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Title: Keiko Shinmoto Interview
Narrator: Keiko Shinmoto
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
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<Begin Segment 9>

NW: So it was around that time that you met with your future husband?

KS: Yeah.

NW: How did you meet?

NW: That one too, his mother, and my grandmother, cousins in Japan, so, my husband, Hank, his parents tripped [traveled] to Japan, they see each other, cousins, and “Oh, I have one more son and he has to get married. We are looking.” And “Oh, Keiko is in Los Angeles. Let him go see it.” Then we meet.

NW: So, he heard about you when he was back in Japan? Then . . .

KS: His parents went back to Japan. My husband never been to Japan.

NW: Oh, never?

KS: Never. So, parents came home from Japan. Oh, Hank, that one girl lives in Los Angeles. And why don't you go see it.

NW: Oh, okay.

KS: You know, we at the time, *kettō*. You know *kettō* mean.

NW: Uh-huh

KS: We are very particular about it. So we don't have to worry about it, because we already know that it's cousin. Relative. But anyway, that's the reason he came to see me. Then, that's when . . .

NW: So, just to get the story straight: So, you were saying that your husband, his name is Hank? Hank's mother was living in Japan but then she heard about you?

KS: No. Hank's parents live here. And they took a trip to Japan to see a cousin.

NW: See a cousin. Got you, okay, okay.

KS: Then, at that time, Hank's mother told cousin, oh I have one more son to get married, and oh. Japanese, that's Keiko in Los Angeles, I don't think, not too far from Stockton to Los Angeles and maybe, you gotta, you know, go see Keiko.

NW: Go see her. So the cousin knew about, the cousin of Hank's, knew about you. Is that how it works out?

KS: No, no, no. We don't know anything, so do I. And Hank is here, this country, right? And Momma, Papa went to Japan to see the cousin and to talk to, and they came, Mama, Papa, came back to this country. At the time I was Los Angeles, right? And, meantime, my mom heard about it, this cousin is my grandma's cousin, too.

NW: Oh, okay, so that's the missing connection.

KS: And then, my mom said, [in] Stockton, one boy, Shinmoto boy there, they've been looking for a girl, why don't you meet it, have a chance to meet it.

NW: So, it's a relative knowing each other and then eventually . . .

KS: And background. You've got the background. We, each other, Hank and I don't know anything about it. Then, one day, they called.

NW: What was it like to meet with him?

KS: Well, he was a typical Nisei boy.

NW: What do you mean by "typical"?

KS: Oh, I mean, very simple, to me, frankly, everything he telling me, his is life size [?]. What I am doing and this one. And we meet at my sister's house, yeah. Then my sister's husband, after that, he left, said that, oh, he came in the three days, some kind of holiday weekend. So I'll be back tomorrow, you know, at that time, he had a friend in Los Angeles, too, so he stayed over there. So he left, and my sister and my brother-in-law, that's who, my sister's husband. He asked me "What do you think?" You know, like that. "Oh, I don't know." Just only the one day you meet, you cannot tell. But they said that well your mom said that *kettō* is okay, as long as they both liked each other, why don't you think about it. And after the next day, of course, he came, too, I went to his friend's house. I guess he wanted to show me to his friend, too. And oh, they are from nice family, too.

NW: They were Japanese Americans as well?

KS: Japanese Americans, too. So they both went to the same school, or something like that. And "Oh, that's a nice family," you know. Then he went back. And "It is alright if sometime I call you?" "Oh sure," on telephone *no*, right? And meantime, my sister and my brother-in-law, too, [they said] he seemed like a nice guy, why don't you think about it. If you want to go back Japan, that's a different story. But if you want to stay this country. You know. Your mom, my mom wanted me to stay in this country, you know, because when you go America, and go school, and come back to Japan, they don't have no chance to get married.

NW: Oh? Tell me a little more about it.

KS: You know what I mean. That's . . . the time was very old-fashioned. So, oh, girl went to an American school, oh, that's too . . . you know [laugh] . . . level is different, you know. That's way the Japanese think. That's the way, oh I think if you . . . Of course, I used to live in America too, and probably think that Keiko is going to be happy in America, its life is easier than Japan. That's [what] my mom said. So I guess a year later we got married.

NW: So that was in 196-?

KS: 5, or 4!

NW: 4. So, immediately after you got married, you had a first child. Right after you got married.

KS: Because we were not young. My husband said that I don't want to wait.

NW: Yeah, you have to hurry, yeah. It makes sense.

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