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Unknown Japanese Woman interview

Cara Miyasaki

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Stockton Immigrant Women Oral History Collection

by Sally Miller

Unknown Interviewee (Japanese)

January 16, 1981

Interviewed by Cara Miyasaki

Transcribed by Kelly Gerhold

[TAPE 1, Side A]
[Begin Tape.]

Cara Miyasaki: --you were born?

(woman's voice [wv]): Ok. Shizuoka, Shizuoka Prefecture.

Miyasaki: How do you spell that?

(wv): Foot of Mount Fuji, yeah.

(someone is playing piano throughout)

(man's voice, her husband [mv]): About sixty to seventy miles southwest of Tokyo.

(wv): Shi-zu-oh-ka.

Miyasaki: What is it, like, a little town?

(wv): Prefecture? No, like a state, like (...? big?) state, in fact. State like Japan.

Miyasaki: Oh, I see, it's like a...

(mv): So, you have fifty states, we have forty-eight states—er, prefectures.

Miyasaki: Oh, I see. Uh-huh.

(mv): So (.....?) to the state. But, I know Japanese, it serves as more, just like the title of the California. Ok, now you are divided into the smaller.

Miyasaki: 48, yeah.

(mv): So, you know, you (realize?) just about the one (...? At the?) prefecture.

(wv): 19...

Miyasaki: What, 1944?

(laughter)

(mv): You're cheating!

Miyasaki: Ok, was it, like a country town, or was it, really, urban?

(wv): I think countryside. Because, um, in (another?) Japanese (...?) that we know, my mother's (house ...?) was in Shizuoka Prefecture, and when the (...?) was (born?), uh, (.....?)

(mv): Yeah.

(wv): Lady always goes to the...

(mv): Back to the... birthplace.

(wv): Or parents (...?)

(mv): (...? Mother? ...?) So...

(wv): I was living in Tokyo, but just only (...?)

Miyasaki: Uh-huh? Is that when you were born? You were living in Tokyo?

(wv): Mm-hmm. I was living in Tokyo, though just!

(mv): Mother went back to her own home, and then gave her (...?). Then, out of the three months without that little human being (...?) to living with her husband.

Miyasaki: Oh, you were born in a different part, and then you moved back to Tokyo? Oh, I see.

(mv): That was the traditional (...?)

Miyasaki: Uh-huh.

(wv): (...?)

(mv): (Summer?)

(wv): But I didn't go back to Japan! (laughter) Go back!

Miyasaki: So, how was the life in Tokyo? Was it, do you remember, like, I just, I'm just supposed to write down, like, anything that you can remember, or...

(wv): Oh, ok. (...?) before I lived there...

Miyasaki: Yeah, you can start by your childhood, work your way up. Anything you can remember.

(wv): Of Tokyo? Or (...?)

(mv): She was born one year before the, that scandal of the world, World War II.

Miyasaki: World War II?

(mv): So when she became (aware?) of what's going on around, then that time before the old city was (deteriorated?) at that time.

(wv): No food!

(mv): Yeah, no food, so she just (...? In?) that, about that side of the, aftermath of the war. So...

Miyasaki: Did you have a large family?

(wv): Mm, hmm, what does that mean, a large family? Just we are (from?) living, umm...

(mv): She has one sister and one brother.

(wv): Oh, I have one sister and two brothers.

Miyasaki: Two brothers?

(mv): A half, half brother.

(wv): One, one, no. I have one sister and two brothers.

(mv): Yeah, two brothers.

(wv): And, uh, parents, and then (not?) my grandparents.

Miyasaki: Grandparents? Did you have a lot of uncles and aunts?

(wv): Yes, but we are not so close.

Miyasaki: Oh, I see. Uh-huh.

(mv): You sure that thing's working? Why don't you turn around and play it?

Miyasaki: Yeah! I tested it already!

(mv): Oh, ok.

Miyasaki: Ok, uh, let's see. Did you go to school?

(wv): Mm-hmm!

Miyasaki: What grade did you go up to?

(wv): Oh, um, up to high school, then I drive around, I (played?? So I didn't?) My parents forced me to, but I said no.

(mv): The school system is the so-called six-three-three. Six years in the grade school, three years in the middle school, and three years high school. So we call it six-three-three. (Somewhere?) that, we adapted the American system, (and?) gives you six-two-four...

Miyasaki: Two-four, uh-huh.

(mv): (Is?) six-three-three. And so most (...?) we adapted (...?) MacArthur came over. Douglas MacArthur came over and they made (a ...?), a school system change. When she got to the point that she had to go to school, (so?) she was in that six-three-three system.

Miyasaki: Oh, I see.

(wv): Yeah, after, yeah.

(mv): (Then? ...? She tries?) entrance examination to the university. (It was pretty tough?)

(wv): Yeah, it's tough.

Miyasaki: Did your parents want you to have education? To go to university?

(wv): Yeah, but, I tried (to two?) hard (ones?), so...

(Miyasaki? [it doesn't sound like Miyasaki but the speaker's English is really good]): She wanted to go to the best one! All or nothing!

(mv): Yeah. You have to understand that if you go to the famous school or university, then you are, job is almost guaranteed, a good prestigious job. (Supposed to look, ...?) to get into the, say, Tokyo University, (the University of Tokyo?) So you are almost guaranteed, just like the, say, going to Harvard or, say, Yale, or Stanford here.

(wv): (In the English department?)

(mv): After graduation, there is no problem, say, in (.....?) (laughter) (Your sister's?) But, just like a, (...?), even in the present, that parents try to (build?) smart children. Even in kindergarten people (try) to get into some famous kindergarten. (...?) goes to the grade school, and that middle school, high school, and the (grades are no trouble?), you can get into the famous university, and you are almost guaranteed your job in the big company. If you get into the big company, your lifetime is almost guaranteed, unless you fail drastically. (laughter) Yeah, very drastically. Some are, you know, (...?) even for minor stuff.

(wv): Although (...?)

(mv): Ah, (for famous stuff?)

(wv): But not very (...?) (laughter)

(mv): If you have been to (San Jose?)

Miyasaki: (...?)

(mv): Yeah, (...?), or, you know, some kind of, so it's almost guaranteed. So that's why the entrance examinations to the famous universities, they have sometimes one out of five, or, including (history?)

(wv): Oh, more than that.

(mv): Some days (one?) Just the same as here, you won't get into the Harvard or Yale if you are (...?) top, say, ten percent or something (between?) high school and, you know, so (they send you to??) And some (cases?), after you get, you have to get granted (...?), you have to, you know, give money as a donation to school, so you never come back. They do! It's all, you know...

(wv): Do the children? (laughter) For education?

(Miyasaki?): Want more tea?

(mv): The tough (...?) to pass the entrance examination.

(wv): Not a good excuse! (laughter) He explain (to you?)!

Miyasaki: Do you (remember?) anything special about school, or...? Anything?

(mv): [mumbling in Japanese, some of it sounds like he might be translating the question]

(wv): No...

(mv): You, you went through (grade?) school co-ed?

(wv): To, to high school.

(mv): Yeah. That is almost...

(Someone else: ...?)

(mv): Yeah, (...?) (...?) how to sit polite next to the girl, and...

(wv): Oh.

(mv): Yeah, you know, same, same desk.

Miyasaki: I heard it was really strict, to go to Japanese, like, high school and...

(mv): Yes.

(wv): Yes!

(mv): You don't have any time to speak in the class, unless the teacher point at you to speak. (...?) if you were doing something else, then you were (most ...?)

(wv): You know, when I went to, what, grade school? We had a, like, hot lunch. And we didn't, we couldn't left over.

Miyasaki: Oh, you couldn't have any leftovers?

(mv): No.

(wv): We have to...

(mv): Eat those.

(wv): And just sit on the desk, not like, you know, like they go out to the (grounds?) Not like that! And no snack, you couldn't take a snack, so I've, I (...?) so envied (George?) (laughter) (Because?) he cannot take anything.

(mv): (Well?) you eat at your desk.

(wv): Uh-huh! The hot lunch sell, was, um...

(mv): They served (...?) (These ...?) was given to the school to buy the hot lunch for, you know, the children.

(wv): No, not buy, we have to, right? We have to pay the money.

(mv): Some (cases?), but the most of the (funds?) coming (through? the ...?)

(wv): Oh, yeah, yes.

(mv): Whether you have to donate, individuals to donate some money for the hot lunch.

Miyasaki: Oh, I see.

(wv): So we have to eat.

(mv): Yes, you have to eat.

(wv): Nobody cannot take the hot lunch, you know, (from their house?)

(different man's voice): You say "hot lunch," but are you talking about, "gohan"? ["gohan" means rice specifically, but is often used to mean a whole meal]

(wv): Not "gohan," bread, breading, like this bread.

(different man's voice): Oh, sandwich?

(mv): Yeah, sandwich.

(wv): No, no, just only bread, and then milk and stew and fruits, and...

(Miyasaki?): Oh, you didn't have rice.

(different man's voice): Oh, I see, there were no (...?) bentou. [bentou are lunchboxes with rice and stuff in them]

(wv): We couldn't take any bentou from house.

(different man's voice): Is all the schools like that?

(wv): Ok, only grade school.

(different man's voice): Oh, grade school.

(wv): And then we couldn't, we cannot leftover.

(different man's voice): You got to eat it all.

(wv): We have to. Otherwise (punch? into something?), after school, stay after school, (something like that?).

Miyasaki: Uh-huh.

(wv): I hated milk! The skim milk! And some...

(mv): Powdered milk, (we?) use the powdered milk.

(wv): So ([disgusted noise]?) (laughter)

Miyasaki: (...?) (your nose?) (...?)

(wv): But, I hated, you know!

Miyasaki: How many hours did you go? Did you go all day?

(wv): Monday through Saturday.

Miyasaki: Monday through Saturday?

(mv): Ok, Monday through Friday—

(wv): Saturday [is a] half day.

(mv): Yeah, that's between 8:00 to 3:30, every day, and Saturday's only a half day. (.....?)

(wv): And so strict, and, no (permanent?)

(mv): Oh, no makeup?

(wv): No makeup, no makeup at all! Even high school.

(mv): In the (...?) they have a uniform to wear. It's all different by the school. If you went to certain school, you have to wear certain uniform, a certain shape of (that?). So, if you see (the one girl? ...? design?), you know, in the train or something, you can recognize by the uniform where she's going, if to prestigious, you know, school or just (...? plain? ...?) high school, or in grade school. That's, you know, a little bit different from here. (You've got?) freedom, you can wear anything that you want (...?)!

(wv): Did you know, I, when...

(different man's voice: Is it busy train?) [this sounds unrelated]

(wv): High school time, just (like some jacket ...?), black jacket and skirt and blouse. But if we, see, we wanted to wear a pretty blouse, you know? At least, you know, that we could, and even permanent you cannot.

Miyasaki: No permanents?

(wv): No permanent! And, um...

(mv): I guess, the difference between here and there is, that I see now is, see, if you go to school here, you are more likely separated by group. You are (another?) one's group, and (the middle one?), and the (a little bit behind?) (...?) group, but in Japan there is no such group. One group, going same way, same materials given, ok, graded the same way, so, then, just keep going.

Miyasaki: So, with your classes, like, is it, you have the same group and you always go to the same teacher, to you have only one teacher for each group, for all day?

(mv): Yes, always—

(wv): Oh no, huh?

(mv): [explaining himself in Japanese]

(wv): That's at grade school, right?

(mv): Yeah, the grade school.

(wv): And then, after...

(mv): After go to middle school and high school, you maybe change into...

(wv): No, (become? ...?)

(mv): Yeah. So...

(wv): English teacher and, you know, mathematics teacher, all different, but (...?) same speed.

Miyasaki: Is it, like, you stay in the classroom and the teacher comes to you, instead of you changing...?

(wv): Mm-hmm. Then, you know, you stand up like that, and (laughter) and then (.....?) (more laughter) Even (in?), you know, this, (America is very round?) (...?) the students stand up, and (then we go ...?) until the teacher says, "Ok, stand up!" Then, (laughter) (well?) we have to sit back down. So.

(Another woman's voice: What do you call a fear of heights?) [this sounds unrelated]

Miyasaki: Did your parents go to school too?

(wv): My, my, um...

(mv): Father.

(wv): Father graduated, very famous university.

Miyasaki: Did he really?

(wv): That's what I wanted to [do.] He wanted me.

(mv): (...?) (Teiyuou University?)

(wv): It's a very...

(mv): It's a private...

(wv): Private, used to be very, um...

(different man's voice): Prestigious.

(mv): Yeah, prestigious.

(wv): Yeah, very rich, only rich (come here?), but not anymore.

(mv): It started around...

(wv): When my father (...?)

(mv): Yeah.

(wv): That I know. Very, only rich, and...

(mv): A hundred, more than a hundred years?

(wv): Oh, maybe! (I cannot remember?) I don't know, it's very old now.

(mv): Yeah, it started Meiji... [Meiji Era—1868-1912]

(wv): Mm-hmm, yeah.

Miyasaki: Did your (brother?) go to school, too?

(wv): Did my—he graduated, that's, that university. Since he graduated, so he wanted me to try that. But that was tough, so.

(mv): Her mother went to the high school, (that the last ...?)

(wv): Jougakou no? [Like a girls' school]

(mv): That (...?) is mostly (highest ...?) school you can go. (...?) She went there...

(wv): (...?)

(mv): (She went to?) Shizuoka?

(wv): Yes, that is Shizuoka Prefecture, (.....?) I don't know, (...?), the best one she could. She's very smart. (laughter)

Miyasaki: What did your dad do for a living? Did your dad work?

(wv): Oh, my father's working at (...?) Trading Company, (the one that was?) the biggest trading company in town, in Japan.

Miyasaki: Uh-huh. Did your mother work, too?

(wv): Oh, no!

Miyasaki: No? Your mother just stayed in the house?

(another woman's voice): (.....?) (Raised four children?)

(mv): I guess this is following the tradition of the (...?), somehow, that (elderly?) person use to work in house. (Then parents go out and get? ...?) money for the family. And so, it's a typical Japanese family.

Miyasaki: Oh, she'd stay home and take care of the children?

(mv): Yes, (...?)

Miyasaki: How old were you when came over to the United States?

(wv): 24. [It sounds like people are protesting] Yes, 24! No, 24! Because, you know, I came here twenty, twenty, twenty-second, and I, and twenty-sixth! So, four days (.....?) when I (turned?) 24. (lots of laughter)

(different woman's voice): That's why, their birthdays, I get them mixed up. Hers is September 23, and (...?'s) is August 24.

(someone else's voice): I'm 27th.

(different woman's voice): 27th. (...?)

(someone else's voice): (It's the same mixed up?)

(different woman's voice): I'm right.

(wv): So, when I came here (...?)

(mv): Before that, she was working, after graduated high school she started to work at Mitsubishi Bank. (It got to, so to speak?) sister...

(wv): [trying to interject]

(mv): Half of the Mitsubishi (Dynasty?)

(wv): Mitsubishi. The reason that I worked there [was] because my father wanted to, me, I used to, I don't, I'm not going to, you know, after I failed, I have to wait a lot, one more year. And it (goes to?), only for, you know, examination school. Entrance examination, but I have to go to, just for, only for, (...?)

(mv): Special school for preparing for entrance examinations. It was a special school.

(wv): I don't know, I was, I, because it's just, every day we studied so hard, maybe four or five hours (long?) we (...?)

Miyasaki: (You studied that?) Did you stay at home when you were at school?

(wv): After school we always (studied hard?) I never go to bed before 12 o' clock, and then I woke up 5:30 or 6:00 and then I studied. Before I go to school, I studied. Just like that. A lot of us, we cannot, we cannot pass the test, in Japan. So, now, you know, people saying if, "[the phrase in Japanese first], if you sleep five hours, you fail the test. And you have to, um, less than five, no, four hours, only four hours, no, four hours you can pass the test, and if you sleep five hours..."

(mv): More than five hours.

(wv): You (couldn't?) (...? Record?) that.

Miyasaki: Who told you that?

(wv): Someone.

(mv): That's a general...

Miyasaki: Saying.

(mv): Yeah, saying. If you (sleep?) less than four hours a day, then you most likely pass what school you wanted to get in, but if (there was not?) five hours or more sleep, then you were kind of the borderlines.

(wv): So, after I took the test, I slept and slept two or three days, I was asleep! (laughter)

(another woman's voice): She does that, (when I come home?).

(mv): Yeah...

(wv): And then, anyways, so I said I wanted to work, then he said, "If you want to work, go to bank. Otherwise I cannot say ok." Why, because, in Japan banking is very high place.

Miyasaki: Prestigious?

(mv): Yeah, prestigious.

(wv): And then, uh.

(mv): And they will only hire the person who more desirable, who, you know.

(wv): And then the banker is a very neat and very, um, (...?)

(mv): Disciplined.

Miyasaki: Disciplined.

(wv): Mm-hmm. So.

(mv): So, and if she goes to the (...?) place, the father will be more safe, you know, easy-feeling, not to (...?), to have to watch over (every day?) (...?) there is this (...?) (Since?) the same (way?) with the family who are part of the dynasty. So, Inozu, the person who work in (there?) is, (so ...?)

(wv): Before, in a, (when someone applied?) the bank, they...

(mv): Investigate, all the background.

Miyasaki: Everything?

(mv): Yeah, from the (...? Up to the root?)

(wv): And then, visit the house and (how many ...?)

Miyasaki: (.....? To the devout?) background?

(wv): Because if something happened it, uh...

Miyasaki: Uh, what? It's because they're (...?)

(wv): Reputation.

Miyasaki: Oh, I see.

(mv): Reputation is at stake if you're somebody that (...?) or something like that. So, they will check the person who hired, they check the whole (...?) for her background. Family background, friends, associated, the whole thing. (...?) she was in (personal?)

(Miyasaki?): (Personnel?), yeah... (laughter)

(mv): (...? She get into the van?)

(wv): That's right, that's what I...

(mv): Most likely she (involved, too?)

(wv): Had to be the most (truth ...?) position, so that's why.

(mv): Yes, (...?) reading the information was looking at that, (she was against ...?, against the reputation?) So she is (more selected?) to (...?)

(wv): (When?) he sees he was work—my family, or most of the family is working Mitsubishi (Group?), you know, (...?) So, he asked, "Why don't you work at the Mitsubishi Bank?" At least, he said, okayed me to work (in that position?), he said (some time?) (...?) my work that we might (cooperate?) with a (secret government?)

(mv): Ah, (...?) to the company, big, like a big company, that you are more (benefit?). So, she took advantage of that, and went to the singing group, or chorus, or some (...?), some flower arrangement, (...?)

(wv): Well, I (decide?) to! (laughter) (It would be bad?), I would go back home.

(mv): So, she doesn't have much of the (lately?) time to spend, (just lately?) going back from that, um...

(Miyasaki?): State (administrator?).

(mv): Yeah. Activity.

(wv): I was working, (not a teller?). Or personnel department. Mm-hmm.

Miyasaki: Did you do (...? Dating?) or anything like that? Or, going out with boys?

(wv): Oh, oh! No! (I told you, huh?)? Even, even, you know, engaged, he always [muttering in Japanese]...

(mv): (She would go out?)

(wv): No, he was, you cannot believe my father. He was so strict.

(mv): [overlapping] He was so strict.

(wv): (laughter) And, um.

(mv): Yeah, so she cannot go out with boys.

Miyasaki: At all?

(wv): Mm-hmm.

(mv): Yeah, go out, but, you know, have to come back by 8 o' clock in the evening! (laughter) (There's?) no fun at all!

(wv): No! So, you know, I (...? even when I?) go down (...?) music, um...

Miyasaki: Chorus?

(wv): Concert. (I always mixed?), I don't know, but... [mumbling in Japanese] But, then, after I married, and he took me to the concert, (...?)

Miyasaki: (Did he get your ...?)

(wv): Oh, (you know?) my father! You know! (laughter) (...?) that I told him. Oh, I feel so (selfish?)! I don't have to worry about (...?) anymore, you know, (I told him?). Because he looks like my (...?) [muttering in Japanese]

Miyasaki: How old were you when you started to go out with boys, then?

(wv): No, I've been, um, you know, most of the time I was in a chorus group, and a calligraphy group or something like that, and so, just like that! (I'm in?) a group, or...

(mv): (.....?) in an American sense, 'going out with boy,' I don't think there is that kind of luxury. (laughter) She was busy (...?), participating in group activity (...?), so (this is the? [too quiet from here]), so. (...?) mostly (the man is?) already married. (laughter)

(wv): Oh, yes, yeah, that's a problem! (laughter) You know, my personnel department, that personnel department is really, um, what...

(mv): Yeah, (only the brains?) are coming...

(wv): Yeah, (brains?) coming, that. Bank business is, you know, um, [asking a question in Japanese]...

(Miyasaki?): Operational?

(mv): (...?) will come today.

(wv): No, no, not like that... Bank, [explaining herself in Japanese]

(Miyasaki?): (...?) did PR?

(mv): PR, hmm. [muttering in Japanese]

(wv): No, you have to, we have to hire the, (eigo no? [trans. What is it in English?])

(mv): Best.

(wv): Best man, right? That's why, um, personnel department is very important department. And so, men, not the girls, (who know?) all the manners, so, um.

(Miyasaki?): What's more important.

(wv): Uh-huh. And then...

(Miyasaki?): (Wiser?)

(wv): Wise man was selected.

(someone else): So they had to be steady and already married, and all that.

(wv): Yeah, yeah, that's why the kind of man's already married, you know? (laughter) And especially my, um, department [something in Japanese]

(Miyasaki?): Supervisor? Manager?

(mv): (There's one that?)...

(wv): One group in the...

(mv): One group (is?) planning the, yeah.

(wv): Yeah. Our group is the most, um, brain (no hito ga shiteru wake [trans. People like that])

(Miyasaki?): Smart?

(wv): Smart person. So, no bachelors when I was there. And so, (laughter) there were no bachelors, but we enjoyed because they were so smart and nice people, so I learned a lot from them.

(someone else): Very intellectual.

(wv): And I, um, my, I learned what kind of person is very nice, you know? And so, look! (laughter)

(someone else): That's right! That's right!

(mv): One example (is?) her, the boss, (...?) about ten years ago, now he's an executive.

(wv): (interrupting slightly) I told you, my... He was my, um.

(someone else): Immediate supervisor?

(mv): Immediate supervisor, about ten years ago.

(wv): But now executive.

(mv): But now he is an executive.

(wv): And one is a, (...?) you know, he, my, one of my...

(mv): A person working (at?), and he had the best (...? in front of ...?) at the time.

(wv): No, (California?)

(mv): Now he is a...

(wv): Mitsubishi California? Bank of Mitsubishi of California's...

(mv): Executive.

(wv): Executive. Head.

(someone else): (.....? around ...?)

(mv): Yes, (I believe?) (two was seven?) years or so, but not, you know some people coming in, (back from?) Japan, who are (various?) executive here, then going back, and then, yeah, so.

(wv): So...

(mv): Just example, you know. She was working with those brain people.

(wv): So my father was so satisfied with... (laughter)

(someone else?): No (watching Playboy?) No (playboys?) I don't (...? Japanese ...?)

(mv): Um, if it's the (Playboy brand?) (you have far more things that imitate?). (...? See, most old Prussian??)

(wv): Bank worker never!

(Miyasaki?): Oh, really?

(wv): If he, if (once ...?) They cannot promote.

(someone else): There's the only way that they (...?)

(wv): Around here? I didn't!

(mv): Yeah.

(someone else): It's just (...?) I'm (hearing?)

(mv): It, if they found (that?) anywhere, promotion is (remitted?) (And he should be ...?) (bring? ...?)
So, that's a little bit different.

Miyasaki: How did your mother feel about you working? Did she want you to work?

(wv): Oh, she want me to go, since I quitted university, (she?) wanted me to go to that kind of...

(mv): (...?) the school.

(wv): School of, um...

(mv): Preparing for a bride.

Miyasaki: Oh, finishing school!

(mv): Yeah.

(wv): But I hated! (laughter)

(mv): (We have?) to go to the best school (...?) They cook, and (do ...?) and (...?) for (...?)

(wv): Sewing...

(mv): Sewing, and...

(someone else): You're so good at that! You don't need to go (school)!

(wv): Calligraphy, (...?) maybe, or flower arrangement. But, after, you know, after I worked, then. Ok. 8 to 5, then 6 to, maybe 6 to 9, I took some, you know, (...?) class every day. I remember (...?) I did the calligraphy, calligraphy, the hiragana (the kind of different teach?), and (o-koto? [if that's what she said, it's a kind of musical instrument]) and the flower arrangement, and the cooking, and, what, chorus, um. Only I didn't sewing. (laughter)

(some other people talking)

(mv): Um, there were one (course?) or two.

(wv): Oh, they do. One person who doesn't want to go to college, they have different course.

(mv): A different (chapter?) (...?) [it sounds like maybe he's having a conversation with someone else]

(wv): I wanted to go to college.

Miyasaki: Oh, so you don't take this class (...?)

(wv): No. I didn't (have to take?) any cooking or sewing or (...?). I did (...?) Studies.

Miyasaki: Like college prep? So did you have to do, like, any (...? at the house?) or did you just study when...

(wv): No, I didn't, I didn't have time to help my parents, my mother.

Miyasaki: In high school?

(wv): No, I didn't. They don't want me to. They don't want to, their daughter, that was a problem for them, not. They never ask their children to help them, um, housework. If, even they wanted, maybe, my mother said, "If you have time to help me, go to your room and study!" (Rather that?) than I didn't have time.

(mv): It's (...?) depending on the family.

(wv): Oh, yeah.

(mv): Some families may ask the children to help, some (doesn't like?) the help, if they are kind of parents (...?), so...

(wv): Until high school, I did (every morning?), before morning, we, since my father was so clean, he...

(mv): (...? Mind the ...?)

(wv): So, I would go to school, we all opened all the windows, and scrubbed everything, and wiped off, and after that I could go to school. Even very cold morning, or Saturday or Sunday, especially Saturday, he woke up so early, so we... (laughter)

Miyasaki: (Yeah, really?) So you had to clean house?

(wv): Yeah! (laughter)

Miyasaki: Did you brothers and sisters finish, they go to university or just...?

(wv): Yes, my brother did a very... he...

Miyasaki: Older brother?

(wv): (that big sound?) That one is, Tokyo University's most prestigious, he's a tv producer. Educational program...

(mv): In education.

(wv): In education

(mv): (education in theatre?)

(wv): Yeah...

Miyasaki: What about your other brother?

(wv): My brother, when he's a actor. He's a very handsome guy.

Miyasaki: Is he older or younger?

(wv): Younger.

(mv): Younger, he graduated high school, then he went to the school which trained to be an actor.

(wv): That is very... 27 out of 1?

(mv): Yeah, 1 out of-

(wv): (laughter) out of 27. It's very hard which is, it's very hard.

(mv): (speaking in Japanese)

(wv): They took a test, gave a test in acting. Everything in Japan is a test (speaking in Japanese)

(mv): Yes, (.....?) knew one step to another (...?)

(wv): Costume.

(mv): Yes, (naturally?) And now he's a, like a, (....?)

(people speaking in Japanese)

(mv): (...?) four times.

(wv): Everybody in Japan (...?)

(Someone else?): So, some of it, somewhat, um...

(People speaking in Japanese—sound like trying to explain something; lots of muttering for a while)

(mv): (....?)

(wv): Well, it's all he got.

(mv): Oh, he does (here? ...? Japanese here?)

(wv): Yeah, in Japan, (lots of talking in Japanese)

Miyasaki: What (name?) does he use?

(wv): His name (...?)

Miyasaki: They all use their own names?

(wv): No, not all.

(mv): Sometimes, they have a (...?) name...

(Miyasaki?): Like that singer.

(mv): Yeah. (...?)

(wv): He's not so famous here. He studied.

(mv): He tried to be.

(wv): But now, you know, talent, (speaking in Japanese with her husband)

(mv): (...?)

(wv): Yeah, but not like that, but he, he studied in a long time. (...?) He's very good, good actor.

(Someone else): Like, more like Rex Harrison, someone like that who's got the class, classical.

(wv): Yeah, (...?) was in that story, he...

(mv): He was talking, (before the class?) (...?) There was a (...? Who want?) That is, graduation day.

(wv): It's really...

(mv): But he was a good actor in that, that school. But in the, in the actual world, (...?) behind. Some of his classmate is now in movies. Characters.

(wv): But that, you know, that (...?) time...

(someone else): He's too serious, maybe.

(mv): Yeah, (...?). But I know that he was a look-alike for one particular actor.

Miyasaki: Oh, really?

(mv): (...?)

(wv): I think, he's too handsome, so if he, oh, you know...

(mv): If he...

(wv): Main chara—actor, has to be very handsome, right? Otherwise, support actor is...

(mv): More characteristics.

(wv): You know. (...?) But he...

(someone else): Oh yeah, that people will tend to remember him and the main actor will, doesn't want him in there then to compete with him.

(wv): So, his friend told me.

(someone else): That's not so good. (muttering)

Miyasaki: Is your other brother older or younger than you are? Your brother that graduated from Tokyo University, was he older or younger?

(wv): That, older.

(mv): The younger one (does?).

(wv): And my sister graduated [from] university, and she's, she is now housewife.

Miyasaki: (laughter)

(mv): She just graduated last November.

Miyasaki: Is she older too?

(wv): No.

Miyasaki: Younger?

(muttering)

(someone else): That's when Michi went back to Japan, in November. Michi went back to Japan in November (for her sister?).

(mv): Yeah, (...??)

(wv): No, she's (....?) She's (.....?) like a small company, president.

(someone else): Small company has fifty employees. Small company.

(wv): She's really, it's just... (people laughing)

(someone else?): Maybe she's just mixed up?

Miyasaki: Did you get married in Japan?

(wv): Yes.

(mv): (This is?) the story I am (thinking?) (laughter) I was here as a boarding student, (in California?) And the one professor came from the Tokyo University. I (...?) to know him (while eating?) from Kumamoto. So, (.....?)

(wv): This is the story of our...!! (laughter)

(mv): And he went back early (or something?), so (we?) went back to the university.

(wv): Since he was my father's very close friend.

(mv): Yeah. I went back about 1968.

Miyasaki: You were in here? The US?

(mv): Yeah. And I went back to Japan (...?) 1968. And I, you know, drive to meet them (...?)

(wv): And his father asked that professor, "Why don't you find a nice bride for him?" But he was, (...?), he had thirty years old at that time. So he asked him.

(mv): But, professor was so (...? ...abroad?) for me.

(wv): And, and you know, I know him, you know. He, my father's close friend, and I liked him very much. And he knows that if he, said, this is, he told me, he was watching me and if she's with (me?), you know, if Michi's with his father, he never let (...?) to marry any guy.

(Miyasaki?): Oh, as long as your father was around, he wouldn't release you.

(wv): So he was (worried?) about me. And he called me without asking my father. He asked my father before he asked me. (laughter)

(mv): So, we are (...?) all the fashions, and we get married (.....?) So, one day, we were (set up the date?) and I (...?) professor.

(wv): No, he, he said, he told him, "Why don't we go to my friend's house?" Then that, since (...?) father, (speaking in Japanese) We had a beautiful chrysanthemum garden, and so (that time?) was so beautiful time, so my father asked him to invite me, "Why don't you come to see the chrysanthemums?" And so he asked, the professor asked him to, "Why don't you, Why you don't." Then he came—

Miyasaki: Is that how you met?

(mv): Yes.

(someone else): I wonder, he never did tell (...?) (laughter)

(wv): (laughter) So (chrysanthemum?) He, he...

(someone else): I thought maybe he walked into the bank one day, and you said, "May I help you?" (laughter)

(mv): (There was a?) chrysanthemum (...?) toasty [tasty?] to eat.

(laughter)

(someone else?): What did you think (you might??)

(mv): Yeah—just a--

(wv): (overlapping) Yeah, (even?), leaves, you know, leaves, you can make a tempura.

(mv): (...?) the flower...

(wv): Just the, just half of the, you know, you use, just the, (talking about tempura in Japanese) It's really crunchy.

[end of tape]