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Title: Yukiko Llewellyn Interview  
Narrator: Yukiko Llewellyn  
Interviewer: Anna Takada  
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<Begin Segment 4>

- AT: 00:18:45 But um, and then what, um, how long were you and your mom there at Manzanar?
- YL: 00:18:51 The entire time til it closed. From opening to close. 42' to 45', I think is you, you, there were people there, you know, til 47', I think. And we were among the last to leave because we had to have sponsors. So you couldn't just leave because the camp was closing and if you had family that was reason enough to be able to get out of there. But we had no family. And so um a Buddhist church in Cleveland had a family said, we'll take whoever, especially with a family, you know, who don't have a place to go, we'll bring them to Cleveland, you know, find them a job, put the child, children into school and if it weren't for them, strangers, strangers, uh, we would, I don't know what they would do with people who are still there. When the camp had to close, it said, no place to go. I don't know what we'll do with them. Really, never occurred to me to ask because we had a place to go.
- AT: 00:20:01 And can you tell me a little bit more about, um, uh, the, the process or what happens to you and your mom after camp? Um, so you all went to, you were sponsored by them?
- YL: 00:20:14 Yeah, we went to Cleveland. They found us a place to live in a inner city apartment and it was really an inner city hotel. And my mom was like the maid, she, she did, uh, picked up the sheets, the linens from the tenants and then washed them. Um, I don't know. I can't remember if there were washing machines or what, you know, but I'm sure there was, cause it was a business. And I was the, you know, person who swept the steps, all the public spaces and um, took the trash out to the back. There were all these um, trash cans, but you had, when you went out there, you, you took a broom and hit the side of the trashcan so the rats would jump out so you could, didn't open the thing and have the rats come out at you. Interesting trick to

that. And um, so that was the job they have for my mom. Um, I don't remember getting paid at that either or some people really owe me money. And um, so we did that and I don't know the timeline of that. All I know is that, um, my, my grandmother's brother or some distant relative of my family in Japan, this older man he was like my grandfather's age was in Manzanar and he also moved to, uh, Cleveland. There was some other people he knew, who were Buddhist, and he offered, uh, my mom, an opportunity to buy a house in a better neighborhood than the hotel, someplace where I would be able to go out and play with kids. But the specific reason was that there were so many Japanese American college students coming to Cleveland because there were a lot of institutions that people were looking for boarding houses for the students students want, that's what they wanted there. There weren't any dorms for them. These were like older students and my mom's thought anything to, you know, make life better for us. And it turned out to be quite a good thing. We had a really nice house. It was lot of rooms, you know, a lot of bathrooms because we knew that we wanted to attract tenants. They were like friends. They were like family that you all of a sudden got because they were students at Case Western Reserve. You know, probably other schools too. But do you know what they were? They were the best tutors for me to speak English. They were already college students and I didn't know how much that helped me except that every time I had a paper I had, you know, four or five people say, well that's not good English. He said, How would I know? But it was great. It was great.

- AT: 00:24:06 And these students, were any of them Japanese American?
- YL: 00:24:09 They all were.
- AT: 00:24:10 They all were Japanese American?
- YL: 00:24:11 But they were outside of camp. None of them were in camp. They lived in Cleveland or around and had a hard time being students or whatever they were doing at the time. But they were all students when I saw them. And so it was wonderful for them to be in a house with other students, different ages. I mean some of them, there were a lot of difference in ages, but they all also spoke Japanese. So of course that was great for my mother because she didn't care about the other stuff. But the fact that she had someone to talk to and someone for me to learn from. I get, I got to be really good in science because a lot of the guys were in science, I didn't know what science was, you know.

AT: 00:25:02 Would you happen to remember the address of that building?

YL: 00:25:06 No, but I have pictures and I think the house, cause I had a dog and we sat in front. I think that the address and there's got to be something, you know, in, in my box of photography. You know, yeah sure. It, it was on 30 something street and I could find it if I got to Cleveland. You know, cause the house was there a, I saw it when I moved my mom from her apartment cause there was just a few blocks from the apartment that she was in for years. Yeah. Cause we said, Oh let's look at our house. You know, isn't that nice that you call it your house? Yeah, it's still there. It's across the street from a school. I don't know if the school is there, but.

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