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Title: Paul Satoh Interview
Narrator: Paul Satoh
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
Location: East Lansing, Michigan
Date: August 23, 2015
Densho ID: ddr-densho-1021-9-5

[Mr. Satoh's son Gordon Satoh was present at the interview, and when he speaks, he is denoted as GS]

<Begin Segment 5>

NW: Do you remember anybody such as your parents, your school teachers, or maybe neighbors, talking about the bomb after the war was over?

PS: You know, they—they usually do not. Well . . . there's such a big thing so that we talk about in that context with the day-by-day things we see is always associated with that. Buildings are broken and burnt and we have to repair those buildings. And um, even when you go to middle schools, you know, we find out—we found lots of the skeletons—human skeletons on, in the corner. They must be the group of people who were waiting for going into the Ōta-gawa, try to drink water, and then they die there. Um . . . so that, the school teachers actually guided us to there to pick up all the bones and they have the memory of service down by the Buddhist priest. But, uh . . . interesting because among our friends we never talk about it. Yet we knew what they're about. And science teacher tells me about—you really, you know, uh . . . the . . . two-thirty-five and things like that. And um . . . so we know that was the atomic bomb. Short—even shortly after that. Um . . . but . . .

NW: Do you think it was even before the U.S. military force lifted the . . . the regulation about the information about the bomb. Because during the occupation period, it was not mostly allowed for people to talk about it.

PS: You see, the thing is—you don't read about it. Uh . . . you remember General MacArthur uh, headed the media control. 100 percent media control. And then he ordered the media not to mention about anything about—or impact about. And for that reason, that the actual awareness of the . . . the um . . . actual impact of the atomic bomb is not publicized. And um . . . I think that probably one reason why we didn't talk about it . . . not because somebody told us not to, but . . . it's—it's not been on the newspaper until you know, much, much recent—much, much later than now. But um . . . Uh . . . the interesting because of the . . . you know, there's real, and in junior high we did a—we were making the geiger counter was very easy. Making a two aluminum foils and things like that. And uh, so we had in our science class—we made a—I made geiger counters. And then try to see, is there any hotspot in the school, you know. Because our school is very close to the epicenter. That's not really uh . . . it's probably about three kilometers away. And uh, so . . . but before the activity, um that the insulator for the electric wires, they used to have the um . . . molten sulfur was the one that they used it as an insulator. So that they have glass insulator and they put the molten sulfur and put the screws on top. And that particular was

piece we found very high—the radiation there. So, you know, the teacher—the science teacher tried to take advantage of the radioactivities.

NW: I see . . . As an educational material, so to speak?

PS: Yes. Yeah.

NW: What do you think that you were thinking—thinking about yourself potentially being victimized by it, or, at least affected by it, but were also seeing that in the classroom environment?

PS: You know, it's interesting because it was not victimized in the sense of um . . . the other people. Because I didn't have any external injuries. And um . . . I didn't really have horrible experiences with people being killed in front of me. Um, but on the way to my grandmother's place I saw lots of people dying on the street. Uh . . . some of them had very serious injuries and some of them were seriously burnt. People were outside as burnt, even though six—seven kilometers away. And so, for that reason I think—psychologically—I think I felt like I'd been victimized. But when you're eight years old, it doesn't really sink in in the same way. Because my parents are more affected than myself.

NW: Mhm.