
Guide to the Robert Billigmeier Collection CEMA 60

Finding aid prepared by CEMA staff

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Title: Robert Billigmeier collection

Identifier/Call Number: CEMA 60

Contributing Institution: UC Santa Barbara Library, Department of Special Collections

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 2.5 linear feet(4 document boxes and 1 photo box)

Date (bulk): Bulk, 1942-1943

Date (inclusive): 1940-1987

Abstract: The Robert Billigmeier collection holds some of the documents of the University of California's Evacuation and Resettlement Study beginning in 1942. The collection contains reports conducted under the direction of University of California, Berkeley Professor Dorothy Swain Thomas. There are also publications such as Professor's Dorothy Swaine Thomas' book *The Spoilage* and the *WRA: A Story of Human Conservation*. There is a scrapbook produced by the students at Tule Lake, photographs of the internment camp and photos of Billigmeier's personal life.

General Physical Description note: Four document boxes and one photo box

creator: Billigmeier, Robert Henry

Conditions Governing Use note

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Conditions Governing Access note

none

Series Description

Series I Research Studies, 1942-1987

This series includes the *Tule Lake Monograph*, by Robert Billigmeier, written in 1976. It also contains the subseries of The University of California study of evacuation and resettlement at Tule Lake, composed by various authors. The study is arranged according to an outline provided in the study. There are also three writings composed by Robert Spencer on the Gila River internment camp and two post internment camp articles.

Series II Publications, 1942-1979

Series two is composed of two subseries, the first subseries being Newsletters, Newspaper and Magazines. It contains newsletters published in the early 40's and in 1950. It also holds newspapers and magazines published at Tule Lake from 1942-1943. The second subseries is Books and Booklets, concerning Tule Lake and other Japanese-American internment camps, composed by a variety of authors. The books and booklets are arranged alphabetically.

Series III Scrapbook, 1942

This is a scrapbook created in Tule Lake by the Japanese-American students.

Series IV Photographs, 1939-1952

This Photograph album contains approximately 300 black and white photographs of Billigmeier's personal life and his stay at Tule Lake.

Scope and Contents note

The Robert Billigmeier Collection contains photographs, a scrapbook, published and unpublished documents regarding the Tule Lake Relocation Center from 1942 to 1943. However, the entire collection ranges from 1940 to 1987. **Series I** contains research reports concerning the organization of Tule Lake and experiences undergone by the students, as seen through the students personality cards. In the personality cards students wrote about their day and their feelings regarding specific topics such as democracy. The series also contains documents written after 1943 such as the monograph, "Tule Lake in 1976," by Robert Billigmeier, "A Victim of the Evacuation and Resettlement Study (JERS)" by Violet Kazue de Cristoforo in 1987 and "Educational Norms in Japanese Immigrant Communities" written by Katsuhiko in 1976. **Series II** contains Tule Lake publications such as the *Tri State High Magazine*, *Tulean Dispatch Magazine* and books such as *Impounded People: Japanese-Americans in the Relocation Centers*, and *The Displaced Japanese-Americans* previously titled *Issei Nisei Kibei in Fortune* magazine. **Series III** contains a scrapbook created by the students at the relocation center in 1942. **Series IV** consists of photographs dating from 1939 to 1952. The photos are from the Tule Lake relocation center and of Billigmeiers personal life, including his graduation and family trips.

Biographical/Historical note

Robert Billigmeier (1914-1996) was a UCSB Sociology professor who specialized in the areas of demographics, social movements and European and American ethnic groups. He was very interested in the Romansh Culture. In 1951 he earned his PH.D. on the history of the Romansh Culture from Stanford University. Billigmeier provided many scholarly contributions such as *A Crisis in Swiss Pluralism* published in 1979. The book provided an extensive analysis on the history of the Raeto Romansh over the past thousand years. He also wrote books about Swiss immigrants in America and German Americans. In the autumn of 1942 he was employed at the Tule Lake Relocation Center as a field research assistant on the Evacuation and Resettlement Study of the University of California. During his research at Tule Lake he observed the Japanese-American interns and the overall lifestyle at the internment camps. Twenty-four years later, 1976, he worked on a monograph of Tule Lake which includes diary excerpts, short essays and letters by Japanese-American high school students written in the Tule Lake relocation center.

Billigmeier was also actively involved in the UCSB, Santa Barbara and Switzerland communities. At UCSB he was the foreign student advisor from 1955 to 1963, associate director for the Education Abroad Program from 1964 to 1976 and member and supporter of the Faculty Club. In Santa Barbara he worked for international cooperation, fair housing and family planning. While visiting Switzerland he became involved with community organizations for the preservation of the Romansh culture.

Related Archival Materials note

Harold S. Jacoby Nisei Collection, Mss27, Holt-Atherton Department of Special Collections, University of the Pacific Library Japanese American evacuation and resettlement records, BANC MSS 67/14 c, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Preferred Citation note

Robert Billigmeier Collection, CEMA 60, Department of Special Collections, University Library, University of California, Santa Barbara

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Tule Lake Relocation Center.

Japanese -- United States

Newly cataloged

World War, 1939-1945 -- Evacuation of civilians

Series I Research Studies 1942-1987

Box 1, Folder 1-32 ***Monograph, Tule Lake 1976***

University of California study of evacuation and resettlement at Tule Lake 1942-1943

Box 1, Folder 33 ***Outline of University of California study of evacuation and resettlement December 1, 1942***

Box 1, Folder 34 ***An introduction to Tule Lake by Shibutahi November 10, 1942***

Box 1,
Folder 35-37 ***The first six months at Tule Lake***

Box 2, Folder 1-4 ***Social structure of the community***

Box 2, Folder 5-6 ***The co-op movement in Tule Lake November 15, 1942***

Box 2, Folder 7-8 ***The Christian church in Tule Lake by James Sakoda October 1, 1942***

Box 2, Folder 9 ***Buddhist church by Dr. Thomas***

Box 2, Folder 10 ***History of the Tule Lake Union Church as told to James Sakoda by Rev. Kuroda by James Sakoda September 30, 1942***

Box 2,
Folder 11-14 ***Recreational organization by Frank Miyamoto***

Box 2,
Folder 15-16 ***Tule Lake recreation center community affairs report August 20-September 20, 1942***

Box 2,
Folder 17-18 ***Social groups: creative writers Caucasian-Japanese relationship by Mr. Cook***

Box 2, Folder 19 ***Fire department of Tule Lake***

Box 2, Folder 20 ***Legal aid department of Tule Lake***

- Box 2, **Records office by James Sakoda Septemeber 17, 1942**
Folder 21-22
- Box 2, Folder 23 **Scrap lumber conflict by James Sakoda September 16, 1942**
Box 2, **Broadcast affair Tule Lake**
Folder 24-25
- Box 2, Folder 26 **Disorganization and reorganization, II disorganization of the family by Shibutani
December 17, 1942**
- Box 2, Folder 27 **Educational institutions December 12, 1942**
Box 2, **Social reoganization in Tule Lake by Shibutani January 2, 1943**
Folder 28-29
- Box 2, **Messhalls in Tule Lake by James Sakoda**
Folder 30-33
- Box 2, **Population and ecology**
Folder 34-35
- Box 2, **Firebreak gang by Richard S. Nishimoto**
Folder 36-39
- Box 2, Folder 40 **Miscellaneous scattered pages**
Box 3, Folder 3-11 **Personality cards chapters 1-14 1942-1943**
- Box 2, Folder 41
- University of California, evacuation and settlement study by Robert Spencer**
- Box 2, Folder 42
- The Gila River WRA relocation center, Rivers, Pinal County, Arizona by Robert Spencer August 23, 1942**
- Box 2, Folder 43-45
- Recreational activities in the Gila community by Rober Spencer November 2, 1942**
- Box 2, Folder 46
- Educational norms in Japanese immigrant communities by Katsuhiko May 1976**
- Box 3, Folder 1
- The persistence of ethnic solidarity among the Japanese Americans of the San Francisco Bay Area: An exploratory
study of communication in a community without an ecological base by Carl K. Mayeda Decemeber 1974**
- Box 3, Folder 2
- A victim of the evacuation and resettlement study (JERS) by Violet Kazue de Cristoforo 1987**

Series II Publications 1942-1979

Newsletter, Newspaper and Magazines 1942-1954

- Box 3, Folder 12 **The Daily Tulean Dispatch 1942-1943**
Box 3, Folder 13 **Japanese folk beliefs and practices, Tule Lake, California by Marvin K. Opler
October-December, 1950**
- Box 3, Folder 14 **Pacific Citizen (Salt Lake City, Utah) April 14, 1954**
Box 3, Folder 15 **Tri State High Magazine April 30, 1943**
Box 3, **Tulean Dispatch Magazine 1943**
Folder 16-19

Books and Booklets

- Box 4 **Bosworth, Allan R. America's Concentration Camps. New York: W.W. Norton, 1967**

- Box 4 ***The displaced Japanese-Americans*** by American Council on Public Affairs (contains information on Issi, Neisi and Kibi) April 1944
- Box 4 **Eaton, Allen H. *Beauty Behind Barbed Wire: The Arts of Japanese in Our War Relocation Camps*. New York: Harper & Brothers 1952**
- Box 4 **Miyakawa, Edward. *Tule Lake*. Waldport, Oregon: House by the Sea 1979**
- Box 4 **Spicer, Edward II., et al. *Impounded People: Japanese-Americans in the Relocation Centers*. Tuscon: University of Arizona, Press 1969**
- Box 4 **Thomas, Dorothy Swaine, and Richard S. Nishimoto. *The Spoilage*. Bekeley: University of California Press, 1964**
- Box 4 ***A Tule Lake interlude* (The Harold S. Jacoby Nisei Collection includes a digital copy of this book on Online Archives of California. It is located at: <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/kt4779n6vr/>) May 27, 1942-1943**
- Box 4 **United States Department of the Interior. War Relocation Authority. *WRA: A story of Human Conservation*. Washington, D.C.: Superintendent of Documents, GPO 1946**

Series III Scrapbook 1942

Box 3, Folder 20

Tule Lake Scrapbook
Series IV Photographs 1939-1952

Acquisition Information

In 2003 David O'Kane donated a photo taken at Tule Lake Internment Camp on August 30, 1944 of the Procurement and Shoe Rationing Department. This has been added to the end of the photo album.

Box 5

Photo Album