

**Interviews with Japanese in Utah
Accn 1209**

Tae Kasuga Sugaya



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Tae Kasuga Sugaya

8-18-84

TKS TAE KASUGA SUGAYA.

L And your place of birth.

TKS Butlerville, Utah.

L And--

TKS It's known as Cottonwood Heights now. But that's what's on my birth certificate.

L It was known as Butlerville.

TKS Yes. When I was born, it was Butlerville, just up on top of this hill here.

L Hmm. And your date of birth.

TKS February 4, 1929.

L Would you give me the names of your brothers and sisters?

TKS The oldest is Woodrow.

L The oldest son.

TKS Yes. And next is SETSU. And the next one is LEWIS. And then a sister, Alice. Myself. And my younger sister is AI.

L Is Setsu a boy's or girl's name.

TKS A girl's.

L So there's altogether six children.

TKS Yes.

L Now would you give me the names of your parents?

TKS My father is TIJIRO. {pronounced more "tichero"}

And my mother -my mother is HATSUYE.

L Do you know your mother's maiden name?

TKS Naka NAKANISHI.

L where in Japan are your parents from.

TKS Wakayama.

L Both of them.

TKS Yes.

L do you know anything about your father's family? In Japan. What they did for a livelihood, for instance.... What kind of family.

TKS He had the family, from my understanding, was a -- what you call a family that has been -- lived there a long time. A well known family. But I don't know if they were wealthy. They did have their, I guess, estate. I don't quite know exactly how- were they wealthy. But they did - were well known.

L In the area.

TKS Yes. As far as my mother goes, I don't think her family is as well known as my father's.

L Do you know what your father's family did for a livelihood.

TKS This I don't know. I think it was fishing, but I'm not sure.

L What stories, or family stories, had you heard about your father's family?

TKS Well. I do know that my father-- grandparents were divorced and my father did live a rather difficult life because in Japan, the children go with the father. And I think he was raised by his grandmother. I'm not too sure

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about that. He has one--He did have one brother and then I think it was two half brothers.

L Two half brothers. Did his father remarry.

TKS Yes.

L And then he had two brothers from the second marriage.

TKS Yes.

L Do you know what were the circumstances, let's say, under which your father left Japan. Why did he leave, how...

TKS Well, probably. Part of it, I'm sure had to do with he -- Where he is living with a stepfamily.

L Stepmother.

TKS Yes. And of course, he just went out on his own about the age of 16, I believe he came to this country.

L Areyousaying -- I'm not sure if I'm reading you right. Areyou saying he was uncomfortable in that family situation?

TKS No, he never indicated that. I think it's more or less that you feel you don't have - that isn't your true home. At least, that was my understanding. I'm not quite clear on that, but I do know he had two step brothers and a step mother. And he was pretty independent.

L What year do you know did he leave Japan.

TKS All I know is he was around 16, at the age of 16.

L Well, let's stop for a second here and figure it out.

When did he died.

TKS 1964. And he was 84.

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L That means he would have been born in 1880. So if he was 16 - is that when he left.

TKS This is my understanding. That's what he--

L SO if he left at the age of 16 years, that would have been 1896.

TKS Just about the statehood time, I guess, of Utah.

L Sounds like it.

And what do you know about his leaving Japan. What story did - do you know about.

TKS Well, he struggled alot. When they -- when the Japanese come to the United States at that time, they weren't really accepted. So they were treated quite rough. He worked on the railroad and he traveled by foot, like a hobo. He used to call it his -- When you face all kinds of hardships. He went from place to place for jobs. Often times, the farmers would contract with the workers to harvest but there's -- At that time, they didn't pay them in advance, they had to wait. So during that waiting period, why, often times, they just - well, they almost starved. Some of the stories he has told, they just didn't have any way to eat. They just-- And he'd go--

L Would you be so kind as to remember one of those stories. Could you remember one?

TKS Well, at the time, they were supposed to harvest, I think it's hops, I'm not sure. Something. And the farmer did have a place where they could stay. But no one had money

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to buy food. And they all chipped in. I don't know how many men there were, but they all chipped in what few pennies they had. And they bought food. And they cried. Feeling that they would probably all die. You know, when they finished eating. when the money was gone, what few pennies they had. But they survived. Of course, I hate to say, but you know, often times, they had to go scrounge maybe.

L Why do you hate to say it.

TKS Well, maybe --

L You mean they had to steal?

TKS On occasion, I'm sure. AT least from-- He didn't outrightly say, but more or less. And yet there were people who were kind. And when he was walking from place to place, why he'd stop in and ask - at a restaurant, and asked if he could do some odd jobs for a meal. And, so they'd send him back to chop wood for their stove, which he did. And they gave him -- made him two large sandwiches. He ate one. Couldn't eat the other. So he pocketed it. So he come out and he run into this person who was American. And he stopped Dad and asked him, well, did he give you something to eat. And he said, yes. And the guy swore and said, why, he wouldn't even give me anything and the reason for this is because he was an American and the restaurant fellow thought he was lazy, that's why he wasn't working.

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So Dad took his sandwich that he had in his pocket and gave it to the person. And there's stories like these that-- And once when he was up in Montana, he didn't have any money. he had no place to stay. So it was snowing, it was very cold. And he huddled up against a building and a policeman came along and he asked him what he was doing there. And he said, he wasn't doing anything. And I don't know whether it was two stories, but any -- it was higher than what my Dad could climb up a brick wall. There was a window open, a little window. And the policeman more or less accused him of trying to enter. So he took him to jail and put him in jail. And then the next morning, they let him out because the window was a bathroom which someone had opened. However, he thought that the policeman knew he was going to freeze to death, so it was an act of kindness

L It was that cold then.

TKS In Montana that he could freeze, yeah. He felt that the policeman knew that he was going to freeze to death. So -- And

L I didn't expect you to say that for some reason.

TKS A lot of Japanese have gone through this type of thing.

L Did your father say that too. That many were in this kind of condition.

TKS Oh, yes. Some of them, they were lucky, I suppose and worked for maybe a steady job, I don't know. But I do know

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that a lot of them had struggled. But my Dad, he was very independent. So he used to -- He had -- He was like a hobo. And he used to catch the train. And like, when it was passing by, he'd jump on the box car.

L Jump in the box car.

TKS AHuh. So. Years ago, I read the book, The Jungle. And then I bought the book. I bought it at the University Book Store.

L You mean Sinclair's.

TKS Yes. And the person that sold it to me said this is a yukky book. And when I read it, I thought this is what my Dad had been through. And for me, it was entirely different because my Dad had that experience. And a lot of things I see today, which they think is yukky, was a hardship that the Japanese or a lot of them have gone through. So, as far as mother went. It was an arranged marriage. So when she'd come over, why Dad was broke and they really struggled.

L Do you know what year she got here.

TKS No, I don't.

L It was an arranged marriage back in Japan.

TKS Yes.

L Between the families.

TKS Yes. But their struggle was quite -- As my husband's mother, parents -- They all really struggled. It was -- Some, I think very few may have had it fairly easy. But I don't think

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many.

L What do you know about their early struggle. What kind was it.

TKS For one thing, he was farming. And oftentimes, it was -- due to the weather, where they lost their crop. Or it wasn't easy.

end side one

begin side two

L Living in -- How did they get to Utah. How did he arrive here. You say he was moving around a lot. Do you know that?

TKS I don't know. I know he worked for the Denver and Rio Grande.

Dishwasher, cook.

L What I'm looking at here. Kind of a soup bowl.

TKS I guess. I think.

We've used it all these years. It's really an antique.

L Denver and Rio Grande Railroad Scenic Line on the World. And has a little picture in the corner of the bowl of the train going through canyons, it seems. So you Dad worked on this line.

TKS He worked. OK. I know he worked in Thistle.

L The train.

TKS Ahuh. But I also know he worked as a cook or a cook's help. That's one of the bowls that come from when he was a cook. Short order cook, I think.

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L Sobefore he came to this state, he worked for the railroad.

Did he, do you think, come in on the railroad?

TKS He probably did. When he worked for Denver and Rio Grande, I think it was here in Salt Lake. Because one of his dearest friends was a cook. And it was a lifetime friendship.

L On that line?

TKS Yes. I think it's here in Salt Lake. I'm not sure. But also I do know he worked at the Thistle, on the railroad. And at one time, he also was partner in a restaurant at Soldier Summit.

L Do you know --name of restaurant.

TKS No, it's long gone. But he used to talk about that. He had partners. I don't know who they were. And he also cooked up there at Alta.

L At the Lodge.

TKS No, at the mining camp, years ago. Do you recall when they had that big avalanche that buried the mining camp. At least--oh, it was way back, years ago. Anyway, he was the cook there until -- And he got into a disagreement with his boss and so he quit. And so they hired someone else. And a week later, that avalanche buried that campsite and killed the cook. but he always believed in luck. That he had luck.

L He believed he was chosen for a special fate, maybe.

TKS No, that he was lucky. that somebody was looking after him. Obviously.

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TKS When he related these stories, I often felt that he probably did because he could have frozen to death in Montana. He could have been buried up there if he hadn't had fought with the boss.

L A lot of cross misses.

TKS Yes.

L He sounds a little enterprising. Like he was looking for things to do.

TKS He is. He was very much that way. In many ways, I guess you could say in a way he was - gambled a lot. You know, in fate, to make it. For instance, when he - when the cuska was originated, and it was just beginning to become a marketable berry, there was a drought. We knew there was going to be a drought. You know, the cuska is only a spring variety, it only bears in the spring. And we -- his 20th century, he had already market for. Because it was a strawberry that he's had for years. And it's an ever-bearing, so you get two crops. So he decided that the Kuska was more important in spite of the drought. And he planted the Kuska in quantity. It got frozen. The crop got frozen. And he didn't make anything on it. And this is kind of like what he was.

L These are the kind of risks that he would take?

TKS Often times. At least when -- the Dad I know. I don't know what, you know. But the reason why this one particularly I remember is because my husband and I were in partners

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with him.

L For the particular.

TKS On the farm.

L OK. Now, let's not get ahead of this story so fast.

.... He started farming, I'm assuming after the railroad work with your mother.

TKS After he cooked, I think.

L Where was his farm.

TKS All over. He rented. There were times when he raised lettuce in, oh it's near Park City. It use d to be real good lettuce country. I can't remember: Keetly. Oh, at the time, the temperature was ideal for lettuce. At that time, the type of lettuce you had to have this cool weather. Otherwise the lettuce gets the brown spots.

L It wuld burn up.

TKS It gets init. I suppose. Today the lettuce is hybridization so you don't have that problem. It's different. It's not the same lettuce. Over the years, all the vegetables and fruits --they're different from the originals.

L They've all gone through the hybridization.

TKS Improvement is what they call it. Well. I don't know always agree. And, gosh. I think he's tried most -- you know, row crops and then.

L Row crops.

TKS Yeah.

L What is row crop.

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- TKS Oh, things like beans that you harvest within the year. Like oh vegetables: carrots. Ah. Beans, peppers and things like that. Where you harvest them and then you turn it under.
- L Then you turn it under. You mean, you put it back in the earth.
- TKS Well, what you do. After you harvest, there's nothing else. It's over.
- L You're not growing anything else on that ground. Is that what you mean?
- TKS No. Row crop is where you plant a vegetable and you harvest it. And after you harvest, the is no good, so you --
- L You just turn it over.
- TKS You plough it under. Cultivate it. Under .
- L OK.
- TKS He's done all that type of farming. Somewhere, I don't recall when, he started into strawberries.
- L Do you have any idea what made him leave one kind of farming for the other?
- TKS I don't know. He -- Because he's one of those that tried everything. Whatever catches his fancy, he'll try it. I know even when he was on the farm, why, if anything new would come up, he'd buy it and see what it was. And I think a lot of people who are in, like, specialities, will do that because I do know there was one person who was

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an apple man. Who was rated as one of the most knowledgeable here in Utah was that way. Anything new, he bought and planted to see.

L To see how it would work.

TKS How good it is. The quality. What it is is testing to see how good it is. And all that. Well, this is my Dad, too. So you're thinking that from the way your dad was, if he saw somebody growing strawberries, maybe he would try it himself.

TKS Well, this I don't know how he come about it. How he decided on strawberries. But -- very much. He had that curiosity where if it's something new, he's going to try.

L How is it now. You said he moved around from farm to farm.

TKS He rented.

L How is it that he got into s area.

TKS Well, strawberries.

L We're talking now about the Butlerville, Cottonwood-- area.

TKS Yes, they lived up here.

I can't remember whether he had strawberries there. But one of the biggest problems here was the fact that -- Frost. Theyd get forzen out. You know, you have late frost. The closer you are to the muntain, you're going to have that problem. So it was very difficult for them. Also I

think there was a drought, I'm not too sure. And at that time, irrigation is -- you know, it was just a ditch. So, by the time you run the water down the ditch, it -- the dry ground has absorbed a good part of it, you lose your water. The irrigation ditches today is very sophisticated. And you can make better use of your water. But at that time it wasn't. It was just an open ditch.

L It was an open ditch, huh. The dry earth would suck the water down.

TKS Sure. But I know that was the things that forced him to move. From Butlerville.

L Where did he move to.

TKS Into Murray. And he rented.

L Was that land leased or owned.

TKS Leased. OK He must have had the strawberry in Butlerville. Because when he moved to Murray, he had the 20th Century. And the problem he ran into is he didn't know that strawberries - the soil was alkaline and he lost but a handful of strawberries.

L What does the alkalide soil do to the strawberries.

TKS It took his, it just burns it out.

L It just--there's just too much acid.

TKS For the 20th Century now, there probably is some acid ahhh- alkalyde resistant strawberries today, I don't know. But I assume were they're always working to improve the variety, there possibly is. That will tolerate. But the

20th Century would not at all. So he lost - I guess he just had probably half a dozen maybe.

L A half a dozen

TKS A half a dozen plants. I think it was around that much. I can't recall. It was very little.

L You were very little.

TKS Ahuh. I wasn't even in school but he used to talk about it. But my Japanese is limited. I don't understand that much and that's one of the problems. So he moved to Union. Which is now Willow Creek.

L What's the address of that.

TKS Do you recall where the cemetery is. The cemetery?

L I know of it, I don't know where it is. Union Cemetery, isn't it called.

TKS I believe there's only a monument there. A marker. But it was right across the street. Well, I think that whole area is known as Willow Creek. But anyway, so he moved there. Well, in Murray there, he ran into all kinds of hardship. Couldn't pay his rent so he was evicted. And there were six of his children. So person--

Now I don't know but I think it was a friend that talked to this person that owned the property in Union. But, was willing to lease Dad the ground. And his strawberries flourished for a while until a drought came and he had to move again. So he moved up to Granite. Mouth of Little

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Cottonwood Canyon. Granite, at mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon.

L Do you remember now by the time that drought came along that you were in Union. You must have been old enough to understand.

TKS Yes. I was. Let's see. I was in elementary school. Probably about third grade, I think. I think I was about....WWII started. I was in 6th Grade. and that was up in Granite. So I think I was in probably about 3rd or 4th grade when we moved. But see, this too is a language barrier. He spoke Japanese and -- which being a child, I didn't pick it up that much.

L Did you know there was a strain on the household at that time.

TJS Oh, yes. My sister had fell and she had -- she had chronic appendicitis. And she fell and it ruptured on her. And she was in the hospital, I think about a month. And it put him into debt. And. With that debt and all, why--

end side two

begin side three

TKS --it's either frozen or a disaster, he went out and got a job. Any job. That he could find. And his job. He found was selling peanuts at a theatre. And this is how hard it was. And then in - When my sister was -- She -- After the hospital, he was in debt for I think probably 1500 or \$2000

which was a big debt at that time. And, he struggled to pay that off. And I remember when I went to school, why, he couldn't even give us school served soup and crackers along with your sandwich and it cost a penny. Maybe two pennies. He couldn't even come up with that. So, anyway, he paid that debt off. And then, after that, he went to -- When he moved to Granite, things were better. Started to come up when WWII came along. And, in many ways, you suffered because you were Japanese but at the same time, being that it was a farm, he did flourish. Because, you know, it was food. And so he was able to make a living and save enough money to buy the farm in Sandy. So the money for the farm in Sandy, you bought during WWII. You saved the money.

TKS He was able to -- Well, his farming at Granite did it. When they moved up there. And the soil was -- was I don't think they'd ever farmed on it. So strawberries really flourished and they had a terrific crop. So he was on his way up. And then WWII came. But still, being that it was a farm, and they needed food, he didn't suffer a setback, I don't think, other than -- There was animosity which we all went through. And he was able to save enough to buy a farm in Sandy. And then, we were there, what, 19 years. So finally, he was 84 when he sold the farm. And he wanted to go back to Japan to -- It is my under-

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standing that his mother did not have a marker on a grave. And he wanted to go back and visit her gravesite and raise a marker. Or. And they went on a tour of Japan. My mother got sick. And she -- The -- So they had to leave the tour. And they went to his well his stepbrother was now living in the estate that was his father's. And she got better but all of a sudden, he just got sick and died. They put him in the hospital. My sister did. He really struggled back there because they're so different from here. And he asked mother to please find me his mother's grave and erect a headstone for her. And she said to him, she said, why, the grave is right there. And just in the hospital, apparently, it was just --

L

?

TKS

Apparently, because that's what she told him. She said, well, it's just right there. And I don't know what his reaction was at that time because he was just going downhill. And he died. So she died what he requested. And they came home. I guess being that he was a - the son of - Where his family was broken up, that he really felt he was an outsider. It sounded that way. He never said. I kind of think that's what it was. Which is why he came to this country.

L

How -- a general question -- how was the 20th Century strawberry. What was the development of it. What did he do.

TKS He cross pollinated. He read up on it. Strawberries became his interest. Now, I don't know how. This part I don't know but anyway, and he read up on it. And he found out that cross pollinating would -- He tried it. And then he selected which he felt was the strongest. And when it bears, why, you know, the fruit and all. And when you select it. Then all the strawberries will after you plant it, they'll send out runners. That you -- Rosettes that you plant and that becomes another plant. That's how you multiply the strawberry. And the 20th Century is something that he felt was a marketable strawberry. And he had this curiosity where he went. If he didn't know, he went to the source to find out. And of course, the US U was very helpful. They were really helpful about people who are interested in horticulture. So he had a lot of help. I don't recall who or how many places. But wherever he went, why, many people helped him.

L Very interesting. What made his crops better than other's strawberry crops.

TKS Now, according to the Encyclopedia that I mentioned, it said that the 20th Century was the first marketable ever-bear. Well, my understanding of ever bear. Often times, it's -- or strawberries, it was either too soft for marketing quality, or maybe too small. But there's just something about it that wasn't a good marketing berry. So, according

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to this book that - that took It said that he
was one of the first everbear of marketable quality.

L That's very interesting.

TKS I really. It's kind of a shame he's not here to tell you
himself because he knows so much more. A lot of my
--where I listend, you know, sometimes you don't quite get
it right. {laughs}

L I understand what you're saying. Especially if it's not
your particular interest..

TKS Even a child. And I had limited interest. You know, you
always have your own interest.

L What was your relationship with your father growing up.
How did you--

TKS He was very busy man. He was up with the birds and went
to bed with the chickens, so to speal {chuckles}. And he
was not a patient person. Ah. He was very much the
chauvenist, you know. He was the boss and that was it. And
it didn't matter: what he said went. So in many ways,
we never really got to know each other. Because what he
said was law. So.

L So you never found out that you might have had different
views.

TKS That's it. Yes. But he was always busy in his ways, such
as working the strawberry out there Pruning, whatever.

He never wasted time. Never. Even when he fished, he worked hard. And he loved fishing. He used to take us fishing. But when you went fishing with him. You got up at 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning. And you go out on the boat at five o'clock when it opens. And he doesn't let you off until nine. Well, after awhile, I got sick because I couldn't take it anymore. And I wouldn't go with him anymore. But that was him. Whatever he did, he did with --It was work.

L Sounds like whatever he did, he did completely thoroughly.

TKS Yes. He did. He jumped into it body and soul.

L Was he kind of driven in that way.

TKS Was he driven. Well, in a way, I guess. And yet I've never seen a man that could sit down, and he's out, right off to sleep, just like that. He was not what you call hyper. When he sat down, he just slept. And that was it. You know, like five or ten minutes and that was it. But he never wasted time, either. But during the winter, he used to read, you know, all day. And get ice cream and all that. But, I -- That's the father I knew. He was lord and master of the house. And what you said didn't count. {laughs}

L What about your mother. How was she in relation to his lordship.

TKS She was a happy go lucky person. Ah. Of course, the mother I knew. I'm the one that looked after her. And she was quite different from what I thought she was. She was happy go lucky. But, she -- She just couldn't seem to cope with things - Oh, this is her later part in life. And yet when they struggled, she did cope. You know, she worked hard. She was a hard worker. But, when I took care of her, any problem, she couldn't -- She just wouldn't cope with. And I don't know whether that's because of her age or what. But she worked hard out on the field. That's one thing.

L So when you came along, what is the age difference between you and the other kids.

TKS Ah, let's see.

L Age difference between you and Woodrow, for instance.

TKS ABOUT years. I forget. I don't keep track. But it's about --

L About a generation apart.

TKS Yes.

L So, in some ways, the mother that they grew up with was not the mother that you grew up with.

TKS That's true. See, I'm the one that. She died when she was 86. And we had quite a struggle because she. And I don't know whether it's because of age. Because, you know, they do go that way.

L Did she get senile.

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TKS Yes, very much. But, she -- I don't know I just. I think about it because I know she never shopped for groceries.

L SO your brothers and sisters describe a different mother than you.

TKS Probably because I think the one that takes care of them until the end has very different == I do, I know, ah, thoughts about parents. Because-

L How different are your thoughts than your brothers and sisters.

TKS I've seen what it is that - when the mind goes. I don't think they'd believe me if I were to tell them the things that happened. I really -- But. It's not what you -- It's best to say remember as she was. They remember when she was in her productive years. But their mind goes and she became so emotionally insecure, we couldn't do anything with her.

L SO now, you're talking about after your father died, she came back from Japan.

TKS Yes, my sister and she come back. And then she lived with us.

L And she stayed with you.

TKS Yes.

L Where you living here early.

TKS No. I was living in East Midvale. We had just sold the farm and moved their things to our home. And she lived with

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us.

end side three

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TKS Just so totally dependent on everybody else. It was really tragic. Because they sold the farm. She had the money where she could have traveled. Or, you know, did a lot of things. But she was so insecure. She was just pathetic. It was really bad. And, even her friends, it was difficult for them

L So I guess she really took direction from you father.

TKS I think so.

L So much so that--

TKS So much so I think she was raised to be very dependent. It sounds that way. I don't know too much about it. But from what I could gather, it sounds like -- her mother, I think. Let's see, her father, I think was a fisherman too. And, when they go out fishing, why they're gone for months, you know, til they fill the boat up. So she was home alone quite a bit. So she clung to my mother. There's quite an age difference between mother--She had an older sister I think that's quite older--

L She clung to her mother--

TKS My mother clung to her.

L Her mother clung to her.

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TKS Yes. And wouldn't let her grow up. It seems that way.
I can't-- But she had an older sister that's quite abit
older. And, now, I'm not sure, but it's - I thought she
said that one of the relatives was without a child so
oftentimes, they'll adopt one of the relative's child. And
I think that's what happened. And then she had a brother
that was, oh, he must be about - she said. When she left
Japan to come to the United States, she was around 26.
She says, her youngest brother was just barely walking.
So there's quite a span. I figure Grandma must have married
quite early. But she had a brother, another brother. And
I don't know whether he's older or younger. But--

L You think he might be still living?

TKS No, ^{they're} not living.

L The 26 year difference would be--

TKS He died. During WWII, he developed TB and he died. But that
part, I don't think there are any left. There are cousins
but I don't know. But. These are things that I know
but, like I say, it's strictly from my view.

L That's fine.

When did the farms real productive years take place.

TKS Ah. It was when they moved to Granite. And the strawberries
started to flourish. And then they moved to Sandy. Here.
And, they did well.

L So they moved from Granite again to Sandy.

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- TKS Yes, they bought the farm. That was the first farm he's ever owned was in Sandy.
- L You know, all this ttime, what size farms are we talking about. Howbig is the land area.
- TKS OK. The farm that he bought was 24 acres.
- L In Sandy.
- TKS Yes. And the farm that he farmed up there in Granite was about 10, I think. There around ten acres, I think. However, I don't know about such things as Butlerville becuase I was born, just a baby then. I know they farmed --grew lettuce in Keetly cause he always talked about it.
- L Now, Keetly was in Bountiful..
- TKS No, New Park City. Oh, it was way before but I don't know when.
- L But from the time, youcame on the scene, that you can remember, was the main crop he was growing all the time strawberries.
- TKS Yes.
- L That would be the main crop.
- TKS Yes, he was -- he already had the 20th century and then he developed the ^{Kasuga}~~Kasea~~ from that.
- L Now what was the difference between the two brands.
- TKS OK The ^{Kasuga}~~Kaska~~ is the - just a spring growing, one year. Bearsonce.
- L Why did he develop the ^{Kasuga}~~Kasko~~ from --originally.

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TKS OK when you cross pollinate, you don't know what you have.
You select the one that you feel is the most -- better.
Which he felt the ~~kasuka~~^{Kasuga} was.

L Better than the 20th century.

TKS Well, out of the ~~Kasuga~~^{Kasuga}. See, he used the 20th
Century and, I don't know what the other strawberry was, and
cross-pollinated. Now the 20th Century was crossed with
Rocky. Rock Hill and I think it was Marshall. I'm not
sure. I know Rock Hill was one of them because it was
a sweet strawberry but it didn't have any shelf life. It's
too soft. And I'm not sure whether it was Marsh. This
I'm not sure. And he developed the 20th Century and later
he developed the ~~Cuska~~^{Kasuga} from the 20th Century and I don't
know what the other one was.

L It's interesting. You just mentioned some things that a
person would be looking for in a strawberry. What are you
looking for in a strawberry--

TKS OK. You look for the quality of the plant. How strong
it is. Whether it has some fl. Strawberries who
grow real wild with a lot of runners. Then their berries
will be small. And also the quality of the fruit. The
flavor, the shelf life, the color.

L Shelf life means how long it can stand.

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- TKS Yes.
- L In a store.
- TKS Yes, that's very important because of the marketability-
is what they call it.
- L It's dependent on that, of course.
- TKS Yes. And the size has a lot to do with it. If it's--you
know. Sometimes you get strawberries that have a lot of
little berries, you know, lots of them. And other times
you won't get but one or two, which isn't very practical
either. So these are the things that you look for.
- L So the Cuska even though it wasn't an everbearing, was
better in all these qualities than the 20th Century.
- TKS He thought it was. It is a good strawberry. But, he -- It
didn't take in California because apparently it was not
a-- Ah, strawberries or a lot of vegetables or flowers
or whatever, sometimes do better in certain climates
than they do others. And I think they probably--it sounded
like they ran across that problem in California. It didn't
do well.
- L It didn't do well in that climate. Now, if you don't have
an ever bearing strawberry, do you have to replant each
spring?
- TKS OK. He did harvest two years and then turned it under.
So, yes, you plant a new section every year.
- L Even with the 20th century, you would wait two seasons

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and then plow it under.

TKS Often times, a strawberry when it's the third year, is small.

L And with the Cus he did the same thing.

TKS Yes.

L So the ever bear - does that mean that it's always bearing or that it can bear forever.

TKS There's two crops a year. Spring and Fall. That's an ever bear. It takes-

L How early in the spring would you have a crop.

TKS Well, it depends on the winter. The frost. That determines it. Generally, it can start - it can start as late as May providing you - it's not frozen. Because once it's in blossom, if you get a frost, that would kill it. And then it takes a rest period from the middle of June to the middle of July.

L So how long would it take for the strawberry to grow in the spring. How much time would it need. From the time of the blossoming--
to the bearing.

TKS Oh, it blooms in April and then you harvest in June. Or either late May or into June. About till the middle of June. About three weeks, I think.

L You think three weeks?

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- L And then there would be a couple of weeks of respite.
- TKS It'll rest and then the flowers will come on. And you'll start harvesting in - Oh sometime late July, which doesn't make good strawberries, because it's too hot and they're seedy. And then in August, after the 15th of August, the nights, when they start to cool down, then you get really good berries until it frosts.
- L So that's three crops.
- TKS No, just two.
- L What about the July crop.
- TKS Well, it starts bearing from July, but berries in July often times are not that good.
- L So by saying it starts bearing from July, you can have strawberries in July all continuously through August - till the middle of August.
- TKS Yes, until it frosts, September, generally.
- L So now the ^{Kasuga}Cusega was just
- TKS Just a spring bearer.
- L So you had to have one crop that was better, bigger, than both crops combined in some way, I guess, in theory.
- TKS Yes.
- L If you only go with that one.
- TKS Yes. But spring variety is quite a gamble in this area because of the late frost {phone rings}

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L that variety's a gamble.

TKS Yeah, because you can get it frozen. We only had one crop when my husband and my father were working together. And that was for six years. We had one - out of the six years, one good crop. The rest of the time, the frost took a good part of it. And the thing about strawberries, the first blossoms are the big fruit. AND THE LAST blossoms are the small ones. So, the same with your apples or whatever. So that one year, we had a full crop in a little area. It really produced I can't recall how much. But I didn't think we'd ever get through picking. {laughs}

L That was a nice year to have so much to pick.

TKS Yes, it is.

L So, crop is something that you plant after it quits freezing. Or you plant while it's freezing. So that when it starts growing, it will be warm. But you're more or less guaranteed a crop unless something like hail, which often has happened, takes it. But strawberries or fruit or apples or whatever, it's a gamble.

L Much more fragile.

TKS Yes, because it blossoms at the time you still have frost danger.

L Why did it take your father so long to buy land.

TKS He couldn't afford it. He had six children to feed. And he ran into all the problems with the strawberry. He lost

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the strawberry due to, you know, the alkaline. And then a drought and so forth. It - there was just a number of setbacks until he moved up there and then it started on the upswing.

L Did he have. I thought maybe the fact that the Japanese at that time couldn't own land.

TKS That's true.

L Was that a problem for him, too.

TKS It was bought under my brother's name, you're right.
It was true.

L So he didn't even buy under his own name.

TKS NO, they wouldn't have sold it to him because he was an alien but permanent resident. So I think most of them did buy under their kids name because-

L What year was that that you went up to Sandy, do you know?

TKS No.

L Approximately.

TKS OH,

L About how old were you.

TKS Just right after the war.

L About 46.

TKS I was a sophomore. I'm 55 and I was a sophomore.

L So you were born in 29, right.

TKS Yes.

L So the war would have made you.

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TKS The war ended in 46, didn't it.

L A out 16 then.

TKS That's right.

L

TKS Ahuh.

L Hmm. Letme ask you just a couple of things....

end side four

begin side five

L You're talking about your husband's mother. You were sayinf - she was having her 8th child when she lost her husband. Because she was 30 years old.

TKS Her struggle was something else again, too. A lot-- you know, this is very common among the immigrants.

L Hard - hard lives.

And yet, of course, your father as opposed to many other farmers in the area, earned a name for himself.

TKS Yes, he wanted to leave something for the - for the countries. The way he put it to me.

L Say that again.

TKS He wanted to do something for the country, for the people. This is what he said to me.

L That's intersting. He said, he wanted to leave something to his country?

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TKS Ye s. Toremember - To do something for the country.

L to remember, to remember whom?

TKS Well. He told me he wanted to do something for the country that -- which is his strawberries. That he did something to elevate or to make progress.

L To elevate the quality of life, or life standards, or whatever.

TKS No. How would you put it. To do something - You know, to leave a record that somebody did something {she's laughing}

L He wanted to leave some kind of achievement.

TKS, oh, yes, achievement.

L Is that what you were looking for? A sense of achievement.

TKS Yes. Ummm. for the Japanese, so to speak. You know. They'll remember that he was a Japanese that did this. Not particularly because he was who he was, but for the Japanese.

L To indicate that a Japanese person could achieve something of real note.

TKS Sure. That's what he told me.

L How did he tell you -- I mean, when did he tell you?

TKS This is later in years. Oh, when I was a teenager. Of course, when they come to this country, the prejudice was very much. They wouldn't let him eat in a restaurant. If he went into a barbershop, they really cut his hair real bad so he wouldn't come back. So he knew what prejudice

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was. There's one thing that I thought was very interesting: we went to school. Then we'd come home, and he'd get after us for not speaking Japanese. And that's very difficult, you know. You're going to school, regular school and you'd come home and he'd demand that you speak Japanese only. So and this is when I was much older. I think I was married at the time. I asked him how come he did that. And he said, when I come, he says, prejudice so bad that, he says, his thought was to earn enough money to take the family back to Japan because he didn't want to raise his kids. His kids to go through the prejudice that he had to. And there were times when people threw rocks at him. And that was the first time I really understood why all those years, since I started first grade, that he'd really get after us for not speaking Japanese when we got home. But he'd never tell us why until I was "that" old and I outrightly asked him how come. And he says, because when I came, it was -- the prejudice was so bad I didn't want to raise my kids -- I didn't want them to go through what I did. But, he says, I could never make enough money to buy the fare to go back. So. When I was very young, I thought he was just well mean for expecting us to -- here we have to learn English and math and all that and come home and get that. And I

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couldn't understand it. Nor did he explain, which was
I'm not sure I would have understood anyway. But.

L Was he scary to you - as kids, sometimes.

TKS Yes. Oh, boy, if you did something wrong, you didn't
want to come to dinner, I'll tell you! He ruled with
a very firm hand. He never struck the kids. Never.
See, he was boss and he let you know it.

L Would he yell at you, though.

TKS Oh, yeah.

L I'm wondering, how did he get his message across.

TKS Well, I'll tell you, when you finished dinner, you get
up and do the dishes. No fooling around. Or, if you
were to go out and pick strawberries, you get up and
get out there and get those strawberries picked. But
- there was never any leniency, I didn't think. Until
I was older. Probably married. And then my daughter
who he adored and he just spoiled her to death {laughs}
She got what I didn't get. But that was fine. He had
to be that way or he'd never succeed with what he did.
I'm sure somewhere along the line he would have gone under
because he really had it rough. These people - immigrants,
had to be really strong.

L That's a good point.

TKS You bet. That's what built this country. And also what
- how the Japanese have succeeded. I'm not sure it was
the Nisei or Sansei, I'm not sure. I think they're pretty

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American. But, Isseis knew and I don't think you're going to find children who are --I think you'll find they're all working, earning their own living. As a general rule. And I think you'll find a good many of the children have gone to college. That is among the sansei. Because education is very important. And though they couldn't afford to send their kids to college because you know they were having a real rough time, they certainly instilled it in us. So when my daughter was born, from the very time she was young, why, it didn't matter, you know, funny books, if she learned to read, we'd give her whatever she could handle. And this way, why, they naturally acquire the interest in school.

L So you paid a lot of attention to that in raising your child.

TKS Yes.

It was very important to them and it's very important to us. I don't know - have you talked to enough Niseis to find out how well educated their kids are.

L You mean the sansei. I have spoken to a fair number of Nisei. And yeh, most of the kids are college educated. Now that you mention it. I would probably say maybe 75%.

TKS Yes, it's pretty hard. There are some whose parents didn't do it. You know, but as a general rule.

L It is true; It's true.

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- TKS But these are the things that are instilled in you.
And they don't believe in - ah, crying about prejudice.
IT's rather - it's to over come it.
- L It's to overcome it by effort.
- TKS Yes. My Dad wouldn't allow you to cry around him. You
' know, somebody's prejudice.
- L What would he say to you if you started to cry about it.
- TKS I -- he'd tell you to overcome it. To get out
there and show them how good you are.
- L Rather than to worry about it.
- TKS Yea. And he went through what I call is the - Probably
about as much prejudice as most anybody could. From what
I gather.
- L Can I say something: The way you're describing your dad,
your Dad sounds like he wasn't accessible to you as a
oerson until you were much older.
- TKS True.
- L When you were young, I mean, what did you know about
your Dad, just the fact that he was a hard working
person and what he told you to do.
- TKS His accomplishment. Yes, hard working. And he was boss.
Totally boss.
- L What kind of contact would you have with him as a younger
oerson?
- TKS In what respect, I'm not sure.

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L How would you come in touch with you. I mean, what would he say to you. What would the conversations be like?

TKS Well, the conversation was limited, I think. You kind of develop - ah, within your brothers and sisters. You're raised to obey, really. Whatever he said was law. You accept it.

L So your parents would be over here and you guys were on

TKS Your bet...

L On another level altogether.

TKS And especially, if you were younger. You were beholden to the oldest ones. Being that I was youngest, the baby has a better chance and the adored one. But those in between ah, I don't know {chuckles}

L The inbetween ones didn't have much.

TO hold on to.

TKS No, ahuh. But it's an acceptance. You - what you don't know you don't miss anyhow. As you grow older, you understand. I'll have to say that raising my child, I only have one. But there are many ways I wouldn't do it the way my parents did. We have very good communication with our daughter. And it's a very open. We're very happy. Of course, she lives in California and we talk every week on the phone. But, that's one thing I wanted was - is that relationship. Because I never had it.

L You wanted to create a different relationship altogether, now?

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TKS Yes. That's right. For me. Of course, my husband is a very different person. He's not like my Dad.

L So you made a double choice, it seems.

TKS Yes. In fact, there was one time, I was mad at my Dad and I told my mother I was never going to marry a man like him and she laughed. And I didn't! I have a very very understanding husband. Very talented too.

L What does your husband do.

TKS He is the merchandise manager for the Associated Food Produce Dept.

L So he's -- in the general, vaguely general area.

TKS Oh yes.

L He's connected.

TKS OK. He farmed when I met him. And then he -- When we married, why, my Dad at the time, he was oh late 70s, and he didn't want to sell his farm. Because he was working on the Kasuga. And so he offered my husband a partnership, which he accepted. Which is bad because out of the six years, we only had one crop. So it was in 60-61, when we had that drought. And we took quite a beating. But the evaluation of the land was enough that they sold and they could retire without any problems. And then he went back to Japan and died. Passed away. So. My husband and I -- Since my family is scattered.

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My husband and I took my mother.

L Took care of her.

TKS Yes.

end

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L You were saying you were looking at the photographs?

TKS Oh, when I - When we first arranged for the interviews, with Mr. Kasai, is it? I didn't - I thought it would be like a half hour or 15 minutes. Often times, that's how long it's been when anybody interviewed my Dad. So I didn't take time to look things up. Until after this first interview, you wanted some pictures. And then things come back to my memory and I wrote a few things down that I'd like to explain.

My Dad, when he -- he wanted to learn to read and write. So he approached a friend and asked him how he could learn to read and write. And this friend took him to the principal of a school, elementary. I don't know whether it was all elementary or junior high, but he took him to school and introduced him to the principal and told him that my Dad had desired. And so the principal placed him in second grade and he says, it wasn't bad with the little children. But he says, he had a terrible time fitting into the desk. {both laugh}

And he-- he got an education equivalent to 7th grade. And so this is where he learned to read and write. And it was very useful to him because a lot of Japanese did not learn. Did not know how to speak English. So he became interpreter in many cases. And he wrote. He also found

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a doctor for a friend that turned out to be a life time friend. And it was through his efforts that he was able to help people in need. And the thing about this is that he used to talk about, he read Dante's Divine Comedy and he used to talk about it felt like purgatory is right there. So, when I was a teenager, I went to the library and looked it up. And I put it back. At that time, I wasn't into something that deep. So I have a lot of respect for what he - up to the 7th grade, that he was able to read at that level. To learn.

L That's really tremendous. So few did it.

TKS Yes. I thought about it and I thought, that's one thing I'd like you to know.

Well, I guess I'd like to talk about 20 Century and what happened. And I have some records here.

When he developed the 20th Century and this was -- I guess, up here in Butlerville. Because he almost lost it in Murray because the soil was not -- it was too high in alkalye and it burned the plants. But, this is an article that was in The "Utah Farmer". It's dated 1942. About the Strawberry. The parent plant is - oh, I can't remember -- Rockhill and-- Berry Supreme? Now, I don't know. There's something about this Be-ry Supreme that I don't quite understand because he's never explained it. But I do know the parent

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plant is the Rockhill and the Berry Supreme . This
first part of the article will--

L OK, describe that.

TKS Berry Supreme .

L Had your father bought the rights to use it?

TKS Yes, because. I didn't know this until I read - found all
this.

L That's very interesting. {He wants to take it and make a
copy}. This really kind of. What it does is it sets the
stage better for what happened. It explains it better.

TKS I knew it was the parent plant but I didn't know anything
about this. And according to this article, he tried to
find who - what berry it was. But he wasn't successful.
And later, they think it's the - a variety that's named
in the article, I don't know..

L I see. "This is to certify that the following is a true
copy from the records office." Um. I see. So, this -
the interesting thing about this is that this equates
the Berry Supreme with the Ever Bearing.

TKS NO, it's a parent of it.

L The Berry Supreme "The best strawberry known" - slash,
everbearing.

TKS OK at that time, the 20th Century was not in existence
because this is-- The Berry Supreme is one of the parents.

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L So that was - that was kind of an everbearing --

TKS Also too. It's prior. It's a parent of the 20th Century.
It's--

L I'm curious. During the time when your father was experi-
menting with this, how did he do the cross pollination.
Do you remember that at all?

TKS I know just about what happens is when the blossom is not
quite open, you open it up and remove the pollen. And then
you take the blossom of the berry you want to cross it with.
And what you do is cover it, so it won't be another pollen--

L Won't get in there.

TKS AHuh. And, you -- What he did is brush it on. And covered
that. And when that matures, you take the seed and plant it.
Now, to - For origination, there's - The government has
a strict system that you have to follow. Such as planting
it. I don't know whether it's 6 feet square or nine feet
square, but it has to be planted, each plant so far that
it won't --it won't mix. And I think you have to test it
for around five years. Or six years. Or something in that
order.

L To make sure you've got a real strain--

TKS Well, that's -- If it's -- Often times, a weakness will show
up or should show up in that time. But I can't remember
5 or 6 years, or on that order.

L So you've got to be quite patient.

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TKS Oh, yes. And it can be - It's a real disappointment. Because the first year it looks great, the next year, it may not be good at all. OK. Now, this is --

After the 20th the Century, I'd like you to see this.

L {reads} From the Horticultural Field Library at the University of Illinois. "Enclosed, you'll find a copy of the strawberry varieties available from nurseries in the United States and Canada in the Spring of 1950. In which I thought yo-'d be interested. I've endeavored to make this as accurate and complete as possible. Any information concerning additions or corrections would be greatly appreciated. There are 185 varieties on this list together with 81 seedlings considered by their originators to be worthy of name and were planted on the University of Illinois Horticultural Farm in the Spring of 1950, for {a} thorough, systematic variety study.

Would you send 1950 catalogue of prices if you have not already done so. Please mail it to....Hershel L. B .

TKS OK, on the last page.... Are all the strawberries. Now, Right here.

L 20th Century Utah, Centennial Utah Everbearing.

TKS That is what it is known as.

L Utah? Utah Centennial and Utah Everbearing. So those are synonymous names?

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TKS OK what happened was. Dad, I guess, he applied for a patent but he never got it. And whenever anyone purchased the plant, he had him sign a purchase agreement where they would not propagate to sell or to give away the plants. But, being that it is not patented.

L The 20th Century is not patented?

TKS No.

He applied for it. But I assume that he couldn't afford to because it was when he was struggling.

L And is that one of the copies of the agreement that he had people sign?

TKS NO, this is just the patent inquiry and so forth. I don't have one of those contracts

But. OK. When that happened, then there are - Well, there was a nursery who bought the plants. And we named it Utah Centennial and so forth. This is why. I mention up at the USU. Logan. The Agricultural university, they have an Encyclopedic and it is listed as 20th Century and also the names that it's known as.

L Utah and Utah Centennial.

TKS Yes. And the interesting this is if you interview farmers around here you might run into people who have raised.

L Utah Centennial.

TKS Yes. I don't know that they know where the berry comes from but this is -- oh...

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TKS Not really. It wasn't patented. It wasn't stolen. It wasn't patented. What can you do.

L That's true. I mean, you can't protect it is what you're saying.

TKS Yes. He only had that limited purchaser agreement protection but -- He -- He just couldn't afford to take him to court. In fact, there was one person who brought his attorney. He ran a nursery and brought his attorney and that was intimidating enough for Dad that he sold him the plants.

L Were you there when that happened?

TKS No, I was a little girl. But I remember. He talked about it. And I think he felt threatened that he would lose the control of the 20th Century.

L How did he talk about the meeting. What did he say about it.

TKS He said that this person brought his attorney. And that he sold him the plants.

L You mean, knowing that the guy might reproduce it.

TKS Yes.

L Being aware that but not feeling that he was capable of doing anything about it. Is that kind of the understanding that you had?

TKS This is when he was really struggling and if you recall I told you that he wanted us to speak Japanese.

L Yes.

TKS He was struggling so hard. He was evicted, I told you.

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My sister was in the hospital for a month. He had that big debt. And he was truly struggling. And when the 20th Century became a recognized Everbear, he was beginning on this climb but at the same time, he was still broke. And he just couldn't do anything about it. I'm not sure he would agree, knowing him, cause he's different about things. Um. He told me - this is years later - that he felt he accomplished something. Left something behind for the people. Which he did.

L The Japanese people.

TKS A strawberry that people can enjoy. He doesn't mean Japanese particularly.

L But people in general.

TKS Yes. And, I think the more - Whether it was the 20th Century or known as Utah Centennial, or whatever, that it was his strawberry. It wouldn't have been there without him. So he really -- It's kind of a compliment if you think about it. That these people recognized that he had -- This was a good berry. And so,

L I understand what you're saying.

TKS But whether it's known as this or that, it doesn't matter. Because it wouldn't have been here if it wasn't for him. And that's the way I feel about it. I see it in the nursery even today. Sometime it's 20th Century. And sometimes it's

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another name. One of the names that are listed. And I think of it. I think, well, this is part of Dad. Somebody is making a living from it. And that's fine.

Of course, I'm older. When I was younger, I was feisty and didn't think of it in that way. But I've come to believe that he's right. Um. He - as the 20th Century became succ-

end side one

begin side two

Well, he made some enemies among the Japanese. And it's well-- used to be well known thing.

L What was it about - the feud.

TKS Well, my Dad was very independent. Ah, a lot of Japanese had already, well, were working, had regular incomes. And my Dad was poor. Because. And also he is a very strong believer in what he believes in. {Laughs} And that could be controversial. But, as -- He did not succumb. He is not a man that succumbs to --

L What did people want him to succumb to.

TKS Well, I really wouldn't want to say. Nor will I say that it's jealousy or whatever. I don't. I mean, I know. But it's hard to -- I don't like to accuse people of that.

L You don't have to say anything specific in terms of names....but just to understand the problem.

TKS Well, there were people that said they didn't want anything

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to do with the 20th Century. And that type of thing.

L You mean, they didn't want to buy them, or support him
or..

TKS I presume as the recognition came it was probably jealousy.
I hate to say that.

L Do you suspect that?

TKS Well {laughs} It's pretty. I think I recognize it, yes.
But, I also know that my Dad is very hard headed. What he
believes, he says, so -- And also he was very poor and
struggling whereas other people had jobs and so forth. I
have often wondered why ^{where} he worked on the railroad, where he
was a cook, that he never took a regular job rather than
go through all this struggle. But his independence. He never
would have made it in -- been happy -- and he was just
different.

L He was also creating something.

TKS Yes.

L And bent on - bent on a certain - would it be fair to say
your father had a dream?

TKS Yes, I think that's a good thing to say.

L An intention of something he had?

TKS Yes. Of course, that's a good description. And of course,
I think often times, men like him are controversial to
a community sometimes.

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L Do you think he offended people?

TKS He probably. He was outright. If anything, he was outright. And, yeah, there was quite a bit of bad feelings amongst certain Japanese.

L To what may I ask, would your father have believed in that would have offended somebody - or that would have been controversial. What were - the Japanese community found difficult?

TKS Well, there is one thing that comes to my mind. Is when my brother graduated from high school, he couldn't even afford a suit for him. And that preyed on his mind for years. And, it, I guess, was an embarrassment to - to both. But there's this other one, where there was a Japanese that lived just up the street from us, that used to visit. And he said to my father, why don't you let your daughter go to the social. And my Dad said, I can't afford a dress or shoes. And he said, it would be cruel to send them in rags. Sometimes, I guess people - if somebody is poor, that they do make fun of them.

L Do you think your father was ridiculed.

TKS Yes. So. And I think this - this is something that happens over and over. It's just part of human nature.

L They see him as kind of an eccentric guy who wants to--

TKS He was eccentric, yes.

L Who wanted to create something that would never come about?

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TKS Yes, they laughed at him. He struggled. Well, you know, you could have worked.

L Probably What are you doing wasting your time with this?

TKS I would guess, ahuh. But you know, actually, that is the way it is for a lot of inventors. Where -- And I think it's very understandable. He isn't the only one that had to go through it. But it is all this - that happened, is why he became so discouraged. At that time. That he insisted that we speak Japanese. But as time went on, and the people that really helped him were - like the USU, the Utah State Agriculture, we have all of this-- ah,

L University of Illinois.

TKS Sure. They are the ones

L Field Laboratory.

TKS Yes. They are the ones that stood behind and helped him, believed in him. And as time went on, why, he was able to change his thinking. Which I am very glad. Because I wouldn't have wanted to leave here.

L where did he want to go?

TKS Well, at that time, he was so discouraged, he said that he didn't want us kids to go through prejudice so he made us speak Japanese. He was thinking of going back.

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L To Japan.

TKS Yes.

L But, I mean. A part of this is perplexing. He was getting a lot of criticism from the Japanese community. Why would he want to go back to Japan.

TKS Well, he was evicted. He was - It was just an accumulation of the whole thing.

L He was evicted.

TKS Yes, before. When he come to this country, people threw rocks at him. They wouldn't let him in a barber shop. Restaurant wouldn't serve him.

L So he was beginning to feel that the odds were insurmountable.

TKS It was - When he first came, before he was married. But see, they struggled so much. And he just - As the kids came, the children, why, he just. - And all of this that happened - why, he was ready to pull up stakes and go. I think from time to time that people can reach rock bottom. And don't, you know. But there's something in them that's going to turn them around. And it did with him.

L Did anything outside happen. Any event take place to the turn?

TKS Yes, faith. Like, why, I mentioned, people and these were, like, this letter here. People that wrote articles about the 20th Century, and so forth. And he knew these were the people that recognized him, that it was him and that he was the one that developed this.

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And, you can derive a lot of strength from that. So, the 20th Century, when we were in Union, he did do quite well. Until the drought came and then he had to pull up stakes. I remember, according to the pictures, that he bought the first tractor, when he was in Union.

L What year?

TKS Oh, gee. I was in first grade. I'm 55. Graduated in 1948...

L About 1935.

TKS But I think we were in Union about 7 years.

L That was on Willow Creek.

TKS Union. Yes, it's presently known as Willow Creek. Ahuh. And another thing about it, when the drought came and he didn't have any water, to keep his strawberries, he went to the water master of the -- Who took care also of the culinary water. And he asked him if there was any way he could get extra water to keep his plants alive. And this man said, he says, no. And then he thought, he says, wait a minute, he says, they just read the meter. That was yesterday or the day before. And they read it once every 30 days. So he says, well, go get you some water. And so he used culinary water for one row or two rows to save the plant while he looked for ground where he could transplant - where he had the water and the soil. And this is when we moved up to Granite.

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L What year was -- Was that after the war began?

TKS No, it was just before.

L Around 40-41.

TKS Probably 40. I think we were there about a year before it happened.

40-41. And, it was soil that wasn't farmed very much so it was really - the strawberries flourished. And, then World War II came. And he thought it was going to be another-- that this is the end. I think we all did. But, being that the farm was a - was very valuable to the war effort, you know, food. Why, ah, we survived. And did - He did well. Enough to be able to buy a farm in Sandy.

L Was that the first time that he owned land in Sandy?

TKS Yes. Like I say, I hesitate in branding anybody about such things as maybe -- stealing or something. I don't like to do that. So what I have just said, I hope that it wouldn't appear.

L You mean, it wouldn't appear anywhere.

TKS Well

L Well, --we could take it out. But I think --

TKS It kind of ruins the history, I realize. But this is something I'm very uncomfortable about.

L What do you mean--- {Asks her to think about it} {She has} {Oh}

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L --I am surprised by it and I like about what you said, is you create a more human history.

TKS Yes, he was . Like I said, he was lord and master. And I called him a chauvenist. Which, he was just, you know, real, very - strong. But he had, like I say, he did have his human side. And also, he made the decision without explaining such as about sending us - or sending his daughter, which would be the older, to a social in rags. That that would be cruel. And he was so right. And yet he never explained.

L IT wouldhave been good to explain, wouldn't it?

TKS For me it would have. But, see, you accept his decision. We always have. Maybe that's the way the Japanese are. I don't know. I read thebook "Shogun" and it sure sounded like Torinaga was that way and he was the leader. And I often kind of think, well, gee, they're kind of alike.

L Perhaps there was a pattern inthe culture.

TKS I think so.

L Thatyour father was carrying out.

TKS That's true. The Japanese men, that's the culture. It isn't only Dad. I know several who were that way. So.

L Yo--

TKS I don't blame him for it. I just - been raised here and things were quite different as far as the relationship goes. That's the part we never really got . So. ButI don't

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it harmed us. It didn't. In a way.

L The interesting thing about your father is that a lot of
parents

end side two

begin side three

L --if he weren't strong..

One of the things would have happened, probably is that
he would have had a chance to find out.

TKS True. But. Accept life for what it is. Because it
had it's good side. I don't believe it is ^{not} all bad. It has
its good side. And I'm very grateful that the outcome was
what it was. I mean, it would be terrible if it was
something very bad. But not this. But. I think many people
who are like him, they go through the struggle every bit
as much. Often times, they get to a point where they want
to quit.

L But many people don't achieve what he did in that struggle.
A struggle without achievement {for some} or without
such a public achievement.

TKS But. And he always said: only in American can you do this.
When you look at this - and these are people who didn't
even have to do things like this.

L You're pointing to the letters from the horticulture --

TKS This and any of these articles, that fully recognize that

he had a strawberry, good strawberry. Why, they didn't have to do it. And, like he said, only here is where it can happen.

L

TKS OH, yeah. Something interesting. When he went -- when my mother and father went to Japan after they sold the farm, it was on a tour plus he wanted to visit the grave site of his mother. And erect aheadstone. My father. They went -- And. It was in April. And Japan is very damp at that time. In 64, it was really, as I understand, quite wet. It rained a lot. He had arthritis in his spine. He fell when he was picking cherries. And a disc, one of his vertebrae slipped. And he developed arthritis in there. And. They - When he went to the clinic, to find out what was causing his pain, this is what they discovered. And the doctor at that time said it's a wonder he was able to walk. So he was a very determined person. He was in pain. But anyway, they had to get on a train. And those trains - they're run by computers where they only stop for so many minutes. And, mother says that Dad was having a hard time lifting his feet so he could get up on the train. He was in pain. And the conductor yelled at him to hurry up. And mother, almost in tears told me, she says, if it was a conductor in this country, they would have helped him. But, she says, it isn't that way back there any more.

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So he found out, too, that what he left as a youth had changed. Being that he came as a youngster, he remembered his family and the closeness. But, Japan has changed. But. Anyway. When the war started, we -- the-- Up there in Granite, there was a -- Sandy City had the culinary water come out of Little Cotton emerged-- well, just below the mouth of Little Cotton Canyon, where the farm was. And there the culinary water pipe was exposed. It was not underground. And the people were really excited, wondering if we would sabotage it. Put poison in it. So they pressured the landlord to evict us. The landlord, his doctor was a partner to the doctor that operated on my sister when she had her ruptured appendix. And we got to know him real well. When he asked him about what he should do, the doctor told him that my Dad was an honorable man and no such thing would happen. So, we were not evicted. And these are the things that my Dad

it's people who stick up for you. He didn't have to. But he did. And it is the - the value of the human being, the American, that my Dad learned. And when he bought his farm in Sandy, why the agricultural extension service, they helped him a tremendous amount. They helped him. He needed the ground and so they showed him how to get in contact with the Conservation. The Government Conservation, Soil Conservation, I think. And they leveled

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it. And - Now, I don't know whether it was for free. This I don't know. But I do know that certain things like, there is a lot of wind and so they so that he could plant trees.

L For a wind break.

TKS Sure. And they were always on the farm there to help him. And like he said, you could only find this in America. And so when in later years he said, he felt good about leaving something for the people to enjoy.

LL I understand better now what you're saying.

TKS As far as it being Utah Centennial or what, it didn't matter anymore. It was something he created. Whatever name or form it was wrapped in, so to speak, it didn't matter. It was his contribution. And this is the way I look at it. I see it in the nuseries and I think, somebody is making a living.

L Do you feel grateful in some ways.

TKS I'm happy for him, yes. When I was younger, I was really upset. But as time goes on and as I age, I think I simmer down.

L Were you upset because you thought it was a theft.

TKS Oh yes. It wasn't exactly a theft because he did buy but he -- ah, there's no control over it.

L

But changing the name, they kind of make the relationship

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between the strawberry and your father less clear.

TKS True. But the important places in the history isn't.

L Ultimately, yes.

TKS The thing about it. Anything invented other than, you know, Emerson and so forth, who do you know invented anything. Edison. I'm sorry. But who do we know invented anything else. Or what few --

L Sure sure it's a lot less clear.

TKS That is exactly. It is what you have left, I think is the most important thing. What you have gained. And all the hardship, my Dad persevere and I think he had achieved a higher level of thinking and this, I think, is the secret of life. After World War II, I think it was very difficult. Those people who were evacuated. They lost a lot. Some lost their health. And when I - I look at the end results, and I find here that they were very resilient which is very important. And they were forced to integrate a lot quicker than ^{what} the normal would have taken. But look at them today. They can be proud.

L It is true. You're right. That has happened, but unfortunately in my own mind, that doesn't justify the evacuation.

TKS True. It was --

L It's a positive and good thing that came out of a bad thing.

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TKS That's what's important. If you don't grow, you're lost. And hardships are essential, in my way of thinking, because you won't grow. There's -- Utopia to me is for the mind to grow. If Utopia is where everything--There's no problem . That's the difference. To me, the mind has to grow. In order to grow, you've got to have problems to solve, to elevate.

L To go to the next level.

TKS You bet. I would -- If I expressed my thoughts among the Japanese who were evacuated, they'd probably shoot me down.

their logic, and they have their logic, but in the end results, I think that this is what counts.

L Well. I understand what you're saying. I understand... but it's hard no matter what, to justify discrimination on that kind of a level.

TKS Very true. Very very true.

L What you're saying is somewhat different. There has to be a better way to express this because what you're saying is that hardship is necessary for growing.

TKS It is.

L That would have been true even if the evacuation didn't occur.

TKS Sure. My Dad was a good example.

L Hardships would still have existed.

TKS What I'm trying to say is. I didn't mean to imp--that evacuation had to occur. What I'm trying to say is the

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circumstances where it occurred, it's done.

L In a sense, what you're saying, and there's a writer, a Japanese woman writer named...Yoshiko Uchida-- her family was evacuated from California, in the Berkeley area, to Topaz. And she was -- I was looking at her book called, Exiled in the Desert. Or Exile to the Desert, I can't remember the title. Last night. And she was saying that it's not so much -- you can't justify the hardship and the breaking down of human beings the evacuation created, but nevertheless, she's proud the way some people were able to regenerate and rejuvenate themselves, despite the hardship.

TKS Sure, that's it.

L That's sort of what you're saying, right?

TKS Yes. It's the growth that comes with it.

L I thought she had a nice way of balancing and saying that unfortunately there is no justification for the destruction. But for the fact, there is great pride to be taken in some of the fact that some of the people were able to rise.

TKS Well, as a whole, I'm speaking of the Japanese. That they elevated themselves. They educated. They have one of the highest educated children among the races.

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What they -- what is-- is to be able to overcome the hardship is the most important thing.

L I would agree.

TKS and you grow. It is important to grow. This is why I say to me Utopia is not where all there is no problems, the mind dies then. But you've got to be able to have your own--keep your mind working. And if you - if you If the growth overcomes a hardship, and this was a very hardship. My husband suffered as much as anybody else. And to overcome it and to grow, you - that to me is Utopia. But I would get alot of arguements. I realise that.

L Yes. It's a complicated situation.

TKS Oh, yes, pain is.

L The effects of it are very difficult to - well, the effects of it are difficult sometimes to accept.

TKS It is. I'm a native Utahn and so I didn't know. I understand that.

L Do you have more on that list of yours that you want to say.

TKS Just an explanation of row crop, I asked .
And he says, anything that's planted in a row. And I said I thought it was just vegetables. And he said yes, and I said, what about strawberries. He said, it's planted in

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a row, isn't it. I said, I understand that's a fruit.

HE says, my understanding anything planted in a row.

So that's what row crop is I guess.

L Who'd you ask.

TKS My husband.

L His first name is Ted? {No}

TKS Tak. Takashi.

L You call him Tak.

TKS For short. He's Tak and I'm Ti.

L Tie Tack.

TKS so I wanted to straighten that out. The rest of this, I
have gotten

end side three

begin side four

TKS going to just a strange school. Everybody had changed
and so had I.

L This was the after.

TKS Yes, the dayafter.

L On a Monday, right.

TKS Yes. And not only that, there was an order that the Japanese
should stay home. Well, myDad says, you're citizens. It
doesn't apply to you. So we went to school.

And of course, we were the only Japanese there. But it was
just totally different. And it was never the same. I don't

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think. And the reason for this is you change.

L What do you think. Can you describe the change from both sides. The way you perceived them.

TKS There wasn't the friendliness. There was friendliness but restrained friendly. On my part, Japan was a country of my parents, but it meant nothing to me because there was no identification with the country. And yet, I knew I was Japanese. So, you're going to feel intimidated. I did feel very intimidated.

L You knew you were going to be blamed. You kind of knew that. You were sensitive.

TKS Yeah. Well, no. It really wasn't until I went to school that I realised there was a drastic change in behaviour. And, it was difficult. I was a sixth grader. But, it wasn't like being evacuated, for sure.

L No, it wasn't the same but - let's not compare it. They're really different.

TKS You feel like an outsider. And it wasn't until after the war had ended and - this is another thing: When my father wanted to buy the farm in Sandy. I think I told you, it was 24 acres. It's 37. I need to explain. 24 acres was owned by a person. And he was willing to sell the farm to Dad. And he did. Except it was in my brother's name because they couldn't hold--Ah, my father was a permanent alien. Well,

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alien was permanent status---resident . And it was brought under my brother's name. The owner told us, later, that there were people who threatened to tar and feather him for selling him the farm. And he said, he didn't care. Which is true. That was him. He recognized us for what we were. The second piece is just 13 acres. He wouldn't sell it to him, even to my brother. So, my Dad had a friend, a Caucasian friend. He bought it and then signed it over to my --to my younger brother, second brother. And that's how the 37 acres became his farm to farm.

L Interesting story.

TKS Well, I think a lot of Japanese went through that.

L I'm so glad I came to talk with you.

TKS I'm glad you came. I'm glad for Dad. I hope I do something for him. Because I think he deserves. I think my thinking is different. But I can't help but if you sit there and cry about what happened, you're not going to go anywhere. What's happened, you can't undo ever. But what you've learned is important. And you- that's a learning process, really, in my way of thinking. And you take that. And you expand. It's an expansion, of your mind. Of your being. Mental.

L I would agree.

TKS Have you felt that there's a sense in which your Dad and his achievement has been overlooked. Or.

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- TKS Not in where it's the most important. As far as anything else happening, it is not different from what other people go through. No matter who invents what.
- L What pains you when you think about your father is what I'm asking you. What--
- TKS I think I have more pain with my mother.
- L More with your mother than your father?
- TKS Yes. With Dad I can accept. And I understand him. But with mother, it was a totally different thing. I took care of her. Her mind, she suffered. Her mind was gone. I had to put her in a nursing home. {she remembers and gets upset} She's been gone for 6 years.
- LWe haven't talked about your mother very much.
- TKS It is painful.
- L Before she got ill, or before she - her mind went as you said, what was your relationship with her throughout your youth. Growing up.
- TKS She was a kind person. She loved children. That was one thing about mother, is the attraction between her children. One time I came home from the fields and she was out pulling weeds and there was this strange little boy about 8-9-10, who is helping her pull weeds. And neither one of us had seen him, or knew who he was. He was just riding by on his bicycle. Stopped by. And she couldn't speak English. Just

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very limited. Ah. She was a woman that was very insecure. And I think a good part of her life. And I think Dad gave her security because of his -- He was a very strong person. But when I took care of her, it was very difficult. Even on a one-to-one basis. It was more like a - Mother was a child and I was the adult.

L How did her illness develop.

TKS It's just age. They call it senile dementia. It's just aging. But see she was a very friendly happy go lucky person. But she was always so insecure.

L How would that be felt. How did you know she was insecure.

TKS She told me a story. That when they lived in Butlerville. My Dad, I told you, he sold peanuts at the movie theatre to earn a living. The farm and I don't know. Either froze or hailed out. And they lost their crop. And so for the winter, he got a job selling peanuts at a theatre. And it left her alone with -- I was born when we were -- my sister too. I'm next to the youngest. She told me that she got really sick. And Dad called the doctor and the doctor told him that if you left her alone, she will die. And, I cried. Because she wasn't strong enough to help Dad. Apparently. This is something I just don't like to say. And I think it was his strength that she - that she lived on.

L Apparently, though, she had some strength to her own, too.

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TKS Yes, she was a very--
Hard worker. And she loved children. And, she -- We--
There wasn't communication because she never learned English.
In just a very basic way, we communicated. But as far as
asking about what girls ask mothers, it was -- We-we-we
didn't.

L the opportunity.

TKS No. It was my oldest sister.

L So there was always a sense in the family of your mother
being fragile.

TKS Yes. Fragile? Can't say quite fragile.

L How would you put it.

TKS I really don't know. It's just that there were things
you just never thought of asking your mother.

L Things that my daughter asks me. And yet she was, as far
as taking care of, she was terrific. It's kind of odd, I
know. But there's got to be conversations. Otherwise,
I mean, you miss something.

L Sure you do. So you're saying there wasn't much conversation.

TKS Well, you couldn't go to her with problems.

L Did you ever try?

TKS I don't know. It just never was. I don't know why.

L Oh, I think when my daughter was born, I did. It was just
she - well, she forgot, I guess. She didn't mean it in the
way to push you aside, she just didn't--That was her.

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L I'm a little at loss her. You went to her with a problem with your daughter?

TKS Yes. Asked her something about my daughter. And I didn't get a definite answer. It's that's the way it is, or something. Which didn't solve the problem.

L So you were looking at her to provide some solutions to difficult situations.

TKS Yes, sometimes- you know, you don't know -- my daughter is the only child I had and she was a baby. I guess I expected her to show me how to even bathe her. But it wasn't there.

L You mean even basic stuff she didn't help out with.

TKS I don't know whether she just kept out of it. And maybe that was -- or -- But I knew nothing about a baby. {shy laugh} And yet, she took care of my daughter when I worked on the farm and she was just as good as she can be. I take my daughter's gentleness is - started in those - the time my mother took care of her. And so. My Dad, my mother would send him to the store for some bread. And he'd forget the bread and bring the candy home for my daughter. {laughs}

L Sounds like they really cared for your girl.

TKS Oh, yes, I think. she was the lucky one. Because we were on the farm. The rest of them, my ah - they're out of state. They live out of state. I have one sister here. But her

husband worked for Kennecott. And I don't know. I suppose it's quite a bit the same with, maybe, at least this is the way I thought it was. That a lot of Japanese women just didn't communicate that much with their daughters. And, aslo, being that they're brought up in Japan, I don't know how much communication bat they do have. in regards to what a girl needs to know or something. And I don't know that my mother is really that different. When I think about it.

L She perhaps isn't.

TKS But, it was sad. When Dad passed away, she lived with us. And we tried to keep her involved with the church and her various clubs that she and Dad belonged to.

L The Buddhist Church.

TKS Yes. First we went with her. And then, when we thought she was -- had gotten ahold of herself, we tried to withdraw. And she - A couple of times, we were able to talk her into going in there and -- Across the street was Whitmore Court where a lot of Japanese lived that were her friends. and all she had to do. They-- This lady, or atleast ladies also attend church, so all she had to do was go over there and visit when them and ^{then we'd} pick her up. This worked for awhile until that friend moved to Seattle Washington. The husband suffered a stroke, so she had a brother living in Seattle. So she decided to go up there. They have no children. And mother's life fell apart. Gradually. She

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wanted to go. She told everybody she wanted to go. But she-when she was home, she wouldn't go unless we went.

end side four

begin side five

TKS She was going. She made all kinds of excuses. She didn't want to go. I want to go with you, you have more fun than I do. This isn't true. We just dropped her off and come home. So. We got on the freeway and they just live right off the freeway, and as we got closer, she got violently ill and started to dry heave. And I said to my husband, she's ill, we better get her home. So we turned the car around and we come and she quieted down and when we got to the place where you enter the subdivision, she says, oh, she says, aren't we going somewhere-. I said, you're sick. she says, Im not sick. That's how it affected her.

L She had an anxiety attack, didn't she.

TKS She just could not go on her own - self. And this one time, the last time we dropped her off at church. We made her get off. We said, we're going to be here. You're going to be all right. Because there was just no way; we'd decide to set our foot down. And so she got out of the car and she started to cry. And my husband drove off. I told him, well, go. We'll see. She'll go in. And she started following the car. So we went around the block, doubled back. And we couldn't see her. So I went in the church and

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I couldn't see her in there, sitting. And I come out and said, she's not there. And Tak said, did you check the bathroom. I said. No. He said go back and check. I went in the door and I could hear her chattering like magpie. She found a friend. And that's. I don't know why it happened. But the friends were nice. They called. They wanted her to do this-to come. They had this program where the old people go out on these outings. There's not way she could have gone that way.

L Your mother really had a phobia of some sort.

TKS She did. How it developed. Where it developed. I don't know. But just the little stories that she told me. And when she was young, living in Japan. Apparently, she stayed over night in Kobe, I think, a city. She lived in Mokiyama.

L KOBE.

TKS And she - to her, she thought that that was the biggest thing in her life. But to think, she said, I stayed by myself in . But. This became the main problem with her. And it got worse. And, she -- I couldn't go outside to throw the trash out without her coming screaming, where are you going? Or if I went downstairs to do the wash. she'd come flying down the stairs. And then finally, she --and I tried to make her. I turned the TV on. I said, you watch the TV, I'm going to get my housework done. Because she wanted me to stay with her.

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And I used to take her shopping. You know, when w-- We went. Well, I couldn't leave her home that way. And I'd take her shopping with my daughter to buy her school clothes. And you know the fitting room, where you try your clothes on. Well, there's always a chair there and I'd tell her, well, sit here while Karen goes in and tries this on. The next thing you know. There she is. And the three of us in that room. {laughs} There was just no way. And during the winter, I'd take her with me. But sometimes, you know, you stop off the drug store to pick up a prescription. And it's so dangerous out there because it's icy. And I'd ask her to stay in the car and I'm just going to run in and pick up the generally it's her medication. And I'll be right out. I'd say, Don't get out of the car, it's icy. I'd come out and she's never in the car.

L Where would she be.

TKS She'd be just running around. And she'd be popping up from behind a car. And it was a matter of time before somebody hit her. But she - she'd say, well, I'm going for a walk. I'd say, ok. this is fine. I say, now, you stay within the -- Well, I will. And she was in - she walked down East Midvale.

L My God.

TKS The thing about it was. That that day it happened, I asked her to stay in. Stay within the-- We were having a lot of

problems. And all I was doing was chasing her. I thought, this time I'm going let her walk and walk and walk. And maybe she'll quit. I was wrong. She went to East Midvale.

L She really went far.

TKS Yes. And this person.

L Were you just following her.

TKS No, this person that knew her saw her and picked her up and brought her home.

But there was no such thing as getting the upper hand by putting your foot down. AOr--

L Nothing seemed to work.

TKS No, it didn't. And then she finally fell and broke her hip. And she had a prothesis. And the doctor told her that it's all right to exercise, but don't make that sore. Well, she knows the word exercise, but she didn't know the rest. So it became a fight. I said, he told you not to walk until you make that-- So. He told me exercise, {she said} and she walked and she'd be listing like a ship. And finally, it got to the point where she couldn't walk anymore.

L Must have got pushed herself too far.

TKS Well, that became a bigger problem. Because she - mother was hyperactive. And she fell and I'd take her to the doctors and stiches here stiches there. So finally, he told me, you'll have to put her in restraints. He said, - day and night. I told him, I just can't. restraints you just tie

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them into. There's no way we could have lived with that. Cause she wouldn't accept it. It would be a problem. I couldn't do it. And so, he says, well, then I think you should put her into a nursing home. He said, it may seem cruel to see her in restraints. But he says, it's for her own good. Which is true. Because. Rather than let her fall. She had 8 stitches put in her. Because she fell. And the thing she hit herself on was a rounded part of her dresser. It wasn't sharp. It was round like this. And because the age, the skin gets like tissue paper. It just - And she had stitches there. Just. So, we put her into a nursing home. And she lived 2 years and ten months. But by the -- They had a terrible time. She always got back - during the evening and into the night. I don't know why. It just got to a point where we couldn't sleep because she would get up and fall. There were times, when she -- At one o'clock in the morning, I heard something in the kitchen. So I got up to look. She was putting her boots on. She had her jacket on. And I said, where are you -- And this was during the winter when it was snow and ice. This is -- What are you doing? She says, I'm just going out for a walk. I said, mother, there's snow and ice. Well, she says, I'm just going for a little walk. So if you look around you, you'll see all the locks on the doors. It's an insurance, just in case.

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L Your mother decided to get up and leave?

TKS Yes. And we didn't know.

L When did her mind go? In the nursing home?

TKS No, it was gone here. It just. Just slowly deteriorated.

She just. Well, from the fact that she couldn't go on her own to her own club meetings and so forth, something just got progressively worse.

L So it wasn't something that happened all at once.

TKS No.

L It just slowly happened.

TKS Well, after I put her in. It's that guilt. That's enough to. Because I was not a working woman. If I was, maybe I could feel a little excuse for this. But I was a housewife. And so. My husband told me. He said, he'd like me to get out and do something. Join a club. Anything. But he liked me out of the house to get involved in something. I thought about it. But. Somehow, it just felt like, to put her in and then go to something is just - didn't fit right, seem right. So I decided that the guilt was something. That it was very difficult. So I decided, well, I think I'll go work there and find out for myself. And if I can't take it, I'm going to have to pull mother out of there. So. I went on the 12-7, midnight shift. And oh, boy, I've never been in a situation like that. And I didn't think I was going to make it.

L What happened to you?

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TKS Well, as time went on. It's a funny thing. This again is what I I worked for two years and ten months. And I really didn't want to quit. But, I couldn't -- I didn't have the energy to work all night. I can't sleep during the day. I just can't relax enough. So I burned out really. My husband did ask me to quit, because he was lonely. We'd been married. The first 20 years of our marriage, we either took care of his side or my side, so we'd never been alone.

L You were always having someone to take care in--

TKS Yes. And I quit. But, with regret. I'll have to say that. It grows on you. But this is way, it is experience on my part that I fully recognize that my problem was not unique. There's all kinds of problems. I couldn't have handled mother by myself. They - ah, she'd given such a rough time. She kept crawling out of the restraints. And she would fall. And we'd take her to the emergency. And, have her head stitched up. One time, I walked in there. I walked in there and she was hanging upside down off the side of the bed. With her restraints tied around her. And I said, what are you doing? And she said, save me, save me. Somehow just save me. And she was secure. I looked at her. And they had her really tied down except that she-- And I said, I to leave you there. And she said, oh, no, I'll never do it again, never never. And so I put her back.

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And they nicknamed her Houdini. But. she was a tiny lady.
A friendly lady. They just loved her. But they found out
that part they couldn't handle.

L What nursing home was that.

TKS It's called Meadowview. And she lived - No she was there
2 years and ten months and I quit, when did I quit.

I guess I worked. - It's a funny thing. I don't remember
whether during the day or night, still.

It was something. It isn't. It was something - Well, some-
thing unusual happened. That I've never. I guess I should
have asked the Reverend. But I didn't know him that well.

Is when mother was dying, they called me and we went down.

And this is around ten o'clock. And she was - Well, her
body was already the heart quitting.

She was there. They had the oxygen on her. And she was
like she was sleeping. And she hardly had any or

anything. And yet, all of a sudden, she wet her lips.

And I thought, see, you know, because she was so close
to. And then she was - I was standing there. And all of

a sudden, a shadow came. I was standing on one side. It
come over, I could feel it. And it went across her face.

And I looked up and I thought the light went dim. It
didn't. It's just like when you stand outside with the

sun out and a cloud comes in front of it. the sun. The

shadow that comes across the valley and then finally you're
under the shadow. That was the sensation. But the thing that

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kind of just didn't feel quite right. When did it come
the left side? I thought. I don't know why that thought
occurred. And then my daughter and husband were sitting
outside in the sittin area. Becuase we were there for a
long time. And my daughter said, she felt some kind of
a shadow. My husband . And the thing
about it. I worked there and I've seen people die. And it's

end side five

begin side six

-- and I guess that's why I accepted it. It just doesn't
feel final. But why that shadow. I don't know. I have
no explanation. But it was there. That sens ation. And
it passed . And i looked up and I thought the
lights dimmed. And when my daughter said she also felt
that shadow. I don't know whether that's when she passed
away. Or just - it just didn't

But it is something --

L Did it shake you up.

TKS No.

L Did it kind of calm you?

TKS Yes, it was just kind of - I have no words for it. It
didn't. When a person dies, it's so final, you feel it.
And - But in that case, it just felt like a transition.
I don't know. I don't know exactly. Her death was just

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at midnight. The nurse told me that she was gone. And then it hit me.

So. I'm not a church goer. And I thought one time maybe one time I'd ask the reverend if he knew anything about it. But I don't know him. And it wasn't something that bothered me. It was just something about it. It wasn't bad.

L It's almost lovely.

TKS It really is, when I think about it. It's probably the reason why it didn't bother me. Is because it did not feel--

L It was so delicate.

TKS Yes. That's the term. And my daughter felt it too.

And I really struggled with my mother. I had often wished it wasn't me that looked after her.

L That's understandable though.

TKS Yes. Because you get pushed up against the wall. And find that there isn't a support - that you don't have support. You're totally alone. And you have to make decisions that you don't want to make. When we did put her into her own nursing home, I called my sister, older sister, to come up and help me. And but -- you know, where you lived in another state, there was no physical help.

L She didn't come.

TKS She did come to help me put mother in the nursing home.

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She did give me that support. In fact, my younger sister was here to visit. And through the two sisters, the three of us put her in the nursing home.

L That is a terrible decision to make.

TKS The guilt is something else. Again. When you can't-- when you can't sleep. It was a 24 hour problem. And she fell and fell and -- we moved all her furniture and put a mattress and box spring on the floor because it didn't matter whether it was a flat surface or not. She just fell and her skin broke open. And she crawled over to the wall, stood up like a child. Worked herself over to the door and fell and - again.

L

TKS Yes. And my husband and I were eating dinner. And we would each take turns to go check on her, help her if she fell. We did - there just wasn't any peace.

L Sounds like you had no life anymore, watching your mother.

TKS We didn't That was it. She totally consumed our life. It was so sad. She had-- She -- You know, they sold the farm. She had her income. She could have - but she was so insecure, it didn't do any good. But it was. When I worked, learned, is when I decided that to grow, you have to have a few hard knocks to overcome.

L You had more than a few --

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TKS I've had some of my share. And I believe probably everybody else has. It's - the difference is if you're going to go along, making the same mistake, .
And not grow. This is - this is why -- to me, this is why I feel that - for my daughter, we try and impress on her very much.

L You feel that's the key.

TKS For me it was. And I believe it is. When I think about it. If you look at the end results of anything, and I think Isreal is a good example. Nobody suffered that what they did. And look how strong they are.

L You mean in terms of the creation of a state.

Is that what you mean?

TKS The fighting. Gee. Well, that's it. As much as they-- I read Masada, it was years ago, when the archeologists wrote.

L The archeaologists that found it.

TKS I cried. But what he said. And what was in that, what they found out. The holocaust, all of that, is the worst thing and yet, look at them. And when I see the end results of anything, they either go down or they go up. There are races that have lost - that are nothing. And yet, there are other races that have suffered as much and are

L They've rejuvenated themselves. Somehow.

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TKS Sure. It's a way of learning. This is my theory. Only mine. But I believe it. And no matter. I see it. I read-- you know, what you read. It's there. And like, the problems we're having with our economy and things. If we don't overcome it, we could become a nation of dependence. And our greatness will go . Look at Japan. Lost a war. Look at them today.

L It's true.

TKS Look at anything today - it's the end results that I look for. Cause a lot of things, you have no control over.

L That's true.

TKS If you make it, you will. But you can also sit and cry and cry, bring up the past. You learn by the past. That's important. You don't go on making the same mistake or you avoid letting things happen. That's the key to learning. And to make it so it won't happen again. But to live the past is regression, I think. Because what you are today is what your past has made you. And for Dad, that's what I believe. I see - Like I say, I walk in and see the strawberry either the 20th Century or Utah Centennial and I think if it wasn't for my Dad, it would never have been there.

L You come from an unusual kind of a family in a sense that you had both examples. You had two examples so intense.

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Your father's powerful, tenacious, pushing forward. And your mother's very tremendously, tentative . It's very powerful. Two big powerful examples. Distinct.

TKS I think it was my Dad's personality that had given her her security. And when he went, she had nothing to keep her propped up. And I guess it does happen.

It can. I'm sure. But. As a family, my mother's sisters were totally different. None of them was like me. And we were pretty independent of each other because we think different.

L I have to tell you, youre a lucky find.
It's so nice--

TKS Thank you. I'm known as the odd ball here. Tak and I are very very private people. We don't. He's a salesman so he says, I get enough of people. I don't want to. -- We're not social people. But,

L You're not an odd ball, you know.

TKS I think I am.

L OK. I'll let you think you are. But you are not odd tome.

TKS Well, the thing about is I learned how to stand on my two feet which is quite an undertaking because I was next to the youngest. And secondly, the thing that my husband and I regard the highest is our privacy. To be able to do what we feel--

L What you want to do.

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TKS That it doesn't infringe on anybody else. right,
or you know. He has brothers that are - a brother living
here that is well liked. The most sociable person you've
ever run across. And yet, here's old Tak. And he turns his
energy inward. He likes -- I haven't found anything he
couldn't do. And he does everything well.

L The bathroom is very very handsome.

TKS Yes, he's done.

L It's very nice looking.

TKS He's afflicted with rheumatoid arthritis. And his right
shoulder will probably need surgery, -- Don't write that
down. He'll kill me. And yet, he goes along.

end

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L You're saying that the Nisei --

TKS When they were evacuated, and, when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, you know, we were expendable to them. They had, you know, no thoughts of us, as far as I could see. At least I felt that. But when the Nisei on the Coast. Or the Japanese on the Coast were evacuated, they lost their homes. And everything. Really. Right there, you wonder, if they weren't like refugees. Because they had - where's their home?

L That's interesting. Because like I was saying, I had never used the term to apply to them. But, they were stateless temporarily.

TKS Yes, they were citizens but they -- And, but, they had no rights of the nation. And this is -- I have felt this is just something that happened at that time.

L Is this kind of haunting.

TKS For me?

L The Japanese people that you know?

TKS Ah. Perhaps. Just. My husband doesn't talk about it. And what little I can get out of him is this fact that the country he was born and raised in didn't recognize his rights. And in my mind, I thought, Gee, that's a refugee situation. You know. I might be wrong. But this is something that did occur to me.

L You know, it's really great using that term because it puts

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in perspective.

TKS Of course, people can argue because I don't know exactly what a refugee is. But I do know, he has no home. And no country. At that - Whereas in this given moment, at that time, the country didn't recognize him. So. But. For him or for the evacuees, it was two years internment. It took two years out of their lives. And they didn't have the help that we did here because -- Well, like I had explained before, somebody come to help us out. Gave us help. So that we could survive. Whereas this was gone, they were just moved out of there. And so. it breaks the ties with their home. And I think you really felt alone, friendless. I would. And so, I asked him about it. And he has reservation. And here I am. With hope --

L He has reservations about--

TKS The future.

L Your husband.

TKS Yes. And here I am because of the help we got periodically from the people that we knew, that no matter how hard it was, that you really see the kindness of what happened. And the bitterness, I don't, you know, it kind of fades away. I remember the people that helped us more than what --

L More than the negative things.

TKS Yes.

TKS And this is why my thoughts are this way.

L Do you try to make sense of your husband's reaction to yourself?

TKS No. I could understand it, being so totally cut off. I'm not so sure that I could have survived. I just can't imagine it, let's put it that way. But I'm -- He wouldn't be the only one, I'm sure. I've read articles and a lot of this comes out.

L What do you think his reservations are.

TKS That it could happen again. And for me, I'm like you. It's unlikely but I'll have to admit I'll leave that door open. Because I don't know.

L And what does he fear.

TKS He just feels, he feels it can happen again. But it's so sad to see. When -- That you're so destroyed by. Your trust is destroyed, I think.

L Above all, yeah. The faith you're talking about, that you felt, would have been not there.

TKS And I'm one that just looks on the positive side. And I just, like I say, I look back and I see the accomplishment. And that's what I see. And I think--

L How nice that you have that to look back on.

TKS That's true. To me. They had self respect. They had dignity. And without that, if they didn't have that, they wouldn't have ever been able to accomplish what they have. They would have just --

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L Gone under?

TKS Yes. Well, just become a nobody, so to speak.

L They meaning your parents?

TKS Ummm. It could have been any Japanese. Or a whole group. For my father, I don't think so. He's very positive. He was negative there for quite a while and then when things started to improve for him, he became positive. And the interesting thing about it. I told you last time, about we were living up in Granite where the culinary water pipe was. And they wanted to evict us because they were afraid we'd sabotage it. Well, somewhat later, and this would be probably a year or so more. There was a group of five Japanese families that rented a house in that town. And they moved in. And here comes the families. With their cars. And I remember this truck, state body truck, about 2 ton, that was just loaded with rice. And it was bulging at the side. And of course, years later, I realised that they probably were afraid of starvation or something. You know. Not being able to work or whatever. And when they moved in, the people got excited again. And this time, the landlord came to Dad and asked him about it. And Dad assured him that they were honorable people. And that they did not mean harm. And when I think about it, it's a turn about, in that time. For him. They trusted him.

L They knew him.

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TKS Yes. And so, these are the positive things I came out with.

L Maybe there it was more of a situation of unknown people coming. Did they take your father's word?

TKS Oh, yes. Ahuh. They come directly to him and asked him what - if these people could be dangerous and so forth. And he told them no. And later, these people helped work for my father. Because we were raising strawberries and he could use the help.

L You know, that's what I was wondering - I hadn't had a chance to ask you. Who worked the farm beside your Dad and you guys.

TKS The whole family. When everybody was home. My brother was in the army. Second one. The oldest was exempt because he was a farmer. And during the time he was going to school, high school and university, he worked at the farm. And then he was drafted. And then after he was discharged, he moved to New York.

L The second oldest.

TKS He would be the third child.

L The third child, second son.

TKS Yes. And as for the four girls and the one brother, we were on the farm.

L Did your father hire anybody?

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8-24-85 sl:b

TKS Oh yes. The photograph of the farm.

L The one with the people working all over the place. This one n Sandy?

TKS Yes. We always had to have pickers. You raised quite a bit in acerage. And sometimes, they were - A good part of the time, they were teenagers. and then at the time the Japanese moved in,

L The second world war?

TKS Yes, during the evacuation, many of them come to Utah, see. They also worked for us. And then whenever a place like Kennecott was on strike, then they came and worked for us. So we had just all ages of people.

L Was it a problem getting help or did you have enough usually?

TKS Well, I'll tell you. Generally, if you tell a teenager, if you have any friends that want to pick strawberries, bring them. And you'll get a whole lot of them. And we found that with -- We used a lot of Mexican people. A lot of them were women, their wives. And if you needed more pickers, you just tell them and you have got the workers. They - there's always people that they know that would come and harvest strawberries.

L These Mexicans. Where were they living when they came?

TKS Oh, they were people that worked for Kennecott. Local people.

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L So, you mean, they would have other jobs and do this too
you mean.

TKS Yes. The wives.

L The wives would be doing it.

TKS And then the - When there's a strike, we hire during that
period.

L So there was no problem in terms of getting help.
You had sufficient help.

TKS Generally. There were times. And also he hired some
elderly Japanese who were in the city of Salt Lake.

L Let me ask you a little something....you said that you
and your brothers and sisters have gone different
directions.

TKS Yes.

L What happened in the family to cause this?

TKS Well, they married- most of them went out of state.

They have their own successes. We are very independent
of each other. And I guess this independence gets in the
way quite a bit. There's always - and I don't know whether
this is so in other families. But when you're the youngest,
you're never recognized as an equal.

L You're always seen as a kid.

TKS Yes. And, as a young one, who reached adulthood, I feel
I've earned my stripes. You're not going to take that.

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And I didn't.

L How did the family disperse itself. How did it happen.

TKS Through marriage.

L For instance.

TKS And also some of them moved out of state. My brother, he served in Italy. And of course, he stopped in New York and apparently there is something there that he likes so he -- Of course, he being a second son also in a sense, he was an underdog. Because the older brother is the one that becomes the , I can't say king, but--
{laughs}

L You'd like to say king.

TKS Yes, I sure would. And no fooling. {laughs} And it's not unusual I don't think. And yet there are families that would get along real well. We are very independent in our family.

L So the older one was to take over your father's position in the family.

TKS As it was structured. But he - I don't think he really liked--

end side one

begin side two

L Like your father was bright too, you were saying.

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8-24-84 s2:9

TKS Well, yes. No. My father. He was very um a dominant force. And this also in many ways does work against the family. I believe. And I think it did.

L What way do you think it hurt the family?

TKS Ah. When a child grows, you have to nurture the independence as the child grows. It is not always that you make the decision. As they get older, you let them become independent. According to the way they can handle it. Atleast that is my opinion. And in the case of my father, that wasn't so. But this, I don't think is unusual in a Japanese family, from what I gather. But his - Because of his strong strength, this is also what made us survive.

L So it kind of cutboth ways.

TKS Yes.

L Yet, it took away from you some of your propacities--

TKS I think--

L Do you think because of your father's dominance of the family that it hurt your sense of togetherness in some way?

TKS Very definitely. Well, it's a combination. My mother who was insecure and -- Now, I believe that a man and wife there's a balance ther somewhere. And you have to take them to task if that balance gets out of whack. And, I believe that - in what I there's that area.

Taye Kasuga Sugaya
8-24-84 s2:10

Where maybe the mother was too -- well, didn't take them to task.

L Too passive.

TKS Yes.

So, and I don't-- I don't think we're unusual, but this independence, for me it came because I had to survive. I had the family responsibility. After my other brothers and sisters had moved to other - another state. And here little sister {laughs}

L Were your brothers and sisters moving to get away from your father?

TKS No. Well, perhaps my -- the younger brother. Ah. Being the second son, why it was something -- I don't know whether second sons really do get the recognition that the oldest one gets. I know through the valley, people I know and other people - and this is Japanese families -- that there is a lot of this. But somehow some of them make it and others don't. And we didn't. Some of the most severe, I've seen is right within the very successful wealthy people in California. Of course, California {laughs} but I have seen

I would just be a hornet. If I lived there, I'll tell you.

L In California.

TKS Well, under those conditions.

L It's hard to imagine you as a hornet. You seem so gentle.

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TKS No.

{both laugh}

TKS I've had my share of battles. I'll tell you. And it's very definitely because I was born the younger. Secondly, I was also the one that didn't leave the state. And --The State of Utah has a reputation, I think, of naive women. At least, this is my understanding. So, it's how would you know? You've never been out. You've never seen what I have. And I say, {laughs} what you've seen I don't know but what I've seen, you don't know. And we're equal. This is my argument. And it doesn't fly.

But you cannot lean on somebody else. You've got to grow because if you don't, you never -- you can never I don't think, run your life, your household. I think independence is necessary.

L the independence you and your brothers and sisters have of each other, do you think that's necessary?

TKS No.

L Cause you're using the same word for both situations.

TKS No, it's not necessary in the sense that as a family unit, there should be what you call give and take. And,

L What happened to take away that give and take.

TKS Well.

L Do you think about it.

TKS Oh, yes, I know. I think. But, sometimes I've wondered,

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L Are you worried about talking about this.

TKS To a degree. It is family. {laughs} I'm trying to talk--

L Around it--

TK Yeah. Without making anybody seem like an ogre.

L If you don't want to talk about it, that's ok but I think it's worthwhile talking about it. Especially since it has a relationship to the rest of what you've been saying.

TKS Well. OK. I'll take a stab at it. I think it's because the way my mother was that my Dad depended on my older sister. And she was mother to us. This I understand. But then oftentimes, they become a martyr.

L You feel --She feels too much has been asked of her.

TKS Well, she felt she gave it -- the most. She gave alot, I agree. But my argument is. The struggle at a later date with a parent is as important as the struggle at the time we were poor. Being the oldest, you know, they take more responsibility. And this we don't agree on.

L So your oldest sister. Let me back up--- Was depended upon a lot by your father.

TKS Yes.

L In what way did he depend on that.

TKS Um. Of course, mother didn't speak English. Just very few. She's a very good worker. But, in ways of ahhh say

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TKS Well, if she were to talk about it, I would say right here that probably alot of Issei women didn't do it, either. I don't know. But see my Dad being independent and the way his career went, you almost need somebody that can keep books and do that kind of thing. I don't know that my mother ever bought groceries in her life. Maybe a loaf of bread or something.

L Your eldest sister did the shopping.

TKS Father. Then .

And it isn't that I'm ungrateful about it. But you can not for the rest of your life let her - I guess run your life. I hate to put it that way. but that's what it amounts to.

L She was kind of used to telling you what to do.

TKS Yes, she was mother in a - in a sense. Mother was mother. But we didn't depend on her in the sense of, I guess, you could say the world. Or--

L Worldly things. Things like shopping or going to school or--

TKS Whatever you need to know, things like that. So, it - my sister developed I guess into a second mother. And in turn, her personality became that way. And as the young ones grew, why there wasn't that independence. It wasn't given to us.

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L You has your sister to account to.

TKS Yes. Very much.

L Did the rest of your sisters and your younger brother,
did he feel that too towards her?

TKS OK, my younger brother. He went to New York. This was
more the problem of identity really is what it amounts
to. I-I- yes. I think my other sisters did too.

L Let me try to understand. As you grew older, what was
your attitude towards your older sister.

TKS Well, we got along fine to an extent. Well, fine.
As long as {laughs slightly} she -- we respected each
other's rights, or territory. This is the problem.

L OK what is this?

TKS Not the older telling the younger what she
should do.

L So you began to resent her telling you what to do.
At some point.

TKS Yes, this is true. This is after I married. And we were
in partnership with my father. And I guess you could
say it's .

L She'd still call you.

TKS This is a terrible thing to say....

L Doesn't seem terrible to me. How come it is so terrible?

TKS Well, if she were to talk about me, then we're even,
aren't we.

L You feel she ought to be here.

TKS Well, we'd have a knock out....

L You'd have a real fight... {they discuss this}

TKS My biggest argument is and it always has been, if two
people had a problem, and they go to court, they'd
both get to say their side. But in a family, it's not
so. If the oldest is boss, right or wrong, you listen to
her. It doesn't matter.

L That was the position you were put into.

TKS Yes.

L Did you do something about it, after awhile. Say anything to her.

TKS Oh, yes, challenged. And of course, it was just --
well, I'm here. If she wants to, she can contact me. It
doesn't mat-- You can't always be the one to go --

L To reconcile.

TKS Yes, because the problems remain the same, I found out.
If there's a time that she would want to reconcile, I
think, but then she

end side two

begin side three

TKS This I understand.

L So because of the way your family was, your sisters got
certain kinds of power.

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TKS Yes, very definitely. Very much so.

L What brought it to a head, finally. What made you finally able to tell her to back off.

TKS I told her that several times, really. And then when I had to put mother in the nursing home, I called her. And we had some - were able to get along. But somewhere along the line, this nature of hers came and I bucked her. And it's been that way ever since.

L Did she agree with your mother going into a nursing home.

TKS Yes. She knew my mother .

L So what did you have to buck her about. At that point.

TKS Something that - back to what is my right. Running my life, I should say. Living out there and telling me that I ought to do this. Like a parent would to a child. It's no different.

L You're being too vague.....{has no specifics}

It -- I feel though that the story even in a general sense would be important to get clear, from your point of view.

TKS Yes, I thought about this. This is very - not unusual
- I don't think, in a Japanese family at all. And I've seen it.

L I don't know that. Whathave you seen.

TKS Where the oldest is the king. Especially a male. And

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-- They run a big farm. And they're very successful. My sister and her husband. She married the second son. And the mother is living. And it's just through the second son's ability that that farm really flourished. And yet it was the oldest son that was placed as the Head.

L Of the farm.

TKS Yes. Whenever anything, it had to be the oldest son.

L What a terrible injustice in some way.

TKS This is something that is practiced quite a bit. And I see it here in the Valley. And it happened here. It is, -- Apparently, it's the family structure.

L What I don't understand is in you talking about your family, I still don't know. You talk about your oldest sister. But what happened to your older brother. What was his impact.

TKS Well, being that he was bright, I don't think my Dad knew how to handle it, so he became king.

L The older brother.

TKS Yes. And Kings don't work. Oh, gosh.

L So what did he do.

TKS Well. He did work.

L He did do something--delegate orders..

TKS Yes. I. They -- When you cook, they are the ones served first. And leftovers, women eat, so to speak. For my husband, he said, we share. We cut it even. And we're all going

to eat leftovers. And we're all going to eat--

L The best-- All together.

TKS Sure. But Like I say, I've seen this practice quite a bit.

L You seem to be kind of caught between the two in your loyalty.

TKS I am very much.

L Right in the middle here.

TKS Yes, because I don't know how much I've been wrong. This is the problem.

L You mean how much of what you see is wrong?

TKS Whether -- yeah--

L You don't know what the truth is and where subjectivity ends.

TKS Yes.

L And the truth begins.

TKS Yes. It's my story, but it's always slanted. In your favor, right, anybody that tells a story, it's their story. And this bothers me quite a bit. Oh, yeah. Cause you're never sure whether it was right or wrong. I'm not. And yet, from my thoughts, I can't see any other way. I've tried it their way, but I couldn't exist. It consumed everything. My whole being. I couldn't -- I had no life.

L You tried their way. What is their way?

TKS You should do this, you should do that. In our instance, it would be that father-mother come first over my husband.

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And that became a very thorny issue. Because that wasn't right.

L That's why you go so many years when your mother was here before you finally could do something with her, in some ways. Was that part of it?

TKS Yes. Guilt. Oh, yes.

L But now, to go back to your brother, for a second. Your brother in terms of the household was served first. And served the best things.

TKS Oh, yeah, you bet.

L And then the girls got what it was left after your father was served. And your brother.

TKS Yes.

L How were women generally treated in terms of Japanese families that you knew?

TKS Well, I'll tell you, there is one family here. This is when I was young. He farmed. He had a team of horses. He piped his water up to the barn. For the horses. But for his wife, it was up to her to take the water that she needed to cook and scrub with and carry it into the house.

L From the water for the horses.

TKS Yes. There was a faucet. And my Dad wasn't that-- he wasn't like that. Of course, this is what I call chauvenist.

L But were women, do you think, generally speaking, treated second class.

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TKS In my eyes, yes. And like I said, earlier, when I told Mother that I wouldn't marry somebody like father. She told me, he is so manly. It's a matter of -- to them, that was what a man wants.

L So now. Just to make some sense of this. Your brother --eldest brother-- was catered to.

TKS Very much.

L But at some point, it was you and your husband who went into partnership with your father.

TKS Yes, mybrother left because he-he never did like farming. And I think too, Dad was too domineering to ever let him run the farm anyway. But mybrother never liked farming. So he decided to go into business with some friends. And he left the farm.

L What did he do?

TKS He had oh various businesses. And they collapsed, it was too bad.

L What happened to him.

TKS He lives in California. It was me thatbroke the apron strings from mother, to him.

L How didyou do that.

TKS Well, it happened when she was living with us. And he --oh, weak.

L Was he using your mother in some way, is that what you're saying?

TKS Oh. He never could survive on his own, so to speak.

L So I see what you're saying. So in some ways, he was catered to, by your parents, which made him unable to --

TKS That's true.

L --make adjustments in the world outside.

TKS Yes.

L Ohh.Huh. Boy. You know, these are hard things. Hard things. What happened to him after the businesses failed? What did he do? He left the state. Did he try businesses within the state.

L Well, that's why he left the farm. And, of course, they failed. And when he --it's just that he could never stand on his two--on his own. He was just too difficult with Mother also. She was old, getting old. And it's like two of the same. And. If he was going to even make it, he had -he'd have to go on his own. Cause any time he got into trouble, he'd come running home. So, consequently, I'm the one that cut that string.

L Hmm. What happened after that, when you cut it.

TKS As I understand. He went to California. I believe he's in touch with my older sister. But there was so much rivalry between her and him. And, him and us. And it's really, I guess, rivalry, sibling.

L A lot of struggle.

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TKS Between she and him, there was quite a bit. I know there are families that get - that worked out beautifully. I wished it had for us. But I also do realise that the parents were different. They weren't as strong and domineering. This I do know. And I think this was my Dad's downfall, was right there. However, I too feel that if Mother was not insecure, and could have stood her ground, she could have balanced it .

L She could have offered more --

TKS Thenight she told me about being left at home with the kids while he sold peanuts, or popcorn, at the theatre. And. She couldn't handle it.

L Being alone with the kids.

TKS Yeah. She said that the doctor told my Dad if he left her alone she would die. And this is the story she related to me. So Dad --

L so your father obviously had to stay there--

TKS He had to. But the horrible thing about it is it often doesn't balance out.

L What happened to the rest of the family. Your younger brother and the other sisters.

TKS Well, the one brother is in New York. He went to school and got his degree in Engineering. And he works for an aircraft company.

L Are you in touch with him?

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TKS No {laughs} Oh, gee. This too was the results of taking care of mother. And he hadn't been home for 30 years. He didn't know what was going on. And at the time, my mother - my oldest sister's husband is Kibe. And he's a nice person. And he speaks fluent Japanese. And my mother preferred to live there. But, her -- She wanted my sister to change so that she could live there. Instead of her changing to fit in. And my sister - my brother didn't understand this--

end side three

begin side four

L Sister--

TKS Well, it was my - My mother wanted my sister to change. My sister being is domineering. And it - it made it rather impossible for mother to go there because after all, there was the other side of the family. And, apparently, there was friction there too.

L How did your younger brother get involved.

TKS Well, when Dad passed away, and he asked Mother - he was trying to look after Mother's affairs. And she expressed her desire to live with my oldest sister. However, she wanted her to change so that it would be easy for her to go live there. And - which is wrong. You either fit your-

self into their -- and this was my big problem with mother by the way.

L Did your brother take up your mother's point of view.

TKS Oh, yes.

L So he tried to get your sister to change.

TKS Yes.

L Did your mother go there for awhile.

TKS Well, she just went to visit. And she had the same problem we did. She wouldn't stay home. When they had - you know, a - something they needed to do, they hired a babysitter - a mother sitter. She was so insecure and my sister was wise enough to know that this was a problem she didn't want. So back came mother.

L Now, what happened to your brother, though. Did he get hurt in this? Or--

TKS No. He left and went back to New York.

L So he kind of intervened for awhile and then took off.

TKS Well, he told us, well, she will come and live with you. Which is ok.

L HE was kind of a mediator.

TKS {laughs} Yeah.

L Of sorts. A director of traffic.

TKS A one side director of traffic. I'll tell you. And he didn't understand the problem. He listened to mother. He didn't realise that she had this problem. And this is where the problem came.

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L He didn't know about your mother's insecurities?

TKS Correct. Mother talked very well. But when it come down to doing it, she didn't have it. It was so pathetic. I told you the story about--that was how it is. She would tell her various friends, I want to come but I don't have a way. Which wasn't true.

L Well, she was right. But it wasn't a practical thing she was taking about, she was talking about something bigger.

TKS Ahuh. And they didn't know. And of course, I'll admit, they felt that we were wrong in not, you know, taking her there. We would have gladly taken her there, but she insisted we "all" went to something that is for club only. - 70-80 D-and Trying to break that string so that she can was our problem. And it became just - She became unglued. And it was so tragic. And this is the part my brother didn't understand.

L Why was it so difficult to explain this to your brother. Why was that so hard?

TKS He-he--This is the big problem I have with him. He only listens to the side - the one side he wants to, which was mother's. Mother cannot do any wrong. It is the --

L You guys are doing the wrong, it must be you. So he took her side.

TKS YEah. He didn't realise this. And this became a big problem for me. Whenever he'd come to visit, she would cry on his

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shoulder. And he isn't the type to sit and listen.
{interruption}

L Let me ask. There are two more sisters. Where are they all this time.

TKS My youngest - moved to California. And the one I showed you the picture, she lives here in the West of the Valley.

L Are you in contact with any of them.

TKS Oh, my younger sister.

L She's younger than you.

TKS Yes. She's married. And she lives near where my daughter does. So they see each other .

L How was the land itself broken up in terms of giving it to the kids.

TKS It was sold. The whole thing was given to the parents. And then when my mother passed away, what was left was divided equally.

L In how many ways was that

TKS Six. My husband who looked after, did not take --

L Didn't take a share because--

TKS Yes. Which I thought was kind of unfair, but.. You know, he supported her, this was the thing.

L Supported your mother?

TKS Yes. Whe my mother came to live with us, it was precisely

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that money that was the issue between my husband and myself. He didn't want that responsibility.

L Supporting your mother.

TKS No, of the money.

L Of the farm.

TKS No, the farm was sold when mother came to live with us. See, they sold the farm and went back to Japan. And Dad passed away. And so when she come back, this is when this all took place.

L Was he handling the estate, kind of?

TKS Ah, it was in the hands of the attorney. No way. Would I--he or I handle that. We made sure it was left with an outside--

L Hmm. So how was he responsible--your husband. What was he responsible for. He didn't want to handle the money.

TKS Oh, he said to me, he said, that he wished he didn't have it because it would create problems.

L Between you and him?

TKS No between myself--between us and the family, other members which it did.

L I'm not understanding. What problems were created if it was divided evenly.

TKS That was after mother's death. It was during her living, the time she lived.

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- L OK During the time she was living, some of the money was coming to you guys, through her.
- TKS No, my husband supported her because he said he didn't want the money.
- L I get you now. Oh, boy.
- TKS he--
- L He didn't want any of the money from the estate coming to your mother and you using it in some fashion, is that right.
- TKS What is my - my -- that she gave me, he let me have. But as far as him taking anything for looking after her, he didn't.
- L He felt that would be a bad thing with the other family members.
- TKS Oh, yes, he said, there's trouble and it was.
- L But he didn't take it.
- TKS No
- L So then--
- TKS They divided the estate - the estate was divided among the kids, not him.
- L But if he didn't take the money, why was there trouble.
- TKS I'm giving you the wrong impression. OK. There was, certain-- especially my oldest brother felt he was entitled to
- L More?
- TKS Yes.

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L Because he was the oldest.

TKS Oh, I suppose.

L I see, ok, so there were other kinds of problems besides the ones--

TKS Yes, that's it.

L Would you mind, if I asked you - how much did you get for the land, ultimately.

TKS I don't know exactly because it was sold ah - my Dad and the attorney handled it.

L You have no idea.

TKS Oh, it went into 6 figures, I'm sure because there was 37 acres. But then, again.

L So it was over a million dollars.

TKS No

L Over a hundred thousand.. How much was it going for an acre.

TKS About 4-5,000.

L So we're not talking about that much money. We're talking maybe at most about 125-150,000.

TKS I don't know exactly. I never asked. You just don't ask. {laughs} And. Of course, that - Now, her private expenses, she paid for and also her nursing home.

L She paid for that.

Let me ask you a naive question here. You've said a lot of very difficult emotional things about growing up and about

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yourparents. And yet, talking about this money is more difficult than those things, in some way. How come that is?

TKS Because that's where the dirty fight was. And. It would have been fine - that's an awful thing to say, really.

L Awful to say or awful that it happened.

TKS It's awful both ways, really.

L It's awful to admit it, you mean.

TKS One reason why I did cut the strings with my mother and brother. That was a big problem.

L The money. The estate was divided.

TKS The estate was not divided when she was living. It went from Dad to her. But, while she was living, she was helpless.

L She was helpless to do anything about --

TKS To control her own--

L To control her funds.

TKS Yes.

L OK now, -.....do you want to talk about it....

TKSno.....

L OK let me change the area of questioning. It's going to be slightly connected but not the same subject.

I'm very curious. You talked a little bit, or hinted a little about child rearing, your own daughter. You saw a lot of difficult things, growing up yourself. A lot of imbalance.

And people not speaking to each other. What kind of effect did this have on you trying to raise your child. How did you raise your child.

TKS I believe that everybody has equality. A right. And I don't think anybody should what's in the family, especially, because it creates problems. It becomes unequal. And this is the situation that happens very much and it happened in my life. Ah, one of the things that we tried to teach her was you don't expect people to change. That's wrong. But you don't have to put up with it, either. You can put up with it in what you feel is the extent that you would like to. But you don't have to accept that - well, sometime it's abuse, whatever. That it is what you are able to handle is what you should do. My big mistake was --where I had so much problem with my mother, I expected them to change and help me out. And that was my downfall. And, this is one thing that we tried to teach-- everybody's different. There are some who will take advantage of you, some who won't. And you handle it accordingly. If someone is taking advantage of you, then you deal with it on that level. If somebody is good, you deal on that level. But you cannot deal with both in the same way. That's impossible. **
Without taking--

end side four

begin side five

TKS We were warned by teachers, a couple of them, that she was too shy and we had better toughen her up or she would be in for some problems. And that did concern us.
And so, --

L Were you afraid, in the back of your mind that she would become dependent like your mother?

TKS I was determined that wasn't going to happen. So I hadn't -- I didn't have that fear. I think my husband was a little concerned. But I didn't have that fear because I wasn't going to let her {laughs}. And the thing about it and this is what my life in the recent years has been based upon. Is that in a negative situation, you look for the positive - something you can get out of it to make it positive for you. Or, there are times you can make that negative right into positive. And this is -- whenever she had a problem, this is what we looked for. She had a girlfriend one time that was really buddy-buddy but behind her back, she was not so nice. And that hurt her. She was heartbroken. And so, what we talked to her about was this child was raised this way and she can't help it. And there's nothing we can do. Because it is somebody else's child. But "you" can make a decision. If you know this, you can handle it. To what extent you want. But if you don't want to handle it, then back away, you don't have to put up with it. And this is our method.

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L You tried to give her tools?

TKS Yes, that's what it is. And we never worried about you now what they worry about now. Drugs. None of it. She -- We encouraged her to use her mind as to how--because negative things are a reality. And I sincerely believe that in any negative situation, you can derive positives. And this is my - what I have been talking about. I see the positive.

L Let me ask you something.....{personal}.....

How did your mother prepare you for marriage. Did she tell you about sex or being with a man?

TKS No. No.

L Did she tell you anything.

TKS No. It was my oldest sister.

L What did she tell you? How did she prepare you?

TKS Just simply about sex.

L Biologically about it.

TKS Yes.

L The fact that you have sex and children come.

TKS To an extent {laughs} I understand. No, we didn't get any of that. And I really doubt that a lot of Isseis ever told the kids anyway. I don't think they did because it was a no-no.

L It was a no-no to mention sex.

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- TKS Well. It's - something you don't talk about. So, on that ground, I don't think Mother was - It's her upbringing.
- L Let me put it to you this way. Since sex was not talked about. What impression of sex did you grow up with? What was the impression toward sexuality. Was it something forbidden? Awesome? --
- TKS What you don't know about doesn't hurt you theory I guess.
{interruption}
- L Since, a lot of times, even though people don't say anything about something, they give you other messages.
- TKS Probably in school. ..
There wasn't any -- I don't know the Japanese - the Isseis touch each other. I've never seen it.
- L Do they hug.
- TKS No.
- L Embrace each other.
- TKS No. At least my parents didn't. And I - I've never seen it. There-there - it's in a very different way. Like I say, my mother said, oh, he's so manly; but he's so manly.
- L What were you able to tell your daughter.
- TKS Well, as far as I was concerned, there's -- to me, I'm the American way. Something interesting. My daughter. We allowed her to go to mixed parties. As far as dating alone, we held off until she was 18. I believe that often times, kids are allowed to date ~~when~~ too early before they

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realize the responsibilities. So, though she went to parties, mixed parties, there was none of this dating or going steady. And, after she graduated and went to the University of Utah, she started to work for a local sporting goods house. A sporting store. And, there were several men selling skis and what not. And a lot of them were very Casanova. And I told her then, I said, if a man is normal in his intelligence, I said, on the first date, you are generally safe. As long as you behave. But if you keep dating and get to know each other, they will get friendlier and friendlier. And so this one fellow asked her for a date. And he happened to be the wildest one in the store, because she told me. And I didn't worry, because I could see in my daughter, she had this independence. She developed it very early. Ah, early. But anyway, so she dated him the first time, she dated him the second time. The third time, she says, you're right mother, they do get friendlier and friendlier. Oh. {laughs} But see she -- I didn't tell her she can't or that he's not nice. That's defeating the purpose, she doesn't grow. But what you do is help them to take care of the situation. And it works.. And this is what we base it on. We never worried about drugs or anything. We didn't have to. We appealed to their logic. They're not kids. You appeal to -- at that level, you never insult them. Never. With my father, being that he was

so -- and it was Japanese - "you do what I say". And there was never this, where, the immaturity--

L there's always a kind of inherent insult in being told what to do.

TKS They never let you grow up really. And this is our difference.

L Pretty big difference.

TKS Oh, yeah. Sure was. But. I just um it just never arose. And I do feel sorry for people today who - families who are so scared about drugs and things. And they never. It seems to me that they don't get into the level where the child is and help him to solve the problem. They deny the - they hide it.

L Repress it.

TKS And curiosity to a child, that is dangerous, believe me.

L Were you prepared for inter-racial dating.

TKS Oh yes.

L You and your husband are both Japanese.

TKS Yes.

Tak and I - we're not social. We can name on the one hand just about who we know. Five. {laughs} I - when I was younger, I did go to some Japanese socials.

L Would you have been able to marry a white person, a Caucasian.

Taye Kasuga Sagaya
8-24-84 s5:37

TKS My brother did. She's Danish. The second brother. And my younger sister is married to a Johnson. But that happened after my parents were gone.

L But what about you.

TKS No. In respect to Dad or my desire.

L Your desire.

TKS OK, Tak and I went together for 8 years. That ought to answer your question.

L Before you got married.

TKS He had the responsibility of his mother and younger brothers and sisters.

L So, about the inter-racial aspect of your daughter's marriage, what is your thinking about it.

TKS To me, it's a marriage. a husband my daughter, I don't. I think today there's a mature level toward that. However unhappily, you know, the divorce rate so high, that I don't think that the people who enter into it often are mature enough to understand the problems that exist.

L In such a relationship.

TKS Yes.

Now, between those two, when they went back to Minnesota, that was the first time that they ran-- "he" ran into prejudice.

Taye Kasuga Sagaya
8-24-84 s5:38

L What happened.

TKS Well, they went to a restaurant to have lunch and they got separate tickets. She says, every time we walk down the street, they just stare.

L Hmm. What was their reaction?

TKS Ah. For her, it's a normal thing. As far as Hans goes, he's really - one of those that - ah, he'-- He never looked at things in a separate way. He looks at life, as far as I could see, as a whole. As a collective thing rather than this is this and this is that and all that. If you understand what I mean.

L Sort of. What does that do when a person does that. Does it make them better able to accept something or not-

TKS I think so. I'm not - He was aware, I'm sure that she was Japanese but I don't think it ah - she was just Japanese. It didn't matter to him. And there are people like that.

L You're saying it's that naive to see it that way.

TKS It could be sometimes. I'm not sure. But some people are broad enough and other people are naive, ^{there's} this difference, I think.

L It's an interesting situation. There's a lot of interracial marriage among the sansei. I hear crazy statistics. 70%-75%. But there's certainly a great deal of it. Especially in this area, because there's a lot fewer.

Taye Kasuga Sagaya
8-24-84 s5:39

TKS California is very much--

L Much too.

TKS Yes. I think it started there, really, and then it escalated and moved inward. Because years ago, I read in San Francisco, it was 50%. And out here, it's just beginning.

L It's interesting. Some people it bothers.

TKS Yes. There always will be. Especially in the areas where it's - what's the other term for old fashion.

L Traditional?

TKS Yes, traditional.

L They mean such different things. Old fashioned and tradition.

TKS That's true. But to me....

L They are connected.

TKS Traditional means from the past

L Right, right.

TKS It can go on for generations. Really. Tradition.

L Right.

TKS Whereas old fashioned could be just within a period.

L Right. Was your marriage to your husband an arranged situation.

TKS No. Ahhh.

I was the first out of the girls to find a boyfriend.

Tak. And I think this is what was wrong.

end side five

Taye Kasuga Sagaya
8-24-84 sb:40

begin side six

TKS He didn't want us
--dating or anything.

And then after the sister above me married first.

And then things calmed down. My older sister married just before I did. But that's the thing I always wanted to do. Is because I was - you know, the third. Out of four girls, I was the third. But. I take my hat off to Tak for perseverance, I'll tell you. Do you know, if he asked me out to go to a movie. He would have to take his two sisters, and my two sisters, just to take me to a movie? {laughs}

Unbelievable ins't it.

L That's incredible. How come? What happened.

TKS Because we were-- I was not allowed to go out alone.

And I married at 27 so I was 18 - he was 20.

And so, on Easter, he bought four Easter bunnies, chocolate Easter bunnies and gave them to us as - for each of "your sisters" and I got so mad, I took them {laughs} off. I felt sorry for him. If we went to a ballgame or baseball, anything, he had to take his two sisters and my two sisters. Oh..

L This was all during the time you were dating or just at the beginning.

TKS Well, my one sister married and after awhile Dad decided that it wasn't going to break up. So, he accepted it.

Taye Kasuga Sagaya
8-24-84 sb:41

L He had to be tough, huh. He also had to have enough money.

TKS You mean Tak? Yeah. I felt sorry for him. I was so mad all the time. Gosh. Oh, we went to Lagoon. You know, the four of us. And the sisters and all. And get into one of these - those things that whirl, you sit in it. Like a tub. And, the weight of it, just killed you. My neck. If my head, I thought it was going to roll off. Oh.

L Was this during the time when Lagoon was segregating people. Were you going--

TKS I didn't know that they segregated. Must have been early.

L Was it a usual thing, this chaperoning business for other of your friends.

TKS This I don't know. Some families I think developed -- acquired the American system a lot quicker than my family.

L Were do you see yourself now in terms of the rest of your brothers and sisters. How do you see your situation with them.

TKS I don't even worry about it. What can I do. {laughs}
I'm not going to worry. They know I'm here. And, I don't worry about things I can't control. I just work around them the best I can. That's the way I feel.

Taye Kasuga Sagaya
8-24-84 sb:42

L You're not waiting for a miracle to bring you all together again?

TKS No.

L Do you ever think it will happen.

TKS Might --might not. Who knows. I just don't worry. If it'- I've accepted anything that's beyond my control. Whatever happened, nobody can change. So. For me, it's ridiculous. I worried about it for so long. I was so negative.

L And hurt, I assume.

TKS Oh, yes. If you'd seen me six years ago, I was a blubbering cry baby. 6 or 7 years. I don't even know that. Either. You accept it or don't. And

L You finally had no choice but to go on in some way.

TKS I didn't -- I think--I broke it, actually, because I couldn't handle it. I couldn't see myself going back to the same old thing. Cause it - my family too - They suffer too easily.

L So you broke off too-

TKS Well

L To prevent more suffering.

TKS Yes, you just can't go through it all the time. It's just like walking into -- ah, a bed of nails. That's stupid. To reach the other side, I mean. For me. I feel what it is to be is going to be. And if I can't change it, I'm not going to worry about it. And I haven't.

TKS To say that I can't forgive them. I don't hold anything against them. What is there to forgive, really. They're that way. And I'm my way. And for either one of us to expect either one to change is an infringement, I think. On the other per--who's ever rights. If you want to be the way you are, why, that's it. And I'm not going to argue. I've seen too many of this. And this is part of it. You ought to do this--you ought to do that. Without really knowing the situation. Or without them giving any part of themselves.

L You had enough of that.

TKS Oh, yeah. It got to a point where I couldn't function. Because there's one thing, if there's any place that puts guilt, it's right there.

L What is the meaning of - for yourself - of the privacy that you and your husband cherish so much.

TKS Freedom.

L Freedom. How.

TKS Well, he too had terrific family responsibility plus he took my parents responsibility. In the first 20 years of our marriage, we had that responsibility. And you always have to take care of the problems. Share everything. As they grow older and helpless, it takes more of your time. You don't have freedoms. Not at all. And when you do get it, you really cherish it.

L So you ^{two} ~~too~~ are guarding your freedom.

Taye Kasuga Sagaya
8-24-84 sb:44

TKS Oh, this is heaven.

L Or gaurding each other's freedom.

TKS Yeah. Anybody-- His side or my side, if they come through that door, and they don't respect what we-- that this is our house, why, I give it to them. {laughs} I've had just too much. Because my mother lived here, oh. They think they have the right. If they wanted my mother to visit, they had a home. But oh no, they're not going to take her. But they felt they could come here. And for years, I cooked the holiday dinner. And they expected it. And they owned a home. If just once they could have said, well, we'll have it at my house, there wouldn't have been a problem. But. Because mother lived here, why that was my responsibility. Was what --the way they took it. And so my daughter and

has missed. Even though she lived here, her holidays have been -- We never had one alone with her. It isn't taht I didn't want my family here-- It was one either side. But I do feel this is why I feel that children should share in on it. So that one can get really -- and have a little time to himself.

L The children should share the burden of the parents, is taht whatyou're saying.

TKS True. I skip words....

Taye Kasuga Sagaya
8-24-84 sb:45

TKS My mind is about 5 miles ahead of my mouth. No fooling.
This is a problem. And I can't talk faster than I am now.
But I've had this problem all my life. And I skip.

L Skip the words in between.

TKS Yes. I either have to speed up my mouth or slow down my
mind. I've tried slowing down my mind and my thoughts
just evaporate. Isn't that funny? That's a disorder, I
guess.

L No, no, no.

{they discuss this}

{She is grateful for this interview because}

TKS For my Dad, this record will be the final thing that
he would desire. And I'm really grateful. And I'm grate-
ful that it's you. You know, interviewers. depending
on how they come across the information wouldn't be nearly
as -- open.

L Thank you.

end