

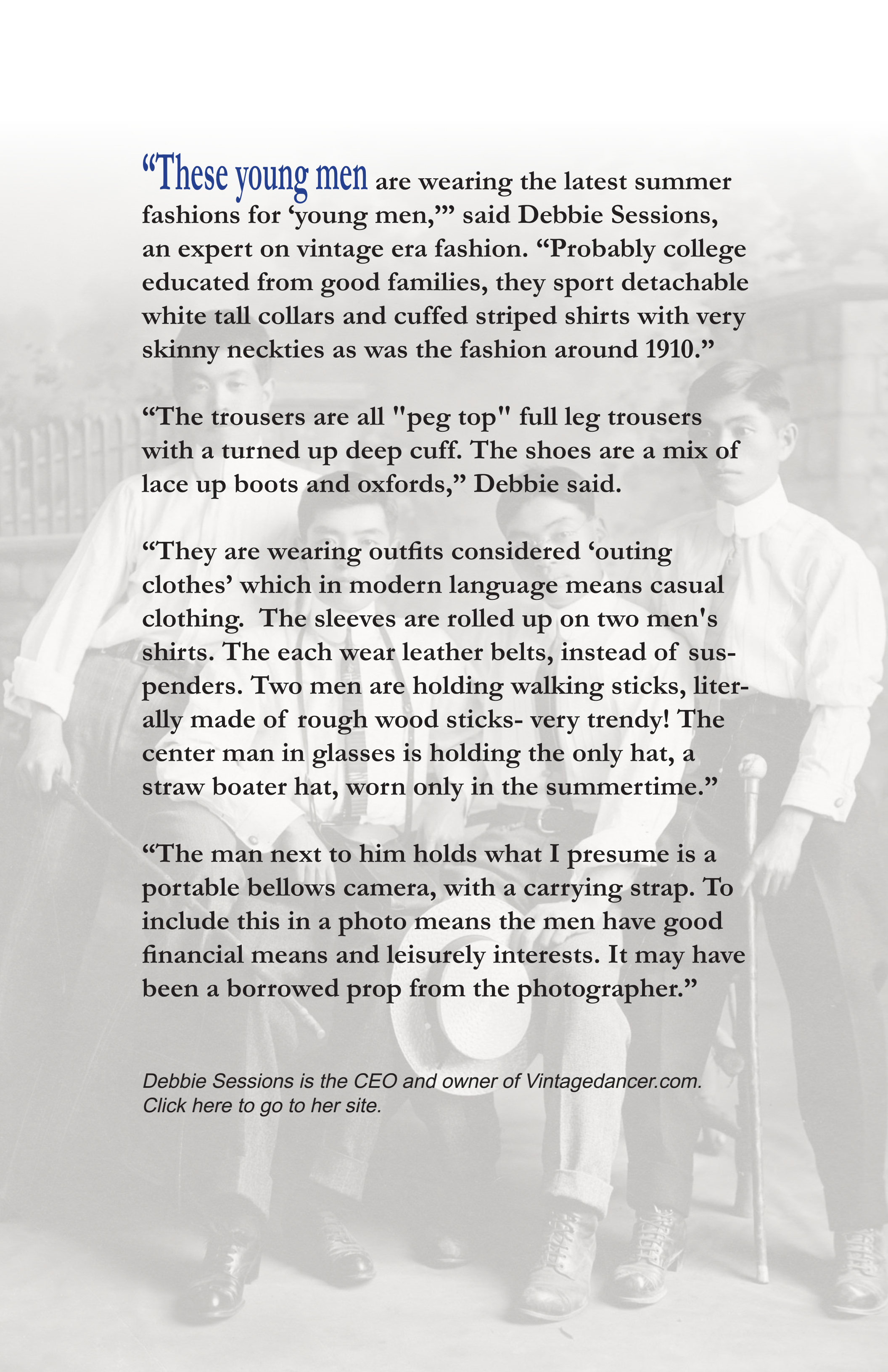
Issei Style



Four first generation (Issei) immigrants walked into Mataichi Ozeki's Park Street photo studio, perhaps a bit full of themselves, to pose for this portrait, circa 1910.

He was, after all, the best Japanese photographer that Alameda had to offer.

More than 100 years later, we don't know their names. It doesn't matter. That day, Ozeki captured the aspirations of men born in Japan's Meiji era, hopeful of the possibilities in America... and in Alameda, CA.



“These young men are wearing the latest summer fashions for ‘young men,’” said Debbie Sessions, an expert on vintage era fashion. “Probably college educated from good families, they sport detachable white tall collars and cuffed striped shirts with very skinny neckties as was the fashion around 1910.”

“The trousers are all “peg top” full leg trousers with a turned up deep cuff. The shoes are a mix of lace up boots and oxfords,” Debbie said.

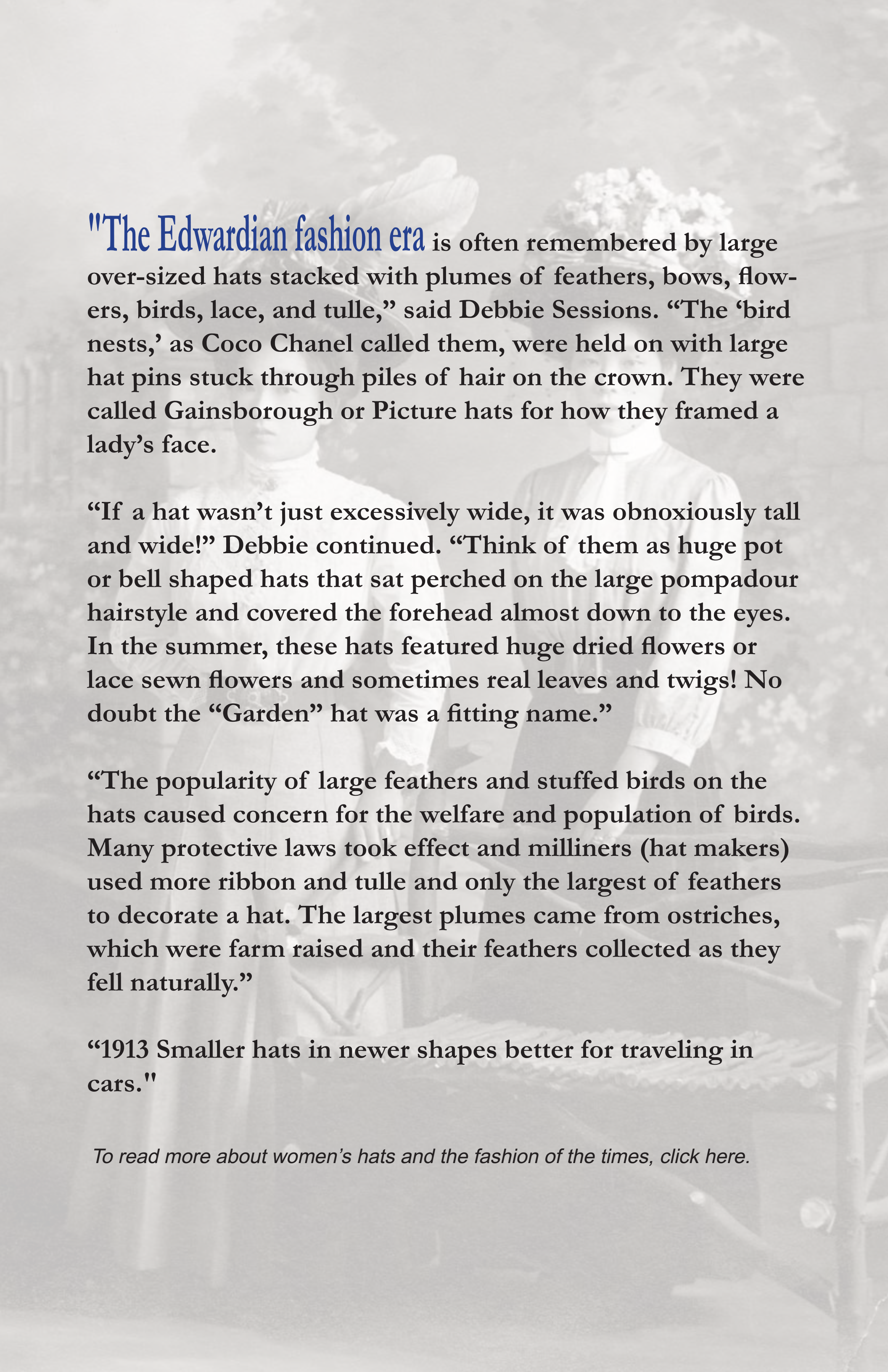
“They are wearing outfits considered ‘outing clothes’ which in modern language means casual clothing. The sleeves are rolled up on two men’s shirts. The each wear leather belts, instead of suspenders. Two men are holding walking sticks, literally made of rough wood sticks- very trendy! The center man in glasses is holding the only hat, a straw boater hat, worn only in the summertime.”

“The man next to him holds what I presume is a portable bellows camera, with a carrying strap. To include this in a photo means the men have good financial means and leisurely interests. It may have been a borrowed prop from the photographer.”

*Debbie Sessions is the CEO and owner of Vintagedancer.com.
Click here to go to her site.*



Issei *Style*

The background image shows two women in Edwardian fashion. They are wearing large, ornate hats decorated with feathers, flowers, and lace. The woman on the left has a hat with a large plume of feathers. The woman on the right has a hat with a large floral arrangement. They are both wearing high-collared, long-sleeved dresses. The image is faded and serves as a background for the text.

"The Edwardian fashion era is often remembered by large over-sized hats stacked with plumes of feathers, bows, flowers, birds, lace, and tulle," said Debbie Sessions. "The 'bird nests,' as Coco Chanel called them, were held on with large hat pins stuck through piles of hair on the crown. They were called Gainsborough or Picture hats for how they framed a lady's face.

"If a hat wasn't just excessively wide, it was obnoxiously tall and wide!" Debbie continued. "Think of them as huge pot or bell shaped hats that sat perched on the large pompadour hairstyle and covered the forehead almost down to the eyes. In the summer, these hats featured huge dried flowers or lace sewn flowers and sometimes real leaves and twigs! No doubt the "Garden" hat was a fitting name."

"The popularity of large feathers and stuffed birds on the hats caused concern for the welfare and population of birds. Many protective laws took effect and milliners (hat makers) used more ribbon and tulle and only the largest of feathers to decorate a hat. The largest plumes came from ostriches, which were farm raised and their feathers collected as they fell naturally."

"1913 Smaller hats in newer shapes better for traveling in cars."

To read more about women's hats and the fashion of the times, [click here.](#)



If you were a vibrant young Japanese immigrant in 1910,
and you walked into Mataichi's photo studio,
what would you be thinking about?



Four first generation (Issei) Japanese immigrants walked into Mataichi Ozeki's Park Street photo studio, perhaps full of themselves, to pose for this portrait circa 1914. Mataichi was after all, the best Japanese photographer on the island.

More than 100 years later, we don't know their names. It doesn't matter. That day, Ozeki captured the aspirations of men born in Japan's Meiji era, hopeful of the possibilities in America... and in Alameda, CA.



Two Issei women pose for Mataichi Ozeki at his photo studio at 1621 Park in Alameda, CA, circa 1914. They are wearing Edwardian era hats that were very popular in America in the early 1900s.