



Yuki's funeral

HOOD RIVER, OR.

I believe this shows the funeral of a sister I never
knew, Yuki, who died in 1922 of pneumonia.

d. 10/27/1922

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Homer Yasui
Collection

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Yuki's Funeral Hood River, Oregon Ca. October, 1922

This picture appears to have been taken on the lawn below the Hood River County Library and slightly to the east of what appears to be the lower part of the former Anderson Funeral Home. The photograph surely must have been taken from Oak Street, then, as now, the main street in Hood River.

In the early Issei family days in Hood River – and maybe all over, in the 1920s and early 1930s – it was common practice to have a group picture taken of the people who came to pay their last respects to the deceased. That was just as important as having a picture taken of the family car, usually with the proud family members standing in front of their wonderful “chariot”.

This picture had to have been taken at the funeral for Yuki Yasui, who was born on December 11, 1918, and who died on October 27, 1922, probably of pneumonia and/or influenza. Yuki was the fourth child and the first daughter of Masuo & Shidzuyo Yasui, and she was the first Hood River Yasui to die.

I don't know where the indoor funeral services took place, but it wasn't at the Hood River Japanese Community Hall, because that wasn't built until 1926-27. Maybe it was held in the Anderson Funeral “Parlor”, or maybe it was at the Asbury Methodist Church, which some of the Japanese Christians were allowed to use – in the basement – for their religious services.

In any case, this was a huge gathering, mostly of Japanese men, but a few Issei women are present as well. Masuo Yasui stands at the head of the casket on the left, and he's holding baby Michi (b. 1920); and standing to his left is Shidzuyo. Immediately behind the casket, from right to left, the heads of Kay, “Chop” and Min can be seen. Our “Chan” is standing to the left of Kay.

I also recognize E.C. Smith, who appears to be one of the 2 Caucasian men present. Masuo Yasui and Mr. Smith had been friends (he was the Yasui family attorney) since around 1913, and they always addressed each other formally.....it was “Mr. Smith” and “Mr. *Yazooee*” on all occasions.

I recognize the Reverend Seiji Uemura, who must have presided at Yuki's funeral. He was a Methodist minister who was the pastor of the Japanese church in Salem, when I first knew him.

But there are many more Issei men whom I recognize.....like Toyoji Abe (publisher of the Oshu Nippo newspaper in Portland); Daiichi Takeoka (first Issei to graduate from U of O Law School in 1912); Senichi Tomihiro (owned/ran the Foster Hotel in Portland). All of them, plus my father, Masuo Yasui, ended up interned at the Santa Fe Alien Detention Station during World War II.

Of the Hood River Japanese Issei, I recognize Mr. Ikutaro George Takagi, Mr. Kamegoro Charles Iwatsuki, Mr. Kamematsu Norimatsu, Mr. Eiikichi Kusachi, Mr. Shinjiro Sumoge, Mr. Katsusaburo Tamura, and Mr. Shohei Endow.

I don't recognize any of the Issei women.....maybe Yuka can help on this.

Homer Yasui
December 8, 2013

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