## Densho Digital Repository Japanese American Service Committee (JASC) and Chicago Japanese American Historical Society (CJAHS) Oral History Project Collection Title: Joe Takehara Interview Narrator: Joe Takehara Interviewer: Anna Takada Location: Date: November 15, 2017 Densho ID: ddr-chi-1-15-3

## <Begin Segment 3>

AT:	<u>00:07:58</u>	Yeah. So, um, and so with your, with your father's death, um, you said it was a hit and run?
JT:	<u>00:08:12</u>	Yes,
AT:	<u>00:08:14</u>	So did anything come of it?
JT:	<u>00:08:14</u>	No, just my, one of my nephew was found that later in the archives in San Diego, this paper and I just had a little bit, little blin, saving that lap fishermen or someone was killed. That's all

blip, saying that Jap fishermen or someone was killed. That's all. There is no follow up with police or anything. And I think that happened that night when, I can't remember it, but that's when somebody came in, woke up my mom. My brother, remembers that. But that was how, that's why I ended up, my mother brought up eight of us. And at that time, being from Japan, she didn't, she didn't trust the government I guess, so she wouldn't take public aid at that. Anyway they would come and say, want to help her and she, she wouldn't accept it. And so, so that's why she worked hard and we were little kids when she come home from work all day, cutting fish, we would take turns massaging her back and we use our hands and pound her neck and all the kids would take turns. So basically I grew up without a father and my mother was hardly home, she was always working over home. And so I kind of grew up, uh, with my brothers having to babysit me, so I matured guite rapidly because they had take me every place, they went, they had to take me. So I grew up, you know, and they were playing ball and they were pretty athletic and so all was, I was a gofer, you know, chase the ball and do all of those kinds of things. I had better, friends named Oliver, he, I think he was part Indian and Mexican or anyway, his father when he was 16, he guit school. And so it's thing about it, that's when I'm still very young, three, four years old. And uh, he was a big, strong guy, but his father had a, uh, this is spear fish, sword fish fisherman. The tip of the boat had a long, I don't know what you call a [inaudible], where

you spear the fish. He was strong and feared. He had a pole, and so he used to get me by the ankles and hold me over the wharf like this I was a scared that he's going to drop me. But that's how I grew up so you can see how, how I grew up. So I was kind of a rascal because I was always, the older kids were always teasing me and so I grew up and matured fast.

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