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Title: Ellen Watanabe-Huxtable Interview
Narrator: Ellen Watanabe-Huxtable
Interviewer: Anna Takada
Location: Chicago, Illinois
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- AT: 00:36:33 So what, what year would that have been that you moved out to this place? That wasn't in the city.
- EH: 00:36:39 That would have been in 19, 1988 probably. So I was in the city for a long period of time.
- AT: 00:36:50 And how did living in the suburbs compared to?
- EH: 00:36:55 It was very different. Certainly I have to become a much better driver than I had been in the city and unfortunately I lost my, all my, my city sense of how the L's run and how the buses run and everything like that, because when I was in high school I was a, I was able to go pretty much anywhere in the city that I wanted to on public transit and I don't have that skill anymore unfortunately. And so that was one of the changes that had to become a much better driver than I than it had been before. But the, um, I think the Relocation experience was one for my parents, that was good. I mean, my, my, my aunts and uncles on my mom's side, we're back in Los Angeles. We'd go back to visit them once a year, sometimes once every other year but they had established their life over there and my parents had established their life's over here and it was a change that would have never happened had it not been for the war. I'm sure that my parents would have stayed in Los Angeles, can continue to do what they did there. It was a very different turn in their lives.
- AT: 00:38:04 Do you know anything about your mom's family's experiences or what it was like going back to LA?
- EH: 00:38:12 I don't know. When they, when my grandparents left camp. They, my mother's oldest sister was an optometrist prior to the war. My mother's, she was married to a dentist before the war, so they were both, two professionals. And after the war they bought a, a bungalow courthouse complex, which is, which

actually on, um, on Google maps, the crazy building is still standing. It was old when I was a kid. And this stucco building is, is that they were at 985 and 4/5th South Ardmore in Los Angeles. It's still there. But they bought this section, I think it's 16 units and then an old farm house kind of house. And my grandma, my maternal grandparents ran the complex for my aunt, my uncle, and so they lived in the old firehouse house and they pretty much took in the rent, handed out the keys and somebody locked themselves out of their apartment and did the, the general oversight on behalf of my aunt and my uncles, my maternal grandparents lived their lives in a very comfortable existence because they had a place to stay in, in, uh, we're compensated, I expect in some way by my aunt for watching the property for her. So they were, that's where they lived until they passed away.

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