

Hiomi Nakamura Family Collection

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La Jolla Historical Society

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<https://lajollahistory.org/>

2023

Descriptive Summary

Title: Hiomi Nakamura Family Collection

Dates: 1946 - 1948

Collection Number: DB023

Creator/Collector: La Jolla Historical Society

Extent: 1 linear foot

Repository: La Jolla Historical Society, La Jolla, California 92037

Abstract: The Hiomi Nakamura Family Collection is made up of one family photograph album. Hiomi Nakamura spent most of his life living in La Jolla. His father came to La Jolla in 1910 and was a chef for J.D. Spreckles, the sugar heir. Hiomi graduated from La Jolla High School in 1930 and then graduated from Stanford University. During World War II, he was interned along with his family in the Gila Relocation Center in Arizona. His family lost everything, including his mother's popular tea house café on Prospect Street. Hiomi later enlisted in the United States Army, where he served a distinguished career as a lieutenant. In 1946, he married and moved back to La Jolla and began working as a chemist and bio analyst. Going to the beach remained one of his favorite pastimes, engaging in body surfing, fishing and skin diving, which included catching lobster and abalone. This material pertains to the history and heritage of La Jolla, California; its people, places and events. A container list is included on the PDF and HTML versions.

Language of Material: English

Access: The Collection is open for research

Publication Rights: The La Jolla Historical Society holds the copyright to any unpublished materials

Preferred Citation: Courtesy of the La Jolla Historical Society

Acquisition Information: DB023

Biography/Administrative History: The La Jolla Historical Society inspires and empowers the community to make La Jolla's diverse past a relevant part of contemporary life.

The La Jolla Historical Society's Collections encompass over 80 years of actively collecting archival material, books, maps, scrapbooks, ephemera, fine art, newspapers, street and land use files, business and personal documents and historic and archaeological artifacts. The Society boasts over 20,000 photographs, over 1000 postcards, 400-plus architectural drawings and approximately 200 oral history recordings.

Collecting was initiated by Howard Randolph and volunteers on the historical committee of the Library Association of La Jolla. The Collection began by gathering photographs and documentation in the late 1930s, which later became the nucleus of the La Jolla Historical Society's Collections. The Society was created in 1963.

Through many moves in location the Society continued collecting and expanding. Accumulated Collections took on its current construct in 2010 after the renovation of the La Jolla Historical Society's campus of structures in central La Jolla, which consists of the 1904 Wisteria Cottage and 1940s Balmer Annex used for exhibits and programming, and a 1909 cottage used for business and research offices. The late Ellen Browning Scripps' 1916 automobile garage was also renovated and now houses the Collection in a modern collections storage facility. Materials are housed in archival boxes,

sleeves, envelopes and other archival-safe materials and are cared for according to standards and best practices of the museum profession. In 2016, the Society initiated new PastPerfect Museum Software to manage and catalog its Collections and in 2018 started using the Online Archive of California to upload searchable information from its Collections to enable improved public access. The Society will continue these processes and look forward to utilizing new opportunities to collect, preserve and share the history of La Jolla.

Scope and Content of Collection: The Hiomi Nakamura Family Collection is made up of one family photograph album. Hiomi Nakamura spent most of his life living in La Jolla. His father came to La Jolla in 1910 and was a chef for J.D. Spreckles, the sugar heir. Hiomi graduated from La Jolla High School in 1930 and then graduated from Stanford University. During World War II, he was interned along with his family in the Gila Relocation Center in Arizona. His family lost everything, including his mother's popular tea house café on Prospect Street. Hiomi later enlisted in the United States Army, where he served a distinguished career as a lieutenant. In 1946, he married and moved back to La Jolla and began working as a chemist and bio analyst. Going to the beach remained one of his favorite pastimes, engaging in body surfing, fishing and skin diving, which included catching lobster and abalone. This material pertains to the history and heritage of La Jolla, California; its people, places and events. A container list is included on the PDF and HTML versions.

Container List Below

Container List

DB023 – Hiomi Nakamura Family Collection

**Hiomi
Nakamura
Family -**

Container: Album, photographs

Photographs Album. Family photo album donated by Marie Nakamura, wife of Hiomi Nakamura, who wished to commemorate her husband's return home to La Jolla after five years of service. Includes photographs of Mary Nakamura, Hiomi "Nak" Nakamura, Marianne Nakamura, John Bancroft, Max Miller, Robert "Bob" Scripps, Neil Ross Macintyre, Hal Higgens, and other friends and relatives at Balboa Park, the San Diego Zoo, La Jolla Shores, La Jolla Cove, Mount Soledad, La Brea Tar Pits, Playa Del Ray, and at Fort Benning. November 1946-1948.
