

Densho Digital Repository
Japanese American Service Committee (JASC) and
Chicago Japanese American Historical Society (CJAHS)
Oral History Project Collection
Title: Susumu Mukushina Interview
Narrator: Susumu Mukushina
Interviewer: Anna Takada
Location:
Date: September 14, 2017
Densho ID: ddr-chi-1-4-1

<Begin Segment 1>

Anna Takada:	<u>00:00:00</u>	So if you could just start by stating your name and your hometown.
Susumu M.:	<u>00:00:06</u>	My name is Susumu Mukushina and I'm currently living in Chicago, Illinois.
AT:	<u>00:00:14</u>	And where, and when were you born?
SM:	<u>00:00:17</u>	I was born on October 8, 1942. I was born in Los Angeles County Hospital. Um, even though that was not an internment hospital, my mother was about to be bordered on a train to Heart Mountain, but she had me in her belly and that was a few days overdue. So the doctors a forbade, forbade the authorities to have my mother on the train. So I was born in Los Angeles officially.
AT:	<u>00:00:53</u>	So did she have to go to an assembly center or did or was she just in LA?
SM:	<u>00:01:00</u>	Well, all Japanese had to go to a pre-detention center. Um, my, my parents went to the Santa Anita Race Track and they occupied one of the stalls, it was not very pleasant, but they made the best out of it.
AT:	<u>00:01:18</u>	And so did she leave Santa Anita to go to LA? To have you in the hospital?
SM:	<u>00:01:26</u>	I don't know the exact circumstances, but the trains are about to leave. And um, um, my father and mother were taken to the Los Angeles County Hospital and on October 8th I was born.
AT:	<u>00:01:44</u>	And what did your, what did your parents do?

SM: 00:01:47 Well, um, my father was a Buddhist minister and uh, he came to this country in 1936 originally to Hawai'i as a missionary, but not in a missionary in the Christian sense, not to evangelize people, but to uh, bring comfort to the Japanese who were working in Hawai'i. At that time, he was a young man, he was born in 1911. So he, um, just a lot of energy to see the world. So his first trip to Japan was a 19, from Japan, was in 1936. He went back in 1938. He came back with a wife, my mother and a back to Hawai'i and I don't know the exact dates, but they migrated from Hawai'i to Los Angeles.

AT: 00:02:48 Where, where was he from in Japan?

SM: 00:02:50 My father had a temple in Tokyo. And um, my mother was a born near Tokyo. My father was born in Taipei when it was a Japanese occupied. So it was like a State. And um, I didn't know the circumstances, but he came back to Japan before he was a, the age of five and I'm, from what I gather, his mother had, had emotional problems, uh, so she couldn't help my father bring him up. So he was taken to a monastery and he was there until he went to college.

AT: 00:03:44 And do you have any siblings?

SM: 00:03:47 Yes, I have one. His name is Masao. His American name is Warren.

AT: 00:03:53 Warren?

SM: 00:03:56 Hmh

AT: 00:03:56 And is he older or younger?

SM: 00:03:57 Younger.

AT: 00:04:00 And so when was Masao born?

SM: 00:04:02 1947

AT: 00:04:05 So after the war?

SM: 00:04:06 After the war, mhm.

<End Segment 1> - Copyright © 2017 Japanese American Service Committee (JASC) and Chicago Japanese American Historical Society (CJAHS). All Rights Reserved.