

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: SAMUEL KAHIKO AIPOALANI, retired plantation worker,
active bus driver

Sam Aipoalani, Irish-Hawaiian, was born on July 22, 1913 in Kekaha, Kauai, one of 11 children of Samuel Kanio and Mary Carroll Aipoalani.

Sam was an 11 year old boy when his father was deputized as a special police officer and took part in the 1924 Hanapepe incident.

Sam started work at age 16 as a plantation mule tender and has worked as a tractor operator, and haul cane truck driver at Kekaha Sugar Company. In the 1930's he worked in Honolulu as a truck helper and Libby Cannery stacker, and on Kauai as part of the Civilian Conservation Corps and Works Progress Administration. He served in the Army during World War II. Aipoalani retired from Kekaha Sugar Company in 1976 and is now a part-time school bus driver.

His activities include enjoying volleyball, swimming, playing music and tending to plants. He is a Mormon and a member of the Kaunualii Hawaiian Civic Club.

Sam and his wife, the former Margaret Kamala Kilauno live in Kekaha and have three children.

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Tape No. 5-46-1-78

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Sam Aipoalani (SA)

December 9, 1978

Waimea, Kauai

BY: Chad Taniguchi (CT)

CT: I'm talking with Sam Aipoalani about the 1924 strike. And today is December 9, 1978. We talked earlier about Mr. Aipoalani's life, and he was talking about the fight that happened in Hanapepe.

So, can you start again on what your father told you? [Mr. Aipoalani's father was a deputized policeman at the Hanapepe incident.]

SA: Well, what my father told me about it is, when the strike started they went in to get two of the Filipinos out from the crowd. But actually, they didn't want to let go these two Filipinos so all what was done there, they were backed out by the whole mob of the strikers that was in there. And they were driven out about one-fourth away from the school, until to the banana field of Brodie.

CT: Going toward Waimea?

SA: Yeah. Coming toward Waimea, that's on the old highway. And somehow, someone fired a shot. And from that shot, everyone scattered. And at the time, my dad jumped in a drain ditch that was right next to the main highway. And that drain ditch was used for Brodie, to water his banana patch. And the rest of the special police and the officers was scattered and all went over to the site, on top the hill. But one concern that my father was watching for Sheriff Crowell, who was left back. And while sitting in that drain ditch, all of a sudden he saw Sheriff Crowell walking on the main highway. And there was no way for him to stop Sheriff Crowell from coming in. Then, as...

CT: What do you mean, "coming in?"

SA: I mean for not to come any further. Already, someone was firing. The police officers was firing already to the Filipinos in the banana field. And they also was firing. But still then, he said that if he was going to yell out to Sheriff Crowell, then they might know where he is, see. Because he was right close to the main highway. The rest was far away from him, see.

CT: You mean the other special police were...

SA: Yeah. Because they was firing on top of the hill. So the only thing he did, he took his rifle and fixed his peep-sight. He had a 30/30 Winchester rifle [.3030 caliber]. That was used for hunting only. But in the back of that he had his peep-scope. He put his peep-scope on and tried to fix it so that he can know where to aim. And all of a sudden, in the back of Sheriff Crowell, this Filipino came up from the banana field. And with him, this Filipino in the back was following Crowell, which Crowell didn't know that this Filipino was in the back of him. All of a sudden, my father saw this fellow raising up his arm. And while he was raising up his arm, he had a cane knife. And that was to cut Crowell in the back. So my father was just wishing that he just hope either Crowell would make a little move on the left or on the right, or that Filipino make a little move, so that he can fire his aim. So he raised his rifle up. And all he was doing was just holding his rifle, looking through his peep-scope. And all of a sudden, he had that face right over the shoulder of Sheriff Crowell. Then, all of a sudden, when this fellow raised up his arm higher; when he made the motion to hit, his head came up right over the shoulder of Crowell, and that's when my father shot him in the forehead. So this fellow fell, and then when he fell, at the same time he let go the cane knife. So that's how the cane knife caught Crowell in the back of his head. That's how he had that scar.

So when he got this fellow killed, then another person that he was concerned on. This one person---this Filipino fellow that had his two automatic pistol at my father's stomach. He had that number two revolver in his stomach.

CT: In your father's?

SA: Yeah. When they were pushed out. When they were shoved out from the Japanese School, and all the way, this fellow had that two automatic in my father's stomach. And my father had his rifle facing him, with his finger in his trigger. And the same time, my dad was watching at his finger (Filipino). If he would see his finger move, then he would fire first, before he get the chance to fire. Because he (Filipino) was close to my father. But the only time that made 'em scared, when this Filipino fellow heard the first shot, the first shot that they fired. So that's how this Filipino fellow turned around and ran in the banana field. So that's how my dad had the chance to run back in that ditch that was on the side of the road. Drain ditch.

Well, after that he saved Crowell's life at that time. And just imagine, when they was firing back and forth, nobody shot Crowell. And then, of course, when that cane knife fell on his head, Crowell fell on the road.

So my father was watching for this one Filipino guy. And all of a sudden, this guy came out from the banana field, with his two

arms---and he came behind the pine tree on the side of the highway, and putting his two arms out (with his two automatic pistols) and start firing. I don't know what he was firing, blank shot or something, but anyway, he was firing. So when he started to come out and tried to go back in the banana field, that's when my father shot him. Shot his legs. Two legs was just hanging. Just like goat meat. Right over the fence. Well, of course, he died right there.

Then from there, my father started to fire whatever he can see in the banana field.

CT: Do you mean he shot the guy's legs off?

SA: Yeah. Because you see, they were told not to use the steel bullet, those pointed bullet. They were told to use this lead-tip bullet, it's flat, see. But when you use that pointed bullet, that thing, when he cut off, he just cut the whole thing off, you know. But that's what he had inside his rifle. Seven shots. And from there, whatever he can see in the banana field, from where he was sitting, he start firing.

The middle part, one of the special police, Moses Kua, happened to come out from where he was. And he was shot right on the main highway. He was shot. And his son, from the hill, running down the hill, calling the father right there. Grabbed the father in his arms. And you imagine, right in the midst of the firing. And nobody shot him. So he hold his father. And right next, there was a wounded Filipino. He was lying down. And this fellow was wounded, and he came around and he said for excuse him, he's sorry, and all that. But Moses Kua, Junior, didn't pay any attention. All what he had in his .44 revolver, all the bullets he had in there, he just shoot this fellow right in the head. And he's crying, crying for the father. And he was alive. They didn't shoot him. And the other one got killed while up the hill. That's Naumu, Kipe Naumu, got killed.

So from the special police, two was killed. And according to my dad, there were 28, 32 Filipinos was killed that day. The one that shot more was the one up the valley; his name was HutoIo, Hawaiian.

CT: Moses Kua, Senior, was killed; and which Naumu?

SA: Kipe Naumu. They were the only two that was killed, that day. (And one more killed from Waimea; three in all.) And of course, all those--then after that, when getting worse, most of the Filipinos didn't have sidearms, they only had knives. So those that didn't have sidearms and knives they have to come out, give up. So they were surrounded and the dead bodies was brought to the Makaweli community hall, all these dead bodies. For the family to identify 'em.

CT: Which community hall?

SA: Makaweli. Where is now, is called Kaumakani. Before, used to be Makaweli, see. And the sugar company used to be Hawaiian Sugar Company, but now it's Olokele Sugar Company. And some was brought up to Camp 6 hall, too. It wasn't enough to put the dead bodies in there. And from there, then my father was called to guard the driveway of Alexander Baldwin. See, they have to get shift because they afraid of the Filipinos going in.

CT: Where is this?

SA: Alexander Baldwin. You know by your Kaumakani, your avenue. You know that avenue, that road going up...

CT: Oh, that big house?

SA: Yeah. So my dad and Henry Naumu was the ones that guard that manager's driveway. And they took turn on the shift, until the National Guard was called from Honolulu. They were sent down here to take over. And some of them [Filipinos] were brought to Lihue prison, the ones that gave up; you know, couldn't do anything. The National Guard was stationed at the Makaweli community hall, and also at the Lihue county building. That's where the National Guards were stationed. The reason why they bring the National Guard up, so that these strikers (couldn't) go in the camps. Then from there, after the strike was over, then that police officer of Camp 4 was retired. Then my father took over the job as a police officer.

CT: When was that?

SA: Right after the strike. I don't know. Anyway, right after the strike so he was given that other position. And he was also asked by the manager to be as their camp police officer too. So he was working for the County as a police officer, and as a camp police for the sugar plantation.

CT: Same time?

SA: Yeah.

CT: Was that for long time?

SA: That was up to....1938, 1939. My mother died 1935 (October 1). Somewhere's there, right after her death, my mother. She was 32 years; 1935, my mother died. And then, a year, two year after that, then he left here and went to Maui.

CT: Your father?

SA: Yeah. Then, when he went to Maui, he got married to another. That

was during the, the war broke out, that time and he went. Went to Maui. And he got married to his second wife.

CT: Going back to what you were describing about the actual shooting, you said that they were being backed out by the Filipinos, and then somebody fired a shot. Did he say who?

SA: No. They didn't know. That's when Sheriff Crowell was mad at the time, when they fired that shot. Because they came out from the Japanese school, and they were backing up, going, see. These fellows, they was backing them up. And then, when almost to the pump of Brodie, somebody fired a shot which spread everybody out. Which he didn't...

CT: He didn't know if whether a striker fired a shot?

SA: Oh, no. Because you know why? He was watching that fellow that was with his two pistols in his stomach. And all what he was doing, he was watching at his finger. Because he was just watching the finger because he know if the finger...of course, you know when you press, you got to press hard. But he said as soon as would see the finger move, he would fire 'em. But he wanted to fire already, while was in there. But Crowell stopped them; not to fire. To hold the fire.

CT: He wanted to fire when?

SA: When this fellow came with that gun, he wanted to shoot 'em. But Crowell stopped them. So he was cool head. But he had his rifle there on his arm and he had his finger in his trigger. And all what he was doing, he was watching. Backing up and watching that guy finger. And he didn't look anyplace else. That's why, he didn't know whether the Filipinos were in the banana field that did the first firing, or not. Because right from the Japanese school, they can go in the banana field already, see. From the back. So might be, that firing maybe had come from some of the Filipinos. That, I don't know.

CT: Then, as soon as the shot was fired, people sort of scattered?

SA: Yeah.

CT: There wasn't any immediate firing?

SA: No, no. Until everybody was spread, then this special police that was climbing up on the hill, that's when those fellows down there was firing. But this fellow, as I was telling you, up the valley, he was up there early. And he was firing with his rifle, to protect these other boys that was climbing on the hill. Because at that time, when you come down [the hill], used to be pineapple on top, on the back there, on top there. So he was firing just so that he can give them chance to go up there.

CT: At that point, nobody was killed yet?

SA: No. Nobody was killed.

CT: And then Crowell, was he walking back?

SA: See, from that school, when he was walking towards my father's way. And his intention was to stop them from firing. Stop both sides from not shooting. But this was too late because they were shooting already.

CT: He wanted to stop the police from firing?

SA: Yeah, both sides. Because he didn't want to get killed; anybody be killed. But those Filipinos was thinking they was too good, see, so they fired. Me, I think they fired first. Because these boys couldn't fire because Crowell was right there. But when they fired, they wen just scatter. These boys, especially. They scattered away because they was right in the opening. These Filipinos was in those banana field. The banana field was real thick, that time.

CT: And then, as Crowell was walking back, then somebody....

SA: Then, my father saw this fellow coming behind Crowell, with the cane knife. Then, all of a sudden, he raised his rifle. He had this small little keawe tree in the front him, that he could sit up and fire, because you cannot see him inside, from both sides. He was against the cliff, in this ditch here. Here's another cliff, the tree was here, and these fellows from the banana field cannot see him in the back there. The only time they knew that he was back there, when he wen fire. That's the only time. But he said lucky thing the bank was high. Then, when he fire, right behind that tree, all what he can do, he can just about see people from there. So that's why he said, that when he seen Crowell coming--Crowell was trying to stop [the shooting]--and walking. Then he seen this Filipino coming behind him.

CT: Crowell was telling the police to stop?

SA: My father said he was making like this [waving both hands in air] for probably both sides for no shoot. Because he no want anybody get killed. Especially his boys, because his boys was all in the open. So my father said when as he sat he seen this fellow come behind with the cane knife, oh, that's when he took a good aim. He was just putting the peep-sight right over Crowell shoulder. That's the only place he can figure that Crowell would move, or that fellow would come out. That's the only thing he can do. So he had that all aimed right there. And all of a sudden, when you come like this, when you come out for hit [makes motion of raising arm and rearing back], naturally he going draw hisself up in the back. So my father said when he raised his cane knife like that, for hit. When he was about to hit, that's when he shot 'em. But

the force came, when he shot 'em he let go his cane knife. So that's what caught Crowell on the head. Otherwise, Crowell would be dead right there.

Oh, of course, when the thing went down [the shooting stopped], my father went there, grab him, and then they have to get one truck, bring 'em to the hospital. Was close to the hospital; Hanapepe to Makaweli, eh. And he was telling the story. But then, after everything was cooled down, then they were calling out for guards. Then he come in the morning, then during the half-day of the day, he call me and my mother.

CT: That day? Same day?

SA: No, after everything was finish. Then he call me and my mother. He went back, and he had another rifle home, so he told my mother how to use the rifle and they stayed in the behind [backyard], put the cans, practice shoot. In case he not home, and then maybe get some Filipino from Kekaha might join these guys and come out. Because I was what; I was only 9, 10 years old that time, and couldn't use the rifle.

CT: Even your mother practice use the rifle?

SA: Yeah. But at that age, I was just watching how my father tell my mother this, this, this. And in case anything happened, I would grab the rifle. At that age. So when I was telling my wife that today I was going come here, she tell me, "You think you remember?"

"No, I can remember. I can remember what my father told me." But beyond that, I don't know. Only from where he told, when they were pushed out. They went in just to get these two---you see, because the rest of the strikers was just Visayas. And these other two was Ilocanos. Now, and these two guys, they work hanawai but they never like strike. And McBryde bin make the strike. Sugar Company. So naturally, most of them belong Hanapepe, they work for McBryde. So the leader that was in this strike was Manlapit, but I don't know his first name.

CT: And your father told you that too?

SA: First time, I don't know. Might be Fuertes' father might know. Basilio.

CT: When did your father tell you these stories?

SA: Oh, he told us the stories, when....well, that same year that you had that strike. See, when we went home, when they had that strike that day, and about 3 or 4 o'clock in the afternoon. And we found out that these two died. Oh boy...(inaudible....but then we started telephoning. Try call up, who else was dead. He said so far was only Moses Kua and Kipe Naumu, from Kekaha. But anyway, Naumu was

a big Hawaiian, eh. He cannot climb too good on the hill, so they....when he was climbing up they said they shot 'em.

CT: Did you know him?

SA: Oh yeah. I know him well.

CT: After they were killed, what would you say was the reaction of the people in Kekaha?

SA: Oh, the whole Hawaiian camp was real shaking, you know. And they was just---now, especially those families that their husband is in this strike, involved as a special police. The families was so scared, and they don't know what to do. And they were afraid what Kekaha Filipino might join and then might go for the families from there. But nothing so far came up. This was their concern, because they [strikers] didn't like these two guys to work. Now, the plantation asked them for take these two guys, for the police officers to come take 'em out. Now, when the police officers come take 'em out and they said going get strike. So they didn't have enough police officers. I think over here, Hanapepe, had only two, I think. And Waimea had only one. Two--Paleka Ono and Joe Naholoholo. But Joseph Naholoholo, his job was to take care the jail, that time over there, Waimea.

CT: So they really needed this extra special police?

SA: In Crowell's mind, what came in his mind was my father. My father was the first thing he asked 'em. Because cannot get Paleka. Paleka was police officer already. Paleka Ono. So my father. And then he got the permission from plantation. So he went.

CT: Do you know how much they were paid, that time, the special officers?

SA: Oh, I don't know. Gee, not enough pay, you know. Not big pay. Might be....I really don't know, because when I---10, 11 years [old], and then after my father....see, right after that strike, about a week after, that police officer from Camp 4 was released, then my father had to take over. So we have to move to Camp 4. From Kekaha, then I moved to Camp 4. So that's where my rest of my brothers graduated, from Makaweli School. Then, from there, I used to drive--without license, you know--I used to drive. For buy food, I have to go down Kekaha.

CT: Why is that?

SA: For buy regular food. That's where my father was---when we was staying Kekaha, Kuramoto Store, the old Kuramoto Store before, not that new one. The one by the mill. That's where we were charging our food things. So I have to come back, pick up food and go back over there. And on the way back, I just watch---had these old Dodge cars. Boy, I make those cars go, boy.

CT: This not right after, though. This was later on?

SA: No. Right after. The strike was all pau, the guys all in jail, and all everything. So my father folks were only guarding. Guarded the main road to the manager's place, that's all. Only over there they was guarding. And then, till the National Guards came in. The National Guards stayed only about two, three weeks.

CT: But you were only 11 years old, and you was driving car?

SA: (Laughs) Yeah. Then, when I came 20 years old, then you have to pay poll tax. During that time, used to---no, 16 years old, I had my license. And then you got to pay poll tax. So you pay poll tax. And during that time, the license only \$5.

CT: And you were driving car at 11?

SA: The first car I drove was one Essex.

CT: You know when Moses Kua and Kipe Naumu were killed, they were living in the same camp that you were living?

SA: Yeah. But right now, this boy---Moses Kua, Senior, and his son is dead already. And the other one, Kipe Naumu family not here. No more already.

CT: Did the people in the Hawaiian camp, did they ever have the feeling---well, you said they were little bit scared.

SA: Yeah. We were all chicken, especially us that we had relatives in there. Like me, I had my father. My Uncle Keawe. And Henry Naumu. All them is there. In fact, we were all relative, but not by blood, by our parents back.

CT: Was there any feeling that they wanted to revenge something?

SA: No. During that time, there was no thought of that revenge. Because what the Hawaiians can do down there? Was only few Hawaiians. No, only of course they grieve about it. Mad, eh, but you cannot do anything.

CT: Did you go to their funeral?

SA: Yeah, but used to be the old church. Old Kekaha---well, right now, the Mormon church is the new one now. But where the Kekaha School is, we had our church in there. The old chapel.

CT: Do you remember going to the funeral?

SA: I no go. I scared. I was scared because....I stay home. My mother don't want me to go out because being the oldest, see, only me, my oldest brother and my oldest sister. So being only the oldest, she like me stay home, no go out. We cannot go out from the house. Because we stay right in Camp 4, and look how near to McBryde.

- CT: You mean really soon after the shooting you went to Camp 4? You were living Kekaha, eh?
- SA: Yeah, we was living Kekaha, but after everything was all calmed down, see. So my father have to take over as police officer over there, Camp 4. So we have to move to Camp 4. Move to there. Then, I stayed there. Well, I no go school.
- CT: Had your father gone out as a special officer before that time? Maybe several weeks before, couple months before?
- SA: No. After all of this finished, then he was called to the---I mean, he was still working, and then they call him to the Waimea Courthouse. And he was sworn in to be a regular police officer.
- CT: But before that, do you know if he had gone out as a special officer before that?
- SA: Well, as I say, he was working plantation. From there, he went in as a special police officer, called by the County and permission of plantation.
- CT: After the shooting?
- SA: No. Before the strike started. And then they went around to pick up all these [special officers]. So he was in when that shooting started.
- CT: When you said, "before the strike started," you mean...
- SA: Well, you know they was going get strike, and then this McBryde Sugar Company, when the laborers went on strike, and then the plantation wants to get these two fellows out, but they cannot get 'em out. So they call the police, the regular police in Lihue. To Philip Rice. They have to send some police officer to get these two Filipinos out. But they had already strike, but they had hold his two fellows in. So, the reason why they went in is to get these two fellows out only. As far as for the strike is concerned, they can strike but let these two out. But they didn't want these two let out. So all what the rest of the mob said is to push 'em out, push 'em out. "Tell the police to go away." So Crowell came inside there to tell 'em, tell 'em, but they still didn't care to listen him.
- CT: Did your father ever say that they would have been willing to leave the place without getting the two guys out?
- SA: Well, if they would get the---well, he didn't say that. But he said their work was to see if he can get 'em out. If they would let those two boys out, there wouldn't be any harm. But you can go on strike if you want. But because these two, that's how the fight started. Because these two fellows don't want to strike. And then, they want to go out [of the strike camp]. And if they would

let 'em go out, they would not go work. They hold these two.
That's more like....what you call that....

CT: Hostage?

SA: Yeah, hostage. That's why was hard. If you wen just let these two guys go out, everything would be all right. But by the time they call the National Guard down here, was too late already. The National Guard from Honolulu. They come down here, they go over there patrol in the night. The Filipinos going home to that hall way. There's a road go out to the camp, see; go way up Camp 8. Then the fellow on guard halt 'em, then he go over there. He get revolver, he put the revolver back in and go search 'em. Give 'em one punch and he run away.

CT: The Filipino punch the police?

SA: No. National Guard.

CT: Oh. Got punched?

SA: Yeah. My father came next day, after his work over there, patrol. He go home, and then we ask him all kind question. Me and my mother ask him all kind question. And he said he came work this morning, one of the boys that work over there, the guard wen punch 'em in the mouth, the Filipino. When he put back his revolver and then he go search, eh. Well, maybe because of that so that's why they give my father the policeman job.

CT: What kind gun you said he had? What kind rifle?

SA: He had the 30/30 Winchester. That is his hunting rifle.

CT: What did he used to hunt with it?

SA: He used to go up hunt goats, pigs.

CT: He use the same rifle for pig and goat?

SA: That's his hunting rifle.

CT: You seen him shoot that gun, that rifle?

SA: Oh yeah.

CT: What is the range that is effective?

SA: The range, I don't da kine, but....

CT: See the guy over there? Would that?

SA: Oh, far, far. More far than that.

CT: That's about 40, 30 yards.

SA: That's far.

CT: That would be pretty easy, then?

SA: Oh yeah. Even the...well, I wouldn't say. Well, too bad the place [the banana patch] is all changed, eh, now. I figure would be about 40, 50 yards.

CT: But the rifle itself, the range is....

SA: Gee, maybe about 100 yards, I don't know. And that type of bullet you use, that steel bullet, when they shoot, go jeeeee! The thing hum, just hum. The other one he get home, that one he was showing my mother, .32 Special. It's almost same as the 30/30 but she takes only six ammunition. The 30/30 Winchester take seven, eh.

CT: This kind here [makes up and down lever action with right hand]?

SA: Yeah. They call that, what? Repeater, or what?

CT: Yeah. Just crank up and down?

SA: Oh yeah. You fill up in the side see. Seven shots. You fill 'em up, then you hook off one and you put one in the chamber, then you put the other one in. So six in the tube and one in the chamber.

CT: Did he tell you how many shots he shot that day?

SA: Gee, him and this fellow did all the killing. Him and that one up the valley. Because they were the only two had rifles. The [other] ones had all .38 revolver. And this Moses Hosea Kua had the uncle's .44 revolver. That's a German type made. And the other ones had .32.

CT: Not everybody had rifle?

SA: Uh uh [No]. And only one person had the bird gun. That's where you put one shot in. And was this fat, was Naumu. He's a big man. And to climb up the hill, take time. That's how he got shot.

CT: Did the Filipinos have pistols?

SA: Just few of them had. The ones had pistols were outside, at the front of the banana field. The ones had cane knife was all inside. But the ones had cane knife couldn't do nothing. When they show themselves inside the banana [field], that's when they killed. But those police officers from on top the hill cannot shoot anybody down with that .32 pistol they get. The might hit 'em but might only wound them. But cannot kill. So my father and this other guy was the one that kill. This other one too, he's a hunter too. And this guy here, I remember that guy, he's a big guy too.

CT: You ever heard of this guy, Kalua Aiai?

SA: From Hanapepe, eh?

CT: Waimea, I think.

SA: I think he was the one that died from Waimea, I think.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

CT: Oh, you read that in the Garden Island?

SA: Yeah. I was reading, reading.

CT: When was that? When you were a kid?

SA: No. Just lately, couple of months back, I think.

CT: Oh, they had the reprint [of the 1924 newspaper], eh?

SA: Yeah. I think reprint. So I was looking if get my father's name inside too. No more. Yeah, I think that was the other one that died. From Waimea. One from Waimea.

CT: There was another one too. Ah Boo Dang, from Hanapepe.

SA: That, I don't know. But I know from our side was supposed to be three. And then I know had one the other side. But I don't know who is that. And all the time I thought was Harry Onoha. But not him because he was the police of Camp 4. And right after the strike, when everything was cooling, then he was released. I guess retired, or something. So my father took his place.

CT: When did your father pass away?

SA: Three years ago. If you came earlier, probably you get more. Because I only ask him what he went through, how he was. Then, when the news came out that when we heard Crowell was in the hospital, he had cut from the Filipino by the cane knife, then afterward, he said that he was all right. And then, from Crowell, came out that....well, he relative to our family.

CT: Crowell?

SA: To my father. And he said that his nephew saved his life. Way back, came in that paper. But the news came to us from the courthouse. He said that was my father the one. Then I told my mother. "Because Daddy wen save his life, that's why he make 'em policeman. That's the pay he get for go the special police. If he never save

Crowell's life, he no would be policeman today." That's what I was telling my mother. That is always the case.

My father used to be big drinker, you know. And he used to be a rustler. He tell all us the story. Bumbai, I get more old, then he tell me, sometimes he go hunt, eh. Go up the mountain, hunt. So he said when he come at that mango tree up by Pokii, when he fire two shot, that means we go make the hot water because he get mountain pig, see. But if he no fire nothing, that means he no more nothing. Wait, wait, wait. He come home. Come home about 8, 9 o'clock in the night, eh. And he get his pack saddle horse, eh. He go home, he bring inside da kine flour bag. I told 'em, "I waiting for you fire the shot." Because every time he said he fire that shot at the mango trees before he come home. "But you no fire.

He said, "Well, I never get pig today. Only get goat." After one week, he said from his own boss, he go take one calf down the beach, he kill 'em and throw the skin in the ocean, and bring home the meat. He was telling the story.

You know, when get strong moon, that's when he go, see. He used to tell me the story. I tell 'em, "Oh, you one rustler, you. No, you?"

Well, he was pretty young, that time. He married my mother when he was 16 years old. He was about 23, I think.

CT: You guys get pictures at home of him?

SA: Shee, I get only one picture of him in his police uniform. Me, I hate see him in that uniform. Oh, the ugly kind uniform used to get. With that kind cap. "You look like one old da kine marine guys used to go war with this kind uniform." My brother in Honolulu get his picture. I mean this late picture.

CT: Did your father ever....besides telling you the stories, did he ever comment about it?

SA: Well, for the few days was pretty hard, no, for him. Because for killing somebody, eh. Was pretty hard for him. He said he never killed anybody in his life, but that day he no can help. He said that's what his father used to tell him; his father say (he's a good shooter and good hunter) but "never try to kill somebody with gun." But in this case, he said that he no can help.

Then, for few days he no can eat, you know. After he bring all the body, after they haul all the body and throw 'em inside the da kine, and then you got to stand guard by the door and then let the families go inside for look their husband or identify anybody from there. Now, you turn your back, and what if they go inside with something and from inside they shoot you. What? And was hard.

Then he said when they come, they got to walk with the gun. You got to walk with them, too.

CT: To look the body?

SA: Yeah. Because he said, "You not going let them go inside there and you going be outside. And then you don't know what they might do."

Maybe I tell, "Eh, my brother inside there." Maybe not brother, but good friend. I go inside there and I get something. I turn around and come inside, then without you knowing....Oh, he said was pretty hard, you know.

So that's they wen wait for the National Guards. Then, when National Guards come down, and all machine gun was, all place. Then was little bit easy.

But he tell me few days, he no can eat....(inaudible)

CT: He was little bit scared, and also the killing.

SA: He wasn't afraid. He was just thinking about what his father told him.

CT: About killing people?

SA: Yeah. "But in that case," I said, "you no can help." Just like us. When you go to the war, we no like kill the other one, but no can help. You got to defend yourself. You no going let 'em shoot you. Because we believe that---Mormons believe that killing, that's just like you killing your own brother.

CT: Was your father a Mormon, too?

SA: Gee, up from that time until today, I'm just wondering. I don't know if they're Mormon. Or my mother is a Mormon or what. Because I trying to find their genealogy but I don't know if they been baptized or not. No more church record, eh. Those days, they hardly keep church record, too, eh. So I don't know what kind church my father is of. My father is dead, my mother is dead. My first mother. So I going to send his name in the temple, so I go look for him anyway.

CT: Did your father say anything about they were expecting something like that to happen, or was a real surprise?

SA: No. He never know. When he was working, it was a surprise when the news came to him. Then he call up Crowell, he said gee, he no can leave his job. So they [Crowell] wen go to the plantation. Yeah, he came home and told us. Oh, we were worried, boy. We never like him go. Then he said, "No, no worry. We just going inside. We just going in to help the police officers, to get these two fellows out."

CT: So he told you before he went. And you folks knew that he was going to Hanapepe?

SA: Well, you see, when this went to him and he came home, then he told us that they wanted him to go in. Me, I said, "In where?"

He said oh, they called him for go special police. And then my mother told him, "How come you go special police? You work plantation?"

He said, "I think I might get called to the office." So that time, was Lindsay Faye's father. H. P. Faye and Danford used to be manager. So he was called. And of course, Lindsay Faye was coming to live with the father that time. Learning about the Kekaha Plantation. Then afterward, he think well, go be special police. And he put on his (ammunition)....same kind of way he dress for go hunt. Hoo, boy. And we stay Kekaha.

That time, I had one uncle home with us so wasn't bad. Like him, he don't know how to use rifle.

CT: Your uncle?

SA: Yeah, the other one. Only fisherman, eh, him. So my father and the younger brother went. Keawe.

They went that day, and they said they just going take out these people. So, "No can." The next day they call him up, and he went back the second day. That's when happened.

CT: Oh, they went one day before?

SA: But they can't get 'em out. And in the mean time, they were calling the National Guard to come down too. But those guys, take them over four days to reach down there. And only stay right in Oahu. After the shooting, that's when they come. Oh, the plenty people on this island, they tell, "More better send 'em home. No need them already." When people stay die already, that's when they come? Sure, you no can send da kine National Guard. All haoles, all scared buggas. They come down here, one Filipino punch 'em in the mouth and run away. Two guys run away, they no can get 'em.

My father was telling me all that. But us, we was worried, too, though. See, when we stay in Kekaha, we used to stay the last house down there. And all kiawe trees. Now what if the Filipinos, they come from behind? Hoo! Cannot sleep, though. Put light on in the house.

CT: Oh, nighttime? Leave 'em on?

SA: Leave 'em on. I no go school. Paleka Ono tell me go school, I tell, "You, get out of here. I going stay here with my mother. You no can put me jail. My father is over there fighting." He

went too. He came down for this strike, but he was the first guy to run up the hill. How can he use the pistol he get, he been carrying all his life. When he like shoot, the trigger stuck. How can?

Yeah, he used to work with that pistol in his pocket. And he get one guy drunk. I don't know if you know him, Tom Malama. You don't know him. Every time he was drunk he used to go over there with his dogs. And when he see Paleka, he tell, "Where'd you get that toy inside over there, inside that case? That's one toy, that." Which he hardly use, eh. But now days, policemen all go down firing range, eh. Those days, no more. And when come for the time the strike, for use, no can use. The thing stuck. Cold.

CT: What happened to him?

SA: Well, I don't know. That's what these other policemen tell. But you can tell, he hardly use that thing.

CT: Any other guys like you around? Whose fathers or something were pretty involved?

SA: No. All those over there....Naumu had a son, but the son not here. And Moses, well, that's why I told you, eh; the son and the father died. Of course, there are grandchildren, but....

Yeah, I can see those days that I used to come pick him up over there, by Baldwin's road. Take 'em home. That's the time the four Baldwin brothers used to run the sugar plantation. Used to be Alexander Baldwin, Paul Baldwin, and Cedric Baldwin.

CT: Hawaiian Sugar?

SA: Hawaiian Sugar, that time. I worked for the plantation one year, I bin quit. After we move Camp 4. I was working plantation Kekaha. I used to drive over there work, on a cane loader machine. With Ili. Ili used to stay around here before, over here. I quit. I go back Kekaha, go home. Young time, you go here and there. You no can stay one place.

CT: Too bad I didn't come earlier to talk to your father, no?

SA: Yeah. Too bad he never write book, that's why. That's why, he no write book, he only keep inside here [points to his head], you know.

CT: Really. But he told you a lot of stuff, anyway.

SA: Yeah. He told me only on his side, what happened. But what he seen, that's all.

CT: Your mother passed away too, yeah?

SA: Yeah, my mother passed away. She passed away when she was 35 years. Thirty-eight years old. Brain hemorrhage. My father was still Camp 4 time yet. The bugga, every time he go drink, that's why. He get his uniform, he work till 12 o'clock, he come home change, he go Hanapepe drink. He used to love his liquor, though.

But shee, I going tell you, when he was camp police over there--- before that, they had the regular camp police. Regular camp police. And those two camp police no can do nothing with those Filipinos in there, you know. In Makaweli. Every time they get trouble, they get fight, like that; knife fight and everything like that, they cannot stop 'em. So when they made my father to become one of the camp police, plus with this haole guy that was a camp police. Every time they get fight over there--sometime middle of the night--he wake me up. And I go with him. And he would just--- only his BVD sometimes, but right behind the camp. Put on his big overcoat and jump in the car. And he tell me get the car out of the garage. I put the car out of the garage, and we get on the car, and I told him, "You not going take your sidearm? Your pistol, you not going take 'em?" I used to call 'em, "pistol," eh, that time.

He said, "No need."

"But they get over there fight knife. How can?"

He said, "No, no need." So I drive 'em. And then, of course, he know all those boys, eh. Right in Camp 4, behind. I drive down the place. You know, when they fight, I think wahine. He just come down from the car, he just call out the fellow's name. He knows the name. Call the name, out with the knife, put the knife down, wait. My father go over there, take knife, "What's the matter, you fellow like fight knife? You know, if you kill him, or he kill you, just the same. If he die, you going die too. You not going live. So why you fellow fight?"

"Oh, this wahine over here."

He call the wahine. He tell the wahine, "You go home. You no go home, I put you jail. Okay, you two fellows, go home."

So when everything pau, that's when the camp police come. When the camp police come, my father tell 'em, "All pau."

"You mean to say with knife and everything?"

"No, finish already."

And this haole, he no like the idea, see. Because my father going make the report for the plantation and for the county. Two side, see. Because he got to make report that he was called out in the morning. He got to report for them, telling that nothing happened, everything is okay. Next day, pau. But he has the bolo knife, eh.

He wait two, three days, he go in the camp. I go with him, and he go, "Here, take this knife away." He no talk English but the broken English. "More better you hide this one. Next time I catch you fellow, I put you jail."

That's same thing, when they gamble card. Payday time. Okay, we gambling and then you lose all your money. So you get one telephone, you call the camp police. "Eh, house 102 get gamble." Because you lose the money, see. Okay, now when he call the camp police, he doesn't go. He call my father.

"Sam?"

He say, "Yeah."

"House 102 playing cards and they get gamble. So wait for me."

So my father say, "Okay."

But before he get to our place, my father, he go over there. He tell, "Eh, come, though."

Everybody say, "Who?"

"Peck." What his name, that time, that haole camp police. "Camp police come, though. Take money, go."

So they all go home. So he come home, he wait. When he come over there, they jump on top the cars and they say, "Where's the gambling? Somebody told me was over here."

"No more."

That's why, he make like that. But he tell 'em, "I let you folks go now, but next time I catch you folks, I bring you folks jail." No more trouble. That camp, ever since he was---of course, not to brag but ever since he was working for the plantation as a camp police, there's no trouble inside there. But before that, get lot of trouble. But this haole, he scared go in. Anything, even late in the night, he no go. He call my father.

So, when my father wake up like how I said--only he put his overcoat, that means that most of the night after his duty he was drinking. So he was feeling high, eh. So he no put on his clothes. He just take the car and go. So if you go down there now, to those that know him, they tell you the story. They tell you, "No more policeman like him."

And those police officers from Hanapepe--used to be Jim Lyman, and one other Hawaiian; "Fat Jim," they call 'em. With them, same thing too. Jim Lyman, how many times he get cut, when used to get fight down Hanapepe. My dad, when he come home after the show, movie, he go home, he change clothes. Of course, like me, I stay

Kekaha. I work Kekaha, but they stay Camp 4, see. Then we all go, all the Kekaha boys; Masa, all us guys, all go down there drink. But before we go, we have to pass him. He stop us. He know, you know. Two cars. And he know it's us. He look us, "Okay, you folks going Hanapepe, you folks no make trouble, now. But you folks go, wait for me. I come." And then he go over there. Then when he pau work, we all drink. Twelve o'clock, he's down there drinking with us. And when he get fight down there, and those two cops down there, they know that he's over there, my old man, they come call him. He go over there. He stop the fight. And with nothing he stop the fight. But of course, some of the boys belong here, eh, Camp 4, eh. Stop the fight. But Jim Lyman, how many times. He go too hard on the Filipinos, how many time he get cut. So, when my father wen quit, these Filipino guys, they no like. But now, no more police like before, eh. They only get camp police. But they get good camp police. Filipino, so not so bad. Like before, used to be county. We used to get one store right there. You know, right by that Thrifty Mart. Right across, where the canes are now. Used to be all camp, eh, over there.

CT: You know, when you talking about you go with your father, like that, nighttime, was that when you were a kid yet?

SA: Oh, I was about 13, 14, that time. I used to drive him before. From Camp 2, come right across. Camp 4, and then Camp 8, Camp 6, Camp 7. Where Jimmy Burgess used to stay. By Camp 7, Waimea on top. I used to go all around those camps. All around these road, I used to go.

That's why, before, I used to run away from this Japanese police cop. We used to get one traffic cop, before. I forget his name. He used to get one Model-A. That's how I used to run away from all the policemen; because I know all those roads up there. No can catch me. And from there, I go home, eh, Camp 4. Because they know I no more license.

CT: Well, anything more you remember your father said, that you would like to say?

SA: No, nothing for the strike. That's all. That saved Crowell's life and he probably that was his reward, to be one policeman.

END OF INTERVIEW

The 1924 Filipino Strike on Kauai

Volume I

ETHNIC STUDIES ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

**Ethnic Studies Program
University of Hawaii, Manoa**

June 1979