

Trudy Oda and Henry Hirokawa collection

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History Colorado. Stephen H. Hart Research Center
1200 Broadway
Denver, Colorado, 80203
303-866-2305
cosearch@state.co.us

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Summary Information

Repository	History Colorado. Stephen H. Hart Research Center
Creator - Photographer	Hirokawa, Henry M., 1918-1989
Creator - Photographer	Hirokawa, Trudy Oda, 1919-2002
Title	Trudy Oda and Henry Hirokawa collection
Date	circa 1924-1955
Extent	4.0 Linear feet
Language	English

Preferred Citation note

Trudy Oda and Henry Hirokawa collection, Ph.00526, History Colorado, Denver, Colo.

Biographical note

Trooda "Trudy" Oda Hirokawa (1919-2002) was the daughter of Sam (b. 1880) and Keo Oda (1893-1892), a Japanese American couple who had settled in Mesa County, Colorado. Trooda had six siblings: Takaowa (1916-1998); Uteana (1921-1965); Seichi (b.1922), known as "Buck"; Mipoka (b. 1924), known as "Pokie"; Sam Oda, Jr. (1928-1987), known as "Chuck"; and George. The family lived on a farm in Pomona, Colo., now a part of Grand Junction. Trudy attended Mesa State College from circa 1937-1939 and later studied music education at the University of Colorado Boulder from 1940-1942. When World War II broke out, she initially stayed in Boulder to do her student teaching, but she trained with the Red Cross Nurse's Aide Corps and, in March 1944, joined the Women's Army Corps (WAC). Trudy completed her WAC training at Fort Des Moines in Iowa and then was stationed at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indiana. From May-September 1945, Trudy joined Military Intelligence as a member of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) and was stationed in Washington, D.C.

Henry M. Hirokawa (1918-1989) was born in Hawaii to Koichi (b. 1881) and Hinoya Hirokawa (b. 1896). During World War II, he was stationed with served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, an Army infantry regiment composed almost entirely of American soldiers of Japanese descent.

Trudy Oda and Henry Hirokawa met during their military service and married in 1945. After the war, Henry worked for Englewood Press, and Trudy worked for the Automobile Dealer's Association. Their son, Masami, was born in 1948. Henry died in 1989, and Trudy in 2002, both in Lakewood, Colo.

Scope and Contents note

This collection primarily contains photographs taken and collected by Trudy Oda Hirokawa (1919-2002) and her husband, Henry M. Hirokawa (1918-1989), circa 1924-1955. The bulk of the photograph albums, scrapbooks, and loose photographs document Trudy's early life growing up in a Japanese American family in Mesa County, Colo., education at Mesa State College and the University of Colorado Boulder, military service with the WACs during World War II, marriage and family life with husband Henry M. Hirokawa, and Japanese American communities in Mesa County and the Denver metro area. Other albums document Henry M. Hirokawa's military service with the Japanese American 442nd Infantry Combat Team and the military service of Trudy's brother, Uteana Oda (1921-1965), with the U.S. Army Medical Corps. The collection also contains publications, souvenirs, brochures, and certificates relating to Trudy and Henry's military service during World War II, as well as naturalization certificates for Trudy's parents, Ko and Sam Oda.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

History Colorado. Stephen H. Hart Research Center

Legal Status note

History Colorado owns copyright to this collection.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Gift of Masami Hirokawa and Barbara Gal, 2013. Their gift of this collection to History Colorado is dedicated to the memory of Colorado governor Ralph L. Carr.

Processing Information note

Processed by Megan K. Friedel, January 2014 and June 2016.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- United States. Army. Women's Army Corps.. -- Photographs

Geographic Name(s)

- United States--Armed Forces--Japanese Americans--Photographs.

Personal Name(s)

- Hirokawa, Henry M., 1918-1989 -- Photographs
- Hirokawa, Trudy Oda, 1919-2002 -- Photographs

Subject(s)

- Japanese American soldiers--Photographs.
 - Japanese American women--Colorado--Photographs.
 - Japanese Americans--Colorado--Grand Junction--Photographs.
 - Japanese Americans--Colorado--Mesa County--Photographs.
 - Japanese Americans--Colorado--Photographs.
 - World War, 1939-1945--Photographs.
 - World War, 1939-1945--Veterans--Colorado--Photographs.
-

General note

Accession # 2013.90

Collection Inventory

Box-folder

Box 1

Album 1: Trudy Oda Hirokawa photograph album, circa 1924-1941 507.0 Photograph(s)

Description

Photograph album documenting Trudy Oda Hirokawa's life circa 1924-1941. The album contains photos taken and collected by Trudy that depict her family and friends in Grand Junction, Colo., including her best friend Neva Hasse and many Japanese American families such as the Futamata, Kihara, Koshio, Matsusaki, Mizushima, Miyake, Nakano, Nishida, Okagawa, Okamoto, Sakamoto, and Shioya families. There are also photos from her studies at Grand Mesa College, as well as from her first year at the University of Colorado Boulder, including photos of her involvement with the university's Cosmopolitan Club and her boyfriend, Jack Ledbetter.

Accession number

Accession # 2013.90.1

Box 1

Album 2: Trudy Oda Hirokawa scrapbook, 1941-1943 99.0 Photograph(s)

Accession number

Accession # 2013.90.2

Scope and Contents note

Scrapbook documenting Trudy Oda Hirokawa's time at the University of Colorado Boulder, 1941-1943, containing photos taken and collected by her, as well as newspaper clippings, cards, and sketches of Trudy and her friends. Subjects of the photos include Trudy's friends at CU Boulder, her ski trips and other activities with the university's

Cosmopolitan Club, the University of Colorado nursery school, and her boyfriend Jack Ledbetter. There are also photos of Trudy's service with the Red Cross Nurses' Aide Corps, which she joined circa 1943.

Album 3: Trudy Oda Hirokawa photograph album, 1942-1943 166.0 Photograph(s)

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Accession number

Accession # 2013.90.3

Scope and Contents note

Photograph album kept by Trudy Oda Hirokawa that documents her life and military service, circa 1942-1944. The photos depict Trudy with the 15th Co., 3rd Regiment of the 1st WAC Training Center at Fort Des Moines, Iowa and later stationed at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indiana as a member of the 5th Service Command. There are also photos taken in Washington, D.C. and portraits of James Hirokawa (b. 1923) and Trudy's brother, Uteana Oda (1921-1965), both in military uniform, as well as many other photos of Japanese American men and women in the U.S. Army and WAC. Many of the photographs are unidentified.

Album 4: Trudy Oda and Henry Hirokawa scrapbook, circa 1942-1944 391.0
Photograph(s)

Box 2

Accession number

Accession # 2013.90.4

Scope and Contents note

Photograph album kept by either Henry Hirokawa or both he and his later wife, Trudy Oda Hirokawa, circa 1941-1944. The album contains snapshots that documents Trudy's military service with the WACs, as well as Henry's military training with Company C of the 163rd Infantry Regiment at Fort Lewis, Wash. circa 1941 and with Company D of

the 1815th Unit, 8th Service Command circa 1944. Many photographs depict Trudy and Henry's friends and family, as well as Japanese American servicemen. Nearly all of the photographs are unidentified.

Album 5: Uteana Oda photograph album, circa 1943-1944 115.0 Photograph(s)

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Accession number

Accession # 2013.90.5

Scope and Contents note

Photograph album kept by Trudy Oda Hirokawa that mostly documents her brother Uteana Oda's service with the U.S. Army Medical Corps during World War II, circa 1943-1944. There are photographs of other Japanese American servicemen in the album, as well as some photographs of Trudy in the album. Very few of the photographs are identified.

Album 6: Hirokawa family photographs album, circa 1945-1952 133.0 Photograph(s)

Box 3

Accession number

Accession # 2013.90.6

Scope and Contents note

Photograph album kept by Trudy Oda and Henry Hirokawa after their marriage in 1945. The photographs depict the last year of their military service in 1945, their wedding celebration, and their home, children, travels, and work life in Colorado, circa 1946-1951. Of special note are photographs of the Henry Hirokawa's family in Hawaii, unidentified Japanese American friends, Trudy's brother Chuck Oda's military service in the Korean War, and Henry and Trudy's only child, Masami Hirokawa (b. 1948).

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Trudy Oda Hirokawa photographs, 1938-1955 5.0 Photograph(s)

Scope and Contents note

Includes photographs of Trudy Oda Hirokawa (1919-2002) with the Mesa State College orchestra and choir in 1938, during her WAC service in 1944, on her wedding day with husband Henry Hirokawa in 1945, and with the staff of the Automobile Dealer's Association circa 1955.

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Hirokawa family photographs, 1943-1945 3.0 Photograph(s)

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Oda family photographs, circa 1942-1953 3.0 Photograph(s)

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Photographs of friends, circa 1942-1945 3.0 Photograph(s)

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Henry Hirokawa World War II papers and publications, 1943-1947

Scope and Contents note

Includes souvenir programs, pamphlets, and other publications related the Henry M. Hirokawa's military training and service with the 442nd Infantry Combat Team.

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Trudy Oda Hirokawa World War II papers and publications, 1944-1945

Scope and Contents note

Includes certificate of appreciate for Trudy Oda Hirokawa's service with the Military Intelligence Division of the War Department and her personal copy of sheet music for "Go For Broke," the team song of the 442nd Infantry Combat Team, written by Harry Hamada.

Oda family papers, 1945-1955

Scope and Contents note

Includes an Army Service Forces Transportation Corps embarakation record for Uteana Oda (November 1945) and naturalization certificates for Trudy Oda Hirokawa's parents, Ko and Sam Oda, dated May 1955.