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Title: Yukiko Llewellyn Interview
Narrator: Yukiko Llewellyn
Interviewer: Anna Takada
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AT: 00:47:48 As? Go ahead.

KS: 00:47:48 I was gonna ask how long did your mother run the boarding house? That was her business?

YL: 00:47:56 Yeah, yeah.

KS: 00:47:59 Yeah, okay.

YL: 00:47:59 Uh, it, it was, uh, my uncle, you know, the older gentleman in the family who financed it. He made it possible, uh, when you wanted to return to Japan himself, he still had family in Japan. You know, no children or anything but, uh, cousins thing and they knew that camps were over. So, you know, they wanted to know where he was. And then he said he was doing this a boarding house. They thought that was a good venture. So, you know, they didn't complain. But, um, he made it possible for my mom to get enough money for the apartment knowing that she still worked as a garment worker. You know, part time. She worked there probably as long as she could, but we lived cheap and it was still in the inner city. It's still, you know, the odd thing was it was a apartment building mostly with Japanese people in it. Uh, and I don't know what, maybe the landlord was Japanese, I don't know. But, um, the neighborhood was white, white, blue collar. My mom got a beagle dog when we were living there, Hiro, everyone thought it was H e r o, it was H i r o for Hiroshi. You know, so when I tell my kid my grandchildren's, you know, we had a dog Hiro. Oh, Hero! Oh no, no, Hiro, little different. But Hiro had to be walked a couple times a day. Mom lived on the third floor, walked down every morning, you know, walked the dog around the block. Good thing beagles are small. And every night. And it got so that the teenagers, the boys in the neighborhood, noticed this woman, Japanese woman from that a corner apartment had a dog. Then they, so they started following her and I got alarmed when I when I, I can't remember

the timing of it, but I know I was away at school someplace, when she was living alone. That was why she got the dog cause she was living alone. And when I got home I was so alarmed that these boys were around and she said, oh no, no, no. They make sure I safe. I said yeah, right. I walked the dog one time, cause I didn't believe her, cause ours is going to really get to those guys. And they said, why are you walking Hiro? I said I'm her daughter. Oh she's okay. Isn't she? She's not sick or anything? No. Do you know her? Oh Mrs. Hiyakawa? Oh yeah, we've, we walk with her every morning. Oh my god. How mistaken was I? And she said, I tell you so, you know, what's the matter with you? They took care of Hiro and my mother and called her Mrs. Hiyakawa. So I'm sure at some point she said, my name is Mrs. Hiyakawa, cause that's how they addressed her. Wonderful.

AT: 00:52:05 Are there any ways, um, you know, as an adult that you see yourself as being shaped by growing up in the Midwest or Cleveland? Are there any particular things about you that you, feel is relevant?

YL: 00:52:24 The Cleveland Indians won the world series. My mother let me cut school and go to the ball games. She knew, everything about the Cleveland Indians, the batting averages, the pitching, you know, stats. I was like, why do you know that? Well, she listened, you know, we didn't have a T.V. She listened to the ball games and she heard people talking about the Cleveland Indians and she just got herself fixated with the team, read everything about them, you know. And when she went to church, she found, you know, like people who also follow the Indians. So people say you're from claims go Cleveland Indians. Now the Cleveland Browns are another story.

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