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Title: Kathy Yamaguchi Interview
Narrator: Kathy Yamaguchi
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
Location: San Francisco, California
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<Begin Segment 15>

NW: Hmm. So you said you have an older brother.

KY: No, younger brother.

NW: Younger brother, okay.

KY: Little bit younger. Not much.

NW: Younger. Okay, so are you . . .

KY: He's in Pennsylvania. He's in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He's got a very Midwestern wife. They don't have kids. I don't. I never married or had kids. So, but I get along with him fine. Now, we didn't get along with each other before, but now we get along fine.

NW: Hmm, is that probably because you? Why is that?

KY: He was a, he suffered because he was a year and a half younger than me. I was a really good student. He had other talents but it was a drag to be the younger brother of me, I think.

NW: Very high accomplisher, then.

KY: So then we went to college, you know. He did, he was, boys, they have a harder time maybe. And he had a hard time and took him a long time to find out what he wanted to do and then he was, you know, he was, unkind, he was, he was, he was mean to me, you know he would just, he was just mean. He was a boy, you know, he got everything in the family; do you have any brothers?

NW: No, I don't. I have an older sister. [laugh]

KY: No, you're lucky. But the Japanese boys, he was a Japanese American prince. They get everything. And so he got everything in the family and I had to just accommodate to his, his, what he needed, or what he needed. So I, you know, it was kind of a mess, but. And he rubbed it in for, he was, maybe he was unhappy, frustrated, whatever but I, I was afr . . . I didn't want to go near him because he would upset me too much. So I like, but I liked his wife, that was fine, I liked his wife. But it's only been in the last fifteen years that I've now had the opportunity to, to, you know spend time with him, you know without his wife and so get to know him and I really like him.

NW: That's interesting.

KY: I mean, I, so in the last 15 years, I've, I really enjoy him, plus my father requires 24 hour care now and . . .

NW: Ah.

KY: He doesn't come out enough, but he comes and, and I f . . . it's, I'm really glad he's, he's around and we just had a family reunion and yeah, I like him a lot.

NW: Yeah.

KY: No, I like him a lot.

NW: Why do you think that changed, I mean it looks like it's all positive changes?

KY: Because he's not what he was when he was 20, you know.

NW: And you're not either. [laugh]

KY: Probably, probably. Right, right, right, right. So I, I really do enjoy him a lot.

NW: Do you think he went through a sort of, a different attitude, a different kind of, or probably a relationship, did he develop a different kind of relationship with the third generation of Japanese Americans like you did?

KY: Yeah, he, no. Because he was in Pennsylvania, or first he was in Chicago. He was many years in Chicago. Well, he's someone, he, you know, he likes Japanese food and he would do some Japanese New Year stuff, he'd go buy, he'd find a Asian store and buy the stuff.

NW: Right.

KY: Um, but he doesn't have the opportunity to have Japanese American friends because of where he is.

NW: Right, yeah. So, location matters, a lot.

KY: Right, so location, right I don't think it's as much of a, it's not in his, it's not in his, I don't think he thinks about it much. Yeah. Where it's become a big part of my life, you know, I sort of.

NW: Right. Right.

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