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n taro fujii was the ~~oldest~~ ^{of a family long involved in banking} born in 1880 and the eldest son. His parents divorced when he was still young, his mother marrying another banker. Rutarō's father was strict and pushed him into the textile business. As there was no hope of inheriting the banking business from his stepfather, he decided ^{in 1902} to go to the U.S. to ~~further his~~ study more about textiles. Having come with no knowledge of the school systems here and not that much in the way of money, he soon found himself working at the _____. It was outside work, gardening, and Rutarō managed to work up into a higher position, only to be completely pushed out of a job by the bosses' relatives from Japan. Walking back to San Francisco, Rutarō decided to try his hand at the flower growing business and bought some land near the Domoto nursery. He'd set up his potted plants outside the greenhouse ~~and~~ go to San Francisco to try and sell as much as he could. When it seemed as if his business was fairly stable, he went back to Japan to bring home the woman who his mother had been wooing for him. Unfortunately, their ships passed mid-ocean and ~~when~~ he arrived in Japan only to learn that his wife was already in California. This was in 1922. The first child was born ~~in 1913~~ ^{my mother} the second child was born in 1915. Growing up was spent in Ashland, a non-existent place now, and on Soto Road, where the family nursery still is. All the kids worked on the farm, just as the children in the Domoto family did. Because of the depression, my mother had to defer going to college for two years. She helped take care of the four littler ones, cleaning the house, and doing the sewing for the family. The sewing machine was the first item that the family had ever bought on time. Bachan worked at the nursery all of the time, ~~doing the~~ ^{floral business} keeping up the small flower business that brought in the little bit of pin money the family had.

In 1934 Mom went off to college, commuting for awhile and then living in a Japanese home. She had a job in the decorative arts department, in her field, from the N.Y.A., a program that Roosevelt had set up for students. After working through this project for two years, she was hired as a reader in a few courses and did work in the art museum. ^{later she got a degree in art} the major feeling that comes out of ~~all this~~ "history" though is the incredible scarcity of money, money which just covered the essentials.

My parents were married just before the notice for eviction came out. Neither of them seemed to think that anything like the camps would ever occur, Japanese would be put in camps, although Kanetaro Domoto apparently tried to impress

on them the fact that japan was now the enemy and that they (the family) ^{were} ~~was~~
~~was~~ going to be considered on that side. the nisei kids could understand
the possibility of their parents being considered ~~as~~ "enemies" but the
american-ness seemed obvious to them. when the ~~relocation~~ relocation notices were
put up, there was shock, but immediately, items were being packed and all
was being made ready for the relocation. ~~THE FUSHERS WERE SENT TO TAILORIN~~
~~AL 2 113-1 TO TOLAL.~~

my parents and all of my father's family were put in the merced assembly
center and then were moved to granadas camp in amache colorado. it's believed
by most of my relatives that the reasons for the camps were purely economic.
that the white farmers in the area wanted the land that the japanese had made
productive and fruitful at the assembly center my mom ~~kept~~ taught a course in
card weaving but by the time they got to the camp, she had a child to take
care of and no longer had the time to teach. ~~my father~~ she and my aunt wak
kept my grandfather kanetaro company. my father worked in the engineering
office and helped out with some of the landscaping that was done. ^{then she} ~~the~~ two made
the best of the situation, as most of the people did, but they did leave the
camps as soon as they could. daddy went all over the country, finding out ^{what} ~~why~~
areas seemed to be ready to accept japanese, traveling through the midwest, east
he wanted us to grow up in a "prejudice free" area so there was nothing during
coast and even down south. the family ended up in new rochele n.y. it
was close enough to n.y. so that the commute for my father wasn't too long
and the neighborhood was friendly. ^{IT WAS STILL WORSTING BY THE NEW YORK MIDDLE}
no questions were asked about where
the family came from and why they were moving in. in spite of this, my mother
stopped speaking japanese the minute she left the camp.

my grandfather died in camp, so there was no reason to stay in camp for
my aunt wak, who had taken on the responsibility of taking care of him. she and
my aunt yuri (who later lived ^{in her mother's home} with our family in new rochele) decided to try
out boston. they didn't ~~have~~ have any particularly "bad" experiences, but there
was ~~such~~ a fear built up in them ~~about~~ that they too would be attacked like
people out on the west coast had been. after a short stay, yuri was married
and went down to nr to live and wak went back to california in hopes of
completing her education.

the domoto's were one of the earlier japanese settlers in the u.s. Kanetaro domoto (my grandfather) and his elder brother takonoshin arrived in seattle left their home in wakayama ken and sailed for seattle in 1884. takonoshin was apparently a small, weak type of man and wanted to leave the country before he would be ~~rejected from the army~~ drafted and examined, because the chances of his being rejected from the army were good. such a humiliation, imagine a farmer's boy being unfit!, was to be avoided by sailing for the new land. kanetaro on the other hand, was a strong young man of 18 and had decided to leave with his brother because of his spirit of adventure. the two men worked their way down from seattle to san francisco, finally arriving there in october. the two managed to land jobs working in a hotel, the elder brother signing a ~~ten~~ ten year contract and the younger working only until he could find some sort of arduous work to do. one of his first jobs was working at sutro park, near the sutro bath area. from ~~there~~ into the gardening business this kind of work suited kanetaro and eventually it was decided that he would try and find land and begin working it while takonoshin would ~~continue~~ finish off his 10 year contract and pay for the land. this agreement was reached with the understanding that eventually the two would be working together on the nursery. as it turned out though, takonoshin became involved in the import-export business and set up his own business.

by 1900, kanetaro's nursery was established and he decided to go back to japan and find a wife. he and his spouse teru morita returned to the us and had their first child, toichi in 1902. the nursery was now on 55th ave in oakland but moved over to east oakland to a place that is now called arroya seco park. here is where my father kanaji was born and where he grew up. it must have been quite a huge place as it was at one time called the largest range of greenhouses west of the mississippi. my grandfather kanetaro was very innovative. he introduced the chrysanthemum for commercial cultivation, and brought into the market gardenias, azaleas and varieties of camellias and tree peonies. grandfather was ~~working~~ now working with his younger brother tomonoshin, the latter being responsible for the selling part of the operation, tomonoshin staying at the market and selling the flowers that kanetaro was growing. the elder brother takonoshin was still involved in the shipping business, importing mandarin oranges exporting pyrethrum. the whole family was made to work on the nursery, along with going to school. my father ~~states~~ states that "there was a lot of prejudice and even to my time in public schools we had it".

he attributes the fact that they weren't treated as badly as the blacks were to the idea that ~~they were~~ the japanese were excellent scholars.

the elder brother takohoshin was still involved in the shipping business, importing mandarin oranges, and exporting pyrethrum plants. he was acquiring a bit of wealth and could send off all his children to the east coast to prep schools and private colleges. (apparently his wife also wanted to prevent the children from experiencing the racism existing during that time). kanetaro also sent his ~~the~~ oldest children to private schools in california, possibly in attempts to keep up with his older brother. ~~at~~ at the time of the depression. ~~there were~~ three daughters had gone through mills college and a daughter and my father were enrolled at stanford. the crash brought about a number of changes in the domoto family. for one, ~~the~~ my aunt wak and my father were taken out of school to help out at the nursery and take care of ~~the young ones~~ the house. ~~grandma died in 1929~~ secondly, it was learned that the brother taking care of the selling aspect of the business had managed to run up quite a few debts, which plunged the family into an economic condition that was worse than what the depression had brought upon them. ~~on top of this, grandma died in 1929. so the family moved~~ ^{SCHOOLING WAS IN THE CITY} ~~to~~ ^{THE CITY} ~~to~~ ^{TO PAY OFF THE DEBT} that had accumulated ~~and~~. land had been purchased for toichi to set up his nursery (as the eldest son he would carry on the tradition) and much of the time during the thirties was spent developing that nursery. my father and toichi set up the same kind of arrangement that their father and uncle had started - that of one being at the market and the other managing the nursery. an interesting thing about this set up was that while my uncle was much respected at the market, my father had a hard time running the nursery because many of the older isse working there didn't want to take any orders from the second son of the landowner.

the fall of 1937 my father went ~~back to~~ ~~back to~~ back to school, to berkeley to study architecture. he helped put in the japanese garden at the s.f. world's fair of 1939 and later went with the same group to install the japan se garden in flushing meadows in n.y. he stayed out on the east coast working for a landscaped architect until the spring of 1939 when he went to wisconsin to become an apprentice under flue. after about a year of work there he went back to hayward, just in time to get married and be evacuated.