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Title: Matsuko Hayashi Interview
Narrator: Matsuko Hayashi
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
Location: San Jose, California
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<Begin Segment 1>

NW: So, um, usually when I talk to people such as yourself, I, um, start with a question about their parents and childhood. So, um, I like to—you to tell me about, um, what your parents are like, what they were doing, uh, and any childhood memories that you remember.

MH: They're farmers . . .

NW: Uh huh.

MH: . . . in central California.

NW: Uh huh. Which city was it?

MH: Uh, actually it's country, Parlier. Fresno County, Parlier.

NW: Mmm. Okay.

MH: And, uh . . . where do I start?

NW: Anything you like to start. Um, when did they come to the States? Were they, born here, or?

MH: No.

NW: Or, they were born in Japan?

MH: Ah, they're both from—my father came when he was six—about sixteen.

NW: Mm.

MH: And my mother was a war bride from Japan.

NW: Oh, okay.

MH: Picture bride.

NW: Right, right. Yeah.

MH: Not war bride, but picture bride.

NW: Picture bride, right.

MH: Yeah.

NW: Must be before the war, so . . .

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: Yeah, makes more sense.

MH: And . . . his, my father's older brother was in America too and so he came when he was sixteen and they all worked and bought a property.

NW: Um-hum.

MH: Raising grapes.

NW: Ohh.

MH: Fresno.

NW: Mhm.

MH: S-so, the earliest that I could remember . . . walking around the house and riding—we used to ride on the swing, and things like that.

NW: Ohhh.

MH: And all the brothers and sisters.

NW: So, you, you are four sibling—four children?

MH: Uh, second one.

NW: Okay, okay.

MH: *Naisan* was first. And we had eight of us.

NW: Oh.

MH: In those days, they just . . . you know, they just keep having kids.

NW: Oh, okay. So, uh, eight children?

MH: Eight.

NW: And then you are the second?

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: Yeah, okay.

MH: So we had to help take care of brothers and sisters, too.

NW: Younger ones.

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: Yeah.

MH: We played with them and took care of them while mother and father . . .

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<Begin Segment 2>

NW: Right, right.

MH: But my father was really... he was good... you know, having so many children, father did everything he could to help mother, uh...like in those days, a lot of places, they didn't have any . . . they had wells and . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: And, and he used to put pumps and everything that's easy. He used to . . . he made the kitchen the, the best, you know, for Issei. That's really unusual.

NW: It is, it is, yeah.

MH: And I remember him giving us, uh, you know, younger brothers and sister—my father used to . . . *ubuyu* . . . bath.

NW: Yeah.

MH: Baby *no*, bath.

NW: Right, right.

MH: Yeah, he used—in fact, he used to, take care of my-uh, my cousin. Uncle *no* . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: Older... they were born first. Three of them.

NW: Mhm.

MH: And he used to give them bath and everything.

NW: Ohhh.

MH: So, he was really something. You can't find a father like that.

NW: Yeah. Yeah.

MH: And the kitchen was always the best place for, he, he used to say, you know, women spend most of the time in the kitchen.

NW: Mhm.

MH: So, in those days there was no running wa . . . you know . . .

NW: Right.

MH: . . . hot water and cold water.

NW: Right.

MH: But he used to, you know, the wooden stove . . .

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: He used to put a pipe through it and get—make hot water. Things like that.

NW: Oh, so it was very convenient then.

MH: Yeah.

NW: Yeah, yeah.

MH: He did everything for the family.

NW: Did he cook, himself as well? Or?

MH: No, my mother used to cook.

NW: She did. Okay, but you said that they were farmers, so did she go out on the farm as well?

MH: No, she just, she just, uh, with that many children, she can't go.

NW: Right, right. They don't have time.

MH: Yeah.

NW: Mm.

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<Begin Segment 3>

MH: And father used to . . . well that was—when I was born it was just depression and everything uh . . .

NW: Mm.

MH: My uncle's family was there but he went back to Japan in 1922, I think.

NW: Uhm

MH: So, father had to take care of—he, he had three property . . .

NW: Uhm.

MH: Forty acre, forty acre, and eighty acre.

NW: Oh, wow.

MH: And he—we used to have a lot of people there and . . . and mother was busy. She couldn't drive a car.

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: So father used to go by the grocery store.

NW: Oh, wow.

MH: He just—he just buy what he want to eat.

NW: [laughter]

MH: And so we used to eat a lot of good things.

NW: Yeah, yeah. Well, he must have been very successful, being the owner of those three farms.

MH: Well . . . he—we, we had to suffer—he had to suffer, though. Depression. And, and he replant everything, all the grape, to table grape . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: *Kyohō*?

NW: Right.

MH: Just like that.

NW: Yeah.

MH: Uh, so he gra—he pulled everything out.

NW: Mhm.

MH: It-it was nothing but raisin, and, and uh . . . raisin and things like that.

NW: Right.

MH: first . . . muscat and raisin grape.

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: But he, eventually, dig everything in, and plant those uh, Rebere is what they call it.

NW: Yeah.

MH: And it takes a lot of care and . . . Eventually he, used to get first price at New York Market.

NW: Ohhh.

MH: Grape.

NW: Right.

MH: And, for a while there, he was sending some grape to London, too.

NW: Oh, wow. That's international trading.

MH: Yeah.

NW: Yeah, yeah.

MH: So he was—he was pretty . . . pretty good and successful, I guess.

NW: Mhm.

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<Begin Segment 4>

MH: And another thing about him, he was real religious.

NW: Mm.

MH: Buddhism is, uh . . .

NW: Buddhism.

MH: Uh, and uh . . . and It's mostly, uh, they used to have *hōwakai* at our house, and . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: . . .and things like that. In fact, he even, uh . . . well that's going into something else, but . . .

NW: No, no, no. Please tell me.

MH: See, um, he, pass out one day, and he said he had to walk and walk and nobody—not even an insect or nothing that's, that's living, but he . . . it, it was sun down, you know, evening-time, getting dark . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: . . . and he just has to keep walking, walking, walking, when he passed out.

NW: Ohh.

MH: And uh, and then he was so lonesome that he said he never felt—not even a worm, or insect, or nothing—and . . . He wanted some—some kind of religion or something.

NW: Mhm.

MH: He went to Christian, and then he, how could you say, *Jōdo shinshū*?

NW: Mhm. Mhm.

MH: The same church is uh . . .

NW: Right, right.

MH: And he, uh, was in Fresno and he went there and he, uh, he got *shinjin* there the first day.

NW: Mm. Mhm.

MH: And then he realized that Japan *no* Buddhism is not right.

NW: Mm.

MH: See, it's twentieth fall.

NW: Mm.

MH: Nineteen—eight—nineteen, twenty, and then, its three step before you get to the real *shinjin* place.

NW: Mhm.

MH: And when he got *shinjin* he figured that his Japan *no* religion . . . his, mother-religion was wrong.

NW: Mm.

MH: So, he, how does *sensei*, reverend, he went to Japan . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: . . . with him. He took his whole family and then tried to teach the Japan *no* Hiroshimo *no* people . . .

NW: Right.

MH: . . . that their religion is wrong.

NW: Oh-ho-ho.

MH: And he, he got all those people, he called *haori sans* from Kyoto.

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: And he came to Hiroshima, and, and had everyone, I think grandma got *shinjin* too.

NW: Mm, really?

MH: And, that's how religious he was, and . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: After he got all the relatives and he came back . . .

NW: Mm.

MH: He, I think he went two, three times to Japan.

NW: Mm.

MH: And right in the middle of the depression.

NW: Right, right.

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: So, um, what year were, were you born?

MH: Nineteen twenty-one.

NW: Nineteen twenty-one. Right. And, um, you said you had eight sisters and brothers, and . . .

MH: Um, five girls and three boys.

NW: Okay.

MH: I'm just scared of bringing in, just uh—jumping from one thing to another, but . . .

NW: No, this is, this is perfectly fine.

MH: But, religion has been my main, uh . . . they used to have *hōwakai* at our house, nighttime . . .

NW: Mhm, mhm.

MH: And there was a lot of people . . . there's, right, there's a lot of Fresno people that had *shinjin*.

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<Begin Segment 5>

NW: So, uh, tell me a little bit about your mother then. Uh, you said that she was also originally born in Japan . . .

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: . . . but came to the States as uh, a picture bride.

MH: Picture...

NW: Do, you—yeah, so, um . . .

MH: Yeah, mother used to say, you know, uh, I ask her, how come she's able to come and get married to somebody, that she never met . . .

NW: Met. Right.

MH: And she-she was saying if she didn't like the guy, she was gonna run away.

NW: [laughter]

MH: [laughter]. She, she was kinda tom-boy, too, you know.

NW: Yeah, yeah.

MH: But he was so good—good to her, and . . .

NW: Mm.

MH: . . . really took good . . . Family was always first for him.

NW: Yeah, yeah. Yeah. So, um, when your father came to the States at the age of 16 . . .

MH: Mhm.

NW: . . . first, do you think that he planned to stay here for long time, or do you think . . .

MH: Well . . .

NW: . . . that he planned to go back?

MH: There were brothers, five brothers in Japan.

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: And, and didn't nobody have jobs, so . . .

NW: Oh.

MH: They were just trying to feed themselves and . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: . . . you know, he just, Hiroshima *de ha*, having a hard time.

NW: Mhm.

MH: So, I guess all the boys that's able to work—they came to America.

NW: Mm. Okay. Mm, so he just thought that, well, I will try to be successful.

MH: Well, he wanted to go to school, but then the brother made him work, and . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: . . . and they finally were able to make enough money.

NW: Mhm.

MH: And the older brother went back, to, took the family and went back to Japan.

NW: Mm. Mhm. Yeah, yeah . . .

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<Begin Segment 6>

NW: So, um, what do you remember from your childhood, then? Did you help out on the farm, or?

MH: No. We can't do anything. We ju—uh, most of the laborers were Mexican laborers . . .

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: . . . in those days.

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: But, my father had special way of taking care of that were there. So we had Japanese women, and, and even when they start picking, its all field-bag, so it, it won't spoil the grape.

NW: Mhm.

MH: And we had the mums spray and . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: You know, three *kiku*?

NW: Yeah. Yeah, yeah.

MH: Yeah, and New York Market *itte kara*. It took him, oh, maybe seven-eight years or so, but he could, eventually got—just before the war . . .

NW: Mm.

MH: First prize.

NW: Mhm, mhm. So, wow.

MH: And like, fairs, and you know, state fair, agriculture, and the state fair—he always used to get so many blue ribbon.

NW: Mm, like, recognition of a good quality product?

MH: So—he—uh-huh.

NW: Yeah.

MH: So he was real successful.

NW: Mhm.

MH: . . . in that way, too.

NW: So, what do you remember from your childhood, then? Do you have any . . .

MH: Well, we, uh . . .

NW: . . . favorite memories? Or?

MH: Real happy memory—remembering my dad used to take us camping to Yosemite, and Sequoia.

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: And . . . whatever the kids need, he—we used to have swing, and mary-go's, and even he made, uh, swimming pool for us, too.

NW: Oh, wow.

MH: And, in the country, we were the only one . . .

NW: Yeah, yeah.

MH: . . . to had a swimming pool.

NW: Mm. Mhm.

MH: But all the children always come first.

NW: Mm.

MH: And, we grew up, saying that, uh my father say, unless you have *shinjin*, you gonna end up in *jigoku* . . .

NW: Mhm, mhm.

MH: You know.

NW: Mhm.

MH: And we were so scared . . .

NW: [chuckling]

MH: . . . we didn't want to die.

NW: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

MH: And . . . so, and, in those days, English, uh, book— there's hardly any English religion book, especially about *jōdoshinshū*.

NW: Mm. Right, right.

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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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<Begin Segment 8>

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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<Begin Segment 9>

NW: And, um, so . . . how about American-school? Did you have other Asian-American friends . . .

MH: Oh, yes.

NW: . . . in American-school as well?

MH: There were so many Japa . . .

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: Uh, out of fifty . . . you would say about twenty of them were Japanese.

NW: Oh, wow. Okay. Quite a bit.

MH: Ours was the largest class.

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: But there were a lot of prejudice in those days.

NW: Mhm.

MH: And . . . for convenient, they always . . . we were—you could feel the prejudice.

NW: Mm.

MH: But right after war, you know, the four-forty-second? Italy and all the . . . medal of honor people?

NW: Mhm. Mhm.

MH: That thing really changed a lot.

NW: Changed it. Right. Yeah.

MH: Made it so good for us.

NW: Yeah, for all the Japanese-Americans.

MH: Yeah.

NW: That's true. Well . . .

MH: We used to argue with schoolteachers about . . . prejudice.

NW: Well, tell me more specifically, for example, how did you argue with the teacher?

MH: Well . . . I was in fifth grade, and she say Japan's bad, they try to invade the China.

NW: Mhm.

MH: And, and, they're the aggressive one. And . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: . . . they used to blame 'em, and we used to get so mad, and said that's not right. We used to argue with them.

NW: Mmm. Mhm. So, you felt like you need to defend Japan?

MH: Yeah.

NW: Yeah, yeah. And, how about, you know, white kids in the same school? Did you feel like there is a sort of tension?

MH: We, we always stuck with Japanese . . . I feel, I guess, we feel more comfortable.

NW: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

MH: 'Cause they—they think they're better than us and.

NW: Mhm.

MH: We eat different things.

NW: Right, right.

MH: And, of course, we have sandwich for lunch, but, we always were segregated, sorta at . . .

NW: Mm.

MH: Grammar-school.

NW: Mhm. So, you didn't have any white friend at your school, then?

MH: Not really.

NW: Not really.

MH: Classmate, we all know the names . . .

NW: Right, right.

MH: . . . everything, but we—we didn't—never felt that close . . .

NW: Mm.

MH: But like, my kids—they, you know, Sansei?

NW: Mhm.

MH: They think they're same.

NW: Mm.

MH: You know.

NW: That's right. Yeah.

MH: With that . . .

NW: Yeah, with the rest of the Americans . . .

MH: Just, just . . .

NW: Yup.

MH: My, my daughter, she's—she's uh, assistant minister here.

NW: Uh-huh. Oh, okay. Okay.

MH: Yeah, she's married to *huakujin*.

NW: Yeah.

MH: So.

NW: So she doesn't think that there is such a huge, kind of, uh, gap, or difference between . . .

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: . . .white Americans and . . .

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: . . . Asian Americans. Hmm. So, when you went to Japan at the age of fourteen then, what was your impression of Japan? Was it your first time to go to Japan?

MH: It's the first time.

NW: Yeah, what did you think?

MH: Well I don't know. There were . . . we should . . . they felt . . . they treat us like a spy or something—Japan *no* people.

NW: Ohhh. Hmm. In 1935, already?

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: Mhm.

MH: You know, especially, that was just before...was it *shinajihen*?

NW: Mhm. Mhm.

MH: And . . . Manchuria and all those things, and—that's what we used to—we had about four or five Niseis in our class.

NW: Mhm.

MH: Japanese school. So, we used to stick together and every time, we just talk English instead of Japanese.

NW: Ohh.

MH: They all say *warukuchi iu*.

NW: Yeah.

MH: They . . .

NW: Right, right.

MH: . . . think we are talking about them.

NW: Yeah, yeah. So, you didn't really, uh, associate, make friend with . . .

MH: We don't have real close friend.

NW: Right.

MH: It was all Niseis.

NW: Right, right.

MH: And they were quite a few.

NW: Right. Mhm. So, what was the original plan, then?

MH: Huh?

NW: You went there at the age of fourteen, but did you think you were gonna be there for just a few years, or?

MH: Well, we wanted to come back, so . . .

NW: Right.

MH: Uh . . . junior . . . thirty-eight, summer vacation, my father said to come back to America . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: For vacation.

NW: Right.

MH: So.

NW: Did you do that?

MH: Yeah.

NW: Yeah.

MH: On a boat.

NW: Yeah.

MH: Two weeks, it takes two week on a boat, one way.

NW: I know.

MH: So, one whole month is traveling.

NW: Uh-huh. Yeah. Yeah.

MH: But we were able to come back.

NW: Mm.

MH: And nobody—in those days, nobody would do things like that. Nowadays, they just fly back and forth like nothing.

NW: Right, right. But you obviously were in Hiroshima, back in Japan by 1945. Tell me about how it happened.

MH: Uh.

NW: So back in 1938, you were back in the U.S. for summer vacation, but then you, also, after that went back to Japan.

MH: J-Japan.

NW: Right? Yeah.

MH: And finish-finished *jogakkō*.

NW: Right.

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: Which, did you do that?

MH: Yes.

NW: You finished it? Okay.

MH: And then we got stuck in the war-wars in 19 . . .

NW: Mm.

MH: Oh, it was right after graduation.

NW: Mm.

MH: But I was going to *yōsai* and Japanese *kimono wasai*.

NW: Mm. Mhm. Yeah, so, ah, that was after your graduation . . .

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: . . . from . . .

MH: Graduation.

NW: . . . junior high school. Yeah.

MH: Mhm.

NW: Yeah, yeah.

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<Begin Segment 10>

NW: So, tell me a little more about what your life was like during the wartime Japan, especially after Pearl Harbor?

MH: Oh, food. No food. No . . .

NW: Mm.

MH: So, *zōsui yo*, just . . .

NW: Mm.

MH: Soup *ni kaisō ga*, um . . . and no taste, no salt, no sugar . . .

NW: Mm.

MH: Nothing, none, no rice, nothing.

NW: Mm . . . Now you were . . .

MH: A-at . . .

NW: . . . staying . . .

MH: . . . the uncle's . . .

NW: . . . uncle's house . . .

MH: Yeah, we—you know, the one that was in America.

NW: Mhm.

MH: And, his, uh, children was growing up, so, going to school, so he . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: . . . took them home.

NW: Mm. Mhm.

MH: So, we stayed over there—my uncle's place.

NW: Yeah. Do you think that uncle—your uncle was happy to take you in, or?

MH: Oh yeah, he . . .

NW: Yeah.

MH: . . . uh, he was . . . my father was . . . sending money for him to eat.

NW: Ohh. Right, right, but it must have been impossible during the wartime though? Wasn't it? Because there was no transaction of money . . .

MH: Well, during wartime . . .

NW: Right.

MH: . . . though, my father came back to Japan . . .

NW: Oh, so he . . .

MH: . . . back to Japan.

NW: . . . your father was there as well?

MH: forty . . . forty . . . forty.

NW: Okay, okay. So, you were not separated from your father, then?

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: How about your mother? Was she back in the states?

MH: Everybody went home.

NW: Everybody was in—Okay.

MH: So, that's why my sister . . .

NW: Mm.

MH: Uh . . . she was in school.

NW: Mhm.

MH: And she got . . . A-bombed and she died.

NW: Ohh.

MH: Third day, she—she was totally burned. The only name *ga*, nametag was white, so . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: . . . that didn't burn, but.

NW: Ohh. Right.

MH: Ninoshima, they sent her to Ninoshima, and . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: She died on the third day.

NW: Mmmm. Yeah, so that was, that was quick.

MH: She—my father, he, *kawaisō ni*, he went looking for—he thought I was dead, too. 'Cause I was married . . .

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: And I was living in Shōwa-machi. My folks lived in Ushita.

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: And, my husband was Philippine, you know, *Daitōa sensō de*.

NW: Right.

MH: He went—he was—he went to the, first, before I got married, he was in Si—went up, way up to Singapore. Yamashita,

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: Ichiro, what's this, uh—Singapore. Kumagai hanto *kara zutto* Singapore *made dete*. Then he came back, and that's when we got married.

NW: Mm.

MH: But he got drafted again, so.

NW: Ohh.

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<Begin Segment 11>

MH: So, I was living in Shōwa-machi.

NW: Ah, okay.

MH: I was . . . washing dishes.

NW: Yeah.

MH: When, when the flash came, and I . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: My hair—the window was open—so, my hair got burned.

NW: Ohhh.

MH: So I, turned around and . . . *okuni*, you know, *daidokoro ni* . . .

NW: Right.

MH: I mean, the kitchen *ni, doma*.

NW: Yeah. Yeah.

MH: And, then I went inside and *nani shite*, that's when I got, I still got a lot of glass in hair.

NW: Ohhh.

MH: And, once in a while, two time—neck *kara*—half-inch glass came out.

NW: It came out? Yeah.

MH: From my side, too.

NW: Oh, wow.

MH: Two time, it came out.

NW: Wow.

MH: But I still have a lot of glass in here.

NW: Mmm.

MH: See, like, over here, you can see the bone and blood . . . there was this . . . gushing out and I had to . . .

NW: Mmm.

MH: . . . tie it . . . *nani*, my a—my ankle, my ankle. You could see the bone.

NW: Ohhh. Mm.

MH: And I was loosing a lot of blood so I had to find a rag and tie it. And . . . Shōwa-machi Hijiyama *no shiyakusho*, Takeya-chō.

NW: Ahh. So how close is it from the hypocenter?

MH: Uh, one, uh they say one point six, but I was closest to the—a lot closer, so I think I was about one point three.

NW: One point three miles?

MH: Yeah . . .

NW: Or, kilometers?

MH: No. K . . .

NW: Kilometer.

MH: K-kilometer.

NW: Right, okay. That's very close. That's very close. Yeah.

MH: Pretty close.

NW: Yeah. Yeah.

MH: So . . . When the flash came, everything was like—it came out and everything is flat.

NW: Mhm. Mhm.

MH: And the smoke is coming all over *shōji nanka*. Start . . . smoking, so I thought if I don't get out of here . . .

NW: Uh-huh. Right.

MH: I'll get . . . I won't be able to go away . . . There were nobody out. Nobody was there.

NW: Mm.

MH: There was just—everybody was pinned down, or, I don't know what.

NW: Mm.

MH: But . . . I couldn't do anything . . . Tied my arm and leg, and . . .

NW: Right.

MH: Tsurumi-bashi *kara* Hijiyama. I walk up to *ni* . . . *niho* . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: And then I passed out . . .

NW: You did?

MH: Mm . . . girlfriend . . . I don't know how long I passed out.

NW: Mmm.

MH: 'Cause when I woke up . . . they put me—my girlfriend put me in, in the cave, you know, uh *bōkūgō*?

NW: Right, right.

MH: Yeah.

NW: Was it, was it your Nisei friend? When you . . .

MH: Yeah, my . . .

NW: . . . say girlfriend?

MH: . . . group of friends.

NW: Right.

MH: Sewing . . . sewing friend.

NW: Right. Oh, okay.

MH: She was living in Niho.

NW: Okay.

MH: Who . . . now . . .

NW: And then she was also a Nisei?

MH: Y-yeah.

NW: Okay.

MH: She's from Hawai'i.

NW: Okay. Okay . . . How about your father and mother? What were they doing?

MH: They were—Ushita . . . The house, is a lot of glass broken . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: And my sister, and, and, my younger sister and my father, was looking at the B-29 going back . . .

NW: Right.

MH: . . . after it dropped the bomb.

NW: Right.

MH: So my, my sister got burned on the neck.

NW: Mm.

MH: And still—she still got scars.

NW: Yeah. Okay.

MH: And my, my . . . younger sister . . . not young-youngest one. I had three younger sisters.

NW: Mhm.

MH: The middle one was in school . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: . . . and she got burned.

NW: Mhm. Mhm.

MH: Died on the third day. And my other brother was in Yokogawa.

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: It was pretty close. But he was between the—the wood and he was able to crawl out.

NW: I see. I see.

MH: So he didn't get burned, but . . .

NW: Mm.

MH: And he was lucky.

NW: How about your mother?

MH: Mother was, in, uh, in the house.

NW: In the house?

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: Okay. Was she alright?

MH: Y-yeah, you know.

NW: Mm.

MH: Everything was okay.

NW: Mm. Mhm. But, uh, it feels like your family members are, are at different places.

MH: Different places.

NW: Doing different kinds of things.

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<Begin Segment 12>

NW: When were you able to confirm that you are . . .

MH: I think about a week. See . . .

NW: It took that long?

MH: I passed out at Niho and I don't know how long I . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: Probably two to four days.

NW: Mhm. Mhm.

MH: And . . . I—I went to school and had a lot of glass taken out.

NW: Right, right.

MH: But still, after I came back and maybe a couple weeks, I had my . . . blood test.

NW: Mhm.

MH: At Hiroshima, in Hakushima-en. And my white blood cell was only half.

NW: Yeah, yeah. That's what happens. It looks like—yeah, yeah. So, you mentioned that one of your sisters . . . Who—deceased . . .

MH: Yeah.

NW: . . . three days.

MH: Third, third day she died.

NW: Right, right.

MH: Radiation . . .

NW: Illness.

MH: And . . . gosh, walking back from Niho to Ushita, it's about . . . I don't know how many miles it is. It's pretty far out.

NW: Mm.

MH: It took me half a day to come home.

NW: Right.

MH: Walk home.

NW: Yeah. Yeah.

MH: And . . . toward the evening, your . . . Ushita Nikitsujinsha?

NW: Mhm.

MH: Walking there . . . you see the gas burning and . . . and you smell like . . .

NW: Right.

MH: And you see some body in those days too.

NW: Mhm.

MH: You—I thought it was horse or something.

NW: Mm.

MH: Dark, and—and swollen. And, it—it was human—human leg.

NW: Mm.

MH: Human *no*, body.

NW: Right. Right.

MH: Right by the Ōtagawa.

NW: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

MH: S—and sma . . . and . . . you know, my sewing teacher *nanka*, she came . . . sh . . . they were in . . . Nagarekawa, I think.

NW: Mhm.

MH: And they went back and dug the—what they buried.

NW: Mm.

MH: And, uh, I guess radiation, both they died on, on . . . one week later.

NW: Mm. Mhm.

MH: And we had to cremate them.

NW: Right.

MH: Ourselves.

NW: Right. Right. Right.

MH: My . . .

NW: Yeah.

MH: . . . cousin *demo*.

NW: Right.

MH: They keep dying.

NW: Mhm.

MH: And, you could s—peoples . . . burning . . . cremates *suru noni*. Oh, that smell is so bad.

NW: Mhm . . . Now, you said that there is something about the, uh, name-tag, or name-card that was . . .

MH: Uh-huh. My sister *no*.

NW: Yeah. But the white part was not . . .

MH: Yeah, the white part didn't—the name was on it.

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: So they know it was her.

NW: So how long did your—did it take for you parents to find her?

MH: Uh, I think it took my father a week.

NW: A week.

MH: She—she died . . . a couple, three days before. My father bicycled. He went all over looking for her.

NW: Oh, so by the time that he found her, she was already deceased?

MH: Yeah, ash *ni*.

NW: Oh.

MH: I couldn't imagine what my father went through.

NW: Yeah. Your mother too. Everybody . . .

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: . . . in the family.

MH: Yeah.

NW: Yeah.

MH: Oh, yeah.

NW: So, because of that name-tag . . .

MH: Yes.

NW: He was able to tell . . .

MH: Yeah.

NW: . . . this must be my daughter.

MH: It was her. Yeah.

NW: Yeah.

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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.

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<Begin Segment 14>

NW: So, so, what was uh—you said 1947 you came back to the States after the war?

MH: Mhm.

NW: Okay.

MH: One of the, uh, second—second boat that came that brought the Niseis.

NW: Mm. Mhm. Mhm . . . Now, um, I understand that, you know, your—you, you yourself is American citizen.

MH: Mhm.

NW: You were born in the States . . .

MH: Mhm.

NW: . . . but then you happened to be in the way, in Japan . . .

MH: Dual . . . yeah dual citi—citizen.

NW: Right. Well how . . . how did you feel about, at that time, how did you feel about your home country using the bomb against people like yourself?

MH: Well . . . that's a different story. Religion-wise . . . cause and effect, everything happened. And . . . cause and effect, that's natural. Whatever you do, it always come back to you.

NW: Mhm.

MH: And . . . oh, and I forgot to tell you, I—I got *shinjin* in Japan when I was, uh, seventeen.

NW: Okay.

MH: And . . . and so, when I—when the A-bomb came, it didn't surprise me at all.

NW: Mm. Why is that?

MH: 'Cause anything would happen. Buddhism say anything would happen, you know. You don't know when, but . . . So I, I think that's what—The thing that's supposed to happen is happening now.

NW: Hmm. But why, why did you think that it was supposed to happen?

MH: 'Cause, it, there—cause and effect. There's always a reason to start.

NW: So what would have been the reason or cause of the bomb?

MH: Well, you can't . . . ev—everybody think they're right. And, um, A-bomb?

NW: Yeah.

MH: There's nothing you could do. I mean, it's— it's a big part and everybody . . . You can't blame America or Japan.

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: They're, they're at war, and . . . War.

NW: Mhm.

MH: They'd do—Anything goes.

NW: Mhm. Mhm.

MH: Whoever is stronger wins.

NW: Mhm. Mhm. So you just think that that's just . . .

MH: Yeah.

NW: . . . something that happens in the war.

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: Yeah.

MH: Whatever.

NW: Yeah. So during the wartime, um, being in Japan, did you feel like people . . .

MH: Yeah.

NW: . . . had a sort of perspective on you, because you were from America?

MH: Yeah . . . um they think . . . um, yeah.

NW: Yeah.

MH: They always used to criticize us, and . . .

NW: Mhm. What did they say?

MH: Well, I don't know. And they say spy and things like that.

NW: Ah.

MH: You know, people are—people are so narrow-minded. They could see in their self . . .

NW: Mm. Mhm.

MH: So.

NW: How about school-teachers? Did they treat you differently?

MH: No . . . school-teachers fine.

NW: They're fine.

MH: Yeah.

NW: Mhm. But school kids, your . . .

MH: Yeah.

NW: . . . school mates.

MH: They—they're some mean ones too.

NW: Mhm. Do you remember anything in particular?

MH: Huh?

NW: Do remember anything in particular? Somebody who was particularly mean, or said something?

MH: No. It's normal for kids to be like that.

NW: Mm . . . But do you have any particular memory or instance or anything?

MH: No.

NW: Mm.

MH: That's—That's life.

NW: Mhm.

MH: For me.

NW: Mmm.

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<Begin Segment 15>

NW: So . . . when you went back to America in 1947, um, did you already have a, like a, identity or awareness that you are a survivor of the bomb? Because . . .

MH: Oh, yeah.

NW: . . . it's. Okay.

MH: I'm . . . I—I'm not scared to die. So, even—the bomb, I thought, you know, whatever should happen, happens. It, it's a natural cause. Uh, you know, and whatever.

NW: Mhm.

MH: There's a reason for that and everything, so.

NW: Mhm. I guess what I'm asking is that, uh, you know, Japanese government installed so-called two laws for A-bomb survivors, right? And that's when they started to pay for survivors' medical ex—medical expenses.

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: And, but they don't happen until 1950s . . .

MH: I know.

NW: So, I just wondered, you know, when you went back to the, to America, it was almost, really, too early to benefit from those laws? So I just wonder if people talk about the bomb or school teacher told you about what happened in Hiroshima, like we do now?

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: So, you know, we do talk about it because it's a part of history.

MH: Yeah.

NW: But then, I just wonder what situation might have been like right after . . .

MH: No . . .

NW: . . . the bomb.

MH: Mm, everything. There's a cause for everything to happen.

NW: Mhm.

MH: So, it didn't . . .

NW: What about you parents or friends? Did they talk about the bomb, or?

MH: No.

NW: Why not?

MH: I don't know. We didn't . . . We didn't talk to parents that much, uh . . .

NW: Mm.

MH: We were always living separate. I mean, different places.

NW: Mm.

MH: Either I was in America in . . . my folks, though . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: They came back to Ja—America. 1951, I think.

NW: Mm.

MH: So.

NW: So, that was after you did?

MH: Af-after.

NW: Ah, okay.

MH: I was here first.

NW: Hmm. What about your Nisei friends, other friends of yours that you had . . .

MH: I don't know . . .

NW: . . . in Japan.

MH: What happened to Hiroshima *no* friends.

NW: What about people who originally came from America, just like you did? These, do you know that those Nisei friends of yours . . .

MH: No, yeah, you don't know where they live, or you . . .

NW: Okay.

MH: Their . . . especially women *wa*, their—their name change.

NW: Mm. Mhm.

MH: So you can't, there's no way you have . . .

NW: Right. To find . . .

MH: Try, try.

NW: Right, right.

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<Begin Segment 16>

NW: What about yourself? You mentioned your marriage, so I'm supposing that happened before the war?

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: Yeah.

MH: He-he . . .

NW: Tell me again how you met with your, your husband?

MH: Well, it's *omiaiai kekkon*.

NW: *Omiaiai kekkon*.

MH: Yeah.

NW: Yeah.

MH: Just . . . was married over—for a half year.

NW: Mm.

MH: And he had—he got drafted again. First he went to Malaysia and Singapore, *made itte*, then he came back.

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: And, and then he got drafted again and he died. I think Philippine.

NW: Mm. Oh, he did.

MH: Or someplace.

NW: Oh, I'm sorry.

MH: Yeah.

NW: Mhm. So, it must have been—when, when did you marry, then? Did you get married? . . . You and your husband, what year?

MH: [Laughs] I can't even re-remember. Wa-was it . . . forty . . . two? Or three?

NW: 1943. So, you must have been 22 years old?

MH: Uh, 22.

NW: Yeah.

MH: Or something.

NW: Yeah . . . So, you were married to your husband very briefly, then?

MH: Yeah, I did.

NW: Yeah.

MH: Yeah.

NW: Yeah. Did you, re—did you get remarried after that?

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: Yeah.

MH: I've got four children, and my . . . I got—I came to America and then I met my husband.

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: We got married then.

NW: Could you please tell me how you met with your current husband, then?

MH: Hm, my girlfriend and I—we were going to bowling.

NW: Ah.

MH: And [chuckling] Despite him . . . I don't know . . . I was working in, uh, Hollywood. You know, custom-made dress?

NW: Oh, no kidding?

MH: Yeah.

NW: Yeah.

MH: Movie star *no*. Marie MacDonald and all those, Loretta Young, Katharine Hepburn.

NW: Oh, wow.

MH: All those custom-made dress.

NW: So, did you start to work . . .

MH: Huh?

NW: . . . right after . . .

MH: Oh yeah.

NW: . . . you came back?

MH: Yeah, I—After I came back, I had to work.

NW: Mm.

MH: To make a—to be able to live.

NW: Mm. So, you didn't go to any school? Any junior-colleges, anything like?

MH: I went to . . . uh, drapery school.

NW: Drapery school?

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: Okay. Okay. So.

MH: To work for it.

NW: So, did you go to that school before you started to work, or?

MH: No, I was working and then, nighttime I used to go to school.

NW: I see. I see. How long did you—did it take for you to complete the school?

MH: I, I didn't complete. I just work about . . . two years in . . . and I got married, so.

NW: Oh, okay.

MH: Then you start having kids, and . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: You're so busy. [laughter]

NW: Yeah.

MH: Taking care.

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<Begin Segment 17>

NW: Yeah, yeah. So, you got married, was—was it, uh, another Japanese American . . .

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: . . . man then?

MH: Nisei.

NW: Nisei.

MH: Mhm.

NW: Just like yourself, then.

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: Did he have, did he—was he in the States during World War Two?

MH: No, he was in Tule Lake, a No-no, No-no-boys?

NW: I see, okay.

MH: Yeah.

NW: Yeah.

MH: Well, it's because he—his father was—he was—his father was 40 when he was born.

NW: Mm.

MH: And, he, he felt he, he . . . supposed to take care of his dad, cause . . .

NW: Right.

MH: Yeah.

NW: Right.

MH: That's why, the father was real Japan *no*. Things . . . So, he had to go with his father.

NW: Mm . . . Right, so, he must have been, then, in America but then he came back?

MH: Yeah, he never went back to Japan. And when he—he did go when he was 50.

NW: Ohhh.

MH: And he say he—he talked like an old man, but . . .

NW: Mm.

MH: . . . but he said yeah, men, they—they were laughing at his Hiroshima-*ben*.

NW: Oh. [laughter]. Ha. So, so you met with your husband two years after you came back to America?

MH: Actually, I met him the first year.

NW: Oh, okay. But got married with him . . .

MH: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

NW: Okay.

MH: Yeah.

NW: So you—you dated for a while?

MH: Yeah.

NW: Yeah. Okay.

MH: A couple years.

NW: Yeah, very different from your first marriage, then.

MH: Yeah.

NW: Because it was *omia i kekkon*.

MH: Well, and, and in those days, if you're over twenty-two then you, you—they think you're an old maid in those days.

NW: Mhm. Mhm.

MH: But now, they're all getting married, thirty, thirty-one . . .

NW: Mmm. Did your husband care at all about the fact that you were—you had been married before?

MH: No, no.

NW: Mhm.

MH: That's the first thing I told him before—when I met him.

NW: Mm. Mhm. Did you also tell him that you are a survivor of the bomb?

MH: Oh, yeah.

NW: Yeah. Yeah.

MH: Yeah.

NW: Did he have any reaction to that?

MH: No. The parents were real good, too.

NW: Mm.

MH: They were so good.

NW: Mhm.

MH: Real considerate. I've been lucky.

NW: Mhm. Well that's really nice . . .

MH: Yeah.

NW: . . . that you can say that. Yeah.

MH: Yeah.

[Interruption]

NW: But, um, you know, many people say that, you know, because you are a survivor, and . . .

MH: Mhm.

NW: . . . exposed to radiation . . .

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: . . . then, you might have to worry about having kids.

MH: Yeah.

NW: Did you have that feeling as well, or no?

MH: No, those things don't bother me. Everything—there's always a reason. You just . . .

NW: So? Everything has reasons, but then, in this particular case . . .

MH: No, you can . . . I—I don't worry about those things.

NW: Uh-huh. But has it occurred to you? Did you think about it and then thought, okay, I'm not going to worry about it? Or . . .

MH: Yeah.

NW: . . . didn't you even . . .

MH: No use worrying. There's always—you make your worry.

NW: Mm.

MH: And, and . . .

NW: Did you talk to your husband about that at all? Or? Was it something that you took . . .

MH: Well . . .

NW: . . . care of in your own mind?

MH: Yeah, more or less. He—it doesn't seem to be worried.

NW: Mm. Mhm.

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<Begin Segment 18>

NW: So, did you tell your friends, uh—you said that, you know, you worked at Hollywood, and um, you worked and you had friends here. Did you tell those people that you know that, uh, you were a survivor of the bomb? Here in the States.

MH: Oh, yeah.

NW: Yeah, yeah.

MH: I used . . . It happened, it happened, so . . . In fact my daughter, no, my grandson *no school de kara*, I went and I told them all about experience—Atom bomb.

NW: Mhm.

MH: Three of them. Three boys.

NW: Mhm. Mm. So, the school wants the students to talk . . .

MH: Yeah, uh-huh.

NW: . . . about that as well.

MH: Uh, uh-huh.

NW: To know about it.

MH: Yeah.

NW: Yeah.

MH: My daughter want me to talk about it.

NW: Mhm. What—what does it mean for you to be willing to be part of that kind of thing? So, you—you're willing to talk to me, and that's—I'm very grateful . . .

MH: Well, if I could help anybody to understand more.

NW: Mhm.

MH: That . . . willing to help.

NW: Mhm. I, I guess I'm asking you this because there are people who don't want to talk because it's too painful or they just do not want to talk. And there are other people, including yourself, who, who are willing to talk. I just wonder how you see the difference?

MH: I don't know. If it—if it helps somebody, then it's fine. I mean.

NW: Mhm.

MH: Nothing to hide . . . Uh, or, whatever happens, happens. So.

NW: Mhm.

MH: Those things don't worry me.

NW: Mhm.

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<Begin Segment 19>

NW: Now, um ... One thing that we hear as something that happened after the war—after the war in Japan but also in America . . .

MH: Mhm.

NW: . . . is that women's status changed a lot. So . . .

MH: Yeah.

NW: Yeah, so women in Japan got right to vote, for instance, right? Then, in America, many women, well, started to work outside . . .

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: . . . of their house as well. Did you feel like you—you sensed that sort of change for women's status? As you yourself went through that area . . .

MH: Oh yeah, I mean.

NW: Yeah.

MH: Have more freedom anyway. Do everything you want. Women could—just like my daughter . . . she went to UCLA.

NW: Mhm.

MH: And then she was teaching, she—teacher's credential.

NW: Mhm.

MH: And she was teaching. Then she decided she wants to go to Japan . . . And she went to Japan two years.

NW: Mhm.

MH: And . . . out there she met a lawyer . . . So she wanted to come back and go to law school.

NW: Mhm.

MH: So she went to, uh, Georgetown.

NW: Mhm.

MH: Law School.

NW: Mhm. Yeah, yeah.

MH: And that's where she met her husband.

NW: Right.

MH: And got married there.

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: And now she wants to be a minister.

NW: Wow.

MH: So, she's uh . . . Harada *sensei*'s minister assistant.

NW: Uh-huh. Yeah, yeah. I think I . . .

MH: You know the girl . . .

NW: . . . saw her, on the stage . . .

MH: Yeah, yeah.

NW: She's one of them.

MH: Ellen Crane.

NW: Okay.

MH: That's my daughter.

NW: Okay, okay.

MH: But she want to be a minister, and—and he let her, you know?

NW: Mhm.

MH: He's, see, in fact his, uh, mother was saying, it's sure nice that she found what she wants to do.

NW: Mm. Mhm.

MH: So.

NW: What about yourself, when you were working in 1940s, 1950s, did you feel that women were treated equally in the States?

MH: No, it didn't bother me. I was . . . you know, my father always let—my mother always let my father's . . . be the boss, and . . . it, it's . . . it sure didn't . . . I don't know what to say. I don't have that kind of a . . . woman's right anything. It doesn't bother me.

NW: Mm. Mhm. So did you read about like, feminist movements? I think it was very active in 1960s and '70s.

MH: Yeah, but those things, I'm not interested.

NW: So you didn't really read, or?

MH: I'm just happy, just—just like I am.

NW: Mhm. Mhm.

MH: Old fashioned, maybe. But, but, I'm happy.

NW: Mm. Mhm. So you didn't really get interested in that?

MH: No.

NW: Mm. Um.

MH: To me, Buddhism i—is still . . . only thing.

NW: Mhm. Yeah, I can hear that in . . .

MH: Yeah.

NW: . . . in this conversation a lot.

MH: I really feel . . . peace and I feel like I'm living in nirvana right now.

NW: Mhm.

MH: The kids are so good. Everybody have beautiful . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: Wonderful, *dan'na*, friends.

NW: How about, um, so you, after you came back to the states, I think generally speaking, American people could have been, still, very hostile, biased against . . .

MH: Yeah. They could.

NW: . . . Japanese Americans. Did you experience that yourself? Or?

MH: No.

NW: Yeah.

MH: It was pretty . . . pretty nice.

NW: Mhm.

MH: Compared to what it was before.

NW: Mm.

MH: Fighting with the school teacher and things like that.

NW: Mhm. Yeah, yeah. I can see that. [chuckle]

MH: [chuckle]

NW: Yeah, that's—that must have been very difficult.

MH: Yeah.

NW: To have a teacher say that—It is, it is difficult.

MH: They always say Japan's bad and . . . say in front of class, and,

NW: Mhm.

MH: And used to make us mad.

NW: Mm.

MH: Of course, our parents are Japanese, so we stick up for . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: Nihonjin.

NW: Mhm. Mhm.

MH: And we think we're Japanese. [chuckles]

NW: [chuckles]. Yeah, that's kind of interesting, how it works out.

MH: Yeah.

NW: Yeah, yeah.

MH: We really respect our mothers and fathers, so . . . I—I've been always lucky though.

NW: Mm . . .

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<Begin Segment 20>

NW: So do you think that your marriage to your husband was very similar to the marriage that your parents had? In terms of the way the relationship works out?

MH: Ah, I think so.

NW: Yeah.

MH: My—my husband, was sick, for uh . . . nerve deterioration. And I took him to Mayo Clinic five times.

NW: Ohh. Okay.

MH: He had a tracheotomy, and jejunostomy.

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: And paralyzed—Ee couldn't even lift, lift finger to . . . to scratch himself or any . . .

NW: Mm. Mm. That's hard.

MH: So, I took care of him at home.

NW: Ah, oh you did?

MH: Ten years.

NW: Wow.

MH: Wheel chair. I uh, and—at first, you know, before he got worse, I wou—ah take him to bath and . . . I try to lift him and I drop him on the floor, and . . .

NW: Oh.

MH: I had to call my son that's living about 3 mile—in the middle of the night.

NW: Mhm, right.

MH: To come and pick him up.

NW: Right. Right.

MH: They were so good.

NW: Yeah, yeah.

MH: So just thank-thankful for everything.

NW: Mm. How about um, your relationships with other survivors of the bomb living in the States? There is this ASA . . .

MH: I don't too many—I came to America so, there are hardly anybody that, the only one I know is Fukino-*san*.

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: And Sarashina-*san*.

NW: Uh-huh.

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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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<Begin Segment 22>

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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<Begin Segment 23>

NW: Um, now, very different kind of question I had about, uh . . . your life after you're in the States is that, um, in 1970s and '80s, there are not just Japanese people, Japanese American people . . .

MH: Mhm.

NW: . . . but also, there are other Asians . . .

MH: Mhm.

NW: . . . such as Korean Americans . . .

MH: Mhm.

NW: . . . Chinese Americans, Philippine Americans . . .

MH: Vietnamese.

NW: . . . Vietnamese, and uh, they all started to kind of come together, especially younger generation . . .

MH: Yeah. There . . .

NW: . . . including students.

MH: . . . there, yeah.

NW: And, it's called Asian American Movement.

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: Did you read anything . . .

MH: No.

NW: . . . about that? No?

MH: I just read religious book, and I don't . . . My needs . . . Narrow.

NW: Mm. But you heard . . .

MH: I'm too . . .

NW: . . . about it.

MH: Huh?

NW: But you heard about, when I said that . . . You know, there is this Asian-Americans . . .

MH: Well . . . there . . . I don't, you know, like computer nowadays, and well, I don't—I don't even know how to . . . use computer, or.

NW: Mm.

MH: But, it doesn't bother me. I'm just old-fashioned. That's all.

NW: Mhm. Yeah, well computer is not necessarily easy to use [chuckling] . . .

MH: I know . . .

NW: . . . so I totally understand that.

MH: . . . and everything is just buttons.

NW: Yeah. Yeah, right. Right.

MH: And then, you feel old-fashioned, and then that's all right with me.

NW: Mm.

MH: I—I had a good life, and . . .

NW: Mhm. So, did you have friends who are non-Japanese Asian Americans, then?

MH: No.

NW: Korean Americans? Or, Chinese Americans? Or . . . Vietnamese Americans?

MH: No.

NW: Mm . . . So it was either Japanese Americans, or White Americans?

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: That you befriended . . .

MH: That's what—what I'm, mostly . . . I don't go to school nowadays, so except . . . churches, BECs [?], Buddhist education class.

NW: Mhm. Mhm . . . Mm, so do you think that your religious belief in Buddhism . . .

MH: Mhm, it's everything.

NW: . . . kind of helped you . . .

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: . . . to, kind of, make sense of . . .

MH: take it, and uh, uh-huh.

NW: . . . what happened to you? Um, you know, on the August day in 1945?

MH: Uh, yeah, there's . . . It's just karma. It just . . . nothing you could do. Just live and make the best of it.

NW: Mm.

MH: Thankful for everything.

NW: Mm.

MH: Everybody.

NW: Mhm.

MH: *Okayagesan*.

NW: Mhm.

MH: Really, when you get old, you sure feel that *okayagesan*.

NW: Mhm. Mhm . . . Hm.

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<Begin Segment 24>

NW: What do you look forward to? In your current life.

MH: Day-by-day.

NW: Yeah?

MH: Just . . . being able to walk, and . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: . . . just . . . do . . . Normal thing and, you're just lucky. No pain.

NW: Mm. Do you have any hobbies? That you enjoy do . . .

MH: Huh?

NW: Hobbies that you enjoy doing?

MH: Oh, yeah. I love growing plants.

NW: Oh.

MH: Propagate. I used to grow all—all the plants we sell.

NW: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

MH: Propagate—Everything I do, I love.

NW: Uh-huh-huh [chuckling].

MH: I just . . . love Buddhist study.

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: It's such a challenge.

NW: Mm. So you regularly attend Buddhist church events . . .

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: . . .and activities?

MH: Then . . .

NW: Yeah?

MH: Coming to . . . Buddhist education class for . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: Oh, maybe fifteen years or . . .

NW: Wow.

MH: Ever since—from here.

NW: Yeah, yeah. Did you contribute a lot to the Buddhist church, then?

MH: Well, practically . . . of the seventeen families that started this church . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: First ... like when they bought this property, and . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: . . . they built all this . . . Most of our, the, plants here are ours. My . . .

NW: Mm.

MH: . . . my husband . . .

NW: Mm.

MH: . . . he put all of the sprinkler and pipe and everything in.

NW: Yeah. Yeah.

MH: He did—did it, all the basic ... and he—he had to bring his own landscape crew.

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: And—and do all the plumbing and everything.

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: And you couldn't afford to . . . you kn—get the money from the church for . . .

NW: Mhm. Mhm. So you volunteered? You . . .

MH: No, my husband . . .

NW: I know.

MH: He, uh . . .

NW: I know.

MH: He died . . . pretty early. He died . . .

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: . . . in his seventies, but he did all this . . .

NW: Right.

MH: . . . before he died.

NW: Right, right. Mm. That's quite a contribution.

MH: Uh-huh. I think so.

NW: It is! It is.

MH: I'm really thankful.

NW: Mm. Mhm.

MH: *Okayagesan-de.*

NW: Mhm.

MH: That's why this place feels like home. All the plants, I . . .

NW: Yeah, yeah. Yeah, yeah.

MH: Plant the seed . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: . . . and propagate, and . . . and even the bonsai in the middle of the office, here . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: That came from grandpa.

NW: Mhm.

MH: Made the bonsai over there.

NW: Yeah, yeah. Yeah-yeah.

MH: It's about sixty, si—over sixty years old.

NW: Mm.

MH: From our place.

NW: Mhm.

MH: And it was . . . pretty big too, then.

NW: Mhm. Mhm.

MH: Amazing, huh? Huh?

NW: Yeah, yeah. It—I mean, its really wonderful, this . . .

MH: Yeah.

NW: . . . church is flourishing.

MH: Everybody . . .

NW: Yeah.

MH: . . . just do so much for this church.

NW: Uh-huh. Uh-huh. Yeah.

MH: Yeah, and that's why everybody feel like home—second home here.

NW: Mhm. Mhm. Yeah, that's very nice you can . . .

MH: Yeah.

NW: . . . feel that way. Yeah.

MH: Lucky.

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<Begin Segment 25>

NW: So, um, you said that last three times, uh, you went to see Hiroshima doctors.

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: For medical check-up . . .

MH: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

NW: I'm sorry. It's a bit of a change of a topic.

MH: I got three. Every other year.

NW: Every other year, uh—what's your impression of those Hiroshima doctors? . . . Are they good?

MH: Yeah.

NW: Yeah?

MH: They're real nice.

NW: Yeah?

MH: You feel comfortable.

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: And then . . .

NW: What do you gain out of it? I mean, of course, you have your health checked, but . . .

MH: Yeah . . . I don't know. If it's going to help everybody, and . . . And to . . . think, that's good.

NW: Mhm . . . Well, you know, somebody has to pay for it.

MH: I know.

NW: Uh, and the people have to work hard . . .

MH: I know . . .

NW: . . . to create it . . .

MH: . . . I know. Everything . . .

NW: You think it's—you think it's a good think that it's happening?

MH: What, the— it—the?

NW: That there is this . . .

MH: Oh, yeah . . .

NW: . . . team of doctors . . .

MH: . . . real thank . . .

NW: Yeah.

MH: . . . Thankful.

NW: Yeah. Yeah.

MH: *Okagesan-de.*

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: I mean, everybody tried so hard and I'm really thankful for everything.

NW: Mhm. Mm . . . Now, you said that everything has a cause, and . . .

MH: Mhm.

NW: . . . that's your Buddhist belief?

MH: *Gen in*, yeah.

NW: Yeah . . . right, but there are people who didn't get the bomb?

MH: Yeah.

NW: Yeah.

MH: That's their life.

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: Everybody . . . Take different . . . you just happen to be there.

NW: Mhm.

MH: Just like tidal wave. They must, I mean, that *tsunami demo*, same thing. It just happen to hit certain place.

NW: Mhm.

MH: And you just, if you're there, that's . . . that's *shikata ga nai de shō*.

NW: Mhm.

MH: *Gō* . . . *Karma*. Whatever you call it.

NW: Mhm. But, you also think that it's good that there are opportunities like health check-up, that . . .

MH: Oh yeah.

NW: . . . Hiroshima, and.

MH: Everything that helps, I mean . . .

NW: Right.

MH: Really appreciative.

NW: Yeah, yeah . . .

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<Begin Segment 26>

NW: Is there anything that you hope to see? Is there anything that you feel frustrated or anything that you think needs to be improved?

MH: I'm 91.

NW: Mhm.

MH: Years old.

NW: Mhm.

MH: I'm just through it. Everything. [chuckles]

NW: Yeah.

MH: Just day-by-day.

NW: Yeah. Mm. So you don't necessarily have any strong feelings about anything?

MH: No.

NW: Mhm.

MH: I'd like to see the young people . . . Well, to help the people.

NW: Mhm.

MH: Everybody in this . . .

NW: Mhm ... Now speaking of helping young people, you mentioned earlier how . . .

MH: Yeah.

NW: —you're—you, wanted your child to go to the health check-up, right?

MH: Yeah, the—they're, everybody worry about themselves.

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: You don't have to worry. They do that.

NW: Oh, but don't you think that—Okay, so you want them to have this opportunity to see Hiroshima doctors, right? You'd like that?

MH: Well their language, she, ah . . . They don't—they speak Japanese and, it's hard for them to comprehend anything.

NW: Uh-huh. So . . .

MH: They're, they're . . .

NW: . . . they don't go anymore. You're children don't go see . . .

MH: No.

NW: Hiroshima doctors . . .

MH: No.

NW: . . . hmm. But they once did? Just one time? Your child?

MH: My—my daughter.

NW: Your daughter.

MH: Yeah. And she went one—the first time.

NW: Yeah.

MH: Cause they . . . They are the second generation.

NW: Yeah, right. But she didn't come back?

MH: No.

NW: Again?

MH: Well, she's . . . She was busy raising family.

NW: Mhm.

MH: So.

NW: Mhm. Does she have outside work as well? Oh, the—the minister.

MH: The . . .

NW: Oh, that's right.

MH: Minster.

NW: Right, right. Yeah . . . So . . .

MH: She was, she was a lawyer and then housewife and now . . . The . . .

NW: Right.

MH: Kids are all working, so.

NW: Mhm. Mhm. So, do you have any hopes for the kids' generation? Future generation? Things that you hope . . .

MH: I just want them to be happy. That's all.

NW: Mhm.

MH: Happy and comfortable.

NW: Mhm. Now, you talk to people about your experience as a survivor, and . . .

MH: Unless they ask, I—I don't . . .

NW: Yeah, right. Right. But, um, you know, one thing that many survivors nowadays worry is that people forgetting about the bomb. Or, people are, uh, not thinking about, uh, survivors, because . . . Well first, to begin with, to bring Hiroshima doctors to have them do the medical health check-up for American . . .

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: . . . survivors. Many people really work hard to make that happen.

MH: Oh, yeah.

NW: Right? So . . .

MH: That's all extra work.

NW: Right.

MH: Mhm.

NW: But—but then, I think the problem is that because the number of survivor, it's—survivors itself is going down . . .

MH: Yeah, really . . .

NW: . . . because . . .

MH: . . . going down.

NW: Right. Yeah. So how do you feel about that? I mean . . .

MH: Mm, nothing . . .

NW: . . . there might not be, there might not be medical check-up anymore, or . . .

MH: Yeah.

NW: There may not—people might not even know anything about the bomb.

MH: Yeah.

NW: How do—do you worry about that?

MH: No, that's beyond my . . .

NW: Do you think people . . . Yeah?

MH: That's beyond my thing.

NW: Mm.

MH: I got too much worry . . . To worry about those things.

NW: Mm. You got too much worries to worry about those things?

MH: No, everyday life's trying to make a living, and . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: They've got enough worries instead of making more.

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<Begin Segment 27>

NW: Is there anything that I—you thought that I should be asking you but I didn't ask? Or, anything that you felt like, oh, I wish I'd talked a little more about this?

MH: No . . . My mind don't . . . A-at this stage, it doesn't move [chuckles] . . . Nothing worries me.

NW: Mhm. You don't have any questions for me?

MH: No.

NW: No? Okay.

MH: Well, just thank you . . .

NW: Well . . .

MH: . . . for everything. All your effort.

NW: Oh, thank you very much.

MH: If . . . If it help, if it . . . It's fine.

NW: Yeah, it's very helpful to hear from you.

MH: I don't know—

NW: And uh—

MH: if I help you any. [chuckling]

NW: Oh, no, no. It's—It's an enormous help. I really appreciate it. It's a very interesting family history that you have. And experiences . . .

MH: I—I've been real lucky with parents, and . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: Buddhism . . . And my children.

NW: Mhm.

MH: Just . . . they have to do everything for me, as I get older.

NW: [chuckles]

MH: They worry about me, even driving car.

NW: But your daughter is right next—I mean, right nearby. She's not far away . . .

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: . . . she's very close. What do, uh, other children of yours do?

MH: They're . . . well they were both engineers . . . My boys.

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: But . . . They're helping at home.

NW: Ohh.

MH: My husband was—got sick, and . . . and the second boy was running the nursery, but he was getting so thin . . . you know . . .

NW: Mm.

MH: Middle night taking care of my husband, and things like that. So, both of them came—came home . . .

NW: Mmm, really?

MH: And there's . . . Have to work harder.

NW: Right.

MH: They, they were . . .

NW: Right.

MH: . . . doing real good.

NW: Mm.

MH: I'd say.

NW: Are they all living in California, then? Before . . .

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: Okay. Yeah.

MH: See, the second one that's— he was in Saudi Arabia.

NW: Oh.

MH: You, you know that King, uh, *nanino*, that airport they built?

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: They . . . four-forty-seven, seven-forty-seven, no, that wouldn't—that airplane, they took all the seats . . .

NW: Uh-huh. Yeah, yeah.

MH: . . . and put . . . nothing but palm. That twenty-, thirty-foot palm.

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: To plant . . . at that airport.

NW: Ohh.

MH: It all came from California.

NW: Oh. [laughter]

MH: And, he, him, and, and a couple guys, driver, and, thing . . . they took out—took off and went to Saudi Arabia.

NW: Ohhh, he was in charge of that . . .

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: . . . then, yeah. Huh. It's an interesting . . . [laughter]

MH: I know, my kids . . .

NW: —project.

MH: . . . my kids have real interesting things.

NW: Mm. What about your other sons?

MH: Uh, no.

NW: What, you have two . . .

MH: Two boys.

NW: Yeah.

MH: The other one works for Mobil Oil and went to further away.

NW: Oh, okay, okay. Now I'm kind of putting the pieces together.

MH: And my oldest daughter, that's uh . . . assistant minister.

NW: Okay.

MH: She went, uh, on backpack to India.

NW: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

MH: Right after the . . . Uh, when she was in Japan, so it was in the seventies?

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: With two lawyers and two doctors.

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: She walked way, from Thailand to Malaysia, to . . . and, Rangoon. She met the, uh . . . flood, they have the . . .

NW: The flood? Okay.

MH: Flood. The every-everything got flooded, and they have to stay up there in the hotel, and . . .

NW: Oh, haha.

MH: . . . see, it's just like a river.

NW: Yeah. Yeah, everything was, yeah.

MH: And, then she walked to Kathkondu [?] in Nepal, and . . .

NW: Ohh.

MH: They, my kids are all . . .

NW: Exp—interesting experiences.

MH: Yeah, yeah.

NW: Yeah. Yeah.

MH: Something people don't do.

NW: Mmm. Yeah.

MH: So.

NW: That's quite unusual.

MH: Yeah.

NW: Yeah. Yeah.

MH: Uh ... They're so good to me . . .

NW: Mm.

MH: . . . it's *mottai nai*.

NW: Mhm.

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<Begin Segment 28>

NW: When did you say that your husband died?

MH: Di . . . um . . . '92.

NW: Ninety-two. Okay.

MH: It's almost twenty years.

NW: I know . . . It's amazing how fast the time flies.

MH: I know.

NW: [laughter] Yeah.

MH: He was only 72 . . . When he passed.

NW: Mm . . . Yeah, that is young.

MH: I can't—I can't believe that I'm—I'm 91.

NW: Mm. Well, you look very much in a great shape.

MH: [laughter]

NW: [laughs]

MH: I don't know. Inside it is all junk, though.

NW: Well, you shouldn't say that. [laughter]

MH: Yeah.

NW: Yeah, but you don't have any particular health issues that you worry now?

MH: No.

NW: Right? Yeah . . . That's really excellent.

MH: Yeah . . .

NW: In your nineties.

MH: Lucky.

NW: Yup.

MH: I mean, you don't have pain or nothing, uh—of course I fell down and my . . . vertebrae . . . twelve, and . . . ten and twelve is . . . crooked.

NW: Mm. Mhm.

MH: That's why my rib hurts.

NW: Ahh, okay.

MH: Every, every time when I, walk too much.

NW: Mmm.

MH: But that's about all . . .

NW: Mm.

MH: . . . and just.

NW: Yeah, I wouldn't say it's a serious problem. I'm—of course you have a pain, so you have to . . .

MH: Yeah.

NW: . . . kind of attend to it, but.

MH: Yeah.

NW: Yeah. It's great that you don't have any other . . .

MH: I know.

NW: . . . serious issues. Yeah. Yeah.

MH: Really happy and thankful . . . for everything.

NW: Mhm.

MH: *Okayagesama* . . . We didn't think that *okayagesama* had any . . .

NW: Mm.

MH: . . . everything, *no, okage*.

NW: Mm. Well, uh . . .

MH: Okay.

NW: . . . thank you very much again for your time.

MH: I ho—I don't know if it helped you or not. [laughter]

NW: Oh, no, it's very, very helpful. I really . . .

MH: Yeah.

NW: . . . appreciate it.

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