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Title: Joe Takehara Interview
Narrator: Joe Takehara
Interviewer: Anna Takada
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<Begin Segment 16>

AT: 01:09:49 So when you started at Lakeview, um, did you have any of the kinds of problems that you did at um?

JT: 01:09:58 No, no the people at Lakeview, my friends, they just one guy, two of them knew how it was. They knew my background, but when I went to Lakeview I was quiet. I didn't, I didn't make any, I wasn't getting in trouble or anything, but I'd became friends with one guy, we used to play poker at recess with pennies and stuff like that. But yeah, he became a photographer. Um, but uh, the main thing, Lakeview was, I go there after school to the gym was a couple of times a week, two, three times. Then I had to have to come home late. I'd be coming home late at 9, 10 o'clock and it'd be dark and it wasn't many street cars running. I'd come home and when I come home it was about a block, two blocks away from, where I stop. Used to be on Paulina and Polk, I guess. Anyway, I used to come home and I was always watching out. I, I felt somebody looking for me or they want to beat me up. So I never walked on the sidewalk. We always, I always walked in the middle of the street and those, most of those houses are gang based so we saw gang when you're walking. If I saw somebody I'd run and I always had my hand one hand with the switch blade. And I mean it's crazy, but I never, no one ever caught me. I never had a problem but one of my friends Frank Lopez got beat up once, but I was wasn't with him. So I was lucky I didn't have much, I didn't really get into with somebody's beating me up, but I moved in gym class. One guy, Black guy, they used to carry razors between their finger like this. Right in gym class he cut up a guy, another guy and just another Italian big guy beat the hell out of later. Yeah, so this, this Italian kid, I knew too, used to play football together. Sandlot, one time. So I left, I left the [inaudible] quiet, the gymnastics and everybody knew me there because I was Japanese. There wasn't many. And this kid Vogel that was a gymnast, he was, he was, he was good looking guy, nice build, popular and so he went out, I was with him. But he was always

talking off with the girls and everybody and you know well liked. So they all knew me because in Lakeview during the halftime basketball game, we should do hand balancing. He was pretty aggressive and outgoing and they used to have talent show. He talked me into going to a talent show, we do hand balancing and he was beyond the bottom and I'd be on the top, you know, some Mickey Mouse, hand balance. We thought we were pretty good. But

- AT: 01:13:33 In school you said there were some other Japanese Americans did you hang out with other
- JT: 01:13:44 No, I didn't.
- AT: 01:13:48 Is there a reason for that or?
- JT: 01:13:50 I don't know. They just didn't like me, I guess is, I think there's a problem. They saw me with this guy as popular, I think that's what happens. You know, they get kind of jealous or something. I really don't know. I always had a problem with the other, the Japanese community, I had no contact with them all my high school days, my cousin was part of them, he was, he used to belong to the club named Unknown's. He took me to their to their dance or something. No seemed, you know Japanese are very cliquish. They didn't accept me and so I after a few times I just stopped going. I didn't want anything to do with that anymore. And that's how I stayed in my own group. I used to hang out with the guys on the North Side and one guy named George, he had a bike handle bars like this. We'd go down to [inaudible]. I'd be on the handlebars and drive take him down. Yeah, it was strange. Most kids didn't do that. He did in that he's used to take me all over the place and I said, yeah. In fact, we rode a bicycle Chicago in my house all the way up to Foster we rode on a bike. That was far. Those days. That was with him. That wasn't bad going, it was coming home we had a long ride. So, but yeah, so that's what I did. So we, so I was mainly doing gymnastics.

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