MIYOSHI
FAMILY HISTORY

FIVE GENERATIONS

Compiled By Toru Miyoshi



MIYOSHI FAMILY HISTORY

Part I Five generations

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I divided the family history into 4 sections with pictures and documents following each section. The written pages are numbered, but the pictures are not. I tried to coordinate the pictures with the written presentation to make it more interesting and authenticate my recollections.

With the help of my cousin, Noboru Utsunomiya, in Tokyo, Japan, I was able to document Akira's history. There is no one else in Miyoshi family to record his history therefore I took on this task. My brothers, Jun and Susumu, have family to do their respective history, therefore, I only introduced them in this effort.

My cousin, Masafumi Miyoshi, in Uno Machi, Ehime Ken, Japan, did an excellent research of my Grandfather, Kumataro, who returned to Japan in 1935 to retire.

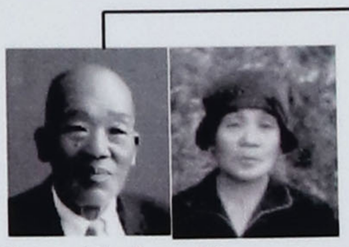
Toru Miyoshi

TORU MIYOSHI FAMILY TREE SPANNING SIX GENERATIONS



Tani

Great Grandfather Kuraichi 1833-1911
Great Grandmother Tani 1838-1887



Grandfather Kumataro 1864-1945
Grandmother Kiku 1865-1933



Aya-goro

Yasu

Great Uncles - Johko, Kametaro; Kikuchi, Ayagoro
Great Aunt - Yasu (no statistics available)



Uncle Chuichi 1885-1917



Mother, Masa 1889-1947
Father, Riichi 1888-1956



Jeanne's parents:
Kojima Isaburo 1888-1940
Kojima Mitsuko 1900-1972



Akira
1919-1945

Toshi
(died at birth)

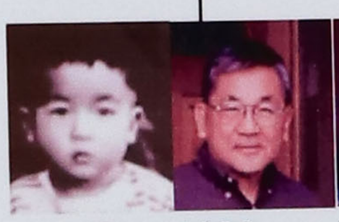
Toshi
1920



Jun
1922-1993



Susumu "Buck"
1924-1975



Toru 1928



Jeanne Fujiko 1931



Lisa Kimiko 1957
David *Kumagoro* Daum
1952



Joni Mieko 1959



Laura Mitsuko Daum
1986



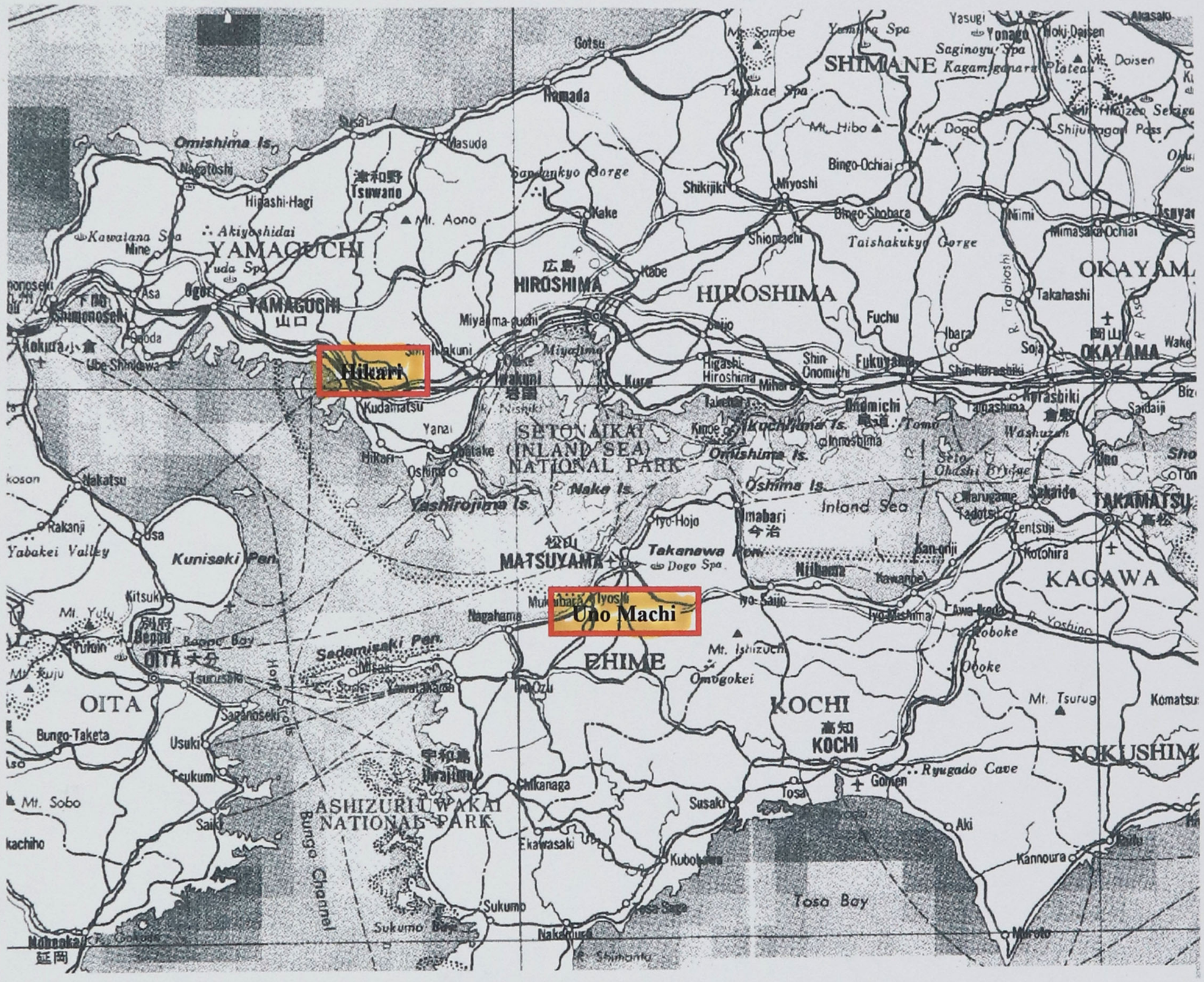
Logan Riichi Daum
1989

Laura and Logan are our favorite grandchildren. They are our motivation for longevity. They both have tremendous talents for a bright future.

This family tree was prepared in July 2006 and focused on Toru's family, as space was the limiting factor.

Great grandparents Kuraichi and Tani had 4 children. Grandfather Kumataro retained the family name MIYOSHI, and his brothers became Johko Kametaro and Kikuchi Ayagoro as yoshi. My father, Riichi, was also a Yoshi. He came from the Fukumoto Family that resides in Hikari, Yamaguchi Ken, Japan. Jun and Vi had 5 children, Teri, Janice, Sue, Kathy and Russell. Vi resides in Camarillo, CA. Buck and Motoko (1928-1987) also had 5 children, Gayle, Todd, Clifford, Karen, and Judy.

While the Daum and Miyoshi families were visiting Japan, the late Osamu Yamamoto gave our son-in-law, David, his Japanese name, Kumagoro. My mother, Masa, after giving birth to 4 boys, wanted a girl in the family. Figuring on the law of averages that her next baby would be girl, she had even bought baby girl outfits in anticipation of this event. The fifth child was a boy named Toru. I'm sure after some disappointment, Toru eventually became Mama's boy.


Hikari
Uno Machi
SHIMANE
HIROSHIMA
YAMAGUCHI
山口
広島
OKAYAMA
岡山
EHIME
KOCHI
高知
OITA
大分
MATSUYAMA
KAGAWA
TOKUSHIMA
TAKAMATSU
SETONAIKAI (INLAND SEA) NATIONAL PARK
ASHIZURI-UWAKAI NATIONAL PARK
Inland Sea
Tosa Bay
Bungo Channel
Hoyo Strait
Kunisaki Pen.
Sadamisaki Pen.
Omishima Is.
Oshima Is.
Nako Is.
Yashirojima Is.
Kochijima Is.
Takanawa Pen.
Iyo-Hojo
Imabari
今治
Iyo-Saijo
Niihama
Shikokuchuo
Ozu
Uwajima
Yawatahama
Nagahama
Mishima
Ikata
Iyoshi
Mukaibara
Iyo-Mishima
Kawanoe
Sakaide
Marugame
Tadotsu
Zentsuji
Kotohira
Kan-onji
Ohashi Bridge
Seto
Washuzan
Tomo
Kure
Higashi-Hiroshima
Saijo
Fuchu
Shin-Onomichi
Onomichi
Mihara
Takehara
Tsuyama
Shin-Kurashiki
Kurashiki
Tamashima
Ibara
Soja
Takahashi
Niimi
Mimasaka-Ochiai
Bingo-Shobara
Taishakukyo Gorge
Shiomachi
Shikirijiki
Miyoshi
Bingo-Ochiai
Mt. Hibo
Mt. Dogo
Mt. Doisen
Hiruzen Plateau
Shijuhagan Pass
Saginoyu Spa
Kagamiganara
Yunokae Spa
Yonago
Yasugi
Hioki-Daisen
Mt. Sambe
Yumigahama Spa
Gotsu
Hamada
Masuda
Susa
Sanbankyo Gorge
Kake
Mt. Aono
Tsuwano
津和野
Hagi
Higashi-Hagi
Nagatoshi
Akiyoshidai
Kawatana Spa
Mine
Yuda Spa
Ogori
Asa
Shimonoseki
下関
Kokura
小倉
Ube Shinkawa
Hakuni
Kudamatsu
Yanai
Hikari
Oshima
Tokuyama
Iwakuni
岩国
Miyajima-guchi
Miyajima
Saijo
Takehara
Kure
Kamae
Kochijima Is.
Omishima
Oshima Is.
Nako Is.
Yashirojima Is.
Nakatsu
Kakanji
Yabakei Valley
Usa
Kitsuki
Mt. Yufu
Beppu
別府
Bay
Yukuin
Mt. Kuju
Tsurusaki
Saganoseki
Bungo-Taketa
Usuki
Fukumi
Saiki
Mt. Sobo
Kachiho
Nobeoka
延岡
Sukumo
Sukumo Bay
Nakamura
Shimanto R.
Ekawasaki
Kubokawa
Shikanaga
Iwajima
宇和島
Ozu
Omogokei
Mt. Ishizuchi
Tosa
Susaki
Gomen
Ryugado Cave
Mt. Tsurugi
Aki
Kannoura
Muroto
Obuke
Kawanabe
Nimi
Takahashi
Asahi R.
Yoshino R.
Shimanto R.
Komatsu
Sanbaiji
Zentsuji
Kotohira
Sakaide
Marugame
Tadotsu
Kan-onji
Ohashi Bridge
Washuzan
Tomo
Kochijima Is.
Omishima
Oshima Is.
Nako Is.
Yashirojima Is.
Takanawa Pen.
Dogo Spa
Iyo-Hojo
Imabari
今治
Iyo-Saijo
Niihama
Shikokuchuo
Ozu
Uwajima
Yawatahama
Nagahama
Mishima
Ikata
Iyoshi
Mukaibara
Iyo-Mishima
Kawanoe
Sakaide
Marugame
Tadotsu
Zentsuji
Kotohira
Kan-onji
Ohashi Bridge

HISTORY OF THE MIYOSHI FAMILY

By Toru Miyoshi

Introduction

With the encouragement of my wife, Jeanne and daughters, Lisa and Joni, I am writing "The History of the Miyoshi Family" and my autobiography. I had a wonderful time researching the family history and the most enlightening aspect of this effort was discovering my roots. This effort would not have been possible without the research and dedication of cousins, Noboru Utsunomiya, of Tokyo and Masafumi Miyoshi of Shimo Matsuba, Ehime Ken. Their contribution can only be described as fantastic and most rewarding was making their friendship.

I am hopeful, future generations will find the Miyoshi History informative, funny, sad, and fulfilling as they become more aware of their roots.

My brother, Toshi, died at birth on July 18, 1920 and he is interred at the Miyoshi plot in Guadalupe, California. Since this book may serve as a reference for future generations, I take this opportunity to report that Jeanne and I purchased 5 plots at the Santa Maria Cemetery. It has a beautiful and unobstructed view of Figueroa Mountain and as of this writing it is still gratefully vacant (March 2008).

A special chapter is devoted to my oldest brother, Akira, as his path took a very different direction from the rest of us. He has no one except me to record his brief history. I hope it does him justice.

There will only be a short reference of my brothers, Jun Miyoshi and Susumu Buck Miyoshi with the expectations that their respective families will record their family history.

I feel very fortunate that the photographs from our family albums were available to enhance this history effort. It is my intent to write the family history in chronological order, but from time to time, I may wander off. Sorry about that.

To be consistent with Japanese custom, my relatives in Japan will be addressed with last name first, such as Miyoshi Toru.

There are repetitions in my comments and explanations on the photos. Since I did these separately, please accept my apology for the duplications.

Section 1 My Ancestors from Japan

Great Grandparents Miyoshi Kuraichi (1833 – 1911) and Tani 1838 – 1887)

My great grandparents had three sons, Kametaro, Kumataro, Ayagoro and one daughter, Yasu, who married Jotaro Matsuda. Kametaro was the eldest (chonan) and was adopted by the Johko family because Kuraichi's sister married into the Johko Family and had no sons to perpetuate the family name. My grandfather, Kumataro, retained the Miyoshi family name and the Kikuchi family adopted Ayagoro. It is a common Japanese custom to perpetuate family name by adopting a son. This is called YOSHI.

Although I was unable to gather much information about my Great Grandfather, Kuraichi, he lived through the Meiji Restoration period (1800) that essentially opened Japan to foreign countries from isolation. I am not quite sure when or why, but Saigo Takamori was my Japanese Hero and played an important role during this period. He led what was called Saigo's rebellion (1877) and its cause was to preserve the samurai honor. An overwhelming force of the Japanese Imperial Army armed with rifles and cannons defeated the rebels armed only with Katana (swords) and bow and arrows. In Japan, it was customary to behead the leader of the defeated army and present it to the victorious leader. After Saigo was killed in battle, his followers beheaded him and hid the traditional trophy from the victors. Saigo's head was never found. In the end, Saigo Takamori became a national hero and legend.

This historical rendition obviously has nothing to do with the Miyoshi history, but offers a unique experience I had when visiting Osaka, Japan. Jeanne and I with the Daum Family, David, Lisa, Laura, and Logan, were just starting our vacation in Japan, when I experienced what turned out to be a kidney stone problem. I was referred to Dr.Tastsuharu Kobayashi (TK) by the hotel and under his care I was able to continue our trip in Japan. Our next stop was Hiroshima, when my kidney stones started to painfully flare up. At 2 AM, it became so painful I had Jeanne call the front desk for a taxi to take me to an emergency hospital. The desk must have informed the driver that I was very ill and an American visitor. With that information, he took off like an emergency vehicle. The streets were empty and Jeanne and I were bouncing all over in the back seat. Like a miracle, when we arrived at the hospital the pain was gone. The bouncy ride must have caused the stone to pass and hence, I discovered a unique method to pass kidney stone. I was passing blood in my urine and this cleared up immediately. This created a dilemma, where did the blood go to, was I bleeding internally? I called Dr.TK in the morning and was informed that the bleeding came from the irritation of the stone, so with my concern taken care of, we continued our trip without any further "emergency". We became good friends with TK san and his beautiful and talented wife, Mariko san. While visiting with them, they took us to their tatami room where Saigo Takamori's calligraphy was displayed. TK is a 5th generation physician and his great grandfather was a personal friend of Saigo who would stay at his residence on his travel to Edo (Tokyo). I experienced a unique sensation with this close encounter with my hero, Saigo Takamori.

Great Uncle Kikuchi Ayagoro (1869 – 1922)

Ayagoro was the youngest of the 3 sons. He graduated from Imperial Middle School and had a contract to teach for 10 years. He broke this teaching contract to further his education at Keio University. His father, Kuraichi was furious and practically disowned Ayagoro for breaking his contract. Ayagoro was in the 2nd graduating class of Keio.
(My brother, Akira, graduated from Keio in 1943). He was an executive with Mitsui Bank and later worked for Toyobo in Kawanoseki and helped rebuild that company. Ayagoro died in 1922 at age 53 after retiring in Uwa Jima. *(The same town as the fishing school boat that was sunk in an accident with a U. S. Nuclear submarine near Hawaii in 2001*). I never had the pleasure of meeting anyone from the Kikuchi family.

Great Uncle Johko Kametaro (1858 – 1960)

Kuraichi's older sister married into the Johko Family, but had no children. The Johko family to perpetuate their family name adopted Kametaro. In 1889, he became a member in the first Town Council, Uno Machi.. From 1893 to 1909 he was a member of Higashi Uwa Gun Council (County Government) and the last 4 years, he served as their Chairman. As a community leader, he was instrumental in establishing the first county high school, Nosan Gakko, which became the present Uwa Koto Gakko. Ironically, this is the high school that Cousin Miyoshi Masafumi was a history teacher. Kametaro was 100 years old, when he weaved a large carrying basket from rice straw, which is still displayed at the Meiseki temple. There are 88 sacred temples in Shikoku of which Meiseki is the 43rd and located in Uwa Cho, Ehime Ken. I was awestruck, when I actually saw the carrying basket displayed in the entry gate of the Meiseki Temple. Kametaro passed away at age 102. I was informed that most of the Buddhists in Japan make their pilgrimage of all 88 temples during their lifetime.

After the death of grandfather, Kumataro, in 1945, the title to his home in Shimo Matsuba, Uwa Cho, Ehime Ken, Japan was eventually transferred to the Kametaro Johko's family. Sae Ohtsuka, a grand niece of Kametaro Johko, and her husband, Yukio, are residing at this home. Sae san takes care of the Miyoshi Family plot, which is located near her home. We enjoyed the kind hospitality of the Ohtsuka during our visit (2000).

Cousin Miyoshi Koichi and his wife, Yoshiko

For a short period, my father's brother, Ryosuke Fukumoto, and his family adopted the Miyoshi name and occupied Kumataro's home. I surmised the relatives of the Miyoshi clan did not make it comfortable for them and they eventually returned to Yamaguchi Ken. This all happened immediately after World War II, so it must have been a difficult period for all concerned.

Jeanne and I met Ryosuke's son, Koichi, his wife, Yoshiko, daughter Yuko, and granddaughter, Megumi, in Shimonoseki, Yamaguchi Ken on our last visit (2000). According to Yoshiko san, they retained the Miyoshi name because it was free from any Korean (Kankoku) influence (a hint of historic Japanese prejudice). Shimonoseki is a major entry port to Japan from Korea. Koichi san presented me with grandfather Kumataro's Han (signature stamp) for which I am truly grateful. This is the only tangible possession of my grandfather. When I first called them from Hiroshima to make an appointment to visit them Yoshiko san answered and sounded very abrupt. After hanging up, I told Jeanne that there might be some residual bad feelings from their experience in Shimo Matsuba, Ehime Ken. After meeting her and getting well acquainted with the family, I mentioned about my first impressions of our telephone conversation and they all laughed with Yuko san explaining that is the way she talks to everyone. She explained her mother was a former schoolteacher and talked that way to her students to maintain order. Our visit with the Miyoshi's was very enjoyable and we became very good friends (2000).

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This is Great Grandfather Miyoshi Kuraichi. (1833 –1911).
His wife was Tani (1838-1887). They had 3 sons,
Kametaro, Kumataro, Ayagoro and 1 daughter Yasu.



This is Great Grandfather Miyoshi Kuraichi close to his end. The only identifiable persons are Great Uncle Johko Kametaro (3rd from left) , Grandmother Miyoshi Kiku (4th from right) and Mom Miyoshi Masa (right side). Circa 1911. Kuraichi had 3 remarkable sons. Grandfather Kumataro had immigrated to United States in 1906, therefore absent from this photo. Youngest son, Kikuchi Ayagoro, may be 3rd from the left but this is only a guess.

Section 2 Immigrants from Japan, Grandparents and Parents

Grandparents Miyoshi Kumataro (1864 – 1945) and Kiku (1865 – 1933)

Grandfather Kumataro married Kiku from the Onikubo's Utsunomiya pottery family.

My personal memories of Kumataro ojiisan and Kiku obaasan are limited as I was only 5 years old when Obaasan passed away and 7 when Ojiisan returned to Japan. However, from the research of my cousin Miyoshi Masafumi from Shimo Matsuba, Japan I was able to compile quite of bit of information.

First, my personal recollection. I remember my grandfather as being bald, but he got a haircut from Okura san on a regular schedule. He would allow me to smell the sweet fragrance of Jeris Hair Tonic the barber would sprinkle on his scalp. 70 plus years later, Jeris Hair Tonic is still in use today.

Grandfather Kumataro was an educator principal in Japan. He taught at several elementary schools located at Hokketsu, Kami Uwa, Takayama,

Nakatsuchi, and Nomura. He was respected and admired for his dedication. During his teaching career, he resigned several times because he disagreed with certain school reforms. In the year 2000, Masafumi sensei took me to Nomura Sho Gakko. Kumataro's picture was hanging on the wall as the first principal of this middle school. Principal Shiba presented me with a book on the history of his school and proudly informed me that Tamakasuga, a sumo champion, was an alumnus of Nomura. I met the faculty who were preparing for the new school year. On the school ground, there was a sumo rink for the students to practice on and carry on the tradition of their champion. Needless to say, it was an exhilarating feeling to experience part of my roots.

I often wondered why Grandfather would come to the United States while holding a prestigious position as an educator. During our Japan visit, cousin Tsurue Yamamoto tactfully informed me that Uncle Chuichi had done something wrong (henna koto shita) and this may have been the reason for their move. Chuichi was quite a playboy in the States and friends of the family tried to marry him off to settle him down. According to my brother, Jun, Chuichi was returning home after picking up merchandise from the Surf train station near Lompoc, California, for the Guadalupe store and was fatally injured in an accident on November 14, 1917.

According to the Ehime Kenshi (life record), Kumataro Miyoshi immigrated with his son, Chuichi, to the United States in 1906. Kumataro worked as farm laborer in the first year and started farming in his 2nd year. Around 1916, he opened a grocery store in Guadalupe, California. In 1930, he invested $35,000 to construct a branch store, a garage, and shop that

included the family residence in the rear of the property in Santa Maria, California. According to Yoneo Herky Hirakami, the 2-story boarding house his family operated was built in 1927.

Grandmother Kiku and daughter, Masa, immigrated to America around 1917 to unite with Kumataro. The long separation was due to Masa's completion of her education at Nara School for Women. I am assuming that Kiku and Masa reunited with Kumataro to attend the funeral of Chuichi.

Grandmother Kiku, passed away on January 30, 1933. The family was at Avila Hot Springs, when we received this sad news. I wish I could have shared more time with Obaasan, as family friends stated, she was a gracious and generous lady.

On my first solo reconnaissance trip to Japan, I visited Uno Machi, Ehime ken, which was my Grandfather Kumataro's hometown. Since my uncle, Chuichi, and mother, Masa were no longer living, I just assumed there were no Miyoshi relatives living in the area. I forgot about my Grandmother Kiku's side of the family. It was to my pleasant surprise, that the Utsunomiya family was thriving in Uno Machi. I met my cousin, Takashi Utsunomiya and his wife, Fusako, and they were fantastic hosts, who immediately made me feel like one of the family. Their generous and kind hospitality really helped established my roots in Japan.

Grandfather Kumataro returned to Japan in 1935 to retire. He brought his bed from the United States to sleep on, instead of using the traditional tatami floor. He also wore a red-checkered vest around the village. This

combination of the bed and his loud clothes gained him the reputation of being a little eccentric. According to my brother Jun, Kumataro married a lady from the Johko family, who took care of him way beyond the duty of a spouse (No record of this marriage).. He passed away in 1945 at his home in Shimo Matsuba, Uwa Cho, Higashi Uwa Gun, Ehime Ken, and Japan.

In Japan, we went Ohaka Maeri (paying our respect) and found the Miyoshi family plot had stones going back over 250 years. The cemetery is located close to Kumataro's former home in Shimo Matsuba. On Kumataro's tombstone it indicated, he took part of Kiku's remains back to Japan with him. With mixed emotions of sadness and happiness, it was great to be able to pay my respect to my grandparents in Japan. Masafumi Sensei's mother, Meiko san, who was simply delightful, would join us and bring a pail of water and a scoop to wash the tomb stone at the cemetery. This traditional custom certainly enhanced our visit (1997).

Masafumi took us to the village Shinto Shrine. It was modest in size; however, there were two granite stone posts, erected to serve as a torii (gateway). There was writing on the stone and as Masafumi was reading the contents, he discovered that grandfather Kumataro wrote the calligraphy for the granite gateway. There were a couple bottles of sake and other items presented at the altar of the shrine as offerings. There was also a small Torii made of granite and Masafumi instructed me that people would throw stones and if one landed on the Torii it would bring "Good Luck". After many attempts, I did manage to land one and it did work wonders. I was able to complete our trip without any further medical problems and the trip was a complete success.

My parents, Miyoshi Riichi (1888-1956) and Masa (1889-1947)

Fukumoto Keizo, older brother of Riichi. My nephew, Todd Miyoshi, and I celebrated Uncle Keizo's 100th birthday in Calgary, Canada in 1990. He received a telegram from Queen Elizabeth congratulating him on his 100th birthday. Uncle's recollection of my father Riichi's arrival to the United States was sketchy on dates but the events were very enlightening.

Uncle Keizo returned to Japan from Vancouver, Canada to pick up Riichi and his friend in Yamaguchi Ken. Keizo became ill in Hawaii but urged them to continue on to Vancouver. They reunited in Vancouver, Canada. There seem to be two versions on how my father, Riichi, may have illegally entered the United States.

1. In 1908, a group of Japanese immigrants, that included Keizo and Riichi, attempted to enter the United States illegally. During a winter night, the group was crossing a frozen body of water when the ice started to fracture, making a large booming noise. They heard gunshots from the American side so some of them, including Keizo, returned to Canada, while my father Riichi continued on to the United States. Keizo did not know the status of his younger brother until he received an invitation to Riichi's wedding from Japan.
2. My father and a friend acquired a putt-putt boat and simply crossed the

Border South of Vancouver, Canada into the United States. According to Lana Fukumoto and her husband, Doug, the most likely area of the crossing was White Rock, British Columbia and Blaine, Washington.

I have Riichi's passport to Mexico that was dated 1906 and his birth date on the passport was 1888. I assume the passport destination was changed to Canada. Riichi was 18 years old when his quest to reach America occurred. In 1908, the United States closed its border to all Japanese immigrants, forcing them to illegal entry during this period. Riichi became an American Citizen in 1952. Since 1870, Isseis were not eligible to become American Citizens until the passage of Walter McCarran act of 1952. He was an illegal immigrant for over 40 years and raised a family of 4 boys and operated a successful General Merchandise store.

Riichi was a very hard working person. He made tofu, abura age (fried tofu), konnyaku and moyashi (mungo bean sprout) early in the morning and would load up the delivery truck and peddle the groceries in the countryside. Most of the Japanese families lived on farms throughout Santa Maria Valley.

My father and mother were compassionate individuals. When the FBI apprehended most of the Isseis in Santa Maria Valley, the Toko family was living on the farm. They had 2 children and the wife did not drive. When the FBI picked up Mr. Toko, he was so worried about his family that he had a nervous breakdown in North Dakota, where the Isseis were incarcerated. There were inadequate medical facilities, so my father looked after him. During mealtime, he would pick up meal for both of them and they would

eat in the barracks together. At the same time in Santa Maria, without knowing the situation in North Dakota, Masa instructed my brothers, Jun and Susumu to help Mrs.Toko pack up to stay with the Miyoshi Family.
1935. Kumataro ojiisan (grandfather) decided to close the Guadalupe Main store when grandmother Kiku passed away in 1933 and prepared to return to Japan to retire. I was told Riichi and Masa were chagrined about the closure as the store in Guadalupe was doing quite well.

The following incident was related to me from a family friend. The Fujinkai had prepared a feast for a Buddhist festival and Mr. Yaemon Minami wanted a change in the menu. Masa, as chairperson, refused to comply with his request. In this male dominated period, this type of insubordination was unheard of. Perhaps, this was the reason the relationship between the Minami and Miyoshi families was a little cool after this confrontation.

April 27, 1959

I was not aware of Mr. Minami's influence until I was invited to the Emperor Hirohito's birthday celebration and the marriage of the Crown Prince Akihito of Japan. Upon our arrival to the Consul General Hasumi's residence in Pasadena, California, everyone in attendance immediately came forward to pay homage to Mr. Minami. These were the Japanese leaders from all over California. Needless to say, I was impressed. I guess the question arises," Why was I there? I was the president of the Santa Maria Chapter Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) when we invited the Consul General and his wife to our installation dinner. I was seated next to Mrs. Hasumi. We got along very well and I could only assume this was the reason for my invitation.

I do not know how Riichi Fukumoto met Masa Miyoshi, but they were married on 9th day of September 1918. My father became a Yoshi and adopted the Miyoshi name as Chuichi, the only son passed away in 1917. During Riichi's early years as a bachelor, he worked as a farm laborer for Union Sugar Company and as a cook at Bradley Hotel located at the Southeast corner of Broadway and Main Street, Santa Maria, California.

My mother, Masa Miyoshi, graduated from Nara School for Women (Nara Joshi Koto Shihan Gakko) in 1915. She received her High School Teacher Credential from the Minister of Education. There were only 2 schools for higher education for women in all of Japan at that time. Her first teaching position was in Oita Japan (close to Beppu) with a whopping salary of $1.50 per month. *I wonder if it included room and board.*

During our trip to Japan, we visited Osamu and Fumiko Yamamoto in Hirakata, a suburb of Osaka. My cousin, Fumiko, is a noted Calligrapher known as Sei En. Osamu san made a han (signature stamp) from a unique stone from China, which I treasure with my grandparent's han. Their daughter, Setsuko, was kind enough to drive us to Nara School for Women where Masa matriculated. From our family album, there was a picture of the campus and the main building is still standing today. This is another example of experiencing my roots by walking around the campus, where my mother did in the early 1900.

Masa Miyoshi became a Christian in Japan

Her conversion to Christianity was most likely influenced by the Missionaries that operated Nara's Women College where she attended.

When she arrived in Guadalupe, California there was no Japanese Christian Church, so she joined the Guadalupe Buddhist Church to fulfill her religious needs. She became a leader in the Fujinkai (Women's club) and was unique among the Isseis because of her educational background. In an interview with Kent Holden, who was doing his thesis for his Doctorate degree at University of California, Jun stated that mother's education was downplayed in the family to avoid any superiority complex. They did a good job because I was not aware of my mother's educational background to develop any complex. In fact, whenever my mother was a substitute teacher for Yamabe sensei at my Japanese School class, it was an embarrassing time for me.

When the family moved to Santa Maria in 1933, Masa returned to her Christian faith. This change created quite a stir in the community. I believe most of the people did not know of her religious belief before coming to Guadalupe and felt she was being unfaithful to the Buddhist church.

FBI arrests most of our Issei fathers without due process

After the outbreak of World War II, my father, Riichi, and many other Issei men were apprehended by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Riichi

was probably apprehended because he was president of the Santa Maria Judo Club and being a prominent businessman. When I returned home from Santa Maria High School, my mother tearfully informed me of father's predicament. Naively, my first impression was one of pride that my father was important enough to be apprehended by the Federal Bureau Investigation (FBI). At our general merchandise store, I saw many Isseis purchase hats and other apparel under the watchful eyes of FBI agents. The agents were just like the ones I have seen in G-Man movies.

Several days later, some of the Issei men that were not picked went to the Police Department and demanded they also be arrested. It was a strange situation, but I think they felt disgraced by not being treated like the others. Riichi was incarcerated at Fort Lincoln, Bismarck, North Dakota.

I cannot recall the exact date my father Riichi rejoined us in Gila Relocation Center from Bismarck, North Dakota, but we were very happy in the traditional stoic Japanese way. I do not know how he acquired it, but he brought us a 5 lb sack of sugar as an omiyage (gift). This was a rare commodity at that time. I remember the ladies making manju (Japanese pastry) with ingredients from our mess hall, which was my favorite Japanese pastry.

The late Frank Ito of Guadalupe, who was a pharmacist once told me that the Isseis were the greatest Japanese of their time because they came to a strange country not knowing the language and surviving in a hostile environment. In 1906, the San Francisco School Board approved a resolution to segregate the children of Japanese ancestry into separate

schools. In 1920, the State of California enacted the Alien Land Law the prohibited the Isseis to own or even lease land. Our Federal Government enacted laws to deny the Isseis the right to be eligible for Naturalization and totally excluded Japanese immigration in 1907. They were barred from admission to the United States for permanent residence. No European immigrants faced these types of discriminatory policies.

The Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West, American Legion, Labor Federation and Grange Association supported the following:

1. *Exclusion of picture brides from Japan.*
2. *Rigorous exclusion of Japanese as immigrants.*
3. *Confirmation of the policy that Asiatic should be forever barred from American Citizenship.*
4. *Amendment to the Constitution providing that no child born in the United States should be given the rights of American Citizen unless <u>both</u> parent were of a race eligible for Citizenship (Act of 1870 made Japanese ineligible for Citizenship until 1952).*

These were some of the racist attitudes that existed against the Isseis. "Hostile environment" underestimates the challenges our Issei immigrants had to overcome in America.

We were forced to close our store like all the other Japanese establishments, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066

President Roosevelt issued this Order that empowered the military to designate "military areas from which any and all persons may be excluded." The word Japanese or Japanese American never appeared on this order, but was used only against persons of Japanese Ancestry. The justification was "Military Necessity". Of the 112,000 persons of Japanese Ancestry that were incarcerated, 15,500 were under ten years old, 50,000 were women, 2,000 over age 65, and they were less than 46,000 males between ages 14 to 65. The "crime" charged against the men, women and children was solely that they were of the same racial extraction as subjects of an enemy nation with which United States was then at war. The fact that the majority were United States Citizens was considered irrelevant. In some instances, persons ordered into concentration camps were honorably discharged veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

This Executive Order forced all Japanese Americans and their parents out of the 3 coastal states, California, Oregon, and Washington.

We hurriedly packed some of the unsold merchandise and stored them in the cellar under the store. I remember Susumu meticulously making content lists of each box and numbering them. The significance of his effort will be explained later on.

East of Highway 99 in California was initially considered a free zone

We were packing our pickup truck in an effort to relocate to Reedley, California, East of Highway 99, that was in the free zone. We were so busy closing up our store, that we were not able to make the deadline. We each packed our 2-luggage limit and joined other members of the Japanese community in Santa Maria Valley for evacuation. We all assembled at the Japanese Union Church (now the Christ United Methodist Church) with armed soldiers patrolling the area. We were loaded onto buses and taken to Tulare Assembly Center to commence our incarceration. Perhaps our inability to voluntarily move was a blessing in disguise as all of California was soon declared off limits.

I have tremendous respect for my parents, Riichi, and Masa, who worked very hard to make their store successful and suffered a great economic loss due to the war (WW II). Masa suffered a stroke in Camp and was still recovering when we returned to Santa Maria after 3 1/2 years of incarceration. Riichi worked as a farm labor at Waller Franklin Seed Company. They never complained about the economic loss over the store closure or their loss of income. Prior to the evacuation, we stored our 1939 Mercury in back of the store and fortunately, the only vandalism to the car was newspaper stuffed in the gas tank. After repairing the car, they would take some of the widows, such as Mmes. Yanagibashi, Agawa, Teramura and others, to the beach or mushroom hunting, which made life more

enjoyable for everyone. It was a simple thing, but it was their character to be just helpful and share. They never spoke to me in anger and just talked to me when I was out of line or very effectively gave me the silent treatment as a means to show their disapproval.

Reflections by Masa Miyoshi

My mother, Masa, wrote the following articles in early 1946 for the Colorado Times, a Japanese newspaper. Masa was rather unique for her time because she was one of few women to be educated at the Nara School for Women and immigrate to the United States. My good friend, Jack Morishima translated the article for me.

This article made me aware of the difficult decision my parents had to make prior to the closure of Gila River Relocation Center in September 1945. My mother suffered a stroke in camp and had limited mobility. This is her story.

I yearn for Santa Maria

"Are you going back to Santa Maria? "Give up going to Santa Maria". "It is said, that Santa Maria is one of the most discriminating place in California". This is the advice I received from my close friends.

Is it right to give up returning just because of such rumors?

Let it be discrimination, I will face whatever hardship and endure with firm belief. I have three graves there. My brother, son and my mother, who have died without attaining their dreams and are beckoning me to come back.

With this small hope as my walking stick, I decided to go to Santa Maria.

There is nobody in Santa Maria at this time and it is sad and lonely. When I have trouble finding a place to cry, I will go to the grave and weep all night. Someday, there will sure to be someone who have left this valley that will miss this place and when they do come to visit here, I would like to be able to greet them with a bowl of ochazuke.

Of course, we are old, ill and helpless and have little hope, but underneath the Santa Maria Valley lies 300 souls of our dead, who have exerted themselves for 30 years, enduring discrimination. In response to your distinguished services, we desire keeping this little light on and not to eradicate the footprint you have established here.

In 1920, the California Alien Land Law was enacted and Santa Maria Valley was the hardest to be hit. At that time, Union Sugar Factory unilaterally took away the lease from all the Japanese farmers. Therefore, these farmers were driven against the wall with their farm equipments and scores of pet horses worth tens of thousands of dollars.

Some have moved and established other enterprises in Mexico, Utah and Pescadero areas.

Again, we have met with this calamity and California is now allowing us to return, but knowing that discrimination existed, it will be a difficult and slow process in returning.

Before we were aware of it, spring has come and the valley has become revived with several thousand acres of vegetable fields.

Several hundred Japanese families, who have contributed to the development of farming in Santa Maria Valley, have dispersed in all directions never to return to Santa Maria.

It will be sometime to come before Santa Maria can realize the prosperity it had, however the waves of celeries, cauliflowers and lettuce fields will drown in tears of happiness with your appearance.

Several hundred acres of flower fields the Japanese alone, with their hands conveyed the pollen several decades ago, will come and welcome you with hearty cheers in the balmy wind.

The end. (owari)

This is one of the commentaries I wrote for the Santa Maria Times, dated August 24, 2004

I was going through the family photo album and discovered a newspaper article from the Colorado Times, a Japanese Newspaper, dated April 15, 1946, written by my mother, Masa. She suffered a stroke while incarcerated

at Gila River Relocation Center, Arizona. After the war ended in August 1945, I returned from Chicago to help my parents return to our home in Santa Maria, California.

This following article is especially meaningful because I was a part of her story that brings back some wonderful memories as well as sadness. It also reflects the post war conditions in 1945. I would like to share the English translation with you.

Welcoming friends from far away to come and gather shellfish

Though I am having trouble walking after recovering from my illness I have decided to write to remind the smell of the seashore to my friends from my hometown, most of them are now living in the East.

Traveling through Pismo Beach, San Luis Obispo, Morro Bay, Cambria and we parked along side the highway below where you can see the Hearst Villa through the mist.

After the canvas was spread out, the favorite lacquered tiers of boxes filled with Japanese dishes, a fruit basket, cake and candy box (Japanese sweets) by Mikawaya and a thermos bottle of hot tea were placed on the canvas. The car door was opened from the outside. Now, it was my turn. My two boys took my hands and helped me to the canvas sheet.

As I watched the children happily go down to the beach I gazed at the blue ocean and looked up the blue sky and found consolation in the rolling hills, however, it is unbearable waiting for their return. The party that went down to gather shellfish (mussels) are having such a good time that it will be sometime before they will be back.

Soon, they came up talking in turn about the fun they had. After they finished eating their lunch, again the children went picking the seaweeds and shells, covering their heads with waves; they soon harvested a bag full. The tide was still good, but we had 80 miles of long journey back, so we started on our way home and as we near Morro Bay it was the opening of clam and oyster season and both sides of the highway was parked with deluxe automobiles. Here, I couldn't help but become depressed because of the cold law created by people who are not god that excluded us Japanese from obtaining fishing license so we passed through without stopping and watching their joyful sight.

As we near our entrance at home, there was a white package on the orange box. As we looked to see what it was, there was a scribble note, 'we started a Japanese Noodle Store. Please have a taste. From the Otsui', Her wonderful handmade noodle, how grateful we are, so well timed…. Yet on top of that, in the mailbox a note read, 'This is the return present for the seaweed from you'. A candy box of almond was sent from Mrs. Hagiya from Chicago.

Mussel boiled in salt water for noodle soup, meat (mussels) for the salad and candy for after the meal.

The pleasure of a happy home was most satisfying.

Owari". (The end)

Epilogue by Toru Miyoshi

After these articles was written by Masa, a few Japanese farmers, such as the Minami, Tomooka, Koyama, Tani and Nishimura, started to return to Santa Maria Valley and commence farming. It was amazing, but in a few years, there were the biggest lettuce and broccoli growers in our valley. It occurred to me that our removal from California was not based entirely on military necessity, but economics. If all the Japanese farmers were allowed to continue farming during the war, they probably would have ended up owning most the prime agricultural land and become the wealthiest segment of our society in California. Although totally unjustified, but from a purely economic perspective, one can understand, why most of the agricultural regions of California were attempting to prevent the Japanese Americans from returning to California after the war ended.

In 1946, the Sheehy family solicited Japanese families to sharecrop their strawberry farms. Families, formerly, from San Joaquin Valley, Orange County and Chula Vista, accepted the invitation to become sharecroppers in Santa Maria Valley. This gave them an opportunity for economic recovery. After a few years, some had purchased land in the Grover City Area and became successful strawberry growers. Others gained economic security and moved to other communities to seek other opportunities. In a recent

article, Mr. Sheehy's son, Terry, indicated that his family was severely criticized for giving the Japanese families this opportunity.

The continuing improvement of civil rights is parallel with the growing maturity of our United States of America. I am sure Masa with her anxiety of the 1940s' would truly be amazed with the accomplishments of the Japanese American into the 21st Century.

The Nisei generation will soon be following our Issei parents into extinction. JACL has played an important role in protecting our civil rights to allow us to attain whatever goals we aspired to. The Nisei veterans by their heroic acts during WW II established the loyalty of the Japanese American community.

The integration of the Japanese American into the mainstream of America is well established. However, as long as Sansei and succeeding generations remain an identifiable minority, they are vulnerable to negative profiling and racial discrimination in times of international crisis. Therefore, a need for civil rights representation, such as the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is a necessity.

The emergence of China, as an economic and military power, will inevitably head into a collision course with the United States. I hope this course will not end up in another war, but if it does, all Asians, can be subjected to some form of negative racial profiling.

This scenario seems improbable, but the horrific experience of 9/11 in New York City and the exploitation of terrorist fear to compromise some of our most important civil liberties (Patriot Act) in its aftermath, and the unfair treatment of our fellow Americans with Middle East ancestry, makes the improbable, a possibility in our democracy. The growing hysteria over the illegal immigrants and/or undocumented workers problems will inevitably become one of the most challenging racial issues in our Country. The estimated illegal immigrant from Mexico and South America is from 12 million to 16 million.

The political climate in the United States has become so divisive and adversarial, the essence of our democracy seems to be headed to a self-destructive direction. The differing political philosophy have become so polarized, that our Freedom of Speech and Civil Liberties are being compromised.

I strongly feel that the "Separation of Church and State" is an important Doctrine necessary to perpetuate our Democracy and this is being threatened. For example, the abortion controversy is dividing friends and families, because of religious beliefs. . The controversies over Prayer in schools, displaying the "Tenth Commandments" in public places are only few of the issues that are challenging our Great Democracy.

Now the ludicrous constitutional amendment supported by President Bush to ban gay marriages is indicative that we may have peaked as the greatest country in the world. All Americans, regardless of their sexual preference, should not be denied any of the rights others have.



Miyoshi Kumataro
April 16, 1864 to 1945

Patriarch of the Miyoshi Family



Grandfather Kumataro is sitting on the right side front. This photo must have been taken in the early 1900.



West Main Garage, R. M. Miyoshi, rental, Barber Shop, hotel and Miyoshi family residence. Circa 1940.

These are the buildings Grandfather Kumataro built with a $35,000.00 investment in 1930.

In 1998, the City of Santa Maria extended Depot Street, which required the demolition of all the above buildings.



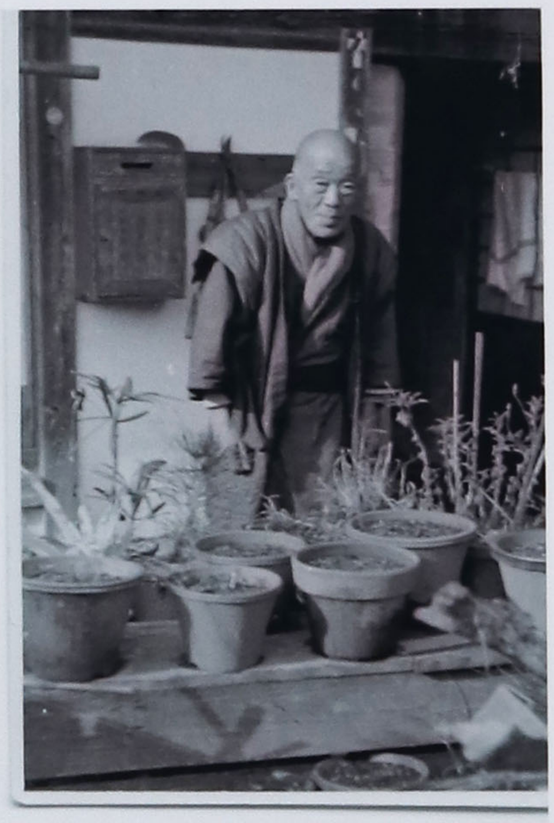
Inside view of Miyoshi general merchandise store in Santa Maria. A sort of a miniature Wal-Mart that carried grocery, meat and fish, clothing, shoes, hardware, dishes, utensils and Japanese import items. Grandfather Kumataro at the left and members of the family throughout the store.
Circa 1934

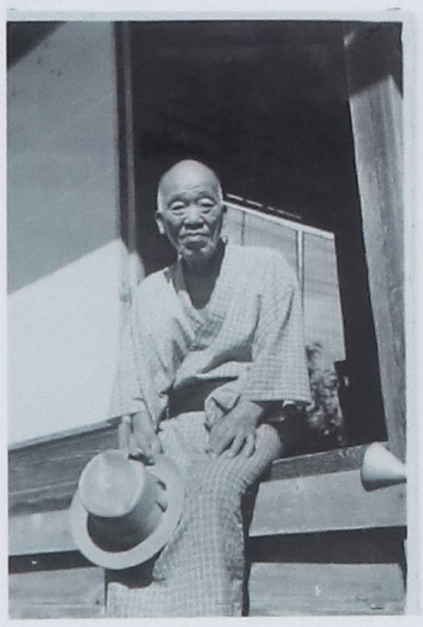


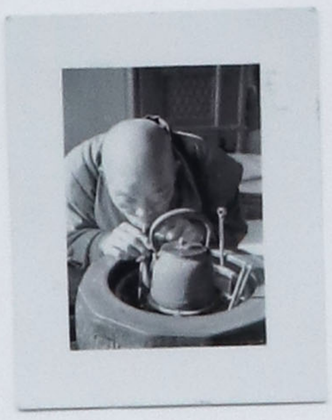
Grandfather Kumataro Miyoshi donated this hanging curtain of "Momotaro" to the Santa Maria Japanese Language School. Photo was taken November 1935. He retired in 1935 and returned to Japan so this must of have been his way of showing his appreciation to the community that has been good to him. I recalled it was a beautiful piece of art with lot of hand embroidery.













Grandfather Kumataro Miyoshi

(top) Los Angeles City Hall, enroute to Japan, at last Home Again
(bottom) Taking a break, lighting up, famous torii at Miyajima



Grandfather Kumataro returning to his home in Shimo Matsuba, Uwa cho, Ehime Ken, Japan. He retired in 1935 after 30 years in the United States.

His older brother, Kametaro Johko, is 2nd from the right.



Grandmother Kiku Miyoshi

July 26, 1865 – June 30, 1933



Grandmother Kiku and daughter Masa.
Speculating this photo was taken around Masa's graduating from Nara School for Women in 1915. This indicates Kiku did leave Japan at the same time as Grandfather Kumataro in 1903. Further research is required.



Grandmother Kiku's funeral procession in front of Miyoshi General Merchandise Store heading for Guadalupe Cemetary. Circa 1933



Grandmother Kiku Miyoshi's funeral at Guadalupe Buddhist Church, July 1933



The story of three Miyoshi Han

1.. The wooden han (Signature stamp) on the right was my grandmother Kiku's. When I first saw it I did not know whom it belonged to until I unraveled what I thought was a paper string a few years ago. I discovered Kiku written on the paper to identify the Han. A wonderful surprise!!

2. The ivory carved Han belonged to my grandfather Kumataro. It was presented to me when I first met Koichi Miyoshi in Hikari, Yamaguchi Ken (1997). He said as a direct descendant of Kumataro I should have it. This is the only tangible possession I have of Grandfather so it has a very special meaning for me.

3. The stone Han to the left is Toru Miyoshi's signature stamp. It was made by the Late Osamu Yamamoto of Hirakata, Osaka, Japan. The unique stone came from China where he had a special kinship. He is the husband of Cousin Fumiko, a noted calligrapher known as Sei En.



Miyoshi, Chuichi, 1885 – November 14, 1917

My uncle Chuichi was a schoolteacher in Japan before migrating with my grandfather Kumataro in 1906 to the United States. He was killed in an auto accident picking up supplies for the Miyoshi Store in Guadalupe, CA.

MIDDLE PICTURE: Chuichi is seated with his class in the front row center without a hat.

BOTTOM PICTURE: The funeral of Chuichi at the Guadalupe Buddhist Church with Reverend Matsuura officiating. Grandfather Kumataro is standing directly back of the coffin. Grandmother Kiku and Masa is standing left of the coffin. Kiku and Masa reunited with grandfather in America to attend the funeral of Chuichi. This assumption is based upon Masa graduating from Nara School for Women in 1915 and was teaching at Oita High School near Beppu, Japan.







Riichi Miyoshi

April 10, 1888 – February 25, 1956

日本帝國旅券

第四參九貳〇號

日本帝國旅券

本籍地 山口縣熊毛郡浅江村第二千二百五十一番屋敷

戸主 勘吉弟 平民農

移民 福本利一

明治廿一年十月十日生

右ハ墨西哥國ニ赴クニ付通路故障ナク旅行セシメ且必要ノ保護扶助ヲ與ヘラレン事ヲ其筋ノ諸官ニ希望ス

明治卅九年十月三一日

日本帝國外務大臣 從三位勳一等子爵 林 董

以下餘白

山口縣廳下附

所持人自署 福本利一

大陸殖民合資會社

This document is my father, Riichi's Japanese passport to Mexico. His brother Keizo was living in Vancouver, Canada and returned to Japan to bring Riichi and a friend back to Vancouver. I do not have any record however this passport must have been amended for entry to Canada. Riichi's illegal entry to the United States has two versions that is described in the History text. I found this document with others in the cellar of the original Miyoshi General Merchandise store before it was demolished to make way for Depot Street Extension in the early 1990s.

（文譯）

任 誠
憑 氏名
依
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阻
如
有
緊要事卽請沿途各官加意照料善爲保佑

TRANSLATION.

IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT

PASSPORT.

No. 43920

The Competent Authorities and all whom it may concern are requested to allow the above named person proceeding to

to pass freely and without hindrance, and to give said person such protection and assistance as may be required.

The day of the month of the year of Meiji (19).

Name and Official Seal
His Imperial Japanese Majesty's
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

Signature of the Bearer:

TRADUCTION.

LE GOUVERNEMENT IMPÉRIAL DU JAPON

PASSEPORT.

No. 43920

Riichi Fukumoto est né le 10 Avril 1888.
Yamaguchiken

Les Autorités compétentes sont priées de laisser passer librement la personne ci-dessus mentionnée, allant

Le Mexique

et de lui donner aide et protection en cas de besoin.

Le 3 jour du 10 mois de la 39 année de meiji (1906).

Le Vicomte Tadasu Hayashi

Noms et cachet officiel
du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères
de Sa Majesté l'Empereur du Japon.

Signature du porteur:

Riichi Fukumoto's passport to Mexico. According to his older brother Keizo, Riichi came to Canada first before entering illegally to the United States. Circa 1908



Photo of Riichi Fukumoto as a bachelor. Riichi adopted the Miyoshi name when he married Masa to perpetuate the Miyoshi family name. (Circa 1915)



Riichi before the wedding looking a little nervous. Friend unknown but could be his best man.

Riichi and Masa Miyoshi on their first anniversary. They were united in marriage on September 9, 1918.



Imada Studio
239½ E First St.
Los Angeles. Cal.

Sep 2ed 1919
R. Miyoshi
M. Miyoshi



Riichi and Masa adding Akira and Jun to the family.



This 1932 calendar of the R.M. Miyoshi Company was discovered in an old farm house still in the container tube. I boast that my grandfather Kumataro and parents Riichi and Masa initiated the chain store operation. Guadalupe being the main store and Santa Maria being the branch. For the record I paid $20.00 for this find as it is the only tangible reminder of the Miyoshi enterprise.



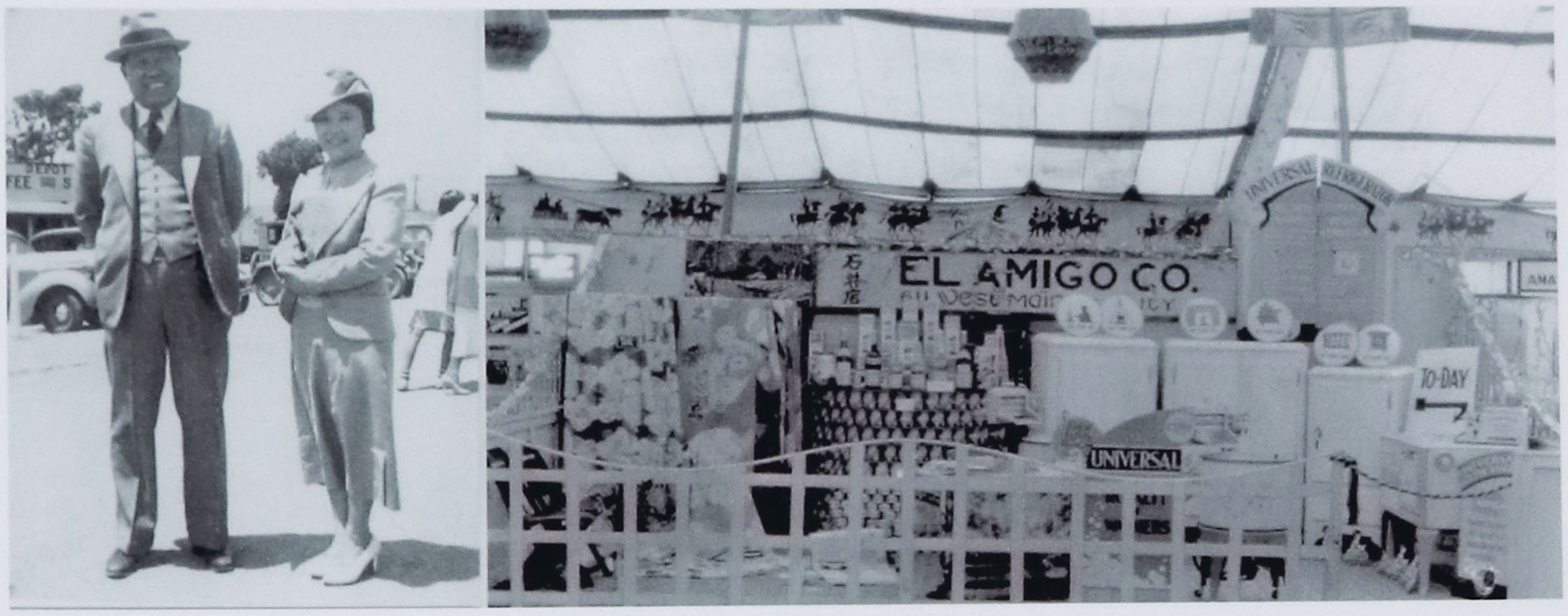


(top) Miyoshi Store opened around 1920. Awning identified the store.

(bottom) The 2 story building became the Far Western Restaurant. The store site became a parking lot.



Exterior view of Miyoshi General Merchandise store in Santa Maria. Circa 1933

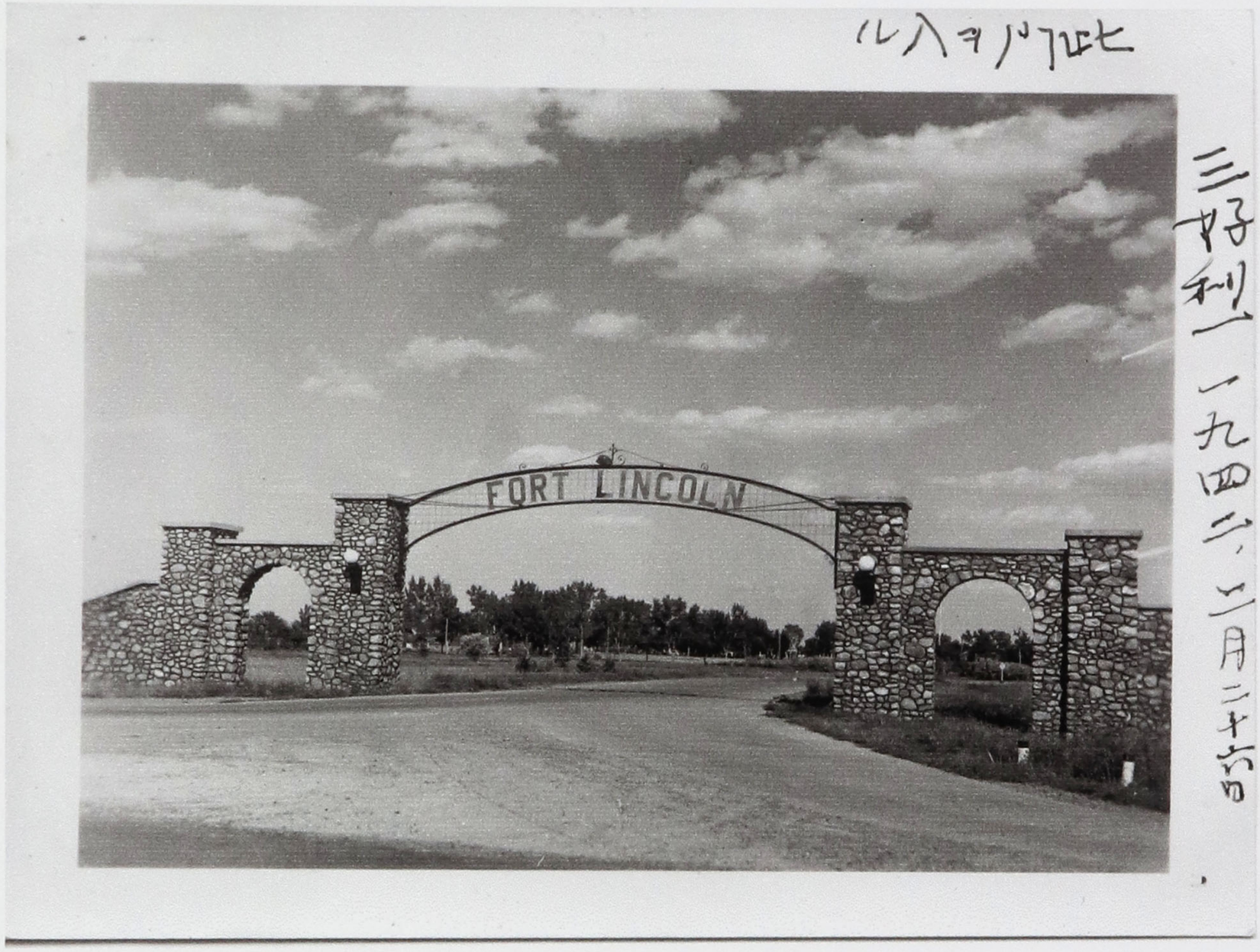


The late Mr. & Mrs. Chuhei Ishii. They operated the El Amigo Store across Main Street from Miyoshi General Merchandise store. El Amigo had a large display at the Santa Barbara County Fair. In the 1930s and 40s starting from the 600 block of West Main Street, Santa Maria, California, had a respectable size Japan town. It also included Matoba Grocery Store, Main Street Garage, Hirata Pool Hall, Matsumoto Coffee Shop, Okura Barber Shop, Hirakami Boarding House, Fuji Drug Store, Fujimoto Tofu Shop, Dr. Earl Yusa Dentist, Koyama Legal Service, Kiku's Florist, Sakaji Restaurant, and Hagiya Service Station. Japanese Union Church and Santa Maria Japanese Language School (Gakuen) were in close proximity.

Mr. Ishii in his later years used to visit Jeanne and I. He would tell us about Issei in their early years. I wish I had taped some of his stories. I recall one amusing story where a group of Issei farm labors would pool their money and pull straws. The winner would be able to travel to San Francisco just to see the Japanese picture brides disembark from the ship. In the early 1900s Japanese women were rare and money tight so the prize was most rewarding.



Santa Maria Judo Club. Riichi Miyoshi, President, Yamabe Sensei, Secretary Treasurer, Yoshida Sensei, Judo Teacher. In 1938, Santa Maria Won the black belt Championship in Southern California. This was the first time this honor was taken outside the Los Angeles area. The winning team consist of Sadao Minamide, Jun Miyoshi, George Fujinami, Akira Minamide and Harry Araki.

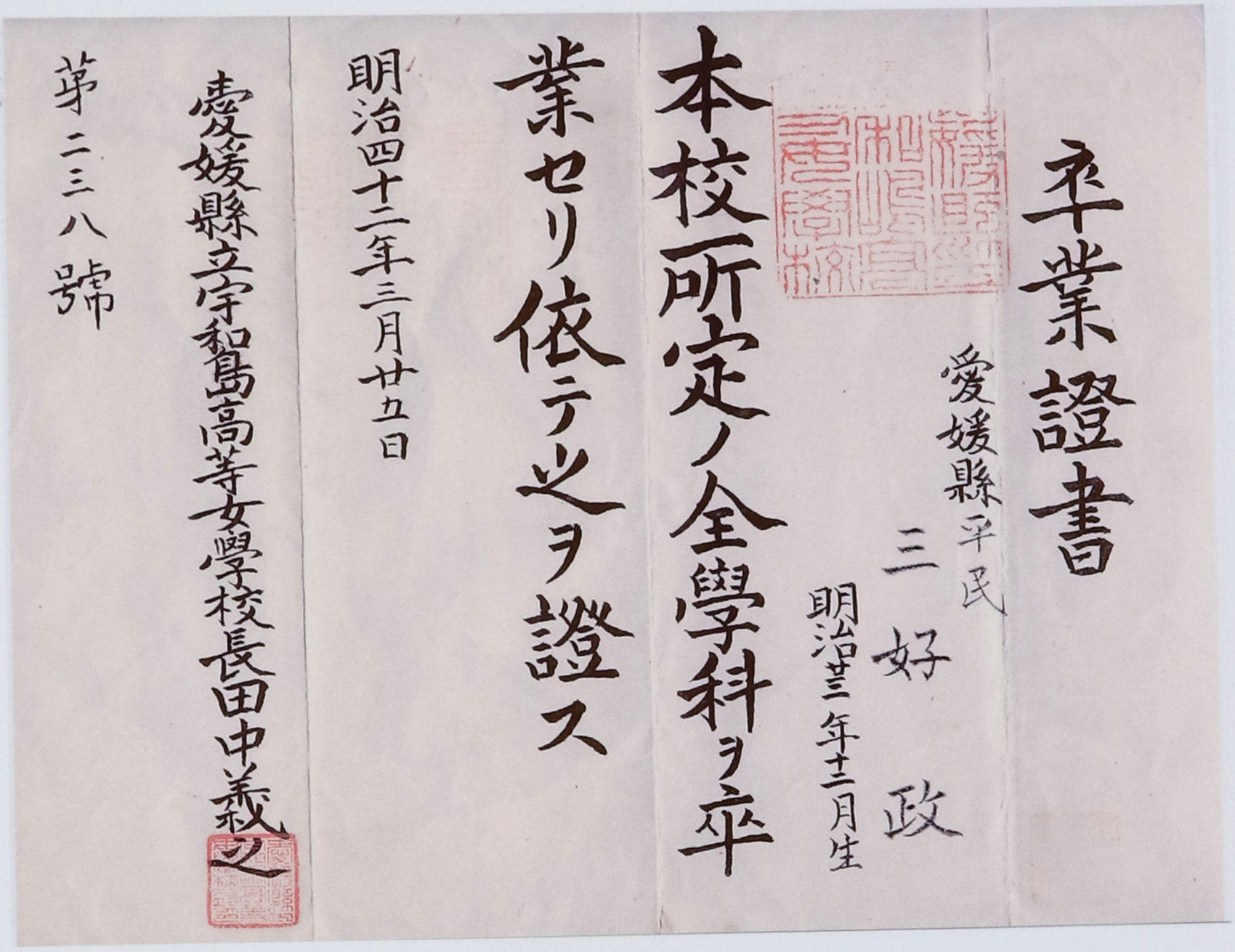


This photo is the Fort Lincoln prison in North Dakota where Riichi was incarcerated with many other Isseis. German prisoner of war and prominent German nationals were also held at this prison. The Japanese lettering on the right side reads, **Miyoshi Riichi, 1942, February 26.**



Masa Miyoshi

November 27, 1889 – February 8, 1947



卒業證書

愛媛縣平民　三好政

明治卅三年十二月生

本校所定ノ全學科ヲ卒業セリ依テ之ヲ證ス

明治四十二年三月廿五日

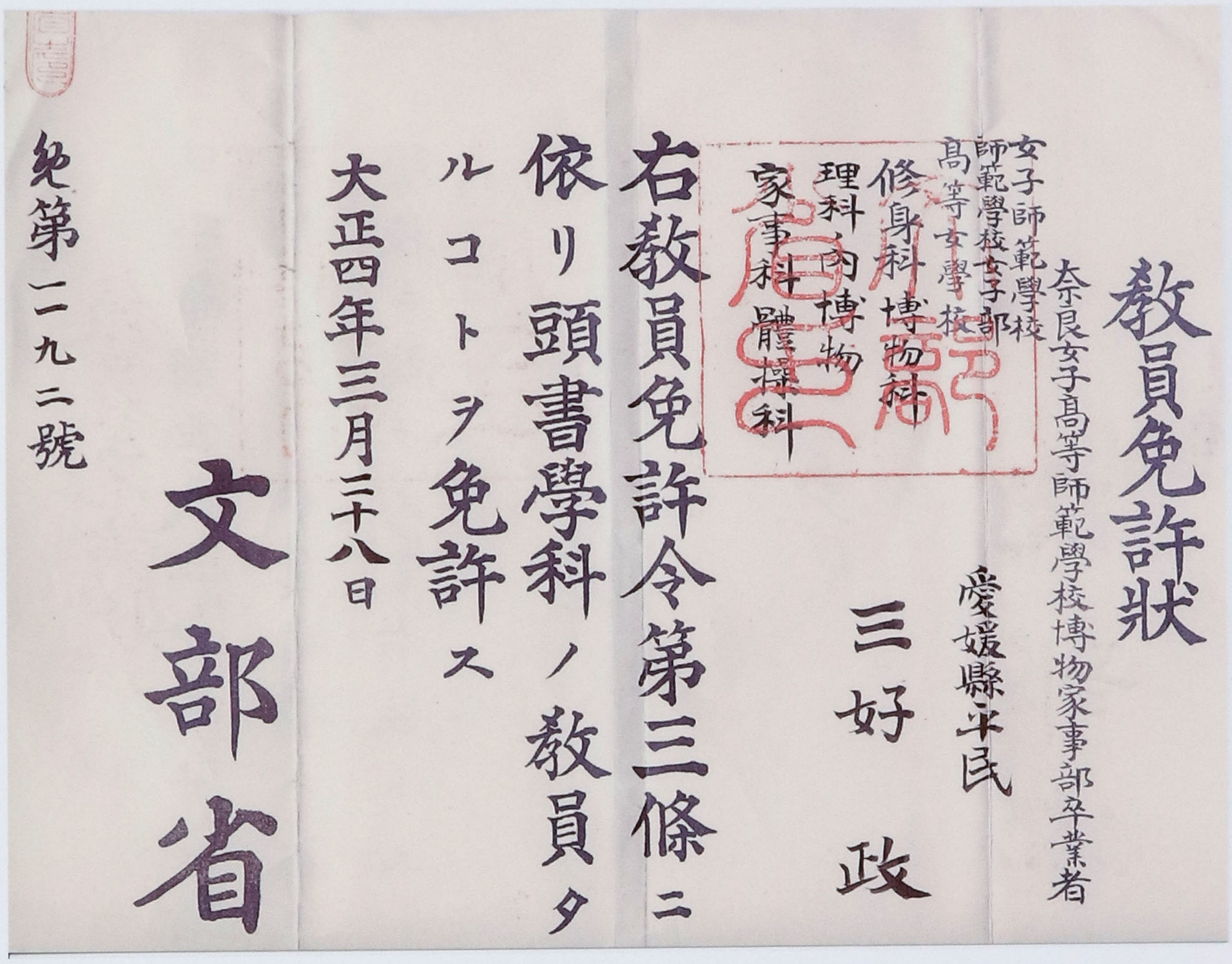
愛媛縣立宇和島高等女學校長田中義之

第二三八號

Masa Miyoshi's diploma from Uwa Jima High School, Ehime Ken Japan, dated March 15, 1909 (Meiji Yonju ni, san gatsu ju gonchi). A tragic incident. In 2001, an United States Nuclear Submarine off Hawaiian Island collided with a Japanese fishing boat on a training cruise from Uwa Jima killing many students and crew



Masa Miyoshi at Uwa Jima High School. She is on 3rd row, 7th from the left. Today for a student on a higher education track must attend Uwa Jima H.S. It must have been the same in Masa's time. She had to commute from Shimo Matsuba as Masafumi sensei's daughters did in 1999.



教員免許状

奈良女子師範學校
女子師範學校女子部
高等女學校
女子高等師範學校博物家事部卒業者
愛媛縣平民
三好　政

修身科　博物
理科　内博物
家事科　體操科

右教員免許令第三條ニ依リ頭書學科ノ教員タルコトヲ免許ス

大正四年三月二十八日

文部省

免第一一九二號

This original document is the teaching credential for Masa Miyoshi. The credential show that she graduated from Nara School for Women (Nara Joshi Koto Shihan Gakko) and is qualified to teach at the high school level. This certificate was issued by the Minister of Education. Date of issuance March 27, 1915. (Taisho yonen san gatsu niju hichi nichi).





Masa attended Nara School for Women and graduated in 1915. There were only two school for higher education for women in all of Japan during this period.

.

Top-Masa is seated third from the left side
Bottom-Masa is seated at the far right side.





Masa at Nara Joshi Koto Shihan Gakko.

Top – Masa is 4th from the left front row. The lady at her left is Masa's teacher. Her formal portrait is on the next page.
Bottom – Masa is standing 2nd from the right. I am assuming these pictures are in her final year at sxhool.


大分縣昌田郡立實科高等女學校教諭
三好政
大分縣昌田郡立實科高等女學校參監兼任
月手當壹圓五拾錢給與
大正四年五月二十一日

Masa Miyoshi's teaching contract with Oita High School located near Beppu Kyushu. Contract dated May 21, 1915 (Taisho Yo nen go gatsu niju ichinchi). The pay was an astronomical $1.50 per month. I wonder what her rent was?.



After graduating from Nara School for Women Masa Miyoshi's first teaching job was in Hira Gun, Oita Ken, Koto Jo Gakko. Her starting salary was $1.50 per month. . It is located close to Beppu. Masa is seated in the third row 4th from the left. Circa 1915



Mother Masa Miyoshi accompanied her eldest son Akira to Japan in 1937 to attend Keio University. This photo was most likely a class reunion of students from Nara School for Women.

This was Masa's first visit to Japan since immigrating to America around 1917.











I wish I could read Japanese to understand what Masa wrote about each picture. These are pictures taken in the l920s. They were not too many photos of Susumu but in this group he is in 4 of them. Upper left is Masa. Lower left is "Buck in a Tub". This was taken back of the Guadalupe Main Store. . The 2 story building in the back is now the Far Western Restaurant.



Guadalupe Buddhist Church Fujin kai

Front row – Mmes. ?, Nishi, Tsutsumida, Yone Tomooka (carrying Kayoko Tsutsumida), Kodama (carrying Freddi Tomooka, Tamura¸Miyamoto (carrying daughter Sally)
Middle row – Mmes. ?, Kubo, Yoshiko Aratani, Katayama, Miyoshi, Hamamoto, Mutsuko Kitasako, Murata.
Back row – Rev. Motoyama, Mmes. Miyake, Motoyama, Kuratani, Saka, Ikeda, Yonekawa.







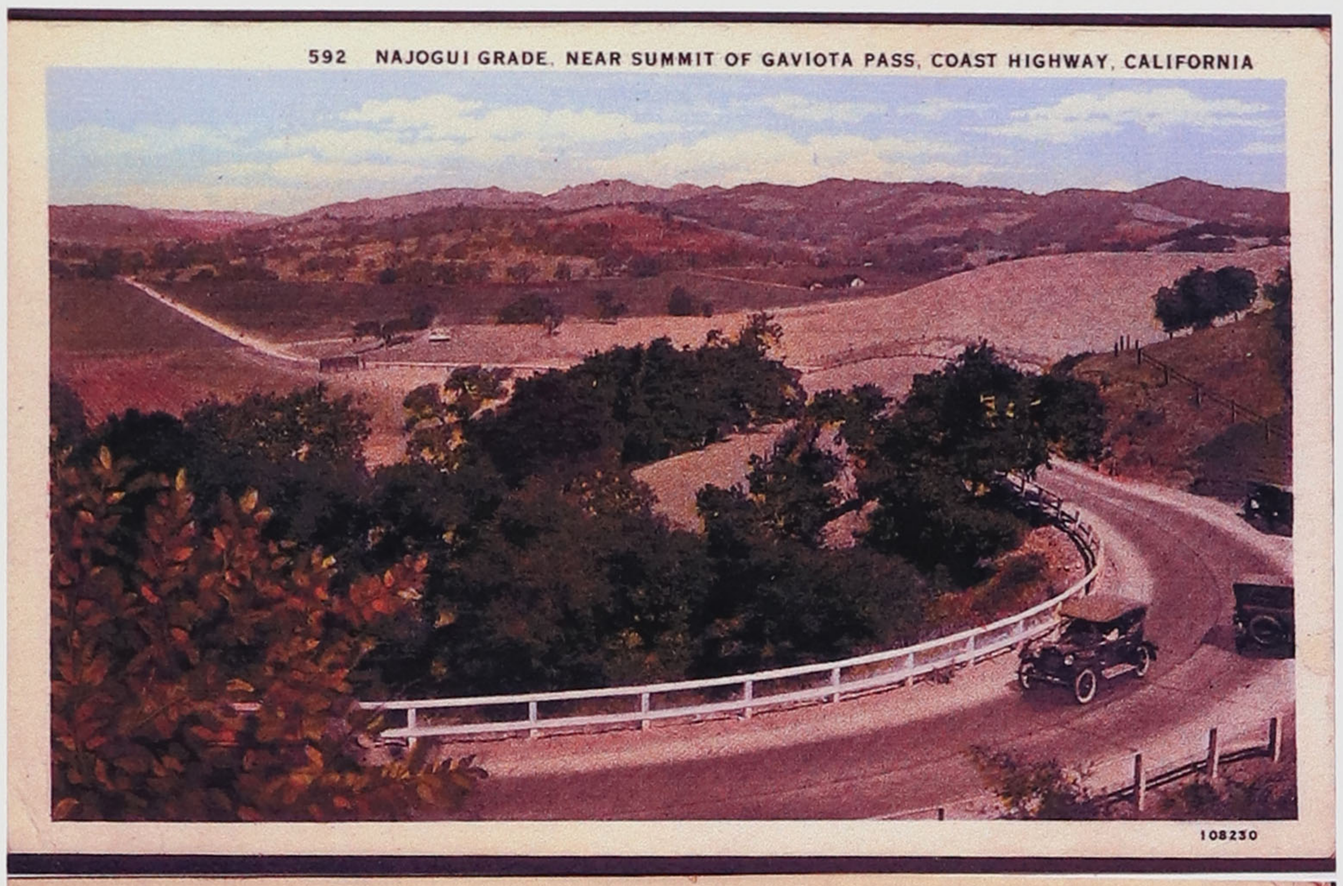


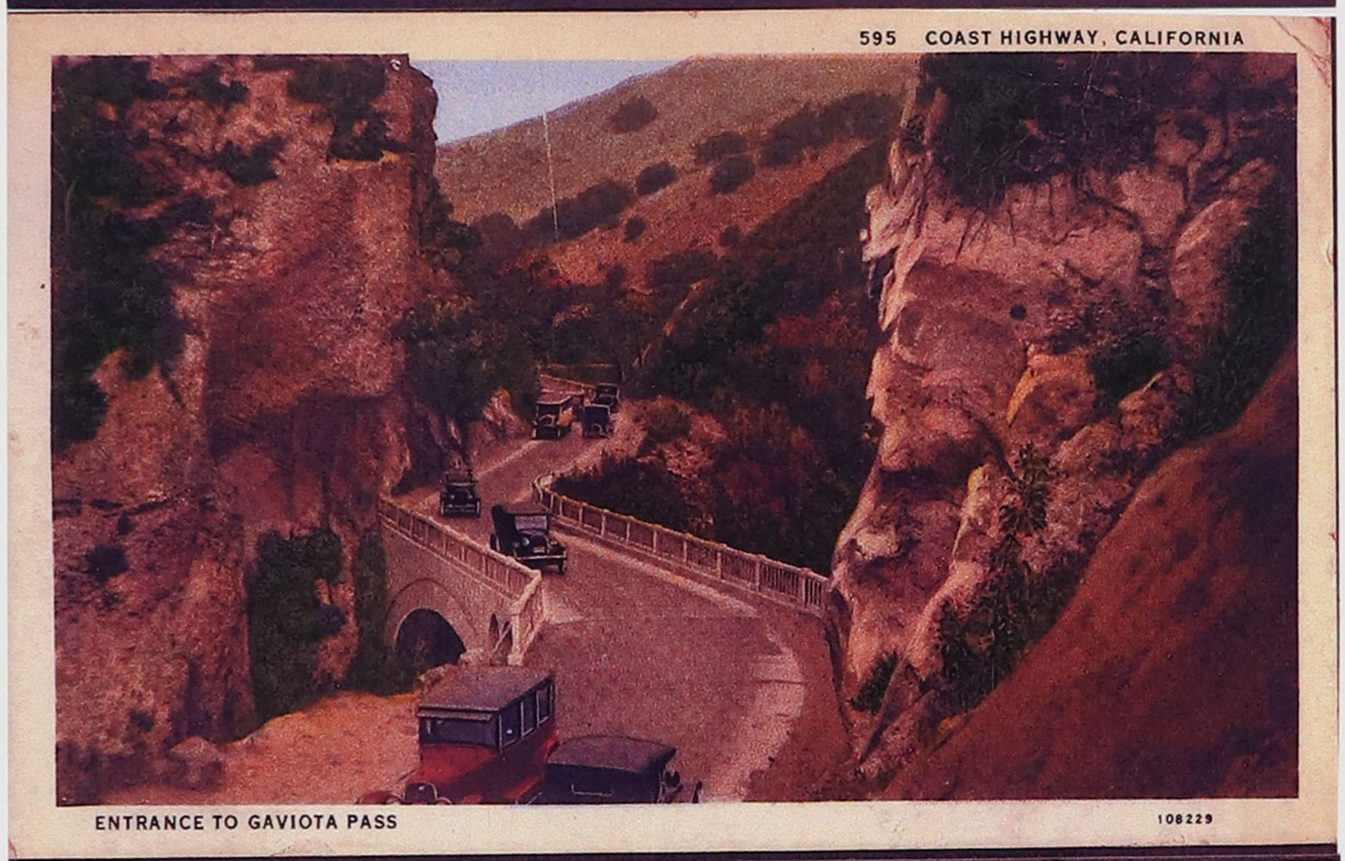


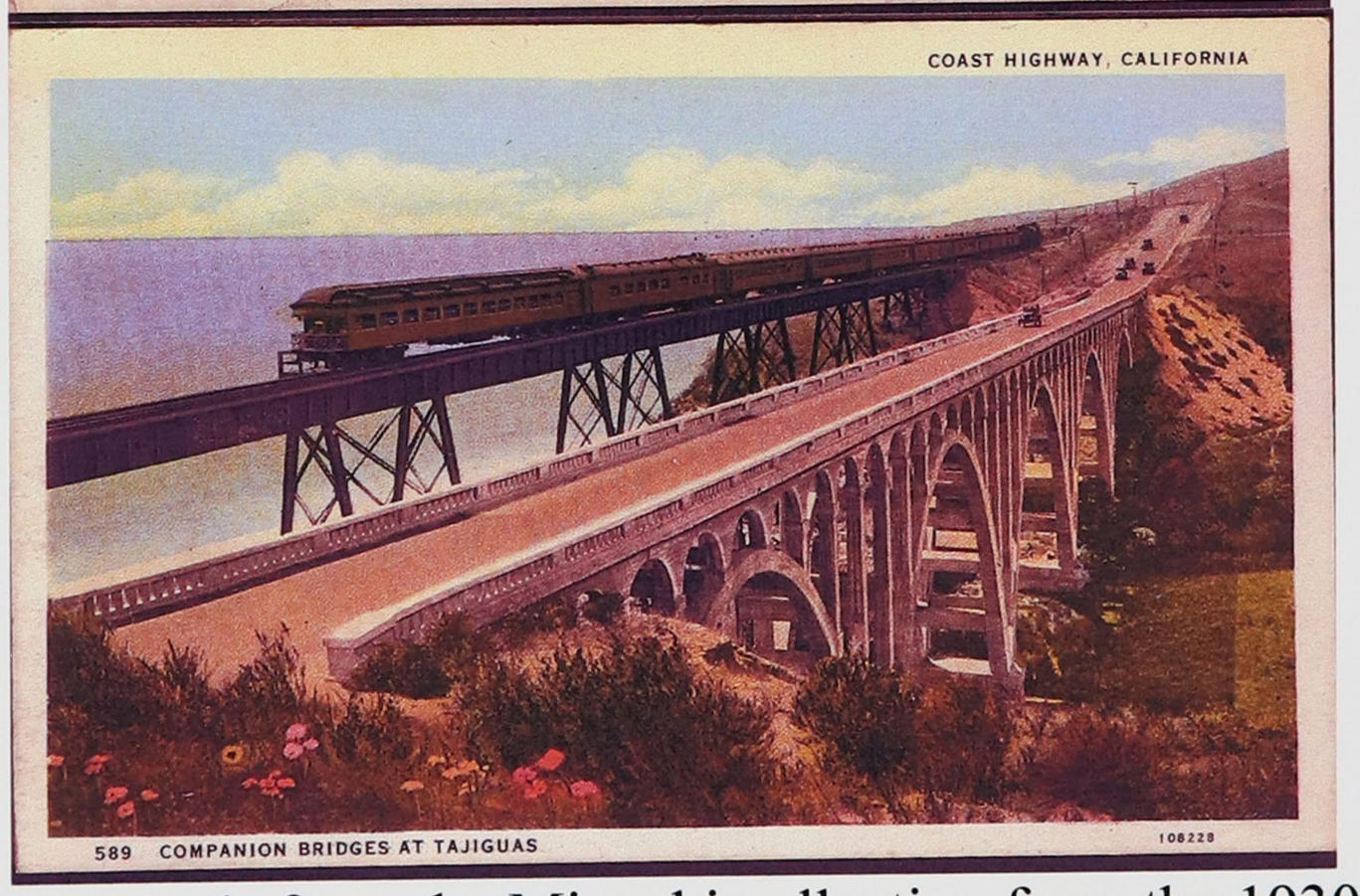


Left side – 1. Sato Sensei with the exposure. 2. Mrs. Ishii peaking in, Back of Rev Oshita, Mrs. Ito, Sato Sensei, Grace Haruki, Toru, Lena Agawa, Ruth Hagiya. 3. Mrs.Yoshiko Aratani, a Guest, Toru and Buck in front of Aratani home in Santa Maria.

Right side – 1. Avila Onsen with guest from Japan, Jun, Toru. 2. Grace, Grace Fujita, Mr. & Mrs Aratani, rest unidentified. 3. Riichi, Mrs. Hiratsuka, Masa, Minister from Japan. **Pictures from the l930s.**



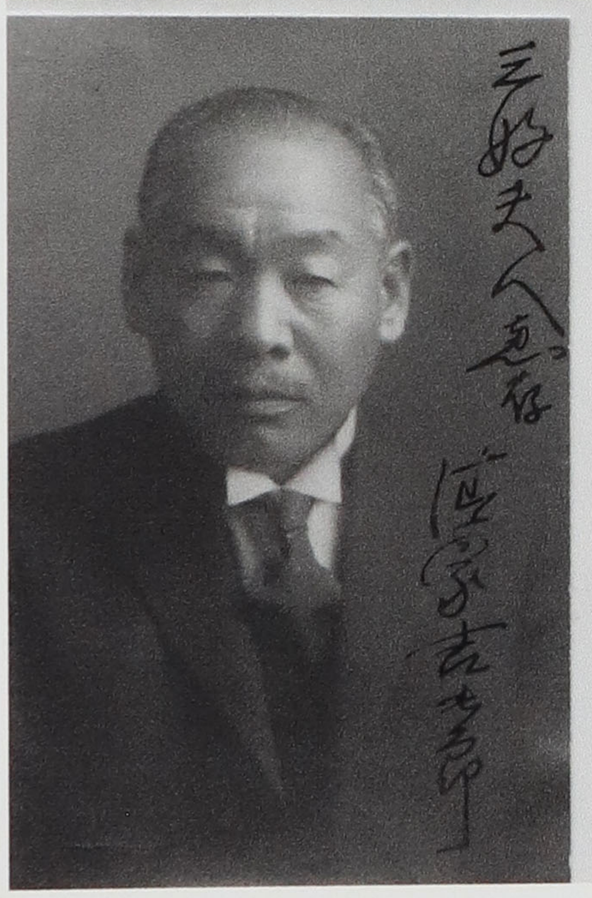


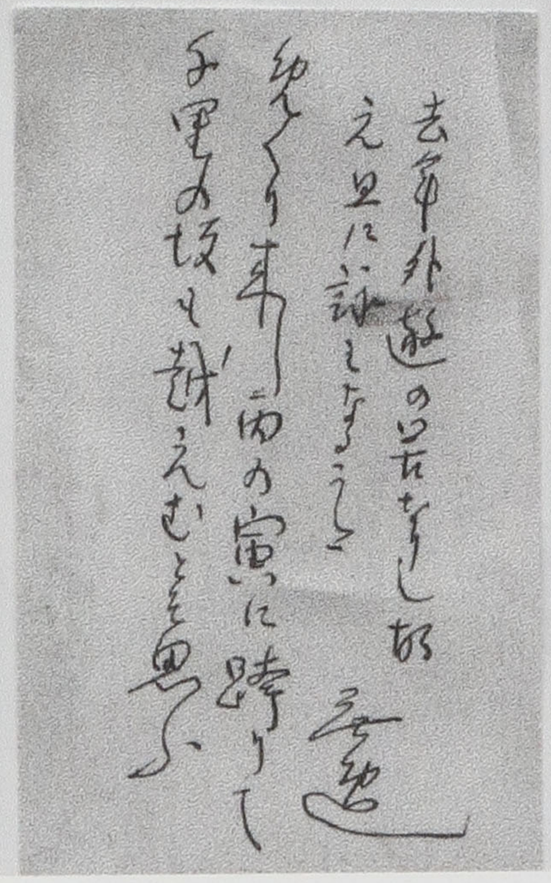


Postcards from the Miyoshi collection from the 1930s









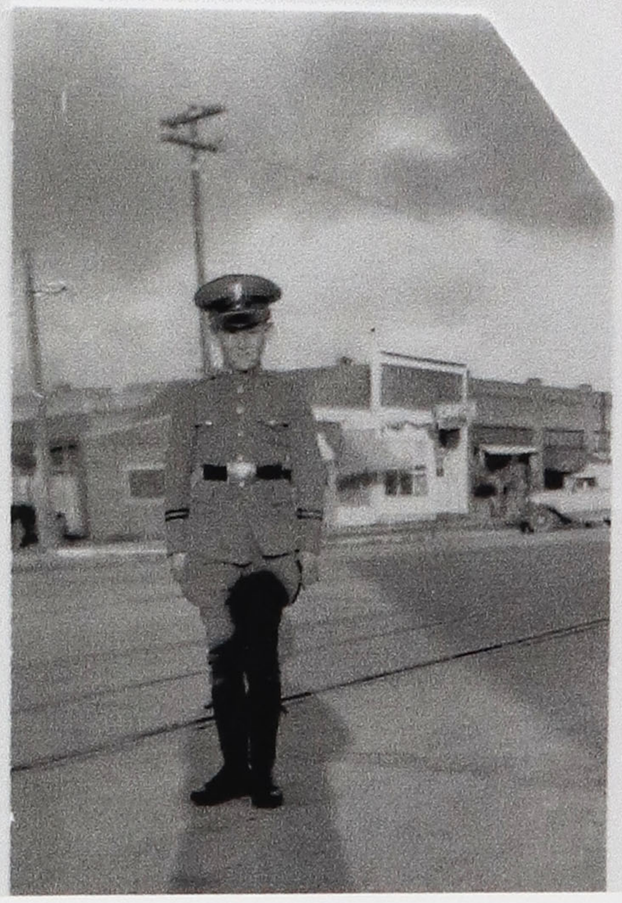


Unidentified people from the Miyoshi album. Circa 1930s









Some old photos during the 1930s from the Miyoshi Album. Navy tragedy at Point Conception, 5 destroyers following the leader went aground. Clamming at Pismo Beach, got a legal size. The Clark boy showing off his military outfit from the academy he attended.



The Hirakami Family

Left to right – Shizu, Yoneo (Herky), Okura san, Kokichi

The Hirakami family operated the 2-story boarding house built in 1927. The brick store and garage was built in 1930. Okura san was the Japanese town barber and the one that Kumataro would get his haircut with the sweet Jeris Tonic sprinkled on his bald hair.

Section 3. My Brothers

Akira, the Chonan (eldest son) of the Miyoshi family (1919 to 1945)

By Toru Miyoshi with major contributions by Noboru Utsunomiya

Akira was born on June 1, 1919 in Guadalupe, California to Riichi and Masa Miyoshi.

Akira was very active at Santa Maria Union High School serving on the Associated Student Body and as sports editor of the school paper, Breeze.

After graduating high school, Akira went abroad to Japan in 1937 to pursue his higher education. Like many other families during this period, sons and daughters were sent to Japan for education because a Nisei graduating from an American University had little or no employment opportunities to commensurate with their education. I believe my grandfather, Kumataro, who returned to Japan to retire in 1935, further influenced this decision. Akira spent time with a tutor to learn the Japanese language prior to enrolling at Keio Gijuku University in Tokyo, Japan. He returned to the United States in l940 for a summer vacation. I was very proud when he took only me to visit the Treasure Island Exposition Fair in San Francisco. I recall the Japanese pavilion and cormorant fishing, a billboard featuring Sally Rand, and becoming very ill on the Octopus ride. I believe his primary

purpose was to visit his girl friend in the bay area. I was so busy taking in the sights; I never had the opportunity to know her.

I was surprised, impressed and hurt at the sensitive age of 12 when Akira lectured me on the hardship the people of Japan were experiencing when I complained of having left over beef stew for dinner. I vividly remember this incident by not wasting food on the table from that time on. Ochazuke (steamed rice with green tea) was one of my favorite dishes so the incentive of not wasting food was not overly difficult. Reflecting back, I believe it was the transition period of Akira adopting Japan as his Mother country.

A important decision was made under the most difficult circumstances. Japanese Americans (Nisei) were automatically classified as dual citizen of United State and Japan. According to available records, Akira relinquished his United States citizenship and became a Japanese citizen in 1940. I surmise that Grandfather Kumataro who was retired in Japan with no immediate family in Japan, living a privileged life in Japan as a student, and to be able to continue his education at Keio influenced this major decision.

During the 1930's and 1940s', many nisei that graduated from University of California at Berkeley, Stanford and other major universities could not find employment in their chosen field to commensurate with their professions.

He graduated from Keio Gijuku University, Tokyo in 1943 majoring in Political Science and Law. He wrote, "Keio makes the man whose character is the symbol of Japan".

After graduation, Oji Seishi, the largest paper company in Japan employed Akira. For a short period, he was on loan to Yoshi Haikyu Tosei Kaisha. He was later assigned to the business section of Oji Seishi in Iwabuchi, Shizuoka, Japan. On March 25, 1944 he left Haneda Airport and arrived at Nelson Airport in Manila, Philippine to assume his new assignment at the business office in the Labor Building, Dabit Corner, Dasumariniyasu District, Manila city. His superior was Nakashima Ginnosuke and the paper plant was located at Santa Ana, a suburb of Manila. In November 1944, the air raids became so intense they moved to Marorosu Quarter, a suburb of Manila and later to Santa Ana. On January 11, 1945, Akira received his Akagame (draft notice) along with all the Japanese employees at the plant. On February 7, 1945, he was assigned to the Manila Defense Force as a translator. The company records indicate he was killed in the Battle of Manila on February 26, 1945. Of the 78 Japanese employees 5 survived and returned to Japan.

My parents were first informed that Akira perished on a ship returning to Japan that was torpedoed by an American submarine. I felt strangely relieved that his death by the Unites States military was impersonal. However, after learning the official cause of his death left me with mixed emotions. After reading excerpts about the battle of Manila and seeing some scenes of the battle on the History Channel made his death very close and personal.

On my first visit to Japan in the fall of 1996, I had the pleasure of meeting my cousin, Noboru Utsunomiya, for the first time. I was overwhelmed by the research he did on Akira. The school dormitories were closed during the

war due to lack of food. Masa's very close friend Mrs. Kotomo Fukami arranged Akira's new accommodation (*Mrs. Fukami operated the Olympic Hotel in Little Tokyo in Los Angeles before her retirement to Japan in the 30's. Whenever we traveled to Los Angeles, I would insist on staying on the third floor of her hotel so that I could see the sparks fly as the streetcars came by. I remember my mother saving the used Diamond match sticks and sending them to Mrs. Fukami to be used for make up)*. By the school records at Keio University, Noboru san was able to track down the family Akira resided with after closure of his dormitory. The telephone number on his record was now obsolete, but fortunately the family's new number was cross-referenced by the telephone company. The original family home was destroyed so they rebuilt their home in the same Ota district. Noboru san arranged a visit with Mrs. Kazuko Katagiri Ito.

From the Keio campus, we walked through Keio's Nakamise Dori. We made several transfer on the streetcars to reach the Ito (Katagiri) home. Noboru san speculated that this was the route Akira must have taken to his new residence. We were graciously invited in and served tea, delicious cake and pear. In our conversation, Kazuko san stated that Akira became part of the family and spoke no English. Mrs. Ito was born in New York City as her family operated an Import and Export business there. Her father became ill in the 30s so at age 11 Kazuko san and her parents returned to Japan. Her brother continued the family business. She spoke English very well.

After leaving her home, Noboru san and I speculated that her parents introduced Akira as a Japanese National to insure that they did not speak in English during the war years to avoid being suspected as spies.

After graduating USC in 1955, I was employed by the Bank of Tokyo while attending graduate school in the evening. One day having lunch at the Kawafuku restaurant I met George Aratani (George was an upper classman when Akira enrolled at the Keio University) who introduced me to a gentlemen who was the Waseda University Baseball coach. He said he remembered Akira during his college days and recalled a football game when Akira was tackled out of bound. Akira threw the football at the Waseda opponent and was immediately ejected from the game. I imagine many of his friends in Santa Maria would find this incident characteristic of Akira as he was affectionately referred as "King Kong".

While paying my respect to my Grandfather Kumataro's grave in Shimo Matsuba, Uwa Cho, Ehime Ken I met my cousin, Tsurue Yamamoto. She recalled how Akira during his visit with Grandfather would boast of introducing real football to Japan. She had a scrapbook of Akira's football exploits. The articles were from a newspaper in English, which she presented to me. It was a delightful experience to read about my brother in games against Meiji and Waseda Universities. Meiji and Waseda were perennial powerhouse as they attracted most of the students from Hawaii and the Mainland. Some of the comments read, "It has a great back fielder leader in Miyoshi in the blocking half…", "…supported by hard-blocking Miyoshi, a demon on defense.", "Miyoshi and Taniguchi stood out for Keio.", "Miyoshi intercepted a Yasuda pass on Waseda's 37 yard line.", "… Miyoshi, backing up the line was almost in every play, stopping the bull-like charges of Narumi, who was Waseda's most consistent back.". Keio University won the league Championship in 1940. Maybe Akira earned

some bragging rights. Junior Narumi of Waseda was a member of the prominent Narumi Family operating the LA Mercantile Company in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles, California. I attended U.S.C. with George Narumi, younger brother of Junior.

Perhaps it was because Akira was the chonan (eldest) and I was the botchan (youngest) there was an unexplainable bond between us in the short years I knew and respected him. I sometime wonder what he may have achieved had he survived this tragic war as the **Chonan of the Miyoshi Family.**

Epilogue.

I read in the Pacific Citizen (J.A.C.L. Bi weekly newspaper) they were approximately 1,000 Nisei that remained in Japan during WW II. From Santa Maria Valley I knew Tom Ishii, who perished on the Battleship Yamato, Paul Matsuura who was a prisoner of war in Manchuria and Calvin Ishii who was on the Grisholm Exchange ship. Calvin left the ship enroute for Japan in Singapore and perished there

Akira adopted Japan as his mother country while attending Keio University. This transition occurred because it was a necessity to continue his education and he learned to love Japan by finding his roots. I believe living a privileged life, as a college student in Japan must have influenced this decision.

My brothers, Jun and Susumu Buck

Jun Miyoshi, 1922-1993

Jun was born n Guadalupe, California and when he was about 7 years old, he stayed with our grandparent in Santa Maria, California. Akira, Susumu and I lived in Guadalupe, California with our parents, Since Guadalupe is only 9 miles away from Santa Maria, the separation was not a big deal, however, during this period my association with Jun did not really start until we all moved to Santa Maria in 1933.

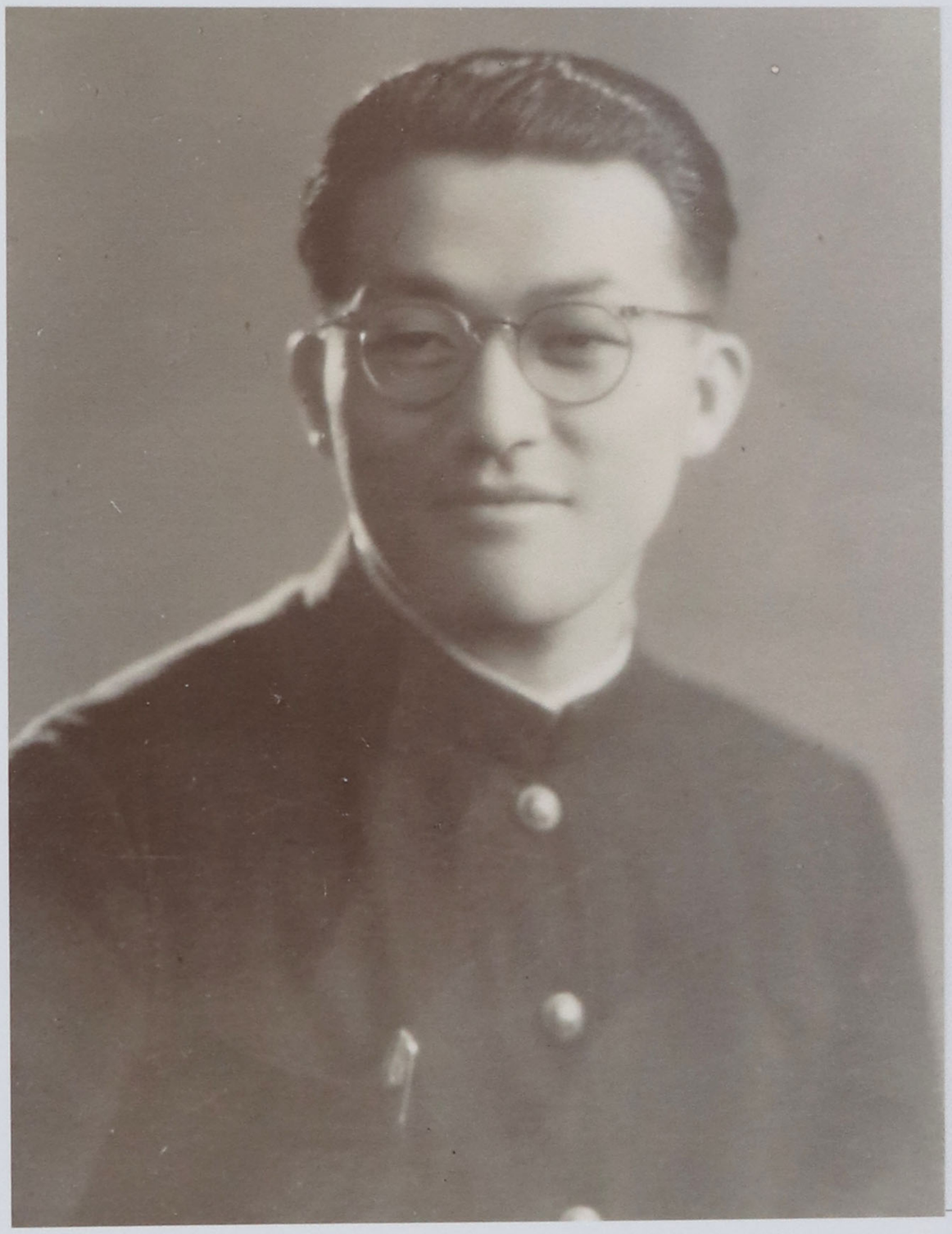
Jun received his Pharmacy degree from University of California, Berkeley. Jun and Vi eventually opened a drug store in Santa Maria and raised 5 children, Teri, Janis, Susan, Kathy and Russell. After Jun passed away, Vi moved to Camarillo, CA to stay with her daughter, Sue and her husband, Tom Murphy.

Susumu Buck Miyoshi (1924 to 1975)

1940. I remember my brother Buck for his excellent penmanship. At Santa Maria High School I once saw his drafting project paper and thought a printer printed it. When he stated it was done by his own free hand I was impressed.

Buck graduated University of California at Berkeley around 1951 as a Chemical Engineer. This was when the oil industry was deeply involved in petrol-chemical. He applied for a job with Standard Oil Company and they informed that since he was of Japanese descent they would not hire him. This was on the belief he would have staff working under him and this may create a problem. Over 6 years after World War II and racism still prevailed.

In 1975, Buck passed away with a heart problem. He was married to Motoko. They had 5 children, Gayle, Todd, Karen, Clifford and Judy. Mo passed away in 1987.



故
三
好
亮
千九百十九年六月一日生
千九百四拾五年二月廿六日
比島マニラ市ニテ戰災死

Akira, Chonan of the Miyoshi Family

June 1, 1919 to February 26, 1945



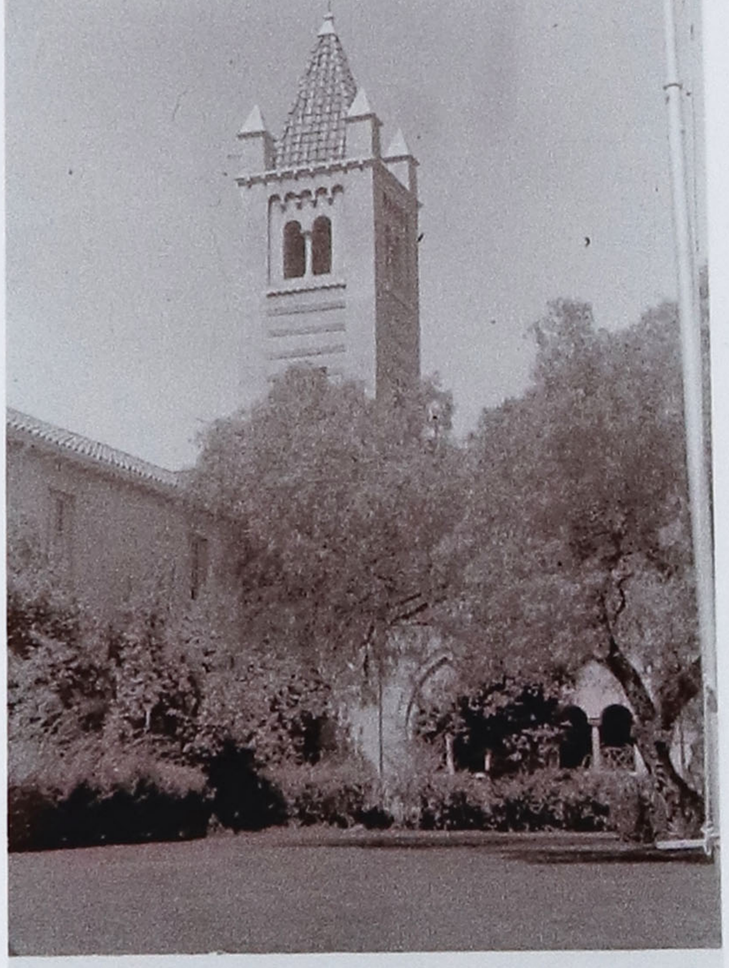
Akira and his mother Masa when he was about one year old. circa 1920







My first institution of Learning in Guadalupe



My Second Institution of Education
Santa Maria Union High School"



TAKEN IN SANTA Barbara
No1 – No3 – No.4. Miyoshi's.



Akira before Keio University.



Southern California Japanese Baseball Championship

Front row – George Aratani, Keisho Motoyama, Jim Hamasaki, Rev Motoyama, Masato Inouye, Hiroshi Motoyama, Ike Ikenaka.
Middle row – Tets Murata, Butch Tamura, Oxy Goto, Ted Ito, Shigeto Inouye.
Back row-Wataru Sutow, Hank Yoshikawa, Akira Miyoshi



JUNIOR A BOYS

TOP ROW: M. Ueki, L. Dillie, V. Brickey, L. Thornburgh, N. Firfires, Paul Mallory, A. Pimentel, A. Guthrie, R. Crockett, W. Kehrer, W. Grabil, M. Riggs, G. Ogato, L. Sheppard.

SECOND ROW: P. Arellanes, C Eddy, I. Keyser, L. Pontes, G. Pontes, P. Wayne, I. Silvera, J. Lackey, W. Gorzell, R. Goodchild, B. Wilson.

THIRD ROW: R. Bryans, H. Koga, S. Wakayama, F. Sakomoto, F. Brazil, J. Hayes, N. Bello, D. Johnson, F. Balcena, R. McGinley, V. Silva, E. Goodchild, G. Baker, J. Dickinson, W. Tognazzi, F. Capitani.

BOTTOM ROW: T. Ito, C. Tomooka, H. Matoba, M. Goto, K. Swonger, H. Goodchild, T. Ontiveros, R. Cooper, A. Miyoshi, N. Lammar, C. Cooper.

1936 Santa Maria High School "The Review". Akira was a Junior and the third one from the right. He was quite active in high school and in his Senior year he was the sports editor of the school "Breeze" and a member of the Student Council.



1936 Associated Student Body officers of Santa Maria Union High School. Akira sitting 3rd from left. Mas Inoshita standing behind Akira is currently residing in Arizona and very active maintaining the monument at Camp 2, Gila Concentration Camp.











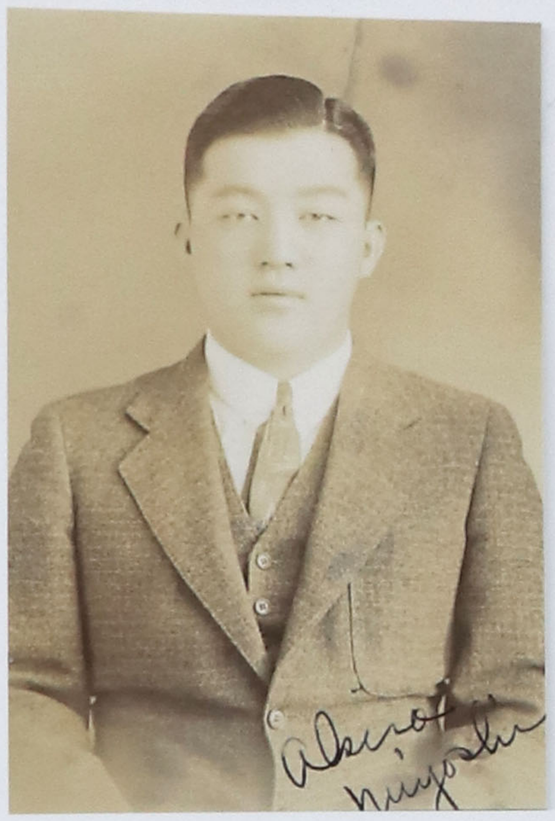


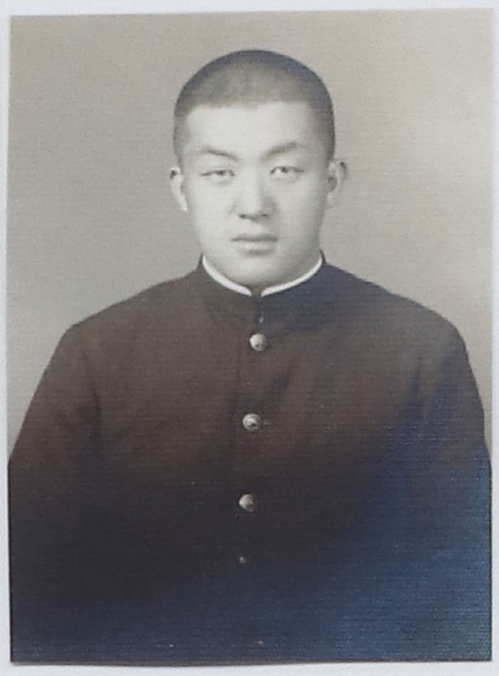
Bon Voyage to Masa and Akira as they leave for Japan. Fire Drill on Board. Visiting Dote in Hawaii (He operated the West Main Garage). Visiting Reverend Motoyama and Family, the friendly deers at Nara. The Famous Torii at Miyajima.



Welcome party for Akira and Masa to Japan from the gang from Santa Maria Valley. (front) George Aratani, Akira, Masa, Tad Yamada, Jimmy Hamasaki
(back) Masato Inouye, Kikuye Yamada Namba, Harue Kodama, Kimiye Yamada Sahara, Mitsuye Inouye Tomooka, Kazuye Yamada Kawachi, Bob Ishii. Circa 1937









Above is part of Keio University campus, Tokyo, Japan. Picture of Akira he submitted with his application to Keio. George Aratani, a former Keio student, spoke in Santa Maria 9-01 at a oral history workshop and explained at Keio it was mandatory to have a butch haircut. That explains Akira's butch. What a relief is the theme of the last picture.









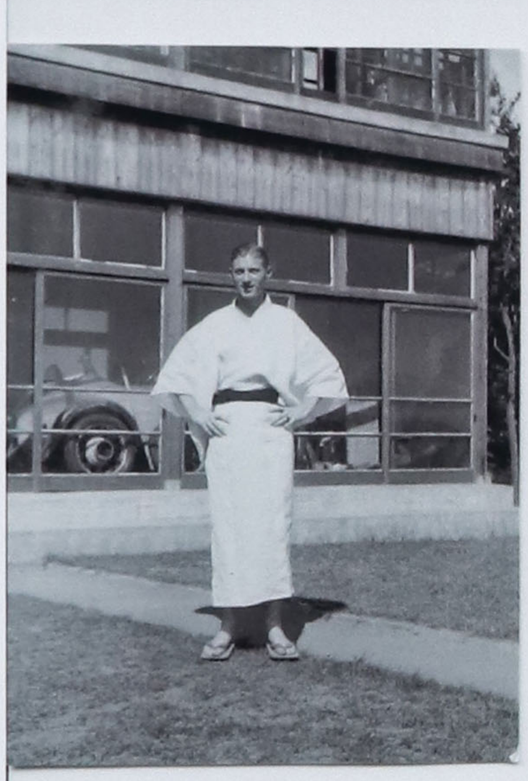




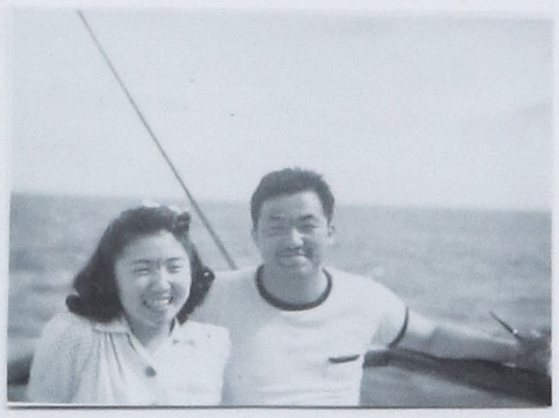
Posing as a “henchman” for a movie part he writes, studying during a air raid practice, and if you look closely the car has California plates, taken at Yokohama, Akira doesn’t look home sick. All indications he loved life in Japan. Circa 1940















A beautiful shot of Mount Fuji as Akira bivouac in ROTC training, Jim Hoey a close friend from Santa Maria High, perhaps a shipboard romance, Akira says Bon Voyage to the Yamada clan returning to America, George Aratani posing on Keio campus. Circa 1939













Top – Jim Hoey a Santa Maria High buddy visiting Akira at Keio. Is he watching Akira playing Football?
Middle – Is this American style house Mr. Aratani built for George to attend Keio University? Akira visiting Grandmother Aratani (Asae san).
Bottom – The Preisker family visiting Japan. The Bob Ishii, Yamada clan, George Aratani, Masato Inouye and Akira bidding them von voyage on their return to Santa Maria. Masa at Miyajima posing in front of the famous torii.



This photo was taken September 31, 1940.

Akira wrote, “four days of that military stuff makes you sort of daffy!!!!!Look at ‘em”.

It was mandatory for all Keio students to participate in “kyoren” similar to ROTC training. This is a 1-week bivouac in the foothills of Mount Fuji.

Akira is standing fourth from the right.



Akira at the far right with Keio classmates seeing George Aratani off to return to America. George was returning to United States to complete his education at Stanford University.

George's stated that his father, Setsuo, wanted him to be educated in Japan to learn its culture and language. To encourage George to go to Japan his father paid the way for 3 of his friends to keep him company. He also built a western style house with showers to minimize the cultural shock.

This decision by his father paid off as George became the President of Mikasa and Kenwood Electronics.



Above Jun and Viola Miyoshi wedding. Below Susumu Buck and Motoko wedding

Susumu Buck Miyoshi from the late 1920 to late 1930



Banzai!!! No school today.



Susumu took my hat!!! Must be at Shell beach or Avila.



Left to right: Akira, Susumu, Grandfather Kumataro, and Jun



Birthplace of Susumu Miyoshi. The Guadalupe Store.

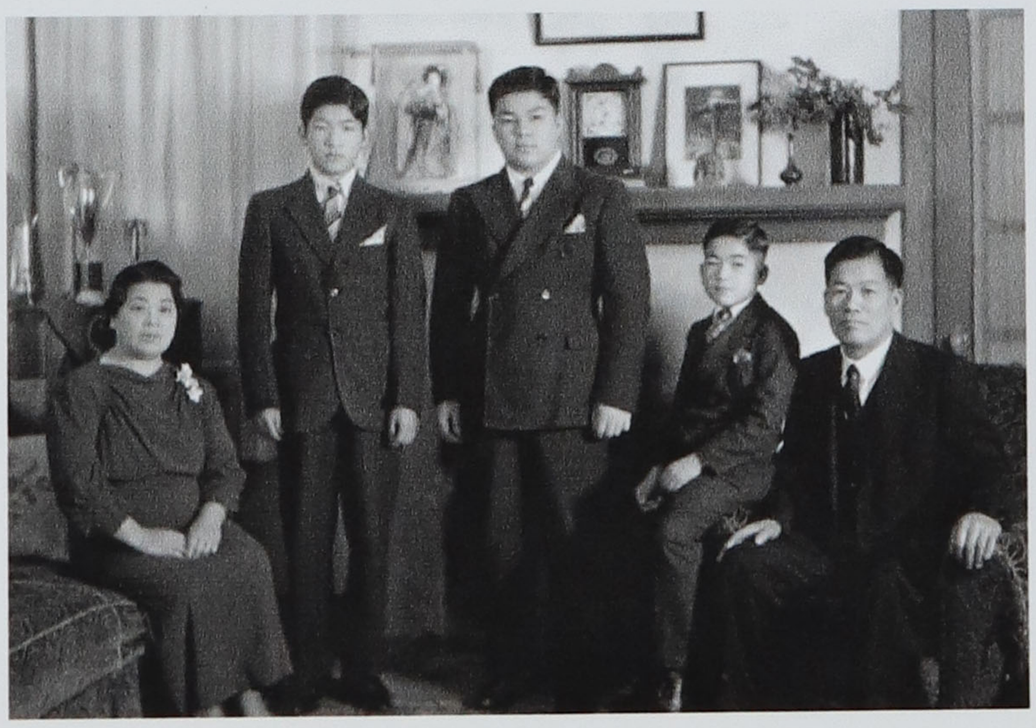


Susumu in back of Miyoshi Guadalupe Store.



Susumu with father, Riichi. I'm tired, where is everybody?





Formal photo of Miyoshi family in Santa Maria. From the left: Masa, Susumu, Jun, Toru and Riichi. This photo taken around 1937 or 38. Akira left for Japan in 1937.



Toru Miyoshi on the tricycle and Susumu (Buck) on skates. Taken in front (Awning) of the Guadalupe General Merchandise Store. (circa 1931). Toru is the first native son of Guadalupe to serve on the Board of Supervisor.

Section 4. Acknowledging my relatives and friend we met in post war Japan



I want to introduce Fusako and my cousin Takashi Utsunomiya of Uno Machi, Uwa cho, Ehime Ken, Japan.
According to Fusako san this is a rare picture of both of them together. The hospitality of Takashi san and Fusako san on our visits to Japan has been just outstanding. Takashi san is quite a fisherman for Tai. They prepared this fish in various ways and it became my favorite seafood. The sashimi was extra ordinary. Takashi san used a hand line instead of a pole and reel, which seemed like a hard way to fish but apparently the most effective method to catch Tai. I can't express adequately my appreciation for their extra ordinary care they extended to the Daum and Miyoshi Families. Sadly Takashi san passed away before he and Fusako san could visit us in Santa Maria.



Cousin Takashi and his wife Fusako Utsunomiya. Their hospitality and friendship during our visit to Uno Machi Japan was superb. Takashi san passed away.this August 2001. He was one the business leaders in Uwa Cho.

Cousin Takashi and Fusako Utsunomiya from Uno Machi, Ehime Ken, Japan. Their hospitality to the Daum and Miyoshi was super excellent.



Takashi san and Toru posing in front of one of their stores in Uno Machi.



Back row: Lisa, David, Toru, Tsurue Yamamoto , Kunie Mise,
Front row: Takashi & 0Fusako Utsunomiya, Airi, Laura, Logan, and Ayaka. Standing in front of Uno Machi Library.



Takashi san at the family plot in Uno Machi. Fusako preparing traditional tea for the Miyoshi.



Fusako san prepared this feast during the Rice Harvest Festival in Uwa Cho, Ehime Ken. Takashi caught the fish in the inland sea of Japan. Cousin Takashi and his wife, Fusako san, treated us with unbelievable hospitality, which made out trip to Japan a most memorable one. Takashi san sadly passed away before he could visit us in Santa Maria.





Takashi and Fusako in a in front of their store. Right: David aka Kumagoro and his Japanese bride Lisa doing their thing while visiting the Utsunomiya family





2 Japanese dolls, Lisa and Laura Daum with grandmother Jeanne. Through the courtesy of Fusako Utsunomiya the girls were dressed in traditional kimono for the Rice Harvest Festival.
Uno Machi, Ehime Ken, Japan. October 1997.

Cousin Noboru Utsunomiya did a phenomenal research on my brother, Akira. Without his efforts, Akira's chapter would not have been possible. He took Jeanne and I on a wonderful tour of Tokyo.



Noboru san and his lovely wife, Chizu.







Masashige Kusunoki statue in Tokyo. We have a replica of this hero as a coin bank. Circa 1936





The top picture is known as Niju bashi in front of the Imperial Palace. Next is aboard the Symphony cruise ship with the Rainbow Bridge. The statue is Yukichi Fukuzawa, founder of Keio University where Akira graduated in 1943. A fond sayonara as we board the shinkansen back to Osaka.

Cousin Fumiko and Osamu Yamamoto were gracious host during our visit to Japan.







The Yamamoto family from Hirakata, a suburb of Osaka. Top row: Michio, son, Fumiko, Midori, Yohei, Front: Michio's daughter and wife, Setsuko, Susumu Regretfully, Osamu san passed away soon after our last visit. Fumiko san is a noted calligrapher and she is standing next to one of her work. A thousand characters that no errors is permitted. We were fortunate to have Fumiko and her family visit us in Santa Maria for one week in 2003. It was a hectic week, but we did well in visiting Morro Bay, Guadalupe Beach, Solvang, Universal City near Hollywood, Santa Barbara, and ohaka maeri at the Miyoshi plot in Guadalupe, CA. I did not have the opportunity to meet Michio and his Family. Setsuko san took us to Nara School for women where Masa graduated and received high school credential in 1915.



















Zennosuke & Teru Kikuno hosts the Miyoshi and Daum at Matsuyama, Ehime Ken Japan. A Fabulous visit.



Top fr left: Zennosuke sama, Laura, Jeanne, Toru, Lisa, Teru
Bottom row: Takuji, Airi, Ayaka, and Logan



Zennosuke taking Laura and Logan to tour the Matsuyama Castle.



The Kikunos making sure we take the right train to Osaka. We all had a wonderful time



Lisa and Laura being served desert while Zennosuke is taking pictures to record a fabulous lunch at the famous Ryokan in Matsuyama. The Emperor stays here when visiting this Capitol. Special dishes are used for the Royal Family.



Yukio & Sae Ohtsuka. Sae san is the great granddaughter of Kametaro Johko.



Left: Cousin Chiyoko Matsumoto, Kinue Mise, retired doctor, Tsurue Yamamoto, Mayor Utsunomiya of Uwa Cho. Takashi's very good friend

My father, Riichi Fukumoto's hometown in Hikari, Yamaguchi Ken. Tomino san made the arrangements and when we arrived at the train station many of my relatives were there to greet us. Their hospitality was great as the delicious food we had overlooking Hikari. We made our traditional ohaka maeri that was recently relocated closer to home.



Sadao san told us that the family plot was moved closer to home. Their farm once extended beyond the trees, however, over time land was sold to a smaller parcel for the family cemetery site.









Above is Sadao Fukumoto, who is the eldest son of Kankichi and Ishi. Kankichi was the chonan of the Fukumoto family. As shown we were treated royally with a delicious meal at the Ryokan overlooking the Sea of Japan. Below is Kazuoki and Sachiko Kagayama who is a tangerine grower. The orchard is so steep they must use a powered lift to harvest their crop. Beautful Uwajima Koen is surrounded by mountains with Yama Sakura trees to enhance its













Our visit with Koichi Miyoshi Family in Shimonoseki, Yamaguchi Ken











With Koichi san and his daughter, Yuko san and granddaughter, Megumi, we toured a restored samurai town in Kofu and a Chinese influenced temple. We had lunch at a fabulous restaurant that featured ika sashimi (a live squid tank on the premise) that was the best I ever had. Yoshiko san was waiting at their home with a delicious sushi dinner. We overstayed our visit, but when we left we were like one of the family.

Miyoshi, Masafumi, a 2nd cousin, a HS teacher, did an extraordinary research of Kumataro, ojiisan. How we got together is a story by itself, but the pictures below is indicative of his energy. His mother, Mieko, could only be described as a beautiful person. Yoko, his wonderful wife, was a gracious hostess that made us all feel at home.









Logan got a free sumo lesson., but who won?





The country scene is breath taking.













Masafumi san took me Nomura Junior High School where grandfather Kumataro was the first principal. I met Mr. Shiba, the current principal and part of his staff. Kumataro's photo was hanging in his office that further established my roots. Masafumi took the kids on a hike overlooking Uwa cho and the location of an ancient castle. Yoko san prepared a hamburger dinner for us and after all the Japanese food we ate, it was a welcome change. Our trip was so great and feeling like a native I included the flag of Japan to remind us that we were in a foreign country. I take this opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation to Masafumi for his research of grandfather.

A history of racial discrimination targeting the Japanese in the United States.

The Act of 1790. This act restricted eligibility for naturalization to aliens who were not "free white" person. In

1906 October 11, 1906 - San Francisco Board of Education approved a **resolution to segregate the children of Japanese ancestry** into separate schools.

1907 - Immigration act of 1907 excluded Japanese from admission to United States.

1908 - Gentlemen's Agreement. Japan would not issue passport to any laborer (minimize unscrupulous person), maintain detail record of each Japanese entering United States, assume control over its subject that violated conditions of their passport.

1913 – California adopted the **"The Alien Land Bill"** . The bill provided that an alien acquiring title to land must become citizen within 5 years or must dispose of his holdings. The State Legislature knew that Japanese were ineligible to become citizens at that time.

1920 - Alien Land Law of 1920. This law further restricted the 1913 Alien Land bill. Allow Attorney General to confiscate land owned by Japanese Americans, prohibited

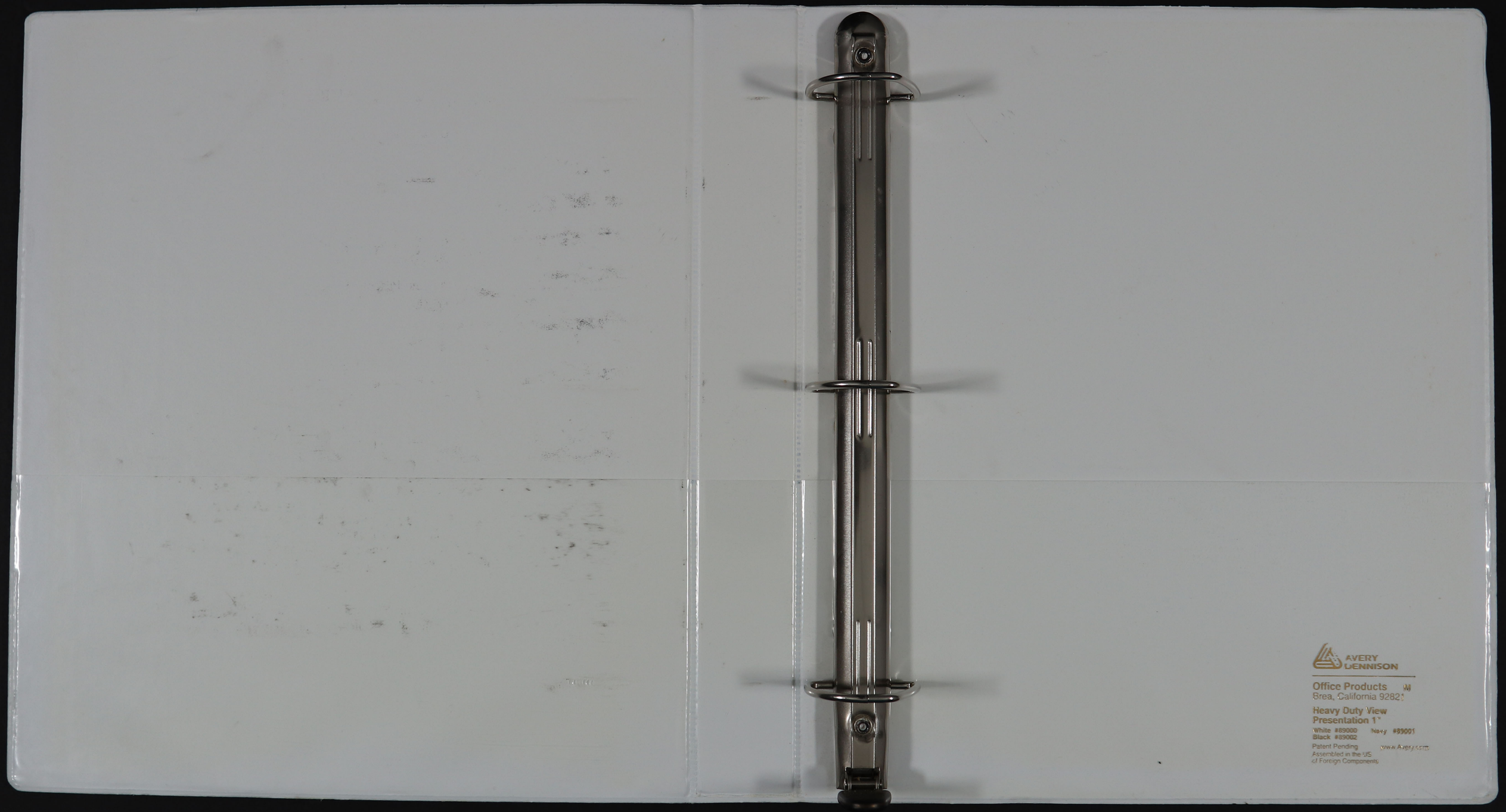
even leasing any land to Japanese aliens, prohibited Issei parent to become guardians of property owned by their minor Japanese American children

1924 – Japanese Exclusion Act of 1924 barred all Japanese from admission to United States for permanent residence.

1930 & 1940 The Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West, American Legion, Labor Federations, and Grange Associations supported the following racist policies:

1. Exclusion of picture brides.
2. Rigorous exclusion of Japanese as immigrants.
3. Confirmation of the policy that Asians should be forever barred from American citizenship.
4. Amendment of the Constitution providing that no child born in the United States should be given the rights of an American Citizen unless <u>both</u> parents were of a race eligible for citizenship. - Act of 1790-Japanese were not eligible for citizenship).

Reference: The Bamboo People: The Law and Japanese Americans, bu Franch F. Chuman



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