Abstract: The Takano Family Papers contains materials from members of the Takano family in Los Angeles, California, including Issei immigrants, Itsuhei and Tomoyo Takano and Kumaji and Tsuruno Meguro, and their Nisei children, Fumio Fred and Yoneko (Meguro) Takano. The papers cover from prewar through post-war, including the period of the forced evacuation and incarceration during the war and the redress movement in the 1980s.


Conditions Governing Access
There are no access restrictions on this collection.

Immediate Source of Acquisition
Jeanne Takano donated the collection to the Gerth Archives and Special Collections in 2017 and brought additional materials in 2018.

Arrangement
Arranged in six series:
1. Series I: Biographical information, 1906 August 13-1989 August 9
2. Series II: Family and friend correspondence, 1942-1945
5. Series V: Gila River incarceration camp maps; undated

Biographical / Historical
Itsuhei Takano (1887 October 18-1967 January 3) immigrated from Yamanashi, Japan in 1906 and married Tomoye Kodama (1889 March 3-1979 October 17) in 1913. Their Nisei child, Fumio Fred Takano (1914 February 2-1989 July 22), was born as an oldest child among their six children and married Yoneko Meguro (1918 May 30-2007 January 10) in March 1942. He worked for the tuna fishing industry, and the family resided in Los Angeles, California, purchasing a real property prior to the exclusion. Kumaji Meguro (1878 February 28-1957 December 1) and Tsuruno Meguro (1894 February 1-1985 January 12) were also Issei immigrants and resided in Colorado in the 1920s and 1930s. They were farm labors and raised their Nisei child, Yoneko Meguro, in Colorado, but moved into Los Angeles in 1936. The Takano and Meguro family were incarcerated in different assembly centers- Pomona Assembly Center and Santa Anita Assembly Center, during the war. They were hoping to be transferred into the same incarceration camp, however, they were confined separately in different camps in Gila River, Arizona; and Heart Mountain, Wyoming.

Fumio Fred Takano answered questions on a form, that is known as the “loyalty questionnaire” in February 1943 during his incarceration. His initial answers to questions 27 and 28 were “no” to question 27 and “yes” to question 28. However, his answers were not accepted at the Registration Office. The registration officer claimed that questions 27 and 28 should be answered both in the affirmative or negative, and his answer to 27 was altered in the negative by the officer. Because of his answers to the questionnaire, he struggled to be granted the permit he needed to leave. Later, he left the camp for Chicago but joined his family in Los Angeles when his family members were released from the camps. In June 1945, the Takano and Meguro family was able to return to Los Angeles, California.

Preferred Citation
[Title of item], Takano Family Papers, Courtesy of the Department of Archives and Special Collections. University Library, California State University, Dominguez Hills
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All digital objects are available at CSU Japanese American Digitization Project site:
http://digitalcollections.archives.csudh.edu/digital/collection/p16855coll4/search/searchterm/takano%20family%20papers/field/collec/mode/all

Family Papers Digital Collection

English translation, synopses and brief descriptions for Japanese language materials were prepared by a contractor and the finding aid author, and are also available at CSU Japanese American Digitization Project site.

Content Description

The Takano Family Papers contains materials from members of the Takano family who reside in Los Angeles, California, including Issei immigrants: Itsuhei and Tomoyo Takano; and Kumaji and Tsuruno Meguro, and their Nisei children, Fumio Fred and Yoneko (Meguro) Takano. The papers cover from prewar through post-war, including the period of the forced evacuation and incarceration during the war and the redress movement in the 1980s. The papers consist of correspondence, photographs, camp newspapers, yearbooks, and other documents. Noted are photographs depicting the Japanese American community in Colorado in the 1930s, including photos of Japanese Young People’s Christian members; and schoolchildren and staff of a Japanese school and public schools. There are also documents regarding a real estate property in Los Angeles, California, which Fumio Fred Takano purchased in 1938, and his legal documents and letters present his efforts to protect the property during the war with the support of his non-Japanese American friend. Included are also letters depicting his struggles to be granted the indefinite leave permit from the Gila River incarceration camp, Arizona, as a consequence of his answers to “loyalty questionnaire” questions 27 and 28. In addition, the Issei parents’ letters details their experiences during the war from an Issei point of view- describing the trip from the Pomona Assembly Center to the Heart Mountain camp, Wyoming; incarceration life; and their return from the camp to California.

Conditions Governing Use

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Subjects and Indexing Terms

Poston Relocation Center (Ariz.)
World War, 1939-1945 -- Concentration Camps -- United States
United States--Emigration and immigration--History
Japanese Americans-California

Biographical information 1906 July 7-1989 August

Language of Material: English.

Scope and Contents

This series contains materials regarding the Takano family’s background information. Included are an Imperial Japanese Government passport; a marriage license and certificate; a vocational training program diploma and certificate; a medical certificate; documents regarding the Takano family’s property; social security documents; a will; and funeral and obituary information.

box 1, folder 1

Imperial Japanese Government passport issued to Itsuhei Takano 1906 July 9

Language of Material: English.

box 1, folder 2-3

Itsuhei Takano and Tomoyo Kodama marriage license and certificate 1913 August 23; 1913

Language of Material: English.

box 1, folder 5-6

Diploma and certificate from Fumio Fred Takano’s vocational training programs 1933 June 23; 1974 May 16

Language of Material: English.
Biographical information 1906 July 7-1989 August

Scope and Contents

Included are insurance policies; deeds; full reconveyance; tax invoice and receipts; mortgage forms; power of attorney forms; declaration of homestead forms; correspondence; a trust agreement; and other documents regarding the real estate property in Los Angeles, California, which Fumio Fred Takano purchased in 1938. There is a power of attorney form created prior to his incarceration, appointing his non-Japanese American friend as his attorney and allowing her to manage his property in Los Angeles, California during the war.

Scope and Contents

Materials include letters and postcards from Fumio Fred Takano’s family members and friend as well as copies of his letters to his non-Japanese American friend. The contents of his letters include discussions regarding his efforts to seek assistance from his Caucasian friend; management of his property in Los Angeles, California during the war; and discussions regarding shipping his belongings from Los Angeles to the Gila River incarceration camp, Arizona. There are also letters written in Japanese by the Meguros, who are his parents-in-law. These letters detail their experiences in the Pomona Assembly Center and Heart Mountain incarceration camp, Wyoming; describing the trip and life during their incarceration and their return from the camp to California.

Scope and Contents

Included are copies of letters written by Fumio Fred Takano. In these letters he seeks assistance from his non-Japanese American friend- Florence Packer, during the war. She was appointed as his attorney prior to his incarceration.
Family and friend correspondence during the war 1942-1945

Letters and postcards from the Meguros 1942 May 20-1945 June 21

Language of Material: Japanese.

Scope and Contents

Contained are Japanese letters and postcards written by Kumaji and Tsuruno Meguro, who are Issei immigrants and Fumio Fred Takano’s parents-in-law. They detail their experiences during the war from an Issei point of view, describing the trip and life in an assembly center and incarceration camp, and their return from the camp to California.

Postcard from Aki to Fumio Fred Takano 1943 September 2

Language of Material: English.

Incarceration camp materials 1942-1991 1942-1946

Language of Material: English.

Scope and Contents

This series contains materials pertaining to the Takano family’s incarceration during World War II. The materials include documents issued by War Relocation Authority (WRA), Western Defense Command, and the Office of Price Administration during the war as well as those for redress and reparations issued by the Justice Department and National Archives and Records Administration after the war. Included are letters, notices, ID cards, forms, and war ration books. There are also receipts for shipment issued by agencies arranged by the U.S. government. Noted are letters regarding an application for leave from an incarceration camp. A letter from WRA provides instructions on changing answers to questions 27 and 28 of the "loyalty questionnaire," which resulted in denial of a leave permit if the answers were negative. Fumio Fred Takano whose responses are negative writes a letter to the Interview Committee explaining that his answer to question 27 was altered to the negative response by a registration officer.

Identification cards and application forms 1942

Language of Material: English.

Scope and Contents

Included are "Alien registration receipt card, Form AR-3" for Tomoye Takano; "Application for certificate of identification (aliens of enemy nationalities), Form AR-AE-22" for Itsuei Takano; and a blank form of "Application for identification card."

Letters and notices regarding application for leave 1943 February 6-June 24

Language of Material: English.

Scope and Contents

Materials consist of notices and letters from WRA and a letter written by Fumio Fred Takano. Included are a notice from WRA providing instructions on changing answers to questions 27 and 28 of the "loyalty questionnaire" and a letter written by Fumio Fred Takano who answered those questions in the negative. His letter explains how his answer to 27 was altered to a negative response, enclosing reference letters written by his supervisors and employers in the Gila River camp.

Letters and ID card regarding Fumio Fred Takano’s work leave 1944 July 17-August 8

Language of Material: English.

Scope and Contents

Contain letters and ID card issued from WRA regarding Fumio Fred Takano’s work leave. Included are recommendation letters, an indefinite leave card WRA-137a rev., and a letter to his employer in Chicago, notifying of the requirements in hiring him.
Material regarding Fumio Fred Takano's work in the camp 1944 July 5-1945 April 23
Language of Material: English.
Scope and Contents
Contains materials regarding Fumio Fred Takano's work in the Gila River camp, including his
daily work pass (WRA-139 rev.), a notice of assignment (Form WRA-21) and letter from WRA,
and shipment bills for mechanical hand tools.

Letter from Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco to Fumio Fred Takano regarding his home
mortgage and automobile loan 1942 April 15
Language of Material: English.

Receipt issued by Railway Express Agency for the shipment from Florence Parker 1943 March 19
Language of Material: English.

War ration books issued by the Office of Price Administration 1944-1945
Language of Material: English.
Scope and Contents
Contains war ration books for Itsuhei, Tomoye, Fumio Fred, and Yoneko Takano used in the
Gila River incarceration camp.

Materials regarding the Takano family's return from the camp 1945 April 19-December 14
Language of Material: English.
Scope and Contents
Contain materials regarding the Takano family's return from the Gila River camp to Los
Angeles, California in 1945. Included are letters and notices from the WRA, ID card issued
by Western Defense Command, and shipment bill and receipts pertaining to the family's
moving.

Letters and notices regarding Fumio Fred Takano's temporary appointment work from the WRA 1946
February 13-April 19
Language of Material: English.
Scope and Contents
Contain notices and letters from the WRA regarding temporary appointment work assigned to
Fumio Fred Takano. Included are "Advice of personnel action Form OEM-1" appointing and
terminating a position of a freight handler to him, a letter mailing his final check, and
a response letter to his wage claim.

Incarceration claim forms and statements before 1950
Language of Material: English.
Scope and Contents
Included are the form, "No. Cl. 1, Claim for damage to or loss of real or personal
property by a person of Japanese ancestry"; claim statements; and an evacuation claim
compromise settlement award sheet.

Language of Material: English.
Scope and Contents
Materials include Civil Liberties Act of 1988 voluntary information forms filled by Yoneko
and Fumio Fred Takano; letters from National Archives and Records Administration;
instructions for redress payment; letters from the Office of Redress Administration; and a
letter from the White House.
Incarceration camp publications 1942 March 18-1991 1942-1944

Language of Material: English.

Scope and Contents

This series contains mainly published items from the Gila River camp, Arizona during the war including newspapers and booklets. There is also a booklet from the 50th reunion published in 1995.

box 1, folder 78
Bulletin, no. 2 (March 18, 1942): Instructions governing voluntary movement of Japanese from Los Angeles to Owens Valley March 18, 1942
Language of Material: English.

box 1, folder 80-82
Gila news-courier, vol. 2, no. 44-50, 68-70, 95-100 1943 April 15-August 21
Language of Material: English.

box 1, folder 83-84
Language of Material: English.

box 1, folder 85
Gila Co-op news, vol. 1, no. 14 = 組合週報, 第14號 1943 September 21
Language of Material: English.

box 1, folder 86
Youth, no. 3 = 若人, 第3号 1943 August
Language of Material: English.

box 1, folder 87
A year at Gila: anniversary booklet 1943 July 20
Language of Material: English.

box 1, folder 88
Second year at Gila 1944 July 20
Language of Material: English.

box 1, folder 89
Gila River Relocation Center 1942-1945 monument dedication 50th reunion 1995
Language of Material: English.

Gila River incarceration camp maps undated
Language of Material: English.

Separated Materials

This series contains two maps of the Gila River incarceration camp, Arizona.

box 1, folder 90, drawer Map Drawer, drawer 3.08
Butte community undated
Language of Material: English.

Photographs circa 1928-1959: undated
Language of Material: English.

Scope and Contents

This series contains photographs of the Japanese American community in Colorado in the 1920s and 1930s: Gila River incarceration camp; travels; the 1938 Rose Parade; the Japanese American community in California after the war; the Takano family's relatives in Japan; and post-war Japan. The Meguro family resided in Colorado in the 1920s and 1930s prior to moving to California. There are photographs of Japanese schools and public schools which Yoneko Meguro attended as well as Japanese Young Peoples' Christian (J.Y.P.C.) conferences held in Colorado.
Photographs circa 1928-1959; undated

**box 2, folder 1**

Japanese Young People's Christian (J.Y.P.C.) conferences 1931 December 1; 1933 December 1

Language of Material: English.

Scope and Contents

Contains two photographs of annual conferences of Japanese Young People's Christian (J.Y.P.C.) held in Denver, Colorado in 1931 and 1933.

**box 2, folder 2**

Las Animas Japanese Elementary School circa 1928-1939

Language of Material: English.

Scope and Contents

Contains photographs of schoolchildren at Las Animas Japanese Elementary School and a Japanese school in Colorado. There is a photograph of female school play performers at Las Animas Japanese Elementary School. It was taken when they performed the play, "Masuhime," to celebrate the 1st commencement of the school. Yoneko Meguro is included among the performers.

**box 2, folder 3**

Public school classroom in Colorado circa 1930-1939

Language of Material: English.

Scope and Contents

Contains one group photograph of schoolchildren taken in a classroom at an elementary school in Colorado. Japanese American children are included.

**box 2, folder 4**

Bent County High School in Colorado 1936

Language of Material: English.

Scope and Contents

Contains two photographs of graduating class of Bent County High School, Colorado in 1936, in which Yoneko Meguro is included.

**box 2, folder 5**

Travels and the 1938 Rose Parade circa 1930-1939

Language of Material: English.

Scope and Contents

Contains photographs of family trips to Hawaii, Huntington Library, Santa Catalina Island, and the 1938 Rose Parade.

**box 2, folder 6-7**

Gila River and Heart Mountain incarceration camps 1943-1945

Language of Material: English.

Scope and Contents

Contains photographs mainly taken in the Gila River incarceration camp during the war, including barracks buildings, an outdoor stage, a meeting of Gila River Japanese Parents' Association, All Center Enterprises Conference, and Gila River Co-op workers' picnics. There are also three photographs taken in Wyoming; two of them were taken in the Heart Mountain incarceration camp.

**box 2, folder 8, 11**

Postwar California photographs circa 1950-1959

Language of Material: English.

Scope and Contents

Contains photographs taken in California after World War II, including Futaba Nisei Beauty Salon, Yamanashi Kenjinkai event, a baseball team, and a group of female school graduates.
Photographs taken in Japan 1942-1959

Language of Material: English.

Scope and Contents

Contains photographs taken in Japan, including Emperor Hirohito, the Takano family’s relatives, and a trip to Japan. There are photographs presumably taken during the Allied occupation of Japan, capturing the scenes in the aftermath of bombing attacks.

Landscape photo undated

Language of Material: English.