

Interviewee: Eleanor (nee Tsuchiya) Maruno

Interviewer: Lisa Uyeda

Date: June 8, 2011

Location: Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, Toronto

Accession Number: 2011.159

[Start Part 1]

*Note that this interview contains outdated terminology regarding Indigenous people.

Lisa Uyeda: Here we go. But just to get started, today is June 8th, 2011.

Eleanor Maruno: Mm-hm, mm-hm.

LU: And can you please tell us your full name?

EM: My full name, married name, or the-

LU: Everything. [giggles]

EM: Everything. My full name is Eleanor Shizu Maruno. And my- Did you want my former name too?

LU: Yes, please.

EM: It's Eleanor Shizu Tsuchiya.

LU: How do you spell Tsuchiya?

EM: Tsuchiya. T-S-U-C-H-I-Y-A. Oh, I got it. [chuckles]

LU: [chuckles] Wonderful. And would you like to start off by telling us a little bit about your family history? So, do you know where or when your parents were born?

EM: Well, to tell you the truth, I don't know when they were born, but I'll say my father and my, my parents came to Canada when they were 18 and 17 years old.

LU: [adjusting camera] Oops, sorry. I'm just gonna adjust this. Okay. They're 18 and 17 years old.

EM: Mm-hm.

LU: And do you know when they came to Canada?

EM: That would be, what, how many years would it be now? Gosh, All I can say is there was no Vancouver. It was all forest and trees and people, you know, uh- That- I remember my mother saying that there was no such thing as a Vancouver. It took quite a while before that city was born. Now it must have been really- gosh, I couldn't tell you exactly. Anyways, I know she was 18 and he was 17. So what year is this? Two thousand and-

LU: 11.

EM: 11.

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: So, I guess if you- That's the only way I could think of it.

LU: Were they already married in Japan before they came?

EM: Yes, they were married. Mm-hm.

LU: Do you know what part of Japan they were from?

EM: Yes. From Hatta, prefecture. Yeah. In fact, the real name, I think he always, she always told us that it's called Matsuo-mura, Sanbu-gun, Choshi, Japan. Hatta, Japan.

LU: Mm. And did they come from very large families?

EM: My mother had two brothers and herself. That's three, eh? And my father, I think just my father and the sister right below him, they were born in Japan. But the rest, the two, two sisters that they had were born here in Canada.

LU: Oh.

EM: Yes. So, you see, my grandparents came, you see, with them when they first came to Canada. So, two sisters, the younger sister, were born here in Canada, but the sister right next to him, him and my father were born in Japan before they came here.

LU: And did she come to Canada as well, or did she stay-

EM: Yes, she came, she came with- The whole family came, but she married a gentleman- He was a resident in the United States, and she married him, and they went to the United States to live. And very shortly after, him, my aunt and her husband- Oh! Excuse me. They had two sons and they were both, well, let's say they passed away. And soon after they passed away, my aunt and her husband went back to Japan. So, they, they're both, both in- Well, they're buried, I guess, in Japan, which I really don't know anything about since then.

LU: Mm-hm. And you mentioned that your mother had two brothers.

EM: Yes.

LU: Were they older than her or younger?

EM: Yes, they were, younger. One older brother and a younger brother. And she was in between.

LU: And do you know what your parents' education level was from Japan?

EM: Yes. I think he finished his you know, the regular schooling in Japan.

[00:05]

EM: And I think my mother- In those days, I'm afraid, if you're a person that really involved in going to school, the women- I guess they didn't have to go to school to a certain, well, let's say a certain goal, eh? So I think it was just ordinary. She probably had a bit of education, but not going into college or anything like that.

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: Mm-hm.

LU: And, um, did- So, did you meet your grandparents, then, on your fa-

EM: Pardon?

LU: Did you have a chance to meet your grandparents on your father's side?

EM: No, I don't know my grandmother or grandfather. They died quite early in their years. And I think I was just born when my grandmother died. My grandfather died in Japan. He went back- In fact, they both went back, but he took sick and he passed away in Japan. But my grandmother is buried here in Canada.

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: Mm-hm. But they, they did pass away quite early in their years. I guess in those days it must have been- Well, it could be the living too, eh.

LU: Did they ever say why they came to Canada?

EM: They, they never said, but you know what I think is- I have no family in Japan right now. There's no Tsuchiyas at all. But the reason why I think is, you know, in those days, I think the family themselves, they must have ran out in their financial- Well, depending on, I guess, the way you live, too. And somehow today, I know that the Tsuchiya has a castle, a little castle, but it is, involved in the government. They ha- It's a government office, eh, now. I kind of think, you know, in those days, they, they used to have these warlords, eh, and I kind of think after their financial being was- Well, let's say you're more or less out of the financial category. I guess in that way, they probably decided, "Maybe we should go somewhere and see how to get by." That's all I know about them. She didn't say too much about anything like that. It could be that the warlords, you know how they become controller, then you're out. It could be because of financial means or whatever. Anyhow, my grandfather, my grandmother, my parents, and the children that are born, everybody came to Hawai'i the first time, but they weren't too- I guess it didn't interest my people. And then they came to Canada a short while. They lived in this place called Seymour Creek. In fact, as a child, I- We spent a lot of time in the country, you know, when the schools were out eh. But it's a beautiful place. Anyways, this is where they were. But gosh, she says, "In those days it was just forest," and I guess there must have been Indian people, different, you know, nationalities. But it was very different, I guess, when you come here, I guess, and you come into a new country, and then of course they gotta look for work, some kind of work, eh. Now, I'm not certain about all this. He, she just said that they just pick up any type of work, like sawmill or whatever, to make a living. But by the time I grew up, we were quite comfortable in our way of living, let's say. So- But there are times that they did say that- "Well, you have to look for employment." First of all, my fa- My mother was very fortunate. She said she had a chance to get into the staff of Lady and, Lord- Lady Tupper. He used to be the Prime Minister here in Canada. And she said she was glad that she was able to get the staff or get on the staff, let's say.

[00:10]

EM: So, I guess she worked there, and I guess dad must have picked up whatever job he can get. I think he did say he was in a sawmill one time, and the next time it was some kind of fishing and, yeah. But by the time I grew up, we were quite comfortable in many ways. And my people, they were building boats, and actually the boats, they all went to work, and I guess that's how I grew up. Yeah.

LU: Mm-hm. Did they ever mention, um, their employment in Japan before they came?

EM: Well, she- No, she didn't have any job. She was- they married early, well, in those days, I guess she was I think 18, you know, nobody wants to get married at 18, but maybe that was the way, the- They have what's called *baishakunin*, don't they? You know, how they arrange the marriage of this family and that family and you get together, and I think I'll, you should marry that girl and-

[Someone enters the room and offers tea]

EM: Oh, someone can come in-

LU: Oh, tea. [giggles]

EM: That's how, when the Japanese people do get married, what you have- called a *baishakunin*, [talking heard in the background] they figure, that son and that daughter, I think that would be a good marriage. And many of them, they look after it and they get married that way.

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: That's how they used to get married here in Canada. They'll say, oh, yes, my son should get married to that daughter, and I'm sure that marriage will work out and it'll be good for the family. You know what I mean? That was, in fact, it was- That was the only way they got married. But that's how they got married. And he was a year younger than my mother, and they got married. And as you say, they came to Canada. So, my grandfather, everybody came.

LU: I'm just going to pause for one second.

EM: Yes. [leans back]

[Camera cuts out at 12:08]

LU: There we go. Okay. Now, did your grandparents ever speak about their employment in Japan?

EM: Actually, no. I never- I actually, I really don't know too much about that. But at one time, I think they were quite well off, but- They- No, mother and, and my father

never spoke too much about what my grandparents did or what my grandmother did. So that's something I can't, uh- I guess I'm afraid I won't be able to answer that. Yes.

LU: Mm-hm. And you mentioned that they stopped over in Hawaii first?

EM: Yes. When they first came, it was in Hawaii. And I guess the old people, they didn't- Maybe their future wasn't too clear, another thing. And they decided, "Well, let's go to Canada and see what it's like." But once they come- came to Canada, they decided to stay. My grandparents, I think at a point, they must have had a certain amount of financial surplus, because he had a farm. They started a farm. And in fact, I was looking at the picture, this is some years ago, my sister was showing me this picture where he's got cows and chicken and whatever, and he had this farm. So, I suppose that's how their living was, more or less, you know?

LU: Mm-hm. Did they ever mention why they went to Hawaii first?

EM: Evidently, that was the only way- There must have been a connection there where maybe certain people, you know, certain amount of people were coming out and they come to America first thing. But she didn't mention, she just said that they weren't too fond of the thought that they were gonna stay there. And yet, at that time, there were quite a few people that were still not just living there, but quite a few Japanese people that have come to Hawaii from Japan, you know. But they decided, "Oh, I think we'll go to Canada and see what that's like." And when they came, they- Well, I guess they decided to stay, yes.

LU: Mm-hm. So they settled in Seymour Creek.

EM: This is where, yes, it's Seymour Creek. I guess today it's quite different now.

[00:15]

EM: My father- My grandfather bought a house there, at Seymour Creek. And in fact, from his living room, you could see the sky- the outer of Vancouver. [emphasize with hand movements] It's just beautiful, the sea, and you just look out from the living room, and you could see Vancouver, with all the lights going on, you know, in the evening, and that. [nodding] But he had- He bought a house there, and they had a little farm there. It was, in fact, it's right by the sea. [emphasize with hand movements] It's a beautiful place. When I think about it, we used to spend our summer holiday there. And one of my aunts used to live there later, you see, because- Because of schooling, our family moved into Vancouver proper when the city was built, you see, because everybody had to go to school, eh?

LU: Do you remember the address of the house?

EM: Oh, where we lived? It's 881 Union Street. 881 Union Street.

LU: And what about your grandfather's house?

EM: Oh, they were all passed away by the time I grew up, you know? But that's where we lived. And I was born in the hospital here in Vancouver, because I'm the last in the family, the baby.

LU: Oh.

EM: Yes. I had, two brothers and three sisters, eh, but I'm the last of the family.

LU: And do you know when they were born, their birthdays?

EM: Oh, well, I could remember. I think my oldest sister was, two older sisters were born in March.

LU: Of-

EM: And my brother Harry was born in November. And George was born in May, and Tosh was born in November, I think. And then I'm- I was born in May.

LU: Do you remember their years, year of birth? [giggles]

EM: Well, tell you, I think my sister, well, she was married, and- Gosh, I couldn't exactly remember what year she died, but she died- She had how many? There was June and Diane and Clifford- So she- By the time she was an old woman, you know- Maureen Sheffeld: I think she wants to know what- When they were born, right?

LU: Mm-hm.

MS: You were born in 1924, so-

EM: Uh-huh.

TS: If you go backwards,

EM: 1924 I was born.

MS: You were born in 1924. So how old was- Was it Tosh?

EM: Toshi's born in 1923. She's one year older than me.

MS: And then-

EM: My other-

MS: Is it Harry, who's next?

EM: George is five years older than me, same as-

MS: 1919.

EM: He was born in May, and Harry was born in November. He's about 13 years older than me.

MS: Okay.

EM: [nods] And my older sister, Louise was born in- She's 16 years older than me, and my other sister is born 17 years older than me. See, my fa- My mother must have got a new batch of children when my sister, my younger sister and I were born,

eh? [chuckling] Yeah. That's right. Yeah. I think there's a few more that- They passed away, I think when they were little, eh?

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: You never know. Gosh, they probably had a great big family in those days. [chuckling]

LU: So, there were six children all together?

EM: Mm-hm. Right now. Yeah. [nodding] And I'm the last, everybody's gone now. Yes.

LU: And were your older siblings born at home, or in a hospital as well? Do you know?

EM: I really don't know, but you know what I think? I think they were born at home. And you know how you get a midwife or someone to come in, when the baby's ready to come. And I think that's how they were born. But for me and my sister and my younger brother, I think we were born in the hospital by that time, you know? There's doctors and others, yes. [nodding]

[00:20]

LU: Mm-hm. And so, did you grow up- You said that your house was on Union Street, and how long did you stay in that house for?

EM: At Union Street? As far as I could remember, I think I lived there when I was born, and I'm still- I was living there till the war came. Mm-hm.

LU: And what do you remember about living in that house? Can you describe the house?

EM: It was a fairly large home. We had an upstairs and the downstairs, in fact, living room, dining room, kitchen. And then we had an outer section where the sink- [emphasize with hand movements] In those days, the houses were built different, the sink and anything to do with the household was borne outside of the, in a different section. We had that, and upstairs there was, how many? [counting on fingers] I think we had four large bedrooms. And then the downstairs we had our living room, our dining room, our kitchen, where we sat down and had our dinner and whatever. And then they had a sort of a basement downstairs, you know, where you go down from- [emphasize with hand movements] You lift a lid from the kitchen, and you go all the way down to the- The kitchen door open, and it goes down, you know, to the basement.

LU: And what was kept in the basement?

EM: Hmm?

LU: What was kept in the basement?

EM: Whatever. Our vegetable, fruit or whatever, potatoes, or whatever you have downstairs in the bedroom, yeah. Or- [shaking head] In that room. It's quite a large space, I would say, and certain sections cemented on, and the rest is dirt, you know. But our vegetables and things, mother kept it downstairs, 'cause it stays better in a cooler spot, right?

LU: Mm-hm. And did you have a garden at your house?

EM: Oh, yes. We had, how many- You know, in those days, if you had one section, two section- [emphasize with hand movements] Oh, we had a large yard, and we had a woodshed where you keep all your firewood, because in those days it was all firewood. And we also had two section where the cars were driven in. And we had a huge, large- What do you call it- Raspberry. One side of the house was just filled with raspberry. My father had a garden where he used to make his strawberries or whatever he wants to make, and there was a alley in the backyard, you know, where we had this whole block, because our house, where- [emphasize with hand movements] On this side, where the Union Street, this side was a alley here, where, of course, he used to drive the car in and out, which, whatever. It was quite a large place. Yeah.

LU: Mm-hm. And other than strawberries and raspberries, what other fruits and vegetables did he grow?

EM: Hmm?

LU: What other fruits and vegetables?

EM: Oh, he had- Japanese people, I don't know if you are aware, but he had *udo*. It's a huge tree with a certain type of, uh- [emphasize with hand movements] He called it *udo*, I'm sure yeah, it's a vegetable. He had, not just strawberries or whatever you want, he had *daikon*, and what else did he have? *Ninjin* and radishes and whatever. In fact, we used to have quite a few, because when I think of it, we used to get- I used to have to pick them in the garden, you know, to have dinner. And he used to like his gardening. But I think many people, if you had any property at all, they would grow something, wouldn't they? Yeah.

LU: Mm-hm. And what other chores would you have to do to help around the house?

EM: To tell you the truth, I'm afraid we didn't have, my sister and I, we didn't have to do very much, outside of maybe picking some food at- Well, she would say, "Well go and pick so and so, we're gonna have something for-" And you- [shakes head] I'm afraid we didn't have to do very much. Yeah.

LU: Did your older siblings have to do a lot more around the house?

[00:25]

EM: Well, by that time, they were all working, eh? My two sisters were working. My brothers, they were out on the boat most of the time, looking after- If they're not looking after the engine, they're out on the boat. By the time May comes, many of them have gone out, and we don't see nobody till about Christmas. They're away.

LU: Wow.

EM: Yeah. All the boats are gone now, you see. And I was just telling my daughter that in the month of May, when a new boat is built, we go to a picnic. Like everybody enjoys it. And then soon after that, everybody's out on- The crew and everybody's out on the boat, and they go out one at a time. All the boats are going fishing. Mm-hm. Cause they work for the cannery. And wherever the cannery is, my parents built a household, so that the men could come home, you know, after like a whole week of fishing, and then come back maybe for Saturday or Sunday, and then Monday they're out again. So, from wherever the cannery that we had business with, somewhere close by, my father made sure that there was a place for the people to come in. So, when you think about it, I guess in those days, it's quite an ordeal, isn't it? Yeah.

LU: Mm-hm. That's a long time to be away from home.

EM: Well, it is. When the fishing starts in May, all those people that work on the boats are away from May till Christmas. That's a long time, isn't it? And they're- Because you see, they have to go out to different places. You can't just stay in- I know, in Steveston, I don't know if you remember, but Steveston is- It was like a community itself, and a certain people from Wakayama-ken, they- In fact, they monopolized this little fishing village. Now they used to fish. They have small boats, or else they work for the cannery. The biggest cannery in Canada was in Steveston. There was a big cannery there. And they work for that cannery, you see. So, they live in this certain village, and they all go to fish for the business with the cannery. And they used to go to- Well, we hear of Fraser Valley, Fraser River, they go there. That's where the sockeye salmon, our delicious sockeye salmon comes from. They used to go there fishing for the cannery, the BC cannery. He's-They had, that's one of the- In fact, it is the biggest cannery in Canada now. They lived in this little place called Steveston. And they come from, from Japan. Most of them come from what you call, Wakayama-ken. There's a certain *ken*, and they all monopolize this little village. And we used to call them- It's not everybody that can get there. You've gotta be Wakayama-ken to be there. But that's where they fished for the BC cannery. My boat- Our boats were quite different. We had to go to different places. In fact, they're

far away, you know. So once their fishing season starts, everybody is separated from their parents or brother or whoever, because they go out fishing. And maybe they'll come home once every now and then. So, we had to have a place for them to stay over the weekend or whenever it was, eh?

LU: Mm-hmm. How, what was the correspondence like while they're away for so long? Or how did you get in touch?

EM: Oh, they could send mail to their families. You know, there was the Cardena, this big boat that goes up all the way up to Prince Rupert from Vancouver all the way up. [emphasize with hand movements] They come and they deliver your mail. So, if you want to write, or- Well, in fact, you really have to write because they're not gonna be coming home till quite late in the year, right? But there was mail right throughout. Yeah. The big boats take it.

[00:30]

LU: Mm-hm. Do you remember receiving mail from your family members while they were out?

EM: Oh, yes. I could remember. We didn't write, but we would phone, you know, if we could get ahold of the telephone. Otherwise- Yes, I think I could remember my sister and I writing. We didn't- We never went to any of these places, you see. I mean- Well, I don't know about now, but in those days, we're not supposed to be in company of young, male friends or anything. And- Oh, yeah, I could remember sending a letter to mom and dad, my sister and I, from when we were up north one year. But that's the only time we were up there. We never knew what was going on until a certain age, and my brother decided, "Well, I think it's about time you guys know what's going on." And they- He took us up to one of the can- Dormant- And in fact, we lived there during the summer. He says, "If you want any money, you can work." [laughing] Anyway, my sister and I worked one year, and we were so glad, because it's not easy to make money for anybody and come home. We had a few dollars to spend on our own, but that was the only time we went up there. He wanted to know- Us to know what was going on and where, and how your living is made, and how all these people work for us, you know? So we had- Our household was always busy in the winter, after Christmas, because these people come to visit us, eh? The people that work for us. But my gosh, you know, when the war came, all this was taken away, absolutely taken away. And I don't know what my father had, but whatever he had, we were taken into another place. And he started a little farm, and he grew strawberries and asparagus. All those people. And he got an outlet in

Calgary, and he sold all his vegetables and strawberries, and all the children, they worked for us. You know, they make summer- Well, it's like summer job, eh? And in that way, of course, you know, it gives them a few dollars, doesn't it? But they had to work. But gosh, you know, I don't know how he did it, but he did it all by himself. All by himself. He used to- When I'd come home, he'd be out in that [emphasize with hand movements] looking after the strawberry, because every year you have to have a new batch, and it has to be made in a different soil. So, he had three different soils, and he takes turns, you know? But just think, planting each plant all by yourself, and then you have to water it. I don't know how he did it, but he did it. And whatever the case, it's a living, isn't it? I mean, what are you gonna do? You don't- There's nowhere to get a job. In those days- I've never scrubbed a floor or cleaned in my life. I had- I took a domestic work and, my gosh, I was scrubbing floors and [chuckling] making breakfast with someone else, and I had to be taught how to do it. I never used to have to make, you know, your eggs or anything. And I thought, my gosh, how can it be so- But you have to do something, and the only work you could get- In fact, you're lucky if someone hires you in a domestic job. There was no job to get. Nobody will give you a job.

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: That's how it was. But we were lucky that we were- We had a place to stay. The only way we got a place was, my oldest sister- You know, people who are married to Japanese-born men, they all had to leave Vancouver. If you don't leave, they take you into the concentration camp. My sisters were married to- And they had little children, but they were married to people who were born in Japan.

[00:35]

EM: But of course, you know, you could become a citizen after so many years, can't you? However, because they were born in Japan, they have to leave Vancouver early, and they didn't want to go to a camp of any form. So they took a car- Well, we had a car, an old car, and they all got into this one car. And my sister, and June, June was this high, [emphasize with hand movements] and they drove through the interior of Canada to see where- If someone would accept them, or if for the- Well, in fact, you have to get permission from the mayor or whoever. And they found this little place called Revelstoke. And my sister went to- In fact, she was on her knees because she wanted my parents, and there was just me and my sister and my two- My mother and dad, because my brothers were sent to a concentration camp. And they're Canadian born, you know, but all of them were sent to a concentration camp. But my

one brother, he had a kind of a school, teaching, you know? So, he went to Kaslo. I don't know if you've heard of Kaslo. And he had a little- Oh, I don't know how he got it, but he got this house and he was teaching people there. So, he got there, but my other brother had to go to a concentration camp, like all the rest of them. My cousins, they all went too. But anybody that was healthy enough had to join the Army or any armed force. And my cousin, one of them- In fact, two of my cousins, they were taken into the army, and my brother had to go, but he wasn't healthy enough. And he had to go to a concentration camp. But somehow, after we got into Revelstoke, my sister went to see the magistrate. He was the- Magistrate Maxwell, in fact. And I guess my s- I'm sure she was on her knees, hoping that they will accept my parents and me and my sister to come to join them. But we didn't know where we were gonna go, to tell you the truth. In fact, we just sat there in Vancouver. We didn't know- At the time, you know, in June, you graduate school, eh, don't they? In June. I was in my last year, and we had to leave in June. So, I missed my graduation. All this was nil, because, "Nevermind, you better get out," you know? [emphasize with hand movements] My sister and I both were. And so we packed up and we were fortunate that Magistrate Maxwell okayed that we would come and join my sister in Revelstoke. They all worked in a, CPR, [Canadian Pacific Railway] making- [emphasize with hand gestures] I should say, worked for the CPR. But they worked on the roads, you know, building new roads. The men worked. They managed to get some work there. And the rest of us, we- Well, I remember my- Do you know, my father, he didn't know we were going, but he had two box cars, he had managed to get two boxcars from the CPR. One was filled with rice. You know, the rice that we eat? I bet, it doesn't matter what store it was, if there was anything, he bought all the rice he could get. He said, "We don't know how long we're going to live-" The place was packed with rice and sugar and flour. My father filled one, just about one of the box car was full of food. Our cats, our dog, everything was with us. And the next- On the other box car, we put all the furniture, whatever we had into it. And we managed to get to Revelstoke. And we found this- She found, my sister found a empty house there.

[00:40]

EM: I guess it was- It belonged to an elderly man, but he was kind of half gone, you know? [emphasize with hand movement] And in fact, I don't know how my father managed. Because in those days, you see, our boats, our finance, radio, everything- Absolutely everything was taken away. Only thing we had was our furniture and

whatever. And I could remember, I just had one suitcase with a few of my clothes. And I think my sister had one with few of her clothes. And I guess my mother- Whatever we had, we brought with us, because I mean, we don't know how long it's going to be, eh? Anyway, we got this farmhouse that was empty, and this man says he wanted \$600 rent. [laughing] My father says, "How are we gonna pay \$600 rent?" So, this is how- I guess he went to the bank, because you see our finance, whatever, that was taken away. And he had to- Actually, he had not just dig the dirt, but we had to fill the farm in with good dirt before he could, you know, make anything. I think it cost him a lot. I don't know how he did it, but he did it. I went out to domestic work, but my sister stayed on because it would be extra work for my mother, eh? So she stayed on home with my mom, and I went, took a domestic work. And I- In fact, I was very thankful that they even accepted me for, you know, help. Gosh, can you imagine \$20 a week? That's what I got. And my gosh, [laughing] my sister and I, we shared it because, I mean, you know, we had no money for anything. Anyhow, that's where I went. And then-

LU: Before you move on there, do you know who you were working for? For the domestic work?

EM: Oh, yes. She was a lady. And her, she has an elderly father who's retired, and her husband was an engineer at the CPR. And in those days, you know, engineer, when you're an engineer, running those big train, I guess you make a good living, eh? But she wasn't what you'd call really healthy. And she needed help in the household, eh? So, I guess I was fortunate that I managed to get in touch with her. I don't how I got- Oh, I just happened to knock on the door to ask if there was any help, or any job I could have, that's it. And she was kind enough that- she was a person that belonged to the Masonic lodge, you know? And they do their good work too. And I guess maybe that might have helped. But she said, "Oh, yes," she says, "I could do some help. Well, whatever it is, you could help me for a while." And after I worked for a while, she accepted me. She says, "Why don't you come and live with us? And you could clean the house and look after the household for me." She had a nice little room with a bed. In fact- I guess I was lucky. I had a place to stay, let alone- So I stayed with her most of the week, and on Sundays I had my day off. So, I would go back home to visit my mom and my sister, you know. But she stayed on this farm with my mother and my father. And he gradually worked the farm up himself. And there's quite a few Japanese people living in Revelstoke by that time. And you know the children that used to go to school? [audio glitch] They, maybe they're in- Some of them were in high school. Some of them were still in public school. They used to

come and they'd pick the berries. And this is how- Well, they'd make- Gosh, can you imagine? They'd pick so many bowls of strawberries. [chuckling]

[00:45]

EM: My father would give them five cents a bowl. That's how much- Anyhow, he somehow made money through the- He made a connection in Calgary, because in Calgary, you could have a farm that are mostly horses there. It's a wealthy, yes, it's a wealthy- Alberta is a wealthy country or, surrounding. And they raise horses more than anything. They don't do a lot of farming there. Anyways, he made his connection there, and that's where he sold the berries, and as far as whatever food that is necessary, and that would pay the young people. It's not very much. But we used to laugh, who's the best picker, you know? How they- And it's just so much per bowl. [emphasize with hand movement] And dad would say, "Oh, so and so, she's a real good picker." [chuckles] But that's how my father, eventually, he made his income, and he would help the young children in some ways. And as far as that goes, by that time, he gradually saved his money. And we got livestock, we got pigs, which made our bacon. We had cows. We got our milk. And in fact, one of the cows, I never forget, my mother just cried when this cow died. Anyways, you get calves, but you can't raise a bull. If you get a bull, you gotta kill it, you know? However, by that time, my father had livestock, and he had outlets here and there. Eventually, I guess he was quite comfortable because it was just him and his mother to look after, eh? My sister went out to work. My brother- Somehow, it cost him a few dollars, but he made enough money to bring my brother back out of the concentration camp. And he came home, and he started to help my father farming. And then gradually our, I guess his investment gradually grew, and they were a little more comfortable than ever, you know?

LU: And who would help take care of the livestock once you started getting pigs and cows and-

EM: Oh, my dad and my mom and my brother, they looked after it. And you see, in every community, there was what you call- Mr. Griffiths. He was a neighbour of ours, and he was an old farm man that knew what was what. But there's always a veteran that looks after, you know, if the cow gets sick or the [unclear]. And there's a lot of work. You know, you gotta feed them. You gotta make sure that they get the right pasture. You have to pay for pasture too. You know, if- They're gonna say, "Okay, I'll let your cow come and stay there all day." You know, they'd chew their- But you can't just get it for nothing, I mean, after somebody else's property. In the

summertime, my brother used- Imagine getting 15 tons of hay just for the cow. In the wintertime, they've got to eat hay. 15- I don't know how he did it, but every summer- In fact, two summers I could remember going out, helping my brother with a hay farm. We- My brother and I- We used to pack this hay into the car and bring it home and pack it for the cows. And anyways, you had to do it every year before the warm- The bad weather came, because that's what they'd eat all winter. And we had a very useless horse, which was left on the farm, you see? We had to feed this horse. I never forget- That's something I never will ever forget. But anyhow, that's how the farm went. And long as we get-

[00:50]

EM: So to pay for the hay, my brother made a contract between this lady and said, "Okay, I'll bring in all your hay for you for the winter, and I'll get mine." So to pay for that, he had to do twice the job, because he's gotta pay someone. I mean, they can't get hay for nothing, you know? It was quite a life, believe me. But all this happened, and we managed to get through, and I worked as a domestic, and my sister helped at home. But gradually, as the days and years went, everything got a little more comfortable that way. But gosh, it was quite a time when I think about it, you know?

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: But you see, my father took it that he would rather live independently than go to any form of camp. I don't know if you heard about it, but you know how people from all other places of community, they all had to come to Vancouver, you know? You know where they lived? They- You've never been to Vancouver, have you?

LU: Just briefly, but not long.

EM: Oh, well, they called a place called Hastings Park, and that's where they have the exhibition every year. They had great big buildings where the animals were kept, the cows, the first prize cows, you know, and the first prize horses and all this. You know what they did? When those people from other places come, they all had to section off every item in this- Well, it's the animal- Well, to keep animals in it, yeah. That's where they lived. So, whatever they had, they had to either leave them behind or just take what they need. They come, they lived in this- Well, I guess it's a community, or- This is how they had to live. And dad didn't think, "No," he says, "I'm not going to live in a place like that. We'll wait and see what Mary gets." And fortunately, we were lucky that the magistrate okayed us, that we moved to this little empty farm hand, eh. But that's how those people lived, you know. It used to be terrible. And they had a sort of one section of this building where some- They hire,

well, they do it themselves. They cook, and everybody has to go into this dining room to eat. And they hardly got- I don't know what they ate, but they certainly didn't eat very much, because the people that used to come and visit us, they would enjoy the food that my mother made, because it's quite different, eh? Anyways, that's how they lived, until they went to all these Slocan and Kaslo, all these ghost towns. I had the privilege, my brother and I, the three of us had the privilege of visiting all these ghost towns after the evacuation, during the evac- And I was really surprised, because now I can understand why my father wouldn't want to live that way, you know? However, we managed to get to Revelstoke and lived our- Whatever life that we could, well, we could have there, eh? The people were kind, but, you know, you don't get personal. What I mean is, they're all business, you know. If you go and buy grocery, you buy a grocery, this and that. But as I say, I was fortunate. I was able to get a domestic place where I could, at least I had a bed to sleep on and whatever chores that I had to do.

LU: Do you remember their names?

EM: Adams. Mr. and Mrs. Adams, yeah. They've passed away now, and, oh, I never forget, I would never forget her. And her retired father was a businessman. He was a retired Mr. Steed. He was a kind old man too. I used to take him to church every Sunday. He used to go, you know, he's old. So, I would accompany him, you know? He was a very kind man too. But I never saw them after I left Toronto.

[00:55]

EM: I never got to see them. But they've passed away, and they're buried, I think, in Revelstoke. Yeah. Because she's an old timer there. A real old timer.

LU: And how long did you work with them for?

EM: Let's see, now. I was 18 when I went to Revelstoke, three years. And I got married when I was 21. I worked for her until I was, say, yeah, about 21. Yeah.

LU: Mm-hm. And how did your family travel to Revelstoke? Did you take the train?

EM: Oh, on the train, yeah. On the train.

LU: Do you remember the train ride, or how long it took to go?

EM: From Revelstoke? I think it's overnight from Vancouver to Revelstoke, you know? And another thing, see, he had, you had, my father had to buy two box cars to put all this, whatever it is. I guess he must have managed some form of financial means. Something I really don't know. And gosh, when I think about it, when we came, you have to unload all that. And, oh, you should have seen all the rice and sugar and the flour, and all these had to be unloaded and brought into this little-

Well, it was a fairly big house. But gosh, he, I bet you he must have filled one room with everything, and then our furniture had to come out. I don't know how he did it, but he did it. And we brought our cats and our dog and everybody. There wasn't anything left. The only thing we left was a piano. It was one of these great big things, you know? And dad said, "No, I guess we'll have to leave that one, and we'll give it to somebody." And that's about it, yeah.

LU: How far was the house in Revelstoke to the train station? Because that's quite a lot to unload.

EM: Oh, yes. The little farm, it's really outside of Revelstoke, you see? Let's see, it would be, it would take you about, maybe about 45 minutes on the car, like going into the city. 45, a half an hour. We used to walk it, my gosh, never mind cars, because if the car wasn't there, or if anything went wrong, you have to walk, eh? But we had this old car that my sister and them had driven to Revelstoke with. And you see, gradually, he bought- I think my brother, when my brother came back, and a few things were starting to get a little better off, he got one of these trucks. He bought a truck. And of course, when you get a car of some kind, at least your communication is better, isn't it? [emphasize with hand movement] But you see, by that time, all the men had worked. My cousin got a contract. He made a contract with a gentleman who wanted to start a lumber yard. He said, "Okay, I'll build it up for you, providing you give us work." So, my cousin built this lumber, [emphasize with hand movement] and that's where my brothers and a few other people and my husband, that's how they made their living.

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: In a lumberyard.

LU: So, before we move on to that part though, when you're unloading all of your possessions from the train, did you have the car?

EM: We had to get someone, yeah. We had to hire somebody from the CPR [Canadian Pacific Railway] to get- Because gee, there was nobody. Just my dad, and me, and my sister. And the men are working during the day, so when their day off, they'll go up. And the box car was sitting in the CPR station, because you see, we had to buy the box car. He owned the boxcar until he unloads, and then we sell it back to them, you see? So, when they're not busy, that's when they go and help these people that are hired in CPR, and then they unload. So, it took a while before all this was taken away.

LU: Mm-hm. I'm just gonna switch this tape here. Are you still okay, or would you like to start a break?

[01:00]

LU: Okay. So did your family always have a car?

EM: Oh, yes. We always had a passenger, and we had a truck when we were in Vancouver, yeah. Because we always had- Well, we had to move to Seymour Creek to see my aunt and cousins. You see, they all built a home up there. And in the summer, my sister and I used to spend our summer a lot of times. And over the weekends we'd go to Seymour Creek, where my aunt and everybody, my cousins, and we'd spend time there. Yeah, they had a room. And then my grandfather had a house there, so we'd go down and stay there maybe for any length of time.

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: And you see, when the boats are built- The men are all working building boats, you see- So they had to have a place where my grandfather's house was available for all these people. They had to have someone to cook for them, and, like a mess hall, I guess. And the men would work every day, building our boats. By the time May comes, the boat has to be finished, because, you see, they have to go fishing.

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: Then the boats come out, and after picnic, they're all out for work.

LU: And did your family have a car before you were born, or did they-

EM: Oh, yes. I think so. All I could remember is, I know we always had a car. There was no time that I didn't- My sister and I, we always went on the car wherever we go, go to Seymour Creek or go to the city or whatever. It was always a car. So that's all I could remember.

LU: Do you remember what kind of car it was?

EM: One was a- I think it was a Chevrolet truck, and the other one was- Gosh, I don't know what it was. Anyways, this is the car they had when they traveled from Vancouver into the interior.

LU: Did it have one of those crank engines in the front?

EM: No, no. You used to- [emphasize with hand movement] Gas. Yeah. And I guess you do use a crank in case, you know- I think it was some- I know, I remember the car, it's either Chevrolet or, yeah. We had quite a few. In fact, you trade it in, don't you, to get another car a following day or following year so that you don't- When you start getting too, too much trouble, whatever. But I could remember we had a dark car, and then next time it was like a light, sort of a creamy car. And, but the passenger car was- My father bought it off one of his friends, because he was having to move out, and he bought this car when my sister and them had to move out of

Vancouver. I think we had that car for a long time, because it was in Revelstoke for some time. I never forget that. But we always had a passenger and a truck, yeah.

LU: And you mentioned that you and your sister went up to work with your brother.

EM: Oh, yes, actually it was- Yes. He wanted us to go and see what actually is going on, because we were getting older, eh? And he took us on the boat. In fact, it was a beautiful- I mean, a lot of people, they go on the boat just for a holiday. It was like a holiday anyway. And he says, "And you could find work if you want to work, Mr. Chambers will give you a job at the cannery of some kind, you know?" So, we went up with my brother, my sister and I went up. What a time we had. [chuckling]

LU: And what do you remember seeing and doing when you're up there? So you got to see all the boats, and what else did you see?

EM: Oh, yes. Well, the boats, they all go out- They had how many?

[01:05]

EM: Oh, there was two boats that were chartered to the cannery. They worked for the cannery. And then we had two independent, what's called independent boats. And they go out fishing for ourselves, for us. But they work every- All week, they're out fishing, and they come back on Saturday and Sunday. They take two days off. But the rest of the boats that work for the cannery, they- I don't know how those people- But anyway, they come home every now and then. But the cannery hires the crew. They use our boat, our boats are chartered out to the cannery for a, you know, a certain amount a day, eh?

LU: What was the name of the cannery?

EM: Klemtu. Klemtu Cannery, yeah. And then the other one- Oh, what was it? Alert. Alert Bay, yeah.

LU: Mm-hm. And we didn't really talk too much about your childhood and what you remember, or what school you went to-

EM: Well, my childhood. I guess I must- Well, let's say my sister and I grew up fairly well, I guess. Not too much work, not too much of any kind. It's been a pleasant childhood. We were sent to visit our aunts in the summer. We didn't have to go to work or anything, and a lot of people, our friends used to go strawberry picking to the farms in the summer. No, we didn't have to work. We were very lonely. We had to play by ourselves, you know? And our home life, as you say, there was no trouble of any kind. We always had- The only thing is, we didn't get too personal with the *hakujin* people, you know? I mean, you become- you go to school and you see friends and that, but you don't get too personal with them. Somehow, maybe it was our- The

way we behave, or else people just don't- Our community was, there was a lot of European people next to our place, and- But there was one family that used to live very close by. They were Finnish people, and the parents were from the old country, see? But I remember Esco and Eva, I don't know where they went. I completely lost track of them after we left at war time. In fact, during the war, we couldn't associate with anybody. At nine o'clock, if you're not in the house, and if you're out in the street, you'll get- Oh, you get arrested and you go to the police station, you know. You're not supposed to come out at all. Lights have to turn out, no radio, nothing. All that used to go off, so you couldn't communicate with anybody. At all.

LU: Were there other Japanese families in the area?

EM: My cousins, and there was a few, yeah. The grocery store that we always dealt with, she was not too far away, Kira's. And my cousins, they lived a couple of blocks away from where we were, and then there was another family that lived in one of the cabins. He used to work for one of the lumberyards. And a grocery store. That's about it. Two or three, yeah. Not many.

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: And then there was- Oh, I mustn't forget Hipo. We used to carry his books. He was a kind of a gentle nature, eh? And I remember Kay, and I remember we used to carry his books for him and things like that, but he was just another neighbor. Yeah.

LU: And why would you carry his books?

EM: Oh, he's one of these little jellyfish. He'd say, "Oh, my books or something, or other." So, somebody would say, "Okay, I'll help you." But he's just one of those, I guess babyish, eh? Babyish sort of, very gentle person. He's gone now too. And we'd take turns to help him because he was always, he's this, or, you know, all this stuff will go on. But after a while, he, he did get married here, and I think he's gone now.

[01:10]

EM: I missed his funeral because Harvey got-My son-in-law died the same time, and I couldn't go to his. But we just had a few friends, a few Japanese friends. And another thing, we had friends at- You know, at school, how you meet people, but you never get close to them or become too personal with them? In those days, it was like that. I never had any friends come into the house, or my mother didn't allow us to invite too many *hakujin* people, or that in those days it was like that, you know.

You're kind and you're good to each other, but you don't get too personal with them.

LU: Mm-hm. Yeah. And what school did you go to?

EM: We went to Seymour School, and there was only one Japanese girl outside of me in this class. That's all. Mm-hm.

LU: And what was her name?

EM: Harumi. Her name was Harumi. I forget her last name. I don't know where she went to, I'd lost completely track of her either, but I remember we used to call on her before we'd go to school. You know how you call on people? Who knows where she is. Yeah.

LU: And Seymour School, what grades did they go up to?

EM: Six. And after six you have to go to junior high. And at that- By the time we finished grade six, they built this new school, Templeton Junior High, where you get your grade nine. And was it nine, ten, eleven? Yeah. That's where we went. And after that, you can go to Britannia or Van Tech or any other high school, eh? After you finish that. Yeah.

LU: And are those the schools that you went to?

EM: I was there at, studying academic at Britannia for a while, but I'm not one of those scholars, you know? [chuckling] Anyways, I changed to vocational school. And just as I was saying, I was in my graduating year- In June is your graduation, eh? And we had to move out of Vancouver the early part of June. So, I missed all my graduation. All that never came. We just go, we have to go.

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: That was all the rest of it.

LU: What were some of your favorite activities when you were growing up? Or did you play any sports, or?

EM: My growing up, what would I say? Well, we- I used to have, take- I used to belong to a badminton club that was from our *Bukkyokai*. You know, on Sundays, you go to Sunday School, you're sent to *Bukkyokai*, to Buddhist- And they used to have a, what you call a badminton club. I was there for a while. And then there's always baseball if you want to join that. You know, at school we played baseball. That's about it, I guess.

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: Bit of basketball, anything that goes on at school, it's basketball. Yeah.

MS: Didn't you sing?

EM: Hm?

MS: Didn't you sing? Sing. You used to sing?

EM: Oh, yes. [chuckling] I used to sing quite a bit, in fact. It'd be surprising. I used to- I attended, at *Bukkyokai* they would have a- What do you call it? Like a bazaar and a program that goes with it. And then at school- In fact, I guess in those days it was

kind of- I was only about 13 then. And I, this Roy Kumano, he had a- In fact, he's probably one of prominent, I often wonder where he went, but I noticed that he's gone- But he used to have what you call a harmonica band. It was really something. There was the bass, the melody, and then he had- Oh, it was quite a large, beautiful, band, which you called a harmonica band. He used to play harmonica. I used to sing with this band.

[01:15]

EM: And I remember at Templeton Junior High, when I was still attending, he brought his band. And we were asked to perform there. And at the Japanese school, at the [unclear], and at Buddhist, all this- In fact, Roy asked me, and in fact, I was quite pleased, I guess. You know, when you're 13 and somebody says, "Come on, and you come and sing with us." And anyways, I sang with him for quite a few, few times. And gosh, when the evacuation came, I lost all these- In fact, when was it? I asked about Roy Kumano, and he said, "Oh, that fella's gone now. He's somewhere in London." I don't know where he went, but I got that picture, you know, the Asahi picture? And he looks just the same. Oh, if you heard him play the harmonica, you'd never think anybody can, you know, with the, one of these little- [emphasize with hand movement] harmonica. Gosh, he was talented.

LU: Do you remember some of the other names from the band? Like the band members?

EM: There used to be Hiroshi. Hiroshi Matsubayashi, and- Oh gosh, there's quite- If I see the picture, I might notice quite a few. I've forgotten so many of them, now. But he used to- That band was, all the fellas that were in that band came from Japanese school, you know, the Japanese school that we attended. So, he had quite- Oh, he had quite a few. Oh my gosh. His band was really something. He played all over the place. He had invitations from here and there. He was, he was really quite- I would say not just talented, but he was quite popular in those days.

LU: Did they have a band name?

EM: No, I think it was just Kumano Band. That was his, all by himself, you know? He was really quite a person. Yes. You know, it takes quite a person to organize anything like that, eh? Because he only chooses people that know and will- Well, you've got, for another thing, you've gotta combine each person, eh? You have to know how to play that harmonica. Just think, that just- Maybe one this size and one this size, [emphasize with hand movement] and they make beautiful music together.

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: My gosh. I used to wonder how he used to do it, but- And then sometimes he'll appear, they'll say, "Okay, we're gonna get Roy Kumano to play in our concert. And we used to always go- At least, I always went. And he'd perform all by himself, you know, with all these different harmonica. Oh, it was- I used to think, "Gosh, that man sure knows how to play." But he organized this band, and it was all over the place wherever he got invitation. Yeah.

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: He was quite famous. His brother used to sing a lot, you know.

LU: Who was his brother?

EM: Harry. Harry Kumano. He was a- I guess he studied voice training because he used to sing opera and all these concerts he used sing, yeah.

LU: And what would the younger people do to get together? So, when you're in your teenage years, would you have dances, or-

EM: Well, they either have clubs at the *Bukkyokai*. You know, they have *jisshuseianenkai*, that means there's a older group, and then there's a younger group. And you could always join one of those club members. Now, I think they had different, CGIT [Canadian Girls in Training] and different clubs at the United Church. They had all these different clubs. They would form it, there'd be ball club. There'd be different, depends on where you want to join. But they're usually, Japanese people, eh? And then, like, if you're in baseball and they play against other people, the *hakujin* people, or whatever, they play against each other. And they'll say- Oh, for instance, the Asahi's been there for years and years, eh? From the younger one to the older one.

[01:20]

EM: And they play against the, say the *hakujin* people, and whoever wins or whatever. All the clubs were usually- But they're usually Japanese people, eh? Mm-hm. Yeah. They were that way because the discrimination, the fact that I am Japanese and I want to have, want to join this club, eh? It was. But in those days, you just- Unless you're in a club, you don't actually make a big outing, because individually you're not recognized too much, eh? Mm-hm. Yeah. It's really quite a difference today from the time we were growing up. You'd be surprised. But they say, "What did you think of the discrimination?" People couldn't study medicine. There was no doctors or anything, you know that? Until later on, by the time I was really growing up, we had a few doctors, which is very few. You couldn't study medicine, and there were a lot of other things you couldn't study. So, you can go to

college, but it depends on what you pick. You could graduate college with a degree here and there, but you don't get a job. You go looking for a job, and they say, "Sorry." And some of them, they come home and they need the money to live. They end up working in a sawmill or working fishing or doing something like that instead of getting a job according to what they have studied. But in those days, that's how it used to go. It must be terrible for people who are capable, you know. They study and they're capable of doing something, but they couldn't do it. And in that way- Another thing, to be a comf- You have to have a certain amount of money to, you know, just to go to study, isn't it? You have to work or you have to get that money somehow, right? And the parents, depending on what they're working, there's, as you say, there's, sawmill or doing something, a lot of them were fishing. And because fishing, there's good money in it while you're fishing. But I think many people had a hard time. And as I say, by the time my sister and I grew up, I guess we were on easier street, because I can't remember- I don't think I- we suffered so much at war time that we couldn't remember anything that ever happened that was so good while we were living in Vancouver. But after, when the war came, it was, oh my gosh, it was terrible. Imagine. And I thought to myself, "It's very degrading. Imagine, I have to scrub somebody's floor!" [chuckles] You know what I mean, eh? "However," I said, "It's a job. Nevermind anything else, it's a job."

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: So you have to do the best you can.

LU: Do you remember the day of Pearl Harbor, and do you remember where you were?

EM: I don't really remember, but- In fact, just the other day, I was looking at the TV and they said, "This is when Pearl Harbor was bombed." There was a picture. And I thought- In fact, I forgot already. And do you know my father's face when he heard that Pearl Harbor was bombed? I thought he was gonna faint. He just went green in the face when he heard that Pearl Harbor was bombed and Japan was at war. Now I can understand. Oh my gosh. I- We were all sitting in the kitchen, and I thought, "Gosh, dad's gonna pass out." He was- It just struck him. He just nodded. And I thought, I just said he was gonna fall, but I don't think he's the only one. All the nationals, the parents, they all must have felt terrible, you know? But- I'll tell you one thing. He went, went back to Japan 35 years after he came to Canada. I guess we were comfortable by then.

[01:25]

EM: And he took my mother, and they went home. There's no Tsuchiyas in Japan at all. They're all here. My parents went and they go to see Asahi. That's my mother's side, eh? And after 35 years, he went back, and he was gonna stay there. He says, "I'm retired now, so I'm going to go back to Japan and I'm going to stay there. And you children here in Canada could send my, whatever I need, and I'm going to retire in Hatta where I was born." But when he went back, my mother's people, her brothers were all in the armed forces, you see, because in Japan, when you're 18, you have to join. It doesn't matter who it is, as long as you're healthy, you have to join. Anyway, by that time, they're officers in the armed forces, and they said, "Nevermind, you're gonna stay with us." And he says, "It's all up to you." And I guess they must have known that there was going to be something, war or something. My mother brought my father back, "No, you can't, you don't just stay there. Come on, we're gonna go back to Canada, because the children are there and they'll look after us." So, she brought my father back, and two years after- No, not even two years, this Pearl Harbor happened. And I guess all the Japanese people- I don't think he's the only one. I think they all, I don't know what happened, but it was terrible. Because you see, us Canadian people, we're born in Canada, but we're all enemy aliens because we're Japanese, eh? So, when you think about it, going to school, you have few friends, but you never get personal with them. I never grew up being, "Oh, so-and-so, I'd die if anything happened to her." You know what I mean? You never got personal, because I wasn't allowed to bring *hakujin* people into the household unless there was something that had to, you know. We were very, very conservative in that way. You have to be, because there's a lot of- As you say, you don't know whether they mean something or whether they just say, "Oh, I think I'll do this for you." But you have to be very, very careful, you know. Very careful. And discrimination is like that. Wherever, there are certain places, we couldn't even go in to swim, because they said, "No, we don't allow Japanese people here."

LU: Really?

EM: Or there are places where they say, "No, we don't allow Japanese people here." It depends on where and how you go. It's surprising, you know? You never had, today you can go anywhere, isn't that right? But there are places you have to be- Say, there are exclusive places where maybe you have to be a, so-and-so, or you have to come from a certain background, right? But in those days, that's what it is.

Discrimination was something that went, "No, we don't want you here." And that was it. So, there are places, if you went swimming, for instance, there are beaches that you can go to. Then there are beaches that, "Oh, yeah, you can come if you want, but we're not too fussy about-," you know what I mean? Yes. In those days, Japanese

people were- It isn't that we're bad or anything. In fact, there's very few people that have any form of badness. And our business, our groceries, our clothing, everything was- You dealt in Japanese Town. Powell Street was the Japanese town, all in Vancouver, and our groceries, everything came from there, usually.

LU: Do you remember what stores you would go to in Powell Street?

EM: Yes, it was Furuya, they have a big store in Canada. Furuya, where if there was anything, cloth or anything, you know, clothing or anything, that's where I go. And you charge it, and it comes into dad's account, eh?

[01:30]

EM: Oh, yeah. You don't go shopping like you do, you know. If you- Oh, we, we used to go to Woodward's when they have- What do you call it, a 95 cents day. Because you get 95 cents, you can buy something. But in those days, I didn't have to go to a store and say, "Okay, I'm gonna buy that." And he'd put cash- It isn't that. I'd go to Furuya's, we'd put it on his account, and he pays so much a month or whatever it is. We never went to any restaurant. There was one place, Empress Restaurant, because we, I think my dad had something to do with it, and we used to go there to eat. That's about it. We weren't allowed to restaurants and places like that, nowhere. And everything was conducted between Japanese and Japanese. It's very surprising. If you have any outlet anywhere else, you know. Now, this friend that I have, her mother had a little grocery store. So, we, if there's anything we have to buy, we usually go there and just buy it. Our rice and sugar all come in, you know, large- [emphasize with hand movement] They are billed from Furuya's. They say, "Okay, I'm gonna be-" Mom would phone and say, "Furuya's I'm going be short of rice and sugar." And they'd deliver. And big- They'd come in those sacks, eh? We had everything to do with the fishing, because, you see- You know the fish roe, *suzuko*- I don't know if you know. Anyways, my people, you see, they get the egg roe off of the salmon. We have a contract with the cannery that all the egg roes that come out of the salmon, we buy. And our bo- Our people work in our saltery, and they salt it down into large boxes. And once they're shipped, or made into these boxes, they're shipped to Japan. And these, all these fish roe and salted salmon, they come in great big boxes. You know, we had to build those. See, those people that work for us have to build boxes and put all this ingredients in it, and pack it up. And then we gotta have our- We have to send it to Japan. And therefore, the armed forces, that was my father's, that's the biggest part of his job. And then we sell- We had what you call independent boats. They don't charter to the cannery. They work for us. What can-

What fish that they get, they sell to the cannery, and then whatever profits that is, is mine and the people that work for, right? So you see all this- But whatever that was made in our- The boats, or the people that worked for us at- That's what their job was, to make the boxes, fill it with *suzuko* and salt salmon, and they're shipped to Japan, you see. That was the biggest part. And when you think about it, I wasn't the only one. There was other people that were in the same line of business. And all those people, they lost everything, just like we did when the war came, you see? And my gosh, I thought we were just gonna starve, I guess. However, now that- Because of our business through the old country, we're not trusted. You know what I mean? Do you know, from the time I was little, I don't think there's, how many- [counts on fingers] I still remember their name, RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] officers. And the commissioner used to come and see my parents all the time. When you think about it- [laughing] I used to, I asked my father one day, "What happened?" And he explained to me, why? "Because you see our business is to Japan, and we are Japanese." And the RCMP, what you call 'em, well, they're Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and they're- You don't get people like that looking, coming to see you or look after you unless it's really something, eh?

[01:35]

EM: But, you see, with the fishing industry, and going to Japan, this and that, all this has to go through- And when the war came, they're not going to trust us, you see? You understand what I mean? Actually, during the war, we all went apple picking, because you see, the young people have gone to war, to the armed forces. There's nobody to work. We went to pick apples. The first season we came to Revelstoke, we found a job that asked people, anybody that can work, come and pick apples. This man that we worked for was an old Englishman. And he says- He used to come and see us every day. So, one day we asked him, "Why do you come every day? There's nothing for you to-" "You're not going to sabotage my farm, are you?" He was afraid that we were gonna do- "Why should we?" I said, "We need money to live, and you're making money, long as your apples sell." I couldn't understand that man, because I thought, why would he think that, when he himself, if we did something, he can't even eat? His apples are not gonna sell. I mean, we just ransacked them. But anyhow, I never forget that day, because- I guess the old fella's gone now, but he was a little afraid that something would happen, I guess, you know? Because they thought we wouldn't be trusted. But all those years- I guess, you know, when you think about it, Lisa, it's not the matter of- Well, it is a matter of trust, I guess. But gee,

when you think about it, you think discrimination and this and that, you go and you work for them, and they think they're, you're going to ransack their farm and that- But, you see, that feeling doesn't go away. Because they think at one time, when that war came, it was Japan that attacked Pearl Harbor, eh? But that was so that- They say, they're telling the American people, "Stop your war, or stop bringing all this, this armament against," you know? Because you see, by the time the war came, there was a lot of things that happened, I guess, before that war came. But I guess they never thought that little Japan would attack anybody so big, eh?

LU: Do you remember the name of the farmer who had the apple farm?

EM: Yes. Wisby. His name was an old Englishmen. And, you know, he was rather, I guess he was afraid that we'd, we'll do something- The men will do something. I know, well, we won't. And you see, we had to keep to ourselves. I mean, you don't associate with anybody, you're- All during the- I don't know about other people, but I remember all the friends, or anybody I went to school with, everything was nil. I never even associated with them. So that's why I have no friends. I don't know where all these people have gone now. It never really bothered me until later on. I thought to myself, you know, it would've been nice, but you never- The people all have a different feeling. When the war came, it was very tragic, I think, because we're brought up here in Canada, my gosh. And if we had to go back to Japan and live, I don't know how we'd live, because I met people that were back in Japan. They were people that went back to Japan, you know, when the war came. And they suffered, the Canadian, because they were brought up in Canada. They come back, and if you hear their stories, they- One fellow said to me, "Gosh, you don't know how glad I am to be back in Canada." And I thought to myself, you see, you think, "How many million people living in that country?" And to even get a job, I mean, you figure they're not gonna give a Canadian person a job. They said, "No, I gotta give this- You're not even born in Japan." They call you *gaijin*. They don't call you *nipponjin*. They call you *gaijin*. And it's because you're born here in Canada.

[01:40]

EM: And our ways- I mean, we'll adapt ourself to, you know, living that way, but they know that we're born in another country. But it- I don't think it would've been easy. Even now, I think if I go back to Japan and had to live with my mother's people, I don't know how I would do it. That's really quite true, you'd think, "Oh yeah, well, you manage." But it would be quite different, wouldn't it? From living here in Canada, wouldn't it? And now, being as old as I am, it's not easy to change. But many

people, I think, do go back to Japan, and the people in Japan changed. There must have changed since the war. They have to, don't they? What do you think?

LU: I think that they've probably changed.

EM: Yeah, I think so. I think a lot of them have a different outlook on life. And there's a lot of intermarriages now, isn't there? I hope that it will work out, because there will be times that there's gonna be a difference between the two, you know? But for me, I guess people in our generation that grew up through all the sufferings and that, I don't think you'll change that easily. It's not that easy to change, you know? It really isn't. And I'm thankful that I never had to, what you call, really work in my days, you know. My husband kept me well, and he didn't want me to go to work anywhere. And his people were in business. And so I always had something to do outside of the household chores, right? And I can't say that- We've had a very secluded life, but he joined certain clubs, and we had a very pleasant- I can't say that there was that much suffering. It's just that some people, you know, depending on your personality, you can't stay home as much as maybe I had, but I'm used to that. I've never had to look after myself till now, which is, I mean, my eighties, eh? And I thought to myself, "Well, you gotta be thankful for something." But I guess in the days that we grew up, and people that are ahead of us, older people, they must have- Gosh, they must have had some suffering somewhere. I really think so. I'm sure they must have, because it's like an insult, isn't it? In many ways. If you don't understand what the situation is. Today, the Japanese people, even now, I think there's a problem. I don't think that everybody has an easy time. So, you get up and you get a certain responsibility. That's a lot of challenge to take too, isn't it? I really think so. But people that are, are born to be able to do that, it's a good chance for them to do that, isn't it? Mm-hm.

LU: Your parents worked very hard to establish their business. And was there a name for their business, or was it just-

EM: No, it was just, my parents- Our boats were another thing. Our boats were named under the prefecture that my mother and dad came. They were Japanese. They were Japanese name. They wrote Hatta One, Hatta Two, Hatta Three, Hatta Four, one after another. And then we had what you call packer boats. They have to have these- They have to have what you call a seiner, that fishes, and they stay out in the fishing section all week. But they have what you call a packer boat that comes from the cannery to the boat to bring all the fish in. And we had- For every seiner, you have to have a packer boat. So, it must have ran, must have, I guess.

[01:45]

EM: You see, I was such a child and nobody's talked to me about business. And now, when I think about it, I wished I knew everything that went on, because at least then I could talk about it. But all I could say is, I lived a comfortable life because everybody worked for us. And all our boats- Today, I think of, my- When I see a boat out there, big seiner out there fishing, and I think, "Oh, yes, our boats have all gone." But at the wartime, I don't know how many, but they took one of our bigger boats for patrol duty, you know, so they probably changed it, you know, all different and that. But there was a certain colour, and certain way it was built, because they're named Hatta. Hatta is the prefecture where my people were born, and they used to call Hatta One, Hatta Two, Hatta Three, one after another, you see? It's hard to forget, you know? It's something that, now that I'm old, I think about those things. And I think, "Gosh, just think, if the war didn't come, gradually, my father and my mother would be really comfortable, and he could go back to Japan and settle himself there." But unfortunately, it just didn't turn out that way. But he's here in- I have a grandmother in here that's buried, and my parents are both buried here. I don't think I'd like to see them go back to Japan. You know you kind of think, "Oh, however he wanted to live, go back and be buried where he was born, I guess." And today, Japan is quite different now, isn't it? I'm sure it is quite different.

LU: And were all the boats confiscated?

EM: Hm?

LU: Were all the boats confiscated? Did you-

EM: Oh, they made a mess of them. You should have seen them. Gosh, some of- We used to, after fishing season ended in December, after the New Year's, I could remember going down- You know, in Japan, I don't know about you people, but we used to have what you call the *osonae mochi*. You know, the *omochi* you make and the orange that sits on it. And you put *matsunoki*, the tree, and every boat we went out to- When the boats are all- We go to every boat and we put the *osonae mochi* with the orange and the *matsunoki* and *oinori*, and we used to say, "Gosh, *Oshogatsu*," this is something that's really something. I think, when you think about it, or- We used to have, what do you call those- *Mochitsuki*, have you ever seen the *mochitsuki*? We used to have what you'd call a *usu*, and all these people, whoever wanted to that work for us, come and they make the *omochi*. And that's the month of December, you make the *omochi*, and you- All your friends, you give each *omochi*. And then from the year of December, all till about March, we have this *omochi* in our household. I never forget that either. And I think all this used to- Now, it all comes down here in the cultural center. You have *omochitsuki*, everything here, now. That's

what we used to do on our own. It's a tradition, really, isn't it? And then when my mother and dad went back to Japan, oh, you should have seen them. They were, they went first class. And all the people that worked for us, they were down on the port there. And they were saying- You see, it was so successful that my father was able to go back like that. And they used to say, "*Banzai*," you know, "*Banzai!*" That whole port, I guess they must all be standing there saying "*Banzai Tsuchiya banzai*." And he had the commissioner, Royal- RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] Commissioner Henry, he was the commissioner of the RCMP at that time. He was standing next to my dad, and right next to my father was Corporal Davidson.

[01:50]

EM: I'll never forget it, Mr. Davidson, he was standing beside my father- Or, my mother, and they went back to Japan that year, and they spent three or four months there, and he was gonna stay there. But my mother said, "No, you're not staying. We're going to go back." I think she knew, because just a few years after that, the war came, eh? And I guess in, Asahina[?] Shohei signs[?] I think he's still alive- This tsunami, you know, this terrible thing that happened to Japan? Because they talk to you about them, you still feel a certain- You know, you say- "Oh, well, I don't know. It isn't that." Somehow you feel that, don't you? And I thought, I'm glad that they're safe, but gee, they're all going to have, it's- I don't know how long it's gonna take them to get back to what they are. Because look at Toyota and Sony, they all closed up. Those people are all out of work. You know, it's really quite a crisis, isn't it?

LU: Mm-hm. You mentioned before that you remember some of the other RCMP names and commissioners.

EM: Oh, yes. There's Commissioner Henry. And we went to Ver- We had to report into the commissioner to the RCMP, everything. There was do- I think Inspector Hill in New Denver. There was Cunningham, Hunter, in Vernon that we used to, report into. And we had the Commissioner Henry, every now and then, he'd visit us in Vancouver. All those people, I haven't forgotten their name, when you think about it, you know. And they're- Actually, I guessed this. I mean, they're looking after, maybe because they think we're going to do something, [laughing] or we're not trusted or anything, because we had contact through Japan. I guess, eh? It makes a difference, eh? They, I mean, they have to look after all those things. I often think that Mr. Com- The Commissioner Henry, he was educated in Japan, and he speaks the most beautiful Japanese. I mean, you can't put anything against him. He went to Japan and he studied in Tokyo, Japan, you see? And when he spoke to my father, he

didn't speak English. He just, "*Sou desu ne, Tsuchiya-san.*" He used to say, "*Tsuchiya-san.*" I used to think, "Gee, that man, he must respect my dad." But it's true. I mean, it's, "*Sou desu ne, Tsuchiya-san.*" He spoke beautiful Japanese. And I often think- I was, what, 18? Yeah. And in Vernon, we reported into Cunningham and Hunter, and we went to visit people in ghost town, Kaslo and that. And there was Inspector Hill, that we had to- Go and visit Inspector Hill, who was in charge of all the camps. And in Kaslow, who did we see? Oh, there was Mr. Loughhead at the commissioner office, and all these people. We did have contact through the staff, let's say, but it was not- Most necessary that we report in all this. It was really quite- You know, you think, "What did we do, that-" But it's all in the books that, because we're Japanese, I guess, when you, when the war came, that was it. Everything. And during all the years that we were in Vancouver, when the war came, "Lights shut off, nine o'clock; nobody outside the house, nine o'clock; if you do it, we'll arrest you and you'll go to the police station." No radio, nothing that we- Everything was taken away, and our boats was a mess. I mean, I guess some people, they just don't like you. So they come and mess everything up. You know, where the boats were tied. Some of them were- Gosh, I used to think, why do people even let them? But you can't do anything. They just come when nobody's around and do whatever they feel like it, eh? And they bust everything, or didn't do anything.

[01:55]

EM: But the larger boats, I don't know which one, but my father, after we were in Revelstoke, he was saying, "Oh, they took the larger boats for patrol duty, so they'll be changed. I guess they'll take the Hatta name off." And I said, "Oh, isn't that a shame?" I said. But when I see any place where the ships are going, I often- Isn't it funny? You still think about all those, you know, how we used to go and picnic with friends, and then they all take off. We used to watch each boat leave, you know? And then they don't come back till Christmas. And they all go to work, and you don't appreciate anything until now. I really appreciate- And all the people that work for us, I mean, a lot of them, they're all dead now. And gosh, when I think about it, I'm the only one left. It's a sad story, you know? [laughing] But that's how we survived. And after I came to Toronto- In fact, I've always been in the household more than anything, but I worked a little bit with my husband's people in business. They were in business. And fortunately, their business somehow turned out quite well for them. So, we didn't- But he worked just like anybody else, all the time. He didn't have too much. I think he somehow knew how to get along with people. He joined

the ball club. We went to different places because of his ball club, and he seemed to make friends, you know? But now, I often think- He never said very much, but I'm sure he must have felt, a lot of times, I guess he must have felt kind of sad. But I don't know about what other people- They must have felt just the same as I do, when the war came. I really do, because, well, being Japanese, that was it. It doesn't matter where you're born or how you are or this and that. Everybody, everything is taken away. And that's it for you. If you starve, that's too bad for you. It's your own fault, you know, and that? But I was fortunate, regardless. I just say, just think scrubbing floors and doing all that work. And my mother, she had a business of her own too, you know? So, when you think about it, I think of the ladies that used to work for us, but I guess they're all gone too. Just imagine getting five cents per bowl, peeling shrimps, you know? And those ladies used to come because they need that money, right? We used to weigh it to see, and I used to think, "Gosh." But they worked. And our shrimps were out in Sterling number one, Sterling number two- All those people sold our- We had a freezer where they kept all the seafood. There was always fish and everything there. You know, the tuna, for instance. You'd get great big tuna. Not just chunks, but chunks of tuna. All those things, you know, it's surprising. I guess a lot of people wouldn't see that unless they're in that type of business. But, gosh, when I think about it, and here, my father is quietly buried in Revelstoke. And I used to think, "Gosh, I don't know how he did it, but he did, somehow."

LU: Mm-hm. [unclear]

EM: Yeah. I'm sure a lot of people must have- other people that you have taken your- They must had all kinds of stories for you too, eh?

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: A lot of people suffered, you know? When you think about it. In Revelstoke, it wasn't too bad. Everybody was friendly. You know, you don't get personal or anything, but they're friendly. And whatever business is conducted, as you say, it's all business. You go to certain store to get your groceries, and that's about it.

[02:00]

EM: And I go back, when was it? I was back to Revelstoke. But all the people that I kind of knew, they've all passed away, 'cause they're much older than we were. My husband was quite- I don't know how he did it, but he always did. He belonged to the ball club. They won the championship, and after that, he quit. Then we came out here to Toronto.

LU: Before we talk about that, you wanna take a break for a moment?

EM: Mm-hm.

LU: Okay. I'm gonna stop this one here-

[Camera cuts out at 02:00:29]

LU: And here, go. So, do you remember the T. Maikawa store in Powell Street?

EM: Mm-hm.

LU: And did you ever shop there?

EM: I think I did a few times. I forget what I bought, but anyways- Who do you call- Pat Adachi used to work there.

LU: That's right.

EM: And Rose Sato used to work there. And I remember going there for something. I think I must have bought something. I wasn't there for just anything. They had quite a large store on Powell Street. One of the largest, I would say. Mm-hm.

LU: Do you remember what it would look like inside?

EM: Yes. I kind of- Well, I wouldn't say I remember everything, but as you enter the store, he had- Well, I think the men's section was this side and the women's section that- [emphasize with hand movement] In fact, it was quite a large store for- It was built very recently, you know, in those days. And he had quite a few people working there. I remember seeing Pat there and seeing Rose, and there was quite a few other people. I think they had an office upstairs. That's about all I can remember. And he- Oh, Amichi Ashikawa used to work in the men's department. That's right. Mr. Ashikawa used to work in the men's department. And it was built very much like all these big stores, you know, like Woodward's and that, sectioned off. And then the men worked in certain areas, and the ladies worked in certain areas, and they had a large entrance going through. And you can go two other entrances. [emphasize with hand movement] I think that's about all I could remember, yeah.

LU: Mm-hm. And you mentioned that- Or, where did your parents learn how to speak English? Or were they very fluent?

EM: My father went to a school after he came from Japan. What do you call these? Him and his friend, and a few others, they used to have a teacher come out, I think once a week or once in a couple of days. And he went to study English. In fact, I still have his letters that he wrote me, you know, and- H. Tsuchiya. He writes a pretty good hand. My gosh, he learned to write his name, and he spoke- I mean, it wouldn't be perfect, but he spoke English language when he had to. My mother was the same. She learned through dad, I guess, in a way. But they used to say, "When your mother When I phone you, Eleanor," they'd say, "And your mother says hello, she sounds

just like we do.” And I said, “Is that right?” Yeah, my mother was, I think it's the way she speaks. She always spoke very clearly, you know. But that's how dad learned. He went to school for, oh, he said for a long time. And he learned to sign his name, speak a certain amount of English. So, when we had any company, he tries to speak in our language, because he says, “That's good practice for me, you know?”

LU: Mm-hm. And so when you would communicate with your parents, would it be mostly in Japanese?

EM: Oh, we both, both Japanese and English. But usually we speak Japanese, eh? Yeah. Because if we don't speak properly, my father and mother would say, “What kind of language is that?” You know? Oh, yeah. It was, he was quite fussy about that, because you shouldn't- “Don't talk like that,” or “Don't say this,” and that. He was very particular. Yeah.

LU: And did you go to Japanese language school?

EM: Mm-hm. We went to the Japanese language school.

LU: The one in Vancouver, or?

[02:05]

EM: Yes. The one that, the *Go-Gakko* where all the people used to go, right? Yeah. Mm-hm.

LU: And what grades did you go to?

EM: You go up to grade eight, that's the finish line. And after that, if you want to go, what you call, *koto-ka*, that means high school, you know? We finished eight, yeah. Mm-hm. But by the time you finish, you can speak just about anything, you know? The only thing when you go to the- Well, the war came and that took us all out, you see? Because by the time you finish grade eight, you're about 17, 18, it's like high school, really. And of course, we all have to leave, right? And so whatever Japanese that you acquire after that is through your own parents. And fortunately, my father was, I would say he was more or less an educated type of person. And he used to read a lot of English books, you know, to keep his language so that, he said that way he would keep learning and learning, eh? And mother was- Well, we had a certain way of talking. I mean, you couldn't just speak any old way. They would contradict you most of the time, because they don't want you to go outside and not be able to talk properly, I suppose. Yeah. And then depending on the people that you associate with, it makes a big difference, doesn't it? Yes. And we had, fortunately- I remember one year, from Japan, you know the consul general, he came from our part of the country. And in many ways, we were invited there. And when you go there, I mean,

they don't just speak just any way, you know. They do speak properly, don't they? And the people that we associated with, the people that always saw every day or came to, they always spoke properly to us so that we would learn how to speak. They never spoke colloquially or anything. They would speak properly so that we would learn that way, you know? That way I'm very fortunate in that way. Very, very, very fortunate. Yeah. Cause there's certain way people talk the Japanese language, because they come from certain *ken* they have a certain way of talking, eh? And we never spoke that way at all. The people never spoke that way to us at all. Makes a difference, you know?

LU: Mm-hm. Did you enjoy going to Japanese language school?

EM: Well, we used to think it was- When we were going, we'd think, "Oh, yeah, we have to go to Japanese school." [frowning] But we didn't really think too much of it because we just figured it's something that's necessary and we have to go. That's all there is to it. And when you think about it, I often wish, I wish I was able to go to *koto-ka*, you'd learn a little different, you know? But speaking, Japanese speaking is- The reason why we speak Japanese at home is so that our parents- I mean, they figured that was the best way for us to keep learning properly. [emphasize with hand movement] Mm-hm. It's not that easy, I don't think. But that's the way, how we were brought up. In those days, you had to speak Japanese. How are you gonna communicate, right?

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: You just have to, you know. If you go to the store, it's a Japanese store, and our conducting our groceries or anything is always a Japanese company, isn't it?

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: And then whatever you do, you go to Buddhist church or you go to the United Church, you go to the Anglican- It doesn't matter where, it's spoken Japanese too. You have to really know at least the basic Japanese, eh?

LU: I Was religion always a big part of your family?

EM: Well, *Bukkyo*, everybody went to-

[02:10]

EM: There was another Japanese religion, they called it *Nichiren Shu*. My sister went there, and I was sent to the Buddhist church. And I should say, I went to Sunday. Well, on Sundays, just like anything else, there's a Sunday school, you know. The only thing, if you go to a Buddhist church or your own church, a certain amount is conducted in Japanese, eh? So, you do learn- I guess you speak more Japanese than

anything. And then you learn the religion, another thing. And it's strange, you know, you never get away from it. So today, you go to church or you go, say you go to the United Church or whatever. But in many ways, your thoughts still go back to what you were taught when you were quite young, eh? And I still think, we're people, what you call *Shinto*, that is the emperor's belief, the *Shinto* religion. It is considered in the Buddhist church, but it's not Buddha, it's- *Shinto* is his own. They worship their ancestors, eh? And it's the *Shinto* shrine, but there is no *Shinto* shrine anywhere. Only in Japan, you see? Cause it's the emperor's religion. And here it would be *Bukkyo*, I guess that would be about the closest. But you see, being Japanese and knowing- *Nichiren Shu* is another thing, but they're all saints from the church. So, I know my sister was sent to this other church, and I was sent to the Buddhist church. But your learning is, in some ways it's different, but actually it's religion, isn't it? Mm-hm. But we did, we were sent on Sundays. I was, I always went to Sunday school. Yeah.

LU: And why were you sent to separate churches?

EM: The reason being, I think my mother, my parents, I think they wanted to know what the other religion was because we're not, we haven't got *Shinto* shrine here. It's only in Japan, eh? And the reason why she- I don't know why she went to *Nichiren Shu*, but she got, her friends used to go, another thing. And another thing is, in Buddha, it's Buddha that you worship, eh? And the learning is, I would say the learning is not that different. But Buddhist church was a bigger community there that many of them left. And, you know, it depends on where you come from, from Japan, that go to the Buddhist church. And a lot of the members, the large group of Japanese people that lived here were Buddhist people, eh? The reason why I was sent there is because, as you say, to relate- To worship, I mean, to study religion. However, now it seems strange. I have a sister-in-law that married my brother, and she's a real Christian. In fact, there's a Japanese United Church here in Hamilton. And I don't think my brother became a member, but she herself is a real Christian. And when she, well, she's passed away now, but I guess that's another thing. We did go to the Buddhist church, but that's about the closest religion that actually happened in our family, eh?

LU: Mm-hm. And what about the holidays? Did you only celebrate New Year's? Or did you celebrate birthdays, or Christmas?

EM: Oh, at New Year's.

[02:15]

EM: Well, there is a day when- My mother didn't stress too much on certain holidays, and that. It's just New Year's is quite- Well, it is important after all, the starting of a new year, isn't it? And there's- when your people pass away, for instance, they remember what day you passed. And if you're very sacred and, as you would say, person that think that day is very important, you will celebrate, going to church or else make sure there's a prayer or whatever. That is happened, isn't it? And our people, I guess my people are not- Well, they were inside there. [tapping heart] They feel the same, but they don't stress that point like some people would do. That's the only thing, yeah. But every morning I could remember, there's my grandfather, my grandmother's picture, and she always had the *senko* and whatever there. And if there's any goodies or if there's any prayer, well, we, you know, just- [making prayer gesture] That's about it. Yeah.

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: But it was, there was something that we always made sure that- You know, if you go by there, make sure that you put your hands, you know that- [making prayer gesture] That's about it in our family. Yeah.

LU: What about Girls' Day or Boys' Day? Did you ever celebrate those?

EM: Yes, there was- I think there was a Boys' Day and Girls' Day, wasn't there? Yeah. Oh, they have- She'd make something different. Something that the boys like, or Girls' Day, it's *Ohina-sama*. Do you remember the *Ohina-sama*? Oh, you don't. The- in fact, March is boys' *Ohina*, and May is the girls. And they have beautiful dolls that- In fact, some people probably have a beautiful set of dolls, which is a celebrity for the girls. And then for the boys, it's the same. They have Japanese dolls, and they have all these different goodies that the family will make and have quite a, celebrate quite a day. The month of May and month of March is really something, you know. We used to do that. And some people, they were friends of my dad's, and they'd say, "Oh yes, *Ohina-san*, here, I'll give you something."

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: And he'll go and buy a little doll, Japanese doll, and give it to us. In fact, I was just wondering if my sister still has it. They're tiny little dolls that you could dress and play with. They used to give that to us. And I used to think- That's right. *Ohina-san*. I guess they don't do that so much. Don't they do it here, the Japanese days, and-? They must have a set of dolls here. I bet it's really nice, eh?

LU: They do.

EM: In fact, the last while I thought to myself, "Gee, I sure would like to go down to the Centre and see those Japanese dolls and that." Things like that, you know, we grew up with all that. And you don't forget, eh? Uh-huh. Yeah, you're right.

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: Yeah, they do.

LU: What about birthdays? Did you ever celebrate birthdays, or Christmas?

EM: Oh yes. *Tanjoubi*. But some people, they like to really celebrate it, but it's just amongst us. And if anybody wants to give us something, fine. If not, we don't really look for anything. But they'll say now, "Oh yes, it's your *tanjoubi*." Yeah, we'll have something different to eat, or have somebody in, or somebody. Yeah.

LU: Mm-hm. And what about Christmas?

EM: Christmas? Christmas is the same. If there's anybody that wants to give us- Oh yes, at Christmas we always got something new to wear, because in *Oshogatsu*, the first day of a New Year's, you wear nice clothes, and Christmas is the same. And you'll have- If you want to get chocolate or anything, everybody always had something for us. And the tree was always up. The tree was always up.

[02:20]

EM: We always had a tree. The tree was up to the ceiling. Great big tree, you know? And someone al- We always had some parcel, some parcel from somebody or the people that work with us, or- I would say it was quite nice, yeah. When you think about it, yeah. You know, you don't get anything great and all that, but you get a small doll, or something that, it's really something is when you're little, aren't you? But Christmas, fine, and we always had a Christmas dinner. And *Oshogatsu*, mother would make all kinds of goodies. And everybody- At *Oshogatsu*, the girls have to stay home, because if people come to visit you on the first day of January, you have to serve them all these *osushi* and all this that's made at the house. But they used to say, it's the menfolks that go and wish everybody Happy New Year, Happy New Year, they go and visit. But the girls usually stay home because they have to serve the- Whoever comes to see us, eh?. And we used to always wear something new all the time at Christmas and New Year's. I remember that. Yeah. Mm-hm.

LU: Mm-hm. So, when did it change for New Year's? When, you know, the men used to go from house to house and say thanks, and now it's just more of an intermediate family gathering, isn't it?

EM: When the war- Because we weren't allowed to go anywhere. But till then, on New Year's Day, you always had visitors and what you call *Kampai*, you know? You always have a little drink from whoever comes, wish them well. [emphasize with hand movement] And we usually have to stay home, as you say, because we have to serve people that come. But they all used to take a visit on whoever your friends or

wherever you go and visit them and wish them a Happy New Year, you're right. Yeah. But that stopped when the war came because we couldn't go to see anybody, you see? Mm-hm.

LU: Oh, wow. And where did you meet your husband?

EM: I met him a few times in Vancouver when I was- Well say there was, what you call it, Asahi Dance. I think that's where I met him for the first time. The next time I saw him playing basketball at the United Church. But I didn't meet him, you know? I just used to see, but I didn't really meet him till Revelstoke when we all had to evacuate. In fact, I met him at a coffee shop. I think Haruko, his sister and I- You see, she used to have a domestic job, and I had a domestic job. And at night, after, when free, we used to go out together and we'd go to this- There used to be a coffee shop, Sally Ann Coffee Shop, and two of us went there. And who comes around? Her brother came, I guess he came to see where Haruko was. That's when I first met him. That's until- I didn't meet him until Revelstoke, what you mean. I knew of Mike Maruno because everybody used to say, "Oh yeah, they'll play Asahi baseball, they're all members." But I didn't know too much about Asahi's until I met Mike, because then I found out he was one of the members. We weren't allowed to associate with ball players. [giggling]

LU: Why Not?

EM: Because we were too young. Yeah. That's why.

LU: How much older was he?

EM: He's five years older than I am. Yeah.

LU: And did you ever have a chance to go watch any of their baseball games?

EM: Couple of times in Vancouver, one of my friends used to be quite interested in watching ball games. And that's, I remember coming home from, I forget what it was. She says, "Hey, let's watch the ball game on Powell Street." I said, "Ball game?" "Yeah, the Asahi ball game. Don't you know?" I said, "Okay," I said, "Let's go and see." So, I think my friend and I sat in the, one of the chairs, and we watched the ball game. But I didn't know Mike was playing in that, because I- All those people are much, much older than I am, eh? And that was it.

[02:25]

EM: But I never knew- I think they used to play at Con Jones Park. It was a- Professional ball players, eh? They used to play all these different ball teams. I never used to go to any of those. In fact, I never used to see ball games until I came to Revelstoke because Mike was in the ball team and, the Spikes there. Yeah.

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: And then gradually you kind of get interested, you know? When he joins the ball club and then the ball club travels from here and there to play with other ball clubs. And after they won the championship, he decided he was gonna quit. But that was just before we came here to Toronto. Yeah.

LU: Mm-hm. So, when the war started, I guess the Asahi baseball team players were all divided up amongst-

EM: Oh, they were, because I guess they must have all been separated from different places that people moved to. You're right. And it's not till here that they had what you call a Asahi reunion. And we came here for the reunion because, well, they wanted the family. And I think a lot of people that have moved away from other places came because of the reunion, you know? In fact, they have a Asahi here, don't they?

LU: A reunion every now and then, yeah.

EM: They have the Asahi ball- I guess there's a picture and all this is exhibited here, isn't it? Yeah. It was, in those days- Now that I know, it was really something to be a Asahi ball player, because Asahi is Japan, eh? And Mike was, he was just 15, he said, when he joined this club, and I think he said, "My father wasn't too keen on it, but I did it because it was good advertisement," because he worked for Mr. Matsuyama in the Union Fish Company, in business. And he thought it would be a good business, I guess, associate. But he was just a young, young person because all the rest of the members were much, much older, he was saying. But my gosh, he's been playing ball for a long, long time. And then here in Toronto, this had, he was in this West York ball team. Him, and I don't know if you heard of him, McCoy Mitsui. Anyway, the two of them formed Western Ball Club, and they had ball club here in Toronto. And after they finished the championship, Mike quit that too. But he was always interested in baseball. It was one of his- Not just a hobby, he liked baseball sports, I guess, you know?

LU: And he played in Revelstoke?

EM: Yes. He was in the Revelstoke Spikes. He was in the team there. And in fact, he didn't seem to have any trouble associating with anybody. He was really quite, I guess that's maybe the business type of people. He is, eh? And he joined when he- In fact, it was quite early in his years. Soon after he moved to Revelstoke, he joined the club, and he played for that club for quite a while. And when the championship was made, then he said, "Okay, I quit." So that was just before we came here in Toronto. But here, he, they made another West York Club where him and Coy and the Japanese boys. And they, I think they did win their championship too. I remember

every Sunday was practice time, and all the games I used to follow up and we have to watch the game. And my, it's a busy, baseball is busy. It's surprising, isn't it?

LU: Mm-hm. So, in Revelstoke, the club was already formed? He, Mike didn't [unclear]?

EM: Yes. They always had a sort of a, Spikes are always a club that- I guess they played against each other, just like anybody else, eh? And I was surprised when he joined. But anyways, they took him in, and he seemed to get along with the fellows, and all this didn't seem to bother them at all.

[02:30]

EM: People in the interior- I was quite surprised. Their ways of feeling were quite friendly, eh? Yeah. And they got a job depending, too. And I thought to myself, I guess when you think about it, they don't get too personal, but they're very friendly. Yeah.

LU: And after the Western ball club in Toronto, did he play anywhere else, or just with friends and family?

EM: Oh, you mean here in Toronto?

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: No. But you know, before- Years ago, I was just mentioning to my daughter, because of the ball club. His picture's all over. He's in Seattle, he's in Tacoma, he's all these places. I said, "Gee, when you think about it, there must be pictures of Asahi ball team all over the place where they went," you know? And I didn't know anything about Asahi until I met Mike, because as you say, we, I didn't get to contact through any type of real sports. But I did see him at playing basketball with- the Japanese businessmen used to sponsor different clubs. And I remember him playing basketball with another team. And that's about it, I guess. Yeah.

LU: What was the name of the basketball team? Do you remember?

EM: Maikawa, I think. That's the, you know the store? Yeah, Maikawa. Yeah.

LU: Mm-hm. And what position did he play for baseball?

EM: I think he played several. They put him on different, different- I don't know which, but anyways, he was saying he played several. They pitched, he played third base, he played first base, I guess. Switched them around here and there. Try, I guess, which would be the best, you know.

MS: I think short stop was- [unclear]

EM: But he was good for, he was good for stealing bases. [chuckling]

LU: [chuckling] And short stop?

EM: You're supposed to steal bases, you know.

LU: [chuckling] Did he ever mention what his favorite position was?

EM: Never mentioned. No. He just said, "Oh, I might as well go play ball." But he must have maybe enjoyed the company, or the type of- When you think about it, I used to think, "Oh, another ball game," you know, but I used to go with him every ball game. You have to go with him, and you sit there and you, eventually you get to know what the ball game's all about, you know? But he was very fond of going out to the ball game. I, even when she came, [pointing to her right off-camera] I remember. And she, I'm sure she's involved, playing around here and there. But I used to think, "Gosh, we have to follow dad to the ball game." [laughing] Yeah.

LU: Now, I remember mention- Or, somebody mentioned to me before, that after the ball game, the Asahi baseball players would go to the bathhouses.

EM: Oh, you mean after the ballgame? That's right. They go to- In Vancouver, that's where you say, right after the ball game, we all go to the bathhouse. I don't know about here. We used to come home. [laughs] There was no bathhouse here. But in Vancouver, yeah, he used to say that. "After the ball game, you know what we do, El?" he'd say, "We all go to the bathhouse and relax and take our bath." And I said, "Oh, that's what you do." Yeah.

LU: Do you remember the bathhouses in Vancouver? Did you ever go?

EM: There was a few, because that's where we used to go as a family. Because, you see, our home- We didn't have what you call- Unless you build one, you know, especially the Japanese type of bathhouse, the real Japanese type. And that's what the parents, they really enjoy their bath, eh? So once a week- No, once a week, maybe, maybe two, three times a week, depending on how the weather is, we all go to the bathhouse as a family, you know? But you have to go early because a lot of other people come too, you know? [laughing] And it's really something. And that's it, going to a bathhouse. But that's true.

[02:35]

EM: You gradually get used to the idea that you're in a bath with a lot of other people, you know? But us, after we got to school- You see, in- Going to Japanese school, it's between four o'clock till six. And after six o'clock we'll go to the bathhouse before we come home, because we're closer from the school to the bathhouse. But as we get older, we can go there anytime, as long as your parents permit it, eh? So, you'd go often there, like, friends say, "Oh, my friend, hey, let's go

to the bathhouse. I'll meet you there." And then you'd go to the bathhouse and have a nice bath and then come home. But there was one, two- There's three bathhouses on Powell Street. They're commercial bath houses. And a lot of people would go, because they don't have a, what you call a Japanese bath in many of the homes there. I mean, you have to build one, eh? Yeah.

LU: Mm-hm. And-

EM: That's a good place to meet each other. [laughs]

LU: [laughs] The one that was closest to your house that you and your family would go to-

EM: Oh, we used to have to go all the way to Powell Street. There was no one close to ours, cause we lived on Union Street. That's way, way up on the east end.

LU: Mm.

EM: Yeah. We used to go- You have to- Well, we usually drive school. My brother and them will go to the Japanese section and we'll go to the women's section, you see?

LU: Yeah. And what, was there a specific name for this bathhouse?

EM: Mm-hm. There was Matsuno-yu, Kotobuki-yu, and there was another one, I think. There's three anyways. And Matsuno bathhouse, it was the largest. They used to have big, big bathhouses, and the- Quite a few, there was men's section and the women's section. And in fact, we knew the person who owned it. You know Paul Asada? [looks off camera]

MS: Mm-hm.

EM: [Nods] His people owned it, you know?

MS: Mm.

EM: He was, his mo- father and mother's bathroom was one of the largest. And he, I think he was quite popular too. But he- they used to call him- Well, he used to- "Bathhouse something," they used to, they used to have a name for him. But that's who we used to go and see, mostly. He lived- We had a archery store, you know, [miming drawing a bow] in Vancouver, and Matsuno-yu was right next door to it. So, when we go to visit the Hakakus[?] we always go to the, to the bathhouse before we come out. Yeah.

LU: Mmm.

EM: Yeah. But, uh, it's very seldom when we went down there. But we used to go and visit the Hakakus cause they had what you call the archery shop, where everybody comes and shoot archery. [miming shooting a bow]

LU: [laughs]

EM: Yeah.

LU: Powell Street sounds like it was a very exciting place at that time.

EM: Well, Powell Street would be, because that's where all the businesspeople were. The restaurants, the bathhouses, the, I would say, grocery store that has especially Japanese goods, like dolls or anything that comes from Japan, it's all on Powell Street, eh? So, if you want to shop, where do you go? You go down to Powell Street. Mm-hm. And then certain time of the week, they're open at nights, so you go down. Everything is in that section, Powell Street. Your florists, your restaurants, your groceries. And there's people like Maikawa's, and there's a fish store, whatever. Everything is in Powell Street. [nods] Yeah.

LU: Oh, wow. [giggles]

EM: It's a business di- Furuya, everything. Yeah.

LU: Mm-hm. Yeah, somebody was mentioning before that there was a store, I think maybe Sukiyaki's?

EM: Mm-hm. Yeah. There-

LU: And there was a gambling parlour behind it?

EM: Yeah, there was a gambling parlour.

LU: Do you remember that?

EM: Well, I wouldn't know what the gambling looked like, but I do know that there was, because I guess the older people talk about it, eh? Yeah. But as a child, I wouldn't know because they wouldn't take me there. [laughing]

[02:40]

EM: Yeah. And then there's- Where was it? I think there was- Powell Street is a busy day all the time. And then just a block down is our school, our Japanese school. I think it was located in a terrible place. However, I guess that's the only place they could build us, build a school, maybe. It's still there. People are still going there now. And people that are not just Japanese, but you know, English people learning. In fact, we'd be learning Japanese from someone else. Even here. I guess there must be a Japanese school here in, uh-

LU: There is one in Toronto.

EM: Yeah. That's what I thought. Yeah.

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: Makes a difference, I guess. I guess it depends on who, who it is that wants to come to learn the Japanese language, eh?

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: Do you go to it? No, no?

LU: No, I think a-

EM: A lot of- a lot of the younger people don't go to the school, you know?

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: But in those days, we had to, because we can't communicate with the older people. They, you know, we had to really learn, or not speak Japanese at all, right? Yeah. And another thing is, you're amongst your own so much that you have to learn. Say you go to church, and it's not everybody that speaks English. Our minister doesn't, and all this, you have to know all that. Mm-hm.

LU: And when did you get married?

EM: [turning to TS] Hey, what year would it be?

LU: [giggles]

EM: I was 21. And I'm 80, over 80 now. 21.

MS: That would've been 1945.

EM: Yeah. 1945, yeah.

LU: And was it in Revelstoke?

EM: Mm-hm. It was just a ordinary- There was no organ, nothing. It was just, we- Well, we had a reverend, and my father took me up the aisle. We did get married in church, though. Reverend Seber, he- I guess he is dead, or he is gone somewhere. And there was my- my sister'd be the bridesmaid, and my brother became the best man. And just, yeah, just the four of us.

We got married, and then Auntie Kimi- Mrs. Tabayashi [?]she gave us a little reception, and that was it. And we couldn't afford a honeymoon of any kind, [laughing] so, what did we do? We didn't do anything. We just stayed home. And that was it.

LU: And did Mike have a big family, or?

EM: Well, he had his three sisters and one brother. And they're all- Well, they're passed away, but they were all here, because his brother started a business here in Lansing with this-

LU: In Toronto, you mean?

EM: Suburban- Yeah. And they were, they were fortunate in a way. They- It was successful, and everybody made a living on it. And they retired soon after- I mean, when the time came. But his- They're all passed away. There's no one there, eh, really? [looks off camera]

MS: Auntie Haruko is still-

EM: Huh?

MS: Auntie Haruko is still alive.

EM: Oh, it's only, Auntie Haruko. But her husband worked, and Auntie Haruko was a bookkeeper at Kittenware,[?] yeah. It was- they have a- In fact, it's really quite- It's

an English company. They sell their clothes at Hudson Bay and certain goods stores, you know? The English people. And her husband, I think he worked at the steel company, yeah.

LU: Mmm.

EM: That's about it. But Mike was- He was a carpenter. He'd rather work- He says it's healthier to be a carpenter than sit in the office somewhere and do books, you know? But he was educated in the commerce school. But he says, "I think it's a healthier life." I said, "Well, if you can get a job that way." [chuckles] He managed to get a job, so that was it. Yeah.

LU: And did he grow up in Vancouver as well?

EM: Oh, yes. He grew up in- In fact, a block down from Powell Street. His father was a businessman, but-

[02:45]

EM: What happened was he was a manager of this Union Fish Company, he worked for someone else. And that's how he grew up. He said, "That's why I went to commerce and [unclear]." My two sisters, I- Three of them and the father worked for the same person in Union Fish. Mm-hm. But he said, "I didn't like to sit in the office." So, he used to be the driver, you know, to delivery, and take orders, and he used to get- go outside. He said it's healthier than staying in the office or something. And that's what he did. I didn't know him then. So, I guess that's what happened. And then soon after that- I didn't meet him till I was in Revelstoke anyways. Yeah.

LU: Did he say why he chose to go to Revelstoke instead of going somewhere else?

EM: Actually, he was like anybody else. He had no place to go, and his brother-in-law, Mr. Tabayashi, that's- His sister's married to Mr. Tabayashi. He was like, all our sisters, they're married to people that are born in Japan. They have to leave, you see. So, they left on the car too, and they were driving around looking for a place. They came into Revelstoke just like we did. And they thought, "Oh, might as well stay here. They can accept us." Then soon after the- he got a place to stay, he wrote to Vancouver, told Mike, "Get on the train and come straight to Revelstoke, because we got a place to stay." So that's how Mike ended up in Revelstoke. He didn't know where he was going. He says, "Gee," he says, "I didn't know where I was going. I was just sitting in my room wondering where I was gonna go, hoping that, that my sister or somebody find a place," and this is what, this is what happened. And they told him to come right away because we got a place to stay. And this is how he ended up in Revelstoke. Yeah.

LU: Oh, wow. And who decided to go to Toronto?

EM: Here? Well, his big brother invested in a, in a- What is it? Children's dress shop. And he needed somebody to look after a woman. And Mike, by that time, he had fairly well established, well, as a carpenter. This Pratalini took him on, and he'd been there for some time. So, he had a good job, really. I mean, not a good job, but something to stay on. But his big brother invested in this children's wear, and he needed the sister to look after. So, he wrote back and he says, "Come on to- You gotta come to Lansing, because I invested in a children's dress shop, and, or- and I can't do all the- I need a woman to run the shop." So, we all ended up coming up here. I had just gotten married, and Mike and I- Oh, Mike built a nice little house for me. In fact, Mrs. Tabayashi bought a house and got- She built this house, and behind her house, we built another little house for ourselves. I guess we must have been in there just about a year or so when the brother wrote and says, "Well, you have to come out to Toronto because I need help." So, what happened? We had to sell everything, eh? Fortunately, we were able to sell, and we came out to Lansing, this little place where the shop was, and we lived upstairs, and they ran the store, and fortunately it was- I guess we made a living. So we all used to work, take turns working in the shop. And then half the time, I was upstairs looking after my daughter [points to TS] and Kathy. And gradually, until they retired, they had that store. Once it was- they all retired, they sold the store and the shop and everything, and they retired, eh?

[02:50]

EM: And by that time, we had bought a house, and we moved to Empress Avenue because our children were growing up. They needed a place more than- So we moved to that. But by the time we- The store was quite- In fact, they did all right, I guess, because the brother and my sister-in-law, they retired on their own. And then we moved to the house, and Mike has been working all this time on it. He's not at no,- In the store at all. He worked most of the time.

LU: And what was the address of the store or the shop, do you remember?

EM: Junior Shop. They used to call them. Junior Shop in Lansing, Ontario-

MS: It was right at Sheppard and Yonge.

LU: Sheppard and Yonge?

MS: Right on Yonge Street, right where that big building is now, wherever that big condo-

EM: Right on that- Right on that Yonge Street, yeah? It's a good, it was a good position- uh, place. Yeah.

LU: Is it still there now or is it gone?

EM: Oh, no.

MS: No. Well, they knocked all those-

EM: All the big buildings and what do you call them, built up there, yeah.

MS: -small stores down and built a condo, big building there.

LU: Oh, wow.

EM: Yeah. Insurance company. Great, big company.

MS: It's- There's a- It's a condo, and it's, I think businesses, offices. It's all one great big, huge building at- right at Sheppard and Yonge on the- I guess that would be the northeast corner.

EM: It used to be a good place, you know. I think that's how- And there was- there was only one children's shop there. So, all, if- Especially a sale, if there's a sale, all the mothers would come and buy children's ware and that, you know? And they were quite successful. Fortunately, because I mean, you could invest in a business, and my gosh, it's not that easy, you know, doing business, eh? But they seemed- and we all, regardless of what pay you get or what, we all used to pinch in and look after it and this and that. And gradually, before you know it, they all retired on it, and he sold the store. But when was it? [turning to TS] The store was there for a little while, eh? But then they start building all this stuff. But he had another store in another section of Ontario, and he sold that too, when he retired.

MS: It was Chinatown. Chinatown, down on Dundas?

EM: Yeah. Yeah, right on Dundas.

MS: I think it was the only Japanese grocery store at the time.

EM: Yeah.

LU: Oh, really? What was it called?

MS: Dundas Union.

EM: Dundas, yeah.

MS: Dundas Union?

EM: I bet you, people bought Dundas Union. He used to have a store there. Yeah, that's right.

LU: And what happened to your family after Revelstoke?

EM: Well, my family and his farming and all this- My family, he- they just got old and they both passed away in Revelstoke. The year my father passed away, I was back that year. In fact, I could still see him. He was at the station, and I said goodbye to him. And he had tears in his eyes. [laughs] And I said to dad, "Gee, I guess you're

retired. You don't have to do anything." And he said, "Yeah." My mother, she died before my dad. She was at the farm, and she came to the gate and she said goodbye. And she looked so sad. But that was the last time I saw her, because soon after that, she had a heart attack. And my sister was a nurse, you see? My sister-in-law and my sister were both at the Queen Victoria Hospital in Revelstoke. And they wrote me that mother had had an attack, and she passed away about a week after her heart attack. And unfortunately, I couldn't even get back because I was in this hospital too at the time. And that was the end of it. But both of them are buried in Revelstoke right now. And I often think, I have a grandmother in Vancouver that's born there, and my cousin Asahina is out there. And I thought, "Gee, dad's all by himself." And I don't know what it would cost to take my f- my parents. Sometimes I think, "Oh, it might be nice to be able to take them back to Vancouver and bury them where my grandmother was." But I thought maybe my brother might, but maybe everything- I guess, before anything happened, I guess they passed away. But it's a good thing to have the family in one section, isn't it? It's easier, isn't it?

LU: I guess so.

EM: Yeah.

[02:55]

EM: But my parents are alone in Revelstoke, and I think- And yet, it could be that my brothers probably thought, maybe we'll leave him there. It's a record that he evacuated there, and he stayed in Revelstoke for all those years, and people accepted him, you know? So, if I ever get back, if I don't get back, that's it. But they are in Revelstoke, and my grandmother is in Vancouver with my cousins and my sister and all that. And we're all gonna be buried here, I guess, eh? [chuckles] Dad bought a property here at the cemetery. So, I just say everywhere- everybody's separated now. Yeah.

LU: Did your parents pass away during the war years in Revelstoke?

EM: Yes, uh-huh. During the war years, yeah.

LU: So, they never saw the war come to an end?

EM: No, I guess not. When you think about it, eh? Yeah. Although I often think, you know, her family, you know, just as you say, in Japan, when you turn 18, you've gotta join one of the armed forces, whether it's army or navy or whatever. But I think my mother's family, she- You know, when my mom, my mother always wore a full skirt right to the bottom there. [gesturing to her ankles] And it was always navy blue serge. There's nothing else. She never wore anything else but this navy blue skirt

and a top. And I often think she always spoke- It's her family line. And they're officers, you know, they, I guess, climbed up as they got older. I guess she never forgot that. And, yeah. But you know what? When the war came and we came to this Revelstoke, and she wore- I never saw my mother wear a pair, you know, pair of pants. But, you know those black, um- I don't know if you do- Black pants that the peasants in Japan wear? They all wear black pants, you know? And the women work in the fields? And I thought, "Poor mom, her navy blue skirt, that's all she ever wore. And she never, doesn't matter where, what tailor she went to, she always wore, got this navy blue serge skirt and top." And I thought, "Gosh, she's wearing that pants. I don't know why mother wears that pants." She says, "Well, this is the only thing that's possible," because you gotta look after livestock, you know, when you have to feed them and things like that. [chuckles] I should tell you, this little bull that was born, he used to go absolutely crazy when he used to see my mother, because she gives him food. And I used to think, my mother would say, "Now we have to get this bull, it's gotta be killed because we can't bring a bull up." And she says, "I don't know why, but we can't." She just cried when they took that bull away. She was, what, six months? You know, cute little- [emphasize with hand gesture] Oh, it was the cutest little thing. But you get so tied to all these rabbits and whatever that you grow. In fact, I never used to eat the chicken when it was cooked at home. [laughs] My brother and I, we'd, "No thanks." We wouldn't, we wouldn't have our chicken. And she'd say, "Whaddya going do? You're going to- Your health. Whaddya you gonna do if you don't eat?" But you know, you get so that, "Gee, that was so-and-so, and we're going to eat it," and you get so that you can't eat it, you know? But that's what- And I thought, imagine mom wearing a thing like that. And that's what she said. "You gotta wear pants now," because feeding animals and that, it's very cold. And especially in the winter, eh? The winter where the snow comes and that. But she said, "You get so attached to them that it's terrible." But that's the only thing. She says, "Having livestock is all right. But when you have to kill them-" And she says- One thing about the pigs, they take them away and their bacon is made, and everything comes in the government house. That's all made. And then it's brought back. So, it's not so bad. But cows, you wonder, eh?

[03:00]

EM: That's why another thing, you know how people like to eat *sukiyaki*? My family very seldom ate *sukiyaki*, because you see, the cow has to be- Well, it's gotta be looked after before you get any beef, eh? And then it's gotta be hung up and dried for

so long before you- The- all the blood is taken out. When I think about it, that's right. We ate very little, what you call *sukiyaki* or steak or anything like that. But you know, you get that way. Isn't that terrible?

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: But you're supposed to eat, but what are you gonna do?

LU: So, what happened to the farm?

EM: Everything- Well, he sold the cows or whatever.

LU: Who did? Your father?

EM: Yeah, my father, I think he sold it or gave it to whoever has a farm and just closed it up. But when he passed away, they still lived in the house that we were in, but he wasn't working or anything, no. No, he wasn't, no. Yeah. And the strawberry, I guess whatever he planted, it's all just deteriorated, I guess, you know. But he had quite a- My gosh, he filled those farms. And I used to think, how can he do all this? Imagine. But they do it, I guess.

LU: I'm just gonna have to pause this one.

EM: Mm-hmm. I don't know what other people told you, but they must have had a terrible time too.

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: All the different, um, yeah. But my father, I think they kind of enjoyed the country life in one way, when you think about it. Because I guess my grandfather had a farm before, years and years ago when they first came. My gosh. There's pictures of him, but I've never seen them because they- they both passed away before I was born, I think. Yeah.

LU: Mm-hm. And how many children did you have?

EM: My mother?

LU: Oh, you. How many did you have?

EM: [pointing to TS] Just one.

LU: Just one?

EM: Yeah. I've only got one. Yeah. But I've lived with my husband's people from the time I was married, I guess. That's a long time. I miss them all. I'm outliving everybody now. It's a lonely feeling, you know? But as you say, I guess if you're here, you're here. That's it. Do you have a family? Everybody here? No?

LU: Oh, everyone's here. Mm-hm.

EM: Oh, that's nice. And makes a difference, you know, because today everybody's intermingled now. They're married to *hakujin* people now. And you have other families now, don't they? It's not like when I used to grow up. And life seems to be much richer in some way. And I guess the people are more Canadianized now. The

young people, I'd say, eh? People here at the Cultural Centre, for instance, there must be a certain amount of members here, uh, multi- I mean, they're mixed here, eh? But still, the Ja- there's a Japanese section here now isn't there? I see that. I- When was it? A long time ago. I haven't been down here for so long, and I was looking at some of the- what's sold in the stores here, and- When was it I was down? There's a section, the Japanese section, with the *Asahi Shimbun* and all those Japanese magazines and that. But largely, people here are from Japan, aren't they?

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: Right?

LU: Fair bit, yeah.

EM: So, as you say, you get a- You still have to go to school here with all the Japanese people, right?

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: That's very nice. Oh, yes. I would think so. We don't- As you say, we don't get- We're up, way up in Bolton, so I just say it's- I'm not- I'm not a person that gets involved in anything either, another thing. Another thing, because, I often think, well, you can't take on any responsibility if you be- get sick, you have to, "Sorry, I can't come today," or, "I can't this and that." It wouldn't be very nice, you know?

[03:05]

EM: But otherwise, now I'm too old now, and I think, oh, well, best thing to do is to enjoy. Or at least if you don't, you can face life the way it is until you go. But anything can happen by the time you're 80 or 89, you know? A lot of people live much longer today.

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: Don't they? You have a lot- lot older people with you?

LU: Uh, well, my grandparents were very young during the war years, so they're still in their seventies.

EM: Oh, I see.

LU: So, they're a bit younger.

EM: Oh, I see. Yeah.

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: But as you say, people live longer today. I think it's the way you live, you know? Quite different now. Yeah, I think so. But as you say, you've interviewed quite a few people, and I'm sure they've all had a bit of hardship and feeling that nobody else could feel, you know?

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: But I think that, today you think there's a lot of- there's still a bit of discrimination, isn't there? It depends on the people, eh?

LU: I think for every-

EM: The way they feel, huh? Yeah.

LU: Do you remember in 1988, the redress?

EM: Oh, the redress? Oh, yes. What- what would you say, what would you ask if you- about the redress?

LU: Well, were you active in any of the movements for redress?

EM: My brothers were. My brother and sisters. Yeah. There's always one or two in the family, I guess that's enough. My brother was quite active and my father was too. In fact, they used to call it *Kikajin-kai*. There are the people that are not- Well, they don't- they, they're not on the side of the Japanese government, eh? They're here, they're in Canada. And you know, at that time, if you are in the *Kikajin*- In fact, the *gam*-, what you call *gambari*, they went to the concentration camp, eh? These people, they attacked my father. In fact, he got hurt. In fact, they knocked him down, and- Because you see, he and my brother were people who wanted- Their families are all Canadian. Their children are Canadian, but they come from Japan. But they wanted a life here. And of course, there's always a controversy of disagreeing here and that. And what you call the *gambari*, the people that were against them because they're for Japan, they were- I guess they just didn't agree. So, one day- One night, in fact, they were at the bathhouse, and they come out, and I don't know who it was, but whoever they were, they attacked him. And in fact, he got hurt quite badly. And my brother he was there too, but he managed to bring dad home. But that's how bad situations were at the time. People that are with Japan and people who are not. But people who had a living, that- they feel that they're better off here, naturally they're going to stick to what they want, right? And that's another thing. I just say, we had nowhere to go unless my sister had a place, or if they couldn't place themselves anywhere, I don't know where we would be today. Because, as dad- as we were told, mother says, "I don't know, we got nowhere to go." We have- If we hadn't a place to go, we wouldn't bother. He said, "I guess we have to live in a box car somewhere, somewhere where nobody's around." [laughing] However, this turned out much better. We were able to go to Revelstoke, and the magistrate accepted us. But you know what? People that are living, there's quite a few people buried in Revelstoke today, and they all used to come to live there. And it isn't that they were accepted, but nobody said anything. So, when they come, they just live there. And now there's

so many people now living there. And as you say, many people are, as you say, got cemetery in Revelstoke today.

[03:10]

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: We were accepted. And the reason why, another thing, you go broke living, you know? You pay so much rent to, for your living. If you don't have work, what are you gonna do? Right? You can do anything, but long as you make a living of some kind, eh? My father, he passed away broke. I have- I don't think I ever asked him for anything. And I often think if the war hadn't come, just as he used to say, "You know, one day we'll have a nice little home that the children would like, and everything would look so nice." But my gosh, when the war came, everything went down to nothing, eh? But a lot of Japanese people are like that. They must have gone to nothing. And what they have today is what they have worked, every one of them have worked for whatever they have. That's what I think.

LU: Mm-hm. So, when redress took place in 1988, how did that make you feel?

EM: What?

LU: About redress?

EM: Well, sometimes I wonder what it really like, what I really feel. What do you think?

LU: I dunno. I was two years old.

EM: Oh, you're right. I don't know what I would think. I don't think it was very right, to myself, but that's how it happened. I don't know what your other people, you know, the people that you interview, what they think.

LU: Mmm.

EM: What do they think?

LU: Well, there's been mixed reviews.

EM: Yeah.

LU: Some people- some people were very happy-

EM: Uh-huh.

LU: -that it took place, and other people thought that it was too late. So, I guess there's, there's two sides.

EM: Yeah, I should say there is, yeah.

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: It's something, isn't it? At the time, you kind of wonder, right? But as the years go, and now you sit here and you think about it, you think, "Oh, I don't think it was-

In a way, maybe, but it's not right." When you think about it, I think it's unfair, don't you?

LU: Mmm.

EM: I think the people are- After all, we're all human.

LU: Do you remember in 1949, when Japanese Canadians were allowed to vote? Do you remember that?

EM: Oh, when they got their franchise? I vaguely remember now, but as you say, years ago we didn't have a franchise, eh? So, whatever the case, nobody ever says- It must have been terrible though, when you think about it, eh? I was growing up at 18- and sorry, there was- I guess most people, as you say, when you got the franchise, it makes a big, big difference in your life, right? Yeah. Because as you say, up till then, you didn't have- Well, you just couldn't say or do things a certain way. You had to be quiet, eh? That's terrible, eh, when you think about it.

LU: Mmm.

EM: In fact, the Canadian, sometimes they think, I wonder what the- Well, today the Prime Minister's the Prime Minister, but I wonder what the Canadian people think. There's a reason why we didn't have franchise. There must have been. And another thing is- You know, I don't know what other people think, but people who are- People who attend college, people who are intelligent, there's no way, but- Of- It doesn't matter what race or who you come from, if they climb, they'll climb up, you know? And keep going up. I guess the Anglo-Saxon wants to be the boss. You see, during the time I was growing, we are under the Queen. We're not here in Canada. You're under the crown. And there are things that- They're going to keep you down no matter what. Now the franchise will come, "You're Canadian, right?" But, gee, isn't it- isn't it terrible? People scroop and save, and they do without everything to go to school.

[03:15]

EM: They get a degree. Some of them, they get the top-notch degree. They come out of school and they said, "No job for you. Go on and work in the sawmill, or do some fishing, or do, do whatever you can. We're not going to give you a job, eh?" It's, I think it's- it could be antagonizing, or it could be, they just don't want you to get up, that's all.

LU: Mm-hm. Do you-

EM: But now, what do you think, you think you people oughtta have a better chance?

LU: Oh, I don't know. Tough question. [chuckles]

EM: What do you do for a career now?

LU: Well, I'm still in school.

EM: You're in school, aren't you? Yeah.

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: But that's what I mean, you see? So, once you come outta school, you have a certain goal, and you'd like to get that goal, eh? And I often think, gosh, I hope the young children get a good chance now. Because another thing is, I think my family, not just my family, but a lot of them- they're all mixed now. They're not just Japanese. They're married to anybody, all- In fact, I have a niece that living in Austria, she married an Australian. She says- Oh, I haven't heard from her, but she went back for a holiday a little while. And everybody's mixed today. I often think- Like my daughter too. Now, there must be a difference in- Sometimes you're gonna have a argument or something, you know? But one thing I don't like is I wouldn't want her husband to, you know, keep her down and- and do anything that he wants to do. Not everybody, anybody else, just me, eh? That would be terrible, you know? Because after all, the children have a say, and the husband has a say- I mean, the wife has a say, but because you're- Sometimes because you're Japanese, that's something that I worry about. It's not my job, but it's not right, I don't think.

LU: When did Mike pass away?

EM: How many years now? It's about-

MS: It's 2008? Yeah.

EM: See, on May the eighth. Yeah, he was in his 89th year. So, it's about-

MS: I think it's four years.

EM: Yeah.

MS: Three years.

EM: Another thing. I never had to look after anything. Mike did everything. In fact, I never had to look after anything all through all my brothers and sisters and my c- they all looked after everything. And now I'm all alone. I'm getting a little better now, but before- When Mike passed away, I just was completely lost. I thought, "Oh my gosh, I can't believe-" Even today, I can't believe it. I get up in the morning, and he's not there. But when you think about it, I've been with him for over 60 years. That's a long time, eh?

LU: It's a very long time. 60 years?

EM: Long time. Yeah. We were together for that many, and even when she came- Or, before my daughter came, or there was- We were together everywhere. There was never a time that him and I were separated. Only time is when I went to visit my parents some time ago. But his- My mother, my mother was very- In fact, I think he

kind of felt that my parents were his parents too, because he didn't have a mother. His mother died when he was just a little boy.

LU: Oh.

EM: Yeah. And his sister was more his mother and father and everything else. He says, "I wasn't that close to my dad either," he was saying. But my parents were very fond of him, you know? And I often think it's too bad we didn't live together because I'm sure mom and dad would like it. But he said- I never forget, he said, "I promise," all of a sudden, "I'll look after her." And my gosh, if he didn't. But sometimes I think he's got a lot of nerve to leave me. [laughing] I wish it was the other way around. I think that, you know, I used to think- "Gosh," we used to talk about that. If I go first, or if he goes first, this and that.

[03:20]

EM: And my gosh, if he didn't leave us after all. But you get so used to each other, I guess that's what it is, you know? And some people, they always seem to find a companion, you know, after. But I'm just not one of those people, I guess. Another thing. But I often think that, for the years that we were together, I guess there wasn't very many years that we disagreed about anything, I guess. We just managed to, so- Gee, there were times I used to think- When we first came, we only had \$50 in our pocket. [laughing] I used to wonder what we're going to do. "What are you going to do?" I said, "You come to Lansing and he's got a business, and what're you going to do?" Oh my gosh. When I think about it. And I said, "Gee, we only got \$50, you know," and he says, "Yeah, maybe you'll have to go to work too." I said, "Yeah, I'm gonna have to go find a job somewhere." But, you know, I've never had to go to work anywhere. And I don't know, I'm so thankful to him, but today when I think- It's not so much the money or how you live after- It's the loneliness, you know? It's surprising how a person would miss- And I thought to myself, my gosh, that when he passed away, I thought, I wish I could just go with him. That's exactly how I felt. Today, my son-in-law and my daughter says, "Happy Birthday, mother." [laughs] I got a happy birthday. And I thought, "Oh, thank you very much," you know? But as you say, it's a matter of how you manage and look after yourself after. But-

LU: When is your birthday?

EM: My birthday's in May. Yeah. And May the first I was born, yeah. However, everybody's- I guess it's a matter of getting involved. And a lot of people like to get involved in different clubs or whatever, eh?

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: I'm afraid I'm not too much for that.

LU: And were there any other stories that you wanted to share today that I didn't ask or forgot to ask?

EM: Well, I don't know.

LU: Do you remember having a favorite toy when you were growing up?

EM: When I was growing up, I wouldn't say they were favourite. We used to play Kewpie Dolls and, um-

LU: What are Kewpie Dolls?

MS: [laughing]

EM: They used to be, you know- [emphasize with hand gesture] When I was growing up, they used to have- In fact, it was quite popular in those days. They- it's a small doll, but it was called what you call a Kewpie Doll. And you know who I think was the actress that became a Kewpie Doll, doll? I think she's dead now, but I think it was Jane Mott[?] Wyman. I don't know if you people- But she looks just like the Kewpie Doll that we used to play with.

LU: [laughs]

EM: And it was a certain type- It was built in a certain way. But the doll looks just like her. When I look at her- In fact, last- While I look at the old actresses, it comes on on 46? Because I don't know the new actresses or whatever today. So, I look at the old picture and her picture comes out and I say, "Boy, she sure looks like that Kewpie Doll we used to play-" And I kind of think so. But anyways, it was a certain type of a- [emphasize with hand movement] It's built a certain way, Kewpie Doll, and it used to be very, very popular. Not just me, but all- Everybody. And we all used to have this Kewpie Doll, and we'd make little- At least, we'd try to make little dolls or dresses or something, [miming sewing by hand] and we'd play. And it was one of the Kewpie Doll, that's what it- And the rest was- What else did we play? Oh, I was, uh- In Japan, but in our house, we used to play this, um, [emphasize with hand movement] you know, with- I don't know if you remember, but we call it *hanahata*. You hit the- They're little bird flies, you know? And you hit this and you play- it's like tennis almost.

MS: Badminton?

EM: Yeah. Called badminton something. Yeah. Something similar to- We used to do a lot of that. And if you're a person that takes *odori*, like dancing or whatever, you go once a week, eh? We used to do that-

LU: Did you take *odori*?

EM: If you go to *Bukkyokai* and that, they always have a class there, and if you want to join-

[03:25]

EM: And when there's what you call a- I don't know if you're familiar, but around-towards the end of the year, the fall, they have what you call *Obon*, and all the children get dressed in the Japanese clothes and they dance. You get involved in that, and that's about it. Yeah. Yeah.

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: You're right.

LU: [giggles]

EM: Or else I used- As I say, I used to sing a lot. So, when I'm involved in any program, it's usually somebody accompanying me, or you sing alone, I guess, eh?

LU: Did you ever play any instruments?

EM: I play a little bit of piano. I learned a little bit of piano at school. We used to have a teacher that, um- Well, she used to actually come to school to teach piano. Certain days she'd teach piano, you know? But I'm not what you'd call an accomplished pianist. It's just that I trinkle myself. [miming playing the piano] And I would- At least, it takes a bit of time if you, you know, got time. But sing- Actually, we used to sing a lot at- In fact, I used to be, we used to- That used to keep me busy, just getting your vocal cords ready. [chuckles] Because in school, I don't know about you people, but I belonged to a choir, like, you know, a group of people with choir? So when you think about it, how- What, two or three times a week, I think.

LU: What was the name of the choir?

EM: Huh?

LU: Did the choir have a name?

EM: No, it's just a school choir, you know? Seymour School Choir. And yet, when you think about it, you know, we won first prize at one time. [laughs]

LU: [laughs]

EM: That's really something when you- All the schools, you know? And I never forget, we won first prize at the school, and I was in the, what you call the descant. That's two- two, three of us. We come away from the choir and we're, what you call, on our own, but we sing a certain type of, a certain type of song. We're the vocalists, you know? And that was the year when we- when we got the first prize, when I think about it, yeah. But that's about it, I guess. Yeah. But in those days, there wasn't much- As you say, if you- if you get chosen for anything, you're lucky, or else you're- you think, "Oh, I guess I must be a little better than, than what I thought I was." But in those days, the children were- Well, they're friendly, but I kind of think that it

depends on the parents, eh? I think that- that it's- it's the way they think. And do you know, as you say, all the people that I knew, I don't know where they are and how they are- Once the war came, that was it. They just didn't associate at all. And I think, my gosh, when you think, "I wonder who so-and-so is," and "I wonder who so-and-so is." But I would never know where they are or how they are, and what friends I have today, there's very few of them then, most people are passed away, you know, in our age now. And I think, "Gosh." So, I don't worry about passing away or anything. So, if- when you die, you die. And if there's somebody to look after, that's it. You know? You don't really- At least, I don't worry. A lot of people I know, they say, "When I die-" This is when they're young- "When I die, you know, I want my certain people to be there, and I want this-" I said, "Gee, I don't know." I never think about those things. I think that once you're gone, you're gone. Just that you don't want to be lying in the ditch or, you know, anything that's terrible. But I said, "When you think about it, there are people who are- who are important, and there are people that regardless of importance or whatever, they get a good send away." Well, they're- they're probably- That's how they want to go, well, that's fine. It's a matter of what a person thinks, you know? But if you wish too much sometimes, [laughs] I'm sure you're gonna be disappointed, eh?

[03:30]

EM: Don't you think? It's good to have a family, though, and I don't know what I'd do without my daughter, or anybody else, and my people. Because, gosh, I don't know that- I know my friend, her husband just passed away, and I- She's all alone. Although, as you say, she has her peop- Her husband's people. But gosh, actually, it must be terrible that- My friends all say, "Oh, I'm so glad I have my children." I said, "You're right. There's no way about it." It's good that you have your children, you know? There's no other way for parents, eh? All parents, no matter who it is. But, gee, when I think of the olden day- Today, you sit and think about what happened years ago when you were growing up, or what you were doing at the time. And there's pleasant memories. I'm kind of- I'm very glad in many ways that there's a lot of times that we were good and happy. It's just that when the war came, everything went down. And it must be terrible for people in Japan. It just must, and I think- I don't- I really don't know my mother's people, but there's still that feeling, you know? When you grow up, you- Naturally, your parents talk about their childhood or how they grew up, and how your- If you saw them, what they would be like.

LU: Have you ever been to Japan?

EM: No, I've never been there. And I often think, you know, my sisters, they went to Japan for- How many? Two, three months. My sis- Both sisters and my parents. But my brother and I, we have never been to Japan. And I often think, gosh, if I ever went and I saw my people, I think I would just cry. Just to think that they're fine and they're safe. But see, when this terrible tsunami started, I thought, I wonder- You know, it affects the whole country. It's not just that- Tokyo is it? It must be terrible. And there's lots of people here in Canada that have people back there. And I think it must be terrible just to think about it. And yet, do you think everybody's going to help?

LU: I think so.

EM: You think so?

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: Well, look at here, now, for instance. [points beyond the camera] All those people are making those, uh-

LU: [laughs] The origami, the *tsuru* cranes.

EM: They're gonna send all that to-? Oh, I see.

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: And mind you, there's a origami teacher here too? No?

LU: No.

EM: They do it on their own, eh.

LU: Yeah. Mm-hm.

EM: That's right. My mother used to- You know, the newspaper. She used to make all kinds of things outta the newspaper, you know? But when you think about it, gradually- [chuckles] You get- you think that it's so easy, but it really isn't. When you really start to make things, you'll find out that it's really- You know, you gotta use your brain a bit.

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: Trying to make those, whatever you're gonna make. Yeah.

LU: It's quite challenging.

EM: But when you think about it, my, the papers are beautiful, aren't they? You know what I think?

LU: Mmm.

EM: I often think it must be nice to- It probably cost thousands and thousands of dollars to- My sister has, as you say, the *mon*- Her *kimono*, and the *mon* on your- [gestures to her shoulders] And I think, "Gee, I bet some of the clothes that are being produced are beautiful." One of- You know, Japanese, phone, I often look into- [gestures to TS] If she ever saw it, you'd say, "Oh, is it ever beau-?" It is. But I look at

now, it's not just the cars. I look at the beauty of the clothes, the beauty of the women. Someone said to me, "You would never have a country of Japan without Japanese women." And she was a Canadian. She lived in Japan for years and years because of business contact. And she said to me, "You know, Eleanor," she says, "You wouldn't have a country like Japan without the women."

[03:35]

EM: I said, "Really?" She says, "Yes. You have no idea." "You think so?" She says, "I used to live in Japan for-" I don't know how many- Maybe she's passed away. I often wonder. "You have no idea," she says, "What the women in Japan are like." She says, "I lived in Japan for years and years because of my business." And she says, she wor- she says, "I worshiped them," she said, "Really." So-

LU: Does your family have a family crest?

EM: Pardon?

LU: Does- Do you have a family crest?

EM: Yes, I have. Mine is gold. And it has- [emphasize with hand movement] Yeah.

LU: Do you remember what it looks like, or what's on it?

EM: [Emphasize with hand gestures] It has four, four gold- And a stripe through it. Looks like a cross to me, but- Remember I showed you today?

MS: Mm.

EM: And that's my family crest. And you know, when you wear Japanese clothes, especially the black and white one, and you have your fam- [gesturing to shoulders] That's when they can tell you right away where you come from. But there aren't very many people from my part of the- my parents' part of the country. In fact, very few. And so, when you have- Don't they have the- the *Kenjinkai*, different people that come from different places? They have- I noticed in the- Was it the last- There was a Wakayama-ken picnic or, so-and-so is this- There's very few of us here, especially, the parents, eh?

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: So, when you think about it- That's right. Those people are all different, countries- And when you come from a different part of Japan, in the time I was growing up, they used to all kind of keep together, you know? And they'd say, "Oh, so-and-so's from Wakayama-ken. So-and-so's from Shiga-ken." Or- They kind of keep to each other. Today- In fact, Shiga-ken, there's more people that come from that part of the country than any part of Japan. There's a huge group here, and Wakayama-ken is a huge group. Kanagawa-ken is maybe a little bit more, and

there's all these different *kenjin*, but we're- We- [laughs] There was only few of us when we first get- Today the young people are all married, eh? But when the people that came from Japan at that time, there's very few. They'll ask you, "*Anta- Ano- doko kara kimashita?*" And you say, "Chiba-ken." They'll say, "*Oh, sore wa amari go arimasen ne?*" You know, they say. And that's quite true, you know? Today- It's because in those days, when the people came to Canada and that, the reason why they co- they come is because they can't make a living in Japan. So, they come out here and they prosper here because- Regardless who it is. And you'll find that the Shiga-ken people, they're the ones that have the money. You'd be surprised. My mother used to say that you have to learn how to live like them and you'll get that way. But our- The people that come from our end, we don't have to leave Japan to survive. In fact, you're in a better prefecture, you see? And I often think, why did mom and dad come? I think it's got- Because financially they lacked, and all these warlords, you know, they take over, eh? And I was reading this article that I was showing my daughter today, and there's Tokugawa and *Edo-mae*- You see, there's certain type of- After the years go and who becomes a ruler. And you think, "Gosh." Now, our castle is in the government house, you see? And I guess it's because, [chuckles] there's very few of us anyways, now. And I think, "Well after I'm gone, there won't be no-" My daugh- My niece phoned me and she says, "Auntie," she says, "There's no Tsuchiya in Japan now because everybody's dead now." "And when I go," I said, "I guess there won't be anybody around, eh?" And she says, "I'm trying to look for my people in Tokyo." I guess she'll have to go to the courthouse.

[03:40]

EM: I don't know how she's going to find them, but I guess they're kind of lost because of this tsunami, you know?

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: I said, "You'll either go to the courthouse, and if you can't find them then, I don't know how you would look after or get ahold of them." But a lot of people here in Canada, they must have people back there, 'cause people go back and forth nowadays. It's not like years ago. There's a lot of people going back to Japan, isn't there?

LU: That's right. Mm-hm.

EM: Yeah. And it's nice to be able to- I'm sure there are places- My mother used to say, "There are places in Japan you'll never, never see in this part of the country. There's some beautiful places, you know?" And it's right. I often think, "Gee, I bet

there are some places that-" My people come from the countryside, you know? They go to work in Tokyo. And I thought, "Gee, if they go to work in Tokyo and all this tsunami, I wonder what they're doing."

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: But Diane says, "Oh, they're quite safe, auntie." So, I said, "Oh, I'm glad they are." It's kind of, you know, kind of gives you a feeling that you're not alone. But I said, "Boy, right now I'm all by myself." I said, "Everybody's gone." And she's just, "I'm looking for my people too," and she says, "I can't even find them." But there must be- Every one of them are like that now.

LU: Mm-hm.

EM: A lot of people have died, haven't they? And now I think- The American president says, "We are going to help Japan." I hope so. It's going to take- I don't know if they'll ever get the same, but it'll take years and years. And I just thought about the Toyota company closing. The Sony is closing. Hitachi is still up, isn't it?

LU: I think so. Mm-hm. But I think-

MS: Excuse me, mother. Are you finished interviewing?

LU: Yeah, I think we're all set.

MS: Cause she- [laughs] You know what, she, she'll keep talking all day long. She'll just keep you in that seat all day long.

LU: [laughing] You must be hungry though.

MS: Yeah. I am.

EM: I think we better have something to eat.

LU: Yeah. Mm-hm.

MS: Well, we have to get back up home too.

LU: Well, thank-

[End Part 1]