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Title: Jun Dairiki Interview
Narrator: Jun Dairiki
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
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<Begin Segment 6>

NW: Now, stepping back a little bit, going back a little bit in time, I guess I'm curious about the time when you were young, and you were not internment camp before but then then after the war you were in the camp. I wonder how you'd describe, that sort of the change, it must have been a drastic change, but in terms of the kind of food, life pattern, that used to be true before the war started and how it was . . . it must have been very different once you were place in the camp.

JD: Oh yeah, very very different. Well, for one thing, we had a central mass hall, where everybody went to eat. You know, so my mom was not cooking anymore.

NW: Let me just make sure I understand what you're saying, so you said that your mother wasn't cooking but she was really good at learning American cooking, so do you mean she had servant and then she . . .

JD: Oh, no, no, no. She was a domestic in somebody's house; she was cleaning somebody else's house,

NW: Oh, okay, I see.

JD: but that house had a staff of kitchen help. Because that staff cooked for the family that lived there.

NW: Okay, missed that part.

JD: But my mother wanted to learn American style, so she would ask the kitchen staff, can I watch you prepare some of the foods? And so that's where she learned to make the roast beef, roast leg of lamb, roast pork, all different kinds of pies, and stuff like that. I mean, she was also very good at making *nihonshoku* as well.

NW: So, you ate both types of food as you were growing up. Well, sounds terrific. [laugh]

JD: Yeah, we did. She was a very good cook.

NW: Do you think your parents were comfortable before the war started in terms of . . .?

JD: We had a very comfortable life actually, before the war, you know. Because my dad was making pretty good living, and my mother was bringing in some money as well, you know. We

had a pretty good living, you know, enough so that my sister could be sent to the University of California, you know, we could afford to send her there. So anyway, yeah, it was very different. Before the war, before we were interned, you had your own phone, you could make your own phonecalls, you had your own bedroom, you had your own toilets and everything. Of course all of changed when we got interned. Everybody went to a communal public bathroom, and the kitchen was the central mass hall that everybody went to. So at that point the ladies in the camp did not have to cook anymore, they did not have to wash dishes anymore, they didn't have to go shopping, they didn't have to pay any telephone bills or electric bills, cause I asked my mom once what did you think of the camp, and she says, "Well, for the first time in my life, I did not have to cook, I didn't have to wash dishes, I didn't have to pay bills, I didn't have to go shopping," yeah, so from that standpoint, she said it was actually pretty nice. But I think she probably missed some of the other things, freedom to go out to do things where we couldn't do it in the camp. Okay. We made a lot of friends, and we met a lot of new people, made a lot of friends. You learned to do a lot of arts and crafts sorts of things, in the camp, you could go and get a job within in the camp. In fact my mother was a cook, not for the mass hall in the block we lived in, but uh, there was a kitchen outside of the camp. And that kitchen was for people who were working outside the camp but could not come back into the camp to have lunch there. My father was one of these people, he was a supervisor for an irrigation crew, made up of all people from the camp. They would go out to help farmers, for the farms around where the camp was, and he would have his team, and when it was lunch time, they would go to this kitchen, wherever that was located, and my mother and a few other women were the cooks there. So they earned some money, but not very much. I think they earned something like \$16 a month.

NW: Hmm. Not a lot. Yeah. Do you remember your family talking about, possibly their frustration about being in camp? I see what you mean when you said mother was happy about certain aspects of being in the camp, because she doesn't have to cook or clean.

JD: Yeah, she doesn't have responsibility, you know.

NW: Right, right. But you know I am sure there are many people who are frustrated with that. How do you remember people talking about their situations?

JD: You know, I don't remember that. I don't remember that at all. And if they did talk about it, I don't that they talked about it to us kids, you know. Because I am not sure if we would have really understood. In fact I didn't even, for one thing, I didn't know until many years later, I didn't know why we were in camp.

NW: Ah.

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