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Title: Ryoko Kobayashi Interview
Narrator: Ryoko Kobayashi
Interviewer: Anna Takada
Location:
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<Begin Segment 10>

AT: 00:52:00 And, throughout your time in Chicago. Um, did you have any kind of involvement in the Japanese American community here?

RK: 00:52:11 Oh, let's see. No, not too much, no.

AT: 00:52:18 Did you ever go to any picnics or festivals or anything like that?

RK: 00:52:21 Well, they have this, I like the, they used to have a, um, they call it a Kodomo fair, but uh,

AT: 00:52:35 Kodomo matsuri?

RK: 00:52:35 Yeah, I don't know when that is now. I thought it was in November.

AT: 00:52:40 It just, it was last weekend.

RK: 00:52:41 Yeah. I see, I didn't get any notice, so I missed it. But then they used to have another different, uh, gathering there. But, uh, other than that, I didn't do too much because mostly I was going on my photography trip and not a, not a good photographer, but became a hobby, you know, and, uh, when, um, then, I used to work on the south side 800 Wabash and um, it was run by a Jewish man. And it was a funny interview. I thought I have to write uh, upper, register and all that. He said, what does your father do? I said he, oh, he retired. What does your mother do? She retired too. And uh, so how about your brothers? Do you have two brothers? I said one is a art editor, and the other one is a cost accountant you hired. That's how I got hired for that job.

AT: 00:53:44 What was the job?

RK:

00:53:47

It was a picking orders, you know, as a musical warehouse place. So they had anything connected with music, um, guitars and cello, different accordions and things, you know, and it was 95% Caucasian and then within a few months turn all Black. So I had a hard time trying to get adjusted, but I am not, I don't want to say this thing because you know, that's their way of approaching me and doing things. So one day I had a pencil in my pocket, I threw it across the room. I said, I quit. You know, I took my locker key, went downstairs and I told uh, I said, uh, I forgot his name, I put the key on the table. He said, why, what's wrong? I said, I don't want to say anything, I just quit, just send me my check. So I just walked out like that, cause all were afraid, they're going to hurt me. They were tough woman. And, uh, well I'll tell you one incident, she pushed me against the wall. Ripped my blouse open, she said you are a hunky. I said, I'm not a hunky. I said you get, you, you might have a black pants, but you know, I have a yellow pants and they are very fierce. There is no thing as yellow pants. But, uh, I mean I had to say something to protect myself, but,

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