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Title: Ryoko Kobayashi Interview
Narrator: Ryoko Kobayashi
Interviewer: Anna Takada
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<Begin Segment 3>

AT: 00:06:48 And then, how old were you when Pearl Harbor was attacked?

RK: 00:06:55 15.

AT: 00:06:56 And can you tell me a little bit about that day, of your recollections of that?

RK: 00:07:02 Oh, yes, I was, it was a Sunday afternoon. And, I was sitting on the front porch trying to take a breather. You know, I was thinking, what should our shoe work for school tomorrow? And if I did my lessons. Okay, so you know what passes through. Then, I saw from the distance, my father's friend was coming in a fast pace and then he came and I bowed, and he is your father at home. I said, yes. He went up the steps and then I heard voices. Then he came running out and we didn't have a phone or those days, no television, computer and new thing to give a fast information. So he was our information, inform, you know, he said, then my father said, get in the house. And I said why? Get In the house now. So I went in the house and he said that, Pearl Harbor was bombed. Gosh, why did I have to come in the house? I said, where is Pear Harbor? So my older brother, he turned on the radio and he said it's in Hawai'i. So I said, oh my gosh, you know, in those days, poli, you know, politics would then go through my mind, you know, it's always what to wear or school kids, what the problems with. In a, so I said, oh my gosh, and then, listen to the radio. My father said, I'm going out to get the paper. So he brought about the paper and there was an abandoned headline through inch star, Jap bombed Pearl Harbor. I said, oh gosh, at least I could read English. And, so, that day was kind of silent. Yeah. We didn't talk too much, but I could look on my parents' face, what's going to happen and then, sure enough, these things start to happen. Sign on the telephone post came out and, um, my mother said that, we have to go to the church, Saint Mary's to sign and register. But my brother was 16 then, so he was able to do a lot of things for

us and have, gather everything up and pack our suitcases. Then she took me to my younger brother and I to Sears and said, uh, um, you, you have to get a pants suit, a boots. And a, I say, why? We don't know where will be going. And we didn't know what sand on need look like. So then, I recall just lately, my friend, we were writing to each other about camp and she sued. Her mother told her we had to dress dignity, dignify, you know, but my mother was opposite. You will know where you're going so you're going to buy the pants suit, we're going to go with your boots. So I said okay. Then they bought suitcases and um, oh, anyway, we came home with it. Yeah, my father said that we'd better start doing, getting rid of things. So we had a little house sale and we sold a auto, you know, utilities, I mean, not on the tools and sofa, furniture. And the people came and, they bought a song and dance. And my father had, my parents had a fruit and vegetable market, so they have to get rid of that. Then, they had a truck. And it was just a whole mess of thing. And then my mother said, we have to start burning things. At that time I got straight, um, is a Japanese search Kojo no maru meaning A plus and the teacher said that you, you did very good on your writing in Japanese. So he read it in front of the high school and then, my mother got it be burned. I said, oh no, please let me keep it, said no, every, anything written, you never know. You know, they can't read what you wrote. So I, so everything I had, it was burned. And, pictures and photographs, she just burned them all, so that we wouldn't be hooked with all the, because you never know. Eyes are looking, you know, so it was a then all damn morning when we started, I was sitting on my suitcase and when my pants suit and boots. There was a broom that my mother put in the corner, and I was looking at the broom, I said, I talked to her, her room. I said, well, you have to go. And I said, thanks for sweeping the house. And then, I got up and my mother said half an hour more, we'll be leaving. I said, okay. So I grabbed my suitcase and I came to the front door. Then I heard a big something that room the broom fell down so I said oh gosh, saying goodbye to me, I guess, but all humor aside. But uh, when we went out, so, it started, it was so quiet, you could hear a pin drop. That's how quiet the morning was. And, I just, I said I want to say goodbye to the neighbor next door, because she did a lot of soaring for us, you know, and there were Black couples. So, I went and knocked on the door. I said, thank you very much. You've been a good neighbor and I really enjoy you, you know, your friendship. And, so we shook hand, then, that was it. She said she didn't know what to say, so she just was silent. But I could tell by her looking in her eyes to say goodbye, you know, and, and, we all carry a suitcase and, radio and whatever we could carry, went down to the Saint Mary's church. In there, it was whole line of a gray hound bus.

And No, each bus at the doorway was a soldier with a fixed banner. So I said, what in the world? What's going on? You know, but, so I, I was close by, I was still close to my mother and then, then to say, okay, everybody's going to load up now. And, so we all went in the bus. No, not a lot of people dress dignify, you know, they had a sushi they were eating. I said, how can they do this? You know, I'm not hungry. I don't want to know. I want to know where I'm going, what's going to happen, I'll lose all my friends and this, they have to maybe, that was their way of showing how maybe they don't want to look or sad or anything. You know. I don't know what the feeling was. But emotion was different, but between them and us, then, we came to, uh, Santa Anita Gateway and then, all of a sudden I felt like, oh gosh, I feel like, uh, not 15 anymore. We were old, you know, like more older. Uh, somehow something came over me and then that we went through the gate and we have to get off the bus, the bus. And I remember we went through, to make our own mattress. They threw that mattress bag at us and I said there was one guy was filling it, so I just, can I have the filled one. So he said, sure! He threw one of them. And then, um, the army and, the whole thing is he was in our neighborhood, his name was Jim Amonon, and we got to know each other. And I said, he was telling me he was one of the guys that filled the mattress. I say, well, how come you didn't fill mine? And that's, we are to cut, you know, we used to talk, sit and talk about incarceration. And he said, well, at least you know, we're free now, so, and uh, but, uh.

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