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Title: Chiyoko Chiyo Omachi Interview
Narrator: Chiyoko Chiyo Omachi
Interviewer: Anna Takada
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<Begin Segment 19>

- AT: 01:34:55 We can be wrapping up soon, but just a few questions before we finish up. Um, one thing I wanted to ask is, um, so I know you mentioned you met your husband in Chicago.
- CO: 01:35:12 Yes.
- AT: 01:35:12 And um.
- CO: 01:35:14 In church, yeah.
- AT: 01:35:17 Which, which church was that? Where were you going at the time?
- CO: 01:35:21 That's a Methodist Church. It's from friend, one of my early, the childhood friend who wanted to start a choir at that church. And I was attending the Baptist Church on the South Side, um, at the University of Chicago. Uh, Jitsuo Murikawa uh, who was at the, the church down there. Uh, he was an excellent speaker and he came to Chicago. And they had already made a job for him. So, uh, and we, we learned that he was down at the University of Chicago, so some of us went down there. Uh, it was, uh, you know, it was at the Rockefeller Chapel. Fantastic, you know.
- AT: 01:36:24 And, um, where was the Methodist Church?
- CO: 01:36:28 This was a small group of Japanese Americans who started it, uh, with a minister. I've forgotten who the first minister was. Um, and they had a little choir and, uh, uh, a small congregation and it got larger.
- I3: 01:36:50 Inaudible.
- CO: 01:36:50 Yeah.

AT: 01:36:52 And so what inspired you to stay in Chicago?

CO: 01:36:58 Uh, well, my folks were here and then, um, got married. Uh, my husband was teaching at Loyola, the Medical School, and then he was teaching at the University of Illinois, the Medical School. Uh, he had a chance to go elsewhere, but I guess we never thought of moving. Well, we liked Wilmette. We liked the school system.

AT: 01:37:29 So at what point did you move out of the city to Wilmette?

CO: 01:37:36 Um, Teresa was just a toddler as soon.

I2: 01:37:40 As soon as my brother was born. You know wanted, they wanted us to go to New Trier and wanted so badly.

CO: 01:37:47 Go to a good high school.

I2: 01:37:51 And there were not very many Asians in Wilmette.

CO: 01:37:54 No, no, no one at all.

I2: 01:38:01 Well, the Yakis.

CO: 01:38:01 Well, yeah, about the same time.

I3: 01:38:06 So you're moved to Wilmette in 1956 or 57.

CO: 01:38:11 Yeah. But there were those um, fine people who went around the block.

I2: 01:38:25 And warned

CO: 01:38:28 Warned them that we were coming. And that we were, we were good, uh, good Americans.

I3: 01:38:33 Who did that?

CO: 01:38:33 Never fear.

I3: 01:38:33 Who did that?

CO: 01:38:36 The Cleveland's,

I3: 01:38:36 They told people not to worry?

I2: 01:38:38 Yeah because this is a long time. This was before any civil rights thing.

New Speaker: 01:38:43 And then our house on Lake Avenue, the people who owned that house wanted to sell it to a Black family. No Black families came and so they had to take us and they said, I guess you'll have to do. Yeah.

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