

Interviewee: Susan Hidaka

Interviewer: Lisa Uyeda

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*Note that this interview contains outdated terminology regarding Asian, Indigenous and Jewish people.

[Start]

[camera sounds]

Lisa Uyeda: There we are wonderful. So today is February seventh, 2011, and today we are having an interview with Susan and would you please tell us your full name.
Susan Hidaka: It's Susan Susuyo Hidaka I was formally, Kobayashi.

LU: Wonderful and just gonna check this here and can you please tell us where you were born and when you were born?

SH: I was born in December of 1929 which is the eve of the Great Depression and in Okanagan Centre which is a tiny village on Okanagan Lake and the population probably, maybe couple of hundred [chuckles] and this is the house I was born [holds up a photograph]-

LU: Mm-hm, and who's in the photograph? Who is in the photograph?

SH: Who's in the photo- oh this is my mother and I think two of my sisters and a brother you hardly see them but in those days transportation was only by boat and this is the S.S Sicamous which used to travel up and down the lake no [shakes head] car or buses or certainty not in down this village [points to photograph]-

LU: Mm-hm.

SH: Yeah, and this is a picture of me [holds up a photograph] when I was [chuckles] eight months old. I don't look like a Depression baby [chuckles] mother's milk-

LU: Mm-hm. [chuckles]

SH: [flips through photographs] Yeah, and this is later on [holds up a photograph] my fairy tooth years-

LU: And where was that photograph taken?

SH: This was at our home; this is our house [points to the house in the photograph] and my father was a great gardener, so he had chrysanthemums and on our house we had wisteria growing on them [points to the home in the photograph]-

LU: And what do you remember about your house? Was it a very large house and what did the rooms inside look like?

SH: It was a large house and like a social centre for the community, Japanese community and so we had a lot of meetings there, there was a small Japanese community there maybe I don't know less than a dozen families and they had a community organization called *koyokai* [association] [sounds from the heater]

LU: Oh,

SH: So-

LU: That's- might be a little noisy-

SH: What happened?

LU: Uhm, it might be a little noisy but let me just pause for a moment, sorry.

SH: Oh, is it the heat?

LU: Yes. [recording paused] [camera noises] if you don't mind repeating that part sorry, we were talking about the community.

SH: Yes, we have a small Japanese community there and my father was like community leader so we had many meetings at our home and we'd get together for picnics and you know social activities. My father was also an avid haiku poet [smiles] and so they would have sessions at our home and a great party afterwards. [chuckles] And during the [door shuts in the background] during the war actually we used to have a lot of house parties for the young people and we were, we always saw a lot of music and my brother would bring a instrument, musical instruments of every kind. [chuckles] And he'd bought a 15 dollar piano [smiles] 15 dollar it had candelabras on the side [emphasizes with hand movements] [chuckles] and our school teacher, we had a one room school and she offered to teach my sister and I piano lessons.

[00:05]

You know there was no formal schools, music down there, so okay I took class about two years about grade two theory [chuckles] but I like to play by ear, so I played for dancing at these parties. My sister she took it more seriously and so she joined this band that my brother had. My brother played the saxophone, and they used to play up and down the valley for dances, but I would just, I would just like to play on my own. [chuckles]

LU: Was it just the two of them in the band?

SH: I'm sorry.

LU: Was it only the two of them in the band or were there anyone else?

SH: Oh no, oh no they had a full band that's about a drummer and a guitarist, yeah.

LU: Did they have a name for their band?

SH: They were called the Modernnaires [?] [chuckles] not Glen Miller but they had a lot of fun, yeah. So going back to school... I don't know whether you can see these pictures of these [holds up one page with two photographs on it] the school, the church we went to, and of course a general store-

LU: Gleed's General Store.

SH: Yeah.

LU: Mm-hm.

SH: And at school we had a Christmas concert every year that was a whole school [holds up a photograph] [chuckles] and you'll see that a lot of Japanese kids are there. [looks at photograph] So we- they were large families, there was seven of us [smiles] yeah okay. [flips through photographs] [holds up a photograph] My father brought this *sakura* tree from Japan, but it grew to be a huge tree, and he loved flowers, but he was actually a fruit farmer, he had orchard. [flips through photographs]

LU: And what kind of fruits where they?

SH: Every kind apples, peaches, cherries, plums, pears, [smiles] yeah he had about

30 acres all together and did most of the work himself. He had three sons but none of them took up farming [chuckles] but he lived to be a ripe old age, 89, and he was very active all his life.

LU: Did he hire extra help for the farm?

SH: Oh yes, he always had, help, especially during the harvest and during the war the evacuees were allowed to come to the valley to help with the harvest. So, there was a lot of socializing [chuckles] and as a result there were a number of marriages but despite of all the difficulties they did have a good time. [nods head]

LU: Prior to the war the helpers that your father would hire were they from the area or where did those people come from?

SH: Well, initially, my father used to have what they call *yobiyose* and he would sponsor friends or people from Japan and then they'd come and work on our farm for a while. [smiles] So they always stayed with us, like I say we had a big house. We had a lot of visitors from Vancouver and the coast areas and there would be salesmen from Furuya [Japanese goods store] or ministers of all denominations and my mother was always very busy. [smiles]

[00:10]

LU: And what did she do to help around the house?

SH: What did she do? I'm sorry. [shakes head]

LU: Mm-hm, would she cook the meals for everyone or was there someone to help her?

SH: Oh yes, oh yes. No the- as we got older of course we had to help with the house work and my and then the older, my older brothers and sisters they had to work in the orchards too for a while and then they would help towards the maintenance of the home and so we, the younger ones actually, we benefited from the work of our older brothers and sisters so I appreciate that very much- [smiles, nods head]

LU: Mm-hm, and what games and activities did you play when you were growing up?

SH: [chuckles] When I was growing up?

LU: Mm-hm.

SH: [flips through photographs] Softball, of course, on a nice day, and we had basketball [chuckles] pole up in the yard of the school, so yeah things like that. [smiles]

LU: [chuckles] And what about cats cradle or jacks or were there any games that you and your friends had just made up and would play or?

SH: Well, we were very young 'cause I remember my mothers cats cradle [chuckles] and she used to juggle. [chuckles] Yeah-

LU: [chuckles]

SH: She's an amazing woman. She was also a self-taught midwife and she attended the births of I would say most of the Japanese families in the area-

LU: Wow.

SH: And the amazing part was, was she would go and spend several days with the mother before the actual birth and at the same time she might be carrying one of her own [chuckles] but the- they always called the doctor - the women didn't go to the

hospital - so father had to go into town on horse and buggy probably to get a doctor come out and a nurse so when I was born we had a doctor and a nurse [smiles, nods head] yeah.

LU: Mm-hm. [chuckles]

SH: [chuckles]

LU: And where did your mother learn to be a midwife? Was it here in Canada or was it in Japan?

SH: Well, I'm not sure but she had a lot of- well she was self-taught for sure but, she had a lot of books [smiles] so I knew where babies came from. [chuckles]

LU: And did she learn English, or did she mainly speak Japanese?

SH: She spoke very little English, yeah. She never felt comfortable with it so yeah it was mainly Japanese with our parents but then of course the children all spoke English-

LU: Mm-hm.

SH: My father had learned a little bit- at one time when he first came to the Okanagan Centre, he was house boy at the hotel there they had a hotel and there he learned a little English, not very much. [smiles]

LU: And how long was he working there for?

SH: The hotel? Oh, not very long, no.

[00:15]

SH: He actually when he had a contract with the- what we call the Okanagan Lab Company to plant think it was 800 trees, fruit trees and so he was in charge of a crew of Japanese men and when my mother arrived in Japan [sic] after they were married she had to cook for this crew [chuckles] so that was a great disappointment for her but then my father realized that wasn't the best thing so that was only for a couple a years maybe and he bought his own orchard and that's when he started his own farm. [smiles]

LU: Mm-hm, and did your parents come over together from Japan or did your father come first?

SH: No my father came, he came in 1906, landed at Skeena, little a fishing, I think. Then went worked on the railroad on the Okanagan line but that was very short time before well working on the Okanagan line I guess he started working at Coldstream Ranch in Vernon [nods head] and that's probably where he picked up his orcharding and then went to Okanagan Centre to the Valley Land Company and then went on his own from there. [smiles, nods head]

LU: Mm-hm, and when was he born, how old as he when he came over?

SH: Huh [sighs], that's a good question about 25 I think-

LU: [chuckles] Mm-hm.

SH: Yeah. [nods head]

LU: So he was born in around the 1880s?

SH: Yes. [nods head]

LU: Wow.

SH: He was- my parents came from Nagano-ken and that just about covers that.

LU: So how did they come to be married? Did your father-

SH: Oh, I think it was arranged through families yeah many of them were, she wasn't a picture bride. [chuckles]

LU: And did she come over by boat or did your father go and get her and then come back and get married here?

SH: Oh, they were married in Japan. He went to get her [smiles] I have a picture of them I was going to show you-

LU: Oh yes!

SH: [gets up from couch, leaves the frame] [recording paused], [recording resumes] Look at all the pictures okay there we are [holds up two photographs] and that's my mother and father and my mother and her sister-

LU: Mm-hm.

SH: [smiles, nods head] So they came, they were married in 1913-

LU: [adjusts camera] Okay [chuckles]-

SH: [flips through photographs]

LU: And did they come from very large families as well?

SH: Not too large I think my father had three brothers and a sister, my mother had about the same yeah, maybe about five.

LU: And were they the oldest children in the family, the youngest or do you know?

SH: My father was not the eldest because well the eldest was expected to stay and look after the [chuckles] the home, yeah. Actually, I got the family tree here [flips through photographs] but I must have dozens of cousins over there that I have no idea who they are. [chuckles]

LU: Mm-hm, and what about your grandparents did you ever hear any stories about them or what they did for work or-

SH: Oh well I think in that area they; they farmed [flips through photographs] silkworm, they were silkworm farmers and apparently at one point my father used to travel throughout Japan selling silkworm eggs.

[00:20]

SH: [chuckles] This is a long story yeah, he's quite adventurous and at one point he went up to Hokkaido to look for gold, gold mining and he actually had a little gold nugget yeah I remember seeing it as a child but I don't know what happened to it, probably worth a lot today [chuckles] yeah.

LU: [chuckles] Mm-hm, and what else do you know about your parents and before they got married? Did they ever tell you stories about going to school or growing up as a child they did this or?

SH: Well, my mother actually had more formal education than my father I think she had junior high school I think which in those days is considered fairly good and my father as a child was apparently not, uh, physically frail and so he had very little school as far as I know but at one point there were tutors and probably that's where the, he was exposed to haiku and things like that. But I really couldn't tell you [chuckles] exactly what you know-

LU: Mm-hm.

SH: As far as education goes. [nods head]

LU: What about your own school days you already mentioned that your teacher taught you piano-

SH: Yeah well she was an English lady and yeah you know we were- almost had English accents for starters [chuckles] but [flips through photographs] where's that picture oh yes, yep I think most notable thing about her was the music, music and art-

LU: Mm-hm.

SH: She would take us down to the lake and we would paint the scenery the mountains things like that and nature, nature hikes [smiles] she was quite unusual you know for a one room girl. She retired when I was, after I was in grade five and then my grade six teacher was, she was much younger you know more progressive ideas. So- and she even had us make a school newspaper those are now preserved in the old school which is now a museum [chuckles] so there's some interesting stuff in there. [flips through photographs] I don't think I have it though [keeps flipping through photographs] no, no. [chuckles]

LU: [chuckles] And what were your favorite subjects in school and did you do well in school?

SH: Well I was a voracious reader [chuckles]. Our library was, consisted of a wooden cupboard and I think I read every book in there, I love to read I like music; math wasn't one of my favourites [shakes head, chuckles] history [nods head] yeah I liked history we had a lot of English history though. [shakes head, chuckles]

LU: [chuckles] And was the school very close to your house or was it-

[00:25]

SH: Yes [nods head] it was walking distance, so we went home for lunch yeah. [smiles]

LU: And would your mother have lunch waiting for you?

SH: Oh yes it was always a Japanese lunch miso *shiru* [chuckles] and rice and the children couldn't stay at the school for lunch you know. Children who came from the areas [emphasizes with hand movements] some of them had to walk a couple of miles to school so they would come up to our house [nods head, smiles] and we had a spare room on the side of our kitchen [emphasizes with hand movements] it was called a summer kitchen or something [chuckles] and there was a stove in there and my mother would light a fire have it nice and warm and the children would come and have their lunch. [smiles]

LU: Would they bring a lunch with them?

SH: Oh yes [nods head], oh yeah.

LU: And would they be other Japanese students or where they non-Japanese?

SH: They were mostly Japanese the other ones were the hakujin children close enough to school but they would be able to walk home yeah.

LU: And did all the student get along together in-

SH: Well, [chuckles] for the most part, I think. There's the odd occasion a little bullying I think but I think that happens in most schools. [chuckles]

LU: And what about after school, what time would school finish?

SH: Well, it was probably around three o'clock maybe, after school we came home

and had chores [smiles] I could remember that I- my brother had to always light the fire under the *ofuro* [wooden tub] [chuckles] and fill the wood box, see we had for the kitchen stove things like that.

LU: Mm-hm, and would you have Japanese school after?

SH: Japanese school we had once a month and there was a Japanese United Church in Kelowna and Reverend Yoshioka and his wife would come out and conduct church service once a month, usually at our house and they would give Japanese language classes to the children, Japanese children. So, they all met at our house come after school and I don't know hour or two classes and then they would stay and their parents would come for the church service [smiles] so we had a full home-

LU: Mm-hm, yeah.

SH: Yeah, but I managed to learn well I didn't too much Japanese but I did learn my *hiragana* and I retained it so I was able to correspond with my parents even after I left home.

LU: Mm-hm-

SH: Yeah.

LU: That's right 'cause I guess they wouldn't have been able to read and write in English.

SH: Yeah.

LU: Yeah, and what about your other siblings were they able to retain their *hiragana*?

SH: No, I don't think so, I don't think so not that I recall.

LU: Mm-hm, seems like your house was very busy for the community.

SH: Yes, for sure. [nods head, smiles]

LU: Mm-hm, when you mentioned earlier that your house would be kind of the central hub for the community meetings, what would the meetings be, be about what would they be talking about?

[00:30]

SH: Well, I don't know really just different issues that would come up, you know, yeah. I really couldn't tell you. [shakes head, chuckles]

LU: [chuckles] Hm.

SH: Because I, I really wasn't aware of the problems, if there were problems or- no I really can't say.

LU: Hm, AND what else do you remember about your childhood days, do you have any other stories about that?

SH: Well, we lived beside a lake so I could swim [chuckles] swim before I could walk almost. We used to spend our summers down on the lake fishing and swimming. And the amazing part in all those years we never had a single drowning and we used to do crazy things you know like see how far we could swim on the lake 'till the water was just black underneath and then [chuckles] we'd come back and come up or we'd build a raft and paddle I think down the lake [chuckles] so yeah and we'd- the wharf was really a play hub, play place we'd sit down there and with a piece of string and a pin at the end, catch minnows [chuckles] little fish about this big-

LU: [chuckles]

SH: [chuckles]

LU: And were your parents swimmers as well, would they come down to the lake and swim with you?

SH: No, no they, no they trusted us I guess to look after ourselves and we just went on our own. [smiles]

LU: Mm-hm, I guess your older siblings were there to look after you.

SH: Yes, yes and no 'cause I remember my oldest siblings were quite a bit older and they were busy working they, they had a packing house they called, for the fruit where they, they used to individually wrap lets say an apple put it in boxes and they actually made the apple boxes, with an apple box, so that was a regular job for them yeah I know my brothers did things like that. [smiles]

LU: Mm-hm, and the boxes they're not just cardboard boxes like they are now-

SH: No. [shakes head]

LU: They would have been actual-

SH: Oh they were made of wood.

LU: Wooden, yeah.

SH: Yeah.

LU: A small crate almost, yeah.

SH: Yeah.

LU: Wow.

SH: And I think the faster they work the more they made probably paid by the piece.

LU: Mm-hm.

SH: Yeah, oh yes that was a big industry there, a big industry.

LU: And when did your father switch from doing the orchards to building a box factory?

SH: Oh no [shakes head] he never, he never had a box factory no-

LU: No, he just made the small boxes-

SH: No this is part of the packing house. The boxes were made there and that was he- job one of the jobs they had.

LU: Mm-hm.

SH: Yeah. [smiles]

LU: Mm-hm [chuckles] and what else do you remember about growing up or when you were younger, any other stories before we start about the war years?

SH: No [shakes head] I guess that pretty well covers it yeah. [smiles]

LU: [chuckles] And where were you when your heard about Pearl Harbor?

[00:35]

SH: Pearl Harbor, December 1941, I was still in about grade eight in school so I wasn't too aware of what was going on. Apparently there was a lot of discrimination, bad feeling towards the Japanese, I suppose it was panic, panic and hysteria and at some point they were calling for to send the Japanese back to Japan so that's when my parents I think are very worried and my father made us take out citizenship papers [chuckles] just make sure we were Canadian citizens but of course that didn't come to pass so we didn't have to worry. Actually the Okanagan was- we weren't dispersed or didn't lose our homes 'cause we were far enough inland but we

still had to register, the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police], thumb printed and couldn't travel without a permit, things like that we didn't have to give up our cameras or radios, guns I think they had, they had to give up.

LU: And what about going to school, were you allowed to continue your education?

SH: Yes [whispers, unclear words] the following year I guess I was ready for high school and because of the failings, it was very difficult to find a boarding place to go to high school in Kelowna which was 20 miles away there were no buses in those days. So a relative of ours got his neighbour to take me in and she was a very old lady, what I considered very old when I was 13 [chuckles] and the house had no indoor plumbing or the water was pumped [emphasizes with hand movements] that was so full of iron I couldn't drink it [chuckles] so anyway school was fine. There was no discrimination there [shakes head] I even won an essay contest on why we should buy victory bonds [chuckles]-

LU: [chuckles]

SH: And second year I- oh the lady moved away so my relative got his neighbour on the other side and they were a Ukrainian family, with three children, under six years old. [smiles] I had a little room that was just out of- part of the veranda [chuckles], it was very cold in the winter and with three small children you know I couldn't, I found it hard to study. So, the third year I decided well, I'd go out work for my board so I applied through the school. I got a very nice family the husband was a manager of a clothing store his wife was a form of school teacher so they had two little children, two boys two about three and the little one was only about two months old so I learned a lot. [smiles] I learned a lot about babies, washed a lot of diapers [chuckles] and after school take them out for a walk or wheel a buggy around down through a park [smiles] but I had to make supper, so I learned a lot about cooking. [chuckles]

[00:40]

SH: And she trusted me to make you know for a- 15-year-olds were making supper and I was able to go home about one weekend a month so then after- this is a picture of the house the last day I was there after I graduated grade 12 and the two little boys [holds up photographs]-

LU: [chuckles]

SH: [smiles] This is my graduation day [points to one of the two photographs] high school-

LU: Mm-hm.

SH: And my mother and my cousin there. We had to have white dresses, short one for the graduation ceremony and a long one for the dance [smiles] the banquet [?]-

LU: [chuckles]

SH: That was it.

LU: And when you were working for your board and you were looking after these two boys here, when would you have time to study?

SH: Well, in the evening as soon as the dishes were done, I was on my own. Unless the parents went out for the evening, I would have to maybe bathe them, put them to bed.

LU: Was it difficult to balance both schoolwork and working?

SH: I didn't, I didn't think no I just accepted it- [smiles]

LU: Mm-hm. [chuckles]

SH: Yeah, let's say it was a real learning experience as far as I was concerned yeah.

LU: And how did you learn to cook? [chuckles]

SH: Well, the lady taught me- [smiles]

LU: And-

SH: She told me what to do. She'd give me recipes - I still have those recipes [chuckles] and you know some fancy things like cheese soufflé and all kinds of dishes that you know things we didn't eat at home [chuckles] of course at school I was taking home economics too so that helped. [nods head]

LU: Did you ever make Japanese food for them?

SH: Oh no, no, that would be out of the question. [chuckles] I don't think they've ever heard of Japanese food- [chuckles]

LU: [chuckles] Did they ever ask about Japanese food?

SH: No [shakes head]-

LU: Mm-hm.

SH: No I don't think race was even mentioned. As I said before I loved to read and she, the lady use to belong you know she'd get books from book of the month club so I would just read every book, some of them, at this stage might be, say a little sexy and she'd say you think you should be reading that [laughs] I remember that part [laughs]-

LU: [chuckles]

SH: But there's noth- reading very well compared to what we have today. [laughs]

LU: [chuckles] And your graduation dress is very elaborate. It looks almost like a wedding dress in some sense-

SH: Well yeah, yeah. [looks at photograph, nods head]

LU: Yeah, were all the dresses very similar to that, all the ladies had to wear white dresses?

SH: They had to be white, yeah.

LU: Mm-hm and after graduation then what happened?

SH: Well after graduation well I was taking- I took a commercial course in high school and oh yes, during high school I was in- I didn't suffer any discrimination at all and when I was in grade 12 one day during English class my, the principle walked into the room and he called me out and oh what have I done [smiles] and he said I want you to go downstairs to the grade 10 class teach them shorthand.

[00:45]

SH: Oh, okay [chuckles] so I was losing out on my English classes for about three months while I was teaching shorthand, but they paid me [smiles] so at that time it was just after the war, and it was still a shortage of schoolteachers especially business courses. So that was quite an experience.

LU: So, all of your war years were spent away at school?

SH: Pretty well [nods head]-

LU: Mm-hm.

SH: Pretty well, [smiles] and after graduation there was still you know strong feelings against Japanese so, so there was no hope of getting an office job in Kelowna or in the Valley so my commercial teacher had spoken a lot about this business school in Calgary that she had gone to, Garbutt Business College, so I thought, well that might be the place to go I wrote a letter, applied and I got a very nice letter from the principle saying you know there's still a lot of discrimination here in Calgary I can't really guarantee you a job, I can't guarantee you a place to stay so I thought oh. Well, so that summer I decided to go and see for myself and my parents also wanted to take a trip to visit friends in Calgary so my brother drove and we drove through the [chuckles] Rockies and I went to see the school and the principle, met him very nice man, and he still keep- I said you know I'll take a chance and so I enrolled and because I had most of my commercial course like typing, shorthand you know there was some advanced business courses that I took and about three months later and oh yes and I was able to get a room at the YWCA that's where I stayed. And three months later in December he called me, and he said I want you to go for an interview. So, okay I went to Imperial Oil and started work the next day so that's how I started my working [smiles] yeah.

LU: And how old were you then?

SH: I was 17 yeah, I was still in bobby socks [chuckles] I certainly didn't go dressed up for an interview I was just in school clothes-

LU: [chuckles]

SH: But they hired me, and I was- this is in the land department and Imperial Oil at that time, 1947 was the year of the first major oil discovery in Leduc and so very exciting, exciting times and I had a clerical job doing, looking after the leases for land which and looked after the rental payments. So, after, after a couple year of that I went to the manager and I said you know I, I'd like to use my shorthand. I did teach it at one time.

[00:50]

SH: [chuckles] Okay so it wasn't long after that they moved me up to secretary to department head and that was for a few years and then later I got to be a secretary to the chief geologist- [footage jumps] chief geophysicist so those were my working days in Calgary. [pause] As, far as other activities go I told you about the [flips through photographs] one of the girls in the office invited me to join Beta Sigma Phi it was an international sorority [continues to flip through photographs]-

LU: Mm-hm.

SH: And this is the first year. They always had a banquet at the palace or hotel for the new, recruits, new members [chuckles] and this is me up here [holds up photograph]-

LU: [chuckles]

SH: And [flips through photographs] it always had- it was like they were like almost like a service club and for charity event [flips through photographs] they always had a fashion show, and I used to model. [smiles, chuckles] [holds up photograph] This was another one [holds up another photograph] I was in a- this wasn't through the sorority, but hairdresser asked me to go in this hair show. I had to wear a kimono;

first time I wore a kimono and the other club I joined was the Desk and Derrick which is the oil club for women in the oil industry so these girls they were mainly secretaries to the presidents in oil companies and yeah.

LU: And what would the club get together and do?

SH: Well, we used to have monthly meetings they would be usually dinner meetings with a speaker and so it be sort of educational and then we'd have- [flips through photographs] some other picture that's it [continues to flip through photographs] I lost it, it had field trips-

LU: Is it that one?

SH: It's in Japanese- [continues to flip through photographs]

LU: Mm-hm.

SH: [continues to flip through photographs] and we'd go on bus trips, and we'd have- the conventions would be mainly down in the States, one year I went down to Denver, Salt Lake City had a great time- [smile]

LU: [chuckles]

SH: [continues to flip through photographs] Yeah.

LU: And when your working at Imperial Oil were you still living at the YWCA or?

SH: No actually I stayed at the Y for two years, and that was a great learning experience too [chuckles]- the girls are from all over Canada we had a great time and one of the girls in the office got married so I used to go to her- she used to invite me to her home quite often and got to know her parents so they invited me to come stay with them after the daughter left the nest.

[00:55]

SH: And so, I really became part of the family they only charged me 45 dollars a month for room and board and whenever they went on holiday they'd give me refund. [chuckles] So in spite of my salary of about 100- I started at 100 dollars a month maybe a couple 100 dollars, I was living very well I spent a lot on clothes and shoes and was able to take a trip to Hawaii in 1954 and that was when it was really, truly a paradise, there were no tourists and tourist invasion hadn't started and so then- there were native Hawaiians who would have kiosks on Kālakaua you know the main street down Waikiki. They'd be making flower leis and coconut hats, jewellery, I bought a lot of jewellery, and the hotels were run mainly by the Japanese I don't mean Japan Japanese but Japanese Hawaiian. Very friendly, service was immaculate and so they thought it was quite a novelty for me if you know to see a Japanese from Canada so they- I was known as the Buddha-head from Canada [chuckles] and they, you know I was invited to homes I was out for dinner just about every night, nightclubs, dancing I had a great time.

LU: And you went on your own?

SH: I went with one of the girls from the office yeah there were two of us. We shared a room and the room hotel was- there were only about four hotels on Waikiki Beach at that time it was eight dollars for our twin room a night [chuckles]-

LU: [chuckles] Oh-

SH: Money you know, money I don't know how I did it now, but I bought a lot of clothes there, [smiles] jewellery, yeah.

LU: And what about the trip going there and coming back home? What was that like?

SH: Well, it was really the start of overseas travel you know, and I was- I think it was DC 6 and it took, 14 hours, it was a long trip- [nods head]

LU: Mm-hm.

SH: Yeah, but I had a my first 35 millimetre camera and took a lot of pictures and just recently I went in my slides and sitting in a box for you know like 50 years [smiles] and it's amazing how well they were preserved so I took them out and I scanned them and at that time I was taking the PowerPoint course downstairs so I made a little PowerPoint with my Hawaii pictures [smiles]-

LU: [chuckles]

SH: To show you know vast Waikiki Beach no hotels [emphasizes with hand movements] It was just a row of coco palm. [chuckles]

LU: Wow very different from today.

SH: Today, yeah-

LU: Mm-hm.

SH: I even went surfing I think I told you. [laughs]

LU: [laughs] Just gonna switch this tape quickly

[01:00]

[footage jumps, camera sounds]

LU: and you went to Hawaii more than once, didn't you?

SH: Yes, three years later I went for another holiday with a cousin of mine and it was much the same. I remember about that trip was we [chuckles] met this tour guide.

He was an independent and he had a big Chrysler New Yorker car, and he sort of adopted us [chuckles] just about every night he'd call, and he'd say, well he'd call and say, "did you eat?" [laughs] and he'd take us out for dinner-

LU: [chuckles]

SH: He took us to clubs he took us over the circle island tour [emphasizes with hand movements] you know, and he was just wonderful [chuckles]. That's what I remember about that trip. And then I went back, the last time I was there about what was over 10 years now, totally different, just totally different, where did all the Hawaiians go you know, well through intermarriage of course like us there you could hardly recognize them. But when I was there, there was an article in the paper saying that the- a lot of the Hawaiians have been treated like our native Indians, Native peoples in Canada here and they were driven into the hills, well then you know I was surprised because the usual little shops where they were making flower leis and things all gone and of course the place was just full of tourists.

LU: Mm-hm.

SH: Totally different, but I went with my niece, and we went to Maui so there was still some tradition Hawaiian- well especially in things like even the music has changed the modern Hawaiian songs more like, sounds more like the Caribbean [chuckles]-

LU: [chuckles]

SH: Yeah, I didn't tell you about the Japanese community in Calgary-

LU: Mm-hm.

SH: Well we were a very small group but we had what we called a Nisei Club and at first we used to meet at the Kuwahara home they were just wonderful people, very hospitable and kind to all of us strays, strays from outta town and so they made me feel comfortable when I first went to Calgary yeah I used to go there just about every weekend- [smiles]

LU: [chuckles] Were the Kuwahara's there from before the war days started?

SH: They were there before the war yes and they had the Silk-O-Lina store further and I think it started first in Vancouver many years ago prior to the war.

LU: Mm-hm, and what was that store?

SH: It was dress goods, fabrics, and women's, women's clothes. [nods head]

LU: Mm-hm.

SH: Yeah.

LU: And how many members were in, in the Japanese-

SH: In this group?

LU: Yeah.

SH: I really couldn't say, judging by that maybe 30, 40? [says while looking down at something]

[01:05]

SH: But a lot were- a lot of the population was temporary because they would come from southern Alberta mainly students [nods head] they go to Calgary Tech or business colleges, colleges were opening up then so, when I first went to Calgary, I think it was only one other girl who had an office job yeah. [nods head, smiles]

LU: Mm-hm, and what would you do in the groups would you get together and it looks like there you were maybe out for a picnic?

SH: [looks down at something] This is a picnic yeah. Oh, we used to have parties on different occasions- Valentines party. Yeah, and then we'd meet after the- you know the group got bigger I think we used to meet in a hall somewhere. But yeah, I still have some very good friends from those days. [nods head]

LU: Mm-hm, and did individuals travel far distance just to come to these groups or was everyone mostly close by?

SH: Well from Lethbridge and Raymond, Taber, down south yeah there were more from there than the- we didn't, we didn't have much to do with Edmonton people up north I didn't know anyone from down there, up there. [smiles]

LU: Hm.

SH: Yeah.

LU: And who started the group?-

SH: [chuckles]

LU: Or how did you hear about it?

SH: Well actually, I guess, originally it was started with the Kuwahara's, they would help their house party and I can remember playing for dancing [chuckles]-

LU: [chuckles]

SH: I was sorry, 'cause I was missing out on dancing and I had to play [chuckles] but anyway.

LU: And what kind of songs would you play on the piano for them?

SH: Well there would be the modern- the pop songs of the day and yeah dance music you know. [smile]

LU: Would they be dances like foxtrot or?

SH: Foxtrot, waltzes yeah maybe little jitter- well yeah maybe a little jitterbug but not too much. [chuckles]

LU: [chuckles] A little different than today.

SH: Very different, yeah. [smiles]

LU: [chuckles] And what else do you remember about spending time in Calgary? You were mostly working in-

SH: Well the one thing that [chuckles] somebody reminded me of- in southern Alberta there were quite a few people that were, that were moved there during the war you know and work on sugar beet farms but many of them stayed and had their own farms. But they, they used to have a Miss Southern Alberta beauty contest [chuckles] that Calgary had the nerve to send the delegate down and [chuckles] so I went down, bought a brand new gown for it but, it seemed that well it was a popularity contest really so if they knew you, you got more votes if it was held in the town that you [chuckles] that you lived, that you were the candidate for so there were only about half a dozen of us from Calgary [chuckles] if you could imagine how many votes I got [chuckles]-

LU: [chuckles]

SH: But it was crazy fun. [chuckles]

[01:10]

LU: [chuckles]

SH: So that's all about all I can remember about that Japanese population.

LU: Mm-hm.

SH: Yeah.

LU: And what happened after Calgary?

SH: After Calgary, I was in Calgary for about 10, close to 10 years [clears throat] and I thought well, Toronto Imperial Oil just built a brand new building and it'd be nice to work there, so I asked for a transfer, sorry we don't transfer women, okay I quit. [smiles] Gave up my job took out my pension, went [chuckles] also I took my [clears throat] excuse my second trip to Hawaii for three weeks I went home to the Okanagan for a while and then moved out to Toronto, came to Toronto, went to Imperial Oil and they said "Well okay" - it was different place. There were no Oriental company there were no, I understand there were no Jews they had Black porters in uniform [chuckles] so you could imagine, you know. Anyway, they sent me for one interview in the manufacturing department which is like refinery work and I didn't hear from them again and then one of the top managers came down from Calgary and he went to the exploration department he said where's Su [nods head, smiles] they call me Su there, well she was here but I don't know so they did follow up they went to personnel department and then I was called back in to- for another interview and this when I was able to get employment with the public relations department which is a much better deal with wonderful people yeah interesting people they were- it was a large department they were all either

connected, former experiences editors or radio, T.V. work [nods head] yeah it was exciting.

LU: And were you working at the time when they had called you?

SH: No, no they was- I had gone for different interviews but they never worked, no advertising company I remember going way down Bay Street [chuckles] [flips through photographs] but no, I was finally able to get to back to Imperial Oil [continues to flip through photographs] and P.R. departments, we used to have a lot of fun in there-

LU: [chuckles] And where were you living at the time when you first came to Toronto?

SH: When I first moved to Toronto, I stayed for a few months with my brother who was living in Toronto and his family and then I moved to a little basement apartment a small apartment house down on Eglinton and Oakwood area and so that wasn't too far from work you know just take the streetcar down. I would first work for the radio and T.V. editor, that was his title and 1958 there was a huge conference called Canadian Conference on Education in Ottawa.

[01:15]

SH: And as a result of Russia sending the first Sputnik satellite and the Western world decided well they had to catch up you know so this was education conference where they got all the heads of the universities, educational institutions, and even business, labour, media, the works and our department head was in charge of public relations so he took a team to the conference with him including my boss, so I got to go along [chuckles] for it was about a week and to provide secretarial service and yeah look after steno pool there so [flips through photographs] that was one of our interesting projects.

LU: [chuckles] And was this from the conference?

SH: This is just of sort of a fun picture P.R. department had to do all the set ups for the annual meeting and we had a photography department, so just as a dry run they had to take picture of all the directors so this is the board room and we're just the stand ins [chuckles] I got the president seat there [holds up a photograph] [chuckles]-

LU: [chuckles]

SH: That's one of our fun things and then I think you've noticed before there's ashtrays on there [chuckles]-

LU: Mm-hm [unclear speech, speakers spoke over each other].

SH: Everybody smoked in those days, even me [flips through photographs] and then a few years later I had the opportunity to get a job at for the P.R. representative for Ontario in the Ontario regional office in Leaside and it was just the two of us, so it was quite interesting job we used to look after sponsoring different events. This is all for you know publicity purposes and in 19- [flips through photographs] when was it we made the move? [continues to flip through photographs]-

LU: Do you have a tissue?

SH: [tilts head]

LU: Do you have a tissue?

SH: Oh sure.

LU: Yes, thank you just gonna pause these. [footage paused] [footage begins] There we go.

SH: Okay, in 1960 we moved to from the Leaside office to Don Mills where that brand new office building and then this was one of our publicity stunts. They took [chuckles] put me on a hoist from the third floor [holds up photograph] this is moving day [chuckles]-

LU: Might wanna, just a bit higher.

SH: [moves photograph into camera frame]

LU: Mm-hm.

SH: [chuckles] And we sent this to all the newspapers in Ontario and you'd be amazed how much coverage it got [chuckles] and this is the model of the new Don Mills building [holds up photograph]-

LU: Hm.

SH: Now that building has since been torn down because apparently there was asbestos in the insulation or something so that corner of Don Mills and Eglinton there is now a mall [chuckles] yeah, those are some of the [unclear words]-

[01:20]

LU: [chuckles]

SH: And about that time the Japanese Cultural Centre was being planned and they were asking for volunteers, so I, I wanted to know more about my heritage and 'cause I've been away from home for so long and not knowing too much, I volunteered and at first we used to meet down at Sam Hagino's cleaning office [chuckles] and I used to help with the newsletter and publicity and we used to type, I typed the newsletter on stencil [smiles] and then Kim Kutsukake [?] would run them off on the Gestetner machine [chuckles] quite different from today's- didn't have computers in those days you know, so labour intensive-

LU: [chuckles]

SH: But how we got the message out and the Cultural Centre was open in 19- actually the building opening in 1963 and in '64 we had the official opening with Prime Minister Pearson, though I had- [flips through photographs] I presented, there was a Nakamura painting [holds up a document and a photograph] watercolour to the Pearson's in that picture [points to a different photograph]-

LU: Hm.

SH: [chuckles] And this is me and Mike [holds up a photograph] [chuckles]-

LU: [chuckles] Oh wow.

SH: So that was my brush with fame.

LU: How many people were working with you to start up the Cultural Centre was it a very large group or?

SH: Well at one point because there was so much work involved in the last year before the opening that getting programs set up and all the contacts all that they decided to include the previous board and so we were well over 20 people and the last few months before the opening we were having meetings three nights a week and I was working at the time. [chuckles]

LU: Oh my goodness.

SH: So yeah but you know I, I was just looking at the list of people who were on the board at that time well I was elected to the board in 1962, yeah, but most of those people are gone [flips through photographs] you know there's only about, the original board, there's only about six of us left now this [looks at a photograph]. Now this picture, the Centre took out a mortgage I think you're familiar with that story [holds up a photograph] and 75 guarantors they backed up this mortgage and so yeah I was one of them. In 1980 we paid- the mortgage was paid off, so they had a little celebration and here's the picture [looks at the photograph] of all the guarantors and some of the women are wives of guarantors [unclear speech]. [holds up the photograph again]

LU: Oh wow.

SH: I think there's a plaque in the Centre of this

[01:25]

LU: Hm

SH: [looks at a photograph] Now this is now just another picture 18th anniversary [chuckles] [holds up photograph] all the board members that- up to that point.

LU: Wow, not too many females.

SH: No, when I was there I was the only female.

LU: Really?

SH: Yeah. [flipping through photographs]

LU: Hm, was it because no one else was interested or available at that time-

SH: Well-

LU: Or had the credentials?

SH: Women were supposed to belong to the women's auxiliary [chuckles] but I don't know I just because of my P.R. experience I guess that I was able to help do something I certainly worked on newsletters [nods head]-

LU: Hm.

SH: And also, secretary [chuckles] yeah [flips through photographs] how we doing for time.

LU: Oh, I think we're okay, 11:44 lots of time.

SH: [flips through photographs] Still from there oh yeah while I, while I was board member [smiles] I met another board member by the name of Kunio Hidaka and we got married, 1965. So he had decided to go back to school post graduate studies in public administration at the George Washington University and he started in 1964 actually but we were married in '65, so then I packed up and moved down there with him and I tried to get employment first through the Imperial Oil connection here with their affiliate in Washington which is the Standard Oil of New Jersey and the rule - immigration law - was that to get a working visa the employer had to sponsor you and they weren't prepared to do that. So I was tramping the streets [chuckles] and going for interviews, different places and they'd be all set to hire me and they'd say- I'd say well just one thing I need to have you know sponsorship, oh sorry and so this one lady at Standard Oil happened to be at the Hilton Hotel making arrangements for a meeting one day and there is the manager who said oh do I ever

need a secretary [smiles] and she said oh I know somebody [smiles] and the hotel hired a lot of different personnel from out of country; a Chinese chef, Italy, or where ever; so they have dealing with immigration all the time, so they hired me and I was working illegally actually for about six months so [chuckles] they said- he said well first, just so you know to visible we- every time a secretary of a department head goes on vacation, take her place and so I got to experience in virtually every department of that hotel [chuckles] you know [telephone rings]-
 LU: Oh [chuckles] that scared me we can pause for a moment [telephone rings]

[01:30]

[camera noises]

SH: Lights and flashes here.

LU: I know [chuckles], so we're talking about your position taking over for-

SH: Yeah-

LU: Those who are on vacation.

SH: So yeah after, after about six months I was able to get back to my rest of my managers, down in the executive office there, so that was a very interesting job I'll show you the hotel was 1200 room hotel [holds up a photograph] the Washington Hilton-

LU: That's ginormous. [chuckles]

SH: Yeah, it was a big place [looks at a different photograph] that's just a coloured cheque anyway I got some rather interesting experiences there, my boss used to say, well because I no I shouldn't say that- [chuckles]

LU: [chuckles]

SH: Anyway I- he used to send me on different assignments, one of them was to take Joan Crawford's gown to the cleaners [chuckles] and her secretary saying, now make sure that you know, and it's handled properly and so on but anyway I just threw over my- [shakes head] it was a huge long dress [raises arm] it was encrusted with sequins and pearls and- [chuckles]

LU: Wow.

SH: Anyway, you never get to see these celebrities or whoever but they always eventually came through the head you know, executive office and one time the Eisenhowers came, Dwight and Mamie, so very close to closing time boss was busy he said, "go down to the flower shop and get pink roses for Mamie [smiles] order them for Mamie." So I went down and oh we don't have any, oh she had to have pink roses [chuckles] I said well just send up anything that's pink- [chuckles]

LU: [chuckles]

SH: Ah my boss was very upset, anyway after they'd left this beautiful letter arrived from Mamie thank you so much [chuckles] beautiful flowers so that, I was exonerated- [chuckles]

LU: [chuckles]

[Conversation redacted from 1:33:34 to 1:34:56]

[01:35]

SH: [chuckles] And the other it was- at that time Washington was exciting but turbulent. Civil Rights Movement was on, there was the Vietnam War and assassinations Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy. So when Robert Kennedy died his staff called and said we need to have rooms for the people coming for the funeral and my boss was not around at the time, he's busy and so I took the call and set up the arrangements you know what I did really was just send the orders through to the different departments and after I came back to Canada I got this nice letter from Ethel, Ethel Kennedy, [reads the letter] "thank you very much for your hard work and time at Bobby's funeral" [holds up letter] so that's the letter etched in black [flips over letter] and this is Bobby's picture [holds up a image]-

LU: Wow.

SH: So that's one of my treasure's from Washington.

[Conversation redacted from 1:36:41 to 1:37:54]

SH: Anyway we decided that we wouldn't stay in Washington. It looked like Richard Nixon was going to be [chuckles] the next President so came back to Toronto in 1968 and Kunio was- got a job as the planning director for Markham. So, in Markham I decided to get involved in some community volunteering and I worked with a group that visited seniors home in Unionville, probably one of the first seniors home built in that area, help the clothing depot, used clothing depot. And then in '71 there was a provincial election, and our mayor was running for the conservative candidate and the- his campaign manager was a lawyer who lived next door to the apartment where we lived so they were looking for volunteers, I wanna work, and they said well would you like [chuckles] a poll count you'll have a half dozen canvassers send them out to knock on doors. Okay, so I had the two apartment buildings there so maybe about 150 homes all together that we campaigned for and we had set up coffee parties and [chuckles] even a sleigh ride [chuckles]-

[01:40]

LU: [chuckles] So that was kinda a nice experience in Markham. He didn't win incidentally and then Kunio changes jobs, we moved back to Toronto in '72 I guess and then I went to vol- back to volunteer for the Cultural Centre, so then I was working with P.R. publicity and for special events yeah. We had a couple of good art shows, Japanese contemporary prints and- what was the other one I think I forget. [pause] Still at that time also Kunio had been a long-time director of Nipponia Home and so I used to go down there with him and so they oh they said "Why don't you become a board member?" I said "Okay". So, I helped them with P.R. publicity again. And in 1972 Toyo Takata was starting he's planning for the Japanese Canadian centennial and so he invited half a dozen- half a dozen of us to his house we talked about what we could do, different events so on so I got interested in that and helped with the publicity and organizational of special banquets so on and it was- worked with Roger who was the Roger Obata and I worked mainly as a member of the

national P.R. committee. [pause] And in '77 we moved to Newmarket so, we bought a house and but in '81 I came down with lupus which is an autoimmune disease and which affected my joints and now I have arthritis of course and spent most of my time there with specialist and therapists and the hospital. But in the early '80s the Redress Movement was starting, I think as a result of the centennial the- that brought out a lot of you know about our history and then the Sansei began start asking questions and saying oh you know about the evacuation people didn't, a lot of parents didn't talk to their children about so there were some of us who were interested well because Kunio was always involved with the Japanese community from even before the war and he- we attended a lot of the meetings which resulted in the formation of the Toronto NAJC [National Association of Japanese Canadians] at that time community was very divided about redress and you probably heard the stories of what went on. It was very stressful yeah.

[01:45]

SH: So, in 1985 the night, the day after Kunio had made a passionate appeal for continuing the fight at a meeting at the Cultural Centre he had a massive heart attack and so passed away. But certainly the redress meant a lot to me. In 1987 I decided to move back to Toronto to be among my friends, church, and different activities. For five years I lived in an apartment on Sheppard Centre was a very handy place and around that time Momiji Centre was being planned, but it was actually started in '87 yeah, and they were wanted a nursing home but the government wouldn't permit that. And then they decided that well maybe if they turn some of the units in as condominiums that to raise revenue, that's when I decided I would sign up so then things changed again and the government said no it must be supportive housing for seniors but anyway I decided that it was still a good move so and the building opened in December of '92 and I moved in January- the end of January '93 so that's been where I've been ever since. [smiles] Then there was a need for volunteers, Momiji starting so we started a tenant's association, and I chaired one year and co-authored the Tenant's Handbook. [flips through photographs] In '94 I was elected to the board of directors of Momiji and served on just about every committee going, for six a total of six years. I was working on mainly P.R., newsletter, thinks like that and later as the education courses started at Momiji I took just about everything [chuckles]-

LU: [chuckles]

SH: Even indoor tennis-

LU: [chuckles]

SH: Yeah, and yoga, line dancing, you name it-

LU: [chuckles]

SH: The first computer courses were started with the DOS system [smiles], so I even got a certificate in that, but [chuckles] don't ask me about it now it's all gone-

LU: [chuckles]

SH: The other interesting one that I took was photography which's been a lifelong passion with me [background noise] and then in just 2009 I was invited to come back to the board, so I thought about it you know but, the current board is just, well

they're most able, [chuckles] talented group of professionals that I really enjoy working with them.

[01:50]

SH: They're just wonderful people and... So, it really is no wonder that Momiji is- has a reputation as an exceptional home for seniors [smiles]-

LU: Mm-hm.

SH: Yeah, any question? [chuckles]

LU: Mm-hm. [chuckles]

SH: [flips through photographs]

LU: No, you answered all my questions I had, there was oh your father's haiku poetry group how many people were involved with that group, do you know very much about it?

SH: In the Okanagan you mean?

LU: Mm-hm.

SH: Ah yeah there was a- [flips through photographs] I got a picture of that [continues to look for photograph] I would say oh not more than a dozen, yeah.

LU: And were they just local friends that were in the area?

SH: Yeah just, just about every member or Japanese family you know both- I think there were more women yeah, the wives, yeah.

LU: Mm-hm, and would they meet once a month or and how often?

SH: I don't know how often they met- [flips through photographs] no [shake head], I did [?] have a picture-

LU: Hm.

SH: But well, my father used to judge [chuckles] the haiku from different clubs all before the war different haiku clubs of the coast, Vancouver area, and I remember he used to go to ghost towns to, to meet with- most of them had haiku clubs too. It was a very common Japanese activity I mean-

LU: Mm-hm, and how would he travel to all those places did he have a car that he could drive?

SH: He never drove no, usually one of my brothers would take him to you know places in the ghost town.

LU: Mm-hm, and did your brothers stay out in out west or did the come east to Toronto as well?

SH: The only brother who came to Toronto was Alan who went to University of Toronto, and he took modern languages, and he was a French teacher and latterly he retired from Thunder Bay High School and now he's retired and living in Mississauga [smiles]-

LU: Mm-hm. [chuckles]

SH: Yeah, my oldest brother stayed in- he stayed right in the Okanagan, and he had- he was an electrician, and he had his little shop, store and did a lot of wiring jobs and things like that. [nods head]

LU: And what happened to the orchard, the family orchard?

SH: Well, the family orchard, because my brothers, well one of my brothers bought one of them, they were in different parcels [emphasizes with hand movements] about three, three different lots and the main part went to

[01:55]

my brother-in-law, my sister's husband, who took over the farming and yeah and they were the ones that helped my father- my mother's, my mother had a stroke when she was still in her 60s yes so, my sister looked after her. [nods head]

LU: Mm-hm, and I forgot to ask earlier how old was your mother when she got married and came to Canada?

SH: When she came, I think she was in her early 20s I'm not sure [shakes head] just how old she was-

LU: Mm-hm.

SH: I never thought about age you know. [chuckles]

LU: [chuckles] I know if someone was to ask me a few years back how old-

SH: Yeah.

LU: I was or my parents I would know but [chuckles]-

SH: Yeah, I know [chuckles]-

LU: [chuckles] Yeah.

SH: Difficult to remember dates I for- I'm finding it hard to remember names. [chuckles]

LU: [chuckles]

SH: So-

LU: Is there anything else that you would like to share or any other stories or photographs?

SH: [flips through photographs] You want some Momiji pictures [looks at a photograph]-

LU: Mm-hm.

SH: This is the only picture that I know of, of a board group [chuckles]-

LU: [chuckles]

SH: I don't think it will show up too well it's awfully dark-

LU: Mm-hm.

SH: Yeah, [looks at another photograph] this is a picture of me we went to a Momiji-oh I think it was an NAJC [National Association of Japanese Canadians] conference in Lethbridge and Momiji went sent a delegate a couple of delegates out so that was me [holds up a photograph] on a lamp post [smiles]-

LU: Oh wow.

SH: Yeah, [flips through photographs] pictures [looks at a photograph] this is one of me and my husband [holds up a photograph]-

LU: Oh.

SH: [flips through photographs] Let's see, yeah, I don't want wedding pictures-

LU: [chuckles]

SH: Well, that's about it as far as pictures go, I think-

LU: Hm.

SH: [flips through photographs] Oh, I did a lot of travelling [whispers, unclear speech] most of my travel pictures are still in slides my scanner's broken down-

LU: Oh no. [chuckles]

SH: We took a nice trip to Japan in 1974, and it was an architectural and garden tour. It was just a small group of us about- it was led by an American Japanese architect in Los Angeles so there were- others were all American-

LU: Hm.

SH: I have a, I have a picture of our group [flips through photographs] that's really clear, there [holds up photograph] we're just a small group. [smiles]

LU: Were you able to visit any distant family relatives when you were there?

SH: Well, there wasn't time to visit my family [flips through photographs] in Nagano but I just have, I had cousin in Tokyo-

[02:00]

SH: My husband had a sister in Yokohama whom he'd never met before physically so she was, she was left behind when the parents came to Canada and so, they kept in touch, the mother kept constant touch by correspondence, but it was the first time for him to meet his older sister and she sort of arranged all this meeting with relatives and so we went down to his mother's- my husband's mother's whole family in Yamaguchi, Ube City, Ube and we stayed with them for two, three nights and then the cousin took us on a motor trip all around [emphasizes with hand movements] the southern end of Honshu [smiles]-

LU: Hm.

SH: Very nice, inland sea area and then we went on to Fukuoka where my husband's father's heritage home and met cousins there and stayed with them for a couple of days and they showed us around, so we really had a treat of real Japanese hospitality. [smiles]

LU: Mm-hm.

SH: Yeah [nods head] very nice.

LU: And what year was that when you went to Japan?

SH: It was 1974 [nods head] my one and only trip to Japan.

LU: Do you think you'll ever go back?

SH: I don't think so [shakes head] no. [smiles]

LU: When your parents were here and they had started the orchard and a family, did they ever talk about going back to Japan or did they ever think about it?

SH: Well, of course, they would have liked to have gone but my mother never had the opportunity because she became ill. My father, after my mother died, decided he's going back to Japan from- [footage jumps] 80 he made three trips [chuckles] almost up until the time he got sick himself and he published his memoirs, so he had it [camera sounds] published in Japan-

LU: Oh [camera sounds] see I forget the cameras too sometimes [chuckles] [camera sounds] okay, sorry he had his memoirs published in Japan?

SH: Yeah.

LU: Hm.

SH: And yeah, he made three trips in his 80s-

LU: Hm, that's remarkable. Would he go for very long periods of time or was it just a couple weeks and he would be back?

SH: No, I think it was for- a fair length of time, I really don't know because I was out here, I was in Washington I think [chuckles] in those years. [nods head]

LU: Mm-hm, and is your family house still-

SH: It is!

LU: Standing?

SH: Now I did have pictures of that too, there's a cousin, a cousin's son, be second cousin to us, who lives in the home. [nods head]

LU: Oh, so it stayed in the family.

SH: Yeah, I'm not sure whether it's the actual original building but I think it's been modified-

LU: Hm.

SH: They're still there. [smiles, nods head]

LU: Mm-hm. [chuckles]

SH: Yeah.

LU: Any other stories or anything else you can think of that you'd like to share?

SH: I don't think so, that's long enough. [smiles]

LU: [chuckles] We're all set then thank you very much, so I'll turn these ones off.
[camera sounds]

[End]