Densho Digital Repository Naoko Wake Collection of Oral Histories of US Survivors of the Atomic Bombs Collection Title: Yuriko Furubayashi Interview Narrator: Yuriko Furubayashi Interviewer: Naoko Wake Location: Kailua, Hawai'i Date: June 21, 2013 Densho ID: ddr-densho-1021-7-1

<Begin Segment 1>

NW: So, usually when I talk to people, I have a few questions that I start our conversation with, and one of the firsts is usually about people's childhood. So if you can tell me where you were born, when, and what you remember about your parents, that would be great.

YF: I was born here, I mean, this side. But in Waimea, which is way up in the middle of the mountain on the North Shore. And what happened is my parents came from Hiroshima as immigrant. My mother came later, but, you know, my father and worked for this plantation, the plantation was a pineapple plantation.

NW: Pineapple plantation.

YF: Yeah, and then, understand, well, I was born '27, but the Depression, when I was little, I guess, they had the Depression, like 1930, I can't remember too well, but the, you know, the pineapple had kind of went down, and he started to work for this plantation that grow sugar cane. And this was on the shore side. You see, pineapple is, I guess, gotta be in the mountain, you know. And then so, it was in Laie. Not sure, they have to rebuild there. Around there, you know. And they call that place Kahuku. I wasn't born in Kahuku but I spent at least, more than five years, I was ten when I went to Japan, so, must, I was there six, seven years, I think.

NW: Okay. So you were born in, what year is it?

YF: 1927.

NW: 1927. And you spent six or seven years of the first years of your life here before you went to Japan?

YF: Yeah, no, no, I spent about total ten years here. I was ten. '37, if I, you know, could be '38, but right around '37. I was, I remember being around 10. Always said 10, so. And when I came back, I was twenty.

NW: Ah, so you were there in Japan for 10 years and then you came back after the war.

YF: 10 years. Ten and a half years, maybe. During the war years, you know.

NW: Right, exactly. What do you remember about your childhood that you spent here in Hawai'i?

YF: Well, you know, we, I came from a big family. I had younger brothers, couple, younger sisters, couple, and above me, around four. I think it was nine or ten. I mean, you know, I don't remember one or two of them that died when they were little. But I think we had ten kids. Or nine kids.

NW: Nine kids, wow.

YF: I'll show you a picture. But this is not all, you know. Big family, but it was not unusual. On the plantation, people had big families.

NW: Big families.

YF: . . . about those days. I guess that's why. I was gonna show you my parents and few of ours in there but, the picture isn't great. Nope, I don't see them. Oh, here. I wish I had more of my pictures while I was in Japan, but I don't have much, you know why? A lot of pictures when I was in high school got burned. Oh, this is one of the pictures that, you know, we have. This is my mother, in a plantation, and one, two, three, actually there was another one but he died, and me and my brother. We had more, three or four more.

NW: You know, I love to have you show me those pictures maybe after the interview is over, because I sometimes ask people to allow me to make copies of their pictures, and . . .

YF: You can take pictures with the iPhone.

NW: Yeah. I have, actually, a scanner with me, so I will ask you to show me more.

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