

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: Yutaka "Buck" Machida, 71, retired pharmacist and drugstore owner, Lower Paia

*"Well, in those days, all good, bonafide drugstore was expected to have a soda fountain. We were the only ones that had soda fountain like this....So, all the drugstores were supposed to have a soda fountain and ice cream. Later on, not only the ice cream, but it became a lunch counter. Yeah, we started, not down there in Wailuku, but down in [Lower] Paia. We had a lunch counter. We served all sandwiches, hamburgers, and things like that."*

Yutaka "Buck" Machida, Japanese, was born August 30, 1908, in Aiea, Oahu. When he was four years old, Machida and his family moved to Kahului where his father, a pharmacist, started a drugstore. Later, in 1915, Machida's father opened another store in Wailuku. A third store, run by Machida's older brother, was started in Lower Paia in 1927. Machida helped his father and his brother in the stores.

In 1933, Machida's father decided to return to Japan, so he turned over the Wailuku store to Machida. While his brother tended the Lower Paia store, Machida owned and operated the Wailuku store. In 1937, both Machida and his brother contracted tuberculosis. With the death of his brother, Machida sold the Wailuku store. While he recuperated, he had his wife ran the Lower Paia store.

After receiving his pharmacist's license, Machida and his wife ran the Lower Paia store from 1945 to 1963.

In 1963, the store closed and Machida took a job as the pharmacist at Kula Sanatorium. He remained there until 1974 when he retired.

Today, Machida is an active retiree. His hobbies include orchids and tropical fish. He currently is taking guitar lessons, and he and his wife, Margaret, perform the hula at various functions.

Tape No. 7-36-1-80 and 7-37-1-80

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Yutaka "Buck" Machida (YM)

February 27, 1980

Kahului, Maui

BY: Warren Nishimoto (WN)

WN: This is an interview with Mr. Yutaka "Buck" Machida. Today is February 27, 1980, and we're at his home in Kahului, Maui.

Okay, can we start by having you tell us where you were born and when you were born?

YM: I was born in Aiea, the district of Ewa, on the island of Oahu on August 30, 1908.

WN: What was your father doing in Aiea?

YM: My father was a pharmacist, and he had a little drugstore in Upper Aiea.

WN: This is for the plantation?

YM: No. This was a independent establishment. My father just owned the thing. Drugstore in the front and living quarters in the back. I was actually born in the drugstore.

(Laughter)

WN: Where in the drugstore?

YM: The front portion of the building was a store, see? The back portion were living quarters. I was born right in the back, so actually, within the drugstore building.

WN: Your father, how did he get into the drug business?

YM: He got into the drug business because in Japan, my grandfather had sort of a pharmacy, an old style Japanese--they call it a medicine store. He used to tell me stories. My grandfather used to make my father deliver medicine--the medication, drugs--to a village about nine miles away from the village where my grandfather had his store. On the bicycle. Going nine mile, one way, you know; eighteen

mile, round trip. To deliver fifteen cents worth of drugs. You know, those days.

WN: He would do this all the time?

YM: Well, he used to do that in Japan. That's the kind of condition existed in Japan in those days.

WN: This is in Yamaguchi-ken?

YM: Yamaguchi-ken [prefecture], Kawazaki-mura [village]. Near Tokoyama. Anyway, because of the economic condition in Japan, many people have signed up to work in the plantations in Hawaii. But it so happened that my father's older brother--my uncle--came to Hawaii before he did, and instead of working for the plantation, he established a drugstore on the island of Hawaii in the town of Hilo. What year, I don't know. I don't remember hearing too much about when it was established, but let me say this. Nineteen seventy-four [1974], when I was still working at Kula Sanitorium, I got an invitation from my cousin in Hilo that they were celebrating their seventy-fifth anniversary of the opening of their drugstore in Hilo. So, you figure, 1974 less seventy-five [years]--that leaves just about 1898 or 1899. That's when my uncle opened his drugstore in Hilo. Soon after that or before that, my dad came. He sent for my dad in Japan. So, my dad came over to Hawaii with his wife and one son--that's my eldest brother. He [YM's brother] was born in Japan. We always used to kid him he's an alien. We are citizens, but he's an alien.

(Laughter)

YM: And used to get his goat. Anyway, my dad worked with my uncle for quite some time. I don't know how many years he worked with my uncle in Hilo. He learned the trade and enough broken pidgin English to get by in business.

WN: So, your uncle came here with the only purpose to start a store? He didn't come as a laborer?

YM: No, he did not come as a plantation laborer. None of my uncles or my dad came as plantation laborers. In fact, none of our family ever worked for a plantation.

WN: So, your grandfather was already established as a druggist in Japan?

YM: When you say "druggist," it's funny. Today, we may call them druggists, but in Japan, it's just peddling medicine. Mostly crude drugs made of herbs and things like that. So, you might say, like in Honolulu, they have the Chinese drugstores. You ever been to one of those? They have these dried lizards and stuff hanging from the ceiling and jars full of herbs, and grass, and roots, and

whatnot. Well, that's the kind of thing my grandfather used to do in Japan, see? He used to sell those herbs and stuff. It's not a drugstore like we know it in Hawaii. So, in a way, he was a druggist, you know, a pharmacist. And my dad learned something, I guess, about herbs from my [grandfather].

Then, when my uncle started making good in Hilo, he sent for my dad, and then, later on, for my other uncle in Honolulu. They came over as merchants. They paid their own passage. No connection with the plantation whatsoever. He came directly to Honolulu. He used to tell a lot of stories about when he first came to Honolulu. He had very little money. He had to find work right away. Through some friends of my uncle's, he got job working as a assistant to the chief cook at the Pacific Club, which is one of the oldest clubs in Hawaii. That's where my dad used to work there from sunup to about--late at night--11 o'clock, 12 o'clock for twelve dollars a month salary. With that twelve dollars, he had to support his wife and child, and himself. So, my dad and two other men--I guess they had their wives, too--they all rented one little cottage, and they lived in there, sharing whatever things they had--food, whatnot.

My dad been working under the chief cook. Every so often, the chief cook will make pakemo, you know, a mistake in the cooking. Sometimes, he burnt the roast or he hard boiled a egg when they ordered soft boiled. He would take this overdone egg or take whatnot, wrap it up, and stick it in my dad's coat pocket. Every night when dad went home . . . . Oh, then the chief cook used to give my dad all kinds of leftovers, because he knew the condition my dad and the rest of them were living under. So, the rest of them living in the cottage would wait till late at night just to see what my dad would bring home in his pocket. Because they were eating nothing but ojiya.

You know what ojiya is? Rice gruel. It's sort of a rice gruel cooked with pieces of meat, vegetable, and whatnot, cooked all together. You just eat that. It's nutritious because it has all the protein and carbohydrate, but no fresh vegetable. They had to buy that [fresh vegetable]. So, they cooked the ojiya in a great big pot, and they eat from that pot until all it's all consumed. It may be three days, may be four days, five days. Toward the end, the bottom portion already sort of spoiled. Japanese say "suetoru." Turn sour already. But then, only twelve dollars a month, you have to stretch it a lot. So, as I say, they all waited up for my dad to come home from over there. He always brought home some leftovers, and, oh, those days, were all delicacies for those poor people.

And then, another thing was, in this Pacific Club, every night, there was gambling going on in the gambling room. The people that used to gamble in there, like Prince Kuhio and Sam Parker from Parker Ranch in Hawaii, all those people used to congregate in the Pacific Club and gamble away. Every night, certain working men in

the kitchen in that Pacific Club were assigned to clean this gambling room. The funny part is, late at night, someone ask you to do some extra work like clean the room, tell you, most of them will balk at such unnecessary work. I mean, extra work. But, no. In this instance, everyone was very happy and very eager to go and clean the gambling room. The reason why? There was always leftover whiskey, because the men drink whiskey, and they get drunk, and they leave half-empty bottles, even quarter-empty bottles, you know. And here, they pour all the leftover whiskey in bottles and take it home. And then, they go around and clean the room. They make sure to lift all the cushion off the chairs and whatnot and look around. Many times, they find five-dollar or ten-dollar gold piece or some other coin. You know, gamblers just accidentally dropped. Those were really their incentive. These people had to go and work, even overtime, to clean these gambling rooms. Because they were richly rewarded with five-buck, ten-dollar, twenty-dollar gold. Even you get twelve dollars only for working for a whole month, why, a ten-dollar gold piece is something. That's the reason why they were so eager to go and clean the gambling room.

WN: Where was your family living when your father was working at the Pacific Club?

YM: In the little shack that the three families rented.

WN: On the grounds of the club?

YM: Away from. Not connected with the club at all. They were living in a slum district in Honolulu. He told me he used to get up about 4 [o'clock] in the morning to go to work. And then, walk all the way. Then, won't get home until after midnight, sometime. Every day of the year, including Sundays. That's why our ancestors were frugal. They were frugal because they had to be. Today, we are so affluent that we are completely spoiled. You give a child, today, twenty-five cents or fifty cents, they look at it and cuss you. He wants you to give him about ten bucks or something so he can spend the money on expensive stuff. Things are so high, today.

When I was working for my dad and went to grammar school, working in the drug store, I used to sweep and mop the store every morning, pack the ice in the ice cream freezer to keep the ice cream cold for the day. Come home, and go to Japanese school for hour or so. When I got back, I was the furo man. I made the family furo--you know, hot water for the furo--and chopped wood and all that. And every Sunday for reward, I used to get a nickel to spend.

WN: This is 1915, like that?

YM: Nineteen fifteen [1915], 1916.

WN: At the Wailuku drugstore?

YM: On up to the time when I got out of grammar school.

WN: Let me back up just a little bit, yeah? After your father worked at the Pacific Club, where did he go after that?

YM: After that, he worked for a while with his younger brother, another uncle of mine, that came from Japan and some other friends. They used to work for one of the wholesalers in Honolulu. Japanese wholesale company. I forget just what the name of the company was. But anyway, people used to say chūmon-tori. You know, go around take orders for goods--foodstuff, or dry goods, or whatever--and then, deliver this stuff. That's the kind of work they had to do in order to make ends meet.

Then in the meantime, my dad called my uncle in Hilo. That's when he [YM's father] quit the Pacific Club, and he moved to Hilo to learn the trade from my eldest uncle and the other uncle, too. Wait a minute. I may be wrong there. The youngest uncle came after that. Anyway, that was a short period of time after he left the Pacific Club. He worked in Honolulu, odd jobs like chūmon-tori, then he moved over to Hilo and worked with my uncle in Hilo for a few years until some such time as he saved enough money to open his own shop. That's when he [YM's father] decided to open a shop in Aiea. By then, that was 1908 or . . . . Anyway, just prior to that time, he opened a shop in Aiea.

I mentioned 1908 because I looked at his pharmacy license--the Territory of Hawaii pharmacy license--and saw that it was dated August of 1908--the very month I was born. But he must have built that store prior to that period, maybe in 1907 or 1906, I don't know. But I remember looking at that Hawaii license. I forgot what number it was. Very early, you know. Still only a handful of pharmacies then. The license was dated August of 1908. We stayed in Aiea not too long. I was born there in 1908, and about three years after that time I was born, my dad sold the store to another man. Anyway, he sold his drugstore to a fellow. And then, we were living in a cottage away from the store, waiting for my dad to be established in Kahului [Maui]. That's when he decided to move to Kahului, see?

WN: Why Kahului?

YM: I don't know. There were no drugstores here or anything like that, I guess, so this was wide open field for him. That's the reason, I think, he chose Kahului. So, he was going back and forth from Kahului to Honolulu. In the meantime, after he sold the store and we were living in a little shack, somebody burned down our old store [in Aiea], the one that my dad sold to another guy. Someone had some kind of ill feeling against this person who bought our store. This guy burned it down. The fellow who bought the store from my dad felt very bad about it. I mean, my dad felt very bad about he losing the store that he had just bought from my dad, so he wanted to return the money to this fellow. Well, this guy was a

really Japanese gentleman, I guess. A verbal agreement is as good as written, those days. He absolutely refused to take back the money. He said it was not my dad's fault that someone had no use for him and burned down the store to spite him, not my dad. So, my dad accepted that agreement--you know, the money. And then, we moved out from Aiea.

I think we must have come directly to Kahului or I have a faint memory of living in Honolulu with my younger uncle. We were living on Liliha Street. Those days, Liliha Street was a tough neighborhood. They used to have those Liliha gang and Kakaako gang, and all that. Well, I grew up in a very tough district. I didn't grow up, but I lived there for a while while waiting for my dad to establish a business in Kahului. Then, we moved to Kahului.

WN: About 1912?

YM: Just around that time. I was either four or five years old. When I was a young kid, I remember my dad taking me down from Aiea Heights down to shores of Pearl Harbor. We used to play along the beach over there. Used to dig up clams. They had clams, even those days, but those clams were not edible--full of mud and sand. But we used to dig them for fun. And play with those---try to catch the fish we used to call "torpedoes." We were calling common name--torpedoes. I don't know. They look like goldfish.

WN: How big were they?

YM: Oh, about this size.

WN: About a foot and a half?

YM: Oh, maybe not that big, but the size of a mullet, or a good-sized tuna, or koi.

WN: Oh, about a foot, then.

YM: Yeah, about a foot, one big one. They were plentiful in the brackish water in Pearl Harbor. Because one section, the whole section, they were using it to raise watercress. And taro, one section. All along the Pearl Harbor area. This was way before they even thought about making Pearl Harbor into a naval base (chuckles). Anyway, I remember playing along the shallows when I was a small kid. I have a faint memory.

WN: Yeah, you were about three, four years old, eh?

YM: Yeah, about there. So, you can retain some memory about things you used to do when you were a small kid. In fact, now, as I grew older, things way back seem to come more sharply into focus than previously. They always say that. As you grow older, your very early life becomes sharp in your memory and the in between becomes

very hazy.

WN: So, then, when you moved to Kahului, your father started the drugstore in Kahului.

YM: Right. And he had this Mr. Ooku as assistant. He was a character, you know, this Ooku. He was not a pharmacist, but he knew enough about this common medication. Those days, they had no such thing as prescription work. That is, the doctor never wrote any prescription for outside, to be filled by a pharmacist. The doctors just made their own medicine. One thing--I remember distinctly all through my pharmacy life--is that the doctor resented very much these pharmacists diagnosing a case and prescribing medication. Say, "That's the doctor's work, not pharmacist's work." That was always a bone of contention. Always fighting among the doctors and pharmacists.

WN: In the very beginning, if you remember, that Kahului store [pharmacy], what kind of medicines was your father selling?

YM: Oh, mostly patent medicines. And many . . .

WN: Was that American medicines? Or Japanese medicines?

YM: Yeah, American medicine, Japanese medicine, Chinese medicine. And he had a laboratory--you know, yakkyoku--where he had the weights and measures, and all his crude drugs to be mixed and compounded. We used to do a lot of compounding, those days, because they didn't have these ready-made, factory-made medicines so much, outside of the patent medicine. No prescription drugs. There were no such things as sulfur drugs or antibiotics or anything like that. The strongest painkiller was aspirin. In fact, they haven't used much of aspirin until later. Those days, the main painkiller was tincture of opium--laudanum. Then, the milder one, tincture of opium camphorated, which would be paregoric, for headaches. Paregoric is tincture of opium camphorated. Tincture of laudanum is tincture of opium. You see, opium dissolves in alcohol. Whereas in paregoric, it's a milder form. It's what we call opium camphorated. It means fill up in a compound already and dissolved in alcohol.

WN: How did your father get the opium?

YM: Well, the pharmacists, in those days, were allowed to buy opium, even heroin and codeine. You see, one of the best cough medicines that was ever made was known as heroin turpenhydrate cough syrup. Now, that actually contained heroin. Today, it's considered one of the dangerous drugs. You know, opiate. Now, codeine is much milder than heroin. It's not habit forming like heroin. So, today, you can purchase codeine cough syrup--codeine turpenhydrate--at a drugstore, but you cannot get heroin turpenhydrate. No more. They don't make any. But those days, they didn't know too much about drugs yet.

WN: That early times, was there any other drugstore in Kahului or in

Maui?

YM: In Kahului, no. There were no drugstores outside of my dad's establishment, although they had these people selling [Japanese] packaged medicine they put up in bag and leave it in the homes. And the directions are all written on--what this for and all that. For instance, you have a headache. You go and look into this bag, and there may be a package marked for a headache. Usually a powder put in small, what they call, cachet--folded piece of paper. They swallow that for headache. When the salesman makes his rounds, he goes and checks the supply. He find one or two packages of this headache medicine gone or couple packages of this stomachache medicine gone, and he'll charge you accordingly. Then he'll replenish whatever we used. It's like a medicine cabinet.

WN: Did only the Japanese buy those things?

YM: In those days, I would say, mostly Japanese. Because like people living in plantation homes and working for the plantation, they were all provided with doctor and hospitalization and all that, and all the medication, the doctor used to give to them. It was actually all for free, all inclusive. And they lived in a plantation home. They don't pay any rent for it. They used to get a home to live in, electric light, and water, and firewood. They used to have a plantation camp. Right in the middle would be an open space. Every so often, these plantation, other workers, would carry wood and stack 'em up in this middle. Then all these camp people used to go there and help themselves to the amount of firewood they need. And water was piped into the village and was free. Electric light was free. [In] isolated places where they didn't have electric light, they were given kerosene oil for their kerosene lamps for free. They never used to pay for those things. Later on, when it progressed, the more the labor demand, they got less fringe benefits. They cut out [perquisites when the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union organized sugar workers in 1946]. Not the water and the electricity so much, but they had to pay for other things. They used to have all this for free, even the hospitalization. The medication used to be completely on the plantation, but now, the labor demanded so much that they began to charge them for it. That's how the whole thing started.

WN: Like the Paia Plantation Hospital, did they have their own drug department, too?

YM: They had their own doctors. They had nurses, doctors, sickbeds, operating room, and a drug department where there was someone there who knew about drugs enough to dispense all the medications.

WN: Would they send people to your father?

YM: Never did. In those days, the doctor never used to write prescriptions for outside [of the plantation]. I can tell you, the earliest I

ever saw a doctor's prescription written was when my brother came home from college, and he put out a shingle as a registered pharmacist. That's the first time we ever got any prescription sent by a doctor. But [the doctors] never wrote a prescription for plantation employees. For outsiders, yeah. They cannot get their medication free in the plantation hospital. So, the doctor would write a prescription and get 'em from the drugstore. That's how it started.

WN: About when was that? When your brother came back?

YM: He came back in 1926. But then, prior to that time, there were some registered pharmacists on Maui. Some were employed by the plantation. There were a couple of them. Wailuku had one drugstore--Maui Drug. Was owned by a haole. Later on, I found out that guy wasn't even a pharmacist. But those days, things like licensing was very lax compared to today. They weren't too strict. [That] guy would say he knows enough about certain kind of a business like pharmacy--I won't say doctoring--but pharmacy or maybe law. That guy used to be a lawyer's assistant for a while, studied under this bonafide lawyer. And that guy smart in the head enough that they automatically gave him a license to practice law. He didn't have to go to Honolulu take--later on, he had to--take a board exam to be licensed like the pharmacists.

The pharmacists had--from pretty early--they had this Board of Pharmacy. A licensing board, you know. But the applicant need not be a graduate of a accredited school of pharmacy like today. You can learn under a tutor like my second brother did. And I did on my own practically. If you can go and take the board exam and if you can pass it, then they give a license to practice pharmacy in Hawaii. That was in the territorial years. But then, after we became a state [1959], it was mandatory that you be a graduate from accredited college of pharmacy.

WN: In 1959, then? After 1959?

YM: Yeah, after 1959.

WN: What about your father? What kind of things did he have to do to get his license?

YM: Well, my dad had to, of course, bone up on pharmacy. Then, he had to go and take a pharmacy board exam. That's a funny story he used to tell me about how he got his license. See, my dad didn't know too much English. Well, pidgin English, smattering of English. But he knew enough about drugs--you know, those crude drugs--in those days, the common drugs. So, when he applied for licensing, he had an interpreter with him. The pharmacy examiner would sit on one end of the table. My dad and his interpreter would sit on the other end of the table. In fact, the interpreter would be in between these two. So, this examiner will ask a question in English. "What is aspirin," or something like that. Then, the interpreter

would talk to my dad in Japanese. "Aspirin wa nan desu ka?" ["What is aspirin?"] This examiner, pretty smart Joe, too. He knows more or less what you guys saying. But then, he doesn't know the details in Japanese. So, if this interpreter asked my dad, "What is aspirin?," my dad may not know the answer. He mumbled something in Japanese. The interpreter would turn around and tell the guy, "Oh, aspirin is such and such, the drug for pain in the head," and all that. So, he [the examiner] said, "Oh, oh, oh. That's right. Okay."

(Laughter)

WN: You mean, the interpreter knew something about drugs and things?

YM: When my dad told me that he took the exam like that, I just couldn't believe it. That was the way it was done in those days. So, my dad got his license. Later on, he told him, "Of course, I had to give that guy quite a bit of . . . ."

WN: Of money?

YM: Money on the side. To the interpreter, see? Because he was doing all the work. So, my dad just mumbled something in Japanese, and he [the interpreter] gave the proper answer in English to the examiner. And this interpreter was a registered pharmacist. In fact, he's a college graduate, both American college and Japanese college. He's a very smart fellow, you know. He had to be, you know, to be . . . . (laughs)

WN: What was his name? Do you remember?

YM: I don't remember. He used to tell me this story so often, but I never thought much about remembering the name. It was Koga or sounded something like Koga. They used to call him "dokutoru"--because he was a doctor--in the Japanese. He was a doctor. So, Dr. Koga or Dr. something, similar to that. Anyway, that was the procedure in those days--to have an interpreter taking and helping this applicant to take their board exam. If you go and write it down and tell these people, they say, "Oh, that guy Buck is all making up story," but this is not a made-up story. This is actual truth. My dad is dead and gone, and the interpreter is dead and gone, and so is the examiner. But then, in those days, that's how things were done. When my dad told me this story, he didn't want anyone to know about it. It was a big secret. But then, he told me this and it's God's truth. I believe my dad.

And many, many others have gone through the same thing. It was the thing to do, those days. Today, they laugh you off the place, having interpreter help you pass board exam--anything, maybe a lawyer or any other kind. You didn't have to know a thing. You just recite a poem in Japanese or a song. The interpreter would give you the proper answer in English. Naturally, you pass. You can't fail. Oh, probably, every so often, you make a little boner,

so the people [answer] won't be absolutely correct. I don't know. But that's the kind of story.

WN: So, then, 1915, he started a store in Wailuku, huh? Three years later. Do you know why he did that?

YM: He did that because Wailuku did not have a Japanese drugstore, and many people requested that my dad do something about it. And so . . .

(Taping interrupted, then resumes.)

YM: But I believe that was the reason why. Of course, Wailuku had a bigger population than Kahului in those days. Wailuku was the center. We had a courthouse there, and a police station, and a fire station. The fire station was very important. That was the only fire station. When they had a big fire in Kahului--I told you this story--the fire engine went full speed from Wailuku down to the fire, and they forgot to take the hose.

(Laughter)

WN: Are you making that story up or is that true? (Laughs)

YM: No, this is God's truth, I swear. And that wasn't only the first time. And then, another fire in Wailuku where they forgot the hose. No, the second time, it wasn't the hose. It was a chemical tank. They didn't load it. When they got there, it was empty. So, the building burned down to the ground.

WN: So, your father had a drugstore in Kahului and a drugstore in Wailuku, yeah? So, who watched the Kahului Store?

YM: Mr. Ooku, my father's assistant. Mr. Ooku was there until 1920, when he decided to pull up stakes and go back to Japan. That's when my dad got Mr. Toda to take his place. So, Mr. Toda took over our [Kahului] drugstore, from 1920 or 1921, around there. And then, I think it was in 1923 or thereabout, when Mr. Toda, being a single man--it wasn't very easy for him to run a store all by himself. Had to cook his own meal and practically do his own laundry. Maybe he had someone to help do that. But then, the position was such that my dad, and my uncle, and him, and an uncle in Honolulu, they talk it over and say, "We better find a wife for young Toda. He needs a wife bad."

Just at that particular time, my auntie--my youngest uncle, number four of the brothers, in Honolulu, his wife--had a younger sister staying with them. She was attending McKinley High, I think, or some high school. She belong to a Kanda family. The Kanda family was established in Pahala in Ka'u, Hawaii. My wife was born right near that Pahala. Anyway, in Pahala, this Kanda family, there were five, six, or seven sisters and as well as three brothers.

Big family, you know? They're really early friends of my father's from Japan time. My youngest uncle married the eldest girl from the Pahala, Ka'u family. She and my uncle were living in Honolulu. In the corner of Beretania and what was the next street next to Liliha? Anyway, they had a drugstore there. My auntie--I don't know how many sisters--about three sisters below her were staying with them and going to Mckinley High or some high school in Honolulu because they had no high school in Pahala. So, they talked it over, and they got a hold of her. You know, Japanese style, when they usually want a girl to get married to someone, they have a powwow. Well, both parties agreed, too.

WN: How did your dad meet Toda?

YM: My dad did not know Toda too well, but my uncle in Hilo was a godfather to this young Toda. As I told you, young Toda lost his dad when he was a very young fella. There were two brothers. One, I think was the older brother, used to work for Schuman Carriage in Honolulu for a good many years. I remember only those two, that Toda brothers. Anyway, my uncle was instrumental in helping Mr. Toda to attend the Hilo Boarding School--those days, equivalent to a Hilo high school. And he found this job for Mr. Toda at Theo H. Davies Company in Hilo.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

YM: Well, that's when my dad asked his older brother, my uncle, for help finding a man to replace Mr. Ooku who wanted to leave. That's when, of course, my uncle thought this was a darn good chance for Mr. Toda. So, that's how they got him to come over to Maui and take over the business.

WN: The Kahului one?

YM: Yeah. He [Toda] was not a pharmacist at that time, but then, as I say, my dad had a pharmacist license, and he can open any number of stores under that one license (chuckles). You know, those days, things were pretty lax, not like today. Anyway, Mr. Toda came over, and he worked, and he made good. He improved the store, the business, everything. In the meantime, they found a wife for him who was my auntie's younger sister. They got married about 1923. And first off the bat, they had twin girls. Later on, they had two boys follow. So, they had four children altogether.

WN: How did the two stores differ? What was the difference between the Wailuku store and the Kahului store?

YM: The Kahului store still went under my father's name--K. Machida

Drugstore. Mr. Toda was working for my dad for few years. Then, to make things interesting, my dad sold Mr. Toda half interest in the store. It was going along that way until 1933, which is [from] 1920, 1921 up to 1933. In between there, about halfway, he was a half partner with my dad. In 1933 when my dad decided to quit, why, he just sold the other half to Mr. Toda. That's why he [Toda] got one of the three stores. Because Toda was a smart man, he built up the business. My dad was getting old, and we were too young to know any better.

WN: You and your brothers?

YM: Yeah. My brother, well, he was a graduate of an accredited pharmacy school, but my number two brother, by the time we sold the store, he was dead already in 1929. So, was between my eldest brother and I. So, we got the power of attorney from my dad for the two stores-- Wailuku and [Lower] Paia. In other words, we jointly owned the stores. When I say I sold my Wailuku store--"my" store--it was more or less designated Wailuku would be my kuleana, and [Lower] Paia would be my eldest brother's kuleana.

WN: So, 1933, your father . . .

YM: My father retired. Yeah.

WN: . . . sold the interests of the Kahului store to Toda. He sold the Wailuku store to you?

YM: Yeah, more or less. That's the understanding.

WN: And then, he gave the [Lower] Paia store to your oldest brother. Before, when you were working--about 1915 when the Wailuku store was just starting--what kind of jobs did you do in that store?

YM: That was during my grammar school days. Nineteen fifteen [1915], I was still in grammar school. The drugstore, we were the only one that had a soda fountain. Across the street from us, there was a Japanese candy store--senbei-ya--before Maui Drug. Nineteen fifteen [1915], Maui Drug wasn't there yet, see? There was another candy store--Okumura Candy Store--further down the street. They used to make sort of ice cream, too. But we had a bonafide ice cream room especially for making ice cream--preparing the mix, and cooking the milk, and adding all the flavoring and whatnot. And then, we had the machinery to spin this. You know, we used to crank by hand at first, then later on, we had this motor-driven thing. We made our own ice cream, and we sold it in the drugstore. We had a soda fountain. Our place and this other store were the only ones that had anything like that in all of Wailuku Town.

I used to help make the ice cream. At first, I was not strong enough then. I was too little. My oldest brother and my number two brother, their job was to pack the ice cream. You see, had the

ice cream in the soda fountain. At night, before you retire, you had to drain all the salt water out of the tank. We had a metal tank [which contained] the ice cream, and another bigger tank outside to hold all the ice around. So, you have to pack down the ice and put rock salt so that it would be a saline solution. It will bring the temperature lower than ordinary ice in order to keep the ice cream hard enough. So, at night, before we retired, we packed all this. We had three compartments of ice cream. We used to buy about 150 pounds of ice a day to keep this thing well frozen.

WN: Where did you buy the ice from?

YM: Maui Soda and Ice Works. They had a soda works over here in Wailuku. Later on, they had this Star [Ice and] Soda [Works], too. We were getting all the stuff from Maui Soda. We had to pack this ice every night. The first thing in the morning, you had to repack it. You know, drain out the salt water again to keep the ice cream hard. When I was going to the grammar school, after my eldest brother graduated from that job, my number two brother and I used to pack ice every night, nearly every morning, and once in between. In the afternoon, we would pack it again. For about three times a day, you have to pack ice to keep the ice cream solid.

Of course, we used to make all kinds of flavorings. And then, we used to serve cookies with the ice cream and jelly to go with it all. At the soda fountain, I was a soda jerk. Make all kinds of stuff. Make plain soda with flavorings, ice cream soda, malted milk, and all that. I used to do all that job all during my grammar school. Even high school days, as soon as I get home from school, I was right in there pitching in till late at night. I had to do my studying in between. Our store opened 7:30 in the morning and didn't close till 11 [o'clock] at night. That's how, long hours. I should sue them for child labor malpractice.

(Laughter)

WN: Who came into that store to eat?

YM: Our old store? From the first location, my dad lost the lease, so we built a new one. We bought out a old theater, then renovated . . .

WN: Which theater was this?

YM: In Wailuku, there was a theater called Hippodrome.

WN: How do you spell that?

YM: H-I-P-P-O, Hippo; drome, D-R-O-M-E. Hippodrome. That's a old name for a theater. Anyway, Wailuku Hippodrome was on the mauka side of Market Street--the Iao Valley side of the street. We were originally located on the lower side of the street, but not right across. At an angle. Our old store was here. Then, there's

Chong, a Chinaman from Hilo. He opened a Maui Drug right across from us. These Pākēs, they always do that. Try to cut your throat. (Laughs) Anyway, they opened Maui Drug there, but this is way before the time Maui Drug came into the picture. Oh, by the time we moved, Maui Drug was there already. Anyway, my dad lost the lease, so we had to find a new location.

Just then, they were talking about---in fact, they were building a new theater, that yellow theater that's standing now. Well, that's across the street from the old Hippodrome Theater. So, that's where they tore down the whole shack--a great big building there, wooden structure--two identical wooden structures there. They used to call them the Enos block. Made by Enos--a Portuguese family. Anyway, there was a fire there, and the whole Enos block building burned down completely. So, that vacant lot, that's where they decided to build a new theater, because the old one was getting dilapidated. So, they were constructing this new theater and was almost finished. That's when my dad lost his lease, so he had to go and buy out the old Hippodrome Theater structure and get a new lease from a family that owned the property there. That's Guy Goodness family, a Hawaiian family.

So, my dad had to go buy the old Hippodrome Theater. And then, the contractor will rebuild that. You know, the theater, even the ground was dug so it was sloping down. And then, it was built as a very high building, because it started way up here and the thing . . . . All the seats were arranged in such a way--like all theaters have a rise. So, they had to change the whole thing. Tear it all down, and then level that. So, our building had a very big pillar underneath the store bringing the level of the floor up to the street level. That was the hardest part of the construction, I guess. But then, they had to add a lot of new lumber to replace the old wooden structure's dilapidated worm-eaten lumber.

WN: How much did all this cost?

YM: In the neighborhood of around \$17,000. Those days, \$17,000 was some money. Something like \$170,000 today. But then, my dad had to redo it.

WN: How did he get the idea to run that soda fountain?

YM: Oh, that. Well, in those days, all good, bonafide drugstore was expected to have a soda fountain. We were the only ones that had soda fountain like this. Later on, regular confectionery shops came up, but they never had a special shop to sell ice cream. So, all the drugstores were supposed to have a soda fountain and ice cream. Later on, not only the ice cream, but it became a lunch counter. Yeah, we started, not down there in Wailuku, but down in [Lower] Paia. We had a lunch counter. We served all sandwiches, hamburgers, and things like that.

If I remember correctly, way back, when we had that drugstore in

Wailuku, I'm quite sure we were the first one that invented the "brown cow"--what they call brown cow today. It's a glass of root beer soda with a scoop of ice cream in. They call it brown cow. And then, they make all kind now, even with Coca-Cola, you add ice cream. But, accidentally, we discovered this thing. We were serving Magnus root beer and other kind of root beer . . .

WN: What kind of root beer?

YM: Magnus brand. Magnus was a famous brand, those days. Anyway, we were serving only root beer drink in a mug, just like a beer mug. Then, one day, a guy wanted it a little colder, so he told--I think was my brother or one of our other clerk in there--to add a scoop of ice cream to make it cold. And, by golly, root beer float was born. This was way back. It was 1915, 1916, 1917, around there.

(Laughter)

WN: Who named it brown cow?

YM: Later on, I read somewhere. They had a recipe about making up all kinds of soda fountain items, and I saw this. It mentioned that brown cow, the root beer float. By golly, we used to do that about ten, twelve years before that thing ever came out in the paper.

WN: What else did you have? Did you have things like banana splits, like that?

YM: Oh, banana split, that wasn't anything new or very different, but I used to be expert, chopping the banana and making splits. But we used to make what we called "lollipops." And lollipops, we used to use the regular--what the doctors use--the tongue depressor. You know, the spatulalike stuff. That stick. Get a scoop of ice cream. We'd stick this stick into this scoop of ice cream. Then, we'd dip it in quick hardening chocolate syrup. This particular lollipop mix, it has just chocolate syrup mixture, but they had a little of that wax in there. You know, either beeswax or coconut wax is added to this chocolate, so that it'll harden quickly. If you don't do that, the chocolate has a tendency to melt very rapidly. If you add little of that wax in there, it'll harden and stay stiff. It'll keep its shape. Every morning, I used to make dozens of these lollipops before I went to school. Then, we keep 'em in this freezer. The kids used to come in and buy them. Nickel each, see? Those days, nickel used to be worth something.

You know, when we first moved in Wailuku--I'll tell you this story--1915, 1916, around there. In the morning, was my job to go to this Chinese coffee shop to buy a loaf of bread for the family. So, my dad would give me a dime, ten cents, for the loaf of bread. I take a copper kettle--good-sized kettle, about this big kettle--and a dime in my hand. I go to this Chinese coffee shop, and as I passed the counter, the girl would be at a counter. I gave her---I plunked

the dime. Say, "One loaf bread, butter, and jelly."

Then, I take the kettle and go into the kitchen in the back. And the cook there will fill it with coffee. This coffee, I don't know what kind of coffee, must be Kona coffee, those days. They had in a bag--a cloth bag--roasted coffee. It's dumped in a great big container, and it's simmering all the time. It's like perked coffee. Then, he'll scoop--with a ladle--he'll scoop coffee into this kettle, and he add Carnation milk, and a little bit of Hawaiian sugar. He'll stir it with a spoon, and he'll taste it. "Oh, just right," he say, "Oh, good. Here."

So, put the lid back on the kettle. I come out of the kitchen with a kettle full of coffee already seasoned with sugar. I come to the counter here. The girl has a loaf of bread wrapped with just a paper around it. So, I tucked this loaf of bread under my arm. And she made two small little paper cones. One is filled with butter and one would be filled with jelly. See, I hold it in my hand, with a loaf of bread here, and a kettle of coffee for ten cents. You wouldn't believe it. Imagine how much money used to buy before.

WN: When you were at the soda fountain, how much money would you make, or how much would come in?

YM: Well, in those early days, I don't know, because I wasn't taking care of the cash, but, later on, any store on Market Street around there . . . . I mean, an ordinary drugstore or small-item store, not counting a jeweler's or clothing store. They had bigger things, but in small knickknack stores, drugstores and all that, if they grossed fifty dollars a day, it was tremendous business. Fifty dollars was a big, good day. On bum days, we go down to, say, twenty-five dollars. And on rainy days, maybe down to only five bucks a day. That's the kind of business it was.

Today, a store in the shopping center, if they don't gross a thousand dollars a day, that's bad day for them. Because you think the number of employees they have, how much you are paying the employees. Then, for the shopping center, all that fancy structure, the rental there is terrific. Then, you have to pay a percentage on the parking area, too. So, you have to gross a heck of a lot in order to make ends meet. That's why you see so many changes in these shopping centers. Lot of them can't take it. Can't meet that.

WN: Your father's fountain, how many seats were there?

YM: There were about five seats to the fountain, and we had two ice cream parlor tables with four chairs to each. That would be eight seating and five or six at the counter. That was about the average.

WN: Things like the soda and the ingredients to make the ice cream, where did you folks get that?

YM: The soda, we had a soda generator. We used to buy this carbon dioxide gas. It's connected to this soda water generator. It's all automatic. It has a floater just like in a bathroom water closet. Have a floater. When the water goes down, then the switch knocks on. The same way with this soda water generator. It was a water pump within the center there, run by a motor. And this float was the controlling switch. When the soda went down low, the soda would empty from this little ball, and it'll float up and knock the switch. Then, automatically, the carbon dioxide gas and the water from the faucet would go into this, and the motor will churn in there and generate soda water.

WN: Like the syrup and everything, where did you get it from?

YM: Oh, the syrup and stuff, we had to make it ourselves.

WN: You made it?

YM: We made 'em. I used to be champion syrup maker. You had to dissolve so much sugar in water. And then, the concentration reached what they called a eighty-three degree syrup. Otherwise, it'll ferment very quickly. When the sugar is thick enough--enough sugar in the syrup--it'll ward off fermentation for quite awhile. But then, lots of times, the syrup fermented anyway because we added fresh, crushed strawberries; fresh, diced pineapples; and grated orange skins and lemon skins to give the flavors.

WN: Things like that, where did you get it from? Like the wholesalers, who did you deal with?

YM: Well, we dealt with lot of them. We had this Wailuku Hardware and Grocery Store. And other grocery stores sold all the supplies-- fresh fruit and vegetables, sugar, flour, and stuff. We never used to buy from a big wholesaler. We didn't use that much. Maybe the bakeries did. You know, bakeries use a lot of flour and sugar. Them, they had a better supply, I think. But we didn't resort to any big supply because we were on a small scale. Just home consumption like. Just the local clientele. So, those things are no problem.

Even the milk, we had one small dairy supplying us with all the necessary milk. We using, maybe, between five to ten gallons of milk a day. That's about the limit, see? Whereas, today, if you are making ice cream like Dairy Queen and those people, they may use hundreds of gallons of milk and stuff like that. But then, those days, we were small operating soda fountain. We make our own syrup, our own ice cream, things like that. In fact, my stepmother even used to make our own cookies to serve in that soda fountain. Not my stepmother, her other girl [helper] there, she was quite a cook. So, those things were, more or less, a one-man operation stuff. Of course, our store, we had two men and girls working full time. My dad had a maid help in the home side, because he had lot of kids--nine boys and two girls.

WN: What was it like growing up in Wailuku?

YM: Well, was like any old small town. Everybody knew everybody else, and we were either friend or enemy. Bound to find a bully in the bunch, and there were scraps. I used to come home with black eye and busted nose. Used to do all that crazy things that the young kids used to do--play marbles, go around stealing mangoes from other people, things like that.

WN: Normal stuff.

YM: Normal stuff. Play baseball with string balls--you know, make our own ball. We used to play lot of games that they don't play anymore, like piowee [also known as "peewee"]. You don't know what's a piowee, eh? It's a piece of stick--a broomstick--kind of about this long.

WN: About six inches?

YM: Yeah. One end may be slanted, cut at a slant. We put that on the ground. This end goes in the ground. You slip it in the groove. Then you have a broomstick handle cut about two feet long. Then you tap this stick on the side that it's cut, see? So, if tap it here, this will fly out, huh? So, you let it come up over there, and you whang it. Then, the opposing side would be outside in the field just like baseball. You field that thing.

WN: Oh, so you hit one end of the one [stick] on the ground, and it flies up. And then you hit it out.

YM: You hit it, and the other guy will catch it if he can. Now, if he catches, you're out. You lost a point. But if he misses, then he has another chance to redeem himself with that piowee. Now, you supposed to put your hitting stick across this groove in the ground, see? Then, this guy who missed the piowee will pick it up and try to knock that stick away from the groove. Then, he make back his point.

WN: After he fields it?

YM: No, if he doesn't field it. If he fields it, you're out.

WN: If he catches it on the fly, you're out. But if it hits the ground first and he grabs it . . .

YM: If it hits the ground, if he miss catching, then he has a chance to redeem himself by knocking the stick out of the groove.

WN: How far away does he have to . . .

YM: Oh, all depend how far you hit the piowee. If you give it a good whack and he misses and he try to redeem himself by throwing it in

to hit the stick. Very slim chance of doing that. Very interesting game.

WN: How do you spell that game?

YM: I wouldn't know how to spell it. "Piowee," we used to call it. P-I-O-W-E-E, I guess. I never see the kids around [today] playing that game. Then, we used to play marbles of course. We used to bet in a fish. We draw a fish on the ground. We put our marbles in there--whatever you want to bet. Then, a certain distance away from the fish, we draw a line. That's where you start your first shoot. Everybody had a shooter of their own--a particular marble that they liked.

WN: Their favorite, yeah.

YM: Yeah. They'll shoot the marble and try to hit whatever marble is in the fish to fly out of the fish, and whatever comes out is yours. You pick it up. You can do that. You keep on doing that until you happen to hit the pile of marble in the fish and your shooter get stuck in the fish. Then, you out. So, the next guy takes over. Keep on doing it until all the marbles shot out of the fish. And sometimes, we play a circle. Instead of a fish, you draw a big circle and a small circle in the middle. You put a betting marble in there. Now, from the perimeter of the circle, we use a shooter to knock the marbles out of the center part. This one is a little different. If you shoot one marble and one flies out, you can have that. But [if] your shooter is stuck in the circle, you supposed to shoot from there. You cannot move it. From that particular spot, you have to turn around, look around, and shoot again. That was the shooter . . .

WN: What if your marble goes outside the circle? Your own?

YM: Well, whatever you hit outside the circle is what you won.

WN: What about if your own marble goes outside the circle?

YM: Oh, if your shooter goes outside the circle? Then, you can go around the perimeter and shoot from any angle. But if your shooter gets stuck in the circle, you have to shoot from that very position. You mustn't move your shooter.

Then we had another game they called five hole. The center hole here. They'll be one hole, north; one hole, south; one hole, east; and one hole, west. The hole about this big, dug in the ground.

WN: Oh, about three inches.

YM: It's about less than one "spam." We used to measure by our hand spam, you know. Used to be five spams [apart], I think. Holes used to be that far apart. To start, every time, used to janken pō.

Who's going to start. The winner always starts. You know how to janken pō? (Laughs) In janken pō, the winner will start. Well, you can start from any hole outside. The idea is, you must shoot into the cup from one this way, or you can shoot across the other way if you want to, but you must cover every hole without missing. Then, you in. Then, you mark "one." That's a credit to you. Then, the next guy's chance. If he misses, then you don't get any mark at all. So, after we go around about ten times, and we count the number of each score, the one that made perfect score, he get the most marks. That's another game.

WN: You go all the way around to get one point?

YM: Yeah, just to get one point, you must make the five holes.

WN: If you miss one, you got to start again?

YM: Yeah, you got to start all over again. The other guy has a chance. He has to rest until he tries. Then, the next one tries. Sometimes about a dozen of us line up to try it.

(Laughter)

YM: So, we used to play piowee; we used to play five hole; play fish and circle--all that kind of little games. They don't do that anymore. I don't see.

WN: I wonder, is that's just Maui, or you think the kids played all over?

YM: No, I think it was all around Hawaii. We learned it from the other guys, and they probably learned it from someone else.

WN: You stayed in Wailuku helping your father in the store until about 1927 when you worked in the [Lower] Paia [branch of Machida Drugs]?

YM: Yeah, that's right. That's right.

WN: Did your jobs change at all from 1915 to 1927 in the Wailuku store, or did you do the same things?

YM: Quite a bit of change took place in that time. We quit making our own ice cream. We started to buy this imported ice cream--made in Honolulu stuff. This Dairymen's and Rawley's were the two companies in Honolulu. They made the ice cream, they pack 'em in the freezer, and they ship it by boat to this Maui Soda and [Ice] Works. And there, they kept it in a cold storage. This was all ice cream that we have already bought and paid for. Maui Soda used to be sort of an agent for Dairymen's and Rawley's. And all we had to do was telephone down to the soda works, tell them to bring up one ten-gallon tub of vanilla ice cream, one ten-gallon tub of strawberry ice cream, or so. Then, the driver will bring it up to the store. We had a corner in the store built so that we can keep an extra tub

of ice cream with drainage and everything provided. We used to take it from their tub and put it into our soda fountain tub. That used to call for quite a bit of work, but not like before when we used to make our own.

WN: But why did you quit making your own?

YM: Well, by then, people began to be a little bit more choosy about ice cream. We couldn't compete with this factory-made ice cream. They used to come out with all kinds of fancy things. That's when the baseball ice cream used to come out. And the first chocolate-coated cake ice cream, they used to call "polar bear." Round ones, used to call "baseball," and football-shaped ones. They used to come out with these "milk nickel" on the stick and stuff like that. All those things started to come out around that time, so we decided it was about time to quit making our ice cream and sell this stuff.

WN: Was Maui Soda [and Ice Works] the only place on Maui that you could get ice cream?

YM: No, Star Soda [and Ice Works], too. Maui Soda and Star Soda. They're still there, both of them.

WN: How about the wholesalers in Kahului like A&B [Alexander & Baldwin] or . . .

YM: No, they never handled any ice cream that I know of. Of course, there is Hinode Soda Works in Wailuku now, but that came much later on.

WN: How about the drugs department? Did you notice any changes in the drugs department?

YM: Oh, yes. There was a complete change in the pharmacy of today compared to what it was. As I told you, in the very early part, there was no such thing as a prescription coming from the doctor. The pharmacist himself used to make his own drugs, compound his own medication, and even used to prescribe the medication--not only prescribe, even diagnose the patient's illness. Well, most of them were simple stuff. A guy would come with a terrible bellyache and have a running stomach. Oh, yeah, that guy had diarrhea. So, "Here, we have such and such a thing that's good for diarrhea." Now, you are actually prescribing, which the doctor did not like. They considered that was their kuleana to diagnose the patient's illness and to prescribe the medication. The pharmacy's job was only to supply the medication or compound the prescription that the doctor wrote out. That was a big argument all the time.

But then, in those early days, the doctors didn't have any outside patients because most of the doctors were plantation doctors. Most of the people [were] depending on that plantation hospital. Then, outside, we had these independent doctors. They are mostly Japanese

doctors. Like old man Dr. Terafukugi, Dr. Ohata, Dr. Yamashiro, Dr. Sugamura. Any haole doctors, most of them, they were grabbed by the plantation. You know how it is. The haole-owned plantation, they'd hire haole doctors. They don't want no Japanese doctors. Oh, there was one Negro doctor in Puunene Hospital, but he had no license to practice in the Territory of Hawaii. He was very good doctor. He started from somewhere in the Mainland, in the South. Dr. Maple. And old persons used to like this old doctor.

WN: Dr. Maple?

YM: Yeah, his name was Dr. Maple. He's a Negro man from the Mainland. But then, he had no license to practice on his own hook, see? He was practicing under the doctor in the plantation hospital. Well, they have sort of a tacit agreement. The other doctor knew that this Negro doctor was a very good doctor. He wouldn't do anything rash. So, Dr. Maple was a big favorite with the plantation employees, especially the older ones. Of course, they had regular doctors and surgeons in the hospital.

But, you see, in the pharmacy now, we had no prescription like we have today. The doctors have all quit filling their own prescriptions. It takes too much trouble to buy the drugs and keep an inventory on drugs. They have no time to compound any drugs. So, it had boiled down to factory-made pharmaceuticals packed in big containers. You know, big quantities. The pharmacies today, they hardly compound any and mix any drugs. They pour from a big container to a smaller container and put the directions on as the doctor says. And that's prescription work today. Whereas, before, you had to get all these ingredients--the chemicals and whatnot--and compound it yourself and pack it yourself. That was the real--what they call in Europe--apothecary. Apothecary is pharmacy where they compounding it [drugs]. Today, they call it apothecary, but it's just drugstore like in the Mainland. The drugstore in the Mainland and in Hawaii, no difference at all. From one big container to a smaller container.

WN: Your father started the [Lower] Paia store in 1927. When you were there, did your clientele change? Did you get plantation people coming to the store?

YM: Oh, yeah. The plantation people. But, you know, by that time--we speaking of between 1927 on up until the Second World War--things didn't change much. But then, after the Second World War, say, after 1945, all these new stuff started coming out. They first discovered penicillin during the wartime. By this Dr. Fleming in England. During the war years, they used to put the raw fungus growing on swabs. They used to put that right onto the open wound because they didn't know how to extract up anything from the mold. But then, we--the pharmacy business, and the doctoring, too, have changed radically since the discovery of sulfanomides. You see pictures of these war casualties with great big, gaping wounds. They'll put sulfur powder on it to prevent infection. And then,

they had these disposable, little syringes that jab into a guy to kill the pain. Syringes and stuff like that, they never had those things before. Not until after the Second World War.

WN: Before the war, you didn't have those things, yeah?

YM: Well, we had morphine, but those things were done in the hospital under sanitary condition with sterile hypodermic syringes.

WN: When you were at the [Lower] Paia branch, did you get plantation people coming into the store?

YM: Oh, yes. To buy all kinds of things.

WN: Drugs, too?

YM: Drugs, yes. By then, we had a little prescription going. Prescription business has begun.

WN: This is in 1927?

YM: Well, we started in Paia, my eldest brother, he was a registered pharmacist. So, when the doctor found out that we had a registered pharmacist, then they began write prescription, and tell the patient, "Hey, go down to the drugstore and have this filled."

WN: So, a plantation resident had a choice of either going to the plantation hospital to buy drugs or to . . .

YM: Well, most of the plantation men prefer to go to the plantation clinic because it was free medication. Whereas, if they went outside, they have to pay for it. But when the outside patient went to see the plantation doctor, then the plantation doctor will have to write a prescription because they cannot give this guy free medication. He's not a plantation employee. So, he had to go outside to get his medication. So, he had to use the prescription, go to a pharmacy. That was the situation.

WN: So, you had lot of the outside people coming in?

YM: Yeah. Well, not too many outside people . . . . Some of them did go to see a plantation doctor that they had more faith in than these outside doctors. So, that's the kind of situation it was. Then, it gradually boiled down to a point where the plantation began to charge for medical care for these employees even, because . . . .

WN: When was this?

YM: Oh, since the union was organized [1946]. They demanded so much raise in their salary that the plantation couldn't afford to give them this fringe benefits anymore.

WN: So, did business start to pick up then?

YM: Yes, in a way, it did. Then, these doctors all began to use their prescription pad more. And the pharmacies, they were forced to carry more prescription items. Until then, they didn't carry because they had no call for it. But then, when the prescriptions started coming in, they had to be ready to supply the stuff. That's how the prescription business had changed since the last war [World War II]. Today, as I told you, you go into a modern pharmacy like Longs, the big one--in Honolulu, you have lot of these big pharmacies--they have this all computerized system. You go in there, you pass the prescription to the pharmacist. They take it and they'll . . .

END OF SIDE TWO

TAPE NO. 7-37-1-80; SIDE ONE

WN: Why did your father decide to start the [Lower] Paia [branch]?

YM: Well, the same reason he opened in Wailuku. Because there were so many boys in our family, he intended to have a drugstore in all the big towns in Maui--Kahului, Wailuku, [Lower] Paia, Lahaina. But we never got around that far. We had only my dad who was a pharmacist, my two brothers, and I became pharmacist last. But then, my dad got sick. He had a touch of stroke. That's when he decided to call it quits, sell out, and go back to Japan. When they get old, they want to go home to their own country and die. That's the reason why he gave up. And no sooner he gave up, then we gave up. And we came down with this sick thing [tuberculosis]. That was bad luck on our part that we got sick and couldn't continue.

WN: When the [Lower] Paia [branch] started, what was in that [Lower] Paia [branch]?

YM: Nothing. We built that. Start from scratch.

WN: I mean, was there a fountain? Did you start a fountain?

YM: Oh, yeah. We had a soda fountain. But then, by that time, we weren't making ice cream anymore. We were buying ready-made. But then, I installed the ice cream maker in there, and we were making homemade ice cream right in the store.

WN: In [Lower] Paia?

YM: In [Lower] Paia. So, how many years we did that? Then, these Board of Health people got after us that we shouldn't do that. We should not manufacture ice cream right in the drugstore. We have to have a separately partitioned room, and everything had to be

sterile, and all that. The cost outlay would be so much that I decided to quit [making ice cream]. We were doing pretty good. In fact, we were giving the commercial ice cream people the rub. We were making better quality ice cream. But then, we had to quit because of these all kind fancy regulations they slap on us. We were, more or less, forced to quit. I guess the ice cream companies were very happy about that. Maybe they had something to do with it.

(Laughter)

YM: Anyway, we quit that. But then, we had this lunch counter business going. We were selling hamburgers, and all kinds of sandwiches, coffee, and soft drinks. No alcoholic beverages. Although at the start, we had a liquor license to sell bottled wine and beer, but we gave that up because then, many of these bars came up. At first, only the drugstores had these wine and beer.

WN: When you first opened?

YM: Yeah, when Prohibition was given up. That was after 1933. But before then, when we first opened the store in 1927, it was a good old drugstore. A guy walk in, "Hey, I want a bottle of such and such a medication." I go around, look for it. Oh, by golly, I just forgot to order that stuff. We just out, you know.

So, I tell the guy, "Hey, we're just out. I putting in a order. It will come next week. You come back next week."

The guy say, "Okay."

And he come back next week [said with emphasis]. (Laughs)

WN: (Laughs) What's so funny about that?

YM: Today, he tell you, "Go to hell." He go to the next drugstore.

(Laughter)

WN: Was there any other drugstore in [Lower] Paia at that time?

YM: At that time, no. That's why, you see, I tell, "Hey, you come back next week." Say, "Okay." And he come back the next week.

WN: How much did the building cost?

YM: I don't know what the building originally cost. Because we had to lease the land there--a twenty-year lease, I think. We had to lease the land, and then, we had to put up the building on that leased land. Paia is in such a place there that most of the Lower Paia section is just about sea level or few feet higher than sea level. We had no sewer system. We had to have cesspools. Now,

this is God's truth. You can ask the people who have been living in [Lower] Paia for a long time. Those closest to the ocean, their cesspool water rises and falls with the tide of the ocean. So, we used to tease those guys, "Hey, you can use the toilet only low tide. High tide, you cannot flush the toilet. It'll back up."

(Laughter)

YM: Funny, that was the situation. That's why I worked so hard to get the sewer system into [Lower] Paia. I can tell you I did almost single-handedly got a sewer system into [Lower] Paia. I got in touch with the so-called County Engineer's Office and--well, we didn't have a mayor then--chairman of the Board of Supervisors. I knew lot of supervisors. I even got these territorial people come over. We have a meeting at the courthouse in [Lower] Paia, and then the people complained about the situation. We worked them up to the point where they finally decided to put in the sewer system in [Lower] Paia. The property owner, he was a Portuguese guy. Boy, he bucked me every inch of the way. His gripe was that, "The taxes will come up. I have to pay more tax on my property." What the hell, if the tax come up, he can sell his property for a higher price because it will be worth more with the improvement like sewer. Yeah, these stupid Portuguese. Shhh (laughs).

WN: About when was this?

YM: I came back and got married in 1933. We got the store in before then, so it was around 1929, 1930, or 1931 when they finally got the sewer going in. Because up until then, I had to work pretty long at it. Of course, not myself. I try to take all the credit from it, but some people in [Lower] Paia did work, too. Work along with me to get the sewer in. So, we had to buck against these property owners. This Portuguese guy owned half of the town, and another Portuguese owned the other half of the town. Both of them bucking against us to put in the sewer line because they didn't want to pay more taxes. My argument was, what the heck, they would get more value put on their property. They couldn't see beyond their nose. All they can see their money.

WN: Were most of the merchants in support of you?

YM: Well, the merchants were all in support of me. I got all their support, because you, yourself, you can see. If you are living under a situation where nothing can remedy the situation but this one particular point, then you all for it. The sewer was the answer to all their pilikia. Otherwise, we had to, also--when the cesspool filled up--we had to call the county department. They come in with this truck, suck out all that sewer matter. They used to charge us so much for emptying the sewer. You know, run into quite a bit of money, you do that quite often. But if you get a sewer line in, that's all city and county money. We only pay for connection into it. They never charge anything for the use of the

sewer system. Not until recently, they start to charge for waste disposal and sewer charges, all that.

WN: In 1930, there was a fire in Lower Paia? Did that affect your store at all?

YM: That fire started in a very mysterious way--a peculiar way, too. You see, Lower Paia, it's an intersection like that, where it really comes down to a T.

WN: You mean, corner of Baldwin Avenue and Hana Highway?

YM: Yeah. Right that junction, there. Now, right on the corner there, there was this little hamburger stand they called Wimpy's.

WN: Wimpy's Corner?

YM: Now, the hippies have made it into sort of a shop there--nice shop. But one door above that, you see a vacant space over there. That particular spot, a Chinese fellow named Tam Ho, he built a automotive display room and supply shop--supplies like tires and stuff. They were building this. Well, this fellow Tam Ho had a service station on the lower side--the ocean side--of the street, right after you pass the corner. He had a service station there. Across from there, that's where he had his tire and all kinds of automotive parts department store there. And then, he wanted to branch out. He wanted to sell cars and all that. So, he was building this new place up. And then, I think he must have stretched too far out--overstretched. We don't know the details, but all of sudden, he disappeared, this fellow. Later on, they found out he was in Shanghai. Don't know how he ever got there or why he went there, but in the meantime--oh, this was right after the fire--then we heard that he was in a bad way financially that they couldn't finish this automotive display shop. Then, one night, the thing went up in flames.

Oh, I was in Wailuku then. My eldest brother was in [Lower] Paia. And he called me on the phone, "Hurry up. Come to [Lower] Paia, help, because a big fire going." Well, the fire started from that newly built automotive display shop. Then it went down and burned all buildings right down to--oh, there's a Chinese saimin and general store--Hew Fat Kee Store. It's still standing there. The fire went and burnt down till there. That's where the Maui fire department (laughs) was caught short again. Oh, they went banging over with this new fire engine that they had. They rushed over there and the pump wouldn't work. The pump to pump the water and the chemical stuff to put out the fire. And on top of that, the fire hydrant along the street, something was wrong with 'em. Somebody had shut the main valve way the heck up--the source, you know--and there was no water in the fire hydrant. And they couldn't find the guy who was responsible for it. They couldn't locate him. When they finally found him, he lost the key to let this water run

down to the fire hydrant. So, what? We had a nice fire engine there, couldn't do a thing. And then, the fire hydrant had no water in it.

So, the plantation sent down their Caterpillar tractor. They had a strong water pump in it. Out in the fields, the Caterpillar draws the water from the ditch. They used the sprayer through the power of this water pump. Caterpillar is a Caterpillar tractor. So, they drove down couple of these big tractors near the ditch. That's a park over there in [Lower] Paia. Those Caterpillars were almost to the ocean edge. They ran the water hose into the ocean and connect it to the Caterpillar, and then the Caterpillar pumped the water. In the meantime, the fire was raging, coming down. So, about two stores before they reached the Hew Fat Kee restaurant, the sheriff decided to blast the building down. They set dynamite in the building. They blasted the building down.

WN: Which building?

YM: Well, that was--I don't know. Owned by a guy named Machado, I think, one Portuguese guy. In fact, three Portuguese owned practically all of [Lower] Paia Town--the real estate. Anyway, the fire was first stopped there all right. See, they knocked the building down. The fire kept on burning, but they had these Caterpillar tractors pumping water, so they finally extinguished the fire. My brother, and his helper, and I, we were on top of our roof with wet mop and broom, sweeping away the embers that came flying. Because the wind blew that way, see? (Laughs) We fought the fire the best we could. We saved our building, though. Then, there was a building across the street where this Paia Mercantile building is. While we were fighting the fire, someone looked up and noticed that building caught fire, because of the heat of that big flame that blow which way--you know, this way and that way--with the wind. So, everybody started scrambling up on the side of the building putting out the fire. (Laughs) Boy, we had a ball that night. (Laughs) Terrific, this kind.

WN: So, they don't really know how it started then?

YM: They don't know. But that night, they found out this particular owner of that new building had disappeared. They couldn't locate him. They couldn't locate him for about a month. Finally, they got word that he was in Shanghai. How he got there or why he got there, they don't know. He was kind of . . .

WN: Before he left, did he sell the building?

YM: No, was still his. That, and the service station, and the tire sales building, all belonged to him. He had a brother there. Tam Ho and Tam Hoi. Their father was Tam Chong. Had a store originally, that section of [Lower] Paia. It was a very going concern, but suddenly, it swamped and went into receivership. He claimed bankruptcy

and all that. It was a very peculiar situation. Somehow, those two brothers couldn't get along. Things like that, I'm talking about family competition. After the fire, they couldn't locate the guy. The charred remains of the building was left standing there for a long time before they finally tore it down and cleared the place up. So, the brand-new display showroom never even was used.

WN: Was this the area where Economy Store is now? In that section? Is that where the fire was?

YM: No. The fire started right--as I say, on the lower road, that Baldwin Avenue going up--right on the corner there.

WN: The corner across from Paia Mercantile?

YM: Yeah, across from Paia Mercantile. You'll see a vacant lot there. Right in the corner there's a shop there. Used to be Wimpy's corner.

WN: But your store was pretty close to that, huh?

YM: Yeah. We were only few doors above that Baldwin Avenue.

WN: Up toward the mill, yeah?

YM: Yeah, that's why the embers were flying all over the place. We up on the roof with a wet mop (laughs) and a broom, sweeping off the flying embers. We all had wooden and tarpaper roof.

WN: That [Lower] Paia [branch], who was working there? How many staff members were there?

YM: Only my eldest brother and one assistant--one man--and his wife. I mean, my brother's wife. We were a small outfit--a one-man store.

WN: Did you deal with the same wholesalers when you moved to [Lower] Paia that you did in Wailuku?

YM: Yeah. On Maui, the only wholesaler was this Maui Dry Goods Company. Well, they didn't have very many items that we sold, so we bought most of our stuff from Honolulu wholesalers. Theo H. Davies, American Factors, McKesson and Robbins--they're the drug wholesalers. And Davies [was] a drug wholesaler, too. And AmFac. Places like that. Of course, we have few other places. Then, we bought stuff directly from Mainland manufacturers, too. But not too much from Mainland. It cost too much to get it in, whereas, the wholesalers in Honolulu will handle all the details. So, it would be much easier and cheaper for us to get from Honolulu wholesalers than to buy direct.

WN: How did you get in contact with the Honolulu wholesalers?

YM: Well, they always send their representative over from the Mainland.

The manufacturer will send their "detail man," they call 'em. They came calling on the drugstores, hospitals, doctors, dentists.

WN: You folks had drug items, and you folks had the fountain and the lunch counter. What else did you sell?

YM: Cosmetics. We sold lot of cosmetics. And we sold lot of health support items, like things that they use in a hospital that you would use at home, like bedpans, urinals, and syringes--those hypodermic syringes using insulin for diabetics--and dressings, all kinds of dressings, and all kinds of antiseptics for home use. All those kind of items that the drugstore will carry.

WN: What about things like shampoo and soap?

YM: Oh, yes. We sold all those cosmetics items. And we handled magazines. We had a magazine corner. Couple of counters were greeting cards. That was big item--greeting card business was quite a thing. And the magazines--well, there's very little profit in magazines, plenty work. You see, a twenty-five cents magazine, they [wholesalers] used to charge us twenty-three cents for a twenty-five cents magazine. We make only a couple of pennies selling one item. Things like that, it was more on a consignment basis. If we don't sell the item, then we tear off the cover, we return for credit. That's a old American style business--the consignment business. You pay whatever you sell. So, you didn't take a loss. That is, you're not supposed to according to the arrangement. But then, you didn't make much because the margin was so small. Because the magazine dealers had to make their profit. So, there, you see the margin going down to practically nothing.

I don't know about these big automobile business, but like the jewelers, they have their consignment business, too. But that, the jewelers, their margin of profit--their markup--is so big. An item, maybe, actually cost them a hundred dollars, they'll mark it up to about \$600. But they don't sell that item every day. Every once in a blue moon, you sell a \$600 item. But when you do sell it, then you pay the wholesaler the \$100. But in the meantime, you are holding that \$600 worth of diamond or watch or whatnot. But then, they are insured. I understand the wholesalers themselves insure their item, not the retailer. Because then, the insurance money will cost too much into their profit. But if they had to pay their own insurance, then the wholesaler will give them a little extra profit deducted from the cost. That's how I understand. I had a friend, and he had a jewelry shop. That's the way they . . . . But when come to fast moving item like watch repairing, that's their bread-and-butter item--watch repairing, anything, repairing. So, that's just their skill, their labor, that they're charging you for, not an actual item.

WN: What about things like delivery? Did you folks deliver at all in [Lower] Paia?

YM: No. We had no delivery system.

WN: People had to come to your store to get what they wanted?

YM: Mostly, yeah. In case of emergencies, I used to jump in my car. Grab whatever they need and rush to that. Well, we knew practically everybody in the neighborhood by first name. (Laughs) So, that's a old country store style. Then, of course, like in Wailuku, it was in a little town. In Kahului, too. But we had no actual delivery service.

WN: What about credit? Did you extend credit to any of the . . .

YM: Yes, to our sorrow. (Laughs)

WN: Who did you extend credit to?

YM: Well, they'll have to have pretty good references. But then--this a old story, but you're going to laugh--take some of these Hawaiian people, they great for it. Not only Hawaiians. We had Japanese, too, like that. Portuguese and whatnot. But a guy with a bum credit, he come with some kind fancy kind recommendation. So, a store will issue credit. This guy will keep on buying, but he'll pay a little at a time. So, they keep giving that guy the merchandise because he keep on paying. Not all completely, but . . .

(Taping interrupted, then resumes.)

YM: Anyway, the guy will buy so much, maybe, twenty dollar worth of stuff, then end of the month, he'll pay ten dollars. Leave a ten-dollar balance. But that's all right. [YM thought], "Ah, next month, he'll catch up." Then, the next month, he buy twenty dollar worth again. Then, he pay only ten dollars. Then, they'll be a twenty-dollar balance left over. And so on. Pretty soon, he'll have pretty big balance on the debit side, not on the credit side. So then, you sort of hint to the guy. Say, "Hey, how about making more payment on your balance?" Then, the guy won't come to your store anymore. He goes to another store for credit. Then, he start the same rigamarole again. Pull that stunt on another store. Then, they get mad. When they get mad, well, he goes to another store. That's how the bum credit guys usually work, that way.

So, we know, more or less, among the merchants. We have sort of a blacklist. This guy, credit, got a number system. Either a one plus, or one minus. A very bad one get ten minus. Then we, hey-hey, blackballing this guy. Nobody's going to extend him credit anymore. He doesn't pay his bills. All this, we had to, no matter where you go. Especially the pharmacies--I don't know, today, may not be as close like before--they used to have a blacklist of all these so-called bum customers. But majority of your customers, well, they were honest enough. Sooner or later, they catch up and pay their debt. But then, every year, we mark off--write off in

our tax return--credit loss. Loss from sales, loss from damages, loss from pilferage.

WN: You said, somebody had to have reference before they could get credit. How did they prove that they had this reference?

YM: In a small store, credit is more or less by mouth. They had no recommendation written out by any particular person. So, they come around and say they want to buy merchandise on credit. We ask 'em who they are, where they're from, who their friends are. So, we tell 'em, "Okay, you come back tomorrow. In the meantime, he figure, they going ask his friends. Lot of friends, some of them have in for you, they give you good word. If they like you, even though you one bum credit, they say, "Oh, he's all right." But that's what you have to depend on. So, there's no such thing as credit reference, other than word by mouth from a friend. Lots of time, we get this. He may appear like a very nice guy, but his credit is no bloody good. (Laughs)

WN: Oh, you mean, sometimes you have to gamble? You have to gamble on the guy?

YM: Yeah, you have to gamble. But gambling is very risky because he may have a bunch of guys that he refer to. You go and talk to them, well, they've been talked to beforehand by this particular guy, so they won't give you any bum reply. Then, among the merchants, we have this so-called, we might say, a blacklist. Mostly by mouth. We'll ask the other merchant, "Hey, this certain guy, you think he's okay?"

Say, "No. Don't trust that guy." They give you the no sign. Then, that's enough. You keep away from that guy. You tell 'em, "No dice." But then, some guy, "Oh, I don't know that guy. He's new around here. He came from such and such a place." Then, it's up to you to go back to that such and such a place where he came from and make inquiries. And usually, a guy who leaves a particular spot, they left for some peculiar reason, and one of them is bad credit.

WN: You mean, leave someplace in Hawaii?

YM: Yeah, around Hawaii, not from the Mainland. Mainland guys, we never trusted them. They all crooks. (Laughs) Because they all try to pull something on you.

WN: Did you have any kind of collection system?

YM: Yeah. They were couple of collecting agencies here--local agencies. We gave them all our bad credit card--list them. They go around and try and collect. We had the garnishee lawyers. You know what garnishee lawyers are? These lawyers that don't have much to do. You give 'em a list, and they'll put a garnishee on them--take 'em

to court.

WN: What is it? Garnishee? Japanese?

YM: No, no, no. That's English word. Garnishment, they call it in English, but we call it garnishee. This lawyer will get a court order to make this guy appear in court to show cause why he didn't pay that, whatever he's in debt. Now, the court will force him, more or less, to commit himself to make payment for the complainant--the plaintiff that say they want court settlement. If the guy refuses to pay them, then the court can throw him in jail in lieu of payment for whatever he owes. It's now in the statute books. You can do it like that. But then, you don't want so far. But lot of these collecting agencies, they act a different way. They go calling on this guy's home. This guy will promise to pay this and that and he reneges. Then, the collecting agency guy will go and pick up whatever property this guy own. Maybe a radio or TV set or whatever valuable--that amount to the equal value that he owes the other guy--and take it away from him.

WN: Did this happen a lot?

YM: Used to, not anymore. They have a law protecting this. What law was that? That was put up not too long ago. You cannot do that anymore--confiscate any property in lieu of payment.

WN: Seems like it was easy for a plantation resident to go to the plantation store and buy things because they could charge.

YM: Yeah. And the plantation store always carried them on their credit list. Of course, they had all kinds of troubles with 'em. Many of them are way behind in their payments. But as long as they're working for the plantation, they won't deny them the items that they require--mostly household items, food and whatnot. So, the plantations were very lenient because they were always way in the hole. As far as the credit side is concerned, I heard from these workers. The head bookkeeper in the plantation store and we [were both] doing business, so we always talk about it. He say, oh, in their shop, they have some headache. A guy will buy all kinds of stuff and don't pay a cent. And yet, they couldn't fire him because he's working for the plantation. Then, when the labor union came in [in 1946], that made things worse. You fire the guy on things like that, you got the whole damn union come after you.

WN: Couldn't they deduct from the paycheck?

YM: They had monthly deduction from their payroll, especially when they buy big items like household refrigerators, washers, or automobiles or something. They have automatic payroll deduction. Now, on top of that, I think lot of these people who buy on credit will have to carry special insurance on the items that they buy. Of course, remember, it's an automobile. The guy buys a car, and then he uses

it and doesn't pay for it. In the meantime, he may abuse the usage of the car. By the time the company goes to retake the car, it may be a total wreck--no value. In that kind of case, to protect the seller, this guy will have to pay an insurance on the item, so the insurance company will reimburse the seller. Well, that kind of thing, of course, it was only in the business side. Some have and some don't. In the early days, we never had such things like that. The garnishee was the strongest way of collecting bad debt. But then, we were compensated for bad debt. We used to have a bad debt deduction in our tax returns. Every year, you can deduct from your total income.

WN: Who was doing your tax returns? Who was your bookkeeper? (YM points to himself.) Oh, you were?

YM: I was the guy that did all that. In fact, I used to make tax returns for all the [branches].

WN: You did?

YM: Well, when I got smart enough, they gave me the job.

WN: Who's "they"?

YM: My dad and my brothers, they couldn't be bothered with a little detail like that. So, I used to make all the returns. You know, file all the claims.

WN: So, in 1933, that's when your dad decided to sell to Toda?

YM: He fell down with a touch of stroke. He was paralyzed on one side. So, he asked me, out of a blue sky, he said, "Hey, son. I want you to get married right away."

I said, "Huh?" (Laughs) So, I got married that same year--1933. And few months after we were married and settled, he took off.

WN: He gave you the Wailuku store?

YM: Yeah, I was running the Wailuku store, anyway. My eldest brother was running the [Lower] Paia store.

WN: And Toda was running . . .

YM: Toda was running the Kahului store, but that's when he sold Toda completely the half that he owned. Mr. Toda became sole owner of that store in Kahului.

WN: So, next time, we'll pick up from right there--1933.

END OF INTERVIEW

Tape No. 7-53-2-80 and 7-54-2-80

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Yutaka "Buck" Machida (YM)

March 4, 1980

Kahului, Maui

BY: Warren Nishimoto (WN)

WN: This is an interview with Mr. Yutaka "Buck" Machida. Today is March 4, 1980, and we're at his home in Kahului, Maui.

Okay, Mr. Machida, last time we got up to 1933 when your father sold the Kahului branch to Toda, and he gave the [Lower] Paia branch to your older brother and gave the Wailuku branch to you. From 1933 on, you managed the store in Wailuku?

YM: Yeah.

WN: So, what were the differences between the Wailuku store and the [Lower] Paia store?

YM: What do you mean by "difference"?

WN: In terms of what was being sold?

YM: Oh, practically the same things. We have a soda fountain in Wailuku, we have a soda fountain in [Lower] Paia. The one in Kahului had soda fountain, too. And we had a drug room, the so-called laboratory where we keep compounding drugs. Three places [branches] had it. In those days, in 1933, filling prescription in a drugstore had just begun. It's not like today--it's cut-and-dried. They have a system, the pharmacy. They all follow about the same system. That is, the pharmacist receives the prescription from the doctor. All right, now, he fills the prescription, and he keeps a record of that prescription. Usually they have what they call a family record. It's named after the head of a family and all--his spouse and children--and then, let's say, a history of their medical problems. A record is kept of all their prescriptions. Not everybody goes to one pharmacy, so all the pharmacies have different ways of keeping records. Of course, we always file our prescriptions in a regular prescription cabinet, so that we can always refer to whatever was dispensed. All the details are written on that prescription. Outside of that, in the family record system, we have more than just a record of medication. Many other things are recorded. So,

the doctor may call the pharmacy and ask them if they have such and such a person that brought in a prescription. He can always call the pharmacy and check up on him. [For example], what happened to his patient--whether he took the medication and conked or took the medication and got well. Some of them, they never bother to inform the doctor whether the medication was effective, or ineffective, or whatnot. It's very impersonal today. He just write out a prescription, "Here. Go to a drugstore. Have this medication . . . "

WN: You mean, it didn't matter if somebody had a record or not of that person?

YM: Yeah, before, they never kept a record, but soon after the war [World War II], more definite record was kept. That was after 1945, of course. But in 1933, it was still early yet. Only one--my brother in [Lower] Paia used to fill some prescriptions. In Wailuku, my dad had been a old school pharmacist. He used to make up his own prescriptions for the patient. That was the general practice those days.

Well, in 1945, after the Second World War, we had a great influx of new people here. They demanded certain things that we never catered to before. We never kept records, we didn't have that many prescriptions to fill. And then, these pharmaceutical firms started putting out all these new drugs--sulfur drugs and antibiotics. The first one was penicillin, of course. Things like that changed the whole picture of dispensing medication through a pharmacy. Then, prescription were more frequently used than before. Especially when it comes to, you know, you wouldn't dare dispense any kind of a antibiotic or sulfur drug without a prescription. Terrible, big fines were imposed on people who broke the law.

The old pharmacists, we were not too well informed about those things like the new ones that just came out of college. That's when they start stressing you have to be a graduate of an accredited college of pharmacy before you can even apply for an examination to get a pharmacy license in the State of Hawaii. Well, we were not quite a state then. Gradually, the law had been renovated, became up-to-date, you might say. So, the pharmacy of today--that is, after the Second World War--was so much different from the previous time before the Second World War. After we became a state in 1959, things have changed more so. Really different, even in the hospitals. The procedure changed very much.

In the early days, prior to 1933--let's go back to the 1920s--we never even heard of a doctor writing a prescription for the pharmacist to fill. As far as that goes, the way I saw it, the doctor had a bag. He had his own medication with him. He didn't bother to write or scribble, "Go to the pharmacy and have this filled." Later on, say in 1933, when I was doing business, such thing as prescription was known. I remember, even before that time, when my brother just came back from college, these haole doctors in the

plantations and hospitals. There were only a few other doctors outside. Most of them were connected to the plantation hospitals and the plantation clinics. I remember my brother receiving a prescription. He knew all about filling scripts and all that. He taught me then what to do in case I get a prescription. I wasn't a registered pharmacist yet. So, he used to fill all the prescriptions.

He explained to me what he learned in Philadelphia in the school there. They had a regular, practical pharmacy. I mean, a pharmacy where they learned to apply their teachings to a practical turn, where they actually worked in there. The pharmacy was owned by the school. So, they learned routine business. They learned how to run a drugstore, and how to fill prescriptions, and all the other whatnot that went along with the pharmacy. Of course, in the school course, they had no such thing as a soda fountain or lunch counter. It was strictly a pharmaceutical firm.

My brother came back around 1926. Nineteen twenty-six [1926], he was back already because we opened the store in 1927 in [Lower] Paia. That's when my dad put him in charge of it, and I was helping him for a while. Well, right along from there on, that's when I learned that doctors were writing prescriptions. And there were more independent doctors around--outside of the plantation doctors. Gradually the whole thing built up that way. More and more people were not connected directly with the plantation. They didn't have any medical plan with the plantation, so they had their own medical plan.

Just around that time, HMSA [Hawaii Medical Service Association] was born. When was HMSA started? Was it after the Second World War or was it before the Second World War? [HMSA started in 1938.] Anyway, HMSA isn't too old. When that medical plan came out, there were not too many involved in that medical plan until, gradually, they began to see the value of the HMSA plan. The plantation people had no worry about HMSA because they had their medical plan of their own, and the plantation always took care of their employees--all their workers. But there were a lot of people outside of the plantation, and they didn't have any sort of a medical plan until HMSA came into being. Then, the whole thing changed again. We had this HMSA plan, and we had a Kaiser plan. Then, the union became strong. They had this HGEA [Hawaii Government Employees Association]. Most of them went to HMSA. Then, we had the UPW [United Public Workers]. Many of the UPW went to this Kaiser plan.

WN: What about ILWU [International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union]?

YM: Well, ILWU was more inclusive. Later on, when the state and county employees began to unionize, then they had these blue-collar mostly join the UPW, United Public Workers, and the white-collar mostly joined the HGEA, Hawaii Government Employees Association. They

were all inclusive with the ILWU when this new organization came out. The association including all these. I belong to that, too, so I have a card.

(YM looks for the card in his wallet.)

YM: Here. See what I was looking for.

WN: After the union came in, did people start buying drugs from you folks? People from outside?

YM: Oh, yeah. The buying of drugs and stuff has been continuous. But when the union came into being, around that time, the plantations have given up the idea of maintaining the hospital. We had a big hospital in Paia, a big hospital in Puunene. Those are the two big plantations on Maui. MA Company--Maui Agricultural Company [Paia], and HC&S [Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar] Company [Puunene], and the Wailuku Sugar [Company]. Over in Lahaina, we had a Pioneer Mill. Those are the big sugar plantations. Wailuku [Sugar Company] didn't have hospitalization because they're depending on that old Malulani Hospital, which was more like a county hospital. [It was] public, not strictly for the plantation. This Puunene Hospital was strictly for the HC&S Company employees. Of course, there could be some other outside cases, too. The doctors had their own practice besides the plantation practice. The same with Paia.

Because of the union's demands, the plantations were, more or less, forced to cut out a lot of these fringe benefits, like free hospitalization and medication. So, they shut down the Puunene Hospital, and they put a clinic down there--the Maui Clinic. Right below here [in Kahului]. There, they handled all these out patient--plantation out patient clinic--where they fill all the prescriptions and get their medication. They have to belong to this plantation medical plan. And they have to be bonafide plantation employees in order to join this medical plan, and their family. They could get--some of them on the very low income group, I guess--they were getting free medication from this clinic. They were hospitalized at Maui Memorial Hospital because the Puunene Hospital was discontinued. The Paia Hospital was . . .

WN: Do you know about when they discontinued the plantation hospitals?

YM: I don't know the exact date, but I would say just around the time or shortly after they started moving the plantation people down here [to Kahului]. They were discontinuing the plantation camps. It was costing the plantation a lot of money to maintain these camps--keep the houses in good repair, provide free water, electricity, and firewood or kerosene. That was gradually discontinued. The plantation camps were completely abandoned. They tore down and burned all the termite-ridden homes and pulled out all the pipes from the foundations, and plowed that area and planted in cane. I can go to Upper Paia today. You find all the old landmarks gone.

All canefields [today]. There were, I would say, four major camps or five major camps in Upper Paia. Only the very few--they were more luna's homes, overseers, the better homes--are left. They are rented out by the plantation to individuals. But the old plantation employee's homes, they are all torn down. Most of them were burned because all termite-ridden. They all plowed under and producing cane now.

That shows how much the picture has changed, as far as the plantation people's lives were concerned. Now, many of them have plantation pensions, but you must remember the salary paid by the plantation to those early laborers--well, today, they're old people--was a very small amount. I remember they used to come to the store, and I used to pity them because they have only about thirty-five dollars a month income. That's the pension income. Of course, they were provided with a free home. That's how they lived. But then, many of the plantation homes were discontinued, and they're forced to move some area down here [Kahului]. And then, luckily, this Hale Mahaolu and Hale Makua [retirement homes], I think, came up just around that time, too. That took up the slack. The old people, they were taken in. They were provided with homes, anyway, in Hale Mahaolu. At first, even today I hear, the plantations are footing some of the bills. They're the third party.

This is getting away from pharmacy, but it's connected with the medical plan, hospitalization, and so on. While I was working up in Kula Sanitorium [after YM left his Lower Paia pharmacy], we were so isolated from this section here--there were no drugstores or pharmacies up there--so they were forced to come to me for medication. That's why I had so much more to do than these other hospital pharmacies. In Malulani or Maui Memorial Hospital, they bought the medications and the medical supplies strictly to be used in the hospital there. They did not fill out patient's prescriptions. They were told to go to a drugstore in Kahului-- Longs, or Toda's, or Craft's--to have their prescription filled. In other words, the state didn't want to compete with local drugstores. But up in Kula, being so isolated, we didn't bother these pharmacies down here at all. Those people wouldn't come all the way down here to have their prescription filled unless it was absolutely necessary. So, my little pharmacy--puka in a wall, I call it--I covered all sort of pharmaceuticals to fill the prescriptions the doctors wrote for the local people. That was a county-maintained hospital before the state.

WN: Okay, so after the union eliminated the perquisites and everything, the hospital and things like that, did business pick up because the people went to outside drugstores?

YM: Yes, yes. Business did pick up in certain ways. A whole lot of business was thrown onto these so-called pharmacies. Then, many of these independent [i.e., non-plantation] doctors started coming in after the Second World War, lot of private practitioners. The sad

part was, the problem came up like this. Those practitioners couldn't see to write a prescription and give the prescription to the pharmacist to fill. He'd [want to] make the money selling the drug, huh? So, he started to stock up on pharmaceuticals, himself. Many of these independent doctors had just like a pharmacy in their own office. You've heard about big kind troubles in Honolulu, too, where the doctors were dispensing medication. Here, before, the doctor used to squawk because the pharmacist used to diagnose the patient's sickness and prescribe medication, and was selling them the medication. They didn't like that. They said that was the doctor's work to make a diagnosis of the patient's condition. The pharmacist was not trained for that. And now, the doctors started dispensing medication. Then the pharmacist had a gripe against them. Why should the doctor---he's not the one that supposed to fill a prescription or sell prescription drugs to the patient. That's the pharmacist's job. The doctor supposed to write the prescription, and the pharmacist fills the prescription. So, here, we had a big hubbub.

The doctor, I guess to spite the pharmacist, he wouldn't even write a prescription. He'll fill the prescription for his own patient. They have no law that the doctor cannot do that. Because the doctor is well qualified to do that because he had to graduate from a accredited medical school; he had to know enough about pharmaceuticals, as much or more than the pharmacist. Well, the pharmacist knows more about pharmaceuticals than the doctor. The doctor knows more about the human body to diagnose sickness and prescribe the medication to a sick person, but unless the doctor knew about the medication, how can he prescribe the medication? So, the pharmacist knows something about the human biological system, but he is not licensed to diagnose this patient's illness. He's not supposed to be trained for that; the doctor is trained for that. He's [pharmacist] trained to fill a prescription, keep the proper kind of medication, and learn to compound the medication into the prescription.

But the doctor said, "What's the sense of writing out a prescription for the pharmacist? He doesn't have the stuff to fill the prescription." He had his medicinal friends put up all kinds of medication--ready-made medications--and very close to what he wants. So, he just call the medicine by the name. Since the pharmacist cannot compound it, he [doctor] buy the already compounded medication and sell it to the patient, which is not fair, if you look at it from the pharmacist's viewpoint. But look at it at the doctor's viewpoint. That's where the big money is. Before, the doctor never used to charge so much for diagnosis. Suppose you walk in with a cold--a cough. The only thing he could do is take your temperature. You say "ah," he look down your throat, see if there's any sign of different pathological conditions that shows. By that, you can diagnose the patient's condition. And then, he supposed to write down a prescription and give the directions for the patient--how to take that medication that he go and buy at the pharmacy. But no, the doctor started to fill their own prescription and put the

directions on the label. He doesn't even have to put the name of the medication, because he is giving the medication directly to the patient. That's what the doctor claims, but you know darn well he could just as well write a prescription and tell the pharmacist to fill it. But that way, the money goes to the pharmacy. This way, the doctor will charge you for the diagnosis, maybe five dollars for saying, "ah," and ten dollars for the prescription. Whereas, if he say only diagnosis, "You say, 'ah,' I charge you five dollars," they say, "Gee, this damn doctor. Only for saying, 'ah,' I got to give him five dollars." But then, his background, his training to become a physician--spend a lot of money to go to college and all that--so, he's entitled to charge them the fee. Whereas the pharmacist, he didn't spend that kind of money going to doctor's school, even to pharmacy school, that much. But he cannot tell the patient, "Eh, say, 'ah,' and give me five dollars." He has no license for that. He's not supposed to do that. So, the whole thing is a big muddle.

WN: So, how was it resolved?

YM: Well, it resolved itself. Gradually the medications began to be more expensive. The reason for that is, a medicinal firm--say, Lilly Company, Parke Davis Company, or Upjohn Company--all these big ones, they spend billions of dollars in research. And then, they spend a lot of money, millions probably, in finding a certain new drug, especially antibiotics. They grow mold cultures, all kinds of molds, then they test it on laboratory animals, and find the efficacy of this certain antibiotic. And then, they'll test it and keep on testing until they knew that it was quite safe. Then they test it clinically on a human. And then, they find that it has no toxic reaction, and it did the work of eliminating certain bacteria that was causing the sickness. Then they pass it to this U.S. Food and Drug people, and they go through this test again. Then they give 'em the okay, "Go ahead. You can manufacture it." Now, all that takes time, research, [and] money just to develop one drug. Now they got the okay from the Food and Drug people--they call 'em FDA--then they have to, at their own expense, get the proper ingredients and manufacture that drug. So, naturally, when the drug comes out, it's going to cost quite a bit, because they have to realize what they invested have to be gotten back from the sale of that drug--and the profit besides. So, that's why the price is high.

The sad part of this is our patent right and copyright, those two in particular. This pharmaceutical firm had the right to get a patent okay. They win a patent right on what they had invented--more or less, discovered--and they have their copyrights. They named it a certain drug. Nobody can use the same name. It's a copyrighted name. Now, the patent, anybody can copy, but it's in the patent office, and you are protected for seventeen years. Nobody can use that patent. But you can change the patent just a little bit and call it something else, which would be very close to

the original thing, then you circumvent the law. That's what all these fly-by-night, get-rich-quick firms been doing. They'll buy these expensive drugs. They have analytical chemists that can analyze 'em and get 'em right down, almost pat. Then, they start manufacturing this stuff with cheaper ingredients and no quality control, just as close as what the formula calls for. And then, they pick a name from the air, entirely different from what the medicinal firm called for. Then, they can sell it. They didn't waste a lot of money in research and lot of money in testing the drug, things like that. They just copying this guy's work by getting as close to the patented formula. And then, they call it by some other name so they won't infringe on the copyright name. Not only copyright, they call this . . . .

WN: Patent?

YM: Yeah. So, they can sell the same medication or similar--close to the same medication--for a small amount. Then it became known generally by the general public as generic drugs. Well, generic drugs, that term is very broad when you break it down. But roughly, generic drugs means the chemical ingredients of this drug is identical or very similar to this name brand drug. These cheaper companies--not only fly-by-night, but there are some pretty well known firms that make these drugs and sell it under a name for a very small amount compared to the original, regular name brand stuff.

Right now, in the paper, you see the state legislature did not pass this substitution law. [It was later passed.] If the doctor wrote a certain name brand drug, the pharmacist must abide by that and supply the exact drug the doctor called for. He cannot substitute a generic form, which is cheaper, and then, sell it under what the doctor had written in the prescription. That kind of thing, those are all technical points, but there's a lot to it. Whereas a medication may cost twenty-five dollars and the generic drug may sell for five dollars, it stands to reason that if that five-dollar medication can do the work of the twenty-five dollar medication, why should they pay so much? It's only the company who originate it want their money back. People think that way. But, no. When you get down to it technically, that's not the answer. Those fly-by-night manufacturers don't have their quality control systems, don't have their research system. They don't have this test system where they test on laboratory animals and all that before they put out on the market. These other companies do all that. So, these other companies suffering an extreme amount of cost, whereas the fly-by-night don't do that. So, it's entirely unfair.

WN: The doctors were actually buying the fly-by-night medications? Is that what you are saying?

YM: Well, it's hard to actually accuse them. Because lot of these fast talkers in the pharmacy side, they were substituting these generic drugs under the guise of these name brand price and making big

money. Many of them were caught. This is not just thinking. Many of the doctors were buying these generic drugs, and they were saying like this: they were giving this medication free to their patients. But their doctor's fee was much higher than normal.

WN: So, eventually, the doctors started writing out prescriptions for the pharmacist to fill?

YM: Yeah, eventually, many of these doctors found out after they opened an office in a town and filled their office with all kinds of pharmaceuticals. His right-hand nurse knows enough about these drugs to fill that doctor's prescription. To do that calls for a lot of money and time by the personnel--keep track of those things, keep an inventory, so to speak. So, the doctor gradually began to feel that it wasn't worth their time. They had enough patients that some of them couldn't handle all the patients that came through them. So, those are the ones that left this dispensing side completely and just wrote prescriptions as fast as they can. Then, charge 'em for the diagnosis--the doctor's fees, that's all. Well, today, doctor's fee is not that kind five-, ten-dollar kind of stuff. You go to a doctor, when you come out, you might as well leave your wallet and your checkbook over there. So, the whole picture has come to a point like that today--the pharmacy, and the doctor's pharmacy, and the doctor's office, and the hospital, and the hospital pharmacy. Today, the picture is entirely different from what we used to know as the good old drugstore. Those things are passe.

It's like, you might say, lot of grocery stores. Small grocery stores, they carried everything from soup to nuts. And then, by and by, come a supermarket. Boy, not only soup or nuts, they got a horse and buggy, and everything in there. So, you walk in a supermarket, you are completely supplied from liquor to food to dry goods. Some of them even sell medications. You've seen all those big supermarkets, what they have. Lot of these superduper drugstores like Longs, they even sell automobile parts in there. (Chuckles) You know that. Now, things have gradually changed like that. When you say pharmacy, what are you talking about? A pharmacy located in a hospital, they carry only the medication, injectables, and other pharmaceuticals, restricted drugs, and antibiotics, and all the kind of stuff you find in a hospital pharmacy. But you go to a Longs Drugs, they have all kinds of drugs in there, you don't find too many such things as injectables. You cannot just walk in a drugstore and say, "Hey, give me tetanus antitoxin," or measles . . . .

WN: Before, you could?

YM: Before, you couldn't because there wasn't any.

(Laughter)

YM: There weren't any. I mean, this kind of stuff where you need a technician to give you the injection--the doctor or the nurse who

was trained to do that. You cannot just go in there. Insulin, you could. I take insulin every day myself; I inject myself with it. But that is just one item--insulin. But all these other injectables like injection for measles, and german measles--they call rubella--and small pox, tetanus, and all that kind. You have black widow spider venom, and have snake venom, and all that kind of stuff, some of the big hospitals carry. Of course, up in Kula, I had to carry because we were so isolated. But those things, you cannot just walk in the drugstore and say you want to buy it, and the doctor will not write a prescription for you to buy that kind of stuff. Right? So, as I say, beginning again, when you say drug pharmacy, is it located in a hospital or a big hospital, or is it located in a clinic where they diagnose your case and give you little treatment. If it's any major operation, you go to a hospital. So, the clinic is all of those emergency stuff. The pharmacy in a clinic is much more well supplied with things in the pharmacy than Longs. They have all the first aid stuff. You can buy splints, and crutches, and stuff like that. Odd name medication, the drugstores may have. So, there, you see, you have all kinds of different kinds of pharmacies today.

And the pharmacist, now, when they come out, they say they are licensed pharmacists today. They all must be either five- or six-year graduate. Many of these pharmacists coming out as doctors. They are called doctors. They are doctors in pharmacy. The lowest one is a graduate pharmacist that came out of what today is five years at least. Used to be three or four years to be a graduate pharmacist. Then, the pharmacist, you might say, a BS in pharmacy, a Bachelor of Science degree in pharmacy. They call a graduate pharmacist. Then when they spend six years--you go a little more advanced--then you start following the doctors around the hospital, making rounds, watch what the doctors diagnose. That kind is today known as a doctor in pharmacy. They even tell the doctor what to prescribe for that condition.

WN: So, all these changes you're telling me now, are all mostly from after the war, and before the war, was different, yeah? Let me back up just a little bit. In 1937 you got sick. You and your brother both got TB. What became of the [Lower] Paia store and the Wailuku store?

YM: Well, the Wailuku store--because my wife had to move over to [Lower] Paia--Wailuku store, we sold it. We didn't sell the contents inside--the drugs and everything--but the location, the building, the fixtures and everything, I sold, so that it was no more. In [Lower] Paia, my wife moved over there. My brother was not there, no more pharmacist, too. So, that pharmacy in [Lower] Paia became a proprietary store. Just patent medicine, and lunch counter, and cosmetics.

WN: Because your brother who had a license couldn't be there?

YM: He wasn't there anymore. So, I got rid of all the prescription drugs.

WN: Oh, you had to because she [YM's wife] didn't have a [pharmacist's] license?

YM: Nobody was. I was carrying narcotics, and we had even a liquor license. Liquor, just bottle wine and beer. But narcotics, I had a few of the narcotics. But that's a lot of red tape on that stuff, and then I had to relinquish that to the narcotics bureau to get rid of 'em because I couldn't dispense anymore because I wasn't there. You have to be on the spot in order to dispense narcotics.

WN: But in 1937, you didn't have a license either, right?

YM: Yeah. Well, 1937, I didn't have. I was talking about 1945, then I became sick again, second time. That's when I had to get rid of all my narcotics and stuff. They won't even let you keep it in the premises. So, you have to get rid of 'em. You have to relinquish . . .

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

WN: So, when you were sick and your brother was sick, you folks had just one store left, yeah? [Lower] Paia. So, what kind of things were sold, again, in the store?

YM: We had patent medicine. You know, the ordinary stuff you find in a drugstore on the counter, those kind of medication, and cosmetics--women's cosmetics and men's--like lipstick, face powder, and soaps, and men's shaving stuff. We sold boxed candies, and greeting cards, lots of big items. Then we had this lunch counter and sold sandwiches, and soft drinks, hamburgers, ice cream, and whatnot. That's known as just an ordinary proprietary store with lunch counter. That's what it was. But we had no prescription drugs, like that. That's the difference between a drugstore and a proprietary store. Long's is a proprietary store with a pharmacy in it.

WN: Did your volume of sales decrease?

YM: [YM is referring to the post-1945 period, after receiving his pharmacist's license.] Well, I would say, no. Not to any great extent because my prescription business in [Lower] Paia was way low. By that time--in 1957, I got sick--most of the plantation people have moved down here to Kahului, and the plantation villages were gone, the hospital was gone. In fact, up to that time, I had only one doctor in [Lower] Paia that I was working with--Dr. Ohata--and he joined this medical group in Wailuku. You know, Maui Medical Group? Well, he was a charter member of that group. So, only the people

from upcountry and [Lower] Paia that went down to Wailuku to the doctor's office and got a prescription came to my place on their way home, and I filled their prescription. Whereas, while he was practicing in [Lower] Paia, his patients used to come to me. I was in [Lower] Paia, so I used to fill their prescriptions. That business became very small when the doctor moved to Wailuku--his practice was moved to Wailuku--and he didn't take any more patients in [Lower] Paia. So, the general business of my store--my wife was running the lunch counter and the proprietary section--it didn't change much. Only the additional--while I was there--was filling the prescription, and of course, I sold a little more of the merchandise because I was the boss in there. But you wouldn't say, monetarily speaking, there was not too much of a difference in the daily sales. We were a small store operation, not a big outfit.

WN: About 1945, after you got out of the hospital, you got your pharmacy license?

YM: Yeah, 1946.

WN: You were able to . . .

YM: That's when I was able to fill prescriptions. And that's when Dr. Ohata just came back from his war services from the Mainland, and he established the Ohata . . . . His dad was a doctor. He just died the other day. We were at funeral services day before yesterday. Anyway, the old Dr. Ohata, he wasn't practicing because he was in concentration camp, too. The whole place was confiscated by the war . . .

WN: Alien Properties Custody Act?

YM: Yeah. Alien custody. Then, when the young doctor came back, they gave him back all the property. And then, he started practicing there. It was after 1946. Nineteen forty-six or 1947, he came back. By then, I had my pharmacy license, and I was carrying prescription drugs. Some of the people upcountry went to see different doctors in Kahului and Wailuku, and on their way home, they used to stop in my store to have their prescription filled. Today, you'll laugh. Many a time, I will be out of a drug, so I tell my customer, "Say, are you in a hurry to use this?"

He say, "No, not too much. Why?"

Say, "Oh, I'm temporarily out. Can you wait couple days? I'll get it for you."

"Yeah, okay. I come back in couple days."

(Laughs) Today, you tell a customer that, boy, he spit in your face.

(Laughter)

WN: Why? He go someplace else?

YM: Naturally. Can't be bothered with a (tape garbled) say, "Hey, you come back next week, I get for you." (Laughs)

WN: But you were the only drugstore in [Lower] Paia at that time?

YM: Machida Pharmacy in Paia was the only pharmacy in the whole of East Maui.

WN: Oh, yeah? You mean, including Kahului?

YM: No. Kahului is not East Maui. Kahului is Central Maui. And Wailuku is West Maui.

WN: Oh, [Lower] Paia is East Maui?

YM: [Lower] Paia is East Maui.

(Laughter)

WN: This Dr. Ohata, did he sell his own drugs, too, or he referred all his patients to you?

YM: He didn't carry much pharmaceuticals. Only the emergency kind. He wrote out all his prescriptions. He was one of these modern doctors that came out from the modern school. His dad used be different. He never used to prescribe, he used to give his own medication to his patients. In fact, he had a hospital there in Paia. If you try talk to the Paia people, they tell you about Ohata Hospital, ancient time. They started in Wailuku when we had our old pharmacy. That was after 1915, then we moved to Wailuku. Maui Drugs was right across from our place. Next to Maui Drugs there was an old Hawaiian home--big yard and a home--and in the back, Dr. Ohata built a two-story hospital. Just a little cubiclelike. And the main building, he had his operating room, and he carried some pharmaceuticals in there. Those days, the pharmaceuticals, they weren't much. Early days, yeah? I can tell you this, if you open a doctor's black bag in 1915, you never even found aspirin in there. He had for severe pain, laudanum, which is tincture of opium.

WN: How do you spell that?

YM: Laudanum, L-A-U-D-A-N-U-M. That's tincture of opium. Today we have paregoric, which is tincture of opium camphorated--a mild form of opium, good for bellyache. They still use paregoric. Maybe they had stuff similar to aspirin. They had (tape garbled) and thenacetin.

WN: How you spell that?

YM: Thenacetin is T-H-E-N-A-C-E-T-I-N. Thenacetin.

WN: Did those doctors carry those old Japanese kind powdered medicines?

YM: I don't think so. They had very few that kind of drugs that they carried. Emergency stuff. They didn't carry any antitoxin, or measles vaccine, or things around, because all have to be under refrigeration.

WN: When did you stop seeing those medicine vendors?

YM: When I was in [Lower] Paia, there were medicine vendors.

(Taping stops, then resumes.)

YM: When we had that drugstore in [Lower] Paia, we had couple girls working in the soda fountain. One of the girls was . . . . I tell you what she was. One day, one of my good customers, friend of mine, came to the back office where I was sitting in the back room. Say, "Hey, Buck. I want to talk to you."

I said, "Sure. Come in. What's up? Anything the matter?"

He said, "Yeah. You know, you better get rid of that girl you got working at the fountain--the new girl."

I said, "Why? She's a good worker, you know."

Say, "She may be good worker, but she's driving your customers away."

"How can she drive my customers away?"

"Well, she telling them not to drink coffee, not to drink Coca-Cola. They're poisons."

Say, "What? Don't give me that."

"Okay, you don't believe me. You call her in, and you question her. That's what she just told me--not to drink coffee because it's poison."

Say, "Well, I'll be."

Then he went away. I told my wife, "Hey, call the girl. I want to talk to her."

So, my wife brought the girl in the back. She was all worried. "What's the matter?"

Say, "Well, I want to talk to you. Sit down." I asked her pointblank. "Did you tell my customer not to drink coffee? Not to drink Coca-Cola?"

"Of course!" she said, very ferociously, to me. "Of course. You cannot ask people to drink poison."

I said, "What poison?"

She say, "Coffee is poison, and so is liquor, and so is Coca-Cola--that's the same poison in coffee."

And I began to think, "I wonder. Couldn't be." She didn't look like one. A plain Japanese girl, kind of round face, long hair. I look at her. Just came to my mind, so I asked her, "What religion do you belong to?"

"I'm a Mormon. I go to church every Sunday. I have great belief in the Mormon religion."

And inside, I was thinking, "I thought so." So, I said, "In the Mormon religion, they teach you not to drink coffee?"

"Yes, they do. They taught us that coffee is poison. You drink coffee, and God will punish you, and you die!"

"Oh, my God. And you told that to my customers?"

"Yes, I did."

Oh, what're you going to do? So, I say, "Okay. That's all." I tell my wife, "Get rid of her. Get rid of her before she ruin my business." Actually happened.

WN: How did you get rid of her?

YM: Well, my wife tell her that her services are not required anymore. And she knew that I was huhū. Then, you know, this girl? She comes from a very poor family. She didn't have money to go and have high education. But through the Mormon Church, she got a scholarship, and she went to Utah--Salt Lake City, and went to school there and became a schoolteacher. Then, she came back. The Mormon system, they give you all the free education, and you dedicate two years of your life to their service. That's what she did. She was a very intelligent girl and all that, but she was a Mormon. And it happened like that in my store. So, I had to let her go.

WN: Your [Lower] Paia store, what did it look like? Was there a . . . .

YM: It's still there--the building, and it's a . . . .

YM: There's a counter in the front. Is that the same counter?

YM: Yeah, I believe so. I haven't been in there for a long time. It's just a eatery, now--the lunch counter [now called Pic-nic].

WN: Yeah, sandwich shop.

YM: Sandwich shop. Ours was more than a little sandwich. We dispensed sandwiches, and ice cream, cold drinks, and hamburgers. We used to prepare light plate luncheon. We had quite a number of customers. Some of them used to work in the MA Company offices. People like that that didn't want to waste their time going home to cook their meal, they come down for a snack.

WN: From what time to what time would that store be opened?

YM: Our store in [Lower] Paia--prior to the Second [World] War--we opened 7:30 in the morning and used to close around 9 [o'clock] at night. But then, during the war years, we had this curfew. We cannot open beyond 4 o'clock in the afternoon. All business have to be closed by 4, and everybody be off the street--curfew, you know. So, for a long time, it wasn't 4 o'clock anymore, it was opened till about 5, after 5 [o'clock p.m.]. We start about 8 [o'clock] in the morning.

Before, we used to work in the store from 7:30 in the morning till 9 [o'clock] at night. We had no such thing as a eight-hour day and time and a half overtime if you work over eight hours. No such thing until this union [ILWU] came in. I used to work--you figure--from 7 [o'clock] in the morning, right around the clock to 7 [o'clock] in the evening, that's twelve hours. And to 11 [o'clock p.m.], another four hours more. That's sixteen hours a day, I used to be in the store.

WN: What would you do between 7 and 11 [o'clock p.m.]?

YM: Seven at night? From 7 [o'clock] in the morning, right around the clock, all day, till 11 [o'clock] at night, we had that shop open. We used to go for our meals, chance by chance [i.e., take shifts for meals]. That's the kind of business, before. Then, during the wartime, as I say, you cannot open the business till about 8 [o'clock] in the morning, and you have to close by 4 [o'clock p.m.] because of the curfew. After the war was over, then we opened about 8 [o'clock] in the morning, and then closed about 5 [o'clock p.m.]. For a long time, we never used to open at night. But, now, I see the stores are opening at night again, because conditions have changed.

WN: The people that used to go over there, was that like a hangout place for people?

YM: My place? No, I wouldn't say that. There's no loitering in the store. People never used to come in and . . . Like in Maui Drugs in Wailuku, I remember, in the morning, they had this coffee gang. They go there, and they shoot the dice, see who will pay for the coffee. Well, they didn't fraternize so much over in [Lower] Paia because we had a different clientele. Not too many haole customers.

We had some old-timer haoles used to patronize my place, but the new haoles used to go down to Kahului's Craft Drugstore. You know, haoles always like to fraternize with haoles. Well, I had lot of friends, and they used to come around, chew the fat, but not hang around all day, make a clubhouse out of my place.

And the little kids. Some of the families in Lower Paia didn't like what I did. Children come home from the grammar school about 2 [o'clock] in the afternoon. On their way home, they stop in my store. We used to sell lot of magazines. Those days, comic books were in fad. I know that they like to read the comic books, and I know that they don't have any money of their own. The parents have to buy it for them. And the parents are very reluctant to give them any money to go buy comic books. So, I used to let the kids come in the store. I say, "For only half an hour, now." They all sit down at the magazine place, and they can look at any under the counter--only one, now. (Laughs)

WN: One?

YM: Yeah, one comic book to each. One different kind. For half an hour, I would let them look through these comic books, and they'd exchange with each other, look at the comics. Then, I say, "Okay. Time's up. Go home." After they thank me, they go home. (Laughs) The parents didn't like that idea. We giving them the use of my store to read comic books. I was supporting their delinquency.

(Laughter)

WN: Did you give them anything free? The kids?

YM: No, never give them anything for free. Bumbai, they get bad habit. That free look at the comics was bad enough. All the mothers were up in arms against that. But the kids, they can't go around spending money, buying comic books, and begging their parents, and crying about it. So, I just thought I let them have a little treat. And I started a boy scout troop while I was in [Lower] Paia.

WN: Oh, yeah? Which troop?

YM: Troop number 10. In Wailuku, when I was a small kid, I belonged to a boy scout troop number 10, too. We had one troop 10 in Wailuku. It so happened that in Paia, they had a troop 10 before, but it was defunct because people lost interest. Nobody wanted to be a scoutmaster. But I found a guy who was willing to be a scoutmaster if I would sponsor them. I say, "Okay. I be the sponsor." So, we started this troop 10.

Their so-called meeting place was located up in Upper Paia, what they used to call Camp Churchill. This Churchill was a manager of MA Company for awhile. He designated one area back of the Catholic church in Upper Paia--great big church there. That place used to be a golf course--small nine-hole golf course--which the plantation

let the employees utilize that area for a golf course. It was pasture. It was so close to the camp, they didn't raise sugar cane in there. They just let the thing go fallow. They left the sick mules and horses, some cattle, in there.

So, the plantation boys and young men got together, and then they planned out this golf course. This would be the number one fairway, this would be the greens. And the number two fairway going down, then crossing there, number three or four will go this way. And back up again, down. Nine holes, you know. They made small greens. The greens were only about--oh, I would say--twenty-foot circle and planted with this buffalo grass. You know, that small leaf buffalo grass, not the mānienie. Well, they had some mānienie in there. But these boys--after work--they go and lawn mower that thing. And they plant cement posts around the greens and put this big, number ten wire--two strands of it on--so the cows and the mules won't eat the greens.

(Laughter)

YM: No fooling. When playing, if we should pitch the ball . . . . The funny thing, one strand of wire, aw, you don't think any ball will hit it. But many a time, the ball will hit the wire and bounce back. We had this winter rule. If that happens, you can hit another ball. Another winter rule was, if you should strike a ball, and that thing go plop in a big cow pile, then you can move it one club length out.

WN: (Laughs) Oh, I hope so.

YM: Oh, we used to have lot of fun. We used to call it a mongoose golf course. The mongoose holes, we used to call it. But each green had a fence around it to keep the cows from eating the grass.

(Laughter)

WN: And this boy scout troop . . .

YM: Yeah, it prospered. For quite a long time, they had the boy scout troop there. Then, of course, I left there; somebody else took over. Then the plantation gave up all this kind of fringe benefits [in 1946]. The golf course was discontinued. By then, this country club in Waiehu golf course came up, and those that really wanted to play golf joined this.

The first time I ever played golf was in 1927, when I first moved to [Lower] Paia. Of course, I was only a young shaver then. I didn't have any golf clubs. The first time, I went along with a deputy sheriff. We had one deputy sheriff in [Lower] Paia. He was in charge of all the East Maui district. He used to be a golf addict. So, I went with him up to Pauwela, way over Pauwela. That is a old abandoned cane field. It still has that furrows in the

ground. It had only four holes, and just like the Paia course, the greens were fenced in so the horses won't eat the greens. There was one hole out this way. I think was the second hole going across that gully. You had to walk around and up the gully to reach the other side. The green was on the other side of the gully. It's a pitch and putt kind of course. And then, the next hole was down this way. And I think the last hole was way up the other way. So, when we finished, way up in the hills this side, we have to walk all the way back to where we parked the car. (Laughs) It's about two miles. Anyway, that was the first golf course on Maui.

And 1927 was the first time I ever swung a golf club, because the deputy sheriff showed me how to swing. But then, I couldn't hit that thing those days. We didn't know beans until latter part of the 1920 . . . . Yeah, just around that time, 1927 on, then this Bobby Jones became popular. He came on these newsreels and in the movies. Bobby Jones' instructions on how to swing the golf club. You remember? Well, that's where we learned how to play golf.

WN: About 1963, you moved to Kula San [Kula Sanitorium] to be pharmacist, yeah? Why did move over there, instead of staying in your [Lower] Paia store?

YM: As I told you, prior to that time, the people in the plantation have begun to move. Most of their employees bought homes down this side [Kahului] after 1950. I moved down here in 1950, myself. From 1950 on, most of the employees started moving down this way, getting their own homes [i.e., in Dream City]. And plantation began to abandon these plantation camps. My business just went down like that. I was thinking, "Gee, I got to do something. We don't have enough people to support our drugstore." Or, in fact, any store for that matter. Was getting worse each time. So, I thought of relocating in Wailuku or down here in Kahului. That's when, incidentally, I bought this place for my home, so I can operate from here. I was looking for a spot in Wailuku. This guy who was in charge of this housing project here, he promised me a location here down in Kahului. But that son of a gun reneged on his word.

So, just around that time, my doctor from Kula, one day, he say he want to talk to me. I came down just that time for my chest clinic. I was still under the hospital outpatient care. They were checking me periodically to see if I was all right. So, I just had gone to a clinic--it was on a Wednesday, I think--and the following day, Thursday, the doctor called me up on the phone. He say he wants to talk to me. He told me to meet him at the hospital. So, I thought, "Hey, maybe my chest picture wasn't good." When I went to the hospital, he was waiting. I asked him whether my picture was no good or not.

He said, "Oh, no, no. This has nothing to do with your . . . .

Your chest if okay. It's fine." He say, "I want to talk to you about something else."

They had this little puka in the wall they call a pharmacy, dispensing medication. This boy in there, he was dishwasher down the kitchen. They just brought him up there, and they taught him something about the drugs. This boy was intelligent fella. He had all kind markings in the bottle. He didn't know the medication, one from the other, but the doctor will write down on the paper. It was more like a order blank. It wasn't even a qualified prescription. Here, he scribble the name of the drug, the dosage. The patient will bring to this pharmacy, and he used to fill it.

When we became a state in 1959, all these institutions had to have bonafide qualified people in each department. The kitchen had to have a real dietician; and the pharmacy, they have a registered pharmacist; and the laboratory, they had to have a registered technician. So, the Health Department called the number one doctor and told him, "You get a pharmacist in that pharmacy there, or else we going to shut down the whole hospital." Ai-yai-yai, he goes up in the air. From 1959 or thereabouts, they started looking for a pharmacist to go up there. But, as I say, those days, they didn't pay much. The rating was SL-17. They paid only about \$400 per [month]. For travel all the way up the mountainside, fifty miles a day going back and forth, gasoline alone will chew up most of your paycheck. Nobody would apply for it. They put in a advertisement in the paper--anybody interested in being pharmacist up there, please apply. Nobody showed up. They waited. Then came 1963. Then this Department of Health in Honolulu, they put their foot down. They told this number one doctor here, "We going to give you just one month. Within the month, you don't get a guy, we not going to shut the pharmacy, we going to shut down the whole hospital. We going to discontinue that place. You don't have enough qualified people." Oh, that's when the doctor really got scared. That's when he called me. He said please come and save their life. Come up to Kula and work, even half a day. He said, "Just try and come. See how it is."

As I say, I was just about ready to move out of [Lower] Paia and relocate somewhere else, either Kahului or Wailuku. So, I sat down and thought about it. I talked to my wife. I say, "Hey, look. You know we not making a go in [Lower] Paia already, and things going to get worse. So, I'm thinking of--," well, she knew I was looking for a spot in Wailuku. She was worried because I wasn't too healthy, being sick not too long ago. Then this thing come up.

I said, "Suppose I go and work for the hospital. Then, I'll go-- say, half a day--I'll go up [to Kula] in the morning, or I work in the store in the morning, go up in the afternoons."

She said, "Okay. You go and see what it is all about."

So, I started going up in the afternoon, after lunch. I drove up

there. The first day was on a Thursday. I went up there. They were expecting me. They were waiting to see when I'll come up. So, when I went up there, oh, boy, they roll out the red carpet for me. I was a, almost, white-haired boy. Anything I say was okay with them. I went down into the drug room and the storeroom, look around. Heavenly days, they had stuff there from days of Methuselah. Old drugs, they were completely inert already. Then, I went into the drug room where they dispense the drugs. They had this round paper pill boxes. What the boy did was, from the big bottle, he put it all on a tray and count out the number of pills. Right on the box, he write the directions on it. That was the system they had.

WN: Pretty outdated, eh?

YM: Outdated? It's like going back to 1915 days.

WN: You know when you wanted to open up in Kahului and the head of Kahului Development [Company] said he was going to give you a place? What happened there?

YM: Yeah. You see, in the master plan, after a certain number of increments came up [as a part of Dream City]--I think was the sixth or seventh increment come up--then they were going to open a small shopping complex near the sixth or seventh increment. You know where . . .

WN: Oh, by KMVI [radio station]?

YM: Yeah, KMVI--that road going in? And where the Lihikai School is? Right around there, there was an area there designated for that purpose. A small superette, a drugstore, a barbershop, or something like that.

WN: This was in addition to the Kahului Shopping Center [which started in 1951]?

YM: Oh, yeah. Shopping Center been going on already. This was way after the shopping center they had established. They were going to open up that one and another one way over this side--Puuone side. You know where the breakwater is on the other side? You see those housing development above that, up in Sand Hills? That's Puuone. In that section there, they had designated one area there for a small wayside shopping place.

WN: This is all Alexander & Baldwin?

YM: Well, this all came under KD Company [Kahului Development Company], which is a subsidiary of Alexander and Baldwin. [Kahului Development Company was founded in 1949 to construct Dream City.] You see, these people, they had the wrong notion to begin with. I mean, [some] Kahului town people [i.e., merchants] were very much against the idea that I open a drugstore in Kahului. But then, I told [the head

of Kahului Development Company], "We not opening a store in Kahului. This is way out. It's practically in Wailuku already. There are enough people around. We not cutting into their business. We'll be taking care of the excess. And you going to keep on putting up more development from the seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh increment, up to twelfth increment." But that came later on. But, you see, the increments had enough population to support a thing like this. And not only myself. This guy Shimoda. You know, this Puunene . . . .

WN: Maui Shōkai?

YM: Maui Shōkai. The boss. He's retired now. You know, Toshi Shimoda [older brother of Masakazu Shimoda, another interviewee], myself, and I believe, there was one or two other guys, they had hoped to open some kind of a shop. One was a barber, definitely. They needed a barbershop out that side. One, I don't know what it was. [Four] wanted so much square area for their shop. Shimoda wanted a big portion because he was going to open up a superette. We called it a supermarket, those days, but today, it's just a little superette. And I was willing to open up a pharmacy. Of course, we didn't have to have any cash outlay for the land or the building, because we not going to buy and own the building. It was all going to be put up by KD Company. We're going to rent. What I had to contend with was the inside--the fixtures and the merchandise.

So, I went to talk to our banker. He said, of course, he's willing. And then, "You can come under the SB loan," what they call small business loan that the government had just started. So, I was all set. It's not that I didn't have the capital or anything. It was the small business loan people [whom] the bank represented. I knew the banker, and he knew my reputation. He knew what I could do and what I couldn't do, given the necessary cash. We worked it through the small business loan. Now, you commit yourself to plenty. The bank will charge you all this--so much. And then, you supposed to enjoy a business that will amount to a certain amount of intake. They have their own computer system that can tell them whether I'm making a go or not. If I try it for a six-month period and if they can see that I'm not making a go of it, they'll tell me either to change the plan or discontinue. So, there, you see, we were all set. We had nothing to worry about. That is, we didn't have to go and hustle no capital, outside of what we could get.

Shimoda was all set. He had all the capital he needed. So, he was willing, as long as they put up the building, he'll open that superette. And he had the personnel working already. Right after, I think, he bought out that old Camp 5 Store, they called, in Puunene. And he made it into a superette. But this happened just prior to that time. Instead of locating there [Puunene], he wanted to locate this side [Kahului]. Or maybe it was vice versa. Anyway, he and I were the main ones that wanted to get into this new shopping area, which was a small set-up, not to compete with

the Kahului Shopping Center.

And here, some of the merchants there, they start bucking against the idea. One of the guys, friend of mine, he's a photographer. Sells photo supplies and all that. He told me all about it. He attended a meeting to discuss this thing. And he told me who and who were bucking up against us. I expected that. I knew that SOB, anyway. (Chuckles)

WN: They never did build the new . . .

YM: Yeah. Well, [he] have to accede to [the merchant's] demand. So, they dropped the whole thing.

END OF SIDE TWO

TAPE NO. 7-54-2-80; SIDE ONE

WN: So, the thing actually never took place--the new shopping center--so you decided to go to Kula San.

YM: Yeah. Just around that time, the doctor called me to talk to me about going to work for Kula.

WN: So, how did you feel about not being able to open up in Kahului?

YM: Well, I felt that I lost a good opportunity to reestablish my family drugstore here. So, people, I don't know what they felt about it, but I didn't give a damn about [them]. But they [Kahului merchants] squelched my so-called plan. This guy Toshi Shimoda, he was more huhū than I, because he had an architect draw up the plans, and everything was all set to go. And I was all set to go, because I talked to the bank already and all this. The small business loan people were willing to back me up. They said up to \$100,000. I knew it wouldn't cost half of that much. I knew that given half a chance, we could make a go of it. But as things turned out, no dice.

So, when they asked me to go up to Kula, I had about half made up my mind to give it a try. When I went there, look around, I found things quite to my liking. I lived there nine years of my life, so I wasn't a new man in there. Everybody knew me up there, and I knew most of them. Then I started working there, and we were all one happy family. Only couple guys up there, of course, they had it in for me and made it kind of tough for me for a while, like the guy who was dispensing medication there. But I don't blame him, because in a way, I kicked him out. He was second choice. But then, there was the matter of a piece of paper [pharmacist's

license]. So, he's smart boy, but it just happened that he didn't qualify for that job. And I qualified, so they gave me the job. That's all. Nobody else wanted it. I mean, other qualified people. They had better jobs.

You know that pharmacist in Maui Memorial [Hospital]? The number one pharmacist, that Mrs. Wong? Mrs. Arthur Wong is the number one pharmacist. She has a Dan Moriyasu, a Japanese boy, and one haole pharmacist under her. Dan Moriyasu, if you go there, you find he's a cripple. His right leg, I think. He suffered polio when he was a kid. He's a good man. Well, Arthur Wong and I, and another Chinese boy--three of us--got our pharmacy license in September of 1946. Arthur Wong and the Chinese boy--Look, his name, or something--they just come out of college. I think Arthur came out of a college in Oregon, and I don't know where the boy came out of--Southern Cal or like that. They were applying for this exam in Honolulu in September of 1946. I had applied from here. I was the only one from Maui. They had eleven that applied for license. Of the eleven, eight showed up. I don't know what happened to the other three. They just didn't show up, so they backed out.

So, eight of us took the exam. Came in two sessions--morning session and afternoon session. There were altogether, about 250 questions. They were all multiple-part questions. So, the questions were quite inclusive--all the different aspects of pharmacy. Today, I hear, they have regular practical prescription compounding exam, but those days, they didn't have. We have only identification of crude drugs and stuff like that. They had theoretical problems, all the other pharmaceutical problems. There were many questions pertaining to weights and measures, pharmaceutical chemistry, incompatibilities, and stuff like that. So, eight of us took the exam. After the morning session, there were only four left taking the exam. The other four had dropped out. They didn't show up for the afternoon session. So, we took the afternoon . . . Was from 8 [o'clock] in the morning till noon. They have a short half an hour recess for lunch, came back, and 4 o'clock was the deadline when you have to have your papers ready to hand in. So, after the session, I went back to the hotel, took a hot bath, and I was lying down. Oh, when I got to the hotel, my cousin was waiting for me. I talked to him. He invited me to go out that night.

I tell him, "Oh, I'm kind of pooped out. All this tension. I let you know how I feel after I take a bath and rest little while."

He said, "Yeah, you do that. Just call my house. I come and get you if you want to go out."

So, he went away. Went to my room, took a bath, and I was lying in bed, reading magazines. And the phone rang. So, I thought, "Oh, oh, my cousin wanted to ask me if I'm ready to go out." Then I pick up the phone. There's a strange voice on the other end.

I say, "Hello. Who's this?"

Say, "This is the secretary of the Pharmacy Board of Examiners. I wish to inform you that you have successfully passed your pharmacy board exam."

"Yay!" I almost broke her eardrum.

(Laughter)

YM: I just got a message like that. She said this is the secretary of the examining board informing me that I have just passed the exam. I meant to ask who and who passed, but I thought, "Hey, I better not ask 'em that because"--that's "her," that's a woman's voice--"I better not ask anything like that." They wouldn't divulge the answer--who passed and who flunked. Anyway, I called my cousin up right away. Oh, boy, you'd be surprised how a little thing like that can change your whole mental and physical make-up instantly.

(Laughter)

YM: I had instantaneous recovery from fatigue. I called my cousin up, "Hey, come and get me. We go get drunk."

(Laughter)

YM: So, we went out and had a bang-up time that night.

WN: Good feeling, eh?

YM: Then I called my wife on the phone. Just then, this inter-island [long-distance] phone was in effect--1946. That's pretty far back, right after the war. I called up and say, "Hey, I passed the exam." She start screaming on the other end. I told her, "And you better tell that guy from Mutual of Omaha that I have to refuse his offer."

You see, just before I left for the board exam, it was a question of whether if I passed the exam, I have to retain my store. I have my drugstore already. But if I flunked, then I told him I'll come and work for him. I study up, bone up on insurance business, and I go and work for him. The Mutual of Omaha had an office in Wailuku, see? So, that guy was waiting for word, hoping that I'll flunk, so I'll go and work for him.

(Laughter)

YM: So, I told my wife, "Hey, you call that guy." I forgot what his name was. "Tell him that I won't be working for him because I passed. I got my ticket now, I going run a drugstore." That was fun.

The next day, I was still in town. I went to this Benson Smith. Had one on Fort and Hotel [Streets]--the main Benson Smith Store,

there. There was a pharmacist there, a colored guy named Wood. He was the fourth guy that went. Four of us took the final exam.

The others--I found out one was a great big haole fella from Arkansas. He had a Arkansas and--Missouri or Kansas?--anyway, two state pharmacy license. He was head pharmacist at Tripler Hospital. I forgot his name, now. I became pretty chummy with him during the exam. After the exam, during lunch hour, we talking.

He says, "Hey, what you going to do if you pass and get your license?"

Say, "Oh, I have a pharmacy--small little drugstore--in [Lower] Paia. I'm going back there and work my pharmacy."

"Well," he said, "if you looking for a good job, give me a ring. We need a pharmacist in Tripler."

He had this license from these two states, but he didn't have the Hawaii State license.

I said, "Well, I don't know. Let's see what happens after this exam is over."

Then, he found out that I had passed, and I got my license. And he found out at the same time that he flunked. He dropped out anyway, morning session. He didn't show up in the afternoon.

But this guy, this colored guy, guy named Wood, he was practicing pharmacy in Benson Smith, over there. He was hoping that he'll take this state board exam and get a license. Then he could get a full pharmacist's job over there, permanent. But he didn't make it. I walked up from--I was in Young Hotel, that's not too far away. One block down, the Hotel Street. I walked in the pharmacy and here, Wood was there. He looked at me and say, "Hey, you know, by the grapevine, I found out that you passed."

I say, "Yeah. They called me up on the phone."

Oh, he congratulated me and all that. He's one of those that didn't make it. He found out only three of us made it. This Arthur Wong, he's the head pharmacist at Maui Memorial. And the guy Look, he was working for Hollister's in Honolulu. I don't know what happened to him, though. He's probably working for a pharmacy there.

This job in the Maui Memorial Hospital . . . . We had a Chinese mayor--Eddie Tam on Maui. When they were building this Maui Memorial Hospital, I asked him if he going to hire a pharmacist over there. Every time I asked him about it, he put me off. He said, "Oh, no. They don't have pharmacy there." I found out that he just promised this wahine the job before I even asked for it.

WN: Didn't you want to continue at the store in [Lower] Paia?

YM: When I came back? Yeah. Then, we became a full-fledged pharmacy. Little while later, Dr. Ohata came back from the war. Then we got our heads together, and said he'll write [prescriptions], I'll fill 'em. It was doing fine up until they got their heads together, the doctors formed this union and put up this Maui Medical [Center].

WN: So, you closed the [Lower] Paia store in 1967, yeah?

YM: Yeah. We sold out to a Portuguese fella. It was then only just a lunch counter and general store. So, my wife taught that guy's wife all about the lunch counter side. The other side, well, they weren't worried too much. They said they'll discontinue eventually. Sell whatever there's left, and then they'll quit the magazine business. They just make it a lunch counter business over there. That's just what happened. They practically gave away most of the stuff [merchandise] that was there. They didn't even understand much about patent medicine. Probably aspirin and Mentholatum, that's about all they knew. So, that's how it went. They put in few more tables in there, outside of the lunch counter and stools, and they were going pretty good.

Then, this guy and the wife had a fallout. So, they decided to sell out to another party--another Portuguese guy. But this guy's wife was a German girl. I don't know how he ever got to marry this German girl. He probably was in the [armed] services, too. This German girl was a real hustler. She knew all about this kind lunch counter business. She built up the business fast. She perked up the place. So I heard.

WN: Is that the one that's open now?

YM: No. This was before these people. Then, those people sold out to these people, now. When I sold the business--the building, the land, everything--to this Portuguese guy for small amount, I thought, "Gee, I'll help him as much as possible." We gave him easy terms, to pay up within ten years, so much down and so much per year. Then, for about three years I think, then all of a sudden, he had a little argument with the wife, he wanted to quit. So, I gave him okay. He can sell the business, but then he have to settle with me first before I give him the deed.

WN: How much you sold 'em for?

YM: Ah, small amount. I won't tell the amount, because you going die laughing.

WN: Was it more or less than what you bought it for?

YM: Oh, yeah. Much more than what . . . Actually, after we stayed there, after forty years, then our lease was expired and I was paying rent on the building that we put up. When that thing expired, I paid rent for few months until I decided to buy it from the

owner's wife--the owner died--and his son. So, I had to buy back the building--my own building. You see, before lease, if it expired, whatever you put up there reverts to the owner of the land.

WN: So, you bought the whole thing from them?

YM: Yes. So, this time I had to buy the land and the building. I got full ownership of that thing. And then, this guy, I gave him ten year's time to pay up. So much down and so much per annum, quarterly. Then, one day, he calls me up and say he wants to sell the place, so will I give him the deed?

I say, "Oh, yeah. I give you the deed, as long as you give me the balance of what you owe me."

He say, "Okay."

I have a friend from [Lower] Paia, [Robert] Ueoka, he's a stockbroker, bookkeeper. He's been keeping my books. We went in there, talk it over, and Ueoka said, "All right." But this Portuguese guy didn't like Ueoka, so he got his own lawyer to make a new deed. I went over there. He signed over a check that covered all the balance of what he owed me, and I signed over the deed. The transaction was complete. Now, I had absolutely no control over the property, the whole thing. And I got the money, and I paid my broker and kept the balance. Then, this Portuguese guy, he ran it for about three years. He made some improvements on the place, especially their living quarters in the back, upstairs of the store. He put in few thousand dollars in there. Then, he already had this buyer, another Portuguese guy with his German wife. Then, he sold it. Later on, my broker up there told me, "Hey, you thought you were smart when you sold the business to the Portuguese guy, eh? You know, he turned around and sold to the other Portuguese for twice what you sold?"

(Laughter)

YM: I say, "Twice? Goddamned bugga." And here, he was shedding crocodile tears when I tell him he have to pay the balance. He was getting twice the amount he paid me for. Then, this Portuguese with the German wife, they got a big amount. By then, business around here, real estate, have gone sky high. So, they got big amount from this new owner. The new owner, I think he's a hippie, belong to the hippie bunch. They have lot of cash, these hippies.

WN: So, how you feel about [Lower] Paia now, as compared to how it used to be?

YM: Well, as I say, [Lower] Paia is a hippie town now. Nothing but hippies. Very few of the original stores are there. The only one I can think of is like the Hew Fat Kee noodle shop, there, and the Economy Store, and Nagata's, and Horiuchi Superette, [Abe] Clothes

Cleaner, Robert Matsuoka--the radio and TV man, and Ikeda's. Those about the only ones that are left now. Even the barbershop has changed hands. I don't know if they have any Japanese barbershop in [Lower] Paia anymore. Maybe they have. Somebody have to cut the hair. Well, outside of that, most of the stores have changed hands. The ones that are running the business in [Lower] Paia now are all hippies. Well, maybe they're not hippies anymore, but they came here as hippies and made good raising Maui wow [i.e., marijuana].  
(Laughs)

Did you hear the Maui story about the Banana Patch and all that kind of stuff? Well, we went through all those things. We had a time with these damn hippies. Those were the days when I was working up in Kula. Oh, they used to come around, and they're the crummiest, damn people on earth, I tell you. I didn't think that the white people can sink that low. But then, we are talking about the scum of the white race. Maybe we can talk about the scum of the Japanese race, too, including me.

(Laughter)

WN: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Machida.

YM: That's about it, eh?

END OF INTERVIEW

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STOREKEEPERS of  
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