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Title: Junko Mizuta Interview  
Narrator: Junko Mizuta  
Interviewer: Anna Takada  
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<Begin Segment 12>

- AT: 01:07:54 And so have you been on the...Were you on the North Side through most of your marriage or?
- JM: 01:08:02 Yeah, I consider myself a North sider even though we live on the South Side.
- AT: 01:08:07 When did you make that move?
- JM: 01:08:08 Well then my husband got a job in park force, which is pretty far. This was before Dan Ryan, so he did that for two years and by then our daughter was 2, so we decided to move up to the South Suburbs and that's how we ended up there. But my heart is always on the North Side. Yeah.
- AT: 01:08:41 And do you just have one?
- JM: 01:08:43 No, I have a son and a daughter. She, she lives in Downers. She has her own business.
- AT: 01:08:54 And um, do you remember where they were going to school?
- JM: 01:09:00 Yeah, yeah. When she got to be a, well we moved out to Harvey first. It was a real nice town. I loved the place, but the schools were not that good, and Homewood-Flossmoor had great schools. So we moved to Homewood cause my husband's friends or coworkers, told him to move there. But um we were kind of hesitant because we had heard there was an incident with a Japanese family there. Who lived there and they were not welcomed. But anyway, I'm the executive director where am I was my work and said there's a house rent for rent next door to him. So she want to look at it, you know, so it was kind of a or year old house, but it was better than living in Harvey and having our daughter go to a school that we didn't really think was that great. So we moved to, also, then I called the

owner of the house and I gave her the same spiel. We're Japanese Americans and would you rent to us? And she says, oh, by all means, you know, you're welcome to rent the house. So, um, with those words we were, you know, we moved in and, well, my husband did a lot of work on the house because it was really in bad shape and uh, we moved there. And I made friends. Well, the neighbors are really nice to me. They were around the same age and when you have kids the same age and you know, your mother, the mothers, the parents that get together. And um, but uh, there was this one gal I was quite friendly with and later on she told me that there were some neighbors that were unhappy that you move in, but I figured, well we're renting so why would they feel bad? But actually, you know, openly, we didn't have any problems.

- AT: 01:11:19 Hmm. Would you say that? Um, that was one of, that was the biggest challenge of life in Chicago was?
- JM: 01:11:29 No, not really. I didn't really feel any prejudice except for the apartment hunting. Yeah,
- AT: 01:11:37 So that, that kind of prejudice, it wasn't really. You didn't experience it sounds like you didn't experience that before your.
- JM: 01:11:46 Yeah. No really, especially when we moved to Homewood, there were some people that are really happy to see us and they wanted to know about, about us and everything. So, and you know, my kids, they participated in the, what little league and my daughter was in girl scouts and they were well accepted so I don't think I didn't, I don't remember any really bad experience probably behind my back yeah, but yeah you know.
- AT: 01:12:27 And in this area was there like, I know closer in the, in the city, like on the North Side. And also the South Side that there were things like, uh, the, that you've backed the basketball league, um, or a different baseball teams or bowling leagues or you know, things for, for young people of Japanese descent. Was there anything like that in Homewood or nearby?
- JM: 01:13:07 No, I think we were the only Japanese in town, probably. You know, because they went to HF and there weren't any, maybe there were a couple of Chinese people, you know, kids, but I think they were basically the only Japanese students.