Descriptive Summary

Title: Ishibashi Family Collection, 1910-2011
Collection Number: "Consult repository."
Collector: Ishibashi, Masaichi, Ishibashi, Kumekichi
Extent: 3 boxes, plus oversized materials [1.5 linear ft]
Repository: California State University, Dominguez Hills Archives and Special Collections

Abstract: The collection documents personal and business records of Ishibashi family, one of the pioneer Japanese farmers on the coastline of Palos Verdes Peninsula, California. The Ishibashi’s is a three-generation produce farmer, started approximately in 1910 and closed in 2012.

Language: Collection material is in English

Access
There are no access restrictions on this collection.

Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
[Title of item], ISHIBASHI FAMILY COLLECTION, Courtesy of the Department of Archives and Special Collections. University Library. California State University, Dominguez Hills

Acquisition Information
Materials were received from Grace Watanabe and Nancy Sasaki in 2012

Processing Information
Collection processed by Ryoko Onishi in 2013.

History
Kumekichi Ishibashi was born in Hidaka, Wakayama in Japan in 1874 and came to the U.S. for the purpose of dekasegi (labor abroad) in 1899 when he was 26 years old. Kumeichi started farming in the Portuguese Bend in Rancho Palos Verdes, near San Pedro in 1906. In 1910, along with C. Hayashi and K. Ozaki, Kumeichi started leasing a 50-acre land parcel from the Palos Verdes Company, at a rental of $6 per acre for one year. Kumekichi married Take Hanaoka who was also from Hidaka, Wakayama in 1911 in San Francisco. Kumekichi and Take had five children, Masaichi, George, Yasuko, Kay and Akira. Take died in 1928. The eldest son Masaichi took over the business and worked with Kumekichi. Masaichi married Miye (May) Washimura from San Jose in 1937. Miye’s father Kumataro was a fish merchant. After World War II broke out, the company from which their land was leased ordered them off of the property.

On February 1942, Kumekichi was taken to the Bismarck, North Dakota. The rest of the family moved to Starthmore, Central California and started farming again. In July 1942, the family was interned in Poston (Colorado River) War Relocation Center, Arizona. In 1943, the family received permission to move out from the Center to farm in Utah. After Kumekichi reunited the family in Poston, they moved to Utah to farm for the duration of the war. After the war, they came back to the Palos Verdes Peninsula and started farming again. They leased more than 500 acres on the hilltop Peninsula and they grew strawberries, garbanzo beans, celery, and peas. However, after housing development began in the 1970, they had to minimize the farming area. The farm was known for the vegetable and fruit stand near the Torrance Airport in the 1990s. After the passing of Masaichi in 2004, the farm was taken over by Masaichi’s cousin, however, the Ishibashi farm closed for good in 2012. There were approximately 40 farms operated by Japanese American families in the 1930s. The Ishibashis had 2 ranches among them on Portuguese Bend near where the Trump National Golf Club Los Angeles is located.
Their former farmland was included in Palos Verdes Nature Reserve and the Ishibashi Trail was named in honor of the family.

**Scope and Content**

Materials in this collection are from the daily lives of the three-generation pioneer farming family, the Ishibashi’s, created and collected by the first generation (issei), Kumekichi and his eldest son, the second generation (nisei) farmer, Masaichi in regards to their business records 1910-2011. The materials include photographs and moving images of the hilltop farm communities in the 1930s, tax documents, lease contracts and business related records of 1910-1945, Hand-drawn map of the farms, Los Angeles City School District Report Cards 1922-1931, Japanese Ryoken (passport) 1920, Certificate issued by Consulate General of Japan, “San Pedro Brand” vegetable crate label, World War II incarcerated Masaichi’s photocopied journal 1943-1945, daily labor report at Colorado River War Relocation (Poston Relocation Center), 1943 war loss compensation and redress related documents 1947-1986 and newspaper clippings related family history and Marinland construction and withdrawal 1958-2011.

**Arrangement**

Arranged in 3 series:
- Series I. Business and Personal Documents (1910-2011)
- Series II. Photographs (ca.1910-2011)
- Series III. Artifacts and Films (ca. 1910-2011)

**Subjects**

Industry and employment--Agriculture
Japanese American farmers
Rancho Palos Verdes (Calif.)
Concentration camps
Reparations for historical injustices

**Personal Names**

Ishibashi, Kumekichi (1874-1954)
Ishibashi, Take (1886-1928)
Ishibashi, Masaichi (1912-2004)
Ishibashi, Miye (May)
Ishibashi, George
Ishibashi, Kay
Ishibashi, Yasuko
Ishibashi, Akira
Ishibashi, Satoshi

**Corporate Names**

Palos Verdes Corporation Ranch
Palos Verdes Company
Palos Verdes Growers Association
Marineland
War Relocation Authority
Japanese American Citizens’ League
Series 1. Business and Personal Documents, 1910-2011

Physical Description: 1 box [.5 linear ft]

Scope and Content Note


Box 1, Folder 1
Biographical Sketches, Masaichi, Family Profile, 1990-2006

Box 1, Folder 2
Certificate of Issuance of Kumechi’s Ryoken (Japanese Passport) by Consulate of Japan, 1931

Box 1, Folder 3
Japanese Passport, Take, 1920

Box 1, Folder 4
Birth Certificate, Masaichi; Death Certificate, Kumeichi, 1937-1955

Box 1, Folder 5
Marriage License, Kumeichi and Take, 1911

Box 1, Folder 6
Los Angeles City School District Report Cards, Masaichi, 1922-1931

Box 1, Folder 7
San Pedro High School Yearbook, 1932

Box 1, Folder 8
Masaichi and Miye’s Certificate of Marriage 1937

Box 1, Folder 9
Memorandum of Farm Lease of Palos Verdes Company and Other Contracts, 1910-1928

Box 1, Folder 10
Income Tax Returns, 1920-1945

Box 1, Folder 11
City and County Tax Memo for Palos Verdes Corporation Ranch, 1939-1940

Box 1, Folder 12
Receipt for Country and School Tax and Miscellaneous Receipts, 1916-1941

Box 1, Folder 13
Montezuma Gold Mining Company Stock Certificate, 1931

Box 1, Folder 14
Hand-Drawn Crop Map, 1953

Box 1, Folder 15
Vegetable Crate Label of San Pedro Brand, nd.

Box 1, Folder 16
Notice of Reclassification, Masaichi, 1943; 1945

Box 1, Folder 17
War Relocation Authority Identity Cards, 1943-1945

Box 1, Folder 18

Box 1, Folder 19
Correspondence, Work Permit and Land Lease Agreement in Utah, 1944-1945

Box 1, Folder 20
Memo, Daily Labor Report Colorado River War Relocation Project, 1943

Box 1, Folder 21
Photocopied Diaries During Incarceration, Masaichi, 1942-1945

Box 1, Folder 22
Correspondence in Japanese to Masaichi, Kumeichi, Bismarck, ND, 1942

Box 1, Folder 23
Correspondence and Memos, JACL Committee on Japanese American Evacuation Claims, 1947-1958

Box 1, Folder 24
Verification of Detention of Civilians During World War II, National Archives and Records Service and Photocopy of the $20,0000 Check, 1983-1990

Box 1, Folder 25
Hand-Drawn Family Tree, nd.

Box 1, Folder 26
Correspondence with Marineland, 1971-1986

Box 1, Folder 27
Official Certificate of Registration in The American Immigrant Wall of Honor issued by The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, 1992

Box 1, Folder 28
Terminal Islander’s Membership Card and Historical Society Publication, 1976-1986

Box 1, Folder 29
Map of Palos Verdes Peninsula and Photographs, ca. 1970s

Box 1, Folder 30
Poston Memorial Monument Committee Correspondence and List of the 43 farmers, 1994

Box 1, Folder 31
News Clippings, 1956-1968

Box 1, Folder 32
News Clippings, 1975-1976

Box 1, Folder 33
News Clippings, 1980-1987

Box 1, Folder 34
News Clippings, 1990-1992

Box 1, Folder 35
News Clippings, 2005

Box 1, Folder 36
Printout, The Daily Breeze Article, ca. 2005

Box 1, Folder 37
Correspondence, Family History, ca. 1976-2004

Box 1, Folder 38
Correspondence, White House, ca. 1986
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**Series 2. Photographs 1910-2011**

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<th>Family Photo Album, ca.1927-1952</th>
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<td>Kumeichi and his Rafu 15th Vegetable Market Japanese Members, ca.1904</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 4</td>
<td>Family Photos, Ranch 4, ca.1927-1952</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 5</td>
<td>Family Photos, Ranch 4, ca.1927-1952</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 6</td>
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<td>Terminal Island, Kumeichi, Take, ca.1910-1954</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 9</td>
<td>Ranch 4, Masaichi, 1920-1977</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 10</td>
<td>Ranch Photos, 1957-1959</td>
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<td>Color Slides, 1952-1954</td>
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<td>Masaichi and Miye’s Photos from the Daily Breeze 1976</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 14</td>
<td>Ranch 21, 1983</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 16</td>
<td>Ceremonial Photos ca. 1920s-1950s</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 18</td>
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**Container List**

**Series 3. Artifacts and Films, 1910-2011**

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<td>Cine-Kodak Films, Kodachrome Super 8 and 8mm Films 1937-1957; 1980</td>
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<td>Box 3, Folder 5</td>
<td>DVDs, Family Profile, no date 3 5</td>
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