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Title: Constance Yamashiro Interview
Narrator: Constance Yamashiro
Interviewer: Anna Takada
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- AT: 00:59:59 Let's see. So this is, this is great because, you know, you were, like I mentioned where we're interested in this period of resettlement and you're kind of right at that age where you're, you know, going through, these clubs and sports programs and, and things like that. I'm wondering if you can tell me a little bit about, I mean, I, so the kind of establishment or organized organization of a community isn't something that you might necessarily realize is happening at the time.
- CY: 01:00:49 That's right!
- AT: 01:00:50 But I'm wondering in retrospect if you'd be able to tell me about, kind of some of the, the institutions or organizations or people that you remember kind of making that happen in Chicago. So whether it's folks that, all of it, I mean, granted you were of a certain age, so you're going through a particular experience of, of this development of community development. But what are some other, groups, or places maybe that was a part of this kind of founding of a community here?
- CY: 01:01:43 Are you talking about organizations like.
- AT: 01:01:46 Or churches or, anything?
- CY: 01:01:48 Well, I remember I didn't attend the church, but I remember the Buddhist church was a very strong influence. A man called Reverend Kubose was the reverend. And this was on the South Side of Chicago. And, that was quite a meeting place for a lot of teenagers, older teenagers. Got to meet them, future boyfriends, girlfriends, etc. That was good, organization as such. I think a lot, another thing that was good is that there were some big businesses such as, well, I, I was very fortunate. I always got a job. As I got older, I was working and I worked over at a place called Del farms as a, as a grocery checker. And, I got

that job through Mr. Sunohara. I worked for him. Years later I worked for Henry Ushijima, who was a filmmaker for documentaries for Mayor Daley and I worked for him as a girl Friday. I always seem to be working with Japanese people. I worked for a man named Omar Kaihatsu, who was, I think he died now, but I worked for him as a secretary for awhile. So I was very fortunate. I had all these, you know, Japanese people helping me out.

AT: 01:03:33 And was this post high school or in high school?

CY: 01:03:37 Well, this is post of course. Yeah. During high school, I had, I worked at that Del Farms as a teenage cashier, you know.

AT: 01:03:51 So maybe as a weekends or after school kind of job?

CY: 01:03:55 It was after school. I would go there after school and on weekends. Yeah. And I was a. I was very happy. I liked the job. It was fun because I got to meet a lot of people.

AT: 01:04:08 And where was that located?

CY: 01:04:09 The first, the one I worked at was on North Avenue and Armitage. It was called Del Farms. Okay.

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