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Title: Junko Mizuta Interview  
Narrator: Junko Mizuta  
Interviewer: Anna Takada  
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<Begin Segment 6>

- AT: 00:32:46 And then it so September, your family was sent to Minidoka?
- JM: 00:33:00 I don't even remember leaving camp. Just, all I remember is going on this train with the shades pulled down and then I don't know how long it took or anything. But, once we got to Minidoka we were greeted with a huge dust storm and we, I think we had to wait outside for food, you know, food was just covered in sand. It was even not edible, but um, but other than that, I don't really remember the beginning part of Minidoka, but I do remember being greeted by a sandstorm or dust storm.
- AT: 00:33:53 That must have been very different climate then--
- JM: 00:33:57 Yeah, it was hot. Three figures in the summer, cold and rainy, and the mud was so bad. When you stepped in the mud, it would go up, you'd walk in, it would go up to your ankles. I mean your foot was sinking into the mud in. Eventually they put planks down so we didn't have to walk up it. You'd walk in the mud and your shoe back there, you know, it was pretty bad.
- AT: 00:34:30 Were you prepared in terms of clothing and--?
- JM: 00:34:34 I don't remember, but I know people used to order from Montgomery Ward. And I think that's probably what we did.
- AT: 00:34:48 And when you were in Minidoka, did you start going to school again?
- JM: 00:34:53 Yeah, because I had my senior year there. Which, school is really not much of a school.
- AT: 00:35:04 In terms of--
- JM: 00:35:06 Well I didn't learn anything, it was just kind of a waste of time.

AT: 00:35:13 Was that because of quality of teaching or lack of resources?

JM: 00:35:17 I don't know, it's just maybe, you know, maybe it was me, me, maybe I didn't apply myself, but I didn't learn anything. They had this core curriculum but I just didn't learn anything. I can't take away anything from my senior year. So...it was kind of, I took Home Ec. I took bookkeeping. I learned credit and debit there, but other than that I don't remember anything.

AT: 00:36:03 When you were in camp, were you still speaking Japanese with your Mom?

JM: 00:36:08 Yeah, I think so. Hmmh

AT: 00:36:11 Would you ever speak with other kids your age or was it

JM: 00:36:14 No, it was all English. Just my Mom.

AT: 00:36:18 Hmm. And what was the um, the living arrangements?

JM: 00:36:23 Well, we had only three in the family, so we had the end room of this barrack. There was 6 apartments, so to speak, depending on the size of your family, you got whatever size. And we had the end there, which is small. We didn't stay in there too much. It's crowded. We had canvas cots, I think and a little potbelly stove. And I think we had a card table.

AT: 00:37:05 And one thing I wanted to ask, when you are going from place to place, to, so say from Portland to the assembly center and then the assembly center to Minidoka, ah each of these moves, were you moving with people you knew or were you ending up?

JM: 00:37:25 I don't remember. I have no idea.

AT: 00:37:31 So you

JM: 00:37:33 I'm sorry. I don't remember anything like that.

AT: 00:37:37 No, it's fine. Um, so you didn't stay in touch with people you met in the camp?

JM: 00:37:44 No, I don't. No, I made new friends. My allergies.

AT: 00:37:53 Me too [laugh] I'm actually feeling that.