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Title: Jun Dairiki Interview
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Interviewer: Naoko Wake
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NW: Well, going back to current status of survivors, do you think they are well perceived within Japanese American community? Because, you know, there are people like Jack, who is originally from America, and are American citizens to begin with, whereas they, many other survivors, who came to the States after the war, and they are probably working together probably in many regards to make sure this biannual checkup happens smoothly. Also, like I said earlier in the 1970s, there was some, like a movement to get the medical bill passed by the US government. Do you think that is well perceived within Japanese American community? Let's say, non-survivors, what do they think of that kind of effort?

JD: Well, you know the survivors who live in America now, either married GIs, or other Niseis. And they have kids of their own. I don't know, I don't know too many of those people, and I don't know how they're perceived. The question is, do they even talk about it to other people that are not a survivor. They probably don't, you know. Especially . . . maybe they talk about it to another Nijon-jin or Nisei, or whatever, that might be okay, but I don't think that they'll talk about it to a *hakujin*.

NW: Oh. That's interesting.

JD: Because some of them might have fathers or brothers or uncles who were in the war in Japan. So you don't want to talk about your Hiroshima experience because they could come back to you with their fathers' experiences or their uncles' experience, they might have been prisoners of war in Japan.

NW: That's possible.

JD: So, I don't know too many of the survivors, I know who they are but I don't really converse with them, You know, I just don't know.

NW: But you sense it's probably, they are not just going to talk about their experience just about anyone.

JD: I don't think so. I think that they would be very careful about to whom they would talk about it. I think amongst themselves that's fine. And I think among the Japanese community, I think they're fine. Only because our ethnicity is the same. We have, you know, Niseis who fought in the Pacific War as linguists. And they were known as the MIS. The Military Intelligent Service or something like that. They served under General Merrill, I think. They were known as Merrill's

Crusaders or something like that. But anyway, they fought in the Pacific war because of the linguistic ability to talk to the Japanese soldiers, and I think it's okay to talk to them about Hiroshima and everything. I don't think they'll have a problem, but I don't know.

NW: In a way, it's a difficult, difficult place. Like you said, people like you might feel ambivalent about the bomb, and they, survivors themselves might feel ambivalent about whether or not they should be talking about it.

JD: Yeah, I don't know, because if you talk to *hakujin* group about it, you see, they are going to have relatives who were in the war in the Pacific, and they may not have happy memories about it, so you don't want to say too much about how you are a Hiroshima survivor.

NW: Yeah, that's interesting, even though, I have talked to some survivors who have talked to *hakujin* audience, right, so I think it really depends, it's not as though, all *hakujin* will have similar responses to that kind of story. Well, how about the camp experience, um, do you feel like you feel easier talking about that, with certain groups of people, what would that be?

JD: I don't mind talking about my camp life. It doesn't matter whether *hakujins* or talking to your own friends, you know, with your own friends, you have a common interest, a bond, regardless of what camp you were in. But I don't mind talking about it to my *hakujin* friends or anything, a lot of them are aware of it. And they just ask me some questions, and I just answer. But I don't have a problem talking to them about it, yeah.

NW: But, their response might be different, to what you tell them.

JD: Ah . . . I don't know, hm, I don't know. I don't know what their response would be, they ask me a question and I tell them. I give them an answer and they seem to be happy with that.

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