

**Official California Japanese Elementary School at the
Japanese Association building
2325 Pacific, Alameda, CA. Circa 1916 (the first year of the school's existence)**



**Shigeko Iwaihara
b. March 23, 1911**



Official California Japanese Elementary School

translation of the Japanese on the sign below*

at the Japanese Association building • 2256 Pacific Ave, Alameda, CA • photo circa 1916

Takuritsu Morita was the first school principal in 1916 through at least 1922. He was also a beloved sensei (instructor) there, teaching the Japanese language for 10 years at this location. Around 1921, he functioned as the secretary of the Japanese Association, which was housed in the same building. He was the best Issei amateur photographer in Alameda while he lived in Oakland and then Alameda from 1915 to 1933. Born in Ishikawa-ken, Japan on December 1, 1887, he died in 1962. He is buried in Palo Alto, CA.

Japanese-American Daily News (Oakland branch) R K Okina mgr 710 Madison
" Association of Alameda T R Morita sec 2256 Pacific av A
" Association of Berkeley 2119 Haste B
JAPANESE ASSOCIATION OF OAKLAND, T Masuda Pres, Z Osaki Sec, Welfare Association, 412 8th
" Exclusion League of Cal Alameda Co branch M J Bleuel sec 1206 Bway rm 504
" Independent Congregational Church Rev K Ishikawa pastor 576 Sycamore
" Language Institute T R Morita prin 2256 Pacific av A

1922 Polk address directory

Saitaro "Cy" Towata
Born February 8, 1903, it wouldn't be that long before Cy would be best known as one of island's finest athletes, starring for Alameda High School and the Alameda Taiiku Kai (ATK) baseball teams. He died February 17, 2001.

Makoto "Henry" Takagi
Born February 9, 1900 in San Francisco. He played for the ATK baseball team and later worked as a bookkeeper at a bank. He died April 16, 1987.

Kanjiro Inouye
Born January 3, 1883, he arrived USA 1903, became an American citizen 1953. His son, Fujio, and daughter, Kazuye, are pictured below. A gardener, Kanjiro died in Alameda in July 1955.

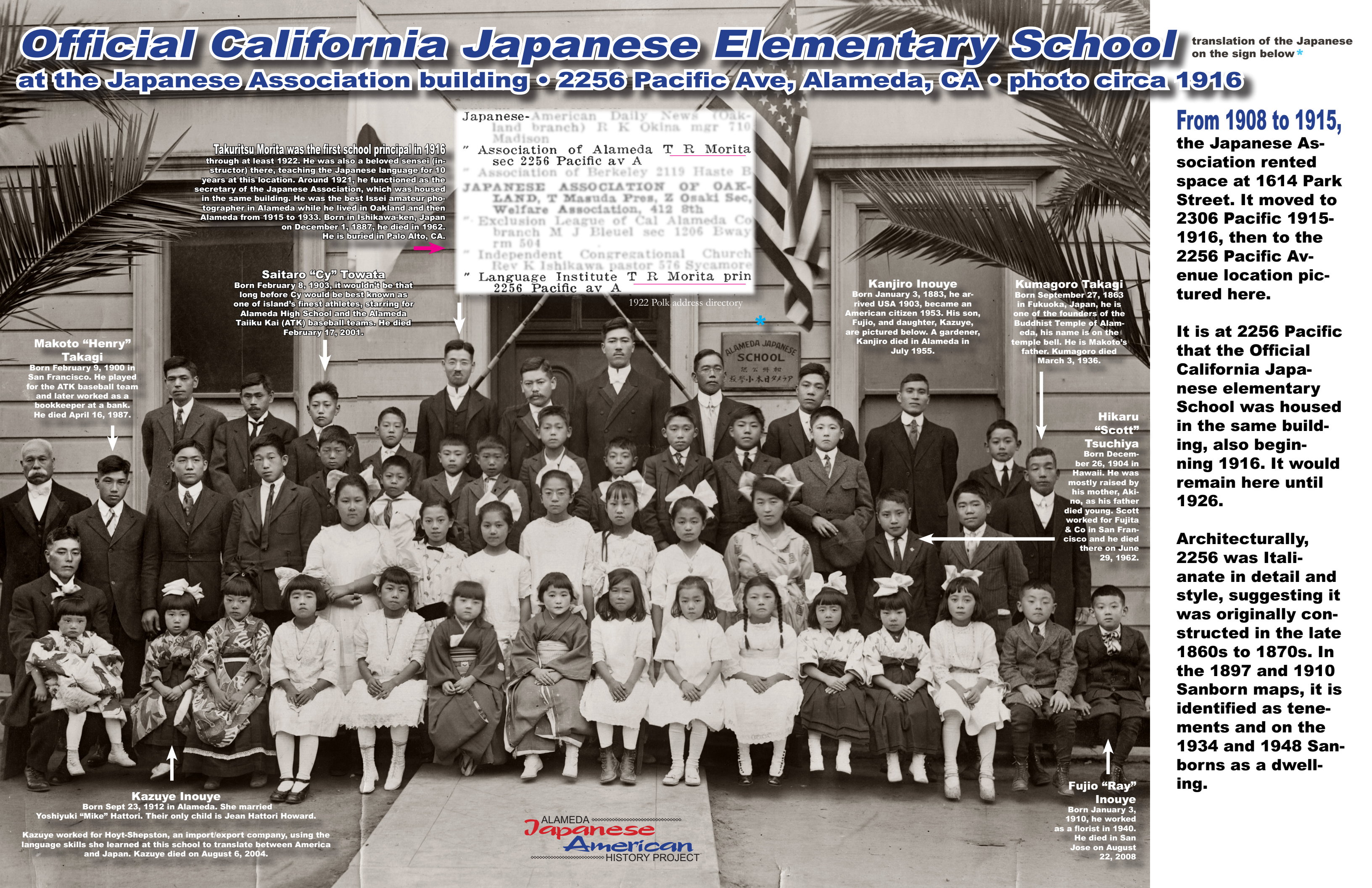
Kumagoro Takagi
Born September 27, 1863 in Fukuoka, Japan, he is one of the founders of the Buddhist Temple of Alameda, his name is on the temple bell. He is Makoto's father. Kumagoro died March 3, 1936.

Hikaru "Scott" Tsuchiya
Born December 26, 1904 in Hawaii. He was mostly raised by his mother, Aki-no, as his father died young. Scott worked for Fujita & Co in San Francisco and he died there on June 29, 1962.

Kazuye Inouye
Born Sept 23, 1912 in Alameda. She married Yoshiyuki "Mike" Hattori. Their only child is Jean Hattori Howard.

Kazuye worked for Hoyt-Shepston, an import/export company, using the language skills she learned at this school to translate between America and Japan. Kazuye died on August 6, 2004.

Fujio "Ray" Inouye
Born January 3, 1910, he worked as a florist in 1940. He died in San Jose on August 22, 2008



On July 26, 1926, a building permit was issued for the construction of a new building at **2320 Buena Vista Ave**, which adjoins the Buddhist Temple. It signaled the end of the school's time at 2256.

2320 would be the new location of the Japanese Association, and also the Temple's own language school. It is unclear if 2256 Pacific was a part of the Temple. There is no mention of it in the official Alameda Temple history. It's possible that 2256 was run by the Japanese Association.

2256 Pacific was demolished in 1957 for an apartment building. By an odd coincidence, the building at 2320 Buena Vista met the exact same fate - razed in 1957 for the apartments that are owned by the temple and exist today (as of 2023).

Special thanks to Alameda Historian Woody Minor for this information.



This photo appears to have been made around the time or soon after the image on the front page, given the appearance of Kazuye Inouye.

SENSEI MORITA's Trophies

Takuritsu Morita was living in Alameda by 1915. Based on the 1916-1926 trophy he received below, he was there at the beginning of the Japanese School at 2256 Pacific Avenue in 1916.

AJS = Alameda Japanese School
TRM = Takuritsu Morita



The Alameda Gakuen awards Takuritsu for 11 years of service, in this November 1928 trophy. It oddly conflicts with the trophy, at left.

1928 minus 11
= 1917
(not 1916)



The Alameda Gakuen celebrates 20 years of service on October 10, 1936.

Takuritsu wasn't even living in Alameda in '36, as he had moved his family south to Mountain View., CA. in 1933.

He was teaching Japanese in Mountain View, perhaps for the same Hokka organization, hence the need for yet another trophy.

Standing at center is Takuritsu Morita. Note the sign to the left of the front door, “Japanese Association Alameda.”



The sign to the right of the door is blank, but will soon say Alameda Japanese School.

This photo is likely from the first year of the association and school's existence, in 1916 at this address.

This photo is a self portrait by Takuritsu Morita. With his camera on a tripod, he shot another picture with this same group, but without his presence in that photo.

The Boy Scouts of Alameda had an office in this building in 1924.



Takuritsu



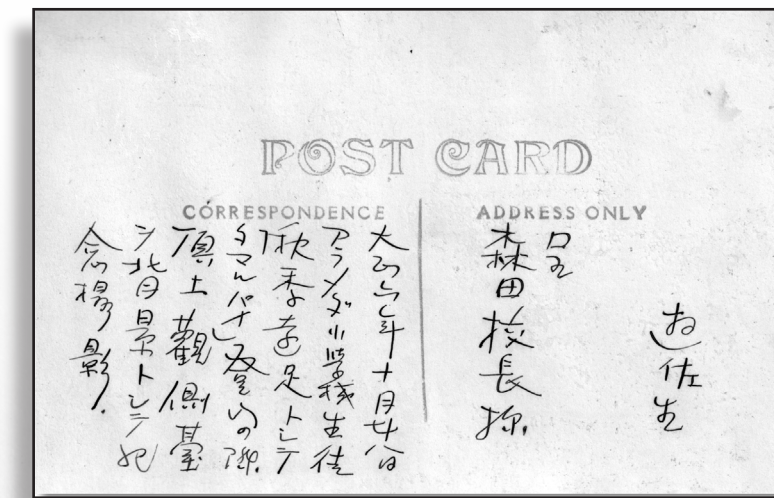
Saitaro "Cy"
Towata



Makoto "Henry"
Takagi

Makoto's sister,
Natsuko Takagi

Takuritsu



This photo, a postcard addressed to Takuritsu, says "To Principal Morita, from Yusa. Alameda Elementary students climbed Mt. Tamalpais. photo taken in front of the Observatory, October 28, 1917."

The text confirms that Morita was indeed the principal of the school.



JAPANESE ASSOCIATION
OF
ALAMEDA
亞市日本火會

Shujiro
Nakano

↑
Shigeko
Iwaihara
b. 1911

↑
Fujio "Ray"
Inouye
b. 1910

Another early photo from the school's existence.
The left side of the photo was already cut off when it
was scanned in 2022.



**Above: Takuritsu Morita with two young students.
Right: Takuritsu stands in what is very likely the interior of the
2256 Pacific Avenue Japanese school, circa 1916-1918.**

**Special thanks to Lynn Dunbar and the Takuritsu Morita family for photos
and their assistance with this story.**

