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"Japanese American Farmers in the San Fernando Valley before and
After WWII Oral History Project"

CHIZU KAWAKAMI

Oral History Interview

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ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW of
Mrs. CHIZU KAWAKAMI

Interviewer: unknown

Date: April 15, 2004

Location: San Fernando Valley

Length of Interview: 1 hour 15 minutes

Subject: Japanese American Farmers in the San Fernando Valley before and
after World War II

Collection: Japanese Americans in the San Fernando Valley Oral History
Project Collection

Repository: Delmar T. Oviatt Library. Special Collections and Archives

Interviewee: Mrs. Chizu Kawakami (CK)

Interviewer: Unknown (I)

Translator/Daughters: Off Camera Person (OCP)

Interview:

[00] I: Hello, and nice to meet you. I would like to know a little bit about your parents, and how they ended up in the San Fernando Valley.

[00:13] OCP: Your parents lived in the San Fernando Valley...

[00:17] CK: No, Los Angeles.

[00:18] OCP: Did they live in Los Angeles?

[00:19] CK: In the City. The City of Los Angeles. On Hewitt street. I was born on Hewitt street, where Zenshuji Temple is now.

[00:31] OCP: Her parents lived. She was born, born in Los Angeles.

[00:38] I: So they never lived in the San Fernando Valley?

[00:43] CK: No, no.

[00:46] OCP: You moved here after you got married?

[00:47] CK: Yes.

[00:48] OCP: After she got married she lived in the valley.

[00:52] I: What area in the San Fernando Valley did you live in?

[00:59] CK: The place is called Sun Valley now.

[1:01] OCP: No. Sunland.

[1:02] CK: It was called Sunland.

[1:04] OCP: Shadow Hills.

[1:05] I: Shadow Hills?

[1:09] OCP: [Inaudible] Did he have the nursery then?

[1:13] I: He was already growing flowers when I came here.

[1:16] OCP: He already had flower... nursery.

[1:19] I: Oh.

[1:20] OCP: Her husband.

[1:21] I: Her husband?

[1:22] OCP: Family.

[1:24] I: Her husband's family already had...

[1:25] OCP: When she came from Japan.

[1:27] I: Oh... OK, can you describe to me what your farm looked like?

[1:37] OCP: Nursery. What do you remember about it? What was it like?

[1:44] CK: It was in Sunland in front of the mountain.

[1:51] OCP: Foothill of the mountain.

[1:53] CK: Well, how should I say...

[1:55] OCP: Was it near Hansen Dam?

[1:56] CK: Yes, east side of Hansen Dam. They were growing flowers by the time I came to America.

[2:06] OCP: It was about 50 acres.

[2:09] CK: It wasn't as big as 50 acres. But it was about that size.

[2:14] OCP: Was it in 19... ?

[2:15] CK: There was a war. I came to America in 1932. Grace was born in 1933, then Hiroshi...

[2:31] OCP: In 1931?

[2:32] CK: In 1932 I came to America from Japan.

[2:33] OCP: She came in 1932. Grace was born in 1933. Hiroshi was born in 1934.

[2:39] OCP: So she got married in 19...

[2:41] CK: 32.

[2:42] OCP: 32?

[2:43] I: So her husband's family already had a farm. Do you know if she was aware of when they started farming in the San Fernando Valley or?

[2:55] OCP: Kawakami-san, when did they start the nursery?

[3:01] CK: I don't know. When did they start? I have no idea. I might have heard, but I've already forgotten. How many years before I came here? I heard they had nursery on Western Avenue when they started. But when was that? It was 1932 that I came and got married. I don't know anything before that.

[3:34] I: She said she is not aware of what went on prior to before coming over...

[3:39] OCP: She knows they had a nursery on Western Avenue.

[3:42] CK: Yeah, Western Avenue. They had a nursery there. But I don't know when. Everybody died already, so I don't know.

[4:04] OCP: OK, [inaudible] had the flower farm for three years at Los Feliz and Vermont?

[4:12] CK: Oh, yes. It must have been.

[4:18] OCP: Yeah, then Kenichi passed away... and maybe this will tell us: they moved to Glendale then Blvd., then they rented their land they lived there 2 to 3 years.

[4:29] CK: Wow. It is nice that they are already recorded. But I don't know anything.

[4:36] OCP: In Glendale, Kawakami's moved to this address [inaudible] Avenue.

[4:54] OCP: When Mako wrote this part, Papa was still alive.

[4:56] CK: Umm hmm.

[4:57] OCP: Papa and mama talked about it and we interviewed you guys, then wrote it down.

[5:02] CK: Wrote it down. Hmmm, I didn't know we had it.

[5:10] OCP: I see. They were able to buy land because of Kawakami-san's citizenship.

[5:13] CK: Yes.

[5:14] OCP: They were able to buy land because she was an American citizen.

[5:18] I: Oh I see.

[5:19] OCP: Before the war, Issei's could not buy land because of the alien land laws.

[5:24] CK: That's right.

[5:25] I: She was born in Los Angeles so she was able to.

[5:27] OCP: So they bought the farm land under her name 1933, it says.

[5:34] OCP: Oh, they bought the farm then?

[5:32] CK: They bought the land the next year after I came over.

[5:40] OCP: Mmm hmm. 1932.

[5:42] CK: Because I came here in 1932.

[5:44] OCP: Yeah, they bought in her name.

[5:46] CK: That's right. You couldn't buy land unless you were American citizen then.

[5:55] I: Were there other Japanese American families living in your area? Were other Japanese in your neighborhood?

[6:06] CK: No. Oshiyama-san came after the war.

[6:17] OCP: Endo. Endo-san came after the war, too.

[6:21] CK: Yeah.

[6:22] OCP: Matsumoto-san, too.

[6:24] CK: That's right.

[6:26] I: So most of the families other Japanese American families came after the war.

[6:32] CK: After war.

[6:35] I: But there weren't any before the war... your family was the only one? Oh I see and were there any other Asians in your neighborhood?

[6:53] CK: Let's see. There were Italians. Italians helped us when we went to the camp. Italian neighbors were taking care of the ranch.

[7:13] OCP: Wasn't it German?

[7:14] CK: It was German. German, weren't they?

[7:19] I: Was it during they were interned ?

[7:22] OCP: Yeah, he kept the land and property and he stored our trucks.

[7:31] CK: They kept our truck and passenger car, too. Tractors, as well. That's why we were able to live there right after the camp.

[7:42] OCP: Lucky hah?

[7:43] CK: We were lucky.

[7:44] OCP: [inaudible]...all the things stolen

[7:47] CK: That's right.

[7:47] OCP: They watched for them when they came back there was nothing

[7:50] I: So basically neighbors watched over properties and belongings and everything so they had something to come back to after the camps.

[8:05] CK: If you can check with that, it is more accurate than my words...

[8:11] OCP: Because it is written.

[8:13] CK: It's all written. It should take care of things.

[8:15] I: But I think it will be better with some interviews.

[8:19] CK: I am too old to remember.

[8:22] OCP: Mama might think of something that we don't know.

[8:35] I: Was it hard to work in the fields?

[8:38] CK: Yes. Because I never worked before that, even in Japan, I came here right after school. My family in Japan was not farmers. I married into a farmer's family in America.

[8:57] OCP: Tell that, when Harumi and Hiroshi were baby...

[9:03] CK: OK. Those two kids... the first two kids were born only a little time apart. Their auntie helped, their father's sister. She had a flower shop in Hollywood. My grandmother, what do you say?

[9:36] OCP: Papa's mother? Mother-in-law?

[9:38] CK: Mother-in-law.

[9:41] I: Kawakami-san's mother-in-law? Your husband's mother-in-law?

[9:45] Yeah. My husband's sister had a flower shop in Hollywood.

[9:53] I: [Inaudible]

[9:55] CK: It was called Sakai. Sakai Flower Shop. Tokyo Florist.

[10:00] OCP: There is a picture.

[10:02] CK: My mother-in-law went there. It was her daughter's place. My mother-in-law wanted to go there. So she often went to Hollywood with my child. She did that, and that's why I could work.

[10:26] OCP: Could you say Hiroshi... having him sleeping in a box?

[10:29] CK: Yes. Hiroshi is my...

[10:33] I: Your second child? Oh her second child?

[10:40] CK: In the field, two crates were put together to make one box. I laid him down in the box, then went to the fields and worked there.

[10:54] I: How old was he? Was he still baby?

[10:56] CK: He was an infant. After I came to America and married, the baby was born the next year. So it was close. Our first 2 kids were only one year apart. My family wanted me to work, so my mother-in-law took our older child to her daughter's place, so Grace...

[11:19] OCP: Second baby ... they made him up from a crate.

[11:24] CK: Crates. In the old days, we used crates [inaudible.]

[11:27] OCP: Oh she worked.

[11:28] I: Oh out of the old ... wow.

[11:33] CK: Poor kids. Back then I really wished for 'grandma' to be here. But if it were my side's 'grandma,' it would have been convenient for me, but the 'grandma' on my husband's side went to her daughter's place. Needless to say,

she preferred her own daughter, so she went to her flower shop. So the older one, Grace was taken by her grandma to the flower shop in Hollywood.

[12:01] OCP: Was Grace the oldest?

[12:02] CK: Yes.

[12:06] OCP: So it was hard for her to have to work in the fields. And you know it's stoop labor. It was down on your hands and knees hoeing and weeding and what have you. So it was difficult labor, back breaking labor, really. And to have that baby she said she would just pray that he wouldn't cry until she finished the row.

[12:30] OCP: There is another story about... [inaudible]...

[12:33] CK: In the old days.

[12:34] OCP: What happened to that kids.

[12:37] OCP: Oh my...

[12:42] OCP: Older people really went through ... unbelievable... hardships.

[12:49] I: When is your birthday?

[12:53] CK: Me? September 16

[12:55] I: September 16

[12:56] CK: 1910.

[12:57] I: 1910? Wow.

[12:59] I: I am fully 93 years old. I will be 94 in September.

[13:07] OCP: It's so nice that you are healthy.

[13:09] CK: Yeah, I can get around.

[13:12] OCP: Does she live by herself?

[13:13] OCP: Yeah

[13:14] OCP: Oh.

[13:16] I: Was there anybody other than your family who worked on the fields?

[13:21] CK: We had a separate house. We always had 2 to 3 helpers.

[13:33] OCP: Mexicans?

[13:35] CK: No, not Mexicans. We had Japanese workers. We had Mexicans, too. 3 to 4 of them. Before the war, we used mules. Mules plowed the fields. We got tractors after the war, but before that, we had mules, which are horses. Horses plowed the fields.

[14:04] OCP: She said we had three. I can remember two. When we got back after the camp, they were white, huh? No, you don't remember. They were white, hah?

[14:15] CK: They were whitish horses.

[14:17] I: Was your field pretty big?

[14:21] CK: Was it 40 acres? Maybe 45 acres. We probably had almost 50 acres, I think. It must be written down somewhere. 46 or something, maybe 48.

[14:46] I: In your daily routine, what time did you start working?

[14:52] CK: Six in the morning. We were on the fields by 7 o'clock. We had breakfast. I made breakfast for the workers. I made rice for breakfast, because Japanese love rice.

[15:09] I: With miso soup.

[15:10] CK: With miso soup. I made breakfast for the Japanese workers. I came back home 30 minutes before the others to make rice for lunch. I made rice three times a day, for each meal. So I was busy. We didn't have gas back then, so I cooked on an oil stove. Was it 2 boilers or 3 boilers?

[15:43] OCP: Two burners.

[15:44] I: Two burners?

[15:46] CK: Gas stove. Do you call it a gasoline stove? No, not gasoline. Oil? An oil stove, isn't it? It was Kerosene.

[15:56] I: So she was, like, woke up 6 in the morning and fix breakfast.

[16:00] OCP: Fix breakfast, feed the workers, and then be out to the fields.

[16:03] I: And then come back a half hour before meal.

[16:07] CK: For lunch.

[16:09] I: Make rice three times.

[16:12] CK: So I was very busy. Poor kids. Even though they were little, I had to leave them to go to work.

[16:30] I: Then all day... What time did you finish work?

[16:34] CK: When it got dark. Back in those days, things were not decided based on time. We worked until it got dark. It wasn't easy to live in the old days. Unless you were the Emperor. We worked more every day. We had to bring flowers to the market while they were still buds. We had to prep the flowers after dinner, had to bunch them in the garage.

[17:11] I: After dinner you guys would bunch all the flowers.

[17:14] CK: Yes, then bring them to the market.

[17:17] OCP: Tie them up and wrap them and get them ready for market because the next morning early. What time did papa...

[17:25] CK: He had to leave by 4 o'clock because the market opened at six.

[17:28] OCP: Flower markets open early in the morning so the florist people come by and see.

[17:33] CK: So we had to wake up around three in the morning. There was no time to sleep

[17:39] OCP: Did they have a car to take it to downtown?

[17:42] CK: In a truck. He went to the market in a truck. For a long time after the war.

[17:55] I: After the war, they did the same.

[17:57] OCP: Yeah, we continued the same business.

[17:59] I: How long did you continue this business for?

[18:03] OCP: Until what year did you grow flowers?

[18:07] OCP: 196-... after I got married, this house... We bought this house in '64. The year I got married. They didn't move here until what?

[18:23] OCP: I was at UCLA by the time.

[18:30] OCP: It's in it. It should be in there. It's after.

[18:49] OCP: Oh, retired in 1965.

[18:54] I: What happened to the farm afterwards?

[18:59] OCP: It was sold.

[19:00] I: It was sold?

[19:01] OCP: Yeah, it was sold.

[19:03] OCP: To another nursery or...?

[19:05] OCP: No, no no.

[19:16] OCP: Developer. They are all houses now in that area.

[19:10] I: So in the present area, or all right now installed houses and stuff?

[19:13] OCP: Yes.

[19:15] OCP: 1965. huh.

[19:18] OCP: You were in business for a long time.

[19:20] CK: We were, for a long time.

[19:21] OCP: Yes, indeed.

[19:24] CK: They started before I came here, so it was a very long-running flower business. They started growing flowers in Hollywood, Hollywood Hills in the beginning. They gradually moved inland. They moved to Glendale and then Sunland. It was an old establishment.

[19:48] OCP: The first farm grew flowers in Hollywood Hills, then to Glendale then finally to Sunland.

[19:59] I: Like you said before her husband was already in the business of growing flowers and she came and she married into the family. She never had an experience, like, she never had any prior experiences in farming?

[20:16] OCP: You didn't understand, did you? From the beginning.

[20:19] CK: I didn't need it. My grandfather, grandmother, my mother-in-law and father-in-law, they all couldn't speak English.

[20:31] I: Oh they can't talk English?

[20:32] CK: So I had no need for English and only spoke in Japanese. So my children, too. Grace had a hard time. She started English at her kindergarten. Surrounded by grandma and grandpa speaking in Japanese. So it wasn't easy for my kids.

[20:53] OCP: [Inaudible] speak Japanese. You know most people your age don't speak Japanese.

[21:01] I: Was it an arranged marriage?

[21:04] I: Arranged marriage? If you say so.

[21:09] OCP: Those days they didn't have romantic marriages.

[21:12] CK: That's right.

[21:13] I: These are like picture bride, sort of, or was it arranged?

[21:17] OCP: She was already here already, right?

[21:19] CK: No.

[21:20] OCP: She did go back to Japan you know.

[21:21]OCP: Oh, because she is Wakayama and he is Aichi-ken. That's why. Usually they marry somebody near that village.

[21:27] CK: Yes.

[21:30] I: You were born here and went back to Japan in 1919. Why did you go back to Japan?

[21:39] CK: There was nobody in Japan.

[21:42] OCP: The reason you went back to Japan.

[21:44] CK: My father was not so strong. He was sick all the time. His doctor told him to go back to Japan. So he went back with his three daughters, me and two of my little sisters. In Japan, he had a small store, like a grocery, in the country side.

[22:18] I: Was it like a vegetable shop?

[22:21] CK: That's right. I was at school most of the time. Back in Japan, I started school in the 2nd grade, and graduated at the end of 6th grade. I went to a girl's school right away. I was there for 5 years. I was hardly home. I went back home only on the days off. I don't know if they still have [inaudible], I couldn't commute, I had to live in a dorm if I wanted to go to school.

[23:01] I: She was in the countryside and the school was basically in the city so instead of commuting she stayed in the dormitory at school she didn't have time to spend with her family? Did you have any time to spend with your family?

[23:18] CK: I didn't have much. Summer vacation was one month. Not many days for winter vacation, maybe one week. I forgot.

[23:25] OCP: Enough to go back for the New Year.

[23:27] CK: Yes.

[23:28] OCP: Spent time for New Year's and then we all went back.

[23:30] CK: That's right.

[23:32] OCP: We also went back home for Obon.

[23:34] CK: Obon... We had summer vacation for one month. So Obon was during that time. We didn't go home for festivals especially. I was in the dormitory all the time.

[23:51] I: When did they start talking about your marriage?

[23:56] CK: After graduation. Two to three years after. Back in those days, you couldn't come to America unless you were born in America.

[24:06] OCP: The Act of 1924, that's why.

[24:09] CK: Yes. I have a citizenship. So men who were in America wanted America-born girls.

[24:25] I: So basically because of the 1924 immigration act that basically forbid people from coming over. Japanese men were basically seeking American born Japanese women.

[24:38] OCP: But there weren't that many, I don't think.

[24:40] CK: Yes, not so many.

[24:42] OCP: There were very few I'm sure.

[24:46] I: How did you meet your husband for the first time?

[24:50] CK: Well... the persons who were to become my-mother-in-law and my husband came to Japan to see me.

[25:03] OCP: They knew about her!

[25:04] I: They were there to see her?

[25:08] CK: Then, I came to America the following year.

[25:13] I: Wow. That's something.

[25:16] CK: No. My mother wanted to come to America. She knew what it was like to live in America. When we were little, she realized that you could make money if you worked in America. In the countryside of Japan, you couldn't make money even if you worked hard. There were no jobs. That's why my mother wanted to come to America. She said you are America-born, so go to America, and she pushed me off. My mother wanted to come to America. But she died before coming. So, two of us, me and my sister...

[25:55] I: Then your mother was born in America?

[25:58] CK: No, no, Japan. If I came to America, I could invite her because I was an American citizen.

[26:09] I: So your mother wanted to come here. That's why she came with you.

[26:15] CK: No, she didn't come with me. She died in Japan. I came to America with my sister. Although my sister died, too, in America.

[26:28] OCP: Did you two come at the same time?

[26:29] CK: Yes, the two of us came together. My mother could send us sisters off without worry because both of us had already graduated from girls schools.

[26:37] OCP: Did your sister have any plan for marriage?

[26:41] CK: No. She had somebody here to arrange her marriage, then she got married.

[26:46] OCP: Her sister was a US citizens too, though.

[26:49] OCP: Yeah. Auntie Minoru was born in America, too?

[26:53] CK: My youngest sister is Minoru. She didn't move to America after all. She had citizenship too, though. She came here once for a short time.

[27:06] OCP: All three of you.

[27:08] CK: All three of us were born here.

[27:12] OCP: So what was your aunt's name? Does she live around here?

[27:14] OCP: No, that was Fukushima, Sumie Fukushima. She lived in the Crenshaw area and they had a drug store. Her husband was a druggist, a pharmacist down in a... that's where new restaurant is.

[27:31] CK: San Pedro Street.

[27:35] OCP: Oh, I see.

[27:38] OCP: But her youngest sister went back to Japan. When... when did Auntie Minoru came back?

[27:47] CK: She went back to Japan, and she experienced the war in Japan. She had hard a time. Because she was there. She was married in Japan and only she had been in Japan, so she had difficulty in war time. After the war, my husband invited them. But her kids were Japan-born, so they went back to Japan.

[28:15] OCP: Okayama.

[28:16] CK: Yes. They all went back to Okayama. Although my husband invited everybody here. Their mother had citizenship, so they could be invited. But they were teenagers already, not little kids. It wasn't easy. They all went back to Japan.

[28:38] OCP: Where in Okayama?

[28:40] CK: Her oldest boy now lives in Okayama-city. Everybody is in the area. Near Okayama-city.

[28:49] OCP: My aunt from Hiroshima married and moved to Okayama.

[28:52] CK: Oh, yeah?

[28:53] OCP: I went to visit. She had died by then but visit the cousins there.

[29:01] OCP: Auntie is in Minagi [sic], right?

[29:03] CK: In Minagi, still... ah what do you say...?

[29:09] OCP: Have you been there? I took my whole family. It was interesting.

[29:16] CK: Yeah.

[29:19] OCP: That was a good idea, but it cost about 20,000 dollars. But the grandchildren would not know that.

[29:32] I: They bought their land in your name, right?

[29:39] CK: In my name. Back then you had to be citizen. Otherwise you couldn't buy.

[29:48] OCP: People did buy some land. They bought in their children's name. Because children were American citizens.

[29:54] I: But didn't they pass the law?

[29:56] OCP: Alien Land Law?

[29:58] CK: When was it? It was close.

[30:00] OCP: Sisters, the Harada side, he fought that alien land law 1931 or something.

[30:08] CK: Yes.

[30:09] OCP: So in Riverside at that old house, there is a plaque in front.

[30:12] OCP: Oh really?

[30:14] OCP: He bought it in his children's name and they said no he can't do that but he fought it.

[30:28] I: I don't know what to ask...

[30:34] OCP: Did you ask them what they grew? What kind of flowers?

[30:39] I: What kind of flowers?

[30:41] CK: Mostly chrysanthemums. And stocks, snapdragons. zinnias in the summer time. Ranunculus only in the winter time. We grew freesias too, in a green house.

[31:05] I: [inaudible]... all year around?

[31:06] OCP: Yeah. It was seasonal.

[31:11] CK: Yeah. Sunland was rather warm, so we were able to grow flowers in the winter. We did it all year round.

[31:24] OCP: You were such a hard worker. Planting new seeds again right after the seasons.

[31:31] CK: Back then, when we got out of the camp, we didn't have tractors so we used mules. While we were gone, the Italian neighbors took care of everything. They planted the mules' food in the fields. They were such nice Italians. They took care of things.

[31:57] OCP: You are lucky, hah.

[31:59] CK: We were.

[32:04] OCP: He was German.

[32:07] OCP: There was that other, right next door to Miss Dresser [sic]. They were Italians, but they had... they grew ferns and stuff. Cause it was always sticking out the slats.

[32:21] OCP: So it was both of them and Mr. Eseller [sic] took care of them

[32:28] CK: Good neighbors.

[32:30] OCP: That's nice.

[32:32] CK: We were able to get started working in the fields right away even after being in the camp for three years. During the time...

[32:43] I: Excuse me. In English, please.

[32:46] CK: Yeah? People in our house. Houses were not easily available that time. That's why we had a house for helpers, too. There were people in the main house, too, and they wouldn't go because they didn't have a place to go. We wanted to come home from the camp, but we couldn't. They wouldn't leave. They said they had nowhere to go.

[33:14] I: So people didn't leave the camps?

[33:15] OCP: So he had read, the neighbors had rented out the buildings and rooms that were used for housing the workers. And so because they would not vacate we could not come back from camp until... we were there until... the very last. We were one of the last families left.

[33:40] CK: That's right. We were there until the end.

[33:43] OCP: I heard there was a big flood in 1938.

[33:50] I: Flood?

[33:52] CK: No, there was nothing at our place.

[33:57] OCP: Satonaka-san came by bringing pictures in the morning.

[34:01] CK: Humm...

[34:03] OCP: Maybe farmland. All the fields were under water...

[34:07] CK: Probably the other side of our mountain. Near Sunland. There was a cemetery behind the mountain. It was hard for people who were living at the foothill.

[34:26] OCP: Oh, I see.

[34:27] OCP: We were south of Pasadena. .

[34:29] OCP: Oh, I see. He wasn't a farmer, but he brought pictures, so I gave it to Nancy. I might be an interesting approach to the farms, what happened at 1938 flood you know. So I figured the farmland must have been all flooded.

[34:48] I: How many children did you have?

[34:52] CK: Me?

[34:53] I: Yes.

[34:53] CK: Eight. Three boys and five girls.

[34:58] I: Three girl... I mean 3...

[35:00] CK: Three boy

[35:02] OCP: I don't know the boys at all. I know the girls in the family.

[35:07] I: What year did you go into the camp?

[35:11] CK: It was 1942.

[35:19] OCP: Because I was, mama said I was 6 month old, and I was born in 41.

[35:23] I: You were born in 41?

[35:24] OCP: So we went March. It was March of 1942, wasn't it?

[35:28] I: So to which camp?

[35:30] OCP: Manzanar.

[35:31] I: Oh you went Manzanar.

[35:32] OCP: Are you going to a pilgrimage?

[35:34] OCP: Well we were talking about it.

[35:36] OCP: They had a bus going from the valley. I think maybe it's [inaudible].

[35:40] OCP: Oh really? Already.

[35:41] OCP: We went that one time. .

[35:42] OCP: Well we went a couple of times.

[35:45] I: Before going to Manzanar, did you go to other camps like Santa Anita? Did you go directly...

[35:50] CK: No. We didn't go.

[35:57] OCP: We went to the assembly center... Where did you gather?

[35:59] CK: Burbank.

[36:02] I: Oh, they assembled at Burbank and then they went to...

[36:04] CK: We got on the bus there.

[36:07] I: To Manzanar? What was life like in Manzanar? What was it like to live in Manzanar?

[36:19] OCP: That's what they said, they had their vacation for 1st time in their life.

[36:26] I: You didn't have to work in the fields.

[36:28] CK: No. It was all volunteer. I didn't do it because I had many kids.

[36:27] OCP: Must have taken up... how many barracks? Three? Three rooms? 4rooms?

[36:41] OCP: 1 room.

[36:42] CK: It was one room.

[36:45] OCP: One room? With that many people?

[36:46] CK: It was.

[36:48] OCP: You see, I was an infant. Walter was. Walter was just a year older than I am, Xenia [sic] a year older than he, and then Grace and Richard so...

[36:58] OCP: You weren't born, ha?

[37:00] OCP: She was born after the war.

[37:03] OCP: Oh.

[37:04] OCP: She was born after we came home.

[37:05] OCP: Came back, oh.

[37:07] OCP: So she had five, she had essentially had 3 babies 2 toddlers and 1 infant. So she had her hands full.

[37:16] I: and in 1 room?

[37:18] CK: Yes.

[37:20] I: Did she share the barracks with other families and stuff?

[37:24] OCP: Next door. Neighbors.

[37:27] OCP: I used to live in Topaz, see? There was rooms ABCDEF. A was for families less than three, and B was the biggest.

[37:40] OCP: I think... I don't know.

[37:43] CK: You don't remember much, do you?

[37:46] OCP: Two little ones were for families of 4, then this one is for big again and this one is for small, so big families got like several rooms.

[37:57] OCP: We were, too?

[38:00] CK: We were all together.

[38:04] I: With other families?

[38:06] CK: Ha?

[38:07] I: With other families?

[38:08] CK: No.

[38:09] OCP: If you had your own family in each room.

[38:11] I: Oh.

[38:12] OCP: You don't share it with strangers.

[38:15] OCP: But you can hear everybody's conversations.

[38:19] OCP: Well see, mom said that's one thing she really had to be careful about keeping us babies from crying.

[38:26] OCP: Oh, crying, yeah.

[38:31] CK: The next door neighbors were saying "their baby fell out from the gate." My son was on an Army bed. Because all we had were Army beds.

[38:40] OCP: And no furniture.

[38:40] I: They slept on cots? And so the neighbors would be like "your son fell off the bed."

[38:45] CK: Yes. The next door neighbors said "their baby fell off the bed and cried."

[38:54] OCP: No privacy, huh?

[38:59] I: Before going to the camp, you left your belongings as they were?

[39:06] CK: Yes. We had many kids in one room. Even these big sisters, we had two of them sleep on what you call it, a double bed. So we put everything in the biggest back room. Since we couldn't bring anything to the camp.

[39:36] OCP: You were only supposed to bring things you could carry.

[39:40] I: So, like ... for the property, and the belongings, and the farm equipment, they just had neighbors watching all the stuff?

[39:50] CK: Yes.

[39:53] OCP: Well, there was one room that they stored everything, and then the vehicles, the neighbor took to his property and took care of it there

[40:04] I: Like, what did the family do with the photographs and other little memorabilia and stuff like that. Did they take it to camp with them or...

[40:13] OCP: No...

[40:14] OCP: I don't think so. We could only bring essentials you can't be bringing photographs.

[40:20] OCP: Mama, did we have dolls for Harumi and Hiroshi?

[40:26] CK: We did. Before the war.

[40:32] OCP: We left them in the room, and then we went to the camp.

[40:36] CK: Yes, everything was in the room...

[40:39] I: So you stored everything in...

[40:40] OCP: In this big room

[40:41] I: Oh I see, that's why the doll sets were still there afterwards.

[40:45] OCP: Yeah

[40:48] I: So most likely the pictures also might have... Did you leave pictures and stuff? Like family photos?

[40:47] CK: Yes, because we couldn't bring such things. We must have left everything there.

[41:06] I: What did you bring?

[41:11] CK: They said only things we could carry by hand. So as much as we could stuff in. We brought many diapers. In those days, diapers were made of cloth. You would wash and dry them. They weren't the throw-away kind.

[41:33] OCP: I feel it's such a luxury to throw away diapers.

[41:36] CK: When I first started using them, I thought it was wasteful, too.

[41:43] I: Was there anything you wanted to bring, but you couldn't?

[41:49] CK: It was an order. Even if you wanted to bring some things, you couldn't. Only things you could carry by hands.

[41:59] OCP: When you went to Manzanar, did your whole family go out and buy those enamel plates?

[42:05] OCP: I don't know.

[42:06] OCP: In Topaz...

[42:05] CK: Right.

[42:07] OCP: I bought enamel plates and cups, and brought them with us.

[42:14] CK: We didn't bring them. We used containers with aluminum handles. They said they were from the Army. We had to eat cabbages from those. They put cabbage and [inaudible] over rice. It was mushy and terrible. But we had to

eat that. So we did. After we returned home, every time we talked about camp, my husband said he was still disgusted.

[42:45] OCP: Egg foo young. It's not my favorite, either. We ate it so much...

[42:52] CK: Since our kids were little, we were too busy feeding them, so we didn't have time to eat. My husband used to say he was so disgusted every time we talked about camp.

[43:04] I: They really don't want to talk about their camp experiences?

[43:06] OCP: My dad didn't. They never said anything negative about it, but dad did not talk about camp.

[43:19] OCP: She mentioned something about eating something that she didn't like or they just...

[43:23] OCP: They just piled everything on top of the plate you know from the rice to the [inaudible] ...

[43:27] CK: When we lined up to get milk for our children, we didn't bring them with us, because we had so many little ones. They asked us how many cups, and we got that much of milk. Then, a dietician would tell us to take some extra. It was such a difficult thing for my husband. I didn't feel that way, though. But apparently it was for him. We got lots of milk because we had many kids, and then a dietician would tell us we were taking too much. But we were supposed to be able to get milk for kids. But a dietician still told us it was too much.

[44:20] I: Oh so other families complained?

[44:23] OCP: Because we had so many kids mom would take extra milk for us. Dietician, she said that we were taking too much milk more than our portion that bothered my father.

[44:41] I: I guess whole Japanese thing not lying to take ... I don't know, isn't it like a big, I don't know what it's called but big on like taking things from other people in the sense of like... they are embarrassed in a sense...

[44:56] OCP: Yeah, charity.

[45:01] OCP: There was like after the earthquake, and we were standing in line to get water you know from Granada Hills High School. Somebody spoke the water and the whole line got excited all of the sudden.

[45:18] CK: Which camp were you at?

[45:19] OCP: I was in Topaz in Utah.

[45:22] CK: Oh, that's far.

[45:23] OCP: Everybody in San Francisco went there.

[45:26] CK: Is that so?

[45:29] OCP: I should give you the book Ron's high school class wrote with the CLIP [sic] grant. They spent all three years in the camp high school, so it's got blossoms in the desert. Yeah, and it's his high school class that sent stories in, same CLIP [sic] grant, same year, last year. Yeah it came out pretty good.

[46:00] I: After, like, were there any family members released before internment? Or, I mean, yeah, before the camps being let out and stuff? 'Cause we read stories of where some people were allowed to leave camp earlier and stuff?

[46:14] OCP: Early release?

[46:15] OCP: What? To go out east?

[46:16] I: Oh, to go out east.

[46:17] OCP: You couldn't come back to the west coast until it was open, except one, somebody came from UC Berkeley to recruit high school kids. So he came back before the west coast was open to go to Berkeley.

[46:34] OCP: But your husband went to MIT.

[46:46] OCP: That's actually, he was drafted in the army.

[46:38] OCP: Oh, I see.

[46:40] OCP: He went to Japan and stuff, then just playing pool every day in San Francisco, so he said he decided he'd better leave this place and came out east.

[46:49] I: So, like, I ... were any members of your family, were they released before to work on the east coast?

[46:56] OCP: Right. Our father had the opportunity to go work in the beet fields in Idaho but he chose not go because he didn't want leave mama with all 5 of his kids.

[47:09] OCP: Grandpa and grandma, too.

[47:11] OCP: No. When did grandpa and grandma go to the camp? They didn't leave camp right away.

[47:17] OCP: I know, doctor hid them.

[47:19] CK: But they died in the camp after all.

[47:21] OCP: When did they enter the camp?

[47:25] OCP: They went to Manzanar, too?

[47:27] CK: Yes. We entrusted our grandma here, and her doctor placed her in the hospital in Glendale. But in the end, grandma, too, died in Manzanar.

[47:50] OCP: Grandfather was wandering the streets and he was discovered and so therefore both of them, both grandmother and grandfather, were sent to Manzanar. Because grandmother was not well, doctor kept them in the hospital.

[48:10] CK: That's right.

[48:12] OCP: And then grandfather...

[48: 14] OCP: Wandering on the streets.

[48:16] OCP: Everybody had been evacuated.

[48:20] I: So he stood out.

[48:22] OCP: But they both passed away.

[48:25] CK: In the camp.

[48:26] OCP: You know Ron's mother. They went to camp and they didn't know who she was, she had ovarian cancer.

[48:34] OCP: Oh my...

[48:36] OCP: So Ron's father had Ron's sister, who is an American citizen write a letter to the Swiss Red Cross. Sent the letter to a 'hakujin (white)' friend in San Francisco, so he would mail it. I guess he thought it might be censored. So, one day, three GIs came and took Ron, and his father, and his sister, and took them to see their mother who was in this hospital in San Mateo. They didn't know where she was! Then, the father knows the other Japanese sick patients. So he quickly tried to write their names, so he could tell the people back in the camp, you know. I think that's terrible what the government did. They didn't even know where their sick mother was.

[49:29] CK: Oh well...

[49:30] OCP: His story... there was a lot of stories that people have not talked about.

[49:39] CK: There are.

[49:44] OCP: Pop was offered a job to go to the beet fields in Idaho?

[49:49] OCP: He chose not to because he didn't want to leave mom with all 5 of us.

[49:56] I: So after the war, your mother resettled in the San Fernando Valley at the old farm and stuff? What was it like after the war? You went back to your house after the war, didn't you?

[50:14] CK: The Italian neighbors took care of our property. We had a separate building for workers, too. There were many people in there. They wouldn't leave right away.

[50:33] OCP: Did the Italians plant some flowers?

[50:38] CK: No flowers. We used to use mules to plow the fields. Because we didn't have tractors. To feed our three mules, they planted something on the ranch, things like hay. While we were in the camp, the nice Italians kept our mules, two or three. I already forgot.

[51:15] I: Did you have to start making the fields again from the beginning?

[51:24] CK: Yes.

[51:25] I: When you came back all the flowers had died...

[51:29] CK: Of course. We were not there for three years.

[51:35] OCP: Those people were trying to make money growing things on their land, hah?

[51:40] OCP: Papa left the camp a little early.

[51:42] CK: That's right. He left early. We could leave around February. But, because we had so many kids, we stayed at the camp as long as they let us. So we stayed until the end of October.

[51:59] OCP: Harumi, too.

[52:01] CK: She left early. She went to junior high school.

[52:03] OCP: She wanted to start school in September so she left camp a little before...

[52:08] OCP: Before Grace?

[52:10] I: They were able to leave just... I mean the war ended...

[52:] OCP: The war was over.

[52:16] CK: After the war was over. She was already 12 years old. She left early to go to [inaudible] school.

[52:29] I: Was it difficult to start over from the beginning?

[52:32] CK: It was so hard. Yet, they kept our fields. Those nice Italians. We stayed at the camp with the kids as long as we could. My husband left early, soon after he became free to go.

[52:53] I: He returned to the land and started working?

[52:56] CK: He grew flowers on a small scale. Since many Japanese were growing flowers, people couldn't have flowers during the war. The Jewish people were nice. They helped us a lot when we returned. Nice Jewish customers helped us.

[53:21] I: That's nice.

[53:22] CK: It was nice.

[53:24] OCP: I heard people growing flowers now are having hard time.
Because of the cheap flowers coming from South America,

[53:32] CK: I suppose so.

[53:34] OCP: So, even if you are growing flowers here...

[53:37] CK: Air conditioning... that makes sense.

[53:41] OCP: You go to COSTCO or Home Depot, and see that they are selling
good looking flowers for cheap. They said those flowers were bought out
directly from the growers. Local flower growers cannot compete with that.

[53:55] CK: It's probably not good anymore. They built so many houses and
there aren't much fields anymore.

[54:02] I: Racism... after you came back from the camp, did you experience
anything against Japanese or Japanese Americans?

[54:15] CK: We didn't have that much. Because we were in the country side.

[54:22] I: Because you were in the country side?

[54:23] CK: We were. They didn't say something like they wouldn't sell things
because we were Japanese.

[54:35] I: Racism was...

[54:37] CK: Wasn't there.

[54:39] I: Even before the war.

[54:42] CK: No.

[54:45] OCP: Mom and dad gave, there were people who were in camp who didn't have anywhere to go so there were 2 or 3 families that were just couples that dad gave work to them they lived with us for a while. Higa-san and Kato-san, too.

[55:05] OCP: Kato-san. I thought we were related to them. I knew about the Higa.

[55:13] I: So for people who didn't have any place to go, I see.

[55:18] CK: Right. Many people stayed.

[55:21] OCP: What's the name? The social worker

[55:24] OCP: Iida

[55:25] OCP: No.

[55:26] CK: Not that.

[55:27] OCP: Iga.

[55:27] CK: Right.

[55:30] I: Were there any obstacles after? I mean that she encountered after she came out of the camp and stuff or...

[55:40] OCP: Then she had to work hard again.

[55:43] CK: I had to. Since we had so many children.

[55:47] OCP: She had 2 in camp. My brother and sister were born in camp, and then after we got out of the camp Jane was born.

[55:54] I: Jane was born...

[55:56] OCP: So Janie you didn't get redressed.

[55:57] OCP: No.

[56:01] OCP: You're too young.

[56:03] CK: That's why she couldn't get 20,000 yen.

[56:11] OCP: See, they're from Xenia, Walter, myself, and Elmer were 1 year apart. You know, that have got to be tough. There is a little bit of difference between Richard and Xenia, you know, there is Stan there, but there are four of us that were right in a row so...

[56:30] OCP: You know on the news, there was this lady with a lucky pill or something, and she had 2 sets of twins, 2 boys identical, 2 girls identical, 4 kids at once. And the news commentators, they are to go home now. So news commentators, and they were to go home now, so the news commentators says, wait to see, they were excited you know, wait 'til they get home. Can you imagine four? And they haven't had kids before.

[57:02] OCP: That must be an experience in itself.

[57:05] I: Like did they have any time to rest, take time off from working or did she work all the time like every single day no vacations hardly, or...?

[57:21] OCP: When was the first family vacation we took? I forget.

[57:25] OCP: Well, we went to Sacramento and, Lake Tahoe, and San Francisco.

[57:27] OCP: And San Francisco. It was in that '56 Pontiac, right? Wasn't it that '56 Pontiac?

[57:35] OCP: Yeah.

[57:36] I: You didn't have time to rest?

[57:39] OCP: No.

[57:40] OCP: You know, but people didn't take vacations like now, that you would think. Every summer you have got to go somewhere. People didn't even think about going on a vacation.

[57:53] OCP: Right, right.

[57:55] OCP: That's true.

[57:59] OCP: I mean usually, if you went to eat dinner out, it was at a Chinese restaurant.

[58:03] OCP: Yeah, right.

[58:04] OCP: We didn't go out for dinner as a family and things.

[58:07] OCP: No.

[58:08] OCP: We didn't do things like that.

[58:20] I: Were you involved in any community events or something? Did you have any access to the Japanese-American community at community centers and other places?

[58:33] OCP: Kenjin-kai. Things like that.

[58:36] OCP: They used to go to Kenjin-kai picnic. See my dad and mom were very involved with the Sun Valley Japanese School.

[58:44] I: Oh I see.

[58:45] OCP: And so my father was very instrumental, ... he believed in that we should be educated in our language and so he was and he felt very strongly

about what Dr. Sugimachi, who started the Japanese language system. And he believed very strongly in that, so, therefore my dad was very good friends with him, with Dr. Sugimachi.

[59:12] I: Is he the man who started the Kyodo system?

[59:14] OCP: Uh huh. So the Sun Valley Gakuen, my father was quite instrumental helping procure land and getting that initial building put up so that we could have a gakuen there.

[59:29] I: Was your father Issei or Nisei?

[59:31] OCP: Nisei.

[59:32] OCP: Was papa Issei?

[59:33] CK: Yes. He was not American.

[59:35] OCP: That's right.

[59:37] I: Because he couldn't buy land. That's right.

[59:41] OCP: So mom and dad were involved a lot with the Japanese school with the father's organization and the mother's organization. Mom was president of the fujinkai there for 2-3 times. So that was our outlet that was the community really you know.

[1:00:04] OCP: People liked kenjin-kai picnic. I remember kenjin-kai picnic, you know, from where the team from Japan, they would have picnics every year.

[1:00:16] OCP: Our vacation was in '59.

[1:00:19] OCP: 1959 and that Pontiac dad drove and mom and...

[1:00:25] OCP: Walter and [inaudible] she was the youngest so she was small so she could [inaudible].

[1:00:31] OCP: And the four of us in the bacCK: Elmer, Xenia, Margaret, and I.

[1:01:08] I: I'm sorry, I'm like ...

[1:01:12] OCP: Is that the questions that everybody used for interviews?

[1:01:15] I: Yeah.

[1:01:16] OCP: I want to see it.

[1:01:18] I: I think this is leaning towards, geared toward, like, Nisei or sansei, because it is, like, 'what were their parents like,' 'did you guys go to Japanese school,' sort of questions...

[1:01:33] OCP: They really didn't focus that much on the farming aspect you know when they... Well I could tell them about farming after the war, but I could just say only very little about farming, but I knew about what mom told me and, you know, my sisters and brothers told me about.

[1:01:59] I: Is there anything, like, is there one memory of living in the San Fernando Valley that is very important to you? Or your mom?

[1:02:12] OCP: As you were living in the San Fernando valley, doing things like business, taking kids to schools, do you remember anything special? Good or bad?

[1:02:25] I: Anything.

[1:02:28] CK: Not really. Nothing special. Even after the war, just because we are Japanese. They all welcomed us.

[1:02:44] OCP: You were lucky, hah?

[1:02:45] OCP: You know we lived in a rural area, and it was kind of like a valley. Because we are big family, we didn't need outside. We had each other.

Plus our focus was also helping on the farm. Our summer vacations were spent working on the fields. Even when we were going to school, if we could come home from school, and, we worked an hour or two cutting buds, or weeding, or whatever. So you know, our focus was the family farming business, and what recreation we had, we had each other. So we played baseball, kickball, and so forth.

[1:03:28] CK: All my children helped us a lot. During their vacation, they went into the chrysanthemum fields and picked weeds. They have a cousin, my sister's daughter, Darla. She was her only child, so she came to our house all the time during the summer vacation.

[1:03:47] OCP: In summer vacation, she'd come and stand ... [inaudible]

[1:03:50] OCP: It was fun for her. She had cousins to play with.

[1:03:57] CK: In the summer time, the kids really helped us.

[1:04:02] OCP: I remember when I was little, I was really envious of my friends who had relatives, and uncle, and cousins, because my parents were the only ones that came. I was really envious of those people, you know. Who I had, they were in Japan, and I didn't even know them.

[1:04:25] I: Were you a strict mother? Was she strict, or...

[1:04:34] OCP: No, dad was strict. Dad didn't have to say. He could just clear his throat and, you know.

[1:04:44] OCP: Isn't it interesting? I don't... my parents never spanked us, or anything, but just the way they looked at you, would be just enough to scare you.

[1:04:54] OCP: We would get that 'you don't bring shame to the family,' 'you don't bring shame to the name.' You know, that kind of thing, we were indoctrinated.

[1:05:02] OCP: We just grew up knowing it. They didn't lecture to us about it, things like that.

[1:05:09] OCP: No mom was not the tough one, dad was.

[1:05:14] I: She was the nicer one.

[1:05:17] OCP: Not that she was easy on us, but Janie would say. She was tough on Janie.

[1:05:23] I: Oh really?

[1:05:24] OCP: Yeah. I thought you would be spoiled, being the youngest.

[1:05:27] OCP: Dad spoiled.

[1:05:29] OCP: Really?

[1:05:29] OCP: Yeah.

[1:05:33] OCP: Baby of the family.

[1:05:35] I: Your mom didn't really spoil you. Was she strict to the youngest?

[1:05:41] OCP: She doesn't remember.

[1:05:48] OCP: Isn't that funny?

[1:05:49] OCP: And then, plus Grace was, Grace kind of was a surrogate mom to us, too, because she was that much older than us, and mom was always busy. So, if we had any problems, or what have you, Grace usually took care of it. Because she spoke English, and we spoke Nihongo, but not that well, you know, so we, Grace really took the part of mom on a lot of things.

[1:06:18] OCP: She took us to the drive in movies...

[1:06:21] OCP: Like, my sister was 8 years older than me. So I say, 'I grew up with 2 mothers.' You know, she was the one used to take us to the library, to the beach with her friends, and I'd tag along, you know, quite a bit older.

[1:06:42] I: Are you glad you came to America? The life here...

[1:06:48] CK: It was richer. Japan was poor.

[1:06:55] OCP: If you go back to Japan now, I hear it's too noisy and crowded.

[1:06:59] CK: It's busy now.

[1:07:02] OCP: I hate Tokyo! I'm glad to get out of Tokyo. So crowded. People are all over. Life in Japan has changed a lot.

[1:07:17] CK: So I hear. They became an affluent society. When we were there, Japan was so poor.

[1:07:23] OCP: Everybody grew up well off.

[1:07:25] CK: So I hear.

[1:07:30] I: Did you have a lot of hardship in your life? You did, didn't you. Marriage, [inaudible], work...

[1:07:39] CK: Yes.

[1:07:42] I: As you work, you got used to working in the fields...

[1:07:48] CK: On the work side of things, I did as much as I could, so there was no problem. I had a sister-in-law, too.

[1:08:01] OCP: The kids helped, too. Once they were old enough.

[1:08:03] CK: Yes. Everybody helped with the laundry with big...

[1:08:10] OCP: [Inaudible] ...washing machine...[inaudible]

[1:08:15] CK: Right. On our days off, the kids did the laundry. We had so much laundry that there was no more space to hang it. Because we had so many small children. Since I had to go out and work, I couldn't help them. Even when they were little, they helped each other and helped out. That's why I could work.

[1:08:40] OCP: She [inaudible] for the kids. You don't know what hard work is.

[1:08:47] OCP: We had to hang, you know, we had the clothes line, and everything had to be hung up. It used to ... laundry took a whole day, it took a whole day to a...

[1:08:54] OCP: Oh, I bet.

[1:08:57] I: To wash?

[1:08:58] OCP: To wash, and hang it up, and take down, because you had to rinse it, and then put it through the ringer, I mean it was...

[1:09:10] OCP: Hand ringer.

[1:09:12] OCP: No two rollers. You put it in between, and you turn it, and run it through.

[1:09:17] I: Oh...

[1:09:18] CK: We had that. Things launders used. We bought that and used for the laundry. Because we were so many.

[1:09:25] OCP: After it washes, then you had to put it back through the ringer. You had to rinse it twice I think. We had 2 stone basins, so, rinse it in one, and rinse it in the other one, and then ring it through again, and put it in buckets, and we'd go out and hang it up on line, the clothes line. So we had lines and lines and lines...

[1:09:46] OCP: Lots of!

[1:09:48] CK: Yes.

[1:09:49] OCP: I saw it in my parents' house this year and...[inaudible] washing board [inaudible] and I brought it home.

[1:09:52] CK: Yes.

[1:09:57] OCP: Yeah, we had a brass one, and we had a metal one.

[1:10:02] I: Is there anything that you want to talk about that we haven't covered? Do you want to talk about anything else? The old days in the San Fernando Valley, or something?

[1:10:15] CK: It was all I could do to keep my family together. I hardly went out. When the Japanese school started, I helped a little when they needed it.

[1:10:34] OCP: It was full time job just feeding and clothing all of us. I can remember when we were little, once a year we'd get new shoes. Dad would take us to Sears just before school started, and those shoes had to last us a school year.

[1:10:50] OCP: We wouldn't go until he had enough money to buy for everybody. It was not a one at a time kind of thing, it was all of us. It was always a cash deal.

[1:11:03] OCP: I can remember having holes in my shoes at the end of the school year, putting newspaper, holding newspaper.

[1:11:09] OCP: Don't you remember those 25 cents garigari [scraping] thing? This gooey – and then you put, it was a rubber thing, that you cut to the bottom of the sole and you glued it on?

[1:11:20] OCP: No we didn't have those. We just flip, folded newspaper and, put it in.

[1:11:24] OCP: And if you were wearing it, it starts coming off potapota [dripping] things we used to glue on to the bottom of our shoes!

[1:11:37] OCP: Because we were all in a row, we always had hand me downs.

[1:11:43] OCP: I got the most... I got the same dress, that blue plaid dress...

[1:11:50] OCP: Blue, satin, plaid dress.

[1:11:53] OCP: I had 4 of them.

[1:12:00] OCP: Karen, her cousin, who had an aunt had 2 girls. She loved to sew. I won't say she was the best. So, then Karen, they would give it to the cousin, and the cousin give it to Karen, so she had 3 of the same thing. I don't think I could put them on. I thought they were awful looking...

[1:12:27] I: Looking back on your life, what was the best? What's your best memory?

[1:12:37] CK: Nothing.

[1:12:39] OCP: Maybe, it's now. All her children grew up, and she has so many grandchildren.

[1:12:45] CK: That's right. I am the happiest now.

[1:12:48] I: Now is the happiest time for you.

[1:12:51] OCP: She has what, 19 grand kids and 18 great-grand kids.

[1:12:55] I: Wow.

[1:12:56] OCP: Really?

[1:12:57] OCP: Yeah.

[1:12:58] I: Wow...

[1:13:02] OCP: Wow... that's really good.

[1:13:07] CK: My house is busy on New Year. Everybody comes and visits.

[1:13:11] I: You do it here?

[1:13:12] CK: Yes. That's why we chose this house. It has a large living room.

[1:13:21] OCP: Your daughters cook too?

[1:13:25] CK: They do. Everybody does.

[1:13:33] I: How many grandchildren do you have? 19? 18? 19?

[1:13:36] OCP: Grandchildren is 19, and there are 18 great-grand children

[1:13:39] I: Do you remember all their names?

[1:13:41] CK: No. I don't know anymore.

[1:13:47] OCP: It's hard with so many.

[1:13:50] CK: So many of them come here. I have no idea who is whose child.

[1:13:56] OCP: When Greg got married last year, we took a family picture of everybody, well, everybody who came.

[1:14:13] OCP: I was trying to take a family picture, and I can't get people together. But they were waiting this year up north. [Inaudible] We went to Hawaii all together, and I wanted to take, you know, everybody has a suit on, but, no, we took it on the beach

[1:14:31] OCP: Muumuus and...

[1:14:32] OCP: Yeah casual. You know I wanted a formal portrait of everybody, but yet to get one.

[1:14:38] I: Thank you very much. I am very sorry to take up so much of your time.

[1:14:40] CK: Thank you for the hard work.

[1:14:41] OCP: Can I see the questionnaire?

[1:14:42] I: Sure.

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