

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-1021-7-17

<Begin Segment 17>

NW: How about your parents? I mean, after they learned there was a bomb, a new type of bomb dropped on the city of Hiroshima where you used to go to work and go to school, they must have been terribly worried.

YF: My parents were here.

NW: Right.

YF: Well, they thought I'm dead.

NW: Right, they did.

YF: Well, for a while. And then I sent telegram, something, anyway, there's a place, the Red Cross has for communication, you cannot send that out, you know post office or besides we couldn't send. But somehow I sent, through Red Cross, you know?

NW: Right, right. Let them know you are fine?

YF: Yes, I am fine. So I understand my father told, well my brother, the brother that's over there, he didn't go to war because he's missing one of the finger over here, when he was little, you know, he got accident, cut off. So they didn't take him originally. But he was drafted as occupational. That's what's it's called. That's when my father said, you go and get assignment in Japan so you can look after your, look and see if your sister is, you know, okay? She said it's okay, but you never know, you know, maybe she's critically ill. So he came to Japan and then came to Hiroshima as a GI, you know.

NW: Right, of course.

YF: . . . and then we met and he said, oh your father's gonna send money, so I'm gonna make arrangement so you can go home, he said, you know, you, auntie and uncle don't have children, and they think that you gonna take care of them and stay with them, so I'm not saying you're going back to Hawai'i, we got plenty siblings, your parents not gonna miss you much, so you just go home so your parents will be happy to see you and the sisters and brothers, we all want to see you, so he's gonna send you money, and I'm gonna make arrangements with the American Consulate. It took about two months or three months, and I came to Hawai'i.

NW: Were you glad to be back? Were you glad to be back in Hawai'i?

YF: Yeah, yeah. But I was glad because Japan was all burned and don't have anything, it was really, well, in depressed kind of mode, so I wasn't too happy to be in Hiroshima.

NW: Right, right. Well, when you went back to Hawai'i, it's 1947, right? And at that time, of course, there was no . . .

YF: 1948.

NW: '48, Okay. At that time, there was no survivors, *genbaku techō*, anything like that. Do you have it now?

YF: Yeah.

NW: When did you get it?

YF: Actually, I didn't get it right away, yeah. Must have been, you know, 30, 40 years afterwards.

NW: Ah, okay. So it was 1970? 1980s?

YF: Maybe 1960.

NW: 1960. Uh-huh.

YF: I don't know if the *techō* existed then. I don't think they had, but you know, I didn't get it right away. Some people went Japan and get it. You had to go Japan and get it. But I had no, as I say, my auntie and uncle died, six years later, both of them are gone. So I had, I went to the funeral and all that, and I have gone to Japan once more in between, but I didn't need a *techō*, I was [?] and American citizen, I was busy, so.

NW: Right, right. So, why did you decide to get the certificate? The survivor's *techō*? What was the reason?

YF: They all told me that I should get a *techō*.

NW: Your family members?

YF: No, my friends from Japan. Yeah. They said because when you go Japan, you have benefits, you know. You go to hospital, maybe they will – Mimi! – so I thought, okay. It was a few years later, you know, after everybody's got the *techō*, I said okay, I'm gonna get one. But still, I had to go Japan to get an examination and all that.

NW: Of course, of course.

YF: Now, you don't have to, I heard.

NW: It changed, more recently, really recently.

<End Segment 17> - Copyright © 2013 Densho and Naoko Wake. All Rights Reserved.