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Title: Ryoko Kobayashi Interview
Narrator: Ryoko Kobayashi
Interviewer: Anna Takada
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<Begin Segment 11>

- AT: 00:55:33 And um, before we wrap up, um, uh, in what ways, if any, would you say that, um, the incarceration during World War Two and resettling in Chicago, in what ways did that, uh, impact you and your life?
- RK: 00:55:59 Oh, I see, incarceration. Um, I was glad to get out and was free. And uh, coming to Chicago, um, I was very lucky because I didn't care for the East Coast or the West Coast and uh, cause I couldn't get a job either place, not only tha, you have to drive certain places. That, uh, I love Chicago and I, like I say, I love the people and I love, uh, I like the parks and everything is close by and then, the neighbors are good and, they take me as I am and, uh, they always say good morning and say what's up, what today? I say I'm going shopping as usual they say yeah. But people are so friendly. And of course there's one or two of them actually they, they throw the rhubarb in. But, uh, other than that, I thought, I love living here in Chicago and, um, was 75 years of different experience. I think, uh, I'm very fortunate that I have my religion, which I say my prayer every night. I thank God that people here they take me as I am even to drop me a smile. It makes my day. And I said that uh, what else, they shake my hand and I feel the warmth. I said, where else can you get that? What else can, you know, now seeing there is a baby mother. I say, oh, how cute in the baby sleeping. I say, I wish I could sleep like that. And the mother will say so do I. But you know, it's a, it's a real, comical and it's real nice feeling.
- AT: 00:57:57 Um, you've mentioned that you've been to the gallery a few times.
- RK: 00:58:02 Yes.
- AT: 00:58:03 Um, why, why is this particular history or experience, um, why is it important to, to remember and to

RK: 00:58:14 Oh, number one is the photographers, cause I know the photographers, I mean I read up, I don't know them personally and I know, and so Adam, that's a good camera and is sharp. And Dorothea Lange, she goes to any means to get a picture. And, uh, and then if I see somebody looks me at what something I donate, like today, a young girl is looking. I came by and I said, excuse me, but this is what I donate. This is my name. And she said, these two arm bands. I told him, story what happened to the arm band and she listened very carefully. And then I took her around and uh, with different pictures I explained to them and, uh, I said, uh, then her, then her grandparents came and then, the whole family is moving with me. And, uh, they even invited me to have lunch with him. I said, no, I have to go shopping. I appreciate your thoughtfulness. You know, when I said that a, we want you to come, I said, maybe, you know, it's just that, um, I would like to come, but it's just that I have other things to do and uh, please excuse me. You know, I appreciate your thoughts. So, and uh,

AT: 00:59:38 What was the, the arm bands that you donated?

RK: 00:59:42 It has, uh, two "K"s on the ... That "K" stands for kitchen. And uh, so I explained to the girl in the one little camouflage, uh, pin. Or whatever it's made out of camouflage it looks like a mammy or something right next to the arm band. So I explained to the girl that was made with the scrap of the camouflage. So when we came to the camouflage, she saw there them working. So she took a picture of that, and I said somebody's scraps of, the girl would just make it and took the little, uh, bandanna under. They painted the lips and eyes and then I said, so she's, gee, that's something special, isn't it? I said, yeah, this is why I wanted to give. I wanted to donate that, and I said, everything here, I had it in a box or something, but when they saved, they need donation, I was so happy that I have stuff to give them. I don't know the um, government, uh, issue paper for my parents, but, uh, like I say, Chicago is it with me. And no matter what I had, uh, since 1945, I had a very nice life here in Chicago and I appreciate it. And, um, I take on another thing is a couple of time I went to the Japanese American service center, uh, the farming jobs and, uh, so I approved, I like Chicago. I can't say anything bad about it. Of course, there are a lot of bad things happening. But on the whole, you know, when my, my boundary and life and loves.