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JACL-CCDC JAPANESE AMERICAN ORAL HISTORY
COLLECTION, 1998-2000, 2002-2003
29 videocassettes

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.

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PHOTOGRAPHS: In box 1.

PROCESSED BY: Amber Johnson and Tammy Lau, 2003.

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 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.

Scope and Content Note

The JACL-CCDC Japanese American Oral History collection measures 10 linear inches and dates from 1999-2000 and 2002. 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, Sam Maeda, and Robert Ohki. 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
Videocassettes
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 videocassettes; 3 hrs. 12 min.), 1999
Hirasuna, Fred and Setsu (58 min.), 1999
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
Kusakai, Hiroshi (1 hr.), 1999

Box 2

Kuwamoto, Satoshi (1 hr. 26 min.), 1999
Maeda, Sam (see Photographs) (1 hr. 17 min.), 1999
Masuda, Mamoru (1 hr. 12 min.), 1999
Masuda, Nori (53 min.), undated
Nagotani, James K. (1 hr. 6 min.), 1999
Nishio, Frank (1 hr. 18 min.), 1999
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 (4 hrs. 18 min.), 2000
Tanioka, Fude (54 min.), 2000
Tanji, Gilbert (47 min.), 1999
Tashima, Frances (1 hr. 9 min.), 1999
Yonaki, Sadawo (35 min.), 1999