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Title: Junji Sarashina Interview
Narrator: Junji Sarashina
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
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<Begin Segment 2>

NW: Now, so you were pretty much growing up in Hawai'i, as a child, and so by the time, you were born in 1929, and you went back to Japan in 1936, so that means that you were 7 years old, right? So, were you already in school in Hawai'i by the time you went back to Japan?

JS: Oh, yes, yes. In fact, from Lahaina, I remember some of those school, Can Third [?], they called it, the grade school. It's right by the beach, and where they had famous Banyan tree, large, large trees, in the center of, Can Third Grade School, right next to it, and I remember having a lunch, goofing off around the beach from the school. [laugh]

NW: [laugh]. That's hard to resist, when there's such a nice beach around you.

JS: Well, you know, everybody is a swimmer in Hawai'i. Especially in Lahaina, you have nothing else to do but swim. Then we went to Hiroshima.

NW: Now I have a few more questions about the school. So, what were your classmates like? Were they mostly Japanese or Japanese American friends, or . . . ?

JS: No, no, it's all mixed, whoever, a lot of Caucasian, of course a lot of Japanese too. At one time, one-third of the population of Hawai'i was Japanese, Japanese, Japanese, you know, connected with the Japanese, but. So, I remember a lot of Japanese friends in the grade school, and also remember some of these Caucasian friends.

NW: Other groups of ethnicity? Um, ethnic students?

JS: There were a lot of Portuguese in there, as I remember. The reason I remember the Portuguese is whenever they baked a bread, they used a stone oven, which is outside. Used log wood to burn it, and you can smell that aroma one mile away. And that's when the, my Portuguese friends used to cook, bake those bread, so. I don't remember the face, but I remember the smell. [laugh]

NW: [laugh] I can understand it, yeah. It must have been pretty impressive.

JS: Those days, of course, it's a long time ago, it was a safe place for little kids to wonder around the town, or wherever, because it seemed like everybody know each other.

NW: Would you say mostly, your friends were Japanese American friends, or did you become friends with Caucasians or?

JS: I think it's Japanese, Japanese American.

NW: Yeah. What kind of food did you have, did you grow up eating?

JS: I think, I think it was a mixed, American food and, like hotdog was a popular thing. Also, remember the *nori musubi*, *takuwan*, they even made . . . pickled a lot of mango.

NW: Mango!

JS: Everybody makes it, the Japanese people when they came to the church. They would all bring whatever they can. So, well, what did I eat? I don't remember [laugh]. But I remember milk being delivered every day, and bread being delivered every day. The reason that I remember the way the bread was delivered was we, my dad had, or the church had about 5 dogs, used to be strict, and the dog used to steal the bread, and I was after the dog all the time. That's why I remember the bread!

NW: [laugh] Yeah, yeah.

JS: And I remember some of these senior helpers, early in the morning they come in, used to drink coffee. And being a little kid, I just had to try the coffee. And they used to dilute the whole thing with milk, and they said "Don't tell mommie, Don't tell mommie!" So, you know, as far as food was concerned, it was mixed.

NW: Mixed. What was your favorite food? What did you like to eat?

JS: I think it was omelet, I think.

NW: Omelet.

JS: She used make a lot of omelet. I didn't eat fish those days; I didn't eat fish, but fish was plentiful out there.

NW: Of course, you're surrounded by the sea.

JS: Yeah, nothing but, you know, ocean. Oh, I remember a lot of people used to bring crabs to the church. Well, you know, not to me, but to mom. They catch the crab, or they catch the fish, and they would always bring there, those fish. So-called Buddhist Women's Association, the mothers, were constantly working at the social hall and preparing food for members and occasions, I think in a way it was a social gathering for so-called adult ladies. And they had more part than all the people, because they were the one who bring kids, they are the one, the ladies are the one drag their husbands to the church. [laugh]. So.

NW: Right, right.

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