

Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission Oral History Interview

Narrators: June Morishita Morinaga and Anne Morishita Enoki

Interviewer: Morgen Young

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Transcribed by: Kimberly Haysom

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YOUNG: This is our interview with June and Anne on April 16, 2013 at the Four Rivers Cultural Center in Ontario. Can we start with both of you telling me your full names and where you were born?

ENOKI: Well, I'm Anne Enoki and I was born in Gresham, Oregon on August 19, 1932.

MORINAGA: I'm June Morishita Morinaga. Do you want my address?

YOUNG: No.

MORINAGA: Just that.

YOUNG: You were also born in Gresham?

MORINAGA: Mm hm.

YOUNG: And what do you remember life in Gresham?

MORINAGA: Well I remember some from when I was real little, you know our family moved to the country, I remember that too. I remember a lot.

YOUNG: Can you tell me some of... life in the country?

MORINAGA: Oh, in the country? Well, my dad and my brother farmed out there and we rented seventy-five acres out there, they raised all kinds of vegetables and berries and of course we were kind of young but we kind of helped out a little bit out there.

YOUNG: Did you have a truck farm?

MORINAGA: It was a truck farm, they had things like vegetables like cabbage, cucumbers, and we had a berry farm too. We had strawberries, raspberries, and we used to... a lot of raspberries. So we used to go in there and play in there. We were kind of young then.

YOUNG: Mm hm. And you had a big family, right? Seven siblings is that... total? Children.

MORINAGA: Seven, mm hm.

YOUNG: When did your parents move to the United States from Japan?

MORINAGA: What year was that 1900? Before that I think.

ENOKI: It was before that because...

MORINAGA: My mother was, came here about 1989 to get married to my dad.

ENOKI: 1989?

MORINAGA: Remember when we were reading that article?

ENOKI: She was born in 1900.

MORINAGA: That wasn't it?

ENOKI: She came over to the United States in 1918, I think.

YOUNG: 1918? To marry your father is that why she came over?

ENOKI: Yeah, uh huh.

YOUNG: And he was a little bit older than your mother.

ENOKI: Yeah he was seventeen years older than her, I think.

YOUNG: Did he ever tell you what kind of work he did before he started farming in Gresham?

ENOKI: He used to be a coal miner.

MORINAGA: He worked in the coalmines, uh huh. And he was in Salt Lake City.

YOUNG: And Glen told me he had a business in downtown Portland.

MORINAGA: Yeah.

YOUNG: What kind of business?

MORINAGA: Liquor store or something.

ENOKI: I don't remember that.

MORINAGA: A bar? Okay.

YOUNG: And what about your siblings? You have um, you had an older brother and you're the second?

MORINAGA: Mm mm.

YOUNG: No?

MORINAGA: I had an older sister.

YOUNG: An older sister too. Oh, Mickie is older, right?

MORINAGA: Yes.

YOUNG: And were you close with them growing up in Gresham?

MORINAGA: Yes!

YOUNG: You all played together and...

MORINAGA: Since my sister was five years older than me, I didn't play with her too much. See I was young and she was in school. I was the oldest of the young ones. I played with them.

YOUNG: Yeah! You were all born pretty closely together. Kay and then Nancy. So, what do you remember about the evacuation order and moving to the Portland Assembly Center?

MORINAGA: What do I remember about it? I just remember that when they told us we had to leave I didn't really know what that meant, so I moved, my brother, you know he was older, so he was the one that took care of the farm with my dad. They didn't give us much chance to do anything, only a couple of weeks. So he sold one tractor and from our house we sold our piano for real cheap. We didn't get to sell anything else we just left it in the house until we got evacuated from Portland Assembly Center. And one time they said, my brother could come, go home and get few things because we were volunteering to go to Nyssa. So, he went back to the house and got few dishes and plates and stuff, we knew we had to cook and stuff. So he got a few of that and got our bicycle, scooters, that's about it.

ENOKI: He must have brought our skates, because I remember skating around the arena you know, up and down, the assembly center.

YOUNG: At the assembly center?

ENOKI: Yeah.

YOUNG: And what grades were you both in when you had to go to the assembly center?

MORINAGA: I was in the eighth grade and my grade school, we got to have a... there, they were going to have a nice graduation for us and we were, have to wear a long dress. Well we got evacuated just before that, about a month before, so I didn't get to buy my long dress, which I was looking forward to all my life. So I didn't get to buy my long dress and I had to take all my tests, one month earlier so I could graduate from eighth grade. But they said, "Okay June you got to go in that room and take all your tests" you know, by myself so I could graduate.

YOUNG: Were you the only Japanese American in your class?

MORINAGA: I think there was one other girl but we had two rooms for eighth grade. So she was in the other room and I was in this room.

YOUNG: And you had to say goodbye to all your friends?

MORINAGA: What was that?

YOUNG: You had to say goodbye to your friends?

MORINAGA: Not really, but we didn't know that was going to happen. So I remember just before the evacuation, before I left, they said we got to go to Portland, our class did so we could have a patriotic talk and I didn't know what to think of it. Because I knew we were going to get evacuated and something was gonna happen to us. So, I kind of felt uneasy.

YOUNG: And you remember when the bombed Pearl Harbor and hearing about that?

MORINAGA: Oh yes, I remember that.

YOUNG: It must have been scary.

MORINAGA: I remember that just before evacuation, our grade school had a basement and so they were having air raids, practice in case you know, something happened, so they said we all had to go down to the basement, air raid warning, so we all had to line up against the wall and I remember we used to practice that. And right after that was evacuation.

YOUNG: What do you remember about the assembly center?

MORINAGA: Oh, I remember there was about seven sections in there and we were in one section and there was no... the walls didn't go all the way up, just partitions between everybody. In sections you know, we were, there were about seven sections in there and they had a bathroom and a shower for each section. But there were a lot of people in each section. So we kind of had to pull and see if somebody is in the shower or not, you know to take a shower. Things like that,

and they had a, dining room where we'd all get to go eat in each section. But you kind of had it at different times. So by the time they had breakfast for us, I remember they used to give us mush every morning and by the time we got our mush it was hard – cutting it. I remember that, we had mush every morning.

YOUNG: How long were in the assembly center?

MORINAGA: Our family was just in there for two-three weeks.

ENOKI: Three weeks.

MORINAGA: But my dad didn't want us to stay in there. He said, "They want volunteers to go to Nyssa, to work in the sugar beets." So my dad said, "We're going, we're going."

YOUNG: Did the whole family go together or did someone go to Nyssa first?

MORINAGA: Mm hm. Yes we all left together, I think the first group was several men just to check out Nyssa you know to see how it is. And, our group was the first family group and there wasn't that many family that went. But my dad didn't want to stay in there, he had five girls, he didn't want to stay in the camp where there's all kinds of people in there, thousands of people. So, I just remember my brother said, "I want to go home," he said, "Anybody need to go," he said, "I need to get a few things from my house." So the soldiers went with him. They didn't trust anybody, their just not gonna let you go, so several soldiers went with him to our house to get our dishes and stuff that we needed it when we got to Nyssa.

ENOKI: That's from the assembly center though, right?

MORINAGA: Mm hm.

ENOKI: Yeah.

MORINAGA: So he got out dishes and things and bicycles and scooters, stuff like that for the kids to play.

YOUNG: Do you remember any of the other families that were with your first group that went to Nyssa?

MORINAGA: I think it was our cousins, the Kidos.

ENOKI: Yeah.

MORINAGA: Kidos. That's about it, there wasn't too many that left.

YOUNG: How did you feel on the trip from Portland...

MORINAGA: I didn't know what was going to happen.

ENOKI: I was scared.

MORINAGA: Just went.

YOUNG: And you went by train?

MORINAGA: Uh huh, all train.

YOUNG: Did a bus take you from the assembly center to Union Station in Portland and then by train?

ENOKI: Probably, yeah.

MORINAGA: We just rode an old train.

YOUNG: Did you get to sit in the train? Were there seats or you had to stand?

MORINAGA: Seats were, it was an old train so we faced each other, one seat the same, face other. I just remember that. And it was slow. Took us all night to come to Nyssa from Portland. I wake up in the morning and I look outside and go, "Oh! All those mountains don't have no trees on them!" Because in Portland we have forests all over, trees all over, so when I looked up at the window I said, "Hm! The trees, the mountains had didn't have nothing on them."

YOUNG: They looked very different.

MORINAGA: They didn't have anything on it, no trees, no nothing. Just everything bare outside, that was the difference that I saw. And then we saw, we were going out there to thin the beets. The beets were about this tall, nobody thinned them because they didn't have no laborers. I looked out the window and I thought they were spinach. We grew spinach back home but they were beets, overgrown. And we were supposed to out there to thin them but to thing them we had to do it with long hoe, because the beets were just so tall. We couldn't do it with a little hoe.

YOUNG: What do you remember about the camp itself?

MORINAGA: What do I remember? Were the tents and our family had four tents. One kitchen and think one was for the boys, we only had two boys you know, an older brother and the youngest brother, and the other tent was for us girls, five girls.

YOUNG: Did your parents have their own tent?

MORINAGA: Mm hm. I think so, I'm not too sure but I think they did.

YOUNG: They weren't very big tents were they?

MORINAGA: The tents.

ENOKI: Those tents right there.

YOUNG: And did they have...

MORINAGA: They just had one bed in there.

YOUNG: Who was in your tent?

MORINAGA: Well there were sisters.

YOUNG: So the five sisters in one tent?

MORINAGA: No.

YOUNG: No?

MORINAGA: I think there were a couple tents.

YOUNG: For the girls?

MORINAGA: For the girls, and other tent was for the boys and then one for mom and dad and one was the kitchen.

YOUNG: And were there wooden floors in the tents?

MORINAGA: Yes. So it was real hot because it was June, hot, there's nothing to keep us cool so we used to take our shoes and stuff off the floor and put them on top of the bed. And there was a faucet out there with a hose so we used to drag it over there and squirt water on the wooden floor to cool our tent off, it was the only way we could keep it cool. It was June, it was hot, that was the only way we could keep our tent cool.

YOUNG: Was it dusty as well?

MORINAGA: Yeah it was dusty and then, so the some of the, like her and my other sister did, me too, we used to go to the river, our tent, our camp was right next to Snake River. So there was a place where it was kind of like a little bay a beach so we'd go down there and there was a little bit of water there, we used to take our shoes off and cool our feet off. That's the only way we used to keep cool. We had no other way to keep cool.

ENOKI: I didn't know... you never told me you guys went down there. It was just the three of us.

MORINAGA: Yeah we used to go down there and cool, stick our feet in the water, not too much water; it was more like a little beach there. We used to stick our feet in there. We couldn't walk in there because all of us in there it would get deep.

ENOKI: Well the rest of the family went out in the field to work.

MORINAGA: I did work too, me and my sister, we were one year apart, we used to go with our mom and dad and they used to kind of help us with all. But the guys in the crew didn't like it we got paid the same. We'd say, "Well our mom was helping us," because you know we were still doing one row of whatever we were doing, so they paid us just like the older people. And the guys in there didn't like it, they were getting paid the same. Well, we said, "Our mom and dad is helping us along." So we got paid.

YOUNG: Would you have to wake up early to work in the fields?

MORINAGA: Probably I don't remember that part, but we used to ride trucks to go to the field. And the back of these trucks, they had benches; you know along, we sat on the benches in the back, there was no door, it was opened.

YOUNG: And you would go to fields all around the area?

MORINAGA: Yeah, I remember going to Jameson from Nyssa up to there.

YOUNG: What was, did you have a mess hall in the camp to eat?

MORINAGA: Well we didn't go to the mess hall to eat because our family cooked our own meals. But there's lots of guys in there you know in there to work, they ate in the mess hall.

YOUNG: And who would...

MORINAGA: They were not family, they were just guys, single guys.

YOUNG: Single guys. And, who would cook in your family? Would your mother cook?

MORINAGA: I guess so because we couldn't cook, we were too young.

YOUNG: What would you do for fun? You said you would go down to the river?

MORINAGA: Soak my feet in the water. I don't remember doing anything else.

YOUNG: Do you remember baseball games? I've seen photos of...



ENOKI: We didn't do baseball games until we went to the camp in Adrian. But anyway, like I was starting to say is when the parents, when they all went to the field, the three younger ones, Nancy, myself, and Charlie went to the river, down to the river and played in the river all day. And, of course, we never had sunscreen or nothing; we just got pure black you know. So they called us "The Three Blackies" you know. We had fun, other than that; I don't really remember too much you know. And then, since my sister's birthday from ours in August, the Hashitanis that lived down the corner, they had a big party and one of the occasion was to have a birthday party for the two of us you know. So we had fun there. Other than that, she knows most everything.

YOUNG: And the Hashitanis would host dances too, wouldn't they?

ENOKI: Yes, I think on their lawn, yeah, uh huh.

YOUNG: Did you ever go to those dances or?

ENOKI: Too young.

YOUNG: Too young.

MORINAGA: Too young?

ENOKI: Too young, yeah.

MORINAGA: I just remember they had a one big tent there and we used to have some church services, things like that in there.

YOUNG: Speaking of church services, do you remember a woman named Azalia Peet?

MORINAGA: Ms. Peet was a missionary that came from Gresham, came over and helped us, we didn't have anybody else to help us. So she came and kind of helped us.

YOUNG: Would she teach church or she just helped in different ways?

MORINAGA: Um... I don't know if she did the services, I don't know, I don't remember that part.

YOUNG: And do you remember a Dr. Maulding who was the camp doctor, did you ever have to go to the camp clinic? No?

MORINAGA: I don't remember anything about that.

YOUNG: And you could go into town sometimes.

MORINAGA: Mm hm.

YOUNG: What would you do in town?

MORINAGA: We just roamed around. They had a theatre there in Gresham so; I mean in Nyssa so they said, "If you want to go see a movie, you could." But we didn't. I didn't, I don't know if anyone else did. But my mother, they go to Nyssa town, we used to tell them, "Don't speak Japanese." If she's gonna talk, she's gonna talk English. And my mother didn't talk too much English. My dad did you know, he kind of spoke English but he had to take care of business for the family. My mother didn't know too much English. So we told, "You can't talk unless you talk English." While we were in Nyssa town, so she couldn't talk.

YOUNG: Did you grow up learning Japanese in your family?

MORINAGA: Huh?

YOUNG: Did you speak Japanese growing up?

MORINAGA: Uh, we did with our parents but not among ourselves, our parents.

ENOKI: Just the baby talk.

MORINAGA: Huh?

ENOKI: Just the baby words.

YOUNG: Did you ever go to the soda fountain when you were Nyssa? Or you just would walk around downtown Nyssa?

MORINAGA: In camp?

ENOKI: In Nyssa.

YOUNG: In Nyssa.

MORINAGA: Oh. In town?

YOUNG: In town.

MORINAGA: Oh, we'd go in the store.

ENOKI: The drugstores up there probably.

MORINAGA: There was a drugstore on the corner and I think we used to go in there. We didn't go buy clothes or anything.

YOUNG: And then after Nyssa you moved to Cow Hollow.

MORINAGA: Mm hm.

YOUNG: What do you remember about living at that camp?

MORINAGA: Uh, they had barracks. So we were in a barrack and just one barrack, we were on the end. And they had like a mess hall, but we didn't cook there we had to go and eat in the mess hall. There were several, younger people, teenagers, around my age and stuff and we used to have a little get together once in awhile. We would just meet and, we didn't do much but we were still kind of young. We would just get together and play little games or something. That's all I remember.

YOUNG: Do you remember other families from the Nyssa camp moving to the Cow Hollow camp?

MORINAGA: Yeah, I remember there, a few uh huh.

YOUNG: And did you have to share showers and like laundry at the Cow Hollow camp?

MORINAGA: I don't remember that part.

YOUNG: Okay. What about school? Where did you both go to school when you were in...

MORINAGA: Nyssa.

ENOKI: Nyssa.

YOUNG: Nyssa High School for you and Nyssa...

ENOKI: Grade school.

YOUNG: Grade school.

ENOKI: Mm hm.

YOUNG: And would a bus come and pick you up?

MORINAGA: Yes.

YOUNG: What was it like going to school there? Did the students...

MORINAGA: School ground?

YOUNG: Just the school, were the students nice to you?

MORINAGA: There was a little bit of discrimination. And there were times when they said they had to have a meeting, assembly and they put all of us Japanese into a kitchen. Told us to go sit there, they were going to talk about us. So, I was only fourteen, it didn't bother me that much. But I had a friend that was a couple of years older than me. When we go sit in the kitchen, 'cause they're talking about us, I just sit there while my friend was crying because she was a couple of years older so she knew that they were talking about us, discrimination and all that. So she was sitting there crying. I wasn't crying but I knew that they were talking about us, about how they were discriminating against us. And there was a little bit of discrimination on the bus. Most of them were pretty good but there were always several guys that had to say something about us. So, the bus driver was pretty good, so he, these guys were kind of saying bad things about us and everything, he used to chase them off the bus. "You get off the bus, you walk home." To those guys that were saying bad things.

YOUNG: Anne, do you remember anything happening in grade school?

ENOKI: Not really uh-uh. I was only in the third grade or fourth grade and I don't really remember hardly anything, really. Charlie remembers riding the bus a little bit but other than that, no. But then she saw a lot of discrimination but I think our, you know, we were younger so, we didn't really see that. And then the kids that were picking on me on the bus would be the older boys, so.

YOUNG: Did you face any discrimination when you went into town?

MORINAGA: What was that, excuse me?

YOUNG: Did you face any discrimination when you went into town?

MORINAGA: Uh, no, not really. Well like my mom and... they didn't shop so they would just stand around the corner. But I used to tell them, "Don't talk Japanese." If you're gonna talk you talk English. And they didn't talk too much English, so... they just stood there.

YOUNG: How would you get into town?

MORINAGA: Uh, a bus used to take us, a truck actually. It was a truck and it was open in the back.

YOUNG: I've seen photos of the, at the Nyssa camp of like a store where you could buy soda or candy. Do you remember that at all?

ENOKI: Is it that drugstore?

MORINAGA: That was that drugstore.

YOUNG: A drugstore. Okay.

MORINAGA: But I remember that truck that they used to take us in to work, it didn't have a door in the back, it's just open. They had big benches in there, we sat sideways. There some guys, you know we're all going to work. They're naughty, so the guys on there did bad stuff. I just remember those two guys at the back end. This one guy takes the other guys watch off and he threw it off the truck, I thought, "Oh how mean!" you know. Things like that.

YOUNG: Was there a canteen in camp?

MORINAGA: Uh huh.

YOUNG: And what could you buy there?

MORINAGA: We used to go buy pop and stuff because we were hot. We didn't have anything cold to drink. So if we wanted something cold, we used to go over there and buy pop.

YOUNG: Did your parents give you money or did you have an allowance?

MORINAGA: At that time it didn't cost that much. Five cents. I don't know exactly what it was but it wasn't very much. Ten cents or something.

YOUNG: Which did you like better, living in the tent camp or living in the barracks?

MORINAGA: What was that?

YOUNG: Which was better the camp...

ENOKI: The barracks. Yeah, the tent camp was much better, we'd get awful dusty and stuff you know.

YOUNG: Could you stay cooler in the barracks or was it also very hot there?

ENOKI: It was hot but then it's better because it's wood you know and not just out in the open like that in the tent.

YOUNG: Do you remember when you moved to Cow Hollow? Was it in the fall of 1942?

MORINAGA: Fall.

YOUNG: When it started getting colder?

MORINAGA: Started it colder so they had to put us...

ENOKI: Somewhere, yeah.

MORINAGA: That was the CCC camp.

YOUNG: Did you have a stove or anything to keep your barrack warm?

MORINAGA: I don't remember that.

YOUNG: And then eventually your family moved to Weiser. And where did you live in Weiser?

ENOKI: In a big house with three families.

MORINAGA: We went to work for Harper Walker Ranch and we used to, it was a group of, it was a crew that used to take us to different places to work. And, the house we lived in was a two-story house. One family lived upstairs and we lived downstairs.

YOUNG: And you could cook in the house and...

MORINAGA: Mm hm.

YOUNG: And so you still worked in the fields?

MORINAGA: I don't remember too much about that. I just know that we were like three miles from town, Weiser town and I was a freshman. When we first moved there, we didn't know nothing about the bus, which was gonna pick us up. So this other family, there was a guy in there that was the same grade as me, so we were about three miles from town so we used to walk to school. We were in high school I was a freshman. So we had to get up early and walk three miles to school.

YOUNG: It seemed like you had to keep switching schools because you...

MORINAGA: I had to change every year. Freshman and sophomore, freshman I was in Nyssa, sophomore I was in Weiser, and then I went to Ontario for junior and senior.

YOUNG: Did your family move back to Ontario, or you went to Ontario to school?

MORINAGA: Yeah my family and brother and my dad, they started to farm in Oregon so, but for a while we were farming in Weiser. On this side of the bridge, so we were in Oregon but we didn't want to change school because we had another month or so, my sister Kay and I used to walk across the bridge and sneak over there for the last month or something. You know, we didn't want to switch last month. But every time I moved it was right at the end. Like, April when they're having tests. So when we went from Nyssa to Weiser, they were having their tests. I didn't take

the same subjects at Weiser as I did in Nyssa. We had, there were having things like algebra, well we didn't have algebra in Nyssa. I had to take the test. So I said, "Well, I failed that." And then all the subjects, we didn't study the same thing. So I said, "Well, I had a bad grade from my freshmen year." Stuff like that. Because you move at a bad time, at the end of the school year, and we're taking tests.

YOUNG: It's hard.

MORINAGA: Different things that I study.

YOUNG: Did you have a subject that you liked in school?

MORINAGA: Subject I liked? I don't remember. Probably didn't like any of them. No, I don't remember.

YOUNG: And then you stayed in Ontario for a while?

ENOKI: From the big house that we lived on the other side of the river, we moved to the Oregon side and we were right by the river, you know. And then we had a little house there and we raised some chickens and stuff there, you know. We had one real bad rooster that used to chase us all the time. We'd say, "Okay is it clear?" So we'd run to the bathroom outside, outside bathroom you know, but it would just fly at us. And then my dad would go fishing, and bring home some fish so my mother would cook some fish for us. It was kind of fun.

YOUNG: And this little house was this near Oregon Slope or where was it?

ENOKI: No, it was closer to Weiser.

YOUNG: Closer to Weiser.

ENOKI: Right across the river, yeah.

YOUNG: When you moved to Ontario and you went to Ontario High School, where did you go to school?

ENOKI: I went to little grade school a little country school. There was four grades in one room and four grades in another room. I think our eighth grade class only had eight of us, you know. That's what it was. Just like she was saying, went from one school to another school. It was hard so, I was in the fifth grade, I could barely pass that grade because you know, the things were different and but they let me pass. I got to be a sixth grader but we all worked on the farm out there. Us little ones just played around. I had to learn how to cook. My dad used to kind of tell me how to put in what and mix stuff, it was kind of hard.

YOUNG: And after the war, your family decided to stay in the area. So, did you miss Gresham?

MORINAGA: I couldn't hear you.

YOUNG: Did you want to go back to Gresham after the war or were you happy?

MORINAGA: No, my family didn't want to go back, they just wanted to stay in this area. There's other families that went back to their you know, farm. But it wasn't our farm, they just rented, I mean, they just farmed that place so it wasn't ours. So they didn't care if they went back there.

YOUNG: Did your dad keep farming after the war? What did he do for a living?

ENOKI: He farmed all the time.

MORINAGA: When they farmed, because we, farm in Weiser, just south of Weiser and then we, my brother and my dad farmed Oregon Slope.

YOUNG: Where did they... did they end up moving into a house after the war and staying there for many years? Or did they keep...

MORINAGA: Right there in Oregon Slope, a long time.

YOUNG: A long time.

MORINAGA: Mm hm. And then after that, well, my mom and dad just moved to Ontario town.

ENOKI: Me and Charlie.

MORINAGA: And Charlie and you.

ENOKI: Yeah, mm hm.

MORINAGA: Of course, I was gone by then.

ENOKI: Nancy too I think, the three of us, yeah. Ontario. I went to Ontario High School.

YOUNG: Did you like Ontario?

ENOKI: Yeah, it wasn't bad. That's where we graduated and everything, so. I had a lot of friends there.

YOUNG: What did you both do after high school?



MORINAGA: I went to Portland and I went to sewing school for a couple of years and then I decided, I want... I made a lot of things. I made my sister-in-laws wedding dress, I used to make my dad a heavy flannel, you know, heavy material shirt. At that time we learned how to take measurements of a person and make a pattern. Design it a pattern and then we sew it. We get the material and sew it. So I made my sister-in-laws wedding dress. So I had to measure her, get the, design it for her, I made her wedding dress. Stuff like that. We used to do... went to sewing school for a couple of years. And then I was going to come home, well I had to kind of quit because my sister that is right above her, had kidney problems. So my dad said, "You gotta come home and help take care of her." So, I had to just quit Portland and come home. By that time, that was it.

YOUNG: How did you meet your husband?

MORINAGA: How? We were in Oregon Slope, my family was farming here, his family was farming at the next town so we get to see each other all the time. So, it was fun, but we're together.

YOUNG: Where was he from, where did he grow up?

MORINAGA: He's, Auburn, Washington, near Seattle. They farmed and stuff too.

YOUNG: Did his family get evacuated?

MORINAGA: Mm hm. But they went to Heart Mountain. They went to Tule Lake, California first, the camp there. And then they went to Heart Mountain. And then my husband, you know, he was the older one in the family so they volunteered to come to Oregon Slope to work on the farms and four or five other guys. So they volunteered to come out and work, they thought it was nice, so they called the family to come out. So they lived down the rode from us. That's where I met him.

YOUNG: What year did you get married??

MORINAGA: What year? December of '49. I better remember that, huh?

YOUNG: And Anne, what did you do after high school?

ENOKI: Oh I just helped my brother on the farm, I was going with my fiancé, I guess at that time. We went together for about four years but my parents thought that since he was a working on the farm too, they figured I needed to go to school because I didn't get to go to school. So, I just stayed on the farm for like four years and I worked and I drove trucks and tractors and did all those work that the men do. Then I met my husband in Ontario, he was living in Vale at the time. Then I met him and we got married in 1954, we had two kids, two girls.

MORINAGA: You worked in the bank.

ENOKI: Yeah I worked in the bank, yeah.

MORINAGA: And she managed one bank.

ENOKI: Well we, before that we moved to Shelton, Washington and my husband and I both worked at a laundry and cleaners place for quite a few years and then we moved back to Ontario, to farm Idaho, and worked on a farm there. And then this family that we were working for in Shelton wanted Jim to come back, so we went back there so that's where my kids were born. We back, so. It was kind of fun.

YOUNG: Where was Jim's family from?

ENOKI: He's from, their from Fru... what is it, Puyallup, Washington and they went to, where'd they go?

MORINAGA: Don't ask me about your family! But they went to the camp right there, in the close to Twin Falls, I can't remember the name.

ENOKI: Minidoka.

MORINAGA: Minidoka.

ENOKI: Minidoka, yeah right. And his older brother was old enough, so he went in the Army and all that so, Jim was kind of the head of the family at that time. There was like seven of those, their family too, children. They worked on the farm and stuff and then he joined the National Guard. He wanted to join the Army too because all his other friends, he kind of went on with the older boys you know, and he was too young you know, he couldn't even join the National Guard at that time. He just, worked on the farm with his family and then they moved to Jameson, Oregon and worked out there for quite a few years and then they moved to Ontario. Actually when they moved to Ontario, no I guess I knew him out in Jameson first. Then they moved to Ontario and that's where we kind of really went steady, got married in '54.

YOUNG: Did either of your husbands ever talk about their experiences in camp? During in internment?

MORINAGA: Their experience in camp?

YOUNG: It might have been different than your experiences at the tent camp.

MORINAGA: Uh, he went to a camp in California for a while, they went to Heart Mountain, but didn't stay in there that long because he came out to work on the farm. Because they wanted workers in the farm, so, he came out with several other guys to where we were living, close to there.

YOUNG: In Oregon Slope?

MORINAGA: Uh huh.

YOUNG: Close to there?

MORINAGA: Uh huh.

YOUNG: And did Jim ever talk about Minidoka?

ENOKI: Yeah he was only like thirteen or something when he was there. But he ran around with guys that were a little bit older than him you know, he drove, he learned to drive and he drove the garbage truck around you know. Then they also delivered some food to different barracks and they kind of ration you what you could eat I guess, so, they used to kind of get some of the left over food and take it home and have it for their family but... no he really didn't talk too much about that. That was kind of back, they all learned how to smoke and stuff, so he smoked when he was pretty young. Started smoking when he was about thirteen, I think. Anyway, no he didn't talk too much about that.

YOUNG: Did your family own or rent a farm in...

MORINAGA: In Gresham?

YOUNG: In Gresham you said they rented, in Oregon Slope...

ENOKI: In Oregon Slope...

MORINAGA: They rented.

ENOKI: They owned.

MORINAGA: They rented it.

ENOKI: Did they rent that too? Oh.

MORINAGA: From Hicks , wasn't it Hicks.

ENOKI: Then they bought, yeah.

MORINAGA: Yeah.

YOUNG: And just the family would work on the farm or would they hire other people to work on the farm?

ENOKI: Well they had different crews that people come around, in fact they had, the farmers had their families and each family had their crew and they went to each different families farm to you know, do a lot of stuff you know. Mainly, the hoeing and weeding and all that were the family more or less, and when they topped onions that's what we did, we just went to different families and topped onions and tried to make money for school. We were pretty young yet then, so.

YOUNG: Do you remember what type of crops your family grew in Oregon Slope, Ontario?

ENOKI: Yeah, onions and beets and lettuce, I think we had. I remember thinned the lettuce and so, I think that was all.

YOUNG: Did you ever have a little garden either when you lived in Cow Hollow? Just for little vegetables or flowers or...

ENOKI: Not in camp I don't think.

MORINAGA: No.

YOUNG: What was it like being an adult living in the area; did you know other, stay friends with other Japanese families?

MORINAGA: What?

YOUNG: When you were married and you lived in the Ontario area, correct? What kind of activities were you involved in? Were you active with Church or clubs?

MORINAGA: My husband was, he always took part in sports, he managed girl's softball teams and stuff like that. He always did, liked to do things like that.

ENOKI: That's what we did. We played softball a lot.

MORINAGA: He's used to...

ENOKI: I don't know. He didn't manage us.

MORINAGA: Oh, he just...

ENOKI: Right, yeah.

YOUNG: Well I'd like to show you some photographs that you've seen of the Nyssa camp and see if you could tell me anything about... these are the tents.

MORINAGA: Well we all lived in Nyssa tent camp.

YOUNG: So it was like that? It just...

MORINAGA: Full of tents.

YOUNG: ... flat.

MORINAGA: But I think some of this is part of where the guys were living, 'cause...

ENOKI: It was this one too.

MORINAGA: ... it wasn't all that. You know like where we were, it's just like our family, took this one side.

YOUNG: Did other families live with other families?

MORINAGA: And uh, there's few across from us. There was more families where we were. The other side was probably like this because I didn't know, I never went to the other side.

YOUNG: Right.

A; This probably, more or less like that.

MORINAGA: Right. Yeah, we were like you know, just so many tents for our family, we had like four or five kids for our family.

YOUNG: Do you remember if you got to pick where you lived in camp?

MORINAGA: Huh?

YOUNG: Did you pick part of the camp where you lived?

MORINAGA: No, they just said, this is your part.

YOUNG: Oh okay.

MORINAGA: And they had one restroom, where we all had to go share. Bath and shower, so we had to make sure nobody was over there. There's one guy, that was like a placemat, he would stand around the camp and watch. And I would always look to see if he was out there before I went to the bathroom. Because we had to go to the outside bathroom.

YOUNG: Right. I have another photo, did your camp, your tent look anything like that with...

MORINAGA: Yeah, well yeah because we just had a bed in there. But it wasn't this big. Not at all.

ENOKI: Yeah I know, that looks awful big.

MORINAGA: It was just a bed in there.

YOUNG: Did you have to share a bed with your sisters?

MORINAGA: Yeah I think we had two... I think a couple girls, I think one was for the guys, one was for my mom and dad.

ENOKI: She wanted to know if we shared beds.

MORINAGA: Yeah, there was only a couple beds in there for us girls.

YOUNG: Right. And then, I can take those if you want. This is a canteen. Do you remember that?

MORINAGA: Yeah we had a canteen and, we had, if you want something cold to drink, we had to go over there and get pop or whatever.

YOUNG: And you never went to the clinic, you never had to go get a shot, as far as you remember?

MORINAGA: I didn't.

YOUNG: And then I think this is like the truck you were telling me. Maybe the wooden one.

ENOKI: Probably this one.

YOUNG: Yeah, I'm standing in the back.

MORINAGA: It didn't even have a rail on the back though.

YOUNG: No, it was just open, right?

MORINAGA: Yeah.

YOUNG: And then the mess hall, did you ever eat there?

MORINAGA: No.

YOUNG: No, 'cause you had your own kitchen.

MORINAGA: Just guys.

YOUNG: Just guys.

MORINAGA: Single guys.

YOUNG: And then what about, did you ever have to do your own laundry?

MORINAGA: Uh, yeah they had a place where, just like that.

YOUNG: Just like that, mm hm.

MORINAGA: Ring the clothes out, stuff like that.

YOUNG: And then, someone said that this was a Japanese style bath.

MORINAGA: I have no idea about that.

YOUNG: No? And you went to dances at the Hashi...

MORINAGA: No, we were too young.

YOUNG: ...but you had a party at the Hashitani farm, right?

ENOKI: Yeah, uh huh.

YOUNG: So did it look like, was it just on their front lawn?

MORINAGA: I just turned fourteen when I got in camp, so.

YOUNG: And then what about memories of downtown Nyssa? So, here's the Rexall Drugstore.

MORINAGA: I know that.

ENOKI: Yeah the drugstore, yeah.

YOUNG: Yeah.

MORINAGA: I know the drugstore.

YOUNG: And you never went to the movies but there was a movie theatre.

MORINAGA: Yeah I remember going to the movies.

YOUNG: Oh, you did? Okay. And would you ever just walk downtown? So here's the jewelry store.

MORINAGA: Yeah, well they used to take us uptown.

YOUNG: Uh huh.

MORINAGA: So, we had nothing to do.

ENOKI: So we just walked up and down.

YOUNG: Okay. And would you sometimes go into the drugstore and get like a soda or...

MORINAGA: I think we were too young to do that.

YOUNG: Too young.

MORINAGA: I just turned fourteen.

YOUNG: Well what else am I not, neglecting to ask you about the camp? Any other memories?

MORINAGA: Of the camp?

YOUNG: The Nyssa camp especially.

MORINAGA: Uh, I just know that there was a canteen, we had to go there to get something cold, go down to the river to soak our feet to keep cool, put the side of the bed up.

YOUNG: And do you remember Sonny Takami?

MORINAGA: Huh?

YOUNG: Sonny Takami?

MORINAGA: Yes! He was a policeman at the camp. He used to stand around at nighttime. He was a big guy. Tall, big. So I felt safe when he was out there, I would see if he was out there, because we had to go to the bathroom outside. So I would go see if he was out there and then I'd go.

YOUNG: I know that there was another policeman named Kay Okano, do you remember him at all?

MORINAGA: I didn't know he was a policeman.

YOUNG: No? Do you remember him though?

MORINAGA: Kay Okano?



YOUNG: Mm hm.

MORINAGA: I just remember him later on.

YOUNG: Oh, okay.

ENOKI: Later on, yeah.

MORINAGA: Not in the camp.

YOUNG: Not in the camp, okay. And did you know, do you remember any of the other family names that lived in the camp? Like the Ouchidas or the um, Sonny was there, the Takamis.

MORINAGA: Yeah, the Ouchidas were in there for a while, but I don't know what they did later on.

ENOKI: Yeah, I don't know what they did.

MORINAGA: My cousin, they came there with us when we went to the Portland center, but I don't where they went later.

ENOKI: Because they must have stuck around Nyssa 'cause that's where they ended up.

YOUNG: The Kidos...

MORINAGA: They weren't in camp that long.

ENOKI: I know it.

YOUNG: Hiro Kido and Bob Kido, that family?

MORINAGA: No.

YOUNG: Or a different family?

MORINAGA: It's just, another Kido, our cousin.

YOUNG: Okay.

MORINAGA: This is our cousin.

ENOKI: Hiro and Bob.

YOUNG: Oh, they are your cousins?

ENOKI: Yeah they are our cousins, yeah.

YOUNG: Okay. Yeah, I think we have a photo of Hiro playing badminton at the camp.

MORINAGA: Oh really?

YOUNG: Mm hm. Yeah, and um...

ENOKI: They must have been there after, huh?

YOUNG: Do you remember this photographer ever coming to the camp, no?

MORINAGA: I just know we had that big tent that we had, you know Sunday services and Alice Nishitani used to come over there and play the piano and stuff like that. They kind of had Sunday services for us.

YOUNG: So you would go every Sunday and...

MORINAGA: I think so, she used to come over.

YOUNG: Mm hm.

MORINAGA: And I used to come to work for her dad, yeah.

YOUNG: Do you ever remember going to Nyssa High School to watch baseball games? No?

MORINAGA: I went to Nyssa school.

YOUNG: Right. Mm hm.

MORINAGA: High school.

YOUNG: High school.

MORINAGA: But I don't remember going to see any games. There was some discrimination in there.

YOUNG: Sure.

MORINAGA: We used to have assembly centers, talking about us. They let us sit there, send us to the kitchen. You Japanese guys, you go sit in the kitchen, so we'd go sit in the kitchen. They're talking about us.

YOUNG: Well what else? This has been really fantastic, all the information you've been able to provide.

ENOKI: I was too young, so she had to do everything.

YOUNG: No, you provided plenty.

MORINAGA: In camp?

YOUNG: In camp. Mm hm.

ENOKI: All over, yeah.

YOUNG: And you would play as a child, we have that photo of you blowing bubbles with your sisters. Was it hard work, working in the fields?

MORINAGA: In the field, yeah well, I was pretty young, me and my sister Kay, we always worked in the fields. We always went with our parents, from when we are in Nyssa camp and I just barely turned fourteen, she was still twelve, turning thirteen and we went with our folks and we hoed beets and stuff like that. They kind of helped us along, but we always worked, ever since then. Everywhere we went, I was always working in the field. I was a good field worker. Kay and my sister, we were young but we were always fast, we had fast hands. And we'd go beat the guys. We had to thin beets or whatever, we'd go faster than them. They used to go, "Gee those two girls!" And pick potatoes and stuff, those, we had to pick them in sacks, we pulled them, we used to do it faster than the guys. Kay and I, my sister Kay.

YOUNG: And your mom would work...

MORINAGA: Top onions and we could do it real fast.

YOUNG: Your mom worked in the fields too?

MORINAGA: She must of, I don't remember her too much. Do you remember her?

ENOKI: Mm mm.

YOUNG: And then would you and Nancy and Charlie, would you watch yourselves?

ENOKI: Yeah we were left alone. We always went to the river and stuff but we talk about that now, it must have really been dangerous actually, you know, nobody there to watch over us, but we went there everyday. All black.

MORINAGA: When I was real little, we used to live in Gresham town and we lived right across from Onta...Gresham High School on the side road and at that time our mom and dad they were buying a farm out in the country. This was in town, we were right across from the high school. And I remember, they left me alone with the siblings

under me, I was only five years old. And I used to watch them and my mom and dad would go, we were in town so they would go to the little grocery store on the corner and get a package of cookies and say, "Okay, I'm buying you this cookie." Like it was a reward you know for babysitting. So I had all these kids under me and I had to watch them. And we used to do some bad things too you know, we were young and my sister next to me, was five years older than me, so she was going to school. So, when she'd come home, she'd find a mess in the house, we used to tear up paper, newspaper and scatter it all over the floor. She'd say, "Pick them up! Pick every one of them off the floor! Pick up all the papers." We used to do bad stuff. Yeah but I used to watch the rest of them.

ENOKI: Since she's talking about that part there. We lived downtown there and the mayor lived probably down the street from us, you know. So what we used to do, is we always walk over there and they would have a box of marshmallows for us you know, we knew that. So every time we'd want a marshmallow, we'd walk over there and they'd give us marshmallows you know. But also, when we were small, when we were born, they, we found out that they named Charlie and I from them, their names. I thought that was kind of neat. So we used to walk down to their house and get marshmallows all the time.

YOUNG: In Gresham you used to walk to Sunday school, didn't you? From where you were living?

MORINAGA: My sister Kay and did.

ENOKI: We walked...

MORINAGA: We were living on the farm and it's about a mile in a half to town, we used to walk that.

ENOKI: It was like five miles.

MORINAGA: We walked and then we had to walk down to the railroad tracks down below, so we used to walk down and then walk along the railroad tracks to town to go to Sunday school.

ENOKI: It was more than a mile.

MORINAGA: About a mile in a half

ENOKI: About five miles.

MORINAGA: Because we had to walk, nobody would take us to Sunday school, so we wanted to go so back, we walked to Sunday school. And I had a bible from there, and I think that somebody to take it and I had my name on it and how old I was and everything. It just kind of went with me everywhere I went. But that was when I

was young, I don't know how I kept it. You know, because we were in camp here, went there, farm here, and I still had. I thought, "Gee, how did I keep that?" The Bible, followed me around.

YOUNG: Are there any questions you want to ask? Well, I think this has been great. So I think we'll stop here, if that's okay.

ENOKI: Thank you.

YOUNG: Thank you so much!

END OF INTERVIEW

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