Japanese Association of Tacoma records

Inventory

Accession No: 4048-001

Special Collections Division
University of Washington Libraries
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This document forms part of the Preliminary Guide to the Japanese Association of Tacoma
Records. To find out more about the history, context, arrangement, availability and restrictions on
this collection, click on the following link:

Special Collections home page: http://www.lib.washington.edu/specialcollections/

Search Collection Guides: http://digital.lib.washington.edu=findingaids/search
About 1984 Mr. Loren A. Ezell purchased an abandoned building at 1715 Tacoma Avenue South in Tacoma. His plan was to restore the building and make it available to prospective buyers or renters.

The building, it turns out, used to house the Japanese Association of Tacoma and Japanese Language School. It had not been occupied since 1942, when all persons of Japanese ancestry were required to vacate military zones on the West Coast. Mr. Ezell was able to have the building preserved as a Federal historical landmark.

In early 1989 Mr. Ezell moved a sizable quantity of books (from the language school library) and records and artifacts from the lower level of the building to the main floor auditorium and stage for better viewing and assessment.

In February 1989 Mr. Ezell visited the Washington State Historical Museum in Tacoma, where he viewed a photo exhibit prepared by the Nippon Kan Heritage Association and observed that Tetsuden Kashima of the University of Washington was a member of the Association's photo committee.

Mr. Ezell called Prof. Kashima to ask whether the University would be interested in about 100 boxes of pre-World War II records that he had inherited when he purchased the aforementioned building.

On March 11 a team composed of Tetsuden Kashima, Roy Hasegawa, Harry Fujita (all of our archives committee) and Hideo Hoshide (who is presently compiling a history of Japanese in the Tacoma area) visited with Mr. Ezell at his purchased property in Tacoma to examine the records in question.

As it turns out, only about 20 of the 100 boxes contained records in which the University might be interested. The remaining 80 were books from the library.

Both the books and records were in very poor condition. The 47 years of neglect and vandalism had taken its toll. Materials that had been damp had been dried. But many had
been bug-eaten, chewed by rodents, and become dusty and stained. Most unfortunate was that both the books and records were in no order. They were badly mixed up. Most of the records were written or printed in Japanese, so a language specialist would be needed to identify them.

21 boxes were transferred to the University in early April. From April thru September Harry Fujita and Yoko Murao of the Shorai No Tami Ni archives committee did a very rough sort of the materials, eliminating some duplication and eliminating those items that were beyond repair. Books, artifacts, and graphic materials were donated by Mr. Ezell to the Washington State Historical Society in Tacoma.

A general inventory listing has been developed. As time and priorities allow, it would be desirable to refine the inventory to maximize its usefulness for the prospective researcher.
JAPANESE ASSOCIATION OF TACOMA
Accession No. 4048
CONTAINER LIST

Box
1-2
CORRESPONDENCE
Includes: Business Letters, Insurance Claims, Legal Matters, Land Ownership, etc.

3
REPORTS
Includes: Business Reports, Association Policies, Types of Business, etc.

4
CENSUS DATA
Typical Contents: Census by Occupation and Population, Business Questionnaires, etc.

DATA FOR CONSULATE
Includes: Requests from Consulate for Demographic Data, etc.

5
MEMBERSHIP RECORDS
Includes: Membership Lists, Fees, Rules, etc.

6
VOTING RECORDS
Includes: Voting Ballots, Tallies, Rules, etc.

FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE RECORDS
Includes: Bank Records, Accounting Records, Insurance Claims, etc.

7
DONATIONS RECORDS
Includes: Donations Lists and Receipts for Community Chest, Cemetery, Celebrations, Earthquake, etc.

8-9
RECEIPTS
Includes: Receipts for Business Expenditures, Membership Fees, Seminars, Visa Extension, Birth Certificate, Census Registration, etc.

10
PUBLICATIONS
Includes: Newspapers (North American Times, Great Northern Daily News, Kobe Nippo, Nippon Jiji, etc.), Magazines (re Manchurian War, etc.), Booklets, etc.
Box

11-14 IMMIGRATION, VISA AND DRAFT DATA
Includes: Immigration, Visa and Draft, etc.

15 IMMIGRATION RECORDS--GENERAL
Includes: Birth Certificate, Passports, Passenger List, Census Data, Immigration Regulations, Alien Registration, Proof of Residence, etc.

16 Subgroup

NORTH AMERICAN JAPANESE ASSOCIATION
Includes: Rules, Reports, Census, Correspondence, etc.

17 JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL, TACOMA
Includes: Certificates, Grades, Textbooks, Correspondence, Donations, Parents Directory, etc.

18-20 Includes: Study Materials, Compositions, Research, Studies, Calligraphy, Correspondence, etc.