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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

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NW: Okay. So, what did people talk about, or did they talk about anything, you know, in terms of what happened? I know that right after the bomb was dropped, nobody knew it was atomic bomb, right? But then there was a rumor that went around about, you know, bomb illness, people's hair falling . . .

YF: Well, you know something? About one week, and they had announced it, people, don't go in the city because there's gas and radiation, didn't say radiation, but a lot of gas.

NW: Right, right.

YF: So, there, they found out that people who come from the country looking for their loved ones, looking for their relatives, they dig here and there, searching for the body, you know, stay a few days and then go home, and they just drop die.

NW: Yeah, right. Because of irradiation.

YF: Yeah. They were thinking, how can that be? They weren't even on the scene when the bomb was dropped or didn't get burned or anything. That's how they found out this gas, they said at the time, gas, you know, radiation, but.

NW: Did you, do you think that you had an identity or awareness that you were bomb survivor at that time?

YF: Yeah.

NW: You know, you went into city and that's *nyūshi* category, right? Did you think that you were at that time thinking of yourself as a bomb survivor, so I have to worry about something, I have to be aware or I have to . . .

YF: Afterwords.

NW: When do you think that you started to thinking that way?

YF: Well, when they say that, you know, there was radiation, then we were concerned.

NW: Around when was it, do you think?

YF: Well, about a couple weeks, you know?

NW: Okay. You were already worried.

YF: Yeah, I was, my auntie and my uncle were kind of, you know, concerned because I'm young, right? And then I went through the city.

NW: Right, absolutely.

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