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Hiromi Dye

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Interviews conducted by
David Dunham and Candice Fukumoto
in 2013

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Hiromi Dye

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Interview 1: July 26, 2013

Audio file 1

Fukumoto: So if you could state your name, where you were born, date of birth.

01-00:00:09

Dye: My name is Hiromi Matsumoto. I married H. Wesley Dye, so I've been known as Mrs. Harold Wesley Dye.

Fukumoto: And where were you born?

01-00:09:28

Dye: I was born in Sacramento, in 1922. At that time, my father owned a fruit orchard in Solano County. Winters, California. I was my parents' first born, and all the major medical things took place in Sacramento, because my mother spoke and understood only Japanese. She learned a little English later on in her life, but she was primarily a Japanese-speaking individual.

Fukumoto: What was your childhood like? What is some of your earliest memories growing up? What kind of things did you do, enjoy?

01-00:01:35

Dye: My father had an orchard and he had an employee family of Spanish-speaking—the parents spoke English and the children spoke Spanish, as they grew up. So I didn't learn much English until I started elementary school.

Dunham: What was your elementary school like?

01-00:02:18

Dye: It was a one-building, two-room affair. One was from first through fourth, and the other room was fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth. Olive District Elementary School.

Dunham: What was the ethnic makeup of the students?

01-00:02:50

Dye: I think the students were primarily Spanish. Spanish from Spain. The fathers worked in the orchards. My father owned a sixty-one acre orchard, and he had a full-time Spanish worker. So Mary was about my age, and she was the oldest child of four kids that worked for my dad.

Dunham: Did both your mother and father immigrate from Japan?

01-00:03:51

Dye: My father came probably like 1918. He's a very early pioneer. My mother came a couple years before I was born.

Dunham: Do you know what part of Japan they came from?

01-00:04:18

Dye: Yes. Okayama.. My father came in the very early 1900s, probably late 1800s. Now, my mother came probably three years before I was born.

Dunham: So how did they meet?

01-00:04:57

Dye: Arrangement. Like most marriages were at that time. I guess it was a privilege for a Japanese woman to be picked as a bride. Generally, it's true, because the man was quite a bit older and had developed property or some assets here in the United States, and was in a very good financial situation to go to Japan to pick a wife.

Fukumoto: What was your relationship like with your parents? Were you close to your mom? Were you close to your dad?

01-00:06:05

Dye: With my mother and father? Oh, very good. Since I was the oldest child, they relied on me later in life. They lived in Los Angeles the last years of their life. They died in this country, and so I have their cemetery.

Dunham: Growing up, did you work in the orchard?

01-00:06:46

Dye: Somewhat. The orchard that my father owned was someplace where the fruits were ripe and ready for the market in late May, and so there was very little that I can do, as a child. But a little east of where my father's orchard was they had the cutting, fruit-drying business. So as a child, after my father was finished with fresh shipments that he made, I used to drive to the flatlands to cut, dry fruit.

Dunham: Was that hard work?

01-00:07:59

Dye: Yeah. Standing and manipulate that knife so you get the pit out.

Fukumoto: Wow. Do it all day.

01-00:08:13

Dye: People like me, when we were teenagers, were real good. Very fast and reliable. So we got paid by the number of boxes we could cut.

Dunham: Do you remember what you got paid per box or per day, about?

01-00:08:45

Dye: Probably like twenty cents a box. Something of that order.

Dunham: So what was school like? You described that classroom; did you stay there all through eighth grade, then?

01-00:09:02

Dye:

The school I went to was Olive District Elementary School. Originally, one teacher had eight classes, first through eight. Somehow, when I got ready to go, it was divided, and there were two teachers. One teacher for four grades and another teacher for four plus, through the eighth grade. So it was within walking distance from my home. Olive District Elementary School.

Dunham:

What did you do for fun, growing up in Winters?

01-00:09:55

Dye:

For fun? Well, lots of things. Sometime during my elementary grades, my neighbor developed a library. So I was within walking distance to a district library.

Dunham:

What are some of the earliest books you remember reading?

01-00:10:29

Dye:

God! I can't—I remember I read most of everything she had. I can't remember any, just a pile.

Dunham:

What did you do for play? Did you like the outdoors, did any sports?

01-00:10:52

Dye:

I wished for playmates. I think when I was like four and a half years old my father hired a family that had, I think, four children. The oldest was like three months younger than me.

Dunham:

So you became friends and playmates?

01-00:11:31

Dye:

And I learned Spanish before I learned English.

Dunham:

Oh, wow.

01-00:11:37

Dye:

So in elementary school, I knew Japanese and I knew Spanish, and very little English.

Dunham:

But the classes in elementary school were all in English?

01-00:12:00

Dye:

Well, there were six or seven of us. Very small. Olive District Elementary School.

Dunham:

Do you remember your teachers?

01-00:12:19

Dye:

Yes. Especially in my higher grade, because she was my private teacher in piano. So I knew her outside of the classroom. But the teacher of the elementary grades was someone there who had been there forever and lived in

town. So we visited her and took her our fruits. A very friendly relationship with that teacher.

Fukumoto: So high school. Where did you go? You went to high school in Winters, right?

01-00:13:22

Dye: Yes. Yes. Winters Joint Union High School. It was four miles from home, and I had gotten a special driver lesson because there was no bus service. I drove to my high school.

Dunham: What kind of car did you drive?

01-00:14:02

Dye: I think it was a Chevrolet. Standard shift.

Dunham: Who taught you to drive?

01-00:14:16

Dye: My father. My father. I learned to drive. I had to have a special permit, because I had made elementary grades in seven years, and I was too young to drive. So they gave me a special permit in Sacramento to drive four miles, from home to high school.

Dunham: And what was the high school like?

01-00:14:56

Dye: Big, compared to the little elementary school. They had intramural sports. It was a fairly well-rounded high school.

Dunham: Did you play sports?

01-00:15:16

Dye: Yes, but I was not much, or not a long one on sports. Public speaking was my major effort.

Dunham: What type of public speaking? Do you remember the types of speeches or events?

01-00:15:37

Dye: Yes. Centered on citizenship. We had contests between schools.

Fukumoto: Did you continue playing piano in high school?

01-00:15:56

Dye: I learned to play the piano probably fifth grade, fourth or fifth grade. But the only association with school was that my teacher was a private teacher, who was a public school teacher, up a grade at my elementary school.

Dunham: Do you remember about your speech on citizenship, sort of what the thesis was or what the main point was?

01-00:16:40

Dye: Yeah. What American citizenship means to me. There was a contest locally, and then I competed in Sacramento.

Dunham: What was the ethnic makeup of your high school, do you recall?

01-00:17:16

Dye: I think a lot of Spanish. Not Mexican Spanish, but Spanish from Spain. For some reason, the immigrants from Spain had lived in my area. That's before the Mexican Spanish came. My father had a permanent employee who provided a home, and it was a family with a daughter maybe six months younger than me.

Dunham: You mentioned her. Did you stay friends with her through high school and as she was getting ready to start—

01-00:18:24

Dye: Yeah, through high school.

Dunham: They lived with you all that time?

01-00:18:27

Dye: Yeah.

Dunham: Did she go to high school, as well? Or was she working?

01-00:18:36

Dye: She went to high school, but I don't know what happened to her since then.

Dunham: Did she go to the same high school as you did?

01-00:18:45

Dye: Yes. But I skipped a grade.

Dunham: So you were a year ahead of her?

01-00:18:56

Dye: Yeah. So I kind of lost contact.

Dunham: So she didn't drive in with you or that, no.

01-00:19:04

Dye: No.

Fukumoto: Your father, I believe, was a leader, right? He was pretty active? Was he a leader in the Japanese community? Were there other Japanese living year you?

01-00:19:24

Dye: Quite a few. There were enough so that I went to a Japanese language school on—I've forgotten whether Saturday or Sunday. It was extra work to me.

Dunham: Was that right in Winters?

01-00:19:49

Dye: Right in Winters. My father was a very active Japanese person, and he helped built a school not far away from our Joint Union High School. Sometime after we were relocated, the high school burned down. So they used the Japanese elementary school as a high school for a long time. I really don't know whether they ever got around to rebuilding the high school.

Dunham: Did you go to church or temple or other community organizations, growing up? Did you go to church services, or was religion a role in your life growing up?

01-00:21:00

Dye: No. Religion wasn't much of me until I went to Cal Berkeley and I lived in a Buddhist dormitory, girls' dormitory.

Dunham: Was that near Shattuck Avenue, on Channing?

01-00:21:27

Dye: 2121 Channing.

Dunham: The temple's still there.

Fukumoto: It is still there.

Dunham: We were there a couple months ago, for a—

01-00:21:34

Dye: Oh, were you there?

Dunham: Yeah, yeah.

01-00:21:36

Dye: Yeah, I saw it two years ago, four years ago. Is there any activity there?

Fukumoto: Yeah, it's still pretty active.

Dunham: There were several hundred people there. What event were we—it was in the spring, a spring event.

Fukumoto: Yeah, it was just a festival. But I don't know if it's a dormitory, still. I don't think it is.

Dunham: Yeah, I don't know about that, but the man we interviewed yesterday—what's his name?

Fukumoto: John Tomita.

Dunham: John Nagao Tomita stayed in the men's dorm there on Channing, around the same period. Do you recall a John Nagao Tomita? He's about your age. He's going to turn ninety-three next month. But he was there, in the men's dormitory. I assume that was right nearby, a men's dormitory?

01-00:22:29

Dye: Yeah.

Dunham: Since you mentioned UC Berkeley, how did you come to attend UC Berkeley?

01-00:22:40

Dye: It was always my desire to go to Berkeley, versus Davis. I was closer to Davis, but I didn't want to be tagged as an agriculturalist. I wanted to be more of an intellectual.

Fukumoto: Do you remember what you studied at Cal Berkeley? What classes did you take? What was your major?

01-00:23:20

Dye: As a freshman in Berkeley, I was interested in medicine.

Dunham: You went in the fall of 1941?

01-00:23:38

Dye: No, '40.

Dunham: Or '40? Okay. So you were there a year and a half?

01-00:23:45

Dye: Yeah. I had a solid freshman year, and then--

Dunham: Yes. So what do you remember about that first year and a half on Berkeley campus? Was that a big adjustment?

01-00:24:05

Dye: It was everything that I thought about. I lived in the Buddhist temple, 2121 Channing. My parents had a hard time paying for my education, so the freshman year was gravy. So I had to work sophomore year, which got disrupted.

Dunham: Where did you work?

01-00:24:46

Dye: At a household. They had a little baby boy, a juvenile baby boy. So for my room and board, I had to take care of him after school.

Dunham: Had you had experience with your younger siblings doing that, or was that totally new to you?

01-00:25:11

Dye: That babysitting was kind of new. Yeah. I have a sister that's seven years younger. I didn't know much about younger kids.

Dunham: Was that hard, doing that, then?

01-00:25:36

Dye: Yeah, it was new.

Fukumoto: Did you enjoy school at Cal Berkeley? Did you have a good time? Or was the work really hard, school work and studying? Or did you enjoy it? Did you enjoy your school experience at Berkeley?

01-00:25:56

Dye: Berkeley? Yes, very much so.

Dunham: What did you do for fun while you were at Berkeley? Did you go to any dances or parties or arts events?

01-00:26:09

Dye: Lots of things. Learned to play bridge. [laughs]

Dunham: Who did you play bridge with?

01-00:26:21

Dye: A bunch of kids. Yeah, I had a great time because I lived at 2121 Channing and got to know everybody.

Dunham: Was it predominantly a Japanese community?

01-00:26:39

Dye: Yeah. Japanese kids of Buddhist parents.

Fukumoto: So do you remember the bombing of Pearl Harbor while you were in school? Do you remember what your thoughts were, what you felt when you heard about the bombing of Pearl Harbor?

01-00:27:06

Dye: I'm sorry?

Fukumoto: What do you remember your sophomore year, when your studies were stopped because of war? Just what was your experience?

01-00:27:39

Dye:

Oh, really disruptive! Very disruptive. Because especially in the fall of 1941 I had to go home because they took my father away. He was a leader in Winters, and so I had to leave school to help my mother. The only other member of the family was my younger sister, who was seven, eight years younger than I. So it was a very disruptive part of my life.

Dunham:

Do you know where your father was taken, and did you have contact with him at that time?

01-00:28:55

Dye:

No. No, first he was in New Mexico. My father was a leader in that community, so he was not joined with the family until end of the war. Yeah.

Dunham:

When they took your father, did they also take any belongings, Japanese-related materials? And/or did your family hide or do anything with any things like that?

01-00:29:34

Dye:

No. My mother stayed until they shoved us all to relocation camp.

Dunham:

Go ahead. What were you going to say?

01-00:29:46

Dye:

That's all.

Dunham:

When they did shove you off, what was that experience like? Where did you first go?

01-00:29:54

Dye:

Well, I was in school when they asked me to come home. I never had an experience like that before. So I was the oldest and the only member of the family was my sister, who's like twelve years younger, maybe. Anyway, so I had to help my mother. She was a very nervous person to begin with, and very weak. So that was a very disruptive experience for me.

Dunham:

And where did you go first? Where did they take you—?

01-00:31:09

Dye:

First—I can't remember. Arizona? Is it Poston?

Dunham:

But did you go to Walerga first, for the temporary detention camp? Do you remember staying near Sacramento?

01-00:31:38

Dye:

Yeah, but that's not—I think—

Dunham:

Walerga. That would've been the temporary place. But then you went to Poston, ultimately?

01-00:31:38

Dye: Poston, yeah.

Dunham: Yeah. So what do you remember about arriving at Poston?

01-00:31:54

Dye: Well, everybody was civil. Nobody handled you badly. Everything was civil. But the whole thing was very traumatic. But people that were assigned, civil servants that were assigned to relocate you were very courteous. I have no negative thing to say about the white people.

Dunham: In fact, I don't mind if you do.

01-00:32:42

Dye: They had a tough job to do, and they did what they were told to do.

Dunham: What were the sleeping quarters like, or the cafeteria or food?

01-00:33:04

Dye: Oh. For some reason, because I had a year-plus college, they treated me like a liaison. They had me at the post office, where I met the public and handled whatever they needed to be handled.

Dunham: Because you were bilingual, also? Because you spoke Japanese and English, was one of the reasons? So what did you observe, working at the post office? What types of things were people saying?

01-00:33:49

Dye: Everything. Just everything.

Dunham: Would you tell us a little about that?

01-00:33:54

Dye: Yeah. I always had a front-office position. Because I was unusual, to have had any college. I was a sophomore when all this stuff happened.

Dunham: Were you able to communicate with your father by letter, while you were in camp?

01-00:34:35

Dye: No. Didn't even know where he was. No address, no nothing.

Dunham: Wow. That must've been very traumatic.

01-00:34:45

Dye: Yeah. Especially for my mother. She was really out. Yeah.

Dunham: Did she require any medical intervention, then, when she was so distressed?

01-00:34:58

Dye: No. Just everyday kindness.

Dunham: Aside from you and your sister, did you have any other family or friends that were able to comfort her?

01-00:35:14

Dye: Lots of friends in the community, yeah. She wasn't the only one; there were others in a similar situation.

Dunham: What else do you remember about camp life? What kind of activities were there? Were there films or sports?

01-00:35:46

Dye: Well, that depends. See, the first camp we went to was very temporary. But you saw the Japanese initiative in that within weeks after we got there they had groceries—well, vegetables—growing out in the desert, and irrigation in this desert, from I don't know where. But they were growing vegetables within days of being put there. So it was shocking, but you could feel that this isn't going to last forever.

Dunham: Well, I'm thinking back to your high school speech on citizenship that you'd written before any of this had occurred, and you must've had any idea that your citizenship would be so severely violated. But what thoughts, then or now, do you have about this violation of your citizenship.

01-00:37:10

Dye: Relocation.

Dunham: It's really unprecedented; and hopefully, nothing like it ever happens again. But what did you and your family feel then, and/or later?

01-00:37:26

Dye: Well, I think it hurt my mother because my father was regarded as a dangerous leader, so he was tucked away. He did not join the family until the end of the war, I think. Yeah. He was not with her. He may have joined her after I was relocated to Mount Holyoke. But that was months and a year or so.

Dunham: What happened to your family's property and business?

01-00:38:20

Dye: Well, the property was there when we got back. But a fruit orchard needs annual tending and that. So they moved from Winters to Los Angeles. Bye-bye.

Fukumoto: Wow.

01-00:38:50

Dye: Bye-bye.

Fukumoto: What did your father do in Los Angeles? What kind of work did your father do in Los Angeles?

01-00:39:03

Dye: My father? He lived here in Culver City. Yeah. My parents moved to Culver City, and he tended yards for people. But he never had an orchard, never.

Dunham: So that was significant, from having run his own business to having to do that work. How did he feel about sort of that loss of opportunity?

01-00:39:50

Dye: I think he was fairly old anyway.

Dunham: He was older.

01-00:39:58

Dye: He never was a resentful person. He took things as they were. So I think it was the way things turned out.

Fukumoto: What did you do? What did you do after camp?

01-00:40:36

Dye: Everything is complicated for me. Let's see. I applied for—I think it was a Mormon church organization, to be relocated. So somebody at Mount Holyoke took an interest in my résumé because I had one year plus several months of college. So they got me into Mount Holyoke College.

Dunham: Before the camps closed, you were able to transfer college [audiofile skips] through the Quakers?

01-00:41:48

Dye: Quakers.

Dunham: Quakers, yeah. So how did you get connected with them, do you know?

01-00:41:54

Dye: They picked me. I think I filled out a questionnaire, indicating I wanted to continue, finish my education.

Dunham: Did they come and meet with you? Or what do you remember about that?

01-00:42:15

Dye: Correspondence. And took me months to get cleared.

Dunham: Did you have to do a lot of loyalty-type stuff or questionnaires?

01-00:42:30

Dye: A lot of waiting. Waiting, waiting. Yeah.

Dunham: Yeah. What were you feeling then, while you were in the camp but had that hope of transferring? Were you worried about your mother, also, given that she had been struggling?

01-00:42:48

Dye: Yeah. My father was separated, in a New Mexico place. And my poor mother, the only ones she could rely on was me and my sister, who was like twelve years younger than me. But anyway, she let me go to Mount Holyoke.

Dunham: Do you remember what year you went to Mount Holyoke then? Was it in the fall?

01-00:43:32

Dye: Probably '42.

Dunham: Forty-two? So you were in the camp less than a year.

01-00:43:44

Dye: Yeah, camp for one year plus, yeah. I wasn't there very long.

Dunham: So what was it like when you got to Mount Holyoke?

01-00:43:59

Dye: Lost. [laughs] Yeah, my father had saved \$400 for me to buy an overcoat. So here in Arizona to Mount Holyoke, in South Hadley, Massachusetts. I really had to have a new coat. Yeah.

Dunham: What else do you remember about getting to Mount Holyoke, those initial days?

01-00:44:39

Dye: Well, it was a big adjustment for a Californian to get used to New England, I think. But I had friendly classmates, and they all knew my situation, and they were very kind and sympathetic with me. So I adjusted very well, I think. I really owe Mount Holyoke. Very receptive environment.

Dunham: Were there any other Japanese Americans there in Mount Holyoke?

01-00:45:26

Dye: A graduate student, but a very short while. She was not that friendly a person, anyway. She was from Seattle, Spokane, I think, somewhere like that.

Dunham: So she wasn't a good friend. How did you make friends there?

01-00:45:59

Dye: My classmates. One of my best classmates was a Caucasian girl, whose father was a diplomat in Tokyo. Helen {Durgen?}, it was. And Mr. {Durgen?}, her father, was a religious Christian diplomat in Tokyo for many years. So I was very fortunate, and she invited me to her home in Connecticut during Christmas and stuff like that. Very lucky.

Dunham: What was that like culturally, to be in this strange, very different environment, and in their home?

01-00:47:02

Dye: Well, I was grateful. One of the Japanese people in Boston—she was a Japanese woman; her father was a commercial Japanese guy, and she invited me to her home for vacation. People were very friendly. Helped me.

Dunham: What did you major in at Mount Holyoke?

01-00:47:55

Dye: Just mostly biology, medical stuff.

Dunham: You were still interested in medicine.

01-00:48:04

Dye: Yeah.

Dunham: Did you continue your studies there and graduate from Mount Holyoke?

01-00:48:09

Dye: Yes.

Dunham: In biology or in pre-med?

01-00:48:18

Dye: Medical stuff, but very biology-, zoology-oriented.

Fukumoto: Did you continue that kind of work after college? What kind of work did you do after college?

01-00:48:42

Dye: Let's see. I ended up in Syracuse, New York. There, I met my husband. His father was a professor at University of Syracuse, so I ended up—he had got a job at Reynolds Metals, and we moved here. We lived in this house.

Dunham: What had brought you to Syracuse?

01-00:50:04

Dye: Postgraduate work.

Dunham: What kind of work were you doing?

01-00:50:10

Dye: Well, I was pre-med all along, and so it was biological sciences. The guy that brought me to Syracuse was a behavioral scientist, which I didn't take very kindly to. He conditioned lambs and—

Dunham: So did you have ethical concerns about it?

01-00:51:05

Dye: I don't think it was ethical; I was more uninterested. [laughs] Heck with ethics. [laughs]

Dunham: So was that the end of your science career?

01-00:51:19

Dye: Yeah.

Dunham: Yeah? Okay. Wow. When you were back at Mount Holyoke, were you corresponding with your mother and sister and your father? Were you able to write to them and back and forth?

01-00:51:36

Dye: No, no. I could correspond with my mother and sister, but I did not know where my father was until he was released, at the end of the war.

Dunham: But he had been able to give you the money for the coat? Or did you have that already? Because you mentioned you had the \$400 that you used towards a coat.

01-00:52:05

Dye: Oh, I had that.

Dunham: Yeah, you just had it as an emergency. And winters in Mount Holyoke was an emergency, right?

01-00:52:14

Dye: Yeah, right. Yeah.

Dunham: So you were glad to come back to California, after you met your husband?

01-00:52:23

Dye: Oh, I remembered the coat. Yeah, my father knew I was destined for a cold climate.

Fukumoto: He already knew that, huh?

Dunham: Do you remember hearing of the end of the war, hearing of V-J Day, and how you felt then?

01-00:52:56

Dye: End of the war?

Dunham: Yeah, at the end of World War II, and what feelings you had then.

01-00:53:05

Dye: I was mixed up. I had made friends who had helped me a lot, like my friend in Connecticut. So my parents had moved here, and I was floundering around.

So they were settled here in South Los Angeles, while I was trying to decide what I wanted to do for my life. Yeah.

Dunham: And how did you meet your husband and what was his ethnicity, if you don't mind my asking?

01-00:54:08

Dye: Bridge table. Yeah. He was an excellent player. So that's how I met him. But that was at Cascadilla Hall in—

Dunham: Syracuse?

01-00:54:31

Dye: What school was it?

Dunham: Did you say Syracuse?

01-00:54:37

Dye: No.

Dunham: No?

Fukumoto: Mount Holyoke? In Mount Holyoke, did you meet him, play cards with him?

01-00:54:50

Dye: I finished Mount Holyoke, and I—

Fukumoto: And then you met him.

Dunham: And if you don't mind my asking, what was his ethnicity?

01-00:55:01

Dye: He was white, Mormon.

Dunham: So what was that like, dating a white Mormon then, and how did your parents feel?

01-00:55:15

Dye: He was not much of a Mormon. He was brought up as a Mormon, but his mother diverted from it, pretty much. And he was a non-Mormon.

Dunham: And this is in the late 1940s that you met? Were there any challenges of being of different races as a couple, and then marrying?

01-00:55:40

Dye: No. No. For some reason. And I should have experienced that because we lived in Virginia for a long time. I don't know.

Dunham: Never experienced—?

01-00:55:56

Dye: People didn't bother us.

Dunham: What part of Virginia did you live in?

01-00:56:04

Dye: Richmond. I worked at Thalhimers Department Store. And I taught knitting for the arts and craft and knitting department.

Dunham: How had you learned knitting?

01-00:56:31

Dye: I taught myself.

Dunham: As a child?

01-00:56:35

Dye: Yeah. It was nothing for me. It was like reading a book.

Dunham: When you came to Los Angeles, did you continue to work?

01-00:56:55

Dye: No, my parents were pretty well located, and I had babies.

Dunham: So you were a fulltime mother then. Okay.

01-00:57:09

Dye: Yeah. *Little* babies.

Dunham: Well, that's an overwhelming job. But I know you had been pre-med and clearly, were very intelligent, successful in all your studies, so I just wondered if you ever longed to kind of pursue that.

01-00:57:31

Dye: No, but I'm receptive to my offspring. But no one is in medicine. I've got a whole bunch that are bank- and commercial-oriented.

Dunham: And a music professor, also, right?

01-00:57:58

Dye: Yeah. Ken is a professor at Notre Dame, and—

Dunham: Tom, we met Tom.

01-00:58:11

Dye: Tom is agricultural.

Dunham: Well, is there anything else you would like to add today about your experiences during any of these periods, really? Was there anything we didn't ask you about that you'd like to share?

01-00:58:38

Dye: Yeah. Well, it was interesting, but a trying experience. I don't regret living the obstacles that I did. It made it a very interesting life.

Fukumoto: Well, yes. Your story is wonderful. It was really wonderful to learn about your life. Thank you.

Dunham: Yes. You had a lot of perseverance and hard work, to get through; to have your studies at UC Berkeley interrupted; and then as you persevere and do what it took, working with the Quakers, I believe, to get to Mount Holyoke; and then dealing with that culture shock, right?

01-00:59:43

Dye: Yeah.

Dunham: Of weather and people and everything, right? But looking back, is there anything that you reflect on? I understand you see it as the journey that you were on; but I'm still drawn to— I wish we had a copy of your citizenship speech, because it'd be interesting to see what was brought out in that, versus how your rights are—

01-01:00:12

Dye: Everything in life that I've encountered has been a surprise. Everything is a surprise. Yeah. I didn't think that my education would be disrupted as badly as it was. I really owe Mount Holyoke. A really solid place to put me in a very turmoilish future. I began life very calm. My father was boss. He owned the orchard. And then to be subjected to everything was kind of interesting.

Dunham: Yeah. Well, today has been a very nice surprise for us, so I just want to conclude with that. Thank you very much for sharing your stories with us today. We really appreciate it.

01-01:00:30

Dye: Yeah, thank you.

Fukumoto: Yes, thank you.

[End of interview]