Finding aid of the Japanese-American Internment Oral Histories

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Finding aid of the Japanese-American Internment Oral Histories

Collection number: MSS 296

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Japanese-American Internment Oral Histories

Dates: 2001

Collection number: MSS 296

Collector: Sparks, Edith

Collection Size: .5 linear feet

Repository: University of the Pacific Library, Holt-Atherton Department of Special Collections
Stockton, California 95211

Abstract: This collection contains audio interviews, transcriptions, photographs, genealogical information, letters and related newspaper clippings of Japanese-American who were kept in Relocation Centers during World War II.

Physical location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the library's online catalog.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access
Collection open for research.

Publication Rights
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Biography / Administrative History
In the fall of 2001, University of the Pacific professor Edith Sparks assigned her students to interview nine Japanese-Americans who lived in San Joaquin County and were sent to Relocation Centers during World War II.

Scope and Content of Collection
This collection contains audio interviews, transcriptions, photographs, genealogical information, letters and related newspaper clippings of Japanese-American who were kept in Relocation Centers during World War II. In addition to discussing life before, during, and after the time spent at the Relocation Centers, many of the narrators focus on how family dynamics changed while in the camps. Some interviewees compare the persecution of Muslims in the wake of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks to what the Japanese-Americans went through during World War II.

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

Rohwer Relocation Center.
Tule Lake Relocation Center.
Gila River Relocation Center.
Endow, Bernice (b. 1921, Sacramento) Tule Lake Relocation Center.
Abstract: Endow had been studying nursing in the spring of 1942. She discusses her college search and difficulties finding a university accepting Japanese-Americans. She describes barracks and daily life in Tule Lake camp.

Fuji, June (b. 1931, Modesto) Gila River, and Tule Lake.
Abstract: Fuji was a child in the spring of 1942. Her father had been "taken away" because he was a "leader" in Stockton society. Contains list of items sent to father in Bismarck, North Dakota, as well as long series of letters sent from his children and wife. Signed yearbook from Rohwer Relocation Center. Only notes and partial transcript available.

Hiramoto, Kinji (b. 1921, Lodi) Rohwer Relocation Center.

Imai, Mary (b. 1930, Salt Lake City) and Ozzie(b.1924 San Francisco) Gila River and Poston Relocation Centers.
Abstract: Ozzie had graduated high school, and Mary was still a child in the spring of 1942. Ozzie was eventually drafted and worked in Japan as a member of the US Military.

Kawamura, Miyeko (b. 1934, Concord) Gila River Relocation Center.
Abstract: Kawamura was a child in the spring of 1942. She recalls medical services and experiences in the Relocation Center and discusses returning to Gila River in 1995. Contains a letter from the narrator's daughter with a Sansei (third generation) point of view regarding relocation. Also contains newspaper clippings from Lodi News Sentinel (1942, 1995), Pacific Citizen (1995), and The Arizona Republic (1995) concerning the Gila River Relocation Center.

Abstract: This was a group interview. All were high school age in the spring of 1942. Stories of transport between relocation centers and camps.

Nakashima, Joan (b. c.1930) Tule Lake Relocation Camp.
Abstract: Nakashima was a child in the spring of 1942. Discusses the family's negative reception when assimilating back into civilian life in Idaho and Nebraska. Members of her extended family were placed in other camps. (no audio recording available)

Omachi, Joseph (b. 1910 Lommis) Gila River Relocation Camp.
Abstract: Omachi was a lawyer in the spring of 1942. Extensively examines current events in 2001 in relation to what was happening at the time of internment. (no audio recording available)

Sakai, Barry (b.1919 Stockton) Rohwer Relocation Center.
Abstract: Sakai was a student at UC Berkeley in the spring of 1942. Describes growing up in Stockton. Only partial transcript available.

Audio and video tapes