

# KDAJC HISTORY PROJECT

## SUMMERLAND SECTION

The contents of this section consists largely of materials prepared and/or gathered by members of the Summerland History Committee, including: Art & Mary Matsu, Frank & Marge Kuroda, Mits Hikichi, Masao Aoki, & Linda Hoshizaki. KDAJC is pleased to have had the Summerland J/C community participate in this project.

### MEMORIES OF SUMMERLAND JAPANESE

A large increase in the Summerland Japanese population occurred between 1910 and 1920. Meetings and social events up to that time were held at private homes, namely the Tadas, Agenos, Uzawas, and Imayoshis. An organization was formed called Doe Shi Kai (meaning: Coming to New World with Great Hopes) and the need for a larger meeting place became evident. In 1924, at a meeting held in Ageno's packing house, an idea was proposed.

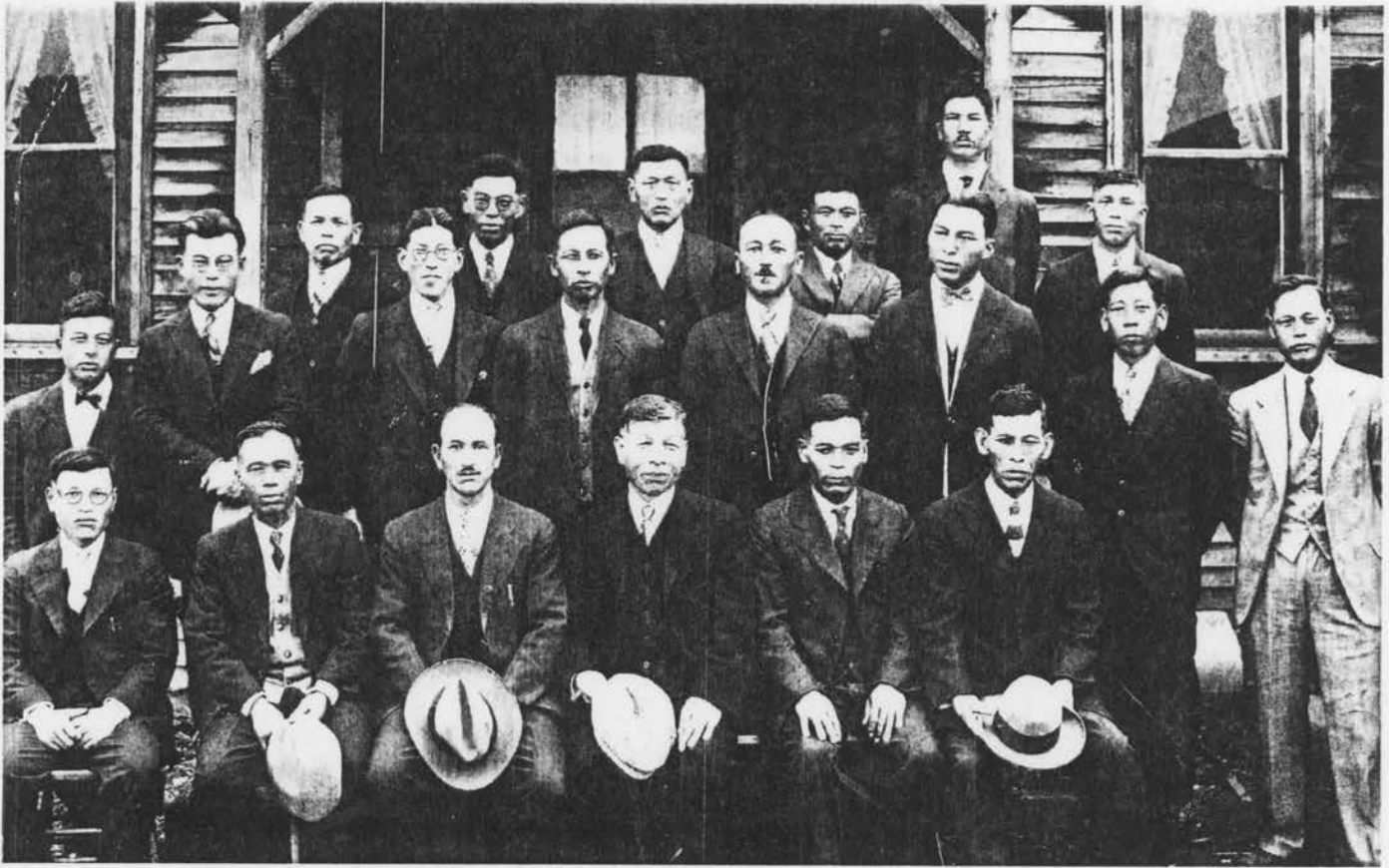
The idea was to purchase a suitable house from the nearby settlement of Mineola, and move it to Summerland. Mineola (near present day Faulder), at one time had a busy sawmill which had closed down, leaving a ghost town of big and small houses. On the walls of some of these buildings were Japanese writing, calendars and pictures, indicating that Japanese had worked there at one time. A suitable building was purchased for about \$100, and with the help of the whole Japanese community, using teams of horses and wagons, the building was dismantled and moved to a site on the present day Julia St. It is unknown what price was paid for the land. With volunteer labour, straightening old nails, etc., the hall was completed in 1926.

The first organization to oversee the hall was the Japanese Farmer's Association. The hall became a popular focal point for activities such as billiards, ping pong, crafts, and cooking. Also included was an outdoor tennis court. The facility was also used for the Japanese United Church, Women's Institute, and for Japanese Language school.

The Japanese Language School was instrumental in passing on the cultural heritage to the Nisei children. Mrs. Sada Matsumiya (1926-1930) was the first teacher. Mr. Yoshida was the next, followed by Mr. Matsuda. An experienced teacher from Japan, Mrs. Isa Nakamura taught from 1933 to 1940. When WW II broke out, The Farmer's Association and the Language School were disbanded by order of the wartime authorities. In 1947, after much controversy, and under restrictive regulations, a Japanese Canadian Club was formed, and exists to this day.

One name that keeps popping up is Miss Sinclair. She befriended many Japanese and undertook to teach some of them the English language. As well, she introduced them to Christianity, and the United Church. The majority of newcomers to Summerland were Buddhists, but through the work of people such as Miss Sinclair, many of them embraced Christianity. Mr. Yamabe was one of the first Japanese in Summerland to be baptized. This early Christian influence probably contributed to Kutch Imayoshi and Richard Yamabe going into the ministry. It is interesting to note that in some Christian homes, there was a small alcove with a shrine, and small offerings of food, indicating that it was very difficult to shed every vestige of their religious upbringing. In 1925, Rev. Sato was the Minister in the Japanese United Church, followed by Rev. Yoshioka in 1930, and Rev. Kabayama in 1945. A Buddhist temple was never established in Summerland, but one was organized in Kelowna.

The Farmer's Association Hall was sold on January 12, 1973, for \$5580 when it became apparent that the cost of upkeep and maintenance was too high. The Hall held many fond memories for young and old.



SUMMERLAND JAPANESE FARMERS ASSOCIATION: Back Row, L-R; Mr. Kayano, Art Matsu, T. Kato, S. Jomori, T. Kubokawa, B. Inaba. Second Row, L-R; K. Arase, M. Kita, K. Mori, K. Imayoshi, Y. Aoki, S. Kita, K. Matsunoshita, R. Nakamura. Front Row, L-R; K. Yamabe, M. Kuroda, G. Tada, S. Uzawa, F. Ageno, M. Kita. J080.

Today, the IOOF hall is rented for occasions such as the annual New Year's party.

Bob Yamabe and Art Matsu started a baseball team in the early thirties. They both had some knowledge of the sport while in Japan, and learned through watching, hearing, and reading of the famous Vancouver Asahi baseball team. The Summerland Hinode baseball club, made up of 10-15 year old boys, was formed with Bob Yamabe as manager, and Art Matsu as coach. Bob Yamabe's residence became the centre for meetings, and for making baseball uniforms with the Hinode (Rising Sun) crest. This was a big attraction for the whole Japanese community. Many young heroes were produced at that time, among them, Jim Ageno, a promising young athlete who excelled in every sport. Sadly, he died of tuberculosis at the young age of 18. Rev. Kutch Imayoshi is presently working on a book about the Hinode Baseball Club.

When the old Summerland Hospital burned down in Sept. 1919, the Japanese community donated \$400 towards the building of the new hospital, which opened June, 1921. In June of 1967, during Canada's Centennial year, a modern General Hospital was built. The Japanese community donated a "Toro" lantern, which stands today in the green shrubbery. Rev. Kutch Imayoshi was the Master of Ceremonies for the official opening, and pioneer Mr. Matsutaro "Kew" Kita unveiled a plaque, commemorating the occasion.

There were only a few Japanese in Summerland in 1907-1908. The total population (including all ethnic groups) was about 200 and only a few houses comprised the town. Lower Summerland was the town at the time, but eventually West Summerland became the main town. In 1964, West Summerland officially became Summerland. Some of the Japanese came directly from Japan, while others came via Hawaii. They came seeking jobs in railway construction, pick and shovel jobs, cutting wood, or working on the farms of Mr. Agur and Mr. Logie. At the close of WW I, the families began to rent bare land farms, growing vegetables on a share basis with the white owners. In 1920, the Ageno Packinghouse was built on Peach Orchard Road, to handle this produce. It unfortunately burned down in 1930, after only 10 years of operation. The Free Methodist Church stands on that site today.



Summerland Fujinkai 1934: Back, L-R; Suma Kuroda, Sakae Kita, S. Yamabe, Sada Kuroda, Mary Uzawa, Tomie Kubokawa Middle: K. Kubokawa, Mrs. Kodama, Fumi Tada. Front; M. Kato S. Aoki, S. Tada, T. Kuroda, Mrs. Uzawa, I. Nakamura. J054.



Fujinkai 1936: Back L-R; Mrs. Imayoshi, Mrs. M. Kato, Mrs. Aoki, Mrs. M. Matsu, Mrs. S. Jomori, Mrs. Tada, Mrs. Furuya. Front; Mrs. Kubokawa, Mrs. Kodama, Mrs. Inaba, Mrs. T. Kuroda, Mrs. Uzawa, Mrs. I. Nakamura, Mrs. Yamabe. J049.

An integral part of life for the Japanese in the Interior, was the annual, or semi-annual visit, of the travelling salesman. He would come by train from the coast, and be met by someone from the community. He would then be transported around to the various families, or he would have to walk. Mr. Kitamura from Taishodo Drugs in Vancouver, looked after the health of the population, with his assortment of patent medicines. Mr. Irizawa from Kelowna, who had his own vehicle, kept everyone supplied with Japanese food, such as kazunoko, shizuko, canned goods, miso, etc. Who can forget Mr. Tsuyuki and his silent movies, that he brought to life with his dubbed in voice, imitating each and every character! Never mind that the lip synch was never correct, the audience usually came away teary-eyed and satisfied. Mr. Harry Chiba used to bring a truck with salted salmon (shiozake) from the coast.

It seems that the immigrants brought with them, their love of song and dance. Mrs. Arase taught the young ladies the traditional odoris, which they performed at various functions, in beautiful kimonos. Mr. Art Matsu, being from a fishing village, was familiar with the Dojo Sukui, which is danced to the music of Yasuki Bushi and Kagoshima Bushi. He taught the young ladies this old Japanese form of line dancing. At joyous celebrations such as weddings, it was customary to invite guests to sing, and is a tradition still observed.

In the same tradition, a handful of men and women practiced the uniquely Japanese form of poetry, called "haiku." Among them were Mrs. Nakamura, Mr. and Mrs. Furuya, and Mrs. Uegama. Some of these exquisite poems were written with "sumi", using Japanese calligraphy, on special cardboard pieces called "tanjaku."

The Japanese population kept abreast of the news, in the pre-war years, through reading the Tairiku Shinbun, and the Canada Shinbun. The local correspondent for these newspapers was Mr. Art Matsu.

Perhaps the following is not unique to Summerland history, but for many, they are nostalgic memories. A Japanese tradition that is a nightly ritual, is the "ofuro." Usually it was a separate building, containing a wooden tub, galvanized or copper bottom with wooden slats on top, and wood heated. Remember the long, hot, steamy, relaxing soaks, and stepping out into the cold, clear, starry night, and the short run back to the house?

A custom that holds fond memories was the annual "mochitsuki" in preparation for New Year's Day. A special rice was cooked, and pounded into a glutinous dough with a large wooden mallet, in a waist high wooden mortar (usu), made from about a 20 inch diameter wooden block. Picture kneading bread. There would be the woman leaning over the mortar to knead the dough, and then ducking out of the way as the man swung the mallet. This event is still carried on in Summerland, by the Aoki and Jomori families. Also associated with New Years, was the ritual of the men going from house to house, with New Years greetings. They were invited in, and the hosts would serve them food and drink. Food consisted of items seldom



Japanese School, 1935. Back, L-R; Nobukatsu Aoki, Mary Uzawa, Haruko Inaba, Fumi Tada, Suma Kuroda. Middle, L-R, Violet Uzawa, George Uzawa, Fumi Inaba, Katsumi Imayoshi, Min Kita, Masao Aoki, Ichiro Tada, Roy Kuroda, Jim Ageno. Front, L-R; Frank Kuroda, Miwa Tada, Mae Inaba, Teacher Isa Nakamura, Nora Uzawa, Sumiko Imayoshi, Asaka Furuya, Hiro Furuya, Sam Imayoshi. J109.



HINODE J/C Baseball Team, 1935. Back, L-R, Jim Ageno, Min Kita, Art Matsu, N. Aoki, Eric Kita, Ted Koyama, Bob Yamabe. Front: Katsumi Imayoshi, Fumi Inaba, Roy Kuroda, H. Sumida, Chew Tada, George Uzawa. Bat boy, Richard Yamabe. J051.

seen at other times of the year; sushi, raw fish, agar, herring roe on seaweed, rice with red beans, whole shrimp, kelp, and numerous other delicacies. Imagine the poor guy at the end of the day!

Social gatherings took place on an annual basis. The Japanese picnic was usually held in June, at various locations such as Garnet Valley, Farm Bench, Shingle Creek, Experimental Farm Gardens, and most recently, at Okanagan Provincial Park. Foot races, games of skill, and just visiting, was the order of the day. The annual New Years party, was, and still is, held during the first week or two in January.

It would be a huge omission not to mention the high priority placed on education by the Japanese community. A very high percentage of Summerland Nisei and Sansei not only excelled in school, but went on to post secondary institutions, and are now scattered throughout North America. They are too numerous to list here, but include teachers, doctors, dentists, geologists, clergy, nurses, etc. Their names may be found under individual family histories. Others went into business or took up farming.

At the outbreak of war with Japan, a sign was put up at the entrance of Summerland, "Germans and Japs Keep out." It was Mr. Clair Elsey who tore the sign down, and by so doing demonstrated the friendship and respect the Summerland citizens held for the Japanese. It was a tribute to the whole community, and indicative of the warmth and understanding displayed during those trying times.

In Sept. 1985, a Twinning Ceremony of Sister Cities was performed with the city of Toyosato in Japan. Mr. and Mrs. Art Matsu, at the request of Summerland Mayoress Rita Hermiston, travelled to Japan with the Mayoress and the Summerland contingent, for the Sister City signing ceremony between Summerland and Toyosato, during Japan Expo. About four years ago, five small towns around Toyosato, amalgamated to form the science city of Tsukuba. The friendship continues to this day, with annual student cultural exchanges, during the summer months, for 10-12 day homestays in private homes. As well, the mayors and aldermen exchange visits.

There are only two Issei pioneers still living in Summerland. Mr. Kichinozo Imayoshi who is 104 years old, lives with his son Sam. Despite his years, he is looking forward to seeding and planting his vegetable garden this coming spring. Mrs. Shinako Yamabe is 92 years old, and lives comfortably with loving care from her daughter Amy.

A history of the Japanese, not only in Summerland, but throughout Canada, must mention those incredible women that immigrated as wives of those first pioneers. Some only had a snapshot of their future husbands, some had their families arrange their marriages, others had remained back in Japan with their children, while their mates went to Canada to scout the situation. These women are the people that we look back on as "ichiban kawaiso", for the indescribable loneliness, the rude awakening to pioneer life in a



DR. "OMOKAWA" Seminar Participants: Back, L-R; Mr. Furuya, Matsube Kita, School teacher?, M. Kitagawa, Art Matsu. Front, L-R; Mrs. Jomori, Mrs. Kuroda, Dr. "O" (?), Mr. Ageno, Mrs. Kato & son, Shoichi. It is thought that Dr. "O" was a practitioner of wholistic health methodology, and held seminars in the area. Photo taken at Ageno residence about 1930. KDJ 194.



Summerland Nisei Girls Softball Team: Back, L-R; Ruth Nakamura, Yuriko Jomori, Marge Yamabe, Tomiko Kawasaki, Joyce Jomori. Front, L-R; Miwa Tada, Chizuko Furuya, Mae Inaba, Hideko Kawasaki. 1946. J079.

strange land, their hard work in the fields and orchards, as well as in the home. The fine and responsible children they raised are a tribute to their memory.

Despite the close knit atmosphere among the Nisei, over time the Japanese community has assimilated with the community. We find second and third generation Japanese Canadians involved in every aspect of community life, ranging from Elks, Kinsmen, Toastmasters, Chamber of Commerce, and Girl Guides. They are especially active in sports, such as baseball, curling and hockey.

The Issei never quite managed to master the English language, but the younger generation speak only English. It is sad that they have lost this part of their heritage.

The young generation can take pride in the reputation their forefathers established for hard work, dependability, and honesty. They distinguished themselves with quiet dignity, in spite of many hardships, and they contributed a great deal to this little community of Summerland, and to Canada.

#### NOTEWORTHY EVENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Three daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Nakagawa were crowned Summerland Blossom Queen in three different years.
- In March 1990, to commemorate his 100th birthday, Mr. K. Imayoshi donated 15 cut leaf weeping birch to Summerland, and unveiled the plaque marking the revitalization of Main Street.
- For the Coronation in 1937, the Japanese contributed by making thousands of paper cherry blossoms, and decorating rows of trees between the two schools with them, along with imported colorful Japanese lanterns.
- During WW II, the Japanese Women's group assisted the Red Cross by knitting, sewing, and whatever way possible. In the period 1935 to 1960, it was customary for the Japanese Club to donate fruit and vegetables to the local hospital.
- Around 1940, Japanese flowering cherry trees were donated to schools and hospitals, but later these had to be destroyed because they developed Little Cherry Disease.
- For Summerland's 50th Anniversary parade in 1956, the JC community decorated a beautiful float, featuring Japanese girls in colorful kimonos, while the younger girls performed traditional dances. Four Issei, namely Messrs. Kato, Imayoshi, Kuroda, and Kita, rode in a horse drawn buggy in the parade.

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS

### VERRIER TROPHY:

1946 Alfred Kita  
1948 Ed Kita  
1958 Ed Matsu  
1959 Mitzi Jomori

### BURSARIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

1974 Diane Kita Summerland Teachers Association Bursary  
1978 Carole Aoki Hospital Auxiliary  
1978 Mariko Nakagawa Thelma Rothwell Bursary  
1979 Mark Inouye Elks  
1981 Kim Arase Credit Union  
1982 Mary Nakagawa Drop-in  
1982 Mary Nakagawa Summerland Chamber of Commerce  
1982 Cathy Jomori Summerland Teachers Association Bursary  
1984 Sharon Jomori Credit Union  
1985 Cheryl Konno Summerland Teachers Association Bursary  
1989 Lori Hikichi Kiwanis  
1989 Kim Konno Thelma Rothwell Bursary  
1990 Angie Kita Credit Union Scholarship  
1990 Angie Kita Okanagan College Entrance Scholarship  
1991 Leanne Jomori Okanagan College Entrance Scholarship  
1991 Anne Nakagawa Kiwanis  
1991 Anne Nakagawa Credit Union Scholarship

### DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE SUMMERLAND JAPANESE COMMUNITY

Kuroda, Fumio	(1) 1912	Kuroda, Tori	(78) 1963
Koga, Sumiko	(1) 1918	Nakagawa, Shizu	(60) 1963
Koga, Yoshino	(6) 1918	Izutsu, Kiyoshi	(71) 1963
Ageno, Kaoru	(1) 1918	Fujita, Hideo	(43) 1964
Okubo, Minajiro	(32) 1918	Kuroda, Magozaemon	(83) 1966
Kuroda, Tadashi	(38) 1918	Kita, Shigeru	(60) 1967
Kuroda, Hanako	(1) 1920	Kawakami, Tsunetaro	(84) 1967
Ueno, Shigekichi	(58) 1921	Kita, Masae	(40) 1968
Nose, Seikuro	(35) 1923	Kawasaki, Yoshiko	(68) 1969
Kubokawa, Kimie	(1) 1926	Kubokawa, Kameji	(76) 1970
Kato, Taketoshi	(1) 1926	Furuya, Gisaku	(87) 1971
Ageno, Mitsue	(5) 1926	Jomori, Seiji	(82) 1971
Shimizu, Minosuke	(47) 1927	Aoki, Yoshio	(82) 1972
Ageno, Emi	(37) 1929	Inaba, Tomu	(55) 1973
Kanamori, Kohei	(40) 1929	Nakamura, Ryoji	(77) 1973
Kodama, Minoru	(43) 1929	Uegama, Imataro	(86) 1973
Kodama, Teruko	(1) 1929	Kita, Matsutaro	(90) 1974
Ageno, Misao	(12) 1932	Wakabayashi, Nobuyoshi	(77) 1975
Kodama, Hisakichi	(46) 1936	Kita, Natsue	(91) 1979

Ageno, Nobuyuki	(18)1937	Kubokawa, Tomishige	(95) 1979
Jomori, Makoto	(1) 1937	Nakamura, Isa	(76) 1981
Jomori, Itsu	(1) 1937	Yamabe, Kiyoshi	(81) 1982
Arase, Kyoko	(0) 1940	Furuya, Koman	(87) 1983
Iada, Fumi	(20)1942	Aoki, Sayo	(88) 1984
Kita, Matsubei	(39)1946	Kato, Masuo	(85) 1987
Kita, Mitsugu Alfred	(21)1948	Inaba, Kiku	(92) 1987
Iada, Takataro	(66)1953	Kato, Takeshi	(98) 1988
Saito, Yohachi	(76)1953	Tada, Sugae	(95) 1988
Fujita, Norman	(1) 1955	Imayoshi, Tsuru	(87) 1988
Aoki, Suzanne	(6) 1956	Nakagawa, Koichiro	(89) 1989
Kawasaki, Tsuneo	(69)1958	Aoki, Nobukatsu	(70) 1989
Inaba, Bummei	(76)1961	Jomori, Tsuma	(84) 1993
		Matsu, Art Asayoshi	(88) 1994

## ALPHABETICAL LISTING OF SUMMERLAND AREA JAPANESE CANADIAN FAMILY HISTORIES

### AOKI, YOSHIO

Yoshio Aoki was born in Chiba-ken, Japan, in 1890. He came to Canada in 1907, landing first in Victoria, and then sailing to Vancouver. There he worked for the Pacific Lumber Co., as well as other employers. In 1918, he married SAYO AKIYAMA, also from Chiba-ken, in Vancouver. A son, Nobukatsu, was born in December 1919. In spring 1920, they moved to Summerland, to the Trout Creek area. Yoshio helped plant apple trees in the Brown orchards, which later became the R. Towgood orchard. He also grew tomatoes on the Morgan orchard, between the young trees. In 1924, he began working for Gartrell farms with Mr. Yamabe, and remained there until his retirement. They grew ground crops until the young trees started bearing.

The Japanese in Summerland formed the Japanese Farmers Association, in which the Aokis were members. In 1925, when Masao was born, the family moved to a house on Okanagan Lake. The boys enjoyed swimming in the summer, and skating in the winter. In the early thirties, Yoshio built them a row boat. They recall it being very tippy, but they had many hours of enjoyment, fishing and rowing on the lake. Nobukatsu and Masao were educated in Summerland.

Yoshio liked fishing, as well as hunting pheasants, which were plentiful in the early days. He often used to entertain the family, with his trumpet and accordion playing. On Saturday nights, he would crank up the old Model "T" and take the family to town for their weekly grocery shopping. That was their highlight of the week. After retiring, he enjoyed growing vegetables for his own use, and Sayo grew flowers around the house. She also did a lot of knitting and crocheting. Yoshio and Sayo belonged to the Summerland Japanese Club.

Their son NOBUKATSU married TOSHIKO OBARA in 1941. They raised two sons and one daughter. After a lengthy battle with cancer, Nobukatsu died in 1989. Yoshio passed

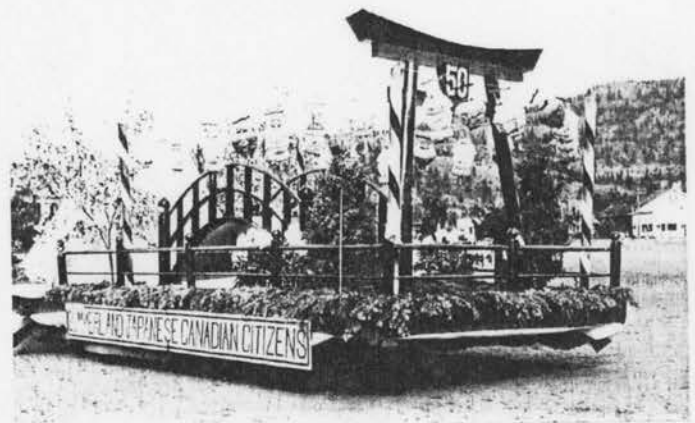
away in 1972, at 82 years of age, and Sayo passed away in 1984, at age 88.

### AOKI, NOBUKATSU

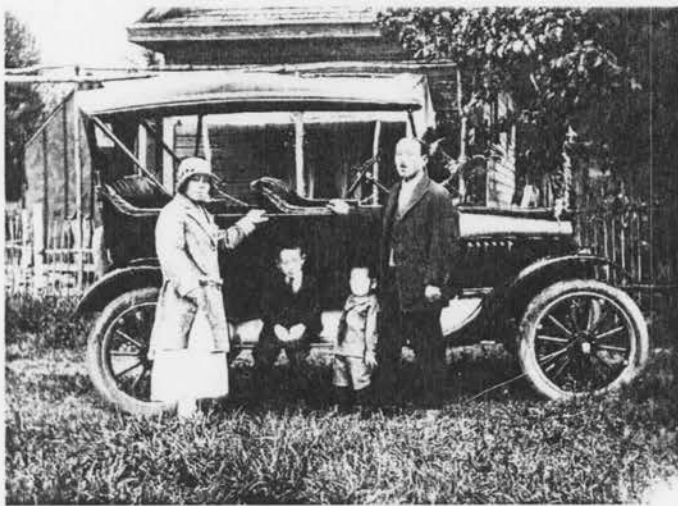
Nobukatsu Aoki was born on December 9, 1919, in Vancouver, B.C., the elder son of Mr. and Mrs. Yoshio Aoki. Masao was his younger brother. Nobukatsu and his parents moved to Summerland in 1920, and he was educated there. After High School graduation, he initially did orchard work but in 1957, he took a correspondence course to become an electrical technician, and was hired by the Corporation of Summerland to work in the electrical Department. He remained there for 28 years. Nobukatsu played baseball for the Hinode Team, and was very interested in photography. After retirement he enjoyed gardening and reading.

Nobukatsu married TOSHIKO OBARA on Dec. 11, 1943.

### SCENES FROM THE PAST



Summerland Japanese Canadian Community Float, 1956.J106



1926 Photo: L-R, Sayo, Nobukatsu, Masao, & Yoshio Aoki. J086.

and had four children, Alan, Suzanne (deceased), Richard, and Carole, and four grandchildren, Jonathan, Jennifer, Tyler and Jeremy.

Nobukatsu passed away on Dec. 23, 1989 at age 70.

TOSHIKO (OBARA) AOKI was born in Vancouver, but grew up in Cumberland, B.C., and was educated there. In 1941 when war broke out, she and her family were evacuated to Hastings Park, in Vancouver, and they lived there for 6 1/2 months. Toshiko was relocated to Enderby, B.C., where she took a job as nanny for a wealthy family there, but the rest of the family moved to Alberta. Toshiko later moved to Vernon. After her marriage to Nobukatsu, she worked in the packing-house, on and off, for 20 years. Toshiko is now retired and is active at the Seniors' Drop-in Centre, and busy with the local Ladies' Hospital Auxiliary. She enjoys doing various handicrafts.

Son ALAN AOKI is parts manager for a Volkswagen dealership in Vancouver, and has two children. Son RICHARD AOKI is an electrician in Penticton, and has two children. Daughter CAROLE (AOKI) VOGEL works for a chartered accountant in Penticton.

#### AOKI, MASAO

Masao Aoki was born in Summerland in 1925, and was raised and educated there. The family lived in Trout Creek, on the shores of Okanagan Lake, and Masao recalls spending many enjoyable hours, swimming and fishing in the lake in summer, and skating in winter. Masao worked on a dairy farm and in local orchards for a few years, and in 1952, married TOMIE KUBOKAWA. Tomie was born in 1919, and was educated in Summerland schools. She worked in the orchards during summer holidays. In 1941 she went to school in Vancouver, and in 1942, when the evacuation order came through, she was able to come home to Summerland. She packed fruit at the B.C. Fruit Shippers packinghouse, and in 1948, started work at a G.M. garage (Pollock Motors in Kelowna), where she continued as stenographer for 5 years.

In 1953, Masao purchased 2 acres of orchard in Trout Creek, and leased several more acres which he worked, growing fruit until retirement. Masao and Tomie belonged to the

Summerland Japanese Club. They raised two sons, Donald and David, who went to school in Summerland, and helped their parents on the farm after school, and during summer holidays. The family enjoyed many picnics and fishing trips to the mountain lakes. In 1966 Tomie started work at Lake Area Co-op (B.C. Fruit Packers), in Summerland, as a stenographer. She worked for the firm for 19 years, until retirement. In her retirement, she enjoys gardening, knitting, sewing, fishing, and some travelling.

Masao retired in 1985, and now enjoys fishing and hunting, gardening, some travelling, woodworking, and working in the greenhouse.

Their son Don graduated from UBC with a degree in Commerce. He now works for Royal LePage Real Estate in Vernon. He married Laurie Moslin in 1989 and they have one son, Douglas, who was born in 1992.

Dave went to college in Kelowna for a year, but found it wasn't to his liking. He then worked for different businesses in Penticton, and is now employed at the new Bay store there. He married Pati Daechsel in 1990, and they now have a daughter Ashley, born in 1993. Dave and Pati live in Penticton.



Hirozo Fujita Family: L-R, Back; Hana (deceased 1950), Martin Hawley, Jim. Front: Haru, Colin, Hirozo. 1940 Photo. KDJ 230.

#### FUJITA (FUGETA), HIROZO & HARU

Hirozo Fujita, born in Fukushima, Japan, in 1889, immigrated to Hawaii about 1905, and proceeded to Canada in 1906. Arriving in Steveston, he found strong anti-Asian feelings at the coast and was advised to head inland. He spent the first winter in a tent shack in the Sheep Creek (Kootenays) area, unable to work because of the deep snow. He spent the next few years logging in the Revelstoke, Three Valley, Arrowhead area. He was also employed for a short time as a houseboy for the "Stonehouse" family in the Kelowna area. About 1915-17, he farmed along the Vernon Road (Orchard Park) area, growing onions, tomatoes, cucumbers, etc. In 1917, Hirozo married HARU MIMORI. In 1918, he found work at Kelowna Sawmill (then owned by Lloyd Jones) working on the log boom tug boat. After a couple of years, he headed toward the southern part of the valley, working variously at a Japanese Sawmill in Faulder (near Summerland), at Trout Creek, clearing land for Messrs. Gartrell and Morgan, and in the Gillis orchard south of Penticton.





Ichiji Sasaki lived in Kelowna area in early 1900's. KDJ 203.



1920 Photo: Sugae Sasaki holding Mytssu, Sumiye on left, family friend at back. KDJ 332.



Skating on Skaha Lake, 1936. Jim, Hawley, & Martin Fujita, & Roy Tanemura. KDJ 202.

In 1927 Hirozo and Haru purchased a small farm on the Skaha Flats. Here they grew vegetables and raised pigs and chickens. Gradually, with the help of their 4 boys: Hawley (1918), Jim (1919), Martin (1926) and Colin (1936), the Fujitas expanded their farming operation to total about 100 acres, at various locations, in the 1940's: Penticton, OK Falls, McIntyre Bluffs, Keremeos.

The 1950's brought diversification, as the Fujita boys ventured into other business fields, particularly excavating and trucking. By 1960, the Fujitas had phased out their farming operations altogether. Martin and Jim went into construction, and Colin chose auto wrecking and towing. The Fujitas also developed a Campground and Motel on Highway 97 and Skaha Lake, which they operated until its sale in 1974. Hirozo Fujita passed away in 1974, while his wife Haru deceased in 1991.

**HAWLEY FUGETA**, the eldest son of Hirozo and Haru Fujita, was born in Kelowna in 1918. He attended Ellis, Senator Shatford, and Pen High schools, and remembers riding to school on a Model T flatdeck truck (school bus), with wooden bench seats, low sideracks, and no roof (except a canvas tarp in winter.) After graduating in 1936, Hawley continued to work on the family farming operations. He married

Mytssu Sasaki in 1948, and they have together continued employment in the various family businesses. As of 1994, they are residing in Kaleden, and still employed at Manning Park Resort. Hawley and Mytssu have a son Leslay, born in 1957. Leslay attended Penticton schools, proceeded to UBC, then Nanzan university in Nagoya, and Sophia University in Tokyo. He graduated from UBC (Economics) in 1982, and is now employed as assistant manager at Manning Park Lodge.

**MYTSSU (SASAKI) FUGETA** was born in Vancouver in 1919. Her father Ichiji Sasaki had immigrated to Canada from Wakayama about 1906. Her mother Sugae (Hashimoto) Sasaki arrived about 1917. The Sasaki's engaged in a number of business ventures in Vancouver, including a rooming house, a bath-house (Matsunoyu), and Japanese restaurant in the 1920's. Later they had 3 Vegetable and Fruit Market stores, and in 1942, were partners in operation of the World Hotel (Powell and Dunlevy) when they were ordered to evacuate. The Sasaki's with their three daughters; Sumiye (Sasaki) Tanaka (1918), Mytssu (1919), and Julie (Sasaki) Umemura (1935) were sent to Greenwood. Here Mytssu worked at the B.C. Security Commission for a year, then at a farm in Grand Forks, and then at Midway Store for 4 years. In 1948 she married Hawley Fugeta and moved to Penticton. Her father Ichiji

Back, L-R; Hawley & Mytssu Fugeta, Jean & Jim Fugeta, with their daughter Hallie, and her children, Kira & Krista. KDJ 236.



Hawley & Mytssu Fugeta, with Krista & Kira, grandchildren of Jim and Jean Fugeta. 1993 Photo. KDJ 302.





Vance & Maureen Fugeta, and their 3 boys, Marcus (Top), Michael (center), and Barrett (bottom). KDJ 287, 274, 268, 271

passed away in Midway in 1951. Her mother Sugae is now resident at Cooper House in Vancouver.

**JIM FUGETA** was born in Kelowna in 1919. He attended Penticton schools and was employed in the various Fujita undertakings. Jim and Martin were more involved in the excavating and trucking aspect of their businesses. Jim is now retired and living in Penticton. He is married and has a son Vance, a daughter Hallie, and 5 grandchildren.

**MARTIN FUJITA** was born in Summerland in 1921. He was educated in Penticton, and helped in the Fujita family farming operations until the mid 1950's. He then diversified into trucking and excavating, together with his brother Jim. Martin is married, has 3 children, Lloyd, Donna, and Bruce, and still resides in Penticton.

**COLIN FUGETA** was born in Penticton in 1936. He attended Penticton schools and assisted in the Fujita farming operations until the late 1950's. He then went into the auto towing and auto wrecking business, and later, Bailiff services. He still operates Terminal Bailiffs and Collectors in Penticton. Colin is married, and has 3 children: Callen, Tracey, and Leshia, as well as 5 grandchildren.

#### **FURUYA, GISAKU & KOMAN**

Gisaku Furuya was born in Ichimiyamura, Yamanashi-Ken, Japan on October 1, 1883. He came to Canada in 1907, at the age of 24, to work in Vancouver at the Eburne Sawmill. He also worked at Howe Sound as a gillnetter fisherman, and later as a porter for the C.P. Railroad. He received his Canadian Citizenship by Local Naturalization on Sept. 11, 1911. Gisaku first came to the Okanagan to work at the Coldstream Ranch near Vernon. He then ventured to the Summerland area about 1918. In 1920 he went back to Japan



Gisaku & Koman Furuya at the time of their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1971. KDJ 208.



Gisaku & Koman Furuya & family, 1956. L-R; Gisaku Furuya, Kazu Furuya, Grace Furuya, Koman Furuya, Hiro Furuya, Asaka Furuya, John Nishio. KDJ 209.

to find a wife and married **KOMAN TAKEI**. Koman was born in Kaniwa-Mura, Yamanashi-Ken, Japan on July 10, 1895.

Mr. and Mrs. Furuya worked for A.B. Caldwell in the orchard on Trout Creek Bench until 1932. While living there, four children were born: **ASAKA** was born in 1922. She married Jim Roddick, and they have two children, Naomi and Kimio. The Roddick's reside in West Vancouver. **HIRONORI** was born in 1924, and married Grace Honkawa. They also have two children, Katrina and Tom, and reside in Ottawa, Ontario. **CHIZUKO** was born in 1926. She married Peter Diemert and they live in Vanderhoof, B.C. **KAZUAKI** was born in 1927. He is still an orchardist in Summerland.

In 1932, Gisaku and Koman moved to Lumsden Ave., off South Prairie Valley Road, now called Dale Meadows Road. In 1933 they purchased the Orchard from Colin McDonald of Penticton. Their youngest son, Kazuaki, is still farming at that location.

On Sept. 24, 1948, Gisaku received his Certificate of Canadian Citizenship. During his years as a vegetable and fruit grower, he shipped his produce through Walter's Packing House. Gisaku Furuya passed away on July 14, 1971 at the age of 87. Koman Furuya passed away on May 6, 1983, also at the age of 87.



MITS HIKICHI Family: L-R; Kim, Mits, Marlene, & Lori. KDJ169

### HIKICHI, MITSURU

Mitsuru Hikichi was born Oct. 18, 1931. He attended Okanagan Centre Elementary, Rutland High, and Kelowna Senior Secondary. He went on to UBC, with Tamotsu Tamagi as his roommate. As far as he knows, Tamotsu is the only student from the 1949 graduating class of Rutland High School to earn a university degree.

Mits started work at the Summerland Experimental Farm in the mid-fifties as a summer student, and eventually became a full time technician. During his 30 years at the "Farm", he worked in Animal Science, Entomology, Pesticide Chemistry, and Pomology. He retired in 1989.

Mitsuru married MARLENE ALBRECHT in 1968, and they have two sons, Kim and Lori. Kim was among the top Canadian juniors in archery, while Lori was recipient of a \$750 JCCA Scholarship, \$8000 Canada Scholarship, \$1000 Provincial Scholarship and \$500 Kiwanis Bursary on entry into SFU. Mits took up archery with his sons, and competes in the Masters category. He has earned gold, silver, and bronze in provincial and national competitions. Marlene is an operating room nurse, involved with Soroptimists and OR Nurses Assoc.

### HOSHIZAKI, LINDA KAZUCO

Linda Hoshizaki has lived in Summerland for six years, having previously resided in Invermere, B.C. Linda was born in Slocan City, and spent her "early life" in Nakusp, B.C. Her parents, Helen and Kaz Hoshizaki, owned and operated the Nakusp Drycleaners. After graduation from Nakusp Secondary School, she attended the University of Victoria where she received her Bachelor of Education. Linda has taught school in Nakusp, Fort St. John, and Invermere. She is presently teaching at MacDonald Elementary School in Summerland. Linda's parents, Helen and Kaz, live in Vernon, B.C. She has a sister, Eleanor, and three brothers, Brian, Alan and Don. Eleanor lives in San Jose, California, Brian in Armstrong, B.C., and Alan's home is in Kaslo, B.C. Her "baby" brother, Don, lives in Duncan, B.C.



Jack & Kutch Imayoshi, 104th Birthday, 1994. J007.

### IMAYOSHI, KICHINOJO

Kichinojo Imayoshi was born April 20, 1890, in Kagoshima-ken, the oldest son, and second child of seven children, born to a very poor farmer. He had heard of the glorious riches of America, and therefore at about the age 17, he decided to go to America to earn money to send home. As no passports to mainland U.S. were available, he applied for immigration to Hawaii.

February 1907 found him in Honolulu, working on a sugar plantation for \$12.00 a month. In May or June, the U.S. government closed the door to Japanese immigration to the U.S., because of the strong anti-Japanese sentiment.

In July, the way to Canada opened, so Kichinojo and over 1000 other young Japanese males boarded the Kumeric Maru, bound for Vancouver. Finding no accommodation, several stayed in Steveston, in shacks, where the fishermen kept their fishing nets. By morning 2 had died of fever. Early in August, about 40 men went to work on the CPR gang in Alberta, near Medicine Hat, working for 15 cents an hour. That same month there was a big anti-Japanese riot in Vancouver. Kichinojo worked on the CPR gang until Christmas, through a bitterly cold Prairie winter, sleeping in box cars. He returned to Vancouver, but there was no work, so he travelled to Prince Rupert, hoping to find work clearing land for the terminal of the Grand Trunk Railway. But there was very little work, so he returned to Vancouver, where he found himself clearing land in North Vancouver. This lasted until the end of June 1908.

Through Japanese Manpower, he found work in Vernon, digging ditches with pick and shovel. They lived in tents, and received about \$2.00 a day.

In March 1910, Kichinojo returned to work with the CPR, working around Okanagan Landing and Sicamous. But the atmosphere was not conducive to saving money, as many of the men were engaged in gambling. Thus Kichinojo decided to go elsewhere, as he wanted to save, and send funds to his poverty stricken family in Japan.

In October 1910, he arrived in Summerland, again digging ditches at \$2.50 a day. For seven years he worked in the orchards during the summer months, and in the winter he

worked in the bush, in the back breaking job of cutting cord wood, at \$2.00 a cord.

In the spring of 1917, he and 2 others moved to Kelowna to grow vegetables, mostly tomatoes and onions, but the returns were poor. That winter he returned to Summerland, and rented land to grow tomatoes and cucumbers. He earned enough so that he and Mr. Kodama could buy 10 acres, but the land proved to be unproductive.

Kichinojo returned to Japan in December 1919, to get married, and brought his young bride to Summerland. She worked very hard beside him, and raised 2 sons and 3 daughters; Katsumi, Sumiko, Isamu, Michiko and Jean. Times were most difficult and lonely for the Japanese women, as they did not know the language, culture, or customs of their new country.

During Canada's great depression, everyone experienced many hardships and with little market, the fruit and vegetables were left to rot in the field.

The name Jack was given to Kichinojo by his "hakujin" friends, and it stuck with him for the rest of his life. After W.W.I, Jack began share-cropping with Judge Kelly, and some of the farmland is where the present Summerland High School now stands. He grew tomatoes between the rows of Italian Prunes.

In 1928, Jack bought an orchard owned by Judge Kelly, for \$2,000.00 at 8% interest. The whole family worked hard and sacrificed to pay off the debt. Son Kutch recalls one time standing in Judge Kelly's office, with his dad, when the Judge told his dad that he still owed \$400.00 on the orchard. His dad thought the payment had been made in full. What a major disappointment!

Jack moved his family to a small house on Canyon View Road and renovated it. In the early '30's Japanese were not allowed to buy crown land, so George Henry purchased a lot adjacent and west of the orchard, and transferred it for \$1300.00. Jack cleared the land, cut pine trees for firewood, dug tons of rocks, and hauled them away by horse and stone boat, and sometimes by wagon. The next spring he planted apples, peaches, apricots and cherries, and while the trees were growing, he planted row upon row of tomatoes, cucumbers and cantaloupes. But the prices were minimal. The winter cold killed the young trees, and the next spring they would be replanted. This seemed like an endless process of planting and replanting.

After much labour and persistence, and with the help of his wife and children, he built up a successful farming operation, which today is run by his son Sam. In 1961, a new home was built about a block east of the old one, and Jack still resides there. His wife died in 1988, at age 68, and his daughter Sumiko (Sue) Arai passed away the following year.

All his life Jack has been active in the Japanese Association, and has also been an active member of the Summerland Japanese United Church.

At 104 years, he still has a keen mind and lives semi-independently under Sam's watchfull eye. He looks forward to planting yet another vegetable garden, not only to supply his needs but also to give away to his friends and to his family.

JEAN (IMAYOSHI) KAMACHI was born in Summerland, grew up on the family farm, and attended school

there. After graduation, she attended UBC & University of Puget Sound, where she completed her training in Occupational Therapy. She then worked at Workmen's Compensation, & G.F. Strong Rehab. Centre in Vancouver, before marrying Yosh Kamachi, in Halifax, in 1959. Yosh was at that time completing his training in Dentistry. In 1960, Yosh & Jean moved to Esquimalt, where Yosh was employed at the Canadian Forces base. Yosh continued in CFB employment in Dentistry in Chilliwack (1962), France (1964), and North Bay, Ont. (1967). Since 1969, he has been in private practice in North Bay. Jean has been employed, off and on, in Occupational Therapy, but retired in 1988. The Kamachi's have two children: sons Stephen, and Douglas, who is married to Jennifer (Boyce). Douglas & Jennifer Kamachi have two children, Sarah and Megan.

MICHIKO (IMAYOSHI) COOK grew up in Summerland and attended school there. She then attended Mt. Royal College in Calgary, and UBC, completing her BA, and teacher training. She taught at Grand Forks Sec. School for 4 years, and then in Abbotsford for 4 years. In 1956, she married John Cook, also a teacher, whom she had met in Grand Forks. John has been variously occupied in teaching, and small business, mostly workshop related. John and Mich are now both retired, living in Abbotsford, busy with volunteer activities, & enjoying their grandchildren. They have two children: son Dan, and daughter Irene (Cook) Heinrichs. The Heinrichs have two children, Daniel and Emily.

SAM IMAYOSHI was born in Summerland in 1924. After completing Gr. 9, he went to work on the family farm on Canyon View Rd., and has remained there since. The original Imayoshi farm consisted of about 20 acres, but this was enlarged by purchases in subsequent years to 35 acres. The Imayoshi's farmed a variety of fruits & vegetables in the early years, but the operation gradually concentrated on fruit, including peaches, pears, and apples. As of 1994, the main crop is apples.

While active in baseball, hockey, curling in earlier years, Sam has more recently concentrated his energies on the farm operation. His father Jack (now 104) was actually able to assist him in the farm work until fairly recently, but now requires increasing time and help from Sam, to manage his semi-independent lifestyle.

SUMIKO (IMAYOSHI) ARAI was born in Summerland and attended Summerland schools. She married Yosh Arai and lived in Vancouver. Yosh and Sumiko had 3 children; Louise, Patricia, & Diane. Sumiko passed away in 1989.

KATSUMI IMAYOSHI (Kutch) was born in Summerland and attended Summerland Elementary, Summerland High School, and Penticton High School, graduating in 1947. Due to a serious illness, his schooling was interrupted from 1939-46. Kutch attended UBC 1947-50, & McMaster Divinity College 1950-53, and became a Baptist minister. He then served several pastorates in Turtleford, Sask., Nelson, B.C., Kelowna, Kamloops, and Vancouver.

Besides helping on the family farm, Kutch was kept extremely busy in his youth with baseball (HINODE team)

and hockey. During his ministerial career, he has also been active with a number of community organizations, including: the John Howard Society, Kelowna & Kamloops (1960-70), the Pacific Assoc. for Autistic (1972-88), Vancouver East Ministerial Assoc. (1970-present), Vancouver Ministerial Curling Club (1980-present), Joy Fellowship (1975-present), Britannia Centre Arena Committee (1972-present).

Kutch Imayoshi married Phyllis Quist in 1962, and they have four children: Laura-Lynne (1964), Cheryl (1965), Catherine (1967), and Cameron (1968).

#### RECOLLECTIONS BY KUTCH IMAYOSHI

My favorite sports were baseball and hockey. I backstopped for Jimmy Ageno, who was an amazing person, with great athletic abilities as well as scholastic achievement. Jim and I asked to play for the Summerland senior baseball team when we were very young - about 15 or 16, for a couple of games. His death in 1937 was a great personal loss, as well as for the whole community of Summerland.

When University education became a possibility, about 6 Nisei students were the first Japanese students to attend UBC following the war (1947). We had to have travel permits to get to the Coast. Three of those students were from Summerland, namely Richard Yamabe, Alfred Kita and myself.

After graduation, I went on to McMaster Divinity College for my theological education. When I was being interviewed for acceptance to the theological course, the Committee took a long time deliberating my case, but I never found out why they took so long. My guess is that they feared that being of Japanese origin, I would find it very difficult to find a church, in which case I would be spending three years of studies to no avail. However, I found total acceptance by the "Hakujin" churches wherever I went.

After almost 20 years as Pastor of Grandview Calvary Baptist Church, I was officially retired in the fall of 1990. But I was asked to get back in the harness as a Chaplain, to seniors at Grandview Towers, where 330 active seniors live, including 100 Koreans. So since the summer of 1991, I have been quite busy arranging bus tours; teaching English as a Second Language; visiting the patients in hospitals; conducting Bible Classes; translating for the Koreans (75% of them speak very fluent Japanese); arranging church services once a month; attending funerals, and sometimes officiating at funerals; and sometimes performing weddings.

Now that my age has finally caught up with me, I am enjoying golf in the summer, and curling in the winter.

#### INABA, BUNMEI

Bunmei Inaba & KIKUE TAKEI were born in Yamanashi-ken, Japan, where they were married in 1915. They immigrated to Canada shortly afterwards. In 1919, the Inaba family moved to Summerland from Vancouver, and worked for the Salter family on the farm situated above the Gulch road, presently known as Highway 97. They remained there until 1935.

In 1936, their new home was built on Front Bench, where they lived until 1962. Bunmei passed away on June 5, 1961,



Bunmei & Kikue Inaba, and children L-R; Fumihiro, May Ayako & Haruko. 1927 Photo. KDJ 58.

in Summerland, B.C. and Kikue retired from the orchard industry in 1970, and went to live with the oldest granddaughter, Mona (Inaba) Trussell and her family. She lived in Kamloops, Nelson and Kelowna. Kikue passed away June 9, 1987 in Kelowna, B.C.

HARUKO (INABA) TSUIDA is the eldest of three children born to Bunmei and Kikue Inaba. She was born in Eburne B.C., February 1918, and attended school in Summerland. In 1939 Haruko enrolled at the Academy of Useful Arts, in Vancouver, graduating in the summer of 1941. A week before the attack on Pearl Harbour, Haruko married Masakiyo (Tom) Inaba. They resided in Vancouver and Woodfibre. After a few weeks passed by, all descendants of Japanese origin were ordered to evacuate 100 miles east of the west coast. Tom went to the road camp in Taft, B.C., and Haruko came home to Summerland. Tom stayed a few months at Taft, then got transferred to an evacuation camp near Hope, B.C., which was called Tashme. There he helped build 100 huts for the evacuees, housing two families per hut. Later Tom went to Vernon and worked for a few months, eventually moving to Summerland and Penticton, working in the fruit industry. During the 1950's, Tom was hired by Inland Natural Gas Company, (currently known as B.C. Gas) as a construction worker, on the pipeline in Penticton. In 1962, he was transferred to Kelowna as a service man, and continued to be employed there, until illness forced his early retirement in 1973. He had completed twenty-five years of service prior to his death in June 1973. Their first trip to Japan was in 1970, at which time Osaka, Japan was host to Expo '70.

In May 1989, Haruko married Mitsuyoshi Tsuida in Summerland, and now resides in Burnaby, B.C.

Mona (Inaba) Trussell (1944) is the eldest child of Tom and Haruko Inaba. Born in Summerland, she attended grade one and part of grade two in Penticton, B.C. The family moved to Summerland in 1951 and she attended McDonald Elementary School and Summerland Secondary School, graduating in 1963. She then attended Kelowna Vocational School (now Okanagan University College) and graduated September 1964, as a licensed Practical Nurse. In 1964, Mona moved to

Vancouver, and worked at St. Paul's Hospital until September 1965. Mona married Fred Trussel (formerly of Summerland), in October 1965. Later they moved to Kamloops, where Mona was employed at Drs. Chacko and Pathak Medical Office, Royal Inland Hospital, and Aspen Medical Centre. In Nelson she was employed at Kootenay Lake District Hospital, but in 1972 returned to Kamloops, where both she and Fred were employed by B.C. Telephone. The beautiful Okanagan lured both Fred and Mona back "home", where he is employed by Stanley & Associates Engineering, and Mona is Program/Promotions Assistant at CHBC-TV.

Jeanne Marie (Trussel) Ruesgen was born January 1966, in Vancouver, B.C., and is Fred and Mona Trussell's eldest child. She attended elementary school in Nelson and Kamloops, and KLO Secondary School in Kelowna, B.C. After graduation, Marie attended Okanagan College, and then Red Deer College, to pursue a career in Pharmacy. After two years she decided to change careers, and worked in the hospitality industry, at the Husky Tower in Calgary, Alberta. She returned to Kelowna in 1991, and attended Okanagan College to further her education in Accounting. Recently she was married to Roland Ruesgen, formerly of Calgary, and is employed at Krueger Electrical as Office Manager. Roland is at Stanley & Associates Engineering.

Debra Gail Trussell was born October 1969, in Kamloops, and is the second child of Fred and Mona Trussell. She attended elementary schools in Kamloops, Nelson, and Kelowna, and KLO Secondary School in Kelowna. Following high school graduation she went to Vermillion, Alberta, to attend Lakeland College for Agricultural and Animal Health Sciences. There she obtained an Alberta Licence as a Big Game Guide. She has since worked as a Big Game Guide in the East Kootenays and northern Alberta. She is employed at Big White Ski Resort during the winters, and currently is working with a partner in a Whitewater Rafting Company in Revelstoke.

Wendy Louise (Inaba) Higgins was the second child born to Tom and Haruko Inaba, on March 1946, in Summerland B.C. She attended schools in Summerland and Kelowna. Prior to her marriage in April 1969, Wendy was employed at Stedman Stores, and The Bay, in Kelowna. In 1969, Wendy married Wayne Higgins, who was employed at Van-Kam Freightways Office. In October 1993, Wendy and Wayne had the opportunity to take over the Van-Kam Office, and now own and manage Caribou Truck Terminals.

Thomas Higgins was born December 1977, and is Wendy and Wayne's eldest child. Tommy attended elementary schools in Kelowna and Williams Lake. He graduated from Williams Lake Secondary in 1993. Aside from local part-time jobs, Tommy helps his parents in the family business.

Lyn Higgins is Wendy and Wayne's second child, and was born April 7, 1980 in Kelowna. She attended elementary schools in Kelowna and Williams Lake, and is currently attending Senior Secondary School in Williams Lake. Lyn is working alongside her brother in the family business.

Kenneth Gary (Inaba) was the third child born to Tom and Haruko in Summerland, November 1947. He received his elementary education in Summerland and attended high school in Summerland and Kelowna. He went on to UBC in Vancouver, and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree

in the Faculty of Pharmacy. After eighteen months as a retail pharmacist at Dyck's Drugs in Kelowna, Gary became employed at the Kelowna General Hospital. He has remained there, and currently is the Assistant Department Head in the Pharmacy Department. In July 1981, Gary married Mary Lou McAuley, a native of Souris, Prince Edward Island, now a Secondary School teacher at Springvalley Secondary School in Kelowna.

Kyla and Kevin Inaba are twins born October 6, 1987, in Kelowna, to Gary and Mary Lou. They enjoy soccer, karate, and gymnastics, and are currently in grade two at Bellevue Elementary.

Nancy Mae (Inaba-Paulson) Hauff was the fourth child born to Haruko and Tom in Summerland April 1949. She attended elementary schools in Summerland and Kelowna, and graduated from Kelowna Senior Secondary. She married Jerry Paulson of Trail, B.C., December 1968, in Ashcroft. Jerry was employed at Bethlehem Copper Mines, and was accidentally killed while employed there, in November, 1971. Nancy returned to Kelowna and continued her education to become a hairdresser. In July 1974, Nancy married Randolph Hauff in Kelowna. Both Nancy and Randy are employed at Capri Insurance Offices.

Byron Michael Paulson was born March 1970 in Kamloops, B.C., and is Nancy and Jerry's eldest son. He attended elementary school in Kelowna and graduated from KLO Senior Secondary. Currently he is employed at Sears in Kelowna, and attending Okanagan University College, to pursue a career in accounting.

Nicole Michelle (Paulson) Robinson is the second child of Nancy and Jerry. She was born in September 1971, in Ashcroft, B.C. She attended elementary school in Kelowna and graduated from KLO Secondary. Nicole is married to Troy Robinson of Kelowna, and they have two children; Bradley A. and Bailey Mae. They live in Vancouver, where Nicole is working as Office Manager for a Discount Diaper Service in Richmond, B.C.

Donna Gail Inaba, the youngest child of Haruko and Tom, was born in Penticton, in 1954. She attended elementary schools in Summerland and Kelowna, and graduated from Kelowna Secondary. She received her degree in Psychology, and Teachers Certificate, from UBC. During the summers while attending UBC, she was employed by B.C. Telephone in Kamloops and Nelson, and eventually gained employment in the Training and Education Department in Vancouver. Donna was on loan to Bell Telephone in Ottawa for eighteen months, and then returned to B.C. Telephone, where she is now employed in the Admin. Support Service as Employment Counsellor.

FUMIHIRO INABA, the second child and only son of Bunmei and Kikue, was born in Summerland in 1922. He attended school in Summerland and eventually joined the Canadian Armed Forces. He married a Summerland girl and they have seven children.

Barry Inaba is married and lives in Vancouver. He works as an electrician.

Deborah Marilyn is divorced and lived in B.C.

Timothy and Tammy are twins and live in B.C. Tammy is a single parent with two children.

Ross is employed by a Penticton construction company and resides in Penticton.

Darryl resides in the Okanagan.

Fumi was employed by Doan Construction on the west coast for a number of years, and resides in the Kootenays. He is married to Kavenia Campbell of Red Deer, and retired as Accountant/Controller of Southside Chrysler of Red Deer, Alberta in 1992.

DORIS MAY AYAKO INABA is the youngest child, born August 1925, to Bunmei and Kikue. She attended school in Summerland and helped on the family farm after high school until 1963. She then moved to Kelowna and was employed by Gem Cleaners at the Capri Mall for a year and a half, and then by Henderson Cleaners in Kelowna, until her retirement in December 1990.

### INABA, MASAMITSU

Masamitsu Inaba's parents were working at a sawmill in Wardner, B.C. when the 3 oldest children, daughter Masae, son Masakyo, and another daughter, Mitsue were born. In 1922, the family returned to Japan where Masamitsu was born the following year on March 10, 1923.

Masakyo and Mitsue were able to return to Canada after they received their education in Japan, but because Masamitsu was born in Japan, he could not come to Canada. Masamitsu received his education in Japan, graduating from a small countryside agricultural school. In April, 1939, he volunteered for a project to develop the farmlands in Manchuria and after the necessary training, on Dec. 8, 1939, left Niigata, Japan for Manchuria.

Returning to Japan, he served in the Kanto-Gun Army, and after the war, worked at various jobs in Japan.

On July 2, 1948, he married TOSHIKO KUICHI, who was born in 1923, the daughter of Tomisaku and Yasuyo Kuichi. Masamitsu and Toshiko's daughter, Kazuko, was born on August 15, 1951.

Life was harsh in Japan after the war - finances were low and Toshiko experienced poor health. During this time, the Inabas became ardent Tenrikyo believers, and their belief sus-

tained them during Toshiko's difficult pregnancy and the premature birth of their twin boys, Shinji and Yoshihito, on April 2, 1959. Although the twins developed pneumonia and were not expected to live, they survived, and the Inabas attribute this to their Tenrikyo faith.

Life was starting to improve for the Inabas, when Masamitsu's older brother, who was living in Kelowna, B.C. informed Masamitsu that if he wished to come to Canada, the family would be sponsored. On April 29, 1964, the Inabas arrived in Canada. They stayed at Masamitsu's brother's place and Masamitsu worked on Mr. Tomiye's farm, as well as for Inland Natural Gas as a helper to the pipe setter. During this time, his brother Tom, and sister-in-law Haruko and their family, helped them greatly.

In 1965, Mrs. Sakae Nishi introduced Masamitsu to Mr. Ward, who had a vacant building on his orchard which became the Inabas' first home. Masamitsu did bricklaying for a while, and on the advice of his brother, went to night school. He also obtained a licence to become a pipe welder, and was employed at Inland Natural Gas.

But Masamitsu enjoyed the outdoors, and always dreamed of having an orchard of his own, so he quit his welding job and worked on the Ward orchard. Toshiko wanted to repay the father god who saved the lives of their twins at birth and began missionary work for Tenrikyo.

At that time in Kelowna, there was only one tofu store run by a Chinese lady. One day while Masamitsu was eating tofu, an idea came into his mind. If he could make tofu, he could take it to everybody, and evangelize for Tenrikyo at the same time.

The Shimodairas of Kamloops, who were good friends of Masamitsu's parents, gave him a small hand machine that could be used to make soybean flour. Now he was ready to make tofu, but there was one problem. He didn't know how. He asked people for advice, and everyday for 3 months after work in the evenings, he did research and experimented. Finally, he succeeded. His friend, Takeo Itani, was the first to sample it, and commented that the tofu was good in "miso-shiru". Masamitsu appreciated the friendship of Mr. Itani, which endured the tasting of the first hard tofu. With experience the tofu improved and Masamitsu was able to take them to Kelowna, Vernon and Kamloops, giving them away free.

In 1970, Masamitsu went to Japan to get his qualification to be a Tenri teacher. There he bought a small motor driven flour machine, and was able to increase his tofu production. He started receiving monetary compensation for the cost of production. But the time came when tofu was mass produced in Vancouver, and Masamitsu's little tofu enterprise closed after about 10 years.

In April 1970, Mr. Satoru Kawakami, who was living in Summerland, informed Masamitsu that the Summerland Barkwell Cannery was looking for a Japanese worker. The Inabas moved to Summerland, and Masamitsu started working in the Barkwell orchard. He also rented some land to grow vegetables, and grew tomatoes and other vegetables to sell at a fruitstand. Then the highway was widened, and the fruitstand was demolished. Now he sells the vegetables from his yard.

Mr. Art Matsu, in 1975, helped the Inabas to rent Mr. Hudson's orchard, and they moved there. He bought a portion

Masamitsu & Toshiko Inaba. KDJ 286.



of the orchard and is now operating it together with his son, Yoshihito.

SHINJI INABA was born in Muroran, Hokkaido, Japan on April 2, 1959, with his twin brother, Yoshihito. On April 29, 1964, at the age of 5, the family immigrated to Canada and settled in Kelowna, B.C. He and his brother attended South Kelowna Elem. School for five years. Then the family moved to Summerland where Shinji completed his elementary, junior, and senior schooling. During his junior and senior years, Shinji was active in the school band as a drummer and he was in the KEY club (Kiwani's Educates Youth) for 3 years.

After graduation from high school, Shinji and his brother went to Japan to Tenri-city in Nara Prefecture and attended Tenri University for two years to learn Japanese and the Tenrikyo faith. A few months after his graduation, he returned to Canada and took a drafting course at Vancouver Community College.

Shinji worked at different drafting companies, such as N.D. Lea and Douglas Homes. Shinji's drafting career has included the Phase I of the Coquihalla Highway, the Alex Fraser Bridge, and also the design of the Commercial Street Station and Rapid Transit System for Vancouver. He is now working at a firm in Coquitlam.

Shinji is involved in JCCA activities in Greater Vancouver with the Powell Street Festival, and other functions.

On June 22, 1991, he married Kaoru Makinae in Vancouver, and they have a daughter, Lena, born on Sept. 15, 1992. He and his family live in Coquitlam.

YOSHIHITO INABA was born in Muroran, Hokkaido, Japan on April 2, 1959, with his twin brother, Shinji. He is the younger of the twins. On April 29, 1964, the family immigrated to Canada and settled in Kelowna, B.C. He attended South Kelowna Elem. School and in 1971, the family moved to Summerland where the twins completed their elementary, junior, and senior education. During his school years, Yoshihito enjoyed playing team sports and was on the basketball, track & field, and soccer teams. He was also in the KEY (Kiwani's Educates Youth) for three years.

After graduation from grade 12, Yoshihito and his brother, Shinji, in the summer of 1978, went to Japan to attend the Tenri University at Tenri-City in Nara Prefecture, to learn Japanese and the Tenrikyo faith.

Yoshihito returned to Summerland and helped his father on the orchard for a year. In 1981, he returned to Japan to volunteer at Tenri with the Tenrikyo activities. From 1983 - 85, he was enrolled in the Tenrikyo religious training course. Upon his graduation, he continued to volunteer in Tenri for another 1 1/2 years.

Yoshihito returned to Canada in 1986, and in 1988, took a travel training course. He was employed in the travel industry for 1 1/2 years in Vancouver. Having decided to return to Summerland and do tree fruit farming in 1989, he is presently working with his father, Masamitsu Inaba.

Community involvement has been mostly with Tenrikyo, and he has participated in the Powell Street Festival for the last five years.



The Inouye Family: L-R; Denise, Liz, Mas, & Mark. 1989. J110.

#### INOUYE, MASARU ( by Mas)

I was born in Duncan, B.C. on October , 1931, one of 9 children born to Mr. & Mrs. Tomojiro Inouye. We lived in Paldi (Mayo), on Vancouver Island, where I spent the first six or seven years of my life.

At the start of the war, like so many others, we were sent to Hastings Park where we spent 4 months in the stables. The stench was so terrible that it was almost unbearable. We were interned in Sandon, and later in Lemon Creek, until the end of the war. We were then relocated to Bay Farm, near Slocan City, and 6 months later, moved to Sidmouth, south of Revelstoke. Around 1948, when restrictions were lifted, the family moved to Vernon (Swan Lake area). I finished my schooling there, then went to work in logging, sawmills and mining, for the next 8 to 9 years, at various locations in B.C.

In 1959, I married HIDEKO (LIZ) SHIBATA of Vernon, and went to Hope, where I was employed in a sawmill. We next moved to Coalmont, where I worked in the mine, and then came to Summerland. I owned and operated a sawmill with 2 brothers, Mits & Seiji, for a number of years. I also sold books and Mutual Funds for a time. I joined the Forest Service as a scaler and check scaler, and was there for 14 years, retiring in 1988. One of my brothers, Takeshi, became a jockey, and won the Queen's Plate in 1964, in Toronto. He met the Queen Mother, who was there to present the prize.

I have been a member of the Elks Lodge in Summerland for over-30 years, and served as Exalted Ruler and District Deputy.

#### HIDEKO ELIZABETH (SHIBATA) INOUYE ( by Liz)

I was born in Vancouver (Powell Street), on October 27, 1932, to Mr. & Mrs. Tamehichi Shibata, one of 7 children, but 2 died in infancy. I attended Strathcona School, and later went to Japanese Language School on Alexander Street. The war started, so the family was evacuated to Taylor Lake (near Lone Butte). In 1948, we moved to Vernon, going directly to the Vernon Orchards Ltd., where we worked. I finished my schooling in Vernon.

In 1959, I married Mas in the Nokai Hall in Vernon, and moved to Summerland, after spending some time in Hope and Coalmont. I worked at the Packinghouse in Summerland for about 25 years, and retired in February, 1993. I now spend my



time sewing and enjoying my granddaughter.

Denise was born in Vernon on January 22, 1960, and went to school in Summerland. She attended UBC, graduating as a teacher. Unfortunately, at that time, teachers were being laid off in B.C., so Denise had to accept Substitute positions. On August 6, 1983, she married Don Bergman, and they lived in Revelstoke and North Vancouver. Denise took a course to become a CGA, and was employed as an auditor for the GST in North Vancouver. They have a daughter, Chelsea Nicole, and now live in Kelowna.

Our son Mark was born in Vernon, on August 4, 1961. He also attended school in Summerland. He received the Elks Bursary upon graduation from High School. Mark went on to becoming a Certified Management accountant, and is now living and working in Cambridge, Ontario.

## JOMORI, SEIJI

Seiji Jomori was born in Kagoshima-ken, Japan, in 1888. He emigrated to Canada in 1907 or 1908, and began working for the CPR in Vancouver. He eventually ended up in Medicine Hat, AB, working in the CPR roundhouse (repair shop), where Mr. Ritsu Ide was the foreman. Later he moved back to the outskirts of Vancouver, where he worked as a handyman at a farmhouse, before coming to Summerland.

In 1923, Seiji boarded with Mr. & Mrs. Frank Ageno, while he rented land to grow onions and tomatoes. He also rented an orchard nearby. In 1925, he bought the orchard on the corner of Hwy. 97 and Turner Street, from Judge Kelly.

In 1926, Seiji married TSUMA NAKAHARADA, who was also from Kagoshima-ken, Japan. Seiji and Tsuma had 7 daughters and 5 sons (but a son and daughter died as infants): Yuriko, Joyce, Ernie, Sandy, Margaret, Ruby, Tom, Mitzi, Jim and Micki. All of the children grew up in Summerland, assisted on the family farm, and attended Summerland schools.

Besides working their orchard, the Jomori's rented land above Crescent Beach to grow tomatoes. They started their own plants in greenhouses, and became a valuable grower for the Occidental Packinghouse.

In 1958, Seiji retired from farming, and Tsuma began work at Barkwill's Cannery, where she remained in employment until her retirement in 1974. In 1965, they moved to Jones Flat Road, where they maintained a one acre orchard. Mr. Jomori passed away in 1971, Mrs. Jomori moved into Parkdale Place in 1984, and passed away in 1993.

YURIKO (Jomori) HIGA was born November 26, 1927, and attended Summerland Elementary and Summerland High School, graduating in 1946. Yuriko recalls caring for her younger siblings, and working long hours on the fruit and vegetable farms. She later packed fruit at the local packinghouse.

In 1952, Yuriko attended Henderson Business College, in Calgary, while working for room and board. She then worked twelve and one-half years for Sun Life Mortgage Co. While working in Calgary, she met and married Sam Higa of Lethbridge. After a one year sojourn in Lethbridge, when Sam taught in Iron Springs (a small town NE of Lethbridge), the Higas moved to Edmonton, where Sam accepted a teaching position with the Alberta Correspondence School.

Sam and Yuriko Higa have two children; Kenneth James,



JOMORI Family 1948: Back, L-R; Ruby, Ernie, Yuriko, Margaret, Joyce, Sandy, Tommy. Front: Mitzi, Mrs. Jomori, Micki, Mr. Jomori, Jimmy. J068.

born in Lethbridge, and David Samuel, born in Edmonton.

Sam retired from the Correspondence School in 1988, but he and Yuriko are still kept busy with volunteer activities in their church, Seniors Recreation Centre, and extended care hospital.

JOYCE JOMORI was born in Sumerland May 18, 1929, and attended Summerland schools, graduating in 1947. She then attended Garbutt Business College in Calgary in 1948, and worked for the Royal Insurance Company, Calgary, 1948-51. Moving to Toronto, she found employment with the Childrens Aid Society of Metropolitan Toronto, where she remained until retirement in 1991. She still resides in Toronto.

ERNIE JOMORI was born December 7, 1930, and attended Summerland Elementary School from grade one to eight. His basic memories of those years, were of being very poor and having to work in the tomato fields and fruit orchards after school, and all summer along, with older sisters, Yuriko and Joyce, and younger brother Sandy.

Ernie attended Summerland High School from Gr.9-12, graduating in 1949. During this period he went to work in the Occidental Fruit Packing House during the summers, and after school, where his primary job was a hand nailer of boxes. He went to work full time for two years after leaving High School. His main extra-curricular activity during High School was sports, participating in soccer, basketball, hockey and track.

A highlight of this period, was being a member of the Summerland Red Sox junior baseball team, a team that dominated junior baseball in the Okanagan. The team also challenged and defeated other dominant teams in B.C., Kamloops in 1948, and Vancouver in 1949. The team considered themselves mythical champions of B.C.

In January of 1952, Ernie went to Shurpass College in Vancouver, to obtain his senior matriculation. Then he moved to Toronto, in February of 1953, where he enrolled in the C.A. course. He received his degree in 1958, and has operated his own practice to the present day.

Ernie's social life in Toronto has been mainly within the Japanese community. He was involved in the building of the



The Jomori Family, October 1993 photo. KDJ 105.

Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, and also in five and ten pin bowling, and golf. He is also involved in harness horse racing at the present time.

SANDY JOMORI was born March 30, 1932, and raised in Summerland, B.C. After graduating from High School, he joined the Air Force for 3 years. He returned to Summerland, and after engaging in fruit and mushroom farming for several years, he returned to school and got his carpenter's certificate. Sandy then worked as a construction project supervisor for 23 years. He now operates his own Company.

Sandy married Nancy Terai of Kelowna in 1961. They have 3 daughters: Cathy (teacher in Richmond), married to Tom Brickenden, Sharon (medical lab tech at St. Vincent's Hospital), and Leanne (law student at U.B.C.).

Sandy participated in various sports (basketball, soccer, baseball) during and after High School. He played shortstop for the champion Summerland Red Sox Jr. Baseball Team, while his brother Ernie played third base and pitcher. At present he is too busy for sports (except as a spectator), but enjoys puttering in his vegetable garden and hobby orchard.

NANCY (Terai) JOMORI was born in Benvoulin, November 20, 1938, and was raised in Rutland, B.C., where she graduated from Rutland High School. She then worked as a secretary at Kelowna Junior High School for 3 years, for Principal, Fred Bunce.

Moving to Summerland, B.C., she married Sandy Jomori in 1961. She then served as secretary at Penticton High School for Principal, H.D. Pritchard, until their first child was born in 1964. Nancy was a homemaker until the youngest of her 3 children graduated from Summerland Secondary School in 1991. She then owned and operated a ladies' wear boutique in Penticton from 1991 to 1993. Nancy enjoys playing tennis in the Spring and Summer, and badminton in the Fall and Winter.

MARGARET (Jomori) SHISHIDO was born March 29, 1934, in Summerland, where she was raised on the family farm, and attended Summerland schools. She graduated from High School in 1952, and went into nursing, graduating from Vancouver General hospital in 1956. She then worked at vari-



Sandy Jomori Family, 1992: Standing, L-R; Tom & Cathy (Jomori) Brickenden, Leanne & Sharon Jomori. Seated: Sandy & Nancy Jomori. KDJ 157.

ous hospitals in the lower mainland and Vancouver Island. In 1960, Margaret married Sam Shishido of Vancouver. The Shishido's have 3 children: Karen (Shishido) Gessaroli; Craig; and Tammy (Shishido) Monachese.

Sam and Margaret still reside in Vancouver, where Margaret is employed in working with "battered women."

MITZI (Jomori) OKURA was born December 25, 1940, the 5th of 6 daughters of Seiji and Tsuma Jomori. She graduated from Summerland High School in 1959. She then attended U.Vic and UBC to become a teacher, and taught school for 7 years in Port Moody.

In 1968, she moved to Edmonton, and lived with Yuriko and her family for 2 years, and taught school for four years. In 1970, she married Ron Okura, and in 1972, they bought a house in Sherwood Park, and have lived there ever since.

For the next few years, Mitzi stayed at home to raise their children. Their daughter Joyce was born in 1973, and their son Jeff, in 1975. Joyce had many problems when she was born, and life has been a challenge for the family. In 1991, they finally learned that Joyce has Prader-Willi Syndrome.

Both of the children graduated from High School in 1993. Jeff is continuing his education at the U of A., while Joyce is working at a Day Care and sheltered workshop. She has recently moved to a group home which is very close to the Okura home.

For the past 7 years, Mitzi has been teaching recreational classes to preschool children, for the local Recreation Department. Three years ago, Ron retired from AGT, and has been available to look after Joyce. This enabled Mitzi to work full time. She has combined teaching with working in the department office.

JIM JOMORI graduated from Summerland Secondary in 1962. He attended the University of Toronto, and graduated in 1969 with a Bachelor of Arts degree, and in 1970, earned a Bachelor of Education. He presently lives in Aurora, Ontario, and teaches Biology at Unionville High School.

MICKI (Jomori) POYNTZ graduated from Summerland Secondary in 1963, and from Vancouver General Hospital

time sewing and enjoying my granddaughter.

Denise was born in Vernon on January 22, 1960, and went to school in Summerland. She attended UBC, graduating as a teacher. Unfortunately, at that time, teachers were being laid off in B.C., so Denise had to accept Substitute positions. On August 6, 1983, she married Don Bergman, and they lived in Revelstoke and North Vancouver. Denise took a course to become a CGA, and was employed as an auditor for the GST in North Vancouver. They have a daughter, Chelsea Nicole, and now live in Kelowna.

Our son Mark was born in Vernon, on August 4, 1961. He also attended school in Summerland. He received the Elks Bursary upon graduation from High School. Mark went on to becoming a Certified Management accountant, and is now living and working in Cambridge, Ontario.

### JOMORI, SEIJI

Seiji Jomori was born in Kagoshima-ken, Japan, in 1888. He emigrated to Canada in 1907 or 1908, and began working for the CPR in Vancouver. He eventually ended up in Medicine Hat, AB, working in the CPR roundhouse (repair shop), where Mr. Ritsu Ide was the foreman. Later he moved back to the outskirts of Vancouver, where he worked as a handyman at a farmhouse, before coming to Summerland.

In 1923, Seiji boarded with Mr. & Mrs. Frank Ageno, while he rented land to grow onions and tomatoes. He also rented an orchard nearby. In 1925, he bought the orchard on the corner of Hwy. 97 and Turner Street, from Judge Kelly.

In 1926, Seiji married TSUMA NAKAHARADA, who was also from Kagoshima-ken, Japan. Seiji and Tsuma had 7 daughters and 5 sons (but a son and daughter died as infants): Yuriko, Joyce, Ernie, Sandy, Margaret, Ruby, Tom, Mitzi, Jim and Micki. All of the children grew up in Summerland, assisted on the family farm, and attended Summerland schools.

Besides working their orchard, the Jomori's rented land above Crescent Beach to grow tomatoes. They started their own plants in greenhouses, and became a valuable grower for the Occidental Packinghouse.

In 1958, Seiji retired from farming, and Tsuma began work at Barkwill's Cannery, where she remained in employment until her retirement in 1974. In 1965, they moved to Jones Flat Road, where they maintained a one acre orchard. Mr. Jomori passed away in 1971. Mrs. Jomori moved into Parkdale Place in 1984, and passed away in 1993.

YURIKO (Jomori) HIGA was born November 26, 1927, and attended Summerland Elementary and Summerland High School, graduating in 1946. Yuriko recalls caring for her younger siblings, and working long hours on the fruit and vegetable farms. She later packed fruit at the local packinghouse.

In 1952, Yuriko attended Henderson Business College, in Calgary, while working for room and board. She then worked twelve and one-half years for Sun Life Mortgage Co. While working in Calgary, she met and married Sam Higa of Lethbridge. After a one year sojourn in Lethbridge, when Sam taught in Iron Springs (a small town NE of Lethbridge), the Higas moved to Edmonton, where Sam accepted a teaching position with the Alberta Correspondence School.

Sam and Yuriko Higa have two children; Kenneth James,



JOMORI Family 1948: Back, L-R; Ruby, Ernie, Yuriko, Margaret, Joyce, Sandy, Tommy. Front: Mitzi, Mrs. Jomori, Micki, Mr. Jomori, Jimmy. J068.

born in Lethbridge, and David Samuel, born in Edmonton.

Sam retired from the Correspondence School in 1988, but he and Yuriko are still kept busy with volunteer activities in their church, Seniors Recreation Centre, and extended care hospital.

JOYCE JOMORI was born in Sumerland May 18, 1929, and attended Summerland schools, graduating in 1947. She then attended Garbutt Business College in Calgary in 1948, and worked for the Royal Insurance Company, Calgary, 1948-51. Moving to Toronto, she found employment with the Childrens Aid Society of Metropolitan Toronto, where she remained until retirement in 1991. She still resides in Toronto.

ERNIE JOMORI was born December 7, 1930, and attended Summerland Elementary School from grade one to eight. His basic memories of those years, were of being very poor and having to work in the tomato fields and fruit orchards after school, and all summer along, with older sisters, Yuriko and Joyce, and younger brother Sandy.

Ernie attended Summerland High School from Gr.9-12, graduating in 1949. During this period he went to work in the Occidental Fruit Packing House during the summers, and after school, where his primary job was a hand nailer of boxes. He went to work full time for two years after leaving High School. His main extra-curricular activity during High School was sports, participating in soccer, basketball, hockey and track.

A highlight of this period, was being a member of the Summerland Red Sox junior baseball team, a team that dominated junior baseball in the Okanagan. The team also challenged and defeated other dominant teams in B.C., Kamloops in 1948, and Vancouver in 1949. The team considered themselves mythical champions of B.C.

In January of 1952, Ernie went to Shurpass College in Vancouver, to obtain his senior matriculation. Then he moved to Toronto, in February of 1953, where he enrolled in the C.A. course. He received his degree in 1958, and has operated his own practice to the present day.

Ernie's social life in Toronto has been mainly within the Japanese community. He was involved in the building of the



The Jomori Family, October 1993 photo. KDJ 105.

Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, and also in five and ten pin bowling, and golf. He is also involved in harness horse racing at the present time.

SANDY JOMORI was born March 30, 1932, and raised in Summerland, B.C. After graduating from High School, he joined the Air Force for 3 years. He returned to Summerland, and after engaging in fruit and mushroom farming for several years, he returned to school and got his carpenter's certificate. Sandy then worked as a construction project supervisor for 23 years. He now operates his own Company.

Sandy married Nancy Terai of Kelowna in 1961. They have 3 daughters: Cathy (teacher in Richmond), married to Tom Brickenden, Sharon (medical lab tech at St. Vincent's Hospital), and Leanne (law student at U.B.C.).

Sandy participated in various sports (basketball, soccer, baseball) during and after High School. He played shortstop for the champion Summerland Red Sox Jr. Baseball Team, while his brother Ernie played third base and pitcher. At present he is too busy for sports (except as a spectator), but enjoys putting in his vegetable garden and hobby orchard.

NANCY (Terai) JOMORI was born in Benvoulin, November 20, 1938, and was raised in Rutland, B.C., where she graduated from Rutland High School. She then worked as a secretary at Kelowna Junior High School for 3 years, for Principal, Fred Bunce.

Moving to Summerland, B.C., she married Sandy Jomori in 1961. She then served as secretary at Penticton High School for Principal, H.D. Pritchard, until their first child was born in 1964. Nancy was a homemaker until the youngest of her 3 children graduated from Summerland Secondary School in 1991. She then owned and operated a ladies' wear boutique in Penticton from 1991 to 1993. Nancy enjoys playing tennis in the Spring and Summer, and badminton in the Fall and Winter.

MARGARET (Jomori) SHISHIDO was born March 29, 1934, in Summerland, where she was raised on the family farm, and attended Summerland schools. She graduated from High School in 1952, and went into nursing, graduating from Vancouver General hospital in 1956. She then worked at vari-



Sandy Jomori Family, 1992: Standing, L-R; Tom & Cathy (Jomori) Brickenden, Leanne & Sharon Jomori. Seated: Sandy & Nancy Jomori. KDJ 157.

ous hospitals in the lower mainland and Vancouver Island. In 1960, Margaret married Sam Shishido of Vancouver. The Shishido's have 3 children: Karen (Shishido) Gessaroli; Craig; and Tammy (Shishido) Monachese.

Sam and Margaret still reside in Vancouver, where Margaret is employed in working with "battered women."

MITZI (Jomori) OKURA was born December 25, 1940, the 5th of 6 daughters of Seiji and Tsuma Jomori. She graduated from Summerland High School in 1959. She then attended U.Vic and UBC to become a teacher, and taught school for 7 years in Port Moody.

In 1968, she moved to Edmonton, and lived with Yuriko and her family for 2 years, and taught school for four years. In 1970, she married Ron Okura, and in 1972, they bought a house in Sherwood Park, and have lived there ever since.

For the next few years, Mitzi stayed at home to raise their children. Their daughter Joyce was born in 1973, and their son Jeff, in 1975. Joyce had many problems when she was born, and life has been a challenge for the family. In 1991, they finally learned that Joyce has Prader-Willi Syndrome.

Both of the children graduated from High School in 1993. Jeff is continuing his education at the U of A., while Joyce is working at a Day Care and sheltered workshop. She has recently moved to a group home which is very close to the Okura home.

For the past 7 years, Mitzi has been teaching recreational classes to preschool children, for the local Recreation Department. Three years ago, Ron retired from AGT, and has been available to look after Joyce. This enabled Mitzi to work full time. She has combined teaching with working in the department office.

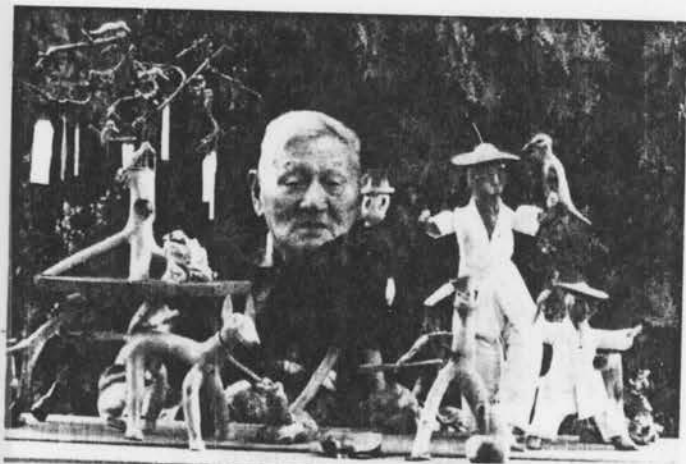
JIM JOMORI graduated from Summerland Secondary in 1962. He attended the University of Toronto, and graduated in 1969 with a Bachelor of Arts degree, and in 1970, earned a Bachelor of Education. He presently lives in Aurora, Ontario, and teaches Biology at Unionville High School.

MICKI (Jomori) POYNTZ graduated from Summerland Secondary in 1963, and from Vancouver General Hospital

School of Nursing in 1968.

Micki was married in 1969 to Ian Poyntz. They have one child, Jennifer born in 1980.

Ian is a geologist in the oil industry and his job has entailed many moves. He has been employed in Calgary, Chicago, United Arab Emirates, and Houston. Ian and Micki are presently residing in Tripoli, Libya.



Takeshi (Tom) Kato, apple wood carver, (1891-1989). J170.

#### **KATO, TAKESHI (TOM)**

Tom Kato was born in Miyagiken, Japan on September 18, 1891, and went to school there. At age 16, he immigrated to Canada, and worked at the Coldstream Ranch in Vernon, from 1907-1919. He then went to Summerland and worked in an orchard, which he later purchased, on Front Bench and Harris Roads. He lived and worked there, until his death in 1989. Tom returned to Japan in 1922, and married MASUO SATO, and came back to Summerland, and Masuo came later in 1925. They had 3 sons, Taketoshi (died at birth), Shoichi (Sam), and Shoji (Fred).

Tom liked to watch sports, and enjoyed fishing. His hobby was carving different figures from fruit wood, which he liked to give away to friends.

Masuo (Sato) Kato was born in Miyagiken, Japan, in 1903, and passed away in Summerland in 1988. She worked on the farm with her husband. Masuo belonged to the local Fujinkai, and liked to sing Japanese songs. She also enjoyed going to baseball and hockey games, to watch her son, Fred play. The Katos made a number of trips to Japan, 1972, 1975, and 1978.

#### **KATO, SHOJI (FRED)**

Shoji Fred Kato was born Oct. 2, 1931, the youngest of three sons born to Tom & Masuo Kato. Fred went to school in Summerland and took part in many sports. He was second baseman for the Summerland Junior Red Sox Baseball Team, and for the Summerland Macs. He worked at the Occidental Fruit Packinghouse from 1950 to 1965, when wages were 79 cents to \$1.35 per hour. From 1970 to 1975, he worked for Kenyon Construction, and for Canyonview Construction, from

1980 to 1987. In 1965, he also took over the family orchard, and has since replanted some of the orchard to wine grapes. His main hobby is wine making, although he still tinkers with machinery, and antique cars.

In the fall of 1988, Fred had a kidney transplant which was very successful, and he is now able to enjoy life.

#### **KAWAKAMI, JIM SATORU**

JIM SATORU KAWAKAMI was born in Stave Falls, B.C., on May 1, 1925. His parents were Tsunetaro and Chikoyo (Ishida) Kamakami, who were both born in Okayamaken, Japan. His parents immigrated to Canada in 1907, and his father worked in logging in Stave Falls, and later in a sawmill in New Denver, B.C. Tsunetaro retired in 1950, and came to Summerland to live with Jim in 1962. He passed away here in 1967.

In 1930, Jim's mother took him and his two sisters to Japan, to be educated there. He attended school in Okayama, and went on to University in Yokohama, and also took up Judo, Kendo and Kataoki.

Jim married JUNKO OKAWA in 1954, in Okayama, Japan. Junko was born there in 1932. They came to Canada in 1956, and lived in Vancouver, and then in New Denver, where he worked in a sawmill. They came to Summerland in 1959, and worked in the orchards here, until they purchased their own property in 1964. Jim is an independent grower (Lakeview Orchards), selling his fruit in various parts of B.C. and Alberta. Jim was a Judo Instructor, and also enjoys fishing very much.

Jim and Junko have one daughter, Jeanie Rumiko, born in Summerland on December 27, 1966. Jeanie was educated in Summerland, and graduated from High School in 1984. She then attended Simon Fraser University from 1984-1990, specializing in Sports Medicine. Jeanie was active in Karate and Gymnastics. She also took piano lessons, completing Grade 9 Toronto Conservatory, and winning many awards at area Music Festivals. She was a cheerleader for the B.C. Lions Football Team in 1992, and is currently making Fitness videos for the C.B.C., and working in the Health Department of Vancouver General Hospital. She married Craig Cloutieis in 1993.

Jim and Junko still run the orchard, as well as a Bed & Breakfast in their home, for visitors from Japan.

#### **KAWASAKI, TSUNEO**

Tsuneo Kawasaki was born in 1888, in Kagoshima, Japan. In the late 1920's, he married YOSHIKO (MIYAZAKI), born in 1898, in Hiroshima, Japan. Yoshiko had four children from a previous marriage: Sam, Kaz, Hideko and Yuki.

Tsuneo and Yoshiko brought two of the children, Hideko and Yuki, to Summerland in 1930. Four more children were born: Tomiko, Michiro, Miyeko and Yemiko.

Tsuneo and Yoshiko lived on the Solly and the Stewart orchards for many years, until their retirement. Tsuneo passed away in 1958. Michiro bought the Kita orchard on Jones Flat, in the mid 1960's, and lived there with his mother (Yoshiko), until her death in 1969.

Tsuneo and Yoshiko belonged to the Summerland Japanese Club and the United Church.

School of Nursing in 1968.

Micki was married in 1969 to Ian Poyntz. They have one child, Jennifer born in 1980.

Ian is a geologist in the oil industry and his job has entailed many moves. He has been employed in Calgary, Chicago, United Arab Emirates, and Houston. Ian and Micki are presently residing in Tripoli, Libya.



Takeshi (Tom) Kato, apple wood carver, (1891-1989). J170.

#### **KATO, TAKESHI (TOM)**

Tom Kato was born in Miyagiken, Japan on September 18, 1891, and went to school there. At age 16, he immigrated to Canada, and worked at the Coldstream Ranch in Vernon, from 1907-1919. He then went to Summerland and worked in an orchard, which he later purchased, on Front Bench and Harris Roads. He lived and worked there, until his death in 1989. Tom returned to Japan in 1922, and married MASUO SATO, and came back to Summerland, and Masuo came later in 1925. They had 3 sons, Taketoshi (died at birth), Shoichi (Sam), and Shoji (Fred).

Tom liked to watch sports, and enjoyed fishing. His hobby was carving different figures from fruit wood, which he liked to give away to friends.

Masuo (Sato) Kato was born in Miyagiken, Japan, in 1903, and passed away in Summerland in 1988. She worked on the farm with her husband. Masuo belonged to the local Fujinkai, and liked to sing Japanese songs. She also enjoyed going to baseball and hockey games, to watch her son, Fred play. The Katos made a number of trips to Japan, 1972, 1975, and 1978.

#### **KATO, SHOJI (FRED)**

Shoji Fred Kato was born Oct. 2, 1931, the youngest of three sons born to Tom & Masuo Kato. Fred went to school in Summerland and took part in many sports. He was second baseman for the Summerland Junior Red Sox Baseball Team, and for the Summerland Macs. He worked at the Occidental Fruit Packinghouse from 1950 to 1965, when wages were 79 cents to \$1.35 per hour. From 1970 to 1975, he worked for Kenyon Construction, and for Canyonview Construction, from

1980 to 1987. In 1965, he also took over the family orchard, and has since replanted some of the orchard to wine grapes. His main hobby is wine making, although he still tinkers with machinery, and antique cars.

In the fall of 1988, Fred had a kidney transplant which was very successful, and he is now able to enjoy life.

#### **KAWAKAMI, JIM SATORU**

JIM SATORU KAWAKAMI was born in Stave Falls, B.C., on May 1, 1925. His parents were Tsunetaro and Chikoyo (Ishida) Kamakami, who were both born in Okayamaken, Japan. His parents immigrated to Canada in 1907, and his father worked in logging in Stave Falls, and later in a sawmill in New Denver, B.C. Tsunetaro retired in 1950, and came to Summerland to live with Jim in 1962. He passed away here in 1967.

In 1930, Jim's mother took him and his two sisters to Japan, to be educated there. He attended school in Okayama, and went on to University in Yokohama, and also took up Judo, Kendo and Kataoki.

Jim married JUNKO OKAWA in 1954, in Okayama, Japan. Junko was born there in 1932. They came to Canada in 1956, and lived in Vancouver, and then in New Denver, where he worked in a sawmill. They came to Summerland in 1959, and worked in the orchards here, until they purchased their own property in 1964. Jim is an independent grower (Lakeview Orchards), selling his fruit in various parts of B.C. and Alberta. Jim was a Judo Instructor, and also enjoys fishing very much.

Jim and Junko have one daughter, Jeanie Rumiko, born in Summerland on December 27, 1966. Jeanie was educated in Summerland, and graduated from High School in 1984. She then attended Simon Fraser University from 1984-1990, specializing in Sports Medicine. Jeanie was active in Karate and Gymnastics. She also took piano lessons, completing Grade 9 Toronto Conservatory, and winning many awards at area Music Festivals. She was a cheerleader for the B.C. Lions Football Team in 1992, and is currently making Fitness videos for the C.B.C., and working in the Health Department of Vancouver General Hospital. She married Craig Cloutieis in 1993.

Jim and Junko still run the orchard, as well as a Bed & Breakfast in their home, for visitors from Japan.

#### **KAWASAKI, TSUNEO**

Tsuneo Kawasaki was born in 1888, in Kagoshima, Japan. In the late 1920's, he married YOSHIKO (MIYAZAKI), born in 1898, in Hiroshima, Japan. Yoshiko had four children from a previous marriage: Sam, Kaz, Hideko and Yuki.

Tsuneo and Yoshiko brought two of the children, Hideko and Yuki, to Summerland in 1930. Four more children were born: Tomiko, Michiro, Miyeko and Yemiko.

Tsuneo and Yoshiko lived on the Solly and the Stewart orchards for many years, until their retirement. Tsuneo passed away in 1958. Michiro bought the Kita orchard on Jones Flat, in the mid 1960's, and lived there with his mother (Yoshiko), until her death in 1969.

Tsuneo and Yoshiko belonged to the Summerland Japanese Club and the United Church.



Kawasaki Family & Friends, 1952(?): L-R; Unknown, Tsuneo & Yoshiko Kawasaki, Tomiko, Hideko, Michiro, Charles Fujita, Tsune Jomori. Front: Miyeko & Yemiko. J137.

#### YAMAMOTO/KAWASAKI

HIDEKO YAMAMOTO/KAWASAKI, daughter of Tsuneo and Yoshiko Kawasaki, was born in Lynn Creek, B.C. in 1925. In 1930, she moved with her family to Summerland. Hideko attended MacDonald Elementary School and Summerland Secondary.

Hideko met CHARLES FUJITA in 1948, and they married in 1949. Charles was the son of Mataemon and Kumaya (Nakagaura) Fujita. He was born in Coaldale, AB, in 1921, and grew up working on farms in the area. Hideko and Charles now moved to Coaldale, Alberta, where they worked in the sugar beet fields. After two years, they returned to Summerland. In the early '50's, they moved to the Walter Powell orchard, where they worked until Charles passed away in 1964.

Hideko then moved closer to town. In late 1965, she married Horst Wuensche.

From 1964-1969, Hideko worked in various orchards and the Mrs. D.L. Milne Cannery. In 1969, she went to work for the Lake Area Cooperative packinghouse, later known as B.C. Fruit Packers Cooperative. She worked here until her retirement in 1991.

Hideko & Charles had two sons, Douglas, born in 1956, and Michael, born in 1960.

Hideko & Charles belonged to the United Church, and the Summerland Japanese Canadian Club. Hideko enjoyed travelling, fishing, bingo and sports.

She passed away December 14, 1993.

DOUGLAS FUJITA, son of Charles and Hideko Fujita, was born in 1956, in Penticton. He grew up in the Prairie Valley area of Summerland, until his father's passing in 1964. The family then settled closer to town. Douglas attended MacDonald Elem. and Summerland Sec. School.

In 1974, Douglas went to work at the Summerland Research Station, and then the Lake Area Co-op packinghouse, later known as BC Fruit Packers Co-op, and is still there today.

Douglas married Mary Ann in 1981. They presently live in Prairie Valley, and enjoy camping, fishing, travelling, snowmobiling, and gardening.

MICHAEL FUJITA was born in Penticton in 1960. Michael also attended MacDonald Elem. and Summerland Sec., graduating in 1978. From 1979 - 1986, Michael lived in Grande Prairie & Edmonton AB, where he was employed as a taxi driver, and apprentice plumber. He completed his apprenticeship in 1984.

In 1985, Michael married Linda Goss, of Summerland. In 1986, Michael and Linda moved to Westbank, and then to Peachland, where they presently reside. Michael works as a plumber in the Kelowna area, as well as managing Bridge Chevron in Kelowna.

Michael & Linda have two daughters: Laura Christine, born in 1985, and Bailey Michelle, born in 1988. Together, they enjoy travelling and camping.

#### KITA, MATSUTARO & NATSUE

Matsutaro was born in a fishing village called Makurazaki, Kagoshima-ken, Japan, in April 1883. He was one of nine children in the family, and since several members of his family died at sea while fishing, and other work was hard to find, he decided to seek employment in Canada.

At the age of 24, in 1907, he came to Canada and worked for CP Railway. He decided to settle in Summerland, and worked as farm hand in various orchards, driving teams of horses, ploughing, and planting fruit trees. Summerland had a population of a few hundred people, with only two stores and one hotel on the Okanagan lakefront.

Matsutaro was already married when he left Japan, but had to leave wife Natsue to look after his mother. He made frequent visits to Japan to see his family. In March of 1926, when his mother passed away, he brought his wife and family, Minoru age 6, and Hiroshi age 5, to his newly acquired fruit farm in Summerland. The older children, Shigero, Matsube, and Sakae, remained in Japan until they completed their education, and later joined the family. After the family arrived here, Alfred and Edward were born.

The four younger children attended school in Summerland. Minoru graduated High School and assisted on the farm, so that the younger brothers could further their education. Hiroshi went to Toronto to study Horology, and later became a Jeweller, and settled in Montreal. Alfred was very active in sports and other activities. He was instrumental in starting Teen Town (a group of teenagers forming an organization to govern themselves during leisure hours). The idea soon spread throughout the country. Alfred was also editor of the school paper. Upon graduation he received the Verrier Trophy Award for best all around sports and academic standing. He then attended UBC, but after completing second year, misfortune struck. After a Tonsilectomy operation, he accidentally asphyxiated and passed away. Edward, the youngest son, was also the recipient of the Verrier Trophy Award. He then attended U.B.C., U.C.L.A., and University of Oregon.

Matsutaro and his wife Natsue, celebrated their Diamond Anniversary in 1965. He passed away in Summerland in 1974, at the ripe old age of 91, followed by his wife Natsue in 1979, at 92. It is evident that hardship during early life did not affect their longevity.

SAKAE KITA was born in Makurazaki-shi, Kagoshima-

ken, Japan, and educated in Japan. After completing so called, Ladies Secondary School, she boarded a ship called Empress of Russia, and immigrated to Canada, to join the rest of the family in Summerland.

Times were tough during the 'Dirty Thirties' and jobs were next to impossible to obtain, so she stayed on the farm with the rest of the family. She helped mother in cooking and housekeeping, as well as assisting in harvesting fruit and vegetables on the farm. During the winter months, when farm work slackened, she would travel to Vancouver, and seek part time housework, while attending sewing school. For recreation, she attended Japanese odori classes to brush up on dancing that she learned in her birthplace.

In 1965, her parents, Matsutaro and Natsue, sold their homestead to their oldest son Shigeru, and purchased a smaller five acre orchard, with a house on it. Since her parents had retired, and did not want the orchard, she purchased it, and built her own house on it, as well. Her father passed away in 1974 at 91, so she looked after mother until her death in 1979. Although she has been retired for the past ten years, she still maintains the home, but has the other house and orchard rented out.

Sakae visited Japan several times since coming to Canada. Her first visit since 1933, was in 1957, when she met and reminisced with all her relatives, classmates and former friends. In 1981 she went to enjoy a class reunion in her home town. Again in 1991, she went to visit her aunt and cousins in Osaka, and friends in Tokyo. Her most recent visit was in 1992, when she accompanied a 'sister city' group, consisting of Summerland and Penticton citizens. At that time they visited Tsukuba and Ikeda in Japan, Hong Kong, & Thailand, and returned after an enjoyable three weeks.

Gardening is one of her foremost hobbies, as well as sewing and 'Odori' dancing. She has displayed her talent at many different functions such as the 'Peach Festival', Senior Drop In Centre, Kiwanis, Parkdale Place gatherings, and celebrations in both Summerland and Penticton.

In her early days she enjoyed playing volleyball and table tennis as a sport. On a recent Caribbean Cruise, she took on many a opponent in Ping Pong, even at her senior age. Her active life seems to keep her healthy and young at heart.

KITA, MINORU (by Min)

I am the fourth child of seven in the Matsutaro Kita family. My birth place was Makurazaki, Japan, (December 1920). In 1926, my grandmother passed away, so my mother Natsue, and my younger brother Hiroshi, were able to immigrate to Canada, to join my father in Summerland. He had by that time purchased a fruit orchard and a home to reside in.

I was six years old when I came to Summerland, so I started school that same year. Not knowing a word of English, communication with other students was very difficult. In a way I was fortunate, because at school, across the aisle, there was a fellow named Katsumi Imayoshi, who was bilingual, and translated things I could not understand. Racial discrimination was not too noticeable during childhood, but was more evident during mid and senior years.

In the spring of 1936, we had the misfortune of our house burning down. When a disaster like this occurs, we realize

how much we miss our little possessions, such as photos, school trophies and childhood memorabilia. My brother Hiroshi, was most disappointed when he lost his gym clothes and equipment, and could not join his team mates at a Provincial Gymnastic Competition in Vancouver.

Shortly after war broke out, there was one incident that remains in my memory. I was very interested in electronics since my early school days, making a public address system, record player and supplying music for school dances. One day I decided to build a transmitter for my record player, and a receiver for my amplifier, to eliminate some extra connections by this remote system. Shortly after I finished making this unit, I heard a knock on the door. I opened it and there stood two RCMP officers. They asked me if I had anything that would transmit signals. I had to admit that I had a small transmitter for my P.A. System, and that it was only capable of transmitting a few hundred yards. However, they seized my equipment, and that was the last time I saw it. I consider myself lucky! I could have been jailed as spy!

When I graduated from High School, I would like to have continued my education, but decided to stay on the farm, and assist my parents, in order that my brothers could proceed further with their education.

In 1952, while on vacation in Montreal, I met Masae Wakabayashi, and later on that year we were married. We built our own home on part of the farm, and for a few more years I assisted my parents.

When our first child, Diane, was born, and my parents were well established, and my brothers nearly completed with their education, I thought the time had come to think about my own future. I had to make a major decision, whether to keep assisting my parents, and eventually inheriting the farm, as was their wish, or pursue my deep interest in electronics. I chose my heart's desire, to go into the electronics business on my own.

In order to pursue this profession, I needed more knowledge. I left my wife and child at home, and went to Radio College of Canada, in Montreal, where my wife's parents resided. I was able to room and board with the Wakabayashi's during my schooling.

In 1957, I graduated and returned home. Television had just been introduced in the Okanagan Valley a short time before, so it was a good opportunity for me to open a business. I started a T.V. service shop in Penticton that summer, and by the end of the year, I had two or three technicians employed. In the next few years I moved to six other locations, in order to expand.

Then at a time when I felt that I was a most fortunate person, with a lovely wife and two beautiful children, suddenly tragedy struck. I lost my beloved wife Massie, at the early age of 38. Losing such a person and mother of our two children, Diane, 12, and Brad, 8, made life unbearable.

To get over it all, I went on a vacation to Makurazaki, Japan, my birth place. While there I met a charming girl, named Miyo Matsumoto. In the summer of 1968, we married and shortly after, moved into a new home, overlooking the lake, in Summerland. Life was getting back to normal for me once again. In 1972 we had a baby girl, Angie.

In the meantime, my business in Penticton was increasing to the extent that I had to move for the sixth time, so I decided





Matsutaro & Natsue Kita 60th Wedding Anniversary, 1965: Back, L-R; Diane, Edward, Hiroshi, Minoru, Shigeru, Francis, Helen, Stanley. Front, L-R; Brad, Masae, Michele, Satoye, Natsue, Matsutaro, Sakae, Graham, Miyo. April 17, 1965. J077.

to build a place of my own. In the summer of 1972, I purchased two vacant lots and built one large building, so I would not have to move again. Now, I was able to retail all types of electronic entertainment goods, as well as operate a service shop in the rear of the building.

By this time my oldest daughter, Diane, had graduated from High School with a teaching scholarship. She attended UBC and became a teacher at Princess Margaret Secondary School. She later met a man named Chris Stevenson at a teacher's convention in Victoria, and later at a church convention in Portland, Oregon. It must have been fate that brought them together, because he had come all the way from Fredericton, where he teaches at the University of New Brunswick. They were married in the Penticton Baptist Church, and a reception was held at the Sommerset Inn, a historical landmark on the hill overlooking Summerland. The building was later moved to Penticton, much to our regret, and finally destroyed by fire. Diane and Chris live in Fredericton, N.B. and are both teaching.

My son Brad, after graduating from S.H.S., attended Okanagan College in Kelowna for two years. Undecided on what the future held, he took a year off and obtained employment in various jobs in Vancouver. He then attended BCTT and graduated with a degree in International Business Administration. He then, much to my surprise, said that he would like to work with me in the business. Since I was about to receive my old age pension and retire, I could not have been more pleased. Shortly after that I retired, and he ran the Hi-Grade TV business. He then married a long time friend, Cindy Sakamoto, and now they have a son, Brendan, and a daughter Murasame.

My youngest daughter Angie, graduated from our local High School with a Credit Union Scholarship, as well as an Okanagan College Scholarship. She attended OK College for two years, and then transferred to Simon Fraser University, majoring in Kinesiology.

My interest in community affairs was through Summerland BPO Elks #476, of which I was one of the Charter Members. Our Lodge has been established about 36 years, and I am proud to say I have served in the chairs, and

have been their Trustee. I belonged to the Japanese Agricultural Association, later called Japanese Canadian Club. The club was formed by our parents about 75 years ago for the common benefit of J/C in Summerland. One notable gift to the community was a 10 feet tall Japanese Lantern, which stands majestically in the front garden of our hospital.

My foremost sports at the moment are golfing and bowling, which Miyo and I started after retiring in 1986. Fishing was my favorite pastime previous to that. In my earlier days I enjoyed baseball, gymnastics, bowling, tennis, skating and basketball.

I cannot close without stating that my wife, Miyo, has been a pillar of strength during both stressful and enjoyable times. With a common interest in sports and social activities, we appreciate retired life.

After 38 years in business, 30 by myself, and 8 by my son Brad, Hi-Grade TV store closed its doors on January 31, 1994. Brad had decided to make a change in his occupation. All good things must come to an end, and I guess this is one of them.

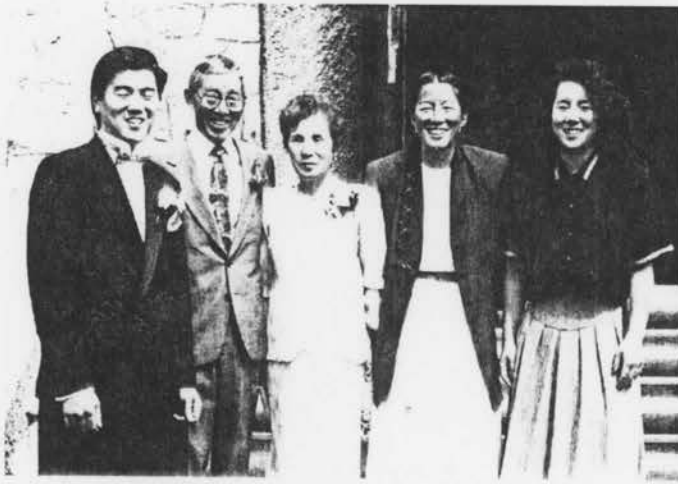
#### KITA, EDWARD (by Ed)

I was born on Feb. 18, 1930, in Summerland General Hospital, the 7th child of a family of five brothers and one sister.

I was a short spunky kid and got nicknamed, "Spud." One day, while crossing a farmer's field, taking a short cut home with my brother Alfred, I ripped my face open on a barbed wire fence. Dr. Andrew came to the house and sewed me up without anaesthetics. I still have the 6 inch scar on my chin and cheek.

I remember our first car, the Model T Ford wooden truck, with pedals for reverse and forward. I guess I was about 14, when I worked with George Uzawa, Mary Matsu's brother, at Mr. Stewart's orchard, spraying his fruit trees.

With 6 boys in the family, we all participated in all kinds of sports. When I was too young to play, I used to go and watch my brothers play. We were crowded into a delivery truck, and the roads were bumpy and dusty. It took us two



Minoru Kita Family (1989): L-R; Brad, Minoru, Miyo, Diane, Angie. J003.

hours to get to Penticton. I really enjoyed basketball, volleyball, track and field, baseball, and gym, and had good times playing against other teams, in Oliver, Penticton, Kelowna and Vernon.

One of the happiest moments of my school life was when I received the "All around Verrier Sportsman Trophy." My brother Alfred's name was engraved on it also.

Upon High School graduation, I attended UBC for a year, then on to UCLA for a year, and University of Portland, for a year, before entering Oregon Dental School in Portland. I graduated Dental School in 1955, and bought a practice in Richmond, B.C., whose population was 10,000 people. There were only three dentists in town at the time.

I got engaged to a nurse, Satoye Nishiguchi, at Christmas 1956, and we started building a house in Broadmoor subdivision, the second subdivision in Richmond. It was to be completed by June, when we had planned to be married. Sat's parents were tomato farmers, and my folks being orchardists, we had to wait until November when all the crops were harvested, for our wedding in Summerland. My father had a hobby greenhouse, and loved flowers, so he filled the church and the reception hall with beautiful, huge spider mums of all colors.

I took my bride on our honeymoon to Oregon, San Francisco, Carmel, Redwood Forests, UCLA (showing her all my haunts of University days, and visiting friends) and on to San Diego, Tijuana, Disneyland, Las Vegas, Reno, and back the 97 Route home. I got 3 speeding tickets on my Oldsmobile 88, and as we crossed the Oroville, Wash. border to Canada, I had 26 cents left in my pocket. Remember, there were no credit cards in those days.

Settling down to a married life, I got very involved in many aspects of community work. We had a son, Graham Mitsuo in Aug. 1959, a daughter, Michele Midori in Dec. 1961, and a son, Jason Edward in Apr. 1969. After years of community involvement I realized that my children were growing up without my guidance, so I dropped all my community work and spent more time with my family. Graham got married to Terri Hengstler in 1985, and has a daughter Jennifer age 5. Michele married Stephen Seyforth, and has a daughter Alexis, age 3. Jason is still at home attending Simon Fraser University.

After 32 years of practice, medical problems forced me to



Edward Kita Family: L-R; Steve, Michele, Jason, Ed, Alexis, Satoye, Graham, Jennifer, Terri. J069.

retire in 1986, at age 56. I am now enjoying my retirement, golfing to my heart's content, gardening, pursuing my bonsai hobby, and recently gotten into soapstone carving. I belong to a local Stroke Club, and am currently its Vice President. We do a lot of travelling and cruising now, and enjoy our condo in Summerland, as often as we can.

**NOTE: More KITA photos at end of Summerland Section.**



The Konno Family: L-R; Grant, Cheryl, Kim, Marie & Nick. KDJ280.

### KONNO, NAOZO & MARIE

Naozo Konno was born January 26, 1935, in Mission, B.C., one of seven children in the Konno family. His father, Yukio, came to B.C. from Fukushima-ken in 1905, and farmed in Mission City, until evacuated to Southern Alberta in 1942.

Mariko Teshima was born October 21, 1942, in Lethbridge, Alberta, one of five children in the Takeo Teshima family. Her parents were born in Terra Nova, B.C., but her grandparents were originally from Tottori-ken, Japan.

Naozo and Marie were educated in Alberta. Naozo became a certified auto mechanic, and Marie a typist and correspondent, with Dun & Bradstreet in Calgary. They married November 14, 1964, and had a daughter Cheryl, born March 20, 1967, and a son Grant, born September 25, 1968. They transferred with Imperial Oil to Prince George, B.C., in 1969, where daughter Kim was born June 3, 1971. Later that same year the family was transferred to North Vancouver, and then in 1972, to Princeton. In April 1974, the family moved to Summerland, to operate their own service station. Here they have been involved in a number of community activities,

including the Chamber of Commerce, Minor Hockey, Minor Baseball, Girl Guides of Canada, Curling Club, & Bowling.

Cheryl & Kim attended the University of Calgary, Cheryl in Education, and Kim in Nursing. Grant became a certified auto mechanic and continues to work with his father. He presently lives in Penticton is planning to marry Doreen Snow in 1994.



Tomishige & Kameji Kubokawa, 1920. J185.

### KUBOKAWA, TOMISHIGE

Tomishige Kubokawa was born in Yamanashi-ken, Japan, and came to Canada via Hawaii, in 1907.

Tomishige first worked at several jobs in the Vancouver area, then found employment on the CPR passenger train. As a result, he travelled across Canada several times. Later, along with his cleaning and pressing business, he worked as a custom tailor in Vancouver. He also learned to do invisible mending, and would cut out and sew pants for himself.

Tomishige was a diabetic and was advised by his doctor to go where he could do some physical labour, as in the Okanagan. Thus he came to Summerland in 1918, where he got jobs working in the orchards. In 1919, Tomishige returned to Japan, married KAMEJI MARUYAMA, also from Yamanashi-ken, and came back to live in Summerland. Tomishige and Kameji worked in the orchards, and in the fields, growing vegetables. They had 2 daughters, Tomie and Matsue, who were raised and educated in Summerland. Kameji used to spend the winter months doing embroidery, and sewing and knitting for the family.

In time the Kubokawas bought an orchard in Summerland, which they farmed until their retirement. They then sold the orchard and home, and bought a house near town, where Tomishige grew vegetables for their own use, and flowers for pleasure. He specialized in Chrysanthemums, which he disbudded to create enormous flowers.



Kameji & Tomishige Kubokawa about 1967. KDJ155.

Tomishige really enjoyed creek fishing and used to go whenever possible.

The Kubokawa's were active members of the Japanese United Church and attended faithfully. Kameji Kubokawa passed away in 1970, at age 75 after suffering several strokes. Tomishige passed away in 1979, at 95 years of age.



Mr. Mack Kuroda. J125.



Mrs. Tori Kuroda. J043.

### KURODA, MAGOZAEMON (MACK) 1883-1967 KURODA, TORI (ENDO) 1885-1963

Mr. and Mrs. Kuroda were both born in Miyagi-ken, Japan and were married there in 1903. In 1907, Mack decided to emigrate to Canada. He left his wife and two young daughters, Midori and Kitsuyo, on the farm with his parents, with the idea of returning for them later. He then boarded a ship headed for Canada, which docked in Victoria. After clearing immigration, he went to Vancouver, where he met some other Japanese who were going to Vernon and the Coldstream Ranch, to work in the orchards there. After a short stay there, he had an opportunity to come to Summerland, to work for Mr. Agur, who had a large farm in Prairie Valley.

In 1913, he returned to Japan to bring his wife back to Summerland, leaving his two daughters in Japan to complete their schooling. The Kurodas now both worked for the Agurs. Mack also had a part-time job in a sawmill, with all the work being done either by hand, or by using horses. Tori worked in a small cannery owned by the Agurs, and also did housework for them. She had the job of taking the pay cheques of the Japanese workers there, to cash at the bank, which was in



Mack & Tori Kuroda & Grandchildren, 1958: Back, L-R; Brian, Connie. Front; Barbara, Darlene, Ken. J107.

Lower Summerland. She had to walk about 8 miles round trip, by herself, down narrow roads and trails through undeveloped land. It was so scary for her that she ran most of the way! They farmed in other locations in Summerland, growing ground crops and greenhouse crops, and packing all the vegetables, before taking them to the packinghouse. During this time, Sada, Suma, Roy, and Frank were born, and two other children died in infancy. Sada was taken back to Japan to stay with her sisters, but returned later about 1933, and married Tom Terai of Rutland, in 1935. (see also Terai, Tom history). Suma married Isamu Ono in 1940, and lived in Vancouver, but when war broke out, they were deported to Japan during the evacuation of the coast in 1942, because of Sam's business affiliations in Japan.

The Kurodas purchased property on Hespeler Road in 1930, and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1953. Mack passed away in 1967, Tori in 1963, Midori in 1980, and Sada in 1989. Kitsuyo and Suma still live in Japan, and Roy and Frank live in Summerland.

ROY YOSHIMI KURODA was born in Summerland, B.C., on March 21, 1922, the eldest son of Mr. & Mrs. Magozaemon Kuroda. Roy went to school in Summerland, then worked for Shannon's Transfer, a pioneer trucking establishment, for three years. He then moved to Kelowna and lived for five years on a vegetable farm. During that time he chauffeured Mrs. Renfrew, an elderly pioneer lady. After moving back to Summerland, he worked at the Occidental Fruit Packinghouse for twenty-two years, where he started making wooden apple boxes. Later he did the maintenance of machinery for the whole plant, including the cold storage plant. Eventually the three packinghouses, B.C. Tree Fruits, Co-Op, and Occidental, all amalgamated. Roy started working for School District No. 77 (Summerland), as custodian in 1970, and later worked as a bus driver-maintenance man, until he took early retirement in 1985, after fifteen years of service.

Roy married Tamiyo (Tami) Tomiye, second daughter of Mr. Sutejiro Tomiye of Kelowna, in 1947. Tami was born on February 4, 1925, in Kelowna. After graduating from High School, she helped her father at Kelowna Nurseries, budding young nursery fruit trees, and keeping the books. Roy and Tami were married at the Summerland United Church, and the



Roy Kuroda Family: L-R; Tami, Brian, & Roy Kuroda, Connie Ferreira, Darlene Richer. 1988 Photo. J088.

wedding was officiated by Rev. Yoshioka of Kelowna. They had three children Darlene (1947), Connie (1950), and Brian (1951).

In 1957, Tami started to help Mrs. Iris Steuart, at her Jack & Jill Kindergarten. Tami assisted her by collecting the monthly fees, paying the bills, and also helped with the children. She worked with Mrs. Steuart for nine years. In 1966 Tami began employment at School District No. 77 (Summerland), as secretary to the Secretary-Treasurer. Tami worked at the School District for twenty-four years, and resigned as the administrative assistant, to take early retirement in 1988.

All three children went to school in Summerland. Darlene went to Simon Fraser University for a semester, then obtained a job at the Royal Bank in Vancouver, until her marriage to Guy Richer on March 28, 1970. Guy was born in Quebec and has been in the Canadian Air Force. Darlene and Guy have two children, Shaun (1973) and Michelle (1977). They have been posted in Vancouver, Montreal, Kamloops, Virginia, U.S.A., Ottawa, Shilo, Manitoba and Red Deer, Alberta.

Connie was employed by Revenue Canada, Penticton, for six years. Connie married Alex Ferreira on May 24, 1975, and they have four children, Melissa (1977), Christina (1979), Lindsey (1982), and Tyler (1986). Alex worked in construction for nineteen years, and has worked for the City of Penticton since 1987.



Guy & Darlene (Kuroda) Richer, Shaun, & Michelle. 1990. J187



Alex & Connie (Kuroda) Ferreira, & children, L-R: Christina, Lindsey, Tyler, & Melissa. 1990 Photo. J005.



Frank & Marge Kuroda, Barbara & Ken. J201.

Brian graduated from High School, then enrolled at Wenatchee Junior College, and later went on to Ellensburg College, for his teaching degree. He taught at the McKenzie Secondary School from 1974 to 1977, then transferred to Prince George, and teaches Business Education.

In the early years, Roy played baseball and hockey, in Kelowna and Summerland. Roy and Tami now enjoy their retirement, playing golf with their many friends, and traveling. Tami enjoys playing bridge, recreational bowling, exercising with a seniors group, knitting, crocheting, and reading.

FRANK YOSHIJI KURODA is the youngest of 8 children born to Mack & Tori Kuroda. He was born in Summerland on November 10, 1924. In his younger days, he delivered papers and milk, and herded cows on Giants Head Mountain. He attended school in Sumerland, until the family moved temporarily to Kelowna, where he graduated from high school in 1943.

A participant in many sports, Frank played baseball for the Rutland Japanese Team, the Hinode Team of Summerland, and later the local Summerland team. He also bowled in a league, and played hockey and fastball.

Frank was a charter member of the Summerland Jaycees, and the Summerland Kinsman Club, and served as chairman for the building of the Kinsman Little League Baseball Park. He was president of the Summerland Minor Hockey and Minor Baseball groups, and also coached both. There were many evenings after a ball game, that he would come home to change sprinklers in the dark!

Frank continued working in the orchard with his dad, and then took the job of orchard foreman for Mrs. D. L. Milne Cannery Ltd. orchards in 1973. He retired in 1988, and is now enjoying gardening, making wine, curling, and golfing.

He married Marge Yamabe on November 3, 1951 and they have two children, Barbara and Ken. Marjorie Michiyo (Yamabe) Kuroda was born in Summerland on June 15, 1930. Her parents were Robert & Shinako Yamabe, and she has an older brother Dick, and two younger sisters, Amy and Kathleen. Marge grew up in Trout Creek, and worked during the summer in the orchards and the cannery. One day while working in the orchard with her brother Dick, it began to hail

large stones, the size of quarters. In order to avoid being hit, they put apple boxes over their heads. The noise was deafening, and the fruit crop was destroyed. On some of the apricot trees, the fruit was split in half!

In her teens, Marge liked to knit, sew, and crochet, but drawing was her favorite pastime, and she still has a collection of her drawings after over 50 years! Marge also enjoyed bowling and skating, and pitched for the girls' softball team in high school, and for the Nisei girls' team of Summerland. She was secretary of the Students Council, and co-editor of the school paper.

After graduation in 1948, she took a business course in Kelowna, and worked in an office until her marriage in 1951. She then worked with Frank in the orchard, until 1966, when she went to work in a local insurance office. She retired in 1989. Two months after retirement, she broke her ankle while walking their dog. What a start to retirement! Marge is now enjoying her home, gardening, golfing, and doing various handicrafts.

Barbara Kuroda was born in Penticton on February 1, 1954, and went to school in Summerland, and then to Business College in Vancouver. She has been with Revenue Canada for over 20 years. Barbara enjoys music, loves cats, and likes skating, and has recently taken up golf. She has helped out at the Ironman Triathalons held annually in Penticton.

Ken Kuroda was born in Penticton on June 8, 1956, and has had a very exciting life.

Ken went through school in Summerland, and when he was attending MacDonald Elementary, he received the Scholastic Achievement Award in Grade 7.

Ken was always involved in sports, mainly hockey and baseball. After playing team sports for so long, he took up skiing at age 15. He caught on very quickly, and at age 17, entered an Amateur Freestyle Contest, and placed 2nd in Aerials, and was 2nd in Combined. In 1975, Ken went to the Professional Freestyle Skiing Tour, and was Canadian Aerial Champion in Quebec City. For 17 years, he travelled all over the world, competing and promoting freestyle skiing, in Switzerland, Germany, France and Japan. He has been European Mogul champion, Canadian and Japanese Freestyle



Upper Photo: Ken Kuroda in Japan, 1984. Lower Photo: Ken in the midst of a backflip, 1992. J178.

Champion, and World Powder 8 Champion.

Ken went to live in Japan in 1984, where he attended university, to learn the language. He taught English, and worked as a bartender, and also as a travel agent. He brought 2 Japanese tours to Expo, when it was held in Vancouver in 1986. While in Japan, he also appeared on TV, was featured in

videos, wrote for a ski magazine, and judged at freestyle contests. He is now retired from freestyle skiing, and is currently living and working in Penticton, enjoying golfing and gardening.



Art & Mary Matsu on their 50th Wedding Anniversary, 1986. J176.

#### MATSU, ART ASAYOSHI (MATSUNOSHITA)

Art Matsu was born Dec. 10, 1906, in the small fishing village of Makurazaki, Kagoshima, Japan. He was the eldest of a family of seven. He finished his high school in Makurazaki. Art's father was fairly well-off, owning, with Art's grandfather, a large fishing boat which fished the South Seas, bringing the catch back to Kagoshima, the third largest fishing port in Japan. When Art was 16, a typhoon struck his father's ship, bringing bankruptcy upon the family. They suddenly lost everything, including their house, property and house maids. Being the eldest, Art decided that it was his responsibility to support the family. His Uncle Ageno came from Canada to get him to work for him, in Summerland, B.C. It was a sad day as Art said good-bye, and boarded the Empress of Australia for the trip across the ocean to Vancouver.

Oriental immigrants to Canada were severely restricted but Art was fortunate to be one of the 150 Japanese to enter Canada that year. Unfamiliar with the customs and language, it was very difficult to adjust. The day after arriving in Summerland, he had to learn to drive a truck for Uncle Ageno's packing house.

Realizing his need for the English language, Art worked and studied extremely hard for 4 years under private teachers, which enabled him to read and write. He went to Vancouver for a night school course and stayed with his friend, Mr. Moriyama on Cordova St. (His son is the famous Canadian



Art Matsu Family: L-R; Beverly, Art, Mary, Eddie, Midori. J174.



Ed & Midori (Matsu) Kozuki. 1992 Photo. J177.



Eddie Matsu. 1991. J121.

Bev (Matsu) Gardiner. J130.

architect, Raymond Moriyama). Art worked in John's Hardware Store during the day, and studied English at night. Then the sad news came of Aunt Ageno's passing away, so he sacrificed his studies, and returned to Summerland.

Since his father had died in September, 1924, shortly after Art's leaving Japan, Art sent whatever money he could to his mother and family. When Tom Crail offered him a job, he was glad to accept.

On May 19, 1936, Art married MARY SHIZUE UZAWA, the eldest daughter of one of the pioneer Japanese families in Summerland. They had three children, Midori, Eddie and Beverly.

Art Matsu worked for Tom Crail, supervising 25 acres of orchard for 42 years, including the period when Mr. Crail

served in WW II. He purchased a small portion of the Crail orchard, and made a homestead on Logie Road, working on it until retirement in 1983. Mary worked in Co-op and Occidental packing houses until the early '60s, when she took employment in the new Sr. Citizen's Home, "Parkdale Place" built in 1961. She worked there as a housekeeper, and later as a first cook, until she retired in 1982. After that, she did some volunteer work at Parkdale Place, and now is at home enjoying her garden and children's visits.

Art built his own boat and was fond of fishing. He also enjoyed sports and video photography. The Matsus enjoyed travelling to Japan and the South Asian countries. In Japan, they always paid tribute to the graves of his respected parents and relatives. Art Matsu passed away suddenly in May 1994.

MIDORI MATSU KOZUKI was born in 1937, and raised in Summerland. She attended UBC and taught in Williams Lake. In 1962, she married Ed Kozuki, the eldest son of Fred and Lily Kozuki, residents of Williams Lake since 1942. Ed became part of a thriving plumbing, heating and electrical business of which he is part-owner today.

Midori stayed at home to raise their three children, Janis, Kim and David. During that period, she was involved with the church, the Cariboo Music Festival, and the Lady Lions, but is now enjoying her work back at school. At present, Kim and David are at UBC, and Janis is at home.

After 25 years of community work, Ed was honoured by Williams Lake as its Citizen of the Year in 1991, and in 1992 he received the Canada 125 medal. Besides Ed's involvement in the northern B.C. construction industry, community living, the scouting organization and Lions, he and Midori find time for gardening, skiing and golfing.

EDDIE T. MATSU, M.D., F.A.C.S., P.A. Eddie was born May 19, 1940 and graduated from Summerland Secondary School. He went to UBC, and then to the University of Manitoba Medical school, where he graduated in 1969. He took his internship at Los Angeles County Hospital, U.C.L.A.

From July 1970-71 he served his residency in General Surgery at Kern County General Hospital, Bakersfield, California. From July 1971 to Dec. 1972, he had a Fellowship in Cardiovascular surgery at Baylor College of Medicine and Methodist Hospital, Houston, Texas. In 1975, he completed his residency in orthopedic surgery at Baylor Affiliated Hospital, Houston, Texas, and on Oct. 1, 1976, he was awarded certification in Orthopedic surgery by the American Board of Orthopedic Surgeons.

In 1986, Eddie donated a scholarship to Summerland Secondary School. This Matsu scholarship is awarded in conjunction with the Verrier Trophy award, which has been presented annually since 1941 to the top all-around student in the graduating class, with nominations being put forth by the graduating class itself. Eddie has also been team physician for the Houston Gamblers football team of the United States Football League.

Eddie had three daughters by a previous marriage. His second marriage was in January 1994 in Hawaii, attended by all the Matsu family.

His greatest interests are his surgery, sports, and playing the trumpet.

BEVERLY MATSU GARDINER was born August 28, 1947. After graduating from Summerland Secondary School in 1965, she attended Simon Fraser University and received her B.A. in 1969. She worked as a researcher for R. Murray Schafer at S.F.U. for 2 years, then lived in Greece for 6 months, and travelled throughout Europe and Egypt.

Upon returning to Vancouver, she worked for a literary publishing house. (1971-73) and was publication co-ordinator with the Justice Development Commission (1974-76). She then travelled to Mexico, Central America and South America for five months.

For the next 12 years, she worked for a branch of the Ministry of Education in Richmond and was over the years, a publications co-ordinator/editor, program co-ordinator, and business negotiator for educational videos used in schools throughout the province. For the past few years, Beverly has been at home with her family, and has been doing some contract work.

Beverly is married to Dr. Dwight Gardiner, who received his Ph.D. in Linguistics from Simon Fraser University in 1993. They have two children, Akemi born in 1985, and Jennifer born in 1988. Both girls attend Lord Kitchener Elementary School in the Dunbar area of Vancouver.



Robert Ryoji & Isa Nakamura (1968). J102.

### NAKAMURA, ROBERT RYOJI

Robert Ryoji Nakamura was born August 15, 1897, in Kakuda City, Miyagi-ken, Japan. Although he was born into the Kuroda family (he was a brother to Mack Magozaemon Kuroda), he was adopted by Kyuzaburo & Kyou Nakamura of Hokkaido, when he married their daughter Isa, in September 1925. At this time, he changed his name from Kuroda to Nakamura, according to the Japanese custom of carrying on the family name.

In December 1925, only a few months after his marriage, Robert left Japan via the SS Arabia Maru, arriving in Victoria in January 1926. He proceeded to Summerland by train (Kettle Valley line). Upon arrival, Robert stayed with George Tada, and worked for him. In 1930, Isa arrived from Japan to join Robert, and they both worked for Mr W. L. MacPherson in his orchard and packinghouse. During the war years, they looked after Mack Kuroda's orchard, as Mack was temporarily in Kelowna. After his brother's return, Robert and Isa worked for Mr. Clare Elsey, manager of the Occidental Fruit Packinghouse.

Eventually the Nakamura's bought a soft fruit orchard on Jubilee Road, next to Occidental Fruit, from Clarence Pineo. They continued to work for Mr. Elsey, while operating their own orchard. Later, when Robert became ill, he left Elsey's,



Ray Thom Family: L-R; Jennifer, David, Stephanie, Ruth, Ray, Patricia 1992. J073.

and sold his own orchard to the owners of Milne's Cannery. This property was later purchased by the Corp. of Summerland, for a New Arena/Curling Rink Complex.

Robert Nakamura was an enthusiastic sports fan. He could always be counted on to be present at the outdoor rink games of the early Summerland Merchants hockey team. Later, he followed the NHL games on radio and TV. In summer, he made it a point to finish his irrigation chores early enough to take in the baseball games at the Peach Orchard and Jones Flat ball parks. Fishing was his other summer interest. He and his childhood friend Tom Kato would often go to Garnet Valley for trout. Late fall would see him catching Whitefish on the shores of Okanagan Lake, north of town. Ice fishing, with friends Robert Yamabe, Arthur Matsu, and Adam Arndt, was another favorite winter pastime.

Isa Nakamura was born in Kokufumura, Gifu-ken, Japan, on Dec. 20, 1904. Her birth parents were Kichitaro and Toku Sunada, but she was adopted by Kyuzaburo and Kyou Nakamura of Hokkaido.

Isa was a school teacher in Japan, so when she arrived in Summerland in 1930, she was asked to teach here. Classes were held in the Japanese hall until about 1940. Isa was always interested in her pupils, and proud of their achievements. Throughout the years Isa helped her husband Robert in the orchards. She also worked at Milnes Cannery for several years. In later years, she spent much time in her flower and vegetable gardens. Another interest was "Tanka" poetry. Some of her poems were published in the "MAPLE" (J/C poetry, Toronto Kisagari Poem Study Group). Along with Mrs. George Furuya and Mrs. K. Uegama, Isa travelled to OK Centre/Winfield to attend study groups and socials with members of the Tanka club. Isa was also an active member of the Japanese United Church.

Robert and Isa Nakamura had a daughter Ruth Hisae (Nakamura) Thom. Ruth married Raymond Thom, and resides in Duncan, B.C. The Thoms have four children; Patricia Louise, David Charles, Stephanie Jane, and Jennifer Susan.

Robert Nakamura passed away in 1973. Isa then moved to Duncan to be with the Thoms. She deceased in 1981.

### SAKAMOTO, JIM & EMIKO

Jim Sakamoto was born in Port Essington, B.C. July 21, 1930, the 5th of 9 brothers and sisters. His parents, UNOSUKE AND SHIZUE SAKAMOTO came from Kumamoto-ken, Japan emigrating to Prince Rupert, B.C. Jim worked on the fishing boats, until the family was relocated to



Greenwood, B.C. where they remained for 4 years. In 1946, the Sakamoto family moved to Lethbridge, Alberta to work the sugar beet farms. When he was 19, Jim attended the Calgary Technical school for carpentry from 1949-1953.

In 1957, Jim married EMIKO HIRAGA from Lethbridge, Alberta. Emy was born on Nov. 27, 1936 to EIGORO AND YOSHIE HIRAGA. Eigorō Hiraga (Oct. 10, 1894 - March 21, 1976) was born in Hoza Urawa, Mie-ken, Japan and emigrated to Canada in 1913 at the age of 19. The Hiraga family owned and operated a box factory and store in Vancouver's Japan town. When Emy was 6 yrs. old, the family was relocated to Slocan, B.C., where they stayed for 4 years. They eventually moved to Lethbridge.

In 1964, Jim and Emy came to Penticton to work and raise their children, Peggy, Sharon, and Cindy. Ginny was born in 1965. Jim has worked at the Mica Dam and Brenda Mines. He has also been employed at constructing buildings all around B.C., the latest being the big project at the Summerland Research Station.

Jim was involved in coaching Bantam level minor hockey and baseball for a couple of years, and also has been an Elks and Legion member for a number of years. He also enjoys fishing and swimming. Jim and Emy used to travel to Lethbridge, at least twice a year with the children to visit family. They lived on Westminster Avenue West in Penticton for most of 30 years.

In 1983 Emy with her 4 daughters, mother Yoshie Hiraga, her Aunt and Uncle Tanaka, and Mrs. Kawade went for a 4 week trip to Japan to meet family and visit her parents' birthplaces. They saw a lot of family heritage, and the trip was a very memorable experience. Emy's life was dedicated to her husband and 4 girls, and her family and friends. She passed away on Nov. 21, 1988.

Jim is now semi-retired and living in Penticton, enjoying his five grandchildren, who also all live in Penticton.



George & Sugae Tada & Children L-R; Miwa, Ichiro, Fumi. 1928 Photo. J183.

#### TADA, TAKATARO (GEORGE) & SUGAE

Takataro (George) Tada was born in Nagano-ken, Japan in 1887. He came to Canada in 1907 by ship to Victoria, going

on to Vancouver, and then to the Coldstream Ranch in Vernon. He worked there for some time until he purchased an orchard in Summerland in 1918. George Tada was a leader in the Japanese Community, playing an important part in the formation of the Summerland Japanese Farmers' Association, and also in the building of the Japanese Hall.

Mr. Tada married SUGAE TAKAYAMA in 1917 in Japan. Mrs. Tada was also born in Nagano-ken. Returning to Summerland, they worked together in the orchards, and grew and packed many kinds of ground crops. Mrs. Tada was a perfectionist in everything she undertook, and the many items that she sewed, knitted, crocheted, and tatted have been admired by many.

The Tadas had three children, Ichiro (Chew), born Nov. 13, 1918, Fumi, born in 1919, and Miwa, born Dec. 13, 1922. Fumi died in a tragic auto accident in 1942.

George Tada became ill and died in 1962, and in 1988, at age 94, Mrs. Tada passed away.

CHEW TADA went to school in Summerland and graduated from High School in 1938. He played baseball for the Hinode Team, bowled in a league, and golfed. He still carries on the family farm at 15215 Tada Avenue in Summerland, growing fruit and vegetables for the local fruit stands.

MIWA (TADA) NAKASHIBA went to school in Summerland, and worked with her parents until she went to Vancouver, where she was employed by the Bank of Commerce. Miwa enjoyed all sports - bowling, skating, curling, golfing and softball. Like her mother, she likes to knit and crochet. Miwa married George Nakashiba of Hamilton on Aug. 16, 1969, and they live in Toronto.



Imataro Uegama, 1966. KDJ326.

Kinoko Uegama, 1986. KDJ 217.

#### UEGAMA, IMATARO

Samuel Imataro Uegama was born in Makurazaki, Kagoshima-ken in 1888. He immigrated to Canada in 1905, arriving in Vancouver. From there he moved to Kelowna, and later to Saskatchewan (Moose Jaw, Saskatoon, Webb, & Regina). In 1917, he enlisted in the Canadian Army, and served in Europe with the 28th Battalion. Sam Uegama was one of only two verified J/C World War I veterans who spent appreciable time in the Okanagan. The other was Takeji Hoshizaki of Kelowna. Interestingly, both of these men were

from Makurazaki, Japan.

In 1928, Sam married KINOKO KUROKI through a proxy marriage. Kinoko was born in Kagoshima City, Kagoshima-ken in 1901. Sam went back to Japan at that time and brought Kino back to Vancouver. In 1929, their first daughter, Martha was born. A year later they moved to Calgary, where Sam worked with Canadian Pacific Hotels there, and in Banff. In 1930, a second daughter, Irene, was born in Calgary. Shortly thereafter, the family moved back to Vancouver, where they started a dry cleaning and dressmaking business in the Kitsilano area of the city. In Vancouver their two sons were born, Walter in 1938, and Victor in 1941. The dry cleaning business was shut down with the advent of World War II, and the family relocated to Greenwood in 1942. They lived in Greenwood until the end of WW II, and in 1946, moved to Summerland.

Sam and Kino lived in Summerland, and worked in the fruit growing industry, until their retirement. Sam passed away in Summerland in October 1973, a victim of multiple myeloma, a form of bone marrow cancer. Kino continued to live in Summerland until she suffered a stroke in November 1982. With her abilities severely reduced, Kino moved to Vancouver, to live with her daughter, Irene. In 1990, Kino's health had deteriorated to the point where it was necessary to move her into an intermediate care home, and a year later to an extended care facility in Vancouver. At the age of 91, almost 10 years to the day she suffered her stroke, Kino died in November 1992.

Sam and Kino had the opportunity to visit Japan twice. The first time was in 1966, when, after an absence of nearly 40 years, they visited with relatives, including Sam's elder sisters. In 1970, they returned for a second visit, and had the opportunity to visit Expo 70 in Osaka, and do some sightseeing.

MARTHA moved to Vancouver in 1950 and took a business course at Pitmans School. She worked in Vancouver, and then for a short time in Toronto, before settling back in Vancouver. Martha married Mitsuo Tasaka, a commercial fisherman, in 1961. They adopted two children, daughter Leah in 1967, and son David in 1970. Martha died from cancer in 1975, leaving Mits with the care of the children. Mits retired from fishing in 1993. Leah is single and working in the hospital industry. David and his partner Anne have a young daughter, Brittany. David works in the metal fabrication industry.

IRENE followed Martha to Vancouver in 1951, where she enrolled in business courses at Pitmans. She went to work for Coast Ferries, where she is still employed as Office Manager. In 1957, Irene married "Joe" Hisashi Shiho, who was in the retail sales business, selling Japanese and western groceries/dishes/giftware. Joe retired in 1993, and Irene plans to retire in 1995. Both Joe and Irene are avid golfers.

WALTER completed his public schooling in Summerland. Walter graduated from high school in 1956, and went on to take his Bachelor of Commerce degree at UBC. After employment with Eaton's for a couple of years, Walter went to University of California, Berkley, for his Masters of Business Administration. In 1970, Walter married Carol-Anne

Verstraete. After a few years in management consulting, he entered the world of academia, becoming an instructor and department head at Selkirk College in Castlegar, B.C. While at Selkirk, Walter took a sabbatical to obtain his Ph.D. in Education Administration at the University of Oregon. He moved back to Vancouver to work with the Open Learning Institute. From OLI he took a position as Director of Continuing Education, at the University of Windsor, where he remained until taking a similar position with UBC in 1991. Walter is currently Associate Vice President, Continuing Studies, at UBC. Walter and Carol-Anne have a daughter Kimiko, and a son, Brendan. Kimiko is currently in her first year at Camosun College in Victoria. Brendan is in high school. They reside in Tsawassen, B.C.

VICTOR also attended schools in Summerland and UBC, from which he graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. Upon graduation, he worked for two years in the plastic and copper pipe divisions of Noranda. He then moved to Cominco Ltd. in Trail, B.C., where he met and married Susan Throneycroft, a teacher there. They have two children, a son Jeffrey, and a daughter Jennifer, who were both born in Trail. After several years in Trail, they moved to Vancouver to work for Kilborn Engineering, and then moved on to a sulphur processing and marketing company, Petrosul International, where Victor is Vice President of Production. Sue is currently studying to obtain her diploma in Adult Basic Education, and is part-time instructor at Kwantlen College. Jeffrey has studied computer sciences at BCIT, and currently works for Computer City. Jennifer is in her third year at UBC, studying Fine Arts. The family resides in Richmond, B.C.

**UZAWA, SAM (SHINICHIRO)** (written by George Uzawa)

Sam (Shinichiro) Uzawa was born on January 1, 1873 and educated in the province of Chibaken. He was educated in Japanese history and Chinese classics. His family, the Matae-mon clan owned a large territory of Chibaken, as well as a "sake" brewery. In this region, when the strong winds blew in from the sea, it was called the Matae-mon wind. His home was only a few hundred yards from the famed Kuju-kuri hama. (Ninety-nine mile beach). When the ocean is rough the heavy surf pounding the beaches can be felt and heard for miles. The big ocean-liners and countless numbers of fishing vessels can be seen daily from the beach.

FUKU YAMADA was born August 31, 1880 in Yokohama. Her father was a Samurai who was an attendant in the Lord Ota-Dokan residence mansion.

Sam and Fuku Yamada were married in 1910 in Tokyo. Sam immigrated to Canada in 1908 leaving his property, home, etc. to his brother. He was the recipient of a Canadian national land grant awarded at that time to encourage settlement. He became an orchardist in Summerland. The property he purchased was on a hillside overlooking the beautiful Okanagan Lake. This land had very rich and heavy soil but also had many large boulders left by the glaciers millions of years ago. Sam with his Italian friend drilled and blasted all the boulders and with a team of horses dragged and placed



SAM UZAWA FAMILY: Back, Mary & Arthur Matsu. Uzawa Family, L-R; Violet, Sam & Nora, Fuku, George. 1936 Photo. J142.



OKANAGAN AREA WW II RECRUITS: L-R; Chic Mori, Major Bob Willis, Nori Tomiyama, George Uzawa. J115.

them alongside the road. The children in later years used to jump from rock to rock on their way up and down the hill. The wild roses grew and bloomed amongst the rocks yearly. Sam, with his team of horses and hand-held scraper, filled in holes where the rocks and boulders had been removed, levelled off the land, and planted fruit trees of various varieties. Apricots, peaches, apples, pears, prunes, cherries and two Japanese "kuri" (chestnut) trees, all did very well. The holes for hundreds of these trees were all hand dug, creating a lot of back breaking work. The orchard is still there on Logie Road. Sam learned to read and write from many of his English friends. There were many other Japanese people settling in Summerland and throughout the Okanagan Valley at that time. The Japanese Farmers Association organized in Summerland hired a teacher from Japan, and established a Japanese language school which the children attended after their regular school and also on Saturday mornings.

Sam was well versed in the history of Japan, China, and Europe and delivered many historical talks to the newcomers. Sam was also interested in classical and operatic music. He loved to listen to Italian opera sung by Toshiko Sekiya, a Japanese soprano and Yoshie Fujiwara on his Edison gramophone.

In 1916 Sam sent for his wife, Fuku. Their first home was at the foot of the Giant Head mountain. They lived in two primitive structures, with a bedroom on the hillside and the kitchen separate below. These years were very difficult times for Fuku Uzawa, coming from a relatively wealthy family to the newly settled land of Canada. In 1923 they built a home with the help of the Japanese residents of Summerland. Fuku was a very good cook and invited many family and friends over for Sunday suppers. A Japanese minister from Kelowna (Rev. Yoshioka) held church services once a month so she always invited him for supper. The house is still occupied.

The Uzawas had four children. Mary was born December 5, 1917, named after Queen Mary. She married Arthur Matsu in the spring of 1936. They still reside in Summerland. The Matsus had three children; Midori married to Ed Kozuki of Williams Lake has three children; Dr. Ed Matsu who resides in Houston, Texas has three girls; Beverly Gardiner who resides in Vancouver has two girls. The Uzawa's second child, George, named after King George was born April 8, 1920. George now resides in Penticton.

Sam sold the farm in 1936 and took his wife and 3 of his children back to Japan. Sam foresaw the sacrifice of young Japanese boys by the Japanese military and sent George back to Canada on one of the last ships to depart from Japan before the war.

Sam Uzawa passed away on December 8, 1942 in Tokyo, and Fuku on February 15, 1963 in Chiba-ken

MARY, oldest of the Uzawa children - for more information, see MATSU, ARTHUR history.

UZAWA, GEORGE - I was born in Summerland at Mom and Dad's first home at the base of Giant's Head mountain. All I can remember about those days was the coyotes howling every night in our back yard. We moved to our new home overlooking the Okanagan Lake in the early 1920's. I took all my schooling in Summerland.

In the 1930's Bob Yamabe and Art Matsu did all the ground work of starting up the Hinode baseball club. We had nine players, just enough to field a team. We played against the local "hakuji" teams on Sundays and holidays. On the 1st of July and Labour Days, Penticton would invite us to play in tournaments. With Bob and Art coaching us and signalling in Japanese to bunt or steal bases, we'd have a field day, winning almost every game. We also played against Nisei teams up and

down the Okanagan Valley.

Dad sold his orchard in the fall of 1936 so I, with my two younger sisters, Violet and Nora, accompanied Mom and Dad back to Japan. When we landed in Yokohama, Dad decided to send us kids up to Uncle and Aunt's place on a jin-rickshaw. I had heard about the rickshaws but never dreamed I'd ever be riding in one. After a few days in Yokohama I went to Ashiya and stayed there for several months, taking trips to Kobe and Osaka areas. Then I went to Tokyo and enrolled in Waseda International Institute where they taught us Japanese history and language. I studied there for a year and went to live with Mom, while Dad went on a lecture tour throughout the fruit growing area of Japan. When he returned, he gave me a boat passage back to Canada.

VIOLET was the Uzawa's third child, named after the spring flower. She was born December 11th, 1921. She met and married Carl Dorio in 1947. They have three sons, Raymond and Eugene, both doctors, and Ed, who works for the state of California. The Dorios all reside in Los Angeles.

NORA was the last of the Uzawa's children. She was delivered by Dr. Andrew on October 7, 1924, and was named after Dr. Andrew's wife. Nora took care of Fuku until her death in 1963 in Chibaken, and then moved to California and married Harry Wakai. They reside in Bellflower, California.

#### YAMABE, ROBERT KIYOSHI

Robert Kiyoshi Yamabe was born two hundred miles north of Tokyo in the prefecture of Nagano-ken, Japan on December 21, 1900.

In 1919, sponsored by his Uncle Nakata Nakasawa, Kiyoshi, at age 18, ventured to Canada on the SS Fushimi

Maru. He landed in Victoria, British Columbia on April 21 and continued his journey inland by ferry boat and by train to his destination, the village of West Summerland where work was awaiting him. It must have been a frightening experience for such a young man to be travelling alone with a very limited command of the English language.

Kiyoshi stayed with the Yoshio Aoki family for a time and worked on the Uzawa farm for three years.

His father, Taichi Yamabe had become a Christian in Japan and Kiyoshi followed his father's faith. In 1922, he was baptized in the Summerland Presbyterian Church in Lower Town. As far as we know, Kiyoshi was the first Japanese Christian in Summerland.

Kiyoshi had a love of books which was obvious by the number of books that he bought and read from the local general store. Some of them were Hans Brinker, Uncle Tom's Cabin, Tanglewood Tales and the poems of Robbie Burns. He also studied English by copying paragraphs from English readers to improve his reading and penmanship skills.

Kiyoshi took an interest in the education of the local children of Japanese families and helped to establish a Japanese Language School in Summerland. He served on the Board of Education for a number of years.

Many hours were spent observing wildlife. He liked bird watching, hunting, and fishing. He sent for taxidermy lessons and learned to "stuff" with skill, birds such as pheasants, pigeons, and owls. He also had an appreciation for art which was nurtured as a youngster when his grandfather used to hold painting sessions in his home for promising artists. Kiyoshi became very adept at Japanese calligraphy.

In December, 1927 Kiyoshi returned to Japan. He married SHINAKO HAMA of Nagano-ken on January 23, 1928. Being an arranged marriage, they were unaware until the signing of the marriage certificate that they shared the same birth

Robert Kiyoshi & Shinako Yamabe. 1928 Photo. J190.

1940: Back, L-R; Richard, Robert, Marjorie. Front, L-R; Amy, Shinako, Kathleen. J113.

Top: Richard & Marianna Yamabe. 1994. J171. Bottom: Amy Yamabe, 1988. J123.





Junji & Kathy (Yamabe) Yukawa Family: L-R; Peter, Junji, Robert, Kathy, Steven. 1990 Photo. J173.

date, December 21, except that Shinako was a year younger than Kiyoshi.

In Japan, Shinako had been given major responsibility of looking after her family's silkworm farm, due to her father's poor health. In those days, it was unheard of for a young woman to be given such responsibility. After seeing how well she did, parents of other girls held her up as a role model. Shinako looked after the hiring of workers and of seeing that they did the work assigned to them. It was hard work as the larvae had to be fed mulberry leaves and it was endless work because they had insatiable appetites. The days were long for Shinako and being a conscientious worker she got little rest. When asked why she had decided to come to Canada to live, Shinako quickly replied that she was hoping to get more sleep here.

Kiyoshi and Shinako arrived in Victoria where they were met by Hiro Sunohara, Shinako's eldest sister who lived in Seattle, Washington. Hiro had bought Shinako a wardrobe of lovely Western fashions so Shinako would not have to wear her Japanese kimonos in the western world. In fact, soon after, Shinako sent most of her kimonos back to Japan because she thought she would have no further use for them.

Shinako thought she was coming to a land where things would be easier but she ended up working long and hard hours in the orchards along with her husband. They worked for pioneer fruit grower, Fred Gartrell, in Trout Creek for many years.

While the fruit trees matured, Bob, as he came to be known, worked in the fields planting and harvesting tomatoes, cucumbers, cantaloupes, potatoes, and onions along with Yoshio Aoki. He and Yoshio worked the Gartrell Orchards until the mid 1950's.

During the 1930's, Bob along with Arthur Matsu, was instrumental in organizing an all-Japanese baseball team which became known as the Hinode. Bob enjoyed helping the young boys to learn the fundamentals of the game. Every Sunday was a special day for the family during the baseball season as the time was spent watching the team play against other teams from nearby Kelowna and Rutland at the Crescent Beach ball diamond in Summerland. Also trips to other towns were the highlight of the week when Shinako packed a deli-

cious picnic lunch and the family set off to join friends to watch the ball games. Bob also spent many hours playing "catch" with the children.

On many a Saturday, Bob took the family to Penticton for a day of shopping downtown and then to the matinee movies at the Empress Theater, and later to the Capitol Theater. He used to keep the children supplied with classical and popular records bought from Cliff Greyell's shop. The children were fortunate to have parents that provided them with so many diversified interests.

Bob and Shinako purchased their own orchard on the corner of Garnet Avenue and Blair Street in the 1950's. Bob worked long hours after his regular work to build his own house before they were able to move from Trout Creek. Along with working in his orchard Bob also worked for pioneer orchardist, Gordon Ritchie.

Together, Shinako and Bob cared for their own orchard and tended their vegetable and flower gardens. They won many prizes for their vegetables when they entered their produce in the local Fall Fair, and won the Grand Aggregate Shield for many years. Bob was especially proud of his Norland potatoes. Shinako loved her flowers and would often have them artistically arranged in her home.

Years ago, Shinako was a busy lady caring for her four children, Richard, Marjorie, Amy, and Kathleen, and also working in the orchard. Even with her busy schedule she provided a warm and loving home life. She made sure that her family had nutritious meals and served up delicious Japanese dishes at special occasions. She had a strong voice and loved to sing whenever she had a chance, especially the Shigin style of singing.

She took an interest in her children's activities and school work. She always encouraged them to be polite, and every morning before the children left for school, she reminded them to do their best and to mind the teachers. She had a great sense of humour which got her over the rough places in life. She had major operations which threatened her life but she always recovered miraculously to the astonishment of her doctors and to the great relief of her family. But as Shinako's health began to improve, Bob suffered a stroke in 1982, which led to his death on May 25th at the age of 81.

Shinako used to go twice a week by bus to attend day activities at Parkdale Place which is a home for the elderly. She is now confined to her home most of the time because of two hip replacements which have curtailed her outside activities. Shinako lives with her daughter, Amy, in Summerland. She likes to watch a variety of television programs and Japanese videos, and also enjoys visits from her friends.

RICHARD (DICK) NORIHISA came into the world on October 21, 1928 as the first born to Kiyoshi and Shinako Yamabe at the Summerland General Hospital.

Dick attended the Summerland Schools until his graduation in 1945. While attending Summerland High, he became an avid photographer and documented many of the school events. He also developed and printed his own black and white photos which he learned under the guidance of his father.

After senior matriculation in Penticton, Dick went to Vancouver and graduated from UBC in 1951. Then he decided

to go to the Anderson School of Theology in Indiana which is the headquarters for the Church of God, and graduated with a Master of Divinity degree in 1954.

From there Dick went to Alberta Bible Institute in Camrose, Alberta, where he taught for twenty years including eleven years in administration as Dean. From 1973-88 he was the editor and publisher of the Gospel Contact Publication which kept the Church of God congregations in western Canada informed about church activities.

In 1955 Dick married Marianna, who was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walker Wright. They have two children, Carol and David, and four grandchildren. Carol is a special education teacher in Camrose, Alberta, and David is a family doctor in Taber, Alberta.

Dick has been busy, the last three years, with advertising in Cable Television. He has kept busy in his spare time with Free Lance Still and Video Photography.

MARJORIE MICHIO was born June 15, 1930, the second child born to Kiyoshi and Shinako Yamabe. (See KURODA family history for further information about Marjorie.)

AMY KIMIKO was the third child of Kiyoshi and Shinako Yamabe, born on October 26, 1933 at the local hospital in the village of West Summerland.

Amy grew up with her two sisters, Marge and Kathy, and brother Dick in Trout Creek. It was an idyllic life with seemingly few worries until WW II imposed many restrictions on the Japanese families here. We were fortunate not to be made to move out of the Okanagan Valley to a relocation camp.

Although very timid in nature, Amy was encouraged by her Church of God Sunday School teachers, Elsie and Zella Johnson, to be more confident and creative with the talents that God had given her.

Amy went to the Summerland Elementary School which was later named for her Grade 8 teacher and principal, S.A. MacDonald. He also became her teaching colleague and supervising principal years later.

She was in the first class that graduated from the present Summerland Secondary School in 1951. Amy took senior matriculation at Penticton High School the following year.

In 1953, Amy attended Normal School in Victoria and obtained her teaching Certificate. In those days there were very few female B.C. Japanese Canadians going in for teaching.

Amy's first job was as a grade one teacher in New Denver in the beautiful Slokan Valley. The town was in a very isolated area and had the distinction of being the site of a relocation camp during WW II for people of Japanese ancestry. She was appalled at the small and flimsy dwellings that were used to house the families during the war.

The four room schoolhouse in New Denver had limited resources and assistance for a first year teacher. With a class of 23 lively grade ones, it proved to be a challenging year.

In 1955, Amy accepted a teaching position in her hometown of Summerland at the same school that she had attended as a child. It was strange to be on the same staff as those that had taught her years before, but they made her feel welcome.

Amy stayed on to teach classes from kindergarten to grade three, and as a Primary Learning Assistance teacher for

34 years at MacDonald Elementary. Although she enjoyed most of her 35 years of teaching, Amy took early retirement in 1989 because she felt there was more to life than the stress of the job. Also if she had stayed on, she would have started to teach the grandchildren of pupils she had taught earlier.

Photography has been an interest which was nurtured by Amy's father, who took many photos of the family. He and her mother gave Amy a camera just before she left on a Round the World Tour in 1970. She was soon fascinated with the images she was able to capture, and with her father, became a member of the local Camera Club. Amy made enlargements from her own transparencies and held a show of her colour prints in the local Public Library in the late 1970's. This interest prompted Amy to enter the photography contest sponsored by the New Canadian Newspaper in 1977 as part of the 100th anniversary of the first landed immigrant of Japanese origin in Canada. She was thrilled to be notified that she had placed first in the special Pioneer Category. The winning photograph was a local pioneer resident, Takeshi Kato, admiring his unique carvings made of apple wood from his orchard. Amy still belongs to the Summerland Camera Club, and writes a monthly report on its activities for the Summerland Review newspaper.

When Amy was still teaching, her summers were spent visiting lands afar. A trip around the world was a highlight for her in 1970, when she visited exciting places like Greece, Turkey, India, Spain, Thailand, and Japan. It was the year of Expo so it was a special time to visit the land of her ancestors and to meet her cousins for the first time. Later trips in the 1980's took her to China, Israel, Kenya, and Egypt. Although she is not able to venture far now, because Shinako resides with her, she has many interesting photographs and wonderful memories to remind her of those trips.

Amy remembers skating on the Pump House Pond in Trout Creek with her siblings and friends, after walking to get there in the cold. It was invigorating to say the least!

She has memories of snagged woollen mittens and sore ankles, from trying to stay balanced on her skates, while holding tightly to the wire fence enclosing Wharton's outdoor skating rink. However, one compensation for all the indignities of falls, and others gliding by so gracefully, was the fact that Mr. Wharton played the most beautiful music for the skaters. She will always remember that certain arrangement of Skaters' Waltz, even though it did sound a little scratchy after so many plays.

Amy continues her interest in reading and music, playing the electronic organ for her own enjoyment. Her latest acquisition of a computer and CD Rom drive has given her an incentive to continue to increase her knowledge on many subjects, and to keep in touch with the many changes taking place in our world.

KATHLEEN YOKO was born on January 26, 1937 to Kiyoshi and Shinako Yamabe in the Summerland General Hospital, the third daughter to be born to the Yamabes.

Kathy attended school at Summerland Elementary and Summerland High School. In 1954, she was given the Book Award for proficiency in grade eleven and in her graduation year, she received the Women's Institute Rose Bowl for excellence in Home Economics. Kathy took her senior matricula-

tion at the Penticton High School in 1955, and in 1956, went to Victoria College to become a teacher.

Peachland Elementary was Kathy's first teaching assignment in 1957-58, where she taught a class of grade twos. Princess Margaret Elementary in Penticton was her next stop where she stayed from 1958-63, teaching in the primary grades.

On November 2, 1963, Kathy married Junji Yukawa, and moved to Seattle, Washington, USA. Junji was employed by the Boeing Company as an engineer until he retired in 1991.

Kathy maintained her interest in education, and became a teacher's aide and preschool instructor in Seattle Schools from 1984-1993.

Her outside interests include being the Sunday School Superintendent for three years, and Church Librarian of the

Seattle Japanese Baptist Church where she and her family have attended for many years. For recreation, Kathy and Junji play volleyball in the Church League. Kathy also enjoys gardening, crafts, photographing family outings, and documenting the many trips taken by the family.

Kathy and Junji have three sons, Bob, Steven, and Peter, who were born in 1964, 1969, and 1974 respectively. Bob works in Los Angeles at Rocketdyne, a subsidiary of Rockwell International, where he is involved in scheduling main rocket engines for the Space Shuttle program. Steven works for Boeing in Seattle, in the flight testing division, and is a computer systems consultant in his spare time. Peter attends the University of Washington in Seattle, and hopes to have a future in the medical field.

## MORE SUMMERLAND COMMUNITY PHOTOS



Outing of Kelowna & Summerland J/C Baseball teams, 1939. J236.



Old -Timers Kichinojo Imayoshi (102) & Kusaye Hoshizaki (95). 1992. KDJ243.



Sakae Kita at niece Diane's wedding. 1983. J136.



Edward Kita, Verrier Trophy Award, 1948. J120.



Alfred Kita, Verrier Trophy Award, 1946. J 134.



Various Fugetas: L-R, Hallie, Krista, Leslay, Kira, Eiko, Eisuke, Jim. KDJ210.

## Lifting Restrictions of Little Significance to Local Japanese Nationals

How has the removal of restrictions on April 1 affected the Japanese Canadians living in this community? This municipality is so closely integrated that when asked to give local reactions, one young man of Japanese ancestry who has been a correspondent to the Japanese paper, The New Canadian, published in Toronto, wrote the following:

"The removal of all restrictions on Japanese Canadians which came into effect on April 1 was of no significant interest to the Japan-

ese residing in this community. "The majority of Japanese citizens of Summerland could be quoted as being among the later pioneers, having lived here for 30, and some for over 40 years. They are of the 'Old Timers' who settled and worked the wild country to develop this fine fruit farming district.

### Not Affected Much

"Being out of the protected area the local Japanese were very fortunate during the past war, suffering little or no effects of restrictions and evacuation. Life went on as usual, except for a few minor restrictions on fishing and the use of fire-arms.

"A few anxious moments existed when thoughts of being of racial origin hostile to this country crossed worried minds, but because of the friendliness and encouragement given by the Occidental citizens, the forces of racial discrimination and hard feelings did not have a chance to grow.

"So it can be understood why the local Japanese whose homes, farms and friends have always been here, have no thoughts of moving to the coast and consequently lack interest in the lifting of restrictions.

"The local Japanese Nationals are more interested in becoming true citizens, as can be seen in the number who are at present applying for Canadian citizenship.

"The extending of the franchise to all Japanese Canadians is the most striking thing to the local Japanese. This indicates that the long battle for equality and full citizenship has come to an end.

### Minoru Kita is Local President of Japanese Club

The Summerland Japanese Canadian Club is in its second year now. The officers for this term are: President, Minoru Kita; secretary, Miss Asaka Furuya; treasurer, N. Aoki. There are roughly forty members. The club was formed to promote better understanding between the first and second generation Japanese Canadians, and to work for the good of the community.

The club sponsors the annual picnic held in June for the Japanese Canadians in this community. So far this year no baseball team, nor girls' fastball team has been formed.

Geo. Usawa won the cup given for the highest batting average through last summer, and Hiro Furuya takes the honors as the most valuable player among the boys....