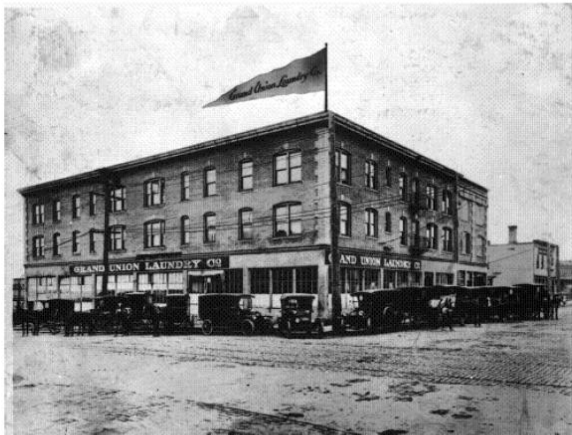


Lesson 1: Immigration and Settlement of the Nikkei Community: Portrait Cards

1

Grand Union Laundry

(Circa 1913)



Founded by Shoichi Okamura, the Grand Union Laundry became one of the largest employers in *Nihonmachi*. It was located near 14th Avenue on Main Street. Staff included delivery men, washers, and dry cleaners. All staff counted, there were 70 workers.

Photo courtesy of Frank Okamura, NHKA Photo Collection

2

Family Farms



The Kato, Hanada, Iseri and Miyoshi families take a break from farm work in this photo taken in 1918.

Like many Japanese American families in the United States, the Kato, Hanada, Iseri and Miyoshi families picked berries on a farm in White River Valley, where more than half of all the Japanese farms in Washington were located. Japanese American truck farmers started to sell their produce at the Pike Place Market in 1912. Though these farms averaged 5-15 acres, they were estimated to have supplied 75% of the region's vegetables and 50% of its milk in the 1920s.

Photo courtesy of Mae Iseri Yamada

Lesson 1: Immigration and Settlement of the Nikkei Community: Portrait Cards

3

Women and Families



From left: George, Kikujiro, Tosh, Kiyoko and Riki in a photo taken in the early 1930s.

Although the first wave of immigrants from Japan (the *Issei*) were mostly men, women were soon venturing forth to start a new life and raise a family in America. In this photo, Kikujiro, an Issei greenhouse worker, and his wife Riki pose with their three children who were all born in America and therefore United States citizens. George, the youngest child, was named after an American president because he was born in 1930 one day after George Washington's birthday.

Photo courtesy of the George Mano family

4

Best of Both Worlds



From back, left to right: Kinzo and Iku Asaba, Wataru (Watson) and Yoshiko, and Chiyoko (circa 1925).

Kinzo and Iku Asaba immigrated from Japan but their three children were American-born (*Nisei*) and immersed in both American and Japanese culture. Kinzo was co-owner of the Mitsuwado Store and the Sagamiya Confectionary, which made Japanese sweets. Here the family is pictured behind their eldest daughter, Chiyo, after one of her Japanese dance recitals.

Photo courtesy of Yoshi Mamiya

Lesson 1: Immigration and Settlement of the Nikkei Community: Portrait Cards

5

Japanese American Courier Newspaper

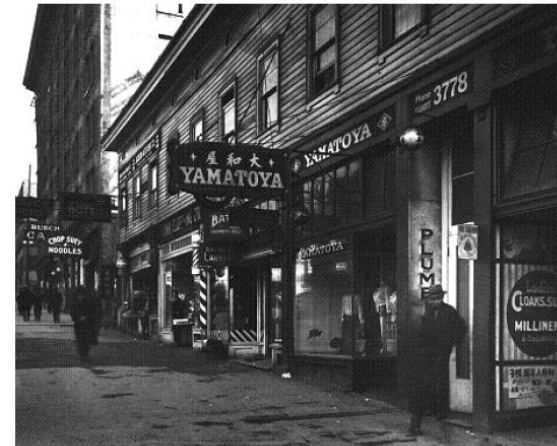


Founded by James Y. Sakamoto in 1928, the Courier was the first English language Japanese community newspaper in the United States. It brought together two Japanese language newspapers, both of which had English sections and was issued weekly to touch base on topics such as Americanism, national politics, and Japanese American community news.

Newspaper issue courtesy of The Wing Luke Museum collection

6

Nihonmachi



The Yamatoya dry goods store on Jackson Street, circa 1910, was a part of Seattle's Nihonmachi.

Real estate covenants and employment discrimination pushed Japanese immigrants into one area, indirectly creating a lively ghetto of businesses and homes in Seattle's southern downtown. *Nihonmachi*, or Japantown, was popular early on for the bathhouses, barbershops, and gambling halls. From the 1920's to the 1930's, more family owned businesses were set up. The family owned businesses gave the neighborhood a "small town feel." *Nihonmachi* extended from 4th Avenue along Main Street to 7th Avenue.

Photo courtesy of Museum of History and Industry, Webster/Stevens Collection

Lesson 1: Immigration and Settlement of the Nikkei Community: Portrait Cards

7

Community Organizations



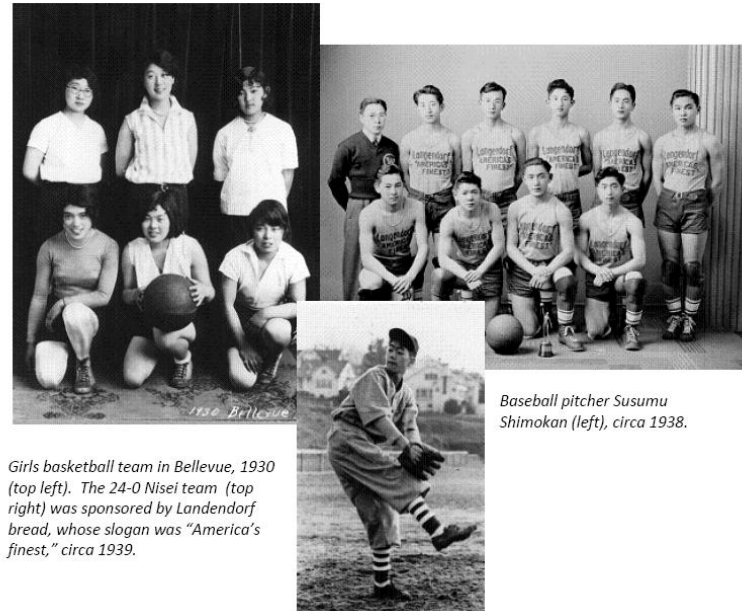
Photograph of the Hiroshima Kenjinkai New Years dinner in the Puget Sound area in 1937.

Within the community, there were *kenjinkai* (organizations of people from the same prefecture) that served as social as well as support networks. The organizations helped its members with money issues, housing issues, employment difficulties, and assimilation/adjustment to new life in a new land. Larger community organizations like the *Nihonjinkai* (Japanese Association) and the Japanese Chamber of Commerce often spoke out against discriminatory legislation while promoting Nikkei businesses and community groups.

Takano Studio photo, Wing Luke Museum Collection.

8

Nisei Sports



Girls basketball team in Bellevue, 1930 (top left). The 24-0 Nisei team (top right) was sponsored by Landendorf bread, whose slogan was "America's finest," circa 1939.

Baseball pitcher Susumu Shimokan (left), circa 1938.

Nisei often played team sports against each other on the weekends in large, open fields like Collins Playfield where they were not excluded because of racism. Softball, football, and basketball were especially popular among the Nisei.

Left photo courtesy of Cano Numoto. Right photo courtesy of Seattle Buddhist Temple Archives, Henry and Yuki Miyake Collection. Middle photo courtesy of Kats Iwamura

Lesson 1: Immigration and Settlement of the Nikkei Community: Portrait Cards

9

Bon Odori



To honor deceased family members, Bon Odori was held at the center of Nihonmachi (6th and Main St.). Japanese culture filled the air with the smell of sōba (cold noodles) and shoyū (soy sauce) along with the sound of the Japanese language. Today, Bon Odori is held at local Japanese American Buddhist Churches.

Photo on top courtesy of Seattle Buddhist Temple Archives, circa 1932
Photo below courtesy of Travis Takeuchi, circa late 1990s

10

School



Issei (first generation Japanese) attend class at Bailey Gatzert School to learn English in the early 1920s.

The Seattle Japanese American community revolved around school and church. Most ended up attending the old South School or Bailey Gatzert and moved on to Broadway, Garfield, or Franklin high schools. Outside of regular schooling, many Nisei youth attended Japanese school, while their Issei parents attended English classes even though they were not allowed to become naturalized citizens of the United States due to laws passed in the late 1700s.

Photo courtesy of Hanada Family Collection