

Enomoto, Ellen

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MRS. ELLEN ENOMOTO

May 16, 1972

Interview with Mrs. Ellen Enomoto; Born 1922; High School Graduate; Minto; Bralorne; Lac La Hache; Cookhouse; Three Children; B. A. in Japanese Language.

Interviewed by: Maya Koizumi

Oral History Project, Vancouver. Cultural Communities Series.

Interview Number 76, Tape Number 1 of 2, Tracks 1 & 2, Speed 3 3/4.

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Interview no. 76, Tape no. 1, Track 1.

Miss Koizumi: Now....where were you born? Where now were you born, Mrs, Enomoto?

Mrs. Enomoto: Where? When?

Miss Koizumi: When.

Mrs. Enomoto: Oh. January the 28, 1922.

Miss Koizumi:22...and where?

Mrs. Enomoto: In Vancouver.

Miss Koizumi: Could you speak ...about your parents, their jobs..?

Mrs. Enomoto: Oh well, of course. You mean what they're doing now?

Miss Koizumi: No.....that time...

Mrs. Enomoto: At that time...well, my grand father had bought this store, at 331 Powell, from these people called Ishikana, who had a... it was supposed to be a drugstore, but mostly it was patent medicine and imports from Japan, like, well what we sold, actually were things like fountain pens, cosmetics, eh....Japanese Patent Drugs,... They imported things from Japan to sell to the local Japanese here, and eh...when I was ...well as I remember they used to also sell Japanese records....

Miss Koizumi: Oh.

Mrs. Enomoto: Popular records. (At the time of my birth, the store would not have been selling records since the Japanese record industry was a later development in the thirties. My father also did some interpreting for non-English speaking Japanese when they needed the services of a doctor. These people were usually from outside Vancouver, such places as Ucluelet, Tofino, Prince Rupert, Ocean Falls, Britannia Beach, etc. Some of them also stayed in rooms above the store and

boarded with the family. Earlier, these rooms had also housed some immigrants from Japan until such time as they were able to find jobs, usually out of town.)

Miss Koizumi: Yeah. So your grandfather came from ...from Japan?

Mrs. Enomoto: Yes. Uh-hmmm. And I think they worked mu....I don't know if my grandfather came first..or else he came with my father... and they worked in the sawmills in Fairview...Vancouver Lumber? On Sixth Avenue near Cambie Bridge? Originally...and this is why...the store was on Powell Street but then when I was born, of course the store was on Powell Street, but eh.. I think originally because he worked in the sawmills, we lived in a house on 7th Avenue in the 800 block. Because that would be close to where they were working.

Miss Koizumi: So eh...and then your grandmother joined...

Mrs. Enomoto: Well, I'm not sure about that, I'd have to phone and find out the details of that because this all happened before I was born so I don't know. (My grandfather Nimi came to Vancouver in 1900 and my grandmother joined him a little later. My father arrived in 1906 and his young brother in 1910. They built the house, still standing, at 875 West 7th Ave. in 1911.)

Miss Koizumi: Yeah...right...O. K....So your...

Mrs. Enomoto: This is my...this is my...eh...grandparents on my father's side but I also remember my grandparents on my mother's side.

Miss Koizumi: Oh....how....

Mrs. Enomoto: Because they were also here...he had come, I guess, eh, to immigrate to eh...Hawaii and they wouldn't let the Japanese off at Hawaii...so they had come straight to Canada.. this is what I was told anyways. (Incorrect. My grandfather Kaneda was already in Hawii. He heard that the last immigrant ship to Canada was leaving soon so he

sent to his family in Japan for transportation money and arrived in Canada. His wife came ten years later and they remained together in Canada for ten years.)

Miss Koizumi: So your father was born in Japan?

Mrs. Enomoto: Oh yes. My father was born in Japan...my mother was born in Japan...but in different parts of the country...you see my mother comes straight from Fuknien and my father from Tokushima and they were married in what is now the Buddhist Church at Jackson and Powell but at that time it was the Methodist Church....and... apparently it was the firstbig Japanese wedding in Vancouver... Probably in all of Canada. (One of the returned missionaries, Miss Etta de Wolfe, who had worked in Japan planned the church portion of this wedding in 1920. Dr. Osterhaut was the minister and the flower girl was Lily Washimoto who later became a prominent piano and voice teacher in the Japanese community. She is now teaching in Toronto. Although the church ceremony was western, the reception was Japanese at a restaurant called the Yamashina.

Miss Koizumi: So that's the wedding of your parents...

Mrs. Enomoto: Of my parents..

Miss Koizumi: So your father...your grandfather started this ...this drugstore...bought the drugstore...

Mrs. Enomoto: Bought the drugstore...they had made enough money in the sawmill, apparently, to buy something and they didn't know whether to start farming in the Fraser Valley or what, so this store was up for sale and they decided to buy it.

Miss Koizumi: Mmmm. So when you...were you born, the store was....

Mrs. Enomoto: The store was there...

Miss Koizumi: And the store was doing good business?

Mrs. Enomoto: I think so.

Miss Koizumi: Were there many other durgstores on Powell?

Mrs. Enomoto: Well, I remember others, but at the same time I was born, of course, I don't know....because I would be too young...but there was this Taishodo at the corner of Powell and Gore...at the time and there was something called Seishindo and then of course Doctor Shimotakahara had a drugstore at the corner of Main and Powell... Takahara Drugs. (When they started their business, the other drug stores were the Taishodo, Powell Street Drugs on Powell and Dunlevy and Isomura in the 200 block Powell whose son is now a doctor. By the time I moved to Powell St., Isomura was replaced by Seishindo, Taishodo and Powell Drugs were still operating and in addition were Konda across the street and Takahara on Main and Powell.)

Miss Koizumi: And....Japanese couldn't become a pharmacist...

Mrs. Enomoto: No. No..no. Because there were not pharmaceutical school here at U. B. C. then because you know, the University was too young, so he had gone to Washington...probably Washington State University and he got his degree byt the Pharmaceutical Association here wouldn't admit him, because we didn't have the vote.

Miss Koizumi: So...did you father...

Mrs. Enomoto: Oh, that's my uncle...

Miss Koizumi: Oh that's my uncle...

Mrs. Enomoto: Mmmm-hmmm. My father's younger brother...because we had this sort of store....he wanted to make it into d drug....a real drug store, I guess, and he sent his young brother to the States to get this Pharmacy degree, but...

Yes?

Miss Koizumi: So like, your....your father didn't employ a white man

pharmacist?

Mrs. Enomoto: No.. No. You know that..there is some kind of laws here whereby you cannot have a drugstore if you're not a pharmacist yourself? That is why a store like Simpson Sears who came in late, they don't ...they don't have a phar...drug department do they? Well maybe in those days you could hire a pharmacist, I don't know because Woodward's...they're not really pharmacists, but they're a department store but they have a drug department in and so does Hudson's Bay but Simpson Sears came in late and I think there was some law recently enacted that you can't hire a pharmacist. But of course I think with our store, there was no need for that....We could make enough money selling these other things from Japan...the Patent Medicine. Things like Rokushingan and, you know, Japanese things that the Japanese bought, because it was almost...it was Japanese trade, we didn't sell anything to the white people because we were sitting in Powell Street, right in the heart of Powell Street, in the Japanese town. But about half the stock was Canadian goods.

Miss Koizumi: An...did your mother work with your father?

Mrs. Enomoto: No...because, you see, we lived in Fairview, in the 800 block, the store was there, but it was just done with hired help.

Miss Koizumi: Your grandfather worked in the store too? Your grandmother and your father both.....

Mrs. Enomoto: Well I wouldn't say he worked, you know what Japanese old men are like, they don't work...do they?(chuckles) They just sit around and ...I don't know what they do. (My grandfather must have considered himself retired by then. His contribution to the business consisted of taking deposits to the Royal Bank on Hastings and Main

and picking up drug supplies at B. C. Drugs on Beatty St. Also once in a while he went to a mutual financing association. His group consisted of about four men who borrowed money from a pool and paid it back with interest. It was also a social gathering because when it was his turn to have the meeting, he brought them to our house on 7th Avenue and my mother would have to serve food and sake. These sessions were called ko or tanomoshi. This was probably how he paid the store bills when money was scarce. I also remember him going golfing quite frequently. My grandmother often used him as chauffeur to gather plants from the woods for herself and friends for their Japanese flower arranging lessons.)

Miss Koizumi: Uh....how was your childhood?

Mrs. Enomoto: Childhood?

Miss Koizumi: Ya. Did you have...do you have brothers and sisters?

Mrs. Enomoto: Well, I had a brother, 7 years younger, and another one, 2 years younger than that...

Miss Koizumi: What do you remember about your childhood?

Mrs. Enomoto: Well, it wasn't...it wasn't uneventful....there was an awful lot of antagonism against Japanese....when I was young and this is something unpleasant that I remember...because for one thing, it wasn't just against Japanese either, they just didn't like Asians, or Orientals because this was more of an Anglo-Saxon Province, I would say.

Miss Koizumi: Do you remember any kind of particular experience?

Mrs. Enomoto: Well, this is sort of hazy because it was when I was so young...but I know in public school, the people used to taunt us. ..not not so much students....but other people..

Miss Koizumi: The teachers?

Mrs. Enomoto: Not the teachers..no...no!! Not at school as I say.. but along the street, you know, they would make nasty comments about us, and at the time of course Ja...Japan was sort of fighting in China too, and this didn't make things unpleasant for us...if they knew we were Japanese....they didn't like Orientals anyways, but the Japanese were hated more than the Chinese at the time, if you know what I mean, because of Japanese aggression in China.

Miss Koizumi: In public school...eh..you...you..like you..at home did you speak Japanese all the time?

Mrs. Enomoto: Yes...because course, my mother...I spent time mostly with my mother because my father, as I say was in the store...was in a different place you know, I never saw my father too much when I was young. It was all Japanese because she had learned English when she came here, but.....it's not..you don't speak a language like that that you learned after you're grown up.

Miss Koizumi: Did you speak English at...before you went to public school?

Mrs. Enomoto: Well no. I did with friends because around me were Caucasian friends, so I spoke English with my friends outside, and not only that, eh....I think we were required to go to kindergarten to learn Japanese, not Japanese....English....so that our first year of school wouldn't be so difficult. And this was done by the....I think it's more missionary influence...I went to the Methodist kindergarten on eh....5th Avenue it used to be, near Main Street...It used to be there.

Miss Koizumi: Was it a Japanese Methodist Church?

Mrs. Enomoto: Yes.

Miss Koizumi: In the church...like...if it's Japanese church there is no white people?

Mrs. Enomoto: Well, no...this is Missionary...these were missionaries mission...white missionaries..who went to Japan to do Missionary work so therefore they could speak Japanese..as well as the English and they hired.....teachers who..didn't speak Japanese...they were just English speaking teachers...but these Missionaries were there to supervise

Miss Koizumi: So like...at ah...that time most of the Japanese families send their children to the...

Mrs. Enomoto: kindergarten....

Miss Koizumi: And ah...you learned a lot of English? there you think?

Mrs. Enomoto: Well enough to go to school....we never had any trouble at school, because we did learn English at school. I didn't have any trouble anyways, because I played with Canadian children.

Miss Koizumi: The house that the...I mean ..your house was located in the...white residence area?

Mrs. Enomoto: Mostly. Mind you, there were a lot of Japanese sawmill workers there around, but...not that many. I played mostly with white children. (Children play mostly with others of their own age and interest. My daily companion was a white girl who lived two doors away. The others in the same block with whom I played were also white. The Japanese children around us were not particularly friendly especially after the new Buddhist temple was erected in the 700 block on 7th Avenue around 1930. My one close Japanese friend, Hana Sakanishi lived next door to this temple and to go to Japanese school on 5th Ave. east of Columbia or to the United Church Sunday School on 6th and Columbia, we had to go past this temple in front of which children were playing while waiting for classes. Some of them would gang up and yell insults at us.. Before this temple was built most of

these children attended the Japanese language school east of Cambie but when the new Buddhist church came into existence, it also conducted kindergarten and Japanese language classes eliminating the need for them to walk so far. The large number of Buddhists west of Cambie necessitated the building of a larger temple. Hana and ^I were therefore a Christian minority in Buddhist territory.)

Miss Koizumi: Well when you went to public school, then ...you didn't find it...some particular subject diffucult for you?

Mrs. Enomoto: No. No...And I also had studied eh...started em...taking piano lessons when I was eight years old, and this once a week session with the piano teacher, sort of improved my English too, because it was all done in English....besides the Elementary school.

Miss Koizumi: Oh....is a white teacher...for piano?

Mrs. Enomoto: Yes. Mrs. Bampton, whe's still alive. She lives on 16th Avenue right close to Cambie...her son is quite a well known accompanist here in town....his name is Derek...

Miss Koizumi: She was giving lessons to the children at the time.

Mrs. Enomoto: Well, she eh...had actually taught my mother...piano

Miss Koizumi: Was it very usual for Japanese women to learn piano at that time? (My grandmother Nimi was taking piano lessons from Mrs. Ishizaki although she never made much progress and therefore was the butt of many sarcastic remarks for her sons.)

Mrs. Enomoto: Well, I think this was a missionary influence again.. missionaries tended to ...try to discourage the Japanese immigrants from reverting to Japanese ways...and to do this they encouraged them to ...learn Western instruments and Western music...Western culture in general so that they would be ah more easily assimilated with the Canadian element.

Miss Koizumi: So....I see..so but how...you had the Japanese town

like food and the way of living...

Mrs. Enomoto: Well, you see,Japanese women when they came from, japan in order to learn English and also to make a little money, they went out and did housework...in English households....(English speaking Canadian homes. My mother had also gone to night school to learn English at the Methodist church so that she was able to follow cook book recipes.)so my mother could cook Canadian food a little bit, you know, what she'd learned doing housework...so we both had.. whatever was available.

Miss Koizumi: How did the...you educate your mother to you...like ah...In Japan for example they say...You know, you are a girl and...you have to be a wife sometime...so you have to learn this and that...and things like that....Did your mother teach you in that way?

Mrs. Enomoto: Oh.....well my mother didn't make any conscious effort to teach me, but my grandfather was always nagging her....when I.... I remember when I was 11 years old he said that he was quite upset because I couldn't cook....well, nowadays...you don't expect 11 year olds to cook....but he was always at it...

Miss Koizumi: And so you got in your.....grandparents lived with you?

Mrs. Enomoto: No, but he used to visit us...(interviewer chuckles) and then...during the depression...in the '30's...I forgot just exactly when....I remember I was about 12 eh...I guess he felt...Oh I don't know...what...happened...My grandmother decided to go back to Japan. They were planning both to retire in Japan...you see...they'd had... I guess they felt they were getting old, and they decided to go home to Japan and live out the rest of their life in Japan....so my grandmother went first and you know what the Japanese businesses are like

they are more...it's like a big family...you feed them...they live in the store and they ...you also feed them, and there was nobody to do the cooking, so when my grandmother went, you see, to Japan, so...then we moved down to the store...we loved upstairs in the store...there were lots of rooms up there because it used to be a ...I think rooming or boarding house, and in the early days...So we lived upstairs the store and ...my mother cooked for the family and the employees of the store.

Miss Koizumi: How many employees did you have?

Mrs. Enomoto: Ummmmmm about 3 or 4...

Miss Koizumi: Oh...it is quite a big store..

Mrs. Enomoto: Well you always get these apprentices form Japan, young boys to start out, sometimes...sometimes we only had about 2 or 3 but.....

Miss Koizumi: Did the store work all..all week ..or what kind of...

Mrs. Enomoto: Hours?

Miss Koizumi: Work hours...yeah....

Mrs. Enomoto: Uh...yes..we were open 7 days a week. From 9 in the morning 'til um.....12 at night I think....Yes!! Very long hours.

Mrs. Koizumi: Oh....so your father worked really hard...

Mrs. Enomoto: Oh no...he didn't work...he had a cousin who did the work...Mr. Okamoto. He lives in Vancouver now. He spent the war years in Greenwood....

Miss Koizumi: He...your cousin came his cousin came....

Mrs. Enomoto: But this was what I remember....before that....they had other people...in charge...they always had somebody...responsible for the store.

Miss Koizumi: Was it...some kind of relatives all the time?

Mrs. Enomoto: No, I think this other fellow was just somebody who had worked for the...the other person who...from whom they bought this.... the, you know, that they bought the store.

Miss Koizumi: Did this Ishikawa family went back to Japan?

Mrs. Enomoto: I don't know what happened...probable..because most Japanese in those days usually went back to Japan.

Miss Koizumi: So eh...finally did your grandma...father go back...to Japan?

Mrs. Enomoto: Yes, he finally went, and then we were left...

Miss Koizumi: So your grandmother never came back?

Mrs. Enomoto: Oh no!! I don't think so. I don't know...recall her coming back...so then my grandfather left....

Miss Koizumi: Did they ...to Tokushima?

Mrs. Enomoto: No, they were living outside Osaka...I don't know all this because I've never...I've never been to Japan to visit them.... The first time I went to Japan was 3 years ago and of course they were they had....my grandparents were dead by then.

Miss Koizumi: And then um...did you go to Japanese language school?

Mrs. Enomoto: Yes, we all went...we all went to language school after. I used to go to Model School which is now a part of...well it's a Community Music School now. Do you want to know where it is? It's right next to a Normal School was the Teacher training college, you see. In those days...and there was this elementary school....public school right next to it...and they called it Model School.

Miss Koizumi: And then that was Japanese language School?

Mrs. Enomoto: No...I went there and then after I came back from school I walked to the Japanese School which was on 5th Avenue ...just past Columbia...I had to cross Cambie Street...which was very busy.

Very dangerous...in the winter time...the...school, I guess the Parents Association..well..you'd call it a PTA now...they hired a taxi so we could get home at night....because in the winter time it would be...it was dark coming home...home..you know after 6? to cross Cambie Street..even then it was very busy ...very dangerous... because it was on the other side of Cambie.

Miss Koizumi: You started to go to Japanese language School at the age of what?

Mrs. Enomoto: Eh..probably six when I started elementary school...

Miss Koizumi: Oh, I started the same time...and then?

Mrs. Enomoto: I didn't learn very much. (They laugh)

Miss Koizumi: And then....you went every day?

Mrs. Enomoto: Every day....every school day.

Miss Koizumi: Every school day from five to what?

Mrs. Enomoto: I think it was from 4 to 6.

Miss Koizumi: I see.

Mrs. Enomoto: Or maybe it was 4 to 5:30...I don't recall.

Miss Koizumi: And then, what did you learn there?

Mrs. Enomoto: Well they used these textbooks that eh...the Japanese students in Japan used....I think it was very unsuitable...for students here. Maybe it was all right at the beginning when the textbooks are simple but they get harder and harder and ...I didn't understand anything. (chuckles)

Miss Koizumi: so...how long all together did you go to language school?

Mrs. Enomoto: Well, I went to the school on 5th Avenue 'till we moved down to Powell Street and then I switched to that Japanese language school on Alexander. On the 400 block, Alexander....and I went there for a couple of years. But when I started high school, I quit

because it was too difficult for me and I didn't understand anything of what was going on...and what with the piano practicing it got to be a bit too much.

Miss Koizumi: Piano practice...you went every day?

Mrs. Enomoto: Well, I had a lesson once a week, and but then I had to practice every day.

Miss Koizumi: That's right...yeah....well....eh...

Mrs. Enomoto: So it was very time consuming...

Miss Koizumi: Yeah...so ah...was there anything interesting about your experience of going to Japanese school?

Mrs. Enomoto: No...I found it very boring...I think anything is very boring when you don't ...just don't understand it...The language used in those textbooks...it was just too much for me....

Miss Koizumi: ...And you found that most of...your friends in the same Japanese school felt in that way...you think?

Mrs. Enomoto: Uh....well of course some...some children are brighter than others...I guess I wasn't all that bright...but some students are quite good...When I moved down to Powell Street I could see a difference...the children there were...they were more...they were more Japanese...if you know what I mean, because they....there were more Japanese around there and they spoke Japanese all the time, so I think the Japanese school to them meant more. Maybe...maybe they could understand the stories in those text books....better than I could...I didn't understand it...at all...

Miss Koizumi: So after you went into public school, then you still spoke Japanese at home?

Mrs. Enomoto: We always spoke Japanese at home because if your parents

are born in Japan, they're not going to speak English...Everybody spoke Japanese...When we moved down to Powell Street too, it was all Japanese ...this was Strathcona School I went to for 2 years and I noticed that the Japanese students had problems with their English...and when they went to high school...I know some of my friends just couldn't to the English.

Miss Koizumi: Like it was...expressed in ki....some kind of subjectsthose things...or in general conversation?

Mrs. Enomoto: Yes! Their conversation was...a little different too. They had a little different way of speaking English...just because they spoke English amongst themselves and they themselves were...not English speaking..you feel what I mean...you get a bunch of Japanese speaking Japanese English...it's not always that good.

Miss Koizumi: So.....at..in school as you speak with Japanese friends you spoke Japanese...in the public school?

Mrs. Enomoto: Eh...no...no in public school we would speak English. the teachers wouldn't like it if they caught us speaking Japanese.

Miss Koizumi: Like what kind of contact with white people did you have in....?

Mrs. Enomoto:during what time?

Miss Koizumi: Yeah....

Mrs. Enomoto: Well aside from the public school teachers..the only contact I would have with with white people would be my music teacher.. I think...yes..because all around me were Japanese 'cause by that time, you know, on Powell Street it's all Japanese...(Curiously, when I switched from the Fairview United Church Sunday School to the Powell Street one, I found that classes were conducted in English. This probably was due to the fact that the Fairview Church had not enough older nisei to teach while Powell Street attracted university students from

elsewhere who lived upstairs in the church. Saturday school was conducted by white students as was C. G. I. T. which I attended during high school years.)

Miss Koizumi: Were you kind of afraid of being in a white people's community?...or something..like if you like...most of the life was done in Japanese community, right?

Mrs. Enomoto: Mmmm-hmmm

Miss Koizumi: That is...there any chance of you going to see the movie or restaurant or something?

Mrs. Enomoto: Oh well...now eh..that sort of thing didn't frighten me... 'til the war came, and then it was rather frightening...there ah was a curfew.

Miss Koizumi: Well how old were you when the war came?

Mrs. Enomoto: Oh I was grown up....Twenty...

Miss Koizumi: So you ...when you were finished high school then did you do something?

Mrs. Enomoto: No, when I finished high school, that was 1939...when the war came with Europe started...I didn't do anything no. I was still working at the piano...in those days, you see, it wasn't eh...after you finished high school, there wasn't much opportunity for Japanese, especially girls, so I didn't go to the University...and I just knew I wasn't going to University so when I was in high school, I didn't take a University Entrance Programme, I guess. There were core...core subjects like English and Social Studies, and Health, they called it then, that you had to take, ...but other than that you could take what you liked and get...graduate with some kind of a general...

Miss Koizumi: So most of your girl friends follow that general course?

Mrs. Enomoto: Well not all of them. Some of them didn't even go to

high school. Some of them went to Commercial School..well they learn bookkeeping, shorthand, typing, this sort of thing...maybe that was more practical...Maybe I should have done that but at King Ed...they had both programmes going...it wasn't just commercial or just academic you could get your...what they called Junior Matric..in those days, which was University Entrance....or else you could do this other thing, and I...did typing and shorthand, and I took a Secretarial Course..

Miss Koizumi: Yeah....so what...

Mrs. Enomoto: So a lot of girls would, after that, would do do dressmaking or something..take up dressmaking.

Miss Koizumi: Oh...you learned dressmaking at...

Mrs. Enomoto: No I didn't learn dressmaking...(chuckles)...I ...I told you..I was still studying piano..I wasn't...I was working towards my...what?...in those days they call it the A. T. C. M. they call it the A. R. T. C. now because Toronto Conservatory changed its name from the Toronto Conservatory of Music to the Royal Conservatory of Toronto so now..you see, the diploma in those days...it would A. T. C. M. would stand for Associate of the Toronto Conservatory of Music but now they call it the A. R. T. C. which stands for Associate of the Royal Conservatory of Toronto....Isn't that what...what it? A. R. T. C. is? I was working on that and this is the kind of a...I mean it's not just the practical...the piano exams...you have to do all this written work the theory, ^{you /} know? history and harmony and counterpoint...form..this sort of thing..took a little time and I didn't get this 'til...when I was 21, by that time the war had started and we were just getting ready to leave.

Miss Koizumi: Did you, like, you thought of ..of becoming a music

teacher?

Mrs. Enomoto: I suppose so, although, I didn't take it..you can get this in Performance or in Teaching and I did it in Performance...but eventually I guess I would have taught.

Miss Koizumi: Like the boys in...in your class..what did...did they become?

Mrs. Enomoto: The young boys..oh the boys in my class..

Miss Koizumi: Boys in school, like..oh you know, jobs, and...

Mrs. Enomoto: Yes, that was very tough but then as I say the war came so I never knew...and once you leave high school...you sort of lose touch with them, don't you? They probably went to work in the sawmills that's about the only job there was. Unless you start a business of your own. If your parents were in the drycleaning business, or something maybe you did that kind of work,...a lot of the Japanese had little grocery stores...maybe it helped their parents out...I don't know.

Miss Koizumi: Do you ...was there any opportunity of...these young people to get together and to speak about the future or something?

Mrs. Enomoto: Well, there was the J. C. C. A. and they ...in those days the J. C. C. A. had a purpose..because we ididn't have the vote.. They were oh...working towards that, and there was so much prejudice that there was a need for something like the J.C.C.A....wasn't there? to combat all tnis anti-Japanese feeling...that was going on..

Miss Koizumi: So like ...young...ambitious men...

Mrs. Enomoto: Oh some of them went to University...people like Tom Shoyama..and ah...George Tamaki...George Tamaki..was, I think I don't know..he lived in the country somewhere...but I...I us...he was in Minto where I was during the war...he had come back from Dalhousie...I think

he had taken one year of law and...he taught school there for a while...for a year. (During the war the B. C. Government refused to educate the evacuated children and so self-supporting projects such as Minto paid the teachers a small salary out of the community fund which partly consisted of rent money the residents paid yearly. We were fortunate at the beginning to have resident two educated personnel to do the elementary teaching. The other teacher was Mrs. Kazuko Umemoto who had graduated from Normal School but never had the opportunity to teach because of racial discrimination policies.)

Miss Koizumi: So like it was only B. C. that the Japanese couldn't become various jobs....become professionals?

Mrs. Enomoto: I suppose so...because this is where all the Japanese were and this is where all the antagonism was..against Japanese.

Miss Koizumi: So if they, going to Un....

Mrs. Enomoto: If you were adventuresome and gone out East...I suppose there wouldn't have been all this prejudice..

Miss Koizumi: Was it...I mean..something that you never thought of.. going to the East at that time?

Mrs. Enomoto: Well, it's a pretty scary thing to think about isn't it? To go somewhere where there are no other Japanese...

Miss Koizumi: Oh yeah...

Mrs. Enomoto: ...and you can't be sure that there will be jobs...They may not be...So people tended to sort of stick together, and stay in B. C.

Miss Koizumi: Was there any young women's Association or something at that time?

Mrs. Enomoto: Oh no...I don't think so.. The women, well....

Miss Koizumi: How did you...enjoy yourself? Like? (chuckling)

Mrs. Enomoto: We didn't.

Miss Koizumi: No?

Mrs. Enomoto: No....

Miss Koizumi: What was your kind of day...daily schedule, for example?

Mrs. Enomoto: Oh daily schedule...when? At what age?

Miss Koizumi: Ah....well when you were at school....

Mrs. Enomoto:oh at school....

Miss Koizumi: When school is over you may spend most of...

Mrs. Enomoto: Oh well...there isn't that much time is there...You mean high school?

Miss Koizumi: Uh-huh.

Mrs. Enomoto: Because I spent all my time practicing the piano or something like that after I came home, and then I had to help around the house, do the cooking, cleaning up,....and you had to clean the place up once in a while...the house.....the living quarters in the store... there wasn't...we didn't have any social life...I didn't anyway....

Miss Koizumi: There's no parties...or dating or....

Mrs. Enomoto: No! Oh no! The Japanese are so conservative, they wouldthey wouldn't allow this sort of thing, would they? No...

Miss Koizumi: That's right...even in Canada....

Mrs. Enomoto: Even in Canada....oh no.....

Miss Koizumi: So like...young girls they must have talked about marriages and things didn't you...with your friends?

Mrs. Enomoto: Well, I suppose but it was...very ...we lived a very restricted life.

Miss Koizumi: Wh...wh...after you ara...did you have a big grad..... graduation ceremony?

Mrs. Enomoto: Where.....at high school?

Miss Koizumi: High school...like they have now?

Mrs. Enomoto: No...no..nothing like that...no it was very simple.

Miss Koizumi: Oh....you didn't wear those dress...or something?

Mrs. Enomoto: No....they wear fancy dresses now...they spend a lot of money on graduations but in those days it wasn't like that...course this was....I lived through the depression, too, you see, and during the '30's times were pretty tough...I don't think that anybody...well very few people had money to spend on...big graduations...parties the way they do now....graduation was a very simple affair.

Miss Koizumi: Eh.....during the depression like...did many Japanese people lose their jobs and things...do you remember anything?

Mrs. Enomoto: I don't know...I...I didn't feel the depression so much because we had the store....and a store like that...I don't know, it always seemed to bring in the money.....enough to live on anyway.

Miss Koizumi: But...like in your own...

Mrs. Enomoto: Not enough for me to go to University or anything, but you know, just enough to keep going.

Miss Koizumi: You, there was ...anybody...nobody...in your relatives for example...to..to have suffered from ...depression?

Mrs. Enomoto:not from depression...no I didn't have relatives.

Miss Koizumi: Oh....

Mrs. Enomoto: On, it was just our family....I didn't....I just didn't have relatives.....

Miss Koizumi: It's very unusual, isn't it...for a Japanese family not to have...

Mrs. Enomoto: Ya, but then if, you see, if...if our family was the only one that immigrated...and no other...no other relatives came, except

for thier cousin, who was employed in the store, we didn't have relatives. (The only one was my mother's younger sister Mrs. T. Shinozaki who with her husband was teaching the Japanese language to the children of fishermen at Ucluelet. When she came to Canada around 1931, she could play the violin and koto. My mother's older sister had learned secretarial work at Pitman "S just after I was born, returned to Japan to work for Tokyo Electric where her knowledge of English and typing was a considerable asset. My father's pharmacist brother who was not allowed to practise here had gone to Japan and found work there with a branch of an American pharmaceutical firm.)

Miss Koizumi: Oh I see...after you graduate...then what kind of daily schedule did you have.....?

Mrs. Enomoto: Well, actually, I was hepling our in the st....at home, because my mother by that time, decided she was going to work in the store because we lived there anyways...and she wanted to keep an eye on the store, whe worked...on in the store...and I did most of the cooking and that sort of thing....and I was still working at the piano.

Miss Koizmui: Yeah....right...It's hard work...the piano....

Mrs. Enomoto: Yeslong hours of practice....

Miss Koizumi: Did you marry before the war?

Mrs. Enomoto: No after.

Miss Koizumi: Oh

Mrs. Enomoto: We were engaged...but eh...we didn't get married until 19....the war started in '41 in December, didn't it? Well I got married in the spring of '42...just before the...we moved.....

Miss Koizumi: Well were you engaged for a long time, or it's family arrangement?

Mrs. Enomoto: No...no it wasn't a family arrangement, eh...maybe we were engaged for a year or so...I don't recall, maybe about a year.

Miss Koizumi: How did you meet your husband?

Mrs. Enomoto: Well, you know he had this garage, and...he wow...he's quite a bit older than I am, 13 years older than I am, and he had this garage, he was in partnership with his two other fellows, and they had this service station on Powell Street near Main. And he used to play the violin, as a hobby...this is how I met him.

Miss Koizumi: So you played music together?

Mrs. Enomoto: Yes. We played music together.

END OF TRACK I

Mrs. Ellen Enomoto
May 16, 1972

Page 1

Interview no. 76, Tape 1, Track 2.

Miss Koizumi: Your band had how many people?

Mrs. Enomoto: Well, anybody that we could scrape up, maybe four or five.

Miss Koizumi: So....piano, violin, and....

Mrs. Enomoto: And there was another fellow who played the clarinet, and a girl who played the guitar...and eh...well whoever we could scare up...we always...sort of got together and we played...it was for fun but it was done...it was done really because ...this cousin of mine...my father's who managed the store wanted to do this for advertisement...to sell more records, so, the reason I hated it was...we not only weren't that good...I used to have to listen to the records to get the music, you see, because we couldn't but sheet music.....for these popular songs...these were Japanese songs...and I had to work to listento get the notation...write it down so I could remember it myself, and then so that the others could get it too....because it was too much to expect them to get it off the record, and if I didn't write it down, we wouldn't be playing the same thing....would we? We wouldn't be together.

Miss Koizumi: We you ...So you were very important...like?

Mrs. Enomoto: I don't know if I was very important....I hated it.

Miss Koizumi: Did it go on for a long time? Your band?

Mrs. Enomoto: Several years.....

Miss Koizumi: Is that right? And you...what kind of places did you play?

Mrs. Enomoto: Well, we played over the radio.....

Miss Koizumi: Oh!!! The radio! Did you have.....

Mrs. Enomoto: Radio...well, this was an advertisement you see, we bought time, I guess. The store bought time, for a 15 minute thing and we played

music and advertise the store and...sometimes we'd did it over CJOR or CKMO in those days...I don't think CKMO is in existence now...but that's what it was.

Miss Koizumi: Was it in the radio...what kind of radio...Vancouver?

Mrs. Enomoto: What do you mean, what kind....Yes....yes just local stuff.

Miss Koizumi: It's not only for Japanese?

Mrs. Enomoto: No...no this came over on the radio like the AM radio...in Jap....in Chinese...in Japanese...

Mrs. Enomoto: Well, no because there are no Japanese businesses that are trying to attract Japanese customers, either, are there? The nature of our business is different...

Miss Koizumi: So....like at that ...that time...Japanese community.. was one of...very important...

Mrs. Enomoto: Well for the Japanese it was...yes....

Miss Koizumi: Was it programme like...did you have many hours a day? For Japanese people?

Mrs. Enomoto: This radio programme.....?

Miss Koizumi: Oh...like other programmes...

Mrs. Enomoto: No there was nothing else, it's just that our store had dicided to do this and they bought a 15 minute time slot and we advertised/

Miss Koizumi: Oh I see....

Mrs. Enomoto: The store...I think the thing was...I probably...the store wanted to sell more of Japanese records, you see, that they had to importing from Japan and so we played this Japanese music....Japanese popular music that is.... (see appendix)

Miss Koizumi: Oh...and um...how was it when the war broke? What happened to your family?

Mrs. Enomoto: Uh....

Miss Koizumi: Did you know that the war was coming?

Mrs. Enomoto: With Japan...no..no... we din't know the war was coming no that was a complete surprise...it was terrible...really, because eh the feelin g against Japanese wasn't any too good...fee...the public feeling was very bad...those last few years...before the war anyways...and when the war broke out of course...it was quite horrible...

Miss Koizumi: Why did you think that the feeling agianst the Japanese before the war...like 2-3 years it was pretty bad....

Mrs. Enomoto: Well because the relations with Japan and the States, and...was not good, anyways, was it? Oh because, Japan was in Manchuria isn't that what it was?

Miss Koizumi: Yeah...

Mrs. Enomoto: I don't recall....

Miss Koizumi: The Japan invaded Manchuria....

Mrs. Enomoto:Manchuria...yes an undeclared war, sort of thing, wasn't it?

Miss Koizumi: Yeah....right.....yeah...

Mrs. Enomoto: The feeling against Japanese was bad...very...and se... sentiment was with Chiang Kai Shek anyway....

Miss Koizumi: Oh I see...

Mrs. Enomoto: Oh yes....here....

Miss Koizumi: So what happened when the war came?

Mrs. Enomoto: When the war came.....

Miss Koizumi: December... '41?

Mrs. Enomoto: Uh hum...

Miss Koizumi: Like what were you doing when first you heard that the war?

Mrs. Enomoto: I don't recall...it's too long ago.

Miss Koizumi: Yeah ...some...

Mrs. Enomoto: It's over 30 years ago, so isn't it? That's a long time, but eh....we knew that something was going to happen....but we didn't really think we'd be...have to be evacuated like that...that was a terrible thing for us. Because we so...we had to start life over again.. and for people like my father, you know, middle aged people who had to start life all over again...well...for one thing they lost everything.. they could ln only take a certain amount and they ...they stored all the stuff from...of the store...with a friend...who...in Marpole who had a house...and they were going to stay for a few months longer than we were, so he stored it in thier basement and then had some of it shipped up to Minto where we went...but the other stuff that was left in the store they....the custodian sold it all...very cheaply ...he got hardley anything for it...and, then they had to live on what ever they had saved and they dadn't saved much because naturally you don't expect to be moved like that and you're not saving money, are you, when you have a business...trying to keep the business going...so my father had to spend all his savings, and...when the money was nearly gone, when we were down to the last few hundred dollars, they went down to Devine...I don't know where you'd...if you know...it's near D'Arcy...and he had a chance to start a cookhouse...and a commissary for a lumber company....so he took that chance and he went down there...and they started just work like mad and save money...running a cookhouse is not an east business. (see appendix)

Misss Koizumi: All the family went?

Mrs. Enomoto: No....no...

Mrs. Enomoto: Just he and my mother and my 2 brothers...and ...by that time, you see, because my husband was a mechanic...we had been working

for some people up in the Bridge River Valley where we were andI think when my parents moved down to Diveine, we were actually living in Bralorne....you know Bralorne, now, is the place tha's been in the news because the company shutdown and...they want to make that community into something becasue the houses are there and it's a shame to just let it rot.....

Miss Koizumi: Yeah.....

Mrs. Enomoto: And that...that was a gold..quite an active gold mining town at the time...and so we got work...there...because my husband could fix cars and we lived...we were living there, in fact all three of my children were born in the Bralorne hospital...we weren't living in Bralorne all that time...ah...but we lived in the valleyfor 10 years. We actually lived in Bralorne for 6 years.

Miss Koizumi: How was....is it a good place to live?

Mrs. Enomoto: Well, I don't know, I know that you really think it's a good place when you've been forced to live somewhere where you don't really feel like it...you see the Bridge River Valley is all mining...land...and this place where we went was...we went as a self-supporting group and I lived with my parents first now in this house in Minto. Now Minto used to be a gold mining town also, and there were always abandoned houses and because Austin Taylor was on the B. C. Security Commission, which was responsible for moving all these Japanese, he suggested that Minto might be a place for some self-supporting people....So we went up there and that...the ho...they were nice houses although we were crowded because he...there were too many families over the number of houses there...(see appendix)

Miss Koizumi: There were...about how many Japanese went at the beginning?

Mrs. Enomoto: Oooohhhh...several hundred..

Miss Koizumi: Is that right? And they were all self-supporting?

Mrs. Enomoto: I don't recall...Yes we were self-supporting...there were other self-supporting groups too....There was another group that went lived in...Actually...Bridge River (see appendix) which was before you go up over Mission Mountain...you see...there's Bridge River, and then Mission Mountain and then we were in Minto which was...which is now water. because hydro flooded it...Minto is no more...but at that time it was an abandoned gold mine and we went there...but.. because there was no work..we went....we lived after a year..we got work in...a little farther up the Mountain at a place called Brexton and we were there for a couple of years, I think. Randy was born in the Bralorne Hospital while I was living in Brexton and ...these people decided to go to the Cariboo, so it was then that my husband decided well, we would go to Bralorne because there was no mechanic up there...people were crying for mechanics...because there was nobody to fix cars so we went up there and worked for Dunbar Motors...he was a car dealer...a Ford Dealer...who needed a mechanic, so we went up there.

Miss Koizumi: So in Minto there the Japanese...they ..like they couldn't do farm...they couldn't do...

Mrs. Enomoto: Well this farm...was not farming country..if you ever saw Minto...it was just rocks, because it used to be a river bed...in fact, after we moved up to Bralorne, Minto was flooded one time, you know, when there's so much snow and there's a hot spring...warm spring...the snow melts fast, and there was a flood there one time...this is how dangerous that place was...it was just rocks.

Miss Koizumi: So self-supporting families...the men were all together

the men were there too...it's now like...

Mrs. Enomoto: Yes. This is why we were self-supporting so that the men could go with us...and....there was...but then, you see, some enterprising fellow decided well here were these men...he could start a sawmill with all this manpower...because during the war, you see, the men went off to war and there was a shortage of manpower I guess, so he used these Japanese men and he had a little portable sawmill and...Andy Devine did..

Miss Koizumi: Oh this ...a Japanese man?

Mrs. Enomoto: No...no Andy Deivine and ...he started a sawmill...I don't know whether his...I don't think that he associated with Black Water Timber and Black Water Timber started this sawmill in Divine and this is where my parents went to work...(see appendix)

Miss Koizumi: I see.

Mrs. Enomoto: They...they had a chance to start...had this commissary and...run a cookhouse which is very hard work...feeding sawmill workers, and after we were in....Bralorne for 6 years...well by that time we'd been in the Bridge River Valley for a toaal of 10 years...you see.... Black Water Timber decided, well, they were going to have a sawmill up in the Cariboo in the Lac La Hache and they asked me if I would like to run the cookhouse and commissary up there, so I took this chance and went up there, this was, I knew this was going to be tough because my children were still young. Bruce, my younger was only 4 years old, Randy was 9 and Dennis was...well 6 or 7 I guess...between 6 and 7...it wasn't easy but I decided will I've got to make some money somehow to get out of here, you see, because.....

Miss Koizumi: Because you didn't want to stay in that ...town...

Mrs. Enomoto: I didn't want to stay in a place like that forever...Living

in a place like Bralorne, you know, it's ...you feel so hemmed in. There's mountains all around you...

Miss Koizumi: Uh-huh. and there's nothing...

Mrs. Enomoto: It's cold...the winters are long and...the summers are not, but they're short, and we decided to go to the Cariboo, well, I don't know if it's any better there as far as weather's concerned...because it got colder...the first year we were there..it got forty below or sixty below or something...and the houses weren't really insulated for th... you know...that kind of weather, it was really tough...but we..stuck it out..for about 8 years, I guess, in Lac La Hache....We saved enough money so ...to come...cause by that time my children had to go to school...and there was no high school there, they would have to board out, at Williams Lake because it wasn't a very good school, so I sent Randy, here to Vancouver, to school for 2 years before we moved down...cause by th.. by that time my brothers were living here and Randy stayed with my brother.

Miss Koizumi: I see....like....was Bralorne that a...mechanic the wages how like...how was it?

Mrs. Enomoto: Uh....I know....I don't know how that was...it was..it was different every year...every month because..I don't think he was being paid by the hour...I think he was being paid for the job...I'm not sure just how it worked, but I know that our pay cheques were never all the always the same....

Miss Koizumi: Oh...yeah...yeah..But....

Mrs. Enomoto: I'm not sure how he was paid, I'll have to ask...

Miss Koizumi: It..it's much better than those...than orking when.... sawmill or anythinglike that I guess?

Mrs. Enomoto: Well, yes. You're working on your own more, more or less,

he was anyways....

Miss Koizumi: Mmmm-Mmmmm. How was itcooking house?

Mrs. Enomoto: Cookhouse?

Miss Koizumi: Cookhouse in.....

Mrs. Enomoto: In Lac La Hache?

Miss Koiuzmi: Lac La Hache.

Mrs. Enomoto: Oh that was hard work...because if you're cooking for sawmill workers...they go to work at 8 o'clock. Well you have to get up...Well, I used to get up around...at first...I used to get up around 5:30 because you have to start the stove and get it heated up....

Miss Koizumi: Is it a wooden stove?

Mrs. Enomoto: No it was an oil stove..It was a very temperamental oil stove.

Miss Koizumi: And how many people you had to feed?

Mrs. Enomoto: Well, anywhere from 10 to 20...there wasn't just sawmill workers...there were loggers. too...who went out in the bush....and you have to make lunch for them...they took lunches and went out, out you see, the f.....time loggers.

Miss Koizumi: They are all white people?

Mrs. Enomoto: Yes.

Miss Koizumi: And you make up the sched...I mean, the menus and everything yourself?

Mrs. Enomoto: Yes.. Most of the time we had Chinese cooks.

Miss Koizumi: Oh I see. So you are a kind of Supervisor?

Mrs. Enomoto: Yes. I got a subsidy form....Blackwater Timber. They subsidized me.....they gave me a \$300.00 a month to run this cookhouse but i paid the \$300.00 to the cooks...you see, because.....also had the Commissary and I could make money on the Commissary which was like a

little store....little store..so we fed them 3 times a day, and in between we sold in the store. Very hard work. (see appendix)

Miss Koizumi: Yeah...and your husband...worked with you?

Mrs. Enomoto: Well, my husband had a job looking after the equipment in the sawmill, he'd get up and start the, you see, there was no power there, no hydro there, so they had their own little power house and he'd get up and start...the power house in the morning so there would be power for the sawmill. There was electricity all night, mind you, for our domestic use, because he had a little engine running so that the lights...we would have lights and the refrigerator wouldn't go off...but for the sawmill, you know, it takes quite a bit of power to run a sawmill, so they'd have to put the big engine on on in the morning. Of course when it really got cold, in the winter time, they couldn't even start the engines because it would be so stiff from the cold.. When it got 20 below...30 below...it was impossible for the sawmill to start.

Miss Koizumi: Do you remember any kind of a...events or some kind of?

Mrs. Enomoto: No I don't...it was just hard work...that period. I remember though...when we first went up to Bralorne, people there well when we first decided to go to Minto, the people wha...there apparently were very nervous about us...they didn't know Japanese...and at ah...that time the Japanese troops were in the Aleutian Kiska, Islands and they were afraid that the Japanese were going over to the coast and invade us and they decided they were going to take up weapons and fight us if the Japanese came to Minto...well when we did move in there...we were very nervous because we'd heard this, you see. When we did go in there and they found that we were very harmless (chuckles)well this feeling against us sort of subsided by....but...it wasn't a very pleasant

feeling at first and then when we moved up to Bralorne we were the only Japanese, my husband and I and one child..

Miss Koizumi: And did the...and the people look at you or?

Mrs. Enomoto: No, they were so thankful to get a mechanic to fix..... to fix their cars that they were quite friendly.

Miss Koizumi: (laughing) ...So you didn't get any unpleasant...

Mrs. Enomoto: No....I didn't have any unpleasantness...nothing personal, from there. (see Appendix)

Miss Koizumi: How 'bout...in Minto...it must be a kind of strange situation that...Japanese who lost everything kind of lived together....

Mrs. Enomoto: Yes.

Miss Koizumi:very tight....

Mrs. Enomoto: It was a veryit wasn't ...well, You get that many people in one little community there is gonna be a lot of....squabbling amongst people, because it's not easy for them to have to live several families...in a house, for one thing, and when you don't have any income, you tend to get very close with your money....

Miss Koizumi: Sure, of course...and then you went to the stores to get goods and things?

Mrs. Enomoto: There was....there was one store that made a killing... I suppose because the Japanese moved in there...they weren't doing any well, they they actually were up in a place called Brexton where I lived for a couple of years and when they heard that the Japanese were coming, they decided to come down to Minto, to make some money, and I guess they did make money.

Miss Koizumi: Did you have any restriction when you were living there?

Mrs. Enomoto: Oh yes...we couldn't move around...We had to get...ah..

permission from the R.C.M.P. before we could leave the community.

Miss Koizumi: Well, is something else?

Mrs. Enomoto: Hmmmm.

Miss Koizumi: Did you have anything else?

Mrs. Enomoto: What do you mean.....anything else?

Miss Koizumi: What kind of rules that you....are not supposed to do?

Mrs. Enomoto: Oh...no...well- no because we were a self-supporting group and they sort of left us to ourselves, mind you...there was a B. C. Constable living there, with us, yes. At that time, we had the B. C. Police...

Miss Koizumi: Oh....

Mrs. Enomoto: The R.C.M.P. just had their station up in Bralorne...but we had ...you see, now...what is it? E...e..except for city police, the rest is all R. C. M. P., isn't it?

Miss Koizumi: Yeah.

Mrs. Enomoto: But in those days they had this thing ah...called the B. C. Police and one fella for...from the B. C. Police lived with us in the community...to keep an eye on us.

Miss Koizumi: What kind of fellow was it young man? or what?

Mrs. Enomoto: No he was a middle-aged man, from Steveston, I think.

Miss Koizumi: Oh.

Mrs. Enomoto: He was used to Japanese, but it wasn't all that bad. But he was there to keep an eye on us, we we weren't doing anything wrong, that we shouldn't have been doing. (chuckles)

Miss Koizumi: Did anything happen?

Mrs. Enomoto: So...no...not ..no we didn't have anything happen.

Miss Koizumi: So he was living with the...with the people how long?

Mrs. Enomoto: He was living in this hotel where a lot of other Japanese

were living. They of course, they used every living space and there was this empty hotel, you see, and that wasn't in use so they see, a few families living in this hotel. Well, families without children...and single people, too, living in this hotel, he was living there, in one of the rooms.

Miss Koizumi: Well, if Japanese want..wanted something..then they go to this policeman and ask, or?

Mrs. Enomoto: Well, what do you mean....'wanted something'?

Miss Koizumi: Maybe...maybe..like in New Denver I heard it...like living conditions something bad....

Mrs. Enomoto: Oh...but they had the Security Commission go go to because they were totally dependent on the government, weren't they, for support? We had to fend for ourselves.

Miss Koizumi: Oh...so there's nothing....

Mrs. Enomoto: What do you say? What do you mean... 'If you want something' ? Oh you mean like to say if something we wanted something done to the house, well we did it ourselves....

Miss Koizumi: Oh, I see you have to buy board and everything?

Mrs. Enomoto: Well, of course, amongst the....Japanese I'm not quite sure of the details, my father would know because he was on this committee that looked after everything, but you know Mr Morli??

Miss Koizumi: I heard of his...his name..

Mrs. Enomoto: Yeah...well he was there, you see....

Miss Koizumi: In Minto?

Mrs. Enomoto: In Minto, with us....

Miss Koizumi: Oh...

Mrs. Enomoto: And he and my father and Mr. Furukawa, were more or less on this committee who sort of supervised the...the goings on in the com-

munity, amongst the Japanese....so any time any body wanted to...something they went to, you know, among one of them...and...I don't know when we or how we paid the rent. I know that we paid so much per year...

Miss Koizumi: Oh...you paid the rent? too?

Mrs. Enomoto: Yes! Oh yeah We were self-supporting, remember and this fellow who owned these houses had to be paid. Now the Security Commission may have paid him, but we had to pay the Security Commission something...towards our rent.

Miss Koizumi: So....this...this Association...this Japanese People's Association...that your father was..did they do something on?

Mrs. Enomoto: Well it's not really Association I guess they just set themselves up as a three man committee or something like that to....supervise the...the...allotment of anything that needed to be handed out, but really don't understand because I think most of us did most of our own buying...you know, there was....(see appendix 20)

Miss Koizumi: Was there any kind of an...a pro Japanese and anti-Japanese.....or?

Mrs. Enomoto: Amongst the Japanese, you mean?

Miss Koizumi: Yeah...like I heard that you know when the war broke out there are some Jap....

Mrs. Enomoto: Oh yeah....

Miss Koizumi: Yeah....Gambari-ya (holdouts who resisted the orders to evacuate)

Mrs. Enomoto: Oh ya...well of course we were self-supporting...we wouldn't be in that group, would we? The Gambari-ya people....sort of held out til the end and were forcibly removed from Vancouver and their men were rounded up and shipped to some ...internment camp,

weren't they? In Ontario? Petawawa for men, or somewhere I'm not quite sure.....

Miss Koizumi: Self-supporting people when they did leave....

Mrs. Enomoto: Not Schreiber...where was it?

Miss Koizumi: Uh....Ontario womewhere, you know....

Mrs. Enomoto: Yes...some place in Ontario I've forgotten what it was called.

Miss Koizumi: So self-supporting people left Vancouver....how?

Mrs. Enomoto:on their own....

Miss Koizumi: ...when around...like March...or?

Mrs. Enomoto: Well, my family left in May, I think it was and I was left in that store all by myself because I had to take the A. T. C. M. the piano, you see? This was all that was left to me to take was the practical so I got permission from the R. C. M. P. to stay there until I took this exam, and.....there used to be, acrosss the street, a bakery called "Powell Bakery" and Mrs. and Mrs. Nunuda were there'til the end so, they rented their house in Marpole out to some white people and they came and stayed with me, because I was very nervous about staying upstairs in the store all by myself.

Miss Koizumi: Yeah.

Mrs. Enomoto: At the very end.

Miss Koizumi: Yeah....So you were then...one of the people that left the Powell...at the end sort of? There were a lot of Japanese left?

Mrs. Enomoto: No...no there were a lot of other people left, yes, it's just that my family left, you see, left left in 1942....in April, on May it must have been May, but a lot of people stayed on 'til the end.

Miss Koizumi: Did you take your piano with you?

Mrs. Enomoto: Well, after I moved up to Minto I decided maybe I should

have that piano sent up because we were in a house where we could use the piano, so I tol...wrote to the custodian and I sent them money and I told them to ship it up...so I had the piano shipped up...and I still have that piano with me...it's downstairs.

Miss Koizumi: Oh...that's very nice...was there any other people who had pianos?

Mrs. Enomoto: Oh no...(chuckle). The only other piano in Minto was this piano that belonged to Davidson, who...sort of owned all the houses in Minto....(interviewer laughs)...So when I moved up to Brexton I took the piano with me...it's downstairs....and then I moved up to.. Then we moved back to Monto again, because ...we were working for Andy Devine again and I had the piano down there and then we moved up to Bralorne agains...I moved ^{the} /piano up there again...every time we moved I took the piano with me. And then we moved to Lac La Hache, of course I took the piano with me. (see appendix 21)

Miss Koizumi: Oh wow...but that was good...I think, for you.

Mrs. Enomoto: Yes, at least I had the piano with me so I wasn't completely ...you know, away from it, because you can get pretty rusty. As it is, you know, when I...went up to Lac La Hache of course, I took the piano with me.

Miss Koizumi: yeah....

Mrs. Enomoto: I didn't practice for so long so...since cause I was working and when I ah...came back here, and I went into music three....two years ago, it was very tough...oh yeah....

Miss Koizumi: So when you came back to Vancouver in 19.....

Mrs. Enomoto:.....came back to Vancouver?

Miss Koizumi: Yeah...after you came back.

Mrs. Enomoto: Oh yes....Bralorne, I mean...Bridge River Valley, I was

Mrs. Enomoto: No, I haven't worked...I would like to work but then I'm not really trained for anything and I've been away from the piano for so long, so I decided well, maybe I can go to learn something...but I had to go back to...to get my University Entrance and this wasn't easy you know, that old Model School, that I went to....the public school by that time was the annex to King Edward Adult Centre...and...I had to take first year and second year High School Math and Science and a language, I took German, and then the 2nd year I was there....it became City College...and because I had been made to take English and Social Studies and that sort of thing, I...was able to take,...welll in the meantime I had decided to take English 100 in Summer School and I passed that so I took Second Year, College English while I was getting my , you know...credits for High School...well! University Entrance, that is.. which Victoria demanded I spose if I'd gone to U. B. C. they would have admitted me, because I still had my...they still had my record, you know from /1939 when I graduated from King Edward High School, it's just that Victoria says you have to have this and you have that before you can go to University but I think U. B. C. would have admitted me, I didn't know this at the time....So I majored in Asian Studies...I was kind of curious to see if I could learn Japanese Properly....And I picked up a lot of other subjects by the line...by the way too because i...found it very interesting taking things like Oriental Fine Arts and Buddhism and...ah Sociology and Chinese Literature in Translation ...I learned a lot of things....

Miss Koizumi: When was it that you entered...you entered U. B. C? 1960?

Mrs. Enomoto: What would it be?

Miss Koizumi: How many years ago?

Mrs. Enomoto: Uh...

Miss Koizumi: It's now '72.

Mrs. Enomoto: It's now '72 and I....been in Music for 2 years...haven't I?

Miss Koizumi: Mmmm-hmmm.

Mrs. Enomoto: And it was the year before that that...I graduated in Arts....so....I don't remember...

Miss Koizumi: Then it must have been like '65 or some...

Mrs. Enomoto: Something like that, yeah....

Miss Koizumi: Oh yeah...it's like only after 5 years...after you came back to Vancouver...it's quite soon after....

Mrs. Enomoto: Well I spent 2 years as I say, trying to get my...your entrance requirements....

Miss Koizumi: So you really started to go to school after you came back to.....

Mrs. Enomoto: Uh...Yes..I think those Government exams we were required to take was the toughest thing of all...the high school government exams. And not only that...the...but at the end of the first year I decided I was going to take English 91, just on my own, you see....this is a survey course in Literature. So I got the textbook and I looked at the requirements and I wrote this government exam, English 91 and I'm so surprised I passed it...and I got 76...(chuckles)

Miss Koizumi: Wow that's good.

Mrs. Enomoto's
Corrections and Additions

Interview no. 76 Tape no. 1, Track 1.

Page 1.

1. At the time of my birth, the store would not have been selling records since the Japanese record industry was a later development in the thirties.
My father also did some interpreting for non-English speaking Japanese when they needed the services of a doctor. These people were usually from outside Vancouver, such places as Ucuelet, Tofino, Prince Rupert, Ocean Falls, Britannia Mines, etc. Some of them also stayed in rooms above the store and boarded with the family. Earlier, these rooms had also housed some immigrants from Japan until such time as they were able to find jobs, usually out of town.
2. My grandfather Nimi came to Vancouver in 1900 and my grandmother joined him a little later. My father arrived in 1906 and his young brother joined him in 1910. They built the house (still standing) at 785 West 7th Avenue in 1911.

Page 2

3. Incorrect. My grandfather Kaneda was already in Hawaii. He heard that the last immigrant ship to Canada was leaving soon so he sent to his family in Japan for transportation money and arrived in Canada. His wife came ten years later and they remained together in Canada for ten years.
4. One of the returned missionaries Miss Etta de Wolfe who had worked in Japan planned the church portion of this wedding in 1921. Dr. Osterhaut was the minister and the flower girl was Lily Washimoto who later became a prominent piano teacher in the Japanese community. She is now teaching in Toronto. Although the church ceremony was western, the reception was Japanese at a restaurant called the Yamashina.

Page 3.

5. When they started their business, the other drug stores were the Taishodo, Powell Drugs on Powell and Dunlevy and Isomura in the 200 block Powell St., Isomura was replaced by Seishindo, Taishodo and Powell Drugs was still operating and in addition were Kondo across the street and Takahara on Main and Powell.

Page 5

6. My grandfather must have considered himself retired by then. His contribution to the business consisted of taking deposits to the Royal Bank on Hastings and Main and picking up drug supplies at B. C. Drugs on Beatty Street. Also once in a while he went to a mutual financing association. His group consisted

of about four men who borrowed money from a pool and paid it back with interest. It was also a social gathering because when it was his turn to have the meeting, he brought them to our house on 7th Avenue and my mother would have to serve food and sake. These sessions were called ko or tanomoshi. This was probably how he paid the store bills when money was scarce. I also remember him going golfing quite frequently. My grandfather often was a chauffeur to gather plants from the woods for themselves and friends for their Japanese flower arranging lessons.

Page 8.

7. Children play mostly with others of their own age and interest. My daily companion was a white girl who lived two doors away. The others in the same block with whom I played were also white. The Japanese children around us were not particularly friendly especially after the new Buddhist Temple was erected in the 700 block 7th Ave. around 1930. My one close Japanese friend Hana Sakanishi lived next door to this temple and to go to Japanese school on 5th Avenue east of Columbia or to the United Church Sunday School on 6th and Columbia, we had to go past this temple in front of which children were playing while waiting for classes. Some of them would gang up and yell insults at us. Before this temple was built most of these children attended the Japanese language school east of Cambie but when the new Buddhist church came into existence, it also conducted kindergarten and Japanese language classes eliminating the need for them to walk so far. The large number of Buddhists west of Cambie necessitated the building of a larger temple. Hana and I were therefore a Christian minority in Buddhist territory.

Page 9.

8. Even my grandmother Nimi was taking piano lessons from Mrs. Ishizaki although she never made much progress and therefore was the butt of many sarcastic remarks from her sons.

Page 10.

9. English speaking Canadian homes. My mother had also gone to night school to learn English at the Methodist Church so that she was able to follow cook book recipes.

Page 15.

10. Curiously, when I switched from the Fairview United Church Sunday School to the Powell Street one, I found that classes were conducted in English. This probably was due to the fact that the Fairview church had not enough older nisei to teach while Powell St. attracted university students from elsewhere who lived upstairs the church. Saturday School was conducted in English by white Canadians as was C. G. I. T. which I attended during High School years.

Page 19.

11. During the war, the B. C. Government refused to educate the evacuated children and so self-supporting projects such as Minto paid the teachers a small salary out of the community fund which partly consisted of rent money the residents paid yearly. We were fortunate at the beginning to have resident two educated personnel to do the elementary teaching. The other teacher was Mrs. Kazuko Umemoto who had graduated from Normal School but never had the opportunity of teaching because of racial discriminatory policies.

Page 21.

12. The only one was my mother's younger sister Mrs. T. Shinozaki who with her husband was teaching the Japanese language to the children of fisherman at Ucuelet. When she came to Canada around 1931, she could play the violin and koto. My mother's older sister had learned secretarial work at Pitman's just after I was born, returned to Japan to work for Tokyo Electric where her knowlege of English and typing was a considerable asset. My father's pharmacist brother who was not allowed to practice here had gone to Japan and found work there with a branch of an American pharmaceutical firm.

Interviww No. 76, Tape no. 1, Track 2.

Page 2.

13. In retrospect, I can now appreciate the social value of these performances. Much as I disliked playing these banal songs, they appealed to a certain segment of the Japanese population and many people looked forward to performances by our band at concerts and on the radio. Several of them come to us and asked if they could sing with our group.

Page 4.

14. Actually, my parents moved to Devine because my father was offered an easy job in the sawmill. At this time, they still had several crates of goods from the store which my mother sold from the house they lived in. There already was a cook house in existence byt its operation was a continual problem to the management and so they offered to my parents with the incentive of also running a store.

Page 5.

15. The circumstances regarding this self-supporting project are explained in The Canadian Japanese and World War II by Forrest E. La Violette. To my knowledge, Professor La Violette's account is accuarate. Mrs. Morii died early this year and shortly after, Mr. Morii left to spend his remaining years in Japan with relatives.. There was one curious fact which I never understood about their religion. In Minto, one of the first things built at Mrs. Morlii's request was a wooden structure which she called "Odaishisan" (The great Teacher). This little open house was built on a plateau of a hill beside the town and it was decorated with hanging paper strips which I presumed were for each of the many Buddhist saints. Naturally it was a curiosity to all travellers driving through Minto on their way in and out of Bralorne or Pioneer. Since most people in Japan are both Shinto and Buddhist...using Shintoism in marriage and Buddhism in death, I assumed that the Moriis were Buddhist. Imagine my surprise when Mrs. Morri's funeral was held in an Anglican Church.

Page 6.

16. Mr. Morii lived in Minto; Mr. Nishiguchi and Mr. Nishio in Bridge River. These projects were actually the same group but separated due to the shortage of houses in one location.

Page 7.

17. Devine was established later. Mr. Devine had a mill 3 miles up the hill which was inzctive at the time we moved to Minto. He took advantage of the manpower available when the Japanese moved in and started operating again. When winter came, he

started a portable mill about 20 miles distant where my husband worked repairing engines and vehicles. In 1946 we moved to Bralorne and the same year my parents went to Devine situated on the P. G. E. near D"Arcy.

Page 10.

18. The worst aspect of running such a cook house in the bush was the buying and storing of supplies. When we first started the cook house, there was hardly enough electricity to run the refrigerator. We did not have a freezer and so when the power was off, the food would spoil. Later when the power supply was reliable, we bought a couple of freezers. Also a problem was the fact that the only way we could get supplies was via P. G. E. Railway which was not reliable as to arrival time because of the numerous snowslides and washouts. For meat and fresh vegetables, we would have to order by express and pay high shipping charges because freight shipments were not protected and everything would be frozen in winter. Summer freight shipments would be spoiled because of heat. The express would arrive at odd hours before dawn and my husband would get out of bed to pick up the shipments before they froze on the unprotected platform. We never slept at ease when expecting a shipment in winter. The cook house and store (in one building) was heated by a huge drum wood burning stove which had to be fed continually to prevent freezing of supplies. My husband had to wake up once during the night to put wood in the stove when the temperature dropped below zero; we lived in a separate house nearby.

Page 11

19. For some time, a few people from Bralorne had been coming to Brexton and Monto to have their cars repaired. By the time we moved to Bralorne, there were quite a number of familiar faces.

Page 14.

20. The residents of Minto paid a yearly rent to Mr. Morii's committee. Out of this sum a certain amount was paid to the B. C. Security Commission which in turn paid Bill Davidson who owned Minto. Therefore when ever some major work such as water pipe repairs were necessary, Davidson supplied the material and the residents contributed labour. Nobody was paid for such work, and there were many frozen pipes the first winter. Also out of the rent money came the small salaries paid to the elementary school teachers. There was other sundry expenses such as gas and repairs to the one panel truck maintained to transport people to the dentist and doctor in Bralorne or Pioneer and a few times even to Kamloops.

Page 16.

21. Memory failure. The Kagetsus had traded their grand for an upright Heintzman before they moved to Minto and they had it at the time I went there.

Enomoto, Ellen

76:2



MRS. ELLEN ENOMOTO

May 16, 1972

Interview with Mrs. Ellen Enomoto; 1922, Vancouver' Back in Vancouver in 1960; Mr. Enomoto, Seafair Drugs as bookkeeper; Mrs. Enomoto got B. A. in 1969; Music Major for two years.

Interviewed by: Maya Koizumi

The Japanese Language School; A Japanese In Public School; Piano Studies; Minto, British Columbia (Self-supporting Evacuation Center) - 1942; Marries Mr. Enomoto, Auto Mechanic; Sawmill and Garage Work In Bralorne; Managing Bunkhouses For Sawmill In Lac La Hache, British Columbia (1960).

Oral History Project, Vancouver. Cultural Communities Sreies.

Interview No. 76, Tape No. 2, Track 1, Speed 3 3/4.

Vancouver, Oral History Project, 1972

Mrs. Ellen Enomoto
May 16, 1972

Page 1

Interview no. 76; Tape 2, Track 1.

Mrs. Enomoto: They required...Victoria required three 91 courses so I had done this English 91 on my own, and write the government exam and then I...needed two more well I took Biology 91 the second year I was there...and also in the afternoon, I used to drive out to what they called Columbia College...it was called Columbia College but the year before that they used to call it Shurpass....but it used to be a private school for people who wanted to get their University Entrance there, I guess, they used to call it Shurpass, but when I was there they called this Columbia College and I took Geography 91 while I was there. And I wrote those exams...government exams ...but I found those horrible Provincial Government exams a lot more nerve-racking than any University exam...

Miss Koizumi: Is that right?

Mrs. Enomoto: They don't even let you write even one word down after they say 'stop'...you know, they ...they've got their eye on the clock all the time...it's terrible.

Miss Koizumi: Were there many people of your age who were taking the exam?

Mrs. Enomoto: Oh the odd one, yes...I ah...had several people that..were old...as old as I am...going to school, but it was very tough for them...It was tough for me too...just to get back into the...that kind of routine...to study and ah..have to memorize things because it's mostly memory....this high school work....but of course I had graduated from high school originally so I knew what was expected of me....it wasn't...like most of the people that I ...that were in my class at that time, were drop outs....either drop outs or people

who hadn't actually gone to high school and for them it was much harder, I guess. At least I knew what the score was and what was expected of me because I had graduated high school originally, even though I hadn't taken all these university entrance subjects.

Miss Koizumi: Like when you were working during the war...did you think of going to...going back to school...did?

Mrs. Enomoto: Oh no....I thought if I worked hard enough I wouldn't ever have to work again...(chuckles)...so I wasn't planning on going to school but then, after a few years of...of fooling around, you know, trying to just do housework, I found it very boring...I hooked rugs and I knitted and I crocheted and I did everything else but I was very bored and so then I decided to go back to school....but I find school very interesting because...you know...I'm learning all these things...it's sort of interrupted education for me, it's kind of late but, I did want to go to university when I was young but because my whole family expected me to stay home and help around the house, I didn't.

Miss Koizumi: Um...how...how when you went to school....university...were there other people of your age?

Mrs. Enomoto: Well, very few, but I think it's increasing now, older people going back to school.

Miss Koizumi: What...what kind of attitude do you think different you and other young students...right now?

Mrs. Enomoto: Oh...ya...ya. I get along quite well with them..I don't have any problems...I guess because my own children were that age...I didn't have any problems. I'm in Music now and...the other students treat me quite well...they treat me as equals.....

Miss Koizumi: Music school...you had to lots of practices and things like that.....

Mrs. Enomoto: Yes, I practice at school, if I can get a practice room.. the piano...I couldn't practice the Japanese instruments because I can't be bothered taking these instruments to school...like the Shamisen... is very heavy...it doesn't look heavy but it's quite heavy, so I can'tI don't take that to school. But the piano you know they have a lot of practice rooms and if you can get hold of a practice room you practice there in your spare time...

Miss Koizumi: Are there many people who are practicing Japanese instruments there?

Mrs. Enomoto: No...no it's usually somebody in an Ethnomusicology... who has...developed an interest from Mr. Weisgarber's lectures.

Miss Koizumi: Uh-huh...They actually learn Shamisen and Koto?

Mrs. Enomoto: Yes...yes..he teaches them enough Japanese to read the Japanese notation and the first year I was there there were two-three people who played the Shamisen with me...They had started the year before Mr. Weisgarber had ordered Shamisens from Japan and they had been made to order from Kyato and they.....In fact those three could play where I couldn't....I was just a beginner and they could play quite well.

Miss Koizumi: How....how what you feel comparing Japanese music with Western music...like what kind of thing....?

Mrs. Enomoto: Well...it's completely different, isn't it? Something like Japanese music, to me, sounds more primi...it's more primitive, it's more simple...I don't know if 'primitive' is the right word.... There's lots of things complicated about it, but to me it's a lot more simple to learn a Japanese instrument than a Western one...

Miss Koizumi: Yes, I find it very interesting...it could be perhaps because...I had...taken Asian studies and because my field was Japanese and I had read things like the Genji Monogatari (Tale of Genji) in

translation, mind you, into English...because I couldn't read the original Japanese, it's very diff cult...to read. Even if I could read it, I could never understand the kind of language that was being used in those days. And eh...reading about Japanese history, I was curious because you see...in Asian studies we learn all kinds of things and literature and that....but things of...of a cultural nature like music are never touched upon...and I was very curious about that field. And of course Mr.that's Mr. Weisgarber's specialty so...I'm ...I feel I'm getting an awful lot of knowlege in the music from Mr. Weisgarber...

Miss Koizumi: What did you major in Japanese studies?

Mrs. Enomoto: Japanese.

Miss Koizumi: Language?

Mrs. Enomoto: Yes. Japanese Language.

Miss Koizumi: Likemodern Japanese?

Mrs. Enomoto: Well, they don't...they don't specify...they have such few courses in Japanese that you take whatever is available. I took just about every language course they offered.

Miss Koizumi: I see....so you think...learning music will help to understand Japanese....?

Mrs. Enomoto:culture...

Miss Koizumi: Culture and literature..?

Mrs. Enomoto: I think so ...yes.

Miss Koizumi: How do you feel, like, well you're a Canadian of course, but...people always associate you with Japanese things.....

Mrs. Enomoto: Yes, they think it's a wonder that I'm...I'm I know everything Japanese and I really don't...

Miss Koizumi: So like, that...when ..to that kind of things how do you deal? (chuckles)

Mrs. Enomoto: Well, I tell them I was born here in Vancouver and I've only been to Japan once, and just to visit, so I really don't know that much.

Miss Koizumi: But....like your parents...through your parents..like... or you live...do you think...you understand some part...?

Mrs. Enomoto: Oh....well..I guess so, yes. A Niesi, I think has more feeling for Japanese than...Japanese...things Japanese than a third generation like my sons, say....because we have been listening all our lives to our parents talk about their experiences in Japan. Mind you they came when they were fairly young...I think my father came in his early teens and my mother came when she was 18...after she finished Girls' School, or what ever it was...I don't think that would compare with the high school here because they're probably not learning all that much at Jogakko in Japan. But she came here when she was fairly young..and my father came when he was younger, so.....but...we have..we do hear of...we have heard in our youth a lot of the talk about what went on in Japan when they were young so I guess we have more of a feeling for Japan than a third generation would..

Miss Koizumi: And like two of your sons went to Japan, you think it was good for them?

Mrs. Enomoto: Well I don't know...I think so, because now Dennis can understand something of what my grandparents had talk...Up to now if the grandparents talk in Japanese, they're just out of it, now Randy is still out of it...he just doesn't understand what they're saying so they have to speak English to him....where as with Dennis he would understand what they're talking about.

Miss Koizumi: Uh-huh....You think that language thing will keep the conduct closer?

Miss Koizumi: Like many Japanese families before the war...appeared that they wanted to go back or they were saving up enough money to go back.

Mrs. Enomoto: Well this is, because, you see, ...well life seemed kind of hopeless here...there was no opportunity...now even if your children got a university education, they couldn't get jobs...where they could use this education...I knew lot of university students who....just couldn't get jobs here...working in sawmills because they couldn't get decent jobs, so naturally, the par...the older people will say well..."What's the use of an education...you're not going to get a decent job anyway ...spending all that money on a university education so you may as well not....just go into labour." but....because of the prejudice, and discrimination, naturally the older people would feel this more and they would save up.... save money to go back to Japan. My parents weren't that way because..

Miss Koizumi: Your parents....

Mrs. Enomoto: Oh...no...no..no..no..they would never go back to Japan, because my mother made the odd trip back to Japan once in a while. Living standards are so different....you know, in those days, it was before the war....living standards in Japan were quite low...and she's gone back to their country place and everything was so dirty...she could...she couldn't stand it, all those people and all the dirt and the filth, she said oh no we...people like that who come...when they're fairly young, they get used to the new country like this and they would never think of going back to Japannever.

Miss Koizumi: But at the same time, it must be hard...it must have been hard for your parents for example when they ...sort of ...your brothers like you know....but you....it is different because you had a store. right and your brothers could...

Mrs. Enomoto: What?

Miss Koizumi: Your...did your parents thought that your brothers...well inherit the shops?

Mrs. Enomoto: Oh, I suppose but they were kind of young at that time, you see, so that that kind of thinking wasn't in their mind...but you see... now when I was...when we were in Minto..Peter was..should have been going to high school but because there was no high school there, he couldn't go so he was trying to do it by correspondence, but correspondence is a very difficult thing to do because you're on your own and you have to send all the papers in to Victoria....It didn't work at all....but then when I moved up to Bralorne,...by that time, Bob, my younger brother was ready to go to high school and I don't know, things were so mixed up and tough in those days that my parents were living down in Devine...hadn't even made plans for Bob you see, to go to high school, but I had said...I had written and told them that they must go to school, so I had...I brought them up to Bralorne and they lived upstairs, the garage, in a suite, I was living in house behind the garage and they went to the Bralorne school.

Miss Koizumi: Oh there was a high school there?

Mrs. Enomoto: You see? and there was a high school there so....but then , when they were there a year, I realized that Bralorne High School wasn't all that good, I mean, I could see, you know, I could compare my own experiences when I was in high school with what they were doing and I felt that they weren't really getting enough. So my aunt, who had lived near Greenwood during the war had gone to Hamilton and she said...."Why don't they come there?" So they spent a year there in Hamilton. But they didn't want to stay there...said...they said Hamilton is a dirty place, you know it's an industrial city I think...and they got homesick so they came here and my father by that time...you see they were making...they were

making a living in Devine and they were doing quite well, I guess, mind you, they were having to scrimp because to save money you see...because eventually they wanted to move back to Vancouver, so they were saving and by that time they were doing quite well and my brothers boarded in different places in Vancouver to go to high school for their third year but a year after that, they were fed up boarding, too, so my father bought them a house on 13th Avenue in the Kitsilano District and they batched and they went to school from there. Peter was going to University then and Bob was still going to high school, I guess.

Miss Koizumi: Oh....so after that well everything was alright....

Mrs. Enomoto: Well, yes by that time, you see, 1947...when was it we got the vote? I don't quite remember...I think two years, there, maybe three years after the war, the C. C. F. put such pressure on the Libexisting Liberal government...well you know, the war was fought for Democracy wasn't it? What kind of democracy is this here...all these ethnic groups the indians didn't have the vote, the Asians didn't have the vote, nobody had the vote...so I think there was enough pressure put on the Liberal government to give us the vote. I remember going to vote for the first time when I was in Bralorne.... I think...this in in '47 or something like that. So it's only fairly recently that we have the vote...so my brother of course went into Pharmacy and by that time, of course, we had the vote and everything's turned out fine....but I think he's the first Japanese Canadian to...get a pharmacy degree....here in U. B. C. mind you.

Miss Koizumi: Was there any kind of discrimination first...to him for example? Like he...

Mrs. Enomoto: Oh I suppose there a....was in those days a pharmacist had to apprentice after the first year or eh...second year, they had to spend

one year apprenticing in a drug store...now it's different...they graduate first and then they do their one year apprentice. But in those days they had to do their apprenticing first, before, you know, before they entered pharmacy. He had a hard time getting a job...the only job he could get was a...in Powell Drugs...they used to be Powell Drugs...at Dunlevy and...not Dunlevy...yes Dunlevy and Powell...Shaw his name was. He used to be there when we were there...before the war...and he was still going when Peter was going...had to do the apprenticing...and he got a cheap job there...He had a hard time, so I guess there was a little bit of discrimination too.....

Miss Koizumi: ...after the war....

Mrs. Enomoto: Mmmhmmmm...Oh I'm sure...

Miss Koizumi: ...because I heard that B. C. didn't want Japanese to come back?

Mrs. Enomoto: Oh no...of course not... No (pauses) I guess...in...I guess the reasons were economic...in you know when you come right down to it...um...the labourers think that the Japanese are taking all their jobs away from them, don't they? And the polititians....whet this appitite up...this sort of thing...bad feeling up and they use it to their own advantage...I guess it was the politicians who made enough noise at Ottawa....went through with this evacuation during the war.

Miss Koizumi: Do...about that voting thing...is there any...any Japanese Association gave....kind of pressure...to?

Mrs. Enomoto: Well, I think that we were powerless ..at that time...I can't see that the J. c. C. A. here was doing anything at that time. There was no J. C. C. A. here anyways...well, of of course you know during the War, we were, we just scattered so there was no Association

here...there probably was in Toronto, oh maybe they put some pressure on but they...a person...a group without a vote has no power....there's no power without

Miss Koizumi: Yeah no political vote....

Mrs. Enomoto: No...no power without a vote...(pause)

Miss Koizumi: Now what..do you think you'd like to do in the future?

Mrs. Enomoto: Well, I don't know. I would like to...I feel that I should do something and be able to make a living for myself because I can't see myself sitting around the house even if I finish school....so I'm going at this music thing very slowly because I feel that music takes a little more time than...than a regular arts course...because there's so much practicing involved, you see, so it may be a few years before I graduate in Music but if I do I would like to make my living at music...some how....General Music but if I do IGeneral Music maybe is not all that practical but then neither is HistoryI don't know what a person does with a music degree.....

Miss Koizumi: I think...

Mrs. Enomoto: Because you see, the government, the Social Credit government is so....short sighted that they've....they're cutting off all the arts and the music programmes in the schools, and this makes it hard for music teachers, doesn't it?

Miss Koizumi: Yeah, sure....They're lots of music teachers who will lose their job.

Mrs. Enomoto: They're going to be just doing other...teaching...regular teaching...which means that the music teachers that are coming up are going to have a hard time finding a job.

Miss Koizumi: Like...you can work for aor that kind of..

Mrs. Enomoto: I don't know...I don't know if there's that much work there because...like...if you're not a performer really...maybe I could teach piano...I could always teach piano....at home.

Miss Koizumi: Or if you do...on Japanese instrument you...you can be a....

Mrs. Enomoto: Oh but to teach a Japanese instrument, I would have to spend some time in Japan and study with a real good Japanese teacher I think, because even Mr. Weisgarber goes to Kyoto every year to study.. to keep up....with his...

Miss Koizumi:oh...with his....

Mrs. Enomoto: Yes...studying of the instruments...so this is something that would have to...it would take time, I would have to spend time in Japan and study if I wanted to teach Japanese instruments...

Miss Koizumi: Do you think that you would?

Mrs. Enomoto:but if I could teach piano....

Miss Koizumi: ya...do you think you would visit Japan again?

Mrs. Enomoto: I would like to...but...it's kind of expensive...

Miss Koizumi: Oh yes, it is very expensive. If you go to Japan what do you want to do in Japan for instance?

Mrs. Enomoto: I would like to learn Japanese music properly.

Miss Koizumi: What...what did you feel when you went to Japan...Japan for the first time?

Mrs. Enomoto: Oh it was very interesting.

Miss Koizumi: Hmmmmmm.

Mrs. Enomoto: of course we've been reading so much about Japan, that I just almost knew that it wasn't...it seemed as if nothing was really all that strange...It wasn't such a strange land...because I'd been, I'd studied

...you know, Japan, for so long...at university and then...I had studied Fine Arts so that...all these things in the temples really made sense when I went to look at them.... I don't think it would have made sense if I hadn't studied fine arts...Oriental Fine Arts....but everything really meant so much to me...especially when we went to Kyoto and then I liked all those things....Then went to the Horyuji near Nara which was the first Buddhist temple...first Buddhist temple complex....in Japan...when Buddhism...Buddhism came from China. It was very interesting.

Miss Koizumi: What did you think of the Japanese and their life in general...like compared to what you're reading about them.

Mrs. Enomoto: Oh I see....yes....well..they're living a pretty good life now....I read this thing by...have you ever read this thing called... "City Life In Japan" by Ronald Dare? Oh you should read it! He was ...he made a he had a ...he did a sociological ...sociological study... sociology...what do you call it? sociological study of one ward in Japan right after the war...and things were pretty tough in those days, you know...The aim of all house wives was to own an iron so they could straighten up their clothes...Well, things are pretty different now....but..I found it interesting that we lived in this..so called apartment..not really an apartment by Canadian standards, but what they call an apartment, and it was interesting in a way because here you saw your other families and you you could you could...see the way they lived...in these little six mat rooms with a kitchen and a bathroom, and...very crowded...and...hardly any facilities...I guess to them that was normal somebody said "Don't feel sorry for them, because that....they don't know any other way of life.." but I felt sorry for them..(chuckles)

Miss Koizumi: Sure...

Mrs. Enomoto: ...and it's so crowded...so many people...oh yes it's so crowded...and then when you get on the subways you really know how crowded it is...because you're lucky to get a seat on that subway.

Miss Koizumi: That's right. (chuckling)

Mrs. Enomoto: But I found it quite interesting because Tokyo especially you know...that...all the beautiful stores...department store are so nice. And...they had so many interesting little shops like the Art Galleries and the....They don't have that many temples...in Tokyo....

Miss Koizumi:no because Tokyo was bombed...

Mrs. Enomoto:it was bombed and I guess they...a lot of things were lost...

Miss Koizumi:the old ones are...lots of old buildings...most of them destroyed

Mrs. Enomoto: Yes....that's right.....but...I found it very interesting..

Miss Koizumi: Mmmmmhmmmm

Mrs. Enomoto: And all these...people living in such close quarters..

Miss Koizumi: How did ...did Japanese people think you a Japanese first, when they see...you?

Mrs. Enomoto: They....ya well they wouldn't know who I was until I started to talk, and then I would give myself away...especially when...the little shops around...these were little shops near...we lived near a station so of course there were a lot of little shops and I would go there to buy food for our meals and...I was always saying the wrong thing, of course, so they would ask me...now long have I been away from Japan. I said...."I've never been to Japan...this is my first trip!" And they would....then they would ask me a lot of questions....if I was a Hawaiian I guess they ...they must have a lot of visitors from Hawaii because if I...I'm from Canada...well then they would be really

surprised cause th'd never seen a Canadian Japanese...Canadian born... Japanese descent...so...if I would speak Japanese in Tokyo, they couldn't figure out my accent...they couldn't figure out where I was from because I guess a Japanese by opening his mouth can usually tell where...what part of Japan he comes from, you see,....and my.....somebody said they thought that I was from Osaka...well, I said "No....I don't think so....this is Canadian Japanese that I'm speaking." (laughing) Well may...maybe...they thought I was from Osaka because my mother comes from Fukui-Ken and...they she said that a lot of...the young girls from her town used to go to Kyoto to go.....

Miss Koizumi: Ya...I...I had to ...to go to school...

Mrs. Enomoto: Oh...no...Hako (young girls workin in homes for a living.)

Miss Koizumi: oh.....no

Mrs. Enomoto: Yes...in the old days they did this, they used to go out to apprentice in Kyoto and I suppose because it's close to Kyoto...maybe her speech I've picked up some of her inflections because...people in Tokyo say they...I'm from Tok...Osaka although they say "Well Osaka accent is different from Kyoto again.." So....

Miss Koizumi: So you spoke Japanese all the time?

Mrs. Enomoto: In Japan I did, because they wouldn't know...I mean they say a lot of Japanese know English but they wouldn't know what I was talking about if I spoke English to them.....

Miss Koizumi: Was there sometimes difficulty even in Japanese to communicate with them?

Mrs. Enomoto: Oh yes.... I could talk about simple things but I couldn't say anything too complicated....

Miss Koizumi: Like.....what (chuckling)

Mrs. Enomoto: Well...some of the vocabulary that I picked up here from

my parents and my friends...wha..th...the is not the kind of vocabulary that's used in Japan...

Mrs. Enomoto:so only old words....

Mrs. Enomoto: Maybe it's because it's old Japanese...and maybe because some of it is dialect too....

Miss Koizumi: Mmmmm hmmmm. Ya. That's possible.....mmmmmmmm But then did you...?

Mrs. Enomoto: But because I had gone to U. B. C. and taken Japanese, I could sort of get by. You know. I learned a lot of Japanese with... from Mr. Ogawa and he had...not just done textbook work or reading from magazines...we used to read the Bungei Shunju (an intellectual literary news magazine) which he said...now, he said, "If you keep... continue to read that, your Japanese will improve and you won't lose it." I am beginning to lose a lot of the Japanese too, now I can'tI don't recognize a lot of characters and I've lost a lot of the vocabulary.... But I did learn a quite a lot of vocabulary when I was....with him...yeah

Miss Koizumi: Hmmm.

Mrs. Enomoto: ...with him...so I could...I could get by in Japan but. if it was anything too complicated, I didn't understand, even directions, at the railways stations or the department stores...Becasuse you see they would say things that I wasn't used to hearing...so in the railway station I always said: "Well I'm a foreigner.." I told them this first so that...so then ..if you say you're a foreigner....they're very, very kind...and these policemen, in the streets of Tokyo, too, they're very handy people, if you say you're a foreigner...they're very, very kind. And they'll help you.

Miss Koizumi: So you didn't have very great trouble...?

Mrs. Enomoto: No...I always told them I was a foreigner if I thought I was going to have trouble....

Miss Koizumi: Yeah...you've been pretty lucky I guess...because a foreigner it's very hard to find place in Tokyo, isn't it?

Mrs. Enonoto: Well, you see, this was a ...the way...yes, I know...I don't think I would have found a place myself, but, before I went to Japan...this was going to be a very [redacted] business, because it would have cost what....\$411.00 Canadian...just to go one way, and my children had thought maybe if they liked Japan well enough they would stay and study and I didn't know whether they were going to come back so I couldn't buy a return ticket...I could have bought one for myself cause I knew I was coming back, but I couldn't buy one for them, you see, because I didn't know whether he was trying to stay or coming back...So....

Andrew Horvat said, "why don't you go to Japan...on the freighter?" He had gone there that way one time and he said..."For somebody that hasn't been to Japan, ever, you...it wouldn't be such a shock, because the people on the freighter speak nothing but Japanese...they're all Japanese crew and you're being fed Japanese food all the time, and a few days out of Japan you start seeing Japanese television or Japanese radio...hearing Japanese radio, so I said "Well, maybe it would be cheaper and we'll try it." So the three of us..the two boys and I decided we'd go to Japan and we askedgot Mr. Ogawa to recommed us to Mr. Otomoto who is the agent here for Showa Lines...and he said "O. K." and we went on this...Nikkei Maru...There was an engineer on this boat and...you see, on the boat, those engineers they have nothing to do really, because they delegate all the work to their underlings, you see, and so we used to do a lot of talking...he'd make us Instant Coffee in his cabin and we used to talk well my boys couldn't talk Japanese at that time so they never [redacted]

understood anything and so he had to sort of talk to them in English and And they would never understand his English, of course, but it was very interesting but I could speak enough Japanese that you know, he and I could talk and....so he said well, his boy...one of his boys worked for a belt factory in Tokyo and he's a salesman and he knows Tokyo well...so he said "shall I introduce you to my son and maybe he can help you find a place to live?" I told him that we were looking for a place to live...we wanted a cheap apartment to live in....So as soon as I got to Tokyo...well in the meantime, we had bought one of these guide books and they give you a list of, you know, possible hotels, and we had written to this Hilltop Hotel in.... It's near the Ochanomizu Station and so when we got to Japan, we had a place to go to all right but the boat docks at Yokohama you see? So the Captain...(chuckles)...very kindly hauled his wife up from Hiroshima and she...she came and you know, went with the taxi with us to Tokyo to the Hotel because they thought we were going to have trouble, you see, it's a good thing they did, too, because I would never have found my way there...even to the Hotel. This taxi didn't know...Yokohama taxi doesn't know where the Hilltop Hotel is.... but in the meantime this engineer, had introduced...and told his son that we were coming and...Oh he went to see his son in Tokyo anyways, he always goes to meet his son once he's in Tokyo you see when he comes in to port...so the son phoned me at the hotel and...he looked around and found this place....First he found a place too far away from Tokyo and Bruce wanted to be near Tokyo so he could be at the centre of things, so he could go look at the Museum...things in the Museum, and go to the Art Galleries...so I said well...we'd rather be closer to Tokyo...I forgot where it was that he first found this place for us, but it was much too

far the other way...and but he himself lived at. Toritsudaigaku, so he found this place..near Gakugeidaigaku, right near the station...actually it was...I guess it was handy...although I couldn't understand you know, why this place was so noisy there's this train....the train used to rumble past and every time the train would rumble past it would shake the building. I felt very uncomfortable at first and it was noisy, but, it was very handy because it was near the station...I didn't realize how handy it was 'til I heard about some other people who had to walk quite a distance to get to their living quarters, and of course if you're near a station...there are a lot of stores close by... and it was so he found us this place and we paid the five months rent in advance, or whatever, to get this place and....I stayed there for two months...

Miss Koizumi: You came back by airplane ?

Mrs. Enomoto: I came back by plane. I couldn't stand that freighter any more, because...I get sea sick.

Miss Koizumi: Oh you got

Mrs. Enomoto: Yes, and you see, they went up to Kitimat, and they stayed about three days in Kitimat....and the journey was very long...it was 2 weeks altogether and off Hokkaido...well....

the seas got rough...oh the boat shook and well...actually, i was sea-sick long before that. I never felt really right on that boat...you feel queasy when on the water and as soon as you hit rough water, you know, you feel kind of ill all the time...(chuckles)...I didn't think I could stand that so I am came home on the plane.

Miss Koizumi: So your sons stayed in that apartment all the time?

Mrs. Enomoto: Mmmmm-hmmmm. They stayed there for two years....

Miss Koizumi: Oh???

Mrs. Enomoto: Well, Dennis stayed there for three years and Bruce spent one year in India. So he wasn't there for the whole 3 years.

Miss Koizumi: Is Bruce still in Tokyo ?

Mrs. Enomoto: Yes, but they're in.....they're outside Hachioji. They apparently the Hare Krishnas were in Shibuya at first, when they left. But when he came back, they were...had moved to some place outside of Hachioji, so it's kind of far and I think they want to get back into Shinjuku because if you're that far away, you can't get close to people and they do a lot of missionary work, don't they? Because they're tryin' to convert people, and how can they get near people if you're way... living way out near the mountains?

Miss Koizumi: Right....

Mrs. Enomoto: It's near some monntain, Takaozan, I guess it's quite cold. They must be warm in Tokyo now....

Miss Koizumi: Yeah, well thank you very much for a long time

Mrs. Enomoto: Are you done?

END OF TRACK I

End of Tape II.