

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-1-15-8

<Begin Segment 8>

| | | |
|-----|-----------------|---|
| AT: | <u>00:27:30</u> | August 8th, you went to Poston? |
| JT: | <u>00:27:44</u> | I think so. |
| AT: | <u>00:27:47</u> | Do you remember how you got there? |
| JT: | <u>00:27:48</u> | Went by bus. |
| AT: | <u>00:27:54</u> | And um, how did Poston, compare to Santa Anita? |
| JT: | <u>00:27:58</u> | Poston was very hot. Poston was, is in Arizona. I think it was, Poston was an Indian Reservation, the tribe Poston. It was close to the Colorado River, which is a few miles down, I guess about a mile or so from camp. It was very hot and I was in Poston and I had as a kid I had a lot of fun. We play basketball, they had a hoop. We played softball. And I was one of the few that used to go to Colorado River and fish and swim. Just a couple of us because my friend who lived right across the street and the barrack next to us, was an old Japanese farmer that lives with the family. He was an Issei, I guess he was a bachelor, so he was kind of a outgoing guy and I guess. Along the Colorado River he made a mud hut. He made a hut. And most people didn't go there, so we as kids, we used to go there and into the stay there and in that area of fish, swim. We used to catch carp. |
| AT: | <u>00:29:26</u> | Did you leave camp to do that? |
| JT: | <u>00:29:26</u> | Yeah, we were leaving camp. We kind of walked. Sometimes they used to have, I kind of remember, they used have a tractor with a little trailer behind it. Box, it used to be a trash truck, I think. Sometimes they used to take people that are swimming there, group. But most people didn't go by themselves. We used to go there all the time. I used to go out to the, I guess you can't call it a forest, it was the desert. And we used to make |

slingshots and use the, with the marbles, we used to try to hit birds and things like that. And a

AT: 00:30:20 Did your mom take up work while at Poston?

JT: 00:30:20 Yeah, at Poston she did one at one stage, she worked at the mess hall. I think she was cooking or washing dishes. And then one day Poston, when they were building the Poston school, we made Adobe bricks. So then she went to work there, doing basically put I guess hay and clay, Adobe and they put them in boxes and that was how they was the blocks for doing the school. And so she did that for a period.

AT: 00:31:00 So your older siblings, were they, they were out of school?

JT: 00:31:02 Yeah. Well, I don't know. My older sister did. I think she worked in a mess hall, I can't recall. But uh, uh, brother older brother worked for the fire department, it seemed like then he was also working as a haul trash and the brother be, beneath him I don't know what he did, he passed away. I said we couldn't really talk to him, but all the rest are too young to work. But my older sister while she was in camp. She got married, then she left camp early, as soon as they could leave. She left because you had to get a sponsor and some physician in the north suburbs out of nowhere, probably Keniworth or the bank where she worked. Husband, they both work there as I guess he's house boy and he's, he's and she's a house girl or maid.

AT: 00:32:05 What's her name?

JT: 00:32:05 My oldest sister's name is Aiko and her husband was Utaka Kida. And he was, he's one of these kids when they're young their parents sent them to Japan for schooling, so he was in school in Japan. He graduated high school. So he was fluent in Japanese reading and writing. So when he came back, I guess they used to call them Kibeis. Right? I think at that time is almost a derogatory term. You're a Kibei. So they used to group together more than the others. They weren't treated too well.

<End Segment 8> - Copyright © 2017 Japanese American Service Committee (JASC) and Chicago Japanese American Historical Society (CJAHS). All Rights Reserved.