## 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-1-15-4

## <Begin Segment 4>

AT: <u>00:11:04</u> Did you, besides, so you went to school and you started early, because you're going with your sister.

JT: <u>00:11:15</u> Yeah.

AT: <u>00:11:17</u> Um, what kind of, did you do any activities outside of school?

JT: <u>00:11:22</u> I was always playing around. I learned how to ride a bicycle that

was too big for me. I put my feet between the, not, I couldn't get on the seat or handlebar, so I would get between my legs through and put that bike at an angle and pump. And that's, I learned myself that way. When I got older, I was riding the bike, you know, I got older and I see people all over the place. I used to go to Balboa Park, come home, go to the Navy ship yard and boats and come home. And I was always pretty scared, but still, I used to do that. That was all by myself, I guess at that time I was probably nine, ten years old when I was doing all this so.

AT: O0:12:09 As far as the people that you're spending time with it, um, in

addition to your family, were there other Japanese American

families in San Diego at that time?

JT: <u>00:12:24</u> Yes, there were, but they were, a lot of them were in downtown

San Diego. There was a restaurant, I don't know, Sunshine, Favorite Sun, something. We never went there. And so we were always back in the neighborhood and we did fishing in the bay and uh, my brother just have two rowboats, we used to call them skiffs. They have along, that we used to go to the bay and we used to net fish, cork on the top, sinker on the bottom. And made two circles and pull them in and that's how we were catching fish. And apparently my brothers were selling some of the fish and there was sharks and thing like that was to a cut the tail off. I remember there was some kind of warehouse close, and we used to cut the tails warehouse line em up. So that's

how I grew up. He's a fish underneath the wharf and the fish used to come in the cannery and they cut mackerel, they threw all the heads and stuff into the water so all of the fish would come. So we'd be out on little planks fishing underneath the cannery and put 'em in gunnysacks and bring them home.

AT:	00:13:46	And um
JT:	00:13:46	The netting was illegal. I think the coastguard just let us kind of turned, I mean they kind of let us do it. I think they just knew the family. It's a small community, so I think they would just turn, what's the word? Just letters. Turn. Let us go, I can't, I don't know the right word, but anyway.
AT:	00:14:20	Um, so the, the war broke out and 40 of them.
JT:	00:14:26	Right.
AT:	00:14:27	Um, and I, I'm sorry, what year were you born again?
JT:	00:14:34	'42
AT:	00:14:36	So you were born in '42
JT:	00:14:38	I was 11, I guess. Huh?
AT:	00:14:41	'32 or?
JT:	00:14:43	'32

<End Segment 4> - Copyright © 2017 Japanese American Service Committee (JASC) and Chicago Japanese American Historical Society (CJAHS). All Rights Reserved.