Japanese-American Farm Families
Pick Up Peaceful, Industrious Lives

The Kajimuras, a farming family, moved from their rural home to a city life.

Mrs. K. Kajimura and daughter, Sanaye
They plucked green onions.

Carl Yamamoto (upper) and Ray Kiyohara
They're co-op employees.

Kameo Kajimura
He remembered Hiroshima

THE Kajimuras REMODELED their clean, white home only a month before being sent to the camp.

"We knew we would be moved, but we wanted to paint and paper, anyway," Kajimura said. "We came home to do the work all over.

The Kajimuras were pulling radishes and green onions for market. Helping the father were his wife and daughter, Sanaye, 21, and two sons, Saburo, 20, and Yoshiaki. Another son, Tatsujiro, 24, was digging a plot of rich, solid silt for summer corn, and two other boys, Hiroshi, 15, and Tadashi, 10, were in school.

Nakano Unhei, 60, gray-whiskered and puffing a pipe, sat on a wheelbarrow and helped "peel" onions.

"I was born in Sumner and went through school there," said Sanaye Kajimura, friendly and direct. "I played a lot of football and could run like the wind. But today I couldn't run 50 feet. Look at my stomach!"

"We feel perfectly at home again. It looked like heaven to us when we came back after being stuck out in that Idaho desert. Now the wife and I and two children live at Auburn. We've had no trouble.

"I've heard some people say they met with disapproval when they came back, but we haven't had that experience. All of my old friends are still my friends. I get along with everybody." Kameo Kajimura, born in Puwallup and married to a Sumner girl. Yoshiko Tonemura, has two daughters.

"We're settled again," he said.

"Everything is all right now."

The older Japanese, quietly received, said Kajimura, their homes into relocation camps in the war days, are happy to work their farms and head their families.

"It wasn't so good for the children in the camps," said Kameo Kajimura, 49, whose vegetable garden on the island Puyallup is a picture of agricultural know-how.

"In the camps the children disappeared for hours at a time and learned no-good habits. Even the little ones learned to smoke.

Kajimura's son Yoshiaki, 18, declined a cigarette.

"That is right, Son," said the father. "You are yet too young.

Kajimura ships his produce through the Sumner cooperative.

"The farms run down when we were away," he said. "We lost customers. My fields weren't fertilized. Where I had left rhubarb growing, I found quack grass. But after a year's work, the place looks better."

MRS. K. KAJIMURA and daughter, SANAYE

Nakano Unhei
Puffed his pipe peacefully.