

Densho Digital Repository
Naoko Wake Collection of Oral Histories of US Survivors of the Atomic Bombs Collection
Title: Jun Dairiki Interview
Narrator: Jun Dairiki
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
Location: San Francisco, California
Date: July 22, 2012
Densho ID: ddr-densho-1021-6-5

<Begin Segment 5>

NW: What kind of work did you do?

JD: It was secretarial. I was a secretary all my life. So anyway I said “Yes, I would like to come and work for you.” So, I quit my job at the bank and went to Chevron. So I started with them in June of 1958, and I retired with them in September of 1999. So I was there for like forty-one, forty-two years.

NW: Oh wow, that’s a long time.

JD: Yeah, it is.

NW: You must have liked it alright.

JD: I did! You know, the company was very good to me, I don’t care about what people think about the oil industry. But they say bad things about them and maybe some of it is true, you know, but I would never say anything bad about the company because they always have been so good to me, so why should I badmouth a company that was good to me, right?

NW: So what do you think was appealing for them about you? I mean, they called you up, they must have really liked something about you.

JD: Because they started to hire people again, and they needed people to be extras. So when you first go to Chevron you go to work in what they call a typing pool. That’s how you start out. And you could be sent to different departments to fill in for people who are gone or on vacation, or whatever. And eventually you move out to a permanent position. Some department would say, “Okay, Mrs. A, we need, one of our people is moving out and we need to replace her.” And so, you might be one of two or three people who get sent up to be interviewed for the department and then you get put on a permanent position with that.

NW: Is that what happened to you, then?

JD: Yeah, I did that, and then a few years later, the department that I was assigned to got downsized, which meant that the office staff got downsized as well. And so then my name, my resume and everything got sent to other departments that are requesting people, you know. And I wound up the second time around at an engineering department. And I was there for like, from about 1960, about ‘61 to about 1979, I was there almost twenty years, in that department.

NW: Oh, so, sometime in early '80s, probably?

JD: Yeah, and then maybe about the mid-80s, I guess, well, a little beyond the mid-80s, but at that time, my boss, that I was assigned to retired, and so they brought somebody else in to replace him, and I worked for him for a few years. And he got transferred out to head up a new department, and in the meantime, the department he was assigned to was also going through some structural changes, so I thought okay, and at that time the boss got transferred out to head up this organization, and it took about, I don't know, nine or ten months before we could get everything all settled away. Because he was going bring me in to work for him, he was going to take me with him to the new position that he was going to, but there was already an existing secretary, and he did not want to just shove her away. So he was compassionate about it, I'm glad he did it that way. So, eventually he was kind of building up his staff, and after about nine or ten months, a situation came up where the secretary there posted for a job that gave her a promotion to work for some higher-ups, and she got the job, so then I came in.

NW: So it worked out alright.

JD: So it worked out very well. So but anyway, I worked for them for this this organization from about, oh God, the mid, it must have been 1988 or '89.

NW: Oh, that's a long time then.

JD: You know. It could have been 1990 when I moved into the new organisation that I eventually retired from.

NW: But, that's all part of the . . . Chevron?

JD: Yeah. You're just going from one Chevron department to another.

NW: Right, right.

<End Segment 5> - Copyright © 2012 Densho and Naoko Wake. All Rights Reserved.