

Interviewee: Stony Tsutomu Nakano

Interviewer: Lisa Uyeda

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*Note that this interview contains outdated terminology regarding immigrants and Indigenous people.

[Start]

Stony Tsutomu Nakano: I'm not very experienced.

Lisa Uyeda: That's okay you're doing wonderful so far-

STN: I'm not good at public speaking but just one, one person it's not bad, but you know it's hard to go out in a crowd and talk, you know.

LU: Mm-hm. Uh oh.

STN: Yeah, Dana had something like that, and she had it hanging on the mirror, so she recorded quite a few things-

LU: Oh yeah--

STN: And say as you drive.

LU: That's perfect- oh. Well, that one didn't work. Mm-hm, too bad. Okay. Well, so I think we're all set. You okay?

STN: I'm okay.

LU: Perfect. So, this is an interview with Stony on August 31st, 2010. And would you like to start off by telling us where you born and when you were born?

STN: I was born in Ruskin in the Fraser Valley March the 29th 1921 and Mrs. Kay Natsuhara was my midwife. And uh.

LU: You even remember the name [laughs].

STN: Yeah, yeah, I think I think she might be buried in Whonnock [town in BC] I think-

LU: Oh wow--

STN: But we didn't use to go to the hospital to have a baby they used to do it at the home, eh. Ms. Natsuhara was my midwife, and it is on my birth certificate too. Yeah.

LU: Oh wow. And how many siblings do you have?

STN: I have eight brothers and sisters. And six of us are still living today. And we all get together and play cards and everything, but after my big sister passed away, we don't get together so much now. And big brother and big sister passed away and six of us are still living- Within one hour we could all get together. A birthday party and things like that. And uh and-

LU: So, are the other siblings younger than you?

STN: [nods] Yeah, I'm the oldest son left now.

LU: Yeah.

STN: Yes.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: So, we're very lucky we have good genes I think to- some family, there are eight in the family, and they're all gone. You know, so we're very lucky.

LU: Mm-hm Mm-hm. And what do you know about your father's history? About coming over to Canada and--

STN: Well, my nephew is checking those things out right now but seemed like he came 'round 1907. And I think he went back to Japan to get married and everything, but I think my mother came over in 1917, on the same boat as Ms. Kiyooka the sons became a famous artist and they- I think they homesteaded in O-P-A-L, Opal, near Edmonton. So, because I saw it on the map one time, but I never did get to meet the Kiyooka family.

LU: Mm-hm. Oh wow.

STN: And my father was supposed to be, worked in Britannia Beach where my big brother was born in 1919, I think, yeah. But all the rest of them were born in Ruskin B.C. where my father had a farm, a poultry farm and a strawberry farm.

LU: Mm-hm. And what do you know about your father's family history back home in Japan? Do you know how many siblings he had or?

STN: No, I'm sad to- but we didn't talk to my father too much. He didn't tell us too much about his past, but I know he lived out in the country, and I remember around 1950 he went back to Japan to put a headstone in his relative's graveyard. I remember that, but my mother had a couple of brothers and that but sorry to say I just kept in touch with her until about 1992 when I went back to Japan, and I met her for the first time, but I haven't kept in contact with her since.

LU: Mm-hm. Oh wow.

STN: So.

LU: And was your father the oldest son? Or was he--

STN: No, I don't know anything about that.

LU: Sure, yeah oh wow.

STN: They didn't mention those things.

LU: Do you remember do you know when they were born? Or when they might have been born? When their birthdays were?

STN: No, they were they were Kochi-ken[?]. My mother was from the city of Kochi, but my father was from the country in Kochi City so that's about all we know about it.

[0:05]

LU: Oh wow. And what do you remember about growing up as a young boy?

STN: Well, growing up, you know the family worked together on the farm and they didn't have much time to talk to the children or anything like nowadays they just- they'd say "*binbou hima nashi*", [repeats Japanese phrase], they say.

LU: What does that mean?

STN: Being poor and you haven't got time to talk about those things. Yeah, that's about all. On the farm, raising eight children, I guess it's very hard to have time to talk to your children, you're always busy working. Bringing up the poultry farm and everything else.

LU: Mm-hm. And what kind of activities would you do for fun though? Would you time on the weekends or?

STN: Oh, yes, we made our own toys and played with it, and we used to go to the stream and do some fishing as I grew older and now I still fish for hobby as I grew up, but last five or six years, I haven't been fishing at all. But that is my only hobby I had.

LU: Mm-hm. What kind of toys would you make?

STN: What's that?

LU: What kind of toys would you make?

STN: Well, we just made our- we rolled the tires around and played kick the can or some game that we just- made our own toys and we didn't have any money to buy expensive toys, so we just played with ourselves, hide and go seek stuff like that.

LU: [laughs].

STN: Yeah.

LU: Would you ever play with Japanese game cards or?

STN: Well, I remember playing [Japanese] games on New Years, but we didn't play many games.

LU: Mm-hm.

STN: Yeah.

LU: What kind of chores did you have around the house?

STN: Well, we just- we always had slingshots, I know that, and we all had a bicycle to ride around, and that's about all we did. We just rode around the country or went down to the highway and watched the cars go by. We used to make our own skis, bending them in the bathtub at home, in the Japanese bath, and we used to bend them that way, and go into the barn, and get a harness and make a leather strap to put your foot in it, and stuff like that. We just made our own toys all the way.

LU: Oh, my goodness.

STN: [nods] Yup. Made our own sleigh, yup.

LU: Oh wow. So, it was a strawberry farm--

STN: Strawberry farm and a poultry farm.

LU: And a poultry farm, oh wow.

STN: Yup.

LU: And did you have to take care of the chickens?

STN: [nods]. Yup. The three eldest ones, we had to look after three chicken houses before breakfast, and it's in my story too but you try to tell anybody to any kids nowadays to do something before breakfast, I don't think you'd get a good answer, but we had to- three chicken houses each before breakfast, and that's what we had to do. So, it was- it was tough growing up on the farm, but that's the reason I never was scared of hard work because we were so used to it, we used to pick asparagus before we went to school.

LU: Oh wow. And what school did you go to?

STN: What what?

LU: What school did you go to?

STN: Well, I went to English school from maybe grade one to grade eight and as we grew older- when we were about eight or nine, we went to Japanese school on Tuesdays, and Fridays, and Saturday all day. And then in July or August, we used to

go one whole month every day during the summer holidays. One month, July or August, and we graduated in March, end of March, and that was one school year. And I went to public school eight years and Japanese school eight years, they called it [speaks Japanese] but I could speak Japanese, yet but I can't write the Japanese words very good it just *hiragana* and *katakana*. That's all.

LU: Mm-hm.

[0:10]

STN: It's sad, but after our parents passed away, we didn't have much opportunity to use the Japanese language.

LU: So, you only completed English school until grade eight?

STN: Grade eight and then Japanese school- because the three oldest ones, we had to work on the farm and we could never finish the regular school term till June, we always had to pass on recommendations because we could never finish the school term right until the end of June. We always had to quit to pick strawberries early in the spring.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: Yeah.

LU: So, you'd quite school around April?

STN: [nods] yeah.

LU: April, May?

STN: Yeah, around May we'd quit, and we always passed on recommendation.

LU: Oh wow. Can't do that nowadays.

STN: My fourth brother, he went to high school, and my sister went to high school. But the three of us never went to high school.

LU: And what do you remember about the general store in the town?

STN: I beg your pardon?

LU: What do you remember about the general store?

STN: General store?

LU: Yeah, what did it--

STN: Well, we used to go buy penny candies and stuff like that and we always had to go down to the- near the store to get our mail, so we had to go down- down to Ruskin store pretty near every day to get the mail.

LU: Oh yeah. Oh wow. Did you grow a lot of your own food as well?

STN: Yes, we grew all the vegetables. They always talk about the dirty thirties, when everybody had a hard time, but we were living on the farm and we always had chicken and eggs and we grew all our vegetables, so we don't know the dirty thirties at all. We always were well fed, and we lived a pretty good life on the farm.

LU: Mm-hm.

STN: Yup.

LU: And what about automobiles, or cars, or trucks? When did you receive your first one?

STN: We bought a 1929 Ford Pickup in 1935, and 1936 we bought a 1936 Chevrolet pickup for 811 dollars, and in 1938 we bought a 1938 three quarter ton

International for 1118 dollars. So, I think our farm was doing quite good to be able to buy new trucks every second year.

LU: Mm-hm.

STN: We used to have- we used to haul the strawberries for the village, that's why we had to buy the three-quarter ton truck, and I don't know whether we charged them 10 cents a crate, but we had to haul them all to Mission City.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: [nods] yeah.

LU: And what else would you use the trucks for?

STN: Well, we hauled manure, and then we used to go haul the strawberries, and then we had to go to the box mount to get the boxes, and stuff like that with the truck. But it was mostly chicken manure that we used on the farm. The feed man would come and get the order for the feed and when they delivered the feed during the week they used to collect all the eggs that we grew on the- from the chickens.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: Yeah, that's how it went.

LU: And how long did you stay in Ruskin for?

STN: Until the-May 1942. Just like my story says.

LU: Mm-hm. And what do you remember about your friends growing up in Ruskin? Did you have--

STN: Well, I still- I know they all passed away, but this lady in Squamish is the only Caucasian pupil- student that I went to school with, all the other Japanese people I went to school with, I mostly remember where they all were but sadly everybody's been passing away. But I still keep in touch with friends 90, 91, 95. And I still have a few friends left.

LU: Oh wow. And when the war started where were you when you heard about the war?

[0:15]

STN: I was- I was working- When I was 16, I worked in Yamada sawmill for a couple of years and then went out 1939, 38, 9, I went to Kamimura Logging Camp I was working at Kamimura Logging Camp and it was Sunday morning, December the 7th 1941, we heard the news that Pearl Harbour was attacked by the Japan Army. It was on Sunday morning when I was in the logging camp. Then everything happened after that.

LU: What did everybody say in the logging camp? Because there were probably other people working there who were--

STN: There was one family, right after that, maybe a couple weeks after that, he loaded everything in his car, and he evacuated to Vernon in the Okanagan Valley on his own. He was the only one that I knew that did that. But the rest of us we waited until we got the order from the Security Commission and some went to sugar beets and some went to road camp, but my family- we decided to separate and go- the three boys went to the road camp in May of 1942 and we just stayed in Hastings Park three or four days and then we got on the train and went up to Griffin Lake.

Today, Griffin Lake is- about five years ago, Griffin Lake, where the road camp was, is a bed and breakfast place and I just visited there this year.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: [stands up and walks out of view of camera].

LU: [laughs].

STN: [hands something to LU]

LU: Oh yeah, oh wow.

STN: Yeah. And we stopped in there with my nephew, and we went- we wanted to walk around the lake because that was 1942, so it would be- what month is that, fifty, sixty-eight years ago.

LU: Wow.

STN: So, it was quite a memory to see a nice bed and breakfast place.

LU: [hands a piece of paper to SW]. Mm-hm oh wow. Is that the way it, you remember it? With the big mountains.

STN: No, no, this is the first time I saw it, the first time I went there.

LU: Oh.

STN: Because every time I went by it, I looked- there wasn't even a piece of wood that reminded you it was a road camp. About five years ago, they made this bed and breakfast place.

LU: Oh wow. So, where did the rest of your family go after everybody split up? The men went to work camps and--

STN: Well, I spent- I'm kind of an ambitious type and I didn't want to stay in the road camp very long. I was a logger in British Columbia, so there was about a dozen of us who got a nickel more, everybody was getting 25 cents an hour but I was getting 30 cents an hour because we were loggers and we knew how to fall a tree, but it was too good of a life and I'm an ambitious type, so I left for Alberta, communicating with my friend, and I went out to Alberta with another friend of mine. But everything didn't plan out as we expected. So, I roamed around Alberta for about four years, and I worked in a different logging camps and different farms and I stayed in Alberta- I went to Rocky Mountain House, Slave Lake and Burmis Lumber Company every winter and worked on the dry land farms and Grover's[?] farm, etcetera. And then I came East in 1946.

[0:20]

STN: Because my family was in Tashme and there was a rumour that Tashme was closing up in 1946.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: So, I came East in '46 and came to federal foundries in London and stayed there and worked there about three months, going on weekends to Chatham to find a place for the family in Chatham. And I found a job for the whole family, for my father at the [Reid Seed]? Company. I called all the family from Tashme, so I stayed in Chatham from 1946 to the winter of 1949 and moved to Hamilton, where my brother-in-law lived, and I settled down in Hamilton, getting married in 1951. And I

worked at International Harvester Studebaker. And from 1958 I worked for White Trucks in the parks department until I retired.

LU: Oh wow. And when your family was in Tashme, did you ever visit them?

STN: [nods] I visited them in 1943 and 1946 before I came East.

LU: And what was it like for them living there?

STN: Well, the- I was- It was really crowded. I don't know exactly how many people were there but there must have been about four or 5000, I guess.

LU: And did your family have one house to themselves or--

STN: Yes, it's kind of a- maybe they shared a kitchen or something like that. Oh, it was okay because my ki- my brothers and sisters were younger, so they just went to school at Tashme.

LU: Mm-hm. And did all the- just the three oldest siblings didn't go to Tashme with the rest of the family or?

STN: Yeah, my brother- my brother- oldest brother and younger brother went to work in Revelstoke sawmill and then they went to Montreal. Because- I didn't call them out to Alberta because everything didn't go as I planned it.

LU: What were they doing in Montreal?

STN: They were just working in factories and stuff like that, yeah.

LU: And did you have correspondence with them--

STN: [nods] Yeah.

LU: Pretty frequently or?

STN: Well, I- My dad wanted me to sign up to go to Japan so I did too and then we had to cancel because my dad said no use going to a country that lost the war. So, we cancelled, and we decided to stay here, and that was one of the- I think the best decision my father made. Otherwise, my father wanted me to come with him to Japan because we had younger kids to look after. So, I think that was a good move [laughs].

LU: Yeah. Oh wow.

STN: I went to the homecoming in 1992, and I listened to this seminar and this man told me that when they went on the ship going back to Japan, they had American rations, and they were fed really good. So, when he went to Japan and they were just given kind of a brown biscuit every day, half a dozen every day, just for a meal.

There was nothing to eat. So, he said he didn't like it, so he spit it spitted them all out and he didn't eat anything, and he said he didn't know it, but his mother was picking up these brown biscuits and storing them away. So, luckily, she did, so because three months later he was so hungry he'd eat anything, and the mother brought the brown biscuits out and fed it to them. And when I heard that story, I was thinking I was glad I didn't go back.

[0:25]

LU: Oh wow.

STN: That's what he said, he said he didn't want to eat the biscuits, so he threw them away, but he said the mother was collecting them and he said three months later, there was nothing to eat, he had to eat those brown biscuits. I listened to it at the

seminar in Vancouver, his name was [Miza-miyahu]? and I've seen him mentioned in the Nikkei Voice sometimes, and I think he studied computer in Japan or something he got a good job at the city hall in Toronto. And I think he just passed away recently.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: [unclear-Japanese]? I don't know his first name, but he was a nice-looking man but, boy, he was a good speaker.

LU: Oh wow. So, when you first left, and you were working in Alberta for four years, what kind of jobs were you doing in Alberta? Is that where Slave Lake is or?

STN: Yeah, well, I was in- I did- Summertime I did working on the biggest dry land farmer in 1945 he had 24 sections, and he had a ranch, and I visited the ranch this year for the first time, that 65 years ago. Then I worked at Broders[?] farm running the pea loader during the harvest, and the rest of the time I was plowing the field and stuff like that.

LU: And what were you doing at the ranch? What was your job--

STN: Most of the time I was fixing fence. Fixing fence. Very, very easy job, but it was a monotonous job. And I even branded cattle, and I did cowboy for one half day, driving the herd of cattle down to the- down to the stockyard.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: Yes, I did. You saw my picture [opens a photo album on the desk in front of him, flips through the pages] Yeah, where was that picture [flips pages] branding cattle, harvesting.

LU: Oh yeah. Yeah yeah.

STN: [flipping through pages, looking at photographs].

LU: Where there many other Japanese people working on the farm, or on the ranch as well?

STN: Yeah, we did all the- During the- during the sugar beet season, we did the thinning, and then we did the hoeing, then we did the harvest. But in the wintertime we had to feed cattle down on the farm, so that's the reason I went to the bush camp, and at least we get Sundays off. On the farm you gotta work every day and the ladies all went to housework in Lethbridge, and that's how they made their pocket money, I guess, you know.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: Yup. Men went to the bush camp.

LU: Mm-hm. And then what was it like working on Broder's farm?

STN: Broder's farm?

LU: Yeah?

STN: Well, it was alright. It was just plowing the field in the spring and putting the crop in and then harvested in the fall. And Broder had lot of- big pea farm, and the peas had to harvest- within two hours they have to be in cans. That's how urgent it was because a pea would spoil.

LU: Oh wow. So, was it long hours or?

STN: Oh yeah, we always worked 10 hours on the farm, yeah [looking through photo album].

LU: And um--

STN: Oh, when I was thrashing[?] we'd sat- I mean, we'd harness the horses, and we'd go out pretty near still dark and when we brought the horses back after the thing it was dark again, so they just paid us five dollar a day, but they fed us three times a day, very good.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: Yeah.

LU: And what was the living arrangements like where did you live?

STN: Oh, we just lived in the bunkhouses, yeah. But if it's small farm, We ate with the family at the- in the kitchen. But when you work at a big farm you just have to go to a mess hall. Broder's farm, at the harvest time there were over 100 people working there. Harvest time yeah.

[0:30]

LU: Oh wow. Who would do the cooking?

STN: Well, there'd be a cook there. And when there's a hundred people that you have to cook for, this cook was very, very good and he made good meals. But in the wintertime, when there was just a skeleton crew, he was lazy, and he didn't make us too good of a meal [laughs] yeah, he got lazy. But when there is a hundred people there, he was a good cook. So, I ate all kinds of- You know, in the bush camp, you know, you have- Friday is whitefish and maybe Monday would be sauerkraut and wieners and every day, you know, you had a scheduled meal, eh. So, I ate all kinds of meals.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: But I was the right age, so I experienced everything, you know. I tried everything; I did everything. I think this evacuation, some people might have a grudge against it, but I think it was the best thing that happened to all the Japanese and now there's no discrimination, they're scattered all over, and the younger generations are architects, lawyers, and judges, and there's no limit to what you can become. But us older generation, we didn't have much opportunity because we didn't go- because even if they had a certificate to be a teacher, you couldn't even teach in British Columbia. An- and of course we couldn't even vote, and we couldn't even move around where we wanted to, but now, we're got all the freedom we want, and we could just about go anywhere. I remember, I don't know what year it was, there were about four of us and Milk- we went to see my friend in Milk River. We decided to go see a show in Shelby, Montana. And the custom looked at- we told him what we were and uh in the custom book, they had Japanese listed as enemy alien, and they told us oh well you guys go see the show anyways and I'll let you know if it was okay to let you go or not. But when we came back, he didn't say anything. But in the book, the customs regulation book, Japanese was listed as enemy alien. I still remember that. Shelby, Montana.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: That's the way it was listed.

LU: And did you ever experience any discrimination when you were growing up?

STN: Yes, when I came to London first, before I called the family over, I was brought up on the farm, so I really didn't want to bring the family to the farms, so I walked around London at night just to find a room for rent, places, and I- that's the only time that I noticed discrimination was- The sign was up there, room for rent, but if you go and knock on the door and inquire about it they'll say, "Well, I'm sorry, that room is taken but I forgot to take the sign down." So, I had that kind of experience and that's the only time I really had discrimination.

LU: So how long did it take you find a room for--

STN: No, I didn't. See, it was hard to get into the city with a family. We had to go to a farm. So, I went to Chatham farm.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: You couldn't go into Toronto at that time. Yup.

LU: Oh wow. And so how long did you stay in London for then?

STN: I just stayed there about three months before I moved with the family to Chatham. I just came- we all had to have a job. They paid our fare to come to London, but we always had to have a destination, a job. There was only Hyman Foundry, Hyman Tannery, and Federal Foundry. You know, two of the lowest class jobs that you could- where other people didn't maybe want it, so that's the kind of place they sent us to.

[0:35]

STN: Chatham was the same thing was, uh, uh they call it- lot of Japanese work there, what was it, Darling, they process hides, you know. Hides, cattle hides and stuff like that. And there was a- name was called Darling and every time the wind blew a certain way the whole village- city would smell. [laughs] you know it was that kind of a smelly town.

LU: [laughs]. And what did you do in the federal-

STN: Federal Foundry? I was grinding- grinding steel, there was steel casting there is a flaw in it, and we had to grind it all day. Take the flaw in it yeah, so we were all dirty when we went home. So, we had to take a shower before we went home, but that's the only kind of job that they gave us anyway.

LU: Mm-hm. And how much was the pay?

STN: 52, I worked for 50 cents an hour and three weeks later the foreman come along, "How long you been here?" I said, "Three weeks," and he said, "Ok, you get 52 and a half cents an hour." I asked the guy beside me, he says, "Been there fifteen years" and he said, "52 and half cents an hour." I was getting 55 cents an hour on the Broder Farm and- so I was making better money in Alberta on the farm that was going wages out here.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: Mm-hm [nods].

LU: And then, you moved to Chatham and where were you working in Chatham?

STN: I worked for- I worked on the farm for a couple of years with the family, eh. Yeah. Growing sugar beets and tomatoes and stuff like that. Yeah. Then one winter, me and my friend went up to- they used to call it Fort Williams, now it's Port Arthur

and Fort Williams is Thunder Bay now, eh, but I went up there to Fort Williams in the wintertime and pulp camp.

LU: A pulp camp?

STN: Yeah, it's like, you cut pulp with eight feet long [pipe core]? I went up there for the winter, that was up in Fort William one year.

LU: Oh wow. And what would you have to do though for it?

STN: What? Mm-hm, for paper pulp is what they call it. You cut it at eight feet, and they drive it down the river in the springtime. They put it out in the frozen lake, and they let it go and yeah, down the river.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: That was up in Rocky Mountain House in [the crow's nest?] in the Red Deer. Rocky Mountain House was near Red Deer, in between Calgary and Edmonton out west. Then I was out near Slave Lake, that's a long ways up there. And we'd go up there and every contract we come back on March 31st, end of the season. That was the season. We went up around middle of November and stayed up until Nov- March the 31st. But I did everything.

LU: Mm-hm. Oh wow. And then you said you found a job for your father as well out in Chatham. Was that just on the farm?

STN: [nods] just on the farm.

LU: On the farm.

STN: And then he started working for a roofing company. Roofing company. He worked in roofing company for a while. He came to Hamilton, worked in a roofing company until he was about- Father and them had to work until 70, eh, not 65.

LU: 70?

STN: Mm-hm [nods] olden days it was 70 he had to work 'til. Now, they're retiring at 60, but I worked 'til 65, but my father had to work 'til 70 to get the pension, yup.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: Yeah, a long time ago it was 70. And there was no Canada Pension, eh, it was just Old Age pension. Now, they started Canada Pension there quite a while ago, about twenty years now, I think.

LU: Mm-hm.

STN: Because if you just had Old Age Pension- My father-in-law lived to 101 and he just got Old Age Pension, and he was saying I'm grateful to get Old Age Pension.

LU: He was-

STN: A 101.

LU: Holy.

STN: Yeah, Joan's[?] dad was 101. Yeah.

LU: Wow.

STN: [looks to his left]. We had lot of birthday parties.

LU: [laughs] That would be a lot of birthday parties.

STN: He didn't eat much rice, but he had- he'd have a little bit of sake every day and he have half a roll; they say rice is not good for you, eh. The Chinese doctor tells me to cut down on rice.

LU: I know they tell me too [laughs]. And then when did you come to Hamilton? 1949.

[0:40]

STN: No, I came to- 1949 in December. I started working at the Harvester. And if I started at the Harvester in July, I would've quit the first week. The foundry is one of the roughest jobs I ever did. You know, you pour that steel, that pure white steel, you know, you try to do that in July, or like, today. They'll put the heat- the scrap iron in the furnace, and after we pour the steel at 11 o'clock, and if it's hot like today, they'll take a vote, if everybody wants to go home before we put the steel in. Once we put the steel in, we had to stay because, you know, the steel gets hot. So, we used to take a vote. So, some hot days we used to quit at noon. And it was- Foundry was all piece work. But if you made money piece work, if you were getting 50 cents an hour, 55 cents an hour, we used to make piece work, over a hundred dollars a week, you know, that makes you- gives you ambition to make money. That's what we did at the harvester, but it was one of the hardest jobs I ever did.

LU: Oh wow, how long did you work there for?

STN: I worked there three years. And I got called back and I went back once but then the second time I didn't go back because there wa- I think there was around 50 Japanese workers in Hamilton at the Harvester, yup.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: Yeah.

LU: And where did you work after that?

STN: Then I went to Studebaker for '53 to '58, five years at Studebaker.

LU: Where's Studebaker?

STN: Studebaker car.

LU: Oh, Studebaker car.

STN: Yeah. Studebaker car. And I worked there five years, but some years things went good, they made sixty-two- sixty-four cars a day, that's when I got hired. But then after they cut down, they laid me off. Studebaker plant ran from '58 to '66, and they shut down all together now, eh.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: I worked there until '58- I worked from Harvester from '50 to '53, Harvester, and then, from '53 to '58 I worked at Studebaker. And then when I got laid off in '58, I went to White Trucks and I stayed there. But the Studebaker plant run until '66.

LU: And what were you doing there?

STN: Well, I was installing windshield and door glass. Then I went to White Truck in the park department, and I worked in the park department, so it was an easy job. I worked there pretty near, pretty near 25, 30 years. I started in '58 and I retired in '86. Yeah.

LU: Oh wow. And were there a lot of other Japanese people working at those places?

STN: Well, they were all working at the Harvester, and some people went to Stelco some place went to Nasco, and some were working in porcelain. They were working all over.

LU: And when did you meet your wife?

STN: I met her in Alberta. The brothers were in the logging the bush camps before so.

LU: Her brothers?

STN: My wife's brothers. Brothers were all working in the wintertime in the bush camps, so I knew them. Then I- they come to Toronto and then I was going to Toronto every weekend. But what- I bought a car in- when I was on the farm, my sister, we had to go from the farm to buy groceries, you had to with the boss to go into town to get groceries. So, my sister said, "Oh, you gotta get a car." So, I bought an old car in Chatham, so I had a car since 1946, I had a car since 1946. Out here.

[0:45]

LU: Oh wow. And do you still drive now?

STN: Yeah, I drive now.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: But I have to do a driver's test next February. Every two years. So, I'm getting my- maybe I might have to get cataracts done, so I'm hoping I could pass next year. Because if you can't do the eye test, you can't pass, then you don't write anything because it's finished.

LU: Yeah yeah.

STN: Yeah, I've been lucky.

LU: Mm-hm.

STN: No, I've been- I've been lucky, I got no regrets. I had a good life, and I think the world treated me pretty good.

LU: Mm-hm.

STN: I was married over 50 years when my wife died.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: But when you get- you hear that C word at the hospital, you know, it was 2002. 2002 Christmas. I think it was. Yeah, 2002- no 2001 [pause] she died 2003. Yeah, 2001 Christmas day. 2001, yeah. She was sick at Christmas time and then. I think it was Christmas or New Year's Day, one of the ladies, she was very nice, said "Your wife's got cancer," you know. After that she- she lived for 19 months after.

LU: Wow.

STN: [nods] Chemotherapy, radiation, so- but I was over 51 years, so that's pretty good and she was over 80, so, you know, that's a pretty good life.

LU: And how many children did you have?

STN: I have five children and eight grandchildren.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: And [gets up, walks away from table]. [from out of frame] Are you recording all this?

LU: Yeah.

STN: Oh, hey [laughs] I don't know. [brings a framed photograph back into the frame, hands it to a person behind the camera and sits down]. He just got married last month in Australia.

LU: [gasps] Australia?

STN: Yeah.

LU: And this is your grandson?

STN: Yeah. He's 20- 18- 18- She's 27. And I just saw him [picks up a photo album from table in front of him and flips through pages]. He [turns photo album to person behind the camera] just came down to Niagara Falls about two months ago. And that's the first time I met her. They went to the maid of the mist ride.

LU: Yeah, yeah.

STN: And then he went back to Australia, and he got married. And I just got the pictures yesterday. You know where he's born? Saudi Arabia, on July the fourth.

LU: Really?

STN: [nods]. My daughter was in Saudi Arabia for four years.

LU: Oh wow. So, you have five children?

STN: Five children and eight grandchildren.

LU: And eight grandchildren. Oh wow.

STN: And- [picks up photo album from table and flips through pages].

LU: And pretty soon great grandchildren, I'm sure [laughs].

STN: [laughs]. You know this picture? [picks up a different photo album and flips through the pages]. Oh, where did that go [closes album]. [rifles through different documents on desk] Oh, where is that [picks up a photograph from table and shows it to person behind the camera out of the camera's view] I walked around here this year and I picked up a dry stick about that long [gestures with hands] and I using it for hiking and my nephew is gonna bring it back. Right on this farm. I was walking all over here, it's all bush, you know. And I picked up a stick and he's bringing it home.

LU: [laughs] Oh wow.

STN: Yeah. So, I got no regrets. But [flips through photo album] this is Writing-on-the-Stone-Park in, and I told my nephew if you're gonna- he lived in Edmonton for 15 years, working there, he retired, and he's coming home maybe next weekend. And I told him if you're gonna leave Alberta you better go see this park before you come home so we took these pictures, eh.

[0:50]

STN: So, I took him down to see it. And I was invited. [unclear] lived in Lethbridge for four years and 21 to 25 and 2004 they started this *Katokai*[?] that's to honor the elders, and I went to 2004, 2007, 2010, and I was invited. After 80 they give you a complimentary ticket, so I went to that. [flipping through pages] And that's a four-million-dollar Buddhist church in Lethbridge. So, I've been- the last ten years I've been going to Lethbridge pretty near every year because I got more- it's like my second home. I was- 21 to 25 is a very important part of your life, right, and I made lotta friends here, so [points to a photograph in album] I worked with this guy here in 1943 and I still keep in touch, and that's his wife. [Flips album pages and points to a photograph in album] And this is a ranch I worked in 1945, and I went to see it. This father was a sawyer. The sawmill, the sawyer is the most important man

[gestures his fist back and forth] he runs a saw back and forth, you know, and [points to album] her father was a sawyer for where I worked, so I met her, [flips through photo album] and this is Griffin Lake Road camp. Where did I put that card- where did that- [lifts photo album up] this one. That's it right beside that. Train goes by.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: [points to something on the desk] And this is- this year they had that trip, they're gonna do it again next year from Lethbridge.

LU: Yes, are you going to go?

STN: No, I- we drove, and we met this bus there. I've been through here three or four or five times now. This is the bus I left from Lethbridge. They gonna do it again. [flips through album and points to a new photograph] This is in New Denver, one of those beet houses you know. And this is the usher that I met in 1994 and he's still doing it, he wants to retire. Nabi Hiyashi [?]

LU: Oh wow.

STN: I think that's Mickey Maikawa's daughter. Maikawa is kind of related to me. Tak Maikawa, Mickey Maikawa's brother, Tak Maikawa, my sister was married to Shimota, so Shimota's uh- Amy Shimota was married to Tak Maikawa, so we're kind related, eh. Til I got married, I didn't have any relatives. Now I'm related to everyone in Hamilton. There's Mika.

LU: Oh yeah.

STN: I met her at Momiji. And this is another guy I went to school with. And you know [gets up from table] what he sent me? [walks away from table] Where did I put that book. Now [comes back to table with a book in his hands] he sent me this book, look it [opens book and hands it to person behind the camera] after I left him.

LU: [reading from book] The story of love and integrity presented to Stony.

STN: Yeah, she sent it, it cost them 13 dollars. That's the one I went to school with grade eighteen.

LU: Nishikawa.

STN: He sent me that book and says he said this part is important [takes book and opens it] it's a Japanese Canadian.

LU: Yeah.

STN: I read that.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: Yeah, he sent me that book. Yeah, I went to school with him.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: Same as that lady that gave [gestures to pictures in frames behind him] me that picture, eh.

LU: Mm-hm. So, you went to school with him in Ruskin?

STN: [nods] yeah. Ruskin and Whonnock. See, Ruskin was a small village, so we went to Whonnock Japanese school, yeah.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: He says you gotta read this. He did- This fella and another fella in Aldergrove, he's died now, they used to support NDP, eh. Yeah.

LU: Oh yeah.

STN: So, he sent me that book and it cost him 13 dollars.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: And [person behind camera gives book back to] I've got- There's one lady- Well, [puts book down, begins looking through pages in photo album] this guy is getting old.

[0:55]

STN: As you grow up, you make friends and friends is worth more than money, you know. It's more enjoyable.

LU: Mm-hm.

STN: [points to photograph in album] This guy used to run the Buddhist church in Hamilton. And now he went to Vancouver, [points to photograph] that's his daughter, she was in Fiji island teaching scuba diving, and she was living there, then all of a sudden, I guess she quit the job, and she's in Whistler, about two years now, running a bed and breakfast with her husband. So, he got a grandchild, eh, first grandchild, eh, so he wanted to retire. He had a knitting company in Milton but he was the president of the Buddhist church, so his daughter got grandchild, so he retired, sold everything, retired, and he moved to Richmond, so my son had to do the- he lives in Toronto, Raymond, did you meet Raymond?

LU: No.

STN: No. Do you know Mary Ito?

LU: I know of her. I know of her.

STN: [nods] Yeah, she used to be Raymond's, my son's wife, you know. And they divorced, I don't know why. Raymond lives in Toronto and he's the President of Hamilton Buddhist Church. My daughter Marlene is the secretary, so they're going to Chicago, so I'm going with my son, eh. So, that's why I just paid 100 dollars to go. Because I'm bunking with my son [looks at photo albums on table].

LU: [laughs]. Let me just switch this tape.

STN: You think it's going well?

LU: Oh yeah.

STN: You think so, eh. Well, but uh-

LU: Oh, hold on, don't say anything important yet [laughs].

STN: [laughs]

LU: Ok.

STN: Now, this- Dana is my nephew. Dana's mother was my big sister, so [points at photo album] this is Dana's father's house before evacuation, and we went to see it. This time. Only chance we did. I used to try to find it and I couldn't find it, but Dana knew where it was and the owner told us to come in, so we took pictures inside there and everything. That's in Mission City, Norm Oikawa. See?

LU: Oh wow.

STN: My brother-in-law was NDP, and he did a lot for redress, Norm Oikawa? I think he's in the, in the some [glances at other side of table]. And this is my- this is-she lives in Squamish, this side of Whistler. You been up to Whistler and Squamish?

LU: No.

STN: No? Oh, I been up- So, [points to photo album] this is on the way, next to Squamish. Britannia Beach where my father worked, and they just refurbished this, cost 'em about how many million dollars? That's Britannia Beach Museum. That's where my father worked, so we went-.

LU: Oh wow

STN: Under mine and everything. But they just spent a fortune to cover it up. Government made 'em do it. So, we went in the mine there we went to see her [pointing at photo album] and she gave me that picture. And this, [pointing at photograph] I used to work with him at the harvester. You know how old he is now? He turned 100 last year and his wife was 66 years of marriage. I go see him every time I go to Vancouver. And this is a lady [reaches across table] [points to photograph] this is a man I did sugar beets with in 1943, and I keep in touch with the daughter in Belleville. And he's saying, they finally, he married a second time, a widow, but she passed away, and he I think he turned 90 last year, he's 91 now. I went to see him again, but I think, you know, like me I'm okay right now, but one year sometimes you could change completely. He seemed like- They put him in a senior's home then you get like them too, you know. They go like this, [slouches over to his left] they don't wanna walk, and you get that kind of person. The daughter is worried about him. I wrote her a letter; I phone her in Belleville. But I did sugar beets- So, 1943- So, what's that- 65 was it last year- Anyway, she turned 65 so I sent her a birthday card because I know when she was born, eh. This is when I did sugar beets in 1943, but this guy's 101 now. And I go see him.

LU: Is he Japanese as well?

STN: Yeah, he's a Japanese. He's the oldest in the family and I think there was five boys and one girl. He's the oldest in the family, he retired at about 60 with a heart condition and he's still living.

[1:00]

STN: And he lives in like a Momiji in Vancouver.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: That's the one I went to school with. But she's sad. Lost her husband last year and no children. Yeah. She's got one brother and one sister, but they're all not very well to travel. [flips through pages of photo album] I've been lucky, I've travelled.

LU: How did your mother pass away?

STN: Tuberculosis. After my youngest daughter was born. My sister. She is about 80 now.

LU: Mm-hm, oh wow.

STN: [points to photo album] This is the *bon odori* in Richmond. This is Whonnock post office. This is where Mrs. Shinkoda comes from, Whonnock.

LU: Yeah, yeah.

STN: This church is for sale, and this- Half a block up this church is still running. Imagine, I don't know maybe it's different, maybe it's Catholic and one's United or something. So, have you travelled across Canada?

LU: I've been to Vancouver only once for a couple days during the Olympics, so.

STN: [gets up off chair and walks out of view of the camera]. Look at this, look at this, look at this story.
LU: Okay.
STN: [comes back into view of camera and sits in chair].
LU: Grouse Mountain?
STN: [nods] Yeah.
LU: Grouse Mountain.
STN: Yeah, that's kind of a quite a- you know, it's one of the- tourists should see, you know.
LU: Yeah.
STN: You know that? Three generations climbed it. I was pretty near 80 when I climbed it.
LU: Wow.
STN: And I put that article in our newsletter.
LU: Oh wow.
STN: I got the details because a week after I went up it was in the province, what sea level and all that was in there- Vancouver province after I climbed it. So, I got the real details, eh, sea level and all that.
LU: Yeah. 2.9 kilometres, oh wow. Starts at 900-foot sea level. To peak at 300- or 3700, oh my goodness. Very rugged trails, steep, precarious--
STN: I got this shirt [gestures across his chest] that I survived the Grouse Mountain grind.
LU: Oh yeah? [laughs].
STN: Yup [laughs].
LU: [laughs].
STN: So, you should try that when you go to Vancouver.
LU: Oh, my goodness.
STN: Then you get to ride down the gondola, you know. But it's quite a climb, you know. Some people break the record and does it in 40 minutes or something you know, a young guy. They break the record.
LU: Oh wow.
STN: They're closed in the wintertime; they open in May- March- May the 22nd. So, I climbed that. I put that in our newsletter here.
LU: Oh wow. Isn't that remarkable. So, what do you remember about when the Japanese received the right to vote?
STN: Yeah.
LU: What do you remember about that?
STN: Well, my brother-in-law marched to Ottawa and all that, but I didn't- I didn't do it. But that was quite a thing, eh. Some people opposed it, you know, some people opposed it.
LU: Oh, for redress?
STN: Yeah. Hey, I think [opens book in front of him] you could take that book home and read it. I think it was in here [points to a page in book].
LU: Yeah?
STN: [nods] yeah. Yeah, you take that book and read it.
LU: Okay.

STN: Okay. You could keep that I read that that middle part, but I got- I got so many things to read yet and my eyesight isn't that is not that good, so until I get it fixed, you could take that book and read it.

LU: Okay, I'll borrow it. Thank you.

STN: And that's my friend I went to school with, sent it to me after I got back. You know he was such a nice- I maybe stopped in- every time I phoned him going through Kamloops, we would go to a mall and have a coffee and talk for about an hour and he never invited me to this house. But this time I went to the house, and he was a good friend with another friend that just passed away, and uh, then after I come back, he sends me that book and I was surprised. I got my nephew to drive me over to his place and he was supposed to, [video and audio glitches] you know, this one man [picks up a document on table] my sister in Cambridge, is a little bit related to this Kinoshita family.

[1:05]

STN: And uh- this uh, this man here, [flips through the pages in photo album in front of him] this man here, [turns photo album to person behind the camera] this guy, this man, he's about 90 and he could hardly see and is kinda related to my sister's husband's side. So, this guy always phones my sister in Cambridge, but I sent him- my story to him, [points to photo album] and he lent it to him [points to photo album] and he had to read it with his [gestures close to his eyes] glasses like, he could hardly read it. And he said, "Boy, he wrote a nice story," [points in front of him] he tells my sister, and he wants to meet me. He phones her. So, I thought, well you know, what the heck, I might as well go see him. So, I phoned him to tell him to take me in Kamloops to see him. So, he read this book with the glasses like this [gestures close to his eyes] and he said I wrote it so good, so you know what I did this time? I had this book with me, and he brought his out, and he says are you going to make a copy of it, and we'll send it to Lethbridge. So, by mistake I grabbed his book too. And I'm going further towards Hope, and I notice in my bag that I got his book, he was gonna send it to Lethbridge, so I had to mail it to him, you know, from Hope, because I had two books with me [laughs].

LU: [laughs].

STN: But he said I wrote it so good. I thought it was written pretty good for grade eight education.

LU: Oh yeah, it was wonderful.

STN: Yeah.

LU: Yeah, it was very good.

STN: I kind of, you know- I read- I watch television, and I write these stories, I don't put too much effort in it. I- Then I just bought a new typewriter for [fifty-eight dollar?] but when the company folded at White Trucks I retired. I scribble, I could write better, but I scribble. Anyways, I write this story watching television, and then I type it with one finger, then I give it to my nephew that took me on this trip, and he puts the pictures in it for me and makes it look good, you know.

LU: Yeah, oh wow. And when did the Japanese people receive the right to vote?

STN: The same time. April 1949. The same time. As the redress. Same time.

LU: I thought redress was in 1988.

STN: Oh yeah, 1980. But the redress was- money was given to us in 1988 but- but- the vote and the thing was given in 1949.

LU: Ohhh.

STN: Yeah, as soon as we were allowed to go back to BC, and we got the vote and everything at the same time.

LU: Mm-hm.

STN: Because there were some people, I guess you heard of Ted Aoki, didn't ya? [shakes head no] No?

LU: No.

STN: Who do you- who do you know at the Cultural Centre that're old timers?

LU: Oh um--

STN: You know Sid Ikeda.

LU: Yup Sid and--

STN: Goro Kawaguchi?

LU: I haven't met him yet. Not yet.

STN: I used to go to the Buddhist church picnic and the JCCA picnic when the kids were small, you know, but I haven't been for a long time. So, you know, I think it was last year I told my son I wanted to go to the Buddhist Church picnic, so I said, "You make lunch." And he made lunch, and I sat with Sid Ikeda and Goro Kawaguchi and had my lunch. And that girl's[?] wife uh [looks across table], oh you know- I don't know- [gets up from chair and walks out of view of camera] I don't know who's got these pictures, but I was looking at them last night

LU: Oh yeah can you fit--

STN: You should--

LU: Do you want me to get it?

STN: No, no, wait a while, wait a while.

LU: Okay.

STN: I don't know [walks across camera frame] who's got these things, but I was- I've been trying to clean up a bit.

LU: Oh, you have lots of photographs.

STN: See these things I kept; you know.

LU: [small gasp] Oh yeah.

STN: I don't know if you want these things or not.

LU: Oh yeah, well don't throw them out.

STN: Mm-hm?

LU: Are you going to throw them out?

STN: Well, I was wondering, you know, and [sits back down in chair in the camera view and holds a large manila envelope].

LU: You can donate it to the centre.

STN: Oh yeah, that's what I'm saying.

LU: Yeah, oh wow.

STN: See, this kind of thing, you know- I don't know if I should take it that to- This is a- this is a- I got that from- I kept all these things, you know, these are the mission [picks up various envelopes and documents in front of him].

[1:10]

LU: Yeah, well, don't throw anything away.

STN: Yeah-

LU: If you don't want it anymore, we-

STN: You know, uh-

LU: We can take it.

STN: [browses through the different envelopes and documents].

LU: Oh wow.

STN: Oh, what did I have? I had something- [gets up out of chair and walks out of camera view] You should see it. You should see it. You know what, you don't wanna go home, what if I-

LU: Is it this one?

STN: What if I take you out to a nice Japanese restaurant?

LU: Is it this one?

STN: Yeah, yeah- No that's Joan's class picture.

LU: Ohh.

STN: Joan's class, that's not everybody. My wife's class picture.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: [enters camera view holding envelope] Look at this [opens large, mounted photograph] Look at this.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: It shows you all the people, but these things aren't any- I don't know what I should do with them because I- You know, my kids not gonna be interested [sits down in chair].

LU: You know, you can always donate them to our archives.

STN: [hands a large, mounted photograph to person behind camera] look it.

LU: [small gasp]. Oh wow. 50-year reunion.

STN: Isn't that something? You know, you get these pictures when you go to these things, and bring them home, you pay money, and then you bring it home, and uh- See, look it. [picks up document rifles through pages] That's one that they had in Toronto Cultural Centre.

LU: Oh yeah.

STN: Yeah, yeah.

LU: 1988.

STN: Are you gonna- are you gonna start- I clean up here after- are you gonna have a museum there in Toronto?

LU: Well, we're hoping to put together our archives. And once the archives go together and we organize it a little bit better, then we'll be able to put displays up-

STN: You know, when we were growing up, my father used to fix the shoe himself, eh, for the kids. He used to buy a chunk of leather [gestures a large circular motion] and he used to fix our shoes. And I still got that shoe thing downstairs just like new.

LU: Really?

STN: Mm-hm, I was thinking of taking it to Maple Ridge Museum in Vancouver.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: These are some-

LU: We have a big collection at the Centre that we're putting together.

STN: Mm-hm. There's somebody who will be interested in those pictures-

LU: Oh yeah-

STN: But nobody knows them now, eh.

LU: Yeah.

STN: I went to every reunion, Tashme reunion, I used to go, eh. Yeah. Not many people will have these things preserved, I think.

LU: No, no, you never see these anymore.

STN: But you want to take them?

LU: You don't want them?

STN: No.

LU: [small gasp] We would love to have them.

STN: You take it with you.

LU: Okay.

STN: And if I- Then if you're gonna have a museum I would send you that- [gestures with hands] It's just like new, it's cast iron, eh.

LU: Oh wow. Oh wow.

STN: But I, if you wanna take 'em today you can take 'em.

LU: Sure, sure.

STN: [gets out of chair walks out of view of camera]. I spray painted them and it's still like new. Oh, we had the door open all the time? [long silence, sound of door closing]. I would take it to Maple Ridge Reunion but I'm not taking it.

LU: No [laughs].

[1:15]

STN: Hey look at this [walks back into camera view and places object for fixing shoes on table in front of him].

LU: [small gasp] Oh my goodness.

STN: See, you go like this [moves pieces of object into one another]. See, that's a small size. And then my dad used to fix it, you know. Yeah.

LU: And that's for the shoe repairs.

STN: Yeah.

LU: Isn't that neat.

STN: [gesturing in a circular motion around the object] He used to buy a big piece of leather, soak it overnight, and [gestures as if working with object].

LU: Isn't that neat. Oh wow.

STN: So, you do this, you came down to do Harold Takayesu?

LU: Yup yup.

STN: Now, poor guy, he had a nice wife, and she passed away and then he got sick, eh.

LU: Mm-hm yeah, it's too bad.

STN: [picks up photo album and flips through pages] These are nice pictures, you know. It has the directions, who they are and everything.

LU: Yup yup, that's perfect.

STN: I don't know if there is anything else [picks up envelope on table and opens it]. Oh, look at this one. Oh, this is school class. Oh, you can take this one too, this is school class, Joan's- I used to take her to the school class.

LU: Oh yeah. Oh wow. What about these ones?

STN: Well, you could take them if you want them. You know, I don't know what I'll do with them, but I travelled a lot, I got upstairs, you know, the big album [gestures with his hands wide across his body].

LU: Mm-hm.

STN: I got that much. That much. But I thought I might show it to my nephew, before he told me to- look at them before I even throw them away.

LU: Yeah yeah.

STN: But I travelled a lot as I went along, east coast three times, you know, all over. Texas. My daughter was in Galveston and Houston. I didn't go to Dallas. Then I went to Florida about six times, and I went to Branson, Missouri, but I haven't been to Chicago, and I haven't been to Nashville. So, I'm thinking of going. Where have you been in B.C.? Just Vancouver-

LU: Just Vancouver.

STN: [nods] Mm-hm.

LU: Just Vancouver. Yeah, that's it. And Montreal, of course, but because it's close but that's it.

STN: Yeah. I was- there was one guy, oh, I don't know if he's in here [picks up photo albums in front of him and leafs through them] One guy, he was a very popular guy. But he was very popular guy in Tashme because he was in- and all of a sudden, I wanted to look him up and I looked in the phone book in Montreal and I couldn't find it. But I like to- You know how some people write into the Nikkei Voice and if you wanted to find certain people you let the Nikkei Voice know and put it in the Nikkei Voice and they find it for you sometime. There's one guy here- You know, you know [points to picture] I never really met- I met Art, Art, Art Miki [pointing to photo], but that's Art Miki and his sister, you know. See, Miki [turns photo album to person behind camera].

LU: Oh yeah.

STN: Because Miki, he drove truck at our camp, but I knew Mrs. Miki and [Kagawa]? Miki, the father. But I got introduced to Art Miki couple times. My friend, my nephew Dana knows him, I guess.

LU: Mm-hm. Oh wow.

STN: Doing sugar beets in Chatham.

LU: Yeah. Yeah.

STN: Where did I get that picture [flipping through pages of photo album]? Did you know Amy Ing[?]. You should've known her; everybody knew her. She used to sing a lot, eh.

LU: Oh yeah.

STN: Yeah. She just died. Couple years ago. [points to a picture in a photo album]. That's when she was sixteen. And this is- I worked for Raymond Nash in Chatham and named my son after him. But my father-in-law that's 101, passed away 101, he stayed in Raymond, Alberta doing sugar beets. So, he thought I named him after Raymond, Alberta, but I told him I named after him [pointing to photograph].

[1:20]

STN: He was the nicest person I ever worked for.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: Now, where I was thinking, what was I saying- I was saying something. That's my- Norm's brother was in the Army, eh, Ernie, was in the army. Oh here. [Nabi Kobayashi]? I wanted to find him in Montreal. 1988, when we had the Maple Ridge Reunion at Toronto Cultural Centre he was there, and I asked him what he was doing and driving a cab in Montreal would be pretty rough wouldn't it. But he he said he was driving a cab, but this is 1988 and I haven't seen him since. And I decided to look him up in Montreal last week, couple weeks [gestures with hand to behind head] I was in Montreal. But I couldn't find anything on him, but I'd like to know where he is.

LU: Yeah.

STN: This guy [points to photograph] just last year, he was shingling his roof or something and he fell down and hit his head and died. This guy. [points to photograph] This guy died last year. So, I kinda- and [points to photograph] this guy's died. So, these three guys are all gone.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: So, I looked at the picture and this is Wesley's farm, ranch, eh. That's where I was a cowboy, see.

LU: [laughs].

STN: [points to photograph] This guy was in Owen Sound, but he's died now. His sister lives in- [points to photograph] this is the guy I did sugar beets with and that's Joanne, that's born in '43.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: No, I did- I did everything, and I travelled all over, and I made a lotta friends. See every bush camp would have 150 men. You get to know them all. Next year you go to a different one and sometimes the same people are there. But sometimes you make new ones. And road camps, I stayed in road camp just three months cause I like- I was getting nickel more than the others, we worked about two hours in the morning and rest of the time we played cards, write letters, go for a hike, go swimming, they didn't force us to do- We used to- we used to be not scared of the Mounties- we used to- whole bunk house would come out if something happens.

LU: Oh yeah oh wow.

STN: Yeah, one time we were all supposed to work until five o'clock, are you recording yet?

LU: Oh yeah.

STN: Ohh. Better watch what I'm saying.

LU: Oh, no, no, you were supposed to work until five.

STN: Yeah. So, some people were out in the road ready to go home at four o'clock, Mounties took all the names down, after supper come to the office and two, three Mounties came with a police dog, and they were gonna do something to us and trying to say we should be working and all that. They couldn't do nothing. They just went away [laughs].

LU: Yeah?

STN: Yeah, even if they had a police dog, because there were a hundred men there, you know. And uh, us country people are normal but some of those Steveston[?] people get pretty rough, you know.

LU: And did you have any other interactions with the RCMP, or?

STN: No, they were the retired Mounties under the railroad bridge watching the railroad I guess, we used to fishing and everything there, they were friendly to us, you know. Yeah.

LU: Yeah.

STN: Because we weren't even supposed to have camera or gun. Yeah, my brother Robert Oikawa Sunday morning in Mission and he said the first guy I see I'm going to give the camera away you know, and he gave it away instead of turning it in, you know, some people. Yeah.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: See, when evacuation started, it was an uncertain time, you didn't know if you were going away for three months, one year, or six months, you didn't know, eh. So, it was a very uncertain time. But to me, it was gonna be an adventure, but to my dad, with kids, you know, five, eight years old, 10 years old, you know, it must have been quite a worry to support them, bring them up, eh. To me, it was an adventure.

LU: Mm-hm.

[1:25]

STN: But when you're around 21 and you're on your own, you gotta grow up fast. Because if you're living at home, if you don't go to work one day it doesn't matter. But if you're on your own- But one thing I didn't, there were a lot of people in Toronto, single guys. Most of them were all washing dishes at that time. Because then you get your board, eh.

LU: Mm-hm.

STN: Rooms were just seven dollars a week them days you know. Used to stay in a place, one room like this, seven dollars a week.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: Yeah, that's him [points at photograph]. You wanna take that picture? You take it.

LU: Yeah? Are you sure?

STN: Yeah, it's alright [removes photograph from photo album].

LU: Oh wow.

STN: I try to- this fellow here is Ike Nagata. He's passed away [points to photograph in his hand] now, the four brothers are still living in Toronto.

LU: Oh yeah.

STN: See, I got a rough idea--

LU: Nagata[?]

STN: I got a rough idea [gesturing with hands] of where everybody is. He died now but the four brothers are living in Lethbridge- I mean Toronto. Stoney Nagata's brother. I don't know if you've met Stoney Nagata?

LU: No no. Oh wow. [laughs].

STN: [points to photograph in photo album] This lady's about 90 and still living in Lethbridge. I just saw her.

LU: Oh really?

STN: Yeah. And she's about the same age as me and she's got Alzheimer's, this one [points to photograph] lives in Lethbridge. [flips through pages of photo album]. [points to photograph] She lives in Hamilton. Maybe you've seen her, Joyce Hirasawa.

LU: Mm-hm.

STN: Yeah, she lives in-

LU: Maybe.

STN: That's Jean [points to photograph], Jean lives in Lethbridge. She's got Alzheimer's. [points to photograph] This guy lives in Hamilton, he used to fix TVs, television. He used to run [Active TV?]. This is- I don't know if know, lawyer, Japanese lawyer in Hamilton, he passed away, Paul Tokiwa's wife.

LU: Ohh.

STN: He died young. He was my lawyer. [points to photograph] [This is Miyagawa?]. [points to photograph] We painted this black car in the garage.

LU: You painted it?

STN: At the farm with a hand brush [gestures a painting motion with hand].

LU: Really?

STN: [points to photograph] Me and another guy, we painted it real good.

LU: [laughs]. Oh wow.

STN: This fellow that wrote that book, Takayasu[?] and this [points to photograph] brother's- their mother had diabetes and they both died young. Diabetes you gotta watch, you know. Judo [tapping finger on photograph], he used to teach Judo to the Mounties. He's dead now but 10 years ago he died. Diabetes.

LU: Oh, my goodness.

STN: He was an architect.

LU: Did you ever do any martial arts or anything?

STN: No, I did a little bit of kendo. You know, the bamboo thing [gestures in front of him with his fists on top of one another as if holding a *shinai*]. And I played a little bit of baseball and softball.

LU: Oh yeah. When was that? Before the war?

STN: Well, when I was working at this Wesley Ranch, we formed a baseball team because the boss liked baseball, so he let us have all the equipment and the truck.

LU: Mm-hm.

STN: [points to photograph] This is in Point Peele, you know, down south [points to photograph] Canada's most- southernmost point is Point Peele. It's way down south. You could- I walked down to the most point in Point Peele. Near Leamington. [points to photograph] She lives in Montreal. I just talked to her a couple weeks ago. [points to photograph] She passed away young. [points to photograph] She passed away, she was a photographer.

LU: You have a lot of photographs.

STN: Yeah.

LU: Not many people do.

STN: [flips through photo album] Yeah, I don't know what to do with the old one upstairs.

LU: Well, don't get rid of them. If you don't want them anymore and your family doesn't want them, we can take them.

STN: Yeah, but imagine this thing [touches object for making shoes on table] just like new, cast iron.

[1:30]

LU: Yeah.

STN: Yeah, I like to get- look him [points to photograph] up and go and see him. He was very popular in Tashme 'cause he was a good pitcher. Baseball- in Tashme was uh, they had three or four teams, and they were all really popular in Tashme.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: So, I'd like to see him, but I don't know if I could ever find him. But I don't know if he's still living. I heard he had a brother in London. This guy's- I finally found him, and I didn't see him this time but last time I saw him he had a stroke or something and he's not that well. But I got a lot of pictures of him.

LU: Who is that?

STN: Sabudo[?] Ezaki. E-Z-A-K-I. I think he had a big brother in Vancouver, but I go see [points to photograph] him in Lethbridge. [points to photograph] He was in Owen Sound, and he passed away. Widow is living in Owen Sound [unclear Kuto?]. [flips through photo album].

LU: What are you doing [reaches to photo album and points at a picture] just sitting around there or what's that picture?

STN: We're supposed to be working [laughs], we're playing cards. Out on the ranch. We're supposed to be working. This says [unclear]-

LU: On break.

STN: On our break, coffee break.

LU: [laughs].

STN: [points to photograph] This guy's dead. [points to photograph] This guy's dead. It's sad, you know. I think he's still living. This is- do you know [Kay Nagawa]? She volunteers a lot at Toronto Cultural Centre.

LU: Sounds familiar.

STN: She worked at CBC. All her life never got married. And she volunteers at the Cultural Centre. She was in Chatham. And that's [points to photograph] her brother, call him Sharkey. They were best of friends [Ken Shakawa?]. This guy lives in Thunder Bay.

LU: Did you have any nicknames when you were growing up too?

STN: No, they just- I didn't have Stony until I went to the bush camp. 'Til then it was Stonewin[?] and the teacher couldn't say it. Yup. Then they start calling me, I was sad that my mother and them didn't give me a Japanese name, an easier name to say.

LU: [laughs]. What does your Japanese name mean?

STN: Stumo[?] Stumo means like a duty, I guess. Duty for something.

LU: Mm-hm.

STN: I'd like to see this [Duke Koshiro]? But I can't find him in Lethbridge.

LU: Oh wow. What else do you remember about being in the work camps and?

STN: Well, you know, I was a very good boy. First year in Burmis, 1942 winter, I was studying Japanese, and I was playing, do you know what *shogi* is?

LU: Nope.

STN: That Japanese [gestures on table front of him in a circular motion] like a Japanese chess.

LU: Oh okay.

STN: I was studying, playing *shogi* and then, I was studying Japanese. And I was a good boy. In the second year, I started playing poker and never quit playing poker [laughs] ever since that.

LU: [laughs].

STN: 'Cause I was trying to write to my dad in Tashme, so I had to learn Japanese.

LU: Ohh.

STN: I could speak it, but I can't write it. But [unclear] *kiragana* you could write it all in alphabet, eh, if you wanted to communicate in Japanese. You don't have to use block letters.

LU: Did your parents ever learn English or try to? Your mother-

STN: No no. [points to photograph] This year, one day we went home, supper time, dinner time, and all we had was turnips, so we went on strike. And Security Commission was a guy named- uh Air Force Colonel or something. His name was Russel.

[1:35]

STN: And we went on strike [points to photograph] this bunch here. And he came up on the train from Lethbridge to Burmis[?] and give us hell. But we told him if you just had turnips for dinner, wouldn't you go on strike? So, he couldn't say anything. But, he settled it and went back to Lethbridge anyways. He came all the way up to Burmis[?] Lumber.

LU: So, did they make something else for dinner?

STN: Well, you know, say you're thirty miles from railroad, they used to- used to be blizzard, eh. So, the only thing would go is a cat, a caterpillar, and they put a sleigh on it, and they put a little fire on it, so they don't freeze on the way up. It's a blizzard and the road gets all blocked up. So, potatoes freeze and go black inside, but turnip won't freeze. That's the only thing that didn't freeze, so that's why the cook said the only thing we got is turnip [laughs] so we went on strike yeah. So, that's all we did [points to photograph] I'd like to see if that's still on top of the mountain. Griffin Lake there was a big place at the top of the mountain, [points to photograph] it used to be piled up like that.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: That's Griffin Lake from the top of the mountain like here [points to photograph]. See, it's a nice mountain.

LU: So, who piled up the stones?

STN: Mm-hm. Well, the guys just for fun they do things.

LU: Oh yeah.

STN: Surrey Valley Road Camp, they made a garden like that. Really nice. Surrey Valley. [points to photograph] Yeah, that's a nice one, I took that picture off the top of the mountain. It's nice scenery. If that was colour it would be nice. They had a [unclear] they made a Japanese garden at Surrey Valley. This was our road camp, see. [unclear]. This is the cookhouse. And that's where that [picks up photograph], this is right now.

LU: Yeah. And did they have a big bath house-

STN: Huh?

LU: Did they have a big bathhouse Japanese bathhouse?

STN: I don't think we had a Japanese bath. We had a steam bath.

LU: What's that?

STN: You know, you would bury a gas- a drum, a 45-gallon drum, make a fire in it, and have it all covered with big stones, cement big stones, and they'd pour water on it. That's how it was, the road camp. I don't think we had a Japanese bath. Tashme had a nice Japanese bath. And we were the visitors, we would go in first. Me and this uh [flips through photo album] guy, this guy, he was from Vernon, and we would go in for the Japanese bath.

LU: [laughs]. Was Tashme close to where you were?

STN: No no Tashme was [points to his right] just - Hope, within 100 miles, Tashme was okay, Hope was no good eh. Yeah.

LU: Mm-hm.

STN: And this- this man [points to photograph]- this man's George [Tanaka]? and [Marge Tanaka]? live in Burlington. That's the father.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: They're still living. The father and mother died now, but George and Marge never got married and they still come to our euchre game. [points to photograph] That's stretcher's cloth, you know, when you get hurt [gestures with hands widely across table] we just put that out with the Burmis[?] lumber on it. I made- I sent that picture to somebody- maybe it's in pictures- I think Dana took some pictures and I just made a replacement. That's not the original picture.

LU: Yeah yeah.

STN: I think one of these is the- is the daughter I said used to be the Sawyer he's here somewhere.

LU: Mm-hm. Were there any serious accidents in the road camps?

STN: No no only one fellow got hurt, Minamoto[?] but I don't know if he's okay. The edger backfired.

LU: The edger.

STN: The edger is- When you cut a log, you take say two inch off like that [gestures with his hands moving outward from his body] and there would be a bark on both sides, right, on the log, you know. You know, a log is like that [gestures] and if you cut two inches of one side like that [gestures], there would be bark on it. And then, if it's two inch, you lay it down flat and both sides of bark is on there, so you put it through the edger, so it takes the two edges off. That's why you call it an edger.

[1:40]

LU: Oh.

STN: Then you make the lumber that you could join together. Two barks like that [gestures with his hands palms facing down index fingers side by side] you could make a rough looking log house, but you can't join it together because the bark's on both sides, so they called that the edger. You put it through this machine, and it takes both sides off.

LU: Ohh okay.

STN: [flipping through photo album] I drove a cat [points to photograph] they call it a caterpillar, call it a cat.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: These are Indian, Eskimo girls or Indian girl- Anyways, there was one guy, used to come to the railroad, and he'll take a guitar to the bush, the bush camp, and while we're waiting on the train- for the train, you know, these carts [gestures side to side with right hand] they load the baggage with. He'll sit on it [gestures playing guitar] playing guitar and you should see these Eskimo and Indian girls come down to listen to us, you know.

LU: [laughs]

STN: They all come around to listen to the guitar.

LU: [laughs]

STN: [flips through photo album]. Sunday [points to photograph] nothing to do but walk around and take pictures, eh.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: This guy, he passed away [points to photograph]. He took me out to a nice dinner in Vancouver one time. This bunch here- One guy got left behind [points to photograph] he had to come home on his own he didn't come on the train left that was in Edmonton from Slave Lake, stop in at Edmonton for a couple hours and some guys, you know, forget about the time and miss- this is [Mas Shin]? eh [Mas Shin]?.

LU: Mm-hm. Mrs. Shinkoda's brother?

STN: Huh?

LU: Mrs. Shin Kota's brother?

STN: Yeah, brother yeah. Uh do you know [Matsi Osaka]?

LU: No, I don't think so.

STN: She's still going around schools talking about evacuation. Where's the picture? [gets up from chair] She's uh-

LU: Up top there?

STN: [walks out of camera view] I've got a picture of her somewhere. You'll see- you'll see her. Is there a lady's picture up there somewhere? I had a picture of her somewhere. Ya ya that's her there.

LU: Oh ya-

STN: No no this side.

LU: Yeah.

STN: Yeah, she's about 80 something now. [returns in view of camera] When I was in Chatham, when we came into town, we used to live at her father's place. So, when I

go to Chatham, she says I got a son that's not married living at home. So, I could stay at her place but she's still, she's quite a church goer [sits down].

LU: Oh yeah.

STN: And she goes to school and teaches- talks about evacuation yet and her and Mr. Hines is making a history of Japanese in Chatham and she's helping him.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: Yeah. So, I go see her about once a year, and she still goes to church and talks about evacuation to the students yet [flipping through photo album]. Yeah.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: [closes photo album and takes it off the table] Yeah I'm- I gotta clean up. See, I went through all of them, eh [picks up various papers and envelopes on desk in front of him] 82.

LU: And what do you remember about when the war ended and everybody's reaction to the war, do you remember-

STN: I don't really remember that. It was '45. No.

LU: What was your reaction to the war? When the war ended-

STN: No, I haven't gotten- I don't even remember all that. But I know after I got married, a family with five children, you know, I had to work.

LU: Mm-hm.

STN: Yeah, but I don't even remember- I remember the evacuation and all that, but that's when I came- that's when I went to Chatham in '46. So, I don't- it ended in '45, but I don't even recall it now.

[1:45]

STN: Because I guess everything [pauses]- but I know- I don't recall about that at all. I don't know why [picks up paper and stares at it].

LU: Do you have any memories about your school days and school activities, or games you used to play, or your teachers?

STN: Well, the school I went to is still standing. And the last time I went- And the community centre is still standing where the kindergarten went [picks up photo album and flips through pages].

LU: What school was that?

STN: Ruskin Public School is still standing. Two guys bought it, and I think making it into a big lodge or something [flips through pages of photo album]. But the Ruskin Community Centre where they went to kindergarten is still standing, the building.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: Yeah, you uh- you let Mika[?] read that story and if she thinks it's worth publishing put it in, and I guess it's okay. It shows you what I went through, anyways.

LU: Mm-hm oh yeah.

STN: [points to photograph] Yeah, that's Ruskin, what does it say there [turns photo around to person behind the camera] What does it say there can you read that? Community centre?

LU: Community- yeah, Ruskin community hall.

STN: Dana took some pictures of school- schools right across this building, I took it, and it didn't come out good, so I never- but Ruskin school was still standing, and very good. They put stones facing right around it. It's really good. Of course, when I went to school it was outside- outhouse, eh [laughs] you know.

LU: Outhouses at school?

STN: [nods] Oh yeah, outhouses in them days schools.

LU: What about the winter?

STN: Ohh, outhouses- Well, all the bush camps we went to, they were all outhouses. Yeah. Frozen solid, eh [laughs], just stacked right up [gestures upwards with hands in a circular motion] [laughs] Yeah, outhouses. Most of the places, we had Japanese baths though, yup. But road camp, I don't remember- unless they made- I just stayed there three months, so I know we made the steam baths, but I don't know, they might have made Japanese baths after I left. I just stayed there about three months. And we used to go to Three Valley on Sunday and- Say eight of us went down to Three Valley, the cook, if we stayed until Sunday night supper, he would feed us. Although everything was rationed. So, when they came to our camp, our cook wouldn't feed them. So, we had a little strike over that because we said when we go down there, they feed us, why can't we feed them? Because sugar was rationed, eh. You know. So, our cook wouldn't feed them one time, so we had a little trouble over that. I remember. And another trouble we had was- I was there, and we wanted to go to Revelstoke once a month and the foreman told us to go to Three Valley and flag the train [gestures waving] with the red flag, and we did, and we got hell. [nods] Yeah. We got hell. He says who told you to do this, so we told him the workcamp foreman did. We got heck and after that we used a taxi, a taxi was about 20 dollars. Must be. We did that once, yeah.

LU: [laughs]. 20 dollars for a taxi.

STN: Yeah well, it's not that far, it's not far. We stopped the train first; the train goes up there slowly [gestures with left hand upwards] anyways, you know. But- and we just went to see a show or something like that, we go home with a taxi and [gets up out of chair] if you every drive through the Rockies-

LU: Mm-hm.

[1:50]

STN: [walks out of camera view and returns with an envelope] This is right next to the road camp [takes photos out of envelope and hands photos to person behind the camera].

LU: Oh, Three Valley Gap.

STN: That's right, Three Valley Gap, that uh- I had my dinner there. Yeah. Beautiful building. I stayed there- I stayed there two nights one time going through. But that's a beautiful building. That's Three Valley Gap, they call it. That's about 20 minutes from Griffin Lake. I had- I had a roast beef dinner there. And what's this [open photo album and flips through pages] You know, if you got lots of money, travelling is the

best, you know. I travel quite a bit anyways [turns photo album to person behind camera and points at a photograph]- See that's Three Valley Gap there, see.

LU: Oh yeah wow. What is this one here?

STN: [closes photo album and picks up a photograph]. That's my sister, my big sister. And I've never seen a picture- I don't know how we got that- we got that in some kind of a museum. But- but there there's one picture I put down for the museum-Maple Ridge is [pointing in front of him] maple ridge and [pointing behind him] mission is mission. Well, this picture of Ruskin school should be in Maple Ridge. There was in Mission Museum. And I put down about 13 names at the museum. She's gonna find out who brought that picture to Mission instead of Maple Ridge. But I put down 13 names for them and one- Do you know Ron Izawa[?]? He's a news broadcaster sometimes, I saw him the other day with a moustache. His mother lives in Chatham. Her and another man lives in Toronto Jim Kono[?], and three person [points to photograph] was alive all the rest were dead. And I put all the names on the museum in Mission. But I said this picture should be [points in front of him] in Maple Ridge Museum not Mission. So, she was gonna find out who sent that picture in. Somebody named Thomas or something like that. But that's how much I knew. If I looked at these with good glasses, I think I could name quite a few of them.

LU: Yeah, oh wow.

STN: [points behind camera] Look at that one behind there.

LU: This one?

STN: Yeah, that one.

LU: Oh yeah.

STN: Yeah, you see me in there?

LU: [pause] I don't know, is that?

STN: [takes photograph from person behind camera and points to photograph] That's me there.

LU: Yeah [laughs].

STN: Yeah, I think it was this picture that was there. Yeah, this is the guy that was living, yeah, I think it was the same picture. This is Mitch Izawa's[?] wife and this is Jim [Kono]? Look these people- She's living in Japan ya, and she lives in Chatham. These girls- this is the girl that gave me that picture, Joan Lee. And this girl's dead. This girl just died last year. She's dead. She's dead. She's de- she's alive in Vancouver. And this is dead. He's dead. Jim's living in Toronto. And that's my brother. And this is Akiro Nagata. Stony's brother, he's gone. Like I remember [hands photograph back to person behind camera]- but they're all gone, eh, you know.

LU: Mm-hm.

STN: [picks up a photograph off table] That's my nephew there and that's [Nabi Hayashi]? You know about the Asahi players?

LU: Yeah.

STN: You know that [Nabi Hayashi]? He had a baseball- an Asahi baseball cap and I asked him what did you do with Asahi and he said he was a bat boy for the Asahi and when they honoured the Asahi players at the Rogers Centre, he was invited. But he

couldn't go because he was doing this job [gestures to photograph], that's what he told me.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: Yeah, he was Asahi's bat boy [Nabi Hayashi]?

LU: Wow.

STN: [gestures to photograph] This lady was my sister's friend, this lady lives in Thunder Bay, and this lady lives in Atlanta, Georgia. That's my oldest granddaughter, she's 28.

[1:55]

LU: Oh, she's older than me.

STN: Yeah.

LU: Mm-hm.

STN: How many family- how many brothers and sister do you have?

LU: I have three brothers.

STN: Three brothers?

LU: Yes-

STN: You're the only girl-

LU: So, there's four of us. Yes, I'm the only girl. Yeah, yeah and I have one cousin that's a girl. All boys.

STN: [points to a photograph] This is a mother was healthy looking, dark black hair, you never think she has cancer- she had cancer and she did that what do you call it, lakee [reiki] or something, some kind of a cure [gestures with his right hand in a swirling motion].

LU: Yeah yeah.

STN: So, she didn't want no chemo, radiation, nothing, so she died in four months. And she was the healthiest looking- I knew her mother. And she died. [flipping through photographs].

LU: Oh wow.

STN: [pointing to a photograph] This, this man is a professor, she married- I think it's this girl so she's in California. And when he retired, he looked on the internet, and his fathers were from Idaho and just potato farming in Idaho, so he looked on the internet, he wanted to find a place to retire. So, he bought this house in [points to photograph] Coldstream. Between Vernon and Kelowna, they made another village called Coldstream. Used to be- before evacuation used to be Coldstream Ranch, very famous in the Japanese history, Coldstream. Anyway, he bought a 491-thousand-dollar home. I stayed there one night. And that's about six years ago, he retired and bought a house, 491 thousand. And two, three years ago, he decided to downsize, and he bought a place in Phoenix, and he bought a smaller place in Vernon. Then he's just going down to Phoenix, now just a winter or two ago, he found out he got incurable cancer. Yeah [taps photograph with his finger] now. So, if he didn't change it around, but he got a place in Phoenix, he got a place in Vernon. His wife is healthy, but he has incurable cancer. She just wrote to me and she's very sad.

LU: Mm-hm.

STN: When I had my 88th birthday party [points to a framed collage of photographs hanging on the wall behind him] I invited about 90 people, our Cultural Centre holds about 90 people, fire regulation. And I hired a cook and I- he made all the eat-the meals there, eh. So, that was 88. So, this year, we have a fundraising dinner about four times a year. November, January, February, March. So, my birthday is March, so this year I invited all my family. And I paid for the fundraising dinner like it's 20 dollars. So, Nancy [points to photograph] made me a cake.

LU: [laughs].

STN: So, that helps the fundraising, eh, for the Cultural Centre, so I don't know what I'd do. So, this is when I left Alberta, she's my good friend. Her brother was my best friend. She got three daughters.

LU: I'm just gonna switch this one here.

STN: [collects papers and photographs on desk] Yeah, Three Valley. You- it's 5 o'clock, isn't it. I'll check- I'll put on a little better clothes on then, and I take you to this Japanese restaurant, okay?

LU: Okay, thank you.

STN: And then- there's no use going to Toronto at 5 o'clock you know. When did you come and interview Harold?

LU: This morning.

STN: This morning?

LU: Yeah.

STN: Oh.

LU: Yeah, he was talking- we were talking away a little bit longer than it thought we would so-

STN: Did you go to his house?

LU: Yup yup.

STN: Oh, you didn't go- He teaches ceramic at our Cultural Centre.

LU: Oh, yeah, yeah.

STN: Yeah, I've been talking to him quite a bit [gestures to photographs hanging on the wall behind him] because she come from the same place as Sumi did and they went to the last Hishitoski[?] party, you know the Hishitoski[?] party? Harold and I took Sumi and went. I'm not Hishitoshi[?] but I took her.

[2:00]

STN: Then she passed away and Harold was at the same time sick, Sumi too, he had same kind of a thing, so.

LU: Mm-hm yeah. Well, I'm trying to think if I have any more questions as well.

STN: Think I did all right?

LU: Oh yeah, yeah. Your memory is still really great.

STN: Yeah, I know everybody, somebody will say, "How do you know?" And I say, "Well, you told me."

LU: [laughs]

STN: Yeah, you can take that book, I got extra ones. My son and them got, you know they made about, I invited 90 people, so there might be 50 copies that they made for everyone the couples they gave them one, eh.

LU: Oh yeah.

STN: So, everybody got my story, and I sent it to some of my friends in Kamloops and stuff.

LU: Mm-hm.

STN: But I was gonna ask Mika[?] about it but I know Gene Koto[?]'s was in there, and I know her too, you know. And when she got interviewed, she didn't know they- She didn't want it published, I heard. But did you know Art Sakamoto? He was funny. Art Sakamoto and I went to school. Anyways, I ever since school never heard or seen him or anything, we just went to school together. Anyways, Nikkei Voice had an article, was it Reverend Yoshita[?] or somebody interviewed him, and he wrote a story in the Nikkei Voice. So, as soon as I heard it was Art Sakamoto, I phoned him up. And I said, "I'm going to come down to see you." So, I went to see him, and I talked to Mrs. Shinkota[?] about it too. Anyways, I said I'm going to go see him. Anyways, I phoned Mrs. Shinkota[?] after I went down to see him. And his story was very interesting, you know. He was- he was in the army, and he came back, and he rented this room, and there's this Chinese lady that owned it. So, he said he was- started gambling, Chinese gambling, and he was off track all over, he was just ruining his life. And then I guess he got to know this Chinese landlord, and they fell in love, and they got- he started going to Church and he says she turned his life right around. But they're both- I don't know if she got sick now, she's older than him eh, and he's not as old as me, now she's got Alzheimer's, and I think they're living in the same building visiting each other but I phoned Mrs. Shinkota[?] about it. I said "Art is very slow now." and Mrs. Shinkota[?] made me laugh, she said "Art was slow when he was going to school." [laughs] So, I talk to her over the phone.

LU: [laughs]

STN: But last time I talked to her, I found a lot about her father, yeah, what he did, you know. We talked for a long time.

LU: Yeah yeah. No, he was-

STN: I should phone her up or go see her. You know, such a long ways from here, you know. If you go 401, you gotta come down a half an hour, so I take Kingston Road and go. But it's an hour and 20-minute trip. In Toronto, you don't know what's the best day to go to Toronto, you know.

LU: Oh, I know.

STN: Right now, with the exhibition.

LU: Oh yeah Mm-hm. So, what are your thoughts about the Japanese um-

STN: I think evacuation was a good thing and I think it helped everybody. Some people have grudges, but I don't, and I think it was the best thing that ever happened to us, and I have no regrets. I had a very interesting life, and I'm still enjoying myself, and I still live in this house where I raised my children, and I grow a garden, and I give most of my vegetables away. Do you have- your father have a garden?

LU: Yup yup. He has a garden. This year we grew eggplant for the first time.

STN: Oh, I had- I get the Japanese eggplant, eh, from Mr. Koikai[?] and I had the best eggplant this year. Yup.

LU: Oh wow. And what do you think about the future generations?

STN: I don't know [shakes head no]. Well, even if you're normal, it's a troublesome world.

[2:05]

STN: I can't- You know, we get extreme weather. China, Pakistan, getting flooded. BC, California full of forest fire. Some are set deliberately, and some are lightning, but I went to Alaska and a lot of forest fires and there is a lot of all lightning fires. I did 5,000 kilometers in Alaska by road, with my son.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: Yeah.

LU: And what about teaching the future generations about the Japanese Canadian history and the war years.

STN: Well [flipping through pages of a book]. I know it's- it should be mentioned in history books so like, Pat, Mrs. Yako[?] is still preaching it and I think that's a good thing.

LU: Mm-hm.

STN: [flipping through pages of the book] You could take this and read it, and I have- I have a very interesting lady, a divorced lady, I went to see her last Sunday and she writes me all these Christmas cards. But you could take this home and I'll pick it up sometime. Look it, look it [turns book so interviewer can see it]. Look what she writes me. She's a schoolteacher. She sends me Christmas cards, see it? And I recorded it all- Everything is in this book, so you could take it home and read it.

LU: Oh yeah, I would love to.

STN: Oh, where is that one about the Alaska trip [points to book]. See, my daughter treated me on a cruise one time from New York to Boston. I got lots of stories. My last trip to Lethbridge, I used to have a real good friend, Bob Nishikawa[?], he passed away now. 2004. 2006. Every year I went somewhere, and I wrote a- Oh, this one.

LU: Mm-hm oh yeah.

STN: [turns pages towards interviewer] see? And this is- I went to 10 bed and breakfast and she's a Korean lady and that was the best place. Korean lady. Her son built this bed and breakfast place for her and he's an architect in Alaska- Anchorage. Oh, I wanted to see it and my daughter drove me to Orlando, left me there five days by myself. She went to Fort Lauderdale. So, I went to the Disneyland every day by myself, and I went on this Epcot centre ride called Soaring, and boy that is the best, I want to go once more. You're just sitting on the thing and just like going through California and then skiing trip, just like you're on there, you know. I never had a feeling like that.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: Then I went to Punta Cana but yeah [flipping through pages of a book]. These are Christmas cards that she wrote me. And that was her uncle, and I went to the funeral. And some eulogy in here too. And Frank Moritsugu's story.

LU: Oh yeah. Mm-hm.

STN: And Sumi's story. You could take that home and read it-

LU: Yeah.

STN: You don't have to mail it back I'll pick it up sometime.

LU: Well, I have all this too, I'm always in Hamilton now anyways.

STN: So, are you- are you finished now?

LU: Yeah, I think so. Do you have anything else- anything else that you remember?

STN: No, I don't- You know, you asked me that question, what did I- what did I feel like when I- end of the war, but I don't even really- Like, Pearl Harbour, I remember that distinctly, but I don't remember the war ending. I haven't given it any thought at all. It must have been '45. I must have been just on the verge of- My dad asked me if I wanted to settle down in Chatham or not and I said no I want to move some,

[2:10]

STN: I didn't want to go to Toronto. Toronto was too busy. So, my sister-in-law- my brother-in-law was here, so I came to Ham- thing and decide to make it my home.

LU: Do you ever remember feeling worried about-

STN: Huh?

LU: Do you remember feeling worried about the war or scared?

STN: No, no. But it sure affected us, didn't it.

LU: Mm-hm. [pause] Mm-hm.

STN: So, you're still going to school. You're signed up one year for Cultural Centre?

LU: Yup yup. But I'll still be going to school at the University of Toronto this year. Starts in a couple weeks.

STN: Oh yeah?

LU: Yeah.

STN: So, this will be, like you just work at night or?

LU: Yeah, I'll work during the day, I only have classes two days a week. And only for a couple hours, so I'll just have half days. Mm-hm but I'll be there on weekends too. So yeah.

STN: God, it says issei, nisei, sansei, gosei there. Is there a gosei there?

LU: Gosei- I haven't met any goseis yet. I'm a yonsei though.

STN: You're a sansei?

LU: Yonsei.

STN: You're a Yonsei?

LU: Mm-hm.

STN: But you know- are you doing this yet [points to something out of camera view].

LU: Oh yup. Did you-

STN: My nephew that just got married in, went to Australia, you know what he was doing about a year ago? He graduated school and he decided to be a lawyer, and he was studying law in New York City. And all of a sudden, I don't know how he met her, but she's from Australia. Now he's married to an Australian. How do you change your career like this [criss-crosses arms in front of him], you know? But, I had to do a lot of things because my big brother didn't take over responsibility and I had to do it all.

LU: Mm-hm.

STN: But I don't regret it at all. Family thinks a lot of me and, but somebody gotta do it. Some people, you know- like, I think I had a pretty good life. I made a lot of friends and the last 10 years, I been go-- 19- Oh yeah, another thing that's exceptional is- 1971 was exactly 25 years since I left Alberta. So, one day, I said to my wife, "I want to go see some of my friends in Alberta." And she said she hadn't got good memory of Alberta because of the sugar beets and that, you know. So, she said if it's Alberta you go by yourself, so I said okay. So, 1971, I phoned the Greyhound bus, and you know how much it was to Alberta, Lethbridge, and back? 85 dollars on the bus. So, everybody said that's going to be a rough trip because you don't really sleep, eh. Anyways, I didn't know how it worked, but I went to- I went from Hamilton to Toronto and then went down to Bay Street bus depot and I got in the line and this Japanese or Chinese guy was standing behind me, so I talked to him. And his name was Tak Ho. H-O. And so I sat with him, and sometime- 45 passengers on the bus go to the bus stop, you go to the washroom, and he gets you the coffee. And then the next time you go get the coffee [laughs] and we take turns, and we sat together, and talked, and maybe sleep twenty minutes like this [rocks back and forth] and every two hours there's a stop for about 15 minutes. And then some stops are for meals, maybe 45 minutes. Kept on going. It goes all night, you know. Yeah, anyways Winnipeg is about a three hour stop and we talked all the way, and he said- and I said what are you doing, and he says I've been in Toronto and Toronto is a very cold city. People are not friendly. You don't even know your neighbours, and it's a poor place to raise your children.

[2:15]

STN: He had a daughter and a son. So, he said, "I'm going out to Vancouver to see if I can find some kind of a job." He was working on radio communications or something like that. Anyways, he says, "If I move, I'll send you a change of address card." So, I went out to Alberta, see my friend, came home. About a month later, I get a change of address card and to this day I still communicate with this Chinese friend.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: His name is Tak Ho, and I didn't visit him this time, but I think I explained it wrong to him. The way I put it was, if I can't see you today, didn't have no m- so he said right away I'm going to Toronto in November, so I'll phone you then, so I didn't go see him. He used to take me and my wife out to Chinese big red fish special dinner and stuff like that. And his daughter- I didn't get his address, but his daughter grew up, she's a dietitian working for the City of Toronto right now.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: And then the other son is an optometrist in Richmond, BC. He tells me. His wife had cancer too. But he's retired now. And do you that Japanese man in Vancouver that looked after the redress, Tom Oshiro[?], yeah, I think you heard of his name. He worked under him for the B.C. government. And I keep in touch with him yet. He moved three times, four times in Vancouver.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: But that's- his name is H-O. And he has a brother- he was married to a Japanese girl living in Toronto and they went back to Japan. I think that his kids grew up, married some Japanese girl, but his wife just passed away and he wants to come back to Canada.

LU: Mm-hm.

STN: Yeah.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: But that's a long time. 1971.

LU: It's very long time--

STN: Exactly 46, 25 years eh. But 85-dollar return.

LU: So, your wife was on the sugar beet farms?

STN: Yeah, she was in Raymond just like us, evacuation, and the boys went to the bush camp in the winter, so I met them there so that's how I got to know her.

LU: Was she there the whole time on the sugar beet farms?

STN: Yeah [nods].

LU: Oh wow.

STN: They- then they came out this way in 1946, she came for housework in Toronto. First, she had to come do the housework girls and she worked at Bradshaw's in Toronto.

LU: What's Bradshaws?

STN: Makes blue jeans. It was a big company. A lot of Japanese worked in Toronto.

LU: Oh.

STN: Bradshaw.

LU: Did she come out by herself or with her family?

STN: She came out- family came out to Chatham after but the girls came out- My sister came out to work housework from Tashme, my older sister. She worked for President of National Holding Mill in Hamilton.

LU: Oh wow.

STN: Yeah, most of the girls came out for housework first.

LU: Mm-hm. Oh, my goodness.

STN: So, uh.

LU: Are we all set?