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Title: Tonko Doi Interview  
Narrator: Tonko Doi  
Interviewer: Anna Takada  
Location: Chicago, Illinois  
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<Begin Segment 15>

- AT: 01:04:25 Um, and the next thing I wanted to talk to you about your family's business. Um, so they opened a cleaners. Yes Um, on, on Irving Park. How, how long did that, they have that business and what was the business like?
- TD: 01:04:43 Um, as I said, my mother, uh, it's an ideal business for a couple and that's why you see Korean people entered the business after the Japanese people left the business, uh, a husband and wife could work together. Um, the children came to work there, you know, while mom went upstairs, to cook we would take over, um, cause it was only like half a mile from school. Um, we lived upstairs, there was an apartment that became available. So we moved upstairs from 1900 and I remember some guy saying, oh yeah, I remember going to your house on Irving Park. But um, yeah.
- AT: 01:05:28 Who's the clientele of the business?
- TD: 01:05:30 I'm sorry?
- TD: 01:05:30 Who was the clientele?
- TD: 01:05:31 White. From the neighborhood. Ah, this is what my father did. He was so smart in that store, in that shop, there was, when you looked in the window, there was like a wooden covering over the radiator. My father built a fish pond. It would be like from here to here, from there to here. And He created a fish pond with coy and he, he made um, you know, like a Japanese garden with Moss. People were just fascinated by it. He was very creative and, uh, my father and mother would sell Botan Candy and kids who became, who became adults, they would say to me, if I saw them in later years, I remember buying that candy where the paper would melt in your mouth. They didn't know, you know, but they remembered that. So it was an ideal

business for my parents. And, uh, even though the clientele was white, we weren't friends with them, but we became friends with other people. JA people, uh, through, uh, my parents would go to church, but, um, you know, um, my auntie's friends, people from camp that they knew, uh, my father and mother befriended a lot of people who came to the United States from Japan in the 60s and 70s, uh, with business and teachers. And they would come to our house and my mother would prepare a Japanese meal for them. And, uh, oh.

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