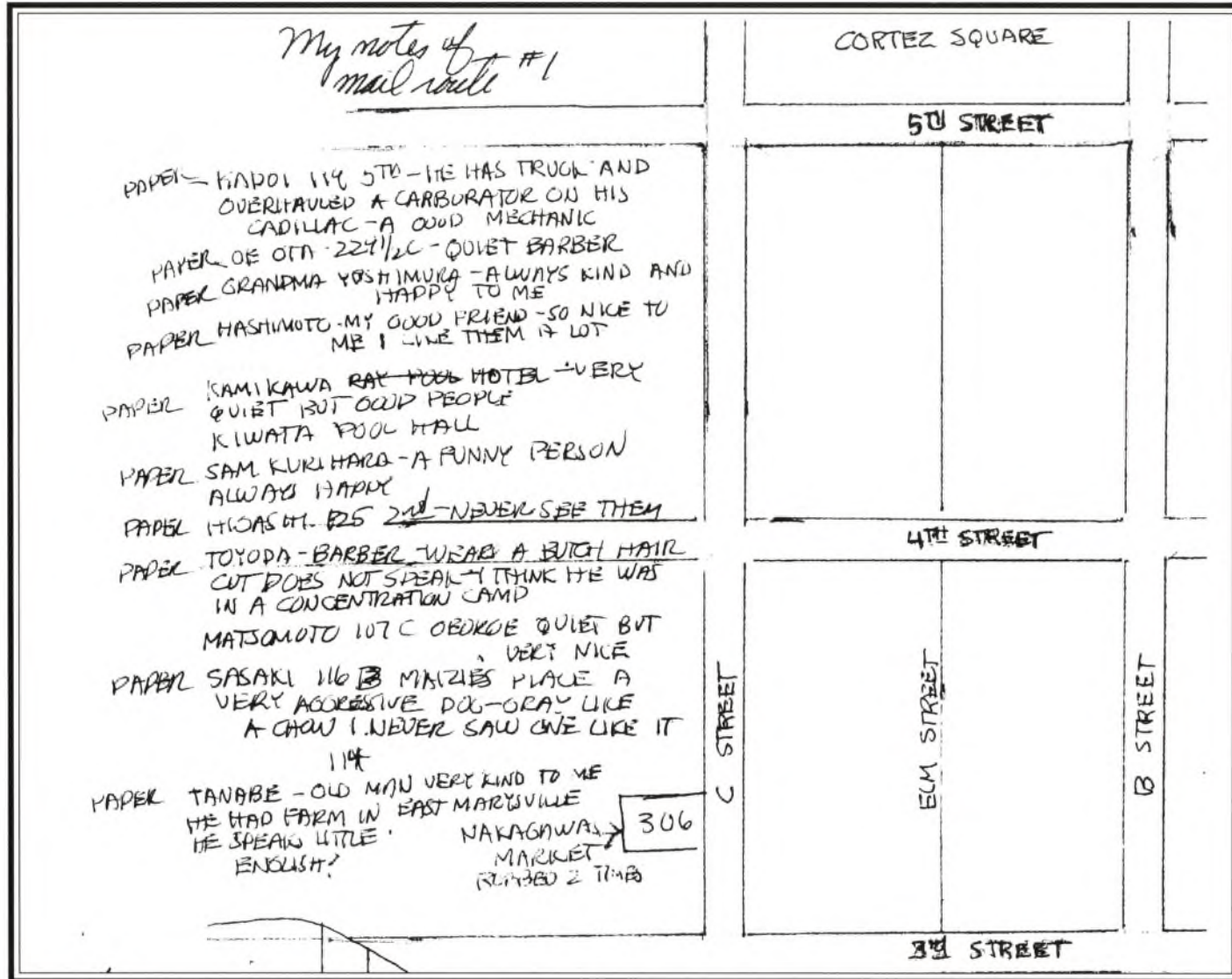
*“Ann Davis would wave at us...(we were) in the backyard.”*

- Helen Okimoto Iwamura-

In the immediate post-war era, the Vogue Cleaners in Colusa brought the prostitution out of the closet in a manner of speaking, *“I used to deliver it to them...(laundry) and clothing also...some were, some weren’t exotic...(we cleaned) very care-f-u-l-l-y.”*

-Keiji Yoshimura-





From the notes of Dick Marquette, U.S. Postal Mail Carrier (retired in 1995)

## Colusa

Converting from bean farmer and living in Colusa's "Jap Camp" to laundry business and dry cleaning/boarding house in the city, Hizie Hinoki Yoshimura remembers "...depression... people couldn't pay...we bartered...people had meat market...they couldn't pay their (laundry) bills, we'd go over and get meat from them so we were able to eat meat during the Depression. My sister and I were very well-dressed because the ladies that couldn't pay us, why, they would sew for us! (Holidays) my father take a turkey over to them (furniture dealer) and in return they would give us a piece of furniture, so we'd have a living room (furnished)!"

A typical day for Alice Nakagawa Imamoto (at the Colusa store) was to rise at "7 a.m., clean-out store...glass case, sweep before breakfast...to school, walked 8-9 blocks."



**Watanabe Pool Hall (circa 1920)**

Proprietor (front row, left), friends and children pose in front of Japanese sign announcing the business name. The building, located on Main St., between 6th and 7th, was torn down some years ago to make room for the Kam Lee Center (Chung Sun).

## Yoneda Landing

Kuni Masumizu was not the first Japanese to settle in Colusa. He was preceded by such hardy pioneers as Naotaro Yoneda of Osaka, who is believed to have arrived in 1889. After several years of employment in the area, he started a boarding house and trading post on the banks of the Sacramento River, which was to bear the name “Yoneda Landing” and serve the hundreds of Japanese laborers who came to clear the land and farm on what is now one of the most fertile and productive agriculture tracts in the County. The landing is now known as “Ward’s Landing”, and the farm lands are now part of the Butte Creek Farms. Under Yoneda’s leadership and supervision, the cleared land was farmed by the Japanese and in time a community of about 130 residents, mostly male, was created adjacent to the Landing. At one time some 50 buildings comprised the settlement, which came to be known as “Jap Camp” -- a colorful, if derogatory reference to its inhabitants. By 1917-18, the number of residents dropped, but there was still a sizeable population engaged in raising beans and planting walnut and prune orchards.

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Ref: Akiji Yoshimura, *A Brief History of the Japanese in Colusa County*, 1969



**The General Store**

This building was reputed to have been built by Naotaro Yoneda. It housed many business enterprises under various proprietors, but is best remembered as the “Nakagawa Store”. The building was burned to the ground in a fire started in an adjacent structure in 1927. The store was located across the alley from the present City and County Library and faced 7th St. Mr. T. Nakagawa sits in the Ford roadster, and Mrs. Nakagawa, holding child, stands behind the front fender. Photo taken in 1915.



**Tozai Laundry (circa 1910)**

Owners, Frank Hinoki and Nakano. G. Hashioka, resting for the photographer in the finishing room. Note the iron on the gas burners at left.

**Butte County**

Chico, too, had a small but a thriving Japanese business section. George Okamoto rattled off those his family patronized: Kay Ono, grocery; Yamasaki-Miyasako, grocery; Kinoshita, laundry; T. Ishikawa, insurance; Suehiro, barbershop; Eijima, fish market; Mukaido, nursery; Seyo and Toda, restaurants. *“I remember Mrs. Takei (wife of pioneer rice grower in the area), fashionable...cloche hats...always dressed in the fashion of the day...(Mr. Takei wore) cavalry-type pants and leather spats...fanciest car in town...not a black car (but a) shiny green hupmobile with white top!”*

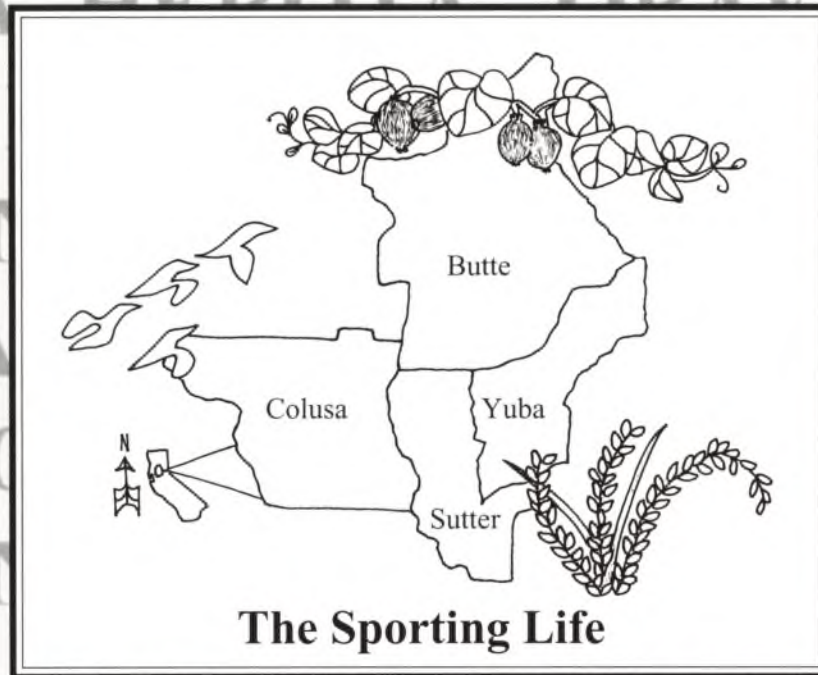


**Christmas in the Gridley Business District (1938)**



Today, the Nakagawa store remains---catering to all ethnic groups and serving the community, a link to the past.

NAKATSU FURUTA UYEMOTO TSUDA  
ITANO DOIZAKI KOCHI MARUMOTO  
ITAMURA HEROTA ORAYASHI OKI  
YUKAWA O KITANI  
HAMATA ATANABE  
SHIMADA ISAKI ITO  
SHIMAMO GU SANO  
HAMATA OKOHARI  
YUKAWA NAKAO KUKIHARA FUJII  
NABETA TSUKIMURA KAWASAKI  
KURODA OKANO HATANAKA KOCHI



## Baseball

There is no official record of the first years of organized Japanese community baseball in the Marysville/Yuba City area. Around the early 1920s, there was a team composed mainly of Issei. As the Nisei became of age to play, this group advanced onto the team.

There was a Marysville team and another team organized at the Reed Ranch, 5-6 miles south of Marysville. Both teams were outfitted in the regular baseball uniforms of that time. Opponents were teams from Placer County, Penryn, Newcastle, Loomis and Auburn in the early years and also Caucasian teams in the Marysville/Yuba City area, such as Barry.

With the increase in Nisei players, many who participated in high school, the team play improved and more outside games were scheduled. Nikkei teams were in Sacramento, Florin, Lodi, Stockton, Vacaville, Oakland, Isleton, Walnut Grove, Colusa, and Chico. Red Bluff fielded a Caucasian team.

The first baseball ground used by area Japanese was in Marysville at the old Circus ground on 10th and J Street about 1925 - the East end of the 10th St. Bridge.

Around 1927, the City of Marysville gave permission to the Japanese Young Men's Associa-

tion to use an undeveloped park in East Marysville called Minors Park. Surrounding the park were numerous vegetable farms operated by families such as the Watanabes, Kurodas, Takimotos, Uyenos, Muratas, Gotos and Fuchigamis. To accommodate fans, the association constructed a wooden stand capable of seating approximately 100 with player dugouts for home and visiting teams. The infield was smoothed by wooden sled and the outfield was rough and not always clear of weeds.



Fan support was tremendous. Because of a lack of other entertainment, fans looked forward to baseball games on Sundays. The season ran from May or June through July. During harvest season, many players were unable to participate because of work. The best play was before July when everyone was available. Practices were difficult because many players resided outside of Marysville. Leaving work to practice for an hour or two was not always possible.

Fan support at games was always present and when new uniforms were needed, there was always someone who would purchase them. After games, the team would gather at a local Chinese restaurant for dinner, courtesy of some of the fans.

The most memorable game took place between the Marysville team and the Stockton Yamatos in 1932. The Yamatos were one of the top Nikkei baseball teams. Dick Yamachi pitched a superb game and Marysville won the game in the 10th.

In 1931, a barnstorming team from Japan came through the area. The Hiroshima Commercial High School (Hirosho) was the champion of Japan. The Japanese team was well-disciplined and was too much for the local team. The final score was 6 to 1.



In 1936, another highlight took place. Before the largest local week-day crowd at the old Marysville Municipal Ball Park, the mighty Tokyo Giants came into town. The Marysville team played well but lost by a score of 15 to 1.

Not all big games ended in defeat. The Marysville team traveled to the East Bay to play the Oakland Merritts, a Nisei team with an outstanding record. The final score is subject to mass speculation.

The evacuation in 1942 ended baseball for the Nikkei until after the return of Japanese Americans in 1946, when the need for recreation brought baseball back. The JACL sponsored a team for many years thereafter.

The Buddhist Church Sunday School also fielded a team for students that played out of area church teams.

Eventually, a lack of players ended Nikkei baseball for good. As the Sansei graduated from high school and left home to attend college, the number of players decreased to the point where there were not enough players to field a team.



**Early sandlot kids (circa 1924)**



**Play ball!!!**



### Marumake

This picture represents the 1st baseball team organized in the Marysville area in 1921. The team had lost a number of games, and so the insignia M (make) within a circle (maru) refers to *marumake* which stands for “*completely defeated*”. The circle was later removed, replaced by the plain block M. The team was composed mostly of Issei members with a few Nisei.

### Marysville Team in 1924

Taken in front of the grandstand of the Marysville Municipal Baseball Park, located on 3rd St. between G and H, approximately where the Marysville clinic currently stands. Approximate capacity, 500 people in this all-wooden structure.



Top row (l to r) Mitsuge Kuroda, Tom Ushihara, Jack Murata, Dick Yamachi, Harry Kawamoto, Harry Fukushima, George Nakamura, Jingoro Yoshiyama, Kie Maruyama.

Front row (seated) Jim Miyano, Mr. Ochi, Frank Nakamura, John Watanabe, Fred Fukui.



The Hiroshima Shogyo High School team visits Marysville in 1931



CHAMPION JAPANESE BALL CLUB  
 DEFEATS HUB TEAM WITH EASE  
 BY 6-1 SCORE

Six hundred persons, comprising one of the largest gatherings in the history of municipal park, yesterday saw the Hiroshima Shogyo high school ball club administer a 6 to 1 trouncing to the Marysville Japanese team with artistry that bespoke volumes for the baseball training being dispensed in the Land of the Rising Sun.

The performance of the visitors, who are on a barnstorming tour of the Pacific slope after winning the high school championship of their native islands, must have caused many to ponder just how many years longer the American and National leagues of the United States will be able to bill their annual fall series as being "for the championship of the world."

Certainly the Hiroshimas showed Yuba and Sutter skeptics yesterday that America's national pastime has been successfully transplanted across the seas and is progressing on a plane that may in the future develop international rivalry.

Excerpt from *Appeal-Democrat* article by  
 Bill Conlin, August 7, 1931.

## The Tokyo Giants Come To Town!!

--March 1936--



Top Row - Sam Nakagawa, Frank Okimoto, Hideo Nishita, Kie Saito, Maud Kurihara, Ed Brown (ringer), Ken Brock (ringer), Kie Maruyama

Front Row - Sam Kurihara, Frank Nakamura, Noboru Honda, Masaru Honda, Ted Igawa, Jim Nakagawa, Tom Kurihara

**Marysville Chapter Baseball Team (1946 - 1972)**



**1954-1955 Team**

Standing (l to r) George Nakao, Mino Manji, Kenny Yoshikawa, George Hatamiya, Sam Dote,  
Sam Kurihara, Ted Fukui

Middle row: Harry Fukumitsu, Terry Manji, Thomas Nakagawa, Clark Tokunaga, Al Okamoto

Seated: Art Oji, Isao Tokunaga, George Ishimoto, Ed Nagao

**Basketball**

Basketball was introduced to the Japanese American community around 1928. None of the boys had ever played the game. Lack of an indoor basketball court was a drawback, initially. When the original Japanese Hall was constructed in 1928, it was not large enough for a regulation court. Bob Inouye and Frank Nakamura constructed one backboard with goal and hung it on the west balcony railing, thus enabling the boys to practice. Early games were played at the high school gym at 7th and G Streets, and at the old Memorial Building on 9th and E Streets. Both buildings have since been demolished.

**Young Buddhists Association**

Under the tutelage of a suave Sam Kurihara (he and his black wrap-around coat) the YBA men's B Team met its zenith at the finals in Fresno against the metropolitan Gardena team in the late 1930s, according to Frank Okimoto. He recalled that *furo*

was savored at a public bathhouse when playing in Sacramento. Meals were eaten wherever possible in the proximity of the

Yoshimura, Jimmy Kitahara, Haruo Yamamoto, Joe Nishihara and Tom Taketa.



**YBA Men's B Team in the late '30s**

gym but on occasion the entire team would be hosted by the area sports enthusiasts--- Okimoto's uncle, a Fresno Nisei baseball player living in Fowler invited the Marysville team on one occasion. Other stalwart and debonair players included Maud Kurihara, George Iwanaga, Mike Tanimoto, Ichiro

The Yuban "A" basketball team, 1950-1952, coached by Roy Hatamiya and assisted by Ben Fukui, was comprised of eligible bachelors with a lot of time on their hands. Practices and games were held at the old Marysville High School. One of the most exciting games was Athletic's "Minato", according to Hatamiya. The team got to the tournaments finals in Los Angeles. Fond recollections of those post games: supping at old Mama's Place, dining on the ever popular beef rice with a raw egg sizzling over steamed rice!!



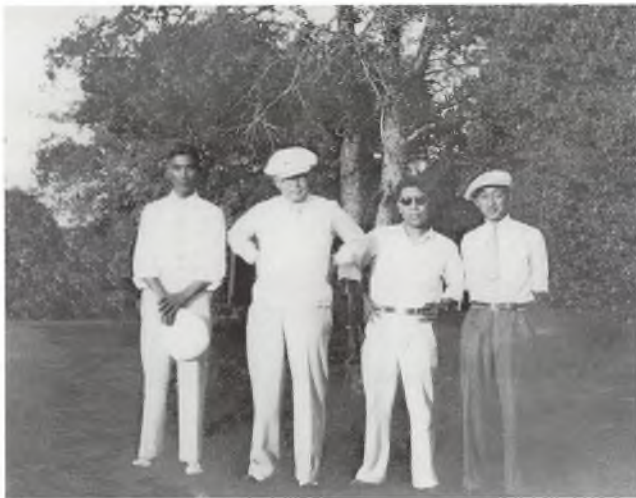
### ... And The Girls



Young Buddhist Association Girls' Basketball team's high-powered years were initially begun before World War II. The Young Women's Buddhist Association basketball team was coached by Yuba College student, Frank Nakamura, utilizing the high school's old gym on 7th and G streets. A highlight of some 60 years ago was a game in which Nakamura had to forego coaching his team so that he could undertake the absent referee's role, lending new meaning to the word impartiality.

Teams from Placer, Sacramento, Florin, Lodi and Stockton vied for the Northern California crown in the postwar years. Coaches included Akio Iwanaga and Frank Kinoshita, forwards and guards (pictured from top left through bottom right) included Toshi Maruyama Kawamura, Mitzi Fukui Erath, Masuko Toyoda Shimamoto, Nancy Kawamoto Komatsubara, Mary Ishimoto Nishimoto, Jeanne Nakamura Tokunaga, Lorraine Yokotobi Komatsubara. Not pictured are Mazie Sasaki and Amy Ishimoto.

## Fore and Other Duffer Language



“Fore!” and a few other choice words were first uttered on the greens in the late '20s by few daring young men, eager to partake of a rich man's pastime. Earliest known putterer was Kie Maruyama. The scenario, the Plumas Lake golf course. This early photo depicts Kojiro Wada, the Japanese Consul, Kay Yokotobi and Mr. Maruyama.

*“... the pro liked us so he told us that we could use the course early in the morning before the members came. In those days when the Japanese Consul General visited the Nihonjin Kai, we welcomed him. One time we took him to Chico as he was planning to visit there. We played the golf course there. We knew that he golfed because all consul generals had to know how to golf.”*

-Kie Maruyama-

*“In the early days, plus-fours were worn by a few off and on the greens. Looking trendy, these baggy knickerbockers attracted much attention ... perhaps, even smirks.”*

-Frank Nakamura-



George Nakao was invited to the Board of Directors from 1980-1983.

Post-war saw the numbers of players swell to several dozen avid golfers including men, women and youth, from the Plumas Lake to the Peach Tree County Club, Southridge to the Mallard Lake driving range. In 1958, the Peach Tree Golf and Country Club was founded. Charter members included Akio Iwanaga and Frank Nakamura, who described, *“There wasn't any clubhouse then, only the golf course which was developed from the river bottoms between the two levies on the Yuba River. Many natural sandtraps were “in situ”, geologically speaking.”* Golf enthusiast,

A far cry from the suppressive '30s, one of the first to pick-up the game of golf in the '50s was Lew Matsumotō. *Lew Matsumoto asked me to caddy when I was a teenager. I didn't know anything about golf...later (1960s) we (Nikkei) had tournaments. We used to clean-up the Japanese cemetery in Chico and afterwards, we played the tournament. It was the only way to get the guys out to clean the cemetery.”*

-Fred Matsui-

Mark Nakamura (pictured above) was one of two youths to record a hole-in-one. The second youth, Gerry Okimoto, *“made it on the 7th hole (par 3)”* as remembered by proud dad, Frank.

## Bowling and Fires



Sponsored by G.M. Fish Market (George Matsumoto, proprietor), the Nisei Women's Bowling League had its beginnings, starting with 4 to 5 teams. Their first bowling site was the 5th/J St. levy site. The team: Mitzi Fukui, Molly Kamikawa, Sachiko Okimoto, Esther Tokunaga and Masuko Toyoda.



Recognized and inducted into the Yuba-Sutter Bowling Hall of Fame, Isao Tokunaga (Tok's Garage) was awarded a wristwatch for his 4 decades of sponsorship of the Nisei Men's Bowling League. Tok's Garage, an area landmark, was the headquarters. Sponsor-captain Tokunaga managed the newly organized team in 1951, which included Fujio Wada and Yoshito Yoshimura.

With manual pin-setters and 15-25 cent games, the league began at Marysville's Ralph Ogburns' Bowling Lane on D Street (6 lanes) until the establishment burned down. The league moved to the alley situated on the levy site until it also self-destructed in flames. Then a move across the river and with cautious optimism to Yuba City's Plumas Street with automatic pin setter (co-owner, George Okamoto). But, it too went down in ashes. The last alley bowled, the Yuba City Bowling Alley on Clark/Colusa avenues (still standing), was on property co-owned by brothers, Kay and Mas Shimizu, and also Yoshio "Peanuts" Hirai and Harry Tabata. Marysville C Street Ginza Club (proprietor, Sam Harada) sponsored the league for one season and the Beale Air Force base alleys welcomed nisei keglers.

Trophies and cash prizes were awarded along with year-end dinners (with spouses) held at the Vienna Inn, Uriz and the Lotus Inn. Tournaments saw the team exhibiting their prowess in Sacramento and in San Francisco. The Downtown Bowl in the metropolis allowed team's non-scheduled time for leisurely dining adventures, while checking out the Broadway entertainment offerings. 1992 marked the final league year with bowlers Dan Fukushima, Tom Kimura, Herb Nakatsu, Mori Tanimoto, Fujio Wada, Kenny Wada and George Yoshimoto.



A perfect score -- 300 -- Mitzi Fukui, believed to be the first, last and only Nisei woman in Northern California to hit this elusive mark.



## Tennis

“Tennis elbow”, twisted knees, sprained ankles---that’s tennis. The first ones to experience the agonies of this vigorous, and glamorous pastime before the war were the young Issei, Yawara Tekawa and Harry Kawamoto, in the late ’20s.



**Yawara Tekawa**

In the '30s junior players invaded the cement courts--Sanaye Kosaka, Sam Kurihara, Jack K. Murata, George Nakagawa, Frank Nakamura and Frank Okimoto. The wood-framed and gut-string rackets were priced at about \$5 and were available at Booth & Herboth Hardware. Marysville Grammar School’s courts were the first playground for the high-spirited, robust young men, followed by a court constructed by the Japanese community on an open lot behind the old Gakuen.

The concrete court, enclosed by a wooden struc-

ture was open on a first-come, first-serve (no pun intended) basis, hence, the young ladies made their entry into the world of refined sports. Today, women continue to pursue the love-game with vigor and relish at the Racquet Club and the Peach Tree Golf & Country Club.

*“The Japanese Community grounds housed a cement court that was surrounded by some chicken-wire on wooden posts. The ground on which it was built was full of deep holes filled in with dirt. The concrete surface cracked and settled in the holes. Not much fun. The court was eventually destroyed when the City of Marysville constructed courts at Ellis Lake.”*

-Frank Nakamura-



**Leslie Matsumura**

Tok's Garage (Bogue Road and Highway 99) was the headquarters for the Peach Bowl Anglers, a potbelly-stove gathering place for fish stories and a friendly game of rummy. The 80 plus membership of the Anglers vied for cash prizes year-round based on seasonal catches of stripers, black bass, salmon, trout, and steelhead---monies ranging from \$5 to \$40.

The club had its original beginnings at Tok's with Richard Kinoshita and Sam Kurihara paying the first dues of \$3. The rates increased three times up to \$15 in 1982. The demise of the club in 1986 was due to the rising insurance costs. Sponsorships and entertainment events included a New Year's Eve dance, Monte Carlo and stag gatherings, a feed at Chioppino Charley's, plus outings at Clear Lake and Pt. Reyes.

Following the cessation of the membership organization, groups made their own itineraries with expeditions to Mexico, the Bay Area and other distant fishing holes, clambakes and abalone dives.



Fish Stories



Toyomi and Miyoko Nakahara, Nobi and Isao Tokunaga



Jim Fujii recalls fishing with Tom Sasaki at Star Bend, on the banks of the Feather River, for stripers, in the proximity of Saunders orchards where they worked.



98

## ... and Hunting

*"...fished in father's homemade boat (for) striped bass...snagged salmon...so many...feel the salmon hitting bottom of boat when rowing...used triple hooks for salmon, sardines for stripers...poached ducks at night in the rice fields...illegal."*

-George Tanimoto-

B-B Guns, Daisy Air Rifles were used. *"I was about 6, 7 years old...with father...rabbits, pheasant...I don't know if the hunting season was open...he (father) opened the season."*

-Frank Hatamiya, Sr.-

Fishing meant *"a rowboat, tied to top of the car (going) to the Feather and Yuba rivers."*

-Yutaka Toyoda-

*"...pheasant hunting with Joe (Koyama)...fields around Saunders' place (Tudor)...(with) 12-gauge shotgun, automatic...(hunted) between peaches and tomato (harvests)."* *"Got fresh sardines at Nakagawa's, they were real fresh, shiny, good enough to eat. When we weren't catching any fish, a long wait, (we'd) clean 'em, make a fire and barbecue on stick."*

-George Kochi-

Takashi Sasaki can account for the time when his older brother, Shigeru, was reprimanded by the live-in helper for fishing in the garden fish pond ... Shigeru somehow outran his would-be executioner.



**Martial Arts**



Kendo made a brief appearance in the Hub area in the mid-30s. Students included Johnny Hayashida, George Uyeno, Ichiro Yoshimura, the Taketa and Kamiya brothers. Alfred Morioka's home was the site some years later, and the enrollment included the earlier pupils and Goro Kagehiro.



**Nicolas Hatamiya with teacher**

Karate schools in the area vie with other pastimes as Sansei parents recognize the structured format as one of the family values.



Young Athletes





KYONO YAMACHI SHINGU AOYAMA  
YAMAMOTO UNO HAMAHASHI IDE  
UCHIDA SAITO TAKAHASHI MURATA  
KAKIUCHI  
NODA MI  
FUCHIGA  
SHIDAWA  
FURUTA  
YAMAGUCHI KAKITA YUKAWA OTA  
MORIOKA FUJIWARA ABE YONEDA  
HASHIMOTO HINOKI KAKITA TANA



C. E. Order 69

**WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY  
WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION  
Presidio of San Francisco, California**

**INSTRUCTIONS  
TO ALL PERSONS OF  
JAPANESE  
ANCESTRY**

**LIVING IN THE FOLLOWING AREA:**

All of the County of Colusa, and all of those portions of the Counties of Yuba and Sutter, State of California, lying generally west of U. S. Highway No. 99E.

Pursuant to the Provisions of Civilian Exclusion Order No. 69, this Headquarters, dated May 12, 1942, all persons of Japanese ancestry, both alien and non-alien, will be evacuated from the above area by 12 o'clock noon, P.W.T., Monday, May 18, 1942.

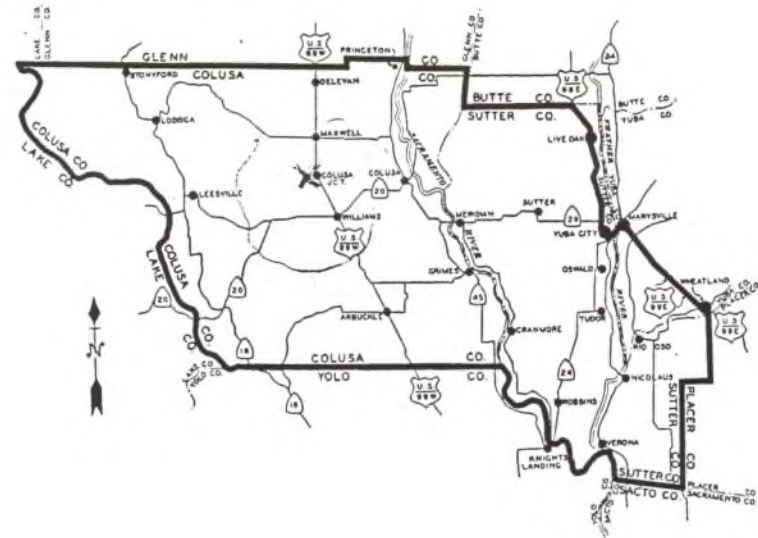
No Japanese person will be permitted to move into, or out of, the above area after 12 o'clock noon, P.W.T., Tuesday, May 12, 1942, without obtaining special permission from the representative of the Commanding General, Northern California Sector, at the Civil Control Station located at:

California State Guard Armory,  
300 B Street,  
Yuba City, California.

Such permits will only be granted for the purpose of uniting members of a family, or in cases of grave emergency.

The Civil Control Station is equipped to assist the Japanese population affected by this evacuation in the following ways:

1. Give advice and instructions on the evacuation.
2. Provide services with respect to the management, leasing, sale, storage or other disposition of most kinds of property, such as real estate, business and professional equipment, household goods, boats, automobiles and livestock.
3. Provide temporary residence elsewhere for all Japanese in family groups.
4. Transport persons and a limited amount of clothing and equipment to their new residence.



On May 12, 1942, C.E. Order 69 was issued to residents west of Hwy 99. These people were to go to Amache Relocation Center, via Merced Assembly Center. C.E. Order 101 would follow on June 30. Residents east of Hwy 99 were to face incarceration at Tule Lake Relocation Center.

**The Evacuation**



**Families leaving Marysville in 1942**

That summer morning of '42 was remembered as a disquieting day, Toyomi Nakahara recounts the somber mood and the haste in which families disposed of their properties in the eleventh hour, with little or no bargaining power, and the struggle to tote the carry-ons, "...packed in boxes...loaded onto the freight cars...", destination unknown, with drawn window shades as ordered by the guards.

The send-off was meager, according to Yorimi Matsumoto, who recalls seeing school principal, Walter Kynoch, and a Mrs. Ross, and that Schneider's, Marysville haberdashery, "...gave us a discount...(on winter) coats."

The beginning of the war thrust the Nisei, for the first time, into the role of community

leadership, a position which in the past had been the exclusive domain of the Issei generation, the Issei, now declared by the US

The Nisei became more involved in economics, in the businesses heretofore managed by the Issei. This was the transition stage of the Issei to the Nisei as the war loomed on the Pacific horizon.

Akiji Yoshimura, Nisei, who was coordinator for the Colusa Nikkei community, wrote in *Shadow of Its Former Self: Brief History of Japanese in Colusa County*, "On May 17, 1942, the Japanese community of Colusa, two thirds of them American citizens, departed their homes under armed guard for the Merced Assembly Center. One of the evacuees was James Y. Kakita, who had honorably served

*the United States in World War I."*



**The Marubashi family, preparing for Tule Lake (1942)**

government as enemy aliens. The Nisei, although young in years and short on experience, quickly organized its resources to serve the Japanese American community.

Upon learning of the Pearl Harbor attack, most people queried, as did George Tanimoto, "Where's Pearl Harbor?" Because of the East-West Highway 99 demarcation, students were unable to attend school on the 'wrong' side of the line and school work prepared by "a German teacher was dropped-off by the bus driver in the afternoon and then picked up (the following) morning...Later pupils were bussed to a (same-side) Marysville school."

December 7, 1941, portended incarceration, albeit prematurely, for young Ted Tokuno. Blissfully oblivious to the morning news, Ted observed, "my older brother (Tony) and a friend (Sato) were fishing in the Feather River...two deputies came by...(locked them up) in Yuba City jail...were checked out (by the police)...released after lunch."

Pearl Harbor to George Nakao, "made me angry...saw signs and things in the high school."

Sally Nakatsu remembered, "My folks lived right across from Pearl Harbor...I thought I'd lose my mind...so nervous...quite a while (before receiving message from the

Ida Yokotobi Tanabe grimly recalls that "...everybody stored everything with Mr. M----- (Gridley)...he sold them for personal profit during the war."



At Marysville station, the Hatamiya family departs for Tule Lake

parents)...I was trying to bake a fruit cake to send to Hawaii...I don't know how many times I threw away my flour and sugar...so nervous." Send-off at the station included a Mrs. Murphy, whom Sally helped in a catering service.

known to be supportive, as recalled by Hatsuye Nakamura. George Ishimoto was grateful for the send-off given him by his school chums.

Expressing empathy from the onset of the war were John H. Fuller, a property insurance agent, Kenyon Gregg, who assisted individuals with Nikkei properties and Lou Eichler in his thought-provoking articles in the *Appeal Democrat*, according to Frank Nakamura, who, as president of the local JACL took the reigns to maintain order, open dialogue and carry-out the final assemblage. Both Nakamura and Yorimi Matsumoto commented on the sympathetic support given the Nikkei by Earl Ramey, a Marysville high school teacher. Mrs. Pete Osuna (wife of Yuba College superintendent) was also

*"...Yuba City... the kids never once called us "Japs"...teachers and kids were sympathetic...real nice."*

-Tommy Kinoshita-

*"The railroad station was on E and 9th (Marysville)...Italian friend took care of the house (rented it out), stored 2 cars in his barn until a milkman spotted the cars...I told him to sell them...He went back to Italy (after the war)."*

-Sam Kurihara-

*"Gave toys away to the neighbors, the Arosteguis...Later they were at the station (send-off)."*

-Jeanne Tokunaga-

*A brand new Chevy was stored at "Newkom's garage...tires were off...jacked up...No extra mileage (noted at later repossession)."*

-Ken Tanabe-

*"My true friends stayed with me all the way through...I don't know whether it was because I had a car or not, but we were close."*

-Lillian Manji-



**Merced Assembly Center (1942)**

*"...a Caucasian boy, Art's friend...he wanted to come with us (Merced)...he arranged with the school to get out of it and he was going to join us..."*

-Alice Nakagawa Imamoto-

Michiko Yoshimoto Furuta viewed the preparation as anxiety-filled days, as families tried to dispose of property by whatever means. At the insistence of Caucasian neighbors, possessions were stored in the friends' garages, *"...because people offered too little."*

*"I remember everytime we went through a town...the shades had to be pulled down...we were very crowded...lots of military personnel...(arrival) it was middle of the night...Barrack 94B."*

-Miyoko Tomita Nakahara-

Evacuating at a later time, the local send-off role was not uncommon, as trains move through Marysville. *"...used to see those trains go on the overpass by the Marysville High School...used to wave at them...going to Tule Lake...they'd wave back."*

-Roy Hatamiya-

Marysville Assembly Center is also known as Arboga Assembly Center. It was located north of the Plumas Lake Golf and Country Club, south of Broadway, east of Clark Slough, and west of Dye Road, approximately five miles southeast of Marysville. This was a temporary internment camp for evacuees from Placer and Sacramento counties which operated from the middle of April through the end of June 1942. The camp contained 160 buildings and detained a maximum of 2,465 evacuees. The camp was enclosed entirely with barbed wire and eight guard towers were placed outside the camp confines to oversee the entrance or exit of unauthorized persons or to disclose if an emergency occurred within the camp. A contingent of 115 military police was assigned to guard the camp.

The first evacuees were a group of 52 doctors, dentists and nurses and their families from the Sacramento area. They set up infirmary facilities and prepared for the medical and physical examinations provided each incoming evacuee. Virtually all were inoculated for typhoid and small pox.

## Arboga

After examinations and screenings were completed, the evacuees were issued one cot, mattress, and blanket per person. These

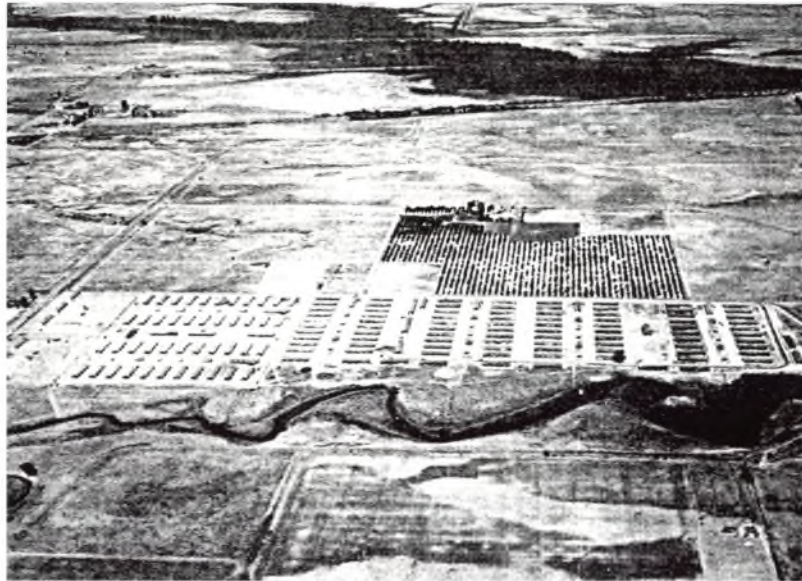


Photo reprinted from U.S. Government Publication, *Japanese Evacuation from the West Coast* (1942)

were the only furnishings provided by the Center.

After a couple of months, the camp was closed and the internees were assigned to a permanent relocation camp, at Tule Lake.

During its operation, four babies were born, and one recorded death. The Yuba-Sutter Ministerial Association provided services for the Protestants, and St. Joseph's Church provided services for the Catholics. Several Buddhist priests among the evacuees provided services for the Buddhists.

No provision was made at Arboga for the education of evacuee youth, and many had been forced to leave school before graduation. Placer County Junior College and Auburn Union High School made arrangements to graduate 41 of these students on May 25, 1942. Thirty-two high school students and nine junior college students received their diplomas.

On June 29, 1942, all evacuees had been transferred and the center was turned over to the VII Army Corps.

Today, there is no evidence at the camp site to show it existed, although it is registered as a California state historical landmark.

Ref: *"The Evacuation and Treatment of the Japanese at Arboga Assembly Center"*, by Denise Bourget, Jan. 1961.

## The Camps



### **Amache Relocation Center (1942)**

The first evacuees were from Colusa, West Butte and Sutter counties. Amache housed transfers from Tule Lake, late in the summer of 1943.



*“...arrived early morning by train to Tule Lake after an overnight stay in Klamath Falls...first view, black tar paper buildings...the desolation...dry...isolation...felt anxiety.”*

*“First job as an 18-year old, ‘highway engineer’, filling up a pond with dirt, foundation for a warehouse and as a flagman, helping get trucks out of mud...Second job was freight crew, unloading produce from boxcars, one box at a time, no forklifts. Third, a plumber...leaks in the latrine buildings--wash basin (troughs), showers and toilets. Piped water to our barrack ‘apartment’ with unused shower pipes so we had running water right outside...”*

*“February 1945, we were one of the first families to return to the West Coast (before the war ended)...escorted by the WRA people in a car to our house.”*

-Jim Tanimoto-



**Tule Lake Relocation Center with Abalone Mountain in the background**



**Tule Lake Medical Unit**  
Yutaka Toyoda is second from left.



Funeral at Tule Lake



Takino Takamatsu (Colusa) taught sewing at Amache



The Nakamuras at Amache  
(June 1944)



Musical group at Tule (1944)  
Roy Hatamiya (in white shirt) is  
to immediate left of teacher.

## Entering the War

*“The aimless and seemingly hopeless existence (as internees) might have taken a greater toll, except for a dramatic change in the policies of the War Relocation Authority and the War Department,”* writes Akiji Yoshimura, adding that *“In late November 1942, the Army sent recruiting teams to the camps to seek volunteers for the Military Intelligence Service. Qualified Nisei were accepted for six months intensive training and almost immediate assignment to the Pacific Theater...Several months later...over 6,000 Nisei in the Pacific campaigns...credited with the shortening of the war by two years...Colusans were to serve in both theaters with honor and distinction.”*



**Ike and Isao Tokunaga (2nd from right)**  
The General visiting occupied Japan in 1945

*“ ‘Go for Broke!’...our motto and battle cry...(Hawaiian) pidgin idiom...,”* explained 442nd Regimental combat team veteran, Tim Tokuno, to the Gridley Rotarians. Excerpts of the full text published in the Gridley Herald tell us of some lighter moments: *...May (1944) ...29 days to get to our destination---Italy...a hundred-ship convoy with destroyers and cruise escort for the “D” Day invasion...seasick for 18 days--flat on my back...April (1945)...we were the first allied troops to reach Turin ... interrogated 100,000 prisoners in Brascia, Italy...I spoke to several German prisoners...they were thankful to be taken prisoners by us and not the Russians...one of our first encounters with the enemy, we captured an S.S. officer and when he saw us he raised his eyebrows and asked, “Japanese?” Then he put up his fingers to signify the unity of the three (Fascist) countries. One of our G.I.’s told him, “Yeah, didn’t you know Japan surrendered and joined the United States?”*



**Cpl. Frank Kozuma**  
Schwabish-Hall, Germany

**Europe in 1945**



**Henry Kodama**  
Paris, France



**Joe Nakamura**  
Leghorn, Italy

## China-Burma-India Theatre

One of the first to volunteer for the military intelligence from the WRA relocation center, Akiji Yoshimura served with the famed Merrill's Marauders in the Burma theatre. The Marauders were the first American ground combat troops to fight on the Asiatic continent. There were 14 Nisei linguists, half from Hawaii, in the Cloak 'n Dagger undertaking.

"An incident that occurred as the ship (bound for the Pacific) passed under the Golden Gate Bridge...a need to orient our fellow (Caucasian) passengers (arose)...GI approached and asked in a rather clumsy but seemingly sincere effort to be friendly, 'Say, how're things in your country?' Without hesitation I replied, 'It looks pretty good from here.' Then noting his confused expression ...(explained) to him that this was also my first trip away from the United States. Apparently, had the notion that we were former prisoners of war who had a change of heart.

"One of the most common questions...'What do you think the Japanese will do to you if they capture you?' Our stock answer was, 'I don't know what they've planned for us, but they'll have to run like hell to catch us.'...then, there was the GI who asked us to say 'Lala Palooza.' He had read somewhere that the Japanese had

trouble with the letter 'L' and with typical American resourcefulness had planned to use the tongue twister to determine whether the unseen adversary in the jungle was friend or foe. Our California English shattered his well-laid plans." Ref: Akiji Yoshimura, *14 Nisei and the Marauders*.



Translator, Akiji Yoshimura (far left)

Yoshimura fought in five major campaigns with the Marauders, followed by an assignment with the Sino Translation and Interrogation Center in Kunming, China, where he received a battlefield commission.

The ultimate role as an interpreter was played out in the official preliminary surrender conference (pictured left), held near Chihkiang, Hunan Province in August 1945. The complicated proceedings of the meeting between the Japanese emissaries and the Sino-American general officers were held in Chinese and Japanese languages with final interpretations in English: from Chinese to Japanese, into English; and from Japanese to Chinese, into English.

All the statements made by the Japanese representatives were translated and announced by the Nisei in English.

The Bronze Star and the Presidential Unit Citation were awarded to 2nd Lieutenant Yoshimura.



**Pvt. Tanimoto in field artillery training (1941)**

Citation addressed to T/4 Jack S. Tanimoto dated August 25, 1944 from the Chief of Staff, Headquarters, 27th Infantry Division (Saipan) reads: *"...removing the six civilians from a ledge in the cave by swimming across a turbulent pool with strong undertow due to the backwash of waves which smashed against its entrance from the ocean..."* Tanimoto was to receive the Silver Star for his actions.

Barter system was practiced even in the foxholes, *"...captured Japanese flags...used for exchange for (camera) films."*

- Jack Tanimoto-  
(Okinawa-Saipan)

Bob Nakamoto's account: *"...trained for the Pacific as flame throwers...occupation (of Japan)...Black Market...in the city (Tokyo), military garbage and leftovers...bombed out residents...death, on the streets...women and kids would come to the mess hall with one gallon containers."*





**Ben Tomaru Honda**

The first conscription in peace time in the U.S. was initiated in the late 1930s. Men were required to be registered and given numbers for induction.

On October 29, 1940, President Franklin Roosevelt drew the first number, 158. The registrant turned out to be Ben T. Honda. Mr. Honda served with distinction in the M.I.S. (Military Intelligence Service) of the U.S. forces in the Pacific Theater.



**George Inouye (left) in Germany (Sept. 1945)**

'A soldier's return': "...discharged at Beale...into Marysville with uniform and duffel bag...looking for a yellow cab...he wouldn't even look at me...I remembered a Black cab driver who used to be stationed at the Nakamura store...he took me," recounted Frank Kozuma, adding "...Kilpatrick Grocers, across Yuba Grocery on E and 3rd Streets, told me 'You people are all welcome.'"

Barbershops and grocery stores wouldn't serve the returnees. George Tanimoto explained how "*the members of the Church of Brethren escorted us to the stores, reminding them of the existing (non-discriminatory) law...Returning Caucasian vets removed 'No Japs' signs from Marysville stores after VJ Day.*"

"No Japs Wanted" signs were wrenched off from establishment windows and walls by "*Caucasian vets...Pacific vets, a WRA man, an ex-marine---made appearances at civic gatherings...made speeches on behalf (of the returnees).*"

-George Okamoto-



Stress was high for Alice Komatsubara Nakamura, remembering, "*I didn't want to eat...we used to hide in the girls' shower (high school) because we didn't want to eat with the rest of the people, because they would call us names.*"

"(While) still in Tule Lake, the hops farm company sent a letter to the WRA to let me go back to Wheatland."

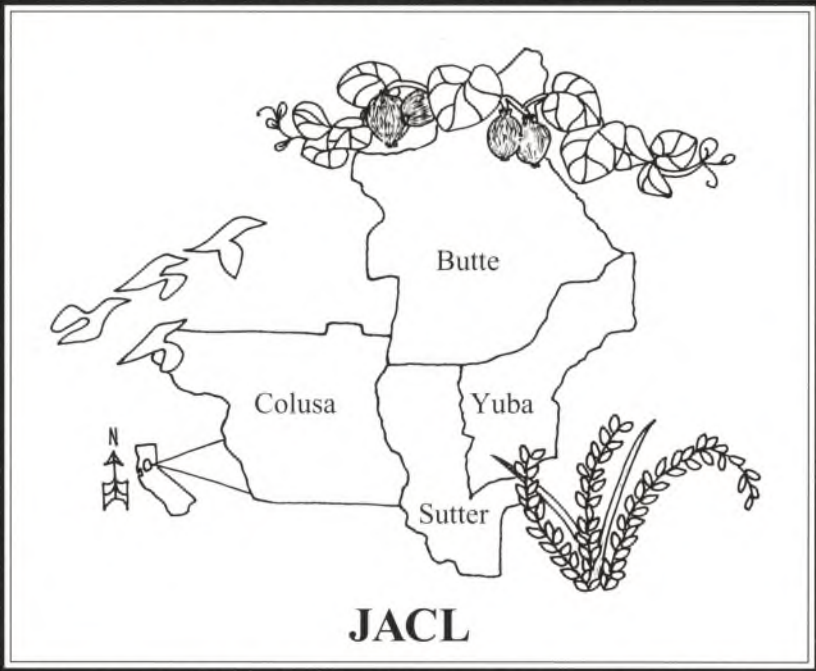
- Henry Okano-

While Jim Fukui remembers that fall of '45 at the Wheatland hop ranch, "*...there were hard feelings...local people ... the company had to hire armed guards because...(they were) threatening to come out.*"

"After the war ended, we came back to Yuba City...my sister in Hiroshima wrote to me...our mother died in the bomb. She was going to the temple for ohaka-mairi (visit parents' graves). When we first heard about the bomb (while still in camp) I thought that everyone had died."

-Michiko Uyemoto-

TAKAHASHI TORIUMI ITO FUJIKADO  
MASUMIZU AMAKAWA YOSHIZAKI  
MATSUNO KINOSHITA TERAOKAWA  
SAKAI WABE YANO  
YOSHIKAWA KOSAKA  
TANAKA MINABE  
KINOSHITA KAGAWA  
UCHIHARA ITO ISERI  
KURIHARA SHIMADA ABE OBAYASHI  
HATANAKA FUKUMITSU NAKANISHI  
YOSHIZAKI MURAYAMA KAWASAKI



## Marysville Chapter JACL

The Marysville Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League encompassing Butte, Colusa, Sutter and Yuba Counties had its start at an organizational meeting on July 18, 1935. Attending this meeting were the late Col. Walter T. Tsukamoto, then National Executive Secretary and later National President, and Dr. Terry Hayashi (National President, 1933-1934). Local population in attendance were: C. Ishizu, Kie Saito, Noburu Honda, Kie Maruyama, Masaru Honda, Harvey Ohmura, Paul Tekawa, Tom Tsuruda, Samuel Kurihara, Kiyono Matsuura, Thomas Kurihara, Mitsuko Miyasaka, Robert Inouye, Harue Oshita, Helen Nakamura Iwasaki, Frank Nakamura, Hazel Iseri, Charlotte Maruyama, Fred Fukui, Frank Murata, Harry Fukushima, James Nakagawa, Tony Tokuno and Mosse Uchida. The twenty-four members signed the official minutes, thus forming the YSBC (Yuba, Sutter, Butte and Colusa) Chapter.

In February 1936, our chapter was represented for the first time at a Northern California District Council meeting. Then, in May 1939, the YSBC Chapter hosted its first District Council meeting which

at the time included the current Central California area.

The chapter sponsored the first "Nisei Day" in the summer of 1939 which brought together hundreds of Japanese American youth of the four counties for panel and group discussions and social events.

In 1940, as a gesture of goodwill, the YSBC Chapter donated 100 flowering cherry trees which were planted along the shores of Ellis Lake of Marysville. The same year, the "Outstanding Nisei High School Graduate Award" was initiated, based on scholarship, and extra curricular activities. Also, held at this time were oratorical contests with speakers from Japanese American organizations.

By the end of the 1930s, chapter activities included political rallies to study election issues, classes for Nisei women who had lost their citizenship through marriage

to an alien Japanese and historical surveys. To achieve balance to its programs, members were encouraged to participate in ballroom dancing classes, bridge clubs and an annual striped bass derby. Also a basketball team was entered in the Marysville City League.



**Redress Presentation in Sacramento, October 13, 1990**  
Marysville's Mitsuru Okidoi (center) receives payment and apology.

The outbreak of World War II thrust JACL into the role of community leadership, a position which in the past had been the exclusive domain of the parent generation. Although young in years and short of experience, the YSBC Chapter quickly mustered its resources in order to serve the Japanese American community. A full-time JACL was established with Noboru Honda serving as Executive Secretary, providing counsel and assistance to the confused and jittery residents.

When Executive Order 9066 reached the area, all properties such as the Japanese Hall, Gakuen Building and the Buddhist Church were entrusted to the JACL. Throughout the period of incarceration, the Chapter through its president, Frank Nakamura, maintained supervision through intermediaries over these properties, a task made difficult, if not impossible, by prolonged absence. Many other valuable services were rendered to the Nikkei before and after the evacuation.

When hostilities ended in August 1945, there remained the task of “picking up the pieces” and rebuilding for the future, and of translating the blood, sweat and tears into positive gains for persons of Japanese an-

cestry in America.

Being the only Japanese American organization locally, it assumed the responsibility of assisting the returnees. Opening of the Buddhist Church building as a hostel afforded needed housing. Later, repossession of the Gakuen and the Japanese Hall building gave many more temporary housing until permanent homes could be found. During this period, in cooperation with the WRA officer, JACL worked towards bringing about a more favorable public sentiment towards the returning Japanese Americans.

In order to meet the challenges of post-war problems and others related only to the Japanese Americans, a handful of loyal JACL supporters reactivated the organization as the Marysville Chapter in 1946. The following years were to see vigorous participation in legislative programs of the anti-discrimination committee which successfully attacked unjust laws, won naturalization privileges for the parent generation and sought recompense for losses suffered as the result of wartime evacuation. Chapter members spent many long hours assisting claimants, and in 1957, it sponsored citizenship classes in cooperation with Yuba College to make an American dream come true

for over 100 Issei.

During the Christmas holiday floods in 1955, the chapter mobilized its manpower and resources to aid victims of the unprecedented disaster.

Over the years, the Marysville Chapter, in conjunction with the Buddhist Church, has become the center of Japanese American activities in the four counties area. It revived the “Community Picnic”, attended by hundreds of JACLers and guests for the ensuing three decades and sponsored a baseball team through the '60s.

The chapter’s calendar ranges from the installation banquet, scholarship programs, cultural exhibits, sponsoring community concerts, field trips, benefit movies, disbursing grants for community projects to fund-raisers. In more recent years, it has addressed itself to the social problems confronting all Americans such as intermarriages, gangs, gay rights and anti-violence. Individually and collectively, JACLers are participating more fully in the political, economic and social life of the total community.

**The first meeting of JACL in this area took place July 18, 1935. An edited transcription of the minutes is as follows:**

Under the temporary chairman Mr. Frank Murata, the first mass meeting was opened. Temporary secretary was Masaru Honda.

This first J.A.C.L. mass meeting was honored by having with us Mr. Walter Tsukamoto and Dr. T. Hayashi of Sacramento as the guest speakers of the evening.

Dr. T. Hayashi as the first guest speaker of the evening gave a very interesting talk on:

1. History of the J.A.C.L.
2. Past work
3. Purposes

Second honorable speaker of the evening was delivered by Mr. Walter Tsukamoto.

His subjects were delivered on:

1. History of J.A.C.L.
2. Various anti-Japanese bills as:
  - a. Dixtine Bill
  - b. Veteran Bill
  - c. Cable Act

Told of how the J.A.C.L. was operated and all of its set-ups.

Mr. Frank Nakamura, "Temporary Constitution Chairman," presented with a temporary constitution, which the constitution was read and certain articles revised, and adopted.

This first organized J.A.C.L. Chapter was represented by four counties.

1. Colusa
2. Butte
3. Sutter
4. Yuba

Having a very large turn-out the meeting was very successful, and also every one was in favor of organizing a J.A.C.L. Chapter making Marysville the head-quarter.

Numerous suggestions were made for the name of the new Chapter. Under the suggestion of Mr. Charles Ishizu, the first letter of each county would be taken and be called the Y.S.B.C. Counties, this was OK'd and the name was adopted.

Election

President Charles M. Ishizu (unanimously elected)

Vice Pres.	Yuba County	K. Maruyama
	Colusa County	K. Saito
	Butte County	N. Honda
	Sutter County	F. Fukui

R. Secretary H. Nakamura

C. Secretary H. Nakamura

Treasurer B. Miyasako

After the meeting and election finished, Mr. Uchihara, President of the Japanese Association of Marysville congratulated our newly organized chapter.

Also, Mr. Walter Tsukamoto congratulated our new chapter and gave a word of encouragement.

Mr. Charles Ishizu the new President of the J.A.C.L. Chapter gave an interesting talk.

No further business, meeting adjourned.

Temporary Secretary,  
Masaru Honda

### Resolution Pledges Loyalty For Country

“Whereas, we, American citizens of Japanese ancestry in Yuba, Sutter, Butte, Colusa counties are perturbed and distressed in this crisis and,

Whereas, we are desirous of declaring ourselves loyal to our country, the United States of America,

Therefore, publicly before our governing bodies, public officials, and fellow American citizens we state as follows:

We, American citizens of Japanese ancestry, by unanimous thought and action, are loyal citizens of the United States of America.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Yuba-Sutter-Butte-Colusa chapter of the Japanese-American Citizens League reaffirm, WITHOUT ANY RESERVATION, our allegiance to the Constitution of the United States and to our American ideals and institutions.”

Resolution by Marysville Chapter JACL President, Frank Nakamura, printed in the *Appeal-Democrat* on Dec. 9, 1941.

May 16th, 1942.

Mr. Noborer Honda,  
306 C Street,  
Marysville, Calif.

Dear Mr. Honda;-

Several days ago I talked with our friend Joe Imamoto about securing some tires from one of the men who will have to leave. It happened that we could not find my size in Colusa County and he suggested that I get in touch with you. My size is 700-15. It may be that you know some one who is going to store their car or perhaps have extras they will sell.

Both Joe and I will appreciate it very much if you will try to find some for me.

Yours very truly,

Letter sent to Noburu Honda prior to evacuation

<p><b>QUICK SERVICE</b></p> <p>This is a different telephone or code book unless as directed otherwise a number is placed above or beside the address.</p>	<p><b>WESTERN UNION</b></p> <p>4 7 7 5</p> <p>W. B. WHITE PRESIDENT      HENNING GARFINKL CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD      J. C. WELLS VICE PRESIDENT</p>	<p><b>SYMBOLS</b></p> <p>EL=Pay Letter RT=Change of Name LC=Change of Address RT=Call Night Letter S=No Signal</p>
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FP159 73 GOVT=MK SANFRANCISCO CALIF 3 356P

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE=

MARYSVILLE CALIF=

BIO APR 2 PM 4 39

REURTEL DAVIES WHITCOMB HOTEL PROCLAMATION NO 4 PROHIBITS TRAVEL BY JAPANESE WITHIN MILITARY AREA NO 1 IN EASTERLY DIRECTION ACROSS BOUNDARY LINE. JAPANESE LIVING EASTERLY OF BOUNDARY LINE MAY COME INTO MILITARY AREA NO 1 BUT AT THE RISK OF BEING DETAINED FOR EVACUATION. THE SUGGESTION HAS BEEN CONVEYED TO UNITED STATES EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OFFICES TO PROVIDE FACILITIES ON BOTH SIDES OF BOUNDARY LINE TO ENABLE YOUR PEOPLE TO COMPLETE BUSINESS CONNECTED WITH EVACUATION.==

WILLIAM A BOEKEL LT COL F A ASSISTANT PROVOST MARSHAL  
WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY. 17th AIRBORNE

There were several unjust laws which affected those of Japanese ancestry: 1) During WWI, some Issei volunteered and served in the US armed forces to fight in Europe. Upon their return these Issei veterans were not allowed to become naturalized American citizens. JACL made possible the overturn of this policy. 2) In the 1920s and 1930s, by US law, if a Nisei woman married an Issei, she lost her American citizenship. Again after concerted efforts of the JACL, the passage of the Cable Act Amendment (1931) revised the law, permitting such marriage without the loss of citizenship.

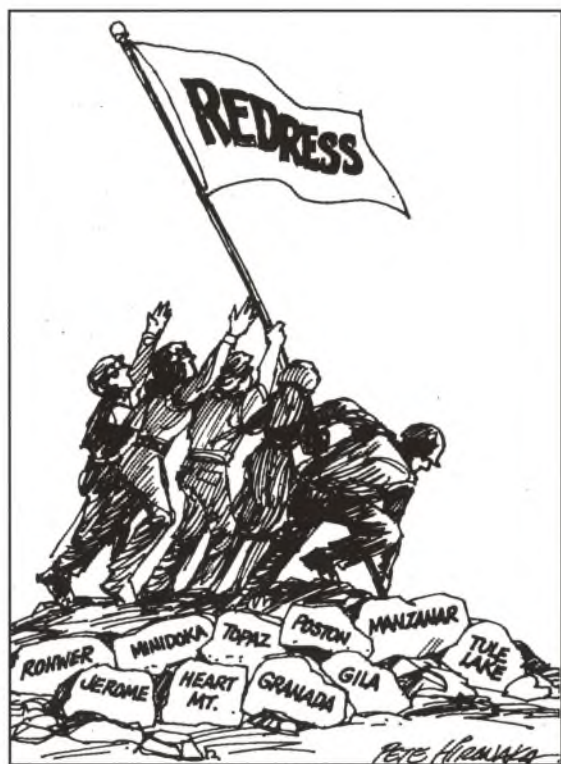
In December 1941, the Marysville Japanese American community owned three buildings located on B Street between 1st and 2nd Streets: the Japanese Hall, the Gakuen or Japanese School and the Buddhist Church. These structures had been managed by the Issei, although the Corporation members were all Nisei.

When evacuation was imminent, these buildings were entrusted to the care of the local JACL. The Japanese Hall was the only building with a mortgage debt amounting to several thousand dollars. The hall and the school building were leased to the USO prior to evacuation, and rentals were received, sufficiently to care for the buildings and to pay off the mortgage. The USO was made available to the African-American soldiers. All buildings were returned to the respective groups after the war.



The JACL, along with USO, sponsored a Welcome Home reception for the Nisei veterans who had begun to return to the community after the war. To uplift the morale of those who had chosen to return, a picnic was held and enjoyed by many families. This was the beginning of JACL's community picnics which were so popular up to evacuation time.





Printed with permission of Pete Hironaka  
as it appeared in the Pacific Citizen Newspaper  
August 19, 1988

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

September 25, 1987


Dear Friend:

As you may know, on September 17th the House overwhelmingly passed H.R. 442, the legislation to implement the recommendations of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. It was a moving and historic occasion, and one that all Americans can take great pride in.

I have enclosed a copy of the remarks which I made on the House floor during consideration of this legislation last week. If there is any way that I can be of assistance to you, please feel free to let me know.

With warmest regards, I am

Very truly yours,

  
Robert T. Matsui  
Member of Congress

In December 1982, a congressionally created commission concluded that the evacuation and incarceration of 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II were the result of racism, war hysteria, and failed political leadership. Six months later, the commission recommended that the U.S. government offer a national apology and payments of \$20,000 each to the surviving internees or their immediate heirs as a form of redress. Against long odds, these recommendations became law on August 10, 1988, when President Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

Leslie T. Hatamiya, Author  
*Righting a Wrong*  
*Japanese Americans and the*  
*Passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988*



Leslie Hatamiya



Setting-up at the Sacramento Regional Japanese American 1992 Exhibit

The exhibit, *Continuing Traditions: Japanese Americans: Story of a People, 1869-1992*.



**Installation  
Dinners**





**Prune Festival**



Picnic at the Hollands



Bowling





**Food Sale**



**Crab Feed**





Potluck Bingo



**JACL Presidents  
Past and Present**

**Presidents**

1935	Dr. Charles Ishizu	1960	Yutaka Toyoda
1936	Dr. Charles Ishizu	1961	Shurei Matsumoto
1936	Kie Maruyama	1962	Terry Manji
1937	Kie Maruyama	1963	Roger Tokunaga
1938	Harry Fukushima	1964	Robert R. Kodama
1939	Frank Nakamura	1965	Arthur N. Oji
1940	Frank Nakamura	1966	George Yoshimoto
1941	Frank Nakamura	1967	Clark Tokunaga
1942	Frank Nakamura	1968	Fred Matsui <sup>r</sup>
1943	Inactive	1969	Ray Fukui
1944	Inactive	1970	Toshio Sano
1945	Inactive	1971	Harry Fukumitsu
1946	Frank Nakamura	1972	George Nakagawa
1947	Sam Kurihara	1973	Ken Yoshikawa
1948	Frank Nakamura	1974	Sadao Itamura
1949	Frank Nakamura	1975	William Henry
1950	Akiji Yoshimura	1976	William Henry
1951	Akiji Yoshimura	1977	Bill Z. Tsuji
1952	Masanobu Oji	1978	Bill Z. Tsuji
1953	Frank N. Okimoto	1979	Roy Hatamiya
1954	Frank N. Okimoto	1980	George Nakao
1955	Dan Nishita	1981	George H. Inouye
1956	George H. Inouye	1982	Robert R. Kodama
1957	George Nakao	1983	Helen Manji
1958	George Okamoto	1984	Helen Manji
1959	Bill Z. Tsuji		



**Dr. Charles Ishizu**

**Executive Council Presidents**

1985	George Nakagawa, Momo Hatamiya, Ray Kyono
1986	Momo Hatamiya, Ray Kyono, Fred Okimoto
1987	Ray Kyono, Fred Okimoto, Jim Fukui
1988	Fred Okimoto, Jim Fukui, Irene Itamura
1989	Jim Fukui, Irene Itamura, Clifford Fukumitsu
1990	Irene Itamura, Clifford Fukumitsu, Frank Hatamiya
1991	Clifford Fukumitsu, Frank Hatamiya, Terry Itano
1992	Frank Hatamiya, Terry Itano, Gerry Tsuruda
1993	Frank Hatamiya, Terry Itano, Gerry Tsuruda
1994	Gerry Tsuruda, Terry Manji
1995	Terry Manji, Roy Hatamiya, Yuki Kyono



**Marysville Chapter JACL  
College Scholarships**

1968 Herbie Tanimoto  
 1970 Joe Kobayashi  
 1972 Linell Okimoto  
 1973 Clifford Fukumitsu  
 1974 Betty Ann Tanimoto  
 1979 Janice Kyono  
 1981 Karen Fukui  
 1982 Lisa Fukumitsu  
 1983 Diane Takeuchi  
 1988 Janelle Sasaki  
 1991 Blake Sasaki  
 1991 Brent Sasaki

**Shigeki K. Matsumoto  
Scholarships**

1995 Jill Sunahara

**Marysville Chapter JACL  
High School Scholarships**

1964 Lani Yoshimura	1980 Michael Hatamiya
1965 Lorine Tanimoto	1983 Ford Hatamiya
1967 Janet Abe	1984 Kirk Osumi
1968 Janet Kinoshita	1985 Leslie Kanda
1969 Richard Nishikawa	1985 Paul Okimoto
1970 Susan Yoshimura	1985 Janelle Sasaki
1971 Jerry Okikawa	1986 Leslie Hatamiya
1972 Arlene Nakamoto	1986 Michael Nakashima
1975 Kim Hatamiya	1988 Blake Sasaki
1976 Laura Matsumoto	1989 Brent Sasaki
1976 Leslie Harada	1989 Tom Yamamoto
1977 Lon Hatamiya	1990 Kari Nakatsu
1977 Lynette Kadoi	1991 Marcus Kanda
1978 Barbara Matsumura	1992 Kristin Kakiuchi
1978 Cathy Tsukimura	1993 Eric Okimoto
1979 Glen Marumoto	1994 Keith Kanda

**Henry M. Oji  
Memorial Scholarships**

1981 Joy Harada  
 1981 Diane Takeuchi  
 1982 Katherine Kanda  
 1982 Bobby Matsumura  
 1983 Andrea Itano  
 1983 Philip Nakashima  
 1985 Leigh Iwanaga  
 1985 Jill Okimoto  
 1986 Michelle Matsumura  
 1987 Nora Nakashima  
 1989 Leslie Matsumura  
 1990 Sandra Matsumura  
 1991 Kristen Iwanaga  
 1992 Sara Nakashima  
 1993 Kristi Nakatsu

**Marysville Chapter JACL Presidential Classroom Recipients**

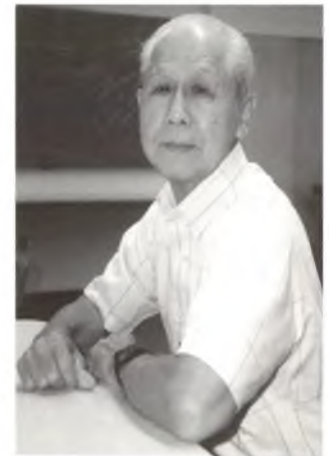
1979 Michael Hatamiya	1985 Michelle Hatamiya	1988 Blake Sasaki	1991 Kristin Kakiuchi
1982 Ford Hatamiya	1985 Nora Nakashima	1988 Brent Sasaki	1991 Sara Nakashima
1983 Paul Okimoto	1988 Ross Hatamiya	1990 Claire Hatamiya	1992 Kristi Nakatsu
1984 Leslie Hatamiya	1988 Leslie Matsumura	1990 Kristin Iwanaga	1992 Eric Okimoto

**Marysville Chapter JACL Special Grants**

1983 Kevin Nishita - Fellowship Grant	1989 Leslie Matsumura - Bush-Quayle Presidential Inauguration
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And the Road Continues ...













## Glossary

Betsuin:	Temple.	Nihon-machi:	Japantown.
Bussei:	Young Buddhists (usage: Miss Bussei).	Nihonjin:	Japanese.
Chigo:	A child in festive procession.	Nikkei:	Person of Japanese ancestry.
Dobokai:	Culinary group of the church.	Nisei:	2nd generation, American-born.
Fujinkai:	Women's Association.	Obento:	Lunch.
Gakuen:	Language school.	(O)furo:	Bath; bathhouse. (Also furo-ya or Nihon-buro)
Gosei:	5th generation, American-born.	Okazu:	A cooked dish consisting usually of meat or chicken with vegetables.
Hakujin:	Caucasian.	(O)nigiri:	Rice balls.
Hana:	Japanese card game.	Sake:	Japanese rice wine.
Hanamatsuri:	Flower festival.	Sansei:	3rd generation, American-born.
Hinamatsuri:	Girls' Day.	Seinenkai:	Young Men's Association.
Hoyukai:	Seniors.	Sumirekai:	Young Women's Club.
Issei:	1st generation, Japan-born.	Tofu:	Soybean curd. (Also tofuya)
Miso-shiru:	Bean-curd soup.	YABA:	Young Adult Buddhist Association.
Mochi:	Rice cake.	Yonsei:	4th generation, American-born.
Mochi-tsuki:	Rice cake preparation.		



