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Oral History Project Collection Title: Constance Yamashiro Interview Narrator: Constance Yamashiro

Interviewer: Anna Takada Location: Chicago, Illinois Date: August 10, 2018 Densho ID: ddr-chi-1-18-4

## <Begin Segment 4>

AT: <u>00:13:58</u> And do you know how long your family stayed in camp in

Manzanar?

CY: <u>00:14:02</u> Well, we stayed all the way through. My, when I say my family

and my mother and father were in that, sugar beet farm thing, but I was close to my aunt and my uncle and my aunt was terribly frightened of leaving the camp. She had heard the horror stories about, you know, people throwing rocks at the journeys and there was a lot of uprisings and we knew we couldn't go back to California. That's what I had understood that California did not want us back there. Thus, we, we were there until '44. It was, it seemed like a long time. I was there, until '44,

some people left early.

AT: 00:14:56 So.

CY: <u>00:14:59</u> In 1944 where did your family go? Right here in Chicago. Well,

was my mother, my grandmother and I, my mother and father had come out earlier because they were working, I think if you had a work permit, you are allowed to come out and, get a job. And they came out and we all sort of lived on the South Side. A lot of people among the Japanese people lived on the South Side of Chicago because they allowed us to rent apartments. So there was a lot of prejudice, but, they all, they were able to get apartments at that time. Okay. And we lived in a boarding house situation, you know, so my grandmother, I joined my parents and, it was, it was really that I remember very distinctly,

you know.

AT: 00:16:04 Rejoining your, your parents?

CY: <u>00:16:08</u> Yeah. Huh. I asked who is that woman? They said that your

mother, I said, whoa. I had no idea. I mean, you know, among children, just a couple of years absence, sometimes you, you

		know, you forget. And it was, I, I don't know exactly how long it was, but I was very close to my grandmother at that time.
AT:	00:16:32	And, just so we have it down, can you give me the names of your, your parents and your grandmother?
CY:	00:16:38	My name and the names of my mother and father, you mean? Okay, my father's name was Stewart. S. T. E. W. A. R. T. And my mother's name was Dorothy. Okay. And my grandmother was, her name was Ekuto I think with E. K. U. T. O.
AT:	00:17:05	Do you, do you
CY:	<u>00:17:05</u>	She would be at Uchiyama now. There was, See my, when I gave you my name, of course Yamashiro that's, my married when I was married, yeah, married name.
AT:	00:17:14	But Uchiyama is?
CY:	00:17:17	But Uchiyama is my maiden name.

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