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Title: Matsuko Hayashi Interview
Narrator: Matsuko Hayashi
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
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<Begin Segment 7>

MH: So, that's why, when we were twelve—uh, when I was fourteen.

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: I—me and my *nēsan* . . .

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: He took us to Japan, and went to school in Japan.

NW: Ohhh.

MH: That's why my English is just half and my—my Japanese is . . .

NW: Mm.

MH: You know, you jump into Japan and everything you had in English and everything is in Japanese.

NW: Right, right.

MH: It was hard.

NW: Right.

MH: Then, we couldn't get head or tail out of it.

NW: Yeah, yeah.

MH: But we managed somehow.

NW: Yeah. Well, so, uh, you were born in 1921, but, so, by the time you are 14 years old, it must have been 1935 . . .

MH: Thirty-five. Uh-huh.

NW: . . . Yeah, so before going there you must have already been going to American school . . .

MH: American—yes.

NW: . . . Right? Um . . .

MH: Uh.

NW: Were you a good student, or?

MH: No.

NW: [chuckling]

MH: My, my father used to . . . say, uh, your health is, mentally your—is first—and your health is next. And, and study is, he say—he didn't stress us, education too much.

NW: Mm.

MH: He never pushed us.

NW: Really?

MH: So we never used to do homework, so I was mediocre. [chuckling]

NW: [laughing] Huh. That's a little—I shouldn't say unusual, but, uh, kind of the mainstream story I hear about many Japanese American families . . .

MH: Right. That they make 'em study, study, study.

NW: Yeah, yeah. Very, very, uh . . .

MH: Yeah.

NW: Rigid when it comes to education.

MH: And, he told us to take care of eyes, and I used to read a lot of book in bed.

NW: Mhm.

MH: And, he's put the light, for—uh, having enough light.

NW: Mhm.

MH: And . . . even, he used to take us to dentist. In those days, there's no Novocain, so you have to just grind it and when it start hurting you just fill it.

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: And it takes about three-four months, just for one filling.

NW: Right, right.

MH: And . . . it took from Parlier to Fresno, it take one hour to go there and one hour to come back.

NW: Right, right.

MH: And, after school he used to pick us up . . .

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: . . . and take us to dentist.

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: And then bring us home, and, you know, takes all the—by the time we come home, it's nighttime.

NW: Right.

MH: But he was always thinking of our health, and . . .

NW: Mhm. Mhm. Yeah.

MH: And I don't think you could find a better mother and father.

NW: Uh-huh. That's very nice, you can say that.

MH: Well, I know.

NW: Yeah.

MH: We—really lucky.

NW: It is very nice.

MH: Yeah.

NW: Yeah, yeah.

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