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Title: Sharon Seeder Interview
Narrator: Sharon Seeder
Interviewer: Anna Takada
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KS: 00:51:02 What was it like having kids and being Japanese? Hapa kids?

SS: 00:51:10 Well, it was kind of strange because we were in Northbrook and Northbrook, uh, you know, I thought the schools would be better and the community would be better in Northbrook. And I just thought that Eurasian children are just the most beautiful kids and ever, and you're still, it's like you see a Eurasian person, you know, man or woman, and they're just like beautiful. So I, so I thought that the two of you, and I thought giving you a good education. I know that, that they were, both of you, both you and Julie were bullied in school. So I know that that was difficult, but I know that both, um, my oldest daughter, uh, as well as my youngest daughter were bullied. And I, um, had to go to the school with my oldest daughter, several times to point out to the principal. And I don't think they knew what to do at the time, you know, like, um, somebody stole, my oldest daughter's jacket of her locker and they were, you know, picking on her. Um, and I told the principal and that, and he pretty much said, well, you know, I'll look out for her, but that's kind of how kids are. And it's like, no, that's not how kids are. Um, and then I, I, uh, and she was a good student, so they often, sometimes teachers would say, well, she's quiet. And I said, well, just because she's quiet doesn't mean she's not smart. She's obviously smart. Um, Kel was a bit more boisterous and so she would get check marks for talking and handwriting. I remember going to the school to, with their first grade teacher saying, you know, please come to me. Just don't put a check mark on there and let me find out about it. And she'd make some little nasty comments like, um, well, when I was divorced and being divorced in Northbrook wasn't a good thing so that she made comments about me being divorced, and working. And then she would say, well, you know, if, if she Kelly cared about me, she, her handwriting would be better. It's like, why she care about you? And then I said, well, you know, when we're adults, all of our handwriting's bad anyway. I suppose she

didn't like that too much. You know, hand writing, what's the big deal? Why would you make a big deal about that?

- AT: 00:53:39 So where there not, um, many other Japanese Americans families?
- SS: 00:53:44 No. No. And it wasn't until probably maybe the kids were in junior high or something, there were Korean families that moved into the, the community. But there weren't a lot of Asians period in Northbrook.
- AT: 00:54:02 Um, when did you move? What year did you move to Northbrook?
- SS: 00:54:05 Oh gosh, I moved, um, see Julie was born there in '76 I think we moved there in '74 a couple of years before she was born. Yeah. Oh, '74. So that was there for a long time throughout, you know, their high school educations and college. And um, and I, yeah, I have to admit that now it's, it's pretty sterile environment and I'm glad I moved back to the city. But uh, yeah, I I thought it was doing well for the girls cause the school system and everything, but maybe not on the social scale.
- AT: 00:54:50 And where in the city are you living now?
- SS: 00:54:52 Uh, I'm living in Andersonville, Clark and Foster. It's a, it's a great neighborhood. Uh, so I really am happy I moved back. Yeah. I almost, I almost bought a condo in Northbrook and it just like my girls were gone, I was by myself and it's like, no, this is just not, this is just not feeling right.
- KS: 00:55:15 Oh, I had to pull you to the city, tooth and nail right?
- SS: 00:55:16 So I'm happy, I'm happy I made that decision.

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