

JAPANESE PERUVIAN DIASPORA ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Collection Number:



Center for Oral and Public History
California State University, Fullerton

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Descriptive Summary

Title

Japanese Peruvian Diaspora Oral History Project

Date(s)

2006-2008

Creator

Gisela Shimabukuro

Extent

Six (6) oral histories

Repository

Center for Oral and Public History
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Project Abstract

Japanese immigration to Peru began in the turn of the twentieth century and continued until the Second World War. Because of the increase in Japanese immigrants, racial conflict arose among Peruvians, which led to an organized race riot against Japanese business and homes. Out of panic from the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor, the American government orchestrated a campaign to relocate Japanese Americans to proscribed military areas. At the expense of the U.S. government, Peru sent approximately 1,800 Japanese Peruvians to be incarcerated in segregated internment camps in the United States, while around 800 were used as exchange prisoners and repatriated to Japan. Following the end of the war, these internees were caught in a battle between two governments. The U.S. government labeled them as illegal aliens, claiming the Japanese Peruvians entered the U.S. possessing no proper documentation, passports, or visas. However, the Peruvian government did not want them back into the country. With the effort of attorney Wayne Collins, the Japanese Peruvians petitioned to return to Peru or avoid deportation and stay in the United States. Their life after camp would prove to be toughest part in the entire deportation-internment campaign. This study incorporates oral histories and archival material to explore the stories of the resettlement experience of Japanese Peruvians in the United States, Peru, and Japan.

Administrative Information

Acquisition

All items in this collection were donated to the Center for Oral and Public History by the interviewer and interviewees.

Access

The collection is open for research.

Preferred Citation

Citations must identify the oral history number, interviewee, interviewer, date, project, and the Center for Oral and Public History.

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Japanese Peruvian Diaspora Oral History Project Abstracts

OH 3975

Ganaja, Bebe

“An Oral History with Bebe Ganaja”

Interviewer: Gisela Shimabukuro

Date: May 6, 2004

Location: Conference Room in Sweet Inspirations, Mrs. Ganaja's work.

Language: English

Project: Japanese Peruvian Diaspora

Status:

Abstract:

OH 3915

Hayashi, Tomas

“An Oral History with Tomas Hayashi”

Interviewer: Gisela Shimabukuro

Date: July 27, 2004

Location:

Language: Spanish

Project: Japanese Peruvian Diaspora

OH 3916

Nishimoto, Alice

“An Oral History with Alice Nishimoto”

Interviewer: Gisela Shimabukuro

Date: April 3, 2005

Location:

Language: English

Project: Japanese Peruvian Diaspora

OH 3919

Tanaka, Yuriko

“An Oral History with Yuriko Tanaka”

Interviewed by Gisela Shimabukuro

July 8, 2004

Language: Spanish

Project: Japanese Peruvian Diaspora

Status:

OH 3918

Tomita, Carmen

“An Oral History with Carmen Tomita”

Interviewed by Gisela Shimabukuro

July 16, 2004

Language: Spanish

Project: Japanese Peruvian Diaspora

Status:

OH 3917

Watanabe, Hector

“An Oral History with Hector Watanabe”

Interview with Gisela Shimabukuro

Date: March 6, 2005

Language: English

Project: Japanese Peruvian Diaspora