



A Japanese Immigrant's South Florida Experience

GEORGE'S JOURNEY



circa 1904

How do I get
money to buy
the land?



Long ago in Japan, a young man dreams of growing fruit in the mountains near his home.



“Morikami-san*, I’m Jo Sakai. I’m going to farm in America, in south Florida. Would you like to join us?”

“I don’t know . . .
America is far away.”

“A sponsor will pay your way there and give you a \$500 bonus after three years.”

“*Arigatō* (thank you), Sakai-san*.
I will think about it and let you know.”

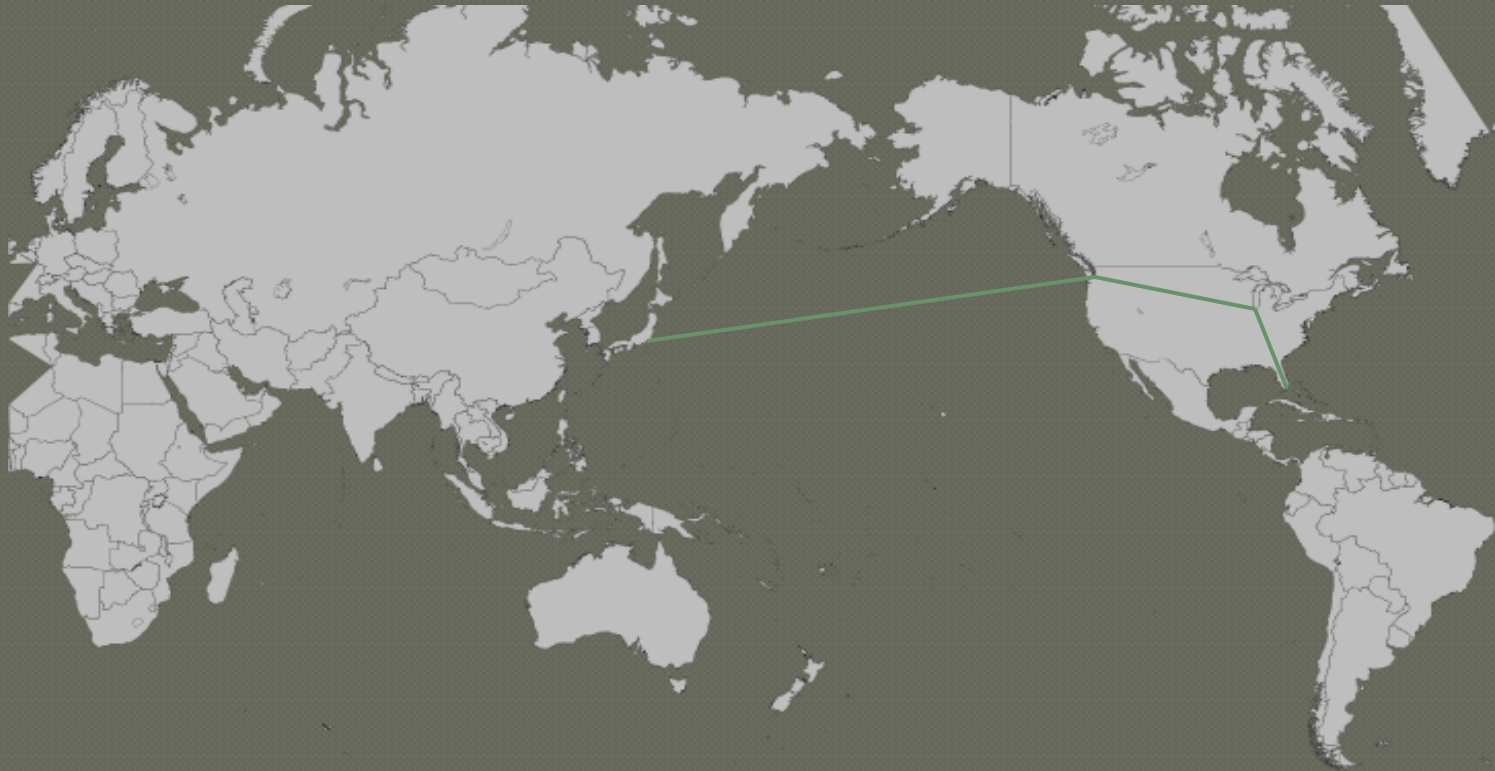


*Japanese usually use the last name when talking to each other, adding the suffix *-san* to it.



Otōsan (father), *okāsan* (mother),
my sponsor's name is Oki-san.
Here's where I am going. I will work
hard and come back in three years.

Sukeji Morikami sails to the west coast of the United States in 1906. From there, he takes several trains to get to Florida.






When he arrives, the colonists are growing pineapples. About a year later . . .



Sukeji! Sukeji! Your sponsor has died!

circa 1908



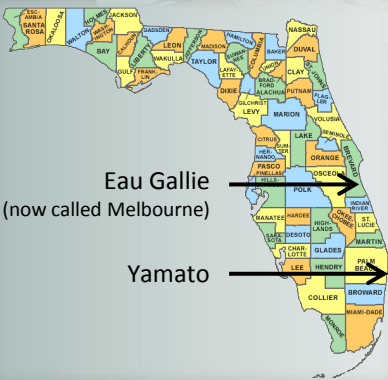
What will I do? How will I get home? I have no money, no bonus.

I must learn better English.

I WILL GO TO SCHOOL!



Hello. My name is George*.
I come from Japan. I want to
learn English.

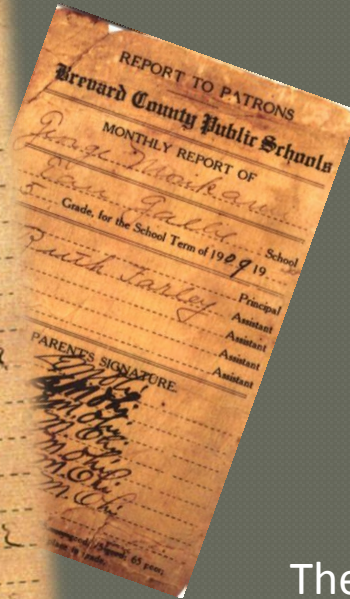


For one year, Sukeji attends fifth grade near Melbourne, Florida.

*It is about this time that Sukeji starts to use the name George.

George's Report Card!

STUDIES	MONTH											
	1st.	2d.	3d.	4th.	5th.	6th.	7th.	8th.	Final.			
Algebra												
Analysis												
Arithmetic	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Book-keeping												
Botany												
Civil Government												
Composition												
Elocution												
Geography	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Geometry												
Grammar	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
History												
Language												
Latin												
Physics												
Physiology	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reading												
Rhetoric	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spelling	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Writing												
Zoology												
Attendance	20 18 19 20 19 20											
Days tardy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Deportment	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Average grade	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



Was he a good student?

How many times a year did he get his report card?

What subjects did he study?

Was he ever late?

CHALLENGE

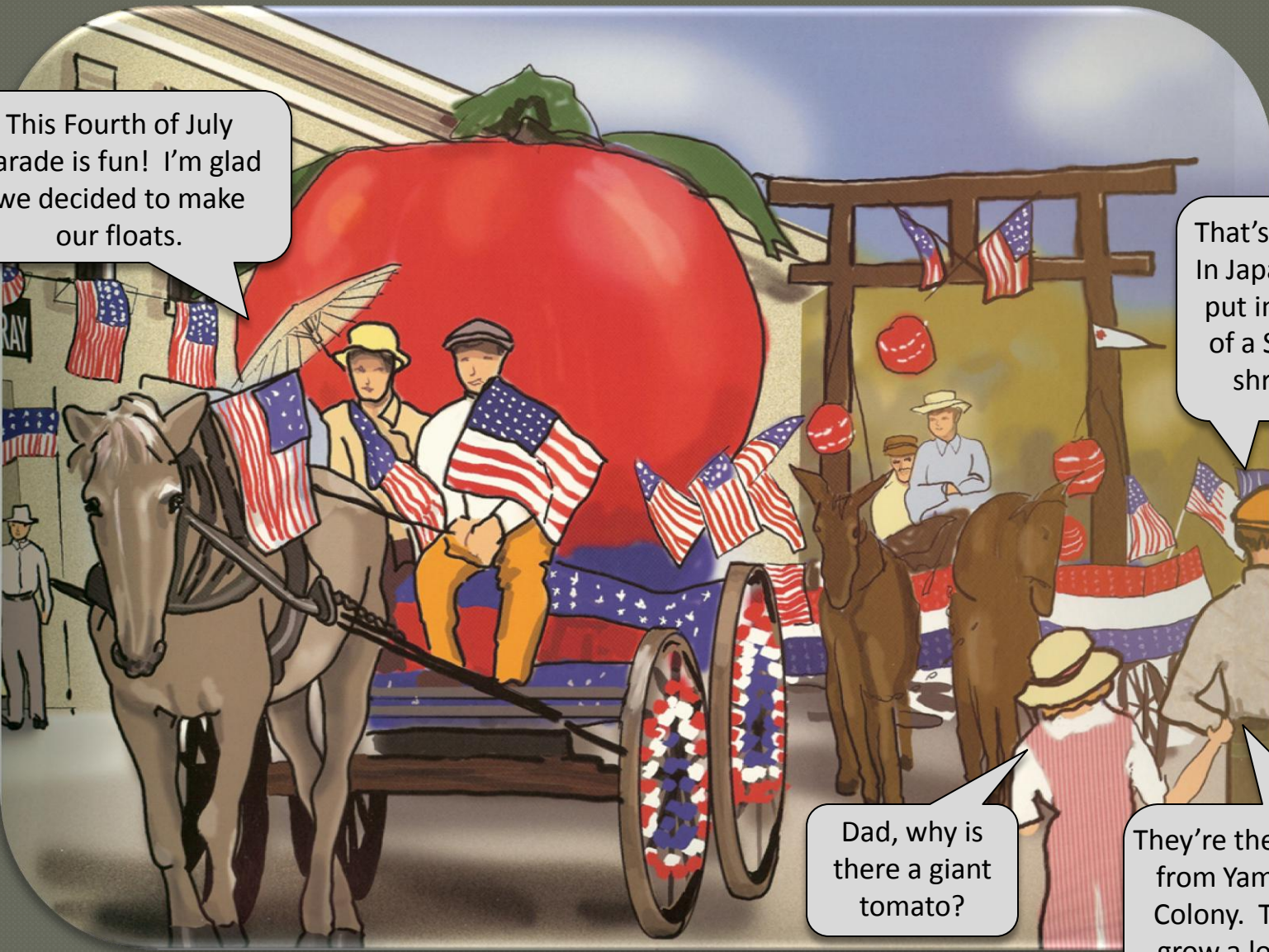
There are a lot of subjects on George's report card. Make a list of the subjects you don't know anything about and find out what they are!

Which ones would you like to learn more about?



It's good to be back at Yamato Colony! Thank you for helping me get land, seeds and fertilizer.

George works hard and eventually starts a vegetable mail order business. Before long, he sends his produce all over the states!



This Fourth of July parade is fun! I'm glad we decided to make our floats.

That's a *torii*. In Japan, it is put in front of a Shinto shrine.

Dad, why is there a giant tomato?

They're the men from Yamato Colony. They grow a lot of tomatoes.

Yamato colonists enjoy fun activities, too. Find more on the next page!

Yamato Rock is one of our favorite places to swim, fish, and picnic.



Look at our fun time photographs!



Baseball, anyone?



1916 YAMATO FLA.
遊佐親



I'm on my way to Palm Beach to see a silent movie!





My money ...
where's all my hard-
earned money?

It's all gone?
Why? How? I
don't understand.

How can
banks fail?*

late 1920's

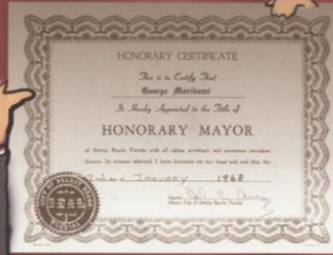
*For information about the Florida land boom and bust, visit: pbchistoryonline.org/page/land-boom-and-bust.



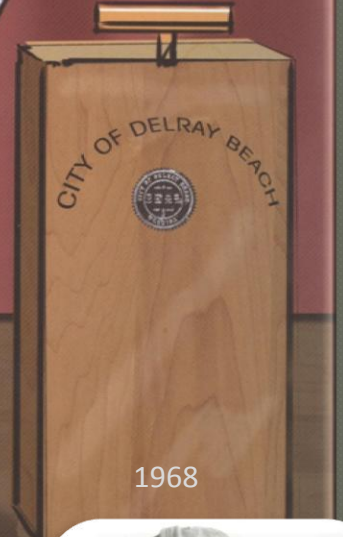
Now I live on my land. I'm right here at work!

My farm keeps growing. I buy land whenever I can.

Over the years, George becomes a prosperous landowner.

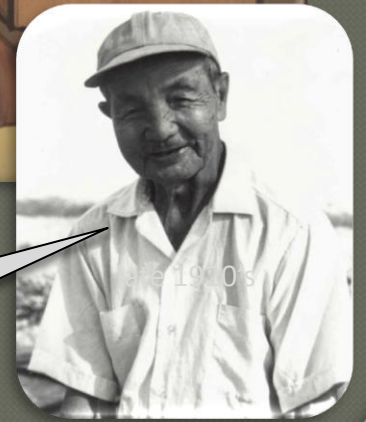


It is my pleasure to appoint George Morikami Honorary Mayor of Delray Beach



1968

In 1967, I became an American citizen.



1960s

Please use my land for a place where people can learn about Yamato Colony and Japan. *Arigatō gozaimasu.*



1886 - 1976

