

JAPANESE Farmers of Mt. Eden



The building in the background is part of the William Mohr property along Hesperian Blvd in Mount Eden (Hayward, California today). As of 2021, it borders the Chabot College parking lot and is still standing. This land belonged to the Mohr family from roughly 1855 until Chabot College was built in 1964-1965. After the business incorporated, it has been known as the Mohr-Fry Ranches (In 1935, Jeryl R. Fry married Marian Mohr, William's daughter). Their offices are currently located in Lodi, CA.

This Japanese man is unknown, but Japanese families farmed alongside the Mohr and Fry families for many years and some also lived on the ranch. The last Japanese to reside on the property was the Matsuzaki family. To-raichi Matsuzaki lived on the ranch until he died in 2014. Strawberries were also grown on the Mt. Eden property by Japanese families.

- Photograph by Mataichi Ozeki of Alameda, CA.
- Information courtesy of Alfreda Fry Andrews, Vice President and secretary of Mohr-Fry Ranch
- The Hayward Museum

The crates with the initials of ALG might stand for *Abraham L. Graham*, who was a tomato grower in the Mt. Eden area until his death in about 1929. The crates appear to be full of tomatoes. They appear nearly black in this photo, as it is highly likely that the picture was shot on orthochromatic film. Ortho film is insensitive to red and appears black in the resulting printed photo. Ortho film was slowly replaced by black and white film that perceived all the colors shortly after 1900 (called panchromatic film). This fact lends additional credence to the circa 1907-1910s date of this photo.