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Title: Paul Satoh Interview
Narrator: Paul Satoh
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
Location: East Lansing, Michigan
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[Mr. Satoh's son Gordon Satoh was present at the interview, and when he speaks, he is denoted as GS]

<Begin Segment 2>

NW: How about your mother? Maybe you can tell me a little bit about her.

PS: My mother. . . Yeah, my mother, you know—they actually—they had me at a little bit older age. The things I remember is whenever I go to school and they have the parent teacher dates, and I used to complain my mother saying that, you know, you're too old. See my mo—my friend's mother is young and beautiful and . . . [Chuckles]

NW: [Chuckles]

PS: And my mother was so mad. That's—I remember one incidence of that. But my mother, um . . . I think volunteered as a nurse during the um . . . the uh . . . not the Second World War, but before that. And um . . . for some reason I think, they—I don't really recall—my mother's professional—she's not a professional. Mother is a profession itself. So, I actually take it—took it for granted, so. That's one of the funny part of it.

NW: Mhm. So do you remember her going out to work during your childhood, or do you remember her mostly around?

PS: My father used to . . . That's interesting. My father used to go to work about ten o'clock in the morning. And because the chauffeur comes to pick him up, and that's what I remember. And when he's not uh . . . actually, like a sun—holy days and things like that, we used to go to a nearby train station and uh, gather some of the weed for the guinea pig I used to have. And uh, in those days they used to call them *morumotto*. And I used to have a pet. And I used to get some of the weeds around so, I remember those period. And um . . . they uh, that's kind of—my childhood is a very happy childhood. Because I'm an only child, and uh, so I've uh, pretty much everything I needed. And even though, uh, my—you know, one time my mother became sick and actually hospitalized. And then the company helped entertain a couple people from foreign countries and so they had this big *geisha* party. And so my father had to take me to the *geisha* party and in those they, they say, well you shouldn't be taking kids to *geisha* parties. But anyhow, uh, one—one of the *geisha* was assigned to me—to entertain me. She said, you can go any place and do anything you want. So I said, ok, let's go to a department store.

NW: [Chuckles]

PS: And I remember buying a lot of toys that time. And charged to the company I think.

NW: [Laughing] That's very nice.

PS: That was the funny part of it. But, mother said, you shouldn't be doing something like that. But anyhow, that's . . .

NW: Do you think your mother was professionally trained to be—to work as a nurse, or was she just . . .

PS: No . . . The uh . . . my mother was, um . . . it's what I heard I think from um . . . the relatives.

GS: We had a Red Cross coin. We had the Red Cross Coin. The volunteer coin.

PS: The Red Cross coin. But I don't think it's nothing to do with . . .

GS: I know.

PS: Yeah. Um, but relatives tell me my grandfather and great-grandfather was a very rich person in you know, Yamaguchi-ken. And they used to have sake breweries. They had a good brand name sake. And my grandfather, actually, ruined the whole thing. Actually, he spent entire things. So by the time, my father's time, then there's no wealth left much. However, when my um . . . father was young and she was working in my grandfather's uh . . . you know, the some . . . my grandfather's house or something as a maid. Because she came from the countryside. And that was how he met her. And somehow they liked each other so they actually refused to have *omiaiai*, the traditional way of Japanese weddings, so that's how they get married. So they—I don't think she had much of the, you know . . .

NW: Education?

PS: Professional, and she was able to read and things like that. But uh, that's what I remember. But the um . . . So my mother's background according to my grandmother said my mother's side—they're more interesting so I'll talk to you later.

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