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Title: Chiyoko Chiyo Omachi Interview
Narrator: Chiyoko Chiyo Omachi
Interviewer: Anna Takada
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<Begin Segment 12>

I2:	<u>01:07:13</u>	How about the picking of cotton? Why did you have to do that?
CO:	<u>01:07:19</u>	What?
I2:	<u>01:07:20</u>	The picking of cotton?
CO:	<u>01:07:22</u>	Oh yeah. Well, they tried to, you know, oh gosh. Um, they had a camouflage. Um, they wanted to start uh a camouflage? Uh, you can't call it a plant because there aren't enough. I suppose the, um, the government tried various ways to, uh, uh, to use the labor of these, uh, prisoners. Uh, and let's see, um, I don't know. Where were we? They drove us, um, high school kids, uh, away from the camp out somewhere. And, um, it was, um, uh, um, a massive, um, uh, cotton, cotton growing, very interesting. Big bulbs of cotton. And we were picking up and then they gave us these huge bags and we were trailing, dragging behind us and picking cotton. And I looked at this thing and I thought, how many years would it take to fill this bag up. This thing was humongous and each person had one of these bags? Well, I suppose, you know, this is what happened to the Black folks. You know, picking cotton. And one at a time. And think, I picked half a day I think is what we did.
AT:	<u>01:09:14</u>	And that with high school students? That were
CO:	<u>01:09:18</u>	Yeah they were, you know
I2:	<u>01:09:19</u>	Summer vacation
CO:	<u>01:09:21</u>	Now can they, well, could they do that? Of course they could do whatever they wanted.
AT:	<u>01:09:27</u>	Were you paid for that?

CO: 01:09:29 Oh, absolutely not. No. Did they give us lunch, I wonder?

I3: 01:09:37 Was that close to the camp?

CO: 01:09:39 Yeah, it was, you know, just outside.

I2: 01:09:43 They're teaching you a life skill.

CO: 01:09:45 Yeah, oh gosh. And then they had this camouflage plant or whatever. Not plant, this. And they had adult women who went out there. And I don't know, were the painting, when I think of camouflage, I think, oh, green and khaki colored paint. Where they, what were they doing?

AT: 01:10:13 I think they were weaving nets.

CO: 01:10:13 Weaving!

AT: 01:10:16 To create those giant camouflage. So that was taking place at Poston as well?

CO: 01:10:24 Yeah. And I don't know how successful these things were, you know, I mean we, we went out for half a day and exhausted but we can, uh, I don't know.

I3: 01:10:39 So you only did that once?

CO: 01:10:41 Yeah, we didn't go out again. We weren't worthy.

AT: 01:10:47 Did your, uh, father, was he paid for his work? On the building?

CO: 01:10:53 Yes. I think in camp, they were paid \$19, \$16 and \$12.

I3: 01:11:02 Per?

CO: 01:11:04 Month, I think. Did they have to give that back to the government for feeding them? I don't know. I don't know how that, you know, cause I never did earn anything.

AT: 01:11:19 And so it was, um, your father who mentioned that you should leave as soon as you can?

CO: 01:11:29 Oh yeah, he kept saying, I should. He kept saying I should leave all the time!

AT: 01:11:35 How did you feel about that?

CO: 01:11:37 Oh I felt that, yeah, I'm going to leave. I'm going to pack my bags and I'm going to leave!

I3: 01:11:44 But what about your siblings?

CO: 01:11:47 Oh, I had no concerns. Mid to none.

I3: 01:11:52 Really?

CO: 01:11:52 Yeah, no. They were kids. You know, I was a big one. I was always the. Did they read the encyclopedia? No.

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