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Title: Chiyoko Chiyo Omachi Interview
Narrator: Chiyoko Chiyo Omachi
Interviewer: Anna Takada
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<Begin Segment 10>

- AT: 00:53:31 And um, so where did you go from the church in LA, um, then I happened to your family?
- CO: 00:53:40 And then, we were, you know, there were, um, rumors of a. Okay, the Japanese were going to be sent inland, they're going to be put in, uh, inland camps. We didn't know where. Although people knew about Manzanar already. They said there's going to be a place out in the desert and they're going to make us go live out there. Uh, and then my mother, in fact, they started saying, "Well, we better get ready, um, the children ought to have a boots." So my mother takes us out and we'd go out and buy boots.
- I2: 00:54:27 Snow boots?
- CO: 00:54:27 Yeah, a little, really cute little boots for all of us. Michi, small feet and um, and she buys some clothes for us. Get, get ready to go into the desert and we didn't know if that was true. Rumors. Um, but it gave them something to do while we were in Los Angeles. But I went to school there in Los Angeles for about three months, I think. Um big school. Um, huge compared to what we were used to. And, um, and then sure enough, you know, the sign came up and said "All Japanese." I've got one of those messages. Anyway.
- AT: 00:55:24 [Sneeze] Excuse me
- CO: 00:55:24 Um, so we had to uh, carry one bag and go down to the train station and wait. So we waited and waited. And finally. And there were ah soldiers, um, with guns and they loaded us. Um, you know, there was no, uh, ummm, there was no noise. There were, there was no, uh, nothing we just said, "March into the trains". And we did and we waited and they carried us out into the desert. And we weren't too far from Los Angeles cause we

at the border there, you know, the Colorado River was there, Arizona.

- AT: 00:56:32 What was going on through, in your minds at the time, if you recall?
- I3: 00:56:40 Sorry
- AT: 00:56:43 So we're just going to pause one second.
- I2: 00:56:50 Take a little break. Are you okay? Do you want to take a little break?
- CO: 00:56:53 Um, unnecessary, but.
- I2: 00:56:58 Maybe I'll go with him. I'll be back.
- AT: 00:57:13 Um, so I was asking about what you remember, you know, as a 15 year old who was already moved and gotten rid of some of your things, what was going on through in your mind, you know, get going onto the trains and the uncertainty. Do you remember how you felt?
- CO: 00:57:39 Not really. And that's, um, I don't know. I suppose it's suppressed, but, um, I can't recall that we were. Well, it was, um, comforting I think because we were with our family, you know, and, um, my aunts and uncles were always um. And my uncle was very, um, he was a leader. Don't you know, you know, he was, uh, someone that, um, well he's the only, let's see, it's my aunt and my uncle and then, uh, and my aunt who was already married. But my uncle, yes. Was always, um, very knowledgeable, very savvy. In fact, you know, my father, um said, "Well, you don't want it to be evacuated with the rest of us." So he gave him some money and told him to leave. So my uncle did leave.
- AT: 00:59:03 Leaving the military zones?
- CO: 00:59:05 Well, he left uh, I don't think, came with us to Los Angeles, you know. His sister, his sister, married sister. Um, and we were all together and the his mother, but he went off to Pennsylvania and uh, and then I ended up in Pennsylvania with him and my auntie, um the one who went to camp with us. The one that was only five years older than I, we were very close and I lived with her and him in Pennsylvania. I went to high school there. My father, you know, said, well, we don't want you to stay here because, uh, we want you to go to college. It was

AT: 00:59:54 One second, we're just going to let them walk in.

CO: 00:59:56 Yeah.

I3: 01:00:06 Thanks.

I2: 01:00:06 Thank you.

I2: 01:00:06 Any water? Are you getting?

CO: 01:00:13 I had water, thanks.

AT: 01:00:13 And, um, so before we talk about Pennsylvania, um, you got on the train and so which camp?

CO: 01:00:24 Yeah, I left camp my father said, "Go."

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