

Japanese American History Oral History Project

COPH OHP_101



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Descriptive Summary

Title

Japanese American History [OHP 101]

Dates

1966-2017

Creator

Extent

264 oral histories. 221 narrators.

Collateral:

Repository

Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History
California State University, Fullerton

Project Abstract

The Japanese American History Project

Narrators:

Abe, George
Adams, Lucy
Ager, Earl
Aigner, Norvil O.
Aigner, Albert E.
Akiyama, Kiyomi Henry
Anderson, Hugh Harris
Anonymous
Baker, Lillian
Bell, Rollin O.
Bingham, Theodore A.
Bock, Alan W.
Botzum, Clara Osborne
Branson, Donald H.
Brierly, Arlie A.
Brown, Robert L.
Campbell, Ned
Campbell, Arline
Chamness, Lee Jr.
Christensen, Austin
Chuman, Frank
Cragen, Dorothy C.
Cray, Franklin
Cushman, Joyce
Dick, Ellen
Dockum, Richard
Dohi, Abraham
Drew, Elodie M.
Eiki, Helen
Embrey, Sue Kunitomi
Emi, Frank S.
Endo, Mitsuye
Endo, Aiko Tanamachi
Endo, Toki
Fairclo, Carrol E.
Fitzgerald, Marie Lee
Fujii, George
Fujii, Gertrude
Fujikado, Kosui
Fujiyama, Margie
Fukasawa, George T.
Fuqua, Ruth
Fuqua, J.C.
Furukawa, Paul
Furuta, Yukiko

Gertler, Cheryl
Gillespie, Mary
Griffith, Duff
Hailey, M.L.
Hamblin, Robert
Hanada, Masako
Harry, Frank
Hayashi, Ken
Hayashida, Fumiko
Hendrix, Isaac O.
Holmes, Hannah
Hopkins, Jack B.
Hora, Yoshio
Hori, Soichiro
Igauye, June
Ihara, Craig Kei
Ihara, Toni
Ishida, Frank Kiyoshi
Ishida, Seiko
Ishii, Amy Uno
Ishii, Charles
Ishii, Kuni
Ishikawa, Michael
Ishihara, Sakae
Iwasa, Lynn E.
Iwatsuru, Yoneka Dobashi
Johnson, Helen
Johnson, E.C.
Jones, Hazel
Joseph, Ethelyne
Kaihara, Rodney
Kambe, Victor
Kamei, Shizu
Kanegae, Henry
Kanagawa, Elso
Kaneko, Hyotaro
Kaneko, Mine Yabuki
Kanno, George
Kanno, James
Kanno, Makki
Katagiri, Matsuyo
Kawashima, Hatsune
Kelly, Anna T.
Kelly, Bette
Kikuchi, Charles
Kikuchi, Kenji

Kikuchi, Yoriyuki
Kikuchi, Yuriko
King, Ruth E.
Kishiyama, J.S.
Kishiyama, Y.
Kobayashi, Irene M.
Krater, Katharine
Kunitsugu, Katsumi
Kunitsugu, Kango
Kuroda, Akira
Kuroki, Ben
Lee, Jeri
Lowe, Nelson
Masuda, Masao
Masukawa, Betty
Masunaga, George
Masuoka, Margaret
Matsunaga, Richard
Matthews, Alpharetta
McCabe, Lillie
McCormick, David F.
Miller, Hubert E.
Miller, Pauline
Mineki, Misako
Mineta, Norman Y.
Mita, James
Mita, Jim Yuji
Mita, Travis
Miyada, Don
Miyatake, Archie
Murase, Kenji
Mori, John Yukio
Mukaeda, Katsuma
Munemitsu, Tad
Nagai, Roy
Nakao, Sam
Nakagawa, George
Nakai, Mitsuyo N.
Nakamura, Harry
Nakao, Sam
Nakashima, Meri Hamako
Nishi, Setsuko Matsunaga
Nishio, Alan
Nishizu, Clarence
Nitta, Hitoshi
Nitta, Minoru

Nitta, Mituso
Nitta, Marry
Oba, Zenyo
Odanaka, Woodrow
Okimoto, Elaine S.
Olchawa, Gladys J.
Omura, James M.
Omura, Wayne
Opler, Edward Morris
Otsuka, James
Pampel, Alfred
Parker, Clifford
Pendleton, Judith
Robertson, Georgia Day
Robertson, Paul G.
Runcorn, Ed H.
Ryan, Gary P.
Rychman, Fannie
Sakoda, James
Sato, Yukiko
Sato, Wilbur
Savilla, Agnes
Schindler, Wesley Charles
Schindler, William E.
Shigekawa, Kiyoshi
Shigekawa, Sakaye
Shimada, Susie Oba
Shimizu, Mitushiko H.
Shreiber, Abner
Smith, Lucille
Songstad, Eilean
Spencer, Robert F.
Stannard, Amy N.
Sugita, Ruth
Sugita, Masaka Oba
Takashi, Hana
Takahashi, Seytsu
Takeda, Aiko
Takei Arthur
Takeno, Sumiye
Taketa, Roy Y.
Tamura, Noboru
Tanaka, Togo
Taniguchi, Izumi
Tanimoto, Ronald
Taniwaki, Oski

Tashima, Masako
Tashima, Yoshie Mary
Tashima, Masayuki
Tashina, Yoshiyuki
Terasaki, Tak
Thaler, Victoria
Tomita, Mary Kimoto
Tomiyoshi, Fred
Tonai, Minoru
Tsuboi, Hiron
Tsuboi, Jane
Ueno, Harry Y.
Uragami, Rumi Tonai
Uyeda, Clifford
Uyesugi, Mas
Wallace, Elva
Watanabe, Ikuko Amatatsu
Wax, Rosalie H.
West, Robert
Williamson, Jack
Yakura, Jim
Yamada, Takeo
Yamaguchi, Jean
Yamacuchi, Gogi
Yamaki, Emi
Yamakido, Joe
Yamamoto, Harry K.
Yamamoto, Tom I.
Yamamoto, Margaret
Yamashita, Rev. Kenko
Yamashita, Shonin
Yamashita, Tak
Yano, Stella
Yasumatsu, Tim
Yoneda, Karl
Yoneda, Elaine Black
Yoshida, Yoshiki
Yoshitake, Henry
Yoshitomi, Kunichi Kimbo

OH 1763

Narrator: GEORGE JIRO ABE (1912-2003)
Interviewer: Marsha Bode
Date: February 20, 1984
Location: Pasadena, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Formats: Digital, Cassette
Length: 02:36:53
Transcript: Final; 39 pages
Ephemera: Maps, journals, photographs (Not Digitized)

Abstract:

An oral history with George Jiro Abe, a Nisei and resident of Pasadena, California. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding his early life in Los Angeles County, California, especially his experience on the Hellman ranch in Seal Beach, California, and the Bixby ranch in Long Beach, California. Specifically, this interview details Abe's childhood in Long Beach; his father's work on the Bixby ranch prior to World War I; the success and bankruptcy of his father's produce shipping business during World War I due to the produce spoiling while being transported to the East Coast; the Abe family's move from the Bixby ranch to the Hellman ranch; how his father and other Seal Beach Japanese farmers tried to circumvent the 1924 Alien Land Law; his family's farming experience during the Great Depression; how he left the farm and his family at twenty-one-years-old to live on his own; the death of his father in 1938; his eldest brother Frank's inheritance of the farm; the work ethic and attitudes of the Abe family; his educational background, including his experiences at Seal Beach Elementary School and Long Beach Polytechnic High School; his recollections about the farm's crops, soil composition, and irrigation; his familiarity with the Tanimachi family who also lived in the Seal Beach area; his departure from Southern California in search of work in Chicago, Illinois, and Alaska; reactions to World War II and repercussions of being Japanese American; his imprisonment in the Minidoka camp in Idaho; Frank's imprisonment at the Poston camp in Arizona; volunteering for the Army with his two brothers and fighting in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT); reflections on war, death, family dynamics and hierarchy; how he and his brothers arranged for Frank not to be drafted because he was the eldest child in the family and so that he could take care of their mother and younger siblings; reflections on moving to Philadelphia after the war ended and returning to Southern California; thoughts about Pasadena's demographics; recollections about how the Seal Beach Naval Weapons depot was built on top of the Japanese American farmland; the loss of the Abe family's valuables during their incarceration at Poston; his suspicions that their valuables were stolen by people associated with the Hellman ranch; impact of incarceration after the war on the Issei and Nisei; the differences in parent-children dynamics among Seal Beach Japanese American families; social and religious activities of those families; the dynamics of selling produce in the Los Angeles and Long Beach farmers' markets; pre-war and post-war racial prejudice and changing attitudes in the United States; experiencing racial prejudice in the 442nd RCT; and general thoughts about race relations.

OH 2327

Narrator: LUCY ADAMS
Interviewers: Arthur Hansen and Sue Embrey
Date: October 16, 1993
Location: Santa Cruz, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:12:26
Transcript: Final, 52 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Lucy Adams, a former manager hired by the War Relocation office in San Francisco responsible for the administration and education in the internment camps of Japanese Americans. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Adams' upbringing growing up with parents from Australia who promoted education and emphasized their patriotic notions for their children; shares his experiences and job opportunities; recalls being employed into the Works Progress Administration and getting an adult education since the state department had an active program and employed her as one of the lectures where she organized classes and training centers; describes how she was offered a job at the Manzanar War Relocation Center after moving to California after the Indian office was moved to Chicago and not wanting to move so she sought better opportunities elsewhere which she did because he interviewed and recruited candidate for education positions at the ten relocation centers.

OH 1348

Narrator: EARL AGER
Interviewer: Sherry Turner
Date: August 27, 1973
Location: Unknown, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:17:31
Transcript: Final

Abstract:

An oral history with Earl Ager, a former businessman who lived near the Tule Lake Relocation Center that shares his experiences of the community and life. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview

discusses topics such as Ager's reaction and feelings towards Japanese Americans before the war and his acquaintance and staying the same after the attack on Pearl Harbor; remembers his community feeling threatened by the idea that Tule Lake would be occupied to influx their economy; recalls some people in town having hostile feelings towards the camp because of Pearl Harbor; mentions when their privileges to leave the camp grounds for recreation or shopping in the town was revoked because of some incident; describes the concerns in the community for the Japanese American farmers to move into their community once the internment camps would close down; expresses the relations and concerns with the surrounding internment camps for the Germans and Italians in which they were peaceful for the most part except for the Italians; recalls the Japanese Americans not having any hostility towards the townspeople; mentions having lots of relations and connections with the businessmen and administration behind the camp; reflects on the internment of Japanese Americans as a necessary act but should have been done first with caution like screening or background checks instead of displacing them and taking their property away.

OH 1396

Narrator: NORVIL O. AIGNER
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen and David J. Bertagnoli
Date: December 20, 1973
Location: Lone Pine, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:20:37
Transcript: Final, 9 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Norvil Aigner, a longtime resident of Lone Pine, California who share his impressions on the Manzanar War Relocation Center in his community. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Aigner's job working for the Pacific Motor Trucking Company in Lone Pine at thirty-five year where they hauling materials, supplies, food into Manzanar during the war; recalls having six Japanese American workers at his depot where their attitude was really positive and overall great workers; describes not wanting to get involved in the labor union or anything outside the camp which is why they used workers director Ralph Merritt selected and paid the, \$1.87 an hour to unload freight from boxcars and into the camp; expresses the hate and problem the people of the town had with the camp being so close there but thought differently once it helped their economy; explains the situations for anyone who were deceased and taken care of at the camp.

OH 1397

Narrator: ALBERT E. AIGNER
Interviewers: Arthur Hansen and David J. Bertagnoli
Date: December 20, 1973
Location: Lone Pine, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:18:46
Transcript: Final, 9 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Albert Aigner, a longtime resident of Lone Pine, California who share his impressions on the Manzanar War Relocation Center in his community. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Aigner's upbringing working with the Pacific Motor Trucking Company in 1937, enlisting in the service in 1942, and hauled loads of plasterboard up to Manzanar; remembers seeing the caravan and feeling shocked at their emotions even have to sell their own belongings and move to a relocation center when they were all Americans; recalls some Japanese workers doing their jobs who were very nice people ranging from carpentry, postal work, and other simple jobs inside the camp; expresses his safety and feeling of security knowing he did not have to fear for their lives from the fact that they were near the Japanese; reflects on the significance of the plaque that recognized the injustice of relocating Japanese Americans who were citizens like everyone else.

OH 1751.1

Narrator: KIYOMI HENRY AKIYAMA
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: June 10, 1982
Location: Westminster, California
Language: Japanese & English translation
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 06:02:17
Transcript: Final, 21 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Kiyomi Akiyama, a pioneer Issei leader of the Japanese American community in Orange County who describes her experiences during the wartime evacuation to the Poston War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Akiyama's upbringing graduating from junior high during the Russo-Japanese War had started when his

brother was drafted until he crossed to the United States; mentions his family of seven growing up not wealthy in Nagano-ken where they could not work in the farm because it was cold so they had to go to America since they could not divide their assets; explains the producing prefecture of Nagano-ken for silk and mainly cultivating rice while during the summer it was for growing mulberries for silkworms because they eat the leaves of the mulberry; specifies on the lifestyle he lived producing vegetables themselves along with the necessities that weren't and were available to them because of their mountain region; and reveals the transition from manual labor in his village to machinery work in the U.S and education in Orange County.

OH 1751.2

Narrator: KIYOMI HENRY AKIYAMA
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: June 29, 1982
Location: Westminster, California
Language: Japanese & English translation
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 06:02:17
Transcript: Final, 64 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Kiyomi Akiyama, a pioneer Issei leader of the Japanese American community in Orange County who describes her experiences during the wartime evacuation to the Poston War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Akiyama's involvement with Japanese and Caucasian farmers who built the Smeltzer Celery Association scattered among areas which established the farming convenience in the community; mentions the origins of the Japanese community before World War I through the building of the Wintersburg Presbyterian Church, Asari's grocery store and even the presence and disappearance of Chinese farmers because of prejudice from the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882; explains the different groups of Japanese farmers and laborers along with some Mexicans that settled in Anaheim and Garden Grove; discusses the function of the Japanese Association as a branch of the Japanese Consulate which issued birth certificates and resolve issues between Japanese and Caucasians; and indicates the laws that allows the Issei to be able to purchase land until it was changed in 1913 and taking over the Cole property with Mr. Furuta where they leased 60 acres and cultivated celery, sugar beets, and beans until he moved to the goldfish business.

OH 1473

Narrator: HUGH HARRIS ANDERSON
Interviewer: Arthur A. Hansen
Date: February 8, 1975
Location: South Pasadena, California
Language: English

Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 02:00:01
Transcript: Final, 50 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Hugh Anderson, a native of Pasadena who was is an employee of the California State Board of Equalization and business manager for a cooperative at Poston War Relocation Center in Arizona. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Anderson's upbringing working for the government in a state controller's office and became an administrative assistance director or the National Youth Administration; recalls having to audit many Japanese business under the requirement of the state to give them a tax-free clearance in case they would be evacuated; recalls being employed by the War Relocation Authority and paid by the government to interpret government edict to the Japanese Americans; shares having to provide cash for the community and provide change for the camp to help flourish the economy and influence purchases and formed a cooperation between stores.

OH 0011

Narrator: ANONYMOUS
Interviewer: Richard Curtiss
Date: March 4, 1966
Location: Fountain Valley, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:48:09
Transcript: final, 21 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with a Nisei resident of Fountain Valley, California who was placed in an internment camp during World War II. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview details his father's internment at Santa Fe, New Mexico for two months and family's relocation; discusses his brothers relocating to Nevada during voluntarily relocation while he stayed back to take care of his sisters and their land in Orange County; describes their struggles at the Poston incarceration camp in Arizona, where they were taken by bus. Shares the amount of recreation and activities available at camp; remembers when his father died in the camp and his mother just accepting it all this as fate; describes having to fill out a questionnaire to prove their loyalty otherwise they would be sent to Tule Lake; recalls the lack of restriction and enforced rules in the camp as far as curfews and boundaries went since it was in the middle of nowhere; shares how he moved to Nebraska for harvesting and farming but due to the cold weather, he was sent back and reunited with his

family; describes the verbal harassment and hostility in the camp and remembered to stay positive and find something good from the relocation process to keep going with their lives.

OH 1331

Narrator: ANONYMOUS
Interviewer: John Wiedmann
Date: December 1, 1973
Location: Undetermined
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:00:14
Transcript: Final, 15 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with a Nisei resident of California who was placed in an internment camp during World War II. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as his upbringing growing up with parents who settled in California from Japan as a farmer and helped out at a nursery; describes the amount a prejudice and biased from certain people before the war broke out while attending grammar school; remembers in June of 1942 that he would have to relocate and sent to an assembly center in Fresno for a temporary time; describes the camp acting as an organized school for children that offered recreation for adults on different levels from baseball, clubs, and classes; recalls the weekly newspapers circulating around the camp that offered news about sports, entertainment, and other things going around the camp; explains the block structure and organization of leaders and councilmen in the internment camp that held complaints of food and other grievances; shares the instance where after returning back home once the war ended and finding out all their personal belongings had been stolen while they were gone and not being compensated; reflects on the amount of compensation people got for being relocated and hopes that this type of incident won't happen again.

OH 1344

Narrator: ANONYMOUS
Interviewer: David Bertagnoli
Date: July 14, 1973
Location: Independence, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:23:44
Transcript: Final

Abstract:

An oral history with a Japanese American resident of Independence, California who was placed in an internment camp during World War II. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as her growing up during the same time of the war throughout high school before getting married and getting a notice about the evacuation; remembers not having any reaction or emotion towards Pearl Harbor until weeks later when the hostility towards Japanese Americans began to increase; expressed not having any animosity towards Japanese Americans nor living next to tons of Japanese Americans in the internment camp; describes the camp life with the organization of mess halls for lunch, gardens for fresh produce and flowers; expresses the camp organization made up of block leaders who took all complaints over to the camp director in order to establish change; reflects back on the impact the relocation center has had on her life.

OH 1474

Narrator: LILLIAN BAKER
Interviewer: Arthur A. Hansen
Date: June 10, 1976
Location: Gardena, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 03:12:28
Transcript: Final, 52 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Lillian Baker who is an organizer of the Americans for Historical Accuracy who shares her opposition against the term “concentration camp”. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Baker’s recollection of moving to Gardena which was recognized as a highly Japanese community along with people from all nations during the 50’s and never associated them as an enemy they fought in the war; recalls her childhood growing up as a volunteer for the war and working for the government on the Preparation for Overseas Movement as a nurse aids, work along the barracks, and other opportunities; shares the lack of mention or talks about the experiences of from the war; mentions the mass of propaganda when a historical society publish quotes and terms that frustrated and presented residents as racists towards the Japanese Americans which caused her to write her first column; remembers the Manzanar issue which cause the society to fight for disbanding the labeling of people by coming up with Americans for Historical Accuracy who were also against the paranoia and wrong impressions people had with America during World War II; recalls the countless times where she would be getting death threats for fighting what she stood for in attempt to silence her which did not work but frustrated her; reflects on how she was able to combat all the negative hate towards her for pushing her narrative.

OH 1346

Narrator: ROLLIN O. BELL
Interviewer: David Bertagnoli
Date: July 15, 1973
Location: Independence, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:19:50
Transcript: Final

Abstract:

An oral history with Rollin Bell, a California highway patrolman who recalls the prewar Japanese Americans in Owens Valley and Inyo County. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Bell's memory of Japanese Americans living in the county and valley where they worked primarily as fisherman and farming; remembers not Japanese Americans living in the valley until after the Manzanar Relocation Center closed down in which he remembers them as good people who didn't cause any trouble to anyone else; recalls the land being leased by the department of water and power and being turned into an internment camp and did not feel bothered because they were friendly and remained in the camp unless they went fishing; mentions that there no indication of trouble or rebelling going on the camp and says many of the older children in the camp had gone to serve in the army during the war.

OH 2003

Narrator: THEODORE A. BINGHAM
Interviewer: Reagan Bell
Date: June 3, 1988
Location: Klamath Falls, Oregon
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:07:51
Transcript: Final

Abstract:

An oral history with Theodore Bingham, a World War 2 veteran who served in the army and was assigned to work at the Tule Lake Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Bingham's upbringing growing up in Washington and his draft into the war in October of 1942 for basic training; remembers not having a clue that he would be assigned to

work at the relocation camp with the Japanese Americans as a clerk; doesn't remember if some of the Japanese Americans had conflicts with the guards that ended with them getting shot at; mentions the heavy military presence of towers, military police, some tank and more after the uprising and commotion at the camps; recounts the stories of when the military police were too harsh on the internees at the camp; reflects on the impact and mistreatment of the Japanese Americans for their relocation away from society solely based on their race.

OH 2381

Narrator: ALAN W. BOCK (1943-2011)
Interviewer: Alfred Brady
Date: May 20, 1994
Location: Santa Ana, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Length: 00:27:12
Audio Formats: Digital, Cassette
Transcript: Final; 9 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Alan W. Bock, editorial writer and columnist of the *Orange County Register*. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to examine the stance that the *Orange County Register* took on the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II and the redress movement. Specifically, this interview details two definitions of conservative political philosophy; the traditional distinction between liberal and conservative; the political values of the *Orange County Register*; contrasting stances in editorials published in the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Orange County Register* in 1942 about the incarceration of Japanese Americans; description of how the *Orange County Register* took the position that Japanese Americans and their families should be viewed as individuals with rights that cannot be infringed on during times of war; discussion of the five recommendations set forth by the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians included in the Civil Liberties Act of 1988; Bock's thoughts about redress, in particular his belief that Congress and the courts should have allowed certain government officials to be sued and held personally responsible for their actions during the war; the abuse of power; how the *Orange County Register* was bought by Raymond C. Hoiles in 1935, which was the reasoning behind the paper's stance on the incarceration; whether or not the paper's stance and concern for the Japanese American community during the war was consistent with conservative philosophy; and how the *Orange County Register* campaigned for the rights of Japanese Americans during the war through their editorials.

OH 1605

Narrator: CLARA OSBORNE BOTZUM
Interviewer: Phyllis Jutagir
Date: April 8, 1978

Location: Parker, Arizona
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:28:46
Transcript: Final, 8 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Clara Botzum, a former member of the Arizona legislature who discusses her life in the Parker, Arizona area since 1902 and her reaction of the local community to the neighboring Poston War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such Botzum's childhood upbringing growing up in Indiana and the west coast where her father was one of the earliest white miners in the area; remembers being in the legislature when Pearl Harbor was attacked and making orders for the construction of the relocation center in Poston; mentions when the city was off limits for the Japanese Americans to eliminate and avoid and possible disturbance and thanks the Japanese for being very cooperative; recalls a majority of the city of Parker being very cooperative with getting along and trading with the Japanese Americans who both benefitted; reflects on the impact of the city and mistreatment of the Japanese Americans and how it should have been prevented.

OH 1402

Narrator: DONALD H. BRANSON
Interviewer: Arthur A. Hansen and David J. Bertagnoli
Date: December 20, 1973
Location: Independence, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:20:56
Transcript: Final, 11 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Donald Branson, an Owens Valley, California resident since 1919 who recollects his experience and involvement outside the Manzanar War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Branson's upbringing growing up in Hunting Beach working in mining, construction, and plumbing where he was employed by the government as running a plumbing team in the Manzanar camp for maintenance work and installation; recalls the countless opportunities for work due to the labor shortage after selling his tale mine to the market since the industry dropped off; describes his fun and positive experience working with 15 Japanese workers who were assigned as plumber under his wing along with

other jobs around the camp that helped their economy flourish; mentions having no contact with any Japanese Americans prior to the war and yet remembers having no animosity towards any of them nor discrimination; expresses the frustration and lack of any need to even create the internment camps and displace the Japanese in the first place; recalls the camp not resembling a concentration camp because they weren't treated badly and had more freedom than others.

OH 1378

Narrator: ARLIE A. BRIERLY
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen & David Bertagnoli
Date: December 06, 1973
Location: Independence, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:16:49
Transcript: Final, 12 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Arlie Brierly, a lifetime resident and civic leader in the Owens Valley, California who discusses the sociopolitical composition of the area and response to the Manzanar War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such Brierly's childhood upbringing growing up as a farmer while attending school; shares his reaction to when Pearl Harbor was attacked and the announcement that Japanese Americans would be relocated to the internment camps; mentions the economic impact from the construction of the relocation center that offered jobs and influx of business; recollects his views on the internment and its policy restrictions; discusses a movement where anti-Japanese Americans supporters got together to strike down a supporters of the Japanese Americans who protested to allows them to leave the camps and shop in their stores; mentions the attitudes and opinions towards the camp director; expresses his justification for the relocation centers but does not like the idea that it is labeled as a concentration camp; reflects on the significance of the recent plaque and its memory of establishing acknowledgment for the mistreatment of Japanese Americans.

OH 1375

Narrator: ROBERT L. BROWN
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: December 13, 1973, and February 20, 1974
Location: Los Angeles, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital

Length: 02:02:27
Transcript: Final, 38 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Robert Brown, a former reports officer and assistant project director of the Manzanar War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Brown's experience with serving as the executive director of the Inyo-Mono Associates voicing the chamber of commerce and representing the people of the counties; recalls when Manzanar officially settled on its site where it was an old, abandoned, large apple orchard with water pipes; describes the amount of resistance to Ralph Merritt who became Manzanar's camp director with his controversy and to himself as well; mentions not having any hostility coming from the townspeople because the camp was much more cosmopolitan than the surrounding towns with 10,000 Japanese evacuees; remembers the Manzanar Free Press including statements where despite being put in a camp, they were thanking the government officials carrying out the orders in an organized way.

OH 1343

Narrator: NED CAMPBELL
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: August 15, 1974
Location: Carmel, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:18:48
Transcript: Final, 31 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Ned Campbell, a former assistance project director of the Manzanar War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Campbell's upbringing growing up in Western Texas in Fort Worth until going to law school in Tennessee for five years and ultimately joining the American Red Cross across many administrative positions such as lifesaving and disaster services; recalls getting paid \$1,800 a year before getting paid \$5,000 plus a house as manager of the tribal enterprises for the new relocation camp being built over his store; expressed his trauma from Pearl Harbor which built up his determination to make the changes and build the camp for the Japanese to participate in the war effort in which his job was to go from camp to camp and help them function smoothly; remembers being criticized for speaking to strikers at the camp and entirely agreeing with their points instead of backing up the executive orders; describes being denied to remove certain troublemakers out of the camp which he feels had they not been removed, the riot would have never happened; expresses his distress

when he was assigned a luxury car to drive around the camp and realizing that it belonged to a Japanese American in the camp and so he felt that he was stepping on them and rubbing it in their face; feels angry about the riot because it could have been prevented and cried for the safety of his wife and child who were living in the quarters.

OH 1349

Narrator: ARLINE CAMPBELL
Interviewer: Sherry Turner
Date: August 26, 1973
Location: Tule Lake, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:28:06
Transcript: Final, 10 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Arline Campbell, a postmistress of the Tule Lake Relocation Center who discusses her personal experiences in the community. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Campbell's tolerant reaction and feelings towards Japanese Americans before the war because of her neighbors and friends; expresses that after the attack on Pearl Harbor, there should have been better efforts to criminalize and intern Japanese Americans who were actually under suspicious activity and let the farming community stay and live a normal life; recalls feeling ecstatic that a Japanese American internment camp would be constructed in their own community to hold them during the war; shares that the military might have held resentment over the Japanese rather than the townspeople because they had been in active duty overseas witnessing the Pacific War; describes the riot that occurred and questioned the security of the camp and left some internees dead; recalls the opportunities and lack of sacristry that applied to the Japanese Americans in the camp in terms of rationed food and goods; reflects on the end of the war and the Japanese Americans who had to move back where they came from and adjust to the a rough life where all their property was gone and jobs were taken.

OH 0078

Narrator: LEE CHAMNESS JR. (b. 1932)
Interviewer: John Sprout
Date: November 25, 1968
Location: Huntington Beach, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Formats: Digital, Open Reel

Length: 01:06:34
Transcript: Final, 20 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Lee Chamness, Jr., a resident of Orange County, California, whose father was the Civil Defense Coordinator in Huntington Beach, California during World War II. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about Chamness, Jr.'s experience living in Orange County prior to World War II and his father's assistance with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's arrests of Japanese people who were allegedly "dangerous" enemy aliens. Specifically, this interview details his father's jobs as Park Commissioner and Police Commissioner for the Huntington Beach City Council before World War II; his father's resignation from City Council at the outbreak of the war; his father's responsibilities as Civil Defense Coordinator during the war; how his father organized the civil defense program; his father's role in working with the FBI to arrest Japanese men and women, many of whom were farmers, in the Huntington Beach area; his father's produce market and business relationships with the Japanese farmers; descriptions of arrests; relocating all planes away from coastal areas and practicing air raid drills; his father's feelings about Japanese Americans in Orange County; his observations of alleged sympathizers of Japan; the Black Dragon Society; stories of Japanese military maneuvers along the California coast; his father's market and produce grown by Japanese American farmers; impressions of pre-war Japanese American farming families; influx of Mexican American and white farmers after forced removal of Japanese Americans from the Huntington Beach area; conditions of Civilian Defense drills in Chamness, Jr.'s elementary school; Huntington Beach residents' reactions to Japanese Americans after the war; Huntington Beach residents' feelings about the incarceration and possible justifications for it.

OH 2655

Narrator: AUSTIN CHRISTENSEN
Interviewer: William Docking
Date: November 29, 1997
Location: Fullerton, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:52:11
Transcript: Final, 20 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Austin Christensen, a child civilian who shares his recollections of her experiences at the Tule Lake Relocation Segregation Center for Japanese Americans. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Christensen's childhood upbringing growing up in Arizona with a very mild climate that relied on cotton as its principal for their farming industry; mentions his father being a cattleman-slash-cowpuncher during the Great Depression and

becoming a relief administrator working for the federal government for the distribution of labor for people; describes graduating from college and joining the U.S Army on active duty while raising his family throughout the war; recalls the move to Tule Lake and living near the relocation center and its bad conditions that seemed unlivable for the Japanese Americans; remembers his arrival to Tule Lake which was the first time he had ever seen or met a Japanese American and observed their recreation and learned how to play pool; expresses the rules and regulations that strictly enforced Japanese Americans from refraining to leave the camp and into the town and lack of contact; mentions the riot that broke out at the camp that left one internee dead; expresses his resentment for the way the government handled the situation which resulted in the Japanese American mistreatment; and reflects on the awareness of noticing the injustices and mistreatments without even an acknowledgement or apology to the victims.

OH 1475.1

Narrator: FRANK CHUMAN
Interviewer: Arthur A. Hansen
Date: January 13, 1975
Location: Los Angeles, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 02:05:56
Transcript: Final, 31 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Frank Chuman, a Nisei lawyer who gives his prewar biographical information and recollection of his internment at the Manzanar War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Chuman's upbringing growing up with parents who arrived to the U.S from Japan; remembers trying to join fraternities and sororities in college but the Japanese were constantly refused or denied to all of them other than a debate organization on campus; recalls being very shocked to find out when he was practicing as a lawyer and actually had clients who were non-Japanese; mentions being very stunned by the attack on Pearl Harbor and not knowing what to do and getting fired by the Board of Supervisors of L.A County under the issue order for all persons of Japanese ancestry which meant that his scholarship was revoked; describes his role as a hospital administrator in Manzanar where he was in charge of medical records, training medical stenographers, recruiting, and keeping track of charts; recalls being proud to have earned 19 dollars a month for such a high position and important job in the camp; reflects on his experience at the camp.

OH 1475.2

Narrator: FRANK CHUMAN
Interviewer: Arthur A. Hansen
Date: January 6, 1975

Location: Los Angeles, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 04:13:09
Transcript: Edited, 89 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Frank Chuman, a Nisei lawyer who gives his prewar biographical information and recollection of his internment at the Manzanar War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Chuman's background going to law school, college, his education, and his process of eventually becoming a lawyer; discusses the legal cases that he got personally involved with that dealt the questioning of the constitutional rights for the Japanese Americans after World War II and the disbanding of the internment camps; mentions the psychology and mindset of certain decision makers and their implications behind the rulings for the posterity; mentions his active involvement in the Japanese American citizens League serving as legal counsel and its national president for two years; recalls proposing a writ to attack the convictions for the testimony of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians where it led to the proof of official misconduct.

OH 1347

Narrator: DOROTHY C. CRAGEN
Interviewer: David Bertagnoli
Date: July 14, 1973
Location: Independence, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:25:15
Transcript: Final, 9 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Dorothy Cragen, a former superintendent of Inyo County, California schools and discusses the refusal of the Inyo County Board of Education to administer schools at Manzanar War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Cragen's opposition of the Japanese Americans being placed in the relocation camp because mostly all the children were Americans and felt it was her duty to work them with them but refused any help from the board of education; mentions that she felt no resentment for the Japanese Americans and felt guilty because they were all so innocent and had nothing but positivity and felt safer in the camp than anywhere else because there was so much resentment for Japanese Americans

outside the camp; recalls the camp having its own commissary, hospital, newspaper, baseball league and over great relationship with the Japanese Americans; remembers a Japanese Americans leaving the camp for the first time and being robbed of all his new belongings he had just bought and returned to the camp out of fear.

OH 1938

Narrator: FRANKLIN CRAY
Interviewer: Reagan Bell
Date: July 29, 1987
Location: Lebanon, Oregon
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:50:55
Transcript: Final, 21 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Franklin Cray, a former National Guard veteran who served as military police under the battalion of the Tule Lake Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Cray's childhood upbringing growing up in Lebanon and join the Oregon National Guard and served in active duty when Pearl Harbor was attacked until he got out; remembers his reaction being assigned to work at the Tule Lake relocation center under the only battalion; recalls the limited servicemen who weren't able to be assigned because of the poor eyesight, weight, and mental illness; describes his daily routine at Tule Lake serving in the dispensary and doing camp duties and enjoying his time; expresses his reaction and feeling bad for the evacuation of the Japanese Americans because they were citizens and had no right to be treated the way they were; recalls the physical isolation and lack of personal contact with the Japanese Americans who were not allowed to community with the guards; reflects on his life after the war had ended and thinks about the live and experiences of the Japanese Americans.

OH 1350

Narrator: JOYCE CUSHMAN
Interviewer: Sherry Turner
Date: August 27, 1973
Location: Tule Lake, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:13:04
Transcript: Final, 6 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Joyce Cushman, a woman who shares her impressions living in town near Tule Lake War Relocation/Segregation Center while fiancé served overseas with United States Army. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such Cushman's lack of hostility towards Japanese Americans before the war and her development of a weird situation of feeling towards them after Pearl Harbor because her husband went to serve in the war; recalls the community not having any reaction when the Japanese Americans settled in the camp until the teachers were held hostage and lack of security before the uprising and noticing the shift in attitudes; mentions the occasions she was allowed inside the camp and noticed no segregation among the Japanese inside and was more mesmerized of the oversized population and rows of housing; describes the Japanese Americans in the camps as excellent gardeners for the unlimited amount of time for recreation and harvesting with permission to leave the camp; reflects on the understanding and necessary action for the internment camps because of the sabotage but does not blame the Japanese Americans for the war.

OH 1601

Narrator: ELLEN DICK
Interviewer: Mariko Yamashita
Date: April 8, 1978
Location: Parker, Arizona
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:33:42
Transcript: Final, 9 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Ellen Dick, a schoolteacher and longtime resident of Parker, Arizona who discuss the impact of the nearby Poston War Relocation Center on the community life. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Dick's recollection growing up, going to school, and getting married in Parker and witnessing the huge presence of construction for Poston; recalls the amount of carpenters, builders, and trains of Japanese piling up in the town but no one having any resentment or malice toward them; describes the security system enforced at the camp with a gate check in, no roads, guards on each end patrolling while internees still went outside; mentions how their presence did not impact the Indian tribes and it actually extend farmland development nor did they feel threatened; remembers one instance when a business owner was the only one to dislike and discriminate the Japanese with a "No Japs" sign until it was publicized and formed him to take it down; expresses the lack of impact the camp had on the lifestyle on the Indians because of their economic changes and growth of agriculture in the valley; shares her recollections of the day of Pearl Harbor; reflects on her impact as a teacher to

these young kids were evacuated.

OH 1612

Narrator: RICHARD DOCKUM
Interviewer: Paul Clark & Mollie Pressler
Date: March 18, 1977
Location: Lordsburg, New Mexico
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:21:12
Transcript: Final, 21 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Richard Dockum, a civil engineer and United States Army reserve officer who was called to active duty during World War II and served as camp adjutant in Army internment camp at Lordsburg, New Mexico. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Dockum's upbringing in the commission cavalry and earning a degree in civil engineering where he was eventually sent to work at the Lordsburg Relocation Center; reveals facts about the two commandants under whom he served, the culture of the camp administration, and the customs and ceremonies of the imprisoned Japanese Americans; reveals the camp community, encompassing internee relationships with camp officials, violent encounters with military police, and residents of the nearby town; recounting the camp impressions and experiences of the Japanese Americans; describes his postwar experiences while being the second-in-command behind the director; and reflections on his experiences returning to civilian life in New Mexico.

OH 1477

Narrator: ABRAHAM DOHI (1923-2008)
Interviewer: Duane Bradford
Date: August 11, 1976
Location: Garden Grove, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Formats: Digital, Open Reel
Length: 01:02:39
Transcript: Final; 36 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Abraham Dohi, minister of Wintersburg Presbyterian Church in Garden Grove, California. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project

for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about Dohi's pre-World War II experience, the Japanese American incarceration during the war, and the cultural relationship of the Wintersburg Presbyterian Church to the Japanese American community. Specifically, this interview details his father's immigration from the Hiroshima Prefecture in Japan to Montana and California; describes how his father met his mother in San Francisco, California; his mother's immigration from the Niigata Prefecture in Japan to San Francisco in the early 1920s; how his mother stayed with her brother and founder of the *Nichi Bei* newspaper, Kyutaro Abiko; his recollections about where he was and how his community was affected by the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor; the description of Japanese school and its role in the community; the relationship between the Japanese American and the white communities; attending community college when the travel restrictions were enforced after the attack on Pearl Harbor; his resentment of the incarceration; his respect for the resourcefulness of the incarcerated when they arrived at the Poston incarceration camp in Arizona; the discrimination that some Japanese American families faced when they returned to Orange County, California; influences that led him to Christianity; the demographics, mission, social, and cultural benefits of the Wintersburg Presbyterian congregation; the influence of theology and relationship of Christianity to Japanese American family in terms of social roles, church leadership, and ethnic identity and integrity; noticeable differences in social, ideological, and religious ritual among Issei, Nisei, Kibei, and Sansei, including funerals and weddings; role of church as a bridge of assimilation; the Japanese American culture's emphasis on education; influences of incarceration on Japanese Americans; and how and why new generations' attitudes conflict with the Christian outlook of what it means to have a successful life.

OH 1389

Narrator: ELODIE M. DREW
Interviewer: David J. Bertagnoli
Date: December 6, 1973
Location: Independence, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:16:23
Transcript: Final, 7 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Elodie Drew, a descendant of a pioneer Owens Valley, California and employee of the Eastern California Museum near the Manzanar War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Drew's upbringing growing up in 1903 in Lone Pine; recalls her husband being a caretaker in the department of water and power where Manzanar was; recalls her sons joining the Navy and the community gathered up to prepare for a war with Japan right after the attack on Pearl Harbor; expresses no one feeling afraid or having any animosity towards the Japanese Americans living in the camp in the same town; remembers

feeling unusual about the Japanese Americans at the internment camp and feeling guilty and miserable for them when they first arrived; expresses that the United States should never have to evacuate anybody or race because of a war or dangerous situation.

OH 3002

Narrator: HELEN EIKI
Interviewer: Gregory Hoiland
Date: March 21, 2002
Location: Garden Grove, California
Language: English
Project: Mexican American Veterans
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:58:58
Transcript: Edited; 22 pages.
Ephemera: Time log, interviewer journal and interviewer final class paper in OH 3001 folder, atomic video

Abstract:

An oral history with Helen Eiki a resident of Garden Grove, California. This interview was conducted for the Mexican American Veterans Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding her time in a relocation center during WWII; she talks about her early childhood and having to relocate to Poston relocation center; she mentions what it was like to return to Southern California; she describes orange county in the early 1950s; she describes what Japan was like before and during the war and the atomic bomb.

OH 1366a

Narrator: SUE KUNITOMI EMBREY
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen and David A. Hacker
Date: August 24, 1973
Location: Los Angeles, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 02:02:25
Transcript: Final; 38 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Sue Embrey, a Nisei co-chairperson of the Manzanar Committee and former editor of the Manzanar Free Press. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Embrey's childhood growing up with parents from Japan including her mother who was a picture pride and

a father who migrated before the war under a labor contract in agricultural work; remembers her father dies leaving her mother to raise ask the kids and get involved in the business and collected uncollected bills; describes her youth living in Little Tokyo attending a grammar school with other Japanese kids; recalls the Nisei feeling odd towards the Kibei because of the language barrier and its hard adjustments into the community; mentions the potential leaders of the Japanese community and the Japanese Association such as the publishers of newspapers who were prioritized under the FBI's list of evacuation and interrogation; remembers feeling upset towards the Japanese American Citizens League because they had sold them out to the authorities who were then beaten up as a result later on in the camps; describes the big differences in Manzanar compared to Bainbridge Island and San Pedro where groups with different lifestyles were grouped together; mentions the Issei holding real power over the Nisei and Kibei in the camp.

OH 1366b

Narrator: SUE KUNITOMI EMBREY
Interviewer: David Bertagnoli and Arthur Hansen
Date: November 15, 1973
Location: Los Angeles, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 02:02:25
Transcript: Final; 38 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Sue Embrey, a Nisei co-chairperson of the Manzanar Committee and former editor of the Manzanar Free Press. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Embrey's recollection traveling to Manzanar by car to Reno and catching a train to Chicago and Wisconsin where evacuees stayed overnight; recalls getting a call and invitation to work as a secretary for a mail-order cheese company by a man named Mr. Hirsch who strongly felt supported towards the Japanese having jobs; recalls lots of people stopping and staring at the, where there would be complete silence with heads turning at every second; mentions not having any amount of shame or remorse for being Japanese until after the war had started because it questioned their cultural identity; describes the resistance from her mother for getting into an interracial marriage instead of dating a Japanese boy; recalls the period of remorse when she had to attend memorial services during a time when she and her mother were not in the best terms; mentions the struggle to get Manzanar to become a historical site accepted by the state and its wording that was too explosive; reflects on the experience of living in the internment camp and its social change back into society after the war.

OH 2426

Narrator: SUE EMBREY
Interviewer: Tim Carpenter
Date: November 21, 1995
Location: Los Angeles, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 02:12:30
Transcript: Final; 50 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Sue Embrey, an activist, educator, and chair of the Manzanar Committee that helped establish the camp into a national historic site who shares her experiences. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Embrey's childhood upbringing being raised by parents from Japan who owned a business; remembers her mother going around collecting her husband's debt and being asked by her mom to help out at the family store instead of going to college; depicts her wartime evacuation to Manzanar because his brother volunteered to help construct the camp; describes her involvement working in the war effort and finding work as reporter for the Manzanar Free Press newspaper; recalls the loyalty questionnaire that allowed the leave clearance for the family in 1943 where she eventually found a job from the War Relocation Authority; discussed her support in the Democratic Club and the Nisei for Wallace which eventually sparked some interest and home visits from the FBI for suspicion; mentions her motivation to start the committee project and her efforts to have Manzanar established as a national history site.

OH 2285

Narrators: SUE KUNITOMI EMBREY, WILBUR SATO, and ARTHUR TAKEI
Interviewer: Tim Carpenter
Date: December 9, 1992
Location: Los Angeles, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 03:26:20
Transcript:

Abstract:

An oral history with Sue Kunitomi Embrey, Arthur Takei, and Wilbur Sato. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of

Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses Art Takei's family background; growing up in Los Angeles; and memories of the evacuation order. Sue Embrey discusses her family history; growing up in the Little Tokyo neighborhood in Los Angeles, recalls the attack on Pearl Harbor and fear in the community; the subsequent evacuation orders and leaving for Manzanar in 1942. Takei and Embrey also talk about their activism and political involvement over the years, discussing work on various political campaigns, involvement with the Nisei Progressives, and visits from the FBI. Wilbur Sato, a Nisei resident of Pasadena, also shares his Japanese American experience. Specifically, he talks about his childhood upbringing with his father arrival in the early 1900s working in a nursery and mother who volunteers for the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps; recalls his vivid memory of Pearl Harbor that Sunday morning and evening where he can hear the terrible bombardment around Terminal Island and anti-aircraft going off; remembers the Japanese Americans were being ordered off the island within 48 hours, which dissolved all friendships and personal belongings and property behinds; describes his trip to the Manzanar War Relocation Center and feeling optimistic on their arrival because of the presence of armed guards but being greeted by other Japanese families; shares his personal loss of nationality and identity because he was targeted and labeled as an enemy of the state and punished his whole family because of it; shares his camp experiences; recollects his departure from Manzanar and transition to Iowa to seek way to strengthen their family and heal the community from the wounds of internment; reflects on the injustice of interning Japanese Americans and his terrible experience as a reminder in his everyday life.

OH 2331.1

Narrator: FRANK EMI
Interviewer: Alan Koch
Date: March 11, 1993
Location: San Gabriel, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:32:36
Transcript: Final, 37 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Frank Emi, a Japanese American who was evicted by the United States government from his southern California home and imprisoned at the Heart Mountain War Relocation Center in Wyoming. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Emi's opinion and ongoing newspaper battle with George Yoshinaga who had made derogatory remarks about draft resisters; expresses her gratitude towards the NCRP (Civil Rights and Redress) and the JACL (Japanese American Citizens League) for providing ongoing education about the Japanese American camp experience and life after the war and its community effects; describes his childhood upbringing living in Los Angeles and going to school with kids all part of farm families; mentioned helping out at the store their father owned after he got injured and selling it

off to make their payments right until the evacuation; recalls first seeing the order through a newspaper and realizing a war had started and prepared for hostilities until they had support from their customers because they understood that they themselves were not an enemy to the state; describes their experience in the camps; reflects on the impact of the evacuation.

OH 2331.2

Narrator: FRANK EMI, ART EMI, AND JAMES OMURA
Interviewer: Alan Koch
Date: February 20, 1994
Location: Unknown
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:32:26
Transcript: Final, 30 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Frank Emi, a Japanese American who was evicted by the United States government from his southern California home and imprisoned at the Heart Mountain War Relocation Center in Wyoming. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Emi's memory of the Fair Play Committee of how unfair the draft resisters were being treated; remembers the time when the Rafu Shimpo newspaper began to get information from the internment camps and have insight on the experience; recalls his experiences in the jail before the impending trail; listen to the testimony of Sam Horino at the trail; mentions when the government announced in early 1944 that it had reopened military conscription for Nisei and would begin drafting them from the internment camps; describes being arrested and charged with conspiracy to violate the Selective Service Act and with counseling others to resist the draft and being sentenced by a federal district court to four years at the Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary.

OH 3734

Narrator: FRANK S. EMI
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: October 6, 2004
Location: San Gabriel, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:40:36
Transcript: Final, 47 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Frank Emi, a Japanese American who was evicted by the United States government from his southern California home and imprisoned at the Heart Mountain War Relocation Center in Wyoming. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Emi's childhood upbringing being born in Los Angeles and growing up learning the business and management of his family's produce market and expanding right before Pearl Harbor was attacked and war was declared for the United States; recalls being forced to sell the family business for less than its original value and being detained at the Pomona Assembly Center before being transferred to the Heart Mountain Relocation Center in Park County, Wyoming; remembers the WRA distributing a "leave clearance form" which was a loyalty questionnaire that attempted to discern the loyalty of the imprisoned Japanese Americans which asked if he would be willing to serve in the armed forces and forswear their allegiance with the emperor of Japan; recalls encouraging others to not answer the questions and posted fliers around the camp and starting the Fair Play Committee to refuse military service until their full citizenship rights were restored and ignoring draft orders; mentions the refusal to attend draft physicals and being convicted of felony draft evasion while he was arrested and sentenced to four years in a federal prison for conspiracy to violate the Selective Service Act despite not being eligible; describes his prison experience before the sentence was overturned by appeals and realizing they were viewed as disloyal and cowards in the Japanese American community because of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team; reflects on his experience being viewed as enemies instead of heroes and resisters of Japanese American injustice.

OH 1478

Narrator: MITSUYE ENDO TSUTSUMI
Interviewer: Carol J. Bielmeier
Date: January 9, 1976
Location: Chicago, Illinois
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Transcript: Final, 7 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Mitsuye Endo, a Nisei who discusses the Ex Parte Endo case in which the Supreme Court decided that the Japanese Americans should not be detained in relocation camps. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Endo's recollection of being dismissed from their jobs by the state of California on the grounds of being Americans of Japanese ancestry, hiring a lawyer from the Japanese American Citizens League, being placed in relocation camps, being released under writ of habeas corpus and winning the case of the making the detainment of Japanese American citizens in camps unconstitutional; describes why Mr. Purcell chose to work on his case because of the confident chances of winning; recalls only being involved in the case through mail with new information about the cases while in the relocation camp; expresses his

gratitude for Mr. Purcell for taking his case and helping him make the detainment unconstitutional because he stood by them through all this time; reflects on her experience and the process of explain her past to her kids who wouldn't understand the context and hardships she endured as a Japanese American at the time.

OH 1750.1

Narrator: AIKO TANAMACHI ENDO
Interviewer: Marsha Bode
Date: November 15, 1983
Location: Riverside, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 04:22:35
Transcript: Final, 21 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Aiko Tanamachi Endo, a Nisei woman who was born and raised in Seal Beach, California who discusses her prewar recollections of Orange County with special attention to the evacuation of Japanese American families. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Endo's upbringing growing up very family oriented and being involved in the farm life where he picked chili beans on the fields; explains his parent's lineage coming from Japan at age sixteen working as laborers in the farms of San Pedro; discusses the interesting transition of Japanese families around her who had to learn to speak English; reflects on how privileged and blessed that her parents had a pretty good living that was comfortable compared to other Japanese families; describes her appreciation for her parents for being lenient growing up as kids; and discusses when her parents retired from their farm after her husband passed and took care of her garden.

OH 1750.2

Narrator: AIKO TANAMACHI ENDO
Interviewer: Marsha Bode
Date: December 1, 1983
Location: Riverside, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 04:22:35
Transcript: Final, 21 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Aiko Tanamachi Endo, a Nisei woman who was born and raised in Seal

Beach, California who discusses her prewar recollections of Orange County with special attention to the evacuation of Japanese American families. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Endo's experiences living in the Hellman and Bixby ranches as well as the association of farmers that created them; describes her experience being evacuated into the Poston War Relocation Center in Arizona, reflects on her experience transitioning back into society after the internment camp shut down once the war had ended as well as her first impressions; mentions attending the nurses' school in Philadelphia with her sister while fearful that they would be abused by gangs who were targeting young people who were leaving the camps; recalls a lot of the friendships she made with other internees in the camp; and reflects on how life has treated her thus far even years after the evacuation and how it stuck with her.

OH 2382

Narrator: TOKI ENDO (b. 1937)
Interviewer: Alfred Brady
Date: May 14, 1994
Location: Yorba Linda, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Formats: Cassette, Digital
Length: 01:43:39
Transcript: Final; 26 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Toki Endo, a resident of Yorba Linda, California. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about Endo's experience at the Salinas temporary detention facility in California and the Poston incarceration camp in Arizona. Specifically, this interview details a brief overview of his family background, including information about his parents, siblings, education, and career; recollections about his family's forced removal from their home in Salinas, California; brief overview of his family's incarceration at the Salinas temporary detention facility and Poston incarceration camp; his father's recruitment by the Office of Strategic Services and his family's subsequent move from Poston to Minneapolis, Minnesota; recollections about Poston, including the extreme weather, Christmas dinner, his mother's strict rules about manners and etiquette, and internees' reactions to the "Statement of United States Citizen of Japanese Ancestry," also known as the "loyalty questionnaire"; his father's occupations as a pharmacist and businessman in Salinas prior to the war; his uncle's experience in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT); his family's descent from wealthy to lower middle class due to the war; strong feelings of guilt and anger resulting from the incarceration and his father's demoralization after the war; how he first learned about the accomplishments of the 442nd RCT from the film *Go for Broke!*; an overview of his father's assets before the war compared with Congress's meager compensation for them immediately after the war; thoughts on the Civil Liberties Act of 1988; his career in the Air

Force, in particular the downing of the B-52 he served in during the Vietnam War; experiences with discrimination and racism in college and in the Air Force; retirement from the Air Force and subsequent work with Hughes Aircraft Company and Northrop; disinterest in joining Japanese American organizations; his personal political philosophy as a flexible, conservative Republican; thoughts about the five recommendations made by the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians which led to the Civil Liberties Act of 1988; redress for Native Americans and African Americans; thoughts about receiving reparations and the *Orange County Register* commentaries on redress; discussion of whether or not the incarceration could happen again; and reasons why he returned to California.

OH 2002

Narrator: CARROL E. FAIRCLO
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen & Reagan Bell
Date: June 2, 1988
Location: Tule Lake, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:44:32
Transcript: Final, 18 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Carrol Fairclo, a World War 2 veteran who served in the army and earned his purple heart and recounts his experience in the war and in the Tule Lake Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Fairclo's draft into the war in 1940 in Washington for training in the infantry for five months before transferring to California; remembers being sent to Africa to recuperate; mentions his friendship with General George Patton who was didn't make the best decisions but wasn't a bad person; describes his honor of earning the distinguished service cross for his heroism and action serving in Italy in 1943; recalls his transfer over to the Tule Lake Relocation Center; doesn't remember being interviewed by anyone regarding his qualifications to work at the camp based on his personal feelings and opinions on the Japanese Americans; describes the camp life and his daily routine arriving by horse and enjoying the mess halls and recreation of countless acres; mentions giving respect to the military police who were nice to the internees at the camp; expresses the town's initial reaction with the construction of the relocation camp to be built for the Japanese Americans.

OH 1603

Narrator: MARIE LEE FITZGERALD
Interviewer: Judy Thames
Date: April 8, 1978
Location: Parker, Arizona
Language: English

Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:19:33
Transcript: Final, 23 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Marie Lee Fitzgerald, a longtime Parker, Arizona resident who discusses the general development of the area and her reactions to the Poston War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Fitzgerald's childhood upbringing growing up in Glendale and being taught how to raise her kids; recalls her very few experiences with the Japanese Americans in Arizona because of the very small population that contributed to the produce farming at the time; mentions the life of Poston, Arizona back then before the war; remembers the feelings and hostilities people had toward the camp of Japanese Americans; recalls never feeling afraid of the idea that the relocation center would be so close to her house; recounts the difficult era where everything and scarce goods and resources for the war would be rationed while the Japanese Americans would use them; remembers feeling nervous and scared about the presence of Japanese Americans in the town for the trouble they might cause because of the restrictions.

OH 1479a

Narrator: GEORGE FUJII
Interviewer: Ronald C. Larson
Date: August 31, 1976
Location: Garden Grove, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:21:57
Transcript: Final, 36 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with George Fujii, a Kibei who details his family background in Japan, move to the U.S and experience being evacuation to Poston War Relocation Center in Arizona. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Fujii's upbringing growing up with parents from a prefecture in Japan before migrating to the U.S to own a restaurant in California; remembers traveling to Japan to attend in grammar school where he was treated badly by the kids and referred to as an American and was brainwashed with learning how to shoot a gun in the second grade; recalls living in Anaheim after high school where it was 65 percent German descent which is why he thinks they accepted the Japanese community; remembers feeling responsible for Pearl Harbor with his close ties to Japan and their people which had fear that his father would be taken away by the FBI; describes the camp life at Poston War Relocation center

while being fearful of the FBI who suspected and interrogated anyone who seemed suspicious enough to be working as an informant for the Japanese; reflects on the idea of being portrayed as a hero after the strike and resisting the draft.

OH 1479b

Narrator: GEORGE FUJII
Interviewer: Russel Nowell
Date: May 21, 1984
Location: Garden Grove, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:12:32
Transcript: Final, 20 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with George Fujii, a Kibei who details his family background in Japan, move to the U.S and experience being evacuation to Poston War Relocation Center in Arizona. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Fujii's his recollection of people not knowing the difference between Japanese or Chinese but still being treated well in Anaheim except for instances where Mexican kids rejected them and discriminated them from public places until they became popular among the community; describes the prejudice and ill-feelings being caused by the attitude toward them; recalls getting placed in jail for going against the draft and sending a letter to President Roosevelt which included the phrase "die in vain"; expressed the disagreement with the opinion of having no right to oppose redress because of lack of experience in the camp but feels the monetary settlement is the ultimate settlement in the American way and is afraid he won't see that money but instead is a token gesture; describes his time being a judge at Poston after the strike which caused the beginning of self-government and re-establishment of self-respect through judging the guilty or innocent; mentions passing the real estate broker and business opportunity broker's licenses where business was great and broke the racial barrier in South Los Angeles with a \$500 dollar commission of each house he sold; reflects back on his experience before the war and during the war to see the impact of the evacuation of Japanese Americans.

OH 1950

Narrator: GERTRUDE FUJII
Interviewer: Jeff Yamada
Date: November 1, 1987
Location: Los Angeles, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History project

Audio Format: Digital
Length: 01:02:52
Transcript: Not transcribed

Abstract:

An oral history with Gertrude Fujii, a former incarcerated of the Santa Anita temporary detention facility in California, and the Amache incarceration camp in Colorado. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. Specifically, this interview details Fujii's childhood upbringing being raised by parents who immigrated from Japan and settled in Los Angeles; discusses her youth and growing up in Los Angeles as a kid and support her family's business; describes her recollection of the day of Pearl Harbor and her reaction; recalls the executive order that made them pack and get ready to be taken to the Santa Anita Assembly Center; expresses her living conditions the horse stables and the eventual move to the Amache incarceration camp; recalls the camp life as well as the recreation, activities and classes; mentions the closure of the camp when they had to resettle back into Los Angeles after the war had ended; reflects on the impact of the relocation camp and the injustice made for evacuating Japanese Americans.

OH 5826

Narrator: KOSUI FUJIKADO (b. 1898)
Interviewer: Carl Mitsu
Date: April 1980
Location: Northern Virginia
Language: Japanese
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital, Cassette
Length: 01:25:47
Transcript: Not transcribed

Abstract:

An oral history with Kosui Fujikado. This oral history was donated to the Center for Oral and Public History Center at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of the interview was to gather information regarding Mrs. Fujikado's experiences as both a Japanese Nisei in the United States of America (1920-1980) and artist of ikebana (floral arrangement). Specifically, this interview details Mrs. Fujikado's personal history; floral arrangement career; early life in Japan during the 1910s; career as a home economic and floral arrangement teacher both in Japan and U.S. during the 1950s; arrival in Seattle, Washington with her husband in 1920; role in establishing the school of ikebana, Century Gentle Art of Ikebana; personal list of cultural/fine art contributions to the nascent community life of Seattle; experience with Ikebana International (Ohara School overseas branch); experience being relocated to Camp Minidoka (near Hunt, Idaho) during World War II; positive impact of McCarran-Walter Act (1952) on her life; experience becoming an American citizen in 1955; involvement with the establishment of the Washington D.C. Ohara School in 1968; experience teaching ikebana to the women at the Japanese Embassy in Washington D.C.; and list of personal achievements and awards received.

OH 1383

Narrator: MARGIE FUJIYAMA
Interviewer: Sue Fowler
Date: January 11, 1973
Location: Undetermined
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:42:13
Transcript: Final, 9 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Margie Fujiyama, a Sansei secretary employed at California State University, Fullerton who was evacuation at Poston War Relocation Center in Arizona. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Fujiyama's upbringing growing up in Sacramento raised by parents with a father who was a wholesale produce broker and mother as a housewife; recalls only having a month warning before they would be evacuated which led them to sell all of their farm equipment, get rid of the car, and pack all their personal belongings; mentions travelling to Poston by train and shares the life and organization inside the camp; describes the barbed wire fence and armed guards surrounding the perimeter and until they were eventually removed; describes the ways in which the internees had to adapt to their new lifestyle by innovating vegetation, recreation, education, etc., remembers leaving the camp to St. Louis with a friend; reflects on the experience at the camp and feels it's a great advantage because of the end for discrimination for the Oriental races.

OH 1336

Narrator: GEORGE T. FUKASAWA
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: August 12, 1974
Location: Fullerton, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 2:29:25
Transcript: Final, 58 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with George Fukusawa, a Nisei resident of Fullerton, California. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families during World War II. This interview specifically detail his family's struggles during war; discusses his parents arrival in the United States from Japan with

his father's background as an educated man with the need for him to take farming jobs, which resulted in his going into business in Orchard farming in Ojai, in Ventura County; describes his parents' attitudes towards discrimination of Japanese Americans; recalls his studies at UCLA, majoring in chemistry, but pursuing a career in photography; describes how everything changed after the attack on Pearl Harbor; how at the time of the attack he was a member of the Santa Monica Auxiliary Police and the vice-president of the Santa Monica chapter of the Japanese Americans Citizens League (JACL); mentions his contact with various agencies, such as the FBI, regarding investigating individuals, but how, in his position with the police, he was able to help dispel many of their suspicions; states that he has no hard feelings against FBI or American government as they were just taking preventive measures; discusses the Kibei chapter of the JACL; describes evacuating to Manzanar and getting married in a hurry before evacuation so he wouldn't be separated from his wife. remembers working in internal security and policing in the camp; recalls the types of crime in the camp; discussed various Japanese American groups and individuals in the camp; expresses the camp atmosphere prior to the Manzanar Riot and the events of the riot itself on December 6, 1942.

OH 1602

Narrator: RUTH FUQUA
Interviewer: Timothy B. Birth
Date: April 8, 1978
Location: Parker, Arizona
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Transcript: Final, 16 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Ruth Fuqua, a longtime resident of Parker, Arizona who describes his family store business during World War II and the community impact from the construction of the Poston War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Fuqua's upbringing growing up in Arizona with parents to bought a business surrounded by an Indian reservation until they died which forced her to run the store with her brother when Poston was established; remembers having good intentions towards Japanese Americans and formed friendships whenever they visited the store; remembers the towns frustration at the idea of the government being afraid of keeping them on the coast because they might be agents for the Japanese which is why they were picked up and hauled over to all the internment camps by trains with no air conditioning; recalls the hatred she got from some townfolks and protest her store for serving business to Japanese Americans from the camp even to the point where she lost a couple friends for a while for not feeling the same way everyone else did towards the internees; mentions the bicultural exchanges between the Japanese and the Indians on the reservations.

OH 1609

Narrator: J.C FUQUA
Interviewer: Fred Lazzelle
Date: April 8, 1978
Location: Parker, Arizona
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:48:59
Transcript: Final, 17 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with J.C Fuqua, a longtime resident and former justice of the peace in Parker, Arizona who describes the building of the Poston War Relocation Center, reaction of the community to the camp, and thoughts on the Japanese American experience. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Fuqua's upbringing growing up in Texas and moving to Arizona as a child learning to become a store merchant; remember the war years in Parker where the economy and store business increases because of the supply and demand; recalls the construction of the relocation camp and the arrival of the Japanese Americans; mentions noticing a lack of panic after the attack on Pearl Harbor and the reactions and hostilities that the camp would be built in the city; expresses his opinions of general Dewitt's options as questionable for punished and relocating the Japanese Americans who were all good citizens.

OH 2330

Narrator: PAUL FURUKAWA
Interviewer: Alan Koch
Date: June 18, 1993
Location: Fullerton, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 03:00:38
Transcript: Final

Abstract:

An oral history with Paul Furukawa, a Japanese American citizen resident of Fullerton whose was evacuated into an internment camp after the attack on Pearl Harbor. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Furukawa's earliest memories working on the farm when he first moved to the area during a harvest season and moving into a house at eight years old; remembers having to attend grammar school and feels it was taken for granted; recalls when his

parents were being held at Terminal Island and afraid they wouldn't come back but didn't realize the severity behind the Japanese American evacuation; mentions having to turn in any evidence or contraband over to the authorities and burning all their martial arts equipment because they didn't want to be framed of being a spy; witnessing his dad being picked up and taken by the FBI because of the people he was associated with; mentions his experience serving as a reserve officer in the weather unit and showing interest in meteorology in the Air Force; and reflects on the break of family units and cultural shifts a result of the evacuation of Japanese Americans and questions how to raise some solutions to the problem.

OH 1752.1

Narrator: YUKIKO FURUTA
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: June 17, 1982
Location: Huntington Beach, California
Language: Japanese & English translation
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 06:25:48
Transcript: Final, 166 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Yukiko Furuta, a pioneer Issei woman of Orange County, California who recollects her childhood as a farmer until her eventual war evacuation to the Poston War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Furuta's experience entering the United States from Hiroshima, Japan at age 18 without American citizenship; recalls meeting her husband who had bought land not cultivated yet and work together with Mr. Akiyama on the farm work to lease acres; recalls her husband's experience coming to the United States to earn a better chance at a job with sustainable weather for the crops; mentions her husband asking the bank to loan him money to start building their house during a time without electricity, no city gas, and indoor bathrooms; describes her grocery store carrying mostly Japanese groceries and clothing with walking distance to the community but hired delivery boys; describes feeling lonely when her husband had to go to work every day and stay home writing letters and reading letters from Japan; reveals her gratitude and appreciation for Reverend Terasawa who was like a father figure to her when she came to the U.S; and mentions her husband becoming the president of the Japanese Association and donating money to the Talbert language school.

OH 1752.2

Narrator: YUKIKO FURUTA
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: July 6, 1982
Location: Huntington Beach, California

Language: Japanese & English translation
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 06:25:48
Transcript: Final, 160 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Yukiko Furuta, a pioneer Issei woman of Orange County, California who recalls her childhood as a farmer until her eventual war evacuation to the Poston War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Furuta's cultural experiences living in Japan where her parents pampered her in the household and then coming to the United States to cook, wash, and everything else in the household by herself; describes her association with the Japanese community in Orange County and be criticized by others for coming from non-farming family who dressed in her best clothes; recalls spending most of her time at home raising her children and the process for the Japanese to learn English from their neighbors when necessary instead of learning systematically; remembers her oldest daughter being the first to leave the camp and invited to Houston to work with a former employer; mentions the impact of Pearl Harbor and its reactions from the family and Japanese community; recalls her and husband's internment by the Department of Justice; and reflects on the postwar experience with the family outside of the camps and congregating back into society.

OH 5287

Narrators: TRAVIS MITA and CHERYL GERTLER
Interviewer: Arthur A. Hansen
Date: May 5, 2002
Location: Fullerton, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:34:19
Transcript: Final, 40 Pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Travis Mita and Cheryl Gertler, relatives of Caryl Fumiko Omura Gertler, conducted for the Japanese American Project at California State Fullerton's Center for Oral and Public History. This interview gathers information about Caryl's marriage to James "Jimmy" Omura before their divorce in 1947. Specifically, this interview tracks Caryl's family history, the Okuma family; describes the family's settlement in San Francisco prior to their internment in the Topaz War Relocation Center in Utah; Caryl's choice to move to Denver, Colorado with her husband, James Omura; her marital issues, and her divorce to Omura in 1947; details her second marriage to Martin Gertler, the children she had with Gertler including Cheryl; she recalls her childhood in Las Vegas, Nevada, her interactions with family; the Americanization their family

went through, the little contact they had with Japanese culture; his recollections of his childhood, his grandmother's exposure to Japanese culture, and family structure; the impact Jimmy Omura had on the Omura family and their recent history into the early 2000s; he details the lineage of the Omura family starting from the Issei (first) generation.

OH 1345

Narrator: MARY GILLESPIE
Interviewer: David Bertagnoli
Date: July 14, 1973
Location: Independence, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:16:21
Transcript: Final, 9 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Mary Gillespie, a longtime resident of Independence, California who recounts impressions of the Manzanar War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Gillespie's upbringing living six miles away from the Manzanar Relocation Center where the community consisted of Chinese but had no Japanese American resident at all until after the relocation camp closed; remembers the Japanese being treated very well despite the presence of armed guards and search light in ever posted corner; describes workers such as carpenters being sent over to the town to start building the camps before the Japanese would be relocated there; recalls the internment camp being used after it shut down as housing quarters for soldiers who were returning home from the service and had nowhere else to live at the time; feels that her attitude towards the Japanese never changed despite the tone of the war changing overtime and having no animosity towards those placed in the relocation center; mentions that the currents grounds of the camp is officially owned by the city of Los Angeles and being leased to current homeowners by the water and power department.

OH 1365

Narrator: DUFF GRIFFITH
Interviewer: Betty E. Mitson
Date: September 21, 1973
Location: Newport Beach, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Transcript: Final, 40 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Duff Griffith, a California native who shares her recollection. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Griffith's upbringing in Hawaii where house servants were filled with single ladies that were Japanese American during the Great Depression for only ten dollars a week; remembers going to public school barefooted where it was filled with all types of ethnicities from Filipinos, Japanese, Chinese and Caucasian; recalls the court system being suspended because of the declared martial law from the attack on Pearl Harbor at Hawaii; expressed the help and aid from the Japanese Americans who were aiding others from the bombing and feeding the people and kept Hawaii moving through tough times; describes being emotionally upset about being relocated and her mother made sure not to tolerate any racial comments from anybody; remembers having to use the blackout curtains to block out any light that was on at night, the patrolmen who secured the perimeter by horse with lights who claimed that the horses could hear the submarine before men could; mentions her forgiveness for the all the derogatory terms and racial tensions towards her because she understood the hysteria at the time and has no hatred for anyone despite it being immoral.

OH 1606

Narrator: M.L. HAILEY
Interviewer: Jon McGraw
Date: April 8, 1978
Location: Parker, Arizona
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:19:56
Transcript: Final, 20 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with M. L. Hailey, a former railroad worker at the Santé Fe Railroad in Parker, Arizona who describes his experiences with the Japanese Americans at the Poston War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such Hailey's service as a telegram operator in Oklahoma working in the railroad before being sent out to Parker as a general clerk to handle claims; recalls when the Japanese Americans were placed in the relocation center in Poston along the Colorado River; remembers his association with Japanese Americans who saw themselves and identified themselves as strictly American and swore no allegiance to Japan; gives them credit for establishing and pioneering the cultivation and agricultural growth for Parker valley; mentions the strict rules placed on Japanese Americans where they could not leave the camp, had to have their mail checked in the post office and more; describes the camp life regarding the medical facilities barracks, sleeping quarters, and more; expresses some instances of hostilities with certain

individuals; reflects on the mistreatment of the Japanese Americans but necessary for the safety of the people that were afraid of espionage.

OH 2239

Narrator: ROBERT HAMBLIN (b. 1936)
Interviewer: Alan Koch
Date: April 27, 1992
Location: Placentia, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Formats: Digital
Length: 01:17:50
Transcript: Final, 22 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Robert Hamblin, a physical fitness educator in Placentia, California. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about Hamblin's life, in particular his perspective on serving in the U.S. military and his reflections on World War II. Specifically, this interview details his childhood in Santa Barbara, Lompoc, and Santa Monica, California; his education at Santa Barbara Elementary School before moving to Lompoc in 1938; living in Lompoc for three years and moving to Santa Monica when his father received a promotion with the Shell Oil Company; demographics and race relations in Lompoc; friendships between Japanese, Mexican, and Portuguese kids in Lompoc; his father's background, including how he was born in England, raised in Canada, joined the Canadian Army during World War I, and met his future wife who was a nurse during the war; the importance of spending time with his father; description of his father's job in the Canadian Army's radio operator signal corps and his mother's job as a lieutenant in the nurse corps; how his parents met when his father was in the hospital with Tuberculosis while his regiment was fighting at the Vimy Ridge in France; growing up in Santa Monica and recreational activities at the nearby beaches; recollections about his childhood experience during World War II, including air raid drills and how the public treated those in military service; serving in the Air Force during and after the Korean War; getting married in Cheyenne, Wyoming, where he was first stationed; going to school in Scott Field, Illinois to learn how to code and decode messages; going to teletype school and traveling with the All Air Force basketball team in Germany; reuniting with his wife at the March Air Reserve Base in Riverside, California; acceptance into Chapman University on the G.I. Bill and a basketball scholarship; his wife's thoughts about his military service; how Hamblin's military service impacted him; his career as an athletics and physical education teacher at Kraemer Middle School and Valencia High School; discussion about the benefits of athletics programs for students; his religious background and involvement with the Christian church; his mother's opposition to inter-religious marriage; his desire to grieve for his son, who was murdered on March 13, 1987, and reluctance to become involved in the church again until he has processed those emotions; reflections on the time his sons spent with their grandparents to learn about their World War I experiences; thoughts about how he teaches moral and ethical values through physical fitness and wellness; reflections on peace studies and serving in the U.S. military.

OH 2052

Narrator: MASAKO HANADA
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen & Toni Rimel
Date: November 28, 1983
Location: Fullerton, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:31:47
Transcript: Final, 16 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Masako Hanada, a Japanese American woman from Garden Grove who discusses her move from Japan to the United States and her experience assimilating to the culture while recognizing her Japanese identity. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Hanaka's trouble with dialects that may be too strong or hard to understand and the generation of families that moved from the mainland; explains the northern region of Tohoku and the dialect developed to help find spies which is not respected; emphasizes the belief that many Japanese people came to America as immigrants because they were related to poor farmers who were not doing too well in Japan which is they left for better opportunities; recalls swimming to be a part of the martial arts and the samurai did little swimming in the Edo period rather than pleasure or sport.

OH 1395

Narrator: FRANK HARRY
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen David J. Bertagnoli
Date: December 20, 1973
Location: Lone Pine, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:09:44
Transcript: Final, 7 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Frank Harry, lifetime resident of Inyo County, California who notes his impressions on the Manzanar War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Harry's upbringing growing up as a child of thirteen years old in the seventh grade

when the Manzanar camp was installed by his house; describes the rumors he heard at school during its construction and vividly share his recollection of the caravan of Japanese Americans that came which scared kids; recalls never having a bad impression of the Japanese despite its negative connotation in tv at the time; describes an instance of his brother in law who worked as a military police having to shoot and kill some Japanese internees for being cocky trying to escape from the camp; remembers no hostility towards the Japanese when he was serving in the army over at Italy who were also good soldiers; describes fishing alongside some internees that would sneak out through the back and be very friendly to each other.

OH 1323.1

Narrator: KEN HAYASHI
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: August 3, 1976
Location: Undetermined
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:34:06
Transcript: Final, 18 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Ken Hayashi, an activist for the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) who was placed in an internment camp during World War 2. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Hayashi's upbringing growing up in Seattle, Washington with a father who was from a prefecture in Japan until the war broke out; remembers joining the JACL and volunteered for the Civil Defense Corps which offers survives to the city and community such as the curfew and preparations; describes his father working and writing for the Tacoma newspaper centers for the Japanese Americans in the northwest; mentions the Japanese community in Seattle where many Asian groups of all ethnicities met and congregated before tensions and prejudice increase from white people; remembers every sizeable city on the west coast having a Japanese Association to discuss any problems or racism; remembers feeling confused and concerned about the acceptance and tension of Japanese Americans right after Pearl Harbor because Japanese schools closed down and didn't know what would happen to them; describes being processed at the Pinedale assembly center for almost three months while still under construction and getting a job as a reporter for the Pinedale Logger; describes the lots of factionalism present at the internment camp which was Pro-Japan and Pro-Americans; mentions his contribution in the JACL such as aiding Japanese Americans with temporary stipends after relocation ended for them to get back on their feet.

OH 1323.2

Narrator: KEN HAYASHI
Interviewer: Ilene Wiederhorn
Date: August 11, 1976
Location: Anaheim, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:34:06
Transcript: Edited, 25 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Ken Hayashi, an activist for the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) who was placed in an internment camp during World War 2. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Hayashi's experience being relocated to the Pinedale Assembly center and processed into Tule Lake which was a relocation center under the War Relocation Authority where 15,000 people were confined by barbed wire around the camp; describes becoming a board member for the JACL and editor of the chapter newsletter with the Ethnic Concerns Committee to receive fair treatment for Japanese Americans; mentions the countless problem and cases where the term "Japs" were considered derogatory remarks towards Japanese Americans and forced schools to not allow this because it was considered racist and had no place in a pluralistic society; describes the emphasis and importance on scholastics for Japanese Americans because of the parental and family morals and values about pride for community honor; reflects on the racist comments made by Supreme Court Justice Earl Warren and hoped that he would publicly apologize or admit his fault as he changed his opinion towards Japanese Americans.

OH 2542

Narrator: FUMIKO HAYASHIDA
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: June 11, 1997
Location: Seattle Washington
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:46:04
Transcript: Final, 52 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Fumiko Hayashida, Japanese American activist who became one of the first Japanese Americans to be interned into the relocation centers in 1942. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of

Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such Hayashida's childhood upbringing growing up in Bainbridge Island raised by parents who immigrated from Japan who grew strawberries; mentions her education and graduating from high school; recalls the moment where she married her husband who is also a second-generation Japanese American as they both began to settle down and farm berries until they started a family; expresses her initial reactions and recollects her memory reading the newspaper when the Japanese had struck Pearl Harbor; remembers being the first group of Japanese Americans from Bainbridge to have six days to pack everything and sell their properties before relocation; mentions her feelings about the picture of her which represented an uncertain future and fearing for her children; recounts her train ride to Manzanar where she was crammed into tight quarters and felt embarrassed that people had to wait until the night to use the bathrooms because of the lack of walls; describes the camp life and daily routine; recalls her departure from the camp and her return to Bainbridge Island and their farm which was in bad condition; demonstrates her post-war activism for the injustices of the Japanese Americans and how they were treated without a form apology or reparations; express and reflects on her involvement of spreading awareness of her story.

OH 1607

Narrator: ISAAC O. HENDRIX
Interviewer: Phyllis Jutagir
Date: April 8, 1978
Location: Parker, Arizona
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:12:12
Transcript: Edited, 61 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Isaac Hendrix, an Arizona resident since 1927 and retired employee of the Bureau of Indian Affairs who describes the Poston War Relocation Center in Arizona. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such Hendrix's involvement as a construction superintendent at the Poston War Relocation Center; remembers being recruited from working with construction crews in Poston with roads and farming; recalls being 3,000 employees working on the relocation center and a big amount of guards where the lumber for the camp was being shipped in trucks in a 3-month span; describes his personal reaction and town reaction to the Japanese Americans upon their arrival to the relocation center; mentions the camp organization and layout of the construction with the irrigation, sleeping quarters; points out the rationing for the townfolks while everyone else in the camp got to use rationed goods which influenced some to have resentment for them; reflects on the mistreatment of the Japanese Americans and their huge contribution for bringing the city to life.

OH 1476.1

Narrator: HANNAH HOLMES
Interviewer: Arthur A. Hansen
Date: August 27, 1981
Location: Fullerton, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 02:15:01
Transcript: Final, 32 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Hannah Holmes, a deaf Nisei teacher who recollects her education at the California school for the Deaf at Berkeley and her experience at the Manzanar War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Holmes's upbringing growing up with parents who immigrated from Japan in 1902 and got married on their farm near Sacramento; describes her living situations with room and board at Manzanar under Block 31 of the first building and second apartment where she was housed with all the other in the same room; remembers working at the camouflage net factory where she enjoyed it and was fast but was warn not to work there anymore by her parents because of the recent riot and was worried the guards would shoot her for nothing; describes the transfer to Tule Lake War Relocation/Segregation Center until the war ended; reflects on her resettlement to California and postwar experience.

OH 1476.2

Narrator: HANNAH HOLMES
Interviewer: Arthur A. Hansen
Date: February 8, 1982
Location: Fullerton, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:02:54
Transcript: Final, 32 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Hannah Holmes, a deaf Nisei teacher who recollects her education at the California school for the Deaf at Berkeley and her experience at the Manzanar War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Holmes's memory of a very

passive teacher who was not caring nor qualified because she did not know how to communicate with deaf students apart from having a snobbish attitude; describes how she got admitted and recommended to the California School for the Deaf at Berkeley when teacher didn't have the time to teach her; remembers returning back home when Japanese aliens and citizens started to go into hiding to avoid any chance of evacuation; recalls having a short notice and order to leave and only take what was necessary while feeling very confused, unhappy, and afraid of the FBI; mentions being overprotected in the camp around any boys especially with reports that girls were attacked in the middle of the night; describes a play directed by Mako and Tsuchuko Hochi with a portrayal of herself and made an accurate rendition of her experience in Tule Lake.

OH 1394

Narrator: JACK B. HOPKINS
Interviewer: David Bertagnoli & Arthur Hansen
Date: December 20, 1973
Location: Lone Pine, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:03:56
Transcript: Final, 16 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Jack Hopkins, a longtime Inyo County, California business and civic leader who recounts his impressions of the Manzanar War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such Hopkins' childhood upbringing growing up; describes the city life and community association of the residents at Lone Pine; mentions the economic impact on the city of Lone Pine; recalls when the Manzanar would be constructed in his city to house the Japanese Americans; mentions the reactions and attitudes from the townfolks and feelings regarding the Japanese Americans; recalls the camp organization and administration that enforced the policies in the camp that kept the internees from going outside of visiting the town to go shopping for food; reflects on the significance of the memorial plaque of Manzanar that feels true regarding the humiliation of Japanese Americans for being a victim of such mistreatment.

OH 1764

Narrator: YOSHIO HORA
Interviewer: Joseph Manly
Date: September 18, 1976
Location: Denver, Colorado
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:27:44

Transcript: Final, 9 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Yoshio Hora, a Nisei native of Watsonville, California who describes his reaction to Pearl Harbor and relocation to the Poston War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Hora's family heritage of his dad coming over from Japan with his parents and returned with his mother where they became farmers and sharecroppers on a cash ranch while he attended grade school; recalls not holding any allegiance with Japan because he wasn't familiar with Japan but his parents still has some sentiments toward their old country; remembers farming on a Sunday and hearing a report that the war had been declared because Pearl Harbor was attacked that morning; mentions the rumors of packing all their things during the curfew and being worries they would be relocated; remembers feeling sad to being at a good financial standing point in their lives until they lost all their properties of the cash ranch and turn their car over to the bank; mentions being taken to the Salina Rodeo Grounds assembly center that was surrounded by barbed wire and used as barracks to hold the Japanese until his arrival to Poston; reflects on his family's resettlement back in Colorado and his present views on relocation and the reparation for the Japanese.

OH 1337

Narrator: SOICHIRO HORI
Interviewer: Paul Erickson
Date: July 16, 1973
Location: Los Angeles, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:54:26
Transcript: Final, 17 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Soichiro Hori, a Kibei interviewee who was placed in an internment camp at Manzanar War Relocation Center during World War II. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Hori's upbringing growing up with parents who immigrated into the United States from Japan to work in the farming areas to seek better living condition and make money to be able to take back home to Japan; recalls spending his whole childhood in Japan after his parents dropped him off and returned just before the war to attend school and work on his father's farm; describes being sent to Manzanar and volunteering for the labor shortage by cutting sugar beets and harvesting potatoes and working on the field; mentions having to fill out the questionnaire to prove their loyalty to either the empire of Japan or to the United States to which he qualified to work for the navy in Colorado to train others to speak Japanese along with writing, and reading.

OH 1769

Narrator: JUNE IGAUYE (b. 1919)
Interviewer: Nancy Aweimrine
Date: November 12, 1984
Location: Los Angeles, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Formats: Digital; Cassette
Length: 01:03:09
Transcript: Final; 29 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with June Igaue, a resident of Los Angeles, California. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for the California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Igaue's experience at the Poston incarceration camp in Arizona. Specifically, this interview discusses Igaue's childhood on her parents' family farm in Lancaster, California from 1919 to 1937; childhood recreational activities; how her parents met and their marriage in the United States; how they immigrated from Japan to Seattle, Washington, Hollywood, California, and settled in Lancaster; feelings of comradery between neighbors and amongst the children she went to school with in Lancaster; recalled a moment when she stood up for herself at school and between neighbors; recollections about where she was on the December 7, 1941 attack of Pearl Harbor; recollections about her move to Hollywood; how she worked for sculptor Gladys Lewis Bush and traveled with her to exhibitions to help her sell her work; her experience packing and storing her family's possessions during their forced removal from Lancaster to Poston; how she thought of the incarceration experience as an adventure; the contrasting experiences of her parents, who were devastated from camp; the living conditions in Poston; the camp's population; food and daily activities; recollections about work opportunities for incarcerated; making toys for the camp's pre-school and selling them to raise funds for the camp; sneaking out of Poston to discuss politics, go on picnics, and search for fossils; how she spent time with sculptor Isamu Noguchi while he was making art in Poston; differences between Japanese and Japanese Americans in terms of loyalty to Japan or the U.S.; the camp's recreational activities like playing baseball with Native Americans from the nearby Poston reservation; how she and her sister were released from the Poston incarceration camp in 1944; her experience working at a psychiatric hospital and in artists' studios in Peoria, Illinois; her return to Los Angeles and marriage in 1947; how her family recovered their property and tried to get back items from their neighbors after they were released from Poston; her feelings towards the U.S. government's decision to incarcerate Japanese Americans during World War II; how her cousin served in Military Intelligence during World War II while her uncle father was taken to a camp in Louisiana, most likely Camp Livingston, a Department of Justice camp; thoughts on whether or not the incarceration could happen again; thoughts on U.S. Senator Hayakawa's belief that the incarceration was legal given World War II and thus, redress was not valid; thoughts about whether or not Japanese Americans will receive redress.

OH 1230

Narrator: DR. CRAIG KEI IHARA
Interviewer: Betty E. Mitson
Date: December 18, 1972
Location: California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 1:50:22
Transcript: Final, 40 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Dr. Craig Kei Ihara, a Sansei born at Rohwer Relocation Center in Arkansas. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families during World War II. This interview specifically details Ihara's family's struggles during war, including his family struggles during relocation; explains how his grandfather was taken away by the FBI to the detention camps; shares how they managed to keep their home while they were at the camp; recalls his grandfather had to lose his job and start his business over; reflect on how a positive attitude kept them going; discussed when his family first came to the U.S. and settled in California; remembers how his brothers struggled with their jobs due to the war; shares his experiences attending the Japanese-American church; points out his educational background, including Gardena High School, Stanford, and UCLA; described the differences he felt while at college due to his nationality; discussed his married life, his and his wife's relocation to Los Angeles; remembers how no one from his family liked the cold winters and poor living conditions, so they all found their way back to the West Coast; reflects how his life in camp was miserable but still he and his family don't have any complaints and they have moved on with their lives.

OH 3341

Narrator: TONI IHARA
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Date: March 24, 2017
Location: Fullerton, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 02:46:32
Transcript: Final, 35 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Toni Ihara, a Japanese American woman from Fullerton show shares her parent's experiences being detained at the Rohwer Relocation Center in Arkansas. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the

incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Ihara's childhood memories growing up in Los Angeles with her grandparents in a very diverse neighborhood of Latinos, African Americans, Jewish, and Middle Eastern; mentions her parent's background and private life of keeping their internment experience to themselves instead of telling their children about it; recounts her parent's recollections of their experience in the Rohwer camp, getting married in the camp, discusses her parent's life in Los Angeles and their expectations in life made by their parents such as going to college; recalls the expanding of their business into different legal aid subjects by finding alternatives to lawyers through books and self-education; shares her strong personal connection with protesting against Vietnam because of the draft; mentions the impact Berkeley has made on him and her mother; recalls the difference in cultures of traditional and non-traditional Japanese American families; remembers her parent's refusal to ever share their feelings, expressions, or trauma regarding their internment experience; reflects on her parent's experiences in the camps and how it shaped her moral values of education.

OH 1338

Narrator: FRANK KIYOSHI ISHIDA
Interviewer: Robert M. Kasper
Date: July 18, 1973
Location: Undetermined
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:58:51
Transcript: Final, 12 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Frank Ishida, a Sansei insurance agent who was placed in the Manzanar War Relocation Center during World War II. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Ishida's upbringing growing up in California with grandparents who immigrated from Japan to have a better life away from the poor farming class in Japan; describes his father who had an arranged marriage and came to Los Angeles to work in a nursery and own a produce market in a Caucasian community in order to get by before moving to a different location; recalls his father asking his Mexican friend to look after his nursery while he was gone at the relocation center during the war but what shipped to the Philippines as an interpreter; remembers the internment camp being fenced around with barbed wire and towers with machine gunners manned by soldiers patrolling the area; mentioned that although his father never directly told him about any prejudices he faced during the war, he had to be better than the next person in regards to talent and grades if he wanted to be successful in this Caucasian world; describes his father's experience serving in the war where he eventually gathered information about bombings in Kobe, Japan which really affected the Japanese Army and their intelligence; reflects on the

impact of his father's journey being evacuated to a relocation center.

OH 1339

Narrator: SEIKO ISHIDA
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: August 6, 1974
Location: South Gate, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:34:07
Transcript: Final, 37 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Seiko Ishida, a retired Kibei teacher who was placed in an internment camp during World War II. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Ishida's upbringing growing up in Seattle, Washington since 1910 with parents who immigrated from Japan back in their mid-teen years with intention to work for three years under a labor contract and promise his mother to return; mentions his dad staying longer than his promised three years and becoming a farm owner of strawberries before sending his Seiko back to Japan because of the economic hardship of raising two kids; recalls his family breaking apart at age thirteen and becoming self-sufficient with ten dollars a month since his father no longer came around; describes the buses that came to pick him and send him to Manzanar after Pearl Harbor; discusses his living situation in the barracks and blocks; mentions the process of resettlement after the war ended and adapting back to what life was like before the war.

OH 1342.1

Narrator: AMY UNO ISHII
Interviewer: Betty E. Mitson
Date: July 9, 1973
Location: Fullerton, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:55:17
Transcript: Final, 13 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Amy Ishii, president of the Hollywood chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League as she discusses her recollection of World War II. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The

purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Ishii's upbringing being raised by parents from Japan who had a large influence of American culture instilled in them from the missionary schools and dairy condensed milk shipped to Japan until they arrived to the United States; recalls being raised in the true American way of living and how people envied them because they treated America like their adopted home and combatted all their cultural setbacks; reflects on how her parents were able to get through the Great Depression years despite her mother giving birth and raising ten children without a sweat; describe moving out of the house at just 12 years old just to help out her mother and her financial situation which would help because she would not have to worry about her looking for a job; mentions their intentions to keep their citizenship in the United States and not return to Japan and keep the family tree in the U.S; recalls her father being taken away by the FBI and her mother having to request the birth certificates of all her children on her own for safety purposes to avoid the chances of evacuation.

OH 1342.2

Narrator: AMY UNO ISHII
Interviewer: Kristin Mitchell
Date: July 20, 1973
Location: Los Angeles, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:51:39
Transcript: Final, 30 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Amy Ishii, president of the Hollywood chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League as she discusses her recollection of World War II. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Ishii's schoolgirl labor as she moved out of her house and moved in with a Caucasian family for domestic help like chores, babysitting, cleaning and more at just twelve years old for 8 dollars a month; recalls feeling shocked when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor which caused her to diminish as no longer would families would continue to have a Japanese American in their households; describes having to visit their father at Griffith Park which turned into a processing center for Japanese Americans and anyone who was considered dangerous was essentially taken away; mentions that despite the change to avoid the evacuation of Japanese American (Executive Order 9066) by taking their families and moving inland, other states would not let these people pass through which was led to their eventual evacuation anyway; remembers being taken to the Sana Anita Assembly Center before being separated to Heart Mountain while her family went to Amache, Colorado.

OH 1757

Narrator: CHARLES ISHII
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: August 18, 1981
Location: Santa Ana, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 02:47:57
Transcript: Not transcribed

Abstract:

An oral history with Charles Ishii, a Nisei businessman and former councilman from the pioneering Fountain Valley Japanese American community in Orange County, California. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Ishii's upbringing growing up in Orange County with his siblings and father who came from the Japanese prefecture of Kawakumi, Fukuoka; recalls his time at Fountain Valley School where he graduated from high school and college to play baseball for the Orange County Japanese softball team and mentions his active participation in the Orange County chapter of the Japanese Americans Citizens League; mentions his draft registration and his departure to the Los Angeles Induction Center into the U.S Army until he was stationed at post headquarters when the war broke out; remembers being interrogate by the FBI regarding his affiliation with a Japanese language school while his family was evacuated into a relocation center back home; depicts his time assigned to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the 552nd Field Artillery Battalion; and reflects on his appreciation after the war to keep all his belongings and property for knowing the right people while other Japanese American families has their farms sold out and no home to go back to.

OH 2987

Narrator: KUNI ISHII (b. 1919)
Interviewer: Andrea Bass
Date: May 25, 1994
Location: Santa Ana, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Formats: Digital, Cassette
Length: 01:09:38
Transcript: Final; 45 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Kuni Ishii, a resident of Santa Ana, California. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about Ishii's experiences at the Florin temporary detention facility in California and the Jerome incarceration camp in Arkansas during World War II. Specifically, this interview details her Issei parents' arranged marriage and immigration from Japan to San Francisco, California; her childhood and education in Japan as a Kibei; her return to the U.S. in 1937 while her four younger siblings remained in Japan; her father's employment as a cook for Juliet Smith, who owned a business school in the Presidio; her employment as a "schoolgirl" for Juliet Smith in exchange for room and board while she attended school and learned the English language; Japanese values and her relationship with her parents; the return of her younger brother to the U.S.; the outbreak of World War II, causing her three siblings to remain in Japan for the duration of the war; her family's economic situation compared with other Japanese families prior to the war; her family's inability to send her to college; attending tailoring school in San Francisco and working as a tailor's assistant at the outbreak of the war; the uncertainty and fear her family felt when they learned that Pearl Harbor was attacked by Japanese military forces on December 7, 1941 because her siblings were still in Japan; packing and forced removal from their home in San Francisco; recollections of the Jerome incarceration camp, including working at the hospital and how her parents saw being in camp as an opportunity to pursue activities of their own choosing; her father's work as a cook in Chicago, Illinois; the family's move to Chicago after the war; meeting her husband at a USO dance at Camp Shelby in Mississippi, their wartime correspondence, and marriage; her parents' move from Illinois to San Francisco after the war; moving from Chicago to Southern California and adjusting to living on her husband's family farm in Orange County; the return of her younger siblings to the U.S. after the war; the marriage process in Japan and circumstances of her younger sister's marriage; her contentious relationship with her father-in-law regarding payment for working on their farm; adopting two boys from the Children's Home Society; and dating in Chicago and at Jerome.

OH 1324

Narrator:	MICHAEL ISHIKAWA
Interviewer	Robert Perea
Date:	August 25, 1976
Location:	Los Angeles, California
Language:	English
Project:	Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s):	Digital
Length:	1:13:14
Transcript:	Final, 21 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Michael Ishikawa (Mike), a Nisei and born at Granada War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families during World War II. This

interview specifically details Ishikawa and his family's struggles during the war; mentions his experience about being born in camp as a fisherman and how his parents met in camp through a social event; recall how his father was in the military (the 442nd), and that his parents were married in camp, but shortly after his father was shipped overseas; discusses the family's move to San Diego after father got out of the military; goes into detail about the racism that he faced in school; remembers being around a more diverse group of people during his junior-high and high school years; mentions how he first developed an interest in politics during high school; remembers his parent's dream of him becoming a dentist until he told his parents about his interests and their reaction; discusses his first job in civil service as a junior psychologist, moving back to Orange County, joining JACL, and winning by one vote for the position of governor; described all the work that came with the position; reflected on the issue and relevancy of carrying on the traditions of his culture.

OH 2425

Narrator: SAKAE ISHIHARA
Interviewer: Tim Carpenter
Date: November 28, 1995
Location: Monterey Park, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 02:30:38
Transcript: Final, 48 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Sakae Ishihara, a Nisei Japanese American war veteran who served under the military intelligence branch of the Army who describes his experience in the U.S. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Ishihara's involvements starting the Los Angeles chapter of the Nisei campaign in 1947 to support Henry Wallace as a third party presidential candidate who advocated for Japanese American reparations; remembers the day of Pearl Harbor where he was given strange looks and had a school assembly that warned students to not treat the Japanese Americans any different from themselves; recalls being accepted into military intelligence school and completing his basic training before being sent to the Army Air Corps and shipped overseas; mentions the day of the bombing of Hiroshima where he was writing news reports of the action and inform the general; reflects on his opinions toward President Roosevelt as a savior for the country and understanding the reason for evacuating Japanese Americans because of the political climate.

OH 5865

Narrator: LYNN E. IWASA
Interviewer: Steve Sewell
Date: May 9, 1994

Location: Irvine, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:31:52
Transcript: Final, 33 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Lynn Iwasa, a Japanese American resident from Irvine who was an incarcerated born at the Manzanar War Relocation Center who recounts his experiences. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Iwasa's family background of his father from Japan and his move to the United States while his mother was born in Washington as part of strawberry farming family and left the island they lived in to meet his dad; recalls the very little information her parents gave his about their evacuation experience and internment and hearing nothing negative after the closure; mentions their resettlement back from Chicago to Los Angeles to work at the hospital in Little Tokyo and being part of the increasing Japanese community and starting his formal education; expresses his mother's interested in his Japanese American heritage instead of downplaying his culture passed on to his children; reflects on his mother's reason for not talking about his internment experience to his children because he felt it wasn't important and had to move on; mentions how his parents viewed the internment camps more like concentration camps; describes his lack of action of informing his own children about his parent's experience at the internment camps to understand their roots and injustice; expresses his frustration to probable know as much as the average person in his neighborhood of the Japanese American evacuation and the different experiences of some feeling bitter and others like his mom who enjoyed himself; reflects on the importance of educating everyone about the experience of Japanese Americans as well as the concentration camps in Europe.

OH 0884b

Narrator: YONEKA DOBASHI IWATSURU
Interviewer: Diane Tappey
Date: January 19, 1984
Location: Yorba Linda, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Transcript: Final, 29 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Yoneka Iwatsuru, a Japanese American resident of Yorba Linda who was placed in an internment camp in Rohwer, Arkansas during World War II. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of

Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, topics include Itwatsuru's upbringing growing up in Yorba Linda with her mother who was from Japan as a picture bride and father who was a farmer; remembers helping out the family agriculture business at an early age with picking and weeding the fruits and vegetables; recalls being the only Japanese family in the area before any of the relocations occurred; shares the increase in Japanese Americans once she graduated high school and her effort to support her parents during the depression by dropping out of junior college and help her father on the farm; describes being ordered to drop everything and leave the farm once the war broke out in 1941; remembers being sent to the Santa Anita Racetrack packed in tight, unsanitary horse stalls until they left for relocation in Arkansas; recalls getting married with her husband and the reception outside the camp and returning to their Yorba Linda home with everything satisfactorily well in their absence; reflects on going back to normal after the relocation ended and adjusting to the influx of new Japanese American families in Orange County and Yorba Linda.

OH 1521

Narrator: HELEN JOHNSON
Interviewer: David Bertagnoli
Date: January 3, 1975
Location: Dermott, Arkansas
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Formats: Digital
Length: 00:44:31
Transcript: Final; 14 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Helen Johnson of Dermott, Arkansas, a Dermott Post Office worker who worked with the incarcerated at the Jerome incarceration camp in Arkansas. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to better understand the relationship between Dermott and the Jerome incarceration camp. Specifically, this interview details Johnson's observations of how the Dermott residents found out about the camp; their reactions to it; their views that the Japanese Americans were suspicious and disloyal to the United States; how the Dermott Post Office was connected with the Jerome camp's post office; the type of mail that incarcerated received in camp; Dermott residents' attitudes toward soldiers who were members of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team; the incarcerated's shopping excursions to nearby towns of Lake Village and Portland, Arkansas; residents' feelings about the legislation that Arkansas was trying to pass to prevent Japanese Americans from owning property in the state; residents' feelings about incarcerated attending Arkansas schools after graduating from high school in the Jerome camp; Dermott ministers' relationships with incarcerated and the camp in general; the incarcerated's recreational activities including hunting, fishing, and folk art; how the construction of the incarceration camp brought an increase in labor from residents of McGehee, Lake Village, Portland, and Dermott, Arkansas; the assimilation of Chinese and Italian immigrants into Dermott prior to World War II; Johnson's recollections of how Dermott politicians worked with the Japanese American leadership in Jerome; Japanese American youth's resentment of their

incarceration at Jerome; how incarceratedees dealt with death and buried their dead at the Rohwer camp; Johnson's personal feelings about the incarceration.

OH 1610

Narrator: E.C. JOHNSON
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen & David Hacker
Date: March 23, 1978
Location: Parker, Arizona
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:53:33
Transcript: Final, 18 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with E.C. Johnson, a longtime Arizona resident and businessman in Parker, since 1941 who comments upon his personal and community reactions to nearby Poston War Relocation Center during World War II. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Johnson's upbringing growing up and moving around from state to state until he joined the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression and landed in Parker, Arizona to work for the Indian Service until he opened his own mechanic shop in 1941; remembers the bombing of Pearl Harbor, causing the twenty-fifth Infantry from Fort Huachuca, Arizona and aircraft artillery and the eventual presence of 3,500 men arriving in Parker to start the construction of the Poston Relocation Center; describes his involvement being called to the camp to weld up the sewage system; loading lumber, and dealing with the strike; recalls feeling frustrated for the unequal treatment of the Japanese American royal lifestyle in the camp where they had access to everything while the Indian tribes had to scrounge to survive; mentions trying to help the Japanese Americans get settled in and situated once they arrived on the trains from Arcadia; describes his personal friendship with Wade Head, the director of the camp who respected everyone and was considerate to every person in and out of the camp; reflects on the life and quality of Parker once the Japanese internment camp was closed as it greatly affected the economy with the immense population of Anglos and Japanese Americans; expresses the justification for the government to evacuate Japanese Americans in the west for their protection and is positive there was no sabotage from any of the Japanese Americans while they were in the relocation camps.

OH 1768

Narrator: HAZEL JONES
Interviewer: Nancy Hunsaker
Date: February 27, 1975
Location: Arroyo Grande, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project

Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:54:02
Transcript: Final, 48 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Hazel Jones, a former teacher and administrator for schools in California and Colorado who describes her experiences serving as a teacher and instructor for Japanese American students in the internment camps after the evacuation. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Jones' childhood upbringing in a small town of Colorado and growing up in a mining area and getting into college to be a teacher; remembers earning her teaching credential after graduating and it being a bad time because it was right after the Great Depression and living in the middle of the dust bowl where teacher jobs were scarce; remembers seeing an opportunity for teacher position interviews to work at the Japanese relocation camps despite not knowing much as the relocation camps; recalls the primitive schooling for students in the barracks where she taught English and social studies to eighth graders while supervising the study halls; mentions how Americanized all the children were for speaking fluent English and being silent and respectful when it was time for school; and reflects on her experience teaching kids in internment camps and resigning with the impact she had hoped to make.

OH 1385

Narrator: JOSEPH ETHELYNE
Interviewer: David Bertagnoli
Date: October 4, 1973
Location: Lone Pine, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:15:08
Transcript: Final, 6 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Joseph Ethelyne, a wife of a prominent Inyo County, California grocer who discusses the economic impact of the nearby Manzanar War Relocation Center on the community of Lone Pine. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Ethelyne's background growing up in Minnesota and moving in 1938; remembers her first reactions when she finds out Manzanar camp would be built in the town without a warning; recalls the Japanese not being permitted to leave nor be able to go to the shops in town and send the army to shop for them; mentions feeling that the incarceration of the Japanese Americans as the right thing to do because of the circumstances; comments on attitude of area citizens toward wartime evacuation of Japanese Americans, reflects on the plaque memorial and its significance with the way its worded; reflects on how their lives

were not so bad because of the recreation and termed it much more like a camp than an internment camp.

OH 1277

Narrator: RODNEY KAIHARA (b. 1941)
Interviewer: Patricia Morgan
Date: March 25, 1973
Location: Placentia, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:21:45
Transcript: Final; 17 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Rodney Kaihara, a Sansei landscape architect reared in Orange County, California. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about his life experiences since childhood at Poston War Relocation Center, Arizona. Specifically this interview discusses Kaihara's earliest memories at the Poston internment camp and his family's transition from farmers to gardeners; reflects on the prejudice in Mexican American community of Placentia; thinks back on the lack of discussion about relocation among family members; mentions the cultural and family expectations regarding education and behavior, Japanese American cultural practices and rituals including holidays, religion, funerals, weddings, and language; describes the situation with interracial dating; remembers the feelings of inferiority among dominant culture; reflects on the stereotyping towards the Japanese Americans.

OH 2268

Narrator: VICTOR KAMBE
Interviewer: Mathew J. Hoffman
Date: November 23, 1992
Location: Torrance, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:34:00
Transcript: Final, 22 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Victor "Ferrell" Kambe, a Japanese American citizen who was evacuated into the Minidoka Internment camp before returning to the west coast who shares his recollections of his experience after Pearl Harbor. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and

their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Kambe's childhood upbringing raised in Seattle, Washington with immigrant parents from Japan with a priority to Americanize his children; describes his family and community life in Seattle with the Japanese and the lack of racial prejudice; recalls the day of Pearl Harbor and his first reaction to rush home while his mom blackout the entire house because their father was taken to a detention center by the FBI and sent overnight to Montana; reflects on the intentions behind the displacement and internment of Japanese Americans seeing as they prepped and gathered certain members of the community fast; describes being sent to the Puyallup County Fairgrounds where his family stayed for three months until the barracks were completed; shares the life in camp and structure of the community and details his camp experience; recalls his efforts find a jobs to support his new family after leaving the camps and trying to assimilate back into society with his sick wife and racist experiences.

OH 1755

Narrator: SHIZU KAMEI
Interviewer: Tony Rimel & Masako Hanada
Date: January 23, 1984
Location: Anaheim, California
Language: English and Japanese Translation
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:45:49
Transcript: Final

Abstract:

An oral history with Shizu Kamei, an Issei pioneer woman from the Wakayama prefecture of Japan who details her transition across the United States and evacuation into the Poston War Relocation Center in Arizona. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Kamei's family upbringing traveling to San Francisco for the sugar farms by ship at eight years old; remembers her parents separating and her father arriving from Hawaii before their divorce where she stayed with her mother for years until they decided to join her father in America; recalls everyone not being able to understand or speak English in school because they had difficulty; mentions the small villages and the community life from her time at Wakayama; reflects on the life pattern of people living in the Japanese American community in Orange County; and describes her marriage process back in 1922; mentions her evacuation to the Poston Relocation Center.

OH 2372

Narrator: HENRY KANEGAE (1917-2005)
Interviewer: Ron Weston
Date: May 19, 1994
Location: Santa Ana, California

Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Formats: Digital, Cassette
Length: 00:58:00
Transcript: Not Transcribed

Abstract:

An oral history with Henry Kanegae, a resident of Orange County, California. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Kanegae's experience in Orange County prior to World War II, his experience at the Poston incarceration camp in Arizona during the war, and his return to Orange County afterwards. Specifically, this interview details Kanegae's experience growing up on his family's farm in Southern California; his educational background at Huntington Beach High School, Garden Grove High School, Santa Ana College, and U.C. Davis; his older brother's purchase of a farm in 1934 and the family's move to Garden Grove, California; taking care of his older brother, who died of kidney failure; getting married at twenty-years-old; how his young family survived the 1937 influenza epidemic; the births of his first daughter in November 1938 and his second daughter in January 1941; forced removal from Huntington Beach, California to Poston; his membership and involvement with the Presbyterian church; the helpfulness of Presbyterian church members, which was mostly comprised of German immigrants from Westminster, California; the Quaker church's advocacy on behalf of Japanese Americans during World War II; how the Quakers encouraged Japanese Americans to attend East Coast universities and helped them obtain scholarships and housing; feelings of distrust between the Japanese and German members of the Presbyterian church; discussion of the Atomic bomb and bombings in Europe during World War II; thoughts about harvesting sugar beets in Albuquerque, New Mexico after the war; how Kanegae's boss defended him and other Japanese Americans who were harvesting sugar beets; thoughts on how Christian churches could have helped the Japanese American community during and after the war; travel, recreational, and church activities at Poston; earning his private pilot license before the war; racial tensions in Orange County after the war; thoughts on death and his experience in a plane crash; and his outreach work to seniors.

OH 2379

Narrator: ELSO KANAGAWA (1920-2018)
Interviewer: Christopher Nakano
Date: May 12, 1994
Location: Los Angeles, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital, Cassette
Length: 01:35:15
Transcript: Final; 26 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Elso Kanagawa, a resident of Los Angeles, California. This interview was

conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. This purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Kanagawa's experiences at the Stockton temporary detention facility in California and the Rohwer incarceration camp in Arkansas during World War II. Specifically, this interview details her father's immigration to the United States; his occupations as a diamond miner in Vancouver, Canada, a vintner in Lodi, California, and truck operator in Stockton, California; his February 1942 arrest by the FBI due to his being a community leader; his imprisonment at the Santa Fe Department of Justice camp in Santa Fe, New Mexico; her family disposing their personal property and farm equipment; her parents' educational background; comments on Japanese culture and traditions of loyalty, obedience, arranged marriage, food, and punishment and how they influenced the family; her educational background; description of Japanese language school, which she enjoyed; how her father embodied the Buddhist and samurai codes; how those codes impacted their family's ability to survive incarceration; recollections of the Stockton fairgrounds, including activities, food, and conditions; details about her father's imprisonment at Santa Fe; discussion of how Buddhist teachings gave her guidance in life; description of the Buddhist church at Rohwer; her feelings about the disintegration of family hierarchy in the camps; changes in generational leadership from the Issei to the Nisei after the war; her parents' arranged marriage and her mother's foresight about how to raise American children; her career as an administrative professional; her close relationship and admiration of her mother; the strong leadership and work of Buddhist church women's clubs called fujinkai; and her thoughts about redress and whether or not incarceration could happen again.

OH 0004

Narrator: HENRY KANEGAE
Interviewer: Richard D. Curtiss
Date: February 12, 1966
Location: Unknown
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 57:20
Transcript: Not Transcribed

Abstract:

An oral history of Henry Kanegae who lived in the Poston internment camp, officially named the Colorado River Relocation Center, in Yuma, Arizona, from May of 1942 until February 1943. This interview was conducted in 1966 and is being used for the Japanese American Project at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Japanese Americans who were interned during WWII. this interview details Henry Kanegae's time and experiences while living at the Poston internment camp. It includes details about his life before and after living at the camp. He recounts how at the age of 25 he relocated with his wife and child, his parents and his sister and her family. Kanegae was born in the fountain valley area and lived in the western Orange County area his whole life. He speaks about the poor condition of the camp upon arrival and how the people living there worked together to improve the living conditions. He tells how the Japanese people, reluctantly living in

the camp, persevered and “would go with the punches.” Kanegae gives detailed descriptions of the layout and design of the camps living spaces and community areas. He talks about how some chose to join the military instead of living in the camp. Some also chose to voluntarily relocate further east, which after 9 months he chose to do when he moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico. In 1946 he returned to California to farm vegetables. He now is in produce, packing, and shipping. He refers to Japanese internment as a “socialized experiment”.

OH 1759

Narrator: HYOTARO KANEKO (b. ca. 1890)
Interviewers: Marsha Bode and Yukiko Sato
Date: January 23, 1984
Location: Los Angeles, California
Language: English and Japanese
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital, Cassette, Open Reel
Length: 01:28:30
Transcript: Final; 46 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Hyotaro Kaneko, an Issei farmer from Seal Beach, California. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about Kaneko’s experience living in pre-World War II Orange County, California. Specifically, this interview details Kaneko’s month-long journey by ship from the Fukushima Prefecture in Japan to Seattle, Washington, in 1915; shortly afterward, joining his father for farm work in Utah; working for the Union Pacific railroad in Wyoming in 1919; moving to Los Angeles, California; settling in Seal Beach circa 1928 where he took over a farm from the Tanamachi family who were planning to return to Japan; recollections about the Bixby Ranch-Seal Beach Farmers’ Association; how the farmers sold their produce and bought fertilizer, seed, and other supplies through the Association; how the Farmers’ Association became a social club for the male farmers with trips to the Grand Canyon and Yosemite National Parks; description of the farmers’ crops and market conditions and prices during the Great Depression; names of Japanese farmers who gathered together at the Farmers’ Association; the Kaneko family’s social life, including shopping trips to Los Angeles and attending Japanese school in Long Beach; his arrest by the Federal Bureau of Investigation after the bombing of Pearl Harbor; transfer to the Tujunga temporary detention center near Los Angeles; subsequent transfers to the Lordsburg camp overseen by the U.S. Army in Lordsburg, New Mexico and the Crystal City Department of Justice camp in Crystal City, Texas; reasons for returning to Japan with his family; unbearable conditions in Japan during 1946; the family’s nine-year stay in Japan, where they were farmers in the Fukushima Prefecture; the family’s incremental move back to United States; the family’s experience farming in Texas; their move back to Los Angeles circa 1955; the repatriation of Seal Beach/Hellman and Bixby Ranch families to Japan; speculation about where the children of the Seal beach/ Hellman and Bixby Ranch families live now; and his description of an incident of prewar racial discrimination in Imperial Valley, California.

OH 1760

Narrator: MINE YABUKI KANEKO
Interviewer: Marsha Bode and Yukiko Sato
Date: January 26, 1984
Location: Los Angeles, California
Language: English and Japanese Translation
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:15:23
Transcript: Final, 46 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Mine Yabuki Kaneko, an Issei woman from the Fukushima prefecture of Japan who discusses her transition into the United States and experience with the internment of her husband into a war relocation center during the war. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Kaneko's childhood growing up in Japan in a farmer's house where she stayed in the house weaving silk and raising silkworms; remembers her envy of Americans for their clothing and wealth which led her to go get married as a bride; recalls meeting a Japanese man from the Kumamoto Prefecture who offered them help in his business of selling and producing fruits at his shop; describes the tough conditions when they moved to a farming area in Moneta where the land was not very fertile and water was very expensive for the irrigation which left them disappointed and move away to Seal Beach; mentions going out into the fields every day and having to leaning her babies in the crib because they wanted to make as much money as quick as possible because they wanted to go back to Japan until deciding to settle in the U.S; emphasizes her life experience with her family in the Japanese community before the war; reflections on her reactions and response to the internment of her husband right after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

OH 0010

Narrator: GEORGE KANNO
Interviewer: Richard Curtiss
Date: February 25, 1966
Location: Santa Ana, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Transcript: Final; 11 pages

Abstract:

An oral history of George Kanno, a Japanese American who was relocated in an internment camp in Poston Arizona. This interview was conducted in 1966 and is being used for the Japanese American Project at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this

interview was to gather information regarding Japanese Americans who were interned during WWII. Topics include details such as Kanno's upbringing in Santa Ana where he owned about twenty acres of farm land at age eighteen before being relocated; remembers the news of the evacuation through the papers with individual letters sent by mail for specific orders about being relocated; describes their scenario as a form of martial law under General DeWitt's headquarters and had to follow orders because the military was involved; recalls first being transferred from Orange County to Poston, Arizona under camp one while others stayed in assembly centers; shares the general consensus under the leadership was to cooperate with authorities instead of trying to speak up about the constitutional rights because the Japanese American Citizens Authority wasn't as influential as it is now; explains his potential possibility to move into another state to avoid being relocated in an internment camp but was afraid because they didn't know anyone out of state; recalls Tulelake, California which was an internment camp where Japanese Americans were arrested by the FBI under presidential warrants to segregate the disloyal Japanese Americans from the loyal Japanese Americans.

OH 1069

Narrator: JAMES KANNO (1926-2017)
Interviewer: John McFarlane
Date: April 26, 1971
Location: Tustin, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digitized, Open Reel
Length: 01:13:17
Transcript: Final; 20 pages
Ephemera: Newspaper clippings (Not Digitized)

Abstract:

An oral history with James Kanno, a Nisei whose pioneering family was a part of the history of Orange County, California, and the first Japanese American mayor in the United States. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the World War II Japanese American incarceration experience. Specifically, this interview details his parents' emigration from the Fukushima Prefecture to the U.S.; his feelings about Japan prior to the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor; how he learned about the attack when he and his father were installing the irrigation pipes in the field of their farm; recollections of a Santa Ana High School assembly after the attack; the process of his family's forced removal from their home in Santa Ana, California to Huntington Beach, California, where they boarded buses that took them directly to the Poston incarceration camp in Arizona; his father's arrest by the FBI and subsequent incarceration in the Santa Fe Department of Justice camp; sharing their barracks room with an older couple; privacy issues in the barracks; feelings about the incarceration; exploring the blocks in the surrounding area to see who their neighbors were; how he dug a room underneath their barracks to escape the heat of the Arizona desert; Poston's self-governance process; recreational activities; education and farming systems; the condition of food served in the mess halls; job opportunities and pay scale; the social aspect of working in Poston;

experience leaving Poston after graduating high school to work at a hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan; his mother's experience moving back onto their farm by herself in 1945; his father's return home and subsequent threats against him from neighbors; his experiences at Santa Ana College and UCLA; thoughts on discussing Poston with friends during college and with other incarcerated when he was in camp; reactions to their feelings about Poston and the incarceration in general; thoughts on *Orange County Register* owner Raymond C. Hoiles's position about the incarceration; political involvement in the incorporation of Fountain Valley, California, to protect farmers' interests; how he was elected as a city council member and as mayor; reasons why incarceration could not happen again; his father's opinion about his incarceration at the Santa Fe Department of Justice camp and desire to stay in the U.S.; and his current feelings about the U.S. government.

OH 1761

Narrator: MAKKI KANNO
Interviewer: Toni Rimel & Masako Hanada
Date: November 30, 1983
Location: Fountain Valley, California
Language: English and Japanese Translation
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 03:28:17
Transcript: Final, 75 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Makki Kanno, an Issei woman from the Fukushima prefecture of Japan who discuss her immigration experience into the United States where she settled in Orange County until she was evacuated into the Poston War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Kanno's upbringing and background of her family's heritage in a samurai family where her grandfather was the village master; remembers having her Japanese-style wedding ceremony where she borrowed her wedding kimono to celebrated her as a liberated women; mentions her journey across the United States at the immigration office where they didn't have any trouble but had to leave most of their belonging and things behind in Japan and assimilate fast into the Western culture; describes her experiences of being a midwife and trainee and living with other families; reflects on the community life for the Japanese in Orange County before and after the war; emphasizes her experience being evacuated into Poston and its impact assimilating back into society.

OH 2329

Narrator: MATSUYO KATAGIRI
Interviewer: Alan Koch
Date: June 24, 1993

Location: Crystal Cove, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 02:39:25
Transcript: Not transcribed

Abstract:

An oral history with Matsuyo Katagiri, a Japanese American citizen from Southern California who shares her recollections of her evacuation into the Colorado internment camp. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Katagiri's childhood upbringing born in La Jolla with her six siblings growing up in Southern California and attending and graduating from her high school; mentions how she met her future husband, George and how they got married and had their first daughter right before the relocation order came out; remembers her evacuation after birth in 1942 and joining her family at the camp in Colorado for three years; reflects on her experiences when the evacuation was lifted and their family returned to Los Angeles to take care and properly start her new family the way she wanted to; mentions her involvement with the board of the Women's Fellowship serving as a president for a Christian church and teaching Sunday school and overall being active in her community; and reflects on her assimilation and long term effects of her evacuation and discrimination for being a Japanese American and raises the issue of identity.

OH 2773

Narrator: HATSUNE KAWASHIMA
Interviewer: Grace Nakahara
Date: May 5, 1999
Location: Fullerton, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Transcript: Final; 7 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Hatsune Kawashima, a Japanese American resident of Fullerton who shares her experiences taking care of her children alone while the government evacuated and relocated them into the Tule Lake Segregation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Kawashima's upbringing growing up in Japan with parents who owned a family business and having to leave school in order to fix the financial setbacks their family endured; shares her reasoning for coming to the United States as a better opportunity to earn money and send to their family as well as her arranged marriages through pictures; reveals the scarcity of job opportunities

for Japanese men in saw mills or as liaisons to interpret for the rest of the Japanese Americans; recalls a community of Japanese in Washington who relied on timber work because it was in the mountains but was an inconvenient place for its lack of water and power; describes the harvesting process in the oyster business after the Great Depression caused mills to close down; mentions when her husband passed away from cancer after they had purchased their first home and her struggles trying to send her children to college while feeling overwhelmed about running to business on her own; remembers the day of Pearl Harbor and the heavy surveillance on her phone calls and restrictions on leaving which meant she missed her own son's graduation ceremony; mentions their arrival, experience and daily life at the Tule Lake Relocation Center; recalls her transfer to Heart Mountain before two of her sons joined the U.S Army until the camps were ordered to close; reflects on her life and time spent years after the camps closed down and earning her citizenship and being naturalized.

OH 1401

Narrator: ANNA T. KELLY
Interviewer: Arthur A. Hansen and David J. Bertagnoli
Date: December 6, 1973
Location: Independence, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:47:57
Transcript: Final; 18 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Anna Kelly, a former welfare director of Inyo County, California who recollects her experience in aiding the firm insurance for the construction of the Manzanar War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Kelly's memory of the relocation center and its plans six months prior to the construction and eventual building of the camp being Griffith from Los Angeles; recalls the people's attitude being very against the construction of the camp being right there; describes when the anniversary of Pearl Harbor cause a riot at the camp and when some internees had to be taken away for security reasons; remembers very few Asian minorities like Japanese and Chinese families in the community but they never felt any hostility towards them before the war; expresses his support for the current plaque at the memorial that apologizes to Japanese Americans for evacuating them in the first place; feels that the Japanese were only people possible to every be put into this situation and still compose themselves to adapt to this new living without trouble; recalls the elderly Japanese people in the camp being happy for their relocation because they felt comfortable about not having to worry.

OH 1352

Narrator: BETTE KELLY
Interviewer: Sherry Turner
Date: August 26, 1973
Location: Tule Lake, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:27:06
Transcript: Edited, 8 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Bette Kelly, a former postal clerk at Tule Lake internment camp in California who relates her impressions of life there, and status of land and buildings after the closure. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Kelly's attitude towards the Japanese before the war as the same as everyone because she was raised around all nationalities; remembers her attitudes towards Japanese Americans changing because of the attack on Pearl Harbor when students in her school were being removed from classes and blacking out the curtains; recalls the construction of the internment camp being a waste of time, money, and effort because it was unfair treatment towards Japanese Americans; remembers there being no restrictions for what could be sent out and in to the postal office of the relocation centers; mentions being permitted to be inside the camps where the Japanese lived and even attended a wedding; expresses the continuation of their practice with traditional customs and religious faith in church services; reflects on the appreciations for speaking out against the government's suppression of their unfair treatment towards Japanese Americans.

OH 1340

Narrator: YORIYUKI KIKUCHI
Interviewer: Arthur A. Hansen
Date: July 29, 1974
Location: Los Angeles, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:45:12
Transcript: Final; 20 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Yoriyuki Kikuchi, an Issei dentist residing in Los Angeles with recollections of serving at Manzanar War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese

Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Kikuchi's upbringing growing up near Kyoto, Japan raised by parents with pretty comfortable circumstances, an ancestry in samurai, and education until he travels to California to receive dental training at USC; recalls his intentions were to travel to America on a student visa and work to earn money and pay back his father's debts and return to Japan but instead found a passion for dentistry and worked his way up to pass his entrance exam, state board examination, earned his license and opened up his office; describes an instance where the FBI came to his office and arrested one of his patients after Pearl Harbor and sent to concentration camps; recalls being the last sent to Manzanar and smuggled his dental equipment and medicine into the camp which is how his dental clinic got started; remembers his purpose was to serve mankind in the war effort by helping patients, even American soldiers who patrolled the camp with guns until he caused other dentists to hold a strike against him; describes leaving the camp and travelling elsewhere far away from the war and found out that his license and membership along with every Japanese Americans were deprived and ousted by the Southern California Dental Office.

OH 1758

Narrator: KENJI KIKUCHI
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: August 26, 1981
Location: Santa Ana, California
Language: English and Japanese Translation
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 02:47:57
Transcript: Final; 71 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Kenji Kikuchi, a former minister of the Wintersburg Presbyterian Church in Orange County, California who discusses his ministerial work in the Japanese American community and his evacuation into the Poston War Relocation Center in Arizona. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Kikuchi's upbringing leaving Japan in 1924 for theological study in the U.S in Orange County and began his church work in both English and Japanese; recalls the time he drove around nineteen children in his car around the surrounding farm land to get to Sunday school because no one wanted to buy the land until the Alien Land Laws prohibited that; describes his evacuation to the Santa Anita Assembly Center then the train ride to the Poston camp in Arizona where he tried to keep the church active among the Japanese community in the camp; mentions the makeup, social, and religious structure of the Japanese American community in the 1920s; describes his childhood and youth growing up in the Miyagi prefecture of Japan and his transition to another country; analyzes his prewar and postwar ministerial experiences in San Diego, Utah, and Hollywood; and reflects on his wartime

evacuation to Poston and his transition back into life after the war ended and mistreatment of Japanese Americans.

OH 2009.1

Narrator: CHARLES KIKUCHI (b. 1916)
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: August 1, 1988
Location: Block Island, Rhode Island
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital; Cassette
Transcript: Edited, 427 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Charles Kikuchi, a resident of Block Island, Rhode Island. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about Kikuchi's involvement with Louis Adamic, Slovenian-born editor of the anthology *From Many Lands*, who used Kikuchi's writings for his chapter, "A Young American with a Japanese Face" that was supposed to encompass the Nisei experience in the United States. Specifically this interview details his introduction to Adamic through two of his professors at San Francisco State University; Adamic's adaptation of Kikuchi's sociology paper for *From Many Lands*; the editorial process that he and Adamic went through for "A Young American with a Japanese Face," the popularity of that chapter within the Japanese American community and their responses to it; the reaction to Adamic's book from the Japanese American community; his involvement with numerous social and political organizations such as the Young Democrats and picketing events; his time as a social worker for the Veterans Administration; his struggle for identity; his time traveling the United States and Canada as a youth; being "a rebel within the system"; and his time working with Kenny Murasi and Warren Tsuneishi.

OH 2009.2

Narrator: CHARLES KIKUCHI
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: August 2, 1988
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Transcript: Not transcribed

Abstract:

An oral history with Charles Kikuchi by Arthur Hansen for the Japanese American History Project at California State University, Fullerton. This is the second in a series of interviews conducted at Mr. Kikuchi's Rhode Island home on August 1-3, 1988. The interviews cover Mr.

Kikuchi's long and varied experiences from his early childhood until the time of the interviews. Specifically, this interview on August 2 covers more of his time at Gila River and Tanforan; his colleagues Ken Murasi and Warren Tsuneishi, particularly how Tsuneishi impacted his life; working as a participant-observer in the camps; the writing habit, especially journaling as both therapy and reflection in times of stress; life histories that he recorded; stopping his diary and decision to ultimately donate his diary; and his family's experience at the camp as a way to get in touch with their Japanese roots.

OH 2009.3

Narrator: CHARLES KIKUCHI (1916-1988)
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: August 3, 1988
Location: Block Island, Rhode Island
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital; Cassette
Length: 04:39:22
Transcript: Not transcribed

Abstract:

An oral history with Charles Kikuchi by Arthur Hansen for the Japanese American History Project at California State University, Fullerton. This is the third in a series of interviews conducted at Mr. Kikuchi's Rhode Island home on August 1-3, 1988. The interviews cover Mr. Kikuchi's long and varied experiences from his early childhood until the time of the interviews. Specifically, this interview on August 3 covers his thoughts on the distinction between a diary and a journal; his hesitance on considering himself a writer; his experience with the Nisei students during his time at the University of California, Berkley in 1941; his continuous rebellion against the system, including his time working with the Japanese Evacuation Research Study at Gila River as a life historian dealing with Nisei and Issei internees; his time at the Columbia University School of Social Work and fighting against enforced theoretical orthodoxy; being in the military working as a specialist due to his educational background; working for the Veterans Administration between 1949-1972 as a social worker dealing with World War II and Vietnam War veterans and finding the disconnect between classroom theory and real-world cases; his role as contributor to Dorothy Thomas's monumental work, *The Salvage*; and his own feelings regarding the massive amounts of material he wrote throughout his life, which he considered scrapping until he donated them to the Bancroft Library and the University of California, Los Angeles.

OH 2051

Narrator: YURIKO A. KIKUCHI
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: February 13, 1989
Location: Yorba Linda, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project

Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 04:03:52
Transcript: Edited, 119 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Yuriko Kikuchi, an infamous Japanese American dancer and choreographer that has starred in Broadway who shares her American experience in the United States with her cultural differences and background from her parents in Japan. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such Kikuchi's upbringing growing up in the city of San Jose before being sent back to Japan and returning back to the U.S to study modern dance and ballet; describes her experience with Pearl Harbor and her evacuation into internment camps at the Queen of Tulare Assembly Center; recalls teaching dance lessons and the camp administration renovating the room for her dance lessons; mentions her transfer over to the Gila River internment camp where she first met her husband and signed the oath of loyalty which allowed for her release; explains her struggles for job opportunities until she ended up being a floor manager and being the first Japanese into the union and admitted to the Graham studio; reflects on starring in lead roles of dances and lack of objection despite Japan being a prime enemy at the time.

OH 1353

Narrator: RUTH E. KING
Interviewer: Sherry Turner
Date: August 28, 1973
Location: Klamath Falls, Oregon
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:33:04
Transcript: Final, 8 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Ruth King, a correspondent for the Klamath Falls Herald and News Newspaper and discusses problems related to the Tule Lake War relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as King's memory of writing down any activities going on at the camp where she felt very sympathetic for their treatment despite their American citizenship; remembers the camp having their own newspaper known as the Newell Star where stories were gathered by both Japanese adults and young people where they publishes and mimeographed in a small building; recalls the living conditions that consisted of barracks with one extra set of clothing, toilet articles and some bedding but with no matters and only a cot while others just made their accommodation out of anything they could find; describes being

permitted to enter the camp and being supervised so she would give any weapons to the Japanese Americans; mentions an instance where a Nisei living in the camp left to serve in the 442nd regiment in Italy and was killed so his body was cremated and his ashes were sent back to the camp in an urn for his family; remembers a group of belligerent troublemakers who protested their confinement and took over the hospital where they would be up a white doctor and leave him disfigured, while raising the Japanese flag over and ripping the American flag; expressed the corruption among the non-Japanese in the handling of government properties.

OH 1272

Narrator: J.S KISHIYAMA AND Y. KISHIYAMA
Interviewer: Patricia Morgan
Date: April 6, 1973
Location: Los Angeles, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:03:41
Transcript: Final, 17 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with J.S Kishiyama and Y. Kishiyama, residents of Los Angeles, California who were relocated in an internment camp during World War 2. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families living on the West Coast during World War II. Topics include Kishiyama's upbringing growing up from Japan before arriving in San Francisco by ship as immigrants to work at a railroad while his brother farmed and raised vegetables; recalls the entire purpose of the Japanese coming into America was to make lots of money; shares her first impression of America being beautifully filled with gardens, steaks, and water compared to when they were in Japan; remembers being in shock when the Pearl Harbor attack occurred and was quickly evacuated and processed at the Meyer camp for three months in a small holding area until they were relocated to Poston, Arizona; mentions working right away at the canteen helping out as a volunteer in the kitchen and getting paid sixteen dollars a month while mothers had to take care of their young children; mentions the impact of Japanese that sent their children back to Japan from America to become educated from their home country rather than being taught American values and morals; reflects on the cultural identity between Japanese and Japanese American in which she struggles to find her connection with the people she struggled alongside with.

OH 1077

Narrator: IRENE M. KOBAYASHI
Interviewer: Betty E. Mitson
Date: April 11, 1972
Location: Fullerton, California
Language: English

Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 1:29:55
Transcript: Final, 31 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Irene M. Kobayashi, a Nisei and a resident of Fullerton, California. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families living on the West Coast during World War II. This interview specifically details Kobayashi's struggles when the war had broken out; recalls attending both a Japanese and English school and taught both languages; describes their realization when they had both citizenships and their struggles to have their Japanese citizenship annulled before settling down in Hawaii; recalls the process of changing themselves to adjust into the life of America; explained how dual citizenship led them into problems and they were ordered to move to camp in Arizona; discusses how the FBI scared them in the middle of night at least once a week; shares being at home rather than at camp was more torturing; remembers a frightening experience when they heard a shot at their home in the middle of night and how they had to make an air raid shelter to protect themselves; remembers earning a teaching certificate in dressmaking from the University of Hawaii; describes how even when the war was over it affected the lives of her children and family and how lands were confiscated from people to establish military camps and they were not even paid for their lands.

OH 1329

Narrator: KATHARINE KRATER
Interviewer: David J. Bertagnoli
Date: July 14, 1973
Location: Independence, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:36:16
Transcript: Final, 14 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Katharine Krater, resident of Independence and longtime native in the Inyo County where she recounts lots of memories of the Manzanar Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Krater's interest in writing a series of sketches and memories of Inyo County and the Manzanar Relocation Camp which she grew up nearby; remembers working at her husband's store and interacting with the group of people who were in the process of constructing Manzanar barracks enclosed with towers and barbed wire; recalls being threatened by townspeople and city officials to not serve any Japanese Americans who came to

the store or there would be consequences; describes an instance where a Japanese women who worked as a secretary for her sister had to be sent to an internment camp and feeling shattered to be discriminated as a “Jap”; mentions how very “hush-hush’ and little to no information about the construction of the relocation camp was being announced to the public; remembers Ralph Merritt, the camp director, being well liked by the Japanese right before the riot had occurred; recalls witnessing Japanese Americans had all their belongings from before the war stolen from them and bank accounts frozen.

OH 1333

Narrator: KATSUMI KUNITSUGU
Interviewer: Sherry Turner
Date: July 15, 1973
Location: Los Angeles, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 02:00:17
Transcript: Final, 23 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Katsumi Kunitsugu, an English section editor of the Japanese vernacular newspaper in Los Angeles, The Maunichi. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Katsumi’s upbringing growing up with Issei parents born in Kuba, Japan with a father who had a labor contract in Peru where he then moved to the San Gabriel Valley and become the first Issei-Hispanic family to enter across the Mexican border; remembers the day of Pearl Harbor vividly and having the FBI come pick up and interrogate his uncle a week later until he was sent to Manzanar; describes being posted at the Pomona Assembly Center and registering a false address that they lived uptown somewhere; recalls selling all their goods for next to nothing and dad’s business to stay in the barracks living in a room with seven with no privacy or stalls; recalls a lot of the Issei actually not being able to eat or enjoy their first couple of meals because they were not used to the cooks; describes being taken on a three-day train ride to Heart Mountain and got a job writing articles on school events for the Sentinel (the Heart Mountain newspaper); remembers resettling from the camp to attend the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

OH 1334a

Narrator: KANGO KUNITSUGU
Interviewer: Sherry Turner
Date: August 4, 1973
Location: Los Angeles, California
Language: English

Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 02:26:18
Transcript: Final, 33 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Kango Kunitsugu, a Nisei civil engineer who was placed in the Rohwer internment camp during World War II. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Kango's upbringing growing up with parents from the main island of Japan with a structured life and with a father who returned to Japan to marry his mother and move to Seattle, Washington for economic reasons and property; describes his mother's condition of tuberculosis that kept her in a sanatorium until she was evacuated during the war and transferred over to another sanatorium; recounts his vacation trip back to his father's main land in Japan and reconnecting with his aunts, uncles, cousins and other relatives he didn't know he had; shares the lack opportunity for in-depth thinking and instead surviving within the context of life in the camp and making the best of it, which made him realize that people were suffering without knowing; remembers being relocated to the Santa Anita Assembly Center where he lived in a stable for four months and recalls the riot over the guards who were confiscating personal belongings; mentions putting down "no and no" for the questionnaire that proved their loyalty to the United States and becoming blacklisted and refused to leave the camp early which led to the situation of either his family being sent to Japan without their sick mother or stay in the U.S but change the status of their loyalty on their record.

OH 1334b

Narrator: KANGO KUNITSUGU
Interviewer: David Biniasz
Date: November 28, 1973
Location: Los Angeles, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:23:18
Transcript: Final, 6 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Kango Kunitsugu, a Nisei civil engineer who was placed in the Rohwer internment camp during World War II. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Kango's impression of Little Tokyo and culture of Japanese Americans before eat start of the war;

remembers returning to Little Tokyo and it changing into a black community until the internment camps started to close down and revive the commercial center; recalls the process of trying to have the Japanese move back into their property that was taken over by African Americans which led to them surrendering over back their property; describes Little Tokyo as more symbolic than anywhere else in the community that was really oriented into the Japanese culture; expresses that that Little Tokyo ceased to become the place where the Japanese came and how now people only come when they something they can't find elsewhere almost like a tourist spot.

OH 3378

Narrator: KATSUMI KUNITSUGU
Interviewer: Karen Yamamoto
Date: November 29, 1995
Location: Los Angeles, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:02:47
Transcript: Final, 18 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Katsumi Kunitsugu, a Japanese American woman who is a longtime leader and volunteer for the community of Little Tokyo. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Kunitsugu's family upbringing with her parents from Hiroshima-ken which is the prefecture next to Yamaguchi and considers herself Nisei because of her parent's arrival in 1904; describes her parent's background coming to San Francisco after the Japanese Exclusion Act; mentions her arrival in the United States in 1937, learning English, being ahead of all her classmate with math class, and graduating high school in the relocation center of Heart Mountain; remembers the frustration for the lack of job opportunities that she felt was because of her ethnicity until she earned a job as a newspaper reporter; mentions her involvement and interest in the business association with Nisei Week since her husband was the first project manager for redeveloping Little Tokyo in the 70's; recalls the tension and scared reaction at the idea of expanding the city with waves of immigrants; remembers the impact of the Little Tokyo after its successful funding for redevelopment and its inevitable impact on local shop owners and residents; discusses the things and values Little Tokyo tries to do to maintain the Japanese culture in Los Angeles; reflects on his identity as a Japanese American.

OH 2374

Narrator: AKIRA KURODA (b. 1914)
Interviewer: Susie Kang
Date: May 13, 1994
Location: Unknown
Language: English

Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Formats: Digital, Cassette
Length: 01:16:28
Transcript: Final; 25 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Akira Kuroda conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about his family's forced removal and imprisonment in the Santa Anita temporary detention facility in California and in the Amache incarceration camp in Colorado during World War II. Specifically, this interview details his childhood in Honolulu, Hawaii and in Santa Barbara, California; his father's inability to return to Hawaii when he lost his documents during the 1923 earthquake in Japan while on a business trip; his long-distance relationship with his father, who lived in Japan for the rest of his life; introduction to the Christian church; education in Santa Barbara; return to Hawaii; attempt to retrieve his father from Japan; marriage to his wife for fear that they would be separated when war broke out and the Japanese American community was being forcibly removed from their homes; his reactions to the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor and subsequent curfew; imprisonment of his father-in-law in the Lordsburg Department of Justice camp in Lordsburg, New Mexico; imprisonment with his wife's family in Santa Anita; the role religion played in the lives of Santa Anita incarcerated; renting his in-law's home and returning to it after the war to discover that the belongings they stored there were stolen; selling their belongings because of the forced removal; his three-month experience at Amache; the camp's religious services; earning his undergraduate degree at Wheaton College in Illinois; moving to Chicago via the hostel program sponsored by the War Relocation Authority and the Church of the Brethren; inability to quickly find a job because of racism against Japanese Americans in Chicago; the organizational structure of the hostel program; how his sister-in-law did not go to Amache because she moved to New York; his wife and in-law's move from Amache to New York, where they lived with her; his wife's move from New York to Chicago when he found an apartment; attending McCormick Theological Seminary; founding the Lakeside Christian Church with Reverend Kusahata in Chicago; returning to California in 1947 and founding another church; feelings of anger that the Japanese Americans had about their forced removal and incarceration; differences and similarities between Korean and Japanese Christian church members.

OH 2385

Narrator: BEN KUROKI
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: October 17, 1994
Location: Ojai, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 05:29:48
Transcript: Final, 102 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Ben Kuroki, a Japanese American veteran who served in the United States Army Air Forces who served in the Pacific theater of World War II. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Kuroki's childhood upbringing being raised in Nebraska by his parents who migrated from the Kagoshima prefecture; describes his parent's backgrounds with his mom who worked various jobs before joining the Union Pacific Railroad and his dad who eventually settled in a farm to raise their children; recalls growing vegetables and selling them to stores and having a poor childhood because he had to work out in the field all day; mentions his typical daily routine as a student and worker for his parents and his embarrassment when they spoke Japanese to other Issei in public; recounts the day of Pearl Harbor where he was at an organizational meeting for the Japanese Americans Citizens League and got their father's permission to enlist in the army while every leader was being arrested by the FBI; explains his basic training and experience of racism being the only Japanese American and taking a while to be accepted as a gunner instead of clerical work; describes his experience and missions as a B-24 Liberator; mentions his appearance on the radio being cancelled because of controversy with the American-Japanese question; remembers visiting the internment camps of Japanese Americans and building their morale for the draft; and overall reflects on his postwar activism and impact with his Japanese American experience.

OH 4341

Narrator: JERI LEE
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Date: February 23, 2017
Location: Garden Grove, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:33:40
Transcript: Final, 31 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Jeri Lee, a Japanese American resident from Garden Grove who shares his parent's experiences in the internment camps after Pearl Harbor. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Lee's childhood upbringing being born in Los Angeles and growing up in the middle of downtown near Japanese American communities; describes his parent's settlement in Los Angeles from Japan and his transition from farming and machinery in harvesting rice and moving to open a noodle restaurant before the war took everything away; mentions her mom and her aspirations and dreams to pursue her career goals and education before the war had come and changed it all; describes her dad's experience in the camp as hard and tough to have everything

uprooted and not be able to do what he wanted while his mom said she had more freedom to do things than she normally would have; mentions their parent's memory of racism that intensified as well as the xenophobic tension towards Japanese Americans after the attack on Pearl Harbor; recalls their reaction and lack of talking about their internment experience because they felt the need that they had to keep moving on from life without complain about their imprisonment or trauma; expresses the loyalty of Japanese Americans who wanted to devote their love for the country and trying to identify as American as everyone else by signing up for the 442nd Regimental Combat team; recalls the riot and the National Guard enforcing a curfew and not being able to go anywhere in Watts; reflects on the change of Japanese Americans in Orange County in the past twenty years and the generational cultural changes of Japanese Americans.

OH 2380

Narrator: NELSON LOWE
Interviewer: Bill Lum Heimin Lu
Date: September 18, 1988
Location: Fullerton, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:06:47
Transcript: Not transcribed

Abstract:

An oral history with Nelson Lowe, a Fullerton resident who owned a grocery store after immigrating from Japan who shares his Japanese experience. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Lowe's upbringing growing up Fa Yuen, Japan in 1930 in a farming community however he is from an upper-middle class family with his grandfather's chain of pawn shop passed down to his father; mentions his massive amount of land property and his arrival to San Francisco in 1948 at age 18; recalls a time he met another man with a paper for sale which allowed him to come for his education; mentions when his parents were put in jail and his sources of support had to stop and had to drop out of his education to earn money and got jobs in Santa Ana in 1949 until he saved enough money to open a grocery store in Fullerton; recounts confessing at the immigration office; expresses his retirement and have to sell his business because his sons are not interested in taking after the grocery store.

OH 3593

Narrator: MASAO MASUDA
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen & Carla Tengen
Date: May 22, 2007
Location: Fountain Valley, California
Language: English

Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 04:11:29
Transcript: Verbatim, 108 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Masao Masuda, a Nisei Japanese American and war veteran who is son of the founding Japanese American families that pioneered the Japanese American community in Fountain Valley. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Masuda's childhood upbringing growing up in Westminster on a farm in Talbert which is currently known as Fountain Valley, describes his time attending the Wintersburg Japanese Presbyterian Mission and attending Huntington Beach High school and becoming a good athlete for football, basketball, and track; shares his family background with his Issei parents both from the Wakayama prefecture and immigrating to the United States with other Issei and worked jobs to start a family with his new wife; describes how he and his siblings contrived to the family's financial situations by growing chili peppers on their farm; recalls the bombing of Pearl Harbor and their eventual exclusion from designated West Coast military areas and his father's arrest by the FBI; describes his experience being imprisoned at the Freson Assembly Center for two months before being transferred to Jerome Relocation Center and Gila River Relocation center and its conditions before its closure; mentions his brother's death while serving and his eventual report to basic training in the Military Intelligence Service as a translator and interpreter; describes his resettlement and reflects on his life farming.

OH 1756

Narrator: BETTY MASUKAWA
Interviewer: Diane Tappey
Date: November 2, 1983
Location: Fullerton, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:39:01
Transcript: Final, 15 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Betty Masukawa, a Nisei daughter of a pioneer in the city of Fullerton who discusses her family's transition from Japan to the U.S and her evacuation into the Poston War Relocation Center in Arizona. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Masukawa's

upbringing growing up in Fullerton attending a good grammar school and vividly remembers the town grow around her; recalls her dad's career as a citrus grower for oranges and having contact with other Japanese communities; mentions her experience in the third generation of her family and her father who was from Japan and entered the U.S; differentiates the roles of Japanese men and women duties in the U.S with manual labor and housekeeping; recalls her time as a practical nurse through a hospital taking care of patients by feeding and bathing; reflects on how the Great Depression did not affect their community and taking care of the baby as a young mother why owning a fruit stand; remembers hearing about the evacuation through the newspapers which caused her to give lend their homes to Mayor Hale and his son while they were gone; describes her experience serving in the police department and as owner of the beauty shop in the Poston War Relocation Center.

OH 5284

Narrator: GEORGE MASUNAGA
Interviewer: Arthur A. Hansen
Date: November 10, 2001
Location: Denver, Colorado
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:32:59
Transcript: Final, 43 Pages

Abstract:

An oral history with George Masunaga, a current resident of Denver, Colorado. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project by California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Masunaga's experiences before, during, and after World War II in Denver. Specifically, the interview covers his personal and family background prior to World War II in Brighton, Colorado, his school experiences during grammar school, his extracurricular activities while in high school playing football and basketball; talks about the lack of discrimination existing in Brighton when he was in high school; his experience at the University of Colorado while taking premed classes for two years; talks about his presidency of the Cosmopolitan Club at his college in 1940, his involvement with the Army Air Force in 1941; he describes his internship at a pharmacy located in Cheyenne Wells, Colorado, the various skills the internship provided him, his position working for the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad while waiting for an officer position; describes discrimination against Japanese Americans in the army during World War II; his involvement in the army in 1944 as a combat engineer and medic while at Fort Jackson, South Carolina; his experiences as a chief pharmacist at the hospital at Lowry Air Base in Brighton; he talks about the shops that were located on Larimer St. in Denver and his trips into Denver for shipping goods; comments on his family's business in farming, his position in the Japanese Associate in Brighton; talks about a Nisei baseball team in Brighton before the war around 1940; speaks about dating habits during his high school years; talked about the Japanese Association during the war and their limited mobilization; talks about the difference between the first and second wave of people who came to Colorado from the evacuations and internment camps; his

presidency for the Japanese Association Citizens League (JACL) during the late 1940s, talks about JACL's rise to power post-war due to its social gatherings, briefly talks about the life of Larry Tajiri, a drama critic for the *Denver Post*; his creation with MinYasui of the Japanese American Association (JAA) in Brighton in 1950; talks about the future of JACL in 2001; and he discusses when JACL became a different organization than the members had made it in the 50s and 60s.

OH 5288

Narrator: MARGARET MASUOKA (b. 1922)
Interviewer: Charles Carrillo
Date: September 28, 2005
Location: Los Angeles, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Formats: Digital, Cassette
Length: 01:37:04
Transcript: Final; 21 pages
Ephemera: Document (Digitized)

Abstract:

An interview with Margaret Masuoka, a volunteer at the Japanese American National Museum (JANM). This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State Fullerton. Specifically, this interview provides insight to Masuoka's personal history dealing with the prejudice that she and her family faced due their Japanese ancestry, her internment in the Poston War Relocation Center in southeastern Arizona; her family's settlement in California in 1925, her childhood in Los Angeles and time spent in Santa Ana, California regarding the family's business and Japanese community; her courtship with Dave Masuoka in the 1940s; describes her feelings on the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941; her family's togetherness during their time in the Santa Anita assembly center and Poston camp; her engagement to Dave Masuoka in the camps; her family's journey to join her sisters in the Poston internment camp; her exit from the camp and process of finding a sponsor; her experience as a docent for JANM and telling her story to her grandson's class; Dave's family history and his involvement in the Second World War; a close friend's family and their involvement in 442nd army infantry known as the Japanese unit in World War II, the impact of this friendship and how it led to an exhibition in JANM; and her thoughts on the impact of this story on American history.

OH 1428.1

Narrator: RICHARD MATSUNAGA
Interviewer: Gail Matsunaga
Date: November 15, 1978
Location: La Habra, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project

Audio Formats: Digital, Open Reel
Length: 02:13:49
Transcript: Final; 33 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Richard Matsunaga for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Matsunaga's personal experiences growing up in Hawaii before, during, and after World War II. Specifically, this interview gives an account of his childhood in Honolulu during the Depression; his father's unrealized dream of returning to Japan as a financial success; learning how to read and write but not converse in Japanese; how he and his friends were supposed to play football on December 7, 1941, but instead watched black smoke rise over Pearl Harbor and planes fly overhead; description of how he and his family initially thought the black smoke was part of a U.S. Naval show, but later learned it was from a Japanese attack; his description of how life in Hawaii changed after Pearl Harbor, including martial law, curfews, travel restrictions, blackouts, drills, and no school until February 1942; remarks on how Japanese language schools stopped and most of their principals were taken to the mainland; brief mention of some "suspects" who were also taken to incarceration camps from Hawaii; Japanese Americans who volunteered to serve in the military, specifically the 442nd Regimental Combat Team; how some Japanese aliens in Hawaii still pledged their allegiance to Japan since they could not own land or become citizens; Matsunaga's work in the pineapple fields when he was in 8th grade, which included a spontaneous strike he took part in to demand higher wages; description of a deadly commercial fishing boat accident involving Young Brothers; discussion of family business ventures including an orchid and chicken farm; description of architecture in old section of Honolulu growing up; discussion of things that make Hawaii unique, such as Pidgin English, saimin stands and fast food restaurants serving rice and saimin; discussion on his parents' different perspectives while visiting Japan: his father called it home while his mother called Hawaii home and disliked Japan's lack of sanitation; and recounts how during and after World War II; and how U.S. sailors fought with Filipinos, Portuguese, and Japanese Americans on city streets.

OH 1428.2

Narrator: RICHARD MATSUNAGA
Interviewer: Gail Matsunaga
Date: December 27, 1978
Location: La Habra, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Formats: Digital, Open Reel
Length: 01:40:44
Transcript: Final; 27 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Richard Matsunaga for the Japanese American Oral History Project for

California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Matsunaga's personal experiences during and after World War II. Specifically, this interview details his recollections of the end of World War II when he was living in Hawaii; President Roosevelt's visit to Hawaii in 1944; comments on gas, tire, and food rationing, and practicing air raid drills; recollections of the end of the war in Europe and V-J Day, followed by the biggest parade he could remember; returning to school as a full-time student, but this time with GIs as teachers; his induction at Fort Sheridan, Illinois, in 1951 and his subsequent military training at Indiantown Gap training camp; anecdotes of his training, discipline in the military and his time as a squadron leader; challenges of managing soldiers who had low IQs and how there were many funny stories about them but sad ones too, because of how they were mocked and mistreated; comments on racial interactions in the military and perceptions of him as an "Oriental" GI; his deployment to Korea in 1952 near the end of the Korean War; memories of hunger among the Koreans he encountered; discussion of negative Korean feelings toward Japanese occupiers versus positive feeling for Japanese American GI from Hawaii; how Koreans perceived black and white GIs; how Koreans perceived him as the same as them and not a GI; discussion of how Koreans were not treated fairly in Japan; discusses the Western false perception that Orientals like to fight and die, but argues that nobody on either side wants to die; comments on feeling fear and exhaustion in the battlefield; bonding with other Hawaiian soldiers and the concept of extending "kokua" or help to fellow Hawaiians; comments on his feeling that the Chinese fought for things of no strategic value because they could throw manpower at it and claim political victory; discusses daily life on a U.S. troopship, and how the troopship was segregated between Hawaiians, Puerto Ricans, and mainlanders; and briefly discusses his mother's upbringing and her citizenship issues.

OH 1428.3

Narrator: RICHARD MATSUNAGA
Interviewer: Gail Matsunaga
Date: December 29, 1978
Location: La Habra, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Formats: Digital, Open Reel
Length: 03:39:03
Transcript: Final; 45 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Richard Matsunaga for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Matsunaga's life from the end of World War II through the 1950s. Specifically, this interview discusses Matsunaga's perspectives on the differences between Japanese American communities in Hawaii and California; racial prejudice when searching for housing and employment in Denver, Colorado, and California; his ignorance of the struggles of African Americans in the United States; the false perceptions Americans had of Hawaiians and Hawaii; how soldiers in the U.S. Army mistook other U.S. military personnel for the enemy during the Korean War; the soldiers' appreciation of a shower and clean clothes after weeks of being on the

front lines; returning home to Hawaii after his service was complete; his marriage in Denver, Colorado and subsequent travel throughout the Rocky Mountain West and West Coast; how racial prejudice affected his search for housing in Los Angeles County and Orange County, California; his doubts that monetary reparations will be granted to Japanese Americans who were incarcerated during World War II; views on Asian American behavior and demeanor; differences between Japanese and Japanese Americans; how he did not hear of the Japanese American incarceration camps until after World War II; thoughts about death and how his perspective on life changed as he got older; cultural differences between the U.S. and Japan; the benefits and drawbacks of living in a predominantly Japanese American community; his political affiliation as a member of the Republican party; thoughts on Japanese American organizations, assimilation into American culture, and preserving Japanese cultural traditions; reflections about how he wished he continued to speak Japanese so that he could communicate with his parents as they grew older; thoughts about his Hawaiian identity; adjusting to the cold weather in Denver; learning English; celebrating Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's in Korea; playing and inventing games as a kid during the Great Depression; and his relationship with his parents and siblings.

OH 2656

Narrator: ALPHARETTA MATTHEWS
Interviewer: William Docking
Date: November 28, 1997
Location: Fullerton, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:52:11
Transcript: Final, 19 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Alpharetta Matthews, a child civilian who shares her recollections of her experiences at the Tule Lake Relocation Segregation Center for Japanese Americans. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Matthew's childhood upbringing growing up in Gila Valley of Arizona which was a pleasant farming area where they lived on a ranch before moving to Tule Lake to finish high school; recalls arriving to a barrack type of apartment near the war relocation camp and their initial reaction at being Japanese Americans for the first time as friendly; remembers feeling confined and separated because of the heavy military presence that made sure to keep them apart from the camp; recalls working as a telephone operator and feeling comfortable with the internees; expresses the concerns when an incident had occurred that riled up the Japanese Americans and challenged the security at the camp; reveals when the government were giving Japanese Americans the opportunity to leave the camp if they had a sponsor and when celebrities and sponsors were phoning in to realize the internees; reflects on her witnessing of the barracks one last time before she left for good and realizing the impact and mistreatment of

Japanese Americans that forced them to start over and make their own lives under these circumstances.

OH 1949.1

Narrator: LILLIE McCABE
Interviewer: Jeff Yamada
Date: October 19, 1987
Location: Los Angeles, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History project
Audio Format: Digital
Length: 01:23:42
Transcript: Final; 39 pages
Ephemera: Documents (Digitized)

Abstract:

An oral history with Lillie McCabe, a former incarcerated of the Santa Anita temporary detention facilities in Arcadia, California, and the Amache incarceration camp in Colorado. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. Specifically, this interview details McCabe's childhood on her family's farm in Hollister, California; moving to Los Angeles, California in 1928; her courtship and arranged marriage to her husband, Ernest Yamada, on June 30, 1928; Ernest's work experience during the Great Depression; her recollections of the forced removal from Los Angeles to Santa Anita and Amache in September 1942; adjusting to life in Amache while Ernest was teaching for the U.S. Army Intelligence in Boulder, Colorado; living and furnishing their barracks, eating at the mess hall, and caring for her two sick children on her own; recollections about her location and activities the day Pearl Harbor was attacked on December 7, 1941; her interactions with the FBI and other law enforcement such as U.S. Marshal Robert E. Clark prior to and after her incarceration; description of why she was the only one of her siblings to be incarcerated in Amache; description of how she survived an almost fatal case of pneumonia in Amache and her recovery; description of how she helped combat rumors from the *Denver Post* that the incarcerated were living in luxury when she showed Colorado investigators what her life in the barracks and mess hall was like; acts of kindness and corruptness that she experienced while being imprisoned at Santa Anita; recollections of how their valuables were stolen; the challenges of adjusting to life after being released from Amache; comparison of her experience in camp with experiences of those who were not incarcerated, specifically Ernest, her brother Kenneth who became a medical doctor with the Navy, and her eldest brother who was an electrical engineer turned missionary; moving back to Los Angeles after the war and the racial prejudice and discrimination that she encountered there; thoughts about how the incarceration experience taught her tolerance, compassion, and understanding; how Ernest became a gardener for Nick Harris, founder of Nick Harris Detectives and Detective Academy in Los Angeles, to provide for his family prior to Santa Anita; and how she and Ernest struggled after the war because they lost almost everything during the incarceration.

OH 1949.2

Narrator: LILLIE McCABE
Interviewer: Jeff Yamada
Date: October 19, 1987
Location: Los Angeles
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History project
Audio Format: Digital
Length: 00:32:07
Transcript: Final, 34 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Lillie McCabe, a former incarcerated of the Santa Anita temporary detention facility in California, and the Amache incarceration camp in Colorado. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. Specifically, this interview details McCabe's recollections about how she met Reverend Herbert and Mrs. Madeline Nicolson, who advocated for the Japanese American community and regularly visited the Issei at the Keiro nursing home in Los Angeles; how Father Lavery's efforts in Washington D.C. to release all Japanese Americans and their families from the camps; his work with Colorado Governor Ralph Lawrence Carr, who became an advocate for the incarcerated; the educational opportunities for young Japanese American incarcerated in the Midwest and on the East Coast; the experiences of some of the young men from Amache who fought in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team; how the Nicolsos taught them about Japanese culture and customs prior to the McCabe family's forced removal to Santa Anita and Amache; working for the husband-and-wife ballroom dancing team Veloz and Yolanda; acts of kindness from Veloz and Yolanda for the McCabe family when Pearl Harbor was attacked on December 7, 1941; how her experience at Amache gave her a better understanding of human life; how U.S. Marshal Robert E. Clark supported McCabe and would have been an advocate for Japanese Americans during the war had they spoken out against the incarceration; explaining how her first husband, Ernest Yamada, never recovered from his disappointment at losing everything after the incarceration, which eventually led to his death.

OH 1604

Narrator: DAVID F. MCCORMICK
Interviewer: Billy Stark
Date: April 8, 1978
Location: Parker, Arizona
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:27:45
Transcript: Final, 9 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with David McCormick, a Santa Fe Railroad employee who worked in Parker, Arizona during World War II discusses handling of freight for Poston War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State

University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such McCormick's background working as a clerk for the depot in his arrival until he was informed to make trips to the Poston relocation center on business; describes the camp life and organization that heled several families in the barracks in terms of sleeping arrangements; recalls that the Japanese Americans were only allowed to leave the camp as long as it was close to camp and on the Santé Fe land because then it would interview with the Indian reservation; expresses the frustration from Indian tribes at the new presence of Japanese Americans who were taking their land; mentions the Japanese American community on the camp benefitted the economy and social life in the town because of their ability to grow and recreation; reflects on the significance and mistreatment of the Japanese Americans and how it should never happen again.

OH 1384

Narrator: HUBERT E. MILLER
Interviewer: David Bertagnoli
Date: October 4, 1973
Location: Lone Pine, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:07:55
Transcript: Final, 7 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Hubert Miller, a Lone Pine automobile dealer who amplifies the conditions at the Manzanar War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such Miller's reaction and opinion of the Manzanar memorial plaque as something very different from a concentration camp because it was labeled as an internment camp; expresses the words on the plaque as part of it being a fair indication of what actually happened; remembers the item for sale when the camp had closed down such as one of the barracks; recalls the rumors of the resentment because people in the camp had access to the rationed goods the public was not granted access to because of the war; describes an instance where the Japanese Americans had made a line to block their family from going to the bathroom; reflects on the camp life; mentions the arrival of the caravan of Japanese Americans in route to the camp; discusses the sale of items and belongings left behind from the Japanese Americans who left when the camps closed down; reflects on the economic impact of the camp and neighboring communities.

OH 1393

Narrator: PAULINE MILLER
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen and David J. Bertagnoli
Date: December 20, 1973

Location: Lone Pine, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:24:37
Transcript: Final, 11 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Pauline Miller, a wife of a Lone Pine resident who assesses the economic impact of the Manzanar War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Miller's upbringing growing up during the Second World War; recalls no Japanese families living in the town or community prior to the war or relocation center; slightly recalls when some internees were killed trying to perform demonstrations and when they had started a riot; reflects on whether or not the internment camps were even necessary because half of the internees were American citizens but feels it might have been because of the fear of spies; remembers the reunion and plaque to honor the Japanese Americans that were displaced into the internment camp and the big event/reunion where some returned.

OH 1766

Narrator: MISAKO MINEKI
Interviewer: Carolyn Watanabe
Date: November 3, 1979
Location: Glendale, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 03:06:57
Transcript: Not transcribed

Abstract:

An oral history with Misako Mineki, a resident of Glendale, California and daughter of Japanese parents who immigrated to the United States to describe her experience in the evacuation of Japanese Americans. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Mineki's early childhood growing up with parents and their experiences immigrating to Hawaii in the early 1900s; recalls her experience residing in a large Bennung estate when her father worked as a caretaker until his patient died all before the second World War; expresses her days attending both public English schools and Japanese schools to learn the languages up until she started high school which was the only school on the entire island of Oahu; describes what the family and

work life was like when she had to get employment during the Great Depression and long after it ended; emphasizes the operation of her family's dairy farm and the family business of growing and marketing watercress; remembers her time being non-officially married to a policeman following the events of Pearl Harbor; mentions her and her families immediate reactions and expressions towards the events and aftermath of the attack on Pearl Harbor and its eventual evacuation of Japanese Americans in Hawaii; and reflects on the discrimination, customs, values, and feelings of the Japanese Americans held after the evacuation and its impact on them.

OH 1323.1

Narrator: NORMAN Y. MINETA
Interviewer: Duff Griffith
Date: February 10, 1975
Location: San Jose, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:45:42
Transcript: Final, 11 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Norman Mineta, former congressman of the 13th district of California who was placed in an internment camp during World War 2. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Mineta's upbringing growing up in San Jose up until he was evacuated into the Santa Anita Assembly Center and sent to Heart Mountain, Wyoming; mentions his lineage detailing back to his father who immigrated from Japan in 1920 and worked his way up as a rancher and mother in 1912 from San Francisco where they got married; recalls the very few instances where his father cried which included the frustration he felt when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and declared war, when they boarded the train ride to Heart Mountain, and when his mother passed away; describes his frustration for abiding by the evacuation but it was the only way they could prove their Americans and loyalty to the country; recalls sledding with a friend around the fence perimeter of the camp and going through it by accident and being picked up by the military police; expresses no bitterness from the evacuation experience but feels it's part of his feelings toward the government.

OH 3022

Narrator: JAMES MITA (b. 1943)
Interviewer: Arthur A. Hansen
Date: January 9, 2003
Location: Fullerton, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project

Audio Formats: Digital
Length: 03:07:16
Transcript: Final, 96 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with James Mita, a Japanese American war veteran of the 442nd Regiment who discusses his Japanese American experience. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Mita's family background dating back to America in 1880's when the government encouraged Japanese laborers to come to the United States as they replaced the Chinese laborers and mentions his grandfather as the patriarch of his bloodline and started a boarding house and stayed in America to have children to be citizens since they could not own land; describes the racial discrimination he face just walking to his school and getting shot in the face with a makeshift gun just because of his racial ethnicity and desire to pursue an education; recalls the inability to assimilate with the Japanese and Americans which forced him to learn the language and customs; remembers Protestant, Roman Catholic, Buddhist, and Mormons attempted to evangelize those interned and depict the deadline given to pack whatever they could and leave everything else behind including their most precious belongings; recollects his family's lineage of coming to the United States for the American Dream and how they never came close to achieving social class of family before the war; expresses the positive outlook of being in a internment camp and about youth of resettlement because he always felt like third class citizen that listened to parents talk and had strength that gave kids a lot of security; reflects on the Japanese community for being the best at adapting change which has resulted in their abilities to have survived calamities.

OH 5286

Narrator: JIM YUJI MITA
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: January 9, 2003
Location: Fullerton, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Transcript: Digitized: Final; 88 pages.

Abstract:

An oral history with Jim Yuji Mita, the oldest nephew of Jimmy Omura's first wife. This interview was conducted as part of the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about his family's experiences in the internment camps and resettlement after World War II. Specifically, this interview gives an account of his grandfather's immigration to United States; his days working on the railroad, his marriage to a Japanese picture bride, and the boardinghouse they started together for mostly Japanese lodgers; he recollects his aunt and uncle's relationship; his family's struggle to adapt to Japanese American lifestyle, the "baishakuhin system", which was a

form of arranged marriage, and the Nikkei (someone of Japanese descent) community; he recounts his family's experiences of day-to-day living including friends, school and work after the war; he speaks of the humiliation felt by his family being forced to leave dishes, heirlooms, and cars behind to be relocated; his memories of "youth resettlement"; his experience entering back into education; the breakdown of family structure; he details his Aunt Fumi's (Caryl) first work and community activism in the Japanese American Citizen League (JACL), his Aunt's divorce Jimmy Omura, his Aunt's instability when it comes to finance, and bitterness and division caused by political activism.

OH 5287

Narrators: TRAVIS MITA and CHERYL GERTLER
Interviewer: Arthur A. Hansen
Date: May 5, 2002
Location: Fullerton, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:34:19
Transcript: Final, 40 Pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Travis Mita and Cheryl Gertler, relatives of Caryl Fumiko Omura Gertler, conducted for the Japanese American Project at California State Fullerton's Center for Oral and Public History. This interview gathers information about Caryl's marriage to James "Jimmy" Omura before their divorce in 1947. Specifically, this interview tracks Caryl's family history, the Okuma family; describes the family's settlement in San Francisco prior to their internment in the Topaz War Relocation Center in Utah; Caryl's choice to move to Denver, Colorado with her husband, James Omura; her marital issues, and her divorce to Omura in 1947; details her second marriage to Martin Gertler, the children she had with Gertler including Cheryl; she recollects her childhood in Las Vegas, Nevada, her interactions with family; the Americanization their family went through, the little contact they had with Japanese culture; his recollections of his childhood, his grandmother's exposure to Japanese culture, and family structure; the impact Jimmy Omura had on the Omura family and their recent history into the early 2000s; he details the lineage of the Omura family starting from the Issei (first) generation.

OH 2230

Narrator: DON MIYADA (b. 1925)
Interviewer: Alan Koch
Date: January 27, 1992
Location: Unknown
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Formats: Digital, Cassette
Length: 02:30:40

Transcript: Digitized: Final; 44 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Dr. Don Miyada, professor emeritus of Chemistry at the University of California, Irvine. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for the California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Miyada's life starting from his childhood in 1928, to his imprisonment at the Poston incarceration camp and enlistment in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT) during World War II, to his retirement from UC Irvine in 1991. Specifically this interview details his childhood growing up on farms in Oceanside and Laguna Beach, California from 1928-1940; his education at Newport Beach Grammar School, San Joaquin Grammar School Number 2, the Japanese language school, and Newport Harbor High School; working on his family's farm and at their roadside stand on Pacific Coast Highway; childhood recreational activities in the Laguna Beach area; athletic and recreational activities of the Japanese school; religion and closeness of Laguna Beach Japanese families; how the Los Angeles Central Market was organized; Miyada's interactions with Mexican laborers that worked on his family's farm; his location and activities on December 7, 1941, the day Pearl Harbor was attacked; his community's thoughts about volunteering for military service after Pearl Harbor; influence of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) in Laguna Beach and political activity of the community's Japanese families; the *Los Angeles Times* and *Orange County Register's* views on World War II; reflections on when he first discovered that his family would be incarcerated; feeling within the Laguna Beach area and the Japanese American community about the incarceration; how the Miyada family harvested their crops when they were incarcerated at Poston; the process of forced removal from their home; boarding the red Pacific Electric buses in Huntington Beach directly to Poston; first impressions of Poston, his future there, and meeting of the sculptor Isamu Noguchi; work opportunities, barracks conditions, relations between neighbors, and recreational activities at Poston; volunteering for the Army, basic training, and fighting as part of the 442nd RCT in Épinal and the Maritime Alps in France; being sent to Italy and processing German prisoners of war; discussion of his job as an assistant Browning Automatic Rifle man; feelings about World War II, including being drafted versus volunteering for the military, the atomic bomb, fear of dying, and combat experiences; his higher education experiences after World War II at Santa Ana College, UCLA, Michigan State University; his work experience at U.C. Davis, Ohio State University, University of Wisconsin, UCLA, the Long Beach VA Hospital, and UCI; thoughts on reparations; how he met his wife; verifying people and places in photographs of Crystal Cove and Emerald Bay.

OH 3376

Narrator: ARCHIE MIYATAKE
Interviewer: Karen Yamamoto
Date: October 7, 1995
Location: San Diego, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 02:12:18
Transcript: Final, 35 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Archie Miyatake, a Japanese American woman who is the son of Toyo Miyatake which was a photographer who took picture during the intercamp of Japanese Americans. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Miyatake's emphasis on streetcars and the contribution to keeping Little Tokyo and the Japanese community alive to bring in people from both sides of Los Angeles; discusses the impact of Little Tokyo as a community that provided economic sources of housing and support for the Japanese American community; remembers the discrimination and harsh feelings after the war that led to the stop of support for the local stores which is why Little Tokyo flourished since it was all together; reflects on the contribution and flourishment of Little Tokyo because of the increased in tourism; describes their move to the Manzanar Relocation center willingly along with other Little Tokyo merchants to avoid being separated; mentions the refusal from the parents about their experience in the camp life and trying to adjust back into making a living and catching up; recalls the relief from when the war had ended with celebrations and consideration of their racial identity as Japanese; recounts the huge presence of Japanese Americans into Los Angeles after the war had ended and their resettlement or new settlement; reflects on the Nisei for paving the way for the Sansei and Yonsei after the internment.

OH 2782

Narrator: KENJI MURASE
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: September 17, 1999
Location: San Francisco, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 02:59:57
Transcript: Final, 58 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Kenji Murase, a Japanese American resident of San Francisco who shares his experiences in the relocation camp during the war and his resettlement. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Murase's childhood upbringing growing up near Fresno raised by parents who were Issei tenant farmers who harvested grapes; mentions joining the farm as a laborer during the day and writing literature in the evening where he began to have an interested in writer and newspaper columnist; recalls accepting the invitation to join the Nisei Writers and Artists Mobilization for Democracy (NWAMD) after Pearl Harbor where he expressed his frustration with anti-Nisei discrimination and mass removal; describes being sent to the Poston Relocation Center and working for the Bureau of Sociological Research and became a city editor in the inmate newspaper Poston III Press Bulletin; remembers featuring dialogues or characters to

speak on topics about Issei-Nisei relations to avoid divisions and advocate for recreational facilities for confined children or donations for sports equipment; recalls when the university he applied and was accepted to withdrew their acceptance because of the wartime hysteria until he ended up enrolling at Temple University with four other Nisei students; shares the extent of his education from his master's degree to his career in teaching and academics where also met his wife while returning for his doctoral studies; reflects on his collaborations with the Japanese Cultural and Community center and his overall camp experience.

OH 1231

Narrator: JOHN YUKIO MORI
Interviewer: Betty E. Mitson
Date: December 19, 1972
Location: Los Angeles, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 2:52:10
Transcript: Final, 47 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with John Yukio Mori, a Sansei and a resident of Los Angeles, California. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families during World War II. This interview specifically details about Mori's family and their struggles during the Second World War; mentions how he's born to a Japanese American mother and Japanese immigrant father, and discusses how his family moved to Utah to farm when war broke out because they heard they would be put in relocation camps if they stayed in California; recalls the relations between whites and Japanese in Salt Lake City along with his relationship with his parents who let him attend Japanese school; described how his grandfather owned land in the San Clemente area, but was taken by the government and they had to leave with everything they could carry; describes the constant discrimination against the Japanese ever since the war had ended along with relocation; explains how Issei and Sansei had different treatments and roles; discusses attending LA City College for dental technology and becoming a dental technician; remembers applying for conscientious objector status as a Buddhist to avoid the draft.

OH 2544

Narrator: SAM NAKAO
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: June 11, 1997
Location: Bainbridge Island, Washington
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 02:27:37

Transcript: Final, 64 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Sam Nakao, a Japanese American activist who became one of the first Japanese Americans to be interned into the Manzanar relocation center in 1942. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Nakao's childhood upbringing raised by parents who immigrated to the United States from the Yamaguchi prefecture of Japan in order to earn money; remembers growing up in Bainbridge where his father worked at the Blakely Lumber Mill until his parents began farming strawberries and renting land; mentions his life after high school earning jobs and farming until Pearl Harbor was attacked; recalls the notices that they had little days to pack everything and meet at the terminal; recollects his family's train ride to Manzanar and describes the camp life; expresses his transfer where he was at Idaho and married his wife until the camps closed down; remembers moving back to Bainbridge and adjusting back into town; mentions his adamant support for an internment camp memorial for the city of Bainbridge Island to remember and honor the struggles that the Nisei Japanese Americans faces.

OH 1341.1

Narrator: KATSUMA MUKAEDA
Interviewer: David Biniasz
Date: November 28, 1973
Location: Los Angeles, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:29:12
Transcript: Final, 6 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Katsuma Mukaeda, chairmen of the Japanese American Cultural Center and former president of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce who recounts the conditions of Little Tokyo before and after World War II. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Mukaeda's office building on First Street and Central Avenue before the war where the Japanese were limited with two banks and they could not buy real property in their name which only led to them either leasing or renting; remembers Little Tokyo becoming a black community during the war because of the evacuation of Japanese Americans into internment camps but also states that some never even came back after the war ended; recalls that friends and neighbors were asked to look after their businesses and properties to ensure it was being taken care of and some even had to buy back their property from the African Americans that had taken over; mentions the Nisei joining the army from the camps and even behind barbed wire, they were named as the most

decorated battalion of the whole army; feels it might have been the smartest decision for Japanese Americans to be relocated into internment camps during a war where emotions and suspicions were at its peak; remembers becoming president of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce when the war broke out, so he was arrested that night for leading the Japanese community in the central organization.

OH 1341.2

Narrator: KATSUMA MUKAEDA
Interviewer: Paul F. Clark
Date: May 22, 1975
Location: Los Angeles, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:27:45
Transcript: Final, 6 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Katsuma Mukaeda, chairman of the Japanese American Cultural Center and former president of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce who recounts the conditions of Little Tokyo before and after World War II. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Mukaeda's recollection of the FBI and policemen coming to his home and sent to the station where he was thrown in jail and interrogated whether or not he was connected with the Japanese Consulate on the same day of Pearl Harbor; recalls being sent from a detention camp in Fort Missoula, Montana and sent to Santa Fe, New Mexico where the head of the camp treat them nicely and was organized by a self-governing body among themselves; describes an immigration officer who would question some of the detainees and suspect them for spying which caused him to be rough and beat them until he was discharged by the main office in Washington; mentions the troublemakers who gave up their American Citizenship and loyalty who wore shirts with the rising sun and clashed with officers who threw tear gas so that they would disband or get beat up; recalls being asked to help the directors ask all the detainees whether they want to stay in this country or go back to Japan until he was released from the Department of Justice after a hearing in December of 1945 and 4 years working in an internment camp; reflects on his trust with the American people and country and formation of the civil rights defense committee to earn his citizenship rights for the Japanese.

OH 1326

Narrator: TAD MUNEMITSU
Interviewer: Katherine H. Snope
Date: August 16, 1976
Location: Garden Grove, California

Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:59:42
Transcript: Final, 12 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Tad Munemitsu, a Gardena born Nisei and Orange County businesswoman who was placed in an internment camp during World War 2. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Mumemitsu's parents coming from Japan in the Island of Shikoku and entering the United States and join the small farming community in Orange County; mentions the land they were farming as property owned by Caucasians in the city and would lease or rent to someone else depending on location; remembers purchasing and owning some land in Westminster through a guardian who was a Hawaiian Nisei and watched over his investments right before the war; recalls not liking Executive Order 9066 that placed Japanese Americans in internment camps but had to abide because it was martial law and he was just a minor; discuss having to struggle for the first six years after relocation and starting from scratch in their farming business because they could afford any farming equipment; describes working for United Produce where her field packaged vegetables in Denver; remembers some farmers feeling bitter that Japanese American farmers were returning to their lands after the relocation because of the competition; reflects on the Sansei who he thinks are becoming too Americanized and have a different outlook of life because they don't have as many old ideals or traditions instilled in them as much as the Nisei do.

OH 5285

Narrator: ROY NAGAI
Interviewer: Arthur A. Hansen
Date: November 09, 2001
Location: Denver, Colorado
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:12:28
Transcript: Digitized: Final; 41 pages.

Abstract:

An oral history with Roy Nagai, a Nisei born in Sebastopol, California. This interview was conducted as part of the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about his personal experiences regarding his internment and resettlement after World War II. Specifically, this interview gives an account of his life prior to the war; the Japanese community of Sebastopol, working on an apple farm for another Japanese family; he speaks of being relocated to The Granada War

Relocation Center (also Camp Amache), a Japanese American internment camp located in southeast Colorado during World War II; his experiences of day-to-day living including friends, school, and work in the internment camp; he describes how he was drafted into the Army in 1944, being part of the 522 Field Artillery division 442; his resettlement near his parent's house in Denver, Colorado; describes the segregation he felt during the resettlement period, the trouble Japanese Americans went through to find decent jobs, the change in urban landscape as he watched Japanese return to California; speaks of the tension between Japanese farmers and Japanese city dwellers; he shares his father-in-law's impact on the Japanese community in Denver after the war, his father-in-law's business, Pacific Mercantile, located on Larimer St; he speaks of the "big pillars" of the days in Denver and the businesses that once were active and have now closed.

OH 1959

Narrator: GEORGE NAKAGAWA
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: January 26, 1988
Location: Gardena, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 5:02:12
Transcript: Final, 69 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with George Nakagawa, a Nisei resident of Gardena who was evacuated into the Tule Lake Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Nakagawa's parents immigration to the United States and his experience visiting his parents' village and noticing the lack of change; remembers traveling to Washington from Hawaii to a Japanese American settlement to grow vegetables until they left due to poor weather conditions; remembers working as early as five years old picking peas or beans; shares his personal recollections with Pearl Harbor with little knowledge of world affairs and notices the discrimination at nine years old; mentions being evacuated all together as a whole family of +12 and staying at Pinedale and Tule Lake; describes his memories inside the camp and sense of freedom and communal living; reflects on the widespread racism towards Japanese Americans and its impact from evacuating them into internment camps.

OH 2546

Narrator: MITSUYO N. NAKAI
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: July 14, 1997
Location: Lake Elsinore, California

Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 03:20:32
Transcript: Final, 90 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Mitsuyo Nakai, a Japanese American resident from Lake Elsinore who shares his recollections being interned in the Manzanar Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Nakai's childhood background learning about his generational heritage of samurai in his family back in Japan before being raised in Portland, Oregon; shares his strong recollections with the Yakima Valley coinciding with Indians and harvesting their food before settling in California without any farming experience back in Japan; mentions the move to Terminal Island and adapting to the new job opportunities and farm life; expresses the populations of Japanese Americans in the community and its resources such as grammar and language school and churches; reveals the marriage she had which was arranged and had very minimal contact with until his arrival; remembers the war breaking out and leaving their parents behind in Terminal Island because they were in a sooner boarding group to the relocation centers where they were eventually taken to the Manzanar Relocation Center; describes the camp life of the barracks; expresses her time and experience serving in the hospital at Manzanar; recalls her reaction and time adjusting after being released; and reflects on the impact of her internment and its transitional effects on her as a Japanese American to prevent something like that from happening again.

OH 0649

Narrator: HARRY NAKAMURA
Interviewer: John McFarlane
Date: May 2, 1971
Location: Santa Ana, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:36:06
Transcript: final, 15 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Harry Nakamura, a Japanese American resident of Santa Ana who was placed in an internment camp during World War II. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, topics include Nakamura's upbringing in San Louis Obispo with his parents from Japan who taught him how to speak have respect for the country; remembers being too young at the time of Pearl Harbor to have any

resentment or hostility towards Japan; describes being ready to be evacuated and relocated once the FBI came to his house and searched the whole house; shares how he had to leave his work as a farmer for a huge landowner who had to sold all his land because all the Japanese American workers were sent to camps; recalls being sent from Delano to Poston, Arizona under the camp one; remembers his dad being sent to an internment camp in Montana where German prisoners were just for a safety check; recalls that the organization and leadership was help by the Japanese inside the internment camps themselves; describes the lack of surveillance and strict rules inside the camp by stating how no one was forced to stay at the camp because they could have moved up East to find work at any time; recalls his time serving in the Korean War.

OH 2544

Narrator: SAM NAKAO
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: June 11, 1997
Location: Bainbridge Island, Washington
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 02:27:37
Transcript: Final, 64 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Sam Nakao, a Japanese American activist who became one of the first Japanese Americans to be interned into the Manzanar relocation center in 1942. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such Nakao's childhood upbringing raised by parents who immigrated to the United States from the Yamaguchi prefecture of Japan in order to earn money; remembers growing up in Bainbridge where his father worked at the Blakely Lumber Mill until his parents began farming strawberries and renting land; mentions his life after high school earning jobs and farming until Pearl Harbor was attacked; recalls the notices that they had little days to pack everything and meet at the terminal; recollects his family's train ride to Manzanar and describes the camp life; expresses his transfer where he was at Idaho and married his wife until the camps closed down; remembers moving back to Bainbridge and adjusting back into town; mentions his adamant support for an internment camp memorial for the city of Bainbridge Island to remember and honor the struggles that the Nisei Japanese Americans faces.

OH 1368

Narrator: MERI HAMAKO NAKASHIMA
Interviewer: Janis Gennawey
Date: July 17, 1973
Location: La Mirada, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project

Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:56:41
Transcript: Final, 19 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Meri Nakashima, a Nisei who was evacuated into the Santa Anita Assembly Center and Rohwer War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Nakashima's upbringing growing up in Los Angeles with a mother who was a picture bride from Japan and father who worked as a farmer to make money and send it back to his family in Japan; mentions the circumstances for moving to California which was due to the cold weather in Japan and financial issues which is why her mother also traveled with hundreds of other picture brides; recalls attending a Japanese language school where she communicated with her parents since it was their primary language; mentions her courtship being strictly Americanized rather than Japanese right when Pearl Harbor had occurred and joined the Girls Reserves; recalls being able to evacuate together through a central meeting in Paramount to where they were then taken to Santa Anita Assembly Center through busses lined up and soldiers; describes a Korean inside the center who caused a big riot and mob with typewriters being thrown and having soldiers come and rescue him from the threats; recalls getting married in Rohwer where the camp director took them to a small town and church.

OH 3595

Narrator: SETSUKO MATSUNAGA NISHI
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: July 2, 2007
Location: Cape Breton, Canada
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 06:56:03
Transcript: Final, 67 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Setsuko Matsunaga Nishi, a Japanese American woman who is a pioneering community activist for race relations and professor of sociology. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Nishi's childhood upbringing growing up in Los Angeles raised by a Issei father who worked as a hotel own in Los Angeles's Little Tokyo district and proclaimed him the mayor because of his leadership; recalls her time as a music major at the University of Southern California before it was interrupted by the outbreak of the way which grew public and political pressure on the government to exclude Japanese Americans; remembers organizing a speakers' bureau and

information meetings to shape public opinion about Japanese Americans and her telegram to President Roosevelt about not taking arbitrary action; mentions her evacuation to the Santa Anita Assembly Center and her eventual departure months after because of the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council before resettling and working as an assistance research coordination for the Japanese American Evacuation and Resettlement Study; shares her move to Chicago to reunite with her parents and her participation in the JERS seminars and becoming the head of the Chicago Council Against Racial and Religious Discrimination; recalls her study on Japanese American former inmates in postwar Chicago; describes her involvement in Japanese American communities and reflects on her resettlement impact from the camp.

OH 2371

Narrator: ALAN NISHIO
Interviewer: Traci Kiriya
Date: May 5, 1994
Location: Long Beach, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 02:19:02
Transcript: Final, 31 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Alan Nishio, a Japanese American long-time community activist and mentor who was born in the Manzanar Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Nishio's childhood upbringing living inside the Manzanar relocation camp and his parent's background; describes his experiences of the camp life and outside the camp after the war adapting in Inglewood and witnessing the effects of the community both ethically and culturally; demonstrates his education being admitted into UCLA, UC Berkley and beginning his activism and leadership through the Free Speech Movement by forming the Asian American Political Alliance; recalls his involvement with the Japanese American Citizens league to serve the programs to the people in Los Angeles with Little Tokyo; discusses his fight for redress through finding the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations to build bridges between community and legislation and its impact; and reflects on his motivation to give back to his community.

OH 0005.1

Narrator: CLARENCE NISHIZU
Interviewer: Richard D. Curtiss
Date: January 1, 1966
Location: Fullerton, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Project

Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 1:08:08
Transcript: final, 16 pages

Abstract:

An oral history of Clarence Nishizu who was a former block manager at Heart Mountain Relocation Center, near Powell, Wyoming. This interview was conducted in 1966 and is being used for the Japanese American Project at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Japanese Americans who were interned during WWII. Topics include details such as Nishizu's experience forced to leave into Anaheim; remembers his dad being interned right after the Pearl Harbor attack and sent to many camps across the U.S until he reunited with the family at the Heart Mountain Relocation Center; recalls being allowed to take personal belongings in duffle bags to the Pomona Fairgrounds; describes the questionnaire everyone had to fill out to swear allegiance and loyalty to the U.S otherwise they would be relocated; shares the encouragement of internees who volunteered to serve in the war and participate in basic training; remembers hauling big potatoes in Idaho before being relocated to Colorado; compares the living conditions to army-type barracks and temporary quarters with no privacy and overcrowding as big families of 12 would be housed in one unit; explains the salary and pay for each type of grade-job position which was not enough to sustain a living in the camp; describes the intense military presence of guards outside of camps for the sake of an emergency; remembers the recreational activities such as baseball and knitting classes for women as well as school for children which benefitted the whole family and led them to have a great time at the camp.

OH 0005.2

Narrator: CLARENCE NISHIZU
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: June 14, 1966
Location: Fullerton, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 1:32:03
Transcript: final, 233 pages

Abstract:

An oral history of Clarence Nishizu who was a former block manager at Heart Mountain Relocation Center, near Powell, Wyoming. This interview was conducted in 1966 and is being used for the Japanese American Project at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Japanese Americans who were interned during WWII. Topics include details such as Nishizu's upbringing growing up in Los Angeles before moving to Garden Grove since the Prohibition was affecting his business; remembers farming all types of chili peppers which was prosperous before the Japanese Growers Association; shared his fear on the day of Pearl Harbor as he was pulled over by the police and excoriated with profound language and his pistol in his hand; recalls feeling isolated moving into

a new community and city in Orange County after coming from Los Angeles where it was filled with other Japanese Americans; remembers his dad's final wishes to stick together and close with his siblings and never leave other's side because they are family; remembers the drastic loss for the Japanese American community as they mourned together for chili dry houses that had burned along with the tofu building because the weather was so hot and dry 24 hours a day.

OH 0003

Narrator: HITOSHI NITTA (b. 1917)
Interviewer: Richard Curtiss
Date: February 7, 1966
Location: Santa Ana, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Formats: Digital, Open Reel
Length: 01:14:27
Transcript: Digitized: Final; 25 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Hitoshi Nitta, a Nisei rancher from a pioneering Japanese American family in Orange County, California. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about how the Nitta family managed their farming business while in the Poston incarceration camp in Arizona. Specifically, this interview details his family's forced removal from their 135-acre farm in Santa Ana, California; recollections of his family providing their own transportation to Huntington Beach, California, where they boarded buses that drove them directly to Poston; arrangements to manage their farm from Poston; the option to leave Santa Ana and avoid incarceration altogether; the family's reasons for not taking that option; the Mexican foreman who took care of the farm while the Nittas were incarcerated at Poston and who, at the time of this interview, still worked for the family; recollections of learning about forced removal and incarceration; feelings and observations about Poston after his family's arrival; description of camp organization, including hastily-constructed barracks, education, recreation, medical care, food, law enforcement, farming overseen by the Department of Agriculture, internal government; occupations and pay scale; his month-long job working for the Poston police department; his year-long job teaching agriculture at the high school built in Poston; his and others' attitudes about the incarceration; how he met his wife and his marriage at Poston; recollections about the "Statement of United States Citizen of Japanese Ancestry," also known as the "loyalty questionnaire;" recollections about incarcerated's choices to repatriate to Japan; explanation of the three camps within Poston called Poston Camp One, Camp Two, and Camp Three; explanation of a typical day in Poston; application process to return to California; subsequent trip to inspect family farm, and arrangements to return home; problems with interrupting produce business; impact of returning to Orange County after World War II.

OH 114

Narrator: MINORU NITTA (1918-2005)

Interviewer: John McFarlane
Date: March 21, 1971
Location: Santa Ana, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format: Open Reel (not digitized due to tape damage)
Length: 01:15:00
Transcript: Digitized: Final; 16 pages
Ephemera: Newspaper clipping (Not Digitized)

Abstract:

An oral history with Minoru “Min” Nitta, a Nisei and a resident of Santa Ana, California. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families living on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview details his mother’s emigration from the Nagasaki Prefecture to the United States; his father’s emigration from the Yamaguchi Prefecture to Santa Ana, California; his feelings toward Japan prior to the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor; his location, activity, and worries about visiting his girlfriend in Oceanside, California on the day of the attack; his experience trying to sign up for the military; his family’s various properties; discussion of when his family knew that they were going to be forcibly removed from their home into incarceration camps; curfew and travel restrictions after Pearl Harbor; the process of forced removal; how he and his girlfriend married so that they would not be separated during that process; their struggles to retain title during their imprisonment at the Poston incarceration camp in Arizona; the chaos of being forcibly removed from their homes and taken directly from Huntington Beach, California to Arizona, by bus; he and his wife’s decision to make the best of their incarceration; descriptions of the Poston camp’s layout, facilities, self-governance, and pay scale; the presence of and relationship with the guards, military police, and administrative staff; experience harvesting beets in Nebraska during the war due to the labor shortage; he and his wife’s decision to move to Cleveland, Ohio during the war for more job opportunities; how the Quakers and the Friends Church provided lodging while they searched for a job and a place to live; their return to California in 1945; working as a mechanic for the Yellow Cab Company and working in a defense plant called Cleveland Steel Products; he and his wife’s decision to not have children when they were incarcerated at Poston; description of the conditions he encountered on his return to Orange County in 1945; his opinion of Raymond C. Hoiles and the *Orange County Register* during the war; relationship with Mexican farm workers during the war; threats his father received after the family returned to Santa Ana and how it was dealt with; feelings toward United States government; his feeling about Poston being a city; sanitary conditions, food and farming in the camp; his feelings about his incarceration experience.

OH 1327

Narrator: MITUSO NITTA (1920-1996)
Interviewer: Rolf Janssen
Date: August 12, 1976
Location: Villa Park, California
Language: English

Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format: Open Reel
Length: 01:10:00
Transcript: Digitized: Final; 20 pages
Ephemera: Newspaper clipping (Not Digitized)

Abstract:

An oral history with Mitsuo Nitta, a resident of Villa Park, California. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding the Japanese American community in Orange County, California. Specifically, this interview details Nitta and his parents' immigration from Japan to the United States establishing themselves as farmers in Santa Ana, California prior to World War II; explains the turmoil of being drafted and his family's forced removal and experience at the Poston incarceration in Arizona; describes the post-war resettlement on the family farm in Santa Ana and the ensuing years of economic benefits of owning land in Orange County; details his experiences in Santa Ana as a young man, growing up Methodist, the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), and other social clubs available through churches and universities; mentions his observations about Japanese American farmers and restrictions governing land ownership; speaks upon the lack of Japanese American media (newspapers) in Orange County; shares his feelings about United States after being drafted; reflects on the impact of World War II on personal life; remembers his parents' and brothers' evacuation from Orange County; recollects his reaction to returning to Orange County in 1946; shares his arrangements for land management during War years and participation in the JACL; generalized observations about Orange County Japanese Americans.

OH 1127a

Narrator: MARRY NITTA
Interviewer: Ruth Wilkerson
Date: March 27, 1972
Location: Santa Ana, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:28:36

Abstract:

An oral history with Marry Nitta, a Nisei resident of Santa Ana, California. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families living on the West Coast during World War II. Topics include Nitta's upbringing growing up in California with her mother who was a picture bride from Japan and was not familiar with the new culture as they were accustomed to servants; remembers going to grammar school with a bunch of Armenian kids who dealt with prejudice and hated being categorized the same as Chinese or Korean based solely off of their appearance; remembers thinking they would not actually have to evacuate despite the Pearl Harbor attack

causing cities like Fresno to evacuate first; recalls serving as a nurse at Arizona's Poston War Relocation Center Hospital; describes her father who was a sharecropper leaving his belongings over to the owner of the property; recalls how he met his husband by fate when he hurt his finger while he was playing recreational baseball so he was checked on by her; remembers being rudely discriminated at a restaurant that only served Caucasians and wouldn't serve Japanese Americans; recalls not seeing any military police ever at the camp despite only seeing the barbed wire fence that surrounded the whole camp; describes life after relocation and the war and everything going back to normal almost a year after; reflects on how relocation has affected her life positively through living an easy life.

OH 1127b

Narrator: MARRY NITTA
Interviewer: Karen Reisdorf
Date: July 19, 1973
Location: Santa Ana, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:45:46

Abstract:

An oral history with Marry Nitta, a Nisei resident of Santa Ana, California. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families living on the West Coast during World War II. Topics include Nitta's gratefulness to have lived well off and better than most of the Japanese Americans who might have been relocated; recalls finishing her nursing registration in 1942 right before the Japanese American evacuation; remembers not knowing any English until they started learning in grammar school; describes always having a Caucasian escort to follow her everywhere she went in California for her security against everyone else who was not Japanese; remembers having a difficult time trying to get their car back from their friend that borrowed it and didn't want to return it after relocation; recalls the first day being relocated at the Poston, Arizona Relocation Center as the worst day of her life because of the hot Arizona weather in the middle of August; discusses the kinds of medical instruments and facilities that were available for the nurses that worked in the camp; remembers her wedding day right after working a long 12-hour shift and being told not to kiss because her mother thought it was impolite in their culture; reflects on her return to Orange County with her new husband and son after the relocation which was positive.

OH 1127c

Narrator: MARRY NITTA
Interviewer: Gwenn Jensen
Date: June 22, 1995
Location: Santa Ana, California

Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 02:16:59
Transcript: Final, 32 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Marry Nitta, a Nisei resident of Santa Ana, California. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families living on the West Coast during World War II. Topics include Nitta's upbringing growing up with parents from Japan and her mother as a picture bride while her father was a sharecropper; recalls having an escort so that she can leave the camp to take the state board test for nursing; shares that instead of living in the barracks with her family, she instead got to live in dormitory because she served as a nurse which unsettled people for her nice treatment; discusses having reporters from Life Magazine follow their family and offer transportation for them for a story that they were covering towards the end of their relocation; recalls lots of babies dying in the camp because of the lack of water that caused everyone to become dehydrated especially in the hot Arizona weather; explains times where restaurants outside of the camp would discriminate her because of the ethnicity, so the Caucasian advisors made sure they would lose their business and go bankrupt as an act of justice; reflects on the monuments and banquets to recognize the Japanese Americans where they can reunited with each other; remembers the relocation 50 years later as something very memorable and had a positive impact on her life with her family.

OH 2259

Narrator: ZENYO OBA
Interviewer: Cynthia Togami
Date: November 10, 1992
Location: Fullerton, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:41:02
Transcript: Final, 17 pages

Abstract:

This is an interview with Mr. Zenyo Oba for the Honorable Stephen K. Tamura Oral History Project jointly sponsored by the Multicultural Arts Council of Orange County and the Japanese American Project of the California State University, Fullerton Oral History Program. This interview was conducted at Zenyo Oba's home in Fullerton, Ca. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Japanese Americans who were interned during WWII. Zenyo Oba answers questions about his life beginning with his childhood. He discusses his parents' backgrounds. He describes them as hard working with a very strict disposition. His father worked in the orange groves in and around Fullerton and Oba and his brothers were

expected to do the same. Oba tells about his school years and recounts the different jobs he held during that time and after. He discusses the Japanese bombing at Pearl harbor. He talks about the before and after he and his family experienced. Oba's attitude about relocation and the war and the constitution are also discussed. The topic of discrimination and intolerance that was experienced is touched on. Oba speaks about his time living at Poston Internment Camp, having surgery while there and his time at various medical facilities in and out of the camp. He speaks about living in Idaho and then returning to California. The changes that took place in Fullerton both before and after his time at the Poston internment camp are pointed out.

OH 1382

Narrator: WOODROW ODANAKA
Interviewer: Patrick H. West
Date: July 16, 1973
Location: Whittier, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:03:03
Transcript: Final, 20 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Woodrow Odanaka, a Nisei who was evacuated and relocated to the Granada War Relocation Center in Colorado during World War II. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Odanaka's upbringing growing up in a farming family raised by parents from Central Japan that traveled to the United States; describes his parents adapting from a farmer to a shopkeeper-type tradesman and mother who was a picture bride into a new country and culture; recalls living in a predominantly white community with no hostility towards them; recalls the rise in tension between Japan and the United States and in the neighborhood right after Pearl Harbor while his brother was in the service throughout the war; shares having to look less visible from others in order to not stand out and avoid evacuation; mentions being taken to the Santa Anita Assembly Center before relocating to Granada, Colorado; describes his wartime college experiences in Minnesota and his duties serving in the military intelligence in the Philippines and occupied Japan.

OH 1080

Narrator: ELAINE S. OKIMOTO
Interviewer: Betty E. Mitson
Date: April 4, 1972
Location: Fullerton, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project

Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 1:22:18
Transcript: Final, 25 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Elaine S. Okimoto, a Nisei and a resident of Fullerton, California. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families living on the West Coast during World War II. Topics include Okimoto's parents who were farmers and couldn't buy any land, so they transferred from place to place for their living; explains how her father came to the United States for the first time through Mexico Border and then after seven years he returned to Japan and came back with his family legally; recalls getting married in Japan and how her husband did his schooling in Hiroshima where he lost both of his parents, and joined the U.S. Army after the Pearl Harbor attack as a foreign national employee; describes her feelings when Pearl Harbor occurred and remembers the FBI coming to her family's house rudely interrogating; describes being very fearful when they would relocate due to the danger of not knowing where they would go next; mentioned her new devotion of faith at the Buddhist Church and made few friends, but her parents had difficulty communicating as they didn't know English; recalls completing high school at the camp and went to Ohio State because they were teaching Japanese but when she enrolled, they had canceled the subject; shares her father's worsening sinus condition leading them to transfer to California and go to the University of California, Berkeley; reflects on the war and its toll on her mother and Japanese Americans to which they didn't hold any grudges and was grateful for the experience; remembers taking some time to fall back into place and reality after relocation.

OH 2001

Narrator: GLADYS J. OLCHAWA (1901-1995)
Interviewers: Reagan J. Bell and Arthur A. Hansen
Date: June 3, 1988
Location: Tulelake, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Formats: Digital, Cassette
Length: 00:32:40
Transcript: Final; 9 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Gladys J. Olchawa. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Olchawa's experience operating the Tule Lake United Service Organization (USO) and her efforts to provide entertainment and recreation for servicemen in the Tule Lake, California and Klamath Falls, Oregon area during World War II. Specifically, this interview details Olchawa's childhood in Sandy, Oregon; marriage to her first husband, Ralph Granger, and their livelihood in Bull Run, Oregon; their move to a homestead in

Tulelake, California in 1929; description of Tulelake from 1929 to the start of World War II; how the war changed the social atmosphere of the town; description of the daily lives of Tulelake residents; recollections about the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor; growth of Tulelake due to influx of servicemen; how Olchawa opened a USO room for servicemen from Tulelake and Newell, California, and Klamath Falls, Oregon; description of activities that the USO room provided, such as refreshments and recreational activities; the death of her first husband and how she met her second husband at the USO room and his job with the military police; her reactions to redress payments and negative feelings toward Japanese Americans at the Tule Lake segregation center; and her recollections of German and Japanese American soldiers working on farms in the area for additional income.

OH 1765.1

Narrator: JAMES M. OMURA
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: August 22, 1984
Location: Yorba Linda, California
Language: English and Japanese Translation
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Transcript: Final, 47 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with James M. Omura, a Japanese American journalist and the English-language editor of various West Coast Japanese American newspapers during the evacuation of Japanese Americans into war relocation centers. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Omura's family background whose father immigrated to the United States very young to avoid the chance of conscription and arrived in Washington to learn carpentry and electrical work and became a figure and spokesperson for the white community on behalf of the Japanese community; mentions his ambition of reading a lot and becoming accustomed to the library and checking out books which influenced him to work for labor contractors; remembers getting a job finishing lumber and pulling them from a conveyor belt after working at the cannery; recalls being impressed at the Issei for living a hopeless life from job to job and growing up poor after their migration; mentions the criminal behavior among the Japanese being non-existent because if they embarrassed their family or community, they would be shipped somewhere else to avoid repeating it; and discusses his experiences in the Japanese community in Washington, California, and Colorado.

OH 1765.2

Narrator: JAMES M. OMURA
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: August 23, 1984

Location: Yorba Linda, California
Language: English and Japanese Translation
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Transcript: Final, 65 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with James M. Omura, a Japanese American journalist and the English-language editor of various West Coast Japanese American newspapers during the evacuation of Japanese Americans into war relocation centers. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Omura's experience with the Nisei born in simple surroundings and simple homes; consider his father the most successful of Japanese farmers for leasing land; describes his first experiences with racial discrimination and notice the similarities of a caste system on Bainbridge Island among the Caucasian families and Japanese families which did not mix well; mentions his job as schoolboy having freedom to play baseball and basketball until he quit due to some injuries; emphasizes his lack of loneliness when he finally graduated from high school and got a big applause from his supporters as the only islander from Bainbridge in Broadway High; and remembers traveling to Los Angeles and getting a job as an English editor for the New Japanese-American News which was the most important because it was a pioneer newspaper as the first to be published.

OH 1765.3

Narrator: JAMES M. OMURA
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: August 24, 1984
Location: Yorba Linda, California
Language: English and Japanese Translation
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Transcript: Final, 15 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with James M. Omura, a Japanese American journalist and the English-language editor of various West Coast Japanese American newspapers during the evacuation of Japanese Americans into war relocation centers. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Omura's perceptions on living in the city of Denver back in the late 1930's without really noticing any diversity with other Japanese or Asian families; reflects on his appreciation for his American citizenship and how it has been a strengthening experience; recalls when he finally began to work for Japanese farmers alongside the Filipino, German, and other groups of people; mentions his opportunity to be a part of the English language publication of a magazine until he was

rejected which inspired him to start his own magazine; expresses how he was able to communicate with various writers about his idea until more word was circulation about his new publication; and reflects on the his editorial how he influenced the Nisei to become mainstream in American culture.

OH 1765.4

Narrator: JAMES M. OMURA
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: August 25, 1984
Location: Yorba Linda, California
Language: English and Japanese Translation
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Transcript: Final, 72 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with James M. Omura, a Japanese American journalist and the English-language editor of various West Coast Japanese American newspapers during the evacuation of Japanese Americans into war relocation centers. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as the response, from the JACL, WRA authorities, and U.S. government to his position as editor of the Rocky Shimpo; recalls the Ware Relocation Authority not wanting him around and pressuring him to leave the business; analyzes the central differences and emphasizes an interpretation within the Fair Play Committee; describes Bill Hosokawa's contributions through both perspectives of a propagandist for Japan and a pro-American spokesperson; expresses his attitudes towards the JACL and the disagreements regarding the issue or reparations for Japanese Americans; explains his feelings towards his contribution to the Rocky Shimpo readership in the camps and being a representative for the Japanese American community, especially the feelings for those that were evacuated into the internment camps; describes his resignation and arrest having all his letters of communication seized and investigated while he was put in jail; and reflects on the treatment as enemies of the state when he was in prison for violating the Selective Service System.

OH 2909

Narrator: WAYNE OMURA
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: April 1, 2001
Location: Boulder, Colorado
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:23:12

Transcript: Final, 38 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Wayne Omura, a Japanese American writer from Colorado show shares his Japanese American experience through the eyes of a child of a relocation camp internee. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Omura's childhood upbringing where he dropped out of high school during his rebellious phase and branched out of his family because of the rocky relationship with his father whom they didn't see eye to eye with; recalls experimenting with the outdoors to find his meaning of life and overtime understanding how the hard labor he has endured has helped shape his character growing up; remembers wanting to be a writers and philosopher and deciding to start a career as an author and seeing the countless rejection slips from publishers; mentioning his rejections to his dad's offer to take the business because it was too hard and he would not have time for his literacy or writing on top of his other busy job which led to his brother taking the business; remembers his dad repeatedly exercising and bragging out he did a good job as a father because his two sons had graduated from the university with high honors; reflects on his past accomplishment, advice, and struggles that has brought him to his current state.

OH 1600

Narrator: EDWARD MORRIS OPLER
Interviewer: Arthur Hanses and David Hacker
Date: June 4 – June 6, 1978
Location: Norman, Oklahoma
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 04:42:15
Transcript: Final, 120 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Edward Opler, a trained anthropologist and community analyst from the University of Chicago who focuses on the Manzanar War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Opler's upbringing and personal background growing up; describes his educational training; recalls his recollections from his professional experiences before the war had broken out; discusses an in-depth dive into the community analysis section of Manzanar where he documented conditions in the camp and the daily lives of the Japanese American inmates; remembers feeling sympathetic toward their displacement and would constantly bump heads and rub shoulders with the camp administrators who else the opposite; recalls covering and writing about the Manzanar Riot and resistance to the unpopular loyalty questionnaire and conscription of men from camp to determine whether or not they were working with the Japanese Empire in secret; describes aiding Fred Korematsu in their cases

challenging the legality of excluding Japanese Americans from the West Coast through an amicus brief which they found it to be on racial grounds and challenged the way American public schools teach about Japanese Americans and how they are viewed by Americans briefly mentions his later years working in the Office of War Information and his postwar personal history once it ended.

OH 3467

Narrator: JAMES OTSUKA
Interviewer: Stephen Gould
Date: February 27, 2005
Location: Westminster, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:13:21
Transcript: Final, 30 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with James Otsuka, a Nisei Japanese American Quaker who was jailed as a conscientious objector during World War II. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Otsuka's childhood memories growing up in Orange County and his parent's background born into the United States and their limited Japanese language; describes his internment into the Tule Laker War Relocation Center shortly after the signing of the executive order; shares his mom's and father's stories growing up recalls the conflict between generations in his family and other Japanese Americans for being more or less either Japanese or American in their old traditions and cultures; recalls the racially mixed diversity in Orange County at the high schools with blacks, whites, Hispanics, and very few Asians; describes the discriminations they felt from people because of their slanted eyes but feels since he went to a diver school, it was never personal; explains his intentions of wanting to go college and enter the dentistry profession to achieve his goals and make his family proud for their growth from the farms; breaks down the farming communities and crops of Japanese families that were owned or leased for acres; reflects on the overall wave of Japanese families and the move and spread across the Japanese American community among Orange County.

OH 1400

Narrator: ALFRED PAMPEL
Interviewer: David J. Bertagnoli
Date: April 11, 1977
Location: Lone Pine, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital

Length: 00:24:15
Transcript: Final

Abstract:

An oral history with Alfred Pampel, a longtime resident of Lone Pine, California who share his impressions on the Manzanar War Relocation Center in his community. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Pampel's job as a contractor for the Manzanar Relocation Center and his contact with the Japanese Americans; discusses not having any interest in wanting any involvement with the business inside the internment camp; recalls not associating them with any minorities and not bothering them since they never bothered him; expresses that the internment camp was probably not necessary but understandably so under the circumstances as the isolation of potential spies might have helped the U.S from any espionage or another secret attack; feels that the internment was justified for the safety of the Japanese Americans were in the heat of lots of tension and animosity from Americans who were racist and discriminatory; shares his fear that this even might happen again due to the panic of fighting for civil liberties.

OH 1354

Narrator: CLIFFORD PARKER
Interviewer: Sherry Turner
Date: August 26, 1973
Location: Tule Lake, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:14:18
Transcript: Final

Abstract:

An oral history with Clifford Parker, a retired fire chief for the Tule Lake War Relocation/Segregation Center briefly recounts his impressions of camp life. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Parker's impressions of Japanese Americans and his good relations with them before the war until the war when it changed; mentions his time working for the War Relocation Center to work as a fire protection officer at Tule Lake; recalls taking a shift at the Manzanar Relocation Center and notice a difference in attitudes of the Japanese Americans; expressing having good fire department made of Japanese Americans in the camp that worked hard and complied to their duties and tasks; describes his general attitudes towards the camps as necessary for the protection of the country and a good idea to relocate them; shares that despite Tule Lake being labeled as a segregation center, there was no difference in policies or rules from

Manzanar; mentions the living conditions of the camps and resources of food and sanitarium; reflects on his experience after the war had ended and becoming a farmer without one group being mad at the other.

OH 1514

Narrator: JUDITH PENDLETON
Interviewer: Paul Clark
Date: December 2, 1974
Location: Fullerton, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:04:06
Transcript: Final, 18 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Judith Pendleton, a native of Bridgeton, New Jersey who describes the 1943 relocation of four hundred Japanese American families from Heart Mountain War Relocation Center in Wyoming. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Pendleton's memory of 400 families moving into the area which sparked concern in the middle of the world war and caused lots of hate and discrimination towards the Orientals; recalls the Japanese Americans being accepted into the population within five years because their children were excelling in schools, having normal relations, and some interracial dating; describes having Japanese American friends who would tell her about their terrible experience at the internment camps; mentions being frightened initially almost like people from Mars had just moved in which terrified her because she had never seen a Japanese American before and assumed that they were disloyal and spies working for the Japanese empire but regrets her presumed thinking and got along well the kids at school, friends who were interracial relationships, enlisted in the service, played in the sports and more.

OH 1753

Narrator: GEORGIA DAY ROBERTSON
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: June 26, 1978
Location: Costa Mesa, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:29:16
Transcript: Edited, 19 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Georgia Day Robertson, a resident of Orange County who served as a teacher and supervisor for the mathematics department at the Poston War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Robertson's childhood growing up in an Iowan farm attending school where she was a prolific writer; remembers not being encouraged to attend college right after high school because there no motivation or counseling; recalls not having problems reconciling with both religion and science and mathematics despite the era when religion was being opposed by science; describes her opportunity to get involved in the missionary work right after college; demonstrates her love and influence on the Chinese culture to be a part of their community until they had to flee; explains her experience moving to Orange County, California teaching and selling short stories while looking for a job in the summer of 1942; remembers learning about the need for teachers from the War Relocation Authority and was hired to supervise the math program at the Poston War Relocation Center; recounts some experiences teaching the Japanese and their lives inside the camp; reflects on her efforts to publish her work and experiences of the Japanese so that people were aware of their evacuation and mistreatment.

OH 5415.1

Narrator: GEORGIA DAY ROBERTSON
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: June 26, 1979
Location: Costa Mesa, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:29:16
Transcript: Edited, 52 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Georgia Day Robertson, a resident of Orange County who served as a teacher and supervisor for the mathematics department at the Poston War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Robertson's childhood growing up in an Iowan farm attending school where she was a prolific writer; remembers not being encouraged to attend college right after high school because there no motivation or counseling; recalls not having problems reconciling with both religion and science and mathematics despite the era when religion was being opposed by science; describes her opportunity to get involved in the missionary work right after college; demonstrates her love and influence on the Chinese culture to be a part of their community until they had to flee; explains her experience moving to Orange County, California teaching and selling short stories while looking for a job in the summer of

1942; remembers learning about the need for teachers from the War Relocation Authority and was hired to supervise the math program at the Poston War Relocation Center; recounts some experiences teaching the Japanese and their lives inside the camp; reflects on her efforts to publish her work and experiences of the Japanese so that people were aware of their evacuation and mistreatment.

OH 5415.2

Narrator: GEORGIA DAY ROBERTSON
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: August 21, 1979
Location: Costa Mesa, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:57:42
Transcript: Edited, 31 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Georgia Day Robertson. Robertson, a resident of Orange County who served as a teacher and supervisor for the mathematics department at the Poston War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Robertson's inspiration and memory and experiences she witness inside the internment camps and used her observations when writing the characters for her book the "Harvest of Hate"; differentiates the different experiences of rural and urban families based on where she lived; comments on the details of the inhumanity of men and their backgrounds; remembers the loyalty questionnaire and coercion from the guards, government, and administrators who punished Japanese Americans who chose not to plead the right answer on the loyalty questionnaire; remembers an instance where a Japanese American was found dead hanging and inspired her to add a similar instance in her book to demonstrate the frustrations for the injustice of Japanese Americans; recalls the meaning behind her title and its impact on Japanese Americans to identify and resonate their internment experiences with.

OH 1937

Narrator: PAUL G. ROBERTSON
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen and Reagan Bell
Date: August 12, 1987
Location: Carmichael, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 04:03:45

Transcript: Final, 67 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Paul G. Robertson, the former director of the Leupp Isolation Center in Leupp, Arizona and assistant director of the Tule Lake Segregation Center in Northern Arizona. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Robertson's childhood upbringing growing up in Kansas raised in a Christian home moving from home to home around the states for his dad's job as a railroad man; recalls his experience during the Great Depression working for real estate and making contacts with producers of MGM; referred the time he was at a big Japanese blowout in Los Angeles where he got well acquainted with a fellow who recommended him to Cozzens at the War Relocation Authority's regional office in San Francisco; describes the city life of Leupp and Navajo reservation and the reaction of the Japanese Americans; recalls the tough responsibilities at Tule Lake and the series of riots; references the hostility and jealousy between the War Relocation Authority and the army through the administration; reflects on ending the stereotype that leads to public and racist policy for the Japanese Americans.

OH 1332

Narrator: ED H. RUNCORN
Interviewer: Janis Gennawey
Date: July 8, 1973
Location: Whittier, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:03:04
Transcript: Final, 19 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Ed Runcorn, a former associate superintendent of the War Relocation Authority Cooperative Enterprises during World War II. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Runcorn's memory of Pearl Harbor where he was having dinner with his wife and being shaken by the pain they witnessed; remembers the War Relocation Authority setting up relocations camps which he remembers them at concentration camps because it had barbed wire and guard towers; shares the layout of payroll for the types of jobs and cooperation inside the camp and helped the Japanese community flourish its own economy through monthly pay; mentions the purpose of the WRA was to place Japanese Americans, help them build their confidence, and redistribute them by helping them and assistance with finding jobs once the war was over; describes the formation operations of co-ops and its relation to the Granada War Relocation Center in Colorado and Tule Lake War Relocation and Segregation Center in

California; expresses his position as a former associate superintendent of the War Relocation Authority Cooperative Enterprises; reflects on the impact he felt he made on all aspects for the lives of the Japanese Americans he looked over at the internment camps and relocation centers.

OH 2985

Narrator: GARY P. RYAN
Interviewer: Robert Thomas
Date: May 27, 1994
Location: Santa Ana, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:54:56
Transcript: Final, 15 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Gary Ryan, a judge of the Orange County Superior Court who recounts his experience with Japanese Americans in Southern California. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Ryan's interest in law from his experience as an undergraduate at Loyola University before joining the district attorney's office where he personally fell in love with the career; discusses his experience instructing classes to law students and members of law enforcing throughout different universities in order to challenge students and their ability to finish law school; describes his personal significance and opinions with the Korematsu vs. United States case and its standards with the circumstances of the war; recalls the country not fully being prepared for the war and being attacked in the middle of the United States trying to recover from internal problems and getting over the Depression; mentions the trouble and lack of opportunity for Japanese Americans to prove their loyalty because their rights and equal protections under law were taken away; expresses the frustration and prejudice towards other minorities with blacked out windows and boarded walls on restaurants of small business owners who came from Japan and China; explains the difficulties of getting involved in a war against Japan and Germany because of the manpower they had and the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor which affected the ego of the United States; reflects on the Constitution has been interpreted all these years later with the fear and hysteria and how it might have to bend because it is still interpreted which is why its hesitant that it might happen again.

OH 1355

Narrator: FANNIE RYCHMAN
Interviewer: Sherry Turner
Date: August 27, 1973
Location: Tule Lake, California
Language: English

Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:17:27
Transcript: Final, 6 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Fannie Rychman, a wife of a retired Tule Lake, California farmer who expresses her attitude toward the nearby Tule Lake War Relocation/Segregation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such Rychman's attitude towards Japanese Americans before the war as very interesting being more acquainted with them and lack of change after the attack on Pearl Harbor; remembers one instance where a Japanese family was sending packages of steel used for weapons back to Japan to use in the war; recalls anyone with family serving in the war feeling quite bitter against the Japanese Americans while she felt sorry for them for being taken away from their homes; recalls the living conditions inside the camp being quite comfortable quarters; describes when guards were called to the camps to place and enforce restrictions in the camps through high activity of guard towers to overlook the entire camp.

OH 2010

Narrator: JAMES SAKODA
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: August 9, 1988
Location: Providence, Rhode Island
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length:
Transcript: Final, 3 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with James Sakoda, one of 112,000 Japanese Americans evacuees from the west coast and participant by the University of California Japanese Evacuation and Resettlement Study. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Sakoda's experience employed in the project through the war right after Pearl Harbor and during his time at Tule Lake Assembly Center, Tulare Assembly Center, and the Minidoka Relocation Center; recalls his family's history coming from Hiroshima working on a railroad in Montana before settling in California; expresses the reasons for seizing the opportunity of a better life than Japan; mentions and reflects on the obligation for his parents to be working fulltime in order to get started in the business and the lack of opportunity or misfortune for other Japanese American families.

OH 2050

Narrator: YUKIKO SATO
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: December 12, 1988
Location: Fullerton, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:52:27
Transcript: Final

Abstract:

An oral history with Yukiko Sato, a Japanese American resident of Irvine, California who moved from Japan in 1962 who describes her American experience into a new country, decades after the evacuation of Japanese Americans. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such Yukiko Sato's childhood growing up in Tokyo attending elementary school and junior high with parents of trading company workers until they were transferred to San Francisco; describes her experience and cultural differences from living in Japan apart from living in the United States; recalls feeling like the luckiest girl alive for the chance of a lifetime to move out of her Japanese prefecture and into the United States; mentions the times of leisure and entertainment during a time when the business was a priority; differentiates the cultural standards and traditions passed down from Japan and its impact when assimilating to the American experience; and reflects and compares the American experiences from herself to her daughter and her assumptions that they would have such an easier life but realizes it's not easy for any child to adjust to any culture.

OH 1608

Narrator: AGNES SAVILLA
Interviewer: David A. Hacker
Date: April 8, 1978
Location: Parker, Arizona
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:40:20
Transcript: Final, 13 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Agnes Savilla, a Mojave Indian tribal secretary born and raised on the reservation near Parker, Arizona who recounts the Indian reaction to the Poston War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information

about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Savilla's childhood going to boarding school; remembers her reaction of the announcement of the construction of the relocation center which reminded her of their own tribe's treatment from the white man; recalls thinking of the Japanese American treatment as more free than Indian tribes because they were allowed to leave the camps and shop in stores; describes the few cases of racial discrimination of white people towards the Japanese Americans coming to the camps and showing their hate through posters, banners, and slander to whom it made Savilla embarrassed to be part of a community like that; mentions the government's involvements in housing Indian tribes and comparing the bitter treatment and not receiving a check for living expenses while Japanese Americans received a better quality level of housing, medical care, and protection; expresses the feelings of the current bicultural exchanges between Indian tribes and the Japanese American community in Poston; mentions not liking the Japanese Americans for having better meals and food and provided by the government and were dumping out full meals in the trash going to waste.

OH 1356

Narrator: WESLEY CHARLES SCHINDLER
Interviewer: Sherry Turner
Date: August 26, 1973
Location: Tule Lake, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:13:35
Transcript: Final, 4 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Wesley Schindler, who shares his reflections on the Tule Lake War Relocation/Segregation Center located in northern California by a farmer living in the area. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Schindler's attitudes towards the Japanese Americans before the war as positive because he went to school with them and not having his attitudes towards them change when the attack on Pearl Harbor happened; remembers not thinking much about the construction of an internment camp being built in their city; recalls the local people in the community being very accepting of the Japanese Americans and their arrival in Tule Lake; mentions them leaving the camp to go farming in their community and inviting everyone to go see their crops and have dinner with them; remembers having good relations with them after the camps would be closing despite the concerns of where they might go or if they might stay in the town instead of head back to their homes.

OH 1357

Narrator: WILLIAM E. SCHINDLER
Interviewer: Sherry Turner
Date: August 27, 1973
Location: Tule Lake, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:08:38
Transcript: Final, 4 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with William Schindler, a California farmer who comments on the attitudes of the townspeople toward the camp internees and existence of the Tule Lake War Relocation/ Segregation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such Schindler's attitudes towards Japanese Americans as nothing negative because he lived by them and were always good people even through Pearl Harbor; remembers the amount of opportunities for jobs for the construction of the internment camp when announced to the town; recalls them focusing on their farm work growing their vegetables and raising their own community shares his attitudes towards the camp as necessary for their protection and survival from the espionage; mentions that the Japanese Americans were allowed to leave the camp for recreation but not to many actually did go into town for fear; expresses using some of the German prisoners from the camp to contribute to their harvesting; recalls his close cousin who served in the armed forces who didn't share any negative attitudes against the Japanese Americans; remembers the town having some concern about where the Japanese might go once the camp closes down because of the competition for jobs.

OH 1613

Narrator: ABNER SHREIBER
Interviewer: Paul Clark
Date: March 19, 1979
Location: Lordsburg, New Mexico
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:04:31
Transcript: Final, 15 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Abner Schreiber, a lawyer and Immigration and Naturalization Service officer who recounts his experiences as second in command of the INS camp at Santa Fe, New Mexico. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information

about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Schreiber's personal background before the war working as border patrol; shares his recollections serving with Ivan Williams who was the first officer-in-charge and Loyd Jenson who was the patrol inspector of the camps in New Mexico of 2,000 prisoners of war; recalls feeling bad for the Japanese Americans and prisoners of war who were evacuated because of the situation and circumstance but they were just as human; remembers not having any specific or drastic difficulties with the internees and cooperated very well; expresses his gratitude and good experiences with the Japanese Americans in the camp that respected him; describes the potential news block on connections with the riots at the camps around the west coast; reflects on his reminders of his experiences at the internment camps and the significance it had on the Japanese Americans.

OH 1269

Narrator: HIRON TSUBOI AND JANE TSUBOI
Interviewer: Ruth Wilkerson
Date: February 16, 1973
Location: Altadena, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:44:42
Transcript: Final, 36 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Hiron Tsuboi, a Nisei resident of Altadena, California. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families living on the West Coast during World War II. Topics include Tsuboi's upbringing growing up with parents from Japan that consisted of a father who is a farmer; remembers getting rid of their pets, being escorted by jeeps, and taken to the Pomona Assembly Center to find out where they would be relocated; discusses staying at Harz Mountain working for 12 dollars a month in which everyone had a job that was organized under a system of administration that resembled a typical city; recalls attending Japanese school because it was closely knit to the Japanese community and parents; remembers being questioned by the FBI when they refused to volunteer in the army and yet prove their loyalty to the United States; mentioned how military police would make their way in the camp going through barracks to look for contraband and steal people money which ended up not even being the actual police which cause a riot; remembers her husband feeling very resentful for relocation and wanted to fight back against the evacuation while she was scared to do anything so she abided; reflects back on their life after relocation and adjusting back to what life was like before the war had even started.

OH 0603a

Narrator: KIYOSHI SHIGEKAWA
Interviewer: Harris Done

Date: March 17, 1971
Location: Anaheim, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 1:25:25
Transcript: Edited, 51 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Kiyoshi Shigekawa, a Japanese American resident of Anaheim who was placed in an internment camp during World War II. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, topics include Shigekawa's upbringing growing up with parents born in Japan where he worked as a farmer and fisherman; remembers reading articles of Japanese Americans committing espionage which he thought was rumors and nonsense; describes practically surrendering his boat as all fisherman on the harbor were afraid to go out at sea with the huge military presence there; explains how he had to board up all of his houses and property and tell his neighbors to look after it; remembers the document sent to them that explained and worded in a way to justify the internment of Japanese Americans; remembers being threatened for not wanting to drop the court case for the violation of their civil liberties; remembers life before the war up until they would be evacuated and sent to the Poston Relocation Center in Arizona; describes life after the camps were closing and the process of resettlement back in Orange County.

OH 0603b

Narrator: KIYOSHI SHIGEKAWA
Interviewer: Dale Wilcox
Date: May 16, 1972
Location: Anaheim, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Transcript: Final, 17 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Kiyoshi Shigekawa, a Japanese American resident of Anaheim who was placed in an internment camp during World war II. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, topics include Shigekawa's reaction of pain and betrayal to find out on his return to his old home that lots of their belongs were stolen or borrowed and never given back despite allowing their neighbors to take care of it; recalls his family disassociating with the culture that dates back to their lineage of Mongrels but continuing to stay close-knit as part of their family values; describes the occupation of fishing during the Depression that the Japanese had increasingly gotten involved in as before it was a job

they didn't strive towards, rather it was farming; expresses his frustration to be assigned into an internment camp, closing their business; storing their property around different places and losing it alone with the lies the government made about granting Japanese American compensation and settling five cents for a dollar which they never did; recounts the civil suit from the American Civil Liberties Union against the military commander to determine California as a theater of war and therefore evacuating the Japanese Americans; recalls the mass strike protested inside the walls of the internment camps because of the poor conditions, bad housing, bad food and water, and frustration; discusses his position as the chief of police in the camp and the management of the city council and structure of the camp just like any ordinary city.

OH 2490.1

Narrator: SAKAYE SHIGEKAWA
Interviewer: Jennifer Novak
Date: July 2, 1993
Location: Pasadena, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:32:11
Transcript: Not transcribed

Abstract:

An oral history with Sakaye Shigekawa, a Japanese American physician specialist who was interned at relocation camp in California. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Shigekawa's childhood upbringing growing up in South Pasadena being raised by parents who emigrated from Japan into the United States; mentions her mother as a picture bride who met her father which was a gardener that owned a hog business; recalls when during her adolescent years her mother was hospitalized double pneumonia and her visits to her mother inspired her to study medicine; discusses her time graduating from high school and entering the University of Southern California under their pre-medical program and earning an internship despite facing sex discrimination from instructors and other students ; briefly goes over her experience with the day of Pearl Harbor; remembers her position being incarcerated to the Santa Anita Racetrack; describes joining private practice doctors and clearing for Japanese Americans who were resettling in Chicago after the evacuation order was lifted and how it helped overcome her bitterness.

OH 2490.2

Narrator: SAKAYE SHIGEKAWA
Interviewer: Jennifer Novak
Date: July 9, 1993
Location: Pasadena, California
Language: English

Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:23:33
Transcript: Not transcribed

Abstract:

An oral history with Sakaye Shigekawa, a Japanese American physician specialist who was interned at relocation camp in California. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Shigekawa's experiences as a Japanese American women medical professional in Los Angeles and her move to Chicago during and before the war; mentions the struggles she faced in the postwar year in Chicago and Los Angeles because of what the Issei and Nisei doctors faced after having a wave a patients from the camp; describes the history of the Japanese Hospital in Boyle Heights; mentions having to send letters to the government about how she refuses to the Heart Mountain Relocation Center for Japanese Americans because if she was forced to move, she would protest and not work; recalls her return to Los Angeles to set up her own medical practice in Hollywood and with another hospital where she was the first Japanese American staff member there and was eventually elected as the president.

OH 2490.3

Narrator: SAKAYE SHIGEKAWA
Interviewer: Jennifer Novak
Date: July 16, 1993
Location: Pasadena, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:55:36
Transcript: Not transcribed

Abstract:

An oral history with Sakaye Shigekawa, a Japanese American physician specialist who was interned at relocation camp in California. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Shigekawa's pioneering career as a physician who overcame through all the prejudice and discrimination because she was a Japanese American Women to have a successful medical career; recalls estimating to have delivered at least more than 20,000 babies since she started her career in the 1940s without losing a mother; mentions being only one of seven doctors to help care for 17,000 other detainees in the Santa Anita Assembly Center; discusses her involvement being active in her community and being a member of the Japanese American medical Association and serving as president of the Japanese Community Health Inc.; describes being a supporter for the Japanese American National Museum and their proper representation of

showing the stories and history of the Japanese American Experience along with USC; reflects on her practice with medicine and her impact on the Japanese American community.

OH 2258

Narrator: SUSIE OBA SHIMADA
Interviewer: Cynthia Togami
Date: November 19, 1992
Location: Placentia, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:22:40
Transcript: Final, 29 pages

Abstract:

An oral history of Susie Oba Shimada, accompanied by her husband, Dick, and her brother, Mr. Bud Oba, who lived at the Poston Japanese Internment Camp, officially named the Colorado River Relocation Center, in Yuma, Arizona, from 1942 until July 1943. This interview was conducted at Susie Oba Shimada's home in Placentia, Ca. It is being used for the Japanese American Project at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Japanese Americans who were interned during WWII. The interview is chronological beginning with her birth and leading up to her time living at the internment camp. Topics discussed include Mrs. Shimada's elementary, Jr. high, high school, and college years, all in Fullerton, Ca., the backgrounds of her parents, farming in the area, community activities, local stores and facilities. Shimada gives details about the shocking news of the Japanese bombing at Pearl Harbor. She answers questions about mandatory evacuation of the Japanese, what happened to the properties left behind, transportation to the camp, and conditions of the camp. She gives details about daily life, family, and her time working in the camp. She also married her husband while at the camp; they later relocated to Toledo, Ohio, and later returned to the Fullerton area.

OH 1614

Narrator: MITUSHIKO H. SHIMIZU
Interviewer: Mariko Yamashita & Paul Clark
Date: October 30, 1978
Location: Los Angeles, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:30:02
Transcript: Final, 11 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Mitsuhiko Shimizu, an Issei community leader and businessman in the Los

Angeles's Little Tokyo who recounts his evacuation into Manzanar War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Shimizu's upbringing coming to the United States in 1910 to start his show business; remembers the FBI visiting his house to come down to the police station and transferred to city jail along with all the other Japanese leaders the day the war started; recalls the hard duties serving as a chairman in the Japanese Association and deal with the relations between Japan and the United States; explains being transferred to Jail on Terminal Island where he was finally fed and felt it was inhuman to imprison and starve the Japanese; describes being taken by train to the barracks of North Dakota at Bismarck and forced to work in Louisiana; demonstrates an influence in keeping the peace between the Japanese's devotion to the Emperor in the camp because of the reaction of the administration/directors; and remembers hiring two Japanese night watch with permits to carry pistols and guard the businesses.

OH 2408

Narrator: LUCILLE SMITH
Interviewer: Kenneth Hampton
Date: November 21, 1992
Location: Monterey Park, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:34:20
Transcript: Final, 23 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Lucille Smith, who shares her concerning years as a schoolteacher at the Manzanar Relocation Center hired by the War Relocation Authority. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Smith's family background and childhood being raised by parents who were farmers in Orange County before there was any land or fields of crops; remembers the lack of presence of Japanese Americans in Orange County and the need to go to war during a time of struggle and poverty for their family; recalls her process of wanting to be a teacher when she grew up and the hard difficulty of finding a teaching job in California; mentions her initial reactions of Pearl Harbor and the executive order of evacuating Japanese Americans as unfair and the job opening for teachers at the camp; describes her experience teaching at the high school and the educational process; mentions her opinions on the Japanese Americans that served in the war and regiments and the riots at Manzanar that left one internee dead; reflects on the impact of her service as an educator and the impact the kids left in her for their bright minds.

OH 2375

Narrator: EILEAN SONGSTAD (1919-2017)
Interviewer: Rose Recchia
Date: May 24, 1994
Location: Long Beach, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Formats: Digital, Cassette
Length: 00:43:03
Transcript: Final; 16 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Eilean Songstad, a resident of Long Beach, California. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about her experience during the World War II Japanese American incarceration. Specifically, this interview details Songstad's early married life in Moscow, Idaho; the uncertainty and scariness that the outbreak of World War II brought to their community; competing desires to attend college and get married at twenty-one-years-old; moving to California due to her husband's training as a pilot control tower operator in Santa Monica, California; his work with the Federal Aeronautics Administration at the Long Beach Airport for thirty-one years; lifestyle changes during World War II such as an increase in naval personnel due to the radar training school at the University of Idaho and Farragut Naval Training Station at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; personal impact that the war had on their community; rationing of food, clothing, shoes, and appliances because these items were being made for the war effort; listening to the news over the radio about the attack on Pearl Harbor; concerns about potential Japanese threats to mainland U.S.; discussion with friends in Long Beach about the Japanese community on Terminal Island; recollections about the absence of Japanese Americans when she moved to California from Idaho in June 1942 and reasoning for it; living with blackout conditions and air raids in southern California; comments about being unsure whether or not the Japanese were incarcerated due to racism rather than being an alleged threat to U.S. security; feelings that Long Beach residents had toward Japanese Americans after the war; the media's influence in creating hysteria and how they swayed public opinion against Japanese Americans; whether or not incarceration could happen again to minority communities; reception of Japanese American community into U.S. society years after the war and after they served in the military; thoughts about the 1988 Civil Liberties Act which ushered in a presidential apology and reparations; lifestyle and societal differences between Idaho and California; differences between pre-war and wartime economy; the boredom in being a housewife and how she applied for a job in the payroll office at the Douglas Aircraft Company plant in Long Beach; how she moved to California in June 1942 to be with her husband by taking a road trip with several other people from or visiting Idaho; recollections of vacations in California with her parents; and additional comments on her World War II rationing experiences.

OH 2424

Narrator: WILBUR SATO
Interviewer: Tim Carpenter

Date: November 30, 1995
Location: Los Angeles, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:31:14
Transcript: Final, 42 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Wilbur Sato, a Japanese American resident of Irvine, California who moved from Japan in 1962 who describes her American experience into a new country, decades after the evacuation of Japanese Americans. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Sato's time after leaving the Manzanar camp and moving to Iowa where there was a little Asian American population; recalls trying to put their camp experience and prejudice behind them when attending a new high school to move on and live life without carrying a burden; emphasize instead their ways to strengthen the Japanese American community by seeking justice to build democratic institutions to empower them; recalls an instance where he was punched in the stomach by another student and felt the transition back into society outside of camp was going to be tough before gaining friends and supporters from other students to protect him; mentions his eventual return to California and how he deals with the reminder of his camp experience as an alienation from everyone else who was non-Japanese-American and how he got to overcome this problem.

OH 1958

Narrator: ROBERT F. SPENCER
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: July 15, 1987
Location: St. Paul, Minnesota
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Transcript: Final, 176 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Robert Spencer, an Emeritus professor of Anthropology at the University of Minnesota who spends his time working on writings about Japanese American experiences. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Spencer's childhood upbringing raised in a Lutheran background and joining the ministry as a philosopher-theologian; remembers the confrontation of evacuating Japanese Americans and its anxieties and hostilities from the attack on Pearl Harbor; recalls returning to San Francisco because of the draft and getting a job with the Works Progress Administration; describes being hired to work on the JERS project because of

his experience studying Japanese and has community relations through Nisei friends and interviewed Nisei fieldworkers; mentions his reports of inmate complaints of the camp conditions like food maggots and overcrowding; references his working relationship with Charles Kikuchi and their detailed analysis of the administration/inmate relations; and expresses putting himself through immersing into the life of the camp of teaching Spanish and working in the relocation offices; and recalls feeling all negative emotions, anxieties, and overall feeling very depressed for the mistreatment of the camp conditions for Japanese Americans.

OH 1615

Narrator: AMY N. STANNARD
Interviewer: Paul Clark
Date: November 30, 1978
Location: Walnut Creek, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:32:47
Transcript: Final, 19 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Amy Stannard, a Department of Justice psychiatrist who describes her wartime experiences as officer-in-charge of the Immigration and Naturalization Service camp at Seagoville, Texas. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Stannard's devoted years getting an education before the war years where she obtained special training and experience in psychiatry; remembers accepting to join the staff of a rehabilitation program built by the Federal Reformatory for women as a warden; recalls the Crystal City camp admitting women and children into a family camp from enemy nationalities like German, Japanese, and a few Italians; shares the huge need for interpreters when internees were arriving from Panama and other countries from South America who only spoke Spanish; describes the self-segregation among the Japanese and the Germans in the camps; expresses her work after the war serving as an advisor in connection to the classification of inmate through records from penal institutions and courts records; reflects on the unnecessary need for the internment camps because she felt no one was disloyal to the United States.

OH 4137

Narrator: RUTH SUGITA (1924-2015)
Interviewer: Christina Villagomez
Date: November 21, 2005
Location: Ontario, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project

Audio Format: Digital
Length: 00:57:04
Transcript: Final; 14 pages
Ephemera: Documents (Digitized)

Abstract:

An oral history with Ruth Sugita, a resident of Ontario, California. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Sugita's experiences in the Manzanar incarceration camp during World War II. Specifically, this interview details Sugita's work as a waitress and dressmaker in Manzanar; description of the living conditions in the camp, including the barracks and mess halls; recollections of sudden forced removal from their family home; buying necessary clothing and shoes for forced removal; selling their personal belongings at very low prices because they could not take it with them; recollections about the mistreatment of Japanese Americans after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941; the train ride from Los Angeles to Manzanar; her request to leave Manzanar and subsequent move to Minnesota; her family's reactions to the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 and fear of incarceration; working at Munsingwear, from which emerged the men's clothing brand Original Penguin; activities such as farming, baseball, social dances, Obon festival and playing ouija at Manzanar; her family's move to Minnesota and return to California; racial discrimination that she and her husband encountered when they tried to buy a house in Monterey Park, California; her thoughts about President Ford's proclamation on February 19, 1976 that confirmed the termination of Executive Order 9066; recollections about the Manzanar riot; tension between the Nisei and Kibei at Manzanar; the Nisei's quietness around the incarceration, which changed with the activism of the Sansei to gain redress and reparations; her reaction to the Civil Liberties Act of 1988; and comparing the incarceration with the Holocaust and the attack of the Twin Towers on September 11, 2001.

OH 2267

Narrator: MASAKA OBA SUGITA
Interviewer: Cynthia Togami
Date: November 20, 1992
Location: Fullerton, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:32:23
Transcript: Final, 40 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Masaka Sugita, a Japanese American resident from Fullerton who describes on behalf of her family's experience during the evacuation of Japanese Americans into relocation center and internment camps. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West

Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such Sugita's childhood upbringing attending grammar school and noticing a shift in the amount of Japanese students in high school and her comfort around Japanese students; recalls not feeling caught up in between both American and Japanese cultural traditions over the other because her mother was Issei and held her traditions over the years; remembers feeling powerless and fearful right after Pearl Harbor and was sympathetic towards Japan but scared they might be stopped by the FBI like some have; describes the measures they had to go through to hide from being taken away or to evade a possible attack like the blackouts and curfews which affected their social life; analyzes their experiences in the internment camps during the evacuation and its impact on the Japanese American community; and reflects on the impact and assimilation of Japanese Americans back into society once the war had ended.

OH 1515

Narrator: HANA TAKASHI
Interviewer: Taeko Okimoto
Date: July 15, 1976
Location: La Mirada, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Transcript: Final, 11 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Hana Takashi, an Issei farm woman who recounts her experiences in the Santa Anita Assembly Center, Whittier, and La Habra, California during World War II. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Takashi's upbringing growing up in Imazumura, Itoshimagun, Fukuoka-ken before immigrating to the United States in 1920 at just eighteen years old where she knew her husband which caused her to leave Japan; recalls her journey coming to Whittier on bicycles and relied on a man with a small farm at a strawberry ranch; describes her husband's family prefecture in Fukuoka, Japan where they wrote each other and send them a scarcity of goods, old clothes and news about the air raids and food shortages; remembers being more profitable to grow flowers by 1920; mentions the children not discriminated but at the same times being labeled to as a "Jap" and have lemons throw at their house which shattered a window and caused to get a dog; describes her move until being evacuated when the war started where she was sent to Arkansas' War Relocation Center but was kept in processing at the Santa Anita racetrack; reflects on the mess in the house when they returned but thankfully all their equipment in the shed was intact when others weren't so lucky.

OH 1616

Narrator: SEYTSU TAKAHASHI
Interviewer: Mariko Yamashita & Paul Clark

Date: December 16, 1978
Location: Los Angeles, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 02:01:04
Transcript: Final, 12 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Reverend Seytsu Takahashi, an Issei Buddhist bishop and superintendent of Kayasan Temple in Little Tokyo who recounts his internment experience in Montana, Texas, and Louisiana. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Takahashi's childhood in the Hiroshima Prefecture until arriving in the United States in 1931 to train as a Buddhist bishops at the Buddhist headquarters; remembers the suspension bridge across to Terminal Island being closed so he had to stay with a family overnight needing to send notebooks to the post office but was refused because of any Japanese writing and guarded with guns and bayonets checking every car; describes being prepared to be taken by the FBI to the police station to be sent to Montana and experience the harsh treatment of Japanese Americans around him; describes the train ride to Montana and threats if any escape attempts were made while some got to return to Los Angeles is they swore allegiance; explains the anti-Japanese sentiment that caused people to go back to Japan once the war was over and hearing false rumors that the Japanese had won the war because they wanted to go back to Japan; and expands on the hard transition and assimilation back into society for Japanese Americans and students because of the language barrier.

OH 1516

Narrator: AIKO TAKEDA
Interviewer: Joseph Manly
Date: September 23, 1976
Location: Denver, Colorado
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:33:56
Transcript: Final, 13 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Aiko Takeda, a Nisei from Watsonville, California who describes his family reaction to Pearl Harbor and evacuation to Poston War Relocation Center in Arizona. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II.

Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Takeda's upbringing growing up with parents from Japan with a father who was a farmer and mother who helped him and placed in grade school where he graduated from high school right before the war broke out; describes the day of Pearl Harbor where he was at Sunday school and heard the news over the radio which shocked him along with his parents although they did intend on visiting Japan to see her grandparents; describes feeling ashamed for Japan's actions and being part of their ancestry because now they were informed that the Japanese would move inland and in prison for relocation; recalls playing Japanese cards when military police came banging on the door late at night and search the house without a warrant looking for a short-wave radio they never had; mentioned having to burn all their Japanese books, school books, camera, and more because of the shame; remembers all going out to work on the fields to collect money in time for relocation; describes the harsh treatment his mother received in the hospital with racist remarks while she was being operated on by being called a "dirty Jap" and being spit on which ultimately lasted until her death due to the lack of medical facilities the camp.

OH 5282.1

Narrator: SUMIYE TAKENO (b. 1922)
Interviewer: Arthur A. Hansen
Date: November 9, 2001
Location: Denver, Colorado
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Transcript: Final; 86 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Sumiye Takeno, a current resident of Denver, Colorado. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project by California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Takeno's evacuation, internment, and resettlement experience during World War II. Specifically, the interview covers her childhood in Florin, California, her experiences in church and sewing school; her experiences as a nurse's aide at the Manzanar internment camp in 1942, detailing camp life, close friends, and recreation; talks about her arranged marriage to her husband, Roy, in 1943 while interned, their engagement party; her Methodist upbringing and faith, her involvement in the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) in the early 1940s; her feelings on "baishakunin" or what is known as arranged marriage; her family's roles and actions while living at the internment camp, her attitude and equipment on and about the camp; comments on her relationship between her husband and herself, her husband's family and their background in Japan, his background living in Fresno, California, size and impact of Roy's family, and change that emanates when a Japanese woman marries into another family; details the importance that medical practicing had on her family life, her husband's health and career in the 1960s while writing as a journalist and acting as an organizer for the JACL; she describes her husband's jobs for such newspapers like the *Denver Post* and *Rocky Jiho*; comments on her social circle after the camp in Manzanar, her husband's local fame as a journalist and for his involvement with JACL; she talks about Roy's leadership position in JACL and his roles in the organization in the early

1950s, her feeling about all the letters of support she received when Roy passed away; explains her move to Denver with Roy in the late 1940s due to his new job as a journalist at the *Rocky Shimpō*, her housing situations between the late 1940s and 1950s in Denver; discusses the location of the newspaper office, *Rocky Shimpō*, the restaurants and stores that surrounded the newspaper office, the location of the JACL office in 1946; she describes the JACL administration with Min Yasui's leadership in 1946, her feelings about the name change from "Denver JACL" to the Mile High Chapter of the JACL in Denver; discusses her family's frugal techniques, simple life, and forms of transportations post-war; her feelings on the evacuations and its effects on the Japanese American community on a national level, the impact the camps had on the communities after the war; how suburbanization impacted her family starting in 1952, the general neighborhoods in Denver that had the largest Japanese American populations; the experiences that JACL gave her, the social and legislative activities she participated in, and the change to civil rights activism in JACL in the 1960s; her feelings on the issue of redress for the Japanese Americans who were interned during the war, and her official active role in the organization in 1987; talks briefly about Min Yasui and his civil rights activism, and about James (Jim) Omura's leadership when he took over the *Rocky Shimpō* newspaper in 1947; and her description between the Issei and Nisei Japanese Americans.

OH 1330

Narrator: ROY Y. TAKETA
Interviewer: Mary McCarthy
Date: July 13, 1973
Location: Bellflower, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:52:26
Transcript: Final, 20 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Roy Taketa, resident of Bellflower who was evacuated and placed into an internment camp during World War 2. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Taketa's upbringing growing up with parents who immigrated from Japan and lived in Signal Hill as farmers; remembers attending a Japanese school and only speaking Japanese since the community was filled with Japanese residents with old traditions and customs; recalls his father working as a cabinetmaker right up until Pearl Harbor where Japanese Americans were being harassed and discriminated harshly by Filipinos and attending school with friends that had badges on their uniform and indicated they were Chinese or Korean; describes the process of relocating somewhere else through a general order if they had a sponsor to watch over the family; remembers visiting family members that were placed in internment camps and feeling exactly like a prison with barbed wire, armed guards, strict clearance, and posts; shares the

world's current problems with racism and how although it might not be in front of their face, they can feel the animosity and will have to live with it; questions what happened to the Italian and German leagues that were evacuated and wonder why the Japanese in Hawaii were never hauled in; reflects on the new westernization of current Japanese Americans and its break away from old traditions.

OH 3469

Narrator: NOBORU TAMURA
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: January 17, 200
Location: Fountain Valley, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 03:48:39
Transcript: Not transcribed

Abstract:

An oral history with Noboru Tamura, a Japanese American who is the brother of Orange County icon, Justice Stephen Tamura. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Tamura's childhood entering the United States at age 3 and growing up in Los Angeles; mentions his father, Hisamatsu Tamura, a carpenter who arrived in California in 1901 and was a prominent farmer and director of the Japanese Farming and Growers Association; mentions his youth as one of the pioneer Issei into the area of various vegetable crops; remembers his brother serving in the Court of Appeal, enlisting in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and founding member of the Orange County Japanese American citizens League; recalls his recreational time outside of school where he participated in track and field; discusses the population and presence of Japanese American communities spanning across all the cities of Orange County when he graduated high school in 1926; remember staying home to work while his younger brother Stephen got to focus on his education; describes the importance of Los Angeles as the city for entertainment, shopping, and leisure since Orange county at the time was full of farms; recalls his experience and religious faith serving his time at the Wintersburg church when it was first constructed with Reverend Nakamura and Reverend Kikuchi reflects on his experience in the Poston War Relocation Center during the war and his overall life impact as a Japanese American.

OH 1271.1

Narrator: TOGO TANAKA
Interviewer: Betty Mitson and David Hacker
Date: May 19, 1973
Location: Los Angeles, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project

Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 02:16:16
Transcript: Final, 36 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Togo Tanaka, a Nisei resident of Los Angeles, California. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families living on the West Coast during World War II. Topics include Tanaka's upbringing growing up in Portland Oregon, without a birth certificate because his parents did not register him; mentions his father's occupation as a farmer and mother with some business ownership dating back when they had first married over in Japan before moving to Oregon and California; remembers his father have no financial assistance for him from the folks of Japan once he got on his feet when he moved to the United States; remembers succeeding his father by accepting a position to be a publisher and represent the leadership over the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL); recalls moving to California where he became an editor for Robert Sullivan and became a member of the Chicago Book Clinic; describes being accused as a spy because they were documenting things in the internment camps and war relocation centers; mentions being lucky enough to not stay in Japan with that citizenship because then he would have been drafted in their military.

OH 1271.2

Narrator: TOGO TANAKA
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: August 30, 1973
Location: Los Angeles, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:46:12
Transcript:

Abstract:

An oral history with Togo Tanaka, a Nisei resident of Los Angeles, California. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families living on the West Coast during World War II. Topics include Tanaka's in depth analysis of discontent erupting due to the riot in the Manzanar internment camp on December 6, 1942; remembers the factions, groups and personalities at camp in relation with his role as the camp documentary historian; recalls investigating "voluntary evacuation" alternatives and visited the Pomona and Santa Anita assembly centers, reporting on his findings in the Rafu editing the last issue of the Rafu Shimpo published before the forced relocation took place; describes documenting the conditions and experiences in the camp for the WRA and sent reports to be included in a study of the internment policy; detailed reports on the factional divisions within the camp and his advocacy for cooperation with camp authorities had

lost his rights as an American and was not trusted by other Japanese internees in the camp; recalls avoiding the attack from the protestors by donning a disguise and joining the mob that were looking for him until he moved with his family to an internment camp in Death Valley.

OH 1271.3

Narrator: TOGO TANAKA
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: September 26, 1994
Location: Los Angeles, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format: Digital
Length: 03:33:30
Transcript: Final, 70 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Togo Tanaka, a semi-retired businessman and a resident of Los Angeles, California. This is Tanaka's third interview for the Japanese American Oral History Project for Cal State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information about Tanaka's life after his incarceration at the Manzanar camp during World War II. Specifically, this interview details Tanaka's frustration of not wanting to move back to California because of previous experiences; University of Chicago anthropologist Robert Redfield's visit to Manzanar; thoughts about Dorothy Swaine Thomas' Japanese American Evacuation and Resettlement Study; recalls his recollections about the American soldiers' hostile behavior that he and his family encountered when they were on the train for Chicago as part of their resettlement; mentions a description of the American Friends Service Committee hostels and help that the Quakers gave to them and to European refugees that were coming into Chicago; shares his experience working for the American Baptist Home Mission Society to find jobs and homes for immigrants throughout the Chicago area; recognizes the difference in opinion between the Issei and Nisei about loyalty to the United States; identifies the War Relocation Authority's views on the resettlement; speaks upon the formation of a Japanese American community in Chicago; shares his thoughts about his friendship with author and former United States Senator S. I. Hayakawa; recalls his work for the *Rafu Shimpo*; reflects on the recollections about his friendship with Rutgers University attorney Harry Volk; looks back on his work with the publication of his magazine, *Scene* and remarks about what he considered to be some of his greatest accomplishments.

OH 2472

Narrator: IZUMI TANIGUCHI
Interviewer: Jay Thompson
Date: December 7, 2003
Location: Half Moon Bay, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project

Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:43:00
Transcript: Final, 33 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Izumi Taniguchi, an internee of the Crystal City Relocation Center and vice president of the national Japanese American Citizens League. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Taniguchi's childhood upbringing growing up in Brentwood as a farmer raised by Japanese parents who were greatly affected by the Great Depression; remembers the day of Pearl Harbor and how his father was labeled by the FBI as a threat and was arrested soon after; discusses when Executive Order 9066 was passed how his family had to prepare for evacuation and drop out of school to be sent to the Gila River War Relocation Center; describes his camp experience with recreation and being able to reunite with his father after being taken away; recalls the loyalty questionnaire and being treated better in a camp for enemies of the state rather than for the U.S citizens; mentions their eventual release from the camp and searching for farms in the Rio Grande Valley before joining the army to pay for his college tuition; discusses attending college to focus on economics and earning his doctorate's and getting married before traveling to Japan on sabbatical; remembers the death of his parents and being motivated to be involved with the Japanese American citizens League; reflects on his academic career and serving for the representation of Japanese Americans.

OH 2473

Narrator: RONALD TANIMOTO
Interviewer: Jay Thompson
Date: December 10, 1992
Location: Irvine, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:44:12
Transcript: Final, 14 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Ronald Tanimoto, an internee of the Crystal City Department of Justice internment camp. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Tanimoto's childhood background growing up in Southern California and being raised by parents from Japan into a farming family; mentions his knowledge of his family's history only through what his sister knows and told him; remembers his dad working a lot and never being around of lot which is why he did not have a close relationship with him until his mom died; recalls their childhood

being well off and witnessing their parents fight a lot; discusses his father's opinions on his internment as not worrying about it or bringing it up and to forget it because it's the past; remembers his father being arrested after the bombing to Pearl Harbor because of his possible ties with the Black Dragon Society; describes the camp experience, leisure, and layout of the organization; mentions his experience leaving the camp and adjusting back into Los Angeles with new jobs; recalls the little confrontations with other students for using derogatory terms towards Japanese Americans; shares his knowledge of the Japanese American Citizens League supporting rights for the community.

OH 1517

Narrator: OSKI TANIWAKI
Interviewer: Joseph Manly
Date: August 15, 1976
Location: Denver, Colorado
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:44:06
Transcript: Final, 11 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Oski Taniwaki, an Issei who gives biographical information and recounts his participation in the Shin Sekai bilingual newspaper where he discusses the Merced Assembly Center and Granada War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Taniwaki's upbringing being born in Japan but coming to the United States at age 6 which prevented him from getting his citizenship prior to the second World War; describes his childhood in Seattle, Washington until moving to California where his mother owned a chop suey establishment which her purpose was to make money and send it back to Japan to provide and live on a farm but leave him behind in California with some money; recalls being wanted to establish an English page on a bilingual newspaper in San Francisco; mentions getting married to his wife and working as a branch manager in an office in Burlingame when Pearl Harbor occurred; remembers his initial feelings of relocation being understanding as he had no citizenship so legally they could deport him; describes the camp life from Amache to Merced; reflects on his frustration for why the Japanese were relocated instead of the German or Italian population in the U.S.

OH 1359

Narrator: MASAKO TASHIMA
Interviewer: Pat Tashima
Date: June 1, 1974
Location: Undetermined

Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:53:56
Transcript: Final, 9 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Masako Tashima, one of the oldest Nisei California natives born in San Francisco who was evacuated into the Poston War Relocation Center in Arizona during World War II. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Tashima's upbringing growing up in San Francisco with parents who started their own business while also being educated in Japan on their trips back and forth; describes living in Orange County in the early 1900s in Wintersburg where it was quiet and the neighborhood was so friendly despite the diversity of nationalities; recalls hearing the Pearl Harbor attack through the radio and shaking of fear with her children and was no longer allowed to leave their home and obey the curfew; mentions her dad being taken away with a group for saying and doing harsh things that made the FBI feel suspicious; remembers feeling unhappy at Poston Relocation Center but felt safe with some unease about the idea of not knowing when their father would return; describes her brothers volunteering in the army while in camp with one of her own sons being wounded in battle; reflects on her current status with her family despite suffering through the internment camp.

OH 1360

Narrator: YOSHIE MARY TASHIMA
Interviewer: Pat Tashima
Date: February 15, 1974
Location: Buena Park, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:00:02
Transcript: Final, 14 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Yoshie Tashima, a Los Angeles Nisei who was evacuated and sent to Granada War Relocation Center in Colorado during World War II. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Tashima's upbringing growing up with parents in the dry cleaning business and feeling very uncomfortable once the war had started because the animosity towards

Japanese Americans were increasing through derogatory terms like “Japs”; remembers the Santa Anita Racetrack being converted into a concentration camp with barbed wire and sentry towers where they spent six months before going to Granada Relocation Center; recalls the dry conditions resembling a dust bowl with a lack of greenery but the camp decided to make the most of it through hospitals, barbershops, canteens, fire and police departments where everyone essentially did their jobs, got paid, and run the community along with some life into the desert; describes making the most of their living situation but was eager to return home to California when the ban was lifted where they then started a business in an area where the prejudice was still present in some way.

OH 1361

Narrator: MASAYUKI TASHIMA
Interviewer: Pat Tashima
Date: July 15, 1974
Location: Cleveland, Ohio
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length:
Transcript: Final, 20 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Masayuki Tashima, a Nisei who endured in the military during World War II and joined the Japanese American Citizens League. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Tashima’s upbringing growing up earning his college education while working difficult job of the menial tasks and felt very discriminated against by Caucasians in the start of World War II; recalls being at home after working on the farm and listening to the announcement of Pearl Harbor through the radio and feeling uncomfortable knowing they were a minority group and their ancestral country declared war on the U.S; remembers feeling hopeless to have their live change and be relocated so he decided to move, look for a job, and eventually enlist in the army once the Japanese Americans were allowed to do so; describes their father being taken away by the FBI for being a prominent man in the JAACL and being a president of a Japanese language school where they thought he was promoting anti-American feelings; reflects on his experience serving in Italy where they struggled over the government and returned home once the treaty was made; expresses the encouragement and need for the schools and education system to teach the Caucasian population about the Japanese heritage; describes feeling some form of bitterness towards the country and its government for the treatment of its Japanese and felt there is no justification for it.

OH 1362

Narrator: YOSHIYUKI TASHIMA
Interviewer: Pat Tashima
Date: February 20, 1974
Location: Undetermined
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length:
Transcript: Final, 7 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Yoshiyuki Tashama, a Nisei supermarket produce manager from pioneer Orange County who was relocation to Poston, Arizona during World War II. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Tashima's upbringing growing up in the United States whose parents migrated from Japan in 1904 becoming one of the oldest Nisei natives in Orange County; recalls the war breaking soon after Pearl Harbor and being restricted with a curfew, travel limitations, and usage of lighting; describes being sent directly to Poston, Arizona by train and left in the middle of the Mojave desert without their father who was taken by the FBI and labeled as an enemy alien and sent to Lordsburg, New Mexico where they reunited by letter; mentions the camp life at Poston and all the Japanese from Orange County and felt more aligned and got along better with the Caucasians people; feels no bitterness and says that the internment camp was great for the Japanese from a social aspect as they mingles instead of sticking together; remembers being drafted for basic training after being relocated for a year and being relieved to work with kids who were trained from the East and take them under their wing; recalls it being his duty to serve America and show their allegiance for the county but felt saddened when some were betrayed upon return from their personal belongings and property; reflects on the impact it made to his life and its great experience for the Japanese American community.

OH 5283

Narrator: TAK TERASAKI
Interviewer: Arthur A. Hansen
Date: November 10, 2001
Location: Lakewood, Colorado
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length:
Transcript: Final, 64 Pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Tak Terasaki, a current resident of Denver, Colorado. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project by California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Terasaki's experience during World War II. Specifically, the interview covers his personal and family background prior to World War II, his formative years in an all-white neighborhood, his feelings on his assimilation into American culture; his father's business in the late 1920s, the exodus of Japanese Americans after the war; describes the Japanese language regarding his parents, his relationship with his father growing up; his experience meeting his wife and her family; talks about the discriminations while growing up, boy scout troops he was part of; explains famous social activities that were held in his community, his sibling's marriages and their spouses, his nieces and nephews; details his high school, East High School, the community surrounding the school in City Park, and some of their students during the late 1920s and early 1930s; comments on his experiences working as a janitor after high school during the Depression, working with his brother-in-law at a local drug store, his relationship with his brother-in-law, his job as an assistant pharmacist at their drug store, the clientele of the diverse working class at the drug store during the Depression; briefly explains his experiences and position while on the board of the community center in Denver; he comments on the start of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) movement before World War II, the remembrance of his friend, Larry Tajiri and his experiences with him, and the organizational period of the JACL in the early 1950s; describes his restaurant business, the discrimination he saw against many minorities during the 1950s, his Japanese American friends that came from other areas of the United States; comments on his distant involvement with the JACL during the 1950s with Min Yasui and other leaders, JACL's financial decisions in the 1960s; details his children's relationships with their spouses, his decisions towards job opportunities during the 1960s, and he discusses the Tota family whom ran the *Rocky Shimpō* newspaper during the 1950s.

OH 1358

Narrator: VICTORIA THALER
Interviewer: Sherry Turner
Date: August 27, 1973
Location: Tule Lake, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:26:35
Transcript: Final, 10 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Victoria Thaler, a judge residing in Tulelake, California who recalls her life in the nearby Tule Lake War Relocation/Segregation Center as wife of a camp employee. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such Thaler's attitudes towards her husband's job working at a war relocation center that held Japanese Americans after the attack on Pearl Harbor;

recalls taking recreational classes in the camps like sewing, and not feeling okay about the mistreatment of Japanese Americans to be held like a prison; mentions the living conditions of the camps with the quarters the same as any modern family; shares some of the animosity among the community and from the camp towards each other; shares personal accounts of mistreatment for the Japanese Americans in the camp; includes a list of rations and restrictions of what the Japanese Americans could or could not do or what they can buy and eat.

OH 2423

Narrator: ARTHUR TAKEI
Interviewer: Tim Carpenter
Date: November 22, 1995
Location: Los Angeles, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 02:00:13
Transcript: Final, 31 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Arthur Takei, a Japanese American who was an incarcerated at the Santa Anita and Rohwer Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Takei's childhood upbringing growing up without a father and the burden it left on his mother to raise the kids on her own and maintain their cultural values; recalls a concentrated population in Boyle Heights and a community known as City Terrace with a sizeable Japanese population; mentions the day of Pearl Harbor where all the radio broadcasts were going crazy and growing concerns of a possible evacuation; expresses the frustration of the evacuation and directing the blame at the U.S government; mentions the form of resistance against the U.S draft by increasing their blood pressure purposely by drinking soy sauce to be disqualified during their examination; discusses the controversy of the 442nd regiment for the contradiction of both admiring Japanese Americans for serving in a war and yet hate them for joining the cause to kill their own home country; describes the effect on Japanese Americans and their stance on politics to increase the representation of Japanese Americans to prevent more discrimination.

OH 2859

Narrator: MARY KIMOTO TOMITA
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: June 18, 2000
Location: Oakland, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:35:18

Transcript: Final, 28 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Mary Tomita, a former school librarian and human rights activists who shares her story on being trapped in Japan during the remainder of the war. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Tomita's bibliography information on her life and journal entries she's written throughout her life; her childhood upbringing being raised by Japanese immigrant on a 20 acre ceres farm all her life until she graduated from college; share her time visiting Japan for two years to learn the Japanese language while Pearl Harbor had attacked Hawaii and her ship was then turned away; describes her four year living in deprivation, danger, and cultural collision through America's firebombing of Tokyo, women expectations, and racism to where she wrote down her experiences and letters published by the Stanford University press book; recalls playing a prominent role in organizing the Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries within the United Church of Christ and raising funds and petitions; recalls her politically active efforts and role being very interested in the race issues in America with the Japanese Americans and treatment of the relocation centers; recounts and reflects on her wartime experiences in a memoir of the air raids, and her wartime resettlement into American where she had to redefine herself against the demands of the two competing cultures.

OH 2986

Narrator: FRED TOMIYOSHI
Interviewer: Maria Quezada
Date: May 26, 1994
Location: Long Beach, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Formats: Digital, Cassette
Length: 01:29:19
Transcript: Final; 30 pages
Ephemera: Student paper (Not Digitized)

Abstract:

An oral history with Fred Tomiyoshi for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about Tomiyoshi's experience at the Pinedale temporary detention facility and the Tule Lake incarceration camp in California. Specifically, this interview details his parents' immigration from Japan to the United States; their farming community near Seattle, Washington; early education and Japanese language school; parents' and community's reactions to the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor by Japanese military forces; parents' reactions to Executive Order 9066; packing their belongings and being forcibly removed from their home; feelings of panic and uncertainty within the community due to the rumors of FBI arrests; the train ride to Pinedale; living conditions at Pinedale, including the barracks, latrines, and mess hall; fear of the camp

guards and rumors that incarcerated would be shot if they came too close to the fence; how young incarcerated passed the time playing outdoor games, especially baseball; recollections about how his parents spent their time at Pinedale; being transferred to the Tule Lake incarceration camp; living conditions at Tule Lake, including the barracks, latrine, mess hall, and school; working relationship between the students and teachers; his parents' silence around their own feelings about camp while they were incarcerated in Tule Lake; his father's occupation as a carpenter; feelings of dissent and protest activities at Tule Lake; his father's job working on a farm in eastern Oregon; his mother's responsibility to administer discipline while his father worked outside of Tule Lake; family's bus trip from Tule Lake to eastern Oregon to reunite with his father; his mother's experiences with prejudice and racism on the bus ride to Oregon; adjusting to life on their new farm in eastern Oregon; his experiences with racism in eastern Oregon, in particular anti-Japanese signs in store windows; the pressure to assimilate into the community; reflections about how the war impacted his family's lives; discussion about how education and the incarceration helped the Nisei become independent from their parents; why he believes that the incarceration will not happen again; why he believes that future generations should know about the incarceration; and their nonchalant attitude toward the incarceration experience.

OH 2415

Narrator: MINORU TONAI
Interviewer: Tara Ragsdale
Date: May 25, 1994
Location: Santa Monica, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:28:38
Transcript: Not transcribed

Abstract:

An oral history with Minoru Tonai, a Japanese American Korean War veteran who discusses his Japanese American experience after moving from Japan. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Tonai's childhood upbringing as a Terminal Island native and being raised and living in Japan before moving to San Pedro; remembers his father being considered by the FBI to be a community leader which is why he was arrested and jailed while the rest of the family was evacuated to the Santa Anita Racetrack when the war broke out; describes the day of Pearl Harbor and his experience in the camp at the Amache Relocation Center in Colorado; recalls his time after the war and the closure of the camp and continuing his education in UCLA before being drafted in the army to serve in the Korean War; recalls his time serving as president of the Amache Historical Society and his impact on representing Japanese American Korean War veterans and Terminal Islanders in the Southern California region; and reflects on his overall experience as a Japanese American compared to others.

OH 1269

Narrator: HIRON TSUBOI AND JANE TSUBOI
Interviewer: Ruth Wilkerson
Date: February 16, 1973
Location: Altadena, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:44:42
Transcript: Final, 36 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Hiron Tsuboi, a Nisei resident of Altadena, California. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families living on the West Coast during World War II. Topics include Tsuboi's upbringing growing up with parents from Japan that consisted of a father who is a farmer; remembers getting rid of their pets, being escorted by jeeps, and taken to the Pomona Assembly Center to find out where they would be relocated; discusses staying at Harz Mountain working for 12 dollars a month in which everyone had a job that was organized under a system of administration that resembled a typical city; recalls attending Japanese school because it was closely knit to the Japanese community and parents; remembers being questioned by the FBI when they refused to volunteer in the army and yet prove their loyalty to the United States; mentioned how military police would make their way in the camp going through barracks to look for contraband and steal people money which ended up not even being the actual police which cause a riot; remembers her husband feeling very resentful for relocation and wanted to fight back against the evacuation while she was scared to do anything so she abided; reflects back on their life after relocation and adjusting back to what life was like before the war had even started.

OH 1518.1

Narrator: HARRY Y. UENO
Interviewer: Sue Kunitomi Embrey and Arthur Hansen
Date: October 30, 1976
Location: San Jose, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 02:34:12
Transcript: Final, 50 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Harry Y. Ueno, a Kibei who discusses the psychological impact of being education and brainwashed in Japan while in isolation from the parents and recount his experience being evacuated to the Manzanar War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University,

Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as his contribution as a central figure in the Manzanar Riot as he headed up the mess hall workers union; his eventual arrest for his alleged role in the previous night's beating of scorned Japanese American Citizens League leader Fred Tayama; describe his influence and impact causing mass demonstrations which lead the military police to release gunfire and kill two evacuees while also wounding several others; recalls his incarceration experiences in Moab, Utah, Leupp, Arizona, and the Tule Lake Segregation Center in California; mentions his daily life after the war had ended and readjusting to life in California's Santa Clara County working as a farmer until he retired where he actively supports redress and reparation for Japanese Americans because of their wartime mistreatment.

OH 1518.2

Narrator: HARRY Y. UENO
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: June 28, 1985
Location: San Jose, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 02:34:12
Transcript: Final, 50 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Harry Y. Ueno, a Kibei who discusses the psychological impact of being educated and brainwashed in Japan while in isolation from the parents and recount his experience being evacuated to the Manzanar War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Ueno's upbringing growing up in Hawaii with parents born in the Hiroshima prefecture raised by a father who worked with leasehold farming while his son was enrolled in public and Japanese schools until his eventual move to Los Angeles; mentions how he met and married his wife who was a Japanese immigrant living in Little Tokyo where they raised three boys and worked on a fruit stand/market; describes his assembly of the inmate committee to investigate the reasoning for the worsening sugar shortfall which led to Ned Campbell the camp director having spirited 100-pound sugar sacks out of camp for black market sale; recalls the Mess Hall Workers Union which symbolized Manzanar's anti-JACL sentiment among factions; reflects on the amount of power divided by the generations in camp with the opposition of political strength from the Issei to the Kibei who sparked animosity towards the JACL leftist alliance.

OH 1518.3

Narrator: HARRY Y. UENO
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: June 17, 2000
Location: San Jose, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 02:34:12
Transcript: Final, 50 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Harry Y. Ueno, a Kibei who discusses the psychological impact of being educated and brainwashed in Japan while in isolation from the parents and recount his experience being evacuated to the Manzanar War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Ueno's intense arrest of Fred Tayama's beating which had attendees feel he was innocent and victimized for fingering select War Relocation Authority officials of appropriating inmate provisions for personal gain; describes his unconditional release like enforcement removal with a split into some going to the camp hospital to attack Tayama and the other group to the jail to free him; recalls spending the remaining war years in various lockups around the country because he was considered a troublemaker by the War Relocation Authority and was never charged with a crime or granted a hearing; mentions his exchange for camp politics for family and work priority which he also restored his renounced his U.S citizenship; reflects on his current contributions attending Manzanar pilgrimages. Public programs reparations and lawsuit for wartime damages.

OH 2376

Narrator: RUMI TONAI URAGAMI (1927-2013)
Interviewer: Amanda Raine
Date: August 16, 1994
Location: Los Angeles, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Formats: Digital, Cassette
Length: 00:52:12
Transcript: Final; 21 pages
Ephemera: JANM brochure, War Relocation Authority individual record, flyer from JANM's opening of "America's Concentration Camps: Remembering the Japanese American Experience November 11, 1994-November 1995" (Not Digitized)

Abstract

An oral history with Rumi Tonai Uragami at the Japanese American National Museum (JANM) in Los Angeles, California. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about her experience at the Santa Anita temporary detention facility in California and the Amache incarceration camp in Colorado. Specifically, this interview details her childhood on Terminal Island near Los Angeles; early education in Southern California and Japan; the arrest of her father, a community leader, by the FBI on when Pearl Harbor was attacked by the Japanese military on December 7, 1941; discussion of curfew, travel restrictions and Uragami's subsequent inability to attend school; living in the stables at Santa Anita; her father's imprisonment in the Terminal Island federal prison, Los Angeles federal prison, Fort Missoula Department of Justice camp in Missoula, Montana, Fort Lincoln Department of Justice camp in Bismarck, North Dakota, Santa Fe Department of Justice camp in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Amache; recollections of her middle and high school education in Amache; the helpfulness of her social studies and math teachers, who encouraged her to attend college; inability to graduate from Amache High School due to being short a couple classes; the implausibility of attending public school in Chicago because her parents could not afford out-of-state tuition; her parents' decision to move back to California because of the cost of living; working as a maid in Los Angeles six-and-a-half days a week at \$25 a month to cover her expenses and education; inability to attend UCLA because she needed to work to support her family; attending dress-making classes at Frank Wiggins Trade School; parents' immigration from Japan and the occupations in the United States; her father's rise in prominence in the community through his fishing and produce businesses and his position as a representative of the Japanese community; description of her mother as a Japanese picture bride and process of arranged marriages in Japan; picture brides' reactions to their husbands, who were fifteen years older on average; the long lasting marriages between the Issei versus today; San Pedro's inclusive environment due to the Japanese, Yugoslavian, Italian, German immigrant community; how the Issei and Nisei did not question or protest against the actions of the U.S. government during World War II; the selling of their belongings and the looting of stored belongings during the war; school dances, recreational classes, and the food at Santa Anita; discusses the hypocrisy of the "Statement of United States Citizen of Japanese Ancestry," also known as the "loyalty questionnaire"; the postwar stress of the Issei and the hard work of the Nisei; how her father did not discuss his experiences in the Department of Justice camps; living in Japan after the war and then returning to their community in Los Angeles; her family's living and working conditions after the war; recollections about attending Amache reunions and the upcoming larger camp reunion in November 1994 at the Los Angeles Convention Center; how she met her husband and how they did not like each other at first; recollections of camp activities like Boy Scouts; and volunteering at JANM.

OH 2535

Narrator:	CLIFFORD UYEDA
Interviewer:	Arthur Hansen
Date:	April 4 & October 22, 1997
Location:	Pasadena, California
Language:	English
Project:	Japanese American Oral History Project

Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:23:33
Transcript: Final

Abstract:

An oral history with Clifford Uyeda, a Japanese American pediatrician and activists who led the Japanese American Citizens League in the struggle for redress and draft resisters. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Uyeda's childhood upbringing growing up in Washington and raised by parents who were oyster farmers and lumber mill workers; mentions his time working in canneries in Alaska and moving away from racism when he took an empty seat in the colored section of a segregated street car; remembers his granted admission to Boston university Medical School being rescinded because of his race; recalls being drafted by the military during the Korean war and served in the Air Force as a doctor until returning to work as a pediatrician; mentions his increasing involvement in the Japanese communities and developing resources to pioneer Asian American studies; describes being a part of the first board members of the Japanese Cultural and Community Center; goes over his support to pardon Iva D' Aquino who was convicted of treason and saying he was a victim of an unjust trial; discussed his active support for reparations for the wartime confinement of Japanese Americans and becoming the direction of the JACL redress movement to educate citizens of the unfair treatment; describes his work to publicize the actions of wartime Nisei draft resisters and bring the Rape of Nanking to light and other notable moments of Asian American history.

OH 1071

Narrator: MAS UYESUGI
Interviewer: John McFarlane
Date: April 16, 1977
Location: Santa Ana, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 1:17:18
Transcript: Final, 20 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Mr. Mas Uyesugi, a 46-year-old Nisei and resident of Santa Ana, California. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families living on the West Coast during World War II. This interview specifically details about his struggles during World War II. How he and his family were forcibly evacuated, and he had to complete his studies at Granada War Relocation Center. He talks about how when Pearl Harbor was bombed he felt a change in the people's behavior. He describes how his father died in 1936 and how he had to close his store and cash out his insurance policy to pay things out; how his mother had to take care of her eight

children by herself and how she started a restaurant business which she had to leave because of the forced evacuation. He talks about how everything was chaotic, and they only had time to take their belongings; describes camp conditions, that there were no proper accommodation facilities for sizable families. He shares how his brother was serving the nation by joining military service and that they were forcibly removed from their homes; how he managed despite the circumstances and went to University of Colorado to complete his education, and how after three semesters, he went to join the army. He talks about how his mother always supported him and never had any hatred for America. How he had to go through basic training twice due to negligence of the government and end up attached to WCID. He discusses how they were all treated badly even after the war was over and how they remained positive with all the injustice and were able to install a Japanese garden in Orange County Civic Center.

OH 2654

Narrator: ELVA WALLACE
Interviewer: William Docking
Date: November 11, 1997
Location: Anaheim, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:11:13
Transcript: Final, 23 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Elva Wallace, a child civilian who shares her recollections of her experiences at the Tule Lake Relocation Segregation Center for Japanese Americans. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Wallace's childhood upbringing growing up in Arizona during the Great Depression before he was assigned to go to Tule Lake, California to help construct the relocation camp that would receive the first Japanese internees; remembers her family moving to Tule Lake and reflecting on its impact on her life as child; recalls her dad being ordered to dismantle the camp after the war ended and begin working on other projects; mentions having to be taken to grade school by troop carriers from the camp during the war that was cold and not an enjoyable experience; reveals attending school with the children of the staff of Tule Lake but being forcefully separated from the internees by high fences and barbed wire on top; recalls the emotional damage on himself as a child missing his father while they were moving around from house to house for him to leave for work for months; remembers no such thing as any internees being brutalized by the guards except for the instance of the riots and protests; describes the camp life and organization with activities and recreation; reflects on the impact of the growing up near the camp and witnessing the conditions and Japanese American experience through her eyes and noticing the different perceptions.

OH 1363

Narrator: IKUKO AMATATSU WATANABE
Interviewer: Arthur A. Hansen
Date: July 24, 1974
Location: Fullerton, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 03:09:19
Transcript: Final, 65 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Ikuko Watanabe, a Nisei district manager of an educational corporation who was relocated to the Manzanar War Relocation Center during World War II. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Tashima's upbringing growing up with parents from Kagoshima, Japan with a samurai background that had attached to the society of California after only promising to return to Japan after making sufficient capital; describes the Japanese farmers getting rich from the market of strawberries that left their family with a modest kind of income despite having a five-acre farm where kids were able to carry more of the work; describes the uncomfortable feeling of going to school the next day after Pearl Harbor where martial law was announce and enforced a curfew that didn't allow her to attend her prom; recalls her experience with the Japanese community in the Bainbridge island that eventually got her father taken from the FBI for his huge influence and involvement; describes her time being relocated to Manzanar while others were transferred to Munidoka in Idaho; shares her wartime resettlement with Chicago after the war ended and returning to California where she describes the discriminatory housing policies.

OH 2000

Narrator: ROSALIE H. WAX (1911-1998)
Interviewer: Arthur A. Hansen
Date: April 12, 1990
Location: Home of Rosalie H. Wax
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format: Digital
Length: 04:17:17
Transcript: Final; 75 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Rosalie H. Wax, an anthropologist and Professor Emerita of Washington University at St. Louis, Missouri. The author of *Doing Fieldwork: Warnings and Advice*, Wax was a contributor to Dorothy Swaine Thomas and Richard Nishimoto's *The Spoilage* even though she conducted extensive fieldwork at the Gila River and Tule Lake incarceration camps, which was heavily drawn upon in that book. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about her childhood, her experience as an anthropologist at the Gila River and Tule Lake camps, and life after World War II. Specifically, this interview details her childhood in Des Plaines, Illinois, Orange County, California, and Los Angeles, California; quitting school to work for the Works Project Administration so that her younger siblings could receive their education; her decision to finish high school in her early twenties after supporting her sibling's education; description of how her parents met and their educational backgrounds; speaking fluent German and English at home; her plans to become a linguistic specialist at the University of California, Berkeley during graduate school; her strong relationship with her siblings; her parents' decision to move from Illinois to California; how she received her high school diploma and entered Los Angeles City College; her working relationships with diverse communities and her knack for learning new languages; reflections on how she arrived at U.C. Berkeley and her determination to become an anthropologist; her impressions of the university, the department, and faculty; description of how she became a field anthropologist for the Japanese American Evacuation and Resettlement Study (JERS) at U.C. Berkeley headed by sociologist Dorothy Swaine Thomas; discusses her working relationship with Thomas; description of sociologist W.I. Thomas, who was married to Dorothy Swaine Thomas; the Thomas's working relationship as writers; thoughts on Tamie Tsuchiyama and Richard Nishimoto who were key members of JERS; description of the authorship process behind *The Spoilage*; reasons why she was excluded from the book's byline and why she did not fight for authorship; recollections about her experience at Gila River; how Gila River gave her the opportunity to learn how to conduct fieldwork; how Gila River taught her a lot about the Japanese American culture and prepared her for the atmosphere at Tule Lake; and her thoughts about renunciation of U.S. citizenship in the incarceration camps.

OH 1611

Narrator: ROBERT WEST
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: April 8, 1978
Location: Parker, Arizona
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:50:55
Transcript: Final, 19 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Robert West, a longtime Parker, Arizona resident who comments on the community reaction and impact of the Poston War Relocation Center during World War II. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State

University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as West's upbringing growing up in the 1930s where he had to make his own job mining at Quartzsite to earn enough gold to buy and take care of property until he left and brought his houses and quired tax property to Parker over the bridge under a wide permit; mentions joining the Lions Club during the war which was the only thing they could go to and get anything done such as boat races, rodeos, and some politics; recalls the negative reaction from soldiers who weren't happy with the Nisei arriving and believes their evacuation only protected from losing more lives along with the refusal of service to Japanese American in certain shops; expresses the Indian grievances towards the government for their better treatment with the Japanese Americans since it took their grounds; and describes the white population in Parker who were suffering from severe restrictions due to wartime rationing despite the Japanese Americans having a surplus of ration items in the camps.

OH 2155

Narrator: JACK WILLIAMSON
Interviewer: Reagan Bell
Date: February 13, 1989
Location: Newport Beach, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:06:46
Transcript: Final

Abstract:

An oral history with Jack Williamson, a veteran of the army during World War II who served as a post guard at Japanese relocation camps and served in the medical field. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Bell's upbringing in Tennessee before moving to California with parents who worked for newspaper companies; remembers 10% of his class in high school being Japanese and graduating early because they were going to be shipped to the evacuation camps; recalls volunteering and drafting into the merchant marine training in Florence, Arizona and working at a prison camp with German soldiers from North Africa; mentions his daily routines training in the camps and relocation center until being honored into the army medical staff; mentions the anti-Japanese sentiments and attitude during the time and emotional response from Americans; and reflects on his experiences serving in the army and his assimilation back into society after the war.

OH 3003.1

Narrator: JIM YAKURA
Interviewer: Betsy Canales
Date: April 1, 2001

Location: Unknown
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length:
Transcript: Final, 16 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Jim Yakura, a Japanese American from Los Angeles who shares his Japanese American experience being relocated into the Santa Anita Assembly Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Yakura's childhood upbringing growing up in Los Angeles being the only Japanese family in the neighborhood where she did not face any discrimination before the war; recalls the language barrier and its confusion speaking Japanese at home but only speaking English at school; remembers the Sunday night a newsboy shouting the news of Pearl Harbor being attacked and not thinking too much of until she realized the severity of the situation; mentions her arrival at the Santa Anita Assembly Center to turn in all contraband and sell all their belongings they couldn't take; describes their living conditions in the horse stables and barracks that was meant to house a huge family like theirs; mentions the riots in Santa Anita where he remembers people pushing the fence to break its own while guns were pointed at them; reveals when they left the camp after the war and their resettlement without any major problems with the exception of covert discrimination and his hard transition back to school; mentions his worry that the possibility of another relocation may happen again to anyone if the United States doesn't fix their racist agenda for whites instead of its different minorities.

OH 1279

Narrator: TAKEO YAMADA
Interviewer: Patricia Morgan
Date: March 26, 1973
Location: Fullerton, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 1:46:02
Transcript: Final, 21 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Takeo Yamada, a Nisei and a resident of Fullerton, California. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families during World War II. This interview specifically details Yamada's family struggles during the Second World War; mentions his father's arrival to United States through Mexico; describes his young life which consisted of

working his father's crops and how the family farmed on leased land with the competition in farming and for a piece of good land; discusses how when everything was going good with them, war broke out at Pearl Harbor and everybody was confused and fearful because of rumors that Japanese Americans would be relocated in internment camps; mentions how they had to sell all of their land and how out of twenty-plus farmers, only a handful came back to their lands after the war; shares how the Irvine Company really helped all the farmers save their land when they returned home; describes how he gave all his stuff away and his horses too since he would be relocated; recalls how everything changed for farmers after the attack and before evacuation and how farmers had different duties in camp; discusses how his parents being Buddhist, and how Buddhist temples have changed; reflects and shares his perspective on life in camp, for farmers in particular.

OH 2377

Narrator: JEAN YAMAGUCHI (b. 1922)
Interviewer: Bob Harker
Date: May 17, 1994
Location: Long Beach, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Formats: Digital, Cassette
Length: 01:33:20
Transcript: Final; 33 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Jean Yamaguchi, a resident of Long Beach, California. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about her experience in Hawaii during World War II. Specifically, this interview details her parents' immigration from Japan to Hawaii; her mother's experience as a widow and her remarriage; explanation about her mother's privacy and strong connection to Japanese culture; the generational differences between the Issei, Nisei, and Sansei; her father's work as a carpenter and tailor in Honolulu, Hawaii; observations about the Japanese community in Honolulu; her childhood and educational experiences; her family's relationship with their neighbors; recollections of military maneuvers and thinking that air strikes were taking place when Pearl Harbor was attacked by the Japanese military on December 7, 1941; her total surprise when she learned about the attack while working at the Tuberculosis Association; the calm atmosphere that she and her parents felt the night of Pearl Harbor; the imposition of curfew and martial law; FBI arrests of religious leaders, educators, and Japanese consulate staff; description of her father building an air raid shelter in backyard; her inability to secure a job in military defense because of her dual citizenship; description of her older brother joining the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and her younger brother joining the Military Intelligence Service as an interpreter in Japan; discussions among the Issei about the war's progression and her father's belief that Japan would win; her father's thankfulness for the abundance of food and lack of rationing due to their living in a combat zone; teaching citizenship classes for the Issei after the war in New York; her father's conflicts of loyalty between the United States and Japan; how she followed her dream to move to New York;

lack of discrimination that she experienced on the East Coast; lack of desire to return to Hawaii after living in New York; lifestyle differences between New York and Hawaii; her father's roundtrip journey to Japan after the war; how living in New York made her less shy and made her use her voice; opened her up how and why she's content to live in southern California because of friends through church and community; recollections of the military shooting lit windows and a Japanese fisherman on sight after he returned from sea on December 7, 1941; why it was better for her family to stay in Hawaii than on the mainland U.S. during the war; and an overview of current entertainment and volunteer opportunities that are unique to Southern California.

OH 3004

Narrator: GOGI YAMACUCHI
Interviewer: Betsy Canales
Date: March 29, 2002
Location: Unknown
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length:
Transcript: Final, 35 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Gogi Yamaguchi, a Japanese American war veteran of the 442nd Regiment who discusses his Japanese American experience being relocated into the Manzanar Relocation camp. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Yamaguchi's life before the war as a student in Terminal Island and returning to Japan because his mother could not take care of all his siblings along; mentions his arrival to the Manzanar War Relocation Center by train and living in the packed barracks which was a bare floor in a cot with bags of hay to use as blankets or a mattress; recalls his memory of the food and lunches he ate while attending school; recounts some experiences and friendships he made with certain individuals in the camps and their perceptions; describes the loyalty questionnaire that target those who did not pledge their allegiance to the U.S as spies of the Japanese empire; recalls playing it safe and filling out the allegiance and protesting the draft outside of the camp until he was sent to the 442nd regiment which he felt was a suicide mission; mentions the vocal resistance and opposition from the Heart Mountain relocation Center for the war by sending letters to chiefs; mentions not feeling afraid of the resettlement back into California but felt a vivid sense of prejudice held over from the war; expresses the difficulties of the Kibei for getting drafted to Japan for educational purposes while older people got drafted for the war and feel the term concentration camp is a good way to describe the relocation centers he was interned at.

OH 1335

Narrator: EMI YAMAKI

Interviewer: Sherry Turner
Date: August 17, 1973
Location: Los Angeles, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 02:04:51
Transcript: Final, 30 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Emi Yamaki, a Nisei resident of Los Angeles who was placed in an internment camp during World War II. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Yamaki's upbringing growing up with parents from the prefectures of Shizuoka, Japan without a formal education that immigrated to the United States to work as a farmer in the valley; remembers having to sell all their personal belongings that they were not able to take with them to the internment camp right before they would be relocated; describes being sent to Japan to live with his uncle and enrolled in a Christian school and adapt to the Japanese language which also had translated textbooks in English before being sent back home; recalls having to be docile and prove their allegiance to the United States for their own protection even if it meant when Asian ethnic groups of people wore big buttons to indicate they were not Japanese; describes visiting the Heart Mountain relocation camp years after with neighbors and friends and feeling glad that they had relocated because of its harsh living and weather conditions; reflects on the sansei generation of being more Americanized than ever and losing those traditional Japanese values and culture but it is not their fault.

OH 3733

Narrator: JOE YAMAKIDO
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Date: December 7, 2003
Location: Half Moon Bay, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 02:12:28
Transcript: Final, 118 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Joe Yamakido, a Japanese American who was the only World War II draft resister from the Jerome War Relocation Authority camp. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such

as Yamakido's childhood upbringing raised by parents both from Hiroshima, Japan and his delivery by a midwife during the beginnings of the Little Tokyo district of Los Angeles; mentions his youth and family time farming in the Harbor City community before the war had the started; recalls his time spent learning judo with his brothers and earning his black belt as well as his athletic abilities in high school; remembers working as a truck driver and being fired right after the day of Pearl Harbor because of the tension towards Japanese Americans and his arrest for violating the curfew restrictions Japanese Americans had to follow; recalls the time he had to strip naked to police officers and feeling completely embarrassed and dehumanized for his race; discusses his family's trip to the Santa Anita Assembly Center and his experience with the gang members; explains when a riot had broken out at the center and being picked up and jailed by the FBI even though he was only a bystander and was falsely accused; mentions his family meanwhile being sent to the Jerome camp while he was sent to Tule Lake; describes his frustration for being kicked around by the government and ignored the two draft notices until a U.S marshal picked him up for draft evasion and being sentences to three years in prison and describes his experiences of racism in the camp; reflects on his overall experience of not being recognized for his stand against in justice for Japanese Americans.

OH 1072

Narrator: HARRY K. YAMAMOTO
Interviewer: John McFarlane
Date: April 21, 1971
Location: Santa Ana, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:45:58
Transcript: final, 14 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Harry Yamamoto, a Japanese American resident of Santa Ana who was placed in an internment camp in Heart Mountain during World War II. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, topics include Yamamoto's upbringing growing up in Hawaii with parents that immigrated from Japan; remembers feeling disappointed and angry when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and felt bitter; recalls seeing posters pasted on buildings and telephone poles that Japanese Americans would be relocated; describes following the posted evacuation date and taken under guard at the Pomona Assembly Center before being sent to Heart Mountain, Wyoming; recalls half of the people at camp felt hopeless while others prayed for the war to end the next day; remembered feeling tight in barracks shared among his family and guarded with military police with barbed wire surrounding the camp; shares the nice treatment from camp advisors and guards who never mistreated any of the Japanese Americans; describes leaving the camp and living alone in Utah where he met the friendliest people and volunteered and drafted from Chicago for basic training where he served in the Military Intelligence school in Minnesota; describes the

cultural shift and adjustments living with more African Americans instead of Caucasians after he was discharged and returned to Southern California.

OH 1522

Narrator: TOM I. YAMAMOTO
Interviewer: Paul F. Clark
Date: September 9, 1976
Location: Los Angeles, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:10:29
Transcript: Final, 18 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Tom I. Yamamoto, an Issei store owner on Terminal Island who describes his experience during World War II and his evacuation to Manzanar Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Yamamoto's upbringing being raised in a small town prefecture of Japan before coming to the United States in San Pedro where he wanted to attend college but couldn't because of his lack of the English language; mention his potential career in going into the armed forces if he would have stayed in Japan but instead chose to finish his education; describes his short notice by the navy Department to move out and get evacuated into Terminal Island when the war broke out and was scared they would be murdered; recalled instances where the guards mostly never interfered with the Japanese unless they played baseball together in secret to avoid any punishment; expressed when people would escape through the back of the camp and go fishing or to freedom while there would be search teams and surveillance; discusses the overall camp life and systematic organization with barrack leaders, recreation, and newspaper; recalls his description of the Manzanar Riot; discusses his postwar reestablishment of business in Little Tokyo of Los Angeles.

OH 2237

Narrator: MARGARET YAMAMOTO (b. 1932)
Interviewer: Alan Koch
Date: April 14, 1992
Location: Fullerton, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Formats: Digital, Cassette
Length: 01:41:51
Transcript: Final; 36 pages

Abstract

An oral history with Margaret Yamamoto. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about Yamamoto's experience at the Santa Anita temporary detention facility and the Rohwer incarceration camp during World War II. Specifically, this interview details her childhood in Sacramento and Los Angeles, California; demographics of the Boyle Heights neighborhood in East Los Angeles prior to the war; how their neighbor gave her and her sister American names and how she learned about her Japanese name, Hiroko; how her parents got married and her mother's adjustment to farm life; her mother's recollections of Japan and Yamamoto's grandparents; her experience in Japanese school; her parents' work in the produce business and her family's economic status in Boyle Heights; recollections of preparing for forced removal from their home; recollections of Santa Anita and the train ride to Rohwer; verifying people, activities, and places in photographs taken by Yoshitaro Sakai in camp; her relationship with her grandmother; her family's religious background, in particular her mother's involvement with the Shinto church and her involvement with the Christian church; her father's love for baseball and how he played with an award-winning team in Sacramento, California, as a young man; her father's job as a policeman at Rohwer; how her cousin, Jim Kanemori, renounced his U.S. citizenship with the intent to return to his family in Japan but was drafted into the Army instead; gardens that incarcerated grew outside of their barracks at Rohwer; her mother's work as a waitress at the mess hall; how her family was not able to recover the valuables that they gave to their friends for safekeeping during the war; education at Hollenbeck Junior High School, Roosevelt High School, and the Metropolitan Business School; how she met her husband, Gene, through her aunt; Gene's experience at the Minidoka incarceration camp and serving in the military as a cook during the Korean War; how she and her family moved to Pasadena, California; learning about redress efforts from the *Rafu Shimpo*; feeling angry about who got reparations because she felt that the Issei suffered the most; her involvement in the Evergreen Baptist in Rosemead, California; reflections on her parents' memories of camp; and reflections about how her memories of camp differ from that of her sisters.

OH 1519

Narrator: SHONIN YAMASHITA
Interviewer: Ronald Larson and Reed Holderman
Date: March 19, 1976
Location: Los Angeles, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 02:33:52
Transcript: Final, 28 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Shonin Yamashita, a former Issei member of the Japanese section of the American Communist Party who discusses his involvement and excavation experience at the Poston War Relocation Center in Arizona. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this

interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Yamashita's childhood growing up in Hiroshima during the time where it was becoming the natural harbor in all of Asia and the immense buildup of the military ready for a takeover; describes his involvement with the Communist Party in American for more than two years; recalls the camp life once he was evacuated to the Poston War Relocation Center and its issues with the cultural identity; mentions his feelings and frustrations towards being evacuated and the misrepresentation; expresses the adjustments and challenged adapting back to the postwar resettlement right after the evacuation ended where he ended up in San Diego; describes his involvement since back in 1973 where he contributed to Lilian Baker's Americans for Historical Accuracy group.

OH 1617

Narrator: REV. KENKO YAMASHITA
Interviewer: Paul Clark and Mariko Yamashita
Date: August 10, 1978
Location: Los Angeles, California
Language: English and Japanese
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:35:00
Transcript: Final, 16 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Reverend Kenko Yamashita, an issei Buddhist minister in Los Angeles since 1938 who describes his arrest by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in March 1942 and recounts his Japanese experience. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II.

OH 2328

Narrator: TAK YAMASHITA
Interviewer: Alan Koch
Date: May 26, 1993
Location: Crystal Cove, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 02:44:11
Transcript: Final, 44 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Tak Yamashita, a Japanese American citizen resident of Torrance whose family decided to "voluntarily evacuate" to Colorado in order to avoid mass removal after Pearl Harbor. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Yamashita's childhood upbringing working on the family farm as a child growing up full-time during the summers and right after school during the semester along with his brothers; recalls his routine and getting familiar with new skills at such a young age like learning how to plow horses or drive a car, truck, and even tractor for farm purposes; describes his experience of their evacuation to Poston War Relocation Center in Arizona and their discrimination; remembers his family being the only Japanese Americans who were welcomed back to the farm after the evacuation was lifted since their farm was really successful in the area compared to everyone else; mentions the assimilation of only speaking English at schools and speaking Japanese around their parents; and expresses his dad's feelings towards trying to make his American-born children assimilate to the white culture and the effects of how the war changed their attitudes towards perceptions of Japanese Americans.

OH 2378

Narrator: STELLA YANO (b. 1923)
Interviewer: Sharyn Seaton
Date: May 12, 1994
Location: Unknown
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Formats: Digital, Cassette
Length: 01:02:43
Transcript: Final; 27 pages
Ephemera: Correspondence (Not Digitized)

Abstract:

An oral history with Stella Yano. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about Yano's experience in the Santa Anita temporary detention facility in California, the Rohwer incarceration camp in Arkansas, moving to Cleveland, Ohio, and returning to Southern California in 1956. Specifically, this interview details her parents' immigration to the United States after their proxy marriage; her father and uncle's work with the Johnston-Hargitt Ranch in Norwalk, California; the family's move to the Strong Ranch and La Habra; her father's death in 1929; her education at Norwalk Elementary School, Excelsior High School, and Fullerton College; her family's experiences in farming and wages; attending Japanese language school in Norwalk; her mother's affiliation with Buddhism and her affiliation with the Friends church; Norwalk before the December 7, 1941 attack of Pearl Harbor; the businesses and leaders in the Norwalk Japanese American community; the impact of curfew; absence of racism, prejudice, and discrimination following Pearl Harbor; shock of learning about the forced removal when she was at Fullerton College; description of forced removal to Santa

Anita and Rohwer; stunned reactions from her Fullerton College friends when she told them over lunch that she had visited Rohwer; adjusting to life in the Rohwer camp; how her Issei uncle was arrested by the FBI at Rohwer and taken to New Mexico, where he was probably incarcerated in the Santa Fe or Lordsburg Department of Justice camps; activities in Rohwer, including meals, occupations, and wages; working as an administrative assistant for the police department at Santa Anita and for the education department at Rohwer; how she fought for that work to count towards her retirement from the federal government, which was granted after the 1988 Civil Liberties Act passed; her comments about the War Relocation Authority resettlement program and moving to Cleveland; description of the hostels under the sponsorship of the Friends church; working in Cleveland for thirteen years at the Office of Price Administration and the Federal Mediation Conciliation Service; her feelings about the atomic bomb and stoicism in Japanese culture; her marriage and return to Los Angeles in 1956; recollection of the 1990 Rohwer reunion at the Stouffer Concourse Hotel in Los Angeles; prominent people incarcerated at Rohwer, including her cousin and sculptor Ruth Asawa; and general feelings about camp.

OH 1520

Narrator: TIM YASUMATSU
Interviewer: Douglas P. Augustine
Date: August 12, 1976
Location: Westminster, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length:
Transcript: Final, 48 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Tim Yasumatsu, a Los Angeles born, Orange County Kibei businessman who discusses his study expedition in Japan in 1939. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Yasumatsu's upbringing growing up with parents raised in Japan where they migrated to the United States; describes his wartime experience that lead him and his family to run an orphanage near Osaka, Japan; mentions his journey enlisting in the United States Army back in 1955 where he shares basic training, service, and deployment; expresses his thoughts, opinions, and cultural values on the Kibei as compared to the generational values of the Issei, and the Nisei; describes his constant instances where he was racially discriminated and or when he witnessed other Japanese Americans being racially discriminated; recalls the origins of the organization and structure of the Orange County Gardeners Association and its purpose is to Our goal is to help garden better by providing research-based information tailored to our climate and soils.

OH 5289

Narrator: TIM YASUMATSU (1935-2017)
Interviewer: Charles Carrillo
Date: September 16, 2005
Location: Whittier, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Formats: Digital, Cassette
Length: 00:18:06
Transcript: Final; 7 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Tim Yasumatsu, a retired U.S. Army veteran and resident of Whittier, California. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information on Yasumatsu's life before, during, and after World War II. Specifically, this interview details his parents' immigration to the United States from Japan; his birth in Los Angeles, California; he and his sister's experiences as Kibei in Osaka, Japan, where they were sent by their parents to receive their education; living with his sister and grandmother in his grandmother's orphanage; his relocation to Wakayama, Japan to escape the atomic bombs while his sister worked in Osaka throughout the war; his educational experience in Wakayama, including his being bullied because he was an American; returning to Osaka after the war to live with his grandmother and sister; returning to the U.S. in 1947; facing racial discrimination in Orange County, California as a young man; discussion of Olympic gold medalist Dr. Sammy Lee's experience with discrimination when he tried to purchase a home in Orange County; recollections of stories that he heard about the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II; being drafted into the Army during the Korean War; training at Fort Carson in Colorado, Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland, and Fort Ord in California; deployment to Korea on Christmas Eve 1954; discrimination in the 696th Ordnance Company in Korea and his transfer to Yokohama; discussion of an intangible discrimination that his children faced in 2005; and his belief that discrimination against Japanese Americans will persist into the future.

OH 1376a

Narrator: KARL YONEDA
Interviewer: Betty E. Mitson
Date: March 2, 1974
Location: San Francisco, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 02:59:39
Transcript: Final, 31 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Karl Yoneda, a Kibei activists raised in the Hiroshima prefecture, Japan

who was drafted into the Japanese Army. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Yoneda's upbringings growing up on a farm with parents who was a unit overseer of a sugar plantation and moved to the mainland because of the increase in pay until he died leaving his mother to raise them by herself; recalls the family farm with a sharing agreement at a 60-40 for the landlord and enough to feed the family; recalls going to Korea penniless and was not able to get hired until he went to China; experience as the first person of Asian ancestry running for the California Assembly; explains how he met his wife and his time in jail.

OH 1376b

Narrator: KARL YONEDA
Interviewer: Ronald Larson and Arthur Hansen
Date: March 3, 1974
Location: San Francisco, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 03:10:37
Transcript: Final, 68 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Karl Yoneda, a Kibei activists raised in the Hiroshima prefecture, Japan who was drafted into the Japanese Army. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Yoneda's recollection of Editor of Robo Shimbum and San Francisco for Doho; describes his life before the war and his involvement with Japanese-American leftist organizations, leaderships, strategies and labor activist; mentions the way he was arrested right after the attack on Pearl Harbor in an unconstitutional way; describes the life inside of the Manzanar War Relocation Center with its block organization and leadership; mentions the problems between the evacuees in the camp and the guards which lead to some hatred and caused a riot; remembers asking other to help build the camp and volunteer but with no intention of taking over the camp.

OH 1377a

Narrator: ELAINE BLACK YONEDA
Interviewer: Betty E. Mitson
Date: March 2, 1974
Location: San Francisco, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital

Length: 02:11:07
Transcript: Final, 33 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Elaine Yoneda, a native from New York City from raised by Russian immigrant parents who became the vice-president of the International Labor Defense in the West Coast. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Yoneda's upbringing growing up with Russian-Jewish immigrant parents from New York before moving to California and owning a store; remembered an instance where a woman was being dragged and taken into custody with force from officers with plain clothes for holding a glass of juice they thought to be a weapon until the International Labor Fence stood behind this women and served as a witness; mentions how she met and married Karl Yoneda who was a labor activist; describes her preparation for her own defense in a precedent settling "red baiting" case in the 1930s which meant the constant harassment from others and caused the persecution of one as a Communist or suspicion of Communism.

OH 1377b

Narrator: ELAINE BLACK YONEDA
Interviewer: Arthur A. Hansen
Date: March 3 and 4, 1974
Location: San Francisco, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 05:13:51
Transcript: Final, 33 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Elaine Yoneda, a native from New York City from raised by Russian immigrant parents who became the vice-president of the International Labor Defense in the West Coast. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Yoneda's experience as a former internee by choice at the Manzanar War Relocation Center in California; recalls the day of Pearl Harbor and its impact for the Japanese Americans living in the United States because it meant war and evacuation; details the instance when her husband was illegally arrested by the FBI after Pearl Harbor because of the animosity and suspicion of Japanese loyalists until they gave up and had their voluntary evacuation; describes the conditions of the camp life and its organization with block managers, jobs, salary, and cultural identity; recalls her experience working at the camp library and the camouflage net factory; details the factions, groups, and personalities that conspired in the camp and its eventual start to the Manzanar Riot; describes

leaving the camp and arriving to Death Valley with a Pro-American group where she adapted back to life outside camp.

OH 1754

Narrator: YOSHIKI YOSHIDA (b. 1916)
Interviewer: Alice Maxwell, Yukiko Sato
Date: November 9, 1983
Location: Fullerton, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:24:06
Transcript: Final; 70 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Yoshiki Yoshida, former president of the Orange County Japanese American Citizen League. This interview was conducted for the Stephen K. Tamura Orange County Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Yoshida's life and farming work in Irvine, specifically his childhood as a Japanese American; his internment experiences in Poston, Arizona; his return to Orange County; describes the impact of the 1913 Alien Land Law that prohibited "aliens ineligible for citizenship" from owning agricultural land or possessing long-term leases over it; recalls his farming work in Irvine, California; mentions his experience at the Poston War Relocation Center during the war; reflects on the postwar attitudes relative to the redress movement for Japanese Americans; and shares his work developing and growing the Japanese American community of Orange County.

OH 2373.1

Narrator: HENRY YOSHITAKE (b. 1925)
Interviewer: Tai Hirosumi
Date: May 19, 1994
Location: Montebello, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Formats: Digital, Cassette
Length: 02:03:06
Transcript: Final; 30 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Henry Yoshitake, a resident of Montebello, California. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about Yoshitake's experience at the Santa Anita temporary detention facility in California and the Rohwer incarceration camp in Arkansas. Specifically, this interview details his parents' immigration from Japan to Los

Angeles; his education and athletic activities at Roosevelt High School; participation in the Boy Scouts; forced removal and incarceration at Santa Anita and Rohwer; lessons from the Japanese American Citizens League, including how Nisei were expected to protect their Issei parents and prove their loyalty to the United States; the pre-war Japanese American community in Los Angeles; burning family photographs when Pearl Harbor was attacked on December 7, 1941 to disassociate themselves from Japan; parents' foresight to rent their home while they were in Rohwer; studying at Santa Anita with the intent of applying to college; the trauma his father experienced after selling their business and belongings; the trauma his mother experienced due to racial discrimination and the Great Depression; demographics of Japanese Americans in Rohwer; thoughts about the "Statement of United States Citizen of Japanese Ancestry" also known as the "loyalty questionnaire"; finishing high school at Rohwer and attending a community college in Cleveland, Ohio before joining the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT); transferring power of attorney to his father so that he could make decisions while Yoshitake fought overseas; the irony of the U.S. Army forcibly removing the Yoshitake family from their home at the start of the war and removing the renters from that same home at the end of the war; effects of incarceration on the Nisei children in Rohwer; pressure on the Nisei to be upstanding representatives of the Japanese American community; the lost dreams of the Issei after the war; why Japanese families converted from Buddhism to Christianity; the Nisei resisters' decision to decline military service until their rights were restored and its impact on the Japanese American community; how participation in the Boy Scouts prepared him for leadership positions in the 442nd RCT; regrets about not recording the Issei's experiences; his younger siblings' feelings of shame about claiming reparations when they were too young to remember camp; and the responsibility that the Nisei and 442nd RCT veterans have to tell their stories to future generations.

OH 1645.1

Narrator: KUNICHI KIMBO YOSHITOMI
Interviewer: Marilyn Jones
Date: October 10, 1978
Location: Anaheim, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 01:02:09
Transcript: Final, 21 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Kunichi Yoshitomi, a Nisei resident of Anaheim, California who discussed his personal experiences growing up as a "typical American boy" and his evacuation into Topaz War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Yoshitomi's childhood attending Japanese schools in Oakland right after finishing American school and eventually earn enough jobs after earning his high school diploma; remembers hearing about Pearl Harbor being

bombed and the FBI taking away the fathers in every Japanese home that were associated with the Japanese Association while the new curfew would be enforced along with blackout curtains at the windows; recalls volunteering to set up basketball leagues, golf courses, and baseball fields and leagues with permission and support from the War Relocation Authority, explains the wealthier Japanese families at the Tanforan racetrack that carry all their luxurious baggage and filled with theater and recreation; and shares his fascination for the philosophical life of Mormons for understanding the Japanese American's plight and viewing them just as equal as everyone else instead of being stereotyped as enemies.

OH 1645.2

Narrator: KUNICHI KIMBO YOSHITOMI
Interviewer: Marilyn Jones
Date: October 17, 1978
Location: Anaheim, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:56:59
Transcript: Final, 19 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Kunichi Yoshitomi, a Nisei resident of Anaheim, California who discussed his personal experiences growing up as a "typical American boy" and his evacuation into Topaz War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Yoshitomi's effort to form the Mikado Club basketball during high school in San Francisco and entering the Japanese American Union League; remembers breaking up with the club because of the war evacuation and his progression as the athletic director in the camp; recalls his experiences working in the Ottawa Matsuoka silk company and its influence with his other business ventures as a salesperson; mentions some plans at the time for restitutional payments for land and properties lost during the evacuation; mentions his time building a golf driving range as a greens keeper for private clubs; reflects on his current job as a golf instructor and how it has opened doors of opportunities in his life.

OH 1645.3

Narrator: KUNICHI KIMBO YOSHITOMI
Interviewer: Marilyn Jones
Date: October 31, 1978
Location: Anaheim, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital

Length: 00:55:51
Transcript: Final, 21 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Kunichi Yoshitomi, a Nisei resident of Anaheim, California who discussed his personal experiences growing up as a “typical American boy” and his evacuation into Topaz War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Yoshitomi’s memory growing up being generally accepted into a society with her mom as she was becoming an adult and learning how to mature growing up; shares his connection and relationship with the Christian church; reflects on their connection with everyone and loves to learn from different people of different interests; recalls the time he had to transition from speaking Japanese into making English their first language; describes having a joint director ship at Berkley on the board of directors to make arrangements; and reflects on this point in his life and his happiness of being able to connect and possibly travel.

OH 1645.4

Narrator: KUNICHI KIMBO YOSHITOMI
Interviewer: Marilyn Jones
Date: November 22, 1978
Location: Anaheim, California
Language: English
Project: Japanese American Oral History Project
Audio Format(s): Digital
Length: 00:58:08
Transcript: Final, 21 pages

Abstract:

An oral history with Kunichi Yoshitomi, a Nisei resident of Anaheim, California who discussed his personal experiences growing up as a “typical American boy” and his evacuation into Topaz War Relocation Center. This interview was conducted for the Japanese American Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans and their families on the West Coast during World War II. Specifically, this interview discusses topics such as Yoshitomi’s feelings about the evacuations of the Japanese Americans as a result of the war; believes that without the evacuation, Japanese Americans were open to more avenues in various types of employment; recalls the greater acceptance and no prior history of discrimination; recalls arguing for the wages that were not nearly enough since they were no longer in Japan; discusses the property in Orange County that is not held by large developers or large landholders; describes the general feelings towards the Japanese and Filipinos during the evacuation; and expresses Japan’s effort and chances of reaching a point and feel the need to expand just as they did before World War II.