Guide to the Morrish Collection

Collection number: M-301

Redwood City Public Library
History Room
Redwood City, California

Contact Information:
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Morrish collection,
Date (inclusive): 1942-1958
Date (bulk): (bulk 1942-1945)
Collection number: M-301
Creator: Morrish, J. Elmer (1886-1957)
Extent: 2,500 documents25 online items
Repository: Redwood City Public Library. History Room.
Redwood City, California 94063

Abstract: The Morrish Collection includes the case files that were produced by J. Elmer Morrish of the Japanese-Americans from Redwood City who were interned during the War. The bulk of the collection is original correspondence from the internees to Morrish and carbon copies of the correspondence sent by Morrish to the internees. Other records include tax bills, government forms, and bank statements. The case files are arranged by family surname. References to J. Elmer Morrish, as well as all the Japanese-Americans, are listed in the Local History general inventory database.

Language: English.

Access
The Morrish Collection is open for research, however the materials must be viewed in the Local History Room with assistance of Library staff.

Publication Rights
Property rights of the materials in the Morrish Collection reside with the Redwood City Public Library. Literary rights are retained by the creators of the records and their heirs. The materials are intended for educational and scholarly research only: any other kind of use may be subject to restrictions. Users are solely responsible for determining the existence of such rights and for obtaining and/or paying for proposed use.

Preferred Citation
Morrish Collection, Local History Collection, Redwood City Public Library.
Acquisition Information
Materials were donated anonymously to the Local History Collection at the Redwood City Public Library in June of 1990.

Project Information: Surviving the Internment: Redwood City Remembers
Redwood City Public Library received a Library Services and Technology Act grant to promote the preservation of the history of the local Japanese-American community. The project was based on the correspondence included in the Morrish Collection referred to above. Library staff solicited donations of other historical materials from local residents, and also conducted interviews of individuals from the community who were interned during the War. Footage from the interviews, selected letters from the Morrish Collection, photographs from various sources, and excerpts from a graduate student thesis are featured on a multi-media website.

Biography
J. Elmer Morrish was Vice President of the First National Bank in Redwood City where most of the Japanese-Americans kept their financial accounts at the start of World War II. Morrish corresponded with the internees throughout the War, overseeing their personal and business affairs at home. He paid property taxes, hired workers for nurseries, and helped deliver supplies to the internment camps. Morrish also managed the business operations of the California Chrysanthemum Growers Assn.

Scope and Content of Collection
The Morrish Collection includes the case files that were produced by J. Elmer Morrish of the Japanese-Americans from Redwood City who were interned during the War. The bulk of the collection is original correspondence from the internees to Morrish and carbon copies of the correspondence sent by Morrish to the internees. Other records include tax bills, government forms, and bank statements. The case files are arranged by family surname. References to J. Elmer Morrish, as well as all the Japanese-Americans, are listed in the Local History general inventory database.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Subjects
Morrish, J. Elmer (Joseph Elmer), 1886-1957
First National Bank
California Chrysanthemum Growers Association
War Relocation Authority
Topaz (Utah)
Redwood City (Calif.)
San Bruno (Calif.)
Tule Lake (Calif.)
Assembly Centers--California
Banking--California--Redwood City
Floral Industry--California--Redwood City
History--California--Redwood City
Internment Camps--United States
Japanese-Americans--California--Redwood City--Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945
World War, 1939-1945--Japanese-Americans

Genres and Forms of Material
Correspondence

Other Finding Aids
A record-group finding aid is also available for the Morrish Collection.