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Title: Keith One Interview
Narrator: Keith One
Interviewer: Anna Takada
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<Begin Segment 8>

- AT: 26:26 Now you have, um, just a few more questions as we wrap up. Um, I'm wondering if you could, um, like in a few words, uh, describe the, um, the Japanese American experience or community in the Midwest. How might it be unique or...?
- KO: 26:58 Compared to what, West Coast for instance?
- AT: 27:01 For instance, or.
- New Speaker: 27:01 Well, I, I have a friend on the West Coast that, um, we ended up working up working for the same company. He's also Sansei, but I, I, I saw his experience much different than mine. I mean, because again, I, I think he was more connected to the culture, a, greater, uh, Japanese population on the West Coast surrounded more that, not just family, but just the community and everything else. I think coming out, coming to Chicago where that was much smaller and then eventually moving out to Palatine, which there was none at all. There was a stark difference there in terms of that. So, um, in some ways I wished I was still, and experienced that community, but I can also appreciate the, my parents' desire to embrace, you know, just being an American, living the American life and everything else and learned a lot about that as well. So they're different. I don't know if it's better or worse. Some ways it was better and maybe some ways is worse, but definitely different.
- AT: 28:18 And are there any ways that you've seen um, uh, some of the impacts of either the incarceration or resettlement to Chicago? Have um, like those legacies playing out in your own life or experiences?
- KO: 28:38 Not so much because as you heard my mother say, she didn't talk about it that much. So we didn't, I don't think we understand or realize the full impact of, you know, being pulled away from your home and your, and you know, where you grew up, your business in the case of my grandfather. And, and in one week's time just be sent off somewhere. Um, and then all the prejudice and retribution that came even afterwards as we talked about the difficulty of getting an apartment to rent, things like that. You know, that's many years of hardship in many ways that I can't fully understand. One because they didn't talk about it. But secondly, it's just, um, unless you live it, I don't know how you'd really fully understand it. An exhibit like this certainly helps. And we've seen other exhibits too. But again, it's, it's all- you're seeing our pictures and words, but to live it, that's gotta be totally different.

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