

This oral history interview is with Mr. and Mrs. Yoshio and Sachito Hasuike. The interview was conducted during the evening of May 5, 1978 at their home in Tigard. The interview is approximately three hours in length during which time an entire spectrum of topics are dealt with. At the outset, the Hasuikes' talk of their ancestors emigrating from Japan around the turn of the century. From there, the discussion leads into the settlement of the family on their farm in Tigard, the Japanese traditions and customs they brought with them, the growing of strawberries, the neighboring farms and farmers, farm mechanization, and a number of other subjects. One particularly insightful segment deals with the relocation of the Japanese-Americans during World War II.

When I began conducting a series of interviews concerning the history of agriculture of Washington County and the various ethnic groups that populate it, I immediately thought of the Hasuike family as prime oral history candidates. My Father's family and the Hasuike family grew up together, worked together, and lived together in the rural farm area on and around Deef Bend Road. After some initial modest hesitation, Yoshio and Sachito were willing to set aside some time out of the harvest season to recall the events of their lives for the benefit of the Washington County Museum and the people of the County.

It was with considerable intrepidation that I broached the subject of the relocation of the Japanese-Americans off the West Coast during World War II. To my surprise however, they were willing, indeed anxious, to talk about it and in some detail. (Pages 30-54 of the transcript and tracks 3 and 4 of the tapes) This is indeed the most poignant section of the entire interview.

It puts a personal perspective on such abstract ideas as wartime hysteria, racial discrimination, and the denial of freedom. The purpose of this section is not to pass judgement on the rightness or wrongness on this essentially military decision but to record its repercussions on the lives of the people it affected. Amazingly, with the passage of time, most of the bitterness has worn away. The Hasuikes and most likely many other Japanese-Americans can look back on this historical event and era with, if not acceptance, at least understanding.

May 5, 1978

Hasuike Yoshio and Sachito

Track 1

- (0) Lloyd's introduction. Introduces yourself. Him born in Tigard, her born in Seattle. Great Northern went to Japan and asked for help to build railroad. Father came over in 1900 .
- (10) How did father come over? Took boat talks about trip. Sachito's grandfather in fruit. Her father came in 1920. Adventurous people left Japan.
- (20) What was it like leaving your country? Government there in Japan. Sach tells story about Yoshio's father and mother.
- (30) Were conditions better second time than 1st time? Did Government care if people left? Did they keep traditions when Japanese got there?
- (40) Learn to eat with fork and spoon. Yoshio's father taught mother to bake pie. Mention Pleith family. Berries over in August. How did father end up in Tigard? Some chose farming, laundry, and different jobs.
- (50) Got Yoshio's father property than went back to Japan to be married. Hard to purchase land here? \$3000.00 for 40 acres. Finished patting in 1916. Had horse to do chores. Had horse 27 years. How did father start strawberries? Needed to clear land.
- (60) Yoshio's mother worked hard in hop fields to buy buggy cost \$12.00. When did they have hop farms? In 20's and 30's. Who picked hops?

Track 2

- (0) Japanese traditions-religions. Didn't always go to church. Some catholics methodists, and buddists.
- (10) Talks about beef Bend Road in Tigard. Tells about Otto Meyers Lloyd's grandfather. Beef Bend bad road with ruts.

Track 2

- (20) What did Beef Bend connect to? Talks about streets from Portland to Barbur Blvd.
- (30) Make lots of trips to Portland? Picked milk up all over Tigard. Yoshio's mother didn't like to go to Portland. Shopped in Tigard. Worked together.
- (40) Talking about the dairy farms. What was land like when Yoshio's father came? All timber. Sach been here 30 years. Can't believe how it has grown! What was market for strawberries? Steady demand for berries? Canneries change things.
- (50) Nearest cannery in Beaverton. Talks about canneries. Oregon grows lots of berries. Calif can now. During depression 12¢ a flat. How did effect when canneries closed?
- (60) Without canneries you would be out of business?

Track 3

Index for Part 1 ends here

- (0) Talking about World War Two. Restrictions on traveling. Have to evacuate. Registered in 1936. Correspond with sister?
- (10) During War you could only communicate through Red Cross. Concentration camps if you didn't have place to go. Evacuations started when war broke.
- (20) Could you see it coming? Sachito had premonition! 1 day and 1 night to move. General De Witt in command. Feelings of neighbors?
- (30) Drafted in August. First one to go here if not for fingers. Neighbors helped move. Some blamed us that didn't know us.
- (40) Mass Hysteria if you were Japs. People put up signs "Keep Out"! Things turned out smoother after about 1 year. Lots of Japanese boys in our armies. You had it better than most.

15685 SW 150TH AVE
Tigard

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LOH 78-190.5

(0) LM: The following oral history conversation is with Yoshio and Sachiko Hasuike on May 5, 1978 on their farm ~~at~~^{near} Beef Bend Road in Tigard. The interview is close to three hours in length. In that time a number of different topics are discussed. At the beginning the Hasuikes talk about their families ~~emigrating~~ immigrating from Japan around the turn of the century. From there the discussion leads into the settlement on the farm in Tigard, ~~growing~~ strawberry farming, the neighboring farmers, the changes in markets, farm ~~mechanism~~^{mechanization}, and so on. One particularly ~~in~~ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ segment deals with the relocation of the Japanese Americans during World War Two. On the whole the conversation gives ~~the~~ wide coverage to the Beef Bend, Tigard area.

LM: Good evening. Why don't we just start out having both of you introduce yourself and telling me, if it isn't too personal, your age and when and where you were born.

YH: I am Yoshio Hasuike. I was born in Tigard almost where I live now in 1915. That makes me 63 years old.

SH: My name is Sachiko Hasuike. I am a little bit younger. I was born in Seattle, Washington. I am 57 years old.

LM: All right. Yoshio you were born here. I want to start out with the original Hasuike in this area. Maybe I can ~~ask~~^{begin} an opening question by having you tell a little bit about your family, ~~and why~~ starting with over in Japan, ^{and then} why they came over here to the United States.

YH: The opportunities in Japan were not too great and also the people from U.S. railroad company, the Great Northern, came to Japan asking for help to build railroad tracks.

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Missoula

So they started from Seattle and worked towards ~~Missoula~~, Montana. It was that far when the East and West met so he ^(YOSHIO'S FATHER) was out of railroad work. He headed back to Seattle. Then from Seattle to Portland they worked on the S.P.S., Union Pacific and what not, till that run out again. Then they went to logging. Logging is fine but in those days population was just limited and the sales of logs is nothing like what it is now. So they had too much logs before you knew it. Too much lumber in the saw mills so they ran out of ~~leg~~ ^{log} work. So he decided well, he likes it in this country and he had a talk with people and they said " Oregon is a good place, a pretty place." If you have property over here, buy property and stay here and bring your family. He had two brothers with him and they both worked with him on the different things like on the railroad and saw mills and logging camps. Then the younger one didn't want to go to farming so he went someplace else and so my dad and the next brother looked for land around here and found here in Beef Bend Road.

(10) LM: Pardon me for interrupting, but what year did your father come over from Japan?

YH: 1900

LM: Did he ever talk to you about ^{Japan?} . . . You mentioned there ^{were} ~~was~~ not any opportunities in Japan. What do you mean? There was no employment opportunities?

YH: Too many people for the amount of employment.

SH: I thought maybe he didn't want to carry on his father's work neither.

YH: He didn't care for some of the work, He didn't care for ^{it} but he did fishing. He was catering food for parties and what not and also had a fish market. He didn't care for any of that, He ^{wanted} ~~wanted~~ to go out into open country.

IM: That's what his father, your grandfather did before?

YH: My grandfather and grandmother continued after my dad was in this country.

IM: So there was several people from the States asking Japanese men to go come over to work?

YH: They couldn't help but ask Moscow and China too. That is why Chinese are in this country.

IM: How did your father come over?

YH: On boat.

IM: Was there a lot of others?

YH: Oh yes, a full load, you ^{see} say.

IM: Did he ever talk about the trip over?

YH: Oh yes, he said it was slow ~~for~~ about three or four weeks. Sometimes the ocean got so rough that they had to lay around and keep the boat from getting sunk with water and keep pumping the water out of it when it comes over the deck.

SH: Probably bucketed it out.

YH: No not bucketed it. Man handled the pumps. In those days the boats were ran by steam. You know if you get ^{too} long on ocean ^{trip} why ^{whether} either you ^{can work or} ~~can work or~~ something like to run the boat. ^{That} ~~They~~ ^{you} can't afford to run out of burning material or something to fire up for fuel, you know. You had to be real careful on how you used it. But they had to get the water out of the hole first. When it did get real bad why it went clean over the deck and you had closed ^{up} ~~up~~ ^{but} and it still seeped down into the hole.

IM: How many people were on the boat coming across? Was it crowded conditions?

YH: It was crowded conditions usually. They could only take so much and that is usually ~~compacitated~~ ^{compact capacity} and that is the way they come. Some times they don't ~~compacitated~~ ^{have full capacity} full. They bring some food with them. You know to sell ~~over~~ ~~here~~ to the Japanese population here and things like that. Actually there wasn't too much exploit^{to} in those days.

LM: How about you Sachi~~ko~~? Did your family come over the same way?

SH: My father, and grandfahher ~~was~~ ^{were} in the orchard business. They used to raise pears mainly that were the size of grapefruits over here and he would market that from where he lived in the Northwest area of Japan to the South area and throughout Japan. My father didn't like this=selling pears and things like that so he decided that he will go wandering off. So he came over he~~r~~e in 1920 but he brought my mother with him ~~so~~ ^{and} I was already, she was already pregnant with me. I was born over here.

LM: That must have been quite a migration ~~than~~ leaving Japan. Was there that much dissatisfaction at that time over in the old country? ~~or~~ ^{or} What were the conditions like?

SH: Maybe they were more adventurous people that came. ~~to~~

LM: Could they be compared with the people coming from the Eastern United States to the West you think? The same adventurous spirit?

SH: I think it would be a little bit different because you see they are foreigners and when you don't have the command of the English language and you are coming with strictly Japanese that is something to admire really.

(20) LM: What was it like leaving the old country and giving up your country and starting an entirely new one?

YH: Well they had in mind that if they ~~didn't~~ ^{it} hit rich why they would go back to Japan and live like ^{a little} a little rich people and buy property and do things like that and rent things out and live. But that soon was forgotten because life over here was much easier and no rat race like over there with people and lots of room to expand. The government is not quite so strict and the upper class and the lower class didn't cost so much at that time. Some of them enjoyed it more over here as I understand it. Anyway dad didn't want us boys to go back to Japan ^{be} cause at a certain age we get drafted you see. So he made sure we didn't go to Japan.

LM: You would be drafted if you went back there to Japan?

SH: He didn't want them to be at the-----?

LM: Was ~~Japan at the time~~ still.. How about the government system? Was it still a Shog~~an~~ or an ~~Emper~~ ^{Emperor} at the time?

SH: It was an Emperor. Probably ~~Magee~~ ^{Meiji} at that time under the ~~Magee~~ ^{Reign} Reign. I was born in ~~Tashio~~ ^{TAISHO} ~~so~~ I don't know what year. ^{SP?}

YH: Well we don't know too much about the ~~Reign~~ ^{reign} but anyway it was Emperor at that ~~time~~ time and the class was ~~divided~~ ^{divided} up in high class and medium and in this line.

SH: It was ~~Tashio~~ ^{TAISHO} during the Tashio ~~Teno~~ ^{TAISHO TENNO} Teno was Emperor in era. ^{TENNO} ~~Teno~~ was Emperor in era. ^{SP?}

YH: They changed as the ~~Emperor~~ ^{EMPEROR} changed, (laughing).

LM: Do you think that was the original intention of a lot of the Japanese coming over to make enough money and then go back to the old country?

YH: Some of them, but not all of them ^{be} cause if they had that in mind they wouldn't have brought the family over. Once you bring a family over you can't live like a single man.

LM: Your father came over with his family then?

YH: No, he came over in 1900 and then he went back in 1909 and got married.

Then he came back to set the farm, **I**t was a whole year before my mother came ~~back~~ over with my grandfather.

SH: This is 1912, that is when she came.

YH: She came in 1912 with my grandfather and my aunt and mother.

LM: You were telling me a little bit before that a ^{protect} ~~pretical~~ involved in bringing your mother across. Can you elaborate or tell that story again?

SH: Do you want me to tell it?

LM: Sure.

SH: Oh, well, that is Yoshio's mother and aunt were going to come over to the U.S. to meet and join their husbands, ^{in Tigard.} ~~There~~ ^{THEIR} father-in-law, who is Yoshio's grandfather, said it wasn't proper to have two young ladies travel on their own. So he accompanied them here to the States to Tigard and this is where this picture was taken. It is the propriety of accompanying them so that they wouldn't have to travel ~~alone~~.

(30) IM: Were traveling conditions better than when your father came ^{across} ~~acrose~~ the first time?

YH: I guess in those days they were strict about women running around on their own and ~~flot~~ different than they are nowadays. This is taken of the porch of the house down the road where I was born.

IM: The ships that came across ^{were} ~~then~~ they were operated by U.S. shippers?

SH: How about for the recruiting though that must be. .

YH: They could go on either one, but most of the ships were ~~because~~ Japan's, ^{Had} ~~were~~ quite ^{good} navigators out on the boats all over. The country was small and they had to import and export as much as can so they were going in and out quite a bit more than bigger countries.

SH: Of course some of the other people that are here may have come on U.S. ships too. So you can't really tell just because the father and mother came on Japan^s ships doesn't mean that they are all traveling that route.

LM: ~~So does the~~ ^{Did the} government of Japan ~~were did they~~ care or have any restrictions on the amount of people leaving the country? Or did they see it as sort of a relief of the population pressure?

YH: I believe the population pressure as far as I can see.

SH: I would think ~~that~~ ^{that} if someone has adventurous blood in them you can't cure it until they go through ~~the~~ ^{with} whatever ~~that~~ they want to do. Carry it out.

LM: Once your family arrived over here, well, both of your families and the other Japanese families, did they maintain the Japanese traditions once they got over here?

YH: Somewhat but not all together because things are different here. ~~Were~~ living different and the foods are going to be changed somewhat because the imported Japanese food was limited in those days. The ships do come in but they only bring in certain food that will keep under that long trip across the ocean. They didn't have refrigeration in those days so they just figured well if it is dried or canned it can come over. Mostly dried stuff or solid food. Canning was something that wasn't used too much in those days yet. So it would be dried fish or...

SH: Or canned, professionally canned food.

YH: Some but not very much at that time though.

SH: Fish cakes and so forth.

YH: But they soon learned the American way of living because my mother used to tell how they used to work for Mr. Pleith. ^{Pleith's Pleith's} Pleith's father you know.

Cont) We worked for ^{Elsner's} ~~Osmer's~~ and for a lot of other people down the road to and a German family and I can't remember what their names were but we harvested apples and stuff like that. In those days we didn't have things like ^{so?} harvesters. It was all done by pitchfork and potato fork and buckets. You drop them in the sack and you are lucky to get them out sometimes. The horses could hardly walk in the mud.

(FJ)
SH: They used to use chopsticks all the time so when they came over here and they saw fork, knife, and spoon they didn't know which one to use first and how to hold it and everything else. That is what they ^{learned} ~~learned~~ at the Pleith house. ^{had} You were supposed to use your fork and one person knew so he would coach them ^{all} ~~all~~, ~~so when you are supposed to use your fork~~ ^{and} you would use your fork, and when they were supposed to use the spoon they would use the spoon.

YH: If you ate chicken you could use your fingers if you wished (laughter).

SH: Then that is how she learned how to bake a pie. Someone learned and I guess ^{he} ~~she~~ was a cook at a logging camp or something so he learned first, Yoshio's uncle. So he told Yoshio's mother that you make a crust and then you pare the apples and then you cut it up into small pieces and then you put a certain amount of sugar and cinnamon and so forth and cover it up and then you bake the pie. That was the first time that she ever knew how to bake a pie and ~~she~~ was very good at it after that. Wasn't she?

YH: Making biscuits and home made bread. Everything was made at home in those days you know. She got so that she could make ^{good} ~~good~~ bread. I got spoiled on ~~her~~ bread so this bread I buy now is not exactly like the old fashioned bread.

LM: I was just going to ask about this ^{Pleith} Pleith house that you mentioned. Is this a family down here on Bend Road?

SH: Yes, It was Mr. Fred ^{Pleith's} Pleith's father.

LM: What would they do?

SH: They were farmers and ~~then they~~ would ask Yoshio's folks to help when they ~~were down here~~ ^{could} because when you plant strawberries there is nothing to do but take care of it. When that is done there is no fruit-there so nothing to pick so ~~in their leisure.~~ ^{they were available for extra work.}

YH: Berry season all end around August and September. There you are with the work done except to take care of it. So something like ^{?harvest} ~~clearhouse~~ comes in October most of it and sometimes they can't get them out why they have to get somebody to help them get them out or they never get them out. It's not done by diggers in those days. At first it was all done with potato forks and buckets and sacks. They needed man power more than anything else. So we went and picked up potatoes for the neighbors and we got acquainted that way see! We made a little spending money to D.

SH: Didn't they say something about corn to?

YH: No ,

LM: Going back a little bit when your father first arrived, how did he end up in Tigard or where did he first come to?

YH: He came to Portland by railroads and logging camps on the Pacific Coast.

SH: Some people went into the ^{dry-}cleaning+laundry business. Some went into hotels. He chose to farm.

LM: Was farming something completely new to him then?

YH: Yes a new adventure.

LM: Was there other Japanese families that settled around here in this area besides the Hasuike's?

YH: Yes, the ^{Sasaki's} ~~Saki's~~ over near toward Tualatin. There weren't too many settled yet. There were places here and there but dad was one of the first to rent land over this part of the country.

(10) SH: He pushed the panic button because after the work was over they said he was supposed to purchase property and get married and then he could stay in the U.S.. So he quickly looked for property and then after that was all fixed up ~~why then~~ he quickly went to Japan and was married and came back.

YH: Fixed up the home and so it was liveable, ^{be} cause there ^{were} ~~was~~ two families there. They had another house built on the same farm. Two houses on the farm. It is torn down now but there ^{were} ~~was~~ two houses. I think it had two bedrooms in it that is all. One bedroom on the main floor and the rest upstairs.

SH: Two.

YH: One.

SH: Oh one? That is right. Didn't you say something about that property down there belonged to Hyster? Someone by the name of Hyster?

LM: Was that a problem for your father to purchase land in this area?

YH: As long as it was up for sale, they could buy. The main problem was ^{to} have the money.

LM: So he rented land before he bought it?

YH: No, he started buying this on payments. That is why the taxes are paid by the original owner. He paid the money and they paid the taxes and what was left went on to payments.

LM: How expensive was land back in the 1900?

YH: It was \$3000.00 for 40 acres.

SH: You have that paper somewhere don't you?

YH: He finished paying on it in 1917.

SH: 1916, It was began in 1909 and 1916 was the final payment. They didn't want it in lump sums. They wanted so much so until the principle was paid naturally the interest was applied to it.

YH: The marketing was all done by horse and buggy. One horse he bought when it was only a year old. It was a real gentle horse. I guess he really ~~priced~~ ^{prized} that horse, ^{be} cause it was the best horse he ever had. The poor thing died when it was 27 years old. We almost had to pick it up off of the barn floor every morning. He wouldn't let us shoot it or sell it to the fox farm or anything else. He had to let him die of natural death, that is the only way he would have it.

LM: ~~You had the horse through all..~~ What kind of chores did the horses do?
Plowing?

YH: They did the plowing, they cultivate, they cut hay and also deliver to Portland. We would start out at nine or ten o'clock in the evening ^{and} the horse would trot all the way in with so called farm wagon that is supposed to be cushioned with springs on all four wheels like a buggy type. So the berries don't bounce all over. Like he said, once you get the berries delivered ~~and~~ ~~on the way home~~ you can ^{get} set the horses all the way ^{home} back and ^{by tying} tie the reins on the horn, ~~and~~ crawl in the buggy [?] and fall asleep and the horse will go back to the barnyard. ~~You~~ ^{Horses could lead him home but he} couldn't do that because he would fall asleep on the side of the road.

LM: How did ^{your} ~~your~~ father get started growing strawberries?

YH: He figured for acreage you would make more. He only had the 40 acre farm, actually 38 1/2. It wasn't all cleared at the time. Only about twelve acres was cleared.

^{2.} ~~you know think~~ ^{with} twelve acre land, unless you have something that will produce some money, why you can't make a living. There ~~for~~ he figured and they all talked it over and come to settle on berries. Berries were more dollars per acre. Meanwhile he cleared land. All the rest of the land by horses ~~and~~ and blasting caps and dynamite and pulled stumps out and cut down big trees which were beautiful trees that you cut them all up and burn. Made wood if he needed it and if not, just burned them.

(60) SH: There was a time after they put strawberries in ^{for} some leisure. People were saying that there is hops over in the hop yard. ~~They went~~ ^{Just} like the gold rush they went over to the hop yards and some people worked like crazy. That's what your mother said that she worked real hard but she couldn't earn very much. So between ^{Yoshio's mother} ~~her~~ and Yoshio's father they made enough to buy a buggy because his older sister was born already and so that set them back. But they had the buggy to show for it. (laughing) How much was the buggy did she say? \$12.00?

YH: People worked like crazy to make a few dollars but they weren't very hungry so I guess they didn't have the knack how to pick hops so ~~they~~ ^{they} quit and came home.

LM: Were these hop fields around this area then?

YH: No they were in Independence.

LM: Oh is that right?

YH: Took a train down to Independence.

LM: My father told me once that there was some hop yards down here on the Knoll where you have your raspb~~erry~~erry fields.

YH: There and also right here too. But hop yards ~~was~~ ^{were} down farther ~~to~~ over there..

SH: Mallore^y's Place because you know the hop baskets are ^{slats} ~~slats~~ that were all nailed together and they sort of like the Trojan thing turned upside down you might say. In that shape. (referring to nuclear power plant)

YH: Picking into the baskets and they were very big sacks about five or six feet tall the way it seemed to me.

SH: They have a little handle on the sides, two handles so you can pick it up.

YH: It used to be ^{Steinhoffs} Mallore^y's place, now it is the ^{Mallory's} Steinholts.

SH: That's right Steinhoffs, Millie. Millie Steinhoff would know but she is hard of hearing.

YH: She lives in Canby now. She has always been hard of hearing. One time we rented land from ~~them~~ in the later years I had to negotiate some business about renting or this and that. There was a meeting and I came home so ^{horse} ~~horse~~ I could hardly talk when I got done because she never turned her hearing ~~aid~~ aid up and so I had to yell at her so she would understand and even then she would come up with the craziest answers. It is hard for a person to understand because you say one thing and they come back with a totally unrelated answer. I never get anything done that way.

LM: When did they have the hop farms down here?

YH: In the 20's and into 30's until they quit in 1936. You see what happened is that Steinhoffs is ^{ff?} ~~like my father~~ ^{who were} older than my dad, so they get old ^{but} and they can't help it ^{in dependent} ~~and the~~ ^{depending} ~~independence~~ ^{their} in our family is the big hop yards. ^{IN Independence} So ~~now~~ everybody is raising hops again so I guess you get too many hops raised and no market for so I guess that is why they rented the farm out to us. In other words, there was still hops growing here and there in the fields ^{when} ~~and~~ we were into it. I think the year before we went in, a nursery took over and put bulbs in there. (at the Knoll)

They had a heck of a time because too many hops came up in the nursery and when they started trying to dig this ^{with} ~~which~~ the machine why the roots were tough and it didn't do any good, I guess the way I understand. But anyway the hop business was retired actually and they rented the farm out to us and whoever wanted to raise grain and wheat and stuff like that. They weren't making too much effort to farm it. Like with hops there was spraying and watering and everything else, There is a lot of work in the hops and getting someone to do it.

LM: Are hops comparative to the old pole beans then or are they?

YH: Taller yet. They are up there by a good eighteen feet high it seems to me, but they aren't that tall.

SH: I think they are higher than that.

YH: No, about ten feet maybe at the highest.

SH: Even now? Now they have, did you ever see it over towards St. Paul? You know where, I can't think of his name and they have a beautiful hop farm there.

YH: Towards St. Paul and Ontario. But anyway hops are machine harvested now so it's different again.

LM: Who was it that picked the hops? Was it the children?

YH: No, mostly adults. Seems like in those days adults ^{had} ~~have~~ a break in ^{their} ~~there~~ work. People that have grain. Their grain is not ripe enough to harvest so they have a break. The hay is in and they have a break between ~~and~~ grain so they go out and pick hops. Hops are usually harvested in August. Grain going into September and October. Hay is in May and June, so there is a break so a lot of farmers and wives and kids and everybody go pick hops.

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Of course some people come out of town to pick hops. A kind of seasonal work they make extra spending money on.

SH: ~~Not~~ years ago wasn't it the general trend for the neighbors to help each other out[?] and so wherever you are working at well than if it is meal time ~~they~~.

End of Track 1

LM: Earlier I asked the question about the Japanese traditions over here carried over from the old country. I am curious ~~a little bit~~ about the religion. Japanese were living ~~with a~~ little bit different from what was over here. What was it, ^{Buddism?} Did the religious aspects still carry over from the old country?

YH: There is still a ^{Buddist} church in Portland.

SH: They didn't go to church regularly, if they were busy or something they would go to funerals and things like that you know. Social obligations.

YM: Some of them have their shrine. They pray in front of the shrine.

LM: Did your parents maintain their strong ^{Buddist} beliefs ~~or~~?

YH: Not really strong but they still went back to ^{Buddism} ^{de} cause that is what is ^{they were} raised ^{to believe in.} So they still went to church but they didn't go every Sunday Mass or anything like that but they belonged to the church. Maybe not the best ^{Buddists.}

LM: Was that true with a lot of the Japanese families that came over all up and down the West coast here?

YH: Some were originally Christians too. There are some Christians, Catholics, and Methodists too.

SH: I have ^{some} ~~got~~ relatives in Japan ~~that~~ are Christians, in fact one cousin I have is a minister. I don't know what he is doing now / whether he is alive or not.

YH: Religion is carried here ~~from~~ back and forth and they change some are Catholics and some are Methodist and so forth. My dad's cousin was born a Methodist so it ^{doesn't} always carry over. My uncle was also a Methodist for a while. I don't know if he is now but he used to go to a Methodist church.

LM: Even before a lot of the Japanese came over there was a strong Christian Missionary movement over in Japan was there not?

YH: Yes there was. That is ^{when} ~~why~~ ^{They weren't} ~~there~~ ^{weren't} satisfied with the religion or ^{confusing} around the ^{doings} church or whatever. ^{They tried} to make a good Christian and go to the ^{service} Christian ~~mass~~. If they liked it, why they went to see it. So like any other country there are changes and even right now in Portland there are some Caucasians ^{whp} ~~that~~ are Buddis ^{ts} to O.

LM: How about some of the Japanese that came over and wanted to keep their Buddhist beliefs and religions. ^{Did} ~~Do~~ they find pressure among the people in the United States to change? Or is there any of that religious pressure ~~or~~?

YH: I don't think so. They were pretty nice about it. In fact like I said until World War Two you didn't know who was who.

LM: You mentioned a little bit about the ^{Pleith} ~~Pleith~~ family. Was that the case of a lot of the farmers around here? Did they ^{accept} ~~except~~ you and your father?

YH: Oh yes. Your great grandfather did the same, he tented land and moved back and forth. Your dad used to chase around with us you know. (laughs) He was younger than I but he stays around more than you think. We would go to Scholls and then stop at ^{"Long oaks"} long oaks and have our hamburger or pop/and come home.

SH: Beer?

YH: No (laughs) We drink later on. It was kind of interesting they could never tell my age. Those boys were four years younger than I am. But when we stand at the counter and ask for beer they want to see my I.D. They laugh at me because they got away without ^{I.D.} and I didn't and I was older.

LM: Who were some of the neighbors around here, some of the earlier families?

SH: Halmon's *Hallman's*.

YH: Halmon's, Sneifer, Driers, Kurth's and some are up like Mauley's, I can't think a lot of them, there are so many.

SH: Jernick's? *Zednik's*

YH: *mednik's* Jernick's are fairly old I guess.

SH: Who used to live here?

YH: Kusick family, There was the Fredrickson's.

SH: Who used to live next floor here?

YH: That was Fredrickson's. A lot of them came in after we were here.

SH: I think Otto Meyer is probably the oldest. He is a grand old timer.

(10) YH: He is a hold timer. He used to tell us about the Beef Bend Road and how it came to be named Bend. Have you ever heard it?

LM: No I haven't. Could you tell me the story?

YH: Along the road here there is a ~~real~~ ^{real} sharp horseshoe bend in the river. That is where they herd the horses and cattle from Tillamook to Portland Stockyards. They never had trucks to haul them. They come to that horseshoe bend and drive the cows right into the horseshoe bend and make them swim the river. Force them across the river and force them in there. Chase them in there and they can't get out because it is narrow. They have to go across the water. They bring in two or three hundred head and by the time they chase them all across they scatter and they always run short of 2 or 3 heads of cattle. No matter where you went they finally find the carcass laying out in the woods where they were killed and dressed down. You could never tell who got the beef because all the farmers had beef. So they call it Beef Bend. That is what your great grandfather used to tell us.

LM: Now he was my grandfather.

YH: Oh your grandfather!

LM: This is ^{sort} ~~part~~ of a personal information. What was Otto Meyer like? I never really ever heard.

YH: He was already in his seventies when I knew him.

SH: What I heard from your parents he was quite a distinguished gentleman-like. Always well dressed and he took high pride in his appearance.

YH: His whiskers always trimmed nicely and shaved.

LM: I have seen a picture or two of him.

YH: He was semi-retired when I am remember him. He told us all kinds of stories about when I think his parents, you know on his mother's side I forgot how. Anyway they used to own a homestead out here. He used to tell about the olden days. In other ⁰wards if you want to know anything about horses, he would show you and tell you what to do for injuries and how to tell age and what not to do and what to do. So between your grandfather and your uncle Bert. Bert used to be pretty good but your grandfather was way ahead of him. They were raised with horses and cattle all the way through. So that is the way they farmed and delivered and everything. Like I said before in 1916 my dad filed payment, finished on the farm so he went to get a new truck. Old Republic, you never heard of it have you? If you want to see one/go/see Fred Pleith he has an Old Republic a 1918 model. We got ours in 1916 with solid rubber tires. No air in them, just solid chunk. Rubber on top of a steel wheel. The road was so rough that rubber would chip off and there wasn't any rubber left on the rims.

SH: When your mother came she said Beef Bend Road was just a rut in the road.

(Yosh's mother)

IM: What do you mean by a rut in the road?

SH: Just a dirt road and if the wagon wheels left a track then the track was there. Like the horse-drawn wagons that is all they had to do, ~~was~~ just follow that rutty road and if ^{it} curved the wagon would go that way and just followed it. Can't believe it now, can you?

YH: There wasn't any gravel on the road.

(20) IM: What did Beef Bend hook up to then? What was 99 like?

YH: It is Pacific Highway now and it went towards Full^lton and out that way and into Portland. There wasn't a freeway and Barbur Boulevard wasn't there.

IM: What was there then?

YH: Over behind the fill, you know where I-5 goes underneath Barbur Blvd. there above Tigard. There is a road to your right that follows all the way up behind the woods.

SH: Is that the one that goes to P.C.C?

YH: It came out at Capitol Hill.

~~60th~~
IM: ~~Cynthia~~ St. is what it is called now. — a questionable fact

YH: I guess. It goes to that and it goes towards 101 and out that way. That is the original highway. West Portland and I came out that way quite a few years before this Barbur Blvd came in. Before that, is was a great improvement and all of a sudden we get I-5 going in there and the freeway which of course is from World War Two. Re member the days that we go over 25 miles an hour and you get a ticket. How about that? You know sixth st. or the highway up above or you might call it scenic drive now up on sixth st. They call it the scenic highway now but is you got between a truck you would get pinched.

SH: Where is ^{6th} sixth st.?

YH: You come from Portland on ~~sixth~~ ^{S 6th St} st. that is it.

SH: They call it avenue now. Right next to Barbur, 4th?

YH: I don't know but it used to be ~~sixth~~ ^{6th St} st.

LM: This is downtown?

YH: Downtown, 6th would come out there by Slavin rd. we used to call it. Then it comes out in West Portland and to Multnomah toward the community college and over the hill and down.

LM: Boy, that must have been a long trip. That was quite a . . .

YH: They had to curve around to avoid some of the hills. ~~Because~~ you know that the left hand side of the freeway ^(A) lays down in the hole.

LM: Did the farmers in this area make a lot of trips into Portland then?

YH: Well, the grain farmers and the cattle farmers didn't have too ~~so~~ much because they raise ^{their} ~~there~~ own feed and the ^{milk} ~~work~~ was picked up from a milk truck or a milk wagon or whatever they call it. They have a route to pick up. We used to have a dairy processing outfit here in ^{Tigard} ~~TIGARD~~. Almost directly across from Fred Meyer shopping center right now.

SH: Oh that's that Red Rock.

YH: Red Rock Dairy they make cheeses and butter and they used to pick up this local milk.

LM: They must have picked up milk from the whole Tigard, Beaverton area then.

YH: Oh yes, ~~because~~ ^{eight} between here and our place a while back there was ~~5~~ dairies. Almost everyone was a dairy. Your folks even put out some milk ~~to~~ for the ^{grand} ~~grand~~parents. There was a lot of people up and down the road that put milk in the wagon for the truck to pick them up. Put them into 15 gallon cans.

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explanation →

SH: More like your mother, she didn't go to town very often because she said she met one lady at the hop yards and ten years later they were sitting in the same doctor's office. So you see that is quite a long time—ten years.

YH: She lives in Gresham and we live way over here. Mostly grocery shopping and clothes and shoes and what not we could pick up in Tigard. We could get everything from shoes to clothes and anything you need. So we bought them in Tigard.

SH: Variety

YH: Variety, we really had variety.

LM: Is that what they call mercantile store?

YH: I imagine so. We just called it McDonald's and the Tigard store.

LM: You mentioned that there were ^{eight} dairies along here on Beef Bend Road. Was that really the major ^(type of) farm?

YH: That is the major farm. That is why see, they were in the dairy and we were in the berries so we were in totally different business. So summertime they helped each other harvest grain and hay too. It is not uncommon to see about 10 or 12 farmers to get together with their team of horses and go over and harvest some of that hay for them or get the grain.

SH: Togetherness.

(240)
YH: At lunchtime we would all eat lunch right there. They serve dinner to all the harvesting hands. Of course some of the dairy people would have to quit at a certain time by about 4 o'clock to go home and or they would have to milk all night. But the dairies weren't anything like they are now with 200 or 300 head. They had to all be hand milked. Later on they had milking machines but that was quite a few years later.

That was operated with the gas engine and with the vaccum pump on it. If the gas engine didn't want to start you had to milk by hand anyway.

IM: Did that happen quite often?

YH: That is like the gas engine sometimes they get pokey and they don't want to start or it did start and stop in between and you had to work on it again. But they were pretty reliable for a ^{one-} cylinder motor.

IM: What was this land and area like when your father first arrived here? As far as . . . ?

YH: All timber almost.

IM: All up and down here on Bend ^{Road} rd. then?

YH: Just patches of clearing along both sides of the road on Beef Bend Road. Gradually everybody start cutting more and more with blasting powder and caps and fuses and so forth and blow a hole in it and clear it out with the horses and burn it.

SH: I have here over thirty years and just to see all of the houses that have come up is unreal. You take like King City, there was only one house on the entire place when Yoshio's father and mother were here. ~~?~~

YH: Just prior to World War Two this county official came out to our place and wanted me to buy that farm where King City is. But ~~the~~ taxes the back taxes on that place were \$ 750.00 on ²/₀ many years.

IM: That was out of your price range then?

YH: It wasn't so much the price. If you get the tractor stuck then you can't get it out then you don't feel like farming all summer for something that can't. . . But during the horse and buggy it was all right because a horse can waddle through mud with a plow but a tractor can't do that. ?

SH: They said it was too wet didn't they? That ground was. I remember Yoshio's father saying that.

YH: When you start building a house on that you ^{say} see, "gee I don't know how a house will stay up there." But they bring ^{culverts} gra at big cauldres and tiles and miles and miles of [?] and drain it. None of the houses have basements. There is no way that they can put basements in it is all cement foundations and floor and everything you see.

LM: Why is that such a wet area?

YH: I-guess because of some rock formation like Bull Mountain and comes up and seeps out of the ground like a spring almost. It is a underground reservoir that oozes out as far as I can see.

LM: When your family started growing strawberries, ^{what was the market for strawberries?} ~~straw bernies?~~ Where were they sold?

YH: Portland. It was all the local market until the train started shipping back East in refrigerated cars and then started processing . . .

SH: In 1916 or so?

YH: No after. After refrigeration they shipped some fresh but most of them were shipped to the back East market in the cars with the processed stuff. But Portland markets, see there was not too many berry growers or vegetable growers either because like I said there were more dairies and they could make cheese and ship cheese out which would keep.

LM: Was there always a steady demand for strawberries then locally?

YH: Locally it was until the later 30's then, boy, we started shipping out, early 30's rather. We shipped out a lot, cars and cars out of Portland.

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LM: Did the coming of the canneries change dramatically the strawberry business then? Did that provide another? When did they get there start then?

YH: In the 20's that I know of. I can't remember further back from ^{that} there. I know that in the 20's when I was going to grade school I knew who was picking for the cannery.

LM: Where was the closest cannery at that time in this area?

(6) YH: The closest one was in Beaverton. Then one in Sherwood came in.

SH: Chandler's came in.

YH: Chandler's came in in the 40's.

LM: This is out in Sherwood then?

YH: Chandler's is at the end of Bull Mountain. You know where that.

LM: Oh that is right.

YH: So we were taking them to Beaverton. Then to Hillsboro and then to Sherwood.

LM: You took it into the Ray Mailings?

YH: Yes we took it to the Ray Mailings and we took it to ^{Graves} Grips Canning, and Portland Canning, and I forgot what the Beaverton was. ^{sp?}

SH: Portland Canning was that started by Mr. LaSalle? ^{Laselle}

LM: Yes, he had a hand in it alright. His father.

YH: Yes, that was quite a thing. Canning was a bigger outlet because they could ship it back East and ship over seas and what not.

LM: So that was really a boom for the strawberry farmers and berry farmers?

SH: But there aren't any around here now. I told Yoshio that ^{my premonition is that} Portland Canning ^{This happened after transfer from Lasalle ownership.} might go broke. ^{were} That year we ~~would be~~ on our own, weren't we? I kept saying I have a feeling. (laughs)

YH: Anyway canning remained the outlet heavier than it used to be. The same thing with the vegetables. Gradually they went to vegetables. Like Birds Eye went

(cont) to vegetable and ship them back East. There are lots of parts of U.S. that can't grow berries. All the Northern part can't because it is too cold. Frost comes too late in the Spring and it kills buds and all. There is only certain parts of the country that can raise berries and some of the states do and some of the states but Oregon was raising a lot of berries. Even California wasn't raising that much. Irrigation was not developed yet. Now California has a lot of water so they have water for the crops so they can raise berries down there. But originally it was all dry land and no irrigation, none whatsoever.

IM: When you sell your berries to the canneries, I understand that the price of strawberries fluctuate from year to year. Why is that? Were you at the mercy of the cannery?

YH: Sometimes ^{at} the mercy and sometimes it is supplying the demand of course which is ^{unpredictable}. Some people dump ^{theirs} ~~there's~~ cheap like ^{co-ops} ~~coop's~~ and what not. and we are ^{needs explanation} at the mercy of them. Yet sometimes they are speculating and they say we will give you so much and you can take it or leave it. ^{you refer to this as consignment.} You are at the mercy actually.

IM: ~~The~~ The prices really fluctuate that much from year to year or are they pretty steady throughout the year?

YH: Well until it hit the 30's it really dropped out of sight almost. In fact we were getting a cent and a half a pound.

IM: That was because of the depression?

YH: The depression coming. Can you imagine picking strawberries for 12¢ a crate? 1/2 cent a halio^{ct}. 24 halio^{ct} to a crate.

SH: You can buy more with 12¢ in those days than you can now.

YH: That is true. In the 30's, just ask your dad, that if you had 50¢ in your pocket you were rich, (laughs).

IM: I remember getting a \$1.00 a flat and I always thought that was tremendous.

SH: You earned a lot more than a lot of people if you are fast.

YH: I never forget you ~~through~~ or Marshall. (The interviewer picked berries at the farm)

IM: Once the canneries started to disappear what happened to the strawberry crop?
I mean how did that effect your business?

SH: We went further, ~~now~~, ^{Now} We go to Woodburn.

IM: Oh is that right? There ~~is~~ ^{are} canneries out there?

SH: We were going to ~~N.E. Portland, Sherwood~~

YH: There is one in Cornelius too.

SH: There was Hillsboro too but Banks, I mean Cornelius. And also they had a receiving station here though didn't they?

YH: But we delivered to a...

SH: Columbia Blvd, What was that? Northwest?

YH: There is one near there but the biggest one still is Smuckers. The big jam and jelly outfit. They have outfits all over the world.

SH: Then we took a few to Dickenson's.

YH: They are another Jam and jelly outfit.

SH: That is on Bonita Rd.

YH: But see, Smucker's has connections all over and Birds Eye used to have but they quit so we are stuck without it here, ~~but~~ Birds Eye still had a Salem processing outfit there.

(60) IM: So without the canneries then yourselves and strawberry farmers would be lost or out of business then.

YH: That is right. Reasons that a lot of them are going out of business I think is that we are importing a lot of strawberries from Mexico.

IM: So they are ^{entering} raising the market now ~~to~~ ^{be} seen.

YH: At first you know our harvesting or picking charges are higher than their processed berries coming from the states. In other words they are getting the berries already picked and processed for the same price that we are picking them for. The only thing that we didn't brag about was that we had a little better quality of berries otherwise some of these jam and jelly out-

SR: We want ~~to~~ ^{to} fit didn't care. A strawberry was a strawberry. The same thing here in

IM: Oh is that right? There are tomatoes. You take tomatoes from Mexico they are machine harvested, and they

SR: We were ~~going~~ ^{much} cheaper than we can raise them for. But like I said before

YH: There is one in California if we relax too much and let Mexico take over some of these days they will

SR: There are ~~millions~~ ^{of} say well "you don't have any so we can raise our prices and get what we want for it".

IM: Do you think that will happen here in . . . ?

YH: I hope not. I see California are raising some tomatoes now ^{with} machine harvesting.

SR: There are quite a few now.

YH: But they aren't like Mexico they tell me. I don't know for sure. But the

SR: That is a different thing. Same thing with harvesting like it shouldn't be so mechanized. So it is making quite a bit of difference.

IM: Pole beans is another example. They have disappeared.

YH: Yes it is almost non-existence. The beans over here are white ^{ones and} ~~one~~ in the machine just picks them off and they harvest all ^{day} ~~along~~ ^{with} time ~~and~~ ^{extra} no labor involved and it is fast. They start ^{of} ~~ing~~ planning so they can continue harvesting for about a month and a half and what have you, ^{So they} ~~and so we~~ have that solved.

They are talking about machine harvesting strawberries now. They say it is turning out pretty good ^{but} and I don't believe it.

End of Track 11

the berries already picked and processed for the same price that we are bringing them in. The only thing that we didn't wrap around was that we had a little better quality of berries otherwise some of these are the same quality as the ones that we have. A strawberry was a strawberry. The same thing goes for tomatoes. You take tomatoes from Hawaii they are machine harvested and they come here and cheaper than we can raise them for. But I don't want to let us raise tomatoes and let Hawaii take over some of these things that we can't sell. You don't have any of the other things that we can't sell.

- 10: ...
- 11: ...
- 12: There are quite a few ...
- 13: ...
- 14: ...
- 15: ...
- 16: ...
- 17: ...
- 18: ...
- 19: ...
- 20: ...