



Portrait of [Name]

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 27, 1925.

My dear Mr. Fukuda : -

The President has asked me to thank you, in his behalf, for the very generous remembrance which came with your compliments. He appreciates the kind thought which prompted you to send to him this product from your State.

Very truly yours,

E. T. Clark
Secretary.

Mr. Roy K. Fukuda,
Labish Meadows Celery Union,
Salem, Oregon.

THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE \$300



Mr. Roy K. Fukuda,

Labish Meadows Celery Union,

Salem, Oregon.

118



as the years go by.

This annual contest is the "National Celery Contest." So the national champion is now in Oregon, and going to stay here.—Ed.)

brand of the Labish Meadows Celery Union is "Tukoto Celery," Brooks, Oregon, to," is the Japanese language means extra good.

WANT MORE FLAX SEED PRODUCED

Wisconsin College of Agriculture Offers Suggestions to the Farmers

PAUL, Minn., Jan. 20.—The United States a heavy user of flax seed, efforts to increase the production of flax seed being made by agricultural experiment stations in Minnesota, North Dakota and Montana. It is appealed to by large national consumers of flax seed, W. C. Coffey, of the college of agriculture, University of Minnesota, is urging farmers to grow in a manner making it less difficult to handle, by growing flax and wheat together. Coffey explained that last year there was consumed in the United States 32,000,000 bushels of flax seed while only about 8,000,000 bushels were produced in this country, the remainder being imported. With a good protective tariff benefiting flax growers in this country, and with an average price of more than \$2 a bushel the past ten years, Dean Coffey predicts lucrative returns from the growing of flax seed for the future, with the production difficulties obviated. Experiments have proven that flax gets better returns when grown and wheat are grown together, an average of about 30 bushels of wheat and 23 pounds of flax seedings to the acre, the yield is stated. The crop is harvested in the wheat, bound, and stacked like wheat, and threshed with the latter. Separation of the seeds after threshing is not difficult, due to the dissimilarity. Also, growing in this manner eliminates

THE PIONEER AND LABISH MEADOWS CELERY KING TELLS HOW HE DOES IT

He Commenced in a Small Way Fourteen Years Ago, and Has Increased His Operations Every Year Since and Has Seen the Industry in His District Grow to a \$100,000 a Year Output, with Possibilities for Immense Growth in the Future.

(Back in 1920, in the first of the annual series of Slogan articles, the Slogan editor of The Statesman published the following facts, secured from Roy K. Fukuda, and this pioneer of the industry in this section has, whenever the time for reviewing the celery industry has come around, very graciously and willingly responded with whatever information was asked for. The facts mentioned above follow:)

The pioneer celery grower on a commercial scale in the Salem district is Roy K. Fukuda.

He commenced in the now famous Labish Meadows celery district in 1908.

He rented his land from Hon. M. L. Jones, and has continued in the industry, increasing the size of his crop from year to year.

His place is between Quinaby and Chemawa, about a mile from each station and between two railroads, the Southern Pacific and Oregon Electric.

His postoffice address is Salem, Route 8.

The first year Mr. Fukuda had some ten rows of celery, between 2000 and 3000 plants. He was feeling his way.

His celery beds have gradually spread out until he will this year have perhaps 400,000 plants.

Last year he had from eight to nine acres in celery.

He puts in about 30,000 plants to the acre. There are, of course, always some missing hills, and he expects to get about 2000 dozens of celery plants to the acre.

They go into crates for shipping, 8 to 10 dozen to the crate.

That makes about 250 crates of celery to the acre, which he says is an average yield; which anyone who will work with hand and brain, in this district, may expect to produce each year.

(He intimates that he does a little better himself, with his long experience.)

What It Costs

acres, at 15 cents per dozen, \$300. Crates and crating, 10 cents a dozen, \$200.

The reader will note that the above costs will total \$926 per acre.

Mr. Fukuda thinks the incidentals, such as trucking, paper and ribbons for tying, and many little items of expense, will make the total cost about \$1200 an acre for producing celery in his district.

At 75 cent a dozen f. o. b., which is a good average price, or \$1500 an acre, there is left \$300 an acre net for the grower.

If the grower gets more than 2000 dozens to the acre, he will of course, make more. Also, if he gets a higher price.

In General

Mr. Fukuda uses a Ford truck and a Ford runabout in his business.

In the busy season he employs about ten laborers, not confining himself to his countrymen, but taking good hands from the neighborhood.

He was himself born in Japan; but he has been in America a long time, and attended school in this country and acquired an English education.

He is glad to tell anyone interested all he can about celery growing, and this reporter will say that he knows about all there is to know.

He hopes to see the industry develop to very large proportions, as it will insure wider markets and more profits for all engaged in it.

Some Americans are already preparing to engage in celery growing in the Lake Labish district on a commercial scale.

It is expected that at least 50 more acres will before long be devoted to celery in that district, though the increase will probably not be that much this year.

And in time, no doubt, a goodly portion of the Labish Meadows, "beaver dam" land will be devoted to celery growing — and the

become the greatest celery growing county of this state, and it is lead is bound to be increased very fast from now on.

A good deal of celery is raised in the Milwaukie, Oregon, district and around Troutdale, and Hood River county.

But Marion county is the celery growing county that will make the whole country sit up and take notice.

Mr. Fukuda says that 15 years ago, the expressage on celery out of Quinaby alone has grown to \$8000. And it was at least \$10,000 last year, and will grow faster in the future.

The writer will say that he found Mr. Fukuda a pleasant, affable gentleman. His offer to assist with his advice any new grower will be worth a great deal to the industry, to Salem and to the whole country. For his advice will be the advice of an expert, not a theorist only.

(The reader will notice that Mr. Fukuda, in his communication in this issue, gives it as 50¢ a bushel—Ed.)

From Mr. Fukuda a Year Later Editor Statesman:

Your favor dated Jan. 21, 1922 is in hand, and very glad to be asked by you of my humble information regarding celery. I am not quite prepared to give a view on this subject this year except the possibility of the vicinity of Salem ever becoming a center of celery production in this country.

From my observation it can be estimated that there are, in this district where I am living no less than 5000 acres or more of the fertile land most suited for the cultivation of this vegetable. If this large tract of neglected land was properly taken care of and used for that purpose, there would be approximately \$2,000,000 worth of celery crop, which will be a part of the business in Salem. The market is constantly in demand of celery while the supply is limited. To order from eastern cities, is boundless and high prices is always offered.

Then, why not raise celery in this district? That is, in the 5000 acres, and make Salem prosperous?

This could be answered for the fact that its cultivation is usually difficult and the profit

IMMENSE POSSIBILITIES

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LAWRENCE C. PHIPPS, COLO.
FRANK R. GOODING, IDAHO
RALPH H. CAMERON, ARIZ.
TASKER L. ODDIE, NEV.
SAMUEL M. SHORTRIDGE, CALIF.
HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF.

THOMAS J. WALSH, MONT.
JOHN B. KENDRICK, WYO.
KEY PITTMAN, NEV.
FURNIFOLD M. L. SIMMONS, N. C.
C. C. DILL, WASH.
HENRY F. ASHURST, ARIZ.

H. K. KIEFER, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
IRRIGATION AND RECLAMATION

November 28, 1925

Mr. Roy A. Fukuda,
Salem, Oregon

My dear friend:

Your gift of celery arrived a day ago in the best of condition. It was fresh and brittle and I distributed it among several of my senatorial friends, all of whom pronounced it the most delicious they had ever eaten. Of course, I took a genuine pride in their commendation of the celery and remarked that the old La Roche at one time extended nearly to my farm and its outlet is one of the creeks passing through the ranch.

Yesterday, while paying a visit to the President at the White House, he told me that the celery was wonderfully delicious.

This act of kindness, I shall always remember, and if, at any time, I can be of service to you in any capacity, feel free to call upon me. With sincere good wishes and sentiments of appreciation, I am

Yours very truly,



...CH/r
-B

November 25, 1925

Mr. Roy K. Fakuda
Salem, Oregon

My dear Friend:

Your gift of celery arrived a day ago in the best of condition. It was fresh and brittle and I distributed it among several of my senatorial friends, all of whom pronounced it the most delicious they had ever eaten. Of course, I took a genuine pride in their commendation of the celery and remarked that the old Labische at one time extended nearly to my farm and its outlet is one of the creeks passing through the ranch.

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Charles L. McNary

Japanese Americans in the Willamette Valley

On June 3, 1942, the Capitol Journal printed a photograph of a large gathering of Japanese-Americans, waving goodbye from the Salem railroad depot. As the paper described, “High Spirits and Cheery Farewells to their white American friends marked the departure from Salem last night of 244 American-born and alien Japanese of the Willamette valley area for their new homes in Tulelake, (Cal.) evacuation settlement for the duration of the war.” The Oregon Statesman described their destination: “At their new home, approximately 35 miles south of Klamath Falls, the erstwhile Willamette Valley folk will find federal housing units... together with the opportunity to turn their ingenuity as agriculturalists into ‘making the desert bloom’.”

These cheerful reports masked the true nature of the Japanese-Americans’ destination, as well as the reason for their removal from Salem. Tulelake was an isolated, dry lake bottom, where temperatures often reached 104 degrees. In their “federal housing units,” the Japanese were provided with metal cots and hay for mattresses. Reverend Hideo Hashimoto, former pastor of the Japanese Christian Church and teacher at the Salem Japanese language school, described Tulelake as similar to a P.O.W. camp. “If you’ve seen Stalag 17 or Hogan’s Heroes, it was just like that.”

Throughout the western U. S., Japanese were incarcerated from 1942 to 1946. Of the 4,000 removed from Oregon, only half returned to the state after the war. Only two, from Salem’s Japanese community of 250, returned to Salem immediately after being released from internment. They, and those who came back later, found a community that was irreparably changed. The thriving Japanese community that had existed for four decades was no more.

Japanese immigrants first came to the Northwest in the late 1880s, filling the gap when Chinese immigration was banned in 1882. **One of the first Japanese to settle in Salem was Roy Fukuda, who arrived in 1905.** “He came to make his fortune and go back, but he got a wife and stayed,” described his son, Frank Fukuda, who still lives in the Salem area. **Fukuda settled near Lake Labish, northeast of Keizer, where he transformed the “beaver marshes” into profitable farmland.** His success attracted other Japanese to the area. Eventually, there were close to 50 Japanese families farming small, 10 to 30 acre plots around Lake Labish. They also farmed in Keizer and Independence, and owned businesses in Salem. Many of these early settlers are now buried in the Salem Pioneer Cemetery, where headstones featuring Japanese characters and names such as Nishimura, Yoshida, and Furukawa differentiate them from the other memorials.

The Japanese formed a closely-knit community, centered in Lake Labish, and worked together to maintain their cultural traditions. One major community celebration was Japanese New Year, when they played traditional Japanese musical instruments and ate fish, lobster, and shushumi. Many families installed traditional hot tubs in their houses. Japanese language classes for their children—many of whom grew up speaking English better than Japanese—were held at the Ogura Hall on Lakeside Drive. In 1923 a group of Japanese Christians began meeting in the home of Suyekichi Watanabe; by 1936, they had purchased the Bretheren Hazelgreen Church, which became the Japanese Christian Church.

While they maintained a distinct cultural identity, the Japanese also embraced American culture. In the summers, they held picnics “as American as hot dogs and apple pie.” Some of the Issei, or immigrant Japanese, still practiced Buddhism, but they encouraged their children, the Nisei, to attend Christian Sunday school. “I’m Japanese,” one parent said. “Buddhism is a Japanese religion. But my children are American. Christianity is an American religion. My children should be Christian.”

The Nisei occupied a difficult place, caught between two cultures. Rev. Hashimoto remembered that most children were English speakers, and rebelled against attending Japanese language school. “They had no interest in things Japanese,” he said. “Ethnically, they were American. I know, I taught them.” Most Nisei attended public schools and graduated from Salem High School. They found acceptance at school; in the late 1930s, Taul Watanabe was elected student body president. Tatsuro “Tats” Yada was a football star at Salem High and then at Willamette University. The Issei were proud of their children’s achievements. Every year they held a graduation banquet at Tokio Sukiyaki House, at 222-1/2 Commercial Street N. in downtown Salem.

With the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, everything changed. “You found out who your friends were,” said Henry Tanaka. While there was no outward violence in Salem, some Chinese-American residents felt the need to wear buttons announcing, “I’m Chinese,” fearing they would be mistaken for Japanese. Francis Tanaka, who had owned Tokio Sukiyaki for eight years and been the chef at the Marion Hotel for 18 years before that, saw his loyal customers trickle away in the months following Pearl Harbor. Vandals broke the restaurant’s neon sign, then its windows. It finally closed in February 1942. Other businesses, such as the Tsukamoto family’s Japanese hand Laundry, were forced to close by military law, which prohibited any Japanese-owned business to be located within 1-1/2 miles of water and power facilities.

Shortly after Pearl Harbor, 2000 Japanese nationwide were rounded up and imprisoned. Roy Fukuda, who had farmed in Lake Labish since 1905, was one of them. Although he was not a leader of any Japanese organization, the FBI apparently thought Fukuda was suspicious, and sent him to a detention center in Missoula, Montana.

On February 19, 1942, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9006, which authorized the “evacuation” of Japanese-Americans to barbed-wire internment camps. At first, only older Japanese were evacuated. Many young men, like George Takeyama, avoided internment by volunteering for the military, and served bravely in WWII. Others were later drafted out of the internment camps.

Finally, on June 1, 1942, the remaining 244 Japanese-Americans in the Salem area were taken to the Tulelake internment camp. “There was a feeling this shouldn’t happen, but you couldn’t say very much. In those days you just followed orders,” said Tats Yada.

Yada was one of the few Japanese who returned to farm at Lake Labish after the war. He discovered that his family’s home had burned to the ground. Tats and his wife Masako reclaimed their land and farmed there for many years. Other Japanese eventually returned to Salem; Tom

and Georgette Yoshakai, who met at a dance in the Tulelake camp, raised their daughter in Salem and remain active members of the community. Alice Yoshakai became a respected schoolteacher; Yoshakai Elementary School was named in her honor. The school is located in northeast Salem, near the rich farmlands of Lake Labish where the Japanese community once thrived.

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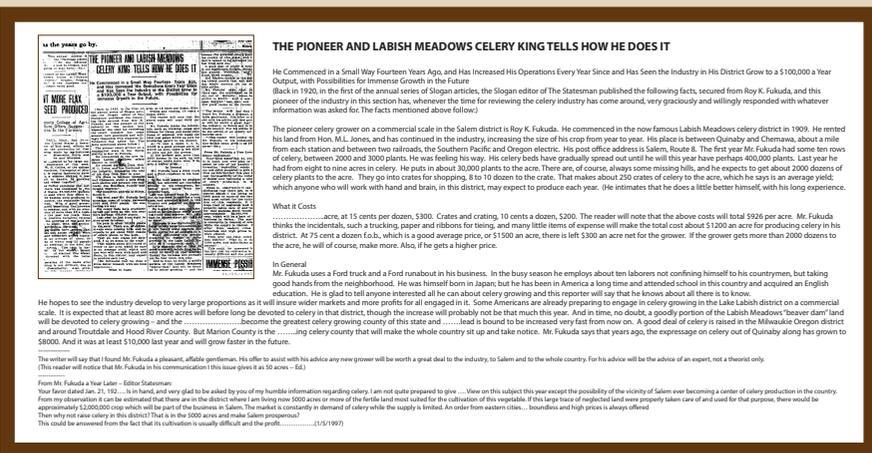
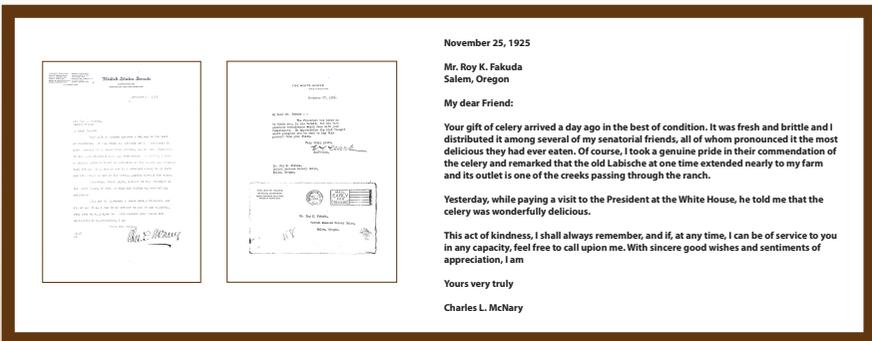
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Japanese Americans in the Willamette Valley



Introduction

The Japanese American community in the Willamette Valley has a rich history of settlement and contribution. This sign commemorates their presence and the challenges they faced during the mid-20th century.

Timeline

1900s: Early Japanese immigrants arrive in the Willamette Valley, primarily as laborers and farmers.

1941: Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japanese Americans are interned in camps across the United States.

1945: After the war, many Japanese Americans return to the Willamette Valley, rebuilding their lives and communities.

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Sign is located at PFC Ryan J Hill Park in Keizer Station



1936



1937









Lake Labish



This playful photo shows women and a baby in the celery field with a cup of tea in the foreground. Photo courtesy of the Paul and Tracey Saucy Collection. A news article described Roy K. Fukuda as a pioneer celery grower on a commercial scale in the "Labish Meadows" area. Many Japanese, Chinese, Korean, and American Indian children were involved at school, sports, and other activities. Sad times came in 1942 during World War II, when neighbors were evacuated to Tule Lake or other sites. Some served in the military, but only a few returned.



The David Saucy Sr. family and farm workers bale hay on the Wallace Prairie farm owned by Asahel N. Bush. The property bordered Cherry Avenue and extended past Claggett Creek. The Oregon Electric rail line ran through the farm property, which also included the Painter's Woods. (Paul and Tracey Saucy Collection.)