

**8. Item # MANZ 7551 (high-school class ring and other high-school graduation artifacts)
Chiyeko Matoba [CM], MANZ 1184, interviewed by Richard Potashin [RP]
Disc 1 of 1 (DVD), 1:03:32 – 1:05:08**

RP: How was graduation at Manzanar?

CM: The ceremony? It was great. I will always remember it, you know. You know, you look forward to it. You get a brand new dress, you know. You get all—and your classmates, you know, you have dances and you have fun. You know, our social life was very active and fun; and I think we made it fun. We children, you know, participated; and we created our fun in sports and whatever. I was always active so I was never home feeling sorry for myself. I never felt sorry that I was in Manzanar. I mean, I knew all the injustices, you know, as I got older and older and also out of camp; and you're in the education field so, I mean, you realize how ridiculous the whole thing was and how much we did miss out. At the time because I was a teenager and I was young and, you know, you don't worry about if you have family; and you are secure in that way and someone's going to take care of you. You don't really get angry about a lot of things, but as you get older and you realize how serious the situation was, that should never happen again.