

[Begin Nami Fukuzawa CD 1]

Interviewer:

Okay; it is 6:50 on April 8, 2004. My name is Diane Tanaka, and I will be interviewing Nami Fukuzawa today as part of the South Bay Oral History Project. The audio equipment recording this interview is being monitored by Ray Shibata and the interview is being cataloged by Yoko Okunishi. All copyrights, title, and any other rights arising out of this interview whether in its entirety, part or derivative form, and whether in audio, written, or any other format shall belong to the South Bay Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League. Copying of this interview recording whether in its entirety or part is strictly prohibited without a written authorization from the South Bay Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League. This is the first CD of the interview of Nami Fukuzawa being recorded on this date.

Okay Nami; first if you could just give me your name.

Fukuzawa:

Nami Fukuzawa.

Interviewer:

What is your maiden name?

Fukuzawa:

Nogami

Interviewer:

And when and where were you born?

Fukuzawa:

I was born in Los Angeles June 30, 1925.

Interviewer:

And where did you grow up?

Fukuzawa:

I grew up in---mainly in Gardena, California.

Interviewer:

When did you move to Gardena?

Fukuzawa:

When... let's see I was three years old, and we moved to an area called Perry, which is now Torrance.

Interviewer:

Can you describe where that area---Perry?

0:02:01.3

Fukuzawa:

Perry was a small area as---out in the country between something like 170th and maybe about 190th on Prairie Avenue, and I don't know how far it went, but it was just a little area of what is now known---part of Torrance.

Interviewer:

Really; and what were your parents' names?

Fukuzawa:

My dad's name was Ryuhei Nogami; my mother's name was Teruyo Nogami.

Interviewer:

Okay; and what part of Japan did they come from?

Fukuzawa:

They were both from Okayama.

Interviewer:

Oh.

Fukuzawa:

Uh-hm; it's... my mother was from an area called... my dad was from the area called Kibigun and my mother was from Minagi. So you know they're both neighbors you know like Gardena and Torrance.

Interviewer:

So they obviously met in Japan and then when did they come---do you know when they came to the States?

0:03:34.0

Fukuzawa:

My father came to the States---he came to---actually landed in.... Let's see; he landed at Seattle, Washington. He came when

he was 15 years old. And that was in 1907. Then my mother is a picture bride.

Interviewer:

She is?

Fukuzawa:

Uh-hm; she was a picture bride. So she came in 1917. Can I stop a minute?

Interviewer:

Yeah; okay.

[Pause]

0:04:16.6

Fukuzawa:

I'm sorry.

Interviewer:

Okay; so if you want to....

Fukuzawa:

Yeah; it's---he came to---it says United States, but then there's a spot in here where it says in Seattle, Washington. And then my mother came in 19... shoot. **[Laughs]**

Interviewer:

Oh 1918.

Fukuzawa:

Nineteen Eighteen, and she came to the---California. So it must have been San Pedro.

Interviewer:

Okay.

Fukuzawa:

Yeah; uh-huh. So **[Laughs]** they used to talk about the picture that my mother sent and that is the one that's in here, I think; yeah.

Interviewer:

So... oh wow; she's pretty. Oh how cute. So how---she looks very young; do you know...?

Fukuzawa:

She was 19 when she came; yeah.

Interviewer:

And so then how old would your dad have been?

Fukuzawa:

Well 1917... 10 years older than 15---25.

Interviewer:

Oh; now what did your father do?

Fukuzawa:

When he---when she came, I really don't know what---how he was employed, but the earlier part when he was working in Los Angeles, he was working for a dry cleaner and actually what he did after that was, as we moved to Perry, he was a haul-man. He hauled vegetables from the farmers and then took it to the wholesale market.

Interviewer:

So did he have to own his own car?

Fukuzawa:

Trucks; yes, yes. He had trucks. When he first started he only had the one truck. But you know as he worked hard **[Laughs]** and they worked with two trucks and he employed like two young fellows. So that was his job; yeah.

0:06:32.4

Interviewer:

Do you know why he came to America?

Fukuzawa:

It was the Land of Plenty isn't it? **[Laughs]**

Interviewer:

Yeah.

Fukuzawa:

So; at 15 I don't know what he was looking for, but....

Interviewer:

Now how about your mother; did she ever talk about why she wanted, as a picture bride, her reasons for coming?

Fukuzawa:

Well I imagine when they are of a certain age you know the parents tell them that they should get married and that's how they got married is they were picture brides.

Interviewer:

Did---was she happy in America?

Fukuzawa:

Yes, yes; uh-hm as far as we know.

Interviewer:

Do you know what she did as---for living did she do anything?

Fukuzawa:

No; she just---she was a housewife and mother. You know she actually---we have---I have two siblings, my sister and brother and myself. So it took time to raise us, too. **[Laughs]**

0:07:38.4

Interviewer:

Can you state your siblings' names and which order oldest to youngest?

Fukuzawa:

My brother, Kazuo Nogami, is now---he is 84 years old. So he was born in 1920. My sister, Toshiko, who is now Toshiko Bradley, is---was born in 1923.

Interviewer:

Oh okay; so you're the youngest?

Fukuzawa:

I'm the youngest... 1930. **[Laughs]**

Interviewer:

[Laughs] Let's see; now going back to yourself, do---what elementary school did you go to?

Fukuzawa:

I started out at Perry Grade School in the elementary school and that was situated right across from our home. So all I had to do was walk across the street and actually I had a friend, the same age as myself, and all of our older siblings were going to school; so we wanted to go and she and I went to school and we were only four years old. [Laughs] The teacher sent us home. [Laughs]

Interviewer:

[Laughs]

Fukuzawa:

We thought it wasn't fair to keep us home; so. [Laughs]

Interviewer:

You were obviously anxious.

Fukuzawa:

I don't know why; but I went to Perry Elementary School until the second grade and then we moved to Gardena; uh-huh.

0:09:42.6

Interviewer:

Can I go back? Now Perry Elementary School is that still around?

Fukuzawa:

No, no; they tore it down I would say about 20 years ago---25 years ago. It was on Prairie Avenue between about 170th and 180th---something around there.

Interviewer:

Because if I can remember now in that area because it's North Torrance there are some homes or like apartment area... there's a church---there's like a lot, too; there's an empty---but I around there I remember home tract---some tracts of homes.

Fukuzawa:

Uh-hm; they tore down the school and built units---uh-huh. But we were on the opposite side and I just remember the---our house and there was the Caucasian family on the corner and there weren't that many homes. [Laughs]

Interviewer:

Now when you were in---at Perry, did your father---did you live in a home?

Fukuzawa:

Uh-hm; it was a house.

Interviewer:

Who owned the home?

Fukuzawa:

You know I don't even know. It was a country house and there was a family unit and then there was a place for workers to stay. And it had the outhouse you know. That's how primitive it was. [Laughs] But it was right next to the railroad track; yeah---a railroad track that led from---actually from Gardena to Redondo, the Red Car.

Interviewer:

Oh.

Fukuzawa:

And we---after we moved from there to Gardena, when I think about it now, it was quite a distance; but we used to walk the track and my auntie had bought---taken over the house on Perry. So we used to walk from like Dalton. Do you know where Dalton is in Gardena? [Laughs]

Interviewer:

Yeah; that is a distance.

Fukuzawa:

[Laughs] Yeah; it is. But we used to take the track and you know we were small yet, but we did it. No one stopped us. [Laughs]

0:12:10.0

Interviewer:

It was safe then.

Fukuzawa:

It was; it was yeah.

Interviewer:

Now when you moved to---then you moved to Gardena?

Fukuzawa:

Uh-hm.

Interviewer:

And so where did you go to school?

Fukuzawa:

We had the Little Red Schoolhouse called Moneta School and I went there from the second grade to the fourth grade. Then they tore down the Red School and built Denker---Denker Avenue School. So I finished my fourth, fifth, and sixth grade at Denker. And I... when Cheryl was---Cheryl is my daughter---when she was in preschool, we went in---went to Denker to see what the school was like, and I told one of the gals that went along with us that that's where I went. She said, "That school is that old," [Laughs] because she had her kids there. Yeah; it was old. I mean it is old.

Interviewer:

Now growing up you know during this, even when you're at Perry or at Moneta School or at Denker, what kind of friends---what kind of people were around?

Fukuzawa:

Actually while we---when we were on Prairie Avenue, we were near a farm area. So there were Japanese---mostly it would be Japanese.

Interviewer:

Everybody there....

Fukuzawa:

Farmed around there, and my friends were all Japanese.

Interviewer:

All Niseis?

Fukuzawa:

Niseis; yeah.

0:13:53.4

Interviewer:

Do you remember any of their names?

Fukuzawa:

Yes; I lost my first friend about 10 years ago, I think it was. We had came---you know we kept our friendship and then her sister who is---she's got two sisters---three sisters actually still around---and the oldest one, she calls me Nami-chan.

[Laughs]

Interviewer:

What are their names; what is her name?

Fukuzawa:

Her maiden name was Takata. And even during the war and the war years and after the war years we kept in contact. But I lost my friend, who was one of the younger sisters; yeah.

Interviewer:

Oh; wow. So when you---even when you moved to Gardena then, were your---what were your friends or neighbors like?

Fukuzawa:

Well we had... my---our first home in Gardena were mostly Japanese neighbors. There was some---the owner of the house that we rented from was... their name was Bensinger. And they lived next door. And then you might be interested, the Minamis lived about a half a block away, and they lived in a two-story house because they had a big family. [Laughs]

Interviewer:

Now was this the Minamis or was it...?

Fukuzawa:

Sam Minami; uh-hm.

Interviewer:

Oh.

Fukuzawa:

Sam Minami and some of the families like the mother, one of my friend's mother was a Minami but she was a Mukaihata later. She had gone to Japan and she was you know still single when she came back from Japan. There were people that traveled quite a bit at that time, you know sent their kids to Japan, and some of them came back and some didn't; yeah. But mostly our friends were Japanese. [Laughs]

0:16:13.8

Interviewer:

Really; now were there many Caucasians or... in the area?

Fukuzawa:

Uh-hm, uh-hm; in the grade school, I had like the good---one of the good friends was the daughter of a teacher and when they had a 25th reunion for high school, she had become principal of a school in Rhode Island. She came to that; I went to the reunion, too, and it was nice to meet again; yes.

Interviewer:

Yeah.

Fukuzawa:

But I haven't seen her since.

Interviewer:

Now you mentioned that your home in Gardena then was rented; it wasn't owned?

Fukuzawa:

No; we didn't own it.

Interviewer:

Did you have a big house?

Fukuzawa:

It was a regular residence. Let's see that one had like three bedrooms, a living room, dining room, you know.

Interviewer:

Outhouse?

Fukuzawa:

No; indoor house. [Laughs]

0:17:37.7

Interviewer:

[Laughs] It was inside?

Fukuzawa:

It was indoors; yeah. That's when I started going to the potty.
[Laughs]

Interviewer:

Can you hold on one second? Do we want to turn that air off... too loud. Now where did you live in Gardena?

Fukuzawa:

That house in Gardena was on Dalton Avenue on 149th... 1490--- something like 14909 and the reason I remember that is when my daughter got married she bought a unit that was only a door away from that when she got married, which was you know quite a few years afterwards; yeah. But it was a very comfortable house; uh-huh. And that's where---that's when I went to about the third grade and then that summer that I was in the third grade my dad decided you know that we would go visit Japan. So the whole family picked up and visited Japan during the summer vacation. So when we came back from Japan, being a rented house we couldn't go back to that house; so that's when we moved into the house on Saint Andrews Street.

Interviewer:

Oh; was that a rented house?

Fukuzawa:

That's also a rented house. Homes were very easy to... well maybe at that time it wasn't, but easy to rent because they were only \$25 a month. [Laughs]

0:19:32.0

Interviewer:

Really; that was a lot of money though.

Fukuzawa:

It was a lot of money I imagine; yeah.

Interviewer:

Do you think that you lived a comfortable---was comfortable?

Fukuzawa:

Oh yes, yes, yes; that was actually a double unit except they made it into a single unit. So it was a big house; uh-huh.

Interviewer:

Now what was your relationship? Did your parents speak English?

Fukuzawa:

At home we spoke Japanese; uh-huh. They knew enough English to get along, but they couldn't really hold it. I mean my dad could hold a conversation, but not my mother. Although she mixed you know the English and Japanese and spoke to our neighbors who was---one of the neighbors was Caucasian and she had a daughter just a year younger than me. So we were like sisters; you know we went back and forth; yeah. And my mother would talk to her, but you know it was mixed English and Japanese.

Interviewer:

Do you ever remember any weird feelings of, I guess we now---we would say prejudice, but back then any way anyone would treat you being Japanese?

Fukuzawa:

You know Gardena... I shouldn't say it that way. I don't know how to express it. They had a written understanding that you know the real estate and what not that they would sell only to... well they sold to Orientals, but the Orientals couldn't buy because the parents couldn't become citizens you know. So if they had older children then they would buy a home, but the--- all our homes are rented because my brother wasn't old enough and you know this type of thing. But as far as prejudice goes, I guess we were just too young.

0:21:54.4

Interviewer:

Yeah; but your parents didn't ever...?

Fukuzawa:

No, no, no. So that's how I remember Gardena and even to this day, you know I think a little---maybe a little prejudice has come in, but in our days we knew just a regular Caucasian people and the Japanese and no one else that had really mixed in except that we... or maybe I just don't remember; you know.

Interviewer:

But the Japanese and Caucasian people, they didn't mix? You didn't mix?

Fukuzawa:

Well our neighbor's daughter went right along with us to Japanese School you know.

Interviewer:

Oh really?

Fukuzawa:

Yeah; uh-huh.

Interviewer:

Do you remember the name?

Fukuzawa:

Oh yes; the James's; yeah. She was... and then we had several families, you know classmates that went to Japanese School with us; yeah. So.... **[Laughs]**

Interviewer:

Now where did you go; what Japanese School?

Fukuzawa:

The Japanese School was at the Buddhist Church; yeah. And we went every day after regular school; yeah.

Interviewer:

So what did you do for fun?

Fukuzawa:

Fun was like my dad being a haul-man, his day off would come before the---you know the day before the holiday, and so he would take us to the beach and we would get the hotdogs and the hamburgers and we had the---we had the amusement parks, but they didn't have the rough rides like they have---either the carousel that goes up and down you know. **[Laughs]** And they had maybe one big roller coaster, which I would never get on; yeah. But he---we traveled as family from way back. So that's what I remember; yeah.

0:24:14.5

Interviewer:

Do you think that your family was a little different that you traveled together as a family back then or was that common?

Fukuzawa:

Well to us it was the common thing to do; you know. It was the thing to do because my dad he would---he knew how to drive you know. So he just said, "Okay; we'll go to San Diego on this holiday and...." What I don't remember is staying over on the--- in a hotel. We must have; you know. But we had to, you know like when the State Fair is on--Pomona Fair; he would always take us. And we'd go to the---I remember going to or we were on our way to Yosemite and the car boiled over so we had to turn around and come back. But we'd go with friends and the friends would you know drive their car and we'd go. We did a lot of family traveling; yeah.

Interviewer:

Well that's nice.

Fukuzawa:

Yeah.

Interviewer:

You know going back, like when you had to go to the doctor or just shopping and things, where did you do all those things?

Fukuzawa:

Well, Doctor Tashiro had an office in Gardena. And so... but in those days, the doctor came to your house, you know a home... they did home calls; so if you're sick you call the doctor and they come to your home. Yeah; so it was real convenient... yeah; home calls they said.

Interviewer:

Do you think that Japanese people saw Caucasian doctors or did everyone see the Japanese doctors?

0:26:15.5

Fukuzawa:

All I remember myself is because Doctor Tashiro was only about you know a mile away or so, he had Japanese not interns, but young doctors, working for him. And so our doctors and our dentists and optometrists, they were all Japanese.

Interviewer:

Oh.

Fukuzawa:

It was a Japanese community, you know Gardena was.

Interviewer:

Yeah; so was your markets and everything Japanese?

0:26:50.6

Fukuzawa:

The markets... we had Safeway, you know and that's regular. They had the little fruit stands, which was owned by Japanese---run by Japanese. That's about it.

Interviewer:

Did your parents, your mother, did she cook Japanese food or--- and American food?

Fukuzawa:

We call it *yuushoku* or *nihonshoku* you know and she was one that... like on Saturdays and Sundays, she'd buy maybe two extra chickens just in case we had company you know; yeah. So and then we had cousins living in Los Angeles; so she would tell them to come and you know and we'd have company. **[Laughs]**

Interviewer:

Hmm; was your father or your parents, were they involved in like *Kenjinkai* or any other community...?

Fukuzawa:

My dad was involved with Okayama *Kenjinkai* and my mother was involved with the Buddhist Church in Gardena; yeah.

Interviewer:

Were you involved in activities and things?

Fukuzawa:

Well I was... growing up in Gardena?

Interviewer:

Uh-hm.

Fukuzawa:

Well I took Koto lessons; and so she had her recitals you know like twice a year. So we'd see fellow players. **[Laughs]**

0:28:27.8

Interviewer:

Did you have to do any housework or anything like after school?

Fukuzawa:

After school, our housework... well Saturday was cleaning day; yeah. So everybody had to participate housecleaning; yeah.

[Laughs]

Interviewer:

Good. [Laughs]

Fukuzawa:

Then actually being a haul-man they had to have crates that are fixed you know. We new put new **lattes** on a crate and I did a lot of that.

Interviewer:

So your dad---so he did well then as a hauler?

Fukuzawa:

I think so---I think so.

Interviewer:

Do you remember the farms he would go pick up from?

Fukuzawa:

It was in the area in Perry---you know that area, Torrance and....

Interviewer:

Do you know the names of the farmers; do you ever---do you recall any of them?

Fukuzawa:

Some of them are like... there was one family that they used to go pick up from in Gardena was... not Gardena, but Perry was the Nakatsus and post-war, he had a liquor store, grocery store they called Motoyama's. That was Nakatsus.

Interviewer:

Oh.

0:29:44.6

Fukuzawa:

And then there is one fellow that was very active in the Lion's Club. What was his name? I can't remember his name; yeah. But he was---lived in Perry. And there are several of them that we see---we still see; yeah and talk about old times; yeah.

Interviewer:

Yeah; and then where would he drive the produce?

Fukuzawa:

My dad was with the Ninth Market. They had the Ninth---Seventh and the Ninth Markets, and where they---they were called the Wholesale Markets and he every night would get up about 3 o'clock in the morning and deliver the goods to the market and sell their vegetables.

Interviewer:

So he would drop them off there and come home?

Fukuzawa:

Yeah; after they sell their products.

Interviewer:

Oh so he sold the products?

0:30:49.8

Fukuzawa:

Yeah; he sold the products; yeah---uh-huh. They'd buy it from the farmers and take it to the market and it's like an open market, and they'd sell their products, and then come home in the morning; yeah.

Interviewer:

Oh.

Fukuzawa:

There were a lot of people that did that.

Interviewer:

Yeah; would you say your parents were kibishii or like strict or were they...?

Fukuzawa:

I would say my mother was very you know... she had her rules. [Laughs] But dad was a little more lenient, but once he got upset with you he let you know; yeah.

Interviewer:

Oh; now what high school did you go to?

Fukuzawa:

I started from---in Gardena because Gardena was a junior high/high school. And I went as far as the 11th grade and then we had to evacuate.

0:31:59.7

Interviewer:

Okay; so up until that time, before you know when you were at junior high/ high, did you have a lot of friends?

Fukuzawa:

No; you have your set friends; yeah, who are still my friends still.

Interviewer:

Really?

Fukuzawa:

Yes.

Interviewer:

Can you name your friends?

Fukuzawa:

Well there's... there's four of us that get together at least once a year and that's Bessie; do you want the last names?

Interviewer:

Yeah.

Fukuzawa: She was Matsuzawa and Hanaye Kakehashi; she goes by Hannah; Bessie Matsuzawa... I said that; yeah... well Shirada, Sakaye Shirada... that's just the three---the four of us still get together and we started getting together when all of us were still married and you know that's about 30 or 35 years ago. And then Bessie lost her husband and just two or three years ago,

Hannah lost her husband. But we still get together once a year at least.

Interviewer:

Oh; that's great.

0:33:18.2

Fukuzawa:

Yes.

Interviewer:

And do you all live in the---do they live in...?

Fukuzawa:

They live in the Gardena-Torrance area. We just all came back; yeah.

Interviewer:

Do you remember at that point---period, did you go out a lot with your friends socially or was it... did you do things?

Fukuzawa:

Well socially what we did was you know the Gardena, or the Japanese Club would have installations and things like that, and we were more not of the dating age yet [Laughs]. So you know one fellow would take the four of us and you know; yeah things like that. But otherwise, we---I think we were a little bit unusual because we always went to the movies with our parents, my mother and dad. You know so I didn't go to a movie with my friends that often; yeah. But we had gatherings; we had Kenjinkai picnics and things like that so; yeah.

0:34:44.3

Interviewer:

Now do you remember... oh in Gardena, was it fully developed or was it partially developed---the---how it looked? It wasn't as big right?

Fukuzawa:

It didn't cover the big area like my... the home that we lived in was formerly called Moneta.

Interviewer:

Oh.

Fukuzawa:

And when we evacuated it was Moneta, but when we came back it was Gardena; it was incorporated into Gardena.

Interviewer:

Oh.

0:35:13.5

Fukuzawa:

Yeah; that area.

Interviewer:

I see.

Fukuzawa:

So it all became Gardena.

Interviewer:

Oh; did you like going to school?

Fukuzawa:

Well that was the thing to do. [Laughs]

Interviewer:

Did you like studies?

Fukuzawa:

I didn't mind school; uh-huh.

Interviewer:

Let's see; I was just looking here now. So even in high school growing up then, your friends were primarily Japanese?

Fukuzawa:

Japanese; uh-huh. Like I say, the neighbor's daughter was like sister and we went back and forth you know very freely, and then the teacher's daughter that became the principal---president of the University of Rhode Island, we had a lot of communication there; yeah.

Interviewer:

What---can you---do you remember her name?

Fukuzawa:

Patricia Horo.

Interviewer:

Oh yeah.

Fukuzawa:

I don't her married name.

Interviewer:

Oh okay. Okay; let's see. Now you mentioned that up until 11th grade, you were in Moneta. So when December 7th--what were you doing on December 7, 1941; do you remember?

0:36:37.7

Fukuzawa:

No; I really don't remember. All I remember is dad's workers came to pick up the vegetables and they said that Pearl Harbor bombed you know---was bombed by Japanese. That's all I remember because 15... I was only 15 and it was a shock, but you know you don't really know what's happening.

Interviewer:

Yeah; do you recall if your parents talked about anything?

Fukuzawa:

Well they had to---they had to take care of their money because you know they were---they heard they would freeze the money that they had, the savings they had; so what they had done was their business... I started writing out the checks at 15 instead of my mother; yeah. And it was... my brother and sister were in Japan already at that time; so I was the only one home.

Interviewer:

Now how did they end up in Japan?

Fukuzawa:

My sister went back after she graduated high school because my mother and dad felt that the Japanese education would be important. My brother finished UCLA and went back to... he tried getting into a medical school here and at that time already they were discriminating and so he couldn't get in. So then the... one of the pastor---the reverend that was in Gardena, the

Buddhist reverend who was in Gardena was in Japan already and he said, "Come and I'll get you into a medical school in Japan." But fortunately, that teacher had really driven the Japanese language into my brother and sister; yeah. So they were able to get into a university there.

0:39:00.8

Interviewer:

Wow.

Fukuzawa:

Yeah.

Interviewer:

So your siblings were in Japan?

Fukuzawa:

Yes.

Interviewer:

Did you hear from them at all?

Fukuzawa:

Not during---not after the war started; no... until they okayed the---the Red Cross okayed the letter and I think about 1945 we received one letter from them that they were all right.

Interviewer:

Wow; do you need a break?

Fukuzawa:

I can.

Interviewer:

Okay.

[Break]

[End Nami Fukuzawa CD 1]

[Begin Nami Fukuzawa CD 2]

Interviewer:

Now do you remember; did you correspond with your friends that you grew up with here when you were in Utah?

Fukuzawa:

I corresponded with Hannah and Bessie.

Interviewer:

Where were they?

Fukuzawa:

They were in Camp Rohwer; yeah.

Interviewer:

Did they tell you about camp?

Fukuzawa:

You know 15-14-15-16 [**Laughs**], I don't think you think that deeply. So they told me about you know what was going and the kind of dances they had and you know things like that; yeah. So I think the older ones were all ready to leave camp, but not all of them. [**Laughs**]

Interviewer:

Yeah; because actually yeah you're right, you get dances and have parties; so.

0:00:57.6

Fukuzawa:

Yeah sure; uh-huh yeah. Well I went to visit one... I had never been to camp; so I went to visit Minidoka and then I must have stayed four days because I have a meal ticket that says 40 cents a day for meals. [**Laughs**]

Interviewer:

Really?

Fukuzawa:

Yeah, yeah; so they wouldn't feed us free, but they charged us 40 cents a day.

Interviewer:

Did you kind of think how sad or did you have any feelings of...?

Fukuzawa:

Well I didn't see the part where they had you know like they talk about the toilets that if you flush one they all flushed together and things like that. I can't picture things like that because I don't know; yeah.

Interviewer:

Where did you stay when you'd go visit?

Fukuzawa:

I must have stayed with my friend. It's been quite some time ago; so I can't remember what happened. We went on the bus; I know we went on the bus from Utah and I don't even remember who I went with.

Interviewer:

Yeah; well that was a long... okay.

Fukuzawa:

Yeah.

0:02:23.9

Interviewer:

Let's see; now how did you... okay; so you're working in L.A. at Don Loper's. Now how did you meet...?

Fukuzawa:

Frank; well when I came back I had a friend that was working on my... she wasn't a friend at that time, but we became friends at work you know. And we joined the JACL and we got to know the people at I don't know why, but I became secretary.

Interviewer:

Which chapter; do you remember?

Fukuzawa:

Southwest; yeah, yeah. That's many years ago, too; yeah.
[Laughs] But anyway, we were having a meeting, a get-together at West Adams Church and so they got permission to go there to have the meeting, but the pastor had to set up the chairs for our meeting, and Frank knew the pastor real well. So the pastor said, "Would you help me with the chairs," you know. So he says, "Okay;" and helped with the chairs, set up the place, and then stayed for the JACL meeting. And that's how [Laughs]... and I

had gone with this one fellow that took about three of us, and he was a friend of Frank's. So Frank asked him if he knew me. **[Laughs]** And you know in those days, he got the phone number from this fellow, but even to make a date, you know poor school teachers couldn't ask for a date for the next week or anything. I had to wait a whole month. **[Laughs]**

0:04:16.0

Interviewer:

Oh how come?

Fukuzawa:

Because he had his money you know... it was tight. **[Laughs]**

Interviewer:

Oh.

Fukuzawa:

So he was getting room and board from this one family and he had that to figure out and he had his gas to figure out. **[Laughs]** But that's how we started.

Interviewer:

So when he said he saw you, did you see him... did you catch...?

Fukuzawa:

Oh yeah. **[Laughs]**

Interviewer:

Oh.

Fukuzawa:

Yeah, yeah; he was a good guy.

Interviewer:

Good guy huh? Now do you remember your first date?

Fukuzawa:

Yeah; where did we go? It was some kind of a... I can't remember what the---who the person was---the entertainer; yeah. And you know that's how he... and then you know like now days, the kids will go to a big restaurant and have dinner, take the---take the date out like that, but we went to the drive-in and had hamburger. **[Laughs]** Yeah; that's how we started.

Interviewer:

Now how old were you then?

Fukuzawa:

I got married when I was 26.

Interviewer:

Oh.

Fukuzawa:

Yeah.

Interviewer:

And then can you just for the record state your husband's full name?

Fukuzawa:

His name is Michito Frank Fukuzawa.

Interviewer:

And then did you live in L.A. when you got married?

Fukuzawa:

Yes, yes; I was going to the Methodist Church there and he was going to West Adams. So we got married in West Adams. We were the first family to get married---the first pair to get married at the West Adams Church.

Interviewer:

Really?

Fukuzawa:

Uh-huh; it was a brand new church. And then the pastor there was a retiree from the Navy, and he was the pastor. So we were his first couple you know to marry to.

Interviewer:

Wow; and also let's see when did you settle... okay so did you--
-after you---once you got married, did you continue to work?

Fukuzawa:

I worked until two weeks before my daughter was born; yeah.

0:07:09.2

Interviewer:

And can you name your children?

Fukuzawa:

Sheryl is the oldest; she is now Sheryl Iijima and my son is... Sheryl is---will be 50 this year. My son's name is Leigh Alan Fukuzawa and he will be 48.

Interviewer:

When did you move to---back to Gardena?

Fukuzawa:

Well that was two weeks before Sheryl was born; yeah---yes. [Laughs] We moved back mainly because he had met his friend that he grew up with living in Gardena and he told my husband that they were building---they were getting their home built and there is a house that is going up right next door. And when they lived in Santa Barbara, they were back to back, and he thought well you know good neighbors---always good neighbors; so he told us about the house that was going up---going---being built next to his. And it was a smaller home, which we could afford. So he said, "Okay."

0:08:30.3

Interviewer:

So you got to buy a home?

Fukuzawa:

Uh-hm.

Interviewer:

Good; and now what did Frank do?

Fukuzawa:

Frank was a teacher and he taught at Emerson for 10 years. Then he was asked to open up Henry Clay and he worked at Henry Clay for 10 years and then they opened up **Marleton?** which is a school for the hard of hearing. I think he worked there for about four---four or five years---and then he was asked to come down to the office in Gardena. So he did mainstreaming the handicap into regular classes. So he finished up in Gardena. There's an office on Magnolia; that's where he worked; yeah.

Interviewer:

And growing---and just one quick... I know you had your kids... now when you had your children, I just wanted to ask, did you go to the hospital or... because I think some people had midwives?

Fukuzawa:

No; ours is [Laughs]... Sheryl was born in the... what is it called now... in L.A. and Doctor Baba; there are a lot of children that was born in his care... St. Vincent.

Interviewer:

Oh.

Fukuzawa:

Uh-hm; she was born in St. Vincent and Leigh was born in Gardena Memorial---Gardena Community Hospital, Doctor Tokunaga.

Interviewer:

Okay.

Fukuzawa:

So....

Interviewer:

Yeah; you're more modern. Are you guys both active in community groups now?

Fukuzawa:

Well we do a lot of volunteer work at the 442nd Educational Foundation.

Interviewer:

And do you ever---do your kids ever talk to you or your grandkids about your experiences? Do you ever share?

Fukuzawa:

Well now they are getting you know---they're asking more and now he's opened up quite... although about 30 years ago he started talking about the 442nd to schools and to organizations.

Interviewer:

Frank?

Fukuzawa:

Uh-hm.

Interviewer:

But how about to your kids?

Fukuzawa:

No, no; they... until they started asking; yeah.

Interviewer:

Do you remember any important lessons or phrases... I asked you in here, but... that your parents taught you? Do you remember growing up any words or...?

Fukuzawa:

Well I put down the idea of the... it's to me it's just a Japanese phrase, but they said, "On wo wasurenai," you know... just remember; I don't even know how to translate it into English. But they more or less lectured to thank people you know who have been helpful to you and don't forget the people like that, which is I think... everybody remembers things like that; yeah.

0:12:20.9

Interviewer:

Do you---can you tell me why... I saw you wrote in there; can you tell me why you think it's important to preserve like these stories about you know the history and past?

Fukuzawa:

Well it's their... what's the word I want... their heritage, you know. They can't forget that; and you just can't say, "I'm an American," you know. You have to remember the background, I think, you know and I think our kids have learned. In fact, the last few years you know they've gotten involved with what Grandpa's doing and there's more meaning to them; yeah.

Interviewer:

Well good; anything else you want to add? We're about over.

Fukuzawa:

Yeah; okay.

Interviewer:

Anything else?

Fukuzawa:

No; I don't think so.

Interviewer:

Anyone have any other questions? Okay; well thank you very much,
Nami.

Fukuzawa:

It isn't much; no.

Interviewer:

You did a great job.

[End Nami Fukuzawa CD 2]