



In Japan, *Omiyage* is a gift. But what if that gift was a wife? To be presented in America?

Meet Kanjiro and Natsuno Inouye, a long-married couple of Alameda, CA.

Natsuno Nakano was a young woman, living in Fukuoka, Japan. Kanjiro Inouye had done Natsuno's father a favor. Mr. Nakano, a poor farmer, essentially said, "*Watashi wa okane ga arimasen... I do not have any money...*" but he *did* have a lovely daughter.

Omiyage. Natsuno. The Gift.

"For the women you have to give them a lot of credit," said Jean Hattori Howard, speaking of her grandmother, Natsuno. "She was 17, what a scary experience, to go to another country."

the

GIFT

That's exactly what Natsuno did. She married Kanjiro on the very day she arrived in Seattle, WA., on April 6, 1908.

At least he wasn't a complete stranger, as many picture brides were, as she had probably known Kanjiro back in Fukuoka.

Arranged marriages have been a part of many countries, including India, Taiwan, Korea, and the Islamic and Jewish cultures.

"Don't know if bachan (grandmother) had much to say about it...in those days it was a common occurrence... an understanding between families," Jean said.

Japanese picture brides were a common occurrence when Japanese men first immigrated to the United States. While any type of pre-arranged marriage can have its tribulations, it appears to have worked for the Inouyes.

That understanding would bring three sons and a daughter, and last more than 50 years. "Sad to say many "arranged" marriages did not work out," Jean said.



Kanjiro and Natsuno with son, Fujio, (at left) and daughter, Kazuye, in 1912

Kanjiro Inoue

Kanjiro Inouye, born January 3, 1883 in Japan, arrived in America at age 20 and worked as a gardener for 52 years in Alameda, CA.

When he registered* for the military draft during WWI, the family was living at 1527 Oak Street. He signed his last name as Inoue. It was 1917.

In 1940, his family lived at 2305 Eagle Ave. Their Eagle neighbors included the Nit-tas, Ihei Matsuokas, George Rokutanis, Misuko Hitomis, Jack Kanzakis, Mas Takakuras and Walter Irikis. The Inouyes attended the Buddhist Temple of Alameda.

During WWII, Kanjiro's family were among the last to leave the Merced Assembly Center. Merced was permanently closed September 15, 1942. On the 16th, they found themselves in nearby Denair, CA.

see next page

* While Issei were not American citizens and could not serve in the military, they were still required to register for the World War I draft.

From there, they were transferred to the Amache, Colorado incarceration camp, as did many Japanese in Merced. When WWII ended, they returned to Denair on September 25, 1945 and made their way back to Alameda at some point.

Despite the family's wartime experience, he and Natsuno applied and were granted their American citizenship in 1953.

Kanjiro died in Alameda in July 1955 at age 72. Natsuno died August 6, 2004 from complications from a stroke.

Form N-405
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
 (11-20-53)

Form approved.
 Budget Bureau No. 43-R083.7.

ORIGINAL
 (To be retained
 by Clerk of Court)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

108630

No. _____

PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION

(Under General Provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act)

To the Honorable the District Court of The United States at San Francisco, Cali

This petition for naturalization, hereby made and filed, respectfully shows:

(1) My full, true, and correct name is Natsuno Inouye
(Full, true name, without abbreviation, and any other name which has been used, must appear here)

(2) My present place of residence is 2310 Buena Vista Ave., Alameda, Calif. My occupation is housewife
(Number and street) (City or town) (County) (State)

(4) I am 64 years old. (5) I was born on July 3, 1889, in Fukuoka, Japan
(Month) (Day) (Year) (City or town) (County, district, province, or State) (Country)

(6) My personal description is as follows: Sex female, complexion yellow, color of eyes brown, color of hair grey-brown
 height 5 feet -- inches, weight 116 pounds, visible distinctive marks none; country of which I am a citizen
 subject, or national Japan

(7) I am married; the name of my ~~wife~~ husband is Kanjiro Inouye
 we were married on April 6, 1908, at Seattle, Washington
(Month) (Day) (Year) (City or town) (State or country)

he or she was born at Fukuoka, Japan, on January 3, 1883
(City or town) (County, district, province, or State) (Country) (Month) (Day) (Year)

and entered the United States at San Francisco, Calif. on August 19, 1904 for permanent residence in the United States
(City or town) (State) (Month) (Day) (Year)

and now resides at with me. and was naturalized on _____
(Number and street) (City or town) (County and State) (Month) (Day) (Year)

at _____ certificate No. _____; or became a citizen by _____
(City or town) (State)

(8) I have 3 children; and the name, sex, date and place of birth, and present place of residence of each of said children who is living, are as follows:
Fujio Inouye (m) born Jan 3, 1910, in Alameda & now resides in Oakland, Calif.
Yoshiharu Inouye (m) born Oct 27, 1914, in Alameda, Calif. & now resides in Alameda, Calif.
Kazuye Inouye Hattori (f) born Sept. 23, 1912, in Alameda, Calif. & now resides in Alameda, California.

(9) My lawful admission for permanent residence in the United States was at Seattle, Washington under the name of
Natsuno Inoue on April 6, 1908
(City or town) (State) (Month) (Day) (Year)
 on the SS "AKI MARU"
(Name of vessel or other means of conveyance)

(10) Since my lawful admission for permanent residence I have not been absent from the United States, for a period or periods of 6 months or longer, except as follows:

DEPARTED FROM THE UNITED STATES			RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES		
PORT	DATE (Month, day, year)	VESSEL OR OTHER MEANS OF CONVEYANCE	PORT	DATE (Month, day, year)	VESSEL OR OTHER MEANS OF CONVEYANCE

(11) It is my intention in good faith to become a citizen of the United States and to renounce absolutely and entirely all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of whom or which at this time I am a subject or citizen. (12) It is my intention to reside permanently in the United States. (13) I am not and have not been for a period of at least 10 years immediately preceding the date of this petition a member of or affiliated with _____ by the Immigration and Nationality Act or any section, subsidiary, branch affiliate or subdivision thereof _____ of the acts or activities prohibited by that Act. (14) I am able to read, write and understand the English language.

Natsuno Inouye's Petition for Naturalization. When she arrived in Seattle Washington in 1908, her last name was spelled Inoue, but the last names of her sons and daughter on this document are spelled Inouye. The first and last name spelling of many Japanese families changed over time in America.



Natsuno in Japan, before she comes to America