

## Fumiko Hayashida

Tape 1 of 2

**Question:** Here?

**Answer:** On Bainbridge.

**Question:** Ok, cause we've had. Well, my oldest brother lives there now. He lives in Rolling Bay?

**Answer:** Oh, really?

**Question:** Yeah. But they love it. I think they've been out there almost 30 years now.

**Answer:** Oh, yes, I know. (Inaudible)

**Question:** So, let me just do one thing real quick. If I could just get your name, so I have it on tape. First and last name.

**Answer:** My name is Fumiko Hayashida.

**Question:** And is that your married name?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question:** What was your maiden name?

**Answer:** Nishinaka

**Question:** So were you born on Bainbridge?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question:** So when, can I be so rude as to ask when you were born?

**Answer:** 1911.

**Question:** So was your father first generation?

**Answer:** Yes, yes.

**Question:** And what did he do?

**Answer:** Yeah, first generation, my father.

**Question:** So he was born in Japan and ...

**Answer:** Oh, yes, both mother and father were born in Japan.

**Question:** And were they married over there or did they meet over here?

**Answer:** I think they were picture bride. We used to tease her about that.

**Question:** It's amazing how a lot of those worked so well and they were married forever.

## Fumiko Hayashida

Tape 1 of 2

**Answer:** I think they kind of knew each other, kind of some way related, you know.

**Question:** what was your Dad like?

**Answer:** My Dad?

**Question:** Yeah. Was he a fun Dad, or a hard worker?

**Answer:** Oh, he was kinda fun, yeah. But.. he was fun, yeah. And my Dad and Mother got along so well it was nice to see them.

**Question:** You know, it's funny, 'cause a lot of times people will talk about the Japanese culture, and the man runs the family and all that. But who really run your family. Did your Mom or your Dad run it?

**Answer:** I think still Dad. I think so, 'cause my Mother didn't want to go back to Japan but he wanted to, so she just have to go.

**Question:** so now you had how many brothers and sisters?

**Answer:** I have, well I had 2 brothers and 6 sisters, but one brother died and 2 girls died, so. But I'm the only one of Nishinaka That's left. I should say one; I have one sister in Japan. She's married, too, and she has her family in Japan, so although she have American citizen and also registered in Japan, so she uses, she said she use Japan like passport, but she could come as American, too, since her children were all born there and her husband was born there, so she considered Japanese.

**Question:** Did she go back before the war or after?

**Answer:** Before the war.

**Question:** Oh, she did. With your Dad or by her...

**Answer:** With my folks, yes.

**Question:** And you, did you go back, too, or did you stay?

**Answer:** No, I stayed.

**Question:** Wow, so they left you with relatives, or?

**Answer:** No, just my Dad took the. My mother took the last two and Dad after I finished high school. He joined mother.

**Question:** Was that hard during the war with your, part of your....

**Answer:** That was not during the war, before the war.

**Question:** Oh, before, and then they came back to the States before the war then.

## Fumiko Hayashida

Tape 1 of 2

**Answer:** I did. I did, but my folks and two younger brother and sister were in Japan during the war. Uh, huh.

**Question:** so did you have contact with them? Could you write them?

**Answer:** Not very much, but see when my son, Leonard, was born, he was born in camp, and the American Red Cross had a telegram that you could send. I read that in the paper, so I tried, and sent the telegram to my mother saying that the son was born, and surprisingly, the answer came back congratulating me. So, that's the only time. I didn't write later to them at all.

**Question:** So you don't know how worried they were about what was happening over here and vice versa.

**Answer:** No.

**Question:** So when did you, so you lived on Bainbridge then, and were taken from Bainbridge to the camp, is that right?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question:** And you went to which?

**Answer:** Manzanar

**Question:** Manzanar

**Answer:** mmm,hmmm.

**Question:** So when you went, were you pregnant?

**Answer:** Yes. I'd just found out, so I was scared and ...

**Question:** It had to be scary enough just as an individual going, but now here you were a mother-to-be, and...

**Answer:** uh, huh. And two other children. 'Course I was lucky, I had my husband with me. But my sisters, two other sisters that lived on the island, there husband was taken because they were born in Japan, and so it was really hard for them, I think, and it was hard for my husband, too because he not only took care of our own family, but helped my sisters. They had small, young children, just like I did, you know. So that's why we had lots of cousins. I had only 3, but my oldest sister had, Frank's mother had 4, 4 children, Frank and 3 others, and my other sister had I think 5, yeah, I think.

**Question:** Wow, that's quite a clan and for your husband to kind of fill in being the male.

**Answer:** uh, huh, being the male, and he went to all the meetings, but you know.

**Question:** Do you remember the day that you left Bainbridge?

## Fumiko Hayashida

Tape 1 of 2

**Answer:** The day I grew up?

**Question:** No the day you left, when they took you away?

**Answer:** Oh, yes, it was May 31. We reached Manzanar April 1, anyway, It was April Fools Day, and it was dreadful.. you're.. you're worried. You don't know where you're going. I never left the state of Washington before then. Oh, I guess we did go to Portland, but California the first time. We knew it was California, we knew it was Manzanar. We didn't have any idea. We were told there were scorpions and all that, you know.. rattlesnake, we knew that, which was scary, and we didn't have time to worry too much. I mean, get ready, but I was worried because of the children. There's a rumor that you lose your citizenship, and all that would be, might be shipped back to Japan or something. We, I couldn't imagine how U.S. could do that. And my husband would say, Don't worry. We could have gone to inland.. and avoided evacuation, but he says, No, we just have to, time like this, we have to trust the government and do what they want us to do. The children are too young, and so we just every step we just did what they want us to do, and well, we get letter from insurance company that they had to cancel our homeowner's insurance and bank was frozen for awhile. Oh, that was our worst time. So much to think about, and so much worry.

And there were rumor that see... American citizen, they can't. We had a police who was policeman on Bainbridge. We only had one police those days, and it's a good thing. My husband, he said, Don't worry. You can't, they can't take the U.S. citizen away. He encouraged us to keep up the farm and it just before the crop died, and so he worked, he worked because he was a citizen. We weren't sure if he had to go or not, but the word came that citizen or not we're to evacuate. So then we had only about week or so to get ready.

**Question:** What happened to the farm while you were gone?

**Answer:** Well, we had to.. we had a lot of Filipino men working for us. And we asked one of the oldest employees to take care of it. But you can't help it, when you come back the land was gone, I mean, not good enough to plant or harvest.

**Question:** So they didn't keep it up, then.

**Answer:** Oh, they had a, I could imagine the men folks really had hard time. Had to start all over again. Mmm,hmmmm

**Question:** Who was it hardest on, do you think? Was it hardest on your generation, or the kids that were coming back, or...

**Answer:** No, I think our generation, the kids were too young. They were too young. Like mine started first grade when I came back and my sister and I walked to school to see the principal, and we didn't know how they'd be accepted, so somebody says, Don't worry. The children will be ok. So they went back to school. He was only first grade anyway. So no problem at all, Bainbridge was such a friendly, close-knit island at that time. And teachers, they all. When I moved to Seattle and went to PTA meeting, Beacon Hill, I had noticed that PTA meeting one after, this was afternoon. On Bainbridge, we always had it evening. So my husband I used to go. I don't drive. I never did. And when I went to Beacon Hill PTA afternoon meeting, I expected since the school is bigger, be more parents, but I was so surprised, there's only about 5, 6 parents at the PTA meeting in those days, and I

## Fumiko Hayashida

Tape 1 of 2

was kind of embarrassed. 'Course come to think of it now, in Seattle, those days too, mothers must have worked, but like on the island, no mothers worked.

**Question:** So it was, even before the war, a very tight community.

**Answer:** Oh, yes. Uh, hmmm, before the war.

**Question:** How did it, how did it, do you remember hearing about Pearl Harbor?

**Answer:** Yes, I remember that was on Sunday morning. My brother-in-law came running in the house and says, The war is on! We all said, What war? See Sundays we usually have special breakfast. This is Sunday morning, like waffle, pancake, toast, and we didn't have the television, we didn't have television, radio on. And came in and told us, so we turned on the radio, and sure enough, blasting about the war. But I was surprise, why, you know and with Japan too. We didn't even know what country the war.... and, but it just scared us to bits, and now what.

**Question:** Did you think it would have an effect on you personally?

**Answer:** Oh, I knew that. I felt that.

**Question:** Did you community change, the way they treated you or was it a close enough community that...?

**Answer:** oh, yes. Of course, well, it didn't change us any, 'cause, like Mr. And Mrs. Schmidt, we left our good china and some linen, and my husband used to go hunting. He (inaudible) and all his guns and camera. They say, No, bring it down. We take care of it. So they were good to take care of it, and good china and all that. After we came back, they just brought everything back to us. And my husband had a new shotgun that he bought. He gave that to Mr. Schmidt. Other than that, I think we got everything back.

**Question:** How did they evacuate you from the island? How did they...

**Answer:** Army truck.

**Question:** And took you down to the docks, or what?

**Answer:** Took us down to the dock, hmm, hmmm.

**Question:** Were they friendly or mean or what?

**Answer:** No, it was all quiet. Nobody spoke out or anything. And school was closed for the day, and some students were out by the fence, crying. It was touching.

**Question:** It had to be confusing, not only for adults, but for children that, here they were students and friends, and all of a sudden.

**Answer:** Oh, yes, it was hard for. 'Course none of our children was going to high school or. My sister's children were all in grade school, but I think I was going through the papers that one of the students wrote a poem when we left. And it was published.

## Fumiko Hayashida

Tape 1 of 2

**Question:** Now was your. You had a son in camp, right? You had a baby boy.

**Answer:** Yes, little boy.

**Question:** Was that one of the first children born in camp?

**Answer:** In our block, yeah. I don't think it was the first that was born in the camp, but within the block, I think it was the first.

**Question:** So how was that? 'Cause you'd had children before. In camp, did they have doctors and things?

**Answer:** They had doctors in tents. The building wasn't built yet. And hospital like, hmmm, anyway, and we all had cots but I don't know what they passed out when I, for the children, but for us, we were very fortunate. The Bainbridge boys got together and made a crib for him, and had a ribbon on there and they just brought it to our barrack, apartment. Oh, I was so happy.. with a blue ribbon on it. So he had a little crib. Handmade crib. To this day, I wish I'd brought it back, but I didn't, you know.

**Question:** So everybody bonded together to help everybody out, it sounds like.

**Answer:** Oh, yes, uh, huh. So we, 'course we knew all the Japanese on the island before anyway, but the whole block was mostly Bainbridge Island, because we were the first to go in, and when we transferred to Idaho, we were the last to go in there, so we went on the end barrack and mostly Bainbridge Island people. It was nice, but in California, they were all friendly too, Californians, but... We weren't used to that climate, but we weren't used to Idaho climate either. Oh,

**Question:** One extreme to the other.

**Answer:** I know. Manzanar so hot, and Idaho was so cold.

**Question:** What was Manzanar like? Was it dusty or trees, or?

**Answer:** Dusty, and they had sandstorm. Oh, my goodness. That's not every day, but we did.

**Question:** Did you feel, and it's interesting, because people use different choice of words to describe, some talk about the Japanese internment, and internees, rather than prisoners. Now, did you view yourself as a prisoner?

**Answer:** Well, I didn't think we were that way, but.. When you see the guns, guards that were on you, you feel like somewhat and have to teach the children not to go beyond the fence, and hmm,hmmm

**Question:** 'Cause the guns were pointed in, not out.

**Answer:** They were protecting us, I used to think.

**Question:** That's what they SAID, but I heard they were protecting you, but they were pointed inward, not outward.

## Fumiko Hayashida

Tape 1 of 2

**Answer:** They were just marching back and forth. I don't know if they ever used it. I

**Question:** So even though a bad situation, it wasn't. It didn't have a military, or did it have a military feel to it?

**Answer:** I don't think so. You know, my children are small and I was busy just. We stay within the block, but you know young people roam around all through the camp, but I wasn't able to do that, so I just know what's going on within the block more or less. 'Cause they had a little newspaper, like, within the camp, but...

**Question:** So people within the camp wrote the newspaper?

**Answer:** Yeah.

**Question:** So was it like, um, so and so had a birthday today.

**Answer:** Yeah. Something like that. I don't know if it's everyday or not, maybe once a week.

**Question:** Did they have jobs, or what did people do all day long?

**Answer:** Well, yes, they encouraged you to work in the camp. Doctor or even, only get \$17 a month pay. And I think doctors got little more, which was maybe \$20 something, \$30, but 'course you're fed. Everything's inconvenient because you have to go to a laundry room, mess hall. At first they gave us mess hall in tin tray that fold, you know. Sometime the whole thing would collapse, and everything so hot, the tin cup. Oh, lot of adjustment to do.

**Question:** Did you get traditional Japanese food. I mean, is that what people wanted, or...

**Answer:** I think we did get rice, but others were all beans or fish cooked in tomato sauce. That was most common. Wasn't like home cooking at all, and we, well, with the children like babies, see every time you had to go to mess hall because there's no ice box to get the milk or anything, and permit. Finally, they gave us um, my son Leonard was grow up in SMA, because milk is, powder milk, I guess, with vitamin "E" in it or some like that, and that we had to mix with hot water, and they give us a little. I still have that, hot plate, to warm up the milk or water.

**Question:** So you did that back on your block now. You didn't have to go to the mess hall? I never thought about the aspect of having a child and all the, like you said, inconvenience.

**Answer:** Oh, yeah.

**Question:** You had diapers and feedings.

**Answer:** Diapers. 'Course, you didn't have the washable, disposable diapers in those days. I wonder myself, too, how we did it.

## Fumiko Hayashida

Tape 1 of 2

**Question:** So did you have to go, 'cause you block didn't have a bathroom or anything like that, you had to...

**Answer:** Oh, no. We had to go, in the center was one latrine and we had to go to public one with no compartment. It was hard to get adjusted.

**Question:** I assume with a child you're up in the middle of the night.

**Answer:** Oh, yes. For child my husband made a little potty with a ham can. You know, we used that and still had to empty it. He used to do all my washing for me. Of course, I was expecting, too, and even after the baby came he did all the washing, and had to be washed by hand in laundry room, and just made a line and we hung it out. The sun is so strong that hot. I know I had a bed coverall for kids, I think was Leonard. Someone give it to us. Washed it. Oh, my goodness, it turned red and white! Everything so.... everything dried fast because it's hot, but, oh, lotta washing.

**Question:** I'm still envisioning the potty seat with the ham can, 'cause I hadn't thought about a ham can for years. I don't even know if they come with ham anymore, but with the key that....so it was shaped just perfectly like a little potty seat.

**Answer:** Yeah. He made a potty.

**Question:** So he made a little seat for it. Ingenuity is amazing.

**Answer:** Well, you have to make something work 'cause you can't be running with the kids, you know.

**Question:** Did they make your husband work during the day, or,

**Answer:** He volunteered butcher. Uh, huh. Yeah, he work as a butcher, and after he came to Idaho, we, I guess he volunteered to go apple picking out of camp. Helped, we were encouraged to help the farmers, too, out there in Idaho. Lotta people went potato harvesting and sugar beets, apples.

**Question:** so that was going out into the community to help the local farmers.

**Answer:** mmm,hmmmmm.

**Question:** Were the local farmers nice, or was their prejudice, or?

**Answer:** Of course, they must have been nice because I don't know, I didn't go out there, but

**Question:** Idaho was cold in the winter.

**Answer:** Yeah.

**Question:** Yeah. Boy. Did the, what did you do for things like birthdays and Christmas? Could you do anything for that?

## Fumiko Hayashida

Tape 1 of 2

**Answer:** Nothing to do with. There was a canteen, but you can't do much. No, we had little parties, but not specially. I don't know if we could even.. we went to, we had birthday parties.. but just within the block or some neighbor.

**Question:** School for the kids?

**Answer:** School? They had kindergarten, that's, my children were kindergarten age so I.... my oldest just started first grade when we came back.

**Question:** Do any of your children remember the camp, or were they so young they...

**Answer:** Oh, they can't remember.

**Question:** They know their history, though.

**Answer:** Oh, yes, they know what they read and study, but like my daughter, I don't know if she was already going to grade school. I don't know what grade she was, but she learned in Japan, I mean in school, and she was talking about it. Mom, is it true? You know, I said, Yeah, it's true, we went, and we had to be evacuated. And she says, Why didn't you tell me, and I said, you know, because she, too, was in it. She was only 13 months old, but we didn't talk about it. 'Course they were young, too, but we didn't start talking about it until she asked.

**Question:** And that was as she was growing up and ...

**Answer:** And studying in school.

**Question:** Yeah. It's interesting, because there was I think a couple of things might have happened. They were so young, that there was that period that they wouldn't have understood.

**Answer:** No, they didn't. They wouldn't. They just came along and did what we asked them to do. Yeah, but she was more inquisitive than boys, my boys anyway, and she...she helped me with, you know she was always invited when I go. 'Course being in Texas she couldn't come all the time, but she did come to a couple of those traveling exhibits.

**Question:** So she's, as time's gone by, learned more about the camp and what happened.

**Answer:** Yes, mmmm,hmmmmm.

**Question:** Did you ever, it's interesting 'cause here's two generations now. Has she ever discussed about what she thought about it and what you thought about it. I mean, have you had that type of....

**Answer:** She wonder why we didn't protest it, but, there was no time, and you wouldn't think of it. You had to. Do you want government tell you whether you like it or not? No use arguing. That's what my husband used to say. You just have to trust other people. We all can't go back, uh, huh.

## Fumiko Hayashida

Tape 1 of 2

**Question:** It's an interesting one, because from an outside point of view, it's easy to say, Well, why didn't you protest? But like you said, here was your government that supposedly taken care of you saying well, we're doing this for your good, or, you know, but yet there was a lot of hardship. Some people, it sounds like you were fairly fortunate. You came back and your china and some other things you'd left. Your farm was run down, but...

**Answer:** But good thing the war didn't last too long, no. 'Cause at that time you don't how long we be gone. If we could ever come back home, but we were lucky we had the home and property. Lotta people were just renting or sharecropping, they lost everything, but we come back. We had to start all over again, which was hard.

**Question:** That's the amazing stories that you hear about the people that did come back, that did have to start...I mean, they'd worked so hard before, and had a beautiful, whatever the business was.

**Answer:** yeah. Just when we were just hoeing it, he said, Well, THIS crop I think will come ahead, so tell everybody we'll by em a bicycle like they promised, but it didn't work out, so they finally quit farming and did odd jobs like he worked for little Bainbridge Island, they used to make fish lines and he worked there. My brother-in-law went gardening, and yeah, they all did odd jobs. And sometimes I went housecleaning, and on Saturdays I would go to Mrs. Stafford, do housecleaning and I wanted my daughter to learn at least one instrument, the piano. I work and with that, she taught my daughter piano, so she learn, did that for not too long, but they started going to grade school and then he commuted after we moved to Seattle, she also went to piano lesson, but I think she quit about sophomore. Too many other, and her friends are all quitting piano lessons, so she decided she, but my folks always had piano. Promise one of us would learn, but never did, and I wanted to learn so badly, too, I thought, Well, my daughter could learn so I went housecleaning and with that she learn piano. So I don't feel so bad. She didn't know that till just recently.

**Question:** Oh, really. Oh, wow. Did, now your sister was in Japan during all this, is that right? When you were in camp, your sister was back...

**Answer:** Yes, yes.

**Question:** Have you ever talked to her about perspectives, I mean, what her perspective was of World War II?

**Answer:** Well, she liked, she, you know, I asked her if she wanted to talk, but she said No, I didn't ask too much 'cause there, the neighbors all call them, uh, Americans, you know. That was their nickname, and when the war broke out of course, Americans weren't the good guy, and so, I don't know. She says, I don't want to talk about it, and I know she suffered, food shortages.. and they were lucky because the being by Yokohama, but they had enough vegetable, and but, I guess even the rice was hard to get. They suffered a lot.

**Question:** It's interesting because I've heard a couple similar stories. I sounds like they were discriminated against in Japan because they weren't Japanese, and you were discriminated in America because you weren't American in some people's

## Fumiko Hayashida

Tape 1 of 2

eyes, even though you were an American citizen, and so a catch 22. Neither of you could, you know, get a break on ...

**Answer:** No, well, they weren't all that way so, it's ok. The ones that knew us were good to us, uh, huh.

**Question:** I think that was a lot of it, was fear of the unknown. You know, people that have never met a Japanese person. Like you said, Bainbridge was a real unique place, because it was a large Japanese-American community, and it just was a community, people, friends.

**Answer:** Oh, yeah. I still consider Bainbridge my hometown, cause I have two, I have two nephews, I mean one nephew and two nieces that lives on the island that Frank's mother owned the land, too, you know, so when she die, she left it to her children, and Frank and oldest sister is living where we grew up, so it's nice. I'm glad it's still in the family, and 4 of them divided it up and they all have piece of land there. And my husband had about 50 acres. The taxes getting so high we sold it, cutting it to one-acre lot, and we sold all of it just couple years ago. Land is, I think, taxes so high, just...

**Question:** It's hard to think of Bainbridge having been this rural, you know, strawberry land and other farming land, where now it's just houses and ...

**Answer:** Well, that's progress. It's good.

**Question:** Did you ever, um, did you have a relationship with your Dad that you could talk about World War II and the camps. Do you know what his opinion was of all this?

**Answer:** No. not too much. "Course they were in Japan and I know, I asked my mother one time and she said she didn't want to say too much either. 'Cause my brother was in the Japan Army and although she was teaching English, after he came back he had kidney trouble, and after the war, they didn't have much medicine at all, so he died. So,

**Question:** That's where the war got even more confusing for a lot of people, because here was...was it her brother or your brother that fought?

**Answer:** My brother.

**Question:** Your brother. He was fighting for his country. He was doing what his country asked him, just like the soldiers over here were fighting for their country. But yet, now you have two families, your own family that could be fighting against themselves.

**Answer:** uh, huh. So my brother had hard time in Army, too, 'cause he was American, and my mother said she used to bring rice ball for him between the fence, wire fence, but he asked her not to bring anymore because not fair to others, so ...'cause she didn't say much and I say, Why? But it's hard on him, I guess. Discrimination is, it's really serious. It's nothing to laugh at. It hurts everybody, but I never experienced it myself, but you know.

**Question:** So you were real fortunate.

## Fumiko Hayashida

Tape 1 of 2

**Answer:** I was real fortunate. In school, they were all you know, we were all friends, we were all classmates, and I remember I had a cold and I didn't go to school, but after I came back, that was election time, and I was chosen to be secretary of the class, and I was surprised myself because among other girls, and so I was, during that 4 years of high school, I have secretary twice, sophomore and senior year, and we all got on. I think one reason, I don't know why. I wasn't an A student. Just got by.

**Question:** Must have been popular.

**Answer:** Well, I was surprised that I was. They say, You're secretary. I say, What! I, class is small. 60 of us. We still have fun. Everybody got together.

**Question:** So was that on, did you go to high school where, on Bainbridge?

**Answer:** On Bainbridge, uh, huh.

**Question:** Was it. So growing up, was it a majority of Japanese-American students, or...

**Answer:** No, no, not until. When we were growing up, Bainbridge schools, they were oh, must have been half a dozen little grade schools. They didn't have a bus system at all, and after the bus system came. Model "T" school bus that carries about 17 students in all, then we consolidated one, two, three grade schools together, and not until junior high we had just one high school. I think still is only one high school. But so, so naturally, everybody knew something about the families there was only one high school. It was nice.

**Question:** Do have any idea how your Dad ended up on Bainbridge from Japan?

**Answer:** I understand my Dad got married in California and came to Bellevue, I don't know how, there were Hayashidas. See, we married, I married... my sister and I married brothers, and the Hayashidas and Nishinagas were good friends. And Hayashidas moved to Bellevue first, so I guess we follow, and then they move to Bainbridge, so we follow, is what I understood.

**Question:** I always think it's interesting to hear, the journeys of how people got to where they ended up, because today we think about just getting on a plane and flying wherever, but to think about, back then, you know in 1900s, coming over from Japan, that had to be an adventure, and then to get from California to Bellevue. I mean, that wasn't just get on a plane and fly two hours, I mean, that was a big journey.

**Answer:** Yes, they must have had busy time too, but. One thing I guess my folks were that, they were so busy working they sent the children to Japan because your heart was, my mother and Dad used to say, You're born in Japan, you wanna die in Japan, so eventually they want us to go back and live when he retires, in Japan. So for that, she thought we had to have some type of Japanese education. So they sent us two at a time. At first we all went, and she left us all, and then came back to work. I can't understand after you have your own child how they could do that. But they did.

## Fumiko Hayashida

Tape 1 of 2

**Question:** Different times, huh?

**Answer:** uh, huh.

**Question:** So private school in Japan?

**Answer:** No, no.

**Question:** Public, but was it very disciplined, or was it real different?

**Answer:** Oh schools have changed, nowadays the students in Japan have changed very much. You, we were really strict those days. But, just like my sister was saying. They don't respect the teachers as much as they used to.

**Question:** So how old when your parents took the children back to go to school in Japan, were they first grade?

**Answer:** I wasn't even that old. I think I was 5 of something like that. You forget what you did that far back. You just do what parents tell you to do. They tell you to go to this auntie's, you go this auntie.

**Question:** Is that who you, did you stay with relatives there?

**Answer:** Relatives, un-huh.

**Question:** So it wasn't a boarding school. It wasn't a...

**Answer:** No, no, no. It was relatives.

**Question:** Do you remember enough. Was it very different in Japan versus say, over here on Bainbridge. Or for you, was it just another adventure?

**Answer:** oh, more or less.

**Question:** huh, wow.

**Answer:** Anyway, I like Bainbridge.

**Question:** So what did your husband do when you got back from camp? He had to do a bunch of different things?

**Answer:** Different things, yeah. He just worked odd jobs and uh. He applied for Boeing and got the job, so he commuted from Bainbridge about one year and, but that, commuting on ferry was no, and our family was getting bigger, older, children getting older and so we decided he said we gonna move to Seattle, but we only, couldn't spend any more than \$10,000, so we had to look for house that's cheap and has 4 bedroom, and this is what we landed on. And I said, Oh, I didn't like it, you know. I liked a bright bedroom, I mean, room, 'cause house on island was real bright, you know big windows. And, but kids had small bedrooms upstairs and we had our little one. It's an old house. Old when we bought it, but it was below \$10,000 and he told me. Big home was my dream, he knew that, he says, WE could move. We went to different homes, but they say either sold or, you know, that's their excuse. There's one good house near Lake Washington we wanted to buy, but

## Fumiko Hayashida

Tape 1 of 2

of course, it's more than \$10,000 anyway, but we couldn't even. If I like it, was could have and buy, but I was afraid. I said we can't spend all the money because you never know when the Boeing is gonna go on strike, so we made that limit, \$10,000, you know. I mean, yeah. \$10,000. We only paid \$8,000-something, this house.

**Question:** That's pretty amazing to think about today.

**Answer:** Oh, I know.

**Question:** You almost couldn't rent an apartment...

**Answer:** It's a bargain all right. It was close to school, they all went to Franklin High School. mmm,hmmm. I'm still here, but getting used to it. This is my home. This is my castle.

**Question:** It's a beautiful neighborhood.

**Answer:** I lost him about 13 years ago he died. Cancer, bone cancer, but I'm still here and hitting 90, but independent. I kind of enjoy it. Since I can still move, I don't know. I can eat what I want when I want, go out when I want, sleep when I want. I'm real spoiled. Spoiling myself.

**Question:** Spoken like a true bachelorette.

**Answer:** Yep. That's good.

**Question:** When was the first time you went back to Japan after the war?

**Answer:** After the war, I went after finish high school, but I stayed one year because they wanted me to stay there, but no, I says, I don't want to live out here in Japan. And my mother agreed, and she say, You got sisters in America, so you go. I was glad to come back. And then my sisters were having one baby after another, so more or less went to my one sister to another to help them. I hope I was some help.

**Question:** Do you remember, was Japan different, now you were very young before the war, but do you remember a difference in Japan after the war?

**Answer:** Oh, yes, they were so backward. There was no television or no stove. I mean, we cook with, you had to start the fire all the time and cook on there. But guess my gardener's here.

**Question:** Yeah, somebody's out mowing your lawn and...

**Answer:** Mowing my lawn.

**Question:** So did, when you said backwards, was that because of the war still, they were still trying to rebuild and

**Answer:** That was way before the war, and you would hardly see a car at that time. The second time I went back, well you start seeing the cars a little bit. And my Dad, they were living in apartment at that time when I first visited, but second

## Fumiko Hayashida

Tape 1 of 2

time they had house built. But Japan, I went two years ago. It's too Americanized. They try to be anyway. There's no, not a single man or woman with kimono anymore. They all westernized now.

**Question:** So as a little girl, do you remember the traditional dress?

**Answer:** Oh, yeah. That's what they wore to school. But not no more, I think this generation don't know what. I don't think they wear kimono. They don't even own it. Everybody's..... that's ok. More comfortable.

**Question:** It's sad to see some of the culture..

**Answer:** It's sad, 'cause the first time I went to Japan, I was rainy and you hear clack clack clack of, you know the geta and all that. No way, no more.

**Question:** So is that what you wore to school as a little girl? Did you wear the...

**Answer:** Yeah, sure. They didn't even have shoes, those days.

**Question:** And the geta is the, they're like a thong, they're open.

**Answer:** Yeah, open with a heel.

**Question:** I imagine as a little girl it must have been tough if you were dressed...

**Answer:** Well for girls and children they had a flat no clogs...

**Question:** Oh, you did have...

**Answer:** thongs, yeah.

**Question:** Yeah, I'm always sad, because I love culture. I mean, I love the difference.

**Answer:** Oh, yes, it should be more different, but

**Question:** But they work so hard to, everybody works so hard to become the same, you know, whether it be the Native Americans or whatever, but they've lost a lot of the culture that was what was wonderful.

**Answer:** Yeah. Japan so heavily populated, you see all kinds of people. (inaudible) , I feel sorry for Japan. There's nowhere to go anyway.

**Question:** Do you think the camp had an effect on your husband and his overall life or was he one of those...he sounds like he was a very positive, 'cause he said, you know, Don't worry, government will take care of us. Was that kind of his attitude afterward, too? Was he

**Answer:** Yes, he never.... see I was really...he took care of everything. I didn't know how much money we had or, he didn't say much, and I don't ask anything. Oh, I did my business taking care of the kids, but he was smarter than I was, for sure. Yeah. He was real concerned, yeah. He's best husband you could have.

## Fumiko Hayashida

Tape 1 of 2

**Question:** Sounds like you had a lot of wonderful times together.

**Answer:** Oh, yes. We never argue. I mean, sometime I try to get mad and not speak to him, but finally when I start talking, why he say, first thing he say, Oh, so you decide to talk!

**Question:** What were his parents, were his parents over here or did they go back to...

**Answer:** They were here and they went back to Japan.

**Question:** Before.

**Answer:** Before.

**Question:** Oh, so they didn't end up in the camps then.

**Answer:** hmmm,mmmm. And I wouldn't be surprised if they're dead at that time. 'Cause they lived in Hiroshima.

**Question:** Oh, really. Wow.

**Answer:** Yeah, but they're ok. My niece and nephews from Hiroshima visited us last year too, and so. I don't know. That bomb didn't affect them at all. They live out in the outskirt. But I did go see the peace arch and all that, you know, terrible.

**Question:** So you saw it not too long after the war, or...

**Answer:** Oh, no, after they all displayed and... not in that..

**Question:** But you could see the devastation. Again, that had to be the hard aspects of war to know that

**Answer:** uh, huh. 'Could damage everything, you know.

**Question:** What was your perspective on that. Do you think they did right thing with the bomb or the wrong thing with the bomb?

**Answer:** Well, I think it was wrong thing. Killing all the civilians and, I think they weren't in the war, I mean. You in the war, they should never drop in on the city or schools and everything. Killed lotta people, so.... I hope nothing like that will happen here.

**Question:** Yeah. When you went to school over there, were you close to Hiroshima?

**Answer:** No.

**Question:** You were quite a ways away.

**Answer:** Quite a ways, uh, huh, but the house they built the first, the big house they built was bombed, and they lost everything because it burned, but I understand

## Fumiko Hayashida

Tape 1 of 2

my brother was in a bath. She even had a wristwatch off. Lost everything. But they still lived.

**Question:** That's one thing about war a lot of times. In this history books, it becomes nameless and faceless, so people make judgments not on people, they just read, you know, facts and figures.

**Answer:** Oh, yeah.

**Question:** But here, again, you had relatives in Japan. I had, if I had been alive at that time, I would have had relatives in Germany, so how do you justify war. I don't know.

**Answer:** No. ? You can't do anything.

**Question:** Do you think it could happen again, the, like what happened on Bainbridge and other places where we developed camps. If we were to go to war with another country, do you think America would do it again? Put people in camps?

**Answer:** I don't think so, no. They didn't do that this time. Not a war yet, but they're...I don't think so. What for? You take a chance anyway. Everybody's taking a chance with war. I think, I hope there be no war.

**Question:** You think we've learned our lesson, that history has educated us enough to prevent...

**Answer:** We shouldn't have war, no. No war. I don't see why we can't get together, I mean. Just like neighbors. My goodness, you can't tell other country what to do. What not to do. I think we shouldn't be out there. But that's beyond me. It's beyond me, there must be a reason.

**Question:** It's interesting, 'cause it does really come down to as simple as you put it, it's neighbors.

**Answer:** Yeah. The trouble is, world is gettin' too small, and I don't know. You tell them what to do, and nobody wants to listen. That's when the fight begins. They think they're right, so what the difference, maybe they are. But we can't say.

**Question:** But you live in a nice neighborhood here, and there's probably people that you have different opinions with, but you still get along with all your neighbors.

**Answer:** Oh, yes. Uh, huh. You just stick to your own business and you are all right. This neighbor is a doctor, this neighbor is, he's rail now. We're having that rail, monorail and all that? He said he's one of the big shots there, I guess.

**Question:** Oh, I saw a sign in his yard there, so...

**Answer:** Yeah. He says, Hey Fumiko, can I put a sign in your yard. I said, Go ahead, you can put one or two or whatever. He says, Oh, good, I might do that. So he has a sign there. But they're nice people. His wife is...no children...his wife is teaching at Seattle Community, and he's with rail...

**Question:** The transit, yeah.

## Fumiko Hayashida

Tape 1 of 2

**Answer:** You know, they're in their own business of working, and she's a doctor, makes me feel good because I'm 90 and if I can a little trouble, I don't run to the doctor so I ask her and she, she watches me.

**Question:** You look like you're pretty healthy.

**Answer:** Well, I guess you call it healthy for 90 year old, huh? I'm slow. I trip over my own leg, but as long as you know your speed, I think, I hope. I don't want to be... long as I'm healthy, I'm glad to be old. (Inaudible) Can't tell the future, but I'm fortunate, yeah. All my nieces and nephews are great, they take care of me, and I get a call or drop in just to see how I am. They lost their parents, but real concerned for me, so, I like them all.

**Question:** Well, thank you very much.

**Answer:** Thank you.

**Question:** That wasn't bad, was it? I didn't hurt you, did I?

**Answer:** No, you didn't.

**Question:** Do you remember when that picture was taken? (Famous picture of Fumiko holding children waiting for train to camp)

**Answer:** I did not know when it was taken until it came out.

**Question:** Now, that's you and...

**Answer:** My daughter.

**Question:** That's your daughter. And how old was your daughter?

**Answer:** She was 13 months old.

**Question:** And do you know where that picture is at?

**Answer:** hmm, hmmm, at evacuation, right near the dock.

**Question:** Do that's coming off of Bainbridge.

**Answer:** mmm,hmmmm.

**Question:** And the tags that are on...

**Answer:** Yeah, we all had number, family number. That's the tag, family number.

**Question:** So they tagged you up and ...

**Answer:** Yeah, we all had tag and

## **Fumiko Hayashida**

Tape 1 of 2

**Question:** so was that, looks like you have a stuffed animal maybe there with you.

**Answer:** Yes, we were allowed one toy for every child, so 'course she was too young to choose her toys, but this teddy bear was newest, so we brought it for her.

**Question:** Boy, that had to be hard, I mean, to, A: to pack up and B: to, 'cause you could only take such a little amount. What do you take? What do you leave behind? What do you...

**Answer:** We wear the best clothes we had. 'cause you can't pack it. And my baggage was mostly diapers. We only allowed one suitcase. I had one to myself. And I was lucky that we had cousin living in LA, so they had, we used to order through her after we went to the center, like a maternity dress and like that, and she buy it and send it to us.

**Question:** Which is interesting. I gotta switch tapes here, just a second.