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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: Now, going back in time, in time a little bit, so, you were telling me that you still had to have milk delivered to you even after you went back to Japan. Now, are there anything like that other than that, uh, like, habit that you had as an American kid, but you continued to have it even after back in Japan?

JS: Yeah, we always had, milk, egg, and bacon.

NW: Oh my god, how did you get a hold of bacon?

JS: There was a store in Hiroshima called American Store. So we went over there, my mom went over there, you know. And bought cheese and ham and bacon, the bacon might not be as good as today's bacon, but somehow they made similar bacon. Hamburger was also there too, that kind of thing. And let me tell you a very interesting story. We, when I was in grade school, at first people thought that I was a damn nut, but as they get used to me, they all started come to my house. It's next to the school, right in front of the school, anyway. One thing was this; because my sister, because I had two sisters, we had milk, and they made ice cream, sherbet. We had a refrigerator those days.

NW: Ohh! No wonder everybody wants to come! [laugh].

JS: Yeah! [laugh]. So, they made cupcake, and my older sister, cupcake, and ice cream, all this baking staff. And once they found out that hey, if you go to Junji-san's place, you can have ice cream. Man, oh man, I didn't know I was that popular. They all wanted to eat the ice cream, those days, my sisters baked a lot.

NW: Like cookies and . . .

JS: Yeah, cookies, yeah. So I remember, you know, man, I had a lot of friends. [laugh]

NW: Yeah, I wonder why? [laugh]

JS: It's because of my sisters, you know.

NW: Were you able to eat omelet, your favorite food, then?

JS: Oh, yeah, fortunately, we were able to, maybe quite comfortable, so. So it was . . . Yeah, I guess, I used to go out to eat *udon*. Yeah. And the whole family, all the kids, and sounds kind of strange, but they all get into a taxi, we used to, to go eat *udon*. Because my mom had a favorite

place that we had to go there. For me, I couldn't care less, but being a kid, what are you going to do, you just follow your parent. But my brothers and sisters, they enjoyed *udon*, *yakiniku*, huh? That's some of the pleasant memories.

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