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Title: Susumu Mukushina Interview
Narrator: Susumu Mukushina
Interviewer: Anna Takada
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- AT: 00:40:19 And I'm sorry if you mentioned this.
- SM: 00:40:19 Go ahead.
- AT: 00:40:19 Did you say that your family was in involved in any temples or churches?
- SM: 00:40:24 Yeah, my father had a Buddhist temple in the apartment. Um, we call it the Chicago, Chicago Buddhist Church. And most of the parishioners were people from camp, you know, and so it was more like a social gathering. My dad would preach and so forth. But what was fun was after the service, we never went home, you know, people brought, maybe it's Japanese tradition, but they brought their food along. We had fabulous Japanese food, you know, and they'll stay to watch baseball and football and whatever. And it was not unusual for services to start at 1:00 PM when the Cubs are playing, w:e started at 1230, you know, watched the game. It was not unusual for people to stay until 7:00, 8:00 in the evening. Just to socialize because that's the only time to, uh, to let off steam, I suppose, if they had bad time at work, you know. So, um, so my father, uh, uh, um, so I found that the temple and perhaps even some Christian churches today are a, it's more than just to hear a sermon go home. It was the effort to be like a big family affair. And I was talking to some of my friends who like Japanese food, I took Japanese food back then for granted because it was so great, you know, and, and Japanese ladies would come to my home, you know, early in the morning and my mother and these will be talking about but don't make some sushi and some all kinds of Japanese food, you know. It was a feast, you know. And uh, of course, uh, as a kid, I didn't appreciate that, you know, I just ate and ate the food and the, um, uh, I, I had a very good memories, you know, it was a very warm, warm gathering. And um, um, I think my father wants said, uh, the service, we had service once a month. It wasn't every month. Service was just

for gathering people together. So, but sermons, it just an excuse for people to come together. So that's how my father thought about things. He never thought of himself as a, as a great orator or, or, or a great leader, you know, he just, um, he was just a very humble person, naturally humble. And so he said, oh, I'd like to provide a service. We're all friends can meet together. And oen informal setting, casual setting would talk about politics, talk about baseball. Could talk about lots of things, work, you know, a kid's education. It was a, I really cherished those days.

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