

JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAI‘I

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Eunice Tokiko Nagasako (EN)

February 28, 2006

BY: Jim Tanabe (JT)

Yoshie Tanabe (YT)

Note: Comments in brackets [] are by the transcriber. Inaudible words or sections are identified by ((?)) in the transcript.

[Start is chopped off a little...]

YT: ...married to Ralph Tomoaki Nagasako. Today is February 28, 2006 and we want to have her story. So, Eunice...

EN: Yes?

YT: Where were you born and when?

EN: I was born in Honolulu on October 12, 1933.

YT: 1933. And your parents...were they from Japan?

EN: Umm...my father [Buntaro Kan], I think, was from Japan and my mother [Isano Kan] was born here in Hilo.

YT: In Hilo. Your father was from Japan...which part of Japan?

EN: He comes from Hiroshima. Asagon.

YT: Do you know when he came here?

EN: Apparently he came when he was about 16 years old.

YT: By himself?

EN: No. With the parents. Maybe 1904, something like that.

YT: And did he get married over here then?

EN: Yes.

YT: How did he meet your mother?

EN: Well, that's the thing. That's one thing I didn't *wanna* really go into because mother was very disappointed because she was his third wife. His first wife died and his second wife--- we're not exactly sure what happened. He never told my mother that my mother was the third wife. She found that out upon his death going through his papers.

YT: Oh, how interesting.

EN: Yeah. Well interesting to you, but she was so upset she said she thought she was the second wife but she was third wife. So there was quite a difference in age.

YT: Okay. So, apparently, can we assume he had...they had no children from the first and second wife?

EN: The first wife had a brother. I have a half-brother.

YT: You have a half-brother?

EN: Yes. And he was taken to Japan after the mother died in infancy. So he *neva* grow up in Hawaii. I think at that point, my grandparents in Japan were still living and he took that boy home to them because after the contract was over, they left. They went back. To Hiroshima.

YT: Your father?

EN: No. My grandparents.

YT: Oh, your grandparents went back.

EN: Yes, went back because when I went to visit them, it was so surprising to me. In 1956, when I visited them. They couldn't speak English. However, they used a lot of Hawaiian words. ((?)) They were living in Hawaii so they could speak Hawaiian. Not fluently but enough to, you know, communicate. So, but no English but Hawaiian.

YT: By that time, you were born, your grandparents had already gone back to Japan?

EN: Yes. They had gone back long time before then.

YT: Right? And taken their grandchild, grandson, with them.

EN: No, no...because he got married and...see, when he came at 16....they only stayed for their contract. He would have been 18, 19.

YT: Oh, I see.

EN: And he hadn't been married yet. And then he was in charge of two younger brothers that they left behind. And then the youngest uncle, I *tink* is a Iolani school [private school in Hawaii] graduate. My father worked very hard to send him. He was a...noted tennis player. George. My uncle George.

YT: That would be George Kan. Okay, so your father was a very responsible person. He took care of his two younger brothers and here his father went back to...

EN: Yes, yes, yes. Well, they had other children too, you know. They had a large family. Three of them left here. Yes.

YT: I see. Okay. Then, your father is taking care of the two younger brothers. And then he gets married. Your father gets married.

EN: Yes.

YT: And has one child.

EN: Yes.

YT: Yeah. And then his wife dies.

EN: Yes.

YT: And you think that he takes that child back to Japan.

EN: Yes. So I *neva* met that half-brother until I was an adult myself... close to 30 years old. Yeah...

YT: Yeah, yeah.

EN: And he was already a, you know, a middle aged man.

YT: I see. So then your father came back to Hawaii.

EN: Yeah. He just took the boy home. He had his two brothers here.

YT: And as you said, he got married. And that was your mother. Now, we go from there. How many children did---your father have then?

EN: Well, four of us. Three, you know, my brother [Richard], my sister [Ethel], and that half-brother [Kentaro]. So, that's four.

YT: Right. Okay, so in your family there were only three. And you were where?

EN: Number two.

YT: Umm, so you grew up where? In Honolulu?

EN: In Palama, yeah.

YT: And where did you go to school?

EN: I went to school at Likelike Elementary and Kawananakoa Intermediate. And then, Farrington High School.

YT: And then, Farrington High School...then after that, what did you do?

EN: After that, I was married. But I continued my UH education over the years.

YT: Is that right?

EN: Taking subjects that I was interested in. Like anthropology...And then *da* Japanese.

YT: Oh, you took Japanese too?

EN: I went with my daughter too. We went to calligraphy and all *dat kine* of stuff.

JT: During your elementary, intermediate, high school days...Anything you recall that's interesting about your growing up?

EN: Well, I guess we all went through the same experiences. I remember in grade school, we all had to be fingerprinted. Which, you know, in those days, were only done on criminals. But, because it was martial law in Hawaii, they fingerprinted all the children. And we were all issued gas masks.

YT: Okay. Let's go back to that era now. When the war started... December 7. How old were you?

EN: I was eight.

YT: And, uh, what do you remember about that day? If anything...you were eight years old.

EN: Yeah...not too much except my friend Louise and I were on our way to church.

YT: Louise...meaning Wally Ho's wife. Louise Sakurai. Okay. You folks were best friends?

EN: Yeah, always, yeah. So were on our way to church and we saw all these planes. But we had no inkling that it was anything terrible or something we should be afraid of, you know. And we just dismissed it and continued our day like it was a normal Sunday.

JT: You mean lots of planes up in the sky.

EN: Yeah...we saw them towards Pearl Harbor. You know, we could see from Pearl Harbor.

JT: 'Kay, going in formation...

EN: Well, not so much in formation as like in a dog fight pattern...you know, fly, not in a formation, but yeah...

YT: I was *gonna* ask you, did you see any gunfire? Any smoke?

EN: No gunfire. I just saw the planes fly. No smoke. And I just thought it was some kind of practice or drill or...you know...

JT: You didn't see the insignia of the plane.

EN: No...it was too far.

JT: Yeah...

EN: Because from Palama now we looking.

YT: Looking down towards...

EN: So that's about seven, eight miles away into Pearl Harbor.

YT: You were looking down towards Pearl Harbor.

JT: But you saw planes...Somewhat practically overhead.

EN: No. Not overhead. But at a distance. Which was unusual. You know, in those day, you don't have--- we didn't have any--- too many commercial flights and all *dat*...so it *kinda* catches your attention when you see planes flying.

YT: So what did you and Louise do?

EN: We just went--- I think we went to church and that was it. We *neva* gave it a second thought.

YT: You remember if anybody said anything in church?

EN: No.

YT: About that incident?

EN: No. No, I don't recall.She might recall. But I don't.

YT: You don't remember anybody whispering...

EN: No no no.

YT: Or the adults...

EN: But I, we knew something was coming because, all through our younger years, the Japanese school is connected with the church, and the school and the state is all one in Japan. You know, they have that state religion and all that Shinto yeah.

And we were all assigned to collect aluminum on Tuesdays. I don't know if you remember James, but all the Japanese schools---the students were encouraged to save all the foil we could get from the cigarettes and gum wrappers or whatever. And then we would ball it up and we would take it to school and they would send it to Japan. I guess this was building up their supply of whatever. So, I recall that we did that, you know, in Hawaii.

YT: What church was this?

EN: *Dat's* the one *wit da* school, so *dat* must have been Hongwanji.

YT: Hongwanji? And Louise was going to the Hongwanji?

EN: Yeah. Because it was with the school together. It was on the campus of the school.

YT: The Japanese language school.

EN: Yes yes.

YT: You folks went to English school first and then you folks used to go to Japanese school?

EN: Well, she went to the Priory and I went to Likelike.

YT: But, Sunday school, she went with you to...the Hongwanji.

EN: Yeah yeah yeah. We went to Japanese school together too.

YT: I see. Okay, then when did you find out that it was...that Pearl Harbor had been bombed? You went home, of course, after church.

EN: I went home of course.

YT: And what happened?

EN: My mother was very agitated. And couldn't understand. She didn't say too much. And, I never saw my father from that day.

YT: When you went home, your father was not home already?

EN: No. He never came back home. I don't know what happened. All I, I thought he had gone to church like he goes every Sunday. But, I don't know what happened. But, we never saw him 'til after the war.

YT: But it's too bad that you were only eight years old. It's happened so long ago. But try to recall...didn't your mother say anything. Was she puzzled also? Or do you think she knew what happened?

EN: No. I don't think she really had an inkling. However, several days later, she was notified that he was picked up and he was at Sand Island---for her to bring toilet articles and a change of clothing so she packed everything and when she got there, she never got to see him.

YT: Okay wait. She went by herself.

EN: Yeah, we didn't go.

YT: Did she drive? How did she go?

EN: No no. She didn't drive. I don't how she made it down there but she went. And then she came home very disappointed with all the things because she never got to see him.

YT: And she couldn't even leave those things there?

EN: Well they didn't know he was, I guess, because she brought it home.

YT: She brought it home. That you remember. Okay, you said several days later, she found out that he was in Sand...that he was in...

EN: It could have been *da* day later, I don't know.

YT: Yeah yeah. But who notified her? Do you know who notified her?

EN: No. I don't know.

YT: You don't remember if any *haoles* or any Japanese people in, uh, official people, coming to...

EN: No, nobody. The only ones that came were the soldiers to search the house.

YT: How soon after?

EN: Even that I don't remember because apparently, my mother knew, already, more than what we realized what was going on because she was able to hide---um, this is terrible but she was able to hide the family sword and stuff like that, you know. She hid it because she knew that they would be confiscated. I have it. But she, she hid it.

YT: Wait a minute. You mean, to this day, you have the family sword?

EN: Yeah, I have it.

YT: Oh! Later on, can you show it to us?

EN: Oh, I don't know if...okay...I might get a hard time getting it out but I can. I have – I still have it.

YT: Wow, she really hid it.

EN: Yeah! She hid it well. That and several other things that are now that important she hid, you know. She had the sense enough to hide it which was good because if they had taken it, they would have just destroyed it because it has no meaning for them, yeah? But, for my mother, it has some kind of meaning. And she knew it was, like, contraband, or something. She hid it. But they did a pretty thorough search of the house.

YT: And did they take anything?

EN: No they didn't take anything. But, umm, they pulled the wires of this radio. And it was just a regular, cheap radio. I don't know if they thought it was a short-wave radio and they, they pulled the---you know, so it couldn't be used anymore, yeah. They disabled that and they took down the--- um, of course my mother had the picture of *tenno heika*, I think, and her family and in the living room. And, well, they destroyed that one. Yeah, but they didn't take it. They just busted the frame. My mother threw it away because what *fo* ' to keep, right, after *dat*. You know, and *den*, they must have other things but I don't really remember. Of course, my mother tried to shield us too, yeah.

YT: Sure, sure. You remember about how many soldiers came?

EN: Our house, I think, was only two. I don't know how many in all and if they searched any other houses, but my house was only two.

YT: Did they have guns?

EN: I think they might have had rifles. I don't know about guns, but they might have had a rifle. Well, anyway, we was martial law, right? It was proclaimed martial law...immediately.

YT: Didn't they find any Japanese books. textbooks? Didn't you have any?

EN: Lots and lots. But they didn't.

YT: They didn't bother those?

EN: No.

YT: And your father...your mother didn't burn those like some families did?

EN: No. She just...kept it. Mostly, it was his books on *Go*. He was a *Go* master, my father was. And he...he represented Hawaii every time Chinese contingent would come over...((?)) anything, he was the, you know, not prima donna but anyway, ((?)) Hawaii.

YT: He was really good at it.

EN: Yeah.

YT: Now thinking back...do you know why they picked up your father? Were you ever told?

EN: Not really, except...I know one time my uncle told me that he had the kind of personality that could influence a lot of people and his type of job...he knew this whole island very well because he travelled the whole island. He was s a salesman and he did a lot of business. I think it was at Theodore H. Davis at that time. And he would take his car and, he would you know, talk of dry goods and sale. You know, like safety pins and buttons sewing material and just all kinds of things.

YT: So he went around the island? Stocking different stores, probably getting orders?

EN: Getting orders and selling to individuals, you know, where stores were not so accessible I guess. Louise would remember too because she always used tell me "Your father was only one who had a car." No, when we were little, he was the only one in our neighborhood who had a car. But he used it for his work.

YT: He had to travel around Oahu?

EN: Yes. Yes. And he knew the whole island, you know?

YT: Wow...was he always only on Oahu or did he go to other islands?

EN: ((?)) Not that I know of. He was only Oahu.

YT: Oahu Theo H. Davis, yeah. Like a salesman?

EN: Yeah. I don't know if he dealt with other companies like American Factors...but Theodore H. Davis sticks in my mind.

YT: So he was in another words, he was a community leader? Or he could influence the people?

EN: Yeah. That's what my uncle said but I was only eight. I don't know.

YT: When you say uncle, that was your father's brother?

EN: Brother.

YT: Were they picked up? Was...

EN: No. Two brothers were not picked up.

YT: Only your father. But your two uncles did not do the similar kind of work that your father did.

EN: Well, one was a bookkeeper at American Factors. So he worked for American Factors most of, I think, until he retired from them. Maybe that was the only job he had, you know, that I recall. And the other one worked for this Chinese, I don't know...E.V. Goo I think. I don't really recall...

YT: Come to think of it, where was his citizenship? Of what country was he a citizen?

EN: Japan.

YT: Because he couldn't become an American citizen because the law prohibited him from becoming an American citizen at the time, yeah? So, he couldn't have become a citizen if he wanted to... That's the law.

EN: Yeah. And my mother also lost her citizenship too when she married him, right?

YT: Because she was born here. She was born an American. So when she married your father, she lost her citizenship.

EN: So she became a Japanese citizen. I *neva* could understand that, you know? She used to go to the Alien Registration at Komatsuya Hotel. I remember when I was *kinda* young and Komatsuya Hotel had a office where aliens used to go and register. And she told [me], oh she *gotta* go and I said "How come? I thought you...we have your birth certificate. You were born in Hilo." You know, she's in the Board of Health. But, somehow, I'm not familiar with the law on that. But somehow, when she married my father, she lost her citizenship.

YT: I think I heard about that too.

EN: Yeah. And *den*, she's not really a Japan citizen because they wouldn't recognize her.

YT: So...a woman without a country?

EN: She wouldn't be available with... all the benefits, right? You know, that they provide for their citizens. So she, I guess, also was a woman without a country.

YT: Here's your father supposedly at Sand Island. Your mother goes to bring him his toothbrush and...

EN: Toilet articles and yeah...change of clothing.

YT: Toilet articles...and cannot find him you said right?

EN: Well, not she cannot find him. I guess, they couldn't find him because she don't know. She just went by what they asked her to do.

YT: The authorities...when she went...wouldn't let her meet him?

EN: Because they...they couldn't locate him I guess, that's why. Because if they could, they would have taken her things, yea?

YT: Yeah, but they're the ones who told her to give...

EN: Yeah! That's why she couldn't understand that! And the next thing she knew, he was off island.

YT: Meaning where?

EN: That's what I'm not sure about where...Colorado or somewhere?

YT: Oh, they told her.

EN: No no. He...she finally got a letter from him. But...which was heavily censored, I don't know. ((?)) But there's so much. Even the letters we were received were censored. You know, so, they would just black out certain things. I don't know if it's because they didn't want us to know the location or what. I have no idea...

YT: But thank goodness he wrote to you folks.

EN: Yeah. So finally my mother knew that he was somewhere in the Mainland. She had no concept where but we did get letters and we were able to write him. Which we did, you know.

YT: Do you have any of those letters?

EN: None.

JT: So if you were able to write to him, you must have had an address.

EN: No. Because the address would be some kind a... military or *whateva kine* and *den dey* had *dey* own code, right? You know, like, you have a post office *ting*. You don't know where *dat ting* is. Like before, I remember when I used to mail stuff to my husband, you know, we have *dat* Fort Shafter APO number and...something similar to that because we really never knew. I can't remember how the letters were addressed that we were able to communicate back and forth through letters...

JT: Boy, those would be interesting yeah?

EN: Yeah. That would be interesting too.

YT: So you used to write to your father? In English?

EN: Yes. Because he worked for... Yeah. That's...but lot of things I don't understand. It's like, you know, the coin I showed you. Did they mint their own coin or what? You know, it was like a whole separate community or *whateva*, yeah. That they would mint their own coin. And they would get paid with that money or what...

JT: Well he was in the internment. Different places had separate fields to grow.

EN: No, I know about the separate fields and all that. But I'm talking about the money!

YT: He had...some of...they had, like, chits. They could exchange for...because they got paid.

EN: But of course, really cheap. but. What I'm amazed, they look like minted coins, you know, I mean, you saw, Yoshie.

YT: Yeah, but you still have it, right?

EN: Yes, somewhere.

YT: At the end, we'll take pictures of those things. but, how long...do you know how long he was away from you folks? Before the war ended, did he come home?

EN: No no no. Not till after...

YT: Oh...well, the war didn't end until August, right?

EN: August of '45. Yeah, it was sometime after that...

YT: And all that time...Now, how did you folks exist? How did you make a living?

EN: Well, that's it. My mother found a job. She worked at Loves Bakery. And, lucky for her, because she's born in Hawaii, she can read English and all *dat* so she had a little easier. She became a forelady. Even though without too much work experience. Because most of the

ladies her age were from Japan and so, you know, she was, like, one step above them because she could do the English.

YT: And that made it. Did you have your own home?

EN: No. Because we were renting at that time.

YT: Renting? Who was the landlord?

EN: Mr. Sakumai. I don't remember his first name.

YT: Oh, Japanese?

EN: Yes.

YT: Okay. So you had no problem with staying that rented house.

EN: Yeah. Because he was very close to my father. And I think he did not charge my mother. I'm not sure. I was so young.

YT: Yeah. But you were able to stay...

EN: I think...he was so good that he...and they were close and I think he did not charge my mother. However, most of the time, we did not stay with my mother because she had to work at night. They were running, like, so many shifts. So we stayed with grandparents.

YT: Where. In Honolulu?

EN: In Aiea.

YT: Oh...and you went to school?

EN: Most of the time. Yeah...

YT: When you say "we"...that's your brother? And your sister and you? Stayed with grandparents?

EN: My sister...my brother, right. Right right.

YT: Your mother's parents.

EN: Yes.

YT: Do you recall...did the government give your mother the option of going to the Mainland?

EN: Oh no. That was not...

YT: As far as you know, that wasn't an option?

EN: That wasn't an option. No, not at all.

YT: So, she had to stay here while the husband was...abroad.

EN: But the same things happened to the Ohamas, you know? I don't think they had that option either. And, so, just the father went. He was the principal of the Palama *Gakkou* and he living right next door, you know.

YT: Some had the option to go, right?

EN: I don't think so. Not even why...

JT: Eleven hundred of them went.

EN: How many?

JT: Eleven hundred. Family members.

YT: They had to pay they...

EN: But I *think* they were from outside island, yeah? Not too much from Honolulu.

JT: I know one of my classmates was.

EN: They had the option? We *neva* got the option. Where did they go?

JT: I don't know.

YT: Try read Gambare. There's another family that went, because, remember, they left their retarded child behind. And that child died while they were gone. That is so sad...so they called that voluntary relocation. Voluntary my foot!

EN: You have no choice!

YT: That's right! They had nobody to support them.

EN: Yes! Yes! They have no choice.

YT: So that's why they went to be there. That's why I asked you about your mother. But she worked.

EN: She worked. Luckily, she could find work. And so she worked.

YT: Okay. So, your father is gone all that time. You remember when you came back?

EN: That's why, I can't even remember. I can't even know if I was staying at home at *dat* time. I might have still been in Aiea.

YT: Because if you were only eight years old, you were about...

EN: I was like twelve.

YT: But do you remember...maybe you don't remember the day, but you remember when you saw your father come back from the mainland?

EN: Yeah. Of course. He was like a stranger though because...

YT: Of course! You were teenager now.

EN: Right right. Like a stranger...

YT: And so when he came back, how did...do you remember, was it by boat? Or plane?

EN: Yes, it was by boat. Because I think my mother have had a clipping, a newspaper clipping and, in fact, I think that's how she found that he was home. From the newspaper.

JT: Oh, you mean, you didn't go greet him at the ship?

EN: No, we didn't even know he was coming home. Well, I didn't know.

YT: Yeah, you didn't know. Maybe, just maybe, your mother might have known some things that she shielded from...

EN: But lot of things they don't tell us, you know. I don't know if that's so oriental, yeah?

YT: Yeah, that's what I mean. They shielded you.

EN: They don't...they so oriental, yeah. They think they shielding us and then, that only brings up more problems.

YT: True, true. But when, you know, after all, you were so little. At that age, when you're a parent, you know, ten, eleven years old, you still *kodomo*, yeah?

EN: Yeah.

YT: So she probably, you know...and then with all the work and the worry on her mind...

EN: Yeah sometimes you wonder how they managed as single parent. And then you didn't have the conveniences you have today.

YT: Yeah. Okay. So, you remember when you saw your father though? When he came back? Can you recall?

EN: I really cannot recall.

YT: Really? But one day he was home?

EN: I was very happy to see him because, you know, to *tink dat*, here's *dis man dat* all the kids used to tell me was a spy and such a bad criminal etc.. etc.

YT: That's just what I was gonna ask you. While your father was gone, how was your life with your friends? Your peers?

EN: Well, like, of course, with Louise and I, we were always close. We never had any problems whatsoever. However, some of the other, so-called friends or acquaintances, would pick on us, you know. On me anyway. Me and my sister. But...

YT: Pick on you...like how?

EN: Well, for whatever reason, I don't know, they would tell me, "Oh your father went to the concentration camp because he was a spy." And you know.

YT: You ever got into fights over that?

EN: Yeah, I recall getting into...

YT: Fist fights?

EN: Mm-hmm.

YT: Yeah!

EN: Physical...

YT: Yeah...were you a tomboy?

EN: Only at...yeah, at elementary school. Not after that but, you know, elementary school. That's when I, I guess, was fresh in everyone's mind, the war just started. After the years go by, you get *kinda* used to the idea that we have a war going on. So, that was...but when you young, you don't dwell on that *kine* of stuff. It wasn't...

YT: Now, you were a teenager when it happened?

EN: I think it would have been more painful.

YT: How were your teachers?

EN: They...they were so kind. I had this...in 3rd and 4th grade, I had this Mrs. Yanagihara. And she knew about our situation, you know, our situation. She had a daughter who was, I think, a couple years older than me. And she was so kind and all her daughters came to me.

YT: No kidding.

EN: And they were nice clothes. The *kine* that I never could afford.

YT: No kidding.

EN: Yeah. And she was so kind, this Mrs. Yanagihara. I often think about her because I said, "Jeez, she was so kind to think about me." And her daughters' clothes...which were still very nice she gave to me. And then the other one who showed me so much kindness was our dental hygienist. At that time, in the public schools, they had these dental hygienists. Her name was Miss Ito. She was not married. And she was always comforting and encouraging. But those two really stand out in my mind. Mrs. Yanagihara and Miss Ito.

YT: Now were there other children in your class that...whose father was taken away also?

EN: No.

YT: You were an oddball, like then. You were...you didn't have a father. People knew that...

EN: Well, not that many peoples' fathers were taken. When you consider the population...

JT: I would imagine these teachers are gone already?

YT: Yeah, what about the teachers? Are they still living? Yanagihara? Ito?

EN: No. She's gone. They all gone, I *tink*.

YT: And those girls from whom you got the hand-me-downs?

EN: No, they was Mrs. Yanagihara's daughter. In fact, I *neva* did meet her but I remember, you know. And my mother was so thankful because...anyway, war time was very hard to get fabric to begin with.

YT: I can imagine...

EN: To begin with was very hard so...to receive those were really so nice.

YT: So at least you had Louise as a best friend.

EN: Yeah.

YT: And you had those two teachers...

EN: Yeah...

YT: Yeah...anything else stand out in your mind? During those years...being without a father.

EN: Yeah. Because...you're lifestyle *kinda* changes, right? You know, I think it was hard on my mother. You know, really hard on her...So she had it rough.

YT: When did she die?

EN: She died in 1988.

YT: How old was she?

EN: She was 87.

YT: Thank goodness she had a time to enjoy life too...

JT: When you look back, do you remember as a child at that time how your mother suffered? Looking back.

EN: Looking back, she *neva* showed us, you know, but in her later years, once in a while she would go into some deep depressions, you know. And I don't know what caused it, if it was that traumatic...

YT: Memories or...

EN: Yeah...happening or what but, ((?))

YT: What 'bout your father? How long did he live?

EN: He lived till 72.

YT: So he died before your mother 'cause he was older than your mom.

EN: Yeah yeah, to begin with.

JT: So during that childhood time that your mother was, had to struggle when all dat...actually, *dat* time, you were protected from seeing her struggle.

EN: Yeah because we...luckily we had the grandparents, yeah. So lucky, you know. And I had the two uncles. I think was one in 442 and one was in 100. My mother's brothers. I *tink* so. I not too sure. *Dey* both gone now, you know. In fact, wait a minute, I have to take that

back. The older one was in the service. I remember, yes. The younger one didn't go. He was rejected because he had a murmuring heart. So he was never in the service. The older brother ((?)), my older uncle was in the service.

YT: What about your father's two brothers? What happened to them? Anything?

EN: They just, you know, carried on as normal. Nothing happened to them.

YT: Nobody picked them up?

EN: No, nothing. Yeah.

YT: When your father came back, was he able to find a job?

EN: Oh yeah. He worked.

YT: At the same Theo Davis?

EN: No no no no no. He worked at Dole Cannery. He worked at the cannery

YT: Doing what?

EN: Some kind of mechanic for the machines.

YT: He had a good job?

EN: I don't know if he is a blue collar job, but I guess it was alright.

YT: Yeah, but why couldn't he go back to Theo Davis at the sales job that he had before? Do you know why?

EN: Well, from what I can gather, it was like he went bankrupt because all these people who owed him money...

YT: Your father?

EN: Yeah, and then, when my brother and I tried to collect, they act dumb and my mother used to send us. My brother and I went on the bus to different places to try and collect. But because were children, they just, I guess, ignored us or what but we never collected. And then, of course, all his money tied up in Mitsukoshi.

YT: Oh, the bank.

EN: And the bank just closed down. End of story.

YT: During the war...

EN: Yeah...and that bank...I used to love to go with my father, because, you know, that was the first building that had an escalator. Yeah, and I used to love to go with my father because I could ride the escalator. That was the absolute first building to have an escalator. You remember that too, James?

JT: Yeah...

EN: So that's the only attraction that building had for me was because of the escalators.

JT: ((?)) Around Fort Street someplace.

EN: No. It was more like on Bethel and King. If I recall, was like on Bethel and King.

YT: Now you know, I'm thinking, before the war, before Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, in a way you folks had a pretty good life, yeah? Your father had a good job...

EN: Yeah...I thought so.

YT: ((?)) took the money to Mitsukoshi and saw him deposit money.

EN: Well, I didn't see him do the transaction. I was so...enthralled with the escalator.

YT: Whatever...you went with your papa and I bet he probably was dressed decently, you know. And then your mother was a housewife.

EN: Yes, yes.

YT: Then suddenly he's taken away and your life...right, he said your lifestyle changes.

EN: Yeah, it really changed.

YT: Then when he comes home, it doesn't suddenly go back. Or...

EN: Oh no no no.

YT: You still had to struggle. They...he had to get back into...

EN: Exactly...

YT: ...go to the Dole Cannery and ask for a job.

JT: Do you remember his mood when he came back?

EN: Well, I thought he was pretty good. He showed us, like, nothing happened.

YT: Oh...

EN: You know, very stoic. Very stoic.

YT: You Japanese, eh?

EN: Never complained. I guess he's thinking *shikata ga nai*, right? So, what's the point, yeah, in poisoning us too and making us bitter. Whatever he felt. Whatever once in a while when he would be talking to his friend, I would hear bits, you know. And I would say, and my Japanese nonexistent, so I really don't know but, you know, I have a feeling that amongst themselves, they might have talked but not to me.

JT: You guys knew they were talking about....you mean the people who were also in...

EN: Yes yes. Their experiences that they shared, you know.

JT: Well, that probably was good that they could have a shared ((?))...

EN: Reminisce or whatever. Their experience.

JT: Good...bad....

EN: Whatever hardships, you know...Him having that liver problem. He must've been about in his 60s, anyway, when he had a severe duodenal ulcer and he was hemorrhaging from those ulcers. And anyway, so he had to have surgery but they couldn't do surgery because of the bleeding and then they had to build him up and so they gave him, ho, transfusions after transfusions. Like maybe 20, you know. It was just going in and out – the blood 'til finally, it stabilized and then they could do surgery on him and remove the ulcer. But that might have been from the years of stress, you know, worrying about the family...

YT: The ulcers.

EN: Yeah, the ulcers might have. But at, *den* again too, I don't know because I came down with ulcers. I had lot of stress in my life too. However, when he died and he was, the doctor asked if he could do an autopsy I said go ahead because you know, it's good for the family to know. And they found that he had cirrhosis of the liver and they think that he received some faulty blood from someone who might have had hepatitis. Because in those days, they did not screen the blood as carefully as they do today. You know, they so particular about what's, you know, people with hepatitis cannot give blood. People who have a history of cancer, HIV, and etc., etc. But, at that time, they didn't have all this...

YT: Screening.

EN: Right. So they think that he might have received some faulty blood. Someone who had hepatitis. Because cirrhosis of the liver is usually brought on by heavy drinking and he did have that kind of lifestyle.

YT: Oh, he didn't?

EN: No no.

YT: Oh, so it might have been the blood transfusions?

EN: That's what the doctor thinks.

YT: It might have been hereditary.

EN: No no. Not the liver. The ulcer. The duodenal ulcer.

YT: So he kinda suffered then towards the end.

EN: Physically I would say yes. He had multiple health problems.

YT: Ok. How old was he when he died?

EN: Seventy-two.

YT: Oh, he was 72? And then how long afterwards did your mother die?

EN: Oh, well she was twelve years his junior. And she died at 88. So she, you know, outlived him for quite a while. She was about 60 when he passed away. So she outlived him, like, 28 years.

YT: So you would, what would you say...she lived by herself or did she live with you folks?
Or...

EN: Well, she lived by herself until she had a slight stroke. But she was still ambulatory and all *dat*. But we felt that it was no longer safe for her to live by herself so she came to live with me. She lived with me for the last ten years of her life.

YT: Is that right?

EN: Yeah. Yeah, she lived with me in this house. And dad did alright for her.

YT: Yeah. Cause she sure must have worked hard and worried because nobody, you know...in a situation like what went through during the war, you don't know when it's gonna end.

EN: No you don't!

YT: What would you say you learned from them?

EN: Well, a lot I learned from my parents I guess. Most of who I am today, you know, about work ethic and being honest and being kind. Don't be, you know, nasty to people. And be more accepting; not so critical. But, yeah...

YT: You see your parents as having been that kind of people where they were not overly critical of people? They were kind, helpful...

EN: Yes yes. My mother especially was very sharing.

YT: Very sharing. Give me an example of what.

EN: Well, and her kindness is like, you know we used to have these garbage guys come and on collection days, she would have her pitcher with the water ready for them. Or soda. Or things. And she would be out there so when they came, they could get a drink. I always remember her doing that. She was one of the only person I knew that did that waiting ((?)). And then when *dey* would leave a mess, she would just clean it up. You know, and clean her neighbors. But *dat's* how she was. *Dat's* what I mean about being thoughtful, kind, and...

But she showed us through example. You know how...and if somebody was less fortunate than her...But den when she was living by herself, I cannot hate to talk about this, but she was such a target because they have this, in Palama, they have this Mayor Wright's Housing which is not too far from where my mother lived. She didn't live in the housing but in the place where she lived. And some of those kids knew that my mother was alone and all *dat* and once in a while, she used to let the young boys run her errands, you know. And they would take her money, James, and never come back. At the beginning, they would pick up the items and bring the change. Until, I guess, she built trust in them or whatever. And after that, she said, oh, she can't trust them because, you know, she gave them \$20, and they disappear. Never come back with items she asked for. And she said, one time, they even came into her living room and stole her TV. She was so frightened she couldn't do anything because she's an old lady by herself. And she said they just walked in and carried it off. She said, "What could I do?" I said, yeah, I agree. Good thing you didn't fight them and get hurt. So, just let 'em take it, you know. So, that's when we decided, when that happened to her, she couldn't be independent already. Come move in with me. But, it was getting bad. But that was terrible, you know? That people could just walk into your house and go off with your TV and know that you're not able to do anything, so...

YT: What did you learn from your father, you think?

EN: From my father, I learned...well...he always strong on education, you know, always...even if you didn't...or like my mother used to say, "Why you keep telling her to go back to school" even though I was already. He said, "Because if she's educated, she'll be a better mother and her children will have a better chance." So, that's what, that was his thinking, even if I'm just a housewife.

He said that she would become an intelligent mother. And then she can guide her children correctly. So, *dat's* the one thing I always remember about him. He just stressed that so strongly and no matter what age, he said you can always learn because, he said, you know, people always equate wisdom and age. He said they don't equate. He said because you, if you stupid when you young, you not *gonna* be smart when you old. You go still *gonna* be the same stupid. You have to work to, you know, build your own intelligence and curiosity and whatever.

YT: And here you are. A woman. A girl. He didn't differentiate between how some Japanese families or something...

EN: No no no. Not at all.

YT: The boy, you know, he's the important one. Get him educated. The girl just get married and become a housewife. Your father didn't make a difference.

EN: No no. He thought we should all be educated. I think that's the one thing. Because I didn't have too much interaction with him because of the years that were lost. When I was younger, it's different kind of relationship you have with your parents, right. And as you grow, and then I got married very young so I left home. But, if anything, was that he always said that education is never wasted. No matter on who. You know, even if you just a housewife.

JT: It's not just a vocation.

EN: No. No. It's just how to raise your own quality of life.

YT: Yeah yeah. So, from your experiences, what do you want to pass on to your children. What counsel do you have for your own children?

EN: Well, that same thing like my mother said. Be honest because, ho, when I see all these politicians and successful people and I tell them not to be greedy. You know, that scares me because you see all these people with money and they...they can't even spend the money they have and they still so greedy! So, one thing is that, be happy with what you have; do not be greedy. And, you know, if it's *gonna* come to you, it's *gonna* come to you. But honestly, not through crook and crook *kine* of business. I would like to leave that with them – don't be greedy! Because I don't think it's worth it

YT: Because of what you have seen yourself?

EN: Yeah! Even, like, in our area, we had some politician. I thought he was a stand-up guy and everything. Only to find out that you know, he's trying to evade taxes. Pay your share! You making money! And he went to prison. I don't want that for my children. And what about their children? What their children *goin* think? So if anything, please be honest. Don't be greedy and, you know, try to give back.

JT: It's important, yeah? To carry on that type of teaching. One generation to generation...

EN: Yeah. So I was so glad because my son, he used to be a Big Brother (___) and he took care of his, my grandchildren's scout group for so many years until they both became Eagle Scouts (___) or whatever the thing. And, they do community service a lot and he was very active in the community. And my oldest daughter, because she lives on the Big Island, there are a lot of immigrants. She tutors these Filipino children and from other ethnic group. And she used to do this so many times a week. And, um, I'm glad she does that, you know, and she even went back to school to get a degree in English. Although she already had two degrees because she's a librarian, she's the head librarian over there. She does tutoring and things like that. I like to see that in my children. And they doing this, not for money, but for tremendous satisfaction. But I told if it interferes with your family life, you cut it off. But, however, her children are growing up and all *dat* so, you know, she's a... As far as they're community-oriented and do the right thing, I think they'll be alright.

YT: And you know she's teaching her children by example too, yeah?

EN: I hope so. I know older granddaughter of her YBA, the Young Buddhist Association. Until she went off to college, but this is what I want them to do. If you can't afford to do it, well of course, take care yourself first. You know, work and make whatever. And then, please give if you have the time and the money and help. So just like me tonight, I'm getting ready for my neighborhood patrol, you know.

YT: You are?

EN: I *gotta* go at 7 o'clock. Don't worry!

YT: Oh, tell us about 7 o'clock! Tell us about your neighborhood patrol! What is this all about?

EN: Yeah, don't worry. Well, we do this twice a month. We don't tell them where we going and what time because we want to surprise the criminals not that we met any but at least there...there's generally about twelve of us and we pick certain areas of this valley and we walk. In groups of...

YT: Pairs?

EN: Well, more than pairs because only two women. I think I'm the oldest in the group but never mind. But we go like about six in a group. That's safe, you know?

YT: From 7 o'clock to when?

EN: Till about 8, 8:30. Depending where we go and how...we do this twice a month.

YT: You just make yourself visible?

EN: Yes. We bring our flashlights.

JT: Twice a month and other people are fitting in the schedule?

EN: No no. We only do this twice a month.

YT: Unfortunately, they...

EN: Yeah, you know, even though we have over 500 families, but, not everybody is so inclined. So, you have the same old people going but dis okay. You know, we feel good about it. Cause when come a time I can't walk anyway.

YT: How long have you been doing this?

EN: From last year we started it because of, yeah, we decided we *gonna* do this, you know? Because...

YT: Have you seen a change in the community?

EN: Not really but at least we doing something. Because originally we wanted to hire the policemen but they just don't have the resources too because they short-ended. Even if you pay them, that's not the point. They don't have the personnel. So we decided we *gonna* do this ourselves. And that's why we doing it. And we could go more often! Exactly! But, for me, I can go, maybe, you know, every week, but not every can so...and I certainly can't go by myself, yeah? So that's why. So we do this twice a month. Well, usually we have at least 2 groups because generally between 10 and 15. We enver know how many are *gonna* show up, That's the thing. Sometimes they get hung up with other things that they can't show up.

JT: Twice...

EN: ...a month. Yes.

JT: The same group go twice a month.

EN: Generally.

JT: Not another group...

EN: No no no. And then if there's like 10-12 of us, then we'll split into 2 groups and then we'll on both sides of the street at once. Instead of going back and forth. So that's what we do.

YT: On different days, you don't always the same.

EN: Yeah! We don't let people know because otherwise you defeat the purpose! So...so we do this.

JT: Random, yeah?

EN: Yes yes.

YT: And young people see you doing that because, you know, because these are all older adults that go...

EN: Some are like my son's age so middle age, like in their 50s.

YT: So, from 50 to...how old are you?

EN: I'm 73.

YT: Oh, 50 to 73? Two bunches?

EN: Yes yes yes...

YT: Patrolling the place. You set an example.

EN: That's all we can do! You know, at least I'm not sitting on my *okole*! I'm trying to put my legs where my mouth is...doing the walking.

JT: And all throughout life, did you have a job?

EN: Yes! That's how I met the Tetsuo Harano. When I was working for that engineering firm. Yes yes. Before my mother came to stay with me. I was working at an engineering firm. That's where I met him

YT: How did you know? How well did you get to know him?

EN: Not that well. But, we had several meetings and, but this was in the '70s that's why I don't know if he'll remember me but I know he would certainly remember my boss.

YT: And your boss was?

EN: Was Charles Yun – civil engineer. I think he was structural too so civil structural engineer.

YT: And at the time, those guys were honest people I bet? Did their job?

EN: Well, I wouldn't say that because there's a small amount of stuff going all the time. But not on this large scale like today. Today, they, it's just out of hand. You know, bribes and all *dat kine* of stuff is been going on but it was sort of like within reason *kine* – not unreasonable *kine*. You know, like that politician in California who received millions of dollars in bribes for contracts. See, now had he taken only couple thousands of dollars, it wouldn't be so bad but he got so greedy and it's so rampant and if they take a few bucks, even me, I can look the other way, you know, because you really not hurting anybody, if

you get the work done properly and everything. What's...that's how it goes. But when you so greedy and you do so much, you know somebody is definitely *gonna* get hurt somewhere along the line. Maybe the contractors is *gonna* cut corners because he has to pay this huge bribe then we're being cheated! Out of the best product. So that's why I don't like that! But if it's a few dollars everybody puts in when you in business, a little bit for either promotional or whatever, and you can stand that. You know, maybe that's not the right way. I should put in words, shouldn't have graph at all but I'm just saying that there's a limit to things like that. You know what I'm saying? I'm not condoning wrongdoing, however, this guy in California was his name, that Duke something...oh boy...millions of dollars he took in contracts. That's too much...you *gotta* put a stop to that kind of business...

JT: So you had your own career then?

EN: Not really because I travel with my husband a lot. He was in the military. So after 20 years, when we came to Hawaii to settle, then I worked. But then I couldn't work for too long because my mother became ill. I took care of her. She was more important than the job so, you know, actually I only worked for about seven years because between the time he retired and you know, it was, I didn't have a long career.

JT: Where did your husband serve out overseas?

EN: Oh, he served all over. Because he was in Vietnam and he was in Korea. He was in Canada and we went, we were in New Mexico, the Far East, Japan...and California. So, we never went to Europe but just, you know...

JT: Your kids were born in different places too?

EN: Fortunately or unfortunate, I don't know what, all were born in Tripler. They were all born in Tripler. They didn't grow up in Hawaii but they were born in Tripler.

JT: And, did your husband go into combat?

EN: Yes, in Korea. He did.

JT: Oh yeah?

EN: Not in Vietnam but in Korea. Yeah...

JT: You remember what unit?

EN: He knows. Not me. I don't know. I forgot. I don't know, don't like to remember those times. Funny how we can block it out. I can remember all other kinds of trivia but as far as the war stuff, somehow I don't like to remember those things even like in Vietnam, I know exactly where he used to be, I used to write to him and all. Yeah...so unpleasant the memories.

YT: He came home safely.

EN: Yeah. Right. My girlfriend. Her husband down the street...her husband died in Vietnam. And she raised her two sons...I said oh boy, I give her credit.

YT: She was young?

EN: She was a young widow. Because he was about ready to retire too and he died in Vietnam. My husband went in in his 19th year.

YT: 19 years old?

EN: No, 19th year of service. He was about to retire.

YT: He had one more year to retire?

EN: He had how many friends that died...same situation like him. They were ready to retire. Just like Helen's husband. He was ready to retire. He went to Vietnam. He died.

YT: What's another story that I'd sure like to find out how our government helped with...

EN: They didn't those days. Those days you get a \$10,000 death payment and that's it. And she had to raise two boys. Now it's up to \$150,000.

YT: Now they talking about \$200,000 and all that kind of stuff.

EN: But in those days, they didn't because you have to remember, those days are the times wher, like today, the military, the low ranking people can avail themselves to food stamps and stuff. Before, I no care how low ranking we were, you have to make it paycheck to paycheck on your own.

YT: But it still changed. So that's a whole 'nother story.

EN: Whole other story.

YT: Listen, Eunice. So you had how many children?

EN: Three.

YT: Three. First one was?

EN: Girl. She's head of the Hilo Regional State Library.

YT: And she has children?

EN: She has two.

YT: She has two. And those granddaughters are *doin* real well?

EN: Well, that one is in Willamette. And the other one is still in high school in Hilo. Yes.

YT: Ok, and your son?

EN: Yeah, he has two boys. And one is in UH, fourth year. And, yes. The younger one is in Missouri. I always say Missouri but it's Missouri Valley.

YT: And then your youngest daughter....And what does she do?

EN: She's the minor administrator at post office. The one that the airport.

YT: Keeping you busy with grandchildren all grow up. Yeah, but you went through some hard times growing up.

EN: Yes. I must say! But in a way, like I said you know, being young like that sometimes is a tremendous blessing because I was not aware of what really was going on.

YT: Your mother was the one who took the blunt of it.

EN: Yeah. Not me. Yes, exactly. I was not really aware and that time, all our neighbors were poor, so I didn't feel poor cause I was like everybody else right? So, except that my father had a car. But besides that, you know, besides that, everybody was poor. So, in a way it was a blessing that I was so young and yet, the other part is that if I was a little older, I would have been more knowledgeable about things. You know what I'm saying? So, it has it's good and bad because when you young like that, you know you're not really aware. My mother. She had a rough time...And for those days, for a woman to go to work was, you know, almost unheard of, yeah? That generation? Most all were homemakers unless they were widowed. So, it was almost unheard of.

JT: What year did your dad die?

EN: Let's see...

YT: When you were in school?

EN: No? I was 28 years old. Yeah, so in '62, something like that [Buntaro Kan's obituary was in the Honolulu Advertiser on December 27, 1961].

JT: He was still young, eh?

EN: Seventy-two.

YT: Yeah. 'Cause he was much older than her mother. But by that time, did your mother? Was she still working?

EN: Oh no no no. She quit long before then.

JT: Well this is long before the redress, yeah?

EN: Oh, yeah. Long before.

YT: He never got the ((?)).

EN: But *dat's* ok. *Dat...* we not looking for *dat*. In a sense, it's not. But, you know, like my mother always say, what can you do? *Shikata ga nai*. Spilt milk and blah blah blah all dat.

JT: Let me ask you this. Do you feel that it would, that you would like to have that apology?

EN: That I don't mind having because you know... The money is material. Who needs it already at this age?

JT: An apology would be important?

EN: Would be nice, yeah, I think so. You know, we just don't talk about it but I think I would feel more open about it they say, he was so completely innocent and everything and this grievous thing was done to him you know and he was taken away from his family. We all suffered and would be nice if somebody would say we're so wrong and we can make it up to you. Those years are gone. That's it. Nobody can give you back time.

JT: Because there's the fact that he died before the redress and does not erase the fact that he was interned.

EN: Maybe he's dead but we're not dead.

YT: That's a good point.

EN: You know? He's dead but we're not dead and we suffered. My mother was the worst one. You know...

YT: Especially that last thought, You know? Because we heard that from other children also.

JT: Yeah, you not alone by any means and they all feel that a lot of them feel that an apology would be important. Because they did go through it

EN: Sure we did. There's no denying because perhaps all our lives would have taken a different turn, you know.

JT: And the redress, how many years after this was so late anyway? You know, the redress took...

EN: But to me, never mind the redress. But, my goodness, you cannot give us back that time that was lost. Those years. Those years, you know...that's the thing. Yeah. To me the money is a material because money is something you can always make. You cannot make time. If it's gone. It's gone. You never get it back. But money – you lose some today, you can make some tomorrow. It's the time that, you know, people don't realize. You cannot...and then like our goals, like in my case for instance, I was eight years old when my dad left. When he came home, I was almost a teenager. All that...I went through that whole stage and you know if he had died, well, that's life. But, he was living but he had missed all that. That's the part. If the person died, you have to accept, what can you do? You know, you accept it but to be taken away and lose all those years...for what?

YT: Like you said, he was completely innocent.

EN: Well, to me. I don't know. I don't know if my mother had papers or he had papers or I don't know. I was young but as far as I know, he was innocent. You know?

YT: And they never proved anything to you so?

EN: Well the government never prove any acts of sabotage in the islands connecting these men with whatever right? So, it's not me. It's the government hasn't shown that there was any sabotage. Yeah?

YT: That's right.

EN: And if they were talking about Japan in a positive way, in a way you can understand that, because that's they mother country, you know.

YT: And even if they wanted to make America their mother country, they were prevented by law!

EN: Yeah but anyway, they were law-abiding. Let's put it this way. They didn't break any laws, ok? And then you punish them like that? I don't know...I don't know..

JT: What would an apology do? Would it ease the pain a little bit? What would it do?

EN: For me I think, I think I can feel freer about talking about that time. Usually I don't talk to people about it because I still have in the back of my mind, what if he was a spy. But I was so young, you know? And people are telling you this.

Not that I can't go back to the people and tell them ((?)) he's not a spy. But for myself now...see the people who say things like that to me, they've already forgotten it but I haven't.

JT: It would really acknowledge the fact that they did no wrong.

EN: Exactly, exactly. You know. Ho, that's why I said we was the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union).

YT: But you do know that there were people like the ACLU afterwards, you know, that got some justice, yeah? Like Rain Collins and some of those ((?))

EN: But at least...and also...remember some very outspoken politicians who spoke out so badly against the Japanese, you know? And wanted to have them incarcerated yesterday, you know? Or one of the most famous ones – she's one of the Campbell heirs – and I don't know why she's ((?)) and everything but I don't know what she had this thing about Japanese, saying you can't trust them and all. She was so outspoken and really put the Japanese down. So I don't know what kind of experience she had that would turn her so bitter, you know? So...

JT: Remember earlier you talked about your teachers? Two teachers?

EN: Yes. No, one was a dental hygienist. Ms. Ito. And the other one was Ms. Yanagihara.

JT: Recently, a book was written called Kansha. It was together as many people helped internees before the war, during the war, after the war. They were helping them. But before the internment, during the internment, and after...and those two people you mentioned should be in that book.

EN: Oh, they should yeah! And I don't even know their first names. But they were...I guess you could find out because they were with the DOE at Likelike School. It's not like, you know, just off the street people because one was a teacher and one was a dental hygienist.

JT: Do you know their full names? You know what grade they were teaching at what year?

EN: Well, Ms. Ito was the hygienist for the whole school – for the elementary school. And Ms. Yanagihara was my teacher in 1942 and '43 and '44 because I was like in the third and fourth grade. Yeah, those two were very kind to me.

YT: Did you know of any other classmates or schoolmates that were in the same position as you?

EN: Yeah! *Dat* Ethel Abe! But that one...she was in high school. And then Fumiko Ohama – her father was the principal of the Japanese school. She was my classmate but she died. And Ethel...I don't know her married name.

YT: So those about the only you guys were like a "Three Musketeers."

EN: No not really.

YT: No because you folks different grades...

EN: Yeah...

YT: You didn't know of anybody else whose...

EN: Because maybe they didn't want to talk about it too...I know I didn't...

YT: Yeah maybe they were...

EN: Yeah maybe but I don't know you know...but when you consider it was island wide – not only this island but all the other islands, thousand is not that many. So I don't know how many classmates of mine would have that, yeah?

JT: What did you father not want to talk about? His experience...

EN: I don't know but I know it wasn't a good experience that's why I don't think it was something he wanted to share with others. Or not with us anyway. Maybe with my mother...I don't know.

JT: You think he maybe wanted to spare you – maybe if he talked about it to you, he would become bitter?

EN: I *kinda* maybe think that too. Because one time he made a comment when I was going to New Mexico to live, he said if you ever in the Santa Fe area, he told me the name of the road he worked on – the road gang. He said that would be part of the road he helped build.

YT: Oh he told you?

EN: It was in New Mexico somewhere. I *neva*...

JT: It was a particular road?

EN: Yeah but I can't remember because I was thinking 'oh, I don't think I *wanna* go there, you know?' But...

JT: He went to Santa Fe, yeah?

EN: That was his last...that's where I think that picture was taken. Was there one there?

JT: Department of Justice.

EN: And I think that's the place where the picture was taken because I went by the architecture of the building in the background and that's southwestern architecture. It's not...New York, you know?

JT: A big number...maybe most of the Japanese from here...went there. One time or another. And then some of them were distributed to her places too.

EN: But according to what they told me that was their last stop before being exchanged with American prisoners of war. Because they were doing this exchange with prisoners of war.

JT: When?

EN: During that war. So you don't know about that?

JT: I know about that. Some of the exchange stopped. The exchange program stopped for a time.

EN: Well, all I know is that what I was told and that was his last stop that he was going to be in the process of being exchanged. And then the war – the atom bomb – abruptly ended, you know? But the way it was looking, you know how Japan with the Yamato Tamashi was going to the last man so they didn't know how long that would have continued, right? They were getting the kids and women ready for hand-to-hand combat and...my gosh, you know? That's the mentality at that time before the bomb. But, when the bomb fell, they knew that that was it already and no way you could fight that bomb.

JT: Thank you.

YT: Thank a lot!

EN: Oh, my pleasure. I don't know how helpful I was or anything, but I, you know what, James, I like you try that *yatsumizuke*. Like that because I make 'em big for you because if you like it, you can take some home. You can sit at the table.

[break in video]

YT: This is a picture taken on March 3rd, 1945 somewhere in Southwestern United States. It is a picture of a makeshift Buddhist temple and altar. If you can see the floor is bare sandy floor. This is Mr. [Buntaro] Kan – Eunice's father. This man is Reverend Yoshizumi - the Buddhist priest of this temple. This is Eunice's father – Mr. Kan. And this is – this was his best friend, Reverend Yoshizumi – the Buddhist priest of this temple.

YT: This is another picture taken at the same camp in Southwestern United States on June 20, 1944. This is a group picture of the men incarcerated in that camp. Eunice believes that this man here is her father. She's not 100% sure but she thinks that this is more than likely her father.

JT: The one with the cap on.

YT: Yes. The one in the dark shirt. This Eunice believes is her father. She is not definite but she thinks this might be her father. This man with the cap and the dark shirt on. This picture is

a group picture because they wanted to make sure that they had a picture of all of them because they did not know when some of them might be sent to Japan as a prisoner of war exchange.

JT: Which some of them were.

YT: Which some of them were sent back to Japan before the end of the war – before the exchange of prisoners were – ended. Or stopped.

JT: Thank you.

Transcription by JCCH volunteer Joy Nakahara, December 2013