

**NARRATOR: Hanami, Mariko "Mars"**  
**INTERVIEWER: Troy Reeves**  
**DATE: December 4, 2003**  
**LOCATION: Caldwell, Idaho**  
**PROJECT: Women in WWII/Veterans History Project**

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**TAPE ONE**

00:00	1	Introduction
00:45	1	Hanami lived in the Green Lake District of Seattle, Washington, in December 1941. She described the Japanese influence in the communities in and around the Green Lake District, which was in North Seattle. Hanami was born and raised in Seattle; she described the house she lived in, which was set in five acres of land. Those five acres mainly housed greenhouses, which was how the Hanamis made their living. Hanami was a young adult in 1941; she explained what she did (spent a year in Japan and took classes at business school) between graduating high school and the bombing of Pearl Harbor.
04:15	2	With prompting from the interviewer, Hanami talked about the family homestead within Seattle. She said that the five acres looked completely different today. She gave a brief history of the five acres after her family sold the land. Hanami talked about her father, who emigrated from Japan and lived in a few towns in the US West before settling in Seattle. She also mentioned the types of vegetables and flowers that her family raised in the greenhouses. Hanami was one of the youngest siblings (5th out of 6th), so she did not recall much about the specifics of the greenhouse operation.
08:15	3	After graduating high school, Hanami traveled through Japan. She explained who set up the trip, how many girls went on the trip, and why she stayed longer than most of the girls. Hanami talked about her extended stay in Japan; she stayed with a family in Japan. She enjoyed her time in that country; she returned in February 1941. She remembered being told by friends of her family to return to the US, because those friends felt that war between the US and Japan could start soon. She took classes at business school, because "she had to do something."

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12:00	5	Hanami met her husband, “Tug,” during the spring of 1941. She told the story of how she met him. She also mentioned what he did between February and April 1942, when the Japanese on the US West Coast were called on to evacuate. Tug was taller than most Japanese American young men, so between that fact, his uniform, and his smile, she fell in love with him. With prompting from the interviewer, Hanami offered her memories of December 7, 1941, including what “Tug” did that day. He spent most of the day with her father and with her before heading back to Fort Lewis.
16:15	7	Hanami stated that her friends did not treat them differently after America declared war on Japan. She talked about having to sell items from their home very cheaply before they relocated inland. Hanami’s oldest brother left the property in the hands of his lawyer, so after the War her family could return to the greenhouse business. After Hanami’s oldest brother passed away, his wife eventually sold the land to the city. Around April 1942 Hanami and her family relocated to the fairgrounds in Puyallup, Washington. Hanami mentioned that she was naïve about the whole experience, so she spent most of her time “having fun” with young women her age.
20:45	8	Soon after Pearl Harbor, Hanami’s father was sent to Missoula, Montana with other Japanese leaders in Seattle. So, he was not there when they moved inland. She and her family kept in touch with her father with letters. This comment led Hanami to describe growing up speaking two languages, Japanese at home and English everywhere else. Hanami told a story about how her mother could “communicate” with an Italian couple that lived on the greenhouse land, although neither group shared a common language. Hanami’s father owned stock in an import-export company, and when the owners returned to Japan, he became the person who manned the import-export office. His family thought it was humorous that an old Japanese farmer could go downtown and run a business; she noted that they were proud of him, too.
25:30	10	Hanami recalled that her father was shipped from Missoula, Montana, to Lordsburg, New Mexico. She offered her memories of how a family friend or sponsor (Professor O’Brien at University of Washington Law School) helped get him removed from the detainment camp in New Mexico to the relocation camp in Minidoka. Hanami talked about the trip from Puyallup to the Minidoka Relocation Camp (MRC), particularly the train trip between Boise and the train stop closest to the relocation center. She said the train “just stopped ... in the middle of nowhere.”

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29:30	11	Hanami’s family moved into Block #1 at MRC. <b>[Note: At 30:00 tape 1 side 1 ends, and tape 1 side 2 begins.]</b> She remembered the other blocks being built and the amount of dust. She said she took numerous showers to keep clean. Hanami did not stay in MRC very long, because she volunteered to do farm work. A family friend hired them to work in the fields around Sugar City, Idaho, in the southeast part of the state. She volunteered so she could be closer to her boyfriend, Tug. According to Hanami, harvesting potatoes and sugar beets was hard work. She felt bad when she saw a horse die in the field. She spent the winter there, which she remembered as a cold few months.
33:45	11	Unlike her husband’s memory of this time period, Hanami did not experience a lot of discrimination. She spent most of the time on the farm or with Tug at his family’s home. Also, during the winter of 1942/1943, Hanami moved into Rexburg to help a family whose mother was experiencing depression. Hanami did not recall doing much for fun while in southeast Idaho; she said she listened to the radio and spent time with Tug and his family. Hanami described the “beautiful” geography in the area, including the area around Island Park and the westside of the Teton Valley (the Grand Tetons).
38:45	12	Hanami talked about fishing both in southeast Idaho and in the Seattle area. She explained that in southeast Idaho you could fish out of the canals and ditches. Hanami talked about moving from Idaho to Chicago, Illinois, and about receiving her father’s blessing to marry Tug. Tug’s family did not want them to get married, because Tug had an older brother that was not married. While in Chicago, Hanami worked at the Edgewater Beach Hotel, making salads. She enjoyed it. She did mention that she did not have a college education, meaning that she did not feel that her skills were being wasted.
43:00	16	Hanami discussed the train ride from Idaho to Illinois. She sat next to a Japanese American soldier, so she talked with him during the ride. When she arrived in Chicago, she suffered discrimination when some landlords or homeowners would not rent to her, even though they had vacancies. She did find a room to rent and she could eat at the hotel. She enjoyed her time in Chicago, mainly because she had family there. She regretted not being able to see the Cubs play at Wrigley Field. Hanami and the interviewer talked about their favorite baseball teams. From Chicago Hanami traveled to Hattiesburg, Mississippi, to get married to Tug. The ceremony

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48:15	18	<p>was held in a house, and a recently made friend served as Hanami's maid of honor. She and Tug had no money, so they did not have a honeymoon. She said that, at one time, they had 98 cents between them.</p> <p>Hanami lived with a nice family in Petal, and Tug spent most of his time at Camp Shelby south of Hattiesburg. They did have some of the Japanese American soldiers come to their home in Petal; they have stayed in touch with the soldiers of the 442<sup>nd</sup> through reunions. At one reunion in Las Vegas, she won a new Saturn. They still have the car, almost ten years later. The interviewer asked Hanami about almost reaching their 60th wedding anniversary (December 18th). After Tug shipped out to Europe, Hanami and a friend took the friend's car to MRC via Chicago. She remembered stopping at a Japanese restaurant in Nebraska where the owners' son was serving in the 442<sup>nd</sup> with Tug. During the car ride, Hanami did recall the nice farms in Iowa and the barren landscape in Wyoming.</p>
53:30	20	<p>Hanami visited with her mother and brother during her brief stay at MRC in April 1944. Hanami took a bus to Rexburg to see Tug's family; she said that people on one section of the bus ride stared at her ("with hate in their eyes") because of her skin color. She wanted to say that her husband was fighting the War, but she chose not to. From Rexburg she returned to Chicago, where she lived and worked (approximately eighteen months) until Tug returned from Europe. She and Tug returned to Idaho in December 1945.</p>
56:30	21	<p>During her second stay in Chicago, she stayed in a mansion that the hotel owned. When the hotel sold the mansion, the hotel put her up in an apartment that it also owned. She enjoyed staying in the mansion; other hotel employees stayed in the mansion, too. She ate her meals at the hotel, which helped her save money. She saw Sonia Henie's ice show and the play, Oklahoma, while she lived in Chicago. While in Chicago she wrote to Tug almost every day. She remembered worrying because she had not received a letter from him for two weeks. She did not think that she kept the letters he sent. She talked about sending and receiving letters from family members while she lived in Illinois and Mississippi. She did not do much extracurricular activities during her second stay in Chicago, including watching the Cubs or shopping. <b>[Note: At 61:05 tape one side two ends, and tape two side one begins.]</b> She did recall buying a pair of shoes, saying she "splurged" and paid \$10 dollars for a pair of suede shoes.</p>

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62:00	23	When Tug returned from Europe, they met in Chicago. Hanami said that he was scolded for not going to Idaho to see his family first. She did not mind moving to rural Idaho; she "took it in stride." They stayed in southeast Idaho and raised their family. She mentioned that her children, particularly her oldest son, dealt with discrimination because they were not LDS (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints). Her son was on the high school basketball team, but he rarely played. He also participated in track and excelled at the pole vault, not because of his practice at school, but from a pole vault pit he built at the family home. After the War Hanami felt that they were discriminated against because they were Japanese American, not because they were not LDS. She concluded by mentioning how Tug took a construction job, leaving her and her children to work the farm.
67:00	25	<b>END OF INTERVIEW</b>

**NAMES AND PLACES INDEX**

Chicago, Illinois

Edgewater Beach Hotel (Chicago, Illinois)

Grand Tetons [mountain range in Idaho/Wyoming]

Green Lake District (Seattle, Washington)

Hanami, Takeshi “Tug”

Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Minidoka Relocation Camp

O’Brien, (?) [Professor of Law at University of Washington, 1940s]

Petal, Mississippi

Puyallup, Washington

Rexburg, Idaho

Seattle, Washington

Sugar City, Idaho