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Title: Junji Sarashina Interview  
Narrator: Junji Sarashina  
Interviewer: Naoko Wake  
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<Begin Segment 7>

NW: So, did you have any other schoolmates in your school who are also born in the States? Like Kibei Nisei like yourself?

JS: Yes, we had two of them. One was an A-bomb victim. He died ten years ago.

NW: Oh. But was he, was he here when died?

JS: Yes, yes. He belonged to our organization, ASA [American Society of Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb Survivors]. He was a member of the ASA. And his wife is a tea ceremony teacher. And my wife and this, my friend's wife, they see each other once in a while. Another person was living here, but maybe about 8 years ago he returned to Japan, and he is living in some place in Tokyo now. So I have no, no communication with him.

NW: Were you good friends with them when you were at school?

JS: Casual friend. This is how we met, so, you know, about twice a year or so we get together and eat. That's about it.

NW: Oh, I see. But at school, when you were all students, you weren't . . .

JS: No, no, no. And another person, this is very interesting, do you have time? Can I say stuff like this?

NW: Yeah, well, of course.

JS: His name Ted Kawasaki, used to be jūdō instructor, 5<sup>th</sup> degree, in Sawtell near Santa Monica. We went to same school, in Hiroshima, Hiroshima Icchū is the school. And he was 2 grades above me, together with my brother. And when the war started, oh, *gomen nasai*, I said the war, but the, jumping the gun, Korean War started, so it's been quite a few years after I finished school, but, I used to know, I used to see Mr. Kawasaki, the *jūdō* instructor, at the *jūdō* place in San Jose. And when I met him, he said, Junji, you know my wife? He said, oh, she used to be my classmate. At grade school! Yeah. Oh, know, you know! It was a surprise, and we became very close friends. And then my wife was, when we met this Mr. Kawasaki's wife, and they went to the same school back in Japan!

NW: Oh, so everybody had a connection, previously.

JS: Okay, now, when the war started, I was drafted, and volunteered and I was sent to Korea. First, I was going to go to Japan, but when the war started, they sent all us to Korea. I was assigned to the military intelligence service, they call it MIS. They were sent to Korea during the war time. Still go pow pow pow, yeah? Then, when I got to the Seoul station on the train, there was a Sergeant, waiting for me, at the gate. Mr. Kawasaki, the friend of mine, the *jūdō* instructor.

NW: Oh!

JS: He was waiting for me, “Come here Junji, you come with me.”

NW: [laugh].

JS: So I was assigned to his organization. And right in Seoul, that’s where I was assigned. Otherwise, they could have sent me to the front line, a platoon, a regiment, not regiment, mostly because it’s small sized throughout Korea. But I was right in Seoul with him. He put me in there. So that’s one of my classmates. 2 grades above me, my brother’s friend.

NW: He might have saved your life, then.

JS: You said it; you said it. And when I was in high school, he was doing *jūdō* too, and he used to throw me. [laugh].

NW: [laugh]. Did you throw him as well?

JS: No, no no. [laugh]. Yeah, so we used to know each other that way too, doing *jūdō*, you know. Upper grade, he was almost like an instructor. You know, strange thing, when you go to Korea, you’re so scared, being a young GI, and don’t know anything. So. But he passed away about 10 years ago.

NW: Hmm. Too bad.

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