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Title: Susumu Mukushina Interview
Narrator: Susumu Mukushina
Interviewer: Anna Takada
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<Begin Segment 9>

AT:	<u>00:32:34</u>	When your family moved to the North Side, that was probably, that was the mid fifties?
SM:	<u>00:32:44</u>	Mhm.
AT:	<u>00:32:44</u>	Which high school did you attend?
SM:	<u>00:32:45</u>	I went to grammar school first, in fifth grade, it was Trumbull Grammar School. Trumbull is no longer in existence, but the building is still at Ash, uh, Ashland and Foster. I went to Amundsen High School at Damen and Foster.
AT:	<u>00:33:02</u>	And how did the, how did living on the North Side compared to living on the South Side?
SM:	<u>00:33:08</u>	World of difference. Um, I, I knew that when I transferred to the, we transferred, um, in March and I was in fifth grade and for a while my mother told me, you know, have the Trumbull School was about two years ahead of the, uh, of the ghetto school, Shakespeare I was at. So my mother was very good to mathematics and geography, so, uh, so she kept me up, you know, even though she couldn't read a word of English, she was a very encouraging person too, well, I'm glad she was there.
AT:	<u>00:33:53</u>	She would help you?
SM:	<u>00:33:54</u>	Help you, with my homework and um not sure what she was saying, I'm speaking, the other school was really slow, you know. So, um, so I was way behind academically when I went to my Mount Trumbull School and I was academically behind for the next four or five years, I think I had to catch up.
AT:	<u>00:34:23</u>	How did that work exactly? Were do you, did you have to do any repeat a grade or anything or.

SM:	<u>00:34:30</u>	<p>No, well, back in 1957 I graduated, we all had to take IQ tests .and I can, we don't do that now, but that was the latest thing in psychology. We're, uh, we're, uh, we're all the children in the world in the country could be measured, by IQ, you know, not knowing that there's not a bias in IQ. But if you're 12, 13 years old, what do you know, you know? And, and, um, this is again, stuck in my head. Earlier I stated that we, all, all the kids were thinking about going to college, you know, going to college and when, um, when I was talking with Mrs. Mann, my eighth grade counselor, she said, I don't think you're going to make it through high school. I said, what? You know, so well, because here's the rational, here's, here's why, you're reading grade is 5.2, you know, fifth grade average when I was in eighth grade. So I was three years behind. My IQ was 92, average is 100, you need 120 to go to college. She said, she said, forget about college, you know, and um, I, I, those words stuck, not personally, but I was very ashamed because I'd be the only Japanese kid not going to college, you know, that was my thought. You know, my best friend, you know, he was going to Lane Tech and, and um, uh, we're talking about going to Northwestern or you know, all these good schools, all these good schools because at the University of Illinois and that kind of stuff. And um, I didn't tell my parents that, you know, Oh yeah, my parents also said, listen to your teachers. They're always right. You know, so uh, so whenever I complained about my teacher being mean to me, my mother would say, no she's a teacher, you outta know better. So here I am, an authority, authority figure telling me I was not smart enough to go to high school, you know.</p>
AT:	<u>00:36:40</u>	<p>Was it, you weren't smart enough to go to high school?</p>
SM:	<u>00:36:40</u>	<p>No, no, I could go to college. Excuse me. So um, and um, and when I went to Amundsen, my first year I was in a remedial class, they called that the slowpoke class, you know. So everyone there had low reading scores. And, and again, again you know, this is my fate, you know, and my counselors there, they're telling me to take something you can do with your hands be a mechanic or, or do something with your hands because you don't have the brains, the smarts, the intelligence to finish high school. So they were actually kind of encouraging me to not to do something else in high school. But what happened was that my, um, uh, I started school September, first year was in June, my Marines were coming in was 5.2. So they wanted to have at least one year advantage I have a 5.0, 6.2 and some people 4.8, you know, it was that range. And um, um, I remember that a teacher, her name was Mrs. Baxter was saying when test results came in on the second tour, she was saying,</p>

Oh, you said Mary, you went for 4.8 to a 6.4. Great. And she'll come back and forth. Oh, Steve you didn't do very well you remain about the same. Then she says Susumu, you know, you went from 5.2 to 10.8. They thought I cheated and I said how could I cheat on a test, you know, especially if it was written out. So I was supposed to be in honors English, but they didn't want to do that. No one went from, from the remedial class to honors. So I just stayed in the same level throughout the level. So that was my, my exposure to high school.

AT: 00:39:10

So you said most of your classmates were Irish Catholic?

SM: 00:39:16

It was interesting. Yeah. I lived on ah Rascher Avenue. Families north of Balmoral were Irish Catholic, there was a divide. And south of Balmoral were Protestants, you know. So, um, uh, so when I played, um, the Catholics back then didn't play much with the Protestants, you know, I didn't understand why, you know, but uh, uh, but I got on well with everybody. So, uh, um, so, um, I found that out as I lived there, you know, because I noticed that everybody on my street block, all my friends went to St. George's or St. Gregory's and everyone, uh, uh, living south of Balmoral went to Trumbull, Trumbull Grammar School. So that's when I got curious about, about why people do that, you know, religion and that kind of thing.

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