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Title: Tonko Doi Interview
Narrator: Tonko Doi
Interviewer: Anna Takada
Location: Chicago, Illinois
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<Begin Segment 1>

Anna Takada: 00:00:00 This is an interview with Tonko Doi as part of the Japanese American Service Committee and Chicago Japanese American historical society oral history project. The interview is being conducted on September 3rd, 2019 at the Japanese American Service Committee in Chicago. Tonko Doi is being interviewed by Anna Takada of the Japanese American Service Committee. Um, so to start, can you just state your full name?

Tonko Doi: 00:00:26 My legal name is Toshiko Doi.

TD: 00:00:30 And uh, where and when were you born?

TD: 00:00:33 I was born on December 6th, 1941 in Los Angeles in the Boyle Heights area, which is East LA.

TD: 00:00:43 Okay. Um, and so, like I mentioned to start, um, it'd be great if we could learn a little bit more about your parents' background. So, um, maybe to start, can you just tell me, um, who your parents were, their names and maybe how they ended up in Boyle Heights?

TD: 00:01:02 Okay. Uh, my father's name is Shiro Marauka and um, he was born in 1904, and he was born in Shizuoka, Japan. My mother, her name is Tomoe. Her maiden name was Nakamoto and she was born in Selma, California. She is considered a Kibei Nisei.

TD: 00:01:29 And um, do you have information about how your father, how and why your father, um, came to the states?

TD: 00:01:37 Yes. Um, my father was born in 1904, so when he was 14 years old, that would be 1918. He came with his parents and his nine siblings, there were 10 in his family. His parents were Christian missionaries and they were sent from Japan, like reverse missionaries. You know, usually missionaries come from the

United States, but in this case, the, um, Christian, uh, people, uh, hierarchy in Japan sent him to try to convert the, uh, Buddhist farmers and Buddhist people who had immigrated to, uh, California. So he and his family settled in Sacramento, California. And there was a church established there, but they needed a Japanese speaking minister. So that's where they lived.

TD: 00:02:38 Do you, would you happen to know what the name of the church is?

TD: 00:02:41 it was called um, Go- Meyhew Christian Church, I believe it's a baptist church. It's M-A-Y-H-E-W, Mayhew.

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