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Naoko Wake Collection of Oral Histories of US Survivors of the Atomic Bombs Collection

Title: Junji Sarashina Interview Narrator: Junji Sarashina Interviewer: Naoko Wake Location: San Jose, California Date: June 6, 2012

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NW: So you came back from Korea after the war. And then, where did you go?

JS: Okay, I was, before that, I got married in Japan.

NW: Oh, you did? Okay, on your way back from Korea, so to speak?

JS: Oh, yeah, I was in, in, stationed in Tokyo, instead of coming back to States right away.

NW: So, it must have been, what year was it? 195 . . .?

JS: We got married in 1953, I think. She is from Hiroshima, she used to my sister's friend, classmate, no, lower than that, but her classmate. Those days, all the students, going to the same school, they traveled together to go to school in the morning, you see? One of the stops was my sister's house. So, my wife is . . . , they would walk all the way as a group, they would stop, my sister would join them, and then go to school.

NW: So they knew each other.

JS: That's when I met her. And I got married.

NW: Now, you got married then, in Japan, and then came back together to America?

JS: Yeah.

NW: Yeah. And where did you go?

JS: First I was stationed in the . . . North Carolina.

NW: You were still in the Army.

JS: That's the language school, not that, military intelligent center. I was in the mil... North Carolina, gee, I forgot the name already. Gosh. Anyway.

NW: And you were there for a while, in North Carolina?

JS: Yeah, then I got discharged, and went back to Los Angeles.

NW: Ah-huh. Now, in all of these years, you were coming back to the States, and you were, you went to Hawai'i for a while and then you went to Korean War, and then you came back to the States, North Carolina, then in Los Angeles, were you thinking of yourself as a victim of the bomb, or a survivor of the bomb, in other words, did you have any identity like that?

JS: No, no. I didn't have any problem, like physically, I didn't have any problem. Even though I had visited Japan often, not all the time but often, I knew about the A-bomb services and something like that. But physically I was okay, and you know, I didn't have any problem. So for a long time, I didn't have any connection with the so-called *hibakusha*.

NW: Right.

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