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Title: Constance Yamashiro Interview  
Narrator: Constance Yamashiro  
Interviewer: Anna Takada  
Location: Chicago, Illinois  
Date: August 10, 2018  
Densho ID: ddr-chi-1-18-1

**<Begin Segment 1>**

Anna Takada: 00:00:06 This is an interview with Connie Yamashiro as part of the Japanese American Service Committee and Chicago Japanese American historical society oral history project. The interview is being conducted on August 10th, 2018 at 10:13 AM at the Japanese American Service Committee in Chicago. Connie Yamashiro is being interviewed by Anna Takada of the Japanese American Service Committee. So to start, can you please just state your full name?

Constance Y: 00:00:39 My full name is Constance Chiyoko Yamashiro.

AT: 00:00:43 Okay. And then can you tell me a little bit about where and when you were born?

CY: 00:00:48 I was born in Los Angeles, 1938.

AT: 00:00:56 When is your birthday?

CY: 00:00:57 May 6.

AT: 00:01:00 Okay. And, can you tell me a little bit about your parents, maybe, what their names were, where they were from.

CY: 00:01:11 Okay. My parents actually were Nisei, I'm Sansei, I'm an older Sansei. My father, well, I don't know where actually he came from, but he didn't know being Japanese. He never talked about, his background as such, my mother, was I think from Hiroshima ken. But I'm not too sure. And they lived in California sort of scraping by, you know. Yeah. They had a, they only had one child and that was me.

AT: 00:01:52 Okay. And, do you know anything about how, their parents came to the U.S. or?

CY: 00:02:05 Wow, you know, they didn't relate a lot about that. I don't think. Okay, well they have stories. My mother's parents, her father, had caught, had come first of course, and had written a letter back to Japan and requesting his girlfriend to come and join him in the United States. However, the family didn't allow that girlfriend or his love to come and they sent instead her sister, from what I understand, according to the, you know, family law was that the sister was more homely. So they figured that she would have a harder time finding a husband and they kept the pretty one back in Japan thinking that they would have no problem getting her married. So the more homely sister who was my grandmother came, instead. And, I remember, she, she had a hard time, a life in America was not what she, you know, as, you know, I imagine that it would be, my father's background was such that, his mother was, a little bit more bitter about everything in life. And, she complained a lot about being in America, but at the same time, I think her family wanted her out of the, out of the country. So there was all kinds of turmoil going on, you know.

AT: 00:03:54 Do you have any sense of idea about what they were doing for a living?

CY: 00:03:59 Oh yeah. My grandfather was a, of a, what they call a chalk farmer. When you first came and he had a place in Fresno, California and worked over there. My, my grandmother who was a widow, by the way, on my father's side, lived with us because my father was the oldest child and he took care of his mother, you know, the type of thing. And do you want to know what he did for a living? He, he took the jobs wherever he could at a fishing on the fishing boats. He even worked as an extra on the MGM lots, you know, wherever he could. He tried to get a job.

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