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Naoko Wake Collection of Oral Histories of US Survivors of the Atomic Bombs Collection
Title: Keiko Shinmoto Interview
Narrator: Keiko Shinmoto
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
Location: Stockton, California
Date: July 25, 2011
Densho ID: ddr-densho-1021-3-1

<Begin Segment 1>

KS: Survivors, A-bomb, is everybody, all too, right?

NW: Yeah, youngest person must be, so, 45, 55, 65, 66, years old. Even for people who were in their mother's stomach, or womb, it's pretty much 66 years.

KS: I read about it. Some of the book, I forgot that, anyway. He was carried, um, his mother was pregnant with him. I guess, he was scared, I guess some kind of harm [?] happened to her, but, anyway, yeah, yeah. I understand that.

NW: People, yeah, yeah, like that. Okay, so, let me ask you some questions.

KS: So whatever, let's.

NW: So, probably, we can start our conversation by talking about your parents. Your father and your mother, where were they, and what kind of people they were, what you remember about them.

KS: Well, my father loved the trouble.

NW: He loved the trouble, okay.

KS: So, he had a business, in Japan, usually, family business, take over [by a son], but he doesn't like it. Of course, you know, he was helping too, whenever the chance he got. And he started to coming to this country. I don't know, what year was it? But, at that time, his uncle lived in Portland. So, he just, you know, looked to see that uncle at that time. Oh, I don't know what year, they don't have airplane. I heard he went there all the way to Russia, Russia all the way to Seattle.

NW: Wow! That must have been a long trip.

KS: He loved to travel. That's what my mom told me. And the uncle had a grocery store. So he went helping the uncle. And, I think, well, after that, my mom went after, to go, they were together.

NW: Okay, so they were married in Japan, is that right?

KS: Yes, yes.

NW: You remember the year?

KS: I don't have no idea, that part.

NW: How many brothers and sisters do you have?

KS: Well, I have a big family. I didn't know you were . . . [inaudible]. This is my mom.

NW: Oh, she looks like you!

KS: This is my father, of course, he died at 54, 55 he died.

NW: Oh, he was young.

KS: Yes, after the war, though, atomic bomb *de*. I have a [inaudible].

NW: Okay, so you are.

KS: I'm the one, this is me.

NW: Yeah, this is yourself and then, you have three sisters, oh no, four sisters?

KS: I think I have five sisters.

NW: Five sisters. Okay, wow!

KS: And one of the sisters died atomic bomb, yeah.

NW: Well, five sisters, you mean including yourself?

KS: No, I'm one of . . . Let me see, Hideko, Aikiko Michiko, three. And Yuriko, four. Oh, I think he missed Sachi, Sachiko.

NW: He missed one person? Okay.

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