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Narrator: Jane Kaihatsu
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AT: 00:32:24 And, um, what kind of, besides school and church, were you involved in any of their activities with as a kid?

JK: 00:32:34 Um, once I grew up in, we moved to Park Ridge. Yes. Um, oh, I, myself, I uh, from about middle school, I guess when all my interests in the camps in Japanese things came about. Um, we, uh, went for Japanese dancing, odori, through the Shizako Imbei Dance Troupe and Ms. Imbei was a member of the Buddhist Temple of Chicago and so all the instructors and other members who are, um, primarily members from there. So we took that every Sunday. My sisters and I, and even my brother did classical dancing for a while. My young, my younger brother had, um, well in birth order, my older brother, Donald, uh, I don't think he took judo, but he was involved in the Nisei Ambassadors Drum and Bugle Corps for several years. And they were based out of the Buddhist Temple of Chicago. And I was a color guard in the junior corps for awhile. But I know that was a big part of our growing up, going to all his practices and then parades and exhibition. We follow the corps all summer long and still have lifelong friends from that experience. My parents did, and even, I do via my brother, Don. A my younger brother Eddie went to, um, well, we all went to Japanese school. Um, me, Eddie, Nancy, and Anne and that's how I know your grandmother Takada Sensei through Japanese school. Um, Eddie went to judo and he also, um, play kendo. And it was actually from kendo that he, uh, acquired a love of, of fencing, foil fencing, and he became an accomplished fencer in high school, uh, in college. And then in university, um, he became, uh, the assistant women's fencing coach at Northwestern for awhile and he's still fences today. So that was from BTC. Nancy and Anne uh, and Eddie too, they, um, played ah softball and basketball in the Chicago Nisei Athletic Association. I because I have bad eyes, and I played the violin, was not doing any sports. I wasn't involved in that. But I would go to their games and when I learned to drive, drive them around, so I was a part of it

too. And my peers at Tri-C were involved in those sports, um, activities too, but I couldn't participate in those or I chose not to.

AT: 00:35:07 Hmm. Um, can you tell me a little bit more about the drum and bugle corps? Maybe what, what they did? You said they met out of BTC?

JK: 00:35:18 Mhm, okay. They, were, as I understand it, it was, in those days and it still might be, the drum and bugle corps were sponsored by the American Legion is a, as a youth activity and this includes non-Japanese communities, all communities had these drum and bugle corps throughout the country. And this one, um sponsored by the Nisei Post was open to youth. I think he had to be 13 from 13 until 21 years old. And then you aged out. So they formed themselves as the Nisei, Nisei Ambassadors. And it was kids from all over. And then I understand there were some Chinese kids, although Chinese, Chinatown had their own band. And then there are some African American kids that came from the South Side. And I don't to this day, I was wondering how did they find out? But they, but they did come and uh, practiced music too. That's where some, you know, learned about music. But it was, uh, a youth activity in supposedly to keep kids busy. So they would meet for rehearsal either at BTC. And when the corps got too big, they used to meet at the Broadway Armory over on North Broadway. I think it's near Granville. And have practices there. We had fundraisers, fundraising for uniforms and at the beginning, all the mothers, sewed the uniforms, except for the pants. They used to wear purple satin blouses. And I remember my mom, sewing my brothers and making sashes and things like that. And then finally they had, um, enough money, um, to buy real uniforms, band to look like band uniforms and of course instruments were purchased by the corps. So it was a huge enterprise. They'd start off with a small van and eventually got a big truck. Um, people would cook, make um onigiri, rice balls, and chicken teriyaki. And my older brother Don told me that one of the, uh, African American boys when he got married to an African American woman, he made her learn how to make onigiri and chicken teriyaki because he loved it so much. So I thought that was very, uh, cute. Uh, but it was just a wonderful time. Everybody had a lot of fun. Everybody got along and then as the corps grew and became better, they would win competitions and then they start competing on a national level. I remember going to Washington D.C. and New York for competitions. It was very exciting. It was a family vacation for us. They performed on the capital, steps. Um, was, you know, Inouye must've been in Congress, Senator Daniel Inouye must have been in Congress at that time, and also

ah representative Spark Matsunaga from Hawai'i I think was there too. To welcome and. I remember we did get a tour of the White House and tours of other places in Washington, D.C. through that corps, drum corps trip.

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