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Title: Gary Yamagiwa Interview  
Narrator: Gary Yamagiwa  
Interviewer: Anna Takada  
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<Begin Segment 6>

- AT: 18:57 I want to ask you about, um, Japanese language. Did you, was that scoping in your family? Did you have to go to Japanese school?
- GY: 19:08 I never went to Japanese school. Japanese was mostly a one way thing in our house because my grandmother spoke Japanese. She lived with us the whole time she was alive. She spoke Japanese. I learned to understand a little bit. I would respond in English and she would eventually figure out what I was saying. And so we had a way of communicating without me being able to speak Japanese. It was good experience for us.
- AT: 19:49 And
- GY: 19:50 Well, one more thing about that. There was always um, Japanese being spoken when, uh, my parents and my grandmother didn't want us to know what they're talking about so they will just flip right into it. And it was interesting.
- AT: 20:26 So you had mentioned that you were pretty aware of your Japanese American identity given your, the time spent within the community, you know, the church specifically. Can you tell me more about that. Was that something that you knew from a young age, you know. What was your experience with your own personal identity?
- GY: 20:57 You know, it just felt real natural to be around groups of Japanese, Japanese Americans. Um, I think our family was able to function real well in non Japanese groups because we would go to the, the, the boys club every day and we would, uh, you know, fool around at school and, you know, play little league and we were on the swim team and this was all with non Japanese people and so we were comfortable there. But then when we were with the church group or with family, it was

comfortable too. So you know, I think we were able to, really feel a comfort level no matter where we were, which was we thought, you know, I thought it was natural. That's the way it is for everybody.

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