Fujimoto family diaries

Finding aid prepared by Reajinae Jenkins, Student Processing Assistant.
Special Collections & University Archives
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Descriptive Summary
Title: Fujimoto family diaries
Date (inclusive): 1913-1968
Date (bulk): 1942-1948
Collection Number: MS 096
Creator: Fujimoto, George, Jr.
Creator: Fujimoto, Toranosuke (George)
Extent: 4.65 linear feet (4 boxes)
Repository: Rivera Library. Special Collections Department.
Riverside, CA 92517-5900
Abstract: This collection consists of the diaries of Japanese Americans Toranosuke (George) Fujimoto from 1913-1968, and George Fujimoto Jr. from 1942-1948. The diaries notably cover their experiences during World War II, when the family was forcibly removed from their Riverside, California home to an incarceration camp in Poston, Arizona.
Languages: The diaries kept by Toranosuke Fujimoto are in Japanese, while the diaries kept by George Fujimoto are in English.

Access
This collection is open for research.

Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
[identification of item], [date if possible]. Fujimoto family diaries (MS 096). Special Collections & University Archives, University of California, Riverside.

Acquisition Information
Provenance unknown.

Processing History
Processed by Reajinae Jenkins, Student Processing Assistant, 2016.
Processing of the Fujimoto family diaries was completed by undergraduate students from the University of California, Riverside as part of the Special Collections & University Archives Backlog Processing Project started in 2015. This project was funded by the UCR Library and administered by Jessica Geiser, Collections Management Librarian.

Biographical Note
Toranosuke Fujimoto was born July 11, 1882, and grew up in Kokawa, a town in the Wakayama Prefecture in Japan. In 1902 he emigrated to the United States, where he lived in Washington and Orange County, California before settling in Riverside, California. He also adopted the name "George," as Americans had difficulty pronouncing his first name. In 1911, Fujimoto married his wife Suna and the couple became farmers in Riverside, raising chickens and growing strawberries and walnuts, along with their six children. George Fujimoto, sometimes referred to as George Fujimoto Jr., was born on January 2, 1921, and was the couple's first son and fourth child out of six.
In 1942 during World War II, Toranosuke was arrested by the FBI, along with many other Japanese American men in Riverside, and incarcerated until July 7th of 1942. A year after Toranosuke was arrested George, his mother, and his siblings were all forcibly removed to the "Poston Relocation Center," an incarceration camp located in Poston, Arizona. Toranosuke joined the family after he was released from incarceration, and he spent the following four years at Poston, becoming a block manager. He left the camp in June of 1946, as one of the last detainees to do so, and returned to his Riverside farm with his wife. George remained at Poston until 1943, when he was granted permission to leave the camp along with his sister and her husband. They relocated to Des Moines, Iowa, where George worked at photography shop for eight months before being drafted in the U.S. Military. He was assigned to the Military Intelligence Service Language School, where he took intensive Japanese before serving as a translator in occupied Japan from November of 1945 until May of 1946. George eventually inherited the family farm, which he ran until the mid 1960’s with his wife Masako and their children. After his retirement George and Masako moved to Ferndale, Washington, where he still resides.

Collection Scope and Contents
This collection consists of the diaries of Japanese-Americans Toranosuke (George) Fujimoto from 1913-1968, and George Fujimoto Jr. from 1942-1948. The diaries notably cover their experiences during World War II, when the family was forcibly removed from their Riverside, California home to an incarceration camp in Poston, Arizona. The collection also includes programs from the United Church of Christ in Riverside from the 1960s, which were used to wrap Toranosuke's diaries.

**Collection Arrangement**

This series is arranged into two series as follows:

Series 1. Toranosuke Fujimoto, 1913-1968
Series 2. George Fujimoto, 1942-1948

**Indexing Terms**

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

**Subjects**

Poston Relocation Center (Ariz.)
Japanese Americans
Japanese Americans -- Exclusion and incarceration, 1942-1945
Riverside (Calif.)
World War, 1939-1945
World War, 1939-1945 -- Japanese Americans

**Genres and Forms of Materials**

Diaries

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**Series 1. Toranosuke Fujimoto 1913-1968**

**Series Scope and Contents**

This series consist of 38 diaries kept by Toranosuke "George" Fujimoto, as well as the church programs that they were originally wrapped in. The content in the diaries pertain to Fujimoto's daily life from 1913-1968, including the years that he spent at the Poston internment camp in Arizona.

**Series Arrangement**

This series is arranged chronologically.

| Box 1, Item 1 | 1913 |
| Box 1, Item 2 | 1914 |
| Box 1, Item 3 | 1918 |
| Box 1, Item 4 | 1922 |
| Box 1, Item 5 | 1926 |
| Box 1, Item 6 | 1935 |
| Box 1, Item 7 | 1936 |
| Box 1, Item 8 | 1937 |
| Box 1, Item 9 | 1938 |
| Box 1, Item 10 | 1939 |
| Box 1, Item 11 | 1941 |
| Box 1, Item 12 | 1942 |
| Box 1, Item 13 | 1943 |
| Box 1, Item 14 | 1944 |
| Box 1, Item 15 | 1945 |
| Box 2, Item 1 | 1946 |
| Box 2, Item 2 | 1947 |
| Box 2, Item 3 | 1948 |
| Box 2, Item 4 | 1949 |
| Box 2, Item 5 | 1950 |
| Box 2, Item 6 | 1951 |
| Box 2, Item 7 | 1952 |
| Box 2, Item 8 | 1953 |
Series 1. Toranosuke Fujimoto 1913-1968

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Box 2, Item 9 1954
Box 2, Item 10 1955
Box 2, Item 11 1956
Box 2, Item 12 1957
Box 2, Item 13 1958
Box 2, Item 14 1959
Box 2, Item 15 1960
Box 3, Item 1 1961
Box 3, Item 2 1962
Box 3, Item 3 1963
Box 3, Item 4 1964
Box 3, Item 5 1965
Box 3, Item 6 1966
Box 3, Item 7 1967
Box 3, Item 8 1968
Box 4, Folder 1

Series 2. George Fujimoto Jr. 1942-1948

Series Scope and Contents
This series consist of diaries written by George Fujimoto Jr. The diaries pertain to George's
life after the FBI arrested his father and his life over the following six years, including his
time at the "Poston Relocation Center" and his military service.

Series Arrangement
This series is arranged chronologically.

Box 3, Item 9 1942
Box 3, Item 10 1943
Box 3, Item 11 1944
Box 3, Item 12 1945
Box 3, 1946
Items 13-14
Box 3, Item 15 1947
Box 3, Item 16 1948