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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, going back to your school-life, did you have any other Japanese American friends in your class, or?

MH: Oh, yes.

NW: Yeah?

MH: We used to go Japanese-school.

NW: Ohh.

MH: See, five days we go American-school, and Saturday all day, and Sunday half-day . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: . . . we used to go Japanese-school.

NW: Mhm.

MH: And father used to always have to take us . . .

NW: Mm.

MH: . . . from school. And we didn't have any bus at our school.

NW: Right.

MH: So, he bring us there and . . .

NW: Did you, did you learn Japanese language at those Japanese schools as well, or?

MH: Huh?

NW: Did you learn Japanese as a language at . . .

MH: Well . . .

NW: ... that Japanese school? ... Or no? MH: Oh, yes. NW: You did. MH: We were—we spoke Japanese at home. NW: At home? Okay. MH: Everything. NW: Okay. MH: Cause mother and father... mother can't speak English, even my . . . NW: Right. MH: ... father's broken English. NW: Oh. Okay. MH: Yeah. NW: Yeah, okay. MH: But . . . NW: So you knew Japanese? MH: Uh-huh. NW: It's not like you didn't . . . MH: We could speak, but . . . NW: Right. MH: . . . writing is a different story. From, from Saturday, something, Sunday we go school. An-and then weekdays we go American-school. NW: Mhm. MH: So, every—every time one week comes, it's new. You forget everything you learned. NW: Yeah, yeah. MH: So, it was hard.

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: Talking—we'd talk at home, so. NW: Right, right. MH: That's—it . . . NW: That's a different matter. MH: Nothing like *Hiroshima-ben*. NW: Yeah. MH: Though. NW: Yeah, yeah . . . Because that was your parents' accent . . . MH: Uh-huh. NW: ... I suppose. So, they are both originally from Hiroshima? MH: Uh-huh. NW: Both of your parents? Okay. MH: Mother was from country, Miyoshi. NW: Miyoshi? Okay. MH: Uh-huh. NW: Yeah, yeah. MH: And father was Hiroshima-shi. NW: Hiroshima-shi. Uh-huh. MH: Mhm. NW: Was in the city limit, I guess? Yeah. MH: He must have been smart, 'cause father was Hiroshima Icchū—before he went to . . . NW: Yeah. MH: . . . Uh, came to America. NW: Right, that's . . .

MH: Yeah.

NW: I heard that that's the best school . . .

MH: Yeah.

NW: ... in the city.

MH: Icchū.

NW: Right. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

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