Descriptive Summary

Title: Ken Tamura Papers
Dates: 1893-2014
Collection number: H.Mss.1052
Creator: Tamura, Ken
Extent: 0.4 linear feet (1 document box + 1 oversized folder)
Repository: Claremont Colleges. Library. Special Collections, Honnold/Mudd Library. Claremont, CA 91711
Abstract: This collection consists of a variety of materials from Ken Tamura’s life. Ken Tamura was 2nd generation Japanese American born in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, in 1923. After the attack on Pearl Harbor in December of 1941, his family was sent to a relocation center in Pomona (California), and then relocated to Heart Mountain internment camp in Wyoming. In 1942, an old friend was able to sponsor Ken Tamura to leave the internment facility, and he moved to Chicago. In 1944, he was drafted by the United States Army into a Nisei regiment, which was sent to France to fight. At the end of World War II, he was forced to continue his service in the military in Japan, serving as a translator. This collection has a photograph album of a child growing up including birthday cards, photographs of people in Japanese American internment camps, such as Tule Lake and Rohwer Relocation Center, and photographs of friends and family. The collection also contains a letter about the creation of Japanese tea from Griggs, Cooper, and Company.

Physical location: Please consult repository.
Language of materials: Materials are in English and some materials in Japanese.

Access
This collection is open for research.

Publication Rights
All requests for permission to reproduce or to publish must be submitted in writing to Special Collections.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Ken Tamura Papers (H.Mss.1052), Special Collections, Honnold/Mudd Library, Claremont University Consortium.

Immediate Source of Acquisition
Purchased, 2013.

Accruals
No additions to the collection are anticipated.

Processing Information
Processed by Phoebe Huth in 2014 in the Claremont Center for Engagement with Primary Sources (CCEPS), with assistance from Lisa Crane. Photographs were placed in mylar sleeving. A photograph album was disbound and the pages were placed in mylar sleeves.

Biographical/Historical Information
Ken Tamura was a 2nd generation Japanese American born in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, in 1923, where he attended elementary, middle, and high school. His family visited Japan in 1939 and then moved to Los Angeles in 1940. After the attack on Pearl Harbor in December of 1941, his family was sent to a relocation center in Pomona, and then relocated to Heart Mountain internment camp in Wyoming. In 1942, an old friend was able to sponsor Ken Tamura to leave the internment facility, and he moved to Chicago. However, in 1944, he was drafted by the United States Army into a Nisei regiment, which was sent to France to fight. At the end of World War II, he was forced to continue his service in the military in Japan, serving as a translator. By the end of 1945, he was finally discharged and moved back to Chicago, where he lived with his family.

Scope and Contents of the Collection
This collection consists of a variety of materials from Ken Tamura’s life. Photographs include a portrait, school photographs, people on vacation, a football game, and people saying good-bye on a train. This collection also contains a photograph album of a child growing up which includes birthday cards, photographs of people in Japanese American internment camps, such as Tule Lake and Rohwer Relocation Center, and photographs of friends and family. Lastly, this collection contains a letter about the creation of Japanese tea from Griggs, Cooper, and Company.

Arrangement
Collection is arranged in alphabetical order by folder title.

Related Material
Related materials providing information on Japanese American internment may be found in the following collections in the Honnold/Mudd Library Special Collections:
• H.Mss.0926, War Relocation Authority Records
• H.Mss.1048, Kenzo Robert Koike Papers
• H.Mss.1049, Yamano Japanese Internment Collection
• H.Mss.1047, Kruska Japanese Internment Collection

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

Subject Headings
Japanese Americans
Japanese Americans -- Archives
Japanese Americans -- Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945
World War, 1939-1945--Japanese Americans

Genre and Form of Materials
Photograph albums
Photographs

| Box 1, Folder 1 | Biographical information, 1893-2014 February 15 |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Griggs, Cooper, and Company’s Japanese Tea letter, 1912 March |
| Drawer 1, Folder 1 | Oversized Belmont Junior High School photograph, 1959 |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Photographs, 1936 July-1938 September 22 and undated Photograph album, undated |
| Box 1, Folder 11 | Cover |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | Pages 1-5 |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Pages 6-10 |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | Pages 11-15 |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | Pages 16-20 |

Note
Album pages contain photographs of Tule Lake Internment Camp and Rohwer Relocation Center.

| Box 1, Folder 8 | Pages 21-25 |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | Pages 26-30 |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Pages 31-36 |