



**ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM
INTERVIEW ABSTRACT**

CONSULTANT: Rose T. Mitamura

DATE OF BIRTH: March 5, 1928 GENDER: Female

DATE(S) OF INTERVIEW: September 20, 2000

LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: Las Cruces, New Mexico

INTERVIEWER: Ron Nelson

SOURCE OF INTERVIEW: NMF&RHM

TRANSCRIBED: September 21, 2000

NUMBER OF TAPES: One

ABTRACTOR: Ron Nelson

DATE ABSTRATED: September 21, 2000

QUALITY OF RECORDING (SPECIFY): Good. Some background music

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE: Utilization of German prisoners of war during World War II on the family farm in Mesilla, New Mexico

DATE RANGE: 1942 - 1943

ABSTRACT (IMPORTANT TOPICS IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE):

TAPE ONE, SIDE ONE:

Mitamura was born in Colorado in 1928. Her family moved to Mesilla in 1929. Mitamura shares her recollections of the utilization of German POWs on the family farm during World War II. The farm grew vegetables, cotton, lettuce, onions, chile, alfalfa, turnips, and carrots with irrigated water.

Due to labor shortages, the farm was provided with POWs. Mitamura states that it was scary to have the German POWs, but the family soon found that they were nice people, worked hard and gave them no problems. The POWs worked mostly during the lettuce harvest and in the lettuce packing shed, helping to trim the heads of lettuce. The family was not allowed to talk with the prisoners.

TAPE ONE, SIDE TWO:

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