

55:8

Interview Notes: KPFA (Toshio M.)

1976 ? Spring

ALSO AVAILABLE ON MICROFILM

86/97

c

- were with as chief o y. man -
What encourage ment & encouragement?
What was I like to write in those days?
 Prob. mother - who enc. o I H.S. teacher -
 (never revealed to her. Bt she seemed to
 o I write a little)

- A.S. teachers - very important -
- So continue please - some of my favorite writers
 I idolized while writing.
 First to emulate - writers I admired.
 Hemingway, Steinbeck, Theodore Dreiser,
 Thomas Wolfe, Sherwood Anderson
 Russian: Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Gorky, Gorky +
 Katherine Mansfield (S.S.), Hemingway
 Galsworthy, Dickens, - French: Gide,
 Roland, Balzac, Zola, Gomer; Grotte, ...

It is, you're very well grounded, Brod "r".

Writers in Europe & elsewhere I keep "r".

- mother and to say o read I → + not write enough

So you're ruled by mother & teacher →

- Day Depression - had a chance to write -
- most characters o - Bay Area things
- were true to life? Composite I ass'd with.

characters - come from no where - get so strong
 over whelm -
 there o smthg mysterious about writing -

- (To Miss H.)
KOPAT
- How did it happen but started in writing ready stories, elementary school - began in spring '76?
desire & creative. Ready, writing - little drawing
As small boy -
 - Where? - kinder Garden School - Oak - unusual -
over 1/2 were Asian. Ch + Japan, that's it
started there -
 - Born? - Oakland. lived there since? - in San Francisco.
 - How / as / as / like? - Enjoying - it's small -
more like country. city & country Oakland S.F.
 - When did it begin publishing things? - much later & off out
H.S. - free lance period & no school. On own -
wants to see O.S. & writing. About 22 - &
seriously in writing field. Felt if given opp & O.S.
O.S. became a writer. Took 6 yrs before O sold
anything. Had lots of rejections.
 - What was it like trying to become a writer in the '30's?
Had to give up sport, concentrate - survival.
Home to herself & biggest parents. - Didn't
have time to read & write. Learned to concentrate
& write. Best from 10:00 pm to 2:00 am. Rigid
schedule - every night. Up early to herself
 - Need to stick to rigid schedule -
how? O > more 6, I'm lazier -
 - Rebooted writer? - even in camp - with 5
nile
 - Open spoke - Camp - a mean road - (later)

(2)

Sometimes - not trying to write -
" " character - dev. & become dominant
& penetrating. And if you let go - the character
will

Have to sit at desk - day in & day & allow it to happen
yes.

Depression -

gave me some mat'l which I used.
- J.A.'s struggle to get forthwith - Can soil
that to overcome depression - but also overcome
prejudice that was prevalent.

How did prejudice show itself?

Nixon - seldom able to get jobs outside of community -
union jobs unavailable & Nixon
large majority of family, nursery, sm. business
within J. Con'y

Racial practice created in Jones Community as
as incline of J. to accept or not

Yes. Limited in job opportunities -

What about land ownership?

Issues who owning & ineligible to own land, that
alien land law - Only 1 was Jones & I
own property - Three Nixon citizens.

Parents & boy loved Thru' ch? Didn't it do
to - family structure -

Parents had to use ch's citizenship - enabled to
to own land & prop. -

Typical family structure, using ch in a way - Age &
Parents often 1 generation older - Ex parents in 40's & 50's
with young children -?

yes - so hieei quite young at (of) west.
Issei were (elders). e - control family -
destiny.

In fact or theory? When went into camp - Issei
were at a disadv. c'n't they? - High Engl.

- Issei were Anus - but still in teenage period -
- hieei - camp reached maturity - so had voice.
- During camp hieei emerged more & voice & family -
- Camp life -

Did this affect a family - & why?

- my family didn't suffer & break down a family
so much - but I fear

Pause - Imagined Word: Adam David Miller

As writer - into own at time & was How
did a react as writer to relocation

- I had collee & S.S. "Yoko, Ca" - had publisher
in 1942 - sched'd public'n - late summer '42 -
- But a P.H. attack, postponed due to
situation occurring after declaration of war -
- Personally, lost my sp'g & quite a few yrs
Lost yrs -

Bl finally pub in 1949.

No publicly in interim?

- only - Camp periodicals
so work lost, chance to do was very

But a green -

I have travel - expansion - short
"Tomorrow, coming Children"
"The Woman - Hiroshima" - bel.
pub'd by a SF pub.

Rec

Earlier pub - Kallkops, Sayrojan

He saw 1st pub in Coast mag - really liked it,
so he wrote about it

What a Coast mag? old -

Similar to New Yorker -

Que'd Pac. Coast writers to - Lew.
Sayrojan saw + encouraged me. '39-40
wrote to visit him. Then, assoc. &
able to taste literary life. Was a great
encouragement to me. After wrote
intro to 1st bk.

Wouldn't read a v a stories? 2 Yoko, Ca

9:35 A feeling a post to ch.

Issei woman - going to America
"I say the - money - 'come alone'"
Don't go - stay - "I'll be caught I was -"
Dad went with me to Yoko - Boat pulling away -
Boat too, tiny boat. Sea sick - (was). Why was I sick?
Why so foreign, I say
Golden Gate - 1st glimpse of S.F. - 1st shoreline
We're - America. Club full of eager faces. Finally

[illegible]