

## FOREWORD

During 1979 and 1980, the San Joaquin Valley Library System collected oral histories as a part of the Japanese-American Cultural Project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. These histories chronicle the events in the lives of Japanese people who immigrated to the Valley and their descendants. Their recollections are of inestimable value and form an important part of history of the Central Valley of California.

Special tribute should be paid to these immigrants and all immigrants who entered and still enter these United States. Our county is very much the richer by the addition of their contribution and the strength of character of these people.

We also wish to acknowledge the work of the volunteers who helped record and transcribe these oral histories, as well as the work of Yoshino Hasegawa, Project Director and Keith Boettcher, her assistant.

John K. Kallenberg, Member  
San Joaquin Valley Library System Administrative Council