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Contra Costa County

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

AGRICULTURAL HISTORY

At the turn of the 20th Century the Japanese migration began into the fertile but as yet undeveloped lands of Contra Costa County. Upon their arrival into the communities of Danville, San Ramon, Alamo, Concord, Martinez, Pacheco, and Clayton Valley began the usual adjustment of a penniless and unknown transient to the average permanent community farmers of today.

The period of transition covers almost half a century. Originally, the Japanese came here as laborers, cheap farm laborers working in orchards or in private homes for as little as 50 cents a day. Many of the orchards and farms which the Japanese worked are still in operation today. Some such as Bancroft, Whitman, Hutchinson, and Anderson ranches still maintain one or two of the original settlers.

Gradually, with the advance in agricultural knowledge, the soil, the climate, and the further migration of Japanese the change from common laborers to foremanship took place in many cases.

Around 1912, Japanese were raising grain and wheat and contracting large pear orchards which bears before they planted and cared for under wages from a Caucasian boss.

A great many Japanese could have made money then but in those days the inconsistencies and the red tape arising out of cannery and shipping contracts, business dealings, and the widespread discriminatory practices of the people at large invariably gave the short end to the Japanese.

The post-war era saw the Japanese emerging as full pledge contractors in this district. Working as laborers during the off season, the Japanese during harvest time bought out the crops such as pears, peaches, apricots, and cherries, and thus began the great Japanese farm development which in later years were to dominate the agricultural situation in the County.

Contra Costa County

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

In 1929 strawberries were grown and although a new venture by 1936 , Concord strawberries were among the best in the market. Originally started as an experiment, the crop acreage of 75 acres was reported at one time with an average yield of some 2500 crates per care.

Canning tomatoes are grown in a dry farming area 2,000 acres in the heart of the San Ramon Valley and the Danville district. While in the Concord area, although the acreage was comparatively small, yield as much as 42 tons per acre was reported. Green and market tomatoes began originally as ground tomatoes until 1935 when pole tomatoes were tried and proved commercially satisfactory, and an economical venture in that an acre of pole tomatoes yield as much as 12 to 15 acres of ground tomatoes.

During recent years saw the great production for fall peas on a large scale with a point toward increased acreage as the farmers began to learn the ropes of this new production.

Celery and broccoli growing is in embryotic stage as yet, but in a few years, perhaps, it too will exceed the highest expectation of many who say that it is not a commercial venture in this valley.

Among other production that the Japanese had a hand in growing are the many walnut and almond grove scattered throughout the County; the County ranking among the first in California in its production.

(Signed) Henry M. Terazawa
Executive Secretary

Fresno County

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

REPORT CONCERNING THE JAPANESE INDUSTRIES OF FRESNO COUNTY

Fresno County is primarily an agricultural region and the city of Fresno is supported by the different agricultural industries. In the city of Fresno, there is no real industry controlled by the Japanese worth mentioning. The businessmen of Fresno depend wholly on the farmers and most of the stores are small and with a limited amount of stock. In the city of Fresno, we have five doctors, three dentists, four optometrists, three drug stores, two dry goods stores, six groceries, two furniture stores, and one hardware store. There are also a number of restaurants, and chop suey houses, plus few soft drink fountains.

However, the industry pertaining to agriculture are of vital importance to the Fresno area. First of all, Fresno County is second largest in Japanese land-owned farms. Small towns surrounding the city of Fresno, such as Parlier, Reedley, Kerman, and Bowles, has between 750 to 2,000 acres of Japanese land ownings. The principal crop of Fresno is the vineyard crop which may be divided into three catagories: raisin, wine, and table grapes. There are also extensive acreages of melons, orchard crops such as apricots and peaches.

There is no Japanese controlled companies dealing with raisins or wine grapes. Most of the Japanese deal with large companies such as Sun Maid, C. P. C., Guggen- hime & Brothers, and Rosenberg Bros. & Company. There are, however, a few smaller agricultural industries in Fresno worth mentioning. The Fresno Strawberry Association owned and controlled by Japanese which produce 95% of the strawberries in this region. In the past years there has been the Central California Vegetable Association which dealth with the summer vegetable crops to be shipped to San Francisco and Los Angeles markets. Japanese in Fresno County control about 80% of the bunch vegetables coming to the Fresno market in the summer and almost all the bunch vegetables in the winter. Other important agricultural industries in the

Fresno County

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

Fresno County controlled by the Japanese is the International Chick Sexing Association which sends out over 65 Nisei sexors to various states east of the Rockies.

Problems peculiar to the vegetable industries is immediate crop loans and some sort of assurance to be financially compensated for crops on the ground or a chance to harvest their crops. The problem facing the land owners in Fresno County is the proper organization of trusteeship for their land ownership. We propose that that JACL draw up an "air-tight" form of trusteeship between the two parties with small acreages of land. There has been some consideration of uniting all Japanese owned acreage to some form of "holding company" of a more adequate trusteeship. International Chick Sexing Association has a major problem of seeing to it that their sexors are properly protected while performing their duties in the several states throughout the United States.

There has been some complaint that many of the banking institutions request that the farmer turn over legal right to use land for just a small crop loan or he must get some Caucasian American as co-signer before crop loans are obtainable. Has the Federal Reserve Bank come out with any specific statement concerning the custodianship of Japanese lands in the 1-B area?

Lodi

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

THE HISTORY OF LODI JAPANESE IN AGRICULTURE.

In looking back into the development of the Lodi agricultural district, the important part that the Japanese contributed to the rapid development of the Lodi district cannot be ignored. The fact that the Japanese have contributed greatly to the present prosperity has long been recognized by the local American community.

The first Japanese came to this vicinity about 1896. About 7 people are reported to have been in this area during that year. These pioneer Japanese were mostly engaged in farming activities of their own, such as growing sugar beets and grain. Not much information is available of these first people.

The first large-scale entry into Lodi and vicinity began about 1900 to 1901. Quite a few of these Issei Japanese are still living here. These people were at that time mostly laborers. A number of them were charged with the responsibilities of the various farms on which they worked. About that time the estimate of the male Japanese here seemed to number about 100.

Soon, however, the independent nature of the Japanese began to exert itself. Just working for a living did not appeal to the large majority of these people. Around 1905 some of them began to acquire a few acres, either by rentals or through buying. In this manner the Japanese became pioneers in the agricultural community. As soon as the Japanese began acquiring land, they started setting in vineyards, and laid the foundation for large-scale production of grapes, which has become the main industry in Lodi. The Japanese-operated vineyards soon became the showplaces of Lodi. The American people seeing such successful operations began to ask Japanese help to set out their vineyards. Soon more Japanese had to be imported because of wholesale plantings. In time, in order to take care of the harvesting of these large-scale plantings more and more Japanese became necessary. Today,

Lodi

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

more than 2,500 Japanese laborers annually trek to Lodi during the harvesting season. It is estimated that the Japanese now harvest about 90% of the Tokay grape crop.

The Japanese not only contributed greatly to the development of the grape industry of Lodi, but they also played a large part in building up the orchards, consisting mainly of plums, peaches, and cherries. Between 1910 and 1915, the bulk of the orchard planting and cultivation was done by the Issei. Since then, the Japanese have cultivated and harvested most of the orchards. At the present time, the Japanese handle probably 30% of the plum both in production and in marketing.

From about 1927, the influence of the Nisei upon the agricultural development of the Lodi district gradually began to be a prominent factor in various lines. The Japanese have successfully operated extensive acreages of tomatoes, lettuce, strawberries, dry beans, and celery. From about an acreage of less than 10 acres in 1927, the Japanese have built up the strawberry acreage to the estimated 175 acres for 1942. In 1942, the Japanese are preparing to plant 1,650 acres of tomatoes.

Lodi J.A.C.L.

(Signed) Sam Funsmura, V. P.

HISTORY OF ORANGE COUNTY JAPANESE IN AGRICULTURE

Orange County, located in Southern California, is rated one of the richest agricultural counties in the whole United States of America. In this highly developed agricultural county the Japanese, who number approximately 1700, have contributed greatly to the wealth, of which this county is known. They have mainly contributed this through tillage of the soil and production of various types of food, such as truck crops, field crops, poultry and livestock.

Approximately thirty years ago when some of the first Japanese started to trickle into this county, the land was still in rather a wild stage. Largely through their efforts the boggy bottom lands bordering the Santa Ana River was opened up. In these early years celery for shipping was one of the main crops. They then produced in subsequent years sugar beets, pimiento, chili pepper and various other crops. In those years, the Japanese population in Orange County was much greater than it is today, but due to the stabilization effect of family ties and others, the population thinned down to a rather stabilized number which represents today's population. Of these permanent residences of this county, there are many who have established themselves firmly, so that they now hold a respected position in their own community. Many of them own prosperous ranches. The average Japanese family in Orange County is rather well established, and even though they may not own property they farm under arrangements, that it is very satisfactory both to themselves and to the land owners.

AGRICULTURAL SURVEY CONDUCTED BY ORANGE COUNTY JACL

Estimated income from Truck Crops	\$4,762,000
- do - Poultry	200,000
- do - Field Crops	62,000
- do - Hogs	10,000
Total	<u>\$5,034,000</u>

<u>TRUCK CROP</u>	<u>AVERAGE</u>	<u>ESTIMATED INCOME</u>
1. Beans (Fordhook Green Lima Beans)	600	\$ 162,000
2. Celery (Utah type)	1500	1,500,000
3. Chili peppers (Dry)	2500	700,000
4. Tomatoes (Cannery & Market)	2500	750,000
5. K. Y. Beans	1600	480,000
6. Bunched Vegetables	200	80,000
7. Cabbage	200	60,000
8. Peas	200	35,000
9. Squash	450	225,000
10. Strawberries	500	500,000
11. Asparagus	400	150,000
12. Misc. Truck Crops	300	120,000
	<u>10,950</u>	<u>\$4,762,000</u>

Analyzing the above statistics, it can be easily seen that at least five of these vegetables is produced in a very large quantity by the Japanese. These are such as celery, chili, tomato, Kentucky beans and strawberries. Of these crops,

chili pepper is one of the most unique crops grown by the Japanese. It is unique in that the few growers of this county, produce the controlling percentage of the whole United States. The production of this condiment which may amount to only about a million dollars gives birth to approximately a billion dollar industry. So, it can be readily seen that this is a very large contribution to the people, not only in Orange County, but to the whole United States. The Utah type of celery grown here has consistently brought the top price of the market. This commodity adds to the County, over one million dollars a year. This is another crop that is controlled by the Japanese in our county. The production of both canning and marketing tomatoes is a big item among these people in this county. They approximate about three-quarter million dollars. In the other crops which could be classed as truck crops or vegetable crops that is a big item produced by the Japanese are Kentucky beans and squash. These three are valued annually at approximately one and one-fourth million dollars. There are other vegetables crops and some other minor field crops grown by Japanese which are not individually an important item, but when they are added together with these major crops the figure, as can be seen by the above statistics, shows a rather large amount of \$4,762,000. Adding to these field crops the total of the production value of poultry and livestock amounts to \$5,034,000. These figures can be said to represent the expected percentage income of 1942 of the total agricultural income. This total represents between ten and thirteen percent of the total Orange County income.

Therefore, in conclusion, we would like to say that the 1700 odd people in this rich Orange County, has, in reality, contributed substantially to the wealth of this county for which it is known. It can be said that this point has been reached by these Japanese farmers because of their constant and persistent effort towards the perfection of the agricultural practices for which they are well known and admired.

Today, in this crisis which causes us to necessitate leaving of this County, our home, we do so with no bitter feeling or maliciousness of thoughts, but only with the thought of some day coming back and carrying on from a place that we have left off.

Reedley

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

AGRICULTURAL HISTORY OF REEDLEY

The agricultural contribution of the Japanese farmers to Reedley traces far back into the early 1900's. In these early times the Japanese men worked mostly as common farm hands and laborers.

The pioneering Japanese knew very little about the grape and fruit culture but soon showed adeptness and are now the envy of their American neighbors.

Vineyards in the earlier days were planted on hilly grounds. While the high places dried out the lower spots were muddy and the vines did not yield much crop. Soon farmers leveled the grounds and planted trees and vines for irrigation. This produced heavy bearing vineyards. It is claimed by the pioneer Japanese that almost all of the vines in Reedley were at one time under the care of a Japanese.

After experimenting and assisting in the grape and orchard farming, the Japanese were soon in great demand as farm hands. The Nisei began purchasing land as early as 1925. Most of these Nisei had learned much from their parents and were well trained by their teachers in the schools. The more fortunate Nisei have attended the Agricultural College and are more advanced in the elements of good farming.

By 1930, many more Nisei had purchased farms and increased the acreage of their small places. In a few years the melon and vegetable growing farmers came into this district and began raising the early vegetables. Many farmers in this area followed and planted these vegetables -- such as: squash, tomato, cucumber, pea, beans, lettuce, spinach, watermelon, and cantaloupe. Most of these crops are grown in large acreages and are sent by truck to the San Francisco, and Los Angeles markets. Watermelons are sent to the eastern markets and also are sold at the ranches to out-of-state trucks.

The barren Smith Mountains, east of Reedley, was formerly used only for a

Reedley

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

pasture but today, through the patience and experiments of the Japanese people, this Mountain produces the earliest vegetables. The slopes of these hills were leveled enough to permit irrigation during the dry weather. Rocks were carried off the slopes and now the formerly worthless Mountain is being cultivated for early crops. The land on this hill was formerly leased for little or nothing but today the owners are asking for a large fee.

Japanese farmers of this area, including Orange Cove, have proven that perishable vegetables can be grown in this locality for early crops as well as the late fall crops.

The business people have extended credit to most farmers, enabling them to increase acreage and produce more crops.

Today Reedley is a moderate sized town, but the business men as well as the farmers seem to be prosperous. Thanks to pioneers who laid the foundation and established a good reputation, we, Nisei are able to carry on the good work.

Prepared by S. Kiyomoto
Chairman of Ag. Comm.

Salinas Valley Chapter
JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE
510 Lincoln Ave., Salinas, Calif.

THE JAPANESE AGRICULTURAL HISTORY OF THE SALINAS VALLEY

The beginning of the Japanese Community and the contribution made by the Japanese toward the agricultural history dates back to the middle of 1890. Few people came as a laborer at that time, and one individual in particular purchased a 5-acre piece in 1898 to lay the foundation for future farming. At the turn of the 20th Century, laborers came to Salinas to work for the Spreckels Sugar Company, located at Spreckels, California, in the sugar beet fields. A number of them became labor contractors, and from 1910 on the people gradually worked themselves into farming, most on share basis.

Between 1915-1923, most of the crops grown by these farmers were beans, potatoes, strawberries, bush berries, sugar beets, onions, and vegetables. Then, around 1924 the lettuce was first grown, and for a few years it was in a unstable position because nobody knew what to do to dispose of this crop. There were no shippers at that time and not many growers. Gradually the marketing end was worked out, and the lettuce growers increased in number. To the growing of this crop, Japanese people as a whole contributed a great deal. At first the Japanese farmers grew crops on share basis with the landlord to accumulate enough capital to get land on cash rent later on.

The lettuce industry became the major agricultural operation in the Salinas Valley, and later became known as the "Salad Bowl of the Nation." With the growth of this particular produce, a few Japanese went into the shipping end, as well as the growing part, and today only one company--Salinas Valley Vegetable Exchange--is operating as a lettuce shipper and grower. This firm is a partnership, and one of the partners is a Nisei.

Gradually, little by little the Japanese people began to realize that they

Salinas Valley Chapter

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

were to make their homes in the community, so that they started to purchase land for themselves. A number of them bought land (in trees and tules near Salinas). This land which used to be under water in the early 1920's, was reclaimed by the Japanese, and at present is one of the richest in the Valley. The total acreage reclaimed is in the neighborhood of 370 acres, out of which 155 acres are owned.

In recent years, the Japanese farmers grew varieties of products; such as, lettuce, sugar beets, strawberries, contract bean seeds, other beans, celery, spinach for cannery, carrots, market and canning tomatoes, dry onions, garlic, truck vegetables, and various seeds.

At the latter part of 1941, the Japanese farmers leased a total acreage of about 5,689 acres, owned 1,213 acres, and on share 640 acres, making a total acreage of 7,642 acres. Many farmers were at the peak in farming. Most of them owned equipment to care for the farms, but now all of them are disposing of equipment and farms due to evacuation.

San Benito County
JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

March 31, 1942

With very little western knowledge on their behalf the first party of Japanese entered the fertile valley of the San Benito County as common farm laborers for the American farmers who offered them scanty shelters and low wages, far below the standard of the American people. Today in reality we are able to witness the great change which has taken place under the industrious efforts offered by the Japanese Issei of the county. Today in the presence of the oncoming war, we are facing the most dreaded situation of giving up our homes and farms which we have toiled to construct as it now stands.

The history of the Japanese people in the County relates back to the early Nineteen Hundreds. Starting their life here in the county as farm laborers, they were able to secure little farms on share basis with the American people through untiring efforts to win the confidence of their boss. Some were fortunate in leasing a small tract to farm under their own ability, while others who were talented in speaking English, to secure a position as labor foreman or labor contractors. When the antialien land law became effective the Issei were forced to give up their farms unless they were able to secure land under the title of their son or daughter. This, however, was not practical due to the lack of Nisei who were matured in age to lease farms on said conditions.

The chief crop raised by the Japanese in the valley was seed crops which were contracted and financed by the firm owned by the Americans. Majority of the so-called contracted growers held verbal agreements between the two parties, thus eliminating the complications involved in securing a written agreement.

As the years passed, the number of Nisei attaining the age of twenty-one increased steadily enabling the Japanese farmers to increase the number of farms in operation as it now stands.

San Benito County

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

During the past ten years there has been a considerable increase in the amount of rent paid to the land owners due to competitive farming between the Japanese and the American farmers. Today we find one half of the cultivated farms of the valley held by the Japanese American who have proven to produce farm products of equal quality or better in the most cases. The modern system of farming which is a general practice among the local Japanese farmers are largely due to the Nisei's ideal ways of farming which not only has enabled the Japanese but the American farmers also in maintaining their position in the present agricultural circles. There are no horse-pulled farm equipment in the County during the past few years, since the young Nisei were machine minded to convert the past farming ideas into the modern machine system.

The flourishing shopping centers in the county may easily be contributed to the Japanese people of the valley who consists of about ten per cent of the total population of the county.

The San Juan Valley which has long been known as the garlic center of the world is able to maintain its title due to the Japanese growers who have maintained the crop regardless of the years they were forced to sell below the growing cost. Such competitive farmings were being maintained by the Japanese farmers because of their industrious families who toiled in the fields to maintain the present production. During the past few years, San Juan and Hollister has developed itself in producing high quality lettuce for eastern markets. Such achievements can only be obtained by sacrifices on experimental bases which were conducted voluntarily by the farmers themselves. Individual sacrifices made by the Japanese farmers are countless in numbers as far as farm progresses are concerned, but nevertheless little credit has been given to the Japanese people. The large acreage of grazing lands and orchards are gradually disappearing and more vegetation is visible in the valley.

San Benito County

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

The great change in the valley as well as the entire County is through the efforts of the Japanese people of the County. With such great accomplishments to their credit, the people are leaving the valley and what they have accomplished through manual labor and financial difficulties. What this war may overshadow at the present time, can be brought to reality as the years go by and peace brought to our nation once again. What the Japanese farmers have done and hope to accomplish is our contributions to the country.

San Fernando Valley Chapter
JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

President
Route 2, Box 1101
San Fernando, Calif.

March 20, 1942.

Mr. Nobumitsu Takahashi
c/o Nat'l JACL Headquarters
2031 Bush Street
San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Mr. Takahashi:

San Fernando Valley includes the towns of Burbank, North Hollywood, Van Nuys, Canoga Park, San Fernando, and smaller communities. Japanese farmers operate in all sections of this large and fertile valley. It is said that every foot of this valley has at one time been farmed by Japanese agriculturalists.

The vanguard of these pioneers entered the Valley about forty years ago, conveying their families and worldly goods on creaking horse-drawn wagons along the main thoroughfare, a dusty wagon road. The Valley at this time was just one vast wheat field, the town of San Fernando was a "thriving" village of two buildings and a few inhabitants. Japanese had the opportunity to purchase acreage now located in the middle of the town, at a ridiculously small price.

The center of activity revolved around the now historical San Fernando Mission, the home of the Padres. These Japanese pioneers worked and lived at the mission.

San Fernando Valley is a well-known citrus growing area. Many of the oldest groves in this area were planted with the sweat and the toil of these pioneer Japanese.

Before the inroads of subdivisions, real estate projects, movie stars, airports, and aircraft industries, the San Fernando Valley was noted for its quality melons, tomatoes, acres of lettuce and varied truck and bunch vegetables. Despite the inroads of the city overflow, approximately three thousand acres of land are still under cultivation by about 130 Japanese families who have about \$260,000 invested in farm equipment. Produce grown is almost entirely consumed in southern California and is estimated to be worth about \$600,000 annually.

The flower growing industry is also firmly entrenched in the San Fernando Valley with the first growers establishing themselves here about twenty years ago. Unlike the farmers, quite a few of the florists own their property and are mostly permanent.

It is claimed that more quality winter cut flowers are grown in this Valley than any other place in the world, much of which is shipped out of state. There are about 500 acres devoted to flowers, the value of which reaches approximately

San Fernando Valley Chapter

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

\$420,000 annually. Evacuation will severely effect the flower industry because ample precautions to continue the source of supply are not being taken as on the farming front.

Respectfully submitted,

San Fernando Chapter

(Signed) Tom Imai
Tom, Imai, President

San Gabriel Valley and Pomona

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

THE HISTORY OF THE JAPANESE PEOPLE IN THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY AND POMONA

The first permanent settlement of the Japanese in San Gabriel Valley occurred about 1902. At first only a handful of young men were present. They were employed as day laborers in homes and in the citrus orchards, and one ambitious fellow, Masaichi Nomura, began a hand-laundry in the town of Sierra Madre.

In 1903, E. J. Baldwin of Arcadia, began harvesting oranges on his 200-acre orchard, creating the first influx of Japanese laborers in significant proportions. In due time there were 35 to 40 living in camps and employed in the citrus orchards.

About this time, began an intense persecution and ostracism of the Chinese people, which caused a marked decrease in the Chinese farmers, who grew most of the vegetables for the local markets. Thus, through the misfortunes of the Chinese began the era of Japanese farming in this Valley.

The first Japanese to gain possession of a tract of land for cultivation was Mr. Kameoka in 1904. His farm was located on Lower Azusa Avenue in North El Monte, where he grew berries and truck crops for many years, but he has now been deceased for several years.

In 1905, the first strawberries were grown on a commercial basis by a Mr. Osawa of Roland. Two years later new strawberry farms were started in Arcadia and in Roland, of 10 and 85 acres, respectively. Each was formed under a partnership of 3 and 10 men, all of whom were 20 to 25 years of age. These strawberry farms proved a great success, and news of it spread rapidly throughout southern California. Immediately, countless strawberry farms sprang up in all sections of the Valley. On the Baldwin Farm, located between Duarte and Lower Azusa in Savannah, 200 acres were planted to strawberries by Japanese mostly from the vicinity of Tropic. Numerous acreages of strawberries with a smaller amount of vegetables were interplanted between young walnut seedlings in the eastern section of San Gabriel Valley,

San Gabriel Valley and Pomona
JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

paying rentals of \$20 to \$25 an acre and caring for the young trees free of charge. Though the walnut growers benefited, the farmers later met with disaster.

The sudden increase in strawberries resulted in an over-supply of this product and a great loss to the embryo Japanese farmers, many of whom turned to other means of livelihood, such as: day laborers, vegetable peddlers, and small shopkeepers. Those who retained their farms and the subsequent new arrivals, undertook the cultivation of fresh vegetables, supplanting the rapidly dwindling Chinese population.

Steadily to this date of evacuation, the Japanese have toiled and tilled the lands of this Valley, introducing numerous products to the public, and producing vegetables in quality and quantity with an efficiency that no other race hitherto has been able to duplicate.

The population of the Japanese is at the present time approximately 2,300 persons, including aliens and American citizens. The table below shows the relative populations at various significant dates:

1902 -	4	1922 -	1,400
1907 -	30-40	1942 -	2,300
1914 -	500		

It is evident that in the eastern portion of the Valley the increase in the Japanese population and the area under cultivation has been directly proportional to the acreage of walnut trees newly planted and later when they were removed.

The order of land areas brought under cultivation in this Valley is as follows: Arcadia and Roland, Puente, Bassett, Baldwin Park, El Monte, Pomona Valley, and Covian.

A few of the products introduced into this Valley on a commercial scale by the

San Gabriel Valley and Pomona
JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

Japanese are: Strawberries in 1904; bushberries (blackberries, loganberries, raspberries) in 1912, and cauliflower in 1917. In 1917, Kusutaro Kato introduced the Snow Ball Cauliflower which has become one of the most important vegetables grown in this Valley and elsewhere.

There are innumerable instances where the Japanese farmers created thriving farm communities out of barren alkali, rocky or sandy wastelands. For example: In 1914, the desolate alkali regions of South El Monte with its high water table was converted into one of the richest celery and bunch vegetable communities in southern California.

The Oakwood Ranch, which is now a prospering farm center of early strawberries with several hundred acres under cultivation annually since 1932, was once a lonely rock-strewn hillside with a few scattered oak trees. A few Caucasians had unsuccessfully attempted growing oranges and tomatoes under irrigation, but it was soon abandoned.

In many sandy areas where hitherto nothing has been raised, the Japanese have created prosperous farms, growing berries, asparagus, carrots, and other vegetables.

In the agricultural industry, other than berry and truck crop farming, there are many contributions made to this area. The Nitake Citrus Nursery of Baldwin Park, which was begun in 1907 in San Dimas with 5,000 to 10,000 citrus seedlings per year sales, has now grown to an output of 120,000 trees per year. The greatest proportion of the citrus orchards of San Gabriel Valley, Orange County, and Imperial and Coachella Valley were propagated in the Nitake nurseries.

The Golden Rose Company of Puente under the ownership of T. Tokushige was begun in 1917 on a small scale, but due to Mr. Tokushige's scientific ingenuity and assiduity, the company rapidly grew to be the largest rose grower in southern California with shipments made all over the United States and a near monopoly on

San Gabriel Valley and Pomona
JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

the eastern seaboard.

Numerous landscape nurseries have sprung up in this Valley, in the past decade. Each growing rapidly to answer the call for artistically planted gardens in the mushroom-like growing communities. One of the largest and best known is the Mission Nursery and Florist, owned by Fred Yoshimura. It covers 45 acres and has a personnel of a 100 men and women.

Today, the Nipponese are engaged in a wide diversity of vocations. The majority are farmers, growing berries and truck crops. Next come the fruit and vegetable-stand operators, nurserymen, and landscape gardeners, and cut flower growers, and florists. The remaining consist of shopkeepers, fertilizer companies, businessmen, and other professional people, who are all dependent upon the farmers of this community.

The standard of living of the Japanese is something that the Americans have little understood. Tracing the 40-year history of the Nipponese in the San Gabriel Valley, we can see a definite upward trend. From the itinerant laborer with his worldly possessions on his back to the \$22,000 home of the Nitake's is a great advancement. True, not all have made as rapid a progress. Yet, the same is true of the Caucasians and any other immigrant.

If one knew that in 1914 only a few of the Japanese homes for the first time could afford painted houses, rugs, and new painted furniture, he would realize the transition which has occurred. The young growing children during the past two decades have been a great financial and, consequently, a social burden upon the parents, but now they have just reached young man and womanhood, and are capable of looking after themselves.

San Gabriel Valley and Pomona

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

The Nisei are not satisfied with the old farm shacks, the ill-fitting clothes, or having their women toil in the fields like animals! They too are Americans! They want the same things -- education, culture, and a higher living and social standard! Close observation will prove that this is exactly what has been occurring in this Valley and elsewhere. Have you noticed the new powerful family car in practically every farm home, a new electric ice box and stove in every home, the acquirement of good farming equipment and real estate, the purchase of substantial homes, the modish attirement of the young men and women, and the great number of college nisei? All of these have taken place in the past few years. Yes! They are no different from the rest of the Americans -- just give them time.

HISTORY OF THE JAPANESE IN SAN MATEO COUNTY

1941

SAN MATEO by Dr. Geo. S. Takahashi---

San Mateo's early history shows the presence of Japanese residents as far back as 1890. At that time Japanese laborers were either imported or had infiltrated into the community as workers at the old Leslie Salt Company refining plant in south San Mateo. Some Japanese were reported to have been employed at the now defunct Casey's quarry located in the hills west of San Mateo.

These common laborers were the forerunners of a steady trickle of Japanese into San Mateo. By 1910 a number of Japanese were in the city as servants and day workers in the homes of wealthy early Californians who had begun to make the area around San Mateo, Hillsborough and Burlingame, a concentration of fine country homes and mansions. Through the years, the wealthy class and later the middle class have provided year-around occupations for the Japanese as domestics and gardeners.

During the early period, Japanese-owned establishments began to spring up in the town itself, and records show a laundry, shoe shop, an art store, a hotel and a general merchandise store existed in 1906.

Of these pioneer ventures, only the general merchandise store has survived. It is today still operated by Tokutaro Takahashi who founded the store in 1906.

A few nurseries, grandfathers of the thriving floral industry, now centered in Belmont and Redwood City, were started by this time. These early nurseries served further to attract Japanese workers into the community until by 1906 a need for a Japanese association was felt.

On Nov. 18, 1906, the San Mateo Japanese Association was formed with H. Shimada as its first president. A roll call of some of the charter members serves as a count of the pioneer San Mateo residents.

Besides Pres. Shimada, records show T. Ito, K. Matsuda, T. Hata, Y. Saita, F. Kariya, T. Takahashi, S. Fujiwara, S. Kashiwagi, K. Ito, T. Yoshida, S. Yamada, Y. Kariya, S. Kawakita, I. Takahama, Y. Imachi, and J. Wada as some of the first members. Many of these men are still actively in business in San Mateo.

The early Japanese' vague understanding of the English language and his desire to mingle with his fellow countrymen were the reasons for the instant success of the Japanese Association. The meetings served partly for business discussions but mostly as get-togethers. Members attended 100 percent and looked upon the meetings as a form of recreation.

The charter members numbered 41 with a great preponderance of single men whereas the present organization membership lists 140, of whom 95 per cent are heads of families. Since its inception, the Japanese Association has been the hub of activity in the Japanese community with its sphere of influence extending over the welfare of the residents.

In May, 1916, the Japanese language school was formed with an enrollment of 14 children of whom four were of school age and 10 kindergarten. The first Japanese school teacher was Mrs. Hirata. Up to 1926 the rapidly growing school had six school teachers for varying periods of time. In 1926, T. Saiki was appointed head. He has held that post creditably to the present time. The comparatively short

history of Japanese in San Mateo is shown by the fact that as late as 1924, one girl and two boys were the first Japanese to be graduated from Lawrence Elementary School. However, in successive years, more and more Japanese school children have been included in graduating classes until now scores attend the local high school and junior college.

In reviewing the history of the Japanese in San Mateo, their existence and growth might almost be termed placid. Unlike the situation in many early California centers, there has been no violent prejudice against the San Mateo Japanese. Because of the isolation of San Mateo from San Francisco in the early days, physical persecution by hoodlums was never felt. Occupational conflicts, one of the elements conducive to racial prejudice, has never arisen because the occupation of the majority of the San Mateo Japanese has been and still is in domestic work.

The remainder who have branched into business have been accepted as equals by their Caucasian competitors. The only form of prejudice that has been the lot of Japanese is the subtle restriction in residential zoning. It is hoped that this condition will pass on with the formation of an understanding between Japanese and Americans.

Six years ago, on May 11, 1935, the first meeting of the San Mateo County JACL was held under the chairmanship of Saiki Muneno. The meeting passed the constitution and elected six officers and five members of the board of governors. It is interesting to note that nearly half of these eleven original officers are now married. Although the membership and activity of this chapter was small at the beginning, it is now one of the most active and progressive of the JACL organizations today.

MENLO PARK by Kay Kitagawa---

Menlo Park is a small city in the San Mateo County, located just north of the Santa Clara County line. The city's main thoroughfare is the El Camino Real highway; Palo Alto and Stanford University lie only two miles southward.

The story of the local Japanese community can be multiplied many times in similar areas along the Pacific Coast. In 1925 there were only five Issei families in Menlo Park. In 1940 there were over 150 Issei, Nisei, and Sansei. Since there was only a handful of Japanese, they joined and are still affiliated with the Palo Alto Japanese Association formed in 1905.

Racial prejudice has reared its head in this area. A Mr. Hirashima was prohibited from building a cleaning establishment on the highway as well as from buying a lot in the residential district; a Mr. Nao had difficulty in buying a house lot after being asked to leave Palo Alto; a daughter of Mr. Takahashi was denied the American Legion award because of her parentage. Despite these examples of racial discrimination, the Japanese today have received due recognition in this city. Mr. Ishizaki who was denied a grocery store on the highway today has the largest store in the city. Located on Oak Grove and El Camino Real, the busiest corner of the city, the store is a living testimony of Mr. Ishizaki's persistent industry for nearly 20 years.

The Nisei have made a very favorable impression among their fellow American schoolmates; teachers and friends in the Central Grammar and Sequoia high schools. In the last graduating class of the high school, four of the seven life members of the California Scholastic Federation were Nisei. Issei of the Community have consistently contributed to various organizations and charities. They put up the needed money for the completion of a payment for the grammar school piano.

The future of Japanese residents in Menlo Park is bright. With the recognition

and respect that they have received, the Japanese have become an integral part of the community. With the proper direction of Nisei and San sei energies through such agencies as the churches and the JACL, greater accomplishments can be expected in the service of the community and the United States.

PESCADERO By S. Yoshifuji---

Pescadero is located along the coast near the southern boundary of San Mateo County. The predominant industry is agriculture in which the majority of the 1,000 residents are engaged. The first Japanese settlers, about 50 in number, upon their arrival here in 1912, opened a vast tract of land.

In 1917, the first Japanese Association was organized with headquarters in San Mateo.

There were no signs of racial prejudice, due perhaps to lack of intimate contact. The approximate number of Japanese is now 85 of which 75 percent are Nisei. The inhabitants are devoted mainly to agriculture, the outstanding type being truck farming. Peas, brussel sprouts and lettuce are some of the products.

Various organizations now in existence include the Farmers' Association, Athletic Club and various social groups. As before, instances of racial prejudice are infrequent.

Through participation in various community activities such as the Chamber of Commerce, Fall Festival and Red Cross, the Japanese have gained respect. Japanese growers have introduced many new agricultural products.

REDWOOD CITY by Hirotsuke Inouye

Redwood City, about 30 miles south of San Francisco, recorded the first Japanese settlers in 1907. Thereafter, a few families arrived, but not noticeably in number. These early pioneers cultivated flowers for commercial purpose and marketed them in San Francisco. At that time, most of the flowers were grown outdoors or under cloth houses. As time passed by, greenhouses were built to produce flowers during the winter months.

About six years after their arrival here, or in the year 1903, the settlers formed the Redwood City Nurserymen's Association, filling a purpose similar to the present Japanese Association. There were approximately 12 families engaged in the same trade. There has been no ill feelings between the Japanese and American residents.

Now there are about 40 families in the community. About 75 percent are engaged in the floral industry. The other 25 percent are employed in estates. Japanese growers take part in the flower show and receive many prizes during the annual San Mateo County Fiesta. Whenever there is need of flowers, Japanese either sell or donate them. They contribute toward the red cross, Community Chest and other worthy causes.

As Redwood City is a residential town, there are only a few large industries. Consequently, Japanese are in business mostly for themselves. The JACL division was organized in 1935 and has since maintained the primary purpose of creating good will in America.

HISTORY OF JAPANESE IN TULARE COUNTY

By

Natsuko Misono

1941

DELANO DISTRICT

Records reveal that the first Japanese settlers came to this region in 1905 and consisted mainly of railroad section crew workers. The first organization was known as the Nichi Bei Shinzen Kisei Domei Kai.

About 300 Japanese comprised the population. As far as racial prejudice was concerned, Japanese labor was subjected to agitation and force.

The total Japanese population in this community at present is: Nisei, 489; Issei, 432.

Occupations may be divided into three classes, the farmers, businessmen and laborers.

Organizations have jumped from one to 14. They are: Japanese Association, Delano District JACL, Farmers' Association, Growers Exchange, Shojo Kai, Haha-no-Kai, YMA, YBA, Bukkyo Kai, Mothers and Fathers Club, Bukkyo Fujin Kai, Town Club, Earlimart Growers Association, and Gakuen Alumni Association.

Present prejudice consists of unequal treatment in such places of amusement as the Delano Plunge and Delano Theatre.

Japanese are credited in this region with introducing truck gardening, due to the fact that the first cotton grower was an Issei pioneer.

In a move to become truly a part of the community in which they reside, both Issei and Nisei have joined in various goodwill as well as civic events, such as participation in the Annual Harvest Festival (Float and Street Ondo), Hina Matsuri tea for the public school faculty by the Delano Mothers Club and contributions to the Tulare and Kern Hospital.

DINUBA DISTRICT

Labor contractors and grape laborers first came to this district in 1902 and eventually formed the Fukuoka Kenjin Kai in 1908 and the Young Men's Association in 1920.

The total Japanese population was 25 in 1902 and 40 in 1904. No racial prejudice was recorded at this time. The population today is 400 and is mostly concentrated in the occupations of vineyardists and produce growers.

The organizations are: Buddhist Church, Fujin Kai, Young Buddhist Association, Mothers Club, Tulare County JACL Dinuba district, N. A. Butoku Kai (Fencing Club), Methodist Church and Epworth League.

The Dinuba residents have been fortunate in that they have suffered no racial discriminations up to the present time. To them goes the credit of the development of watermelon culture. Added to this achievement is their wholehearted cooperation as the Armistice Day celebration and in such worthy charities as the Red Cross, Community Chest and the Salvation Army.

LINDSAY DISTRICT

Labor contractors comprised the first Japanese in this region approximately around 1903. They organized the Tulare County Japanese Association in 1909 and the Doshi Kai the following year.

It was not until 1927 that the gakuen organization was realized, while 1930 found the formation of the Dokushin To.

In this period, discrimination by packing houses harrassed Japanese workers. The population ranged from 250 to 300 at this time. Today the Issei are well outnumbered by Nisei, the former amounting to 70 and the latter, 260.

Business and occupations consist of growers of citrus, olives and truck crops such as tomatoes, peas, strawberries, etc.; chop suey restaurants, sobres, restaurants, and two pool halls.

Organizations are: Lindsay Gakuen Iji Kai, Lindsay Vegetable Growers Association, Lindsay District JACL, Seinen Kai, Shojo Kai, Buddhist Association, N. A. Butoku Kai, and the Fujin Kai.

The discrimination of the past is no longer evident. Japanese have reciprocated for the just treatment through participation in the Orange Blossom Festival while their pea cultivation has contributed to the agricultural wealth of the locality. Through donations to worthy charities, they have won the respect of fellow Americans.

OROSI DISTRICT

Ranch workers, farm tenants and nurserymen trekked to the Orosi district in 1904 and 1904 and contributed to the upkeep of one store and a boarding house.

The first organization was the Japanese land owners' group. As far as the population was recorded, 100 were permanent and 200 migratory. Very few instances of racial prejudice were found at this time.

Nisei now outnumber Issei, totally 250 to the latter's 70. Occupations are centered mainly in truck cultivation such as tomatoes and peas. There are few orchards and a store and a commission house solicitor in season.

The three main organizations are the Doshi Kai, the Seinen Kai, and the Orosi District division of the Tulare County JACL. The Japanese community has willingly donated to organizations such as the Red Cross, Boy Scouts, and the YMCA.

American-Japanese relations are very close, as evidenced by the fact that no prejudice exists. There are no residential restrictions. Many Americans work for Japanese. The former are also well in attendance at Japanese weddings and funerals.

VISALIA DISTRICT

A few Japanese are believed to have come to the Visalia district as early as 1890, though the actual settlement of 200 Japanese is recorded as 1900.

These settlers earned their living by chopping wood in the winter. In 1905 they banded together to form the Kyo-gi-kai. The Japanese lived amicably among the Americans and no prejudice was in evidence. The total of Issei residents of 250 increases to 350 during the harvesting season. The Nisei population is about 250.

The main occupation is farming, though a profitable living is being gained through other businesses, such as merchants, hotel or boarding house, proprietors, restaurant, soft drinks, barbers, dentists, druggists, theatres, etc.

Recreations and congenial interests have resulted in the following organizations: Japanese Association, Bukkyo Kai, JACL, Japanese Language School, YEA, Butoku Kai, and Heimushya-kai.

The main contribution the Japanese have made to this region is the introduction of pea culture in the Hanford district. The peas are shipped to eastern markets advertised as Tulare County peas, the Visalia district (or Tulare County) is the only place where fall pole peas are grown in large quantities on the Pacific Coast. Almost all the growers are Japanese.

The relations of Japanese with other residents are amicable, the former being subjected to no discrimination. The Japanese are known for their sincere efforts to cooperate in celebrations and for their wholehearted contribution towards donations of all kinds. Not the least of all these is their wish to promote better understanding with their fellow Americans.

JAPANESE AGRICULTURE SITUATION IN SACRAMENTO AREA

434 Japanese farmers are farming 10,673 acres in these districts: Woodland, Elkhorn, Broderick, West Sacramento, Oak Park, Mills, Perkins, Riverside, and part of the Clarksburg Area.

Of this 5284 acres are in tomatoes, with 1855 sugar beets, 693 spinach, 614 seeds, and 564 asparagus and other leading crops. The remainder of the acreage is devoted to all kinds of truck garden vegetables.

"The immediate evacuation of all Japanese farmers will cause a serious dislocation in the agricultural industry even in this limited area, and result in acute shortage of fresh farm products. This survey does not include the vast 100 per cent Japanese strawberry industry concentrated in the Florin and Elk Grove districts."

JAPANESE FARMERS AND FARM WORKERS IN CENTRAL
CALIFORNIA COUNTIES 1/ 2/

County	: Owners	: Tenants	: Farm managers: Farm foremen	: Farm laborers: (wage earners)	: Other Occup. in agric.
	: Number	: Number	: Number	: Number	: Number
Fresno	: 280	: 192	: 106	: 914	: 13
Contra Costa	: 2	: 16	: 26	: 108	: 7
Kern	: 9	: 50	: 65	: 650	: 60
Madera	: 16	: 4	: 4	: 40	: -
Merced	: 69	: 12	: 8	: 20	: 4
Monterey	: 20	: 53	: 42	: 270	: 225
Placer	: 115	: 39	: 86	: 335	: 78
Sacramento	: 44	: 175	: 71	: 1,047	: 7
San Joaquin	: 28	: 37	: 72	: 282	: 65
Santa Clara	: 37	: 174	: -	: 553	: 13
San Mateo	: 20	: 69	: 14	: 206	: -
Santa Cruz	: 65	: 24	: 18	: 404	: 10
Solano	: 3	: 6	: 9	: -	: 40
Sonoma	: 56	: 25	: 25	: 171	: -
Tulare	: 55	: 100	: 20	: 160	: 10
Yolo	: 4	: 51	: 57	: 39	: -
Yuba-Sutter)	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :
Colusa-Butte)	: 38	: 30	: 15	: 379	: -

1/ Data compiled by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from schedules taken by the Japanese-American Citizens League under the direction of Nobumitsu Takahashi.

2/ The completeness of enumeration is questionable. The counties of Contra Costa, Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Solano are quite incomplete.

HISTORY OF JAPANESE IN WASHINGTON TNSHP

1941

As early as 1888, the first Japanese arrived in this community and busied themselves in farm labor. Their first attempts at organization was the Kyoai Kwai, the parent of the Japanese Association.

The population, composed mostly of issei, was approximately 70. These early settlers suffered no discrimination.

Figures relating to the present population reveal that 659 issei and nisei now inhabit Washington Township. Male issei number 100 and female issei, 85.

Breaking up the figures further, male nisei under voting age number 152 and female nisei in the same classification, 130. Those over voting age number 152 and female nisei in the same classification, 130. Those over voting are: male 35; and female, 38.

Occupations of the present residents are: farming, grocer, service station, tofu manufacturing, transfer, florist, shipper salesman, school teacher, laundry, poultry, insurance agent, architect, chemist, laborer, and domestic housework.

A number of organizations have been formed as is characteristic of every Japanese community. They are: Washington Township JACL, Japanese Association of Alvarado, Agun Chuo Fujin Kwai, Alvarado Heimusha Kwai, Alvarado Gakuen, Centerville Gakuen, Irvington Gakuen, Alvarado Kenyu Kwai, Alvarado Gakuyu Kwai, Irvington Chawa Kwai, Irvington Shojo Kawi, Irvington Agun Taiiku Kwai, Centerville Shojo Kwai, Centerville Holiness Church, Buddhist Circle, Centerville Nippon.

The slate of race equality is still unmarred.

Japanese-American relationships have improved with the Japanese sponsorship of such events as an oratorical contest at the local high school and through participation in sports held under the auspices of American merchants and in the Citizenship Program.

Their donations to the American Red Cross and to the Boy Scouts and their relief contributions have been spontaneous and generous.

Besides holding an annual JACL day which is a great attraction to the entire community, the Japanese young citizens arrange speakers and programs for American civic organizations.

The latter reciprocate with good will and amicable relations.

HISTORY OF JAPANESE IN SANTA CLARA CO.

by
Mitsuie Miyata

1941

Prior to 1908, the first Japanese settlers succeeded in forming two organizations, the Kyogi Kai and the San Jose Doho Kai. On July 24, 1908, the Japanese Association of San Jose was formally inaugurated.

Occupations of the first settlers consisted mainly of work as commission bosses and ranch foremen. The Japanese added to their salaries through profits from board and meals supplied laborers employed in orchards owned by the Americans.

The approximate number of Japanese in 1908 was 300 of which number, 170 were members of the Japanese Association.

The first example of discrimination took place in 1900 when white laborers attacked a Japanese camp owned by Mr. Hume at Los Gatos. The attack took place, it was held, due to envy of the expansion of Japanese labor.

At the present time, the issei male population consists of 535, issei female population of 391. There are a total of 878 nisei males and 787 nisei females. The total is 2,591.

From the first few occupations, the list has grown to include the following: newspapers, drug store, physicians, midwife, grocery, dry goods, book store, art store, sake store, watch repair, candy store, fish market, fruit and vegetable market, farm supply, seed company, fertilizer company, shippers and transfers, insurance agency, laundry, tailor, dressmaker, photo service, printing, radio shop, food products, nursery, florist, hotel, restaurant, auto supply, bath, barber, beauty parlor, pool room, carpenter, tallow company and farming.

Total acreage owned by the farmers is 1,050; acres rented, 6,700. Acreage of food products produced is as follows: vegetables, 3,800; tomatoes, 550; fruits, 700; peas, 1,700; celery, 600; berries, 500.

One of the chief young people's organizations to join in the welfare of the Japanese community was the United Citizens League of Santa Clara County. The latter has cooperated with the Japanese Association in fostering good will with residents of other races.

Through its participation in civic duties such as purchase of American bonds during the World War, contributions to the Community Chest and cooperation in city festivals, the Japanese residents have gained the respect of their fellow townsmen and have laid the foundation for a sound relationship.

HISTORY OF JAPANESE IN SONOMA COUNTY

by
Saburo Sugawara,
Minoru Matsuda

The first Japanese to arrive in Sonoma County was Kanae Nagasawa in 1874. He settled two miles north of Santa Rosa and helped to open first friendships between Japanese and American residents.

The first settlers were either students or laborers. These people finally banded together to form the Japanese Association of Sonoma County.

As there was a steady flow of settlers, no definite number was recorded as to the Japanese residents. Nagasawa was chiefly responsible for the migration of early pioneers to this region.

No record exists of racial prejudice in Sonoma County. However, according to some old-timers, there was some discrimination. The extent was to call the issei "Japs", but no physical violence was reported.

The total population of the Japanese in Sonoma County at present is 800, of which 500 are issei and 300 nisei.

The chief occupation is farming. There are several merchants and one dentist.

Organizations have grown as interests have varied and as the population has multiplied. There are now seven issei organizations: Japanese Association, Hiroshima Kenjin Kai, Kumamoto Kenjin Kai, Togo Kai, Sonoma Buddhist Association, Bukkyo Fujin Kai, Nichiren Buddhist Church. Besides, the issei have opened language schools in Sebastipol and Petaluma.

Nisei groups are headed by the Japanese American Citizens League, followed by the Young Buddhist Association, Sakura Athletic Club, Sebastipol Boy Scout Troop 39 and the Petaluma Boy Scout Troop 20.

Residents have evidenced no discrimination in this region.

The Japanese are credited with having developed further the apple drying industry in the Sebastipol district and the poultry business in the Petaluma area.

The relationship between the Americans and Japanese have been extremely friendly. The latter have contributed freely to all types of worthy civic projects. The American residents, in turn, have donated to the various projects the Japanese have undertaken.

In order to create better understanding, the Japanese have presented cherry trees to the Analy and Santa Rosa high schools, the Sebastipol Grammar School and the Sonoma County hospital located in Santa Rosa.

The JACL and the YBA have taken active lead in participation in the

county-wide Armistice Day parade and celebration. Japanese have cooperated wholeheartedly in donations for charities.

The Japanese Boy Scout troops have received favorable comments from civic leaders through outstanding work. The community is doing much to better relations at a time when such cooperation is greatly needed.

JAPANESE HISTORY OF SAN BENITO COUNTY

by

Toru Ikeda

1941

Willing participation in civic projects has contributed to the good standing of the Japanese community in San Benito County. A strong spirit of cooperation exists between American and Japanese residents, building a foundation toward a sound relationship of the future.

The Japanese first arrived in San Benito County in 1905, working as seed farm and contract laborers. These early settlers banded for their first organization, the Japanese Association. Earlier they joined the Watsonville Japanese Association, but in 1913 were able to form their own group.

The approximate number of Japanese at the time of the early settlers was about 27 residents. These few Japanese evidenced no racial discrimination.

Today, the Japanese population has grown to 552, of which number 325 are Nisei. The majority are farmers in seed, garlic, lettuce and beets.

Organizations now functioning in the community are: San Benito County Japanese Association, San Benito County Fujo Kai, San Benito County JACL, San Juan Ijikai, San Juan Young Buddhist Association, Boy Scout Troop 27 of San Juan, Howa Kai and Hollister Bombers.

Today, as in the past, there is no racial discrimination. The Japanese and Americans are inter-dependent and are always aiding each other. Thus, there exists a feeling of harmony, equality and friendship.

Through the joint efforts of the Japanese and American residents, a community hall was realized.

To the Japanese goes the credit of developing the garlic industry in San Juan valley. The first or perhaps one of the first lettuce packing sheds was opened in Hollister by a Japanese. Some say that it was the first lettuce shed in California but there is no accurate record of this fact.

Many factors contribute to the high esteem of the Japanese in this community. Among them are such Japanese contributions as those toward the upkeep of Hazel Hawkins Hospital each year and toward the Monterey Bay Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, also yearly.

At present, the Japanese JACL, San Juan YBA and the entire

Japanese community are contributing toward the "Iron Lung Society" sponsored by the Knights of Columbus for the purpose of buying an iron lung for San Benito County.

Japanese participated in the San Juan Mission parade until its discontinuance in 1940. The Boy Scout Troop 27 aided by helping to direct traffic or parking cars.

Troop 27 also takes part in the annual "Peak Day" flag ceremony and helps clean graves on Memorial Day.

Thus, step by step, the San Benito County Japanese are building a solid niche for themselves, based on firm friendships and sincerity. Theirs has been a long climb but the results have been well worth the struggle.

HISTORY OF JAPANESE IN MONTEREY

by
Hideko Takigawa

1941

Records reveal that there were a few Japanese settlers established in this community about 1897. There may have been a few before then, but no known record remains.

A few of the settlers grew vegetables while others engaged in net fishing.

The first Japanese organization formed was known as the Kyo-gi-kai which was started in September, 1904. Later the organization was renamed the Japanese Association.

The total population consisted of about 50 persons, mostly men.

At this early date, no racial prejudice seems to have prevailed.

The total Japanese population at present is 541, of which number 60 percent are nisei. There are about 151 families.

Occupations are varied, ranging from fishing to housework.

They are: fishing, agriculture, general merchandise, public service, gardeners, cannery workers, woodchoppers, wholesale and retail fish markets, beauty shops, auto mechanics, cleaners and laundries.

Barber shops, shoe repair shop, tofu-ya shop, fish peddlers, Oriental art shops, restaurants, pool hall and baths, hotel, chauffeurs, insurance agents, tropical aquarium, garage, and general housework.

About 18 organizations are now in existence. Heading the list is the oldest body, the Japanese Association. The others are: Fujin-kai, JACL (Camera Club, Students Club), Heimusha-kai, Jugo-kai, Sunday School, YEA, Japanese language school, Bukkyo Shinto-kai, Minato Athletic Club, Engei Doko-kai, Japanese Abalone Association, Judo Club, Japanese Presbyterian Church, Christian Endeavor, Christian Language School, Young Peoples Church, and Boy Scouts.

As was the case when the first settlers moved into this region, no racial prejudices cropped up to mar the pleasant relations between the Japanese and American residents.

The former gained the respect and friendship of the community through participation in such worthy charities as the Community Chest, Red Cross, and infantile paralysis campaigns.

Their donations of cherry trees to the Monterey Union High

School and to the Community Park were accepted in the friendly spirit with which they were given.

Japanese take active part in other functions, such as the Fourth of July parade, recitals, flower shows, and county fairs. Theirs is a position well earned and built on a sound foundation.

J.A.C.L. Survey 1942 Farm acreage	Yuba Sutter Colusa Butte Co.	Placer Co.	Florn area	San Joachim Co.	Clatsop area 1/1/42	Merced Co.	Madra area	Tulare Co.	Shasta area	Holbrook S. Juan area	Orange Co.	Imperial Co.	Alameda Co. 1942	San Jose area	State of Oregon Percent Japanese grown
Truck crops	849			19271			28	920		2369				4281	
Asparagus				2856	1535				50		400	32			
Potatoes				3863									3		
Tomatoes	311			2933	971	5258		360		537	2500	1904	2698	576	
Celery				2435				40	90	13	1500		110	500	
onions				909	205	104				3					
Squash								20			450	431			
Peas								500	395	129	200		103 1/2	585	
Artichokes						100	16					155			
Cantaloupes												1967			
Carrots												147			
Corn												21	26		
Field crops															
Cabbage									30		200	463	48		
Peppers											2500	15	25	600	
Tree crops															
Egg plants															
Lettuce									700	777		1019	92		
Cucumbers													220		
Parsnips															
Spinach									34	223			72	1,000	
Broccoli										30			25	500	
Cauliflower										15			71	400	
Garlic										602			26		
Parsley										23					
Spouts									105						
Artichokes									70						
Others	538			6275	40		12			17	500		32	120	
Seeds					424					157					
Field crops	1580			1800			95			1392				1023	
Sugar beets	220			1800					715	1337		200	348	1023	
Rice	217											820			
alfalfa	7											212			
Beans	980				210					30	2200		36		
Grain	156									25					
Wheat															
Barley					40										
cotton															
Flax															
Others												305			
Nuts	175														
Almonds	131						351								
Walnuts	44						15								
Seeds															
Subtropical Fruit	53														
Olives	53														
Oranges															
Deciduous Fruit	929	11,000													
Peaches	675														
Apricots	105														
Prunes	144														
Pears	5														
Others															
Grapes			200	1020											
Berries			250	70											
Nursery															
Poultry															
Misc. crops															
Acres: Owned	1259	5400	310	3710	264		633	585	419	179		2222			
Lease	2333	2400	140	7303	1166		158	765	1600	2937		6126			
Share															
Total															

X SUTTER COUNTY

Yuba City
Live Oak
Tudor

X BUTTE COUNTY

Gridley
Biggs
Oroville
Chico
Nelson

X Colusa County

Colusa
Arbuckle
Grimes

YOLO COUNTY

Clarksburg
Davis
Winters
Woodland
Esperato
Knights Ladding
✓ Broderick
Rumsey
Madison

X YUBA COUNTY

Marysville
Wheatland

SACRAMENTO COUNTY

✓ Isleton
✓ Walnut Grove
✓ Courtland
Hood
Galt
Florin
✓ Sacramento
Ryde
Folsom
Elk Grove
Taisho-ku
✓ Perkins
✓ Mills
✓ Oak Park
✓ Riverside

SOLANO COUNTY

Cordelia
Suisun
Rio Vista
Vacaville
Bixon

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

Lodi
Stockton
French Camp
Luthrop
Escalon
Ripon
Manteca
Vernalis
Linden
King Isalnd
Empire Is
Rindge Is
Medford Is
Mildred Is
Bacon Is
McDonal Is
Manderville Is
Bouldin Is

STANISLAUS COUNTY

Tracy
Ceres
Turlock
Patterson
Hughson
Denair

MERCED COUNTY

Livingston
South Dos Palow
Delhi
Cressy
Winton
Merced
Atwater
Le Grand

MADERA COUNTY

Madera
Chowchilla

FRESNO COUNTY

Friabaugh
Kerman
✓ Fresno
Fowler
✓ Selma
Kingshburg
✓ Clovis
✓ Sanger
✓ Reedley
✓ Del Rey
✓ Parlier
Coalinga

KINGS COUNTY

Corcoran
Lemoore

X TULARE COUNTY

Dinuba
Sultana
✓ Orsoi
Orange Cove
Cultler
Visalia
Ivanhoe
Woodlake
Exeter
✓ Lindsay
Strathmore
✓ Porterville
Tulare
Hanford
Pixley
Earlimart

KERN COUNTY

Delano
Bakersfield
McFarland
Taft
Arvin

SONOMA COUNTY

Petaluma
Santa Rosa
Sebastipol
He aldsburg
Sonoma

MARIN COUNTY

Sausalito
Mill Valley
San Rafael

SAN MATEO COUNTY

✓ Pescadero
Half moon Bay
Los Altos
Palo Alto
Menlo Park
Belmont
Redwood City
San Carlos
San Mateo
Burlingame

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Gilroy
San Martin
Morgan Hill
Madrone
Campbell
Saratoga
Los Gatos
Milpitas
Aviso
San Jose
Sunnyvale
Santa Clara
Mt. View

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Watsonville
Aptos
Soquel
Santa Cruz

MONTEREY COUNTY

Salinas
Spreckles
Chualar
Gonzales
Soleda d
Castroville
Monterey
Pacific Grove
Pebble Beach
Carmel

SAN BENITO COUNTY

Hollister
San Juan Bautista

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Martinez
San Ramon
Danville
Concord
Danville
Richmond
El Cerrito
Berkeley
Alameda
Oakland
Brentwood
Byron
Knightsen

ALAMEDA COUNTY

Pleasanton
Warm Springs
Mission San Jose
Niles
Irvingston
Centerville
Newark
Mt Eden
Alvarado
San Lorenzo
Hayward
San Leandro

2/2/53

NURSERIES OF EDEN TOWNSHIP

	No. Acres	No. Greenhouse	Products
1.# Domoto, Toichi *	15	2	Garden shrubs
2. Fujii, Kenji *	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	9	Carnations, snapdragons
3. Hatakeda, Shigeo T.	2 $\frac{1}{2}$		Sweetpeas, gladiolas, etc.
4. Hatakeda, George	4	4	Carnations, Chrysanthemums
5. Hironaka, Aiko *	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	7	Roses, carnations, snapdragons, celery
6. Kikuchi, Toyohiko	3		Outside flowers
7. Kinoshita, Suno	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	Carnations
8. Korematsu, Harry T.	4	7	Potted plants, bouvardias, bulbs
9. Korematsu, Hiroshi	6		Bulbs
10. Kuwamoto & Kinbara	2	2	Bedding plants
11. Kuramoto, S. & Y.	2	4	Carnations
12. Mashihara, John	1	4	Gardenias
13. Minami, George *	8	3	Carnations, sweetpeas, outside flowers
14. Minamoto, Y.	2	4	Bedding plants
15. Mochida, E.	2**	5	Snapdragons, sweetpeas
16. Mori, Toshio	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	5	Carnations, snapdragons, asters
17. Nakashima, J. (Kotake)	3	1	Sweetpeas, snapdragons, delphiniums
18. Nakashima, M.			no record
19. Naruo, Robert	1	3	Bedding plants
20. Niede, Susumu	3	8	Carnations
21. Nomura, T. *	4	10	Carnations, roses
22. # Okada, Toshiharu *	15	14	Carnations
23. Oshima, Fred	13 $\frac{1}{2}$		Roses
24. #Shibata, Yoshimi *	32	36	Roses, asters
25. #Shinoda, Dan			No record
26. #Shinoda, Minoru	6	10	Roses, snapdragons
27. #Shimizu, T.	7	?	Roses
28. Suyeyasu, Sakai	5	9	Roses, Sweetpeas
29. Suyeyasu, Toshiko *	20		Bulbs
30. Tanabe, Katsuo *	2	3	Carnations
31. Tanisawa, Ben	5	5	Carnations
32. Uenaka, Shigeru *	4	1	Sweetpeas, asters, chrysanthemums
33. Wada, Henry	4	3	Carnations, snapdragons
34. Yanagi,	3	4	Carnations, chrysanthemums
35. Yanaba, Ichiji	5	4	Gardenias
36. Yomekura, Alice *	5	2	Sweetpeas, snapdragons, outside flowers
37. Yoshida	2	4	Carnations, snapdragons, bulbs
38. Yoshioka, Giichi *	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	Carnations, snapdragons, mums
39. Tsuchiya, Takako *	3	6	Roses, carnations
	205	192	

#\$50,000 over

** Rent

Approximate value of the above nurseries -- \$1,350,000

Approximate income of the above nurseries -- 425,000 (yearly)

Average length of greenhouses (150 Ft.) (5,250 sq. ft.)

* Mortgages that are known

Kenji Fujii (signed)

J.A.C. survey data

3/2/42
Venice
area

Imperial
County

Nb of Farm: /ssci	22	600
Nisci	40	1,000
Acreage leased	850	6126
owned	179	2222
Value of crop	\$314,000	\$3,991,050 ²
Main crop in field	Celery	Tomato, P. 4 th time C. + * up
Value of Farm		
equip owned	\$314,000	115,535 ²
Length of time J.		
have farmed in area	22 years	30 yrs
Decrease in Farm planting		
due to uncertainty of		
status of Japanese	30% of 1941	3,000 acm
Total unemployment		
due to loss	10	50
Total unemployed	40	100
Loss of farm		
Product due to war	\$300, Yakuno Nakano	all purchases or cash basis time payment contracts recalled. Damage in crop due to prohibited use of insecticides Big Canadian Agric. Corp. wish to get J-A competition eliminated

* Cantaloupe : 1967 acm
Tomatoes : 1904 "
Lettuce : 1019 "
Rice : 820 "
Cabbage : 463 "
Squash : 431