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Interview Notes: [Berkeley] Gazette (Barbara Erickson)

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Barbara Erickson, Fayette - 12/26/78

- Journey Home - sequel to J to Topaz

- In J to Top - hold story of the incarceration

of a Japanese family during WWII when
bro. on plane sent to conc. camps. story of
Yuki's J - much like my son criticism (2/3/85)

7. - interned in POW camp - Saturday P.H.

2 - paid up - 10 days, sent to Taupo Race Track
lived in horse stall - cold windy -

lack of privacy - K

Topaz - in barren waste - Utah.

- J Home - story of same J's rel. to Berkeley -
fictional, but based on facts & period.

Story of struggle to survive & rebuild lives again -
no home, no job for father, no kids - war & own prob.

Yuki always searches for home, mother & kids

all of well - but learns to home, mother & kids - spirit
Rooster - B.V. - evoke sense of home

- new gen'n & Y.P. who need to know a story
of happened to Japanese during WWII - home

also the young J.A. want to know about a new
history - happens to J.G. & J.M. - but

there has always been a history - anti-Asian feelings
- Calif - econ. pol. repression - feelings

- these 10 yrs or so goals changed -
dev. of ethnic awareness

- young Asians - not ent'd. in historical roots

- wanted goals - feelings defined - by fellow Asian
who know & means to be As.

- wanted to reinforce & self-knowledge, pride,
respect themselves.

- But also writing a non-Asian

- to dispel stereotypes max. prev.

- to see J-A - as self from Japan - own aspects

- etc & ch. re "foreignness" - are angry Japan

- But we're - human beings 1st -
Celeb. common humanity.

- Inchi's ble - important to give a sense of hope -

- I don't ✓ to leave Asian ch & sense & anger & frustration only they give & some sense & purpose - life & hope -
- Want to transmit to them & ✓ values & goals & spirit that sustained them. ✓ strength & spirit & endurance that helped & survive - harsh land.
- Grew up - Burb, Longfellow, Willard UHS, Cal
 - Parents - warm loving care - they cushioned some & hurtful experience I me - I was a diff. wld.
 - no game could buy recent home & hills - not lived below Gore St.
 - Called b. Darls - before haircut
 - ~~custom~~ ~~system~~ cert. stores, hotels, clubs make + feel unwelcome.
 - always loved to write → journals, books & 10.
- Japan → found roots - did int in handicrafts.
 - write 1 Craft Horizon
 - did 2 - pottery, jewelry - , wear
 - but decided to come & write - not diffuse my energies.
- working now on ch - school currcic - for Asian ch = Asian-oriental
 - Teach Bitter - 20 bitter or Bible stories thru
 - See grud to Samurri
 - by under ~~the~~ As-Am ~~history~~ exper.
- short stories in Scott Doerman anthology
- adult novel.