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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

Respository
Center for Oral and Public History
California State University, Fullerton

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.

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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

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
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