

the
little

RASCAL

Mitsue Ozeki was a happy-go-lucky and sometimes puckyish Nisei youngster. She said that when she was young, she fell in the backyard and a chicken pecked at her head, and that's why she is the way she is, according to her daughter, Kay Yatabe of El Cerrito, CA.

One year, Mitsie snuck into the closet where her Christmas presents were hidden, opened and then carefully re-wrapped her gifts. She couldn't help herself!



“My mother seemed to have been a rascal, and I think her thing was to make *her* mother happy,” said Yatabe. “I didn’t see her as a pleaser, but she was always cheerful and happy to see people.”



“She seemed to have lots of friends, male and female. She loved being part of the Alameda Buddhist Church and treasured what she learned growing up Buddhist.”

As a young woman, she met Motoki Yatabe on a double date while at Topaz incarceration camp during World War II.

After the war, she married Yatabe in April 1947 and had two children. The family home included Motoki’s mother, Rui, who lived to 103. Mitsie was a homemaker until around 1970 when she started working in technical services at the Berkeley Public Library, a job she absolutely loved, and where everyone from janitors to administrators loved her.

She was born December 7, 1915 in Alameda, CA., and died there on December 17, 2001.