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Title: Yuriko Furubayashi Interview
Narrator: Yuriko Furubayashi
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
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NW: Now, you told me that some time in 1960s you applied for the survivors' *techō* and then I think it's in 1980s when doctors from Hiroshima started to come here to do the annual, actually biannual check ups. Do you go there? Do you think . . . did you start to go there when it started out in the 1980s.

YF: Uh-huh.

NW: Okay. What do you think is the significance, value of having Japanese doctors coming here?

YF: Well, I think they need a lot of medical research, right? They need that, you know. With me, I did okay, you know? I'm living this long and, not a lot of old people go there, so as far as, you know, that didn't affect a lot of people. They are all, you know, it seems like, atomic bomb survivors, right. I don't know which area they stayed but yeah. And a lot of old people, so it didn't affect too much, I mean, if we see a lot of cancer patients all of a sudden when we are 60 or 70, then it would be odd, right? We get a lot of cancer people but a lot of people never affected, still, my husband had cancer and he died, you know? So, I don't know, you know? The research gonna find it, you know.

NW: So, you feel the doctors are coming here basically to do the research. Do you think?

YF: Well, that's what I think.

NW: Why do you go there then? Do you want to help their research?

YF: Yeah, in a way. I have a regular doctor, and they are good doctors but I don't mind going and then help the research and same time, yeah, they're good doctors, if something else that I can't find, they might find it.

NW: So they do a very thorough examination and you like that, uh-huh. Do you feel that because you are American survivor of the bomb, your experience might have been in any way different from that of Japanese survivors?

YF: Japanese person?

NW: Yeah.

YF: . . . and live here.

NW: Or maybe Japanese survivors of the bomb who are in Japan. As opposed to people like yourself. Do you think your experience as a bomb survivor might have been different because of your location? Which is here?

YF: Yeah. Might be a little bit. I think they suffered longer.

NW: Americans or Japanese?

YF: Japanese.

NW: Japanese. Okay.

[Child]: I got a ladybug.

YF: Oh yeah? I think so, because the condition of Hiroshima, Japan, was at least 10 years of, you know, suffering. They lost the house, they lost, you know, maybe children. And then, well, I think when I went back, their place wasn't recovered that good, was 10 years or 15 years later, you know. Took long time before the city built.

NW: So, you feel that because you were able to come back here, which wasn't damaged by the bomb, you didn't have to suffer through the difficult era in Japan.

YF: Oh yeah. I would, well, but my auntie lived in a suburb, so I have some help, you know, I could stay there and pretty safe, safe life, but lot of my friends had suffered kinda, until they rebuilt. I mean, not only rebuild the city but I think their life, you know. That it's harder, not like people who didn't get, you know, that experience. Houses burn; the cities burn; what can you do, you know? But you don't want to get out of Hiroshima, I mean, you don't have to live in the city. They have suffered a lot, I think.

NW: Now, earlier you mentioned how you had to go back to Japan to apply for the survivor's *techō*. And I think, you know, if you look at the history, Japanese survivors were able to get the monetary allowances, monthly allowances, and they can just get medical care free of cost. Around those issues, do you feel that there was a, sort of, different ways in which American survivors were being handled by the Japanese government?

YF: By the Japanese government, I don't feel, well, I never thought of it because, here, of course, you have to pay for it, but now, I have Medicare, but you can go into some kind of medical insurance, I always had, and the doctors here so good, well, I don't know about, I can't compare because I'm not there, but they . . .

NW: You don't receive any monetary allowances?

YF: I do.

NW: You do? Okay. I mean, for a long time, American survivors were not able to receive that.

YF: No, no, no.

NW: So I just wondered how you felt about that.

YF: Yeah, they had it right away, you know. Japanese people. We had to earn for it, we got to pay, too. So it's good that finally they give us some money. But some people need it, I think, even they come back here, you know, and then earlier. I don't know, but I didn't, I didn't need it so I don't feel anything.

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