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Title: Ellen Watanabe-Huxtable Interview
Narrator: Ellen Watanabe-Huxtable
Interviewer: Anna Takada
Location: Chicago, Illinois
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<Begin Segment 9>

AT:	<u>00:32:31</u>	You had mentioned is, uh, your dad's involvement in the golfing club.
EH:	<u>00:32:42</u>	Mhm
AT:	<u>00:32:42</u>	Were there any ways that you personally found yourself involved with the Japanese American community?
EH:	<u>00:32:52</u>	Very marginally because we did not have, we did not have a car when I was little, so our transport our transportation was very limited when we needed a car. When you borrowed the car from the guy that worked the third shift at the Clark Restaurant, because he was there until one in the morning, so when we needed to car, we'd walk two blocks down to Clark Restaurant, ask the owner for his car keys, borrow his car, do whatever they wanted to at nights long as it was back by midnight or so. We return his car keys and walk home. And so we, I got, I didn't get involved a lot in, in the Japanese community at all really because there were not that many opportunities that were availed themselves.
AT:	<u>00:33:34</u>	And um, you could just help me clarify it. The brothers, at Clark Restaurant, was that the Joichi brothers?
EH:	<u>00:33:44</u>	Okay. It was a very eclectic restaurant and would you kind of think it would be interesting to make a television show about. Because it was three brothers only this restaurant, they had a polyglot of customers there was Misha and Yasha two Russian guys, one of who would do Russian dances in the middle of the restaurant when he felt so moved. One of whom looked like something that was like out of your typical cartoon character. I mean, just big guy. And so it was a very interesting place. You'd have people there that were down on their luck. You'd have to

police walking in all the time. Um very, very interesting community at the time.

- AT: 00:34:27 Can you describe the, what it looked like on the inside?
- EH: 00:34:32 Sure. It was an interesting little restaurant. It was a little greasy spoon restaurant. There were probably eight tables that, four running down one long wall. On the other side, there was a counter with probably 10 benches. And in the middle there's probably two or three tables that would seat two people a piece. And the fun part about that of course is that the brother who ran the the dinner shift, which is the busiest, was the youngest of the brothers and kept everything in his head. He didn't cook. He didn't wash the dishes, but he waited all the tables. He bussed all the tables and he ran the register and the way he did it was quite amazing. He would get, you'd open the menu. You'd ask for, order your thing everybody would order what they wanted to and when you're done, we'd walk up to the register, he'd look at you say, okay, you had the meatloaf, the mashed potatoes, the coffee and the rice pudding for dessert you owe me and he would have the whole bill all split out, he'd know exactly what everybody had and how much they owed him. And so that's how he did it efficiently was all in his head. So it was a pretty interesting uh, thing to watch my uncle from my father's side who relocated to Chicago with my mom and my dad was their steady customer. He was there for dinner every night at the same time. It's 6:00. If I wanted to find my uncle, we knew where to go, we would go there. Was at the same table every night eating the same dinner every night. So it's really quite convenient if we needed to find my uncle.
- AT: 00:36:08 And the location you described, is that its original location?
- EH: 00:36:13 Yeah. Of the restaurant?
- AT: 00:36:15 [Nods]
- EH: 00:36:15 When they, when as far back as I can remember, which should've been in the mid-1950s, uh, they were already very well established there.

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