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Oral History Project Collection
Title: Lisa Doi Interview

Narrator: Lisa Doi Interviewer: Anna Takada Location: Chicago, Illinois Date: September 6, 2019 Densho ID: ddr-chi-1-20-13

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AT: Um, let's see, um, I think we can start going into some, a little

bit more like reflective questions. Um, the questions are a little

vague on purpose.

LD: 00:55:50 That's okay. Um, so I guess I would like to ask, um, why, why is

your, your family's, um, actually, really quick. I've noticed that you, you have a ton of detail about your family's, um, history trajectory, um, like not even wartime, but you know, in Japan and stuff. So when did you start learning that and, and, and how, and, and you even mentioned going to Japan, so I'd love to hear a little bit more about your experiences exploring that

family history.

LD: 00:56:41 Yeah. So I was really lucky to have gone to Japan with my mom

and grandparents in 2001. So I was in fourth grade. My grandpa could speak Japanese, so he interpreted and my mom really wanted to have this family history trip where we visited both of their, you know, where their families came from and really learned about our family history. I think I was a little bit young to truly appreciate the experience. Um, but uh, that's sort of how I learned a little bit about their history in Japan. A lot of, a lot of learning about my family history actually happened very recently. My mom and I participated in the Rohwer pilgrimage this past April and we were interviewed by a reporter from the Chicago Tribune and that kind of like pushed us to actually research our family's history to be able to talk to this woman about it. Um, so from that I learned we had all these family

pictures, um, that had never seen before.

LD: <u>00:57:44</u> Um, so these are, there was one picture I'd seen of my

grandmother and her siblings from before the war, but we had a whole series of pictures of their family before and after the war. Um, there were a few pictures taken in camp, none of my grandmother, but of her sisters and other family members. Um, and you know, we looked up their, um, their WRA records. We

looked up the, in the national archive of their final accountability records to sort of see when and where they went after camp. So it was very recent that I began exploring my own family. And, and I appreciate you saying that I know a lot because I, I feel like I really don't, I feel like there's so much that's been lost in terms of even what I could possibly know about my family's experience.

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