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Oral History Project Collection
Title: Chiyoko Chiyo Omachi Interview
Narrator: Chiyoko Chiyo Omachi
Interviewer: Anna Takada
Location: Chicago, Illinois

Date: March 30, 2018 Densho ID: ddr-chi-1-17-14

<Begin Segment 14>

12:	01:14:48	Yeah. So then when you got to your home, how long did you stay, in Chicago?
CO:	01:14:55	I was here for only a few days I think. And then.
12:	01:15:02	Uncle came to get you?
CO:	01:15:02	What was their name? Teragawa? Um, they were going to, they were going to, um, have me stay with them at in, uh, there in, uh.
12:	01:15:19	Oh, stay here in Chicago?
CO:	01:15:21	And I didn't, I don't think I did. I think Uncle Yas came really right at that point and we, I got on and we drove out East. And it was snowing and October. It was October. It was snowing in Ohio as we drove along.
13:	01:15:44	How was he able to get out though? Uncle Yas?
CO:	01:15:48	Uncle Yatz had a car.
I3:	01:15:49	But how, why was he able to leave?
CO:	01:15:52	He never went in.
12:	01:15:53	He never went in.
CO:	01:15:53	He never went in because my father said don't come, go away.
12:	01:15:58	Stay away.
CO:	01:15:59	Go to Pennsylvania, where we had friends.

13:	01:16:03	So what, did he live on Terminal Island?
CO:	01:16:05	What?
13:	01:16:05	Uncle Yas
CO:	01:16:07	Uncle Yas? What?
13:	01:16:07	Did he live on Terminal Island?
CO:	01:16:09	No, never. He lived in San Pedro, across the way.
13:	01:16:13	So when all of this happened, he, Baiyon and and Auntie Kiki.
13:	01:16:19	They just left?
CO:	01:16:19	Used to live in San Pedro.
13:	01:16:21	But they just left?
CO:	01:16:23	They were there and then Baiyon left with us.
12:	01:16:27	Yeah. But yeah, Kiki and Yas went to Pennsylvania.
CO:	<u>01:16:31</u>	No, Kiki went to camp.
12:	01:16:34	Okay.
AT:	01:16:34	Do you remember your first impressions of Chicago?
CO:	01:16:38	Yeah, I went to a Walgreens or something and it was drinking. There was this guy sat next to me, thought I was French. He said are you French? It was probably, What are you? You know, never saw the likes of you. You must be French. That was the funniest thing I thought. I'll never forget this as long as I live. So funny.
AT:	01:17:06	And so your Uncle Yas Picked you up and drove to Pennsylvania?
CO:	01:17:12	Pennsylvania.
AT:	01:17:12	And so how long were you were in Pennsylvania, and how long were you there?
CO:	01:17:16	Oh, we were, we went to, um, we were in the town of Lancaster. Nice town. Big high school. You have to swim to

graduate from high school. No, not I, so we looked for a small school, went to Eastland Theater. Uh, we found this nice apartment in Byrd and Hand. And uh, Kiki and Yas went through the door of Mrs. Weavers. Knocked on the door and she had a lovely apartment in this big house. Um, uh, the living room and kitchen and then two bedrooms upstairs. And this was a huge house. They only had three kids, but a big house. You know, I can't remember that. They had two sets of stairs and a third one somewhere. Anyway, um, so Uncle Yas and Kiki went to the door and knocked on the door and. And uh, I guess there was an ad in the paper for an apartment and uh, Mrs. Weaver said to her husband, "Well, they're very nice people there. They seem, they speak English, they say they're Japanese, but they're very nice people and her husband said, "Well, if you think they're, okay, yes, you know, rent to them." So they rented this nice place. Uh, we had the first two bedrooms and the whole front staircase and then this kitchen, this house was humongous. Have ever seen their place? You have.

4th Interviewer: 01:19:21 Did he say what he did?

I2: <u>01:19:22</u> Flowers a nursery.

CO: <u>01:19:25</u> Yeah. Huge house.

12: <u>01:19:26</u> A lot of land.

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