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Title: Yuriko Furubayashi Interview  
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Interviewer: Naoko Wake  
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**<Begin Segment 14>**

NW: So, you said that you can go with your friend, then check out your aunt as well.

YF: So, I said, "You know, I cannot just go to my old aunt's place because, no, I don't know what happened." She's on a side, but maybe that place is burning too, so I wanna go, so she and I got together, and said okay, got to there, we gonna go [by] the train track, you know? And then you go in, you know? And then you go in, check yours, and I'm going this way and then, you know, check my auntie's house, maybe she needs help. So we waited till what, the whole night, the daytime was a little bit better, it could be early afternoon, you know? The fire had, because this, this was the center. This was the center, so you know, it had burned out. And the houses were, except for building, practically flattened. Now, soon we started, but when we went, when we saw it, we went out of the factory and we've got climbed, we've got to go down the hill, right? Wow, I saw so many people climbing up, who were in the city, they got hurt there and you know something? Most of them were burned. And the skin, amazing, you know, when you get a burn from atomic bomb, or, I don't know, any kind of burn maybe, you know, sometimes, a lot of them have shorter sleeves or, I don't know anything about sleeve, burns. You know, this skin, they are all grey, you know, and then it peels and hangs. It curls like that and hang. Wow, we saw those kind of people, I guess it hurts, you know, because they're trying to climb the mountain and take shelter, you know? And then some of them with a little kid, or most of them, you know, younger. The old people cannot even climb the hill. So the younger people come in and their skin. So, first and the second one, we had . . . all kind of bandage, mask and all the, my friend and I decided the first thing we're gonna do is put the mask because it's burning, right? It's so hard for us to walk through that burn. So, we're gonna put the mask now. You're gonna have a good mask, okay? This, and in case you did burn or you get hurt, you need bandaid or tourniquet. That, you cannot let go. So we took our stuff, and we have some extra bandaid and extra this, and then we gonna get towels. Two towels, and then the water, you know, so the teachers told us, if you're gonna walk throught the burn, or you know, the middle of the bomb, you're so close with the towel, you know, with the water, and then put it around your mouth or your head or right there because it's hot, right? But this is a must, you know? Then wrap your head with a towel, we need the towel. We need the water, but the rest? Maybe we don't need it. So here comes people without bandage or anything, so we help them wrap, you know. And they said "Oh, it burns." And I guess it's more than a first degree or second degree, I don't know what degree. So we helped, you know, they sit over there and my friend take care of this one, take care of that, you know. At the beginning we thought of only these people. After we helped four or five people, the more we go down, the more people climbing up. We don't have any supply already to help those people. So, she said, we got to go quick because my parents, you know,

need help, in shelter. So we went, put the mask, with the towel, and then walked that. That's when we find it, you know, that a lot of people, when they die, it's just like an animal. Dead, you know, the body becomes stiff or something, they're there, completely dead, laying there, that's human. Human, all the place, and they're in that shape, they must have really suffered, you know.

NW: It was very close to the hypocenter, right? So because you were saying there was the center and then you were going toward that, Yeah.

YF: Yearh. There's a bridge because there's a big, Ōtagawa is a big river, and then the bridge is right there, and you know even the bridge had, what do you call, right column, it's only fallen one side. One column this side. The bomb, you know, the pressure was so great that it takes the column down like to, but the bridge was, we could pass. It's not a long bridge, but sturdy, good, bridge. So we passed the bridge and that was the center, you know? It's still today, they have it, you know. *Hakubutsu kan*, I don't know what, the center.

NW: The Dome, the Genbaku Dome? Did you mean?

YF: Yeah. We passed there, there was a bridge, right? We passed the bridge, we passed the dome, we didn't know that was the center.

NW: Of course, of course not.

YF: We didn't even know that's atomic bomb, you know? So we passed there, we walked, just bombs all over the place. We passed there and we went there and this is a big intersection, you know? The road like that and the intersection. I told her, "Your parents have a store, right there, right on the big main street. And you better go check, but you know what? I'm gonna stand over here and wait. I'm not gonna go down there." It's kinda hot, too, you know? And burning, little fire here and there and I stood here and she went there. Well, she know exactly where the, what you call it, is, you know, shelter is. Well, it must have been around 20 . . . I waited so long, I thought "What's happening? I wonder if she fell in a shelter or something happened to her?" And then I saw her coming, you know, naturally, she's all weeping and she's so sad, so I knew, what was it. And she told me, you know, I think she's gonna spend the night over here. I said "No, you're not going to spend the night." And me, I have to go look for my auntie. "Now, what are you going to do? No sense you come over here because your house, you're supposed to come this side, to your aunt's place, so why don't we sit . . ." But, I said "Furthermore, you don't know if that's your parents or that's the worker, you know?" And she said, she stayed there long enough, she said she know that they are the parents. So I said "How?" And she said "You know the face, the skeleton?" She said she knows exactly how the mother had the gold filling, teeth, the teeth. The gold don't melt, seems like. She said when she saw the mouth, that was the mother's mouth. When she saw because they had a lot of gold in there, you know? Teeth, and the other one was the father. They were together. And all burned, you know? I don't know what state it was.

NW: Was this friend somebody whose family were also . . .

YF: I don't even remember a name, you know.

NW: You don't. Do you know if she had a relatives or brothers or sisters in Hawai'i or in America?

YF: No, not in America.

NW: So she was local, so to speak, okay.

YF: She was typical Japanese. But she had two brothers. And then the parents there, they had the wife, and then she had aunts and uncles that she had to go after the war. After the war, you know, we've found out that was atomic bomb and we kind of settle down, we burned the body and whoever was saved was saved, one, two months later. I had a communication, I would like to talk to her.

NW: This friend.

YF: Yeah, this one. She either call me or I called or something. And I spoke to her and she told me she had two brothers. She told me she had two brothers, one was in Manchuria and one was somewhere in the South Pacific or something.

NW: Where?

YF: South Pacific.

NW: South Pacific.

YF: Or maybe [it] was, I cannot remember what, maybe it was Manila or somewhere on the south. But one was . . . did I say Manchuria?

NW: Manchuria, yeah.

YF: Manchuria. They're older brother and living, in Japanese war, right? And they were occupying, they were still fighting, I don't know what. Did you know after that? She had a word saying her two brothers were coming home. That's what she told me.

NW: Very good.

YF: I didn't see the two brothers, I didn't see her after that, but she was so relieved because she had two brothers.

NW: At least somebody in her family was still alive.

YF: Yeah. I think she only had two brothers and herself!

**<End Segment 14> - Copyright © 2013 Densho and Naoko Wake. All Rights Reserved.**