

Once-In-A-Lifetime-Reunion

Florin, California

Commemorative Booklet

July 20 & 21, 1985

Florin Buddhist Church



The Florin Southern Pacific Railroad Depot

Sponsored by the:

Florin Historical Society



Dedication

This Commemorative Souvenir Booklet is dedicated in honor of the pioneers of the Florin Community. We pay tribute to their courage, their determination and their hard work to make this a fine community in which to live. We honor all those who have come to make Florin their home through the years. In the same pioneering spirit of those who have lived before us, may we continue to leave a bright legacy for the future people of Florin.

We have all worked happily together, united in the spirit of friendship and fond memories with hope that everyone will have a happy and memorable ***Once-In-A-Lifetime Reunion.***

Acknowledgements

The Florin Historical Society wishes to express its appreciation to the following persons who have graciously assisted in the compiling of information and research material for the 'Family History' Commemorative booklet.

Donald French
Mary Tsukamoto

Al Tsukamoto
Vince Cassieri

Paul Groza

Gus Kanelos
Vivian Kara

The Society also extends its gratitude to the Board of Directors and staff of Southgate Recreation and Park District, which donated: the graphics, printing and paper for brochures and flyers promoting the reunion, and the graphics for and printing of this historic book.

Florin Historical Society

"Progression by Preservation" is the motto adopted by the Florin Historical Society. The purpose of this organization is to perpetuate and preserve historical data, artifacts, and structures in the community for present and future generations of all ages to share and enjoy. One of the primary projects initiated is the compiling of family history records of early day settlers from Florin to be retained on permanent record in the museum and archives in order that present day family members will be able to submit data and information pertaining to their ancestral heritage. The information on record is associated to their family geneology in order that information will be available should concerned members seeking to trace their family history need a complete up-to-date record of their lineage without the tedious task of extensive research. These and many more accomplishments forthcoming are the primary objectives of the organization.

President's Message

Greetings,



As president of the Florin Historical Society, and your neighbor, I wish to take this opportunity to welcome you to this once-in-a-lifetime reunion of friends, relatives, neighbors and classmates. An event that will be cherished with memories and nostalgia that will always be enshrined in our minds as we have gathered here to reminisce, reacquaint, and reflect on bygone years and events that were a prominent part of our lives.

It is the homecoming of her scattered family as we assembly to pay homage and respect to our proud and historic community of Florin, California — our home. Like a mother clinging to her children she has recalled us to her to remind us of her heritage and history that transpired within her boundaries that played a major role in America, the State of California and Sacramento County, the once strawberry capitol of the world prior to World War II and the first Tokay Grapes to be grown in California as well as the first train load of strawberries to be shipped out of California. These prestigious accomplishments we attribute to our illustrious, proud, and humble community.

So let us revere and rejoice as we celebrate this auspicious occasion and always remember that when we depart to return to our present home and community, Florin will always welcome you with open arms as a mother welcomes her children.

Thank you and may God Bless and Keep You until we meet again.

Respectfully,
—Constantine A. Kanelos, President
Florin Historical Society

FHS Board and Officers



Rear L-R: Mickey Sowvlen, Al Tsukamoto, Mike Buljan, Don French, Shiro Tahara.

Front L-R: Vivian Kara, Gus Kanelos, Vince Cassieri, Neil White.

The Florin Historical Society was founded on Jan. 10, 1985, in the community of Florin, CA. The organization applied for non-profit status and Articles of Incorporation were filed with the Secretary of State's office, which were approved May 15, 1985.

An election was held by the members of the organization and the following officers were chosen:

President:	Gus Kanelos
1st Vice-President:	Vince Cassieri
2nd Vice-President:	Vivian Kara
Recording Secretary:	Neil White
Corresponding Secretary:	Marcie Stamm
Treasurer:	Mickey Sowvlen
Parliamentarian:	Kenneth Katon

Board of Directors

Chairman:	Mike Buljan
Members:	Dr. Kenneth Hodge, Luther Haight, Howard Frasinetti, Donald French, Al Tsukamoto, and Shiro Tahara

Public Relations

Chairman:	Marcie Stamm
Co-Chairman:	Pat Oblander

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An early (before 1900) class photo of the original Florin School.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

ROBERT T. MATSUI
3RD DISTRICT CALIFORNIA

July 20, 1985

Dear Friends:

I wish to extend warm greetings to you all and join you in celebrating Florin's once-in-a-lifetime reunion.

I am sure that renewal of acquaintances and the reminiscence of the past will be very heartwarming. My father's roots are here in the Florin area and, therefore, I feel the genuine friendship and camaraderie of its residents. Florin residents are indeed fortunate to have been part of the warm, sincere fellowship which has been enjoyed over the years.

The community of Florin should be proud of its history and of its outstanding citizens. It is my hope and expectation that Florin will continue to flourish and to serve its citizens and community for generations to come.

To the committee which worked so hard to spearhead and organize this important event and to all those whose efforts are reflected in this celebration, I congratulate you on your labor of love. Best wishes for a meaningful, memorable and enjoyable once-in-a-lifetime reunion.

Sincerely,

Robert T. Matsui
ROBERT T. MATSUI
Member of Congress

VIP Letters





Senator John Garamendi

May 21, 1985

Mr. Constantine Kanelos
Chairman
Once in a Lifetime Reunion
7249 Power Inn Road
Sacramento (Florin), CA 95828

Dear Mr. Kanelos:

Thank you for the invitation to your "Once in a Lifetime Reunion" on July 20th. Congratulations to all those who graduated from the Florin East and West Elementary Schools, and best wishes for a successful reunion. With your list of participants you will surely have an exciting event!

Sincerely,

JOHN GARAMENDI

JG:jlq

COMMITTEE
HOUSING & URBAN AFFAIRS
CHAIRMAN
BANKING & COMMERCE
BUSINESS & PROFESSIONS
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
TRANSPORTATION
ALLOCATION BOARD
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
PATRICIA BLAKESLEE

Senate
California Legislature

LEROF F. GREENE
MEMBER OF CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE
SIXTH SENATE DISTRICT, SACRAMENTO COUNTY
HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
CHAIRMAN



June 13, 1985

Florin Historical Society
P.O. Box 28455
Florin, California 95828-0455

Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure to congratulate the Florin Historical Society on the occasion of the "Once in a Lifetime Reunion", commemorating the gathering of graduates and residents of Florin, July 20-21, 1985.

The rural community of Florin has played an important role in the history of Sacramento County, with major contributions to agricultural development. I commend the efforts of the Florin Historical Society to preserve this heritage for the people of Sacramento County and California.

Very truly yours,

LEROF F. GREENE

LFG:er

SACRAMENTO OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO 95833
(916) 483-8243

DISTRICT OFFICE
250 MAIN STREET
PLACERVILLE, CA 95667
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33 BROADWAY
JACKSON, CA 95642
(916) 223-2869

810 WASHINGTON ST
SONOMA, CA 95370
(916) 833-9665

Assembly California Legislature



NORMAN S. WATERS
MEMBER OF THE ASSEMBLY
SEVENTH DISTRICT
CHAIRMAN
AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

June 7, 1985

Florin Historical Society
P.O. Box 24855
Florin, CA 95828-0455

Dear Florin Friends:

Allow me to salute the organizers of the Florin Once In A Lifetime Reunion and to wish the best of everything to the many, many persons who will be participating in this memorable event.

It has been my privilege to represent a portion of the Florin area in recent years, and I've come to admire the spunk and verve of its citizens.

Florin has played a significant role in the history of Sacramento County and, for that matter, the State of California. Your participation in the Once In A Lifetime Reunion is a deserved tribute to this legendary community.

Most cordially,

Norm Waters
NORM WATERS

Chairman
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
ECONOMY, HIGHLANDS IN TIMBER
AND RELATED INDUSTRIES

Member
AGING AND LONG TERM CARE
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
WATER PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE
WESTERN STATES
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COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS



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Southgate Recreation and Park District

District Headquarters • Trailhead Park • 6000 Orange Avenue
P.O. Box 9635 • Sacramento, CA 95823 • (916) 428-1171

GENERAL MANAGER
Patrick O'Brien

July 5, 1985

Florin Historical Society
P.O. Box 28455
Florin, CA 94828-0455

Dear Florin Friends:

The Southgate Recreation and Park District has been proud to assist you in the "Once In A Life Time Reunion" sponsored by the Florin Historical Society on July 20 and 21, 1985. This great event will provide an opportunity for the people and friends of Florin to reunite and share their experiences and history of this community of Florin. As Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Southgate Recreation and Park District, I know I express the feelings of all the members of our board and the staff of the District in expressing our admiration and congratulations to all your efforts in bringing together this significant event. Florin has a rich history and as a part of the Southgate Recreation and Park District, it is our hope that this event will provide an opportunity for all of us to share and remember the unique accomplishments of the people of Florin.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish you all a warm welcome on this very special occasion.

Sincerely,

FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Edwin A. Smith
EDWIN A. SMITH
Chairman

EAS:dt



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



ILLA COLLIN
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT
Joyce Mihanovich
Administrative Assistant
(916) 440-5481

June 3, 1985

Gus Kanelos, President
Florin Historical Society
8164-C Florin Road
Florin, CA 95828

Dear Gus:

Congratulations to the Florin Historical Society for organizing Florin's "Once in a Lifetime Reunion" scheduled for July 20, 1985. It will be a distinct pleasure to participate in such a meaningful and historical occasion. The community of Florin has played a major role in the history of Sacramento County and has had a fascinating history which should be shared with others. In particular, Florin contributed to the growth of agriculture in Sacramento County, as well as having a unique relationship to Americans of Japanese ancestry. I'm also intrigued by the tales of Florin's "caves!"

I look forward to meeting long-time residents of Florin and residents who have returned especially for the reunion.

Sincerely,

ILLA COLLIN, Supervisor
Second District

IC:lk



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

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

June 18, 1985

Florin Historical Society
Post Office Box 28455
Florin, CA 95828

Dear Friends:

The Florin "Once in a Lifetime Reunion" sponsored by the Florin Historical Society on July 20 and July 21, 1985, will enable friends, old and new, to gather together to commemorate and recognize Florin, one of the oldest and most important communities of Sacramento County.

It is a foregone conclusion that you will enjoy the weekend's festivities highlighted by the Florin "Once in a Lifetime" parade, and a community ceremony of dedication and commemoration to recognize contributions of past and present Florin residents. I know each of you will greatly enjoy sharing and reminiscing with friends, new acquaintances, classmates, and family members joining with you in Florin. Without question, you will share good food and entertainment. This weekend will be long remembered as a major event in the annals of Florin's rich history.

The hours of work and special effort by many people made this reunion possible and I wish to congratulate and thank the Florin Historical Society, the Southgate Recreation and Park District, and the many volunteers who made this Florin "Once in a Lifetime Reunion" a success.

I believe a special note of thanks is due Gus Kanelos who conceived and energetically pursued the idea of reuniting past and present generations of Florin residents for this memorable weekend.

Sincerely,

Toby Johnson
Supervisor, Fifth District



1985 — The Year of the Oak

Proclamation

Issued By The Mayor

FLORIN DAYS
July 20 and 21, 1985

WHEREAS, on July 20 and 21, 1985, the small rural community of Florin, California, will be celebrating a "Once in a Lifetime Reunion" commemorating the graduates and residents of Florin who lived either in the community or attended the Florin East or Florin West Elementary Schools; and

WHEREAS, this two-day event will commence with a parade from Florin Center to the Japanese Buddhist Hall in the center of Florin; and

WHEREAS, the highlight of the reunion will be a dance on Saturday night with music from the big band era, supplied by the Musicians' Local Union No. 12; and

WHEREAS, participants in the reunion will share in a Sunday picnic on the grounds of the Buddhist Hall;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Anne Rudin, Mayor of the City of Sacramento, do hereby proclaim July 20 and 21, 1985, as FLORIN DAYS in honor of the graduates and residents of Florin.

ISSUED: This 14th day of June, 1985.

Anne Rudin

ANNE RUDIN
MAYOR



CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

TERRY KASTANIS
COUNCILMAN, DISTRICT 7
CITY HALL
915 I STREET, ROOM 205
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814
(916) 449-6407

March 13, 1985

Constantine Kanelos, President
Florin Historical Society
8164-C Florin Road
Florin, CA 95828-0455

Dear Mr. Kanelos:

After hearing your remarks at last Thursday's Rotary Club lunch, I'm delighted to endorse the efforts of the Florin Historical Society in their upcoming "Once in a Lifetime Reunion" on July 20-21, 1985. This event will bring together, for a onetime reunion, those individuals who lived and worked in the thriving town of Florin, California for the sixty year period of 1890 to 1950.

So often we take our heritage and our culture for granted and forget those periods in our lives that had a great deal of influence and that helped shape the present world around us. The work of your organization will help us remember our "roots" and give us an opportunity to get reacquainted with our past--for indeed history is the best teacher.

I will be happy to be a part of the festivities on July 20-21 and I have asked Mayor Rudin to proclaim these two days as FLORIN DAYS and issue a Proclamation to that fact. I'll be in touch with you regarding these details.

Thanks for your good work in these efforts.

Sincerely,

Terry Kastanis
Terry Kastanis
Member, City Council
District 7

History Of Florin Town

Written By

Constantine A. Kanelos and

Mary (Dakuzaku) Tsukamoto

Florin, a small rural community situated nine miles southeast of Sacramento, CA on the dividing line between Brighton and San Joaquin townships, was officially established in 1875 as well as the railroad and post office in the community. The town was founded by Sugden and Johnson on this date.

In 1852, James Rutter, a world renowned horticulturist, and E.B. Crocker of banking fame, collaborated and purchased 240 acres located on the corner of Florin and Power Inn roads. In 1854, James Rutter moved to his ranch and planted fruit trees and experimented with various types of grapes and fruit seedlings in order to perfect a hardy plant that would yield an abundant crop. He also established a winery in 1855 on his ranch.

Mrs. Jennie (Simons) Thomas, of the early pioneer family of Florin, left us a memo, stating that "When the Central Pacific Railroad was built through the town around 1868, it helped to attract more people to the community. One spring day in 1864, Judge E.B. Crocker saw the fields covered with colorful wild flowers in great profusion and remarked that this place should be named after the Latin word for flower, "Flora", a place *in flowers*, *FLORIN*. This is one version of how Florin got its name. The name Florin was officially adopted in 1875.

The first school house was built in 1877, on McComber Lane, where Hiram Johnson attended as a boy. He later became the governor of the state of California in 1916.

James Rutter planted the first Tokay grapes in California on his ranch. In 1897 James Frasinetti established the Frasinetti Winery and it is the oldest family-operated winery still in continuous use in Northern California.

Little did James Rutter dream that Florin would someday become such an important grape-producing center, when he first started raising grapes in Florin. In 1941, the grape industry shipped 130 carloads of Flame Tokays to eastern markets. There were a great number of shipping companies helping the nearly 200 grape growers of this area get their produce to market. They were: The Gerrard Co., Nash De Camp Co., Frank H. Buck Co., Pacific Fruit Co., W.O. Davis Co., and the Florin Fruit Growers Association (which was the oldest farmer's cooperative west of the Mississippi).

The Chinese were the earliest known orientals in Florin. A community was located on Simon St., established in 1860. They worked on the railroad.



The town of Florin in February of 1932.

The history of Florin community began in 1890 for the people of Japanese ancestry when the earliest Japanese immigrant laborers were known to have worked in Florin. The Japanese grew berries and planted new grape vineyards for the white landowners, thus managing a convenient two-crop partnership of raising strawberries and grapes, which was to alter the economic history of the Florin community.

The railroad was the focal point for a thriving, bustling economic center. The first trainload of strawberries to be shipped from California were shipped from Florin on May 20, 1893. Florin was hailed as the strawberry capital of the world prior to World War II, when the Japanese community flourished.

'Florin's peak record strawberry season showed 133 carloads of perishable berries were shipped from the Southern Pacific Depot.'

Florin's peak record strawberry season showed 133 carloads of perishable berries were shipped from the Southern Pacific Depot. This was not counting the truckloads of berries which were driven nightly out of Florin to cities in the Bay Area and to points all over Northern California and Nevada. The shipping companies established by the Japanese Americans were: Northern California Farms Co., Florin Berry Co. and Nojiri Fruit Co.; Florin Berry Growers Association provided the support for the farmers in this strawberry enterprise.

Mr. W. Kawamoto was the first to open his general merchandise store in 1909. Later, I. Wada, and then T. Tanikawa, bought the store on the corner of Florin Road and Reese Road. Then Kato's fish market, Akiyama's and Ogata's stores, and, for a short time, the Yamamoto's store, were established on the main street of town, on the west and east sides of the Southern Pacific track on Florin Road. These stores provided food items and other goods sought by the Japanese community.

There were many other stores that served the entire community. The Benedict and Brownings had a store next to the old Hodge's Garage Building. But the biggest store in town was the Reese's General Merchandise store, which provided farm implements and hardware as well as groceries. At one time or another through the years Florin had: Sally Ann Bakery, Casey Meat Market, Oppenheimer's Electric Co., The Valley Feed Store, The Florin Feed Store, The Florin Radio and TV, Florin Tractor Co., Karn's Market, Guitonis Blacksmith, Marvich's Pool Hall and Florin Cleaners.

Before 1942, there were three barber shops: the Darrington's, Hayama's and Morita's; three ice cream parlors and pool halls: the Nelson's, Noda's and Uyeki's. Florin also had a tofu shop, a shoe repair shop, two midwives, a dentist, and doctors at different times until Dr. Masayoshi Ito moved to Florin and Pritchard in the early '30s.

L.E. McNie and R. Larson were the community well-drillers, very much in demand to keep all the wells dug deep enough to reach the water table that continued to get lower. The farmers had help from L.E. McNie and T.R. Lansborough, (and at one time in the early years, Oppenheimer) when they had pump trouble.



Florin School class photo taken on Jan. 14, 1904. Mr. and Mrs. Osborn were the instructors.

Old trucks, cars and farm tractors kept the mechanics in town very busy. Bratton's, French's, McClay's and Tsuzaki's garages were continually in demand. Car trouble was always an emergency.

The Florin Basket factory along the S.P. tracks employed many townspeople, especially during the winter months when there was little work in the fields. When it closed, Y. Nishi built a basket factory where the Lumberjack store is established today.

Another factory that gave many people employment, especially the women, was the cover factory operating at the old W.O. Davis shed.

The once quiet wheat and dairy farming community of the 1880s was transformed into a highly industrious bustling strawberry and grape producing community, which lasted for four decades starting around 1900. How did such a community disappear?

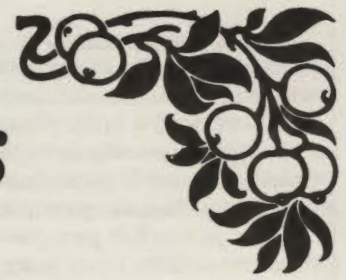
The effect of World War II on the Florin fruit industry was devastating. When President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, the U.S. Military was given power to enforce the mass exclusion of all persons of Japanese ancestry. 110,000 citizens and alien residents from the West Coast were removed to inland camps. This unfortunate episode changed the lifestyle of 2,500 Japanese farming in the Florin area, and caused deterioration of the strawberry and grape industry for the entire community of Florin.

Florin has changed. Some of the old buildings in the community still being used to this day are the Redman's Hall, the Odd Fellow's Hall, Frasinetti Winery, the Florin Buddhist Church and YBA Hall, the old Methodist Church (now the Florin Church of Christ), the former Japanese Methodist Church and hall (now the Florin Evangelistic Center), the Florin East School (now Adult Education EGUSD and Kara Preschool), and Hodge's Building (Mickey's TV and Kitchen Cabinets) and a number of residences with quite a history of their own.

A monument was dedicated in the Buddhist Church Gardens in 1982, a tribute to the people who once made Florin an exciting productive community. It is fitting that the 'Once-in-a-Lifetime—Florin—Reunion' will be centered at the historic Buddhist Church grounds on July 20 and 21, 1985.



Florin team photo taken at Red Men's Hall in 1915 on Easter Sunday.



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The Yoshida Family

(Maternal Grandparents of Percy Nakashima)

Hidesaburo Yoshida, father of five children was in his 40s when he arrived in San Francisco from Mimimura, Fukui-Ken, Japan in 1901. He worked at various jobs and saved enough to start a restaurant with another friend from Fukui, Nisaburo Hirano. They were an earnest pair who diligently helped organize the Buddhist religion in this country. It is now known as the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA).

In 1903, Hidesaburo went back to Japan to bring his wife, Mika, and their five children to America. They settled in the Old Troutman Ranch off of Gerber Road. A little girl, Marian, was born, their only American-born child. She is the only one living of the Hidesaburo Yoshida family, now. Mrs. Marian (Yoshida) Kimata. The second son, Kakichi, went to a Veterinary College in San Francisco but did not pursue this profession in later years.

Son Yosohichi Vincent Frank Yoshida attended Florin Grammar School, and in 1916 was the first student of Japanese ancestry to graduate from Elk Grove High. He graduated from the University of California in 1921, and Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, PA. He was an obstetrician and gynecologist on the staff of various hospitals in Philadelphia.

Dr. Frank Vincent Yoshida was semi-retired when he passed away at age 73 in January, 1974. He had been a highly respected, valued physician of Philadelphia when he died.

Isuke Nakashima was born in Fukui-Ken, Japan, in 1886. He was working as a young dishwasher in San Francisco when he and his friend were terrified the one unforgettable day the great earthquake hit the City. He came into the Sacramento valley working at many kinds of jobs on different farms.

Isuke was 26 when he married 24-year-old Kimi Yoshida, daughter of Hidesaburo and Mika Yoshida, in 1912. They settled down on the Fannie P. Osborne Ranch raising strawberries and share-cropping grapes. The Osborne Ranch was on the north side of Sheldon Road, straddling land on both sides of the S.P. Railroad. Their firstborn was Percy in 1913.

Hidesaburo and Mike Yoshida by this time had a farm with a two-story old house on the corner of Sheldon and Elk Grove Blvd.

Isuke and Kimi Nakashima had four children. Eiko died when she was a little girl. Tom was born in 1921. Roy was born in 1924. They took care of her aged parents, Hidesaburo and Mika. Grandpa Hidesaburo died in 1935. Mika stayed with the family in Manzanar and spent her last days with her youngest son, Dr. Yoshida, till 90.

The family was evacuated to Manzanar Government Internment Camps in May, 1942. A year or so later they relocated to Utah to work for a freezer plant company.

When the government ban was lifted, George Carlisle, a trusted, wonderful family friend, came after the Nakashima family in Utah. The Isuke Makashimas, Yoichi Nakashimas and the Sawadas had a farm to return to with taxes paid because of George Carlisle.

Percy worked for George Carlisle and eventually found permanent employment with the Del Monte Cannery and worked there for 20 years and retired.



Isuke and Kimi Nakashima with sons Percy and Tom, Sr., 1960.



Hidesaburo and Mika Yoshida with grandson Roy Nakashima. Aug. 17, 1930.



Dr. Frank Vincent Yosohichi Yoshida

His brother Roy died in an industrial accident at Campbell Soup Co.

Percy married Aileen Tokutomi of Placer and they have three children and two grandchildren.

Tom Nakashima, Sr., married Lois Yoshinaga and have two sons, Tom Jr. and Robert and a grandson, Kaz. Tom Sr. died of a heart attack in 1984.

Isuke Nakashima lived to be 92 when his last days on earth came in 1978.

Kimi Yoshida Nakashima lived to be 92; she died in 1980.



Uncle Hideji Yoshida (father of Eddie and Violet) with Mother Kimi (Yoshida) Nakashima and Aunt Marian (Yoshida) Kimata, right.

*Florin
Chinese
Kitchen*

6604 FLORIN ROAD
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

Lunch - Dinner
FINE CHINESE FOOD
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The Davies Family

Owen Thomas Davies, farmer, Brighton Township, was born in Cefancoidygyr, Wales, on Feb. 20, 1820, a son of Thomas and Mary Davies. In that family there were four sons and five daughters who grew up and were married. Four of the sons came to America; David came over in 1840 and died in Illinois, in the coal mines; Owen came in the fall of 1850; John and James came nearly at the same time, 1855-1860. Johns settled in Pennsylvania and James in Utah, near Salt Lake City; Jane Williams came to America and died in Illinois, Dec. 20, 1884; the other children died in Wales.

When Mr. Davies, the subject of the sketch, was a man grown, he was employed at the Gyfarthfe Iron Works in Wales, where he was engaged in wheeling puddling iron from the rolls twelve hours a day every other week, at what in U.S. money would be \$2.50 per week. His next task was filling of wheelbarrows with puddling iron and wheeling it to the mill where it was rolled into rails, etc. For this his wages were \$2.88 a week. Sometimes he made as much as 50 tons a day. Next he weighed, and sheared merchant iron for the first Welsh steam mill at \$2.36 per week.

After the Pandy mill was built he was employed there to weigh metal iron, fill it into wheelbarrows from the drains and wheel it to the stall, weigh it into four hundred fifty pound charges for the puddling furnaces and pile it up. Of course he had to keep an exact account of all this work; and his wages now had become \$5.04 a week. In this he was engaged from 1846 to September, 1850. At the time Pandy was the largest steam mill in Wales. It was on the east side of the Taff River. Six iron rolling mills were run by water power on the west side, besides one by steam. All these eight mills were within one mile of Merthyr Tydfil.

In October, 1846, Mr. Davies married Ann William Morgan, daughter of William Morgan and born in the same place on Oct. 15. They, with their two children Annie and Thomas, sailed from Liverpool and landed at New Orleans on Nov. 22. Going to Illinois, Mr. Davies worked in the coal mines there from the spring of 1851 to April, 1854, when he went to Utah with two yoke of oxen, arriving at Salt Lake on Sept. 26.

In the spring of 1856 he came to California, arriving in Brighton, this county, on July 4. Until Sept. 19 he lived in a wagon, and then settled where he has since resided. There he bought a squatters claim to a quarter-section of land, and afterward purchased the space from the government. (The present site of Proctor-Gamble Company.) When he first entered it there was only a shanty there, and all the country around was a naked plain. He subsequently bought more land, so that at one time he owned over 500 acres. A portion of this was deeded to his children and his wife. She died Oct. 6, 1880, the mother of four children: Annie and Thomas, John and William. Annie is the wife of Edmund Lewis, having married him in 1870, a resident of Elk Grove area, near Sheldon; the sons are all in this township, and have families.

November 21, 1881, Mr. Davies, in Sacramento, married Louisa Hawx, a German lady widowed five years previously. She died Feb. 11, 1883 and Mr. Davies on Dec. 1, 1884, married his third wife, Fredrica Kern.

Son Thomas E. Davies married Miss Susie Fox and they had one son, Thomas Owen. Mrs. Davies passed away shortly thereafter. Thomas Owen, (now deceased) retired from the Alameda County Recorders Office. Mr. Davies then married Miss Martha Painter, and they settled on an 80-acre ranch in the southwest corner of Florin-Perkins Road and Elder Creek Road, and built a home facing Elder Creek about one-quarter mile west of Florin-

Perkins Road, where they raised Tokay Grapes. To them were born two children, Clyde Mansfield and Margaret; Margaret died in infancy. On June 23, 1909, Clyde married Miss Pearl Kennedy, the postmaster of the Florin Post Office, and a daughter of William Harrison and Georgia Kennedy, residents of Florin.

They were married by Rev. Richard Rodda, a former minister of the Florin Methodist Church, in his home in Sacramento. They built a home in the southwest corner of Florin-Perkins and Elder Creek roads on a part of the ranch of his father, who deeded him 40 acres on his marriage. They lived on the ranch their entire lives. Mrs. Davies died in 1953, and Mr. Davies in 1960 at the age of 82 years. They were also engaged in raising Tokay Grapes. From 1941 to 1945 they operated Davies' Market in the Odd Fellows Hall in Florin, but sold out due to the ill health of Mrs. Davies. To them were born three sons, David Darrell, Stanley Owen and Clyde Donald. On Oct. 22, 1948, Darrell married Miss Marion Elizabeth Philbrick, the daughter of Leslie and Leona Philbrick of Santa Maria, CA in the First Presbyterian Church in Santa Maria. To them were born two children, Dorothy Leona and Leslie Clyde.

Dorothy married Tony Brinkoetter of Florin, in May of 1974. They have two daughters, Leeann Mary and Nancy Diane. They reside near Healdsburg, CA. Tony is a federal wildlife trapper for the Department of the Interior. Leslie married Lynn Turbovsky Lippincott on Oct. 17, 1980. They have two children, Douglas Allan Lippincott and Roberta Roseann Davies. Leslie works in landscaping and Lynn is with the Sacramento Bee. Stanley, who never married, retired in January of 1982 as caretaker of the Florin-Elder Creek Cemetery; for 43 years. Donald, now deceased, married Jewell Keys of Malvern, AR. They had one son, David Randall, a graduate of the University of Arkansas. They reside in Fayetteville, AR. Darrell retired in February 1975 after 36 years with the Western Pacific Railroad as a blacksmith. Marion retired in July 1980 after 20 years with the State of California.



The Stewart Family

Frank was born in Kansas City, MO on September 18, 1891. In 1910, he married Annah May Shelton and they had three children, Frank Jr., Ora Lee and Wilma. He was in business for himself, running an express company while living in Kansas City. In 1916, they moved to Clear Creek, Utah, where he did farm work. A daughter, Phyllis was born there. In 1919, they moved to Cosmo, Utah. He worked at a potash plant as an engineer on the semi-diesel pumps. Their son Ralph was born there. In 1921, the plant went broke, so they decided to move to California.

He came on ahead to find a place to settle and liked the Florin area, so moved his family here on August 5, 1921. He purchased land on Pomegrante Avenue and built a house himself, which is still standing. Four children were born here, Ted, Donald (Shorty) June and David. He went to work for the Southern Pacific in 1922 and was with them 34 years, retiring in 1956.

He was superintendent of the Florin Methodist Church Sunday School for 25 years, on the Florin School Board more than 20 years and received a Lifetime Membership in the Florin P.T.A. He was active in 4-H and many church, school, and civic organizations, mainly those pertaining to youth and education. As a little boy he was a pigeon fancier and this continued through his adult life, as he brought some of the pigeons with him from Kansas City. In Sacramento he became interested in homing pigeons, and belonged to various clubs.

Rev. John M. Brunswick, retiring from ministry after five years at the Florin Methodist Church, shakes hands with Frank E. Stewart. Gene Wilson in background.



Frank Stewart and his children.

His wife, Annah, never had good health and passed away in 1945. Wilma died in 1973 and Donald in 1974. Frank died in 1978. With the exception of Ted, who lives in Chicago, the surviving children still reside in the Sacramento area.

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The French Family

Best Wishes for a Happy Reunion from the French Family

Ebenezer (Fred) French settled in Florin in the 1870s on 20 acres situated on the corner of Florin and Florin-Perkins roads. He was one of the early shippers and growers of Tokay table grapes grown in the area. He was also the first Sunday School Superintendent for the Florin Methodist Church, built in 1885. He would not sell his grapes to the winery to be processed for wine because of his strong moral convictions.

He married Nancy Jackson, who along with her parents, Harry James and Katherine Kennedy Jackson, arrived in the Florin area in 1861. Nancy and Ebenezer raised five children: Ernie, Harry, Florence, Charlotte and Edith. Ebenezer passed away in 1919, and after his death his son, Harry J. French, took over the family ranch and continued to grow grapes along with a trucking business and automobile repairs. Around 1919 Harry married Erma Caroline Mollett, who moved to the Florin area in 1909 with her father and mother, William and Caroline Mollet. Mr. Mollet had established a home on Florin Road, and shipped various fruits to market. He was also a cabinetmaker and carpenter, and was the foreman on the construction of the Red Men Hall in 1915, which is still in use today. Both William and Caroline Mollet were very active in the Red Men and Pocahontas lodges.

In 1930 Harry J. French established French's Garage, repairing automobiles and farm machinery. Harry French was civic minded when it came to community affairs. When Donald Cox was Sheriff of Sacramento County he deputized Harry and informed his officers to check with Mr. French before any investigations in the Florin area. He was the primary figure in the formation of the Florin Fire District and

Department in the early '40s. Before that he maintained his own fire department. When a fire call came in he closed his business, and with the aid of mechanics (and anyone else he could find) they would gather gunnysacks and water pails and hurry to the scene of the fire.

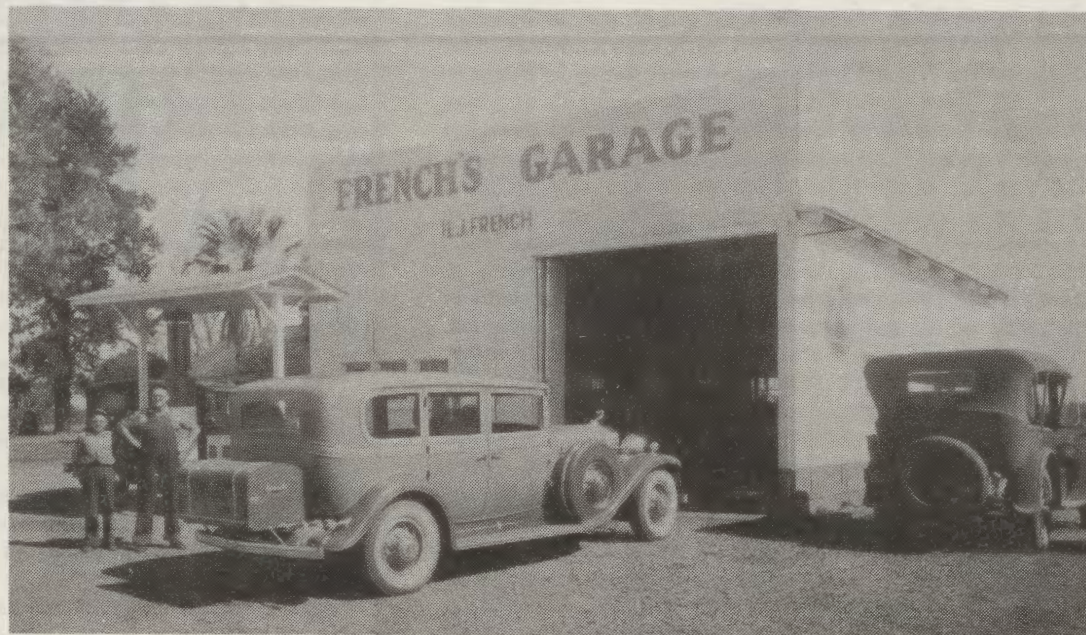
Harry and Erma French were very active in the Odd Fellows and Rebecca Lodges, going on to serve as past Grand and Past Noble Grand. They also served in all elected offices of the Red Men and Pocahontas lodges. A veteran of World War I, Harry helped establish the American Legion Post #608, and went on to become area commander; eventually he was awarded a lifetime membership. He also was trustee for the Florin School District for many years.

In 1939 he obtained the Studebaker dealership for his oldest son, Leonard. In 1940 Leonard was killed in an unfortunate accident on his way to Stockton to obtain automobile parts. At the end of World War II, Harry's two other sons, Donald and Norman, returned home from the service, and Harry built a new building on the corner of Florin and French roads selling new Studebaker automobiles. Harry and Erma raised four children: Leonard (died in 1940), June Halverson of Milton Freewater, Ore., Donald of Elk Grove and Norman of Sacramento.

Judith French, wife of Donald, was a teacher at the Florin School for over 30 years and taught school in the Elk Grove Unified School District for a period of 40 years, until her retirement in 1985.

Harry French passed away at the age of 76 in 1965 and Erma French followed him in death in 1984, at the age of 85.

Harry French's Garage;
picture taken
about 1930.



The Kara Family

*This historical summary of my relatives that lived in Florin I have condensed as little as possible. Therefore I will note **only** the families that lived in Florin during their adult years.*

I have an old property deed dated back to the 1850s when Robert Pritchard purchased and lived on what is now Pritchard Road. He was married to my great-grandmother Mary Jehu Watkins Pritchard, making my grandchildren the seventh generation to have lived in Florin.

One of my great-grandmother's children was Mary Ann Watkins Venn, who was widowed after her first marriage with seven children. Mary Ann, my grandmother, moved from Plymouth, CA, to Florin when these children were very small. Three of these children (the ones who spent their adult lives in Florin) were Thomas Watkins Venn, Sr., (my father), Sarah Ann Venn Penrose, and Priscilla Venn Grabfelder, a nurse for many prominent Sacramento people.

My grandmother married a second time, wedding Edmund Roland. They had seven children, (a total of 14 for Mary Ann) including: Arthur Rowland, who taught at local schools; Hana 'Mael' Rowland Clark and David Rowland, an insurance agent who resides in Sacramento. Edmund Rowland and my father, Thomas Watkins Venn, Sr., were very active during their lifetimes in the community, including serving as trustees of Florin Elementary School and active members of the Florin United Methodist Church. My grandfather, Edmund Rowland, was one of those good Welsh singers in the church choir.

My father bought a ranch on Gerber Road, where he farmed grapes and fruit along with dairying. He married Sophie Bruns Venn from Livermore, and had two children, Thomas W. Venn, Jr., and myself. I was born on my folk's ranch, attended Florin East School, which the previous generation of relatives had attended. While at the East School, the upper grades moved to the Florin Community Hall, adjoining the Florin United Methodist Church, until the new brick School West was completed. I graduated from the new School West, Elk Grove High School and college.

I married Jerome J. (Jerry) Kara in the Florin Church, now known as Florin United Methodist Church and located on Palmer House Drive. I have attended this church since I was about two weeks old and still attend. Jerry Kara's parents, John and Josephine (Vokac) Kara, moved their family to Florin in about 1911. John worked for the electric company, and was instrumental in the start of electricity in the Florin area, using his wagon and horses to move poles, etc., along the dirt Florin road.

The first part of our married life we farmed, then built the general merchandise store in Florin known as Kara's Drive-In; we subdivided the property across from the store, Kara Tract, which brought into this community several firsts. These were: a regular service station, located on Kara Drive (all others were in conjunction with a garage); the first bank, Bank of America, which was housed on a portable building on leased property (now the branch is at Florin Road and Stockton Boulevard); and a speedy eating place, the Drive-In.

We also negotiated with the government when it became necessary to enlarge the Florin Post Office, and so it was erected on the property adjoining Kara Tract. A large market was then built west of the post office, making our property from Kara Drive to Power Inn Road a shopping area. Originally I was employed by the Federal Government, and later worked with my husband ranching; then we moved to the store. After selling the store, the last 15 years I worked as building manager for the Odd Fellows Temple Assn., located in a beautiful, historical



Vivian and Jerry Kara's wedding portrait, taken in 1935. They were married in the original Florin Methodist Church.

building at 9th and K streets in Sacramento, and recently sold to private owners.

We had two children, Diana and Judette. Diana married Walter Strickland, and Judette wed Glenn Rippetoe. Diana's and Walter's child, Karan Strickland, married James Jepsen II, and had three children, James III, Melissa and Charles (my great-grandchildren) who still reside in Florin, and are the seventh generation to do so. Karan and James also have two children, Jerry and Walter, who no longer live in this community. Judette and Glenn Rippetoe have two girls, Lori and Gina.

My family and I have always been active in fraternal and civic activities. My husband was Fire Commissioner, Trustee for the Florin School, and, at the time of death, had belonged to the Florin Odd Fellows for over 40 years. I belonged to the Improvement Club which helped to bring the gas lines and street lights into the community. I am still an active member of the Florin Rebekahs #20 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the largest fraternal order (under one head) in the world. I was State President for the Rebekah Assembly of California, and Marshal for the International Association of Rebekah Assemblies of the World. That same year I had the privilege of being asked to place a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington, D.C. My other Degrees of the Rebekahs and Odd Fellows Lodge: the Elk Grove Order of Eastern Star #109, Noveta Degree of Pocohontas #151 and Liberty Parlor Native Daughters #213, and I've received the Decoration of Chivalry, PTA Life Membership, and am a member of the Florin Historical Society. When my daughters were young I was active in Jobs Daughters, Girl Scouts, Brownies and church youth groups.

I have been so happy and proud to have been born in Florin; I could write much of the happenings in the past. When I was small, all the fruit companies' buildings were on the east side of the tracks, and then they built new structures and relocated on the west side. There were many houses on the east side, known as the 'section gang houses,' that housed the employees that maintained the railroad tracks from Sacramento on (Lumberjack is now located on this site.)

I have been a strong booster for our town, and always made it known, no matter where I was, that I lived in FLORIN, and not Sacramento.

Vivian (Venn) Kara

The Lemen Family

Sherman was born in Roseville in 1915 and spent his adult life in Florin except for his time in World War II, where he served in the South Pacific. He and Marjorie purchased one acre from Joe Long, who originally bought it from H. French in 1944. Sherman built his home in 1947. Daughter Sharon started first grade at the old Florin Elementary School the same year. Daughters Melodie and Virginia, and son Val, spent all their early school years in Florin while residing on French Road.

Sherman worked at Signal Depot from 1947 to 1972. For 12 years he was recording secretary for the Florin Fire Department, then became a Director in the Florin Water District. He died in June of 1984.

The Roy Hodge Family

Roy and Kathryn Hodge arrived in Florin from Key West, FL, in 1919 upon Roy's honorable discharge as an officer from the U.S. Navy. He soon met Tom Landsborough who advised Roy to open a garage business. He purchased a home and the garage, which have since been razed. The property is now part of the Lumberjack parking lot.

The Hodge children, Kenneth and Bernita, accompanied their parents on the trip from Florida to California. In 1921 and 1922 Malva and Norma, respectively, were born to the Hodges.

Roy Hodge added a grocery store and soda fountain to the Hodge garage building in 1922. The store was first leased to Louis and Louise Benedict and later to Jim and Hazel Browning. Roy Hodge built the Hodge Building in 1936 located across Florin Road from Lumberjack. The building consists of two stores on the ground floor and two apartments above.

Roy and Kathryn operated the garage and later the Hodge Hardware (name changed to Florin Hardware) from 1919 to 1949. Recognizing the growth of the area and the spiritual needs of the people, Roy and Kathryn helped organize the Florin Church of the Nazarene in the Hodge Building in 1942.

In 1948 Kathryn Hodge passed away after a lengthy illness while vacationing near Pocatello, ID. In 1949 Roy Hodge retired and now resides in Idaho.

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The Dakuzaku Family



The Dakuzaku family finally get together after 70 years in June, 1975. Back L-R: Jackie Goya (cousin), Jean Kaku, George Dakuzaku, Mary Tsukamoto. Front L-R: Isabel Oshiro, Kame Dakuzaku, Masako Niizaki, Ruth Kiino. (Father and Julia missed.)

Taro was 17 when he left his young bride in Okinawa. He labored in Hawaii, then came to San Francisco in March 1906. A month after he arrived, he was jolted out of bed before dawn! The Great San Francisco Earthquake had struck. He barely escaped with his life.

He was hired as a cook for the Southern Pacific railroad work crew. Who would have ever imagined that when he was a grandfather of 55, he'd be asked to be the chief cook, daily feeding 325 in the mess hall at Block 9 Jerome, Ark., in 1943!

Father started a laundry business in San Francisco with his only brother, and a few others (1910-1918). Urgently he called Mom to come to America in 1911. Their daughter was now 6. She was heartbroken when her widowed mother-in-law pleaded to leave Masako in Okinawa. She was never to forget this regretful separation, even after she had six other children in America.

Taro tried farming in Turlock, then Parlier, with discouraging results. One bright event in their hard life came when their seventh child born to them was a son and heir, George.

In 1925, the Dakuzakus made a new start in Florin, California. At first, Dad leased Jenkin's place on Gerber Road. Later, he purchased a farm next to it. He became one of the largest strawberry growers in Florin. His vineyard was beginning to be productive when his family was suddenly ordered to evacuate. It was May. Berries were ripe. Dad left everything in the care of his friends, the Jenkins family.

The Dakuzakus were sent to Fresno, then to Jerome, Ark. They relocated to Chicago and worked there for a time, then came together in Kalamazoo, Mich. because their married daughters' families had relocated there.



Taro and Kame out of Jerome, free in Chicago in 1943.



PFC Julia Dakuzaku (1922-1945)



First it was Tom and Isabel Oshiro, then Hugh and Ruth Kiinos, followed by Al and Mary Tsukamotos, then Father, Mom, Julia, George and Jean. We were glad that Peter Pan Bakery gave the Japanese Americans a chance to work, (night shift only). When the exclusion was lifted in 1945, the family scattered. Taro and Kame came home with Jean to their farm in Florin.

Not until 1957 did Father meet his oldest, Masako Niizaki of Tokyo. She visited America and met all of us for the first time in her life. Widowed, she raised two boys in war-torn Japan. (4 grandchildren).

George was called into service from Kalamazoo, was sent overseas to Europe, then volunteered for duty in Japan. He returned to Florin to farm. He and Grace Yasui were married. They live in Dixon working on the Schultz farm. Two daughters were born. Susan and Nancy both are married.

Ruth and Hugh Kiino's family settled in Kalamazoo. They had a restaurant for a while, then worked for the Borges Hospital as Food Director and as Registrar. They were blessed with three children, Carl (deceased), Dr. Diane Kiino Swartz, and Dwayne, and five grandchildren.

Mary and Al Tsukamoto returned to Florin in 1945 to their former place. In time, Al quit farming, worked for the Army Depot until retirement. Mary taught school for 26 years in the Elk Grove District. Daughter Marielle teaches school near San Jose, Alum Rock District.

Isabel and Tom Oshiro eventually settled as a cook and gardener in Concord, now retired after more than 30 years. They are grandparents of three, children of son CDR. Neal Oshiro, US Navy, stationed in Japan, and daughter Mrs. Judy Dehont.

Jean married Art Kaku of Tracy. Adopted two boys, now has two grandchildren. Art had a garage, a bike shop, and a lock and key shop in Tracy.

Julia, the youngest daughter, volunteered to serve in the WACS from Kalamazoo in 1945. Was stationed at Pasco, Washington. Passed away September, 1945.

Taro lived to be 77, when his work was over, in the country of his choice passed away in 1964. Kame braved 11 years as a widow and her days of hard work in America ended in 1975 at 91 years.

Mary (Dakuzaku) Tsukamoto

The Tisdel Family

C. Arthur Tisdel came to Sacramento from Santa Barbara in 1921 to attend the University of California at Davis, and went to work for the State as a fruit inspector. During his work he'd met Carmela Frasinetti when he would go to the Frasinetti winery to check the grapes. They were married in April 1925, and settled on property adjacent to the winery. They had four children: Sherman, Leonard (Bud), Gloria and Florence (Babe). All four children graduated from the Florin Grammer School. In 1942 Art became a partner with Ange Frasinetti and Louis Nardi in the Frasinetti Bar and Restaurant; following that he was Secretary-Treasurer of the Sacramento Hotel, Restaurant and Tavern Association until his retirement. Carmela was a housewife and mother until 1945, when she went to work for the State in the Capital's Legislative Bill Room; she worked there until she retired.

Sherman married Virginia Mohr in 1947; they have three children and five grandchildren. Sherman is a retired City fireman, and Virginia is retired after 30 years with the State. Leonard married Irene Verzasconi in 1949; they have two children. Bud is associated with a local trucking company, and Irene works for the State. Gloria married Johnnie Cheek in 1953; they

have three children and a grandchild on the way. Gloria and Johnnie own an electrical contracting company. Florence married Art Garvey in 1947; they have two children and four grandchildren. Babe is a supervisor with the Franchise Tax Board and Art works for Sears.



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The Penrose Family

Relief Hill, Nevada County, has an important place in the history of the Penrose family. Briefly, in February 1846, Captain Tucker and a relief party of 15 men, met 19 immigrants of the Donner Party in the area later known as Relief (Relief Hill).

James Penrose, father, was born in 1863 at Relief Hill, and was the eldest son of Joshua and Susannah Penrose, who came to the United States from England in the early 1850s. (They were old country miners for many generations.) James married Sarah Ann Venn in 1899 and lived at Relief Hill for several years. He worked as a miner, a blacksmith, and a logger, and had a mail carrying contract servicing North Bloomfield to Relief Hill. They had 15 children; 13 were born at Relief Hill. They moved to Florin in 1922 where the younger ones were born, the last one in 1926. The 10 youngest children attended the Florin Elementary School. James worked as a janitor for the Florin schools for about eight years. He then was employed at Volfi's Bakery until he retired.

Sarah Ann Venn (mother), was born in Plymouth, Amador County, in 1883. She was the daughter of the Charlie Venns, who came from Cardiff, Wales. At the age of 11 years, Sarah Ann, then a student at Fremont School in Sacramento, on Washington's birthday in 1894 raised the American flag over the old Post Office Building, the first Federal building in Sacramento.

This family, the first generation to turn away from mining as a way of life, worked in many fields. Howard was the eldest child of James and Sarah. He and his brother Randall came to Sacramento in 1918 and worked in various department stores. In 1921, Randall and Howard bought a 40-acre ranch on Gerber Road, one-quarter mile east of Stockton Boulevard. Howard drove a team of mules in the mid-1920s, regrading the roadbed on the old Stockton road and readying it for concreting. He was a career California State Highway employee working at many maintenance projects for the State. He retired some years later and is now deceased.

Randall was employed by a natural gas company for many years before retiring. He and his wife Lillian are living in Sacramento.

Emily came to Sacramento with brothers Howard and Randall. She graduated from Sacramento High School, attended Normal school, and attained her teaching credentials. She taught all eight grades at the Reese School for several years. In 1928, her name now Peterson, she taught the Florin Elementary School. Her brother Harold was her 7th-grade pupil. After leaving the teaching profession, she became an auditor for the State Franchise Tax Board until she retired. She is deceased.

Cora, Priscilla, and Avis are homemakers. Violet and Della worked for the Department of Motor Vehicles for several years until retirement. Violet lives in Sacramento; Della resides in West Sacramento.

Wesley, after having worked in the gold mines in the Grass Valley area, was employed by the U.S. Department of Forestry for several years. He is now retired and he and his wife Merlin are living in Grass Valley. Wendell also worked in the gold mines, and during World War II went to Happy Camp to work in the copper mines. After leaving Happy Camp, he

OPPOSITE PAGE

The Penrose family in 1924. Back L-R: Priscilla, Emily, Sara (Mother) holding Leslie, Howard, James, James (Father), Wesley, Randall holding Avis, Cora, Violet. Front L-R: Wendell, Ben, Harold, Della. Emery was born in 1926.



returned to Grass Valley and was employed by the U.S. Department of Forestry. He is now retired and he and his wife Mary are living in Grass Valley.

James was employed by the Oakland Shipyards during the war years, and later owned and operated an auto repair garage in Sacramento. He is retired and is living with his wife Marian in Sacramento.

Bennie also worked at the Oakland Shipyards before serving in the Army in the Korean Theater, serving in a railroad battalion in communication with the Russians along the northern border. After returning home, he became a service man for the Pacific Gas and Electric Company until his retirement. He resides in Sacramento.

Harold was a career California State Highway employee, working plowing snow, bridge repair, in the Tahoe-Donner and Sacramento areas until retirement. He was a petty officer of an amphibious ship that survived Pearl Harbor No. 2, May 21, 1944. Seven ships were lost, 127 men killed and 380 injured. His ship received a Presidential citation. He served in the Asiatic and American theaters. He is living in Sacramento with his wife Faye.

Leslie also served in the Asiatic and American theaters on a floating dry dock, and as an electrician on a carrier and destroyer escort. Returning home, he worked as an auto repair mechanic and now lives in Taft.

Emery was employed by P.G. & E. until he was called into service. His duty was at headquarters of a National Guard unit during the Korean War. After returning to Florin, he went to work for Aerojet and then to Caltrans. He lives in Fair Oaks with his wife Sigrid.

In 1924, the Chamber of Commerce held a contest at the State Fair for the largest family. A Star car was the first prize. The Penrose family, consisting of only 14 children at that time, entered the contest and received second prize—\$100.

The depression years from the late '20s to the early '40s were devastating to the Florin area as everywhere else. No one really owned any property—it was all mortgaged to the limit. The only ones who had a little cash were the bootleggers.

The maternal great-grandmother of this generation of Penroses was, before she died in 1928, married to Mr. Pritchard, for whom Pritchard Road in Florin was named.



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The Harry Jackson Family

No history of Sacramento County would be complete without mention of the Jackson Family. Harry J. Jackson brought his family to California, making the long and arduous journey across the plains with ox and horse teams. They were nearly six months in completing the trip and suffered the usual hardships and trials incidental to the journey, although they had no serious trouble with the Indians.

Harry J. Jackson, a rancher in San Joaquin Township, was born Feb. 12, 1819, on the sea, being the son of a sea captain. He was brought up in Pennsylvania near the Susquehanna River. When he was about 16 years of age his parents moved with him to Upper Canada, where they resided about four years. On July 12, 1840, he married Katherine Kennedy, a

native of Maine. After residence for three years on the Detroit River, near Detroit, Mich., he moved in October to Iowa, settling in Jackson County near the Mississippi River.

On April 15, 1861, he started overland for California. They arrived in Sacramento on Sep. 15, and took up their abode in what became known as the Jackson School District, which was named in honor of Harry J. Jackson, who donated the land upon which the schoolhouse was erected. He was among the earliest settlers of the locality and he bore an important part of the work of early development and improvement, assisting largely in laying the foundation of the present progress and prosperity of the county.



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The Jackson Family:

1. Harry James Jackson
2. Katherine Kennedy Jackson
3. Henry William
4. James Thomas
5. Katharine 'Kate'
(Married William Johnston)
6. Mary Ann
(Married Levi Dart)
7. Joseph Edward
8. Jack Lincoln
9. Mallet Case
10. Harriet Louise
(Married Wesley Simmons)
11. Nancy 'Nannie'
(Married Fred French)

Jackson

He died July 28, 1886, respected by all who knew him, and he left his family not only a good ranch, but also an untarnished name. He had five sons and four daughters: James Thomas; Mallet Case; Henry William; Joseph Edward; Hattie, wife of Wesley Simons; Mary Ann, wife of L. S. Dart; Kate, wife of William Johnston; Nannie, wife of Fred French, and Jack Lincoln.

Mallet Case Jackson, son of Harry J. and Katherine (Kennedy) Jackson, was born in Jackson County, Iowa, on March 7, 1845. He made his home with his parents in Iowa until 1861, when he came with them to California. He followed farming the first 10 years. In 1872 he bought a farm of 200 acres about a mile and a quarter west of Florin, and seven miles from Sacramento, just east of the upper Stockton road.

For the next five years he ran a windmill and box factory. In the winter of 1877 his factory burned down. Before that he seldom had less than eight or 10 men employed, and averaged about \$5,000 worth of work a year, sometimes ranging as high as \$7,000. His windmills were known as the Jackson mill, his own invention, patented April, 1879. He had 400 or more of them in the county, it being about the only one used in the Florin area. It was considered a good mill and did excellent work. He did all kinds of manufacturing work, and could make almost anything a person wanted.

Mr. Jackson was married Jan. 9, 1880, to Mary E. Quinn, a native of New York State. She died Dec. 6, 1880, the mother of one child, Annie Mary, born Nov. 20, 1880. He was married again on March 6, 1882, to Laura E. Dodson. They had one child, Marion Raymond, born March 9, 1886. Mrs. Jackson was born in Missouri, March 24, 1860, and was the daughter of Marcus H. and Mary Dodson. When she was two years old the family came to California, and settled in El Dorado County, where she grew up. Mr. Jackson was a member of Florin Lodge No. 130 P. of H. and of the Elk Grove Lodge No. 274 I.O.O.F., having joined the lodge in 1887.

This material was taken from:

"A History of the New California Its Resources and People Illustrated," Vol. II, The Lewis Publishing Company, New York & Chicago, 1905.

Submitted in memory of Vivian Davis Strong, Mallet Case Jackson.



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Florin Japanese Methodist Church

When the Alien Land Law passed in 1913, it created much anti-Japanese sentiment in California. The Methodist church was concerned. They sent Dr. H.B. Johnson, Superintendent of the Methodist Missions, to Florin with a proposition to assist the Japanese in establishing a Japanese Christian Church where Sunday School and a Japanese Language school could be opened. Dr. Johnson impressed everyone. He spoke fluent Japanese. He converted many to Christianity.

In 1913, Mr. Yasaburo Tsuda began a Japanese Language School in a stable which was located where the Old Buddhist Church Building still stands today. The tuition was \$.25 a month. He had three students at first. They were Yoshio Kiino, Ume Kawamoto and Teichi Yasui. The following year, 35 enrolled.

In 1914, the Kawamoto Family and Shuichi Fujii received baptism. The Sunday School started with seven children and soon reached 30. Kuzo Tsukamoto and Kennosuke Yamada picked up children on horse wagon at Christmas. The church had a program of Christmas hymns and pageant. For most people this was the first Christmas in their life.

In 1915, headed by Kuzo Tsukamoto, they raised \$1,400 for the first Japanese Church to be built in Florin. For this building fund, Kuzo and Mr. Wada gave \$50, which was 40 day's wages. Rev. Reichi Manabe was the first pastor, and the new church was dedicated.

By 1924, 30 Japanese churches formed a Northern California Christian Federation. The Annual Northern California Young Peoples Christian Conference gave two to three hundred Japanese American Christian youths a chance to have memorable spiritual experiences.

In 1928 another major building project, led by Kuzo Tsukamoto, as Chairman, resulted in the dedication of the Florin Japanese Community Hall.

The church grew during the bleak depression years when a great revival was experienced with the arrival of Rev. Kosaburo Baba, an evangelist. Many new people were converted and old members were spiritually renewed.

By 1941 we needed an English speaking youth minister, and Rev. James K. Sasaki was appointed. After 25 years support for the Japanese Provisional Conference from the California Conference, just when we adopted the plan to become self-supporting, the outbreak of WWII changed everything.

Florin's dynamic work was possible through the superb effort of great ministers who served our church throughout its history. We pay tribute to: Revs. R. Manabe, Y. Tsuda, O. So, S. Takata, I. Haratani, S. Niwa, Norisue, Y. Sasaki and J.K. Sasaki. Then after the war came Y. Tsuda, M. Goto, W. Oyanagi, I. Inouye, J. Fujimori, G. Nishikawa, T. Goto, S. Masuko and C. Horikoshi.

Executive Order 9066 forced the church's members to evacuate from California. From 1942 to 1945 the Florin Japanese Methodist Church was boarded up and members brought their belongings to be stored in the Community Hall.

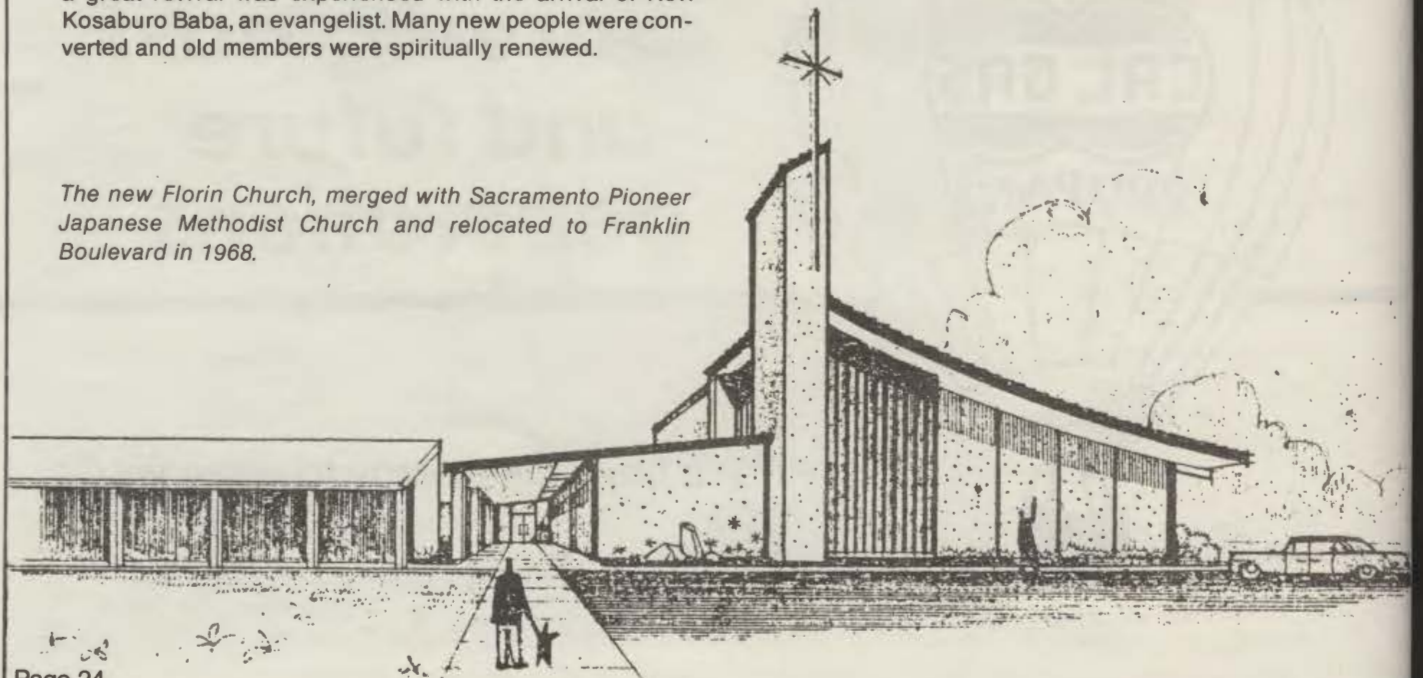
Gradually as members returned after 1945 when the ban was lifted, the Church hall was used as a hostel. The WRA loaned 30 beds and 90 blankets.

The next 23 years the Florin church worked to meet the needs of its members. It was a struggle. The membership was scattered all over the country by the evacuation, and the few remaining Isseis were passing away, leaving a great loss in support and leadership.

In 1968 it merged with the Sacramento Japanese Pioneer Methodist Church. Together they moved into a new site at Franklin Boulevard which is now the Sacramento Japanese Methodist Church.



The new Florin Church, merged with Sacramento Pioneer Japanese Methodist Church and relocated to Franklin Boulevard in 1968.





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The Kurima Family

Herbert "Moon" Kurima was the second oldest of a family of five boys and a girl born to Koichi and Tora Kurima who came to America from Hiroshima, Japan. Koichi came to Florin in 1904, and his wife joined him in 1908. They lived and farmed on the Ray Jackson place near Stockton Boulevard for 12 years before they settled down on a 20-acre farm on Elder Creek Road.

Their only daughter died during the disastrous flu epidemic in the early '20s. Toyoki, their eldest son, died suddenly a few weeks after they were incarcerated in the Fresno Assembly Center.

The Kurima boys, which included his cousins who lived on an adjoining farm on Florin Perkins Road, became famous baseball players. Herbert was an outstanding pitcher. During his junior year at Elk Gove High he pitched the first championship game he remembers Elk Grove High ever winning. Between his brothers, Gary, James, Ernie, and his cousins, Mac, Dick and Wilbur, they made Florin baseball history. They and the Tsukamoto and Tahara brothers and many other good players through the years, helped win championship trophies for Florin. They continued making an outstanding record even during their internment years at Fresno Center and Jerome, Arkansas.

Gary, the next brother, had ventured to New York before the war. He was drafted and served in the U.S. Army, stationed at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. His younger brother, James, later went to New York to work. Ernie, the youngest, came home with his parents to Florin, then in 1946 he joined his brothers in New York working for a restaurant. Together they learned all about the restaurant business, and eventually operated a successful restaurant of their own.

In 1944, Herbert was sent on military duty to Baltimore, Maryland, then stationed at Fort Douglas in Salt Lake City, Utah, where he was discharged.

Herbert, now the responsible eldest, together with Ernie, brought their parents back from a three-year journey that took them from their strawberry farm in May 29, 1942 to the Fresno Assembly Center, then to the swamplands in a southeast Arkansas Internment Camp, then moved again to the desert camp in Gila, Arkansas and finally home to Florin in 1945.

Herbert had worked for the Nojiri Fruit Company ever since he was a teenager, and later worked for the Northern California Berry Grower's Association until the exclusion order. Things were different now after the mass evacuation of the Japanese Americans. Berry farming in Florin was dying out. His parents planted a small berry patch, and cared for their vineyard, which was all they could do. Herbert became an Occidental Life Insurance salesman, and looked after his elderly parents until they both passed away within weeks of each other in 1974.



Herbert "Moon" Kurima, one of the finest pitchers ever produced in Northern California, heads the list of Florin stars who will play a double-header against the San Pedro Shippers, 1939 J.A.U. King pins and the J.A.U. All-Stars today at Terminal Island.

Herbert Kurima, Florin's star pitcher.



Florin YMBA baseball team - Rural League Champions. Back L-R: Tamazo Tanigawa (Pres. B.C.), Rev. G. Nagafuji, Sam Tsukamoto, Sam Tamura, Rev. Jokai Dow (F.B.C.), Sam Okamoto, Gary Kurima, Mac Kurima, Minoru Nozawa (YMBA Pres.). Fron L-R: Harry Tokumura, Wilbert Kurima, Herb Kurima (manager), Hiro Tahara, Al Ishii, Dick Kurima.

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The Kanelos Family

Andrew John Kanelos, a native resident of Florin since 1910, was born of Greek heritage on Oct. 14, 1885 in the village of Markasi Province of Corinth, Greece. At an early age he left his hamlet and went to Patras and the Gulf of Corinth to seek employment so that he could send his mother and father money to sustain their needs in raising a family of six members. There are three sons and three daughters in their family. One sister still resides near Thessalia, Greece; she is 94 years old.

Five years of his life are unaccountable, but he arrived in America aboard the S.S. Sofia Hohenberg, landing in New Orleans on Nov. 18, 1907. He proceeded on his journey, arriving in San Francisco, and worked in the clean up of the aftermath of the great San Francisco earthquake. After a brief stay in San Francisco he obtained employment in the lumber mills of Standard and Merced Falls in Tuolumne County. As most immigrant persons striving to become successful in a foreign land and atmosphere, he mastered the language of his new homeland while seeking to acquire sufficient funds to send to his homeland for his family. After a period of two years in the lumber mills, he departed for Sacramento, CA and went to work for the Sacramento Northern Railroad, working as a section hand laying track. He laid the railroad tracks between Sacramento and Marysville as well as the Central California Traction tracks between Sacramento and Stockton.

Traveling with his brother, Gus, enroute to their native homeland, upon arriving in New York they heard that World War I had been declared. After talking to great lengths they decided that Andrew would return to Sacramento and Gus would continue to Greece. They felt if both were to return to Greece that both would be drafted into the war effort. On Andrew's return trip to Sacramento he met his bride-to-be, Tomosina Gaellazi. She was born Dec. 1, 1900, a native of Lucca, Italy, and was on her way to join her father and uncle who lived in Sacramento. With encouragement from friends and relatives they were married on April 27, 1924 in Sacramento. They were the proud parents of four sons named John, George, Gus and Sam. Gus and George now live in the town of Florin and John and Sam live in Sacramento. All four sons graduated from Florin Elementary School and Elk Grove Union High School. At this present time Andrew's son, Gus, is President of the Florin Historical Society.

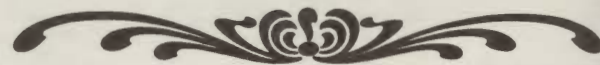
Andrew was doing a little butchering as a sideline and a friend of his, Mike Kerazis, enticed him into going into a partnership and opening a small slaughterhouse located at Route 1, Box 3360, Florin Road, known as Kanelos Brothers Wholesale Butchers. Crocker National Bank and the Medical Center are now located on the original site of the slaughterhouse property.

On Oct. 11, 1936 Andrew became a United States citizen. In 1938 the family homestead was purchased from the Estate of James Rutter, located at the corner of Florin Road and Power Inn Road where Vic's Market is now located. The Rutter mansion was demolished in 1939 and a new modern home was built with some of the lumber and material from the Rutter home.

On Dec. 12, 1953, Andrew J. Kanelos passed away and is buried in Sacramento along with his wife, Tomosina, who followed him in death on July 14, 1977.



Andrew John Kanelos





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Good Luck on Reunion!

The Frasinetti Family

Patriarch James Frasinetti arrived in New York from Ontemurro, Italy, in 1878 at the age of five, with his father, Constandino, mother, Carmela, one older brother and three older sisters. James, or Jim as he was called, and the family went from New York to New Orleans for a very short time and then on to San Francisco. Constandino worked in a candy factory and Jim and his brother Angelo sold boxes of candy on the downtown streets.

Three years later, in 1890, the family moved to Sacramento where Jim worked for Peterson's candy factory along with the rest of the family. After several years, he and his brother started making wine in the basement of their home. Angelo moved back to New York and opened a retail wine store. Jim continued making wine and shipped most of it back to New York. He made several trips back to New York during the next three years. During one of these trips, he married Rose Cassieri and brought her back to California.

In 1896, he went into the wine making business at the Lake House on Stockton Boulevard. In 1897, a home and winery were built at the present location in Florin. The home and several buildings of the original winery still stand.

In the ensuing years, Jim and Rose raised seven children (four boys and three girls): Constandino (Christie) the oldest; Angelo; Joseph; Carmela; Amelio (Al or Towhead); Tresa; and Eleanor, the youngest. As each one became of marriageable age, most chose a mate from another old, established Florin family. Over the years, they watched their children raise their families and always felt fortunate that they remained within the vicinity of Florin. Prior to 1920, Jim acquired a total of 480 acres of property around Florin, which were planted in grapes for use in the winery. In 1921, Jim, Rose and daughters Carmela and Eleanor (Tresa stayed behind) went to Italy for three months to visit relatives and sightsee. Another reason for the trip was to bring Rose's mother, Tresa, back with them. Several years later, Rose's three brothers and their families came from Italy to live in Florin.

During the years of Prohibition (1920-1933) the grapes from the 480 acres were harvested and shipped back East. The whole family was part of the operation. They worked in the vineyards, made shipping crates, and packed the grapes for shipment. One of the winery buildings was converted into what was called a "packing shed." When Prohibition was repealed in 1933, the winery was once again put into operation. Before her death in 1939, Rose taught her daughters as well as her daughters-in-law to cook many of her authentic Italian dishes. Numerous prominent people in Sacramento wanted Rose to open a restaurant and serve her delicious spaghetti.

Christmas was a "command performance" for the seven children and their families to come home for dinner, which was served in the extra-large kitchen with its fabulous octagon-tiled floor. Grandpa Jim lined up his grandchildren and ceremoniously gave each one a silver dollar. During the '40s and '50s, there were a number of family picnic reunions — sometimes attracting as many as 150 Frasinetti relations. This was Jim's way of keeping his family together and acquainting the younger generations with each other. Jim passed away in November 1963, at the age of 90 after a rich and eventful life.

The winery is presently owned and operated by the third generation of Florin Frasinetti's, Howard and Gary, the sons of Towhead and Oreon (Kirby) Frasinetti. In the past 11 years, they have made many improvements; modernizing and expanding the winery operation. They are now renovating one of the original winery buildings to serve as an Italian-style restaurant.



The Kuzo Tsukamoto Family

Al Tsukamoto's father, Kuzo, the ninth one, left Hiroshima, Japan when he was 17. He labored in the cane fields of Hawaii, fished for salmon at Steveston, Canada, dug coal in the Butte, Montana mines, repaired railroad tracks all over Utah, Wyoming and Idaho.

He came to California, planted grapevines in Central Valley, near Fresno, worked his way up from Walnut Grove to Florin. He was excited as he met farmers who were growing strawberries and working in the vineyards for the white landowners. He liked what he saw. Having wandered all over the great Northwest he was ready to settle down.

He returned to Hiroshima in 1895, and married fifteen-year-old Ito Kadokawa. He went ahead to America. She joined him in 1902 to live in Florin at the David Reese place, near Gerber Road between Reese and Power Inn Road. Ito had coaxed her brother to let her have his five-year-old son, Etsuzo. Kuzo and Ito adopted him and named him George Etsuzo Tsukamoto.

Several years later, they were happily blessed with children of their own. Margaret came in 1907, Edith, in 1909, Al in 1912 and Nami was born in 1917, all born on the Reese place. In 1920, they moved to the 35-acre place on Florin-Perkins Road where the Tsukamotos have lived for 65 years.

Their children all attended a segregated public school using the Florin East Grammar School (1923-1939).

Kuzo was a leader in his community and helped build the Florin Japanese Methodist Church in 1915. In 1928 he was chairman of the Board that built the Florin Japanese Community Hall. (Evangelistic Center today.)

Kuzo and his family lived most of their lives in Florin except three tragic years they were excluded by military orders. The government exiled them to Fresno, then to Jerome, Arkansas, then to Gila, Arizona before being allowed to return home again in 1945. Kuzo was 75 and Ito was 63 that year in May, 1942. Kuzo lived until he was 97 years old. Ito lived to be 91.



Taken in 1944 when Al Tsukamotos visited family in Jerome before the camp was to close and evacuees scattered to other camps. Back L to R: Margaret Ogata, Charles Ogata, Mary Tsukamoto, Beverly Ogata. Middle L-R: Alvin Ogata, Grandma Tsukamoto, Grandpa Tsukamoto, Alfred Tsukamoto, Arlene Ogata. Front L-R: Marielle Tsukamoto, Shirley Ogata, Margaret Toshi Ogata.



Edith (Tsukamoto) Ouchida, John King, Nami (Tsukamoto) King. Taken in 1983.



Alfred, Mary and Marielle Tsukamoto in 1983.

Once Florin was the strawberry capitol of our land. It was a great tokay grape shipping center, sending out 123 carloads of grapes one peak year. The strawberry and grape community deteriorated and died after the fateful May 29th date.

Margaret and Charlie Ogata took their seven children and relocated to Benton Harbor, Michigan. There he eventually became a fine landscape gardener. They had nine children, 14 grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and two great great-grandchildren. They reside in Michigan, Illinois and California.

Edith and Harold Ouchida returned to Florin with their family. Their produce shipping business never recovered. Six Ouchida children graduated from Elk Grove High School and universities. Three are Doctors of Pharmacology, one is a nurse.

Al and Mary (Dakuzaku) gave up farming in 1949. Al was employed at the Army Depot as Quality Control Inspector, retired after 30 years. Mary became a teacher in the Elk Grove School District, retired after 26 years. Marielle, their daughter, teaches near San Jose. They are active members of the Florin Methodist Church, Florin JACL, and the Historical Society.

Nami and John King also worked at the Sacramento Army Depot, retired. They reside in Rancho Cordova. They are members of the Florin Methodist Church and JACL.

Al was co-chairman of the First Homecoming Reunion of the Japanese American community where more than 800 from all over USA and Japan came back after being sent away in 1942. It was followed by a dedication of a plaque commemorating the Japanese strawberry and grape farming community that had once made Florin a flourishing fruit producing center of great importance.

The Larson Family

Robert Larson, a native of Denmark, arrived in the United States at an early age. He first settled in Racine, WI, later moving to Hicksville, CA where he established a blacksmith shop. He became a citizen of the United States in Sacramento in 1892. Shortly after, he purchased land in the Florin area, building his home, continuing blacksmithing, and raising Tokay grapes. He married Anna Friese, also a native of Denmark, who bore him four children: Mary, Minnie, Doris and Newton.

"Newt" Larson was born May 27, 1893, in Florin and attended local schools. He became a well borer and continued this occupation locally for almost 50 years. On June 14, 1919, he married Ethel Eva Maxfield. Ethel was born Oct. 25, 1896, in Lockford, CA. She was one of nine children of John and Elizabeth Maxfield, married Dec. 16, 1878, in Florin. John Maxfield was a farmer from Missouri. His wife, formerly Elizabeth Fitzgerald, was born on Dec. 10, 1863, at Mills Station, CA. Newton and Ethel Larson raised two sons: Donald E. and Robert N. Larson. Robert married Melissa J. Philbrick of Santa Maria, CA and have a daughter, Roberta Ann. All live in the Florin / Sacramento area. A portion of the land originally purchased in Florin by their grandfather Larson is still owned by Donald and Robert.

The Plescia Family



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The Monis Family

Mr. and Mrs. Manuel and Margaret Monis moved to the Florin area in the year of 1929. They had six children: Louis, Bernice, Alfred, Margaret, Joan and Robert. They were all born in Sacramento County, and all attended the old brick Florin Grammar School and Elk Grove High School.

Louis Monis still remains active in the Florin area. He operated a real estate office and was owner of Angelo's Restaurant. He is a member and past president of the Florin/Elk Grove Kiwanis Club. He coaches children for the Special Olympics at the Jessie Baker School for Retarded Children. Louis also helped raise funds and build the Kiwanis Family House, which provides housing for families with critically ill children at the UCD Medical Center.

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A
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The best things come in small packages; that is the way Florin Beauty Center got its start — small in space — on April 1, 1960. With one shampoo bowl, Helen Honsa, the owner, and one stylist, started Florin Beauty Center. Helen's aim to please the customer and always have a friendly atmosphere has been carried on through the years. Helen soon outgrew the space, which was located at Florin Road, just east of Reese Road. She moved her salon into the just completed Kara Building, located (at that time) across the street from Kara Market. Helen later sold the salon because her husband was retiring. She sold to Pauline Kilbreath, but after two short years Pauline decided that running a salon and being a full

time instructor at her college was a little too much. Pauline sold the salon to Wanda M. Zakrzewski, who started working in the salon in February of 1964 for Helen Honsa. Wanda bought the salon on June 1, 1972. She has kept the same good standards of quality work, always a friendly atmosphere and reasonable prices. The Florin Beauty Center now offers family service for women, men and children, with fine, qualified stylists and one nail technician. Extra services such as facials, ear piercing and pedicures are offered.

Wandra M. Zakrzewski
Florin Beauty Center

The Florin JACL

*The Japanese American Citizen League
Florin Chapter*



*Congratulations! Best Wishes to the
Florin Historical Society On
Your "Once-In-A-Life-Time Reunion!"*

... The Florin Japanese American Citizen's League!

The Florin Chapter of the national organization was started in 1935. This is our Fiftieth Anniversary Year. On October 26, 1985, we will celebrate our anniversary. Watch for further announcements.

The Japanese American Citizen's League (JACL) has as its motto "Security through Unity." We have our slogan "For Better Americans in a Greater America."

We have sponsored educational programs to build a bridge toward understanding between our Japanese American communities and the wider community in our nation. We have endeavored to foster appreciation and preservation of our Japanese American history. We have tried to encourage search and appreciation for our cultural heritage. We have been concerned for the health and welfare of our aged Isseis and aging Niseis. But most importantly, we have focused our attention on educating and attaining civil liberties. Encouraging and practicing to become active, effective competent citizens. We are a non-political organization. We encourage individuals to actively participate in community, civic and political affairs.

We have assumed strong leadership in educating to improve discriminatory laws; to pass legislation that will correct errors and bring about more justice and equality; to clarify the meaning of our civil liberties guaranteed in our Bill of Rights, in the light of our practices. We will strive to educate and better prepare all our children in America so that never again should any group experience the injustice that was imposed on 110,000 innocent persons of Japanese ancestry in 1942. We shall cherish our constitutional democracy.

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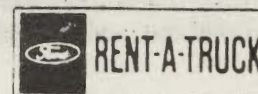
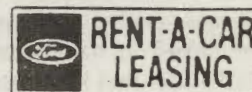
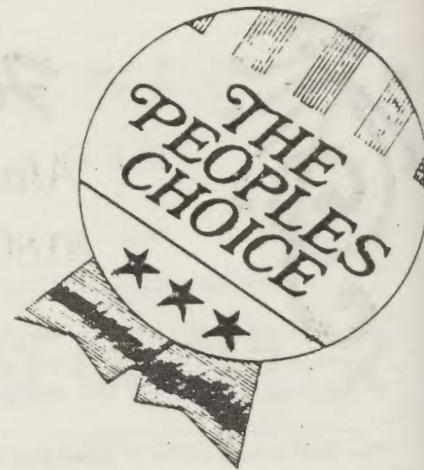
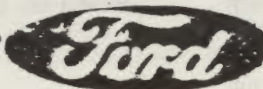
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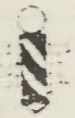
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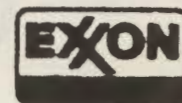
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The Thomas Family

Benjamin Thomas was born July 29, 1875, in Niles, OH, to John K. Thomas and Catherine Evans Thomas, Welch immigrants from Swansea, Carmarthanshire, Wales. The Thomas family, consisting of four boys and two girls, arrived in California in 1876 with a wagon train that had gotten as far as Genoa, NV the previous fall. In early spring, after the winter snows had melted, the wagons had crossed the Sierra Nevada mountains to settle in the Florin area on what became known as Reese Hill.

The four Thomas boys, Peter, John Evan, Benjamin and William, grew up to become professional baseball players with the Pacific Coast League, playing for the Pacific Brewery team. Of the girls, the older, Mary, married John Stewart of Franklin area. Their children were: Josephine, Doris, Harriet and Lawrence. The younger, Elizabeth Jane, married Frederick Kennedy. They had two daughters, Evelyn and Vivian.

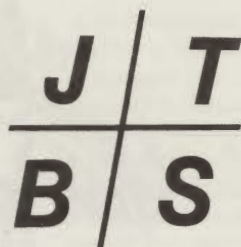
Of the four boys, Peter married Elva Hunt of Elk Grove; their children were Irma and Rodney. John Evan married Maude Rieff of the Union House area; their children were Dorothy, Cecil, and Leslie. Both Peter's and John's families lived on Gerber Road. William was never married. In his early '20s he was on a trip East with his ball team and mysteriously disappeared on the Hudson River and was presumed drowned.

On Feb. 10, 1904 Benjamin married Jennie Belle Simons, a school teacher and only child of John Amos Simons and Fannie Pryor Simons. Mr. Simons, himself a school teacher with a degree in law, was one of the areas earlier settlers.

Benjamin Thomas was a carpenter and vinyardist by trade. He built their home on a tract of land about one quarter mile east of the Southern Pacific Rail Station in Florin and planted the acreage with Flame Tokay table grapes. Both Benjamin and Jennie were civic minded, devoting much of their time to public service. He served as trustee of the Florin School District for over 30 years. He was a member of the Board of Directors for both the Florin Fruit Growers Association and the Florin Winery Association. Both were active members and secretaries of the Florin I.O.O.F.

Of their four children, John Rosslyn, born in 1904, married Dorothy Leimbach, daughter of Justus and Maud Jackson Leimbach. Her family were descendants of Herman Leimbach, who established Pioneer Ranch in 1855, and the well-known Jackson family of Elk Grove; they produced one son, Myron. Genevieve, born in 1907, married Monroe Nelson Seibert of Long beach; their only child, Thais Dawn, now lives in Chugiak, AK. Phyllis, born in 1915, married Robert Edward Krull of Elk Grove. Robert's grandparents, the Alfred Baker family, were early residents of Florin, having lived on Gardner Avenue during the late 1800s. Robert and Phyllis produced two sons, Robert Edward II and Thomas Alfred. Oroville, born in 1919, married Alice E. Kingsley of Elk Grove, and they had one daughter, Gloria Kay.

Benjamin's wife Jennie died July 13, 1959. He followed her in death less than four years later on Feb. 21, 1963.



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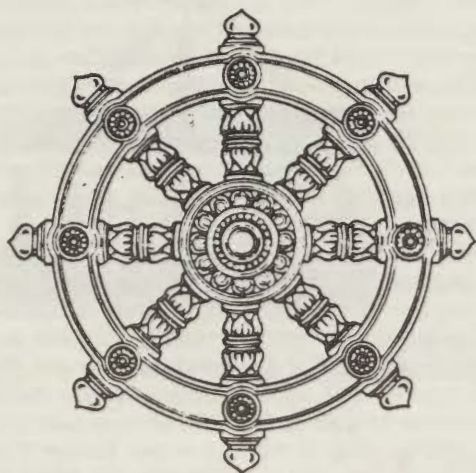
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Florin Buddhist Church



1896—1918 The Japanese Settlement in the Florin area started with 10 Issei immigrants in 1896. The growth of the Japanese population passed 1,000 mark by 1912. The need of religion was felt by these pioneers, thus a committee of 18 members was formed. The membership grew to a total of 97 within a few weeks.

1919 The church cabinet assumed additional function as a special committee, purchased two-and-a-half acres of land under the title of Florin Investment Company and registered in the County of Sacramento. Florin Buddhist Church as officially recognized. On Nov. 3, 1919, a groundbreaking ceremony took place and the construction of the Church started. With untiring devotion, effort and sacrifice rendered by all the members, the Church was completed and on March 20, 1920, dedication service of the Church and new altar was held.

1939 With a foresight for the future, a social hall large enough for all and any activity—the YBA Hall—was constructed. Dedication ceremony was held on March 12, 1939.

1942—1945 Japanese residents of Florin area evacuated to Assembly centers and then to Concentration Camps for duration of World War II. Old Florin died when Executive Order 9066 was carried out in May, 1942.

1946—1953 During this period many of the religious organizations which lay dormant during the war years were reactivated and became very active, (YBA, Fujinkai, YABA), rejuvenating both religious and social activities of Florin Buddhist Church. On June 15, 1955, Rev. Takujo Suginari was assigned as the first post-war resident minister.

1960—1976 As the members increased, larger facilities were needed to accommodate large church functions. In 1972, Dr. and Mrs. Masayosi Ito donated parcel of property to be used for future church site. With many fund-raising projects and pledges by members, groundbreaking ceremony for a new temple was held on Sep. 14, 1975. By June 1976, the temple was completed and dedication ceremony was held on Sept. 26, 1976.

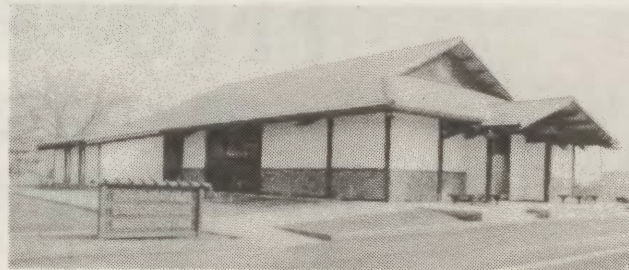
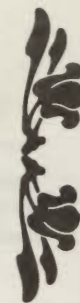
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The Florin Church, built in 1919-20.

1980—October 10, 1982 A monument dedicated to the memory of the first Japanese arrivals in Sacramento in 1890 was unveiled. A time Capsule to be opened in the next century was buried at the base of the monument. The grounds of the Florin Buddhist Church were selected for the monument because it was the only sole surviving public building used by the Japanese-Americans in the area before World War II.

1985— Renovation of the YBA Hall was started this year and still in progress.



The new Temple, completed in June, 1976.

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The Reese Family

The Reese family arrived in the Florin area in 1860 from Wales with four children David, John, Catherin, and Elizabeth. The two daughters married and left the Florin Area. Catherin married John Brown and moved to Lincoln. Elizabeth married Toverly Kilgore and moved to Grimes. David married and farmed on Reese Road. He had five children: Ed, Jack, Percy, Nel and Ethel.

David was one of the most prominent citizens of Sacramento County. Strawberries and grapes (Tokay table grapes) were specific crops of the Florin area. Due largely to the efforts of David Reese, the California Fruit Union was organized, which had as its aim the direct shipment of fruit from grower to Eastern consumers. He served as a director in this organization. He later organized the Florin Fruit Growers Association, the first of its kinds organized near Florin. He later became Sheriff of Sacramento County and moved to Sacramento, where he died in 1910.

John married and raised his family on Reese Road. He also farmed on Gerber Road. He had nine children: Lester, David, Lewllyn, Howard, Melvin, Mabel, Myrtle, Mildred and Winnifred. John built windmills and did carpenter work before going to work in the Florin Mercantile Store.

He later bought the store, changing the name to John Reese & Sons. Lester, David and Melvin worked in the store with John at various times. Soon Lester quit and farmed on

Gerber Road. Later Melvin quit and worked for himself before joining the Sheriff's Department. David and John ran the store until John died in 1936. Dave continued running the store until 1939, at which time he sold out. All of John's family is deceased except Melvin who lives in Sacramento. There are no members of the Reese family living in the Florin area at this time.



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The Velaga Family

In 1924, newlyweds Anton and Zlata Velaga settled on their 40-acre ranch on the corner of Gernber and Power Inn roads, a portion of which is still occupied and owned by their children. Anton and Zlata had eight children: Mary, Josephine, Joe, Valentin, Annie, Millie, John and Elizabeth. Three of their children and a granddaughter were born on this homestead, which was used as a grape farm and small family dairy. All of their children went through the Florin Grammar and Elk Grove High School systems. Most of them still reside in the Sacramento area, except for Annie, who resides in Soquel, Cal., and Elizabeth makes her home in San Francisco.

The couple came from Imotski and Mrkopalj, which is now part of Yugoslavia. At one time it was part of the Austrian empire. Anton Velaga emigrated to this country as a teenager and worked as a miner, settling in Rock Springs, Wyo., for approximately 17 years. There he met Zlata, a recent emigrant; they were married Jan. 1924. Anton and Zlata passed away in October 1950, and November 1970, respectively. Their son Valentin died in infancy.

OPPOSITE PAGE:

Rear L-R: Mary, Josephine (mother Zlata) and Joe. Front L-R: Annie, Millie, Elizabeth and John.



Granddaughter Diane



Granddaughter Diane







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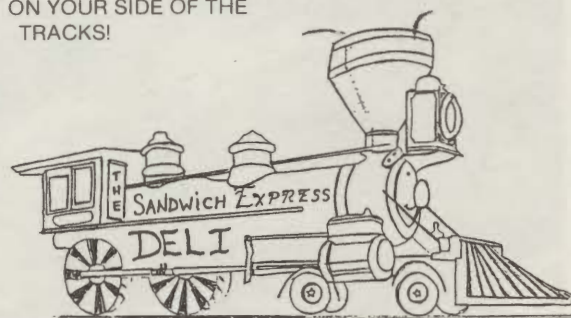
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The Bacchini Family

Across from the old Florin Elementary School, and adjacent to the first St. Paul's church in Florin, there are two short streets: "Bacchini Avenue," and "Augusta Way." These mark the southernmost edge of the property purchased by John and Augusta Bacchini about the year 1914.

Both John Bacchini and his wife, Augusta Protti Bacchini, were born in Cattolica, near Ravenna in northeastern Italy on the Adriatic Sea. They were married in the province of San Giovanni, Italy. John was the first of his brothers to move to America. He arrived on Ellis Island, New York, about 1909 and settled in Buffalo, N.Y. John sent for Augusta and his son Edward (nicknamed Deno, who was born in Italy) when the child was about one year old.

After about six months in New York the Bacchini family moved to Point Richmond, California. There Mafalda (Falda) their first and only daughter was born. The next child, Luigi (Louis) was born after still another move to Nichols, California.

About 1924 the Bacchins moved to Florin. The area's vineyards and trees reminded them of the old country; it was here they settled. The original house on the property was rebuilt and expanded with the first of two barns (the second barn was built about 1939-40, while Sam was in high school).

Originally the Bacchini property covered about 20 acres. In 1939 an additional 22 acres was purchased. Part of this land was donated by John and Augusta for the first St. Paul's church. The old building, although no longer in regular use, still stands on the land today.

For the next 15 years or so, the Bacchini family cultivated table grapes, particularly the Flame Tokay grape. The grapes were sent to the East coast markets on trains operating from the Florin train depot. In 1939, dairy farming was started on the Bacchini farm. All of the children attended area schools, Florin Elementary and Elk Grove High School.

As the children married and moved from Florin, eventually Sam, the youngest, was the last in the house. In 1953 he married Elvira "Boots" Menzarini at the old St. Mary's church in San Francisco. Their five children, James, Ralph, Lisa, Renée and Sam Bacchini, Jr., all were born while the family lived in Florin. The dairy and the vineyards are gone, although many of the old trees stood on the property until just recently. Many varieties of trees grew on the property; magnolia, bamboo, olive, apricot, peach, plum and fig. A large fruitless mulberry and two euclyptus trees, each over 100 years old, still towered above the property just a couple of years ago.

Today, the Bacchini family no longer resides at the Florin property. The family is scattered throughout Sacramento, Elk Grove and the Bay Area. If you should ask any of them today where they are from, though, the answer would be, "I'm from Florin." It was a wonderful place to grow up.



The Bacchini family in about 1924. Back L-R: Augusta and John Bacchini. Front L-R: Luigi, Edward, Sam and Mafalda.



The Bacchini family in about 1930. Back L-R: Edward, John, August and Mafalda Bacchini. Front L-R: Sam and Luigi.

