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Guide to the San José State University Japanese-American Internment Research Collection

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Processed by:
Tom Hewitt
Date Completed:
2010
Encoded by:
Tom Hewitt

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Descriptive Summary

Title: San José State University Japanese-American Internment Research Collection

Dates: 1935-2010

Bulk Dates: 1942-2010

Collection number: MSS-2010-08-23

Creator: San Jose State College

Collection Size: 1 box(0.5 linear feet)

Repository: San José State University. Library.

San José, California 95192-0028

Abstract: The San José State University Japanese-American Internment Research Collection, 1935-2010 (bulk 1942-2010), documents the internment of Americans of Japanese descent from 1942-1945, the presence of Japanese-American students at San Jose State College in the late 1930s and early 1940s, and the awarding of honorary degrees to some of those students by San José State University in 2010. The records consist of brochures, correspondence, government reports, magazines, memorabilia, memos, newspaper clippings, photocopied articles, photos, and spreadsheets. This collection is arranged into three series: Series I. Japanese-American San Jose State College Students, 1935 - 1994, Series II. Japanese-American Internment, 1942-1996, and Series III. Nisei Diploma Project at SJSU, 2009-2010.

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

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English,Japanese

Access

Collection is open for research. Photocopying of original newspapers is prohibited.

Preferred Citation

San José State University Japanese-American Internment Research Collection, MSS-2010-08-23, San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Tom Hewitt. Finding aid EAD encoded by Tom Hewitt. Reviewed by Danelle Moon.

Japanese-American Internment History

On February 19, 1942 President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 providing broad powers for the War Department to create exclusion zones and to initiate an evacuation program for the Western Defense Command (WDC). Under the leadership of General John Dewitt of the WDC, the Civil Affairs Division (CAD) and the Wartime Civil Control Administration (WCCA) were created in order to provide for the transition of voluntary evacuees, enemy aliens and United States citizens alike, from exclusion areas to other parts of the country. The failure of the voluntary evacuation plan led President Roosevelt to issue Executive Order 9102, which established the civilian run War Relocation Authority (WRA). The WRA was mandated to institute enforced evacuations. Due to the recalcitrance of states on the interior of the country to accept the Japanese evacuees or to provide for their safety, the WRA also constructed internment centers in order to house the evacuees. Between 1942-1945 the WRA, the WCCA, the CAD and the Office of the Commanding General of the Western Defense Command segregated and housed approximately 110,000 Japanese-American men, women and children.

Scope and Content of Collection

The San José State University Japanese-American Internment Research Collection, 1935-2010 (bulk 1942-2010), documents the internment of Americans of Japanese descent from 1942-1945, the presence of Japanese-American students at San Jose State College in the late 1930s and early 1940s, and the awarding of honorary degrees to some of those students by San José State University in 2010. The records consist of brochures, correspondence, government reports, magazines, memorabilia, memos, newspaper clippings, photocopied articles, photos, and spreadsheets. This collection is arranged into three series: Series I. Japanese-American San Jose State College Students, 1935 - 1994, Series II. Japanese-American Internment, 1942-1996, and Series III. Nisei Diploma Project at SJSU, 2009-2010.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into three series: Series I. Japanese-American San Jose State College Students, 1935 - 1994, n.d. (1935-1942), Series II. Japanese-American Internment, 1942-1996, n.d (1993-1996), Series III. Nisei Diploma Project at SJSU (2009-2010).

Indexing Terms

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

San Jose State University -- History.

Education, Higher -- California -- San Jose.

Japanese Americans -- California -- Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945 -- Periodicals.

Japanese Americans -- California -- Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945 -- Newspapers.

Japanese Americans -- California -- San Jose -- Biography.

Related Material

Flaherty Collection: Japanese Internment Records, MSS-2006-02, San José State University Library Special Collections and Archives.

Willard E. Schmidt Papers, MSS-2007-09-01, San José State University Library Special Collections and Archives.

Series I: **Japanese-American San Jose State College Students 1935-1994 (bulk 1935-1942)**

Physical Description: 1 folder

Series Scope and Content Summary

This collection was compiled in connection with the passage of the Japanese-American Reparation Act of 1988, which offered financial reimbursement and a formal apology from the U.S. government for violations of the internees' civil rights. This series documents the number of Japanese-American students attending San Jose State College prior to the internment. Photocopies of student directories and lists of graduating students provide this information. Some photocopies of news clippings in this series document activities of Japanese-American students at San Jose State College during the late 1930s and early 1940s.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically.

Series II: **Japanese-American Internment 1942-1996 (bulk 1993-1996)**

Physical Description: 3 folders

Series Scope and Content Summary

This collection was compiled in connection with the passage of the Japanese-American Reparation Act of 1988, which offered financial reimbursement and a formal apology from the U.S. government for violations of the internees' civil rights. The materials in this series document the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II and the subsequent impact of internment policies on public and political memory. The series consists of newspaper clippings, magazines, correspondence, memorabilia, brochures, government reports, and photocopied excerpts from books and periodicals. Folder 1 includes brochures for the Japanese-American National Museum and literature and mailings from the Nihonmachi Outreach Committee and the Tule Lake Committee, organizations dedicated to preserving public memory of the internment. Folder 2 features many clippings from the *San Jose Mercury News* and some editions of the West Magazine supplement. The clippings concern topics such as the personal stories of detainees, the history of the Japanese-American Citizens League, the relocation and detainment of Japanese Peruvians in the United States, and the story of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Folder 2 also includes two articles by Marjorie Fernandes, one entitled *From Salinas to Poston: One Woman's Journey* and the other *Japanese-American Women: Immigration and Evacuation*. (The publisher of these articles is unknown.) Folder 3 contains a published presidential message and reports and legislation from the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the California Senate, all concerning the Japanese-Americans and their forced resettlement.

Arrangement

The folders are arranged alphabetically by format, and the items within each folder chronologically.

Series III: **Nisei Diploma Project at SJSU 2009-2010**

Physical Description: 1 folder

Series Scope and Content Summary

The California State University Board of Trustees voted in September 2009 to award honorary bachelor's degrees to former Japanese-American students whose education was disrupted by the forced internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II. In October of 2009 the Governor of California signed AB 37, an Assembly bill that called upon California's higher education institutions to honor this group of former students. The CSU worked with the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC) to locate Nisei students. San José State University presented honorary degrees to eighteen Nisei students during Commencement of May 2010. This series documents the events described above, and includes materials that document SJSU's efforts to locate and contact the former students. It includes samples of the application to receive the degree, SJSU memos communicating progress on the project, spreadsheets compiling data on the former students, correspondence from the university to the students, and photos of those awarded degrees during the Commencement ceremony.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically.