

II FLORIN AREA REUNION AUGUST 29, 30, 31, 1986



Pre-evacuation Japanese Community Reunion
Florin, Elk Grove, Mayhew, Perkins, Taishoku, Brighton

フロリンリュニオンへ寄せる

私達の父母「一古諸氏」は強い黒松のように

此の異境の地、米国へ根をおろし、あらゆる

困苦に耐え忍び、揺がたる今日の地盤を

築いて下さいました。

一古により蒔かれた種が芽を出したゆえに、努力と忍耐と、

良き伝統を守り根をおろし今日の二古、三古を此の偉大

なる米国の地に育てあげたのであります。二古は一古の

宿願を受け継ぎ、三古、四古に「萬機の国」米国の善良なる市民として

誇を守ること祈言います。

今日、此の一九八六年第二回フロリン日系リュニオンの記念誌発行に当り

一古諸兄へ満腔の意を表し、其の意志を受継いで来た二古、それに

従う三古、四古に献げるものである。



COVER STORY

Depicted by artists Gene Viacrusis and Alan Oshima in a simulated woodcut design. The cover shows the Florin Buddhist Temple with strawberries and grapes, the main produce which were shipped by hundreds of freight cars to all parts of the United States. At its peak production in May 1941, the people were uprooted and sent to Concentration Camps, which resulted in the decline of agricultural productivity in the area.



DEDICATION

Like the sturdy pine of old Japan, our parents, the Isseis, though transplanted into the soil of a strange new land, endured, thrived, and grew in grace and beauty.

Good seeds have sprouted, young pines have taken root. Like the Issei parents, the Niseis and their children, with tireless energy, and dogged determination, endured, cherishing rich legacies, believing with pride, no other land is quite like America. In their lifetime, the Nisei families have labored with integrity, sincerely proving with their lives, the Isseis' great dream in America, "truly a land of opportunity and a better life than ours... for our children."

A healthy pine forest is visible in the horizon. Each tree and its tiny sprouts, like the energetic Sanseis and their offsprings, the Yonseis, we see thrilling signs of growth in noble dignity. We witness each succeeding generation, strong within the shadows of the original pine, developing, more advantaged, with steadfast courage, reaching for the stars.

We honor and pay tribute to our Issei pioneers and their Nisei Children, and their Sansei and Yonsei descendents by dedicating this 1986 Commemorative II Florin Homecoming Reunion booklet in their name.

Lillian Sato



WELCOME BACK TO DEAR OLD FLORIN!

August 29, 1986

Once again we welcome you back to your nostalgic place, full of special memories, your dear old Florin. You will not find very many familiar landmarks. Gone are the things that mattered, that made it a special place. We realize it is much more than buildings and places. We miss the faces of dear friends, the Isseis and their families. Drastic changes have taken place. Forty-four years is a long time. Greater changes have developed in the past five years, even more than you remember when you came in 1981.

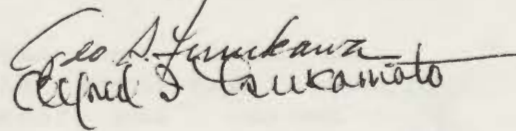
We had faintly hoped to erect a monument to commemorate the history of the Japanese American Community of Florin. A year later, on October 10, 1982, we did dedicate this monument! It became a reality because all who came to the Reunion in 1981 made it possible. We hope this project meets your approval. We have spent many hours selecting the boulder. It was donated by Mr. Muneichi Yamasaki of Auburn. The words were written by Mary Tsukamoto, translated by Reverend Ishiura, and calligraphy done by Mrs. Etsuko Wakayama, caste in bronze by Ruhkala Monument Company. This monument will remain long after we are all gone.

We especially miss Sam Tsukamoto who was instrumental in procuring heavy equipment from J. T. Ross, his neighbor, who assisted in the enormous task of setting this gigantic boulder in place. Sam was eagerly planning and talking about the 1986 Second Homecoming when he suddenly died in his sleep. We shall all miss him. He was happy as he helped Shig Okimura bury the capsule at the base of the monument with all the historic memorabilia collected for future generations to open in the year 2019 upon Florin Buddhist Church's One Hundred Anniversary.

Most of us will not be there, on that historic event. We hope the information contained in the capsule will throw some light on the entire sordid exclusion and internment episode that destroyed the community and the conditions that caused it. We do hope conditions towards all minority people in America would have greatly improved in the next thirty-three years.

1986 is the year, when we celebrated the 100th Birthday since the Statue of Liberty was erected. The entire nation and its people had a memorable, beautiful celebration on the Fourth of July, that will long be remembered. We hope this feeling will long endure for all people, including the people of Japanese Ancestry and especially our descendants of those who had once lived in a very special place called.....Florin.....

Have a Wonderful Time During This Reunion!



George Furukawa and
Alfred I. Tsukamoto, Co-Chairmen
II Florin Homecoming Reunion Committee

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FLORIN AREA 1890-1986

Florin history begins for us when the Isseis arrived here around 1890. Kuzo Tsukamoto in 1893 found the Japanese already growing berries and planting young grapevines for the land owners. In the beginning many settled near the town of Florin, mostly on the southwestern area around Gerber Road, Stockton Boulevard, Power Inn Road and South Florin.

The history of the entire area must include a list about the places established by the Japanese people who developed close-knit neighborhood groups in the Elk Grove, Mayhew, Perkins, Brighton and Taishoku, as well as the area closer to the town of Florin.

For important economic reasons, Florin was their business center. A Methodist Church was built in 1915 with a Sunday School and Japanese Language School. In 1919, the Buddhist Temple was erected and established. These two churches offered more than religious, educational activities, weddings and funerals. They became the center for social, athletic and cultural activities important in the nurturing of the Niseis. Hence in 1928, the Japanese Community Hall was built. The YBA Hall was erected in 1939 and a Taisho Hall (so named because Taishoku was settled around the beginning of Emperor Taisho's reign) was built in 1930.

Each outlying area eventually started a Japanese Language School. Mayhew also built a Sunday School and Baptist Church in 1930.

But the most profound and astounding contribution made by the Japanese population highly concentrated in this southeastern Sacramento County was the amazing feat of transforming what was once a quiet wheat and dairy farm community of 1890 into a bustling active strawberry and grape producing community. It is a remarkable record. One peak season, 129 carloads of perishable berries were shipped out, making Florin one of the nation's top berry producing Capital. As for the grape industry, Florin shipped 130 carloads of choice flame tokay grapes to the eastern market, one record breaking year, 1941. Sixty percent of the farmers in our community were Issei and Nisei farmers.

Old Florin died when Executive Order 9066 was carried out in May 1942.

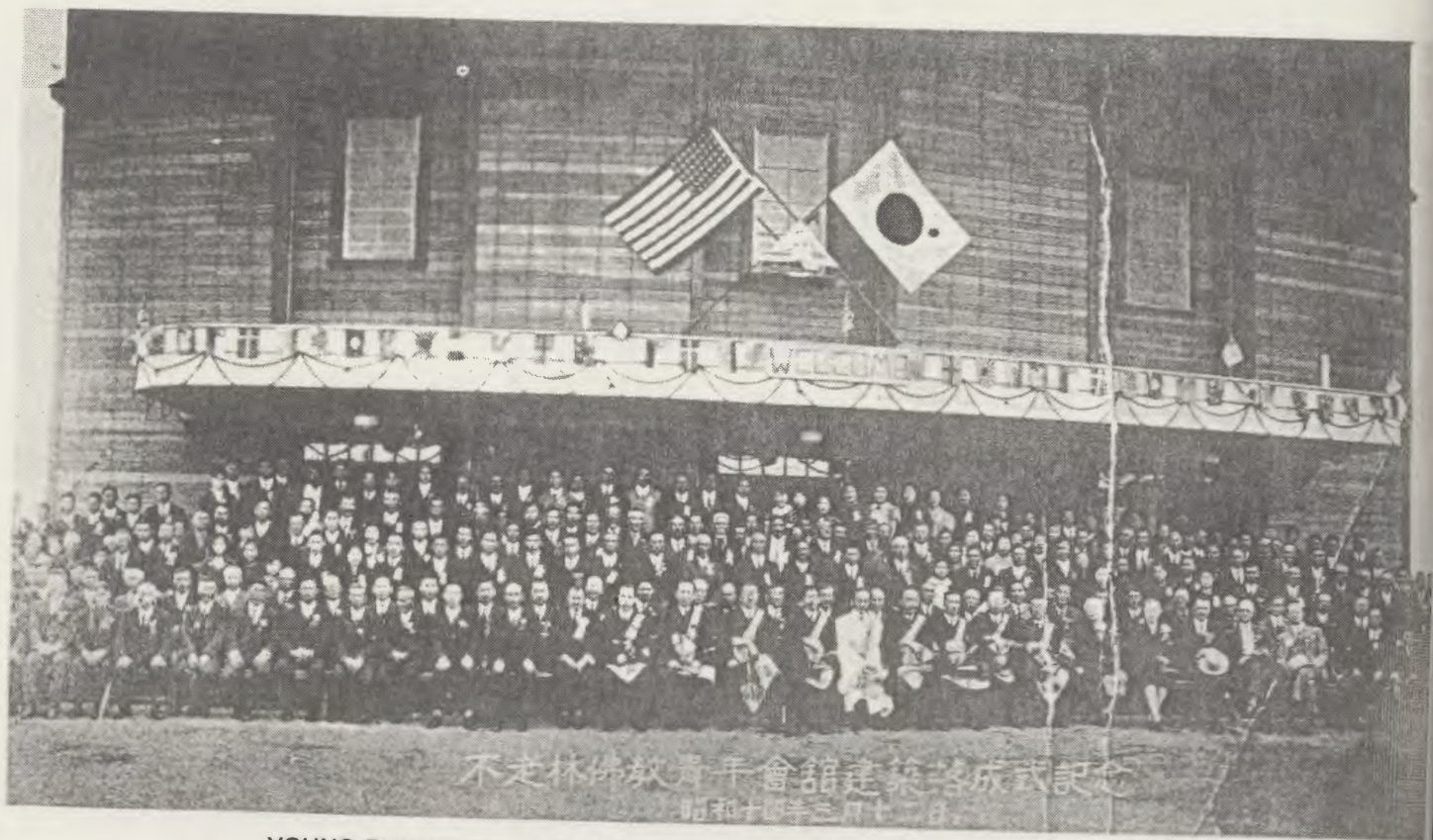
Briefly, gallant efforts were made, when about half of the Florinites gradually returned after the end of World War II. We tried to work again in the strawberry and grape industry effort but...

Gradually decisions were made. Other jobs were sought. Farms were sold. Homes in suburbs purchased. Many moved away to start all over again somewhere else. It was as if in a strange dream... we faintly remember that one shining moment...it was a harsh struggle. Yes! but one of deep endearing nostalgia!

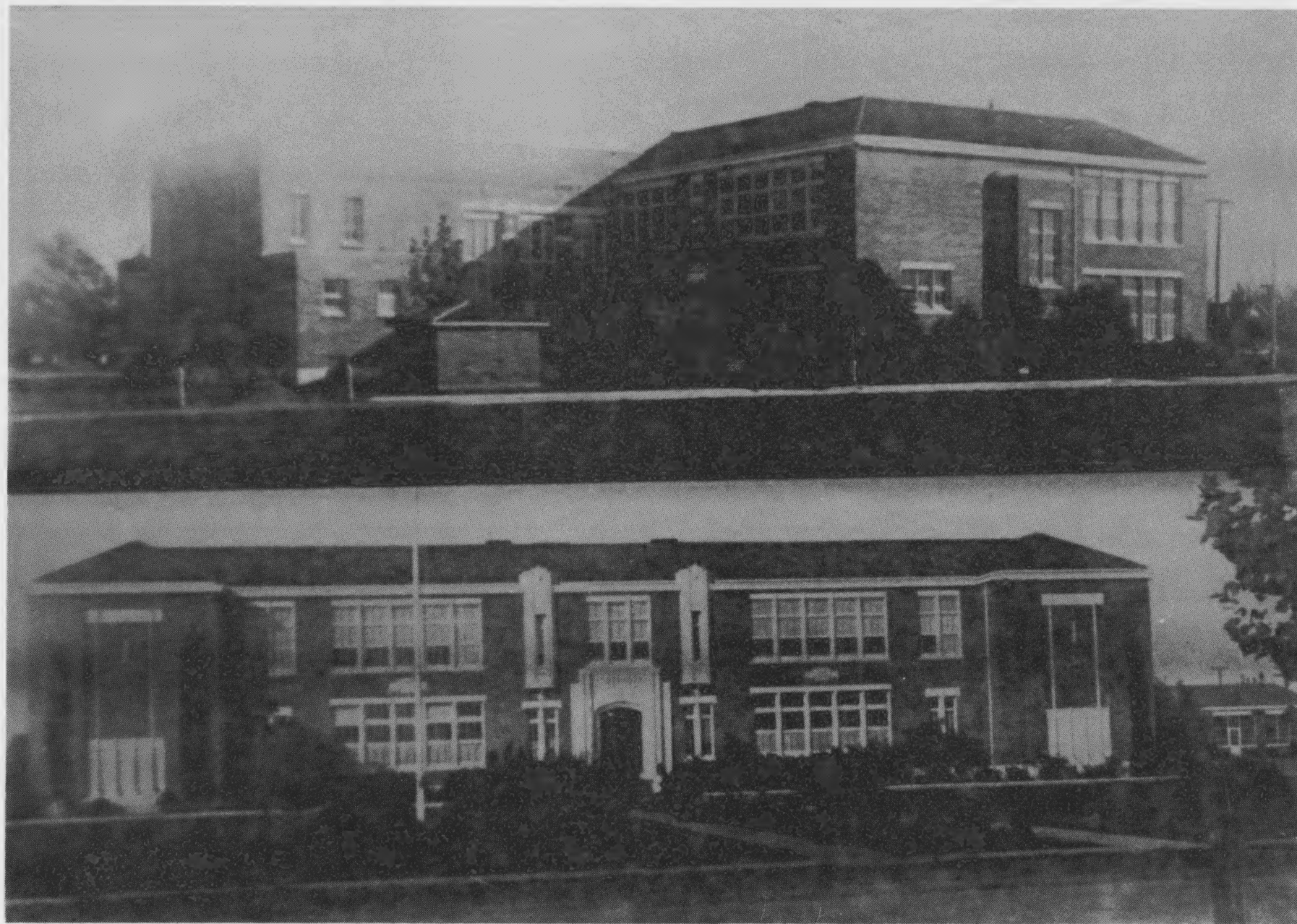
Today, Florin is like a shell...a sleepy quiet town. The only surviving functioning place from prewar Florin is the Florin Buddhist Church...a vital religious and cultural center of the county. We pay tribute to a historic place...a fitting place to celebrate our Homecoming Reunion.



YBA HALL CONSTRUCTION Members of the Buddhist Church working on the foundation of the YBA Hall in January 1939.

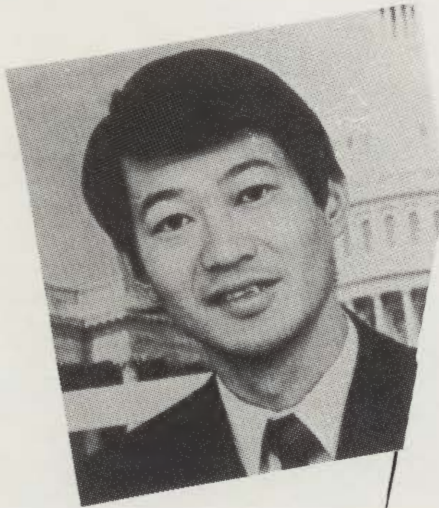


YOUNG BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION (YBA) HALL DEDICATION, MARCH 12, 1939



ELK GROVE HIGH SCHOOL. (West view, top, Front view, below) The public schools and particularly wonderful teachers made grammar schools and Elk Grove High School a very special place full of memories, gratitude and nostalgia for the Niseis. It was the most important link from their homes and Japanese parents to America, the land of their birth.

従う三古四古に敵いさるものではない。



ROBERT T. MATSUI
3RD DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

August 29, 1986

Dear Friends:

It is with sincere pleasure and, indeed, high honor that I welcome the guests attending the Sayonara Banquet on the occasion of the second Florin Area Homecoming Reunion. This gathering serves to heal and remind us, and the entire community, of past injustices in the hope that never again will our citizens be deprived of their basic human rights. Such transgressions offend our sensibilities as Americans and jeopardize the very precepts on which our nation is founded.

As you may know, this reunion holds deep personal meaning for my family and me, having also been interned during the war. It was that experience which led me to introduce legislation which officially recognizes the wrongs perpetrated against those Americans victimized by Executive Order 9066.

Like the first Florin Area Homecoming Reunion in 1981, I am confident that this occasion will be a tremendous success, and provide cherished, lasting memories to all who have the privilege of attending.

Very truly yours,

Robert T. Matsui

ROBERT T. MATSUI
Member of Congress

Ms. Hanna Yoshinaga
Homecoming Reunion Committee
7521 Hazelnut Lane
Sacramento, CA 95828

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
700 H STREET, SUITE 2450 • SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

C. TOBIAS (Toby) JOHNSON
SUPERVISOR, FIFTH DISTRICT
(916) 440-5465

August 29, 1986

II Florin Area Homecoming Reunion

Dear Guests:

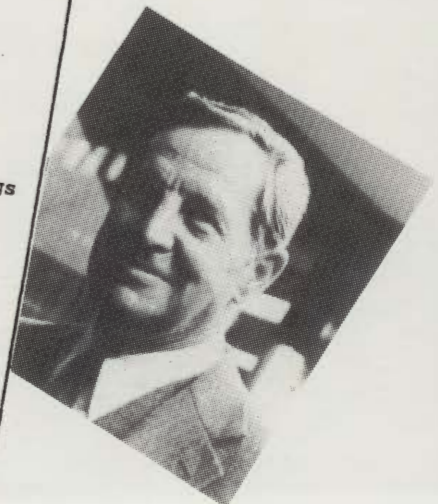
I am pleased to have this opportunity to extend my greetings to the Japanese Americans who have gathered to participate in the II Florin Area Homecoming Reunion. Former residents of the Florin area have traveled from all over the world to reminisce about the past and share their dreams of the future.

I hope your visit to Sacramento is enjoyable and that you will have the opportunity to tour some of our many points of interest, both old and new, while you become reacquainted with old friends and meet new ones.

Sincerely,

Toby Johnson
Toby Johnson, Supervisor
Fifth District

TJ:bf



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CITY OF SACRAMENTO

ANNE RUDIN
Mayor

City Hall
915 I Street, Room 205
Sacramento, California 95814
(916) 449-5407

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to send greetings to you upon the occasion of this postalgic anniversary. Although there will be feelings of sadness as we remember the past, let there also be hope for the future that such injustices shall not be repeated.

Sincerely,

Anne Rudin

Anne Rudin
Mayor



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO**

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July 11, 1986

Committee for II Florin Area
Homecoming Reunion

Dear Members:

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors of Sacramento County, I would like to extend greetings to the Japanese Americans who will gather in Sacramento County from August 29 - 31, 1986, for their II Florin Area Homecoming Reunion. When attending a reunion, there is always that special feeling of "returning home to old roots." Some memories are wonderful; some very painful. There is the opportunity to share collected memories, and to re-establish old friendships. We hope that this II Florin Area Homecoming Reunion will be a warm and fulfilling one for all those attending.

Florin holds special memories for many of us in Sacramento County. We commend the fine people who have worked so diligently to plan this year's reunion. We are appreciative of being included in your reunion plans.

Best wishes!

Sincerely,

Illa Collin
ILLA COLLIN, Chairman
Sacramento County Board of Supervisors

IC:jt



従う三古四古に敵はるものてある。

FLORIN, ITS BEGINNING : THEN AND NOW.

It was a quiet little farming community, nine miles southeast of Sacramento, where lush green grainfields fringed with an abundance of colorful wildflowers inspired Judge E. B. Crocker, one spring day in 1864 to exclaim, "This place should be called: a place in 'flora' or Flor-in." It is a saying of how Florin got its name.

Jennie (Simmons) Thomas of a pioneer family, left a memo "when the Central Pacific Railroad was built through the town in 1868, it helped bring more people to settle around the area, and a community grew."



In 1875, Sugden and Johnson officially had the town adopt the name Florin. The first Florin grammar school was built on McComber Lane in 1877, where Governor Hiram Johnson attended as a boy, who later became Governor of California in 1916. James Rutter, a horticulturalist, planted the first Tokay grapes in California on his 240-acre land on the corner of Power Inn and Florin Road. Little did he dream that some day, this was to change the history of Florin into such an important grape producing center.

Around 1860, the Chinese laborers were the earliest Orientals to come to work in Florin. They established a community on Simon Street while working for the railroad. This ended when the U. S. Government passed the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882, prohibiting the Chinese from immigration. Then Japan was encouraged to open her doors to emigration by many nations who sought her cheap laborers. After centuries of isolation from the rest of the world, poverty-ridden Japan had eager adventurous young people, ready to go out to work. In 1885, Japan lifted her century-old bars to emigration. From that time on, hundreds and thousands of ambitious youth left the island nation.

In 1885, brave young teenagers left their beloved Japan. Most

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of them were contacted labor in the grueling canefields of Hawaii. Their contract ran for several years, before they were allowed to sail further eastward to reach America. Adventurous, excited with high hopes, they came. They had heard "that the streets were paved with Gold."

Many labored as never before, battling disease, prejudice, unaccustomed climate, strange food and poor working and living conditions. Many did not survive as they struggled to labor in the dusty mines, the railroads through mountains, long strenuous hours in the lumber and fishing industries. Others came to study. A few started small businesses in the cities. But the majority were needed on farmlands, to harvest crops, and to plant fruits and vegetables. They felt at home as hard working field workers.

Around 1890, there were a few who discovered Florin, and found a number of the Americans, kind and friendly. They stayed to farm, to plant acres and acres of strawberries between the grape vines. The white landowners were happy to find the rolling grainfields transformed into productive fruit crops.

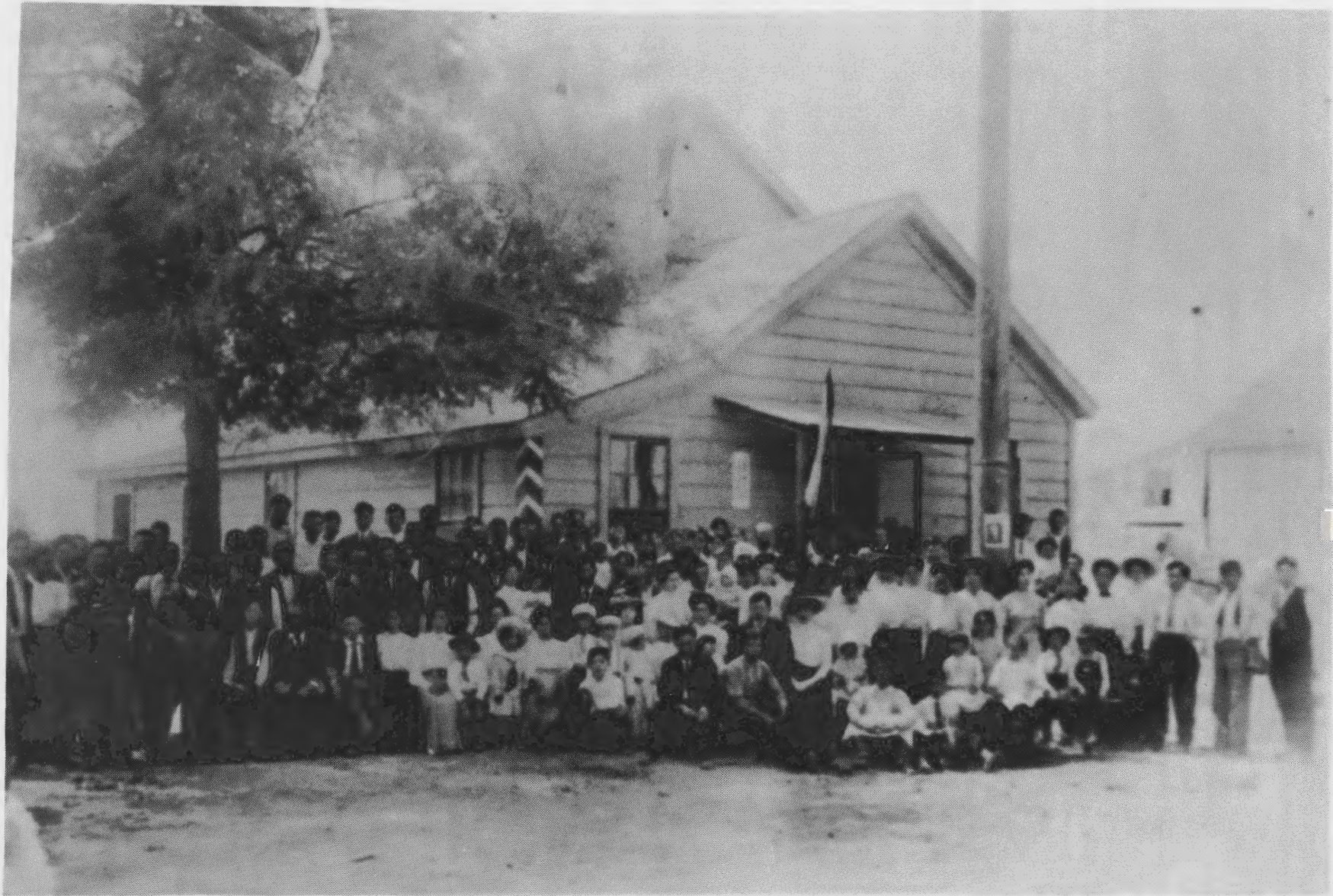
There were some who labored a few years, then made their "Gold", and returned to their villages in Japan. Others wandered elsewhere to try other ventures. Some returned to Florin and finally stayed.

According to some notes, it was said that in 1896 about ten Isseis had settled in the Florin area and by 1912, there were about a thousand Isseis in the settlement. Kuzo Tsukamoto came to Florin in 1892. By 1902, his wife Ito, then 22, joined him with her six-year old nephew. There were a few Japanese women in America in those early years. Ito often said, how embarrassed she felt when people traveled far, just to come and take a good look at a Japanese Issei woman.

Then the Nisei generation began in 1902. Yosh Kiino, (it is said) was the first Nisei born in Florin. Many were born in Japan or Hawaii, that were older. Very little is recorded. Verbal recollections and news articles are pieced together to knit this history of early Florin.

In the inquiry, I found a number of Isseis, who settled in Florin had arrived around the time of the Great San Francisco Earthquake and Fire. A few had arrived earlier. Yoneji Kiino came to Florin in 1898. Hidesaburo Yoshida brought his family to settle on the old Troutman Ranch on Gerber Road in 1903. In a news article, Mr. Choji Kawada came from Japan in 1891. When he was 19, he settled in the Elk Grove area. It is difficult to determine what years he lived in the Elk Grove area.

Some claimed they heard that it was Seishiro Nobuso, who was the very first Japanese Pioneer to purchase land in South Florin, area presently on the Cottonwood Lane around 1904 (?). Harold Ouchida was born in 1905 and Tom Fukushima in 1906.



9

1911 FLORIN JAPANESE GROUP PICTURE



All Florin Picnic - 1935



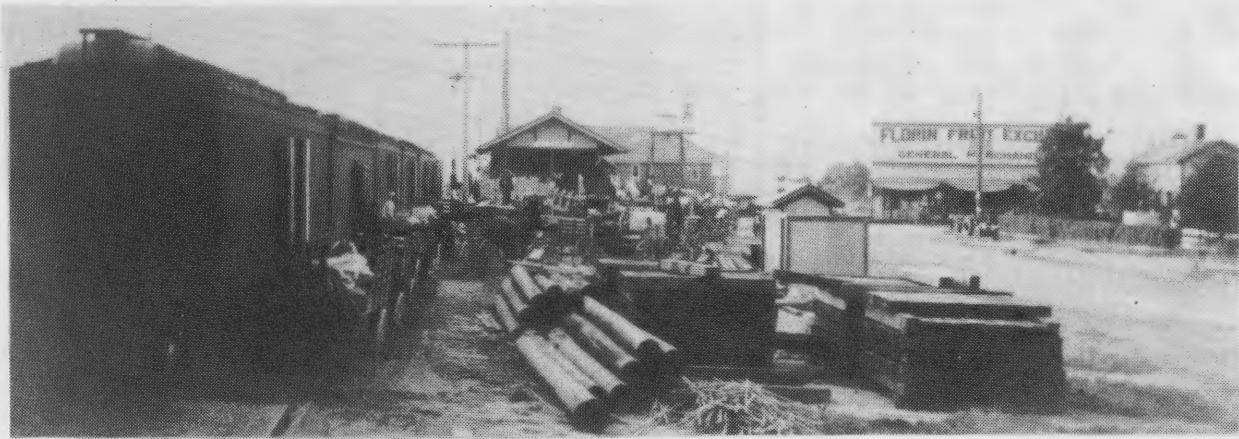
JACL PICNIC 1935



JACL PICNIC 1935



JACL PICNIC 1935



After Executive Order 9066 completely disrupted life in Florin, the community never recovered. Today a few old buildings remain: The Redman's Hall, the Odd Fellows Hall, Frasinetti's Winery, now a restaurant, too, the Florin East School, used for Adult Education Building, the old church buildings that were built by the Japanese Methodists, now is occupied by the Evangelistic Center, the old Florin Methodist Church building constructed in 1879, now occupied by the Florin Church of Christ. The Hodges' Building is now Mickey's TV Shop, and a Kitchen Cabinet store. The former Kato's and Tanikawa's store is a bar, and a shop that have had many owners. A huge Lumberjack Building Materials store is a successful, and busiest place in Florin today. It has been built where once the Nishi's Capital Basket Factory stood. The many houses belonging to the Southern Pacific Railroad, and where the maintenance crew families lived, and the Hodges' stone building where once Tsuzakis operated a garage, still linger in our memory of old Florin.

Exciting new changes are happening all around: South, East, West and North of the old town, that once was the shipping center. New buildings, shops, apartments, business offices, mobile parks are gradually filling the acres that we once remembered as vineyards. Storage warehouse buildings, light industrial constructions are going up around Florin-Perkins Road. Down Florin Road East, a tremendous boom has hit. Real estate people have been very busy. Housing tracts, mobile homes and apartment houses are replacing the acres where we once grew berries and grapes.

New schools, nineteen are projected, will be built in the Elk Grove District, alone. A Florin High School is being built south of Florin! All the way down Elk Grove-Florin Road, the land is leveled and new houses are going up, streets, lights, and everything! In the past few years, the face of Florin has been completely changed. It is hard to realize what it looked like forty-four years ago, or even ten years ago. While we have been living here and seeing the gradual change, it is startling. You'll have to come and see for YOURSELF!!!!

Other photographs of Florin that evokes fond memories: The one showing Main Street, Florin Road that ran through town. It was a busy road all through the year, but particularly twice a year.... at the peak of the berry season in late spring and summer, and again in the fall during the grape harvest, until all the grapes were stripped from the vines for the winery.

Many great trucks came to buy berries, and other pick-up trucks of all sizes that belonged to the Produce Companies owned by the Japanese Americans: Nojiri's, Florin Berry Company, Northern California Farms Company, a cooperative, Florin Berry Grower's Association, helped the farmers sustain themselves from crop to crop and as they managed to eke out an existence through the terrible depression years. But remarkably nearly 500 families raised berries enough to ship 133 carloads. Florin was hailed as the Strawberry Capital of the nation in the 30's and 40's. By then, there were about 2,500 persons of Japanese descent in the Florin Area, which includes Mayhew, Mills, Perkins, Brighton, Elk Grove, Taishoku, California Vineyard, Florin and all points in between that made Florin their Shipping Center, their religious, social and cultural center.



Florin Road looking East over the Railroad. Taken around 1932.

During the bustling activities with clanging trains stopping often to load and carry away grapes and berries to distant markets, the Florin Road traffic had to stop and wait. The grape shipping industry hit its record, with more than 130 carloads of flame tokays out to Eastern markets. The shipping companies that supported nearly 200 farmers through the winter, spring and summer months, who cultivated sprayed, irrigated, fertilized, tied vines and labor costs, expenses and survival were: the Gerrard Company, Nash DeCamp Company, Frank H. Buck Company, Pacific Fruit Exchange Company, W. O. Davis, and the Florin Fruit Grower's Association. About 65% of the farmers were of Japanese Ancestry. It did affect the entire economy of Florin when they were forced out of their farms.

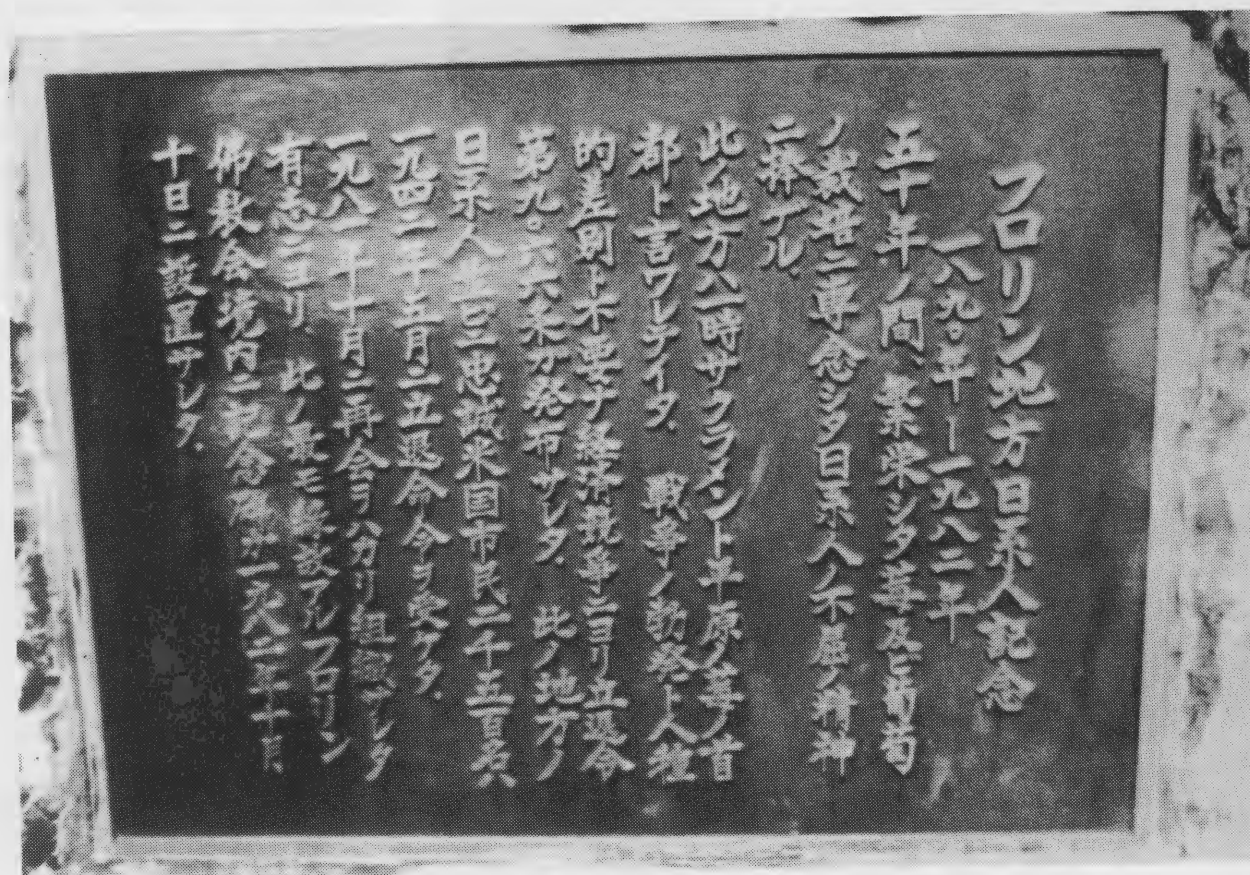
Near the end of the long harvest season, when the grape growers raced with rainy winter coming, long lines of trucks loaded with wine grapes lined up for days down Florin Road and on up Reese Road to the Florin Fruit Grower's Winery.

FLORIN AREA NIKKEI MEMORIAL

DEDICATED TO THE INDOMITABLE SPIRIT OF THE PEOPLE OF JAPANESE DESCENT WHO LABORED SINCE 1890 AND ESTABLISHED A THRIVING STRAWBERRY AND GRAPE GROWING INDUSTRY. THIS AREA, AT ONE TIME, WAS THE STRAWBERRY CAPITAL OF OUR COUNTRY. INFLAMED BY WAR HYSTERIA, RACISM AND UNWANTED ECONOMIC COMPETITION, EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066 WAS ISSUED DURING W.W. II. THIS NIKKEI COMMUNITY OF 2500 PERSONS, MAJORITY OF THEM AMERICAN CITIZENS, WERE EVACUATED FROM THE AREA IN MAY 1942. FLORIN NEVER RECOVERED FROM THIS TRAGIC EPISODE. WE EARNESTLY HOPE THAT THIS INJUSTICE WILL NEVER OCCUR IN THE USA AGAIN.

WE PLACE THIS MEMORIAL IN THE GARDEN OF THE FLORIN BUDDHIST CHURCH, THE ONLY SURVIVING PLACE STILL PRESERVING OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE CHERISHED BY ALL THE PEOPLE WHO ONCE LIVED HERE. THIS PLAQUE IS PLACED BY THOSE WHO ORGANIZED THE FLORIN HOMECOMING REUNION OF OCTOBER 10, 1981.

DEDICATED - OCTOBER 10, 1982



ISSEIS

As the years pass, we cherish our Isseis more as with quiet dignity, they endure whatever is a part of life and leaving us a nobler heritage to treasure, and in so doing we remember fondly our own parents.

In the past few years since the 1981 Florin Reunion, the JACL and the Japanese American Community have had special occasions to express in a small way, our admiration and pay tribute to all the Isseis.

The photographs we have of the Isseis, who made a special effort to honor our invitations. It does not include many others who were unable to come out and join us or were confined in convalescent hospitals. But because we have these pictures of them, we gratefully include them in our souvenir II Reunion Booklet.

On February 28, 1984, a grand Recognition Night was held to recognize the three generations of people who had endured much and we rejoiced in their presence and for what they had done and are doing as fine Americans. The featured speaker of the evening was the foremost Nisei leader and distinguished person, Judge William Marutani, who had been appointed by President Carter to serve on the



Congressional Commission for the Relocation and Internment of Civilians in 1981. Twenty-three Isseis came that night, brought by caring members of their families.

On March 9, 1985, we had a time of Remembrance, when we presented a Salute to Our Veterans and had the noted U.S. Army curator from the Presidio, Eric Saul as our main speaker. The Isseis who were honored were fifteen in all. Riichi Satow, 90 years old gave a fine brief speech that amazed the four hundred who came to

view the great Exhibit and honored our Japanese American veterans.



The events we sponsored were shaped by the developments that touched Florin. The Smithsonian Project colored our Time of Remembrance plans. Some of our Camp crates, furnitures, etc., were already shipped from Florin, including Herbert Kurima's, Sam and Bill Taukamoto's, Al and Mary Taukamoto's artifacts, exhibit photos were among them. Dr. Harold Langley of the Smithsonian came as our featured speaker and so we made a special effort to collect items they may be interested for the special Internment Exhibit they were building before the bicentennial celebration of the U.S. Constitution by September 17, 1987.

It was a stormy night, but five Isseis came to honor us.



The last Tokay Grape grower of Florin, MASATOSHI ABE.

Photographed with his son, James Masatoshi Abe was given special tribute for being the last Issei farmer in Florin to grow Tokay grapes. He was 89 years old when he sold fifty crates and decided he had enough, battling the pesty bees and birds that just knew the Abe farm was the only place they could find juicy sweet grapes.



MRS. FUMIKO DEGUCHI was selected the MOTHER OF THE YEAR for 1986.

Fumiko Deguchi was honored by the Japanese American Community of Northern California and rode in the April, 1986 Cherry Blossom Festival Parade in San Francisco. We are thrilled that one of our own was given this distinct honor. Fumiko Deguchi had labored hard farming in the Mayhew area, raising strawberries and grapes, raised a fine family of six children, and cared for elderly family members.

THE MYSTERY IS SOLVED!

This often used photograph, which has appeared in many books, newspapers and Evacuation Story Packets. with never a caption



stating who this lady and the Nisei soldier were. We all knew it was Mrs. Nami Miyata and her son, Ted Miyata, who came to see his mother picking berries at George Tanaka's ranch. This famous photograph was taken on May 11, 1942 by the noted photographer, Dorothea Lange. Where did this information come from? Of all places, it came from Roy

Taniguchi of Tokyo, Japan who spotted the details in Camera Mainichi, September 1972 Issue. Thanks, Roy!

A MONUMENT ETCHED IN STONE

It was a happy project, one which we never dreamed we could ever accomplish. Thanks to all those who came to the 1981 Reunion and those who generously donated. We had a surprise fund balance after all the bills were paid. There was enough to plan an exciting monument to the Isseis and all their children who made Florin a once flourishing strawberry capital and an important grape shipping center of America. It happened one grand moment in Florin's history, when all of us worked with such dogged determination and unflinching courage. It seemed a mere brief time in our lives, and yet to the brave Isseis, it meant hardships that lasted beyond thirty years in Florin.

Only because forty four years have passed, the sharp pain of poverty, deprivation, extreme physical hard labor and aching backs fade, as we recall in glowing terms, the amazing accomplishments of the total experiences of 2,500 people that lived in this entire area. Each settlement had their own cluster neighborhoods, with their own Language School program, their cultural, sports and social activities that helped to provide leadership experiences, and to supplement missing components to the Nisei's education that they were missing in their public school. In their mind and heart, they wished to make their children good respected American citizens but at the same time, they longed to have their children know and appreciate their roots and be proud of their Japanese Ancestry.

It meant that although most of them were saddled with a two-crop harvest all year round, and despite the worst depression the world had ever known crippled many, the families with mortgages and mounting debts to Produce Companies, they still struggled mightily to sustain their obligation to their children through these cluster language school activities. It meant going from farm to farm selling tickets to raise funds. Each Organization, from baseball teams to clubs, churches, Sunday schools and all the Japanese Language schools took turns.

As long as I live I shall cherish the times I remember, Dad would let us come home from the fields to hurry with supper and a hot bath, so the the family could join the thousands in the summer evenings at an outdoor Japanese movie. Some elderly and young children took their folding chairs and cushions early to save seats for their families. The entire community came out to help raise needed funds to continue the cultural events that nurtured the young people who grew up in Florin. We were so poor, a nickel was hard to come by. An ice cream cone was a once-a-year treat on Fourth of July. But what a rich and happy experience we all shared!

But this is the community that never recovered after Executive Order 9066. It was a tragic blow, especially for the aging Isseis who were too tired and too old when they returned, to start all over again. It is painful to recall all the friendships that were severed by thousands of miles. But it is in tribute to the courage of the Isseis and to the Niseis scattered everywhere and to all that the community gave us in rich legacy. We felt compelled and pleased to complete this monument.

On a beautiful October afternoon, the tenth day in 1982, nearly two hundred of us gathered to dedicate this beautiful plaque mounted on a magnificent boulder from the foothills of Auburn, California, the generous gift of Munekichi Yamasaki.



We were grateful to the Buddhist Church Board for providing a nice spot in their newly landscaped



garden surrounding the Florin Buddhist Temple.

The Temple was newly built and dedicated in 1976. It was appropriate that the only remaining property still occupied by the people of Japanese ancestry from before the war is the treasured Buddhist Church. It is especially meaningful to all of that there is a place in Florin where we could set the

The inscription was written by Mary Tsukamoto, was translated by Florin's Buddhist Church Minister, Reverend Newton Ishiura. Mrs. Setsuko Wakayama, foremost Calligrapher of Northern California, wrote the calligraphy that was caste in bronze by the Ruhkala Monument Company. We have both the English and the Japanese inscription mounted on this gigantic boulder.

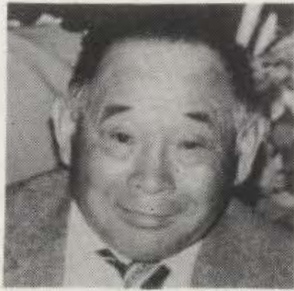


The hardworking committee members stayed with the job, from the selection of the boulder in Auburn until its final dedication, and the burying of the copper airtight capsule. We had Sanseis and Yonseis participating in the dedication. Tom Nakashima, the Emmy award winning notable television and radio personality, spoke accepting the legacy for the next generation.

Riichi Satow spoke for the Isseis, in his message on Sincerity, an idea that the famous spiritual philosopher Tagore, first focused attentin on the quality inherent in so many Japanese people and praised the value which is bound to make a person very special, and capable of making valuable, unique contributions to society. This was the dream the Isseis had for their children and prayed the heritage will be passed on to the next generation.



The capsule was carefully filled with historic material including our 1981 Reunion booklet and photo album. Also included were some personal letters to several generations in the future. Then the special airtight copper container was completely sealed with instructions to the leaders of the Florin Buddhist Church of the future, the year 2019, when they observe their 100th Anniversary, they are to open it and display the contents in a museum.



SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO SAM TSUKAMOTO

Sam Kaneichi Tsukamoto, was born in Suisun California, the first son of Kanekichi and Hatsu Tsukamoto. He became big brother to seven others who were born after him. Katsuko was his older sister. He started school in a segregated grammar school for Oriental Children in Courtland, where he learned to speak Chinese from his classmates and often enjoyed our surprised reaction to his unique skill.

The family finally settled on a twenty acre farm on Bradshaw Road, in Florin, known as the California Vineyard Area. A Vineyard Japanese Language School Building was built right on their land.

He was a star athlete at Elk Grove High, popular and valued for his athletics skills in baseball and football. His active participation in sports was sustained all through life. In the war years, the Florin Baseball team was the champs in camp. After returning to Florin once again, he and his brothers continued support and interest in baseball.

Sam was a farmer through and through. He became a faithful member of the Soil Conservation Corp. He was often photographed and in the news for being one of the few who still grew strawberries in the area. He was the last Nisei to raise Tokays in Florin Area, and the last of the big time strawberry growers, which ended when he suddenly passed away in April of 1985.

He and his family supported the Florin Buddhist Church and was an active member of the Bocho Doshi Kai.

He felt keen responsibility to give leadership to Florin JACL. During the four years of our exile, he was the trusted keeper of our JACL treasury. He was recognized as one of our JACL past presidents, and an outstanding charter member.

Sam's enthusiasm and joy in working with our 1981 First Florin Homecoming Reunion Committee is cherished. He and Woody Ishikawa jointly kept track of the treasury for this big event in 1981. Then the surplus donations gave us the inspiration to build a monument to the Community that vanished.

It was Sam who from the start enthusiastically provided the way to build a lasting monument, that was set in the Buddhist church garden, and dedicated in October of 1982.

For every function related to the Florin JACL and Community we annually sponsored for the Time of Remembrance, in the past four years, Sam's energetic support was there.

The II Florin Homecoming Reunion Committee unanimously voted to place this page as: A Sincere Tribute to Sam Kaneichi Tsukamoto, a wonderful friend and tireless worker, fondly remembered.

A TRIBUTE TO

DR. MASAYOSHI ITO



Dr. Masayoshi Ito was born in Aichi-ken, Japan. He came to America with his parents when he was young. The family found work on Grand Island, near the Delta area. Masayoshi was sure he did not want to be a farmer all his life. His parents allowed him to go to San Francisco, and founded the Japanese Methodist Church Dormitory while attending school. He graduated from Lowell High School. He continued to study hard, eventually attending University of Southern California. Because he was without US citizenship, he had difficulty being accepted for their advanced studies. La Jolla University did accept him. In 1937, he graduated and also completed three years of internship, before he was ready to open his practice.

He married Shizuko Usami in 1933. He opened his practice in Sacramento, near his aunt and uncle. Kenneth and Elaine were born. When Shizuko's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Genjiro Usami came to live with them, they needed a larger house. Reverend Y. Sasaki told them about a fine house built by Edgar Camp, which was for sale and right next to the Methodist Church. Thus in 1941, they moved to Florin into a house on the corner of Florin Road and Pritchard.

Executive Order 9066 was issued. Travel restrictions imposed on all Japanese persons, left the aged and the ill frightened and in need of a doctor. We were grateful that Dr. Masayoshi Ito lived in Florin. The Florin JAFL office worked with the WCCA Office in preparation of the unprecedented removal of the entire area of 2,500 people. They must be inoculated against typhoid, smallpox, tetanus and diphtheria. Dr. Ito presided over the Inoculation Day, and thousands came for their shots and statements to take to camp.

Dr. Ito took his family of six, to Arboga, Marysville to serve as a doctor (at an internee salary of \$19 a month!). He was ordered to Tule Lake, then to Minidoka, Idaho where there was a need for a doctor. He relocated to St. Joseph Hospital in Joliet, Illinois, leaving his family in Minidoka until 1945, when the family was allowed to return to Florin again.

He retired in 1973, enjoyed fishing, practiced calligraphy, tended his garden and served the Japanese Methodist Church. His wife, Shizuko Grace was an active Buddhist Church member and a Fujin Kai leader. Their generous donation of the south portion of their property to the Buddhist Church, made possible the building of a new beautiful Florin Buddhist Temple and Multi-purpose room. Dr. and Mrs. Ito enjoyed the Tanoshimi Kai activities very much. Dr. Ito passed away in 1983, survived by Shizuko Grace, Kenneth and Elaine's family and two grandchildren.

The II Florin Homecoming Reunion Committee fondly pays tribute to Dr. Masayoshi Ito, who worked hard for a successful 1981 Reunion. We remember with gratitude, a life devoted to healing, especially to the people of Florin and Sacramento communities.



A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO DR. YUKIO UYENO

It is with fond remembrance the II Florin Homecoming Reunion Committee wish to save this page for our special tribute in memory of DR. YUKIO UYENO who worked enthusiastically with us at our first Florin Homecoming Reunion in 1981, making it such a memorable event.

Yukio Uyeno, grew up in Loomis California. Early in his life he showed his special qualities of leadership, serving as Class President. He continued to develop skills for leadership and concern for others as he pursued his decision to become a doctor. He was a brilliant student and his determination to reach his goal never wavered.

In spite of devastating disruptions in his life when all persons of Japanese Ancestry were excluded from the West Coast, Yukio studied his utmost, Pre-Med at U.C. Berkeley; graduated from St. Louis University in June 1955. He served in the United States Air Force in 1956-57 on overseas assignment, serving in Korea and the Orient. Served his internship at Sacramento Medical Center and worked his residencies in Pediatrics at Baltimore City Hospital and the Childrens Hospital in San Francisco.

In July, 1961, Dr. Uyeno came to Sacramento, to open his office as a Pediatrician. He served the people of Sacramento Community generously giving his time to care for his patients at the Sutter Hospital, Mercy Hospital and the Medical Center. His office in the South Sacramento Area reached many people as the Sacramento City Asian and other population spread southward.

Dr. Uyeno, was interested and cared about many important needs in the community and was involved in providing leadership and promoting the work of education he valued. A few out of many activities they were involved in were: Active in the Jan Ken Po Gakko and the Florin Japanese Language School Cultural Fair activities. Dr. Uyeno also had interest in the Boy Scout and spend time with the boys at Camp O-Ki-Hi guiding them and enjoying the outdoors himself. Many of the scouts were his patients which assured the parents as their youngsters when off to camp. Dr. Uyeno was so proud that many of his patients became Eagle Scouts.

He took several months time out to recover from a serious heart attack. But he was a skillful fisherman. In spite of this handicap, Yukio won the top award in a Medical Bass Derby, which was pride and joy to him. His opinion was valued and his leadership is missed in the wide community where he lived so generously as a respected physician.

He leaves a fine son, David who is now a student at the U.C. Davis, and his wife, Dolly (Hirohata) Uyeno, who was a youngster in Florin Grammar School during pre-war Florin days.

WELCOME TO THE II FLORIN HOMECOMING REUNION!
THE MATSUMOTO FAMILY

As we approach our second reunion of the Japanese people who once lived in Florin Area, the surviving members of our family would like to dedicate a page of this booklet to the members of our family who have gone ahead.

We fully realize the many sacrifices, and hardships endured by them have made all of us better Americans. Each of us serving our own communities, doing our very best and with gratitude because we received from them the "know-how" which they shared while they lived with us.

At the outset, there were 5 brothers and 4 sisters and our mother and father, making it a big family of 11 Matsumotos. It has now dwindled down to 3 brothers and 3 sisters.

Each member of our family is dedicated to carry on the ideals in which they believed in, to make our lives as well as others, a life filled with happiness and above all one with " Long life and good health", a prayer expressed by our cultural heritage.

To our dear Father, SHIGEROKU, our Mother INE , brother JIMMY, sister ASAKO and brother BOB, we humbly dedicate the page in this booklet.

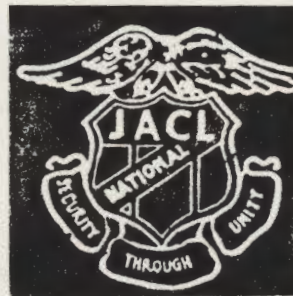
GEORGE MATSUMOTO
FRANK MATSUMOTO
DOROTHY ITO
MARY OTA
BILL MATSUMOTO
GLADYS KATSUKI



PAST PRESIDENTS OF FLORIN JACL

The following are the nineteen presidents who served during turbulent fifty years of Japanese American Citizen's League in Florin.

Yoshio Kiino	1935-36	Al Tsukamoto	1937
John Hirohata	1938	Hugh Kiino	1939-46
Al Tsukamoto	1947-48	Woodrow Ishikawa	1949
Charles Nishi	1950	Jack Kawamura	1951
Sam Tsukamoto	1952	Bill Okamoto	1953
Oscar Inouye	1954	Paul Ito	1955
Alvin Seno	1956	Bill Kashiwagi	1957-58
Takeshi Saigo	1959	Louis Ito	1960-61
Oscar Inouye	1962	George Furukawa	1963-65
Toshihei Fukushima	1966	Paul Takehara	1967-68
Bill Kashiwagi	1969-70	David Asahara	1971-74
Bill Kashiwagi	1975-76	Toshihei Fukushima	1977
Paul Takehara	1978	Bill Kashiwagi	1979-82
George Miyao	1983-85		



FLORIN CHAPTER JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

RECIPIENTS OF THE JACL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The following are recipients of the JACL memorial scholarships, and updated with any responses received.

1962 Anthony Ishisaki	Dr. Ishisaki, School of Social Work, University of Washington, Seattle,
1963 Susie Takehara-Lee	Daly City, CA
1964 Ronald Sato	General Manager, National Semi- Conductor Co., Singapore
1965 Gerald Takehara	Insurance Broker, Sacramento
1966 Lloyd Sakakihara	Head of Engineering, Management and Acquisition, Dept. of Naval Western Command, Belmont, CA
1967 Cathy Horikoshi	Medical Transcriptionist Children's Hospital, Oakland
1968 Marvin Sakakihara	Dr. Sakakihara, Certified Internist Kaiser Permanente, Napa
1969 Shirly Takemori-Gee	Staff Research Associate, Dept. of Entomology, U.C.Davis
1970 David Ishikawa	Mathematic Instructor Joseph Kerr Middle School
1971 Michael Craig Okimura	Dr. Okimura Division of Endocrinology, U.C.Davis
1972 Daniel Sakai and David Sakai	
1973 Douglas Kawamura	M. A. Certified Public Accountant, Deloitte, Haskins & Sells Los Angeles, CA
1974 Sharon Tanaka-Arase	Medical Technologist Mercy Hospital, Sacramento, CA
1975 Steve Okamoto	Engineer, Arrow Design Structures.
1981 Diana Suyenaga	Chemistry major, C.S.U. San Diego
1982 Sherrie Taketa	Student, C.S.U. Sacramento
1983 Joanne T. Sonoda	Student, C.S.U. Sacramento
1984 Lance Alicaya	Student, C.S.U. Sacramento
1985 Matt Okamoto	Student, University of Pacific, Stockton
1986 Johnathan Okamoto	Student, C.S.U. Santa Barbara.

FLORIN JACL SERVES FIFTY YEARS

In October, 1985, a historic fifty-year celebration was observed at the new Sacramento Hilton. It was a festive occasion, shared by more than 200 Florin JACL members and friends.



Honored Past Presidents standing

<p>George Miyao (current), Paul Takenara, Percy Fukushima, George Furukawa, Louis Ito, Bill Kashiwagi, Alvin Seno, Paul Ito, Oscar Inouye, Bill Okamoto, Arlene Tsukamoto (for Sam), James Kawamura (for Jack), Woody Ishikawa, Tane Fuwa (for Charles Nishi), Al Tsukamoto. Seated at the Head Table, our honored guests L-R: Molly Fujioka (not visible) NCAWNPDC Gov. left</p>	<p>of Jerry; Jerry Enomoto, past National JACL Pres.; Sacramento's Mayor Anne Rudin, Dr. Ed Rudin, Reiko Kawakami, Sen. Matsui's office; behind the podium, Doris Matsui, speaker for U. S. Congressman Matsui; Dr. Ken, M. C.; and Leatrice Ozawa; Don Collin; chrmn Sacramento County Board Supvr. Iliia Collin; Elk Grove Unified School District Superintendent Rob Trigg and Janet Trigg.</p>
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It was a time we paid special tribute to our twenty-one past presidents, who gave us sterling leadership throughout our turbulent history, and particularly during the post-war years, when all of us victims tried to cope with the traumatic ordeal of making it as free Americans, once again. The old community of Florin, we remembered so well, had deteriorated, and only a few returned to stay. The mobile quality of the Nisei community made it difficult to rally support for Florin JACL to do the tremendous task of legislative endeavor that was crucial immediately after our return from America's Concentration Camp Experience.

But "hang-in-there", we did, with all our might!

1. We worked with Joe Grant Masaoka, had letter writing sessions, did our bit to help pass the Evacuation Claim Bill in 1948 .
2. We continued our efforts. The McCarran-Walter Naturalization Bill was passed in 1952. We organized naturalization classes so sixty proud Florin Isseis received their citizenship in 1954.
3. We busily interviewed our Florin Isseis to tape their history for the Issei History Project. It is now permanently housed at University of California at Los Angeles (1960-70) .
4. We shared responsibility with JACL Chapters in Northern California to plan and observe the Centennial Celebration, 100 years since the first Japanese Settlement came to America. A gala event was planned at Coloma where the Aizu Wakamatsu Silk and Tea Colony monument was dedicated, June 1969.

5. The first of many books written by Niseis made their appearances: (1969-1985) Hosokawa's Nisei, Chuman's Bamboo People, Michi Weglin's Years of Infamy, Yoshiko Uchida's children's books: Samurai of Gold Hill, Journey to Topaz, Journey Home and many others, Miyagawa's Tule Lake, Tanaka's Go for Broke, Tateishi's And Justice for All, Sarasohn's Issei. Florin JACL gave many of these books as gifts to the local school libraries.



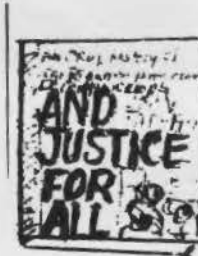
JACL Emblem

After many years of effort by the foremost Nisei Activist, Edison Uno *, (former Professor of Asian Studies in San Francisco State College) at Convention in Salt Lake City, a landmark decision was reached under great pressures and oppositions.

1. The Redress Movement was born. Slowly and with gigantic struggle, the work took shape.
2. They successfully passed Public Law 96-317 and Congress approved a Commission for War Time Relocation and Internment of Civilian to be created to study the entire episode. Of which so little is known in our history.
3. Many meetings were called to prepare the Japanese American public to respond to the need for testimonies before the commission. On August 13, 1981, two busloads left from Sacramento, and four testified from Florin, when hearings were held in San Francisco.
4. Personal Justice Denied was the document published by the Commission after listening to 750 testimonies and careful research and deliberation. Our experiences were headlines in the news, on television. It shook us to our roots to realize the Commission's decision was what we had always felt to be true. Forty-one years, we have suffered the guilt!
5. And Justice For All was 1984 Random House Publication of John Tateishi's book of 30 oral histories. Florin's story is in the first chapter! This book followed Personal Justice Denied and had a profound effect on many personal friends, especially those living in the Florin Area and our school contacts. Hope and healing was taking shape.
6. Civil Liberties Act of 1983, HR 4110 is introduced by House Majority Leader, Congressman Jim Wright. We worked hard lobbying and gaining some friends, but it was not enough.
7. Once again in 1985, we tried HR 442 and in the Senate, Sparks Matsunaga introduced Senate Bill 1053. We've worked hard and under the same banner of JACL Redress but out of necessity, a lobbying arm called the LEC (Legislative Education Committee).
8. A new team has been struggling heroically to lobby for greater support. With Grayce Uyehara as our LEC Director and Grant Ujifusa, our able strategist, much has been accomplished this



Redress Emblem

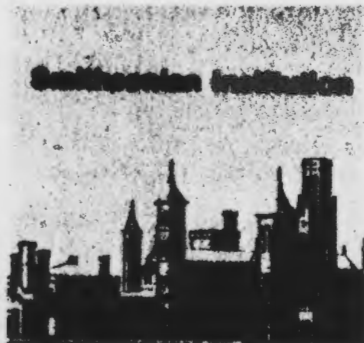


year.....130 co-sponsors in the House!
 We are urging everyone to write letters
 to your congressmen, senators, governors,
 President Reagan. We are so near
 reaching our goal, it will take all of
 us, our funds and our communications, to
 get the job done. This is really our
 last chance!



LEC Emblem

- Unbelievable development since last June, is our work with the Smithsonian, our nation's most prestigious Historical Museum. They are interested in our history, our collections of items from camps.



Dr. Gerald Kennedy, Director of the Smithsonian, felt that if they are accepting the Yankee Samurai Exhibit and the Go for Broke Exhibit for the Smithsonian Collections, it was only proper we build a special exhibit on our Internment. It should tell what this nation did to the Nisei soldier's parents and families, while they were giving their lives to free the world of fear and to win the war. As the nation celebrates 200 years since adopting the U.S. Constitution, it is imperative that the people of America realize the constitution failed in its first 200 years, to protect the rights of innocent citizens. So that a more steadfast effort can be made to all its citizens in the next century to preserve the precious promises inherent in our U.S. Constitution.



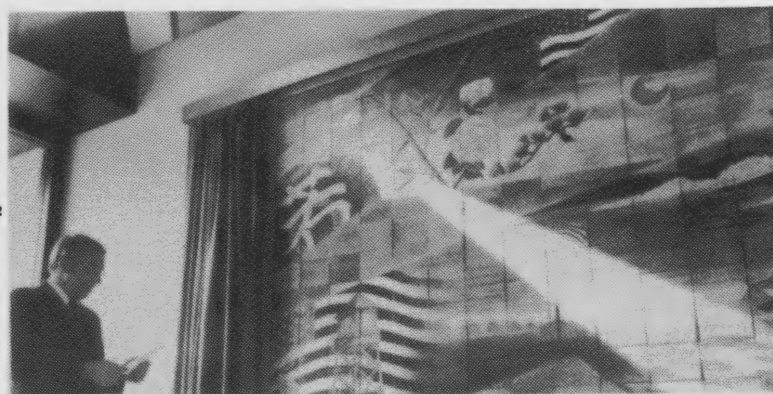
left: Dr. Harold Langley
 Smithsonian Speaker, 1986
 Time of Remembrance



right: Eric Saul, Curator
 1985

The Florin JACL has been involved in meaningful efforts to educate the public about our history, in order that we could be healed of this painful experience, that grips fear into our hearts, afraid that some others may once again suffer as we had at another time.

- There is a magnificent tile mural, of massive size 5 x 16 feet, dedicated on February 19, 1985 in the Sacramento County Administration Building, 7th and H Street. You must all see it, and think on the symbols that are from our cultural heritage. It tells, with dignity, the injustices and it shows sterling courage and faith of a people who survived in a wonderful land we live. This monument has enobled our shame and pain.



2. A memorable trip was made to Angel Island, where many of our parents, especially the picture brides first landed in America. It was there on a cold day, we dedicated the opening of the East to America Exhibit prepared by Eric Saul, an outstanding, dedicated



curator of the U.S. Army at the Presidio and who was a driving force behind the original Go for Broke Exhibit. Now the Yankee Samurai (MIS) and the East to America (about our Issei immigrants) have been dedicated. Norman Mineta was our speaker. A busload of Sacramento Tanoshimi Kai friends attended the event.

1983 First Day of Remembrance in Florin
Featured speaker: John Tateishi
National JACL Redress Director



1984 Speaker at Florin was,
The Honorable Judge
William Marutani.



"America's Debt of Honor"

Annually, for the past four years, we have sponsored a Day of Remembrance which has given us a fine opportunity to bring together people to see our Historical Exhibit about the Japanese American



Immigration Headquarters, Angel Island

Experience and become aware of Florin's unique history. At the same time, we have received the utmost cooperation from the Elk Grove Unified School District Administration, staff and Board to present a week's experience sharing Florin's history and its implications to America's hope for a better America in the future.



M.C. Tom Nakashima,
Florin's Sansei
An Emee-award-winning
Television celebrity



3. In 1985 a Once-in-a-Lifetime Reunion was held for the first time involving the entire community of Florin. We even had a parade and

Florin JACL and the Japanese American Community entered a float! Our Sacramento Nisei VFW Post #8985 proudly marched the two miles and Kiyo in her high heels! You would have been proud to see our Float: Strawberries, Sam's grape vines and a giant world globe. We had fun building it.

Our float... Florin was the Strawberry Capital of the World.



Two yonsei girls in kimonos: Denise Okano, great-granddaughter of Kazo and Hide Kaoko and Michelle Miyao, great-granddaughter of Tokumatsu and Yae Miyao. George Miyao was 'Farmer'. A living grape vine was used from the late Sam Tsukamoto's Farm for the float.

U.S Congressman Bob Matsui addressed the crowd at the dedication of a monument made to Florin Town. It is placed on the lawn in front of our former Florin East Grammar school. He told about his grandparents, who raised strawberries on Elder Creek Road, congratulating the people who had worked hard to plan this great reunion. We even had a beauty queen!



U. S. Congressman Bob Matsui addressing crowd.