

Interviewee: Nana Nishimura
Interviewer: Lisa Uyeda
Date: December 8, 2011
Location: Toronto, Canada
Accession Number: 2011-342



THE JAPANESE CANADIAN LEGACY PROJECT

[Start]

Lisa Uyeda: Alrighty. And today is December 8, 2011, and can you please start off by telling us your full name, please?

Nana Nishimura: Nana Nishimura.

LU: And can you say when and where you were born, please?

NN: I was born in Vancouver, BC, on November the 19th, 1937.

LU: And did you grow up in Vancouver?

NN: I was there 'til I think I was about four years old, and then we moved to a place called Grand Forks during the war.

LU: Do you remember Vancouver?

NN: Very little, yeah. But I-

LU: What do you remember?

NN: I remember going to my friend's house- well, she's sort of a relative, I think, distant relative that my mother babysat. That family's children and myself. And we used to go every day, and I think we went on a streetcar. And I used to be actually a very fat, pudgy little [chuckling] toddler, and I used to sit in the front seat of the tram, and I'd say, "Good morning! Good morning!" and smile, and people used to give me pennies and nickels.

[laughing]

LU: [laughing]

NN: So, I would get quite a collection, and mother would come home and, you know, say that she didn't have any money, would I please lend her- I guess, in those days, bread was six cents, or five cents, [laughing] so she took the money and bought some bread or milk or whatever she needed. And then, I think- I rarely saw snow. There's very little in Vancouver. And if it did, it just snowed white, which was fantastic, but didn't last long. And I remember going to a park- and I guess it must be Stanley Park, that everyone talks about, to play in- it was on the beach, sort of [unclear] like that.

LU: Mm-hm. Oh wow.

NN: [That's it?].

LU: Now, what do you know about your family history, about your parents, do you know where they came from in Japan?

NN: Yes, they came from a place in Shiga-ken?, near a town called Taga- or, at least, my mother did, my father came from a small town called Oyabu. And he was born in Canada, at a place called Sapperton, which is near New Westminster, BC. And I think, what I gathered from the stories, that his father, who worked in BC, wanted his wife and children to be educated in Japan, so my father went to Japan to be educated. And then, I think there was

an arranged marriage, and my parents were married in Taga, and then they came back to Canada. Or, my father came back, but mother, it was her first trip over. She never went back to Japan.

LU: Oh, no?

NN: No. It's interesting because all her friends would come back and forth, you know, visit their relatives. My mother still has a younger sister, and her children, but my mother said that the flight would be bad, she didn't like the feeling of being wrenched from her family, again, so she never went back.

LU: Oh wow.

NN: So, when she died last year, I just felt I had to take her ashes to Japan, so I did.

LU: How old was she when she passed away?

NN: 95 years old.

LU: Oh my goodness!

NN: [smiling] Yeah, she was very active in the community.

[00:05]

NN: And I felt it was too hard for her to live in her house, so the last two years she lived at Castleview Wychwood Towers. And I tried to go there once or twice a week. Plus, tried to clean up her house and sell it.

LU: Mm-hm.

NN: So, it was a hard year last year. But I got sort of a reward, I reunited with my aunt and one of the cousins and her daughter, and then I met these other cousins that I didn't know very well, and I stayed with them.

LU: In Japan?

NN: Yes.

LU: Oh wow.

NN: And one cousin owned- owns a *ryokan* [inn], so it was interesting to stay there. It was almost a week I stayed there. And it's like designated, proper old *ryokan*, so it was nice to really see how it was like before.

LU: Did-

NN: It was in Kyoto.

LU: Oh wow.

NN: Yeah, so.

LU: Did your mother only have the one sister, or did she have other sisters?

NN: She had another sister, but while we were- we were all in Canada, her sister died when she was about 30. She had an older sister; my mother was a middle sister- daughter. And her father was a principal of an elementary school, I think it is.

LU: Oh wow.

NN: And her mother was a stay-at-home mom.

LU: And what do you know about your mother's educational background? Was she able to go to high school, or-?

NN: She completed high school, and, as far as I can see, she excelled in everything.

Embroidery was one of her fortes, I have many samples of her work. I heard that her work was so good that the teacher asked her to help teach the other students, so-

LU: Oh?

NN: I guess she was really good.

LU: Mm-hm, Oh wow. [laughs]

NN: And, so, I would say she's very literate, like she always ordered Japanese books from Japan, but of higher quality like, [chuckling] not Harlequin or mysteries only but, you know, latest was in the Japanese literary field, I guess.

LU: Oh wow.

NN: So- and then, my mom would share those subscriptions with other friends.

LU: And how was her English? Was she able to learn-?

NN: Not very good, that's why I always had to- Especially with the government or something official, I had to go with her, or the hospital, I'd have to go with her. So, she chose a doctor who spoke Japanese, if she wanted to go to the doctor, and we found one who was Taiwanese, and he spoke Japanese. And we had him until mom was- the year that she died. We had him, and then he retired, so I found another Japanese doctor. But he was nisei, so, and he didn't speak very much Japanese, [chuckling] so I still went with her to the appointments.

LU: Mm-hm. Oh wow. And do you know if she ever took any English classes when she first came?

NN: [nodding] Yeah, she did, and she really did well. In fact, when an inspector or superintendent on the night school would drop into that school, the teacher always asked her to read a sentence, or whatever, that they were working on. So, she did well, but she only went, I think, about two or three years. At Harbord Collegiate, I remember. I still have some papers that says that she had taken them [?].

LU: Wow.

NN: So, I didn't have the heart yet to throw them out.

[00:10]

NN: But she did try, and I sort of was disappointed she didn't learn a bit more to talk to other [?] people. But when she worked- and she was a working mother, as well. She worked down in the garment district, down Spadina. But not with garments, it was a fur factory, and all those people, they all came from Eastern Europe or- yeah, mostly Eastern Europe, and some just, you know, put an 'X' for their name, they couldn't- they were not literate. So, you know, just say, "Good morning," and "How are you?" and maybe exchange some food or something. You don't need English, as such. So, she coped for forty years, [laughs] in this factory.

LU: And what was she doing in the factory?

NN: It was cleaning, and sizing, and [shakes head] I don't know exactly, I never really went to the factory, but it was to do with fur pelts, and I think it was owned by a Jewish company. She did such good work they wanted her to work even after she retired, but she refused, because then the others got jealous, and so she said, "No, I better retire."

LU: Oh wow.

NN: [nodding] But she did good work. But whenever you ask her to do anything, like in the art community, or at church, anywhere, she did a good job.

LU: And what year did she retire? Do you remember?

NN: Let's see. She was born in 1915. And when she was 65- would it be 1980? No-

LU: 1970 [?]-

NN: [chuckling] No, no, she wouldn't have started work in 1915. She's- yeah, well, maybe it was in the '70s. [nodding]

LU: Oh wow. And did she find that job right after the war?

NN: She tried different things, because I don't think all the early work that she took, it lasted very long. Like she made flowers with fabric, and [?] the factory, I don't think she ever- she was skilled in making clothes, but- Like, she made all my outdoor clothes, like coats and snowsuits, things like that, but she never worked in the garment district like a lot of Japanese people did. So, I remember her going to this factory where they made sort-of artificial flowers to, I guess, embellish hats, or coats, or jackets, or something. And then I think she found this fur factory through someone she knew, and stayed there, and then got my father to work there, too. But I think they had to cut down staff, so he went and looked around, and worked at CPR [Canadian Pacific Railway] station, down in the roundhouse, down by the CN Tower, now. But since he joined them after he was 40, he didn't get a pension. So, you know, we coped. I was working by then, so can't say they were strapped for money, really [?].

LU: And what do you know about your father's family history? You mentioned that he was born in Canada.

NN: His father came to Canada, was working there and stayed, and sent the wife and children back to Japan for education, but I don't know. All I'd heard was he had died in Canada; he didn't go back and die in Japan. And his mother, my father's mother, my mother said that she came from a samurai family.

[00:15]

NN: She has- my mother has this huge encyclopedia in Japanese, and in it is a recording of her branch of the samurai family, so I guess she did belong to a samurai family.

LU: Oh wow. And your father's mother, did she go back to Japan to pass away, or did she pass away in Canada?

NN: No, she passed away in Japan. And when she died- my mother's parents died, they didn't go back, like they should have, I think. But they [didn't go?].

LU: Oh wow. And your father [?]-

NN: But they sent money.

LU: Because my father was the number one son, the first son, he had to send all his pay cheque back to Japan. To pay for the next child to go to school and all that, and he did well. The second boy.

LU: And how many siblings does your father have?

NN: I think he had a sister and a brother. [There wasn't?] very much contact with us, or

with the Maede family, which is my mother's family. They hear of each other, 'cause it's in the same village, but I don't think they welcomed any relationship, it seems like. When I went to Japan last year, it seems that they didn't have any contact, but we went to the gravestone and saw that there were flowers put in for the father, so the father must've died- we were never notified that his brother had died and we heard that the sister was ill, but we don't know if she's died, or she's in a home, or- [shrugging]

LU: Oh wow.

NN: So, when we saw the flowers were already there, we had already brought flowers for his gravestone, so we just exchanged it and put ours in. And maybe, if the families were perceptive, they might have seen that somebody else had come, but I don't know.

LU: Mm-hm. Oh wow. And do you know why your father's family decided to leave Japan and come to Canada?

NN: I think it was probably a better job or- like, it was hard- I think it's an agricultural part of Japan, maybe it was- 'cause in Toronto there's a [Shiga-ken kai], so there must be, like, [shaking head] even- I don't have a great deal of contact with the Japanese community. Except through my mother. And there is a lot of Japanese who come from Shiga-ken, so I guess it was, I don't know if [unclear] poverty, but I don't think [there was enough?] work, or means to get more money.

LU: And was your father's- I guess, father's line of work farming, or-? 'cause Shiga's normally farming, isn't it?

NN: I think so. He didn't talk about that, and I don't have any pictures of him working on [?] the farm.

LU: Do you remember your grandfather? Did you meet him?

NN: [shakes head 'no'] No, I- that's why I can't even remember his name, and I don't think my mother told me. But I do have something in my safety deposit box, I think, that might tell me what his name was. I do know that his mother's name was "Tomi".

[redacted from 19:40 to 20:20]

NN: But I have pictures of that grandmother, so I can kind of remember her, that way, but not physically, I never met her.

LU: Did you ever meet your mother's parents?

NN: No. No, I didn't. Heard about them. And I- the only contact- I think my mother would write New Year's letters or Christmas- couldn't be Christmas. I mean, now they celebrate Christmas in Japan, but I think it's more New Year's, you know, they always [?] go to each other's house and have tea and take gifts and things.

LU: Did your mother ever express how difficult it was for her to leave Japan?

NN: She just said she was on or got on the ferryboat- [smiling] ferryboat liner- whatever boats that come over here. That she was occupied at looking at a little child, and I think she was an English child, wasn't Japanese. And she was so taken by its sweet innocence and that the boat left the shore, and that kind of- that's what she told me, you know, about that period. And lucky she got- her mind was off separating from her family. She did talk about

somebody coming to Yokohama to see her off. And I have pictures of, you know, those ribbons [raises hands and pulls them apart from each other to evoke a ribbon] that strung from the people onshore to the people in the boat. I have pictures of that, so, I don't know who took those, but she has records in the photo album.

LU: Oh wow. And were those photos taken from the dock or from the boat?

NN: Dock, dock.

LU: Dock. Oh, that's neat. Oh wow. And if you could describe your parents' personality, you know, what your mother was like, how would you describe her?

NN: Hmm. Well. [chuckling] She's not tall, slim, and always- well, she's very attractive, people liked her, and she was literate, so when people had their 80ths- 88ths, you know, that special party they have for people, 'cause 88 has a very auspicious meaning to it, because when you write it, it means 'good health' or something [?], anyway, 88 is a very important time in a person's life, and she's often been asked to say a few words for that occasion, or to dance odori, so she got asked to do that quite a lot. And she was always in the executive board for different organizations in the community. Like kodu-mo-kai [?], I think that was for the seniors, and then kisaragi [?] was another organization, and I think that was when she said- all the Japanese got together, and they said, "We should learn some ballroom dancing, because we go to our children's weddings, we don't know how to dance". So, they, you know, would get a Japanese teacher, instructor, you know, learn how to- through this organization, encouraged people to learn how to at least do the waltz or something really [?] simple.

LU: That's neat.

[00:25]

NN: Yeah. So- and at church, which was the United Church, she was usually elected to do something-

LU: Was-

NN: Secretary, or president, or whatever.

LU: Was religion always a big part of your family life?

NN: Yes. She became a Christian, I think, very soon after she came to Canada. But I noticed, later on in years, for instance, when my father died first, before my mother, we would always share our food with a picture of the person who died, and I noticed it in other homes too, so that sounds to me like a Shinto practice. I can [have questions?], I don't know, I've never seen people leave food in front of the picture of the dead person. Anyway, I would say my mother was respected, she wrote poetry like tanka, haiku, and she was involved in a cross-Canada group that had a- took a theme each month and wrote poems. And then she would write them all down, and then ask everybody involved who are members of that group to choose which one they liked best, and so there would be, I guess, three choices, and then they would be published in the newspaper.

LU: Oh wow.

NN: So, she did that for many years. And then, about three years before she died, she presented a poem about multiculturalism and it was an international competition, and she

got- she won that time. But, you know, it's been going on for years and years, and she never won anything, so that was quite an honour for her, she was quite proud. I have pictures of her with the poem. [chuckles] And then she won that medal that's given by the Prince Akihito [Emperor between 7 January 1989 – 30 April 2019], so. But that's usually someone vouches for the person and says how much they've contributed to the- to her community. And then your name is presented, and then you're accepted, and so she got hers, I think it was '87, or something like that.

LU: Oh wow.

NN: So, we went to the Consul General's house in Forest Hill and had a little service, and had some refreshments, so I have pictures of that. So, the society, I guess, appreciates her work. And my father, he was more retiring. And he had a bad leg, so he didn't go out as much. And I think it might have been when he was younger, he fell off a bike and never really had his leg looked after. [You think back?], he could have had an operation, but all- my parents, they just didn't want to spend extra money for themselves. They'd [?] give it to people or do something, but they felt "Well, it's not worth having a big operation in case you [unclear] money." That's what I remember.

LU: And how old was your father when he passed away? When did he pass away?

NN: I was trying to verify it this morning but I couldn't find the papers. But I think- I definitely know it's February the 7th, and I think it was '94, 1994, he died. And he died at home, my mother made sure that he was alright [?] at home, and we coped.

[00:30]

LU: And how old was he when he passed away?

NN: So, I think he was about 86 or 87.

LU: Oh wow.

NN: And we kept saying, "You know, few more years and you'll be 88, and we'll have this big party," and all that, but he didn't. And when we lived in BC, and when he [?] first came over- actually, [name redacted] was talking about it the other day, that he knew my father was a salesman for a Japanese big department store called Maikawa's, and he would go to all these small villages and meet the Japanese people and ask what they would like, like to eat, or I don't know, maybe kitchenware and things. So, my father knew how to drive, and he's been all over BC and Vancouver Island picking up orders, and then I think he delivered them.

LU: Oh wow. I always hear stories about, you know, the salesman would come to the house and- [laughing]

NN: [chuckling]

LU: What an honour to finally figure out it's your father. [laughing]

NN: [laughing] But I don't know, there were others, too, I don't know if my father was the only one, but.

LU: Oh wow. And was he always working as the salesman for the Maikawa store, or do you remember him doing anything else in Vancouver?

NN: No, I don't. I don't really remember him going to work.

LU: Do you-

NN: I guess he was at work, and my mother went to babysit [this other?] family, and dragged me along, so [?]. [nodding] And where I stayed, I know it was a big building with a lot of little rooms, and most of it was with Japanese people.

LU: Oh wow. And do you remember where in Vancouver it may have been that you-

NN: Yeah, I have records of that, it was 306 Jackson Avenue. I believe it was one of the bigger streets, like Powell, or, I don't know what the other cross-section was, but I think Jackson might have crossed [unclear] and Powell, somewhere.

LU: Oh wow. And when the war started- do you remember when the war started? Or were you in school at all before that?

NN: No.

LU: [unclear]

NN: I was still four or five, I think. I do remember going on the train, and there's a Canadian girl, offered me some gum, I remember that much. But I don't remember gathering at Stanley Park, as some of the gentleman up there [nods her head towards her right shoulder] were talking about, having to go to Stanley Park, I don't remember that.

LU: Hm.

NN: But I heard that somebody scouted ahead to find a place to live. And I didn't go to a camp, or at least, my family didn't go to a camp. Went to a small town called Grand Forks. But there were a lot of Japanese there, and I remember people coming to help us build a house, so we lived in a house. Two house. And we lived near a river. So, any water was taken from the river, and I remember brushing my teeth in the river every morning. And went to the local school, but we had to walk about three miles.

LU: Oh wow.

NN: And I never had any discrimination, never heard anyone bully me, or calling me names, or anything like that.

LU: How big was the school? Were there other Japanese students there?

NN: Yes, there were other Japanese students there.

[00:35]

NN: And I remember in May we were always involved on a little float, and we had to wear Japanese kimono. A lady came from Greenwood, which was another small town near Grand Forks, who taught us some Japanese dances, we displayed that. And then we also took part in the Maypole, which is those ribbons around the Maypole, we had to dance, you know, you go in and out, [makes weaving motion with her pointed index fingers, and then raises hands together] and then it braids different colours on the Maypole. I have pictures of that.

LU: Oh, that's neat. And how many other Japanese families moved to Grand Forks?

NN: Well, I have an album- just a regular-sized album- it's full of families, so I don't know, I [unclear]. And I think after we left Grand Forks- you know, it [the exclusion order] was lifted, Japanese could go elsewhere- a Japanese person became the mayor of Grand Forks. And there's even a big park bench that has his name on it, saying that he was a mayor at a certain period, and I have met his daughter here in Toronto.

LU: Oh wow.

NN: So, I don't know, roughly maybe 50 families, I'm not sure.

[36:43 to 36:51 redacted]

LU: Oh wow. And the house that you lived in in Grand Forks, you mentioned it was just a small house, but-

NN: Yes.

LU: Did it have electricity, or how did it stay warm?

NN: I think we had, I don't know, coal [?], [shaking head] fireplace, I think we had a wood stove. And I think for light- We didn't have electricity. I recall those little gas lamps that had wick inside it. [mimes the shape of a lamp and wick with hands] And then if there's any moth, we used to drop it down into [mimes dropping something] and, you know, it would die and [unclear], but yeah, that was- didn't have running water, I think we had a bath [?] and a tub. But other friends had a real Japanese-type ofuro tub, and I've been in those, [it was?] really good. [smiling]

LU: [laughs] Oh wow.

NN: I guess that's where my friend's house was [unclear], I used to stay over there, like New Year's Day or night or something.

LU: Oh wow. And when you were at- in Grand Forks at this house, did you have any chores that you'd have to do to help out or [?] take care of the house.

NN: [shakes head] No, I don't recall, I don't recall anything.

LU: Mm-hm. And what were some of your favourite activities growing up in Grand Forks?

NN: I think just playing with another family that was another [?] Japanese family. And the mother of that family, she used to teach Japanese in Vancouver, and there was another daughter who was maybe in her teenage years, [can't remember?]. But I think we were on a land owned by a flower farmer. [39:19 to 39:23 redacted] And I remember my mother taking me into the fields to weed out weeds in his [?] flower farm. Also, there was some vegetables as well. And there were also Doukhobors who were hired, and my mother really respected them, because they didn't kill anything, they were, like, pacifists from Russia, and Tolstoy, Leo Tolstoy let them come to Canada- like, he arranged their passage over, and I think he might have given them money and sent a group over.

[00:40]

NN: So, the ones we met my mother respected them, didn't meet a whole lot, but- and I remember trading comics with one boy who had comics, and he was a Doukhobor, I think it was through working in the fields. And when my mother worked in those fields, [for a week?] she would get a dollar fifty, so that's about the value of money and how much we were given. But being in the country, didn't really need that much. Like, ice cream was a real treat, if we went, I don't know, another three miles and found a store you could get some ice cream, but that's very rare. Maybe once or twice a year. And I took piano lessons from a woman who lived in Grand Forks, I remember that. [name redacted]. And I still have

little- her books that told me what I should practice, I think I still kept those. And she also wrote in my autograph book. There was a practice that you shared autograph books, and you wrote in each other's autograph book, wrote poems, or drew art, or, you know, drew pictures, and I still have those, too.

LU: Oh wow. Those are nice treasures.

NN: Yeah.

LU: And how long were you living in Grand Forks for?

NN: Okay, we arrived there, I guess '44 or '45, and then must have been three or four years, because I remember coming to Toronto in 1948. I think the government said we could go elsewhere, so again, somebody scouted in Toronto to see where we could live, where we could possibly find a job. So, we ended up in a house [redacted] and we stayed there 'til I finished high school, '57 or something like that, and then we moved to East York, and I started university at Victoria College, U of T [University of Toronto].

LU: And where were you located during the war years, then? In Grand Forks?

NN: Yes.

LU: And do you remember leaving Vancouver and-

NN [shakes head 'no'] Just that time on the train with that little girl.

LU: Do you remember some of the items that you were able to take with you, or leave behind?

NN: I remember my mother said they left a lot of things behind in Vancouver, and so- I don't know who came back to retrieve it, but it was all gone, so I guess people stole it.

LU: And-

NN: I cleared out the house last year, my mother's house, and I found some old suitcases, but nothing was battered, it was like a new set- black set of suitcases that she had in a closet with a few things inside. But- 'cause it's been in the closet, she never looked at them it seems. But I had no use and no more room, so I just gave them away to Goodwill, but- 'cause they were tiny as well, I couldn't really use them myself for travelling. And it was quite heavy without anything in it, so I didn't keep them, but they were mint-condition.

LU: Oh wow.

[00:45]

LU: Do you think they came from the [unclear]-?

NN: Yeah, [unclear], 'cause my parents didn't go anywhere.

LU: Oh wow. That's incredible. And when you were in Grand Forks, do you remember the name of the school that you went to?

NN: No, I don't remember the name. It might have been just Grand Forks High or Grand Forks Public School- I remember when I first got to Grand Forks and started school, the first grade was in a church. It wasn't in a- like, a log [?] building. I remember that much, and I remember meeting other Japanese people there, but they weren't, like, regular friends, they were strangers.

LU: Oh wow. And at that point, did you know any English prior to that?

NN: [chuckling] I don't know when I learned English. I just- nobody [?] came to teach me,

yet we knew it- like when I went to my friends who had the hot tub, I think we all spoke in English, we didn't speak Japanese. I speak Japanese because of my mother, but my friends now, [shakes head] they remember some Japanese, but not as much as I do.

LU: And did your father, did he have the opportunity to learn English?

NN: I think he went to a couple of classes but then, I think he was just too tired to carry on, so he didn't. But his English, yeah, I could say it was better than my mom's, I guess.

LU: Oh wow.

NN: And yet, before she died, and when she was widowed, she could talk to her neighbour, who was an Italian, somehow they communicated, because I had to always verify what the other person had meant, and did they understand it. So, I would go to the neighbour and, you know, talk to her, and see [?], and sure enough, my mother interpreted what she said [chuckling] half Italian and half English, so. [laughs] See, if you can cope, I don't know, you don't have to worry too much. Or if it's urgent message, she would call me to call them and explain.

LU: Oh wow. [laughs] And when you were growing up in Grand Forks, since you were quite small, do you remember, you know, the concept or idea of war, and that it was a wartime?

NN: [shakes head] Just that my mother used to subscribe to couple of newspapers, one was called Rocky Shimpō (Rokkī shimpō), I think, and I think it came from the [United] States.

And sometimes she did talk about the war, like there's a war on, something, something, something, I don't recall affecting us, as such. Yeah, no exercises in town for war, as such. I don't recall anything like that or seeing anyone in uniform.

LU: And did your father stay with you in Grand Forks?

NN: Yes. He worked on the farms, too. [nodding]

LU: Oh wow. And you were an only child?

NN: Yes. So that's the only reason I can speak fairly well Japanese, or at least understand if others were talking in Japanese. So, when I visited my relatives last year, they were quite afraid that I would not be able to communicate. But because of my mother I understood, so they were relieved. [chuckles]

LU: [chuckles]

NN: Although the kids, you know, get it at school, but it's like, I guess, learning French, you [?] don't really use it.

LU: Did you go to Japanese language school?

NN: I tried in adulthood. But I didn't like it.

[00:50]

NN: It was a lot of rote, and, I don't know, it just didn't suit me, I don't know if I even finished the whole term.

LU: But you never had the opportunity to go to school when you were younger, Japanese-English school when you were younger.

NN: No, but my mother used to have a slate and she taught me the letters, so I know that quite well.

LU: Oh wow.

NN: Not, you know, the big characters, but hiragana, I think it is.

LU: And what else do you remember about Grand Forks, and what did it look like, or-

NN: It's pastoral, and there are a couple of bridges to take a short cut, we used to do- go over the bridges, trestle bridges, and once my dad and I got caught almost [in the?] train passover, but my poor dad [chuckles] quickly grabbed the bike off the tracks and we missed it, but we shouldn't be doing that in [unclear], instead of going all the way around we used to take the short cut going over these bridges. And then swimming in the river, that was kind of fun. And I visited my friend more closer to downtown. She had a dog, which- very faithful, and [I don't know, guess?] it was just a mongrel, but very sweet, looked like Lassie, so we called it Lassie. And at one point I think they moved house and left the dog, but the dog found them, so it's-

LU: Oh wow.

NN: Yeah, my friend just adores pets. I had a pet at one time, but it kept running after trucks, [makes circular motion with index finger] and I guess it's the rear wheels that caught him, I don't know, but he got run over, so-

LU: And where was that?

NN: That was also in Grand Forks, but another side of town. I don't know why we moved out of that, you know, the one that we had built. I think maybe a member of the [name redacted] family wanted it, so we had to go further across town. And there was this- quite a nice-looking big house on a hill, and the highway went past it, the trucks went right past. And it had these French windows- doors, I remember. And I used to go to the library just hitchhiking from there. I don't know if these days you could have done that, but my mother never told me not to, and I never had any problems. But it was like a three-mile drive into town to get some library books-

LU: Oh, yeah?

NN: [I used?] to do that. Or, you know, if traffic didn't come by, I'd walk. But I don't know how I realized I wanted to do that, my mother didn't say, "Oh, go to the library." I just went and got, you know, the Canadian books- children's books, and I've always liked reading. So, I guess my mother was a model in being able to read and learning things.

LU: And so, when your family moved to the other side of Grand Forks, do you remember what that house looked like?

NN: Yes, that was the one- big, dark house on this hill. And after, they told us it was on [a rattlesnake mound?]. So, one time I was left alone at home, and I could hear something rattling in this tub, and I just screamed out to our neighbours across the road, at the bottom of the hill that there was trouble, so they came and they found a rattlesnake, [chuckling] you know, in the wash tub. But didn't scare me to go into the back end [?] of the house just, I don't know, I guess I was innocent. [chuckles]

[00:50]

NN: We lived a little bit longer there, before we came to Toronto.

LU: And who made the decision to leave Grand Forks and move to Toronto?

NN: [name redacted] was my friend's father, and he scouted like he did to find Grand Forks, he also was in the group that came to Toronto to see where it would be advisable to stay and find work. So, they lived with us for a while in Toronto. So that's how we came to Toronto.

LU: Do you remember leaving to go to Toronto and packing up, and-

NN: Not really, no.

LU: And did you go by train?

NN: Yes. And I remember stopping off at Winnipeg, and it was freezing, 'cause it was March, or something like that. So, we didn't stay there very long, and I don't think we knew anybody there. And then, I guess the train sort of went around the lake, the lake, the Great Lakes, and came to Toronto.

LU: Oh wow. And what was your first impression of Toronto?

NN: I don't recall any excitement or any bewilderment, nothing, I don't recall it. We lived in a three-floor house, on this [?] Howard Street. First floor was the [name redacted], they had three children, they're Japanese. The second floor, it was another Japanese family, and [?] we were on the third floor. We stayed there, as I said, until I started university, and when my parents bought their house, it was like 19,000 [dollars]. Now I heard from my neighbour that it was sold for 474,000 [dollars], and it was just a little, wee [?] two-storey-mind you, it's a detached house.

LU: Oh wow. My goodness.

NN: Yes.

LU: And do you remember what school it was you went to? In high school?

NN: In high school? Jarvis Collegiate.

LU: Jarvis Collegiate. And-

NN: It's one of the, you know, academic schools, like Harbord Collegiate was. That's- Jarvis, it had Lester Pearson, he graduated from [?] there.

LU: Oh wow. And before that, was it just the school in Grand Forks?

NN: No, I went to Rose Avenue Public School, which was around the corner from Howard Street.

LU: So how old were you when you moved to Toronto?

NN: I think I was 12 or 13- No, I think it was more 11 or 12- no, I was in grade three, so maybe- no, that would be eight? Eight, seven or eight.

LU: In grade three?

NN: That's when I started at Rose Avenue. [nods]

LU: Mm-hm. I'm just gonna pause this one here. [noises from recording equipment] Okay, and so when your father moved out- or, family moved out to Toronto, was your father able to find work fairly easily?

NN: I think he worked in the same place where my mother worked, in the fur factory [but then?] that had to lay off a lot of people, then he moved to the CPR.

LU: Did he work anywhere before that in Toronto?

NN: I can't remember him doing anything else.

LU: And what was he doing with the CPR?

NN: I think he was washing the trains, yes.

LU: Oh wow.

NN: It was right in that roundhouse, where they had Steam Whistle- I forget what it's called, they can have parties or plays and things there.

[01:00]

NN: In fact, I don't know if you remember the production called *Railroad Children*? Well, it was held down there, anyway.

LU: Oh wow.

NN: 'Cause [?] that's where it sort of came in, and then got washed, and then went out to the different cities.

LU: And how long did he work with the CPR for?

NN: It wasn't very long, because as I said, he wasn't [?] hired when he was over 40, so he didn't get a pension. So, I guess he worked another 25 years, or so.

LU: Mm-hm. Oh wow.

NN: But he seemed to like his coworkers, and they liked him.

LU: Oh wow. And when you were going to Rose Avenue Public School, were there any other Japanese families there?

NN: I'm trying to think. Right now, I can't- if there were, it might be one or two, [shaking head] I don't think so.

LU: And what about in Jarvis Collegiate?

NN: Yeah, there were more there, yes. But not a huge number. Although Jarvis Collegiate covered a lot, from Cabbagetown and over near Spadina, people who lived in that area came to- or near the Parliament and Gerrard area.

LU: Oh wow.

[1:01:50 to 1:02:37 redacted]

LU: Oh wow.

NN: Yeah, so I did keep in touch with some of the Japanese, but I never joined in, like, Jean [?] with the Senior [?], or ski clubs, or anything like that here. But I always supported them and the Bazaar, and other occasions my mother might have been involved with.

LU: And when you were growing up in high school, do you remember what the Japanese community was like? I've heard that it was quite dispersed in Toronto.

NN: Yes, it- we never had ghettos, Japanese don't have. Like Little India, or Little Italy. We all- maybe we tried not to, since the war, I don't know why that is.

LU: Mm-hm, and when you were in high school and you were growing up, do you remember going to community events, or if they gathered anywhere?

NN: Yes, the United Church again started a- in Queen Street United Church- different ethnic groups would have their service there. And then, I think it was in the spring, every group would do a little skit or a dance or something, so I learned about the Ukrainians, and the Estonians, and Chinese, and Japanese, and different groups, and, I don't know, it was a good

feeling about being in Toronto and knowing all these different groups there. I guess - and school, in public school and in high school, we had a lot of-

[01:05]

NN: In those days, we used to call them DP, Displaced Persons, so there were a lot of Ukrainians and Polish, and Latvians, and Lithuanians who came to my school. And they all excelled, they're [?] very good. I guess their parents, you know, you gotta work hard. So, they all excelled in academic pursuits. Like Harbord, too - another high school, just further over. It was a Jewish area so they, of course, worked hard, too. And they all became lawyers, dentists, doctors, 'cause their parents wanted them to be doctors, lawyers. [smiling]

LU: [chuckles] Did you like school?

NN: Yes.

LU: Did you like going to high school?

NN: Yes.

LU: What were some of your favourite courses or activities in high school?

NN: I liked languages; I wasn't very good at math. [laughing] And those teachers were quite severe, but I did survive, and did pass them, so it was alright, but I liked languages. I liked sports, I met some really nice people in the sports group, like, played team basketball, volleyball, and badminton, And I won pairs, and things like that.

LU: Do you still play now?

NN: No. In fact, when I cleared out my mum's house, I found some old racquets, but a friend of mine said, "Oh, no, they don't use that kind [?] of racquet anymore, it's all fiberglass," and, you know, light, but I had kept all these old skis, and racquets, and - so.

LU: And after you graduated from high school, why did you decide to go to Victoria College?

NN: Well, that was again the United Church affiliation, so I just chose that, and I think a few friends from high school said they were going there, too, and that was the closest college near me, so I went there.

LU: And was - what did you study in university?

NN: I majored in psychology, so actually, I only had French at my home college, the rest were at University College. And the Ec [?] building up on Bloor Street, near Bedford Park, for statistics, things like that.

LU: I remember psychology statistics. [laughs]

NN: [laughing] No, I didn't like it, either.

LU: And why did you decide to study psychology and French?

NN: I just liked - I just thought I have to learn about people, and why they're like that, I guess, or I don't know, I must have read somewhere that there are interesting people, or, I don't know, [chuckling] abnormal people or whatever, I wanted to learn about them. I guess, to help them or something because my summer jobs were nurses' assistant, and I also worked on a farm, a Japanese farm, somewhere in Oakville, I remember that. And then I worked in some factories in Spadina, but I forget the name of the toy company. It was like cleaning dolls, and dressing dolls, [chuckling] right now the name doesn't come to me, what it was called. But another friend said they were working there, so I got a job in there.

LU: And how old were you when you were working at these places?

NN: Well, I started around 14.

LU: Oh wow.

NN: But nobody really asked us our age, I don't think. Like today, you have to fill out a form and everything, I think it was word of mouth, and if they needed you, they'll take you. And, you know, if you're Japanese and all, these other people were really good workers, the employer thinks, "Oh yeah, maybe she's a good worker, so we'll hire her."

[01:10]

LU: Why did you work on a farm all the way out in Oakville?

NN: I guess at that time I couldn't find anything else, and it was Japanese farm. Yeah, I had to get up really early, you know, near Sherbourne and Bloor, and then, I think we were met at the end of the line by a- by somebody who had a truck, and then we arrived at the farm with this truck. But all the workers were Japanese. I don't think we spoke Japanese, just [?] all English. So, I remember picking tomatoes, and strawberries, and- what else? I don't think [we had?] carrots. Cherries maybe, might've picked, yeah.

LU: And you went with a friend or?

NN: At that time, I don't recall going with a friend, [chuckling] but I don't recall how I got on to it, maybe my mother knew someone, I don't know.

LU: [chuckles] And how long did you work there for?

NN: The whole summer.

LU: Oh wow. Do you remember who owned the farm?

NN: No, I don't remember the name- but Japanese, for sure. I can't remember and yeah, anyways, I think- oh, I wish my mother was still alive, I would ask her, but [shaking head] I can't remember.

LU: And when were you working in the factory with the dolls?

NN: I can't remember, it was after the farm, or before the farm?

LU: During the summer, though? It was another summer job?

NN: Oh yeah, they were all summer jobs. Yes.

LU: Oh wow. Do you remember other Japanese workers at that location?

NN: No. Just the farm, I remember, were all Japanese. But not in the- [laughing] I think we were working so hard, we just got there and work, work, work, maybe a little bit, 10-minute coffee break, I don't recall lunch, I don't know.

LU: Oh wow. And what about when you were at university, were you working anywhere?

NN: Yes, I worked at- it was a crippled children place on Bloor Street. And in those days, it was awful, it was called Home for Incurable Children, but it was all those children who had muscular dystrophy and cerebral palsy, and so on. So, we were like nurses' aides, cleaned up and wheeled them around, and that's when I learned about doctors reporting on patients, and how they'd come from Sick Kids [Hospital], talk about a certain child and what they had to do, you know, if they were crippled, what further physical problems could be overcome, things like that. So, as a nurses' aide, you were included in the reports, things like that, [thought that was interesting?].

LU: Mm-hm.

NN: And then I learned also that the children whose family came and visited them were happier than the ones who didn't have anybody come and visit them. 'cause some came from, like, Red Lake, way up in northern Ontario, and so, I guess in those days there weren't that many places for children to go, who had handicaps. And mind you, you know, every organization wanted to give them things but, you know, they [?] were things they didn't really want or like.

LU: And how long did you work there for?

NN: I think I worked there for three summers. I think right through university. Paid quite well.

LU: Oh wow.

NN: And I even worked for the Defense, like, RAF [Royal Air Force?], there was a station at Avenue Road and Eglinton, and we worked for- I worked for two summers there.

LU: And what were you doing there?

NN: Well, [laughing] first we were in the procession [?], [traces a rectangular shape in the air with both hands] you know, where you do marching and things in unison, and there's patterns on the floor.

[01:15]

NN: That, and then, too, learn about, I guess, cloud formations, and if there's any, I don't know, any enemy lines coming into Canada, you can look on the screen and report on them. Like, it was a time when the Hungarians were coming here, so if there was a real war we would have been involved, and I would have had to go. [laughs]

LU: Oh, my goodness.

NN: But, you know, at that time it wasn't war, and they had this opportunity for high school kids, too, to work there, so a lot of us went, and got paid for it. [laughs]

LU: What year would that have been around?

NN: '57 or '58, I think it was.

LU: Oh wow, that's incredible.

NN: Well, I don't remember any Japanese in that group.

LU: And where else did you work?

NN: I don't remember [?] anywhere else after that, I worked-worked. I graduated from University College- I mean, Victoria College, and then I took a teacher training course, which was called Primary Specialist course.

LU: And where was that offered?

NN: That was at the teacher's college at Carlaw and Mortimer, that was the only place, in the east and the middle part of Toronto. There was one in Lakeshore too, I think, but that was a bit too far for me. So, the one at Carlaw, I could have walked from my parents' home, while [?] I lived with them. And then after I got that certificate I became a private [?] school teacher, so after that I said, "If I work, then I can take my own vacation," so I started going across Canada, I thought, "You should know your own country before you go away." So, the first time, I think, I went to Banff, and then I went to, before I came back to Toronto, in the

fall, I went to BC [British Columbia] to see where I was born, where I grew up. But it wasn't nice, so sometimes you think, maybe you shouldn't go back to it, you sort of have fond memories. And yeah, saw some of the museums in Vancouver, and then I took the train back to Toronto. That was another trip that one should do, 'cause you really see what Canada is like, and then another year I went to the Maritimes.

LU: Oh wow.

NN: And then another year, I had to teach- I didn't have to, but I was asked to teach a boy [?] in Newfoundland, so I've been to Newfoundland.

LU: Oh wow. [laughs]

NN: So, I knew my- I still haven't been to the North, but I'd like to one day, maybe. But I've been all over Scandinavia, Great Britain, United Kingdom, I've been all over there. And Italy, I went back eight times, really liked it. And Hungary I've been, Turkey I've been, 'cause I have friends. When I went in the summers by myself, I went to International Student Courses, so then every time- I didn't look for them as such, to be friends that way, but we became friends, and so I went to those countries, like Turkey, and Finland, and Hungary, 'cause I met these people, and so you see the country through their eyes, like you know more than through a tourist book, or something.

LU: Oh wow.

NN: So, I've been lucky so far.

LU: Mm-hm. And where were you working after university? When you went to- and did your teacher's program?

NN: I started in York Board, which is near Ossington-St. Clair area.

[01:20]

NN: I taught there for about, I guess, I was thinking the other day, maybe about five years, because I did the kindergarten, and there were 45 children in the morning, and 45 in the afternoon. And I thought, "I'm sorry, but I don't want to babysit," 'cause that's all you could do, like, they're all new immigrant children, [lot Italian-area?]. And I think that's why I started going to Italy, because I wanted to learn the language to talk to the parents, and explain what we're trying to do, and that they must do a bit at home, too. So that's how I got into liking [?] Italy, and of course, it's very warm, and the food's great. So, I went about seven years for the York board, and then I came to the Toronto Board. And there I taught the deaf. So, there's about a handful of Japanese people who also are teaching the deaf. And there were two families who have deaf children who are Japanese.

[1:21:23 to 1:22:00 redacted]

NN: But- so, I was with the Toronto Board as a visitor one year, and then I went to train in Manchester, England to be a teacher of the deaf. And that- those were the days when the Board paid for the tuition, but you had to promise to come back, like, you couldn't marry somebody over there, or something like that, but- and you paid back part of it, which is fair, I think, but I came back and taught for 37 years, for the Toronto Board [unclear].

LU: How long were you away for training?

NN: Just one year.

LU: And at that point did you learn sign language?

NN: No, in those days we didn't have sign language.

LU: So, how would they train you to-?

NN: Well, we had hearing aids, and just speak clearly, and have all these different games, and different ways simply, then repeat yourself many times, so.

LU: Did you ever learn sign language?

NN: Oh yes, like, in the last few years. Like when deaf power [raises fist] came in the [United] States, and moved up to ours. So, they insisted that deaf people be allowed to teach and everything. Well, I believe in fairness, but if they're not up to par like we are, they shouldn't be, but [shrugs] they still allowed them. So, I can't say I [?] was always the correct way, but anyway, it was a good bunch of teachers. Lot of British people came over for a while, and- when I [?] first started teaching. And then they moved on, but- and lots of things have changes, it's, my school is not there anymore, 'cause we're getting a lot more immigrant children and they can't afford to live in Toronto, it's too expensive, so they go to Milton, and there's another school out there that they can go to. Or they now have something called cochlear implant, [points to left ear and wags finger up and down] so they fix the nerves in your ears, and you have this built-in thing, and you have to learn a little techniques, but if they get you early, they- it's almost like learning to hear again.

LU: Oh wow.

[01:15]

NN: So, a lot of the kids have that now. So, they don't need a school like mine anymore. But the deaf, kids from the deaf family, they say, "Oh no, that's how we're born, you shouldn't tamper with the ears." So.

LU: And have you retired?

NN: Yes.

LU: And when did you retire?

NN: That was '94.

LU: '94?

NN: [nods]

LU: The same year your father passed away?

NN: [nodding] I guess, I was trying to look that up, but- I think it must have been, yeah.

LU: Oh wow. And what have you been doing since you retired?

NN: Well, I worked at Momiji for about seven years.

LU: Oh, what were you doing there?

NN: Well, first it started off as a receptionist, like answering phones, and doing a few [odds and bods at?] the office. But then they got me to do the minutes for the Board meetings. And then the Board- the staff meetings, there was a young man there, he wanted somebody to print up all the daily- I guess he had a weekly meeting with his staff, and the records he needed typed out, so [chuckles] I learned to decipher his handwriting, and then I learned

how to do the computer, and so I did that for about four years, or something. And then finally, I thought, "I can't live here all the time, I don't have any time for myself," so I resigned. And after that, my mother and- yeah, my mother needed me for more things, so I ended up doing that.

LU: Mm-hm. Oh wow, you've led a busy life.

NN: [chuckles]

LU: Travelling all over the place.

NN: Yeah, I've been lucky in that way.

LU: Yeah.

NN: Very lucky.

LU: And did you ever get married?

NN [shakes head] No, no. [laughs]

LU: And what do you feel the Japanese community, the Japanese Canadian community, how do you feel the future generations are going to- I don't know, I guess carry on the traditions and cultures, and- well actually, I should ask, do you remember any holiday traditions or New Year's celebrations, or other celebrations that you remember from Grand Forks, or Vancouver?

NN: Well, I guess it started in Grand Forks, there were three families who were quite close. Partly, I think, because two women were teachers of the Japanese language in Vancouver, and then my mother is sort of related to my girlfriend's mother, so we always used to trade doing Christmases at each other's homes. But then, when one spouse died, then it broke up and all that, so I ended up going to my girlfriend's quite often. And then, I don't know, I think I had a couple of big surgeries, so I didn't go, and I kind of got off the tradition. And I know New Year's, everywhere in the Japanese they usually try to keep up the tradition of Japanese food, and getting everybody to come over, and I noticed even [name redacted] said in his family they make onigiri and different sushis, and they get people over, so I guess, you know, his father must encourage that they keep that tradition up.

LU: Oh wow.

[1:29:30 to 1:31:36 redacted]

LU: Mm-hm.

NN: Yeah, he loves that.

LU: [laughs]

NN: So, lot of ways they really love the Japanese things [?], but maybe it's 'cause the mother presented it to them, and they, you know, you love your mother, and everything around you, kind of. If it's around every year it's just ingrained in your head [that it's?] the way it is, and it's an honourable, you know, tradition.

LU: Did your mother make a lot of traditional Japanese foods for the holidays?

NN: Yeah, yeah. In fact, a few years before she was poorly, she used to make these shrimp things for- and in Chinese and Japanese culture, I think that's like for long life and prosperity, and all those, so there's, like, black beans, and that was for fertility, and, you

know, there is some symbolic things still [?], the things that we eat.

LU: Oh wow. So, what do you remember to be some of your favourites that your mother would make?

NN: Oh, like I was telling [name redacted] the mushroom rice, 'cause that's a specialty, and she used to have friends who could get a hold of them, or they went picking themselves, or something, so I mentioned that to him. And yeah, she always saved those for me, and for her to have, you know, and with her we like tojiro [?], which is a root that you grind up, and you use it with miso soup, it's very good, it's good for you. [chuckles]

LU: [laughs]

NN: Those are fond memories.

LU: Were there any other stories or comments that you wanted to share today that I may not have asked if I- I'm trying to think if I asked everything. Oh, back in the- I remember now- back in the, I guess, '60s, when the Cultural Centre was first being built, do you remember that time, were you involved at all?

NN: [shakes head] My mother was, I'm sure. But-

LU: Did she ever mention it?

NN: [Well they went?] to a lot of meetings, I remember. And of course, everyone said, "Oh, it's so far out of the city," but there were some people who found that that was a good area, and I think we were proud of it, and its distinctive architecture, and, you know, it suited the small community when it was first built, but then it got so big. I always came to the artisan craft show, I really liked it there, and a lot of my Canadian friends came, also displayed their work, and they loved it here. What else? Yeah, and the Bazaars are just known everywhere in the Japanese community, so it was always packed. And so, I would always ask my friend to come.

[01:35]

NN: And she loved it too, and she always found bargains, you know, and we always stopped for sushi or udon for lunch. Was a tradition, too [?]. And I guess everyone else met up, but they hadn't seen each other, because we're all dispersed, as you said, so it was a time where we all could get together and see our old friends. So Momiji has that, and the Centre has it, so it's good.

LU: Mm-hm. And what about in the 1980s when the Redress started to, I guess, develop?

NN: Again, my mother was involved with that.

LU: Oh, really?

NN: And it came to the point where we got it, and I had to tell my friend that she had- she and her brother had to apply if they wanted the Redress money. Otherwise, they wouldn't have known about it.

LU: Oh wow.

NN: 'Cause their parents had died, and they weren't, like, community workers as much as my mother.

LU: And how was your mother involved with it?

NN: I guess to decide this way or that way, like [name redacted], she was there. If you look

back in records, you'll probably see that my mother was there.

LU: Oh wow.

NN: But it was all in Japanese, and a lot of things are just- [shakes head] I couldn't contribute, I didn't come [?]. I was a bit too young or a bit too old, something like that, you know, so.

LU: What-

NN: Didn't [?] quite fit in.

LU: When Redress took place, and it was, you know, awarded- maybe not awarded, but when Redress was finalized, how did your mother react to it, what- did she ever express how she felt towards Redress?

NN: I think she supported it. She certainly didn't give it away like Joy Kogawa did, like I think my mother sent hers, or parts of it, to friends who went back to Japan. Like, even when she won some prizes with the bowling thing they had here, she always thought, "That was just lucky you got some money," you know, you won the lottery for the week. She gave it all away, she would give 100 to a friend, and then 100 to another friend, and she said, "Why should I keep it?" Like it just was [chuckling] God-given to her, didn't mean that she had to spend it all, so she's [?] that kind of a person. So, I think when the Redress came around, I think she supported it, but she said it was wartime, and I never heard her say, "Oh, those Canadians, they're awful, they made us go," I never heard anything like that. Even before she died, she said it was wartime, [shrugs] you know, people fear that we were gonna invade, or whatever.

LU: Did she ever say if it was difficult to leave Vancouver, to have to go to Grand Forks?

NN: No, actually, when she looks back, she liked that time in Grand Forks.

LU: Did she say why?

NN: Well, it's just being back in earth [?], working in the fields, writing her poetry and I guess at that point, maybe she met this editor for the *New Canadian*, [name redacted]. And later they had a friendship, like they liked all the cultural things, and his wife also came, and I remember my mother, [name redacted] and I often went to Niagara-on-the-Lake, there used to be a boat from [?] the bottom, near the bay docks, you could get this- Cayuga [?], or something like that, that goes down to Niagara-on-the-Lake, and it has a return trip that evening. Did that quite often. So anyway, the-

[01:40]

NN: Grand Forks, I don't think she found it, like, anything wrong or anything negative. I don't recall.

LU: Mm-hm. Oh wow. And one tough question, but what do you feel are your greatest achievements, so far?

NN: Achievement [?]

LU: Mm-hm, or what you're most pleased about, or any awards that you've received. It's the hardest question I have. [chuckles]

NN: Well, I remember one parent coming back to me from my teaching days and thanking me for encouraging her to take her daughter out of the deaf program, [chuckles] I guess

that might have been my- [shrugs]. And the other is, I don't know, I've been very lucky with the friends I have, they're very interesting and very good to me so. I have a Canadian friend, [name redacted] and she never had a sister, so she always calls me sister. So, I have many families, [unclear] like to have me so[?], [laughing] those are my achievements.

LU: Wonderful. Well, thank you very much.

NN: You're welcome.

LU: And if we miss anything you'll have to let me know, and I'll let you know.

NN: [laughing] Okay.

[End]