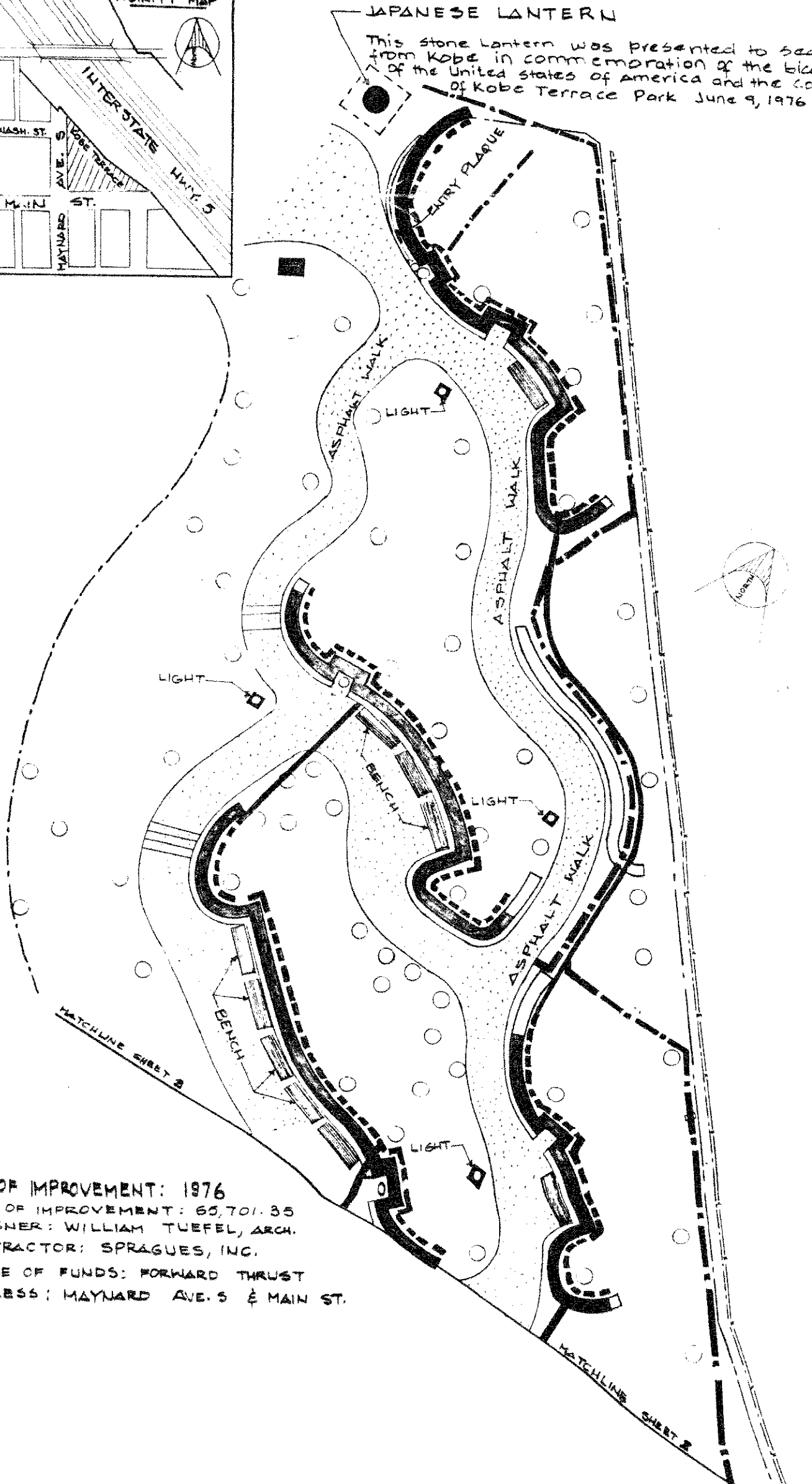
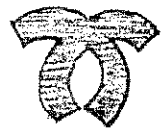
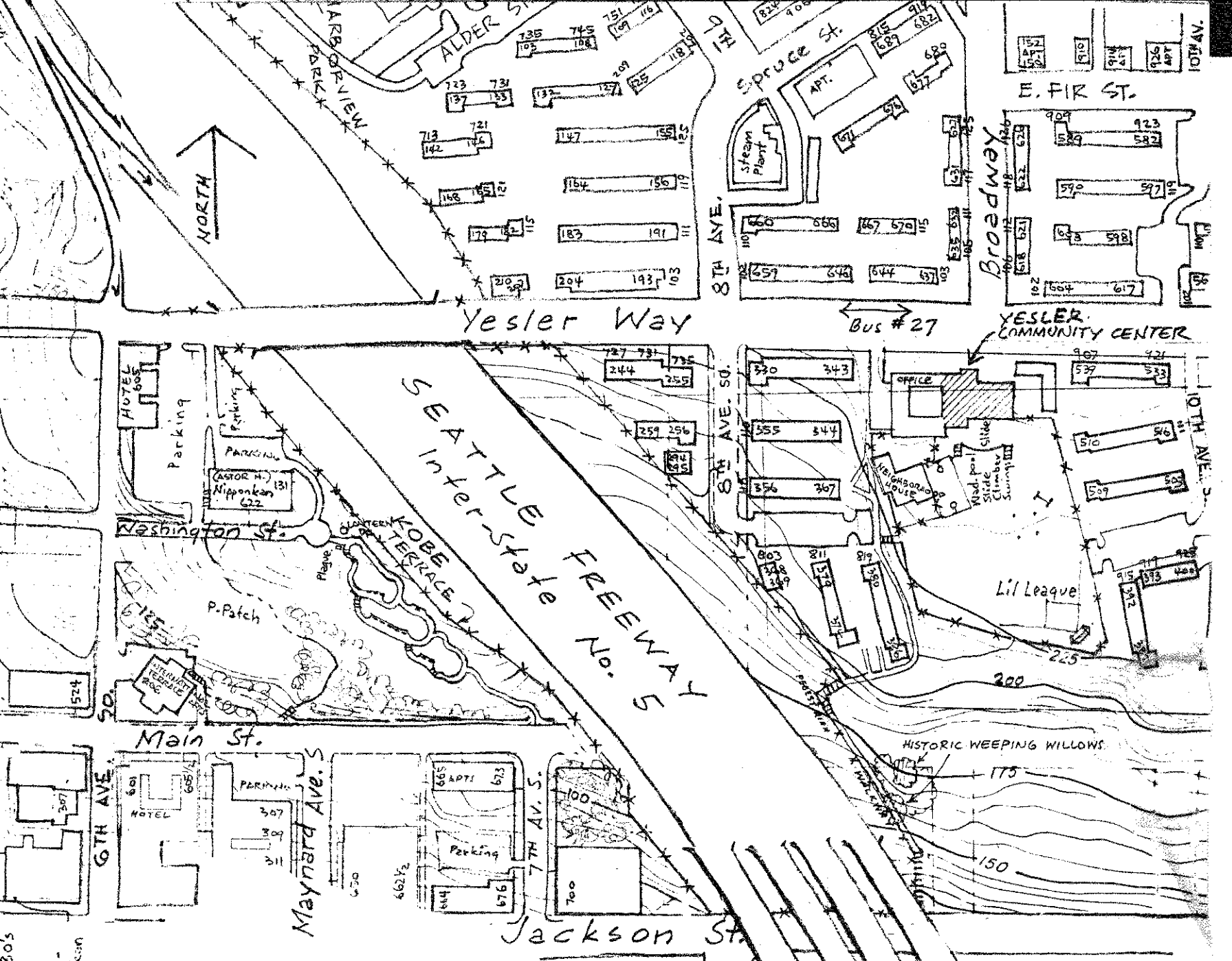


**JAPANESE LANTERN**

This stone lantern was presented to Seattle from Kobe in commemoration of the bicentennial of the United States of America and the completion of Kobe Terrace Park June 9, 1976.



YEAR OF IMPROVEMENT: 1976  
 COST OF IMPROVEMENT: 60,701.35  
 DESIGNER: WILLIAM TUEFEL, ARCH.  
 CONTRACTOR: SPRAGUES, INC.  
 SOURCE OF FUNDS: FORWARD THRUST  
 ADDRESS: MAYNARD AVE. S & MAIN ST.



Kobe City Seal

和由

1.1 Acres  
 1966: Deed from FHA  
 as part payment  
 (+ \$38,000)  
 for Handicapped Center

# KOBE TERRACE PARK

(1.7 Ac. playground)

Jurisdiction of the Fed. Housing Authority  
 Seattle Branch office  
 903 Yesler Way/583-4424

Recreation Supervision (1946-date)  
 Incl. furnish. of minor supplies.  
 F.H.A. provides supplies + custodial services.  
 Program policy management Board (1969):  
 Neighborhood Hse., Housing Auth. + Dept. Pk + Recr.

# YESLER PLAYGROUND

524-M2  
 307-50-20-20  
 "Old public building in Seattle"  
 Sasakiya Confectionary Co. 1905-  
 on in Seattle - served patrons of Nipponkan  
 + Community.

062876

020376

Gym/Stage 50'x76'  
 = 500 person  
 Lockers/Showers  
 Craft Rm: 15'x18'  
 Kitchen

Susan Schwartz + Richard McKinnon:

The building across the street, to the north, at 622 S. Washington St., was built in 1909 as the Astor Hotel + became the cultural and community center of "Nihonmachi" (Japantown) for it not only provided housing for some of the immigrants but it contained a large Hall with stage + balcony: "Nipponkan" (Japanese Hall). The influence of the Astor "radiated into Seattle like a varied tapestry of events, of things, of people at work and at play, in joy and sadness." At the Hall were presented Kabuki plays + dance, Ikebana (flower arrangement) displays, visiting artists + speakers from Japan, karate + fencing, community benefits, political debates, Japanese movies (in addition to those presented at the [Atlas] Kokusai Theatre). "Especially important were the meetings of the more than 20 ken jin kai - societies of people from the same prefectures of the homeland: helping each other find housing, jobs, aiding the sick + destitute and rebuilding barns of burned-out farmers. [ref: Ft. Dent Athletic Center] Then came the fear and hysteria of World War II when the occupants of Nihonmachi - both citizen and immigrant - were swept off to concentration camps and a "ghostly air of sudden abandonment" fell upon Nipponkan until it was "discovered" in 1974 by Ed Burke, architect, who bought the building during the "Pioneer Square Historical Rehabilitation" period. During the 1976 Dedication of Kobe Terrace Park the Hall once again was filled with the sounds of Kabuki music and dance - and people.

In 1911 a Kobe businessman gave a stone lantern to be placed in a park and Mt. Baker was chosen together with a proposal to construct a Japanese Garden "around" it (the \$9,000= est. killed it?). Mr. Matsukata's gift was the result of exchange visits of Seattle and Japanese businessmen. The City of Kobe was the first to contribute (funds) for the construction of the Japanese Garden in the Washington Park "Arboretum" in 1957.

Prior to the construction of the Freeway in 1965, the park area was part of the Yesler Terrace Housing Project, a 1939 ghetto clearance project. The "isolated" triangle became part payment from the Federal HFA for the taking of the city owned and park operated Handicapped Center on Empire Way between Hill and Walker Sts. First identified as "Yesler Terrace" the park was improved with paths and benches, designed by an adjacent architect with materials supplied by this Department. It was redeveloped in 1975 as a Forward Thrust Mini-Park project. The City of Kobe gave flowering cherry trees of two species for the park (Mt. Fuji + Yoshino) and an 8,000 lb. stone Yukimidoro ("View of the Snow" Lantern), which was handcarved in 1916: moved in 1961 to "Garden of Seattle" of Kobe Municipal Arboretum until 1976 when it was reassembled here by a delegation of 10 from the Stoneworks Guild of Kobe. The accompanying tablet is engraved from granite found only in Japan and traditionally reserved for use by the Emperor: "May the Lantern shed light on the Friendship between the Peoples of Kobe and Seattle."

From the park may be seen the once-fertile Duwamish Valley that was farmed by the Issei. The tidal mouth of the River was filled in 1910, 1918, 1921 from Seattle's Regrade projects including the creation of Harbor Island: the Valley has changed from truck farming to "truck manufacturing."

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KOBE (Kō-bē) - the dictionary translation: "the head" of Prefecture.

City Executive Office:

Upon the suggestion of Councilman Bruce Chapman in 1973 this park was named in honor of Seattle's "sister city" in Japan: KOBE, capitol of Hyogo Pref. (1,240,000 pop.), port on Honshu Island. The "sister city" program began with the growth of trade relationships between the two ports and was "formalized" in 1957, becoming the first "program" of its kind between two countries. The concept was promoted by Gordon Clinton, mayor. In addition to trading, a program of visiting was initiated, involving school children as well as businessmen and government officials: there was an exchange of art work between the government employees of both cities, including the gift of a totem pole.\* The program has won national recognition. (\* Totem carved by Joseph Hillaire, son of Lummi Chief, in 1961, and placed in the "Garden of Seattle" in Kobe Municipal Arboretum.)

Encyclopedias + SAS:

The "old" section of Kobe was the city of Hyogo, founded in the 3rd Century which became a trade center when the flow of Asian trade entered Japan, becoming the capital of Japan in the 12th Century. During this period a fishing village was established near Hyogo which became Kobe. Adm. Perry commanded an expedition to Japan in 1853 and, following a civil revolution, Japan was opened to foreign trade in 1868. Kobe then began to develop as a "modern" city and by 1892 was given a city charter that incorporated Hyogo. In 1874 the first of five railroads was built to Kobe to connect the growing port to Tokyo and Yokohama. An earthquake in 1923 spared Kobe from severe damage so that major shipping was transferred from the disabled Yokohama and Tokyo harbors and Kobe became Japan's chief port and one of the largest in the Orient. The establishment of foreign trade offices gave Kobe an international atmosphere. Because of its importance in shipping and manufacturing, the city was subjected to severe incendiary damage during WWII.

Dr. Minoru Masuda, UW:

Kobe is built on a narrow, fan-shaped strip between Osaka Bay and a mountain range. This condition shelters the city from winter winds producing a moist, temperate climate. A 250 day growing season permits arable land to be double-cropped, producing rice, rye, wheat, barley, sugar, flour and sake (a rice wine). Manufacturing includes shipbuilding, chemicals, machinery and rubber: it is part of the vast Hanshin Industrial complex. Kobe is the site of many famous shrines, the National Kobe University, Kobe University of Commerce, Women's College, a Nautical College and Technical School. To accommodate the growth of a population and industry Kobe has reclaimed land with piers and in 1966 began bulldozing Mt. Yoko onto a conveyor down to barges to build two new islands in the harbor for port facilities (like Seattle's Regrades!).

1860 marks the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and the United States. Since 1868, the Japanese have contributed to the development of the Pacific Northwest. At that time Japan ended her isolation and faced east, sending immigrants (Issei), craftsmen, farmers and laborers and they came seeking fortunes along with those from China, Europe and Asia. They found work in the thick forests and sawmills, in extending the steel ribbons of the transcontinental railroads and in the damp salmon canneries of Puget Sound and Alaska. The Issei cleared, developed and cultivated the rich river valleys and in time supplied 75% of the produce needs of the Seattle-Tacoma area and 50% of the milk for Seattle's needs. Their production and shipping of lettuce and peas was decisive in Washington's economy. Two young Issei transplanted oysters from their native land to Samish Bay and so was born the oyster growing industry of Washington.

Many Issei intended to return to Japan, but instead more came, including wives and children followed: by 1900 the community of Issei had grown to 3,000 in Seattle. But their successes were paralleled with a story of discrimination and prejudice in social, labor, economic and housing: resulting in the Gentlemen's Agreement of 1907, the Alien Land Acts and the Immigration Act of 1924. The notions of unassimilability, differing life styles and economic competition exploded in the crisis of WWII resulting in the evacuation of 110,000 persons of Japanese ancestry (citizen as well as alien) into concentration camps. Not until 1952 were the Issei given the right of citizenship, but full compensation was not made for the seizure of their farmlands and other properties. Social "integration" has been difficult, as is true of all non-European immigrants/ancestry: the basic cause of the Riots of the 1970's, although the Issei and Neissi did not actively participate.

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Stone Plaque @ Lantern:

" This Stone Lantern is presented to Seattle  
from Kobe in commemoration of the Bicentennial  
of the United States of America and the  
completion of Kobe Terrace Park.

May the Lantern shed Light on the Friendship  
between the peoples of Kobe and Seattle.

June 9, 1976

Tatsuo Miyazaki  
Mayor of Kobe "

(Also in Japanese)