

**Years of Valor, Years of Hope:  
Tulare County, 1941 – 1946  
Oral History Collection  
by the Tulare County Library, 2004**

**Sam Imoto**

Sam Imoto was born in Lindsay, California in 1927 of parents who came here from Japan. He went to a Japanese school on weekends to learn Japanese language and culture. He was at that school when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. He talks about the reaction of his teacher and how his family burned anything they had from Japan and also the Kendo equipment and uniforms, as the children were learning sword fighting before then. He also talks about the curfew and preparing to leave.

He described the relocation camp at Poston, Arizona and the atmosphere in Lindsay when they returned in 1945, and about being drafted and life for a Japanese American soldier right after WWII, and about finding there was prejudice against Japanese Americans even as late as 1991 at his job in Tulare County.

35 pages. Interviewer: Catherine Doe.