The Pennino Collection

The Center for Japanese Studies, the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, presents an online collection of photos of everyday life in Japan during the Occupation Period, taken by US Army Lieutenant Colonel Walter A. Pennino (1915-1998). His daughter, Ms. Donna Howard (former President of the UH Foundation), donated the photos on black and white negative film, and generously gave permission for them to be made available through online. We hope that the collection will provide those interested in Japanese culture and history with a valuable and interesting insight into postwar Japan.

Lt. Col. Walter A. Pennino

Lt. Col. Walter A. Pennino (1915-1998) was born in Massachusetts and served the first half of his career in the US Army. At age 44 he retired as a Lieutenant Colonel and went on to work for the Commerce Department as Coordinator of Information for the Bureau of International Commerce and for NASA as head of its public information program. Following his retirement from NASA, Pennino worked in the corporate world with Donald K. “Deke” Slayton, one of the original seven Mercury astronauts, to develop the Conestoga, a privately developed rocket. Throughout his several careers, Pennino continued to work as a freelance author, contributing to the Boston Globe and the Washington Post.

CAPTION: Children swarm around a picture-card show man (kamishibaiya-san) in a back street. Several children are not wearing shoes or Japanese wooden clogs (geta) showing how far Japan still had to go in its recovery from the war.
The Center for Japanese Studies is proud to display a collection of personal photographs donated by Mrs. Dina Samiano on behalf of her father, James E. Haynes, on September 11, 2011.

James Edward Haynes (July 12, 1929-October 16, 2012) was born in Chicago, Illinois and joined the U.S. Army at the age of 17. He was sent to Tokyo, Japan as part of the U.S. Occupation Force in October 1946. While in Japan, Haynes worked as a hotel steward and a cook. He met his future wife, Nakae Matsuo, in Tokyo at the Palace Heights Hotel where they both worked. They were married in 1949 and left Japan for Camp Crowder, Missouri in 1951. They had a daughter before being transferred to Hanau, Germany in January 1953. In August 1955, Master Sergeant Haynes was discharged from the Army and moved his family to Los Angeles, California to begin civilian life. James and Nakae had two more daughters and went on living happily together until Nakae’s death in December 2010.

The photos in this collection date from the period between October 1946 and August 1951. Sgt. Haynes took photographs of his friends, as well as the people, events, and places around him. His collection documents the life of a young soldier in Japan. It offers an honest and oftentimes endearing perspective of (military) life in postwar Japan. Below is a transcription of a letter from Sgt. Haynes that serves as a fine introduction to his work:

Sergeant James E. Haynes and Mrs. Nakae (Jean) Matsuo Haynes on their first wedding anniversary
• Many researchers feel like they’re engaged in an Easter Egg hunt
• Frustrating for the organizations managing the materials.

• Coordinate on access
• One-stop shopping experience.
In Summary

• Should establish a communications protocol so that access to like materials can be consolidated and digitized to the greatest extent possible for easy discovery and access.

• Facilitate new research and create opportunities in digital scholarship on our own campus, and beyond
THANK YOU

Tokiko Y. Bazzell <tokiko@hawaii.edu>