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Title: Sharon Seeder Interview
Narrator: Sharon Seeder
Interviewer: Anna Takada
Location: Chicago, Illinois
Date: September 29, 2017
Densho ID: ddr-chi-1-5-2

<Begin Segment 2>

AT: 00:06:30 Do you know where, how your parents met and when they got married?

SS: 00:06:37 They met in Chicago. They, uh, uh, my mom, you know, I guess there was, you know, Japanese communities that hung out in the, in, in Chicago and they met, uh, I'm not quite sure how, all you know is I associate bowling with them. I remember that they used to have bowling leagues and I think that's how they met, but I'm not quite sure. And then, um, oh, while we were growing up, there was a big Club Wai, Club Waikiki that was off of the Lake Shore Drive and Wilson and Lawrence area. It sorta stood out by, by itself around the Weiss Memorial area right now. And although it's, it was supposed to be like catering to a Hawaiians, a lot of Japanese Americans of course hung out there and my dad was a bartender there. When my, after my mom had me then she used to make paper leis and a different things at, at the bar. But it was very exotic. We used to go there once in awhile, I'll watch my dad work and then there was a radio show that was hosted out of, um, of Club Waikiki. So that, those are some of my memories, but I don't know how they actually met and

AT: 00:08:01 Do you know what the radio show was called?

SS: 00:08:03 No, it was a local radio show. Uh, I probably could dig up some things on it. I know that, uh, on the web, somebody had collected pictures of napkins and then there were hula dancers and there was, um, there was, uh, an exotic male dancer who used to throw spears and stuff in the air and, and, uh, we get pictures taken when we were kids, pictures taken with them. So I, I did find some, not pictures with us, pictures of them on, on the web. Uh, so that's, you know, then my dad opened up his own bar. It was called Ken's Lounge and it was on Broadway, kind of in the, uh, Uptown area now. And there was a little Japanese diner that was next door. So he decorated the place, there were booths set, had large pillows where you could sit

down at as well as a regular bar. And so he used to bring in Japanese food from the, the place next door. And that was, I thought, I always thought that was kind of, you know, cool and different. Uh, so he, he had that bar for a while and then, uh, my parents split up. So my mom though, when she first came to Chicago, she was working for a publishing house called McClurg's and I guess they hired a lot of Japanese Americans and she had various jobs. But that's the one I remember the most her talking about. I think there they published like Spiegel catalogs and think things that of course didn't, don't exist anymore. And uh, my grandmother worked for a manufacturing company called Seng, s e n, g and so did my aunts. Uh, and they were very good to us cause I remember the company had big Christmas parties and we used to go to those Christmas parties. So I didn't know any difference between Caucasian and Japanese American or, or whatever at that time. I just remember having a good time cause we all used to go to those Christmas parties and they would have picnics. So that company, I don't know how long they stayed in business, but they were obviously very good to Japanese Americans. Um

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