

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Carol T. Murakawa (CM)

March 23, 2005

BY: Florence Sugimoto (FS)

FS: Please state your name in full, your birth date and the place of your birth.

CM: My name is Carol Tatsuko Kubota. Married name [is] Murakawa. Birth date is 7/10/1933. I was born in Formosa, Taiwan.

FS: Very interesting. Please give your parents' names, year and the place of their birth. And, if possible, the circumstances that brought them to Hawaii.

CM: Father's name is Rev. Ryudo Kubota; born 2/10/06. Mother is Tsuyuko Tanaka; [born] 3/10/1912. Father was born in Fukuoka, and Mother was born in Nagasaki. We came to Hawaii because my uncle was a minister in Lahaina, Maui, and he wanted to return to Japan. So he exchanged places with my father. We were in Formosa. And, so that's how we came to Lahaina, Maui in 1937.

FS: What was the language spoken at home?

CM: Japanese.

FS: Any English at all?

CM: Between the siblings, [we spoke] English. But [with our parents] mostly Japanese.
I didn't speak English until I started school.

FS: Then I take it, you had a great deal of Japanese culture in the family.

CM: Well, I don't know about culture, but my mother was a Japanese schoolteacher part time. And my father was the Japanese school principal. So, we went to Japanese school. As far as culture, because [we were] on Maui, we didn't have too many things.

FS: Did your father have any particular interests that sort of influenced you?

CM: No. I know that he took up *kendo* (fencing). Where, I don't know, but he used to practice.

FS: Did he emphasize certain important values within the family?

CM: Well, just to respect elders and obey elders. Being brought up in an environment where we had to kind of watch ourselves, because other people were watching, we couldn't do a lot of things that normal children usually did. I mean, but as kids, we did, but we still had to kind of think before you did.

FS: How many children in the family?

CM: I have a brother who was born in Formosa, and a sister was born on Maui in 1938, and another sister was born in 1939 on Maui.

FS: There were four children [at that time]?

CM: Four children.

FS: Three girls and one boy. Who was the oldest?

CM: I was. I am the oldest.

FS: Were you dual citizens then?

CM: No, I think we were Japanese citizens. I took my naturalization test in Honolulu, and I'm an American citizen now. [My brother] became an American citizen in Sacramento, where he was attending junior college.

FS: The sisters were?

CM: My sisters were American citizens.

FS: I see. What was family life like?

CM: Normal. In the sense that we did what other children did, you know, other kids did.
I mean, we got into trouble, too, but...

FS: What kind of trouble?

CM: Oh...

FS: As minister's children...

CM: Besides coming home late or not telling --- well, we used to tell our parents, you know. Those times, they didn't really not *not* care. But, you could go out and be safe. Not like now, you have to ask your children, "Where you going? And what time you coming home?" You know? Was an enjoyable life.

FS: Did you personally learn extra --- or did you have extra lessons in Japanese from the parents because they were schoolteachers?

CM: Not really. But, I remember every Sunday, or before every *Ohigan* [Buddhist spring equinox celebration] or *Hana Matsuri* [celebration of Buddha's birth] we had to polish the temple vases, which was a chore and we didn't like doing it, but nobody would do it, so we had to do it. [laughing] We sure did it. I mean, I did.

It's not fun sitting there and polishing brass and copper and whatever. [laughing]
But, that was mostly --- and then to go out, we knew my father --- you know, he was just a minister, and no annual income, right, I mean, except what the church pays you, or whatever offers come in. So, we knew that we didn't have very much, so we never asked for too many things, knowing that they couldn't afford it. So, sometimes I now wonder how they survived on that meager amount for my mother and the three of us.

FS: And there was nothing forthcoming from the church itself?

CM: From the church, he got. Yeah. But, monthly, but. Later I found out, it was very little. So, one of the members asked me, "How did your father survive? Or how did your family survive?" I said, "I don't know." But, like I said, we tried not asking for too many things. Like going to the movies, although it was cheap, we only could go once a month. But, we sure talked my father into going more often than that because we had to watch the serial chapters that went monthly, right? Because if you don't go, you miss. My father liked "Hopalong Cassidy," so every time that showed, we talked him into going and, he went with us.

FS: So, it was American movies that you went to?

CM: American movies.

FS: Not Japanese?

CM: They didn't have Japanese movies then. I don't think, on Maui.

FS: How far did you have to go to see the movies?

CM: Not too far.

FS: Where did they show these movies?

CM: At the Queen Theater in Maui. Lahaina.

FS: It was a regular theater?

CM: Regular theater. Once in a great while, they had performers like Misora Hibari come down, which I went to see. I begged my father and I had to go see.

FS: But, this Hibari performs when? This is at a later...

CM: Yeah, later. This was after the war, when we returned to Maui.

FS: What was your neighborhood like?

CM: Actually, we only had two neighbors, which was a mixed family. I don't even know what nationality. Portuguese and all mixed, I think. The other family was Chinese-Hawaiian. And the neighbors were far, because the church was big. How many acres? Two acres, I think. So, we had a school --- Japanese school and another building for meetings. And the church temple itself.

FS: Then, did you have a close relationship with the Portuguese or mixed family neighbors?

CM: Oh, yeah. They had lot of kids, too. The Hawaiian-Chinese family, their children were a lot older than us. They used to lay fish traps and lay nets and bring us fish.

FS: You played together?

CM: Played together.

FS: What about church-related people?

CM: Only when they came down on Sundays for church, or we had Sunday school which my father officiated and had children come down.

FS: Only on those days...

CM: Usually on Sundays. Mostly, there were older ladies there to cook, whenever they had a function.

FS: Please tell us what language school you went to and what English school you went to.

CM: I went to Japanese school, which my father was the school principal, and I went to Kamehameha III School in Lahaina. I was in third grade when the war started. After the war, I returned to Kam III School and started seventh grade.

FS: Do you have any special memories of school, either Japanese or English?

CM: English school, I kind of barely remember. I can't even remember the teachers' names, but....

FS: Nothing...

CM: Nothing, yeah.

FS: Nothing special?

CM: Uh-huh.

FS: I see. Japanese school, too?

CM: No. Japanese school was on the grounds, so....

FS: Tell us about December 7th.

CM: Okay. I remember this. We were all home and my father had two other reverends who were visiting. I don't know what the circumstances was, but I remember them putting a blanket on the light. We would never ask questions. You know, like before you never ask questions unless you're told. So, we just wondering what was going on. And then, they put a blanket over the light. And next thing I remember, police --- can't think of his name, but policeman came with the FBI man. And, talking for a while. And they whisked him away and...

FS: Right then and there?

CM: Right then there. Not telling us anything. And he left.

FS: Did he go with some things to carry?

CM: That I don't remember. That I don't remember.

FS: When did you ever hear that he had been taken?

CM: For the longest time, we had no idea where he was. My mother, I don't think she knew because she never told us. We asked her. For the longest time, maybe over about half a year, I think, we finally found out that he was in Wailuku in a prison or Wailuku something camp in Wailuku. Although we never got to see him. I don't remember going to see him. Maybe my mother did. Next thing we knew, he was sent to Sand Island.

FS: Did your neighbors treat you any differently...

CM: No.

FS: ...as a result?

CM: No, I don't think so. Even going to school. Nothing, you know. Third grade, I don't think, you know. If you're older, maybe teenager or older, but as far as I can remember, nothing in particular.

FS: How did your mother manage with him gone?

CM: She had a hard time. But like I said, she never grumbled. Maybe she did to herself, but she never told us. Maybe she didn't want to worry us. We didn't know what was going on, so didn't know how to ask. I mean, we asked her where he was, but that's about all.

FS: Did the church money continue to come in?

CM: That I don't know. That I don't know.

FS: Did she find work at all?

CM: No.

FS: Did you close the Japanese school and church?

CM: When we found out that they were going to ship us out, too, I think. I don't know where all the belongings went, went to friends or...I don't think she sold anything. But then we were leaving and....

FS: Did you get any notification about...

CM: That I don't know. That I don't know.

FS: How...

CM: She must have had. Trying to remember, but I really have no memories of....

FS: How soon after your father left the house were you told to join him?

CM: Left a year later. He left --- he was about six months in Wailuku. So about another six months, one year later, we were told. So then we got on the ship, and then we were sent to...

FS: From Wailuku?

CM: Yeah, from Wailuku to the Naturalization Immigration Center, where we were housed for a couple of days.

FS: What was it like at the INS? Did you have bunk beds? Did you...

CM: Yeah, we had bunk beds...

FS: Were you together as a family?

CM: I know we had bunk beds. Must be [that we were together], because my sisters were still young yet. They would let us out to play in the yard.

FS: Do you remember whether your brother was with you in the same room?

CM: I think so. Oh, that, I don't know. I would think so, because other than that no other family, right? Hard to separate. You mean, all children stayed in one room?
I don't know.

FS: You don't remember?

CM: I don't remember. But I remember that we were in that building that had bunk beds.

FS: Do you remember anything else about the INS?

CM: I think we were out playing and that's where I lost my Mickey Mouse watch. I remember that very clearly. [laughing] So my children always say, "Now, let's go look for it." Or "We'll give you a Mickey Mouse watch." But that's about the only thing. And I cried because that was a gift from I don't remember who. But that was one experience.

FS: Other than that the facilities were satisfactory? The food was satisfactory?

CM: I don't remember. [laughs]

FS: Did you have any word from your father?

CM: [Indicates "no."] Not me personally.

FS: So he must have been already sent to the Mainland.

CM: Yeah, I don't know how long he was at Sand Island, but then he was sent to Santa Fe, New Mexico. I mean, later on we found out he was sent to Santa Fe. I don't know when we left INS, but by boat we went to San Francisco.

FS: How long did you stay at INS?

CM: I have no recollection. I have no idea.

FS: Do you remember when you left for the Mainland?

CM: I cannot remember.

FS: What was it like on the ship?

CM: We all got sick. [laughs] Not the first time because I came to Hawaii on a big ship. But then I had my parents with me so. Was a long --- about how many days? Seven, eight days?

FS: Were you all together on board the ship? Including your brother?

CM: Yeah.

FS: Do you remember where you slept?

CM: No.

FS: Other than getting sea sick, do you remember anything else about the trip?

CM: No, just going around and being inquisitive and that's about it.

FS: When you arrived then at San Francisco, did you stay there for a long time?

CM: No, I think we were put on the train.

FS: Now, tell us about that part.

CM: The train ride. Actually, even when we got on the train I had no idea where we were going. Was a long train ride because it was going to Jerome, Arkansas.

FS: Directly to Jerome?

CM: Directly to Jerome.

FS: How many stops did you have to make?

CM: Several stops. Lots of stops.

FS: Did you change trains at all?

CM: At one point it changed trains and I saw my mother's train across us. I don't know what the circumstances, changing train or changing whatever, so I started to panic and said, "Oh! There's Mom over there! What is she doing there when we're here?" Thought we were going to be separated. But eventually --- I don't know how they put the trains on, but....

FS: So, you were sitting in different cars of the train?

CM: I don't know why she was in a different train. I mean, we were all sitting together...

FS: As far as you remember...

CM: Or maybe she went someplace or that kind of a thing. That I kind of remember. Now that you're older, you think back circumstances or why this and that, but at that time, it was third grade, you don't know anything.

FS: And your mother didn't explain anything?

CM: No.

FS: When you finally reached Jerome, do you remember how many days it took you?

CM: Not really. That's why my friend had said, "Why didn't you write a diary?" At that age, nobody tells you. We didn't know what a diary was, right? When we were growing up, only spoke Japanese. When we were going to school [we spoke] English. But in first, second, third grade, they don't tell you about writing a diary, maybe a daily thing. I don't know how long it took, but I remember during the day we were crossing, I saw lot of these colored children standing and waving at us. I told my sister, I said, "Why are there so many colored children?" Because on Maui we never came across any colored people, right? Those days we didn't have too many colored people on the islands, I think. Anyway, especially in Lahaina. So they were all waving. [We were thinking] "Where is this?" So we waved back. And, now that you think about it, that was Mississippi, yeah? I think we crossed the Mississippi River, that's why we saw. But that was my first experience with colored people. All the children waving. [We wondered] "Why are they all black?" Going to school we never came across any colored people.

FS: Do you remember anything about the camp itself?

CM: When we got there, was cold and they gave us blankets. They showed us the barracks and had to walk to the barracks, and I had three others to take care of. Going to the barracks and trying to set up and cold and....

FS: How did you manage to set up your quarters? Did you have the materials to work with?

CM: At that time, I think they had cots. They give you blankets, and that was about it. And there was a big stove.

FS: Were you the only family there?

CM: Yeah.

FS: In that...

CM: In that barrack? No. We had some other families. Lot of other families. But that particular, our barrack, had lot of small children.

FS: Primarily families, then.

CM: Families, yeah. With children. Then at camp, we were there for about a year and a half in Jerome. I used to baby sit all the other children, because my other friends they had kids younger, so I used to baby sit, watch...

FS: The children while the family's...

CM: The children while the mother's...

FS: ...in the barracks...

CM: In our barracks especially, because they were all younger.

FS: Then, I take it the mothers would find work?

CM: They would work in the mess hall, I think. I don't know when she started working in the mess hall, but...

FS: Was your mother one of those?

CM: She worked, yeah. And sometimes the cold, and sister or brother was sick or, we used to cart --- I don't know how somebody made this wooden thing. You know, in Japan they have this to carry *somen*, *saimin*, *somen* (noodles). You know, the wooden box...

FS: Yes, to carry food...

CM: Wooden box. Like the *mochi* (rice-cake) thing with the handle. We used to take that to the mess hall [to] get food for them. It was too cold and windy and rain to sludge out into the mess hall to eat. So lot of times, we had, you know....

FS: Did you go to pick up the food?

CM: Yeah, well, I had to go since I was the oldest. Couldn't depend on my mother to do everything.

FS: Did you also help with laundry and housekeeping?

CM: Yeah, laundry.

FS: Where did you do laundry?

CM: They had one area where you had the *furo*, and the bath, and then one area to do laundry.

FS: And the bathhouse was separate, too?

CM: They were all in that area, one area.

FS: I see.

CM: So, can you imagine sludging through that snow and cold to go to the bathroom?

[laughs] It was hard, but....

FS: Did you actually try not to go as much as possible?

CM: Oh, yeah. Even sometimes we didn't want to eat, because too cold to go out because we didn't have the proper clothing, you know?

FS: What about the meals themselves? What were they like?

CM: Can't remember.

FS: Then they must have been fairly good.

CM: Yeah, because mostly Oriental, Japanese cooks. People in the camp themselves were the cooks. They didn't have outside people, I think. So mainly, mostly Japanese.

FS: How did they manage to get the food?

CM: I think the government subsidized them.

FS: So, it was more Japanese meals?

CM: American meals, too. Hard to remember.

FS: What about school, what was it like?

CM: Jerome. Had to walk to school.

FS: How far away?

CM: I don't remember Jerome school. I remember Tule Lake. But, Jerome. I really can't recall too much about school in Jerome.

FS: Was your father with you...

CM: No.

FS: ...at that time?

CM: No. I think he was still in Santa Fe. At one point when we were in Jerome, he was transferred to Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

FS: That would be closer to Jerome.

CM: Yeah, we were right down, yeah? But then, my mother got to visit him. I don't know how many mothers went to go visit, but we stayed back. I had to baby sit other kids. I don't know why they were transferred to Baton Rouge, Louisiana. And then after that we stayed there about a year and a half.

FS: This was Jerome?

CM: Yeah. Then, I guess, in the meantime all this thing was going on about joining the war, or they were letting *niseis* (second generation Japanese Americans) out to go to work or to go to Chicago. I had heard that later on, but [at that time] we didn't know anything. All I know is that we were told that we were going to Tule Lake, California.

FS: What kind of things did you do to pass the time at Jerome?

CM: Oh, things like play with other kids. We used to play "house," like *mamagoto* (playing at housekeeping). Like I said, we didn't have that many things to play with, so we just made our own things, I remember.

FS: Do you recall making things at all?

CM: Not like in crafts or anything, because we didn't have the supplies. I think there was a store, but I never went. Oh, then, they had Japanese --- I think it was Tule Lake they had movies. I don't know if [at] Jerome they had movies. All you can do is just go out of your barracks and play. We were told not to go too near the barbed wire fence because the sentries were there. But, kids being kids play baseball and, you know, forget yourself, you run after the ball and....

FS: What happened if you went too close to the wire?

CM: I don't know. I never went close enough, so I don't know.

FS: You don't remember hearing stories...

CM: I don't remember, no.

FS: Do you recall the guards at all? Were there any?

CM: Jerome, I don't know. Tule Lake, I kind of remember, but...I don't think they would.... Later when we went to this reunion, they were told they sent us to Jerome because of the circumstances surrounding the camp. There were lot of snakes, swamp. That's why they had the camp there. They knew we couldn't escape. I mean, it was interesting.

FS: Did you see any snakes while you were there?

CM: Not in Jerome. But, in Tule Lake we used to --- this is going ahead of the story, but --- we used to go get *rakkyo* (pickled scallion). You know, small onions? And my mother used to make *rakkyo*. That's where we saw some snakes. But, we were taught not to stick our hand in a hole. But, I heard there were about four kinds of

poisonous snakes in Jerome. That's why they had built the camp there. Out in nowhere.

FS: When you heard about going to Tule Lake from Jerome, did your mother get any communication to join your father?

CM: At one point, I don't know what the circumstances was, but my father had joined us.

FS: At Jerome?

CM: No, in Tule Lake. I don't think he came to Jerome. From Baton Rouge, he was sent directly. I don't know if from there he went to Tule Lake.

FS: Because with some families, the father did meet them in Jerome, and then from Jerome, they went as a family to Tule Lake.

CM: Oh. I'm trying to remember but, that I don't recall.

FS: What was this train trip like? Any different from the one that took you from San Francisco to Jerome?

CM: About the same, I think I was two years older. Three. Oh, but going up California, it was hard. And long.

FS: In what way was it hard?

CM: Nothing to do. Can't do [anything]. You just have to sit there.

FS: Would you be able to guess how many days it took you?

CM: Oh, gee, I have no idea.

FS: It must have been uncomfortable, though.

CM: It was. And the train wasn't a train like today, right? I remember it was a long ride, because we went all the way up California, near the Oregon border, right? Tule Lake.

FS: And you actually went into the cars for your meals?

CM: Uh-huh. Uh-huh. Yeah.

FS: Anything special?

CM: [Indicates "no."]

FS: Okay. When you got to Tule Lake, did you go directly to your barracks?

CM: I don't know if this was the same trip, but there were train tracks right in front the camp, so that must have been the train that went there. And we just got off and just went directly, you know. At that point, there were lot of camps already that [were] separated. We were about the last ones going there.

FS: At Jerome, then, the train did not go directly to the camp?

CM: No, I think, it kind of stopped and then we got off and then, walked. So I think the camp was right there, too.

FS: I see.

CM: Trying to recall if there was a train track at Jerome, but.... Yeah, I think they had the train track still there. A farmer bought that place and is planting soybeans right now.

FS: Now tell us how different Tule Lake was from Jerome.

CM: I guess, [I was] little older, [so] you knew kind of what was going on, and you made more friends. Going to school. Because not everybody from Jerome went to Tule Lake. I think about the same ones were at Tule Lake. As far as I know, there was no communication with anybody from Hawaii. I don't know at what point my father had --- I guess he wanted to go back to Japan. I mean, we didn't know that. I mean, we went where our parents went, right? So, but, later I found out he wanted to go back to Japan. But, people on Maui told him, "No, don't go back to Japan. Because there's probably nothing there." So, I don't know how long it took him to make up his mind, but he decided he was going to go back Maui because they told him the church was still there. So, we went back to Maui. In the meantime, they said, because we were going back to Japan, we had to go to Japanese school. So, we had to go to Japanese school, after our English school. So then, had to go *rajio taiso* (radio calisthenics) in the morning before our English school, which wasn't the very best because it was cold. In the morning, it was cold. When it was cold, had to go Japanese school.

FS: Was it any different from the one in Lahaina?

CM: Stricter, because they were trying to make up what we had forgotten, right? Although we spoke Japanese at the camp because my mother didn't know any English. But, had to go night school, so they were stricter.

FS: Night school?

CM: Yeah. Afternoon and night school. Japanese school.

FS: You had to go?

CM: Uh-huh. I think my sisters went too, I think.

FS: Why?

CM: Because we were going back to Japan, and they wanted us just to learn Japanese and keep up with Japanese. That's what my father told us. So we went for English school during the day, came home and after dinner...

FS: Actually, you went to afternoon class and night class.

CM: Morning and day class. In the school, day class...

FS: Until? Oh, after lunch, then?

CM: This was, yeah, more towards the --- you know.

FS: Oh, so Japanese school was after...

CM: After school.

FS: Late afternoon?

CM: Late afternoon, yeah.

FS: Into the night?

CM: I think maybe some older ones, you know, went to the --- you know? But....

FS: Then, you didn't have much time to play.

CM: No. We played, but like we didn't have the toys to do so.

FS: Did you ever get to go to the stores at camp?

CM: I don't recall going to the store. I remember my mother got permission to go to Oregon. I think it was to shop. But, we didn't get to --- I don't remember going to any stores, you know? I remember we used to go to movies. Japanese movies.

FS: Right in camp?

CM: Yeah.

FS: How did they show those?

CM: In the mess hall, or....

FS: Do you remember how often you had those movies?

CM: I have no recollection. I just remember some summertime movies, but that's about it.

FS: Were your meals taken back to your barracks, like at Jerome?

CM: Oh, we had a mess hall. We had a mess hall.

FS: You did have one in Jerome, too?

CM: Yeah, yeah.

FS: But you carried things back...

CM: But during wintertime or when the sisters were sick or you didn't feel good, you know?

FS: At Tule Lake, what did you do? The same thing?

CM: Same thing. Same thing.

FS: Did you eat at the mess hall at all?

CM: Yeah, we ate at the mess hall.

FS: As a family? Separately?

CM: I think mostly was together. I think, at that time, my father and mother was working in the mess hall. In think, they used to get so much a month, yeah? So they used to both work at the mess hall, so because I was responsible for the family, so we ate together, and, maybe later on my brother used to go with his friends, but....

FS: Then your mother was also working in the mess hall?

CM: Yeah.

FS: So, all three of them worked at the mess hall? Your mother, your father, and your brother?

CM: No, no, no. My brother was younger than me, so.

FS: Oh.

CM: I mean, he would join his friends.

FS: Oh, oh, I see.

CM: Once, sometimes, you know. Same age. You know, I cannot even remember what kind of food we used to eat, too, but I guess...I guess it wasn't that bad. [laughs]
And, we hardly ever got sick. I had a sister who was born in Newell, California, outside of Tule Lake. So, she was born there. And then I have another younger sister, after we came back to Maui.

FS: When you say, "outside of..."

CM: Tule Lake. Newell, California.

FS: What does that mean? Does that mean that during your internment, she --- your mother went to a hospital outside the camp?

CM: Yeah, yeah. Uh-hum.

FS: Didn't you have a hospital in the camp?

CM: No. I don't think so. Like, we never went. I mean, they might have an infirmary, but as far as that, we never went to the infirmary or....

FS: Did your mother return after the hospitalization?

CM: Yeah.

FS: Immediately?

CM: I don't know. I don't know [if it was] "immediately." I don't know how many days, but she came back to camp.

FS: How did she manage with the feeding of the baby in camp? Was she able to get all the things she needed?

CM: Oh, it never dawned on me. [laughs] Must have. But, you know, was hard. Going back to Jerome, I know it was really hard because there were no men around because all the --- most of the men were in camp and some of them had older boys and they would chop the wood. We used to gather the wood to take back to burn.

FS: Did you help, too?

CM: Oh yeah. That was hard. Because we had to have enough wood to --- you know. It got pretty cold because it wasn't one of the better hotels, yeah? [laughs] You could see through the tarpaper, wind coming through doing that.

FS: But, at Tule Lake, the facilities were better?

CM: A little better. But it still got cold.

FS: When did --- let me go back. Do you recall any kind of incidents that took place at Tule Lake?

CM: With me, no.

FS: Do you recall having --- hearing of any problems within the camp?

CM: No. No. I think too young yet, so, I mean even while going to school, I don't remember.

FS: You don't remember your teachers at Tule Lake?

CM: I remember one teacher. Why I remember her so well, I don't know. But, I must have liked her. But I remember the name. Then, after the war, I had this [male] classmate who kept in touch with her. So, I used to write to her. Now I don't know where she is. But, she was one teacher who let us out of camp. It was a school excursion.

FS: Oh, tell us about it, the excursion.

CM: Okay. I don't know if she had a hard time or not, but she took a class and we went up to Castle Rock. Because the way --- in the back of the camp --- in the back of the front of the camp there was this mountain and ...

END OF SIDE A.

BEGIN SIDE B.

CM: ...visit to Castle Rock, and she told us beware of snakes. It wasn't hard to climb or go up. We enjoyed it because once you got to the top, you could see Oregon on the other side. We enjoyed the stay up there for a while. That was at least getting out of camp, you know, with other children.

FS: Was that the only time you left...

CM: That was the only time we went out, yeah. That was the only time.

FS: Did you have lunch out, too?

CM: I don't remember.

FS: The trip itself was memorable.

CM: Yeah, the trip itself was. Just getting out and doing something different, like climbing and then seeing another area. Because at that time, who knows what Oregon was, right? Because unless --- because you don't study those things in second or third grade, or whatever. Had I known now what I know, I would have written, but....

FS: You would have written what?

CM: Memories of what had gone on during the three years. At that time, you didn't care --- or not *care*, but *know* about what was....

FS: Did you go on that excursion by bus?

CM: We walked. It was right out camp. Right outside the gate and then just climbed up.

FS: But, other than that you never went out with your family or anything?

CM: No. No.

FS: Okay. Is there anything else about Tule Lake that comes to your mind? Anything that has to do with your brother or your sisters or yourself?

CM: They went to school. For me, going to school was interesting because we used to play around in the ditches when it snowed and we used to, like, slide and slip-and-slide on the way to school. But then when we got to school it was pretty wet. But, as far as getting all those items like clothing, I don't know. We never went to the store. I guess my mother got winter clothing, because you had to have winter clothing, right? But, as far as I know we never went to the store, so she must have just gotten --- because even bringing from home, from Maui, we had no winter clothing or anything. I know, it was hard for my mother. I guess during those days they never talked about much about what went on. I know some --- this friend of ours, minister from Maui. They never talked about camp too much, but they had lost a son there.

FS: In camp?

CM: In camp. And even my mother and father, they don't talk very much about --- I guess, painful and hardship. Like, us as children, not a care in the world. And, even to this day, I think, "Oh, it could have been different." Like the Holocaust. Because we had no idea where we were going, nobody told us anything. Maybe if we were older, we would have asked questions, but from the beginning you just did what your parents told you. That was it.

FS: How long were you at Tule Lake?

CM: A year-and-a-half, about. Three years total. A year-and-a-half in Jerome and year-and-a-half in Tule Lake. Then at one point, when my father had told us that we were going back to Maui, we thought, "Well, go back to Maui, to what?" You know? Because I think Mother gave away most of the things, but the house was still there, and the church was still there, so at least we had a roof over us. They say, if go back to Japan, what would be there, after the war?

FS: I take it he was corresponding with people on Maui.

CM: Must be. Must be, otherwise he wouldn't have changed his mind. I don't know what made him change his mind, and I never got to ask him. I wish I did.

FS: Would your mother have remembered?

CM: I don't know. My generation --- couple years ago my kid sister wanted to make a family tree. Getting information about my mother, I said, "Oh, I don't know." [My mother] never really went into detail to explain. She did, but was very confusing, because she had a half-sister. [I] said, "How come you have a half-sister?" [chuckles]. But this was after she had passed away, and they were going through --- then [we] kind of put two-and-two together kind of thing. But I think those days they never, yeah, really talked much about --- because it was confusing,

too, because [my mother] was a Tanaka. Her father, mother was a Tanaka, married to another Tanaka. So, too many Tanakas, so we were wondering. That made it more confusing.

FS: Your return trip, did you have to do a lot of preparation? Do you remember anything special?

CM: Not really. I think we came back on the *Lurline*. Isn't that what a lot of people say? [That they] came back on the *Lurline*? Because we landed in Kahului.

FS: I take it the facilities were much better than going?

CM: Oh yeah. I recall that's what they told us, that we came back on the *Lurline*.

FS: There must have been other families, too.

CM: Oh, yeah, a lot of families. Lot of families.

FS: Any special memories of that trip?

CM: I think we came Honolulu. Honolulu. There were lot of people so, docked at Honolulu. And, from Honolulu, how did we get to Maui? I don't know how we

got to Maui. But I remember Honolulu, and we stayed at the main temple, Jodo Mission temple. And then went back to Maui.

FS: How did you feel, coming back?

CM: No particular feelings, because all those years I never corresponded with anybody back home, writing letters, because it wasn't allowed, right? Kinda leery about going back to school, because my friend said, "Oh yeah, I remember you were here one day, next day, next time we came to school, you were gone." In third grade.

FS: Then, actually, the experience was sort of, not negative, but you just took it as it came.

CM: Yeah. Even if we go Japan --- would have been worse if we went back to Japan. You are a little older, so you think since there's nothing there --- I mean, we had a lot of relatives there [in Japan], no relatives on Maui. So going back, at least, our parents, had people. But as far as I was concerned, [I had] classmates at third grade. But, never corresponded for three years, so I had no special good friends or best friends.

FS: The contacts were pretty much broken.

CM: Yeah. So even after we came back, had tried to make new friends again. It's hard.

If you correspond within the three years, at least you know what's going on. As far as going back to Maui, no special --- nothing excitement of going back home.

Because, like you say, there was nothing there except the house.

FS: Did it take a long time for you to readjust?

CM: Going to school was a little scary. Well, I guess I can understand some kids when they transfer from school to school kind of thing. It's hard, yeah, to readjust. But, the readjustment was fast. Because kids are kids, they are nice.

FS: What about your parents, how did they adjust?

CM: I guess all right. They never told us anything. All the old time people that used to come to church were still there. They were a big help, I think. Made life easier for my mother.

FS: Were your neighbors also as welcoming?

CM: That neighbor actually had changed. They moved to Honolulu and had another neighbor there. They had lot of kids, so kids being kids, make friends easily. Right by the ocean, too, so.

FS: Give us your thoughts on the whole internment experience. Was it an adventure? Was it just part of growing up?

CM: It was adventure, but yet a scary one because you didn't know what was going on and what was going to happen. Now when you think about, a lot of worse things could have happened, but fortunately, it was just like going to the States to live under different circumstances, but being children, still being not in your teens yet, [it] didn't really matter. If I had an older sibling, maybe things would have been different. Maybe she would have made me more aware. If I was older, I would tell my sisters and brother what was going on, that kind of thing. But since I didn't know anything, they didn't know anything, it made it kind of simpler. Although the suffering, the hardship was there.

FS: It was like a different experience?

CM: Yeah.

FS: Would you have any idea why your father was incarcerated and why you were interned?

CM: No. All we were told was that ministers, people dealing directly with anything to do with Japanese, like Japanese school, Japanese book store or whatever, were taken. There was no question as to why he had to go. I guess because being a

Japanese citizen, too, that was the first thing. Then, at one point, we said, "So what are we? I mean, we were Japanese citizens, so what are they going to do to us? If they did to my brother and I, then what would happen to my two sisters who [were] left back? They're American citizens, right? I've been going back and thinking about the German Holocaust. They didn't care, right? Even families were separated. I don't know what I would have done if the family was separated, if we were separated from my parents, my mother and father. I guess we would have survived somehow, but you don't know until that really happens.

FS: Do you have a message for the younger generation?

CM: My children ask me and I tell them what I went through, what we had done, so they know. I hope this kind of thing never happens, but now because they are all American citizens --- if I didn't get my American citizenship, what would have --- would they deport me back to Japan? That's why I get kind of upset when people who have American [citizenship] take it for granted and they don't do things that they're given the privilege as American citizens to do, like voting, and other things that we kind of had to work for it. Although I went to school, then they say I had to go to school and take a test. I said, "Why? I just graduated high school. I'm supposed to know all those answers, right?"

FS: Tell us about your naturalization process.

CM: This was after I got married, I think. Before I got married? Yeah, before I got married.

FS: Here?

CM: Yes, in Honolulu. This was in '50, '51. I went through all my life as --- only with my Japanese name. So, my friends said, "How come you don't have an English name?" I said, "Because we never got English name." So, they said, "Oh, if you get naturalized, you can put an English name on." So, I decided --- my brother and I decided to get naturalized. I don't think we even told my father. Maybe we told him after. I don't think he would have opposed anyway, saying no. But, anyway, had to go to school. Do the usual thing: take a test.

FS: How old were you by then?

CM: Eighteen? Nineteen? [chuckles] Nineteen.

FS: Was there any other driving force that made you want to become a citizen?

CM: No. I think at that time not too many people were getting --- during the wartime or whatever, I don't think they were getting their citizenship. But I don't think that was --- not allowed, but maybe even United States, too, had a different, like Germans, or Italians, or whatever. I don't think at that time they were getting

their citizenship, too, so maybe this was after the war, I think. But I think, no way during the war they would give us. That, I don't know, but.

FS: Is there any final comment, you'd like to make?

CM: I only wish that had I known what I know now I would have written everything down. Make life easier. This has nothing to do with this, but I went to Japan [and did a] home stay for one month. And this teacher that we --- person that came to talk to us said, "Write down every day what happened." Religiously, I did. And I go back, and I read that, [and] it really brings back memories. Sometimes you forget things and you think, "Oh, that's what happened," kind of thing. But, had I known that, but being so young --- and I think because my parents, if they were more --- oh, hard to say English-style because they were born in Japan. But even though you had parents that spoke a lot of English, I don't think they would think about writing a diary. I would think that even in Japan they would have a diary or something. I don't think she ever had one. That's the only thing I kind of regret not having.

FS: A written record.

CM: Yeah. When someone says, "[Write] a book." I say, "What for? I don't remember a lot of things." And, it's hard and I'm not a person good with writing.

It's mixed here and there kind of thing. Just what I remember, but I eventually forget. But, I tell my kids.

FS: Thank you very much for your time and this very special interview. I think it will be very enlightening for a number of people. Thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW.