

Part 2

A-bomb led me as an independent technician

(6)

Become independent with new techniques and inventions

For some year, I earned quite some of the money out of those new techniques. However, as far as the new techniques are concerned, I never showed anyone to watch my operation in a secret way. My thought was that if I make it open to the people concerned or the newspaper too early, it might invite jealousy among them as a publicity stunt. I was right. In a meantime, there came a right time for me to disclose the secrecy to the public when I developed some new devices with patent, and I came to think it was a good time for me to be independent of making those new businesses in my own will and manner. I was then twenty three years old, as young as the ordinary fellow boys enter college.

I succeeded in developing three devices, two of which I got the patents. There came out a firm in Hiroshima and its main office in Osaka, wishing to put the invented devices on sales, and at the same time they wanted me to make trips throughout Japan for making lectures and demonstration of the devices they sell under my contract. I took that opportunity for me to make the right time to spread the new techniques together with the device's sales.

My independence began in the form of my employed status in the mill with the expenditures for my payment, while being allowed to work for other three or four mills saw-filing businesses. I also had a privilege of making trips throughout Japan for lecturing and new device operation presentation. For this wide activity, I hired two young men as my employees.

In those days, I had no supporters on my leg and foot as I have now, but youth made me able to walk much easier without them. With the help of walking cane, however, I used to walk in a very terrible form when I make trips.

I have a dear memory when I made a lecture in Nagoya. Professor Sugihara of Kyoto University spoke about half an hour, and I made three hours all together with the lecture and demonstration.

My daily lecture fee was some 10,000 yen with my patent fee of 1,000 yen par sale of the device. It was not small money for the days of half a century ago.

A manufacturing company in Shizuoka once sold the device with no permission by me. They drew a promissory note on a bank for 250,000 yen as a penalty. It was the first time I ever received such as monetary note.

It happened that a business newspaper "Daily Lumber

Newspaper” came to me asking to write a series of articles for the technique of band saw in their paper. I had no reason why I could not accept their offer. Writing opportunity and its habit thus came into my favorite practice at such young age of far less than thirty years old. It ended in some thirty or forty times in a series. I do not remember how many times, though.

An interesting thing about my writing was that we were supposed to publish a book after a series of publication was over. Coincidentally, a talk came from a member of the Hiroshima municipal assembly, who said to me that he plans to send me to America with public expenses for business research and study for the advancement of the business of saw milling industry. His name was Mr. Nakatsui, one of the leading and strong members of the assembly. However, things happen for me to give up those two big opportunities, which I will write later.

By the way, when I write about my invention and my inventive character, there is a story about another inventive person in our relatives. My mother used to tell me about him. It was in the late 1800, a relative of mine in the olden days in Hawaii, there was a man of invention, trying to develop a spinning machine. After big effort of working on it, almost before its success, he came to know that the similar machine had developed and registered for the patent in Britain. The man broke the machine with big hammer into pieces as if he became mad for disappointment. My mother remembered the scene vividly, she often said to me. “Yuuki, you have his blood” was her word when she recalled the story.