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Title: Jun Dairiki Interview
Narrator: Jun Dairiki
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
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<Begin Segment 8>

NW: So she just asked me to call her back later this afternoon, so we can continue. So, tell me about what you liked to do when you were in junior high, high school, after the war is over. What kind of play did you do?

JD: I participated in plays, of course, I was always in the choir. We always had what you call an operetta, so I always participated in those. So I guess my whole life really revolved around music more than anything else. So I was heavily involved in that. You know, it's funny, I don't remember a lot of the stuff I did in high school. [laugh]

NW: [laugh] Any teacher that you liked, or?

JD: I had one, right after the war, when we came out. I had a few, but the first one I remember was in middle school and her name was Nell Rhodes. She was a little old lady, been teaching for years, but she was the most compassionate person you could ever meet. And she was very kind to me, and I learned a lot from her. So she's the first teacher I really remember that I, probably'll never forget. I had a couple of other teachers at highschool. One was Mrs. Low, um, she taught English and she taught French. And I learned a lot from her. And those two teachers, I guess were the heaviest influence on me.

NW: Now you told me that there are both white students and Japanese American students, were there any other types of diversity at your school?

JD: Not very much.

NW: So that was the two major groups. Do you think that teachers, or, you know, school principals, let's say, might have dealt with those two groups of students differently because . . .

JD: I don't really think so.

NW: You didn't really think that.

JD: No, they were pretty good. I mean, this girl that I was talking about, the Nisei girl, we knew each other, we were good friends and all that but her brother, she had an older brother who was in high school at the time when we were in middle school. But her brother was, like most Niseis, we're not very tall, but he made the varsity basketball team, he was short, but he was the best player they ever had. You know, so, no, we were not looked at very differently. We were, I

think, all treated very equally, I mean there was enough of a Japanese population where there were enough Japanese, Nisei students in the high school, and we had one family where all the kids in that family were just brainy people, really brainy people. Extremely brainy, you know, and I think all of them went on to get their PhDs. Unheard of in those days, you know. But they were just a really brainy family, they were not athletic or anything, but they were brainy.

NW: They were high achievers so to speak.

JD: Yes, absolutely. You know.

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