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Title: Jun Dairiki Interview
Narrator: Jun Dairiki
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
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<Begin Segment 3>

JD: But anyway, I went to Chicago after graduation, I took secretarial courses, and at that time, the year I was there, it was the first year that Northwestern University, in their school of business decided to open up a school for secretaries.

NW: Really? So that was the first year, new project for them.

JD: They no longer have it. But the way I understood it, I could be wrong on my facts with this, but MacMillan, and whatever the name of this book company was, published all of the Gregg's [?] shorthand notebooks. Apparently when the Gregg's, there was a separate Gregg's secretarial school in Chicago and I don't know what happened, whether the owner passed away or whatever, but they didn't carry it on as a private school, and they gave it to the publishers, who published the shorthand notebooks, and of course the publishers didn't want to be saddled with the school, so, the way I understand it is they in turn, asked Northwestern, their school of business, would you be willing to take over the school, and so I guess Northwestern did agree to that, so that's how come I went there. I went, it was formerly the Gregg's Secretarial School, I think, privately owned, but now it became a part of the Northwestern University system. So I went to school there and I went there for about a year, because I had taken some business classes in high school, my typing and shorthand, so I already had, I had some background in it already. This was just to further my skills and to prepare myself to go into the business world.

NW: Oh yeah, do you have a certificate? That helps.

JD: And I actually have my certificate from there, from the univeristy, Northwestern University telling me I successfully completed their education, all this and the other. So I went and worked for a branch office for a major insurance company. Chicago had a branch office, and the home office of the insurance company was in Indianapolis. It was known as Lincoln National Life Insurance Company. I don't know if it's still in existence anymore, they get all gobbled up and everything, you know. But I went to work in the branch office in Chicago for that. And it was a clearing house for the insurance company, the branch office was. There were like three agencies that all sold Lincoln National Life Insurance Company policies. There were three different uh, agencies, but all of their applications had to be cleared through our office, ours was, that's why we're known as the clearing house. You know, you have to send out an inquiry as a background check on the policy holder's potential and all the standards, then you send it on to, you send the application on to the home office. So anyway, I worked there from, so I graduated in '53, so from '53 to '55 I worked in that office, and I decided that I really would like to travel. [laugh]

So, you know, I thought well, I'll go and see what I can do. I don't know how I found out about the Civilian Office for Uncle Sam, but it was posted where I worked. I went there and I asked some questions about it and they said "Oh yeah, we could use civilian employees, secretary types, to go overseas."

NW: Now, at that time, were you fluent in Japanese? You told me earlier . . .

JD: No.

NW: Do you think they were interested in you because of your background?

JD: No, I don't think so. It was, you were sent to where the need was, where the position was needed. And actually, to be very honest with you, when I made out my application to Uncle Sam, I listed all the European countries I wanted to go to; I did not list any Asian countries.

NW: Why is that?

JD: I didn't want to go to Japan, or Hong Kong, or Okinawa or anything. Because I had music as my background, a little bit, I mean, I don't sing anymore, but I used to, at that time. And I wanted to go to Europe to futher my singing. Not to make it as a career or anything, but just to, just to keep up with that. I really wanted to go to Germany, that's where I really wanted to go, either there or Italy. So, I did not list any Asian countries, but where they sent me was Japan, because they had an opening there.

NW: I see, so it didn't quite work out.

JD: Yeah, so it didn't work out that way. But anyway, so, I ended up in Japan; I mean, it worked out okay, you know. I sent two years there. I spent about the first twenty or twenty-one months in Nagoya, and then the last three months, I spent in Tokyo because our headquarters got moved from Nagoya to Tokyo. So I spent my last three months there. Then I came home, I went to Chicago, and visited with my sister there. And I came out to San Francisco because my other sister had moved from Chicago to San Francisco, in the two years that I was gone, she moved from Chicago to San Francisco. So I decided, okay, I would like to then maybe come out and "bach" with her. I'll go find me a job.

NW: So she was working in San Francisco at that time?

JD: She was working for Fort Mason, which is Uncle Sam. That's an Uncle Sam facility. So she was working there. And of course, I came home, I didn't have a job, so I had to go look for a job. And I looked around, and actually, what I wanted to do was to go to Europe. I still was trying to get to Europe.

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