

OH 2332

Narrator: Isozaki, Tamatsu (b. 1926)
Interviewer: Lisa Nobe
Title: "An Oral History with Tamatsu Isozaki"
Date: March 3, 1993
Language: English
Location: Home of Tamatsu Isozaki, Monterey Park, California
Project: Manzanar Children's Village
Status: not transcribed

This oral history spans 1926-1993. Bulk dates: 1933-1945.

An oral history with Tamatsu Isozaki of Monterey Park, California, for the Manzanar Children's Village Oral History Project, Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about their lives, pre and post World War II, but most specifically, about their experience at the Children's Village orphanage. This interview gives an account of Isozaki's family background, parents immigration to the United States, and his relationship with siblings; speaks about death of his Mother and being sent to the Salvation Army San Francisco Orphanage in 1935; parent's employment as migrant workers; speaks about ethnic breakdown in classroom and segregation in local area; life at Salvation Army Orphanage and separation from siblings; being transferred to Liten Salvation Army Orphanage, Hillsborough, California, and ethnic conflicts amongst the orphans; reaction to and effect of Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor [December 7, 1941]; recalls local prejudice against Japanese orphans; reaction to Executive Order 9066 and effect on his family; talks about camaraderie amongst orphans; journey to Manzanar Japanese Internment Camp and arrival; describes his reaction to internment and the condition of Children's Village upon arrival; experiences within camp, including: housing, food, daily life, activities, sports, church services, medical care, and internal prejudice; how the Issei responded to internment; knowledge of inner-camp riot; older children looked after themselves and cared for younger orphans; compares Salvation Army Orphanage and Children's Village; reminisces about the Salvation Army orphan reunion; interaction with the Matsumoto's [Harry and Lillian] and Caucasian staff; describes the layout of Children's Village; speaks about lack of affection toward orphans; remembers the importance of sports in his daily life; discusses general social interaction within the camp and dating; worked part-time as childcare provider; religious views in camp; bout with appendicitis and recovery; siblings difficulty surviving after they left camp; spent last six months of war in high school in Gardnerville, Nevada; exploitation of internees by local farmers; remembers brother enlisting in 442 Army Infantry; cites sports as most vivid memory; life after Manzanar and move to Gardnerville, Nevada; speaks about being drafted into army; how his family reunited in Carson City, Nevada; discusses life in army including, racial segregation opinion about Atomic bomb; educational opportunities following army discharge; how he met his wife; reflects on his time in Children's Village and making peace with the past; speaks about the Reparations and Redress movement; role in organizing the 1985 Manzanar Children's Village reunion; and finally, speaks about enjoying retirement and grandchildren.

OH2333

Narrator: Tanaka, Sam (b. 1930)
Interviewer: Reiko Katabami
Title: "An Oral History with Sam Tanaka"
Date: June 28, 1993
Language: English
Location: Home of Sam Tanaka, Cerritos, California
Project: Manzanar Children's Village
Status: not transcribed

This oral history spans 1930-1993. Bulk dates: 1930-1940s.

An oral history with Sam Tanaka a second generation Nissei of Cerritos, California, for the Manzanar Children's Village Oral History Project, Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about their lives, pre- and post-World War II, but most specifically, about their experience at the Children's Village orphanage. This interview covers Tanaka's early family and mother's battle with tuberculosis; describes being sent to live with a foster family, subsequent relationship with his father, and family life during and after war; remembers returning to Los Angeles in 1947 and working after high school; details transfer to Salvation Army Orphanage, San Francisco and daily life including: description of building, activities, relationships amongst children, meals; reflects on feelings of shame at living in orphanage; compares prejudice before and after World War II; recalls memories about Pearl Harbor and how curfew affected him; describes transfer to Manzanar Relocation Center in 1942 and first impressions; talks about Children's Village including description of living quarters, birthday celebrations, activities, weather conditions, school days, religious services; medical facilities and his experiences with appendicitis, contact with staff, conflict and discipline within the camp; addresses experiences with prejudice during and after war; reflects on how his childhood affected his parenting; leaving Children's Village in June 1945 and challenges he faced with life outside of the orphanage; relationship with siblings; memories and relationship with fellow Children's Village orphan Tamatsu Isozaki; reflects on open wounds/scars and affects of the past on his present life; how he met his wife, courtship and marriage; speaks about Redress Movement; reunion of Salvation Army Orphanage; discusses challenges presented to Japanese American servicemen during World War II; history of the Salvation Army Orphanage, San Francisco; and reflections on family, friends and leisure activities.

This is the second interview with Sam Tanaka and covers background of Tanaka's early childhood; staff at Salvation Army Orphanage, San Francisco and daily routine; revisits discussion of prejudice during and after the war; talks about education and employment in San Francisco and at Children's Village; challenges faced by other children living in orphanage; recollections about attack on Pearl Harbor [December 7, 1941]; describes journey to Manzanar Relocation Center and first impressions; talks about leisure activities at Salvation Army and Children's Village; varied reactions of Nissei orphans to reunions; describes life at Children's Village including barracks, chores, sand storms, and friends; awareness of the Manzanar Riot; describes the Salvation Army reunion in 1984; schooling and religious services at Children's

Village; talks about life after Children's Village including reunion with father and high school days; recounts being drafted during Korean War and time spent overseas; how he felt about the atomic bomb; family life and career as mechanic; how modern day school curriculum views treatment of Japanese during the war; reflects on Manzanar experience and its impact on his life; how his siblings adjusted to life after World War II; reaction to Redress movement; discusses appreciation for 1992 Children's Village reunion and personal involvement; and finally, reflects on treatment of Japanese during the war and his Japanese heritage;

OH2334

Narrator: Hayashi, Clara (b. 1924)
Interviewer: Reiko Katabami
Title: "An Oral History with Clara Hayashi"
Date: July 12, 1993
Language: English
Location: Home of Clara Hayashi, Cerritos, California
Project: Manzanar Children's Village
Status: not transcribed

This oral history spans 1930-1993. Bulk dates: 1930-1940s.

An oral history with Clara Hayashi a second generation Nissei of Redondo Beach, California, for the Manzanar Children's Village Oral History Project, Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about her life, pre- and post-World War II, but most specifically, about their experience at the Children's Village orphanage. This interview covers Hayashi's family background and recollections of birthplace in Livingston, CA; talks about her mother's death and being raised by her father; touches on her father's employment and his decision to place her in an orphanage; life at The Shonien [Japanese Humane Society Children's Home] including living conditions, meals, clothing, various ethnicities in area, social events, education, church services, and chores; feelings about being an orphan and the public perception; speaks about the foster care system vs. orphanage; life between Shonien and Children's Village; recalls memories about Pearl Harbor and local aftermath; describes transfer to Manzanar Relocation Center in June 1942 and first impressions; life at Children's Village and YWCA barrack; speaks about reclaiming her life after Manzanar and encountering racial prejudice against Jews not Japanese; describes the YWCA barrack at Manazar; reaction to loss of Japanese property and her personal experience; recalls the 1992 reunion at Children's Village; describes barracks at Children's Village; laundry, friendship, climate, medical facilities, movies, religious services; addresses the history behind the name Children's Village; interactions amongst Japanese at Manzanar and the riot; compares The Shonien and Children's Village; offers perception of [Harry and Lillian] Matsumoto and their influence on orphans; describes daily routine at Children's Village and high school graduation; later worked for a German family and explains their feelings toward WWII; reaction to and repercussions of the loyalty question and how she felt about the atomic bomb; talks about her marriage and children and how her father influenced her current life; speaks about global impact of various ethnicities in U.S. and reparations and redress movement; impact of Nissei in military intelligence during WWII; reflects about how past affects her life; remembers returning to Children's Village; and finally, speaks about current state of racial prejudice against Japanese.

OH2335

Narrator: Baumbauer Dennis, (Tojo) (b.1934)
Interviewer: Reiko Katabami
Title: "An Oral History with Dennis Baumbauer"
Date: August 16, 1993
Language: English
Location: Host Airport Hotel, Sacramento, California
Project: Manzanar Children's Village
Status: not transcribed

This oral history spans 1934-1993. Bulk dates: 1935-1950s.

An oral history with Dennis Baumbauer a third generation Sansei of Redondo Beach, California, for the Manzanar Children's Village Oral History Project, Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about his life, pre- and post-World War II, but most specifically, about his experience at the Children's Village orphanage. This interview covers Baumbauer's family history, grandparents emigration to the United States, siblings, and children; talks about reconnecting with birth family in 1991; time at Children's Home Society [Los Angeles, California] and The Shonien [Japanese Humane Society Children's Home]; remembers transfer to The Shonien and challenges to accepting his Japanese ancestry; daily life at The Shonien including, meals, activities, and blackouts; recalls transfer to Children's Village and first impressions; describes daily life at Children's Village including the barracks, recreational activities, nursery, and clothing; remembers being teased about the name of Tojo; remembers repercussions of the Manzanar Riot; talks about living with a foster family and his subsequent adoption; addresses challenges and racism outside Children's Village; details life after Children's Village including feelings of alienation, education, and challenges living with adoptive family, compares life as orphan vs. adoptee; talks about his profession in education; how he accepted his Japanese roots; education; discusses sharing his background with children and their reaction and how internment was a positive experience; reaction to reparations and redress movement; importance of Japanese heritage and why he won't attend reunions; and finally, speaks about his current relationship with birth family and engages a general discussion about the Japanese internment.

OH2336

Narrator: Suyematsu, Herbert (b.1936)
Interviewer: Reiko Katabami
Title: "An Oral History with Herbert Suyematsu"
Date: July 18, 1993
Language: English
Location: Home of Herbert Suysmatsu, Los Angeles, California
Project: Manzanar Children's Village
Status: not transcribed

This oral history spans 1936-1993. Bulk dates: 1936-1950s.

An oral history with Herbert Suyematsu a third generation Sansei of Redondo Beach, California, for the Manzanar Children's Village Oral History Project, Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about his life, pre- and post-World War II, but most specifically, about his experience at the Children's Village orphanage. This interview covers Suyematsu's family history and his parents marriage; recalls separation of family following Pearl Harbor; describes The Shonien [Los Angeles] including barracks, mealtime, floor plan, and education; recalls traveling to Children's Village and his first impressions; life at Children's Village including education, layout, medical care; speaks about memories of Christian influence at The Shonien; describes reuniting with family and speaks about mother's mental illness; life after Children's Village; explains about Father's job at Manzanar Relocation Center; discusses personal relationship with parents and post camp education; explains the impact of camp life on Suyematsu and his family; recalls 1992 Children's Village reunion and reason for attending; how he feels about internment and purpose; speaks about reparations and redress; and finally, how he views World War II and its affect on Japanese Americans.

OH2338

Narrator: Children's Village Walkthrough
Interviewer: Lisa Nobe
Title: "An Oral History with Children's Village Walkthrough"
Date: September 11, 1993
Language: English
Location: Manzanar National Historic Site, California
Project: Manzanar Children's Village
Status: not transcribed

This oral history spans 1942-1993. Bulk dates: 1942-45.

A walkthrough of Children's Village with former orphans and a National Park Service Ranger, for the Manzanar Children's Village Oral History Project, Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about the Children's Village Orphanage in 1942-1945. Walkthrough participants speak about the difficulty of locating specific landmarks due to overgrowth; identify location of the children's barracks, fruit orchard, administration building, and hospital compound; discuss the changes since closing of Children's Village; how the Caucasians workers lived off site; intermingling of orphans with other children and racial stereotyping; reminisce about a murder in Manzanar Relocation Center; talk about the demographics within the Village and the live-in staff; participants speak about the post-Village life for the orphans; memories of mealtimes; describes heating system in buildings and location of the basketball court and pond; explain the origins of Lone Pine, California; and finally, the participants reminisce about their lives after Children's Village and their family life.

OH2339

Narrator: Matsuno, Takatow (b. 1935)
Interviewer: Naomi Romero
Title: "An Oral History with Takatow Matsuno"
Date: March 13, 1993
Language: English
Location: Home of Takatow Matsuno, Monterey Park, California
Project: Manzanar Children's Village
Status: Verbatim,

This oral history spans 1935-1993. Bulk dates: 1930-1950s.

An oral history with Takatow Matsuno a second generation Nisei of Monterey Park, California, for the Manzanar Children's Village Oral History Project, Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about his life, pre- and post-World War II, but most specifically, about his experience at the Children's Village orphanage. This interview covers Matsuno's childhood in Terminal Island, California, and transfer to The Shonien [Los Angeles]; display of prejudice while in school toward full Japanese and the *hapa*; compares The Shonien and Children's Village; daily life at Children's Village including recreation, medical facilities, food, clothing, and hygiene; laments loss of Japanese language because of camp life; talks about siblings experiences during WWII and visiting Manzanar Relocation Center as adult; how he learned to survive the camp experience and the lack of parental support; describes adjusting to life after Children's Village and post-war discrimination; speaks about the people in 1944 Easter photograph and the orphan's relationship with the Matsumoto's; and finally, various recollections about the Children's Village reunion and his family.

OH2486

Narrator: Sakamoto, Annie (b. 1924)
Interviewer: Noemi Romero
Celia Cardenas
Title: “An Oral History with Mitsuru Yamasaki”
Date: July 11, 1993
Language: English
Location: Home of Wilma Stewart, Los Angeles California
Project: Manzanar Children’s Village
Status: not transcribed

This oral history spans 1924-1993. Bulk dates: 1930s-1940s.

An oral history with Ira Iwata, a second generation Nisei of Gardena, Colorado, for the Manzanar Children’s Village Oral History Project, Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about his life, pre- and post-World War II, but most specifically, about her experience at the Children’s Village orphanage. This interview covers Sakamoto’s relationship with Wilma C. Stewart and how she came to be Stewart’s foster child; describes recollections of Children’s Village landscape and discipline and social worker Eva Robbins; recalls insecure childhood with no family; circumstances surrounding her birth and why she was placed in orphanage; explains how she reconciled with her background and it’s affect on her life; her lifelong friendship with Celeste Teodor; facing post-war discrimination in school; speaks about childhood with Wilma Stewart and her religious influence; recalls departure from Children’s Village; describes her adolescent social development and its restrictions; memories of Children’s Village; reminisces about 1992 Children’s Village reunion; offers insight about why she decided to do the interview; and finally, speaks about reparations and redress.

OH2487

Narrator: Watamura, Susie (b. 1925)
Interviewer: Celia Cardenes
Title: "An Oral History with Susie Watamura"
Date: September 7, 1993
Language: English
Location: Home of Susie Watamura, Monterey Park, California
Project: Manzanar Children's Village
Status: not transcribed

This oral history spans 1925-1993. Bulk dates: 1940s.

An oral history with Susie Watamura a second generation Nisei of Monterey Park, California, for the Manzanar Children's Village Oral History Project, Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about her life, pre- and post-World War II, but most specifically, about her experience at the Children's Village orphanage. Specifically, this interview covers Watamura's life on Terminal Island before the war and the evacuation order; recalls being amongst the first group sent to Children's Village; speaks about her Mother's mental breakdown and affect on their family; describes life at Children's Village and Manzanar Relocation Center including quality of food, employment and education; explains reasons for not wanting to return to Japan with father and release from Children's Village after he arrived at Manzanar; talks about internees resentment toward government and how internment camps broke down family togetherness; perception of Issei acceptance of Japanese American servicemen; returning to Los Angeles after release; compares pre and post-war prejudice; and finally, talks about personal acceptance of internment experience and importance of preserving this part of history.

OH2488

Narrator: Stewart, Wilma (b. 1901)
Interviewer: Noemi Romero
Celia Cardenas
Title: "An Oral History with Wilma Stewart"
Date: July 11, 1993
Language: English
Location: Home of Wilma Stewart, Los Angeles California
Project: Manzanar Children's Village
Status: not transcribed

This oral history spans 1901-1993. Bulk dates: 1940s.

An oral history with Wilma Stewart, foster mother, of Los Angeles, California, for the Manzanar Children's Village Oral History Project, Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about her life as a foster mother to children following their time at the Children's Village orphanage. Specifically, this interview covers Stewart's care of Annie Sakamoto and Celeste as foster children and the role welfare played in placing children in her care; shares about taking care of other foster children; expresses her feelings about the internment and how it affected her neighbors; shares about her childhood in New York and move to California; reminisces about her education and teaching career; and finally, talks about involvement in local church.

OH2489

Narrator: Miya, Mary (b. 1927)
Interviewer: Celia Cardenas
Title: "An Oral History with Mary Miya"
Date: July 11, 1993
Language: English
Location: Home of Matsuno Isozaki, Monterey Park, California
Project: Manzanar Children's Village
Status: not transcribed

This oral history spans 1901-1993. Bulk dates: 1940s.

An oral history with Mary Miya, second generation Nissei, of Victorville, California, for the Manzanar Children's Village Oral History Project, Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about her life, pre- and post-World War II, but most specifically, about her experience at the Children's Village orphanage. Specifically, this interview covers Miya's evacuation from Terminal Island and repercussions of Pearl Harbor; reminisces about family history; describes learning of attack on Pearl Harbor and first impressions of Manzanar Relocation Center; talks about high school at Manzanar and association with photographer, Toyo Miyatake; parents courtship and immigration to the United States; daily life at Children's Village including sports and employment; discusses prejudice pre and post war; treatment of boys and girls in Children's Village and her work in the nursery; talks about transition to life after Manzanar, and visiting her mother in mental institution; father's business after camp; matrons at Children's Village and impact of her childhood as an orphan; shares about her brothers illness; speaks about naming of Children's Village; reminisces about 1992 Children's Village reunion; Japanese American's responses to internment; remembers weather patterns emotional support in Village; why it is important to tell her story and reaction to reparations and redress; remarriage; and finally, reflects on Children's Village experience.

OH2494

Narrator: Matsumoto, Lillian (b. 1913)
Nagayama, Taeko (b. 1921)

Interviewer: Reiko Katabami

Title: “An Oral History with Lillian Matsumoto and Taeko Nagayama”

Date: May 12, 1994 and May 13, 1994

Language: English

Location: Home of Takeo Nagayama, El Cerrito, California

Project: Manzanar Children’s Village

Status: verbatim; 163 pages

This oral history spans 1913-1994. Bulk dates: 1930-1950s.

An oral history with Lillian Matsumoto and Taeko Nagayama, both second generation Nisei of Berkeley and El Cerrito, California, for the Manzanar Children’s Village Oral History Project, Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about their lives, pre- and post-World War II, but most specifically, about their experience at the Children’s Village orphanage. Specifically, this interview covers Nagayama’s and Matsumoto’s family backgrounds; Matsumoto recalls helping with family newspaper and encountering discrimination; both women discuss their religious affiliation, why they were at The Shonien [Matsumoto as staff, Nagayama as orphan] and their job responsibilities; explains the founding of The Shonien and memories of Mr. Kasumoto; speaks about Pearl Harbor, how it affected them personally, and its aftermath; how Matsumoto met her husband, their relationship, and marriage; talks about general reaction toward *hapa* [person of mixed race/heritage] at The Shonien; explains why The Shonien was transferred to and history of Children’s Village including, construction, naming, and influx of orphans from across the U.S.; describes transferring orphans from Shonien to Children’s Village; Nagayama talks about meeting her husband and his role at Children’s Village; Matsumoto explains why she and her husband became superintendents of Children’s Village; both women recall learning of the evacuation order and discrimination post-Pearl Harbor, and compares The Shonien with Children’s Village; Matsumoto reflects on her work philosophy and relationship with orphans; discusses interaction between Manzanar Relocation Center and Children’s Village; describes the first Christmas at Children’s Village and personal reflections about working at Children’s Village; memories about Harry Matsumoto; impact of food production at Manzanar Relocation Center; transition to life after Children’s Village and memories of the fiftieth anniversary reunion; and finally, Matsumoto and Nagayama speak about their families and hobbies.

This is the second interview session with Lillian Matsumoto and Taeko Nagayama and covers the transfer to the Children’s Village and interaction with Caucasian staff; Ansel Adam’s visit to Manzanar Relocation Center; description of barracks and interaction between Children’s Village orphans and other camp children; transition to life after Children’s Village and personal impressions on seeing the children at fiftieth anniversary reunion; reaction to reparations and redress movement; reflections on camp experience; and finally, discuss the naming of Children’s Village.

OH2668

Narrator: Teodor, Celeste (b. 1936)
Interviewer: Lisa Nobe
Title: "An Oral History with Celeste Teodor"
Date: December 22, 1997
Language: English
Location: Treasure Island Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada
Project: Manzanar Children's Village
Status: verbatim; 163 pages

This oral history spans 1913-1997. Bulk dates: 1940s.

An oral history with Celeste Teodor, a second generation Nisei of Las Vegas, Nevada, for the Manzanar Children's Village Oral History Project, Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about her life, pre- and post-World War II, but most specifically, about her experience at the Children's Village orphanage. Specifically, this interview covers the circumstances surrounding her birth and mystery as to Teodor's racial heritage; her lifelong friendship with Annie Sakamoto; recalls leaving The Shonien [Los Angeles] for Children's Village and her Kindergarten "going away" party; discusses mealtime expectations at Children's Village; why she supports the orphanage system vs. foster care; describes life at Children's Village including: dormitory style rooms and personal space, Christmas and birthday festivities, discipline, religion, washrooms, and daily routine; talks about playtime and interaction with school children; how her independent spirit was fostered at Children's Village; personal experience with discrimination in school and post-war life; recalls emotional departure from Children's Village, her years in foster care including at Wilma Stewart's and Aunt Jessie Bloom, and meeting her birth Mother; discusses anti-Japanese discrimination in the 1990s; reflects on Children's Village and how it impacted her life and her lack of association with Japanese Americans since leaving; how her past as an orphan affects her personality and outlook on life; and finally, reflects on governments role in internment and life with her husband.

OH3502

Narrator: Yamashita, Robert (b. 1931)
Interviewer: Arthur Hansen
Title: "An Oral History with Robert Yamashita"
Date: March 3, 2006
Language: English
Location: Alameda Main Library, Alameda, California
Project: Manzanar Children's Village
Status: not transcribed

This oral history spans 1930s-2006. Bulk dates: 1930s-1960s.

An oral history with Robert Yamashita, a second generation Nisei of Alameda, California, for the Manzanar Children's Village Oral History Project, Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about his life, pre- and post-World War II, but most specifically, about his experience at the Children's Village orphanage, June 42-45. This interview covers Yamashita's childhood background and arrival in Lodi, California; recalls impact of his father's death and mother's return to Japan; describes army tenure in Japan and re-connecting with his mother; speaks about transfer to Salvation Army Home [San Francisco] and daily routine including recreation, chores, and religious influence; interaction with children both within and outside the Japanese American community; talks about life post-war under guardianship and in foster care; recalls aftermath of Pearl Harbor [December 7, 1941] and Executive Order 9066; speaks about transfer to Children's Village in June 1942 and first impressions; impact of evacuation on his life and why he wanted to leave Children's Village; discusses the local perception of orphan children; knowledge of inner-camp riot; speaks about post-war discrimination; daily life at Children's Village including recreation, mealtime, living conditions, staff, religion, and education; compares Harry and Lillian Matsumoto and Mrs. Robbins; speaks about personal relationship with John Hohri and influence of sports in his life; shares about siblings experiences following the War and relocation to Milwaukee, Wisconsin; remembers Block 29 at Manzanar and Lou Versel visiting the camp; reminisces about friendships and life at Children's Village; employment; postwar life and tenure in hostels and under guardianship; how being an orphan affected his life; compares high school education systems in Manzanar and postwar schools; speaks about ethnic integration in Milwaukee and the army; reasons for joining the army; talks about his mother's wartime experience in Japan; reflects on Japanese heritage and army service during the Korean War; details postwar employment; compares Japanese cities from postwar to present; and finally, reflects on life in semi-retirement.

OH3591

Narrator: Kawamoto, Ronald (b. 1942)
Interviewer: Cathy Irwin
Title: "An Oral History with Ronald Kawamoto"
Date: February 4, 2007
Language: English
Location: Home of Ronald Kawamoto, San Diego, California
Project: Manzanar Children's Village
Status: not transcribed

This oral history spans 1900-2007. Bulk dates: 1920s-2007.

An oral history with Ronald Kawamoto, a third generation Sansei and *hapa* of San Diego, California, for the Manzanar Children's Village Oral History Project, Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about his life, pre- and post-World War II, but most specifically, about his experience at the Children's Village orphanage. Born in the Santa Anita Assembly Center, this interview details Kawamoto's family history including his Issei grandparents arrival in the United States; challenges with cultural intermingling between his Japanese and Mexican heritage; education in San Diego post Children's Village and military career; talks about his families internment experience and circumstances surrounding his tenure at Children's Village; describes the racial breakdown of San Diego area; recalls discrimination in high school and stigma of Japanese heritage; and finally, talks about developing awareness of Japanese heritage and importance of understanding ones cultural background.

OH3592

Narrator: Yamakaki, Mitsuru (b. 1924)
Interviewer: Cathy Irwin
Title: "An Oral History with Mitsuru Yamasaki"
Date: January 24, 2007
Language: English
Location: Home of Mitsuru Yamasaki, Gardena, California
Project: Manzanar Children's Village
Status: not transcribed

This oral history spans 1900-2007. Bulk dates: 1920s-2007.

An oral history with Mitsuru Yamasaki, a second generation Nisei of Gardena, California, for the Manzanar Children's Village Oral History Project, Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about his life, pre- and post-World War II, but most specifically, about his experience at The Shonien and Rohwer Relocation Center. This interview details Yamasaki's family background and relationship with his father; position at The Shonien [Los Angeles] and role as mentor; reminisces about relationship with Matsumoto's; explains why he was sent to The Shonien and first impressions; uses photographs to describe building, talks about typical day including chores, daily routine, church, education, meals, celebrations; shares recollections of the staff and orphanage and his social life in high school; speaks about befriending young Japanese boy; reaction to Pearl Harbor; why he joined the CCC [Civilian Conservation Corps]; organization of The Shonien leadership; recalls learning about Executive Order 9066 and subsequent evacuation; describes the Santa Anita Assembly Center and living conditions; how he met his wife and courtship; move to and life at Rohwer Relocation Center including job responsibilities and social activities; discusses the Christian influence at The Shonien and Rowher; discusses jobs post Rohwer and army experiences;* and finally, reflects on career, family life, and experience at The Shonien.

*sound quality deteriorates making the last thirty minutes extremely difficult to hear.

OH3775**Narrator:** Iwata, Ira (b. 1931)**Interviewer:** Cathy Irwin**Title:** "An Oral History with Ira Iwata"**Date:** August 9, 2007**Language:** English**Location:** Phone Interview from Claremont, California to Lakewood, Colorado**Project:** Manzanar Children's Village**Status:** not transcribed

This oral history spans 1931-2007. Bulk dates: 1931-1950s.

An oral history with Ira Iwata, a second generation Nisei and *hapa* of Lakewood, Colorado, for the Manzanar Children's Village Oral History Project, Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about his life, pre- and post-World War II, but most specifically, about his experience at the Children's Village orphanage. This interview covers Iwata's childhood background; explains why he was sent to The Shonien [Los Angeles] and his time there [1935-42] including staff, school days, and playtime; recalls memories about Pearl Harbor and local repercussions; describes transfer to Children's Village; compares The Shonien with Children's Village; daily routine at Children's Village including: recreational activities; weather, education system, staff, and religion; talks about life post-Children's Village in Littleton, Colorado; details training to become a draftsman; reflects on impact of childhood on his marriage and family; speaks about reparations and redress movement; and finally, offers reflections about his family and the importance of World War II experience alive.

OH3776

Narrator: Teodor, Celeste (b. 1936)
Interviewer: Cathy Irwin
Title: "An Oral History with Celeste Tedor"
Date: August 9, 2007
Language: English
Location: Phone Interview from Claremont, California to Las Vegas, Nevada
Project: Manzanar Children's Village
Status: not transcribed

This oral history spans 1940-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s.

An oral history with Celeste Teodor a second generation Nissei of Las Vegas, Nevada, for the Manzanar Children's Village Oral History Project, Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about her life, pre- and post-World War II, but most specifically, about her experience at the Children's Village orphanage from June 1942-Aug 1945. Born in Los Angeles, this interview covers Teodor's meeting with her birth mother and their tenuous relationship; details life in foster homes, including: Wilma Stewart [with fellow orphan, Annie Sakamoto] and Aunt Jessie Bloom; her fond memories of Ruth Takamune; recalls transfer to Children's Village from The Shonien [Los Angeles]; compares Manzanar Relocation Center with Children's Village; daily life at Children's Village including: personal living space, meals, playtime, weather, and interaction with children outside Children's Village; remembers schooling and discrimination against orphans; sadness at leaving Children's Village and reminisces about friends and Christmas festivities; cites impressions of life in an orphanage vs. foster care; remembers high school days and involvement in sports; describes post-war prejudice in Los Angeles and Las Vegas; challenges to entering nursing school and working in the medical profession; tells how she met her husband and details his career in medicine and Air Force; and finally, speaks about life post-retirement.

OH3786

Narrator: Hohri, Sohei (b. 1925)
Interviewer: Cathy Irwin
Title: "An Oral History with Sohei Hohri"
Date: January 27, 2008
Language: English
Location: Alameda Main Library, Alameda, California
Project: Manzanar Children's Village
Status: not transcribed

This oral history spans 1925-2008. Bulk dates: 1925-2008

An oral history with Sohei Hohri, a second generation Nisei of Manhattan, New York, for the Manzanar Children's Village Oral History Project, Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about his life, pre- and post-World War II, but most specifically, about his experience at The Shonien [1939-1934] and Manzanar War Relocation Center. This interview covers Hohri's childhood in Salinas, California, and family background; shares about employment, current marriage, and his childhood with siblings; describes arriving at The Shonien [Japanese Humane Society Children's Home] and how years as an orphan affected his life; remembers reuniting with parents and adjusting to family life; discusses his father's employment as pastor and gardener; describes education and literary adventures in Sierra Madre, California; speaks about parents expectations of he and his siblings; reflects on how The Shonien affected his life; discusses discrimination during and after World War II; describes reaction to attack on Pearl Harbor [December 7, 1941]; *missing data*; postwar employment; speaks about reparations and redress and 2008 political climate; life in New York City; how Japanese Americans have dealt with internment; and finally, reflects on his life and current affairs.

*recording is incomplete due to missing data on tape two