

# パルディは いつまでも故郷



# Paldi is Always Home

Hisae Yanemura and Jean Urabe standing outside the first Gurdwara (Sikh temple) in Paldi (1924)  
Cowichan Valley Museum and Archives/ South Asian Canadian Digital Archive.



## Urabe Family

Toemon Urabe and Mayo Singh met while working together at a sawmill in Rosedale. After Toemon suffered a serious injury, Mayo invited him to join a new sawmill venture in Paldi, promising that the Urabes would always have a job and a home there.

Toemon helped construct the living quarters for the sawmill workers and built houses for Mayo, his brother Ganea, and Kapoor, a major shareholder of Mayo Lumber Company. Mrs. Urabe worked as a housekeeper for the Singh's and the Kapoor's, often looking after their children.

The Urabes were one of the few Japanese Canadian families that returned to Paldi after internment. They had stayed connected throughout the internment years and after government restrictions were lifted in 1949, Mayo sent a letter inviting them to come back.

Mayo Singh's promise to the Urabes held true. Despite the struggles and challenges they faced, the Urabes always had a home in Paldi.



## ウラベ一家

トウエモン・ウラベとマヨ・シンは、ローズデールの製材所で共に働いているときに知り合いました。トウエモンが大怪我を負ったとき、マヨはパルディで始めたばかりの製材所で働くようトウエモンを誘い、ウラベ一家が仕事や住居で困ることはない約束しました。

トウエモンは製材所の労働者居住区域の建設を手伝うとともに、マヨとその兄のガニア、そしてマヨ木材会社(Mayo Lumber Company)の主要な出資者であるカプールの住居も建てました。トウエモンの妻は、シン家とカプールの家の家政婦として働き、彼らの子供の面倒を見ることもよくありました。

ウラベ一家は、強制収容所から解放されたあとパルディに戻った数少ない日系人家族のうちの一家族でした。これらの家族は収容所時代を通して連絡を取り合っており、戦時中の制限が解除されると、マヨが手紙を書いて彼ら呼び戻しました。

マヨ・シンの約束通り、様々な苦難や困難がありながらも、ウラベ家はパルディで住むとこるに困ることはありませんでした。



Dear Mayo,

I trust that this letter finds you all in good health. We are both doing very well despite the sudden cold winter we are experiencing.

We are also very grateful for your kindness and exceptional hospitality extended to Shigeko and her husband during their honeymoon on Vancouver Island. Shigeko has expressed to us how happy they were and have had a memorable time which they will never forget. Also your kindness for taking them to Nanaimo on their departure day of which I was very pleased to hear. We, again thank you for all you have done for them. I know they will not forget all this.

You have mentioned about us leaving here. At the present time I am supervising construction of lumber sheds and involves a lot of work. In view of winter now in full force, I see much in staying here till Spring. In the meantime a good portion of the work here may be completed and will allow me to take my hands off. You will, I am sure, quite understand my present position for not giving a definite time of our intended departure from here but as we greet spring I am sure I will be able to inform you something more definite. In the meantime, please do not think we are ungrateful for the confidence you have entrusted to us as we hope to fulfill our appreciation in the very near future for all you have done for us all.

In closing may we extend to you all the compliments of the Season. May the New Year be full of happiness and prosperity to every one.

Yours very truly,

Mr & Mrs Urabe



From left to right: Clarence Martin, Toemon Urabe, and Basant Singh with the train being brought to the B.C. Forest Discovery Centre (1960)  
Cowichan Valley Museum and Archives/ South Asian Canadian Digital Archive.



Letter from Mr & Mrs Urabe to Mayo Singh (1949-12-11)  
Cowichan Valley Museum and Archives/ South Asian Canadian Digital Archive.