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Title: Jane Kaihatsu Interview
Narrator: Jane Kaihatsu
Interviewer: Anna Takada
Location:
Date: October 27, 2017
Densho ID: ddr-chi-1-9-7

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- AT: 00:29:10 Um, but, and I, I think now I've kind of want to connect that to your experiences growing up in, in Chicago. Um, so, um, so at first your, your parents were in Old Town Area and then moved to Jefferson Park. And you said in 65' is when you moved to Park Ridge? Um, so that you would have been a little bit less than ten years old. Can you tell me about um, your, probably your first memories in the Jefferson Park area?
- JK: 00:30:03 Yes, um, Jefferson Park, at that time, was, um, not very city, like when you think about it, that is, for example, in this area of Lincoln Park where it's very dense. It was, it was more like a suburb. Now when I go there today, I think, wow, the houses are close together except for our house because we had a side yards. So we didn't have people really right next to us except on one side. And it was a very happy time for me because we could walk anywhere. Um, I remember when the expressway, the Kennedy Expressway was built and we watched it being built and being inaugurated and the school was nearby. We could walk to school and there's a school store that we could go to and buy candy. Um, my brother went to cub scouts, at the nearby by Church and, uh, there's was a firehouse I know we used to visit with a real Dalmatian dog. My younger sister Nancy used to play with the dog, so it was very pleasant. Now when I grew up later I found out that, um, uh, it was a very, uh, racially segregated area. There's a lot of, uh, whites to, didn't take kindly to African American's. And my mom said there was a Black police officer, young man who tried to rent the apartment cause he was stationed at the Jefferson Park station and he was nearly run out. He couldn't. And I, I wanna to say there was a anti-Martin Luther King demonstration but, I can't be sure completely. But anyway, there's a lot of unpleasantness going on and racial hostility. But I don't recall feeling any of it. And again, my older brother may have had a different story.

AT: 00:31:51 Were there other, um, Japanese American families or even Asian?

JK: 00:31:55 Yeah, actually there was, and maybe I wonder if that was the reason why we moved to Jefferson Park. There was one family, the Katahira's who lived close by and they were members of our church, Christ Church of Chicago. And up until fairly recently, Mrs Katahira lived there, I think until two years ago. Yeah, but they were the only ones I don't. Oh, and there was a Chinese family. We used to get Chinese food there, from the Moi's.

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