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Title: Yukiko Llewellyn Interview
Narrator: Yukiko Llewellyn
Interviewer: Anna Takada
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<Begin Segment 1>

Anna Takada: 00:00:00 To start, can you just state your full name?

Yuki Llewellyn: 00:00:03 Uh, Yukiko Helen Llewellyn.

AT: 00:00:07 And where and when were you born?

YL: 00:00:10 April 22nd, 1939 in Los Angeles, California.

AT: 00:00:16 Um, and so I'll be asking you some questions that I already know the answer to. So it's not that I'm not listening, but just to have for the record. Uh, can you tell me a little bit about, Um, your parents and, and where they were from?

YL: 00:00:34 Um, my dad was from Hawai'i and my mom was born in, uh, Wyoming, but as a child was sent back to Japan to be raised by her grandparents. Well, she's known as a Kibei. And, uh, my mother had an arranged marriage, so she was married by Japanese law, you know, with her, um, father approving. And then she sailed to the United States to meet my father. Um, she was 18 when she moved to the United States. They were together when I was born and she was 20. I can always tell how old my mother is, you know, by, she was 20, so this is how old she is now. Um, I can't remember. I used to know how, I think my father was three or four years older than she was. Not, not very much older, you know. So there was a, they were a young couple, um they

AT: 00:01:54 What kind of, um, backgrounds where they're coming from? What did their parents do?

YL: 00:02:01 Well, momma was the high school graduate in Japan. She was not employed anywhere. She was probably the only young woman who wanted to go to the United States. And this was an opportunity. There was a family friend who said that I have a

son who's looking for a bride. Uh, unbeknownst to them really, uh, I learned this after the fact. My father was a Baptist. My mom was a Buddhist. She didn't speak any English and he didn't speak very fluent Japanese cause his parents were in Japan. But he was in Hawai'i and I don't, I don't know of any employment he had. Ah he was a fruit stand vendor. On his, um, on my birth certificate you have to, you know, put down what the father's job was and it said fruit vendor. And of course, I said, what's, what's a fruit vendor? Well, he had a cart, I guess, and, and sold fruit that, that he a got. But not, not a job as we know it, you know, not a category. Um, I understand from my mom that, uh, she worked as, uh, a maid, you know, did, did kind of, uh, I mean she didn't have secretarial skills. Uh, she did some, uh, sewing at um garment worker type thing, which she did later when, when I was growing up in Cleveland, she worked at a garment workers factory.

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