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Title: Keith One Interview
Narrator: Keith One
Interviewer: Anna Takada
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<Begin Segment 2>

- AT: 03:11 And then, um, so Chicago, then, what were the, their respective families doing once they got here?
- KO: 03:20 Well, I know that my father's father passed away, um, during the war, so, and I never had a chance to meet him. Um, and his mother stayed in California, she stayed there. Um, so on my mother's side, the entire family moved to Chicago. And I think you heard from my mother that she when, as I was saying, he's a very enterprising, my grandfather's very enterprising, hardworking man, and he had a succession of different businesses that he had. Grocery store was one. Uh, he had, uh, a dry cleaners as well and, um, and was relatively successful despite, you know, all the discrimination. You know, the cards were really, were up against him, right? I mean, they were stacked against him in many ways, but despite that, still succeeded to the point of being able to provide for his family and it's a very large family- six, six daughters and his wife. So, um, yeah, that's basically it for him. And he just, uh, and I, I had the pleasure to get to know him really well because he lived to be a nice long age and you know, and he, he spoke English, which was very, um, unusual for an Issei. And so I got to know him really well and we got to know each other very well. So, you know, of all the grandparents, I think he was certainly the closest for me.
- AT: 04:48 Um, I'm so, sorry, I'm gonna just correct this one more time [goes to move microphone].
- KO: 04:52 Sure.
- AT: 04:53 And we'll edit this out. Um, yeah, that's one of the beautiful things about having editors [laughs].
- KO: 05:01 Yes.
- AT: 05:02 Um, and, and so your father, what, what did he end up doing once he got to Chicago?
- KO: 05:12 Oh, he did a variety of different things. He was also a hardworking man, um, but uneducated. And so, you know, he had to take whatever jobs he could take. I know at one point he was selling vacuum cleaners door to door. Did that for a little bit. Uh, and then he finally ended up in a sort of an apprenticeship where he, he decided that he was going to work in the tool and die industry you know, industry that's pretty much died today, but, at least here in America. But he,

um, he worked very hard at learning that. He, hooked on with a company owned by this man, and, um, was successful in the business. He rose to the level of general manager in the company. Uh, but since it was a family-owned business, he could go no further. So eventually he left that company and he started his own business. And this is probably about 1971 when he did that.

AT: 06:12 And what was the business that he started?

KO: 06:14 It was also tool and die. So he used his, his knowledge, um, to start that business and probably took some of his customers from his, uh, previous, um, place of employment and built a small but successful business for himself.

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