

Transcription: Grand Canyon Historical Society Oral History

Interviewees: Etta (EJ), Dana (DaJ) and Deeanna Jang (DeJ)

Interviewer: Tom Martin (TM)

Subject: Etta Jang and her two children remember their husband/father James killed in the 1956 air collision over Grand Canyon

Date of Interview: June 29, 2016

Method of Interview: In person at the home of Tom Martin

Transcriber: Dannie Derryberry

Date of Transcription: August 22, 2019

Transcription Reviewer: Sue Priest, Tom Martin

Keys: 1956 Air Disaster, James Joseph Jang, Victor Sen Yung (Bonanza), UC-Berkeley, University of Minnesota, housing issues, Little League, Joe Shoen, tour guide of Chinatown, Marian Hopkins, Belmont Hills Psychiatric Hospital

TM: Today is June 29th, 2016. This is a Grand Canyon Historical Society Oral History Interview and we're at the home of Tom Martin, that's me, and today we are interviewing...

EJ: I'm Etta Jang.

TM: Excellent. And with you are your son and daughter.

EJ: Right. I do have one more. He can't come.

TM: Okay. Could you introduce yourself?

DeJ: Oh, hi, I'm Deeanna Jang.

TM: And your brother?

DaJ: I'm Dana Jang.

TM: Excellent. Very good. Well, thank you. We are a day away from the remembrance and memorial of the 1956 air disaster. Etta's husband, James, was on that flight. Would you mind to share with me about your husband, about James?

EJ: He was representing Fluor, an engineering company operation in LA. He was on his way to inspect a copper factory which wasn't operating for two years. He was gonna check and see if he will make it work so they will hire more people to work and open that plant. That's what was his trip about. She wasn't born. She was born after, she was born in March. And then he was only eight years old so he remembers his father a lot because he's old enough to realize all the time he spent with him and my number two. But mostly he got the most remembrance of his father is this one.

TM: How did you meet Jim?

EJ: Oh, we meet him at a mutual...public...oh, what kind of...to help Chinatown. I forgot the name of that place.

DeJ: Was it part of the YMCA?

EJ: Yeah, I was representing the YWCA and through Sunshine Church about getting some help for the people that usually work with the mother being sewing as occupation. There were a lot of children in those area, so we're trying to get some... They can drop off the kids and work at their job. But that was all.

TM: Where was this?

EJ: In San Francisco.

TM: Nice. Do you remember the year?

EJ: No, I don't remember. I had a treatment which knock off all my memory. There's certain things I don't, they knock it out. It's gone. I was mad. I called the doctor, don't ever give that treatment to another human being. It's hard on them not to remember. It was bad. I told the doctor you shouldn't even practice that kind of... That was all, that was my opinion. I was a normal human being. I go to a bilingual Asian school in the evening. I remember they taught me to memorize pages and pages of things. So I have a good memory, or training, but they knocked me out and it really bothers.

TM: What else do you remember about your husband, good times?

EJ: Well, that's where we met was at this meeting, mutual meeting, and that was all I remember. But then he is an engineer. His mother wish he was a doctor of medicine instead of a PhD. His mother didn't understand engineering so...

TM: Was she in San Francisco as well?

EJ: Yeah. Yeah. His mother is really, really upset.

TM: Really? Wonderful.

EJ: She's very kind. Both the grandparents all like this one remember (laughs). He's spoiled rotten. Oh, and he was spoiled.

TM: (laughs) Oh, wonderful.

EJ: Yeah.

TM: And his middle name is Joseph.

EJ: His middle name is Joseph, but he always used J. J. Jang.

TM: J. J. J..

EJ: Yeah, yeah.

TM: Okay. Where did Joseph come from in the family?

EJ: I don't know, I don't know that part about it because their mother was already changed the name from... Actually the Chinese come over with paper so actually they were Hu instead of Jang. There were no Jang, but the paper was Jang. So his father, even when he got his degree in Minnesota, he put Hu to remember that was his real last name. But he's a Hu, you know, say wu, so we put H-u and J-a-n-g.

TM: Nice, nice. What was the original family name, the heritage name?

EJ: Lee.

TM: Okay.

EJ: Yeah. (laughs) Etta Lee. Etta Lee was my maiden name, L-e-e.

TM: Yeah. What was James's original family name before it was changed, do you remember?

EJ: No, I didn't, because Boknua is his Chinese name. So he use Hu because that's their, the paper that they come in was Jang.

TM: How do you spell Boknua? I'm probably not pronouncing it right.

EJ: We put it Hu to make the sound.

DeJ: Oh, this is Deeanna. Hu is the family name and then she's saying his Chinese name that he was given when he was born. I don't know if there's an English spelling for it. She may know the characters.

TM: Cool. All right. Okay, thank you. Thank you.

EJ: Yeah, yeah. That's why he go to school with all these Mandarin people. Wu in Mandarin is Hu, so that's why in his diploma he put HuJang.

DaJ: This is Dana. Actually I encountered early in my career a distant relative who went to Stanford University and her name was Deirdre Wu. I asked my Uncle Roland to verify that to me and he did say they are our relatives. Wu was the spelling.

TM: Nice. Okay. Did James go to Stanford then?

DeJ: This is Deeanna. He went to UC-Berkeley for undergraduate. One of his roommates was Victor Sen Yung, who was in Bonanza (laughs). I don't know, maybe Mom could tell more about that.

EJ: About what?

DeJ: About his going to UC-Berkeley and being roommates with Victor Sen Yung.

EJ: Well, he came over six years old. He was very angry that they went through with a paper name, you know. It upset him a whole lot because when there was a depression in San Francisco the mother left him with his father and took Roland and Lincoln back. And then he had... His father couldn't take care of him, put him in Jomay home. It's like for children whose parents can't take care of. So he's very upset

over that incident. But mother couldn't take all three of them and the father thought he's old enough to be cared for by the father but the father is not. So that's why he was in Jomay home.

DaJ: This is Dana. When my mother referred to Lincoln and Roland, they are my father's two younger brothers. Roland is the second and Lincoln is the youngest. As far as his collegiate career was, he went to UC-Berkeley and then he needed to get some chemistry credits so he went to University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Then he got a PhD at University of Minnesota. The other thing, going back to Victor Sen Yung, who played the house boy/chef in Bonanza, as Hop Sing, he was a roommate of my father's at UC-Berkeley. That's about all I know.

EJ: Yeah. Yeah. He has a lot of friends in Berkeley, yeah.

TM: Clearly a remarkable man.

EJ: Yeah, he's very popular. He joined the Boy Scouts and they have a troop. Dana have the best friend, their father is having a hundred year old celebration of his birthday of a hundred years old.

TM: Wow. Wonderful.

EJ: So he send their old picture of Boy Scout troop. He processed that as a gift for his Uncle Eddie. So that was nice. And number two is at his party this weekend so that's why he represents us and he did the gift for me. And she wasn't born until after the accident. Yeah, yeah. He didn't know she was coming. He wished for a girl for me, you know, being a boy, you know. So he would be very happy to welcome her. My husband a good friend at work signed her birth certificate, A. C. Goodman. He signed that she was born from...the coworker. Yeah.

TM: Nice. Wonderful.

EJ: Yeah. So Andy D. was named after Goodman's wife.

TM: Do you remember how you were notified about the tragedy?

EJ: No. It was a shock. We got it from the company, Dr. Hainsworth called me all of a sudden and said, "Did you hear about the crash?" I said, "No, what crash?" So they scold him at work, he should come over and tell me gently. Dr. Hainsworth didn't know where I live, you know. We were in a new development. There's a lot of strange, new street so we don't blame him, you know, and going up there and tell me bad news. So he did it by phone, so that was okay with me. But the company was mad. (laughs) Yeah.

TM: Was mad at him.

EJ: Yeah. So Andy D. was named, she helped, you know, signed it. A. C. Goodman signed her birth certificate. Yeah. (laughs). And the bank check my social security when I not work night there so the social security was activated couple months. They don't after accident, they don't give out... The attorney have to register that he wasn't working long enough to get a lot of money so that's why I went to work. I'm under my social security because when he die he didn't put in enough money. So, Stanford hire a guy, "Now, you have young children. You better go and work because I want them... I think you want them all to go to college." So I went to work. I got real good result from mine because we only

get... He didn't work long enough and social security was very low. Mr. Ballenger from the bank told me, "Now with education coming in, now you better, you know, do something about it." There are a lot of good friends in Palo Alto. That's how they all got through, you know. I'm glad she's a lawyer and he has a Master degree. Then John has an arts at Oberlin. He plays piano.

TM: Nice. Nice. There clearly was no support at the time. It's becoming very evident.

EJ: Right. That's why...and then that kind of a death, the person insure him double indemnity where he insure... When he was at University of Minnesota, Mr. Raymond Lee gave him a present of insurance. He got \$10,000 from that insurance company, since it was accidental they give a full. The firm Fluor help insure him equable so it was \$10,000 he got, yeah.

DaJ: I'd like to add a little color. This is Dana. I'd like to say that my father moved us into a housing tract in Whittier, California, that was basically 100% White. My mother and father actually had to have a coworker from Fluor Corporation buy the house for them because of certain racial issues, they thought any kind of people of color would bring the real estate value down in the neighborhood. So my mother had to go through several years of telling people she was a renter. The second thing I want to bring up was...

TM: Excuse me. So your mother had to say she was a renter after your father had died?

DaJ: No.

TM: Before?

DaJ: The first years that they moved in.

TM: Okay. So he would be at work, she was there. Wow, thank you.

DaJ: Second of all, it was a new housing tract so all the infrastructure that was required to live was not available. In fact, I had to be bused to elementary school because they didn't even build the local school yet, Murphy Ranch. There was a shopping center about a mile down on Whittier Boulevard where my mother would shop at Save-On and Von's and whatever, but she didn't know how to drive. So when my father passed she had to learn how to drive. Not only would she... having my sister, but she had to learn how to drive. Second of all, the neighborhood really came together to help my mother. The first thing was she was definitely distraught when she heard the news from Mr. Hainsworth. The neighbors sent me over next door and I actually found out about my father's accident on the TV. I heard his name on the news. The next day my uncle came down from Wasco, California, and he actually told me in person, but I had no clue what was going on. I just knew maybe she was sick or something. I really thought that the neighbors really came together to help her because her infrastructure, her family, was in San Francisco and my father's family closest was in Wasco, so it was until the next day where her support came.

EJ: See, all my family's in San Francisco. And then, you know, I didn't know how to drive. And there's no sidewalk and their father has to walk him down before he worked to meet the carpool and be sure he gets on to school. I don't walk because I look different. There's no sidewalk, which was good because I mean, it's so hot down there and I have to walk uphill to get home and just take him down, you know. So he walk him down and get him to school. So it was good.

TM: How long did he stay with you, your uncle?

DaJ: Actually they had to go to Flagstaff for the memorial. Pretty much I was not required to go to the ceremony, or memorial rather. Not a ceremony but...

EJ: Yeah. After all these years...

DaJ: And then my mother turned down the airfare; she took the train.

TM: Many did.

DaJ: Yeah.

EJ: Yeah. I don't have any means but he volunteered... He saw on the internet. I didn't even know about it, but he...

DaJ: Dana Jang interjecting again. My brother had told me, in his investigation, that my father's friends who lived in Los Angeles wanted to have a memorial in Los Angeles. They were actually turned down by the Glendale Cemetery because they did not want to have an Asian sort of thing. So they went to, what was it, Forest Lawn or something.

DeJ: Yeah, Forest Lawn.

DaJ: Forest Lawn.

EJ: It was a terrible thing.

DaJ: The irony is that Glendale pretty much is Asian now.

EJ: You know, being the only Asian... When I go to his grammar school "Oh, hi, you're Dana's mom," you know. He's popular in that school.

DaJ: Well, Dana speaking again, when I was going to school I never even knew that I was Asian. It was kind of like I was part of the whole White kids. I knew I was different because my mother left me in the car once when she was going to Von's or Alpha Beta or whatever, and one of the checkers who was wheeling in the shopping carts starts speaking to me in Spanish. Apparently he thought I was Mexican because that was the only other minority in Whittier.

EJ: Yeah, that's why the minority can buy a custom home in the neighborhood, but we weren't accepted for some reason. That's why some go, most of the people are from Fluor, the engineering. There were seven engineers that lived there. Dr. Berman able to get us the house under his... Oh, he's a naval officer so he bought the house for us and he wrote a note "This, James Jang give me the number so be sure that the title go back to us." Wasn't he kind?

TM: Yes. And I've heard this from another naval officer who did the exact same thing for an African American couple so that they could have a house and get into the equity stream, the home ownership stream.

EJ: Yeah. He is a very thorough man. That's why he sign his birth certificate, you know, sign her... He didn't know she was coming because, you know. So that's why I name her after Andy D.. Yeah. (laughs)

TM: Nice. Nice. Dana, what do you remember about your father? You were 8 when you lost him. What do you remember?

DaJ: Well, the things that I remember is that he did respect my mother's work as a mother because every Saturday he said, "Go out and do shopping and I will take care of Dana and John." So every Saturday morning I was treated to pancakes that he made that were in the shape of cowboys and Indians.

EJ: He loves cowboy. (laughs)

DaJ: He also constructed a little quote/unquote "clubhouse" behind the garage for me to play in. He actually taught me about being a good neighbor because he constructed a good neighbor fence between us and the next-door neighbor that every other panel was facing each other so it was equal, it was shared. Part of my love for baseball was my father took me to my very first baseball game. He took me to the LA Coliseum to see the Dodgers play. He also took me and a neighborhood kid to the first year of Disneyland.

EJ: Yeah.

DaJ: So he always wanted me to have, you know, fun.

EJ: Fun with children. You know, Disneyland and Little League and all these children growing up, which he didn't have, like baseball. He grew up with basketball. But, you know, the all American game is baseball so he got into the Little League and...

DaJ: The other thing I learned from my father is that he had a love for music. He actually created a hi-fi system for the house, he made his own speaker. Although I never really got into classical music, he would be playing all these classical pieces. So I've kind of appreciated the real dynamics of a symphony. He was basically a guy who had varied interests. I really learned a lot from the variety of things that he was interested in. He's always a curious guy.

TM: Dana, one of the things you've taught me is that your father's upbringing as a child wasn't super great but look what an amazing father he was. How did he get that? I mean, he sounds like a brilliant man. No question about it, but oftentimes we, as we grow up, the parenting skills that we learn as children to then take into our families, we learn in our relationship. But it sounds like his mother had to take care of the other kids and he was with his father, oftentimes wasn't necessarily around.

DaJ: Yeah. He had a feeling of actually of abandonment because she took his two younger brothers back to China and he was growing up in Vallejo, California.

TM: Right. Through the war.

DaJ: My mother mentioned that they went to the Jomay home or whatever.

EJ: Yeah. See, he grew up with his mother being the Depression. She can only manage two and since he came over with her alone at the age of 6 and then she came in with a paper, you know, making him... Every time he worked it got difficult because he wasn't a citizen born in America. So he had to carry that in his wallet, a 6-year old picture ID. Can you imagine? He was so mad at America.

DaJ: Well, that's probably one of the reasons why he was never taken back to China because they were afraid he may not be able to come back.

EJ: Yeah. During the Depression and he was angry at all that thing happened, you know. That's why he...

TM: Was he relocated in the war? In the Second World War did he avoid all the internment.

DeJ: This is Deeanna, that was Japanese-Americans.

TM: Yes, but a lot of people weren't willing to recognize a difference.

DeJ: Right, but people of San Francisco, Chinese-Americans, wore buttons that said "I'm not Japanese." And they...

EJ: Yeah. We have to. We are very kind hearted race. See, they have a Madame Butterfly store, big glass display front, but none of us throw stones since they were at war in China long before America Pearl Harbor. America never helped China until Madame Chang came and spoke "Please help us." And finally, finally they Roosevelt with the three, Great Britain, and what's the other one...finally let Chiang Kai-shek have some help. Because we were at war with Japan long before this. When that Japan so aggressive hurt Pearl Harbor then they step in. See, we were fighting alone. But the Japanese, like I said, are very kind parents. They learned to keep their boundaries and then they learned not to break somebody things. So when we were born we were all have a receiving blanket, tie up all our hands with a safety pin so we won't be aggressive. So we don't touch anything, break anybody's things. That's our background. So we never break this Japanese store's beautiful Madame Butterfly. But they moved them away. They're afraid the other race would see and stone them and blame us, you know. So they moved them to a camp. See how the Japanese are? But the Chinese are the gentle race. They are very kind. They wouldn't hurt a neighbor, fight back. In America, they keep to their place because we were trained not to be.

DaJ: Well, this is Dana again. One of the things that my siblings and I, we really respected our grandparents for their courage in coming to America. We went to Angel Island to pay homage to them by putting up a plaque. During my visit to Angel Island I saw the conditions in which they were under to become U.S. citizens. I truly have the respect that they had the courage to give up all their belongings in China to come to a country where there they had nobody. They knew no one and they didn't have a job. I just said they must have been oppressed in China for them to give that up to come to the United States. My father's parents and my mother's parents, I have a huge amount of respect for.

TM: Absolutely. Just amazing, amazing man.

EJ: But they don't understand, you know. Like the immigrants of American on the east, they don't understand the hardship of the people from the west, you know.

TM: That's right. That's right. Taught you baseball? Taught you about how to share. What else?

DaJ: Well, the one thing that really touched me was that my brother, because he was in the middle of trying to conceive a child, was talking to all my father's friends about their remembrances of my father. There was one letter that really touched me. My father was going to University of Minnesota and he was sharing a house with other graduate students, so he went shopping for the house with one of his members. I have a career in the radio business. My father was looking down in the aisles of this store and he pointed to this radio. He said to his friend, he said, "Do you have one of those?" The friend said, "No, I don't." My father said, "You've gotta buy that because it's good for entertainment and news." I just said, my father believed in radio.

TM: Absolutely. To stay connected with news in the world.

DaJ: Yeah.

TM: Yeah. What else?

EJ: See, he remember more things than I do. I don't remember things as much. But he was only 8 years old. He, you know, he remember a lot of things he does with his father.

DaJ: That's the other thing I've learned from my father's friends. They would say, "Gee, you have kind of a memory just like your father." And then they would say, "Your sense of humor is kind of like your father, too." I just said, "Well, I never thought of that."

EJ: Cause he was very, very kind person. That's why he liked to spend a day on Saturday and let me have a holiday on Saturday. He do it with him, see, that's why he remember more things of the father than I would have.

DeJ: But, Mom, this is Deeanna, you should tell the story about your honeymoon cause I was thinking about the immigration issue and Hawaii wasn't a state yet. Remember? When my parents were getting married my dad worked for, I can't remember if it was Bechtel or it was... He worked for an oil company, but he entered a contest to win a trip to Hawaii.

EJ: Oh, yeah. He was walking back to his office. Someone stop him on the street and answer a few question of Herb King. He was on Herb King, you know, an economist of San Francisco Chronicle. He answered it correctly and so he won the trip right there and then. He was ready to get married to me so he said, "I'm gonna use that prize to take us to Hawaii," which was, oh, God, how lucky I am to get a free, a beautiful trip. The trip was staying in Royal Hawaii. That's where I saw, sitting in the lobby, the millionaire of China, Joe Shoen. He was sitting down there when we were getting out to the elevator and then they gave me a flower. Hawaiian is very hospitable, gave me all these flowers and everything. Just a beautiful trip he won. That was really a treat, I tell you.

DaJ: This is Dana again. Mom, can you tell Tom the story of when Dad was the tour guide in Chinatown and how we got tips? Why don't you tell Tom that story.

EJ: Oh, yeah. He earned... Being a poor student, on Friday he had to work taking China... Greyhound hire him to be a tour guide of Chinatown. He had to walk up and down these stairs through the house and point out all the sights. Marian Hopkins, she's a popular movie star, when he took her to the trip she gave him a five dollar tip. He said "Guess what? I got a big tip." (laughs)

DeJ: But I think he also told the tourists that it was good luck if they tipped him, right?

DaJ: Remember, he would say, "It's good luck if you tip the tour guide."

EJ: Yeah, yeah, he always said that because he was so happy with that thing he remembered all his... He'd point out the sights that they didn't know what those buildings represent. I think they all appreciate it because they all believe that there's a Tong warrior captured, they're scared to come to Chinatown. But he walked them through himself and nothing happened. (laughs) Yeah. That was good.

TM: That was when he was at University?

DaJ: When was that? When was he a tour guide, UC-Berkeley?

EJ: Yeah. He was in Berkeley. Yeah. He got a scholarship, to... Cause in Berkeley they didn't have engineering and have to take a special at University of Michigan to make up the credit. You have to have that much background to enter another phase of... Chemical engineer wasn't at Berkeley at that time. So since he got a scholarship to Minnesota he make up the engineering at Michigan. He got a beautiful education from Minnesota. Yeah. That's why he wanted to name one of the... When he was born everybody was excited, both side of family. He was only grandchild, spoiled rotten. So when John was... Then we came down, we moved to LA, he remember Mr. Raymond Lee who gave him... That's why, at that time when he was... Everybody want to name him, everybody want, you know, do it. That's why when we came down he remember his friend, Raymond. So he decided to put Jang instead of John. Yeah. So when he doesn't know about Deeanna coming, that's when the crash happened.

TM: How did you end up in treatment?

EJ: Well, with family and neighbors I came out after the shock treatment. I mean, there was so much kindness that I overcome. This kindness is a good, human kindness. You see that ad about human kindness, about the two little kids. One fell down and that pick it up. I look at that. I said that's very kind, even at that age they're kind hearted. That's why all the kids come out of it. They never tease these kids about anything. Except John came home. This child, Jack an enemy to John. Then John came home, "What is enemy, Mom?" (laughs) See, he [Dana] was loved at school. They thought he was Mexican or Spanish, but John, they thought he was Japanese. So there was a difference between this child and that child. See? The teacher said, "Gosh, he's so different." So we visit his house. He already put the living room, he got the set of the Alamo, United States lost, the Mexican won. (laughs) So he remember the Alamo and Davy Crockett. He's Davy Crockett.

DaJ: This is Dana again. I think Tom's question was how did you end up in Belmont?

EJ: I didn't remember because I told the doctor, I said, "Some doctor gave me a shock treatment," and they... All I remember they make me get into all this water in the bathtub. Turn the water on and want to give me more shock, I guess. You know, I was a nonswimmer and that's all I remember of that Belmont. I called the place because... And my father, "Get her out, they treat her poorly there." I got out of there from Uncle Victor. And my father, "Pull her out. This doctor is treating her the wrong way. They want to shock her out of...put her...and then things that is gonna frighten her." That was very crude.

TM: I'm so glad you're alive, because I've done these other interviews where the mother left with the children, committed suicide.

EJ: Oh, really?

TM: There was no help.

EJ: Oh, really?

TM: Nothing. I'm just so glad you're here.

EJ: Oh, no, I didn't. They were trying to kill me. That's why... That's why without family help I would be dead by now. Both sides of the family came to the rescue, and the neighbors.

TM: My sense is there was no assistance.

EJ: Yeah, you need a lot of help to pull out of a shock. But they go it the wrong way by frightening me to give me the shock treatment, the wrong kind of treatment. See, that's why I called the doctor, "You shouldn't be practicing medicine." That's all I can say. The neighbors all enjoy my children. They never was teased after John just got that Japanese thing. He was well loved everywhere. He got out of it because he looked, like he said, Mexican or Spanish.

TM: Dana, who brought you up then?

EJ: He doesn't look Asian.

DaJ: My mother. As I was telling everybody during the Up movie, when the wilderness scout in the movie and his mother went up, I thought of my mother, cause she was the only woman in the Boy Scout meeting.

EJ: He always tell me, "Now, you dress up nicely. Everybody know me at the school." Sure enough, when I go for parents/teacher conference everybody "Are you Dana's mom?" Yeah, everybody's happy and friendly. He'll always offer to babysit so I can go to the meeting. That's a very lovely neighborhood. The Mexican was able to drive by in there even. That's why they thought he was... But they teased this child [John], Japanese was the enemy so that brought up... That's why he was Davy Crockett American. See how all the children have their own miniature help, to help understand race relations. You know, how they get through school, just like they don't never have to happen to him, but John got teased because Japanese did the wrong thing. They did Pearl Harbor, make them hate them. But China is always very careful.

TM: Dana, what changes did you see in your mom when she finally escaped, or was saved, from treatment, in quotes, "treatment"?

DaJ: Well, there was a lot of frustration with my mother. She felt that there were some basic paranoia involved. She thought there was like a trust issue, like there may be somebody working against her or was a conspiracy or something. I saw that she was always saying they were taking things. It was just like she built up this imaginary group of people that were...

EJ: It's not imaginary. Even now in Palo Alto... I buy this at Walmart. I finally got mad, even a doctor wouldn't believe it. Now, I go in with two lenses at Long, my pharmacist. Boom, I was looking for this lens. This woman was saying, "What are you looking for?" I said, "Look at this, this fell out of my..." you know. So she helped me. I wrote a note, "Please, if you find one lens, please leave it here." A few days later I went there, there was this lens. They were kind neighborhood. They return it. They believe that someone unscrew my... This is forever gone. Just like a stocking. It disappeared. I wake up with just one pair. I mean, instead of pair it's only one. Then they put that disappearing act on me and nobody would believe it. I was holding that glasses with a thing, pull out of my hand. So they think I'm crazy I report it because who else would believe your story. So I never report. That's why I buy at Walmart. I don't go to the optometrist do that, you know. That wasn't funny treating me the way that they do.

TM: No, and it's not, when you try to treat the brain with electricity it's not an exact science.

EJ: Then they gave me sewage water, so I've been buying bottled water. Dana bought a filter for me. And they know how to bypass it. That's why this guy came all of a sudden. He's with Blackstone. My husband is an engineer. This machine was given to him in Whittier because we have a gas cooking and gas water heater and a lot of gas things. He put two valves himself in front of that federal housing, come to check the house. He went up to the attic, he went over the whole house already. He come with a unmarked car. That house was inspected so that no one hurt me at home. So I felt confidence that society was kind. When this happened of the gas leak in Palo Alto, I was dizzy and this man flash on Wall Street, 7:00 at night. He said next day this man came and put all kind of gadget in my hot water heater and in the city rental meter. He put some things there and spray all that...so there's no leak of gas coming out. My gas bill before I come here was less ten dollar since he... See there was a leak. Cause somewhere I turn off my gas, you know, heater is too hot. Since there was a gas, I don't want it to pressure... When I take a shower the gas ignite, you know, to warm up the water. I just don't want any more leaks, you know. I mean, now, being married to an engineer they tell me all these things so I do it like crazy. But they don't believe me cause I wasn't a trained person.

TM: But you knew.

EJ: Well, because he was so thorough, I mean, and giving me that Blackstone. That guy is on my side. He always don't want me to get hit with gas smell and get knocked out. Just two weeks ago there was a gas leak. There was a man after I see Blackstone on the Wall Street Week, I knew somebody was coming to help me. Sure enough there was a guy. Following day, he didn't tell me who it was. Everybody warn me don't let a stranger in the house unless they identify, but he know what he was doing. Then at night there was a voice, "have a man say the word gas" and there was a voice right next to me. I said "gas". I'm a woman but he say he want a man's voice. There was a man's voice, "gas", and that gas leak stop. So there was all these kind people. They are geniuses living in Palo Alto. They know how to flip my car key, my house key out of my hand, my eyeglasses. Nobody believe it. They thinks I'm crazy. I lose things all the time. I don't. I said nobody would believe me, so I'm wearing this. They think I lose it and misplace it, out of the mind woman, you know. "There she goes again," or things like that. I will get a bad reputation. So I make a lot of keys. I hide them all over the house and now I'm wearing it. Yeah. Because you get... You know, they don't believe you. Just like that wolf like Paul's wife because they pull the pigs. Not the pig or whatever, the three little pig story. They fooled the wolf, the wolf ate them up.

TM: Yeah, yeah. So Dana, how was high school for you? Did anybody talk about this? Did any of your...did life just go on? Because you were only 8 when you lost your father. So it would have been a

number of years, you know, going through the rest of school. I don't think anybody came around and sort of said "Do you need anything." You were just on your own, you and your mother.

DaJ: Yes. Yes.

TM: And your little brother and then your little sister.

DaJ: Yes.

TM: How did you manage?

DaJ: Well, my mother was very proactive. She encouraged me to learn culture by signing me up for a cotillion, which was a dancing place where you feel comfortable in a situation with having a relationship with women and dancing. She got me with male role models. She was actually a den mother in Cub Scouts. Before that she signed me up for YMCA, and I was in the Squire and Indian Guide programs. She also got me into Explorers. When I was campaigning for student body president she would help, you know, with my posters, with campaign stuff...

TM: Did you win?

DaJ: Yeah, but (EJ laughs) see, when we moved to Palo Alto I was back to ground zero (all laugh). I had no equity so it was kind of a humbling experience, which was I think good for me because... I said "Well, I'm not at the top of the heap anymore. I'm kind of battling." And, of course, the competition level in Palo Alto was really quite competitive. I had a group of people that were way above me. They were going to like Harvard and Stanford and MIT, so I was just kind of what they called the B-lane guy. I just kind of was a low key guy in high school after being the high profile guy in southern California.

EJ: In Palo Alto it was very hard. I have a professor, my neighbor/first neighbor, he's a Cal Tech professor. And next door they move a MIT engineer. He's a doctor, Dr. Grine. Kathy's father was always very protective of the girls. Then we had a Stanford, Mary Beth, she's representing Stanford and Palo Alto. She's a librarian. So we have a lot of... Then there's Mr. Ding, he's tried to protect me. He put a little sticker on my door "security protected" so nobody would bother you. So he's very... he's Mr. Ding. Then Mr. Lee, he's an engineer, so she's very nice. Mary Beth is kind. So I have all nice neighbor, yeah.

TM: Nice, nice. Dana or Deeanna, did one of you then try to do a bunch of research to learn more about your father?

DaJ: My brother, John.

TM: John did?

DaJ: Yes.

TM: Okay. Can you tell me some more of the things that he found out? You mentioned a couple of those.

DaJ: A few of the things... I was reading the letters from my father's friends. Most of them had a very high opinion of my father. He was sort of like a leader actually. My mother was telling me the story of

this Uncle Eddy who was his best friend, who is having his hundredth birthday this Friday at UC-San Francisco. My father met this woman, Maddie, and he actually encouraged his best friend to ask her to dance and eventually they became husband and wife. He was kind of like very outgoing. The other thing that I've seemed to inherit from him was I have a high focus on things. When I undertake a project I go at it completely. I'm very thorough. That's what a lot of his friends said about him, he's very focused. And like I had mentioned earlier, he has this sense of humor that is partly intellectual. So in other words, to a lot of people my humor is a little bit above them. It takes them several minutes to just "Oh, that is funny." The one thing that my father and I share was both of us played basketball and we were about the same ability cause I (laughs) was just not a very good basketball player and neither was him. But I just respected his passion for the sport.

DeJ: This is Deeanna. From the letters that I'm reading, Uncle Eddy, the person who's having the hundredth birthday party, the story he loves to tell, cause he just met me for the first time, Dana took me to meet him, I can't remember when it was. Was it...

DaJ: Clemet Street.

DeJ: Was it in the '90s?

DaJ: No, it was just in the last eight years or so.

DeJ: Oh, okay. Wow. See, my memory's bad, too. (laughter) But he loves to tell the story that my dad, who's only 5 foot 2, he and my dad were at this dance and he dared my dad to ask this tall blonde woman to dance. My dad took him up on it and asked her to dance and she said yes. (laughs) So he seemed to have no fear and seemed to have a lot of fun. But then he also has a serious side cause I remember another letter talking about how my dad told one of his friends, started lecturing him that he needed to study more and focus in order to do well and that he was really worried about him. That really impacted his friend a lot and he took that advice to heart and really started studying.

DaJ: Yeah. Another story my mother related to me was that my father, when he went to college, never believed in last minute studying. He would go to see a movie before an exam. Of course, I did not follow my father. I would stay up all night and, of course, I did lousy on the exam. I should have followed his edict where he just said, "Hey, don't... You learn as you're going through the course. You don't cram it all in in the last minute cause you're not gonna retain anything, and besides that you'll be so tired that you're gonna do worse on the test."

EJ: Yeah. That's why he got a A at the University of Santa Clara. He did so well, the professor said he is on the Dean's list. He's very good at Santa Clara. Then Deeanna, we are very proud of her. His father took a Chicago lasell law, he want to get into law. If he survive he'd be very proud of this little girl. (laughs) She's very smart. She was a gifted child. She learned how to read when I take her shopping. "Breck" That was a shampoo, they have a display, she says "Breck." I said, "Where do you see Breck?" Right at the window. Yeah.

DeJ: No, it was my mom who taught me to read. My mom took me to the library before I was in kindergarten.

EJ: And then she know all the butterfly. We bought a little flashcard. She memorize all the names already. Yeah. She's very, very... That's why the kindergarten and Dannenberg first grade, every time she

does a project she take it home to show Mr. Dannenberg. Very happy to have her in the school. So Dr. Haw said, "I have to find the right teacher for your kids." (laughs). Yeah. Yeah.

TM: Nice. You're taking after your dad. That's very cool. Yeah. Well, not that you're not taking after your mom but still it's very, very, very cool. Wonderful.

EJ: I'm very happy that she is so strong to finish, and being a hard profession for a woman. Yeah, so I'm very happy for her accomplishment. And this is on the Dean's list and they tell me so many good news about him. So I'm happy, too. Yeah.

TM: You should be. You should be very proud of your children. Yeah.

EJ: Yeah. Those kids are all very nice. Yeah. And John is on a scholarship. He drop out of Berkeley. He said, "It's too big, Mom. I wanted to go to Santa Cruz but they won't let me in." (laughs) Because everybody want there. He got into Berkeley so they thought he would be happy, but he wasn't. He wanted small. So somebody in Los Altos gave him a scholarship to go to Oberlin. That's how he got in there. He says, since Dana was in a private school, wants us to have that so she got her into Oberlin. She worry about sister not having...

DaJ: He did it.

DeJ: Yep, he did it. (laughter)

DaJ: He knows the Dean of Admissions personally. (laughter)

DeJ: That's another story.

EJ: It's hard to get in (others laughing), so she's smart also. She said. "I will save my..." You can only get one transfer and use it. She save it for her favorite career. She save that transfer back to Davis. She likes small and able to study, you know. At Berkeley people are partying and all kind of stuff. She's very... She concentrate more, not on pleasure but on getting herself together. So she's good. That about all the children value their own future. Help themselves, not worry Mother. So I'm happy. (laughs) Yeah. I'm happy that they work so hard to be what they want to be, like a challenge. I'm glad... She's in a man's career but I'm happy that she did so well.

DeJ: Don't tell that to Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Mom. (laughter)

DaJ: Deeanna knows someone MRS, though. (laughs)

DeJ: Yeah. No, but really I think... She never takes credit cause... I think even though I wasn't born when, and never knew my dad, I feel really impacted by what happened and the fact that my mother raised three children by herself. I got this award from a nonprofit group that I work closely with and I remember giving the speech and giving credit to my mom being a single mom with three kids. She scolded me afterwards. She said, "Why'd you say that? My brothers helped me." Sure, you know, her brothers came down once in a while but my memory isn't really that they... As Dana said, she raised us. Currently I'm a civil rights attorney and very influenced by the Civil Rights Movement as well as the Women's Movement. I think seeing what my mom went through and how she survived, and learning the

immigration story of my family and the discrimination they faced in housing, etcetera, I think it really inspired me to have the career that I have now.

EJ: She passed the bar on the first try. It's a very difficult test. This year they take the bar test they change all the questions and she passed on the first try. Her girlfriend, we don't gossip of other people, so I close... (laughs)

TM: I should say I'm not surprised.

DeJ: (laughs) I don't know. I was lucky to say, it was the happiest day of my life that I didn't have to take the bar again. (laughs)

TM: Well, it sounds like your father was a brilliant man. Your mother...

EJ: Yeah, it's a very difficult test.

TM: ...is very, very smart.

EJ: Just like engineering,

DeJ: Exactly.

EJ: Just like engineering, your father has to pass it in California. When he went to Texas he was older so he go through the grandfather just to get that certificate. He got an extra certificate from Texas because he was in there checking Dow Chemical. He was curious about ammonia and magnesium plant so we were in there for a short period of time, about 8 months. That's why he wore his cowboy boots. (laughs) That's how we end up in Texas.

DaJ: Well, this is Dana. I just want to mention one thing about my mother. The key attribute that she taught us as children is unselfishness. She basically sacrificed her own life to raise us.

DeJ: Umm hmm.

EJ: No. I felt that since their father was lost and he had such a fine mind and then most of the doctor know that they gonna be like their father and not like me doing... Off and on I went to these...like one class at a time, you know, to... Their father forced me in Texas to go into the economic class and go at night and choral singing with the Texan. So, you know, he encourage me to do all these extra things to learn about the future, that they all gotta be educated, you know, different. That's why I'm glad they are, you know, succeed at what their own goal like. I'm happy that he got a Master and this one got a J.D.. So that's good. John got a B.A, right?

DaJ: It's not by degrees.

DeJ: Yeah, it's not degrees. (laughs) That's right.

EJ: Well, nowadays, in my whole neighborhood...the kids little. We are Stanford, we are this, we are that. Oh, drive me crazy. They play, they always have to have red, it has to be stamped in color. Nobody

can get in to play at Holyoke without red color. I bought a blue and gold since their father was Cal. "No, get him a red one." So I've got two football helmet, one in blue and gold, one in red.

DaJ: Well, Tom, let me interject again, Dana. One of the things my mom about unselfishness is the sadness that I feel is in Palo Alto there are a lot of selfish parents now. I think that's part of the reason why there's a lot of suicides in teens. They're not living up to their parents' expectations. In other words, it goes back decades ago when they used to have those license plate frames "My kid was an honor student at blah, blah, blah" or whatever. It's like these parents are boasting about their children. If they don't live up, these kids are feeling they're just not up to their expectations of their patents.

EJ: Yeah.

DaJ: Throwing themselves in front of trains. It's really sad because Palo Alto has some of the most productive students in the country. I hate to see these kids with so much potential just lose it because of the parents feeling there's a status. It's a status thing.

EJ: Yeah, status. They're all status.

DaJ: In other words, that's the thing I respect about my mother. She let us live our dreams.

EJ: Yeah. That whole neighborhood, those little kids. You have to wear Stanford color, you know. I bought a basketball goal. Ah, they yelled "this is Stanford, this is Stanford" on the corner. I said, "This isn't Stanford," I bought the goal myself. (laughs) See how they... Everything I buy because we live close to... I don't want them to get killed in a traffic so I put the goal in the backyard, hidden, so it won't tease the other kids who want to come in and play. I don't want them to get killed.

TM: Yeah. Good.

EJ: Yeah. Three dogs got killed running out in the middle of the street, so I brought his favorite basketball goal in the back. Yeah. I invite the kids to play. See, he taught John how to do the basketball. So that was good. But I didn't like it because of the climb up the ladder to put that rope there. (laughter) I was real dizzy. I'm nervous on height so I hooked it up for them. Anyway, so.

TM: What else would you like to tell the future? This tape recording will be transcribed. It'll go into the Special Collections archive museum collection at the South Rim. Fifty years from now someone's gonna get this transcript, or they're gonna listen to this tape, what would you like them to know about your father? (pause)

DeJ: I don't know if I want to go first.

DaJ: Oh. Well, obviously we all feel there's a void in our lives without our father, but I was happy that at least the accident created the FAA, which has helped air travelers everywhere now. I'm saying there had to be some good from his passing. Personally I feel cheated but I feel that his death meant lives for so many others.

DeJ: I guess I think I was stumped by your saying about my father personally because I was thinking along the same lines, what you were saying about it's clear from your interviews that there were no support services for the survivors. A couple years ago, and that's how I hooked up with Wayne Ranney

from the Historical Society, I was going to be in town, I was gonna to go the gravesite and I'd heard about the designation of the historical landmark. He put me in touch with some people, including Mike Nelson, who wrote the book about his uncle. We emailed a few times because I suffered my own loss 10 years ago, I lost my fiancé.

TM: I'm sorry.

DeJ: I still remember talking to my mom about it. I said, "How did you deal with this," and she said, "You have to stop talking about it or people won't... You have to move on or else people will stop talking to you," which really stunned me. I remember talking to Mike about what happened to my mom and how she was treated like she had a mental illness. After I lost my fiancé, I went to a therapist and it just... I wasn't depressed. All my reactions were totally normal. When you lose your partner you're going to be sad and upset. (laughs)

TM: You're going to grieve. Absolutely.

DeJ: Exactly. I was stunned that this horrible accident happened and people were just, you know, nothing. I just hope at this point we've learned a lot. I mean, unfortunately we still have these tragedies, whether manmade or natural disasters. I think we've come a long way in learning how to deal with that, but it makes me feel sad to think back when this happened in the '50s that there wasn't anything and this was the reaction. I don't know why my mother was put into the shock treatment. I still, I would like to find out more about that, but I'm glad at this point in 2016 we know how to deal with grief and we know that happens to all of us.

TM: Absolutely.

DaJ: Well, the thing that's really sad is every time we hear about these gun tragedies in our country, that nothing *really* is done about it. I mean, it's...

DeJ: Umm hmm, exactly.

DaJ: ...it's just sad that it just goes... Like we've become numb.

DeJ: Yeah. We give our prayers, or people give their prayers and then move on to the next one.

DaJ: Yeah.

TM: Yeah. You just taught me, I'm still reeling about, thinking, oh, my heavens, what an incredible way to look at this. I lost my father so that others could fly in the air safely, and the people that die from gun violence can't say that yet—I lost my partner, my loved one...

DeJ: That's right.

TM: ...my father, my mother so that people could live safely in the future. We're not there yet. But it seems like there's a lot of things that we have learned in a very hard way and one is how to deal with family tragedies as this one. We have a ways to go yet on this. Anything else?

EJ: You know, he being a chemist, he fix all his food. He sterilized, don't touch anything here, I have to do it. He sterilize everything that's in touch with the human hand and germ. He fixed the formula. He did everything, sterilized the pet top, sterilized everything. I'm not to touch it. So he's under a lot of safety, no germs, kind of food with him. Because San Francisco, he's even afraid of...the water pipe of my father's buildings are old. We didn't dare ruin it. So I don't know. He finally move us and we did, we went to Texas because he's knowing disease and germs that he really careful with this guy.

TM: So he was a chemical engineer?

DeJ: Umm hmm.

EJ: Yeah. He's a chemical, so he's very careful. When he make his formula I can't even touch it. He sterilizes this and finally Helen took the sterilizer all over the other side. (laughs). Yeah.

TM: Then as soon as he went to work, Dana, like all children, goes playing outside and has a good time. We've learned now that that exposure actually, as children, exposure to, is a good thing, to bacteria and whatnot. It's how you build your resistance.

EJ: But the Asian don't let the kids play outdoor. I think we were all trained to be homebody and we can't disturb our neighbors because we all so crowded together. So we were taught to be very kind to one another. He was brought up everything sterilize, everything all clean. Yeah. (laughs) That's how careful he is with them. I think he knows so much about germs. He was nearly like his friend, this pharmacist, Eddie. He was studying a minor in pharmacy to learn a little bit about drugs. But he want to be an engineer so that's different, yeah. But no one want to be a MD. I don't know why. (laughs)

TM: You did good.

EJ: Well, two of his good buddies are MD, Lon Jo and Elbert Young. He come with a group of all and they his age time, according to my brother uncle Fey that went down when he was growing up. His father was at the challenging, learning new things in America. So his father was different. Then the year after my brother was...they were going to find more important to learn Chinese. So my brother was in the Chinese school more popular. My other brother was doing okay in American school. Uncle Victor was in Nam. My younger brother, he was in the ROTC, so he helped. He got promoted because... He was so proud to wear his ROTC. See, you were asked about ROTC when there was the Viet Nam War. Well, my brother was there and he got a good job because he was pretty good at ROTC. So that's born at the time Depression and then in a war and we can hardly get back into ourselves, you know.

DaJ: Well, as far as my mother's concerned, the one thing I wanted to interject, Dana, is that she revealed to us during her upbringing that she was bullied by a woman by the name of Violet Gee who basically told all my mother's friends to stay away from her. My mother had to befriend, actually, the White kids. So she basically had a very difficult upbringing.

EJ: Yeah. See, I was a teacher pet. My teacher took me to movies and give me to be a monitor, correct math papers. She taught me the secret of the answer, and I correct paper. This fellow from China, Chinese, very good at math, he look at me, he was mad at me. So the whole class was mad at me because I was correcting paper. It wasn't my choice, you know. So it's bad. Don't be a teacher's pet. (laughter)

DeJ: That's not the lesson to learn. (laughs)

TM: Yeah. Thank you so very much for your time today.

EJ: Oh, thank you. I'm sorry the story is so funny. (laughs)

TM: You know, laughter is a medicine.

EJ: Yeah. It's hard to live in our country. Brought up in close quarter, we have to be very polite to each other so we don't hurt each other. Even now my neighbor behind me, we have all these trees, and I'm forever, since they were so gracious don't sell to minority, I try to prove them we just want to be as clean as you are. So I volunteer and sweep all the leave on Ames. My other neighbor's walking her two big, gigantic dog, "What are you doing outside? You stay in in this heat." She's very kind. She says, "My gardener's coming today. I'm gonna ask him to clean it for you." Now, isn't that nice? They all very kind neighbors, so I'm glad.

TM: That's huge.

EJ: Yeah. But still there's dirty water and the city of Palo have gas leaks so they make my life so miserable and my personality change, and nobody would believe me because I never complain. Nobody would believe it, you know. Like that guy yelled "Gas." All of a sudden it disappear, and then he help me by making life pleasant by buying me that filter so your water wouldn't be so bad. But the insurance company knew there was some bad things coming down my street, sewage water, that bypass. There was a lot of noise every day, regenerating the water. It's unbearable living in that house, I tell you. But he make it pleasant for me every way. He bought the filter so I... But then the insurance company said "No, better buy bottle water, drink bottle water. Don't trust them. It'll bypass. Some days they'll be bad." That's what they did and, oh, it's all my fault they regenerate. I used to do rock salt and regenerate it three hours in my old house so I don't have to use chemical to clean the tile. He said get the chemical, when the kids take shower they're gonna breathe all that, they're gonna get cancer. So we bought this \$169 and every 10 days I have to buy rock salt from them. I have a station wagon. He say, "You able to lift it out of the station wagon?" I said, "Just shuffle up to his little wagon, and then wheel it out." I was able to regenerate every 10 days. The water is very clean. Being married to a chemical engineer, he's very safety. Blackstone is safety. I'm here today on account of those two safety expert help me. Yeah. So there are a lot of good friends and all the bad ones, so. (laughs) Yeah. But I'm very happy everybody is healthy. That's all. Money can't buy health and when you suffer pain... I think every day we thank God that we are healthy.

TM: And remind me again how old are you?

EJ: 90.

TM: 90?

EJ: 91. Yeah. Yeah.

TM: Very good. Wonderful.

EJ: Well, they're all big help to me otherwise I wouldn't... (laughter) Yeah.

TM: Yeah. Wonderful.

EJ: They made life pleasant. The neighbors are nice so that's why I stay there. Yeah. They all notice things, even newcomers, the problems of our neighborhood. They all very kind, every one of them. Yeah. I'm very lucky. Yeah. Yeah.

TM: Wonderful. Thank you so much.

EJ: Oh, you're welcome.

TM: Dana, thank you.

DaJ: Thank you.

TM: Deeanna, thank you.

DeJ: Thank you.

TM: We'll have a signing ceremony now. I'll turn this off. I'll give this to the lawyer to read actually.

DeJ: (laughs) Yes.