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Title: Constance Yamashiro Interview
Narrator: Constance Yamashiro
Interviewer: Anna Takada
Location: Chicago, Illinois
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- AT: 00:25:28 So getting into this, this experience of coming to Chicago, do you have memories of actually traveling to Chicago?
- CY: 00:25:38 Yes, yes, yes, yes.
- AT: 00:25:39 And so did you take a train or?
- CY: 00:25:41 Yeah, we did take a train. I remember coming with my grandmother and my uncle and we were on this train and, I do remember we had oranges in a bag and we ate those. And I just was so fascinated by the city. I was so fascinated. I always remember that, I don't know when I took the L ride or the, you know, but I thought, oh my gosh, you know, I was like, we're on top of the world. And it was just fantastic because in camp you always saw him, you know, in close. You always, every day I would walk along the fence and the soldiers, occasion would give me a piece of chocolate. So I love to be able to get a piece of chocolate because they were very, you know, worrying. I don't know what they were worried about. I think that, you know, we're the song might jump a fence or something, but, um, you're always feeling like you're in closed. Whereas when you come to a place where suddenly there was no fences, it's a very big experience. It's a, even for, at that time I was seven or eight. It's a very interesting experience, you know, freedom.
- AT: 00:27:01 As far as the, the city itself, do you remember some of your first impressions?
- CY: 00:27:09 I was very, well, we went to the South Side of Chicago and, I remember, of course I was overwhelmed by everything and, but one of the problems was I was on 43rd street and the, there was a problem with the stock yards. You know, in the old days, Chicago had stock yards. And I remember once a while I get the whiff of the smell and the stock yards and we'd say, oh my gosh,

what's that? I always remember that. But we also had the lake and we would, all the kids would get together and we'd all walk together and go and jump off the rocks. Nowadays, this would be considered very dangerous, but we all take our towels and then go jump off the rocks off 43rd and on Lake Michigan. And this is the days before the of the show. I was even built, you know, it was a long time ago and, we really had a good time. I mean.

- AT: 00:28:10 Do you remember your address? The exact address?
- CY: 00:28:13 Well I remember many, many places we lived in, but the last address was at 935 East 43rd street. It was above a tamper and yeah.
- AT: 00:28:25 You said that was the last?
- CY: 00:28:27 South Side place. Yeah. Then we moved out of the South Side and we went to the West Side of Chicago.
- AT: 00:28:36 Just to have a sense, a better sense of where your family stayed in Chicago. Can you walk me through maybe like.
- CY: 00:28:50 Like where we lived?
- AT: 00:28:51 Yeah, kind of chronologically if possible.
- CY: 00:28:52 It was very hard to explain this because I came, when I came to Chicago, of course we're in a boarding house on Drexel Boulevard. Then we went to this sort of like tenement building. I always remember this apartment because it was on the top floor of a big apartment building and it had one bathroom that service the whole floor type of thing. And we went there on Drexel, then we moved a few blocks and we moved down to a 43rd street and I said 935 East 43rd. But I remember right after that we moved again for a short period to, 43rd in Berkeley. Yeah. Which was a few blocks more east. So we did jump around a lot, you know, it was a.

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