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Title: Ellen Watanabe-Huxtable Interview  
Narrator: Ellen Watanabe-Huxtable  
Interviewer: Anna Takada  
Location: Chicago, Illinois  
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AT: 00:10:12 And then, do you know how long each family unit was in camp?

EH: 00:10:19 I don't know exactly. I know that my father, my father came out of camp relatively early because the, as he explained to me when I was little, as the war was starting to wind down the word went out in camp that you could leave camp and see if you could find a job and if you could, you could stay out. If the sentiment was so strong against the Japanese community that it was dangerous for you or you couldn't find work, then come back to the camp because at least you'll safe you'll be fed. So my father came out to Chicago because it was known that Chicago was relatively accepting of the Japanese community. So he came out to Chicago first and wrote back to my mom saying, I'm in Chicago and my parents weren't married yet. Saying, I'm in Chicago and it's livable here. If you want to come out, I'll watch out for you. And so at that time, according to my parents, my mom they were hanging out in the group of guys and women and my mom went and told the people that evening "Gee, Min--who was my father--Min wrote and said that Chicago is livable. And invited me to come out and some of the guys that were there say, well, hey, we're leaving for Chicago in the morning early and if you want to, if you want to come with us, be at the gate at 6 o'clock. And my mom's said, sure, I'll go with you. And they said, no you won't. She said, sure I will. So in the morning there was my mom with her suitcase to leave the camp with these guys we have with my dad in Chicago. So that's when my parents ended up coming here and I know from JASC and that they've done graphic things about about where the Japanese community located. My parents located on the North Side. We lived, they lived first of all at the corner of probably Clark Street and near Clark and Chicago Avenue, or Clark and Chestnut was. There was a boarding house where they lived first initially and then they moved to a four-flat building on Chestnut Street. So when I was. When they were living at the 11 East Chestnut, which was a very residential neighborhood, and

my uncle, my father's younger brother also came out to Chicago and always stay geographically very close to my parents and my family. So he lived in the same building.

AT: 00:12:44 Was this the uncle who was serving?

EH: 00:12:44 No, this wasn't. This was my paternal uncle, my maternal youngest brother, my maternal youngest brother went back to Los Angeles with, uh, with my grandma, my maternal grandparents. And so they got married. He got married after the war.

AT: 00:13:03 For your dad's family, his siblings and his mom had been in Japan during the war?

EH: 00:13:11 Yeah. His siblings and mom had been in Japan. They lived in rural Japan and uh, they were from Kumamoto-ken and I don't know, I believe that they probably went back to, I don't know, they probably did think about it. So they were back in Kumamoto-ken. Um, my father had told me that one of his younger sisters, my aunt and her husband, because they were in their twenties, late twenties, early thirties were married. They were living in Hiroshima. And when the bomb went off in Hiroshima, my aunt and my uncle were, were spared because they were there visiting in the country so they were not, they were Hiroshima residents, they were not Hiroshima at the time of the bomb. And so that's, you know, it was very fortunate. It was extremely fortunate for them.

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