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Title: Fumino Tsuchiya-Knox Interview  
Narrator: Fumino Tsuchiya-Knox  
Interviewer: Anna Takada  
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- AT: 26:57 So I'm wondering if you could, um, just think about and tell me about what you think has been kind of passed down and then maybe what you've experienced, you know, internally, yourself?
- FK: 27:10 Right, right. Um, well, like I said, my father was very, very bitter about the experience and I think it was so humiliating for him. Um, he had been the curator of this museum that had this wonderful European arms and armor before the war. And then in the camp, he, they actually asked him to start a museum there. What for, you know, they didn't have a collection of anything, obviously. So he started a museum that just had, um, things from around the land where the camp was, uh, the geography of the land and then items that the internees made that they could display. Uh, and then they try to get photographs of the outside world because it was also trying to teach the children what it was like outside. But it was like such a poor, um, comparison to what he had been used to doing. Um, that, you know, like I say, it was very humiliated by it. Um, and I think he was depressed basically the rest of his life because he didn't talk about it. He, you know, was angered really easily and, oh, I'm sure it was hard. He was already older as a parent, you know, my, he was 36 or 40, rather, he was 40 when my sister was born. He was 45 when I was born. Um, and I'm sure it must've been really difficult to think that he had to raise these children still and now, you know, uh, after the Japan, uh, war crimes trials, it was really hard to find a job. So that just always made me so sorry for him. Um, you know, like I say for my mother, I think it was easier. And then she also got my grandmother living with us, a mixed blessing, I'm sure. But my grandmother basically raised my sister and me. My mother worked, um, after that, uh, she started actually to work for this chain of yarn stores and she became a manager of the warehouse that she used to manage about 20 or more people. Um, so for her, the fact that my dad wasn't able to provide, now she sort of came into her own after the war. Um, so that sort of

also, you know, it was that dichotomy of how they came out of it differently and how they viewed that experience differently. That I think gave me mixed emotions about it. Um, but I think I always, until the late sixties, when the, um, ethnic identity movements started, I had always been rather ashamed of the whole thing because, you know, no one talked about it. It wasn't in the history books. Um, so it always seemed to me it was shameful. Um, I didn't like to feel associated with the Japanese or with Japan, certainly. Um, and in like 1970, we lived in Berkeley then and I went to a lecture at Cal by a Japanese American professor who talked about the camps and it was just such a moving experience to hear that, you know, in an auditorium where there were people around really something. Um, but it's, I think on the whole until, uh, my parents passed away and then my second husband passed away at the same time, um, in the early nineties, I really was kind of trying to run away from the whole Japanese culture and Japanese American culture become really white. And I think it was only when they had all passed away that I was on my own and, uh, really felt a longing for everything I had lost and really tried to kind of go back and get closer to my roots. And, uh, you know, like I've joined this, uh, group in the Bay Area of Sansei, third generation Japanese Americans, which is really good. It started as a support group around the time of the, uh, Redress Movement and where people were, um, most of those people in the Sansei group with me, their parents hadn't talked about the Camps at all and they just learned about it for the first time, uh, with the Redress Movement. So they were also in their own way trying to find their roots again. And so it's been a real good group and we still meet once a month and, uh, it's really, it's really good. Um.

- AT: 32:54 Before, um, um, coming back to your roots and seeking out, um, you know, groups like this Sansei group, did you ever speak about it with peers at all, or your sister, or how did that come up in conversation?
- FK: 33:13 Yeah, I did. And, um, you know, people were usually so surprised to hear about it. Everyone, you know, have friends, non-Japanese friends, they just, they'd never heard about it and uh, they were really astonished. But they also, I don't think knew the whole scope of it for a long time because it's only in the last 20 years say that the knowledge has become more widespread about what it was like. Um, my sister and I would talk about it but she was, um, like two to five when she was in the camp and she had basically very good memories about it, you know, as a child and she went to nursery school and

kindergarten and everything. So for her it was a real positive experience.

AT: 34:18 Um, one thing I wanted to ask was, uh, so you've described your experiences for your parents after camp. Did they ever consider moving back to Chicago or um out of California?

FK: 34:37 Yeah, it was, well, like I said, during the war, when my dad went to look for work, he did look in Chicago and um, I'm not exactly sure why they didn't try it again after being in Japan. But it may just be because my mother had more connections with the community in Los Angeles. Uh, my mother's sister lived in Los Angeles too, so I think maybe my grandmother wanted to be close to her. Yeah.

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