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Title: Keiko Shinmoto Interview  
Narrator: Keiko Shinmoto  
Interviewer: Naoko Wake  
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**<Begin Segment 6>**

NW: After the war, you went back to your elementary school? Did you go back to school?

KS: Yes.

NW: How about teachers? Did teachers talk about the bomb at all? They didn't ...

KS: No. I guess, I don't know. Now you are telling me, come to think of it, we never talked about it. Huh. Maybe did not want to remember, or they did not want to, ah. Yeah. Not too many people, yes.

NW: How about your mother? Didn't she tell you things like . . . Well, especially because you came to the States, um, you'll be far away from her. I assumed that she stayed in Japan. Didn't you tell her, didn't she tell you that because you were exposed to radiation, you have to be careful about this and that kind of thing? Was there any conversation like that?

KS: No, I guess, at that time, we, people, not too much interest or this atomic power? What do you think? I mean, you know. Everyday was kind of busy. I should say too busy, but. Nowadays, we say that Fukushima, that earthquake, that one. People talk about that a lot. Because we extrude [?] to experience A-bomb in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, so that's why they talk about a lot, right? But now, you are telling me, really, I don't remember we talked about it like that. Yeah. When I came to, became pregnant, I went to the GY, you know, the doctor, and [he said] oh, you are from Hiroshima, oh, where was it, do you know, and oh, radiation, and he was concerned about it. And I said, well, today, you're telling me I don't have any problem, health-wise, you know. So, "Oh okay, that's good." But then my first son was born, everything was okay, and my second son, he was okay, so maybe you are okay. But, like radiation, around that time, I think about it. Oh, come to think of it, I [was] through to the city, to go in, back together, to family. Then, I talked about it with my brother by telephone. Say, was I okay that time with radiation? [He says that] Keiko, everybody had radiation. Even now, we are very . . . talk about radiation, food, or, . . .

NW: Water?

KS: Yeah, or something like that. But look at us, we all went through it, but here we are all okay, so you don't have to be that nervous about it. That's what my brother told me. Oh, then, that's true, that's true. Yeah.

NW: But when you had your first child, what year was it?

KS: '64.

NW: 1964. So, four years after you came. So when you were pregnant, did you think about it, because that's kind of what people say?

KS: No. I never thought of it, yeah, because, at that time, I'm not a survivor. That's what I thought. You know, I was in the outskirts, in *Sakotani* [in] *shūdan sokai*. Then, four, five years ago, my brother said, hey, each time I go visit back to Japan, my cousin, my brother, says, hey you went through Hiroshima. Why don't you apply, what it looks like. Maybe you are not qualified for, what, atomic bomb survivor. So I said, Oh that's okay, I'm going every year the physical. So, for a while, it's okay. But you never know. Then my brother said, okay, I am going to do it. That's why he did it.

NW: So that's relatively recent. So, you applied for this in what year? You say, [Heisei] Age 18 must be six years ago?

KS: Yeah, six, five years ago, isn't it? Something like that.

NW: So until then, you didn't even think about applying for . . .

KS: No, I never think about it. I'm okay, you know, so.

NW: So, you didn't even think of yourself as a survivor, that's I guess what I'm hearing.

KS: Yeah, I guess I never think about it. Yeah.

NW: So, would you say the only reason why you decided to apply is because your brother sorta encouraged you to do that?

KS: Yeah, of course, the brother. I give it to you, this a copy. Um, yeah, I think that's, you have it, too. Ah-huh.

NW: So how about with your husband? When you got married or even before then when you were getting to know him? Did you talk about your experience at all? Of being in Hiroshima?

KS: He is a *Nisei*. Yeah. His mother came from Hiroshima, too, mother, father, and already they were at the United States, they both were. And, of course, naturally my brother, I mean, my husband born in this country, so, then I met him, then, he never asked me like that, atomic bomb, at that time, I wasn't, I wasn't, think of myself as atomic bomb survivor.

NW: But I thought during the war time you told me that your husband was in the internment camp, in a concentration camp?

KS: Yes, I think, Gila. It's called Gila

NW: How do you spell that?

KS: I don't know.

NW: In what state?

KS: Arizona.

NW: Arizona, yeah. I mean, to me, you have to tell me how you met your husband, but, to me, it's very, it's very interesting to think of those two different kinds of life histories meeting each other.

KS: Well, I was in Los Angeles, at that time, going to school, and he was here.

NW: So you were already here.

KS: Yeah.

**<End Segment 6> - Copyright © 2011 Densho and Naoko Wake. All Rights Reserved.**