

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-1-15-7

<Begin Segment 7>

- AT: 00:24:38 So you went to Santa Anita and you're living in one of the horse stalls. Do you remember as an 11 year olds your own reactions to the move?
- JT: 00:24:49 Yes. I remember.
- AT: 00:24:49 For the orders?
- JT: 00:24:49 Yeah I remember, because you know, I was little kid, but I remember filling up the mattress with hay. I guess we had our cots and it was an asphalt for cots sinking into the asphalt. I remember stories about people saying, well they got a knot hole,yYou can see it across the way. Because the barracks are back to back, the stalls. We used to kid that about, you could see the other side. I know, right? Yeah. The old people talking like that. As a kid I used to go up to the grandstand, San Diego, San Anita Racetrack grandstand. We used to go around climbing the, up the stairs, things like that. And those days they used to have the uh, conduits, I guess the little pipe like things. The older kids would make a little arrow out of it and twist it and shoot him. I always wanted one but I can never get it. That's what we used to do. Or try to do, we were just playing. And at that time, one of the things that we did, you know, we used to do sumo, we used to have sumo contests. So we used to have sumo in our block. That's the main thing I remember was doing sumo and just playing in the grandstands. And I have at home, a meal ticket, which is punched that says number two. And I have a red button with a two on it. So I guess you went to that mess number two, red mess hall number two was the time you go in that period. So I actually have that card that was punched so that the meal ticket that we went.
- AT: 00:26:48 Yeah. Um, and do you know anyone from back home? Um, that was also in Santa Anita folks your age?

JT: 00:27:03 No. I didn't know anybody.

AT: 00:27:06 And did you have to go to school at Santa Anita?

JT: 00:27:09 I can't remember going to school. I really can't. I don't think we did. I can't remember going to school. They probably had school but we didn't stay there long. It was only about four months. That was in April. I can't recall. I think he went to Poston in August. August the 8th.

<End Segment 7> - Copyright © 2017 Japanese American Service Committee (JASC) and Chicago Japanese American Historical Society (CJAHS). All Rights Reserved.