

WADE HEAD COLLECTION-MSS 118

Inclusive Dates: 1942-2006 (bulk 1942-1946)

Size: 10 boxes, 7 linear feet

Provenance: Donated to the Arizona Historical Society in 2012 by the Arizona Historical Foundation.

W. Wade Head was born circa 1908 in Eldorado, Arkansas. He was an area director for the Bureau of Indian Affairs for many years. During World War II, he served as director of the Colorado River War Relocation Center (also known as Poston) from 1942 to 1944. Head died at the age of 89 on January 25, 1997.

The collection consists of correspondence, reports, notes, speeches, and essays relating to the administration of War Relocation Authority (WRA) camps in general and Poston specifically, the daily activities and transactions in these communities, the federal investigation into un-American activities, and the departure of Head from the role of director in 1943. Box 4 consists entirely of dedications to Director Wade Head on his resignation. Internees from almost 70 block units of the center signed their names, contributed artwork, and expressed their gratitude for Head's role as a leader of the community.

Also included are 109 photographs, five paintings of Poston and the vicinity, eleven books or serials relating to the WRA, and one 1942 color film reproduced in various formats of the construction of the center and the arrival of its first residents.

Box	Folder#	Folder Title	Dates
1	1	Correspondence Regarding Camp Administrative Organization	1942-1943
1	2	Correspondence Regarding Camp Administrative Organization, 1942-1943	1942-1943
1	3	Wade Head Correspondence, May-June 1942	1942
1	4	Memorandum of Understanding Between the Director of the War Relocation Authority and the Secretary of the Interior, Signed by Both Parties 4/14/42	1942
1	5	Construction Project, Etc., 1942-1943	1943
1	6	Wade Head, Project Director, Memorandum & Letter, June 1942 - June 1943	1942-1943
1	7	Townsend 1942	1942

Box	Folder#	Folder Title	Dates
1	8	Affidavits & Statements, Townsend Testimony 1943	1943
1	9	Affidavits, Testimonies, Statements, Memorandum, 1942-1943	1942-1943
1	10	Townsend, Letters & Statements, 1943	1943
1	11	Letter, Statements, Memo, etc. 1942-1943	1942-1943
1	12	Investigation of un-American Activities, May 30, 1943	1943
1	13	Dies Committee Report, 1943	1943
1	14	Personal Letters Concerning WRA - Also New Years Greeting to Camp One, 1/1/43	1942-1944
2	1	Education and Teacher (Incomplete File)	ND
2	2	Work Program for the Operations Division, Nov. 1943	ND
2	3	“An American Battle Field: A Factual Report of Conditions at the Japanese Relocation Camps at Poston, Arizona” by Harold Townsend	1942
2	4	Correspondence - Akahoshi Case	1943
2	5	Closing Letters - Wade Head 1943	1943
2	6	Wade E. Head - Closing Letters, Jan., Feb., & May 1944	1944
2	7	Third Quarter Budget Estimate, Fiscal Year 1944	1943-1944
2	8	Advance Budget Estimates, Fiscal Year 1945	1944
2	9	Personal Letters Re: WRA From Evacuees, 1945	1944-1945

Box	Folder#	Folder Title	Dates
2	10	Indian Service WRA Agreement, January 1, 1944	1944
2	11	Romaji Maki NI (In Japanese Phonetics)	ND
2	12	Colorado River War Relocation Project (In Japanese Phonetics)	ND
2	13	Kanji Book 1 (Japanese Language Lessons)	ND
3	1	Chiri (Geography of Japan)	ND
3	2	“Refuge on the Colorado, “Desert Magazine, September 1942; “The Truth about our Jap Camps, “Liberty, August 1943	1942-1943
3	3	Misc. Official Documents Regarding the WRA and Poston, 1942-1943	1942-1943
3	4	The Organization and Growth of the Poston Health Service by Elizabeth Vickers, P.N., Senior Chief Nurse	1944
3	5	Community Government - Report by T.H. Haas, 12/31/43	1943
3	6	For Dillon S. Myer, Director, War Relocation Authority, Washington, DC: This Report Sets Forth the Development Program Proposed for the Colorado River War Relocation Center for the Balance of 1944 Fiscal Year	1943
3	7	Visit to Japanese Internees or Detainees in Center, Colorado River Relocation Center, December 21, 1943	1943
3	8	War Relocation Authority Community Government Handbook, November 20, 1943	1943
3	9	Monthly Report on Colorado River War Relocation Center for Evacuated Japanese	1942

No. 1, Poston, Arizona, November 10, 1942

Box	Folder#	Folder Title	Dates
3	10	Monthly Reports on the Colorado River War Relocation Project, Poston, Arizona, November 1942 - June 1943	1942-1943
3	11	Wade Head's Essays/Speeches on How to Run the Center	ND
3	12	Base Map: Parker War Relocation Area, Arizona, 6/18/42	1942
4	1	Dedication (Removed from Wooden Poston Box, AHF3D97-004. Note: This scrapbook is a tribute from the internees to Director Wade Head on his resignation of the directorship. It includes original artwork and signatures.)	1943
4	2	Block 2	1943
4	3	Block 3	1943
4	4	Block 4	1943
4	5	Block 5	1943
4	6	Block 6	1943
4	7	Block 11	1943
4	8	Block 12	1943
4	9	Block 13	1943
4	10	Block 14	1943
4	11	Block 15	1943
4	12	Block 16	1943
4	13	Block 17	1943
4	14	Block 18	1943

Box	Folder#	Folder Title	Dates
4	15	Block 19	1943
4	16	Block 21	1943
4	17	Block 22	1943
4	18	Block 26	1943
4	19	Block 27	1943
4	20	Block 28	1943
4	21	Block 30	1944
4	22	Block 31	1943
4	23	Block 32	1943
4	24	Block 35	1943
4	25	Block 36	1943
4	26	Block 37	1943
4	27	Block 38	1943
4	28	Block 39	1943
4	29	Block 42	1943
4	30	Block 43	1943
4	31	Block 44	1943
4	32	Block 45	1943
4	33	Block 46	1943
4	34	Block 53	1943
4	35	Block 54	1943

4	36	Block 59	1943
Box	Folder#	Folder Title	Dates
4	37	Block 60	1943
4	38	General Hospital	1943
4	39	Block 207	1943
4	40	Block 208	1943
4	41	Block 209	1943
4	42	Block 211	1943
4	43	Block 213	1943
4	44	Block 214	1943
4	45	Block 215	1943
4	46	Block 216	1943
4	47	Block 219	1943
4	48	Block 220	1943
4	49	Block 221	1943
4	50	Block 222	1943
4	51	Block 226	1943
4	52	Block 227	1943
4	53	Block 229	1943
4	54	Block 305	1943
4	55	Block 306	1943
4	56	Block 307	1943
4	57	Block 308	1943

4	58	Block 309	1943
Box	Folder#	Folder Title	Dates
4	59	Block 316	1943
4	60	Block 317	1943
4	61	Block 318	1943
4	62	Block 322-323	1943
4	63	Block 325-326	1943
4	64	Block 327-330	1943

Photographs

5	1	FP HEA- 1	US Post Office and Relocation Office, Poston, AZ
		FP HEA-2	Medical Clinic, Outpatient Dept. Entrance, Poston, AZ
		FP HEA-3	Theater, Poston, AZ
		FP HEA-4	Barracks, Poston, AZ
		FP HEA-5	Aerial View of Poston Relocation Center, Poston, AZ
		FP HEA-6	Arrival and Departure Station, Poston, AZ
5	2	FP HEA-7	“The Foundations of Learning,” Building The Poston High School, Poston, AZ, November 1944-Photograph 1 in the Series
		FP HEA-8	Photograph 2 in the Series
		FP HIEA-9	Photograph 3 in the Series
		FP HEA-10	Photograph 4 in the Series
		FPHEA-11	Photograph 5 in the Series

- FP HEA-12 Photograph 6 in the Series
- FP HEA-13 Photograph 7 in the Series
- FP HEA-14 Photograph 8 in the Series
- FP HEA-15 Photograph 9 in the Series
- FP HEA-16 Photograph 10 in the Series
- FP HEA-17 Photograph 11 in the Series
- 5 3 FP HEA-18 Pedestrians, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-19 School, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-20 Water Tower, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-21 Water Tower, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-22 Water Tower, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-23 Water Tower, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-24 Water Tower, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-25 Water Tower, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-26 Water Tower, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-27 Water Tower, Poston, AZ
- 5 4 FP HEA-28 See Len Park Under Construction
Poston, AZ
- FP HE A-29 See Len Park, View from Above of Bridge
And Miniature Japanese Houses, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-30 See Len Park, Bridge over Pond, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-31 See Len Park, View of Miniature Japanese
Houses in Garden, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-32 See Len Park, Sign and Bridge, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-32B Park at Poston Named for Lee Nelson, Always

(See Len)-Administrators

- FP HE A-33 See Len Park, View of Bridge over Pond,
Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-33B View 1 First People to Cross Bridge at See Len
Park, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-33B View 2 First People to Cross Bridge at See Len Park,
Poston, AZ
- 5 5** FP HEA-34 Poston Fields, Barracks in Background,
Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-34B Men Working in Poston Fields, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-35 Poston Fields, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-36 Poston Fields, Poston, AZ
- FP HE A-37 Bus Station, Camp II, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-38 Swimming Pool, Camp II, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-39 Cottonwood Bowl, Camp II, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-40 Administration Buildings, Poston, AZ
- FP HE A-41 Nursery and Tower, Camp II, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-42 Tractor and Barracks, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-43 American Flag Flying, Poston, AZ
- 5 6** FP HEA-44 School Musical, Poston, AZ: Arkansas
Traveler
- FP HEA-45 School Musical, Poston, AZ: Arkansas Traveler
- FP HEA-46 School Musical, Poston, AZ: Chicago
- FP HEA-47 School Musical, Poston, AZ: Chicago Night Club
- FP HEA-48 School Musical, Poston, AZ: Miami, Florida
- FP HEA-49 School Musical, Poston, AZ: Miami, Florida

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| | | FP HEA-50 | School Musical, Poston, AZ: New York City, Night Club Scene |
| | | FP HEA-51 | School Musical, Poston, AZ: New York City, Night Club Scene |
| 5 | 7 | FP HEA-52 | School Musical, Poston, AZ: New Mexico, Indian |
| | | FP HEA-53 | School Musical, Poston, AZ: New Mexico |
| | | FP HEA-54 | School Musical, Poston, AZ: Scene from Billy Boy, Massachusetts |
| | | FP HEA-55 | School Musical, Poston, AZ: Down Mexico Way, Southwestern |
| | | FP HEA-56 | School Musical, Poston, AZ: Texas |
| | | FP HEA-57 | School Musical, Poston, AZ: Virginia |
| | | FP HEA-58 | School Musical, Poston, AZ: Virginia |
| | | FP HEA-59 | School Musical, Poston, AZ: Finale-O Beautiful for Spacious Skies |
| 5 | 8 | FP HEA-60 | Nikki (now Mrs. Harry Bridges), Qyaka, Gladys, Toots, and Others |
| | | FP HEA-61 | Nikki, Oyaka, Gladys, and Others |
| | | FP HEA-62 | Oyaka |
| | | FP HEA-63 | Oyaka |
| | | FP HEA-64 | Gladys |
| | | FP HEA-65 | Aerial of Poston Relocation Center |
| | | FP HEA-66 | Parker, Arizona-Aerial with Airplane Wing in Foreground |
| | | FP HEA-67 | Aerial of Poston Relocation Center |
| | | FP HEA-68 | Aerial of Poston Relocation Center |

- 5 9
- FP HEA-69 Collier Turning Spade as Japanese-American Schoolchildren Look On, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-70 Architect Popkin at Poston-Ground-Breaking Watched by Japanese-American Children
- FP HEA-71 Unknown Surveyor, Collier, Popkin
- FP HEA-72 Poker Group at Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-73 Administrators and Leaders, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-74 Men of Poston, Poston, AZ, January 20, 1944
I. Kubota, S.Y. Kushiya, Y. Kawasaki, Duncan Mills, W. Wade Head, Moris Burge, K.J. Takashima, J. Terakewa, K. Takizama, M. Okamoto, S. Okabe, R Omshi, M Otam, H Nakaji, T Masuda, S Sasaki, G. Horibe
- FP HEA-75 Wade Head, Collier, and Popkin, Poston, AZ
- 5 10
- FP HEA-76 Poston Elementary School, Unit I, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-77 Poston Elementary School, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-78 School Construction, Inside View., Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-79 School with Students, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-80 School, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-81 School with Automobile and Japanese-American Young Woman, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-82 School, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-83 School, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-84 School, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-85 School, Poston, AZ

- 5 11 FP HEA-86 Administration Buildings (?), Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-87 Poston Police Department, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-88 Fire Department, Block 30, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-89 Dining Room, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-90 Barber Shop, Police Dept., Other Buildings,
Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-91 Miniature Garden, Block 19, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-92 Wide View of Barracks, Administration Buildings,
and Parking Area, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-93 Wide View of Administration Buildings from Road,
Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-94 Barracks with View of Elementaty School in
Background, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-95 Loading Area (?) with Trucks, Poston, AZ
- 5 12 FP HEA-96 School Construction, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-97 Construction, Poston,. AZ
- FP HEA-98 Construction (Blurred), Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-99 Construction Showing Temporary Thatch Roof,
Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-100 School Construction, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-101 Construction Workers and Supervision, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-102 Construction Workers, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-103 Construction Picnic, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-104 Construction Worker and Observer, Poston, AZ

- FP HEA-105 Unit III, Corner Stone Laying-Tee Mizuki,
Fusa Tsumagari, Gladys Otsuka, Noriko Kaminaka
- 5 13 FP HEA-106 School Roof, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-107 School Roof and Front of Building, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA- 108 School Roofing, Poston, AZ
- FP HEA-109 School, Poston, AZ
- 5 14 Photograph reproductions for the Japanese-American Relocation Camp Exhibit, ASU Hayden Library, May-August, 2006
- 5 15 DVD master of 109 photographs in this collection, 2006
- 6 1 *Administrative Highlights of the WRA Program.* United States Dept. of the Interior. War Relocation Authority. 1946
- 6 2 Bailey, Paul. *City in the Sun. The Japanese Concentration Camp at Poston, Arizona.* Westernlore Press. 1971
- 6 3 *Community Government in War Relocation Centers.* United States Dept. of the Interior. War Relocation Authority. 1946
- 6 4 *El Chaparral.* Associated Students, Poston Two High School. 1943.
- 6 5 *The Evacuated People: A Quantitative Description.* United States Dept. of the Interior. War Relocation Authority. 1946
- 6 6 *The First Year: Story of the Red Cross in Poston.* The American Red Cross. 1943
- 6 7 *Impounded People: Japanese Americans in the Relocation Centers.* United States Dept. of the Interior. War Relocation Authority. 1946
- 7 1 Leighton, Alexander H. *The Governing of Men: General Principles and Recommendations Based on Experience at a Japanese Relocation Camp.* Princeton University Press. 1945
- 7 2 *The Relocation Program.* United States Dept. of the Interior. War Relocation Authority. 1946.
- 7 3 *Wartime Exile: The Exclusion of the Japanese Americans from the West Coast.* United States Dept. of the Interior. War Relocation Authority. 1946.

- 7 4 *WRA: A Story of Human Conservation*. United States Dept. of the Interior. War Relocation Authority. 1946.
- 8 1 Poston Relocation Camp film. DVD format user copy.
- 8 2 Poston Relocation Camp film. DVD format archival master (3 copies).
- 8 3 Poston Relocation film. VHS format (3copies).
- 8 4 Poston Relocation film. Beta format
- 9 Poston Relocation film. Reel to Reel format. Color. 1942
- 9 Creating Beauty in Confinement: Japanese Americans In Arizona WWII Relocation Centers. Arizona Historical Society VHS (2 copies)
- 9 Prison of The Innocent: Japanese American Internment Camps in Arizona Seop Song VHS
- 9 “Most Honorable Son” (Ben Kuroki), KDN Films, DVD (broadcast on PBS, September 17, 2007
- 9 Colorado River War Relocation Project, Poston, Arizona, Organization Chart, August 11, 1943
- 9 Watercolors. CD archival master
- 10 Poston Scrapbook, Carved Decorated Box Enclosure and Painting

Artifacts

5 watercolor paintings of Poston Relocation camp by internee and artist Kakunen Tsuruoka.

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