

Sherman Hoshi

By Allene Rodriguez-Miller and Moses Trundle-Strachan

Sherman Hoshi was born on July 17, 1925 to Noboru and Sato Hoshi¹. This made him the youngest of the six children the couple had after they settled on Vashon Island. Sherman had two older brothers and three older sisters: Yuri, Dorothy, Henry, Margaret, and Nora. He and all of his siblings attended Vashon Island High School (VHS). Sherman would have graduated from VHS in 1942¹¹. Being that the Hoshi's were early arrivers and found economic success on Vashon, they inherited a prominent place in the vibrant Japanese community. Although the family found security and a home on Vashon, Noboru Hoshi struggled with his mental health and committed suicide in 1934³. After Noboru passed away Sato Hoshi found companionship in world traveler Kuichi Tanaka. By 1942 most of the Hoshi children had left the island².

The Hoshi family had a farm started by Sherman Hoshi's father and called Vashon Garden company, then later, Vashons Gardens². The family lived on the farm where they grew potatoes, berries, and flowers as well as raising cattle and rabbits¹. They were most known for their various kinds of flowers which were sold around Seattle and Vashon¹. At one point they had a stand at Pike Place Market¹. The business was pretty successful and the family became known as the "high tone Hoshis" to people around the Island¹. Today, you can still see the Hoshi greenhouses at Bluemoon farm on 91st street¹.

Sherman Hoshi and the Hoshi family were forcibly removed from Vashon in 1942 and sent to the Pinedale Assembly in Fresno, California². From Pindale they were sent to Tule Lake for internment². Tule Lake was the largest camp and very crowded with up to 18,789 people⁸. It was located in California near the Oregon border⁸. The camp included a few shops and factories⁸. Later, Tule Lake was converted into a "segregation center" which meant that any Japanese people who were found to be 'disloyal' were sent or kept there with maximum security⁹. The Hoshi family, however, were deemed loyal and were moved to a different camp².

The next and last camp Sherman Hoshi and his family went to was Minidoka in Idaho². Minidoka was known as a "good" camp meaning it was mostly inmates who had been considered loyal⁷. Minidoka was pretty unsanitary at first and was not even finished when a lot of people arrived⁷. The camp had school and worship centers as well as general stores and barbershops⁷. Many people were made to work on farms and in factories⁷. Today, Minidoka is a historical sight that you can go see⁷. The Hoshis were released from the camp at the end of the war².

After the war many of the Hoshi family spread out across the country², but Sherman returned to the Island with the rest of his family in hopes of rebuilding the life they had before internment². When they returned to Vashon they found that every greenhouse panel was broken and every one of their valuable plants lost or stolen². Despite this, Sherman and the remaining Hoshi family were determined to continue their life before internment. After some initial struggle and two house fires, the Hoshi family once again delivered flowers to places like Vashon Thriftway and Seattle's Chubby and Tubby².

Sherman got married to Janice Irene Hofmeister (Hoshi). The couple lived on Vashon Island and had a kid, Darrel Hoshi.¹⁰ Sadly, Darrel wandered away and drowned in a neighbor's pool on Saturday, June 14, 1958 at the age of 3.¹⁰ Janice later passed away in 1979. Most of Sherman's family is buried on Vashon Island except for Sherman himself. Sherman died in 2001 and it's unclear why he wasn't buried with the rest of his family. He has quite a few family members such as nieces and nephews alive around the country and one known in Seattle, Mark Hoshi.⁵

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8. *Tule Lake*. Tule Lake | Densho Encyclopedia. (n.d.). Retrieved February 9, 2022, from https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Tule_Lake/
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The Hoshi family



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VMHA



Description

Sherman Hoshi in rickshaw pulled by Jac Tabor in Vashon Festival Parade in front of Kimmels Grocery Store

People

Horan, Stan
Tabor, Jac