

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: JOSE TANTOG, hasu farmer

Jose Tantog was born in the Philippine Islands in 1906. At age 18, he and his new bride were accepted by the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association to come work in Hawaii. His first assignment was at Aiea. Within the year, he broke his contract by quitting because the field work was too heavy. For the next ten years he contracted with Waialua Sugar Company to grow cane on his own but could not earn enough money to feed his six children. Subsequently, Jose held a variety of jobs, including pineapple and construction work.

In 1946, Jose bought eighty acres of land to farm hasu in Haleiwa where he still lives. He decided he would not go back to the Philippines and so got his citizenship in 1957.

Tape No. 1-26-1-76

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Jose Tantog (JT)

July 7, 1976

Haleiwa, Hawaii

BY: Pablo Lazo (PL)

PL: This is an interview with Mr. Jose Tantog at his farm on July 7, 1976. Tape 26, session one. Okay, Tata, how did you find out about the jobs here in Hawaii?

JT: Well, before I married in the Philippine Island in 1924, I hear all those Hawaiian-Filipino that came from Hawaii and they look neat. They look nice and, you know, everything is neat. Different from us than before while we were poor, eh. Then was happen I ask them, "How come in Hawaii, what kind of living, peoples in Hawaii?" So, this guys told me that in Hawaii if you are not lazy, you always can live and you can always buy if you have in your mind to buy something. But the point is you have to work. So I figure myself, "Work! I can work, yeah." But of course I was not married yet that time, and when I meet these people I cannot come, because I'm 18 years old only.

PL: Oh, I see.

JT: Yeah. Only twenty to 21 can come, but below that, unless if you are married. So I wen married my wife.

PL: Oh, you got married when you was 18 then?

JT: Yeah. I was married when I was 18, me and my wife. So that I figure I can go already because I believe what those people going back Philippine Island, I believe is little bit better than in our place. Because when they came, they came with, you know--- surprise me all what belongs to them that time. So I figure, I told my wife, "More better we go married and we go Hawaii." And my wife said, "Oh, if that is if you like, why not?" So we married October 1924. We married in October. So October, November, December, I went to the immigration station. So I met the agent over there.

PL: Oh, the agent from....

JT: Sugar Planters' Association, yeah. So Sugar Planters' Association sent some agents over there to pick up all those guys that can depend on work. So I figure I was strong, you know, and I can work. So if all those guys that I saw that went and come back with something, maybe I can too, eh. So that month we went, December 1924. Just

two months ago, we get married, you know. We come. So when I went to the immigration, all the checkers check up our hands, eh. What kind hand we get. Only bolakbol hand or what, eh. So they said, "Oh, this one, this one is good. You can. What jobs you are doing at home?" Well, I said, "Plowing, weeding, harvesting--corn harvesting--like that." So he look at you, you know. He examine you, how you are, you know. Then if you are lucky, okay, you stay on the one side. The one they disqualified, they send 'em home because more worse if they get da kine skinny body like that, or, you know, the weak moving. No can come Hawaii. So that month, was okayed to come Hawaii. And when we reach to Manila, we were stationed there for 18 months. No, 18 days.

PL: In Manila?

JT: In Manila, yeah. I don't know why. I did not ask that, but we were there. We were in the Manila immigration for 18 days. And after 18 days, we ride boat to China. To Shanghai. From Shanghai to Hong Kong, and then Japan. That is Kobe and Yokohama. We went over that place.

And on the trip from Yokohama to Honolulu, was happen was rough, you know. So my wife said, "Go get water for drink." So I went up and get water. But plenty Filipinos taking a bath on top, you know. And then, they go down with wet, eh. They still wet. they go down on the step. So the step was happen wet. And I never think of that that I can be---that that can happen to me, you know. So with first stop on top, and I go down like that. I slip right through to the floor. And happen was I damaged my elbow. **My elbow was rotten.** I was operated, while I was in the boat, yet, while we were sailing to Honolulu. So when I reach over here--that is in the month of January, now. We sailing up this way from Yokohama.

PL: Oh, you mean you left Manila December and then, by the time you reached here, was what?

JT: Oh, yeah, Honolulu. March.

PL: March?

JL: Yeah, about March. Over there, we reach. So when we reach over there, they take me to the Queen's Hospital. My wife was in the immigration and they brought me to the hospital. So they give me the treatment over there. After that, I was waiting for the day that they will send me to the plantation. I like go to see the job and work like that, eh. But my arm was not able to work yet. So that was happen that the doctor, every morning he come to me. When my arm was getting well already, he try to tell me to practice your arm, to reach the right arm to my right ears over here. And then, after that, I catch 'em. The second one, they try again to my left ear, to catch with the same hand, left hand.

PL: Oh, I see.

JT: And after that, okay. It's okay now, but one more. To catch

your left shoulder with your finger. But I bin try. If I let go my hand, I'll try with my hand alone, cannot. So he try to push, push, like that. Still no can give. No can go inside. Because it's healing up like that. So what happened, one morning, the doctor came again. So he said, "Give me your hand and relax." So I just give my hand like that. One time, he push 'em. Push 'em up to my shoulder. Yeah, the blood came out. It's cut up again.

PL: Oh, your wound cut up.

JT: I figure, I think the doctor wanted to break it off again, so we got to get used to catch the shoulder over here. I was mad at him, because it's already cure and then he cut 'em off again, eh. Just like he bin cut 'em up. So I swing the doctor out, you know. He was thrown out.

PL: Oh, you hit the doctor?

JT: Yeah! He was holding my hand, eh. When I see the blood shooting out, I swing 'em out. "What kind doctor? What kind is this now? It's already curing up. You know, that it's cure up already, and why you push 'em hard like that? Look, the blood come out again!" So I swing my arm away from him. Outside, the doctor was thrown away to about five feet to ten feet away.

(PL laughs)

JT: Yeah. I said, "What do you want?" "Don't be disobedient," he said. I said, "I'm not disobedient. I don't know if it's good or not good. But the way how I look now, I know no more blood already. It's not bleeding, this cut. But now, it's bleeding back again. How can I go work?" "So what you like?" he ask me. I said, "Well, if that is the case, you better send me to the plantation." So they send me to the Aiea Plantation. When I reach over there, the camp boss like they come meet us, eh. So every newcomers, the plantation order them, the family can only draw from the store three dollar half.

PL: What's that? Three dollar half?

JT: Groceries.

PL: For how long?

JT: For anything what I need in the kitchen at home.

PL: At home. Oh, the newcomers?

JT: The newcomers.

PL: Okay. To start with? 'As not....

JT: To start with, yeah. And the kaukau bag, the kaukau tin. The lunch can. And then my working hat, my shoes and then bacalaw. You

know, the small fish, the dried small fish. Iriko, like that. Mungo beans. Two small pot for me and my wife. And then the last one, rice, too, but the rice was late. Yeah. If I knew that that's all, and if I remember the rice, they would be no good. If small, I have to pick up more rice than anything. But I was mistaken. I was forget all about that. When we come to the rice... (Sound drowns voices)...small rice. That stays with us for one week, the thirty cents rice. No such thing hard cooked. All soft rice only. That's when I start crying, son. Oh, I hope, I think I better send letter to my father to send the ticket so we can go home. Because I cannot work. Because my hand come stiff again.

PL: Oh, I see. And they only gave you \$3.50 from the store?

JT: And I cannot draw some more because I'm not working.

PL: Oh, oh. I see.

JT: Yeah. So lucky thing, happen was my next neighbor was asking me if where I come from. So I told him that we came from the town of Karkar in the province of Cebu in the harrio of Perilug. "Oh, I am Karkaranon," he said. "See, I come from Karkar, too, but I stay in Baraca. So good, no, we meet again over here." I said, "Yeah." So he ask me, this old man, he ask me, "This one week, what are you eating?" Said, "Oh, this one only. Naglugao-lugaolang. Only this soft rice, because we no more enough rice to cook. And I no can go down to the store and pick up some more. So we stand by with this soft rice now." Said, "Oh, the poor thing. More better if you don't mind in Hawaii, plenty da kine Filipinos over here. Plenty buto buto, you know. Some, they see some newcomers with wahine, they fool around the wahine like that. But I'm advising to go to stay home with us since you get cut, you get trouble on your arm. I want you to meet my house." So we went to this house.

But this old man, I never know that he is related to my wife. When we start talking, after he introduce his wife to my wife, then we ask him to---the wife told him that, "I married this man from Karkar in Baraca, and his name is Caniete. And then the mother is living in Periluz. The auntie is in Periluz, too, and the name is Dimitria. And the uncle is Timoteo." But that is the uncle of my wife! But this man was old man. We don't know him, because he stays Hawaii long time. And we never know that he is in Hawaii. So I never seen him. So after that, "Oh, how about Felipe?" Asking all the names of the son. "How about Devincia?" "Oh, stay there washing magay, planting tobacco, planting corn." 'As all the cousins now. Yeah. "Oh, we are them. Auntie Dimit is my auntie." "So that is my auntie, too." 'As what my wife said. So I was happy I met them. So from there, I eat hard rice already. Whoo!

PL: So they help you out, yeah?

JT: They help me out, yeah. But I told him, my uncle, "Uncle, since I cannot work, I want you to put down the figure. How much you spend for us living in your home. Because I cannot work yet. Someday if I can go work, even how much I can give, "I'll give you. Not one time, maybe, but I have to give you that back."

PL: So you was staying at their house?

JT: I stay there until I work.

PL: Oh, did they have a big house?

JT: Two bedroom. Only the wife and one small son. Yeah, and we stay in the other room. When I start working, I ask him, "I want you to tell me how much I have to give you so I know how I pay you, too." And he said, "I no can charge you because....why I charge you?" And I said, "No, if you no charge me on the way you charge to somebody else because we are relatives," I said. "This is my help to you because we cannot live like this if not you. So don't mind if I give you how much. If what you said because you helping me, I have to help you, too." So he said, "Oh, I don't know." I ask the wife. Still don't know. I ask the husband, still don't know. So I figure that one month I stay, me and my wife, "How about giving you \$35 for the whole business? But I will pay you this of my extra money, I cannot pay it at one time, because I figure now, one dollar one day, and then \$23 if you get 23 days, you got \$25, you see. So we have to eat first of the \$25 before I can get extra." So I told him, "If you don't mind, I gave you that amount, but give me time to pay you because I'm not making big money." Tell, "No, in fact, I no like collect." So I was happy that time. So I start work cutting seeds in Aiea Plantation. Yeah.

PL: Oh, I see. So how many months before you could work since you arrive here, you know?

JT: Oh, I work in the plantation three months in Aiea Plantation. From March 1926, I was sent there to the plantation in Aiea. And then I stay there little over one month in that house. So that is April. And then in the month of May, I start work.

PL: Start work cutting seeds?

JT: Cutting seeds and palipali. Making lines, you know, before make line. Before hanawai, yeah. Then three months, I work over there, I get hard time, because only \$25 if I work 23 (days). So I was asking. I went up to the manager, Mr. Bob, the plantation manager. I ask Mr. Bob...."What do you want?" He asked me, ch, when I went to his office. I said, "I came to Hawaii, because I like work but I never believe that I cannot tackle the job. But now, I'm here in Hawaii. I am deciding myself to go back Philippines. If the plantation can send me back with their money, because I cannot....the job outside is too heavy for me." So, "Can you work

office?" I said, "No. I'm only fourth grade in the Philippine Islands. Yeah, I cannot. Maybe six months in the fifth (grade) but that's nothing to me. I cannot work office." "How about in the mill? Do you have in your mind to jobs entries to work in the mill?" I said, "Okay. I will try so long no more rain outside, eh." Said, "Okay, you go to the mill." He was talk to one luna over there; one Japanese stay in the bone block where they strain the sugar. The California sand and the sugar go together in the tank. And open the steam and they shoot out the sugar. I stay in that place. Bone block. They call that bone block. I like that job.

PL: Oh, but when you were working outside, I mean, is it really hard? I mean cutting seeds?

JT: Oh, yeah. The hard.

PL: Can you tell me more about, you know....

JT: Oh, yeah. Supposing you making lines, eh, fixing the lines of the sugar cane plant, eh, the luna---there is a checker. The way how you cut the machine cut like that, eh, how you cut your pulapula, how you make your line, like that. And you cannot everytime go ahead behind.

Kaukau time, no more one minute. You half an hour. Before 11:30. Two, three minutes before 11:30, whistle already. Five minutes before 11:30, stand up and ready to go to work.

Whoo! We only can rest when I tell bullshit, "I goes kukai. I go take a shit." When my back is really hard, I tell the luna, "I like go take a shit."

(PL laughs)

JT: Say, "Why you eat too much?" Our boss was Samoan, Hawaiian guy. "Well, no eat too much." I said, "Oh, I got to eat because going be hungry again, eh." So that's all my rice only. Our rice only.

PL: What time do you start in the morning?

JT: 6 o'clock. If it's day work, until 4:30. 'As ten hours work; ten cents one hour. Figure that. When you go contract, 3:30, pau hana. Same thing as Waialua Plantation, too. So from there, I figure by the time I was in the mill, I don't know how much a hour one day I get, but in that I feel good. In that job over there. I ask everybody in every department over there, anybody like stay home, I can double up. I can stand for them, you know. I can stay for them. You know that month, the first month that I went to the mill, my time was 38 days. After my job, somebody said, "Eh, this guys no come, but you can take 'em." I said, "Yes, okay. Let me go take my kaukau tin home. I come back for the place. So I make 38 days, work over there. You know how much I make that 38? I think was only \$42, \$43. I don't know. I no care how much one hour, you know.

And then from there, still no good, because when after draining the sand--the strainer--after draining that, we get time to sleep one hour, yeah. So we lay down and sleep, you know.

One morning was happen when I stand up, when I wake up to start the job again, I cannot stand up. My two legs cannot. I hang on my body like that. I pull one rope like that. I like stand up, yeah, I go down. Somebody said, "Maybe you get beri beri, eh?" So instead of going home about 6 o'clock in the morning--I was working in the night--my wife, I meet my wife about 8 o'clock, looking for me. I no can walk fast. My knee trouble. And then said, "What happened? Why you no come home in that time?" I said, "No can. I no can walk." Late I go over there. "You see how the time now?" Since the time I leave from the mill. Said, "Oh, this no good then, work night time." Said, "Oh, I think that's no good." So I was looking for another place to work. So was happen above Aiea--that's Aiea Heights now. That's Pearl City pineapple field.

PL: So what? You quit the plantation?

JT: I quit the plantation, because 'as the only job I like over there in the mill. But if I do not quit, I have to go back to palipali, eh, to the cutting seeds.

PL: So you quit, eh? What year was that?

JT: I quit in....the same year!

PL: The same year?

JT: Yeah, I think I only get six months or seven months in the plantation. That's why I broke my passage, eh. I no more three years free. So I went to Pearl City Fruit. When I went over there, before I accept the job, they okay me, though. But they said, "Okay, you come." But I told him, I told the boss, "Before I come, I like see what kind hoe you get. What kind place to work, before I say, 'Okay, I come.'" So he gave me the hoe, the small pineapple hoe and the place where to cut grass, no more stone. Not like Waimanalo, you know. You know, Waimanalo farm in Aiea Plantation. You go cut grass, nothing but stone, you know, Waimanalo side. Waimalu, Waimalu farm. So I said, "This place is good for work, because your hoe no going meet the stone, eh. Okay, I stay here one...."

Was happen that the plantation was getting down, too, you know, that Waialua Plantation. I think about one year, the bugga was give up already. So we got to run away, because in 1926, I try to look again because the boss said, "You better go look someplace where you can work, because this plantation will close up."

PL: Oh, the Pearl City Fruit?

JT: Yeah, will close up. So I went this side, Waialua Plantation.



1926, I think, in the month of....cut cane time. Start cut cane time, I think. Then when I work over here, I see contract over there. Growing cane.

PL: Growing cane?

JT: Grow cane, yeah. From there, I grow cane from 1926 until 1936.

PL: That's contract?

JT: Sometimes, I go down. We go cut cane after we took in our contract. We go day work, you know, any kind, making lines, cut grass. Sometimes I go haul cane, ballfoot truck, carry rails. Before we have train car in a field, yeah, we will have to go load the cane and the rain will bring 'em down to the mill. That was our job before. And after that, I figure out, from that time that I came to this plantation, our wages come up to \$1.62.

PL: A day?

JT: A day. And my family is getting bigger.

PL: How many kids do you have then?

JT: Six.

PL: Did you have any kid before you came to Hawaii?

JT: No. We just get married. So my oldest was born in 1927 in Kemoo Plantation, Kemoo Camp. Kemoo behind Davis. Dr. Davis.

PL: Oh, your first kid was born...

JT: In there.

PL: Where? At home?

JT: No, Kemoo farm. I mean, Dr. Davis' house before. You know, the Kemoo Camp over there? 'As where. And then I figure, we no can. No enough our kaukau. That is in 1932. So I decide to go back Philippine with my wife, yeah. To ask money. But I shame to ask money because I stay longer already. Why ask money for my ticket to my Poppa? So I shame. I hold back. No ask money.

So I went to Mr. Taok, the strike leader before. He was trying to send all those Filipinos that is out of work from Hawaii. If I'm not mistaken, in 1935, '36. I join with him, you know. So I ask Mr. Taok, "If I join what you doing now, until where is this?" He said, "Until Manila only. From Manila, it's up to you to go home to your own home." "But I have no more money. How can I go back Cebu?" We were in immigration already.

PL: Oh, you sent....

JT: We wen go there.

PL: With your kids or no?

JT: With my wife. All us, plenty people, not only me. Plenty people no more. There was happen plenty Filipinos come over here while Mr. Ligot was the commissioner over there. Keep on holding, holding the man. The man come over here, little bit kapukahi, he throw 'em away. That's why outside people, plenty starving. No more jobs, eh. Because the Philippine Island is shipping, dumping all the guys wanted to work in Hawaii. So what mistake people over here, what Filipinos get mistake from the plantation, the next day go. So where they going? You see. So, Taok was trying to send all those Filipinos that is out of work.

So I figure even then if I have work it's not enough, what I earn. So I told my wife, "I think I better take you home and then I come back if I can. So that way if I have forty dollars, if I were concentrate of sending you that overmoney--maybe \$15 a month--you get thirty pesos in the Philippine Islands." So my wife agree that. 'As why I went. I joined with Mr. Taok, but when he told me that from Manila only and it's up to you to go home to your own home, I will not. Because I no more even one penny. No more one penny. How long I stay here in this Waialua Plantation? If they did not decide to give two dollars in the envelope, I no save money.

The time that I have the six kids. No can. No more money. Not enough for the store. So I think they pity, eh, the people no more money, eh. They gave me two dollars in the envelope. So then, we have two dollars in the envelope every month. Regardless, if you have a big balance from the store. But in 1936, nothing come up, but only \$1.52 one day. Then I hear Molokai again, it's good.

PL: Oh, you went Molokai?

JT: Molokai. 'As what they said. Molokai is good. Two dollars a day and cutting pulapula is making more money, eh. So I figure I think we better go try. 'As when I told Mr. Lowe, the section boss Thomas Lowe, "I'll try outside of this plantation. Maybe someplace, I'll try the best plantation, so I can make---I have chance, maybe," I said. I just try. I talk to Mr. Lowe, eh. Said, "No, no, Joe." 'As what Mr. Lowe said. "Do not. The time you put up in this plantation, it's poho. Poho if you leave 'em. You sowing something good for you someday in here." But I did not listen that because I never see, eh. I don't know how true was that. I said, "Well, Mr. Lowe, I decide to go. I will try go." So it's reported in the office that I am going out.

PL: What year was that when you was going out?

JT: That was Mr. Midkiff's time then. Mr. Midkiff, John Midkiff

is the manager over there. So Mr. Midkiff told Mr. Lowe, "Bring Jose down." Me. So Mr. Lowe pick me up and go down. So he give me advice not to go. He told me that, "I know how you are in this plantation and I know that you will have something from this plantation." But I did not listen that. I did not listen that, because my mind was too strong to go over there. Then when second time, he said, "Well, you go home and think it over and come back bumbye." So I went home. Stay one week at home. Still no result that I going stay. So Mr. Lowe brought me down again to the office. That's when I meet Mr. Midkiff again. So I told Mr. Midkiff that I cannot stay. I think I gotta go because I decide to go already. So in number three times, then he call me in and said, "Well, it's up to you now. If you like go, you can go, but I'm advising you to stay because I know that you get better position someday. Not right away, but somedays." But I no listen that, see, and I go home. And then I pack everything and go to Molokai. That's 1936.

PL: 1936, you went to...

JT: No, no. 1937. That is 1937, yeah. When I went over there, I worked good, though. I make sometimes three dollar, four dollars a day when I go picking pineapple, big pineapple. Then, when off season, the same year 1937, then, we go cut sugar. Pulapula. And then I was asking for go with the tractor, because the tractor job is everyday. Thirty days. No can. So that time, they give us three days. I went to Mr. Jacobson. I explain, "Mr. Jacobson, I get six kids with me. My wife and me. If only three days a week, I cannot live. How about giving me a job? Any kind so long I got five or six days a week. Not if I'm sick, but if I am not sick, I want to work for my children." So he put me in the stable. Every day, the mule going take a shit, eh, so we take care the stable, now.

PL: This at Molokai?

JT: Molokai, yeah. Then from there, Mr. Sumisu, the boss of the tractor, heavy equipment foreman was looking for one helper. So I went because that one, hey, when open for a work, even Sunday working that time. So I went to Mr. Sumisu.

That's when happen that while I was driving the caterpillar with the dash behind and the driver was....he went to someplace that he drink water, you know, because our kaukau tin is not with us. Stay by the side, eh. So he wen drink water and I drive the caterpillar, go around. But big area, so then, happen was I was smoking, too. I never know that my tobacco fly away from my pipe. It flew away from my pipe and burn my pants over here. And go to the opala. And that's why when the fire come big, well, I was on the other side, I saw the other side smoking, big smoke and flaming, you know. Because the opala was real dry, eh. So I take off with the caterpillar over there. I try stop 'em with the caterpillar. No can. The more the fire come wild, you know.

So I drive the caterpillar away from the fire. And I try my best to fire-break myself. About little more halfway up, my fire breaking of the area, the driver came. So me and him was making the fire break, eh. Then when they saw that the field was burning, Mr. Sumisu and Mr. Jacobson came. And he ask me, "Where is the fire come from?" I said, "Well, nobody come over here, Mr. Jacobson. Only me and my driver. But the one who was smoking is me. And I know that is my fire, because (that's) why my pants was burned."

(PL laughs)

JT: "That is mine. But it's not purposely that. I know we need the opala. That's why we grinding up into. To turn it into dust or dirt-like, because we need. But was happen my fire fly away without me know about, 'as why come happen like this.'" So him and Mr. Sumisu go about a hundred fifty feet away from me and they were talking over there.

So after the conversation on the other side, the boss come back. The luna come back. Said, "Okay, get in the pick up." So I jump in the pick up. I thought I was going be transfer to someplace else. 'As why when we reach to the in front of the store, he said, "Okay, down." So I jump off. He never tell me to wait or nothing. But since I never know, too, that I was suspended, I just wait for them. Because I don't know the place where to go. I only know home, but I no like go home, yeah. So I wait, wait, wait, wait. I sit down (on) walk. I was mad already. Plenty mosquitoes. I wen wait from before 6 o'clock in the afternoon until 10 o'clock in the night. When the store was close, I said, "I think no luna. The luna is sleeping at home already." So I go home.

That night, I decide myself, "Nothing. Not one day I going spend again in this plantation. I go home. If I did something wrong, they supposed to tell me, and if I'm punished, what punishment I going get, they have to tell me that. Not to drop me by the road without telling me what, why." Yeah, I was mad. The next day, I told my wife, "Pack up everything. Pack up." Sally, oldest one, was in the hospital, yeah. I say, "Just pack up. We go get the girl and go home to Oahu."

So Kennedy, the second boss, ask me, "Why?" And Marcos Atoon, "What happened?" I said, "Well, this no more good system over here. If I do something wrong, I want to know. I want them to let me know that I do wrong. If I'm to be punished right there, I'm happy to receive any what you say to me about what I did. But not just drop me as a dead dog over there and no tell me, 'I going come back or I no come back for you.'" And all the mosquitoes was sucking my blood from 6 o'clock in the afternoon until 10 o'clock. Crazy. Is that the way how? Just because no more pineapple"--I told to the camp boss, you know--"you just make the man disgusted? Somedays when you need, what? You pick people like that. You no

realize that because the big shot always thinking of....because of plenty people, yeah, and you get plenty money. But that's not the right way. That's not the right way. If he's no good, tell him that 'You're no good.' If he's good, tell him that he's good. What he did is not good, tell him right away so he know. But not like that. Dump over there like a dead dog over there." Marcos was crying in the wharf. I said, "Now, I want a truck to pack, to bring my things down to the wharf." "Why?" I said, "I going move from here. This not the way. The system, 'as not how what I like, yeah. Because I know that I'm a low knowledge man. I just went up to fourth grade, but I know what is good and no good. That way is no good. The way how they did, Mr. Jacobson talk to the Sumisu, and Sumisu just come back and told me go in the truck. When I went to the truck, they dump me over there by the store and pau. That, I now like. I go back."

So the time I got the truck, I pick up the girl--'as the one from the hospital. The doctor said, "She's sick." "That's alright if she's sick. I will take 'em home. I no like." So I came. We ride one boat Hawaii, eh. But in safety, my girl get safety room in hospital in the boat until we reach over here.

PL: So what year you came back to Waialua?

JT: '38. '39, I think. Well, close to '39 already. '38.

PL: So what did you do then when you came back?

JT: Came back, look around for job. Yeah. Look for work again, yeah. And anyway, when all those guys go after me in Molokai, I found them out in the plantation already.

PL: What you mean, "Go after you?"

JT: Because when I went first, eh, plenty guys, my friend go after me.

PL: Oh, I see.

JT: And then, when I come back, they come home, first, eh! They come home first. And I saw them in the plantation. So I figure I'll go back, too, eh, plantation. When I went to the office, first time, say, "Jose, okay." They picking up people now, eh, workers. But when I went over there, they look the book. Yeah, after they look the book, they deny me. Mr. Anderson is the manager. Next to Mr. Midkiff, was Anderson, the boss, when I came back. And Mr. Thompson, the young Thompson is the big luna that time. But they deny me now. But after me, when Pilapil came home from Molokai, they take Pilapil.

PL: That's one of your friends, Pilapil?

JT: One of my friends. So I believe that they blame me that I went and bringing people away from the plantation because all those guys

are good workers, too. But, no, I did not. I did not. They just want to follow me. That's why happen they wen go after me. But for me to invite them to come, no. But that's what they think, eh. So I no can get job from the plantation.

PL: So what you did after that?

JT: After that, I look for job. In the morning I told my wife, "You cook." After cooking, I go up to banana farm in Mokuleia. Walk. I no more car, eh. I walk.

PL: So I mean, whose house did you stay then when you come back to Waialua?

JT: That, you know, that old Federation office there? You know this Achiu Lane?

PL: Yeah.

JT: One old house across.

PL: Whose house that?

JT: 'As Federation people before. Federation....you know, this Federation people, 'as belong to them.

END OF SIDE ONE  
SIDE TWO

PL: Okay, Tata, you can continue now.

JT: Yeah.

PL: Okay, Tata, before we go back to about the house that you use to stay at the Federation office, before you went looking for a new job 'cause you didn't get into a plantation job, can you tell me if you had anything else? I mean, your relationship with your bosses at Waialua when you was working in the plantation in Waialua?

JT: Yeah.

PL: Did you have good relationship with your bosses?

JT: Not all of them. I have some luna is too sassy, you know. Like Mr. Souza, yeah. Was too sassy, that one. Because was happen was cutting cane by 5-A in Halemano, Kaheka side. By there we cutting cane in the morning. When we were cutting cane over there, I just stay. I just stand by the workers' side, you know. By the ditch side. No, one man stay by the ditch side and I stay three or four lines below the ditch line, you see. Then when he saw--when this guy saw me that I just stay even with the thick cane, with the one by the ditch one, they pull me out from there, from the light

cane and they bring me in the thick cane. That's what burn me up, now. So I said, "Why?" "No question. Just come whatever I told you to go, you go." "Okay." I just stand up from my place, I come by the ditch and he stay right close to me, you know. Said, "Go ahead!" They said, now. "Cut cane behind. Throw it behind!" They said, "Cut it down," they said. "Not pull, but throw behind." They said, eh. You know he no like I cut and put like that, you know. He said throw. Okay, keep on cutting. I was opening up already, until I hit the baby cane. Big one like this, eh. So I cut the top one time like that. When I hit the stump, I throw behind extra strong, you know. I hit 'em on the chest.

(Laughter)

JT: That mad I was, you know. But said, "Eh, you not supposed to hit me with the cane." I said, "Well, you told me to throw it behind. You get away from there. I'm throwing the cane behind now."

So I keep on throwing the cane, but how much I can, I stand. No more half an hour. Maybe around ten minutes only, I give up because cut cane is hard. It's not easy job, you know. So for there, he said, "You better go home." "No," I said, "I come to work, not to stay home." I work. Said, "Well, too bad for you if you stay work today. I no can give you time for today." I said, "Okay. I watch this day." I told him. "I watch this day that you going lost all out. And you will know, too, that I going collect this one day. I let you know how I collect this one day from you." I keep on working until pau hana.

The payday come, I told my wife, "If happen I going hit this man, you have to go back Philippine because I going be jailed. I going lick 'em. I going break his bone." 'As too much. 'As extra bad already that kind treatment. To me. To me, 'as extra. If I go bring this hoe handle--short one--I put 'em by the big tree, by the old bank, now. I put that (by) the tree. We used to get our pay over there. I put my can over there. My hoe handle, I get long. If I lose that....if I have only 22 days, I going lick 'em. I going lick 'em. So I told my wife, "If this will happen, you try get yourself to get back Philippine, yeah. And all the kids, yeah. This is no good already," I said. She said, "Oh, no need." My wife said, "No need." "No, no, no, that's too much. They are treating us just like baby. That's not the way how. In fact, if they talk to us nice, the more the people love to work. But from beginning, you are just like a santiador over there. No good, no good that kind. That makes the people lazy, more lazy. But if I lose my one day, I going lick 'em," I told my wife.

So when payday time, I have 23 days. Not one wen lost. But every luna before supposed to stay there for any complaints, eh. So I went in front of him. "Here! Waha! I get my 23. You no can afford. You no can do that. Lose my one day. 'As why I say, you only mouth. Look my 23. I have my 23. Lucky you give me." So I (went) home. When I go home, he was so mad at me, you know, and then

the next week, we go back our contract.

After that day work, we go back to our contract. Because our contract was almost to turn in, so we hanawai one time; we go out, day work one time. Sometimes two days, three days. So the next week, we go out cut cane again. By Lower Camp. Above Ranch place. Besides this high school.

PL: Where?

JT: Waialua High School. So we was over there. Our field boss was the father, Mr. Manuel Souza. And our head luna is Joe Souza, the son. So we start in the morning cut cane. Because before no such thing no sweat. When you start to work, you sweat right away cutting cane. More worse, we like contract, too, we sweat. We sweat and work for our money. So before 8 o'clock, people crying for water. Yeah. They start. This side is saying, "Water boy." And the other side, "Water boy." Then this side again, "Water boy." Me, I no call, because I know they going deliver the water, but, you know, too many guys like call, eh. The one who work fast, eh. Me, I'm thirsty too, but I know they going come because 'as why we have the sled with water to pass every hour. So why we call, why we shout. But no can help. So some people just make believe they hot, you know. Call for water. So when I look, 'as when Mr. Navarro riding his mule with a sled behind, coming towards the farm to the cutting area. So when the boy saw the water boy, the more they shout the water boy. "How come? Hurry up, water boy." But it's not that they get mad, though, only fool around, eh. And then about little more to reach us in the end of the line, he whistle. This Joe Souza bin whistle to the water boy and give signal go back to the camp. So I look. He turn around to the road. I was thinking he going start up from up, eh. Easier for the mule to come down with the sledge, eh. But he no go up on the road and come down. He go back to the camp.

Oh boy! I was so mad, you know, that time again. I talk to the boys, "What is this now? We come, wake up 4 o'clock so we can come to work. And the important thing is that while we work is to live, not to die. While we are there, they are killing us now over here. What we going do over here? Why we no go home and drink our water? More better we go home. This is our right already, yeah. They suppose to give to us what we like, what we need when we are working hard. Not to do that!"

We wait about five minutes. The water boy was hiding over there. He scared, too, if he get fired by the Joe, eh, from the head luna. But that everybody said, "Oh, more better go home." I said, "Okay, we better go home." I go tell the boss. I go tell the boss if they call me in the office, we tell that. We going tell them the way how whether it is good or not. So we went. We reached by Haga Store. Some workers stay by Haga Store. In front the school house.

PL: Oh, in front the school house?



JT: Mr. Thompson, the big boss, he meet us over there. He asked me, "What happened, boys?" Say, "Well, Mr. Thompson, we going home for the water. We can drink water over here, but m e better go home. Because we no like the way how our boss treat us over there. One reason, past 7 o'clock to 8 o'clock they suppose to give us water, but just because the boys shout for water, the water boy came with the water. But Joe Souza bin send 'em back to the camp. In other words, they no care if we going die from dry. So we better go home instead of drinking in the camp. More better we go home. Lose this day." And Mr. Thompson said, "No, okay, boys. You go back and let me see these things, now."

Okay, he's the big boss. We went back, go cut cane. Well, we reach to the place where our line was to cut, the water boy was watching for us there. Yeah. So we drink water and the boss, Mr. Souza, the field boss and Mr. Thompson was right by the corner on the roadside. So we cut cane every hour, now; every hour, the water go. But we never know that he was thrown out from the plantation.

PL: Who got thrown out? Mr. Souza?

JT: He was thrown out. The boss, Joe. Because when the next day--- on the next day until now, I no see 'em already. That means Mr. Thompson understand what I told him about. Because not only me. I no can tell these guys we go home when I like go home. I can go home myself, yeah. If I like. But these guys feel the same as I feel because they follow me. And our story is this: we are dry and we need water. Yeah.

Oh, the next day, no more Souza. No more Joe Souza. Yeah, he lost out over there and from there....that is happen before I left the plantation.

PL: That was before you went to Molokai?

JT: Molokai, yeah.

PL: Now we go back to da kine then. When you came back from....

JT: 1938, '39. Late part. Late part of 1938 when we come back. Six months, all, January, February, March, April, May, June, July. Seven months old, my boy Carlos. He was born on January 10, 1938 in Molokai. So when my boy start biting the nipples of my wife's breasts, take 'em away from the milk, seven months old. 'As why I get hard time that time when I came back, because where the money come from to buy milk? No more.

PL: So what did you do then? You couldn't work at the plantation? What job did you have?

JT: I just go around here and there. I went to Mr. Anderson, the bank boss in Waialua. I take his yard, contract. Sixteen dollars a month, yeah. But I spend my time there Sunday and pau hana time. From 3:30 to 4, to 5 o'clock in the afternoon. Every weekdays. But Saturday and Sunday, I stay there all day. That's when I lay my

net. I know I lay my hook for oopu over there. Catch fish.

PL: Where's this place?

JT: The ranch there, by Anahulu guards. Anahulu Bridge about. You know this bridge by the restaurant over there? Towards Kahuku.

PL: Yeah, yeah.

JT: That's the big river, yeah. About there is Mr. Anderson's Ranch. Dry dock station over there. So I take care the station for \$16 a month. And the rest of the day--Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday--Mr. Banggoy give me two days.

PL: Doing what?

JT: Behind the Haleiwa Gym, get one sugar cane. Filipino owned there before. Then I go to the Waialua Church. The priest give me two dollars a day. Two dollars a day and two days. And Mr. Fletcher in the dairy, the Waialua dairy before, he give me two days. So I got six days. Yeah. I got six days working. And plus on Sunday, my contract \$16 a month, eh. But I figure, I no can stay long like this because ride bike go over there, ride back to Banggoy, ride back to the dairy, ride back the next day to the priest. So I keep on looking where I can get steady and in one place, too. So I went to banana grove, like that. Bring my kaukau tin, like that, because whenever I get the job, I no need worry. I get the lunch. I can start right away. But happen no more room. So I went Mr. Longley.

PL: Longley.

JT: The boss of Hawaiian Pine, the boss that commit suicide three to five years ago. So he said, "Well, no more job. Pineapple is gone already, boy, so what can I (do) for you?" I said, "Well, Mr. Longley," I told Mr. Longley. "I have six kids, yeah. And the youngest one is drinking milk, sucking milk and I no more money. I no care how much you going pay me so long I can get some money for buy milk." But he said, "No can. Cannot." Because they laying off some people, they giving limit of work, some people. Two days, some three days. Not many guys. So the way I look, Mr. Longley feel what I feel, yeah. So he send me to Takeyama place. Takeyama in the pineapple field. So he told me, "You go see the luna over here. He can place you in his position over there. Because that's the only one I know I think get little bit more job over there."

PL: Is at Wahiawa?

JT: No, the office is Wahiawa. But that Takeyama is above Ashley station. Way up. As pineapple field over there. Hawaiian Pine. So I went over there. So this Bunda, Jose Bunda in Waialua. This boy was not married yet that time. He was single, young boy. He had a junk car, eh. Sometimes run, sometimes not. He sold to me for six dollars.

PL: What year was that?

JT: (Laughs) 1939.

PL: So you bought the car?

JT: No. '38. I bought the car, but the car is 1926 Chevrolet. But all junk, you know. No more top, but I try call my pake friend, eh, to run 'em. He bin run 'em, you know.

So I ride that car to go up that side to Takeyama. When I reach over there, that's when I get mad again to the Japanese, you know. Said, "Papa, Mr. Longley told me to come see you if you can place me in the job, because I need help." And he said, "You pupule!" He call me pupule. I said, "Why pupule?" "Now no more pineapple, get the man. Before had plenty pineapple, no more man. Pupule." I said, "No, why you call me pupule? The boss ask me to come. Tell me to come and ask you if you can place me. I'm not pushing you to give me if you no more. If you get, Mr. Longley said if you can put me in the job. Why you get mad at me? That's not the idea. You no answer my question. The boss said if you can put me in the job, if you can help me. If there is some vacant for me but if no more, just tell no more. No call me pupule." I was mad. I had my car, because my car no more starter, eh. I was going hit 'em with the crank, but I come home. I come back.

The next morning, I meet Mr. Longley again. At the office, everyday, I go to the office, see Mr. Longley. Was happened his hat, you know, by Poamoho, Mr. Longley's hat, he put behind the car, eh, behind the seat. And fly out from the car. I know was from his car. From Brodie Two where the station, pineapple now stay. Hawaiian Pineapple, where the pineapple for the tourist, eh. We came from over there going back to Wahiawa, so I follow him. When we reached before the bridge, his hat flew away from the car, and I know 'as his hat flew away from the car. I just follow him behind until Wahiawa. When I reach Wahiawa, I was bringing his hat to his office. "Here's your hat, Mr. Longley." So he look around, eh, and look up. He forget where. "Was inside my car. Where you found 'em?" I said, "By Poamoho Gulch. He flew away from your car. So I pick 'em up and since I'm coming, I bring 'em to you." So, "Thank you, boy. Thank you. So any news from Takeyama boss?" I said, "Yeah, but he said no more." I just said no more. I no tell da kine talk, yeah. He mad at me, you know. I said, "He said no can. Before need, but no need now." So "Well, it's pretty hard, boy. Let me think where I can put you down. I can give you the job." I said, "Okay, thank you, Mr. Longley. I come back tomorrow morning."

Every morning, I go. And then, next morning, I went again. When I went over there, he said, "Oh, do you know this Waialua Ranch over there?" I said, "Yeah, I know that. I was working over there with Mr. Joaquin Robello, the cowboys over there." But not cowboy, but sometimes, he let us bring wire, hog wire for the corral post for fix the fence. Well, that one was under Waialua

Plantation, yet. He said, "Oh, that is now belong to Hawaiian Pine, so that's the place I know that I can put you down there work, cut trees for the cows, fix the fence. And I don't know exactly how much job to do over there, but Mr. Cleghorn is the boss over there." I said, "Okay." "I want you to go over there in the morning because I talk to Mr. Cleghorn that he need some trees cutters. Okay, tomorrow morning, you report to Mr. Cleghorn again, because he said to send you over there to me. He told me to send you there." I said, "Okay."

Next morning, I was happy. That time I come home, I was smiling myself. You know, coming home time. Because I going get the big company again, eh, go work. So I stay over there. The next morning, I go over there about 9 o'clock, I meet Mr. Cleghorn by the ranch, by the corral. Mr. Cleghorn look at me. "Oh, good morning, boy." I said, "Good morning, Mr. Cleghorn." I know him, Mr. Cleghorn, you know, but I never work for him yet. I know that his name is Mr. Cleghorn. "Good morning, Mr. Cleghorn. See, I was in the office yesterday and he told me to come down and see you. Mr. Longley told me that." Said, "Oh, yeah. I bin turn in my report that I need some tree cutters. Not only cutters that work one, two day, Sunday go gamble like that. I like those steady workers." I said, "Well, I promise to work Saturday and Sundays, and holidays if you like if I'm not sick. But if I'm sick, that's excuse to me, I think, because I cannot work. Nobody can work when sick. But in this condition I am now, if I'm alright, I work straight if you like." Then look at me, look up and down. "You sure you work?" I said, "Yeah. I work. I get plenty family to support now. And besides that, why I going stay home? I like work, because I'm not sick." Said, "Okay, tomorrow you take your physical examination." We went down Ewa Plantation. We went Ewa Hospital. So I take my physical examination over there. I was accepted to work.

Then he try me work that day. I don't know what month was that. And he said, "Okay, what is your name?" I said, "My name is Jose Tantog." He said, "Okay, Joe, I want you to work if you are not sick. Stay there until I tell you. Stay home, rest." I said, "Okay, I promise that." "Rain, you no scared rain?" I go, "No. I got raincoat. Yeah, I get raincoat. I no scared rain." So go in the water and swim without knowing of swimming, then I scared. But only rain, no can. I get raincoat, yeah. "Okay, okay, Joe." Then I start work. You know who give up? Mr. Cleghorn give up. The following New Year, 1941, he give up, Mr. Cleghorn. He said, "Joe, I know you can work, but this New Year, I want you to stay home." I said, "Okay. I stay home." Rest, I stay home, but I go up to mountains hunt pig. And that's why he know that I can work and he can depend on me. too. Because was all from him, nothing wrong; nothing not fulfilled. All done right.

So he put me in the experiment house. So many pound of soybean, so many pounds of molasses, so many pounds of rubbish, tossed grass, like that. And water. No limit. Go ahead with the water.

And after that, he look up the record, eh. Everything is good. All, everything is alright.

And then, was our boss, Andrew. I don't know the name, but Hawaiian. The cowboy, the chief of the cowboy over here. He ask me one time, "Joe, I can kill this bull. But cheap to us because we are working for them." I said, "Oh, I'll take ten dollars." Yeah, then the other compadre take ten dollar. That's twenty dollars and other one take ten dollars, him ten dollars. 'As forty dollars. The bull like that long, the horn. Cheap, you know. Plenty meat. So I said, "How this one, Andrew?" And Andrew said, "'As alright. We pay 'em bumbye. Bumbye, you, I let you know when time to pay." I said, "Okay." Then that long I wait. I get the money for two weeks in my pocket. My wife gave me that money. So how come Mr. Cleghorn no come. We pay when he come, he said. Mr. Andrew said. So when I was in a corral, I told Mr. Cleghorn, "When you going collect the money, Mr. Cleghorn?" "What money?" "Oh, the one, the small bull we bought." Said, "What?"

(Laughter)

JT: Oh boy, I was scared, you know. I said, "The bull that you sold to us." "Am I selling a bull to you?" I said, "Yeah, Mr. Andrew, we kill 'em over there by valley one. The white face." "No, no, no. I'm not supposed to sell the animals. No. When is that?" I said, "About last month." Oh boy, I say I think Andrew going get mad or what. But no can, pau already. I no can change my story already, because I thought that was sold to us good way, eh. So I figure since he's here, I give him the money. It's up to them to give theirs. Because he said when Mr. Cleghorn comes, 'as when we going get the money to him, yeah. Whoo boy! I think Mr. Cleghorn was waiting, waiting, waiting for what they get, their share, what about their share. And no more come. Maybe they only hiding. But my money is there already. I give to Mr. Cleghorn. Yeah. That is evidence only. He keep 'em only for evidence, I think now, because why Mr. Cleghorn give me the master key after that?

PL: Oh, he give you key for what?

JT: They gave me the master key to go all over the gate over there, and check up the fence. Check up the molasses. And if there is a fence broken, you come down and make a report to the gang, fence gang, to come down and fix, you see.

Yeah, and then 'as when Andrew get mad, you know. When I get the horse, I get the key, he ask me, "Why you get the key?" "I don't know." Mr. Cleghorn say, "I want you to take care the molasses, look out after the fence. You look after the fence and if something wrong, you report quick to Moniz." Moniz is the big luna of the fence gang, eh. So okay, I okay that. "So he gave me the key. He gave me to put up all the molasses. I put up all the molasses every (Tape garbled) like that. And that's all I know. "Why?" Said, "No, I no like you work for me over here." I said, "Well, if you no like me, Mr. Cleghorn told me to work over here."

That is about May of 1941. Yeah, June, about there, around there. So I called up Mr. Cleghorn. "That Andrew will send me away from here. He want me to go Punaluu with my own expense. How can I stay, Mr. Cleghorn?"

PL: Where's Punaluu?

JT: Punaluu. You know, by Sunset. You know where the Army Training Center over there? Above. That's, I think, by Mr. Rusborn's place. How can I go out there with my own car? Two dollars one day! "No, no, Andrew, I no like." So I called up Mr. Cleghorn. I said, "Why Andrew told me to go Punaluu when you give me the key to work over here?" He said, "Yes, I told you to stay there and take care what I told you. Not to go no place." So I went back to Andrew. "I talk to Mr. Cleghorn," I said. "I have to stay here. 'As why, 'as the reason why he gave me the key. He give me the two horse, B.J. and Makapa. Change around the horse. Today. I bring B.J. The next day, I bring Makapa to check up the fence, molasses." Said, "No. I no like you work over here." So I figure, if I stay with him, with no good inside, something going happen, eh. I call back Mr. Cleghorn. "Mr. Cleghorn, no sense you let me work over here when some of my men working men over here is hurting me, hurting myself. They got something in their mind that they don't like me. I don't know why. So I think it's better to go away from them." Said, "No, no, no, Joe. You stay there. You get the horse to go." Yeah. But I figure this kanaka, you know we scared about kanaka before, eh.

PL: Oh, you scared with kanakas before? What's that?

JT: We scared them about believing about kahunas like that.

PL: Mhm.

JT: So I think it's better to go away from them. So I told Mr. Cleghorn, "Mr. Cleghorn, if I can stand, maybe I stay, but if I can find some place for work that no give me trouble, I think I better go over there." So I went to Schofield but that was defense job is starting already that time. But no more war yet. Okay. And I went over there. They take man, plenty man, they like. Yeah.

PL: Doing what? They taking man for....for what kind of work.

JT: Construction, building houses, building roads in Schofield, changing all big warehouses. You know, where the bomb, when they December 7, all the bomb land up at the hangar. That's not all finished yet. Some was finished, but the warehouse that I was working that day--the day was Saturday, eh. The warehouse that we were cleaning up that day, Saturday, Sunday morning was busted. All burned. We were over there working.

So said okay, and then, about two weeks after that, they need

a pusher that can understand about Ilocano, Filipino, Visayan, this little bit English like that. Ilocano like that. Tagalog, like that, yeah. Because plenty Filipinos that they no can handle, eh. Some no can talk. I was pick up by the pake over there. "I think this man can talk plenty language from Philippine Island people. He understand, and English, he can understand little bit, too." So I was there. I was in that position from 1941 until 1946.

PL: Oh, I see.

JT: Yeah. So I make little bit money. Over there, yeah. And then they put me a foreman. Dollar, one hour. 'As where I make my money. Overtime, plenty overtime, yeah.

Then I figure after the War, Yokomoto, the Hawaiian Dredging, he said, "I need a gang with the luma." So I told the boss over here I going quit Schofield, 'cause I got only dollar half one hour. And then Mr. Yokomoto, he give me \$1.80 one hour, Hawaiian Dredging. So I moved over there with my gang.

And then I asked Mr. Yokomoto, the section overseer, the project overseer. I asked, "We are too far from the job, and I get truck. What going get? What my truck going get if I bring my truck and bring 'em down? I cannot afford with my truck price." Said, "Well, first time, use your truck and free of service, gasoline, everything for time being." We went over there. After that, they give us the big truck for me to drive. Go and come home, go and come home, like that until 1948. I stay there until 1948.

So from 1948, my last job is this Kunia Road. You know, from Kipapa, from up to Kunia Road. Past the Army camp over there. You know where the intersections to Kunia and to Kemoo Farm? About there. Until to the gate. The gate of Kunia side. Then happen they ask about citizen people, eh. So I was not citizen yet, so they take me out from the job, because I am alien. So from there, I come back to this farm.

PL: Oh, when did you have this farm then?

JT: 1946.

PL: 1946.

JT: This one is 1943.

PL: Oh, you was working here 1943?

JT: Yeah, but I was working for outside. I just get my pau hana time over here and Saturday and Sunday.

(Interruption. Taping resumes.)

JT: You mean to say in '46, I have this one....'46, I open this.

PL: Eh, how did you start on this farm job?

JT: Oh, I learn. I saw the job. This guys Japanee making money from this kind, you know.

PL: Who's that guy?

JT: George. I mean Tanabe. Mr. Tanabe, the old man, then George after. When the old man make, George take 'em, eh. So I figure, I look at his crop outlet. Goes to the Mainland, eh. And all Filipino worker, he can get. I think if I run this kind as I know about land, work in the land, if I have this kind farm, I can pick up Filipinos, too, eh. For work, because I'm good to every Filipinos, too. Visayan, Ilocano or Tagalog. No such thing no more Filipinos no like me. The way how I stay with them before until now.

So I start this one here. And then I come up over here 1946. The first strike, I open this over here. The money to be bring to the Philippine Island all broke over here because no can go home already. Sally married. I like take them home when before they married, see, 'as what I figure with my money. But when two of them get married over here, I spend my money on the farm. Because I figure no can go home already.

PL: Mhm.

JT: And I know that that business is making money because no more competition. Only Tanabe. He was alone before. Then when I come inside, me and him. Get the bigger area, see. Now he lose his one. Somebody get 'em.

PL: How many acres did you start with?

JT: These two acres in the beginning. And then after this...

PL: Where is that land from?

JT: ...this one from Bishop, well, plantation. Waialua Plantation, but 'as Bishop Estate land. Lease by the plantation and then the plantation sublease to me. From 1943, until now. Then I figure out, 1943, in 1945 this thing over here give me three thousand something. Just my pau hana and Sunday and Saturday. So I figure I told my wife, "If I have three thousand in two acres in the price before, 23¢ a pound, what more if we get ten acre? What good we going get if we get ten acre? Fill plenty vacant over here. Plenty California grass over here. I go all over there. All get bank, eh. You can tell that that was taro patch before, but only grass now because nobody cultivating the land." So I told my wife, "More better no go home already. We stay here." I open this one.

I go to the owner, Mr. Awai. "I like lease this one." Said, "Okay, I give you one year to clean it, then the following year, 'as when you pay hundred dollar....\$25 one acre lease."



PL: One year?

JT: Yeah, one year. Before in the beginning that. And then I figure plenty guys, plenty working people, eh. So after this, I clean up this one. I go up again. I go up again. I get vacant again over there. I open again. I plant this one over there. After planting this, I move up there. After planting the other one, I move, move, move until I hit below the courthouse. Two sides of the big ditch.

The pake surprise (at) me, you know, that pake over there. "Hey, what kind style?" I said, "Filipino style." Because after I cut the top, eh, and I dig 'em with the shovel, eh. From there, I soak down, yeah, then after soaking down, plant. Plant hasu. The pake laugh. "'As not the way how." I said, "How?" Said, "You know, after digging you make 'em soft until the deep that the hasu can go. Because you no can take the hasu bumbye." I said, "Why?" "Too hard." "Bumbye, papa, bumbye." Now the main thing is to plant but I figure if I go make 'em soft with the money, by money power, I going lose all my money. And no more coming yet.

PL: How many people did you hire to work for you?

JT: Sometimes Waialua people. Ten. You know, for the first strike in Waialua, 'as when I open this. Sometimes ten, 15 people.

PL: So what year was that?

JT: 75¢ one hour. 1946, yeah. I figure, "No worry, papa, I know. I think I know, because no sense we make 'em soft now and then the digger....bumbye, when this thing give me the crop for the money, 'as when I dig 'em soft. Make 'em soft." I said. He laugh at me, you know, but when I dig, was raining today. I said, "Eh, two cents a pound. I give two cents a pound." He try go dig. Dig, dig, dig, dig. "Hard, eh? Pololoi, you." 'As true. It's hard, because only eight inches they get in the beginning and the hasu can go down 24 inches. But no more grass already, no more. So I told the pake, "Papa, you watch." When we was digging some across his house right across his house, he laugh, "no can take the hasu." "No, can, papa, can." Then the puller start coming home because no can stand already. Hard.

PL: What you mean by "puller?"

JT: The puller of the hasu, the digger. No can. No can make money. Two cents a pound. Then I said, "Okay, I give you four cents a pound." Yeah, try again. Four cents. Still no can make money. I give five cents a pound. Still they squawk. I give ten cents a pound. Good, you know. Pick up all the pulapula so I know where to plant. That way, that means they have to dig, even, you see. That way is making soft my area.

So I pay ten cents. Make good money, they happy. But the money is not from my pocket. 'As from my bagasse. 'As from the hasu.

Because I'm not paying them the hasu that I got if no more hasu. So hard ground is digging and making soft my area. Because if I going make 'em soft before I plant, I going run short. I going lose all my money. And no more for the pulapula bumbye. I figure that idea. So the man like my money, he going dig 'em. He going dig 'em.

END OF SIDE TWO; TAPE #1-26-1-76

SIDE ONE; TAPE #1-27-1-76

PL: ...Project one, tape 27, session one with Mr. Jose Tantog. Okay, Tata, you can continue then about, you know....

JT: Yeah, that one over there. That way when the pake see that hasu all out, eh, "How can they---you get strong hand, eh." I said, "Yeah. Strong hand they get." But the ten cents strong to me because the people, they try their best to make money, because the soft place is only one cents a pound. But I gave them ten cents That's why they work. The reason why I make that, because if I spend my own money for make 'em soft, I no going get enough. I no going get enough, I know, because that way, you have to dig with a shovel. But if I have the crop inside and give him a good price, the crop will pay him. 'As what I figure. So I end up the following crop all soft already. So from there again, I move all over the side until I get about ten acres that time.

PL: Are these all lease land or did you buy some?

JT: In the beginning, 'as my lease, but I bought about seven acre from them already.

PL: Oh, you bought....

JT: Seven to eight acres.

PL: How much did you buy for an acre?

JT: Oh, some is....almost the two acres there is ten thousand dollars. Over here the four acre including tax is more. Twenty something thousand dollars. Only this one there humbug. This one here. Because they know what is this, eh. So I get the house over there. This is cost forty-eight thousand. Me and my boy combine because I no more enough money for tackle that, because I going make my house on the other side. So I told my boy, "Stay with me and us two guys buy the land over here." So for my own only from this one only, I get almost eight acre. Mine one.

Yeah, and then from that side now, I retire, I give to my boy, my oldest boy. 'As alright. I work for my children. They get enough for work already. I think....after all, my boy said if we have to add some more places, it's them to move already, because I cannot. I no like. I'm makule. I'm 71 now. I no like move in there already.

PL: So who did you sell the, you know, hasu?

JT: This one is...

PL: No, before, who did you sell it to?

JT: I'm selling that in the beginning to Yamake over here, no. And then I figure, the Chinaman, too, the shippers to Mainland. So before from the beginning until about 1969....'69....'65 to '69. Before but--no, Mr. Kennedy was killed in 1963. Around that time, our hasu always come down from thirty....every week, come down one cents, come down. I end up to 16¢, 12¢ a pound. Because we using agent now. We give to the agent, to the shipper, like that. So I figure, how many years I break even. I break even, no can. Sometimes I borrow from the bank for continued expense for to continue the running, eh. So well, I think this one here.

So one time happen I was asking the buyer--Lin Wen Yuen Company--"How you ship your hasu?" He said, "No, I cannot tell you. This is secret, military secret." I said, "Okay." And then, well, how can we do now this one? So I pick up all this--Yamake, Waialua, Ala Moana Market, this producers, and I get Waialua producer. Same thing. Every week come down. Every week come down. I no can make money. I make little bit, no more the harvesting time yet, gone again. So we no can do this.

So nineteen....that is when I observed in that year, no. And then this nineteen....that was 1957 when I went to the Mainland to observe how the business over there, you know. But I get one men receiving a crop over there already. Because in....that man when I get there, I think Sunset Insurance, I bought insurance from him before. So I ask him, "What can you tell me about outlet of my crop for my farm? I don't have the right outlet for my farm. I got almost ten acres of plant, and I no can make money with that kind hasu." He said, "You wait. I will give you address, give your name, give all information to them about how much acre you get, about how much product crop you get, how you ship if you like ship, how much the price, what quality you ship, if you know how to ship. I like that information from you then I like go send to the Chinese Chambers of Commerce and then I will tell them to write to you." So I said okay. Okay, I give, I come home. I figure all the boxes, the container, what size, what size of hasu to be sent, because I learn from the China picking hasu from me, eh. So I go ship the same. But the price, we don't know because he said, "military secret," eh. So I got the box, I get everything. The size of the box and how I pack, then I give to the Chinaman. The agent of the insurance. So he said, "Is this all?" I said, "Yes." "So I send this over to the Chinese Chambers of Commerce in Mainland. And then I'm not too sure, but I believe some of them will call you." So I wait while he send around. I wait over here.

Then this man call, Mao Fung Company, Grant Avenue in San Francisco. He call me and he write to me all what he hear from the Chinese Chamber of Commerce. So that was truth, yeah. And then we start the business and he ask me how much the price. I told him 26¢. (Laughs) 26¢, yeah. But they shipping forty cents already. So this pake, he buy from me two thousand, three thousand pound every week, eh, yeah. Two thousand, three thousand. New Year time, four thousand pound. Keep 'em running because sometimes over here sometimes come down 15¢, 16¢. So I just feel happy about the 26¢. But this guys, I jam them up because they shipping forty cents, maybe or more. 'As when the story come because they no can sell their hasu now. Because of me.

PL: Oh, you was selling too low, eh?

JT: Low. But who's been thinking that. Because when this Serebano-- you know Serebano, by Waialua Beach Road?

PL: Mhm.

JT: He has hasu, little bit hasu, too. He give to the pake, eh. But he stopped buying over here because they cannot sell over there, yeah. So the pake come to me, the one whom I sold my hasu in the beginning. Said, "How come you sell your hasu like that?" Said, "Yeah, yeah." This two guys came to me over here, Serebano and him. Said, "'As not the way how. Why you make 'em like that? You jam us up," he said. I said, "No. If I jam you up, you the one hiding the secret. I ask you first time, I like go even with you. You no like. You said military secret. For get mad, you have no right to get mad with me. I ask you first. But you no like, yeah. And then if I'm giving---if you saying that my price is just little bit more than the giving away, still you no can mad at me. If I give that one away without money, I'm the boss. Yeah."

(Laughter)

JT: "You have no right to get mad at me. In the beginning I ask you. You said military secret. And then I sell 'em at my price, and if you get mad at me, the same way, you no more right. If I give this one to the pake, it's my business. Without money, you not the boss. I'm the boss." So they go home, they go home. Then after that come good, good, good to me, eh. Okay, I sell 'em to this pake over here, Lin Wen Yuen. I gave 'em. "But my price now, not your price, yeah." Then said, "Okay. 'As how now. I buy you." Okay.

And then the trouble again is this one. Came out like this, you know. Long big hasu, you know. He cut. (Long pause while he demonstrates something.) "What is that?" Said, "No can, no can. Not qualified to go." I said, "Why?" "Yeah, no good 'as why." "Okay." Because we don't, eh. Okay, I just watch that one. And then they keep on going again. What happen was he was cutting good one. And then just because he cut 'em already, he threw down

and condemn, eh. I said, "How about this one?" "Yeah, was good, but I already cut." Said, "What? You think---you mean to say my hasu is only for try?" Oh, boy, I was mad over here. I go grab the box from him and halfway of the box, stick my hand inside the box. I twisted 'em all around. Come torn into (Tape garbled). I said, "This damn thing all soft. Your neck is soft to pull out. You better beat it away from here!" But I got all the three thousand pound. And almost five hundred pound (thrown) away already. Comdemn already. I said, "No can this kind. We no can do business like this. We going die. We going die from our idea to live." I told this pake. "No can. Stop that. Pau. I no like sell. You better go home now." So the two brother sitting down over there outside. They only get two crates. And almost five hundred pound condemned hasu over here. Ohohoho! No, no.

My wife said, "Well, what you going do?" I said, "It's better to lose that than to lose that and they make money from that. More better do that way. Throw 'em inside the patch." Okay, they stay over there. But they stay waiting for the inspector, Mr. Ching. Mr. Ching came over here. He said, "How? Plenty for crate." 'As what the inspector said. I said, "Yeah, Mr. Ching. Before we have---well, I give you the story. I want you to tell me exactly what's the qualified hasu of this one to the Mainland. What is the percentage that is condemned about? Because this one is condemned already." He said, "Pau, this one no can kaukau. No can ship to the Mainland." "Will you tell me how much, what percentage is this now that is condemned for Mainland?" So he look, look over there. Said, "Maybe around ten percent or maybe five percent." You see. "How about this one, Mr. Ching?" I pick up one, eh. Say, "Oh yeah." Then I pick up one joint again. "How about this one, Mr. Ching?" "Yeah." He look the puka like that. No more nothing wrong, eh. "Can." "Oh, why you make like that now? Why? I collect again to the pake, because you was here yet. Never go home yet. Why you make like that? You don't know that I'm sweating off for that stuff and that you just make 'em like that. You know, no more hasu for you know." I told 'em, "From now no more hasu for you."

So I told my wife, "More better I go to the Mainland." She wen tell me, "You go? How can? The Chinese will---you think the Chinese man will listen to you?" "Why not? Sometimes, yeah. Maybe I no can talk haole talk, maybe, over there, but I'll try to go." Said, "No, Chinese. Chinese. More prejudice the businessman Chinese; all Chinese, Chinese, no more. They no like other people." I said, "Well, that, I no believe that kind. That's bullshit. Look now in China. From 1931 they fighting, who they fight? They no (fight) Filipino. They fight the Chinese over there. Bullshit. If you treat them good, it's good. But if you treat them pilau--even your brother, he no like you. I will try go there. I bring all the maps. All my lease land, bring 'em with me." (Laughs) I said I go see this guy this Mao Fung Company, the one I'm shipping. I'm tied up because I no can. I'm supposed to send about.... I get plenty hasu that time, eh. I suppose to go out plenty, you know. At least five thousand a week or better, yet.

PL: Five thousand pounds, you mean?

JT: Yeah. So my wife said, "Okay, you go." When I went over there, I told my wife, "What you ship? Keep on shipping until it stops. Because I going be there in the store without introducing myself. I watch how the business go." Yeah, fifteen crates, they are 150 pound crates, box yet on the boat. No more plane yet that time.

So when I reach over there, every Thursday, reach, the hasu over there. I stand right by the side. They don't know who I am, though. Three weeks I stay over there. Every Thursday, I stay over there, watch. They unload the hasu, eh, the box. You China pull one box, sit down like that sit down on the box. The guys come next, pull the box, sometimes one, two box left there. The rest, all occupied already. I figure I go work until pau, eh. Then no more one hour from the time, all go out. But my price is only 26¢.

PL: And how much they was buying there?

JT: I don't know. I don't see the bill, but if fresh, that means will be cheaper, too, but he get the bigger the share 'cause he no like go without his share, too, eh. But when I went to the stand, the one broken kind like this long, no more joint, no more the knot, ready for my pig, yeah, 68¢ a pound!

(PL laughs)

JT: That was standing, the whole piece like that, 85, eighty cents, one pound. Hoo! The pake come rich from my hasu. So I no open my mouth there, right there. No, I no open my mouth. I wait another one more week. I go home Sacramento with my sister. Then Thursday morning, I come down to San Francisco, yeah.

When I reach there about 10 o'clock, the hasu come in, eh. I know my hasu, I know my box. When I left over here, I know all everything belong to me, eh. Hoo! Sometimes no more one hour, 15 crates go. Yeah, yeah. And the price over there. That every other day they trim, 'as what the pake said. The one the store man, eh, they trim. Look fresh cut. Every other day, thin kind and the hasu come short like this already. And 58¢ a pound. Oh boy, the pake come rich from my hasu. But 'as alright. Somedays.

So the last week, I saw no more! So ask the workers over there who is the producers over here. He look at me, you know. He thought I was crook. That's what they think, I am crook, eh. "Who?" I said, "The produce man. Who is doing the buying?" Said, "Stay inside office." "I wanted to talk to him business, you know. If he has the time. Anyway, just let him know that one man wanted to talk business from Hawaii." Said, "No, no, no. I think.... what kind you get?" I said, "This kind." "No, no, no." He know that he get plenty, eh. "No, no, no. We got in Honolulu. Good kind, big kind. Look!" Pake never know that that was my own.

(Laughter)

JT: But I have his letter, you know. I said, "Yeah, I know that you get good hasu from Hawaii, but I want to talk to him business about this kind stuff." Said, "No, no, no. I know my boss no like already." "Okay, I want talk to him about this kind hasu because this hasu is mine." Look at me. "'As yours?" I said, "Yeah, 'as mine I'm here to stop. 'As why I'm here. I like talk to him. I come here to stop with you guys. And close up and tell you that I will stop for I can see somebody who can afford to buy my hasu. Okay?" "Wait, wait, wait. Go inside there." He ask the boss, eh--Lee, the name. "Oh, Mr. Lee said how he would know that you are the owner of the hasu?" I said, "Here. This letter to me. Is this not Mr. Lee, the manager of this?" Said, "Yeah, yeah, yeah. Okay, okay, okay, okay." He bring me in the office now. Now I going choke you over there. I going open up mine already. After I'm accepted over there, I'm going give 'em a full blast over there. Long time I give him 23¢. So when I went over there, said, "Oh, Mr. Tantog?" Said, "Yeah." "Oooh. Sit down. Sit down over there." Then talk story. "Anyway," the pake told me, "surprised me that you come for business when we are dealing already." Said, "Yeah, because I want to tell in front of you the situations of my running over there. If we run like this all the time, maybe you making money but I going stop the business. But before I stop, I will try you first, before I go try somebody else. Our price is only this one. Yeah, and then to me before I left in Hawaii, the price that I know is this price. That this price in the long run, I going get my share. That is my price. Do you know the price? What the price? Well, I'll tell you. But the price that I figure, I know that I can get mine and you can have yours, too. It's up to you to run yours over here, but mines one is important because I'm going. I have to get my share in order to keep on going. Yeah." "'As alright. You can tell me how much the price and I will listen." I said, "My price is 45¢. That 45¢, maybe I can get eight cents or seven cents a pound. That way is better than I have to borrow all the time from the bank to supply you. And no come back nothing. No sense I supply when I'm drawing some money over there and put me in the hole. I want the business will give me the money to move for you. Yeah." "So no problem. Let's see that. No problem. Simple. Give 'em to me." In that case, without paper. No promissory. "But I know you are in the business for a long time. My business is only from 1943. Yeah. But I know how to keep you long time. And maybe I hope you know, too. For my side, I going be honest to you, without paper. What I say, what I'm telling you now, I going be honest to you. I will promise. If anything wrong of the crop that I'm sending to you, you give me the amount," I told. "You give me the amount how much; approximately how much. Because I know hasu special. And then, I will replace that. I don't want you to pay me, that the one you paying is working you down." Then I told 'em, "If I....I going be honest with you. If anything wrong with my crop, you have to let me know. Because when the hasu leave over there, I always can tell that this is little bit no good, this is good. I no guarantee everyone but just

let me know what is the trouble or how many pounds, yeah. But on your side, I don't know if how because if you do honest to me, you will be the owner of my ten acre land. No other buyers I going take. Only you. You must think of that. Because if you going crook me one thousand pounds, two thousand dollars, five thousand," I said to him, "that's all you going get. And I going get another man besides you that you no can taste that hasu from me. At least you have to buy from that guy. That is what I want you to do." So, "Yeah, yeah."

So for since the time until now, only one time he sent me, "I'm sorry to inform you, Mr. Tantog, this crate, this number of crate, I lose about 45 percent." But before this thing go, me and my wife was laughing at the hasu. Said, "More better no send that." My wife, "Why?" "This one no good." "What's the matter? How we know that they feel no good? Maybe they feel good."

(Laughter)

JT: Sure enough, the letter come. "Eh, Mr. Tantog, I'm sorry to inform you this but this number of crate about 45, 47 percent, I lost money on that." Okay, one box now, 45 lost, eh. I send 'em one box. 71 pounds replacement. Not 47 pound. I gave him one crate replacement of that. That's why he no run away from me. When I said sometimes he owe me ten thousand dollars, eh, Ramon my boy, he scared already. But I said, "No scared. He going crook you the ten thousand (dollars)? Not only one thousand until the end of our farm. Not only ten thousand dollars he going earn. Yeah. He no going get one pound from me. Oh boy. One time only two thousand, ten thousand one day after another. One day skip another. The money come in, see. You scared, no good. You scared of business, no good. They know we got a big supply and they no can hit. How many people get in this kind area over here? Only me and this Kunihiro. So if you (they) going lose me, where they going? He going cry up. That's why he got to watch because I'm watching." Yeah.

PL: Oh, so you still selling your hasu to that guy then?

JT: Yeah.

PL: Till now?

JT: Yeah. Till now. And then the situations in the labor over here, I no go already. I just write to him. I think you heard about labor situation. Now I come up seventy cents. Last year, I come up 75¢. Yeah. This year, I going come up five cents more. Eighty cents a pound. Now my price from the beginning, until to the end.

Even Yamake over here. I told this Yamake, "Yamakesan, you price before September, thirty cents. Fifteen of September, 28¢. About ending part of September, 26¢. October come down to 18¢ and then how come he make like that?" Said, "Oh, too much now, the people



got tired." I said, "Yeah. But here, from September, supposed to be low. I mean, low because plenty. But ending part of the harvesting, that's when the big demand come. Why comes way down? You the one making money. If you like to deal this kind....now, to me this is my style. Instead of bringing up the price when demand is approaching whether it's coming up, I no do that. But from the beginning to the end, if you like that way. If you no like, no push yourself. I go get the other guy, buyer. So how many years now, five, seven years now.

My price from September until pau, this Waialua, Ala Moana Market, eh, the Japanee guy producer over here, he said, "Eh, Pere," "What?" "Today 22. I think next week, maybe twenty." I said, "No, no, no." Said, "I like two thousand pounds." I said, "Yeah, two thousand pound is okay. Three thousand, it's okay, but you said this week is 22 and next week is what? Twenty." Said, "Yeah." Said, "No, no, no. Before you go, we split, my price now is 34¢. The first time you buy from me 34¢." But I sold Yamake 34 that time. 'As when he jump up, you know. I said, "Not 22¢. My price is 34(¢). You like buy, you think you can make money, you buy. If you no can make money, do not buy. Bumbye you go broke, yeah. 'As my price, 34¢." He said, "How come come up?" I said, No, no. No come up. The same price. If you like, you buy that. I deliver that." "I like two thousand pounds." I said, "I no care if you like five thousand pound. So long as you give me time to pull. But the price, I no can give that. Yeah." "But you deliver, eh?" I go, "Yeah, I go deliver." "I'll try one hundred fifty pounds." "Okay, pay how much?" "Hundred fifty pounds." "Okay, when you going come?" Said, "No, you deliver." Said, "Yeah, I deliver. Seven hundred to one thousand, I deliver. But only hundred fifty pounds you come up. The same price. 34." "Ah, more better make two thousand pounds then. Then deliver?" I said, "Okay, two thousand pounds." This guy smart guy.

If I'm not hard head, yeah, purple like all these Filipinos...."Oh yeah, yeah." They see other nation, another nation laugh at them and they admire already, yeah. No, I no treat this guy. Once you play good to them, they try cockroach you by giving you the smile, you know. But not me. My price is price. I no care who. Chinese, Japanese. I no care who. But if I give, I give. That is different. I give from my heart, I give. I let you eat what I sweat up over here. I'm happy to get some for you to eat. But when the business come, no such thing smile when you bring me in.

Because some Filipinos over here, they say, "Hey, here the hasu like abayabay over here. Hey, there the hasu. Name the buyer, "they said. They scale the hasu. They mark the box. Then find out the name. They just look the box. That's coward that. I said, "Now (Tape garbled) say there, what are you doing? Who is selling the hasu?" "Me." Burot guy. Said, "Me." Said, "Well, if you're selling the hasu, who will scale your hasu?" So, "Figure out, mark the box." "You bullshit, that. You go down supermarket and scale yourself. They allow you. Same thing, too, this one here. If you do the selling, you do the scaling. Not the buyer."

Say, "Yeah, but the box...." "Okay, get the number. You can read the number over there. Do you believe that it is the weight?" Said, "I think so because...." "No, no, no. You know this people, they going get high fever if they no can cheat you. Yeah. You better look, but you know why...." I told him. "I make 'em atsuy atsuy, yeah. You know why, like us Filipinos, most, I know plenty where the other guys give him a good sweet smile that, 'Oh, this is my friend.' Little more he take out his guts and give him. 'As you, too. To me, you scared him.'" (I) said, "Why I scared him? 'Yeah, if you no scared, why not open your mouth for your right? Why? Is that right to give me the thing over there without seeing with my two eyes? That's bullshit."

I'll tell you the story: These guys over here was scaling over here. See, suppose to weigh the bag. I see and then with the bag? "Why not wait after scaling so we have no trouble of bringing out the net?" Said, "No, no, no." Supposed to. Okay, he run in the ditch. That ditch over there. Soak the bag like that. He run.

(JT runs across room. His next sentence is inaudible.)

JT: The water stay running yet. The water stay running. Oh, 38 pounds. Then I know, this kind gamble. I know this kind gamble. The second box, he run to the ditch, soak 'em in again. I reach over there. I said, "Wait." I step on the other end of the bag, I squeeze 'em out. "I want the bag no drop the water until you pau crate. Because if you scale the bags with the water, by the time you crate, the bag come dry. You stealing my pound, my hasu. I no like that idea. I know. You better no do that. I know that you are scaling the water. You think the water will stay there if you tell the water stay there until pau scale? Pau load? No can. You like buy? Buy this way in good way. You no like, I no sell to you." Then what he said? "Okay, put that dry bag. I go weigh 'em bumbye." That way, yeah, that is fair. When you scale the dry one, after you load up, you scale, you can take your net. And no water run away. "One pound is one pound." I told the pake. "One pound is only one pound." From fifty pound, one pound is nothing. But if fifty cents a pound, every box fifty cents. Ten box, five dollars already. By quitting, you cheat me five dollars already. I no like that kind deal." So I told, "Enough." This Inar here. I said, "Why....you try scale. Today, I going watch you, you know, now. I believe that you are brave enough if you can tell him. But if not, you are just as bad as those scared people." I'm mad, you know.

PL: You mean they scale, the bags....they scale the bags wet?

JT: The box. Yeah. On my side. But I stop that pake. No make like that because I know the running water in the bag after you scale keep on running, eh. So that way you going lose one pound or more. Because he was running from the ditch and scale right away, eh. So by that time you fix the bags and then you fill up, by the time you fill up the box, the water all go already, but you scaling.

So when you scale, you take the scale when the water was there yet. You take the weight when the water stay in the bag. Then when you scale with the load, you take out 38 instead of 37, you lose one pound. So one pound fifty cents. The boxes, ten pounds. How much is that? Five dollar. Only scaling this is five dollars already. I said, "No, papa, no. No make like that. I no like da kine."

And then this Inar said, "How come?" I said, "Yeah, no believe that. If that is the weight of the box, when he was scaling himself that box. But not you scale the box. Not you the one scale the box. You scale the box yourself so you know how much hasu you sold to him. That is the right way, that. If you no going do that as I going watch you, I know you scared that pake. You scared this guy." Said, "I no scared nobody." I said, "No, no, no. I believe if you can tell him frankly in front. Then I can see with my two eyes. I going be watching for you over there. I'll see how brave you are." He stay over there. First box, he fill 'em up, you know. But abayabay looking at me because "I know I going watch you if you going open your mouth for that." Scale the box. After that, put down. After that scale put down, he no scale the box. But he got to scale, eh. The second box, he said, "Oh, no, Mr. Lum" --the one New Road guy-- "Mr. Lum, what is the weight of the box?" He said, "Oh, 28. So, "I want to scale the box and see with my two eyes. That is the right way to do. So I know exactly my hasu that is in the box." Say, "Well, I scale already this." I said, "Well, I do this to everybody. I like scale that. I like know whether it is the right weigh of the box, yeah." Okay, we scale 'em. You know how much? Twenty-six pound.

PL: Out of what?

JT: Out of the 28. So, two pound run away from me. Then every box come up like that two pounds, ten box is twenty pound. Ten dollars. Plus the profit when they all 'em up over there. Easy picking, the money, these guys. You know what happen to this guy until now? He no buy from me.

(Laughter)

PL: Okay, do you remember any floods like that that destroy your crops?

JT: Oh yeah. The floods, no. Every year, we always get water over here. 1944, '45. This '45, the biggest water, this '45. You know that baldhead place I get over there, all the hasu run away to the store. But not that much damage. Only bad of the flood when just plant about one month that the hasu is not holding tight yet under. then it comes up and float and go away with the water. But if already get big leaves already, stay down; no can go up. He no can go up. That's all the trouble on that.

PL: How about right now, how many people are working this place?

JT: In my place?

PL: Yeah.

JT: Oh, sometimes three, sometimes four. That's all. Not much.

PL: How often do you dig up the roots like that? How often you harvest?

JT: One a year.

PL: Once a year?

JT: Once a year, and start by month of September and then sometimes come up to January, February. That's the reason why I like this kind, you know. Not like potato or sweet potato or tomato like that, beans--string beans, like that, cucumber. No can beat this one. Because this one, when the price is no good, you can lay 'em on the ground for two months, three months. No touch. You no can afford to buy, leave that one on the ground. When the full blast, by January---from September, supposed to pull September. Then if nobody like September, October, or November, December, they only like New Year, I still got hasu in here. That's the percentage I like. No too much lose. Yeah. 'As why good this one. I like this kind.

PL: What I understand is you've been working most of your time here in Hawaii. Did you find any time to have fun, like, you know, going out, have fun, playing games?

TJ: Yeah, sometimes. I go downtown sometimes with my friends. Go picnic sometimes. But most of my time is not much outside. I stay in the farm since that time I was in the farm. I no care what time, sometimes in the farm. I go for fun, but....I ride taxi without the man. I have no company like that, I ride taxi from Waialua, Haleiwa. Was plenty taxi before, eh. But not so often though. Not too often I go. That's all. I play baseball. Before I was little bit young, play baseball, volleyball. But I concentrate on my time in my farm. I always did my work. While I was in the plantation, I always get potato, besides the cane field, like that. My cane field. I always get beans there, you know. I no can run out of vegetable...

END OF SIDE ONE; TAPE #1-27-1-76  
SIDE TWO

PL: Okay, Tata, besides, you know, playing baseball like that, when you had time, since you didn't have much time, what else did you do? Did you go fishing or something like that?

JT: We go by hooking now. Small hook. Pick up limus like that. That's all.

PL: How about diving? You cannot dive?

JT: Diving, you cannot. That's why by my house, my next neighbor was

bitten with the eel. Because so damn plenty manini under the stone, eh. He like catch, but no more spear. So he just try his best to catch by hand. Just happen the eel was catching his hand.

PL: Can you give me the reason why you cannot go diving?

JT: Because against the law. 'As Hawaii law for us. That we cannot go diving.

PL: What year was that? Can you tell me what year?

JT: That is before '30. But before that law come up, everybody is torching and diving. But since, the Filipino---they found out the Filipinos, they go in the night torching, eh, Philippine Island style, eh, they stopped it again.

PL: Who made that law?

JT: Hawaii. This territory. This was territory yet, that time. No can. So plenty guys got bitten with the eel. Yeah. One guy was broken this, you know. Until now, he stayed on the camp. He's down over there, my friend. Then when he went to the doctor, he tell bullshit to the doctor. Because if he say he was fishing, no good, eh. Maybe, he scared maybe the doctor going turn in to the court, to the policeman, like that. He no tell that he was bitten with the eel. He said was, "I bin cook one fish. In the charcoal. Before I take a bath, I cook the fish first. When after I cook, I put on the table and cover up with the something that the cat no can touch 'em, eh." So he went to the bathroom. He went to the banyo, because the bathing house is separated from the houses. It's one house for the whole camp going take a bath. Not individual bath, now. So he went over there. But that is frame-up story, that. He just make like that because he was bitten with the eel, eh. So he said, "When I came home from the bathroom," he saw the cat eating his fish. So he grab the cat and push the cat any old way like that. And the cat bin bite him.

(Laughter)

JT: That was not true. The true is the black eel wen bite him. Until now, the finger come straight like this. (Laughs) This one, you know, that eel, when he bite, he twist around, you know. He curl around. 'As why all rip the damage skin. But he no tell the doctor that was bitten by the eel. No, with the eel, no. He said the cat eat his fish. (Laughs)

And then now, we go back again diving, because I think, Figueras bin ask me why we cannot fish. Mr. Jose Figueras. Why the Filipinos is bringing Hawaii, is improving Hawaii, just like. Because we the Filipinos, the way how it is, is the one who work for Hawaii.

PL: Okay, who is this Mr. Figueras you're talking about?

JT: He is a commissioner. Before, he was a commissioner, Philippine

Commissioner. Labor Commissioner. He was taking place of Mr. Ligot. I think, because Mr. Pablo Manlapit and Mr. Taok bin sent a letter to the Philippine Island, eh, that the commissioner is incapable of leading people. Flood up workers over here. And then the plantations is just like, little mistake, they throw 'em away. So they throw 'em away, because the other one coming in, eh. Because Mr. Ligot bin order---even the men is paying by their money. Paying their money to come in. Yeah. Yeah. And these guys sending money for them to pay. And these guys work over here and pay sixty pesos. Before was 63 pesos. I hear he collect \$63. He leave these guys all \$63. And then he collect sixty dollars. Double money. So when that report went to the Philippine Island, 'as when they sent Figueras. So Ligot was supposed to go home. But no, instead of going home, he went Mainland and die over there. Now...

PL: So Mr. Figueras talked to...

JT: Yeah, talked to the Territory, I think, I guess:

PL: About lifting up the law?

JT: About why the Filipinos cannot fish when they are serving Hawaii? Helping Hawaii to bring up, eh? That's right. That is the question. And the hardest job is the Filipinos over here. Why we cannot go fishing? Not bad if they get a big money, but only one dollar one day. I think that the Territory bin listen what he said. Everybody can go fishing.

(A woman says something to JT. JT replies. Taping resumes after this interlude.)

JT: ...why. All the kids, you know. But I bin bundle up my bamboo. But in between the bamboos, I have spear. And the goggles was inside my pocket, you know. So I told my wife, "Get the hook." Some of my friend get the hook. They go hooking, eh. I threw the spear inside the water. So I went. But I get one watchman to watch the police, when the police come, eh. Not game warden like now. Before, I don't know if there is a game warden, but since they said they will catch the man who will go fishing or spearing, like that, I believe that maybe the police will catch. So I told my watchman, "If any police come inside, you give us signal. You lay down this pole." Because they had to go down. They have to come inside this Dillingham place, eh. So I can leave the spear down under the water, and then he said, "Okay."

One time, this police right next day over here. They came inside, you know. So my wife drop the pole, eh. The big bamboo. Hooking bamboo with the flag on top. Drop down to the sand like that. So I leave my spear, because the policeman come. But he (she) never know that the police no got nothing to do. But the game warden will catch that time. But I just scared police, because the police is only the people the law tell to collect people to catch people

like that, 'as why I believe maybe the police, eh. So I just told my wife that, "Police come, you better drop the pole so I can leave my spear under the water." Yeah.

PL: So what year was that when Filipinos could go diving like that? What year?

JT: Oh, if I'm not mistaken, from '20....I think from '20 to '30. Because in 1917...

PL: You mean, '20 to '30, 'as the time Filipinos couldn't go diving or can go diving?

JT: In '26, when I came over here, cannot go diving already. I think from '20. Because the one came in 1917, they can go dive. '17, they can go dive. But I hear they squawk, because Filipinos, when they go beach, by big bunch, you know. And they know how to catch fish, too, eh. (Laughs) 'As what they said, now get a law come up. We can pick up limu. In fact, I hear before, not to touch the limu, because no more for the fish. (Laughs) 'As what I hear from (Tape garbled).

PL: What year can you go fishing?

JT: Oh, right, after Figueras.

PL: That was what year? What?

JT: I think about 1936. After '30. I'm not so sure. But when Figueras came, I suppose to go back in 1931. Yeah. 1931 when Taok was collected up all those people who wanted to go home free. 1931, '32. That one there, no. So I went. I went, too. But since they say only until Manila, I no go through. Then, that one, after Figueras, then that collecting people come. When Figueras went back Philippine, then Taok was authorized to pick up peoples who wanted to go back in the Philippines. So I was one to go, but I did not go through. After that, I think, we get the fishing. After '30. Because my number four, born in 1931. So then, '31, '32, Beren was born in 1932. August 23, I think, 1932. Then, '35.... that's the man. After '31, '32, we go diving now. We go diving. But before that, we cannot. I think we cannot, because when 1926, we no can bring iron. Spear. No can.

I hear again from these people they let you get iron, but you can poke---get kogeta, but not pointed. Not pointed. Yeah. How can catch? Can catch the kogeta, because you only poke, poke there inside the puka, eh, and then they come out. But to catch fish, how can you catch fish with a dull spear? No can. Not pointed one. Only squid. No can. But after Figueras, then they allow us. Until now. Because I hear Figueras bin open his mouth: "The way how I look, Filipinos are improving Hawaii. Why we cannot do fishing? Is not right to stop them fishing because they are earning small money, and maybe they happier of the one dollar if they get time for fish. That's better enough, yeah." That is somebody told me,

you know. Mr. Pahalu, working sugar plantation station before. Filipino man working in Sugar Plantation Association, main office in Honolulu. Mr. Pahalu, one Tagalog guy. He told me that when I went. That's true.

PL: Okay, besides that, you didn't do much---out of your work, right, Tata?

JT: No, that's all.

PL: Did you folks used to have celebration in the camps, like that?

JT: Oh, when Rizal Day, yeah. That one, oh. We have that. Every camp, we celebrate Rizal Day. Fourth of July, we get that. You know, before kind. One dollar kind celebration. Some who do that celebration, they have to get some money, something from somebody else that we need, and pay later. That is the intentions of the Filipinos, before. That intention to celebrate, but no more money in the pocket. But they want to do it. So 'as what I said, they have to concentrate the borrowing or making borrowing from best friend just to celebrate. Small one, though. That's what I said. Just for dollar kind celebration. Because what you promise to pay is only dollar a day.

PL: Did you get along well with the different ethnic groups? Like Japanese, you know? Chinese?

JT: Until now. Some Japanese, I don't know over here. I don't know exactly who and who, but they know me. Even Chinese. Even over here, even Ilocano. When I go Waialua, "Oh, Manong Tantog! Tata Tantog!" But I don't know them. That laughing man am I, you know. I don't know why. Anyplace I go, plenty guys know me. Because I'm not the kind sassy man, you know. No. No, no. When I talk to them, I talk to them nice. Sometimes call my name. Yeah. No such thing like they think of, "Oh, this man, this sassy," like that. No, no. That's why surprise me, some people. Even my wife. "Who that guy?" Say, "I don't know." "He said, 'Mr. Tantog!'" I said, "I don't know." He know me, but I don't know him. Even all the friends in the Teriana, the Filipinos over there. "Manong Tantog." But I don't know their name. (Laughs) They talk to me, you know. Without introducing our name, they talk to me like that. But I don't know their name. I know the looks, but not the name. Some, I know. I usually get along, anybody. Even Japanese. Pake. In town and pake. When you no good, you no good. I going tell 'em. Even this pake over here. No such thing like that.

PL: Okay. I think that's...

JT: That's all?

PL: That should be....yeah.

JT: 'As plenty story, though, this one.

PL: Yeah. (Laughs)



JT: Yeah. Plenty story.

PL: Okay. Thank you, Tata.

JT: Yeah.

END OF SIDE TWO; TAPE #1-27-1-76

Tape No. 1-37-2-76

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Jose Tantog (JT)

July 29, 1976

BY: Pablo Lazo (PL)

PL: This is an interview with Mr. Jose Tantog at their farm on July 29, 1976. Project 1, tape 37, session 2. Okay, Tata, can you describe the first house that you had when you came here in Waialua?

JT: In Waialua? Yeah. 'As a duplex like. Duplex.

PL: How many bedrooms did it have?

JT: That is four bedroom, because the other side is single people. My side, is me and my wife. 'As two. There was two couples supposed to be there in that house, because that's a duplex.

PL: What year was this when you had the house at Waialua?

JT: Oh, 1926.

PL: Did the house have a bathroom?

JT: No. We have to go down....we boiling up our hot water...we heating up our hot water outside and bath outside. Toilet is outside. Only the kitchen inside, yeah.

PL: What kind of furnitures did you have then at the house?

JT: We just ask from the plantation one by twelve and make bench, like that, for us to sit down. We cannot afford to buy furnitures like now.

PL: How about the bed? What kind of bed did you have?

JT: Oh, lumber. One by twelve..

PL: And did you folks used to have a mattress then?

JT: No, we use blanket. We use blanket or mat like that. Japan made mat and put blanket on that. We sleep on that. So, no cushion. No mattress.

PL: Did the house have electricity then?

JT: Yeah, some get, yeah. Where we stay, had electric.

PL: Oh, had electric, already. So what? Did you have just electric lights like that?

JT: Electric light? Yeah. We use firewood. We used to go out to the forest. Saturday if no more work. Sunday, like that. After resting, about 2 o'clock, you go up to the forest, cut. The plantation wish to burn the kiawe for us, we go out cut koas.

PL: How did you used to cook your food then? By what?

JT: By firewood. By old kind pot. Not the aluminum kind. Old kind. No more aluminum kind before. We have da kine look like.....I don't know what kind pot was that before. When you drop 'em, the thing going bust up, you know.

PL: Is that some kind of clay, maybe?

JT: Yeah. That's the one we use before.

PL: And, so what? You cook it outside the house, your food like that?

JT: No, inside the kitchen.

PL: Inside the kitchen already?

JT: Yeah. In the same house. We have a kitchen in there. Not like Aiea. Aiea, when you cook, you have to go down from the house and cook your food in the other shack again. Yeah.

PL: So, this is when you used to cook your food in the kitchen, then, is what? What year is that?

JT: Oh, that is 1926. In 1928, we have stove already. We have stove. But when I came, no more stove. We got to get kiawe. The plantation gave us kiawe, supply us kiawe.

PL: Is that free?

JT: Free, free.

PL: And did you have to get it yourself, or they deliver the firewood?

JT: When they kind of slow to come and deliver like that, we go ourselves and get one. But most times, they sent us the firewood, especially for the banyo, for the bathroom, eh. The single people, they no more wife for make hot water for them, eh, so we'll have a big banyo, now. And one lady take care that to heat up the water. And then everybody. This room is the single people. This room is the ladies.

PL: How often did they come bring firewood like that?

JT: The agreement that I know, their schedule is once a week. It depend how big is the camp. Big load a truck---one truck, big load. We used plenty, because the banyo, you know, where the big tub for heat up the water, it's about four, five hundred gallon. 'As why they get firewood.

PL: You talking about this lady who used to boil the water. Did she get paid by the plantation?

JT: No. She get paid from the one who taking a bath.

PL: Oh. And how much you used to pay?

JT: If I'm not mistaken, 35¢ a month or 25(¢). I don't know.

PL: For each person?

JT: Each person, yeah. 25¢ a month. But the firewood is free from the plantation. Only the lady take care of lighting the stove like. So she get 25¢ of every head. Yeah. I think the married people is 35¢. But some did not go. Like, me, my wife is boiling water for me. When we become plenty--we get about six kids, five kids, like that, so we take a bath in the banyo already.

PL: Okay. When you used to cook your foods, like that, who used to cook the foods? Your...

JT: In the morning, I cook.

PL: Oh, in the morning you cook like that?

JT: Yeah. Oh, from that time, from the beginning, when we came to Hawaii, I cook in the morning. Even now, I cook in the morning. My wife cook in the afternoon, yeah.

PL: And what kind of foods did you used to cook?

JT: Oh, just rice. Rice and then codfish like that. And we get some vegetables from the farm, where I working. Pick up the vegetable. Green beans, like that. White squash, pumpkin. Bring 'em home, you know. And okra with the bagoong or soyu, like that, eh. Eggplant. That's the vegetables with dried shrimp. Sometimes with all the dry stuff from Japan like what we get down in the store, eh. The squid. Dried squid. That's the most we eat, you know, that time. We cannot afford meat. Maybe, once a week like that, eh, hard. Thirty cents a pound, but still hard, you know. Thirty cents, the steak sometimes. Thirty, forty cents a pound. But still, hard for the people, one dollar one day people. So, we get used to bagoong, like that. Soyu, yeah, we got plenty soyu. Onion, we grow onion in our yard. Ginger, we plant ginger in our yard. Because we no more

nothing to buy. We no can say that, "Oh, payday time I go buy this kind." No can. Because, the rice first. The rice or the codfish, maybe, the shrimp. Then, shoe for the kids. Clothing for the kids. So hard. That's hard.

PL: You mention to me, before, Tata, that you know, you got sick while on the job like that. Did you get sick a lot when you was at working place.

JT: I was in Aiea. I was in Aiea when I get sick. When Mr. Bob, the manager assigned me in the mill to work, I went. So, I like the job. But that was night time, you know. And plus, I double after those people who stay home. They no show up their jobs. So I told the luna, "I just go home, pick up my lunch. I come back for this man." So I keep on doing like that. That's what I say, I make 34 days in one month. Yeah. 34 days. And then, after that, we finish our job about 12 o'clock, I think. 'As how we do. Every 12 o'clock, we pau the first half of the job, like that. Then we rest, like that. Take a rest until about 2 o'clock. 2 o'clock we start until 6 o'clock again. In the morning. But when time to wake up about 2 o'clock, I cannot stand up. That was the trouble.

PL: Why can't you stand up? What kind of sick did you have?

JT: I don't know. They said I have, maybe, I have beri-beri like that.

PL: And did you have beri-beri?

JT: No. After that, about 7 o'clock, I meet my wife. My wife looking for me in the morning, eh. So, I meet my wife by the railroad truck. Say, "How come you come late?" I said, "We're supposed to go home about 6 o'clock, but I no can walk." So, that time, about 6, 7 o'clock, I start. Is easy. Go, eh. And then I go down from the mill and walk home, you know. 'As when I meet my wife. My wife say, "Oh, I think for you to work in the night no good." Then I went to Waialua Plantation.

PL: The mill job, is that easier than the working outside in the fields?

JT: Yeah, yeah. More easy. Only the time, if you go in the night, some people no like work. I mean, their system no good for....not those late in the night, see. Like me, that is what I believe. I think my blood no like no sleep. (Chuckles.)

PL: Is that a better paying job, too, in the mill?

JT: I don't know exactly. But not much. Because the 34 days I work, eh, I think I only get \$36 or \$38. One month. The 34 days that I work. So, not very much more than outside.

PL: Okay, let's go into da kine, then, communication, eh, Tata. How did you used to find out things happening around Waialua or in town,

like that? Maybe accident or a robbery, like that?

JT: Oh, before days, we cannot afford newspaper, eh. So, who heard and saw what happened over there when happen come around in our side, that's when they tell the story. That's when we know. Because no more radio to listen, because we cannot afford buy radio that time. So...

PL: Okay, when did you have your first radio, Tata?

JT: 1941, I think I get. 'As when. Because when I open my radio, 'as when I hear that the Japanese, they bombing Makapuu and Schofield. And Pearl Harbor.

PL: Okay, so, you had your first radio in 1941?

JT: Yeah, that was small one, yeah.

PL: And you didn't have newspaper then?

JT: No, no. By that time, I used to pick up some of those little bit big shot guys in Schofield, eh. Because I was working for engineer, now. So, after they read, they throw away the paper. That's when I can see. I just look. After they read then they pau, they finish with that stuff, they going throw away already, eh. So, I pick 'em up and read what I like to see, eh. That's the only...

PL: Okay. Can you tell me, Tata, if they have any crime around the camps, like that, or around Waialua like that?

JT: Oh, oh, yeah. I heard that.

PL: But in your camp, did you have people stealing things from your house like that?

JT: No, no, no. Why? I don't know. Maybe, the kids all, they listen. Yeah, kids before listen to any old man, you know. Any old lady when you stop them what not to do, eh, even if not my children, the children will obey. Now days, no. Now days, I don't know why. But before, even your kids come around in my yard, boy! "Do not touch that one. Mama is planting that. Just plant. Bumbye, make, eh." The kids keep away from there. Yeah. But the big man, I hear, in Waialua Plantation in this side, they used to raid the pig of the Japanese people's camp, you know.

PL: Oh, they steal 'em?

JT: They steal the pig. They steal the pig, yeah. They kill the pig. (Laughs). That was 1932, I think. That story, that come up now, it's not while I was working in Schofield. 1932, no more....real hard time, you know.

PL: Oh, maybe, because of the Depression, eh?

JT: Yeah. The Hawaiian Pine was out of work. 'As when Dole bin let his pine drop down to the ground. And all the pineapple workers is out of work. So, peoples over here, too, I don't know why. They go up at the Japanese garden up Mokuleia side, buy bags. (Laughs) Buy bags of head cabbage. But me, I no go. I no go and do that kind. I just hear that from them. And then, sure enough, the policeman told me, my friend, eh, when they check this guys in the camp. In the trunk was dripping. The oil was dripping, eh. Nobody know got adobo inside the trunk, eh. But the oil came out from the....when my friend, Robello, told me, I check these guys up. No more nothing in the kitchen, you know. But in the trunk, when you see the oil dripping on the floor like that....(Laughs)

PL: Okay, Tata, did you hear any about killings, like that around Waialua?

JT: I heard that, but seldom. Not much killing. Sometime in Waipahu I hear that. People I hear that over there because people who go over there, they heard from a friends and when he come home, he tell to the friend. That's when we hear like that. Then we know all those killing business on the other side. Tha's when the news...

(SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE TAPE RECORDER)

PL: Okay, Tata, how about the prostitutes, like that, coming to town. Do you remember?

JT: When I go, I saw them. Sometimes we go with the taxis, like that. I saw them. I can tell that they were that kind. But plenty.

PL: What year about? When they started coming here?

JT: That is in 1926, '27, '28. Until wartime. Yeah. Plenty.

PL: Okay, let's go into da kine, Tata. About your family. Okay? Your kids were all born in Hawaii?

JT: In Hawaii, yeah.

PL: Were they born at the house or at the hospital like that?

JT: The first, the second, the third, the fourth, and the fifth, all in the house. Filipino midwife and some Japanese midwife.

PL: And how much did they charge when they come one time?

JT: Thirty dollars. Midwife, yeah. And from Ramon the oldest boy I get to all the young ones come, in hospital already. Five of them at the house.

PL: So, what year was the last time you called the midwife?

JT: Was in 1934. 'As the year that my number five born. 1934.

PL: And who used to discipline your kids like that?

JT: My wife, sometimes. When I come home, I see something no good, I do that to my kids, yeah. Sometimes hard head, they play hard head to my wife, my wife bring to me in the afternoon. I check up on them again.

PL: Did you just talk to them or you give them licking like that?

JT: Oh, when really need lick, I lick. Not that I don't need. If not needing, then, I lick, no. If I think I need to lick, I lick. Not to break the bone, now. Just to let them understand that that is really I don't like. Yeah. 'As how my kids was brought up like that by me. And I told my wife, "Do not stop me what I'm going to do to the kids, because I'm not going kill the kids. Because that way you going spoil your kids. Once I go for one and then you come and interfere like that and you like hanapa or, you know, cover up, like that, I no like the idea." So, the kids will say, "Oh, good if Mama come. Mama going help me out," like that. Now, no, show something. Yeah, in fact, you going say, "It's good for you. If you bin behave, you no get licking." That's how to say now. Not to catch 'em and then protect her like that, no. That way, you spoiling your kids. So far, my kids is all right. Until now. Even these big boys, like that now, they all alright. When I told them, "When your older brother is no good, do not give up, but do not fight. Keep on explaining the right way. And you, too, if you wrong with this....any of your younger one will give you the right one, you should study that, too. Because that can be solved when you go to someplace that you don't know who, but why you cannot decide? You big enough already. You can think it what you are doing and what your brother saying about." That one, no more trouble, though. So...

PL: How about chores like that? What kind work your kids used to do around the house like that, or around the yard?

JT: Clean the yard, yeah. Sweep around here. Before, no can go work outside, eh. And clean around the yard, help my wife, and light up the stove. Because I get da kine wood stove before. I get one big pipe. Join to the pipe, you know. Big tank join to the pipe and run the water over there. And then, I get fire on, under the big tank. So, in the afternoon, when I open the faucet--I put faucet on top--when I open the faucet to my bathroom, I get hot water over there. 'As what the kids do. And after they come back from the school, 'as what they doing.

PL: Oh, you send your kids to school, too?

JT: Yeah. All of them.



PL: To what level (grade)?

JT: Waialua. All of them goes to high school only.

PL: Oh, high school.

JT: Then, the other boy go to vocational school. A trade school over there. He learn from that school, and 'as what he is now. He is refrigeration boy. Learn from there in school.

PL: How about their recreation, Tata, like that? Did they join sports in school, like that?

JT: Baseball, yeah. Baseball, softball. 'As the one they join up. The only thing I stop them, the football. Because, I figure, no good. Too rough that kind game. And they are small, eh. Easy to break their bone, you know. So, I no like. I told them no. Because once you break your bone, pau. Cannot fix already. Maybe can fix, but you are half useless already. (Laughs) More better no go inside there. So, my kids they obey too. Softball, they go handle ball stay over there.

PL: Tata, when you came to Hawaii, yeah, did you keep your habits like that or customs from the Philippines? Or did you change?

JT: What I learned that is good from the Philippines, I still get 'em, yeah. But some that is not good, I did not do that. I know it's no good, because we came when we were young, you know. I was 18 years old when we came, me and my wife.

PL: Like what kind habits, you know, that you kept like that from the Philippines?

JT: Oh, the one before in the Philippine Island, go out without letting know my wife. In the Philippine Island, I just can puka through. Nobody know where I went, you know. Because that is my job before, go here and there, see. That is my---no more work, 'as why. But that is the custom that is changed, like that. I figure not good, because if I do that, then the people in the house will ask, especially my wife will ask where I was, where I went, where I'm going, where I went. Because, before, while we were in the Philippine Island, because not too long, yet, eh. About two months after we marry, we came. So, I get used to with that kind habit, go. Just go without letting them know that I am going that way. I have business over there. No, not that one. That is change. Over here, cannot. I did not do that. And I think, that's the only one. That's the important one.

PL: Okay, how about church like that? Did you used to go to church back in the Philippines?

JT: No. My parents used to bring me over there. Used to tell us to go. But I don't know why. I don't know why I no like go.

PL: How about da kine, Tata, holidays. Philippines get fiestas or whatever. They get Rizal Day, maybe. Did you celebrate those when you came here?

JT: Oh, the Rizal Day, we used to. We used to celebrate that Rizal Day before. And then, that other fiesta, like what Filipino people doing before, us big change before, that time, we used to go, because we go with the parents, eh. But now, to me, I think it's mistake to me.

PL: Mistake of what?

JT: Mistake of what they asking help from so many. Too many. Is not the real God they are asking from. No. That is a big change, that one. Before, we used to go, the priest come around, yeah. And then, kiss the priest hand. And I understand, because it is Visayan words when we pray. Yeah. We are asking help from somebody that is not God. To me, I don't know you or some people like that. The way how these Catholic people now, I no blame---I no see no God. But, they teaching Filipinos to ask from Virgin Mary when Jesus said, "No. Even to my mother." And then, ask to St. Roch, St. Nicholas. That's the one, I figure, God is only one. So, Jesus said, "If you are something, you are something from God. That is my Father, and He will give you under my name." In other words, only one. One.

PL: Oh, so you mean, that's why you...

JT: That's why I no go. No go church. Yeah.

PL: Oh, I see.

JT: Over here, when you go over there, the prayer teaches us to ask something from Virgin Mary. 'As why I told my wife, "I think you better stop that. Do you think Mary will bring you in front of God, because you say that Mary is just like a lawyer. If you are doing something bad, really bad over here, and then you will say, 'Mary, take me up to Father, because I do something wrong.' If I'm keeping on doing like this here, what God tell to Mary? She cannot! She cannot! You have to go yourself, without them. It's you. To save you." I told my wife. "More better no go over there." (Laughs) So, my wife no go now. No go to church. She's praying every Sunday, like that. 'As natural, that. Even me, when I think of God, I stay one place and think of God. Not to go over there and learn from them when they teaches us no good. They teach us something wrong. Yeah. To go to St. Michael. They celebrating St. Michael, because he is our lawyer to God. I no believe that kind. I no believe.

PL: Okay, Tata, what single event that brought the most change in your life, like that?

JT: What is that mean, now?

PL: Is it by having this farm, like that? I mean, is that what changed your life to have a better living, like that?

JT: Oh! The one. I try to learn something what these people trying to do over here. They are living, too, eh. So, I found out this kind. But the one brought me up like this is what I struggle for is the one I sold from those Japanese people to with Filipino workers, like that. That helps me that way. Because, if that Japanese growing bad and he make money with the Filipino worker, I think, I can try, see. So, that's the one bring me up better than before.

PL: Oh, I see. And so, you mean to say that, did you start your farm in order to give people jobs like that? Filipino people jobs?

JT: That's what I'm thinking, because if only myself, you cannot make money. What one man can do? I let my money work. Open more farms so there is workers can work. And that way we get more income.

PL: So how did you started your farm? Where did you get all this money to lease 'em and buy land like that?

JT: In the beginning, after the War, while I was in U.S.E.D. working like that, my wife was working, my girl was working. We make money that wartime. So, after that, I think, I have about fifteen thousand (dollars). Ready for go Philippine Island, you know. That time, not one married, yet, eh. 'As why I told my wife, "We better go back Philippine before some of them going married Hawaii." But we don't know that some of our girls get promises already, eh. They hear that we going back, they marry right away, you know.

(Laughter)

JT: So, now I think, more better not yet, because we going back Philippine. Or else you follow Philippine Island. Then, "Oh, 'as alright, Pa. We make money and then we go. We go all bumbye." No more three months, the other one go in again. So, no can go home, eh. I no like go and leave them over here. No. So, I figure, no more the job. No more war now. No more da kine money making already, see. I get the money ready to go only. So, I figure, this way, if we no go invest this money for something that we can make money from, we going lose all this money. So, I open this place.

PL: What year was that when you open this place?

JT: This one, I have this one 1946, this one here. I was going sell this before I go home, because this is the one I get in 1943. And then, since we no can, '46, the two of them get married, eh, so I open this with the money I get. This that I'm running from 1943, '45, '46 until now, it gives me little bit money buy property like that. And better. We can get little bit better living than before. Because we get coming from what we select and base there. We can pay jabon like that. We can buy something what we like buy. I bought about

eighty acre land from this business.

PL: So, are you happy now that you have all this land?

JT: Oh, yeah! I am happy, because I get eighty acre for my eight children, see. 'Nuff (enough). And we can kaukau. Still running yet.

PL: When you open this farm out here, was 1946, right?

JT: This was 1946. The first strike in the plantation.

PL: Oh, so did the strikers come and ask you for...

JT: Work, yeah. For work. The one not on duty will come. Only six hours now. And then, in lunchtime, they go on duty again. I mean, because the strikers, they get watchman, too, eh. Security, like that, eh.

PL: And how much did you used to pay them?

JT: 75¢ one hour.

PL: And how many workers at one time come?

JT: Sometimes 15, 20 over here. This place over here. Cut the California grass.

PL: Did the strikers, like that, the group as a whole--you know, the leaders like that--did they come here to donate food like that maybe?

JT: Oh, no, not that 1946. No. This later, yeah. I think, the last two strike. Two strike past, eh. I remember they came.

PL: And did you sympathize with them? Did you help them, like that?

JT: No, was not. Was happen I no more the time. They just ask me for one cow, because they knew that I get pasture over there, eh. But they no ask my money. But they ask me one cow for the kitchen, eh. But the cow is sold to one guy already. I cannot. So, I talk to them. "I got to see this guy, my partner, because I sold half of that." So, I ask him, too, eh, Vincano up Whitmore City. "These guys asking this much. This about for the kitchen." But he no agree that, that's why I no can push him up, you know. The kang kong and all those taro, I give. Because 'as...

PL: And plus the people come in here and work, too, right?

JT: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

PL: In a sense, you're helping them, right?

JT: Yeah. They ask otanun, eh, all the balangeg, eh. I give them that taro. I give them. The hasu I give them for kaukau.

PL: Oh, Tata, you mention that you were naturalized in 1940s?

JT: 1957.

PL: Why did you want to be naturalized?

JT: No sense. I think it over. If I go home, I know where to go in the Philippines, but not one of my childrens going follow. Plus, the United States is a better government than any else that I know. Yeah. The only thing is the law is little bit too soft for the criminal people like that. But for take care people, the government is there.

PL: So, is that why you...

JT: That's why the reason, more better be a United States citizens. No need go back Philippines already. When you go back over there, you leave all your childrens over here. And you know that when you go over there, you going get hard time. Why you like go when we are in this place already that is we get a good government over here. Looking after people.

PL: Okay, let's talk about time, Tata. About Depression, then, okay?

JT: 1930.

PL: What do you recall about the effects of the Depression on your family? Did it affect your family?

JT: No, no. Nothing, though, to me in 1932, the Depression that you said. What I heard from those Hawaiian Pine people, they went to the beach just to catch fish, because they no more job. Waialua Sugar, we have job. We have job, yeah. Only thing is some Brodie 4 people come down to the beach, they pass. They saw our kaukau tin like that, they pick 'em up, you know. Not only me. Plenty people irrigating by Halemano 5, eh, we come back for our kaukau tin lunch time, no more. So, the Brodie 4 people come down to the beach, they pick up our kaukau tin by the roadside and they eat 'em. Yeah, that's one. But for us that we got hard time, no. The sugar plantation is not.

PL: Do you know if the plantation laid off any people during the Depression?

JT: No. They laid off, because they were, you know--when they do something wrong, the only thing, they fired 'em out. Because Apo Ligot bringing people without order. Yeah. They just send the money to bring these people come over here. So, little bit mistake from this one, throw away. Take the other one.

PL: Were vegetable crops planted by the plantation during the Depression like that?

JT: No. Not this Waialua. Not the sugar planter. I remember Waialua--- if I'm not mistaken, in 1938, I think. No, I don't know what year was that. We plant Irish potato one time. But they come out no good, eh. The potato good that come out good. Can eat, but I think no more enough money. 'As why they just try that one time and pau. That's all they plant. All this time, sugar cane, only.

PL: Okay, Tata, when the plantation started using machines like mechanical planters, did you know anybody who was out of work, because of plantation using....

JT: Yeah, yeah. Like the loaders. The hapai ko, what they call hapai ko. The cut cane used to be four, five gang, you know, cutting. And then the hapai ko, one gang---two gang, Kawaihoa and this side, you know. 'As plenty people, you know. So, when the machine come, this planters came here, even Ballfoot truck.

PL: What you mean by Ballfoot?

JT: Ballfoot truck. The railway going spread in the fields to bring the empty car in. And then the hapai ko load up the team inside the car. That one, no more that one now. The whole gang, no more. No more that one, Ballfoot truck. 'As two gang supposed to be. One Kawaihoa and one at Waialua. Two of them, two of the gang disappear.

PL: Oh, so this gang, did they get laid off then? Because they no more job?

JT: Not laid off. They get jobs. The road and they stay on the road. They get. Not all laid off. But they assign them to irrigating and to cutting grass. Before they not using plenty poison, eh. We used to cut, eh, the grass. Now...

PL: Do you remember what year they started poisoning, like that? Herbicide?

JT: Oh, that is right after the War. I remember the strong....yeah. Most time, right after the War, they use the poison. That time, little by little. Then, they study how and what kind of poison of this kind grass now, eh. They get plenty different kind now. Before, used to poison the koa like that. But they scared to bring 'em outside. But, after all, they study. The poison is big help to the plantation, eh. So, now they no going run away from that. They know that it's help to the company. They save up manpower, the poison. One man can do how many acre one day. With the poison. That one, too, is stealing the job. (Laughs)

PL: Okay, Tata, do you remember what year when they used to give free

things like that to the workers? Like kerosene, like that, okay? Firewood, they give 'em free. Houses, you know. What else, you know? What else did you get free from the plantation?

JT: From the plantation? That's all.

PL: That's all?

JT: Firewood, kerosene. When the stove came, they give us kerosene. No more the firewood. Only the banyo get. So many gallon for one family, like that, yeah. I don't remember what year was that. But in 1936, we still get gas. '35, '36. And we get the stove already.

PL: Okay. Where did you used to shop for food like that? Or clothes like that? Did you used to do your shopping all from the plantation store like that?

JT: Yeah. 'As right. Some people can go down to some private stores in Haleiwa, eh. Those who become the friend of the dealer over there. But, like us, we deal to the plantation store.

END OF SIDE ONE.

SIDE TWO.

PL: Okay, Tata, you said you used to do your shopping at the plantation store. Can you remember what kind of can goods did they have then, the store?

JT: I remember some. That hoki from Japan. Shells from Japan. Sardines from the Mainland. Two different kind of sardines and salmon, like that. That's all the kind stuff that we used to buy from Japan and from the Mainland.

PL: Did they ship can goods from the Philippines like that, too? Did they have any?

JT: That time, no. Until now. I don't know until now. I don't know that we have some can stuff from the Philippines Island. But the dried fish like bagoong, that is from before the War. We have that stuff from Philippines.

PL: And how about preserving the food, like that, yeah? To keep is not to spoil fast. How did you folks used to do that?

JT: Oh, when we have fish, fresh fish, like that. Kind of cheap kind. And then we buy and then we salt 'em up. To prevent spoils like that. Because we no have no icebox at that time. So, we salt 'em up and then....we call that sinubwa. Throw 'em in a charcoal, eh. That way...

PL: What you call that, Tata?

JT: Charcoal. Cook 'em with the tinunu. In Filipino, tinunu.

PL: How about the meats, like that, Tata? Meat, veget...

JT: Meat, we no can. We just buy enough that we can use right away. Because we have no icebox.

PL: How about preserving fruits, like that? Fruits, vegetables, like that?

JT: Fruits, we pickle 'em up. We planting; when plenty, we harvest from garden like that to pick up the stuff. And then we pick 'em up. And then we pickle up. We put vinegar or soyu like that. Or else bagoong, we put that. That's all. We can just keep that about three, four days. 'As all.

PL: What kind of fruits did you used to pickle?

JT: The eggplant. Cook the eggplant with all that salty stuff. That you can keep 'em for two or three days like that.

PL: Besides eggplants, what else?

JT: That's all for kaukau. For what we eat in home, like fruits, eh. But these fruits in the store now, we have that before. In the store get plenty. But is not we buy plenty for keep home like that. Maybe, when we go---the kids go, buy enough for them to eat that day or tomorrow. That's all.

PL: Like what kind fruits did they used to sell at the store like that? What kinds of...

JT: Oh, the orange, apples, grapes. From the Mainland, that. All from the Mainland.

PL: Oh, I see. What year was that when they had fresh fruits?

JT: From 1926 when I came Waialua. Over here in the store.

PL: Oh, they had already?

JT: We have, but all from the Mainland.

PL: Did you or Nana used to pickle fruits, like that? To preserve 'em?

JT: Yeah. That's all. Sometimes, papaya. We have plenty papaya to prevent them---before it comes ripen, we pick 'em up. We pick 'em up and then we---what do you call that kind, now? We chop, we have no equipments for....

PL: Oh, grating the papaya?



JT: Maybe had before, but I no think of buying stuff. We just chop, chop with the knife, you know. And then slice 'em up fine. Then we put pickles. We put hot pepper and vinegar. That, long time, that one, can keep. Maybe two weeks, three weeks, you can keep that without icebox.

PL: Do you remember anything---if they have like corn flakes, like that, like what they have now?

JT: No, I don't remember that, corn flakes. This one just come out lately, I think.

PL: Like what else you can buy at the store that you can use 'em right away, besides can goods like that? Did you have fresh sausages like that? Longganisa?

JT: That's from the Spanish land, the chorizo. That one dry one, the one in the can. I think that is from the States, the hard kind. Salt chorizo, like that. 'As all they get. Portugee sausage, no more, but. Only that.

PL: And how you used to keep your foods so that the cockroaches like that or bugs cannot get into that?

JT: (Laughs) Oh, yeah, that one. To protect the rats or the cockroach or flies like that, cover up safety with the cover of the pot cover. That's all.

PL: That's all?

JT: We got a safety with a cover. And then the salad, we put 'em in the shelves sometimes, with the cover. Because sometimes, the cockroach, you know, cockroach sneak themselves---struggle to go inside, eh. Especially when they smell, so, we have to put cover to safety the food that we have.

PL: What kind of things did you use to kill the bugs, like that? Had Raid, like that?

JT: No. Nothing. No more spray. No more. Only now, I think. I don't know when these spray for mosquitoes, like that, and for the flies, like that. But before, no. The flies you have to drive 'em out only. But mosquitoes, we have da king Japanese mosquito punk we call. That is for sleeping time in the night.

PL: Oh, what year was that when we have 'em? What year about you was using punks, like that?

JT: Oh, long time. Before I came Hawaii. That was import by the United States from Japan. When I came in 1926, they have that, yeah, already. 'As from Japan, I think.

PL: How about to kill rats like that? How you used to kill 'em? Did you have poison for rats like that?

JT: No, we have our rat trap. We buy from the store. Only now, they use poisons. When they find out the cane is chew by the rats, then they took poison in the cane field, like that. So, we can have some, too, before when we were in the plantation, eh. And then there for our chickens like that, you know. But now, I don't know. Look like they not using now. Plantation.

PL: Oh, did you used to have chickens? Did you use to raise chickens?

JT: Yeah, we used to raise for eggs like that.

PL: How many chicken you used to have? Approximately?

JT: Oh, in that place, yeah, I think my hens was 15, 16 hens, I guess.

PL: Did you used to sell---if you have extra like that?

JT: No can. No can.

PL: Extra egg? No?

JT: I just keep 'em for my kids. (Laughs)

PL: Oh, I see. What else beside chicken you used to raise?

JT: Oh, in plantation, I had raising pig too for home use. Pigs. Kill. A couple of them...

PL: How many pigs you used to have?

JT: I have one mother pig. And then I keep the babies, eh.

PL: When was this? When?

JT: In Kahika Camp. Waialua Plantation, but I stay in that section camp. Halemano side. That was in 1931, '32. '32, I was there, yeah. '32, '33, '34, '35, '36, I decide to go out from the plantation, because 'as the highest pay I get from the plantation is only dollar half a day.

PL: Okay, Tata, you mentioned that you used to cook in the morning, like that, eh. Okay. How did you learn to cook food like that?

JT: Cook with the stove. This kerosene stove.

PL: Did you learn how to cook different kinds, like Japanese cooking? Did you learn how to cook like that?

JT: No. We just cook in our way. In the beginning, we don't have the

stove, we used to cook with the firewood, eh. While I was there. 1926 until 1928, we stay cooking---some people is cooking in the stove now, kerosene stove, but peoples cannot buy right away.

PL: Like what kind cooking? I don't mean how you cook it. It's what kind you cook?

JT: Oh, like cook rice. And then, vegetables with dried shrimp and cook bagoong, like that.

PL: Oh, is that...

JT: Diningding latta.

PL: No...

JT: When we happen we get little bit money for buy meat, we buy meat. Pork and cook 'em in our way, Filipino way.

PL: And you said when you used to raise chicken, Tata, is that just for the eggs or you used to kill chicken to use cooking, too?

JT: Eggs, and then, when happen the hens can have some and we can bring 'em up until come big, then we kill. 'As all. Use of the chicken. We cannot sell. No more enough for us yet. (Laughs) Yeah. No can sell. No can make money from the chicken. Only keep 'em and take the eggs when the hens....when ready to stop laying egg, we give them about two, three eggs like that for hatch. Then, that one we have to bring up. We can bring 'em right up. And then we think it's good for pulehu already, we get some. We kill 'em.

PL: Did you ever raise chicken for fighting like that? Chicken fight?

JT: No. Because I was not gambling that time. No more money for gambling. (Laughs) No more.

PL: So, just raise chicken for eat and eggs, like that.

JT: Just raise for my own use. I get the kids. Home use only. Some people, the gambling people, raise chicken for fight.

PL: Okay, Tata, how about clothing like that? Your clothes, did you buy it from the store, plantation store?

JT: Yeah, from the store we buy. No more money, we just charge to the store.

PL: How about special clothes like that? Did you ever go to a tailor shop like that?

JT: Not happen to me. We people used to go outside. Some people, but not me. My side, no. Because I can buy from the store, from the

plantation store, eh. Some peoples, they like hokano kind, eh. They can afford. Like especially the single man, eh, he go town to the tailor. But me, I get hard time. I get four kids, and we are six or eight people, you know. I cannot afford to. I just khaki. That's all I can afford. Khaki and ahina kind clothing. Pants. My wife. You know. Regular. What we get from the store is what we use, you know.

PL: And you mention, too, you said that when you came, you had your wife then. Do you remember if they had any clubs for women to join so they can have fun like that?

JT: No. No more. No more that kind.

PL: And what do the wives used to do to keep them busy like that? What do they do?

JT: 'As all. Planting around the house. Planting beans. Like eggplant. You know, for our kitchen, that. Parya, saluyot like that. 'As what we plant. Because if alasil no need, we just go buy, like that, no more money for buy. Might as well grow 'em up. Even just little, I'm growing around my cane field. Squash around the cane field. By my yard is saluyot, any kind vegetables or Filipino vegetables like that. So, we no can buy, because we have no money enough to buy. That's on \$1.52 a day. Too much for six people. Too small for six people.

PL: Okay, Tata. Now, let's go into about the War, then, Tata. When the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor, where were you at that time when they attack Pearl Harbor?

JT: The Sunday at 7 o'clock, I was at home. I just got up and I hear the planes in the morning. Then, when I came out from my house, I ask some of my neighbor, "How come? Why is this?" "They all they practice." 'As what they said. Practice. But I saw the bullet come out from the plane, the United States plane, and other Japanese that---sound of the other plane is different kind sound as ours, you know. So, they said that one to throw down. I said, "Why? If that is practice, and that is to burn down, how about the man inside?" 'As why I talk to the old man over here, Lambatring, eh. Said, "No, I think the thing fly just itself. No more man." I said, "I don't think, because it's shooting, too." Yeah. So, when time to fire, we can see the fire, you know. Yeah. And then about 9 o'clock, one man come home from Honolulu--Ilino is his name. Ilino my man while I was working in U.S.E.D., U.S. Engineer, he's one of my man. He said, "Eh, Jose, they attack Pearl Harbor!" I said, "Eh, what?" He said, "They attack Pearl Harbor, the Japanese. Bomb the Pearl Harbor and hangar where we were working yesterday"--that Saturday we were working eh--said, "The warehouse that we were working yesterday, the last hangar to Kona side is blown out. Even the warehouse that we were working." Said, "I no believe," in the first time. But when I saw the plane fire already, and then producing fire and dive to the ocean

like that, 'as when I know that is true. Then, I hear the radio. We have radio, some guys.

PL: You said that you used to work at Schofield, okay, Tata. And you said that you was working the day before they bomb near Schofield.

JT: I was working that Saturday.

PL: So, you lucky you guys don't have work Sunday, eh?

JT: I was supposed to go that Sunday. But another gang, the Filipino guy, Pisaro, plenty of his man did not make the 48 hours. So my gang was straight from Monday through Saturday. That was not war time, yet. Only, we working for the defense job. So, the boss was picking up all those who did not make the 48 hours. So, Pisaro's gang is plenty people no more 48. So, the superintendent tell my gang supposed to stay home tomorrow, because these guys can make their hour, eh. They make their hour for this week. So, we stay home. But these guys went, Pisaro, was there. But I don't know what happen to them, because the trench that I was supposed to dig that day, Sunday, the trench that I was digging Saturday, that was bomb over there. And then, Pisaro supposed to go there, but they changed. Before the workers go into the job where he was assigned, the thing was bombed already. So, maybe they just go back, or I don't know where they went. Because the trench was started with the machine gun, you know.

PL: Do you know if anybody from that gang died?

JT: No, no. That's why I believe that they were not in the other job at that time, because was early, yeah. They were not in the job. The next day, 'as when we went to go up to work. But they sent us home, because it's not too safety, yet. So, we went home. The third day, 'as when we went. 'As when I found, the man that came that Saturday on the 6th of December---one plenty people. 'As around hundred people something to two hundred in the tent. That's the place where we clean up that day for they set up their tent. They can set up their tent, the soldiers that is coming from the Mainland. But that day, the third day that I went over there, the one we clean up for their tent, is like nothing but holes, you know. From bullet holes. And my boss told me the people that stays in this tent was clean up. Clean up. Not one survive. 'As what my boss told me. I don't know how true, because when I came, it's already clean up. The tent was outside. Was pile up in the other side and pukas. That was....

PL: Okay, Tata, and you mention that you said your men supposed to....

JT: Suppose to work that day, Sunday, yeah.

PL: ...work that day. But then, they just had 48 hours and then....you mean to say that you was some kind of supervisor then?

JT: I was a luna. I was the luna of that gang over there. I only work two weeks, if I'm not mistaken, the month of May. That year. Until three weeks. Then, they need a man that can understand. Then I was

pull by the boss to be a pusher. Then, they put me as a regular luna that time, because I can follow any engineer's mark, you know, where to dig and how much to dig. About sewer line and water line like that.

PL: Can you explain more about being a pusher? What do you mean by being a pusher?

JT: Well, I have to keep the----the boss, I ask the boss about what to do over there, and I'm the one who be responsible to do it, see. Just like the radio stations are being dig, eh, they read the plan to me. No form. No form, but by digging, the dirt is a form. 'As the hardest one I get, you know. Without form. We have to dig, dig about three inches, or six inches down and we come out from the hole--the footing like--come out about six inches, like that. And then come straight around six inches. Instead of putting a mold--one concrete block like that--for footing, we put 'em in the ground. We cut the ground like that. Shape like a molding. Mold. That's the one. Then before my gang go, I got to know from the superintendent what kind of job I have to do with my men.

PL: So you used to work there, okay. How about the following week after they bomb. How was the condition around Waialua like that? Did they have a lot of troops, you know, Army man come into Waialua like that?

JT: In Waialua, not much, by Mokuleia, yeah. Mokuleia and this side here. All, every intersections, all the bridges, all watch by the Army. Because they not sure whether the carrier bin went back already or not, see. So, they have to watch. They have to be alert for 24 hours, you know, that time. But the first thing we know that we are safe, that's why. The radio says we are safe. But the Army stay awake for 24 hours that time. Until was really clear.

PL: Did you do any volunteer work for the Army?

JT: No, no. I work for the Army, but we get paid. Not volunteer, that time. Maybe, some, but I don't know how true is that. Some guys over there they say they go for home defense. They were teaching people how to defend the home. Some old middle-aged people....one of my friends told me that we have a school for how to watch ourselves. In other words, just like National Guard. The one cannot go to the front. We teaching over here for to defend our own home over here. But, me, I was at the job, yeah.

PL: Can you tell me your conditions, like, when they have martial law, like that, can you tell me about the blackouts? Did they affect your family?

JT: Yeah. In the night, everybody cannot put light on at our house. That's the humbug of the civilian that's had plenty kids like that. Because they cannot get light. We have to make ready at about 4 o'clock. Soon as daylight get, everything must be ready for tonight, so the things to

be touch by night time, you have to make ready in the day time, because you have no light. No lights at all. Even our cars, we cannot go out. We cannot go out with our affairs in the night. We can go in the day time. With the ration, we have five gallons. Some people, two, three gallon like that. I think I have five gallon a week or....I don't know. I forget that already.

PL: You mean that's the gas rationing?

JT: Yeah, gas rationing. Yeah.

PL: Did you use your car to go to work?

JT: No. I was riding the company's truck. The used truck. That is supply by the company. We no worry about the gas for go work and come home, because we get the truck of the company. And then, the truck is quick. Is ready for everything, so we no use our car for go to work. Some people that they want to go work with new cars, new trucks from the company pass by their place say they are suppose to bring their car. They get more ration now. They get more gas to use, because they tell the boss that, "I am working with my car. So, I need gas for go to work." And they need the workers, so they have to give gas or they have to give ride or truck like that. But get in the truck, one, two people, like that, more better give them gasoline. 'At's what they figure. Peoples over here, Waialua side, some they go with the car.

PL: And did you used to work holidays like that, too? Did they force you to work on the holidays?

JT: You mean, wartime?

PL: Wartime, yeah.

JT: Oh yes. When we put up the tent up Kolehale Pass, you know, over there. We work until about 12 o'clock. Come home, eat, wake up 6 o'clock, go up work. I forget, but, anyway, from 6 to 12, because the troops coming from the Mainland, eh, and no more houses. No more houses. The one over here was bomb before.

PL: So, you put up houses...

JT: Put up the tent.

PL: Tent, like that, for the Army? But then you was getting paid then, eh?

JT: All, we pay. We getting paid up on that.

PL: Did the Army man, did they ever mistaken you for a Japanese man?

JT: No.

PL: Because I heard, you know, that some Filipinos are mistaken by the Army guys that they are Japanese, and...

JT: No, I no hear that.

PL: How about rationing of food like that? Did they have rationing of food?

JT: Plantation?

PL: No, no, no. During the War like that. Can you buy any much you want? At that time?

JT: Oh, we can buy any much. But what the Army doing in the beginning was....while the fight was still kind of serious yet, eh, they let the people go work. And they give aid. Every workers that go up to Schofield, like that, lunch time, we go to the mess hall. No charge, no pay. We no bring lunch from home. We no bring lunch. Anybody hungry on the job, go to the mess hall. Lunch time. Even in the night they go. Plenty eat. Plenty eat that time. You no eat vegetables like me before. That time we went, nothing but steak. Stew. Meat. Nothing. The men is throwing away. What they bring today. Maybe, that's make me sick, you know, the food. What get today, after this, today, they throw away then. Yeah. And then when you see the cans, you know, the rubbish cans, eh, the slop cans outside, overflowing. Some is good meat.

PL: So, during the War at Schofield Barracks, you get plenty food then?

JT: Plenty food. Plenty food. Plenty.

PL: Okay, Tata, let's talk about in 1946, you said that you open up this side of the farm, okay...

JT: In '43.

PL: And in '46, you expand here?

JT: Yeah, I expand this side in 1946.

PL: The plantation had strike at that time.

JT: 1946, that's when I open this.

PL: Yeah, okay. Let's talk about this. 1949 strike. What kind strike is that? Is that shipping strike? 1949? You remember that?

JT: That is the stevedore, I think.

PL: Yeah.

JT: I was in Hawaiian Dredging at that time.



PL: Oh. But you had your farm, okay?

JT: I had my farm.

PL: And did it affect you, like, maybe shipping your crops like that, your hasu? Did it affect you?

JT: In the boat, yeah. That was affect little bit, but not too long, because we are board on boat that time. No more plane yet. So we stay at the boat, yeah. So when the ship strike, that is in 1948. '48, I stay by Tripler. No, no, Kunia Road. '48. No, that was '46, the big strike. Plantation strike. And then the boat strike....I don't know what year was that, but that's why we cannot ship our hasu, because the stevedores were on strike that time (1949).

PL: Did you lose money because of that, or....

JT: No. No. Because my crop is different of the other crop. My crop, if I no can sell in one month time, still can---if from now is ready maybe one, two, three months like that, still there waiting for market. Not affected.

PL: Tata, what month do you usually harvest, like that? Dig up the hasu?

JT: Month of September. I used to start September, sometimes August.

PL: And right after you dig 'em out, you plant again, like that?

JT: Yeah, we used to do that before, but, you know, Filipino style, we have to seedling yet, the pulapula. And then you will try to plant in Filipino way by timing, you know to produce more hasu. That's what I do.

PL: What you mean by timing?

JT: The timing, yeah. Because if you just soak 'em in, will give you a hasu, but not much as you plant in time. You plant in time of planting of that kind stuff.

PL: So what month?

JT: The same month. In every month, there is a planting time. Anytime, you can plant, yeah, but you sometimes...

PL: How do you decide the planting time? How do you do that? I mean, how do you know it's that planting time already?

JT: I know. By looking the calendar. Watching the moon. 'As my sign.

PL: Oh, the moon like that. You use the moon.

JT: The moon. The moon, yeah. The moon go according to the tide, too. That's why I believe I have more production than plant any kind.

PL: Oh, I see. What do you mean by moon? Is it full moon or half moon like that? I mean, what day of the month you usually plant?

JT: It depend when is the full moon.

PL: But usually full moon you plant?

JT: No. Before full moon. Three days before full moon. So what you have to watch is the half moon. The rail up. Like this, eh. Like this kind. Sunday the first.

PL: (explaining) Okay, he's showing me the map now.

JT: The first, eh. 'As new moon over here.

PL: (explaining) He's showing me a calendar right now.

JT: This is half, yeah. Straight. Just like you cut 'em with a knife. And then, one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight. Yeah, 'as full. Then, my planting is there.

PL: Oh, okay.

JT: Then, when I come here, I follow this three days time, I pau. This is now a full moon, eh. Over here is the full moon. So, on the ten, this one here, nothing. For this month. Nothing to plant. That is the timing. And I know I get better crop done.

PL: Oh, I see. When you dig 'em, too, do you take all at one time on, like you said September, okay. Your harvesting month. Do you take 'em all at one time?

JT: You mean the whole harvest? It depend if that one come up to two thousand, three thousand pound, I dig the three thousand pound. If four thousand, I dig four thousand of it. The following week again, another two, three thousand, I pull. I pull the hasu.

PL: What kind of tools do you need for...

JT: For digging?

PL: Yeah. Planting the hasu.

JT: Only sickle. For cut the leaves and the vines. But to bring out the hasu from the mud by hand power.

PL: Oh. Just pull 'em out?

JT: No, no. We have to clean up. The thing is laying down on the ground like that. So we clean up the side. And take the baby out. Float the baby out. And then you stick your hand like this under the

hasu, and then you take 'em out. Is easy. Otherwise going broke.

PL: How long the hasu roots like that? The average length.

JT: The length of the hasu? Oh, sometimes, five, six joint. That's about three feet something. Get this length. Most time like that when I get the...

PL: And how many in one? In one hasu, like that, how many roots you can take from there?

JT: No, no. The hasu is come from the vine. The leaves, now. You see the hasu? You can see there now, eh? The hasu, the vine is over here. The leaves over here. The vine is over here. And every one foot apart is another leaves again come up. And where the leaves is another branch again go out. You see. But when time to produce hasu like that, you going produce hasu already. The roots. Then, instead of branch out, the hasu come up. I mean, the potato come. Hasu. 'As the one you going dig.

PL: How about watering stuff like that? How you used to water?

JT: No, I never spray. That hasu patch cannot depend only hanawai like that or pump. Pump and flooding up. 24 hours flooding up. Because what these plants like is water all the time. Only when the first five days after you plant, you cannot give plenty water, because they going float. So you can leave about one, two weeks like that until leaves come up already, so it goes....the roots is holding the dirt already. They cannot go away from there. Unless big flood like that. Then, that time float and go.

PL: So, all this field water is from the spraying water?

JT: All hasu plants got to be spraying water. I only pump a little water at the place where the spring water cannot go up too much. In other words, the spraying cannot dig enough.

PL: And are you using a pump right now?

JT: Yeah, yeah. Right now.

PL: Since when you started using pump?

JT: Oh, this one, I notice this water come down smaller now in the spring. When the plantation had a big well over there for their own big pump, that good. Like now, eh, they pumping over there now. Hard time, eh. Pumping. I hear that pump over there stay up the mountain is one hundred feet below the sea level. So, when the thing will pump, seems to me that the small rain instead of coming down to the spring, they go down to the hole. Because why the water come small? That is what I think. Every like this comes small.

PL: Like you, Tata, now, when did you use the pump for pump? What year?

JT: Wait, wait. It's about three, four years.

PL: Oh yeah?

JT: Three, four years I buy pump. Because one place over here, no can. No more enough water.

PL: How many acres the one you need for pump water?

JT: Oh, about two acre. Two acre and the one stay up. The spring water go. No can give enough. So I have to pump from the main spring, because not only one spring. The spring up is that one small one. But the other small spring down flowing this way. I can pump that water go up that way. So, my hasu is having enough now. Had the three pump running everyday. One three-inch. And two two-inch. Now, I get enough water.

PL: And when you harvest, Tata, how many helpers do you have like that?

JT: Sometimes, three, four guys like that. Some part timers outside. They come and pull Saturday, eh. My schedule to the Mainland is Monday, so part-timers like plantation people--they no work Saturday and Sunday, eh--so 'as when I pull. Saturday and Sunday.

PL: And you pay them by how?

JT: By pounds. 12¢ a pound.

PL: Pulling the weeds like that, you don't have regular workers to do that?

JT: I have. I have.

PL: Oh. How many regular workers do you have?

JT: I have two here now. Cannot. When I get five thousand pound for one week, these two guys going get hard time. But if I keep enough to bring out the five thousand a week, I cannot, because sometimes the order will come down, eh. Sometimes come down to two thousand, three thousand. The two guys can take care that. Sometimes only one thousand. You know, the market is flooded, like that. They going cut down, so, I have no jobs for the five people if not the pulling. Yeah. That's why I pick up the part-timers outside. So I told my customer in the Mainland, "I only can ship you by Monday or Tuesday." That figure, I can have part timers---people working the regular on the week days. I can pull Saturday and Sunday, you see. I can bring in and Sunday afternoon, I get all the hasu over here. The next day, the wahines--my wife and all the helps--wash the hasu. I get the machine. Not hard to wash. Just shoot 'em with the machine, eh. And then we crate 'em up. And ready for Monday or I pau early Monday;

Tuesday to the plane. So I don't think I get trouble with the working, because I can change around my schedule.

PL: Oh, you using plane now to ship 'em?

JT: Yeah, over there. Because...

PL: Since when you started using plane to ship?

JT: By box.

PL: I mean, when did you start using plane to send your crop to the Mainland, like that? What year? What year you started?

JT: Before I was pin to the boat in nineteen...

END OF INTERVIEW

# **WAIALUA & HALEIWA**

## **The People Tell Their Story**

### **Volume IV**

### **FILIPINOS**

**ETHNIC STUDIES ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

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UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, MANOA**

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