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Title: Keith One Interview
Narrator: Keith One
Interviewer: Anna Takada
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<Begin Segment 4>

AT: 10:09 And so after the five years on Hudson, where did your family go?

KO: 10:15 My father decided that, um, and I think this had to do with the experience of the war, camp and everything else. They wanted to fully embrace American life. They wanted to, um, not that they wanted to distance themselves from their heritage, but, but just that 'we're in America, let's be Americans,' you know. And so they decided that they were going to move out to the suburbs. Now this is 1958, right? And, and so they decided, and specifically my father decided that it'd be great to move out to a suburb called Palatine. 1958 and, um, decided that he was going to build a house. Um, and it just to, the way he kind of wanted it. And so he wanted an all brick house versus, he didn't want to have to paint. So he said, I want all brick house. He, he had a vision for the future and he said, you know, some day, we might own two cars. So he made sure that the house had a two-car garage and this is 1958, right? Very rare. And the neighborhood was all, almost all single-car garages, but he looked ahead and, and it was great. The interesting thing though was that when the house was being built, he wanted to, to see what the progress, how the progress is going, but he was afraid to stand in front of the house and observe, still fearful of retribution, maybe, whatever, prejudice. But, um, so what he would do is he would come by the house, but he would be at a distance, the house, you know, number of houses away from a distance observing the builders, building the house. But he didn't, he didn't dare go close to the house that was being built. So, again, I think that's just a carry over from, you know, all the, the prejudice and everything. Just even their, their experience with, uh, trying to find an apartment, right. You know, thinking well what, you know, with a neighborhood like this will it welcome a Japanese American family? Would they? But yet he wanted the safety of, at the time the suburbs, right. Just, you know, safer than the city. A better place to raise a family, have a yard, um, cleaner air, maybe it's better schools, whatever. So, you know, really, just a visionary in terms of all that so early, you know, to think about all those things. Um, and the house got built and we moved in. Uh, but thankfully they had no issues at all. Neighbors were very welcoming and uh, they were very grateful for that. And I think very lucky because it wasn't, not even a year later, another Japanese American family that wanted to move into the neighborhood did the same thing and building a house, oh, it must be three or four houses down from where they had their house and they would visit the house regularly as it's being built. People noticed that though and apparently there was a petition that was, that was raised to, opposing their move into the neighborhood. So my parents' fears were valid, right. That that could happen. But they're just fortunate enough that their

immediate neighborhood was very welcoming and unfortunately this other family, not as welcoming, so.

AT: 14:13 How far away was this home from your family?

KO: 14:13 Probably five houses away.

AT: 14:16 That's so interesting.

KO: 14:16 Different street, but five houses away. It's just, it's just who lives around you basically. So, but over time, I mean their immediate neighbors across the street, both sides of their house and everything, they became all good friends. And just this morning, my mother was saying, it was interesting, this is just this morning, she's remembering her neighbor that lived right next door and when we moved in and my brother and I would sit on the on, there was a couple stairs in front of the house just sitting out there just, just looking around and um, quietly and her neighbor saying those, 'look at those cute Japanese boys just, just sitting there. Aren't they cute?' Now maybe we were, but you know a lot of people might not have thought that, right. But her neighbor next door said, was, was just wonder- she says 'this is great. I just love having you next door.' So very, very fortunate they had neighbors like that.

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