

# ***1913 Alien Land Law***

**Kanji Sahara**

**June 25, 2014**

***Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition  
One Year Anniversary Luncheon***

**San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center  
Pacoima, CA**

# **Outline**

**Prelude**

**Alien Land Laws**

**Before the War**

**After the War**

**Memorials for Issei**

# ***1882 Chinese Exclusion Act***

***1882, Act forbade immigration of Chinese laborers for next ten years.***

**1892, Act renewed**

**1902, Act made permanent**

**“Chinese Problem” was solved.**

Year	Number of Chinese in US
1840	na
1850	4,000
1860	35,000
1870	64,000
1880	105,000
1890	107,000
1900	119,000
1910	94,000
1920	85,000

# Japanese Immigration to Hawaii



**1868, “*First Year People*” 141 men recruited in Yokohama for Hawaii proved unsatisfactory farm laborers.**

**Thereafter, recruit from “1,000 miles from Tokyo” - Hiroshima, Kumamoto, Yamaguchi and Fukushima.**

**Recruiter Robert Irwin and physician seek good physician condition, farming skills and hard worker.**

**1885 – 1894, recruit 30,000 Japanese laborers for Hawaii. 3 year contract.**

**Most Issei were sojourners**



# US vs. Japan

- 1853, Commodore Perry, 4 “Black Ships” into Tokyo Bay, “Open Door Policy”
- 1868, Meiji Restoration, modernize, militarize
- Heavy tax on farmers
- 1905, Japan destroys Russia fleet
- Issei were treated better than Chinese
- U. S. wary of Japan



**Admiral Heihachiro Togo**

- 1920, V. I. Lenin said “. . . relations between Japan and America. War is brewing between them. They cannot live together in peace on the shores of the Pacific, although those shores are three thousand versts apart . . . war is brewing, that it is inevitable.”

# San Francisco Chinese School



- 1859, Separate public school for Chinese
- 1893, Order Japanese to attend separate school. Japan protest. Japanese families spread out.
- 1954, U.S Supreme Court in *Brown v. Board of Education*, struck down “Separate but Equal” in public school
- Separate schools for Japanese in Florin, Walnut Grove, Isleton, Courtland, El Monte (K-6)

# 1906 San Francisco Earthquake



- 1906, Earthquake, many Chinese families move out, open space in Chinese schools
- 1906, School Board orders Japanese children to attend Chinese schools. 93 Japanese children in 23 school
- Anger Issei parents. Big uproar in Japan. Government protest
- President Teddy Roosevelt solves problem with 3 Point Plan
  1. Reduce immigration from Japan
  2. Placate Japan
  3. Increase U.S. Navy

# ***Immigration Act of 1907***

- **1898, US annexed Hawaii and abolished contract labor**
- **1900 to 1908, about 40,000 Japanese left Hawaii for Mainland**
- **Feb 20, *Immigration Act of 1907*. Prohibit “indirect entry”. Japanese cannot use passport to go first to Canada, Mexico or Hawaii and then to U.S.**
- **Mar 6, San Francisco allows Japanese to attend regular public schools. Chinese and Koreans attend separate schools.**
- **This stopped “indirect entry” of Japanese to U.S.**

# ***Gentleman's Agreement, 1908***

President Teddy Roosevelt's goal;

- Reduce “direct entry” of Japanese to U.S.

***Gentleman's Agreement:*** Series of 6 secret, unofficial and undocumented agreements between Japan and US

- Japan to stop issuing passports except to
  - #A Issei living in Japan who once lived in US
  - #B Wife and children of Issei living in US

Immigration from Japan

1907	12,888
1908	8,340
1909	1,596

# Picture Bride, *shashin kekkon*

## Dilemma of Issei Bachelor

- 1900 Census; 410 females, 23,916 males
- Anti-miscegenation laws.
- No immigration from Japan

## Picture Bride; 1907 to 1920

- Male sends photo to Matchmaker in Japan
- In Japan, when lady signed man's family registry, she is considered married and government issues passport.
- US not recognize marriage so mass weddings on pier when ship docks
- 25,000 Picture Brides came to US and Hawaii
- 1920, Japan stopped passport. Resulted in 24,000 bachelors
- Picture Brides started families.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Nisei</u>
1910	4,500
1920	30,000
1930	68,000



# Angel Island, San Francisco Bay



# 1909 Anti-Japanese Bills

- 1909 legislative session, 17 anti-Japanese bills introduced
- AB 78 Alien Land Bill; alien could buy land but must become citizen in 5 years or forfeit land
- Other Bills; school segregation, cities can put Japanese in ghettos
- Pres. Roosevelt was worried about US - Japan relation.
- Roosevelt ordered Gov. Gillett to either stop or veto the Bills.
- None of the Bills became law.



**Governor  
Gillett**



**President  
Roosevelt**



# ***1911 Treaty of Commerce and Navigation***

**1911 Treaty of “Friendship” between U.S. and Japan stated how Issei should be treated.**

**“The citizens or subjects of each of the high contracting parties shall have the liberty to . . . own or lease and occupy houses, manufactories, warehouses and shops . . . to lease land for residential and commercial purposes . . . upon the same terms as native citizens or subjects . . . ”**

**Treaty does not mention owning farm land. Half of Issei in 1911 were involved in farming as laborers, tenants or farm owners.**

# **“Japanese Problem”**

## **White farmers**

- needed large numbers of Japanese to do “stoop labor”.**
- Issei were hard working and skillful farmhand.**

## **Some Issei farmhands leased land**

- applied intensive farming techniques**
- entire family worked**
- some Issei farmers became very successful.**

## **“Japanese Problem”**

- Japanese were going to “over run” farmland**
- Nisei were U.S. citizens.**

# ***1913 Alien Land Law***

**"Aliens not eligible for citizenship and corporations in which the majority of the stock was owned by ineligible aliens had to comply with the land ownership provisions of any treaty existing between the countries involved. The U.S. - Japan Treaty of 1911 made no mention of any right of Japanese aliens to own land."**

***1913 Alien Land Law* - Issei prohibited from**

- buying farm land.**
- signing leases longer than 3 years.**

**Passed Assembly 72 to 3**

**Passed Senate 35 to 2**

**Signed by Governor Hiram Johnson.**

***1913 Alien Land Law* - first law that discriminated against Japanese.**

# Purpose of *1913 Alien Land Law*

Ulysses S. Webb, co-author of the 1913 Alien Land Law said:

*“The fundamental basis of all legislation upon this subject, State and Federal, has been, and is, race undesirability . . . It seeks to limit their presence by curtailing their privileges which they may enjoy here; for they will not come in large numbers and long abide with us if they may not acquire land.”*



Ulysses S. Webb  
California  
Attorney General  
1902 – 1939

# 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment

**Congress passed 1866, States ratified 1868**

- **Amendment to prevent white southerners from enacting laws to effectively re-enslave recently liberated blacks .**
- **Congress had passed similar laws but wanted “Amendment”.**
- **Southern States had to ratify Amendment in order to re-enter Union.**

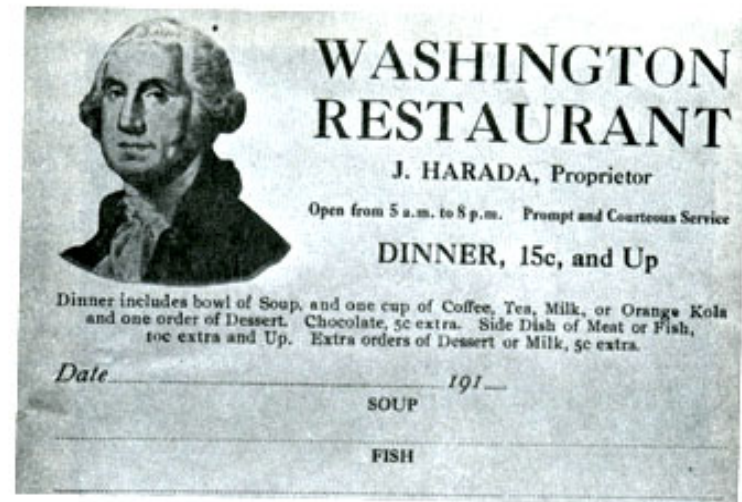
## **Section 1**

- **Anyone born on U.S. soil is U.S. citizen.**
- **State cannot deny any resident full privileges of U.S. citizenship.**
- **All citizens guaranteed “*due process of law*”**  
**which means states cannot pass arbitrary or unfair laws.**
- **All citizens guaranteed “*equal protection of the law*”**  
**which means states cannot discriminate against particular groups of citizens.**

# Harada Family and Restaurant



6. Harada family portrait, Riverside, California, circa 1911. Rear, left to right, Jukichi, Masa Atsu, Ken; front, left to right, Mine, Sumi, Tadao. Photographer: "A. Brown, Riverside." Sumi Harada Collection.



8. a. Menu heading, Harada's Washington Restaurant, Riverside, California, circa 1915. Sumi Harada Collection.  
b. Harada's Washington Restaurant, 641 8th Street, Riverside, California, July 1913. Photographer unknown. Sumi Harada Collection.



# ***The House on Lemon Street***



- Built in 1884.
- 1915, Harada found house in newspaper ad. Pay \$1500. At close of escrow, Harada wrote his three children born in U.S. as purchaser.
- Neighbors did not want Jap and offered \$2000. Harada said “You can murder me, you can throw me into the sea, I won’t sell”.
- Neighbors asked State AG Webb to begin escheat proceedings.

# ***The People of California versus Harada***

**Riverside Superior Court**

**Judge Hugh Craig, non-jury trial.**

**Filed Oct 1916**

**First hearing Dec 1916**

**Decision Sep 1918.**

## **Judge's Rulings**

- ***1911 Treaty between Japan and U.S. was about buildings, not the land.***
- ***1913 Alien Land Law was constitutional.***
- **Nisei could acquire and own land per 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment.**





# ***1920 Alien Land Law***

- ***1920 Alien Land Law*** was ballot initiative to close loopholes
  - Prohibit Issei as guardian of property of Nisei children
  - Prohibit corporation with Issei ownership to buy land
  - Also allow local District Attorney to handle escheats
  - Prohibited any lease of land to Issei
  - If Issei furnished funds and title of land was in anybody else's name, it meant that he was trying to avoid *Alien Land Law* and therefore void and subject to escheat.
- Vote was 668,483 "*For*" and 222,086 "*Against*".
- 1922, California Supreme Court said any father, citizen or alien ineligible for citizenship, can be guardian of his own children

# 1922 Ozawa Denied Citizenship

- 1906, Citizenship for whites and Africans
- 1910, 420 Issei were US Citizens
- Takao Ozawa

Born 1875, Kanagawa Ken, Japan

Immigrated 1894, 3 years UC Berkeley

Assimilated, Claim skin was white

Will not postpone case, “face of death”

- 1914, Ozawa files for Naturalization
- 1916, lose in US District Court, go Court of Appeal



Takao Ozawa

- Citizenship was solution to Alien Land Law
- Diplomatic, Legislative or Judicial path to Citizenship
- 1917, Japanese Association chose Ozawa as “Test Case”
- G. Wickersham, Pres. Taft’s U.S. Attorney General, Chief Counsel
- 1918, wait until end of WWI
- 1921, wait until after Washington Conference on Arms Limitations
- 1922, U.S. Supreme Court ruled only Caucasian were white

# ***Cable Act***

***1907 Expatriation Act*** - Women's citizenship is that of husband

***Suffrage Movement*** – Woman's Right to Vote and Citizenship Independent of Husband's

***1922 Cable Act*** - If woman married a foreigner, her citizenship not affected, except if White or Nisei woman marries an Issei, she loses US Citizenship.

If white woman's marriage ends, she regains US Citizenship.

If Nisei woman's marriage ends, she still lost US Citizenship and can not become US citizen because she is from ineligible race.

Purpose is to discourage white woman from marrying Asian.

***Act*** amended in 1931 so marrying an Asian did not lead to loss of citizenship. ***Cable Act*** repealed in 1936.

# 1923 Was a Bad Year

California Legislature passed laws to close loopholes in the *1920 Alien Land Law*

- Prohibit Issei as guardian of property of “anybody”.
- Escheat occurred on date of acquiring i.e., retroactively
- Cropping was prohibited.

U. S. Supreme Court; 4 defeats in one week in November

- *Terrace vs. Thompson*; Washington Land Law was constitutional
- *Porterfield vs. Webb*\*; Ban on leasing was constitutional
- *Webb vs. O’Brien*\*; Cropping Contracts are illegal
- *Frick vs. Webb*\*; Issei could not own stock in land companies

Issei stunned by defeat. Severe blow, destroy economic foundation, sense of despair.

\* Test Cases initiated by the Japanese Association, *Nihonjinkai*

# Dual Citizenship

**Japanese Nationality Law – Children of Japanese are Japanese Citizen.  
Thus Nisei are automatically Japanese Citizen – Dual Citizen**

**Japan had Army draft.**

## **1916 Amendment**

- Nisei < 14, parents could renounce their Japanese Citizenship**
- Nisei 15, 16, child renounce Citizenship themselves**
- Nisei > 17, serve in Japanese Army first, then renounce Citizenship**

## **1924 Amendment**

- Nisei can renounce Citizenship at any age without precondition**
- Nisei had to apply for Japanese Citizenship within 14 days of birth.  
Then Dual Citizen**

# ***1924 Immigration Act***

- **Allocated quota to each nation based on number of its immigrants in 1880 census. Quota for Japan was 100 per year.**
- **However, Act barred immigration to aliens ineligible to citizenship. Ended immigration from Japan.**
- **“Japanese Problem” was solved.**
- **July 1, “National Day of Humiliation”, *Kokujokubi*.**
- **Reaction in Japan was bitter and angry.**
- **Japanese thought they were superior to Chinese, but no.**
- **Nisei was now the hope of the Japanese immigrant.**

## **Ethnic Japanese Population on Mainland**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Issei</b>	<b>Nisei</b>
<b>1920</b>	<b>111,000</b>	<b>81,500</b>	<b>29,500</b>
<b>1930</b>	<b>138,800</b>	<b>70,500</b>	<b>68,400</b>
<b>1940</b>	<b>126,900</b>	<b>47,300</b>	<b>79,600</b>

# WWII; Time to Strengthen Alien Land Law



Tule Lake

- 1942, with Japanese in Camp, Attorney General Earl Warren took 20 parcels of land held by Nisei children of Issei, *in absentia*.
- 1942, Warren touted this in his race for Governor.
- 1943, now Governor Warren expanded *Alien Land Law* to deny Japanese the opportunity to farm as they did before the war.
- 1943, statute prohibit Issei from commercial fishing.
- 1945, Gov. Warren signed 2 bills that facilitated seizure of Nisei owned land.

# Earl Warren



**Attorney General,, 1939-1943**  
**Governor 1943-1953**

- **1940, 1911 U.S. - Japan Treaty was terminated. Warren ruled that Issei could not now own residential or commercial properties.**
- **While Issei were in Camp, California expanded escheat proceedings.**
- **1945, 30 escheat actions begun.**
  - **State won 4 cases**
  - **Two settled for \$100,000 and \$25,000.**
- **1946, 50 Issei sued for their farm land.**
- **1943, "... We don't propose to have the Japs back in California during this war if there is any lawful means of preventing it."**



# **1946, *Proposition 15***

**1920, Voters approve Referendum “*1920 Alien Land Law*”**

**Since then, Legislature added Amendments to *1920 Alien Land Law* to “close loopholes”.**

**1946, realize that Legislature cannot amend Referendum. Only Voters can amend Referendum.**

**1946, *Proposition 15* would approve past legislation to *Land Law***

**JACL assigns Mike Masaoka to lead campaign against Prop 15.  
Raise over \$100,000.**

***Proposition 15* defeated. First defeat of anti-Asian referendum.**

# 1944 *Fred Oyama versus California*

- 1934, Issei Kajiro Oyama bought 6 acres of land for \$4,000 in Chula Vista and deeded it to 6 years old Nisei son Fred.
- 1942, Oyama family incarcerated in Topaz, Utah.
- 1944, while the Oyama's could not return to California, state began escheat proceedings. Oyama lose in Lower Court.
- 1946, California Supreme Court upheld the escheat. Appeal to U.S. Supreme Court.

*San Diego Journal—Thurs., Aug. 23, 1945—Page 3*

## **Ready to Appeal Ruling**



KAJIRA OYAMA, right, confers with his lawyer, A. L. Wirin, in court yesterday after learning that agricultural land he once operated for his son in the Rancho de la Nacion in Chula Vista will revert in ownership to the state of California.

## **Jap to Contest Court Decision Returning Land to California**

A. L. Wirin, Los Angeles attorney, today prepared to appeal to the State Supreme Court Superior Judge Joe L. Shell's decision in an Alien Land Law case.

Judge Shell yesterday ruled in

# Fred Oyama at U.S. Supreme Court

1948, Dean Acheson, Secretary of State (1949-1953) under President Truman, represented Oyama in U.S. Supreme Court. At issue were two main Items in *Alien Land Laws*;

- 1 Deprived citizen Fred Oyama equal protection under laws.
- 2 Denied alien Kajiro Oyama equal protection under laws.

1948, the U.S. Supreme Court over-ruled the California Supreme Court on Item 1 - Fred Oyama cannot be denied privileges of U.S. citizen per *equal protection* clause of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

Supreme Court did not rule on Item 2.

# 1948 Sei Fujii Buys Land

- 1948, Issei Sei Fujii bought land in East LA to test *Alien Land Laws*.
- 1952, California Supreme Court overturn *Alien Land Laws*.



# Target of Alien Land Law

**Between 1912 and 1946, the California State Attorney General instituted 76 escheat proceeding against “Aliens Ineligible for Citizenship”. There were**

- **73 Japanese**
- **2 Chinese**
- **1 India (Hindu)**
- **0 Korean**

**No data on escheat proceedings brought by local District Attorneys.**

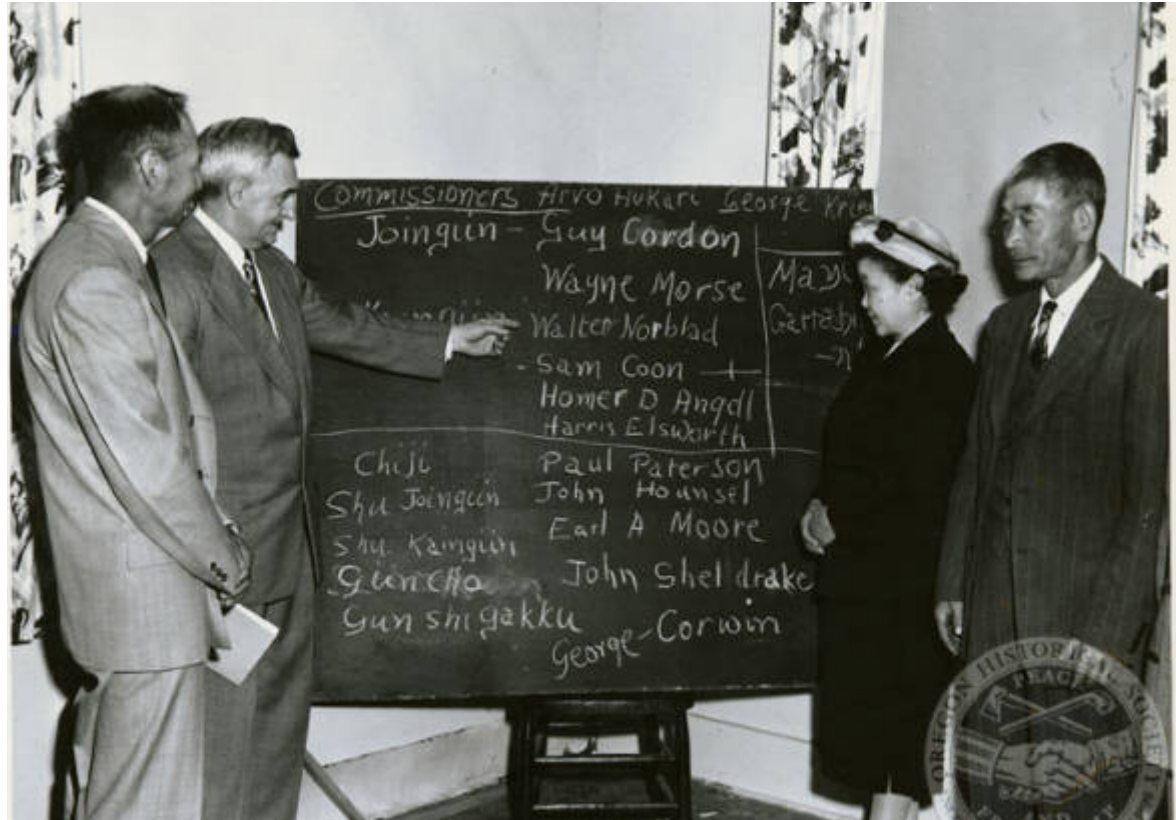
# 1952 Issei Citizenship

## ***McCarran-Walter Act***

- **Everybody can become U.S. Citizen**
- **Immigration quota. Japan allotted 185**

**President Truman claimed the immigration restriction was racist and vetoed it. Veto was over ridden.**

# Issei finally can become U.S. Citizen.



# Issei Attaining American Citizenship, April 1953

# Immigration Act of 1965

From 1885 to 1924

- 200,000 Japanese immigrated to Hawaii
- 180,000 Japanese immigrated to mainland

*Immigration Act of 1965* banned discrimination based on race, religion or national origin. Preference given to uniting families and needed workers.

After 1965 more immigrants came from Asian and Latin American than from Europe

## Japanese Population in U.S.

Year	Pop.	Year	Pop.	Year	Pop.
<u>1870</u>	55	<u>1920</u>	111,000	<u>1970</u>	591,000
<u>1880</u>	148	<u>1930</u>	139,000	<u>1980</u>	701,000
<u>1890</u>	2,000	<u>1940</u>	127,000	<u>1990</u>	848,000
<u>1900</u>	24,000	<u>1950</u>	142,000	<u>2000</u>	797,000
<u>1910</u>	72,000	<u>1960</u>	464,000	<u>2010</u>	763,000

# **1956 Voters Repeal *Alien Land Laws***

**1956, JACL persuaded California Legislature to put on ballot *Proposition 13* which repeals the *Alien Land Laws*.**

**Groups such as American Legion, farm groups, labor unions, *LA Times*, both major parties and others that in 1920 supported *Alien Land Law* now supports Proposition 13.**

**Proposition 13 was approved by over 2.5 million voters in a Two-to-one majority.**



# State of Washington

- **1921, Washington enacted *Alien Land Law*.**
- **Seattle JACL Chapter Led Repeal Drive**
  - **1960; Repeal Referendum fail**
  - **1962; Repeal Referendum fail**
  - **1964; Set It Out**
  - **1966; Repeal Referendum win**

# Florida Still Has *Alien Land Law*

States that enacted *Law* 1913-1926;

California, Arizona, Washington,  
Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico,  
Idaho, Montana, Oregon and  
Florida

States that enacted *Law* during WWII;

Arkansas, Minnesota, Nebraska,  
Utah and Wyoming

Florida's *Alien Land Law* is in its  
constitution.

2008, citizens of Florida voted  
to retain its *Alien Land Law*



Greater Orlando Asian American Bar  
Association - *Alien Land Law* Project

# **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 1913 Alien Land Law**

## **Issei – The Immigrant Group**

- **Racial & economic prejudice**
- **Not feel wanted**
- **No vote, no elective office**
- **Fought back in the courts**

## **Issei were self selected group**

- **Decide to immigrate**
- **Decide to get married**
- **Decide to stay in America**

## **Legacy of Issei – The Nisei**

- **100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup> RCT/MIS**
- **Model Citizen**
- **Nisei are respected**



**Sociologist say how well a minority population does in the U.S. depends on The Immigrant Group.**

# Historic Wintersburg Village

Located in Huntington Beach in Orange County

- 1910, Wintersburg Japanese Presbyterian Mission
- 1910, Manse
- 1912, Furuta House
- 1912, Barn





# Wintersburg Village and Rainbow

Mission, Manse &  
Second Church

Furuta House

Warner Ave.

Nichols Lane

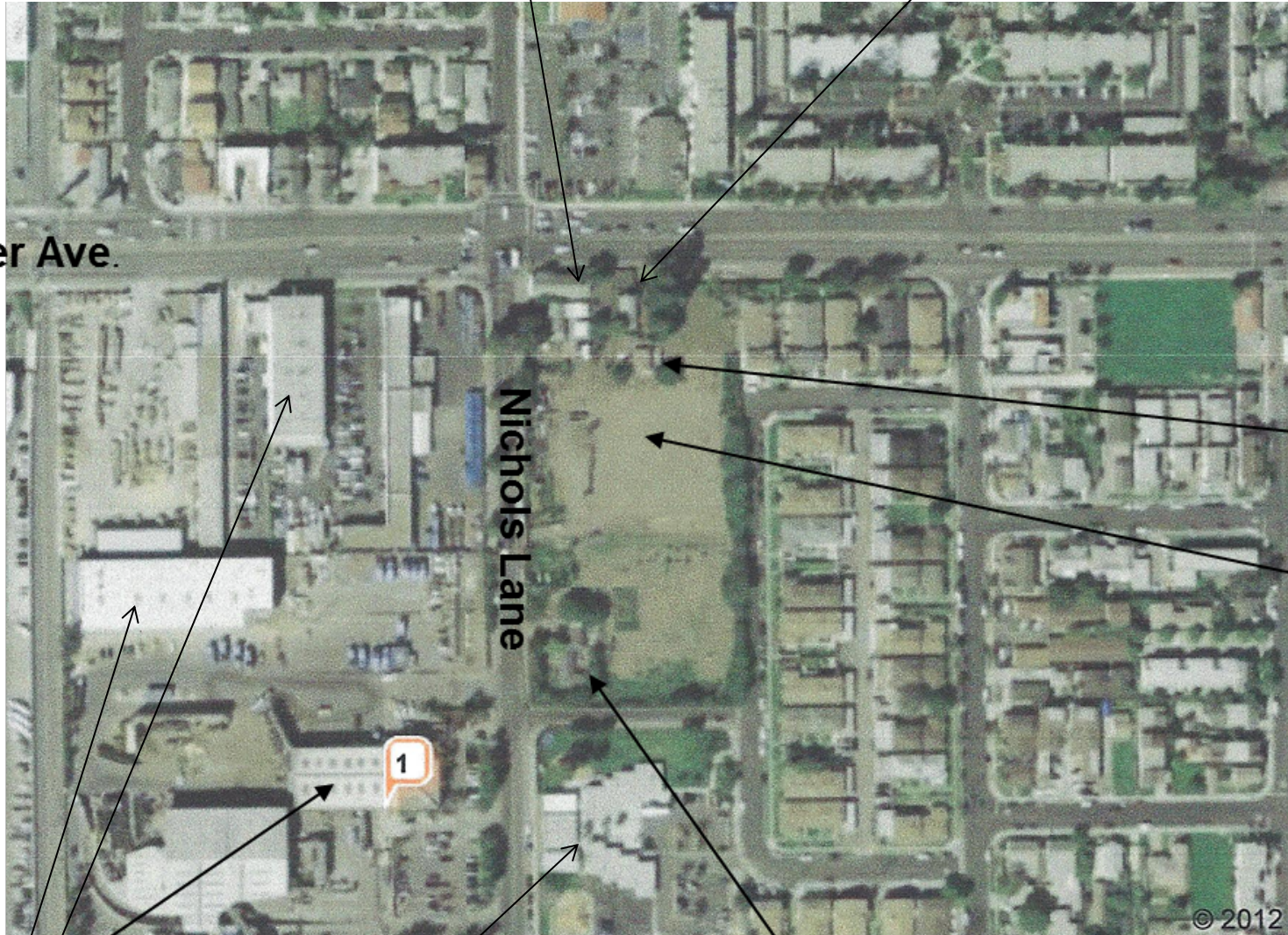
Barn

Furuta  
Farm

Rainbow

School

Son's House, 1947





# Tuna Canyon Detention Station



# The End

# 2nd California Constitution

**1880 Constitution. Article XIX was titled “Chinese”. Excerpts are;**

- **Section 2. No corporation . . . shall . . . employ directly or indirectly, in any capacity, any Chinese or Mongolian.**
- **Section 3. No Chinese shall be employed on any State, county, municipal, or other public work, except in punishment for crime.**
- **Section 4. The presence of foreigners ineligible to become citizens of the United States is declared to be dangerous to the well-being of the State, and the Legislature shall discourage their immigration by all means within its power . . . The Legislature shall delegate all necessary power to . . . cities and towns of this State for the removal of Chinese without the limits of such cities and towns . . .**



# Rock Spring Massacre, 1885



**Rock Spring Wyoming, Sept 2, 1885. White miners attacked China Town. 28 Chinese killed, 15 injured, 75 houses burned. It touched off wave of violence against Chinese in other parts of US.**



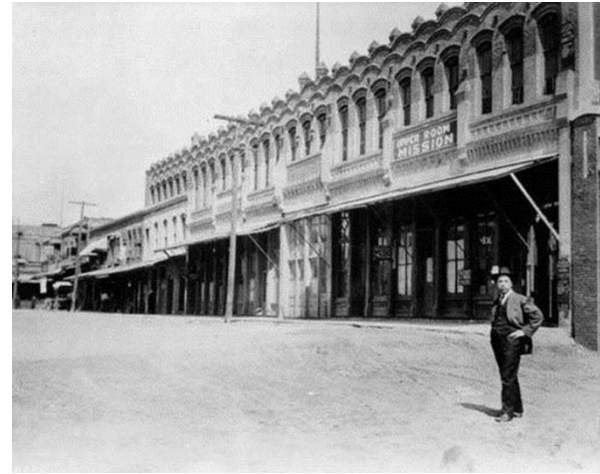
# Anti-Chinese Riot, Seattle 1886



# 1871 LA China Town Massacre



**Nigger  
Alley**



- 1871, LA was bawdy frontier town of 5,000.
- Chinese were successful, paid off police and resented by others.
- Oct. 24, a “Tong War” erupted between two tongs over a woman.
- Bar owner Thompson got caught in a crossfire and died.
- 500 white men entered “Nigger Alley” to attack, rob and kill.
- Every Chinese building was burned.
- 18 Chinese were tortured and hung from gallows.
- Largest lynching in U.S. history.
- Bumped *Great Chicago Fire* off front page of *New York Times*.
- 8 convicted but conviction overturned on prosecutor mistake.



# Separate Schools for Chinese & Japanese

- **1921 *State Political Code* allows separate schools for Chinese , Japanese and Mongolian. Once separate schools were established, they could not attend integrated schools.**
- **Separate schools established for Japanese in Florin, Walnut Grove, Isleton and Courtland. Operated until WWII.**
- **After WWII, separate schools for Mexicans in Westminster, Garden Grove and Santa Ana.**
- **1946, Mendez sues Westminster. Court says per 1921 *Code* separate schools only for Chinese, Japanese and Mongolian - not for Mexican. Mexican attend White schools**
- **1947, California repeal separate school law.**
- **1954, Brown vs. Board of Ed invalidates “separate but equal”**

# ***The House on Lemon Street***



**During WWII, Harada Family interned in Topaz. Jukichi and Ken Harada died in Topaz.**

**Sumi Harada returned from Topaz and lived in House until 2000.**

**House donated to City of Riverside**

**National Historic Site**

**City recently bought adjacent house as office**

# National and International News





# 1922 Takao Ozawa Denied Citizenship

- 1906, Naturalization Act allowed whites and Africans to be naturalized.
- 1917, Japanese Association chose Issei Takao Ozawa as “Test Case”.
- George Wickersham, Pres. Taft’s U.S. Attorney General, was Chief Counsel.
- Ozawa claimed his skin was white and applied for citizenship.
- 1922, U.S. Supreme Court ruled only Caucasian were white.
- Bhagat Thind, an Indian Sikh, was Aryan and thus Caucasian and got citizenship.
- 1923, U.S. Supreme Court ruled “all whites were Caucasian but not all Caucasian were white”.
- Revoke Thind’s citizenship.



# Citizenship of Woman

**In the distant past, citizenship not important to women because they could not vote nor own property**

**Traditionally, citizenship of woman was that of husband**

- **Woman marries foreigner, woman loses US Citizenship and become citizen of husband's country.**
- **Man marries foreigner, wife becomes US citizen, unless she was from a race ineligible for citizenship**

## ***Suffrage Movement***

- **Vote for women**
- **Independent Citizenship for women**



# **Repeal *Anti-Miscegenation Laws***

**After the Civil War, 11 States repealed their *Anti-Miscegenation Laws*.**

**1947: U.S. servicemen and Japanese women who wanted to marry were subject to background checks. Barred was marriage of white servicemen to Japanese women if they were employed in undesirable occupations.**

**1948: 30 States had *Anti-Miscegenation Laws*. 15 States prohibited marriage of Whites to Asians**

**1948: California Supreme Court overturned *Anti-Miscegenation Law* in *Perez v. Sharp*. First State to do so in 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

**1967: U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Anti-Miscegenation Laws* in *Loving v. Virginia*. Supporters of Loving were NCAA, JACL and coalition of Catholic Bishops.**

# 1948 Oyama U.S. Supreme Court Opinion

In the 1948 judgment, Justices Murphy and Rutledge wrote regarding the *1913 Alien Land Law*;

**“This measure though limited to agricultural lands, represented the first official act of discrimination aimed at the Japanese . . . The immediate purpose, of course, was to restrict Japanese farm competition.”**

**“The more basic purpose, of course, was to irritate the Japanese, to make economic life in California as uncomfortable and unprofitable for them as legally possible.”**

# 1948 Sei Fujii Buys Land

- 1903, Sei Fujii came to U.S.
- Graduate from USC Law School but as alien could not practice law.
- 1928, won U.S. Supreme Court decision to build first Japanese Hospital in U.S.
- Founded *Kashu Mainichi*. Crusade against Little Tokyo gambling clubs.
- 1948, Fujii bought land in East LA to test *Alien Land Laws*.
- 1952, California Supreme Court overturn *Alien Land Laws*.



# Sei Fujii vs. State of California

**1952, California Supreme Court overturn *Alien Land Laws*. Chief Justice Gibson wrote majority opinion**

**“... Legislation which results in such discrimination imposes upon the ineligible alien an economic status inferior to that of all other persons living in the State and interferes with his right to earn a living.”**

**“... There is nothing to indicate that those alien residents who are racially ineligible for citizenship possess characteristics which are dangerous to the legitimate interests of the state, or that they as a class, might use the land for purposes injurious to public morals, safety, or welfare. Accordingly, we hold that the Alien Land Law is invalid as in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment.”**

# *Lil Tokyo Reporter*, Received Many Awards



## **Best Short Film**

Sacramento International  
Dis Orient Oregon Asian American  
Treasure Coast International  
LA International Underground

## **Best Narrative Short**

California International Shorts Festival

## **Best Cinematography**

Treasure Coast International  
Asians on Film

## **Best Editing**

Treasure Coast International

## **Best Actor**

LA International Underground – Chris Tashima

## **Best Supporting Actors**

Asians on Film – Eijiro Ozaki  
Asians on Film – Keiko Agena

## **Additional Awards**

Pacific Citizen's Extraordinary Asian Americans

## **Audience Awards**

Downtown Film Festival LA  
LA International Underground

# **Anti-Miscegenation Laws**

**1660s: Virginia and Maryland prohibited marriage of white to black slaves or indentured servants (whites)**

**1880: California passed law that prohibited white person from marrying a Negro, mulatto, Mongolian or Malay.**

**Anti-Miscegenation laws were to prevent whites from marrying minority – “Keep White Race Pure”. States usually did not care if minority married each other. A few states forbid marriage between Negroes and Indians.**

**1906: California passed law prohibiting Chinese from marrying non-Chinese.**

**1909: California amended 1880 law to include Japanese.**

# Citizenship

***1790, Naturalization Act*** limited naturalization to immigrants who were “free white persons” of “good moral character”. Blacks and Asians are ineligible for citizenship.

***1868, 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment.*** All person born in U.S. are citizens of U.S. Slaves born in the U.S. are citizens but slaves born in Africa or West Indies are ineligible for citizenship. Nisei are U.S. citizens.

***1924, Indian Citizenship Act.*** Full U.S. Citizenship were granted to about 125,000 of 300,000 Native Americans.

***1943, Act to Repeal the Chinese Exclusion Acts*** allowed Chinese to become U.S. Citizens.

# **Build a Mission in Wintersburg**

- **Thriving Japanese Community developed in Orange County around Wintersburg Village.**
- **One purpose of the Mission was to encourage Japanese bachelors to start families and establish roots in America.**
- **In order to raise \$1,500 for the undertaking, the Issei wrote a Prospectus which gave the reason they wanted to build the Mission**

**“.. not having a church makes Americans distrustful of us and allows them to judge us a low class people to be looked down upon. That is the reason why we want to establish a church”.**



# December 16, Purification Rite



**Reverend Alfred Tsuyuki of Shinto Church conducted Purification Rite**