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Title: Keiko Shinmoto Interview
Narrator: Keiko Shinmoto
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
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<Begin Segment 11>

NW: Now, it's a little different question from the other questions I've asked you so far, but do you think the fact that you are a woman has changed any part of your life experience or made it different from men's life? I mean, I know that there are many Japanese *hibakushas*, survivors, from Hiroshima or Nagasaki for that matter, who came to the States and, of course, this group of people includes both men and women, and I just wonder as a woman who came here to study, and at the time I understand you don't think of yourself as a survivor, but any part of your life experience after coming to the States was shaped by the fact that you're a woman. And I ask you this because some other people have mentioned how "Because I was man, I had to do this" and "Because I was woman, I had to do that." I just wonder if you think of any part of your life experience as in terms of the fact that you are a woman

KS: Well, maybe, if I continued the school, may be, I might, this way. I mean, what I was gonna say [was] probably out going myself, too. I probably, in Los Angeles and I like to go [into] more professional type designing, I like to be that way, too. But since I married to this, Stockton [laugh]. You know, Stockton is, . . . right now, it's changing. You know, before I came to, oh it was very, very local. Of course, the first time I came here, the French County, the place as a real farming, um, what am I gonna . . . um, farmland, surrounded by farmland, only the one house, like that. So, well, I can't go back to LA anymore because I'm married I have to do something to myself. But, you know, *sumeba miyako*.

NW: [Laugh].

KS: Exactly. And now I'm just a mother with two kids. And moving to this side of Stockton now. So. I like it. So when I go to Los Angeles. Oh my God, that's busy, oh it's noisy. You know, like that. Of course, my husband had a business. Automobile repair shop.

NW: Oh, automobile repair shop in Stockton. That's why you moved to Stockton. Okay, alright. Was he good?

KS: Of course, before that, start business, he was working for Chevrolet, the company, as a mechanic. So he's experienced that, you know. He worked how many years? Maybe 10 years, maybe, and after that he started his own business.

NW: Right, right. Yeah. So after being trained by Chevrolet, so to speak.

KS: Yeah. Then we moved to Stockton, then I got to raise kids, I got to take care of his business's book keeping, so I was kind of busy.

NW: So you were helping him out, by taking care of, looking at the management book, so to speak.

KS: He had four mechanics, so pretty busy. I have to take care of all the book[s]. So, but I don't have any, I would like to be this or that way, at the time. I don't have that [now]. Just as a mother, a wife, now I am a grandmother, too.

NW: Right, that's great. So, you think that the fact that you became a mother of two children really changed your views on anything? I'm just kinda wondering about it in general.

KS: No, I am okay. I am not changed, just . . . I hope I am . . . I hope they think I am a good mother [laugh], good grandmother. Or something like that. But yesterday, I got my son, the older son, they went to vacation at Lake Tahoe, on their way coming back, they live there, Sunnyvale, the Bay Area, they stopped by. Oh, how am I doing? I said oh I am okay, but I am getting old, too, so. Any time, [they] come up, you know, [they say] live with us. I might have to do because I'm all by myself here and supposing something happens, the Sacramento in Sunnyvale, you know, closest one only the friend, you know, just [in] Stockton, I always, [when] something happened, I call her. Maybe I think about it, you know. When you get old, you never know.

NW: When you are old . . .

KS: Everybody, [when] one side it gone. Everybody go nearby the son or daughter. I said, oh gosh, maybe now it's time. I'm thinking but, you know, my age, too. Yeah.

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