

Interviewee: Arthur Ikeda
Interviewer: Lisa Uyeda
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Note: Arthur Ikeda's wife, Mary Ikeda was present during the interview.



THE JAPANESE CANADIAN LEGACY PROJECT

[Start]

Lisa Uyeda: Okay [unclear whispers]-

Arthur Ikeda: [take off glasses, wipes eye with a tissue] Did you stop this [unclear speech] or it just goes on and on all the way?

LU: It'll just go on-

AI: Okay.

LU: This one we'll have to stop to switch the tapes-

AI: Yeah.

LU: But let me know if you ever need to stop.

AI: Yeah just got my eyes are kinda teary right now. [take off glasses, wipes eyes with hand]

LU: Sure.

AI: Oh this is, this is stored for the future generation.

LU: Mhm.

Mary Ikeda: I think that's interesting.

LU: Yes! It's really fascinating, funny how technology works. [chuckles] Now let's see here,-

AI: [gets out a tissue]

LU: Oh very handy. [chuckles]

AI: My eye gets very teary on this side. [gestures to the right side of their face]

LU: Mhm.

AI: So I have to dab it every now you know it's not fun [?] crying or [unclear]. [laughs]

LU: Its okay we'll pretend its tears of reminisce. [chuckles] [laughter from the room] We're all set?

AI: Okay.

LU: So today oh, is January the 13th-

AI: [simultaneous speech] 13th.

LU: 2011 and this is an interview with, do you prefer Art or Arthur?

AI: Arthur, I'm okay yeah.

LU: Arthur, Arthur Ikeda and can you please start off by telling us where you were born and when you were born please?

AI: I was born in Vancouver on April the 20th 1931.

LU: And did you stay in Vancouver and grow up there or where-

AI: I was-

LU: Where was most of your childhood?

AI: Well we were there until the war started and the Second World War-

LU: Mhm.

AI: And then we were all transferred into Hastings Park and from there we went to Tashme.

LU: Oh, and tell us about your Vancouver days, what do you remember about growing up in Vancouver?

AI: Oh jee there wasn't much I could I was so young and when the war started I was ten years old I think, ten years old-

LU: Wow.

AI: Yeah so when you're ten years old I had my friends we went to Macdonalds Public School and there were various Japanese family living in the area.

LU: And were most of your friends Japanese or did you have other non-Japanese friends as well?

AI: Yeah I had non-Japanese friends too besides Japanese friends when the war, when the World War Two started, began then some of my Hakujiin friends we just kinda separated they were afraid so this I know one of the friends that I knew very well he said that to their families moving to the interior of BC [British Columbia] yeah I guess but this war started with Japan but other than that I had a lot of Japanese- there was a lot of Japanese neighbours one of them was Robert Ito the famous- well he was an actor [chuckles] yeah but there was a lot of Japanese neighbours around us.

LU: Do you remember some of the other families that were in the area? Do you remember their names?

AI: Yeah there was Ito, Sohriber's [?], the Ohashi's [?], and Hinatsu's [?] were nearby, oh jee there were-there were others but I can't remember all the- all their names.

LU: Mhm, do you remember the address in Vancouver where you lived?

AI: We first we lived when I was born we lived at I think it was on Paul Street east, it's not Paul Street downtown we were in the east end, I think it was 1740 Paul Street and then from there we moved to Triumph Street it was number 2034 Triumph Street.

LU: And what do you remember about those two houses? Do you remember them being very big-

AI: Yes-

LU: A garden?

AI: Big in fact my uncle is- was one of the original person that had a car [unclear] I used to get a ride on it [chuckles] yes 'cause he was, he was, he came here early too that's my, my father's eldest brother and he came out quite early and I think he was- I was told he may be- I know he was in the sowing business I don't know whether he was selling sowing machines or what I didn't and I know he was hiring people for the saw mills-

LU: Oh.

AI: Where all the Japanese worked, in fact my father was working there too yeah 'cause I remember taking lunch to him

[5 minutes]

and when I was young is supper, bento to him and I remember the area quite well but other than that- in fact there was a Japanese school near us to the neigakomi [?]-

LU: Oh.

AI: Yeah we, we went there a trip about grade two or three maybe grade three but I don't remember any Japanese now [chuckles]

LU: [chuckles]

AI: Terrible, [smiles] I can't read Japanese either which is awful but I think that all became from the fact that my father died when we went to Tashme, when I was 12 years old he died of a stroke yeah and my mother is a nisei you see-

LU: Oh.

AI: Because she was born in U.S. Minister [?] and at that time we had six siblings already and then when my father died at age 42 years of age later my mother told me that she was expecting another child-

LU: Oh wow.

AI: Yeah so I was 12 at the time and by then we were in Tashme and we lived on 9th avenue and we had one house to ourselves because we had a big family but it was one of those tarp paper homes that they built and being at that young age you know you don't- you try to enjoy everything what's there but after my father died I had to leave school to look after my younger brothers and sisters for a while until our relative came to help us 'cause that's the time my mother went into a hospital for her- our seventh child and I remember taking my mother, in early morning she woke me up and she says she has to go to the hospital and I walked with her took her all the way to the hospital and there she, she had a rough time apparently my aunt way saying she was in there over a month yeah and during that time I stayed home to look after my brothers and sisters and the amazing thing is when my mother was able to come home with my youngest brother, he's 66 years old now-

LU: Wow.

AI: Yeah [smiles] and well, were all together in this area but I remember my youngest sister who was only about two years old she wouldn't go to my mother when she came home from the hospital cause she was, she- I looked after [points to the ground] her you know and she was, my younger sister wasn't she- not knowing her mother- she forgot her mother but it didn't take long before, before she was reunited with her again-

LU: Mhm.

AI: But I know the first night and everything she won't sleep with her she would sleep with me 'cause you know and then after a while she was okay and she herself is a grandmother today- [smiles]

LU: Woah. [chuckles]

AI: Yeah, [nods head] well one thing my mother always insisted was that we must all stick together, help each other out, support each other and that's what we have been doing all this time and I, being the eldest of the family you know they always come to me to tell me whatever that's happening and then we discuss it yeah so this is one of the strong thing we have in our family yeah.

LU: And how far was the hospital when you had to walk between Tashme-?

AI: Well we were living on 9th avenue, [swiped arm back and forth] 9th avenue and for me to walk it was quite a distance to walk with her 'cause [unclear speech] at the very far end and I didn't think nothing of it she just said that she had to go so, it was early in the morning that, that much I remember it was early just the morning was just breaking when I, when I walked with her to the hospital-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah so you know.

LU: What a difference from now where you know you can drive to the hospital-

AI: Oh yes, yes, yes.

LU: But being in labor and having to endure physical-

AI: Yeah.

LU: Exhaustion by walking-

AI: Yeah.

LU: Over that part.

AI: Yeah well my mother had imped- well during the time it was- when my father died to me anyways she never shed one tears in front of us you know it's just that you know we tried to well, being 12 years old is very difficult, we were poor you know we didn't have any money

[10 minutes]

but I remember my mother going through my father's remains of what was left over and she discovered he had one 50 dollar bill and she cried and cried yeah other than that we were, we got back my grandma [?] looked after us another thing too is that I remember is that when my father died on, on- they had a pulse [?] system I think where the men on the avenue that you live, on 9th avenue we lived on, they are the one that goes to the crematorium- not a crematorium it was in the woods, they would pile up woods [mimes this action with hands] and they would put the casket on top it would burn it and that was my first experience of when my father passed away we-I- we had to go there, my brother and I we went there and we had to light the fire for that and then we left when the fire stopped burning but the men stayed behind to make sure that everything was burning properly before they came back and then the next morning my uncle and a few other friends that, my second brother now, we had to go back and we had to pick up the bones and remains or whatever it was in a container and to my horror my father's body wasn't burnt all the way through it was just charred here and there and we didn't know what to pick up but they said just pick up what you can and we just picked up- I remember picking up the- his teeth and everything- what is was, what his [puts hands on hips] hips was all black and smoldering yeah that was put in a contains and eventually when we came to Toronto my mother had it all crushed and then we had a proper burial- put it into the cemetery with my mother yeah but those are things that I remember other than that I enjoyed staying in Tashme I've never met so many Japanese you know and even to this day I have friends that I met through my stay in Tashme and in New Denver because after

Tashme we had to leave again because there was that period when you had a choice between going back to Japan or staying in Canada and my mother, my mother has sisters and brothers already living out here in Toronto they said don't sign [?] and it's a good thing 'cause my mother never been to Japan how can she take seven of us back to our [unclear word] country and we decided we were, we had to leave and we went to Roseberry and then to New Denver where we stayed until the war was finished-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah.

LU: And what about your mothers history, where, where- you said she was born in Westview, Westminster-

AI: She was born in New [?] Westminster.

LU: When was her birthday do you remember?

AI: It was July the- 1907, July the 29th I think of 1907 and she's the fifth of a family of eight-

LU: Wow.

AI: Yeah [smiles]

LU: [chuckles]

AI: [unclear word] got a big family-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah.

LU: And did most of her most of her family member stay within Canada as well?

AI: Oh yeah.

LU: Did any go back to Japan?

AI: Nobody went back.

LU: Mhm.

AI: They all stayed in fact the younger sister and brother came to Toronto and because of they staying here we were able to come out because they rented a house on, in Cabbage Town which is at Parliament and Queen Street, I didn't know what Cabbage Town was at that time but that wasn't a rich, rich, rich neighbourhood at all and we had half of a house which where front room was a bedroom and we had two beds in there and all the boys slept there, in the middle we had a like a cold burning stove and then my mother and the two sisters will sleep there we didn't have enough room and then we had a small kitchen with the kitchen stove and another small room where we kept our junk but we only had one washroom we had no bathtub

[15 minutes]

or anything, I used to bathe my sister and brothers in a bath- in a tin bath, bath water container I used to bathe them when I was there yeah my, my, my, my two youngest ones-

LU: Oh wow.

AI: Yeah and we'd looked after them like being the eldest I had to go to work, when I came- I came to Toronto after New Denver I came to Toronto when I was 15 years old I was- I

came in April and April 20th was my birthday so before I turned 16 I lied and got myself a job [chuckles from the room] at a cleaning, Star Cleaner the Jewish company-

LU: Oh.

AI: There were a lot of Japanese working there and I worked sorting out clothes that came in I would sort them all out, pants go here and everything, but then there was the Japanese people that were cleaning it, the Japanese pressers yep.

LU: Wow.

AI: And then I remember working myself up to being a shirt presser, pressing shirts like I would operate three machines then my partner she would, she would fold the shirts and she'd put the- she'd do the sleeves and then she'd fold the shirts and it was a piece worker and I was pretty fast with my hand at that time and we used to do- we were always the top people for producing all the shirts- [chuckles] [laughter from the room]

LU: Wow.

AI: Yeah.

LU: And how much would it be for each piece, if it was piece work? Do you remember?

AI: Oh dear, I can't remember, I can't remember but I used to one thing is that when I worked I used to give all the money to my mother, we all did and then we'd just get an allowance each time in fact that went on until I was quite into my- beyond my teens yeah.

LU: Mhm.

AI: But then my mother also- my youngest brother was still small but she had a part-time job at St. Michaels Hospital working in a cafeteria-

LU: Wow.

AI: And she worked there until she retired but they were very good to her in fact my brothers Sydney and Edgar they also worked there too and we were able to get by because all my brothers are very help- they went out to work and do anything to bring some extra income in well you know Sydney yeah he was a go-getter and he'd-

MI: And selling papers.

AI: Yeah, yeah they were selling newspapers yeah.

LU: They would sell newspapers?

AI: Yeah Toronto Star.

LU: Wow.

AI: Yeah both of them standing on the corners but they had good spots yeah but we had our problems too growing up too but they were any family would have squabbling amongst the brothers too but we got by eventually we you know grew up moved- my mother didn't want us to stay in that area too long because it wasn't the best neighbourhood, I've never seen a place where people fought on the street, first neighbours fighting on the street fighting against each other and yet we were treated very well but all our neighbours we got to know them but mother felt that this isn't the area for us to be growing up and we eventually moved to Dufferin, Dufferin and Bloor Street, bought a place there that my uncle and aunt had then she passed away so we finally moved in there yeah-

LU: Mhm.

AI: So we moved a few times until we found this little vet pharmacy and Elsmere [?] bought a house there but by then my second brother was married, I was married and Sydney was married too so there was all- there was the other four that went to live at this small house and we stayed there until my mother passed away- they stayed there until my mother passed away because my fourth brother is a bachelor, never married so he looked after my mother and today he is in Momiji [?]-

LU: Oh.

AI: He lives in Momiji [?] yeah [nods head] and my sisters in Brazil [?] they already [unclear word] with my mother and my fourth brother yeah.

LU: What do you remember about your mother?

AI: She's very quiet you know doesn't lose her temper too often

[20 minutes]

she's always- was quite religious too yeah she believed in it-

LU: What religion?

AI: Buddhist-

LU: Oh.

AI: She's a Buddhist yeah, my whole family is a- I'm, I'm not a Buddhist I'm a, I'm an Anglican I became an Anglican after I came to Toronto but the rest are Buddhists, my sister in Hamilton is United but most of them are Buddhists and my mother enjoyed her many life she's- we'd go on travelling trips, she's bowled and gone to the senior, the bowling and she used to enjoy that very much and then she looked- she would help us with the grandchildren when we had children her mother- wife's mother and my mother would take turns looking after- not every day 'cause my wife would just work part time by then and then by that time after I left the- as I grew up and got married I worked for another Jewish company they were in the vegetable, they grew vegetable, they sold vegetable, they're the big plant and they moved to Bradford-

LU: Oh.

AI: And they even went into the potato chips business too and I stayed there for a long time and they really treated me well [nods head] in fact most of the staff were Japanese-

LU: Really?

AI: At the very beginning [nods head] yeah-

LU: What company was that?

AI: It's called- was called Federal Farms then they moved [?] in Bradford but that business is now gone-

LU: Mhm.

AI: When they closed down of a bought out I left and went to work for my uncle who had a roofing business-

LU: Oh.

AI: Yeah so he, he had a roofing business and he wanted me to come in because they had no children and he wanted me to come in to run the office which I eventually did and they

were doing very well until they had some problems too and they were going to close up but it's amazing because once they were closed up and then they- Japanese staff that was there they just- we just decided to go on our own so we, we had a- we formed a company called Age and Core Roofing and we continue that business- the business [gestures head to the right] is still operating-

LU: Really?

AI: But as a partner- when I turned 65 I sold my share and I left because I had enough of it- I mean I've been working since 15 years of age till 65 and I thought no that's, that's enough yeah-

LU: Mhm.

AI: But my uncle who had this roofing business he had friends too that they said 'you should buy land' buying land, and at that time of the- there was lots of land everywhere in Toronto and we formed- we got together with my cousins, my bother-in-laws and we'd call ourselves ninatsu [?], the group of seven [smiles] and we purchased property I mean we couldn't afford anything it was you know we had to shove money you know we were struggling and I was married I had family and we just bought a house but still we were able to put money out every time we ran short and then the person that we put up a nice building, one good- one nice building on the big property, but we weren't making any money so this real estate said you know 'you should build up another- renew your mortgage, build another building' and we took his advice and this girl Kauabouchi [?], Kala [?] Construction they build another building for us, a second one for us and then from that we were able to start paying off our debts and I was the what you call, the manager because I was in the roofing business- so we rented a unit there and then I looked after everything [points index finger] all my tenants, I negotiated the rents and everything with them, I mean it was a headache at times but my other, my other part- my other people involved in it, in fact my uncle and my- his, my other fellow they bowed out because they were having problem with their own company so they- so we bought

[25 minutes]

them out so there was only five at the end but we still call ourselves ninatsu [?] and the others were- my cousins were, two were doctors so they were busy with their profession, one was an engineer, and then I- then there were three doctors involved in it my cousins, and brother-in-laws and they were all professional people [spins hand in a circle], I was the only non-professional [points to themselves] people [chuckles] yeah but I maintained that place there I looked after everything and make sure the rents were coming, I had problem with my tenants but then I would have to settle with them but I always believed that you have to give and take you just can't take, take, take all the time and that's why they, that's why they, they enjoyed me as a landlord 'cause I would negotiate with them and I would never say 'oh, no, no, I can't do that' I would go half way with them and that's how, that's how- that's what I believed in and that's the way that company prospered and then after I retired I was still going in as a, as a landlord representative but it came to a point where

this is getting a little too much for me now, I was getting older and older so finally they all agreed to sell the building which we did-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah.

LU: Oh wow.

AI: Yeah, so, so from, from my, my life I've been blessed with all the fortune all the way though I mean when a company closes or you, you figure out 'oh my God I got a family, what am I gonna do, where am I gonna find a job' but for me it always- something always came up yeah so I'm very fortunate for that.

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yes.

LU: And your mother since she was born here in Canada-

AI: Mhm.

LU: Does she speak English or did she mostly speak Japanese to you?

AI: English.

LU: English.

AI: This is why we lost our native Japanese because my father- I'm sure that when I was very small I was very bilingual, I'm positive that I could have- because my father couldn't speak English-

LU: Oh.

AI: 'Cause he'd come here from Japan when he was young, 'cause he came out here when he was about 24 years of age after serving his time in, in, in Man- Manchuria, is it Manchu-?

LU: Man-Man, Manchuria?

AI: Manchuria [nods head] yeah-

LU: Yeah.

AI: I think they had to serve so many years at a certain age and I know that he, he was an army man and I'm positive that I was, I was very bilingual because you have to be to be able to talk to him and when your young you can pick it up so quickly but I can't remember whether you know how fluent I spoke in Japa- I know I went to Japanese school that much I know-

LU: Mhm.

AI: But once my father passed away after the when- during the Second World War my mother spoke English to all of us that's my younger brothers and sisters can't speak a word of Japanese- I was told there were a lot of Japanese in the camp, within the camp there were people teaching Japanese, I remember going to a few of them but like it is today that if you don't speak it- if you could speak it at the school that's fine but once you come home if you don't speak it within your family then you eventually forget it and that's what I think has happened, yeah I was probably lazy to pursue it any further-

LU: Mhm.

AI: But I had other more important things to pursue-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah.

LU: Do you remember your mother speaking Japanese?

AI: Oh yes she can speak Japanese-

LU: Mhm.

AI: And when she speaks with her friends she [unclear word] she could speak Japanese but to us it was always English, yeah I don't, I don't think my mother ever spoke Japanese to us, it was always English to us yeah-

LU: Mhm.

AI: And it's more comfortable for all of us to speak English especially when you come to Toronto, yeah.

LU: and you mentioned she was a Buddhist as well-

AI: Mhm.

LU: Was religion always a big part of your family when you were growing up?

AI: Well she- it was with her yeah she, she, she believe in- you know my mother- [looks up] when my father passed away, on the anniversary of his death she always had a service for him she did it until six- for 60 years she did it I think and then that was it yeah

[30 minutes]

but she'd have it at home the minister would come she would invite a few friends and then I- she- there was one thing that, that, that she's never forgotten that she would do to this- now that after she's passed away we carry it on by going to the memorial service at the Buddhist church her- she died in December so we always go for the memorial service on the first Sunday of the moth all my- whoever could come from my brothers and sisters we all go down to the church, yeah-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Even though I'm a Christian, I guess there's a part of Buddhism still left in me but on the day that- [chuckles, chuckles from the room] my mother than my father- I got an alter [mimes a circular shape with fingers] a Buddhist alter in my house-

LU: Oh.

AI: And this was made by Mr.- I think it was Ueda [?] he was a master carpenter who lived on our 9th avenue and he built this [mimes a circular shape with fingers] for us for my father when he passed away-

LU: Wow.

AI: And I still have it and it's in the living room with all the Buddhist things on it and on the anniversary of my father my mother's [unclear speech] put up a sinco [?] [moves arm up and down] you know and I make sure I have flowers to make sure that I have flowers for them and that something that I've never forgotten I just still do it to this day, yeah- [smiles]

LU: Mhm.

AI: That's why many people are surprised 'cause I'm always at the Buddhist church so they think I'm a Buddhist, [chuckles] when I tell them I'm not they're quite surprised [chuckles from the room] oh, yeah.

LU: And what do you remember about you mother's life growing up in New Westminster?

AI: Well my mother was born in New Westminster when she got married we lived in Vancouver 'cause that's where my father lived my father and my mother are second cousins okay I mean were all interrelated for some reason but her youth I'm not too sure I know she talked about it they weren't- [footage jumps] I know she went to Japanese school I don't think they went to, I don't know how far she went to in public school but I know that- excuse me, she worked in a cannery 'cause that's where all the Japanese women worked in a cannery and that's where she was working and even after she was married and lived in Vancouver I remember when I was young- oh God I don't remember how many brothers and sisters I had but I know she went to work part-time and I don't know where the cannery was you know being so young then but I remember taking my younger brothers and sisters with me and we would meet her, wait for her at a certain area, we knew she'd be coming down that way [points and moves finger] and then we would just sit and wait [smiles] yeah I remember that and then we'd all go home together, yeah.

LU: Mhm, would that be at the end of the day after you finished school that you would go over?

AI: Yep, [nods head] yeah, yeah-

LU: Mhm.

AI: I was very young then, yeah other than that we lived next door to our uncle Mr. Ikeda he's my father's eldest brother and he had two homes so we lived- we rented a second home from him and he had a nice garden at the back he also had- he was raising chickens if I could remember and some time for dinner they would kill you know chop the chicken [laughs] head off, I used to remember that too running around trying to chase the- catch the chicken [chuckles, chuckles from the room] but he was- my uncle was very, very strict you know yeah but then my father- I guess in the Japanese tradition is that no matter if your older brother is wrong you still can't say you're wrong you have to really take any of his advice and that I used to hear about that yeah, then my father started to drink a lot too and I think, I don't know whether they were frustration or what but I know that even in Tashme he used to visit he said all of his buddies you know from

[35 minutes]

Vancouver they used to visit each other and I know my mother used to make shochu [?] is it? These Japanese fermented rice and everything-

LU: Oh.

AI: Yeah she used to make- I remember making that and there were days I had to go and get my father to come home and my mother said 'get him home' late at night I would go wait and wait and wait until he was- to tell him 'common go home' so I would bring him- he was drunk and I had to bring him home to our house, that was in Tashme yeah-

LU: Mhm.

AI: But other than that he was very strict too because he was a military man I remember that, my- when I was very young I would get the hit [?] and I would cry and then when he comes and he says 'are you still crying' he would hit me again [chuckles] and I would cry, I

would cry more [chuckles] but he- that way he was very strict he said 'once you're crazy [?] you don't- you stop' he said you know and he was very strict with us but I remember him telling me that he's only doing this so that when we grow up we would really appreciate but I do remember that as a young kid as a kid [chuckles] but I don't do that- I don't dare do that now in this age [laughs] [chuckles from the room] but my children are very good too, yeah.

LU: So you- when you were in Vancouver was the school far from where your house was or do you remember having to walk long distances to school?

AI: No, it was, it was up the hill MacDonald's I don't know if it's the Hasting commercials I don't know where but I knew it was up the hill about couple of blocks up the hill it wasn't- when you're young distance isn't anything you know-

LU: Mhm.

AI: 'Cause then we walk with our friends, you meet friends along the way and the school itself is very nice yeah I could remember some of my school teachers, Mr. Thomson was the music teacher, Miss. Whiket [?] was the artists was the art- she was the drawing teacher art- she was an artist yeah I remember this- another geography teacher too yeah.

LU: Did you have a favourite subject when you were in school?

AI: No-

LU: [chuckles] Did you like school?

AI: Yeah I like school I remember you always had to learn your anthem, the Canadian anthem O Canada and all that yeah we used to sing that every morning before school started you had to all gather together and sing the anthem yeah those days- those I remember, yeah.

LU: Mhm, and what about lunchtime would you stay at school for lunch or would you go back home?

AI: We used to go back home, I do remember one person this shoe maker right across from the school he was so nice he always used to give us apples, [smiles] it was an older man he was so kind but we used to go zhome for lunch and then go back up again yeah-

LU: Mhm.

AI: But once the war started we moved to the where the Japanese community was and then I went to Strathcona [?] School just for a short period of time and we lived near Paul Groun [?] and we lived with my aunt and her fam- well she had one daughter at that time and we lived within when the war started, when all the men were taken away and we stayed there for a while until the government decided that we have to move to Hastings Park-

LU: Mhm.

AI: But all of this was an experience for me I mean I don't regret anything during that time sure the World War was with Japan but I don't think I was old enough to understand all the- maybe they, the parents did but all I knew there was curfew, we had to be in by nine o'clock I think it was and they all made sure that you got back in yeah that much I remember-

LU: Mhm.

AI: But going to Strathcona School was mostly Japanese anyway yeah from there, well I remember

[40 minutes]

going to the movies you know but I don't know where the theater, I don't know where it was but I remember going to the movies in that area.

LU: Mhm, do you remember any of the movies?

AI: Oh God I-[looks up and sighs] is Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs- [chuckles] sorry I don't remember if that was during that time or not, I can't remember-

LU: I believe it was.

AI: Yeah that-

LU: Yeah.

AI: That, that I remember.

LU: First film- or coloured film movie wasn't it?

AI: Yeah, but you know we weren't that rich so I just couldn't go there all the time, yeah but whenever we did- and then I used to go to New Westminster from Vancouver my parents would take us to meet our grandparents-

LU: Oh.

AI: And my aunt and uncle 'cause my grandfather on my mother's side he had a rooming house, a server room I was told, but the one that I remember is the one that was a royal avenue it was a three storey [moves hand upwards] well when your young [looks up] it looks huge and we used to go there and spend our- spend the weekend visiting my grandfather but then my grandmother died in 1934 and I just can't remember her at all and my grandfather, I do remember him, yeah.

LU: What was he like?

AI: Well- [small pause] well I guess to me he was very generous but he had all of his grandkids 'cause most of them lived in that area and you know he had quite a few of them but I remember, I could still remember he was very kind, yeah and you know like he had a big rooming house where all the single men used to all board there I remember they had a huge kitchen yeah and then the long table for the people to sit and one thing that still sticks in my mind is this pickle onion [makes small circle shape with hand] you know the Japanese pickled onions, I used to love it! [chuckles] and I still remember seeing that on the table all the time and this huge kitchen stove and that's when my mother said they had to get up early to cook to feed all these boarders and then they had a huge Japanese bath at the back that I remember too, yeah that's about all I could remember- and then there I used to go up to the second and third the long hallway with rooms all along and I think some of my aunts and uncles families they lived there temporarily too, yeah so there about the only memory that I have.

LU: That's interesting-

AI: But he was well known my great- my grandfather I was told that he was too generous and then my grandmother was the one that had to put a- had to control the money and

everything, yeah and I think because he was so generous with loaning out money and not getting it back I think my uncle who is the youngest of a family of eight when he grew up after the war and everything he worked to repay back all the debt in those days it was- I don't know whether it was an honour or not but they believe in returning all the debt, it's a lost toll [?] I don't know how true this is but I know my uncle who did the- had a roofing business I was told that being the only male left and he worked and was able to pay back all of the debt that his father had made-

LU: Wow.

AI: Yeah so but my mother never, never spoke about it but I was- that's how it was told, yeah.

LU: It's very rare that individuals were able to meet their grandparents-

AI: Mhm.

LU: 'Cause most of their grandparents would have been in Japan-

AI: Yeah.

LU: Being-

AI: But my grandfather I don't know what my- well I didn't meet my grandparents on my father's side-

LU: Mhm.

AI: I just have pictures of them, of him- now that's an interesting story for him too that I was told that he didn't like- well there all from a farming community, rural area and he didn't like farming so he was adopted by a rice merchant and then he married their daughter, and became an Ikeda and then he had

[45 minutes]

three children that was my eldest uncle who was in Vancouver, my father, my aunt who never came to Canada she lived in Japan, and then my dad, my father there's three and then she died, his wife, my grandmother died so he married her sister and then they had a daughter Shizue [?] and her- Shizue's [?] mother, she left him also left my grandfather because he gambled too much in stock and then he had a- I don't know whether if he had a- they must have met a third time and he had another daughter and my father and those two daughters all came to Vancouver-

LU: Wow.

AI: Yeah they came to Vancouver and my aunt, the one that [unclear words], was the only one that never came back never came- she never came to Canada she stayed behind but she made a name for herself in Momotobi [?] having a children kindergarten she had three of them going during the war- after the war and she was well recognized and respected over there-

LU: Mhm.

AI: And when I went to Japan in 1980 that was the first trip that I made to meet my cousin and to meet my aunt unfortunately on the day that I arrived to Kumamoto city my uncle had passed away yeah and then there was gonna be a funeral and everything but she said

that to wait 'till the funeral was finished and then we got to get her after that yeah and one of the, one of the customs that they have there in Japan is that I never knew is that my mother went there earlier than I did she went back during the expo, year she went back to Japan in the 70's I think, and she took my fathers, half of my fathers ashes back and they apparently we have a family cemetery- family plot, family plot, Ikeda plot and they put half of my father's ashes there and when I went in 1980 that's the first thing that I had to do was visit the cemetery to pay my respect and my aunt would take me up yeah that's the first thing I did and she would show me you know my uncle who died here [points finger] and the whole history of the Ikedas and then my father was there she was just telling me and then when she passed away her- I think you know in Kumamoto they had this monsoon, storms and hurricanes whatever they have there, it destroyed all of the cemetery and he had her son build another one and her son sent me a picture a beautiful picture of this cemetery with "Ikeda" on it in Japanese and a beautiful plot that they made and when I went back, 2007, he took me that's another thing- the first thing I had to do he would take me there we used to go to the cemetery [chuckles] and that's where he took me and I said well 'I gotta buy some flowers' he said 'no, no my wife was there the day before she put all the flowers out, everything 's ready' so we gotta go pay our respect and that's why I went and then I saw this beautiful Ikeda plot all made up yeah it was very nice I thought 'oh my Goodness, how nice of them to do it' yeah-

LU: Wow.

AI: Yeah, [smiles] so I enjoy Japan even though I can't- I can speak a little bit but my speaking is what I call the Maji era, my parents language which is old fashion 'cause they have modern language there now but I could speak not, not that well but I can not read at all but we manage when we go to Japan, I love going to Japan and I always tell them that- but most of the young people there are able to speak English especially in any airline or any train station many of the stores too they able to help you out-

LU: Mhm.

AI: They're so gracious and oh, I just can't get over how when I compared to what's here-

[50 minutes]

I'm so overwhelmed by them how polite they are yeah that's why I like to go back I wanna go back one more time because as I get older and older I find it more and more difficult yeah but I just, I just feel when I go to Japan that I'm home you know I feel more relaxed and I could do what I want and I enjoy every minute of it-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah and I travel all over Japan I don't just stay in Kumamoto city where my cousin is living in fact I only have two left now, two cousins left and they're all in their 80's mid 80's or passed mid 80's-

LU: Mhm.

AI: But still we keep in touch and my cousin finally came over to Toronto and stayed with us with his wife and even though they came for ten days we tried to show them you know most what's interesting in Canada, in Toronto-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah but I have other friends there too, in Tokyo too that I have friends.

LU: So was the majority of your family from Kumamoto or-

AI: Yes.

LU: Where was your mother's family from?

AI: Kumamoto.

LU: Kumamoto still.

AI: They're all from Kumamoto-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah. [nods head]

LU: And what was your father's original last name or first last name?

AI: Ik- Well his- he- when he was born, he was born as an Ikeda 'cause his father married the merchants daughter and took the Ikeda name so that's how, that's how Ikeda started-

LU: So I'd be your grandfather then-

AI: Yeah.

LU: Who-

AI: Yeah.

LU: And his original last name.

AI: He was- it was- he became an Ikeda, my grandfather became an Ikeda therefore my father was an Ikeda yeah.

LU: Mhm, but his original family part was Nishijima.

AI: Nishijima -

LU: Nishijima.

AI: Nishijima and that's what I'm curious to know, what part of the Nishijima family that he came from 'cause nobody seems to know but they always tell me oh if you go to Japan they have, they keep an accurate record as long as you go to Kumamoto [?] city- I gotta ask my cousin over there, they have a history of everybody-

LU: Mhm.

AI: And they'd be able to trace back the mura, where they were born, and a family and how they dispersed and where they are, yeah and I find it very interesting [background noise] and I want to do this before I start forgetting everything- [chuckles]

LU: Bring [?] a tape recorder with you. [chuckles]

AI: Yeah I should, [chuckles] yes.

LU: And then on your mothers side of the family her, her parents or your grandparents-

AI: Yep.

LU: Came from Japan-

AI: Yeah, both of them came from Japan.

LU: Do you know when they came?

AI: I'm not so sure when they came well my grandfather must have- grandfather, grandmother must have come out quite early because my mother's eldest brother was born in 1902 and the second one born in 1903 and then my aunt, the eldest, my mother's eldest sister was born in 1905 and then the other sister 1906 then my mothers 1907 and then her younger sister I'm not so sure when she was born but I have to ask her children there here in Toronto [points finger]-

LU: Mhm.

AI: When she was born but I know that my aunt who's my mother's younger sister who's still living and is in a Bendale [?] nursing home [points finger] she's 96 I think, she was born 1914 and my uncle who's the youngest was born in 1916 but he died the same year as my mother in 2002 he died in October and my mother died in December-

LU: Wow.

AI: Yeah and he was the youngest of the family yeah-

LU: Mhm.

AI: So if he was- in my old- my uncle was born in 1902 then they must have been here in early- late 1800's that, that, that I- no one seems to know, I don't have enough accurate information on that-

LU: Mhm, did you ever hear why they came over from Japan?

AI: I don't know why they came over but I know that they tell me that he must be a business minded person because I heard that he had several rooming houses in different areas yeah but maybe they came out to make a fortune and then go back- isn't that- most of these immigrants, early immigrants you know they come to Canada, they work hard, save their money, then they go back

[55 minutes]

unfortunate that it always doesn't work out that way.

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah.

LU: I found that it's usually the single men who come out, end up working, and then making money to go back but, or that's the idea, but then they don't end up making enough money to go back so they call over a wife-

AI: Yeah [nods head] that's right.

LU: Or someone to come-

AI: Yeah, yeah.

LU: And live there with them-

AI: Yep.

LU: To help them make more money to go back but I've also heard that most people when they come together they're planning on [both speaking] staying in Canada-

AI: [both speaking] Staying, oh.

LU: Yeah they don't plan on going back, so-

AI: Well in my case for my grandpa on my mother's side I don't think he was ever planning to go back, I know he took trips back but I don't think he was planning because I mean he had eight children you know-

LU: [chuckles]

AI: Your settled here in Canada now I don't think during that time he didn't have to know speak English that well 'cause he's amongst all the Japanese 'cause they were all in that Steveston, Fraser River all in that area in New Westminster-

LU: Mhm.

AI: And all his neighbours were Japanese, I remember [unclear words or name?] he had- all his neighbours were all Japanese and they're all living in Toronto, I could remember that the all the business that they had in fact my grandfather also had a drive-in [?] business too where my aunt, who's in Bendale [?] right now, she ran that, she ran that store when she was young-

LU: Mhm.

AI: And then they also- my aunt also had a barbershop but its all Japanese customers there's so many Japanese in there in New Westminster they all [emphasize with hand movements]- so they all know each other yeah.

LU: Oh wow.

AI: Yeah so I do remember some of the Japanese families living next door to my- on this Royal Avenue that- I remember the name Royal Avenue, I can still have it in my mind [points to head] what it looked like at that time but when I went to British Columbia with my wife years and years ago I kept going back there to see that place myself again, second time I went by myself [points to self] and the first time I think, I thought everything has changed and what you know as a child and what you see as an adult it's two different things-

LU: Mhm.

AI: You know there's a Buddhist church there I thought it was a huge church, Buddhist church and my grandfather died and we still got the picture of his funeral you know and it looks huge well when I went there as a grown up it was a tiny little place, couldn't believe when I looked at it [laughs] I said 'is this the Buddhist church,' [chuckles] it was still standing at that time when I went and I couldn't believe how small it was but to me it was huge with all those steps you had to climb [shakes head], yeah [chuckles], yeah but I took my mother back and her- [once we were ?] married I took her back, I took her back to the place that we lived especially before the war and this place but she wouldn't get out of the car to walk to see it, she don't want to yeah but we took her everywhere else yeah so we- I don't know whether we took her to- I don't think- did it take her to- I don't think I took her to New Westminster or not I thought that would be interesting for her but I can't remember whether I did or not but I know I did 'cause I was curious to see, to see what I could remember as a child the places that was still in my mind [points to head] and I did recognize some of the places but like in any, any city it grows and things are torn down and then rebuilt for a far more modern-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah but they said oh it's really grown-

MI: [someone in the background spoke, speaker's name unknown] You took your mother back but she stayed at the lower end of the town 'cause it was a hill going up to Royal Avenue-

AI: Oh.

MI: And she didn't want to climb the hill anymore.

AI: Yeah there was a yeah there was a- I remember the hill in front of it was all sand [emphasize with hand movements], not now but I remember a bridge, walking up that bridge, it was a hill walking up that bridge but as far as that but then the one side [unclear words] second time, first time it was all changed, all changed, I hardly recognize the place, yeah.

LU: That's a big difference. [chuckles] I'm just gonna switch this tape here-

AI: Yep. [camera sounds]

[60 minutes]

[camera sounds continue]

MI: Arthur you never told her that in New Denver [?] you went to work for a dairy farm.

LU: Oh yes.

AI: Oh yeah.

LU: Oh yeah, [chuckles] did you have any other stories about your grandparents? [camera sounds] Do you know why your or if your grandparents were married before they came to Canada or if they get married here?

AI: They're- my grandfather on my father's side married on the boat coming over-

MI: He was- remember she didn't want to-

AI: She didn't want to marry-

MI: The guy she came to see. [chuckles]

AI: Yeah, marry, marry this name Mr. Ueno [?] she didn't want to marry him and they always tell 'oh they fell in love on the boat' and they married and I said you know isn't that awful you're coming as a bride and then to find out when you land you're already married to my grandfather [laughter] yeah but things worked out because I think the younger sister came out and married him yeah he was a- Mr. Ueno [?] I was told was a very shrewd business man in New Westminster yeah-

LU: Mhm, Ueno [?] ?

AI: Ueno [?], Ueno [?]-

LU: Ueno [?], mhm.

AI: Yeah, their granddaughters living in Toronto she's my second- she's my second cousin really yeah. It's interesting when you search into the background of all my grandparents of their brothers and sisters who came to Canada, who they end up marrying, and its very interesting when I- but I question my mother at that time I said 'tell me more about it' but she couldn't quite remember and this is why I'm pursuing another one with my cousin here to find out about his first cousins and then I could complete this thing that I wrote up in my

computer, I thought I'd write this history up yeah so but as far as my father's side is concerned I don't know too much about him and I- 'cause I've never met them I've just met the offspring 'cause they all came to Canada except my one aunt which we eventually did meet-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah but it's you know it's enlightening when you find out that oh my father had, yes he had- there were five in their family but not knowing that the last two had different mothers you know this is very interesting.

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah but they all done well here I mean they're all gone now every one of them are gone so the Ikeda side is from my grandfathers Ikeda's five family they're all- they all passed away now it's only the offspring's that we're in contact with it's sad in a way because my cousins here they don't know too much about their ancestors not as much as I know 'cause I was you know but it's a shame that I didn't pursue it earlier when my mother could remember more things 'cause at this point when I was asking her all kinds of questions yes she gave me a lot of information but I asked well 'who was your uncle?' on your father's side she couldn't, she couldn't remember-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah.

LU: Did her parents come from large families as well with many children or-?

AI: That's something that I'm not too sure all I knew was that my grandfather on my mother's side I think he was the only one that came out to Canada he has sisters but they married and their offsprings are here and I knew he had a younger brother but I don't know how true this is, his younger brother had a daughter named Shizue[?] and she came over to Canada on an arranged marriage to my mothers eldest brother so they're first cousins [emphasizes with hand movements] yeah and you know she is living in Lethbridge- [camera lag] 101 years old- [nods head, smiles]

LU: Holy smokes.

AI: So she celebrated her 101st birthday in December

[65 minutes]

AI: and she's in the- I mean she's, she's remarried after my uncle died cause my- they have four. Four children and last year was a very tragic event because one of my cousins, one of her eldest son past away he was 81 years old he died of cancer she's 101 years old and then that's the first one that she lost but she, she, she remarries so her other siblings all in Alberta they re-look after her I mean her son is here in Toronto one of her sons here in Toronto she's got another son in Lethbridge out of the four [holds up four fingers] Nishagima [?] and she's got a daughter in Windsor but the daughter in Windsor is 82 years old but she can't remember too many things yeah but her mother is still coping and doing well-

LU: Mhm.

AI: I can't believe it 101 years old and she's still- she lives, she's not in a nursing home she's in a senior home-

LU: Oh wow.

AI: But the children check her every day over there you know but she's fed by the home that she's staying at yeah and she's still is attractive [?] very clean- oh, when we used to visit Lethbridge she always insisted that we stay with at her house and her house was spotless she was such a clean- cause she went to work as a cleaning woman and she kept her house spotless I just couldn't get over how neat she was with everything-

LU: Wow.

AI: Yeah.

LU: I can't get over how you can keep track of your whole family-

AI: [laughs]

LU: My goodness birthdays and everything.

AI: Yeah well I love to keep track of all my cousins and find out what's going on my cousin here keeps me informed of everything what's going on over there in Lethbridge he talks to his mother every week but then you see my aunt in Lethbridge doesn't remember us by our Christian name only by our Japanese name-

LU: Oh.

AI: Yeah, that's why-

LU: So, when did you receive Christian names?

AI: When I was born, my uncle on my father's side named me after King Arthur [laughs]-

MI: he thinks he's a king too. [laughs]

LU: [laughs]

AI: Yeah and then all my younger brothers and sisters, my cousin they were all quite a year older than I am and we live close together next to each other and they named all the Christian names except my youngest brother he was born after my father passed away and my uncle in Tashme at the time was married to my father's youngest sister Hirano - he- they wanted to, at first they wanted to adopt my youngest brother cause they said it was too much of a strain for my mother to have, to have six of us and they have a seventh one but my mother said no, she can't part with him so he named, he named the Christian name Bernard because it was very unusual and then his Japanese name was Osamu which means, Osamaru [?] or Osamiru [?] which is a last child that's, his name is Bernard Osamu Ikeda-

LU: Oh.

AI: Yeah, so-

LU: Now were your Christian names first or were your Japanese names first?

AI: Well we use the Christian name first but to our, to our uncles and aunts they call us by our Japanese name they never call us by our English name you know they don't call me Hiroshi all the time-

LU: What is Hiroshi?

AI: Hiroshi is my Japanese name.

LU: Do you know what it means?

AI: No I don't know what it means but I never did inquire about it but I could remember all of the Japanese names from all my brothers and sisters-

LU: Really!?

AI: Oh yeah, I know their birthdays too.

LU: Oh! Go, go for it-

AI: [laughs]

LU: What, what are they all? [chuckles] get them on record. [chuckles]

AI: Yeah well my second brother is a year younger than I am, his name is Mamoru Ikeda [?] and my third brother is Kiyoshi Sidney you know Sid, and then my fourth brother is Masaru Edgar he's the batch that lives in Momiji [?] and my sister is Sadako Evelyn and my next sister below her is Masako Kay and my youngest brother is Osamu Berni, Bernard we never call him Bernard

[70 minutes]

'cause I think about [laughs] the Bernard dog you know the-

MI: St. Bernard. [chuckles]

AI: St. Bernard. [chuckles]

LU: [chuckles] Oh my goodness.

AI: Yeah.

LU: So, the birthdays span about ten years apart it seems.

AI: Yeah like I was born in 19- April 20th, 1931, Kenneth was born in June 30th, 1932 and would you believe it my mother had a miscarriage on the third one so there's a space now then Sidney [?] was born on October the 11th, 1934 and then Edgar was born in November the 18th, 1935 then my sister was born- now with my sister the funniest thing my sister was born December the 24th that's why she's called Evelyn but my uncle on my father's side, my father's older brother he said no that means it's not fair that she'll be turning one years at the first of the New Year because they believed when the New Years you turn one year older so the put her in as January the 24th, 1939-

LU: Really?

AI: And then my sister Kay was born was it July the 2nd, 1942, war started in 1941 she was born in Hasting, she was in Hastings Park when she was with mother brought her, she was in the hospital there in 1942-

LU: Mhm.

AI: And then my youngest brother born in oh when was it I know 1944 after my dad died so May! May the 7th, 1944 yeah 'cause my father died November the 15th, 1943 yeah born after him May the 7th.

LU: And when was your father born, do you know when he was born?

AI: July the- 1907 I don't know if it was July the 29th or July the 7th 1907- 1901, 1901 he was born.

LU: Oh 1901.

AI: One, my mother's born in 1907-

LU: Mhm, wow.

AI: And then my father married when he was 20-seven or eight, my mother was 20 I think 27 yeah my mother's 20 but they had no children for four years they had no children-

MI: [chuckles] [speech unclear]

AI: Yeah one after that- [chuckles]

LU: Yeah literally-

AI: One after another. [chuckles]

LU: They just rolled right out yeah.

AI: [laughs] That's why I couldn't believe it I said oh my God four years they had no children [unclear speech] then I came along on the fourth year I came along and after that every year there was- [chuckles]

LU: [chuckles]

AI: Yeah that, that, that I never did question my mother on that I never did ask her.

LU: Do you know how your parents met and how they came to be married?

AI: Well [wipes eyes] I think my grandfather, my, my, my mother's side they're related anyway with my father [moves finger back and forth] and at that time he had daughters and my dad I think they thought maybe the my mother's eldest sister Kiko [?] would be the one for my father but my father didn't- wanted my mother instead so he thought my mother so that's how they got married, not arranged but more of an arrange because they were related [moves finger back and forth] they were second cousins so yeah-

LU: Mhm, do you know when they got married?

AI: Oh I have it in my record there I don't- 19- jeez I don't know.

LU: I guess it would have been in the 20's at some point.

AI: 20's yeah, yeah 'cause I came in 1931 so 1927 or 1920-1927 maybe-

LU: Mhm.

AI: This was four years after our- or 1928 [?], I'm not so sure yeah.

LU: Oh wow.

AI: Yep. [nods head]

LU: Now you mentioned before your family had to move to Hastings Park that you left your house on 9th Avenue that you're renting out from your uncle-

AI: Oh that was no 9th Avenue was in Tashme-

LU: Oh in Tashme-

AI: During the war, during the war you know we all- but it was all sent to this one camp and we were on 9th Avenue but it was a tar,

[75 minutes]

a tar [?] in fact I got a picture of it-

LU: Wow-

AI: Yeah.

LU: Really?

AI: I got a picture of my father and my family before and that it was taken in the summertime and in that November he died-

LU: Wow.

AI: So there's only seven- six of us there and my mother was pregnant with the seventh, you see my youngest sister who I took care of, I took care of, I took care, I took care of them all but my youngest sister was the one that wouldn't go back to my- at first my mother came home from the hospital she wouldn't go to her 'cause she didn't recognize her 'cause she was so small and- I'll show you the picture after yeah-

LU: Mhm, yes! And then so the house that was in Vancouver-

AI: Mhm.

LU: That you're renting from your uncle-

AI: Mhm.

LU: Do you know what happened to the house or why you had to move from the house to your aunts?

AI: I don't know why, why my father and my mother moved maybe because of the side of the family maybe, maybe they could be that, that we moved out and went into a bigger and larger home-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah that was on Triumph Street, 2034 Triumph Street we were on Paul Street then at first yeah see my uncle also had, my uncle my father's elder brother also had men from Japan coming over to work and I know that they were also living in the same house that we were living next to my uncle's home and maybe with our family getting larger we needed a bigger place and that's when we moved over to Triumph Street but you know I used to remember my father asking me to run over to my uncle's house to get some ice you know it was a couple blocks away and I had to put these ice in a container [emphasises with hand movements] and bring it back to our house again yeah but I guess he had, he had, he had a lot of his old buddies, his friends yeah they're all they all passed away now but he had a lot of close friends-

LU: Mhm.

AI: And I do remember some of the in Triumph Street where I lived I knew- I remember some of the Japanese families who had stores you know like grocery stores, pastry stores yeah but I don't know their names now I forgot.

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah.

LU: What was the ice for?

AI: [makes facial gesture]

LU: What was the ice for?

AI: Well in the summertime I don't know whether I don't know I can't remember if it was drinking water but I know in summer [?] they used to make me go down 'cause they were more well off my uncles, my uncles family, but I know I used to go get ice and take it home-

MI: How big was it?

AI: Hm?

MI: How big was it?

AI: What?

MI: The ice.

AI: No it's just cubes. [emphasize with hand movements]

MI: Oh.

AI: Not, not big container, I was a kid.

MI: [chuckles]

LU: Oh, I thought it was a big block of ice. [chuckles]

AI: Oh no, no, no, no cubes of ice not a [?] container I don't know whether it was for drinking or what, yeah-

LU: Mhm.

AI: But I do remember my uncles' house that they had a piano at that time and it's one of those pianos that you pedal and then the music would come out [emphasize with hand movements] and then those paper things [laughs] that used to be so much fun pedaling away and some people thought that I was playing the piano but- [laughs] but in those days I don't know whether they happen now or not but in those days they did have it yeah-

LU: Wow.

AI: Yeah, [chuckles] yeah, oh yeah, and then their- my aunt's mother she used to babysit us with like her own grandchildren and then we lived so- next to each other [emphasize with hand movements] and I just remember how that we used to play games and get prizes and then but they were so nice yeah and that grandma she yeah she passed away in New Denver with when we all moved away yeah but I don't remember too much of her I do remember her face and the, another thing is that her sister my aunt's mother Ikeda side her sister adopted one of her one of my uncle's twin daughters and you know she's still living

[80 minutes]

LU: Wow.

AI: Yeah, the twin daughter here died that's my cousin and they live in Yokosuka [?] she's 90, 92 you know when I go to Japan I always visit her and she never found out that she had siblings here [points to the ground] until her father at the time he was living told her and she came out to Canada to meet all her brothers and sisters and her real mother that was here-

LU: Wow.

AI: Yeah and unfortunately I am the only one that visits her over here [gestures to the left] they have no ties with her so they don't think much about keeping it-

MI: It's her own brothers and sisters-

AI: It's her own brothers and sisters that are here but none of them so we don't know her but I guess it becomes that way because when you're adopted when you're a baby you know you just kinda there's that closeness that's not there anymore you know-

LU: Mhm.

AI: But I'm still close to her I still every time I go to Japan I take the time to take a go down to Yokosuka to visit her.

LU: Now did her brothers and sisters know that she had left and went to Japan or?

AI: Eventually they must have found out yeah but I think they did know because Edith was the second or third of my cousin and she worked in Ottawa and she had a twin sister she knew I think they all knew that her twin sister which was given away, adopted by one of the relatives and you know that twin sister that living in Japan she looks just like her real mother I can't get over! Every time I see her, I say oh my God you look just like her real mother-

LU: Wow.

AI: Yeah, there were two twins but they're not what you call it they're identical twins

MI: Fraternal.

AI: Yeah.

LU: Mhm, fraternal twins.

AI: But this one here just looks just like her mother every time I look at I her I just say oh my God you remind me of aunt Hatsu [?]-

LU: Wow. [chuckles]

AI: Yeah, unfortunately, she's ill health now but I just spoke to her this month yeah in January I spoke to her I still send the gifts over [chuckles] I send them I send it to my cousins and a few other friends in Japan I send a [unclear word] from seaborne [?] and I send them as a gift so they can enjoy them at New Year 'cause I know she loves [unclear word] she always used to say she just loves it-

LU: What is that?

AI: It's those a harid-

MI: It's a fish roll on seaweed-

AI: A harid fish roll yeah, it's very expensive-

MI: You can only get it in Vancouver.

AI: Yeah it's not allowed, the Indian people, Native Indians are able to harvest-

MI: [Simultaneous Speech] Harvest.

AI: Those, yeah-

LU: Wow.

AI: It's quite a market for it yeah-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah, I love it I love eating it, but you don't eat it all the time you only eat it at a special time like New Years is the time that we all buy it and bring it out yeah. [smiles, nods head]

LU: Mhm, what do you remember about activities when you were younger and playing games or friends?

AI: Oh, Vancouver days I can't remember what, what I was playing with or who I played with I'm sure I had friends that played I knew a friend, I knew some of the Japanese friends that I kept in touch with but as far as jeez I can't remember what games I was playing, who I was playing with-

LU: Do you remember marbles or jacks or card games?

AI: Hm, No.

MI: [chuckles]

LU: [chuckles]

AI: Marbles yes, I do remember a thing like that in Vancouver jeez I'm just trying to think back and I just can't remember what did I do to keep myself busy-

LU: Mhm.

AI: You know but I did play I know I used to go out playing with people but I don't know what, what I was doing it just doesn't come to my mind I guess that wasn't that important I guess [smiles] and even in Tashme I have friends we used to play 'cause only I was only 12 years old then used to play but I can't I can't remember I guess I you know I would, I can't really say any specifically what I was doing during that time-

MI: [whispers, unclear speech]-

AI: Eh? [looks towards the left, to the unknown speaker]

MI: After his dad died in New Denver-

AI: Not New Denver, Tashme.

MI: Oh, he died in Tashme but when you moved to New Denver you went to work for a dairy farm.

AI: Oh yeah, New Denver after

[85 minutes]

we left Tashme to Roseburg [?] to New Denver when I was 14- 13, 13 going on 14 I went to work at a dairy farm as a schoolboy my mother didn't like it because she said no you shouldn't, but I said no I want to so this Campbell was the dairy farmer and they were very good to us, very good to the Japanese in fact they hired Japanese housekeepers there in fact my mother used to go there and clean the floors on Saturdays but I went there and it was about four miles away from my school I used to walk back and forth and I used to bring all the milk from the cows when you- in those days they had I don't know what they no they had machines on them during in those days used to haul the milk into this room they had a cold room where I would bottle all the milk into these little bottles [emphasize with hand movements] and then my job was also to clean out all the bottles too but then I lived with them I was fed Western food you know like you know the meat and everything milk you can drink all the milk you want and this is why during that period [raises arm] I grew so tall 'cause I was eating- that's why you find amongst my brothers and sisters I'm the tallest [point to self]-

LU: Mhm.

AI: That's why they don't think I'm the eldest they think the others are the older because they are shorter [emphasize with hand movements] and my youngest brother is the shortest [chuckles from the room] and he should be the tallest [raised arm] [chuckles] but I am, I think that was one of the reasons why I grew is that I had all Wester food, I ate meat, I had a lot of milk to drink-

LU: Mhm.

AI: And I really sprouted.

LU: So you stayed with them?

AI: Oh yeah I lived there with them.

LU: For how long?

AI: It wasn't too long I don't know whether it was a year or not less maybe less than a year but I was at, I was in high school then, grade nine and it was from there that I left to come to Toronto but I worked there [nods head] and they were very good to us, we could eat all we want you know and then the housekeepers were Japanese in fact they both are passed away now these girls they used to work there I got to know them and they had a farmhouse huge red cattles and the cows and everything [emphasize with hand movements] yeah it was something, it was an experience for me but eventually my mother said I should come back so I did go back-

LU: Mhm.

AI: But there was also one incident that I don't tell too many people is that during that time in New Denver we used to go Kaslo which is some distance away for cherry picking in the summertime but we used to go pick cherries because my aunt lived there and we used to go there and stay with them when they pick cherries to make extra money but I know in one winter time my aunt in Kaslo was coming to Toronto and my mother wanted to say goodbye to her and there's a train that goes up from goes past New Denver and my youngest brother who was very small then so the three of us hopped on this train, we had to walk to the train station [emphasize with hand movements] it was quite a walk there and then from there we hopped on a train and in the winter time you know it's not the best time to travel I guess but we did travel but halfway or halfway to Kaslo we couldn't go any further 'cause they said there's too many snow slides [?] now so this is very dangerous just sitting, staying here so the conductors gave us things he said I think you should head back toward New- toward where you came from and I remember there was another Japanese man that was on there he lived in Sandown [?] I think [looks towards the left] and we- he guided us all the way we had to walk on the rail track [looks towards the left again] all the way, all the way through [looks towards the left again] and I carry my youngest brother on my shoulder and my mother and this that and we walked through you know these trestles across canyons [emphasize with hand movements] and all the snow we had to walk away through and by the time we reached Sandown [?] he took us to the place he was staying to a rest stop to have a bite to eat and then he said he'll help, he'll come with us to New- walk with us to New Denver

[90 minutes]

[background noise] it was pitch black and everything was dark in the mountains-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Mountain and with my kid brother on my back shoulder and my mother and we all walked and he got- I don't know his name to this day but and then on top it all once we reached New Denver we said we could go from here this is still on a walk on the railroad

track [emphasize with hand movements] he said he's gonna go to Rosebery 'cause that's where he lives his family is there and he continued on [emphasize with hand movements] while we, we- my mother was so concerned because she left all my brothers and sister by themselves and she says she has to get back but the next day I couldn't go to school 'cause I had all these [looks down] blister on my heels-

LU: Oh, yeah.

AI: Yeah my, my you know from walking I have never- walking through this you know and then I was told earlier- later on I found out the snow slide did come and knocked the train over yeah so this is I said oh jeez that's a good thing although it was quite a trek for us [background noise] never did I experience that walking through the trestle you know with all the snow, it wasn't snowing, but all the snow around you is cold but my mother was determined to get back.

LU: Let's just take a break.

AI: Yeah- [cut off speech]

[recording paused]

LU: Okay, all set-

AI: Okay.

LU: So, if you don't mind me starting? [chuckles]

AI: [nods head] Is it about the trip that I-

LU: Mhm, to go visit-

AI: My parents yeah okay my aunt in Kaslo she was leaving for Toronto and my mother wanted to say goodbye to her so we decided to go by well the only way of getting up there by train at that time that's all we could remember and she wanted to take my youngest brother who's a bit, who's quite small so the three of us went to the railway station which we had to walk some distance and we went on the train and as the train was getting to, going up on the mountain slopes they'd reached a point where they said they can't go any further because of the snow slides there's so much snow in that area 'cause we were going in between the mountains so they said for our safety it would be better if we got off the train and walk back now that was quite some distance and I thought wow so this, there was a Japanese man on the with- on the train and I can't remember his name to this day who he was but he was kind enough to guide us back through the mountain and all we could follow was the railway track and I carried my youngest brother on my back and my mother and we walked all the way down that railway track [emphasize with hand movements] crossing though trestles over canyon you know and you know we just had to keep going and this man was guiding, guided us all the way through and it got dark night time it got pitch black and we were able to reach Sandown [?] which is where he stayed and we stopped over there and he gave us some food to eat and rest for a while and then we had to continue because my mother said that with all the rest of my brothers, younger brothers and sisters at home she has to get back and this Japanese man guided us all the way up to New Denver at the railway station we boarded a train and from there I thought that he was gonna stay

but he said no he's gonna go back to Rosebery which is I don't know how far it was because his family lives there and my mother and we both three of us went back to the house to where we lived in New Denver and my younger brothers and sisters were so happy to see us yeah but the next day I just couldn't go to school 'cause I had blisters all on the back of my feet yeah but that's one experience that I had and my mother's determination that she had to get back you know to the children that they were left behind.

LU: Did you have any luggage with you as well?

AI: No, [shakes head] no luggage with us at all-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Carrying my younger brother on my shoulder was enough. [laughs]

LU: Yeah I was gonna say I would have left the luggage there.

[95 minutes]

AI: No we didn't have any luggage there at all but my mother just wanted to say goodbye to her sister yeah.

LU: And what happened at the train.

AI: Well I was told later that the snow slide eventually did hit the train and knocked it all over the snow slide came yeah so that an 'oh jee' it was a good thing that the conductor insisted that we get off the train 'cause they must have known that how dangerous it is in that area with snow slides-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah, you know that's one experience I never- I hardly talk about it but that's one experience that I went through yeah.

LU: Did everyone get off the train as well?

AI: There weren't too many people on it.

LU: Oh.

AI: No, just the three of us, the Japanese man, and the conductor yeah, I don't think people be travelling in the winter time especially that people in the summertime maybe nice weather there are people who travel back and forth but in the dead winter like that I don't know what made my mother decide that she wanted to say goodbye to her sister yeah but she says she wants to go-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah.

LU: Wow.

AI: But anyway that was one experience that I went through and I was only about oh [looks up] 13, 14, 13, 14, 13, 14 maybe 14, 14 before I came to Toronto, yeah.

LU: Wow. [chuckles]

AI: Yeah. [chuckles]

LU: And what do you remember about the day of Pearl Harbor? Do you remember learning about the Pearl Harbor attacks or-?

AI: Yeah, we've- I've heard of it but I don't know the parents all they all probably talked about it but I can't remember how- it didn't affect me 'cause I was too young I was about 10 then and it didn't affect- well I don't know I think it didn't mean much to me at that time in Japan starting war in Pear Harbor and all that but I'm sure amongst my parents it must have disturbed them quite a bit, not knowing what's gonna happen you know but I do remember the moving, moving from Paul- from Triumph Street into the inner Japanese community area to be amongst all the Japanese [emphasizes with hand movements] and I do remember my dad having to be taken away they, they rounded up all of the men at a certain age and they put them all into the interior and I know my father came back they were under the impression that the war was gonna end very soon and I remember- well we never- we weren't that wealthy we were poor [unclear speech] to a poor [?] but all our personal belongings everything was stored in this Teckniko [?] church which is next door, two doors over there yeah 'cause they were- that's what they were all doing storing them into the Japanese- in the basement and that's where we stored and left it there-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Thinking oh we'll come back and then we'll just pick up our belongings I think but we never did return [shakes head] then eventually we found out that they were all sold and all those Japanese homes there all sold.

LU: Do you remember some of the items that were stored?

AI: Well all I remember is we had some my mother must have kept some of the pictures I do have some old pictures but all we were able to bring- well I remember was just a suitcase of clothing and that's about what all you couldn't take any personal belongings like all dinnerwares and all those things nothing like that so I just can't remember exactly what we, we stored there I don't think we had all that furniture I mean we were just barely making a living I don't think we all that furnitures and everything we just had whatever we had, personal things-

LU: Mhm.

AI: And then when we moved into my aunt's home I mean she had a home but it wasn't, it was a small place and then I don't know whether what, what they done with their things but I know we took all- most of our stuff and stored it into the, into that church basement and into the basement of that house yeah-

LU: Mhm.

AI: But I can't remember whether it was cutleries or what but we must have, we must have we were eating so their must have been dishes

[100 minutes]

and all that but I can't remember ever taking them to Tashme and I can't even remember in Tashme whether we had plates or not well we must have had plates, they must have supplied plates an everything-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Eventually in Tashme all I know Tashme is that the water was outside, public backhouse, outhouse was also outside, and then they allowed you a vegetable garden area for each homes in the field behind-

LU: Oh.

AI: And you grew your vegetable you would have things to eat but most of the government I think that they supplied you with food I'm sure they did it 'cause even though my father was working in the mountain in a- working I'm sure he must have been paid for what he was working for-

LU: Mhm.

AI: But I know that we weren't rich, we were poor you could see by the pictures all of our clothing all patched up [laughs] it's a- oh people that had money maybe they but on the whole we were on the poor side yeah-

LU: Mhm.

AI: And we just started to get ahead when we came to Toronto, worked as a group as my brothers we all worked together pooled our money that's when we were able to, to clean [?] a little better-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah so now, I can't complain I mean I'm not rich but I'm not that poor that I can't eat.

MI: The all manage each brothers and sisters manage to buy a home-

AI: Yes.

MI: After they grew up.

AI: Yeah.

LU: Wow.

AI: Yeah.

MI: Yeah.

LU: Where was your father working before the war started? Was he in the Sawmill?

AI: The sawmill [nods head]-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah I used to see- see him jumping on the logs you know logs in the bay and the Sawmills [emphasizes with hand movements] you know how they pull all the logs out on the conveyer belt to cut it [emphasizes with hand movements] and he would be at the bottom jumping on these logs and yeah but I don't know whether that was his permanent job or not I don't I just used to take his food to him, nighttime-

LU: Mhm.

AI: And I do remember him- [coughs] excuse me- taking us at nighttime for our- to take get shrimps or something from the worth [?] he'd put a net down and you know where there's shrimp or not he would bring it up and down we used to do that and we used to go fishing, fishing in the bay near where we lived it was quite a distance [unclear speech] we used to go there and catch little fish's shadow- we used to call them shadow butcher or something we used to call it-

LU: [chuckles]

AI: We used to that yeah but then I think that was very dangerous 'cause if you fell in the water there's no one there to help you yeah but I remember going there a few times yeah in that area.

LU: Did you know how to swim?

AI: No, not at that time.

LU: Did you ever used to go to the beaches or-?

AI: Yes! I used to Pandora Park and then there was a park in are east end where we lived and they use to have a park with a little pool in there and we used to go there to swim yeah I did go back there to take a look at it again, it's really changed but I said this is a place where I used to come [chuckles] you know it was just a shallow pool but come swimming and then dry us up and lay on the ground yeah [smiles] those are the, those are the- I did go back there just to take a look at it yeah-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah so but I probably I did a lot of other things just doesn't come to my mind in that time what I was doing during all of those times but I do remember that I had an accident I cut my knees [looks down at knee] wide open I don't know what I was doing but it was with a lot of kids and I fell and I hit a rock and my knee split open and I came home crying and my father doesn't like people [shakes finger] doesn't like us crying [laughs] and he said oh your crying again in Japanese to me but then you know when he saw my what had happened to me he was really shocked and got the doctor and did you know that

[105 minutes]

he stitched my knee on the table, the doctor came yeah but [chuckles] mind you he didn't- he put things in to make sure it didn't hurt but my- it still left a scar across my knee and it was pretty deep he said and he stitched it up but I don't remember my dad carrying me into the bed and I couldn't go to school [shakes head] I had to stay at home and I was- I would watch from the back porch [raises and points finger upwards] which faced the school up the hill there and I just couldn't school for a while, I was off school for a while then but that's about the only experience, that's the only scar that I could prove [laughs] and I had an accident but I fell on piece of rock playing, a stone I should say and it split my knee open yeah that was one, that was one of the things that I- that I went through when I was young. [nods head]

LU: Wow.

AI: Yeah. [laughs]

LU: [chuckles] Wow, ad before you went to Tashme you went to Hastings Park, do you remember Hastings Park at all?

AI: Yes [chuckles] I remember, I remember Hastings Park because when I was, when I was younger [chuckles] we used to go to Hastings Park during the exhibition time before the war-

LU: Oh.

AI: And my dad because we, because we weren't- my dad would always take us in the evenings when it's, when it got free at certain times it's free to go in [smiles] and that's when he would take us but I do remember going there by myself or with my brothers 'cause it wasn't that far from, from where we lived and we'd walk there, walk through all the stalls and everything and I never dreamt that one day that we were gonna be living there [smiles] when the war started we were all hustling to Hastings Park and these horse stalls, these animal stalls that I used to visit became our residents for a short period of time with all the Japanese families you know all the mothers with young children and the men were sent to another area but I remember that very well I said oh my goodness I thought [shakes head] to think that with the war on and this is where we landed in Hastings Park yeah-

LU: Mhm.

AI: But that's then I remember all the eating in Hastings Park when all the Japanese got together it's meal time you had to line up and go to the, go to another area and then they'd feed you everybody's all fed and you'd line up in tables [emphasizes with hand movements] and that's when you say God there's so many Japanese, so many Japanese [smiles] from all different areas yeah and then we went to school three for a short period of time too-

LU: Mhm.

AI: They were teaching [nods head] before they start dispersing all the families to different areas I don't know whether we had a choice or not but I know that we landed in Tashme and my father went ahead and then we followed and then I guess Tashme they had to build so many buildings to accommodate all the Japanese that was coming in but that was a very good experience too for me a learning experience there, meeting so many Japanese and all in one area-

LU: Mhm.

AI: And I know there was the mountain police all fenced in [emphasizes with hand movements] you had to get a permit to- I heard you had to get permit to move or travel anywhere but that's about all I could remember, all I remember is that it was all fenced in and there were wild animals, not wild animals but cattles or things all in the field there eventually they got rid of it all but they moved it all but I remember those, I remember that part but they had a lot of things going to do the- keep everybody busy yeah I used to remember going to these concerts to these Japanese movies they used to put on, I went to school there yeah I remember some of my teachers-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah. [smiles, nods head]

LU: Who were your teachers?

AI: Oh-

LU: Do you remember the names?

AI: One was Ms., Ms. Tomihiro [?] but she's married and Ms. Unata [?] she was married and Ms. Ueda [?] she was one of the teachers too [nods head] and Mr. Shin [?] he passed away but he was very active with the Centre he was one of my teachers yeah. [nods head]

LU: Mhm.

AI: So that was, it's quite an experience there yeah I thought you know, I don't have any regrets of being young and being in there and to meet so many people-

[110 minutes]

LU: Mhm.

AI: I mean I'm sure the parents were just, I don't know whether they were angry or distraught or what but we children did the best we can yeah I'm sure we didn't have all the modern convenience there but we got by-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah [nods head] you get to meet all your neighbours too all your- come from different parts, part of BC [British Columbia] yeah so but then you know as you grew older and then you wars finished- well the war was over when I was in New Denver, 1945 I thought it was when the war finished and then people started moving and I decided, my mother at first said no but I was 14 then- 15 and I wanted to come out east 'cause I knew mum [?] couldn't answer it here and I was in grade nine I went to- going to a Roman Catholic school and I didn't finish grade nine, in April I left and my mother only allowed me to go because there was a family coming out here- I forgot their name Yuri [?] and she came with me Yuri [?] and oh I forgot their last-

MI: Fujioka [?] ?

AI: Fujioka [?], Fujioka [?] family yeah and I came with them, they looked after me until I reached Toronto. [nods head]

LU: Wow.

AI: Yeah and then when I came Toronto I went to stay with my aunt and uncles and they had a rooming house on saint- 60, Saint Patrick Street and they put us in because she, my aunt, also had her brother and other, other her nephews they all live in there so we all stayed I just stayed there temporarily because there was a house that they already rented at Saint Paul Street so then I went to work right away 'cause the cleaning store was just down the street, Star Cleaner, and then there were a lot of Japanese working there and they hired me mind you I told them I was 16 but I was only 15 at that time but I was gonna be 16 anyway [shrugs shoulders] yeah and that's where I worked for a while yeah so then from there we lives at Saint Paul Street for a while until my mother decided we should go out but I found it very interesting working [?] I got involved with the church with the Anglican Church there and they were so- very, very nice to me oh yeah they were really- I was an oriental but they said oh come out, come to the church come join us and I used to go help them renovate the church they went under a big renovation they needed more people to help so I used to go help all the time and that's how I got involved with the Anglican Church I taught Sunday school there-

LU: Mhm.

AI: I sang in the choir, I help with the church collecting offerings yeah so and they were very nice to me in fact my Godparents were all from that church mind you all my friends that I've known there have all passed- almost all passed yeah they've all passed away now

all the people that I was so in touch with and now I'm only in touch with one of the daughters that she's 65 years old now and she was a little girl [smiles] Tatinesko [?] and she keeps in touch with me to tell me what's happening 'cause she still goes to that church-
LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah.

LU: Oh wow.

AI: But that was an interesting part in my life as I was growing up yeah from there we moved further away to another area to Bloor and Dufferin area we stayed there for a while which is a different area all together but I have a lot of good memories of the first place that we rented even though it was very inconvenient, very small for us we had to go to public shower to get to take a bath 'cause we had no, we had no bathtub no shower in out in that little house-

LU: Oh wow.

AI: Yeah that's why I said earlier that I used to bathe my younger brothers and sisters in a bath [emphasizes with hand movements] a little bath metal container I used to boil the water and in the kitchen I used to bathe them-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah, they don't remember that [laughs]

MI: The don't want to be reminded. [chuckles]

LU: Yes. [chuckles]

AI: And we only had one toilet

[115 minutes]

was for the- [clears throat] for the eight of us one, [coughs] one toilet [coughs] I don't know how we managed but we did manage until we, until he moved away but we were very happy [shrugs shoulder] happy time my mother used to take all of us to a movie 'cause there were a lot of movie theaters close by [moves hand around] and evenings we used to all go to the movies she would take us to the movie and we as a family would go to the movie yeah we did that for a while in that area-

LU: Oh.

AI: And I used to enjoy going to all these movie, movie outings [nods head] yeah.

LU: What was Toronto like after the war in response to all of the Japanese people coming over?

AI: I didn't have any problem I know I heard a lot of people had problems but I for one the war was over I was able to get a job with the Jewish companies were very, very, very, very good to us I had a nice job with working with the Star Clean mind you, you have to work hard, long hours but I enjoyed working there and then I went night school 'cause I had no education and I went to Shaw Business School taking up typing, shorthand, and bookkeeping-

LU: Wow.

AI: Yeah I took, I learned shorthand, I did typing, I learnt some bookkeeping and then I thought I would've get my metric [?] relations so I went to another nice school I forgot the name of the school now but I was able to get a few credits on it I got my high school anyway but my first job well once I left the cleaner 'cause my mother once said that I you know your- I was losing weight and everything about 120 pounds I was down to, I lost so much weight 'cause I was doing so much so she said you gotta quit and then I got myself a job as a- in the, at St. Lawrence Market there used to be the fruit company, the fruit area, all in those places vegetable fruit area at one time St. Lawrence Market was there but I got a job at this company called Callus and Shar [?] I went to work with them as a, as a, as to look after their books with a- there's another fella Mr. Nickels was the head but there were only two of us working there and he was very nice to me and then from there when they, when that company split I went to work for Federal Farms and I started there as a shorthand typist [laughs] but they had Japanese girls working there too [nods head]-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah and then from there, there was- I stayed with them they were so good, then they moved to the Ontario Food Terminal we- I stayed there for the longest and then they moved to Bradford and that they had a farm, a big farm there, they had a big plant there, processing plant and everything and I went work for- I still continued to work with them 'cause they were so good, they were so good to us, they used to pick us up take us there, eventually you know we used to drive ourselves- they always, the bosses always took us out for lunch there's Chinese restaurants in Bradford yeah they were very, very nice they were very, very good unfortunately they're all passed away I don't keep in touch with their children anymore but they had children they're all working too-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah but when I think of it now I say how I managed to drive to Bradford every day back and forth back and forth [shakes head]-

LU: Wow.

AI: Yeah but you see when your young you can do a lot of things yeah I got to know a lot of people in Bradford too 'cause it's such a small town at that time and most of them were working in this Federal Farms plant that I was working for [nods head] so you get to know the, know the people yeah but I haven't been back there because the whole area has changed oh my God Newmarket and [shakes head] if I had money during that time can just imagine all the land I could have bought I may be so rich now [chuckles] my boss used to tell me that he used to drive up, we used to drive [emphasizes with hand movements] and said God look at this land, look at these lands I don't know whether he got these, these if he'd bought into these farm lands now and said you'd become rich and he was right Jesus the whole place just mushroomed now I can't recognize the small town in Newmarket I just recognize a few places that I used to go to all the time

[120 minutes]

but all the others I just can't [shakes heads] I just marveled at what expenses that took place-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah but that's part of my life.

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah.

LU: Did you ever used to go mushroom picking when you were younger?

AI: No. [shakes head]

LU: Matsu-taki, how do you say it Matsutaki [?].

AI: They had a mushroom farm but I was never involved, never, never went to work there.

LU: Mhm, mhm.

AI: Nope.

LU: And what about the redress were you ever involved with the redress or do you remember events from, from that time?

AI: I knew it was going on I wasn't involved with it at all.

LU: Mhm.

AI: I know that a lot of people worked very hard on our behalf to, to make sure that we were, they were compensated, we were all compensated for what had taken place yeah and I do remember receiving the money- [nods head]

LU: Mhm.

AI: But I was very selfish, I spent it on my teeth [touches teeth, laughs] I got 20,000 dollars' worth of teeth in my mouth here [touched mouth]-

LU: [chuckles]

AI: I had to get a lot of work done on my teeth I got implants, and bridge work, had everything done on it-

LU: Really?

AI: Yep. [nods head]

LU: Oh, I had no idea. [chuckles]

AI: Yep and then I still have problems now. [chuckles]

LU: [chuckles]

AI: But yeah a lot of people, everybody received that money-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah.

LU: Was your mother still here-

AI: Oh yes- [nods head]

LU: To receive the money?

AI: Yes she received the money [nods head] we- everybody received it-

LU: What was her response to receiving the money?

AI: I don't know I don't know whether she was bitter, she never said she was bitter about every what had happened yeah I think she was full busy trying to raise us all up and you know always worried about us all the time I could remember my mother telling us- telling me that you know you don't know what it is until you're married and have your own

children then you realize what our parents going through and my fourth brother he's a bachelor and then he would you know like he wouldn't stay at home all the time he goes out and then she'd come and I said you know he's not home yet and he wasn't a young kid anymore and I said mom! I said if anything had happened I said the police would call [chuckles] let you know if something happened to him and then she'd come in here the next and said oh he came home early morning [chuckles] she always worried about us, always worried about us-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah and I know she always worried about my brother and there'd be arguments and then I'd have to go settle things- [camera sounds]

LU: Oh, I didn't see that one coming [camera sounds] tape ran out-

AI: Okay. [chuckles]

LU: [chuckles] [camera sounds] Okay. [chuckles]

AI: Yeah so my mother was very quiet but they also you know she's a very quiet person but very stubborn in her ways I guess yeah but she did she was always concerned about all of us she worried about us all the time that's why in 2002 [footage jumps] on our last you know she was dying she just reached a point I mean we had to put her into a nursing home 'cause she was not able to walk anymore and we were I thought that I feel oh God why did I put her, well we decided amongst my brothers and sisters that the best place for her is to put her into a nursing home where she would get better care and my brother who was living with her couldn't cope with looking after her so we finally got into, I mean the first home she was in a hospital because we had to take her to a hospital at East General [?] and from there we put her into a nursing home at Leslie and Steeles oh, was a horrible place jeeze when I see what she had to go through crowded, dark and here she is the only thing she could do is go to the one room and peak out the window [mimics window size with fingers] to see the street below to see what's going on and I said isn't that terrible and we tried to, we had different places picked so as soon as this other one came up in Bendale we transferred her over there-

LU: Mhm.

AI: And I know

[125 minutes]

she, she didn't complain that much but I think she realized this is the only place for her realizing that we were all busy raising our own families and but when she went into Bendale she had a nice room and we went every day, we took turns my, my, my brother the bachelor one that's with her he'd be there all the time with her and I'll come and we used to clean her and put her to bed every night so the nurses wouldn't have too but the nurses couldn't get over the fact that our family came over and looked after our mother cleaned her up, put her to bed, and they'd just come in to check to make sure that she was okay-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah [nods head] I remember feel that my mother deserved it for what she went through with us yeah so we did all we can to make her life comfortable there and finally when she got pneumonia and we put her into Scarborough General and the doctors say that the [unclear word] is tried to get her pneumonia fixed so that she'd be okay but then I think she reached a point in her life where she said that you know she wants to go, she was 95-
LU: 95.

AI: Yeah. [nods head]

LU: Wow.

AI: But I told mom that not to worry I said that you know we'll look after each other and not to worry about us anymore-

LU: Mhm.

AI: And she finally passed away and she passed away in the early hours of morning and Jesus Murphy when I got the phone call jeeze from my brother they all rushed down even from my sister from Hamilton they all rushed over-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah so you know this way we're so thankful to our mom for all she went through for us, yeah.

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah but she lived a good life 90-95 she enjoyed seeing her grandchildren yeah she used to get a laugh out of them all the time-

LU: [chuckles]

AI: 'Cause at that time she was still at home you know and we used to get together and that's one thing too that she used to- New Years way, way back New Years she used to stay up all night cooking you know we used to go out and we were young so we used to go out and celebrate New Years out and come home and there she is still cooking and that's the tradition she's never forgotten and she did that for the longest time yeah to the point where we started to pitch in and help her-

LU: Mhm.

AI: And 'till this day I still carrying the tradition I still cook all kinda special New Year food not in great abundance like just, just for something I could see my kids after me [?] say what are you doing all this cooking for [chuckles] but I like to have all these little traditional food and-

LU: What are some of the favorites in the family, the food?

AI: Well I like any kind of food we're brought up in that era where you don't waste food I could tell you one incident when my father was very strict about it you know this Fuki [?], Fuki [?] is one of these, oh I don't know what you call it in English-

MI: It's a plant and you eat the stem.

AI: Yeah it's a wide leaf and you'd eat the stems of it-

LU: Hm.

AI: In Vancouver I didn't like it and I refused to eat it when it was served to me you know and my father made me eat- next time, dinner time he just brought that placed it on the table and said eat it and I had nothing else to eat except, except that [laughs] and had to eat

the Fuki [?] and to this day I could eat it but I'm not fond, I'm not too fond of it [laughs] yeah you don't waste food that's one thing we were taught don't waste food and I'm appalled when my grandkids come over for dinner they just don't eat everything they just hide it under a napkin and just put it to the [laughs] kitchen sink [chuckles] and I'd look and said what a waste you guys I said after me cooking all this kind of food [chuckles] you're not eating everything [chuckles] but then that's not my responsibility that's my daughters [chuckles] yeah the time has changed from the time we were brought up to the time now [shakes head] you know everything comes so easy to everybody and I'm to blame for a lot of stuff for my

[130 minutes]

grandson too because I only had two grandchildren-

LU: Only two?

AI: [nods head]

MI: Yeah he spoils them.

AI: And I get them anything what they want this is [unclear speech] I thought about the parents and all that I said don't tell your parents [laughs] but 'cause I thought oh they're so, I'm so fond of them and I thought oh but I've always said you know whatever you do in life get yourself educated you know get yourself educated yeah that's I don't know if this fulfillment will come true or not but my daughter knows that too and my son because I made sure that they all got a university education which they did-

LU: Wow.

AI: Yeah because I don't have it yeah you see my younger brothers and sisters all got it but the top of us we were so busy working you know working to defend for ourselves fighting for the family and by the time the younger ones came along we were able to support them yeah so-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah but then I made sure that my children got educated.

LU: And when did you meet Mary and when did u get married and start a family?

AI: Oh God, 1958 no! before that-

MI: No we got married in 1959.

AI: 58, 9.

MI: But he phoned me up one day [chuckles] he phoned my brother up to see if I was going out with anybody. [laughs]

LU: [chuckles] How did you know each other from before?

AI: Because his brother is married to my cousin, my mother's older sister's daughter.

MI: But I've never really met him even though I was good friends with my sister-in-law and her younger sister who was my very good friend and I was surprised when he phoned me up. [chuckles]

AI: [chuckles] Oh well you know when you're growing up you have different friends- I used to go around with a girl called Jenny, Jenny Ikeda the mother was very fond of me 'cause we'd gone to the same church and she had daughters but no male one, no sons and she was very fond of me and then I was going around with her daughter but unfortunately didn't work out because I guess she wanted someone to carry out the Ikeda name and [chuckles] that was an ideal for me [chuckles] but she was very, very nice oh she was very nice yeah but it didn't work out, it didn't work 'cause she went to Guelph to become a veterinarian and then she met someone there-

MI: But your still friends with her.

AI: Oh yeah were still friends we talk about those days and yeah she's married and she got children of her own yeah.

LU: And how many children did you have?

AI: We only had two a son and a daughter and my son he's 47 years old now, Edward and he didn't get married until about 40 but he married a girl from Taiwan-

LU: Oh.

AI: Yeah and she was out here and she was the- her family they have-

MI: Seven.

AI: Seven like us they had two boys and five girls and she was the only one that wasn't married so they met in a tai chi class and then when they got- when they were announcing the engagement her parents were so happy they wanted to meet us right away [laughs] and she's a very nice my daughter-in-law she works for the Royal Bank, RBC [Royal Bank of Canada]-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah and she's very nice and my son he went to UFT [?] eventually and went into music-

LU: Mhm.

AI: And then midway he drops out he's quitting [smiles] and that broke her heart you know she said oh my God he's quitting university he's gonna move, live on his own and oh my goodness and he lived in a, he lived on Gerrard Street in a basement apartment and ugh so damp and when it rained all the water came and everything then he was working as a, in a publishing books, delivering books and everything like that and then one day he said that he wants to go back to school and he came back home again and he went to York University he graduated and then from there he went to McGill-

LU: Wow.

AI: And went into linguistics and got his, took his, got his master degree in linguistics and then he

[135 minutes]

came back to, came back to Toronto again but during the time that he was in Montreal like a father I am I used to call him all the time [smiles] see how he's doing and we used to go there quite often 'cause you know he's living by, he's living by himself in his rented apartment we always made sure that he had sufficient money I used to still save the

allowance like I used to give him then an allowance when they were young I continued that [smiles] and I used to save it for another one then I would give them a lump sum [chuckles] yeah 'cause that during that time I was able to afford it so I was able to do it yeah- [nods head]

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah so then he came back and now he's teaching this east- [looks to the side]

MI: Well he started is the- at a- but a-

AI: He's on a contract basis so he teaches at-

MI: Yeah.

AI: Seneca, John Brow's College-

MI: [simultaneous speech, unclear]

AI: Right now he's at Centennial-

LU: Mhm.

MI: Yeah.

AI: Teaching, but he's on a contract basis.

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah he says that the wages are very good yeah so he's that's where he's working- he first started at this a teaching Japanese immigrants- I didn't you know this- it's still [?]- [looks to the side]

MI: Yeah it's at Bloor and Yonge Street somewhere-

LU: Mhm.

MI: Bloor at [unclear word] Bay.

AI: Bloor and Bay, Bloor and Bay area-

MI: Yeah.

AI: There's this the school still exists yeah-

LU: Ah.

AI: But he had taught there for a while and then he decided to go into the other system of school the pay was far better but it's on a contract basis so every year when the contract is over they just gotta renew it but he seems to renew it all the time-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah.

LU: And what about your daughter?

AI: My daughter she's a- works at the head office at Bank of Montreal and she's been there for quite a while yeah-

LU: Mhm.

AI: She's quite keeps herself busy but she's very busy because of the fact that my grandson and my granddaughter there in to all sorts of sports hockey, soccer, as a mother she's always busy with them all the time and she's I don't know how she does it but she gets up early- she used to live, they used to live with us when they came- they went to Calgary first-

LU: Mhm.

AI: And she was working for Eaton's Company and she used to work from her home in Calgary and used to work from her home in Calgary and then when they moved back to

Toronto they came to live with us so the grandkids were all born and they stayed with us until about two years when they moved out, yeah.

LU: Mhm.

AI: So she's, she's a oh gets up early in the morning she doesn't- she does so much for her kids all the curriculum that they're involved with- in summertime because of our age now we can't look after them she enrolls them into all these summer camps for the summer yeah so I don't know how they could afford it-

LU: Mhm.

AI: I said oh my gosh.

LU: And what university did she go to?

AI: She went to Ryerson. [nods head]

LU: Oh what-

AI: Graduated from Ryerson there in I don't know whether it was finance I think, I think it was finance-

MI: Yeah it was something about management-

AI: Management?

MI: Yeah-

AI: What-

MI: She went there for four years.

AI: Yep.

LU: Wow.

MI: Yeah.

AI: And what hat she does at the BMO [The Bank of Montreal] is that she's in charge of all the-

MI: She's the assistant to her manager and-

AI: People write [?] all these functions that has to go on-

MI: She arranges it all.

AI: She arranges everything. [emphasizes with hand movements]

LU: Wow.

AI: All the catering, the flowers and everything so sometimes she's too busy so she asks can you look after the kids or she's tied up [nods head] and we do like today now every Thursday I pick up my grandson from his junior high I bring him home and then my granddaughter I pick her up from her school nearby I take her to piano lesson for half an hour and then I bring her over to my house and then we go out [?] so when I leave here I have to go home and start cooking supper for them [smiles] yeah-

LU: [chuckles] oh my.

AI: At least I could, at least learnt how to cook.

LU: Where did you learn how to cook?

AI: Oh from Vancouver days oh I have puttered around in the, in the, doing cooking and all that I remember one incidents in Vancouver as a young kid making pancake 'cause I was- but instead of sugar I put salt into it not realizing [chuckles] me and my dad just blew his top [laughs] I didn't know but I watched my mother but my mother said my dad

[140 minutes]

my father taught her how to cook all the Japanese food-

LU: Ah.

AI: Yeah but my mother was good at cooking and so now I could roll sushi and everything I roll sushi and I make all the Japanese food yeah 'cause this is all through my mother and my-

MI: I can't make sushi. [chuckles]

LU: [chuckles] [unclear speech]

AI: And the taste is, the taste is the taste like not like the restaurant taste as you do now I got the taste of during the prewar days, war days taste of what they used to cook during that time-

LU: Mhm.

AI: And that's how I do it [nods head] oh yeah I can't, I don't do as much now as I used to before but I still love to putter around, look at new recipes-

MI: Thank goodness. [chuckles]

LU: Yes. [chuckles]

AI: [chuckles]

MI: And he makes, he makes lemon pies for us at groups like the JCCC [The Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre], Bazaar, and they all look forward to it. [chuckles]

AI: [chuckles]

LU: Oh wow.

AI: Yeah I make, I well you know when I'm part of something else that you have to know how to do it I still haven't- sometime it works for me sometime I think that when I got recipe and then I do it I think oh this isn't right and then once I touch it it's no good you gotta keep to the recipe [chuckles] yeah but I do make another thing, New Years this Kamamoto's [?] famous is Karashi Nolinko [?] it's a lotus root and you stuff the holes with mustard, miso, and sugar mix it all up and you stuff it [emphasizes with hand movements] and then you have to- well what you're gonna do first you got a pot to boil the lotus root and then you dry it all out and then you- I always put it overnight and then the next day I will stuff it and then it, then I would wrap it cloth, paper towel on it 'cause it sweats a lot but I cut it, I decide to cut it in quarters 'cause one big one is too much to stuff so this is easier for me to stuff it and then I would, then the next day I would bring it out and put it into a tempura batter and I'll deep fry it just for a short while and once it's cooled then you slice it very thin but unfortunately the batter I think doesn't stick to the- [smiles] one year it did and I don't know how I did it but I tried to remember how did I did it to do it but that everybody loves it-

LU: [chuckles]

AI: Yeah whenever New Years comes along they know if I'm invited that say is he bringing that [laughs] Karashi Nolinko [?] my niece always has New Years Ozoni [?] in the morning and I always make sushi, Umami [?], and the Karashi Nolinko [?] and then I bake my

nephew apple pie for him and I take it over to them [smiles] they look forward to that linko [?] they just say they love it-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah but I don't, I just make it once a year just at New Years I don't touch it during the year yeah but that's something I have tried again to find out why the batter doesn't stick to the- it, when you deep fry it's okay but it's when you slice it kinda comes apart-

LU: Oh.

AI: But the taste is still there they don't care they say as long as the linko [?] and the mustard are still in the mustard and the ingredients I put into it yeah but I still love, I still love to putter around and cooking I look at recipes all the time if there's something new I look at it to see and then try it out yeah. [nods head]

MI: He's been cooking for us ever since I got my bad knees. [chuckles]

AI: Oh yeah, yeah I could- I was a full term home care giver I was doing everything house cleaning, shopping, cooking, feeding her, and I think that took a toll on me I think I got stressed out [chuckles] but other than that no I'm fine-

LU: Mh.

AI: But I don't know what else I could say about my history about my family it's interesting well I find it interesting [nods head] of what my ancestors-

MI: He hasn't said that his grandchildren both of them went to the Ikebana nurses school here-

LU: Oh.

MI: Downstairs [?].

AI: Oh yeah they're graduates of Ikebana that's why I know all the teachers here because I brought them every day to the school here and my granddaughter who's seven years old now she's going to French immersion they're both are going to French school now but she

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graduated from Ikebana she brought her when she was small and we used to bring her so all the mother know me [laughs] they call her Erica's ojichan [?] [laughs] and my granddaughter could speak Japanese fluently-

LU: Oh really?

AI: She won't, she won't-

MI: Not to us.

AI: Not to us, amongst her class mates she'll speak to them chatting away in Japanese I don't know whether she does it now 'cause she's been away from it, from the Japanese school here but she still goes to Japanese schools on Saturdays yeah [nods head] but she learnt the polite Japanese and she would chatter away at it and she could read it too-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Which is more, more that I can say for myself-

MI: [chuckles] More than grandpa.

LU: Yeah.

AI: Yeah but it's unfortunate that she won't be able to keep it up because her parents don't speak Japanese at all and I think she needs someone that she can converse with all the time in order to remember you know her Japanese culture-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah so hopefully that her continuing the Japanese school may help her but then you know she's got, she's learning French, speaking French, Japanese, and English but whenever she comes over she speaks English to us all the time she never speaks Japanese but if someone spoke to her in Japanese she understands what they're saying-

LU: Ah.

AI: Yeah she nods her head but she's shy in a way that she doesn't carry on a conversation I wish she would but yeah but yeah the only two grandkids I have. [chuckles]

LU: [chuckles] Wow.

AI: Yeah. [smiles]

LU: [chuckles] Did you have any stories or anything else you can think of that you might want to share?

MI: Well we've been married for 50 years.

AI: Oh yeah 51 years we've been married [smiles] so it will be 51 years, yeah 51 years time goes by so quickly you know just I don't know where the time has gone-

LU: Mhm.

AI: But when you see you children growing up when you see your grandchildren growing up then you say yes [nods head] time is passing by and now the most main thing for us is health, try to maintain our memory you know of all the past because we have a problem remembering things-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Names especially of persons ugh when I'm introduced to anybody the minute they walk away I say God what was there name [chuckles] I could never remember-

LU: [laughs]

AI: It will come back to me eventually but there are names and there are thoughts that my mind just goes blank and then I'll think and it will come back- [nods head]

LU: Mhm.

AI: But these are things I'm concerned now but on the whole I've been so healthy I'm very energetic, like to do things, keep in the move but the last- I had a heart attack on December the eighth, ninth I think yeah ninth-

MI: Last year.

AI: Last year [nods head] and I still don't think it was my heart but I had all the symptoms of a heart attack I did pass out at the liquor store and I was sent down to Sunnybrook hospital emergency and they said everything's fine yeah so I don't know whether it was stress related or what but I am getting very tired now that I have to rest quite often but once I rest I'm fine again but then I'm told from other people that's what they do all the older ones that they get tired then they rest then they feel okay they gotta rest yeah- [nods head]

LU: Mhm so-

AI: But the last week I'm having problems with my teeth and everything so. [smiles]

LU: The 20 thousand dollar teeth. [laughs]

AI: [laughs] Tomorrow I gotta go for my root canal so-

LU: Yes.

AI: I hope that will solve the problem-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah and then my swelling will go down because this side is really- [touches face] but I'm taking this pills right now that attacks the bacterial that's in my teeth area so it's, I'm more comfortable right now-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Then yesterday it was terrible yeah.

LU: Doesn't look too swollen-

AI: Yeah.

LU: Just a little bit but-

MI: I have to tell you that Arthur is very supportive of me when I do my- I take up Sumi-e [?]-

LU: Mhm.

MI: or I used to teach it here and but a- last year I thought I could see if I could get to university, I tried it before two years ago I completed one semester [chuckles] that was enough but this year I thought I'd try it again and he gets up at what is it six o'clock in the morning-

AI: 7:30 we have to leave, her class starts at 8:30 at York University at Keel-

MI: Every Friday.

AI: Every Friday

MI: [chuckles]

[150 minutes]

and I have to leave here at 7:30 to take her up, school starts at 8:30 I drop her off about 10 after eight and you know her she has to have a walker, she has a knapsack [emphasizes with hand movements], and paper and she's able to, was able to take that in herself then class finished at 12:30 well I have to kill time but going all to the plazas and Tim Hortons and [laughs] and going all in that area [emphasizes with hand movements] and then doing just to pass the time 'cause it's too much just for problem for me to come all the way back home because the traffic is so heavy it's the rush hour so I decided I know I'm gonna do so I did that for one semester with her-

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yeah, I got to know all the plazas some of the plazas were terrible in certain area's I said I shouldn't go there where's there's so much shooting especially Jane and Finch area they said it's very bad in that area so not to hang around in that area but I used to love the McDonalds there so I used to go there for breakfast [smiles] now I did go into the plaza and

it was dark and dull and I thought oh no this is not a place to be wandering around but I did find a lot of interesting places in that area yeah.

LU: Mhm.

AI: Yep. [smiles]

LU: Oh wow.

AI: Now that's all over she's finished she's not going back so thank goodness. [smiles]

MI: I passed. [chuckles]

LU: Yay! [chuckles]

AI: [chuckles] Yeah, but other than that I don't think I have much more I hope that you find some of it interesting your going to-

MI: Edit it.

AI: Edit it, yeah, yeah.

LU: Yes.

AI: Edit it yeah.

LU: You'll get a copy of the unedited version first.

AI: Okay.

LU: And you can let me know what parts if there's anything in there that you would like to make sure-

AI: Yeah, yeah. [nods head]

LU: That's edited out as well but-

MI: He's repeated himself sometimes in there you know-

LU: That's okay too.

MI: [chuckles]

LU: I think we're all set here.

AI: Yep, okay.

LU: Thank you.

AI: Okay then I gotta get back home and have lunch and then start cooking.

[End]