Densho Digital Repository Naoko Wake Collection of Oral Histories of US Survivors of the Atomic Bombs Collection Title: Paul Satoh Interview Narrator: Paul Satoh Interviewer: Naoko Wake Location: East Lansing, Michigan Date: August 23, 2015 Densho ID: ddr-densho-1021-9-9

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

<Begin Segment 9>

PS: And uh, I remember after the war, all the savings would be nullified. So, we started from zero. And the nice thing is my father had, you know, the uh . . . kind of techniques of a metal worker. And when he was teenaged he helped the paving that uh, atomic dome. As it used to be a Chamber of Commerce building. And uh, so he keep telling me, you know, I used to live—climb up onto the domes and pave over the—and the copper sheet, so. I remember that. But uh, that's—for that reason, my father used to repair the pots and pans for the uh, farmers and then we used to—my uncle, my mother's brother and my father—they had good terms, so they used to go down to the city. Uh, we were there for about six months but even that, we survived by, you know, buying the generators from the, you know, the black market. They [stole] that for the farmers. So, money-wise, working here and there.

NW: Going back to your uncle and this Hawaii-born aunt—uh, so were they affected by the bomb as well, or did they stay outside of Hiroshima?

PS: No, they were not. They were in Tokyo . . . in that time. And they found us . . . they were so worried because at the Fujimoto also owned that confectionary that I stayed on the day. And uh, so they went back to that house, and Uncle Masaru had two sisters and they went back. So after the war they lived—two sisters lived there for a while. And then they sold the building and they lived around that area.

NW: Oh, so they didn't come back to here? To the States, or to Hawai'i?

PS: No, my Uncle Masaru never came back. I don't know why. Um . . . but since he spoke, you know, he spoke both languages pretty fluently. So he was hired as the Editor in Chief of the uh— the English daily *Mainichi*. And so, that, he was pretty happy until his—he died from that. That's when we went to see Uncle Masaru, too.

GS: Yeah, it's interesting because he always had a word book. I remember this one thing, when we went to visit him because he had this notebook that he kept the words. So some new word, would go into this word book.

NW: I see. To keep his translating ability sharp.

GS: Right. Even in the hospital, he had this book. Remember the book? I carry a notebook.

PS: Yeah but his was always the word of the day. And uh . . .

NW: Interesting.

PS: I think it—*Mainichi*, the—they have a small column every day, word of the day. So, he had to find some oh—almost impossible words that the people will find. Or they're maybe something that people might like to use—English words. So he used to write some small columns there. But uh, he used to come . . . that was uh, the—way after that when I went to college. I used to take care of my cousin, in the—kind of distant cousin. But, for—for their, the, uh—my cousin at that time was in Junior High or Senior High, so I used to take care of their homeworks. And my uncle—my uncle was so busy so he usually come home about two o'clock in the morning. And he goes to work about 10 o'clock in the morning too. And my—the Aunt Sakiko was pretty much—she said, I don't know what is math, so you teach him. So, I used to teach the mathematics and . . . all the homeworks duties. And in return my uncle gave me pretty good allowances. So, when I was in the college, I didn't have to worry too much about the spending money. So.

NW: Mhm. Mhm.

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