

## Hisako "Hisa" Matsudaira

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**Question:** The first thing I'd like to do is just to get your first and last name so I have it on tape.

**Answer:** Hisa Matsudaira.

**Question:** Thank you. And you go by...

**Answer:** Hisa.

**Question:** Hisa. Well, there are so many nicknames and I'll be talking to people and they'll talk about their cousin and so-and-so and I'm goin' no, no, I didn't interview that person. Then I look at my list, they go, Yeah, you did. They've been talking about them by their nicknames.

**Answer:** Oh, well, actually my, did you want my formal name?

**Question:** What is your formal name?

**Answer:** Hisako.

**Question:** Ah-ah. I will be sure to say Hi to Nancy for you.

**Answer:** Oh, thank you.

**Question:** Now you were born where?

**Answer:** I was born on Bainbridge Island.

**Question:** On Bainbridge Island.

**Answer:** Right.

**Question:** And your Mom and Dad were...

**Answer:** My Mom was born on Bainbridge Island, and my Dad was born in Hiroshima.

**Question:** Wow. That part I didn't know.

**Answer:** Yeah. So he's an Issei. His parents came over to Hawaii, then they went to Bellevue, then they came to Bainbridge. But he was left with an aunt, and so he went through 6<sup>th</sup> grade in Japan, and then he came over when he was 13.

**Question:** That's an interesting. It sounds pretty...Hawaii, Bellevue. I mean now....

**Answer:** And, then after they came to Bainbridge, they moved back to Japan, and that was the same as my mother's parents, too. They were born in Japan, went to Hawaii, went to Bellevue, came to Bainbridge, then moved back to Japan. And both families took the two younger children back with them and the rest of the family was all born here in the United States, and so they didn't want to move back and they were old enough to, you know, make that choice and some of them were married already, and they said, Well, why would we want to move back to Japan.

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It's not moving back for us. We don't even know the language. We don't know the customs, we're not used to it. So we're American, so why move back, but the two younger ones in each family had no choice, and they were like 13 and 11, something like this, so my aunt was in, they finished like 9<sup>th</sup> grade, and then the two boys from my father's side, the Hayashidas, they went through like 6<sup>th</sup> grade and moved back.

**Question:** Were they moving back, now I know a lot of people, their dream was to come over from Japan where the economy had been bad, come over, be successful, make some money and go back. Were they fulfilling their dream?

**Answer:** That's true. That's true, and they knew that they couldn't own the land here, so there was nothing that they could really keep here and so they kind of did it for themselves, and my grandfather from my mother's side, the Nishinaka side, he did all kinds of stuff. You know, he had dabbled in lumbering and in farming and managing a hotel, and did all kinds of different things, and then he first came to Bainbridge and when he first came to Bainbridge, he had a truck garden, farming, and then he also gathered. No, I guess he, the first time, he came he went down to the Blakely Mill and gathered up logs and stuff and towed them down to Tacoma. Anyway, he lost his load and so he went into something else, and then eventually he went to Seattle and managed, what was the name of that hotel? Do you remember, Jim? Well, anyway, he managed this hotel, and my grandmother really liked it there because she didn't have to do all this hard work on the farm doing the truck gardening and sending produce over to the Pike Place Market and things, so she loved it there. But then, and it was, you know, just being like a maid and stuff at the hotel. But then my grandfather found out that this piece of property on Fletcher Bay was for sale, and so he really loved it. It was on the waterfront, and we have pictures of it there, and so he wanted to buy it, but my grandmother didn't want to leave her easy life, so he wouldn't speak to for like four days or something like that, and so she finally relented, and so they got this place, and I believe he got it in the name of somebody else, and then, so that he had this property, and then he raised the children there, you know. So they moved back with their family and raised the children, and am I thankful for that. Then on my father's side, they were leasing land in Bellevue and several of my uncles were born there, and then they came to Bainbridge and then some of my uncles were born here, and they did farming. Strictly farming, so they had strawberry farms, and they used to lease land like at 5 years at a time, so they would clear the stumpage that the Port Blakely mill had left, and they'd dynamite it and pull it out with a horse and things like that and then start the farms. And then they went from, they went to several different pieces of property here on the island. Then they finally settled on, in the island center, and this is where I was born. And they had a little cedar shake shack there, and my oldest sister and I were born there. And my father and his younger brother, Saburo Uncle Sab and his family, and then my other uncle, we call him Hohoi. My sister gave him that name, but he was a bachelor uncle, and he lived with us, and they farmed together, so they had, he had enough, what am I trying to, he was old enough to have his, to own the property, so he was over 21, and so they put the farm under Uncle Sub's name, because my father was an alien, a green card man, and so he, they farmed together, and they then eventually when they got enough money they built another house just on that same property, and they had quite a few acreage. And they must have had about 60 acres where the house was, and then they also bought some more acreage, about 40 acres right by where Coras live now in Manzanita and so they used to farm that, too, so they had, they worked together and they were able to make a fairly large farm. Anyway, so

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**Question:** All strawberries?

**Answer:** All strawberries. And so as I mentioned before, their parents had taken the two younger kids back home to Hiroshima. And they built a huge farmhouse up there on top of the mountain and it overlooks Miajima, and it's just a gorgeous view. You look down past the terraced rice fields and things, and it's just real peaceful up there. And my other grandfather, Nishinaka, he went back to Hiroshima, and in the middle of the rice patties, he built this house that was kind of western, a combination of western and eastern, so it was, this guy thought big. He was the one who tried all different kinds of things, you know, and so they built that house there. And they lived there for.. they were there when the war broke out. I guess that's the background.

**Question:** So how old were you when the war broke out?

**Answer:** I was 6. I was in kindergarten, and so I don't remember too much. I don't remember anything about the bombing or anything like this, you know. Our parents were pretty, I wouldn't say secretive, but protective of us, and I do remember that my Dad was taken away in February, because he was one of the leaders of the community, and besides that he had dynamite and dynamite caps and rifle and shotguns, and we had those things in the house. But I found, subsequently found out later that they had tried to take these things in, these contraband materials into the sheriff, but he wouldn't accept them because he said he never got any message from the federal government to take this stuff. And so all the things that, you know, they considered contraband were common usage things of the people that were farming. Actually on the island they had guns because, you know, that was part of their food that they got, pheasant and the deer and stuff like that. But, I guess that's the way it goes. You look at.. they looked at it through two different eyes as to who you were.

**Question:** The only difference being Japanese heritage.

**Answer:** Right.

**Question:** American citizens, some.

**Answer:** Yeah.

**Question:** Some aren't because they've just come over, but

**Answer:** But they couldn't become citizens, yeah.

**Question:** Yeah. Catch-22. Where, if it had been a Caucasian farmer next door that had all that, no big deal. Not contraband.

**Answer:** mmmm, hmmmmm.

**Question:** So you remember them coming to get your Dad.

**Answer:** No, I don't remember specifically their coming, because my aunt, Sab's? Wife, Hafumiko she was assigned to take us to the back rooms, all the kids to the back rooms, so that we wouldn't see all the stuff that was going on. So they were pretty protective of us. And actually I didn't realize what was happening until.

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I do remember my Mom getting a letter from Papa and she was standing there by the wood box, and she was crying and reading this letter, and I think that the first time I've ever seen her cry, and I asked, What's the matter? And she says, Oh, I'm just happy because I got a letter. That was it.

**Question:** Again, sheltering you. I heard somebody else say it was the first time they'd ever heard their father swear. And again this shock that as a young child, not really understanding what was going on, but this was so abnormal, that there was this sixth sense or whatever. What was your Mom like?

**Answer:** What was she like?

**Question:** Yeah.

**Answer:** She was like a Mom. She was a farmer's wife, and so she worked hard caring for her kids and also going out and helping out on the farm, and so she'd work from dusk to dawn, or dusk to whatever it is, to night. She'd do a lot of stuff for us, you know. She did most of the disciplining, and she had a good sense of humor, a very kindhearted person.

**Question:** And you called your Dad, Papa, and your Mom, Mom, or did you call her...

**Answer:** Mama.

**Question:** Was she outspoken?

**Answer:** What do you mean by outspoken?

**Question:** Would she speak her mind? Like if she disagreed with what was going on,

**Answer:** No, she didn't. She thought some things, but again, a lot of the things that she said and did was directly toward raising kids and protecting us from whatever was going on and, as I say, she was a second generation person, and so she was educated and had to quit school to help on the farm, and she knew a lot of people on the island. She was friendly, and she was very easy to get along with I think.

**Question:** Do you remember how you heard about the evacuation? 'Cause you were in kindergarten, is that right?

**Answer:** Right. Uh, huh. I don't exactly remember all of that stuff, but I do remember that I had to leave school and we were taken out of school, and then my teacher, Miss Hefner, gave me a couple of books, one was The House That Jack Built, and the other one was a Raggedy Ann and Andy book, and she gave those to me and a picture of herself, and I heard, and then that was it, you know, and then I didn't get to go to school anymore. And then I heard later on when we had our elementary school reunion, she was there and that was the first time I had seen her since that time, and another teacher who she had taught with also was there, and she told me that Ellen, Miss Hefner, had biked down, taken off, and biked down to see us leave, but I didn't know that. I, you know, wasn't aware that she was there. And so I do remember quite a bit about the physical leaving of the place, and we went down and

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we were picked up by the ferry, and it was a grand time for me, because in those days, you didn't get out of your house or out of your little place very much because there was not all that time or opportunity to travel, so it was a treat to go into Seattle, and so there we were on the ferry running around having a whole bunch of fun with the soldiers there. I didn't even understand why people were crying and things like that, you know. We were just having a grand 'ole time, and then we were taken onto the trains, and then we had a grand time there, too, because it was the first time I had ever ridden on a train, and we rode and the soldiers on the train were so nice to us, you know. They would tell us stories, they'd read us books. There was a guy there with a guitar and he'd be singing the song, and then at night we had the Pullman train, so we kind of fought over who got to sleep on the upper bunk, and then we finally got to our destination, and we taken by bus, and that bus ride part I don't remember, but I do remember arriving at Manzanar and looking out and seeing all... nothing, and there were these long barracks, and they looked like rhubarb houses. We used to have a rhubarb house next to our barn, and it looked just like a rhubarb house. And that's where we lived, and so we got out and a dust storm greeted us, and there were trenches all over, and this was July.. April 1<sup>st</sup>, and so being kids, we'd make all these April Fool's jokes, and then that dust, you just have to cover yourself up and that dust would just swirl around and it was like being sandblasted, so you'd have to cover up and close your eyes and you'd get up a feel all gritty. And then we'd jump over the ditches and eventually we put planks across them. And when we got to our apartments there was nothing there except some cots, potbelly stove, light bulb. That was about it. There was no running water, nothing like that. And so you had to go to a separate barrack for your laundry and for your toilet needs, and at that time there were no partitions to these shower stalls and the bath stalls and so, you know, it was kind of hard to go, but eventually they did put partitions in, and we were the first groups to be evacuated, so there were a lot of things that were not yet completed, and we went to the mess hall for our first meal, and I don't remember what it was, but I remember getting, you stand in line and they had the tin army mess kits, and the handle, would flip up and down like that, and they'd fill it with food and being little, sometimes you drop the thing, and it'll flip over and you'd have food on the floor. But it was a different life, you know, it was very different. And the one thing I did remember is looking out and seeing a whole bunch of kids to play with, which was really nice, because the only time I saw a whole bunch of kids to play with was when we went to school, and so that was kind of nice, to be able to go outside the door and see all these kids. I don't remember that much about Manzanar. I remember the green hat boy, and the green hat boy was a peeping tom. We were warned about him, and I think he was a Californian. I'm sure he was. He was not from the island. The people in Block 3, we were all together and we were from Bainbridge, and so almost everyone you saw you knew, and as camp kept filling up, you met a few other people. There was, what was it, Lena, and she was a Hawaiian. They called her Leapin' Lena, or something like that. You know these are kids' memories, so they might not be too accurate, but, yeah. I must admit that I had a very good childhood.

**Question:** Now, the green hat just because he wore a green hat?

**Answer:** I think that was what it was, but I think, just hearing about people talking about him, that's what scared me. I don't think I ever ran into him or anything like that, but you know, those are all childhood stuff that you hear, but probably some of the older people, you know, would have remembered him.

**Question:** Now, it's just your Mom with the kids right now, right?

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**Answer:** Right. Uh, huh. And so my Mom had 5 rug rats to drag along with her, and pretty soon they released by Dad, and so he came back and all this time I had thought that he was just a criminal, you know, 'cause he was taken off to prison, and so I hid, and by this time they had stalls in the lavatories, and I hid in one of the stalls, and I could hear them calling me, Hisa, Hisa, Papa's home!! But I never came out. I didn't come out, and I didn't come out, and I hid in there all that time and I think, you know, after I heard the mess bell, that's what got me. I've always been an eater. And so that got me out, and I finally got to see him again.

**Question:** But in your mind they had created the image that he was a bad person.

**Answer:** Right.

**Question:** Oh, boy. That must have broken your Dad's heart to come back and expect....it's interesting to think that one of the kids would hear the food bell ring and think, Well, Dad's an ok guy!

**Answer:** Yeah. But, see I couldn't understand that. 'Cause he's, you know, everyone liked him, and he was the kindest person. I just couldn't understand it, and no one really explained, you know. Sometimes this gets in (inaudible) but sometimes not. You never can tell.

**Question:** It's so hard, too, as a child where in protecting you, they didn't say everything, so you just got bits and pieces.

**Answer:** Right.

**Question:** And I assume that all the siblings gave you misinformation too sometimes probably.

**Answer:** No, I think it's just hearing things around, and making my own mind up, you know.

**Question:** Putting two and two together.

**Answer:** Yeah, but it doesn't come out to 4. It comes out to something else.

**Question:** So your Dad has been. Did he go to Missoula?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question:** Yeah. Do you remember seeing a difference in your Dad before and after, or was he...

**Answer:** Not at all, no.

**Question:** He was the same old guy. I'm going to rewind just a little bit. When you left the house back on the island, what happened to the house?

**Answer:** We left the house in charge with Filipino workers, and so they moved in from the workers' bunks, the quarters, into our house, and so we left, you know,

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everything there. I think maybe a couple.. stuff, some other things, we had some friends take care of, the Schmidts and the Flodeans, but the rest of it, you know, everything was left in the house.

**Question:** And when you came back.

**Answer:** Everything was in good shape. The only thing that wasn't in good shape was the farm itself, you know, because the men had.... my Dad and my uncles had planted strawberries and they were almost ready to harvest when we left, so whatever the harvest was, we just gave to, they just gave to the workers. And then by the time we got back, they didn't replant or anything like that. They kind of let things go on the farm itself because they then were involved in working with the shipyards and doing other war type of stuff for the war effort, so they didn't keep up the farm. So that was one of the things when my uncles and my Dad got back they didn't have anything to work, and, so, they would find any kind of job to do, and they did piece work, and we made, I remember helping all of the kids, we'd be rolling these fishing tackles and doing all kinds of stuff like that and then my uncles and my Dad helped, went out to do some gardening work, and did odd jobs at other people's houses and I don't know, they just worked to keep us fed, and my Dad would go out almost every day and go fishing, so we had a lot of fish. Thank goodness at that time, you know, you could go to different places and dig clams and get namako and get seaweed and shrimp and crab and octopus, and all kinds of stuff, and we'd go mushroom hunting. And we had some chickens that we raised and ducks and turkeys and different things, so we had, you know, we didn't have meat, so we'd have to buy the milk and stuff, but all the vegetables and stuff were raised by us, and so we were lucky to be on a farm, and in the country where you could get out and forage for some food for yourselves, whereas some people in the city didn't have that option, you know. They'd have to depend on others to get their food. Well, eventually, my uncles and my Dad went up Burlington and they tried to start a, they leased some land and they planted some berries there, but they had a heavy rain and it just kind of wiped them out there, so eventually they came back to the island and started planting berries here again, because they wanted to be on their own again and not be working for other people. My Uncle Sab found a job at Boeing, and so he and his family moved into Seattle, and so now it was my Dad and Mom, Papa and Mama's family and my Uncle Hohoi.. Sunichi?

**Question:** The bachelor.

**Answer:** Yeah, the bachelor, and so we were there on the farm and they planted berries and raised strawberries and so I was brought up on the farm.

**Question:** It sounds like you're, let me back up, how long were you in camp?

**Answer:** About 3 ½ years.

**Question:** 3 ½ years. So you, from kindergarten until about 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Answer:** 4<sup>th</sup> grade I came back.

**Question:** 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Answer:** mmm, hmmm.

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**Question:** So pretty formative years for a child.

**Answer:** Oh, yes. And I formed. I had my little adventures. I was not a meek child by any means. In fact, I had a, as I said, I had a grand time, I had a great time in camp, and I learned a lot. I ran around a lot with some friends, and was not under the supervision of my mother and father, and so they didn't know where, usually where I was, but I was always home for dinner. That dinner bell again! Yep! So I would go from Block 4 and go down all the way to Block 6 or so, where they had the industrial type of thing where they had carpentry. One of my friends, his Dad was a carpenter, her Dad was a carpenter, so we'd run over there and we'd stop at the canteen, and I even did my one and only shoplifting at that time. She taught me how to say, Take this magazine and put it your sweater here, and just walk out, and I got home after I did that. I felt so bad, I never did that again. But we had all kinds of adventures like that, you know, and a lot of the time, too, you'd play with all these kids in your block and we'd play, especially in the summertime, we'd play until 9, 10 o'clock at night, you know, playing cops and robbers, Jintori, kick the can, anty-over, we'd do marbles and jump rope, and I did so many activities. I loved to run and things that, you know, all those things I did, but I also liked to be by myself sometimes. So I would sometimes go off by myself, and I'd catch tadpoles and put them in a jar and watch them turn into frogs and, you know, lose their tales and stuff, and then I'd run around trying to catch butterflies, and I'd catch one and I'd stick it up on the wall with my pin, and then other times I would get these jars and catch the ants and dig them out and then I'd put the red ants and the black ants together. Oh, I was bad, and watch them fight, and also watch them make their little holes and things like that in their little homes. So I would do those kinds of things, and then there was a bachelor, sometimes they'd have a bachelor apartment with maybe 3 or 4 bachelors in one room, and there was this one bachelor, I think he must have been watching me, you know, doing the ant stuff. One day he came out and he gave me these little animals made out of pipe cleaners, and, you know, there was a giraffe and a lion and all these different things, and I was so happy, you know, I brought that home. Then I brought it home from camp, and took it home, and then I got curious and I decided, Oh, maybe I can make one of these, and I undid it, and oh, now they're gone, and I'd think, Oh you stupid thing! You just ruin something that was really nice, but I guess that's the way we learn. And so, you know, all my marble playing and my jumping rope and all this and fighting and arguing with other people and I think that all helped me learn how to take care of myself and how to be aware of other people, too, you know. So as I said, I had a wonderful childhood. I remember ironing clothes and I loved to iron clothes, it was so hot, but again, stupid. And I'd listen to the radio and sing my heart out, ironing these clothes. We'd play, we'd do paper dolls with my friends, and we would collect movie stars' pictures and things and you'd write to the movie stars and they would send you a picture, and my collection was Roy Rogers and Margaret O'Brien, Butch Jenkins, and I guess that was about it. Those were the ones I really collected. Anyway, I have no idea where those things went, but they're gone, too.

**Question:** What about the books that...

**Answer:** The books, oh, the books that my teacher gave me? I read and reread and memorized those books and, you know, I could just say it by heart, and then those, too, I brought home with me, and I had them still at home, then eventually, the cover came off of my Raggedy Ann book, and then I think then my parents had another child. They had one after we got back, and I think they gave it to her, and I

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have no idea what, it probably got torn to sundry, but I have no idea where it went. But those are gone, too.

**Question:** Did, it sound like your Dad was the type that just kept marching forward.

**Answer:** Yes, he was.

**Question:** It didn't break his spirit.

**Answer:** No, not at all. I mean, he was one that he says, you know, you just have to keep on going and do the best with what you have, and that's what he did. You know, I can't understand how they did it. They came with nothing, and they worked hard all the time, and then the Depression came and so they were set back and they worked up again and by the time World War II was coming, there were several people who had gotten themselves up enough, and this is why I said they built the house, and there were about 5 families who had just built brand new houses, you know, and the community came and helped build the houses, and so it was kind of like barn raising. Anyway, there were about 5 families on the island who had just brought themselves up so that they could build a new house, and then the war came and, you know, they were knocked down again, and again when they came back and they were able to lift themselves up and keep on going. I, that to me is one of the most precious things that they have taught me is that you just keep on going, and you can't umh.. shoganai.. if there's something you can't do, get control of, then it's too bad, just work around it and find a different way to do it, and so I think everyone has that in them, if they could only drag it out of themselves. And so that's one of the things that I've learned, is do with what you have, and make something of it.

**Question:** You had relatives that went back to Hiroshima?

**Answer:** Yes. Both.

**Question:** During the war?

**Answer:** No, they went back before the war, soon before the war started, and so I had a couple of uncles there and, on the Hiroshima side, and they live up on the mountain, but they were on the other side of the mountain from the city, so when the atomic bomb came, then my uncle said he saw the glare and things, but they were protected by the mountain, and that he had brought some stuff down into the city after awhile to feed some of the people there, but he, those old guys, they never would talk, you know. They were pretty closed-mouthed, so I don't know anything about my father's childhood, you know, Papa's childhood at all. Just, I just know the facts that he was there, and Jim and I went back to Japan on our honeymoon, and we met the aunt that he was staying with, but unfortunately, I didn't know enough Japanese to really ask her any questions or understand what she was saying and things like that, so I thought, Oh, what a waste. I wish I knew some Japanese, so that I could speak to her.

**Question:** Did you ever, with your father, did you have time to talk about what happened, which is interesting, 'cause your connection to Hiroshima, but to talk about the bomb with your father?

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**Answer:** No. He was one that was very silent. He would, actions was what he, and he just did stuff, and he just kept on going, but he never, he never was one to speak about anything, and he was not a very, he wasn't a communicative person. Something like Jim. I could just hang you!!! Will you say something!!

**Question:** So was your Mom reserved, too?

**Answer:** No, she was a lot more outgoing, but I think she chose what she wanted to say, too, you know, and she didn't talk too much about how she felt about this or that.

**Question:** So did you ever, as you grew up, were you ever able to talk with her about the evacuation and what happened and her feelings?

**Answer:** Not really. Not really. 'Cause in those days, too, when you were growing up, it was not something you really talked about. And there's still some people who are, say in their 80s now, who still don't talk about it. They still keep it closed within themselves, and it's too bad, because you really don't know what they felt, and how they are feeling now, but I think it's easier for me to talk about it because it was a happy time for me. And it was a growing and learning time for me. And so the only thing I could do is kind of listen and look and kind of think, after I've grown a little bit, think of Gee, I wonder how this person would feel. It must have been hard for the people who were just out of high school. You know, time for them to look for a job, or get on to college, and there was no university there, you know. They had to either take correspondence courses or get permission to leave camp and go to a university back East or in the Midwest, and I keep thinking how hard it was for the people my uncle's age and my Mom and them were just starting their prime of life, and they should be working hard in whatever they chose to do, and there they are, stuck, and then you think about the older generation who have worked and worked so hard all that time, and there they are with nothing to do now, and they're stuck in camp with time on their hands, and you saw these old men playing Go, and things like that. However, I do remember my Mom saying to me, You know, camp was not so bad for me because I had a chance to relax. She didn't have to go out every day and work in the fields and think of what to cook and then do the cooking and the washing and the ironing and all that stuff all the time, besides taking care of the kids. And so she had a chance to learn some flower arranging and do some other stuff, and as a child, too, I was pretty lucky in that because I got to learn a little more about the Japanese culture, because at home, we were pretty well, the people on Bainbridge were pretty well assimilated with the Caucasian population, and so we didn't have all these big festivals and traditions that they did in Seattle, and so I was able to take like the classical Japanese dance, and I was able to watch some of the plays, you know, the Japanese plays, and listen to Japanese songs, which I never heard before. And learn some Japanese games, and all these different things that I never would have done on the island. So it broadened me, you know.

**Question:** That's an interesting perspective, 'cause it's looking at history down the road, to keep it in perspective. There were some very wonderful things that happened, but not let get lost what caused those, I mean, 'cause you have two total extremes in there.

**Answer:** mmm, hmmm. Well, the worst thing about camp, the very worst thing about camp is a few people decided to take a group of people, because of their background, and put them, disregarding their citizenship and their rights, and

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putting them into a situation like this. Now, as I said, there were a lot of good things that happened. Some of the advantages were that some of the farmers' kids were forced to go somewhere else to make a living or forced into a university situation, so they didn't have to come back or couldn't come back to become a farmer again. And so they became college professors or whatever, or else they found a new line of work, and so they had that opportunity, but that doesn't mean that they might not have done it anyway. And so you were forced into a place that you didn't know about and that wasn't yours, and you were forced into a situation where you lost your freedom to choose where you're going to go, or what you're going to do, or whatever, so that was the horrible thing about the whole thing. And I guess when you lose your freedom, you cherish it more, and you don't want anyone else to go through the same thing. And so when I talk to kids, I always tell them that this is the best country in the world because you can make the decisions, you have the right to do that, you can make the rules, you can make the laws. You can change the laws if you don't like it, but you still have real big responsibility to make sure that rules and these laws include everyone, that you are not going over the bounds and tromping on someone else's rights because of their beliefs or their nationality, or their inclinations, or lifestyle or whatever. Everyone has the same, should have the same rights, and that they have to be real careful on who they choose, know the issues, and to think. So I guess that's where I'm coming from.

**Question:** It's interesting because America, and again, no disrespect to what happened, but in a way, America is lucky that the Japanese that they did this to, and I don't mean disrespect now, let me explain that, because people that I've talked to, a majority of the people, have not wanted to speak out in anger, blame. I mean, there's hurt, but because of the culture. If it had been the Germans, and I'm of German heritage, I don't think I would have been as forgiving. But hearing what you're saying, what's here is very good.

**Answer:** One of the reasons I think is because when the Japanese came over they were already, there was already this prejudice. There were rules against them already. And they didn't have all of the freedom, freedoms that a European would have. You know, a European could have come over, stayed awhile, and then become a citizen. The Japanese could not, and they knew that restriction was there. They already knew that there was prejudice, but behind that also they also had the Japanese thinking of respecting your country, and of obligation and so although there were bad things and there still are bad things here, there's a lot of good things, so you kind of have to weigh stuff, you know, and so how could you not like this country when you see all the advantages that you do have, and why go around crying and being bitter when there are so many good things. And I think that's the way you should look at it, because if you become bitter, then the things that are coming to you will be bitter also, and it just compounds itself. And if you go the other way, that also comes back to you. So there's no sense in being bitter, 'cause what's done is done. You can't change that part, but you can educate other people, so that they can see all this was really bad stuff to happen, so you can educate them and then they, in turn, can help another group of people if it needs to be done to prevent that from happening again.

**Question:** I think that's the most important thing is hopefully knowledge will prevail. That if something like this were to happen, enough people would stand up and say, No, that is wrong.

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**Answer:** Yeah. And if I were bitter and I talked about all my bitterness and things, I am not bitter, but if I did, what reaction would you have?

**Question:** Yeah. That is right.

**Answer:** Yeah. So, anyway, a lot of bad things happened, but good things happened, too. But it was not the government's place to do this to a people, just summarily to gather everyone up and shove them aside.

**Question:** And the sad thing is even more so, my understanding is, that it was a very few people even within the government, and even that they rewrote some of the evacuation orders, but they were much broader originally, and there was one, I cannot remember who it was that told me, but the higher official that had something specifically against Japanese and narrowed it down even more. It's amazing and I don't know, I mean since 9/11, we do see that there is a potential, that the reality is there.

**Answer:** Yeah. When that happened, I thought, Oh, I hope not. And on the whole, you know, when the people from Seattle came to support the mosque after it was damaged, I thought, Oh, there's hope. There is hope. And there's still some incidents of people being detained, not as a whole group, but in small, in their houses or wherever. And there's still some harassment and things like that, and I think, Oh, it's still happening, but not in such a large scale. And then when they confiscated that man that they closed his grocery shop or grocery store, I thought, well, that's good, because in America money talks.

**Question:** Thank you very much.

**Answer:** Oh, you're welcome.