

Dates: 1926 - 2002

Size: 1.5 linear feet (3 boxes)

Abstract:

A collection of documents, artifacts and photographs belonging to Ken Nishi and related to his experiences both during and after WWII including incarceration and his time in the military.

Biographical/Historical Notes:

Ken Nishi was born in San Diego on June 14, 1926 to Tosaku and Tae. He attended Sweetwater Valley High School, then graduated from Parker Valley High School in Poston III, Arizona in 1944. Sometime after, he was employed by N. Date for seven months, performing general farm hand duties on a 10-acre farm. He was inducted into the military on April 30, 1946, where he was a Private First Class and military police, before being honorably discharged on May 2, 1947.

Scope and Content:

A collection of documents, artifacts and photographs belonging to Ken Nishi and related to his experiences both during and after WWII including incarceration and his time in the military.

Arrangement:

Arranged in series by material type:

Series I: Personal Papers and Ephemera

Series II: Photographs

Series III: Artifacts

Citation:

Ken Nishi Collection, AC 14, Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego Archives, San Diego, CA.

Collection Access Restrictions:

The collection is open for research.

Collection Use Restrictions:

The Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego (JAHSSD) holds the copyright to the unpublished materials.

Processing Information:

Jane Kenealy, August 2020

Language of Materials:

English

Provenance: donated by Pauline Date Nakamura (niece)

Accession: #2008 .1

Series I: Personal Papers and Ephemera

Box	Folder	Title/Subjects	Date
1	1	Yearbook: Red and Gray, Sweetwater Union High School	1942
1	2	Yearbook: Red and Gray, Sweetwater Union High School	1943
1	3	Yearbook: Red and Gray, Sweetwater Union High School	1944
1	4	Yearbook: Campus Echoes, Poston III High School With inscriptions	1944
1	5	Yearbook: Campus Echoes, Poston III High School With inscriptions to Ken Nishi	1945
1	6	Yearbook: Campus Echoes, Poston III High School With inscriptions to Sus Tsunoda	1945
1	7	Parker Valley High School: Commencement Exercises program Commencement Exercises announcement "Hi-Times" Senior Edition High School Diploma – Ken Nishi Recommendation for Ken Nishi from France Cushman, Principal Letter from Barbara Washler to Ken Nishi re: letter of recommendation	1944 - 1945
1	8	Military Service: Memorandum Receipt for items issued to Ken Nishi Separated Qualification Record (10 months in Military Police) Honorable Discharge for Ken Nishi	1946 - 1947

<p>1</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>Redress:</p> <p>Verification of Detention of Civilians during WWII for Ken Nishi</p> <p>Civil Liberties Act of 1988 Voluntary Information Form and booklet</p> <p>Pre-printed form letter from Office of Redress Administration; acknowledging receipt of correspondence regarding payment of restitution</p> <p>“The Redress Monitor” (JACL) update on Redress + State tax information</p> <p>“Pacific Citizen” newspapers:</p> <p>Dates include April 21, 1989, June 1, 1989, June 9, 1989, June 23, 1989, April 20, 1990, June 1, 1990, February 14, 1990 (In Oversize Drawer D5)</p>	<p>1988 - 1990</p>
<p>1</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>Miscellanea:</p> <p>Christmas Card with wedding photo of Myrtle and Ralph Ward</p> <p>Printed /signed certification for military mailing</p> <p>"San Diego JACL Borderline" newsletter</p> <p>Obituaries – George Higuchi, Teruko Shimazu, Ken Togioka,</p> <p>Postcards (7) –</p> <p>Hoover Dam, 1931 Highway to Hoover Dam Down Town Camp, Las Vegas, Nevada Ship leaving Pier in Kobe, Japan Floating Dock, Mitsubishi Shipbuilding Yard, Kobe, Japan N.Y.K.M.S. Chichibu-Marui (2)</p>	<p>1945</p> <p>ND</p> <p>1990</p> <p>1999 – 2002</p>

Series II: Photographs and Scrapbook

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title/Subjects</u>	<u>Date</u>
2	1	<p>Photograph:</p> <p>Man with eight-horse team attached to two wagons in tandem #2008.1.1 (b & w; 5 x 7; mounted on 8 x 10 cardstock)</p>	N.D.
2	2	<p>Photograph:</p> <p>Two men seated on plows drawn by teams of horses. #2008.1.2 (b & w; 5 x 7; mounted on 8 x 10 cardstock)</p>	N.D.
2	3	<p>Photograph:</p> <p>"The Children's Day of The Japanese First Congregational Church of San Diego, San Diego, Calif. June 13, 1926" #2008.1.3 (b & w; 8 x 10; photographer - I. Fujimoto)</p>	1926
2	4	<p>Photograph:</p> <p>"Chula Vista Baseball Team, October 15, 1933" Name on uniform in Japanese SEINEN = Youth group #2008.1.4 (b & w; 7 x 9; photographer - Miyamoto Studio)</p>	1933
2	5	<p>Photograph:</p> <p>"Grand Opening of Remodeled Sun-Café, March 22, 1941, San Diego, Cal." Interior of café. Sun-Cafe opened originally in 1920; owner Uichiro Obayashi. #2008.1.5 (b & w; 8 x 10)</p>	1941
2	6	<p>Photograph:</p> <p>Group of Issei men at Justice Department Internment Camp, Sante Fe, New Mexico Identified - Naminosuke Date, Mr. Honda (Ben's father), Genzo Seki , and Uichiro Obayashi #2008.1.6 (b & w; 7 x 11)</p>	N.D.

2	7	<p>Photograph:</p> <p>"San Diego J.A.C.L. Picnic, Pacific Beach, July 2, 1939" #2008.1.7 (b & w; 8 x 10; photographer - Saito Studio)</p>	1939
2	8	<p>Photograph:</p> <p>Ship – "N.Y.K.M.S. Asama - Maru" #2008.1.8 (b & w; 8 x 10; photographer - Saito Studio)</p>	N.D.
2	9	<p>Photographs:</p> <p>Chula Vista Gukuen (sic) group pre-WWII (identified on back) #2008.1.9 (b & w; 5 x 7; photographer – Bryant)</p> <p>Large group of people on dock in front of Nippon Yusen Kaisha building (with tickertape?) #2008.1.10 (sepia; 4.5 x 6.25)</p> <p>Second Annual Wakayama Seinen- Kai Convention, San Diego #2008.1.11 (b & w; 8 x 10; photographer – Yoshimura)</p>	<p>N.D.</p> <p>N.D.</p> <p>1941</p>
2	10	<p>Photographs:</p> <p>Date Family (4) at Palomar Observatory ("Pauline and Michi") #2008.1.12 (b & w; 3 x 4. 5; Freiburghouse Photo Finishing)</p> <p>Observatory #2008.1.13 (b & w; 2.75 x 4. 5; Freiburghouse Photo Finishing)</p> <p>Observatory with open dome #2008.1.14 (b & w; 2.75 x 4. 5; Freiburghouse Photo Finishing)</p> <p>Man sitting on front bumper of a "U and I Sugar" truck #2008.1.15 (b & w; 3.25 x 4. 5)</p> <p>Man and child sitting in sedan</p>	<p>1939</p> <p>1939</p> <p>1939</p> <p>N.D.</p> <p>N.D.</p>

		<p>#2008.1.16 (b & w; 3.25 x 4 25; Bunnell Photo Shop)</p> <p>Three unidentified people (1 woman and 2 men) standing under an open wood structure (second man, partial only)</p> <p>#2008.1.17 (b & w; 2.5 x 3.5)</p> <p>A car driving through opening cut into giant sequoias in Yosemite National Park, Maraposa Grove (possibly "Grizzly Giant" or "Wawona Tunnel Tree")</p> <p>#2008.1.18 (b & w; 2.5 x 3.5)</p>	<p>N.D.</p> <p>N.D.</p>
2	11	<p>Photograph:</p> <p>Six men with "PRESTON / IDAHO" in foreground. (possibly sugar beet harvesters)</p> <p>#2008.1.19 (sepia; 3.25 x 5.25)</p> <p>Camp 3. Block 310 Mess staff</p> <p>#2008.1.20 (b & w; 2.5 x 3.5)</p> <p>Ken Nishi</p> <p>#2008.1.21 (b & w; 2 .75 x 3.75)</p> <p>Group of four Japanese Americans in dress clothes (Shoji Date , unknown , Eiko Ozaki Owashi, Leo Owashi)</p> <p>#2008.1.22 (b & w; 2.5 x 3.5)</p> <p>Tom and Mobi Mukai, Poston</p> <p>#2008.1.23 (b & w; 2.5 x 3.5)</p> <p>Giant saguero cactus with barracks building in background (possibly internment camp)</p> <p>#2008.1.24 (b & w; 2.5 x 3.5)</p> <p>Sofia & Rosarie Takeda</p> <p>#2008.1.25 (b & w; 2.5 x 3.5)</p>	<p>1942?</p> <p>N.D.</p> <p>N.D.</p> <p>N.D.</p> <p>N.D.</p> <p>N.D.</p> <p>N.D.</p>

2	12	<p>Photographs:</p> <p>Two Japanese American soldiers in uniform with helmets #2008.1.26 (b & w; 2.5 x 3)</p> <p>Unidentified Japanese American soldier seated in ruins #2008.1.27 (b & w; 2.5 x 3.25)</p> <p>George Takahachi and "Bun" Bunkichi Eguchi #2008.1.28 (b & w; 2.5 x 3.25)</p> <p>Japanese American man in uniform (insignia is for a Sergeant First Class) seated on hood of a Jeep; inscription on bumper - "1X-442-1 G-1" #2008.1.29 (b & w; 2.75 x 3.75)</p> <p>Military vessel being loaded / unloaded; World War II era #2008.1.30 (b & w; 2.5 x 3.5)</p> <p>Two men in uniform on top of a World War II era tank #2008.1.31 (b & w; 2.5 x 3.5)</p> <p>"Our Home" – stone-built house in unidentified location #2008.1.32 (b & w; 2.5 x 3.5)</p> <p>An unidentified building with visible damage #2008.1.33 33 (b & w; 2.25 x 3.5)</p>	<p>1944, June</p> <p>N.D.</p> <p>1945, February</p> <p>N.D.</p> <p>N.D.</p> <p>N.D.</p> <p>N.D.</p> <p>N.D.</p> <p>N.D.</p>
2	13	<p>Photographs:</p> <p>A domed building photographed through the columns of another building; unidentified location #2008.1.34 (b & w; 2.25 x 3.5)</p> <p>Mussolini's Monument; three flags including a U.S. flag on poles in foreground; sign "U.S. Army Rest Center (Foro d'Italia) #2008.1.35</p>	<p>N.D.</p> <p>1945, September</p>

		<p>(b & w; 2.25 x 3)</p> <p>"Side view of the American Red Cross"; unidentified location #2008.1.36 (b & w; 2.25 x 3.5)</p> <p>"A 'jerry' grave mark"; roughly made cross with a WWII era German military helmet on top #2008.1.37 (b & w; 2.25 x 3.5)</p> <p>Truck disembarking from ship, "US 525"; World War II era #2008.1.38 (b & w; 2.5 x 3.5)</p> <p>Ship with cargo hold doors open, "US 525"; World War II era #2008.1.39 (b & w; 2.5 x 3.5)</p> <p>USO singer, Miss Jina Falkenburg, on stage in Lecco, Italy #2008.1.40 (b & w; 2.75 x 3.5)</p> <p>USO singer, unidentified, on stage in Lecco, Italy ("she practically stole the show, a really good singer") #2008.1.41 (b & w; 2.75 x 3.5)</p>	<p>N.D.</p> <p>N.D.</p> <p>N.D.</p> <p>N.D.</p> <p>1945, July</p> <p>1945, July</p>
2	14	<p>Photographs:</p> <p>"Bun" Bunkichi Eguchi in military uniform standing with a young Italian boy in front of the American Red Cross in Nice, France; "No Parking Here" sign on door #2008.1.42 (sepia; 3.5 x 5.5)</p> <p>Plaque awarded to the 442nd Infantry Regiment from the 1st Battallion 141st Infantry Regiment commemorating the "Lost Battalion" #2008.1.43 (b & w; 3.5 x 5.5)</p> <p>Mountain village with damaged and destroyed buildings; unidentified location #2008.1.44 (b & w; 4.5 x 6.75)</p>	<p>N.D.</p> <p>1944</p> <p>N.D.</p>

		Two stone bunkers on hillside; unidentified location #2008.1.44 (b & w; 5 x 7)	N.D.
2	15	<p>Photographs:</p> <p>Damaged derelict building; unidentified location #2008.1.45 (b & w; 5 x 7)</p> <p>Japanese American soldier standing in hole in side of building #2008.1.46 (b & w; 5 x 7)</p> <p>Narrow street with damaged buildings; unidentified location #2008.1.47 (b & w; 4.5 x 6.75)</p> <p>"Diachi Bldg where McArthur's Headquarters is located"; "Merry Xmas" sign in front of building #2008.1.48 (b & w; 4.75 x 6.5)</p>	<p>N.D.</p> <p>N.D.</p> <p>N.D.</p> <p>N.D.</p>
2	16	<p>Photographs:</p> <p>Japanese American man in military uniform and helmet holding a gun; unidentified location (stamp on reverse, "HAMMOND PHOTO SERVICE MERIDIAN, MISS. / APR 7 1944") #2008.1.49 (b & w; 2.5 x 3.5)</p> <p>2 young Japanese American men in uniform pants and combat boots, one without shirt and one with just a t-shirt; (possibly military camp location) #2008.1.50 (b & w; 2.25 x 3.25)</p> <p>2 men in military uniform walking through columned gateway; building in background; sign on gateway "442 RCT REST CENTER" (identified as Benkichi Eguchi (R) and friend (L) 442nd) #2008.1.51 (b & w; 2.75 x 4.25)</p> <p>Sign with inscription, "442nd Regimental COMBAT TEAM" with "Go for Broke" logo</p>	<p>1944, April</p> <p>1944, April</p> <p>N.D.</p> <p>N.D.</p>

		<p>#2008.1.52 (b & w; 2.25 x 3)</p> <p>"View of Carrara" (Italy) / October 1945"; view from hilltop overlooking a city in the valley</p> <p>#2008.1.53 (b & w; 2.25 x 3)</p> <p>"Honor Roll 2BN 442 INF 83" sign strung on rope; infantry flag in right foreground</p> <p>#2008.1.54 (b & w; 2.5 x 3.5)</p> <p>"Miss Toshiko Hasegawa , July 1945 in Lecco, Italia".</p> <p>#2008.1.55 (b & w; 2.75 x 4)</p> <p>"Camp 3 Gang, after War, Tijuana 194?"; 10 Japanese Americans in tourist photo souvenir; seated in donkey cart with "VIVA MEXICO" sign in background in background; identified – Ruth Voorhies, Min Date, Art Kubo, Nob Honda, Meggie Hatada, Midori Koga, Mas Tamizaki, Roy Kubo, Masami Honda, Tom Honda</p> <p>#2008.1.56 (b & w; 2.75 x 4)</p>	<p>1945, October</p> <p>N.D.</p> <p>1945, July</p> <p>N.D.</p>
2	17	<p>Photograph:</p> <p>13 people seated Japanese style on stage with small reading stands in front of them; wall hanging in background depicts tree at center with bamboo at either end; unidentified (location possibly Buddhist Temple)</p> <p>#2008.1.57 (b & w; 8 x 10)</p>	N.D.
2	18	<p>Photograph:</p> <p>"Poston 3 Reunion 78 San Diego" on banner in background; group of men and women in a formal portrait; sign at center front "'44" (Class of 44); unidentified (Photographer - Darryl Obayashi, San Diego)</p> <p>#2008.1.58 (b & w; 8 x 10)</p>	1978
2	19	<p>Photographs:</p> <p>"Poston III Reunion" on banner in background; formal</p>	1981

		<p>portrait of group of men and women seated and standing in rows; two women seated in front row are holding sign "ROKU III"; separate list included with identifications #2008.1.59 (b & w; 8 x 10)</p> <p>"Poston III Reunion '81 Fresno" on banner in background; formal portrait of two rows of men and women (one row seated and one standing); "47" on smaller sign at center front; separate list included with identifications #2008.1.60 (b & w; 8 x 10)</p>	1981
2	20	<p>Photographs:</p> <p>"1991, San Diego" on banner in background; Poston Reunion; formal portrait of men and women seated and standing; two women in front row are holding sign "329" (Block 329); unidentified #2008.1.61 (b & w; 8 x 10)</p> <p>"1991, San Diego" on banner in background; Poston Reunion; formal portrait of men and women seated and standing; two women in front row are holding sign "'44" (class of '44); unidentified #2008.1.62 (b & w; 8 x 10)</p>	1991 1991
2	21	<p>Photographs:</p> <p>Poston Reunion, Las Vegas 1994; "Class of 44" and "50th Anniversary of Class of 44" on banners in background; formal portrait of men and women seated and standing; Flamingo Hilton; unidentified (2 copies) #2008.1.63 (b & w; 8 x 10)</p> <p>"Poston III Reunion, Las Vegas 1994" on banner in background; formal portrait of 11 men and women in two rows; two women in front row are holding sign "'47" (class of '47); unidentified #2008.1.64 (b & w; 8 x 10)</p> <p>"Poston III Reunion, Las Vegas 1994" on banner in background; formal portrait of men and women seated and</p>	1994 1994 1994

		<p>standing; two women in middle row are holding sign "'44" (class of '44); separate list included with identifications #2008.1.65 (b & w; 8 x 10)</p> <p>"Poston III Reunion, Las Vegas 1994" on banner in background; formal portrait of men and women in two rows; woman in front row are holding sign "'323" (Block 323); separate list included with identifications #2008.1.66 (b & w; 8 x 10)</p> <p>"Poston III Reunion, Las Vegas 1994" on banner in background; formal portrait of men and women seated and standing; two women in front row are holding sign "'329" (Block 329); separate list included with identifications #2008.1.67 (b & w; 8 x 10)</p>	<p>1994</p> <p>1994</p>
2	22	<p>Photograph album:</p> <p>Includes: Ken Nishi and school friends at school in Poston camp, AZ (most photos are signed by donor)</p> <p>Photo collages of school activities</p> <p>Scrapbook pages – school ephemera, programs invitations, event announcements</p>	1942-1945

Series III: Artifacts

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title/Subjects</u>	<u>Date</u>
3		<p>Petrified wood, dark brown:</p> <p>Collected by Naminosuke Nishi (father) in desert near Poston</p>	
3		<p>Rice sack:</p> <p>Inscription "U.S. NO. 1 EXTRA FANCY DIAMOND G CALIFORNIA PEARL RICE, PACKED FOR NORTH AMERICAN FOOD DISTRIBUTING COMPANY, WALNUT GROVE, CALIF. 100LBS. NET WEIGHT"</p>	

<p>3</p>		<p>Lettermen's Letters: P (2)</p> <p>Embroidered "CHAMPS" in capital letters listed vertically on left side and "football" design at right; Ken Nishi, Parker Valley High School</p>	
<p>3</p>		<p>Party favor attachment:</p> <p>Small purple fabric flower with white ribbon attached to narrow paper strip with inscription "POSTON III REUNION VI, SAN DIEGO 1991, Reflections, Compliments of Kyocera International, Inc." (favor is missing)</p>	