Biographical Note

John Evans Jaqua was born in Iowa in 1920, and grew up in Colorado and California. His family came to Creswell, Oregon, around 1939. He studied at Pomona College in California, but left to enlist in the Marine Corps in 1942. He served as a Marine aviator in the Pacific theater during World War II. In 1944, he and Rosamond "Robin" Robinson were married; they later had four children. After his discharge in 1945, he returned to Pomona College and graduated in 1947. He then attended the University of Oregon Law School and earned a law degree in 1950. He practiced law in Eugene, Oregon, retiring in 1992. He helped to found Nike Inc., and served on Nike's board from 1968 to 2004. He died in 2009.

Other Descriptive Information

Forms part of the United States District Court Oral History Project.
Other Descriptive Information

Incomplete transcript (55 pages) is available for in-person use at the Oregon Historical Society Research Library.

Content Description

This oral history interview with John E. Jaqua was conducted by Donald W. Brodie at the law offices of Jaqua and Wheatley in Eugene, Oregon, from October 5 to November 1, 2000. In this interview, Jaqua discusses his service as a Marine in the Pacific theater during World War II; attending Pomona College and the University of Oregon Law School; and beginning the practice of law in Eugene. He talks about cases he handled, judges he argued before, and his involvement with the Oregon Bar Association. He also talks about running a cattle ranch in Springfield, Oregon. He discusses some of the clients he represented. He speaks at length about his involvement with Nike Inc., including serving on the board, helping to set up factories in Japan, and his friendship with Nike cofounder Bill Bowerman. He also talks about his involvement with the University of Oregon Capital Campaign to construct a new building for the law school. He closes the interview by discussing his retirement activities and his memories of lawyer and University of Oregon Law School dean Orlando Hollis.

Use of the Collection

Alternative Forms Available

Audio available online in OHS Digital Collections.

Preferred Citation

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Administrative Information

Detailed Description of the Collection

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### Names and Subjects

**Subject Terms:**
- Business enterprises--Oregon
- Justice, Administration of--Oregon
- Lawyers--Oregon--Eugene
- World War, 1939-1945--Personal narratives, American

**Personal Names:**
- Jaqua, John E. (John Evans), 1920-2009

**Corporate Names:**
- Nike (Firm)

**Form or Genre Terms:**
- interviews

**Other Creators:**

**Personal Names:**
- Brodie, Donald W.
  (interviewer)

Sarah Stroman
2020

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