

This oral history interview is with Mr. and Mrs. Yoshio and Sachito Hasuike. The interview was conducted during the evening of May 5, 1978 at their home in Tigard. The interview is approximately three hours in length during which time an entire spectrum of topics are dealt with. At the outset, the Hasuikes' talk of their ancestors emigrating from Japan around the turn of the century. From there, the discussion leads into the settlement of the family on their farm in Tigard, the Japanese traditions and customs they brought with them, the growing of strawberries, the neighboring farms and farmers, farm mechanization, and a number of other subjects. One particularly insightful segment deals with the relocation of the Japanese-Americans during World War II.

When I began conducting a series of interviews concerning the history of agriculture of Washington County and the various ethnic groups that populate it, I immediately thought of the Hasuike family as prime oral history candidates. My Father's family and the Hasuike family grew up together, worked together, and lived together in the rural farm area on and around Deef Bend Road. After some initial modest hesitation, Yoshio and Sachito were willing to set aside some time out of the harvest season to recall the events of their lives for the benefit of the Washington County Museum and the people of the County.

It was with considerable intrepidation that I broached the subject of the relocation of the Japanese-Americans off the West Coast during World War II. To my surprise however, they were willing, indeed anxious, to talk about it and in some detail. (Pages 30-54 of the transcript and tracks 3 and 4 of the tapes) This is indeed the most poignant section of the entire interview.

It puts a personal perspective on such abstract ideas as wartime hysteria, racial discrimination, and the denial of freedom. The purpose of this section is not to pass judgement on the rightness or wrongness on this essentially military decision but to record its repercussions on the lives of the people it affected. Amazingly, with the passage of time, most of the bitterness has worn away. The Hasuikes and most likely many other Japanese-Americans can look back on this historical event and era with, if not acceptance, at least understanding.

Track 2

- (20) What did Beef Bend connect to? Talks about streets from Portland to Barbur Blvd.
- (30) Make lots of trips to Portland? Picked milk up all over Tigard. Yoshio's mother didn't like to go to Portland. Shopped in Tigard. Worked together.
- (40) Talking about the dairy farms. What was land like when Yoshio's father came? All timber. Sach been here 30 years. Can't believe how it has grown! What was market for strawberries? Steady demand for berries? Canneries change things.
- (50) Nearest cannery in Beaverton. Talks about canneries. Oregon grows lots of berries. Calif can now. During depression 12¢ a flat. How did effect when canneries closed?
- (60) Without canneries you would be out of business?

Track 3 **Index for Part 2 begins here**

- (0) Talking about World War Two. Restrictions on traveling. Have to evacuate. Registered in 1936. Correspond with sister?
- (10) During War you could only communicate through Red Cross. Concentration camps if you didn't have place to go. Evacuations started when war broke.
- (20) Could you see it coming? Sachito had premonition! 1 day and 1 night to move. General De Witt in command. Feelings of neighbors?
- (30) Drafted in August. First one to go here if not for fingers. Neighbors helped move. Some blamed us that didn't know us.
- (40) Mass Hysteria if you were Japs. People put up signs "Keep Out"! Things turned out smoother after about 1 year. Lots of Japanese boys in our armies. You had it better than most.

Track 3

- (50) Cost Government lots of money for food, doctors, clothes and etc.
Many families volunteer to leave. Six families went with Yoshio. Met
in Vale at church. Was there laws on the Japanese people. Went to
Ontario, Oregon in evacuation.
- (60) Automatic choppers to chop top off. Main crop onions and sugar beets.
Where were some of the locations camps? How did families end up in Camps?
Trains.

Track 4

- (0) Talking about relocation centers. What were conditions like? What would
you do there? Sewings, knittings. Teaching each other things!
- (20) Tells story about German P.O.W. a camp in Vale. They would work in fields
for \$2.00 day. Good relationships between Germans and Japanese.
- (20) Had Mexicans help. Would help neighbors. During time in Ontario did you
hear about war? How did you feel about your country? Some bitterness?
- (30) Had to make best of it. When were you able to leave Ontario? Came back
in 1947. After war. What was Government's explanation? Started from
scratch when we came back. Rented farm to Johnny.
- (40) Took all machinery to Ontario with them. Was there other Japanese farmers
that didn't come back after war? Farm methods changed? Change for better?
Gradually sprayed insecticides.
- (50) Did your father have problems with diseases? No just birds eating seeds
on berries. What was need with herbicides? Keep weeds down. Does public
have to worry about herbicides?
- (60) Housewives have all conveniences but comparison she still doesn't have
time for things. Irrigating start in early 50's. Almost need college
education to take care of farm.

Start of Track 3

(0)
IM: We were talking before I turned the recorder on about the situation surrounding World War Two and the Japanese here on the West Coast. Maybe you can just start ~~it~~ by telling how this came about or a little bit about it from the beginning. From your viewpoint.

YH: Well we were not too informed on how it came about more or less because all of a sudden, we knew that there were, what do you call it?

IM: This is the 30's that we are talking about?

YH: Yes or 1940's before World War Two broke. They were buying American scrap ^{things} all along in the 30's just buying everything that they could get their hands on. All of a sudden, boom! They didn't like U.S. were objecting to Japan invading [?] into China you see. So they started boycotting the metal or not shipping the metal to Japan or not giving them any. That is the only indication of trouble at all as far as I was concerned. We didn't know anything about it. We don't keep up with the Japanese news that much. When Pearl Harbor was attacked, boy I was surprised, I was shocked. In fact we were working on the old house we live in and I was under the house working under the flooring because it was coming loose and getting old and we had to replace it. A neighbor came over and said, "hey! The Japs bombed Pearl Harbor." I said, "what? Where is that?" I didn't have any idea where Pearl Harbor was. Well then it went into blackouts and cantrells after curfew ^{could recheck tape} hours and this and that. Then they put a restriction on us traveling. Only ^(could they travel) during the daytime. In other words between the hours of 8 to 4 or 8 to 5 or something like that. So when we would go shopping it was almost impossible because the market opens at ~~4~~ ^{one} in the morning. But they kind of eased up on

it gradually and we were allowed to sell what we did have. Then it went into and said well you are going to have to get rid of your things and be ready to evacuate. All the ^{people of} Japanese ancestry had ~~all~~ to evacuate so we had to be ready for it, which means dispose of our personal belongings and ^{machineries} ~~machineries~~ and stuff like that because we could only take so much to the camp with us or travel with us.

LM: Before the evacuation you were saying that there were certain measures or that were being instituted. Curfew hours. .

YH: That was after Pearl Harbor that the curfew thing came in. But I think in 1936 we were already finger printed and picture taken and we had a record ^{document made} from Japan whether we American citizens or Japanese citizen or what not. We were all registered and the American government came and took us all in.

LM: In 1936. Was this because they were suspicious, [?] Or what was the reason for that?

YH: I think they were suspicious then, However we don't know anything about it. The government knew more about it then we do. But it wasn't just the Japanese. It was the Italians and Germans and all the aliens were finger printed and everything else didn't they? You don't remember, but I do because I ^(talking to Sach) had to take my folks in.

LM: ~~How about~~ Did you have any ancestors, either of you, back in Japan at that time that you corresponded with?

YH: My sister was in Japan and she still is. You see my dad let the girls go back to Japan and study and let them do what they want but the boys weren't allowed to back there.

LM: Did you ever hear or correspond with your sister at this time?

YH: Well they wrote to us off and on letting ^{us} ~~me~~ know what they were doing because they were studying. My youngest sister and my oldest sister were back there then. My oldest sister was over there prior to that and took my youngest sister back there to Japan to more less stay with her because she was already in her 20's and my youngest sister was only 12 when she went over there. She stayed over there with my sister to study. But there isn't anything to write about really. There wasn't anything happening except going back and forth to school so unless they want money or something like that they don't write.

(10) SH: After the outbreak of the war though the only way that we could communicate was through the Red Cross. You could send message over there and then find out if they were okay or whatever.

IM: You had quite a bit of your family back there at the time. Didn't you back in Japan?

SH: I have relatives over there.

IM: So was that first thing to cut off communication?

YH: Oh yes, ^{Co} communications were ~~all~~ cut off all together. In fact the F.B.I. even came out and inspected our farm.

SH: ~~The~~ ones ^{who} ~~that~~ didn't evacuate voluntarily ~~they~~ were sent into concentration camps or whatever like in Portland here it was at the ^{Pacific International,} ~~P.I.~~ was it?

YH: All the people in the Portland area or the surrounding areas like Vancouver, Washington and all over Oregon were all fitted into a stockyard here in Portland. That is what they called the relocation ~~camp~~. ...

SH: Concentration?

YH: No, NO, NO. They call it -- --

SH: I will have to get you a book on that.

YH: They concentrated there and then they shipped them back to ^{Minidoka} Minidoka, Idaho or
someplace in California. ^{spelling?}

SH: ^{Tule} Trinity Lake, California, ^{Heart} Hart Mountain, Wyoming, and different places.

IM: When did the evacuations begin then?

YH: 1942. That was ^{all} ~~at~~ of a sudden. After World War Two broke, why we had to go
get an alien registration cards and everything.

SH: That is for your folks.

YH: Everybody. And then like us we decided to call the western ~~in~~ command, the
army and we can evacuate on our own. We had certain zones that we ~~were~~ had
to evacuate out of which means that from Baker, Oregon to this way we can't
stay. You had to go East of Baker, Oregon or something like that. So they
said we could go if we had a place to go. At that time ~~-----~~ ^{who?} was alive yet.

SH: He had a farm over there in Nassa, Oregon. He had a farm there for raising
nursery stock. So he said, "I have ^{a farm} ~~room~~ why don't you evacuate over there."

YH: So I said we would go over there. So we got a permit to travel. You had
to have a permit for everything. You had to have a permit to travel to East-
ern Oregon. We got permit and went over there and the guy on the place
didn't seem like he wanted to leave it.

(20) IM: I think we were talking about the pre-evacuation. Could you see it coming?
Or was it a complete shock? You were telling me a little bit before I ~~turn~~
turned on the recorder.

SH: I didn't see it coming but I had a ^{premonition} ~~premination~~ when I was real young that
someday all the Japanese would be evacuated and that we would be herded in
a truck and whatever and be toted off somewhere. My mother thought I was

half insane. I guess maybe she thought I was totally insane. I had that
~~premination~~^{premonition} and then finally when it did come true she said, "you were right".

LM: Do you think this was a ~~premination~~^{premonition} or do you think it was based on your
experiences when you were younger?

SH: It is totally a ~~premination~~^{premonition} because I have ~~preminations~~^{premonitions}.

LM: You mentioned that. . . Was ~~it~~^{it} voluntary when they asked you to move?

YH: Those who wanted to move voluntarily had ~~there~~^{their} permission to move and had
a place to go. So we went to Eastern Oregon and about ~~the~~^{four} families went ~~lee-~~
looking for a place. We ran into a family that my dad knew from way back and
he said we would get you a place to run a farm. So we got a think a 100
acre farm and we got 75 acres of it and ~~the~~^{four} families farmed it the first year.
The second year we split it up and went on our own. As soon as we got found
out we got the place running, ~~proof that~~^{proof that} we were rented, we showed them that
we were rented, we packed up our equipment ~~and~~^{to} go. So we started loading
up our equipment. Over night we loaded, one day and one night we moved up
~~the~~^{four} trucks of equipment and household goods and pulled out of here.

LM: In how many nights did you say?

YH: One day and one night.

SH: Under pressure you can do things I guess.

YH: I only slept ~~the~~^{two} hours in 48 hours, (laughing).

LM: It is hard to imagine picking up everything and moving.

YH: They tell us the last night before we moved that the day that we left at
4:00 we had to be over Mt. Hood before midnight.

LM: Who were they? That were giving you these orders?

YH: General DeWitt was in command then.

LM: So in a sense it was voluntary but in reality it was forced.

SH: You were forced to either evacuate voluntarily or have the government move you.

YH: To the stockyard and then shipped to some location ^{in a} concentration camp.

LM: What was the feelings of some of the farmers and some of your neighbors at the time that ^{you} were close with ?

YH: Most of it good. Like the Clarke's, ^{and} your folks ^{we} ~~and~~ were just kids ^{who} ~~and~~ went to grade school ^{high school} and ~~we~~ together, ~~and~~ ^{we} ran around together and ate together and did everything together like fishing, swimming, and everything else. So it was just like same as you and I would be if we were raised to do that. So the only one that it would bother was some outsider that would come in and want to know. So even we can't help it because we were drafted to. In fact I was one of the first to be drafted after the Roosevelt number in the hat you know. Although I got thrown out cause I didn't have enough fingers. I was a "4 f er." August before the war, Pearl Harbor was Dec. 7 you know. This was in August of the same year that I was drafted. Like my friends were drafted at the time and they went overseas.

LM: Other Japanese?

YH: Yes, when World War Two broke. I would have been the first/around here if it wasn't for my fingers. So neighbor people were real nice.

LM: Were they as shocked as"?

YH: They were shocked about Pearl Harbor yes. They were also shocked that we had to move. When the Government says that you have to move ^{then} ~~then~~ you have to move and that is all there is to it. Finally we had to ^{accept} ~~except~~ it and go.

SH: Didn't you say that Johnny ^{Baggensjos} helped you move?

YH: Johnny ^{Baggensjos} helped and your ^{uncle} Uncle Donald helped ^{me} me move. He drove one of the trucks. In fact he drove that old '41 Ford pick-up. He drove that up for us. Johnny drove their own truck up and I drove one of the trucks and my dad drove the car and I guess my brother-in-law and sister had a car and a truck. There ^{were} ~~was~~ about ^{eight} or 10 cars and ^a caravan pulled out of here. It was kind of funny because some places would object to giving ^{us} ~~me~~ gas because we were ^{Japanese} ~~Japanese~~. On the way to Bend or Burns, anyway, Johnny said, "Fill them up. They have a right to move."

LM: They went all the way across?

YH: They took us to where we were going. Johnny brought his truck back and Donald came back with him. Donald came back up again later on with another load for us too.

LM: The families around here were shocked but how about some of the other people that didn't know you personally? The other?

SH: At the other end?

LM: Well there and Portland and. . .

YH: Some blamed us like we had something to do with it. But actually they don't understand it cause they don't know us. In other ^{words} ~~words~~ Japanese are Japanese to them. They don't realize that just like you were saying when they come to this country. I was born and raised here and you would never know that unless you knew me from way back. I said, "Heck I have been in this country longer than some of these other people." You know, ^{I'm} ~~67~~ ⁶³ years old and I have been here a few years.

SH: You were an it'sy bitsy baby and now you are a grand old man almost.

YH: It's like Fred ^{Pleith} ~~Pleith~~ and Johnny ^{Pleith} ~~Pleith~~ would say I knew when you were in 3/4 pants. (laughs). In those days a lot of the kids play in the yard and with diapers on and sometimes its too hot for clothes on and so we go around with diapers and what not they are babies yet.

SH: I remember after we were married the reception that we had over in Eastern Oregon ^{and} ~~and~~ Ontario. There ^{was} ~~is~~ a man named Mr. Watkins ^{who} ~~that~~ used to train hunting dogs and he lived right across the street from where Yoshio and I were farming and he had " Japs keep out" A neat little sign out there and so we didn't bother him. But ^{when} ~~then~~ we were farming ~~and~~ he came along ^{as} ~~and~~ he was exercising his dogs and ~~he came and~~ asked if he could come and hunt on the farm that we were farming. So Yoshio said okay and after that he became real good friends and took the sign off and threw it away.

YH: He didn't know what Japanese were.

SH: He said, "Excuse me for my ignorance. I really didn't know." But it is just mass hysteria. If you are a Jap they figure you are one of those that are conniving ~~the~~ ^{to} Bomb Pearl Harbor and so forth and many were innocent and didn't know anything about it.

IM: There really was that animosity then? It was all around?

SH: It wasn't everyone but that person in particular had that sign out there, It was about this big " Japs keep out" (Showing with hands).

YH: It was the same thing in Ontario too with the barber shops with signs " No Japs allowed"

SH: They thought it would ~~affect~~ ^{their} ~~there~~ trade, I think.

YH: They thought it would ~~affect~~ ^{their} ~~there~~ trade but it was the other way around.

Soon they took the sign off because everybody else was boycotting the place. There ~~was~~ ^{were} more for us than against us. People realized that we were raised in this country, American Citizens and actually they were sorry that we were kicked around. Being American Citizens we had the privileges of being American Citizens. In fact there was a lot of them over there that didn't ^{who} even have their citizenship papers enough. Like foreigners like Italians and came to this country and didn't even apply for their citizenship papers. We have our citizenship, but they don't. So they figure well?

SH: The ones who welcomed the people with out any plaqued cards and so forth, well they really benefited because they may have that many more people going in and doing businesses and say one person spends \$5.00 and the other ones spend maybe a few dollars and within a days time that is an equivalent of dollar power. That is helping their profit.

YH: For an example like me. I went down to the chevrolet company to get my car fixed or my truck fixed and went out to lunch together. The guys go ~~out~~ ^{out} with me, ^{but} won't go to that restaurant because it says "no Japs". ^{Because} so they won't go there. ~~so~~ they go to another one. You know a bunch of us flock in there with one Japanese among them and they are losing business. So the sign went down because they weren't just keeping me out, they were keeping quite a few of the public out too cause they didn't want to take us in there anymore. So after about a year everything smoothed out ^{when} and they found out that my brother was in the army. He was one of the youngest ones ~~he was~~ in the service and so forth and my brother-in-law's brother was in the service too. They are finding out that they are in the service so what the heck.

SH: Almost every family had one in. I had a brother in the service.

IM: Were they in the Japanese or the Pacific War or involved in the European side?

SH: My brother had to go to Puerto Rico didn't he?

YH: Yes, ^{my brother} plus he went to England and then France and then Japan.

SH: ^{your brother} He was supposed to go to Italy but he be^came sick in England so that is why they sent him to another place. / France I think. He was working in a office after that.

IM: It wasn't a very pleasant experience for any Japanese during that time but I imagine you might have been luckier than most instead of going to the relocation camp.

SH: Oh I think so. I think the ^{environment} ~~enviorment~~ where people are thrown together like cattle, I don't think that is a ideal situation even though you are all Orientals or part Orientals or have some Oriental blood in you. Still I don't think that is too healthy.

YH The other was different afterwards th^eey took the government for all they can then.

(50) SH: They aren't all that way but I mean from the moral standpoint. I don't think that was too healthy. It is one of those things, you know people make mistakes and maybe that is one of th^e biggest mistakes. It cost the government a lot of money to

YH: They had to feed these people and clothes those people, shelter those people and guards on them. Th^eey had armed guards to arm the place. It wor^ks both ways. It wasn't just to keep Japanese in , it was to keep the outsiders from/coming in to.

They ^{were protected} ~~are protecting~~ as well as the government is responsible for. One way or another somebody could come in and bomb the place and then they could sue the government. So it works both ways. In other words the government is responsible either way. Protect them as well as protect the U.S. prisoners or visa versa.

SH: I can't say for sure but I am almost sure that very few were on welfare if at all. ^{But,} you see when the whole group gets thrown into a place like that then it is up to the government to make sure that they are eating a balanced diet whether it is really good food or what ever it didn't make any difference.

YH: They had to have doctors and nurses and hospitals, and dentists and everything.

SH: They had to have their staff.

YH: They had to do everything for them, for people in there.

SH: It would be just like Yoshio and I now, we are farming and we are eating the berries and maybe selling the berries and earning something ~~and~~ so we can suffice on that. But if we are thrown together somewhere along with a lot of others and the government has to pay for our keep that is a lot of extra money.

YH: They went in with about two suitcases apiece for personal clothing and that is about all. So the army G.I. issued clothes for the men and bought clothes for the women. Put up the beddings and put the ^{laborers in} and camps have to be built up and the upkeep. They went to a lot of expense, the government did.

SH: My folks had a duplex and they said there is no use paying on it anymore because the government is going to take it away and so they just let it go. Then any furniture that we had they said we will take the whole thing for \$200.00. That is the stove and the refrigerator and the beds and the dressers and the sofas and the chairs and everything. ^{Even a small} Radio ~~and~~ took everything for just \$200.00.

YH: Some of them like in California, the second hand dealers said we take this street and you take that street and he went down offering and that is all you get for it. The farmers who rented farms had to give it up. We were fortunate because we sold our ^{crops} property to Johnny and they ^{also} took our crop over where Johnny lives now. ^{they had} They ~~have~~ all the strawberries up there.

LM: How many families were fortunate to ^{enough} voluntarily go over there and get land?

YH: It is hard to say but there were quite a few. Well with us there ~~was~~ ^{etc} six families ^{who} went with us. There was about ^{six} families from Washington in the same group.

SH: My family went on our own because my father had a sister over in Ontario who was already farming. ^{She} ~~Her~~ and her husband.

LM: So there were several families in Ontario, [?] Japanese families in that area?

SH: Must have been at least a half a dozen anyway, wasn't there?

YH: More than that.

SH: Maybe more. Oh yes, about twelve?

YH: Ten or twelve families were already there established.

SH: They were scattered in Ontario and Vale area.

LM: Is that where you ^{to} met then?

SH: Vale, went to church... Went to a Christian church. I went with somebody else didn't I?

YH: I went to church and I thought that everybody would laugh at me (laughs). It was quite a church though. They had ^{six} ~~6~~ or ^{seven} ~~7~~ seven ministers and what not. Different denominations all came to the same church.

LM: Go ahead did you have something that you wanted to say?

SH: No, not really.

YH: What is the matter? (speaking to his wife)

LM: Well then you were talking about the sign that was put up in the restaurant and the fields. Was there anymore or any law or other restrictions among the Japanese families in that area then?

YH: No, the police department said they can do what they want because it is their property to put up signs. But they said leave them alone.

SH: They didn't do any physical violence did they? It was just that annoying little sign.

YH: Oh some of them made little wise cracks but we just don't pay any attention to them. They got over it in a year or two. The whole town of Ontario was okay after that.

SH: We did a lot of business after that. You know because some people could afford practically anything so they go in ^{to} buy something it wouldn't be the ~~che~~ ^{and} cheapest, it would boost their ~~sales~~ ^{sales}.

YH: Farming has changed.

(60) SH: I think over all the trend was getting mechanized anyway. I remember when we first went over there though they used to have beets all planted in a row and you dig this hole and you whack out every so many. ^{When it came to topping,} I wished someday they would think of an automatic beet ^{topper} ~~chopper~~. I got laughed at and it wasn't long after that, that somebody did think of an automatic beet topper.

(cont.)

SH: You know they cut the top off.

LM: Is that the kinds of crops that you raised over there on those farms that you rented?

YH: The first year we raised onions and sugar beets. Second year we went to sugar beets and onions and went to seed crop. Like lettuce, mostly lettuce seed. Seed for Desert seed company. They harvest seeds for to package and sell for 25¢ or commercially. We raised onions, ~~that was~~ our main crops were onions and sugar beets. But our ideas from the coast is different from the ideas that they had over there. They fertilize sugar beets like 200 or 300 pounds per acre. I went in the first year and said that won't work. Now what they do now? They put a ton and 1/2 per acre. They are getting 4 times the crop that they used to. If they didn't they couldn't make a go of it now.

LM: Where were some of these new location camps?

YH: ^{Minidoka} Minidoga, Idaho which is close to Twin Falls isn't it?

SH: ^{Spelling?} Somewhere around there.

YH: ^{Tule} Trinity Lake is in where, California?

SH: Northern California. ^{spell} Poston, Arizona that is where the tarantulas ^{art} they said. Then Colorado, Wyoming, Arkansas, wasn't there something in Arkansas?

YH: I can't remember. But there ~~was~~ quite a few of them.

SH: Arizona. None of the western states except where ^{Tule} Trinity Lake, California but they transferred them.

LM: How did families end up here? End up in the relocation camps? The ones . . .

YH: They got shipped ~~into~~ there by trains and buses.

LM: These are the ones that were taken to the P.I. here in Portland?

YH: Yes, and then they put them in trains and ship them to Idaho.

LM: In other words if you didn't have any place to go you would go to a. . ?

YH: Assembly Center they would call it.

LM: A what center?

YH: An assembly center. That was the P.I. for the stockyard.

SH: They assembled there and then after that they were sent somewhere else and relocated. The concentration ones were the ones that were the questionable people they said that/who had quite an influence. They figure the ones that had influence might have something to do with the Japan Government. They found out that none did.

YH: What I mean is something like a doctor in Portland or a lawyer in Portland, or an insurance man. It gets around the public a lot. When they move around too much they figure you influence the public. So they kept a watch on them and put them into a concentration camp. They were the ones released and running around yet.

SH: I do believe that evacuation, though you would think that there would be so much bitterness and everything, but it is just like any kind of a hurt. You know when you get hurt? The time sorta eases the pain. A little bit of scar might remain but the pain is gone. It is something like that because you see because they did go to those relocation centers and then after the gates opened they could go every which way they wanted. So you see now there ^{are} a lot ^{of} businesses and doctors and people who ^{pursued} ~~presued~~ the higher learning. And they have gone to all kinds of branches where people had never even thought ^{they} would ^{just} ^{do} ^{it} ^{instead} ^{of} ^{teaching} ^{while} ^{they} ^{were} ^{up} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{like} ^a ^{principle} ^{of} ^a ^{school} ^{or} ^a ^{director} ^{or} ^{something} ^{or} ^{other}.

End of Track 3

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Start of Track 4

(0) LM: We were talking about relocation centers. Now you weren't in them, but did you hear, you must have had contact with other families or Japanese that were in there. What were the conditions like in the camps or in the centers?

YH: It was more like a military or camps for the soldiers, barracks and what not. You had your mess halls and barracks and then hospitals.

SH: Open latrines.

YH: Men and women were separate of course. But is more like a military camp I guess as far as I can figure out. But the food was brought in by the army.

SH: They cooked it there to^o.

YH: They cooked it there but the food was brought into through the army camps government.

LM: What would people do everyday in the camps?

YH: They would take jobs cooking or something and make \$5.00 a month or enough to buy cigarettes and do odd jobs and the rest of the time fool around and play games.

SH: They^{ey} organized the school system to^o, The ones that had credits for teaching they were the first ones to become instructors and so forth.

YH: They had to have school for the kids to^o.

SH: Then later on they taught English to the Japanese women ^{who} ~~that~~ didn't know English at all. Some people taught Japanese^{ese} to the women who wanted to further their knowledge add ^{write} ~~write~~ and things like that.

YH: They took up sewing and knitting and taught each other.

LM: So it was the Japanese themselves that initiated the activities?

YH: Some in their own groups yes that were capable of teaching. Some of them were instructors once upon a time.

SH: When there are that many people thrown into together there is bound to be a lot of talent somewhere.

LM: It was really up to the Japanese people themselves to fend for themselves?

SH: I think a person would go almost insane if they didn't have anything to do day after day.

YH: Some did wood carving with art and things like that. They had lots to do hobby wise. So they spent most of their time playing games and they had teams. Different barracks had their own teams.

SH: Hard work. This was made by my sister-in-law's father when he was interned in Montana. (She show interviewer the art piece)

LM: Boy this is a heavy item.

SH: He made a ashtray to match that.

LM: That is really nice.

SH: Isn't that nice? I like things that are unusual.

LM: Can you describe what it is for the benefit of?

SH: It is a glass jar inside and then it has a cement and then it's just like your fireplace I guess.

YH: The rocks are mortared in the cement work.

SH: They put this on cause it is so heavy that they thought that it would scratch up the surface. When you take like Wendy now. She did this but you see the East and the West she uses the bamboo. These are the things that they would do. They would paint and use bamboo and what ever.

(10)
YH: Take plain old pine wood and do writings and art work. Other ways of passing the time was go out and play softball and something like that. They had teams in the barracks and they would call themselves such and such barracks.

LM: You were telling me when the tape was off about German prisoners of war back in Vale. Could you tell that story again?

YH: Well they had a place about a half an acre square and it was fenced in with w barbed wire and chicken wire and was guarded around the clock by a machine gun army man. There ~~was~~^{were} two groups there. There ~~was~~^{were} the officers, lieutenant and up and then there was the regular soldiers, sergeants on down. Anyway there was two groups and they would come and work on the farm. A group of about 20 to a group would come out and work on farms. They were paid, I think \$2.00 a day by the government. We paid the government more than that. But the government gave them a dollar or 2 dollar a day for the labor they put out for their cigarette use and privileges that they can have. Magazines or what have you. Then the officers well they never used to work some of them. We had trouble with them. They would have sit down strikes, but if they got caught they got put on bread and water. So next time they worked. The prisoner of ~~war~~^{war} food was just bread and chunks of bologna and coffee for lunch. We heated up the coffee for them and the sugar and cream for the coffee and they were happy about that. But we had an officer that came in that was a graduate of ~~Stanford~~ University. He spoke clear English.
Stanford

LM: A German officer?

YH: Yes sir. He came to the U.S. to study and then went back to Germany. It was surprising because everybody speaking German and he comes out in English. We had a tough time telling them what to do. More by shaking hands and everything else to show what was done.

SH: Sign language

YH: It was sign language I guess. But anyway all of a sudden he came up with English and boy I was stumped. I said how come you know your English? He said, 'I graduate from here' he says.

LM: What was the relationships between the Japanese families and the German prisoners of war? Was there sort of a . . . ?

YH: It was good. We were similar allies! (laughing) I am American. That ~~doesn't~~ ^{doesn't} make any difference.

SH: You treat them like humans you know.

YH: We also had like I said Mexican help too. Nationals came in and helped harvest beets and stuff. We were short of labor you see.

LM: What do you mean by Nationals? Mexicans?

YH: Mexicans citizens that were just brought in for the harvesting season only and then they go back to Mexico after it is all done.

SH: Like transient workers. /

YH: They have a government camps for them. Livery camps they call it. They have mess halls and toilets and beddings just like army barracks for them too, If they don't work they would be paid a minimum for the week whether they worked or not. Even if they don't work we still have to pay them for the week. Some of them got too smart and they didn't want to work that minimum was more than they could make in Mexico in a whole month.

So the farmers got smart after a while ~~to~~ and said that if they refuse to work they won't get ^{Their} ~~there~~ minimum. Then all of a sudden they decided they better work to get the minimum and the only time they get the minimum is when the weather is bad and we can't work. But such as it is they worked out pretty good. Some of the ^{jobs (work)} ~~Japs~~ were kind of rough but they really went through the field. Most people bend over double and go like this and can barely stand up straight.

SH: They have a lot of stamina haven't they?

YH: We used to go out and help some of the farmers after we got our section which we only had 70 some acres so we got done early and could help some of the people that didn't have help. The Mexicans were working there and we were working almost side by side. About 3:30 we would give up and come home and the Mexicans would say it is too early. The sun is up there yet. In April and May the days get long and the sun is way up there and we would come home and they would laugh at us. They start before us and they are still working when we come home. Our backs would give out.

LM: During your time over in Ontario did you hear much war news? Or what was going on in the war itself?

YH: We would get the paper but that is all the communications that we had.

SH: Paper and the radio media.

LM: What was your feelings towards the war? Here you were being put away by your own government so to speak. Did you still maintain, ...?

SH: Composure?

LM: Well ~~patriism~~ ^{patriotism} towards your own country. What was your feelings towards ^{your} ~~this~~ country?

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WH: Well we feel that there is some misunderstanding all right but the idea is that we have to live with it anyway. So we have to make the best of it.

SH: What a bother, that's what it is.

YH: It was a bother all right because we have to go through different channels just like the rest of you do./

LM: There must have been a certain amount of bitterness at that time anyway.

YH: At first yes, but we give up on that because people were pretty human. Only ones that gave us a rough time was people over there were boys in the service. Why you can't blame them either. At the same time ^{Their} ~~there~~ boys are sacrificing their lives for a war that they don't ^{to} want either really. But at the same time we weren't responsible for it either really. There was a lot of German people there and Italian people there too, but they were white and we weren't.

LM: How long were you over there in Ontario? When were you allowed to be released?

YH: As soon as the war was over we could come back.

SH: Didn't your parents come back in 1946?

YH: Yes in 1946 they came back.

SH: We came back in the fall of 1947.

YH: Anyway our contract wasn't up so we couldn't leave.

LM: You were telling me the stories Sach' about comparing the bitterness to hurt and how it gradually goes away. The Japanese seemed to ^{accept} ~~except~~ it. How about caucasians after the war? Were they able to forget about it or understanding as far as your situation was?

SH: Oh, I think so

YH: Most of them were. There was a few exception maybe, but I would say the big percentage of them ~~excepted~~^{accepted} it. They knew what the situation was. They knew that they thought that we were going to do some bad things to this country but nothing showed up. They couldn't prove anything in the first place.

SH: In the California area they figured all of a sudden that good guy turned into a bad guy you might say and they were afraid that the water towers would get contaminated somehow. ~~So~~^{But} don't worry no Japanese ~~would~~ go anywhere near the water towers, ~~and~~^{had} they have curfew and things like that ~~but~~^{and} ~~no~~^{no} one did anything that I know of.

LM: So as far as anyone could see there was really ~~no~~^{no} need for the camps or the relocation?

SH: No.

YH: There was no need for it but it was a precautionary measure I imagine for the government.

SH: I don't know what life would have been like if they didn't do anything. I mean if there was no such thing as evacuation. I don't know whether there would be mass hysteria and there might have been people resorting to even killing or something I really don't know. That is something that you can't say.

YH: It could happen. It might be for the better that we don't know.

SH: The better part is where people were given an opportunity to relocate themselves away from where they have been. A lot of them were able to continue ~~their~~^{their} schooling and I am sure ~~they~~^{they} financially many could afford to go to school.

Their parents could send them so they ^upersued that field. There are alot of vocations now.

YH: Alot of the farmers took up and went to another profession and moved out of the country. Where~~as~~ before maybe they would be farming here. Especially people that were just running the farm. They didn't have property to go back to.

LM: After it was all over did the government, what was the government's explanation to the Japanese? Or the farmers? Did you ever receive any ~~resper-~~ ~~ations?~~ ^{reparations?}

YH: They said it was a mistake. They didn't really know themselves what would have happened if we would have been turned loose among the people in this country. But see even then li^{ke} us we were turned out in the ²~~open~~ ourselves ^{we} cause we volunteered evacuation. We worked in t^he camps and we really knew what was allowed outside the camp.

SH: They just wanted us away from the west coast. That is the main thing.

YH: This is the dangerous area.

LM: What happened to the farm once you left here? This particular farm?

YH: We rented it to Johnny. (John Baqq ^{stos} ~~stos~~)

LM: He took care of it then? He used it for?

YH: He used it for what crops he could raise on it. Grain and what not.

LM: So was the land in any disrepair when you came back?

YH: It was run down. He just used it. He didn't put anything back though cause naturally it was rented land. You don't try to build it up.

SH: You rented it to him? He paid you?

(410)
YH: But then we rented it to anyway. Only thing we sold equipment wise is the horses and the cows. But the truck and stuff all went to Eastern Oregon with us.

LM: So it was almost like starting all over again once you came back?

YH: Yes

LM: You started from scratch?

YH: From scratch because nothing was in the ground. Jim and them came a year earlier and started it up. We had to finish up the contract because we had another year of contract left in EASTERN OREGON.

LM: Were there other Japanese farmers that were farming pre-World War? Before the war in this area that did not come back to their farm land? Or is that the case of a lot of Japanese farmers that moved and didn't come back to the West Coast?

YH: No, a lot of them stayed over there.

SH: They bought property over there didn't they?

YH: Yes, they bought property over there and stayed over there. You found property over there was cheaper than here anyway and the growing climate is good and crops are good over there too. There are a few farmers that increased, well I would say almost ⁶⁰ times the farmers over there after World War Two than there was before the war.

SH: They came from all over didn't they ?

YH: All over. Washington, Oregon, California. All irrigated land.

SH: When we first went it looked like nothing but sagebrush all over the place.

YH: Rattlesnakes, Coyotes, and jackrabbits.

SH: It turned greener and greener.

YH: I would say around March that everything was dead.

LM: I would like to switch subjects here. I think we have alluded to it several times during our conversations about the changes in farming methods from the primitive machinery and up to the modern equipment. Farming back when you younger was it really labor intensive then?

YH: Everything was more labor because like horses you had to fight the cultivator and you had to fight the plows and no hydraulics or nothing like that. You get into the tractor like the one that I have now and the horse is quite a bit of difference. A team of horses and the reins wrapped around your back and two handles to hold on to the plow. The plow or cultivator the same thing you follow behind the horse all day long.

SH: The only thing that is the same is the horse. They use the same horse power rating. From a regular four legged animal to what Yoshio has now is a cab tractor. So ^{that} that is that much change.

YH: If you figure a horse, rain or shine, you walk behind a horse all day long. Right now you get into a cab with air conditioner in the summertime and in the winter time there is a heater and fan. It is so different.

LM: Do you think that it is really a change for the better then?

YH: Things are better because it is ^{progressing} ~~prevenging~~ and you can't keep up. You have to farm a pretty good size to make anything pay now. ~~Because~~ Cause of the expenses.

SH: Then also herbicides and so forth they help.

YH: Originally when dad started the farm we never had to spray strawberries.

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We didn't know what spray was for. Gradually we sprayed the orchards for moths to keep the worms out of them. That was about it. Then gradually we went to scabs and blotches and what not and sprayed a few more things on. But as time went we ^{used} spraying ^{for} all kinds of diseases and worms ^{fungi} and what ever you want to call it ^{and} ^{fungi} and ^t times have changed ^{so} ~~but~~ we have to change machines to keep up with it to.

(50) LM: Was that really a big problem when your dad first started the strawberry business? Disease and what not?

YH: None at all. The only thing ate the strawberries was the birds. Robins and canarys. The old ^{70's} would eat all the seeds out of the berries. In fact one time Mr. ^{Halmgren} ~~Hongoni~~ ^{over} bought ^{from his patch} some strawberries and wanted to know what was wrong with it. What kind of disease is it? That is [?] ~~is~~ he ate all the seed out of it. The birds fly over the strawberry field all the time. He thought it was some kind of disease or something wrong with his strawberries. But those are the only things. Mostly birds and then we raised green peas. Jackrabbits used to eat them all.

SH: I think that there ^{aren't} ~~isn't~~ many jackrabbits in the population. I haven't seen any. A few years ago I saw one jumping around here but maybe the dog scared it or something. They are practically extinct.

LM: What was the need for the herbicide then?

YH: We didn't use fertilizer in those days at first. Before you plant you spread horse and cow manure. All you did was kick the weeds out and cultivate. In other words you need a horse and cultivator and a hoe. Then the picking time comes around. Instead of cutting the top off of the strawberry we use a sickle by hand. Take your hand and cut the top off.

As the years went on we used a mower. Then we used a rotary mower and that cuts closer yet.

SH: It ~~was~~^{is} power driven by tractors.

LM: I still remember chopping the strawberry plants with a hoe out there nad chopping the runners off.

YH: But now the rotary mower had a suction plate on it. They pick up the ~~runner~~ runner and cut them all off to.

LM; What was the needs for the herbicides then?

YH: That is to keep the weeds down now. In other words labor is getting so expensive now that if you keep weeds down with herbicides you won't have to hoe it. Which is time consuming and costly. In other words you can take herbicides in comparison and say a \$1.00 against \$10.00 in labor. A \$1.00 of herbicides can do about \$10.00 worth of labor and in less ~~it~~ time. You can cover about 12 or 15 acre in one day and be hoeing with 10 guys and maybe 2 weeks to keep the weeds down. You might do more damage with the hoe you might cut the plant where if you spray you don't touch the plant. You know what I mean, unless you over dose it and then you would kill it. To do as recommended you just kill the weeds and the plant is untouched. Therefore your plants are not injured. With a hoe no matter how careful we are we do nick ~~it~~^{it} here and there and cut off the roots underneath. Where herbicides will just kill the plants and not touch the root or touch the crown or anything on the main plant therefore it should be better.

LM: Do you think the consumer the pub lic that eats the strawberries have to worry about the herbicides?

- YH: They have to pass the government tests I imagine.
- SHI Unless it is sanctioned by them we can't use it anyway.
- YH: They have restrictions on all that stuff. In other words we used to use DDT. You can't use that on strawberries we would get killed. Government really clamped down on us. In fact we can't DDT anymore. I was talking about DDT to my brother-in-law. Remember when we used to use DDT?
- LM: That was DDT that they used?
- YH: Now you don't go near it, you die.
- SH: While you are talking about so many things that can kill you, there isn't anything that won't someday I suppose.
- YH: It has improved, and they also what is happening now is where we used to get away with a twelve acres and a team of horses we used to make a living. Now what you got? A tractor that goes 10 times faster and work nights and still use just make a living.
- (60) SH: Well that is just like a housewife. They have all the modern conveniences. Automatic washing machines, and a dryer and a vacuum cleaner that can pick up all kinds of things and electric range and so forth. And yet apparently the housewife doesn't have time to do ^{ever} anything. I found that out in a magazine a long time ago. Many more things have come up since then.
- YH: But is it improving all the time. But everything else is speeded up the same proportion for we have to keep up.
- SH: You take like Yoshio has a roll over plow that is a Jim Dandy thing.
- YH: It will plow all one direction.
- SH: It goes that way and then you turns around and flips it over and you come back and then comes around and flips it over, so it is just one continuous throw after another.

YH: Which eliminates ^{dead} $\frac{2}{0}$ furrows in the field if you know what $\frac{2}{0}$ is. When you plow one way plow you end up with some place that you have to park the ground and use a low spot in the field. Which will have a wet spot when you irrigate and when it rains the water goes to that spot to and you have a kind of wet spot and you lose your crop on that spot and it is hard to cultivate because your cultivation is wide and you miss that low spot. If you miss it your weeds will grow there. Therefore no matter what you do you hit those ups and dips in the field. To eliminate that we use a one way plow. Plow all one direction one year and the next year plow all the other direction. You will have an even level farm.

LM: Speaking of irrigating, that must be something that is fairly recent.

YH: We started in about 1947 to 8 or 9 around there.

SH: I can't remember when that was done.

YH: Figure it was the early fifties.

LM: How did plants get watered before than? Just depend on the rain?

YH: We used to irrigate by a small well that we had but it was a small operation. In other words we have crops, tomatoes only about two acres is the maximum that you can raise. Now it seems like the other farmer can irrigate all the 55 acres or so. You can cover about ^{1/2} ~~three~~ acres a day or better and if you are ^{ambitious} ~~ambitious~~ you can cover about three acres a day.

LM: Does that really increase yield than instead of the . . . ?

YH: Increase the yield but I think some of us get so that we don't use the water like we used to neither. The roots are not penetrated into the lower reservoir water underneath the ground.

Before the ground the soil was deep which you say you could stick a rod three feet down in the ground without any trouble. Now you get down a little over a foot you stop and the same time the moisture stops there to 0

LM: What do you attribute that to?

YH: Constant cultivation I guess and pressure from up above. All we can do is use a pan breaker they call it or a sub ^{soiler} ~~softer~~. Then the soil has changed to ² It gets finer by working it like any course material if you keep working it it gets fine. This is the same thing with the soil. It gets fine so you pack tighter.

SH: We have to rough it up huh?

YH: No, because the ground is already fine. The reason the soil was more course so the ² ~~is~~ is better to go around. In other words all new soil or ground is cleared and deep so the moisture will keep and your roots are down and that makes it almost double. Right now if we put in cabbage like last year we were irrigating cabbage and we washed out a field. Do you know how long those cabbage roots were? 6 feet long on one plant. Normally if they go 6 feet long it should go down about 3 feet down but the ground is so hard so they just cover the surface. So therefore you ^{don't} ~~gotta~~ get the ^{mush} see. The surface will dry out quicker. So as times goes and the ground gets older we have to irrigate to keep the ^{mixture} ~~mush~~ there.

LM: It almost requires a college education to farm anymore by the sounds of it to keep track of all these things.

YH: Well that is the thing that you have to keep track of even in your own farm, like over there there is four kinds of different soil.