

Searching for Saito

[Work in Progress]



by Miya Sukune

Thank you for picking up this free copy of *Searching for Saito*, a work in progress preview.

In the early 1980's, *The International Examiner* printed two articles that described Saito, a Japanese immigrant elder in the 1960's who would bring baseball equipment to a Chinatown lot for children to play. When the games ended, he would collect the equipment and hand out candy and soda pop money. Saito was described by photographer and writer Dean Wong and activist Donnie Chin who wrote, "We often went looking for Saito [in later years], but never found him. There was so much we wanted to say to him, to thank him for caring about street kids whom he barely knew... for being a friend."

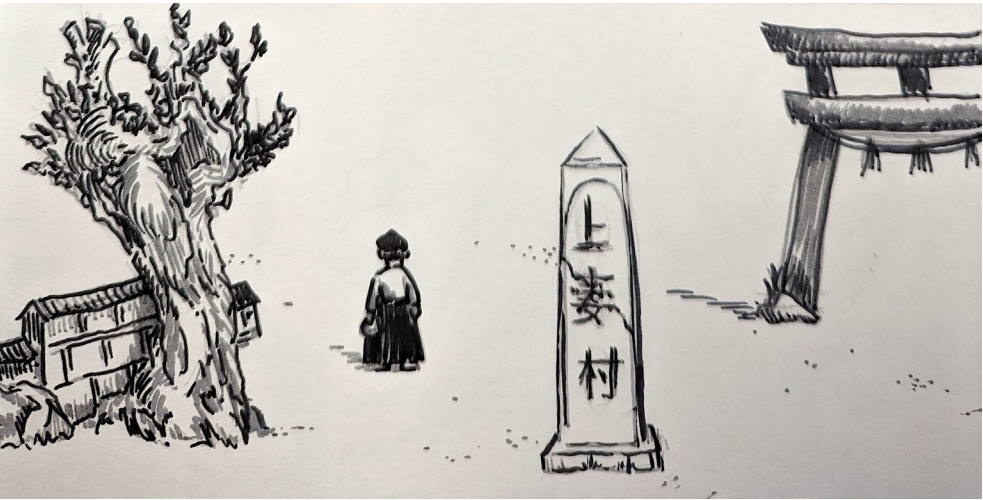
Curious about the story, I began researching Saito through US Census records, passenger lists, and Japanese-American Incarceration/Relocation records. Using these sources I began to piece together his tale. His full name was Rinzo Saito. Now, I am creating a comic book, *Searching for Saito*. Everyday life in Seattle's Nihonmachi and Chinatown is a backdrop for the story of a Japanese immigrant elder who lived during an era of change from the 1910's to 1970.

Searching for Saito, a fictional history of a Japanese elder in the first half of the 20th century, will be distributed autumn 2023.

Updates on www.miyasukune.com.









ALIEN	CREW	LIST	
<u>Saito Rinzō</u> waiter Japanese 8th Aug 1908 Kobe	<u>Saito Rinzō</u> 3rd cook	<u>Saito Rinzō</u> AGE 22	EMPLOYMENT Cook
Oct. 16, 1908 Seattle Wash.	WHEN AND WHERE SHIPPED	EVIDENCE OF INTENTION TO REMAIN IN US	
checked O.K. on arrival, checked aboard crew on departure found all Aboard Except 14 on list 2	DATE	PLACE	
	15th April	Yokohama	no
	"	"	"
	"	"	"
	"	"	"
	"	"	"
	20th May	"	"
	15th April 1912	"	"
	27th May 1912	"	"
	"	"	"
15th April 1912	"	"	
"	"	"	
27th May 1912	"	"	
		Sado Maru, sailing from Victoria, B.C. Aug. 28, 1912	
		NATIONALITY	
		JAPAN YOKOHAMA	
		EVIDENCE OF INTENTION TO REMAIN IN THE U.S. NO.	



Deserted at Seattle
12-2-12







Objects from the Wing Luke Museum collection hold the history of Seattle's Nihonmachi, a neighborhood greatly diminished by the World War II incarceration of Japanese immigrant and Japanese American residents.





About Miya Sukune

I am a visual artist working in the Puget Sound area. My career encompasses painting exhibitions, public art, art residencies, and publications. I am a 2022-2023 City of Seattle Office of Arts & Culture HopeCorps Award recipient, which supports the *Searching for Saito* project. I also received Pratt Fine Arts Center's Bernie Funk Artist Explorations scholarship in 2022 and a 2021 4Culture Art Projects award. I have exhibited in group shows at ARTS at King Street Station, Phinney Center Gallery and Vashon Center for the Arts Gallery. My solo shows include Mt. Hood Community College (OR) and the Serlachius Residency Gallery (Finland).

A 2018 Public Art Bootcamp attendee, I created *Feast* for Art Interruptions, installing art along the Rainier Valley Greenway from 2018-2020. Three pieces from *Feast* are now installed at the Danny Woo Garden (InterimC-DA). My public art series *Matsuda Family*, about a Vashon Island family's farming life and internment during World War II, was exhibited at Vashon Heritage Museum and will be permanently installed at the Matsuda Farm of the Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust.

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OFFICE OF ARTS & CULTURE

SEATTLE

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