

Clarence T. Arai papers, 1917-2004

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Arai, Clarence Takeya, 1901-1963
Title	Clarence T. Arai papers
Dates	1917-2004 (inclusive) 1917 2004 1919-1956 (bulk) 1919 1956
Quantity	0.65 cubic feet (2 boxes)
Collection Number	5542 (Accession No. 5542-001)
Summary	Family history and scrapbook of World War I military service and pre-World War II experience of Clarence Arai and the broader Japanese American community in Seattle
Repository	University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections Special Collections University of Washington Libraries Box 352900 Seattle, WA 98195-2900 Telephone: 206-543-1929 Fax: 206-543-1931 speccoll@uw.edu
Access Restrictions	Open to all users.
Languages	English

Biographical Note

Clarence Takeya Arai (1901-1963) was an active member of Seattle's Japanese American community, best known for his instrumental role in the formation of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL). Arai also founded the first Japanese American Boy Scout troop in 1920, and in 1924, he became the first Japanese American to graduate from the University of Washington Law School. In 1928, he was elected president of the Seattle Progressive Citizens League. As president, he and League vice president George Ishihara traveled the west coast campaigning for a national organization, which led to the founding convention of the JACL in Seattle in August 1930. Arai was active in local politics and served as vice president of the 37th Legislative District Republican Club and as a state delegate to the Republican convention. In 1934, he ran an unsuccessful campaign for a seat in the state legislature.

At the onset of World War II, with anti-Japanese sentiment increasing in the U.S., the JACL sought to demonstrate Japanese American loyalty to the U.S. by forming the Emergency Defense Council, with Arai as chairman. In 1942, Arai and his family were sent to Camp Harmony in Puyallup and subsequently interned at Minidoka Relocation Center in Hunt, Idaho. Arai's health suffered during the war years and he had a mild stroke while at Minidoka. After the war, Arai retired from law practice and devoted his time to photography. His photos were exhibited all over the country and internationally, and

he was honored by the Photographic Society of America. Arai also served as a judge for the Seattle Times Amateur Snapshot Contest and as a member of the Seattle Public Library board.

Content Description

Scrapbook, 1919-1942 (1 vol.), documenting Arai's World War I-era military service and pre-World War II career, and including clippings and other ephemera pertaining to events in the Japanese American community in the months leading up to their incarceration following the attack on Pearl Harbor. A small quantity of post-war ephemera (primarily certificates of recognition and family history material) accompanies the scrapbook.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

Creator's literary rights transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Lillian S. Ogawa, sister of Clarence Arai, 2007-10-05

Separated Materials

Material Described Separately:

Detailed Description of the Collection

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/1	Family and Biographical materials	1946-2004
1/2	Legal and Financial records	1946-1956
1/3	Publications	1917, undated
Box		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2	Certificates and Programs	1960-1993, undated
2	Scrapbook	1919-1942

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Japanese Americans--Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945

Japanese Americans--Washington (State)--Seattle--Archives

Lawyers--Washington (State)--Seattle--Archives

Personal Names :

Arai, Clarence Takeya, 1901-1963--Archives

2016 (Last modified: 2/21/2019)



<http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/>

About Creative Commons Licenses in Archives West:

<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/cc-zero.shtml>