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Title: Jun Dairiki Interview
Narrator: Jun Dairiki
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
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<Begin Segment 7>

NW: When did you first realize “Oh! There was a camp . . .

JD: It must have been, was it in highschool? Or maybe after high school? But it was much later, you know. I did not know why we were in camp, it dawned on me why. It was quite a bit after camp, that I really realised why we were there. And I remember when, to digress a little bit, when the president Roosevelt died, you know he died in April of 1945, and I remember we got the news, and each block had a manager. Okay. There were like forty-two blocks, and each of the blocks had its own manager. And we were having a dinner in the mass hall and the manager said that I have an announcement to make, I want to tell you that President Roosevelt died today. And he said that I would like to give a little prayer, whatever prayer you want to give. So I remember him saying that; I don't know why I remember that. It's just that I do remember him standing up and making this announcement and then telling us that each of us maybe should maybe take a little bit of time to give a little prayer for him, for the president. So I remember doing that, and that's all I remember. I don't even remember anything about A-bomb being dropped.

NW: Did people talk about it, so . . . ?

JD: I don't remember that, I don't remember that at all.

NW: You were quite young.

JD: Yeah. So, when the war ended, I had just turned eleven. And the official date of surrender for Japan and the United States was September 2nd, 1945, that, September 2nd, is my birthday. That's how come I remember that. But that's the official surrender date for Japan and the U.S. But I don't know anything about the A-bomb, I don't recall it ever being discussed, and I don't even know when I really realized what an A-bomb was or anything like that. I just never thought about that, you know.

NW: So, when you first came to revelation, as to the reason why you were in the camp, what, how did it come to you?

JD: You know, I wish I could answer that, but I don't know.

NW: You said you were a high school student?

JD: Probably an older high school student.

NW: So, sixteen, seventeen years old, probably?

JD: Yeah, I don't know how it came about, as to the reason why we were in camps, but something must have clicked. I just don't know what it was that clicked.

NW: Hmm. Was it your schoolteacher? Or probably friends? Were there other Japanese American friends at the school you were going?

JD: Not a lot of us, but there were enough of us. And we were in different camps.

NW: Oh, so, you talked about that? So, where were you, kind of?

JD: Yeah, that always seemed to be a common topic. What camp were you in? Where did you live before the war? Because depending on where you lived you were sent to different camps. The Bay Area people all went to Topaz, and some of them went to Heart Mountain, Wyoming. But yeah, I don't remember why, how I discovered the reason why we went to camp, I don't remember that.

NW: Your parents didn't talk about it, even after the war was over?

JD: Not too much, I don't recall them even, ever talking about it. Not to any great length anyway.

NW: Even small things, I'm really curious. I mean, you just mentioned how you and your friends talked about where were you during the war. Was there anything else? There may just be tiny things like that, but . . .

JD: God, I don't. When we were in high school, because when I was in high school, I am not the athletic type, okay, but this one gal that was in my class, she was a Nisei, and she was much more athletic than me. Okay. So she was more into sports and stuff and I wasn't. I was more into music and that sort of stuff. But uh, I know that we were friends, we didn't really pal around. I had more *hakujin* friends, I pal'ed around more with *hakujin* friends, people, than I did with my Japanese counterparts.

NW: Why do you think that was the case?

JD: I don't know. I don't know if it was because . . . I think one of the main reasons was that our interests were different. You know, I was really steeped into music a lot, and I was the only Japanese in the whole school that was like that. You know, the others just wasn't.

NW: What kind of interests did other students have then, that kind of separated you from other Japanese school kids.

JD: I don't know what their interests were.

NW: But you felt it's different from what you were into.

JD: Yeah, it was. We just didn't have the same interests, you know. So I didn't really pal around with other Nisei kids.

[Interruption]

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