

The Alameda Japanese Grammar School
亞市尋常小學校
1908 ~ 1916

September 1983
M. MIYAOCHI

Jo T

THE ALAMEDA JAPANESE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

亞市尋常小學校

(OFFICIAL JAPANESE NAME)

My first glimpse of the Alameda Japanese Grammar School was on a summer Sunday afternoon in 1910. My father and mother were seeing Ohba Sensei at 2311 Buena Vista Avenue for the purpose of enrolling me as a student in this ^{private} school which was the nearest Japanese school to our house in East Oakland.

More than seventy years have passed since that memorable day and my memory is now vague on many points but I am hoping that with the collaboration of fellow alumni, some historical story of the Alameda Japanese Grammar School can be put on record on the occasion of the 85th Anniversary of the Alameda Japanese Methodist Episcopal Church.

The Alameda Japanese Grammar School was founded by the Japanese Methodist Church on its premises in 1908 or thereabouts. There was also an appurtenant Kindergarten. The Alameda Public School System was in existence at the time but the Japanese language school was an accredited full time school administered entirely in Japanese. Arithmetic, reading and writing, composition, calligraphy, Japanese ethics, history and geography, Japanese songs and to top it all, one hour each day, from eleven to noon was allotted for English reading and writing taught by an American woman teacher, Mrs. E. G. Smith.

The curriculum of the Alameda Japanese School was unique in that it followed almost exactly the primary educational practices as found in any part of Japan under the guidance of the Japanese Ministry of Education.

The teacher was invited from Japan to teach in this school. Official Japanese text books were imported from Japan through the Aoki Taiseido Book Store in San Francisco. I might add that similar Japanese language schools also existed in San Francisco (Kinmon Gakuen, Mr. Sano, Principal) and also in Oakland.

There may have been many reasons which led to the founding of the Alameda Japanese language school. The founders and many of the alumni have long departed from this world but from hearsay, ^{most of} our parents wanted their children to have the same education as given in Japan. It would also be useful for communication and cultural understanding between children and parents. On the other hand, there were many parents who advocated giving total effort towards the American Public Schools. According to their thinking, things Japanese were unnecessary to become permanent American residents. So, there were two different schools of thought among the parents. In Alameda, I can say that practically every child of Japanese parentage attended the full time Japanese language school.

As I recall it, when I first entered the Alameda Japanese Grammar School in the summer of 1910, there ^{were} already two classes above my class. The Japanese language schools existed as full day:time schools until the summer of 1916 and continued as a part time school thereafter to comply with a new California State Law which prohibited the existence of all full time foreign language schools. All children of ^{(school} age were required to attend the American Public School for the full time. Consequently, the operation of the Alameda Japanese Grammar School was limited to the hours after the Public Schools were dismissed. Even before the State Law was enacted, the Sixth year graduates from the Japanese language school continued on to the Alameda Public Schools. By prior arrangement with the Alameda ^{City} Board of Education, the Japanese language school Sixth year graduates were placed in the High Fifth grade in the Public School. (Most graduates entered the Porter School)

The Alameda Japanese Grammar School existed as a full time Japanese language school only during an eight year period from about 1908 to 1916. Mr. Ohba was the sole teacher over the whole period. A list of the names of students of the Alameda Japanese Grammar School between 1908 and 1916 ~~has~~ been made up with the valuable help and collaboration of former students and alumni.

CLASS ENTERING 1908 * Deceased

- * UMEZAWA, GRACE KUNIE (MRS. KIYOHARU YOKOUCHI) 梅沢邦江
- TOWATA, TOKIYO (MRS. TAKAGAWA) 砥綿時代
- ISHIBASHI, KIKUE (Fukunabashi) (MRS.) 石橋菊江
- YAMAGUCHI, HARUE (MRS.) 山口春江
- FUKUZAWA, BEN MITSURU 福沢 湊
- TAKAGI, MAKOTO 高木 誠
- NARAHARA, ISAMU 榎原 勇
- NAGAI, KIYOSHI 永井 清

CLASS ENTERING 1909 * Deceased

- TOWATA, DICK SAITARO 砥綿才太郎
- * TSUCHIYA, HIKARU 土屋 光
- ASADA, MASAE (MRS.) 浅田 正江

CLASS ENTERING 1910

can't remember the make up of this class which my class. (Mas Miyaguchi)

- TAKAGI, NATSUKO (MRS. NAKATANI) 高木 夏子
- FUJII, HISAKO (MRS. ISHII) 藤井 久子
- YAMAGAMI, DAN KAZUMI 山上一海
- MIYAUCHI, MASARU 宮内 勝

CLASS ENTERING 1911 ± *Delayed*

- * FUKUZAWA, LEO MINEKI 福沢峯茂
- HOSAKA, SHIGEKI 保坂茂茂
- * HIROSE, HIROKO 広瀬広子
- TOWATA, VIOLA HARUE (MRS. KUZE) 砥綿春江
- ISHIBASHI, YAKU (Funabashi) (MRS.) 石橋ヤク
- * NARAHARA, TOMOKI 榎原友茂
- * TAWA, HIROSHI 田和博

CLASS ENTERING 1912 (born 1906)

- KAWAMURA, SHIZUTO 河村静人
- * YUSA, MINORU EARL 遊佐実
- FUJII, EIKO (MRS. G. LLOYD HARVEY) 藤井英子
- * MINAMI, MATSUE (MRS. KINJI UTSUMI) 南松江

CLASS ENTERING 1913 (born 1907)

Can't remember - would be those born in 1907

CLASS ENTERING 1914 (Born 1908) * Deceased

FUJII, SHIZUKO
(MRS. IRIKI)

藤井 静子 (

* NAGAI, SHIZUKO
(MRS.)

永井 静子

MORINO, MASAYOSHI

森野 正義

MIYAUCHI, YUKIO

宮内 幸夫

IMURA, HARUO

井村 春雄

TOWATA, JOHNME SEIJI

砥綿 政治

*? Otsuki, Kiyoshi

大坂 清

FUKUZAWA, MASAYOSHI

福沢 正義

CLASS ENTERING 1915 (LAST FULL TIME CLASS)

HANAMURA, JIMMIE NAKABA

花村 央

Yuki's Class

~~IMURA, HARUO~~

~~井村 春雄~~

Added to
to 1914

Other classmates can probably be remembered by Jimmie Hanamura

NAMES RELATED TO THE ALAMEDA JAPANESE SCHOOL

All Day Japanese School { OHBA, MASAHARU (One man Teacher, Supervisor and Principal)
大場正治
Mrs. E. G. Smith (English Teacher)

MIKI, TORAO (Kindergarten)
三木虎雄
MRS. TORAO MIKI (Kindergarten)

Part Time Japanese School (After Public School hours) { HATA, KANZO 畑
AKAMATSU, NORICHIKA
赤松
NAKAJIMA, ISOJI
中島五十治
MRS. ISOJI NAKAJIMA
MR. YAMAMOTO
MRS. YAMAMOTO
MR. HISATOMI

NAMES RELATED TO THE ALAMEDA CHURCH

DR. & MRS. ACTON

REVEREND M. OHTA
太田 伊三

REV. GISEBURO OTA

MIKAGI, RAY HIDEWATSU
MASHIHARA, TAIJI
KUNIMORI, KUMAKICHI
MIKI, TORAO

Sunday School 日曜学校

KATAGIRI, YOSHIAKI

片桐義明

KATAGIRI, GEORGE

片桐穰次

FUKUZAWA, MASAYOSHI ✓

(Born 1905)

福沢正義 in ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico

FUKUZAWA, KAMEO

福沢亀雄 in LA

ASADA, KIYOSHI

浅田清

TOWATA, JOHNNIE ~~SEIJI~~ ✓

(Born 1909)

砥綿政次

OTSUKA, HIROSUE

大塚広末 in San Diego

OTSUKA, KIYOSHI ✓

(Born 1908)

大塚清

ROKUTANI, GEORGE ✓

(BORN 1911) also entering 1917

六谷襄次 TWINCITY MINN.

* ~~IMURA, TAIZO~~ ✓

(BORN 1914) also entering 1920

井村泰三

* TAWA, ~~HIROSHI~~ ✓

(Born 1905)

田和博

5 class entering 1914

2 class entering 1914

2 class entering 1914

camp 1911

ALAMEDA BUDDHIST TEMPLE

1. BEGINNING IN 1906, REV. MOKUJO FUJII of BUDDHIST CHURCH of OAKLAND CAME OVER PERIODICALLY to OFFICIATE.

2. 1912, ABOUT THIS TIME, UNDER LEADERSHIP of MATSUTARO NAKATA, 16 FAITHFULS

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. KOMAGORO TAKAGI | NOBUTARO YAMANOTO |
| 2. CHIYOKICHI ABE | UMETARO KONDO |
| 3. MASOICHI YAMAZAKI | CHUJIRO YAMAGUCHI |
| 4. KATSUTARO IWAHARA | SHOKURO HAYASHIDA |
| 5. MATSUTARO SUGIYAMA | TSURUKICHI TANAKA |
| 6. SHUJIRO NAKANO | FUKUJIRO ACADA |
| 7. KUMAJIRO KANZAKI | MONIARO OISUKA |
| 8. TSUNESZO MINAMI. | |

PROPOSED ESTABLISHING PERMANENT SITE WHERE RELIGIOUS GATHERING COULD BE HELD.

3. SITE SELECTED: 1630 PARK STREET (1912-1914)

4. APRIL 8, 1914 LARGE QUARTERS NEEDED SO LARGE ROOM IN EDWARD KIMBERLIN TAYLOR, FORMER ALA-MAYOR, MANSION RENTED FOR \$10/MO. THIS PLACE LOCATED AT 2325 PACIFIC AVE, PRESENT TEMPLE.

5. JAN. 4, 1916. DECISION MADE TO BE ON OWN, FIRST RESIDENT MINISTER WAS REV. CHISZI SHINOHARA. CONGREGATION APPROX. 60.

6. JAN 4, 1919, RENTED PLACE PURCHASED
FOR \$4,400.00 ADDITIONAL COST OF \$2,000.00
PAID FOR REMODELING.

7. WITH GROWTH IN MEMBERSHIP, NECESSARY
TO ENLARGE FACILITIES.

1926, SOCIAL HALL CONSTRUCTED, COST OF
\$6,125.00 CAPACITY: 300 PERSON SEATING.

End