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Title: Ellen Watanabe-Huxtable Interview  
Narrator: Ellen Watanabe-Huxtable  
Interviewer: Anna Takada  
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<Begin Segment 8>

- AT: 00:28:03 Um, which school, did you go to?
- EH: 00:28:05 I went to Francis Parker and so that, um, I would catch the bus on Clark Street, and ride the bus, the Clark Street bus down to school and then ride the bus back at the end of the school day. And so I would do that, some of our family, our family friends went to Senn and lived right across the street from Senn High School. Some of our very good family friends went to Senn.
- AT: 00:28:26 Did you ever go to the Japanese cinema that was held out of Clark Street?
- EH: 00:28:30 No, no but, but it was fun because um the person that I met was Omar Kaihatsu. And I remember him in the corridors and he was a very dramatic person. He had, he would wear his coat over his shoulders, sort of like a cape. They would go through the halls of the school is, as a very dramatic character and then on something else and it might have been on the drum core things that my son is involved in. Somebody else named Kaihatsu on there, on Facebook. So I texted him, I said, hi, are you by any chance related to Omar? And the person says, that's my father. How do you know him? I said well, because when I was in school he used to come through the corridors and I have no idea why he was there. It was because of the Japanese cinema and so I had no idea about the Japanese cinema, but I remember, I remember Omar Kaihatsu from that.
- AT: 00:29:21 Were there other Japanese American students at Francis Parker?
- EH: 00:29:25 Yeah, there was, the Hikawa sisters were there. And I'm thinking who else was there? Um, oh yeah, there's a couple of guys. Um, there are several other Japanese families there. The Kurahara's, Marty Kurahara was, one of, was another family there. And

actually I need to look up, I need to look up the, the Hikawa's because they marched in the Nisei Ambassadors from the Bugle Corps. And that's what my son is researching now for his senior project probably feeding into a PhD thesis that he wants to do.

- AT: 00:30:07 And then, your high school where they, were you involved in any extracurricular activities?
- EH: 00:30:12 Not really. Not really. It was, um, it was very, not really, we didn't get involved in any. It's not like the, the, like the, the other kids did.
- AT: 00:30:24 And how would you describe your overall school experience in Chicago as you were growing up?
- EH: 00:30:31 It was fine. I think that there was, I never really experienced any discrimination. I never experienced anything that was racial or hatred. The kinds of things that people accepted just as part of the culture then were very different than they are now. And that people would have the little, little things that playground that would say things like Ching Chong Chinaman sitting on a fence. Or they'd say, my father is Japanese, my mother is Chinese. And I'm both. There were many things that were racial. But at that time I truly never took offense. Nor did I think any other other children's parents are parents may or may not have. But as children at the time, um, it was, it was not said in hatred and it was like something like Jack and Jill went up the hill. It was a little diddy rhyme that never really, at least in my case, had that, uh, it's stinging impact at all.
- AT: 00:31:31 And then uh, what happens after ah your family lived in Lakeview? Did you all move again?
- EH: 00:31:42 We kept on moving more north, so after that we ended up moving up north up to Dam, up on Damen Avenue. Then we moved further north and ended up by Lincoln by Lincoln Avenue and Irving Park Road where like my parents had retired and lived there, had a very small house. Made my mother very happy because she didn't think she would ever have a house of her own. And so we moved up to up to there and that when I got married I moved with my husband, moved to where my husband was in Des Plaines. Well, my parents were in that house until they both passed away.
- AT: 00:32:21 I'm sorry, they were both in the Lincoln and Irving house?

EH:

00:32:25

Yeah. Yeah. Which is off of Lincoln, Irving. They lived on Berteau, which is just north of Lin, Irving Park on Lincoln.

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