

**1. Item # MANZ 3331 (replica of Toyo Miyatake's camera)
Archie Miyatake [AM], MANZ 1007, interviewed by Alisa Lynch [AL]
Disc 1 of 2 (DVD), 1:32:02 – 1:35:50 (transcription pages 58 – 60)**

AM: Well, the way it happened was I was just playing outside with my friends and things and then my father all of a sudden called me in and said he wanted to talk to me. And he hardly ever hardly calls me in to talk with me about anything—he was quiet and always reserved type of man—and for him to call me in, I thought, “Oh my gosh, what did I do wrong now?” You know? I got a guilty conscience. So I went in and sat down, and he says, “I got something to tell you.” He was saying all this in Japanese. He says, “As a photographer I have a responsibility.” What’s he talking about? I couldn’t understand, I couldn’t quite comprehend what he was trying to tell me. Says, “You know, we were put into a place like this and my responsibility is to record camp life so that this kind of thing will never happen again.” So he says, “I have—I snuck in a lens and some film holders, and I’m going to find a carpenter to make a box for me.” So I thought, “Oh my gosh, he’s going to do something he’s not supposed to be doing.” I thought right away, you know. But he was able to sneak it in and I thought, “Well, ‘cause”—I thought about it later—I thought, “I guess if it was just a lens and film holder, even if he got caught, you know, they can’t arrest him for having contraband because it’s not usable that way.” And what worried me was, if he got caught he—he’d be arrested and taken to another camp and get separated.

AL: Right.

AM: Which I, you know, I really didn’t want to happen. Well anyway, he found a carpenter and had a camera made, but he never showed me the camera.

AL: Do you remember what you said to him? Did you say anything to him when you found out about the lens and the film holder or did you just keep it inside?

AM: No, I just kept in inside. I didn’t say anything to him. And so—in fact, I didn’t even know when he was taking these photographs. He would get up early in the morning and go out to take photographs and some—sometimes he would skip lunch or dinner, and while everybody’s eating he would be taking pictures right around the area—area where we lived. And so these photographs didn’t have any people in them. So, and then as time went on it was just a coincidence that people started saying, “We want you to take, you know, take a picture for us.” But we have to have a studio established. The reason for that was because some of their children are going to relocate or going to the army and if they’re going to the army, they may never see them again.”