

MINIDOKA CHRONICLE

Moving On: What Comes Next?

1944 – 1945



Terumatsu Yabuki is reunited with his family when he returned from Minidoka to his greenhouse property at Hunt's Point near Bellevue, Washington on May 17, 1945. Left to right: Terumatsu Yabuki; mother Yabuki; Private First Class Kiyoshi Yabuki and Hideo Yabuki.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS
ADMINISTRATION





Vandalism in the segregated Japanese section of the Rose City Cemetery in Portland, Oregon, 1944.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

Vandalism and looting
of belongings stored for
church members at the
Tacoma Buddhist Church,
Tacoma, Washington, 1944.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND
RECORDS ADMINISTRATION





May Yasutake left Minidoka in the spring of 1943 to work as a cashier in a cafeteria in Cincinnati, Ohio. She is seen here during training for her job. The others in the photo are likely WRA staff.

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ADMIRAL HALSEY

SAYS:

"Japs are not fit to live in a
Civilized World!"

THE JAPANESE EXCLUSION LEAGUE JOURNAL

GENERAL MacARTHUR

SAYS:

"The Japanese have proved that
they are barbarians."

Vol. 1

PORTLAND, OREGON, MAY, 1945

No. 1

The exclusion movement began in the 1800s and first targeted the Chinese, but grew to include Japanese and Koreans as well. The movement was especially vocal in Oregon, where politicians fanned the flames of hatred by publishing The Japanese Exclusion League Journal.

DENSHŌ

WRA TO DUMP 25,000 JAPS ON COAST THIS YEAR

Japs? Just Ask This Marine And His Dad

This is the story of the Pattees.

The story of a 19-year-old marine, who knows Japs and their mental processes by long and shocking contact with them in the South Pacific.

The story of a father, who already has given two boys to the service, "only" to see them come back injured and maimed, and who now is sending his third boy, a rangy 17-year-old with down still on his chin, to become a member of the United States Marines.

Thor Pattee, ex-marine, likes to hide the breastful of medals he won. But he can't conceal the artificial arm that Uncle Sam gave him to replace the one lost in the war. He explains it modestly:

"We were in a shell hole, nine of us," he says, "when a Jap shell exploded in our midst. Five of the boys were killed; all but one of us injured. We had to make our way back, under fire, as best we could."

But a later letter from Bill [one of Thor's buddies], to Mrs. Pattee put it differently:

"I want you to know that Thor was one of the best liked men in the outfit," he wrote. "The courage he showed when he lost his arm is known throughout the whole division. When the stretcher bearers arrived and tried to help him, Thor refused to be carried back. He pointed to the other wounded, who were lying on the ground, and said: 'You take them. They need it more than I do. I'll walk.'"

Says Thor Pattee of the Japs: "I saw Jap troops deliberately cripple American soldiers by ma-

THIS FAMILY KNOWS ABOUT JAPS



THOR PATTEE, 19-year-old discharged marine.

G. D. PATTEE, who sends his three sons to fight Japs.

EYES OF COAST ON GRESHAM AS ANTI-JAP MOVE SPREADS

Gresham, Ore.—This little town of red-blooded Americans is fast becoming the focusing point of millions of eyes up and down the Pacific Coast.

For in Gresham, from what started out to be a protest by far-sighted businessmen and farmers against dumping Japs back into

foresight and fortitude and asking help in getting their own localities organized.

The good people of Gresham and suburbs went all-out for a campaign of cooperation, aiding in the setting up of local chapters in several localities. But as requests continued to flood the League from

Myer Brushes Off Anti-Jap Opposition

Seattle, Wash.—Dillon S. Myer, national director of the War Relocation Authority, in a recent speech here, declared that the WRA will send more than 25,000 Japs back to the Pacific Coast between now and January 1. These will be the major share of the 54,000 who are scheduled to be released from internment camps, he added.

Myer's unequivocal statement makes something or other out of his rambunctious boss, Interior Secretary Harold Ickes, who a short time ago issued a statement to the effect that "our policy from the beginning has been to discourage return of the Japs to the Pacific Coast and to do all we can to persuade those who formerly lived on the Pacific Coast to relocate elsewhere."

Ickes' statement brought sharp rejoinder from Dan M. McDade of Portland, Ore., national vice commander of the American Legion, who said:

"A year ago Ickes was quoted in San Francisco as resenting any criticism of the WRA and labeling as 'professional hate-mongers' those who did oppose the return of the Japanese. He employed such terms as 'undemocratic,' 'bestial' and 'inhuman.'"

"At that time I called attention to the fact that we on the Pacific Coast knew more about the problem than Dillon Myer or Harold Ickes and resented the fact that our criticism of the WRA classed us as 'vindictive professional hate-mongers.' Anyone who puts any reliance in the rather nebulous statement attributed to Ickes is wasting his time."

LEADING in the fight to bring back the Japs are many of the preachers and those who have a selfish, commercial reason for using Japs. For the business man who would put the few extra dollars he can make by using cheap labor ahead of his country's welfare, we have no use at all.

For the preacher who argues that Japs are just as good as you or me, and that our Christian duty is to welcome them back as brothers, we would suggest:

Send out your son to marry a Japanese girl, or your daughter to wed a Japanese man. Then, when you have become the granddaddy of a swarm of half-breed Jap grandchildren, let's sit down and discuss this question of brotherly love all over again.

WE GET quite a bang out of the Jap-lover fraternity who try to stop public discussion of the Jap peril here on the Coast "because the government is against



In 1945, the Seattle Civic Unity Committee, the University Friends Meeting (Quakers), and other organizations assisted returning Japanese Americans in resettling and helped ease tensions in the community. Quaker groups around the country provided the same support.

MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND INDUSTRY,
SEATTLE/SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER;
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

The Issei were finally granted a path to naturalization and citizenship in 1952. This overhaul of the immigration system (the McCarran-Walter Act) lifted the citizenship ban for all foreign-born Asian people. This image shows a Certificate of Naturalization for Bunshiro Tazuma of Seattle in 1954.

DENSHO/THE TAZUMA FAMILY COLLECTION

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ORIGINAL
TO BE GIVEN TO
THE PERSON NATURALIZED

CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION

No. 7219439

Petition No. 46994

Personal description of holder as of date of naturalization. Date of birth January 1, 1894 *sex* Male
complexion Sallow *color of eyes* Brown *color of hair* Gray *height* 5 feet 2 inches
weight 120 pounds *visible distinctive marks* Black spot on left cheek
Marital status Married *former nationality* Japanese

I certify that the description above given is true, and that the photograph affixed hereto is a likeness of me.



Bunshiro Tazuma
Seal

Bunshiro Tazuma
(Complete and true signature of holder)

United States of America

Western District of Washington

Be it known, that at a term of the U. S. District Court of Western District of Washington, Northern Division, held pursuant to law at Seattle, Washington, on June 21, 1954, the Court having found that BUNSHIRO TAZUMA then residing at 1420 - 6th Ave., Seattle, Washington intends to reside permanently in the United States (when so required by the Naturalization Laws of the United States), had in all other respects complied with the applicable provisions of such naturalization laws, and was entitled to be admitted to citizenship, thereupon ordered that such person be and (he) was admitted as a citizen of the United States of America.

In testimony whereof the seal of the court is hereunto affixed this 21st day of June in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and Fifty-four and of our Independence the one hundred and Seventy-eighth.

WILLARD P. THOMAS
Clerk of the UNITED STATES DISTRICT Court

By *E. M. Goff* Deputy Clerk

It is a violation of the U. S. Code (and punishable as such) to copy, print, photograph, or otherwise illegally use this certificate.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



Mr. and Mrs. Shosuke Nishimura returned to their Seattle nursery after the war. They overcame initial difficulties with tenants and were successful in re-establishing their business. Their neighbors were friendly and helpful.1945.

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Seattle's Higo 10¢ Store was a mainstay in Nihonmachi since the early 1900s. The store was closed during the war and its owners, the Murakami family, were incarcerated at Minidoka. They returned to Seattle after the war and reopened the store, operating it for the next 40 years. The site now houses a new store, the Kobo Gallery, where an exhibit about the Higo Store can be found.



Top: The interior of the Higo store in the early 1900s. Both Japanese and American goods could be found there.

Bottom: The store was boarded up after the Murakami family was forcibly removed from Seattle at the beginning of 1942.

Inset: Sanzo and Matsuyo Murakami, owners of the Higo 10¢ Store, pose with their children (L-R) Ayako, Masako (on lap), Kay, and Chiyoko. Seattle, WA, 1920.



Higo's Five and Dime

My mother tows me in the red
Radio Flyer to Higo's in Japantown
when the Smith Tower looms tallest
west of the Mississippi
and sidewalks on Jackson Street
are knotty planks.
I drop pebbles between the sidewalk cracks.
Imagine them tumbling to China.

Shopkeeper bells chime our arrival.
A silk kimono from "Occupied Japan"
drapes a blond mannequin.
The family dog curls near the cash register
and beside it wind-up toys...

Sanzo, Matsuyo's husband, dies after
their return from Minidoka,
when Made in Japan means cheap and shoddy
and Issei are forbidden to become U.S. citizens.

The Japanese community is broken.
Sento bath houses stand silent, toy prizes disappear
from Tomoe Ame boxes and Japanese flee
to suburban split level homes and strip malls.

For decades the family waxes the linoleum floors
and prepares meals in the backroom
next to the family shrine.

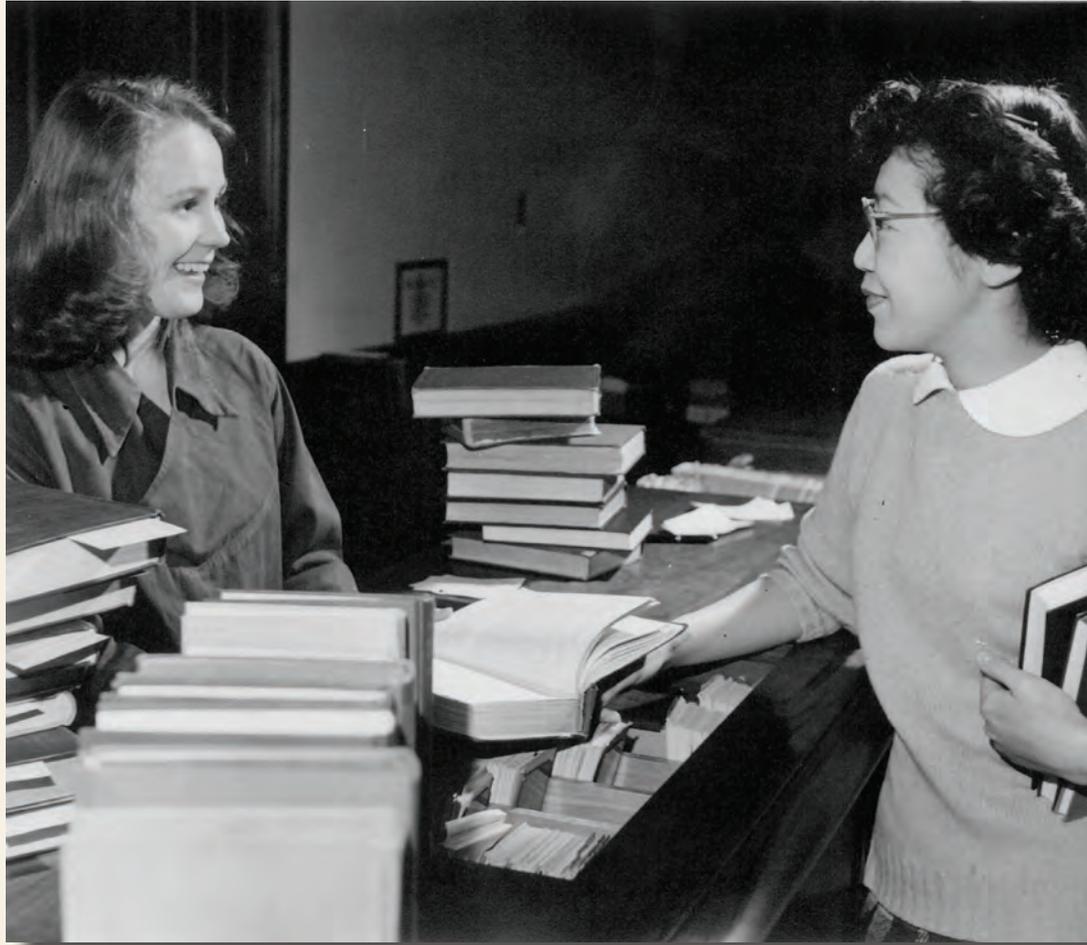
Sanzo's dream of a family business
that mends the community
survives to a time when
Made in Japan means quality,
sidewalks of Jackson Street are concrete,
pebbles stop falling to China...

Shopkeepers bell chime, the sound lingers
then fades. The Higo legacy passes to
Ayakio, Kazuichi, Masako,
Paul, and now John and Binko-san.

Five and dime memorabilia
sparkle next to arts and crafts.
Higo evolves into the Kobo Gallery,
magnet for a community dispersed.
It is a vortex where togetherness binds us as family.
I find sanctuary and peace among the hive of memories.
Cup my hands like a child,
catch and savor the sweet morsels of acceptance.

Lawrence Matsuda
(excerpted from
A Cold Wind from Idaho)

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May Ideta (pictured on right) and her sister Yuki were students at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. Their parents and two younger sisters also relocated to Des Moines from Minidoka so they could stay together. They were formerly from Seattle, Washington. March 17, 1945

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Before the war, George T. Nakamura was a machinist/welder in Portland, Oregon. At Minidoka, he volunteered for outside work and was a maintenance machinist. He secured permanent leave in 1943 and worked as a machinist/welder for a Chicago war contractor.

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“Oh, it was bad because I remember a lot of these restaurants says, ‘No, Japs.’ They would have signs out there, ‘No Japs,’ and you were called ‘Jap.’ And even in school, see, ‘cause I had two year, junior, senior, at Ontario. And some of ‘em were real, real good to you, these kids, ‘cause I have a lot of good friends, and there were others that called you ‘Jap,’ they just treated you like dogs. And the funny thing is, is mainly the athletes, the guys that are athletes, they’re the ones that mistreated



The sign on the door of this restaurant said “No Japs.” It is possibly located near the Minidoka camp, Hunt, Idaho.

THE WING LUKE MUSEUM

us. And the funny thing is, right there, is that these are the guys that mistreated us, and to this day, they are my dearest friends.

I think they changed; I think they did. Because once in a while, I’ll tell this one guy, he’s Basque, and I’ll mention to him, said, ‘Remember when we were in high school, how you hated us?’ He’d laugh. But I think that’s where the Japanese people are different...with the Japanese people, they had to put up with all that, but yet they lived, we live here, and this is our home. So you either take it or you leave it. And to this day, my best friend, and to most of our Japanese people, best friends.”

Ruth Sasaki

Troutdale, Oregon

DENSHŌ/THE RUTH SASAKI COLLECTION

They Turn Their Eyes Away

Freedom will not be open arms
and welcome banners.

Red rose petal showers
reserved for real Americans.

We are the vanquished for
walking through the victor's lair,
gauntlet of 1,000 eyes.

Anxious to pass unnoticed
in our yellow skin,

we will turn away from

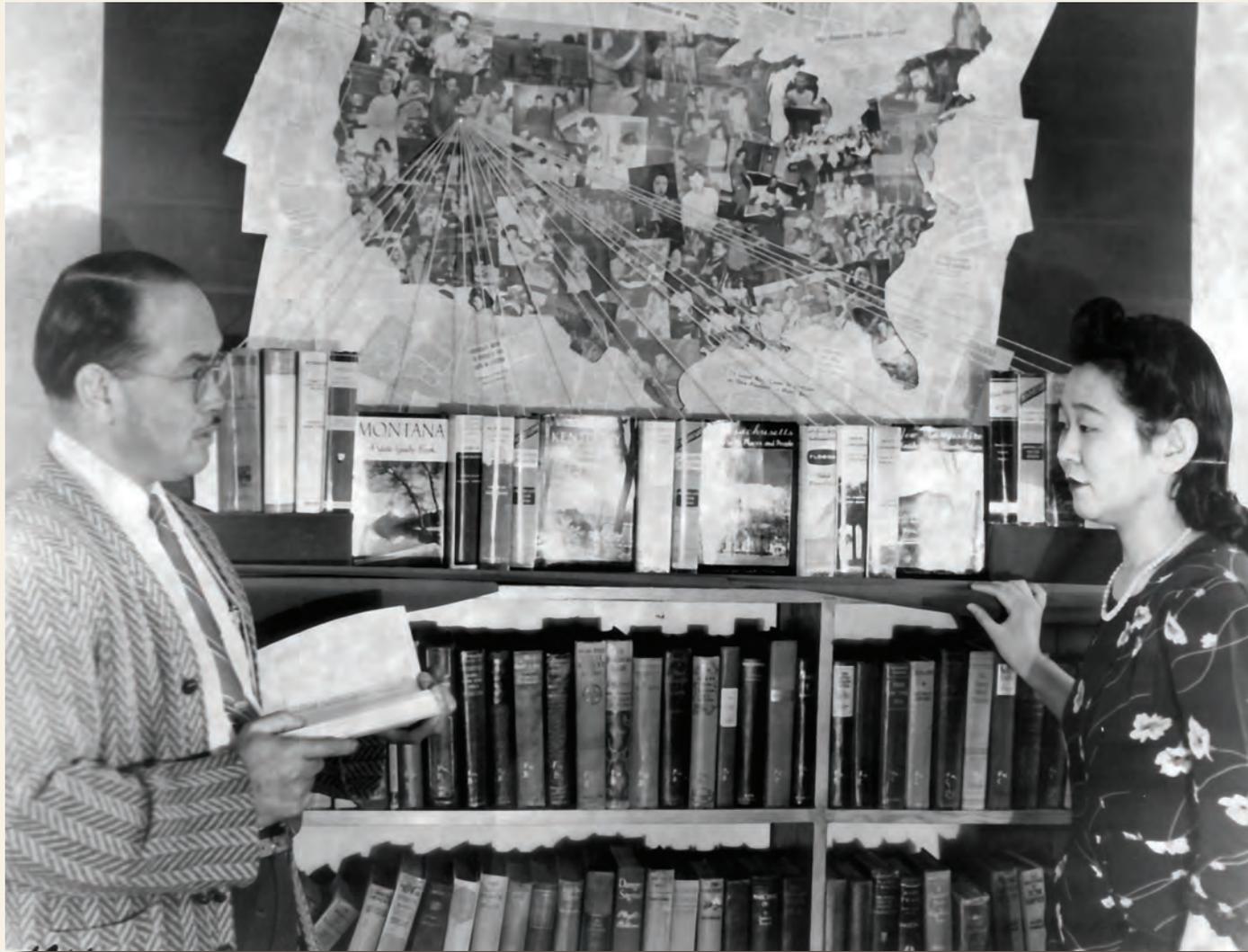
Remember Pearl Harbor remarks.

Mushroom clouds inhabit
the irises of our eyes.

Lawrence Matsuda

Excerpted from the poem "They
Turn their Eyes Away" in the book
Glimpses of a Forever Foreigner

©LAWRENCE MATSUDA/ROGER SHIMOMURA



Japanese section librarian H. Nagai and assistant librarian Elsie Hosogi show off new books about different areas of the country and a map displaying resettlement locations of Minidoka incarcerated, Minidoka library, January 1944.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS
ADMINISTRATION



Alice Kawasaki (front) was incarcerated at Minidoka before joining the US Nurse Cadet Corps. She, Tomi Nagasawa, and four other cadets were guests at a get-acquainted party sponsored by the Rochester, New York Committee for the Resettlement of Japanese Americans, June 4, 1944.

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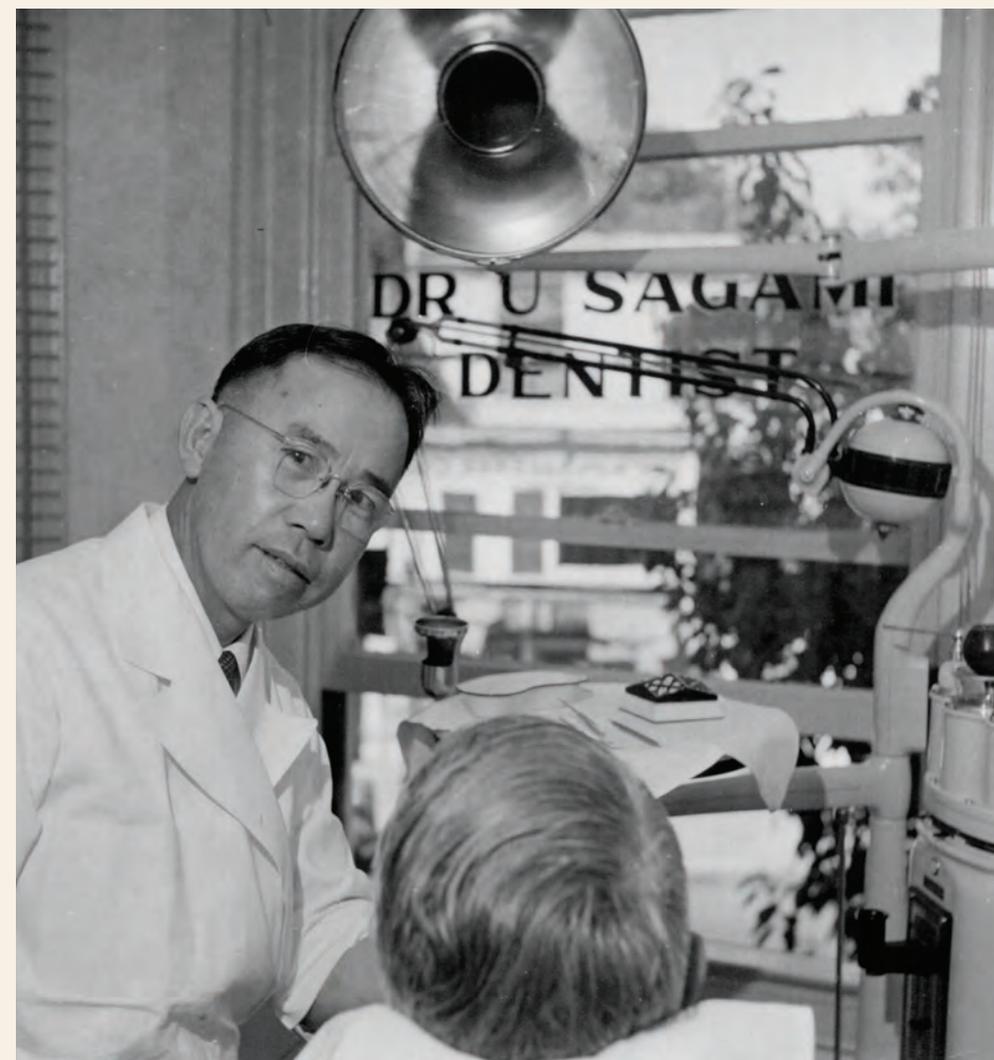
Mr. Asakawa in his rhubarb patch. He returned from Minidoka to his former neighborhood in Gresham, Oregon, where he had lived for over thirty years. Upon his return, he found his neighbors friendly and willing to help his family with shopping. May 20, 1945.

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Abe Hagiwara was originally from Alaska and was sent to Minidoka. While his parents remained in camp, he and his wife secured work releases and settled in Cleveland, Ohio, where he was employed as a boys' work secretary at the YMCA and his wife was a typist at the County Library. August 19, 1943.

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Dr. V Sugami relocated from Minidoka to Sacramento, California, where he opened his dental practice, August 15, 1945.

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