

# Guide to the Rozita Lee oral history interviews

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# **Summary Information**

<b>Repository</b> :	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Lee, Rozita Villanueva, 1934-
Contributor:	Reflections: the Las Vegas Asian American and Pacific Islander Oral History Project
Title:	Rozita Lee oral history interviews
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Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Oral history interviews with Rozita Lee conducted by Stefani Evans, Cecilia Winchell, Kristel Peralta, Vanessa Concepcion, Jerwin Tiu, and Su Kim Chung on June 1, 2021, April 12, 2022, and May 18, 2023 for Reflections: The Las Vegas Asian American and Pacific Islander Oral History Project. Rozita shares her experiences growing up on a sugar plantation with her family in Hawaii. She talks about the benefits her family received and the "privileged" life she led with her father as the plantation boss, allowing her household to have electricity, plumbing, and a telephone. Rozita discusses her use of Pidgin English amongst her peers and "good English" in her household, and the roles and responsibilities her parents had working on the plantation. She shares what life was like day to day and what she remembers growing up during World War II including hearing air raid sirens and hanging blackout curtains in her home. Rozita also talks about meeting her husband, Clifford Lee, in high school, their marriage in 1979, and how the couple came to move to Las Vegas. In the second interview, Lee discusses pursuing a bachelor's degree at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), working with Governor Miller and Bob Bailey, and her involvement in a Polynesian show at Imperial Palace for eighteen years.

#### **Preferred Citation**

Rozita Lee oral history interviews, 2021 June 01, 2022 April 12, 2023 May 18. OH-03773. [Cite format consulted: Audio recording or Transcript.] Oral History Research Center, Special

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#### Scope and Contents Note

Oral history interviews with Rozita Villanueva Lee conducted by Stefani Evans, Cecilia Winchell, Kristel Peralta, Vanessa Concepcion, Jerwin Tiu, and Su Kim Chung on June 1, 2021, April 12, 2022, and May 18, 2023 for Reflections: The Las Vegas Asian American and Pacific Islander Oral History Project. Rozita shares her experiences growing up on a sugar plantation with her family in Hawaii. She talks about the benefits her family received and the "privileged" life she led with her father as the plantation boss, allowing her household to have electricity, plumbing, and a telephone. Rozita discusses her use of Pidgin English amongst her peers and "good English" in her household, and the roles and responsibilities her parents had working on the plantation. She shares what life was like day to day and what she remembers growing up during World War II including hearing air raid sirens and hanging blackout curtains in her home. Rozita also talks about meeting her husband, Clifford Lee, in high school, their marriage in 1979, and how the couple came to move to Las Vegas. In the second interview, Lee discusses pursuing a bachelor's degree at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), working with Governor Miller and Bob Bailey, and her involvement in a Polynesian show at Imperial Palace for eighteen years. Digital audio available; no transcript available.

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## **Administrative Information**

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#### **Acquisition Note**

This interview was conducted by the Oral History Research Center (OHRC) which is part of the UNLV University Libraries Special Collections and Archives Division.

#### **Processing Note**

Interview materials were processed by UNLV Libraries Special Collections and Archives in 2021. Kelsey Mazmanyan wrote the collection description. Access copies were created for born-digital audio files.

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## Names and Subjects

- Oral histories (document genres)
- Hawaii
- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- Filipino Americans
- Sugar plantations
- Pidgin English
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Women -- United States