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Title: Yukiko Llewellyn Interview
Narrator: Yukiko Llewellyn
Interviewer: Anna Takada
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<Begin Segment 3>

- AT: 00:13:44 Um, to go back just a little bit, um, so you, you were with your mom and camp, um, and would, would've been three years old. Um, can you tell me about what, um, given that you were so young, how were the, how was the information in the stories of yours and your mother's experiences kind of passed down to you? Or do you have memories from camp?
- YL: 00:14:16 Oh, I would, four or five and six were your twinges of memories. But they're all childhood memories there, there of friends coming to play, me going out to play a, having a sitter come to take me to the mess hall for movies. And that was when I saw that they were Westerns and the bad guys were always people who look like us. The Indians were not, they did not do well in these Westerns. But, um, I did have a, a teenage girl take me to the movies. And one time, I guess I was crying and she was upset that she had to leave the movie, take me outside because I was crying. Not a good babysitting job, I guess. But I had, my mom had pictures of my classroom at Christmas and we had a Japanese Santa Claus. And there are snapshots of Obon Festivals. And I was in a Japanese kimono and I had a dance lessons, Odori lessons, because there were so many Japanese people who were stuck in the United States when the war came and they were thrown into the relocation camps with us. But true to form, you know, it's like, well, you could teach a class, you know, and so we had really good teachers of Odori and Shamisen. And things, I mean I don't know where they got the things to teach with, but, uh, every little girl probably went to the dance class. And, um, and the irony of it is, you know, they were trying to get rid of everything Japanese before we went to camp, but here was a gold mine of talent and they wanted to do something in camp, you know, so teach a course. And I didn't know that they were excellent teachers. I didn't know that they were professional dancers in Japan, but they couldn't get back to Japan. So they taught and I guess the parents were pleased as could be. They couldn't afford to do that in the real world.

But, uh, so I have, I have pictures of that. And, um, all the holidays there, there were always, you know, snapshots of that, uh, the making of mochi. And, and it was a great time to be a kid.

AT: 00:17:18 Did your mom ever speak with you about it, about, you know, her experiences from her perspective?

YL: 00:17:26 Only when it involved me. Oh you were so cute when you had on the kimono and all you did this and oh you did that. But of course, as a kid I never asked her. So what did you do mom during the day? I don't know. She volunteered at the canteen are, I guess it's not the canteen, it's a store. It's the camp store where they sold thread and cloth and she did the, I don't, it was something like a quarter, an hour or something. But she earned money and she, that means she had expendable income and she could afford to hire a teenage girl to come take me to the movies that she didn't want to go to. The movies were free. But the teenage girl was not. And uh, I loved it. I loved being able to go and then meet all the kids. We didn't like the Westerns. But interestingly we found out later that they probably were filmed outside the camp gates cause the mountains looked familiar. Oh look at that. Doesn't that look like the one behind our camp?

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