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Yamanaka, Morgan

(Joseph Iseshita)

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Joseph Takeshita

Joseph Takeshita was 18 years old when his family was evacuated ~~to~~ ^{from} San Francisco, ^{to Tule Lake.} During the uprising, he and his brother were confined ~~xx~~ in the stockade. "I remember standing at attention in my bare feet in the snow for about four hours. We were surrounded by MPs." ~~He told me that he was~~ After his release from the stockade, ~~among the last of the men who were released from the stockade.~~ Subsequently, the captain ~~of~~ he became ~~xxxx~~ of the Tule Lake fire department. ~~He~~ ^{told me that he} had nothing to do with the ~~Resegregationists~~ Resegregationists, remarking that he thought they were ~~xxxx~~ "crazy young bastards." When I asked him, "What happened to you after the war?" he responded:

AS: I was one of the last out of Tule Lake because. . . I presume it was for the reason that I was in the stockade that I was not released earlier. I had to get a special letter from Washington saying that you are released; and it was not one of those carte blanche release statements. I was released at one time and then two days later or very shortly I was told ~~(?)~~ and I had to get a special letter saying specifically that I was released. And at that point, my parents were already in San Francisco. My brother was already in. . . No, I think ~~(?)~~ and I said, "Oh, what the hell, I think I'll go to New York." And having no idea where New York was; and it seemed the farthest place from Tule Lake, and so I asked for a one-way ticket to New York. ~~It was~~ a friend of ~~my~~ ^{my} music group that was in Chicago and I stopped there and stayed in Chicago. My brother had gone onto New York and so after several months, ~~after 3-4 months~~ in Chicago, I earned enough money to go to New York and then I came back to San Francisco to go to school again.

RW: Which school did you go to?

JT: I went to City College.

RW: To City College, and how then did you get to the rank of Professor at ~~San Francisco State~~?

JT: Again I must give thanks to my high school dean who was the first person I went to. I said, "Dean Kincaid, what should I do at this point?" You see, I was on one of the special committees as a block letter man grade point school with athletic background so I knew I wasn't one of the ~~(?)~~ society and the special group of ~~(?)~~. So Mr. Kincaid was the first person I went to, and he said, Joseph, in your case I don't remember if he called me Joseph or what, Kuni was my name at that point, because I went by my Japanese name. He suggested I go to City College rather than Berkeley, and so, for two years I went to City College and it was at that point I discovered sociology and then went onto Berkeley for the sociology major and then finished with a B.A. in sociology and then was interested in research. . . But I was interested in researching people, like you, rather than the social institution. ~~Of course sociology used academic book approach.~~ So when Dr. Balk, Dr. Nesbet ~~(?)~~ who were my mentors in sociology suggested I continue. . . I said "Thank you, no. I'm more interested in people." As a result of this I went to study under Martin Loeb.

~~RW: Yes, I've heard of him.~~

JT: Martin was ^{the} school of social welfare. So I transferred over to the school of social welfare to study under Martin; and then unfortunately Martin was on his way to some Midwest university. And at that point I became a social worker. And then I received my M.A. in Social Work and became a case worker, group worker, supervisor, director of an agency, and then 22 years ago I took up position, a tenure track position, at San Francisco State.