

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-1-4-3

**<Begin Segment 3>**

New Speaker:	<u>00:07:34</u>	But when you left Heart Mountain, that would have been '43?
New Speaker:	<u>00:07:36</u>	Yeah around there.
New Speaker:	<u>00:07:39</u>	Um, and then what, what about after the war? Where did your, where did you all go?
SM:	<u>00:07:48</u>	Well, um, that was interesting because as I stated earlier, we didn't have family in America and normally if you didn't have family in America after the war, you were shipped back to Japan because our visa expired, you see. And so, um, uh, the interesting story that my mother told me the last six months before she passed away was that, um, when the war ended, the commandant of Tule Lake called on my father and, I said, well, my father, so he was the only person there and the commandant, was saying that, um, I've been observing you from afar and you, you have very good way of with people to calm down the hotheads. Now, I don't know if you know this or not, but Tule Lake was maximum security, a lot of draft dodgers so-called draft dodgers, and people who are pro-Japanese were there. There was a lot of dissension, people don't like to be incarcerated and they want to go back to Japan or they didn't want to be drafted unless their parents are freed from internment camps and that kind of stuff. So my father was a peacemaker. That's what I was told. And so the commandant told my father or we need people like you. And so he offered them three tickets for him, my mother, and me on a ship back to Japan or a, or to go to Seabrook Farms in New Jersey? Uh, and so, um, at that time my mom said we didn't know anything about Japan. All we knew that was bombed out country. We didn't know if there were enough food for people to eat, yeah. So, um, my father says we're staying in America and since it will Seabrook Farms, he knew that at least that we'll eat something. So we, uh, so we took a train from Tule Lake to Seabrook Farms, New Jersey.

AT: 00:09:56 Did your parents, did they, were they in communication with family back in Japan?

SM: 00:10:02 It was very hard to know because of the mail system was almost nonexistent at that time. There was a war going on, so it put a stamp on an envelope and send something to Japan. You don't know if it got there and the other way around, you know, I don't think that people, my parents, his relatives knew where we were.

**<End Segment 3> - Copyright © 2017 Japanese American Service Committee (JASC) and Chicago Japanese American Historical Society (CJAHS). All Rights Reserved.**