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Title: Ryoko Kobayashi Interview
Narrator: Ryoko Kobayashi
Interviewer: Anna Takada
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<Begin Segment 2>

- AT: 00:02:58 Mmm. Growing up there. So you, did you go to school?
- RK: 00:03:03 Yes, I went to the Western school and the Japanese language school. So right after the western schools open over, I have to take, oh, I have to walk about a mile to go to the Japanese language school. Now, think about one, one or two hours. Then I came home, but had the western book in one hand and the, my mother made a bag for the Japanese of school book. So it was, I had to carry a lot of learning, you know, but good.
- AT: 00:03:41 Was there a, a big Japanese American population of Seattle at that time?
- RK: 00:03:48 Yes. Yes. Good. The Japanese school was just filled with the children, you know, it varied. It was discipline. So when we had freedom in the western school, we go to Japanese school, we were like a stick man where you just walk in and teacher come by. We bow low, we have to show respect, we'll be going into the classroom, we have to sit and if the teacher call, you have to stand and bow to the teacher then, re before you read the book of what the teacher told to read, you have to bow and chat. I'm going to read so and so then after that's over, I bow again, then I sit down. So it was very disciplined and, so that's how I was raised, they're not come home and I speak Japanese. Because my father could speak English but my mother couldn't speak English too well. So it was all converse. Conversion was in Japanese.
- AT: 00:04:51 And where were your parents from originally?
- RK: 00:04:53 My mother was from Tokyo and my father was from Ofuna, which is in Kamakura.
- AT: 00:05:05 And, so you spoke Japanese at home?

RK: 00:05:09 Yes. My father could read and speak English, so it was kind of easy when I talk with my father. But when my mother is strictly Japanese And,

AT: 00:05:22 Did you have a preference of language?

RK: 00:05:26 For me?

AT: 00:05:27 Did you have a preference in which language you use?

RK: 00:05:30 No, because even with some of my friends, we kind of, the Japanese kind of slips then, you know, and, so, um, oh, it was a very, it's not like now where the kids have everything computer and things. We have to, we didn't even have a telephone, so we have to go to some person's house, knock on the door, and do your so and so. So it was very hard and, but, you were disciplined. So it didn't matter if my folks said do it, then we did it.

AT: 00:06:11 And besides school and Japanese school, were you involved in any other activities or did your family go to church?

RK: 00:06:20 Yes, I went to first Baptist church.

AT: 00:06:27 So is that every Sunday?

RK: 00:06:29 Oh, yes, every Sunday. And then someone, they have a children's program. Then my mother took, took me to the church and, so we could perform in whatever we have to do.

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