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Title: Joe Takehara Interview  
Narrator: Joe Takehara  
Interviewer: Anna Takada  
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<Begin Segment 10>

- AT: 00:35:16 And when you were in Poston, you had to go to school there?
- JT: 00:35:22 Yes. Went to school. I did okay.
- AT: 00:35:29 What was school like in camp?
- JT: 00:35:29 Well, all I remember we used to have spelling bees. That's ones of the things and I, I used to be, I used to win a lot of them. They had, there was a music teacher called Teener, Miss Teener or something. We tried to play different instruments and I had, I picked up a horn. Didn't really learn how to play, I'm not musically inclined, I'm tone deaf. I keep saying that as an excuse. So the school was, we had our own chairs and stuff and I had appendicitis when I was in school in camp and so we were, there was three camp post one, two and three. Three is the one we were in. And Poston was I guess the largest camp and that's where the medical center was. So I remember going on, it was a hearse or something, it was on an ambulance and I remember telling my mom that I'm dying, I'm dying. The next time I knew it, I grew up and I saw it. I saw white ceiling and that's when they had taken my appendix out. And so I don't know how old I was there. I was probably about 12.
- AT: 00:36:57 Did you have to stay in the hospital?
- JT: 00:36:59 I remember staying in a hospital. I don't remember. But this it's funny, was an unfortunate thing with my incision kept bothering me and it didn't heal. So I went back and it was a physician. They put a hemostat and I remember that without anesthetic they pulled out some pieces of gauze, some thin gauze on it. And so it's kind of a strange story. Maybe I shouldn't tell them but it's true. But for years that scar bothered me. For some reason it'd swell up and look like a mosquito bite and it started

to itch. That happened. That was, that went on for about 10 years. And it finally went away.

AT: 00:37:46 Did you ever have it checked out by a doctor outside of camp?

JT: 00:37:50 No, I never had it checked out, out of camp. That was, that was kind of, I think my sister was one of my sisters was a nurse's aid or something, Poston today. That's what she did. She was in high school and so. At the west mall all we did was play cards. We used to play Pinocchio 500. My sister, sibling, used to do that. I always was running around playing ball or what not. I used go to a I don't know, an excursion or honey thing with the biology teacher. He had an old car and he was a taxidermist I guess. He used to get birds and such. So he used to take us. So you can see I was one of these kids that are always doing things one on one that somehow I got to do that. I worked, I used to go to the wood shop. They had a swimming pool in camp. They built a swimming pool in three, a cement one. I think in camp two and just wood and water. And so they had to diving boards with a one meter board, and a three meter board. I was at the pool every day in the summer. I got so dark. Anyway, I used to dive there. There's another guy named Pat Kitaharo. He lived in the next block over, we were good friends. We used to go to the river together too. But he was a terrific diver or I couldn't do what he used to. He used to dive and do one in a halves and things off the three, one meter and I couldn't do it. I could do one maybe and uh, we, we should do a swan dive. But anyways, we used to go off the, uh, the Caucasian, wood shop teacher used to like to dive too. So he would swim so he was always out there, so I got to know him. So he used to let me sneak, sneak into the wood shop. Yeah. Not knowing, I think back on it, it was very dangerous. I say use a blade, used to make tops out of mesquite. I used to make billy clubs and things, all these things.

AT: 00:40:15 Tops like spinning tops?

JT: 00:40:15 Yeah. And unfortunately I, I had them all the way until we moved in 1952 from the West Side to the, my parents had said you got to get rid of, I don't know why. But I left all those things I have made. I had one thing I made, people don't believe me-- I made a vase out of cottonwood. I cut out the center and I put a can in there and I look at my size and said that's pretty good. I think my daughter has that vase. It's about this high that round. So I used to do all that kind of things. So I was one, you will see I was a kid that was always off there doing things.

AT: 00:41:10 And do you remember at what time in camp, you got appendicitis? Cause I imagine you're probably out of commission for a little bit.

JT: 00:41:19 Well, there's another story to that too. My uncle was a good carpenter, could make things. In fact, the way it goes, my brother, the tools he took, my uncle, when he came back out of Santa Fe when the Issei were first taken up to North Dakota or I forgot where he was, Santa Fe, New Mexico. Well, then he came back to camp to meet with their families. The way I understand, he borrowed our tools.

AT: 00:41:50 So he came to Poston?

JT: 00:41:50 Yeah. When he came to Poston he was in another section of Poston, we used to call them local one, two and three. And uh, I think he lived in two. But uh, he's a guy that used to give me my haircuts. And when I had my appendicitis we built a, uh, a folding chair with a desk for me, to take to school. He used to make some chairs that, I can't remember the name of it now.

AT: 00:42:28 So you could be kind of reclined while?

JT: 00:42:28 So I can sit and have a desk there. Mostly just chairs, but this one you could flip over, one you could write on. And so, yeah.

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