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Title: Sharon Seeder Interview
Narrator: Sharon Seeder
Interviewer: Anna Takada
Location: Chicago, Illinois
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<Begin Segment 9>

- AT: Um, one thing I wanted to, I wanted to backtrack a little bit. Um, because um, you seem to know a bit about your parents' experiences in Chicago when you first came. And is that just everything that you've learned from like family stories?
- SS: 00:35:30 Yeah, family stories. Cause I, I, my parents really weren't talkers that much. They didn't like to talk about themselves. And same with the rest of my family. Not very loud or boisterous, definitely in a fun loving but really not. Oh, Kelly's laughing.
- KS: 00:35:53 I never heard that word used to describe our family.
- SS: 00:35:56 Well, not my mom so much. My mom was pretty strict, but my grandmother was a lot of fun. My Auntie Masa was a lot of fun. Um, and my um, biological dad was actually very sociable and fun to be around. But so my, my second year was quiet and although my mom would talk whenever you, you know, you'd ask her questions and she's very friendly and very engaging on the personal side. They didn't want to have a lot of friends. We were not allowed to bring people over. Um, they're very suspicious of other people, um, gossipy. And so there neither one of them. They had certain close friends but not a community of friends even though, you know, we had a large family outside of the family and outside of a few close friends and
- KS: 00:37:00 That grammy can't go anywhere without running into someone.
- SS: 00:37:04 She knows a lot of people cause she's friendly and she will, you know, talkative and stuff but behind their backs not so um, not so.
- KS: 00:37:18 The first time when chichan ever talked about the war is when Aaron asked him.

SS:

00:37:22

Yeah, my dad didn't really talk about it. And I was sort of surprised that it was uh, of course late in life after Kelly got married that he talked a bit about it. But if we asked him questions, no he wouldn't talk about it. So the things that we, I knew about my family were little snippets here and there and then again from how they, how they behaved. One of the, my mom was always a strong woman and I was proud of her because I remember when she got a divorce when it still wasn't acceptable to get a divorce. And second, she drove like one, one of my aunts still does not a drive, so she'd drive us all over the place and my, my dad would actually send her into stores or McDonalds when a, or he'd send her in for an order. I always thought that was sort of weird cause you know, the man usually does that at least in the American culture. And you know, it dawned on me that I think that, and it started like with the motel story that he was, um, was afraid of being rejected or embarrassed. So he'd always send my mom and who was, you know, didn't really care, um, but my dad was very sensitive about that. I remember my mom telling a story when she walked into Saks and it was when she was, you know making money in Chicago and she wanted to buy something and nobody would wait on her. Nobody would pay attention to her. And she actually went up to a sales lady and said, my money is as good as anybody else's money. And that's how feisty my mom was. I had, and I don't think she ever bought anything from there, but I always had that feeling I didn't want to shop at Saks because of that story my mom told. And uh, uh, so I thought again, that was a behavior thing between my mom and dad cause my mom was a feisty fighter. And so was my grandmother. She was, she was, uh, she was funnier than my mom. She was more on the fun side, but, uh, very strong women in my family. And I don't know of that is left over from as far as the men go, you know, very proud. So they don't want to be embarrassed and talk about times that probably were not pleasant I guess. Yeah. I'm thinking of my, my uncle Jim who was married to my Auntie Masa and we used to like to hang out with them a lot, cause they were just a lot of fun. And they would, they would tell, my Uncle Jim would tell scary stories, but nothing about the war. I mean we would have to walk from back from one flat to the front of the flat. Of course it was a little dark. And tell us about, you know, people jumping out from the garbage cans and stuff like that. So yeah. But we loved it. We loved it. And nothing, I know he was, um, he was also in the 442. And you know, that was a very decorated battalion, but they didn't really, they don't really talk about it.