Dee Goto Oral History Collection

Summary of Selected Interviews

Accession No: 2647-001
January 1989

Uyeda, Masato

Selected notes only from the tape of an interview of Masato Uyeda by Delores Goto in 1970. Approx. 1½ hours.

Accession No. 2647

The following are only selected notes taken while listening to the aforementioned interview. It is not a transcript nor a summary. Unfortunately, since the interview was done essentially in Japanese and since I myself am not proficient in the language, these notes should not be considered reliable. They may, however, still be helpful in providing the flavor of the activities of the Uyeda family from 1895 to 1970. They may also be helpful in processing the ten cubic feet of records that were donated by the Uyeda family to the University of Washington in 1988 and 1989. This donation is recorded under Accession No. ——.

-Harry Fujita, volunteer

Hiroshima Kenjinkai (Club)
- Minutes available? Not treasurer's reports.
- Membership fee used to be $1 but with 450 members this raised $450.
- Scholarships for college?
- Donations made by members on the occasion of their 60th birthday or of other ages.
- Funeral observances, esp. for club members.

Japan
- Mr. Uyeda born in Hiroshima in 1895
- Mrs. Uyeda born in 1905
- Mr. Uyeda remembers when she was born because he remembered that he was 10 years old at the time.
- Mr. Uyeda's father operated a second hand store (?) (kobutsu?) Was also a farmer (hyakusho).
- Mr. Uyeda had four brothers and two sisters. Mr. Uyeda was second oldest.
- Was baseball in Japan in 1895?
- Home in Japan had straw roof, straw mat over ground, several large rooms.
- Mr. Uyeda went to school in Japan about 10 years (thru grade school?)
Emigration
-Mr. Uyeda's father first came to Vancouver BC in 1883 to earn a lot of money and return home; worked in coal mines in Nanaimo; salmon fishing; stumping out trees with dynamite.
-Mrs. Uyeda came to Canada when he was 14 in 1911.
-Mrs. Uyeda's father moved to Port Blakely, WA (lumbering); later to Rock Springs, WY (coal mining).
-Military draft required in Japan for twenty-one year olds.

Masato Uyeda Chronology
-1915 Worked in sugar beet farm
1917 Railroad Section foreman
1920 Returned to Japan, married Mrs. Ayako Uyeda in Tokyo.
1920 Returned to America; operated a pool hall in Rock Springs, Wy
1924 Worked in coal mining.
1928 Worked for Western Pacific Railroad in Nevada
1929 Farmed and operated produce market on Western Avenue, Seattle; operated a home brew supplies store.
1941 At time of Pearl Harbor: interned at Bismark, ND; Santa Fe, NM, etc.
1942 Joined family at Minidoka Relocation Center
1945 Returned to Seattle; had home in name of children before the War.
Business loss by fire, no insurance. Represented by Tom Masuda, lawyer.
Started gardening business. 
Racial discrimination? Yes, "but not for me; no God damn Jap!"
Necessary to continue to report to INS (as an enemy alien). Concern about employment for Japanese returnees.
Desire to go back to Japan? No, been here 30 (?) years; children here; home is here.

Internment
-Picked up by FBI December 7. Suspicibn of spy activity, leadership in Hiroshima Club, etc.
-Sent to Roseburg, OR (6 barracks, 250 men); Bismark, ND (worked in post office); Fort Lincoln, NB (hearings held); Santa Fe, NM (barracks leader); Minidoka Relocation Center (gatekeeper).

Misc.
-Suffered poisoning from pineapple in 1945; hospitalized; not well 4 to 5 years.
-Participated in anniversary observance in Japan of atomic bombing of Hiroshima.
-Advised Winnepeg on setting up of Setagaya-ku as Japan's sister city to Winnepeg, Canada.
-Participated in activities of the Japan-America Society.

End
Interview taped in conversation with daughter Mrs. Billy (Shizuko) Yoshioka asking questions of father.

Side 1

Born: June 9th 1875, Ichigimura, Ochigun, Shimanaken
Father: Farmed and had a small hardware store on side.
Kyodai: Kanjiro, Jisaburo, Fusayo, Gensaburo, Kensuke who came to U.S. 1st.
School: 4th grade.
11 yrs. old: Moved to Hamada where father had hardware and general store and Kanjiro eventually had quite a bit to do with the store.

Married: Mar. 25, 1902
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to U. S.: 1907, Oct. 25th - half way thru 1st
side.
1st stayed at Furuya Hotel. side.
Brother in Everett - went to work
in restaurant 2 months
2nd side ---- Sold Medicine -
Bowling pin setter - $20 mo. - 5-6 mos
Janitor At Moore Theater $30 Mo. - 7 yrs
1914-15
Trip to Japan
Came back & started pool hall
Main St. - Sold flip knives in front
1918 - Hardware -
TASHIRO, TOSHI  taped 10-7-70
Born: 8-1-76  side 2 (b)
Father: Hattori, Gotaro - teacher
Childhood: Some games as mamogoto - friends, no schooling, just onisan.
age 14: stayed with aunt for 3 years, had no children, and was sick.
sewing - learned well, just kimono
quite a bit about daily life during that time.
Marriage: Some details of arrangement.
2 children died
To U. W.: 8-21-1908 Left infant child - couldn't bring child to such place.

#thru side b
Husband had bought house on Jackson in prep for her arrival.
Story about taking care of old lady for awhile.
Tape #318: Shizuka Yoshioka Side A:

Ms. Yoshioka talks about her childhood, the school she attended (Main, Gatzer (?), Central, Franklin), the games she played. She also discusses some of her other activities, including church, tennis, dating, and her father's hardware business. There is some mention of anti-Japanese sentiments and the Japanese place in the job market.

Side B: Here Ms. Yoshioka discusses her social life during the time she was at the University of Washington. She mentions Mitsubishi and the business opportunities for the Japanese. More is said about the University of Washington and its courses and professors. There is a discussion of the relocation camps and the preparations Ms. Yoshioka's family made for evacuation.

Tape #320: Yoshita Fujii Side A:

Mr. Fujii talks about his early life in Japan including his siblings and his parents. He also talks about school, some celebrations, and his move to the United States to go to school. Then he and the interviewer spend some time apparently discussing pictures. The end of the tape is poorly recorded - the speed varies greatly - and is very difficult to understand.

Side B is blank