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INTERVIEWER: Emma Chow

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EC: Okay, my name is Emma Chow. It is Tuesday, November 11, 2008. We're at 2460 Gracia Way, Arroyo Grande, California. The interview is with Haruo Hayashi a former internee at Gila River Internment Camp. We will be discussing his experiences as an internee during World War II with a focus on family dynamics and cultural identity. This interview is being conducted for the Ethnic Studies 410 Class at California Poly Technic State University San Luis Obispo, California and will be archived in the South County Historical Society Exhibits.

So, first off, can I have you tell us your name and your age?

HH: My name is Haruo Hayashi and I am eighty-two years old.

EC: Perfect, so we're going to start off with some questions regarding pre-war family and personal background. So, can you tell me a little bit about your family history?

HH: Yeah, my dad immigrated to this country. I really don't know exactly what year, but it was around the World War I time. And he came from_____, Japan and he was trained to be a school teacher there, but he figured the pay was too low and there is not much chance of getting advancement or making money. So, he immigrated to America and he came in through Mexico. And he crossed into U.S. and went to Salinas, California.

EC: Why did he go to Salinas? Just because?

HH: Because there was a lot of work there in sugar beets, mostly in sugar beets. So, after he got enough money, he went to Seattle, Washington. That mean that he went out of the country and he could come back in, then he became a legal citizen.

EC: Really? Okay, was he married when he came?

HH: No.

EC: So, how did he meet your mother?

HH: He went back to Japan and got married and came back again.

EC: Oh, okay. And where were you born?

HH: I was born in over here, Arroyo Grande.

EC: You were born in Arroyo Grande?

HH: Yeah.

EC: Okay.

HH: But there was no hospital here, so I had to go to Santa Maria.

EC: But your family was—

HH: My residence was here.

EC: Oh, okay. So, you're, so your parents had already established a home in Arroyo Grande?

HH: Yeah, it's the same house that—

EC: That you, that you grew up in?

HH: Yeah, no, well, well you know you fixed it up.

EC: Right.

HH: Piece by piece.

EC: But same area?

HH: Same, same place, same structure except you know—

EC: Fixed up?

HH: --it was wood inside, you put up stucco and—

EC: How many people are members of, were in your family?

HH: How many?

EC: Like, did you have any siblings?

HH: I had one brother.

EC: And what was his name?

HH: Akil.

EC: And so, you grew up in Arroyo Grande?

HH: Yeah.

EC: And did you grow up around a lot of other Japanese-American families?

HH: Yeah, we had school, our grammar school and high school, especially high school probably twenty percent was yeah, I would say maybe twenty percent was Japanese-American.

EC: That's pretty good. Why did your father move from Salinas to Arroyo Grande?

HH: Well, because he had a chance to farm himself over here rather than working for somebody else.

EC: And can you describe your home life at all?

HH: Yeah, I think it was normal. I mean there's nothing special. We had our birthday parties, things like that you know. I had my good friends, not Japanese.

EC: Did you—

HH: But our American friends.

EC: Okay, so you interacted with—

HH: Yeah.

EC: --other races? And did you speak, so you spoke English at home or Japanese?

HH: Yeah, I spoke English at home, Japanese was my mother mostly. My dad could understand a little, half the English so. But it, by the time we were you know eighth grader or fifth grader, we spoke mostly English. I guess you can go back earlier than that. But first grade, second grade, you know, when I went to first grade I didn't know how to speak too much English. So, I had a hard time. But we had a neighbor girl that was going to school a couple years before me. She came down in our classroom once in a while to help me learn English or understand, so she can translate what she said to.

EC: Was it just you or were there other like students that she helped also?

HH: No, she just helped on me. Other student, we all had to fend for ourselves. But you know, looking back, we must have learned English pretty fast.

EC: Yeah.

HH: You know, I, I, they kept me in first grade. They held me back in first grade one year, so when the second year come to start my first year, I probably ended up being the smartest one in the class.

EC: Perfect (laughs). Okay, so now we're going to move on to ask some questions about pre-war community. So, can you describe your family's community activities or involvement in the community?

HH: Well, community had, the main recreation with the community, young, young men, young boys. They had a baseball team and they played all over, Guadalupe, Fresno, San

Francisco, LA, you know we had a team that traveled around. They were mostly high school students.

EC: Were you on the team?

HH: No, not me. My, my eyes were so bad that you know I couldn't participate in that kind of sport.

EC: Did your family like sponsor them or—

HH: Huh?

EC: Did your family sponsor them or was it just like all the other boys in the—

HH: That, the community or the players sponsored themselves, but the parents you know, they, the parents sponsored them. And I don't know if they charged admission or not. I don't remember that far. But that and then we had Japanese School.

EC: Okay.

HH: And they had lots of, well like play day and things like that.

EC: Did you go to the Japanese School?

HH: Yeah, I went about oh maybe five, five years, after school and Saturday morning.

EC: So, that kind of helped you learn or like stay consistent with your Japanese?

HH: Yeah, yeah.

EC: Can you tell me about your childhood friends and hobbies?

HH: My child, my three, four of my best friends were, I'll tell you their name was Gordon Bennett, John Loomis, Don Galexson, you know.

EC: And so, you knew them from school?

HH: Huh?

EC: You knew them from school?

HH: I knew them from first grade up and they're still good friend of mine till now, even now. One died, but the rest of them, we go out to lunch, do everything. We still do that.

EC: Oh, nice. And did you have like other friends from the Japanese School?

HH: Well, there was a lot of them, Fukuhara's, Fujimoto, you know?

EC: And what were your hobbies? Like what did you like to do?

HH: My hobby, you know, you used to be stamp collecting.

EC: Oh.

HH: Stamp collecting and I guess that's about all.

EC: So, you liked to stamp collect as a child?

HH: Huh?

EC: So, do you still collect stamps?

HH: No, I gave me stamp collection away. But you know, like well we used to go bowling once in a while.

EC: What were your dreams and aspirations before the war?

HH: You know, I can, I couldn't tell you. Well, I didn't know it myself before the war what I wanted to be. And we were farmers and then usually you took over the family business.

EC: Is that what you wanted to do?

HH: No, I wanted to be an automobile designer.

EC: Oh, that's cool.

HH: But that was just a dream.

EC: Did you feel, was there like pressure to take over the family business or was it just kind of like you wanted to?

HH: Well, my dad always used to tell me that you know my eyes were bad, so you probably couldn't go to college because you've got to read too much. So, I figured okay, and I'll do something else. So, I stayed with the farm.

EC: And what did your brother do?

HH: When? At that time or—

EC: Yeah.

HH: No.

EC: Both.

HH: Well, he doesn't do anything now.

EC: Did he help out with the farm before?

HH: Yeah.

EC: Okay, now we're going to move on to talk about immediate pre-war evacuation conditions. So, what was your reaction to news about Pearl Harbor?

HH: You know, I was recovering from appendicitis operation and I was in bed when the news came over the radio. It kind of shocked me that we were going to war with Japan. So, you know, I couldn't go to school right away. So, I had to take it easy for another week before I went back to school. But I was just wondering, you know all that time I was wondering how they would treat me?

EC: Right.

HH: You know?

EC: And so, when you did get back to school, how did people act towards you?

HH: Oh, some of them were you know called us a Jap. But most of them were, most, most of, everyone in my class was, didn't say anything too much. You know, they, they helped you out whatever they can. You know, I mean they still kept your friendship.

EC: That's good. What were your thoughts about the evacuation orders?

HH: What's that?

EC: What were your thoughts about the evacuation orders?

HH: I figured it's you know, I hated to go, but the order was order and there was nothing we could do about it. My dad, most of the guy's head of the family got picked up by FBI right away within two, three days of, of declaration of war. My dad was probably one of the very few person that never got picked up.

EC: Oh, he didn't?

HH: (Sneezes) no, he did not. And he was, and I would say he was more or less one of the leaders of the community.

EC: And he didn't get picked up?

HH: He didn't get picked up.

EC: Wow! So, you were probably happy about that?

HH: Yeah, we were happy about that because I was the oldest one and I was, I probably was sixteen, fifteen, sixteen years old, fifteen. You know, I wouldn't know what to do. They, they confiscated our farming. We had a lot of, a lot of things to harvest. But some, the ranch that we were leasing from, they cut us out. We couldn't get into their field even though we had the lease and we had a lot of crops ready to harvest.

EC: So, what did you do?

HH: You just have to leave it there.

EC: Can you tell me about how you and your family left the area? Like did you consider the voluntary relocation or did you just--?

HH: Well, we didn't know where to go. So, we just—

EC: You just—

HH: --went, evacuation as they told us to. Like, over here we left from here to across the Highway 1 into Arroyo Grande, then next order was you've got to go across Highway 101. We were already across 101, so that was okay. And from then, from 101, then we had to go to Larry Assembly Center.

EC: What did you take with you when you left for the camps?

HH: Not a heck of a lot. What we can, what we can put in our suitcase.

EC: Any, any specific items?

HH: Our clothing, that was probably the only thing. You couldn't have a camera. You couldn't have anything like that. All the rest of the stuff, furniture and everything was left to our friends here that took care of the place.

EC: So, so, the rest of your family's belongings were just watched over?

HH: Yeah, there wasn't too much to watch. We had a car that one of our insurance agent took over and he kept it for us. And furniture and all that were in here, but you know, there wasn't too much. And I guess the guy that took over the place, house and everything, ranch and leased it out, rented it out. So-

EC: So, when you came back, was everything still—

HH: Well, everything was there, here.

EC: Do you have an image or scene that you can describe about leaving for relocation?

HH: Without what?

EC: An image in your mind that you can describe about leaving for the relocation camps?

HH: Leaving the relocation camp or—

EC: Leaving for, like leaving to go there?

HH: --oh, leaving for. Well, you know when we got on the bus from high school, we had all these, a lot of our friends came to say good-bye to us. You know, it's kind of sad. It kind of made you cry. But at that time, it, you know we were too young to realize, realize how bad it was. I mean like my dad, they worked pretty hard for, since 1930 you know when the Depression, Depression time they had, they had made money. Then after Depression from, from thirty-two, well maybe thirty-five to thirty-nine was not too good. And by 1940, things started to pick up and just before the war started, we had a lot of things to harvest which was good price where you could make good money. So, that's, that's what we lost. And I guess the thing that my dad always used to say, "Well, it's one of those things." So, that was the only thing that kind of I remember pretty good.

EC: So, besides your dad telling you, like, oh, that's life. Did your parents give you any other advice about this experience?

HH: Well, he told me this is after we got into camp. But we had. We had to answer, they had the form that made you answer 27 or 28, to either you answered yes, yes or no, no. And one of the questions was, "Would you, would you fight for U.S.?" Or the other one was, "Would you, do you, do you harbor relation with Japanese government in Japan?" So, if you answered, I guess no, no that meant that you were all for our country.

EC: Right.

HH: So, before, before I went to sign that thing one way or another, there was quite a few older people around the barracks wanting to know, you know trying to intimidate you

renounce your citizenship. But before I went in there my dad told me to, you know he said, "You can answer it anyway you want." But he said, "I don't plan to return to Japan." So, I was going to, I was going to, none of us renounce or citizenship or anything because I had three good friends still writing letters to me and they were all going into service and I didn't want to be left behind either. So, that was the advice he gave me.

EC: That's good advice. Did your whole family go to the assembly center together?

HH: Yeah.

EC: So, everyone went? And then, did all the families and like your neighbors within the assembly center get along?

HH: Yeah, yeah, we all got along. You had to. You know, you're all close together.

EC: How long were you in the assembly center before you—

HH: Moved to relocation center?

EC: --yeah?

HH: I forgot, two months, three months.

EC: Uh—

HH: I don't remember. All I remember in the assembly center was I worked as a dishwasher or something like that at the kitchen.

EC: Did you get paid for that?

HH: Yeah, I got paid. How much was it? Was it seven dollars a month?

EC: And did you, what did you do with that money?

HH: We kept it. I don't know what I did with it now.

EC: Did your parents work also?

HH: No.

EC: Just you?

HH: No.

EC: Also, did you have access? This is just, we were talking about it in class. Did you have access to a phone at the assembly center?

HH: No.

EC: Did you have access to a phone at the relocation camp?

HH: No.

EC: So, your only form of communication outside was through letters?

HH: And newspaper I guess. And my friends in the assembly center from here to Taleri, so they came and visited us.

EC: Okay, so now we're going to talk a little bit about camp life at the, you were at the Gila Internment? So, what were your first impressions about the camp?

HH: It was, it was, first impression was what a hell hole. You know, when we got there and the camp wasn't finished, that thing wasn't you know and it was dusty, windy and hot.

EC: Yeah.

HH: But got used to it. Only thing we had to do was, we had to get Sears and Roebuck catalog and order a cooler.

EC: Oh!

HH: You know, the water kind? You know, your water drips down into a fan and when the water cooled the cooler.

EC: So, did you use that for like as a like a refrigerator?

HH: No, you used to keep your room—

EC: Oh!

HH: --cool enough to get to sleep.

EC: How hot do you think it was?

HH: Well, it got to be a hundred, a hundred and ten, a hundred and fifteen.

EC: Gross! Can you describe a typical day at the camp?

HH: You got up, went to breakfast, came back, went to school, came back, ate dinner, and but there was a lot of sunlight, they played baseball and everything until dark.

EC: So, it was kind of like normal life?

HH: Yeah, it was kind of normal.

EC: Were friends from home like around here, were they also at the same camp as you?

HH: Not every one of them.

EC: But some of them?

HH: Yeah.

EC: And then, when you were at the mess hall, who did you eat with?

HH: Who did I eat with?

EC: Yeah.

HH: Well, usually the parents most of the time.

EC: So, did you feel like you had a pretty, you were pretty like close with your family?

HH: Yeah, I think so.

EC: Did your family dynamics change at all?

HH: No, we were all probably on the same keel.

EC: Did you enjoy camp?

HH: You know, you could either hate or you could like it. And I think I, the circumstance we were in, you had to make the best of it. So, I made the best of it. I mean I acquired a couple of real good friends that we still, we still go out together. We—

EC: You still keep in contact?

HH: Huh?

EC: You still keep in contact?

HH: Yeah.

EC: That's nice. Did you participate in any activities in the camp or did you have a job?

HH: I didn't have a job in relocation center. We, what, I guess there was, I guess we played, had a basketball team. We had a baseball team. But with my eyesight you know, I wasn't good at anything like that. I, the only thing, my main thing was music.

EC: Oh!

HH: I played clarinet and saxophone so.

EC: Did you play those before you went to camp or did you learn how to play those?

HH: No, I learned to play here before I went. So, we started up our own big band or swing band and we had a great time. We saw everybody dancing, but we had to stay there and play. I, yeah, afterthought you know, we were stupid.

EC: Why?

HH: There were a lot of them girls—

EC: (Laughs)

HH: We had fun.

EC: That's good. So, were you drafted for the war?

HH: Yeah, I was first one drafted out of my camp.

EC: Oh wow!

HH: And I got drafted before we, before I graduated, so I was happy because I missed out on taking all that final exam and all that stuff.

EC: Were you proud to be selected to?

HH: Yeah, but I couldn't figure out why they took me. So, but you know, I mean, they took me. So, I went for a physical and they flunked me. Not on my eye, but he said you've got a spot on your lung. And one week later I got a notice saying that they read the wrong—

EC: Oh, they read the wrong report?

HH: Yeah, so he says, report. So, I reported.

EC: So, can you describe some of your military experiences?

HH: Yeah, I didn't have a very long one. But you know, when I first got inducted, went down to Texas and I went to Memphis, Tennessee. That was, we stopped at Memphis, Tennessee. That's where I first learned that I was not colored because you got off, you're on the bus and some lady came up to me and told me, she said, "Go tell your buddy that no, nobody should sit with a colored person like that." He didn't, colored people you know what they said. Anyway, I didn't know what the heck was going on. I just kept still and just sat there and the bus came to the next stop sign. She got off and told me, "I'm not going to ride in the same bus as you know what?"

EC: So, you had never really seen an African-American person?

HH: We probably saw, yeah, we probably saw two, three of them, but they were not living here unless we went to Los Angeles and you saw some of them walking on the sidewalk or something you know. But yeah, there was no discrimination like that. Then I went

into Army camp, the first thing you want to go to the bathroom. So, we started walking there and the big old sergeant come down and says, "Hey you, you don't belong there. You go there." So, after that it was, and even in, in military camp and during the training time you know Saturday they have all the good band come down to, to you know. We were on, we were in 442. We were the replacement.

So, they all come to camp to a dance and there's not too many Japanese girls in Mississippi or Arkansas. So, all the girls out of Mississippi and thing, Arkansas used to come to our dance in Hattiesburg. And we used to get all the good bands you know, like, like something like Benny Goodman or something like that.

EC: Oh wow!

HH: But all the colored guys, they didn't even get a band or anything. They used to come down and try to peek in and see who was playing.

EC: So, they had more discrimination than you did?

HH: Oh yeah.

EC: Did you feel that you, that as a Japanese, as like a 442nd, did you feel any discrimination?

HH: No, not over there, not at Hattiesburg, I guess the first bunch you know.

EC: And so, where did you go after the war? And like how long? How long were you in the military?

HH: I was in the military one year. I, they send out, they send me to POE, which is Port of Embarkation and going overseas they flunked me over there and sent me back to camp to do something. And I was a chaplain's assistant for a while.

EC: Oh! For what?

HH: It was a big joke.

EC: What type of religion was it?

HH: It was Methodist.

EC: And so, did you, were you Methodist before you went to camp?

HH: No, I was a Buddhist. It didn't make any difference.

EC: Right.

HH: Because this, this minister was Japanese too, Japanese-American. The only one that didn't go was me, the chaplain, the first sergeant and a couple of other cadre was going to, was going to train the new group that come in. But there was no more new group. It was all Japanese. They all went to the, the later recruits. They all went to MIS.

EC: Which is?

HH: Is Military Intelligence. So, all the other guys later on I guess got shipped out to. I came to Monterey and I hung around there.

EC: What was your reception like when you got back to the camp from the war?

HH: Oh there's, there wasn't too many people left in the camp anymore. So, I got to the camp and packed up and we went to Utah.

EC: Your whole family?

HH: Yeah.

EC: So, you. So, you left the camps early, or was this during the time of relocation?

HH: That was, that was after the war.

EC: Okay, did your family have any outside sources of income like—

HH: No.

EC: --your farming company or anything?

HH: No. My dad worked at Gila River Camp in Arizona.

EC: And was he involved in agriculture there?

HH: Yeah, he was one of the manager of one farm.

EC: But they didn't, did they receive any revenue from that or was it just they got to eat?

HH: No, he got paid nineteen dollars a month. So, that feed the whole you know, his section was raising watermelons and a few other stuff. So, we had watermelon all summer long.

EC: And so, then you just saved that money?

HH: Yeah, then we went to Utah and worked enough money to come back over here.

EC: Okay, so now we're going to move on to talk about immediate post-war conditions. So, do you know the year that your family left the camp?

HH: Well, it was 1945 I guess.

EC: Okay, and was your family one of the last ones to leave?

HH: No, we weren't the last one. We were about, I guess half of the camp was still there. We went to Utah.

EC: Why, why did you move to Utah?

HH: So, we could work. My friend, one of my dad's friends was farming over there and he got a job over there. So, we went down there and worked and we made enough money to come back here.

EC: Did your mom help out with that—

HH: No.

EC: --work too?

HH: She, she couldn't work. So—

EC: So, just the men?

HH: Yeah, just me and my dad.

EC: What about your brother?

HH: I don't know. He didn't go to thing, so I guess he must have been going to school some place or maybe he was in the Army by then. I don't. I really don't remember you know?

EC: Oh, okay. Let's see. When you were. So, what year were you able to come back to Arroyo Grande?

HH: Late 1946, uh, yeah.

EC: And so, did you just come back to this house?

HH: Yeah, there was a couple families came back earlier. And I guess they had more rough time.

EC: But did you feel like you had a rough time transitioning?

HH: No, I don't think so. After a couple three months everything subsiding and I guess we came back when it was subsided.

EC: And so, did you own this land or were you still leasing it?

HH: No, we were, we owned it.

EC: You owned it. And was that, whose name was it under?

HH: It was under Ben Fujuwok.

EC: And is that a friend?

HH: That's one of the cousins.

EC: Oh, okay.

HH: Because my dad couldn't own the land. And I couldn't own the land because I was too young when they bought the place. They bought it before the war. So—

EC: How did the camp affect you and your attitude towards life?

HH: Life goes on.

EC: So, it kind of just—

HH: Yeah, well dad and I we figured, oh heck. We can start all over again and we'll build it up and we did.

EC: Did some, did anything become more important to you after camp, like any organizations or any opinions?

HH: Yeah, you know I don't know about, they wanted me to join the Rotary Club, but I didn't want to be tied down to a once a week meeting or something like that. But I ran for School Board and I beat, beat a powerful guy. They couldn't believe it though you know? Well, I only ran because he said, well you know I knew him real good. And he said he wasn't going to run. So, I said okay. I'll run. I got a lot of kids in school so. Then the last minute I guess somebody told him to run, so he's going to run. And I figured oh well, I might lose but my boys campaigned like heck for me and my friends. They all campaigned for me and I won by about twenty votes.

EC: Um, close one. So, was that just for like the year?

HH: No, eight years.

EC: Oh.

HH: It was a four-year term and you have to run, you have to run for another four years. And that was enough.

EC: (Laughs) what was the condition of the farm when you guys returned?

HH: It was in good shape. My tractor was there, everything was good, and three, four farmers over here, they said that you can use all my equipment any time you want. Come and get it. If you want help, we'll help you. Grocery store guys they said we'll carry you. Meat

marker, fertilizer guys, they said you can do anything on credit and pay us when you get ready.

EC: That's wonderful.

HH: So, it was good. It was great you know?

EC: How does POVI play a role in your personal family and community life?

HH: Well, POVI was formed in 1927 or something like that. And my dad and a lot of people are original owner or original member I guess, the co-ops. Then after the war, three, four years later after we started farming, we, there was seven of us farmers here. So, we started a co-op here. We started up POVI again and it grew and grew. Two of them, two of them either died or quit, so there was only five of us left. So, that kept us going until now.

EC: And it's still going strong?

HH: I guess so. I'm not, my, one of my boy is doing the farming. So, he's in there. I don't do too much anymore.

EC: Well, this is a good transition then to our last kind of set of questions about the post-war and your personal family. So, how and where did you meet Rosi?

HH: I guess over here. His, her dad and my dad was good friends while they were in Salinas or something like that. So, he went one way and dad went another way. So, they started visiting and they bringing him, bringing her down here.

EC: So, this was after the war?

HH: Yeah, it's after the war, 195--, we got married in 1953. So, it must have been 1951 or something like that.

EC: Okay, and, so you established your family here?

HH: Yeah.

EC: And so, you were taking care of the farm. What was she doing?

HH: What was she doing?

EC: Yeah, what did she do for work?

HH: She had five kids to take care of (laughs).

EC: Can you name all of your children?

HH: Can I name, yeah. John, Howard, Robert, Ellen and Eddie. I got seven grandkids, Allison (phone rings), Jana, Lauren (phone rings, talks to someone on phone), hello. Yeah, we going. What time, you're going to come over? Not really, maybe, I don't know. You're going to pick us up or do you want us to meet you there? Okay, okay, (hangs up phone). Yeah, Lauren, Collin and Coby and Michael. And once in a while though I can't remember their names so.

EC: (Laughs) that's a lot to remember. Did you make any effort to have your children know about their heritage and culture and like the Japanese language?

HH: Yeah, you know, you try, but unless they get interested, they're not interested. My oldest one that's going to Irvine, she got interested in her senior year and she started collecting data's and this and that. I don't know what good it did to her. But while she played basketball, went to Japan. So, she learned something about Japanese culture so.

EC: Were there still Japanese Schools around when you were raising your kids?

HH: Yeah, for about two years.

EC: And did you send them?

HH: Yeah, but they disbanded for lack of interest because there's so many other things to do. You know, Little League Baseball, this and that, basketball, baseball.

EC: Have you maintained contact with people from the camps? You said you had still kept in contact with some.

HH: Yeah, a couple guys. But a lot of them, we had one big reunion over here in San Luis Obispo.

EC: Oh!

HH: In 1990, and that was real good. Me and two, two of my buddy, we put it on and we met a lot of people that we, we knew. In fact, we knew just about at least half of them anyway.

EC: Do you feel there's a strong Japanese-American community now?

HH: Do I what?

EC: Do you feel that there's a strong Japanese-American community now?

HH: I don't think that they are as strong as they used to be before. I think one of the reasons is you have a lot of mixed marriage now, a lot of Hāfu's. I think fifty percent is you know, especially over here where there's no other Japanese group.

EC: Right, are you, do you, are you accepting of that?

HH: I accept it. You have to. Like my two grandkids, one of them, they're, I call them a Hāfu because they're, they call themselves. So, I says, "Are you Japanese?" They tell me, "You Japanese first or Chinese first?" They tell me, "I'm Japanese first." So, then you go back to their Chinese grandparents and yeah, you're my first grandpa (laughs).

EC: (Laughs)

HH: Yeah, that's good. That's great. I got four great, good, daughters-in-laws. One of them divorced but I guess you always have one that are divorced in the family.

EC: Yeah (laughs) what do you think about the reparations that were made?

HH: Well, that was all right. I didn't get anything.

EC: You didn't?

HH: No, but my dad and my mother got.

EC: Because?

HH: I was too young to get it I guess or I didn't qualify or—

EC: Huh?

HH: But I don't care.

EC: Yeah, do you think that it was that that gesture was enough?

HH: You know, you always want more. It's just like now. The bad economy, everybody wants, but where are you going to get the money?

EC: Right. And what did, I don't know if you know, but do you know what your parents chose to do with that money?

HH: Yeah, they put it in the farm to pay some bills.

EC: Might as well. If you were going to give advice to young people today, what would it be?

HH: Life goes on. Just, just stay straight, off the cuff. I would say to young people that is, do participate in something. I don't care what it is, but mainly participate in sports. You know, you got tennis, soccer, you know anything, anything to keep, keep them active. I've never seen any kid to go wrong that participated in sports and drama and band and anything like that. And really, I can say that because I know of one that lazy, everything, got into drugs and, but we had my uncle was pretty, pretty thing about that. He says, get your kids in sports and you'll never go wrong. And I believe that now, because all my kids do sports you know?

EC: Like basketball or baseball?

HH: Yeah, basketball, baseball, and they're good at it. I mean you know it's your own grandkids, so you kind of brag about it.

EC: (Laughs) lastly, is there anything else that you'd like to say or add to this interview?

HH: You know, I, you know like, they all, they all want to go to college so. You know, if they really want to go, they'll go to college. You know, if they think they can do real good without going to college, then make a good living, fine. There's nothing wrong with that.

EC: And then, do you have any questions for me or Bridget?

HH: Yeah, you guys are doing a lot of work.

EC: (Laughs) thank you.

HH: No, it is you know. I'm not, you know I'm just giving you my own opinion. And it's, it's not because I want to give an interview. It's because the history is fading away pretty fast. Like our generation, you know, I don't know. But you say the World War II veteran, what fifteen thousand is dying every, every day or—

EC: And today's Veteran's Day.

HH: Or fifteen hundred dying every day. You know, there aren't going to be too much left. A lot of my friends are dying off. I feel like I'm next, but—

EC: No, you look great.

HH: I don't. I don't want to die yet.

EC: No.

HH: You know?

EC: Well, thank you very much for, for allowing us to interview you. I think it's really good.

HH: Thank you.

EC: Yeah. (Sighs) that was good.

HH: I'll tell Roy. I said, I think Roy—

EC: You should tell him.

HH: --got some, I think you got some—

END OF INTERVIEW