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Naoko Wake Collection of Oral Histories of US Survivors of the Atomic Bombs Collection
Title: Matsuko Hayashi Interview
Narrator: Matsuko Hayashi
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
Location: San Jose, California
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<Begin Segment 1>

NW: So, um, usually when I talk to people such as yourself, I, um, start with a question about their parents and childhood. So, um, I like to—you to tell me about, um, what your parents are like, what they were doing, uh, and any childhood memories that you remember.

MH: They're farmers . . .

NW: Uh huh.

MH: . . . in central California.

NW: Uh huh. Which city was it?

MH: Uh, actually it's country, Parlier. Fresno County, Parlier.

NW: Mmm. Okay.

MH: And, uh . . . where do I start?

NW: Anything you like to start. Um, when did they come to the States? Were they, born here, or?

MH: No.

NW: Or, they were born in Japan?

MH: Ah, they're both from—my father came when he was six—about sixteen.

NW: Mm.

MH: And my mother was a war bride from Japan.

NW: Oh, okay.

MH: Picture bride.

NW: Right, right. Yeah.

MH: Not war bride, but picture bride.

NW: Picture bride, right.

MH: Yeah.

NW: Must be before the war, so . . .

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: Yeah, makes more sense.

MH: And . . . his, my father's older brother was in America too and so he came when he was sixteen and they all worked and bought a property.

NW: Um-hum.

MH: Raising grapes.

NW: Ohh.

MH: Fresno.

NW: Mhm.

MH: S-so, the earliest that I could remember . . . walking around the house and riding—we used to ride on the swing, and things like that.

NW: Ohhh.

MH: And all the brothers and sisters.

NW: So, you, you are four sibling—four children?

MH: Uh, second one.

NW: Okay, okay.

MH: *Naisan* was first. And we had eight of us.

NW: Oh.

MH: In those days, they just . . . you know, they just keep having kids.

NW: Oh, okay. So, uh, eight children?

MH: Eight.

NW: And then you are the second?

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: Yeah, okay.

MH: So we had to help take care of brothers and sisters, too.

NW: Younger ones.

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: Yeah.

MH: We played with them and took care of them while mother and father . . .

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