

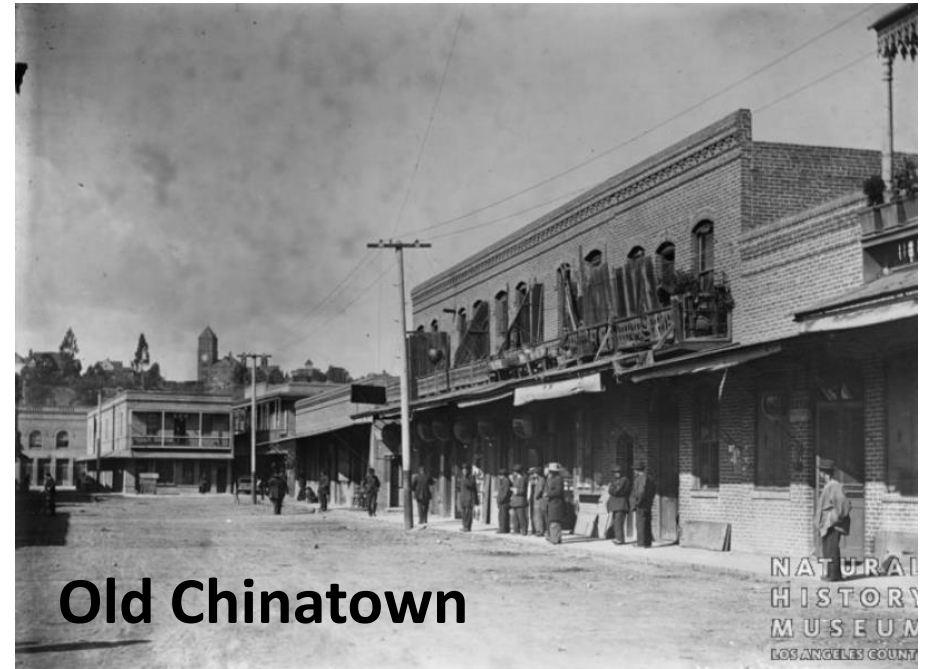
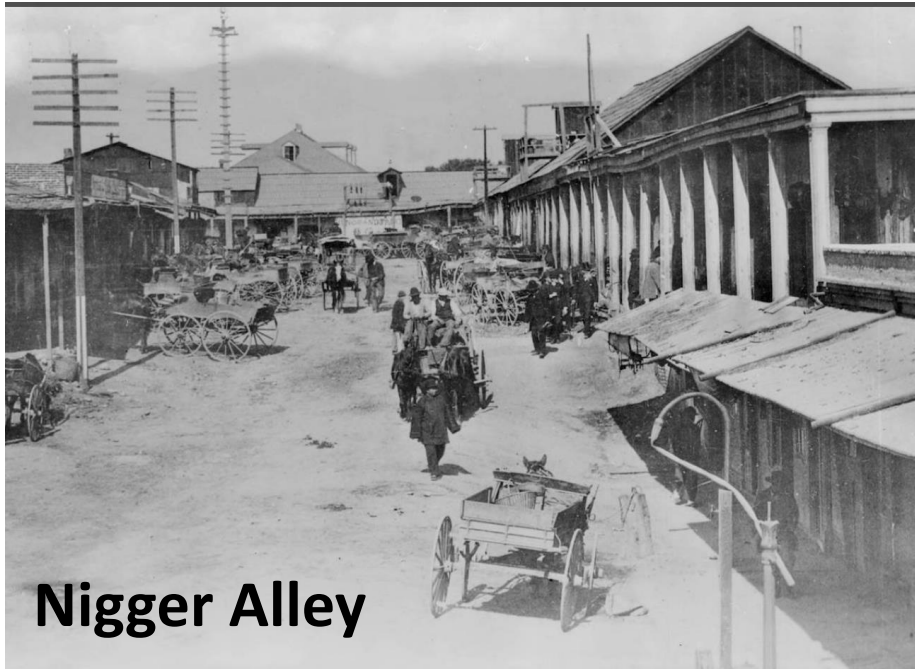
# ***Discrimination Against the Japanese***

**Dr. Kanji Sahara**

**June 13, 2021**

**GLA JACL  
Torrance, California**

# 1871 LA China Town Massacre



- Calle de los Negros or Nigger Alley was north end of Los Angeles St.
- Oct. 24, 1871, in a “Tong War” over a woman, a white man got caught in a crossfire and died.
- 500 white men entered Nigger Alley to attack, rob and kill.
- Every Chinese building was burned.
- 18 Chinese were tortured and hung from gallows.
- Largest lynching in U.S. history.
- Bumped *Great Chicago Fire* off front page of *New York Times*.
- 8 convicted but conviction overturned on prosecutor mistake.

# 2nd California Constitution

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

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

# ***1882 Chinese Exclusion Act***

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

***1892, Act renewed***

***1902, Act made permanent***

***“Chinese Problem” was solved.***

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

# Demographics of Chinese in America

## Chinese American Population, Sex, Citizenship, and Sex Ratio

Year	Male	Female		Ratio Males:Females
1860	33,149	1,784		19:1
1880	100,686	4,779		21:1
1900				
Foreign born	78,684	2,169		36:1
Citizen	6,657	2,353		3:1
1920				
Foreign born	40,573	2,534		16:1
Citizen	13,318	5,214		3:1
1940				
Foreign born	31,687	5,555		6:1
Citizen	25,702	14,560		2:1

Roger Daniels, *Asian America*, Table 3.1

# ***Aliens In-eligible for Citizenship***

***1790, Naturalization Act*** limited naturalization to immigrants who were “free white persons” of “good moral character”. Blacks and Asians are “***Aliens In-eligible for Citizenship***”.

**After Civil War, Blacks became eligible for U.S. Citizenship.**

**In 1924, Native American became eligible for U.S. Citizenship**

**Many laws state that it applies to “*Aliens In-eligible for Citizenship*” instead of “*Japanese*”.**

# **Issei Plan to Avoid Fate of Chinese**

**Issei plan to avoid discriminatory fate of the Chinese by:**

- Wear western clothes**
- Have western haircut**
- Have children attend school and get good grades.**

**Japan was stronger than China and Issei thought Japan would protect them**

# Tormentors of the Japanese People

- California Farm Bureau
- California Joint Immigration Committee
- California State Grange
- Committee of One Thousand
- Japanese Exclusion League of California
- Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West
- American Legion
- California State Federation of Labor
- Los Angeles Anti-Asiatic League
- Fourteen Counties Association
- Alien Regulation League
- Americanization League
- *San Francisco Examiner*
- *San Francisco Chronicle*
- Building Trade Council





# **Racism in Newspapers**

**Articles in San Francisco *Chronicle*, February, 1906 The *Chronicle* had the largest circulation in the West Coast**

***“Crime and Poverty Go Hand in Hand with Asiatic Labor”***

***“Japanese Menace to American Women”***

***“Brown Men an Evil in the Public Schools”***

***“The Yellow Peril – How Japanese Crowd Out the White Race”***

***“Brown Artisans Steal Brains of Whites”***

# **Size of Yellow Peril**

**In the 55 years from 1869 to 1924,**

- 275,000 Japanese came to the U.S.**

**In one year from July 1, 1913 To June 30, 1914,**

- 283,000 Italians entered the U.S.**

**In 1900, the Japanese was**

- 0.03% of U.S. population**
- 0.7% of the Pacific States population**
- 0.6% of California population.**

# **Issei, from Hawaii to California**

**Sugar cane and pineapple plantation owners sent recruiters to Japan.**

**Issei had to sign three year contract to work on the plantations – “Indentured Servitude”.**

**In 1898, Hawaii became territory of the U.S. and Indentured Servitude was outlawed.**

**Thousands of Issei left the plantation.**

**Between 1900 and 1908, 40,000 left Hawaii for California.**

**This sudden influx of Japanese alarmed the racist in California.**

# Separate Segregated Schools for Japanese

**Florin East Grammar School**

**"Oriental School", Sacramento County**



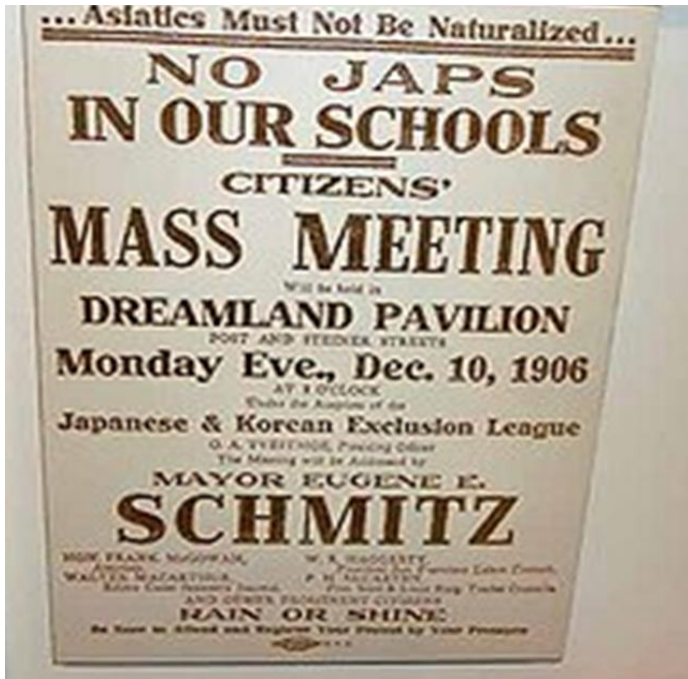
Park Net, National Park Service

- **Separate schools established for Japanese children in Florin, Walnut Grove, Isleton and Courtland.**
- **El Monte had separate schools for Japanese K-6.**

**School Law of California, 1921:**

**"The governing body of a school district shall have the power to exclude children of filthy or vicious habits, or children suffering from contagious or infectious diseases, and also to establish separate schools for Indian children and for children of Chinese, Japanese or Mongolian parentage.**

# 1906 San Francisco Earthquake



- 1906, Earthquake, many Chinese families move out, opening in Chinese schools
- 1906, School Board orders Japanese children to attend Chinese schools. 93 Japanese children in 23 school
- Anger Issei parents. Big uproar in Japan. Government protest
- President Teddy Roosevelt solves problem with 3 Point Plan
  - #1. Stop *Indirect Entry* of Japanese
  - #2. Reduce *Direct Entry*
  - #3. U.S. Navy go on maneuver



Wikipedia

Public School for Chinese

# **#1. *Immigration Act of 1907***

- **Feb 20, *Immigration Act of 1907*. Prohibit “indirect entry”. Japanese cannot use passport to go first to Canada, Mexico or Hawaii and then to U.S.**
- **This stopped “*Indirect Entry*” of Japanese to U.S.**
- **Mar 6, San Francisco allows Japanese to attend regular public schools. Chinese and Koreans attend separate schools.**

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

President Teddy Roosevelt's goal;

- Reduce “Direct Entry” of Japanese to U.S.

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

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

Congress could have passed a law like for “*#1 Indirect Entry*”, but Roosevelt choose a “*Treaty*” instead.

Immigration from Japan

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

President Roosevelt thought he solved the “Japanese Problem.”<sup>15</sup>



### #3. *Great White Fleet*



Wikipedia

**President Theodore Roosevelt order 16 battleships painted white and sail around the world. Manned by 14,000 sailors.  
Leave Hampton Roads, Virginia, Dec 16, 1907, return Feb 22, 1909  
Traveled 43,000 miles and made twenty port calls on six continents.  
Dock in Yokohama on Oct 18, 1908 to enthusiastic crowd.**



# Picture Bride, *shashin kekkon*

## Dilemma of Issei Bachelor

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

## Picture Bride; 1907 to 1920

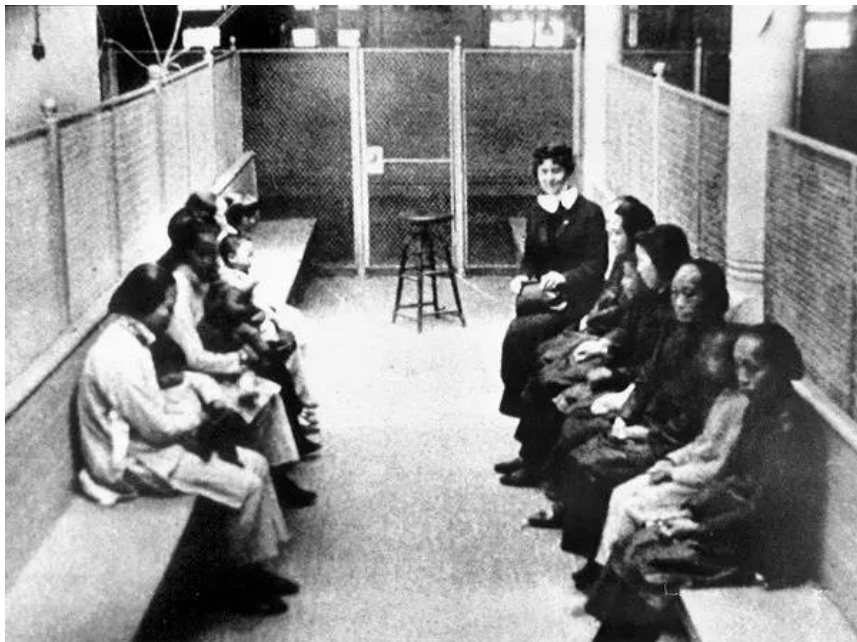
- Male sends photo to Matchmaker in Japan
- In Japan, when lady signed man's family registry, she is considered married and government issues passport.
- 25,000 Picture Brides came to US and Hawaii
- Circumvent Gentlemen's Agreement
- 1920, Japan stopped passport.
- Picture Brides started families.

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

# Angel Island, San Francisco Bay



**Picture Brides who just arrived.**



**Angel Island in San Francisco Bay is counterpart of Ellis Island in New York Harbor except:**

- **Asian immigrants spent weeks and months on Angel Island**
- **European immigrants only spent hours on Ellis Island.**

# 1909 Anti-Japanese Bills

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



**Governor  
Gillett**



**President  
Roosevelt**

# ***California's 1913 Alien Land Law***

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

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

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

**Passed Assembly 72 to 3**

**Passed Senate 35 to 2**

**Signed by Governor Hiram Johnson.**

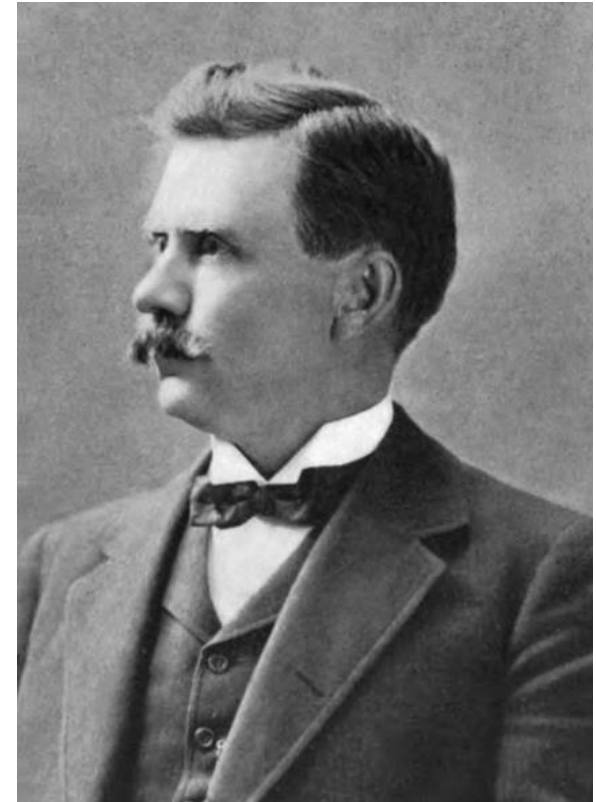
***1913 Alien Land Law* - first law that discriminated against Japanese.**

# Purpose of *1913 Alien Land Law*

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

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

**Purpose: To cause pain and suffering so that the Issei here would return to Japan and no more Japanese would come.**



Wikipedia

**Ulysses S. Webb  
California  
Attorney General  
1902 – 1939**

# **Target of Alien Land Law**

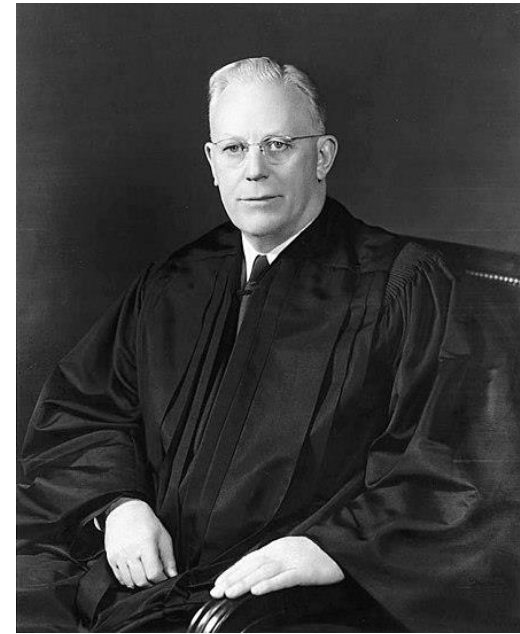
**Between 1913 and 1946, the California State Attorney General instituted 76 escheat proceeding against “Aliens Ineligible for Citizenship”. There were**

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

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

# Earl Warren, Alien Land Law During WWII

- 1943, "... We don't propose to have the Japs back in California
- While Issei were in Camp, California expanded escheat proceedings.
- 1945, 30 escheat actions begun.
  - State won 4 cases
  - Two settled for \$100,000 and \$25,000.
- 1946, 50 Issei were sued for their farm land.
- California search for Nisei soldiers killed in Europe that held title to land. Start escheat proceeding.



Wikipedia

**Att. Gen. 1939-1943**  
**Governor 1943-1953**

# 1922 Takao Ozawa Denied Citizenship

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





# ***Cable Act***

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

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

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

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

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

Purpose is to discourage white woman from marrying Asian.

***Cable Act*** repealed in 1936.

# ***1924 Immigration Act***

- Act barred immigration to aliens ineligible to citizenship.
- Ended immigration from Japan.
- “Japanese Problem” was solved.
- July 1, 1924 “National Day of Humiliation”, *Kokujokubi*.
- Reaction in Japan was bitter and angry.
- Issei thought they were superior to Chinese - but No!

## **Ethnic Japanese Population on Mainland**

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

# Discrimination in Schools

**John Fujio Aiso was born Burbank, CA in 1909.**



**Major John Aiso**

**1922, elected Student Body President, LeConte Jr High School, Hollywood. Parents complain, school abolish student government.**

**1926, won high school oratorical contest on U.S. Constitution. Forced to withdraw from state finals. Coached second-place winner.**

**Graduate from Brown University and Harvard Law School.**

**Nov, 1941, appointed Head Instructor of Japanese Language School, Presidio, San Francisco.**

**Director MIS training, Camp Savage and Fort Snelling, MN**

**Train 6,000 military Intelligence specialist.**

**After war, prepare students for occupation duty in Japan.**

# California Miscegenation Law

- 1880: Illegal for white persons to marry "Negro, mulatto, or Mongolian."**
- 1909: Persons of Japanese descent were added to the list of undesirable marriage partners of white Californians in the of 1880 statute**
- 1931: Prohibited marriages between Caucasian and Asian.**
- 1945: Prohibited marriage between whites and "Negroes, mulattos, Mongolians and Malays."**
- 1947: Subjected U.S. servicemen and Japanese women who wanted to marry to rigorous background checks. Barred the marriage of Japanese women in undesirable occupations to white servicemen.**
- 1948: Repealed miscegenation laws. Prior to repeal interracial marriages were prohibited, but no penalties were attached to such marriages, or to interracial co-habitation, or to migration into California by interracial couples legally wed out of state**

# Build the Japanese Hospital



Dr. Kikuwo Tashiro  
Evergreen Cemetery

**Japanese patients had difficulty getting admitted to hospitals. Few hospitals gave Japanese physicians staff privileges. Consequently, Japanese had poor health.**

**In 1926, Dr. Kikuwo Tashiro and five other doctors formed a corporation to open a hospital. California Secretary of State said this business violate Alien Land Law.**

**The doctors sued and took their case to California Supreme Court. In 1928, Court said Japanese can build hospital. This was one of the few civil rights victory for the Issei.**

# Opening Day, Japanese Hospital



**The Japanese Hospital in Boyle Heights opened its doors in 1929.** Photo courtesy of Little Tokyo Historical Society.



# Shonien (Japanese Children's Home)



*Shonien, Los Angeles, Los Angeles County [circa 1925]*

**Shonien was established in 1914 to provide care and supervision for children whose parents could not. Many child care agencies were closed to Nisei children because of their race.**

# **No Jobs for Nisei**

**Because of racism, Nisei found it extremely difficult to find jobs outside the ethnic economy,**

**Even college graduates found it difficult to find jobs.**

**Many Nisei could find work on their parents' farms or in Japan Town stores.**

**Because of the 1924 Japanese Exclusion Act, there were no new immigrants, business in Japan Towns were depressed.**

**Issei thought that they did not get good jobs because of lack of citizenship. They believed their children would get good jobs because they were citizens. But even with good education, Nisei could not get jobs.**



# Housing Discrimination

**1917, *Buchanan v. Warley*, U.S. Supreme Court ruled government cannot enforce segregated housing.**

**1926, *Corrigan v. Buckley*, U.S. Supreme Court ruled racial real estate covenant were legal.**

**During this time, 80% of Los Angeles was off limits to the Japanese people.**

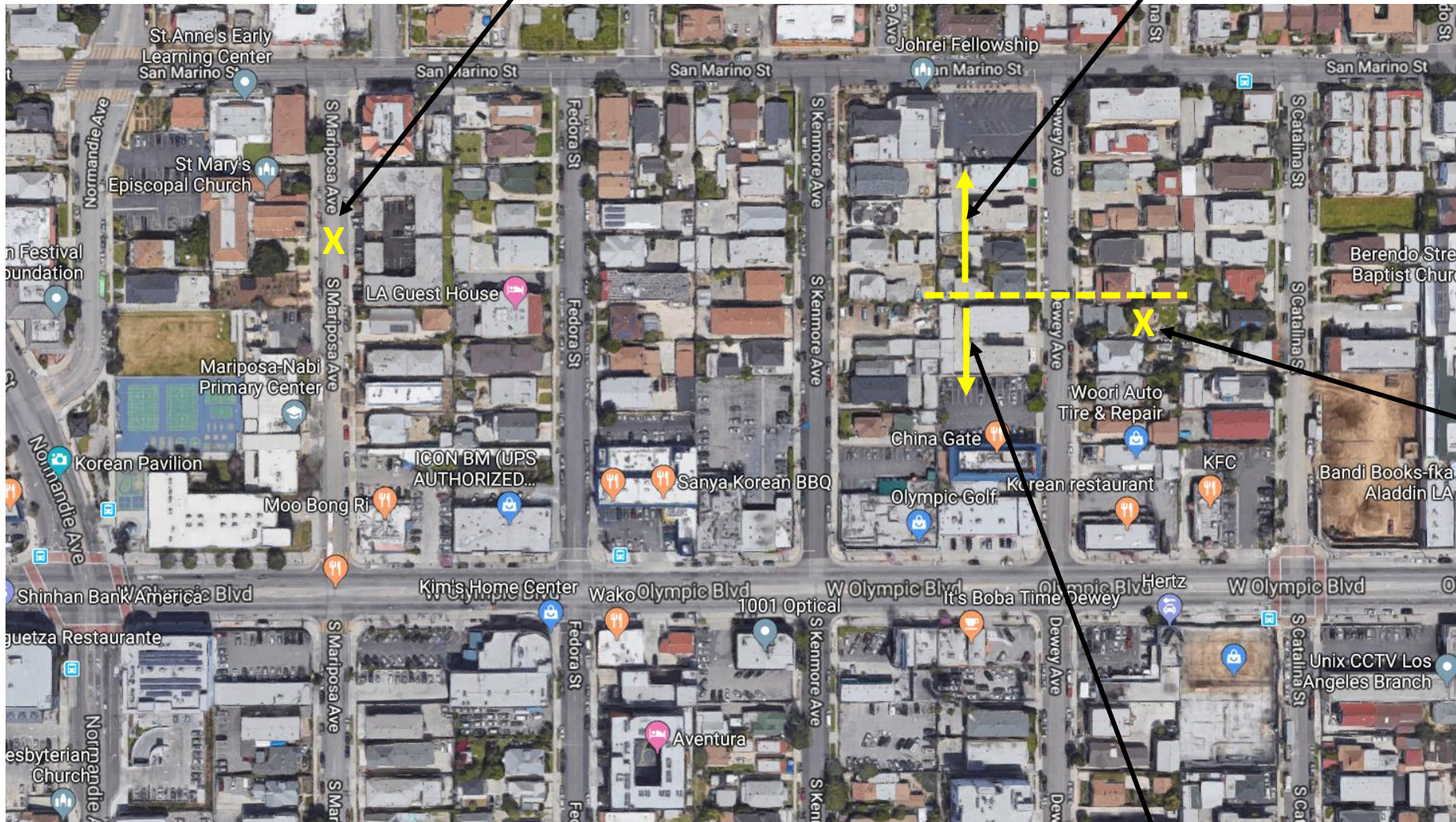
**1948, *Shelley v. Kraemer*, U.S. Supreme Court ruled that it was unconstitutional for the legal systems to enforce covenants.**

# Japanese Ghetto in Los Angeles

Assembly site, April 29, 1942

Expulsion to Santa Anita

100% Non-Japanese



Google Map

Kanji's Home

100% Japanese

# **World War II**

**110,000 people of Japanese ancestry were put in concentration camps. One third of the people were Issei.**

**Only a few thousand German and Italian aliens (nationals of an enemy country) were put in camp.**

**The government reserved the 'good or high paying jobs' in camp for the Nisei. For example; Camouflage net making.**

**After the war when the Japanese people came back from camp, many Issei were too old to restart their former business.**



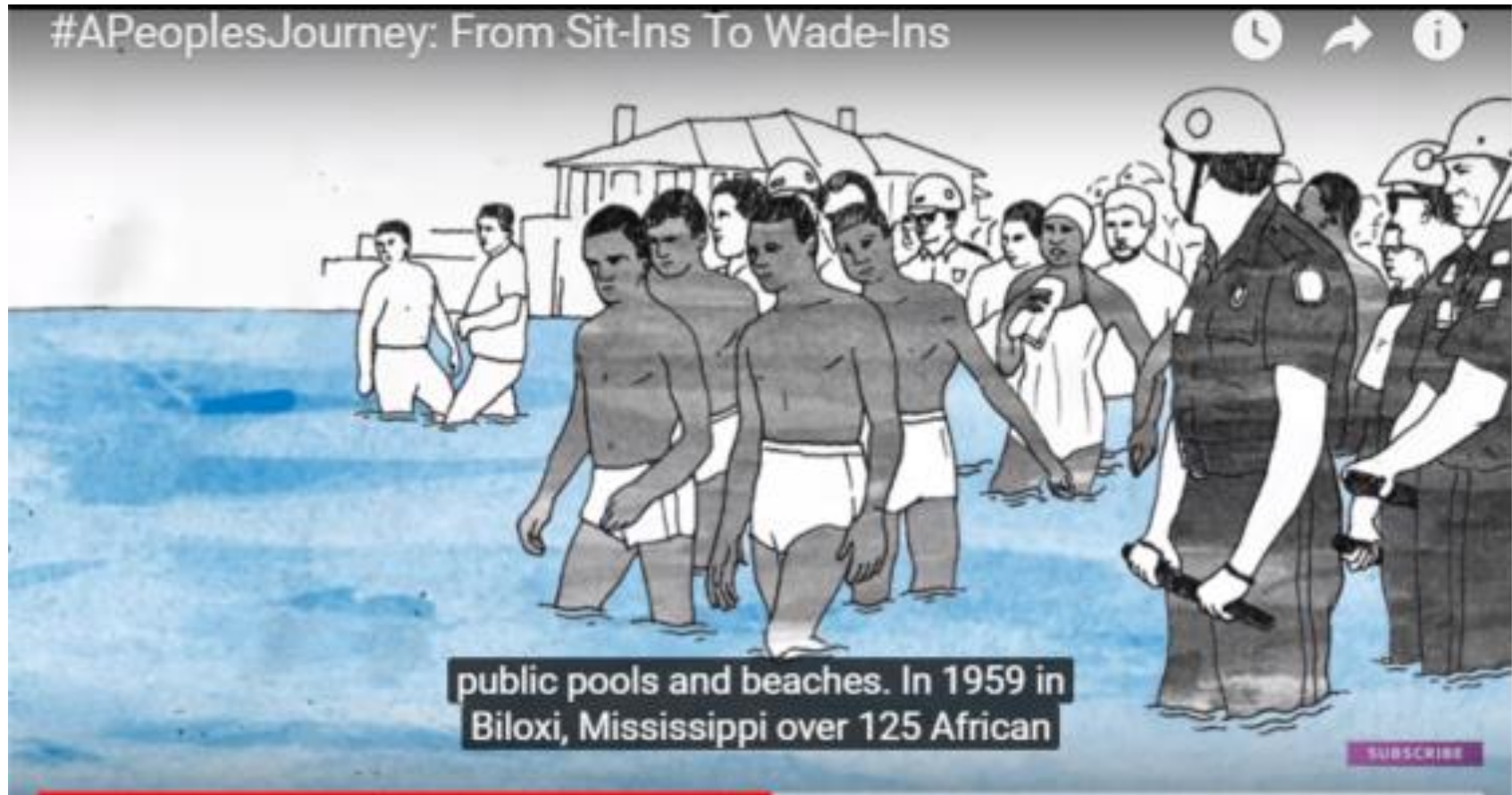
# Swimming Pool Discrimination



Credit Horace Cort/ Associated Press

**1964, blacks have “Dive In” at motel in Florida. Police jump in to arrest them.**

# Segregated Swimming Pools and Beaches



History & Culture Video / 25 July 2017

- In 1920s, swimming became a popular recreation. Many public pools were built. Men and women were allowed in the same pool.
- Whites objected to black men and white women in the same pool.
- Pools became segregated.
- Japanese could use pool only on day before pool was emptied.
- There were segregated beaches in Los Angeles.
- 1950s, NAACP started campaign against segregated pools.
- 1964 Civil Rights Act outlawed segregated pools and beaches.

# Bowling Discrimination

Bowling was a popular activity of the Nisei. In 1947, there were over 200 Nisei bowling leagues in both Hawaii and the Mainland.



The American Bowling Congress restricted all teams to white males. Furthermore, if a bowling alley sponsored tournaments for mixed groups, ABC would not permit official matches at that bowling alley.

In 1947, the NAACP, UAW-CIO, JACL and other groups under the leadership of Minneapolis Mayor Hubert Humphrey started a campaign to change ABC policy.

After several court challenges, the ABC in 1951 allowed Nisei bowlers in the national tournament. This was one of the earliest civil rights victory for the Nisei.

# **Discrimination in Military**

**Nisei not accepted into Navy.**

**Army inducts Nisei into MIS or 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT**

**442<sup>nd</sup> is segregated unit**

**442<sup>nd</sup> is combat unit**

**100<sup>th</sup> Battalion; “We did not come here to guard German POWs, we came here to fight.”**

**100<sup>th</sup> halted 7 miles south of Rome.**

# **Discrimination in Medal of Honor Award**



**President Clinton forms Commission to investigate whether Nisei should have been awarded Medal of Honor during WWII.**

**Commission recommends 20 Nisei to be awarded Medal of Honor**

**Award ceremony on June 21, 2000.**

**Lt. Daniel Inouye  
receives Medal of Honor**



# Discrimination in Cemeteries

## Photos of Evergreen Cemetery



**Japanese could not get buried in most cemeteries in Los Angeles.**  
**Japanese could get buried at Evergreen Cemetery which was a few miles east of Little Tokyo.**



# **Conclusion**

**For the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the racist wanted to send the Issei west across the Pacific Ocean back to Japan.**

**On December 7, 1941, Japan bombed Pearl Harbor.**

**Now the racist wanted to send the people of Japanese ancestry east over the mountains into the desert.**

**Fifty years of discrimination against the Issei culminated in their incarceration in Concentration Camps during WWII.**

**After the war, the discrimination against the Japanese lessen. There is now no overt discrimination.**