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Title: Junko Mizuta Interview
Narrator: Junko Mizuta
Interviewer: Anna Takada
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<Begin Segment 10>

AT: 00:58:00 And um, where did your Mom end up in Chicago? Do you know which neighborhood or...

JM: 00:58:06 Well, she was on the South Side know, but eventually we moved North.

AT: 00:58:15 Hmm. On the South Side, would that have been Hyde Park area?

JM: 00:58:18 No. Further South.

AT: 00:58:22 Do you know the, what the area is called?

JM: 00:58:25 Well, it was, it was on Cottage Grove. She lived in this apartment owned by a Japanese where this friend that she was corresponding with in Detroit also lived in the same place. Yeah. It was in the Black neighborhood.

AT: 00:58:45 And when you arrived, what, what were you doing? Where did you

JM: 00:58:50 Well I stayed with her for. Yeah. And then then we moved North, so I had my own room and stayed with her. And where, where was that? That was on Grace street. On Broadway. There off of the drive.

AT: 00:59:14 Lakeview Area?

JM: 00:59:15 Lakeview, I think.

AT: 00:59:18 And were you doing anything for work?

JM: 00:59:21 I'm sorry?

AT: 00:59:22 For work?

JM: 00:59:22 Yeah, I, in the meantime then I found a job at Northwestern and always doing a research work.

AT: 00:59:32 Can you tell me more about that position? So you were commuting from?

JM: 00:59:38 Yeah, from there, on Grace to Northwestern and just doing kind of lab work, you know.

AT: 00:59:54 And so that's something that I've probably your degree helped you?

JM: 01:00:04 Yeah, yeah.

AT: 01:00:04 And what do you, what do you remember about that neighborhood at the time that you were living there? What was it like?

JM: 01:00:12 Do you mean on Grace?

AT: 01:00:14 Yeah

JM: 01:00:15 It was nice. You know, it was, I don't know how it is now, but it was nice then. I just remembered being safe and I used to go down to Lincoln Park and take a, what do you call it? Polishing stones, lapidary is it? I think. Yeah. And did enameling. I used to go to two or three times a week. It was convenient. The bus was right there on the corner and it was safe to come home late. And so it was a good neighborhood.

AT: 01:01:04 And so when you were commuting places, were you traveling mostly by bus?

JM: 01:01:10 Yeah. Those days it was pretty frequent. The buses came one right after another and it was cheap.

AT: 01:01:24 And what were the, at the time, what were the general demographics and living like you were there other Japanese Americans??

JM: 01:01:36 I don't remember. I don't think so. Not unl, well, I think this building had Japanese. Yeah. Yeah, they did. It was owned by Japanese person.

AT: 01:01:58 And so this, um, this was around the time where there were a few activities for young Japanese American folks in the city. Were you involved at all with

JM: 01:02:14 No, I wasn't, I just went to the church. I don't know what it was called. I think it's called Ravenswood now. But I wasn't involved in any of that.

AT: 01:02:27 And then did you know anyone else besides your family in Chicago?

JM: 01:02:38 Did I know?

AT: 01:02:39 Anyone else? Did you have any friends or

JM: 01:02:42 Not really. Well, I used to go the Resettlers, you know, you know make friends there. Well, yeah, I guess I did. Yeah. Yeah.

AT: 01:02:57 And what, what brought you to the Resettlers Committee?

JM: 01:03:02 I think just to get to know more people, you know, we were all kind of...didn't know anybody. Remember when we first came out here. First thing you'd ask would be which camp were you in? [laughs]

AT: 01:03:30 And do you remember how you found out about Resettlers Committee? Is that just something that people knew about or--?

JM: 01:03:37 I don't know. I had no idea.

AT: 01:03:41 And when you were going, where was it located?

JM: 01:03:43 I don't remember. I'm not much, not very helpful. I don't remember.

AT: 01:03:49 But did

JM: 01:03:49 Yeah

AT: 01:03:49 Go ahead.

JM: 01:03:53 No, I think Dan Kuzahara was a head of that. I don't know. Maybe we knew him or something. I don't know. I, I, I can't say,

AT: 01:04:10 But it, it helped you meet other

JM: 01:04:12 Other people.

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