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Title: Yukiko Llewellyn Interview
Narrator: Yukiko Llewellyn
Interviewer: Anna Takada
Location:
Date: November 5, 2017
Densho ID: ddr-chi-1-13-8

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- AT: 00:43:04 Oh, one thing, I wa, I wanted to be sure to ask a, just to get a better sense of, um, kind of what the Japanese American community looked like in Cleveland in those, um, those early days that you all were there. Um, do you remember any, uh, Japanese American owned businesses or, um, did, did people own any kind of restaurants or, or property that, you know of.
- YL: 00:43:35 Not restaurants, but there was a grocery store, Toguchi's. Um, they tell me that it had been there for a long time and it was the only one we, we went to, but it had everything that we needed, you know, especially tofu cause you can't, couldn't get tofu in the grocery store. Um, it was a while before we got stuff from Japan, you know, foodstuffs from Japan. But, um, actually the, the Japanese community individually did celebration dinners at Chinese restaurants, not, I mean, they never looked for, you know, the Japanese restaurant, cause there weren't any, but they were fine with Chinese restaurants. I always remember going to a Chinese restaurants for weddings and, you know, things like that. And we always had favorite Chinese food. Um, we always made Japanese food at home for holidays and, uh, but I don't recall businesses. I mean, if, if there were like insurance adjusters, I don't know about them. I didn't look in the yellow pages to see if any, you know, uh, companies had Japanese names. Um, most of my friends', parents didn't own businesses. They worked for somebody. Um, I would not call Cleveland while I lived there, an Asian American inspired community. We had a Chinatown, but the Japanese families usually told their teenagers to not mingle with the Chinese students, which of course made us mingle with Chinese students. We had a good time with them. They were our age. You know, we had interests similar to our, they looked like us. Um, we just didn't tell her parents that we went to Chinatown because they had a gym, you know, so we could play in the gym and they were receptive to having us there. There were a lot of romances that sprung up with them. We just didn't tell our

parents because there was a taboo on them racially by them. You know, it's just so silly, so silly. But no, I, I, I've heard a couple things during our visit from people who just came out and talked to us about one person said he was in Cleveland and about the Japanese community and I, I felt like saying what Japanese community? I don't know. Is that something that happened recently? Cause you know, once I left in 1958, I didn't go back, to Cleveland. That's a long time from 58'. So if they were active any time from then on, I'm not aware of it, but there was nothing like that when I was there. And you know, to tell you the truth, I was looking, I was looking for it and it wasn't there.

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