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Title: Kikuno Goi - Mitsuo Goi Interview
Narrators: Kikuno Goi, Mitsuo Goi
Interviewer: Anna Takada
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- AT: 22:53 So where did you go after, after camp?
- KG: 22:57 After camp? I had another one. At the camp, I wanted to, uh, I wanted to come to Chicago. I had a friend, I met that friend in a camp, you know, so, but then now, uh, I think, I didn't know any English. So I went to school, but I didn't learn any English. So, uh, my brother came from New York, talked to priest. What should you do? Take her straight to New York or send her to someplace, with an American family so I could study English. So they decide to send me to, you know, stay with an American family. So my brother went to, but he was three years older, but he didn't stay too long. He went to New York. I stayed there a year and a half. And then I learned English a little bit. And there I said I want to go to New York, you know. So I got the job as a caregiver. She was a real, real nice lady. You know, she's a widow and. But that didn't like the men that take care of the house. Japanese men, you know. And uh, they had a couple of Japanese girls who before me, one girl was after the war girl, you know, sweet talking. I don't like the sweet talking people, you know. So she had a fine mink coat, you know, this lady, rich family. Husband died of cancer and she uh, and these Japanese men worked for her, 35 years. She's another one, you know, you kinda says things like, you know, I'm looking for, uh, tried to look for, uh, say something, chat together, give me that, you know, mink coat. You know, I got so mad because I'm not that kind of person, you know. And then I, I work and, but I think I worked about a year, year and a half, I said, oh, I'm gonna, I want to go, go to school. She cried, you know, I feel so bad. She was so nice. And the
- AT: 25:01 Where, where did they live?
- KG: 25:03 Ah, New York, Forest Hill. They had a home over there. And, uh, after I had left, she passed away, you know. She had a, um, she was sick, but uh, you know, um, nice down to earth kind people,

kind of. I go in to buy a newspaper, you know, everything and uh, I see, uh, some, uh, artificial, not, not artificial, weeds or flowers. You know I picked it up and I said, look what I find over there. So she's, she had a beautiful garden in the backyard, you know, but she doesn't go out. She doesn't see any flowers, you know. So I bring home little weeds and flowers. She said, it is so nice Kiku. You know, she, I get along real good. But then I, when I left she cried, you know, I felt so bad.

AT: 25:57

So where did you, you said you left for school?

KG: 26:00

Yeah, I went, I went to look for school and I lived there, and they sent me to someplace else. Why? Went through the door. Oh, that's not a school. That's a [inaudible] hanging all over the place. I said, no, that's not the school. So come, the girl said, no, no, come in, come in. Yeah, but I was looking for school, not the [inaudible] you know, I wasn't. So she said, no, no, come in, come in. And uh, so she said, I show you. I was so afraid. What is this? I never had any experience doing that, or all that stuff. And I think I make a mess too, so. I worked a few months, a few months and I said no, I couldn't do it. Yeah, so I said to my [inaudible], I want to go to Chicago and I want to go to school, you know. I had a, I knew um a couple friends from ah camp. I said, I want to go beauty school over there. Oh everybody, a first, first, can't do this, can't do that. All these people can do this. Then I got so mad, you know, I mean, I'm 19 years old and still they tell me, oh, you're going with the wrong people. Yeah. The girl is no good because their parents are divorced. I said my god, I got so mad that I hit the woman who told me. She got mad. She got mad. She said, "You should be going around with the college student." I said, I don't want college student, you know. So anyway, I got mad and she was hitting at me, I was hitting at her. So I came back and said my, my girlfriend, I stepped in and she said oh how did it go? I tell her, I said uh, oh, she was mad and I was mad, hitting the table. Well, I hit too. And I told her that her parents had divorce, meaning maybe scandal, you know, before the war. And what's the difference I told. That's a parents and she got nothing else to do you know. So I was screaming at her, she was scream at me. That's why I got so mad. So I told that to my new roommate, you sure you want to live here? I said, yeah, I want leave here. I said, okay. But trust me, trust me, I said, you study hard, you graduate, you know, I said, okay. It was tough for her too, you know, because Monday, Wednesday, Friday, night school I had to go. And then, uh, it, during the day, I had a job, 95 cents an hour, my first job, so 5:00 o'clock I go downtown. 5:30 my class starts. I don't get out til 9:30, you know. And then, uh, I'd take a, you know, bus home. Then I told my roommate, her, I said don't bother

cooking for me because you know I'm going to come home late. I pick up something. No, she always had a dinner cooked over there on the table for me. I just pick up and closed the door and you know, I need to study, you know.

- AT: 29:08 What, what did you think of Chicago when you moved here?
- New Speaker: 29:13 Oh, I like it! Yeah!
- AT: 29:16 What, what did you like about Chicago?
- New Speaker: 29:18 Well, everything was so cheap. Um only thing, I had to live with my sister in-law's family because they, they are against for me to stay with my roommate, you know, so I had to stay with them for six, seven months, you know?
- AT: 29:34 And, and where did each of you live when you first moved here?
- New Speaker: 29:37 Oh, uh, my brother, uh, my brother, three years older than I am, she, he decided to move to Chicago. He came to see me. He said, yeah, move, move. You know, he came to move and he got the uh, apartment close by, and then he and a few others became a friend, you know.
- AT: 30:00 Were you on the South Side?
- KG: 30:01 No, North Side.
- AT: 30:02 North Side.
- New Speaker: 30:03 Yeah. Like Clark and Division, around there. Yeah.
- AT: 30:08 Do you, do you remember, um, or did you use any of the like local Japanese American, um, like the Resettlers Committee or
- KG: 30:21 No,
- AT: 30:21 Viking Hall.
- KG: 30:21 I never, I never. It was so busy, you know.
- AT: 30:26 Working a lot.
- KG: 30:26 Yeah, working. And then like a Sunday, you know, it's my, uh, sister-in-law parents, most parents who are real good to me, you know, and living with their never charged me point anything. So Sunday sat there all day, I got to go to school, you

know, so Sunday I used to go Japanese, uh, grocery, I buy the sashimi, all this stuff. Taking it to the, you know, my, uh, she was so good to me.

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