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Title: Chiyoko Chiyo Omachi Interview
Narrator: Chiyoko Chiyo Omachi
Interviewer: Anna Takada
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<Begin Segment 9>

- AT: 00:47:28 Um, so you mentioned, um, you know, immediately after Pearl Harbor there was kind of this change of, you know, people were getting picked up and there was now, you know, uh, patrol on the islands. Um, how, so how soon after Pearl Harbor did the, did you hear about the evacuation and have 48 hours?
- CO: 00:47:55 Then we went, it was around February, I think we went to Los Angeles by way of uh the Baptist, the Great Baptist Church, whoever it is. Umm
- AT: 00:48:12 What's the name of the church? Do you remember?
- CO: 00:48:16 Well it's the Baptist, the head of the, was it called the, I don't know. It's a Northern Baptist. I, I have a book actually about those times. And, um, my friend Kanji wrote a chapter in there. I was going to bring that, and I should have brought that. I could show that to you. Um.
- AT: 00:48:47 And so do I have it right, that you, um, your family, the Baptist Church was offering, um, housing for families before the actual evacuation?
- CO: 00:49:02 Yeah and so we went to Los Angeles. I even have time to start going to the high school there. And I went to high school, uh, in Los Angeles, that city proper for, I don't know, three or four months.
- AT: 00:49:22 And what exactly was the, um, uh, the purpose of leaving Terminal Island and
- CO: 00:49:33 Well, just because I think there were so many of us there, Japanese there, they wanted to get all the fishermen off that island, you know.

AT: 00:49:44 So was that a, was that a government order to evacuate the island?

CO: 00:49:47 Yeah, I think so. Yeah.

AT: 00:49:50 Okay. Um and can you tell me a little bit more about what it was like at, the living at the church?

CO: 00:50:01 Oh. And then we went to Los Angeles, and it was, it was, um, ummm, it was very pleasant actually. It was, uh, enclosed, you know, they had, um, it was an enclosed area. They must have had, ummm various churches I think in California. Used to have summer kind of rallies or summer programs where they used to, um, where the young people would, would gather together, uh, for maybe a month or whatever, uh, in these very pleasant places by the beach. Um, and they were from, you know, inland communities. I know my friend, uh, Ruth used to come down from her folks were farming, uh, living in a farming community. And they used come down to Terminal Island in the summer. And, uh, you know, we'd go to the beach and it would be very pleasant. And, uh, when the war started, let's see, they were, well, we were all taken to, to different places. But before then, I think the numbers of people chose to, you know, move if they could, to places, uh, near their friends or to a community they were, well, we don't know too many of these folks. But I know my, my aunt and, um, uncle and grandmother lived on, you know, the, in San Pedro, which was across from Terminal Island. And when it was time for us to go to Los Angeles, uh, and that the church took us, they decided they would come with us instead of being out there by themselves as we were very close anyway, you know, my mother and her mother. Um, and so they came with us and we were in Los Angeles together. And that was very, that was very helpful because, um, uh, you know, I, I may have been the, the oldest child in the family, but still very young. And whereas my Auntie Kiki was five years older than I, and I always considered her, my big sister. And I used to tag along with her whenever she goes someplace interesting, I would go with her. Um, so was with us. And that was, you know, very comforting I think.

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