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Title: Tonko Doi Interview
Narrator: Tonko Doi
Interviewer: Anna Takada
Location: Chicago, Illinois
Date: September 3, 2019
Densho ID: ddr-chi-1-19-13

<Begin Segment 13>

- AT: 00:56:08 Um, and so can you tell me about, uh, your experiences, um, moving to Chicago, being new to Chicago and starting a new school? You, I think you said it was your junior year that the first year here?
- TD: 00:56:26 Yes.
- AT: 00:56:27 Can you, um, tell me about what um, Lakeview High School was like at that time?
- TD: 00:56:31 At that time, uh, it was predominantly white. And at that time, even kids from Lake Shore Drive went to Lakeview.
- TD: 00:56:43 Uh, now, uh, the makeup of uh, Lakeview is very different with open enrollment I guess. But, um, yeah, at that time, uh, it was predominantly white. There were Asians, Japanese Americans who lived in the Lake View area. So, you know, there were those, but I never felt part of either group, first of all, because I came as a junior. But what happened was, how, I became active in the JA community is my auntie was very active in her church, which was CCP Church of Christ Presbyterian. And at that time they were on Sheffield down the street from Wrigley Field.
- TD: 00:57:36 So she said, come to church, you know, and then, you know, Dah, Dah, Dah, Dah, Dah. So I went to church and I met some people, but I was very enterprising. I met some kids and I like to dance. So I asked the, um, elders, and they're not so old, like Jim Saiki. I mean, he's old now, but you know, and his brother and John Toriyumi, you meet these people probably were in their forties at the time and they were looking to expand their youth membership. So I said, well, you know, why don't we hold dances downstairs? now CCP that was very conservative. I didn't know that, but they bought a jukebox for us and they stocked it with records that we chose. And every Friday night

that social hall was filled with kids from the south side, the North Side, everybody was dancing and they were good dancers. They liked to dance.

- AT: 00:58:41 And was this a predominantly Japanese American church?
- TD: 00:58:44 Oh yes. Oh yes. CCP was a, at that time, almost 100% Japanese. And my Auntie, my father's sister, you know, was part of the Fujinkai. I don't know if you know, that word, Fujinkai: Ladies Organization. So anyway, they approved it and, um, we had dances and we had uh, a good time.
- AT: 00:59:10 And so, um, in high school, um, you know, of course social life is pretty important at that age. Um, who are some of the, the people that you were spending your time with because it sounds like CCP there was a greater Japanese American population at school, for example. Right. So, um, were you spending a lot of time with Japanese Americans?
- TD: 00:59:37 I was, I was at that time, uh, it was a new experience for me, but, um, it was easier. They were more accepting. At Lakeview, I belonged to a club that was predominantly white, but you know, I wasn't so interested in that group,
- AT: 00:59:59 What club was that?
- TD: 00:59:59 That ,it was called, um, what do we call that Alphas, I think.
- AT: 01:00:04 Just a social club?
- TD: 01:00:05 It was a social club. I don't think you were allowed to have, there was some kind of rule, I don't like a Sorority, you know, but it was approved by, um, the school, but with the Japanese events, so as a result of these dances, we would go to basketball games, baseball games, and you know, I became friends with different people and at the time nobody drove a car. So we would take the red line to the south side at night, one o'clock in the morning and we would come home on it. But there was no fear because I don't know, we didn't have fear of people hurting us. We'd go to Clark and Division, which is a completely different look now. If you, I take my friends from out of town, Clark and Division, they can't believe it. It's all car dealerships and high-rises. But at that time, as you know, it was a Japanese American community. So there was a place called Ding Ho, Chinese restaurant. We would go there to eat, we would eat at the rib house late at night, have ribs for like \$3 or something. Yeah.

AT: 01:01:20 Was that Clark and Division?

TD: 01:01:22 Clark and Division.

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