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Title: Yuriko Furubayashi Interview  
Narrator: Yuriko Furubayashi  
Interviewer: Naoko Wake  
Location: Kailua, Hawai'i  
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<Begin Segment 15>

NW: How about your aunt, then. Did you find her?

YF: Well, the house was all burned and when I went, I said "Oh no way!" You know, she's going to be safe, and this place was still burning for some reason, you know, right around the river, had some people there. So I talked to them, I talked to the people around here, and asked if she, if this [is] all her, you know, nobody, so I said "Gee, it's burned. I see, well, if it's not burned, she can be under, you know, the raft or something. But the house is burned, how can she live there?" You know? So, no sense in going to the rubble, I said okay, maybe she's all burned up. Wait until the fire [subsides], you know, it's too hot to walk in there, so I'm gonna tell my auntie. [Unitelligible voice from the phone, not part of the interview].

YF: Well, you know, that was the saddest, but at the time I was so depressed, and I had to go to my auntie's but wasn't too easy. Because I'm able bodied, I'm not hurt, I'm not burned, so I cannot, you know, have a ride or anything because a lot of trucks with a lot of body, and they all, burned or something. With me, they wouldn't put me on a truck, you know?

NW: Yeah, right. So you walked all the way?

YF: So I walked to a temple, they have *musubi* and [?] and that, only thing you have is *musubi* but at least you get something to eat. You know, Japan has a lot of small temples, you go to one city, you walk maybe one hour and there're temples. You know, *otera*. So as long as you go *otera*, you get something to eat.

NW: Something to eat. Yeah.

YF: So I went and then evening come and I just stick around and nothing but injured people, all burned and some are dying, and all that, you know. Well, I was so depressed, I can't even help, I just, I'm just like one half dead, I eat the *musubi* and I'm, I don't know why, I gotta sleep and I sleep.

NW: Of course.

YF: And they come to me and ask me if . . . where's my burn, I tell no, I'm not burned, I'm only tired, you know. So, they said okay, there's a lot of people that come and put, I don't know what

kind of medicine, all of the burn, arm and face and body, you know. But I'm not, I don't have a burn so they don't have to put that medicine on me, you know.

NW: Right, right. So you eventually arrived at that place that everybody agreed that this is the place to go?

YF: No, my auntie's house.

NW: Right. Isn't that the place you decided to go?

YF: Right. It didn't take me too long, you know? If I had walked, walked, walked, probably you know, 5, 6 days or more, but I had, in between, I had a short, maybe 20 miles of ride for some reason, I can't remember, was it a truck or ride or what. So around 5, 6 days, and I reach my auntie's. Until then, I was tired, I would rest if I could, you know, and I have food, but when I arrive my auntie's, I felt so exhausted and my auntie told me, that I had lot of bleeding nose, you know, I bled and bled, at my auntie's. I didn't do that in the temple or any place, you know. Bled probably a little, um, fallout. I didn't know what it is but after all, you know, and we didn't know that was gas, I guess, I inhaled some gas.

NW: Yeah, you inhaled, right.

YF: And [in a] couple [of] days and I was okay. And about one week later, took them one week to find out that that had had so much gas, atomic bomb is so much radiation and everything, until then, people used to go and look for their, like we were gonna go, we were just about to go to town and look for my auntie, you know, all the burn, and my uncle who left the house, but we didn't know, I thought my aunt and uncle was in that.

NW: Right, right. But were they there? Were they there?

YF: He went, according to her, later.

NW: But she was in that other auntie's house.

YF: She was in a house and she got hurt so she didn't come to that house, my auntie's house, for long time.

NW: I see, I see.

YF: Two weeks later. When she came we thought she was a ghost or something because ooh.

NW: Where was she in those two weeks, was she hospitalized?

YF: No, she . . . in the church, temple. I mean, that's the only place there's food. So she was taking shelter but not good enough to walk around too much. So it took long before she . . .

NW: Actually was able to come. Yeah, no wonder.

YF: Yeah. We were so shocked, and we were, I think we sent some people to look, you know, my auntie and uncle, they were too old to go into those kind of burning, you know, good thing

they didn't go, but I decided, I'm gonna go, you know? Look for it a little bit more, maybe I can find skeleton or something.

NW: Yeah. How about your uncle then? He was not at home?

YF: We looked the market, he went on a bicycle and went to the market. You see, the center of this, what you call, has a big market here on the side, on the other side, you know. Where the train, I mean, the track is. He goes to the market in the morning, practically everytime because he has a friend and I think he was helping the friend, you know, and stuff like that. Because there were these merchants, there were shorthanded too. If they have a son, they're out in the war, no men, you know? Only women left, right? They take all the men, you know, from 16 and up, I think, and they have to go to war, you know, and that war was terrible because it spread from Peking to Manchuria to South America, you know? No, not South America, but South Pacific, like, like what, Philippines or Malayasia or whatever. You know how many men they need so all the able man, like my cousin, I had a cousin, now, afterwards, the Sawano, I came back here and I decided not to go back, that's when they adopted my cousin, my cousin's parents were dead, not from the atomic bomb but this lady had raised my cousin, so he was, you know, this lady's like, you know, *yōshi*, and he was gonna take care of them but then they lost the house, the uncle dead, and everything's so . . .

NW: So the uncle actually died?

YF: Yeah, died. We didn't even find his body. But this auntie and uncle, when I came back to Hawai'i, I told them, I got married, your folks either come to Hawai'i, otherwise, you know, I don't think I'll go back to Japan. The thing is this. They were so sad because my name wasn't Sawano. You see, if I'm of age, I get married and my cousin's name begins [?] Sawano and got the house and field the stuff . . . the estate that they had, but not much, you know, by the time they died. But she wanted to leave everything to me but did you know that the law says if you are American citizen you can't own anything, so she decided that her cousin, a Japanese citizen, right? And he's, house is burned, doesn't have anything. So, I said that's a good thing because my cousin come back from Manchuria, have nothing, the house, the auntie's house gone, and poor thing. So, he became Sawano.

NW: I see.

**<End Segment 15> - Copyright © 2013 Densho and Naoko Wake. All Rights Reserved.**