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Title: Tonko Doi Interview
Narrator: Tonko Doi
Interviewer: Anna Takada
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AT: 01:32:19 Um, I have just a couple more questions.

TD: 01:32:26 Yeah, go ahead.

AT: 01:32:28 Um, so given your heavy involvement in the community here over years, decades, really, um, how, how would you describe, um, I guess the Japanese American community from when you first arrived in the late 50s to today? Or maybe how has it changed?

TD: 01:33:00 Okay. I think, uh, now, uh, the social service, is that the right word? Social Service like.org organizations, um, you know, are more sharing and there are more, you know, like there's the historical society, the JAHL, the JASC, uh, mutual aid. Uh, and before I think people lived, uh, joined and they were more isolated. Now it seems that the organizations are coming together more and, um, working toward certain goals, um, for the community. I, oh, go ahead. Oh, no. You know, I was just thinking,

TD: 01:33:50 Oh, what is your ethnicity?

M: 01:33:55 Me? Hispanic.

TD: 01:33:55 Hispanic. Hmm. Um, when I went to Italy for the first, no, not the first time, but when I went to Italy, I visited an area called Pietrasanta, which, um, there was a man, his name is Americo Bugliani. And he came to the United States, came to Chicago and became a commander of Nisei posts like two or three times he came to America. He was an Am-, his father was an American. So when he came to United States, he came kind of to search for someone. The guy's name was Paul Sakamoto. Now you've probably heard this story before, Anna. In his town of Pietrasanta, the Nisei, uh, the 100th and 4th, uh, 100th

battalion 442, they, um, well, I don't know what the word is, but they stayed there before climbing the Apennine Mountains. Now, the 100th and 442, which is I guess a battalion and regiment of it was a segregated, they were segregated units of only Japanese Americans, their leaders, their officers were white. There was a segregated Black regiment.

TD: 01:35:20 This was close to the end of the war in 1944. And they bivouacked in Pietrasanta. When they left there, they didn't know if their lives would end or they would survive. So the Black, the White and the Japanese climbed the Apennine and broke through the Gothic Line in 38 minutes, I believe, within 30 to 38 minutes. And they, they broke through the German Line and ended the war much earlier than anticipated. Well, Americo Bugliani when he, when he was in Pietrasanta as a 13 year old boy, there was a man called, uh, Paul Sakamoto, who was a member of the 442. He was from Hawai'i and he gave the boy his musket, he gave him his toothbrush, his toothpaste, uh, a jacket, I believe.

TD: 01:36:14 And he left, and he climbed the mountains and he survived. But all, many years and years later, uh, Americo wanted to find him because he was so kind to him. He was just a raggedy begging boy in Italy. So he called all the Paul Sakamoto's in California. He couldn't find them. He called in Hawai'i, couldn't find them. Well, one year the, uh, American Legion Jap, uh, went to Hawai'i for a convention and he asked about Paul Sakamoto, and he found him in Hilo on the Big Island. And I, there's a picture, I'll show you the picture of him. And uh, he said, "Why, why were you looking for me? Why?" He said, "Because you were so kind to me. You gave me everything you had." He said, "I did that because I did not know if I would survive. I didn't know if I would need my toothbrush. And you know, I wanted to give it to you."

TD: 01:37:17 So anyway, that Americo Bugliani, in the town of Pietrasanta, which is a half a mile, half an hour from Pisa, that, he, he created a park. Now Pietrasanta is a town of sculptors. Michelangelo had a studio there, Botero, he had a studio there. There are many students and each of the sculptors are asked to give a sculpture for the town. So it's in a plaza, it's a very small, beautiful town. Americo Bugliani and his wife Ann retired Diddley. She worked uh, for Loyola as uh, I think dean, dean of uh, foreign students or something. And now she, he died last year, but every year in May they would come to the, um, uh, memorial day at the cemetery because they memorialized the, you know, that's for soldiers who died memorial day. People don't, I didn't realize it, but ever since I went to Italy, I go to

Memorial Day, you know, to honor those Japanese soldiers. So, but then this year Ann came and she was at the luncheon. I'll show you her picture later. So, well that made me interested in the Nisei Post because, uh, uh, I'm grateful and I respect and I, I pay honor and homage to those men who were so brave and gave their lives, you know,

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