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Title: Kikuno Goi - Mitsuo Goi Interview
Narrators: Kikuno Goi, Mitsuo Goi
Interviewer: Anna Takada
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<Begin Segment 2>

AT: 02:25 Do you remember-

MG: 02:26 Huh?

AT: 02:26 -when, do you remember when Pearl Harbor was attacked?

MG: 02:32 Huh?

KG: 02:32 Oh yeah.

AT: 02:32 Can you, can you tell me about that?

KG: 02:36 No Pearl Harbor. [speaks in Japanese]

MG: 02:37 Yeah, yeah. Pearl Harbor, because, because we lived in Japan. They no talking about Japan fight, you know. Japan was 2500 years. It was in 1940, I came here 1940, I was 14 years old. My mom was, 15 coming in. I believe it was May 7th. So, so about, a month before my birthday, I came to here. Take the boat to from Japan to San Francisco.

KG: 03:27 It was the last ship, you know, there weren't any openings. You come back when the ship.

MG: 03:28 Almost one month from Japan to here in the boat. That's all my jumbo mumbo, I'm sorry, mixed up. But still likely, this much English I could talk. Because three years in the camp, you know. I didn't have to work, I got to go school or high school janitor does. Class over, you know, clean up the room and anytime broken or something pull up the chair, open the door.

Michael Goi: 04:05 So mom tell, tell her, what what happened. What did you think when, when Pearl Harbor was attacked in the morning when you were there.

KG: 04:12 You know, I went back to Japan, my moth, oh my father killed. He was hit by a, he was riding the bicycle in the farming country, you know-

AT: 04:24 In where?

KG: 04:25 -in a California, just tried to find the land. There was no land, but uh, around um, Marysville. Somewhere around there, small, uh, farming down there, they settled over there. And then, uh, I have, uh, two other brothers, you know, and I was on last, one of them was born in 1928, and then when my father got killed, so my mother can't afford to raise three kids, you know. So my uncle, my mother's younger brother came with them, three of them came to, and he said, well, he worked on a farm, so he says, uh, let's take the kids and go back to Japan because I, you know, my mother was kind of sickly and all the worry, so we went back. She didn't, she didn't even have the money to go back because, uh, that he, this guy hit my father. He said uh he wanted to settle out of court. You know, then he'll give some money. But then, uh, you know, everybody said that, oh, he should put them in and take them to the court, you know to sue him. So she did and they lost, they lost the case. So she little money she had saved, uh, she had to pay that lawyer, so she didn't have any money left. So my uncle paid all the fares, taking back to Japan. He said he would help, you know. And then, uh, we went back to Hiroshima, in the farming town, you know. And, uh, they had an empty house, and my uncle cleaned the house and fixed it. So my mother and the three kids lived there. Only half a block from my house, you know, so she was kind of sickly and overwork and went back to Japan and he was, she helped with the farm and everything, you know. And she died. She died. I was four years old, you know,

AT: 06:26 And, and you were in Japan?

KG: 06:27 Yeah.

AT: 06:28 In Hiroshima you said?

KG: 06:28 Yeah. So my uncle took us in his house. That's where we grew up. And I was, I was, you know, only, only four years old. And um, I was afraid. My mother was alive, we used to use a fork and spoon. Well, when I moved uncle's place, grandpa is like a samurai, you know. He, he watched some somebody, and I can't hold up chop stick good. He used to hit them, you know, and knock them down because I, I always cry, cry, so scared, you know, and I'm so my auntie, you know, uh, always cares. So he get after my auntie, you know. You spoil her that's why she cry.

And so I when, when he died. I was so so happy. He was like a samurai, you know, he hate outside. So I grew up with my uncle and auntie. I just, I call them my mother and my father, you know. And then, uh, 19, 19, um let's see, I came in 1941, in January.

AT: 07:43

To the U.S.?

KG: 07:44

Yeah, because my uncle knows that there's going to be a war. 19, so he called my older brother, he was in city, you know, he was, fif, he was 15. Wen, went back to Japan. So my uncle took him to city, put him in high school and all that, you know, because there's no high school in a farming town, you know, he had to go there. So he calls my brother and said, uh, explain to him, you know, he had a dual citizenship because he was the oldest. So we explained that, uh, you have citizenship, you know, too. So he said, you could stay, but your brother and your sister they, only have American citizen, you can't stay here, it's bad, you know. It was kind of fussy because government was always checking because we only had the, American citizen, you know. Finally he called my brother and said that, you go back to America first and then call your brother and sister to come back to America. That's what we did. Like that uh, my brother came back in 1934 or something, you know, he had a hard life. He didn't know anybody. He had no job. And he wandered around and met a bunch of same kind of guys, you know. So he joined a church because he loved to sing. And um, finally, 1941, January we came in that to, to takes uh, two weeks to get, you know, uh, ship, no airplane and ship and came, landed in January, um, 20 or something, you know.

AT: 09:33

So that, that was after Pearl Harbor?

KG: 09:35

No before

AT: 09:37

In January?

MG2: 09:40

Pearl Harbor was in December.

KG: 09:41

Yeah, December.

MG2: 09:42

Of the same year.

KG: 09:44

Yeah, I came in January 19, yeah,

AT: 09:47

Wait, January, I'm sorry. January you came January, 1941?

KG: 09:50 Yeah.

AT: 09:50 Okay. So that was before Pearl Harbor.

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