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Title: Tonko Doi Interview
Narrator: Tonko Doi
Interviewer: Anna Takada
Location: Chicago, Illinois
Date: September 3, 2019
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- AT: 00:29:52 And so, um, do you know how long, um, your family was in Rohwer?
- TD: 00:30:02 Yes, from 1942 to 1944. My mother was pregnant with my brother when we left Arkansas by train. Um, and so that was Tom.
- TD: 00:30:18 Tom and my sister Laura, who was born in 1946. So they don't like it, and my sister doesn't like it when I tell her that she was born in Catherine Booth Memorial Hospital for unwed mothers.
- AT: 00:30:36 And that was in Chicago?
- TD: 00:30:38 No, in Cincinnati.
- AT: 00:30:39 Oh, in Cincinnati. Okay. So, um.
- TD: 00:30:42 Salvation Army and the Quakers helped the, uh, internees who, uh, left camp, we lived in a hostel in Cincinnati that was run by the uh, Quakers.
- AT: 00:30:56 And do you have information about, um, why your family ended up in Cincinnati?
- TD: 00:31:01 Yes. My father's, um, younger sister Chiyo, married, um, a man, Dr. Joseph Tamura, and he was a professor at the University of Cincinnati and living in Ohio. They were not required to evacuate. They were in an area that, uh, you didn't have to leave, which I was surprised that people in like Washington, D.C. They, uh, like the aliens, uh, they were sent to camp and they were sent to Rohwer, I understand.
- AT: 00:31:40 So it was through that family connection?

TD: 00:31:42 Yes.

AT: 00:31:43 And how did she, um, was she also from Cincinnati? Had, were they married prior to the war? Yes, yes. They were married in Oregon. That's where my Uncle Joe was, um, houseboy and the two maiden women, it's an old word, maiden, uh, where, uh, they were Episcopalian and he was a bright boy. He came to United States when he was 14, and worked for them as a house boy. And they realized his potential. So they sent him to school and to college. And, uh, he became, uh, a biologist and then he got a job in Cincinnati. That's why they went to Cincinnati.

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