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*from Uchida Family*



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EDWARD & MAY TOMINAGA

RUBY KIMIYE NAKANO

ELMER & SETSUKO UCHIDA



*Best Wishes for  
A Wonderful Reunion*

THANK YOU  
BESSIE HIROHATA MORI

*Best Wishes  
for  
A Happy Reunion*

HANA MIYOSHI  
BENE & ALICE (MIYOSHI) KAKITA  
HIRO & BETTY (MIYOSHI) SHIMAZU

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A Happy Reunion*

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for  
A Happy Reunion*



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Sacramento, California

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KENNETH M. and ALICE T. (UMEDA) KAWAMOTO - Temple City

RALPH M. KAWAMOTO - Cerritos

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*In Memory of . . . .*

IVAMATSU and ASAYE KAWAMOTO

GEORGE M. TSUJIMOTO

# *In Memory of*

*Our Parents  
Ryosuke & Kusu Umemoto  
&  
All Issei & Nisei  
who are no longer with us*



MANZANAR (CIRCA 1944)

Classic today is the account of Issei and Nisei who left their peaceful communities for Relocation Centers so remote that they weren't even on the map. Manzanar was one these camps. Describe Manzanar as you will — and you're probably correct. Sand, wind, ice, heat and 36 blocks of tar-papered barracks. But when people came, they planted lawns, trees and shrubs. They dug holes and built ponds, rock gardens, waterfalls and wishing wells. They pooled their cultural resources and formed flower arrangement, shuji, and shigin classes and dozens more. Competition was fierce from baseball to gymnastics to judo. Educational system and its requirements were just as high as any other American school. Industry included garment and furniture production, and even tofu and miso manufacturing. Farmers transformed barren desert wasteland into productive farmland.

This was the cultural, industrial, and agricultural Manzanar .... and for a while, it was my home. I claim this former desert community for it is so much a part of me. I go there when I'm depressed or insecure or disgusted or perplexed — and I become well and confident again because I am reminded of those diligent Issei and Nisei. With pride and determination, they faced that wartime episode as just another interlude in one's life . . . and ventured into totally unfamiliar and often hostile communities to start their lives from "ground zero".

Many of the Issei and Nisei have long passed away. To them, I would like to say, "Thank you for making this world a better place to live, and creating an environment where I can take pride in being a Nisei."

Perhaps, to some people, Manzanar may have been a "concentration camp" engulfed in hatred and prejudice. But for me, Manzanar will always remain a Monument of Peace & Serenity, depicting Japanese pride, honor, dignity, determination and courage.

Hank (Sho-chan) & Chiyoko

*Best Wishes from . . .*

*Nakao Family*

*. . . for A Wonderful 3rd Reunion*

In memory of our parents . . .

KATSUNOSUKE NAKAO (November 14, 1962)  
and  
SHINAYO NAKAO (March 16, 1963)

And in memory of our brother . . .

TOM MIYUKI NAKAO (August 2, 1986)

*And a Warm "Hello" from . . .*

Herbert Nakao - Las Vegas  
Jack Nakao - Sacramento  
Matsuye Doida - Denver  
Joe Nakao - Sacramento  
Ella Matsumoto - Las Vegas  
Judy Tanaka - Chicago  
Molly Oda - Los Angeles  
Goro Nakao - Denver



*Southern  
California  
Florin Area  
Reunion*



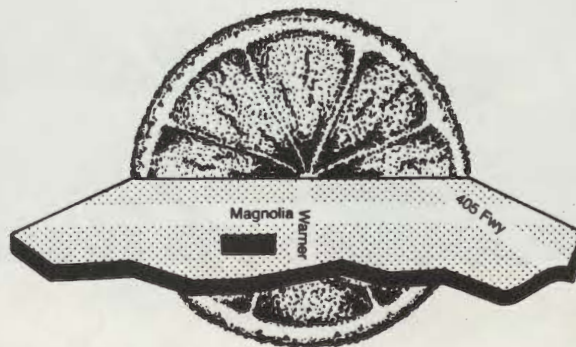
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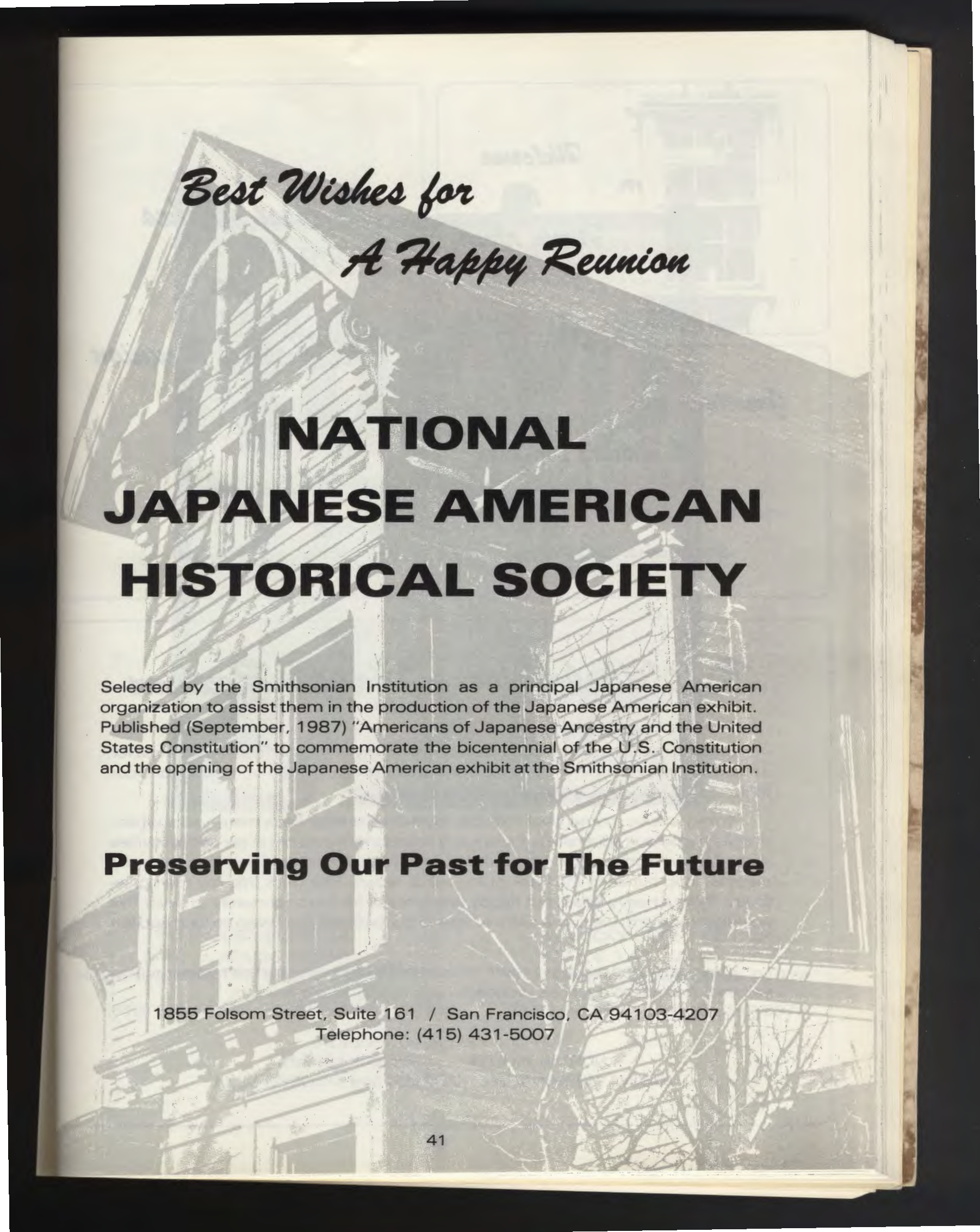
... And never forget those from Florin Area who served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America ... many who made the supreme sacrifice.

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*Best Wishes for  
A Happy Reunion*

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Selected by the Smithsonian Institution as a principal Japanese American organization to assist them in the production of the Japanese American exhibit. Published (September, 1987) "Americans of Japanese Ancestry and the United States Constitution" to commemorate the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution and the opening of the Japanese American exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution.

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*Welcome  
to  
Florin Area  
Reunion!*

*Greetings and  
A Happy Reunion*

PERCY & JOSEPHINE FUKUSHIMA

Sacramento, California

*Best Wishes  
for  
A Happy Reunion*

HERB KURIMA  
Sacramento, California

## *Best Wishes for a Happy Reunion*

On the occasion of this happy reunion I, with my wife and my sisters, pause for a moment to pay our loving tribute to our departed ones: our father, mother, and our three sisters. All were life long residents of Florin.

In my pensive moments of solitude, my thoughts stray back many years when, despite numerous adversities, there were occasional moments of joy and festivities in the family. Some of the little remembered acts of kindness and love from our parents, long buried in the back of my mind, slowly filter back into my memories today. With a heavy heart, but happy and grateful for the opportunity to savor this nostalgic moment, we pay a silent tribute to our beloved ones who so long ago left us.

May we extend our greetings to all our friends and hope that this happy reunion will be a prelude to a just as wonderful and happy fourth reunion.

ROY and HELEN YOSHINAGA  
NORMA INOUYE      LOIS NAKASHIMA  
HANNA YOSHINAGA      BUSTER and MILDRED MIYA



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*. . . from The Sasaki Family*

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for A Happy And Memorable  
Florin Reunion*

*In Memory of  
Reverend Yonosuke Sasaki*

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MILDRED SETSUKO SHIMO

JACK SASAKI

ROBERT SASAKI

DOROTHY KEIKO KANESHIRO

JUNE SASAKI

*Best Wishes  
for a  
Happy Reunion !*



*In Memory of*

**HERBERT SHUNSO NAKANO**

*Son of Jirokichi and Masumi Nakano*

*Sincerely,*

*Mrs. Fumiko Nakano,*

*Jane and Gary*

*Happy Reunion  
and  
Best Wishes*

CHILDREN OF LATE HORIN AND TOKU HIROHATA

We express grateful tribute as we recall and cherish many  
happy memories of our childhood days which we enjoyed in Florin, California.

TOMOMI — (Deceased)

MIYUKI — Palo Alto, California

JOHN — Mesa, Arizona

FRANK — Mountain View, California

PAUL — Mesa, Arizona

ALBERT — Mesa, Arizona

BESSIE — Los Angeles, California

HERBERT — Thermal, California



*Best Wishes for  
A Wonderful Reunion*

GEORGE and ALICE OKIMOTO  
Bellflower, California

*Best Wishes  
for  
A Wonderful Reunion*

YOSHIO & MARY TSUKAMOTO  
Sacramento, California

*Greetings  
And A Happy Reunion*

In Memory of  
MR. & MRS. TOYOZO HIRATA  
and  
YOSHIRO HIRATA

AKIRA & YUKIKO HIRATA  
MERRY HIRATA

Anaheim, California

*Best Wishes for  
A Happy Reunion*

Fred & Elsie (Seno) Matsumoto  
Mrs. Frances (Seno) Asahara  
Mrs. Nellie (Seno) Sakakihara

*Greetings and  
A Happy Reunion*

MASAO & LILY UMEDA  
Sacramento, California



*Greetings!*

*With Joy and Happy Reunion*



This page is dedicated to:

OUR DEAR ISSEI PARENTS

KAZO KADOKAWA	1877-1926
HIDE (NITTA) KADOKAWA	1886-1919
MISUNO (KAMIDOI) KADOKAWA-TOYE	1895-1941
UICHI TOYE	1896-1976

Hideo and Dorothy Kadokawa  
Our Children and Grandchildren

Nobu and Doreen Yui  
Darren, Jason

Tad and Bette Okamoto  
Jonathan, Denise

Don and Joyce Kazama



*Greetings and  
A Wonderful Reunion!*

FRED M. FUKUSHIMA

VIOLA FUKUSHIMA (NENASHI)

Lemon Grove, California

*Congratulations  
- on  
Florin Area Reunion*

Mr. & Mrs. Henry Shiohama  
Los Angeles, California

We dedicate this space in loving memory of

Mother — SHIZUKO NITTA — March 15, 1905 - February 28, 1976

Father — JOICHI NITTA — December 20, 1896 - May 3, 1985

---

*Greetings & Best Wishes for  
A Very Happy Florin Reunion*

---

Connie Miyoko (Nitta) Yamada  
Grace Nobuko (Nitta) and Kern Kono  
Doris Yukiko (Nitta) and Bill Taketa



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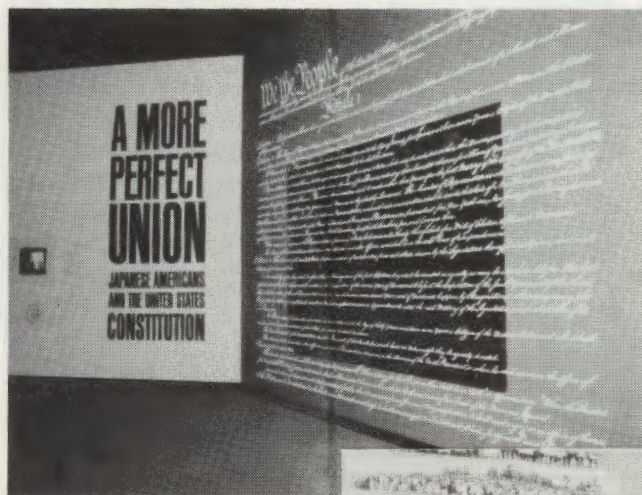
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SINCE 1959



Mary Tsukamoto is featured in the special exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution, (Museum of American History, Washington, D.C.) celebrating the 200th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution.

# We the People

A STORY OF INTERNMENT IN AMERICA

by

MARY TSUKAMOTO  
and  
ELIZABETH PINKERTON

## WHAT DO THE READERS SAY?

Readers in this volume will come to know a remarkable woman. She is cast in the heroic mold that we normally associate with our pioneering ancestors. Here is a citizen whose faith in and love for her country have been tested in the fires of adversity and are unbreakable. Her story has a special meaning today as Americans of all ages and classes struggle to define their values, their priorities and their futures.

Harold D. Langley, Ph.D.  
Curator  
National Museum of American History  
Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

WE THE PEOPLE is a moving portrayal of a piece of American history that we ignored for too long. Written without rancor or vengefulness by one who had reason to be much less forgiving, it is the story of hopefulness and faith of which the noblest human spirit is capable. Mary Tsukamoto's own innately positive outlook shines through, reminding us of something Camus once said, "In the midst of winter, I finally learned that there was in me an invincible summer."

Anne Rudin  
Mayor of Sacramento

In 1942 I lived with my family in Sacramento, California, only minutes away from Mary's home in Florin. I was only ten months old when my family evacuated to Tulelake, but the experience changed the lives of my family and friends forever. For those of us who lived through the internment, Mary Tsukamoto and Elizabeth Pinkerton recount the images more powerfully than any congressional commission ever could.

Robert T. Matsui  
Member of Congress

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*Greetings And Best Wishes for A Marvelously Successful  
Southern California Florin Area Reunion!  
Al, Mary and Marielle Tsukamoto*

This page is dedicated first of all, in loving memory to Marielle's grandparents: Kuzo and Ito Tsukamoto and Taro and Kame Dakuzaku, and all the brave Issei including her Uncle Charlie Ogata, and other relatives we dearly remember, who struggled and supported a fine pre-war Florin Community where we were nurtured to become special people of dignity.

Secondly we fondly cherish the friendship and leadership given to our struggle, our fellow Nisei, Marielle's Uncle Harold and Aunt Edith Ouchida, and all other hard-working Nisei relatives, family and friends who endured and continued courageously to show us how to live nobly.

Lastly, we dedicate this page in nostalgic affection for an unique community of Florin Area whose vitality and life vanished when the majority of its population, the 2500 people of Japanese Descent were abruptly uprooted by Executive Order 9066 in May 1942, at the peak of our strawberry harvest. 75 percent of us were American born citizens, yet we along with our aging Issei parents were incarcerated in ten Government holding pens along with 120,000 others of Japanese Ancestry living in Washington, Oregon, California and Arizona.

The story of Florin and all its courageous people's experiences are told in a new book, published a year ago, September 1987. "WE THE PEOPLE: A Story of Internment in America" is your story and Florin's history now a part of America's History, co-authored by Elizabeth Pinkerton and Mary Tsukamoto. (We have had great success. The first printing was sold out in 8 months.)

Florin suddenly is in the limelight of national news. At the prestigious Smithsonian, at the National Museum of American History you will see exhibited Florin's strawberry baskets, crates, bonnets, photos of familiar faces and artifacts made by Florin evacuees at Fresno and Jerome. Entitled, "A MORE PERFECT UNION: The Japanese Americans and the United States CONSTITUTION. You must take your families in the next 5 years, to see and hear voices telling of our travail, ennobled by this extra-ordinary Smithsonian Exhibition.

Photo taken at Rayburn House Office Building at a reception for a new book "WE THE PEOPLE: A Story of Internment in America" co-authored by Mary Tsukamoto and Elizabeth Pinkerton, a book about Florin, Fresno and Jerome.

Left to right: Dr. Harold Langley (Smithsonian), Elizabeth Pinkerton, Mary Tsukamoto, Congressman Robert Matsui, Al and Marielle Tsukamoto.



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A Happy Reunion!*

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*Welcome to  
Southern California*

*Best Wishes for a  
Wonderful Reunion*

from SEIJI F. MIYAKE  
Schaumburg, Illinois

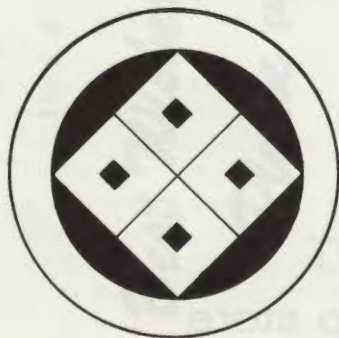
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In Memory of:

Tsuruichi Sasaki	1869 — 1960
Kaname Sasaki	1889 — 1981
Sam Satoru Sasaki	1919 — 1964

Best Wishes for a Happy Reunion.

Tadashi & Emiko Sasaki

Clifford & Eiko Sasaki  
Richard & Elaine\* Katayama  
Lester Sasaki

Gary & Denise Sasaki  
Edward & Debbie Sasaki  
and 8 Grandchildren

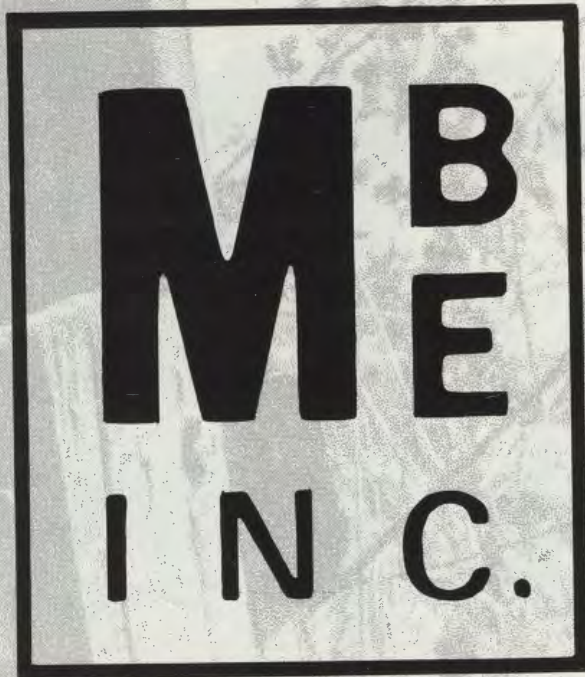
Sam\* & Mary Sasaki

Lawrence & Donna Bonnell

Ronnie Sasaki

\* Deceased





MBE, INC. extends its warmest wishes to each of you attending the SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FLORIN AREA REUNION.

Thien Koan Ng  
President

MBE, Inc. — Gift Stores located at LAX

## *Best Wishes for A Happy Reunion*



Left to Right, Front Row: Homer, Stan, Uichi, Sugino, Ted Back Row: George, Louise, Alice, Doris, Susie, Ben (1957)

Our parents, Uichi and Sugino Hiraga, came to America as newly weds in 1915 to seek their fame and fortune in Florin, California. In the ensuing years, they gave birth to nine children, rearing us through the depression, mass evacuation, and the subsequent relocation.

We, the nine children, acknowledge the hard times our parents endured, raising us to adulthood, and living to see us all married.

Father passed away on July 6, 1964 at age 84, just a few months before they were to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Mother died 13 years later at age 87 on January 9, 1977.

We, the nine children, sincerely dedicate this 1988 Florin Community in Los Angeles this October 7th, 8th and 9th in memory of our parents.

Ted Isao, Santa Rosa — Stan Hideo, Gardena — Homer Kiyoshi, Santa Rosa  
Susie Shizue (Sugimoto), Pacifica — Doris Sumiye, (Ota), San Francisco  
Alice Mitsuye (Inouye), Gardena — Ben Yoshio, Gardena  
Louise Kazue (Itami), Troy, Michigan — George, Torrance



## **GUARDIAN BANK**

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GUARDIAN BANK takes great pleasure in wishing you a happy reunion.  
May the spirit in which this reunion is being held be everlasting.

Paul M. Harris  
Chairman of the Board and President

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*From The Family of*

*The Late Jirokichi Nakano*



It has been two years since we celebrated the second reunion in Florin, California. As we look back on those fond memories, we wish to extend to all of you our warmest welcome to this the first Florin Reunion in Southern California.

The Southern California reunion became a reality when we recalled how wonderful it was to once again see old friends and how many of us in Southern California were unable to attend the reunion in Northern California because of illness or disability. Shortly before your last reunion, we lost cherished friends, such as Frank Kawaguchi and Tom Nakao, as well as our brother, Herbert Shunso, who had been looking forward with great anticipation to attending your reunion. It was with this vein that this reunion was borne - NEVER TO FORGET AND NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN.

We humbly dedicate these pages to members of our family and our friends who are no longer with us, but believe they would be happy to see us renewing old friendships and continuing the uniqueness of our Issei parents who had shared in the trials and tribulations, grief and happiness with their friends and their children, which formed the pre-war Florin.



JIROKICHI NAKANO



MASUMI NAKANO

*In Memory of . . . . .*

- Jirokichi Nakano — Father
- Herbert Shunso Nakano — Brother
- Toshiye (Miyata) Nakano — Sister-in-law (wife of Masato)
- Frank Kawaguchi — Dear Friend
- Tom Nakao — Dear Friend

Sam & Aiko Nakano  
 Dennis, Ron & Linda Mizufuka,  
 Eugene & Gale Nakano, Kathy

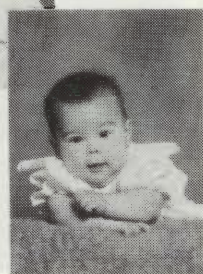
Masato Nakano  
 Harry, Glen

Fumiko Nakano  
 Jane, Gary

Masa & Janet Matsumoto  
 Brian, Nick & Carol Siu

Hideo & Emiko Okanishi  
 John, Janice

Harry & Helen Nakama  
 Stacie, Lori



*Welcome  
to  
Southern California  
Florin Area  
Reunion*

*"Congratulations and Best Wishes"*  
*Southern California Florin Area Reunion*

---

---

*In Memory of:*

Father — SUKESHIRO KAWAGUCHI  
1881 - 1948

Mother — INO KAWAGUCHI  
1889 - 1977

Brother — FRANK KAWAGUCHI  
1921 - 1986

---

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GEORGE KAWAGUCHI — KAZUKO (ANDO) KAWAGUCHI

Ernie Kuratobi — Hiroko (KAWAGUCHI) Kuratobi

Eric

Kenneth

Dennis Igarashi — Megumi (KAWAGUCHI) Igarashi

Jill

Steven

Brian Jung — Brenda (KAWAGUCHI) Jung

FRANK KAWAGUCHI (deceased) — NANCY (KIRIU) KAWAGUCHI

Greg Rhoads — Karen (KAWAGUCHI) Rhoads

Allison

Glen Morita — Lynn (KAWAGUCHI) Morita

Staci

Scotty

Diane KAWAGUCHI

JAMES KAWAGUCHI — PEGGY (ITO) KAWAGUCHI

Dr. Bruce KAWAGUCHI — Judy (Kuwahara)

Kirk KAWAGUCHI

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Wonderful  
Southern  
California  
Florin Area  
Reunion!*

There are over 2,000 trees in our gardens,  
many imported from Japan: Cork Pine, Five  
Needle Pine, Zelkova and Sargent Juniper....  
specializing in Satsuki Azalea.

Proprietor George Yamaguchi



*Best Wishes for  
A Happy Reunion*

JOHN & NANCY MURAKAMI  
Gardena, California

*Welcome to Buena Park  
and  
Best Wishes for  
A Wonderful Reunion*

SCOTTY & CHIYO ITO  
&  
FAMILY  
Gardena, California

*Best Wishes  
for  
A Wonderful  
Florin Area  
Reunion*

FUJU & KIKUE (OYE) SASAKI  
Torrance, California

*Best Wishes —  
Have A Great Reunion*

SHIRO & HATSUKO TAHARA  
Sacramento, California

*Greetings and  
Best Wishes for a  
Wonderful Reunion  
..... from Florin*

Myrna (Tanaka) Hitomi  
William & Teri (Tanaka) Mizusaka

# Florin Area Recollections

## In The Making

---

If historians won't someday review this booklet, many of our grandchildren certainly would, and probably become bewildered by the paradox of Florin's "golden age" which spanned over 50 years from late nineteenth century into the early 40's.

The Southern California Florin Area souvenir booklet was conceived during the summer of 1987 with co-chairmen Sam Nakano, Richard Ochiai and Jim Kawaguchi at the helm. The response was fabulous . . . the originally estimated 20-page booklet expanded to thirty, forty, . . . and soon it became a 70-page publication. Cedrick Shimo's literary reserve was tapped for newspaper and booklet articles. Hit Okanishi's publication experience was utilized for reprinting Sacramento Bee's informative articles by Linda Jones Beymer, "Internment wilted Florin", and Richard Abram's "Speak out or endure?" and "World War II internees still imprisoned by guilt"; plus Los Angeles Times staff writer Josh Getlin's article, "Redress: for reprinting these articles were graciously offered by The Sacramento Bee, Los Angeles Times, and The Rafu Shimpo. Harry Nakama's graphic art experience was applied to the pre- and The Rafu Shimpo. Harry Nakama's graphic art experience was applied to the pre-evacuation Florin map. Proofing was left to Hit and Emi Okanishi, and Harry and Helen Nakama. Mary Tsukamoto, author of "We The People", volunteered her articles. Initiative was taken by George Kawaguchi and Sachi Ochiai for contacting Mayor Bradley and Mayor McCune, who gave the reunion committee their full support. Photos were offered for publication by Walter Miyao, Elmer Uchida, the Nakanos and the Okanishis, Alice Inouye, James Abe, and many more. Mike Shintsubo and Buena Park Hotel offered the use of their meeting rooms and other services to the planning committee. . . . the list goes on and on.

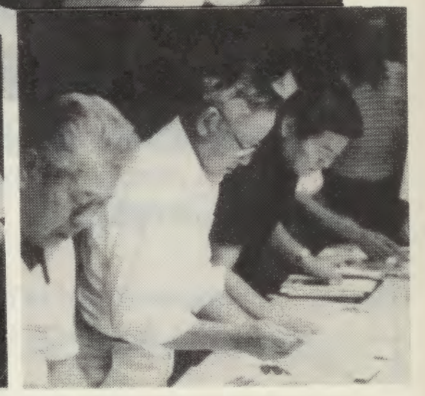
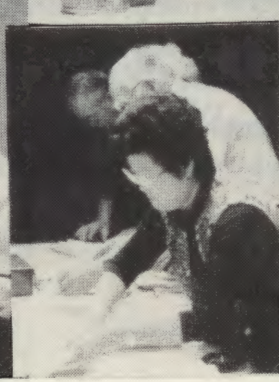
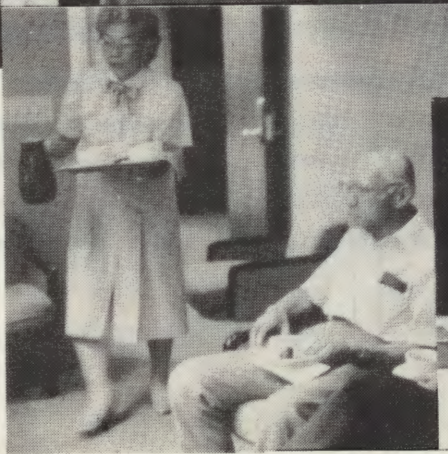
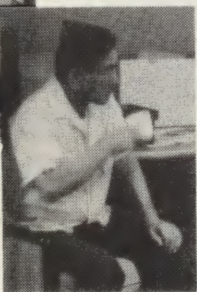
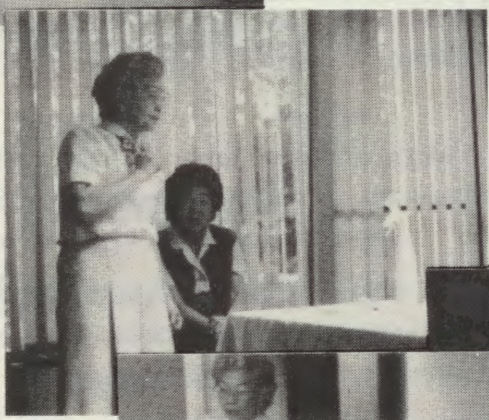
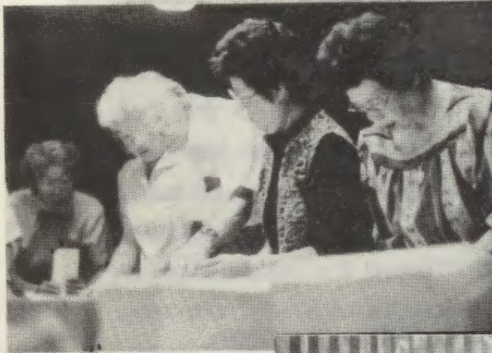
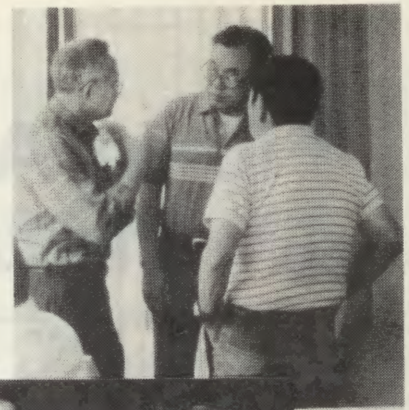
Cooperation and support were unbelievable . . . Everyone in the committee, numbering approximately 30 individuals, had a part in the making of this volume . . . from stuffing notices and soliciting ads to writing and arranging the articles, etc., etc. Add to that another 60 sponsors and many more who worked behind the scene . . . and the total would easily exceed 100.

Over one hundred individuals and business firms offered their time, talent and support to help cover the highlights of almost a century of Florin's history in this booklet . . . and to these people, a very sincere "THANK YOU" plus a million more!

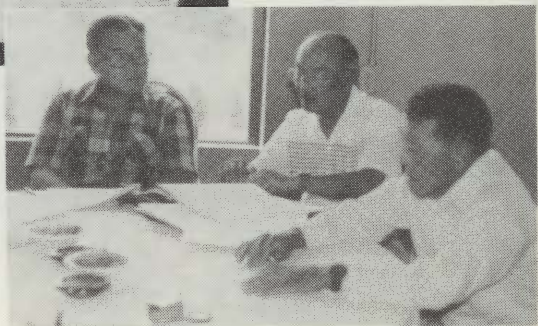
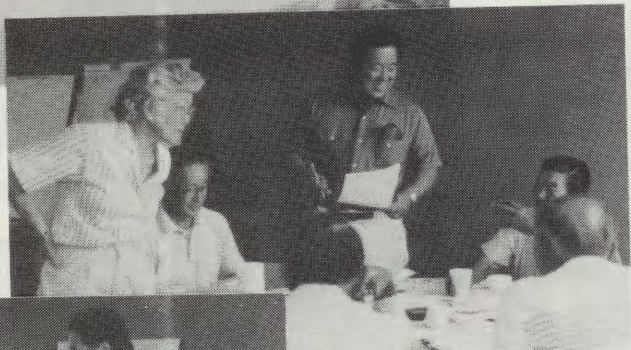
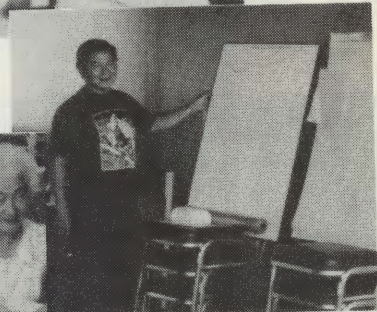
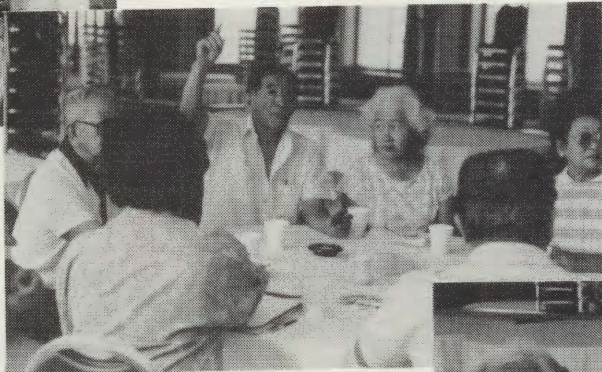
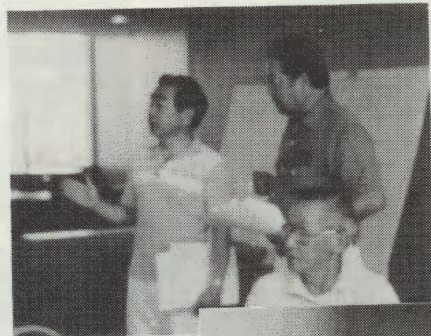
Old Florin area was a community where everyone worked and laughed together with "Your problem is my problem, and your joy is my joy" attitude . . . that was the spirit of Florin residents during its "golden era". As we worked on this souvenir booklet and laughed together and solved the problems together, one thing became evident: Florin no longer exists on the map . . . Florin is history . . . but the Florin spirit still exists just as radiant and vibrant as it did almost a century ago.

— Souvenir Booklet Committee Chairman

# REUNION III IN THE MAKING







# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FLORIN AREA REUNION COMMITTEES

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Richard Ochiai  
James Kawaguchi

Treasurer ..... Aiko Nakano  
Emi Okanishi

Secretaries ..... Helen Nakama  
Elsie Masuyama  
Sachi Ochiai

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## GOLF TOURNAMENT

Chairmen ..... Cedrick Shimo  
John Murakami

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Scotty Ito  
Chiyo Ito  
Elaine Kaneko  
George Kawaguchi  
Peggy Kawaguchi  
Elsie Masuyama  
George Moriyama  
Helen Nakama  
Emi Okanishi  
Alice Okimoto  
Tad Sasaki  
Ben Sawai  
Rose Shimazu  
Fred Shingu  
Masako Shingu  
Tom Tanihara  
Sally Tsujimoto

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Hosts/Hostesses ..... May Hiroshima  
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Kazuko Kawaguchi  
George Moriyama  
Richard Ochiai  
Sachi Ochiai  
Ben Sawai  
Mildred Shimo

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(Friday & Saturday)

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Alice Inouye  
Elaine Kaneko  
Elsie Masuyama  
Alice Okimoto  
Rose Shimazu  
Sally Tsujimoto

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## EXHIBIT

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Assistants ..... Richard Ochiai  
Sachi Ochiai  
David Uchida

## DOOR PRIZES

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Assistants ..... Richard Ochiai  
Sachi Ochiai

## PRINTING

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Assistants ..... Harry Nakama  
Hideo Okanishi  
Cedrick Shimo

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(To be called upon whenever  
and wherever needed)

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Assistants ..... Aiko Nakano  
Harry Nakama  
Helen Nakama  
Hideo Okanishi  
Emi Okanishi  
Ben Sawai  
Fred Shingu

**PHOTOGRAPHY** ..... Eugene Nakano

Assistant ..... Gale Nakano

*Have A Great Reunion*

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