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Title: Constance Yamashiro Interview  
Narrator: Constance Yamashiro  
Interviewer: Anna Takada  
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**<Begin Segment 7>**

- AT: 00:29:56 And by this time you mentioned that you were enrolled in a private school? Was that.
- CY: 00:30:01 But that was only at the very beginning when I started, when I came out to Chicago because my parents didn't know what to do. They want to work all day. And my grandmother found the job at a factory and they didn't know where to put me. And so no one to watch me. They put me into this St. George Private School on Drexel, and, so I was there until the fifth grade. And then she, my mother says they just couldn't afford it anymore, but it was really nice, you know? Yeah. I was very grateful. It was a very nice school. They gave me piano lessons and you know, sometimes, I was the only of two or three kids in a class, you know, so I, it was very, very progressive. It was good.
- AT: 00:30:52 So very, very small class sizes?
- CY: 00:30:56 Yeah, it was very small class sizes. Just the first year was difficult because I was, when I was first put into, I guess first grade they said I was too old to be in Kindergarten. They up knee up to was a secondary or something and I couldn't speak English. Cause I was. And I remember being very, very upset because I asked to go to the washroom, but I kept saying, you know, very slangy term of I have to go Benjo you know, and then the teacher said, just ignored me. And finally I just had an accident and she got furious with me and, I was very embarrassed and I always remembered that, she was a very, very angry teacher. She was angry that she had to deal with me. I think there was a lot, the war was still going on and, and the yard, you know, the recess yard kids would come up and say that, you know, their father was in the Pacific War and, this and that and this and that. So did, he had some problems, but it's all the guy just being kids, you know.

AT: 00:32:18 So even at a very young age, you were kind of experiencing this discrimination directly?

CY: 00:32:27 What I would do is, because I was called a day boarder, it was a school that really was for people who boarded over there. I got to go home everyday. Someone picked me up around six O'clock. There's, after working and I told my mother I wanted to bring a bag of candy the next stage of school. And she said, oh, okay. So she gave me a bag of candy and I would pass it out. I said, if you don't hit me, if you play with me, I'll give you some of my candy. And it worked, you know, and being kids, no one really is into, you know, any, theoretical problems with the war or anything. They just wanted to have fun. So I would bring my stash of candy and give it away. So it's funny, I always remember that.

AT: 00:33:16 Smart kid!

CY: 00:33:16 I mean, you know, it's a clever way of saying, okay, you get to play with me, but I, you know, you play with me, you can't go around, you know, this and that, you can't beat me up or anything, you know. Mmm. Mmm.

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