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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 Date: June 3, 2012

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NW: So, um another question I wanted to ask is that, um, well so, when you were raising family—your family . . .

MH: Mhm.

NW: . . . in 1950s and '60s, um, would you say that most of the people who were your friends are Japanese Americans? In other words, do you think that your life was pretty much inside of . . .

MH: Yeah.

NW: . . . Japanese American communities?

MH: Yeah, just like this church, yeah.

NW: Like just this church?

MH: This, this a lot of *hakujin* there, but . . .

NW: Mm. Have you ever had uh, hakujin good friend, of, hakujin?

MH: Oh, yeah. We have some real good friends there . . .

NW: Yeah.

MH: *Hakujin*.

NW: Yeah. Yeah.

MH: They're no different.

NW: Mhm.

MH: Just the skin is different, that's all.

NW: Mhm.

MH: But they're all ... Everybody's friends.

NW: Mm. But, I guess I was wondering because earlier in the conversation, you were saying that your children's generation don't think differently, but then you thought that you used to think that . . .

MH: Yeah, I—I . . .

NW: . . . there is a big difference.

MH: . . . Yeah, my daughter and I . . . were really different. We think—think in totally different.

NW: Mhm. What is the difference then? I mean, because you're saying that, but you have also good friend of yours who's *hakjin*.

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: I just wondered, you, wha—what you see as the difference between generations?

MH: I don't know why—I don't choose my friends. I just . . . I don't know. [laughs]

NW: Hmm.

MH: I don't think deep, I'm just . . . Happy-go-lucky.

NW: Well that sounds like a good attitude, though.

MH: Yeah.

NW: Mm.

MH: Very good . . . There's nothing I really want. Just happy just the way it is.

NW: Mmm.

MH: Okagesan.

NW: Mm. So, you don't think that the fact that you were a survivor of the bomb . . . made it much of a difference in your life?

MH: No.

NW: No?

MH: I just happened to be lucky to be alive, that's all.

NW: Mm. Mhm.

MH: But you don't need . . . You don't, know where you—when're you gonna die.

NW: Mhm Hm. So, um . . .

MH: Not much help, huh? [chuckling]

NW: No, no I—I'm very appreciative of the fact that you're telling me all of those things. It really is helpful.

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