

Around 1928, Wilma Sell, then a high school student came to the Japanese Presbyterian Church as a Sunday School teacher and pianist for the young peoples services.

Violet Sell, eldest of the sisters came shortly thereafter to remain throughout the chaotic periods the Church and the world experienced. She was Sunday School teacher to the young people, sponsored the active Christian Endeavor group, was Big Sister, Confidante, Mother Hen until 1942 Evacuation of Japanese from the coast.

Braving rumblings of warnings of friends and neighbors, Violet and her sister Hazel lived in a home owned by one of the Church members. Their responsibility was even greater for many of the departing residents had stored valuable belongings with them.

During the years she was our Big Sister, she had unknowingly prepared the older of the young people for War-time and Post-War Relocation trauma.

During the war, the Church building was occupied by the L. B. Boys Club.

As war ended, Dr. Burcham's father, Miss Janet Smith and Violet Sell took the initiative to reclaim and reopen the Church anticipating the return of Japanese residents.

She was a dedicated missionary tho' we did not think of her as such. Friend, advisor, confidante, Big Sister Violet, in her warm, outgoing way, conditioned the lives she touched to enter the "mainstream" of American life so swiftly and

so painlessly.

Americanizing? Yes. She rallied them under  
under the banner of Christ.

A eulogy written by me  
and read among several  
others by Dr. H. David Burcham  
at Vi's memorial service  
at Covenant Presby, Church.  
Dec. 1974.