

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.

Track 5

- (0) We were talking about changes from labor to machine. When did you hire people from outside the to help with berries? 1920's Indians came from reservation. How many have you hired? Put out more work now. Indians were slowest pickers.
- (10) When did the Mexicans start in fields? Housing for Mexicans? Needed good housing.
- (20) Some people just work no talk. Good having children coming out. When did you start bussing kids in? 1934
- (30) The kids like to ride on trucks rather than the bus. You must have met alot of people during the years. Lots of pe ople can't use two hands. What do you think about the law no one under age twelve allowed? Hurt lots of people.
- (40) Special incidents in fields? Remember fella named Lloyd with cow jokes.
- (50) Kids should always have lunch.
- (50) Selling strawberries to Rose Festival strawberry breakfast. Lots of nice things to remember. All questions I have

End of Interview

Start of Track 5

(0) LM: We were talking about the changes in farming. The mechanization of farming. Something that we noticed in the change from labor to machines. I am interested in the labor aspect. When did you start hiring people outside the family to harvest the fields and what ~~you~~ have evolved in the past few years?

YH: Way back in the 20's. In berry harvesting we always had somebody to help us. We had the Indians in and the Japanese families in and Chinese colonies in and ~~torpedoes~~ ^{Philippines} ~~Philippines~~ ^{Filipinos} in and we had the white race people in. So we had people from different races and different families.

LM: You had Indians in? Where did they come from?

YH: From the reservation they come and pick. So we had labor from all over. We never had Mexicans until after the World War Two. Then Mexicans started coming in quite a ~~bit~~ ^{NUMBER}. We ourselves had help from local as well as Indians and ~~Philippines~~ ^{Filipinos} and Chinese and Japanese people.

LM: Initially how many people were you hiring then that would help with harvest?

YH: Well, he had as high as 60 people out there but they were producing more berries per person than they are now. You know what I mean they are putting longer hours. Common laborer was working ten hours a day. Those people were working twelve hours a day. You get out when it is dark in the morning and stay till it is dark at night till they can't see. So they were putting in long hours so per person they were putting out more labor per day.

SH: More work aholics.

YH: Well you can just figure that one person can put out 60 or 70 crates of berries a day. Double flats, 24 ^{hallocks} ~~berries~~ a crate. Take 60 of those a day.

LM: That is a lot of berries all right

YH: It is. It is a good \$120.00. We have ~~had~~, in other words, ~~we~~ had a peak of the season an average of 44 flats for the crew. We were making ^{four} ~~4~~ trips a day with the truck to Portland.

LM: This is with who now? Who is doing the picking so fast?

YH: The Japanese and the ^{Filipinos} ~~Philippines~~, they were real fast. Japanese and ^{Filip} ~~Phil~~ ipinos and Chinese were fast. Indians were the slowest of all ^{of} ~~the~~ them I think. We had some white people that were fast too.

LM: Where did these Japanese and ^F ~~Phil~~ ipinos come from?

YH: They come from out of town a lot of people. Some of them will go only summer months only. In other words they were seasonal workers. But they would follow ^{all} the harvesting like strawberries and all the cane berries and then go to the apples. Some of them go to hop picking and some of the men folk will go to Alaska for salmon fishing. The women and kids stay home to pick berries and such in that manner. They camp ~~right~~ out here at the farm. They put up ^{their} ~~there~~ own tents. It is just like you people going out camping you know. They bring there camp right out to the farm. It is not uncommon to see about 20 tents lined up. 16x16 tents. They had one tent for living quarters and small tent for kitchen ^{or} ~~of~~ mess as they call it. They have a stove in there and have a chimney come out the side and they cook and ^{ate} ~~e~~at there.

LM: They would provide all there own previsions?
PROVISIONS?

with cooking utensils and work clothes. We had about the weather got bad we had the barn. So the animals are in the pasture so they had the whole barn when the weather is bad.

did the Mexicans start working in the fields then?

As far as I can figure out it was after World War Two. The biggest percentage of them, there might have been a few before that but we never had them ourselves. My folks didn't have them.

LM: They were the migrants that were coming in and traveling with the crops?

YH: Some of them were migrants or they called them ^{transients.} transit. But during World War Two we had what you call the Nationals. Which they were ^{imported} shipped in for the harvest and then shipped back to Mexico after the harvesting was done. They usually end up six months in the States and six months at home.

LM: After World War Two then there was a lot of Mexican migrant laborers in the whole area, not just on your farm.

YH: Yes all over. In fact there is more outside of our farm. We really never did have Mexicans ~~really~~ much. But you go towards Hillsboro and Forest Grove and there is quite a group of them out there harvesting crop-land. Some of them are just transients. They migrate from Arizona to here and then back that way again.

LM: How about housing for the Mexicans then? Were they operating on the same way with tents?

YH: The law has changed now. You have to have cabins for them and they weren't allowed to use tents like they used to.

SH: Running water

YH: Running water and flush ing toilets. They have to pass the standards, housing standards. So that is why we can't afford to put up any people cause it wouldn't pass the standards. Then you get taxed on it and it is too expensive. So labor has changed but everything hasn't changed according to this.

LM; Well how about children and youngsters? When did they start coming out into the fields? School children?

YH: They always did.

LM: They worked right along with the Mexicans and Japanese?

YH: But in those days we didn't have any trouble out in the fields. They would all mind their own business and they worked out great. So you see a little nine year old kid picking right along side the Chinese or Phil-
ipino or Indians or the white people they all worked together. We never had any trouble. But usually Indians will help each other pick the row and then gab away and you know when you gab you don't pick. That is why they were too much socializing in ^{their} ~~there~~ work. But it is ^{piece} ~~peace~~ work so they work at ^{their} there own speed. Some people want to make alot of money, well they won't talk they just work. In other words ~~they make~~ in the three months or four months of summer they make th e years earnings and then they can loaf for the winter or take a hoeing job or something like that. Women and kids stay in town. Kids can't leave until school is out. The reason the schools used to be out in the middle of May and now it is in the middle of June. They didn't start until the middle of September or after Labor Day at the earliest. So they had the whole summer for the kids and they would take the kids right out to the farm to stay if there father don't come. Usually women folks would come out together with a bunch of kids.

- LM: It must have been really a help that you were able to have school children come out and help pick the crops.
- YH: Those children were taught to work so they worked from like 7 year old kids. They couldn't leave them home so they would bring them out anyways. But maybe they didn't work all day, maybe they worked two or three hours in the morning and lay off the rest of the day. They have 3 flats and that is it. You know what I mean.
- SH: You would have been satisfied at that much.
- YH: That is a five or six year old kid. That is better than nothing and they learn to work.
- LM: When did you start busing the children in?
- YH: Actually we started hauling children after World War Two. No, we hauled before that come to think of it. In 1934 we started hauling kids in the Tigard area. When I graduated from high school is when we got the truck.
- SH: When was it in 48 or 49 that maybe you started driving a truck?
- YH: We did before World War Two Sachiko.
- SH: No, I mean after we got here. We used to go around the Maplewood area and you know, the back of the truck put a couple of strands of rope around and cracked it. across the rack.
- YH: We hauled them right after World War Two. The kids really didn't like the buses to much.
- SH: They said the truck is more fun.
- LM: I agree. I still remember riding on the back of the truck.
- SH: But when you think of the danger aspect of it and then. .
- YH: As long as they behave themselves. As long as the driver is sane there shouldn't be any danger.

(30)

SH: We always had somebody older in the back.

YH: Yes, the little kids had to ride forward and the big ones had to ride on the tail end of the truck.

LM: I know that we never behaved ourselves. (laughing) A few feet hanging off the end that was half the kids dragging our feet on the asphalt.

YH: Until the cops ~~then~~ catch you and then you drag your feet on the asphalt all the way home.

LM: We were talking about this earlier I think ~~but~~ both of you must have met alot of children and alot of people through the years.

YH: We have and as I said before, some of them children ^{1/2} come back to work and if ~~there~~ ^{Their} grand children come back I better quit. Like the Drummonds now, ~~there~~ ^{their} father worked here and ~~there~~ ^{their} sisters and aunts worked here before and now the Drummond boys are working here. They are already 16 or 17 years old?

SH: 14 or 15 I think.

YH: Anyway ~~there~~ ^{Their} parents worked for us before.

SH: We go to a restaurant or we go somew-here in town, Hi Sachi! Hi Yoshio!

LM: It must be hard to keep track of all the ^{KIDS} ~~kills~~ and all the faces.

SH: We do notice one thing. ^{THERE WAS ONE} ~~The ones who, there is a~~ girl named Kathy who always used to help clean up the rows and help the ^{ones} ~~ones~~ that are ^{small} and everything. She became a registered nurse and she spent some time in Africa. She would send us some hot-looking card ^{at} ~~on~~ Christmas from Africa because of the temperature. There are alot ^{who} ~~that~~ keep in contact with us.

LM: Do you think that is something that will value for children of that age to be able to work and make money on ~~there~~ ^{Their} own?

YH: I think so. I think in ^{their} ~~there~~ later life they know how to work and use ~~there~~ ^{the} hands. Like you you can use both hands but you will be surprised how many people that hasn't done any hand work and can not use both hands.

SH: Another thing too though not just earning the money but they will know how to spend it to buy clothing instead of saying I can buy many many at a cheap price. Maybe they will go a little higher and get better quality. They will learn how to shop for things as well as earn spending money for what ever.

YH: You know some budgeting. Budget ~~the~~ money so they don't blow it all in one place and don't have any fun with it. Apparently ~~they~~ they learn to earn money as well as learn to spend money properly or wisely.

LM: What do you think of the law that was passed just two or three years ago about children under 12 not allowed /to work?

YH: It hurt quite a few families ^{be} cause I figure it this way. Some of the children have 10 or 11 year old brother or sister at home. They have to stay home and babysit those kids because the parents are both working. Now they can't bring them out to the farm. At least before they use to bring nine year olds out to the farm and babysit them and make money to. The parents were relieved ^{be} cause they are out at the farm and they knew they were being watched. So it was hurting some that way and I noticed a year or two ago when they first came in with that ^{"we} we can't go to work this year cause we have to stay home and babysit our kid brothers. Can't we bring them out to the farm? " I said no way you can bring them out ^{be} cause if you do I get in trouble.

LM: They are not allowed on the farm at all? No matter if they are picking or not?

SH: We could almost start a nursery school probably if they let them come.

YH: But there is a disadvantage I think there but the Government sees it differently and we have to abide by it as far as I can see. But sooner or later I am going to give up ^{as} to I am getting that age.

(40)
LM: This is sort of a open ended question. You can respond to ~~it~~ to it a number of different ways but in all the pe ople that you have met out in the fields there must have been alot of special incidents ^{ts} or experiences out in the fields that you remember that were especially funny or soemthing that was really touch^{ch}ing or something like that. I know that it is sort of ^a wide open question but maybe you can remember some of the things that you really remember that really stick out in your mind.

SH: I remember a fella by the named of Lloyd and his cow jokes. (laughs)

YH: There are some of them that you know feel sorry for them. They came out to work and their parents were s till sleeping and no food in the house and come out to work with no lunch.

SH: I remember ~~where~~ one girl every morning she would eat her special cereal that she bought ^{herself.} that ~~W~~ when she ^{went} goes home it ^{was} is all gone. Things like that it is really heart breaking to hear. I feel th~~at~~ if parents bring children into the world if they want to send them off to work fine, but make' sure they have something to eat. If they bought it with their own money reserve it for them. Even if they have to buy it for the others if that one particular child purchased it for his own I think he should be able to eat whatever he purchased himself without having to divide with the ~~others~~ ^{who} that aren't even going out to work.

SH: ~~There~~ There has been a case where there was one fella that was considered mentally slow and yet when he first came he couldn't go up the ladder. He had such a fright about it. But I said you can do it, we are all doing it and I showed him how and after that he was running up and down the steps and had more coordination. Then I found out later that he turned out for basketball and made the team and that was really something. But so many different things you know that. . .

YH: Some of the children come back very happy ^{be} cause they made money and bought their parents an anniversary gift and they bought it their own selves and they are really happy because it wasn't the allowance the parents gave them. They can really feel good and make the parents real happy and they come back and tell me all about it.

SH: Then people, well, different pickers will go on a trip and they come back with gifts for us and they don't even have to do that. Hard earned money and you waste it on us I say! They just want to share something.

LM: You must have a lot of satisfying things about people coming back . . .

SH: They still keep in touch with us. A number of them do and a number of them probably went somewhere else. Every year a number of them come back, don't they, to visit us?

YH: There was one incident last year. One boy always used to gripe ~~his~~ that his parents picking on him. But I said that they are trying to straighten you out for your own good. Finally he had a job and his wife had a job and they had a child. He was working a night shift and she was working a day shift and so that took care of the child fine. All of a sudden the wife had an acute appendicitis and she had to go to the hospital.

YH: There he was stuck with the baby and no babysitter and didn't know what to do. His mother called and asked how is everything? Not so good. She said what is the matter? My wife is in the hospital and I have to go to work and there is no babysitter at night time. Why didn't you tell me so? Bring him over. Went over there the next morning to bring him home and she said leave him here cause you got to get some rest and then go to the hospital. He thought thanks about the way his parents thought about him and took care of him and even after they are grown they are still your own kids. He came out to the field and told me that I was right that there is nothing like parents. Things like this that come up are kind of interesting.

(50)
SH: We have been selling berries to the strawberry breakfast for the Rose Festival and each year we have so many volunteers that we don't know how to narrow it down. Then Wendy ^(their daughter) would take them over and they get to see all the doings of the breakfast. They thought it was really something and then when they start televising they get a glimpse of their own faces and that was such a joy for the ones ^{who} that picked the berries and were there. There is a lot of nice things that we can remember.

YH: Most of the time I would say the majority turned out nicely.

SH: I think so. What is nice is that they still keep in contact with us you know a number of them. It is gratifying.

YH: They are doing all right.

LM: That is about all the questions I have unless you would like to add something?

SH: That is all

LM: I appreciate it very much.

End of Interview