

**Japanese American Farmers in the San Fernando Valley Before and
After WWII Oral History Project**

ROY TAMOTSU MURANAKA

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

San Fernando Valley

21 March, 2004

Interview Conducted by

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Transcript Prepared by

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ROY TAMOTSU MURANAKA

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW INTRODUCTION

Narrator: Mr. Roy Tamotsu Muranaka

Occupation: Retired farmer

Address: 11119 Salt Lake Ave, Northridge 91326

Date of Interview: March 21, 2004

Length: 75 minutes

Session: One

Place: Mr. Muranaka's home

Subject: Japanese American Farmers in the San Fernando Valley Before and After World War II

Interviewer: Machiko Uyeno and Tiffany Cheng

LIFE HISTORY
BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

SFV JACC Representative Nancy Takayama

Date 3/21/04

CSUN Representative Machiko Oyeno

CSUN Representative Tiffany Cheng

Location of Interview Residence

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2. Address: 11119 SALT LAKE AV. NORTH RIDGE CA 91326

3. Phone(s): 818-362-9602

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4. Birth Date: 6-30-15 5. Birth Place: BRIGHTON, UTAH 6. Citizenship USA

6a. Date of immigration: NA 6b. Departure point: NA

7. List Sisters / Brothers (Eldest to youngest – Include yourself): BETTY SHIROKO ISHIZAWA
HARSHI TOSHIKI, JEAN YOSHINO KATO, MARY SUMIKO EHI, ROY
TAMOTSU MURAKAKA

8. Marital Status (and dates): MARRIED 5-23-70

9. Spouse's Name: JANE TAZUKO KAWAKAMI MURAKAKA

10. Children (and birth dates): CHARLES MURAKAKA 9-23-77
JENNIFER AKEHI 12-02-81

11. Ethnicity: JAPANESE 12. Languages Spoken: ENGLISH, JAPANESE, SPANISH

13. Religion: BUDDHIST

14. Places lived and dates: UTAH 1945-1946

CHICO, CA 47 to PRESENT

15. Mother's Maiden Name: SHIMAZAKI HITSUE Ethnicity: JAPANESE AMERICAN

Date of immigration: _____ Country: _____

16. Father's Maiden Name: MURAKAKI (MURAKAWA) Ethnicity: JAPANESE AMERICAN

Date of immigration: _____ Country: _____

17. Maternal Grandparents: SEIKIZO & FUSAE SHIMAZAKI

**Deed of Gift
Oral History Agreement
Japanese American Experiences in the San Fernando Valley**

I, Roy Muranaka,
residing at: 11119 Salt Lake Avenue,
City of Northridge, State of California, Zip Code 91326 here by
give and grant to San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center (SFV JACC),
Asian American Studies Department at California State University at Northridge (CSUN) and
the California State Library Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP) as a donation
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Roy Muranaka

Print Name of Interviewee


Signature of Interviewee

3-21-04

Date

ROY TAMOTSU MURANAKA

ABSTRACT

Tiffany Cheng and I (Machiko Uyeno) had the opportunity to interview Mr. Roy Muranaka. Roy Tamotsu Muranaka was born on June 30, 1945 in Brigham, Utah. We learned that California State University Northridge and Porter Middle School sit on his family's old farmland.

Mr. Roy Muranaka's father started their farming business after World War II. Prior to WWII, his family owned a trucking business, but once the war broke out, his family had lost everything. Fortunately his family did not go to camp. Instead they relocated to Utah where he was born. Mr. Muranaka's father started farming in Utah before coming back to the Los Angeles area after the war. His father started out as a sharecropper and then saved enough money to purchase land in the San Fernando Valley.

Mr. Muranaka grew up and still resides in the San Fernando Valley. From a very young age, he worked on his family's farm. Since his parents were extremely busy, he was practically raised by his grandparents. When he was younger, he rarely saw his mother and father since they were working out in the fields. Yet as he got older and started helping out more, he was able to spend time with his father, although his father appeared to be very strict. He and his older brother Harry Muranaka eventually took over the family business, which still runs to this day. The farms are located in the Moorpark area. Mr. Muranaka officially went into the family business when he was 19 years old. Yet due to the pressures and stress that can accumulate from running your own business, he got sick and was forced to retire.

One very interesting thing that we learned was that CSUN and Porter Middle School sit on his family's old farmland. Yet the property was taken from them through eminent domain, but the person in charge who was supposedly working for the LA City schools, threatened Mr. Muranaka's father into selling the property to him directly. The man in turn sold the land to a developer for a profit. His father had told him that since it was only 10 years after the war ended, they were afraid of what was going to happen if they did not listen to the so called orders.

Through Mr. Muranaka, we learned that many Japanese American farming families lost their land during the war and they were not able to get it back. Those ex-farmers eventually went into the gardening business. Fortunately, his family's farm is one of the remaining Japanese American owned independent farms in Ventura County.

After interviewing Mr. Muranaka, we learned that the farming business is an extremely hard business that requires a lot of time and dedication.

ROY TAMOTSU MURANAKA

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Interviewee: Roy Muranaka [RM]

Interviewer: Machiko Uyeno [MU]

Date: March 21, 2004

Subject: Japanese Americans in the San Fernando Valley Before and After World War II

[0:00] MU: I'd like to get a sense of what the San Fernando Valley was like while you were growing up there, can you tell me what it was like and how it changed?

[0:06] RM: Well, everything west of Sepulveda Blvd was agricultural. Mostly orchards, orange orchards predominately, but there were walnut orchards. I used to rollerskate on Lassen Street cause that was the only hard surface around. There was probably a car maybe every 15 or 20 minutes. It was pretty country.

[0:36] MU: What were the demographics, were there other Japanese American families in the area?

[0:43] RM: Near by us, no. Japanese school and the community center was the center of everything. Every effort was made to go there for occasions. I used to go to Japanese school after I was seven years old I think.

[1:04] MU: Where was the Japanese school located?

[1:07] RM: It was..What is probably called the barrio in San Fernando Valley, San Fernando city. Workman and I can't remember the name of the street now, but was not in good part of town.

[1:26] MU Did you have a lot of neighbors?

[1:31] RM: Within walking distance less than a half mile, one neighbor.

[1:37] MU: So it was pretty spread out?

[1:40] RM: It was basically farmland and orchards. My best friend's family moved in 1952, probably. They lived about half a mile away.

[1:54] MU: Were they also Japanese?

[1:59] RM: It was kinda neat, one of the sons was my best friend and the father was my father's best friend. So it worked out quite well. They moved pretty fast.

[2:10] MU: So there were other ethnic groups that lived in the area at that time?

[2:17] RM: Not that I am aware of. But perhaps the rest of my family knows, I don't know. The first Japanese in school after I went to Junior high school was when I was in the 9th grade. So from the 5th grade to the 9th grade, I didn't have no contact with the Japanese in public school.

[2:42] MU: What public school did you go to?

[2:44] RM: Well I went to Omelvaney Elementary school in San Fernando and there was a lot of Japanese there. But I moved to Haskell Street School for the 5th grade which is just down the street from a new school and there were no Japanese there.

[2:58] MU: Were they mostly Caucasian?

[3:00] RM: Yes, all Caucasians there. I went to Northridge Junior High school in the 7th grade and there were no Asians there and I went to Patrick Henry Junior High School and there were no Asians there. Then I met my very old and good friend when I went to Porter.

[3:26] MU: Oh, you went to Porter?

[3:28] RM: Porter was built on our farm. I used to come home from grammar school and walk out the back door and hop on a tractor and go to work.

[3:40] MU: Did you work a lot on the farms?

[3:46] RM: I started working when I was six probably

[3:47] MU: Really?

[3:49] RM: I was driving tractors when I was seven. My brother started earlier.

[3:54] MU: What was it like driving a tractor?

[3:56] RM: It was a lot of work, but my friends thought that it was really neat. But I said that's cause, you know, you just think about, but I had to do it everyday. There was always a job assignment waiting for me, so when I came home from school, I did whatever I needed to do.

[4:13] MU: Porter and also CSUN sits on part of your old farm?

[4:17] RM: yes, yes

[4:24] MU: If it's possible I'd like to know a little bit about your parents and how they ended up in the San Fernando Valley. How did they decide to move to the San Fernando Valley?

[4:35] RM: Um. My father before the war had a trucking family. He lost everything because of relocation, but um..one of his customers, his biggest customer asked him to work for him, well wait a minute, during the relocation, we were in Utah and my father started farming.

[5:00] MU: In Utah?

[5:01] RM: Yes, and um..he um..encouraged, or got one of his farmer customers who was in camp, moved to Utah and he also farmed there and after the war ended, the farmer went back to farming and my father went to work for him. This was in Culver City. 1946 and umm...farmer's name is Mr. Sakioka. He decided that he wanted to try farming in the San Fernando Valley and in Orange County. So my father came to San Fernando Valley and his sons went to Orange County. So, about a year and a half or two years, my father was a sharecropper for Mr. Sakioka.

[6:09] MU: in the San Fernando Valley?

[6:10] RM: Yes, it was on Lassen street, directly across from the VA hospital. Now housing was so short, plus the racial thing that they wouldn't rent to you anyway, so he built his own house on a leased piece of ground. Then the house moved to Chatsworth street where it is today and my father bought that piece of ground.

[6:43] MU: So your father built his own house.

[6:47] RM: I used to call it, I can't remember now quite exactly, but it was basically a horse caralle that was converted into a home. I was very young then, but I remember that the only cement floor or hard floor was the kitchen and um, I never could understand why the roof was slopped, but later on it turned out to be an enclosed horse caralle. That was on, I think that's Rayen, just east of Balboa. It was a dirt road at that time in the middle of an orchard. But that's where we lived when our house was under construction.

[7:42] MU: So it's fairly close to CSUN?

[7:45] RM: Yes, yes it is.

[7:48] MU: So the area where your house and where your farm was, was basically CSUN and Porter Middle school. How many acres?

[7:59] RM: Well the Chatsworth street property on Lassen street was 60 acres, northeast of Lassen and Woodley and the Chatsworth Street probably also 60 acres and that was southeast of Chatsworth and Woodley.

[8:20] MU: What kind of crops did your family grow?

[8:24] RM: I remember cabbage and spinach and butter lettuce. By the time the farm moved to CSUN, Zelzah and Lassen, and then up to DeSoto and Plummer, my father grew mostly green onions and I remember the bunch radish program started then too.

[8:52] MU: What's the bunch radish program?

[8:54] RM: He decided that that was one of the items he wanted grow and we still grow that today.

[9:01] MU: So your family still does farming right now?

[9:04] RM: I was forced to retire in 1986 for health problems, but my brother continued on and my nephew took over in 1995 I believe and it's still going.

[9:25] MU: Where is the farm today?

[9:40] RM: The main facilities is in Moorpark, CA.

[9:42] MU: So you guys moved it to Moorpark?

[9:45] RM: We went from Chatsworth, the Plummer and DeSoto was the last San Fernando Valley farm and we moved to um, Simi Valley and Santa Susanna, and in 1955-1957, my father farmed quite a bit of ground in Oxnard. But that was a very very difficult commute, there was no 101 Freeway then so I remember the trip took an hour and a half by car and over two hours by truck. My uncle ended up running the farm for the last year or so before they shut it down. Then as Simi developed, we moved to Moorpark in 1969 and we're still there.

[10:32] MU: So the family business is continuing today.

[10:35] RM: Yes, about 65% of our produce comes from Mexico now though.

[10:40] MU: Oh really? Can you tell me what your father's daily routine was like?

[10:54] RM: When I was young, I didn't see him much because he went to work before I got up and came home after I was asleep.

[11:05] MU: Wow..long hours.

[11:08] RM: Yes, he used to commute, not daily, but commute to Orange County and Santa Ana from our Lassen Street house. And, I remember we went to go look for him one night cause he didn't come home and um, we found him at Tuxford and San Fernando Road broken down. But um, that was, I never made that trip myself, but that was quite a drive cause there were no freeways then either and he was doing it in a 1926 International truck that went 25 miles an hour so, it's quite a trip.

[11:46] MU: Did your mother also work on the farm?

[11:49] RM: Yes she did. I was raised by my grandparents.

[11:52] MU: She worked with your father?

[11:59] RM: No, she didn't go to work until probably 7 or so, and then she would come home by probably 6 or 7.

[12:10] MU: So your grandparents basically watched over you. Do you have any siblings?

[12:14] RM: Yes, I have a brother and three sisters; they're all older than me.

[12:18] MU: Oh, so you're the youngest?

[12:19] RM: Yes.

[12:24] MU: Did your mother also work outside the home?

[12:30] RM: She was a farmer.

[12:31] MU: Aside from farming, did she do anything else?

[12:36] RM: No, there wasn't any time to do anything else besides taking care of the farming.

[12:45] MU: So do you think your grandparents were responsible for the household duties or?

[12:49] RM: No, just to watch the kids as I remember. I didn't know what they did earlier or, but Grandpa and Grandma used to watch over me.

[13:00] MU: Did you have chores to do?

[13:05] RM: I just remember watering and sweeping the dirt floor. I don't think it was an official chore, but that's what my grandmother asked me to do so I used to do it.

[13:14] MU: You worked on the tractor as well.

[13:16] RM: Then, the next thing I remember I was driving and doing whatever I could, I was pretty little. When we used to harvest cabbage, that's right, my father grew quite a bit of cabbage at that time. I wasn't strong enough to turn the steering wheel to the tractor, so he would turn the tractor and point it to where I needed to go and I would get on it and he would come back with the crew and cut the cabbage until we got to the end and he would turn the tractor around again, but it was so hard to step on the clutch that I used to have to jump on it with both feet to get it to go down and by the end of the day, I'd have blisters on my feet. You know, you do what you have to do.

[14:05] MU: So your siblings also worked?

[14:14] RM: My sisters I think basically took care of the household chores, but I know during transplant time they were out on the fields since they needed to do it. I have an 8mm film of that, when they were transplanting cabbage. That's very very hard work.

[14:35] MU: So transplanting cabbage is pretty hard?

[14:36] RM: You have these little cabbage plants in a gunny sack and then you go along the row and you take a hoe and you make a hole and you drop the plant in there and cover it.

[14:48] MU: And you do everything by hand? Wow..so the process is very long..

[14:56] RM: Well, no..it's just work. Work is work. My dad defined work as what you have to do and play as what you choose to do and they could never be the same it doesn't really matter.

[15:13] MU: That's true, so did you enjoy it?

[15:17] RM: There were times when it was very nice, um, there were times you know I wished I didn't, see I used to work every Sunday and my friends as I was growing up um, especially in Japanese school they would talk about on Saturday what they were going to do Sunday and I couldn't do anything cause I was working all day. Um, when, lets see, I started Sunday school at some point, my mother insisted I go to Sunday school and I think I was just about a teenager when my dad decided that I had enough of Sunday school and I should go back to the farm again, but even when I was going to Sunday school, after Sunday school, I'd still go to the farm. I remember he used to come pick me up after school when I was in junior high school if he was short of help or needed something done particularly.

[16:10] MU: Did you like working with your father? Along side him?

[16:13] RM: I wouldn't say I worked along side of him. Um, he's just tell me what to do and I go out and do it. I spent most of the time doing the tractor and then um, in 1950, probably 58, let's see in 1957, he sent me to my uncle's garage, his brother's garage in

Culver City to learn about mechanicing and I did that for two summers and two Christmas vacations and one Easter vacation and I became the official mechanic of the farm and, I started to major in mechanical work after that, so I used to um, you know do tune ups and brake jobs and overenginal runnels and whatever after school and on weekends. It's kind of funny, we used to have these Japanese exchange students working on the farm in the 60's and um, we had living quarters for the employees on the Chatsworth Street farm and the three gentlemen that I remember the most, they were walking by every night by the garage door, walking toward the market to get some supplies and I was working on, overhauling my first diesel tractor engine and I was 14 at the time I guess or 15 and I met them 20 some odd years later, and one of the gentleman said that I cost him 20 dollars and I said why and he said that well I bet that you couldn't get that motor to run and I did get it to run, and I thought that was pretty hilarious. But um..excuse me I kind of lost track...so I used to fix a lot of the equipment and what not, that was my responsibility all the way up until I retired.

[18:20] MU: Did you have a close relationship with your mother?

[18:26] RM: I didn't talk to my dad hardly at all, he just told me what to do, work wise and I'd do it, until I was 20..maybe 23, well, I'll back up, I think I was perhaps, 15 and um, he wanted me to do something and I told him, you got to do it this way and he said listen, this is my farm, this is my equipment, this is the way I want it done, that's it. So I never challenged him again. And then I think I was around 23, we were doing something, perhaps 24, cause he had just gotten his boat and we were doing something to his boat and he had asked me what do I think and I was shocked, and after that, he just left it entirely up to me. When I started farming, I used to ask him every night, what to do and what's going on and this and that. I started farming when I was 18 or 19, 1964, I remember the year and um, I think it was about a year and a half after I started farming and he said, you know what, he says, you're a big boy, you should be able to figure it out yourself and that was the end of that, I never asked him another question. It's kind of funny, I was with my brother the other day and um, we were just talking and he said he used to ask my father a lot of questions and um, he said, you know between you and Harry's, my brother, between you two guys, you'd ought to be able to figure this stuff out and I don't think you need to talk to me about it and that was it for him, so that's the way that went. My mother, you know, she was much easier to talk to um, so a lot of times when I wanted something, I'd have to ask her and then she'd ask him, my dad and then it would come back to me.

[20:32] MU: So you're father was Issei?

[20:34] RM: He was born in Hawaii, came to the United States when he was 16.

[20:40] MU: And your mother was born?

[20:42] RM: She was born in Mountain View, California and then I'm pretty sure within a year of her birth, she went back to Japan and didn't come back until she was 16 or 17. What happened was, after she was born, her father had an accident that um, blinded him

so they went back to Japan because he had no way to making a living here and then um, I think her sister, my aunt was sent to the United States to earn a living to try to help the family and she was so sad by herself that my mother came after a year, year and a half to, they both worked, were farm workers in the Santa Maria area.

[21:29] MU: So when your parents spoke to you, did they speak to you in English or Japanese?

[21:36] RM: Oh, it was, I didn't know my father spoke Japanese until I was probably 10 or 12, it's like when I met my wife, for Girl's Day and Boy's Day, they had these huge displays of dolls and things, so I asked my mother, were we so poor that we didn't have that and she said no, um, when the war started, dad destroyed everything Japanese. So that's why we didn't have anything.

[22:15] MU: So your mom spoke to you in Japanese?

[22:19] RM: My grandmother spoke to me in Japanese and it was a real problem cause when I started grammar school, I didn't speak English and it was terrifying. I didn't have the faintest idea what they were saying. My mother used to speak to me in both Japanese and English cause her English wasn't too good. My father almost didn't have an accent.

[22:47] MU: So did your parents hire other people to work on the farm as well?

[22:51] RM: Yes, my father hired as many Japanese after the war as he could, who wanted to work and um, a lot of them got their social security credit through working for our farm, so that they could retire and collect some security.

[23:15] MU: So those people who worked on the farm were also Japanese Americans?

[23:20] RM: I really couldn't tell you. The crews I remember were Japanese and Filipino. We had just a handful of Mexican workers. Today there are almost all Mexican workers. I remember there were disagreements between two different groups of Japanese workers that my mother used to always have to try to take care of. They were 2 cliques.

[23:55] MU: Do you know what kind of cliques they were?

[23:57] RM: I had no idea, but I know that there was always something going on.

[24:03] MU: It was between the Japanese and not between the Japanese and Filipino workers?

[24:06] RM: No, the Filipinos seemed to get along with everybody.

[24:15] MU: That's interesting.

[24:16] RM: That 8mm movie I have shows several Japanese workers bunching onions. I haven't seen the film in many many years, I don't know if it's still any good but, if you'd like, that's the only photographic evidence we have of the farm.

[24:36] MU: Everything else?

[24:37] RM: There were no photos of the farm.

[24:46] MU: So basically, your father, would you say that your father made all the key decisions in the family? Regarding moving? Property?

[24:56] RM: I think so. I think so.

[25:00] MU: He had the word.

[25:03] RM: Well, I remember my father bought my mother a waffle iron in the 50's and she was very upset that, that was not the best place to spend the money. Made him take it back and I remember when he bought a new car, she was mad that it was a cloth seat rather than a vinyl seat. With the kids what not, so he ended up putting plastic seat covers on it. As far as business decisions and things like that, my father was the one that made the decision.

[25:40] MU: But inside the house, when it came to family matters?

[25:46] RM: He was the final word.

[25:52] MU: When it came to approval of marriages, was it like your father? Or more like your mother?

[25:59] RM: I don't think there was any issue ever of marriage approval. Um, Do I want to get into that mom? When I was courting my wife, her father threw me out of the house and said don't come back unless your father comes with you, and I asked my dad and he laughed and says, that's your problem son, I don't have anything to do with that. So it turned out his best friend and the father of my best friend, unfortunately by then who had passed away went to see my wife's father and told him what a good guy I was and that was ok.

[26:44] MU: When did you meet your wife?

[26:47] RM: 1963..64? Okay, it was 1964. She was at a party that a friend of mine was having and I said geez, who's that girl, cause she was away from the normal area you might say. And I was looking for a farmer's daughter, so it worked out real well. That was an absolute necessity.

[27:27] MU: You wanted a farmer's daughter?

[27:30] RM: I went as far as Ventura, as far as Santa Ana, looking for one.

[27:34] MU: Who was willing?

[27:36] RM: Who I thought would have some idea what the farming business was, you know, I hear this term 24/7 today and I kind of chuckle because that was my whole life. I remember one morning I woke up and I was shocked that it had rained, and I thought oh my god, I didn't cover the fertilizer and I was running out the door and my mother said where are you going and I said I'm going to go cover the fertilizer and she says, I already did it. And I said, geez thanks a lot mom, she said when you're serious about farming, the rain will wake you up. And that's what it is. And I learned since then that you need to prepare anyways, so..farming is, well we got married in 1970, um, when did we go to Disneyworld with Uncle? (his wife responds, 1975) alright, so that was the first vacation that I took from when we got married and then I didn't take another one until 1981 or something like that.

[28:41] MU: So you were straight off working the whole time?

[28:46] RM: Well, when I got sick, and they put a recording device on my heart called a houlter, and you had to fill out a diary and for 24 hours, and I did that. I took the machine off and they were transferring it to whatever they do and I was speaking to the cardiologist and he was reading my diary and he started laughing and I said what's wrong and he says, well I found the problem and I said what is that? And he says, it's your lifestyle Mr. Muranaka, you can't do this. And I said well, this is what I do. And he says, is this a good day or a bad day and I said, it's a slightly bad day and he says no, no, this is what's killing you, you can't do it, and that particular day, my day started at 5 and ended at 2 in the morning. But, an 18 hour day. My brother and I, we used to both put in 100 to 120 hours a week. That was a normal week, so it was. When you grow up on it, you don't really think too much about it. And my flower grower friends, you know, they had it even harder. They used to work 22, 23 hours a day. Because I used to go to play with my friend, and his dad was a flower grower and we couldn't play until they got done working and then you know, they'd have dinner and they'd go back to work. And they would work till midnight, 2 o'clock in the morning and then I know they were leaving for the market to deliver the flowers at 4 o'clock in the morning, so they weren't getting much sleep.

[30:18] MU: So your parents, when you were younger, your parents probably worked the same hours, 18 hour days?

[30:23] RM: Probably more. Probably, I mean I never saw them you know, except at dinnertime.

[30:31] MU: Did you guys eat dinner altogether as a family?

[30:32] RM: Yes.

[30:33] MU: That's important.

[30:34] RM: I think it was, yes.

[30:42] MU: Did your parents participate in any strikes?

[30:46] RM: Strikes?

[30:47] MU: Strikes or anything?

[30:48] RM: No, since they were the bosses, I don't think they would be striking. My father was very concerned about the community and did everything he could to support the community.

[31:02] MU: Did your parents face any kind of hardship from society?

[31:07] RM: um.. You know I talked to my dad about relocating and all that, but he said, well you know Roy, he said at that particular time it was probably better to get out of the area. I remember he told me that they had a virtually new refrigerator and the day before they were supposed to leave, I forgot whatever date that was and a gentleman came by wanted to know if they wanted to sell anything so I've got the refrigerator and he says I'll give you a dollar for it. So my dad said no and he said well, it'll be free tomorrow cause you'll be gone and you can't take it with you. So my dad put it on the street and drove over it with a truck. I remember being stoned walking home from school at times, if I walked the wrong way or wasn't careful where I went, always being taunted. My sister used to beat up some kids to protect me cause I was getting picked on in grammar school.

[32:08] MU: Where they Caucasians?

[32:11] RM: Caucasians, yes. I really didn't think much about being a Japanese American until that stuff started happening. It never occurred to me. All I knew was that I didn't speak English in kindergarten but you know it was six months before I was up to speed and everything was ok there. I remember fighting for what I thought was right all through the 6th grade.

[32:40] MU: So your sisters used to stick up for you?

[32:44] RM: Yes she did. I used to take the bus home from Omelvaneh school in San Fernando, just walking toward the buses and somebody threw a, I think it was a foresquare ball really hard at me, and actually knocked me over, flipped me over and my sister saw it cause she used to take the same bus, she was 2 and a half years older than me and then she went after whoever did it and beat the heck out of him. So it's kind of nice to have a big sister.

[33:16] MU: So your sister didn't get in trouble for beating the other person up or anything?

[33:20] RM: Well, that's what stopped me from fighting after the 6th grade cause I did get in trouble and up until then, no one said anything.

[33:26] MU: Did you get in trouble from your parents?

[33:28] RM: No, from the school. The principal talked to me about it and told me there are other ways to settle the issue, and I said, I wish you had explained that to me.

[33:41] MU: Going back to being raised by your grandparents, did they instill Japanese values in you? Customs?

[33:49] RM: Both my grandparents and my parents. They were very Japanese. I remember hearing something fairly recently that someone tried to get a snapshot of old Japanese traditional and they found out it was easier to do in remote Oregon than it was in Japan and it's all gone in Japan. I've come to realize that the values that I've been raised with were probably from the 1930's. Because that's when they lost contact from Japan you might say and it didn't change where as Japan evolved and it's where it is today.

[34:24] MU: Modern Japan, it's different, that's what my parents say too.

[34:30] RM: I'm sure it is.

[34:35] MU: Do you remember getting sick on the farm?

[34:41] RM: Our family was fortunate to be fairly healthy. I used to get a lot of nosebleeds and I remember one that didn't stop for a day. The doctor, we used to have a family doctor, Sakaguchi that used to make house calls up through the 60's. I remember he took gauze and packed my nose and it hurt like crazy but that's what stopped it.

[35:09] MU: Do you know what caused the nosebleed?

[35:13] RM: No, no, um, and then I got hurt in a tractor accident. My father was digging out the loading pit and he told me to stay away and I didn't. I wanted to see what was going on. I was a pretty curious guy as far as machinery and things like that went and I fell in as the tractor went by and cut my leg, didn't break it but tore up a pretty big hole and um..

[35:45] MU: You guys had a family doctor?

[35:46] RM: Oh, I didn't go to the doctor for that. He just bandaged me up and he bought me an ice cream, that's why I remember it.

[35:53] MU: So it healed okay?

[35:55] RM: Yes, didn't go to the doctor too often unless it was really serious. I remember I put a hole in my hand with a knife. They used to have these yo-yo's with glass diamonds, fake glass diamonds in it, and the yo-yo had broke and I was trying to get the diamond out with a knife and I put the knife right through my hand. And at dinner that night, I was all bandaged up my dad said you made a mistake and I said yeah I think so.

[36:34] MU: Was there ever a time when your parent's weren't working? Did they have vacation time to spend with you?

[36:41] RM: I remember we took a trip to Grand Canyon and Yosemite, that's the only family vacation I remember. I think we went to San Diego zoo once or twice as a family, but um, not too much time to vacation. We used to celebrate, the two most important days that we did take off, my father made it a point to take off was Fourth of July and New Years. That happened no matter what. Fourth of July for the United States and New Years for Japan.

[37:22] MU: Wow, that's kind of interesting. What did you guys do for Fourth of July?

[37:29] RM: He used to buy us some fireworks. I remember going to the beach once. Her family used to go to the beach pretty regularly. The reason I never go to the beach is because I stepped on a sparkler that had had just burned out and it burned the heck out of my foot. It burned into my foot and it kind of hurt to take it out.

[37:54] MU: What did you guys do for New Years?

[37:58] RM: A lot of people used to come over. I remember what I thought was a huge gathering, um, mostly, my dad's customer's, ex-customers, employees and farmers you know, from before the war. I remember a big black guy that used to come that was just so friendly and he used to just scare the heck out of me cause he was huge. I imagine he was 6 foot something and 200 something pounds, but he was just the nicest guy. And I found out later, he was one of my dad's truck drivers. He used to dance in the Nisei Week downtown, he was really into Japanese.

[38:45] MU: Did you guys have the typical, not typical but traditional Japanese New Year's style food?

[38:51] RM: Yes.

[38:54] MU: Like Osechi?

[38:56] RM: I don't know what that is.

[38:58] MU: They have like different; it's in one of those lacquer boxes.

[39:02] RM: Yes.

[39:03] MU: So you guys had that.

[39:04] RM: Yes.

[39:05] MU: Wow..

[39:10] MU: Did you go to Japanese school?

[39:11] RM: I went to Japanese school.

[39:13] MU: Was it fun or did you not like it?

[39:17] RM: Actually I liked it, early on when all my friends thought it was awful. But when I became a teenager, I thought there was something else I'd rather be doing than this, but the more I thought about it, well gee, I don't have to be on the farm when I'm at Japanese school, so I guess this is not as bad. I think that's what the difference was. If I didn't have to go to Japanese school, I had to go to work, but my friends, if they didn't have to go to Japanese school, they'd get to play.

[39:35] MU: What were the activities that you did for fun?

[39:52] RM: I didn't play.

[40:10] MU: Did your family participate in any community activities?

[40:14] RM: We used to go to the Japanese school picnic every year and that was in the summer time. I remember mostly at Elysian Park and the Griffith Park area.

[40:32] MU: Did you go as a family?

[40:33] RM: Yes, I have a little bit of film of that also.

[40:45] MU: Is that also 8mm?

[40:50] RM: Yes. In 1955 my dad bought a movie camera. It was probably 1955 cause I know we made a lot of money in 1955 because we had three or four trucks and a car that was all 1955. That's how you could tell we made some money there. Pretty quickly my dad told me to take the movies instead of him. That's why I have the film of the Chatsworth farm cause he was driving the truck and I was shooting out the window.

[41:25] MU: Were you involved in any community activities, or..

[41:29] RM: Me personally?

[41:30] MU: Or your siblings?

[41:36] RM: Um..don't think so.

[41:37] MU: It seemed as though you worked so hard on the farm..were you the only one working? Or were your siblings doing..

[41:42] RM: My brother worked harder than I did until he went off to college. My sisters..I don't think they worked that, they tell you that they worked hard, but they weren't out there when I was out there. My father built me a very large work light to work on the trucks, the trucks used to come back to the farmhouse, by then, we were farming in Simi, but we used to still be centered in Granada Hills and I remember working on the trucks late into the night and um, he built me a big work light to do that with.

[42:20] MU: So when you had time, did you date?

[42:23] RM: Um, I started dating in high school. I used to go see her at 10 or 11 o'clock at night, because that's when I got done.

[42:41] MU: You're wife didn't complain that it was kind of late or anything?

[42:45] RM: I think that's why her father didn't like it cause I used to come late and stay late, but you know, we went out to movies in Hollywood and things like that.

[42:57] MU: What did you guys do on your first date if you don't mind me asking.

[43:03] RM: I really don't remember, probably went to a movie. That was about the big thing to do, was to go to a movie in Hollywood. Cause you know back then, people used to dress formally to go. You didn't go down there in jeans, no not at all, most people wore suits and fancy dresses, it was a big thing.

[43:30] MU: Can you describe your wedding, or do you remember what your wedding was like?

[43:36] RM: Um, I think I knew about 15 or 20 people out of the several hundred that were there. Between her parents and my parents, they had a pretty big guest list.

[43:50] MU: Did you get married here?

[43:51] RM: Yes. I think it was the first wedding at the Japanese Nishi Honganji church on First Street there after it was built. My dad highly supported the church.

[44:06] MU: In Little Tokyo?

[44:07] RM: Yes.

[44:16] MU: Were you born after the war?

[44:20] RM: I was born June 30, 1945.

[44:24] MU: By that time where your parents out of the camp?

[44:29] RM: They never went to camp. They didn't talk about it much, but I used to ask him as I became older and curious. He felt that he didn't think so, but he said just in case the war started going badly and if we were in camp, they might just line us all up and shoot us. He says I don't want to be there. And he told me that if um, if you had someone who would vouch for you, you could move to the interior of the country, but later on I was told that you could just do it. Because he had a customer friend or somebody that was in Utah, that's why we went to Utah. It was our family, my uncle on my mother's side, and um, her sister's husband's family, and um, my father's brother's family, we loaded up on two trucks from his trucking business and a car and moved to Utah. The first year we lived there, we lived in tents. I remember there was these wooden platforms behind where the buildings on Chatsworth street for many many years and I finally asked my dad what that was and he said oh, that was the tent floor. And um, there was no house to rent, so they rented a store front and converted it into a mess hall and kitchen. And then the tents surrounded that store. Four tents for four families as far as I know. I don't remember cause I wasn't born yet. But that's how we lived at least for the first year. And um, our tent burned down and it was very fortunate circumstances normally my brother would be taking his afternoon nap in that tent but for some reason he wasn't in there that day that it burned, otherwise he would have been gone. But I can imagine living in a tent in Utah in the winter time would be pretty tough.

[46:39] MU: So when the war started, your family relocated to Utah and then after the war they came back to the San Fernando Valley?

[46:52] RM: No, they went to Culver City and worked for that farmer and then came to the San Fernando Valley in 1947 I think for a year and a half or two years, he sharecropped and then lost a lot of money and Mr. Sakioka told him what do you want to do, do you want to do it again or, and he said, no I'm going to try to farm on my own so he said fine and my dad made enough money just in that next following year doing what he thought he wanted to do to pay Mr. Sakioka back, but Mr. Sakioka was a celery grower still, well they just retired, their expertise was celery and he tried to grow celery in the San Fernando Valley and you can't do that. It's too hot. I asked my dad, how come he came to the, you know Orange County farmers made a lot of money on their land and what not, and I asked my dad how come you didn't go to Orange County, and he said well Roy, he says after carrying all that responsibility during the war for all those families, I didn't want to be a, Santa Ana at that time was very very remote area in the 1940's, it was absolutely nothing there. And he said just to be away from medical help, he just didn't want to do it again, so we came to the San Fernando Valley, San Fernando Valley where we lived, we were like 6 miles from the hospital and having his parents and what not with him, I think it really weighed on his decision.

[48:18] MU: Prior to moving to the San Fernando Valley, before the war, your parents were..

[48:24] RM: Before the war, when my father was in the trucking business, they lived in Boyle Heights.

[48:29] MU: Boyle Heights, in East LA..

[48:32] RM: Uh huh, that was a pretty nice area back then.

[48:34] MU: It was very rich in diversity.

[48:38] RM: By then I think, most of the farmers had moved to Beverly Hills and the Westside, but it still, it was still a pretty good area. I remember spending a summer at my cousin's place just off of First Street in East LA and it was, it was still a very nice neighborhood walking to the store and what not.

[49:03] MU: What were the best crops to grow in the area considering how hot it is over here?

[49:20] RM: Probably the majority of the crops were wheat and corn from what I remember talking to other people my age or a little older growing up in the San Fernando Valley. My father was kind of unique in what he grew at the time. It was impressive to grow green onions. He used to grow a lot of green onions. The 8mm movie I speak of that has probably a couple hundred acres of green onions in it. Just a vast sea of green onions. That Chatsworth farm was a pretty large farm. It was 200, 250 acres maybe. I know cause I had to drive a tractor in all of it. That's where our truck got destroyed. That, that, that international truck that we relocated to Utah in, we still had that, in the 1960's. It was the last piece to move from Chatsworth to Simi Valley, and I got really busy in the move as far as getting Simi Valley up and running and it was a few weeks before I came back, and by then someone had stolen the radiator and the hood and the doors, so I left the truck. I would have liked to have kept that truck. We still had the 1937 GMC truck that we relocated, cause that was virtually a new truck back then.

[50:51] MU: You still have?

[50:52] RM: No, they stole the hood and radiator off of that one too.

[51:05] MU: Is there one specific memory growing up in the San Fernando Valley?

[51:14] RM: Up until the 1980's this was a very nice place to live. You know, there wasn't a whole lot of traffic. It was semi rural. I kind of laugh that Northridge has developed the way it has because no one farmed in Northridge because it was the worse place to farm. It was the hottest and, Northridge, Chatsworth was the hottest and windiest. And there wasn't a lot of flat ground here. So that's why this area ended up the

last to develop. You know, I mean, like I said Lassen Street, you know, a car used to pass every 10 or 15 minutes. When it rained, like Woodley was a dirt road you know, it basically was a river. When it rained you couldn't cross it so we'd be sitting there watching a car go by and we knew in about 20 minutes or so, that guy would be walking back asking to use a phone cause his car washed away trying to cross Woodley.

[52:17] MU: I think even nowadays like when it rains a lot in the San Fernando Valley, like streets get flooded very easily.

[52:23] RM: Well, it's a very large watershed and with all the development and all the asphalt there's no place for the water to go except you know into the storm drains and what not.

[52:34] MU: So did CSUN particularly buy the land from your father or?

[52:37] RM: Yes, I don't know the details of that one, but I know that the Porter Junior High school property was taken under threat of eminent domain. I'm very bitter about that. I was sitting in on the meeting. I was still pretty young then. I remember the gentleman, he was a land procureman, person for the LA city schools and um, he offered \$5000 an acre and my dad said well gee, the developer is offering me \$13,000 and I really don't want to sell and he leaned over and said Mr. Muranaka, if you don't sign this paper right now, we're going to tie you up in court and you'll never see a penny.

[53:18] MU: Oh really..

[53:21] RM: And then, um, my father was arguing about whether the school needed all the ground or not and um, he said they wanted all of it. He says well, the house today sits on Chatsworth Street on one acre, it's about an acre and a half because of the road expansion. Behind that was an equivalent amount of ground before the street started, that started the Junior High school. There's still homes on there now and my dad wanted to keep that to keep the equipment and stuff because it was still home base to the farming operation. He said no, no, no, no, the city wants that, the school wants that. As I understood it later, the city, the school never took title to that ground that the procureman guy did and he turned around and sold it to the developers for a profit. Which is pretty bad you know, but that's the way it was. I asked my dad about it later and he goes hey Roy, he says, that was only 10 years after the war, you got no chance to stand up to anyone then.

[54:25] MU: I'd be kind of mad also.

[54:31] RM: You know my father was never bitter about any of that stuff, he said you know, you do what you do and..it's like he said well you know, selling to the school, it's an all cash deal, so then I can take that cash and make down payment on another piece of property and move on. He didn't reflect too much on things like that. It astounds me that he started farming you know when he was 47 years old because that was after I retired. And um, he quit in 1964, he was 63 years old and I can't imagine doing that at that age.

Cause it was a lot tougher then than now. I remember when he quit, my brother was off at school and um, Friday night we sat down for dinner and we were eating and he said I quit today. And I was just shocked and he says, were you planning on farming? I said yeah, after I finish school and he says you're not doing anything in school, he says, you'd better get out there. I said, well I guess so and he says, well listen, he says, I'm calling the auctioneer on Monday if you're not out there tomorrow and that's when I started farming. I was almost 19.

[55:54] MU: So like right after high school?

[55:56] RM: I'd gone to Valley College for a year and a half, and he was right, I was just goofing around.

[56:06] MU: Looking back, do you enjoy farming?

[56:10] RM: Well, I like um, I like machinery, cars are what it ends up at. But I truly like machinery. I was just in Holland a couple of weeks ago looking at a radish bunching machine and that was probably the most sophisticated piece of farm machinery I've ever seen. It's truly a beautiful piece of machinery. That's really what I liked about the farming business. I've built the washers and packing lanes and what not for our company. But I like the farming side too, but the bad part about it is the business side of it. My brother was the business side of it you know, but we got into the trucking business and I think that's what made me sick. Everytime time I used to hear on the radio a produce truck crashed, it would make my, it would literally make my heart skip a beat. We had some accidents you know because when you turn loose a driver in a 80,000 or 70,000 pound truck and trailer and point him down the road, you have no control over it, very bad things can happen. It was extremely stressful. We used to have a composite mileage in the fleet of 2 million miles a year and um to put that into perspective, I was explaining to my son I think that if you average 15,000 miles a year, how many years does it take to get to 2 million and then you think in your mind what do you have to do to go 15,000 miles a year you know, I mean, just the time it takes to fuel a vehicle becomes a significant time over 2 million and in tires, in brakes, in tune ups, and you know just all that stuff and basically, you compress 15,000 miles into a couple of days. It's quite a chore. And then, we had the largest refrigerated trailer fleet in Ventura County at the time. We had 24 trailers and half of them were in 24 hours a day, and they never could stop. My nephew who runs the company now, I helped him change a motor in his car one day and then that evening after dinner I got a call that the ice crusher engine had blown up so I call him up and I said hey Greg, how's about giving me a hand to change another motor and he said sure Uncle. So he came out and we went out to the farm, it was around 11 o'clock I think by the time that we started and um, that meant that you know, we'd been on the go for um, about 15 hours already and anticipating the problem, I already had a engine, a replacement engine for the ice crusher now and we have a trailer full of ice, perhaps 6, 7, thousand dollar worth of block ice, 300 blocks and no way to crush it to put into the produce, so we can't ship the produce, the ice is melting, you need to fix it. 11 o'clock the following morning, my nephew said, Uncle, you're out of your

mind and he went off to sleep in the car and I finished the job. But you know, that was just another day for me.

[59:34] MU: You work so hard.

[59:36] RM: It didn't really bother me. It's just something you do. I imagine if I didn't like it, I would have been bothered by it. But, except for the business side of it, you know, the farming life is good. In 1983, the United Farm Workers struck us. And um, shut us down. The advice from the attorneys was to quit and my brother and I discussed it. We felt the responsibility to our employees and our customers, out weigh our desire to be rid of it so, we hung in there and kept farming, but it was a very traumatic time because here, you know, I had worked for gee, 20 years to build this business, when I started it was um 5 or 6 employees, 40 acres and my mother and myself. And um here we are and all of sudden, this outside group just comes in and shuts us down, just basically took away my business and I didn't think that was quite right. Especially since they weren't really doing what they said they were going to do. You know, they made a lot of promises to the employees and the employees found out that later that they were empty promises. But, cause I always felt we took care of our employees the best that we could, you know, we couldn't give them things that would make the company insolvent or something like that, but it wasn't like you know we were making so much money and they were working for nothing. When we were farming in Santa Susanna, a worker jumped off a rail car that went by cause the tracks used to be on the South side of the farm and he asked me if I had any work for him and I said sure. And I hired him and he was working for us and um, first paycheck, he comes up to me and says I think you made a mistake and I said why is that, and he says well, this is an awful lot of money, and I said that's what I pay my people. He said, you gotta be kidding me, this is not what they pay us in Texas. I said well that's Texas, it's not here. This is what we pay you, you know.

[1:02:04] MU: Is there anything that you want to talk about that we haven't covered?

[1:02:11] RM: Well, um, I remember when I was growing up, most of my friends father's were gardeners and I wondered why. I thought gee, you know, couldn't they do something other than gardening. I thought basically back then a gardener was a mower and an edger and a pick up truck, but as I grew up, and understood what was going on, almost all of them were farmers, ex-farmers. So um, I asked my good friend's father why he didn't go back to farming after the war and he said, well, you know how hard farming is Roy, and I said yeah, well you know how hard it is to start one, yeah, I know. He says, well when I was farming, it was just the wife and I and maybe a baby or two, he said, but after the war, you know, I had teenage kids and I didn't have any money and I really didn't have any choice except to go to work just as fast as I could and no one would hire you so, he bought a hand lawn mower and went to work. So they never had the opportunity to go back to their farming. Almost all the farmers, ex-farmers were you know, small farmers, 20, 30, 40 acres and that's what they did and they lost everything. I know one of the old family friends used to farm in Saugus. My good friend's father used to farm up there by the reservoir. And um, we had no contact with the San

Fernando Valley until after the war. There was a lot of farmers in the San Fernando Valley that lost everything. That's just, it's terrible. I know I'm one because of the union and what not, the United Farm Workers. I know what the feeling is then to lose your business. And um, like there was one family called the Higashida's and they had a beautiful home there on Woodman Place, but the farm was gone. She (his wife) was lucky enough that the family held on to the property.

[1:04:32] MU: But your father started after the war..

[1:04:33] RM: Yes, he thought that the future after the war would be larger farmers and they wouldn't hire trucking companies, that they'd have their own trucks. So I think in watching the farmers, he liked the farmers. I know when I made the decision to farm, I loved mechanical things, and garages and things, and my uncle was that, but I could see that there were more successful farmers than there were mechanics, so I decided well, that's the better way to go.

[1:05:11] MU: Do you look back on your life, no regrets, are you content with, I mean, there were some obstacles.

[1:05:21] RM: The obstacles weren't a problem. I wish I would have stayed healthier longer. I think um, I could have done some things differently. But you know, we were always growing, even today, we're still a relatively small farm as the total picture goes. But unless we continue to grow, we would have been gone like everyone else. As far as I know, we're the last independent farmer in Ventura County. And it was probably 20 years ago, we were the last Japanese American farmers in Ventura County. Because my brother had the vision that we do our own sales marketing, we were able to survive, when the others were using brokers and what not, they were making the profit and the farmer wasn't. So there are still some Japanese farmers in Ventura County but they're all under contract for either Dole or Tanimura and they're not independent farmers. Cause they don't control their marketing.

[1:06:27] MU: So they're going down.

[1:06:29] RM: Yes, that's our strength today. We're more of a sales marketing company than we are a farming company. 65% maybe even 70% of our produce comes out of Mexico.

[1:06:45] MU: What do you guys grow now?

[1:06:46] RM: Our main commodity is green onion. What do we have, 15 different items? Green onions is more than half the business I think.

[1:07:06] MU: No fruits.

[1:07:10] RM: No, if you eat a green onion, certainly west of the Mississippi, there's a better even chance that it's ours. We're a pretty substantial green onion grower.

[1:07:26] MU: Next time I see a green onion, I'm going to think of you guys.

[1:07:30] RM: Brother and I decided that we were going to concentrate on bunched produce to avoid fighting the big companies. To give you an example, to harvest lettuce, crew of 20, 25 people can harvest 2 or 3 truck loads of lettuce a day, whereas, it takes a crew of 100 plus to harvest one truck load of green onions. So the large companies don't want to deal with that much labor cause with labor comes the problems.

[1:08:13] MU: I didn't know there was so much to farming. And how much it entails.

[1:08:22] RM: If you want to be good at it, it's like, people, when I used to you know mention it to people, oh radishes, they're easy. Well, radishes are probably the most difficult crop to grow that I know of cause if you make a mistake, the crop, anywhere in it's growing period, from the time you put the seed into the ground till you harvest it, if you make a mistake, it's irrecoverable. The crop is gone. No other crop is quite like that. So on a backyard gardening thing, radishes are quite easy, but on a commercial basis, it's very difficult. We have the reputation probably of having the best market radish in the country. 9 months out of the year without question, we have the best radish. Some of my friend's father's were flower growers, that's harder than farming. As far as I know, flower growing is much harder than vegetable farming. That's why probably almost all of them didn't have their sons take over. It's just too hard. When I was in Holland, we went to the flower auction and I was just astounded at how many flowers there are you know, Holland just ships it all over the world. So if you're a local flower grower I guess you compete with that too.

[1:10:09] MU: My uncle has a flower shop in Hollywood. I think he gets his flowers from the flower market in Downtown.

[1:10:19] RM: Flowers being more expensive than vegetables, it's economically feasible to air freight them so you could ship them all over the world. We do air freight our green onions to England for a very short period of time.

[1:10:42] MU: It's nice that the business is still continuing.

[1:10:47] RM: That's why I went to Holland to help my nephew take a look at this machinery and decide what to do.

[1:10:55] MU: So you occasionally help out?

[1:10:59] RM: I don't know if I help out, but I keep an eye on it. My son works for the farm now, I didn't encourage him to do that. But it ended up there. It's not like the farm that I grew up on.

[1:11:21] MU: It's completely different?

[1:11:24] RM: Well, my nephew doesn't know how to drive a tractor or fix any equipment or ever get dirty and my son isn't all that far off of that although he knows how to fix things a little cause he worked with me, but um, we have a manager in Moorpark who runs the operation and is quite good at it. I'm in contact with him almost on a daily basis. Because I used to take care of the operation. Most people thought that I was the grower and I was not the grower, my brother was the grower but I was the operations person, so orders were given and then I made sure it got done. And that I think is the hardest part.

[1:12:08] MU: Are you happy that your son is involved in the business as well?

[1:12:14] RM: Um, I'm not unhappy. But you know, he's just a small cog in the business now. I wish he could um, grow into a large part of the business but that's up to him you know.

[1:12:34] MU: So there's no need to be driving tractors around anymore?

[1:12:38] RM: Well, we have employees that do that.

[1:12:47] MU: It's nice that the business is continuing.

[1:12:50] RM: Well, that's a nice part of it. You know perhaps, my son and his cousin someday would take over for my nephew, I don't know, his kids are quite a bit younger. So it may go from him to my son and nephews and then back to his family, I don't know. I think my nephew, my nephew; his background was a tax attorney. A corporate tax attorney. He only came to the farm after he worked for a firm that we hired to do some of our legal work for us. But I think he's become somewhat attached to the farm. At first it was just, purely a business thing, but I think he actually likes the farming business now.

[1:13:41] MU: That's really nice. Thank you so much for your time. Is there anything else you want to discuss?

[1:13:49] RM: I don't think so; I probably talked too much already.

[1:13:52] MU: Thank you so much for your time, sharing all your information.

[1:13:56] RM: You're very welcome. That's probably the, well that is something. I do feel sad at times because all the things that I've learned aren't really being passed on. There's nothing that I can do about it.

[1:14:12] MU: I guess it's because times are changing.

[1:14:15] RM: Well you know, times are certainly different, well you know, not all together that different, the work still needs to be done and quality is still the issue and what not, there's just so many nuances that I've experienced and learned that you know,

just doesn't happen anymore. That's why I'm in contact with our manager almost everyday to try to pass some of that on, but he doesn't give me the opportunity to tell him or doesn't ask the question, then it doesn't happen. It's, I have a saying don't waste your time reinventing the wheel, and at times I see that going on in our company and it bothers me. I know two or three times in the last 18 years that I've been semi-retired, I've tried to get back into business and the minute that I get into the day to day stuff, the stress bothers me and I can't do it. I can only sit on the outside and give advice.

[1:15:27] MU: Thank you so much.

[1:15:28] RM: You're very welcome.

[End of Interview]