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Title: Ben Chikaraishi Interview
Narrator: Ben Chikaraishi
Interviewer: Anna Takada
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AT: 00:32:18 What, what- a lot of folks that we've been speaking to for this project were much younger when they were in camp

BC: 00:32:28 What was that?

AT: 00:32:28 A lot of folks that we've been speaking to were much younger, during, during the war.

BC: 00:32:32 Oh yes, yes, probably so. Yes.

AT: 00:32:34 And I'm curious because many of them weren't fully aware of what was happening, but as a young adult, I- surely, you know, you were more aware

BC: 00:32:48 Yes.

AT: 00:32:48 And I'm just wondering what- what some of your- what were some of the things going on through your head through this whole process and?

BC: 00:33:00 You know, I was, what, 22 years old and, and, and sort of adventurous. And- so to me it was- I met new friends and uh, I really didn't feel too bitter at that time. And uh, and so I went about it was whatever they asked us to do and you know I just just. But later on I began to understand what happened and, and how all the fact that gee, all of a sudden we were, we, we were abused as far as I'm concerned. We were second grade student, I mean ah people. And um, and that we were deprived of our, about what the Constitution says that the life, liberty and happiness without, without due process and then being you know we wondered why all of this had taken place. But most like Japanese, they, they, they, they thought that, well, you know, like you say everybody, every Japanese knew a word

called Shikataganai, which means that it's something that happens and that's just, no matter what you do is not going to do. So we made the best of the best of everything. And um, and also the people that say what Gaman, which was perseverance. So we went through all those years and without protests and things like that, but, and then about 40 years ago, 40 years, nothing happened. But then, when you had these five Congress with men in Congress, they were able to convince a fair level of Congressmen of the problems that we had been through and that we had all our Redress and everything. And so, so all paid off as far as the Japanese are concerned. I think, you know. So as far as we're concerned, my wife and my family and most of our Nisei's, still feel that United States is the very best place and being we are Japanese, no, we're Japanese descent but we're Americans and we accept what happened and uh, made the best of it. Then.

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