

**Interviews with Japanese in Utah  
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**Chiyo Matsumiya**



**MANUSCRIPTS DIVISION**

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SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Oral History Interview with: Mrs. Chiyo Matsumiya

Interviewers: Mitsugi Kasai, Leslie Kelen

Date: 4/3/84

LK: Your name?

M: Ogino Chiyo (maiden name)

LK Place and date of birth?

M. Fukui Ken, Onyugun, Kaminaka cho, Seki , April 10, 1899

LK Name of the parents?

M. Ogino Kimezo (father), Ma~~s~~a Ogino (mother)

LK How many brothers and sisters:

M. Let me see. Two sisters and one half-brother. He died a long time ago. His name was Kashiro Ogino...took care of the Ogino home. Sister's name was Ogino Kimi. I don't know the other one. I was young then. She got married and in two or three years died. Kimi died. I'm just the only one left. Both parents deceased.

LK What did your father do for a livelihood?

M. Farming, rice farming

LK Did your father own the land?

M. Yes

LK How much?

M. I don't know...quite a bit. I don't know. I came so early here.

LK Was the house built on the land? One-half acre? One acre?

M. Well, you know in Japan, house is built and the land is all around, see, so I don't know. It's not close together, you know, the neighbors.

LK I would venture to say not more than five acres or less.

M. Yes, it's a big place.

LK Can you describe what the area, your town looked like?

M. Just like Salt Lake. Mountains in back; snow ...so many snows and fall comes. Just like Salt Lake. My place is a small place and big river (stream) border on back sides. And it's the only place in Japan where it snows the most. Mountains are always covered with snow and pine trees <sup>and other trees</sup> shake. It's near the Japan Sea. You can see from the mountains...way yonder.

LK. Were there other members of the family that lived in town? Were they connected?

M. Yes, they all lived in the same place.

LK. Did you go the school as a young child?

M. Yes, I used to walk to school...quite a distance away. Nine villages were combined into one school. I used to walk in the snow wearing long boots.

LK. What do you remember about school? How did you like it?

M. Oh, I loved school. I don't want to brag but I received an award from the mayor for excellence. My father, even though it's a small village, loved to help people. In every village there's a place where people can gather to report, etc. He was the headman of the ward. He loved to help.

LK. What was the kind of things do you remember your father doing for the people?

M. When the farming (harvest) is over, the older people made threads to make nets for fishing. My father brought the base (material to make the thread) from far away and used to sell it to the country people and when the nets are made, took it to Osaka and other places. This is done when you can't farm. He brought the plant (the base) which was dried from the farmers and divided them among the villagers. Then my father would gather them and



took it far away.

LK. So he was a kind of a teacher? supervisor?

M. Yes, in the olden days, the old people did not know how to write and my father being the headman, so all the villagers came to ask my father to write a letter, please read this and that, and ask for other favors. This I remember when I was a child. He also loved to play "go" (checkers). Just about the time when the harvest is over the village temple priest comes and invites my father to play "go." So they play "go" in the temple and my father would not come home till morning. So my mother suggested taking me along so he would come home early. But when I went with my father, I, being a child, would fall asleep, and the priest's wife would let me sleep there. Then my father would play till morning. So that didn't work. I can't forget things like that.

LK. Can you describe what is it like to farm? How do you remember it?

M. Rice farming. In the spring we plant the rice one by one, by hand, then when it's growing, we go to the mountain to pick weeds and rot them (as fertilizer). Then we stamp the decayed weeds by feet between the rows. It's a story of long ago. Then we cut them by hand. This was done when I was a child.

LK. Did your father work alone, or did he have help?

M. Oh, my sisters, my mother, everybody helped. Our neighbors helped. When one field is done, then we go on to another neighbor's fields.

LK. How long do you remember the day being on the farm...when they begin and when they ended?

M. From early morning, day break, we go out. Long time ago, the temple bell used to ring. When it rang, we said "There's the bell,



let's get up." This is long time ago when there were no clocks.

LK. How long is the day?

M. Between morning and noon, there's a rest period for about an hour or more when we go into the house for a cup of tea. Then after lunch, we take a nap, about an hour or so. Then around 3 o'clock we take another rest, then when it becomes dark we come home.

LK. After the rice plant is planted, what kind of tending does it need over the growing season?

M. They're just like hot bed plants. We plant tiny plants. I only stayed in the country until I was 12 or 13 years old. Then I left for Kyoto, so I don't remember.

LK. Why did you leave for Kyoto?

M. I graduated grammar school. My father, since my school records were good, wanted me to become a school teacher. But my mother said, "Oh, this child is just like a boy and if she becomes a teacher, she will become so conceited that we won't be able to do anything with her." It was the custom from the olden days to go to Kyoto and work (as a servant) before you can look forward toward a marriage. It was more of a custom to go out and work as a maid in a house to learn manners and etiquette. So after I graduated grammar school I went to Kyoto. Then I learned that I was going to America so I went to school...Kyoto Jogakko (girls' school) for about three years. Maxine Furubayashi graduated from there too. The school is still there...when I was there it was half finished.

LK. What do you remember learning in school? What kinds of things were you taught?

M. I wanted to learn English because I was going to American. I took a regular course in English. About  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 years ...I skipped once.

I don't know the reason why; maybe it was because I was older.

But I really studied hard. I also had a little bit of home economics and Japanese history from way back. My eyes were bad so I had to go back and forth to the eye doctor. I lived with my half-sister during that time. During summer vacation I went to the teacher's home to learn English too. I didn't graduate because I came to America.

LK. How did your interest in America and in speaking English come about so early?

M. Because if you go to America you have to speak English. After I learned that I was going to America I quit the maid's job and went to school from my half-sister's place. My marriage was arranged by the parents. I didn't even see or know my future husband. (*baishaku kekkon*).

LK. How early was it arranged?

M. When I left home to go to Kyoto I didn't even know about my arranged marriage...just worked as a maid to learn all about housekeeping, etc. Matsumiya's and my family were sort of related but not blood relative...lived in the same village.

LK. What is the family situation that you had a half-sister? Does that mean your father had more than one wife?

M. My father's older brother who was married, died and my father married his wife, (sister-in-law). They had a boy and a girl. That's my half-sister and also a half-brother who took over the family.

LK. In what way did your father and mother prepare you for this arranged marriage? What was told to you? How did they prepare you?

M. I don't know. In the olden days, you had to obey your parents.

You had to say "Hai." (yes).

- LK. How were you prepared for the arranged marriage? What advice were you given?
- M. I didn't like the small farm life and when I learned about going to America, I decided to go to school.
- LK. What was it about farming or the village life that you wanted to get away from it?
- M. Well, farming I liked; even now I grow things. In any event I just didn't like living in such a small place. In olden Japan, young girls didn't have anything to say. In everything you had to obey your parent with "Hai, hai." I wanted to go to a bigger place. I didn't want to be stuck in a small place. Not to get away from parents.
- LK. What had you learned about America at that time?
- M. Well, I learned some things in school. Also from our area there weren't too many people like from Kyus'u and Hiroshima who went to America. There were a few people, however. And the parents of the people who went to America talked about America and Matsumiya sent money to his parents and they bought mountains and fields (farm land). So I just wanted to go to a wider place. At any rate I wanted to go to America.
- LK. Were you, did you hear anything negative about the United States? Were you frightened, maybe, about anything?
- M. I didn't have anything like that. The neighbors were all good to me. But during that war when we were forced to evacuate, I did have feelings then...that happened to everyone. I came to Salt Lake in November 1943; before that I was in Eureka, a mining town.
- LK: You hadn't heard anything that might have frightened you?



M. No, nothing. Even after the war when we came here, our next door neighbors were good to us.

LK. In terms of comparing your attitude with the attitudes of the girls of your age at that time in Japan, were you different kind of girl? Did you see yourself as different?

M. Different in Japan? At any rate we had to obey our mothers and the girls had to go out to learn manners. So we just said "Hai, hai". And we really worked like dogs. Even though we had big farm and no worry about food, we had to work hard, obeying. Then the opportunity came to go to America; so I went to school.

LK. How were you different from the other girls?

M. I don't know myself but people used to tell me that I was smart. ...that I was more matured than others when I was young.

LK. What about your desire to come to the United States? Were you different in that sense?

M. Matsumiya returned to Japan; then we got married in Japan. And we came together to America. From my area, there's no one who came to America. There were others from other county; for example, Ariyoshi-san of Sage Farm is from Fukui Ken but different "gun" (district, county). There is Pee Wee Kobayashi who owns a gas service station. Mr. Kobayashi's father is from the same county. I don't know why there are no other girls from our area.

LK. What kind of religious training did you have? Was your family a religious family?

M. We were Buddhists. I don't know about Matsumiya's family. But my father was a good friend of the temple priest; and I frequently visited the temple, not with my father. But whenever there was a special occasion I went to the temple with my mother.

LK. On what occasion do you remember visiting the shrine?

M. Yes, my father, every morning and night, chanted prayers. And we used to do the same thing. I remember some of it.

LK. How do you remember your relationship with your mother?

M. In Japan, women can't say anything. My mother was a very quiet person; and she used to tell me to be more quiet. Instead of going to school, she wanted me to go to Kyoto to learn manners and get married in a proper way. My father knew I wanted to go to school and wanted me to become a school teacher; but that was not the proper way for a girl. She was old fashioned...my mother. I learned to weave cloth from my mother. She says girls should know such things. I had a big body, and unless you have long legs it's hard to reach up to the frame. Japanese women are small in stature; but I was big and could reach up high. I had to do all those things.

LK. What was it like to meet your future husband? Do you remember?

M. Most of the picture brides must have had the same feelings. You can't say you don't want to because your parents have already made the arrangements. So you had to go quietly and get married. That's the way it was.

LK. Was it baishaku & did you see his picture?

M. I didn't even see his picture before we got married. I remember when I saw him, he was rather tall for a Japanese.

LK. Did you have a dowry? (misinterpreted as diary).

M. I didn't have one written at that time but later on I did write one for many years. From before Matsumiya died, I started to write about the time the war began; After the war, even now, I still write diary. My kids don't read Japanese so when I die, I don't know... maybe it will get burned up but it has become a habit with me.

LK. Did you have a dowry for the marriage?

- M. Oh, yes, mostly money and osake and others. We were going to America and we didn't need anything in Japan. So we asked that they don't do anything and both agreed. So we didn't have a big wedding. We did have a big reception; but it was all borrowed items...my sister's and others. They told me that I don't need kimonos in America. My father was gone then. He died when he was 52 years old.
- LK. What year did he die?
- M. He was 52 and I was in Kyoto working as a maid. Maybe Meiji period...Taisho?
- LK. What year did you leave Japan?
- M. I think 1918.
- LK. Do you remember the date of your father's birth?
- M. It was in the census registration.
- LK. Where were you when your father died?
- M. I was in Kyoto, and I came home for about a month to take care of him. He didn't know about my going to America. He died before the marriage arrangement was made. Just my mother and Matsumiya's parents were present.
- LK. Was your father sick a long time before he died?
- M. It wasn't too long. It wasn't a heart attack but he had a bad heart. In those days there weren't many doctors.
- LK. Did he die suddenly or was he sick for a long time?
- M. No, I think he took it easy for maybe half a year.
- LK. When you look back on your childhood now, what are the most strong vivid things for you in your childhood? What stands out about your growing up?
- M. Not much. After a big snow storm we used to make steps up to the temple roof in the snow; and we took a straw mat and slid down the snow from the temple roof...just like skiing. Things like that. At



any rate, we couldn't play much in Japan. And we used to go hunting for mushrooms with my father and all. Between spring and summer time, the mountains are full of grass. My father went up and cut them and dried them and we bundle them and bring them home. These dried grasses we put them in the rice field. During these grass cutting times, we went along and searched for mushrooms and played.

LK. Do you remember any interesting characters in your village?

M. Well, there weren't any. I remember during Bon Odori, my father who loved to sing, used to dance in the middle of the circle. When my father stopped dancing, the circle would get smaller. He would beat the drum and sing. I accompanied him since I was very young.

LK. Are there any differences, you remember between the obon festival you had in your village and the ones you have here?

M. It has been a long time ago. We didn't have any food or drink... just dancing. Here they sell food and the profit goes to the church. I went to Kyoto early so...

LK. We'll stop here for today and pick up next time with your coming to the United States. And we'll focus the interview afterwards on what happened here.

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M. Right after we were married, we came to America. He came after me.

LK. Do you remember the name of the ship you came on?

M. Tenyo Maru

LK. What was it like? What was the ride like?

M. Oh, such a big sight. We came third class. First class--high toned people and second and third class. Everybody together had lots of fun.

LK. Who was on the boat besides yourself? Do you remember any picture brides coming to the United States?

M. They were mostly married people and lots of picture brides coming over. Some people who were wealthy came on first-class. The men wanted to show off; there are people like that. Matsumiya, from the first, told me that if I went to America it would be this way and so didn't try to show off. I came on "toKusan". It was between second and third class, special third class.

LK. Do you remember where these picture brides were coming from? What prefecture?

M. Hiroshima and around there. I was the only one from my area. And Kyushu and Wakayama, Yamaguchi.

LK. Do you remember talking to the picture brides and how they felt about coming?

M. Not so much about marriage but mostly things in general in Japan. I was also cautioned to not to talk too much...was rather quiet.

LK. What did you bring with you? Do you remember?

M. I really didn't bring anything...didn't bring any kimono...nothing. I don't know about other people but according to Matsumiya I was told to make dresses when I got here.

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LK. Did you have any plans of how long they were coming here? How much time did you think you were going to stay in the United States?

M. Well, the issei had ideas of making money and going back to Japan early, I think. But we thought of the children only. If the children wanted to stay here, we would stay...we didn't have children yet. I wasn't thinking of going back to Japan even if I had children. From the beginning I was going to stay here. I was thinking of raising the children here. Some people were thinking of going back to Japan in a few years. Matsuniya said that after we have two children, we would go back to Japan and educate them in Japan. He said if I didn't go back the children will be taken care of by the grandmother. That is how most of the issei were thinking. They weren't eligible for citizenship, that is why. I came here in 1918 and received my naturalization papers in 1953.

LK. Where did you get the idea that you wanted to be permanent?

M. It wasn't from the beginning but as the children grew, I knew that if they went back, they would eventually come back to the United States. So rather than going back and forth, I was going to stay here.

LK. Was that a different kind of idea of staying in this country from the very beginning than most of the people around here had? Were you different?

M. As the time came, we were pulled by the children to be this way.

LK. Where did the ship land?

M. San Francisco

LK. Were you examined?



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M. Just a general physical examination, like eyes, given by the immigration office.

LK. How long did it take?

M. No, I think they wanted to get rid of us, I guess...so many people. Let me see...I slept there one more day, about two days.

LK. Will you describe the scene of landing in San Francisco? What was it like?

M. I was happy to be in a big country like America. We were married already but I don't know about the picture brides. I was looking curiously around. I came to America and wanted to get settled so I wasn't thinking too much about other people. But as the ship docked, there were crowds of people. And the picture brides were all looking around for their future husbands.

LK. Where were you taken for the examination?

M. Immigration office...somewhere. I think the Immigration Office was away from the port; we stayed there one night and then came back to the port to be examined, I thought. I think we were taken by a small boat to the Immigration Office...not to the island. I really can't remember the detail. Everything was so new then... My husband was admitted one day earlier and he stayed one night at a hotel and then he came back for me. I had to stay one night with the other women. Maybe we stayed one night on the boat... sixty years ago ... I don't remember exactly. Anyway, after Immigration I went to the pier. Usually people can come inside the pier, but at the time because of the war and confusion, they couldn't come in. They had to wait outside the pier. So I went there. Then we went to town. It was a Japanese hotel. Can't remember the name...Bocho Hotel, something like that.

M. Next day we went to Market Street, saw the high buildings. I was relieved that I finally came to San Francisco. We went up and down Market Street, window shopping. And I was surprised to see how tall the hakujins were (caucasians). During that time they wore, the ladies, long dresses and high hats. During that time I brought that shell as a souvenir of that time.

Next day, at the hotel, merchants came to sell dresses.

The dressmaker (Japanese) measured me and made me dresses. I stayed there until the dresses were completed. She completely stripped me and I had to buy everything. The lady said I must have this and that. Matsumiya took care of the money matter. I just stood there in a daze...so I don't know what happened. I must have bought everything...shoes, high-buttoned shoes.

LK. Good beginning?

M. Yes I wanted to come to America. I was really amazed at the height of the people.

LK. How long did you stay at the hotel?

M. I don't remember how many days we stayed. I think we had to wait until my dresses were ready. Maybe about three days. Then we took a train to Salt Lake.

LK. How long did the ride take to come here?

M. I think we slept on the train one night. My husband worked for the railroad so train fare was free but other accommodation we had to pay, like the pullman section, sleeping berth, where we slept.

LK. Where did you go when you first came to Salt Lake?

M. To the Salt Lake Union Station. Then to the store called Hashimoto owned by Dr. E. I. Hashimoto's father. He sold groceries and supplied all the needs of the Japanese people working in railroad sections. He took orders for clothes from the Japanese people living in rural districts. He had everything...that's how he made money.

We stayed at a hotel next to the store. Can't recall the name.

LK. Where was the store?

M. On South Temple, between West Temple and First South. I wonder?

It's been 60 years ago...All the Japanese congregated there.

Utah Nippo was nearby too.

LK. What other things do you remember of that area?

M. I don't know. Dr. Hashimoto's mother took me to buy clothes and I think Kida san's mother, who passed away, sewed a few things for me, like house dresses. I think I stayed about a week and then moved out to the country. I didn't see too many Japanese. Then Mrs. Hashimoto took me to ZCMI to do some shopping. I was amazed how easily she conversed with the sales clerk. I remember her pushing the button and the elevator shot up. She helped me with shoes, extra dresses and underwears.

LK. Did you become friendly with Mrs. Hashimoto that...

M. It wasn't that but Mrs. Hashimoto looked after the people who came from the country like the picture brides and other people who came from Japan. Also if they were going to the country, arrangements were made for ordering foods so it was a good business for them.

LK. What did the store look like on the inside?

M. Just like any large grocery store. The shelves were stocked.

(Soy Sauce)

Rice was stacked high. Oshoyu was on top of one another. These staples were sent to railroad sections in and around Utah, especially to the railroad camps, etc. And whenever, Japanese foods were needed, a letter was written and Hashimotos would deliver them.

LK. Did your husband go right back to work as soon as you got there?

M. We stayed in Salt Lake about a week and went to Eureka.

LK. What do you remember about Mr. Hashimoto himself?



- M. Oh, I really didn't talk to him, but he was a big shot, I think. Just that Mrs. Hashimoto looked after me. He was behind an office that was enclosed in steel bars and was looking around. That was the extent. . Of course, he made lots of money because of the Japanese railroad workers.
- LK. Did you see scenes when the workers would be coming in and he would be helping them?
- M. Yes, I saw him and he had lots of helpers. I think once a month big orders came in. We had our orders delivered but those nearby came after them. Since my husband worked on the railroad, the freight was free.
- LK. During that time was Matsumiya san in Eureka already?
- M. It was at a place about 10 to 20 miles from Eureka called Jericho. There was a double section there so Mr. and Mrs. Yamamoto lived in one section and we lived in the other section. Double section probably means two families live in one house.
- LK. At the time you were still in Salt Lake what do you remember as to what kind of jobs that the Japanese railroad workers held?
- M. Many of them in sections, working in roundhouses. That's the only kind of jobs there were.
- LK. Did many of the people there maintain some residence or housing in the area near the store? Did many people live around there?
- M. I'm sure there were, but I don't know. I just got there. I think we stayed in Salt Lake about a week. We took the train and went to Jericho. Union Pacific...it wasn't called that at that time. During the influenza epidemic around 1919 many people died. My husband contracted the flu and had to be hospitalized. Mrs. Yamamoto had two children and she was in Salt Lake delivering her third child. When she returned she brought the flu bug with her. You

wouldn't think that one would get the flu in a desolate place but she brought it and everyone got the flu. I was about the last to get the flu so I took care of the sick ones. I don't know about the Mexicans living in bunks nearby. We were living in the foreman's house. We were only Japanese there.

Yamamoto's had the flu but very light. There were no doctors to see. Eureka was closed. Matsumiya was the last to contract the flu. In the meanwhile, he took care of the sick ones and finally had to go to Salt Lake Hospital. Eureka is a mining town. It used to be a big town. Railroad people were busy there, too.

Then after we got well, we heard from Mr. Mori that sugar beets were selling at a good price of \$12.00 a ton and the farming is better than working for the railroad. He said why not go into farming? So in the spur of the moment we decided to move to Sandy, near the entrance of Midvale and there we farmed for a while. Then we went broke. Mr. Mori used to work in the roundhouse and was a good friend of my husband. We didn't have any children then so we really worked like a horse. We worked under Mr. Mori for a while. We went broke and we moved to Payson way.

LK. What was the work like?

M. Oh, it was very hard work. At that time there were no machines, mechanized, to do the work. We thinned the beets...had backaches...couldn't stand or sit. I guess Mr. Mori had about ten acres or so and on the side he raised peas and things like that and sent them to the factory.

LK. How many years did you do farming?

M. Until end of 1921...then we moved to Benjamin; Kurumada's were there. My boy was born in 1921, then Jean was born. We were poor. During that time, a big hail storm came and destroyed the crop. We

realized that no matter what we do, we're still going to be broke so it's better to go back to our former job. So in the fall of that year, we returned to Eureka to Kimberly Junction back to the railroad.

Benjamin was between Payson and Spanish Fork.

We rented some land and grew sugar beets.

LK. During the first two years when you were working with Mr. Mori, what happened? Why were you broke? What happened?

M. We didn't like Mr. Mori. He was always in town and here we were working like a horse. So we decided it was better to separate, so we did. Mori's had several children and when I wanted to take a bath in the evening, I had to bathe all the Mori's children. I didn't have any children, we were both young and we worked like a horse. Mrs. Mori had four children so there were lots of work to be done.

LK. Why didn't you make money? What happened?

M. You don't make money working under someone. We also raised peas and things. Mori's son planted them and we took care of it and sent it to the factory. It was all work, hard work, so we decided to leave. But after we went to Benjamin, we raised sugar beets but in the second year, big hail storm destroyed everything. During the first year, the owner was a real good person and said if we can't pay, it's all right. Said if you need horse, use it. He was real good to us. I only remember his first name, Tom.

LK. How much land did you rent?

M. Just a little. I don't remember.

LK. Do you remember the arrangements that you had & made with him?



M. I don't know; my husband made all the arrangements. At that time I had two children. I didn't have one for a long time but suddenly a year apart I had two. I don't know whether it was cash or share basis.

LK. Up to this time that you rented this land, what had been your understanding of the treatment of Japanese by whites?  
How do you feel about that?

M. It was good during that time. There were many Japanese around there. Santaquin and thereabouts, were all Japanese farmers. The whites were glad to have the work done.

LK. When you were in the store with Hashimoto's wife were you warned at all about whites? Were you given any advice the way people...

M. No, nothing specially. I didn't hear anything. Many immigrants were coming in so I think they were more interested in making money.

LK. In this farm you rented from Tom, how did you divide the work? What did your husband do and what did you do?

M. My husband did all the hard work. I had two children then so there wasn't much I could do...just in the housework, washing, etc. My husband borrowed all the farm machinery and the rent was to be paid in the fall when the harvest was over.

During that time, there was a neighbor, Hirase san. Mr. passed away but I'm still a good friend of Mrs. Hirase. They were farming then and we became friends. She is still here and we talk quite frequently. They went broke, too.

There was a German family named Bossley. She was really good to us and looked after Mrs. Hirase and me, just like our parents. He had a farm from way back. When my boy was born Mrs. Bossley took care of me and Mrs. Hirase did the laundry.

And in turn, when Mrs. Hirase had a baby, I went to help Mrs. Bossley was really a kind person...she invited us to come and eat, if there was no place to sleep she told us to come over. When we left Benjamin to go back to the railroad, she let us stay over.

The house we lived in, Tom pulled it from some place. Anyway country people are really good, kind people. They all help each other. Just having arrived from Japan, I wasn't thinking of money, money...days just went by.

At that time, at first, there was no water connected to the house so we had to go to a Caucasian house across the street and hauled the water by bucketful until a well was dug and then we had water. Tom dugged the well.

LK. What kind of farming were Hirase's and Tom and Bossley doing?

M. All farming, yes. All sugar beets and wheat.

LK. When your child was born did you have a midwife?

M. Mrs. Bossley came to help and a doctor came from Spanish Fork, I think. Mrs. Bossley did everything. With, Jeanne I went to the Holy Cross Hospital. When we went to the Section, second and third girls were born and the fourth was born. Mrs. Bossley came every time to help. The doctor, who attended came from Eureka every time. The doctor came several times but in Benjamin just once. Mrs. Bossley did the washing and everything, cooking, and Mrs. Hirase too. I went to the funeral of Mrs. Bossley from here. People are so kind.

LK. What was Benjamin like? What did it look like?

M. It's on the end of the Utah Lake...very wide open space...no mountain...sort of blurry. It's connected to Spanish Fork from Provo.

LK. Was there a town there in Benjamin?

M. Yes, just a small town...<sup>a</sup>school and<sup>a</sup>church ...country people are really good people.

LK. What were your routines like? What were your days like? When did you get up? Go to sleep?

M. After I had children, it was cooking, ate breakfast, washed diapers, give baby a bath, all done by hand. There was no machine then. No help.

LK. How was your husband getting along with the farming? How was he doing?

M. He didn't care for farming so we moved away. He didn't like the idea of borrowing equipment because he had to borrow it after the other work was finished and he was always late with his own farming. So I said "Let's quit." He didn't own any farm equipment.

LK. How did you do financially?

M. From the Hashimoto's we bought food once a year. Financially, it was bad. We raised chickens and pigs. I made ham and bacon, and headcheese. I learned everything from this German lady. People say "headcheese"....We smoked ham.

LK. Did you keep farm animals?

M. Yes, chicken and pigs. Whatever we need to eat. That's why we didn't need too much cash. Whenever we had eggs, we took it to the store and exchange it for food stuff.

LK. What else were you taught by Mrs. Bossley?

LK. Let's see. I learned cooking from her. She had ten children, two girls and eight boys.

LK. Did you also learn to speak English?

M. I learned some in Japan and, yes, she taught me, too. And we were where there weren't too many Caucasians.



LK. What are some of your memories of Mrs. Bossley?

M. At any rate she was just like Buddha. It doesn't matter who came to the door, she'd ask, "Are you hungry?" After we went back to the Section, on Sunday we visit them. The children were grown up then and they went pheasant hunting and fishing. My husband loved to fish. Then Mrs. Bossley and I would put on the apron and I would help her cook. Lots of people come by and she always fed them. So nice. When the boys, Bossley's and our children, go fishing, I would prepare a Japanese lunch because the Bossley's boys liked Japanese food. Mrs. Bossley would fill the can full of worms and after fishing, Mrs. Bossley will always give pies or something to my husband to bring home. My children always looked forward to that treat, not so much the fish but her pies or whatever. Both of them died of cancer so I went twice to the funeral from here to Payson.

LK. What did you name your children?

M. Eldest daughter was named after my husband's grandmother, Tsutako, but it's kind of hard to say so we called her Jean. Next one is a boy, Kaoru, but we call him Kay. My husband named him. There was a famous person named Kaoru in Japan at that time.

LK. It sounds like you had a very interesting situation, some kindness but a very hard life. What do you think about the life in America to that point?

M. I didn't think of anything too seriously, I had my hands full with the children. After we returned to the Section, we received monthly wages and now receive monthly pension in our old age. No difference. Other events, here and there, are gone. Then I thought I should study and studied a little by myself. My husband corresponded with his Caucasian friends quite often.

LK. Did you have any vision of the future, any hopes, dreams?

M. Then we moved to a place where there were boarding houses, round-houses and others to be near the school. It was called Tintic Junction near Eureka. I realized that I had to educate my children and wanted to mutually support each other studying. I had five children by then and didn't have much time. I guess we worked for about two years at Tom's place and returned to railroad work. Matsumiya is not the type to work by himself like that. Tintic Junction is a big railroad junction and it had roundhouses, maintenance house, boarding house and the like. It was rather convenient so we moved there; the former place where we lived was several miles away. The children went to school by bus to Eureka. The last child was born in 1934. When we moved to Tintic, I had two children and three were born in Tintic. Even while we were living in Tintic, Mrs. Bossley visited us. Her boys drove the car and she usually stayed about three weeks or so. She's just like my mother.

LK. How far is Tintic from Benjamin?

M. Maybe 30 miles or so. I don't know. Not too far, but long time ago....

LK. How many years in Benjamin?

M. Two or three years, I think.

LK. Why don't we stop here for today. We'll continue next time to talk about Tintic.





Interviewers: Mitsugi Kasai, Leslie Kelen

Date: 4/23/84

LK. Last time we left off after working for Tom. After leaving Tom you went back to the railroad. During that time you started to cook?

M. Yes, little later cuz my children were small. Two Japanese came to work and they urged me to go to the bunk house. So I said "let's just eat together." For about ten years I cooked for them. This was at Tintic, Utah, in Juab County. There's a Tintic Standard Mine nearby.

LK. Where did you live?

M. We were working for the railroad and lived in the railroad house. There was a mine and the main railroad line ran from Salt Lake to Los Angeles and my husband was the section foreman. I think he worked for the Union Pacific railroad until the war, in different places.

LK. What did your husband do when you came back?

M. He was a section foreman.

LK. Can you describe what that was?

M. He supervised five or six Mexicans. He stood there and watched them work. These Mexicans straightened the railroad tracks; if it is low made it higher, etc....watched them to see if they are working or not. He rode a motor cart here and there. In those days that was the only work the Japanese Issei's could do. Of course, the house, coal, water were all provided. Electricity we had to pay ourselves. At first there was no electricity but when the airport was built nearby lines were extended, until then we all used lamps, kerosene.

LK. When was that?

M. Oh, I think, 1922. For many years I used to carry lamp into each room otherwise the children won't play. Konishi san knows about this.

LK. What kind of housing did you get. What was it like?

M. Oh, according to location, some houses were good ones. Where we were...when we first came from Japan, we lived in an ordinary house; we had the back section and the front section another family lived. Then when we came here we lived in a freight (box car) two box cars joined together by a floor--about six rooms. It was really nice and warm. If you look from the outside, it looked like a regular house. It had ceiling and roof. I think it was just us that had this type of housing. Others had regular houses--other Sections...the railroad company built regular houses. I don't know why ours had this kind. Maybe one reason, the main line and branch lines and many maintenance houses were there.

As the children grew, we needed more bedrooms so that's why we got this house. Otherwise it would be in an area where the train just passed through. In any event, Japanese stayed and worked longer so we were able to get what we wanted. We needed a place where children could go to school. This house was already built when we moved in and we planted trees in the front to make it look nice. It was really a warm house...cool in the summer. It's about 5,000 feet elevation...Tintic was.

The trains went to Salt Lake and trains came from Los Angeles. It was a summit and every train stopped here to take on coal and water and get the engines ready. That's how it was in the olden days. Trains coming from Salt Lake were pulled by two engines. It was a Tintic railroad junction. The name was taken from the

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Tintic silver mine. Being a summit when the freight train comes in, it had to be pulled by two engines and there were numerous extra tracks. And going down one engine was left behind.

Being 5,000 feet high, there were hardly any cloudy days, always sunny days. The air was clear. When we drive to Salt Lake and crossed the Point-of-the-Mountain, the Salt Lake area was blanketed with smog. That's because everyone was burning coal.

LK. Were there many other Japanese families over there?

M. Maybe five years later in Eureka, a cleaning and laundry shops were established by Japanese.

LK. Who was it?

M. Kikushima.

LK. Do you remember the name of the store?

M. Eureka Cleaning, I think. Then Yamashita san moved in. Yamashita san came from Hooper, Utah. Harry Yamashita, a young couple, came and brought the cleaning shop after Kikushima san left for Japan in 1939. The whole Kikushimi family went back.

LK. There were no single Japanese men, no Japanese camp there?

M. I think there was one Japanese cook who worked for a wealthy Caucasian family. There were no other Japanese. (Read Mrs. Yoseida's account.)

LK. How did the arrangements for her to start cooking for Mexicans or others start?

M. I didn't cook for Mexicans, just Japanese. When Japanese laborers came looking for work from other railroad locality, it was during depression. I couldn't just send them to their bunk house and to cook for themselves. I felt sorry for them so I invited them to eat with us. Two, three at the most. I cooked for about 10-15 years for



Japanese workers. Eventually they all returned to Japan because their wives were there. But when the war started one of them couldn't go back to Japan, so I think I cooked for him for 10-15 years. They didn't ask me to cook for them. They did cook by themselves for 2 or 3 days. I did it out of kindness. They worked under my husband.

LK. Do you remember their names?

M. Yes, Frank Ichikawa, Ben Fukushima and the other was Hachiya san. Don't remember his first name. He really helped me making kindling wood, bringing in coal when my children were small. He stayed with us for about three years. Fukushima san stayed about five years and Ichikawa san stayed over ten years. When the war started, we had to move. Ichikawa san came along with us. In 1952, Ichikawa went back to Japan. There was a flood here. I remember taking him to the train station. The other two went back before the war, Hachiya-san and Fukushima san. When the war started everyone said there is a Jap working for the railroad and in order to avoid trouble, we were asked to move out. They said they were sorry but if there were no Japanese, there would be no trouble. We stayed till spring because the children were still going to school in Eureka. We moved to Payson Benjamin, back to where the Bossley's lived. We rented a house in Payson and we did day work. Mr. Bossley only had sugar beets and wheat so in Payson area, there was work picking beans, tomatoes and other things.

LK. What were these people like? Going back to Tintic, Fukushima san and others?

M. Ichikawa san came to Eureka to open a laundry but went broke so he came over to our place and my husband said to stay a while

with us and that's how he went to work for my husband. So he stayed for about ten years.

LK. What was he like, Ichikawa san?

M. Very sly fellow, lazy. Fukushima san worked six days. But every chance he had he made kindling woods, hauled coal because I had small children. He did all these things for me. Ichikawa san never did a thing. He was a lazy guy.

LK. What was it like for you to bring up children in Tintic?

M. I did my best to teach my children Japanese so I spoke to them in Japanese but outside...it's all Caucasians. About the time the children were in Jr. school, grammar school, I ordered some Japanese books from Japan and taught them. But Hachiya san, my husband all talked in English to the children. You can't blame them. There were no companions. So I finally gave up. I finally realize that I had to learn English in order to keep up with the children. I had some basic English in Japan as I mentioned before, so I began to study English in earnest.

In summer time, I sent my two children, Kaoru and Jean, to Salt Lake to Koji Sasaki, a rather difficult person. The children stayed with them and went to Japanese school...for about two summers. The children still remember a little. Mr. Sasaki had two children, one boy, born the same day as my Kaoru. He (Sasaki) was very strict and would scold them if they spoke any English and at home they had to speak Japanese, so they were compelled to learn Japanese. Mr. Sasaki passed away so did his son, Albert.

LK. Did Mr. Sasaki have a school or just in his own home?

M. In his own home...no school. Mrs. Sasaki did not speak any

English so the children learned to speak Japanese quite fluently.

LK. How did you find about him?

M. Oh, we were friends from way back. When we were farming in this area, whenever we went to Salt Lake in the winter, I used to help them with chambermaid work. He was operating a hotel so we were friends before.

LK. What was the name of the hotel?

M. Red Wing Hotel on the area now occupied by the Salt Palace.

LK. What was the kinds of things you did around Tintic to enjoy yourselves?

M. I had no time for pleasure...spent all my time washing, ironing and cooking for my five children. I don't know about others... didn't see them. Kikushima san liked to drink so on Sundays he'd take a drink and promptly fall asleep. We stayed there about ten years with lots of other people but I didn't know anything about my husband drinking. My husband didn't pay "hana" either (Japanese card game). He was the type that didn't talk much. After work he'd just take one drink. No automobile during that time so we couldn't go anyplace. After we bought a car in 1928, once a year we came out to the picnic in Salt Lake so our children could mingle with other Japanese. We made lunch the day before and before we reached Salt Lake we'd eat the lunch. The car couldn't go very fast in those days.

LK. So that the kids could consider marrying?

M. Being Japanese, I thought it would be nice to associate with other Japanese and I also wanted them to marry Japanese. It's nice that my children all married Japanese.



LK. You worked hard; you mentioned what kind of work did you do most of the time?

M. After the war when we moved to Salt Lake, my husband had an accident. So I went to work at a tailor's shop sewing. Oh, in Tintic, at that time, washing and cooking, took all my time. I had a nice garden.

LK. Can you describe what your day was like from the time you woke up till evening?

M. I think I got up about 5:30 a.m.. Made many lunches, about three sandwiches, each, railroad workers eat a lot. I didn't know about different fillings for sandwiches so it was ham and egg, ham and egg, day after day. When the children started school, made sandwiches for them, too. So I had to get up at 5:00 a.m.. Then washing for everyone, no powder soap at the time, had to scrub by bar soap, by hand...Those long underwears. After that, doing this and that, the days just went by. When the children grew up, I was able to do some knitting in the evenings. Ironing, had to heat the iron on top of the stove. It is an all day work. I raised chickens on the side, too. Cooked dinner for everybody. I didn't know too much about cooking so it was the same thing everyday like cooking cabbages in a big pot. Everyone enjoyed that. In the winter we brought hind quarter of beef and a whole pig and hung them in the garage. Then I would cut off the meat to make sukiyaki. I used to watch Mrs. Bossley cook so I learned to roast, too. Being so big, they lasted till about April. I also learned to smoke bacon and ham and I did it myself.

LK. You said you ate most of the same things. What was that?

M. Cabbage, cut in quarters, with pig (pork) bone for flavor. Cabbage and lettuces grew well because it is so cool. Big

and tight. Boiled them in a big kettle. Cucumbers and tomatoes did not do well...too cool. We got them from Mr. Bossley.

After the Japanese men returned to Japan, the Bossley's kids came to work for my husband during summer time and after school. I knew the Bossley's kids since they were young and my kids used to go over there. I also cooked for the Bossley's kids, too.

I baked bread every other day...six loaves.

LK. Were you paid for the cooking?

M. About \$20.00 a month for each one because I didn't know how much to charge. So I added up the whole month's grocery expenses, excluding the young kids, but my husband and me included, then divided the grocery expenses among us, even me, who did the cooking. I didn't know any better...very stupid. Country girl, didn't know anything. I didn't charge for washing nor haircutting but sometime when they (Japanese men) got their pay checks, they brought cakes for the kids. My husband cut Mr. Ichikawa's hair and I cut my husband's hair. I still cut my son-in-law's hair, Jimmy.. I didn't cut Fukushima's nor Hachiya's. I guess they wanted professional haircut...at Eureka...to look pretty...some people don't care.

LK. Where did these Japanese men who worked for you, where did they go to meet women, if they wanted to?

M. Fukushima san, once in two or three months, used to go to Salt Lake...train was free. He used to say "I am going to see my wife." Ichibawa and Hachiya never went any place. They all had wives in Japan. Fukushima's wife was dead. I think he had a son, same age as me, who was going to the University of Utah. Fukushima was always joking...a happy guy. He's the only one when he goes to Eureka to buy something for the kids. Rest of

the guy was stingy. He died, they all died after they returned to Japan. When I visited Japan, I visited Ichikawa's home in Yamanashi Ken near Fuji san.

LK. What were the other nationalities you remember living in Tintic?

M. Japanese, Mexicans and Caucasians. I'm too busy cooking. No blacks, nor Chinese. I just saw Mexicans, Caucasians like engineers, operators, that kind of people. I didn't talk to anybody...just Bossley...too busy. I never knew.

Tintic is not a town...it's a junction. There was a big roundhouse, maintenance house, two sections and a boarding house and conductors (agents, operator). I think three houses, maybe, all together, six houses. There's nothing there now. We went, my daughter and I, a couple of years ago and found nothing. There's no need to put coal and water to run the engines anymore, so there is nothing there now. Not many children then, either. The dispatchers (operators) and others had their own homes in town. They were just renting. Boarding house is where when the train stops, people can stop to eat..runned by the railroad company. I never went there, even though it's close by...too busy chasing children. The railroad still run through there, engine (locomotives) are so big now it goes right through.

LK. Did you order from the outside?

M. Yes, from Salt Lake. All kinds of Japanese items, foods,...rice (soy sauce) oshoyu, miso (bean paste) Kanpyo (dry gourd), shitake (mushrooms) Once a year, made osushi for New Years.

LK. Did you celebrate New Years?

M. Yes, but now, it's too much trouble for me. I'm getting old so I go to my daughter's place. At that time, Bossley from Payson and others came. They bought their own friends and I cooked all



the Japanese food...from day before...took all day. They wanted to know what is this and what is that. They were all good to us... took us fishing. After fishing, Mrs. Bossley always sent pies and other goodies with my husband and the children always looked forward to that. Both of them are gone now.

LK. Were there any incidents in Tintic of persecution or racial problems?

M. No, at that time, no. There was no war then. After the war, the people treated us well. But around Salt Lake, in Garfield, there was some trouble...some outside people must have done it. Railroad official were afraid of what might be done to the Japanese so they decided to lay off Japanese workers.

In Garfield, there is a smelting plant. Someone diverted the water and flooded the railroad tracks. I heard such a story. After such an incident, the railroad officials decided to lay off all Japanese workers in order to avoid trouble. If they kept the Japanese they were afraid of such incidents so they asked us to move within three days.

I've been there, Garfield, once, and I don't know too much about the operation but there were many Japanese working there. Anyway, warm water (waste) seems to run into what looked like a lake and then the water ran into another place. Someone diverted the water so it would run into the railroad tracks. Maybe to blame it on the Japanese...Even though Japanese workers won't cause trouble, the railroad people thought best to move us, all the Japanese. Most of the Japanese were section foreman from Salt Lake on to California. All the Japanese working for the Union Pacific. Maybe Rio Grande, too. I don't know. In fact, the whole system. They told us we couldn't go West but any place East, we could go free. We didn't want to go to anyplace we didn't

know. Some went East, I think.

LK. Before the war broke out, the life in Tintic ...pretty lonely?

M. It was lonely but what can we do when there's only that kind of work? It was close to school...that was the main reason, kids caught the bus to go to school in Eureka.

My oldest daughter, Jean, when the war broke out, she was through with college and she was working. Jean is now over 60 years old.

LK. Did you have any inclining that the war would break out?

M. I didn't think there would be one. America is a big country. Japan is such a tiny nation. What are they talking about, was the attitude.

LK. Amongst each other, did you talk about the relationships between Japan and America, Japanese and whites?

M. We were living in a place where there weren't many Japanese. Maybe once or twice a month when we meet in town it was just "hello, how are you?" So we seldom discussed anything. Kikushima san, Matsuniya and others.

Even though Japan is small they wouldn't give up so easily but never dreamed it would escalate to such a big war. And when the war started, radios, short wave, cameras and guns were all confiscated by the police. Afterward it was all returned.

LK. Where were you when the war broke out? How did you find out?

M. From the newspaper and from the radio. We were really surprised.

LK. What was your reaction?

M. Japanese aren't the type to give up easily but no matter what one says, American is a big country and we felt it wouldn't last very long.

LK. Were you frightened?

M. We heard rumors that we will be sent to camp. So we started to pack our dishes and everything. According to some people, it was rumored that kids will be sent to one camp and adults to another camp. If that's the case, then <sup>I thought</sup> I should put all the kids things in one suitcase. We heard lots of rumors like that.

Jeannie and my second daughter (Fumiko) were in Salt Lake. My third and fourth children were home with me. The boy was away... he wanted to become a chick sexor. Before that he was attending University of Utah and he loved to paint and draw so he registered at an Art School in California but the war broke out, so he couldn't go to California. Jeannie was working at the Capital. Then she graduated from business school and Fumiko was working as a school girl for Mrs. Matha and was attending business college. She just slept and ate at the place where she worked and went to school. Jeannie helped her with her tuition and I helped Jeannie.

LK. What kind of rumors did you hear?

M. Living in the country we never heard any truths. Mostly from newspaper and radio. We only heard bad news.

LK. How did the men react, your husband and the other men?

M. Only Ichikawa san was left, others went back to Japan. Ichikawa san was ready to go back to Japan when the war started so he couldn't go back so he came to Payson with us and farmed with us, then we moved to Salt Lake and he worked at the Hotel Temple Square in the kitchen as a dishwasher, the only kind of job there were. And my husband worked as a dishwasher at Mayflower.

When we were in Payson, we were told that we could rent the house until the war ended but the owner came back early and told us



to move. I drove all over the place every day looking for a place to rent. Provo, every place, even a corner of a barn would do, but I was told it wasn't for rent to a Jap. We could buy a house but no one would rent a house to us. So finally we came to Salt Lake, 21st South and West Temple. We were told that we couldn't buy a house east of Main Street. while in Payson, my husband worked picking beans and peaches...day work, picking tomatoes, etc., while I drove all over the place looking for a place to rent.

LK. How would somebody go from day to day to different jobs?

M. We knew several people and they asked my husband to come and work for them. They felt sorry for us so my husband worked for one farmer and then went to another farmer. There was a man from California who came voluntarily (evacuated) and he also helped my husband get a job. Mr. Oyama was his name.



LK. When your husband was fired what happened to your husband when the war broke out?

M. He wasn't fired; he was given a leave of absence until the end of the war. People around that area were good but because of the incident in Garfield, the official (railroad) thought it best not to keep any Japanese around. The company told us to go anywhere east. They would pay the expenses but not to go west or south.

LK. Did you and your husband talk over what the future looked like at that time?

M. During the hectic days of war, we never thought about anything like that. We heard rumors that children will be sent to one camp and the adults will be sent to another camp..be separated. So I started to make two separate baggages. It was just all worthless talk. I don't know where the rumor started. Then we were told not to worry so I began unpacking everything. Everybody was frightened...just those working for the railroad. People living in Utah didn't have to move or anything. Farmers and Japanese evacuees from California were making money. There were many volunteer evacuees here.

LK. What were the railroad men afraid of?

M. I don't know. We didn't communicate with others. Just heard rumors now and then. Maybe they were afraid of violence against Japanese so they asked us to move. From Los Angeles to Salt Lake, Salt Lake and Ogden and here, were all Japanese.

M. I think...three days. I remember moving on Lincoln's birthday.

LK. What were your personal options? What and Where did you think you could go at that time?



M. We went to Payson because we knew some friends there. My husband hired their boys to work on the railroad so we had friends. It wasn't to do farming so my husband hired out by day for so much. People who went to Salt Lake worked at Colonial Hotel and other places. My children were older then; two were with me. Jeanne worked at the Capitol and Fumiko was working for Mrs. Matha and going to LDS Business College. Jim, Jeanne's husband was in Colorado in the Army and he was assigned to Ft. Douglas. There were many Niseis at Ft. Douglas then. That's how Jeanne and Jim met. Most of the railroad workers who went to Salt Lake could only find work at a restaurant or hotels, and they had a hard time finding a place to stay.

IK. Can you relate your experiences in trying to find a place to live?

M. East of Main Street, we couldn't rent or buy. I guess it was all right for Niseis. We, at first, did not intend to come to Salt Lake. We thought after the war we would return to the work at the section. So from Eureka, Payson, Provo and round that area, I tried to find a place to rent but not one single place was opened to Japanese to rent. I asked for even a corner of a barn but no one would rent us even that so we had to come to Salt Lake to live with my daughter. She was renting. So we finally had to buy a house on 21st South and West Temple between Main Street. There is a street, Richard Street, 2132 Richard Street. It is not in the city limits and because we had chickens and pigs, we grabbed the place. It was in the country then. We pooled the money, the childrens', and bought the house...paid in full at the time of purchase. No trouble in buying the house.

LK. What was your husband's reaction to the outbreak of the war and being released?

M. It must have been the same with other people...got excited but couldn't do anything. He just discussed it with other Section workers.

LK. Was he accepting of it? Was he disturbed by it?

M. No matter how much you felt, what can you do? It's between country and country. Just keep our mouth shut. We had to live and eat. I had three kids going to school; no, two going to school. One to Granite High School and the other to Madison.

LK. What was the atmosphere like as you remember it in Salt Lake at that time between whites and Japanese? What did it feel like?

M. Since I was living in the country, my association with the caucasians were very friendly. I didn't have very bad feelings. They were all good to us. This is something done by the higher authorities so what can you do? I don't know about people in Salt Lake. There were groups of Japanese, railroad workers and others gathered at the Colonial Hotel and were discussing, but we never joined them. I guess they had no jobs and just got together and gossiped. We were too busy fixing up the house and everything. I think majority of the laid-off workers were thinking of going back to work again after the war. It was just a long vacation they took. They had seniority so they thought they could go back. That's what everybody thought. We didn't talk about the war...just read the newspaper...didn't talk to the kids...just kept our mouths shut.

LK. What was your husband doing during that time?

M. He was a dishwasher at the Mayflower Restaurant on Main Street, between First and Second South.

LK. How much money was he able to make over there?

M. I think he ate two meals anyway, he had weekly pay under \$30...  
I don't remember.

LK. How did you make ends meet at that time? What did you do?

M. The kids helped, too. They were working. Jeanne was working at the Capitol. Groceries were rather cheap, not like today. I was sewing for a while for someone. I didn't know how much to charge. But afterwards I thought I better look for a job and found one at Home Built. My daughter told them at the beginning that my mother is Japanese. Sometimes if you tell them you're Japanese, they won't hire you. But my daughter told them that "my mother is Japanese and she can sew." So they told me to come over and I went that morning. They told me to start working.

I loved to sew and to use sewing machine. At home I made all the alterations for the children and for the husband. I sewed everything for the children and husband bought a sewing machine. Sometimes friends from Payson would ask me to sew then I would sew for them.

I think it was 60¢ an hour or 75¢ an hour, at Home Built, owned by <sup>a</sup>Jewish. They're closed now. It was main clothing store... alteration...west side of Main Street. <sup>(The)</sup>Tailor was a German.

LK. How did you get the job?

M. From the newspaper ad so my daughter told them that my mother never worked before and that she is a Japanese. They told me to come anyway so I went. Jeanne made it clear that I was a Japanese from the beginning. I didn't want to go and find out that they don't hire Japanese.

LK. What kind of sewing were you doing?



M. Men's clothing alteration. Made the suit shorter or made the pants shorter for the customers who bought the suits. Tailor would fit the suit and I made the alterations.

At first it was 60¢ an hour, then I went to Hibbs after six months later. They're closed, too...very expensive store...like Arthur Frank. My friend from California (evacuee) was working there. Her name was Chiyo. I'm Chiyo, too. So the tailor called us number one and number two. I can't remember her last name. She died.

LK. Did she come with her husband and children?

M. Yes, she had a boy and a girl. The other Chiyo went to a tailor school and knew all about tailoring. I didn't know anything about tailoring but I picked it up myself and Chiyo taught me a lot. Her husband was a cleaner's presser.

LK. Did your job change at Hibbs? Did you do different things?

M. No, the same thing...they taught me how to tailor more easily and cleaner (neater).

LK. Did you get more money at Hibbs?

M. Maybe \$1.00 an hour.

LK. You were making more money than your husband?

M. Yes.

LK. Did you ever have any difficulty with other people who worked in the store? How did they treat you?

M. No. They all treated me well. They all liked me. When I left Home Built, they tried to keep me and said they'll pay me more. Matsumiya was injured and was staying at home but I kept on working for about 25 years. I took the bus back and forth. Maybe more than 25 years...then Hibbs closed. They sold the business to somebody. I worked until my husband got worse so I had to stay

home. Even after I quit, when there was a sale at Hibbs they would bring me work at home. They boy on his way home would drop off bundles of pants to alter, then in the morning he would pick them up. This went on about a month every year... Sale time was a busy time.

After my husband died, I think I went back to Hibbs. He was injured in 1947 and in 1964 he passed away.

LK. What happened to your husband?

M. My husband was driving a Nash and a city bus hit him and crushed him...near 24th South and State. I didn't sue even a nickle. At that time being a Japanese, there was no use, so somebody told me,so I kept my mouth shut. I received \$500 from the auto insurance and then I worked and took care of everything. Later the company kept asking me what I was going to do but I thought being aftermath of war, I would keep quiet. When I think of it now, it was really stupid thing to do. " By golly I'm going to work and help my husband and I did. Fool, huh?

LK. Did anybody tell you how the accident happened?

M. He was driving alone so nobody knew. Emergency people came to notify me and when I went he was unconscious so I thought I'd ask him later but he was asleep for almost a month.

LK. How severe was the injury? What happened to him?

M. Head injury. By looking at him, he seemed all right. There was Japanese lawyer, Mr. Katayama and a few young fellows. Rather than going to a lawyer, I thought I'd work. I didn't know anything. He was in the LDS Hospital three months six weeks...maybe more than that. I was still working at Hibbs. So after work I would go to the hospital to see him by bus and my daughter would come after me.

LK. How long was he unconscious?

M. I think, maybe couple of days, I can't remember...it was a long time ago. I was working hard so we can eat. I still had two small children.

LK. What was the effect of the injury? What did it do to him?

M. He lost his memory; it came back little later. When I wrote to the relatives in Japan, I didn't mention how serious his injury was. There's no point in worrying them when they are so far away. After he passed away I wrote them about the accident.

LK. Why didn't you mention it?

M. I told them he was injured but not like that. I didn't tell them he lost his memory. But after he came back from the hospital, he mowed the lawn, he kind of forgot how to do things but he made rice and he worked in the garden. He was really bad for two or three years before he passed away. Then I had to take care of him at home but up till then he was alone at home and I went to work.

My husband had a bad heart and Mayflower people asked him to retire, so he stayed home. He raised vegetables and took them to the market. That was his pleasure but after his injury he just raised enough vegetables for home use and used to cut the lawn. He was really sick two or three years before he died. Then I worked and put my younger daughter, Josephine, through University of Utah. Josephine was only in the second or third grade, in grammar school, when the accident happened. It was 18 years, my husband was home from the injury...so I worked. She is a dietician.

LK. One time you mentioned you kept a diary, a journal, at the time your husband got ill. What made you do it?



M. Yes, I started, and was looking at it. It's all bundled up.

Some of them is a book, some of it is just written in a notebook.

Kids can't read it so I'll burn it up or throw it away, I guess.

LK. Don't throw it away.

M. It was about my husband...that's all...I was just trying.

.K. Were you able to participate in community life in Salt Lake...

Japanese church, for instance, Buddhist Temple?

M. Before Matsumiya was injured, after we came here, I joined the Buddhist Church because they were looking for new members. Ever since I was a child I visited the temple in Japan. After Matsumiya was injured, I couldn't go anymore but after he passed away, I was dragged in to participate, just because I can drive. I was really busy with Buddhist Church activities but now I'm old and I don't go very often.

I also learned shigin and ikebana (flower arrangement).

Shigin<sup>is a</sup> recitation of Chinese poems. There are three Shigin groups in Salt Lake. I belong to the Sauki group (koku furyu...country music style). I liked to sing Shigin. With that group, I went to Denver, Seattle, Portland, Japan. I sure enjoyed it. This is after my husband died; my kids encouraged me to go. They said they will take care of the house, so I went, using my own money. I went to Hokkaido-to clear down to Kyushu. I'm glad I did it when I moved down. Now I'm too old, I don't want to go any place.

LK. When you look back upon things and you came here as a young girl, are you satisfied, was it all worth it?

M. Yes, I always wanted to come to this country in the first place. I'm satisfied.

LK. When you went back to Japan with the singing group, what did you think about the differences?

M. I guess I went to Japan about 1970 in the spring. I went to Hokkaido then down to Kyushu. Hokkaido was cold and no cherry blossoms, but as I came down, I began to see cherry blossoms blooming. It was really pleasant. When we visited the big cities like Tokyo, Sendai, Kyoto, Osaka, Beppu, we participated in their tournaments, conventions, mass meetings. My fondest memory is the one held at Kyushu. Every place we went, the host took care of us, took us on a tour. The tour was three weeks, singing at each place.

LK. What was your sense of the contrasts between the countries, what was the effect of being back there?

M. Of course, I was born there. I missed Japan and I thought it was a beautiful country. Lots of people I noticed. What I learned about history in Japan sort of all came back to me. My kids said "don't worry about home"...stay as long as you want "so I went to my sister's place, my own hometown." The tour ended and those who wanted to stay could stay as long as they wanted. Those who wanted to go back, could go back to America after the tour. I think I stayed about three months, maybe not that long.