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Title: Yuriko Furubayashi Interview
Narrator: Yuriko Furubayashi
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
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<Begin Segment 7>

NW: So tell me a little more about your impression of Japan. Were, did you make friends quickly, were school teachers kind to you?

YF: I made friends. When I went to Japan, you see, my aunt and uncle still was going 1938, '37, '38, '39, they sold the hotel but they were going back and forth. Still go on a boat and go. And they left me with this auntie, they didn't have children either, but she lives in Hiroshima city and my aunt' and uncle's home is Kabe, which is I don't know how many miles, but you know, with the fast train about 45 minutes.

NW: So it's outside the city of Hiroshima.

YF: Outside, yeah, on the outskirts, where are the farmers are, you know? And as I said the uncle's parents used to have the mill, right in the surrounded farmers, rice paddies.

NW: Did you like Japanese customs? 'Cuz, I ask you this because some people who were in similar situation, people who grew up in Hawai'i or in mainland and then suddenly came back to Japan find it difficult to kind of adjust themselves to a new environment because the food is different, the toilet is different, they don't have an easy access to coffee, which they are very accustomed to.

YF: When they are older, I think they have a harder time. I was only 10. I had nothing at home, you know, not really. Very conservative, the food wasn't like the food. Japanese food, but very very modest, kind of. So here, I go Japan, and I didn't, you know, I thought it was wonderful, you know. I'm better, they treat me better and on the language, a little bit, I take for a couple years, but I made friends and I stayed with the auntie and went to Hiroshima City Public School. And for one year or so. And then went to *jogakkō*, which is the middle school. I made a lot of friends, and it's, you know, I wasn't back at home, you know, I wasn't, I was one of the 8 kids or 10 kids, I just run around and did nothing [laughter]. I didn't have any attention. I go to my auntie's, they don't have children.

NW: So all their focus and affection is focused on you, right?

YF: Yeah, I never had it so good, you know. I appreciate that. Although, I miss my family, but they were wonderful to me, so it was great.

NW: That's very nice. So, I know that Hiroshima had a lot of people like you and your family, meaning people who went to Hawai'i or Hiroshima, I mean, to America's mainland before the war, and just came back, or happened to be in Japan during the wartime. Did you have other friends like you, like yourself, who had a family back in Hawai'i or in mainland?

YF: You know, I had four or five.

NW: Four or five, at your school?

YF: In high school, you know, yeah. And then one of my, I wanna say they were friends but not my best friend, you know, but there were four or five nice people and they came back when I came back, about the same time. They live, one in town and couple the other side, you know.

NW: Do you think that people who had connection with America or Hawai'i stood out or were different in any way from other, you know, Japanese students?

YF: Oh, I don't think so. I mean, children to children, you know? I had great friends and they were really wonderful, I don't know about the government.

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