

# Florin Fire Protection District

It was not until the early 1900s that the Florin Area would begin efforts to organize fire protection services. This resulted in local merchants and residents pooling their money and purchasing a hand-drawn chemical cart. This first piece of firefighting apparatus was a twin tank device mounted on wooden spoked wheels and operating similar to a soda-acid extinguisher.

As the area grew in size, the men soon wearied of pulling the cart, because of the increased distances they had to go. Their ingenuity resulted in a form of motorized equipment, whereby the cart would be towed by men riding on the back of vehicles.

In the mid 1930s, due to its poor state of repair and unavailability of parts, the cart was taken out of service and was displayed at the Frasinetti Winery until the late 1960s — when it was given to the fire department to repair and display at the station. The retirement of the chemical cart left the Florin area without any fire protection for the next seven years, until a man named Harry French became concerned about the lack of such protection.

Harry French was a businessman and owner of the local Studebaker dealership, French Motors. He attempted to solicit donations for fire equipment. The funds would prove to be inadequate, but that did not cause his ambition to wane. He found that he could buy a surplus Division of Forestry engine at the cost of \$1 if it was agreed that the apparatus would respond anywhere it was requested within Sacramento County. As a result of this stipulation, the engine would spend most of its firefighting time north of the American River — where the major growth was occurring.

With no formal protection agency — and therefore no budget — problems of fire protection remained. Repairs had to be made in Mr. French's shop at his own expense, and in the event of an alarm he would close his business, allowing the employees to respond. To house the engine, Mr. French built a tin shed on land he donated — located at the southwest corner of Florin and French roads.

In the later part of 1941, Mr. French was successful in obtaining the required support, and on January 26, 1942, the department was formally organized under the *Local Fire District Law of 1937*. As the newly formed Florin Fire District, the first three-man board of directors was elected — consisting of Christie Frasinetti, Bruce Camp, and Wally Brinsen. Their first official act was to appoint Harry French as chief of the fully volunteer department. In the years that followed, a second piece of apparatus was purchased, and in 1950 construction was started on a firehouse. The building was of concrete block construction and located across the street from the tin shed site. It remains to this day and is the main station of the district.

In 1951 Harry French retired as chief and Russell Gordon was appointed to succeed him. Chief Gordon was the department's first paid man, and he and his family resided in the fire station until 1955, when the department grew to three paid men. A third engine was purchased, and in 1956 the District annexed the area east of its existing boundary to Grantline Road and north to the Douglas Road area. The District's original boundaries were much different than those of today. At that time it was bounded on the south by Calvine Road, the east by Bradshaw Road, the north by the American

River, and on the west along Stockton Boulevard to 14th Avenue to 65th Street to Elvas Freeway and the river.

A second station was constructed on 14th Avenue in 1957, and Chief Gordon resigned. Captain Elton Grant was appointed interim chief for a period of four months until volunteer Assistant Chief Bob Fletcher was temporarily appointed to the position. During his four-month tenure, Chief Fletcher made rapid progress in the area of policy, procedure and equipment. Russell Gordon returned to become chief of the department. In 1958 the District grew to seven paid men. The growth was short-lived as the City of Sacramento annexed from the District an area accounting for 48 percent of the assessed valuation. Along with losing nearly half of its assessed value, the District also lost three of its men and the station on 14th Avenue.

By 1962 the District had hired additional men and built another station in the College Greens area. Chief Fletcher again assumed command of the District on November 1, 1963 on a full-time basis. Five additional firefighters were hired in July of 1964, and the District's first custom designed pumper, rated at 1250 gallons per minute, was placed in service. On September 9, 1964, the District was reorganized under the *Fire Protection District Act of 1961*, and two more positions were added to the Board of Directors.

In 1965 four men as well as the newly constructed station were lost when the City annexed the Perkins area. Another station was built on Elder Creek Road, east of Bradshaw Road, and opened in July of 1965. This station was to be known as Number 2, and it also is in service to this date.

Tremendous growth was seen within the District boundaries 1967 through 1969. Another station, Number 3, was constructed on Fleming Avenue, east of Stockton Boulevard, in 1967. During that period, 13 additional men were hired, and another modern engine was purchased, as well as an 85' High Ranger Snorkel.

In 1973 another station, Number 4, was built on Frederick Avenue, east of Manlove Road, to provide better protection for the residents of the northern part of the District. In 1974 six new employees were hired to bring the manpower compliment to 30. Chief Fletcher retired after 32 years of service, and Assistant Chief Keith Roberts was promoted to Chief in July. Also, in October of this year, the first woman employee in the District was hired as a Dispatcher/Clerk.

In 1981 Chief Roberts retired and Assistant Chief Harlan Imbery was appointed to the Chief's position. Under Chief Imbery, the department has replaced a number of outdated apparatus with modern equipment and in 1985 a new station, Number 5, was opened on Excelsior Road.

Today the department protects 40,000 citizens and over 70 square miles of urban and rural land. There are 60 employees, 15 pieces of firefighting apparatus, and two ambulances, as well as a number of support vehicles. In a span of 80 years, the department has grown from a single chemical cart protecting rural farm area to a modern agency responsible for two freeways, two State highways, three rail lines, and an underground pipe line. There are also a number of industrial facilities, as well as a myriad of residential subdivisions. With the dedication of its employees and the support of its citizens, the department will continue to improve and expand, meeting the ever increasing challenges of a growing and high-tech society.

## The K. Hodge Family



In Memory of Our  
Father and Mother,  
Kenneth W. Hodge and  
Kitty Evelyn (Kennedy) Hodge

Their Loving Children:  
Kenneth Kennedy Hodge  
Ellis Donald Hodge  
Barbara Elizabeth  
(Hodge) Maddox



## The Jenkins Family

William Jenkins was born in Wales in 1876. He came to the Florin area at age nine to live with his aunt and uncle — Mr. and Mrs. David Jenkins in the Reese School District.

Annie Devine was born in lone in 1889. She moved to Sacramento at age 12, and went on to San Jose Normal to become a teacher. She taught at Reese School and married William Jenkins in February of 1912. William Jenkins was farming at this time. Later they had a vineyard and raised chickens.

They had three children, Elinor, William Jr. and Clare. Annie Jenkins returned to teaching at Pleasant Grove and then to Florin to fill the unexpired term of a teacher. She continued teaching in both Florin schools until she retired in 1942 because of ill health. Annie Jenkins and her children were always very active in St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Elk Grove.

In 1943 the Jenkins family moved to South Sacramento. Elinor Jenkins Jorgensen lives in Gustine, Merced Co.; William Jenkins and Clare Jenkins Keating live in South Sacramento. There are eight grandchildren. In 1946 William Jenkins died and in 1971 Annie Jenkins passed away.

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# The Cassieri Family

Michael Cassieri was born March 23, 1889 and his brother John Cassieri was born June 24, 1893 in New York City, New York. Michael and John left their place of birth in 1895 when their mother and father, Joseph and Teresa (Zita) Cassieri, returned to their home town of Laurenzana, Italy. In Laurenzana, the family worked in the fields farming crops such as wheat, corn and beans. An older brother, Anthony (Tony) Cassieri, born in 1879, lived in Sacramento and worked at the Torch Club in Sacramento until he died in 1948.

Michael returned to America around 1912 and settled in the town of Florin, living with his sister, Rose, and brother-in-law, James Frasinetti. He worked at the Capital Candy Factory in Sacramento and was a winemaker for the Frasinetti Winery. He also had a vineyard on Reese Road where he raised Tokay grapes. In 1921, on Christmas Eve, his bride-to-be, Lucia Urgo, who was born in Laurenzana, Italy, arrived in Florin. She was the daughter of Samuel and Angela (Ungara) Urgo. Michael and Lucia were married on January 22, 1922 in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Sacramento. They lived on Florin Road, Elk Grove-Florin Road, Gerber Road and Reese Road raising their family of six children. Lucia's brother, Rocco Urgo, born in 1890, left Italy at the age of 17 and came to Florin with Lucia. He lived with the Michael Cassieri family in Florin until he died in 1965. Michael Cassieri died on May 5, 1956 and Lucia Cassieri died on May 6, 1979. The children:

Joe is a bachelor and lives on McNie Avenue in Florin. Sam was married in 1954 to the former Gayle Huffer who had two children, Pat and Linda, by a previous marriage. Gayle died in February 1984 and Sam lives in his home on Pritchard Road in Florin. Teresa is married to Bob Fletcher, retired Florin Fire Chief, and they live on Florin Road in Florin. They have a son, Robert, who married the former Kathy Bush. They have three children, Jennifer, Jill and Sara, and live in Grangeville, Idaho. Clara is married to Les Philbrick. They have a son, Les Jr., and live on Lorin Avenue in Florin. Jane is married to Frank Hansbearry and they live in Samuels, Idaho. Lana is married to Nevin Nyswonger. They have two adopted children, Rachele and Michael, and live in Sacramento.

John Cassieri, brother of Michael Cassieri, met Teresa Urgo, sister of Lucia (Urgo) Cassieri, in Laurenzana, Italy. John and Teresa were married on February 2, 1918, in Laurenzana. Three sons, Joseph, Samuel, and Vincent, were born in Laurenzana, Italy. On April 5, 1924, John left the town of Laurenzana and returned to America to the town of Florin. He maintained 80 acres of grape vineyard owned by his brother-in-law, James Frasinetti, who founded the Frasinetti Winery in 1897. In 1925, Teresa, and their three small children came to America to join her husband. They lived in a house on the 80 acres located between Florin Road and French Road. A daughter, Edith, was born in this same house on April 9, 1928. John's mother, Teresa (Zita) Cassieri, also lived in the same house until she died in 1932. In 1949, John and Teresa moved to McNie Avenue in Florin. John died on February 4, 1969. Teresa, who was born on June 18, 1895 will be celebrating her 90th birthday this year. The children:

Joe Cassieri was born in 1918 and died accidentally in 1935. Sam Cassieri was born in 1921 and died accidentally in 1950.

Vincent Cassieri was born August 29, 1923. In 1947, he married the former Margaret Silva. Vince and Margaret live in their home on Power Inn Road in Florin. They have a son, Leonard. In 1977, Leonard married the former Irene Kerby and they live in West Sacramento. Edith married Harold Meidinger in 1950 and they live in their home on Grove Street in Elk Grove.

\* As a special note, all of the children of the Michael and John Cassieri families attended all grades and graduated from the Florin schools.

*The  
Cassieri Families*

*join in  
wishing everyone*

*a*

*Happy*

*"Once-In-A-Life-Time*

*Reunion"*

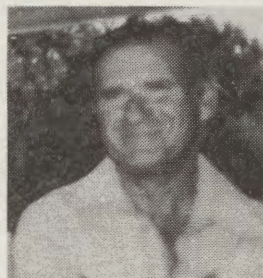
*Celebration*



# The Groza Family



Left: Helen Groza, Dept. of Motor Vehicles tech.; Paul Groza, Sr., retired mail carrier; Tina (Groza) Damiano, Cosumnes River College secretary; Paul Groza, Jr., U.S. Postal Inspector.



Mike Groza, retired from Aerojet.



Left: Dr. Vivian S. Groza, retired teacher and author; William B. Groza, retired building contractor; Bilyann Groza, state employee; William G. Groza, remodeler.



Above: Zorka (Groza) Enos, retired state employee; John Groza, Sr. (deceased), machinist-welder for Southern Pacific; John Groza, Jr., former newspaper employee; Darlene (Groza) Schatz, State Justice Department crime tech.; Robert Groza, engineer fire department.



Left: Helen (Groza) Domich, retired dry cleaner; Dominic A. Domich, retired carman for Southern Pacific; Sharon J. Domich; Robert E. Domich, Q.R. shelter mechanic for the Sacto. Army Depot.



Left to right: Anton Groza, Irene Groza holding Paul, Andrew, William B., John, Helen and Mike.

Anton and Irene moved from Lukian, Russia to Canada in 1915 and arrived in Sacramento in the year 1923. In the year 1929, the family moved to Florin on Reese Road across from the Florin Ball Park; here the family worked their ranch and neighboring ranches.

Anton Groza, deceased, blacksmith for Southern Pacific; Irene Groza, deceased.



# Red Men/Pocohantas Councils

## Noveta Council #151

### Degree of Pocahontas

On Feb. 17, 1915, by previous arrangements of the petitioners of the Great Council of California for a charter of the Degree of Pocahontas of the Improved Order of Red Men, an assembly was called in the Red Men Hall by Great Pocahontas Julia Perry of Vallejo. There were 49 petitioners.

The Degree Team of Wenonah Council of Sacramento exemplified the work beautifully. The following Charter members still living are: Helen (Mollet) Roemer, Rena (Carlisle) Kramer and Alva (Bashaw) Smith. The Great Pocahontas, Julia Perry, named this Council *Noveta* meaning *Bright Star*.

The following September, the Brothers of Kaskaskia Tribe #123 asked the Noveta Council if they would like to cook and serve supper at the Tokay Ball. This was agreed upon, and continued for several years. They became well-known for their delicious chicken suppers.

In those days there were no babysitters and the members would bring their small children and put them to sleep on benches, covering them with their coats. They also hosted many card parties to raise funds for the Council. The members worked very hard to keep their Council going. The Hall Board lowered their monthly rent to \$2 during the depression years.

Our first Great Chieftaincy was given to Florence Taylor, followed by Laura Lee, Amelia (Behm) Carlisle - 1948, Celia Franusich - 1955, Madelyn Armas - 1959, Alice Behm, - 1962, Marjorie Fairbarn - 1965, Celia Franusich, Great Musician - 1969, June Rose - 1972, Minialice (Vargus) Behm - 1977, Cora Castros - 1982 and Dorris Battyany - 1984.

There are four members who have served the Council over 50 years: Helen (Nelson) Bachman, Beatrice (Taylor) Hampton, Mildred (Kara) Wright and Helen (Mollet) Roemer.

The members of this Council were mostly from families that grew up together, their children and grandchildren, aunts and uncles, old friends and new friends, closely knit together by love and respect.

After 70 years we salute all the *Bright Stars* that have gone before us, all that are here today and all that will shine in the years to come.



## Kaskaskia Tribe #123

### Improved Order of Red men

A group of men from the Florin area headed by George Carlisle, Sr., decided to form a Red Men Tribe, and so the Kaskaskia tribe #123 of the Improved Order of Red Men was instituted in 1902. The Tribe grew, and by 1915 the present Red Men Hall on Florin Road was completed. The architect and contractor for the building (which still stands) was William Mollet.

Members holding high offices include: the late William Behm, Great Sachem of the Reservation of California in 1972; the late Amelio Frasinetti was also an elected Great Chief. At the present time John Battyany is Great Sachem. There are now two other Great Chiefs: Peter Boyer, Great Mishinewa; and Wesley Castros, Great Junior Sagamore of the State.

In the early years, Kaskaskia Tribe became well-known for their three annual activities, the Strawberry Ball, the Tokay Ball and the Christmas party for the children of the community, where the youngsters all received gifts. In those days of the horse and buggy, Sacramento was a long ride away, and Kaskaskia Tribe provided social life and entertainment for many Florin residents.

There are at present two members who have belonged over 50 years: Chris Feickert, 53 years; and Kenneth Eaton, 55 years. After 83 productive years, Kaskaskia Tribe is proud that it is still very active in the Florin community.

# The Ogata Family

Charles Yonemitsu Ogata was born Jan. 19, 1900 in Fukuoka, Japan to Kurakichi and Kikuno Ogata. When his parents left for the United States with his younger brother, Masanori, Charles stayed in Japan and later lived in Korea with his grandfather and older sister Hatsuye.

At the age of 17, Charlie came to Seattle, WA to be with his family, who had a barbershop at the time. Due to his father's failing health, the family decided to return to Japan, leaving Charlie in Seattle to work in a laundry during the day to support himself and attend school at night.

In 1922, he came to San Francisco to work and joined a traveling baseball team that played games with teams in the Japanese communities around Northern California. When the Florin baseball team was in need of a good second baseman, Charlie was hired by a Mr. Ikeda, and Charlie made his home in Florin.

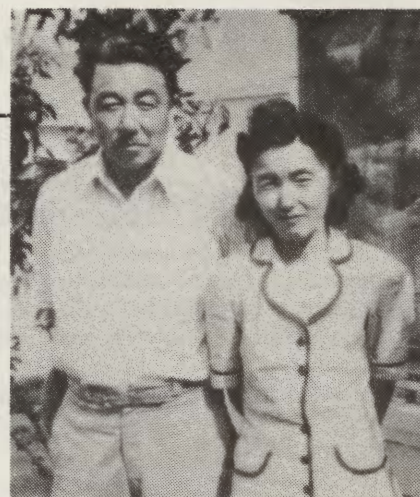
It was here that he met and married Hatsuko Margaret Tsukamoto, the eldest daughter of Kuzo and Ito Tsukamoto. On Nov. 25, 1925 the wedding was held at the Florin Japanese Methodist Church.

In 1928, the Ogata family of four, including two little children, Chizu and Masa, went to a small town near Bakersfield, called Arvin. Charlie worked as a foreman for two years on the farm of a Colonel DiGiorgio while Margaret learned to cook for a big gang of laborers.

Eight years later, he had drawn up a contract with Mr. Yamamoto to raise hops in a small farming area near the foothills, east of Florin, called Sloughouse.



Ogata family picture, taken in 1934. Back L-R: Alfred Iwao Tsukamoto, Namiyo Tsukamoto, Margaret Hatsuko Ogata, Charles Yonemitsu Ogata. Front L-R: Grandpa Kuzo Tsukamoto, Raymond Masa Ogata, Violet Chizuko Ogata, Alvin Mitsu Ogata, Grandma Ito Tsukamoto, Arlene Ogata.



Charles and Margaret in Benton Harbor during 1955.

With a little money they had saved from raising hops, Charlie and Margaret opened the Ogata Grocery Store in 1937 next to Hodge's Hardware Store. Their small store was quite prosperous until the war broke out in 1941.

When the shocking Military Orders were issued, they were forced to close their store. In the hectic days prior to this mass removal, they hurriedly tried to sell what they had. They had to practically give away their entire inventory, selling their stock for ten cents on the dollar.

On May 29, 1942, they picked what they could carry and took their family of five daughters and two sons and went on the train from Elk Grove to Fresno Center, then Jerome Ark., to Gila, Ari. Government Internment Camps for nearly three years.

When closing the internment camps was inevitable and the ban was lifted to return to California, Charlie and Margaret opted to make a fresh start in a new place. They moved to Eau Claire, MI where Charlie worked as a supervisor on a Henry Lane Peach Farm. Two years later, when the Henry Lane Farm was sold, they moved to a small town called Benton Harbor.

They started a small farm raising strawberries, cabbage and tomatoes, with much help from their children. They farmed for 20 years. Along with this farm, the Ogatas opened a small grocery store on their property which Margaret ran at first, later hiring help to run it.

Charles and Margaret adopted their grandchildren, Kent and Chuck, when their mother remarried. So Margaret and Charlie have been the dedicated parents of nine children, and blessed by 14 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

In the last 15 years, Charles became a successful, well-liked nursery and landscape gardener and businessman. Charlie's work became recognized as an outstanding contribution to beautifying the entire area of Southern Michigan. He became the first person to start Japanese rock gardens, which delighted everyone. He was honored by the community and was invited to join the Chamber of Commerce.

In 1982, the Ogatas found a quiet place and moved to a lovely home in St. Joseph where he built himself a beautiful garden, too. He enjoyed his new home about a half-a-year before he found in December, 1982, a better place to rest and continue building beautiful gardens.

Arlene Ogata

# The Tahara Family

IN LOVING MEMORY OF KUMAKICHI TAHARA  
AND CORPORAL COOPER TOSHIYUKI TAHARA

In grateful, loving tribute we recall:

Kumakichi Tahara arrived in the United States in 1900. As a very young man he had left his native Hiroshima with other youths to find an opportunity to labor and make something of his life.

After working for the Southern Pacific Railroad Company for awhile, he set out to establish a niche in the communities of San Jose, Fresno, Sacramento, and finally came to stay in Florin.

He returned to Japan for his bride, Tsune. He sharecropped on Fairbairn and Jenkins vineyards and in 1928 settled down on a 40-acre plot of land on the Old Jackson Homestead on the corner of Elk Grove-Florin and California Vineyard.

His struggle to make an honest living as a strawberry and grape grower was suddenly disrupted when the government ordered all persons of Japanese ancestry to evacuate from the West Coast. The family went from Fresno, to Jerome, Ark. and Rohwer, Ark.

Tsune and Kumakichi had a family of five sons and a daughter. Cooper Toshiyuki Tahara served in the All Nisei 442nd Combat Unit and paved the road to heroic fighting in the European battlefronts. His Unit was reported to be the most decorated, and to have the highest number of casualties in USA military history.

The unwelcome letter from the White House announcing that their son, Corporal Cooper Tahara, had given his ultimate sacrifice for his country, reached the shocked Tahara family in an American Concentration Camp in Rohwer, Ark. after his death on Nov. 5, 1944. Their fourth son, Shig, served in the U. S. Army, and was sent on duty to Japan with the Occupation Forces.

The Tahara family returned to Florin to pick up where they left off, to resume their living on their farm. They actively supported the work of the Florin Buddhist Church program.

When the National JACL and their leaders, veteran heroes of WWII returned to fight against bigotry and injustice, they passed the McCarran Immigration, Naturalization Bill in 1952, which finally gave the Isseis the privilege of becoming naturalized American Citizens.

In March, 1953, Tsune and Kumakichi were members of the graduating class of sixty Isseis from this Florin area who received a Diploma of Graduation from the Americanization class and gained their American Citizenship after 50 years of working and believing in this country and giving their precious son's life for this USA.

Tsune is 90 years old this year. She is spry and able to live in one of the oldest pioneer cottages still being used on Florin Road, right next to the Old Buddhist Church Building.

The surviving family members with Tsune Tahara are:

Howard Hiroyuki and Emily Tahara

Tadashi and Yoshiko Yamanaks

Shiro Albert and Hatsuko Tahara

Richard Goro and May Tahara

Mrs. Mitsuye Yamaji

Shig and Carol Tahara

17 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

Cooper Tahara at Fort Smith.



The Tahara family: Front L-R: Shig, Tsune, Mitsuye, Kumakichi and Richard Goro. Back L-R: Howard Hiroyuki, Cooper Toshiyuki, Shiro Albert.

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# The Butler Family

Arthur C. Butler was born in 1895 on the family homestead in Eldorado County near the 14-mile stone now named Pollock Pines. His bride-to-be, Grace Feil, was born in 1897 on Elder Creek Road, one mile east of Stockton Highway. Arthur and Grace were married in 1921 and moved to Florin in 1923 where they purchased a house, buildings and 10 acres of tokay grapes on Power Inn Road near Florin Road.

Of the maternal grandparents, Charles B. Feil (born in 1870) settled in the Florin area about 1890; Katherine Feil (born in 1873) came to the Florin area in 1892. They were married in 1893. They became established farmers in the Florin area raising strawberries and tokay grapes. From 1924 to 1946, the Florin area produced 98 percent of the world's supply of tokay grapes and was also a major supplier of strawberries to the eastern markets. Charles B. Feil was a Director of the Florin Fruit Growers Association from 1915 to 1946. Charles was also a director of the California Fruit Exchange (the Blue Anchor insignia) from 1924 to 1946.

Arthur and Grace Butler farmed 50 acres of tokay grapes while raising their four children. During the depression of the 1930s, Arthur went to work for the Florin Grammar School system. The Japanese students attended the Florin East School and all others attended the Florin West School. In 1952, a new school was erected in the Kara Tract a short distance west of the Florin West School. Arthur continued as Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds at the new school until his retirement in 1964.

In addition to working for the Elk Grove Unified School District, Arthur was a trustee for the Florin Grammar Schools from 1926 to 1930. He then served as trustee and later as President of the Board for the Elk Grove Union High School from 1930 to 1952.

After his retirement, the home place on Power Inn Road was sold and a new home built in Tokay Park one-quarter mile west of the old house. Grace passed away in 1978; Arthur continues to reside in Tokay Park.

He joined the Odd Fellows in 1922 and has been an active member of the Florin Lodge for 62 years. He also maintains a current membership as a third degree Mason in the Elk Grove Lodge (since 1946) and has a 50-year certificate in the American Legion Post 608, Florin.

The grandchildren of Charles B. Feil and Katherine Feil, and the children of Arthur C. Butler and Grace Butler are:

Donald A. Butler

Dorothy J. Butler (Fauth)

Melvin C. Butler

Janice K. Butler (Ross)

Arthur has 23 grandchildren (all born near the town of Florin) and 10 great-grandchildren (also living close to the Florin and greater Sacramento area).

## How I Remember Mr. Butler

### *(A Former Florin Grammar School Student)*

He was the janitor, but do you know what the janitor's job consisted of in the '30s, '40s and '50s? First of all, he had two schools to clean and maintain, six rooms plus all the ante rooms. In the '30s each room had a coal burning stove, and each stove had to be started and stoked each weekday morning before classes began, and kept going all day long. When one of us kids would break a window with a ball or rock, who replaced it? Who? The janitor. Who cut the lawns and trimmed the bushes? Who? The janitor. If there was any painting or carpentry to be done, who did it? Who? The janitor. When the creek in back of the school flooded and surrounded the school, who would carry us kids through the water into the school? Who? The janitor. Who repaired our backstop on the baseball diamond? Who? The janitor. When they started the school lunch program, who hauled the lunches to the school? Who? The janitor. When the school district purchased their first bus, who drove it? Who? The janitor.

Who after all of this, had time to counsel us kids, attend the trustee meetings in Elk Grove, be an active member of the Odd Fellows Lodge, farm 50 acres of grapes, milk the cow, help raise four children and have time to attend church on Sunday? Who? The janitor. How many people do you think it would take to fill his shoes? Who? The janitor.



## The Eaton Family

Zalmon J. Eaton born in Boston, Massachusetts, September 15, 1900. Charles M. Eaton came to Florin in 1905 to work for James Rutter in his vineyard. In 1906 Bertha V. (Sherwood) Eaton came to Florin with Zalmon. In November 1908, Charles M. Eaton, Jr., was born.

In 1906, Charles M. Sr. went to work at the Valley Fruit Exchange Store as working manager. (Local school kids were swiping nails and other hardware from the store during recess and lunch. An elaborate trap was set and they were caught. The kids were badly shaken and they did not do it again.) Bertha V. remembered the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. It rattled the dishes in her kitchen that day.

In 1908, Sept. 24, Kenneth S. was born. He was told he saw Haley's comet in 1910. About this time the old school caught fire and the excitement caused a run-a-way truck from the Basket Factory. Kenneth was in the road and he was knocked down by the horses and landed in a chuckhole and then he was run over by the truck. After much screaming, Dr. Wildanger's careful check determined nothing was wrong. By the way, the school fire was merely a chimney fire and was put out right away.

Charles M. became plant manager of the Florin Basket Company. He worked there until labor strife disrupted operation of the plant. It was sold to the Western Basket Company

of Los Angeles, and in a couple of years it went out of business because a cheaper and better box was devised.

Bertha V. became postmistress of Florin, and, after twenty-five years, retired to her new home.

Charles M., Jr., joined Pacific Fruit Exchange and later moved to Lodi with his wife, Teresa, and son, Larry.

Kenneth S. served in World War II and later worked at the Army Depot. He and Roberta retired from the State in 1973.



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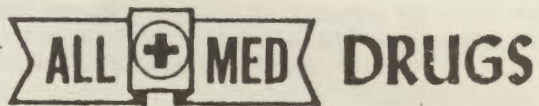
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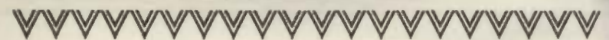
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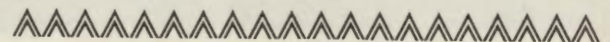
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# The Mollet and Roemer Families

## Mollet

William Mollet and Carrie Gephfert were born in Fort Wayne, Ind. in the early 1870s. In 1896 they were married and in time became the parents of three children, Helen, Erma and Paul. They lived on a large farm near the city of Fort Wayne. Vegetables and grain were grown. Helen can remember scrubbing carrots, beets, etc., tying them into bunches, loading them into the wagon drawn by a team of horses and early next morning heading for the public market place.

In 1907 they decided to move to Washington state, then in 1909 the family decided to move to California and settled near Florin on a farm raising grapes and various tree fruits. Besides farming, Father was a carpenter and building contractor. In 1914 he was in charge of planning and building the Red Men's Hall which still stands in Florin, and also some homes in the Florin area.

As the family grew Helen was married to Oscar Roemer, Erma to Harry French, and Paul to Berniece Nielsen. All lived in the Florin area. William and Carrie were charter members and very active in the Red Men and Pocahontas lodges, which began meeting in the new building in February, 1915. Helen had graduated from Sacramento High School in January, 1915, and continued her education at a private school. In June, 1915 she received her teaching certificate. She still lives in the Florin area and her family lives close by in Florin or Sacramento. Oscar, who married Mary Ann Pinola, a graduate of Enterprise School, lives nearby and has a dairy which is on the Roemer property. Two daughters live in Sacramento, and Bill, the youngest son and a retired C.H.P. officer, is now living in Long Beach.

There are nine grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren in the Roemer Mollet family.

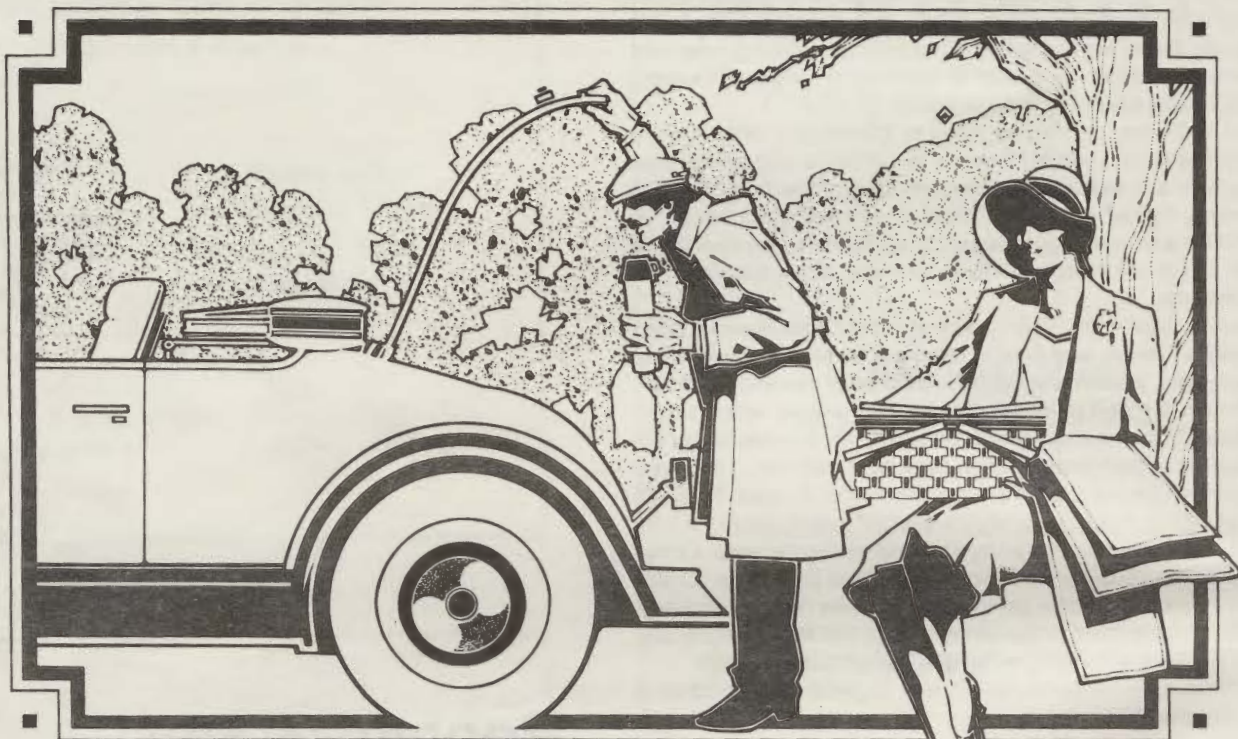
## Roemer

It was in the late 1890s when Peter Roemer came to America from Germany to make his home in California. He met and married Caroline Feil, born in Kansas, whose family had come to California and settled near Sacramento. They made their home on a large farm known as Colonia Acres, growing strawberries and grapes. Oscar Roemer was the youngest of four children and often told how they worked in the fields picking strawberries. They hauled the crates of berries on a large flat-bed wagon drawn by a team of horses to the local markets in Sacramento or shipped to San Francisco. In 1916 Peter Roemer died and the property was eventually sold as the population grew and soon became part of Sacramento.

In his early 20s Oscar Roemer bought a large vineyard near Florin and the Enterprise School. Helen Mollet was teaching at the Enterprise School at that time and eventually they married. She completed her sixth year as teacher, received her California Life Diploma signed by Gov. Stephens, and resigned her teaching position.

For the next 10 years she became a housewife and mother of four children. All of them completed their eight years at Enterprise School and graduated from Elk Grove High School. Ten years later in 1933 after the death of her husband, she returned to Enterprise School teaching all grades and acting, at times, as principal. After 27 years, she retired in 1960. She is still living near the Enterprise School which has been her home for the past 64 years.

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# The Feickert Family

Chris Feickert came to the Florin area from South Dakota in May of 1920 by train. He purchased a 20-acre plot with an unfinished home and some out-buildings on it. He worked for neighbors in the grape fields, and was employed by Libby's Cannery. He helped pack grapes for shipping; this was a change from the life of farming in his native state of South Dakota. In 1923 he planted many acres of grapes and in a few years he became a major grower in the Florin area. He also raised chickens and had a volume yield of 1,000 eggs per day. In 1921 his son Leonhardt was born; he attended Florin West Elementary School and Elk Grove High School. Upon completion of school he was employed by the Florin Box factory and the Sacramento Box Company.

In 1942 he went to work for the federal government at McClellan Air Force Bases, where he is still employed as a radar repairman. In 1946, Chris purchased 10 acres adjoining his ranch. He hired an engineer to survey and stake it off to lots and streets and a water system. He then sold lots and homes in the subdivision. This, incidentally, was the first major building project in the Florin area. It is now known as Tokay Park, and Chris Avenue is named in his honor. In 1957, he sold his holding to a developer and moved to Lake Tahoe and built his present home. In 1958, he purchased a commercial lot on Highway 50, and in partnership started the South Tahoe Block Company, Inc., a masonry establishment that is still in operation.



Chris and Elizabeth Feickert with their son at the Feickert's Florin home in 1924.

## The Miyao Family

*Best Wishes for a  
Successful Reunion*

From the Miyao Brothers

George Miyao  
Martin Miyao  
Jesse Miyao

### Tokumatsu and Yae Miyao

Early in 1895, Tokumatsu Miyao left Hiroshima for Hawaii. By 1900 he had come to America. He tried laboring on various farms in Marysville and Yuba City areas. Finally he came to Florin around 1906. With his wife, Yae, they settled on a farm and raised berries and grapes. They were evacuated to Tule Lake, their sons were in the service. Tokumatsu lived till 76 and Yae till 85.

## The Camp Family

Edgar James Camp was the son of James E. Camp and Nettie M. Camp; he was born Dec. 18, 1885, and died June 28, 1961. Mary Davina Fairbairn was the daughter of John T. and Agnes H. Fairbairn; she was born April 10, 1887, and passed away Aug. 22, 1958.

Edgar James and Mary Davina were married Jan. 7, 1908. They observed their 50th wedding anniversary Jan. 7, 1958, at the Florin East Grammar School. Edgar and Davina had four children — James Bruce Camp, Doris D. Wiley, Frances M. Padovan and Barbara E. Walker. The four children graduated from the Florin grade schools.

Edgar James was working for the county assessor's office when he retired. Previously he was employed by the Pacific Fruit Exchange, the Earl Fruit Company and had been an appraiser for the Federal Land Bank. He had a dairy for many years and delivered milk to the Florin stores and many of the Florin residents.

As of 1985, Edgar and Davina have five grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren.

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# The Tudesko Family

*Pete Tudesko — A Man To Be Remembered  
From humble beginnings was born a man  
of great determination . . .*

Pete Tudesko was born on March 4, 1888 in Ston, Yugoslavia. Pete, the eldest son of a poor farmer, left Yugoslavia in 1906 to seek his fortune. Pete's father arranged for passage to South America. He went to Argentina where he worked on a farm. Later, he had an opportunity to farm his own crops. Meager profits brought only disappointment. Several friends suggested that he go to North America to find his fortune.

In Chicago, a cousin assisted by teaching him English and introducing him to other Yugoslavians. Life in the city was not appealing. Pete heard stories of California and dreamed of owning his own business while living in the country. Within a few years Pete left Chicago. When Pete arrived in California, he was directed to the Bay Area to seek employment. He found work on fruit farms in both Coalinga and San Jose. Again, Pete became restless.

Sacramento was Pete's next home. Southern Pacific Railroad employed him. Within a year, Pete again thought of his dream—he hungered for an opportunity to make his fortune. While living on Lemon Hill Avenue in Sacramento, Pete became acquainted with a neighbor who raised swine. The two men became partners and the business prospered until disease struck and killed every animal.

Pete was introduced to another neighbor, Lillian Bartoli, in

1916. Lillian and Pete were married on July 20, 1919. Later two sons, Vince and Steve, were born.

Pete met a young man, Andy Deller, who became instrumental in actualizing his dream. He made Andy his partner and the two men opened a slaughter house in Florin. This business, known as "Tudesko and Deller" flourished. (The slaughterhouse was located on the lot that is now occupied by Swift Dodge.) Pete and Andy expanded their business and included a third partner Fred Hanson. Shortly thereafter, the three men moved their business to a larger slaughterhouse in Broderick, where it continued to prosper.

In 1932, Pete purchased some land in Florin and this became the family homestead. Pete also invested in his son's ranch. At age 60, in 1948, Pete sold his assets in "Tudesko and Deller" and retired. He worked for a time on his son's ranch. Due to poor health, he actually did retire to a quiet life with his wife, Lillian, in Florin.

On February 15, 1985, at the age of 96, Pete Tudesko died. His wife, his sons and their respective families reside in the Sacramento and Sloughhouse area. Pete had fulfilled his dream. With little formal education, Pete operated a highly successful business. Throughout his life he won the encouragement, praise, and respect of many friends and business associates.

This dedication to Pete Tudesko is my way of saying, "I am proud of you. I loved you. I will never forget you."

*Jeannie Tudesko*

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## The Franusich Family

Nicholas (Nick) Paul Franusich, a native of Austria-Hungary (now Yugoslavia), came to San Francisco in 1912 where he married and had two sons and was a restaurateur. The family came to the Florin area in 1929 and settled on the Petkovich grape vineyard on Walsh Station Road (now Bradshaw) between Gerber Road and the California Vineyard Road (now Calvine). The New Kosovo Winery was on the Petkovich property when the Franusich family took over.

During the war Mr. Franusich harvested grapes and strawberries for many evacuated Japanese and took over a Japanese store and restaurant on Florin Road next to the Odd Fellows Building. After the war he built stores and apartments on Florin Road across from the Red Men's Hall. Later, in 1948, with co-developers S.W. Sunzeri and Chris Feickert, he developed the first subdivision in the Florin area from grape vineyards and strawberry patches on the northwest corner of Florin and Power Inn roads. This became the Tokay Park Subdivision, where he lived until his death in 1982. His widow, Celia Franusich, still resides there.

The two sons, Paul and Peter, went to the Reese Grammar School and graduated from the Elk Grove High School before going on to universities. Both sons served in World War II, Paul in the Army Air Force in Europe and Peter in the Marines in the Pacific war zone.

The elder son, Paul, a graduate of U.C. College of Pharmacy at San Francisco, is now a retired pharmacist. He and

his wife, Ida Loretz, reside in Franklin as does his oldest son, Paul, and his wife, Michelle. The younger Paul is a graduate of Sacramento City College.

The second son, Mark, with his wife, Linda, and three step-sons reside in Brookings, Oregon. Dr. Mark Franusich is a veterinarian and a graduate of U.C. at Davis. Both are Elk Grove High School graduates.

The younger son, Peter, who got his masters degree in psychology at San Jose State College, and his wife, Jane, live in Los Gatos. Peter is a retired instructor and counselor at San Jose City College. Their four children are Peter Jr., Michael, Nanci and Jeannine.

Peter Jr., his wife Maria, and son Joel Peter, live in San Jose. Peter graduated from U.C. at Santa Barbara. Michael, his wife, Ann, and children, Sarah Jane and David John, live in Pacific Grove. Michael graduated from U.C. Santa Cruz. Nanci and her husband, Tommy Libby, live at Lake Berryessa. Nanci is a graduate of Chico State University. Jeannine and her husband, Steve Ando, and their daughter, Julia Rose, reside in Benicia. Jeannine graduated from Cal-Poly at San Luis Obispo. Their grandmother, Mary Franusich, lives in Sacramento.

Celia and Nick were married over 34 years and made numerous trips to Yugoslavia where they had a home on the beautiful Adriatic Sea.



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# The Barmby Family

1893 was an important year in George Barmby's life for it was the beginning of a 76 year relationship with Florin, 9347 Florin Road, and its people.

George was the son of Robert and Rachel Barmby, who were born in England: Robert in Yorkshire in 1836 and Rachel Williams in Lincolnshire in 1846. They came to California from Iowa in 1887 and began farming on Hedge Avenue near Florin. In 1893 they bought the farm on Florin Road when George was 17. He lived there for the next 76 years.

Robert and Rachel had 14 children: John, William; Viola Barmby Scholefield; Margaret Barmby Perkins Edwards; George; Raymond; Minnie Barmby Webb; Charlotte Barmby Swycaffer; Ira; Della Barmby Laird; Lillie Barmby Lynn; Lee; Edna Barmby Burgland and Myrtle Barmby Dozier. They all lived on the ranch. In later years Robert and Rachel had 17 grandchildren.

George married Florida Grant in 1912. They had 2 children, Irving and Evelyn Barmby Coupe who both lived on the farm until their subsequent marriages.

George continued to live on and farm the ranch until at the age of 93 he moved to Sacramento. He continued to own the land until his death in January, 1981, at age 104.

Irving married Margaret Simon in 1938 and they had 2 sons, Ronald and John. Irving died in 1970. Evelyn married Daniel (Bill) Coupe in 1938 and they have 2

children, Bruce and Cathleen Coupe Lynch, who were raised in the Florin-Elk Grove-Wilton area and now all live in Chico, California. George and Florida have eight great grandchildren.

The Barmby farm while only 160 acres was big in hospitality and real American family living.



*Florida and George Barmby with children Evelyn and Irving.*



*Robert Barmby*



*Rachel Barmby*

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# The Okamoto Family

Heisaburo Okamoto left his native Hiroshima when just a lad of 15. He worked seven harsh years in the sugar plantations in the Hawaiian Islands, then in 1902 came to America. He worked hard building the trans-continental railroad east through the treacherous Feather River Canyon, now known as the Western Pacific Railroad. Frightened by extremely dangerous conditions, he and some of his friends who came together from Japan sneaked away from the job and hiked out to Chico, then down the Valley to Florin.

They found work, harvesting grapes for John Thomas. The next year they contracted to share-crop the Thomas vineyard.

In 1912 he married a picture bride, Fusano Noso, who came from the same neighborhood of Kinoshio mura (village) where he was born. Heisaburo not only acquired a wife, he now had fine, extra help. He expanded his operation by raising strawberries while share-cropping at the Thomas Ranch. They had four children: Isamu (Sam) in 1913, Kazuma (Joe) in 1914, Takeshi (Bill) in 1915 and Michika (Grace) in 1918.

Heisaburo and Fusano aspired to be independent. In 1920 they found just the place, one mile north of Florin Road, off of Florin Perkins Road. They built a home and a barn, with the help of neighbors and friends. They were quite settled on their own 40-acre grape vineyard and berry patch. In 1927 they expanded their endeavor and acquired more land on Gerber Road, and struggled to turn it into a productive grape vineyard and strawberry farm.

They were abruptly driven out of this life when World War II erupted. They spent time in Fresno Camp, Jerome, Arkansas and Rohwer, Arkansas before being allowed to return home again in 1945.



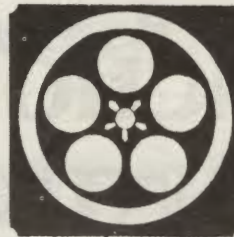
Sam and Mama Okamoto with white police dog and chickens in 1914. This is the Okamoto children's birthplace: John E. Thomas Ranch on Gerber Road.

Sam and Bill both served in the U.S. Army, assigned to the Language School for Military Intelligence Service. Both were sent to Japan on duty. Sam ironically was on the research team to report on the A-Bomb destruction of Hiroshima, where his parents were born.

Heisaburo died in May of 1946, a year after returning to Florin, never having ever revisited his native Japan since he left in 1895.



Family picture taken in 1920. Back L-R: S. Nakashima, Mama, Fusano Okamoto, Papa, Heisaburo Okamoto. Front L-R: M. Tange, Sam Isamu, Joe Kazuma, Bill Takeshi, grace Michika.



Back L-R: Evelyn and Joe, Sam and Miki. Front L-R: Bill and Fumie, Mama Okamoto, Grace. Taken Dec. 1946.

## The Inouye Family

The story of Oscar Inouye's family begins when his father, Masajiro Inouye from Yanomura, Aki-gun, Hiroshima, Japan came to the United States in 1903. His father worked on the farms of this area and in a few years was joined by his younger brother Isaburo Inouye. Together they labored and decided to settle down in Florin.

Before the Anti-Alien Land Law was passed, Masajiro and Isaburo purchased a fine place, one mile east of the town, on the north side of Florin Road. They bought 26.88 acres from William A. Gardner on March 15, 1913, where they raised the famous "Oregon Plum" strawberries and Flame Tokay grapes.

Their original address was R.F.D. Box 142, Florin, California. Later the address changed to 8815 Florin Road, Sacramento, California.

They sent for their brides (not known whether they were picture brides, or they went back to Japan for their wives). However, by 1916 Asao (Oscar) Inouye was born on the farm place where the family lived for 65 years. (March 15, 1913 to March 18, 1978).

When Oscar was still a tiny infant, his father, Masajiro, died. A few years later, he lost his mother, Fudeyo. Alone and orphaned, Oscar Asao was cared for and raised by his uncle, Isaburo Inouye. Oscar grew up with his cousins who were his family. His Uncle Isaburo had three children. Yoriko was the oldest daughter, and the second daughter was Futsuko, and a son Kazui.



Old Inouye house before 1942.



Oscar remembers the horse drawn wagons and buggies which were the vehicles of earlier days, and the special exciting day in 1920, when his uncle bought a Model T Ford to replace the buggy.

The family lived on the same farm most of their lives, except for the years they were excluded and incarcerated at Fresno, then Jerome, Arkansas, then at Amache, Colorado. Oscar left to work for the Bird's Eye Food Plant at Seabrook, N.J. with a group from Florin. He worked there about three years before returning to Florin.

He took care of the grape vineyard to help his uncle, and worked at Campbell Soup Company for a while, but worked most of the years at Mather Field. He retired early to take care of his aged Uncle who had raised him. Uncle Isaburo was his "father" and lived until he was 95.

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*Floyd and Bev Luman*  
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## The Luman Family

Willard and Evelyn Luman have lived in the Florin area since 1962, and have three children: Lynn Louise of Lincoln, CA, Floyd of Rancho Murieta who owns the Country Store, and Rodney who is in the Army's 200th Aviation Unit stationed at Fort Sill, OK.



Willard has been with the Southern Pacific Railroad for 30 years, and Evelyn has worked at California Almond Growers for 20 years.



Floyd is married to Beverly Green, also from the Florin area. They have two children, Floyd, Jr. and Sherry. They live in Rancho Murieta. ('68 graduate of Elk Grove High.)



Lynn is married to Dave Louie, a Placer County deputy sheriff. They have one daughter, Stephanie Marie. Lynn works for the Roseville Hospital in accounting. ('75 graduate of Elk Grove High School.)



Rodney is an '83 graduate of Valley High School.

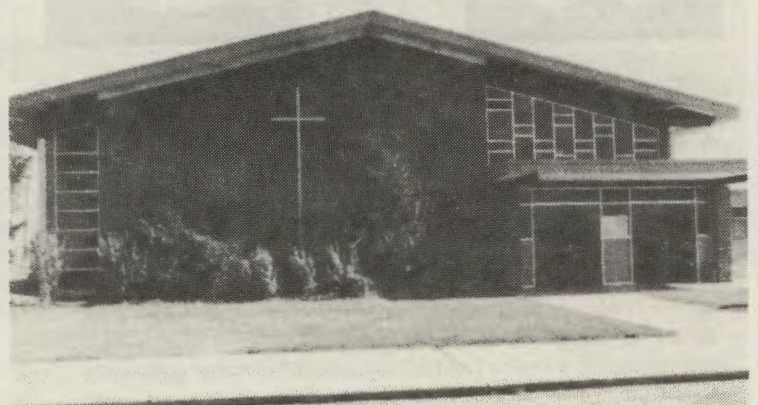
## St. Paul's Catholic Church

In 1942 the pastor of All Hallows parish supervised the building of St. Paul's Church (now St. Patrick's Day Care Center on Florin Rd.), on land donated by John and Augusta Bacchini. A priest from All Hallows said Mass here every Sunday. In 1958 Father Michael Hogan became the first resident priest. Father Richard Doheny succeeded as pastor in 1960. Under his administration, the parish bought fifteen acres of property about a mile and a half east of the old parish site.

In 1964 it became evident that a larger church was needed, so the present church was built and opened in 1965. Later all of the other buildings — rectory, school, parish and CYO halls — were moved onto the property and remodeled. In 1976 Father Doheny was appointed pastor of St. Mel's in Fair Oaks and Father Hannan succeeded as new pastor.

In recent years the parish has hired a professional Religious Education Director, a Youth Coordinator to address the needs of our teens and is presently negotiating the hiring of a part-time Liturgical Coordinator. The Heavenly Father has certainly blessed our parish community very generously. We hope and pray that He will continue to bless all of us. The list of priests who have served as associates in the past are Bishop

Robert Mahoney, Msgr. Patrick Nolan, Msgr. James Church, Fr. George Schuster, Fr. William Raftery, Father Leo Scheibel C.P., Fr. Thomas Maguire, and Fr. Simon Twomey.



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# The Akiyama Family

## *Best Wishes for a Happy Reunion*

- Onatsu Akiyama
- Ichiro and Shoko Akiyama, Amy, Roy and George
- Taneo and Noriko Akiyama, Florence, Kay (Akiyama)  
Fujii and James
- Albert and Sumiko Akiyama, Roger and Robert
- Shiro Akiyama

In 1913, from Hiroshima, Japan, Michiharu Akiyama arrived in the United States at the age of 19 and settled in Florin to raise grapes. He returned to Japan in 1920 to marry Onatsu, and once again, came back to the United States to live in Oakland for four months.

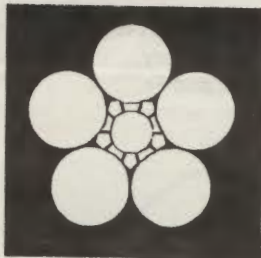
After living in Oakland, they decided to settle in Florin and opened the Florin Fish Market in January, 1924, in addition to raising four boys until the evacuation.

However, Michiharu was seized by the FBI in February of 1942 and was confined for four months at Angel Island and at Sharp Park near Half Moon Bay, CA. He was later transferred to Santa Fe Internment Camp until April, 1943.

His family was evacuated and interned at the Fresno Assembly Center; Rohwer and Jerome, AR. In May of 1943, Michiharu and his family were united at Crystal City Internment Camp, TX, until December, 1945, when they were sent to Japan via Seattle, WA.

In the mid 1950s, the Akiyama family returned to settle in Sacramento.

Michiharu lived until 69 in 1963.



# The Kadokawa Family

Three generations of the Kadokawas have lived in the Florin area from 1900-1964. They were Kazo Kadokawa (1877-1926), Hide Nitta (1886-1919) and Misuno Kamidoi (1896-1941), all of whom originated from Hiroshima, Japan; Uichi Toye (1896-1976) came from Saga, Japan.

Kazo Kadokawa immigrated to this country in April of 1900 at the age of 23. He left Yokohama, Japan, on a freighter, disembarking in Victoria, Canada. He worked for a few years and saved enough money to join his sister, Ito Kadokawa, and her husband, Kuzo Tsukamoto, in Florin. In 1906, Kazo became one of the three owners of 60 acres of land which is the corner of Stockton Boulevard and Gerber Road. The other two owners were Kuzo Tsukamoto (Al Tsukamoto's father) and Shonosuke Kushi (Tom Kushi's father).

Hide Nitta and her friend, Mikio Yamano, both came to Florin in 1909 as picture brides. Hide Nitta was to be the bride of Kazo Kadokawa, and Mikio Yamano was to marry Mototaro Kurima. Joichi Nitta (my mother's brother) came to join his sister, Hide Nitta, and Kazo Kadokawa in the year 1912. Within a few years, the family increased, so Kazo (my father) sold his share and purchased 30 acres of open land in South Florin in the year of 1914. The land he purchased is now the corner of Cottonwood Lane and Elsie Avenue. With the help of Joichi Nitta, a small home was built and 30 acres of land was leveled with a team of horses. This process took many months to accomplish. Kazo and Joichi Nitta worked hard leveling, plowing and preparing the land for a grape vineyard. Because grapes take many years to harvest, they planted strawberries in between the grapes so that they could at least earn an immediate income from strawberry farming.

Kazo and Hide had four children: The oldest son died as a child in 1910; Agnes Shizue in 1911; Ted Hideo in 1913; and Mary Kazumi in 1915.



Kadodawa family in 1978. Back L-R: Ted Okamoto, Don and Joyce Kazama, Nobu Yui. Middle L-R: Betty Okamoto, Dorothy and Hideo Kadokawa, Doreen Yui. Front L-R: Jon and Denise Okamoto, Jason and Doreen Yui. (Kazo and Hide Kadokawa's heir, the Hideo Kadokawas, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.)

Kazo and Hide Kadokawa in 1914 irrigating strawberry patch.



Kazo and Hide Kadokawa with Shizue, born in 1911.

After the World War I influenza epidemic hit so many pregnant mothers, Hide Nitta, expecting her fifth child, had a stillborn daughter and died on January 17, 1919. She left a grieving husband with three young children. Kazo Kadokawa took his two daughters to his parents in Midori, Hiroshima, in late 1919 and came back with a new wife, Misuno Kamidoi, of Fukawa, Hiroshima. She gave birth to Alice Kikuye in 1921, Bertha Shinoye in 1922 and finally Joe in 1924. The two daughters who were brought to Japan earlier returned home around 1922. Kazo was very happy and proud of all his children.

After six years of a happy marriage, Kazo Kadokawa was stricken with pneumonia and died on Jan. 7, 1926, leaving his wife behind with six children. I was only 13 years old when my father died and too young to carry on the farming business, so my stepmother married Uichi Toye. They had two children, Helen Kimiko, who was born in 1927, and Harry Daitaro, born in 1934.

I married Dorothy C. Nishikawa in 1938. We have three daughters: Doreen, born in 1939; Bette in 1941; and Joyce in 1946. Misuno Kamidoi (my stepmother) passed away on January 14, 1941.

When World War II broke out, President Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066 was enforced. All Japanese in the Florin area were to leave on May 28 and 29, 1942. We were sent to the Fresno Assembly Center on May 29, 1942, and then to Jerome, Arkansas, on Oct. 6, 1942. Within a year and a half, we were ordered to move to Rohwer, Arkansas. When the California restriction was lifted in 1945, we came back to Florin in August of 1945 and started farming on the South Florin ranch until 1949. I worked for the Sacramento Frozen Food Company for 12 years, and my wife, Dorothy, farmed until 1952 with the help of our two oldest daughters. With the drainage system coming through, I sold our property in 1963 and moved into the city limits. I then worked for the City Unified School District (Sacramento), and Dorothy worked as head seamstress for H and H Drape Rite. I retired in 1978, and my wife retired in 1981.

Our daughters all attended Florin Grammer School, Elk Grove High School and college. Doreen Akiko is a public health nurse who works for the San Francisco City and County Health Department. She is married to Nobuyuki Yui, and they have two children, Darren and Jason. Betty Chiyeko is a laboratory technician who works for Sutter Memorial Hospital. She is married to Tadanao Okamoto, and they have two children, Jonathan and Denise. Joyce Kazuye is an administrative secretary who works for Pacific Gas and Electric Company lobbyists. She is married to Donald Kazuye.

—Hideo Kadokawa



# The Ralph Jackson Family

Ralph James Jackson was the youngest son of James Thomas Jackson. He was born in Sacramento on March 22, 1889. He farmed in the Elk Grove and Florin areas for many years.

In 1922, Ralph married Isabelle Compton. Isabelle Compton Jackson was born in Pleasant Grove, CA on Nov. 16, 1895. She was raised there by her parents: Dora Murphy Compton and Daniel Simon Compton. Isabelle taught and served as principal of the Florin Grammar School for many years. Upon her retirement, the Isabelle C. Jackson Grammar School was named in her honor. Ralph and Isabelle had four children: Joanne Isabel LaTona—born in 1923, Ralph James, Jr. — born in 1924, John Malcolm — born in 1929, and Jacqueline Marie Monical — born in 1931.

## *Joanne Jackson LaTona*

Joanne was the first child of Ralph J. Jackson and Isabelle Compton Jackson, born in Sacramento on Feb. 12, 1923. Completed Florin Grammar School, California Junior High, C.K. McClatchy. Graduated from Sacramento City College and on to San Jose State College for degree in 1945. Taught school in Sacramento City, Florin and Elk Grove school districts. Married Theodore C. LaTona in 1946. Theodore was born in Fredonia, NY but schooled in California. He earned degree from Sacramento State College. He was an administrator in the Elk Grove School District until his death in 1984. Their first child, Theodore C. LaTona, Jr., was born in 1947, followed in 1948 by Jennifer Ann. Philip John was born in 1956. Isabel Jane arrived in 1959. Theodore Jr., Jennifer Dean and Isabel Jane live in Sacramento. Philip John lives in Stockton, CA. Children of Theodore C., Jr., and Janiece are Nicole Marie (7/11/74) and Jamie (2/22/78). Jennifer is mother of Sarah Pozel (8/1/77).

## *Ralph J. Jackson*

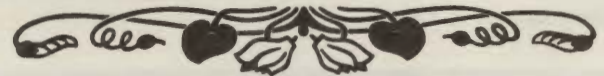
Ralph was the first son of Ralph J. Jackson and Isabelle C. Jackson. Born March 22, 1924, in Sacramento, CA. Attended Florin Grammar School and Elk Grove High School, graduating in 1941. Spent three years in the U.S. Army in Europe during World War II. Has been a general building contractor in the Sacramento area. Married to Geraldine Jackson, father of Sharon Lantis of Chino, Vaughn Sweet of Los Angeles, and Gayle Clements of Jeff Jackson, both of Sacramento. Grandchildren: Sharon and Dana Lantis, Jimmie and Angela Clements, Jeff and Michelle Jackson. Currently residing in Lake of the Pines, Auburn, CA.

## *John Malcolm Jackson*

John was the third child of Ralph J. Jackson and Isabelle Compton Jackson, born in Sacramento on Jan. 10, 1929. Attended Florin Grammar School and Elk Grove High School. Married Claudine Bordisso on Oct. 2, 1949. John founded John Jackson Masonry in Sacramento in 1963 and is currently president of that corporation. John and Claudine Jackson have three children; John Malcolm, born in 1950; Francine Joanne, born in 1953; and Renee Marie, born in 1958. They all reside in Sacramento. John Jackson, Jr., married Lynda Rachel Hosack in 1971. They have two children, John William and Jessica Leigh. Francine Joanne married Max Alan Dill in 1976. They have two children, Celia Renee and Meghan Marie.

## *Jacqueline Jackson Monical*

Jacqueline was the fourth child of Ralph J. and Isabelle Compton, Jackson born in Sacramento on June 20, 1931. Graduated from Florin Grammar School and Elk Grove High School. Attended Sacramento City College. Married James Bryce Monical in 1951. James was born in Wichita, Kansas on June 14, 1930. Came to California in 1936. James Monical attended San Juan High School and graduated from U.C. Berkeley School of Optometry in 1953. He has been practicing in West Sacramento for 31 years. James Bryce and Jacqueline Jackson Monical have five children: James Bryce, Jr., 12-23-52; Daniel Lee, 8-15-54; Lisa Ellen, 11-16-56; Steven Andrew, 7-6-59; and Alan Thomas, 4-17-61. They have two grandchildren: Jennifer Marie and Issac James by Daniel Lee and Sally Wade Monical.





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# The Hamataka Family

Yeimatsu Hamataka was born in Hiuna, Asagun Hiroshima in October, 1884. He arrived in America in 1904 at age 20. He labored in the fields harvesting crops, and trying different jobs. At age 29, with the help of his family, he arranged for his childhood friend Suzuno Hamano from his native village of Hiura, Hiroshima, to be his bride. Suzuno was born August 2, 1892. She arrived in America at 21 years of age. They were married in Tacoma, WA in 1913. Yeimatsu had two brothers, Fujimatsu and Elichi. One settled in Washington and the other came to Florin and had a family in this area.

The newlywed Yeimatsu Hamatakas came to Florin and settled down at the Miller ranch on Fruitridge Road. They later moved to other farms nearby. Six children were born to Yeimatsu and Suzuno. Agnes was born in 1914, Toshi in 1915, Violet in 1916, Ray Ehaku in 1920, Kate Satsuki in 1922 and Henry Saburo in 1924. The children attended Sierra Enterprise School on Hedge Avenue and graduated from Elk Grove High School. Tosh, the eldest son, was 26 when he was drafted to serve in the United States Army in March, 1941, (he was one of the earliest from the Florin area, the very first Nisei to be called from Florin was Ben Oda. Three sons of Yeimatsu and Suzuno served our country: Tosh and Saburo in WWII in Europe, and Ray in the Korean War.

When we were shocked into World War II, the Hamatakas were suddenly uprooted. Yeimatsu and Suzuno's family left their strawberry farm in the middle of their harvest season and were sent to Fresno Center, then to Jerome and Rohwer, AR, government internment camps.

Tosh married Sue Wakabayashi of Perkins in 1941. When the families were confined in Fresno Center, Sue left Fresno to join her husband who was stationed in a military camp in El Paso, TX. They had two children, Hannah and Ronald, when Tosh was sent overseas in 1944 to fight with the famed 442nd All Nisei Regimental Combat Team.

After intense fighting, the Nisei 442nd Infantry Unit succeeded in liberating the village of Bruyeres from the Nazis. The people in this town of France were surprised that the heroes who liberated them were American soldiers, but all with Japanese faces. Though exhausted from weeks of intense fighting, these liberators of Bruyeres, the "Go for Broke" heroes, volunteered to help their comrades trapped in the Vosges mountains. History records their heroic rescue, penetrating a stronghold no other fighting unit had succeeded to break through, and rescuing the 275 soldiers of the 34th Texas Division. In this fierce fighting, the 442nd unit suffered more than 800 casualties (killed or wounded). Many of the Florin boys who died fell during this battle.

Private First Class Tosh Hamataka was wounded twice. Straight from the hospital he returned again to the fighting front as many other Niseis had done. He was awarded a Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Clusters, but he came home permanently wounded from the fight for his country. His youngest brother, Henry Saburo, joined the 522nd Artillery Unit of the 442nd Battalion. Tosh remembers the thrill of meeting his kid brother in Italy, during the war.

The reunited family returned again to Florin when PFC Tosh Hamataka was released from the Veteran's Hospital and discharged from the Army. His wife and children left Amache, and parents and family left Rohwer. Tosh and Sue established Hama's Garage and Service Station on the spot

Page 70

*Yeimatsu and Suzuno celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in January, 1963.*



*Suzuno Hamataka at 90, and her six children. L-R: Henry Saburo, Kate Satsuki Okano, Violet Nobori, Ray Ehaku, Agnes Idehara and Tosh.*

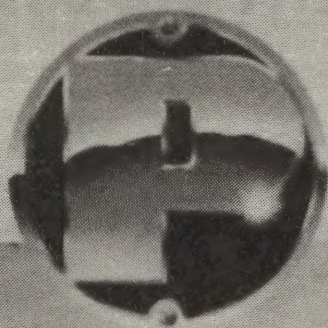


*Back L-R: Tosh and Sue Hamataka with children Hannah and Ronald. Front L-R: Connie and Jane.*

where Florin's blacksmith, Pete Guiitonis had served the community for years. They retired after 30 years. They have built a new home on Reese Road.

Their four children attended Florin Elementary School, and Elk Grove High. Hannah has a private partnership business for medical transcriptions in San Francisco. Jane works for the San Francisco branch of the post office. Ronnie works for Pacific Telephone, Connie has graduated from Sacramento City College and plans to continue her studies.

Yeimatsu died in 1972 at the age of 87. Suzuno is still spry at 93.



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*How did such an exciting business begin in Florin? Dorothy Purcell tells us that this Metal Fabrication Job Shop was incorporated in 1964. John Purcell, the president of this 21-year firm, was a die-maker. He came from Kansas to the Sacramento area, when he was hired by Aerojet General.*

*He started out in his garage, with a one-piece machinery, and expanded from there. He rented some space from a friend in Rancho Cordova, then soon found he needed to move to a bigger place, to Otto Circle off of 47th Avenue. In 1970 they rented the building on 8500 Weyand and managed to operate there for ten years, then built a new building across the street, and have continued to expand east along the road, to 8555 Weyand Ave.*

*They have since purchased their former shop area so now both corners belong to the Purcell Manufacturing Co. Inc.*

*We are looking forward to the street improvements along Florin Perkins Road and feel that Florin will have as much a future as it has had a colorful past.*

*Dorothy and John Purcell*

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# The Kanekichi Tsukamoto Family

Kanekichi Tsukamoto was born in Iwakuni, Yamaguchi-ken, Japan in 1888. He was only 20 when he came to Hawaii and then on to California around 1908, working as a laborer. Eventually he settled down with a pretty picture bride, Hatsu Fujikami, and worked in Suisun, CA. There Katsuko (1910), Sam (1912) and Shizue (1914) were born.

Then he took his family to work at Sutter Island in Courtland. There, Isamu (1916), Teru (1918), Yosh (1920), Bill (1922) and Masashi (1924) were born. Sadness came when Masashi died when he was 15 months old. In 1926 Rosie came. Then Kanekichi moved to Sacramento County to work at a place the Japanese people called "Jon Make" (where the Jesuit High School is now located.)

It was about 1928 when the family moved again to Southeast Florin, to the Eleven Oaks Ranch to sharecrop pears and raise strawberries. Jim was born in 1929.

About 1931 when Kanekichi bought 20 acres from Mr. Hildred. He hired William Jenkins to level the land with a team of horses. There he raised strawberries, grapes and lettuce.

The oldest child, Katsuko, at 5 years of age was sent to Iwakuni, Japan to comfort her grandparents, and to get an education. In 1929, she returned to the Tsukamoto family when she was a young lady of 19, ready to be married. The rest of the children attended Reese Elementary School and Elk Grove High, except Jim who was 13 when the war interrupted all normal life for the Tsukamotos and the Japanese people farming in this area — affecting even the American-born citizens.

The older children were already married and starting families of their own when the evacuation order hit all persons of Japanese ancestry. May 29, 1942, the Tsukamotos found themselves behind barbed wires looking out to a nation at war. They were sent to Jerome, AR and then when that closed in June, 1944, they were sent to Rohwer Internment Camp.

They returned to Florin when they were allowed to come back into California to resume farming again. Father Kanekichi died of a heart attack while enjoying a restful visit at Gilroy Hot Springs when he was 67 years of age, in the winter of

1955. Mom Hatsu lived 15 years more working in the fields and enjoying her children and grandchildren, until 1970, at 80 years of age.

Father and mom raised 10 children (even with the early loss of Masashi at 15 months). With a big family of his own, he took in his nephew, Tadao Okihiro, who lost his mother and whose father was sickly. He raised Tadao as his own until he became an adult. All of his children were survivors until Sam suddenly died on April 19, 1985, at age 73.

Sam and Arlene (Hayashi) had Elaine, Edith, Hannah, Lorie and Sam Jr.; Katsuko (Tsukamoto) and Roy Kawamura have Harry, Frank, Stanley, Connie, Elaine and Jane; Shizue (Tsukamoto) and Harry Kawahata have Harry Jr. and Richard; Isamu and Betty (Nagal) have three daughters, Barbara, Janet and Grace; Teru (Tsukamoto) and Eddie Fukushima have George; Yosh and Mary (Sugimoto) have Myrna, Stan and Randall; Bill and Toyo (Omachi) have Karen, Kathy, Colleen and Lonnie; Rosie (Tsukamoto) and Joe Tanaka have Jackie and James; James and Beatrice (Yasui) have Steven, Robert, Kristine and Cheryl. Kanekichi and Hatsu have 30 grandchildren and at the present in 1985, have 32 great-grandchildren.

Kanekichi and Hatsu sent two of their sons to war. Yosh and Bill graduated from Military Intelligence Service Language School at Fort Snelling and served with the Occupation Forces in the Asiatic Front. PFC Yosh Tsukamoto was sent to Japan. S/Sgt. Bill Tsukamoto served in the Philippines.

Dad was pretty strict on discipline and liked sports. He was proud of his sons playing baseball. He never tolerated laziness. Even after playing a big football game on Friday night at school, he had all his kids farmed out to various farmers to pick wine grapes. His motto was: "No Work-No Play!"

*Tsukamoto baseball stars  
—back, Jim and Sam; front,  
Bill and Yosh.*



*Kanekichi and Hatsu with  
Sam and Shizue, about  
1915.*



*Father and Mother Tsukamoto (seated), taken about 1930.  
Back L-R: Shizue, Nephew Tadao, Isamu, Sam, Katsuko,  
Teru, Front L-R: Yoshio, Bill, Rose, Jim on Mother's lap.*

# Odd Fellows/Rebekah Lodges

*Florin Odd Fellows Lodge #364  
of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows*

*Florin Rebekah Lodge #20*

*Florin Theta Rho Club #68*

Back in the early days when these two Lodges were instituted, Florin was a nice farming community, located about seven miles from the State Capitol in Sacramento. When people visited in Florin, they generally stayed all night and returned home the next day, due to the distance. In this small community all needs could be met, there were stores, a church, a school, and transportation to travel to larger cities by the Southern Pacific and the Traction Lines. Florin was a thriving community surrounded by farm land. The principle crops were grapes and strawberries; several fruit companies were located in the town and would ship these crops to other cities, mainly to the eastern markets.

The people were very happy people, with their church and lodge activities, creating their social life. The Odd Fellows and Rebekahs had many plays staged by their talented members, and these productions would draw large crowds from surrounding areas. They had many whist card parties which were very popular, and large crowds would come. Everyone also looked forward to the baseball season at the Florin ball park, located by the Red Men's Hall and later moved to Frasinetti Road. Florin's team was known for their outstanding players.

During the night activities everyone would bring their children, making a bed by putting chairs together, and when you grew a little, another chair was added. When the families were ready to go home, the children were bundled up and carried to their transportation. Vivian Kara often remarked that the ones who bought the chairs the children slept on never had to sleep on them, or they would have bought softer ones.

When automobiles came to be the mode of transportation, in the summer evenings people from Sacramento would often drive down Stockton Road, turn at the 7 Mile House onto Florin Road, drive through Perkins and continue back home. The vicinity they travelled along Florin Road and Florin-Perkins Road was all under irrigation and so it was a very cool ride.

On July 12, 1890 the Florin Odd Fellows Lodge #364 was organized by the state leaders who visited Florin and instituted this Lodge. Five years later on Feb. 14, 1895, the Florin Rebekah Lodge #20 was also organized and instituted by the state officers. The Florin Odd Fellows Hall was built in approximately 1892, and the father of Ben and John Thomas (young men at that time) helped their father to build it. Afterwards, Ben Thomas was the secretary of the Lodge for many years, and Jennie, his wife, was secretary for the Rebekahs for many years. They had many records stored in their home and in the early '40s their home was completely demolished

by fire; then in 1964, the Odd Fellows Hall was also destroyed by fire. Therefore there are, unfortunately, no old records of the two lodges, only what individuals remember.

Florin Theta Rho #68 is the young girls' organization, for ages 10 through 21. Florin Rebekahs #20 sponsors these girls, and the youth are great workers in the community.

Florin Odd Fellows have two long-time members: David V. Rowland, 67 years; and Arthur C. Butler, 63 years. Florin Rebekahs have several members who have served 50 years or more: Dorothy Thomas (a retired teacher who taught at Florin School for many years), Lillian (Weatherbee) Penrose, Ann (Hoffman) Whipple, Celia Franusich, Florence Mischke, Cora (Penrose) Rupert, Agnes (Whipple) Thomas and Vivian (Venn) Kara.

Members of the Odd Fellows or Rebekahs who were state officers are: Albert H. Clarke, Past Grand Patriarch of the Grand Encampment of California 1941; Vivian (Venn) Kara, President of the Rebekah Assembly of California 1963 and also Marshal of the International Association of Rebekah Assemblies of the World 1980; Judette (Kara) Rippetoe, Outside Guardian of the Rebekah Assembly 1977; Jerry J. Strickland, Grand Ruler of the Grand Junior Lodge 1981; Walter L. Strickland, Grand Treasurer of the Grand Junior Lodge 1980; Lyle Wescoatt, Grand Patriarch of the Grand Encampment 1981; Margareut Oleson, Outside Guardian of the Rebekah Assembly 1982; Gussie Wescoatt, Chaplain Rebekah Assembly 1985; Lori V. Rippetoe, Treasurer Theta Rho Assembly 1985. This year, 1984-85, the members are very proud to have as one of their holding the highest office of the world: Lorin D. Swift, who is Sovereign Grand Master of the world.

The past and present members of these lodges have served this community for approximately 95 years in friendship, love and truth, and will continue to build our community. We welcome all the newcomers and hope you too will enjoy our community and will learn to love the town of Florin as much as we do.



# The Haight Family

Luther Spencer Haight was born in New Haven, CT and moved to California when he was 14 years old. He married Opal Pugh, a native of Perkins. Opal's father was a well-borer and judge of Brighton Township.

Opal and Spencer had three children: Phyllis, born in Folsom where Spencer worked for the Natomas Gold Dredging Co., and Betty and Luther (Buster) who were born when the family lived on Power Inn Road. The Power Inn residence was their home until 1929 when the family moved to Florin, across the street from French's Garage. Spencer then worked for W.O. Davies.

In 1932 the family home burned to the ground and was rebuilt from a building purchased from Mather Field. The Haight family will always be indebted to the many fine Florin friends, especially Harry French, for the clothing they supplied to them after the fire and for the money given to them to help complete the second house. This building still stands behind the Florin Fire House.

In 1939 Spencer bought a small dairy on Florin-Perkins Road, formally owned by W. O. Davies. The land was farmed and the dairy existed until 1961.

Phyllis Haight married Bob Irving. They have two children: Bob Irving, Jr. and Margie Mitter.

Betty Haight married Vick Oliffe, who was later killed in the war. She then married Harold Kinsel. They have two children: Janis Barranhea and David Kinsel.

Luther Haight, Jr., married Elsie Schauer. They have four children: Vick, Randy, Wendy Scribner and Robin Haight.

Opal is currently living in her own apartment in Sacramento. She is 82 years old.



# The Tanaka Family



Tomokichi and Sekiyo Tanaka on Feb. 24, 1918. George is almost two; Wilbert is five months.

In 1904, after serving in the Calvary Division, 1st Class, in the Russo-Japanese War, Tomokichi Tanaka left Hiroshima, Japan for Hawaii on March 25, 1906. He later arrived in San Francisco on Nov. 8, 1906, and came to Sacramento two days later. He worked on farms picking fruit in the Newcastle area and hops in Sacramento and various other places. Sekiyo came via Seattle on June 22, 1914 as a picture bride from Hiroshima and settled together with Tomokichi in Florin in September of 1915 to grow grapes and strawberries. In 1931, they permanently settled on a ranch with their five children on Gerber Road. They built a two-story house which was contracted and built by Mr. Ben Thomas of Florin.

In the height of the strawberry season, evacuation orders came. They were sent to Arboga Assembly Center near Marysville on May 29, 1942, for about a month, then to Tulelake Concentration Center. In June of 1943, they were sent to Jerome, AR and then to Heart Mountain, WY in September of 1944.



Tomokichi and Sekiyo at Heart Mountain Concentration Camp, 1945.



L-R: Daughters Myrtle, Teri and Myrna in 1930.

On July 4, 1945, eldest son George, now married to Martha (Ikeda) received clearance to return to the West Coast to the family ranch.

The family joined him later on Aug. 12, 1945. They picked up where they left off and resumed farming again at what was once their home over three years ago.

George and Martha moved back to Florin area from Palo Alto to retire in 1983.

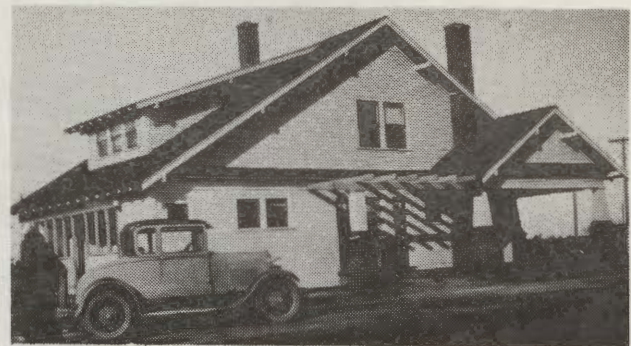
On March 21, 1941, second son Wilbert was drafted and served four-and-a-half years in the U.S. Army. He has three daughters, Sharon (Mrs. Gerald Arase), Louise (Mrs. Kenny Teranishi); the youngest Susan, is in her third year at University of the Pacific. All live in Sacramento.

Myrna Hitomi is the third one in the family, and has two daughters, Norma and Donna. Myrtle Furukawa and her husband George, have two children, son Randy and daughter Ailene (husband John Nishida, Jr.) and a two-year-old son, John, all living in Sacramento.

The youngest of the family is Teri Mizusada, married to William. They have two children, Kim and Lenard, also living in Sacramento.

With the Florin area reunion, we cherish many fond and happy memories here in Florin in spite of what had transpired during the early '40s.

This reunion will be long remembered. We pay tribute to all the pioneers of Florin.



The Tanaka home on Gerber Road in 1931.



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## SACRAMENTO MEMORIAL LAWN 50TH ANNIVERSARY

*Morris S. Daggett, Sr., started the "Morris S. Daggett Funeral Home of Courtesy" in 1921 at 506 O Street, one block from the original Sacramento Buddhist Church.*

*In 1934, Mr. Daggett, Sr., purchased the Sacramento Memorial Cemetery at 6100 Stockton Blvd, which was three years old. When the Sacramento Redevelopment Agency purchased the O Street Mortuary location in 1957, Mr. Daggett's dream of having a Mortuary and Cemetery together came true by relocating and building one of California's most beautiful mortuaries at Sacramento Memorial Lawn. The chapel consists of a patio garden to the north, a waterfall and stream at the front, and a beautiful rock, fern and tropical garden with a six-foot waterfall, stream and koi fish pond to the south.*

*Mr. Daggett, Sr., passed on in 1977, at the age of 80 years old, but his desire to build the finest Japanese columbarium in the mainland U.S.A.—as a tribute to the Japanese people—was completed in 1980 by his wife Thelma, and two sons, Morris and Gilbert, at a total cost of \$350,000, and will accommodate 542 families.*



# The Carlisle Family

Samuel S. Carlisle left St. Louis, MO by ox cart in 1849 and came across the plains to California with his wife, the former Hannah Phillips of Philadelphia and three young children. He settled near Sutter's Fort, and he erected for his own use the first brick house in Sacramento, the brick having been brought around the Horn by ship from St. Louis. He was among the earliest contractors and builders in the city of Sacramento. He later began the manufacture of brick in Sacramento and extended his business to Virginia City where he also conducted a hotel for some time. He was a member of the Sacramento Society of California Pioneers and eventually settled in Oakland, CA where he lived the rest of his life.

His children were Jennie A. (Mrs. M.L. Chency) of Oakland, Samuel P. of Sacramento, Mary C. (Mrs. J.E. Youngberg) and Mericanna D. (Mrs. Geo. W. Scott), both of Alameda County, George W., Lillie (Mrs. F.W. Hersey) of Oakland, and Jessie.

His son, George W. Carlisle, was born Jan. 10, 1864, and was educated in the public schools of Sacramento. He learned brick masonry and contracting trade working with his father which he subsequently worked in.

On Aug. 26, 1882 George married Celia Buell, a native of Chicksaw County, Iowa. Her parents, Daniel H. and Susan (Arnold) Buell had settled in the Florin area when they came from Nebraska in 1871. The Buell's other children were Charles L., Julius H., Daniel S., Edwin, and Frank. The family moved to Lodi in 1901.

Celia persuaded George to give up the contracting business, which sometimes took him far from home, and in 1885 they settled on their ranch in Florin. Their marriage was blessed with four children: Fred E., George S., Harvey H., and Rene C. (Mrs. Peter J. Kramer).

With the exception of two years in Fresno County, he farmed in Florin the rest of his life, becoming a well-known raiser of strawberries and grapes and was a member of the

Odd Fellows Lodge. He did occasional brick work, including the brick hop buildings for the Hoover Ranch and others along the Cosumnes River, and some warehouses in Elk Grove.

Their oldest son Fred became the Municipal Court Judge in North Sacramento, a post he held for many years. Rena became Mrs. Peter J. Kramer and she and her husband, who was also a principal, taught at the Franklin Grammar School for over 40 years.

George's two other sons, George and Harvey, each continued ranching in Florin, founding the Carlisle Brothers fruit packing and shipping enterprise located southwest of the intersection of Florin Road and the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks. They shipped fruit until the decline of the grape vineyards of the area after 1946, when they sold their acreage and retired. Harvey would tell how in the depth of the depression, when the banks could no longer extend credit to the farmers, the Japanese came to help pick his grapes, explaining that they would wait the many months it took for him to get paid for his fruit to collect their wages.

George Carlisle married Georgia Troutman and raised three daughters, Hilda (Varney), Laverle (McSweeny), and Arleen (Sharp). The Sharps continue to raise quinces in the Florin area while Mr. William Sharp worked for the Internal Revenue Service. They have since retired and moved to Santa Cruz.

Harvey Carlisle married Amelia Behm. They had six children, Harvey of Loomis; Harold and Beulah (Braziel) of Sacramento; Clifford, who died in grammar school; Ethelyn (Schwoerer) of Vallecito; and George R. of Elk Grove. Harvey was an active member of the Independent Order of Red Men and was also the president of the school board of the Elk Grove High School District for several years. Harvey and Amelia were both members of the Florin Methodist Church.



The  
Carlisle  
family

# Florin United Methodist Church

It was more than 100 years ago, 107 years to be exact, in 1878, that E.A. Wible came down to a small village town of Florin from the mining camp in the Sierras to preach.

His sermon was preached in the only large meeting place in town, which was the saloon and dance hall. It stirred L.L. Goddard to envision a fine community for families to live and children to grow here in Florin.

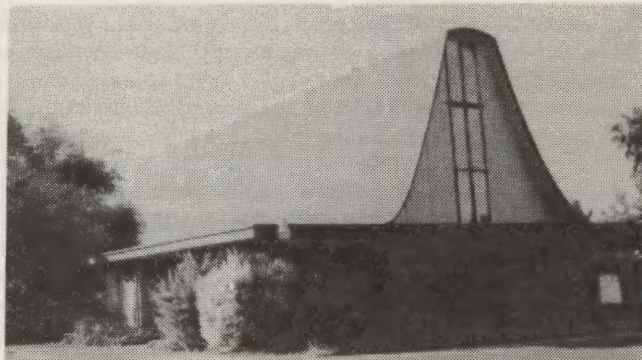
He donated property he owned on either side of the Southern Pacific Railroad track. A school house was built on the East side where the Union Sunday School classes were held for a number of years. Land for the Methodist Church was designated one-quarter mile west of the track.

In 1884, Rev. Albert E. Warren undertook to organize the building of the Florin Methodist Church. L.L. Goddard was its first trustee, and Fred French became its first Sunday School Superintendent. The church building was completed and occupied by 1885. *Exactly 100 years this year!*

Twenty years later, in 1898, another significant step was taken affecting the history of our church in Florin. The Caseys donated one-quarter acre of land next to the church for a two-story building for the parsonage family. This insured a resident preacher who kept the boxes of circuit record in Florin, and, of course, strengthening the continuation of a church in Florin, when many other struggling churches elsewhere closed their doors.



The first Methodist church built in Florin.



The new building on Palmer House Drive and Florin Road.

Records of weddings, funerals, baptisms and memberships stir our imagination. We recognize many familiar names and realize they are descendants, now scattered all over the Sacramento Valley, county, and all over the state and nation. Some were our schoolmates, business friends, and community associates. Their ancestors might have been active members of our church, or attended Sunday School, or were married in our church! So this church has served this area for a hundred years and more!

Some were flourishing years of great activity, some were lean, hard years. *This church almost died in 1933!* Superintendent Hamilton announced to a stunned tiny group of members, "Florin Church is hopeless. We must close this church!"

Frank Stewart, the Sunday School Superintendent at that time, pleaded for the sake of the children and the few families who struggled through a stressful depression. They looked to the church for hope and faith. "The church cannot abandon them!" They understood Superintendent Hamilton had a very good reason to close this church but he listened. In this grave crisis of the Florin Methodist Church history, *Faith Won Out!*

During the church's 80th to 85th years, a great miracle happened to change our church's entire future. Such dogged determination and downright courageous, unrelenting, stubborn faith, resulted in a monumental endeavor by a tiny band of Christians lead by a spiritual giant in a wheel chair, Rev. L. W. Reneau. This struggling little church on Florin Road and Pritchard took a "Giant Step" and lifted itself out of the rut into a site more appropriate for greater ministry.

We built a new church on Palmerhouse Drive and Florin Road and moved in on November, 1963 with Rev. Don Wells as our minister. We made a bold new beginning, and the church's outreach and ministry prospered beyond all our dreams.

In 1978, with Rev. Charles Cordes, we joyously celebrated our first century of ministry to the Community of Florin with the theme: *"A HUNDRED YEARS, PROLOGUE TO A DYNAMIC FUTURE!"*

With Reverend Dr. Tony Ubalde Jr., we are now in our seventh year of our new century of dynamic ministry.

We humbly cherish the 43 ministers recorded in our church history whose dedicated lives kept the spiritual flame of Christ alive that the Kingdom of God could be nurtured in the Florin Area.

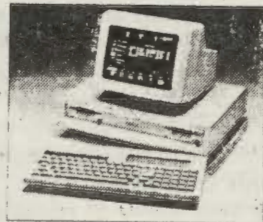
Mary Tsukomoto, Historian  
Florin United Methodist Church

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# The Ouchida Family

Three generations of the Ouchida family have lived in Florin. It started with Sennosuke (1868-1944) and Soyo (1873-1928) Ouchida who originated from Fukuoka, Japan. Sennosuke and Soyo worked at the basket factory, and labored in the berry and grape fields.

Harold Yasuji (1905-1964), Hitoshi "Stogie" (1909-1970) and Pedro Hiroharu (1915-) were born in the Florin area, and attended local schools.

Harold was president and manager of the Northern California Farms Company, shipping a great amount of berries during its peak production era of the '30s, together with Florin Berry Company, and The California Berry Growers Association, and Nojiri, the first and foremost shipper. At one time in the early '20s these companies collectively recorded that they did indeed ship more than 130 carloads out of the Florin Southern Pacific depot, making Florin the strawberry capital of the world.

In 1929 Harold married the second daughter of Kuzo Tsukamoto, Edith Hisako. She worked as the bookkeeper for the Northern California Farms Company. She also kept house and was the mother of five children by the time life in Florin with the strawberry crop completely stopped on May 29, 1942, by Presidential Order 9066.

The family was sent to Government Internment Camps in Fresno, Jerome, AR, and Gila, AZ. After two years in confinement, Harold worked for the Seabrooks Farm Project of the Birds Eye Frozen Food Company, recruiting workers to relocate out to New Jersey from the ten relocation camps. Many families of relatives and friends from Florin worked there. Some stayed permanently. Others stayed quite a while before moving out to new jobs and new homes in California, and elsewhere.

Staff Sergeant Hiroharu Pedro Ouchida fought for our Country with the famed 442nd Nisei Combat Team, the most decorated fighting unit with the highest casualty rate in U.S. military history. He was awarded the Purple Heart and returned to Florin after a time in the Veterans Hospital. He married Yori Oga. They have a son, Peter Kei, who married Priscilla Morita.

Harold and Stogie brought their families home from Gila, AZ camp in 1945. Stogie settled in Sacramento with Rosie and their three children and started the Sacramento Noodle Factory. Harold and Edith returned to Florin. They were blessed with their sixth child, Wayne, the last Ouchida to graduate from Elk Grove High.

Harold had a devastating financial blow because of Executive Order 9066. His company was crushed. His lawyer who had charge of his entire business had died. There were no records to be found!

He tried vainly to revive the strawberry business. The industry deteriorated. Only a few farmers were left to grow small patches of berries. He organized a berry stemming crew at the shed to supply berries for the Frozen Food Company, and Borden's Ice Cream Company. It didn't last very long. Harold's health failed. At age 59 his struggles on earth ended leaving Edith with six children.

All six of the children worked hard and helped each other to finish university educations. Ken served three years in the Air Force. Lester served in the Air Force Reserve.

Dr. Kenneth Ouchida opened Ken's Pharmacy, married Shiz Suot. They have three children, Pamela, Valerie and Kristie. Lucille (Ouchida) Yokota, a registered nurse, now works for the Sacramento County Health Department. She and Jim Yokota, have two children, Nami and Jimmy.

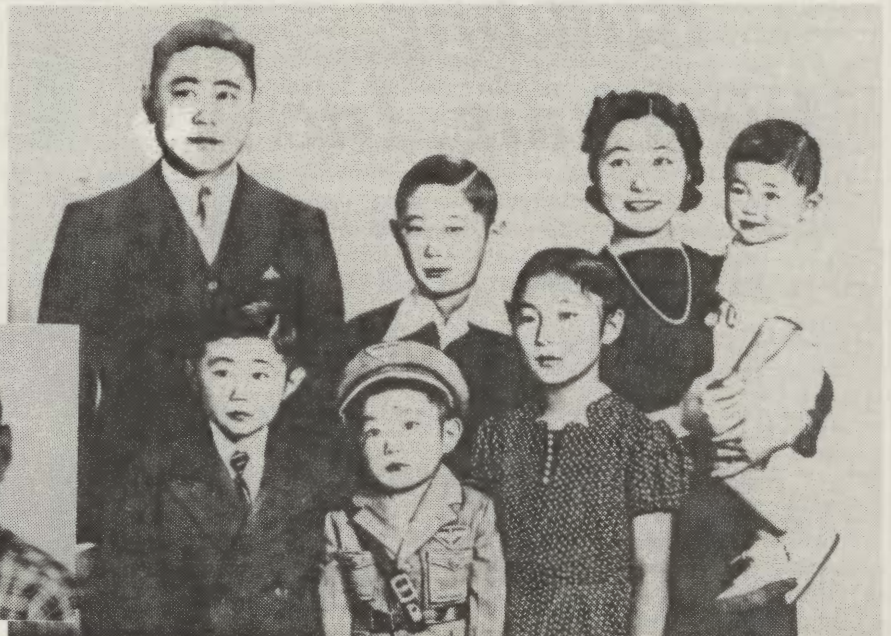
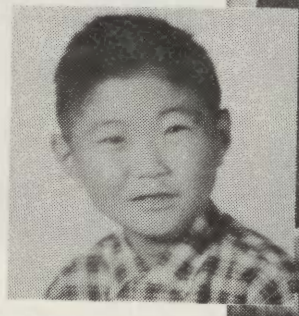
Earl works in the Department of General Services and Lester for the Finance Department for the State of California. Lester married Carolyn Oda (U.C. Berkeley). They have two sons, Russell and Ryan. Harold Jr., Dr. of Pharmacology, married Donna Wong who also earned her Dr. of Pharmacology (U.C. Med. S.F.) and works for Kaiser. They have three children, Jennifer, Karen and Christopher.

The youngest, Wayne, earned his Dr. of Pharmacology from UOP. He married Dorothy Chan (UCD). They have two sons, Michael and Richard.

Edith Ouchida lived 20 years as a widow and happily enjoyed the love of her six children and 12 grandchildren. At 75, her life in Florin came to an end, leaving a beautiful memory of a special person.

—M.T.T.

Back L-R: Harold Ysujii Ouchida and Edith Hisako Tsukamoto, Kenneth Aki and Harold Yasuo, Jr. Front L-R: Earl Haru, Lester, Lucille. Picture taken about 1941. Inset: Wayne Ouchida.





# Reunion Activities



## **Saturday, July 20 - Florin Buddhist Hall**

- 9 a.m. *Sign-In Classmates (all day)*
- 10 a.m. *Parade (commencing at Rutter Jr. High School, north on Rimrock, east on Florin, ending at French Road.)*
- 1 p.m. *Historical Plaque Unveiled by Congressman Matsui*
- 1:30 p.m. *Opening Ceremonies*
- 1:45 p.m. *Invocation — Florin Methodist Church*
- 2 - 3 p.m. *Master of Ceremonies  
Introduction of Dignitaries, Speeches*
- 3 - 5 p.m. *Entertainment, Classmate Visitation*
- 5 - 7 p.m. *Social Activities, Entertainment*
- 9 p.m. -  
Midnight *Dance, Music Provided by Sacramento  
Sacramento Musicians Union Band*

## **Sunday, July 21 - Florin Buddhist Hall Grounds**

- Noon *Picnic Commences*
- 1 - 5 p.m. *Entertainment provided by:  
Banjo Kings, Jazz Band, Medicine Show*
- 5 p.m. *Closing Ceremonies  
(Will be held inside Buddhist Church)*



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*to the*

**Florin Community's  
"Once-In-A-Lifetime-Reunion"**

*Southgate Recreation and Park District is pleased to publish this cultural history of the Florin Community. As you turn the eighty pages of this brochure a living history of the town and people of Florin will unfold.*

*The Southgate Recreation and Park District, as Florin's local community government, takes pride in publishing this brochure and in the coordination of the "Once-In-A-Lifetime-Reunion" parade. Southgate has enjoyed working directly with Florin residents in making the "Once-In-A-Lifetime-Reunion" a treasured experience.*

*Southgate invites new and old residents to enjoy Olde Florintown Community Park located on McComber Street behind the old Florin School.*

