

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY
HENRY MADDEN LIBRARY
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

JACL-CCDC JAPANESE AMERICAN ORAL HISTORY

COLLECTION, 1998-2005
5 linear inches (39 DVDs)

ACQUISITION: The collection was donated by the Central California District Council of the Japanese American Citizens League in 2003.

ACCESS: The collection is open for research.

COPYRIGHT: Copyright has been transferred to California State University, Fresno.

PHOTOGRAPHS: In box 1.

PROCESSED BY: Amber Johnson and Tammy Lau, 2003. Adam Wallace, 2007.

Background

In 1998, Izumi Taniguchi, a retired professor of Economics at California State University, Fresno, wrote a grant to begin an oral history project with Japanese Americans in the San Joaquin Valley. This grant was funded by the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) and allowed the group to purchase a video camera and get some training in how to conduct oral histories. The San Joaquin Valley Japanese American History Project, as it was named by Taniguchi, was later sponsored by the Asian American Studies Program in the School of Social Sciences at California State University, Fresno. The purpose of the project was to document “the history and contributions of Japanese Americans and their organizations in the San Joaquin Valley, [the] state, and the country” (Box 1, Release agreement, undated). Volunteer interviewers from the Fresno Chapter and the Central California District Council of the JACL videotaped interviews with Japanese Americans, primarily the *Nisei* (second generation) from Merced County to Kern County to make them available for research and other scholarly purposes. Izumi Taniguchi and Grace Kimoto of the Livingston-Merced Chapter of the JACL took a lead role in the keeping the project going although the goal was always to have people in every JACL chapter in the Central Valley take an active role in conducting interviews.

Izumi Taniguchi passed away in 2001. To honor his memory, the oral history project became the Izumi Taniguchi Oral History Program. Some additional funding from the California State Library’s California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP) allowed the group to record several more oral histories and convert all of the interviews to a digital format on DVDs between June 2004 and June 2005.

Scope and Content Note

The JACL-CCDC Japanese American Oral History collection measures 5 linear inches and dates from 1999 to 2005. The collection primarily contains videotaped interviews. Supporting documents within the collection include a copy of the release agreement required of each interviewee, list of interviews, and Polaroid photographs. The photographs were taken of five interview subjects, Martha Kajiwara, Tadashi Kanemoto, Sherman Kishi, Lloyd Kurihara, Sam Maeda, Robert Ohki and Robert Yano. Each photograph is labeled.

Box no. **Description**

Box 1

Background histories on CCDC and JACL chapters, [1999]
Biographical notes, [2003]
Interview listing, undated
Interview questions, undated
JACL grant application, 1998
Outline for Izumi Taniguchi talk, undated
Photographs, undated
Release agreement, undated
DVDs
 Abe, George and Jean (1 hr. 45 min.), 1999
 Andow, Eric (1 hr. 59 min.), 1999
 Hamaguchi, Gene (1 hr 30 min.), 1999
 Hashimoto, Fred (1 hr. 9 min.), 1999
 Hiraoka, Shim (2 DVDs; 3 hrs. 12 min.), 1999
 Hirasuna, Fred and Setsu (58 min.), 1999
 Hirose, Toshie (1 hr. 2 min.), 2005
 Ihara, Ruth Okuye (1 hr. 31 min.), 1999
 Kaji, Hugo (20 min.), 1999
 Kajiwara, Martha (see Photographs) (1 hr. 14 min.), 1999
 Kanemoto, Tadashi (ca. 1 hr.), 2003
 Kiriwara, James "Jake" (35 min.), undated
 Kishi, Sherman (see Photographs) (38 min.), undated
 Kiyomoto, George Yoji (2 DVDs; 3 hrs 52 min.), 2005
 Kurihara, Lloyd (see Photographs) (1 hr. 33 min.), 2004
 Kusakai, Hiroshi (1 hr.), 1999
 Kuwamoto, Satoshi (1 hr. 26 min.), 1999
 Maeda, Sam (see Photographs) (1 hr. 17 min.), 1999
 Masada, Marion (1 hr. 44 min.), 2005
 Masuda, Mamoru (1 hr. 12 min.), 1999
 Masuda, Nori (53 min.), undated
 Moore, Anne (1 hr. 50 min.), 2005
 Nagatani, James K. (1 hr. 6 min.), 1999
 Nishio, Frank (1 hr. 18 min.), 1999
 Niizawa, Johnny and Yo (54 min.), 2004
 Ohki, Robert (see Photographs) (1 hr. 26 min.), 1999
 Okada, George (ca. 1 hr.), 2003
 Suzuki, Frank (1 hr. 32 min.), 2002
 Tange, Kiichi (1 hr. 5 min.), 1999
 Taniguchi, Izumi (2 DVDs; 4 hrs. 18 min.), 2000

Box no. Description

Box 1 (cont.)

DVDs (cont.)

Tanioka, Fude (54 min.), 2000

Tanji, Gilbert (47 min.), 1999

Tashima, Frances (1 hr. 9 min.), 1999

Tsutsui, Takashi (1 hr. 59 min.), 2005

Yano, Robert (see Photographs) (1 hr. 26 min.), 2004

Yonaki, Sadawo (35 min.), 1999