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Title: Thomas T. Noguchi Interview
Narrator: Thomas T. Noguchi
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
Location: Los Angeles, California
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<Begin Segment 1>

NW: So, let me—Dr. Noguchi?

TN: Yes.

NW: Let me briefly introduce myself. My name is Naoko Wake and as you know, I'm from Michigan State University. And I'm a historian who teaches history of Asian America with a focus on Japanese American experiences during and after World War II. So, uh, that's the reason why I'm interested in particular in experiences of Japanese American and Korean American survivors of the bomb. And, the reason why I'm calling you today is that I wanted to know more personal levels of experiences that you probably had with U.S. survivors of the bomb because I talked to many survivors of the bomb in the States on the West Coast and Hawai'i in the last few years and some of them mentioned your name as somebody who really helped their cause. So, that's why I wanted to have a chance to talk with you.

TN: Okay.

NW: Yeah. So maybe I can start with a question about how you got involved with the U.S. survivors. How did you, um, you know, start out your relationship with U.S. survivors?

TN: Uh, maybe I should also, you might know, but I am from Japan. Neither Nisei or Sansei. I graduated from Nippon medical school. Graduate school at Harvard and Yale. And the school is in Tokyo. And I graduated in 1952 and I—wanted to be a—to not only study in the United States. I wanted to stay in the United States and I wanted to make a contribution to it. That's one of my specialties and uh, anything that I can do in the area of medicine and law. My specialty has been in the area dealing with the practice of medicine and practice of law. And I graduated medical school and completed my training at the United State at the site which uh, rotating internship and Orange county, California. And I had completed the required specialty training in pathology at the Loma Linda University where the hospital was White Memorial Hospital in Los Angeles. Yeah, I finished in 1960. I became an assistant prof. for one year and then I joined uh, as partner of the chief medical coroner. That's a combination of office in Los Angeles County and I was a deputy until 1967. I was a [?] first time an Asian American there had been held in a high position in Los Angeles County. I became a department head in the medical examiner's office and uh . . . and uh . . . that was 1967. Uh . . . I was not aware there were a lot of—a number of atomic bomb survivors of Japanese American or of Korean American residing in the United States. I was not aware. Unfortunately I wasn't—I did not have a contact with clinic or

patients. My practice mostly pathology being an investigation of death . . . working as a pathologist in the hospital.

NW: Mhm.

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