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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: Did your wife also work or was she a housewife?

JS: No, she had a beauty salon.

NW: Yeah, I think you told me, yeah. For, what, quite a while?

JS: Maybe 15 years or so.

NW: Oh, that's a long time.

JS: The reason she made a beauty salon is, main reason was we don't have anybody in the United States just my wife and myself and boys, two boys. And the first thing that came to my mind is if something happens to me how is she going to survive? So I said, "you have to have a skill." And she is from Japan, so you know, then the only thing you can do is get a skill. So she went to school and she got her citizenship, and she went to school and learned the beauty trade, and got a license. And then bought the store, yeah. And a lot of church members [laugh], they were customers.

NW: Yeah, yeah, right. So she had a good business.

JS: Yeah, she had a good time playing with her friends. Working with friends, because I remember they were saying "we are going to have a board meeting, BWA, Buddhist Women's Association's meeting at Kyoko's beauty shop."

NW: [laugh] And then, if you need to have a haircut . . . [laugh].

JS: [laugh]. So, they all brought their, you know, goodies and food, "what's going on?" And they said, "we are having a meeting today, so Junji, get out of the room." So, okay, you know. So, she, by having her own shop nine o'clock, ten o'clock, they continued the meeting.

NW: And you said there was a little kitchen area in the shop as well.

JS: Yeah, in the back. They did whatever they wanted to do. They were ladies, anyway. They prepared their food, and made their food, each, enjoyed each other's food.

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