

2. Item # MANZ 7549 (baseball glove and other baseball-related artifacts)

Rosie Maruki Kikuuchi [RK], MANZ 1083, interviewed by Alisa Lynch [AL]

Disc 1 of 1 (DVD), 1:41:13 – 1:43:17 [cut to] 1:44:42 – 1:46:10

AL: *Were you on any of the baseball teams?*

RK: *Only—I don't know if you heard of the Dusty Chicks. That was the first baseball team that was formed, to my knowledge, where Chiyo Tashima who was the bowler who was moved for her bowling. She was a 300 game bowler that won a car before the war and didn't know how to drive. The guy came, "This is how you do this." She drove the car home. She was a man's woman because she played cards with them. But anyway, she was a pitcher and the only position open was catcher. So they say, "You wanna be catcher?" "Sure. All I have to do is catch." Here I am and here is Chiyo pitching. BOOM. Here it comes. I nearly fell on my butt because she pitches so hard. And I said, "Gee, I don't know if I want to do this." And so they say, "That's okay." We didn't have any mask at that time, and she pitched, pitched, pitched, and they say, "Just give her a target." And Chiyo says, "Oh my gosh, she's lousy." And I think a paper from Philadelphia—remember that paper that was in the brown colored paper?—they came and published our team, and it's one of the books put out on Manzanar. Our team is playing baseball, and Jack Kunitomi's wife, she was second baseman, and Mae Toma, who was Nisei Week princess and Masa was princess, and she played third base, so we had these older ladies and here Pee-Wee and I were the two young ones on the team. But we just had a real great time with them.*

AL: *Did you stay as catcher?*

RK: *I remained as a catcher.*

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AL: *Who else was on your baseball team?*

RK: *Well, Chiyo's sister Misa was older, played first base. Pee-Wee was center because that's where all the—Oh, and then the administrative staff, the men, wanted to challenge our team so we played against them and, naturally, they hit the ball hard. Way out in center field Pee-Wee caught it and the guy said, "Relocate that gal!" And Tani Yamo played left field and Fuji Suhara played right field. And Marian Fujimoto says she was a manager. She said she was a manager and she's in the picture. But these are kind of glamour people. Older age, but they were glamorous. And here was Pee-Wee and me. Nothing.*

AL: *So you were playing the staff hakujiins?*

RK: *Hakujiins. We played against them.*

AL: *And they were all guys.*

RK: *And they were all guys.*

AL: *And who won?*

RK: *I think we won. Maybe by one point, or barely. But anyway, all I remember is that guy saying, "Relocate that gal!" Because at that time people were signing up to relocate, and trying to get people out of camp by that time. And that—I can never forget that. And we were so proud because it was way out in center field.*