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Oral History Project Collection
Title: Yukiko Llewellyn Interview
Narrator: Yukiko Llewellyn
Interviewer: Anna Takada

Location:

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AT: <u>00:29:46</u> Can you tell me a little bit more about the, um, the response of,

um, the Japanese American, um, students, young people your

age, who were already in Cleveland?

YL: <u>00:29:58</u> We had a picnic, every year, the Japanese Americans and

everybody was invited who was Japanese American, and I got to meet kids who were like lived in the suburbs, didn't live in Cleveland proper. And they look like a different breed of kid. They were very open. They were friendly, they didn't care about camp. You know, that was a stupid question to ask. Only your parents asked, their parents, you know, were you in camp? The kids never asked me if I was in camp. Uh, by then my English was good enough to pass, uh, because I could only speak English to this group from Cleveland, except I knew that they were bilingual because their parents spoke Japanese primarily. When we went to Buddhist Temple, that's all I heard was Japanese. And of course all the movies they showed on the weekends were Japanese movies. And it was strange. I, I didn't see a community except at Obon and that summer picnic every year. And the picnic I think really was because of the teenagers. Kids went to different high schools, then they went to different colleges and that was the only time they could, you know, meet each other. And it was invaluable. There were some good friends I made, but, you know, like one or two families. It wasn't, I didn't go to any of their events. It was the community event that everybody went to. But I know there were other things that happened and there were, you know, things that happened to me that didn't happen to anybody else. But I, I dunno, maybe it was just the, I was, you know, not as understanding of what they were going through. I don't know. I don't know.

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