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Title: Matsuko Hayashi Interview
Narrator: Matsuko Hayashi
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
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<Begin Segment 13>

NW: Now, so you came back to Japan—going back a little bit . . .

MH: Forty . . . forty-seven.

NW: Uh, I'm sorry . . .

MH: Right, right away.

NW: . . . talking about even earlier than that. You said that your father was also in Japan in 1940?

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: Yeah, so . . .

MH: Nineteen-forty.

NW: . . . Why, why did he come back? I mean, I understand . . .

MH: Well, with the . . .

NW: . . . Why you were he—in Japan?

MH: Well I was born, born there and my father had a property.

NW: No, no, no. I mean, before the war. You said that you came back to Japan and went to school, right?

MH: Ah ha.

NW: But at that time, he—your father was still here in the States . . .

MH: Yeah.

NW: But he was also, by 1945, in Japan.

MH: Ye-uh.

NW: Right?

MH: Uh, 1940.

NW: Nineteen-forty, that's right.

MH: Mhm.

NW: Why did he go to Japan in 1940, then?

MH: Why . . . y—he, if he don't, if he was in, oh, here, he would've been put in—in con—
concentration camp.

NW: Got you. Got you. So, just to—in order to avoid being placed in a relocation camp . . .

MH: Well, he—he didn't know the war was gonna start.

NW: Right. Okay.

MH: But he came back.

NW: In 1940. Okay.

MH: He sold half of his . . . uh we had 160 acre . . . 80 acre he sold and he kept the 40 acre in
Sanger.

NW: Okay.

MH: So, that's why without the dollar—dollar . . . for ship—Mm, for ship coming back.

NW: Mhm.

MH: We couldn't, we couldn't uh, pay for it. Unless it was dollar, they won't take it.

NW: Oh.

MH: To be able to come.

NW: Yeah. But what I'm asking is why did he decide to come to Japan? To join his family?

MH: Yeah.

NW: You, or?

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: Okay. Yeah.

MH: That—that was the only way the family was all there, so.

NW: It would be together.

MH: Want to be with the family.

NW: Okay. Okay. So, do you think that he thought, well it looks like Japan is, you know, invading Korea, and so forth, it looks like the political situation . . .

MH: Well that was . . .

NW: . . . might result in the war.

MH: . . . way after the, American, uh, World War Two.

NW: Right, right. In 19—yeah. Okay, so I just wonder why at this time, at that time in 1940, [telephone ringing in background] he made up his decision, that's his time to come to Japan, because earlier, you were already in Japan but he decided—he was still here.

MH: No, he was planning to come.

NW: He was planning to come?

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: Okay.

MH: Anyway. 'Cause, uh, he wanted to live in Japan.

NW: Oh, okay.

MH: Yeah.

NW: So, was it always his plan, then? To come . . .

MH: Huh?

NW: . . . back to Japan? Was it always his plan to come back to Japan?

MH: I think so.

NW: Okay, okay. Yeah. I'm sorry, I just need to kind of . . .

MH: Yeah.

NW: . . . clarify. 'Cause sometimes . . .

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: . . . its not easy for me to understand.

MH: But then right after war all the food shortage and everything . . . And we were American citizens, so.

NW: Mhm.

MH: We wanted to come back, so . . . Because, uh . . . we had pro—uh, property in Sanger, so . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: . . . we were able to come back.

NW: Mhm. So, the property that he still owned, back in California . . .

MH: Eh, it was in my sister's name.

NW: Okay. Okay.

MH: Yeah.

NW: So, right. Because he—she was the second-generation . . .

MH: Uh, uh-huh.

NW: . . . and she was a citizen.

MH: Yeah, uh-huh.

NW: Right. Right.

MH: American citizen.

NW: Right, whereas, did he, you father, have citizenship as well? Or no?

MH: No.

NW: I guess not. Right?

MH: No.

NW: Yeah.

<End Segment 13> - Copyright © 2012 Densho and Naoko Wake. All Rights Reserved.