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Title: Junko Mizuta Interview
Narrator: Junko Mizuta
Interviewer: Anna Takada
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<Begin Segment 1>

Anna Takada:	<u>00:00:00</u>	Can you start by stating your name?
Junko Mizuta:	<u>00:00:03</u>	Yeah, I'm Junko Mizuta. And...
AT:	<u>00:00:08</u>	I won't leave you hanging. Can you tell me about where you were born and--
JM:	<u>00:00:15</u>	Yeah, I was born in Portland, Oregon, way back when. [Laughs.]
AT:	<u>00:00:21</u>	And when were you born?
JM:	<u>00:00:23</u>	I was born 1925. Is that which? Yup. Okay.
AT:	<u>00:00:30</u>	And um, can you tell me a little bit about your parents and how they ended up in Portland's?
JM:	<u>00:00:39</u>	Well, my Dad came from Japan is the tea trader and he had a concession in Long Beach I think originally. And then he went back some place along the line and married my Mom, married my Mom in Japan and then he came back, but then this time he was in Portland, Oregon and he had a tea house in at Console Crest in uh, Portland. And from what my Mom said, I think he was supposed to go back, you know, after his two or three year contract. But he liked him back to Japan, I guess he worked for the company because he's so young. She's so gone. They're known for the tea. So anyway, um, he liked it here. So he decided to stay over there. My Mom wasn't here now, but anyway, they decided to stay in. Um, um, then the Depression came in, my Dad lost his job, so it's tough. So at the time in Japan things are good. So my Mom went back to Japan and my Dad stayed here while he tried to find something to support us and then we came back when things got better. So we were in Japan a couple of years and got to know my grandmother where she was. Great.

AT: 00:02:28 You're staying with your Mom's family?

JM: 00:02:32 Yeah, in Hiroshima. And then I came back couldn't speak a word of English and then I was six so then I started grade school speaking to everybody in Japanese and not understanding. No one could understand me.

AT: 00:02:54 And would you happen to know roughly the dates or the years, but your family was traveling during this time?

JM: 00:03:03 In the late twenties and we came back when I was six, so must have been 1931.

AT: 00:03:16 And so you were very young when you left for Japan?

JM: 00:03:21 Yeah, I was four. I came back when I was six and then by then my Dad had found this apartment that he was leasing you on the east side of Portland, on the east of the river and I grew up there until we were forced from our homes. But it was a street of a lot of businesses and I was like, when I was like seven or eight, I go to all these businesses and could I interview everybody and I come back with all this news about everybody and my Mom would always say to me, I don't know how you get all that news about these people, but you know, being seven, you're curious and you ask all kinds of questions.

AT: 00:04:15 So you must have picked up English pretty quickly then?

JM: 00:04:18 Well, my sister knew. I have an older sister. She remembered English. So you pick it up. That. How much older is your? My sister's four, was four years older than I.

AT: 00:04:34 I'm sorry, what was her name?

JM: 00:04:38 Her name was Haruhi.

AT: 00:04:40 And what were your parents' names?

JM: 00:04:42 My Mom's name was Saiei in my Dad's name was Kaiji

AT: 00:04:50 And those early years of Portland's. Do you have, do you have any actual memories of it?

JM: 00:05:01 Yeah yeah, it was nice. You know, we, you, well the neighbors are pretty nice. I don't really remember anything, you know, bad or anything, but um, I was young and you don't know about those things.

AT: 00:05:21 So when you and your Mom and your sister went back to Japan, were you going to school?

JM: 00:05:28 No. No, it's too young. My sister did, she went to a, well she went to a Japanese school like and they had her take their shoes off and she didn't like that. So, um, my Mom transferred her to a mission school where they spoke English and you could keep your shoes on.

AT: 00:06:00 And so what would you spend time with your Mom when you were in Japan or

JM: 00:06:07 No, I spend more of my time with my grandmother and my uncle. That was fun.

AT: 00:06:15 Hmm. So when you came back to the states that was around 31, can you tell me more about, um, I guess what, what life was like in Portland for, for your family at that time?

JM: 00:06:37 I don't really remember too much. Even the,

AT: 00:06:43 Your Dad had the apartments?

JM: 00:06:44 Yeah.

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