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Title: Chiyoko Chiyo Omachi Interview
Narrator: Chiyoko Chiyo Omachi
Interviewer: Anna Takada
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<Begin Segment 3>

AT: 00:08:21 Just to go back a little bit to talk more about your family. Can you tell me more about, about your grandparents and how and when they ended up in California as well? And was this your, your father's parents?

CO: 00:08:38 No, this would be, well, they were strangers, but my father married his partner's daughter.

AT: 00:08:47 Right. Okay.

CO: 00:08:51 And so he, he knew, you know, this, this man and his family before he, he got married to one of the daughters. And, in fact, the daughter was in Japan, my mother to be, and they called her to the United States. And, she had been left in Japan and lived there while the mother and father came to the United States and start a family here. So I had an aunt, well, I have two aunts and one uncle who were American citizens. And then my mother came into the picture, got married to his partner, you know,

AT: 00:09:41 And your father's parents, were they still in Japan?

CO: 00:09:48 My father's family. We never did meet my, my father's family. But, all of my, my maternal grandparents, you know, they were here in this country and people would say, some of my Nisei friends would say Very unusual for you to have a grandparent here, a grandmother. And, so I did until I was still in college I think when she was still alive.

I2: 00:10:24 Do you know what caused Biyan and her husband-- this would be my great grandmother-- what caused them to come from Japan, if you know?

CO:	<u>00:10:37</u>	Well, I think, the grandfather, I think he wanted to come to America. They came specifically to Terminal Island because that's where the Japanese fisherman were and they wanted to come and build ships there.
3rd Interviewer:	<u>00:10:56</u>	So they came unrelated to, to your father's side?
CO:	<u>00:11:01</u>	Yeah. My father met the grandparents then in America.
I3:	<u>00:11:08</u>	Yeah.
CO:	<u>00:11:09</u>	You know, they were partners first, shipbuilders together. And then as I say, he said, "Well, I've got a daughter in Japan.
I3:	<u>00:11:21</u>	OK
CO:	<u>00:11:21</u>	And so my mother came over when she was about 16.
I2:	<u>00:11:27</u>	The great grandmother [overlapping dialogue]
CO:	<u>00:11:28</u>	[overlapping dialogue] She was young
I2:	<u>00:11:29</u>	The great grandfather must have had some of-- his family must've had some funds right. For him to come over to the US.
CO:	<u>00:11:38</u>	Well, I don't know that the, the Japanese who came to this country, that came as immigrants, I think, you know, they, they must've borrowed or whatever they had to do or gathered all the moneys from relatives and they would come and they lived, you know, humbly.
I2:	<u>00:12:03</u>	Right.
CO:	<u>00:12:04</u>	They didn't have to live as we would expect to, to live in this country. [Overlapping dialogue] I saw there were a lot of fishermen on the Terminal Island and they would-- I think what happened was there would be, a man or a group-- perhaps a cooperative that would own a boat and they would have a captain, like Kashi's father was a captain. Very smart, advanced, knew-- what's the word?-- how to manage a ship. These were large ships. And my father, when he was building the ships, it was very complicated, you know. He used to talk to me about building because, I was, you, I was the-- I had two brothers who were about three or four years older than I, but one was a stillborn child and died, and the other one was a toddler and he passed away. And so my father used to treat me like a, a boy, and I used to go out with them and help him caulk ships. They

know how to do that. And he would take me out to the workplace, and they would be doing all manner of stuff to the, these ships. And I would go around-- I remember being very young and asking Papa, "How do you do this and what are-- what is this for?" And he would take me to lunch with him and we would have clam chowder [interviewers chuckle] at the restaurant. And I felt very fortunate because I had a younger brother. I, I have a young brother and a sister, but I was the one that learned to make kites. And I used to make ships and, you know, I was-- I was the little boy and, and then the War came and my brother was much younger. And so--

AT: 00:14:44 When were your younger siblings born?

CO: 00:14:47 Well, let's see. I was born in '26. My brother was born in '29, I think, and then my sister in '30.

AT: 00:15:05 So just they are a few years younger.

CO: 00:15:07 Yeah.

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