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Title: Keith One Interview  
Narrator: Keith One  
Interviewer: Anna Takada  
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<Begin Segment 1>

Anna Takada: 00:00 This is an interview with Keith One as part of Alphawood Gallery Chicago Resettlement Experience Oral History Project. Your oral history project is being conducted in line with the current exhibition "Then They Came for Me: the Incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII and the Demise of Civil Liberties." Today is October 28th, 2017 at about 3:15 PM. We are recording at the Alphawood Gallery Oral History Studio. Keith One is being interviewed by Anna Takada for the Gallery. Um, so to start, can you just state your full name?

Keith One: 00:34 It's Keith One.

AT: 00:36 And um, where and when were you born?

KO: 00:41 I was born in Chicago, here in Chicago. This was in 1953.

AT: 00:46 Okay. Um, and like I mentioned, it would be great if we could talk a little bit about, you know, your- where your family was, um, during the war and then we can get a little bit into your experiences of growing up in Chicago. Um, so briefly, where, your parents, where were they, um, the time of the war and what happened?

KO: 01:08 Well, they lived in the Sacramento area. Um, Marysville was, my mother was from there, my father from Sacramento and they were both, um, sent to the Tule Lake Relocation Center. So they started there and then ended up at Amache in Granada, um, toward the end of the war. And, um, so from directly there, they, then they emigrated to Chicago, both of them, but they didn't know each other at the time. So they didn't meet each other until they arrived here in the city.

AT: 01:38 And what was the, um, the draw for Chicago for both families?

KO: 01:45 Opportunity. I think there was a fear for them to return to California. Obviously you know, very, very bad experience, bad memories and so to, to move east presented perhaps opportunity for jobs, a new life, let's say, away from the bad memories. And then I think that was the impetus for both of them to separately move to Chicago.

AT: 02:12 And do you know what, um, both families were doing in California before the war?

KO:

02:21

You know, I know my father, um, I think grew up in a very poor household. They were, they were farmers for much of their life. You know so there's a lot of manual labor going on. Um, and he had, um, two brothers and two sisters on top of it, and they all worked in the fields. I think it was the strawberry fields particularly they worked in. And my mother, I think she had a little bit of a better life. She, I think you heard from her, she had five sisters. Um, a very enterprising father. My grandfather who, you know, came to the United States as a young boy and, uh, endeavored to learn English and to work hard and to make a life for himself. Um, and so that's sort of, you know, that's, that was the beginning of both of their s- or the lives, both sides of the family.

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