

## Hisaye Miyake and the St Paul Women's Quilt

A quilt created by a group of St. Paul women is in the Murphy House. As each woman created her block, she embroidered her name. Besides the names one would expect to see in St Paul, there is this one that is different. The woman was Hisaye Miyake.



Hisaye Miyake was the daughter of Haramatsu (Harry) and Masuno Miyake. The parents were born in Japan, but all four of their children were born in Oregon.

Mary was born in Yamhill County in 1915.

Tokashi Miyake, known as Roy, was born in Marion County in 1917.

Suyeko was born in Yamhill County in 1919.

Hisaye Miyake was born in Newberg on 2 August 1924.

In 1920, the family was living in West St. Paul on Newberg Road. Harry was working on a hop farm. Three other Japanese couples were neighbors, Sisabro and Take Oka, Jeishi and ShiguayeWakeki, and Kanekora and Hisaye Imaie.

In 1925, Harry owned a 1919 Ford, and the family was living at Star Route in Newberg. In 1930, Harry owned a 1930 Ford Sedan, and they were still living in Newberg.

In April of 1935, Harry, Masuno, Roy, Suyeko, and Hisaye, arrived in Seattle on the ship *Hiye Maru*. They had been visiting in Japan and were returning home – without Mary. She would have been twenty-years-old. Perhaps they found a husband for her in Japan.

Sue and Roy graduated from the St. Paul High School in June of 1937. Patricia Davidson was the valedictorian, and Susie Miyake was the salutatorian. Roy Miyake had the highest grade for the boys, and his name was to be engraved on the honor roll.

Hisaye was in high school when the 1940 census was enumerated. The Miyake family, without Mary, was living outside of St Paul in a rented home, and Harry and Roy were working as farm helpers. Hisaye graduated from St Paul High School in 1941. Other members of her class were Ardis Clark, Maxell Coleman, Vincent Ernst, Jeanette Kirk, Marjorie McKillip, Jack Mullen, Lee Pokorny, Jack Smith, Rose Smith, and Anna Stupfel.

Roy enlisted in the US Army on 16 June 1941 and served until 24 October 1944 when he was discharged as a Corporal

In the fall of 1943, Harry, Masuno, Suyeko, and Hisaye were sent to an internment camp in Tule Lake, California. Again, Mary was not with them.

Some of the internees were released from camp to take jobs in the Midwest. Hisaye was one of these. In a conversation between two people about failures with the system, her name was brought up.

"Some of the girls are just as bad as the zoot suit boys. We've had one girl, she's from Tule Lake, who's been a headache for us ever since she got here. (I asked who she was, and though Shirrell hesitated, Miss Young replied, "Her name is Hisaye Miyake." Nobu remarked that she was the girl called "Sae" who had hung around the post office all the time and talked to the soldiers there, and also got into trouble because of her affairs with the Caucasian soldiers among the MP's. Ruth Young then realized for the first time the association between the nickname and this girl, and recalled all the stories she'd heard at Tule about her interest and affairs with the soldiers.) It seems that she was a problem to the Miyake family all along while she was at Tule Lake, and when her older sister came out, they sent this girl, Hisaye, along with her to get her away from the camp. But ever since she's been out here, she's been going wild, and the sister has been completely unable to control her. It was at her request that we decided to send her back to Tule, but I'm not sure just now how we're going to do it. We can't send her back along, that's certain; she'll never reach Tule Lake if we send her on her own. I told the girl that we were going to send her back under military escort, and her eyes lighted up as if this were going to be another adventure. I assured her immediately that it wouldn't be a soldier but probably Mrs. Zimmer. We'll have to have someone to meet her at Reno."

Michi: "I don't see why the projects let out anyone like that. They should control the problems back there, especially if they know the history of the person."

Nobu: "Yes, I can't understand how she ever got out of Tule Lake. I remember that when she was making an application for leave, her case was sent to our office. I was working in Social Welfare then. Miss Montgomery asked us if we knew anything about her, and I'd known about her since I'd been working at the post office when she was carrying on with all the soldiers down there. We sent in a recommendation that she not be released, but apparently let her go in spite of the recommendation. I should think they'd be a little more careful how they'd select those who leave the projects. One person who makes an unfavorable impression like that could over balance all the good that sixty others might do."

[http://digitalassets.lib.berkeley.edu/jarda/ucb/text/cubanc6714\\_b294w01\\_0002.pdf](http://digitalassets.lib.berkeley.edu/jarda/ucb/text/cubanc6714_b294w01_0002.pdf)

The family returned to Oregon after the war. Harry Miyake died on 28 July 1949 in Portland.

In 1954, fifty-eight-year-old widow Masuno Miyake went through the citizenship process. She was living on Star Route in Newberg and working as a farm laborer. She was 5 feet 1 ½ inches tall and weighed 110 pounds. Meriko (Mary), the eldest child was living in Okayama, Japan. Roy was living in Newberg. Sueko was living in San Francisco. Hisaye was living in Portland.

In December 1949, Suyeko Miyake married Lee J. O'Neal. Both were living in Newberg. Lee died on 10 July 1994 in Jackson County, Oregon.

Brother Roy married Georgia Louis in 1973. At the time, both were living in southwest Portland near Tigard. Roy was working as a truck driver.

Mother Masuno Miyake died in January 1983 in Portland. Her obituary named four children, Roy Miyake of Tigard, Cindy Smith of Portland, Mary Miyake of Boring, and Sue O'Neal of Eagle Point. Cindy must have been Hisaye's new name.

Cindy H Smith married Tracy Roy Smith. He died on 1 May 1977. His funeral notice named Cindy, but no children. He was buried in Garrison, North Dakota. Cindy died in 2011 and is buried in the Japanese Ancestral Cemetery in Rose City Cemetery in Portland where her parents are buried. No obituary could be found for her.

Mary died on 6 January 1997.

Roy died on 1 July 1987 in Portland. He had no children.