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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 8>

NW: Mhm. So, let me switch our gear a little bit. I'd like to come back to what happened after you were affected by the bomb later on in our conversation, but now I'd like to ask you somewhat different sets of questions. So, earlier you told me that you have connections, family connections, to Yamaguchi prefecture and Hiroshima prefecture, and as you know, both of those prefectures are known to be the big sources of immigrants to America and to Hawai'i. So, you can probably tell me a little bit about your family connection to people who have gone to those places.

PS: My relatives are kind of interesting . . . Uh, Yamaguchi is not really that thick area, so we went to um . . . my uncle's house. It was second uncle was the tent makers, earning some tent, and gold [?], and I went there . . . my . . .

GS: To the countryside. It's beautiful with the train, you go on the train. And so it reminds me of when you take the Amtrak to Chicago. It's a beautiful countryside.

NW: Mhm. In Yamaguchi prefecture?

GS: In Yamaguchi prefecture, yeah.

NW: Uh-huh.

PS: We visited [eyes a] 60 years . . . '86 we visited my uncle there. And uh . . . so the uh, second grandmother had three kids. And my father was somehow adopted by the second woman—the second grandmother, and uh . . .

NW: Meaning the second wife of your father's side grandfather?

PS: Yeah.

NW: Am I right?

PS: Right. My mother's side, I can tell you. I don't know who their grandfather is. Is why—according to my grandmother, my mother's mother, is that he's a gigolo, so that was kind of—we never followed up on that one. But, um . . . So he—she had three kids. The, Ami—Chieko

who died from the atomic bomb. And then the two, Yoshinori and then the um . . . I forgot the name of the second one, is a tent maker. And uh, so that's why we actually visited the Yamaguchi. And originally my father's . . . so the—my—the great-grandfather he had this uh, the glory [?] in Yamaguchi prefecture. Wara-gun. Um, so that's, we—that part . . . The other . . . my father's side. Uh, my first grandmother—my real grandmother on my father's side went to um . . . went back and then remarried uh, I think of Fushimoto's family. So the um . . . and they had a son. And a couple of daughters. But uh, the son was Masaru. Fushimoto Masaru. They—see if they have relatives in the United States. The early on he came to the United States and then he um, studied in UCLA as a journalism [major]. I still remember having his graduation pictures in our house. But uh he . . .

NW: Uh-huh. But about what year was it, do you remember?

PS: It must be . . . 19 . . . 1940 or maybe '39. Somewhere around there.

NW: And that's the graduation year for him?

PS: Yes.

NW: At UCLA?

PS: Right.

NW: Do you know when he went to the States?

PS: I don't know when he went but he . . . actually he finish . . . so he must have gone there quite a long time because he has no accent at all because his English is really perfect English. I used to admire him. Gee, how can he speak both Japanese and English, you know, simultaneously? And my uncle used to say, you know left side of my mouth in English and right side of my mouth in Japanese.

NW: [Chuckles]

PS: Oh yeah, that's pretty good. Uh, anyhow, but uh, I used to have a very good time with him. Now, before that, they still had the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. And Aunt Sakiko and Uncle Masaru must have married around 1940. Um . . . but before then, even in '39 or so. He—they came back on uh . . . shortly after he graduated from UCLA. They had this uh, the exchange port—you know, the repatriation port. Other family members actually remained and they went to concentration camp, you know. Um, internment camp.

NW: Right.

PS: But, this particular group of the—my uncle and then Aunt Sakiko, uh it was Aunt Sakiko who came from Harada, who, they stayed in the internment camp. And um, so they went back to Tokyo but they didn't have much of anything so my father helped them quite a bit. Found the apartment in—near the U.S. Embassy so that the Roppongi areas they had this very modern, westernized type of . . . Um, Aunt Sakiko is la—her name is Japanese but she has no background as a Japanese. Uh, her Japanese was pretty broken Japanese anyhow, but uh . . .

NW: Was she born in the States or born in Hawai'i?

PS: She was born in Hawai'i.

NW: Yes. Right.

PS: And went back to the mainland. And um, what happened was that um . . . the um . . . so during the war, uh . . . just before the war . . . so they used to come to my house—my uncle, usually they go to see other people in Hiroshima so on the way he just dropped in the Osaka and then he spent a day or so with us. And then at the, the German usually come around that time. So then day after. So we used to have uh, you know, the special police used to come. First of all, they used to search our house inside out. But they found nothing really, so they try to get more information. I became a good friend of the—one of the detectives. Because they try to get the information. So the only information they got from me is where the candies came from.

NW: [Laughing] Right. You were a child.

PS: Right. So, that kind of interesting situation. And for that reason my father was really scared after the war.

NW: I see.

**<End Segment 8> - Copyright © 2015 Densho and Naoko Wake. All Rights Reserved.**