

## Fumiko Hayashida

Tape 2 of 2

**Question:** It's interesting, because you mentioned you had relatives in Los Angeles.

**Answer:** uh, huh.

**Question:** But now, they didn't have to go to the camps?

**Answer:** They went to, they did, I'm sure, but they were in camp.

**Question:** But when you wrote them, 'cause you said they helped you...

**Answer:** Well, we were the first to evacuate. Very first. We reach there in April. We didn't know what the camp was like, but no. Scared. I think that, I looked so serious because you're so worried. We don't how long we going to be there, when we gonna come back. We had, my husband like hunting. We had dog. We had horses. Have to say good-bye to them, too. No fun.

**Question:** How old are you there in that picture.

**Answer:** 28, I think. Somewhere around there. 30, 28. It must have been, yeah. 29,'cause my youngest that was born in camp just turned 60. My baby, 60!!

**Question:** But still your baby.

**Answer:** Oh, still my baby. When he was born, this man came and say, Oh, it's a boy and he says, Oh, he be just right for next war, and I said, What the heck you saying, you know. But, you know what, he went to Vietnam war. He was drafted, came home, wounded in the leg from your own men. It's been that way, they're luck I suppose, this other was enemy, but didn't, he was in American Lake hospital for quite awhile. He's ok now. But it just changes character altogether. That's what makes me so mad.

**Question:** From before Vietnam.

**Answer:** Before. And he would never see any war picture, and his friends know that, too, so war picture, nobody see it with him.

**Question:** It's interesting, because that's, they're hoping that the next part of this project will be to start with Korea and also do Vietnam, because again, it was a different war than World War II, and it's interesting to hear you describe the change in your son.

**Answer:** That's, the other thing is to say, my daughter did well in school. She always had A. She got in University, and but he was sensitive child, anyway. Real sensitive, quiet. People used to say, She and Leonard, you couldn't believe they're sister and brother, ' cause they just like black and white. She's real outgoing girl all the time, and he's real quiet. And the, after the war, after he came back. He didn't even want to talk about it with me.

**Question:** It's interesting, looking at this picture here to see such a interesting contrast there between you and your daughter, because look at how serious and concerned and worried you are, and here's this innocent little child that's just sleeping in your arms.

## Fumiko Hayashida

Tape 2 of 2

**Answer:** Yes, it was her naptime.

**Question:** The children that had to...

**Answer:** We're just walking from one place to another, and but after we went to the internment camp, well, he, it's all wood floors, see. It was a knothole, and 'course my husband, too, he didn't want her to walk because she'll get a sliver. He says, you know, She won't want to walk because not rug, you know. She's scared. She'll just curl her legs, and my husband had to carry her all the way. Well, couple months before she finally decided she better walk. Everything was different.

**Question:** It's interesting, and they were too young to really remember it, but I think that that was, if they remembered it, and somebody'd say, talking about childhood, and somebody'd say, Oh, I remember a birthday party.. dah, dah, dah, and if they were a little older they'd say, Oh, I remember being in a prison camp, and I'm sure that somebody (your mailman just dropped your mail off), that it would be somebody wouldn't understand. They'd say, You were what? You were where? Prisoner camp.

**Answer:** She didn't know.

**Question:** And again, you see the mother protecting the innocent little child there, and taking on the weight of the world.

**Answer:** Oh, yeah. I was scared. I was scared.

**Question:** Do you remember the first time seeing that picture? Did that end up in the newspaper?

**Answer:** It was in a magazine. I was surprised, you know, and my nephew said, Auntie, your picture's in the magazine. I said, What! What picture? She says, it's you. I know it's you in that, and so, it was a photography magazine, and at that time, I thought maybe pictures taken with lightning.. lighting or something. That's why it was in there, and then I couldn't figure out. I didn't know. Then next time, I was called from Washington D.C. and ask me if it was me in the poster. I didn't know what poster they were talkin' about, and then that one of my cousins distant relative, girl worked at Washington D.C., government, and so she asked her mother. She thought it was me, asked her mother, and her mother called me again. She said, Well, I don't know what you're talkin' about, but I understand there was a picture in a magazine. And then first they thought it was my sister. She knew right away it was me. I say, Well, and after I saw this picture I says, It is me, and I didn't know, then it came out in PI and after that, then the pictures start coming. At first, they didn't know who it was, so when I identify myself, that's when they were excited that it was me.

**Question:** What was the poster?

**Answer:** Well, all kinds of poster, uh,huh.

**Question:** so posters, I mean, more recent, or back then?

**Answer:** They all the same one.

## Fumiko Hayashida

Tape 2 of 2

**Question:** You're famous. I mean, really. I mean, you've been a big part of history, because I've seen that in books and, you know, more recent historic books, and...

**Answer:** Yes, I have picture with my daughter now and then, too, someplace. I have some that, so I was honored guest for different occasion. I have traveled to, they've had like Las Vegas, Reno, Oregon. Oregon was the first show they had, and I was know as Mystery Girl, Mystery Lady, and so the other museum people travel by regular plane, but they wouldn't let me go on regular plane, because they want to keep it a secret. So I had a little two.. plane, went to Portland, got off and put me in another small plane down to Bend, Oregon, and there was a lady waiting for me, and after that with a corsage and all, but I couldn't go with other people. They kept me in separate car, and after got to this auditorium, why they put me on the screen, and they introduced me, the Mystery Girl. After that, other museum had me as a guest. I have some papers that I had, different places I went.

**Question:** See this is what I liked when I saw Frank speak, 'cause Frank, when he showed pictures, some of them came from a magazine or book, and originally it just said Japanese woman or Japanese-American woman and child, and Frank went through and said, That was my buddy so-and-so that I grew up with and we used to go get pop together, and this is my auntie and this is so-and-so, and put names with the people, which made it so much more real to what was going on and created a whole new empathy for what was there.

**Answer:** Surprising to me, even, Frank, he was only 3 or 4, and of course he studied and asked where mother, I mean grandma. She has a older sister, and her mother, too, I guess, that's how he learn. 'Cause she, too, was young. Same age as my son Neil. But he studied, I think.

**Question:** 'Cause he shows, I love the little pictures of him, 'cause he's got. He's easy to find 'cause he had a little hood on a lot of times when he was going down to the boat. You see that little face popping out there. That's amazing, I mean, again, you see these famous photos that have been a part of history used over and over again that people don't, they're just an icon, and as I said, I've seen that picture many times. And now, to know that was you that was there and you were just at a place in history that.

**Answer:** I was lucky. I didn't do anything.

**Question:** Lucky in some ways. Unlucky in other ways. I mean, the fact of what was happening.

**Answer:** uh, huh. At that time. But it was frightening time. Yeah. And I came back and then, oh, everything had changed, and we had to start all over again. This time with the children around, and so it was rough for my husband, I know, but he didn't complain. He never complain.

**Question:** Is this area, was this a Japanese community?

**Answer:** Oh, I wouldn't know, a community or not, but there were many Japanese on Beacon Hill, uh, huh, 'course I lived on Bainbridge all the time. I don't know. All my friends I made after I came to, through children or, you know. But,

## Fumiko Hayashida

Tape 2 of 2

**Question:** Did your sister live on Okinawa during the war? Is that what you said? In Okinawa itself.

**Answer:** Okinawa?

**Question:** Did she ever talk to you about what happened about what it was like when the Americans invaded

**Answer:** Between us, we didn't talk too much, 'course we knew daily things. They were busy, too, with their children. And, we all had. My sisters had, oh, about the same age. All the cousins are about the same age, so the kids got along, and we just, until they start talking about the internment, but by that time, my sister was ill, or I wish I could have asked them more questions. I think they know better. They were older, and my one sister lived in Seattle, so her situation was altogether different from us. She had rough time, too, 'cause her husband was a Japanese newspaper editor, so 'course he was interned way before the family, and so was all my other brother-in-laws. They were all interned, went to Montana internment camp there, and that was before we evacuated, so, oh, my sister had rough time. But I had my husband, so I left everything to him.

**Question:** The ones that ended up in Montana earlier, they were the ones supposedly the government felt were more of a threat.

**Answer:** Because they were born in Japan, I guess.

**Question:** And then to be, I suppose, to be a newspaper editor, people feared that he would be writing propaganda and

**Answer:** mmmm,hmmmm. Yeah. He was put into a real prison. She said, In that camp, we had people from South America and other countries, too, so it's hard to decide. Mostly because they were born in Japan, I think.

**Question:** It's interesting, too, because there was a line that was drawn, and if you lived on this side of the line and were Japanese or Japanese-American, we put you in a camp, and if you lived on this side of the line, then it was ok. So, like in the Tri-Cities area, Richland, Kennewick, and I can't remember which way, but if you lived in Kennewick, no worry, but if you lived in Richland, you were put, I mean, 5 miles apart.

**Answer:** That's right. Some of the, I know couple families from Bainbridge that moved to Moses Lake, so they didn't go to internment camp, and we were invited, you know, and they say, You want to go with us, but my husband say, No, children are too young. We want to stay with the government. We won't leave. Won't go along, stay with government. But there's rumors like, American or not, want to ship you all back to Japan, so that was kind of scary.

**Question:** That's the rumors had to be extremely scary, because that's it, you didn't know what was going to happen.

**Answer:** They don't give you citizenship after you born or something, so...

## Fumiko Hayashida

Tape 2 of 2

**Question:** Somebody I interviewed talked about their fear was that when they got to wherever, they were going to take them off the train and just shoot them. They were about 12 years old when they...

**Answer:** Oh, yeah. They could say anything, I guess. I thought they were more or less protecting us, too. You never know what would have happened to some if we did stay.

**Question:** That's the sad thing, 'cause we do have some stories of one woman who had just gotten out of the movie theater in Seattle and was walking up the hill and never heard anything bad. She was, I think, maybe 10 years old, and somebody drove my her right after Pearl Harbor, and yelled You Stupid Jap, and threw something at her. She didn't know A; what it meant, and what was going on. A 10-year-old girl. That's the sad part, 'cause there is that part of society that...

**Answer:** Oh, sure, sure, in anything. Some must had bad experience with them, you know.

**Question:** Well, and it was, I think there also was that fear of difference.

**Answer:** Oh...

**Question:** 'Cause see now I come from German ancestry. Well, my relatives wouldn't be picked up because, you know, if you saw a Kraut you'd say, Well, they're white. But being Japanese, Japanese-American, because it looked different, it was easy for them to say, but again, a lot of people just brush stroked if they saw a Native American, they'd say, Oh, must be Japanese, because they had darker skin, and so, you know, it's just I think ignorance. Fear of difference might have been some of the things, and then rumors of the other side that get stirred up.

**Answer:** Oh, sure. Gets bigger and bigger.

**Question:** My Dad was a young boy in high school, he was down in Menlo California, and when Pearl Harbor happened, they had a Japanese janitor. They really liked the guy, but they were sure that he was a spy. After Pearl Harbor, you know, so these little high school kids started yippin and yappin and you know, it's just, like you said, rumors become very dangerous. Well, again, thank you very much.

**Answer:** Yeah. Thank YOU. I hope I was help.

**Question:** It was a pleasure, 'cause it's again, finding lots of different aspects of stories and people's personal experiences of what they faced. I mean, knowing about you and your daughter going in and, I mean, little things, like her not wanting to walk and your husband worried about her getting splinters.

**Answer:** Oh, that's true.

**Question:** Diapers, and I'm still thinking about the ham can.

**Answer:** Yeah. We made it a potty.

**Question:** See now if you had that today, it would be an antique.