

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: MAURICE NAITO, retired City & County road division worker

Maurice Naito, Japanese, was born in 1912 in Kakaako. His parents came to Hawaii from Japan. His father worked for Rainier Brewery; his mother, a picture bride, worked as a housemaid for haole families.

Maurice attended Pohukaina and Kaiulani Elementary Schools, Washington Intermediate and McKinley High Schools. He was active in sports during his school years and also played on various company teams.

He held a variety of jobs with Hawaiian Pine, Liberty House, and retired from the City & County after 27 years service.

TIME LINE

1912	birth: Kakaako
1923	played for Kakaako Sons and Atkinson teams
1935	married Mary Kauhane
1947	City & County
1974	retired

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ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Maurice Naito (MN)

October 7, 1977

Waimanalo, Oahu

BY: Perry Nakayama (PN)

PN: This is an interview with Maurice Naito on October 7, 1977, in his home in Waimanalo.

Mr. Naito, could you tell me about your parents, where they came from?

MN: My parents, my father came from Japan when he was 17 years old. Then later on my mother came over from Hiroshima, Japan. And my father worked on plantation. Kauai, Oahu, Hawaii. Then from plantation, later on, he went into guide. Big Island, he was a guide, going around, showing people the volcano places and all that.

PN: And your mother was a picture bride?

MN: Yeah, my mother was a picture bride from Japan. And she work as housemaid for different officers.

PN: Oh, in their homes?

MN: Yeah, in their homes. Then my father join her. Take care the yard and all that.

PN: Why did they come to Kakaako?

MN: They first settle in Kakaako. Just happen like anybody else. They found a place suitable for them so my dad stayed in Kakaako. Then he work at the brewery over there. Used to be Rainier Brewery. And had a sake factory over there, too. Right on Queen Street. Yeah, it's on Queen Street, near South Street. The building is still there, the brick building. Right next to that is the new fire station, right?

PN: Do you know how much he was getting paid at that?

MN: No. Those days we no think about money. Everything was so cheap, and life was so good, you know. Not like now. Everybody have to

fight to struggle for life. But those days, everything was so cheap. And people were real courteous and helpful. Now, life is different. Everybody is struggling. Everything hard times, eh.

PN: Was your mother working also?

MN: So I said, later on, she start cooking for these people. Usually, she would cook for haoles. White people.

PN: Where was this? In Manoa?

MN: She goes all around. She goes all around. And she cooks. And she housemaid. Then she go to different house different days, keep house. Not one particular house. She even used to take care Buster Crabbe them before. When Buster Crabbe them was small, she used to go up around by Makiki someplace. She used to take care those kids and their house. Like she used to make cookies for them. So my mother, when she see Buster Crabbe picture in the paper, she say, "Oh, I know this boy. Take care." When he was a small boy until he went Punahou.

PN: Your father, what kind of job did he have in the brewery?

MN: I don't know what kind job. I know he used to come drunk every time. You know, pau work. But he never harm nobody. Because the house was right in the back in Quinn Lane, eh. See, right in the Quinn Lane. That's where the Matsuno family was, in there too. You know, the Councilman.

PN: Holck?

MN: Holck. His parents were in the same lane too. Matsuno.

PN: This was your first house that you remember in Kakaako?

MN: Yeah. Quinn Lane, Kakaako.

PN: Then you folks moved to Alapai?

MN: Yeah.

PN: How come you had to move?

MN: I don't know why. But then my father them just move to Alapai. And we stay Alapai quite some time we was in Alapai.

PN: What kind of homes was this?

MN: Duplex houses. One living room, one bedroom, kitchen.

PN: I see.

MN: That's it. That's all. Everybody all live like that. Alapai. Because like Alapai now, where Queen Street is coming from King Street to Kapiolani, over there used to be a pond, you know. Used to have a big pond.

PN: Whose land was that?

MN: I don't know whose land. Probably Ward. Ward Estate. Now where there's a church there, the Bright family, you know, all that, you get the musicians, eh. Sol Bright and all those people. Yeah, Andy Bright. Well, those people used to live right there. And their house right almost back of our house. They take care---care-taker for the church, eh. So one of the Bright girls, the oldest one living down here. Right on Homestead, too. And Nobori Nursery was right alongside the pond. The Nobori Nursery.

PN: Who went to this nursery?

MN: No, that kind plant nursery.

PN: Oh, that kind nursery. Oh.

MN: And then, from there on, they lost the lease, they move over to where Salvation Army is now on King Street. Was over there. But City Hall took over. They get new City Hall now standing over there, right. Over there, Nobori had their nursery over there. Then when they moved out to Pauoa Valley, Salvation Army took over. Then Salvation Army all went out. Then they build the City Hall.

PN: Later on you said that your family moved to Kalihi Uka?

MN: Kalihi Valley, way in the valley.

PN: Why would...

MN: My father wen go take care that orange and fig orchard for the cousin, Kawahara. But over there, we had one big two-story house. Well, they provide. Upstairs get plenty room. Lanai. You know, you overlook the ocean, and downstairs you get big space. Not for sleep, but for play. Kitchen, everything. So my dad wen go be caretaker for the cousin, Kawahara. Now they get the Kawahara Plant Nursery, eh. On School Street. I think they move now from there. Before Kuakini Hospital. They had over there. But I think they moved out. They sold the place. I think they way up in Palolo Valley now. They way up in Palolo Valley. Even cousin, but they too big shot for us. We no bother.

(PN laughs)

MN: That's my father's da kine big shot kind....(relative).

PN: How old were you then?

MN: Gee, from Kalihi Valley, I used to go to school. Kaiulani School, and Palama Gakuen.

PN: This was, then, about elementary about?

MN: Yeah.

PN: Up to what grade?

MN: At that time, I think I only was about on the third grade. Third or second grade, I think. I think that's about all. Because when we move back---no, was going to Kaiulani. Yeah, we move back to Kakaako [about 1920], when we move back to Kakaako, alongside the brewery, they used to get camp over there, too, you know. Got narrow lane, eh. Where the fire station is now, had one narrow lane, you know. Inside there had houses.

PN: Oh, was a Japanese camp?

MN: Yeah. Duplex houses. Upstairs, downstairs. And from there, I used to still commute to Kaiulani School. Walk with my brother. My mother put musubi and all inside the bag, eh. We used to walk to Kaiulani School. Rain or shine, we walk. No streetcar. Even 5 cents, cannot afford it. We walk.

PN: How come you didn't go to Pohukaina?

MN: Well, because we were living Kalihi Uka. Then later on we transfer back to Pohukaina School. By the time I left Pohukaina was fourth grade. Not Pohukaina, but Kaiulani School. Then I went to Pohukaina. Then that time, well, elementary school, if sixth grade, you graduate, you know. Then you go to intermediate.

PN: Oh, that's when they was just changing over from...

MN: Yeah, just changing over. So then Washington wasn't ready yet. So some of us, you know, Japanese school, one by Lex Brodie. Across Lex Brodie. Over there used to be Japanese school, too. So you go over there as an intermediate school, like.

PN: Oh yeah?

MN: Not enough room eh. So later on, when Washington was ready, the first Washington Intermediate, when we move in there, was facing King Street. A wood structure. And we move in there. That's the first time I seen hail come down. When I was in those classroom, you know.

PN: Oh yeah? Hail?

MN: Hail. You know, da kine snowflakes like.

PN: Ice balls.

MN: Yeah. But over there was good. But we used to walk, though. All the way to and from school, you know. We all in the morning, we get together. Everybody. We wait on the corner, then we all start walking up.

PN: What kind friends you had?

MN: Well, Japanese friends, Hawaiian friends, Portuguese friends. We all, we don't know about nationality. You know what I mean? They were friends. Now, we don't pick out people. "Eh, the guy is this, the guy is that." No. We all friends. We all help one another. And we go to school. Chinese, Filipino, Hawaiian, Portuguese. You know, we all. Then, after school, we all together again. We coming home. We don't ride no streetcar. At those time, streetcar. Then we come little older, we learn the naughty part of life. We used to hang on the streetcar. When the conductor come in the back, we jump off, we run in the front.

(PN laughs)

MN: We growing up now. Streetcar, they used to have bumper like. Run on the bumper. Then, when the conductor goes up in the front, hang on the side again. Then we jump off couple of blocks, and we walk home. Now we growing up. Looking for adventure already. But we never steal or all da kine. We used to fight, though. Yeah, fight like hell.

PN: Oh yeah?

MN: Oh yeah. You no lick one of your friends because everybody going pile on top.

PN: Who you guys used to fight?

MN: Oh, in school, anybody bully any one of our boys, you know. We no care who, as long as he come from Kakaako, we going help 'em. So all, we say, "Eh, no fool around those guys." Then, if the other side is too big for us, then we go back, we go up the block. We go get the Kakaako, the big guys.

(PN laughs)

MN: But they used to help us. But they always guide us. Funny, those days. Those guys, they say, "No go Kakaako, because oh, they going do this to you. They going do that." Our friends, they don't want to come. They scared. But no, we living there, wasn't like that. They all nice.

PN: Wasn't a rough district?

MN: No. Oh, it was rough. Not according to the eyes of people outside. But we living there, we live in harmony, we help one another. We go to

school together, we play together, everything. But people, I don't know. They say, "Oh, Kakaako." Before, they say, "Kakaako, no go Kakaako. Bad place." "Palama, bad place." "Kalihi, bad place." Wasn't like that. You actually live in there, it's not like that. Too much they hear.

PN: Oh, they only hear stories?

MN: Yeah. Sure, it was tough. Yeah. But not da kine. They don't fight with gun. All fight with hand. Maybe 2-by-4 or, you know.

(PN laughs)

MN: More with hand, like that. But no more gun. No more that kind. You end up with black eye or broke jaw or something. That's about all. Now, they shoot, eh. But those days, no. But we always used to stick together, you know, Kakaako. Any nationality. Yeah, we help one another.

That's why we still get---we used to have reunion. Kanraku (Tea House), you know. Every year, almost Christmas time. Then we get about, oh, 500, 600. All different nationality. You know, guys used to play sports or connected with sports. Boxing, basketball, baseball, football, swimming, anything. Even the Kakaako Sons, they have reunion, too. I miss three reunions already. Three. Yeah, one they had at Wilson's (Mrs. Eleanor Wilson Heavey) house. Because I was play in the Junior team, before. Then they invited me over play Senior, but then I got married, well, I said, "No." You too light. By the time I was only about 135 pound already. So was good life, very good life. Happy. No more fancy clothes, but nice and clean. And everybody is good to one another, all different nationality. You know, real aloha, Hawaii. That's you call "aloha Hawaii."

Then Mrs. Heavey used to be down the park with Mother Waldron, take care the kids. And Mother Waldron, oh, she was some lady. Yeah. She was everybody's mother. That's why we call her "Mother Waldron." She take care the park. Then she get assistants. You got to sign out for volleyball, softball. You know, bat. But those kids, they don't steal before. You sign out, you bring back. Unless she's going to tell you like this [pointing with finger], you know. She used to be teacher at Pohukaina School.

PN: Did you have her as a teacher?

MN: Yeah, I had (her) one year as my teacher. Short, fat lady, you know. She has little Hawaiian in her. Yeah, because Mrs. Heavey was my room. And chee, of all the classmates....oh yeah, Yono was my classmate, too.

PN: Kitagawa?

MN: Yeah. His brother was, we used to call 'em "Buffalo." But he died from boxing, eh.

PN: Boxing?

MN: Yeah. You know, that kid, what do you call, abcess tooth. Something like that. You know, when you get hit, get poison.

PN: Oh.

MN: Then Hosoi family, you know, the one own the mortuary now? They were on Queen and what street that go down by Lex Brodie? Keawe?

PN: Halekauwila?

MN: No, Halekauwila runs this way. Parallel with Queen Street. This one, the street is between where Lex Brodie's now. But in the front, on Queen Street side, across the American Sanitary Laundry, where used to be. Over there used to be the Hosoi family over there. Right on that corner. The mother and father had a dressmaking shop. And they live upstairs, next to the Aloha Theatre. The Hosoi family.

Then the Takamatsu had. Was between the theatre and the Hosoi. Takamatsu family. They had a small shop, sweet shop there. You know how now theatres have those sweetshop? Well, the Takamatsu family had one sweetshop between Aloha Theatre and the Hosoi before. But they no live there, the Takamatsu. They live somewhere up Queen Street. But they have a sweetshop there. Then Aloha Theatre, they condemn Aloha Theatre, then they build Kewalo Theatre. They had a sweetshop right next to there. On the corner, too. They---Consolidated (Amusement Company)--they give 'em the concession, eh. So they had the....

PN: They cater to the theatre crowd then?

MN: Yeah, yeah, yeah. But their own business. Takamatsu. Now the theatre run the concession. But before, no.

PN: How was Pohukaina School, like that? You said you had Mother Waldron. Was she strict?

MN: Oh, she was da kine. Regular, just like your mother kind. You naughty, she scold you. But she always there to comfort you, no matter what nationality you were. And Christmas time, make sure that every kid get something. She get something down the park. You see, she used to be part-time City and County recreation worker. That's how Mrs. Heavey got involved, too. So later on, Mrs. Heavey wen take care the other Mother Waldron park, on the other side now. She wen take care over there. Mrs. Heavey. So my oldest girl, that's where she learn how to dance hula. City-wide program. The good one, Mrs. Heavey used to take with her, go different places. Concert, like that. So my daughter used to go with her, my oldest girl.

PN: Was school pretty strict back then?

MN: Oh yeah. They get a long stick. You know, long, da kine pointers. They broke 'em on your head.

(PN laughs)

MN: And broke 'em on your hand, too. Get rubber tips on the front. You know, the small short ruler, the 12-inch ruler, that kind like that. They whack you over here.

PN: And they hold your knuckles out?

MN: Yeah, like that [clenched fist] or like this [open hand with palm facing up] or like that [finger tips held together]. You know, you go like that, you know. Oh yeah. They hit you. And I used to go home and tell my father. He tell me, "When you in school, they [teacher] your parents. So you listen. You had licking. You know why you had licking? You must be naughty. If you were good, they won't have to spank you. But if they spank you for you never do anything wrong, then I'll go. But you must be naughty!" So we get licking, we never tell our parents, because another licking again.

PN: Oh, when you go home?

MN: Oh yeah. Oh yeah, my old man get his belt for sharp the razor. Oh, he get that and he give you across your back. Your okole. Not your back but your okole. Swat that with that. Hoo! Bugga is that thick. So we never say. He always tell us, "You are the naughty boy, that's why you had licking." Even Japanese school we get lickings. We never go home tell. And we know, too, because we were naughty. That's why we got licking.

Well, school was terrific. You learn. You have homework. Everyday you have homework. Oh, English, make arithmetic, you know. All that, you have. We carry books to and from school. Then us, those days were rougher than kids now days. We go to public school, right. Then when we come home, we got to get ready to go Japanese school. We go to Japanese school. You know where is our sports time? We got to make up. So when Japanese school get through, maybe 5 o'clock. Japanese school through 5 o'clock. Then we got to get home. Maybe glass of milk, cookie, then I got to go down the gym practice basketball. Okay. After practice basketball, I got to run down to Mother Waldron Park, practice barefoot football till 8 o'clock in the night. Then you walk home. But what I do is soon when come home from school, I make my English school homework already. And Japanese school, if have homework, well, we make. If no more, well, we go to bed already. Not nowadays. You come home tired, you go out already. No. Eight o'clock we used to pau practice football.

PN: Then you come home, you do your homework?

MN: Japanese school, English school, already done that. Not nowadays school kids. "Ah, we going wait for this period or that period." But we used to do that, too, unless we tired, we miss. We get open period. Then, at that time, we catch up.

PN: Your parents used to stress education a lot?

MN: Oh yeah. And we were more handicap because our parents cannot help us. So more so we got to learn. Who was going to help us? Nobody going help us. So more so you got to pay attention to the teacher. Well, we all wasn't really smart, but at least we know how to read and write. I never believe too much in algebra and all kind. I figure if I know my math, add, subtract, divide, and multiply. That's, I think, to me, I think was good enough already. I wasn't thinking I going be one scientist or something.

PN: Parents used to look at your report cards?

MN: Oh yeah. Well, we always brought home good report cards.

PN: But if you brought home bad grades, what?

MN: Well, you bring home bad grade, boy, you get spanking. As we grow old, then I help my brother, you know. Go down, we help, help, help, you see. Then all of us, we're unfortunate. We never can go to University of Hawaii. Because even myself, I had enough credits when father got sick. Was lay up in Kuakini Hospital, eh. So got to stay home help bring in income, eh. That's why I wen go work Liberty House. Da kine \$45 one month, go work Liberty House. But those days, \$1, you can buy plenty grocery. I mean, \$1, you can buy bread. Like 5 cent, 10 cent, you know. Nowadays, look how much money you got to pay.

PN: How did you get this job at Liberty House?

MN: Oh, my dad used to work over there. My dad was watchman and janitor, Liberty House. And my uncle, he was the head custodian. He got my father the job. Then my father got me a job. Then, when I start playing sports, like that, you know, the other guys like offer you job, eh.

PN: Why did these companies want people to play sports for them?

MN: Well, you see, like before, all your companies, they used to spend plenty money in sports activity. Baseball, basketball. More so baseball, basketball. The other kind sport, not too much, wasn't that popular. But baseball and basketball. Advertisement purposes and recreation for the employees. That's why they used to hire. Like anything else, you competing now, right.

"Eh, we go get that guy. Give 'em job. What can you do?"

"Oh, he don't know nothing."

"Well, put 'em the other place. He going learn."

Just like that. That's why all the Palama boys, like that, they all good basketball players. So they get job all over the place. And plenty of this Japanese kids all good baseball players. Well, they get job all different place. Only except that before, long time ago, you know, I don't know why, but like anything else, Japanese no more chance work Hawaiian Electric, Telephone Company, [Honolulu] Rapid Transit, Pearl Harbor. All that places, you cannot work. So if you going to work, the only thing they going give you inside, maybe janitor or something like that. Not drive bus. I think the guy, the kid, Nakajo, I think he was the first Japanese to drive bus, I think. I don't know where the bugga is around. He used to be good boxer, too, you know. Good basketball. Good all around athlete. But only thing, he was lazy, the bugga. He get the size, everything. I think he was the first, you know, because he used to be good catcher. Shortstop.

PN: That's why companies would hire people? For sports.

MN: Oh yeah. Yeah. You good athlete, they hire you. But not only you good athlete, you got to get good attitude, too. Like today, same thing. Life goes on like that. Maybe you might be good, but they hire you for your attitude, you know, your temperament, your personality, all that too. If you that kind, they say, "Ah, the guy, he going to break up our team." Forget 'em. Just like that. Just still like today.

PN: Did you play sports while you was at Liberty House?

MN: Yeah, I play. Liberty House wen enter the Businessmen League. You see, they never go into the Commercial League. Commercial League had all these other big companies inside. But Liberty House wen enter Businessmen League. But even Businessmen League had plenty, you know. Like Alexander and Baldwin, and everybody was in. They had their team. Well, Liberty House never recruit too much. But then, like my brother-in-law was over there. The guy George Yap, he's good athlete. He was there. So he organize the team. Then we pick certain guys. Like Richard Kato. Certain kind guys.

PN: That's my uncle, that. "Toe."

MN: No, not that one. This other guy. I know "Toe." I played against him, too. His brother the inspector. Yeah, I played against them. The other brother, now City and County Inspector, right?

PN: Yeah, I think so. I not sure.

MN: The big fat one.

PN: Yeah, yeah.

MN: "Toe," he died already.

PN: Yeah, long time ago.

MN: "Toe" came work County, too, you know. Automotive section. He was taking care books in there before he passed away. I played against "Toe." Oh, he was good. He never get the height, but he was good, fast.

PN: Basketball, eh?

MN: Yeah, he was good. He was playing with Goro, those guys. Moriguchi.

PN: I don't know the guy. What kind job you had at Liberty House?

MN: Messenger. Messenger boy. Any kind job. Messenger, relief elevator operator.

PN: How much they used to pay you?

MN: \$45 one month. Salary. (Laughs) \$45 a month. You work over there, \$45 a month. I don't see how the hell the other people, I don't know how much they make and live, because you got to work with suit. Even you janitor, you got to with suit, you know. Oh yeah. You got to hang your clothes, coat inside da kine (closet). And then even you go collect package around the store, or you go errands like that, you got to get necktie, boy. And you got to go in suit. So people think you bank executive. But you only one janitor and one messenger boy.

PN: How old were you then?

MN: I just came out of high school. But then I contribute to the home. Like I said before, few dollars, you can go long, long way. Then when I was going to school, still going to school, to help supplement my father's income, I used to go down the cannery. Get up, maybe 4:30 in the morning, my mother wake me up. When I used to go down there, sitting on the bench, Dole Cannery. And then the foreman come out and pick you. And then, "You won't be picked today." This morning you go home again. You stay there about till almost noon time. They don't pick you, whatever musubi your mother made, you eat, you come home. Then your mother wake you up again, you go again, go again.

PN: This during the summer time?

MN: Yeah. At that time, well, I was still young boy, eh. Go over there, wait, no more job. Go again. No give up until finally they pick me. I wen go pick rubbish. The hell, I was making 15 cents an hour or something like that. Pick rubbish. But still, that's money. You know what I mean. That's money.

PN: How old were you then?

MN: Oh, I was still going what? Intermediate school, I think. Oh, yeah, intermediate. So I think I bullshit my age, eh. I bullshit my age. They didn't check up. You work hard, then the foreman see you good worker, well, he tell you he going promote you down the line. So maybe you get 20 cents an hour. Then he tell you, "Why don't you come night shift, go work with me?" I go night shift, then they give you another different kind job, see. I get 30 cents an hour. Oh, more income, night. Whole summer I work like that. Help supplement, to help.

Then, when I figure, eh, cannery not too much money. So my friend say, "Eh, we go down Matson. We go work stevedore."

"Okay, we go work stevedore." We carry rice bags. Not da kine 25 pound bag now. That's the kind hundred pound bag. Me and the kids, we throw the bag. Boom! The bag fall down. Boom! Only one bag we get tired. Only low all right. But when come high, the man tell us go on the boat, push case. Push case. Forty cents an hour. Matson.

PN: How long you work at there, Matson?

MN: Oh, only couple months. During summer time, eh. Because cannery cheap, eh. So we go over there, 40 cents an hour. Then the man tell, "Chee, boys, you folks go buy Durham [tobacco]." And that much longer you take when you stay in the restroom, right. Oh, we get hard time. Even today I get hard time roll the Durham. Blow in my eyes. The Hawaiian man go teach us. You know, Hawaiian man, Japanese man. They nice to us. "Come on boy, you get more time, you rest. You make Durham. Don't buy the ready made, you know, Lucky Strike." Before, Lucky Strike, Camel, and Chesterfield was the good cigarette, eh. But we used to smoke Lucky, because Lucky was much milder.

I said, "No, no. No good that, boy. Fifteen cents a pack."

"No, no. You make Durham. Five cents one bag." Take time you know.

See, if the foreman come, "Oh, you still smoking, okay. When you pau smoke, you go hatch so and so."

Cough and everything. We never know that. We innocent, eh. The guys say, "That's the only way you can rest, right?"

PN: You take long breaks?

MN: Yeah, for rest. But they were nice. Even the foremen were nice to us. They give us break. Forty cents one hour.

PN: How you got the job?

MN: Well, we go over there, stand in line.

PN: Just like the cannery?

MN: Yeah.

PN: Got to wait for them to pick you?

MN: And we tell, "Eh man, give us job. We need money."

I tell, "Man, my father sick. We need money."

"Why no go cannery?"

I say, "Oh, cannery is too cheap."

Say, "Okay, you wait over there." They pick us out. "Sometime no more whole day work."

I say, "That's all right. That's better than cannery." Right. Forty cents an hour. Even you work four hours, you make more money than cannery. Okay, we wait, wait. They used to give us about six hour, and they no overwork us. And they no try kill us or slave-drive us. And big Hawaiian man like that, they used to help us. Japanese old man. Filipino old man.

He say, "Boy, you come over here." And me and all the kids, we go. But you know, still young, eh. When the case broke, we run over there, we go get chocolate, we go get candy, we put 'em in the pocket. Them guys, they tell, "Goddam." Fruits, coming from the winch, maybe break, the case break. Orange fall down, apple. We all eat.

But those days was good. Everybody, they treat you like their own kids, like. No matter what nationality, they help you. So we never think about nationality. To me, I thought everybody was Japanese. You know what I mean. We never think about the different nationality. But more so, like haoles, yeah, different. Because they talk about 'em. They dominate us. Just like our ruler, like. Oh yeah. "That bloody haole." With other nationality, we all, we figure we belong the same class. Even Portuguese too, even if they white, you think they all the same class. The other kind, the blondes, you know, da kine haoles, "The bloody haoles," you know, "push us around."

PN: Where did you know, you guys encounter haoles in terms of your work relations? In Liberty House or Matson.

MN: Before haoles, you no see 'em labor. They all get white collar job.

PN: They all the boss.

MN: Oh yeah. They no believe in this kind labor job. They all white collar job. All big shots. You know, big pay. Do nothing. They the overhead. They make the money and all us coolies make the small money. And you got to work to survive, right. Like they say before, the "Big Five" control until the union came in. When the union came in, then everything start changing. People get paid for what they do.

PN: When you were working Matson, what years was this?

MN: Oh, that when I was still intermediate [school] yet.

PN: Before the unions came out?

MN: I remember the guy, Chinese guy, was the time keeper. The guy Kwon from Saint Louis. I think was the guy Kwon. The guy was out time keeper. And one Hawaiian man was our foreman. I forget the Hawaiian man name already. Was long, long time ago. At Liberty House, like that, but the haoles never bother us, because inside us. "Eh, you better not get smart. We broke your ass." You know, that kind. That's one thing, we no scared haoles. The guy could be 250 pounds. "The hell with you, brother. Come on." That's one thing. But other kind guy, "Oh, the bugga. Tough the bugga." Haole, "Ah, the big haole. We hit 'em in the nut, he fall down." We had that kind idea, see.

(PN laughs)

MN: That's why, even I grow up, even today, haole, big, I no scared 'em. But other kind, oh, "Oh, the Samoan big bugga, the bugga." Forget 'em. Because one time he grab you, you finish, eh.

PN: ^{Then} Now what kind things you said, things you guys used to do when you were small like that? Surfing, would you go surfing?

MN: Yeah, those days. We go surfing. And before surfboard, they used to build out of, oh, da kine koa wood, you know. Or redwood, like that. And big. I had one, you know. One old redwood one. Big bugga. Go from there to around here kind. [10 to 12 feet.] Big bugga. And then when the bugga, if you don't varnish 'em everything, the guy is water-log, you get about four guys to carry that thing. That's why you see the picture like Duke Kahanamoku them, all standing? That's the kind of board. I had one. Then I loan 'em to somebody, then they brought 'em back. I think I had 'em for put my plants on top.

(PN laughs)

MN: Then wen rot away. Before, never had this foam kind stuff. They make 'em from koa, like that. Big, big planks. We cannot afford that kind, so we get old ironing board, or any kind of board we find. That kind we round, we shape 'em up. That's all. then we don't bring 'em home. Down Squattersville, we hide 'em in the sand.

PN: Cover 'em up?

MN: Yeah. And we mark where we get 'em. But if somebody watching, next time we go, gone.

(Laughter)

MN: They steal 'em from us.

PN: How come you guys never used to take 'em home?

MN: Oh, too far.

PN: Oh, to carry that.

MN: Yeah.

PN: These paipo board. Paipo board kind?

MN: Yeah. We all watch one another. Then when we coming home, we stop by, maybe get nickel or dime. Then we buy something. We give the guy half. Soda half or something. But cheap, eh, before. Everything cheap. Had bakery, eh, Kakaako, before. On Pohukaina....Coral Street. Coral Street, that's the one. Over there had one big bakery. See, over there one bakery. And had one more bakery on Keawe Street. Keawe and Halekauwila. Over there had one more bakery. Chinese bakery. That one is....you know the one they used to make sweetbread, Buck's sweetbread? Well, that's the father's place before. The guy Buck used to be skinny bugga. Everybody used to give 'em licking. So the father wen go hire one tutor go teach him how to fight. Yeah. So he wen go Kewalo Gym. He go Kewalo Gym, this big Hawaiian guy used to train 'em.

PN: Sylvester, the guy?

MN: No, not Sylvester. Kammie. Not Kammie. One 'nother. I get the guy's face. Because before we go Japanese school, we used to sit in the gym, watch eh. Then Yono used to be trainer under Yoshioka, see. Kazuo Yoshioka. So Yono used to....he can fight. So they used to ask Yono go spar, eh. Before go Japanese school, you know. And we go tell Yono, "Bust 'em up." Yono go inside, he go spar with da kine Portuguese guy. Oh, Yono used to bang 'em away on the guy. Oh, his left hook. With the big gloves, floor all them guys. And us, we yelling for Yono, eh. And that's only spar, you know. The guy tell we making too much noise. But we say, well, I told him, "That's our friend. We got to back 'em up." Oh, Yono used to be good, you know. Before we go Japanese school, we go inside there. We go.

PN: You said you used to go surfing, and there was this....

MN: Ramp. Well, the ramp, the build 'em for lay sewer pipe. Sewer line. You see, that's why they get the ramp.

PN: And that's how, later on, they back-filled that area, too? With this ramp.

- MN: Yeah. Well, the ramp, later on they take 'em out. Take 'em out, take 'em out. And over there, they back-fill 'em all the way out. Then City and County wen use that area, see. More so, where that sewer division, the University of Hawaii experiment houses are out there. That was all ocean before. And City and County, I was working for Road Division at that time. We got big boulders. Our superintendent was Ham Rodrigues, see. He's no engineer. Just came from Kam School, I think. He ran the yard down there as assistant superintendent. Rap Lee Cummins was one head superintendent. But Ham, he build the seawall outside there. Big boulders. We set boulders.
- PN: Back-fill?
- MN: No, then we use that area for refuse. Refuse dump. All inside there. Cans, everything inside there within the seawall. See, dirt, rock, everything. Then, while they was filling up that section, City, us was building somemore wall going toward Fort Armstrong side, all the way down from Fort Armstrong side. See, by that time, this side filled, we were ready on this end. So when we came right behind of Fort Armstrong, we wen stop. So they fill up all that area. They press 'em with bulldozer, everything. And we used to burn over there, too. The smoke used to go to the ocean.
- PN: And that's how the area became back-filled?
- MN: Then they build that incinerator. Oh yeah. That's all....back-fill. All rubbish, that. You go outside there, you go look. Get big boulders.
- PN: The area, this is the area they used to call Stone Wall, then?
- MN: Yeah, yeah. They had over there Stone Wall. But Stone Wall was stone wall. But City and County wen advance that couple hundred yards out to the ocean. Ham Rodrigues, he's no engineer, but he was more smart than engineers. The guy Ham Rodrigues, my boss. He was assistant.
- PN: When did they start back-filling all that area?
- MN: Oh, this whole thing was 1940-something, I think.
- PN: After the war?
- MN: Because I went to the City 1947, June the second, see. So I think, about somewhere in the 1950's. The guys, assistant superintendent, Ham Rodrigues, he wen supervise the job with no cost, you know. Da kiné boulders, he used to get 'em from contractors. You know contractor discard? They give 'em to you. Well, they figure, chee, they get place to dump 'em. They don't have to pay fee, right. So contractor used to give. He used to get along fine with all the contractor. He's Irish-Hawaiian-Portuguese. We good friends till today. So we was doing the job outside there. We get Hawaiian boys, Japanese boys, Portuguese boys, all. The crane, you know, boulders. And then we made that.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

PN: You said you used to play barefoot football, right, when you were small?

MN: Yeah, yeah.

PN: There is the Atkinson team and the Kakaako team. You know, can run down on that again? What's the difference?

MN: See, Kakaako Sons, they had their own Junior team and their Senior team. Then Atkinson, they had the lighter, the smaller teams. Run from 120 pound to 135 pound. So Uichi Kanayama, the head coach, and he had Sada Matsuda, line coach. And the guy Nap Watanabe. Three of them all deasease already. They were our three coaches. Uichi Kanayama the head coach. And he's a man, you never hear him swear. But you can see it in his eyes, he's mad. And so we used to know you make wrong play. You look in his eyes, you know if you did wrong. He would yell, but he never swear. But Nap and the guy Sada, oh, my goodness, they kick your ass. Oh yeah. When you get your ass up, they boot 'em for you, too. Yeah, and they whack you too, you know. And those days, we no more head gear. Only sailor moku pants and sailor hat. Yeah, they hit you in the shoulder, no more shoulder pad, eh. Nowadays, these kids, they get all that. Us no more nothing. You know, no more even hip pad. Later on, some guys, they can afford it, they had hip pad. That's all you can wear. But shoulder pads, later on they had. But at that time, our time, never had nothing.

PN: What you played for, the Atkinson team?

MN: First I wen play for the Sons' Junior team.

PN: At 135?

MN: Yeah. Play for them.

PN: When was this?

MN: Oh, I don't know how many years ago. I still was going high school, I think. Because high school, we no can turn out. We too small.

PN: Oh, high school ball?

MN: High school, 19-1/2, that was the limit. Guys going high school, just like guys now, University of Hawaii. Guys get beard. And some guys they take post-graduate work, high school. They stay in high school about six years. They call that "PG."

PN: Post graduate?

MN: Yeah, you can play until you 19-1/2 years old. So they had monsters, high school. So what the hell us guys get chance? Even you play ROTC kind, they get big buggas playing. The guys no can make the school kind.

PN: Japanese was too small, so they couldn't play?

MN: Well, there were a couple of big Japanese, but not that big. Only Japanese was good for track, baseball. Yeah, that's the two, track and baseball. Maybe swimming. But when come basketball, football, and you get coach like "Rockney" Loboki or "Pop" Kando. "Pop" Kando not too bad, but Loboki, you turn out basketball, "Ah, you too small." He no think about your speed, your ability.

PN: Just turn you down?

MN: "Red" Raymond used to tell me why I no turn out. He see me play da kine Businessmen League, like that, you know. AAU League. He tell me, "Eh, you play good."

I said, "Loboki ain't going to pick me."

"Red" Raymond was only 5 [feet] 7 [inches]. But he get name, eh, Palama. He's the only shortest guy they pick up, McKinley.

PN: You know, barefoot football, how come they had this weight limit?

MN: For nobody get hurt. You see, age nothing. But weight, you know that guy's big, right. So they go with weight limit. So before the game, I can challenge your team. Weigh in. So they want to put the guy Nakayama on the scale, and the guy Freitas on the scale. So they look.

PN: So you got to make the weight every game, then?

MN: Certain guy, you can pick the guy. You see. But that Senior team, once you make 150 pounds, that's it. You know. That's why, those guys were all big. If not, they get killed. Like "Sonny" Freitas them, from 185 pound, they go try to make 150. You got to sweat. You got to carry 'em home. And he was All Star tackle, "Sonny" Freitas. He's Portuguese-Hawaiian. So smaller guys, not bad. Like me, only one time. Hundred-twenty pound league. Was playing Aiea, I think. Championship game, stadium. They put me on the scale. Then I got to lose about five pound. They even got to cut my hair. You no believe? You cut your hair, you can lose weight too. Oh yeah. They cut my hair, rabbit bite and everything, man. The next day I got to go barber.

PN: Just to make the weight, then?

MN: Shave off quarter more pound or something. And by the time you get in the game, you dead already. You run up and down behind the stadium to sweat 'em out. That's the only time I have to lose weight. Other kind time, I like make weight. Too light, eh. But no can help. So we used to play with guts, you know. Us all was playing with guts. Yono wasn't big. But Yono was smart. And he used to take acrobat, eh. So he see two guys coming for him, play 'em off. Then he somersault over. He use acrobat, eh. He wait for them, he leap over. So when they figure, they say, "The guy going leap," they going give 'em the shoulder, eh. He submarine, he broke the interference. He was smart, the guy, you know. And they no can get smart, because he going put up his duke quick, eh.

(Laughter)

MN: They no fool around with him. He get reputation already, too, eh. The Portuguese, da kine, they don't know, right. They like fight with him. He say, "Anytime, come on." But they never did fool around. We all shake hand after the game. We play hard.

PN: How did you folks get football or any other equipment for that?

MN: Oh, like Uichi, like that, we never go around sell Portuguese sausage, sweetbread. Yuichi, Sada, those guys, they go hustle. They go hustle for us. Football, all that kind. Only time we used to sell raffle ticket, dance ticket, you know, for Armory, eh, for buy our gold medal or something like that. But to raise money like that, they use the community. You know, chip in and give us kokua. And football, those days, not like now. Nice shape football. Almost round, the bugga. Hard to grip. Bigger. Even basketball. Nowadays basketball small. That's why the popolos hole 'em like this. Before basketball big, you know. Big, the ball. Even football was big. And the bugga is more balloonlike. You know, them thing is like that. Nowadays is small, eh, narrow.

PN: So how often you guys practice, like that?

MN: Everyday. Monday. We practice from Monday to Friday. Only Saturday we rest. Sunday, game.

PN: And the season was from September to....

MN: Oh, pretty long season, though. If you keep on winning, yeah, pretty long season. Because you get chance to go outer island, eh. Over here divisional play-off, like that. Then Oahu championship, then we get chance for inter-island championship, you know.

PN: You said there's this East division and West division. How many teams in each division?

MN: Chee, I no remember. Had quite some teams, though. All different district, yeah. Lot of competition. Lot of fighting, everything.

But everything, you shake hands. Like today, I see guys, we still friends. And we had soccer, too. City-wide soccer. Nowadays kids, I see with, oh, pad all kind. Us, sailor moku pants, sailor hat. I was playing soccer, I was playing center forward. Oh, the guy kick me in my nut, I fall down. Old Moiliili Field. Hoo, man! But before kids, not intentional, you know. You playing hard. That's the difference. You know, before, we no think about hurting the guy. So when we hit the guy, say, "Eh, sorry, eh." Oh, you feel bad, you know. But some guys, they dirty player. Very few. So our quarterback Hugh Aoki, I think, was that time. I never play that game. I was on sideline. I was on crutches, my leg. The last play before the half, you know. They wen pile on top. He got kneed in the kidney. He never recover. He died. That guy, Hugh Aoki, he used to be all around. Baseball, he was pitcher. Anyplace, he play. Good hitter, play basketball, play football, quarterback. He can throw, he can run, block.

PN: Was there a lot of injuries?

MN: No, not too much, though. We had injuries, yeah. I know my father took me, the one, Nikko. We had the old man, Nikko, on Young Street. The massage place. Over there. The old man, Mukasa something. I forget his name already. He put da kine, one bag. Just like sand or salt inside. They heat 'em up. I get hip, eh. I get kneed on the hip. Wen put the stuff. Then warm 'em up.

PN: Massage?

MN: Yeah. One bag, one big bag. Just like money bag. Some kind of sand or stone inside there. Absorb heat. They put 'em in a kiln or something. The bugga take heat, eh. Then apply 'em on your...oh, the bugga extract lot of heat. So I get ready for practice Monday again. Sunday get hurt, and the old man take me over there. Then Monday I go practice, you know. But not hard. Get ready for Sunday.

PN: What your parents thought about all this playing sports?

MN: Oh, they no bother. They no bother.

PN: Even though you get hurt and things like that?

MN: No. Just tell you, "Watch out. No get da kine serious hurt." Oh yeah. Because they figure as long as you keeping yourself busy, you won't get in mischief. You know. That's why I played. Then my brother followed. Other brother follow, you know.

PN: Oh, you're the oldest?

MN: Yeah.

PN: You said there's different kind of strategies you guys use.

MN: Oh yeah. Like, you know, the guy Uichi Kanayama, later on I see, oh, Iolani, da kine the guy use or Kaulukukui use. The kind multiple offense and all da kine Michigan State, you know. Because Kaulukukui, Tommy went up there, eh. Well, Uichi, he use all that. Anything good, he accepts, you know. So like I said, Don Ho's father, when we play Pawaa for championship, Uichi ask him to come help us. Variation of Kakaako Sons' Belly Series, Georgia Tech Belly Series, eh. The old Mother Waldron Park. Not the one one, the new one on the side of Pohukaina School. Over there. Used to put lights, flood lights. That's for Kakaako Sons Senior team. We borrow that floodlights. We practice.

PN: Oh, practice nighttime.

MN: And then he teach us. The Belly Series. All the spinners. Spinners, quarterback fake and then quarterback sneak into the line. And then he fake. All spinners. The guys [opponents], don't know where the ball going, eh. Well, when you got the Belly Series, you got to tuck it in close.

PN: Oh, hand-off kind?

MN: Yeah. That's the one they call Georgie Tech Belly Series. Oh, no can see. No more open. Everything all hand-off kind. Fast. All spinners. Spinning, too. And this guard, that guard. Then this way, you spinning to this way, then the guy come over, and that guy go around. Oh. Then you get single wing, double wing....

PN: How did they get all these plays like that?

MN: Who Uichi? He watch films and he watch games. Uichi Kanayama, he was school teacher, too, eh. So he go to different classes and all that. And like the guy Sada Matsuda and the guy Nap Watanabe, they play for the Kakaako Sons Senior team. The guy Masuda was a ball hawk for the Kakaako Sons Senior team, the barefoot championship team. Those guys was guards, eh. So Julian Judd (Kakaako Sons coach) get plays, eh. And he ask permission from Julian Judd, see if we can use 'em. And then Don Ho's father, Jimmy Ho, he help us, too. He's not only a good player, but he's more so a good leader. You know, Don Ho's father, Jimmy Ho. He teach. And his brother, Tai Loy Ho, the guy was a good running back for the Senior team. And he is a leader too. In fact, the whole family most of them all leaders, you know. And then most of those guys, they all graduate university, you know. Get one sister living right over here. Mrs. Simmons, you know. That's how we da kine, sports. Like I say, we had people from all over the place come over. From Kalihi, we get guys come from Kalihi, from Kukui Street, Manoa, Waikiki.

PN: Not all from Kakaako then?

MN: Oh, the nucleus is Kakaako.

PN: Oh, just some people come from...

MN: Yeah. Plenty guys come out from try out. They come from McCully, they come from Moiliili. So we tell them why they no play for da kine. They say, "Oh, no." They like play for us. We tell 'em, why they come.

Uichi used to ask them, "Why you come play for us? What's the reason?" And all that. "Maybe you humbug to the other team. They no like you or something da kine." See, he used to weed 'em, the guy. And Uichi, he use psychology. He was good school teacher, you know. He watch. That's how we used to get no more dissension in our club. Oh, different guys come, then he weed 'em out. Any guy going make trouble or going jam up the team, he was out.

PN: How many players kept on the team?

MN: Oh, those days, we go two ways [offense and defense], so we no had too many. Maybe the most we had maybe about 25, 30 players. That's about all. In fact, less than that. Less than that. Because we go two ways. I play offensive center, then I play offensive end. Then I play defensive left end. Then I played linebacker. Middle linebacker. You see. So if certain guys go certain kind, then you got to go fill in the other position, see. Like on punt formation. This guy Salio, he cannot throw the ball back far. He can throw short kind. So I got to go in for him, center, again. Like now in T-formation like that, the quarterback stay right in back of the center, right. Before, you got to flip the ball back.

PN: You got to look between your legs, eh.

MN: Yeah. And same time, you got to go block the guy in front of you. Nowadays, they stay like this, right. You can see the nose guard in front of you. In those days, we got to look like that and we watching who's over there. Instinct, we got to go. We got to watch the guy's feet. Which way the feet going. That's the only way we can block. And those days, before, we can leg swing, eh. So the guy block you this way, you go this way, the guy come around, you come around with your leg. [Makes noise of hitting with swinging leg.]

(PN laughs)

MN: Then they eliminate that. We used to get trap play. We used to let the tackle come charging in, right. They tackle, they run in. You know, you give 'em a slight block. They push you on the side, eh. He think he going into the play, the guy give 'em one leg swing, right when he pass the line of scrimmage. [Makes noise of someone falling.] Out. So the guy next time he going to (hesitate). By the time he looking around, the play is gone. That's instinct. You scared already. You going get hit. You don't want to get one more whack across the chest with the leg swing. And no head gear, right. Before head gear, they never get the mask, too. You might get one right across your map

[face]. And before, you can hit head, you can hit, you know. That's why our line coaches used to tell us, "Where the head goes, the body goes." That's why I get cauliflower ear. I was playing left end. The other tackle hit me everytime. Used to be like this. I wen operate. Cauliflower ear. But over here. Cut over here.

PN: Normal, da kine injuries?

MN: Oh yeah. They hit you like that. Well, whack like that. Put plaster (bandage). Too big, next day stitch. You no like go out from the game.

PN: That's normal kind injuries, the cut, and....what about broken leg, like that?

MN: Have. Have broken leg, all kind. No problem.

PN: No problem? But da kine days, not too many people go doctor, eh?

MN: The club get little bit money, and they send you doctor. And more so da kine doctor, they like the club, they help.

PN: Oh, they kokua.

MN: Not now. They no put the hand out for money. They wen kokua. Yeah. Work with certain....they like sports. "Oh, good." Keep the kids out of the road. People poor, patch you up. And if fee, cheap. Maybe now cost \$50, maybe before was \$1.50 or something. That's about all.

PN: You guys didn't have any team doctors or anything like that? Somebody you guys always went to?

MN: No more nothing. You just play. You ask your father. You just play. No more team doctor, nothing. The trainer come over there, wipe your face with a wet towel. That's about all. You drink water from the same bucket. No more that kind they shoot in your mouth. You drink from the same bucket.

PN: With the ladle?

MN: Yeah. But all in all, like when I played basketball, Hawaiian Pine, Junior Businessmen League, Blaisdell, the late Mayor Blaisdell, he was a consulting coach like. The guy, Joe Gantz, Kupau and this guy Danny used to be coach. But Blaisdell used to tell us, "Play hard, hit hard. You never get hurt. Don't play dirty. Don't you guys play dirty. Hit hard, play hard. And keep in shape. Then you be all right."

PN: What you folks used to do to keep in shape like that? Run?

MN: Run. Calisthenics. All da kine. All exercise.

PN: No more tackling dummies or anything like that?

MN: No. Like before, barefoot, we get one bag. One bag. The Senior team kind. Senior team, yeah, they get. Make 'em with 2-by-six or something. They get a pushcart, eh. With canvas pads. The senior team had. But us, we get da kine bag. Like the guy hold the bag, and we hit. Block. No more equipment like kids now days. Maybe one dummy you got to hit hard. You got to clip. Hit with shoulder. All that.

PN: What kind rules you guys used to have?

MN: Oh, those days, before, you fumble, you pick 'em up, you run.

PN: No more any kind of---get clipping and stuff like that.

MN: Oh, had clipping. Oh yeah. Clipping had. Clipping, holding, all da kine punching. That kind had, off side. That kind had, but no more like now. You know, you got to wait so many second, and only the ends can go down for the punt and all that kind. Before, no. We no think about hang time. You know, now days, they get punter hang time. But us, no need think because our punter, every time I play for the Sons, Junior; was not bad. The guy Loftmiller, he died already. Burt Loftmiller, good softball pitcher. Tall, haole guy. Local. Burt Loftmiller. Tall, skinny guy. That guy, he hang punt. Like those days, him, "Mongoose" Leandro from Pawaa, "Paki" Flazer from Palama, those were the punters. The big fat ball, they used to punt 'em around 50, 60 yards. The guy "Mongoose," I tell you, we play Pawaa one time, I think we hold them down on their goal-line. Only about 10-yard line. We hold 'em. So they was forced to punt. You know the "Mongoose," he punt the damn ball. In the air, I think the bugga went about 60, 70 yards. The bugga bounce, he go into our end zone, and put us in the hole.

(PN laughs)

MN: Yeah, the "Mongoose." And he used to drop kick so many yards, the bugga. "Mongoose."

PN: Oh, that's how you guys used to kick field goals?

MN: Yes, but he used to place kick, too. "Mongoose." And he know me, see, now. But the championship game, we block 'em. If not, they would have beat us. But we beat 'em seven [to] six.

PN: When you folks took champs?

MN: We play Pawaa two time. First time we play, tie-tie. So the next time we play off, then we beat them seven [to] six or something like that. After that Pawaa never lose.

PN: Oh yeah?

MN: And then they outweigh us man for man. And yet, they wen challenge us weight. Our heaviest guy was 135 pound. And all us weight about 115, 120. Those guys was all 145.

PN: Oh yeah? How come you guys never challenge them?

MN: We figure, what the hell, play 'em. The hell with 'em. We play lot of bigger teams, too. Then later on, for Oahu championship, we play Heeia. Oh, they had more big guys. Just like barrel weight [175 pound weight division in barefoot football] kind guys. Henry Wong, he's a big shot for Castle Estate now. He was the quarterback and later on he played for town team when he was Saint Louis boy. Henry Wong. And he had plenty Wong brothers playing for the team. And big guys too. Hawaiians from Heeia. Yeah. But, you know those guys, until about five minutes before game [end], first time they pass 50-yard line, on a pass. They pass on 50 yard line. We hold 'em. We put 'em in the backyard. Whole day, we put 'em in the backyard. Well, at that time, too, when we playing them, Sam Kapu, barefoot, one of the great centers. Now he's taking care that Ala Wai Golf Course. Well, he's my good friend. So when I came out for rest, he call me. He tell me, "Chee, you supposed to be in there whole afternoon in the backfield. And all the Henry Wong's punt, you should block one punt. You can block 'em."

I tell 'em, "What do you mean." I said, "They get big, massive line over there."

He said, "You watch the guard in front of you. So you talk to Wally Amioka and the guy, the other guy, "Dopey" them. And Kusuno. You interior linemen, you guys watch." I was playing center. And on defensive, before defense, you play just like offense, you know. Center, guard, tackle.

PN: Just line up one against each other.

MN: "Yeah, you play like that." So he tell me, "You watch that guard, their left guard."

"What about left guard?" I said.

"You watch the kid. When he going charge forward, get his two feet firm to you. Then, when he going to pull up, I say you watch the two guards. When they going to pull up, they get their one leg behind, already for pivot. So you watch that."

"Oh, okay."

So, "Eh, Wally," so we talk over. "Sam said, you know, was telling about this guy."

Say, "Yeah? Okay".

So after that, while we used to charge, crossover, you know. I tell Wally, "I going follow the guard, so you crossover."

"Okay."

I watch the Hawaiian. Eh, this going be right side, off tackle smash or wide sweep. They going that way. And them guys, Heeia used to play shotgun like our Forty Niner kind. I mean, Dallas Cowboy kind. They run from short punt formation. They never call 'em "shotgun." They call 'em "short punt formation." The guy get all the chance pass from back there, right. They used to run from that. So, oh, I like go back in the game, eh. So I went back. Eh, I see the Hawaiian. I tell 'em, "Wally!"

"Yeah, okay. Okay Naito." Chee, before the guy came, Henry Wong, he run fast, punt. One man team. Before he can get started, we nail 'em. Yeah. He going this way, he coming up from backfield. He pull out this way. The guard going. I'm over here already. Wally coming in. Wally coming in from the other guard. He's over here already. Whoom! We hit 'em high and low. Wally hit 'em low, eh. I come from behind, I whack 'em from back. Oh, let 'em keep inside that 10-yard line.

Tell Wally, "We going block this one."

"Yeah, yeah, okay. Okay, Nait."

"Dopey, charge now."

"Yeah, okay."

So charge! "South" Harada. He used to help Yono box. "Okay, okay, Nait." Me, I stay in the center.

"Nait, you going?"

I say, "Yeah."

"Okay."

The time we go in for block the punt, two guys, they crossover. They push the two guys, open the alley for me in the middle. Whoom! The two guys. I running up. Boom! I catch the ball right in my gut. Chee, for a time, oh! Funny, I looking for the ball, you know. But the other guy, our team guy wen recover. Touchdown. And me, after that, I knock out. But that time I no knock out. Oh, right in my gut. I looking for the ball, eh. "Eh, where the ball?" So I seen one of our teammate wen jump on top. I think was "Dopey" or Wally or somebody. Boy, I knock out. No can breathe. I see the guy pulling my over here [pants by his stomach]. Breathe. Pull that. Gee, I say, "We got 'em?"

Say, "Yeah, we got 'em." Oh, right in my gut I catch 'em.

And other kind time, our coaches tell, "When you guys block punt, always block this way." Ho, one time I had one here. [On his face] The ball whack me right over here. Baw! Ho, I tell the whole face wen broke.

So he say, "You goddam fool!"

Okay. When I come out, Sam Kapu, he tell me, "Told you."

"Eh, Sam, thanks, eh." The guy used to be smart, you know, Sam Kapu. Yeah, he play for Kam Alum (Kamehameha Alumni). He wasn't big, Senior League. With a sailor cap, he play. Kam Alum.

PN: That's what I heard. You know, you guys had referees like that, too?

MN: Oh yeah. Good kind referee we get. The best Senior League referees.

PN: They get paid?

MN: Yeah. They get paid. They get small pay. From the Recreation Department. City and County Recreation. But they used to supervise all da kine.

PN: So all these leagues were sponsored by the City and...

MN: Yeah, City and County.

PN: Parks and Rec?

MN: Yeah, Parks and Recreation.

PN: How would you folks travel from place to place to play?

MN: Oh, own car. Yeah, truck. Anything, whatever you can hang on to. The equipment guy, pile 'em on the pick-up truck. And everybody go on different cars.

PN: So all the equipment like that come from Parks and Recreation?

MN: Yeah, no more equipment.

PN: I mean, the ball. Only the ball. The football then.

MN: That's about all. We get money, we buy our own. We get donation.

PN: Parks and Rec would lay out the football field, you know, lines?

MN: Well, those guys, they take care all that. Den Sakauye, all those guys. Den Sakauye them. They used to take care all da kine. And volleyball, the guy "Rockney" Yamasaki, he take care softball. You know, "Rockney" Yamasaki. Volleyball, basketball.

PN: What about....was there any betting or gambling on the game like that?

MN: Maybe they had, but we don't know. We don't know about that kind stuff.

PN: Oh, you guys wouldn't bet another team for....

MN: Oh, no.

PN: Case beer or something like that?

MN: Well, maybe other kind team, like that. But us, we no think about da kine. We no like lose. The hell. We no like lose. The hell da kine stuff. We no think about. Maybe had gamblers betting that we don't know.

PN: What about crowds like that? Like had plenty people?

MN: Oh, big crowd! Sundays, like that, Moiliili Field, Palama Field, whatever field you go. Makiki Field. Big crowd.

PN: They had bleachers or anything like that?

MN: Some place had bleachers. Or most, they stand on sidelines, you know.

PN: Most of them stand. What, couple of hundred people or more than....

MN: Oh, more than. Close to maybe thousand, maybe more. All free, eh. Everybody. And they choose their game, too, you know, people. Oh yeah. From here they go way other end for see the game.

PN: They travel on their own, follow the team?

MN: Own car. Yeah, own cars they go.

PN: Got band or any kind cheerleader?

MN: No more that kind. No more nothing. Plenty sometime after the game, fights, though. (Laughs)

PN: Among the crowd, like that?

MN: Not only that. We used to chase referees, too.

(Laughter)

PN: Beat up the referees, too?

MN: Chase 'em. The guy Melim used to run Makiki Field before. Ray Melim. But he's all right. All in the game. Even I play softball. Was 14-inch. We was playing, I think, Sheridan, I think. Pawaa, I think.

Was on Lanakila Field. Old Lanakila field. Near School Street. Fourteen-inch. I was batting number three, I think. And the guy, "Moonie" Sato. Good pitcher, good hitter, too, you know. He own the Optical Shop now. Well, anyway, he was pitching for the other team. Already, I think I had two hits already. Two hits or three hits I had. We were leading, too. And we had man on bag [base]. That "Moonie," he stall, eh.

Uichi tell me, "Step out."

I step out. I go back and step out. He was playing cat and mouse with me. And me, inside here, I was boiling already. Then Uichi told me step out. So when I wen step out, the throw the ball. Just before I step up, he throw the ball. The guy, Su San Kim, may his soul rest in peace, he used to be good basketball player, yobo. He say, "You're out!"

I say, "What?"

He tell me, "You out."

I say, "You fricking yobo, you son of a bitch."

And "Sup" Higa was the base ump. "Sup" Higa, and later on, he was Roosevelt coach or something. Big guy, "Sup" Higa. Good athlete, too. "Eh, Nait. Come back, come back." Me with the baseball bat. Su San Kim, I chase 'em. Lanakila Park, I chase 'em. And the bugga fast, you know. Used to be University of Hawaii forward and Palama forward.

"You damn yobo, you." With the baseball bat, I chase 'em Lanakila Park, all over the park.

And "Sup" Higa chasing me, and the boys chasing me. "Let 'em go. Let 'em go." So Uichi was talking to Su San afterward. But we came good friends, though. But good thing we won, too, eh. Yeah, we won. The bugga, strike me out, boy.

He tell me, "Yeah, but you never call time out."

Which is true, too. And not my fault. My coach Uichi's fault. Uichi's to have called time out. He tell me step out, which wrong, see. He supposed to tell the ump "Time." But Uichi was pissed, too, you know. But me, was more so. Yeah, the guy, he beat me to the cat and mouse game, that "Moonie."

And the following year, he came play with us. I said, "You son of a bitch, I should have crowned you, you bugga."

He said, "I wen get you that time."

PN: You guys used to drink like that after the game?

MN: Yeah, they go somebody house, like that. Somebody house, they get, you know, little get together, like that. But like me, I no drink, so I go over there to eat pupu. They tell me, "Go home. You go eat all our pupu." But they used to have get together. And everybody take care one another when pau. Even baseball game, all kind. And before baseball, had this kind, too, you know. I don't know if your father remember, though. Kaluwela Field, we used to play what we call it Outdoor Ball. You know, that ball just like softball. It's not softball, it's not skinball, hardball. Outdoor Ball, light ball. And you know, the guy with a strong arm, when he throws speed, the ball come just like a knuckler, you know. Like that. Hard ball to hit. Outdoor Ball. We used to play Kaluwela Field, Outdoor Ball. I used to get pictures, me one real skinny bugga, you know. Skinny guy. Me, Cliff Tomai. All us, we play Outdoor Ball. Oh, that ball is hard. Just like you throwing tennis ball.

PN: But not as hard as skinball?

MN: Yeah. Big ball like that. Little bigger than tennis ball. Call 'em Outdoor Ball. Tennis ball, you know, tennis ball, you go like that, at least you can see 'em. But this one go just like knuckler. All kind way. When the guy throw out-curve, the bugga come like that [curve away from the batter]. In-curve, the thing come boom [curve towards batter]. The guy throw knuckler, the thing go like that [away from side to side], you know. Outdoor Ball. So you get guy with strong arm, all you had to do throw 'em straight, the ball go. Catch the wind. If the wind in back of the catcher....the only thing you can stay like that. Can whack 'em. You no can stay behind here like that. Can whack 'em. You no can stay behind here like that. You got to just stay right here. That's all you got. Spank 'em in other words. We used to play at Kaluwela Field before. Softball, I play for the....then I play Kakaako.

You know, I tell you, I give Uichi that credit, though. Like I told you, we look at our past personnel. And compared to the other teams, we nobody like. We no more da kine outstanding kind guys. Till today, I think how the hell we ever wen win, you know, compared to like Aiea. The first year, well, everybody beat 'em. Hal Tome, Wally Tome. That guy Soretani. Hara, those guys, you know. And Ohara, he passed away already. And this other kid. We all good friends now. Ohara, before he passed away, I was talking to him. He died. Nice looking boy. He owned that market up Aiea. I don't remember Hal Tome and Wally so much. And this other kid, he worked telephone company. Good baseball player, too, you know. Well, see, those guys, next year, the second year, I think. Oh, they beat anybody. They smash 'em. They had their own gym. They play together. Plantation kids. But down here, the Japanese Senior League, Nuuanu Y, we used to play. Certain team, they get all old timer like Goro Moroguchi and all da kine guys. But I tell you, first year when I wen take championship, or second year, about third year or so, we went inside. We wen take champion, you know. I tell you da kine uniform they give us, oh I tell you. Really square boy, Really. Those days, just like da kine old man playing sports with mustache kind, you know.

(PN laughs)

MN: You know, our uniform, our shirt, eh, up here [points to chest] get Japanese word, Kakaako. I'm telling you get Kakaako in Japanese word. Oh, I'm telling you. When you think about that kind days. And we won! We took champion. We only had the guy Maeda. You know, University of Hawaii forward. Only the guy was our coach-player. The rest you had Dabu Fukuda, the guy Masa Yamamoto. Oh, that's one guy, eh, I don't care if Senior League or what--he still living--that guy, he's a mechanic, you know. You know that guy, you know the big ball, you get hard time block that guy. Half-court. Half-court, now, he let go like that. Not like this. Overhand like that. Half-court. He's like this. When you come up to block him, he take one step backwards. Then he let go. So you advance, you going foul 'em, right. Most guys, they go forward to let go the ball. You get chance block 'em, or offensive foul. But him, he stay like this. When you come up to him, he take one step back, and then he let go. And his ball is like that. Oh, high. Boom! Masa Yamamoto. He still living. He pitch softball. And I no like face him softball. Pow! Same motion the ball come like that.

PN: You guys had hardball league, softball league. Get mountain ball league, too?

MN: No, never had mountain ball. No mountain ball league.

PN: Softball was what? Twelve-inch and 14-inch?

MN: And not soft pitch. All hard pitch.

PN: Oh, fast pitch?

MN: Yeah. So one year, I play for Kakaako, we won 14-inch championship. Then that's the first time 12-inch came out. Japanese League. Twelve-inch. So Kakaako never had a 12-inch softball team. The Sheridan had. Pawaa. "Moonie" Sato, all them. They had.

So they tell, "Eh, Nait, play for us."

I say, "Okay." I wen go play for them. Aichi Kanayama, Cliff Tomai. They all wen go play for International Theatre. Then just happen that after the 14-inch championship, we beat Pawaa, the Sheridan. Then I got to team up with those guys to play my teammates for the 12-inch championship game. How you like that? In the morning, we play 14-inch championship against Sheridan, I think. We beat them. "Moonie" Sato them. Then in the afternoon, we play for the Japanese Senior League, 12-inch softball championship. And me, I'm playing against my own teammates. Eh, I used to play 14 and 12, you know. One Sunday like that. Morning time, play 14, afternoon play 12-inch. Then the championship game, I playing against Cliff Tomai, Aichi Kanayama them. They call me traitor. (Laughs) And we beat them. Oh, we beat them. Yeah. I was the only guy, "Moonie" them would

pick me, eh. So I wen play for them. I wen play center field. But 12-inch had short center, see, so I wen play short center for Sheridan. Yeah, we beat Aichi Kanayama them, International Theatre.

PN: Was there any kind of limit to da kine weight or size or anything?

MN: Softball? No. No age limit.

PN: This was one Japanese League?

MN: Japanese League. You see, so they talk about discrimination, all kind. We have 'em right in Hawaii. Get Japanese League, Hawaiian League, Portuguese League. Then, later on they say, "Oh, you get Japanese blood, you can play." "You get Hawaiian blood, you can play." So there was discrimination, you know, in a small way, you know. That they get haole club, eh. "Wanderers" [Nickname] more haole, eh, Senior League. But later on, they take Pokanakai, all those guys over, eh. Before, Hawaii Senior League had Japanese, Asahi.

PN: You guys just played Japanese teams, then?

MN: Yeah, yeah.

PN: You guys don't play any other nationality?

(MN shakes his head, no.)

PN: What about in the football, you guys had one---Atkinson was Japanese, but you guys play all kind other teams?

MN: Yeah, different. The team itself is all Japanese. Like Nishikiya, too, eh. Nishikiya had more Japanese guys. I don't think they even had one Hawaiian guy, I think. I remember most of them were all Japanese. Like Carr was the quarterback. "Pontoon" Higuchi, full back, you know. Most all Japanese guys. Certain linemen, I still remember. The guy Shima, Shimabuku.

PN: So why was there the difference in the Atkinson team and the Kakaako team? Why the Japanese formed their own team?

MN: Well, not that any discrimination or anything. Well, you figure, you know, Atkinson---we had our own club, see. Basketball, baseball.

PN: Club?

MN: Yeah. Atkinson Club.

PN: This was the YMA?

MN: Yeah.

PN: That's the one Yono Kitagawa...

END OF SIDE TWO

SIDE ONE (Tape #3-16-1-77)

PN: You said Uichi Kanayama started up this club?

MN: Yeah, Atkinson Club. More so keep us away from trouble.

PN: He was like a leader?

MN: Leader, community leader. That's why the people, they donate, because they figure we in good hands. Then, under Uichi, then Yono wen take over boxing, you see. And, oh, that was the court, you know, juvenile court, all love that, like that. The judge over there was Judge Simpson or something like that. He used to be referee, too. That's the guy used to throw me out of the game. Well, anyway, Red Simpson.

PN: Oh, Zimmerman.

MN: No, Simpson.

PN: Simpson.

MN: Yeah, Zimmerman, he died long time. He was the best umpire Hawaii had. Well, anyway, this juvenile court, like certain kind, they let Yono take care. They no put the kid in jail or Koolau Home or something. They got to report to Yono every Saturday.

PN: He was like a probation officer?

MN: Yeah, yeah.

PN: They would learn how to box under him or something?

MN: You don't have to be boxer to report to him. Anything you wrong, you within the gang, guys going say, "Oh, the guys this and that." You see? They got to report to Yono every Saturday.

No report, Yono tell the guys, "Eh, go look for the guy." So the boys go out look for him. Then, by the time they bring him in, they give him couple of slaps already. Then Yono tell him, "What the hell you no come? You know I'm trying to help you out." So they get him in line. They had lot of respect for him. And not only talk, you know. He tell him, "Take care." Couple of fast ones and they shape him up. They all came good, though. That's why till today, they get lot of respect for Yono. Yeah. And so Yono, he's their leader. You know, the next generation after Uichi, Yono's the leader.

PN: Oh.

MN: They get respect for Yono.

PN: So Uichi Kanayama was like....he took care of baseball, footBall.

MN: Everything. Everything, until he passed away. Then Kakaako Industrial District, eh. Business was moving in. And fishing sampan was deteriorating. On top of that, the lease with Ward was over, you know. Most of the land in Kakaako owned by the Ward Estate, except for maybe that Yano Camp. You know, duplex up and down house next to that foundry over there. The blacksmith shop. That guy, he owns the place himself, too. I think the guy Yano them, they sold the property, you know.

PN: Yeah, I think they sold 'em.

MN: Bumpei. I see him on the road. Sometime I see him on TV. Advertisement, Pioneer Savings or something. Bumpei. Tall guy with the glasses. He used to be left handed pitcher and first baseman. Hard ball, though. He come play softball with us....(Laughs) Too fast, you see. You no whack 'em. Fourteen-inch, only here, eh.

PN: So Yono just like took over the younger generation?

MN: Yeah. For boxing.

PN: Why did they recommend the juvenile delinquents like that to Yono?

MN: Well, you see, the parents, they know that Yono can handle those kids. And Yono tell 'em, "Eh, you look. You suppose to go detention home or the Boys' Home, but you under me. So you shape up unless I'm going to tell them lock you up." Before the basic one, before is this [makes clenched fist], then they will listen. You know. Not so much this [point to mouth]. They no listen this [point to mouth], you know, couple of this [fist], eh, the guy fix up.

PN: That's why they respect Yono? 'Cause he could fight like that?

MN: Oh yeah, he can handle that. Not only that, but he don't rough them up, he talk to them. Really talk man to man. He talk to them. He bring 'em all up. That's all like her [wife's] brother. Oh, he was a bad egg, too. Yono bring 'em all together, all those kids from the boxing club. Then he had "South" Harada and there was some other kind guys help 'em with the boxing. You know, the old Japanese school on where the Red and White kamaboko factory is now. Over there used to get the other Japanese school. Masuda sensei over there. Well, they put up the bag over there. Before then, they used to train City and County yard, Ahui Street. You know, inside the City and County gym over there. Small gym. Then they went to the Japanese school. They train over there. He bring all the kids together. Then he show those kids respect, you know. Then most of the kids, they have inferiority complex, yeah. That's why, oh, they like fight back, or they do this to get attraction. But Yono tell them, "You guys go box. You guys know how to defend yourself. People going learn to respect you, and you go learn how to respect people."

Her brother [wife's brother], oh, bad egg before. Then when he start go in the gym---well, he was too young. He used to go spar with

Tiwanak [another boxer]. One time, Yono tell me, "Eh, your brother-in-law going be champion someday."

I tell him, "How come?"

"The kid, not only he's fast. He fight like Tiwanak. You know, he's like that. And then, before you know, he turn you around, you know. He's fast, but he can hit. Tiwanak cannot hit." He wen tell me, "Tiwanak cannot hit. So one rugged can bore into him. He no can wade 'em off long enough. But Charlie (Kauhane), he's not only fast, but he get the punch, two hand."

PN: Was there any other community leaders like Yono or Uichi Kanayama like that?

MN: Oh, they had for the old Japanese kind. I think this guy....they had one testimonial for him or something. Not too long ago. We all went. Masuda, I think. Masuda.

PN: Oh yeah.

MN: Yeah, old man Masuda.

PN: Keisuke?

MN: Something like that, right. He's the kind, before, he go make da kine kabuki theatre on Cooke Street, you know, before. Not Cooke Street, Coral Street. They used to get one empty lot, they get stage, eh. They buy lot, like. Goza, eh. And then you buy 50 cents a square of something like that. They go look. Then he used to act with all different kind community kine show, like that. Keisuke Masuda, or something like that. We used to go watch. Next to that Ricco's house. Ricco Yamanaka. I think he live around by your guys' place, you know. The guy Ricco Yamanaka. He was City and County Refuse big boss or something.

PN: R-I-C-C-O?

MN: Yeah. Ricco. You know, they call him "Ricco." Had that Al Capone picture, eh. Well, had one character in that picture just like him. Short and stocky, eh. So they call him. And the way he talk. [Imitates sound of Ricco's voice.] So they call him Ricco. So they nicknamed him Ricco. And he was a good Republican pusher at that time. So was Holck's father, Matsuno. But then Matsuno, he was different faction, like, you know. When anything like that, you like be leader, I like be leader, you like be next to the big shot. And you like certain candidate. like Matsuno, well, he like Vitousek and all. And Johnny Asing, and all da kine. And us, the guys, we follow along, we do all the dirty work, no credit. Really. You know. We go canvassing, all that. Day and night, and we get no credit. But later on, I'm the guy activist, eh.

"Eh, wait a while, now. What the hell I'm doing this? I'm doing for nothing, man." I said, "You guys know all the big fellows. We don't know nobody. Let us meet that guys, too."

PN: You guys used to go canvassing for who?

MN: Oh Hebden Porteus, Blaisdell, Johnny Asing, all those guys.

PN: That's all Republicans, yeah?

MN: Us was Republicans, see.

PN: I thought Kakaako heavy Democrat?

MN: And Kakaako Democrats. Oh, heavy Democrat. Heavy Democrat. Oh, her father, oh, you no can talk to him, Mayor Wilson. He kill you.

[Mrs. Naito offers PN juice. Interview continues.]

MN: Her father, oh, Wilson man. And Kakaako. But good. Politics time was good fun, Pohukaina School. They get bench, they bring swipe, they bring poi, they bring all food. They drink. Before that, they all discuss. When they feeling good, they start throwing punch, the Republican and Democrat.

PN: Oh yeah? (Laughs)

MN: Yeah, the Wilson family Democrat, eh. And the Freitas family Republican. The Stone family Republican. Before you know, they all throwing punches. But they all good friends. And before, hoo, the poll right here. [Point right next to him.] We used to go right to the door, give the guy da kine. Say, "Eh, no forget this guy."

PN: Oh, no more da kine so many feet from the polling...

MN: We used to follow the guy inside the booth almost. (Laughs) Not Russell Starr. Who that guy work telephone company now? The haole guy? Well, that's da kine guys we used to---that first time Dr. Pepper came out, the soda water, Ben Dillingham wen go run. So he send his truck. So I was helping Ben Dillingham. Then he won. So he gave the truck and the Pepsi soda, like that, for Blaisdell's campaign. So, okay, fine. We give lunch, soda water to the kids. Fight the Democrats. Kakaako strong Democrat, you know.

PN: Yeah. That's what I heard.

MN: Nobody can beat Nobu Kauhane before. Democrat. And, oh, Kakaako, only Republican win Kakaako was....only one used to win before Wilson. Was Dillingham, the guy Porteus, Johnny Asing. Yeah.

PN: Who was the people who used to go out canvass, who get people like you to go out canvass?

MN: Like I told you, us one manini. Like the guy Ricco Yamanaka. The guy Fred Matsuno, and this guy--all these other guys died already. Aoki and all certain guy. Yono, all us was kozo. Bumbai we told, "Eh, what the hell we doing the dirty work and we not getting recognize?" You know, I mean we doing the dirty work. So we tell 'em, "Eh, present us to them guys." So Yono go right next to Hebden Porteus. Him, "Tiger" Amioka them. That's how Porteus wen get in. Through Yono, "Tiger" Amioka and his boys.

PN: Tiger is Wally?

MN: No, no, older than Shiro. You see, them guys they have a older brother, they call him "Banana." Then come Wally. Then come "Tiger." Then get a sister. Then come Shiro. And get one more brother. And all brainstorm. All brainstorm, good and bad. They brainstorm. "Tiger" used to be a good boxer, flyweight. He was contender, amateur. He can hit, that boy, you know.

PN: What other kind things happened in terms of politics?

MN: Oh, that's the only way Kakaako came up. We start backing the politicians. Yeah, before, no more nothing. So when you back up politicians, you know you can get something, right. Like I said, before then, even for job like that, City and County job, only them guys used to get recognitions. Fred Matsuno and all those guys. But the guy Ricco all right. Say, "Eh, that's right. These guys, they work."

So one time, I got laid off. So the guy Ricco, he said, "Eh, the guy Naito not working. Three months he's not working." So he wen go see Johnny Asing. He told Johnny Asing, "Eh, time for you help that boy." So Ricco, Ricco the one tell him.

"All right, go bring that boy. And then I want to see you down the yard tomorrow morning." Johnny Asing came down, took me to the boss. Those days was easy, you know. Politics, that kind.

"Eh boss, the boy work?"

"Okay, work."

Then you like us labor, you like bigger job, you got to take test. But once you're in, you take test, as long as you pass, you got it. So I wen take test. Then I pass, everything already, even the other guys beat me to the test, but I'm already in, eh. Yeah, and then I pass the test. So all legit [legitimate], eh.

PN: So as far as politics like that, they used to what? Have bands and what else?

MN: Oh, they get band, Hawaiian band, or da kine musicians. Oh, before, you ask her [Mrs. Naito], politics was good fun.

[Mrs. Naito = LN]

LN: And everybody....we even used to take our lunch in the park, you know. Although my husband used to....they bring, but we rather bring our own lunch anyway.

(Microphone noises)

LN: Sit down and cars after cars.

PN: The one in Kakaako?

LN: You know. Pohukaina School.

MN: Pohukaina School, between Pohukaina and Coral Street, right on the corner. And they put the booth over there. And you don't have to stay 1000 yards away or 1000 feet away. You can stay right in the back of the booth house. We used to take the card right to almost walk in with the guy.

Then inspector say, "Out!"

Okay, out. Then they get benches. They bring swipe. This kind home brew kind. Poi, fish, all kind. They drink, they punch one another out, the cops don't come. If they come, eh, old man Palinapa, eh. Big man, Palinapa. "Goddam! What's the matter?" Okay, okay. And then they fight, he just grab two guys, bang 'em together. Knock out. Let them sleep. You know. Those days cops are different. They no carry gun. They carry the stick, yeah. One long night stick. He give one backhand, you go over. Because big fat Hawaiian man. They no can run fast, but when they grab you, you ain't moving. Those day cop, not sassy.

"Chee, what's a matter, you Japanese boy? What's the matter? Goddarn. Go home!" Oh, you scared, eh. Oh, you get respect for the law, eh.

And politics too, yeah. Her, she used to make musubi, take the kids, sit down, crochet. Her, the sister, all that. Then they drink soda. I bring soda water for them. And they used to bring out box lunch. Give her box lunch.

But after when Wilson won, then you know why they wen pass the Primary Law, eh? The Primary Law, the one you only can vote one side. Because at that time, old man Wilson was so strong. He was in Maluhia Hospital half dying, eh. People never care whether he was doing the mayor's work or not, but he was well loved by the people. Mayor Wilson. He was a man, you know. You can see his picture, eh. Distinguished looking man. Even her father, "What's the matter with you?" I get scolding from the old man.

PN: At Kakaako, that guy was strong. Even the Wilson family.

MN: Old man Wilson, the Hawaiian people...

PN: Why they pass that law, that Primary Law?

MN: You know why they pass 'em? You see, at that time, all the Republicans, all jump over. They go vote for a weak candidate. You can do that, see. I don't know who was that other candidate. I think was Fasi or somebody. I think was Fasi, I don't know who was that.

PN: When was this about?

MN: Oh, long time. Way back.

LN: But Fasi wasn't that time.

PN: He wasn't then.

MN: I don't know who the guy.

LN: Fasi wasn't even around.

MN: I don't know who was at that time. One other candidate, was strong candidate was. So we had to put Blaisdell in, eh. So we figure Wilson over there, no chance.

LN: Wasn't that guy?

MN: Who?

LN: Fong's brother?

MN: No.

LN: Wasn't him?

PN: Oh, so they go on the Democrat side?

MN: All the Republicans, all wen jump the fence. Wen go vote for the other candidate. So he got nominated on the Democrat ticket. Wilson was out. So naturally, Republican, Blaisdell was in already. Nobody going buck him. Blaisdell was in. So wen come the General Election, oh man, we all come back. We all vote for Blaisdell. So this guy got smashed. So we got rid of Wilson.

PN: How come you were a Republican in a Democrat district?

MN: Well, you know, your teammates, your friends. Something like that. Just like, you go church, you go with kids go Catholic church, da kine. The tendency you going lean, because your friends go, maybe say about 90 percent of the time you going with them. Maybe 10 percent them say, "Ah, no. I don't want to be Catholic or something." Well, you see, like Yono, Ricco, the Aokis, all your friends, the teammates.

PN: Oh, they were...

MN: They Republican, see. And more the Democrat at that time was Hawaiians.

LN: Too strong, Kakaako Democrat.

MN: Yeah, Kakaako. And before, see, the Democrat Party was the poor party. Poor party, you know what I mean? Money-wise, they poor party. And we never think about money. The Big Five or something. They give you orientation. You go with the Republican, you get chance for good job. You know, all that. Just like any other thing, they going sell you. "Oh well, I like get good job. I like get government job or something." Just like selling one football player, recruiting a football player or basketball player, you know. Was just like that. So you friends. So you see, then you don't want to be left out, right? So you go with them. Then you go canvassing, you go meeting. Oh, good fun. Then, maybe the candidates, eh, interesting candidates. Like Ben Dillingham and Hebden Porteus, and this guy Johnny Asing. Before that, only Johnny Asing Republican win Kakaako. No other Republican can win Kakaako. Only Johnny Asing Republican. Then we start helping Blaisdell, Porteus, one other haole guy. He work telephone company, big shot.

PN: What you folks used to do? Go house to house and talk?

MN: Yeah, house to house. Go canvassing, talk to people. And our teammates, da kine Hawaiian guys or Portuguese guys, we tell 'em, "Eh, don't forget, eh."

Oh, my father wen scold me, all kind. (Laughs) Well, tell you the other kind. No, no. And before, not like nowadays kids, "Oh, we do as our own."

No, before different. When the father said, "You guys get Republican," they all go Republican. He said, "Democrats. Why you voting the other way?" They all follow.

But now days, they say. "Ah, shit, let the kids go."

PN: Would you say most of the Repulicans was Japanese?

MN: No, not only Japanese. Had the Stone family, the Freitas family. Had quite some Portuguese family. And the Anderson. You know "Andy" Anderson? The father and mother live right across here, on the other side of the street. You see Hinalea Street? You go down about two, three house down, on the right. They get nice place. Anderson. D. G. Anderson's father and mother. The mother is Kakaako girl. Queen Street.

PN: Oh yeah?

MN: Yeah. She's a Kakaako girl. The father used to hang around the bar. With the Mulligan's people. John D.

PN: The Mulligans is the nickel-dime divers?

MN: Yeah, yeah. Andy Anderson's father, John D., used to hang around with my brother-in-law "Doggie" Kekauoha? Those guys up the block. They used to go dive for money. Anderson's mother, grandmother, is Hawaiian, you know. But he look more Portuguese. The grandmother, oh, nice lady, that grandmother.

PN: You guys would get any bad reaction from people who were really heavy Democrat if you knock on their door and you try tell them...

MN: No, no, no. But some were, "Ah, 'smatter, you Japaneese boy? Republican. Get out of here!" Okay we go. But they all right. They know us, eh. They know the father. This one here, no. Well, this one, she no play. They only come follow. But was good, though. After that, like Blaisdell, we come not only as da kine. We come friends. I can go in the Mayor's office, talk to him. And Ben Dillingham, I can make appointment.

PN: Would they pave you guys' streets or give you guys any....

MN: Oh, that is Councilman Asing. Johnny Asing. Oh yeah. But you know, politician, only mouth, eh.

(PN laughs)

MN: Only mouth. But then Nobu Kauhane, well, he had family down there. One of his sister was married to this fellow, Kila.

LN: The Kilas.

MN: He work telephone company.

LN: Kila. They used to live on Cooke Street. Right on Cooke Street.

MN: And Nobu Kauhane's sister married this man Kila. And then this kid was playing for McKinley, Nobu Kila. Good football player. Kakaako boys contribute to sports, to McKinley. Plenty Kakaako kids went McKinley, from McKinley. Her brother, her nephew all da kine. The Kiliholokais, the Kauhane, the Freitas. And then like swimming too, eh. Before, all like Duke Kahanamoku, all those guys. They used to come Kakaako, you know, fool around, hang around. That's why the first Olympic, I think, 1924 Olympic or something. Was 1920 Olympic, had the Pung boys. Duke Kahanamoku, all them guys went from Kakaako. And then Warren Kealoha, all that kind. Then, after that, had the guy, the Maiola brothers. All went from Kakaako.

PN: The Kalili brothers.

MN: Yeah, Kalili brother. That's her brother-in-law's relatives or something. "Doggie's" relatives, cousin or something.

LN: I think so.

MN: So when the guy went Japan-American Swimming Meet....before, when swimmers race time kind, they get thin suit, you know. That one get Japan flag, American flag. They give 'em to the cousin. Yeah, my brother gave 'em to me. I don't know what happened to them. Thin. Ho, just like you naked. Ho, I used to go swim with that. Oh, feel just like you naked. But nowadays is all shorts, eh. Before had two-piece suit. But just like silk. Just like get nothing on. That's why, like sports, oh, like Waikiki, like close, eh. Kalia. See, that's where Kahanamoku them come from, Kalia. You know where Ilikai is? That over there is the Paoua Estate before. See, the park. Duke Kahanamoku is Paoua, right? He used to come Kakaako and play. Warren Kealoha. Warren Kealoha married to brother Eddie's something, no?

LN: Yeah, something. Kalia used to be where, Daddy?

MN: Kalia. Right by where Ilikai, all da kine now.

PN: Fort DeRussy, like that.

LN: Fort DeRussy?

MN: No.

LN: No, that's not. That's not.

MN: Hawaiian Village.

PN: Oh, by Hawaiian Village side. Oh.

MN: See, that's why Hawaiian Village was the Paoua Estate, I think. Was something like that around there. And you know, before, Kakaako, you know where Roosevelt Gate is? Ala Moana? Roosevelt Gate, Ala Moana Park, right by that yacht harbor. Yacht Harbor Towers across, Roosevelt Gate, all over there, all the way down was rubbish dump, you know.

PN: Yeah, yeah. That's what people used to say. All rubbish dump.

MN: Rubbish dump. And you know where Ala Moana Shopping Center? Was swamp. Well, big rain, we used to go down by the---pass the rubbish dump on this side. The swamp overflow. We catch da kine pontat and da kine pake fish, eh. Namasu. Da kine pake fish. Big pake fish like that.

PN: Catfish?

MN: Catfish and one other one, one more fish. Yellow kind color. Just like koi kind. We used to sell 'em to the pake bakery man.

- PN: Oh yeah. What they used to do with 'em?
- MN: They make soup like that. They eat. Even the kind namasu the catfish, eh. Big buggas. When the swamp overflow they used to come down. But we go down the rubbish dump, we no can afford net, eh.
- LN: You know where used to be Kalia, Daddy? You like I tell you where? Ala Moana Park.
- MN: Well, they used to call that Kalia, too.
- LN: That's Kalia over there. Over there used to be all the rubbish dump. When we were small kids, we used to go over there and play. All Ala Moana, that park, all used to be Kalia. And you know by that fish market, the one, Ala Moana, over there used to....
- MN: Airfield.
- PN: One airfield?
- LN: Yeah. Promise. Airfield.
- MN: GEM. You know where GEM's?
- PN: Yeah, yeah.
- MN: Over there was the airfield. Penny-a-pound.
- LN: GEMs. More down, more down, Daddy.
- MN: You ride penny-a-pound. Near Ward Street.
- PN: What kind of airfield that?
- MN: Da kine airplane. Biplane.
- PN: Small plane?
- LN: Yeah, yeah. Used to be. Because my sister, my older sister used to live there before.
- PN: When was this?
- LN: Oh, I would say maybe that was in about the 1920's.
- MN: That's when they start flying the trans-Pacific kind. You know da kine Martin Jensen, all them guys was flying over.
- PN: Oh, they come from the Mainland, they come down.
- MN: Yeah. On the biplane. Yeah, some biplane, one single monoplane, like that. Those days was biplanes, two wing kind. They used to come. The two guys, they miss Oahu, they wen land in Molokai or something.

PN: Oh yeah, yeah. Had that story in the newspaper.

MN: This guy Martin Jensen them. I remember the guy Martin Jensen well. Then they used to have penny-a-pound. You can ride the airplane over there.

LN: Because over there, even Ala Moana Shopping Center.

MN: Over there was swamp.

LN: All swamp. All swamp before.

MN: You see, Ala Moana Shopping Center was swamp, owned by Dillingham Corporation. So Ala Wai Canal, they want to wide up the channel, outside. Was too shallow. You know, the coral reef. They want to dredge 'em out. So I think the State had contract with the Dillingham Corporation. So first so many thousand yards or something, Dillingham no charge. They like the coral.

PN: Oh, then they back-filled all that area.

MN: Yeah. Dillingham won't charge. They like the coral. State. Came in the paper. Da kine.

LN: We used to go over there and play when we were small. All swamp.

MN: Came in the newspaper. That's good deal. Save the government plenty money. Give 'em. "Eh, where you going put the coral?" For haul the coral going cost big money. That swamp, see. Dillingham smart, too. You know that coral, you know how high that was? About three, four story high. You know Ala Moana Shopping Center is now? Was about three, four story high coral.

PN: They smooth 'em out like that?

MN: Oh yeah. Then you know, Dillingham use 'em. They sell the coral after that. Fill up. Then only swamp, right? Compress down, compress down. Come bring the bulldozer trucks, eh. Whatever they sell, fill up different places, right.

PN: Like you say, you guys used to catch the fish from over there.

MN: Yeah, the swamp overflow. You remember before? "Yellow" Kinoshita, all us used to go. Isa.

PN: How you guys used to catch 'em?

MN: Oh, you know the large can. You know the round, large can lard come in. Well, the bottom rot, right. On top open already. Well, the bottom rot. Well, we watch. We see the rippling. The water is only about that high, eh. You see the ripple in the water, eh, coming. Other kind

- ripple steady. But fish ripple is move around. Japanese call kabusu, eh. "Kabusu" means cover. Japanese. Kabusu, that's cover. Then the water would go away. Only the fish inside there. Then we get glove. I said pake fish, eh. Grab 'em. Put inside the big can.
- LN: You know where I used to catch that, too? You know right by the corner of Ward. Now get that Ward Warehouse. Over there. They used to get da kine stream underneath.
- MN: Yeah, underneath the road.
- LN: And get da kine catfish. But now, how much you think a pound, they selling that? About \$3-something a pound, that kind fish. We used to catch that. Lousy down there, before.
- MN: Yeah, and the guy "Yellow" used to take us.
- PN: How you guys used to catch you guys' catfish?
- LN: The kind with the hook.
- PN: Hook 'em?
- LN: Yeah. And big kind. And now, when I see 'em down the market, I tell, "Chee, before, when we were small, we used to catch. Used to be loaded."
- MN: Well, before food was abundant. Like, you know where HIC, Blaisdell Center? Over there was Ward Estate, you know. You see the pond by that....that's real pond, you know, that. Natural. Only bigger, the pond was much bigger. You know where the Exhibition Hall, get pond, eh. Was big, eh, the pond. Big pond. Then the overflow water, that's the stream, see, da kine spring. Overflow water come out in a small ditch like. And had one box, concrete with wire. Over there had plenty live opae. River opae inside there. And then holehole, mullet. And behind the Kapiolani Boulevard, never get road. Only one dirt road like. One dirt road, coral road. And had one 1-by-12 fence. Me, "Yellow," Yama, all that. Nobori brothers, yeah.
- LN: The Ward sisters used to own that whole area over there, you know.
- MN: The Nobori brothers. We go with "Yellow," and he's our leader. We jump over the fence, we go inside there. "Yellow," he smart, he fisherman, eh. He spear the mullet, couple of mullet. The Japanese man used to chase us. Hoo! While they was catching da kine, me and Yama, we used to go catch that big opae. We put 'em, big opae, scoop 'em around the box. Concrete box. And then holehole, big bugga holehole. Catch couple of 'em. Hoo, take off.
- PN: What you guys used to do? Eat 'em?
- MN: Yeah.

LN: Before, da kine fish rubbish.

MN: Mullet, holehole.

LN: Rubbish, da kine. Now you see 'em all in the market, \$2-something a pound. That's what we can't see it, you know. Before, you know, when you go with the people, they come home with fish, they give you. You know what I mean. Now, all da kine rubbish fish, we see 'em all in the market. All dollar something, \$2 a pound. Before, they give that.

MN: Kakaako, where pass Blue Pond, Kewalo Basin, we used to go catch sand opae for catch ulua. Sand opae. Red opae. Nighttime you got to go. We get one 2-by-four. Not 2-by-4, 1-by-4 board or 2-by-4 board. We put nails. Plenty nail, eh. We make 'em like rake. Then one guy rake, come slow. The water shallow, see, low tide. Rake 'em, one guy get the torch. When you behind, you grab 'em.

PN: And the stuff come out of the sand?

MN: Yeah. They stay in the sand covered. But you see, when you rake 'em, eh, the bugga expose, eh. Red. You pick 'em up. Then you put 'em on, catch big papio.

PN: Right outside there, Stone Wall area like that?

MN: No, now Ala Moana Park.

PN: Yeah, right over there?

MN: You know, where Ala Moana Boulevard run in? You know where the canal get the drainage canal. Right till there was beach, you know. All was beach. Nice sandy beach. We used to go torching outside there. Yeah, we go torching nighttime.

LN: And you know right in front of that Fisherman Wharf, that restaurant, eh Daddy. And you remember you used to get that old Japanese lady with da kine pushcart? The Japanese what?

PN: Saimin lady?

LN: Well, they usually sell what? Shave Ice?

MN: Shave ice, sushi, doughnut. Apple doughnut.

LN: Sushi. And they make their own milkshake. Oh boy.

MN: Da kine push wagon kind.

LN: The old lady. Yeah.

MN: Before, my father had. Long time before. He used to...

LN: I don't see those kind wagons.

MN: Yeah, no more. My father had one. End of the car line, Kapiolani Park. Streetcar used to run. Before you go to the Diamond Head end of the road, right over there, on the end of the street line, my father used to sell da kine shave ice. Before, apple doughnut was favorite. Before apple doughnut, you see apple inside. Plenty apple. The sauce inside. Nowadays, you see little bit. Only spoonful. But before apple doughnut was juicy. My father used to do da kine kiki. All that kind. Kakaako. Kakaako used to make. Buck's used to make kiki.

PN: Kiki? What is that?

MN: Something like coconut doughnut.

LN: Coconut doughnut. But this used to be, you know, Buck's used to sell sweetbread before? Well, his family used to be right on Keawe Street. Halekauwila in back.

MN: Keawe is Halekauwila.

LN: And they used to own one bakery. And we used to buy our bread and stuff from there.

MN: Hot bread.

LN: Hot bread. And had one right by Coral Street, too. See Kau.

PN: Yeah, See Kau Bakery. I heard about See Kau.

LN: You heard about See Kau? Yeah. All over there.

MN: See Kau's daughter, she used to school with us. Our classmate. She was cripple.

LN: Yeah, yeah, yeah. She married a Portuguese boy. Yeah, the Lopez boy.

MN: Lopez boy. "Shorty" Lopez. They live in Kapahulu.

LN: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Oh, I never see them for so many years.

MN: Then you see where Kakaako? Bounded by Queen, South and Coral---no, Keawe Street. Over there where now Toyota is. Toyota automobile company. That block, that used to be Honolulu Rapid Transit stockyard before. They used to keep all their streetcars inside there. Right inside there.

LN: Yeah, yeah. Right that whole block.

MN: And right across, Magoon Block, had downstairs store, upstairs rooming house. And downstairs, my father and mother had one store. My father and mother bought the store from, you know Fujio Matsuda? University

President now. From them. The father and mother used to run the restaurant. Da kine, they sell Hawaiian food, beef stew, all da kine. Plain lunch that you heap kind. They had the store, but they sold the store. Candy, 5 cents store to my mother them.

LN: Kanraki. Used to be Araki.

MN: Fujio Matsuda. That boy.

PN: Fujio Matsuda. I heard he used to work inside there.

MN: He no remember me good. But the sister, his three sister remember me good. Because him, that's why he come smart. While we playing he studying.

PN: That's what I heard about him, yeah.

MN: But the sisters, and then their family on Cooke Street, they used to make the best saimin. People from all over town used to come.

LN: Oh, the one on Cooke Street?

MN: Yeah. Remember one night, we came from Kewalo Theatre, had earthquake.

LN: Nineteen thirty....

MN: Me, I grab my two kids. My oldest boy and my oldest girl. That's when we only had two kids. I grab the two kids.

LN: That was about 1936, I think. Or 1937, I think. Nah, no can be 1937.

MN: Oh boy. The whole damn....[Makes rattling noise.]

LN: The earthquake.

PN: Big earthquake?

LN: Yeah. We just pau eat saimin. We just was coming, coming out from the saimin.

MN: I told her, "No move. You go out the road and the wire fall down, you get burn, eh. Stay over there." Then, when pau, we know when thing quiet down we get open field in front. Had Mother Waldron Park. Right in front there. The big park, Atkinson Park. Was Atkinson Park. See, we can run into there, see. Tell, "No move."

LN: And they used to tell you about this teacher?

PN: Mother Waldron? Yeah. Lot of people talk about her. You had her as a teacher?

LN: Terrific, her. Boy, I tell you. Nowadays, this kind kids, if she should handle 'em....

MN: They all come good kids. And parents don't bother her, you know.

PN: They said lot of the teachers at that time were hapa. Hawaiian.

LN: All hapa.

PN: They just came out of Normal School, something?

MN: Normal School. Adrian DeMello.

PN: Why was that? Before teachers were what? All haoles or something?

MN: No, haole, Portuguese, Chinese.

LN: They used to get---had Hawaiians. Like Mrs. White. She's half Hawaiian.

MN: Half Hawaiian. Oh, Mrs. White was terrific, too. Half white. Had one Portuguese teacher, Mrs. Madeiros. Was one big, fat teacher. She used to broke the stick on my hand everytime. I had one haole teacher, Miss Johnson. That's Pohukaina School. She was our music teacher. And then you know that announcer, Joe Rose? Well, his wife is Alves girl. Queen Street. Now marry the guy. [Push finger up against his nose.]

(PN laughs)

MN: Joe Rose. Marry the guy Joe Rose, personality....

PN: Stuck-up now? (Laughs)

MN: And she was a very insecure girl. You know, she stay in the room. All plenty pimples. Bumbai, after she came pretty. Alves family. One boy was...."Naggy." We call 'em, "Naggy." Play football with us. Rugged guy. He used to be good springboard diver. Good boxer. But I don't know da kine. She come like that. They marry celebrity, they come like that. But all in all, was, you know, that pake boy had the crack seed shop? Was on Lopez Building on Queen and what by that street? Go Kewalo Street. Cooke Street. Remember that crack seed store.

LN: What one? The one Al used to live by?

MN: Yeah, in the back. I met that boy, you know.

LN: What the name now? Am Kai Chee or something like that.

MN: I recall I met the round face boy. I met him. He look at me. I look at him. I tell him, "Eh, you crack seed boy?" (Laughs)

He tell me, "Yeah." He say, "You, you the lousy one."

I said, "Lousy, your...."

(Laughter)

MN: But we used to all get together, go to school.

LN: Yeah, we used to get one over there. The mother used to own the cart.

MN: Five cent crack seed, oh boy. See mui. Oh, they used to be wholesaler, eh. And retail. Yeah, I was talking to him. All the classmate.

LN: Kakaako really change.

MN: That's why I say, we used to all meet together and walk. All us. As a whole, well, over there had HC&D draying company. Now they on Middle Street. Well, you know where the Star Bulletin is now? Where they had the stable.

PN: Yeah, behind the Advertiser.

MN: All right. That and across the....you know they demolish the big building? Well, that used to be HC&D draying company. You know, they transfer, move you, all da kine stuff. Yeah. And then where the Star Bulletin-Advertiser is, over there used to be that stable. They used to keep all the horses. See, no more truck. Horse drag everything. So is that, you know that Mother Waldron Park, Kakaako, next to the Pohukaina School? Over there used to be City and County Yard. City and County, the guys, they used to....the girl, Martha, I think she used to go high school....

END OF INTERVIEW

Tapes No. 3-24-2-78 and 3-25-2-78

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Maurice Naito (MN)

February 13, 1978

Waimanalo, Oahu

BY: Perry Nakayama (PN)

PN: This is the second interview with Maurice Naito, on February 13, 1978, in his home in Waimanalo.

Mr. Naito, last time we talked a lot about sports like that. This time I wanted to ask you a little bit about your house. Where you folks used to live, by the brewery, on what street was that now? Queen Street?

MN: Yeah, Queen Street, in the back of the old Rainier Brewery. The Brewery still standing there. It's now....they broke down the houses. I think they get fire station over there. New Kakaako fire station.

PN: Yeah. So, you know, could you describe the house you folks lived in at that time?

MN: Oh, we had a duplex house. Two-story house. Two-frame building, you know. It's two-story. Ah, but it duplex, you know. People live next door to you. You know. And then, we had Japanese and, most, though, was Japanese in there. Yeah.

PN: How long did you folks live there?

MN: Oh, I don't know. I don't know how many years we stay there, you know.

PN: Long time?

MN: Yeah.

PN: What kind neighbors you said? Most Japanese...

MN: Fishermens.

PN: Oh, they were mostly fishermen?

MN: Fishermen. Yeah, most of them was fishermens. Even you get the other nationality, most of them make their living on fishing. They get small boat.

PN: Oh, oh, oh. Were they mainly what...family?

MN: Family. All family dwellings in there. You know, all duplex. Some, one-story. But where we were, they like two-story. But our section was way in the back and low, eh. In case of water, the water used to come our side, that's why. Ours was elevated little higher, you know.

PN: From rain like that?

MN: Yeah, would rain. You know, those days the drainage system wasn't good as today. Even today it's not as good, but better than before. As far as drainage system, they no improve too much anyway. You know, with the everything, more people, more houses. But they lack adequate.... keeping up with the sewer line and the drainage system, you know. Because more people you get more surface run-off in the water. Before, you get bushes and everything. The water don't run off as much as when you clear 'em off, eh. And you put asphalt or something like that, you know.

PN: You know, this place where you folks were living, was it that, like a camp area?

MN: Yeah, it's a camp.

PN: You know who owned that area?

MN: Hm, hm. [Shaking his head, no.] It's just like one camp in there. Narrow. You know, the walkway through there, lucky you get four feet at least. Very narrow walkway, you know. It's behind. In the front, where the fire station is now today, used to be one, oh, da kine, just like shoten kind, you know, like Hata. Not, well, wholesalers, you know. They import and export the goods kind. You know, da kine Japanese kind they have, eh. Like Hata Shoten and then, you know, big import and export firm. That was in the front, see. So, we got to pass through the side of that. And, the houses were in the back.

PN: So they were kind of close together kine?

MN: Oh, yeah. You get fire, you trapped, man. You finish.

PN: So, were you folks, you know, particularly close to any one family over there? Like, you folks used to go do things together? Like, you know, you go somebody's house eat or something like that.

MN: Oh, yeah. Over there had the Kinoshita family, the Miyoshi family. The father was carpenter, I think, that one. Kinoshita, the father was fisherman. But not sampan. He had his own small boat. He go outside the harbor kine. Catch awa and all da kine. You know. And had the Shigaki family alongside of us. And I forget another family was in front of us. I forget their name, you know. Actually, some of the guys, I forget. But I know that Kinoshita and the Shigaki.

PN: What other kind family lived there? What other nationality?

MN: Well, most, as I said, was all Japanese.

PN: Oh. And did you folks do, you know, things together? Like go picnic or church?

MN: Nah, not in there. That camp was too small.

PN: No, but did your family go together with another family? Go to church or something like that?

MN: Oh, no, no, no. No, nothing like that. No. Because at that time, we had---my mother them had one store, Magoon Block, you know. We had one small store. We bought 'em from the president of University of Hawaii now, Matsuda. The mother them had one restaurant and one small 5-cent-10-cent candy store next door to the restaurant, see. So, she had hard time, you know, two side. So she sold the store to my mother and my father. And so, that's when the Matsuda kid was small boy, the president. I remember the sister vividly, you know. The older sister and the second one works for Advertiser. The older one, no, the older one works for Advertiser. The second one, she works for City Hall Refuse Office, I think. She's manager. Big shot, I think, or something. I don't know.

PN: You know, at home like that, what kind of family chores you had like that?

MN: Oh, before, we have to go look for firewood and all that kind. You know. Oh, yeah. Because....

PN: (Laughs) Where did you go to look for firewood?

MN: No, firewood for--not for cooking--but for more so, for clothes like that. Wash clothes. Put 'em in the 5-gallon can, eh. You know, certain kind they put, you know da kine peat soap. Brown peat soap, they call.

PN: Yeah, I think I know what kine you talking about. And what else you folks had to do that time?

MN: Oh, besides that, not much. Clean around the yard. Because even you live in a camp, everybody we all, you know, everybody help one another. The camp was very clean. Everybody, everybody do their share. They had one mango tree, oh, had couple mango trees in there. Lot of leaves fall there, you know. So everybody got to go clean the rubbish. If the rubbish come by your place, well, you clean 'em. You don't say the tree....by your place, you clean 'em.

PN: You folks didn't have any kind vegetable garden or anything like that?

MN: Nah, nah. No more room for that kind in there. Too small, too small. Very small over there. Why, in fact, you don't have to. Vegetable

and everything, fruits and everything was so cheap, you know. It cost you more money to raise 'em. Now, yeah. Even now, it cost money to raise 'em. The fertilizer, everything high. And worse, you don't have the place. But at that time, it's much cheaper to buy. And you have that, the man come on the wagon, you know. The man come on the wagon. Then he blow the horn. We know about what time. My mother them know what time they come over. They park outside by Queen Street. Everybody go out there. They buy fish. They carry meat, fish, kamaboko, vegetables, certain canned goods. Ah, those vegetable wagon. So then you go and they let you charge too, eh. But, you pay, you know. So you don't have to worry. And very cheap. But nowadays, oh, my goodness. I just went store only buy couple of juices. Almost \$10 already.

PN: Yeah, everything expensive now.

MN: Even milk. You know milk, all go in the dollar-something now. Before, real cheap, eh.

PN: So, you know, who did you play with, like that, in that area? All of your neighbors?

MN: Yeah, my neighbors. Da kine, the guy Bob Shigaki, you know. And there's the Kinoshita brothers. And the Miyoshi, you know, the boy. Tadashi, I think, his name was.

PN: What you folks used to do?

MN: Oh, we go fishing. You know, we go down Kewalo Basin. But those days, we no call 'em "Kewalo Basin." We call 'em "Blue Pond." We call 'em "Blue Pond" because it was blue; and you know, just like one pond. And it wasn't structured like now, you know. And, in fact, where Ala Moana Park, the water used to come almost up to the main road. Never had the park. The park was filled. And then didn't have road. Regular road. Only had real narrow road. Wasn't like that, you know. So we used to go there catch fish, you know.

PN: What else you folks used to do?

MN: Oh, so everytime, every chance you get, either that or go surfing outside. But not on Ala Moana side, though. We used to go on where
MN: the old incinerator used to---outside there, you know.

PN: Stone Wall area?

MN: Yeah. Outside there we used to go.

PN: So you folks used to go school together and then...

MN: Oh yeah. That's one thing we close. Go school together. In fact, we used to walk. No such thing as we ride. You know, especially when we used to attend Washington Intermediate, we used to walk. Everybody meet in the morning, right by the certain corner or something.

Everybody. Who and who not here? Wait little while, you know. Then, if the guy not going show up, the kid sister or somebody come over, say, "Oh, my brother sick. He's not coming."

"Okay. Fine." Then everybody start walking. Even after school, too. We wait, unless somebody have to stay back or something like that, you know.

PN: You folks had any kind of hangout, where you guys used to hang around the park or around the store?

MN: Yeah. Used to go by "Ants" [Tamura] Store.

[LN = Mrs. Naito]

LN: Araki, too.

MN: Yeah, Araki. Araki, the most, the big guys used to hang around there. But, like us, we used to hang around maybe like that "Ants" Tamura Store, you know. Kakaako. Pohukaina and Cooke Street. Over there, most of the boys used to hang around that store. They used to sell shave ice, you know, with the black beans and all that. "Ants." I think "Ants" passed away already, yeah?

LN: I don't know.

MN: Yeah, I think he passed away. That Tamura Store.

PN: This was one of the hang-outs the boys used to...

MN: Yeah.

PN: Where was the other, you know, place guys hang around?

MN: We go down the park. We play basketball. Mother Waldron Park. Playing basketball.

PN: There would be another group of boys hanging out over there?

MN: No. Any kind nationality around. We all play with one another, you know.

PN: But, you guys wouldn't be known like, you know, like you guys from the "Ants" Tamura gang, that, you know, you always hang around?

MN: But they used to have, you know. They used to have that. Later on, her brother them used to hang around there. Her brother older than her, I think. One older, above her. They used to hang around there with the Japanese boys. All Hawaiian boys, Portuguese boys, you know, Filipino boys. Like Tiwanak, all them. All them used to hang around.

PN: Your parents wouldn't put any kind of limits on where you could go, you know? They wouldn't tell you like, "You cannot go beyond Ala Moana," or something like that?

MN: No.

PN: You just go wherever you want?

MN: Yeah. Because like us, before, you don't have to tell. Certain time, we home already.

LN: Eight o'clock, you got to be home. Before, like I told you...

MN: Before eight we were home already.

LN: Aloha Tower get the siren.

MN: Siren. But, we get, I don't know, in our time we used to have lot of respect. The parents, they tell you one time, that's all. You know. So we home. Before that, we home. Yeah. Because---and then we don't---not like nowadays kid. They have to get so much money to spend, you know. Because we had everything we want. And we didn't care, you know, to have things. As long as you have freedom, you know. And you play with the right guys.

But more so then, we used to go to Kawaiahao Gym. We play basketball over there. Yeah. Play basketball or indoor baseball or something like that. Yeah. Or volleyball. Pick up teams. And you know, in the evening, like Tai Loy [Ho] and Uichi Kanayama them, the community kine stuff, you know. Each guy, they designate certain guys. Then the certain guy go around. We get a pool like. Then we pick players. Then, maybe, but we don't pick too many. If we do pick too many, some cannot play, you know. So probably one team we have about eight players, you know. That's about all we get. Eight. So that everybody can play. So, if you pick too many, you only want the good ones to be in there because everybody likes to win, right. No matter what kind league or what kind of thing we in, everybody likes to win. Nobody wants to be loser. Yeah. Then, they have prizes. First prize, second prize.

PN: Oh, this wasn't any kind of league. It was just pick up games?

MN: Ah, neighborhood kine. Just to keep you out of mischief, you know.

PN: Who used to run this?

MN: Tai Loy.

PN: Oh, oh, oh.

MN: Tai Loy used to run 'em and then, Uichi. Uichi used to help. But Uichi used to make the team of our own. You know, Atkinson side, yeah.

So Uichi put his own team in there. Then we had that---Tai Loy used to put that, ah, Five-Foot Seven League. You cannot be taller than 5 feet, 7 [inches].

PN: Oh yeah? (Laughs)

MN: That one there, my brother-in-law married to her sister. George Yap. He made one team, see. He played forward. That one there, we took 'em because only guy from the Businessman championship team cannot play was, I think, was Hiramatsu. Because he was big Japanese boy, eh. The rest we were all small guys.

PN: About how old were you folks then? About intermediate school or high school?

MN: No, at that time, I think, some of us we get through school already.

PN: Oh, oh. This is high school already.

MN: Yeah. And we used to scrimmage high school kids. I remember---only one kid I remember on the high school team. Name of Ramos, you know. Tall boy. He lives in Kakaako. They want scrimmage game so the boys used to come down. We used to give them scrimmage, eh.

PN: Five-Seven League?

MN: No, no, no. After the League like that.

MN: Yeah. Tai Loy used to make up all kind leagues. Volleyball for the boys. The girls. Or mix, you know.

PN: Oh, this is only for Kakaako, these leagues?

MN: Yeah, yeah. Oh, that's why I say, like you take like Tai Loy, Mrs. Heavey, Uichi Kanayama, Mother Waldron, all those people, yeah. Well, Mother Waldron was the lady, you know, with Tai Loy and Mrs. Heavey them, all protege. They learn, you know, all kind playground work like that. And like Uichi Kanayama like that. But, you know those days, those Tai Loy and Mrs. Heavey or Uichi, they didn't have hard time like nowadays playground directors. Because the kids were, I don't know, no matter what kind of family or background or race or, you know, they come from. Oh, they were terrific kids. They all, they get good attitudes, you know. Good attitudes. That's why Kakaako had good team, because everybody play together. And, you know, I don't know why but they all listen to like the elders, you know. Or the coach or whoever going to be above us, yeah. So, we had--always very close knitted, you know.

PN: Was there a lot of sports activities for women?

MN: Yeah, women too. They had volleyball. At Kawaihau Gym, they had volleyball. Then they have Mother Waldron Park. You know, Mrs. Heavey. You know, they run 'em.

PN: What other kind sports activity?

MN: Oh, that's about all we get. Volleyball.

LN: That's about all. They had volleyball, baseball, tennis, dancing.

MN: Yeah, baseball like that. But baseball wasn't that....at that time, not too much. But they play.

LN: But most was volleyball and basketball. Alani used to play, eh.

MN: Yeah.

LN: Lani, his wife.

PN: What about, you know, what did the women do then? I mean, you know, as far as, you know, after school recreation?

MN: They go to Kawaiahao Gym.

PN: Women?

MN: Yeah.

PN: Play basketball, volleyball?

MN: Basketball, volleyball. Whatever they want to play over there. Chess, or, not chess but, what you call that kind? Checkers, yeah, checkers, you know. All that. Or, if not, they go swimming down the wharf. Down the pier, Healani Boathouse. If nothing else to do, all of us go swimming. You go Blue Pond, you know. Then we used to, what that kind? Swim tights. We go that Ah Fat. What store is that on Magoon Block? They boy, call 'em "Ah Fat," I think. One small store. You buy one shorts, eh. You know how? See, funny things come back, yeah. I see nowadays guys wearing shorts, eh. Swim shorts. Before, those kind we used to buy, you know, black, eh. Small one like this, 25 cents, you know.

(PN laughs)

MN: And nice. I look now. The thing comes right back.

PN: Oh yeah.

MN: Yeah. And girls, you no see 'em with, how they dress, go swimming now. Oh, no way. They go with a old dress or big bloomers or something.

LN: They no show half of your, you know. Now...

MN: Now? Nowadays girls, Christ, might as well they go naked already.

LN: You never see anybody walk like that in town.

(PN laughs)

MN: Babies cover themselves. Small babies cover themselves with Pampers more than these adults do.

(PN laughs)

LN: You know, no more such thing but, you know...

MN: Terrible now. Before, in our high school, when I was in high school, I lucky if I look at the girl's ankle.

(PN laughs)

MN: Shee! They wear the long dress.

PN: I going ask you something. You used to attend Japanese school like that?

MN: No. When?

PN: Ah, intermediate school, around that time. High school time.

MN: Oh yeah, yeah. Right after high school.

PN: Even after high school?

MN: That's why I wanted to turn out McKinley track team. You know why? Because one of my classmate, Tom Yamane, I think was. Tom Yamane? Yeah, he works for Matson. Big shot now. Or either retired already. Nice guy. Very nice man. He used to run on the four-mile track team for McKinley. You know, him and Kim and, oh, couple of them---gee, I can see the picture, but I don't know their name. Well, anyway, sometime they used to train, you know. Saturdays like that. We go out there and fool around. The guys running. Me, I run in bare feet around with them. I keep up with them. In fact, I beat some of them.

(PN laughs)

MN: So I figure, oh, I can do that, you know. I ask my mother. She says, "No, Japanese school."

PN: Oh, it was a conflict?

MN: "Okay." So I went. And then, I think McKinley, the four-mile relay team, I can broke the record or something.

PN: Oh yeah?

MN: I know Tom, he can run, but get one pace, that guy. No more that kick to the finish, you know. So more so I wanted to run. But cannot.

PN: The Japanese school you went to, how often was the classes?

MN: Everyday. Oh yeah. Including Saturdays. Saturday, you go from morning time. Morning time, before noon you get through. But in the afternoon, after high school or any school you going, everybody goes.

PN: And then what? How long would this after-class be?

MN: Oh, about one hour, two hour.

LN: Four o'clock, eh, you folks pau?

MN: Yeah.

LN: Japanese School.

MN: No, we pau later than that. Five o'clock, I think, we pau. Yeah. So, but one hour, one hour and a half, you know. But you know, now like I say, maybe I cannot read good and I cannot write good. But before at least I could write the kind of simple Japanese work, eh. Hiragana or kana, that kind. But not the kana is the hard big ones. Now, I never use 'em for so many years, they look like characters to me, you know. In fact, I used to speak very fluent Japanese, you know. But you don't use, like anything else, you don't practice, you out of line right? But at this time, you know, get this kind Japanese tourist coming over, all that. Shee. You know that, you know your Japanese language good, you work for hotel, oh, you make good, you know. Good salary.

PN: So, you attending Japanese school when they had that split, you know, the two---there was a split in the Japanese school.

MN: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

PN: You know what happened?

MN: Oh, I don't know what happened. Maybe, like anything else, maybe the big shots--the board--you know, like school like that. They get a school board and all that. Japanese school board. Or they didn't agree, I think. Something like that. That's why this split. Like anything else, they split, eh. If they don't agree, they split. They go on their own, eh. Teach their own philosophy, eh.

PN: Did your parents have anything to say about it?

MN: What?

PN: You know, what they thought about the split.

MN: No.

PN: What Japanese school you went to?

- MN: Oh, I went to the Matsuda. Yeah, the one by the Red and White kamaboko factory now.
- PN: Oh, oh, oh. Yeah, I think I know.
- MN: Yeah, that one. The other one was right around Queen and, what's that? What street that? Where Lex Brodie is now. Yeah. And over there had---where Lex Brodie is living there, over there had camp. Had all Hawaiian, Japanese, Filipinos, all living there.
- LN: No.
- MN: Yeah, that's where had camp. Aji, I mean, Shag used to live over there. Next to the peanut factory.
- PN: You know when you folks were playing for that Atkinson team....you folks had an Atkinson Club, eh?
- MN: Yeah, more so. One club like.
- PN: You know, you said it was started by Uichi Kanayama.
- MN: Yeah. Uichi start all. Not start. But he form that, you know. And then he has, like anything else, you have to have different people to help, assist you, right. You cannot run by yourself. But he was the leader, you know.
- PN: How old was he? He was older than you folks or something?
- MN: Oh yeah. Oh, he's much older. He one school teacher. Yeah, after he graduate University of Hawaii and everything. He one school teacher.
- PN: This is when you folks were what, intermediate school like that? High school time?
- MN: Yeah, intermediate.
- PN: Intermediate time he was beginning to help you folks already?
- MN: In fact, before intermediate. Even when we was going grammar school I used to hear about him, you know.
- PN: Oh, oh, oh. When you were grammar school, he was about what---- 20 or something?
- MN: Oh, when we was grammar school, I think just about he attending University of Oahu or something. Sometime in that place, eh.
- PN: So he was teaching at where?

- MN: I don't know where he was teaching. But I know he was a teacher. Then, he married one school teacher too. I forget her name. Rosalie, I think. His wife died before him, you know.
- PN: So what---you know, going back to this club like that...
- MN: Yeah.
- PN: How many people were in that club?
- MN: Oh, we had plenty people. But most the Atkinson da kine was, I think most was Japanese boys at that time. I think only other nationality was my brother-in-law's brothers, you know. That Teddy Yap and Kimo Yap. The rest was all Japanese.
- PN: Approximately what---20?
- MN: Oh, more than 20, over. Close to 50, maybe. Oh, because you know why? The guys play basketball, too. The guys play basketball, they don't play football. But like us, we used to play basketball, football, or any kind sport, you name 'em. Soccer or whatever you have. Anything, we try. But certain guys, "Oh, I don't want to play that kine game." You know. But us, we try anything.
- PN: How would you join the club?
- MN: Oh, you play for the team. You come out to the team, but. As much as possible, wasn't the, well, you know, regular club like how we have now. And then, but as long as you play for Atkinson, well, you member already. Automatically you a member. Then, later on they form the Kakaako YMA.
- PN: That was Yono's?
- MN: Yeah.
- PN: Oh. So, what would this Atkinson Club be? What was the purpose of it?
- MN: Oh, like anything else. To put the boys together, keep 'em busy so they be out of mischief. And then, you learn from there, you know. What you got to achieve in life and all that, you know. How to meet people and all. How to fight in life, you know.
- PN: So you guys would have regular meetings and things like that?
- MN: Oh, once in a while we used to get meetings. But, at that time, we didn't have too much meeting. Only after, when Kakaako YMA were form, you know. More so, they adopt constitution and all that kind. Then they had.
- PN: What about fund raisers like that? You folks had any fund raisers?

MN: Oh yeah. Those days, they used to sell raffle ticket. Or dance ticket.

PN: Raffle ticket? What would they raffle off?

MN: Oh, you know, they give 'em about five, six prizes. Maybe one small table radio or something like that.

PN: Some kind of appliances?

MN: Yeah. Toaster or waffle iron, you know. Not fabulous thing like how nowadays they tell you win TV and all that kine.

(PN laughs)

MN: Because those days, you raffle ticket was cheap; 10 cents a ticket, eh. Now, they like dollar or something.

PN: What would that money be used for?

MN: For the money we use 'em for buy....to defray expense. One that play sports. Because not everybody house get money, right. So, some kids, they cannot afford. Those days, a dollar was just like, now, like \$100. Before dollar was just like \$100 today. See. So then, with that money we can buy certain, you know, T-shirt or something like that. Where the players don't have to take out that much money. You know, we might take out entrance fee; 25 cents or 50 cents or something like that. With that money we can, even like we sell raffle, we can buy bats or balls or something like that. No more like now. Huli-huli chicken sale or kalua piʻi sale or sweetbread.

PN: You folks used to sponsor any silent movies with that kind of benshi on the side?

MN: Oh, that was the older guys. Older guys on Cooke Street, yeah. By Yamanaka's house, next door to Yamanaka's house on Cooke Street. Yeah. Kakaako, they used to have that. You know.

PN: You folks wouldn't put on...

MN: That's the older guys, you know.

PN: What you mean by "older guys?"

MN: Oh, da kine, what you call, Kakaako Young Men Association or something like that. Not for athletic kine. For the community association or something like that. Like us, we go sell dance ticket, 50 cents you know. Fifty cents dance ticket. Armory or Outrigger or someplace, you know.

PN: Oh, you folks would have to hire...

MN: Or Pan-Pacific like that.

PN: You folks would have to hire the band?

MN: Yeah. Cheap, those days. Yeah. I think that guy Senator Duke Kawasaki them used to have orchestra, too, you know.

PN: Oh yeah. (Laughs)

MN: Yeah. Yeah, because one time--I don't know where I seen or met him--I think was reunion I think. Because he attend, too, you know.

PN: He was a Kakaako boy?

MN: No, he not Kakaako boy, but he used to come down there play music. You know. With some Kakaako boys they form one orchestra like, you know. That's why he attends that Kanraku Teahouse. We used to have every year, you know. \$10 a head. That's when you get over 500, 600 guys. Not only Kakaako Japanese guys. Atkinson. Anybody who wants to come. Any nationality. They bring their guest, then, you know. So we get big gang, Kanraku.

PN: You know you said that---was there, you know, like sponsors or backers of the team so that help the Atkinson club?

MN: Oh yeah. We had. But funny, yeah, in those days, we don't bother. Who sponsors us or anything. As long you take your body down there. You practice and if you play, you happy. We no worry about who managing the money or anything. You know, that much...

PN: Uichi was taking...

MN: Uichi and then whoever in charge. Well, that was fine because we was getting everything what we wanted. Everything was, you know. Not like now. Everybody trying to rip off one another. They all get few cents out of everything, eh. Those days, no. Before, different. I guess we had some, you know, citizens donate few dollars like that. But not like now. Nowadays, even when they invest something or sponsor something, they want something out of that, right?

PN: (Laughs) Yeah.

MN: But before, no. They just give from their pocket, see. So you can see the society has changed, you know.

PN: Lot of changes.

MN: Oh yeah. Before we no say, "How much we got in there?" We don't never check the other guy. They handle that. As long as I was happy, I go out in the field, I'm in good health and I can practice hard, you know. Everybody get together. Sundays we play, we win, we happy. That's why we had good....that's all, you know. Weight goes. Our team, the

heaviest guy, I think, was 135 pound. Like we played Pawaa. They challenged us. Championship game. We didn't challenge them.

PN: You talking about weight limit?

MN: Yeah. And those guys all came on the scale. I don't know, 142-1/2.

(PN laughs)

MN: I said that was the limit. Us, the heaviest guy was 135 pound. We all weigh 109 pound. You know, 115 pound, 120. And, you know, weight, small is big difference, you know. In other word, we were playing with more guts than anything else.

PN: You said you played for the Atkinson team and the Kakaako Sons?

MN: I played the Kakaako Sons, the Junior team. The start, you know. Then later on, I went to Atkinson.

PN: Who was the coach for this Kakaako Sons, Junior team?

MN: Junior team was that guy, Ikei, the ones that was playing for the Senior team. Ikei, you know. Yara, and then...

PN: Who was the first guy?

MN: Herbert Ikei, you know. And the other guy, Yara. Herbert Ikei used to be---him and Yara, he was quarterback, I think. Yara was half-back, I think. Herbert Ikei was quarterback for the Senior Kakaako Sons team, you know.

PN: So he was like the head coach for the Junior team?

MN: Yeah. And then, they had this other guy. Some other---I forget, some Hawaiian boys was coaching, too. And later on, later on Don Ho's father wen take over the Kakaako Sons Junior team, you know. But then already I went over to Atkinson because---for the Senior Sons had this guy, Sada Matsuda and Nap Watanabe. They were playing for the Senior Sons, you know. So we went with them. Those guys are all dead already.

PN: I like ask you little bit more about this Kakaako Junior team because we don't know too much about them, you know. Who else, you know, what other kine people played on that team?

MN: For who, the Atkinson team?

PN: The Juniors, the Kakaako Sons team.

MN: Oh, Kakaako Sons. Oh, any nationality, from any part of the city who wants to play. Nobody barred.

PN: Oh yeah. But majority was what, Kakaako people?

MN: Was a nucleus, yeah. Kakaako. But we had people from Punchbowl. We had people from School Street. We had people from Kalihi. We had Moiliili, Kapahulu, Waikiki.

PN: How come all these people come down?

MN: They just like to come. I don't know why. They like Atkinson. We had plenty people coming from Manoa, from Kalihi, yeah.

PN: So what, you folks just play with them?

MN: Oh no. They would come. Uichi would look, you know, because so many guys turn out. They used to cut too, you know.

PN: Oh yeah?

MN: Oh yeah. So, you don't want cut too much. So you see how Uichi---he's terrific, that guy. So he make 120-pound A and B team. See 120-pound A and B team. Okay. Then he had the 135-pound team. So, in other words, from here A and B. You good, eh. Just like minor league kine. Then he push you into the 135. See. So if you have goal, right. You have a goal. You want to be up there. Varsity like. See, that's why Uichi is smart. Anything he does, he always do that.

Instead of say, "Oh, cut." And you out, right. You out.

So then, that guy would say---depressed, you know. "How the hell I no can make the team? I was just as good."

Just as good but you wasn't enough. So he formed another one. So these guys--not just as good guys--they going be leader of these teams, eh. And you happy, you know. I know for myself. Well, I never go to the B. I play for the 120-pound A. Then, next season comes, he said, "You, you, you, you." You know. Not too many. "Go to the 130-pound." He don't care if you weigh 110 pound.

(PN laughs)

MN: Or 105 pound. Your ability, your attitude, you know. Your talent. You go to that team. Shee, so when I went to the 135-pound team, me, Yono and, oh, couple more guys, I think. We went up to the---see. But to me, I go, "Gee." The 135 team had, I counted, had about five centers already. And the A team, 120, I was playing center. I figure, "Shee, I got to go." And those guys all brawny guys, you know.

(PN laughs)

MN: And me what---young kind only weigh 115 pound at that time. I tell, "Oh, my goodness." You know. I say, "I not goin' sit on the bench." But no can get five guys over there. So I look who and who I got to

beat out. So, only left me. Nobody else. You know. So I told, "Teizo, you and I going share that." Kurano. Teizo, he come from Pawaa. See, his brother play for Pawaa but he's younger. My classmate, you know. Classmates.

"Eh, I like go play."

I tell, "Go ahead. Come down." So he, in turn, bring his friends down. So we moved out. But like before, you play offense and defense. See. I used to play offensive center, offensive left end, defensive left end. And then I used to play linebacker. See, I got to learn all the position. Offensive center, offensive left end, defensive left end and then middle linebacker. You know. And usually, centers, they let 'em go middle linebacker. So you got to learn all that. And on top of that now, football, quarterback behind your okole, right. Snap, eh. You can look at who in front of you before you got to pass the ball back. Fullback is behind the guard. You got to float the back and the ball up. You know. You center over here. The fullback over here. You down here like this, eh. You got to get two hands, not one, because before the balls were bigger. Just like more balloon than now. Eh. You got to hold two hand and then you got to...so the fullback be here like this, right. You got to throw the ball here so when he come through, go over. You cannot hit 'em hard, he fumble, right.

And then, if you get off-tackle smash like that, you cannot. You got to look where you going throw the ball. First, you know, just think the guy was there, right. And more you watch the feet. Your feet. You watch the feet. And when you center the ball, make sure---you no care for them. You got to know where you going throw the ball, right. So you got to give the guy the lead. See, the guy might be here. But he got to give the ball here. You no can give here because on the hike, the guy is here already. See, you cannot throw over here. You got to go right in the gut, you got to give 'em. See. Before hard, you know.

PN: Can we talk about the Kakaako Sons team?

MN: Yeah.

PN: Like lot of you said, through the Atkinson team you folks bought equipment through the Atkinson Club, like that, eh?

MN: What?

PN: Your equipment and stuff like that, Atkinson Club bought. You know, if you play for the Atkinson team, but what about the Kakaako Sons team?

MN: Oh, they have their own.

PN: They had a club of their own?

MN: Yeah, they had their own club.

PN: What was the name of the club?

MN: Kakaako Sons. Kakaako Sons--Junior and Senior team.

PN: Who ran that club?

MN: Oh, they had the coach, that guy, Julian Judd, you know. All those guys used to run 'em.

PN: So they would put on their own fund raisers?

MN: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah. Then they come to us for help. Buy tickets or help them sell tickets. Or we need help, we go to them. So they help buy, you know. They help buy our ticket and we would help buy their ticket. Or they give us couple of book like Sam Kapu, you know. Sam Kapu older than I am and he was playing center for the Senior team, eh. He give me couple of books for sell. Help 'em sell.

PN: What would they sell?

MN: Same kind, raffle or dance. Armory, Outrigger, you know. That's how they used to raise money. We help one another. And especially even when we playing, too. When we was playing the Leeward and the Windward championship game, after we Pawaa, we got to play Heeia for the 135-pound, you know. The Oahu champion. At that time, like Sam Kapu, he usually come to the game. He don't stay by Uichi. He stay on this end. He watching the game with his friends, you know. The other Senior Sons guys. Then, when he come out, he call me over. He tell me, "You supposed to block every punt." Or, "You supposed to nail every player on the Heeia team."

And I tell 'em, "Shee, how can?"

He said, "That's why you not watching." He tell me. When I'm out, you know, resting, he tell me, "You watch now. See that play there? You watch the guy." Sam Kapu would tell me. "They going to sweep the right. Right side." You know.

And Henry Wong. After, later on, he played for town team. He's a big shot for Castle. He manage the Castle Estate now. Henry Wong. He was the triple threat. Run, pass and punt. "See, Henry is going to sweep."

I tell, "How you know, Sam Kapu?" You know.

He say, "You watch the guard. The previous play, you see the guard was set. All right..."

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

MN: He tells me, "See. The guys, he selling...he selling out." He say, "Look, you take the guy taking your place now. He cannot even see that, all the guys in there now. You know, the second string guys. But now, when you go back, make sure, I like see you nail the runner all the time. If not you, you talk to the guy Wallace Amioka." I think retire from Shell, I think, now.

PN: Yeah.

MN: Yeah. Another guy, the other guard was Sol "South" Harada. He used to help Yono with the boxing team. He say, "You three guys supposed to be in the backfield whole afternoon. Let Yono them chop the interference down. Post Yono one side." Shee, when he tell me that, oh, I like go back in the game, you know.

So Uichi say, "All right, all you guys go back. Get in there now. Go in now." Anyway, Heeia never cross the 50-yard line until the fourth quarter. Only had about two, three minutes to go.

So I watch the guard. "Eh, Wally. You know Sam Kapu," tell 'em what Sam Kapu said.

Tell, "Yeah, oh, okay." So we played. I watch the guard, The guy first he stay like this.

Tell Wallace, "South." Say, "Yeah. Coming through, yeah." You know, he submarine right. (Laughs) The guy like this. One leg stay behind so the two guard going pull out. "They going pull out, eh.

[I tell,], "Wally, you seen that?"

"Yeah.." [slap]

They used to go on short punt. They had da kine short punt formation. Right behind here. So he like sweep. Before he can start, we in already inside there.

PN: Was there any kind of different styles of coaching between Kakaako Sons Junior and the Atkinson team?

MN: Oh, yeah. Lot of difference, yeah. Like, you see, like I say, that guy Ikei them was good coach. But...like different from Uichi them. Uichi them more...Uichi, he can, the way he was coaching, he can coach high school level. That guy Uichi, he was something like Father Bray type. You know. The boys get a lot of respect for him. And his two assistants, that guy Matsuda. And Sada Matsuda and that guy Nap Watanabe. They were the strong arms. That's the kine they kick you in the okole or slap you in the okole. You know. But Uichi was more on the Father Bray type. Stern. Well, good tutor, you know. he doesn't make the plays complicated. You know. He make 'em simple

as possible. So you can remember plays, eh. 'Cause those days, you know how many positions some guys had to play. And you got to know all.

PN: You know Uichi, he used to talk you folks on the side outside of game time like that?

MN: Oh yeah.

PN: Talked other besides football and stuff like that?

MN: Oh yes. He just like football, basketball, baseball, he coaches. But some of the sports, like basketball....well, in other words, I can tell you, he's something like Shuichi Sakamoto again. He don't excel in all the sport he coach. But, like Shuichi Sakamoto, he wasn't a good swimmer. In fact, I don't think he know how to swim, I think. But, good teacher, see. Uichi was something like that, see. He was not only a coach, but he was a teacher, he was a father, he was a counselor, he was all that. So you look up to him. You know, anything you want help or anything, you go up to him. So was the Sons.

This guys, Don Ho's father and Tai Loy. But Don Ho's father was most you can talk to [him more] than Tai Loy. It's more settle kind. At that time. Don Ho's father, he was, even when we play Pawaa the championship--before we play championship game--we used to practice. Don Ho's father used to come over. Uichi asked for his help, you know, because the Sons play Pawaa. They lost to Pawaa. But then, he told us the weaknesses of the other team and what is good for what offenses plays, too. So, he used to be with us till 8 o'clock in the night, Don Ho's father, teaching us, you know. At that time I remember was one of the Sons used to use the Belly Series kind, you know.

PN: You was telling me about that.

MN: Yeah, all that. He coach us. And "Pop," we used to respect him, because I play basketball for him too. And some leagues, he and I were guard on the basketball team, you know. So I play over there, I play with all different nationality, all kind sport.

PN: Was there anybody else who switched teams like you did? You know, from going from Kakaako Sons to Atkinson or vice versa?

MN: Oh, no. You see, like they don't stop you. Yeah, they don't stop you. And then, later on, the Senior team wants you, they come see Uichi. "We want certain boys from your team." Like Ted Okubo.

"Fine." Ted Okubo went. But Ted Okubo was build solid. Ted Okubo was build solid, 140 pounds, you know. So he went to the Sons. He made barefoot all star.

Then, they came see me afterward. Tai Loy came see me for play for the Senior team. Tai Loy was running back. But my wife tell me, no. Because I only 135 pounds.

PN: Oh, too light.

MN: Too light. Because those guys weigh in at, some guys weigh 175 pounds, eh. They weigh in. They go down to 150. After that, they can come to 200 pound, they don't bother.

PN: Why did you switch from the Kakaako Sons to the Atkinson's team?

MN: Well, I figure the Atkinson team at that time, were much more, not only organized, but much more controlled by Uichi. You see, like Ikei--- and they good. But they never have the finesse like Uichi too. Get the plays together, play together. That's why I went. Because I play for the Sons, the Junior team. We had good team. We had good team, you know. But then, you don't want to gain five yards, eh, and you get penalty 15 yards.

(PN laughs)

MN: So our runner buckle loose. Little over 40, 50 yards, right. And then we get penalty.

PN: For what?

MN: Punching or clipping or, you know, or hooking or something. All right. Then, we playing and first down, yeah. Instead of going first down and ten, eh. We went 15 yards backwards.

PN: The players weren't as disciplined?

MN: Always hooking. Get penalty. (Laughs)

PN: Oh, I see.

MN: I say, "Oh, forget it." You know, no sense you play hard, eh. We get good team, you know. We going in the front but we penalty was losing the games. So right there, I figure Ikei them no can control the team. The players was all their own.

PN: Was it more mixed kind of team than Atkinson's?

MN: Oh yeah, yeah. All different nationalities. So, you take like Uichi da kine, you ever do that kind, you sit on the bench. Because, see, you not helping the team. You know. Where the hell that 10 guys play so hard or the 21 guys play hard. And you one guy. You do things like that and you instead of going backwards, I mean forward, you going backwards. See. And we had good team, you know, some the Junior team. Yeah. Oh, very good team. And then I figure, "Eh, what is this, boy? Ho. We play hard, we get bust up." Statistically, we there you know. Yardage gained, everything. But, the penalty. Oh, brother. Forget it.

PN: This Junior team, you folks used to have East and West division also?

MN: Yeah.

PN: And you guys used to play in what division?

MN: East.

PN: East division. You folks would play against the Atkinson Junior team?

MN: Nah, nah, nah, nah. Atkinson was this [West] side with Nishikiya. See, then, before had da kine, too, you know, one team. The Sons never get the Junior team so they made the "G Man."

(PN laughs)

MN: You know "G Man?"

PN: What is that?

MN: That's the kine police activity kine like...."G Man." So we played on that team. Oh, we had good bunch over there. Bill Whaley, the pitcher.

PN: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

MN: Oh, he was our punter, quarterback. Oh, we had good players. Some of them deceased already. But we had good bunch of kids, you know. But just then we never jell, too. We played against Pawaa, you know, like "Mongoose" Leandro, like that. But we never lose big score. When we lose, one touchdown or so, you know.

PN: Oh, Pawaa was one of the powerhouse?

MN: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah, "G Man." We had good team. And I forget who the else coaching "G Man." Oh, "G Man" was good fun. One time, later part, you know some of the Atkinson boys, we was playing for "G Man," too. Uichi Kanayama's brother, Aichi. You know, so we tell the coach. I forget who the coach was. Our coach, I think was my brother-in-law, I think. George Yap, I think was. George Yap. He was playing for the Son Junior team, eh, George Yap. Oh, more worse, that guy was terrific, you know. Ho, good runner, George Yap. Ho. His brother, Teddy, was playing for us. Another good runner. Gee, all the brothers good running backs. That guy, Kimo.

PN: Teddy was one good runner, too?

MN: Ho, terrific. He was the short and chubby, you know. Hard to bring 'em down.

(PN laughs)

MN: Fast.

PN: This softball teams you played on, what kind of teams did you play on? Was it...

MN: Well, I play da kine softball, Open League. Before, yeah, before kine. Like before then have 12-inch, you know. But more was 14-inch, Open League.

PN: Was this Atkinson team?

MN: Atkinson. I play the Japanese Senior League team. Yeah. And then I played Atkinson Junior 14-inch, too. First I play the Junior. See, Alapai. I was living Alapai at that time. But Alapai never have no team, you know. And never had no team so we all used to go play for Kakaako. See, what I always do, I always ask my home base first. "You folks going to have team?" I don't care what kind of team. I'm want to play by my home base, right?

He said, "No."

I say, "Well, I'm going to play for Kakaako then."

He say, "Okay."

So couple of us, we played. Like Masa Yamamoto. But then, later on, that guy Yama, he form his own Alapai YMA. You know. So he had his own basketball team, softball team and all. But then, I was playing for Kakaako. So we played Alapai, yeah. But they had good boys. But in other words, they were inexperienced, eh. And so, but already I played for Kakaako long time.

PN: So the first team you played on for Kakaako was what team? Atkinson team?

MN: Yeah.

PN: In the Senior League?

MN: Japanese Senior League, da kine Japanese Junior League, too. Softball. I play that guy Tad Kawamura, all us was playing.

PN: What teams would you folks play on?

MN: Oh, all different Japanese team from Sheridan, you know, Moiliili, Kalihi...

PN: Oh, different districts like that? This is the forerunner of the AJA?

MN: Yeah, yeah. That's the Junior.

PN: Oh, oh.

MN: And then, AJA never had, those days.

PN: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

MN: And first I was playing for Alapai. Hardball. Centerfield and first base. I figure why the hell I going stand in this hot sun. Slow. The pitcher walk the guys, you know. And one time you guys bat, you pop, pop, and you sitting down. I said, "Forget this."

(PN laughs)

MN: Too slow the game, you know. That's why I played....oh, where I learn to play 14-inch ball, when I work Liberty House.

PN: Businessmen League?

MN: Yeah. So, "Tabuts" wen form one team. "Tabuts" Eguchi. The Asahi baseball player and all star. "Pontoon's" brother. He was playing fullback for....your father know. The guy was playing fullback for.... what's that....Nishikiya. He school teacher, I think, now. His older brother, see.

So he say, "Naito, you go play centerfield." Centerfield.

I say, "What I going do outside there?" (Laughs)

He say, "Chase the ball, of course. Or you catch 'em."

(PN laughs)

MN: So I tell 'em, "Okay." So I tell 'em, "How come...."

He tell me, "Where you like play?"

"Oh, I like first base."

"How come?"

I say, "I no like chase the ball." (Laughs) The ball go over me, I got to chase.

He say, "No, no, no. You fast, you go play centerfield."

So I play centerfield. Was good fun, though. But the guy, Kagemoto, I think, "Shortie." He play for the Liberty House Senior team baseball, eh. He was playing leftfield. And the guy "Yanky" Chang. "Yanky" Chang. He act in this kind Hawaii Five-0 now. Round, moon-face guy. Not Kam Fong, now. The other guy, Moon Chang. Sometime laundry man. But anyway, he was playing that. And they had some other guys was playing leftfield, too. And "Blacky" Hiramatsu was pitching. One good pitcher, the guy. Good for play Asahi, you know, the guy. But anyway, that's where I learn how to play softball. So, "Tabuts" hit the ball and assistant coach, they hit the ball.

He tell me, "You know, when I hit the ball, no look. You start running, you know. Make sure you know which way the ball going. Get the lead on the ball, you know. No back peddle, you know. The ball coming this way, you run this way for the ball. The ball going in there, if the ball coming this way, you turn around. You start going, you know." "Tabuts," he only laugh. Well, I played. I played. But my leftfielder and rightfielder, they tell me they more scared of me coming for them than the ball. (Laughs)

(PN laughs)

MN: Well, "Tabuts" tell me, "You go get anything, you know." Why, I think, I figure got to go get anything. But I forget I had a leftfielder and I had a rightfielder. See how green I was. I thought only I was in the outfield.

(PN laughs)

MN: So anytime the ball, she would come down, I no care the thing going to the leftfield foul line, I tell you, I'm going for that ball.

(PN laughs)

MN: So, even left center. Sometime the guy say, "I no even hear, no such thing I get 'em."

That guy waiting for the ball, I'm over there. Ran into the guy. Oh, I was terrible the first time. But I used to manage to hang onto the ball, though. So I wen learn, you know, from the guy "Tabuts."

PN: Softball, you folks was playing?

MN: Yeah.

PN: That's the Hawaii Senior....Japanese Senior League.

MN: Businessmen, that.

PN: This is called Liberty House later on?

MN: Yeah. That's because, you know why. Before, I used to play the 14-inch. But with the seam. See, Businessmen, seamless 14-inch. And that ball flies farther, you know, than the one with the ridges around the 14. That's why I get hard time with that ball. So in other words, "Tabuts" wen teach me how to play that ball. That kind of ball.

PN: You had this other league, all mixed nationalities. You get the Braves, the Asahis, you know. What is that? Hardball?

MN: Yeah, that's hardball, that. Hardball. Chinese, Hawaiians...

PN: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

MN: Wanderers. Haoles. Yeah, that's hardball. I never play that kind. To me, that skinball, hardball, to me, dead.

PN: Too slow, that?

MN: Oh, I used to play. City-wide, we took champion for Uichi.

PN: Oh yeah? Atkinson team?

MN: Yeah, Atkinson. Eh, I was number three batter, man. I was good.

PN: Centerfielder?

MN: Yeah, centerfielder and first base I used to play. But that's when we played, yeah, championship game, I think. Bill Whaley was pitching for non pareils and "Dutchy" Olson. All those guys, they're good. That's the guys, later on, all play for Braves. And us, none of us wen play for Asahi or somebody else. Later on, Iwa Mamiya wen play for Asahi. You know, later on, though. That's way later, but. Iwa, at that time, never play for us. Yeah, I had one city-wide, da kine, gold baseball. But I gave 'em to my cousin. Oh, my wife mad like hell. Yeah. The rest of the medals I get 'em all, you know. That kind "Most Valuable" [Player] medals, oh, that kind I cherish 'em. I keep 'em yet. So was good fun. And then, I play not only that. I play da kine, I play with the church league, you know. Da kine Mormon League. That B-division kind. Six or seven players we had. We took champion. Palama Gym.

PN: Oh, this is indoor ball?

MN: No basketball. Well, baseball I play for Hawaiian Divers. Fourteen-inch Open [League]. But, that one had seam. Businessmen no more seam. Oh, the ball go like that. That big one, too, you know. But, you see, 14, I play Open League for Hawaiian Divers. The guy, Bill Smith, Lieutenant Bill Smith. You know, the swimmer. Bill Smith. That boy was...and me the smallest guy on the team, so he always come with me. [Mr. Naito indicated that Bill Smith's height was chest high compared to himself.] He carry my bat for me. Me and him walk. Kaluwela Park, Aala Park. That boy Bill Smith. Then he came big, eh. Last time I seen him, I think, was Natatorium. Oh, I look at him. He tell me, "You forget me?"

I tell, "Yeah." But I say, "Oh, I don't know, you know."

He tell me, "You forget me?" He say, "I used to carry your bat for you."

(PN laughs)

MN: "You used to carry my bat?"

I said, "Gee, only boy I know carry my bat is Bill Smith Junior."

"Yeah, that's me."

(PN laughs)

MN: Ho, he came from Ohio State. He was World Champion at the time. But I tell 'em, "Eh, thanks for remembering me, eh."

He tell me, "Why?"

"Oh, you World Champion, man."

He tell me, "Ah." He said, "Oh, I used to get good fun go Sunday baseball with my dad."

The father policeman, eh, before. But, you see, they send him down Kakaako. That's another thing, too. He was something like Uichi Kanayama kind. With all the wharf rats or "Mulligans," you know. Put 'em together, form one club.

So he was coaching the team. Oh, he was a good coach. Stern. Oh, terrific. Boy, I tell you, we had nine outfielders. Nine outfielders and you like to play, eh. You have to go. You have to move because we had fast outfielders. Good hitters.

PN: You guys play without gloves, like that?

MN: Oh, no gloves. Only the guy had glove was the catcher. Then, we had two good pitchers. Burt Loftmiller. He passed away already. And, "Shorty" Lopes. I think he passed away, too.

PN: That was for the "Mulligans'" team?

MN: Yeah, Hawaiian Divers. Oh, we beat anybody. Anybody.

PN: This Bill Smith didn't come from Kakaako?

MN: No, he policeman. He live Kaimuki.

PN: Oh, oh. And he just used to come down help out?

MN: And there were PAL kind, you know. Come down there, get the boys together and they send the right man. He know how to get along with the boys, you know. The boys respect him, you know.

PN: This was about what years?

MN: Oh, right around the war. Before the war.

PN: 1930's?

MN: Well, before the war.

PN: In the 1930's?

MN: After, after. Yeah. Between the 1930's and the 1940's. Oh, you have to play hard to make the team, you know. Because most every position was set. Only the outfielders. In other word, you like to play every Sunday, you have to play hard. That's why my fingers was all busted. You see, all crooked. All from da kine. You no see one straight finger. All from 14-inch.

PN: You broke your finger, and what, you go doctor?

MN: The player go like that and put 'em back. That's all. (Laughs)

PN: Dislocated then?

MN: Yeah, dislocated. I never go. Not one I went doctor.

PN: You never put cast, nothing?

MN: We no believe in that kine. See. So what we do, we put.... Well, we had good fun. Especially me, I play for all different teams. Yeah.

PN: Basketball teams, you played for what?

MN: Oh, I played for Atkinson and then I played for Tai Loy's team. Because I ask the Japanese boys, they going enter the League. You know, YMCA League.

They say, "No."

Tai Loy ask me play for them. I say, "Oh sure. Fine."

PN: What team was this?

MN: I forget the name we had. The team we had. No was Kakaako Sons. I think Kakaako Sons? Yeah, I think Kakaako Sons, I think, we played. I remember Sam Kapu was playing forward. "Limey" Wilson, he lives up here. Another forward, you know. And we had good bunch. And then me and Don Ho's father, Jimmy Ho, was playing. Tai Loy was coach. We went up to the play-offs, you know. And those days, pakes used to be good players, eh. We bust 'em out. They thought that, you know, pakes and Koreans good basketball player. You know, these kanakas come out. Oh, we bust 'em out.

PN: Pakes was from what district?

MN: In town someplace. And all well known players, too. And then I play for Hawaiian Divers.

PN: Oh, had Kakaako Sons and Hawaiian Divers, too?

MN: Yeah, Hawaiian Divers Junior....that's da kine Junior AAU team. They had the Senior AAU, right. And the Junior AAU. The Senior AAU had Palama and all that kind. The Junior AAU team, Palama had one team in there too. And this one we went under Hawaiian Divers.

PN: Who was the coach for that?

MN: My brother-in-law. Her sister's husband, George Yap. And then we had players from all over again. From Punchbowl, Portuguese boys. We were all good players, you see. Those Portuguese boys, they had factions of their own and these other guys, like "Pepper" Moniz and all those kind, the catcher for Braves, eh. "Pepper" Moniz them all had their own basketball teams. So these guys, Ferreira Alvira them, they cannot get along, eh. So these guys made their own team. They make their own team. But these guys always cannot beat these guys, "Pepper" Moniz teams. These guys here. So these guys, because they never had enough personnel, eh. The five good players. So the five good players came with us. The whole team.

PN: So the Punchbowl team can play for Kakaako?

MN: So we played these guys. The Punchbowl guys, you know, "Pepper" Moniz them. First time we played them we lost. Championship game, we bust 'em up. Yeah. First game, they were lucky, real lucky. We lost to fouls. But that's the mistake we never make after that. Because they had about A, B, C....I think A, B, C, D. I think about five divisions, you know. Each division get so many teams, you know. And the champion and the runner-up from each play-off and then they meet together, eh. Was rough, you know, the Junior AAU. You know, you get about five divisions, eh. You don't play one another, you know. You play your own division teams. For the champion and the runner-up, just like this kine NBA [National Basketball Association]. Play-off kind. When you lose, you out, you know. No more da kine, two out of three.

PN: Single elimination?

MN: Yeah, single elimination you play. So all these guys was playing one another. Yeah. We always playing. Whoever it be, we never lose. And these guys never lose. So they were the last. Palama, we beat Palama. Palama, we bust 'em up. And then we played these guys, "Pepper" Moniz them. Oh, at that time, we bust 'em up. Yeah.

PN: When you folks were playing for the Atkinson team, who was the coach?

MN: Basketball, was this guy, gee, he was a good forward. Fujiwara? Fujiwara, I think, yeah. Was good forward for University of Hawaii. Good shooter, you know. He was our coach. He was coach and player, you know. We enter. You look like one personnel. (Laughs) Nothing. You know. But we had good shooter like Masa Yamamoto. That's one guy, two hand, half court. Half court, he stand there like that. His ball---shooooom [sound of ball going in basket]. And yeah, he's fast. Masa

Yamamoto, he still play softball. Good pitcher. Good change-up pitcher. Look at the makule-man league, that kind. Fast and mean change-up he had.

PN: You folks used to play all Junior level?

MN: Where?

PN: I mean, you know, had different kine, different levels like that?

MN: Oh yeah. You play Junior level so many years, then pau. You go Senior, you know. And you cannot make it, well, that's it.

PN: That was the two levels? That was the only two levels had?

MN: Yeah.

PN: Where you folks used to practice?

MN: Kawaiahao Gym. We ask Tai Loy for practice certain nights. You know, look at the schedule. So then, if you don't have there, we go Mother Waldron Park.

PN: Outdoor?

MN: Outdoor. But you see, when you play Junior, Senior League, we used to play Nuuanu Y. You see. At Nuuanu Y. You know, Japanese Senior League, when first started that league, we played at Nuuanu Y. You know, had all different teams inside. We just wen enter for, oh, for the fun. We never think we going take champion. We look at other rosters, you know. The other team had. The first year we never do so well. Second year, we took champion. Yeah, we beat plenty good teams, you know. And all established ball players like Goro Moroguchi them all was playing for different teams, you know. And the boxer before, Maruko. All them play for Nuuanu Y. But we had good fun. And then Aiea came in. The first year, the second year, Aiea was getting busted. After that, nobody beat 'em. That's the guy, Tome them. Wally Tome them. Hara, Tome, Aisaka, you know. Nobody beat. But good, you know. They come from Aiea, you get to know them. You know, yeah. Some of the guys, they....

PN: So in the divisions you guys played, you folks played the country teams then?

MN: No, only in country team was Aiea.

PN: Oh, only Aiea.

MN: Yeah, they entered. Because they had Aiea Gym, right. So they entered. Oh, the first two years, everybody beat 'em. But after that, brother.

(PN laughs)

MN: You got to go mercy. They bust you up. They so fast. Young, eh. And the brother guy, Tome, Hal Tome, I think. The center. For one Japanese, he was pretty big, you know. And the brother, Wally. I think salesman for the Universal [Motors]. He was forward. The guy Hara. And Aisaka. And one more guy. Nice, good guy. Aisaka, I think just retire from telephone company. He raise orchid. The other guy, he had a store in Aiea. He passed away. Good guy. But you get to know all them. I only see one guy from that team. He don't remember me, you know, that boy, walking around town. I think Hara passed away, I think. But this guy, this kid, he came one alcoholic or something. Walking around town. Terrible. And he don't remember me, bugga. Good thing he don't remember me.

PN: What kind of defense...

MN: Oh wait. Before you say that, eh, from the Japanese AJA, that League, eh, then couple years later, I think, Mackay Yanagisawa, all them guys, you know, they trying to make one representative for the Senior Japanese team. Senior League to enter, you know. Play the team...

PN: Basketball?

MN: Yeah, basketball.

PN: Just like the Asahis or something?

MN: Yeah, yeah. I remember. Yeah. Then, from the League, they pick players. I think they pick 12 or 15 players. They pick from the League, you know. Different guys. And I was fortunate. I was one of the guys they wen pick, you know.

PN: Who did you folks play?

MN: No, we scrimmage. Nah, we scrimmage, we practice Nuuanu Y and all that. But then, I was married and I work part-time. That guy, "Sonny" Freitas, that guy's playing tackle for Kakaako Sons. He was doorman for Kewalo Theatre. He said he going get baseball league, eh. Theatre League, he tell me. Oh, give me part-time job. I said, "okay," and go work. I figure extra money, eh. Need the money. So I told Mackay them, already they gave me the bag, the uniform, everything. You know. The Japanese AJA, I told Mackay them. Mackay was the manager or something. "I going return 'em because, you know, I'm sorry but I got to go work so I cannot play."

He says, "No, no, no. Keep 'em because you came practice all this time." You know. "Keep 'em."

That's why I never play. And then, me and---this was just before the war. Because the guy Ai-chung, big Japanese boy, he went with the 100th [Battalion], I think. In the 100th, I think, yeah. He got killed in action. Nice kid. Tall boy. So we had pretty good team,

you know. Fast. Small, but fast. But I didn't play when the League started. They was playing at Civic, eh. They play da kine regular Senior League team. But they never fare too well because they never have the height, eh. So me and "Bozo" Ikehara, we was playing, you know. One unit guard. So we had good, fast team, we had. But after that, since I working nighttime and I never bother. You know, keep up with the team. After that. But then they never last too long because no more height, eh.

PN: The other kine teams was made up of different nationalities?

MN: Yeah. Well, at least, you know, something off the ground, eh. But I thank them for, you know, say being picked from so many guys, eh. I play softball, too. Japanese League. You get to meet guys from Kalihi, Palama, Moiliili, you know. Was terrific, you know. You take softball and hardball. Big difference, you know. Oh yes. Because we played Moiliili. And Moiliili had that the hardball championship team. Like Wasa and all those guys, eh. We bust 'em up. It was different kind of ball you hitting. See, skin ball, you stay behind there and wait. Softball, you got to slap, eh, 14. So fast, eh. You know, "Buster" Fuji, the one was playing for Nishikiya. Oh, that guy, when he was playing for Nishikiya, he was a hard man to bring down, boy. He was built solid, eh. And strong legs he had.

PN: You said you played Businessmen League for Liberty House.

MN: Yeah.

PN: What is this Businessmen's League?

MN: Oh, Businessmen? You see, before had Commercial League, eh. That's Senior guys, you know. Guys come out from University of Hawaii and all that. Palama. All that. That Businessmen---Commercial League had Rapid Transit, you know.

PN: Hawaiian Electric.

MN: Oh, they hire players for that kind. The Junior Businessman, Liberty House, Alexander Baldwin, Hawaiian Electric, you know. Hawaiian Electric never get that Senior. They had Junior. Hawaiian Electric, telephone company, A&B, Liberty House. Had plenty other companies playing, you know.

PN: So did the Businessmen League like Junior and Senior?

MN: Well, you see, the name was different. The older guys, they call 'em Commercial League. The smaller guys, they call 'em Businessmen. Even baseball, see. Commercial is the guys play for Asahis and Braves and all da kine guys. Or baseball, they play for, yeah, they play for Palama and all that kind. But you see, Businessmen was da kine like smaller kind. But, now they have, but now get more, eh. More teams. The time we play...

PN: Smaller companies?

MN: Lewers and Cooke had good team. Alexander and Baldwin, them guys, they was nothing. Lewers and Cooke was about the strongest team. And had Planing Mill, oh yeah. Kakaako is mean, Kakaako. But, it's not there anymore, you know. Kakaako had planing company before. But those guys had good team, you know. And then, my brother-in-law wen put the team together. George Yap. Yeah. George Yap. He put the team together. Then he got us a first-class coach. Yeah.

PN: Who?

MN: Oh, we had this guy. He's a dentist. He's a USC grad and he played for USC. Doctor Chong. Short, chunky guy. Rough. That guy, you got to make the team. If you don't make the team, you going sit on the bench. Oh yes. So only time, if the score maybe 90 to 20, you get chance play.

(PN laughs)

MN: He was like that. Oh, I remember one night, we play Alexander and Baldwin. First quarter, I think, was leading by over 30 points, I think. He no let them play. So finally he let them come in. But the minute the other team wen score 10 points, they came right out. That's the kind of coach he was. Yeah. But he was a good athlete, too, you know. Doctor Chong. Lee Chong. Short, stocky guy.

PN: You folks had any kind of benefits from the company or anything like that?

MN: Oh yeah. I remember when we took champion. We had dinner-dance at YWCA.

PN: Richard Street?

MN: Yeah, yeah. Over there. All the employees, everybody. Before was a big thing, you know, companies. They spent big money.

PN: You would have, you know, better kind of jobs if you folks played on the team like that?

MN: Nah. But you get recognition from other companies. You know. Baseball, basketball. Yeah. That's why I say, I had chance for Dairymen's. That's when the late Governor Burns, I played against him when he was playing for Dairymen's. Eh, that bugga is a rough player, you know. Governor Burns. But he's a nice guy. Nice Irishman. But don't fool around with him. He fight back. (Laughs) Then, later on, became policeman, eh. Yeah, he offered us job. Me and my brother-in-law. \$45 one month. Go inside the storage, I think. Oh, forget it. We didn't go. Dairymen's had good team, too, you know. The first part, with Governor Burns them playing. Jack Burns them wasn't so good. We used to smash 'em. Then, they start hiring all these guys---"Pepper" Moniz and all these guys, you know. Good players. Yeah. Then they had good team. But still we beat 'em. We beat 'em. That's why they offer us job. But nah, we didn't go. Yeah. Burns. Well, he's all right,

though. Even when he came governor, he come down here for campaign. Yeah. He see me, you know, working for our community, eh. The other ladies like take 'em different place, eh. He say, "No, no, no. I got to go see the Japanese boy over there."

Say, "I got to see the Japanese boy over there." You know, one thing good, you know, he never forget you. What the hell he used to call me? Masa. Yeah, Masa. My Japanese name used to be Masaru, see. So, Masa. Well, he say, "What you doing with all these Hawaiians over here?"

I say, "Oh, I married one Hawaiian. A half-Hawaiian girl so, you know, I'm with this community, club."

So the Hawaiian said, "Oh, you know him?"

"Oh yeah. That's a rough little bugga when we used to play basketball with him."

Ah, he was all right. Even his---Governor Ariyoshi, too. He played for Makule League down windward. He played for "Bozo" Ikehara's team. Played first base but not first string. But he likes to get in the game, eh. He used to come down. Play for "Bozo's" team.

PN: You guys never used to have, like discounts or, you know? You know, company, because you guys playing or something.

MN: You have---no, no. Everybody had, 10 percent.

PN: Nothing special for the team players?

MN: Nah, nah, nah. No such thing. You know this Governor Ariyoshi, that guy is terrific guy. Boy, I'm telling you. The only trouble, he don't appear on the public on the TV, yeah. But, as far as anything else, eh, he's an honest man. And then, he make his own decision. Because even baseball, too. Yeah. I could have knock him flat on his fanny, you know. I was going down. I was going down the line, eh. I wen hit the ball to Charlie Bassett, University of Hawaii halfback, before. Because he can play because he get Japanese blood.

PN: Oh yeah?

MN: Yeah. And Padekens, they can play because they get Japanese blood. As long as you get Japanese blood, you can play Japanese League. That's why they talk about prejudice and discrimination. (Laughs) Hawaii, we have 'em too. Japanese, you got to get. Pake, you got to get pake blood. Hawaiian, you got to get Hawaiian blood, you know.

PN: Hawaii Senior League?

MN: Ah, yeah. That was before. But not anymore. But before, they used to change name. I remember Jack Yamato. Palama boy. Pitch for Palama.

Yeah. Bumbai I see 'em. "Eh, how come? Gonzales pitcher?" That's Jack Yamato playing for Filipinos. Pitching. Well, they used to do that.

No, that's why, sometimes, like the Governor like that, he tell me, "Oh, thanks for not knocking me down." At that time, he was only one senator. You know, he was only one senator. But till today, he don't forget you. Oh, when I went to Don Ho's....that kine, eh, you know, the people they feel happy, you know. Look, the guy was nobody, he came senator. He came one governor and he still remember you. Some guys, they forget you know. Yeah. They forget you. Just like that guy Hebden Porteus. Ah, forget it. Help the guy day and night. Everything. Shee, I see 'em Andy Anderson's headquarters, he no even remember me.

Say, "When you wen run for governor, lieutenant governor---help." The hell with him. You know. Same thing like Randolph Crossley. We campaign for him. Next day I see him, he no even tell me "Hello." Forget him.

So I told Ben Dillingham. I say, "I ain't going help." I say, "What kind partner you get?"

See, but like George them guys, look how many years, eh. He came over. He say, "Maurice, you still playing baseball?"

I say, "No, I hang up." I say, "I hang up, George."

He say, "Oh yeah?"

I say, "Do you go?"

He say, "No, I don't have the time."

END OF SIDE TWO

SIDE THREE (Tape No. 3-25-2-78)

MN: So these big shots, eh, I no care how smart they are. Or how much money they get. But they forget the most simplest thing, to recognize people. To remember people. Before, like Kakaako too, why you take Ben Dillingham, Blaisdell---you help them. They no forget you. You know what I mean. Yeah, they take you under wing any time you need any reference kind. Yeah. They put their name down. You know. All kind. One time, yeah, Blaisdell call me.

He tell me, "Eh Maurice, you drink?"

I said, "No. Why? Oh, how come you asking me that?"

"Oh, I think you put my name on reference. The people ask if you drink and all da kine." (Laughs)

I say, "Oh, oh, okay." I tell 'em, "What you told 'em?"

"Oh, I told 'em you drink little bit."

I said, "Hell, shit, I drink that much."

You know, they were da kine guys, you know. Like Blaisdell, the first time we go pass. Yono, all us we go pass. (Laughs) Pass [campaign] card. Go, oh, the old Mother Waldron Park. I mean, the new one. Over there we used to go. Big rally. Oh, Democrat, Republican, big rally. Okay. Blaisdell up and coming, eh. And Kakaako is a Democratic precinct. Only Republican used to be number one up there was Johnny Asing. Any other Republican, you down. Blaisdell come, oh, we all go help. Everybody go help, all kind. The first time, I'm telling you, Blaisdell poor speaker. Oh, he no can speak. Only guy was good speaker was that guy Tsukiyama. So that guy was an orator, boy.

PN: Wilfred Tsukiyama, the judge?

MN: Yeah. He was senator. He was running for senator.

Oh, everybody said, "What is he? Hawaiian?"

I tell, "No, he's Japanese."

"Oh, he can speak."

He good speaker, eh. That's the only guy. And still yet them guys, they Democrat. They no care how good speaker you are, what you put across, anything. You one Democrat, no matter who. You know what I mean? You in there, you know.

So we work hard. That's why Blaisdell come strong. You know, at that time Mayor Wilson, too, eh? And Blaisdell was right up there. No can beat the "old man" Wilson. But Blaisdell was right up there with the "old man." So you know he had future already. Strong Democrat precinct, yeah. But Ben Dillingham, we got to work hard for him. So he did pretty good. But Johnny Asing, Republican. No worry, the Hawaiians love 'em. Because he go kiss babies; he knows everybody's name, everybody family. Johnny Asing used to be that kind of politician. Like Nobu Kauhane, he was number one. Nobu the best of the Democrats. Even Porteus. Yono, especially Yono, "Tiger" Amioka them, they work day and night to put 'em over. And he came good. This other guy, he work for telephone company, big shot. Starr Russell or Russell, something like that. That guy still remember.

He see me on the road, he talk to you. Then, certain guys, he say, "Come over here."

Say, "See this man here? That's the guy who made it possible for you and I to be up here." Oh, you feel good, you know. At least you help, your help wasn't in vain, eh. The other kind guys, they forget you.

Well, you take D. G. Anderson. Oh, he's terrific guy too. Him and the wife, no matter they may seem crass or any kind. "Eh, you Buddah head." And then, "What you doing here." And all kind.

"Eh, right on." That guy Anderson, the father and mother live across here. Yeah.

PN: So you guys used to canvass a lot then?

MN: Oh, before we used to get good fun. We go politicking, I don't know for what. Oh, the older guys used to tell us. Yeah, they say, "See, you help this politician, we going get better park." You know, "We going get more equipment." Oh, we eat that up. We like to have, eh, better park and all. We going get better playground and all kind. So they sell us something. You know. Oh, we like park, especially playground and more equipment, eh. And then, like baseball bat.

When the fleet came in 1920-something, I think. When the fleet came in they used to come down the old Atkinson Park. The United States fleet.

PN: Navy?

MN: Yeah. Was all outside here. You going down the pier, you right on the boat, they take you out. You go to the farthest boat, you know. Ho, those days I never get seasick. Nowdays, I get seasick only watching the boat. But used to go. Then the players used to---when the ship that parks in here like that close by. And they used to come old Atkinson Park. Hardball. They practice. So we used to go snag ball for them or chase ball for them. Fall in the ditches. You go on Cooke, on Keawe Street, over there open ditch, you know, before. Where American Factors Warehouse. The ball go in there like that. That kind ball, we no go get 'em. Pau. After we go get 'em. (Laughs) Baseball bat. Ho, baseball bat, we put 'em in our pants.

(PN laughs)

MN: Especially, you know, that some teams, they no give us nothing. Yeah. For all the work we do for them, they no give us nothing. The sailors give us nothing, eh. We take the glove, we take ball, we throw 'em in the bushes. Well, they stupid.

(PN laughs)

PN: What about the politicians?

MN: Afterward, yeah. Like Johnny Asing, Nobu Kauhane them. Oh, they got for us, you know, whatever they can. Appropriate, yeah. So they give us the other park way down by the beach like that, you know. So, they, you know, small way, because no more money too, eh. Whatever get. Because Kakaako was small place, eh. But after, they give us little bit money and we can get this.

PN: How you folks got into the Republican Party?

MN: Oh, you follow the leader, all right. Just like that.

PN: Was it Uichi that...

MN: Yeah, da kine...

PN: ...instrumental in getting lot of the kids involved?

MN: Yeah. He no tell us, "You be a Republican." He tell us help, eh. Help this guy, that guy.

I say, "Okay." We start going.

Oh those days. And they treat us good, eh. So they like your mother taking you on church. You don't know what church, and then when you congregate, "Hey, how the hell I'm in this church? I don't believe in this kind. I believe in that kind." So, up to you change. So then, till today, I never change. But lately, I don't care too much after I had my heart attack. They call me for help and everything. I don't go because they don't help me. Oh, them guys, they don't help me nothing. Only the individual guys help me. But the Party itself, help nothing. Who help us guys? Nothing. Only guys who---they call us grassroot. Walk house to house day and night. Forget it. I don't go. Because, you see, before too, eh, Republican Party control all the big business houses, eh. That's another thing, too.

PN: Oh, jobs?

MN: Oh yeah.

PN: That was the big thing?

MN: Big thing. That's a very big thing. That's the "Big Five." Control all that. That was a big thing. But today, with the union in and everything, maybe you still get "pulls." But not like before. Before, openly, you know. You Democrat or you out. Or, you in there.

PN: The Republican you in.

MN: Yeah. But before that, we never know that kind. Only if they said, "Help." We help that canvass, you know. "Tomorrow night we going get meeting. Can you come?"

"Yeah, okay. We go."

PN: This was another, like, thing Uichi got kids involved in? You know, just like getting people involved in sports?

MN: No. But he don't tell us, "You got to be this, you got to be that." He never dictate to us what you want to be or anything. It's up to you. That's one thing with that man. It's up to you. He never dictate to us. He said, "I need help." That's all. And then, afterward, Yono wen take over. Before that had that guy "Ricco" Yamanaka. This guy Aoki. That guy, this Councilman's father. That guy Holck. Matsuno. See, the guy they change their name war time, see. They were Matsuno. Their mother was half-Hawaiian. The father pure Japanese, see. So they get one son, I think he's colonel, I think, in the Army. Roy Vitousek Matsuno.

PN: You know after your Liberty House job, you went to work for Hawaiian Pine, eh?

MN: Yeah. Well, before then, that's why I say, see, those days, you play baseball, basketball, other teams they look. So at that time, Danny Wise, the quarterback, before, for Kam Alum, for Kamehameha. He was down Matson. So right on Fort and King Street---E. Hall and Sons. Where Croning, "old man" Croning, redhead, "Red" Croning, they call 'em. Him and Mackay Yanagisawa was salesman, sporting goods. So Mackay, you know, we classmate. We play on the softball team, football team and all that. Then they all go over there, eh, lunch hour or so. They talk story.

Say, "Eh, you know the kid that work Liberty House; I like the kid...."
You know.

"Ask 'em if he like come up Matson."

So Mackay call me up. He tell, "Come down the shop." I went over. He tell me, "Eh, you go down Matson. That guy Danny Wise going give you job. You going get better pay than at Liberty House."

So I went. I waited over one hour. Two hour. No show. I come back. "Eh, I stayed there over two hours. The guy never come back."

"Ah, okay." He write me one note. He tell me go Hawaii Pine. Go see Blaisdell. You know. Okay, I went. Blaisdell was Personnel Director. Ho, I see plenty guys looking for job, you know. Summer time, eh. Ho, Christ.

So this kid, Allen Matsuda---he used to box for Yono. He tell me, "Where you going?"

I said, "Oh, I get one letter. I going give."

So the girl say, "Yes?"

I say, "Oh, I have a note here for Mr. Blaisdell."

The girl tell, "Oh, he wants you to come in."

I went inside. He tell, "Oh, you good friend with Mackay, eh?" Mackay and Blaisdell was like this. [Holds two fingers together.] Well, Mackay used to sell all the kind sporting---ah, Mackay, he's good talker, you know him. Oh yes. He should be one lawyer, or, that's what he's doing. PR, eh? Sharp, you know him. Yeah.

So anyway, he go and tell. He tell, "Okay, sit down. Give you a job."

PN: You played ball for Hawaiian Pine too?

MN: No. He told me, I don't know. I don't know what Mackay wen write in the note. I never read that note. He never show me the note. He tell me, "Oh, okay." So, one guy wen take me down. I went inside. They gave me....I went double seamer. Go feed the cover to the machine. See, way in the back, you get all your covers. Different size and you put 'em on the cart. Take 'em to the machine, you know.

Then I went over there, who was working over there? Colson Joy, play end for Saint Louis Alumnae and for McKinley. Oh, McKinley Alumnae he played for. The brother, "Biggie" Joy and Colson play for Saint Louis Alumnae. He tell me, "Eh, Naito. You come over here work?"

I say, "Yeah."

"Ah, no worry. See these guys? I'm the boss. I'm the strong arm." He say, "You stay on the side, take it easy, okay."

I say, "Nah, I come for work. No make like that."

"No, no, no, no."

But I tell, "Thank you anyway."

Then I was pulling the stuff, you know. Going. Then somebody whistle. I stop. It's Palama boy. He play for Palama, third base, and Asahi. Kuuchizu. He tell me, "Eh, when you start work here?"

I say, "Oh, just now." Mackay wen send me down."

"Oh yeah," he tell, "what you now?"

I said, "Double seamer over here."

"You ain't working double seamer! You going storage, warehouse."

I say, "Oh."

He tell me, "Where you stay?"

I say, "Oh, I..."

"I know where you stay." He know where.

I was sitting down over there talking. Crook came with another guy. He tell me, "Come here."

Crook say, "Where you going?"

"I going with them."

The guy say, "Oh Colson, you stay here." You know. "He going with us storage."

He tell me, "Goddam." He tell me, "I see you."

I went. Because they stay storage, pay better, eh. Okay, I went. When I went there, I see all the boxers. Gilbert Murakami, David Ku Kon Young, Kenji Hori. Who else they had? Eddie Yasui, "Tiger" Amioka, da guy Mercado---flyweight champion, eh. Wally Murakami, all them guys. All fighters over there. "What the hell these guys..."

So "Tiger" tell me, "Oh, you work here."

"Yeah, yeah, yeah."

So he introduce me to Eddie Yasui, you know. Then Mercado. Then we work together. Oh, long time.

Then bumbai, this guy, Joseph, one Portuguese guy came. He tell me, "Eh."

I tell him, "What?"

He was foreman. He tell me, "You play basketball, too, eh. Basketball." He tell me.

"Yeah."

"Oh, storage, we get team. You going turn out?"

I say, "Okay, I turn out." (Laughs)

Ho, the players. Plenty, had plenty guys. Some guys, I know from Japanese Senior League, eh. "Blacky" Okimoto them.

He tell me, "Eh, Nait. You going play or what? You going work for storage?"

I tell, "Yeah."

"Oh, good."

They tell, "Eh, we get one good guard."

(PN laughs)

MN: That's where I met Jimmy Kaulukukui. He was Roosevelt. He come work summer time. Oh, Jimmy good boy. Then the Kupahua brothers from Palama, you know, all work storage. No, they was working....yeah, if not, I'd be playing with them. Preparation. You know. But I went the other side.

Crook tell me, "Eh, you see I bring you guys good, one guy over here. He play baseball too."

PN: Who coach you guys basketball?

MN: Storage, this guy Joseph. Albert Joseph.

PN: You guys only play within the Hawaiian Pine?

MN: Yeah.

PN: Oh, you guys no play the teams outside?

MN: No, no, no. We play over there, then---wait now. After you play over there, we had one kid come from Lahainaluna. No, Hilo High School. He turn out, you know.

He tell me, "You know, I play for Hilo High School." And Hilo High School, you hear that, that's something big.

I tell, "Yeah? Oh yeah? Good, good for you." But, I say, "Brother, you got to make the team." You know. You know, him, he no can even make the storage team.

Hilo High School. You know eh, he no make even the storage team. Then you play, see, inter-department kind. I think we lost the championship to platform [department]. Well, platform, they get all the Palama players, the Senior League players, all da kine. Yeah, we lost to platform. Joe Gantz them guys. Danny Pulua. "Slips," the tall guy. Anyway, we lost to them, championship game. Only by six points. Because that damn Francis Maya. Francis Maya played for Saint Louis, eh. And McKinley. Tall, good player, that guy. If Francis wen score at least 10 points or 12 points, we would have won the championship. Banana. He wen score only about four points. That guy Francis Maya.

PN: So after...

MN: Then after that, see, already Senior Team is set. You know. They get Commercial. It's a Commercial. Dole. In the Junior team, they pick from about 100 and something guys. They going pick about, those days, I think about 15 players, used to be. Everyday, you know. Eh, now when

I think about, you know, how the big teams, they cut off every week or everyday to the limit, yeah. I never realize at that time, you know. And I never think, "Oh, because the guy come from Palama that he was in." You know what I mean? To me, he got to make it. You know. And I got to make it kind. I never think because he come and he get reputation. You got to show me kine. That's the kind attitude I had. And maybe that's why I wen survive.

Some guys say, "Oh, Palama. Oh them guys all good." Then pau. You out. But me, no.

And then this fellow called Phil Codera. He play for Saint Louis quarterback. Then after Hawaiian Pine, he play split-end like, you know. Good Portuguese boy. He work Pearl Harbor. Said he never play basketball in Saint Louis. But he only play basketball first time in the inter-department league. He played for preparation [department]. Everyday, me and him over there, I show him how to fake, twist, left hand, right hand, shoot, you know. All right in the key. All what center got to do. Fake. I say, "No need go one way. You can go underneath little, twist underneath," all kind. Me and this other kid was teaching him. Eh, you know, that kid came good. Oh, he came terrific. Well, I never care because he play center. Like those days, you play center, you play center. Just because you tall, you going play center, you know.

So anyway, from 100-something guys, everyday, you know, they was cutting. Everyday, you think, "Eh, my day today, going get chopped. My day today." But when you survive the last 15 guy or so we wen pick. I think was 15, I think. Oh, was a good feeling, you know. You stay inside there. And out of that, only three outsiders. All the rest was Palama. I remember the three outside guys, not Palama. Was me, Tom Takenaka--I think he work for Board of Water Supply. He came foreman or something. He retired, I think.

PN: What area he's from?

MN: He's from Moiliili someplace. And the guy Phil Codera--he's from Kaimuki someplace. So only three guys survive the cut. The rest, all Palama.

PN: They had the best talent coming out of there?

MN: Got to be because, eh, you know, we scrimmage the Senior team. (Laughs) We beat 'em, you know.

PN: Oh yeah? (Laughs)

MN: Yeah. So we scrimmage the Rapid Transit--that time was Honolulu Rapid Transit, the Senior team. We beat 'em four quarters. They don't want to quit. And our coach, our consulting coach was Neal Blaisdell. And our regular coach was the guy, Joe Gantz. He play for the Senior team. And Danny Pulua--he just passed away. Two guys, the regular

coach. They play for the Commercial Senior team, the Senior Palama team. They were our regular coach. And the guy Albert Joseph-- he was just like manager. And then Blaisdell just stay there. Just watch. But when the game get hot, oh, he's right in there pitching, you know. I tell you one incident, we had Central Y. We was playing up there. Blaisdell wanted to---we were out. Me and this other guy, Mulgoon Hu. We were out, see.

Blaisdell tell, "Go back in."

So, okay. Then this guy, Kung Hi Mau---something to do with all the big shot Maus. He was the scorer. So he tell, "Okay. Naito, you can go in." And the guy, he tell, "What your name?"

He say, "Hu."

That guy say, "You."

He say, "Hu."

(PN laughs)

MN: You know. He say, "What your name?"

He say, "Hu."

He say, "You."

"Yeah, Hu."

(PN laughs)

MN: You know. So Blaisdell, from across the hall, Central YMCA, he say, "What the hell is going on out there? Get in there." So he told the scorer, "Why don't you get my boy in there?"

He say, I ask him his name, he tell me who."

He say, "That's what he is. His name is Hu."

(PN laughs)

MN: I don't forget that incident. Yeah, I think that boy just retire from Pearl Harbor. I see him down Fort Street Mall. I tell him, "Eh, how's it, Hu. Who? Hu." (Laughs)

PN: After that you went where?

MN: No, after that, war break out. War break out and close down, you know. Like they no tell us what we going to do. No nothing. The communication was all out. Yeah. They no let us know what was da kine, so. Oh, so we say, "Eh, we go work down construction."

PN: So you wen work construction?

MN: Yeah. So that's when I....when I went over there, Kenji Hori was over there, too. He tell me, "Eh, Naito, we go down fire company."

I say, "Okay."

So he and I came partners. Had good fun the first time we work over there. Construction, hot, too. Barber's Point. Ho, had coral and, you know your shoes, you got to buy everytime, you know. But was lucky, those days the shoes was cheap. The working shoes, about \$6, \$7 you pay. Now, you go up to \$30. And you got to buy shoes every month. We wore 'em out. Then we work over there about 3-1/2 years. Then we went down to Waipahu, the ammunition depot. We work up there couple of years.

PN: What you folks did?

MN: Oh, make tunnel. Oh, you know the mountain?

PN: In Lualualei?

MN: Lualualei below. Lualualei is up, way up. I went over there. Way up. Oh, when you look at Lualualei, you think about war time, how the Germans get all their ammunition and their equipment stored away. You go. You go down one gully. Lualualei. But this is, you know the bridge, what that bridge everytime get accident? Waikakalau? No, not that.

LN: Kipapa Gulch.

MN: Kipapa Gulch, yeah. But below Kipapa Gulch. Over there, above that, way inside is Lualualei Ammunition Dump. But this is below. We built da kine ammunition dump, you know. Torpedos, big bomb, all kind. Yeah, work over there.

PN: You folks went Sand Island?

MN: Oh, then after that, we get laid off from there. Then I went apply for Army Ports and Service Command. The office in Fort Shafter. Then, from Fort Shafter, they send you out to Fort Armstrong. You know, Fort DeRussy, Fort Ruger, Sand Island. You do maintenance work. You see.

PN: What you did at Sand Island?

MN: Sand Island, when they sent me down there, first, was just about the war was getting over already, you know. War prisoners coming back, bring them to Hawaii. Then me and my partner and the guard, something constructive for them to do. Instead of lock 'em up, they make 'em

build one brick plant. So they give us the print. We tell them where to, the trench digger dig, eh. Then, set tile and all that kind. For that they make bricks and tile like that. The prisoners.

PN: What kind prisoners was this?

MN: Oh, the ones that work over there. That's the kind regular fighters. Marines, Navy, Army, Air Force.

PN: From Japan?

MN: Yeah. The other prisoners was the kind Okinawa labor prisoners. The guys do labor work was from Okinawa. You know, the labor battalion. But the technician was more da kine Air Force guys. Marines.

PN: This wasn't da kine people interned?

MN: Nah, nah, nah, nah. Then they get another place right across, further down, all barbed wire fence and everything. Nice cottage, all that. Had da kine turn coats, Japanese turn coats inside there. They play baseball, volleyball. Nice food. No need work.

PN: What you mean turn coats?

MN: Oh da kine, get maybe the intelligence ask them, you know, where the Japanese get so many thousand soldiers. They tell 'em all da kine, eh.

PN: Oh yeah? this is all POW's too?

MN: Yeah, but they get better...

PN: They separated from the others?

MN: Yeah, oh yeah. These other guys kill 'em if they would put 'em together. That's why when we go to the main office, we drink ice water. Because where we have, is bucket water, eh. They don't want that. They want ice water. So take turn. I got to take---me and my partner got to take so many guys over there by the office. Get fountain there outside. Then we see them playing, they get double fence. They spit at them.

PN: Oh, at the turn coats?

MN: Yeah, the turn coats, they no care. They playing volleyball. They playing baseball, laying in the shade. Don't have to do nothing. And these guys all sweating in the hot sun. And then we came by the office. The two Japanese girls came out, one Japanese girl and one different nationality. Half-white girl or something. They came for drink water. So I told the guy wait. Let the girl drink first.

He say, "You know, no, no, no, no."

He say, "Men...." He tell me in Japanese now, that men first.

(PN laughs)

MN: I told him, "Over here, Hawaii. United States."

He tell me, still, "Men first." You know, in Japanese he telling me. He say, you know, he tell me, "Otoko saki."

I tell 'em, "No. That's not nice."

He said, not nice to me but nice to him. Oh, that guy, he gave me good scolding. And he trying to tell me in Japan, women, you know, they just take care house, make baby and all da kine.

I say, "This not Japan, and I'm not living in Japan. I no like that kind."

He tell me, "Too bad." And he tell us, Hawaii, he see from his prison window, they open door for the girl, you know. Hold the hand, cross the street. All in Japanese he telling me. And the girls, some they understand, see. They giggling you know. He scold the girls too. He tell too much freedom for the girls.

But I say, "That's how it is." This is democratic country. That guy, he was something else. But anyway, but they were nice, though. They were nice.

PN: They didn't give you guys trouble or anything?

MN: No, nah. See, that's where I come in. See, I watch them, you know. I watch them guys. I looking for their weakness. And so, I see them take out Prince Albert. One bag like, you know, that's for pipe tobacco, that. They give them, see, the army or somebody. Then the guy using newspaper to roll that up. Because that is pipe tobacco, right. But he like smoke cigarette. He like newspaper. I tell 'em, you know, I tell him in Japanese, "That poison." You know, newspaper had lead. See, "That's namari." I tell 'em, "Lead. See, that's poison, Doku."

He tell me, "Oh, soo."

So, you know, the leader say, well, they don't have that paper already. I say, "No worry." I tell the driver go [post] exchange. I give 'em the money and tell 'em buy me couple of pack, all different type cigarettes. And then buy me Durham [rolling] paper. I give 'em money. The guy come back. I give the leader Chesterfield. At that time was Chesterfield, Camel, Luckys, like that. And cheap. You know one carton, 50 cents, eh. So I tell the guy give me three cartons. Different cigarettes. Had plenty guys eh. What kind they like, eh. Ho, I give 'em all. I tell 'em, "By the way, buy me two package snail, doughnut, all that kind. Buy me all that." And no cost me big money, right?

And at that time, was making about \$1.50 or \$2.00 one hour. That's big money, you know. No, I think I was making about \$1.50 or \$1.35 one hour. Anyway, buy for them. And my partner, he tell me I'm damn fool. All kind. I say, "No, no, no." I said, "You know, these guys, they get mothers too. Some mother's kids, you know. All these guys." You know? I said, "Look...." I said, "I get brothers in Italy. They fighting." I said, "I get two brothers over there now. And I get two more in the Mainland in the training. Somebody going treat them good. I hope they do. These guys, they human, they get mothers. That's why, even they our enemy, we got to treat 'em alike. You know?"

He tell me, me damn fool. If I going do, buy for him. I said, "You get your own money. You buy your own."

(PN laughs)

MN: So I buy for them. And then, he run them guys down and all kine, you know. They like kill 'em. Oh, more scared, you know, more scared they might hit 'em from the back. Me, anything I tell them for do. But I no tell them. I tell the leader. the leader tell them. They said, "Naito-san, you know, like that kind over here."

"Oh, soo, soo." You know. Oh, they do anything. They dig extra. The other guy tell 'em, they go spit, they spit on him. They no going listen. The leader say no can help. They no listen to him.

So I say I want a certain stuff. See, so I buy for them, you know. No cost me da kine, you know what I mean? And so every night, when we go back to Shafter parade ground in the ball park, they count them off. They count them off, right. Everybody, they count 'em off. When they get through, I'm in the back, eh, sitting down on the truck, my working truck. Sit down. Their leader about face, you know. Their leader say, "About face."

And then they all say, "Sayonara." They bow to me, you know.

PN: Oh yeah.

MN: Yeah. And they about face and they go back to their camp, eh. So the sentry, he tell me, "Eh, Maurice."

I tell, "What"

"Shee, what you? The emperor or what?"

(PN laughs)

MN: I say, "No, not emperor." I told the haole the same thing. I say, "Eh, look brah, that's somebody's sons, you know, all that. All those guys might be your enemy but they're somebody's sons. You got to think in that line."

So I say, "What if you was da kine? You like somebody treat you nice."

"When you say that, yeah, you right."

I say, "You damn right."

So he say, "Gee, I'm sorry."

I say, "No, no worry about that. Me, I thinking in that line, see, because why I think like that, because I get brother overseas. Not only Mainland training. I get two brothers Mainland, training. I get two brothers in Italy fighting already with the 100th [Battalion] and the 442nd [Regiment]. That's why."

PN: Who was your partner on the job?

MN: Oh, I see that guy. One time over here. Passing. He work for one contractor. Foreman. I forget the guy's name. But he was skinny guy. He came fat now. So I never recognize him, until he stop his truck over here.

PN: Haole?

MN: Japanese boy. Shee, I don't recognize him. Because, you know, he came fat, eh. And he supervisor for some company. Yeah. Although we had good fun. And then, on top of that, our foreman, he was dark. He was a veteran from Burma Theatre side. Big Japanese boy. Shigeta, or something like that. Big boy, eh. He was our foreman. So, he used to bring the prisoners back sometime, you know.

PN: Oh, oh. You folks would bring the prisoners from Fort Shafter down to Sand Island?

MN: Yeah, yeah. We go on a different car, me and my partner. On a different truck. They come with our foreman. But our foreman, they never know he was Japanese because he's dark. He look like Hawaiian, and he's big, 275 pounder. And they talking up. He get a kick because they don't understand, eh, that he's Japanese, eh.

So he tell me, "Hey boy, them guys, they talk nice things about you. But they don't like your partner. Well, they respect you, you know. They like you."

And on top of that, he say, shee, you know. He was telling I had brothers fighting in Italy, you know, 442nd, that kind. He said, "Oh well, that's how the world got to be. Some they got to fight, even da kine."

And they talk all nice, you know. Yeah, there's certain guys, they used to tell me, if I come Japan, they take care of me and all kind. I tell, "Yeah, well, someday. But, ah, today I don't know already."

- PN: Did you folks ever see people intern in Sand Island like that?
- MN: No, no.
- PN: Had some people interned, eh, during the war like that?
- MN: Yeah, yeah.
- PN: You guys never did...
- MN: The Hawaii people? Nah, Hawaii people, no. I see da kine prisoner of war, yeah.
- PN: Oh, only prisoner of war.
- MN: Yeah, yeah. And they separate 'em. And then, in fact, they send me from Fort Shafter, me and my partner. We work inside. You know where Kam Shopping Center now?
- PN: Yeah, yeah.
- MN: On School Street and Likelike Highway, eh. That area, eh. Over there. Well, over there used to be Kam School da kine, agriculture kind, you know. Across there get one school, eh. Get one low building, eh. That used to be---they used to keep the cows inside there. You know, Kam School.
- PN: Oh yeah?
- MN: Yeah, the building. The low one. I remember because we used to live Kalihi Uka. I used to walk home, I used to watch. I see the cows giving birth, da kine, the guys they milking da kine. They still get the building but they make 'em into school kine, eh. And across, kiawe bush, and it went small lane where way in the back, in the area there, they have the prisoner, Okinawa prisoner camp. Labor camp. The labor camp. Okinawa labor camp. And my partner was Okinawa-ken, eh, so he understand their talk, eh. But they understand Japanese, too.
- PN: Oh, maybe that's why he never like the Japanese, because he's Okinawan. No?
- MN: No. This other partner was real naichi but the guy was da kine. But this other partner was all right. But the other guy, he was ignorant.
- PN: The Okinawans had their own labor camp, prisoners of war?
- MN: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Labor. You see, labor camp, see.
- PN: They were POW's, too? Prisoners of war?
- MN: So they get their own place. Their kind. They play baseball, all da kine, eh. So I go inside there, pitch-pitch with them. Lunch hour.

They like treat us, but I cannot eat their food. Too oily. They use too much oil. Their food oily. So used to make my lunch. And then, eat. My partner, too. He cannot too, because different way of cooking, eh. So we go under the kiawe tree, eat. Then we maintenance, eh. We fix the cafeteria and all their quarters. But anytime we go around there like that, there's always the guard, you know. Not that they don't trust us, but I guess that's all, you know, routine, eh. We work inside there. But they always nice.

PN: About how many Okinawan prisoners?

MN: Oh, I don't know how many.

PN: Approximate, 50, 100?

MN: Nah, more plenty. Like us, we no go look that kine. We do our work and whoever in charge of that area, we only talk to them. We mind our business.

PN: The Sand Island one, what, had plenty prisoners of war?

MN: No, maybe about 15. That's about all they allow.

PN: That's all you were working with?

MN: Yeah.

PN: But they would send a work detail kind of thing?

MN: Yeah.

PN: Oh. And then the, what you call, turncoat, the guys what?

MN: Well, they...

PN: Plenty?

MN: Oh, they had pretty plenty. But they don't do nothing. We don't even bother. We no even look at 'em. Just keep on going. I never even know. I thought they was officers.

(PN laughs)

MN: The guy said, "Nah, da kine, no." They tell me in Japanese, "No good." Said, "No good."

PN: You folks had guards when you guys was working, and stuff like that?

MN: No, when we would da kine, no more. Only us, we would take care. But get da kine sentry around there. They have. Anytime you call, they coming. They get, because they get the army camp right beyond the office. The big army camp.

PN: Oh, you folks would be working in a closed area?

MN: Yeah, yeah, yeah. But more than loose, you know. But, nothing to worry about. That we know that. And then, that's why I say, you treat them with respect, no matter who, they going, in turn, treat you with respect. You see. But my partner, he no can see that. I tell him, "No talk about war da kine you over here." You know, "No talk da kine. That's no good. Just about work, 'nough."

PN: You can talk little bit more and then we go wrap this up.

MN: Yeah.

PN: Let's go back to your married life. When you first got married, like that, you folks lived on Halekauwila and, I don't know, what street?

MN: Halekauwila Street. Near Coral.

PN: You said you folks lived in a duplex.

MN: Where now get that Swift Company.

PN: This is a duplex?

MN: Yeah, duplex, yeah. My sister-in-law next door. Her sister.

PN: What kind neighbors you folks had around here?

MN: Oh, over there we had Portuguese, Filipino, Hawaiians.

PN: What I want to know is, like what did you folks do with your neighbors or anything like that. Or you folks go to your mother-in-law's house or something like that everytime?

MN: No, my mother-in-law passed away already.

PN: Oh, passed away, eh. Your mother's house like that?

MN: Oh, yeah, we go my mother's house.

PN: You folks would do anything with your neighbors?

MN: No. You sit down, talk to them. We were very close knitted. Even the neighbors. Even Portuguese, Hawaiians over there. All friendly. Not da kine, dog-eat-dog kine. Everybody help one another. Anything come up, they always help one another.

PN: Where you folks used to go shopping?

MN: Oh, over there get that Yamane Store. And then, that's when Times' Market, you know now, the boys running 'em Times. Not Times, Star Market. Well, Fujieki, one small store on Halekauwila and Cooke

Street, one small one. Then they went to Moiliili. Then from Moiliili, they went to next Moiliili, the bigger one. Because the first Moiliili Star Market was next to Hadley Bakery on Beretania Street. Then they wen make one bigger [one] on that junction by old Moiliili Field, Moiliili Park. Right around junction.

PN: You were working at that time, like that? You know, I'd like to know what sort of your life was like. You know, you go work, you come home and then what? You play sports like that?

MN: Yeah, I still was playing sports. That's when I was working Fort Shafter. So I went with the Fort Shafter. They pick me. The supervisor supposed to go Molokai play ball. Supervisors and office bosses from Sand Island. Sand Island had the office, too. They have at Fort Shafter, the civilians, eh. They pick me. They tell me if I want to go. So I went. I went with them, weekend. Come back Sunday night. Molokai, play baseball like that. Yeah, I was working already. By that time, food was cheap too, eh.

PN: Okay, you did most of your shopping where? Yamane Store?

MN: Yeah, Yamane Store.

PN: What about recreation, besides sports? You folks go movies?

MN: Oh, yeah. Had Kewalo Theatre. That's what I told you, I work part-time, eh. So, like my wife and my kids come over there, well, you know.

PN: Free?

MN: No, not free.

(PN laughs)

MN: We get pass. They give you pass. And then, if we like to go any other theatre, the manager give you pass.

PN: Did you guys used to go movies often?

MN: Yeah. They had on my day off, night like that, she like see certain picture, show Kaimuki or Varsity like that. I used to go. Like Varsity, one time Kaimuki had one good picture, but oh, the line, you know. My wife was, I don't know which kid she was carrying. So the manager, I play ball for them, see. Theatre League. Theatre League, we took champion. I play ball for them. He see me. He tell me...

END OF SIDE THREE

SIDE FOUR

MN: He came look at the crowd, eh. Oh the line up. I don't know what picture was that, anyway. Big crowd that night. So he seen me and my wife. He was all right, though. Not only my wife. All pregnant women, he used to put 'em in. Rest on the lounge. Then he told usher go look, save two seats for me and her.

PN: Who did all the cooking like that? Your wife did all the cooking?

MN: Her, not me. I don't know how to cook.

(PN laughs)

PN: What about laundry like that?

MN: Her, everything. All her. Before, you wash with hand. Oh, then after you buy one washer. Then you no more dryer, eh. Oh yeah, all da kine before.

PN: So most of the time you spent was like around Kakaako area and sometimes you go out to movies in different areas like that?

MN: Yeah.

PN: How often would you go to your mother's house or relatives' houses?

MN: Well, you see, my mother's house was all crowded, too, eh. Alapai. Small duplex, eh. So when she get da kine dinner, sometime she call, then we go up there for dinner. And my father used to come over most everyday. My oldest boy, time when my oldest boy was baby, eh, he come play with him all the time.

PN: Oh, to take care?

MN: Yeah. And when he come my house, my table had corners, he bring one saw, he cut all the corners. He said when the baby bang the head.

PN: Oh, oh, oh. (Laughs)

MN: And outside, he say, oh, baby fall down from the steps. He buy one gate. He put gate on. Front door, back door, oh, he put all up. My oldest boy, yeah.

PN: How often would you folks do things with other families like that? You guys go picnics?

MN: Oh, we used to go picnic, her sister and their kids and the other sister, the kids, you know. The two sisters and their children. Into one old Chevy. Touring [car]. Before had tourings. Such a thing as touring, you know. Now, they get such thing, they call nowadays, call two-door sedan like that. Before, touring. They pile up inside the car. The people wonder when we go to, oh, we used to go far place, too, you know.

Way down Chinaman Hat. Over there get houses now. Over there never get houses. Kamane. We used to call Kamane Beach. Go over there picnic. That's when my oldest, that's when we only had two. My oldest boy and my oldest girl. Then, the family, then we go to Kailua Beach. Kailua before, never get houses. Had watermelon patch. Buy watermelon or two. Put 'em in the tub.

PN: How often you guys would do that?

MN: Oh, as often as possible we can do.

PN: Once a week?

MN: Get out. Yeah. If not, we used to take the kids down, see Ala Moana Park. Never get Ala Moana Park. Well, had one beach over there. Coral. You can go. You know, catch opae or something like that. Had kiawe tree, you can sit under the kiawe tree. No, never get park.

PN: With just relatives like that?

MN: Yeah. My two brother-in-law. One passed away already. And this other guy, George Yap.

PN: What about da kine, with neighbors like that? You folks do anything with your neighbors?

MN: No. Sometime like Kakaako YMA like that get picnic. Kahuku, you know. Kahuku playground. We all go on the train.

PN: Oh, and take the train around the island?

MN: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Then we get da kine pie-eating contest and all da kine. Yeah.

PN: You belonged to the Kakaako YMA?

MN: Yeah. That's why now they get reunion. Kakaako YMA had reunion. They send me, you know, letter. Kakaako Sons get reunion. They send me. Both of them they still send me.

PN: This Kakaako YMA, they used to hold this annual kind of picnic or something like that?

MN: Well, long time ago. Not the....yeah, Kakaako YMA. We used to go like Kahuku and different areas, yeah. But not nowadays. Nowadays all, I don't know, all branched out already.

PN: Yeah, yeah. But before, you know.

MN: Before, yeah. Before. That's why we used to get the get together, though. Every year. Kanraku [Teahouse]. You know, just before the Christmas holidays, you know.

PN: We talking about before, you know.

MN: Before, no.

PN: What about the old Japanese? They used to a lot of things together with the church, eh, like that?

MN: Community.

PN: Yeah.

MN: They get Community Association.

PN: Yeah.

MN: That's the older guys, though.

PN: You didn't do da kine stuff?

MN: Nah, no, no. Only time I used to go church, when I was small. That kine, the Mission, Kakaako Mission when they give....we know they going get candy. (Laughs) And we going get gift.

(PN laughs)

MN: Yeah. Then I went to Mormon Church. No sign up, nothing. Just for play basketball. Me, Bill Whaley, Paulus, "Nigger" Ho--Don Ho's uncle. He passed away already. All us. We go over there. The Mormon Church on Ilaniwai Street. That's where Don Ho's mother used to live, the next-door house. Yeah. We go over there, go sing. Sing song. Play basketball. Oh, we like to play so much, we used to walk to Palama Gym. The Junior division. Mormon League. Junior division. We took champion with seven players.

PN: Oh yeah? (Laughs)

MN: Yeah. Only seven guys. Watch how we play, no can foul out.

PN: How long you played sports then? Up to about?

MN: Oh, played sports till about what, 10 years ago, I think. [1968]

PN: 10 years ago? (Laughs)

MN: Until I had my heart attack.

PN: You played Makule League?

MN: Makule League.

PN: Oh, oh, oh.

MN: I play 12-inch fast-ball.

PN: Oh yeah?

MN: Yeah. I was playing centerfield.

(PN laughs)

MN: Then later on, I play short-center. When they install the short-center slot. Fourteen-inch and 12-inch, I play short-center. Short-center is just like you the number five infielder. You got to study your batter, eh. When to come up, when to go back. So some player, I know they hit straight down the middle. I play right behind the second base. Second base, I stay right over here. The guy had no chance. (Laughs)

PN: Why did lot of people play lot of sports back then?

MN: Back then?

PN: Yeah.

MN: Well, you see, when you play sports, like I tell you, you play sports, you get opportunity for job.

PN: No, but when you first played, that wasn't in the back of your mind, eh? You know, small kid time?

MN: No, no, no. You just play because, oh, you like play. Because you watch games, eh. You going watch game. Oh boy, oh, I like to be like the guy. Certain players, you know.

PN: You guys used to go down and watch barefoot football?

MN: Yeah. Like me, I used to--we used to, from Kakaako, walk to Kam Field, Kamehameha School. Full, no tickets. We used to climb the kiawe tree outside the stadium. Or either that, or climb over underneath the stadium, you know. Sneak in or something like that.

PN: You used to watch games?

MN: And I watch and I used to watch certain players. I used to watch. Like the guy, the Wise brothers, Johnny Kerr, and you know, the---I used to watch more so the linemen. Especially center. I remember this guy, Chris Bertleman. Play center for Kamehameha. That's why I, gee, I fee, eh, I going play center. I like be like that guy. Oh.

PN: This is before you even played football?

MN: Yeah. Oh, I used to play the sand lot kine. Yeah. I tell, "Eh, if I going play organize football, barefoot or anything, I like play center." That guy, Chris Bertleman from Kamehameha. Oh, that guy is terrific. And not only that. See, that guy always inside the play, eh.

PN: So, you didn't want to...

MN: And offensively, tell, "Oh boy, I wish I can be like Johnny Kerr." Fast, you can go down the field, throw the ball. Or I like be like the Wise brothers, you can run fast, tackle. But other guys, I never da kine, pay more attention. And the running backs like that.

PN: You folks, you went to the fields, to the different fields to watch games with some other Kakaako boys like that?

MN: Yeah, yeah. We all go together. Not one guy. We all go in one bunch. And we all stay together. If we going over the fence, we all going over the fence.

(PN laughs)

MN: We going underneath, we all going underneath. We go on the kiawe tree, we all go on top the kiawe tree. So, maybe one guy get 15 cents, the guy 10 cents, we buy shave ice, nickel. We all share. Then we walk home. Way up Kalihi, you know, Kam Field.

PN: Oh yeah.

MN: See, that's why I used to watch all before old time football players, you know. How they play like that, when I was young boy. Gee, I wish I can play like them guys. But then, later on, you come bigger, you playing already. And then you watch when the pros come down. You know, certain players, eh. Especially the position you play, eh. That's why me, I used to watch the guys that play the position I play. How they play and how it's supposed to played. So I play barefoot. Oh, came big advantage for me. How you block, you know, all da kine. And me, I never think about this dirty playing kind. Like I say, you gain five yard and you lose fifteen yard, makes big difference, you know. I said, "Oh, forget that." You know. All the practice every night and you go Sunday and you get that kind of...the other guys can want that, well fine. But not me. Winning, play hard, clean, hit hard. But you in shape. Like Blaisdell used to tell us, "When you in shape, you hit hard." He said, "No hold back, hit hard. You will never get hurt. If you get hurt, that's one of those things. But you in good condition, and you hit hard, you be all right." Yeah, Blaisdell used to tell us all the time, "Be in shape, boys."

Even Uichi, "Be in shape, be in shape. Keep good hours. Curfew." Us, they no need watch us. Go home. Anyway, practice like that would get through about 8 o'clock. But after school make our homework already. So 8 o'clock, when you get through practice football. And that's way from Kakaako, you know. By Fisherman Wharf, the old field. The time when they move. Over there. We used to put floodlight. And then, if no more floodlight, under the streetlight we used to practice, scrimmage. Then, when championship game, we went to Pohukaina School. Then the Sons wen lend us the floodlight.

PN: Who they got the floodlights from?

MN: I don't know who they got 'em from but the Senior Sons wen lend us because they practice under the floodlight, see. When championship or important games, they practice late. So they let us the floodlights. So we practice. That's the time we get Uichi and the guy, "Pop" Ho, Don Ho's father. Then, their strategy and all that. What is this, that, and all kind, the plays, eh. And make the minimal; no put all kind rubbish play. And before, that's how we da kine. That's why you say why did we play sports; because we like play sports. What else you going to do? Then you hear, you read about athletes, eh. Then later on they going tell you, you know, you one good athlete. If job opportunity at that time, especially for Japanese, they say, oh yeah, democratic, no discrimination. That's full of "bs."

(PN laughs)

MN: Japanese, you no can work Hawaiian Electric before. You no can work Rapid Transit. You work Rapid Transit, you cannot drive bus. They let you wash bus. But not drive bus. Telephone Company, too. Pearl Harbor. You cannot. Oh yeah. We been discriminated but we not activists. So what our fathers did was send the kids to school. Beat 'em through education, see. And now they talk about too many Japanese lawyers. Too many Japanese this. Well, this is because you go school. The kids came back from the war. They took advantage of GI Bill of Rights, see. My brother them, they never take advantage. But the opportunity opened. They could work Pearl Harbor, see. So, until he retired and passed away, he work Pearl Harbor. So many, 30-something years, you know. My other brother, he went Hickam. He retired, too. My older brother, now, he's down Pearl Harbor, see. Right after the War, the job opportunity wen open. Then there was again, they scared. Oh, the Japanese going take over Pearl Harbor. They all going come work Pearl Harbor. But what you going to do? They say you got to have education. You got to get technical experience. They got 'em, eh.

If you don't help yourself, who going help you? Welfare? Eh? You see, before cannot. Only way you going get---Rapid Transit came get me for go work. But they tell me I no can drive bus. I got to go wash bus. I say, "Ah, forget it." I remember the first Japanese that ever wen drive the bus was Jimmy Nakajo. He was the first Japanese guy wen drive the bus. He wen go play baseball for Rapid Transit.

PN: I going end this already, then.

MN: Yeah, sure.

END OF SIDE TWO

**REMEMBERING KAKA'AKO:
1910-1950**

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