

**Interviewee: Teruo Ted and Joyce
Izukawa**
Interviewer: Lisa Uyeda
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THE JAPANESE CANADIAN LEGACY PROJECT

[Start Part 1]

Lisa Uyeda: There we go. Is that in your way at all? Today is October 14th, 2010 and this is an interview with Ted and Joyce. Just for the record, can you please give us your full name including your maiden name?

Joyce Izukawa: Kumiko Joyce Amemori, I was. Maiden name is Amemori.

LU: And your full name please.

'Ted' Teruo Izukawa: Teruo Ted Izukawa.

LU: Wonderful and Joyce, I guess, we could start with you. Would you like to tell when and where you born?

Jl: I was born in Mission City, British Columbia.

LU: Oh, in Mission. Oh.

Jl: Because my grandparents were there. I was the only one in the family that was born there.

LU: So, your grandparents were the ones-?

Jl: Lived in Mission City. I guess, they were just visiting or something and I just came along.

LU: Oh, wow and when were you born?

Jl: In 1931. July sixth.

LU: 1931. Okay and did you grow up in Mission or-?

Jl: No, no, we lived in New Westminister. We used to go and visit our grandparents in Mission City.

LU: Oh, and do you know what part of Japan your family originated from?

Jl: Yes, my family, Kumamoto-ken.

LU: Do you know when they might have come over from Japan?

Jl: I know my grandfather, [Shijimash?] he come over late 1990- No, 1890 something- late '8 or something He was One of the first old timers to be in New Westminister, I don't know much about it, but it was in the late 1890s.

LU: Did you ever hear a reason why he might have come?

Jl: No.

LU: A lot of people are unaware of why they came. My guess is mostly just to work for a little bit to make some money then send it back home, that seems to be most common but no one really knows. We don't even know how my family got here either. So, your grandparents came along and were in Mission.

Jl: There was my father's.

LU: Oh on your father's side?

Jl: My mother's side was in New Westminister.

LU: Oh, so you had both your grandparents here? Oh wow. That's rare, that doesn't usually happen.

Jl: No?

LU: No, no, most people their grandparents, are still back at home in Japan.

Jl: No, they were both here. My mom's family, all the children were born in Canada. Every one of them.

LU: Oh wow, so are you-?

Jl: I always say I'm one and a half. [laughing]

LU: One and a half. Yeah.

TTI: Basically, a third generation.

Jl: Probably third generation if we went from my mom's side.

LU: Oh wow.

Jl: Cause they were well-established eh? In Westminster.

LU: And what was their job? What were they doing to make money?

Jl: My grandfather ran a boarding house. There were a lot of single men that used to come from Japan to work and so that's why he started a boarding house and he used to cook. My mom took over the boarding house when he passed away, until the war started.

LU: Really? How old was your mom at the time?

Jl: When she took boarding house? She was married by then. We all children so she was in her thirties, I guess.

LU: And what do you remember about growing up in New Westminster?

Jl: Nothing too much. I remember Sam Baba. You know Sam Baba?

LU: Sounds familiar, yeah.

Jl: He was about five years older, or whatever, we were just little kids. He was a good organizer in those days, he used to organize all the neighbourhood children from teenagers down to anyone that could run and hide, and things like that. He used to organize games for us and we used to have a nice group, ranging in age from teenagers right down to about six years old. It was great.

LU: Were there a lot of Japanese families?

Jl: Yeah, there was a whole group of Japanese people in New Westminster.

Queensborough was across the bridge; there is the Fraser River, then across the bridge, there were a lot of Japanese people there too.

LU: Oh, wow and what about going to school? Do you remember what school you went to?

[5 minutes]

Jl: I went to F.W. Howay.

LU: And were there other-?

Jl: Japanese people? Yeah, there were a lot of kids.

LU: Was it mostly Japanese people in the school?

Jl: No, no, no, it was all mixed with white children.

LU: Yeah, oh wow.

Jl: I think it was about grade five or something. I guess grade five, when we went to Alberta.

LU: Wow, you were only in grade five when the war broke out. What do you remember about hearing about Pearl Harbour?

Jl: I remember my grandfather and all my auntie and everybody crying when they heard, you know the like, My father said "baka-ga" [laughing] in Japanese. When they broke out, you know when they declared war in Japan he was really upset and crying. I remember that.

LU: Did they ever mention they were concerned about losing their house-

Jl: No, no.

LU: -or having to move?

Jl: No, no, I think they were wondering what was going to happen at that precise moment to all of us. All I remember is that was when all the adults were crying.

LU: And what about when you went to school the next day? Did you have any problems?

Jl: I don't even remember, no. I went to school about [unclear] I think.

LU: Oh wow. What about, You said you went to Alberta? And was that the first place you went to after evacuation?

Jl: We didn't go to ghost towns. We went directly to Alberta since my grandparents were farmers in Mission City, so we went to join them and then we went to Alberta together. My dad was the oldest son, and only son, so I guess he felt responsible. He had five sisters below him. I think he felt responsible so he just moved to Mission City to be with them and then we moved together.

LU: Oh wow. What kind of farm was it?

Jl: Sugarbeets. Oh! In Mission City, it was a strawberry farm. In Alberta, we have to do sugar beets.

LU: Did you help out-

Jl: Oh yeah.

LU: -with the sugar beets as well?

Jl: When I was ten, going on 11, I guess, 11 years old. I used to do the cooking for the family. I would work in the field until mealtime then go home and cook. Then they come home. After I did the dishes, I would take my siblings and go and join in the beet field. My oldest sister was only about thirteen months older. She worked hard all the time with my parents.

LU: Oh wow. So how many siblings do you have?

Jl: Four, there were five of us.

LU: And you were the second?

Jl: Yeah. I was the Second oldest.

LU: Oh wow. And then, when you were in Alberta. Do you remember traveling to get there? Did you go by train or-?

Jl: Oh to go to Alberta? Yeah, there was a whole group from Mission City that went to Alberta.

LU: Do you remember what it was like on the train ride?

Jl: We were excited to see all the wild and the animals. When we were seeing animals, we were all going to the end of the train to see it. It was exciting for us. For

the parents, I don't think they had the same feeling, you know the adults. For us, it was a really exciting time to be on that train.

LU: Trains are pretty exciting. [laughing] So, the boarding house, was it sold or-?

Jl: No, everything was confiscated. Werent they? We had to leave everything. I think we were allowed 100 pounds per person to take with you. I don't know if they counted the kids or not. [laughing] I know my mom said it was 100 pounds that we were allowed.

LU: And what about living arrangements in the sugar beets?

Jl: When we were first went there, it was a grainery. I remember I was only about 11 or 12, 11 I guess, so I can remember my family going to Harvest Farm. My aunts were all girls, we were the last one to be selected. So, we had to go to the Harvest Farm. They're grains, It was a grainery so there was grain all the way in the corners. I can remember my auntie and them all crying. We were kids and the wind was blowing hard. We were opening our coat and letting the wind then push us. We were all laughing and when we came back to the house, they were all crying because you know, at the grainery.

LU: And that's where your living accommodations were?

Jl: Yeah, they were sweeping it out and I can remember them sweeping it out. And then, my dad had to make a like a stilt, with a pole at the end of the hou- at the end of the grain, at the base. Which barely had enough room for a kitchen table or a stove. Those were the living accommodations.

[10 minutes]

LU: Oh wow. And what about the beds? Were they just-?

Jl: Just wooden at the back, wooden and they had stilts on it, and then they put boards across it, and then they put straw and then my mom and them just covered it with the sheets and everything, whatever they took with them from BC.

LU: So, nothing was?

Jl: That's about all I could remember.

LU: Did the farmers provide you with anything?

Jl: Well that's what it was.

LU: Just that?

Jl: They just made a board and the stilts on it and they put straw over the top of it just like in a stable. [laughing]

LU: Wow.

Jl: And that's where my grandmother and them, whatever blankets and sheets and things that they brought, they just put over the top.

LU: And how long were you-?

Jl: In Alberta? Five years.

LU: Five years. Wow.

Jl: And then we went to, moved to Chatham, Ontario. I went to five different high schools: [Glenarm?], Chatham, Leamington and we came to Toronto after that.

LU: Did you go to school when you were in Alberta?

Jl: Yeah, I was in grade five. I remember grade five yeah.

LU: And was the school far away from your location or-?

Jl: In BC?

LU: In Alberta.

Jl: In Alberta, yeah it was. We were all in the farm district, we either bussed in or we walked.

LU: And did you see other Japanese students?

Jl: Yeah, when we first went to Raymond we were all in one room, it was around March. That's how I got to know him. [laughing] That's why I keep looking at him. It was a long time ago. I was in grade five and I remember in Raymond Public School, there was an attic and they got a teacher to come in there. Because we came in March, it was sort of difficult for them to integrate us into a different classroom, so they stuck us all in the attic. [Speaking to Ted Teruo Izukawa] Mrs McFeigh [?] was it? McNeigh? [?] No, McFeigh I think her name was, I have forgotten her name now. But that's when we met.

LU: Oh wow.

Jl: Because we were in the same class. For what? Five years, eh, at sugarbeets? Five years and then we moved to Southern Ontario, [gestures to Ted] they moved directly to Toronto. We moved to Southern Ontario. We were doing sugar beets in Chatham, [Glenarm?], Cedar Springs, Leamington. I went to five- you know, different schools.

LU: How come you moved around so much?

Jl: Because of the acreage. As we grew older, we could take bigger acreage. We were only girls, it was my older sister, myself, and my next sister. Then I had a brother who was six years younger than the sister and then there was another younger sister, four years later. Three of us girls at the top we all had to work, we were very young.

LU: Oh wow.

Jl: It would be child labour [laughing] if you look at it now.

LU: Yeah. Oh wow, so did you move farms always to get the bigger acreage?

Jl: Yeah. As we grew older, could do a little more acreage so we moved every year from one place to another.

LU: Did the accommodations seem like they were getting worse or better or-?

Jl: About the same. They had migrant workers coming in too, so they used to have to accommodate them too, so it was the same thing, except we were in the area.

LU: Would they cook for all the migrant workers?

Jl: No, no, no. We had our own stove and everything, individual. So, I was cooking for the family at 11 years old.

LU: Oh wow, yeah. What was it like during the different seasons on the farm? Do you-

Jl: It was cold in the winter and frost on the corners of the windows and everything. All frosted up. Because we only had a stove, eh?

TTI: Inside too.

Jl: Inside too.

TTI: Sitting around the stove.

LU: And the stove was the only thing to keep you warm?

Jl: [nods]

LU: They were not very big stoves, were they?

TTI: Pot belly stoves.

Jl: They had pot belly stoves. Where they used to-

TTI: Wood.

Jl: Yeah, wood in there. We tried to remember, don't think they- yeah.

[15 minutes]

LU: What about bathing accommodations?

Jl: We had to boil our water in a big - We used to have a tank like thingy, you leave it on the side of the stove. When you're cooking and everything, some of the heat would go in there and just move it onto the stove part, get it hot, then put it in the tub. My father went first [laughing] and all the women and the kids went in. I think my mom was the last one to go in. Typical Japanese family, father goes first.

LU: Oh wow. Would that be done every night?

Jl: I guess we have to, can't go to bed dirty. Practically every night. Working in the field, you had to wash. We used to, as far as I can remember.

LU: Oh wow. And then, did you take the, another train ride over to Chatham?

Another train ride? How did you get to Chatham?

Jl: From Raymond?

TTI: From BC or from Alberta?

LU: Were you in Alberta and then you went to Chatham or were you in BC first?

Jl: No, we were all in British Columbia, then we were evacuated to Alberta by train. Yeah I guess we went by train to Chatham, because you could take your baggage with you, right? There would be free baggage for certain- I think you were allowed 100 pounds or so, so I think we reached Chatham by train. We couldn't afford a plane in those days. [laughs] We fly everywhere now, but can't in those days.

LU: I don't think planes were that common back then.

Jl: Yeah I went by train.

LU: And did you have a sponsor in Chatham? Is that how you came to arrive there?

Jl: I don't remember now. I was only about 12, I don't know.

LU: Did you stay with anyone when you arrived?

Jl: No, we just stayed on the people's farm, doing tobacco, sugar beets and tobacco in Ontario. I think I ended up with tobacco most of the time.

LU: How long were you in Chatham for?

Jl: About a year, I guess. I went to Chatham collegiate, [Glenarm?] High, Leamington High, Rockwood [?], and then Raymond high, five different, four different high schools in Ontario.

LU: How come you were moving around so-?

Jl: Because we were moving from place to place.

LU: Moving from farms?.

Jl: Went from Chatham Collegiate, Glenarm High, Leamington High-

LU: Are those all within Chatham?

Jl: No, it's all outside. All of Ontario.

LU: So, where were the other locations? There's Chatham and then you went to?

Jl: [Glenarm?] High.

LU: What area is that in?

Jl: 12 miles away I guess, from Chatham.

LU: 12 miles?

Jl: North and slightly west, 'cause we lived in Cedar Springs and we had to take a bus to go to [Glenarm?] High. From there we moved to Leamington, [and then to?] Toronto.

LU: Oh wow.

Jl: So, my school years were really disrupted. [chuckles]

LU: Was it hard to move around?

Jl: Oh yeah, everywhere you went they were studying different Shakespeare [laughing] and I would have to catch up. It was really hard and difficult.

LU: [laughing] Especially Shakespeare.

Jl: Yeah I know, everywhere we went. "Darn, another one." I don't even remember anymore because you just cram it right for the exam and then forget.

LU: Right. What made your family decide to stay in or to go to Toronto?

Jl: Cause my uncle and aunt were here, Auntie Hana [?]. They were trying to get us to all get together. The family. My maternal side of the family together so they called us all to Toronto.

LU: And what did you father do for a job in Toronto?

Jl: [Addressing Ted] What was mom and dad doing, do you remember?

TTI: Your Father was-

Jl: Father was painting afterwards.

TTI: Mother was working in a factory. A sporting goods factory.

Jl: Mother was working in a leather factory. They were both working. We all had chores to do. I worked hard all the way up through my life.

LU: After high school, what did you go on to do?

Jl: I went to teacher's college. I worked part-time because they had a demand for teachers, so they had two shifts, one morning and one in the afternoon, so I worked in the morning, and went in the afternoon shift.

[20 minutes]

LU: Oh really?

Jl: There was big demand for teachers at that time. I was working at [unclear]. At [unclear], the fella that hired me, he was very kind. He let me work there part-time. When I had teaching and I had to go practice teaching at different schools, he would give me time off and paid me for it too. He was very good, Mr. Anderson [?]

LU: Oh wow.

Jl: So, there's some really kind people out there, they were very understanding.

LU: Did you have any problems moving to Toronto? Was there any, I guess, discrimination? Any problems in the school systems?

Jl: Not outwardly.

TTI: I think there was initially, they were only allowing certain numbers in, so we relied on other people who were already there-

Jl: -sponsoring you. [Speaking to Ted] You were sponsored by the old timers who lived there long time since your family knew somebody that was in [mainland?].

TTI: That was Alberta.

Jl: Alberta yeah.

LU: Oh. And then where did you end up teaching after you completed Teacher's College?

Jl: I taught in the country one year. Then, I came to Toronto, got a job in Toronto, Scarborough mostly. Taught in Scarborough.

LU: Oh wow. And that's what you did until you retired?

Jl: Until '94.

LU: '94.

Jl: I was working so hard since being a child eh, I couldn't keep still. I think I tried to stay home with the kids but I had to get out, I thought I might - [taps on head with both hands] I wasn't using my brains at all so I said to Ted I had to go to work.

LU: And when did you get married?

Jl: '56, when he graduated from UofT [University of Toronto].

LU: And was that in Toronto you got married?

Jl: He was in medical school.

LU: Oh wow. Well, I guess we will ask you some questions now. So, when and where were you born?

TTI: In Vancouver in 1930.

LU: 1930 and did you grow up in Vancouver or-?

TTI: Yes, until the war broke out. We had a lot of freedom in those days. We were able to walk down to the docks. I even remember going across the ferry, I was only about ten years old, to North Vancouver picking up chestnuts, so we had a lot of freedom. Of course, our parents were busy so they didn't pay too much attention and, in those days, I guess, you could do that. You can't anymore.

LU: And did you go to school in Vancouver as well? Do you remember what school it was?

TTI: [Strathcona ?] school, which is where most of the Japanese children went because we lived in Japantown. I guess it was called Little Tokyo, Powell street.

LU: Do you remember where your house was located in Japantown?

Jl: Cordova Street.

TTI: We were a little ways off. There was a Japanese school on Alexander Street and we lived right across from the Japanese school in a rented house.

Jl: Do you know whose house it was that you were renting from?

TTI: [shakes head] No, I didn't.

Jl: No, not sure? It would be interesting to see if we would be able to map out Little Tokyo from pre-war. I think that would be really unique.

TTI: My sister did all that some years ago.

Jl: We could ask her.

TTI: I probably have one too with all the different stores in Little Tokyo.

LU: Oh wow, that would be wonderful to see. Do you remember the little stores?

TTI: Some of them, not all of them.

Jl: His father had a Japanese - what was it, patent medicine store right in Vancouver.

TTI: My uncle started it a few years before my father got to Vancouver. That's how he ended up in Vancouver.

LU: So, your father's brother was already here?

TTI: Yes.

LU: And was he the first one to come from your family?

TTI: I think so, yes.

[25 minutes]

Jl: To Vancouver.

TTI: He was adopted into another family so his surname was different from my father's.

Jl: [Oshibata?]

TTI: No, [Ohashi?]

Jl: [Ohashi?]

LU: Oh, [Ohashi?].

TTI: Anyways, he had contacts throughout our moves in Canada. He even had people he could contact in Alberta for when we moved, during the war.

LU: Oh wow.

TTI: I guess people living there from early 20s, I think, 1920s, were farmers of course.

LU: Oh, wow and what do you remember of going to [Strathcona?] school? What grades did you complete in-

TTI: Up to grade five.

LU: Up to grade five? And did you go-?

TTI: 90% Japanese.

LU: Oh, wow. Did you mostly speak Japanese at school or English?

TTI: English, I think although I understood enough Japanese to speak to kids as well. We had to go to Japanese school after finishing English school.

Jl: Same with us in Westminster. [nods]

LU: Oh, did you?

TTI: And I thought that was an imposition. That was playtime.

Jl: He wasn't into it. I loved it.

TTI: I didn't learn the Japanese too well.

Jl: I loved Japanese school so I loved it.

TTI: What grades did you complete to?

Jl: Up to five

LU: Oh wow.

Jl: But not completing, we were in grade five.

TTI: So we understand some Japanese but because I didn't want to learn it.

Jl: Like I could read simple kanji like [speaking in Japanese] but not the difficult kanji. [laughing] I can't do it.

LU: I can't read anything. [laughing] What I seem to notice is that the education of the Japanese language has kind of dwindled completely

Jl: It's a shame. , And we sent our kids to Japanese school but they didn't learn very much, did they?

TTI: Joyce and I went to night school here to learn the difficult characters. We remember it for the exam then forget.

Jl: But you forget cause you don't use it.

LU: I think that that's the most challenging aspect of learning a new language is that you can't use it on a daily basis unless you are being stuck in Japan. It's a little different, have you ever travelled to Japan before?

Jl and TTI: [nods]

LU: When was your first trip there?

TTI: Gee. It was a sort of business trip, medical reasons since I used to go to conferences. I had contacts in Japan.

Jl: I don't even remember. What twice?

TTI: Twice?

Jl: Twice. I can't remember, I think I've been there at least twice.

LU: And did you, was that to go along with his business trip?

Jl: I think once for a conference and once we went on our own.

LU: What was it like going to Japan for the first time and-?

Jl: Well, we were told by our minister that, don't speak Japanese even if you know it. He said "Speak English and they will treat you better".

LU: Really?

TTI: So that's what we did. Spoke English because they wanted to practice English of course.

LU: If you tried to speak in Japanese, what would their reaction have been?

TTI: Well, I remember. In the station, speaking in English all the time. These two fellas were speaking in the background [in Japanese] "oh gee I could have sworn you were Japanese" and I said, you better be careful what you say because I can understand what you are saying.

LU: Oh wow. He obviously knew that.

Jl: Well, we were, we looked Japanese.

LU: Yeah. There's Japanese people all over the world now.

TTI: Well yes, yeah.

Jl: We lived in England for seven years and there's Japanese people there too in those days. There was quite a lot.

TTI: They were usually people who were post-graduate work, engineers and so on.

LU: So, when did you live in England?

Jl: '58 we went.

TTI: Late '58 and early '65-

LU: Just after getting married then?

Jl: We had three children born in England.

TTI: Yes pretty much.

Jl: [repeats herself quieter]

LU: Oh wow.

TTI: A lot of people do cardiology and the best cardiologist was in England at that time.

[30 minutes]

Jl: And the paediatric was in Baltimore so he went, we lived in Baltimore for three years.

TTI: And we traveled.

Jl: We were away ten years eh? Altogether. It was a nice time, to travel.

LU: Oh wow. That's exciting.

TTI: Good time to travel when you are young, dragging three kids. [laughing]

Jl: I guess Ian was only eight months old when we came back to Toronto. Our youngest son was only about eight months old.

LU: Oh wow. So, did you pick up any British accents while you were in England?

Jl: Yeah, my kids, my kids when we came back. My mom took her to Eaton's and here's this little Japanese girl with an English accent so all the sales ladies wanted to "make her talk, make her talk!". So, it was very strange, I guess.

TTI: We didn't. We-

Jl: Still kept our Canadian accent.

TTI: Too far gone, I guess.

Jl: [laughs] Too old you mean.

LU: So, do you still have accents now?

Jl: No, no, no. I mean- When we went to Baltimore, my daughter was what? Four, four or five years old. And she went to kindergarten and they told her, "why don't you speak American?" She was told and she lost it just like that, eh?

TTI: Although we told them, you should just tell them where do you think the American language came from?

Jl: Yeah, she don't say. Within a week, her English accent was completely gone. No trace of it. Amazing how they adapt.

LU: Peer pressure too.

TTI: Yeah. [nods]

Jl: [unclear] I don't think [Denis?] went through that did he?

TTI: Yes, he did.

Jl: I can remember [Tarami?], she was so upset.

LU: I love British accents, they are wonderful.

TTI: Yeah, I told the kids, just tell them the English language came from Oxford.

[End Part 1]

[Start Part 2]

TTI: So, they had no right to make fun of their accents.

LU: So, you were growing up in Vancouver. We kind of got a little sidetracked. Do you remember where you were when you heard about Pearl Harbour for the first time or what your reaction was?

TTI: Well of course, we were living in-

Jl: Japanese town.

TTI: Yeah Japantown there, and I guess we were upset that there had to be this problem.

LU: Did your parents tell you about it or did you hear it on the radio or from children?

TTI: Well, I guess, I heard from other children and through the radio. Of course, the parents were all upset.

Jl: Yeah, my mom and dad, they were all crying all the adults, and we lived next door to my aunt and uncle too. We were all very close together. They were all crying away too. Wondering why they were crying.

LU: Must have been devastating for them to hear especially when they work so hard to establish a life in Vancouver.

Jl: Yeah, we had to leave everything behind. We were allowed 100 pound per person or something.

TTI: My father realized what was going on and he had a patent medicine store on Powell Street, he had three people working for him. So, they packed a lot and sent a lot of it to a contact in Alberta, there were people established there in the farm area and so he sent all those things over-

LU: Oh

TTI: So, he managed to salvage a lot of it.

LU: Oh, that's very smart. Did he end up selling his shop afterwards?

Jl: He took-

TTI: No, he rented it. It wasn't his to sell anyway. The contents were all his of course but I'm sure he couldn't take everything.

LU: Would have been a lot of to box everything up and send it off. Oh wow, what about your family house growing up? That was rented as well you said?

TTI: In Vancouver? Yes, it was all rented. I don't know why but they never purchased the house so they didn't lose.

LU: I know when, after the war when everyone came out to Toronto, they weren't allowed to purchase a house in Toronto. I don't know if that was the case in Vancouver though.

TTI: The time we came out, there were a few people who had houses of their own. I remember staying in, on Major Street and I know the person there owned the house.

Jl: Your mum then bought a house too. Yeah, my parents bought a house in Toronto.

LU: What year?

Jl: That would have been '42?

TTI: No, no, no, '47.

LU: Oh wow.

TTI: So, they were able to eventually purchase houses and things.

Jl: [quietly] I don't even remember when my mom and dad bought a house.

LU: Oh. And you went to Alberta as well? From Vancouver, did you go anywhere else?

TTI: Straight to Alberta.

LU: Do you remember your train ride?

TTI: Yeah, it was beautiful going through the Rockies. In the morning.

Jl: Yeah, was beautiful. I remember it clearly too.

LU: Oh wow.

Jl: It's gorgeous.

TTI: Tried to relive that but it's always the first impression, I guess.

Jl: We were excited. He was from Vancouver and I was from Westminster.

LU: Did you ever feel worried about where you were going and what Alberta would be like?

Jl: We were just kids.

Jl & TTI: It was an adventure.

TTI: The parents were really worried.

Jl: We soon found out what hard work was.

LU: Were you able to pack your favourite toys or-?

Jl: 100 pounds, no, just clothes.

LU: I think for children, that was the most devastating part, leaving toys behind.

Jl: I don't think we had any toys.

LU: No?

Jl: Not that kind of toys that kids have now.

TTI: Not the same.

LU: Jacks or cards?

Jl: Yeah, cards that's about it.

TTI: Marbles.

[5 minutes]

LU: Marbles, you can stick in your pocket and you might be okay.

Jl: We didn't have that many games. We used to have group games we used to play. I don't think any of us had that many toys, not like the toys kids have these days.

TTI: It wasn't organized. We didn't have, for smaller children, they didn't have baseball games or any leagues. The older adults had.

LU: Do you remember watching any baseball games in Vancouver?

TTI: Yes, [unclear]. The Asahi's playing.

LU: Did you have to pay to go and watch them like you do now?

TTI: No, you could, I think even in the stands you didn't have to pay but we used to-

Jl: Sneak in?

TTI: Walk around the outfield and watch. I guess, I don't remember paying.

Jl: Since we were kids.

LU: [laughing]

Jl: [laughing] You could always look through the fence.

TTI: There were no fences.

Jl: You know, those chain fences.

TTI: Oh yeah.

LU: [laughing] What farm did your family go to in Alberta?

TTI: They knew, they had contact among the established farmers there so the first place we went to didn't have sugar beets. We soon moved to sugar beet farms, there was a sugar beet factory close by so we did sugar beets. Because my father was experienced in clerical work, he was able to work for the CPR [Canadian Pacific Railway] and so on, move from there. I guess there were stations he used to go, bicycle off to different villages. He worked outside and the rest of the family worked in the fields. Of course he helped when harvest time came.

LU: What were your living accommodations like? Were they similar?

TTI: Initially, they were. Tar and paper shacks.

LU: Really? And that was like that all year round even during the winter?

TTI: You would see the frost coming in through.

Jl: In the corners of the room, there would be frost and over on the window, things like that.

LU: Oh my goodness.

Jl: We got out of there fast enough, [unclear] Move out so, most of the Japanese people just [speedy hand gesture] came out east.

TTI: Soon as the war was over, '46, '47.

LU: I can't imagine many people wanting to sit there or stay there in these living conditions.

TTI: Some of them did because they had big potato[?] farms established by the people who moved to Alberta. There were a few people who were able to establish themselves.

Jl: Especially my aunties, they were all of marriageable age so they married what we called the old-timers, the Japanese people that were there pre-war. So, they married all these young fellows, the Hirinakas [?], who were all established farmers. The [Moriyamas?]

TTI: The sons had farms.

Jl: So, I still have-

TTI: Yeah.

Jl: -aunties in Alberta, we just went see them. There is only two left now.

TTI: Some of them are big farmers now-

LU: I forgot to ask which part of Japan your family came from.

TTI: Shiga-ken.

LU; Were they farmers in Shiga-ken as well or fishers?

TTI: Yeah. They were - wait a minute [unsure laughter]

Jl: [laughing]

TTI: I don't really know. They were on Lake Biwa, in the villages.

LU: Did your father come from a big family or-? Cause I know he had a brother who was already here. Do you know if he had any other family members?

TTI: Yeah, I think he had at least half a dozen brothers. They tend to be big families I think but I don't know all of the uncles.

[10 minutes]

Jl: So there is lots of Izukawas in Japan?

TTI: Well, not now.

LU: You might have distant relatives still.

TTI: I know of one woman in the village where they came from. That's the only-.

LU: It's difficult to trace back the family roots. I know even with my family, we can't get past Vancouver.

Jl: I know my grandfather had a farm in Mission City and he was youngest one, I think. So that's why he came- You see, usually the younger male family came to Canada or somewhere because oldest inherits the farm or whatever they have.

TTI: There was the odd relative who was rather well-off in Japan. We lost contact.

LU: And how long did you stay in Alberta for, when you went onto the farm?

TTI: Five years.

LU: Five years as well? Oh geez.

TTI: Just stay there long enough to see the war end. Of course, My father was not used to that kind of work so we came out east and he worked for the CPR [Canadian Pacific Railway] as a clerk.

LU: Oh. Even when he came out east, he still continued working?
TTI: Yeah, he was able to do all that type of work.
LU: Did he eventually open another shop again?
TTI: No, he never did.
LU: Did he stay with CP rail for, until-?
TTI: Yeah, until he retired.
LU: Wow. So, when you came out east, did you just go to Toronto and stay in Toronto or did you move around?
TTI: As I said, he had contacts in Toronto so we were able to purchase a house and then move a couple of times.
LU: Mostly just within Toronto still?
TTI: He worked for the CPR
LU: Did you go to school in Alberta as well?
TTI: Yes.
LU: What high schools did you go to when you came to Toronto?
TTI: I stayed at Hartford Collegiate. I spent four years there.
JI: They are having a reunion.
LU: Are they having a reunion?
JI: This year.
TTI: 60th
JI: 60 years reunion, yeah.
LU: Oh wow. And what made you decide to go to university after high school?
TTI: Well, my parents wanted me to go to pharmacy.
JI: Wanted to start a drugstore. [laughing]
TTI: I said I wanted to work with living beings rather than inanimate drugs and things.
JI: Decided to go into medicine.
TTI: That's when I decided to go into medicine.
LU: And that was at University of Toronto?
TTI: Yes.
LU: And did you have problems applying to school?
TTI: No.
LU: And what was the program you studied?
TTI: Two years of pre-
JI: Pre-med.
TTI: Pre-med. Now, it was an arts type of courses. They said you had to get a liberal education before you go into the professional and four years of medical school.
JI: You get an internship.
TTI: You talked about discrimination. Afterwards, there was, a bit more difficult getting good positions as you went up the ladder. That's why I went to England and then to the States and then came back to Toronto -
JI: Then he got a job at Sick Kids.
TTI: Sick Kids.
LU: Oh wow.
JI: As a professor, eh?

TTI: They were very good at Sick Kids. I knew all the heads of the cardiology department at Sick Kids.

LU: Did you previously try applying to Sick Kids hospital?

TTI: Not really, not while I was in training.

Jl: He spent seven years in England

LU: Seven years in England, that's right.

Jl: Three kids. [laughing]

TTI: I worked with New Zealanders who were also displaced commonwealth physicians and then he had contacts in Baltimore, that's where I went. Course, the Head of cardiology in Baltimore became Head in-

Jl & TTI: Toronto, Sick Kids.

TTI: So he wanted me to go [trails off] So I-[15 minutes]

Jl: Came home.

TTI: Came home.

LU: And was all your family in Toronto as well?

TTI: Yes. They were.

LU: Were they happy that you came home?

TTI: I suppose so.

Jl: Yeah, they were happy. [laughing] All the grandkids. They were happy.

LU: That's right, ten years away. And what was the Robert Ruse admission scholarship? Oh, that was a scholarship to U of T [University of Toronto]?

TTI: Yeah.

Jl: Scholarship to U of T. He got two scholarships.

TTI: It was to get into medical school.

LU: Did you ever have to pay for medical school or was it fully covered by the scholarships?

TTI: No, it wasn't, there wasn't enough. So, my parents had to pay for some of it for me and of course I worked during the summer.

LU: And what would you do during the summer?

TTI: I worked on-

Jl: Poor thing.

TTI: on the railway across from my father- On Spadina Avenue where the railway tracks were. One side used to be the place where we got all the equipment. Father worked in the- did clerical work there. Across the road, there was a place for all the-

Jl: Ice.

TTI: Yeah- cars to come. And Refrigeration-

Jl: They used to have Blocks of ice.

TTI: by blocks of ice underneath, I used to sling those., every summer.

Jl: [laughing]

TTI: Of course my-

LU: Oh my goodness.

Jl: All blistered.

TTI: For about three weeks.

Jl: I could have cried for him.

LU: Oh yeah.

TTI: Soft during the year, I didn't do any heavy lifting.

Jl: Just Covered.

TTI: Took about three weeks.

LU: Oh wow. At least that helped pay for schooling, medical school. But you were married at the time?

Jl: No. Soon as he graduated, we got married.

LU: So, you were still living at home until you after completed medical school. Least you didn't have to worry about paying for a house.

Jl: Soon as he became an intern, we married, '56.

TTI: \$42 a month.

Jl: [laughing] \$42.50 a month.

LU: \$42.50 a month?

Jl: I remember. I was supporting him. I was working at the [unclear] lab for about three years.

TTI: We lived in two rooms I guess.

LU: In an apartment?

Jl: Well not in an apartment.

TTI: Part of a house.

Jl: Part of a house, Mrs. [unclear] Two rooms we rented, a kitchen and a bedroom.

LU: Oh wow.

Jl: Entertain in our bedroom with a little coffee table in the middle and the bed on one side. [laughing] We went to England, travelling, we went to England and he was at Hammersmith and [unclear]. Then, we went to Cambridge. Then we went to John Hopkins in Baltimore and stayed there for three years. We were away about ten years.

LU: Did you notice there was a change in reaction when you left Toronto or when you came back to Toronto about Japanese people being there or did you ever feel that-?

TTI: In Toronto?

LU: There was any hostility about-?

TTI: No because they realized people were very hard working. It was Jewish people who really helped the Japanese when they first came to Toronto. The garment district in particular. They were very good.

Jl: They went through all that before. They were very good to the Japanese.

LU: Oh wow. Oh, you did a postgraduate degree?

TTI: Yes, with the scholarship, I had to get it in cardiology.

Jl: When you went to Hopkins and then came back right?

TTI: [sound of agreement]

[20 minutes]

LU: And did you work in Sick Kids hospital, oh here it is.

Jl: How many years?

TTI: Yep, 26 years.

Jl: 26 years yeah.

LU: 26 years. Oh my goodness, just focusing on cardiology?

TTI: Yes.

LU: That's fascinating.

Jl: He was a Professor Emeritus, that was his title at the end.

TTI: I still have it.

Jl: [laughing] He still have it.

TTI: It's perpetuity.

LU: And then you were a professor at University of Toronto as well?

TTI: Yes.

LU: You taught there for a number of years?

TTI: All the time I was at Sick Children.

Jl: Yes, they sent students to him. He was always teaching them.

TTI: Used to teach and do clinical work as well.

LU: Oh that's interesting. And then what are these projects you have listed for research?

TTI: All sorts of projects.

LU: Oh, for research grants.

TTI: That's right. I used to do sociological work, I guess, on a number of types of cases in the different areas. I had people working with me. Also in the lab, I used to work with animals.

Jl: That's why he won't let us have pet dogs in our family and my kids wanted a pet dog badly. So, my daughter, she's got a dog now, a yappy dog. [laughing]

TTI: Serves me right. Yaps at me.

Jl: She's a doctor too. Yappy dog.

TTI: Terrier or something.

LU: So, your daughter went into medical school as well?

Jl: Yes, she is a pediatrician and our oldest son is a neurosurgeon. We have three children, two went into meds. The youngest one was very artsy like his sister so he went into architecture.

TTI: So, the children are doing well. The daughter's at [Baycrest?] and the son is a neurosurgeon at Mississauga hospital. They are both here, the whole family is here.

Jl: The whole family is here. It's nice.

LU: Oh wow. So, I guess the medical field really runs in your family starting with your father and his job.

TTI: My mother-

Jl: She was a midwife.

TTI: Yeah, she started work as a midwife. But she didn't do that-

Jl: She didn't practice in Vancouver at all. She was trained as a midwife as Japan and then she married and came over here, she never practiced it.

TTI: There was some background, medical background even before we went into medicine.

LU: Did your parents get married here in Canada or in Japan?

Jl: Japan.

TTI: No wait a minute. She came in '26, she got married here.

Jl: I thought-

TTI: I think they got married in Japan.

LU: In Japan?

TTI: 1926 they came. His brother ran a patent medicine store on Powell Street in Japantown and he took over, my father took over. Carried it.

LU: Oh wow, and what about, I guess you don't really know what happened with your family in Japan. Did your mother's side of the family, does come from a lot of siblings as well?

TTI: I don't know as much about my mother's side. They were also from Shiga-ken.

TTI: Yeah, we are finding out a little more of my father's side.

[25 minutes]

TTI: There was the brother that was in the first World War. We just found out about not too long ago.

Jl: He was in the first World War.

TTI: He was in a mental institution.

Jl: Gassed. You know in the first World War, they gassed the people.

TTI: He was in the hospital between Edmonton and Calgary for a while and then he died.

Jl: [unclear]'s Hospital.

TTI: Guess he was the only one.

LU: He must have died relatively early then. If he-

TTI: No, I remember visiting him in Alberta during the war.

LU: Did he have a family or-?

TTI: No.

LU: No, he wasn't married. Oh wow, isn't that interesting? How did you find that information?

Jl: We had a picture.

TTI: We knew because my father knew about where he was living and I recall going to visit him when I was in Alberta and when I was only in the early teens. All the grandchildren were interested of course, talking of World War I.

Jl: They took the picture of their uncle, their great-uncle yeah and they got very excited. He had a medal of course with the years served in the services. One got lost at the cultural centre somewhere.

TTI: Anyway there are two more.

Jl: We have two more. [Sydney Kuda?] is my first cousin, eh? He borrows things and then we never got it back. [laughing]

LU: Well, you can look around here. Things get misplaced all the time.

Jl: If you ever see a war medal, you know it belongs to us. [laughing]

LU: Look around.

TTI: It may get lost.

LU: What happens to those medals now? Do you still have them?

Jl: I discovered two more. I didn't realize we had it but he knew we had some more so we found two more.

LU: Oh wow. I remember, kind of off topic but when I was studying at university, I ended up taking an osteology course and I ended up meeting the museum curator

for Casa Loma and he told me how he went way up north somewhere and this lady's family burial site was a burial mound and you could walk right into it, kind of like a crypt. And she had taken him and said "this is my great-great-so and so" and he was just a skeleton by then, a mummified sort of skeleton, and he had all of his medals still. She said, "you are more than welcome to take them". He said, "No, no, no he's buried with them, I don't feel right". They ended up leaving but the medals are really remarkable.

Jl: They stay.

LU: Oh wow, what about your involvement with the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre?

Jl: Not too involved, are we?

TTI: Not too directly involved. We support the centre.

Jl: He was President at new church, the Toronto Buddhist Church.

TTI: That was a Buddhist Church. Yeah. We're Buddhists.

Jl: During the time that they were building it. Six years.

LU: Oh wow. Was Buddhism always in your family, growing up?

TTI: [nods]

Jl: Mine too

LU: Yours too?

Jl: My grandpa-

LU: When you were in Alberta, did you practice or go to church?

Jl: There was the Raymond church, it was for old timers there.

TTI: There's a heritage building in Raymond that was the Toronto, Raymond Buddhist church.

Jl: Now it's getting teared down.

TTI: Used to be the old Mormon church.

LU: Oh.

TTI: It's interesting, you would think of all people who wouldn't discriminate were the Mormons, who were discriminated against, in the States. I was determined to remain Buddhist when one of these chaps started swearing. Of course, it was because of, during basketball game and I thought, "gee it comes out."

Jl: Called him a Jap. [laughing]

TTI: I said "Fine, I'll just stick with what I know", never mind assimilating.

LU: So, you played basketball when you were in Alberta?

[30 minutes]

TTI: I was too short to really get anywhere.

[Drops something off camera.]

LU: I was trying to watch it but I didn't focus.

TTI: Do you think we have said enough?

Jl: [laughing]

LU: You never know what kind of questions just pop into my thoughts here. So, what basketball team did you play for?

Jl: Just high school.

TTI: Just high school.

LU: Just high school. I know there was, I know it was called [Busey?]-

Jl: [Busey?]

LU: [Busey?] basketball team but I don't remember where that was though.

Jl: [Busey?] was a softball team?

TTI: Baseball.

LU: Was it a baseball team? Oh. I have, someone has donated a photo album to the Heritage Resources and there were some basketball pictures in there. I might have to show you afterwards. They might be an older group than you are.

TTI: From Toronto?

LU: No. No. I don't know where they are from. I know some might have been Vancouver.

TTI: Vancouver.

LU: Some might have been, I know the gentleman's family who the photo album belonged to, I believe were on the farms so it could be but we'll have a look and see. I haven't looked at these photos in a long time.

TTI: Basketball was the sport in Alberta.

LU: Oh really, not baseball?

TTI: No, basketball came from the states through-

Jl: The Mormons.

TTI: The Mormons.

LU: Well that's interesting. You would think baseball, there's so much room to play.

TTI: You would think so. There were baseball teams. But it wasn't the same.

Jl: It was winter time. Winter time was so severe, indoors eh?

TTI: That's why basketball-

Jl: I think that's why basketball was popular.

LU: What about ice-skating, hockey, or anything like that?

TTI: Funny. We used to skate but I've never played hockey.

[End Part 2]

[Start Part 3]

Jl: Our kids did! Ian and Dennis, they both like hockey games.

TTI: We weren't big enough; I think that was the problem.

Jl: We had three girls. We couldn't afford to buy skates for each one so the three of us had to take turns. [laughing] That's how bad it was.

LU: Did you order the skates from, I guess, the [Eaton's] catalogue?

Jl: No, we went to the store because you had to try them on, eh? We were all about the same height and same size anyways.

LU: Got the biggest size.

Jl: And then stuff it.

TTI: They used to have second-hand stores for children because their feet would grow so much that you couldn't keep them very long, yeah.

Jl: [unclear] when Ian was interested in skating, he likes hockey. Our youngest son. Our oldest son played hockey too. [to Ted] Does he still play hockey?

TTI: Yeah, he does but I tell him watch your fingers.

Jl: [laughs] if he loses a finger-

TTI: I would hate to have him mucking around in my head if he loses a finger.

LU: What about, when I was going through some of the artifacts here, I found shoe repair kits and they would have little metal plates that would go on the bottom of kids' shoes. Do you remember those?

Jl: Yeah

TTI: [shakes head]

Jl: Just to stop it from wearing out too soon. They used to put the little metal thing on the front and then on the heel.

TTI: Did they use them for tap dancing too?

Jl: Tap dancing too but also the kids, they would- parents would put.

LU: Do you remember putting them on your shoes at all?

TTI: You did?

Jl: Yeah, I had them on. It's to save. To save the-

TTI: Leather.

Jl: Leather yeah. When you are hard up, you try to preserve as much as you can.

LU: I guess shoes would have been a little different back then. All our shoes now are mostly made out of plastic and rubber. That's a little different so.

Jl: You had leather and [unclear] They were expensive. We always had to wear hand me down clothes. My sister, my cousin got nice clothes so she would hand it down to my older sister. She wears it, then I have to wear it and then my younger sister.

[laughing] Yeah, everything was handed down.

LU: And how many siblings did you have?

TTI: Two, an older sister and a younger sister.

LU: Ah, and did they stay in Toronto as well?

TTI: My older sister married-

Jl: [Mishikawa?]

TTI: a chap who was working as, in the embassy in Ottawa.

Jl: Japanese embassy.

TTI: So, she lives in Ottawa. My younger sister is here, she's an artist. She worked for [unclear - McCains?].

Jl: [Meiko Ikeda ?] Mary Ikeda is his sister.

LU: Oh, oh wow.

Jl: So, it's funny, one time I was asking all our grandchildren and cousins and everybody. They all used to love drawing. You asked them what they wanted to be like. They all wanted to be like auntie, Mary, artist. [laughing]

TTI: Or Uncle Ian.

Jl: Uncle Ian is an architect. They said, I would rather be like artwork.

TTI: We were traveling in England. We kidded them and said, "Oh, Uncle Ian built that building. Oh he built that building" [laughing] They wanted to be an architect.

LU: Oh wow.

Jl: He's the only one so far.

LU: Oh wow. That's fascinating. What about the redress in 1988? Did you have any involvement with that?

TTI: Not directly, no.

Jl: 1988, were we here?

TTI: [nods] Yeah, Yeah. No, I wasn't very active in that.

Jl: Too busy.

TTI: No, not that.

Jl: Are you sure we were here?

TTI: We were here.

LU: What was your reaction to the redress when it first started and everybody started advocating for rights?

TTI: There was a controversy over, we should get a lump sum or an individual.

[5 minutes]

TTI: I didn't have any strong feelings either way. I think the idea of individuals getting it was okay except that often, it was the children who were getting it who didn't really feel the problems. So, that made it difficult for me anyways. I think to people, who received it, were really glad to have that fund. So, it's probably a good idea.

LU: A lot of the isseis by the time redress happened, 1988, they were-

Jl: Gone?

LU: -well into their elder years. Yeah, even though some of them did live long enough to receive it, it had no value to them anymore.

TTI: That's right.

Jl: They didn't need it.

TTI: Didn't go to the people who really suffered.

LU: Yeah yeah, that's right. I find it interesting because it's important that it happened, that redress took place because if it didn't, we would still be fighting for what's happened now but it's just too late, I think. But I think in the long run, it still helped out and-.

TTI: I think it was Mulroney that was involved at that time. I think he had sympathy for people going through all these problems, I don't know whether he did himself or not.

LU: Hmm, I don't know about him.

TTI: I don't know his early background.

LU: Neither do I.

TTI: I thought he was sympathetic to problems or events like that. And, helped out I guess.

LU: Yeah. We were able to get funding for the cultural centre then. I think that's the biggest point there as well but-. I don't know. Any other stories or do you have any-?

TTI: This second floor, there are businesses on this floor now?

LU: Yes, we have lots of empty space on that side there so we have a lot of businesses rented out. We have Marty's office the Dundee wall, we have the Japanese social service-

TTI: Japanese jewellers.

LU: Yeah, the Japanese jewellers there, Nikkei Voice, and the Toronto NAJC chapter has an office here. Who else is here? All those rooms that are directly down this hallway here, they are all the classrooms for hula dancing or the cabana and ping pong.

Jl: Ping-pong? I used to play ping-pong.

LU: Yeah, yeah so, we have those there. It helps keep the funding for the empty space, which is nice.

TTI: This is a big building.

LU: Yeah, it's really big. I don't remember the other building that much; I was just younger and I only think I went once or twice for the bazaar. I remember running around. But I don't remember it very much.

TTI: Well, it's just down the street here, isn't it? Down Wynford Drive. Just wondering who bought that building.

LU: It's an-

TTI: Islamic group?

LU: Yeah, it's another centre now but one of the girls in the office was saying how they went to go look and see what it's like now. They have really done a lot of work on it, it's different. Doesn't look the same. Any other fond memories that you really remember about growing up in Vancouver and shopping in the general stores?

Jl: Nope.

LU: What about sweets when you were a kid? Did you ever get allowances or did you receive allowance?

Jl: [laughing] I don't think they had money to give us.

TTI: I used to pick up candy and chocolate bars and things at my father's store.

Jl: [laughing] Bad boy. No wonder you like sweets.

TTI: They were always available as far as we were concerned.

LU: Well, that's lucky.

Jl: Of course, it was always a big treat. If we ever had candy.

[10 minutes]

Jl: [laughing] I'm always telling him, you are lucky I inherited my father's, father's side of the family, their teeth. They all have their own teeth. On my mom's side, they all have false teeth.

LU: Really? Oh wow.

Jl: Yeah, I think of all my sisters. They have partial plates and things. I never have to have it. [knocks on wood]

LU: Oh, wow and what about on weekends when you didn't have to worry about school or did you have chores to do or did you go out and play? Do you remember any activities you used to do on weekends?

TTI: You mean in Vancouver?

LU: Yeah, yeah. Vancouver growing up.

TTI: That was events. We went to Japanese school Saturday morning. I resented that.

Jl: I loved Japanese school. He say he hated it because he felt he was cheated out of his playtime. We had to go to English school, we get out around two-thirty or three o'clock. Then we had to rush down to Japanese school. We had about half an hour to get there. We work until six, eh. . Then we could go home and have supper. On Saturday, it was half a day, you had to go. I loved Japanese school. I loved the teacher. They were a couple with no children and they came from Japan. They were just wonderful. Mr. [Kanagai?] used to punish kids by putting his hand on their head and going konk. [laughing] That was his punishment.

LU: Oh, wasn't that funny?

Jl: Obviously, they loved children.

LU: And what about taking lunches to school? Now, I heard some people would take bentos for lunch to school and other people would take sandwiches because they didn't want to be-

Jl: We always -My mom was Canadian-born, so we always had sandwiches if we wanted to, but we never took lunch to school, we came home for lunch. TTI: I don't remember, don't think much about food.

LU: Was your mother fluent in both English and Japanese?

Jl: Yeah, yeah. Fluent more in English than in Japanese.

LU: And you father would have been-?

Jl: He was born in Japan. He was educated in Japan.

LU: Did he know any English, when he-?

Jl: Broken English, was all. English accent he had because he went to highschool in Japan. They were taught by English teachers, eh? So, he had a very heavy English accent

LU: Oh, that's neat. Were your grandparents only speaking Japanese, or did they learn any English?

Jl: Maternal grandparents were there in BC so when my grandfather used to speak a little bit of English. But my paternal were both Japanese.

LU: Where was your mother born?

Jl: In BC.

LU: Do you know Where in BC?

Jl: New Westminster.

LU: Oh New Westminster. So, She grew up there and stayed there?

Jl: Yep, until the war. Then- [whoosh noise and hand gesture].

LU: That's so interesting.

Jl: Yeah her whole family was born there. There was what, eight kids or nine kids?

LU: What about your parents? Did they- I guess your father learned a bit of English, having a store.

TTI: He used to travel on his bicycle going to different places. I don't know whether he, he came up against any English people or white people but he used to travel a lot, so I'm sure he spoke both the languages. I Got most of my English from going to the library, I used to read a lot early on. I think that's where I learned most of it.

Jl: I used to do the same thing, except we were in a different place

LU: Go read in the library?

Jl: Yeah I used to go to the library all the time and spend hours.

LU; Oh wow. [laughing] Now I know who to call when I'm going through the books. Well maybe not those ones.

TTI: Not those.

LU: Japanese books, maybe not those.

Jl: English ones I can do.

LU: And what other- whatabout on Sundays? Would you go to the Buddhist Church on Sundays?

Jl: Yeah we are Buddhist.

TTI: You mean, In Vancouver?

LU: In Vancouver growing up.

TTI: My father was very good. He used to take the whole family out to places like Stanley Park.

[15 minutes]

HS: So, he took the day- well, he would close the store. He took us, made sure that we went out as a family. Yeah, so it was okay.

LU: Would you try and go every weekend to Stanley Park?

TTI: Practically yes. Well, I'm sure we spent a lot of time there.

LU: Would you have picnics or just go walk around?

TTI: We would walk around. I don't remember sitting down to eat.

Jl: He wouldn't remember if he did.

TTI: Worry about eating now but not in those days.

Jl: Too much fun. [Picking up concrete?] [laughs]

LU: I guess it was close enough for your family just to walk down to Stanley Park.

TTI: Yes.

LU: Did you know anybody that had a car, at the time?

TTI: We didn't. I think my father did, he traveled occasionally down into the States. As far south as San Francisco, but not very often. Somebody did.

Jl: My grandfather had a car in Mission.

LU: Oh really? What did he have a car for?

Jl: Well, he lived on a farm so he had to.

TTI: A car, what did he use the car for?

LU: Maybe to transport?

Jl: He had it in BC. He had a strawberry farm in British Columbia, so they had a car.

TTI: Your father's?

Jl: Father. Grandfather.

LU: Oh wow. I guess that was taken away though.

Jl; Oh yeah, yeah. As soon as the war started, everyone lost their cars and everything, eh?.

TTI: All the fishing boats.

Jl: Fishing boats and cars.

TTI: Confiscated.

Jl: Confiscated.

Jl: They thought we were only allowed 100 pounds so they dug a hole in the ground, and they had, you know those great big crocks? they put all their valuables in there. They covered it up and put the dirt on top of it and when they went back, all the places where they, I guess they could tell that they dug a hole. Everything was gone, all the treasures.

LU: Someone had dug them up!

Jl: Yeah! People were [hugging?] the people I guess.

TTI: They must have been watching what they were-

Jl: They must have known, someone must have come across something like that and then start going treasure hunting. So, they didn't get anything back.

LU: I just learned probably just a couple of weeks ago that people were burying objects in their backyards and fields. Very fascinating.

Jl: Hoping they were going to come back, then they could dig it up and get it out. It was sad, my grandfather, like they, had a house built. It was unpainted and everything, you know how wood gets dark brown and everything, that's where they were living. They built a new home, a white home, and painted it all white, beautiful home and they were going to move into it. And the war broke out. So, they never lived in it.

LU: Were they able to sell it in time?

Jl: They took it. [laughing] They all had to leave everything.

TTI: The government sold it.

Jl: I don't think they got much money for it.

TTI: They didn't.

Jl: Just built a beautiful home, I can remember as a kid going there, just before the war broke out. Running around in the rooms. It wasn't even finished yet. It was- They were just about to move in.

LU: Oh wow. That's incredible. It's really fascinating to see how well you know the Japanese people can adapt to new places even being uprooted and leaving everything behind in Vancouver. If that was to happen to us now-

Jl: We would protest.

LU: I don't think we would be able to survive.

Jl: Oh, you will, I think you will.

LU: Did you ever hear about anyone protesting?

TTI: Her uncle did.

Jl: Yeah, he-. They got rid of all the Japanese-born people first, right? There were all the niseis, they were still left; they were the last to go. They started rounding up all these younger people. My uncle and a couple of his friends they escaped. In the middle of the night, My uncle comes back into our house through the backdoor. My mom and everybody were shocked. But They got captured. They said they were gonna try to avoid being caught because-

[20 minutes]

Jl: They wanted to make sure- All the children and wife were left on their own. All the men were gone. They were afraid, you know, if they didn't do something to show that families should be put together again, so they ran away. All these guys were hiding. The commissioner people were picking them up.

TTI: There was a curfew.

Jl: Curfew.

LU: Oh right. What do you remember about the curfew?

Jl: Well after-

TTI: We didn't go out.

Jl: Yeah, I think after ten or something, we had to stay in.

TTI: Got to make sure you got home in time.

Jl: Got home in time.

LU: Really?

Jl: Just for the Japanese people.

LU: What happened if you didn't make it to curfew and didn't get home in time?

Jl: You know, how obedient we are, law-abiding. I mean, Most of us were indoors by then.

TTI: The ones who were rebelling against this were sent to camps.

Jl: Camps.

TTI: Petawawa and Angler, in Ontario.

Jl: This was before he was sent away. They would gather them up at certain places.

That's when- [trails off]

Jl: [quietly] I remember my uncle.

TTI: Overall, I guess, we were obedient. There wasn't a single case of-

Jl: Yeah that's right.

TTI: what would they call it-

Jl: Rebels?

TTI: No, no.

LU: Protestors?

TTI: No, not protesting but actually damaging things and so on.

LU: I haven't heard any vandalism stories ever.

TTI: I don't think there ever was.

LU: What about your father's store? I know some places in Powell Street were vandalized for discrimination.

TTI: I stand to be corrected but I don't think he owned the building so he didn't lose out in that way.

LU: I guess you wouldn't remember any incidents thought.

TTI: You mean about the vandalization itself?

LU: Or worried about being robbed?

TTI: I'm just wondering if I'm getting mixed up with-. You know, they had riots in 1907 or something where the judo groups and so on, they were, I think they were guarding Powell Street and making sure that the [dashers or whatever?] didn't come in. I don't know whether that applied in World War II. I just don't know.

LU: Wow, I've never heard that.

Jl: You gotta ask someone older.

TTI: That was way back.

LU: Yeah, well I guess-

TTI: There were rioters who were trying to get into Japantown.

LU: Back in the early 1900s, they were pretty angry that there was a Little Tokyo.

TTI: There were racists in the government and such.

LU: I guess having judo bodyguards roaming around would be ideal at the time. Isn't it so different from now though when you think about it? You don't see police men roaming around on the streets making sure everything's okay, they are driving around, sitting in coffee shops and-

TTI: We were in Baltimore when the riots broke out.

Jl: When the Black- I guess you wouldn't know about it. That was in? 1963 or '64, when Martin Luther King was assassinated.

TTI: That's right, that's the time.

Jl: The riot broke out in all the states, the cities- the big cities. We were in Baltimore at that time and-

TTI: we could see fires-

Jl & TTI: [speaking together] all over the place.

TTI: And they had army, who were I guess the reserves guarding the streets and so on.

[25 minutes]

Jl: He was at Hopkins and-

TTI: hardly anybody [moved?].

Jl: In the middle of the night, they called out and they was asking him, aren't you afraid? No, I'm an Oriental. I don't think they'll touch me. He went on the public bus and they were amazed that he came home. One day, he walked all the way home.

TTI: Four miles.

Jl: Four miles or something, couldn't even get a bus. He had three kids at home and a wife. So he was-

[25 minutes]

TTI: We were naïve, I guess.

Jl: He was an Oriental so he thought, they wouldn't attack him. There was an Indian chap and myself and were the only two who went to work.

Jl: At the hospital, nobody else showed up. [laughing]

LU: Well, someone's gotta work right?

TTI: There were patients there.

LU: That's a different situation when we are not worried about being discriminated against.

TTI: Course they had interns and things, living in-

Jl: They had to stay in the area- so many nights a week, eh? Just like when we got married. He was an intern, eh? So, I didn't see him for what? How many days after we were married?.

TTI: Three days.

Jl: Three days, no it was five days.

TTI: Senior resident broke his arm or something.

Jl: [So we never got much of a?] honeymoon. Got married to [unclear].

TTI: So, I had to go out with the-

Jl: Consultant?

TTI: The boss.

LU: Oh wow.

TTI: For Three days. We didn't have much of a honeymoon.

Jl: Weekend honeymoon-

TTI: Quebec City.

Jl: and then he was gone.

LU: Well now you have time to travel.

Jl: We went back on our 50th anniversary.

TTI: Now I'm too old to do that.

Jl: We stayed in a small hotel because we couldn't afford to stay in Hotel Frontenac. So, for our 50th anniversary, took me to Hotel Frontenac and stayed there for the weekend. Yeah it was nice.

TTI: It's an old building but rather expensive to stay there.

LU: Quebec is very expensive.

TTI: A very nice city though.

Jl: Very nice city.

TTI: The only city that looks like European cities.

Jl: Europe! You just feel like you stepped into France. When you went down to old Quebec City, the Steps going down into an alley.

LU: Yeah, I remember going for a school trip. I don't remember that much from the school trip but I remember cobblestones all over the ground. And tripping. I remember tripping a lot.

TTI: That's the only city that resembles European cities.

Jl: Really does feel like you stepped into France. I remember one time we used to have a sort of democratic system. "We could put a swimming pool in or would you rather travel?" We had a family meeting. They all said travel so we never put a swimming pool in the backyard. So we travelled instead.

TTI: They still like to travel.

Jl: All my kids travel places. They like to travel, to different places.

LU: Once you go one place, you just want to go see them all. That's the starting point.

Jl: When we were in England, we always tried to go to different places. Because you know, it's only across the channel so-

TTI: See the trees, really beautiful out there. [looking out of a window, out of frame]

LU: They changed relatively quickly, didn't they?

Jl: When we were in England, they don't have changes like this. It's just green and then it goes brown and it just falls. The leaves fall, they don't turn yellow or gold or red.

LU: Really?

Jl: Yeah, so someone from Canada sent a big sheet of the Star Weekly with the weekend section with a whole spread of the trees and Ted took it and put it up on the bulletin board in the office. And they wouldn't believe it. They couldn't believe leaves change color like that and how beautiful it was. We told them, "no, this is really true its just like that".

TTI: Because we get frost here.

Jl: Frost just nips it and it changes color. Usually just goes brown and just dies.

LU: I didn't know that.

Jl: Nothing like this. Nothing. Have you ever been to England?

LU: No. No, not yet, nope. I never would have thought of that. That it might rare that our, leaves changes color.

[30 minutes]

Jl: It's the frost that gives it that. After the frost, it just changes color. [Addressing Ted] Your secretary came eh and she saw. We told her to come in the fall. [Julia?].

LU: I guess that's one of the things that are rare that we take advantage of.

Jl: You just take for granted. People in England don't really know it unless they live in Canada for a while. We always appreciate it.

LU: My favourite part is, you know on the Don Valley Parkway when you are driving, you see all the big treetops.

Jl: So pretty, eh?

LU: It's really nice. I always admire that part. I'm always stuck taking the 401 every day and I hate the 401. It's a terrible drive.

Jl: He used to go early in the morning to go to Sick Kids because he didn't like that drive early, really early in the morning. He come home late at night, nine or ten o'clock I would be giving him dinner.

LU: You've gotta wait for the traffic-

Jl: He couldn't stand the traffic so he used to come home late.

LU: When was, oh 1989, oh wow. Did you ever remember having a Japanese bathtub? The ofuro?

Jl: Ofuro? Yeah, in BC.

LU: Yeah?

Jl: Yeah, in British Columbia. My mom used to start- go outside-. There was a round sort of casing, I don't know where they got the pipes from but anyways. She used to put a lot of wood in there and start the fire. And then When the ofuro was ready, working people used to go in first. We always last. They always washed themselves before they go into the tub. When the ministers came from Japan, my grandfather, he would always start the fire when the ministers come. The minister- his wife was still in Japan so he would- father used to run a boarding house so he used to feed them aswell and they would go home back to the church. Yeah.

LU: Oh wow.

[End Part 3]

[Start Part 4]

TTI: I never had that experience.

Jl: What the bath? With the wooden bath? What did you go bathing in?

TTI: Well, we had to go to the public bath.

Jl: But they had a wooden bath? Must have been wood.

TTI: No, tiled.

Jl: Tiled. Oh, well we've always had wood.

TTI: Well, there would be a lot of people going. There was like a kitchen and there was a room with just a place to wash. You can do a little wash with the basins and then there was a big wooden tub there. Then, my mom used to start the fire every day. I remember that.

LU: Oh wow. What about laundry?

Jl: Well, they used to scrub. There used to be a two-section thing where she would have a scrubbing board and be scrubbing our clothes then she would be rinsing it, throwing it in the water and rinsing it. After she's got the washing finished, she would fill the other one and rinse it about two, three times, eh. Then later on, I could remember one of those hand ringers. They Used to stick it on the thing and they would use the hand ringer to-

TTI: Squeeze out the water.

Jl: Squeeze out the water.

LU: Oh, isn't that neat?

Jl: They used to hang it behind the house. Used to have a line from the- somehow from the kitchen to the woodshed. They would hang these things out.

LU: Oh wow.

Jl: Yeah, I remember those days.

TTI: We didn't have dryers.

Jl: No, no dryers or anything like that. We had to wait for the natural way of drying clothes.

LU: Oh, wow and what about family occasions like New Year's or-?

Jl: They used to celebrate. I can always remember my mom cooking the night before New Year's, all the Japanese food and everything, even when we were little kids.

TTI: You used to do it.

Jl: Well I used to help her.

TTI: No, no.

Jl: Yeah, oh, later on. Yeah, I think my daughter does everything now.

TTI: She still carries the tradition?

Jl: Remember, everybody gathers at her house.

TTI: But that's to eat the-

Jl: Ozoni, that's the soup with the mochi in it. With kombu and everything in it. You know? Like the Japanese people, there are five different things: kobo, kombu, daikon-

TTI: Shiga-ken people used to make it with miso.

Jl: Miso soup, the Shiga-ken people used to make it but ours was with shoyu.

[Kakimoto-ken?], a clear soup with a little soy sauce.

LU: Oh.

Jl: So, my daughter still does it.

LU: Were there any other favourites that you remember that you would make on New Year's?

Jl: Yeah, my daughter still does for me.

LU: What kind of items?

Jl: Well, there's salmon, big plate, platter.

TTI: And then you have these things.

Jl: Little round things like [kimpiragobo?] or black beans, one layer and konnyaku.

TTI: This is what you call like- I don't know.

Jl: I don't know. There's a mini for each one. My daughter likes traditional things so-

TTI: She still make it.

Jl: She still makes it. Everyone goes to her place even his sister. His sister is still, her husband likes to cook eh. He's my first cousin, two brothers.

LU: Oh really?

Jl: He likes to cook so he does that- the [oshogatsu] thingy.

LU: Oh.

Jl: My daughter, I don't know if she does it this year or not because she is getting so busy. She never mentioned anything, did she?

TTI: Too early yet.

Jl: Too early yet, but when December comes she'll probably ask me to make things for her.

LU: It's interesting. There's still a lot of traditions that are kept even after all this time. It's always about food.

Jl: It's funny she is interested in. She's busy.

TTI: Odori that goes on.

Jl: Her daughters do odori too. She's got two daughters yeah.

LU: Oh.

Jl: But she did odori too.

TTI: Not very much. The girls seemed to- The grandchildren-

Jl: -seemed to like it. They like it.

LU: Where do they do odori?

Jl: At the Cultural Centre. They joined the cultural centre.

TTI: Which one? [Ayamakai?] or-?

Jl: [Oyama?], or [Aiyami?]

TTI: No, no.

Jl: I think it's [Oyama?].

TTI: There's two groups, eh?

LU: [Sakurakai and ayamakai?] I think are the two groups.

Jl: I think she is in [Ayamakai. Cause she said the cultural centre is closer than taking them to the Buddhist temple.

[5 minutes]

LU: Oh, do they do odori dancing at the Buddhist temple?

Jl: Yeah, they do it. Used to do it, they still do it, I think.

TTI: The older one.

Jl: But she had to think about the convenience, closer to her home.

LU: Do you still go on a regular basis to the Buddhist temple?

Jl: Oh yeah.

LU: Oh yeah? How many people go there?

TTI: It must be, it's dwindling all the time but there's around 300 or some odd members, I think. We have a new temple up on Sheppard Avenue. On Allan Expressway.

Jl: It's very convenient for people to get there from subways.

TTI: Subways or the highways.

Jl: He was President for six years while it was being built.

LU: How did you become President at the-?

Jl: How did you become President? [laughing] They voted them in.

LU: How did you get involved in that?

Jl: When he retired from Sick Kids. We used to attend anyway.

TTI: I used to go regularly anyways.

LU: Ah.

Jl: So, when he retired.

TTI: The old temple was at Bathurst and Bloor, in that area, there's no parking there. So we said "Oh, if we expect to continue with the younger members-.

Jl: Need a parking lot.

TTI: We had to get a parking lot." So, we had an architect whose parents were from Winnipeg. He's with the Moriyama group-

Jl: [Toshima?] [Toshima?]

TTI: No, no, no. [Taramora?] His parents were strong Buddhists so he designed the new temple for us. Looks almost like a box but the inside is really nice.

Jl: Have you seen it?

LU: No, no.

Jl: You should go to see it. The inside is nice.

LU: I think my grandparents go every now and then. My jii-chan still likes to go and he said he ordered me the Juzu beads from Japan. Yeah.

Jl: They sell it there.

LU: Oh do they? He wanted to get them from Japan. [laughing]

Jl: [laughing] Well they are from Japan, imported from Japan.

LU: Maybe he will, maybe he will just pick them up there. I don't know, maybe he was telling me he had ordered them so I would stop asking. [laughing]

TTI: He's a Buddhist, is he?

LU: Yes, he is. My baa-chan, she is I guess, she is Christian. She was raised with Christianity but she goes to Buddhist Temple.

Jl: I have a cousin, he is Christian but I think he is more Buddhist than we are.

TTI: He remembers the dates.

Jl: He's married to your sister. He remembers the dates of when our parents died and he makes sure holds the service for them and it makes us seem so negligent. [laughing] So terrible.

LU: It's hard unless you write it down on the calendar every year.

Jl; He's got all the dates. He is so machine and he's Christian. [laughs]

LU: Oh wow.

Jl: That's why I keep saying he's more Buddhist than we are and he doesn't know it.

LU: Could be.

Jl: Well, his mom was very devout eh? His mom and my aunt was very devout, but I think he became Christian because the Christian people are so good to the family when they first moved to Toronto.

LU: I think when everybody first started coming out to Toronto, it was hard for them to establish the Buddhist church right away because they were afraid of being discriminated again by forming together.

TTI: It usually started in homes.

LU: Ah.

Jl: That's right. Mostly in the homes and then they built the church on Huron Street first.

TTI: When we moved in, they rented the place.

Jl: Legion Hall, we used to go to the College Street, Legion Hall. Then, they made 918 Bathurst Street.

TTI: No, Huron Street.

Jl: Changing. 918 Bathurst and then the new one on the [corner?]

TTI: Think we better move, Joyce. If you don't mind.

LU: Well, thank you very much. It's probably-

[End of interview]