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Title: Tonko Doi Interview
Narrator: Tonko Doi
Interviewer: Anna Takada
Location: Chicago, Illinois
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<Begin Segment 8>

- AT: 00:32:35 I see. Um, and just before we jump into kind of, um, the resettlement period and leaving camp. I'm just wondering if there were any other kinds of, um, did you have any memories of in camp? I know you were very young.
- TD: 00:32:55 Right. I only have pictures and I only have stories, but actual memories, no, I do not.
- AT: 00:33:02 Sure.
- TD: 00:33:03 But what my mother did tell me when we were on that train, leaving Rohwer, I guess, and I don't know if she told me or whether, um, I knew it, but they gave us \$25 and a train ticket. And while we were on the train, my mother said that a man told her and I, and, and, and I'm thinking that all of us Japanese was our first language. I'm pretty sure that we all spoke Japanese, even Niseis or Sanseis, you know, Japanese was the first language with their parents or older people. But of course, uh, you know, they spoke English to themselves, perhaps young, young teenagers. But anyway, I was speaking to my mother in Japanese and she to me and a man said, don't allow her to speak Japanese again or anymore. So I asked my mother, do you think he was being harsh, you know, reprimanding us? She says, no, she thinks that he was trying to educate us to let us know that we should speak English now.
- AT: 00:34:18 Oh, and um, I know that you mentioned that your, your mother never talked about any kind of suffering or anything like that. Um, so her experience in evacuation and, and living in camp, um, but were there any other kinds of family stories or experiences from, from camp that were passed down to you or that stick out?
- TD: 00:34:52 Are you talking about in camp or after camp?

AT: 00:34:55 In the camp.

TD: 00:34:55 In camp.

AT: 00:34:56 So before we get into resettlement, just--

TD: 00:34:58 Okay. Um, no, no, there were no stories of suffering. Oh.

AT: 00:35:05 In general, of experiences of, of camp or, or maybe experienced, you know, family stories that might've, um, shaped or informed your own understandings of what camp was?

TD: 00:35:18 Yes. Well, my father told me, and of course later that he could understand why they imprisoned him, why they sent him to camp, but he did not understand why they took me and my mother, who were both American citizens. We were both born in the United States. So he knew that that was wrong. He knew that somehow that wasn't right as an American citizen, that they took your rights away like that. No, but I think that in camp, maybe there was an underground, you know, people who, and I think it took place more in the other camps, like Tule Lake or something, but there was an underground movement. What my father did say, and I told him not to say this to anymore, when we went for the redress, he said he thought that the Japanese were going to win the war and when they won, they would come to the camp, open the gates and the Japanese would rule the United States. I said, dad, don't say that, especially at the redress meeting, they're going to give us money dad. [laughs].

AT: 00:36:41 Um, yeah, that's not quite the narrative that I think that they were looking to hear.

TD: 00:36:43 No he didn't say it.

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