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Title: Chiyoko Chiyo Omachi Interview
Narrator: Chiyoko Chiyo Omachi
Interviewer: Anna Takada
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- AT: 01:39:01 Well, we can not be wrapping up, but before we do, is there anything else you guys want to ask or.
- I3: 01:39:11 I wanted to ask about more, just one question about, um, Pennsylvania. Like those people, it sounded like you said they didn't, they weren't super familiar with what was going on in California.
- CO: 01:39:24 No, yeah.
- I3: 01:39:24 And they also weren't very familiar with seeing Japanese people or Japanese American people.
- CO: 01:39:28 Never.
- I3: 01:39:28 But so, they, were they not discriminatory or like
- CO: 01:39:35 Well, they were one Christians, a special brand of Christians, you know. They were Mennonites. Uh, they wore, you know, the long clothing, that was Patricia's mother,
- I3: 01:39:51 All of the people in that area?
- CO: 01:39:53 Patricia's family was interesting. They were billionaires. They were the Reese Padlock Company. And I got a job with them one summer after I graduated from high school before I went to college. And, um, Mrs. Reese of Reese Padlocks was Patricia's mother. Patricia mother was, um, uh, a, a rich American until she became, she became a reformed Mennonite and started wearing the clothes that they wore in Pennsylvania, you know. Um, and they wear a bonnet. They call it, plain people they call them.

I3: 01:40:46 Uh, so those people are really respectful and not like racist towards you?

CO: 01:40:53 No, not at all. And of course, because she's a Christian, but because first she was this rich, um, rich American, uh, well she went to college but almost barely. Um, she met her husband there. Lovely people. But um, yeah, they were, they were not, um, Pennsylvania Dutch, they were not Pennsylvania farm people. Yeah. So when we appeared at their doorstep, um, I think she was interested. He was curious.

I2: 01:41:38 She said you were dark though.

CO: 01:41:41 What did she say?

I2: 01:41:41 She said you looked dark.

CO: 01:41:41 Yes, that's right.

I2: 01:41:45 But nice.

CO: 01:41:45 And they speak English. You know, Uncle Yas was very uh, he was formidable.

AT: 01:41:58 Well, and before we wrap up, is there anything else that you would like to add or any final thoughts?

CO: 01:42:11 Well, I'm glad you're doing this. I think it's uh, um, yeah, it wouldn't be of interest. Um, you know, for those who come after us. And, um, why we came to these parts in the first place, because this was not a port of entry, you know. Whereas the Japanese and Chinese set foot on the West Coast many, many years ago, hundreds of years ago, it would seem now. Yeah. So every time we do go to a new place, um, we're, you know, we bought a place in Michigan last year and, uh, we find it very interesting and the people are very welcoming, uh, and full of curiosity. And I spoke to a group last year and now they want me to speak in the next town, this June. Because the country is made of so many, so many interesting, diverse peoples. I think it behooves to speak up, you know, and educate folk. Yeah.

AT: 01:44:00 And if you could leave some kind of, um, message or, or legacy with your children, your grandchildren, what's something that you would like them to know or?

CO: 01:44:17 Hmm. Well, they seem to know more, uh, more than I do about what's going on in the world, um, before and after. But, uh,

Christopher heard me speak when he was a little boy, uh, second grade or third grade, I think.

I2: 01:44:53 Well, you're still doing it. I mean you know, the children at Evanston High School were very um interested in hearing your story.

CO: 01:45:04 Yeah, were still interested. Well, of course our textbooks had a, the good chapters on, uh, on the evacuation and, and what do the children think about that? Um, many good questions. You know, the end of the chapter.

AT: 01:45:34 Well, thank you so much for taking the time to speak with me and us, and

CO: 01:45:40 You're welcome.

AT: 01:45:41 Thank you.

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