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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  
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<Begin Segment 21>

NW: So, how—There is this organization, right? So, American Society for A-Bomb Survivors.

MH: Mhm.

NW: And when did you get to know about this organization then?

MH: Sarashina-san's sister was uh, in my Japanese class in Japan.

NW: Ohhh. Okay.

MH: That's why the name is unusual.

NW: Right. Right. It is. Yeah.

MH: So . . . that's how I got to talk to them, and . . .

NW: Right, right. Mhm.

MH: He did everything for me. He's just, *shinsetsu na*.

NW: Mhm, yeah. He obviously is.

MH: Yeah.

NW: How about, um, so when was it that you started to, kind of—did you always go to the medical check-up by Hiroshima doctors?

MH: No.

NW: No, you didn't.

MH: I never . . .

NW: You never been to . . .

MH: I, I went to first one.

NW: In 1970s.

MH: They . . . I forgot what year it was.

NW: Yeah. Okay.

MH: And my daughter went, too. You know, second-generation.

NW: Right, right.

MH: Then after that, I didn't go for a long time.

NW: Mhm.

MH: And the Sarashina-*san* came. Then I started going. It doesn't bother me.

NW: Mhm.

MH: I . . . die when I die. I'm just happy for time. 91 and . . .

NW: Mm.

MH: . . . I'm still driving cars, so.

NW: Haha, right. That's pretty good. That's very excellent.

MH: Yeah, I'm really lucky.

NW: Yeah, it is. So, you went just once and then you didn't come back for this medical check-up?

MH: No.

NW: Or did you come for a few times?

MH: First time and then after Sarashina . . . I think this is the third time I went . . . three year in a row.

NW: Oh, so you, you have been coming?

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: Okay, okay. But, there was a sort of an interval—gap . . .

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: . . . between . . .

MH: A long time.

NW: Okay.

MH: Well I was raising my children, too.

NW: Mhm.

MH: Had four—uh, three in three year, children.

NW: Mhm.

MH: It was so busy on top of the retail nursery.

NW: Mhm.

MH: And I used to grow plants, too.

NW: Mhm.

MH: Propagating and so . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: I was pretty busy.

NW: Mm. Mhm.

MH: Keeping . . .

NW: And you didn't worry about your health, or any . . .

MH: No.

NW: . . . big health conditions?

MH: Doesn't bother me. I go when I go.

NW: Mhm.

MH: I'm healthy, anyway, right now.

NW: Mhm.

MH: It doesn't bother me.

NW: But, I guess I'm asking you this, because, uh, many survivors, you know, worry about what effect the irradiation . . .

MH: No, that . . .

NW: . . . might have.

MH: . . . doesn't worry . . .

NW: It doesn't worry you.

MH: It doesn't bother me one bit.

NW: Mhm. So . . . I guess, there are different ways of thinking about living as a survivor. So, some people like to get uh, get *genbaku techo* [certificate of survivorhood]. Do you have one?

MH: I have one.

NW: When did you obtain it?

MH: Huh?

NW: When did you get it?

MH: Um, I was just the last—about the last one, I guess.

NW: Yeah?

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: So recent?

MH: Uh, no . . . it's been about, three, four years.

NW: Oh, okay.

MH: When I get that.

NW: Okay. Hm.

MH: Sarashina-*san* did everything for me, so.

NW: Mm. Mhm. So, do you receive the, the, compensation from the government?

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: Okay.

MH: Every month, and then . . . then, the medical expense.

NW: Mhm. Mhm. That's nice.

MH: It really helps. [laugh]

NW: Yeah, yeah.

MH: Yeah.

NW: Now, earlier when ASA, uh, survivor's group here . . .

MH: Mhm.

NW: . . . was being established, I know that they didn't go to the Japanese government, but instead to American government to pay for medical expenses and their allowances . . .

MH: Mhm.

NW: . . . and so—I don't think they asked for allowances. But anyway, to cover their medical expenses. Uh, how do you feel about that different kind of approach?

MH: I never worry about it.

NW: Meaning what?

MH: I don't care for . . . I'm thankful we get, get it, but . . . but money doesn't—you can't take it with you.

NW: Mhm.

MH: Mm.

NW: But who's paying that money? My—the money may be just money, but then who's paying . . .

MH: Yeah. everybody . . .

NW: . . . that money?

MH: . . . *no okage* ... Japanese government, I guess. Huh?

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: They're paying for it . . . But you're thankful.

NW: So, it doesn't matter to you if it's American government instead of Japanese government? It doesn't—one—either one of them is better? Or?

MH: No.

NW: Worse?

MH: [mumbling] . . . They give it to you, so they give it to me.

NW: Mm. So you don't really think about it?

MH: Yeah . . . No. Money, you can't take it with you.

NW: Mhm . . .

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