JIM HANSEN: My name is Jim Hansen. Today is March 2, 2010. I'm in the Morgan Library conference room with John Matsushima doing an interview for the Senior Scholars' Oral History project.

I've already put an introduction on this. That was my practice. So I've already said that you and I are doing the interview on this date, in this room. Why don't we start with your background, your family history, your parents, what they did, and their background?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: OK. Well my grandfather came here to the United States in 1895. He came from southern part of Japan, Kyushu, and came on a ship. It took him one month from Tokyo to Vancouver, and then from Vancouver he went to Seattle. And them from Seattle he came to Denver.

And then he worked on the railroad for a couple years or so, I guess. And then after the railroad work finished, he found employment in sugar beet fields in Nebraska.

JIM HANSEN: So where did he do his railroad work? Was that in Colorado, or--?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: It was both Colorado and Nebraska. And then during the winter months his sugar beet work wasn't in progress. So he came back to Denver during the winter months and worked in restaurants, washing dishes and so forth.

But one year, when he was supposed to go back to the sugar beet fields in Nebraska, he missed the train. And so his alternative, I guess, was to see if he can walk a certain direction. Well he found that probably the best way was to walk down the South Platte River.

JIM HANSEN: Oh my goodness.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: So he walked from Denver on the South Platte River, and wound up on the St. Vrain River down here by Lafayette. And then after he got to the St. Vrain River, he happened to see a sugar beet dump. And I guess you've seen a sugar beet dump.

JIM HANSEN: Sure.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Well anyway, he noticed that there was a farmhouse right next to the sugar beet dump. And it happened that he saw a man outside of the house. And he met this man. And, of course, grandfather couldn't speak English. And the man that he met, he didn't know what language my grandfather spoke.
Well anyway, somehow I guess they got together. And grandfather was able to live in a two-room, wooden shack. And so he worked for this man a couple of years, I guess, around the farm, and made enough money.

JIM HANSEN: Do you know the man's name?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yes. Albert Leyner. L-E-Y-N-E-R. And of course he was of German descent.

But my grandfather made enough money there. And so he sent for my father. And this was around 1918 or thereabouts.

And then my father made enough money, so he asked if my mother. They weren't married at that time. But then she came over and they were married. And I was born in 1920. So this was in Lafayette.

JIM HANSEN: Right. Wow, what a story.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: So that's the beginning, I guess.

JIM HANSEN: Yeah, absolutely. So you were born in 1920, shortly after your mother arrived. Then you were born. At that point, is your father still a worker?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yes. He still worked for Leyner. And so my father and mother and grandfather lived in this two-room shack. I guess at that time my grandfather was married and she was there, too.

JIM HANSEN: So your grandmother--

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yeah. So she passed away. And then when I was born, grandfather went back and brought back another wife. So this was his third wife at that time.

JIM HANSEN: Right. So do you have memories of your childhood in Lafayette? How long did your dad work for Albert Leyner?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: He only worked there probably a couple of years. Because when that two-room shack-- I called it a shack-- got too crowded, then Leyner said that there was another farm about half a mile west. And so my father, mother and I, we moved to the-- no. No, I was still at that two-room shack until I was probably three, four years of age.

But anyway, in that two-room shack there were three of my brothers born there, too.

JIM HANSEN: Oh wow. OK.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: So it became real crowded. And that's why my father moved to the house west of the original farmhouse.
JIM HANSEN: How many siblings did you have all together? You had three brothers--

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: No, four brothers and three sisters. So there were eight of us.

JIM HANSEN: That's a big family, especially for something that crowded. Wow. All right. So about 1923, 24, you were three or four years old then. Then you moved to this other place.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Correct.

JIM HANSEN: And your dad was basically a sugar beet laborer?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: No, he started a truck farming, vegetable farming shortly after he got into the sugar beet business. But he still continued with the sugar beet farming.

JIM HANSEN: OK. So he kind of did that and then saved enough money to be able to start his own truck farming. What kinds of crops did he grow?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Well he had quite a number of vegetables-- lettuce, cabbage, tomatoes, cucumbers. So these were all produce for the Denver market.

JIM HANSEN: OK. He didn't have a car at this point. It was all wagon, right? Even though you called it--

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: It was all wagon. Yes.

JIM HANSEN: OK. And he had all these children. So I guess you were his workers, you were his labor force, or--?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: We had to do chores, had to milk cows, feed the cows, do a lot of the farm chores.

JIM HANSEN: So he had some livestock in addition to vegetables, then.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yes, we had--

JIM HANSEN: How big a herd? Or, what kinds of cattle?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: He just had a small herd. Of course there was a small pasture area around there, along the St. Vrain River. So I think he probably had 10 cows and one bull. OK. And that was the start of his herd. And that's when I got my experience in livestock.

JIM HANSEN: OK. Did you and your siblings go to school in Lafayette?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: We went to a small country school called Davidson school. It was in Boulder county. It was about three miles from our home. So we had to walk three miles one way each way.
And I recall we had two alternative routes to go to school. One was to walk along the railroad tracks. And the other was to walk through the beet fields.

JIM HANSEN: That's a lot of walking, three miles each way. Then what did you do when the weather was really bad, when you had--?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: We still had to walk.

JIM HANSEN: You did, even in snow and ice and everything?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yes. But I probably should interject one interesting point here. See until I was six years old, I only spoke Japanese because my father and mother both couldn't speak English. And so the first day I went to school, my father gave me a slip of paper with my Japanese name on it so that the teacher would know who I was.

So my birth certificate showed that my first name was K-I-C-H-I-R-O. So I didn't have a Japanese name. So the first grade teacher says, well this won't work. She couldn't pronounce that name. So that's how I got my name, John.

JIM HANSEN: OK. Oh really? OK, that's a great story.

Now what was your parents' approach to education? Did they encourage it? Or did they really need their field hands and helpers?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: In Japan, whenever they become a parent, it's almost imperative that they send their children to school. OK So I guess that carried over here in America.

JIM HANSEN: Great. So both your parents were literate. They could read and write in Japanese, of course. And they thought that was important for the children.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Right.

JIM HANSEN: So how was it, going into a rural-- were there other Japanese children, or were--?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: There were a few other Japanese students that I didn't know on the first day I went to school. But we somehow got to know each other. And of course from there on, we just spoke English.

JIM HANSEN: Right. OK. But most of the children in your class, I suppose they were German, Russians, of that ancestry.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Correct.

JIM HANSEN: And how did they treat you? Did they treat you--?
JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Oh, just like anyone else. I don't think color or race made any difference. You know, when we're young, we get along.

JIM HANSEN: Sure. OK. Well that's really interesting. And then as you're growing up, how long did you stay in this Davidson school?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Until I was in eighth grade. But it was interesting. Even while I was in grade school, I really enjoyed doing chores for the teacher.

During that time they had to shovel coal into the furnace. So I helped bring in the coal from the coal shed to the furnace room. Then they had to carry water from the pump. And they had I think a five-gallon container that they had for the school children to get their drinking water. So that was my job, to carry the water in pale from the pump into the water tank.

And then The other thing that I remember really well is that it was my duty to take the toilet tissues to the privies. And so I still remember that, since the classes weren't very big. But anyway, as you well know in the country homes, the outdoor privies were just one holers. But at this school they had three holers. So it was my job to tear out the Montgomery Ward catalog sheets, and that was, of course, the source of the toilet tissue.

JIM HANSEN: Right. So you read a lot of catalogs, right?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Right.

JIM HANSEN: That's great. OK. So eighth grade, you move on.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: At that time when I was in eighth grade at Davidson school, my father and my mother made enough money to buy a farm. And so they bought an 80-acre farm in Platteville. So I finished my eighth grade there at a one-room grade school called Whittier.

JIM HANSEN: Whittier?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Whittier.

JIM HANSEN: OK.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: And then I graduated there, got my eighth grade degree there, and then started at Platteville High School.

JIM HANSEN: Which high school did you go to?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Platteville.

JIM HANSEN: Oh, Platteville High School. OK. That must have been a small high school. Was it?
JOHN MATSUSHIMA: I think there were-- I don't recall-- probably 17.

JIM HANSEN: OK, yeah. Do you have memories of any of the teachers there at Platteville High School?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Well I remember the vocational-ag teacher. His name was Mr. Rice, R-I-C-E. He taught vocational agriculture. And that's when I joined 4-H and FFA. And so the projects were in livestock. And that's when I got my interest, again, in livestock.

JIM HANSEN: So you kind of come up the way that so many other of your students would ultimately come up. Now did you show any of your projects at the National Western Stock Show?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Well, I showed at the Weld County Fair in competition with Kenny Monfort.

JIM HANSEN: Really? Oh wow.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: But I might set one rather interesting story here. Kenny Monfort was quite a playboy. And so at the Weld County Fair, when it was time for Kenny to get his steer ready to go in the show ring, Kenny's father, Warren Monfort, couldn't find Kenny. But Kenny told me where he would be.

And so after Mr. Monfort called several times, no Kenny. And I finally told him, Kenny's reading a comic book under the grandstand. So we entered the contest. And he got first and I got second.

But then the following year, I showed against Kenny's brother, Dick. He was one of that was killed in the war--

JIM HANSEN: --World War II, right.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Well that time, I beat Dick. I got first and Dick got second. And then I think that was the year that we both showed at the National Western Stock Show.

JIM HANSEN: Now did you show the State Fair before?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: We showed at the State Fair, and then to the National Western Stock Show.

JIM HANSEN: So there was sort of a progression. You do county, and then you do state, and then you do National Western. OK. How did you do with the State Fair?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: I got champions at the State Fair.

JIM HANSEN: OK, great.
JOHN MATSUSHIMA: And that gave me a free trip to the Denver Stock Show. OK That was a real treat, all expense paid--

JIM HANSEN: Oh, yeah. Now do you remember what year this was? I can look it up, but--

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: It's in the archives. I saw it in there. They have a pamphlet there, National Western.

JIM HANSEN: Yeah. I can probably find it in your book, too. OK, great. All right. So you're in high school. What kind of animal did you raise for your 4-H projects?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: I was pretty fortunate. When I got these first and second places over at the Weld County Fair, and also the champion at the State Fair, two of the prominent cattle breeders here in the state-- Johnny Painter and Fred DeBerard-- they were real prominent cattle breeders at that time. And when they saw my name as winner, they wanted me to feed their calves.

JIM HANSEN: Wow. OK.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: And so I was able to get calves from three prominent cattle breeders. That was Johnny Painter, Fred DeBerard, and Stow Witwer. I guess the name Stow Witwer comes to your mind.

JIM HANSEN: Sure, sure.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: So I showed cattle--

JIM HANSEN: They were the very best.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yeah.

JIM HANSEN: Yeah, OK. So you're involved in this. You continue to do this all through high school, showing every year and really getting that kind of experience, and meeting people, too, who I'm sure will be important later in life, like Kenny Monfort, for example.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yeah. Well and then, too, when I was feeding these calves, I happened to see my dad throw in alfalfa hay to the steers. And it was a real lesson to me, because I soon found out that the steers would really start eating more grain when my father used to throw in some alfalfa hay. And later on, I learned that cattle needed roughage to go along with the grain to increase feed intake.

JIM HANSEN: OK. Lots of good lessons that you'll try later.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: And then, too, while I was raising these calves, my father told me that sometimes when the calves wouldn't eat as much grain as they probably should, boil the feed.
And so that kind of stuck in my mind until I went to college. And that was one reason that probably started me on this flaking grain.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Sure, sure. OK. Wow.

Did you have other interests besides agriculture when you were in high school?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Oh, I really didn't have much time.

JIM HANSEN: I bet you didn't. OK.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Because I had to do chores at the home.

JIM HANSEN: You didn't have time to read comic books.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: No. Actually, our parents wouldn't let us read comic books.

JIM HANSEN: OK, right. All right. So I guess with this background, it was just assumed you'd go onto-- I guess it was--

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: 1939.

JIM HANSEN: '39. So it was Colorado A&M by then, or Colorado State College of Agriculture and Mechanic arts.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yeah. So when I graduated Platteville High School I was valedictorian. And so that gave me a National Merit scholarship.

And then at same time, while I was a senior at Platteville High School, I entered an essay contest put up by Union Pacific Railroad. And they offered a scholarship. So I won that. So I had two scholarships to come here to Colorado A&M.

JIM HANSEN: Right. So this was 1939 that you came to Colorado A&M.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Right.

JIM HANSEN: OK. You come here in '39. I guess that's Charles Lory is just finishing up as president.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Correct.

JIM HANSEN: And this is before the war. So you've got exposure to the regular faculty. They're not all heading off for military service or other related service. It was animal husbandry then.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yeah, that's correct.
JIM HANSEN: And did you immediately major in animal husbandry, I assume?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Correct.

JIM HANSEN: OK. And were there professors here that-- had you met any of them at the various competitions, or--?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: No, the only one that I vaguely remembered was ['? Fred Limbach. ?'] He was on the animal-husbandry staff at that time. But he was probably the one that got me the jobs over at the beef barn. So I worked at the beef barn almost during the four years that I was here.

JIM HANSEN: And the beef barn was pretty close to where we are right now.


JIM HANSEN: How about other faculty who influenced you at this point?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: At that time I became interested in livestock judging. And So Melvin Hazaleus was a coach. And ['? Ronald Tom ?'] was also a coach at that time.

JIM HANSEN: So you immediately got involved with the livestock-judging team, right?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yes. And I guess that is the time when I was a junior. That's when the war broke out, 1941. And when that war broke out, by then I was very close to my judging team members and the classmates. And so I might relate two or three experiences, all right?

One, when the war broke out, of course, the signs went out at the grocery stores and the restaurants and whatnot. And so one incident when we were not allowed to go into the grocery stores, my two friends came to get my grocery list and they brought the groceries to our apartment after dark on Saturday evenings. So that's how we survived.

JIM HANSEN: Right. Now you lived in an apartment?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yes. An apartment home.

JIM HANSEN: That was your housing then. Yeah, this was before they really had any dormitories. A lot of students lived in fraternities at that point.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yeah. At that time, of course, I didn't have funds to stay in a fraternity. We stayed in a basement apartment.

JIM HANSEN: Now did you know these people before?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: No.
JIM HANSEN: You just kind of-- because you were on the livestock club, judging, that's basically how you became acquainted. And then you lived together your junior year.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Right.

JIM HANSEN: OK. It must have been really difficult because there were so many Japanese Americans who were just shipped off to internment camps. We had one in Colorado, Amache.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Well fortunately, those of us who were here in them, we didn't have to go to camp.

JIM HANSEN: Oh. Colorado, they just didn't-- so none of your parents or siblings were affected by that.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: No. But as I look back, I think probably the people who were sent to camps fared better than we did. Because as I said, we couldn't buy grocery, we couldn't get clothing. I wore the same pair of shoes two years.

JIM HANSEN: Wow.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: You want to know how I did it?

JIM HANSEN: No.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: There was a filling station here on College Avenue. And I knew that at these filling stations they had these old, rubber tubes. So I asked this station manager and he gave me some tubes.

And so I took cardboard and traced my shoe sole, outside and the inside, and then he gave me a tube of glue. And so--

JIM HANSEN: You were your own shoemaker then, for those years. Wow.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: That's how I got to wear the same pair of shoes for-- they weren't waterproof I can remember.

JIM HANSEN: Right. Wow. Well, pretty resourceful.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yeah.

JIM HANSEN: Let me just flip this.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Oh, you can tell when the--

JIM HANSEN: It's 30 minutes, so that's how I tell. The next one will be 9:32. OK. Other unpleasant incidents?
JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yes. When I was on the judging team we had to make these trips out into the country. And after judging on one trip, Melvin Hazaleus the judging team coach, he says, well, why don't we go to the movie?

So two or three of the boys went in and got their ticket. And I followed. And when I got to the ticket counter, they said, you can't go in. So at that time, all my buddies said, let's go out.

JIM HANSEN: Yeah. Yeah, that must really have been difficult, really difficult. And did your family experience similar was your father's business affected by anti-Japanese prejudice?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yeah. He couldn't buy enough gas for his--

JIM HANSEN: Yeah. Well that was true, generally, because we had rationing. But did he get special discrimination because of being Japanese?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: If he did, he didn't tell us.

JIM HANSEN: OK, OK. So this continues through the war. When did it really begin to abate, do you think? Was it after 1945? Through the whole war there must have been-- the propaganda was just ferocious, you know?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yeah.

JIM HANSEN: Well, you get your degree in 1943. And then did you get some funding to stay on to work on your master's degree? Because you get that in 1945.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yes. I got a teaching and research assistantship here. Yeah, I was pretty fortunate.

JIM HANSEN: And so you're here, and you've really got this connection with what becomes this issue in the Fort Collins community very early on.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yes. I can still remember, even while I was working on my master's, there were still problems here. Because I tried to get an apartment but I couldn't.

JIM HANSEN: So your friends whom you were sharing housing with as an undergraduate, they move on and get jobs. Or did any of them go into military service?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Oh, yes. Yes, yes. In fact, almost all of them did.

JIM HANSEN: Yeah. It was a completely different atmosphere during World War II, as far as the functioning of the institution. I mean, we brought in all these military-training programs. Did you experience any hostility from soldiers on campus at that time?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: No, not at all. No Actually these buddies that were on the judging team, we all met until about 10 years ago.
JIM HANSEN: Oh, wow. OK. Yeah. Regular reunions. OK.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: So we had a real close bonding.

JIM HANSEN: Now Fort Collins was a pretty small town at that point.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Right. Yeah, I can still remember when West Prospect was gravel road.

JIM HANSEN: Wow. And they had trolleys at that point. That' I'm sure what--

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Well that's what we rode to go downtown, and for our recreation to go to the city park.

JIM HANSEN: Right. Now what did you do summers? Did you just stay here and work during your college years or did you go back to the family farm?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Going back, even while we were at Davidson school and we were in grade school, during the three months our parents had us go to Japanese school. So that's when I got to learn the first two stages of the Japanese language. And this was a godsend because that really helped me during my recent trips to Japan.

JIM HANSEN: Oh, sure. Now your parents, did they speak Japanese in the home or did they speak English?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: All Japanese at home.

JIM HANSEN: OK. So at least it was a natural language for you. Now what about English? You say you couldn't speak any at the age of six. Did you pick it up fairly quickly?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Oh, I must have because I can still remember when the teacher had those spelling lessons. I was always at the top. And at that time they used to have those little candy sticks that were in the bread. Well I used to get those almost every day.

JIM HANSEN: That's great. All right. So you finish here in '45. And you--

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Got my master's here.

JIM HANSEN: --got your master's here. And you were going to go on to graduate school.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Right. Well when I was getting ready to finish my master's, I had [? Dr. Washburn ?] write letters to University of Minnesota, Cornell University, and Iowa State-- three universities. Well I didn't get a reply for weeks, almost months. And then when I got the acceptance from University of Minnesota, you wouldn't believe this but I got acceptance from Cornell and Iowa state the following day, after I accepted University of Minnesota.

JIM HANSEN: Now did you have any kind of scholarship or assistance?
JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yes. At University of Minnesota they gave me a teaching and research assistantship.

JIM HANSEN: OK. And there, again, you're going to go right into animal husbandry, and it's still animal husbandry. And I don't know-- for me, my graduate-school mentors were pretty important in history.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Definitely.

JIM HANSEN: How about your graduate-school mentors at Minnesota?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: They were very, very helpful. Actually when the committee met and decided on the topic for my dissertation, when we pushed the pencil, we found that the cost would be probably several times more than what they had originally planned to fund for my research. But they went to the state legislature and got the money.

And so this involved several head of livestock, cattle, for my research. And of course, I had to do most of the work myself. The research results I submitted for publication, but it was denied. Because at that time, statistics was very important. In other words, I guess to consider the results authentic, everything had to pass the statistical treatment.

Well anyway, they said since my number of animals used was minimal, or not enough, that it couldn't be published. But to this day, the results from that test, where I used dairy animal as one of the meat animals for beef production, today the cattle-feeding industry uses a very high percentage of dairy animals now.

JIM HANSEN: OK. Well you were definitely ahead of your time there, John. How about specific faculty, professors who really influenced you at Minnesota?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: They, I guess, really trusted me. Because one year when I was still working on my Ph.D., one of the junior colleges in Minnesota, the animal-science professor that was teaching those courses passed away. So they asked me. So I went on an emergency-teaching basis.

And so I had to teach courses that I had no experience at all. But I guess it was something that was meant to be helpful for me.

JIM HANSEN: Yeah. Well it certainly turned out that way. Can you remember the names of any of these professors at Minnesota?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Oh, yes. L.M. Winters, he was the animal-breeding man, well-known, world-renowned animal breeding. And then A.L. Harvey, who was the horse man.

And of course, W.H. Peters, he was the head of the department. He was the one that took me under his arm and gave me this opportunity to teach in this emergency situation. And then I
taught most of the animal-husbandry courses at University of Minnesota. So I had this background in teaching.

JIM HANSEN: Yeah. Now Minnesota, environmentally, is profoundly different than Colorado. Here we're semi-arid. We have to have irrigation really to even function. There you've got a humid environment. So did you find that you really had to adapt the knowledge that you brought from Colorado to the environmental situation in Minnesota? Did that present any challenges for you?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Actually when I got there, or even shortly thereafter, I found that the Scandinavian people were really, I think, helpful to the Japanese people. Because wherever I went, I got the best treatment.

JIM HANSEN: OK. And so you learned. They were willing to share, this is the way we do things in Minneapolis, we understand that Colorado is different.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: I even got to take part in their Finnish sauna.

JIM HANSEN: OK. Now I know, when I was in graduate school or working on my Ph.D., it was just nose to the grind stone most of the time. But did you continue to participate in judging, or the Minnesota counterpart to state fairs or county fairs, that kind of thing?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yes. They called on me to judge at some of the county fairs. And then I helped on the judging team. So I guess I was just fortunate that I was able to participate on just about all the activities there.

The biochemistry department, they were very helpful to me. Before I was there, they told me that the connection between biochemistry and animal husbandry, they were very far apart. But then when I started to do some of my laboratory work in the biochemistry department, the two departments became very close. And so I even had a biochemistry staff member on my committee.

JIM HANSEN: Oh, wow. OK. So that, again, you're very serendipitous, but it's deliberate, too. You're seeking the best knowledge that's going to make you a solid researcher.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yes. And then on top of that, I had to take my statistics course over in the medical college because that's where the statistics was being taught.

JIM HANSEN: Right. OK. So you get your Ph.D. from Minnesota. And then did you have to look very hard for a job?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: No. Actually this was at the time that a lot of the military people were coming back to school. And so they were getting inquiries about increasing the staff at various universities. And University of Nebraska just had an opening. And so the staff at the University of Minnesota says, here's an opening in Nebraska. Are you interested in applying?
Well I didn't even apply. The University of Nebraska staff said, well, send him over. So I drove down and then signed right away.

JIM HANSEN: Now by this time had you met Dorothy when you were in graduate school? When did you and she marry?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: We became acquainted when we were undergraduate students here.

JIM HANSEN: OK. At Colorado A&M. So you began dating then?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: No. After we left college we just lost track of each other. But then you see, I lost my first wife right after I got my first job at Nebraska.

JIM HANSEN: OK. So when did you marry her? And what was her name?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Her name was Nora. But we were married when I was still working on my master's degree.

JIM HANSEN: OK, All right. She was a Colorado A&M student?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: No. She didn't go to college. She was actually a high-school acquaintance.

JIM HANSEN: OK. So you knew her at Platteville High School, OK.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Well she was in Fort Lupton High School and I was in Platteville High School. But see, the two towns are close together.

JIM HANSEN: And what year did you marry her?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: 1945.

JIM HANSEN: OK. So right--

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Just before I got my master's degree.

JIM HANSEN: And then she went to Minnesota with you, and then to Nebraska with you. And then how soon after that did she die?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Well after our son Bob was born. Bob is from my first wife.

JIM HANSEN: Oh, OK.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: So Nancy is from Dorothy and then--

JIM HANSEN: Right, right. Our trusted baby sitter way back.
JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yeah, right.

JIM HANSEN: So when did she die?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: When Bob was about a year old, so about 1950.

JIM HANSEN: OK. So you were just really starting there at Nebraska then?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yes.

JIM HANSEN: OK, OK. So you were raising a son on your own then for a lot of that time?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: No, they came over to my parents here in Platteville. So they took care of him until I met Dorothy. Yeah. So about a year Bob had to stay with my grandparents.

JIM HANSEN: OK, OK. Well tell me about Nebraska. You're in Lincoln. That's really a farm state.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: That's right. And it's a big state to travel. I was in charge of all four of the research stations in Nebraska-- North Platte, Scottsbluff, the Northeast Station, and at the headquarters in Lincoln. So that gave me a lot of opportunities to travel the whole state.

JIM HANSEN: And you had a teaching position as well.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: I had teaching and research, yes. Yes. In fact, I guess it was about the second or third year after I got to Nebraska, I had a heavy advising load. At that time I was advising, I told the Dean of Agriculture that the home-ec girls ought to know a little bit about where the meat comes from, and the different cuts of meat and so forth. So I taught the home-ec girls for several years.

JIM HANSEN: Oh, wow. Good, that's important. They need to know that.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: So I got to teach quite a number of courses at Nebraska.

JIM HANSEN: And I assume you were still involved in judging and review advising, anything like 4-H or--?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Not at that time.

JIM HANSEN: --judging teams, or anything like that?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yes, I was helping on the judging team. But that was when I had some doubts about livestock judging, especially from my point of view in judging county fairs. Because I judged a fair in Omaha one year. And fortunately, I asked that county agent in Omaha if there's any possibility that the animals that are shown there on foot, if they can be slaughtered so that I can see the carcasses.
Well lo and behold, the grand-champion steer that I'd placed on foot had the worst carcass. It had about that much fat, an inch of fat. And so I decided, I'm going to quit judging livestock.

JIM HANSEN: OK. Yeah, I've read that story. You know, that's the inside out. Right.

OK. Well this is really sort of a seminal moment for you, in terms of how you're going to approach the raising and feeding of livestock, I'm sure. So how do you respond to this in terms of your own research and advice about raising livestock?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: I guess the thing that really caught my attention was that appearance of an animal can be deceiving because the fat covers a multitude of things.

JIM HANSEN: Right. OK.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: So this kind of leads me-- as we go down the road here-- that was the reason that the stock show changed their program. Because when Monforts and other people used to show carloads here, well, the judges used to place these animals that looked very nice on the foot. But from the standpoint of the packers and so on, they said, no, they're not very desirable. So that's when I told the stock show that they ought to change the--

JIM HANSEN: When you were in Nebraska, you would still come to the National Western in January, or no?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: No.

JIM HANSEN: OK. So you just were pretty much confined to the county and state fair, that kind of thing.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: After Nebraska, yes.

JIM HANSEN: OK. Well tell me, how do you remedy this fat problem in livestock? Is it better feed, is it breeding--?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: It's a combination.

JIM HANSEN: --environment?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: It's all these different factors.

JIM HANSEN: How do you go about it? Tell me how you produce a really marketable, in terms of a grocery store or a housewife, animal-- what you've learned what you did after judging?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: OK. Well this still goes back to my Ph.D. Period. Because when I fed these different animals, and slaughtered them, and I separated their carcasses, separated the bone and the fat and the lean, that was a terrific job. And so when I found that breeding really didn't make too much difference. And so they were all fed same way, handled the same way.
And so at that point, I think I would have probably said that genetics really wasn't that important. But then as I got into the work here at CSU, my concepts began to change a little bit. It's the results of my research work that gradually changed some of my early concepts.

JIM HANSEN: OK. Now what about your flaking research? That was something that you really-

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: I started that in Nebraska.

JIM HANSEN: Yeah, you started that in Nebraska Nebraska. OK. Can you tell me a little bit about that?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Well at that time when I was at Nebraska, I was what you'd call a "non-paid consultant." I met frequently with three of the top cattle feeders in the States at that time, who were Warren Monfort, Louis Dinklage at Nebraska, and Earl Brookover at Kansas. They were real three competitors [INAUDIBLE] to see who was going to be the king of the cattle-feeding industry.

Well anyway, the three of those people and myself used to meet periodically, especially in Omaha because that was a good place to meet. Well Let me back up. While we were at Dinklage's feedlot one day, Mr. Monfort says, would you think coming back to Colorado? And just about that time, Louis Dinklage says, if you stay here at Nebraska I'll give you that brand-new Cadillac that's sitting out there.

JIM HANSEN: This Cadillac?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yeah, brand-new Cadillac. And then, I don't know whether it was that or another day, Mr. Earl Brookover says, if you come to Kansas, I'll let you be the manager of my feedlot. Well I didn't do anything for quite some time. But anyway, I continued to stay on at Nebraska.

And so while we were in Omaha one time, having breakfast, it was a real cold morning. And instead of having bacon and eggs that morning, we decided to have a bowl of hot oatmeal. And that's when it came to my mind. On a cold morning, we probably ought to feed some warm feed to cattle. And that was the beginning of the idea. OK

And then, of course, I knew that in preparing this hot corn flake, it's going to take some pretty elaborate equipment. And so I was just getting ready to come in contact with some of these people who had a commercial feed mill. Well, that's when I made the move here to see a [?] chute. ?] And so I got in touch with various feed-equipment companies and really got going.

JIM HANSEN: Now you said Warren Monfort wanted you to come to Colorado. You knew him, obviously, from--

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Oh, yeah, from [INAUDIBLE] 4-H days.
JIM HANSEN: And I'm not quite sure, was he on the state Board of Agriculture?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Oh, yes. Actually, if it wasn't for Warren Monfort, CSU would not be what it is today. Because he was the one instrumental in buying a lot of this property.

JIM HANSEN: Oh, yeah. There were several farmers who really had that foresight. They knew the value of real estate, yeah. OK.

So are you recruited to CSU? Or did you just decide this is a professional decision, you're going to look for these commercial feed businesses so that you can begin to develop your idea about flaking, for example. Did you just decide on your own, OK, I want to leave Nebraska now, I'm going to come to CSU? Or were you recruited?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Well this flaking idea really wasn't in the back of my mind when Mr. Monfort wanted me to come back. OK, that comes later when you're eating your oatmeal for breakfast that day. OK, wow. A "eureka" moment.

JIM HANSEN: So you come back here 1961? And have you resumed your friendship with Dorothy at that point? When do you and she--?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: We were already married by then.

JIM HANSEN: You were married? Then how did that transpire? How did your courtship develop?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Well after my first wife passed away, after about a year, it just occurred to me that Dorothy probably was not married yet. So I wrote her a letter. And so she came to see the facilities at Lincoln, and that's when we decided to get married.

JIM HANSEN: Oh, wow. So you wrote her, and obviously she remembered you and thought you were a fine man.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: [LAUGHS] I would guess so.

JIM HANSEN: And then how soon after that were you actually married? What year were you and Dorothy married?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Oh, we were married within a year.

JIM HANSEN: OK. So about when?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: It was in August.

JIM HANSEN: Of what year?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: August of ’51.
JIM HANSEN: '51. You better remember that date or Dorothy won't like it.

OK. So you're back at Fort Collins. OK, 1961. How had the community and the school changed from when you were here as a student? Obviously, the World War II period was sort of an aberration.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yeah. Well things had really changed, size-wise, people-wise. Everything was back to normal.

JIM HANSEN: And it was a bigger community. And CSU was on the verge of really taking off now. It was on its way to becoming a-- well it was university by 1961.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Growing in leaps and bounds at the time.

JIM HANSEN: Bill Morgan was president then. I read with interest that essay in your book by Bill on the importance of inexpensive food and--

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yeah. Well he says, we can't pay you very much, but the scenery here is worth at least $5,000 a year. That was his famous words for every employee that came by.

JIM HANSEN: So you and Dorothy, you're both graduates of this school so you're comfortable in that respect. And when did you buy the house on Evergreen Drive?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: We built it.

JIM HANSEN: You built it?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Oh, yeah. There was an alfalfa field.

JIM HANSEN: Oh my. That's interesting.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yeah, so we were the second house on that block. Yeah, so the house that we live in was Dorothy's selection. We chose that lot together.

JIM HANSEN: OK. So here you are, back in Colorado. You certainly know the environment. And you want to really begin to pursue this flaking research. Were you expected to go out and get your own research funding, or did the department help you with that?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: The Colorado cattle feeders paid all of my moving expense. And the extension service, Lowell Watts, was going to give me the whole rein to travel, to survey the potential of cattle feeding, and the possibility of getting new facilities for my research. Because they had nothing here. Later on I'll show you some pictures here.

But then, Bill Morgan, he was behind me. I guess he told Lowell Watts and Sherm Wheeler give him the ropes.
JIM HANSEN: And Sherm was director of the experiment station then, right?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yeah.

JIM HANSEN: OK. [INAUDIBLE] a real agriculturally-focused director, as I remember.

Well you've got some challenges here, too. It's not one Colorado. It's many Colorados, in terms of geography or environment. You've got mountains, you've got plains, you've got plateaus, you've got irrigated areas. I'm sure that it was a learning experience here. You had much more uniformity, I assume, in Nebraska and even Minnesota in comparison with Colorado.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yes. Well I recognized from the very beginning that Colorado really had the potential of being a top-notch cattle feeding state. Because we have the environment, we have the water, we have the packing industry, then we have access to feeder cattle from all the neighboring states, and then we had the National western Stock Show, about everything that you could ask for.

About the only thing that we might have been a little short was on grain. But grain could always be shipped in. And that's why Monfort had the foresight of having their major source of grain that comes in Nebraska.

JIM HANSEN: OK. You start out now, '61-- do you have a Ph.D. Program yet in-- is it still animal husbandry? I've forgotten. I should remember. But when is the shift made from animal husbandry to animal science?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: I've forgotten when-- I think I have it in here, when we shift from animal husbandry.

JIM HANSEN: That's easily looked up. But did you come here with the expectation that you'd be training doctoral students?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Not at that time, I guess.

JIM HANSEN: OK. But you're the expert who's going to really try to promote fed cattle in Colorado. And that's essentially what you were hired for, right?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Right.

JIM HANSEN: But the things that I've read, you express some real pleasure in your relationship with students. And there's an obvious commitment to them.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yes. At that time, I still had a real major interest in students. Teaching has always been in back of my mind. And so I knew that my effort was going to be in that direction.
So when I came here, not only did I teach classes during school hours, but I had many, many students in correspondence courses. And then I also had night school there.

JIM HANSEN: Oh really?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yes, I taught school here in the evenings.

JIM HANSEN: OK. But did you teach vocational high school courses?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Vocational ags. But these were mostly students in other areas that came here for night school. And they wanted me to make it a three-hour course in the evening. I said, no way.

JIM HANSEN: OK. So you're really given an opportunity to do what you want with this program here.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Correct.

JIM HANSEN: And you see a lot of potential. And then you begin to pursue your oatmeal research. And how long does it take before that begins to pay off?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Well it didn't take very long because cattle feeders were really behind me. And so the people who had the old feed mill wanted to modernize their business, too. So we had these feed mill manufacturing outfits here in Denver. They all got behind me.

And so we put our heads together. And it didn't take very long. And so within two years, we had this thing in operation. And Kenny Monfort says, let's go. Did you know that he spent over $1 million just in one whack after he saw my data?

JIM HANSEN: No. That's amazing.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: And I told Kenny, buy one. Mr. Monfort said, buy 16. One whack, over $1 million.

JIM HANSEN: Well it really transformed the industry. OK. So you're settling into Colorado. You're traveling around visiting the various substations and doing extension work. I noticed it's really later that you begin to do your international consulting.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yeah well it didn't take very long. When my results on that flaking thing hit the news, then I began to get invitations from all over.

JIM HANSEN: OK. And I noticed at one point, you're spending six months, right, in Japan?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: You are right.

JIM HANSEN: And that went on for a number of years?
JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yeah. 10 years.

JIM HANSEN: OK. Well then you've still got your connection with the stock show. So you're back in Colorado, you've won prizes there. Did you have anything to do with the livestock-judging team when you were a faculty member here, were you a faculty advisor?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: No. By that time, like I said when I was at Nebraska, my livestock judging went out the window.

JIM HANSEN: OK. National Western Stock Show-- there are a couple things that are really important. One is the Fed Beef Contest that you were really responsible for launching in 1965, right? Tell me a little bit about that.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Well that was the beginning. Or let me back up.

So prior to that time, as I was mentioning a while ago, they had what they called the fat cattle in the stockyards by pens. And when those cattle that were entered in that competition, the cattle were slaughtered and the packing industry and the retail industry says, we don't want this kind of cattle anymore.

And so manager of the Western Stock Show, Mr. Willard Simms, came to me. And he says, can you come up with an idea and a plan to replace that part of the stock show? And so that was the beginning.

JIM HANSEN: OK. So he initiates it and says, this really has to become part of the stock show. And you had the expertise to really make it work.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: And then, so one of the first things that I was challenged to do was to come up with the name for this part of the stock show. And we wanted to call it the National Western Carcass Show, but then that seemed too long. And then furthermore, it was supposed to involve live cattle, as well as a carcass. And so we came up with idea of Fed Beef Contest.

JIM HANSEN: And that name works great. Now by this time, the supermarket chains had begun to exercise some influence on the industry. Safeway you mention in your book, for example, and I guess King Soopers, too. They really want meat that's going to be appealing to retail customers.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Well not only that. They wanted to have beef that would be of economical cost so that it would really be acceptable in the meat retail business. So Safeway had a major interest in this development of the contest. So [? Cecil Helm ?] was--

JIM HANSEN: Oh yeah, you mention him in your book. Right. OK.

Now, one of your books I didn't read was the Catch-A-Calf book because I couldn't get a copy of it.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: I'll give you a copy.
JIM HANSEN: OK. Well I'd like to see it, anyway. That's a part of the National Western Stock Show. I just alluded to it very briefly in my history of examples.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Well I'll get you that book. And it gives the entire history of the [INAUDIBLE], how it started and so on.

JIM HANSEN: Right. Was that something that you took an interest-- everybody loves it, you know? It's just so much fun. And the young people who come out of it have such a great educational experience.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Well this has a kind of interesting background, too. See, this goes back to the days when I used to show my 4-H calf. OK. I started college here at that time. And so at that time, Cecil Staver was county agent in Weld county.

He wanted me to enter the catch-a-calf contest.

JIM HANSEN: Oh, as a kid. OK.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: But I was here at CSU. And I couldn't make it. And therefore, my brother George went and entered. And he caught the calf. And he caught a calf three years in a row. All

JIM HANSEN: Right. So you've got a family connection there, for sure.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Right. And then after my brother George caught three, a couple years later my younger brother caught a calf, too.

JIM HANSEN: Well the Matsushimas have a lock hold on this. That's wonderful.

OK. Something that I knew but I didn't know-- after reading your book I knew for sure-- but the impact of fast-food hamburger chains and how this has affected the cattle industry. All of a sudden, there are all kinds of problems always in raising livestock, but here's a sure market. Does that affect your approach to the way you're feeding cattle, or your association with stores like Safeway or things of that kind?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Well I think we have worked together as an industry. That is, the supermarkets, the packinghouse, the feedlot industry, the pharmaceutical companies, and so on. So I guess all of these things have been focused together.

JIM HANSEN: Right. But it is a revolution. You know, by the time you come to see [? Ashu ?] McDonald's was flourishing, and then countless others, where this creates a market for beef.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Well we need the hamburger industry because the beef carcass with different cuts. And with these different cuts, they're priced differently. And so if you take the tender cuts and the cuts from the carcass that have the most flavor, they're going to demand the higher price.
And so if you have these high-price cuts, what are you going to do with the cheaper cuts? And that's where the hamburger comes in to place. And that's why McDonald's, for example, I think really hit on an idea that has mushroomed. Because, see, they can take the cheaper cuts of the carcass. And then you can blend some of the meat from the poorer-quality cattle with some of the meat from the top cattle.

So this hamburger industry, in my estimation, is a gold mine because it's a product that's available to most anyone, even the low-income people.

JIM HANSEN: That's what it's all about. It's having inexpensive food that you can provide.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: And it's a product that is pretty uniform day after day.

JIM HANSEN: Let's back up a little bit. You're at CSU and now you've had some success with your flaking research. And additionally, you've got the Fed Beef Contest at the National western Stock Show that proves what nutrition is going to do for an animal. And you become sought after by other countries.

Tell me a little bit about the progression of your international experiences. You did get that honor from the Emperor's Award in Japan, for example.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Well I was doing this research here. I became very well acquainted with the Monfort family. And Kenny Monfort, while he was making his inroad to the political arena, he came in contact with a person named Seiji Horiuchi-- S-E-I-J-I, Seiji. Horiuchi-- H-O-R-I-U-C-H-I, Horiuchi. He went to school with me while I was working on my master's degree.

JIM HANSEN: OK. At CSU OK. Or in Colorado A&M.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: So I got to know him. While Kenny Monfort was running for politics, Seiji Horiuchi became close friends with Kenny Monfort. Well, as the political part began to cool off, then Kenny Monfort hired Seiji Horiuchi for meat export into Japan. OK And that's when Seiji Horiuchi asked me to meet the president of a meat-packing company in Japan.

And his name was Mr. Kiyota, K-I-Y-O-T-A, Kiyota. And so Mr. Kiyota came over here with Seiji and a couple of other high-powered people. And after they came and visited with me for a few hours here in my office, Mr. Kiyota told Seiji, here's the man that I want to have to come to supervise my feedlot in Japan. And that's how I got the position to go over to Japan six months out of the year at that feedlot. I did that for 10 years.

JIM HANSEN: How was that? What was that like? Your ancestry is Japanese.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Well it was really interesting to me because I had the opportunity to survey the agricultural industry for the entire country of Japan. They took me all over Japan. And I got to learn the custom, the lifestyle, just about everything that I wanted to do about Japan. And so not only did my Japanese language improve-- at first I had an interpreter, but later on--
JIM HANSEN: It sort of kicked in.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yeah. I didn't have to have and interpreter. And so here, my flake-corn industry entered the Japanese market.

JIM HANSEN: And you did similar things for other countries.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yeah. And then so while I was on this assignment or position in Japan, Mr. Kiyota wanted me to go buy cattle in Australia. OK So I became involved in the feedlot industry in Australia. And then the feed flaking went to Australia.

JIM HANSEN: So you have a really rich international experience-- Africa, Mexico, Italy, Russia more recently, and this sort of--

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: China.

JIM HANSEN: --fairly prolonged involvement with Japan we you kept going back repeatedly. Did Dorothy go with you?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: She came to visit me almost every year while I was there on the six month. Because this Kiyota company really treated me well. They bought me a new house. And I was the only one allowed to live in there. So during the six months that I was back here, they left it open. It was brand-new, Japanese-American style home. It had American-style furniture in it, but a Japanese home.

JIM HANSEN: That's great. So you really had this opportunity to enrich yourself culturally by that kind of--

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: And so that's how, I guess, the Emperor got the information [? about ?] my relationship with Japan and other foreign countries.

JIM HANSEN: So you really contributed to their beef industry.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yes because I was the one that-- I guess you saw that journey back, where I gave the initial speech in Tokyo to the agricultural industry. So that's when I got the meat-trade business started.

JIM HANSEN: Community activity. You're a member of Rotary Club. Are there other--? You've been a Rotary Club member forever, haven't you?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: No, I just started in 1969.

JIM HANSEN: Oh, well that's not so new then. Yeah, we moved to Evergreen Drive in 1970.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: I see.
JIM HANSEN: OK. But you do have friends in the community outside of CSU. And are there other organizations of that kind, or pretty much is it--?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Well Rotary is the service club here in the community. And it's an organization that has-- the membership is just probably the elite group here in Fort Collins. In other words, the mayor and all these people are members of it, even [?] Tony Frank. ?

JIM HANSEN: Right, right. Well you certainly have contact with a lot of those people, then.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yeah. But one thing, I enjoy being a member. I have perfect attendance-- 40 years. 42 years now, I guess. I haven't missed a week of-- well even while I was in Japan I used to make up. Because in Japan you could make up. They have Rotary Club meetings every day except Sunday.

JIM HANSEN: Oh, so you can do it in another other parts of the world, literally.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Oh, yeah. I have flags from I don't know how many different countries.

JIM HANSEN: Well I do really think we should stop it here and have another session. Would that be OK with you, John? Because we've really covered an enormous amount.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Well maybe you want to read these first.

JIM HANSEN: Yeah, I'll definitely read that.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: And then let me-- here's a sample of the flake corn.

JIM HANSEN: Oh wow. OK.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: So you can have that.

JIM HANSEN: Oh, thank you.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: So now you know what it's like.

JIM HANSEN: I do. It's touch for a city boy like me to visualize things like that. Although I did work two years of wheat harvest in Walla Walla, Washington when I was in college.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: I see. Well this will give you a little better insight of the equipment and processing [INAUDIBLE]. It's very sophisticated equipment. The whole corn, shelled corn, gravitates into this bin. This is a steam chamber.

And it has three spigots for different steam. And so as the corn gravitates in this chamber, it moistens the grain. And then by the time it gets to the bottom here, the starch has changed a certain degree.
But then to change the starch further, we put it through a roller mill here. It flattens it out. And then when the grain comes out here, it's real hot. And it's that product that you see there.

JIM HANSEN: Now who designed this? Were you involved in actual design?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yeah. I had this company.

JIM HANSEN: You knew what you wanted.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Oh, yeah. And so they followed my instructions. Well this and then another competitor. I have two companies.

JIM HANSEN: Well may I borrow this?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Sure.

JIM HANSEN: I can bring it next time.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yeah. Let me se.

JIM HANSEN: OK. I'm going to turn things off here.

[2nd Interview]

JIM HANSEN: Put this a little closer to you this time, too. My name is Jim Hansen. Today is March 10, 2010. I'm in Morgan Library conducting an interview with John Matsushima as part of the Senior Scholars Oral History Project.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: OK.

JIM HANSEN: OK, John. Last time, we were discussing your career at CSU, and how you were really encouraged to come here by Warren Monfort. Were there other people who actively recruited you?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yes. The Colorado Cattle Feeders Association people.

JIM HANSEN: So which representatives from that group?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Well, there were the officers of the Colorado Cattle Feeders Association.

JIM HANSEN: OK.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: And, by and large, most of the cattle feeders here in Colorado.
JIM HANSEN: OK. Yeah, they knew about what you had done in Nebraska, and they really wanted you here.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Right.

JIM HANSEN: And, of course, Warren Monfort had put a bug in your ear anyway.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Well, I guess there were people involved in the packing industry also.

JIM HANSEN: Mm-hm. OK.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: And then, too, the people who are selling feed, the feed manufacturing companies.

JIM HANSEN: Right. So you had a reputation because of what you had done in Nebraska, and then you come here, and it's here that you actually develop this machine, or where you--?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: It took over a year to get it the way I wanted it.

JIM HANSEN: OK, we're talking about the roller mill's steam chamber, where you can process your flake corn, right?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Right, yeah.

JIM HANSEN: OK. Now you didn't have any engineering background, did you?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: No, but I told these mill manufacturing companies what I wanted. In other words,--

JIM HANSEN: OK.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: --I wanted to make sure that we got the right amount of moisture into the grain. And then also, I wanted to make sure that the temperature of the grain came out so that when it went through the roller mill, things were just in the right condition.

JIM HANSEN: Mm-hm. So it was pretty delicate to get this.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yes.

JIM HANSEN: You knew exactly what you wanted though. Now, were you able to file a patent on this? Did it go through CSURF as so many other research?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Well, I didn't have time to go into that. So in retrospect, I guess I should have.
JIM HANSEN: Mm-hm. So the income from that, did it come to you, or anybody could just have it?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: No, there's--

JIM HANSEN: --you just have it?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: --no income at all.

JIM HANSEN: OK. So it was basically your contribution to the industry then?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yes.

JIM HANSEN: OK.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: But I learned not too long ago that someone did patent it. But I don't believe that this person that got the patent is receiving any renumeration.

JIM HANSEN: Mm-hm. OK.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: There's probably some technical thing on there.

JIM HANSEN: Now, looking over my notes from the last interview, I found one discrepancy. You graduated from Platteville High School when?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: 1936.

JIM HANSEN: '36. Did you come to CSU right away, or did you work for a couple of years? Because I--

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Oh, I'm sorry. It's 1939.

JIM HANSEN: Nine? OK. That's what I thought, because on your handout you said '36.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: I see.

JIM HANSEN: OK. Then that make sense, in terms of when you graduate and so forth. OK. We were just beginning to talk about some notable people whom you were associated with at CSU within the livestock industry. And you mention Bill Morgan and his--

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Right.

[LAUGHTER]

JIM HANSEN: --comment that the scenery was worth $5,000. At this time, CSU was really trying to encourage people like you, good researchers who could attract grant money, and really
develop their own graduate programs. And this is part of making Colorado A&M a real Colorado State University. I deal with that in my book. Now did you have much personal contact with Bill Morgan?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Not until I came for the interview.

JIM HANSEN: OK. Did he actually conduct one or did you just meet him in conjunction with other people.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Oh, the cattle feeders, Lowell Watts in particular--

JIM HANSEN: OK.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: --took me to his office.

JIM HANSEN: OK. OK. And Ray Chamberlain, so he just gotten his Ph.D. in 1955, and then worked elsewhere for a while, and then came back here-- I think he was a vice-president for administration-- but he was really running a lot of the research during this period. And you mentioned that he was also quite helpful.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yes.

JIM HANSEN: OK. Can you elaborate on that a little?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Well, the research that I was conducting involved quite a number of cattle. And then also, the facilities for cattle feeding were practically nil. And so, I had to make plans for research and feeding cattle, and Ray Chamberlain, of course, came to the rescue. And so we've got the initial part of the feeding facilities put together with his support.

JIM HANSEN: Now would that be the facilities out at Rigden Farm or--?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yes, that's correct.

JIM HANSEN: OK. So by this time, most of the original, where we're sitting, the actual college farm, was being subsumed by the campus expansion.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Right.

JIM HANSEN: And so Chamberlain was really instrumental in helping you get those facilities up on, what is it, Lemay?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Right.

JIM HANSEN: Yeah. OK. You mentioned colleagues whom you think were significant-- Lloyd Washburn, Howard Stonaker, Gary Smith, John Sofos, Temple Grandin.
JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Mm-hm.

JIM HANSEN: Could you indicate why they were particularly impressive, or are particularly impressive?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Well, I guess each one has his or her own qualities. Take, for example, Howard Stonaker, Dr. Stonaker. He's well-known for his animal breeding research. And then Gary Smith, he's well-known for his expertise in meats. And then Temple Grandin, she's well-known for her expertise in handling livestock.

JIM HANSEN: Mm-hm. and John Sofos?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Oh, John Sofos. He's another internationally-known meats person, especially with reference to meat safety. Some of the things that are needed for making sure that the meat consumed by the public is safe.

JIM HANSEN: OK. Let's talk about Temple Grandin, since she just had a movie made of her.

[LAUGHTER]

Who was responsible for identifying her as someone you wanted to recruit? Or did she approach the issue on her own initiative?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: That, I'm not quite sure. I would guess that it was probably a mutual undertaking. Our current department head, Bill Wailes-- no, I guess the person that hired Temple Grandin was Dave Ames.

JIM HANSEN: OK.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: So probably Dave Ames knew of Temple Grandin's qualifications. So it was probably from both ends. That is, Dave wanted her, and Temple probably was interested in a position here, because at that time, we did not have anyone with that kind of a training.

JIM HANSEN: Well, hardly anybody did. She was unique in that respect, right?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: That's true. Yes.

JIM HANSEN: With all of the equipment, and livestock, pens, and that sort of thing. Was there any sense that you wanted to hire her because she was a female? Or did that enter into it at all?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: No, I don't think that had any influence at all. I think it was just a subject that dovetailed with the cattle industry.

JIM HANSEN: Mm-hm.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Well, not only cattle, but with other livestock.
JIM HANSEN: Right. Well, she had already demonstrated that this was a more efficient way, as well as a more humane way of handling livestock,--

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yes.

JIM HANSEN: --right?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: And so it kind of a timely situation, because it was about that time that the Humane Society and that group. See, they were concerned about animal handling.

JIM HANSEN: Right.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: And so, actually, with the knowledge that Temple Grandin had on the unique characteristics of animals, how they reacted to handling procedures, so it was a very timely subject.

JIM HANSEN: Right. Now we had another faculty member here, Bernie Rollin, who had this concern for animal rights and the handling of animals in the vet hospital. But it seems that, really, this was a movement that didn't have much momentum until the 1980s and 1990s in sets. What was the approach toward handling animals prior to this? Was there any real concern about the welfare of the animal, or was the main concern just getting the product to market as efficiently as possible?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Well, it's rather interesting that the two came together about the same time, Bernie Rollin and Temple Grandin.

JIM HANSEN: Mm-hm.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Although the two people involved here, there are some differences. In other words, Temple Grandin's approach was more from the standpoint of equipment,--

JIM HANSEN: Mm-hm.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: --and handling animals. But it still ties in with handling of animals, too.

JIM HANSEN: Mm-hm. OK. Yeah. It was sort of serendipitous. Let's talk about some of your students. You've got Randy Blach, Don Johnson whom I knew, Charles Thompson, and Clayton Yeutter. Obviously, these people distinguished themselves in the animal science field.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yes.

JIM HANSEN: Can you tell me a little bit about them individually? What--?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Well, let's take Randy Blach for example. He was an undergraduate student, and I had the privilege of knowing his father, Perry Block, because Perry Block was in school shortly after I was an undergraduate here.
JIM HANSEN: Right.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: And Randy was one of the brilliant students in my class. And not only was he a brilliant student, but he was a student that got along with his classmates.

JIM HANSEN: Mm-hm.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: And he was very popular. And he was leader in a number of organizations here at that time. And so when he took the position with the National Cattlemen's Association on this CattleFax, he just took right off, and became very popular as a speaker to the cattle industry. And now, the CattleFax material that he publishes on a weekly basis is a very important tool for the cattle industry. Not only for the cattle feeders, or the cattle producers, but also for the marketing people.

JIM HANSEN: Mm-hm.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: And then moving on to Clayton Yeutter, this goes way back to when I was teaching at the University of Nebraska. And he, too, was a very brilliant student. But one unique trait of Clayton Yeutter was that he never took any notes.

[LAUGHTER]

He kept everything in his head.

JIM HANSEN: Oh. Uh-huh.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: And then after he graduated, he went through graduate school, and also, I think he went into law practice, and then later on, he became Secretary of Agriculture.

JIM HANSEN: Right.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: And I still keep in touch with him.

JIM HANSEN: Mm-hm. Mm-hm.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: And then Charlie Thompson, again, I would have to stay that he was a brilliant student. Well, let me back up. While he was an undergraduate student, he was one of the leading students, not only in different organizations, but he was one of the top members of the Farmhouse Fraternity over here.

JIM HANSEN: Mm-mm.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: And then, after he got his degree, he went to law school, and still continues in the law profession in South Dakota. And let's see, who else was in there?

JIM HANSEN: You have Don Johnson.
JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Oh, Don Johnson. He was my first Ph.D. student.

JIM HANSEN: Oh, really?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yes.

JIM HANSEN: OK.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: And he was brilliant in his research. He came up with ideas that I didn't think about in many respects. But he was one of the key people who assisted me in this grain flaking process.

JIM HANSEN: Oh, OK.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Some of the basic research as to the chemical changes in this process was under his direction.

JIM HANSEN: OK. Livestock industry leaders. We mentioned Ferry Carpenter, whom I know was the first commissioner under the Taylor Act?


JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Well, Ferry Carpenter was a unique person. He was not only a cattleman or a lawyer, but he was a brilliant person who can be a speaker that got his message across.

JIM HANSEN: OK.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: And being a unique speaker, he was able to mix informative information, along with humor comments that fitted together.

JIM HANSEN: OK.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: For example, he was a very controversial person amongst the sheep industry people.

JIM HANSEN: Mm-hm.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Apparently, he didn't see anything wrong with sheep, but apparently he didn't quite see the use of range land by sheep and cattle.

JIM HANSEN: Mm-hm.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: But he was unique in developing programs that would help the cattle industry. And so he was the initiator of the Beef Cattle Improvement Organization.
JOHN MATSUSHIMA: And then, he also had a unique way of merchandising his cattle. Instead of following the conventional way of selling cattle through auction, before the sale, he had a catalog that had the performance record on his cattle. So this was rather unique. But I considered Ferry Carpenter a friend that was very much at ease in visiting with people. And even just a few months before he passed away, I know he was in pain, but he still gave me his time. And so I considered him a real friend, and a real leader.

JIM HANSEN: Mm-hm. How did you and he first become acquainted?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: He used to come here to the campus to visit with Dr. Stonaker--

JIM HANSEN: OK.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: --in animal breeding. But at same time, he knew that I was in nutrition area, and he wanted to make sure that his breeding cattle, breeding herd were fed properly. And so he came up to visit with me about how he might handle his cattle differently under his conditions over there at Hayden. And then, also, to tie in with his breeding program, he wanted to see how his progeny would perform under feedlot conditions. So I had fortune to feed some of his cattle.

JIM HANSEN: Mm. OK.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: So he took the records from my research to incorporate in his sale every year.

JIM HANSEN: OK. Good. The Monforts. Obviously, you knew Kenny as a kid, because you were competing against one another in 4-H.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Kenny, as a youngster, he was more or less a playboy. And I guess this carried on during his college career, too. I think education was secondary. He wanted to have a good time here. But Kenny was very close to his father, and of course that made him become interested in cattle feeding.

JIM HANSEN: Right.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: So he followed his father's business very ably. Well, what sort of man was his father, Warren Monfort?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Mr. Monfort, Warren Monfort, he was a quiet man. He spoke very little, but when he did speak, his words were very meaningful. And that was one thing that I was attracted to Mr. Monfort. What he said, he meant. And actually, Mr. Monfort treated me just like his own son.
And so from the very beginning, while I was still in high school, he followed my track very closely.

JIM HANSEN: Mm-hm. That's great. So you and he become acquainted when you're competing in 4-H, right?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: You're right, and so--

JIM HANSEN: And he sees what a good job you're doing, and then he sort of takes a personal interest in you?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Correct.

JIM HANSEN: OK. Well, let's talk about the Monfort operation, because it's been one that's been subjected to some criticism. It's the vertically-integrated corporation, where you basically have everything in one place, the feed, and the finishing, and the processing, and even the transportation. For a while, they had some problems with not only labor under Kenny later, but also with e. coli. And that was in the '90s, and I guess it was the sons by that time who were involved with it.

What is your take on this kind of operation, which really was one of the most important economic factors in Colorado for many, many years?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Well, Mr. Monfort had a keen mind. And in other words, I think he used to think in his head before he put it into practice. For example, in his feedlot operation, he recognized the use of home grown feeds. And so, as an example, he was one of the first people to recognize the importance of sugar beets as cattle feed.

JIM HANSEN: OK.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: And so I could still remember when he was on the first radio program with Great Western Sugar Company, and that got national attention. And I still have a picture where he was being interviewed for the Cattle Feeder's Day that they had here, promoting the use of sugar beets for cattle feed. And then he also had a very high regard for Colorado A&M, and it was due to Mr. Warren Monfort that Colorado A&M purchased all this area in this area. And if it hadn't been for his vision, I don't think the campus would be what it is today.

JIM HANSEN: Yeah. At an interview with Bill Morgan for the first book that I wrote, and he was saying that there were these farmers and stockmen who really had this foresight. And Bill did, too, but they were the ones who really pushed him, and they were on the state Board of Agriculture.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Correct.

JIM HANSEN: And it's interesting, he didn't mention Warren Monfort by name--
JOHN MATSUSHIMA: I see. Yeah.

JIM HANSEN: --but clearly, he did.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: And then, too, going a little bit further with his feedlot industry, he recognized that if he fed the cattle, they had to go to market to be processed. And he recognized that in marketing his finished product, they had to go to Denver. And so he thought, well, why not build a packing plant in Greeley? Well, he had some of the Greeley people against that idea. So he had somebody else from Denver make that packing plant, which was Capital Packing, and then Mr. Monfort purchased it later on.

JIM HANSEN: Oh, OK. Oh, that's interesting.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yes.

JIM HANSEN: Yeah. All right.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: So Mr. Monfort had ways of getting around certain things.

JIM HANSEN: Mm-hm.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: And then, to tie-in with his cattle-feeding industry, he knew that to bring in his feeder cattle from quite a distance, well, he said, well, why pay somebody else to truck our cattle? So he got in the trucking industry.

JIM HANSEN: Right.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: So they all tie in.

JIM HANSEN: Yep. He had this really sense of the comprehensive approach--

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Right.

JIM HANSEN: --to the industry. This type of operation has been subject to a lot of criticism, especially by environmentalists. People like Wendell Berry, for example, or Michael Pollan. And it seems that science almost always comes to the rescue. Like you have animals confined, and then their diseased, and then somebody like Rue Jensen comes up with a vaccine to handle red nose.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: That's right.

JIM HANSEN: Or you have e. coli, and you can irradiate the meat, and that presumably will control that problem. And the same with mad cow disease, which has gotten a lot of publicity, but really hasn't been that common in this country. How would you respond to a Wendell Berry, or a Michael Pollan?
JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Well, I still go back to my acquaintance with Mr. Monfort. He always told me you've got to be a leader. And if you don't try something, you may not get an answer. And so, if you try something new, you generally don't know what things might follow afterwards.

JIM HANSEN: Right.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: And that is true in life here, that as we move along, new organisms develop. And so, if those new developments come to the forefront, and if it's not a desirable event, well then, you've got to go find some way of counteracting them. And that's life.

JIM HANSEN: Right. OK. W. D. Farr, co-author on your book. I'd like to know more about him. He sounds like a fascinating man. It seems that when he started his operation-- was that about 1971 or '72?-- this was really an environmentally sound facility. I mean he knew a lot about water, he knew a lot about sewage. He knew about how to feed livestock. Now, did this come from looking at something like the Monfort operation and seeing it's problems? Were they--?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Well, the two got along very well. Which is contrary to what has been published. I've seen two or three publications where the two did not see eye-to-eye, but that's not true. I know, personally, that the two got along very well.

For example, they were the two people who got the first state-- let's see, I forgot what the title of the club was, but anyway, they were the two instrumental people to get that cattle feeding club started in Greeley.

JIM HANSEN: Now, when did you become acquainted with W. D. Farr?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Oh, from the very beginning, even before I came here to CSU.

JIM HANSEN: OK.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: So it was after I met, of course, I knew Mr. Monfort from high school days, but it was shortly after that.

JIM HANSEN: OK. And I think you mentioned that you've used his operation as a teaching tool for--

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Oh, yes.

JIM HANSEN: --some of your students, because it was state of the art, and it sort of did everything that--

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Well, actually the former feedlot was, more or less, a show place, and so it attracted people from all over the world. Because he took the initiative to travel around the country here to look at the feedlots. And he took the most useful ideas and put it all into one feedlot.
JOHN MATSUSHIMA: So it was a showplace. So that was one reason that I took my beef feedlot management class there every year.

JIM HANSEN: Now, what were W. D. Farr's personal qualities. You said that Warren Monfort was quiet, but when he said something, it really had some substance to it. And you mentioned that some of these other people were just incredibly gifted public speakers, and had these interpersonal skills.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Well, Mr. Farr was not a flashy man. In other words, if he was invited to be a speaker, he didn't put people laughing in the aisle like Ferry Carpenter.

JIM HANSEN: Right.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Ferry Carpenter--

JIM HANSEN: Right. OK.

[CHUCKLING]

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: --was altogether different. But again, Mr. Farr, W. D. Farr, he was a person who spoke slowly, but he was very careful in choosing his words. And to me that was one of the characteristics of him. And then, he recognized that water had to be the main ingredient for life. Without water, you can't produce crop. And if you can't have crop, you don't have agriculture.

JIM HANSEN: Especially in Colorado.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Right.

JIM HANSEN: Well, he's served all those years on the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District Board, and he was on there for year after year--

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Right. Yeah.

JIM HANSEN: --and helped guide that organization.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yeah.

JIM HANSEN: But that is really important in Colorado. OK. Bob Josserand.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yeah, Bob Josserand, he's a CSU graduate. And he's another real capable speaker. He has a voice that carries well, and he can get his message across not only to livestock people, but to the consuming public. When he was president of National Cattlemen's Association, he spoke to various groups and got the message across that beef is a good product.
JIM HANSEN: Mm-hm.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: And of course, when he was a student here, too, he was quite a leader.

JIM HANSEN: Now, when was he here as a student? Before you got here, right?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yes. It when I was away.

JIM HANSEN: OK. When you were in Nebraska?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: I think so. Yeah.

JIM HANSEN: Merlyn Carlson.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Merlyn Carlson, he was a student of mine at Nebraska, and then the way I got to know Merlyn quite well was, his family was quite a prominent Angus cattle breeder in Nebraska, and they showed cattle. And I could remember that the type of cattle that they were producing would be what I would call the modern type cattle, even in those early days.

So the Carlson family, they knew what they were producing from very early life.

JIM HANSEN: Right.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: And then, of course, I think lately he's now Commissioner of Agriculture in Nebraska, or it one of those positions.

JIM HANSEN: Yeah. Yeah. OK. And Chuck Sylvester, I do know that name because of the National Western Stock Show.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Well, Chuck is another person that can relate to the public, especially to the livestock people. And he's very friendly. His trait, I guess, is his handshake. He's a typical Western hand-shaker.

[LAUGHTER]

JIM HANSEN: That's a great description. Yeah.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yeah. But I think one of the strong points of Chuck is that he has a real interest in young people. And that is one reason that Chuck, I think, had the president's job of the National Western Stock show for a long, long time. And he's still a prominent livestock man, but I think he's going to let age take the upper hand.

JIM HANSEN: Mm-hm. Mm-hm.

[LAUGHTER]
JOHN MATSUSHIMA: He'll probably maintain his ranch, because his daughter is co-owner of the ranch.

JIM HANSEN: Well, you've had quite a life. You've really impacted students, you've helped develop an industry that's one of the most important not only in Colorado, but the United States, and you've had international impact, as well. You've had, what, 10,000 students-plus?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yeah. Right. Well, the thing that I like about that is that I have the names of everyone and the grades that they got.

JIM HANSEN: Right. Is there anything you'd like to add, John?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: No. I might just say what I mentioned the other day, when I got my award as the famous, the agriculture thing, Hall of Fame. I mentioned that agriculture is the backbone of food production, and that agriculture is what keeps food on the table.

JIM HANSEN: Right. Well, that's a good summary.

[LAUGHTER]

Well, thank you, so much. And this has been a great set of interviews.

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Quite right. You mentioned that book.

JIM HANSEN: Oh, yeah. Oh, great. Well, thank you. That mine to keep?

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: Yeah.

JIM HANSEN: Oh, wonderful. Then I will read that. I think I can just--

JOHN MATSUSHIMA: And then this one--