

## Patty L., 08-26-22.mp4

### Transcript

**Lata Murti:** [00:02:02] But I'm guessing you want Patricia

**Patty Lunn:** [00:02:12] No, I'd rather go by Patty.

**Lata Murti:** [00:02:14] Okay.

**Patty Lunn:** [00:02:16] I mean. That is my name, but. It's too formal, and I'm not formal. As you can tell.

**Lata Murti:** [00:06:15] So, Patty, let's start with when and where you were born.

**Patty Lunn:** [00:06:23] I was born in July on the 18th. In 1941. I am old. And I was born in Long Beach, California.

**Lata Murti:** [00:06:34] One of my favorite cities.

**Patty Lunn:** [00:06:37] I have not been there for 81 years.

**Lata Murti:** [00:06:44] Wow. I'm just writing down. Some of your answers. Right. Is there a reason you haven't been there? In that long?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:06:57] We've never gone down that way. We're not real fond of LA traffic. I mean, we did live in San Jose, but, you know, it's not as bad as L.A.

**Lata Murti:** [00:07:15] I understand that. So, July 18, 1941. Can you tell me about your childhood? What do you remember from it?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:07:26] Well, we were taken to an internment camp when I was eight months old, I believe. In Arizona. Well, first we were taken to the stables. But I don't remember any of that. Thank God.

**Lata Murti:** [00:07:48] Mhm. Right. The, at the Santa Anita.

**Patty Lunn:** [00:07:53] Yes.

**Lata Murti:** [00:08:02] So first taken to the stables at Santa Anita. And then which Camp?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:08:13] Gila River in Arizona. I don't remember any of camp. And I guess when I left, I was a little over four years old. I believe.

**Lata Murti:** [00:08:42] I interviewed someone else last fall who lives in Lompoc, who was also at Gila River, but she doesn't remember. She was very young. She doesn't remember it, but she did remember the reunion. I think she went to the reunion for it. I believe it was that camp in the 1980s in oh, in Las Vegas, I think because she brought the yearbook or brought the program book from it. Oh, did you go to the reunion?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:09:18] I did not. I didn't even know there was a reunion.

**Lata Murti:** [00:09:23] I didn't know either till she told me.

**Patty Lunn:** [00:09:25] Yeah.

**Lata Murti:** [00:09:31] What do you remember after camp in your childhood? Where did you go?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:09:36] We went to New Jersey, a town called Seabrook. And we lived there until I was six. And we lived in, like, barracks, just, like, kind of like camp. Except that we have separate rooms, you know. In camp. I think we just had cloth. Walls. And then, um. Move to New Jersey. I went to school there. Just grammar school. I mean, not grammar school. Kindergarten. And then we moved to Chicago. And we stayed there from, I was there from the age of 6 to 13.

**Lata Murti:** [00:10:43] So why the barracks in Seabrook, New Jersey?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:10:47] Well they were like the barracks. They were all connected. All the buildings, the homes were connected together, just like in camp. But like I said, they

did have walls for your rooms. And I think there were two rows, one this way and one this way. And then there were apartments back there with a big green area. That was, it was a common area where the boys used to catch bees and let them go.

**Lata Murti:** [00:11:22] Did your family choose to live there or were they sent there?

**Patty Lunn:** Yes.

**Lata Murti:** They chose to live there.

**Patty Lunn:** [00:11:33] Yeah. I guess a lot of the ah, some of the Japanese went there for farming. They knew they could get a job. So I think a lot of them went over there in search of work.

**Lata Murti:** [00:11:46] Is that what the adults in your family did? Did they farm?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:11:50] No. My father was a produce man. He and his brothers had, I believe, three stores. Down south. But they were all lost when we had to go to camp.

**Lata Murti:** [00:12:11] So three stores in the Southern California area?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:12:14] Right. He and his brothers, my dad and his brothers owned three stores, like mom and pop grocery, you know.

**Lata Murti:** [00:12:31] Could you tell me more about your family?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:12:35] Um, my mom was born in California. She was born in Sisquoc, right by Santa Maria. And my dad was born in Niigata, Japan. Now. I wish I had asked them more questions, but my dad said he was raised in a Buddhist temple. When he was 16. He came over here. And he had a Harley. He had a Harley motorcycle. I was shocked when I heard that.

**Lata Murti:** [00:13:16] Where did he have the Harley?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:13:19] At where he lived, I guess. In Los Angeles, California.

**Lata Murti:** [00:13:24] Oh, okay.

**Patty Lunn:** [00:13:27] We. We lived in Compton. I was born in Long Beach. We lived in Compton. When it was still really good. In fact, quite a few people live there that were in camps. But. Then I'm going back and forth. But. My dad and his brothers lost the stores when we went to camp. Then we went to.

**Lata Murti:** [00:13:56] I'm guessing he lost his Harley, too.

**Patty Lunn:** [00:13:59] I don't know what he did with his Harley. He said his ear was cut off once. And I said, from your bike. And he said, no. A screen door slammed on his ear.

**Lata Murti:** Ouch.

**Patty Lunn:** I know. I thought maybe it was his bike. But then. My mom was going to school in Santa Barbara to become a pharmacist, but her dad had a stroke, so she had to return to Santa Maria to help her mom. And then she met my father through a friend. I don't remember that friend's name. I don't know how long they were, you know, that they dated, but then they got married. My oldest sister. You know, I don't know where she was born. It had to be in Long Beach. And my--

**Lata Murti:** [00:15:04] Is that Claire?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:15:05] No, that's Carol. She passed. I think, you know what? I have never asked my sister. Well, Carol's gone. But where they were, if they were born in Long Beach as well. Um. And then Carol passed when she was 22. From kidney disease, uremic poisoning.

**Lata Murti:** [00:15:38] I'm sorry.

**Patty Lunn:** [00:15:40] Yeah, well, that was a long, long time ago. Yeah, me too. So Claire became the big sister. And then we had my sister Phyllis was born in Seabrook, New Jersey.

**Lata Murti:** [00:16:00] So it was Carol,

**Patty Lunn:** [00:16:03] Claire, Claire, me and then my little sister, Phyllis.

**Lata Murti:** [00:16:09] So four of you. All girls.

**Patty Lunn:** [00:16:14] All girls. She had lost one in Japan. They had a seven month honeymoon. I mean, they were in Japan for seven months. She lost a baby and she said, they said it was a boy. So he would have been the big brother that I never had. And. Um. In New Jersey. You know, I don't remember my, oh, when I was in kindergarten, this teacher forced me. I cannot eat a tomato, a fresh tomato. I have tried over. And over and.

**Patty Lunn:** [00:17:00] Over again. It's got to be in my head. But I cannot tolerate the taste. And she was trying to force me to eat my tomatoes. I still remember this. And I didn't eat them, so I was not going to get dessert. But this older gentleman who was a janitor there, called me over and I went with him to the kitchen and he gave me an ice cream. And to this day, I can't remember if I thanked him because I was so little. I just was happy, you know, that I got an ice cream. And we fooled Mrs. Elwell.

**Lata Murti:** [00:17:44] How diverse was SEABROOK, New Jersey, where you lived and went to school? Do you remember?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:17:54] You know, I really don't. I remember the ladies at the kindergarten or nursery. Most of them were Japanese, but the kids. You know, later. I don't remember. I don't think. You know, I knew that there were different races. You know, when you're a kid, you just accept everyone and you think you're all alike. And until you're poisoned somehow.

**Lata Murti:** [00:18:30] How about in Chicago?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:18:32] Oh, in Chicago, it was very diverse. I mean, I had a Swedish girlfriend and an Irish girlfriend. Roseanne McCarthy and Linda Swanson, still remember them to this day. And then there were a lot of, I guess, Puerto Ricans that started moving in the area and they would serenade me. I was like ten. But they would

serenade me. And then. Yeah, I learned a lot of bad things in Chicago. It's. It's. I don't know. I got a potty mouth and I really try to watch it, you know, but it's never left me, sadly. [00:19:27]

**Lata Murti:** [00:19:29] And that's because of Chicago?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:19:32] I think. So in the end, we lived in an area of the University of Chicago, and you either got tough or you got beat up. So I got tough. And, um. We used to just hang around the streets and sit on the curbs and go to the university. The university, uh, gym was our backyard. It was a block long. A block deep and it had a big yard in the back with a chain link fence all around it. On one side was, I think, a 12 foot fence. Wooden, was really, really tall and. We used to climb the fence and. Make snow angels and pitch tents and sneak into the gym and climb the ropes and, you know, just. Kid stuff. Uh. It was. It was. I enjoyed Chicago. But then my sister Carol was kind of going off the wayside, so Dad figured we should move. And we moved back to California when I was 13. [00:21:04]

**Lata Murti:** [00:21:06] Where? In California.

**Patty Lunn:** [00:21:08] Santa Maria.

**Lata Murti:** [00:21:09] Santa Maria?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:21:11] Mm hmm.

**Lata Murti:** [00:21:12] And you? Have you stayed here since?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:21:15] No. I went to high school here. Eighth grade and high school. And as soon as I graduated, I left for San Jose. Because there was nothing to do here. Nobody to play with. It was. I mean, you can go to the beach, but we weren't old enough to drive, you know. Six. Oh, that was Chicago. Oh, and then Santa Maria, yeah, from 13 to 18.

**Lata Murti:** [00:21:49] And I'm sorry. Where did you say you went after that? At 18.

**Patty Lunn:** [00:21:53] San Jose.

**Lata Murti:** [00:21:53] San Jose?

**Patty Lunn:** Mm hmm.

**Lata Murti:** Did you go to college there or did you start working there?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:22:00] I started. I got married. Wait a minute. I was already married. No, I didn't go to college. I just. Oh, I went to beauty school. At the beauty school; and the teachers, the counselors kept telling me, You're going to get bored, you're going to get bored, you need to go to school. And I didn't want to go to school. I didn't want anything to do with school I don't know why, I didn't do that bad but I was just interested in life, I guess. Kind of like my oldest son. He loves life. And, let's see, what else happened?

**Lata Murti:** [00:22:47] So what brought you back here?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:22:50] My dad and mom. Oh, from San Jose. I wanted to get away from the city because it was getting very crowded. It was quite almost a million people in San Jose. And we both retired at the same time, my husband and I, and we moved down to AG and rented there for a while. But then my husband said, I found a place in Santa Maria. And I said, I don't want to move in Santa Maria because I hate the wind. But we found a place. And so we're back. And we've been back since 2008. I hate the wind. My husband said the wind is fine. And I said, I hate the wind. Well, you know, when you're walking in the wind and your hair is standing up like this, well, yours won't because it's long.

**Lata Murti:** [00:23:50] Oh, it does, though, sometimes. I mean, it's long, but it's thick. There's a lot of it. It blows up everywhere and in my face.

**Patty Lunn:** Oh.

**Lata Murti:** Sticks to my lip gloss.

**Patty Lunn:** [00:24:04] Oh, funny.

**Lata Murti:** [00:24:06] So. You went to beauty school?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:24:11] I went to beauty school in San Jose.

**Lata Murti:** [00:24:13] Mm hmm.

**Patty Lunn:** [00:24:14] And I started working up there. At one place. And then I worked at another place. But then. I started losing my finger skin a lot, and then I started getting warts. So, I had to quit because I refused to wear gloves when I do curl--try to roll the hair with your gloves on. No, you can't do it.

**Lata Murti:** [00:24:44] So is that from the chemicals?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:24:46] Yeah, with. From the chemicals. So then I stopped and I went to. Uh, little private business school. And when I finished that, I started working for the Bank of Tokyo of California, and I was a teller there. And I enjoyed that job. But then I got pregnant. And I had a baby in '65, and that's when I quit working.

**Lata Murti:** [00:25:29] So you'd met your husband.

**Patty Lunn:** [00:25:32] There was another husband.

**Lata Murti:** [00:25:33] Another husband?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:25:35] A different husband. Yeah.

**Lata Murti:** [00:25:38] How did you two meet?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:25:41] A girl introduced us. A girl introduced us and we used to write to each other. And then we got married in Santa Maria. And then I got a divorce after 15 years. And then I was single with my three kids for about five years. And then I married somebody else. But that didn't last too long. Lasted about two years. And all this time. Well, by that time I was working again. I work for, uh, Transwestern Benefit Association. It was supposed to be like insurance. Well, these guys were all subpoenaed because it



was bad. It was. They took a crew of us up. To Washington State. To train me. I mean, to for me to train five girls to do my job in this Transwestern Benefit Association. And so I train the girls. The bosses got subpoenaed. One of the bosses was trying to print funny money in Washington and got caught right away. He was a pastor and so he was put in jail. He and the son. Then I was subpoenaed. Um. The business closed down. I mean, they closed it down. And then I went to work for a. An employment agency. Yeah. An employment agency where I find jobs for the people.

**Lata Murti:** [00:27:49] Mm hmm.

**Patty Lunn:** [00:27:50] And that was okay. I worked there for quite a few years, and then I worked at a. So where did I go after that? No. And then I started working for PG&E. In 1980, I believe, '79. And I retired 2005. Moved to AG, stayed there for about three years. And then my husband. My current husband. Um. Found this place in Santa Maria. So we moved down here. And I've been retired ever since. Well, not really. Women never retire. [00:28:39]

**Lata Murti:** [00:28:44] No, we don't. I mean, not that I'm there yet, but I can't imagine.

**Patty Lunn:** [00:28:50] No, you only imagine it.

**Lata Murti:** [00:28:55] So you've lived in a lot of different places.

**Patty Lunn:** [00:28:58] I have. Yes.

**Lata Murti:** [00:29:01] What? What was it like being Japanese-American in each of those places?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:29:11] I, at times when I was young, wished I was white. You know, I didn't want to be Japanese because after the war, I. I heard so many things directed at me, you know, like, go back where you came from. I'm from California, you know. But just nasty. And so that was kind of hard to get through. But the Japanese community here, I just hung around with the church kids, you know. And they were mostly Japanese.

**Lata Murti:** [00:29:50] This was in eighth grade in high school.

**Patty Lunn:** [00:29:54] Mm hmm.

**Lata Murti:** [00:29:55] What church was? The same church?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:29:59] Chicago--Same church. That's like my home church. You know, when I came back, I wanted to go to church again. And this neighbor and I went around to churches and I said, Why don't we go to my old church? Why don't we try that? Because I didn't know if she would be interested. She's, she's Caucasian and she loved it. So that's when I rejoined and she moved. She moved out, so. But I love that church. And I love my church family, too. Just wonderful people. You know?

**Lata Murti:** [00:30:40] How is the church different now than from when you went as a kid?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:30:47] There were a lot of young people when I was a kid. I mean, we used to have dances. We used to have scavenger hunts. We used to have picnics. I mean, we did all kinds of stuff, but none of the, kids are going to church anymore. They all move away from Santa Maria when they're young, you know? I mean, there's a lot of people here. When I was here, there was only like 13,000. That's why there was nothing to do except go to the beach. But we weren't driving. Well, we did while we were in high school. We went to the beach all the time. Or I did when I wasn't working. But, um.

**Lata Murti:** [00:31:36] So it was, it was mostly a Japanese church then, was it?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:31:43] Yes.

**Lata Murti:** Yes.

**Patty Lunn:** I mean. There were a few Caucasian families. I mean, we've even had Caucasian ministers. You know. And, um. But the church. Yeah, I love that church. It's too bad that not more people are coming, but a lot of them are all dying off, you know? So it's getting smaller and smaller because the children just don't come. There's no young people at our church. The youngest, I think, is 59. Once in a while, though.

Someone will bring their family and there'll be little kids. And it's so. It's so much fun to hear the little kids in the church. Yeah. You know, it's so cute. And the parents are all [shhh!]. But we love it. It's very enjoyable to have children there.

**Lata Murti:** [00:32:40] Can you tell me some more about your own children?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:32:43] I have three of my own and two step. There's Doug, who's 56. Scott, who's 54, and Jill who will be 53 in September. Three? No. Yeah. She'll be 53. Oh, 53, 55 and 57. And Doug, Scott and Jill. Good kids. And then my stepchildren are Nicole and Johnny. It's--

**Lata Murti:** [00:33:35] And where do they live?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:33:38] Um. My, my two boys live in the Bay Area. One's in Milpitas and one's in Mountain View. And my daughter lives in Australia. I'm not happy about that. But her husband had to move there, so she went. And she has two little girls. I have two grand. I have four grand girls. Two from my stepdaughter and two from my daughter. And then I have. Two. Three grandsons. Two from my oldest son and one from my stepdaughter. One works at Costco. One works for. Eight by eight, I think. And Jill works for. SLR something. I forgot what it's called. But yeah, they're all working. [00:34:51]

**Lata Murti:** [00:34:58] So how was it different for you being Japanese-American in Santa Maria when you came back? In 2008 versus before when, before, when you were a kid?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:35:15] Yeah, it's, it's fine. It's got too many people, but. I like it. I like Santa Maria. Except for the wind. You know. Good, people are nice here. I mean, I know a lot of Asians were getting hurt up in the Bay Area when they were all hating Asians for a while again. But knock on wood, I haven't seen any of that here. Thank God, you know. So that's good. And I'm not afraid to be out. Since there haven't been any incidences here in Santa Maria, I don't think. But. It's grown a lot from 13000 to 100 and something thousand now. And so it's changed. It's getting too crowded. Have to find another small town. No, I'm kidding. We're not going to.

**Lata Murti:** [00:36:27] Judy told me. You and I think Claire had a store.

**Patty Lunn:** [00:36:34] Oh, my parents.

**Lata Murti:** [00:36:35] Oh, your parents, too?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:36:37] My parents had the Oriental gift shop. Across from. It's on 166 West. It's now a bar and grill, I believe. Oh, it's across from Rancho Nipomo, if you're familiar with that restaurant. And so my. I mean, people used to come from all over. Jane Russell came in. Yes. Stood at the window and started singing. And I told mom, That's Jane Russell. But my mom embarrassed me and asked her for her I.D. because she wrote a check. I went, Oh, my God, I was so embarrassed. I must have been about 15. And I said, I asked my mom, why did you do that? And she said, Well, I wanted to make sure. I went, Mom, you could only tell it was Jane Russell! But she was, the Jane, was very nice about it.

**Lata Murti:** Good.

**Patty Lunn:** So they had a nice shop. And then they had one out. Oh, this was on Broadway. Then they moved out to 166. And people, like I said, used to come from all over. Just, you know. A lot of them said they came to see my dad because he had a beautiful smile. And he used to love to hear little kids speaking Japanese, especially if they were Caucasians. He would just get all excited and he'd talk to them, you know? It was really cute.

**Lata Murti:** [00:38:21] How long did your parents have the store?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:38:26] See. Gosh, I don't even remember the years, Lata. We had one on Church Street, then we moved to Broadway, then we moved to 166. And it was from, because.

**Lata Murti:** [00:38:41] So it was in three different locations?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:38:46] Yeah. Yeah. And my dad used to work as a ranch foreman when we first got here. And then he opened the store on Church Street. And he did okay, you know. But he went to Broadway and he did better. And then 166; and it wasn't one of

those--people thought it was, going to go in, you find all these junky, cheap toys. And no, they had nice things. Really nice things. So they made a go of it until he passed in 76. So we had to be, maybe. Oh, in '57, we had it already on, on Broadway. 1957, because my, my sister Carol died in 1957. So we had the store on Broadway already. So, it must have been '55 that he opened it or. Maybe a year after we got here, I'm not completely sure, but we were on Broadway when my sister passed. And then as soon as I left high school, I left. And then he moved out to 166. And that was a, well, if you ever go out there, you'll see the building. It's a beautiful building. And he had a pond with a red bridge going over there and wisteria growing from it. I love wisteria. It's so beautiful. And he even, he was a produce man. He, he worked for Farmers Market. Not the current farmer's market that we have at the mall, but. When my dad came here, he tried to find a job in a market because he was a great produce man. And these guys on North Broadway were failing poorly. I mean, the store was going downhill. So they took a chance on my dad because he was already in his fifties.

**Patty Lunn:** [00:41:09] Yeah. And they took a chance on him and that business was booming because he knew exactly what to do. Being a produce man, that they even opened one on South Broadway. And that's where he ended up working. You know, from the time he retired, and he had a knife that he used to use all the time, it was his knife. And for his retirement, they framed it, was really neat and they gave it to him as his gift. And they had a cake for him. And they put 60 something candles on and lit every one of them. So, yeah, he did really well there. And then he just started. I mean, he worked there at the. Produce. Worked it until he retired. And then I guess he just helped my mom, you know, at the store. I'm not sure what he did. He also made a float out of flowers for the bluebirds when we had a parade one year, he was very. Creative. My dad, he was very, very creative. You know, he, he didn't know English well. He spoke broken English, but we all knew what he was saying. And I tried to learn Japanese and he didn't want me to because the only time they spoke Japanese was when they didn't want us to understand. So I never did learn Japanese. I was learning a few words at the church from the older Japanese ladies, but. Most of them are gone now, so. It's back to English, which I don't really do well either. [00:43:05]

**Lata Murti:** [00:43:08] Did, did your dad become a US citizen?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:43:13] No, luckily he didn't. And I was really surprised when he told me why. I said, Why aren't you a citizen, Dad? You've been here since you were 16. He goes, I will never forgive them for what they did to my country. And I said, But you guys started it. You know, he never answered. But he said he just couldn't, he couldn't become a citizen. So, he was a green card. You know, until he died. He was very strict. Sorry, Dad. It's the truth.

**Lata Murti:** [00:43:55] How was he strict?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:43:59] Yeah. We couldn't go out with anything other than Japanese. And then when we ran out with Japanese, they weren't good enough for us. Um. You have to be home by 9:00. It's school tomorrow. You have to be home by ten. He said, as soon as you leave, I will never tell you what to do. And he didn't. He kept his promise because I went out with a friend one night and I didn't come home until. Late. And he didn't say a word. I thought, Oh, my gosh. He kept his promise. He was really a good man, though. Very good. And my mom--[00:44:44]

**Lata Murti:** [00:44:44] So, were your husbands Japanese?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:44:48] Only the first one. The second one was not and the third one is not. So I've been married three times. I got rid of them. But Steve, I've been married to for almost 38 years, so. It was a good choice. Yeah.

**Lata Murti:** [00:45:15] So your first husband was Japanese or Japanese-American?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:45:19] [00:45:19]Japanese-American. But he was like a Japanese, very strict with the kids. My gosh. I was the easygoing one, you know. But he was super strict. And I couldn't handle being under his thumb. I just, you know, because I'm like a free spirit and I just can't be squished. So that ended ours. Um. The second one. It's not like it, never even happened. You know? But the third 38 years. Yes.

**Lata Murti:** [00:46:15] So what aspects of, of Japanese culture did you carry into adulthood or maybe still practice today?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:46:29] Well, whenever somebody gives you something and it comes in a plate or whatever, you always give something in return. You don't return it empty. Sending koden. I don't know. You've never heard of koden? It's the Japanese, the older Japanese. When someone would pass, they would send money, you know, to try to cover, help, cover expenses. So that's another thing I do. But a lot of the younger Japanese don't. Don't even know about it somehow. So. You kind of have to remember, you know, if you think they know about it or if they practice it. But yeah, things are changing in the culture for sure.

**Lata Murti:** [00:47:28] Why do you think they're changing?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:47:31] Because the young people. I'll say that. Well, the Sanseis seem to be very interested in their culture. It seems like the third generation, because my kids, two of them took Japanese because they knew I couldn't speak and. My second son. Um. Kind of carries the tradition, and so does my. Well, they all do whenever they come, they bring something. It's called omiyage. Whenever you go to someone's house, you. You should bring something. You know, just. It could be very small, but just something. That's another tradition. I don't have very many Japanese traditions, do I, Steve? Yeah. I consider myself a banana. I was raised like a Caucasian child. But I'm Japanese, so I. Being a banana's white on the inside and yellow on the outside. Because I never learned to speak and. I don't carry a lot of traditions with me. Um.

**Lata Murti:** [00:49:03] Can you tell me about your tattoo?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:49:06] Which one?

**Lata Murti:** [00:49:07] Oh, I saw the one on your wrist. It looked like it--

**Patty Lunn:** This one?

**Lata Murti:** Yes.

**Patty Lunn:** [00:49:12] Oh, that's for. It's fire and water. Fire. Water. And this was the month my two pups that we lost were born in August because I have a tattoo here. And it's all the children, our children, and all the grandkids' flowers of the month. And this

comprises 11 people. And there's five flowers, I believe, because most of them are born in November. Nine months from Valentine's.

**Lata Murti:** [00:49:55] Yeah. Do you, do you do the taiko drumming or did you?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:50:00] I did, but I snapped the tendon in my arm. It's down here now. So the doctor said I cannot strike any drums. You know, because it just it popped. It's a lesson I've learned. You do not start playing taiko when you're in your seventies. You just don't. And you don't go gung ho. I'm very gung ho. So when he told us, you're not hitting it hard enough, I just went all out, you know. But that's how I popped my tendon. So I can't do it anymore. I can't even do the ji, because if I keep doing this, this motion just.

**Lata Murti:** Hmm.

**Patty Lunn:** My arm will wake me up all night. So I just. I can't do it. I can't even play the bell because it's a repetitive motion because they wanted me to do that. But I can't do that either. And I can't do with my left hand. So no more taiko. Which made me sad because it was fun.

**Lata Murti:** [00:51:13] Yeah, I've gone with my younger daughter now to a couple of the practices. Oh, good for you. Are you playing too?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:51:22] Are you playing too?

**Lata Murti:** Hmm?

**Patty Lunn:** Are you playing as well?

**Lata Murti:** [00:51:24] Sometimes. My, my younger daughter is the drummer. That's why I've taken her. She plays snare drum.

**Patty Lunn:** Oh, wow. Good for her.



**Lata Murti:** I know. Judy told me about the group. Yeah, and I recorded them playing a couple of times for this project, and I got my, my younger daughter to come with me because I said, You're a drummer. Learn, learn some new drums. And she's. She's really enjoyed it.

**Patty Lunn:** [00:51:52] Oh, good, good. She'll probably pick it up quickly. Yeah. See, that's the age you need to start. Not seventy and not she. She can. She'll be really good.

**Lata Murti:** [00:52:08] What got you interested in it?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:52:11] Whenever we'd see taiko drums, I'd start crying. I don't know why. I don't know if it's because it's part of my culture or. I don't understand. But whenever we'd go to a fair and they'd play, I'd start crying. So I thought, Well, maybe I can play. Big mistake, but I really enjoyed it. I really enjoyed it while I could. It was fun. I still love listening to it, you know? I'll have to visit one night when you're there. I'll serve you tea.

**Lata Murti:** [00:52:54] We need to contribute to the snacks next time because we've enjoyed the snacks and tea every time we've gone....We should bring some.

**Patty Lunn:** [00:53:04] Oh, good, good. That they're serving you tea.

**Lata Murti:** [00:53:08] Mm hmm.

**Patty Lunn:** [00:53:09] That's nice. We didn't used to do that. But somebody was going to visit one day and Judy asked me to come make tea and bring some snacks. So that's what I did. Ought to do it again. Watch you guys play. That'll be fun.

**Lata Murti:** [00:53:35] So do you do anything with the, with the Guadalupe Buddhist Church or.

**Patty Lunn:** [00:53:44] No, we only go to the Obon every year.

**Lata Murti:** [00:53:47] Mm hmm.

**Patty Lunn:** [00:53:47] But I think the taiko group is meeting with them. The Guadalupe Bunch.

**Lata Murti:** [00:53:52] Hmm.

**Patty Lunn:** [00:53:53] And they might start playing too. I'm surprised they didn't mention that.

**Lata Murti:** [00:54:01] I don't know if that worked out. They talked about meeting with Lompoc the last time we went. We went, what, August 10<sup>th</sup>? We went right before my, my daughter started school, and they were talking about teaming up with Lompoc or.

**Patty Lunn:** [00:54:17] Well, maybe it was Lompoc.

**Lata Murti:** [00:54:18] helping them get started.

**Patty Lunn:** [00:54:20] That's right. It's Lompoc.

**Lata Murti:** [00:54:22] Mm hmm.

**Patty Lunn:** [00:54:23] Oh, none of them play. I mean, it's. It's funny. It'll be the blind leading the blind. That's what one of the girls said. Oh, gosh. That should be fun, though.

**Lata Murti:** [00:54:40] Mm hmm.

**Patty Lunn:** [00:54:41] More people.

**Lata Murti:** [00:54:43] And so you and Margaret are friends, right? Margaret Cooper, are you both?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:54:49] No. No, I'm not. No, I've only met her through the, the flag signing.

**Lata Murti:** Mm hmm.

**Patty Lunn:** That. That was it. That's how I knew who you were. Because you had been there, too.

**Lata Murti:** [00:55:03] How did you find out about the flag signing?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:55:08] Somebody mentioned that all the, all the internees were supposed to go to the church in October to sign the flag that they're going to put in the memorial, I guess, in Santa Maria. And that's how we heard, I think it was from Judy. Judy keeps up with pretty much everything. So she knew. Uh, Judge Gogo

**Lata Murti:** [00:55:37] Mm hmm.

**Patty Lunn:** [00:55:38] Yeah, she knew. Judge Gogo. So she. Yeah, I guess she started the whole thing. I think she did.

**Lata Murti:** [00:55:50] How was that experience for you?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:55:55] It was, it was, it was nice seeing all the people coming and signing and knowing that it'll be up in the memorial building. And then the people here can see, you know, how many people have been there. I mean, there's a lot, there's not as many alive now, but there's quite a few of us. So. It made me feel good that we got to do that. I even got my sister who is. Oh, no, I told my sister about it and her daughter brought her to sign.

**Lata Murti:** [00:56:34] Claire? Was it?

**Patty Lunn:** Claire, yes.

**Lata Murti:** Where is Claire...now?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:56:42] She's at Merrill. Merrill Gardens.

**Lata Murti:** [00:56:45] Oh, you told me that. Yeah. You have to visit her.

**Patty Lunn:** [00:56:50] Thursdays.

**Lata Murti:** [00:56:51] Thursdays you visit?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:56:54] Yeah, well, I take her out to lunch, but I don't know how that's going to go now, so. So she hit her face. She did a face plant on cement twice. And that's what happened. That's why she ended up in Merrill, because she kept falling and she said, no, I want to stay home. But, she, you know, she'd fall all the time. So we moved her to Merrill. The kids moved her to Merrill. And then she kept falling there too. And she face planted the first time at her home. From her step up, down right on her face so she wouldn't hurt the dog. She was holding a doggie and she just went.

**Lata Murti:** Ohhhh...

**Patty Lunn:** Yeah. She didn't want the dog to get hurt, so.

**Lata Murti:** Ohhh...

**Patty Lunn:** Twice. And I think it juggles something in there, you know? So. I think she's had some TIAs? TAls? There's those mini strokes?

**Lata Murti:** [00:58:06] Yeah, I know what you're talking about. I'm trying to remember what—TIAs, I think.

**Patty Lunn:** Yeah

**Lata Murti:** Yeah.

**Patty Lunn:** [00:58:14] So it's just very sad. She'd be just like me if, not as loud mouth and talking, but she'd be up and about, you know, if she hadn't fallen. So. They have her in memory garden. Which, she's got a good memory. She is forgetting a lot of things, but it's because she's not. She's not working her mind, you know. So she just kind of. Tired of it. Very sad.

**Lata Murti:** [00:58:53] How old is she?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:58:55] She's three years older than I am. She's 83. She'll be 84 in November.

**Lata Murti:** [00:59:04] So growing up would your parents or older siblings talk about the internment camps at all?

**Patty Lunn:** No.

**Lata Murti:** No, never?

**Patty Lunn:** [00:59:15] They never discussed it. And I told my mom, you know, I can't remember anything. And she said, you're better off. But they really didn't talk about it. I don't know if it was shame. Or. I don't know. They never really talked to us about it. My dad went to Wyoming to work the sugar beets while we were in camp, so I hadn't, I didn't see him for like eight months. And then I saw somebody in bed with my mother and I started screaming my head off because it was him. And I didn't know. I was too young, you know? So I used to go around and beg for candy all the time in camp. My mother had to go looking for me every day. Oh, yeah. She was here. I think she went that way looking for candy. So she tied me to a clothesline. I wish we had a picture of it, but all our cameras were taken away. You know, I don't know if she tied me to the clothesline or one of those things that I could run back and forth. But when my sister told me that, it was hilarious because I don't remember, you know, I just I don't even remember going for candy. But I'd go begging every day. And then I kicked this one kid out of bed so I could sleep with his grandpa because I didn't have a dad. So I would take naps with his grandpa. Which was strange, they tell me. But, um. I don't remember. Nothing. And they'd never. I don't know why they didn't talk about it. I guess they just didn't want to. I think that's why my dad didn't want me to speak Japanese. He wanted me to speak English, you know, in America and all that. So. I don't know. I wish I could have picked their brains. But, you know, you always think about it later when it's too late. So.

**Lata Murti:** [01:01:42] So were there differences you noticed between being Japanese American in Seabrook, New Jersey. And then Chicago and then here. Um. And then San Jose. And then back here.

**Patty Lunn:** [01:02:03] Yeah. In Seabrook, I felt no prejudice. In Chicago. I felt no prejudice. It was when I moved back. We moved back to California, that started again. So.

**Lata Murti:** [01:02:23] Why do you think that is?

**Patty Lunn:** [01:02:25] I don't know. Well, Chicago was so diverse. You know, nobody's going to tell you to go where you came from because everybody is from somewhere else. Santa Maria. I don't know. I don't know why they picked on us. You know. But it's not like that anymore. I mean, I haven't felt that for a while. Long while. But even my husband and I going to lunch somewhere or something, that they would stare. I mean, we were up the coast and we were having breakfast and this man kept looking at us and shaking his head. So I told Steve, I said, This man keeps looking at me and then shaking his head. And so Steve turned around and gave him a glare and he never looked our way again. But it's because he's white and I'm Japanese. You know. It's very strange. Have you ever had that? Yeah. See, it's very. I don't know what it is. We're all people. We all look the same under the skin. Every one of us. But--[01:03:44]

**Lata Murti:** [01:03:46] When I'm not with my husband, people assume I'm Latina.

**Patty Lunn:** Oh

**Lata Murti:** And. And I speak Spanish, so it doesn't really bother me. But when I'm with my husband, people don't assume that. But when, like, when we're at the store in line together. Um. Uh, yeah. Usually that's when it happens. People never think we're together.

**Patty Lunn:** Oh, yeah.

**Lata Murti:** They always ask. They think we're going to purchase sep- that we're two different people.

**Patty Lunn:** [01:04:25] Yeah, we get that.

**Lata Murti:** [01:04:30] How is it? Yeah. Go ahead.

**Patty Lunn:** [01:04:33] Go ahead.

**Lata Murti:** [01:04:34] No. How was it different? How was it different when your husband was Japanese? Was that different? Like in San Jose. How was it?

**Patty Lunn:** [01:04:47] Oh, it was fine.

Lata Murti: [01:04:48] Hmm.

Patty Lunn: [01:04:49] I never, uh. San Jose is pretty diverse. I mean, the whole Bay area. So I didn't. I didn't see much of that in San Jose either. It's just some places, you know. Well, yeah, I did. At another restaurant I went out to. I went out to lunch with this guy who was Caucasian, and another woman kept staring at us. And shaking her head, I think, golly, it's 19, whatever it was, 19 something. Eighties or nineties. Why is this still happening? This is nuts. I mean, what's wrong with you people? But you know.

**Lata Murti:** [01:05:37] What about for your kids?

**Patty Lunn:** [01:05:43] Uh, my son came home from school one day. He was in kindergarten, and he said, Mom, what's a Jap? And I said, well. You are. I said, Where did you hear that? He said, somebody said that at school. And I said, well, it's just a. Not so nice way of saying you're Japanese. It's just the shorter way. And people usually do that or did do that. I mean, even out of the church, the one time we went out trick or treating, trick or treating for, for UNICEF, and we got to this one house and this Caucasian man was out there. We were all Japanese with my uncle, who was the minister at the church. And he said to us, haven't we given enough stuff to you guys? And one of the girls got really upset. And so my uncle said, come on, let's go. So we just left. But I couldn't believe it. We're trick or treating for UNICEF. What's that got to do with our race? I mean, it was stuff like that that used to really. No, it just really used to bother me. I mean, God. And it all happened in California again. You know, I just can't believe that. But it is what it is. It's funny, but I haven't. I haven't really. Noticed anything like that here, now, not lately. But I mean, it shouldn't be happening anymore. I don't think.

[01:07:49]

**Lata Murti:** [01:07:53] The Japanese American community really is not growing any more, is it? [01:07:59]

**Patty Lunn:** [01:07:59] No. No. Because all the kids move away and, and go and do what they want to do because. The only thing here really is the beach. You know, kids want to do more things. So, you notice all the young kids leave as soon as they graduate. Which is very sad that we don't have any kids. Although the big, First church has a lot of kids. He's also a Filipino pastor and I guess he, yeah, he's been there longer than Pastor Mark. So, Pastor Mark couldn't really invite the Filipino families because he didn't want to steal from another church, you know. [01:08:45]

**Lata Murti:** [01:08:46] So that's Pastor Bob.

**Patty Lunn:** [01:08:50] Pastor Bob.

**Lata Murti:** [01:08:51] Yes, I've met him.

**Patty Lunn:** [01:08:52] Yeah. He's a very nice, very nice man.

**Lata Murti:** [01:08:58] But I think this is nationwide, right? People from Japan aren't immigrating to the US so much anymore. I think it's what I've read and heard.

**Patty Lunn:** [01:09:12] Oh, really?

**Lata Murti:** [01:09:13] Mm hmm.

**Patty Lunn:** [01:09:14] Probably not, because it seems like we're behind, you know, for some reason, we're way behind. Well, COVID didn't help either. So.

**Lata Murti:** [01:09:29] So was it mostly the Japanese American community here who shopped at the Oriental Gift shop?

**Patty Lunn:** No



**Lata Murti:** No? [01:09:39]

**Patty Lunn:** [01:09:39] [01:09:39] There were many, many people. Many people shopped. [01:09:43]

**Lata Murti:** [01:09:45] [01:09:45] Not just Asian--

**Patty Lunn:** No

**Lata Murti:** people. [01:09:48]

**Patty Lunn:** [01:09:48] No, no. I mean, Jane bought a whole bunch of stuff. Asian stuff, you know. And no, there was, there was a lot of, I'm sure it was very diverse. You know, people coming in. [01:10:04]

**Lata Murti:** [01:10:05] So did you grow up in the store? You and your sisters? [01:10:10]

**Patty Lunn:** [01:10:11] Um, well, I was in high school. So kind of. Yeah. We worked for my dad, and then my sister got real sick. So we covered for them. My mom. My mom mostly worked in the store. Um. And then she sold it after a while. I can't even remember what year she sold it because my sister was working there for a while. But then she, she needed to go out and get a regular job. My mom needed to find somebody because it was just too hard for her. My sister, she wanted. [01:10:52]

**Lata Murti:** [01:10:53] Which sister? [01:10:54]

**Patty Lunn:** [01:10:54] Didn't want. Claire. [01:10:55]

**Lata Murti:** [01:10:56] Claire?

**Patty Lunn:** [01:10:57] Yeah. So she started working for Hancock. I think she was a teacher's aide too, for a while. But see, I wasn't here, so I'm not sure what they did. Well, I was in San Jose. [01:11:10]

**Lata Murti:** [01:11:11] So are there any other favorite memories you have of the shop or. Favorite things that you sold or that people liked to buy.

**Patty Lunn:** [01:11:25] Not that I remember. Um. I don't know if I have a favorite memory at the shop. We just had to be careful and watch people and make sure everything was okay and wrap gifts and. Charge. It was, it was a good experience growing up. And then I used to work at Farmer's Market at the grocery store side. And that's what I did during high school a lot. And going to the beach.

**Lata Murti:** [01:12:10] [01:12:10] Which beach?

**Patty Lunn:** Avila.

**Patty Lunn:** Avila. [01:12:13]

**Patty Lunn:** [01:12:13] Where the boys are. You know that song? Is it too? Do you remember that song? [01:12:19]

**Lata Murti:** [01:12:19] I think so, yeah. [01:12:21]

**Patty Lunn:** [01:12:22] Yeah, where the boys are. So we used to go to Avila all the time. [01:12:27]

**Lata Murti:** [01:12:28] You and your, and your friends from church? The Japanese kids, or? [01:12:35]

**Patty Lunn:** [01:12:37] Well, two of the girls. One of the girls went to that church. Yes. She and I would go. And we would just go, just to see the boys and lay in the sun and get dark. When I moved to San Jose, people thought I was sick when I came back to visit because I turned white, because I couldn't lay in the sun anymore. I got real pale. Are you sick? No. Do I look sick? You're so pale. Sorry, because I would get very, very dark. Very dark. This one guy said all I needed was a red dot on my forehead. That's how dark I would get. But. [01:13:29]

**Lata Murti:** [01:13:30] So what do you enjoy at the Obon Festival?

**Patty Lunn:** [01:13:36] The food.

**Lata Murti:** [01:13:37] The food.

**Patty Lunn:** [01:13:38] We never saw the dancing. I like. We like the food and the crafts. And the girl I went with and her granddaughter. They even practiced dancing, but they didn't want to dance. So we left. She had to eat, did you eat outside? In the sun.

**Lata Murti:** [01:14:02] When we went this. Where did we eat? Yeah. We went to the park across the street from the Veterans Memorial and sat under a tree. That's what we did.

**Patty Lunn:** [01:14:14] Oh, that's a good idea. Yeah, we saw that it was outside, so we said, Let's go home because we didn't want to get all hot. So we came to my house and we had lunch. She's nice. I miss the crafts. Mm hmm. This one girl used to do all these earrings. Oh, my gosh. They were so nice. All kinds of jewelry.

**Lata Murti:** [01:14:41] Judy makes earrings now. She wanted to--

**Patty Lunn:** Oh, I know. Yeah, she wanted, I think, to sell them. But they weren't going to do crafts.

**Patty Lunn:** [01:14:51] Yeah, that's too bad, because everybody, I think, a lot of people look forward to that. You know, what they had out was. Plants, bonsai and stuff. Well, I'm not into that, you know, But jewelry, I can always. And it's all reasonable. The earrings and things, so. Yeah. Judy made me a couple of pair. Really pretty.

**Lata Murti:** [01:15:16] She made me a couple too.

**Patty Lunn:** [01:15:18] Yeah. She's really good. She is.

**Patty Lunn:** I know.

**Lata Murti:** [01:15:23] So you don't do the dancing?

**Patty Lunn:** [01:15:26] I don't do that. I'm very boring. Lata, I don't do anything.

**Lata Murti:** [01:15:32] I'm asking you this because this. This happens to me with. With other Indians and Indian Americans sometimes. Do you. Do people tell you that you're not Japanese enough? Like you were saying, that you're a banana. Do people tell you that in the community?

**Patty Lunn:** [01:15:52] Well, when they'd speak Japanese to me, I would say nihongo wa wakarimasen, which means I don't understand Japanese and they'd go, dame, which means bad. How awful. That's all they'd say. But yeah, they know I'm not. Oh, Judy noticed right away. She knows I'm not Japanese. You know, I don't know how else to put it. I'm not traditional. I am not your average Japanese old person. I'm just very different. [01:16:31]

**Lata Murti:** [01:16:32] How do you feel about that?

**Patty Lunn:** [01:16:35] Oh, I don't mind. I am who I am. No, I don't pretend like I'm somebody I'm not. Although I did want to be white when I was young. But no more. Um. [01:16:48]

**Lata Murti:** [01:16:51] When did you stop wanting that? Because I wanted that, too, growing up.

**Patty Lunn:** [01:16:55] Oh, did you really? Oh--

**Lata Murti:** [01:16:57] I didn't grow up in very diverse places.

**Patty Lunn:** [01:17:02] Hmm. Probably. I don't remember. I know, I said that when I was in Chicago a lot. I don't know why, because there really was no prejudice that I noticed. Nobody called me a Jap or anything, you know. Not that I remember there, but over here. So, yeah, they tell me. What kind of Japanese are you? I go, I'm not. When we went to a restaurant, that's what a girl said to me. What kind of Japanese are you? You don't like that. And we're not. [01:17:52]

**Lata Murti:** [01:17:52] Where was that?

**Patty Lunn:** [01:17:54] At a restaurant.

**Lata Murti:** [01:17:56] Here.

**Patty Lunn:** [01:17:58] I think we were in San Luis. This lady took us to this restaurant in San Luis. She knows everybody. Her name is Fran. She knows everybody. She knows people in San Luis restaurants and. That's who you should talk to. Fran.  
[01:18:20]

**Lata Murti:** [01:18:21] Okay.

**Patty Lunn:** [01:18:23] She's very talkative. She's really nice. Nice, nice lady. And she's married to a Caucasian, too, so. Um. Yeah, you should. I should. Fran. [01:18:43]

**Patty Lunn:** [01:18:44] She will probably kill me. I'll see if she's interested.

**Lata Murti:** [01:18:52] Yeah, please do.

**Patty Lunn:** And then if she's interested. Yeah.

**Lata Murti:** Thank you.

**Patty Lunn:** [01:18:56] Sure.

**Lata Murti:** [01:18:58] So, do you belong to any other organizations or groups?

**Patty Lunn:** [01:19:04] No, I don't. Did I used to go to a class? Trying to think. No, I. Did I belong to any organizations besides church, Steven?

**Patty Lunn:** [01:19:22] I don't think so. Huh. No. I did hospice for a while. My husband and. What? I didn't do that, though. You did. Yeah. My husband and I did hospice for a few years. And, um. That was very interesting. I thought, Oh my God, I'm not going to be able to do that. You know, because I'm very emotional. Um. But I went with my

husband. To see one of his clients who was dying or living with cancer or whatever he had, and it didn't bother me. I kind of. Separated myself or I don't know how I did it, but. It didn't really bother me that. They were going. Home soon. Maybe it's because of how I feel about the Lord. You know, it just. It's not. It's not, it's sad for the family, but for the person who's suffering, it's, it's the best thing for them. Is to go. And it would be kind of fun because I had to go to different houses and I preferred to do it with women. But sometimes we'd get a man and. Oh, it was just very interesting. It's changed my. We're watching these programs, too, that I watch. Near-death experiences. That's really changed my thinking on death. I am not afraid to die. I'm afraid of how I'm going to die. I just want to die in my sleep. Please. But you never know. But when I watch these shows. Like they were in a horrible accident and they, they had a near-death experience. They were like, dead. And they went up and saw the Lord and everything was beautiful. And you don't remember the pain you, you had. If you were hit by a car or if you were in an accident, you don't remember any of that. So I'm not afraid anymore. Well I'm saying that because I'm close. I'm 81.

**Lata Murti:** [01:21:55] So my dad says things like that, too. He's about to be 78.

**Patty Lunn:** [01:22:01] Oh, I didn't get to talk to him when. When he was out there. He looked like he was very interesting.

**Lata Murti:** [01:22:09] Yeah. I'll have you meet him sometime. He's. He's a retired neurologist, so he could tell us what those mini strokes are called. Yeah, I'm planning to ask him. I can't. I can't remember.

**Patty Lunn:** Wow.

**Lata Murti:** But that's what he used to do. Not here, though. Not in this. Yeah. So that. That got me thinking. And if you can't answer this question, that's okay. Are there any, like, Japanese practices or rituals you would want at your service or.

**Patty Lunn:** No

**Lata Murti:** No.

**Patty Lunn:** [01:22:53] Japanese rituals. I think the Buddhists do a lot of. They're more like Catholics. They have all these rituals and all these things they have to attend. Like when somebody dies, you do the wake, which is around the body. And you do the seven day and you do the 10th day and you do the month. I mean, it just goes on forever and ever, you know? And no. I don't even know if I'm going to have a service. I don't. I don't know.

**Lata Murti:** [01:23:31] What religious beliefs did you grow up with? Did you always grow up in church?

**Patty Lunn:** [01:23:38] Yeah, always Christian. My dad was a Buddhist, but. I don't know if he changed over to Christianity or if he just went to church with my mom so she would stop nagging him or something. I don't know. I don't know how that was.  
[01:23:57]

**Lata Murti:** [01:23:57] So did your mom go every, like, every Sunday?

**Patty Lunn:** [01:24:03] Oh, yeah. Mm hmm. She was a devout Christian. My mom. So when I told her I smoked. She really yelled at me. That's right. We try to bring you up as Christians and you go smoking cigarettes. Which. Is nothing nowadays. But you know, you shouldn't smoke those anyway. I did for too long. [01:24:33]

**Lata Murti:** [01:24:34] When was that? When you were a teen or in San Jose or.  
[01:24:40]

**Patty Lunn:** [01:24:41] From a teen to 50 years old or 60. From a teen to pretty old. I smoked for over 40 years. You know, it's a horrible thing to quit and you just can't. My stepdaughter is trying to quit. And it's I understand. It's just really difficult. [01:25:06]

**Lata Murti:** [01:25:07] What helped you quit?

**Patty Lunn:** [01:25:11] The Lord. I felt a lump in my throat and I sat outside one day and I said, If you make sure it's not cancer, I will never put a cigarette to my lips again, and I never have. Not even play, you know. And it wasn't cancer. So. I still have it.

**Lata Murti:** [01:25:38] Hmm.

**Patty Lunn:** [01:25:39] He says it's soft tissue. Whatever that means.

**Lata Murti:** [01:25:45] I just have a couple more questions. Unless there's something more you want to tell me. I have. I mean, I have as long as you have. I'm. I'm also, I'm also working on a book as a college professor. I'm working on it with some other professors and it's on women of color and how they experience sisterhood. And so I've been asking the Japanese-American women I've been interviewing to, to talk a little bit about that, if they don't mind me sharing what they say, in the book. So I. I mean, you mentioned the women in your life, your sisters, your mom, your two friends in Chicago, and. What does sisterhood mean to you as a Japanese American woman? Do you feel you have that?

**Patty Lunn:** [01:27:00] Yes, I do. I can talk to people at church. I can talk to my two girlfriends I graduated high school with. I mean, one is in Vegas and the other one is here. So she and I get together. I think it's really important for women to have women friends. I mean, because men always want to fix everything. Where women will just listen. You know, a lot of times women will give out a lot of advice, but you don't have to take it. Because you. [01:27:40]

**Lata Murti:** [01:27:41] Do you think? Sorry. Keep going.

**Patty Lunn:** [01:27:43] Go ahead. No, it's okay.

**Lata Murti:** [01:27:45] Has it been important to you that they share your ethnicity and race or no, you don't think that matters so much? Or do you think you need both?

**Patty Lunn:** [01:28:02] [01:28:02] I feel more comfortable, I think, with my Japanese friends. Why? I don't know. I don't. I had a Caucasian friend, but she moved away. The one that went to church with me. But I really don't have a lot of. Except for church, Mary and Nancy, that I could talk to any of them. And I think it's really important for us as women. You know. To have somebody we can confide in or. I think it's very important. And I don't know why I picked Japanese. But I think because that's all I see when I go to church. Oh, no, I see. Mary, Nancy. I don't know. It's just I feel more comfortable. And I



mean, my one girl friend from high school, I mean, she's known me for 60 something years, so it's. I feel comfortable. Talk to her. And Judy, Judy's a kick. I feel so sorry for her because, you know, she's taking care of her mother. And I know, I know that's not easy. It's not easy for her. I can see frustration in her face once in a while, you know? And I want to. Yeah, Sometimes I'd like to ask her if she'd like me to sit with her mom, but I don't know if her mom would sit with me. You know, to help us should get a break. I know she does leave her alone, but she has that camera with her all the time, so that's really good. [01:29:42]

**Lata Murti:** [01:29:42] Mm hmm.

**Patty Lunn:** [01:29:44] But I really feel for her. I do. Maybe I will ask her. Yeah. You know.

**Lata Murti:** [01:29:55] Or is there anything else you'd like to add or tell me? Particularly about your experiences here on the Central Coast.

**Patty Lunn:** [01:30:07] Oh, I think the Central Coast is wonderful weather wise. I mean, you can't ask for better weather. Um. My love is here now. Except for the wind. Yeah, I love it here. I said I'm not going to move. The only way I'm moving out of here is in a little cedar box. That's it. I am not moving physically anywhere. No more moving. This is it. And I don't know. I have nothing else. Not really. My mom was a great cook. I didn't learn from her. Unfortunately. Um.

**Lata Murti:** [01:31:04] Do you have any favorite Japanese foods?

**Patty Lunn:** [01:31:10] Yes. One of the worst things for you, tempura. It's all fried. Everything fried is good. So I really like that. That's my favorite thing.

**Lata Murti:** [01:31:25] Do you have a favorite restaurant here?

**Patty Lunn:** [01:31:30] Ichiban. That's where I go. I take my sister there every week. Just about. Yeah, because she likes. She doesn't get rice like they have, you know. So she enjoys her rice. I can't think of any experiences.

**Lata Murti:** [01:31:52] Well, if you do think of something else, you know how to get a hold of me.

**Patty Lunn:** [01:31:58] I do. You're not blocked anymore.

**Lata Murti:** [01:32:00] Happy to meet you again on Zoom. Or otherwise, we could talk. Talk some more. This. And this is an ongoing project with. With no strict ending. I'm just. I'm just grateful to hear people's stories and experiences and learn from them. This is why I went into sociology. So I really enjoy interviewing and learning from others. I'm also on the radio once a month.

**Patty Lunn:** Oh

**Lata Murti:** I. I'm one of the hosts for Central Coast Voices out of KCBX Public Radio in San Luis Obispo. So I actually, I interviewed Margaret Cooper for that. If, if you go to their website or if you email me, I can send you a link to the interview I did with her for the radio.

**Patty Lunn:** Okay. Wow.

**Lata Murti:** And then I also did an interview with. With Sensei Naomi Nakano.

**Patty Lunn:** Oh, yeah.

**Lata Murti:** and Alice. Yeah. About Obon this year. And then next Friday, I'm going to interview Alice one on one. Just like.

**Patty Lunn:** [01:33:33] Oh, that'll be good.

**Lata Murti:** [01:33:35] Yeah.

**Patty Lunn:** [01:33:35] Yeah. She'll remember a lot, I think. And she'll have a lot of stories for you. And she's very talkative. So that's, that's good.

**Lata Murti:** [01:33:46] Yeah, I can tell—

**Patty Lunn:** It'll be very interesting. Yeah.

**Lata Murti:** So please do keep in touch. Okay.

**Patty Lunn:** [01:33:54] Okay, yeah, I will. If I think of anything.

**Lata Murti:** [01:33:57] If you think of anything, or I might email you for Fran's information or call you for it at some time.

**Patty Lunn:** [01:34:08] Oh, yeah. I'll talk to Fran, too.

**Lata Murti:** [01:34:10] Yeah. Oh, talk to her first. Yes. Make sure.

**Patty Lunn:** [01:34:13] Yes, I will. Yeah.

**Patty Lunn:** [01:34:17] Oh, no, today's Friday. She always goes to the casinos on Thursday. So today's Friday, I can call her today.

**Lata Murti:** [01:34:32] So is there a title you'd like to give to this interview since that was on the form?

**Patty Lunn:** No, you can...Not much from her.

**Lata Murti:** [01:34:49] If you think of one, you can tell me. I actually usually don't title each interview. I'll just give a title to the whole project, but. But if you think of one, please tell me.

**Patty Lunn:** [01:34:59] Okay. Okay.

**Lata Murti:** [01:35:00] Okay. Do you want this recording? Do you want a copy of the recording?

**Patty Lunn:** [01:35:07] Oh, sure.

**Lata Murti:** [01:35:08] Okay.

**Patty Lunn:** [01:35:10] I'll see how. I just thinking, thinking, thinking.

**Lata Murti:** [01:35:16] I can. I can send it to you along with the, the transcript.

**Patty Lunn:** Okay.

**Lata Murti:** The transcript won't be great because it will be unedited.

**Patty Lunn:** Oh, okay.

**Lata Murti:** It will be like closed captioning.

**Patty Lunn:** Okay.

**Lata Murti:** Yeah, but I can. I can send that to you.

**Patty Lunn:** [01:35:37] All right.

**Lata Murti:** [01:35:38] All right. So thank you so much.

**Patty Lunn:** [01:35:41] Oh, you're welcome.

**Lata Murti:** [01:35:43] Please. Yeah. And if you think of anything, just let me. Let me know. You have my number and my email.

**Patty Lunn:** [01:35:52] All right. Thanks a lot.

**Lata Murti:** [01:35:53] Thank you, Patty. You take care.

**Patty Lunn:** [01:35:55] You too.

**Lata Murti:** [01:35:57] Bye bye.