“A Sense of Outraged Justice”: University of Arkansas Libraries Special Collections and “Rising Above”

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Five Decades of Special Collections

- 1967
  - Prior – Print, government documents, photographs
- Research usage
  - Not exhausted

Significant Holdings

- **Nathaniel R. Griswold WRA Rohwer Records (MS G88)**: Four linear feet primarily concerned with the Community Activities Section at Rohwer.
- **Robert Leflar WRA Papers (MS L52)**: Seven linear feet related to federal legal rationales and internee legal requests.
- **Virginia Tidball Papers (MS T348)**: 315 items created or received by Virginia Tidball while she taught at Jerome including 179 essays by Japanese-American students.
- **Arthur Bran Caldwell Papers (MS C127 209)**: 8 1/2 linear feet, some related to his role as Chief of the Japanese Section of the U. S. War Department's Military Intelligence Division during World War II.

Former Members of the 442nd Combat Team Watching Parade from Welter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C., 1946. Arthur Brann Caldwell Papers (MS C127 209 209a).
Outreach, Instruction, and Collaboration

- Outreach by-product
- Joshua Youngblood (Special Collections)
- Kimball Erdman (Fay Joes School of Architecture)
- Historic landscapes class
  - HALS study – Rohwer Cemetery
  - 2017 book chapter
Residents of the center are shown harvesting a large crop of cucumbers grown on the center’s agricultural project. Photo by Chas. E. Mace. NARA Photo (MS Un4p R30).
Workflow and Process

- Phase one selection
- Goal
- Epson flatbed, Abbyy Fine Reader
- Uploads
  - Single images – 300 dpi jpeg
  - Multiple – 200 dpi pdf
- Master files

“A Judo class. Lessons are held every afternoon and evening at this relocation center. Photo by Tom Parker.” NARA Photo (MS Un4p #20).
Selection Scope – Resources & Needs

- Goal – unique & essential for visualization
- Focus – Griswold
- Not already available
- Reflects camp life, community activities, development of infrastructure, regional connections
Promoting Rohwer Material

- Recognition & remote access
- Griswold Collection
- Open for years
- Limited visibility and use
- Unique content, prominent role
From Obscurity to Dynamic Interactivity

- Rohwer materials
- Print finding aid (now pdf)
- Interaction in contextual environment
- Adds meaning and relevance
Collaboration & Institutional Mission

- National & regional significance
- Raise prominence & strengthen collaborations
- Tension
  - Local collections & researchers
  - International needs (Fulbright Program)
- Partnership
  - Campus, state, & national

Senator Fulbright and Assistant Secretary of State William Benton look on as President Harry S. Truman signs the Fulbright Act into law, August 1, 1946.
Rohwer as a Connected, Lived Environment

- Emphasis – lived experience & connections
- Finch letters
- Sports teams
- Post internment work
- Camp materials – Infrastructure, governance & business, social & educational

View of barracks at Rohwer Relocation Center showing front yards and drainage ditch which surrounds each block. -- Photographer: Van Tassel, Gretchen -- McGehee, Arkansas. 12/9/43
Nat Griswold & His Legacy

- Two major historical issues
  - Japanese American Internment
  - Civil Rights
- Professor (Hendrix College) & Methodist Minister
• First teacher at Rohwer (1942)
• Director of Night School & Supervisor of Adult Ed (November 1942 – May 1944)
• Supervisor of Community Affairs (CA)
• “The evacuees had a sense of outraged justice, though they gave little open expression of it”
• “We greatly appreciate the friends which we have in this state which officially has been unfriendly towards us.”
Rohwer’s Connections

Letter of thanks and welcome to Mr. Earl Finch from Griswold.

Rohwer Relocation Center
McGehee, Arkansas

July 18, 1944

Mr. Earl Finch
P. O. Box 504
Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Finch:

Belatedly I am forwarding you a bill containing playground equipment which you suggested we buy and charge to the fund which the boys at Camp Shelby so generously provided.

As you notice, we purchased 10 swings, oil to waterproof the rope, iron rod for making trapeze rings and pipe for making trapeze bars. The total netted $80.19.

Since it was a local merchant, I paid the amount indicated on the enclosed bill from him. If sheet funds are still available you may reimburse me, otherwise forget the whole matter.

We enjoyed the recent visit of the boys from Camp Shelby, including their orchestra. We hope you may visit us again before too long.

Sincerely yours,

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Estate
Tr. R. Griswold
Supervisor

Enclosure

Endorse
M. Griswold, Jr.
“Nisei soldiers from Camp Shelby, Mississippi, Earl M. Finch, Hattiesburg, Mississippi (left), and Dr. Nat. R. Griswold, Head of Community Activities, and Members of USO.” NARA Photo (MS Un4p #R10).
Correspondence between Arkansas AM&N (UofA Pine Bluff) and Rohwer about supporting youth activities at the camp.
The American Friends Service Committee provided items for Christmas
• CA’s out-of-camp focus
• Athletics
• Youth groups & organizations
• Internships
• Art exhibits
  – Henry Sugimoto

Painting by Henry Sugimoto while interned in Arkansas.
Relocation Branch
McGehee, Arkansas

March 26, 1945

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

It is a privilege to recommend Kyuji Hozaki who has been directly under my supervision since May 1944.

Mr. Hozaki is a pleasing person in appearance and manner. He retains remarkably his youthful appearance and pleasantness. He has a fine sensitivity of other people's feelings and always has a soft answer. In fact he frequently undergoes personal inconveniences rather than embarrass other people either by asking a favor or pointing out an error.

Mr. Hozaki is devotedly religious in the best sense. He has a deep personal faith which gives him assurance even in difficult situations. His religion seems to be the source of genuine optimism. He is always ready to believe the best.

Mr. Hozaki and his wife have maintained a fine relationship to their two sons in the army. They transmitted to then their own religious faith and have had them attend Sunday school and church. Letters from one of the boys wounded evidence a deep appreciation of this parental care.

As a worker Mr. Hozaki is always ready to help in any enterprise. He is not afraid to get his hands dirty or to undertake hard jobs. He consistently works overtime and does what needs to be done without being told. He is systematic in planning his work and keeping records.

Mr. Hozaki has been a good citizen of Rohwer Community. He is one of the most active men in every community-wide undertaking. He has been an officer of

Community Activities: Rejoining America

Recommendation letter for Kyuji Hozaki from Griswold.
“Kyuji Hozaki at work in his barber shop, 822 E. 7th St., Los Angeles. He recently re-opened it after leaving Rohwer. His wife, Haruyo, is also a master barber. Pfc. Toshio Hozaki, their son, who had received the Purple Heart for wounds in France.”
Bishop Paul H. Martin  
9th and Center Streets  
Little Rock, Arkansas  

Dear Bishop Martin:  

Since there is no immediate supervisor of my work here, I am writing  

Well I wish to bring the needs of our church and people to your  

attention. Our church is very active and we have a good  

church school. We have a good attendance on Sunday  

school and we are trying to increase it.  

After the work in the center is finished our people will  
continue to need help in adjusting to living conditions outside.  
We hope the WRA will be able to follow them for some time after  
they leave the center, helping in the many problems in integra-  
tion. Otherwise there undoubtedly will be hardships encountered  
by many of them. So, there is a possibility that my work will  
continue after the center closes.  

I feel certain that my relation to the conference seems quite  
tenous to many of the regular pastors. Sometime, when you do not have the responsibilities of the conferences pressing  
upon you, I would like to discuss this matter with you.  
In the meantime if it meets your approval and that of the cabi-  
net I would like reappointment to my present work. I expect  
to attend the conference at Mena, Arkansas.  

Sincerely yours,  

Bat R. Griswold, Supervisor  
Community Activities
“Mr. and Mrs. Masataro Tabuchi was one of the first to return to their hometown, Stockton, from the Rohwer Relocation Center.”
“Paul Shimada, Labor Supervisor at Cold Storage Plant in Decatur, Michigan, formerly from the Rohwer Relocation Center and Lodi, California, checks the 11,000 crates of celery which is packed for storage and ready for washing.”
“Mr. and Mrs. Ted Ohashi, with their three-week-old baby, Katherine, rent a modern two-bedroom bungalow near the most exclusive residential section in St. Louis.”
Rosa A. Heinke Diary

• Assistant art teacher (summer 1944)
• Diary – “social life, economic life, and general activities of the Japanese evacuees, and also general studies of character”
• Daily camp life
Heinke’s diary a recent acquisition

Much more usable & accessible
NO PAPER

Shortage of paper forced the ROHWER staff to forgo the regular weekly issue this week. The news column has remained published each Saturday and Thursday.

DISTRIBUTION OF PAY STARTS

Distribution of the second check will begin Oct. 1 to Oct. 30 begin payday at the Army Store. Immediately behind the Nisei Administration building. It is announced today.

Failure to report in administration, workmen, motor pool, employment and housing, Hilli Weeks and maintenance employees will receive three payments according to a schedule released by F. A. Maheu, Federal Administration.

EXPANSION OF CANTINES TO OPEN IN BLOCK 20, 14 NEXT WEEK

The first two of five new sections opened in Block 20. The new sections will be opened as soon as possible.

SELF GOVERNMENT

Temporary councilmen to be voted by residents Wednesday.

Another session of the temporary council begins with a new group of councilmen. The councilmen are elected by the residents of Block 14. The councilmen will be seated by 5:00 p.m. The new council, after the opening meeting, will be called to order by the chairman of the council.