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Title: Constance Yamashiro Interview
Narrator: Constance Yamashiro
Interviewer: Anna Takada
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<Begin Segment 14>

AT: 01:04:19 And what year did you graduate high school?

CY: 01:04:21 I graduated in 1955.

AT: 01:04:26 Okay. And, can you tell me a little bit about what you did after high school? You mentioned a few of the jobs, but.

CY: 01:04:39 Huh, the problem was, right after I graduated I had this boyfriend, the Yamashiro of home. Okay. He wanted to get married. So foolishly I got married when, several months after I graduated, which was much too young and I was still working part time here and there. But that was. That was what I did. I got married and I'm with it all the problems of being a housewife, which.

AT: 01:05:21 Did you two move in together or move?

CY: 01:05:25 Yeah, I yeah, he actually, he moved in with me into my, into my house where I lived with my mother and father and grandmother.

AT: 01:05:33 And was, where was that at that time?

CY: 01:05:36 That was on the West Side of Chicago. Yeah.

AT: 01:05:43 Would you remember the streets of the address of that apartment or was it a house?

CY: 01:05:49 It was a house. It was a, it was a, it was on a street called Bloomingdale, near, was now I think called Bucktown area. But at that time it was pretty bad.

AT: 01:06:07 And, did you move anywhere after that path?

CY: 01:06:13 Yes, all over the city. So my husband and I then moved to a place honoree Racine my girlfriend's father on the building near a Wrigley Field, it was Racine and Addison and, moved over there for a little while. And then from there we moved to an apartment on Orchard Street near Diversity and Orchard, which, you know, is so I know all these neighborhoods. And, then, then, we moved up north to the fringe of uptown area, is a Clark and Foster area. And shortly after that my kids were growing up, I had two children. Actually I had three. One died. So I had, with two children and, I eventually got a divorce. Okay. So we lived up on Clark and Foster then. Yeah. I sold the place and moved to Ravenswood Manner, which I told you about that one. And I'd been there for over 40 years. Okay. This is all sort of personal stuff, you know.

AT: 01:07:48 And

CY: 01:07:49 I, and you're editing it, I hope. You know.

AT: 01:07:52 Yes. no, and to be clear, it's just, one of the reasons we're curious about where people stayed and lived is.

CY: 01:08:03 You have to remember too, Chicago has changed a lot.

AT: 01:08:05 Sure.

CY: 01:08:06 Chicago's one of those cities that, when you say now, I lived on Orchard Street near Diversey, oh, you know, such a great neighborhood. At that time it was all tenements, you know, it was really, really a bad neighborhood. Everything changes in Chicago. It depends on, you know, you could live across from Cabrini Green. My son had a place a business establishment across from Cabrini Green and then the city went and changed it all around and now became all yuppie area. And Yeah. So the taxes went up and, everything is, changed. It's interesting this city is a van or location, location, location.

AT: 01:08:51 Right, right. And, so as you mentioned before and kind of what's you know, pretty generally understood by, I would say, Japanese American community members here in Chicago is, in when people were first coming from camp, there were a lot of challenges in finding housing. There's a lot of housing discrimination and, you know, some issues with some of the neighborhoods where people were actually able to find housing. And you mentioned that, you know, some of these areas where you'd stayed. Of course, it's not the same that it was You know, even 10 years ago for some of these spots, were there, did you

have any, Were there any challenges in the, in some of these past homes or apartments or,

CY: 01:09:52 Well, it's interesting that you say that, but it has nothing to do with, I think it being Japanese American, I had a hard time. I own the, you know, I sold the place on Clark and Foster and I wanted to get a mortgage for my place on the Ravenswood. And I had a hard time because I was a single woman and a lot of at that time a single woman was very, very risky for banks to give them a loan to and no husband. I said I could pay it by myself. I had a job at a hospital and they said, well, you know, it's, you know, you, you're not married. And so I went jumping from place to place and I finally found, Tom and at that time, Tom, and so they would give me a mortgage, but that was due to other people had that problem too, being, being a woman without a husband created all kinds of, you know, cultural issues, which is not the same as now of course, you know.

AT: 01:11:00 Sure. And it's not the same as 1945.

CY: 01:11:06 Oh yeah. Well 1945. Yeah. That was a nightmare year. Yeah.

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