

MEMORANDUM

8 September 1985

TO: Loni Ding

FROM: Aiko and Jack Herzig

It's not that we've forgotten you since May 26th. It was not getting back here until the latter part of July; then ten days of babysitting in New Jersey; then my week in the Bethesda Naval Hospital with an infection; then visitors over the lo-o-ong Labor Day weekend. Even if we had forgotten, it couldn't be for long. We continue to see your name mentioned in the papers. Oh, yes, and "Nisei Soldier" was showing on New York TV while we were there. We also saw the film on PBS here on August 14th. Well, anyway, here we are, and we know you're there!

In case this information will help, please be advised that in Seattle we found that:

1. There is a still photo collection at the University of Washington - which probably is no surprise to you. At the rear of the collection of regular photos, lying flat on the bottom of the drawer, is a pre-WW II Japanese family photo album, brown cracked-leather cover, with "Photographs" stamped on the cover. It's a collection of a Japanese family showing weddings in formal Jpnz kimono and tuxedo; funerals; church groups; individuals; babies; a large wedding party in front of a two-story house; another two-story clapboard house; three workers in front of the "A & E Tire Shop;" father in western clothes, mom in a kimono, two daughters w/sombreros; two men, nine women in backyard "dressed to kill;" a simple, rural house w/two brothers sitting on the porch; and more.

2. A second, similar family album has a collection of some 32 cancelled US postage stamps pasted to the inside front cover and 16 cancelled Jpnz stamps inside the back cover. Contains many individual photos -- inside houses, on porch, in yard, lots of kids, a picture of Jpnz and white co-workers at a sawmill/logging camp, two Jpnz ladies in Sunday clothes in front of their 1925 auto, a young man graduate with mortar-board, a picture from a Caucasian friend, "Sincerely, A. Ferrinant," men in garden, kids in baseball suits, girl w/tennis trophy & racket at tennis court, girl in bathing suit and camp in front of "Ladies" dressing room, girl in mortar-board 1926, three boys sitting on stoop, an address label "Mr. Chugo Koito, 1439 Jackson St., Seattle, Wash.," a young woman in a sealskin coat, an elderly, white lady with young Jpnz woman and her son.

3. A standard collection at the University is designated "CO 206" collection, labeled "Social Issues." There are perhaps 25 still photos, including several 6 x 9 and 8 x 10 sizes; one of a large group of about 35 persons taken 11 July 1928 in Seattle; another of a large group, some in Jpnz garb, gathered in front of a large home with one elderly white man, dated 1 Jan 32; more than 50 people around a casket.

4. In the Manuscripts Section of the University library are the following subjects listed in the "Comprehensive Guide to the Manuscripts Collection and the Personal Papers in the University Archives" in paragraphs #1895-1993:

1896 - Andrews, Emery, Baptist Clergyman. Photos regarding career at Jpnz Baptist Church and in Minidoka.

1911 - Fukuda, Frank T. 1910-20. Photos of Jpnz baseball teams (transferred to Special Collection).

1915 - Hasegawa, William. 1942-44. Photos of "evacuation."

- 1922 - Ichihara, Hiroyuki. 1942. All kinds of records of camp life - Camp Harmony and Minidoka. Two microfilm reels.
- 1926 - JACL. Records 1921-67. Minutes, photos, etc.
- 1936 - Koike, Kyo. 1878-47. Photographer, photos, poetry and memorabilia. Special Collections Division, 60 items.
- 1940 - Laurence, Geraldine. 1942- . Telephone operator at Santa Anita. Scrapbook, photos, etc.

In Los Angeles at UCLA, Special Collection 2010 - JARP, the following may be of value:

Section VII. Photographs and Photo Albums.

- Photographs - Boxes 371-374.
- Oversize, Boxes 113-115.

Page 48 (of Finding Aid):

- Ashizawa Papers, 1889-1965. Box 42. Autobiographical sketches and photos. Folder 3 - photos of San Francisco & the Jpnz in America, 1896-1920 (26). Metal case, glassplate negatives 1915-16 (12 plates).
- Akahori Family Papers. Box 15, Folder 9 - photos and mementos, 1932-1963 (16 items).

Page 59 (of Finding Aid):

- Robert I. Okazaki. Tape 59. Box 382. Hollywood, Calif. motion picture actor and, at time of interview, 1967, president of Soshin Co. in Hollywood.

... The Index of the JARP collection runs some 112 pages. There was not enough time to go through the entire Index. We made some notes on a few entries of interest to us and to you (see "Selected entries from 112-page Index of UCLA Special Collection 2010 - JARP," attached).

* * * * *

Draft Resisters Movement in WRA Camps:

Frank Emi, one of the draft resisters, has agreed to an interview with you, if you wish. He has been close to Frank Chin, which is understandable, since Chin was the first to bring those guys out of the closet. I (Jack) had first met Emi last year at Chin's "resisters" workshop and we both met with him again this past summer at Chin's. We told Emi in a recent letter that in your upcoming film you planned to cover the draft resistance movement in the camps and, in order to ensure that the complete story - or at least a responsible version of it - be presented, the story needs to be related by a representative participant of the resisters group who is able to articulate the former resisters' position. Emi said he is one of few left in the group and feels an obligation to do a good job. He is a very good-looking, sharp guy, appearing to be much younger than he is and, although he is a little slow to draw out, you will be able to get him warmed up to do a fine interview. He tells a wonderful story of how the WRA tried to entrap him into saying he was pro-Japan. He can recount practically every word of the exchange, the physical layout of the office, persons present, the time of day -- really painting a vivid picture in words.

Draft Resisters Movement in WRA Camps (continued):

The following is quoted from Frank Emi's last letter to to us:

"About Loni Ding, I would be very interested in an interview. I am sorry that there aren't more of us that she can interview. Of the original seven leaders of the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee who went to trial, there are only two of us left. The other individual is in sort of seclusion and does not want to talk about the past. I tried to get him to an interview we had with Frank Chin, but he was not cooperative. There were some others who were active in the background, such as my younger brother and some others in northern California who would probably cooperate, time permitting."

... Under another cover, we are sending you selected pages from an FBI report on the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee in which Emi, among others, are alleged to be suspected of sedition. These pages lay out the position of the FPC, and investigation/interview by WRA officials (Q and A) of Emi. [The FBI report is 78 pages long!]

Frank Seichi Emi, 1104 S. Prospect Ave., San Gabriel, CA 91776. (818) 282-8808.

Photographs at the University of Washington in Seattle (from the Tacoma News Tribune and other sources) in the Pacific Northwest Collection, "Social Issues, Ethnic & Racial." Japanese, cc 1-214.

... We took some time while at UW to list the photographs available in this collection (see attached) for your use now, or later, as we did for the pix listed on pages 1-2.

... "Hostile headlines" which you are seeking might be found in "Clippings, Jan-May 1942," five folders, which is listed on page two of the attached "Finding Aid, Suzzalo Hall Library, etc. - JAFL Inventory." Perhaps there may be some in these folders. I wish we had had time to look at the contents of this material, but our commitment in Seattle precluded that.

Japanese Americans as Soldiers

See "Selected entries from 112-page Index of UCLA Special Collection 2010 - JARP, last entry on page 1.

Japanese in California and Japanese in the Pacific States.

See page 2 of JARP listing.

(Continued, next page)

8 September 1985

Office of War Information, Materials in National Archives (Suitland, Maryland)

... Enclosed are some materials from the Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the OWI
... (Record Group 208) and "OWI Photographs Depicting 'Life in the United States' 1942-46"--
and you can see from these papers that there's a lot of stuff in the OWI records, much that
is not of great use to you at this time, but which may come in handy some other time. How-
ever, please have one of your assistants glean through the listing to see if there is anything
there that you would like to have us review.

Please see in the 38-page list of OWI photographs, especially pages 5, 8, 9, 19 & 22.

Exhibit at the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, Philadelphia.

... Have you seen the exhibit, "The Japanese American Experience," described on the enclosed
... brochure, for anything you can use in your film from that exhibit?

-- More to come --

... Enclosing also an article from the Washington Post, August 21, 1985, "The Director's American
Odyssey: Wayne Wang's Vision of Chinatown, U.S.A." for your information.