

Guide to the Manzanar Collection, 1942-1994



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Manzanar Collection, 1942-1994 (bulk 1942-1946)

Processed by Nancy E. Loe, 2007; encoded by Byte Managers, 2007

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Descriptive Summary

Title:

Manzanar Collection, 1942-1994 (bulk 1942-1946)

Collection Number:

MS 026

Creators:

Murakami, Miriko Nagahama, 1922-
Wada, Honey Mitsuye Toda, 1921-2007

Abstract:

Materials relating to the forced relocation to Manzanar, California, of Miriko Nagahama and Honey Mitsuye Toda, including correspondence, photographs, and newspapers, donated in 1981 and 1995.

Extent:

2 boxes. 1.55 l.f.

Language:

English

Repository:

Special Collections, Robert E. Kennedy Library
California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407-0605

Administrative Information

Provenance:

Donated in 1981 and 1995.

Access:

Collection is open to qualified researchers by appointment only. For more information on access policies and to obtain a copy of the Researcher Registration form, please visit the Special Collections Access page.

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Preferred Citation:

[Identification of Item]. Manzanar Collection, Special Collections, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, Calif.

Abbreviations Used:

l.f.: linear feet

Indexing Terms

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

Subjects:

Japanese Americans -- Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945.
Murakami, Miriko Nagahama -- Archives
Wada, Honey Mitsuye Toda -- Archives
United States. War Relocation Authority.
World War, 1939-1945.
World War, 1939-1945 -- Evacuation of civilians.
World War, 1939-1945 -- Concentration camps -- United States.
World War, 1939-1945 -- Archival resources.
World War, 1939-1945 -- Japanese Americans.

Genres and Forms of Material:

Correspondence
Photographs
Newspapers

Related Materials

Related Collections:

Special Collections, Cal Poly:
Guide to the Smith Family Papers on World War II, 1936-2005 (MS 65)

Biographical Note

On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which allowed military commanders to designate "military areas" as "exclusion zones," from which "any or all persons may be excluded." The order affected approximately 120,000 Americans of Japanese descent living on the West Coast to one of ten internment camps — officially known as "relocation centers" — in California, Idaho, Utah, Arizona, Wyoming, Colorado, and Arkansas. It is estimated that 62 percent of those interned in the camps were American citizens.

Miri Nagahama, Honey Toda, Betty Salzman, Wilda Johnson, and Lorraine Paulsen were friends who grew up and attended school and joined the Girls Scouts together. When their friends Miri and Honey were interned at Manzanar, Betty, Wilda, and Lorraine corresponded and visited and assisted Nagahama and Toda's efforts to be released.

Miriko Nagahama Murakami

Miriko Nagahama Murakami was born in Los Angeles on April 1, 1922, to Harry and Yuri Nakamura Nagahama. She had a brother, Junichi, and a sister, Kazuko, who were also born in California.

In the spring of 1942, Miriko Nagahama and her family were forced to leave their home in Los Angeles for the Manzanar Relocation Center, run by the War Relocation Authority (WRA).

After she left Manzanar, Nagahama worked at the Centenary Methodist Church of Los Angeles as the pre-school and church school coordinator, a position funded by the Women's Division of the Methodist Church at \$150 per month.

On January 8, 1949, she married Rev. Harry Murakami and had five children: Ann Ritsuko, Peggy Miyo, Glenn Nobuo, Alan Michio, and Gail Mikiko. Miri worked as a Special Education Assistant for the Los Angeles Unified School District. Now retired, she and her husband travel extensively.

Honey Mitsuye Toda Wada

Honey Mitsuye Toda Wada was born in Fresno County on January 23, 1921. Her parents were born in Hiroshima, Japan, and emigrated to the United States in 1917. Toda had two brothers, Roy Tetsuo and Akira, who were also born in the San Joaquin Valley.

On April 28, 1942, Honey Toda and her family were forced to leave their home in Glendale, California, for the Manzanar Relocation Center, run by the War Relocation Authority (WRA). While in Manzanar, Toda worked as a secretary to Dr. Genevieve Carter, the center's Superintendent of Education.

Through the efforts of National Student Relocation Council, Honey Toda was allowed to leave the camp after one year. She enrolled at the University of Maryland and graduated with an A.B. in Sociology with honors.

In the spring of 1945, Toda moved to New York City to work at the Bureau of Applied Social Research. There she worked as a research assistant for Dr. C. Wright Mills, professor of sociology at Columbia University, compiling the occupational statistics for Mills' book *White Collar*, published by Oxford University Press in 1953.

In 1947, Toda married and began working at home, raising three children. In 1976, she became a Japanese bilingual teacher for the Fort Lee Public School System, where she was named teacher of the year in 1989. That same year, Wada was selected as one of 20 teachers and administrators from the New York area to participate in the U.S. Educators program, visiting and observing schools in Japan to better understand the cultural and education background of children coming from Japan to the United States.

In 1991, after 15 years of service, Honey Wada retired from the Fort Lee Public School System. She continues to reside in New Jersey.

Sources

California Birth Index, 1905-1995, ancestry.com
California Passenger and Crew Lists, 1893-1957, ancestry.com
Japanese Americans Relocated During World War II, ancestry.com
Wilda N. Johnson
Betty Salzman Liebscher
Miri Nagahama Murakami
Honey M. Toda Wada

Scope and Content

The Manzanar Collection contains materials relating to the forced relocation to Manzanar of Miriko Nagahama and Honey Mitsuye Toda. It includes correspondence, photographs, and newspapers from Manzanar during the period of Ms. Nagahama and Ms. Toda's internment by the War Relocation Authority.

The provenance, or original organization, of the papers has been preserved for the most part in the organization of the collection. The Manzanar Collection is divided into three series:

Series 1. Correspondence, 1942-1946
Series 2. Photographs, 1942-1994
Series 3. Newspapers, 1942-1943

Series Description/Folder List

Series 1. Correspondence, 1942-1946

Contains one subseries: A. Correspondence.

A. Correspondence

Contains correspondence from Honey Toda and Miri Nagahama with Betty Salzman during internment at Manzanar, arranged chronologically from 1942-46. 5 folders.

Box 1 Folder 1
Correspondence, 1942

Box 1 Folder 2
Correspondence, 1943

Box 1 Folder 3
Correspondence, 1944

Box 1 Folder 4
Correspondence, 1945

Box 1 Folder 5
Correspondence, 1946

Series 2. Photographs, 1942-1994

Contains one subseries: A. Photographs.

A. Photographs

Contains photographs at Manzanar of the Toda family during internment and visits to Honey Toda and Miri Nagahama by Wilda Johnson and Betty Salzman, as well as the Murakami family in recent years, arranged chronologically, from 1942-1943 and 1984, 1994. 2 folders.

Box 1 Folder 6
Photographs, Manzanar, 1942-43

Box 1 Folder 7
Photographs, Murakami family, 1984, 1994

Series 3. Newspapers, 1942-1943

Contains one subseries: A. Manzanar Free Press.

A. Manzanar Free Press

Contains issues of the Manzanar Free Press, arranged chronologically, from Aug. 27, 1942 through July 17, 1943. 14 issues. 1 box.

Box 2 Folder 1
Manzanar Free Press, 27 July 1942

Box 2 Folder 2
Manzanar Free Press, 31 July 1942

Box 2 Folder 3
Manzanar Free Press, 3 Aug 1942

Box 2 Folder 4
Manzanar Free Press, 5 Aug 1942

Box 2 Folder 5
Manzanar Free Press, 7 Aug 1942

Box 2 Folder 6
Manzanar Free Press, 10 Aug 1942

Box 2 Folder 7
Manzanar Free Press, 12 Aug 1942

Box 2 Folder 8
Manzanar Free Press, 17 Aug 1942

Box 2 Folder 9
Manzanar Free Press, 19 Aug 1942

Box 2 Folder 10
Manzanar Free Press, 21 Aug 1942

Box 2 Folder 11
Manzanar Free Press, 24 Aug 1942

Box 2 Folder 12
Manzanar Free Press, 26 Aug 1942

Box 2 Folder 13
Manzanar Free Press, 31 Aug 1942

Box 2 Folder 14
Manzanar Free Press, 17 July 1943