

Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission Oral History Interview

Narrators: Yasu Teramura and Bob Kido

Interviewer: Morgen Young

Location: Ontario, Oregon

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Transcribed by: Kimberly Haysom

KIDO: How did you become familiar with all this?

YOUNG: The photographer that took these images, I've studied him before.

TERAMURA: Is he still around?

YOUNG: No, he died in 1983 I believe.

TERAMURA: He must have been about almost ninety years old.

YOUNG: Yeah he was.

KIDO: Remember these? They were on the back of the truck and the hoes, weed the beets and onions.

YOUNG: Mm hm. Did you work out in the fields at nine? No.

KIDO: I was too young.

TERAMURA: This was taken quite a bit later. There, compost ranch over there that raised the celery there. Yeah over there, Oregon Slope they raised a lot of celery over there.

YOUNG: I can get your water, do either of you need water?

TERAMURA: Excuse me?

YOUNG: Do you need something to drink, water?

TERAMURA: No, I forgot my Kleenex, that's all.

KIDO: Oh, I could use some.

YOUNG: Yeah I'll go get some for you.

KIDO: You know there was a bunch of California guys.

TERAMURA: Yeah a lot of California guys, remember, they came later.

KIDO: Yup.

TERAMURA: Thank you.

TERAMURA: Oh I'll just take that.

YOUNG: So that was your favorite place?

KIDO: You know, fifty-cents went a long ways them days.

YOUNG: I bet.

TERAMURA: Yeah we danced on a two-by-four floor in the tent, they had a tent and a dance floor and we'd go like this.

KIDO: Hey were Oharas out there? Do you remember?

TERAMURA: Oh that...

KIDO: That's looks like Pete doesn't it?

TERAMURA: Looks like it doesn't it?

YOUNG: Which one?

TERAMURA: This fellow right here.

YOUNG: Ohara like, spelled like this?

TERAMURA: Looked like Pete.

YOUNG: Spelled like this?

TERAMURA: Yeah.

KIDO: Oh hey! You're pretty good.

TERAMURA: Looks like him.

YOUNG: This gentleman right here, with his legs kind of crossed? That's who you think is Pete Ohara?

TERAMURA: This one, this one, looks like him.

YOUNG: Okay.

TERAMURA: This looks like Henry Kato. Remember Henry Kato?

KIDO: They're from Gresham.

TERAMURA: He was married to Kayno Saito's sister.

YOUNG: I've talked to his son Carl. Carl Kato is in...

TERAMURA: He lives in Portland.

YOUNG: Yeah in Portland area, right, mm hm.

TERAMURA: Over there near Gresham.

YOUNG: Right, yeah, where they were before the war.

TERAMURA: I don't know the family but.

KIDO: They went back home then.

YOUNG: Mm hm. It looked really dusty out there.

KIDO: Sig was kind of hefty back then.

TERAMURA: That looks like the truck that we rolled in, doesn't it?

KIDO: Well yup could well be probably been in there.

TERAMURA: We went clear to Jameson from Nyssa.

KIDO: Geez long ways.

TERAMURA: 5 o'clock in the morning we got up, got on the truck and it took about a little over an hour. About 5:30, and we got to the beach field over in Brother, you know over near Jameson. And we got there a little after 7, and we worked till 5 o'clock and we got on the truck and it took an hour to get back to camp. And then we ate and then we did the same thing. On the back on the truck we rode and sometimes it was pretty cool.

KIDO: All for sixty-cents an hour.

TERAMURA: Yeah, fifty-cents, well we worked by piecework then.

KIDO: Yeah, yeah.

TERAMURA: You know bucking beets, you know like me, I couldn't buck beets like some of the other guys all day long I work ten hours and I made three dollars. About three dollars is all I made. Working all day long.

KIDO: That was pretty good money back then.

TERAMURA: Like Mr. Saito and Kato and that bunch they probably made five dollars a day. It was hard work you know, bend over and do it. Well, we weren't used to it, we never did that kind of work until we came out here.

YOUNG: Did you eat in the mess hall?

TERAMURA: That guy looks like somebody.

KIDO: Kohara... see I'm eighty-two so I guess I should, all this went on of course but my memory is about this long. How old are you?

TERAMURA: They give us these kinds of lunch boxes. Take out to the field to eat.

KIDO: Oh they gave it to you huh?

TERAMURA: And uh, at the canteen, we had, they made the lunch for us, the bread you know, a couple sandwiches with meat. And it's a wonder we didn't get sick because the temperature, we'd put it under the shade tree you know, no cooler, no nothing. We never got sick.

YOUNG: Yeah.

TERAMURA: Most the time, like, theirs, the people that had family, they made their own lunch. But like me see, I was just a bachelor, so I had to have somebody make it for me. And all it was, was meat, bologna, meat slice, stuck together with butter on it. You had two sandwiches in a container like this. May be they had bar candy or something and that's it. We worked on that all day, that's it.

YOUNG: Did you have water?

TERAMURA: Water, oh they brought the water, the people that we worked for brought water in a big barrel you know. Right now, I mean it used to be Garrison Ranch but it's right now the Maag bought it out, Maag Farms took ahold of it.

KIDO: Yeah that Garrison Corner, we were almost on the corner.

TERAMURA: Yeah. Garrison Corner, see came in from, Nyssa was right here, came around the corner right here and then it went around like this, the railroad track was right here, went around this corner and then this Garrison Corner and the Snake River was right here and this is where the camp was until they moved over to Cow Hollow.

KIDO: That was barracks back then.

TERAMURA: Yeah, this reminds me of this one guy that used to sharpen our hoes for us.

KIDO: Oh that's why...

TERAMURA: Remember, remember?

YOUNG: So you'd ride in trucks like that would you, to go the fields and go into town?

TERAMURA: This is a fancy truck, the one we rode on was just a wooden side, and then they put a little tart, the front end like this and the back end was open, you know, it was cold. 5 o'clock, 6 o'clock in the morning, just figure it out, it was in May you know.

YOUNG: Yeah.

TERAMURA: Then one day it rained and we only had, one just a tent, got in the bed, and it was like sleeping on wet ground and so they finally gave us another tent, cover to put over the top so that it kind of, you know, but it didn't rain very much in those days.

YOUNG: Did you share a tent with other bachelors?

TERAMURA: What?

YOUNG: Did you share a tent with other bachelors? Who was in your tent?

TERAMURA: Well, I stayed with Kayno Saito and Larry Saito, not Larry, George Saito and the three of us stayed in the tent. And their mother and dad had another tent of their own. I stayed with,... because when I left Portland, my folks asked the Saitos to watch over me because I was just nineteen years old. Well, I've been on my own all of my life so it didn't bother me a bit.

YOUNG: What happened to your folks, where did they go?

TERAMURA: They were in camped in Portland and then they got shipped to Minidoka.

YOUNG: They went to Minidoka.

TERAMURA: Mm hm.

KIDO: Well they were ready to ship us to Minidoka, the assembly center, my dad, he liked the bottle so, this is, (inaudible) to the liquor store in Nyssa, everybody has to get off and you know, we were just passing through and they stopped for something, you know he told them to wait and we just got off. The whole family got off too.

TERAMURA: Yeah, we had, like when, we had to have like a supervisor to watch us and we had to come back. 8 o'clock we had to be in camp.

KIDO: Yeah there was a curfew. I remember that.

YOUNG: So would you eat in the mess hall Yas? Would you eat in the...

TERAMURA: No.

YOUNG: No?

TERAMURA: I ate with Kayno Saito's...

YOUNG: Oh with his...

TERAMURA: ...dad and mom you know, I don't know, I paid them so much and then I ate with them most of the time.

YOUNG: Someone said this is Kay Okano...

KIDO: Oh is that Kay? They called him Cable.

TERAMURA: Cable, isn't it? Yeah we call him Cable, that's Cable Okano. Well they came later.

YOUNG: Oh okay.

TERAMURA: Yeah.

YOUNG: And he looked like he was a police officer or...

KIDO: Well he was part of that. Security of the camp.

TERAMURA: Sonny Takami was the uh, kind of a, kept everybody in line you know. You get in a fight, but he's the one...

KIDO: Only all he got was a black jacket.

TERAMURA: Yeah.

YOUNG: You mention Sonny Takami.

TERAMURA: Yeah, that's Sonny.

KIDO: Is that Sonny? Oh my goodness!

TERAMURA: Well he's big you know, he's tough boy!

KIDO: Yeah he tried to chase us...

YOUNG: And another one of him.

KIDO: Who was his younger brother name? Uh, Sonny and ... the one my age was Jim um.

YOUNG: Was he in camp too?

KIDO: Yeah they were in camp.

YOUNG: Yeah.

TERAMURA: That looks like the Morishita family. That looks like...

KIDO: That's my aunt.

TERAMURA: Yeah that's your aunt! Isn't it?

KIDO: Yeah.

TERAMURA: That's your dad's sister. Yeah. That's what I thought.

KIDO: Yeah they had a lot of girls. Well Haru and Charlie was the only boys.

TERAMURA: Got anything down here?

YOUNG: Mm mm. So you think that some...

TERAMURA: That's the Morishita family.

YOUNG: Morishita family?

TERAMURA: I'm pretty sure it is because that's your aunt there, it has to be.

YOUNG: And that's Sonny and then I have...did you remember the Ouchida family? Did you know them in camp?

TERAMURA: Ouchida?

YOUNG: Yeah.

TERAMURA: Mm hm.

YOUNG: Jack.

TERAMURA: Mm hm. That's Jack.

KIDO: We were a big family.

TERAMURA: They camp. See all those people came in June, later.

YOUNG: Okay.

TERAMURA: We were the one of the earlier ones.

YOUNG: First ones. And that's Jack as well.

TERAMURA: Yeah that's Jack there.

YOUNG: Do you know any of either of those two gentlemen?

TERAMURA: This is one is a sugar beet field man and one of them was employment services.

YOUNG: Oh the U.S. Employment Service.

TERAMURA: I'm pretty sure.

YOUNG: Mm.

TERAMURA: And there the one that we had to um, I don't know, something about the money, remember?

KIDO: Yeah.

TERAMURA: Something about the money, we had to, I don't know, I can't recall.

YOUNG: Mm.

TERAMURA: And Bill Murphy is the one that was uh, the treasurer or secretary.

YOUNG: Right. And here is the other family and I think Mary Takami is in there.

TERAMURA: Yeah that's Mary Takami and Ouchida and all the Ouchida is there. That's Tom right here I think. That's Mary's daughter ain't it?

YOUNG: No, that's Rosie the youngest sister.

TERAMURA: Oh that's the youngest, yeah.

KIDO: The old... Rosie, yeah, yeah. Man I wonder how we survived in these days.

TERAMURA: Well they used to be our neighbors back home, the Ouchidas.

YOUNG: Oh okay.

TERAMURA: The Ouchidas were, yeah. Back in um...

YOUNG: In Gresham or?

TERAMURA: Well, we lived in the Oregon City area but they lived in, well, it was probably like Gresham, in between there. Yeah, baseball. That looks like Jack Kato.

KIDO: Oh yeah.

TERAMURA: Remember those, Jack and Joe Kato, the twins. They played baseball see. That looked like one of the Katos.

KIDO: He always hit home runs.

TERAMURA: One of the Katos I don't know, it was Jack and Joe anyway and they were baseball players.

KIDO: I know with these tents, I can tell when the family is having problems; they yell you know, geez! Everybody around could hear them. Who in the world is this Yas? Do you know?

TERAMURA: Who is that?

KIDO: I don't know.

TERAMURA: He made the floor.

KIDO: Oh!

TERAMURA: Japanese floor. Japanese bathtub.

KIDO: This, you know what, they just burned a fire underneath that tub, big tub.

TERAMURA: I built, I built those things.

YOUNG: Yeah the um, Morishita girls were telling us about or may be it was, we also interviewed the Wadas, you know the Wada family?

KIDO: Mm hm.

TERAMURA: Yeah.

YOUNG: And not everyone taking a bath and having to go one person after another.

KIDO: Yeah and...

TERAMURA: Mm hm, we had a bathhouse.

KIDO: ... and we had to scrub up, soap up outside the bath,...

TERAMURA: Yeah.

KIDO: ... and then you get a, rinse it off.

TERAMURA: Then we went into the bath.

KIDO: Until the last guy, he got to do anything he wanted.

TERAMURA: Yeah I made those bathtubs, it's made out of two-by-fours, cedar, and then you cut a groove in it and you put a piece of wood in between and then you put cloth in there and then, add two two-by-fours, makes it twenty-four inches high and on the bottom you put a sheet of metal and then you put nails in it and then you build a fire underneath. And we had that from back, back on the... see Japanese people love to take baths. They just loved to take baths. And that's what we did you know.

KIDO: This guy shows up a lot in the pictures.

TERAMURA: I wonder who that is.

KIDO: Well I think I'm a little young for these guys though.

TERAMURA: I don't know who that is.

KIDO: Well that was interesting.

YOUNG: You have a whole other stack to go through.

KIDO: Oh thank you.

TERAMURA: Oh that looks like a lunch pail, remember we used to end up picking them up and we all had the same lunch.

YOUNG: I interviewed Reid Saito on Monday and he said I was to ask you about the renegades or the troublemakers in camp.

KIDO: Ha ha, he's the leader!

TERAMURA: Me?! Is that what Reid told ya?! Oh Reid.

KIDO: We tried to copy you Yas, that's how we got in trouble.

TERAMURA: Huh?

YOUNG: Was it hot in those tents?

KIDO: Yes! See this was, the tents were, oh about a little bit about a quarter mile from the Snake River, on Garrison Corner there and uh, when it got that hot we always go down to the river and throw it around and... that's when I learned to swim. This is an onion field, ain't it Yas?

TERAMURA: Was it topping onions, yeah.

KIDO: Topping onions, yup.

TERAMURA: I wonder if that was on, that looked like Bidie's place.

KIDO: Oh yeah?

TERAMURA: Do you, Rolfo Bidie, remember them?

KIDO: Yeah.

YOUNG: What is this woman doing with the box? Do you think is she plating something or...

KIDO: If it's onions, they don't top onions in a box like do they?

TERAMURA: Remember that? What are they doing?

KIDO: Yeah.

TERAMURA: Yeah, Bill Murphy he just passed away not, about a year or two ago he was a professor at the college here, see.

KIDO: Bill Murphy...

TERAMURA: See he came from Jordan Valley, he was a sheep herder and his folks had sheep you know, and he came, somehow he must have been about nineteen or twenty, somehow he got this treasurer job to take care of the you know, the confectionaries and took care of the money.

YOUNG: What was the camp manager like?

TERAMURA: Olan Thomas?

YOUNG: Mm hm.

TERAMURA: You know, I was wondering if he was married or not, I never did see his wife.

KIDO: I didn't either.

TERAMURA: But when he came back after the camp closed and everything he bought the Nyssa implement out.

KIDO: Yeah, Oliver, yup.

TERAMURA: Remember in this implement, yup. And then I came home, when I came home from the Army away, I went over there and I saw him and I said, "Oh gee whiz, I hadn't seen you for a long time, you know." And he had bought this implement company out and he was selling Planet Junior products.

KIDO: Boy that looks like Nang Wakasugi, Sam's wife.

TERAMURA: Looks like it doesn't it.

KIDO: Her name was Sato, her maiden name. I was a little older like him, I'd remember more, but all I can remember is the fun we had.

YOUNG: Was it fun?

KIDO: I didn't worry about.

YOUNG: No.

KIDO: About moving and having to leave our car and everything back in Gresham.

YOUNG: How did you get from Portland to Nyssa? Did you take a train?

TERAMURA: Huh?

YOUNG: How did you get to Nyssa from Portland, the Portland assembly center?

KIDO: Train.

TERAMURA: Train. But... there was a guard on the train with a rifle and a pistol and we couldn't open the window on the train. You know, had to keep the blinds closed all the way over here. We, I could remember we got on the train over there in Portland on the Union Pacific Train at about, I think it was about 4 or 5 o'clock in the afternoon. We got on the train and we got here to Weiser, it was about, oh... if I remember right about 8:30 or 9:30 and we opened the window and I seen a whole bunch, I says, "What is that green thing?!" And this one fellow that he had been over here that worked, you know the older fellow, he says, "That's sugar beets!" I thought it was turnips or something, I didn't know coming through this way.

KIDO: Yeah they called Pendleton, I guess it's called Eastern Oregon.

TERAMURA: Mm hm.

KIDO: Even now but, we didn't know whether we were going through Pendleton or Ontario and it was quite,... I think, I really I didn't care, as long as I could buy ice cream and pop.

YOUNG: So Bob, which of your entire family came?

KIDO: Mm hm. Yup. I got two sisters and two brothers and they all came.

TERAMURA: Yeah except Hiro's the only one that comes.

KIDO: Oh yeah that's true.

TERAMURA: And Kayno Saito's side, uh, Kayno and George and mother and dad and Larry, he was in the military, M.I.S., see military intelligence, he didn't come, he was in the Army. Come to think of it, they put us in jail, kind of like jail and we got brothers and sisters in the Army!

KIDO: Yeah that was, that was....

TERAMURA: It doesn't sound right! Does it?

KIDO: Yeah it wasn't.

MALE: It wasn't right.

TERAMURA: See I served with the 442 you know, I got drafted right here in 1944 you know. I served over there with the 442, I just, I'm just lucky I come back alive, I mean, because I was a pretty good b.s.'er you know and stayed behind the line the whole time! Ha ha!

KIDO: But you know it was one thing here, to have a relative or brother in the Army fighting across the ocean and then, in town here, there were several places that said, "No Japs," you know. It was, we didn't know how to take it but, uh...

TERAMURA: I'll put it this way, there was just a few that were bad, but that few made it look like it was a whole bunch. I went to the U.S. National Bank and old Joe Dyer threw me out of the bank. I had money in the U.S. National Bank in Portland because I was in the FFA and I made money you know, growing strawberries and had money in there and I wanted to transfer it. And so I had to go to the First Interstate Bank in Nyssa and that manager was really a nice guy.

KIDO: Gerard...

TERAMURA: He said, "Don't worry about it, I'll take care of it." You remember him?

KIDO: Mm hm.

TERAMURA: Really good to the Japanese you know.

KIDO: But see, while they were good to us, they got kind of, I don't know...

TERAMURA: That was this, U.S. manager here, so most of the Japanese went through Vale, the U.S. National. They were really good people over there. And I don't know why Joe Dyer did that. Yeah, he said, "You see that door? You get the hell out of here." Just like that, so I walked out and then in knew the First Interstate Bank manager there, in Nyssa. He says, "Don't worry I'll take care of it." It made me feel good, you know.

KIDO: I went to a restaurant in town, with five or six of my friends, you know, Caucasian friends. Well they said, "You guys can come but leave that guy out." And that was me, so... oh boy.

TERAMURA: But, one thing about most, I won't say all of them but 90% of the Japanese; they just quietly walked out instead of getting in a few. You know what I mean? Instead of retaliating against what they did you know, so we found, Payette was a bad one you know.

KIDO: Yeah they were.

TERAMURA: Payette was really bad.

KIDO: Look bad.

TERAMURA: It's a funny feeling, but you know what I, hitchhiked, when I was in the Army, I hitchhiked clear across the United States and every place. And you go back east, never had no problem.

KIDO: Is that right?

TERAMURA: People that never even thought anything about it. Well, of course I had the uniform on too you know. So. And the idea of most of the Japanese our parents says, "Just walk away."

KIDO: Yup.

TERAMURA: "Don't start a fight." Remember?

KIDO: That's what they said.

TERAMURA: They, that was our...

KIDO: Be quiet.

TERAMURA: Just walk away quietly and forget about it. Just, don't go back again.

KIDO: If you talk about it during...

TERAMURA: And that's what most, I won't say all of them but most of the Japanese did that.

KIDO: ... they'd say, just be quiet, you don't have to make trouble.

TERAMURA: Yeah.

KIDO: Don't make trouble, that's all they kept saying.

TERAMURA: So.

KIDO: But you know there was one car dealership, Dodge I think it was, I never went back, never did. You shouldn't hold a grudge I guess, but I kind of did.

TERAMURA: That looks like Mr. Kondo.

KIDO: The old man?

TERAMURA: You remember old Mr. Kondo. The bachelor?

KIDO: Oh bachelor.

TERAMURA: Yeah he was a bachelor. And he was a cook too. I don't know if that's him or not but I mean it looked like it.

KIDO: You know the Kondos, Hank and Oscar and...

TERAMURA: Oh this is the other Kondo.

KIDO: Yeah.

TERAMURA: This is not Oscar and that bunch, that's a different Kondo.

YOUNG: Kondo or Kongo?

TERAMURA: KOND...

KIDO: DO.

TERAMURA: DO. Mm hm.

YOUNG: DO, okay, yeah.

KIDO: See I don't know...

YOUNG: And that's may be the same or different eye?

TERAMURA: Mr. Morishita family. That's your...

KIDO: This, Mickie, probably, the oldest.

TERAMURA: Huh?

KIDO: Oldest one, Mickie.

TERAMURA: Yeah, isn't it?

KIDO: Yeah I think so.

TERAMURA: It looks like it.

KIDO: They never had two boys; all they had was... oh yeah! Haruo and Charlie!

TERAMURA: Yeah, yeah! Haruo and Charlie!

KIDO: Yeah.

TERAMURA: That's the Morishita family.

YOUNG: Yeah?

KIDO: They are my cousins.

TERAMURA: What, I should have called her to come time because she's one of the Morishitas, Charlie's sister.

YOUNG: Well we interviewed June.

TERAMURA: She lives in Parma. One of them does.

KIDO: That's Anne.

YOUNG: Uh we interviewed Anne.

TERAMURA: Anne!

YOUNG: Anne Enoki and June Morinaga, they both came.

TERAMURA: Mm hm. They are sisters.

YOUNG: Yeah, sisters. That's right. But not Charlie, I haven't...

TERAMURA: Oh you met them already?

YOUNG: Yeah.

TERAMURA: Oh!

KIDO: But you couldn't get ahold of Charlie?

YOUNG: Uh, no, and I'm gonna do you remember Kay, was another sister?

KIDO: Yeah.

YOUNG: Yamaguchi, I'm going to interview her and she is friends with Sam Ouchida and his family was here too I believe.

KIDO: Oh.

TERAMURA: Kay was here but she went back. Morishita.

KIDO: Back?

TERAMURA: Kay, Kay.

KIDO: Yeah.

TERAMURA: Oh the Yamaguchi, she was married...

YOUNG: Yeah she lives in Tacoma now, I think.

TERAMURA: Yeah.

KIDO: Oh she's gone, huh?

TERAMURA: She was here the other day, about a week ago.

YOUNG: Right, mm hm.

TERAMURA: Staying with her boyfriend, so.

YOUNG: Yeah. And he said...

TERAMURA: I mean, that's okay.

YOUNG: ... his family was in the camp too.

TERAMURA: Mm hm.

KIDO: He's from Weiser, I think.

YOUNG: I think so.

TERAMURA: Yeah he was in Oregon Slope.

YOUNG: Okay.

TERAMURA: Their family was.

KIDO: What's his name? Her boyfriend?

YOUNG: Sam, right?

TERAMURA: Sam O...

YOUNG: Ouchida I thought.

KIDO: Ouchida.

TERAMURA: Yeah.

YOUNG: U...

TERAMURA: Uchiyama.

KIDO: Uchiyama, yeah that's right.

YOUNG: Uchiyama.

KIDO: Oh they're hard to pronounce.

TERAMURA: See he went to college and he was a dentist, see. See, our family, I don't know about other Japanese families but my folks, when we was little kids and stuff, you see, you get educated. And we didn't speak, my folks spoke Japanese but he said, "You learn English first, you know." And, I can speak a little Japanese but I don't read or write it. And that's the way our family was, he said, "You're in America, you learn English first."

KIDO: You know my parents...

TERAMURA: You know that.

KIDO: ... begged me to go to college. Oh no, I wanted to be a farmer. Geez. You know you go around in Gresham and you farm these, whole farm consists about forty or sixty acres and uh, everything done by hand and you pick broccolis or sprouts or whatever it is. You pack it out on the shoulders and raining like crazy and that east wind coming down the gorge and it was, it was just terrible. So I swore that I would never, never farm back in Gresham. I wanted to farm in Pendleton but we ended up here so, it was a good trip.

YOUNG: Yas, do you remember when you went here; I think that the camp had a council and Henry Kato was the president.

TERAMURA: Right here.

YOUNG: Yeah.

TERAMURA: Mm hm. Yeah they were much older than me and he was married already to Reid Saito's aunt.

YOUNG: Right.

TERAMURA: Boy that old, that old George, George Saito, he used to pick on me all the time.

KIDO: Oh yeah.

TERAMURA: But he's about two years older than me.

KIDO: He's nice.

TERAMURA: He always was like that, I mean he's a nice guy, don't get me wrong but... mm. I got on that train at Portland, my mother just balled, she didn't want me to go. And said, "Well I've been on my own all my life," I says, "So what."

YOUNG: How did you hear about it?

TERAMURA: Huh?

YOUNG: How did you hear about the camp at the assembly center, do you remember?

TERAMURA: To come here?

YOUNG: Mm hm, right.

TERAMURA: Well what happened, the sugar company the big sugar company went to the Department of Agriculture and had Roosevelt okay for the Japanese in a neutral area, east of the Cascades was a neutral area. You know what I mean? And you could, Japanese could come over here so, they were so hard up for help over here and the reason they were hard up for help, everybody was in the Army. The people that work you know and they were getting behind on blocking the sugar beets and so they went through... then the Department of Agriculture I guess went to Roosevelt and they okayed it. The sugar company got an okay that we could come over here as long as you know, but we had to be under strict restrictions that you could only stay up you know at 8 o'clock at night and you know

you couldn't roam around all over unless you went with some guard you know, to go to the show and stuff.

KIDO: They had rifles too, didn't they?

TERAMURA: And that's the way it was. Huh?

KIDO: They had rifles.

TERAMURA: Yeah, they had rifles you know, they guarded us.

KIDO: And in Portland, while we were getting on the train, there's somebody from the outside gave one of the guards my, for my...

TERAMURA: Killed one you know.

KIDO: That's the one I...

TERAMURA: Yeah killed one...

KIDO: Yeah that's the one...

TERAMURA: ... Japanese guy.

KIDO: ... shot him.

TERAMURA: Well you got tower up there with a guard up there you know, just like you see it, and we went over that, that fence was about twelve feet high and this guys says, "I'm not going to stay here, I'm a citizen." He went over and they shot him. They never mentioned a name, they just kept it quiet. Just like that. No name, but I remember see.

KIDO: Where'd you get all these pictures?

TERAMURA: And he was an American citizen.

YOUNG: They're, um, the Library of Congress has them.

KIDO: Oh!

TERAMURA: But, our folks, most of the Japanese, I won't say all of them, most of the Japanese folks that you just, you know, don't do anything that's um, that will create a problem, you know. So we all just kept pretty quiet.

KIDO: Except that Tule Lake bunch.

TERAMURA: Yeah but down in Tule Lake, they got in a fight.

KIDO: Oh yeah.

TERAMURA: They really got in a bad...

KIDO: We were told, when we were young, when we were kids, stay away from that Tule Lake bunch.

TERAMURA: The reason in Tule Lake, they had the fight is because the Japanese, what we call them, Kibei, remember? Kibei. And they didn't like what was going on in this country, they were more oriented to the Japanese side, that's why they started the...

KIDO: Well, see...

TERAMURA: ... and us guys were American born and didn't went to Japan, see.

KIDO: Well they were American born but they grew up in Japan, see.

TERAMURA: But yeah, they grew up in Japan. Japan and then they came back you know.

KIDO: They spoke Japanese fluently.

TERAMURA: Yeah.

KIDO: And broken English.

TERAMURA: And it made them mad, see, so, well that had tanks and everything there at that time.

KIDO: Yeah those guys.

TERAMURA: Yeah.

KIDO: Boy, they were bad. They didn't care.

TERAMURA: I don't know if anybody got killed or not but we heard about it you know.

KIDO: We were joining up and we were trying to imitate them, ha ha. But...

YOUNG: Do you remember anything happening in Nyssa or Vale to Japanese?

TERAMURA: Here?

YOUNG: Yeah, getting into fights or...

TERAMURA: Oh once in awhile you heard them, well the bunch that got in a fight was the first bunch that came here. They were all single and they were really an ornery bunch and even back home they were ornery. I know some of them you know.

KIDO: Yeah, yeah, that...

TERAMURA: They're all gone now, but. They were much older than we were.

KIDO: There gangs back home.

TERAMURA: And they came... there were, well, yeah.

KIDO: Yeah.

TERAMURA: They were ornery back home!

KIDO: Yeah, yeah.

TERAMURA: They were already ornery back home and they came here, they're the only one that created a little problem, but that bunch, I don't know what happened but they all went over to Spokane. And it was an opening over at Spokane, so they all went up there. Most of them were single, you see.

KIDO: They were kind of, they stuck together.

TERAMURA: Yeah. There was about eight or nine or ten of them. Remember they took, they stuck together.

KIDO: Yeah, yeah.

TERAMURA: They were a bunch, it's just like a gang, you know.

KIDO: Yeah like a gang.

TERAMURA: We didn't like it, us guys; our family didn't like that like you know.

YOUNG: Did they ever create problems in the camp?

TERAMURA: Yeah we didn't want to create any problems.

KIDO: Well they could but all of us guys, we backed off, huh?

TERAMURA: Yeah.

KIDO: We didn't.

TERAMURA: Yeah, well, we're lucky that we did back off.

YOUNG: And you weren't scared to volunteer? Yas, to come to Nyssa by yourself?

TERAMURA: What?

YOUNG: You weren't scared to...

TERAMURA: Me? I wasn't scared. I've been here before the war too, the first time and I knew this country a little bit. And I was, I've been on my own all my life anyway, even back home I was on my own. Then the reason I was on my own is because my mother had to live in town, try to make ends meet. And she worked in town and we had a vegetable stand on the Yamhill Market, Yamhill, on the Yamhill, the old Yamhill Market.

YOUNG: Yeah, I know that market, mm hm.

TERAMURA: Yeah the Yamhill and then they built that big Yamhill and Journal Building bought them out and Mrs. Jackson is the one. And she live about a mile from our place, they had a summer home there and two years ago, I went back and visited and the summer is still there. And I, when I was going through, see I went to school after I graduated high school, I went to a trade school in Portland. And I lived with two old maids, I guess I call them; Mrs. Rob and Mrs. Jackson's house was about oh... may be about a hundred feet away and they used to be the dog race place. Mount Loma Stadium, it's all highway now but, you probably won't remember. I lived in Portland Heights here and the Mount Loma Stadium was down here. And I could see the Mount Loma Stadium. In October of 19, October 1941, um, National Guard and everybody had a big display. They brought all the tanks and everything to that Mount Loma Stadium and showed, you know, showed how, kind of power we had and then in December of, December the 5th of 1941, Ambassador Nomura came from Japan and Mrs. Jackson called me over to meet him and I shook hands with this Ambassador from Japan. The other Ambassador landed in San Francisco. And so, he talked good English you know, this Ambassador so I asked him, "What are you doing?" Oh he said, "I got to fly out to Washington, D.C.," and that was December the 6th, December the 7th they started the war. I think they had that thing all planned but I shook hands with this Ambassador Nomura. And, she was, he was visiting Mrs. Jackson, she, they owned the Journal Building, you probably, you weren't born yet but...

YOUNG: No, I know all that history though.

TERAMURA: ... and then that Journal Building, the Journal people bought the old Yamhill you know, right along Front Street.

YOUNG: Right, yeah.

TERAMURA: And they tore it all down, it's a high way now. That is where my mom used to, you know, stand there all day long and selling. So she lived in town. She'd come home may be once a week, sometimes once a month. She'd come so, I grew up with my dad and I was all my own all the time. It didn't bother me any.

KIDO: Is it just you boys?

TERAMURA: Huh?

KIDO: Or just uh, Kay, you and Kay, that's all?

TERAMURA: Yeah, my sister was Japan, one of them was, and one of them was over here and she came back from Japan in 1938 and they're all gone except I have one sister, she'll be ninety-seven in April the 23rd, she'll be ninety-seven. She lives in Portland you know, she lives in the care center place in, the house and building, she owns the building and property I don't know, she got the land leased out but, she had a beautiful home it just all went to heck. No body lived in it, see. I don't have nothing to do with it, my nephew takes care of all that, so. I don't know, that property, right on the Clackamas River.

YOUNG: Yeah.

TERAMURA: You know where the Clackamas River is?

KIDO: When you were ordered to go to the assembly center...

TERAMURA: Huh?

KIDO: ... did you guys lose your farm and everything and your equipment?

TERAMURA: No, we brought the equipment over here, my brother did.

KIDO: See we, they wouldn't let us.

TERAMURA: We brought all of our tractors and whatever we had. We had Swiss family, store it for us, real nice family, we knew them from back 1930 on, you know, they were. And I can remember when we moved over there in 19... my dad rented that place in 1929 and I think the rent was around \$30 an

acre and we couldn't pay the rent so my dad went to the Swiss family, we never even knew them, borrowed a \$100 dollars and we lived on that hundred dollars until we got enough stuff growing you know, we grew greenhouse products and paid it back. The Swiss family they were really nice people. They're other one that store all of our equipment when we moved out you know.

KIDO: We had tractors and everything and um, the Italian...

TERAMURA: You guys lost everything.

KIDO: ... yeah the Italian family offered to keep our. We had a brand new Buick too, 41' and went back after the war and nothing there. Somebody had ripped it all off.

YOUNG: Were you owning or leasing land?

KIDO: We owned our farm.

YOUNG: And you lost everything?

KIDO: Yeah.

YOUNG: It's sad.

KIDO: I don't know how, my oldest brother took care of all that and I didn't know what went on but. But everything, us kids want to do you know, like, ask questions about that, my folks would just say, "No, no, hush up, just be quiet, don't make trouble." You know.

YOUNG: I think this is the photo that someone identified, your brother Hiro, but he wasn't, you said he wasn't on the camp.

KIDO: For gosh sakes.

TERAMURA: He was never in the camp, was he? Was he?

KIDO: Well he went to Nebraska and worked on a chicken farm.

TERAMURA: Yeah, I never did see him, so.

YOUNG: Hm. It seems hard to tell.

KIDO: I didn't remember that. So you talked to Hiro, huh already?

YOUNG: I talked to Scott, your nephew.

KIDO: Scott, yeah, yeah.

YOUNG: Yeah and I sent him all the photos for Hiro to look and see if he knew anyone.

KIDO: Mm.

TERAMURA: Hm. Boy he took a lot of pictures, didn't he?

YOUNG: He did. And he also went; there were other FSA camps for Japanese in Rupert, Shelley, and Twin Falls, Idaho.

TERAMURA: Mm hm. Well the...

KIDO: Well, that's where we were heading, Yas?

TERAMURA: There was a FSA camp in Caldwell too, see.

YOUNG: Mm hm, right.

TERAMURA: I stayed there for awhile in 1944, and then, then, farmer come along and he says, "Oh move over to my place and work for me," so I went over there until I got drafted into the Army in Holmdel. So I worked for him for, and he said, "You don't have to cook, you can eat with our family." And so, that's what I did. Anything for a buck, ha ha! I needed to work or I didn't eat, so. That's the way it was.

YOUNG: Do you remember the evacuation order?

TERAMURA: Huh?

YOUNG: Do you remember the evacuation order? That when you were sent the assembly center in Portland?

TERAMURA: Yeah, I think we got...

KIDO: I think he...

TERAMURA: ... I think it was around May... it had to be about the 5th of May that we went. Our people that took over our farm, we rode on the backend of the truck and went to Gresham and that's where we met and they took us on the school bus and they put us in the camp at Portland Assembly Center. And he took us, you know, our family, well all of them, he took us to Gresham and that was kind of a, round, all the people from there, the

government took us on the bus to the Portland Assembly Center and that's when we go, when we got in there, that was it see. We couldn't get out.

YOUNG: What was it like?

KIDO: Yeah this assembly center was, it was a Pacific...

TERAMURA: Yeah.

KIDO: ... Pacific...

TERAMURA: Pacific International Livestock.

KIDO: ... Livestock, yeah, yeah, yeah.

TERAMURA: They called it. Right out, right there by Jantzen Beach, it's still there, I think.

KIDO: Is it still there?

TERAMURA: Yeah.

KIDO: Really?

TERAMURA: Yeah, they still have a livestock show and stuff there. Same place. The golf course is right there too.

YOUNG: Where did you sleep?

TERAMURA: Huh?

YOUNG: Where did you sleep in the assembly center?

KIDO: Makeshift cots.

TERAMURA: We had a room smaller than this and there was five of us, and we had to make bed into the bread, what they called it, the bread bag and it was straw. We stuffed it with straw and that's what we slept on, stock of straw and straw would prick and poke you in the back. Can you imagine what we had to do? Bread bag. They give us bails of straw and we poked at it and that was our bed. And some of us had cots, remember?

KIDO: Yeah we had cots.

TERAMURA: Yeah some of them had cots.

KIDO: I think we were privileged, I don't know why but, we were.

TERAMURA: Regular old cot.

YOUNG: What could you take with you to the assembly center, anything?

KIDO: No firearm of course but...yeah.

TERAMURA: The only thing we could take was, whatever you can carry. I still got my suitcase with a number on it and everything. At home. It was, you know the evacuation number and everything, I still got my suitcases.

KIDO: My dad just bought me a BB gun, a brand new one, and they took that away from me.

TERAMURA: Well...

KIDO: They just went through our house like, you can't believe, they just opened everything and...

TERAMURA: I lost, I lost, my dad bought me a 22-Special, Remington, brand new one, they confiscated that and I went back after I come out of the Army, somebody took it.

KIDO: No way.

TERAMURA: No more.

KIDO: Who would...

TERAMURA: And that was a little, they don't even make them anymore, that was a 22-Special, Remington, brand new one! And I just had it about a year. They took that, well we had to turn it in. And all the, a short wave radio, we had to turn those in, remember?

KIDO: Yeah, yup.

TERAMURA: And we went, when my brother-in-law went back in '46 to the courthouse to pick it up, none. Somebody stole it all.

YOUNG: So, people came to your house and went through your belongings while you were there?

KIDO: Yeah.

TERAMURA: Some of them did.

KIDO: Mm hm, it depended on your political standing in the community. If you're on the upper end of these people, boy you got sent to either Tulle Lake or, where? Arizona, yeah, Arizona, was it?

TERAMURA: Well one thing about, I'm not saying 100% but one thing about the Japanese, over 90% of them never, they were quiet, they didn't do, they didn't retaliate, they didn't fight, they just went you know, quietly and that's the way our parents. Remember? Parents...

KIDO: Oh yeah.

TERAMURA: ... keep your mouth shut and just go quietly.

KIDO: Just shut up and do what they tell you.

TERAMURA: Yeah, and that's the way it was.

KIDO: But, you know...

TERAMURA: That's why in one of the books, it says, a quiet America. I have a book at home, I got a lot of them, you know. I got a whole bunch of books, different ones.

YOUNG: Do you remember how you volunteered at the assembly center to go to Nyssa, did someone talk to you about it?

TERAMURA: No. The sugar beet, I can't remember that guys name, the field man came over there and they had a table like this and we signed up. Anybody over eighteen could sign up and we signed up. And I signed up and then, and the next day or two, all the people that signed up went... and that was, it was only uh, his family, Morishita family, and the Kato, Saito family, and the Kido family, that was the only three family. And it was a couple of bachelors and myself and I remember Moose Kuribayashi, him and I came. He came so I came. We were both nineteen years old. And we came out here you know.

YOUNG: What did you think when you came to the campsite?

TERAMURA: Here?

YOUNG: Yeah.

TERAMURA: The next day we was working, that's all I know. We were out there trying to make a buck.

YOUNG: Did you have to build your own tents or were there tents already there?

KIDO: There were tents already there.

TERAMURA: The tents were there. Except, except when it rained, it, we only had the tent was one, what you call, and when it rained they finally gave us another cover to put over the top so that the rain wouldn't come into it. Yeah, we used to sleep on a wet bed you know, when it rained. Ha ha!

KIDO: Wet clothes.

TERAMURA: Remember?

KIDO: Boy. Yup.

TERAMURA: But nobody, nobody ever created any problem, very...

KIDO: If you made noise, boy.

TERAMURA: Huh?

KIDO: If you made noise and complained, Sonny Takami.

TERAMURA: Yeah, he...

KIDO: Ring our necks.

TERAMURA: ... he had us straightened out.

YOUNG: What was he like? He was a big man?

TERAMURA: Oh he's big!

KIDO: Yeah.

TERAMURA: Bigger than most of us Japanese. You didn't want to fight him, ha ha!

KIDO: Oh no! Especially us kids, we were just, he really scared us, but.

TERAMURA: Yeah he was a heck of a, really a nice guy. Yeah, he'd do anything for you.

KIDO: He was a, he talked rough, huh?

TERAMURA: Yeah.

KIDO: He talked real rough.

TERAMURA: He saved my life you know?

YOUNG: How?

TERAMURA: Well these, we called them yogilay, you know from California, from San Diego, fishermen and stuff, they were rough guys you know. And uh, they came over there and they only stayed for the lettuce cutting and stuff and they came over there and we had, at the... camp out there. Cow Hollow, they started taking the benches and burning them because they couldn't find no wood and I raised heck. I really cussed them up and down you know. It was wintertime and it was getting cold you know, so, they couldn't find no wood so they started breaking the benches up and I raised heck about it. And they just chased me all around the place. Remember that?

KIDO: Yeah.

TERAMURA: Ha ha! And then Sonny Takami, there was snow on the ground now and I got into the tent and they went and put snow so I couldn't get out. And Sonny Takami came over and rescued me!

YOUNG: I did hear that story; I think I heard that from Reid.

TERAMURA: Yeah Reid knows about it.

YOUNG: And he said that you were... yeah... yelling at them behind the tent to let you out.

TERAMURA: Yeah. Reid's dad told him you know. Yeah.

YOUNG: Who else were you good friends in the Nyssa camp that you remember? You were friends with the Saito brothers, right? Close with the Saito family.

TERAMURA: They, Reid Saito.

YOUNG: Right, with Kayno...

TERAMURA: And the Morishitas, and uh, well there was quite a few and Fukiages were there.

YOUNG: There's a photo of the Fukiages.

TERAMURA: The Sugais were there.

YOUNG: Okay.

TERAMURA: And... God I can't remember, Takamis were there, that always see their family there. And who else? There was a few single guys there too but, most of those single guys, I don't know what happened, they went to Spokane.

KIDO: They kind of drifted.

TERAMURA: Huh?

KIDO: They kind of drifted off.

TERAMURA: Yeah, they drifted off. Went to, a lot of them went to Spokane. And, I went to visit a friend of mine in Spokane after you know, in 1943 and I saw some of those guys up there.

YOUNG: Did you, either of you live in Cow Hollow?

KIDO: I did.

TERAMURA: I lived in Cow Hollow for a little bit.

KIDO: We lived there quite awhile.

TERAMURA: They did, yeah.

TERAMURA: What was that like?

KIDO: Well, they didn't bother you, you know, if you behaved then, but you know, um, they had, what do you call it? The... the barracks.

TERAMURA: Well actually it's a CCC camp.

KIDO: CCC camp, yeah that's what it was.

TERAMURA: Yeah. See, Roosevelt started those during the Depression time when they started building these canals, you know, wide ditches and stuff, CCC boy built there. The reason Roosevelt started that back in the '30s is to get the people to work and then, and then they economy start to get better and better all the time, see as the time went on. I can remember 1929, when old Herbert Hoover got in the President, October 1st all the banks closed up. The only bank that was open and I can remember was First Interstate Bank. I was almost seven years old, I can remember that. For three days, you couldn't get a penny out of the bank. And then, Herbert Hoover, I can

remember, he did something and got some of the banks opened up, you know, to get the money circulated. All the people just went crazy, you know, they couldn't get their money out. But, the Swiss money family, he never put the money in the bank. And so, I asked him one time you know, I was just a little kid yet and I said, "How come?" He said, "The bank no good," he says, "I got my money at home." And they were really conservative people you know, real nice people. And I used to be, when I was about eight or nine years old, I used to be their water boy for their threshing crew, the reason I was the water boy, I liked the food that they had at noontime. Man, did they have food! Ha ha!

KIDO: Oh they feed good! I was on the combine team.

TERAMURA: Yeah, yeah, oh we had potatoes and mashed potatoes and everything. You know.

KIDO: Yeah, the thing I remember though of that CCC camp was those rednecks out of Cow Hollow, you know, boy they were bad.

YOUNG: Those people that lived around the area?

KIDO: Yeah, farmers.

YOUNG: Were they the Cleaver family, I've heard that family.

KIDO: They were bad.

TERAMURA: Cleaver family, yeah, boy they were kind of the ornery ones. Got a lot of...

KIDO: I remember them from school, high school. You know what they did to me when I was a freshman, I was small any way. They would wait for my, our bus to pull in and as you got out, they grab one or two of us and take our pants down. And, and, you have a orange in your lunch and they squeeze it on your shorts. And you lived with it all day long.

YOUNG: That's terrible.

KIDO: But you know things they did back then, they'd get arrested by the cops but you know. Boy, you should have seen initiation, you know, uh, sports. Oh man. They had a one-by-six you know, carved out and they'd paddle as you went by and you had to walk by the whole lettermen's team and boom! Boom! They just, man I never hurt so bad in my life.

TERAMURA: Ha.

YOUNG: This is the Morishita girls, it says that this is Anne and Kay and Nancy I think.

KIDO: Yeah that's Kay.

TERAMURA: Oh yeah.

KIDO: Yeah that's Kay.

TERAMURA: Hm.

KIDO: Yup.

TERAMURA: One thing I came over here see, I never knew anything about the Mormon religion see, and I worked for Welford and the old Bybee and you know, I can't ever forget about those people they treated so good you know. And the old Bybee says, "Here's a truck," and I'd never seen him, I fed cattle all winter long. He said, "Here's a cow, here's a truck, and here's a fork," and he said, "You feed the cattle." And he, they were really good people but I never knew anything about the Mormon religion but they never bothered me, they really took good care of me, you know and everybody use to make big fun of the Mormon religion but, you can't do that. That's not right. But they did, I could never forget them you know, the Bybees, well they both passed away. And I think that's the way Kayno Saito got started. Welford Bybee uh,...

KIDO: They called him Griff.

TERAMURA: Welford and the old... got him started.

KIDO: Yeah.

TERAMURA: And Kayno says, "Why don't you go and partner with me," and I says, "No, partner don't work," and so I took off. Then I had a job to work over at Oregon Slope, I made a deal with Mr. Sumida, Mark Sumida on January 1st, December 31st, I worked there a whole year for fifty-cents an hour and I saved enough money to buy me a car and on December 31st, I moved and went to Caldwell camp, well my sister was there and I stayed there for a week. Then I drifted off and then Miosako, Inoway family hired me so I moved over to there. Miosako and I stayed there until Uncle Sam took me into the... and so what happens, Tony Miosako just graduated high school, he was eighteen years old, he went in the Army the same time I did. And, at that time, Uncle Sam and says that one of you guys have to go into the Army. So, Kay Inoway was running the farm and he was the older one and so Tony says, "I'll go on me," you know, in place. See at that time, somebody had to go into the Army, if you just. So, Tony went in the Army

with me. He was only eighteen years old. I can remember him overseas; boy there was about by near a thousand of us, replacement. And every two or three days they'd take, take about a hundred to hundred and fifty to the front line and shake hands, and most of those kids, I was a little bit older than most of them. Most of those kids would be crying. You won't believe it, I'm just tell you the real truth what happened to those kids. They were just kids, they were just eighteen, nineteen years old; they'd shake hand and tears coming down. I can't ever forget that. And I was just one of those lucky guys, I don't know why but I was just shifted around here and there. And I got behind and I went to the frontline two days after Hitler, I mean Germany ceased fire, but the only thing we had to watch was snipers you know. You had to watch the snipers. We had a few that got killed and in had one, one 442 guys burn to death right in front of me and I can't never forget that. I had to cut his shoe off, he got gasoline on him and burned right there. And we took him to the hospital and he died. And he was about twenty-two or three years old. Yeah, and some of those things, I'm just telling you the, I never used to talk about it but I do now, but, some of those things use to bother me and I'd be sleeping and I'd put, you know give my wife a black eye. You know what I mean? Something happens to you, I talk about it now but I never did talk too much about it, but, now I kind of. Even my kids don't know, because I never told them nothing. But they do more and more now. But you'd be surprised, I used to go into the 61st Station Hospital, I seen Dan Inoway in there, you know, no arm, you know. And I used to see young kids in there, forty, fifty of them laying in the bed. You never heard them cry or you never heard them belly ache or anything. No leg, no arm, I tell you, you look at that and boy it's bothers you. Just young kids, they were just, eighteen, nineteen you know. You know, I mean they were all nationalities in there you know and, and, it used to bother me, it still does once in awhile. I don't know why.

YOUNG: That's a horrible thing to go through.

TERAMURA: It shouldn't, but it does.

YOUNG: Well.

TERAMURA: To see those young, you know, young, young kids, well think about the war today. Those kids come with no legs, no arms. Yesterday I saw one with a metal foot you know, boy I tell you. If you stop to think, it's terrible. To me.

KIDO: You know when I was a senior in high school, I, I, you hear about that when I got in a wreck.

TERAMURA: Huh?

KIDO: When I got in a wreck.

TERAMURA: Oh you did?

KIDO: Yeah head-on.

TERAMURA: Oh that's right.

KIDO: On the head like that, and broke both kneecaps, shattered them and somehow I got fixed up, but anyway, that was when I had signed up for the Army because I was, oh what did it say? You got to be, they sent me to Boise for a physical I remember.

TERAMURA: Oh I got in one here. I got in a car wreck, drunk driver; I was only on the highway, nine or ten inches. But I didn't want to hit that tree but he hit me head-on. He died though, he hit me so hard, hit me so hard it took the engine off of that car and landed on his lip, uh, lap. And I was only going about forty-five but... State Police said he must have been going seventy-five or eighty when he hit me. Drunk driver on the wrong side of the road.

YOUNG: So you had a physical and what happened?

KIDO: I flunked.

TERAMURA: Ya' did?

KIDO: Yeah.

YOUNG: So you couldn't get drafted?

KIDO: You know I was kind of about mixed emotions, I was kind of glad I didn't have to go in and but I was sad that I couldn't make it into the Army. But Jim Wada, he took his physical when I did and... he never did leave Kansas. You know he was in the Army for four years. Did you talk to him yet?

YOUNG: Jim Wada?

KIDO: Yeah.

YOUNG: No, I talked to Sumi and Teddy.

KIDO: Oh... the girls.

YOUNG: The girls. Should I talk to Jim?

KIDO: Yeah you might, but Shingo was the head honcho there.

TERAMURA: Who?

YOUNG: Shingo.

KIDO: Wada.

TERAMURA: Oh Shingo.

KIDO: But he's passed.

TERAMURA: My coffee buddies, they all died.

YOUNG: Do you still... I heard that there is an eighty-plus coffee group today that meets at Plaza Inn at 2 o'clock.

KIDO: Really?

TERAMURA: Who?

YOUNG: There's some coffee group, I don't know, Janet...

TERAMURA: I got a coffee group over there at two.

YOUNG: Is that your group? Yeah.

TERAMURA: At 2 o'clock. How'd you know about that?

YOUNG: Janet Kimoto told me, her neighbor told her.

TERAMURA: Yeah my... I haven't been there for a while.

YOUNG: They meet from 2 o'clock until when?

TERAMURA: I haven't been there for a couple weeks and I met one of the guys and he said, "What happened?"

KIDO: It used to be co-op, these guys.

TERAMURA: Well I go to co-op too but this is, this bunch is a different bunch see, it's all, mostly all Caucasian, I'm the only I think I'm the only Oriental in there but the reason I got into this fellow called Bob Peterson was a flight engineer for a B-24 and he got shot down in Hungary. I got his, he wrote a book you know, I got his book. And he got shot down in Hungary, see

they were flying the B-24 into Hungary and trying to break up the oil fuels over there and he got shot down over there and he had to march from Hungary to the, I call it death camp in Germany. 400-and some miles and sometime he says he'd probably get a little bit of water, may be a little piece of bread. And he says, everyday, the older one wanted to die on that 400-mile march. And well, the reason I know about it, the reason I got good friend, because I used to see those B-24 flying. They always flew on Sunday morning you know, over where I was, through Leghorn and they have, I don't know, they come from all over and met right there at Leghorn and they over there to Hungary which is not very far, see. And they meet in a P-38, up there you know, watching so that, and I, you know they don't get... he got shot down and he marched 400 and some miles. He said he weighed about ninety-two pounds when he got out. See he was, he went into the Army before I did but he was a flight engineer and he went through Mount Loma Air Base and he trained there and then he went to Boeing and trained over there you know and then he got to be, he was only eighteen years old when he was on that. And he said they got shot down and he's just lucky to be alive. See the parachute that they got is just a little one you know. He said when he land, he landed pretty hard you know, it's not that big parachute you know it's the little parachute.

YOUNG: When did you move back after the war?

TERAMURA: I came back in 1946 in October, I came within, I came to um, I got discharged at Fort Lewis in, um, Washington and I went from Fort Lewis to my sister. My sister lived in Portland so I went and stayed there for a day or two and then hitchhiked back over to Ontario, my brother was living there. Because my car was there, I gave my car to my brother but and I said, if I don't come back alive, I said, "That's yours," you know, so I came back and picked up my car, you know. And in 1947 I came back, he, I went to Portland looking for a job you know, because I graduated from Diesel Electric Engineering, trade school see, and I was looking for a job. Oh, I found some two-bit job I didn't like and my brother called me, he says, "Come on back and work for me," and so I come back and you know, work for him and made a little money. I told my brother, I says, "I'll borrow your tractor now, plant some lettuce," and I made, I made \$10,000 and I says, "What's the difference?" I said, "Whether you work for someone..." so I started farming. Then I worked for my brother in between, you know. Then finally I told my brother, we was in partner and part of it, I told my brother I says, "When your son comes back, three's no good in the farm," so I said, "We'll split up." You know, but I already had one hundred fifty acres of my own you know, and then I worked for my brother.

KIDO: Three is no good anywhere.

TERAMURA: Huh?

KIDO: Three is no good anywhere, I got two brothers and the three of us tried to farm, no way. Two would gang up on one.

TERAMURA: Well, I've done the arguing with my brother one time you know, my sister-in-law got along good and I says, "You know, I don't care what," I says, "You're a politician." He never was home you know. You know how my brother was, on the road all the time. He'd come home and tell me how to run it. I said, "Either I run the farm or you..." I says, "I'm getting the heck out of here."

KIDO: He was at some meeting or...

TERAMURA: I says, "You only need one boss on the farm." So, we got along good.

KIDO: It's to bad because ours...

TERAMURA: I mean, you know, I consult with him because he, but he took care of all the money you know. So.

KIDO: Our deal was not that congenial. Ha ha.

TERAMURA: Ha ha.

KIDO: Yeah.

YOUNG: And your family stayed in the area once they left Cow Hollow?

KIDO: Mm hm, yeah. Well my brother went to Wilder and started farming. My other brother, he thought he'd be a, start a business and he started trading onions and shipping onions to Japan and...

TERAMURA: He was a broker, wasn't he?

KIDO: Yeah.

TERAMURA: Yeah.

KIDO: But me, I'm just too lazy; I stayed out in the farm I guess.

TERAMURA: I got along good with my nephew and my wife said, "That should've been your son, he's the better than you do..." I don't have any children over here, they all live in, two of them live in Portland and two of them live in Washington.

KIDO: You've got a son, haven't you?

TERAMURA: Yeah, he's the engineer.

KIDO: Mm.

TERAMURA: He got more money than I got. Ha ha. You heard of Precast in Oregon?

YOUNG: Mm mm.

KIDO: Yeah.

TERAMURA: In Portland, Oregon? Precast, right there in uh, Milwaukie I guess, Precast Company. He's an engineer over there but, he's got, he's got a lot of ... him and his buddy got a lot of patents so. He makes a lot of money.

YOUNG: Well, let's, we can wrap up, is there anything else you guys want to share with me about the Nyssa camp? Ha ha.

TERAMURA: Yeah.

KIDO: Yeah it was different between Yas and me on the Nyssa camp because he was old you know, he's an older young man and I was just a kid having fun you know. At the expense of my folks and all that but, I graduate high school from Nyssa and they begged me to go to college but I was going to farm. You know, dumb me.

TERAMURA: Yeah in the wintertime I went to Boise and set pins for ten cents a line or something like that.

KIDO: Mm hm, some guys...

TERAMURA: Just to make ends make, any place I found a job, it didn't make a difference what I, washed dishes or what, I did it. Either that or I don't eat, you know. Ha.

KIDO: That's one thing I didn't go through. I didn't go through that.

TERAMURA: Yeah but you had a dad and mom though.

KIDO: Yeah, yeah.

TERAMURA: I didn't have anybody.

KIDO: See, they'd slip me a dollar or some... and that would a long ways back then, yeah.

TERAMURA: Yeah twenty-five-cents will buy a lot of stuff you know.

KIDO: Real bad, huh? But, its kind of well... it brings back memories.

TERAMURA: Well and then I came back from the Army and I came back in 40, in 1947 I got involved with a um, Department of Agriculture, the, this fella called Neil Hoffman was the superintendent of the Ag. Division down here and I got kind of involved with him so, I got kind of involved with Oregon State College you know, quite a bit and uh, and then this Dr. Comstad, well, him and I got to be, he was a professor at Oregon State College and him and I got to be pretty good friends and any time they were working on different grain crops, I'd raise, and evaluate it you know, for him, we worked together see. That's on the Stevens wheat, you probably never heard about it, but the Stevens wheat is a prominent wheat right here, right now, all over the you know northwest here, that's the number one wheat. And that took ten years to develop that wheat. And, I did a lot of experiment, you know on the farm for Dr. Comstad and him and I got to be pretty good, he was a professor there but he, he had cancer and he passed away but. And uh, this Neil Hoffman and I, superintendent of the Ag. Department right here in Ontario and him and I came out of the Army after I started farming and I got involved with him you know. And I got kind of interested in all that kind of stuff. I'm not saying, I kind of helped him out in doing, they had projects you know what I mean, different trials and stuff and we worked with them, that's how come I got with Oregon State. And then I got while I graduated from Ag., I mean Nyssa High School, I mean Oregon City High School I graduated. Turner Bong was, he came over here and when I come out of the Army, I went up to the extension and I seen my ex-teacher Turner Bong sitting there. And, so I involved in it and then finally I really got interested in farming and you know.

KIDO: You guys ever smell onion in the air? Down here? Oh, well, we had, the farmers, the county got after all the farmers, don't dump your cold onions locally on the ground, disease factor, and uh, so, I don't know, I stumbled around and I stumbled across onion oil and I, that's how I started the oil. I think I to where we sold it, New York and the Dutch people from Holland they had a whole world in their hand and here I am a little dingy guy trying to break into the onion... but anyway, they gave me a break. The buyer, McCormick Shilling you know and they helped me a lot and that's the onion oil plant out there now. The Dutch bought it from me, and so.

TERAMURA: Well prior to the war, before the Japanese came in, they raised a little bit of onion but, but now we are probably the number one, ain't it?

KIDO: Yeah.

TERAMURA: Growing onion in the United States and uh, we did a lot of work you know, the Japanese people. I won't say all Japanese people did but I mean, they are the ones that got this country started with onions you know and now it's pretty big. See I'm the one that developed the rod weeder for the onion you know.

KIDO: Lifter.

TERAMURA: Huh?

KIDO: Onion lifter.

TERAMURA: Onion lifter, yeah, rod weeder for lifting onions, these guys lifting with a blade and you get all the mud and dirt and stuff from...

KIDO: Cut, slice the onion.

TERAMURA: ... and I got the rod weeder and the reason I got that started is because I went to Napa and these German people had a rod weeder that they used to work up the ground you know, and I got thinking. And I came back and I says, "Gee, that knocked all the weeds out, why can't that work in the onion field?" Now its...

KIDO: You did that, growers around here owe you a big favor Yas.

TERAMURA: Well, I'm not trying to brag and that's the way a lot of things get started you know. Somebody starts it you know, but I was, one that... that year that I had the onion lifter started, everybody come over and wanted to buy the you know, equipment, now they got different, better ones now, I got this out of Colorado. Pueblo, Colorado and I wrote a letter to this guy and he was a... I don't know what nationality he was. Boy he was a really nice guy, he sent, he says, "Don't worry, your money's alright," he says, "I'll send you the onion." And I sold about fifteen or twenty that first year! Now they got better ones, you know what I mean, that was original, the start you know. A lot of things get started that way, see. And, I'm not trying to brag that I did it but.

KIDO: Somebody should start some place.

TERAMURA: That's the kind of thing I like to do you know, I'm always thinking about, I'm still doing this dumb things all the time.

KIDO: In the shop. Yas and I are alike that way, I like to work in the shop.

TERAMURA: Yeah, he likes that. He's the same way. Ha ha. He makes truck beds. Ha ha. Good attitude.

YOUNG: That sounds like a good place to stop.

END OF INTERVIEW

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