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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-1-20-2

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AT: 00:06:00

Okay. Um, thank you. That's, I mean, that's, that's a lot of information to have. Um, um, okay, so your grandparents were, you said they were in school when the war broke out. Um, do you know what, you know, what sort of happened to them or, or what the timeline was as far as, um, you know, I guess the bombing of Pearl Harbor to like executive order and evacuation. Do you know what happened to both of their families?

LD: 00:06:34

So, after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, I know that my grandfather's father was arrested by the FBI. Um, he had been involved and as in my grandfather had been involved in martial arts. Um, I think it was Kendo, but they may have been involved in other martial arts. So sort of as a community leader, as a, as a teacher at whatever Dojo he was involved in. Um, my great grandfather was, was arrested. He was taken both to New Mexico and Crystal City. Um, my grandfather, I would describe him as a hustler, a as sort of a lifestyle. Um, I'm not entirely sure how he managed to do this, but he, so he was, uh, going into, or he was in the middle of his senior year at Berkeley when the war started and he, um, transferred to Washington University in St Louis. So he went to assembly center. But he, before the NJSRC was established, he was part of a small number of students who got like special permission to go to go to college. So that's how he got out of assembly center. He never went to one of the WRA camps and then he came to the Midwest because of that.

AT: 00:07:44 Um, can you define the acronym of NJSRC?

LD: 00:07:49 NJSRC? Yeah. Uh, let me see if I can get it. Okay. So my

grandfather was able to start college before the National Japanese American student Relocation Council was established. Ultimately they would be the group that would work with colleges to help students transfer or help students enroll. Um, but he was able to do that kind of transfer before they were

formed. So it was maybe a group of 10 students who started Wash. U. With him around the same time.

AT:	00:08:17	Okay. Um, and so that was, um-
LD:	00:08:22	So it would have been early 1942.
AT:	00:08:28	Okay. Um, and then for your grandmother's side, um, she was in school as well?
LD:	00:08:41	Yeah. So my grandmother just stopped going to school when the war started. Um, she eventually became one of the, you

know, Nisei who received a diploma from the California State system, um, in this ceremony of like all older Nisei in the mid-2000s. So it's very cute photos from, um, but she never went back to finish after that.

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