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Title: Ben Chikaraishi Interview
Narrator: Ben Chikaraishi
Interviewer: Anna Takada
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<Begin Segment 14>

- AT: 01:31:51 And what about your, your hopes for the, for the future of the community and maybe of your children and your grandchildren?
- BC: 01:32:01 Well, I think like our children, we have a big family. We have, we have 16, 16 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren and they're all assimilated and they live in different areas and, and um, is so different from the times that we did things together really as a family because they have so many but, but, but I think things, it comes to things that are a little different than much different from time when we were here yeah.
- AT: 01:32:46 And what about, um, any lessons that can be taken from the, like some of your war time experiences and resettling to Chicago. What, why is this, this history of um, I guess the Japanese American experience, why is that important and why should people
- BC: 01:33:11 I, I think that assimilation, like all our grandchildren are living separately, I mean, not separate areas and um, well, it's so different from the times that we had because of the economic situation, the, uh, the so many things that they enjoy.
- Mrs Chikaraishi: 01:33:47 They assimilate into their own friends. So it's changing for them I think.
- BC: 01:33:47 So, so, so we're very comforted that hopefully that I, our children and our grandchildren will retain some of the, the, uh, the, the uh, values of the Issei's and the Jap and the second generations and you know, as well that was one of the biggest things that the most important things
- Mrs Chikaraishi: 01:34:17 There are a lot of good things about Japanese culture.

BC: 01:34:17 We always telling own children to behave themselves to, don't do anything that will disgrace the family and, and stay out of trouble. And, and, uh, we just hope that some of the values of that that was handed down will continue and that's one thing that had to hope that something would happen.

AT: 01:34:43 And before we wrap up, is there anything else that you would like to add or that we might've missed in the conversation?

BC: 01:34:54 Hmm. No, what do you think I can say is that my wife and I, we can say that we're very fortunate. We both in good health, we lived a long life. We regret the fact that

Mrs Chikaraishi: 01:35:14 We brag a little about our kids

BC: 01:35:14 We lost some of our friends and, and uh, we had good children that never had any trouble in our lifetime.

Mrs Chikaraishi: 01:35:32 The Japanese community

BC: 01:35:32 Yeah. Yes. Probably our grandfather and grandmother saying the same thing they're really happy to have a good family like yours, yours, and the whole family. Yeah.

AT: 01:35:46 Well, thank you so much for coming in and speaking about your experiences.

BC: 01:35:48 You're welcome. I hope that I can help in some way or anything like that, but yes.

AT: 01:35:57 Thank you.

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