BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: DAVID MAHOE, retired crane operator, Waialua Sugar Company

David Mahoe, Hawaiian-Japanese, was born in Haleiwa, August 7, 1910. Haleiwa has been home for at least five generations of Mahoes.

David attended Haleiwa Elementary School and Leilehua High School. He dropped out of high school during the Depression. He was one of the few Hawaiians to work for Waialua Sugar Company, first as a hapai ko man, and later as a crane operator. In 1974, he retired from the heavy equipment shop.

He and his wife live in Waialua.
GG: Okay, I'd first like to say that this is an interview today with David Mahoe in his home in Waialua. And after we talked last time, I went back and reviewed my notes a little bit and thought some more about some of the things I wanted to ask you about. So, do you want to tell me a little bit about your family here, in the early days?

DM: By that, what you mean?

GG: Well, okay. As I recall, you told me three generations of Mahoes lived here in Waialua.

DM: Yeah. Yeah.

GG: Well, do you recall the occupations? What your mother did or her parents? Did they work for plantation or did they have land and work the land or....

DM: My mother, she never did work in her life, I think. But she take care the home, the taro patches, find food for the family to eat. My stepfather, he work for telephone. My grandmother and grandfather, they....my grandfather was once upon a time camp police up Kawaiola. My grandmother didn't do anything. Just take care the you know. Work in the patches. 'As the only way they earn their living, see.

GG: Yeah. Did they have a lot of land and they had a lot in taro, or....

DM: Yeah. We had two places. Down at Haleiwa and one at....they call that place "two bridge." The "two bridge" property, that is own by the Bishop Estate. Since my great-great-grandfather was....in the olden days, they just like disciple for the queens or king or something. Everytime they had something in town, well, he used to go, see. In olden days, they get big kind of ribbons or what, yeah. That's why when he was living, the Bishop Estate....well, my understanding is that they lend the land to him as long as he lives, eh. And on that land, we raise taro. Yeah. Mostly taro. It's a quite a big place. About close to two acre, I think. Maybe not quite two acre. And then the taro, we sell it to the poi factory. That way, we make some money for while we living, eh.

GG: Where was the poi factory?
DM: Poi factory was...one at "two bridge" and one at...well, my stepfather's auntie, she had one, well, just enough for put this for her family and our family, too, see. We use to send the poi over there sometime. But most of the time, we pound our own. The poi factory, well, they, I think, I don't know how they charge. Maybe for every two bag, maybe, we give a bag or so. I don't know, see.

GG: Your family took the taro leaves to the poi factory or you folks...

DM: The regular taro. After we cook it, see. And it's ready to be made into poi, sometime we take 'em there. But most of the time, we don't take it there for go in. The family's kind of big and we get lot of time for pound the poi. But sometime when they need 'em right away, well, they going send it to the poi factory. To my stepfather's aunt place.

GG: Your stepfather was Hawaiian also?

DM: He was hapa-haole, eh, just like, you call it. Yeah. There were three brothers....he had two more other brothers.

GG: What family was that?

DM: Smith. Yeah. The brother use to own lot of property up Kamaloa and down at Tanabe. But somehow, they mortgage and mortgage and mortgage the thing. The property all went.

GG: And what about the land that your family had? Do they still have a lot of it or....

DM: They mortgage and mortgage, and went out, too. First, they send my auntie and my uncle to Kam (Kamehameha) School, see. My parent didn't have money so they mortgage the property. They cannot pay 'em, so the plantation took lot of them. Then we had some property, I think, over at Molokai. That, I don't know, the lawyer ate most of the money. (Chuckles) That's why they have to mortgage the place out, see. And we didn't get anything from there. They lost big acreage over there.

GG: Do you remember stories at all about your great-great-grandfather and his services to the royalty or what he did or....

DM: I don't know. He was some kind of....(Makes tsking noise) gee, I'm not quite sure, see.

GG: Chief class? Was that what it was like, or....

DM: Just some kind of advisor or something. I don't know. But I know, everytime when something big come up, he would dress up and go in town on a buggy, see, sometime. But I know he had a big ribbon over here. Right around. I went with him once, but I was small yet. I don't remember anything. As soon as we get to the palace
ground, well, the guard stop, see. Sometime he stop us. But soon as they see my grandfather, then they open the gate, see. Because maybe he had special permit or something to go. 'As all I remember him.

GG: Do you remember which person was ruling? Was that Liliuokalani's time?

DM: I think Liliuokalani's time. That's when lot of...you know, there were two side, eh. One was for Liliuokalani and one was opposing her, I think. And the one that was opposing her, I think they....some of them were put inside the guard house. Some cold storage, da kine, see. Just for punish them, eh. But outside of that, I don't remember too much though.

G: Do you ever remember Queen Liliuokalani coming down to the summer house down here or....

DM: No. I was too small at that time, I think. I don't remember. But my mother told us where she would come. Right down there by the garage, now. That building is no more. She use to come with her maid and everybody. That's her summer resting place. 'As all I know.

GG: Do you remember anything about when she died? That was, I think 1917. So I guess, you were only about what? Seven years old?

DM: Seven years old, yeah. No, I don't remember.

G: Do you ever remember Queen Liliuokalani coming down to the summer house down here or....

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GG: Do you remember anything about when she died? That was, I think 1917. So I guess, you were only about what? Seven years old?

DM: Seven years old, yeah. No, I don't remember.

GG: And can you tell me about the house you lived in when you were a small boy. You said you had two houses? Now, was it like ohana or you lived in one for a while and then later you lived in another one or....

DM: We all live in one. The building was shape like this. Long. Like this. "L" shape, eh. This where all the bedroom. And this shorter portion was the kitchen and all kind stuff. And then, after we eat our supper everything, when everything is all clean up, we use to go in one of the big---we have kind a large parlor. Well, all the family get together. We sing, pray, just talk like that. And talk over, well, I don't know. Maybe some nasty problem or what. I don't know.

GG: Are you familiar with hooponopono? Did your family ever engage in hooponopono?

DM: Gee, I don't know.

GG: Or was it just evening devotion?

DM: Yeah.

G: Was it an every night kind of thing?

DM: Every night, yeah.
GG: Was it in a way connected with Liliuokalani Church or was this just a family...

DM: Family alone. This is family. Maybe they discuss something else, but...(Something falls. Brief pause as someone does something.) Maybe they discuss some other problem, but mostly, what we do and what happen and any kind. Among the family, 'as all. And what we should do tomorrow. They plan what they were going to do tomorrow and so forth.

GG: Was there a certain season, like, for planting the taro and certain time for harvesting?

DM: As soon as one patch is finish, we clean up the place, see. Have 'em ready for the next crop. Sometimes they leave 'em maybe one month dry it up, see. And then you start working inside. Cultivate the soil. Put water. And then put the taro shoots inside to be planted, eh. Yeah, that's all.

GG: And did you folks all work together to plant? Did different members of the family have different parts of it to do?

DM: Well, whoever have time go, see. But most time, the older people do the hard work. We, maybe, we cut the slips da kine. Get ready for the old people to stick it in, eh. But as we grow older, we use to do that, too.

GG: How many children were there?

DM: I had....four girls. Four sister. And....four boys. Altogether my mother had more than that, but miscarriage and some died, eh. But actually, we had that---and now, only two girls and three boys left.

GG: And, as I recall, you told me you were the oldest? Is that right?

DM: Yeah, I'm the oldest. Yeah.

GG: So did you have special responsibility, being the oldest, to help take care of the littler ones?

DM: Yeah. My mother told me, see. Since I'm the oldest one, take care the younger one. The whole family. And they all listen to me. Whatever I say, they listen.

GG: They didn't give you any....not like today, I guess, where they...

DM: No, no, no. What I tell 'em what to do. Even we have property---we having our property all....(Asks family member) What you call that? The property we doing now?

Wife: You mean what you call estate in...

DM: Yeah. It's a Mahoe Estate, see, the one there. The lawyer got, I think, most of the problem settle already. But it's just
ready for sell the stuff. So, my younger brother and sister, what I tell them, they say okay. So I told them that I like get rid of the place fast. So we sell the place and then divide it all among the clan, eh. There's, I think, four different groups in this clan. And our side, my sister and brother side, they say, "Okay, we follow the other people. We sell 'em and divide the money." So we have to pay tax and the lawyer fee, eh. But as much as possible I wish it's over already.

GG: You say there's four different parts of the clan? All Mahoe?

DM: Yeah. You see, that's all my aunties, eh, before. My mother, and then she get sisters, eh. Get the Adams, Adolfo. I have one uncle in the Mainland. Raise Mahoe. And one other auntie living down here.

GG: Your mother is still living?

DM: She died during the War. The second World War.

GG: Oh. So tell me about, now, how you got the food or the main things that were in your diet? You, of course, ate a lot of poi. What else did you eat when you were a little kid?

DM: Well, we, as I said before, summer month, eh, you know the ooama. The ooama and moiliau, plentiful, see, during the summer month. So, early in the morning, they'll wake us up. Go down there, you surround one time. Just enough for maybe couple of days. Maybe three, four days. And then we go again for catch some more. Not like now days. When they go out, they either, they want to clean up the whole area, you know. You know, get all the fish as much as they can, but before, they only take what they want. That's all, see.

GG: What you can use.

DM: Yeah.

GG: Did you dry the fish or just eat 'em right then?

DM: They cook it. Majority of it, they have to fry 'em. They salt 'em and dry it up, eh. Otherwise, wouldn't last. No more icebox, see.

GG: So most of the way you preserve things was drying, right.

DM: Drying, yeah. Even the--you know what is oopu, too, eh? Oopu. That fish only come when the mountain have heavy rain. During the winter months. And that fish come down with the water, see. Yeah, about this big. But lot of bone. Everybody use to go when after the water is calm down, slow flowing. All the kids use to go hooking. Was lot of fun. And that fish, too, we cook and dry it up, too. That... anyway as long you can get some food for eat, we go out and try find.
GG: What about fruits? Did you have fruits in your yard at all? Banana or papaya or like that?

DM: Well, yeah. We had banana. We had some banana.

GG: What about ulu? Did you have ulu tree?

DM: We had one ulu tree up this other side where Bishop Estate was. Was a large plant. And we have mango trees, too. Orange tree, we didn't have. But we had lot of coconut tree, though. And that coconut leave, they use to make lauhala mat. I mean, hala. With that, they make mat. But we had lot of coconut. That, they use for making haupia and kulolo.

GG: What kind of chores did you have as a youngster? What were your main responsibilities in the family?

DM: Oh, we had... (Laughs)... quite a few. We have to go out, find firewood.

GG: Kiawe, is that what they use mostly?

DM: Kiawe, lantana, see. Before, had lot of lantana. And then, we have to go the taro patch. Either pull taro or clean up. Take the weeds, eh. We have to go down the beach catch fish. Any kind. Even sometime during the night, we have to go, because sometime...

GG: That's when they running?

DM: Yeah. (Laughter)

GG: Did you have certain times when you could play and have fun, too?

DM: Well, when certain days, there's nothing to do, well, free for us to do whatever we like. But when certain day when they assign a job, then we have to come back after school, see. On Saturday, most time, at least half day, we have to go in the taro patch. And then Sundays, all free. Yeah. Anyway, there certain days that they assign us certain kind job.

GG: What did you do for fun if you had time out and could do what you wanted?

DM: Go swimming. And those days, we make our own toys. No more toys like now, see. Sometime, you know, iron wheels about this round. And we make a hook with the wire, see. With that we pulls the stuff, go all around. As the only kind game we use to have, see, before. And then, whoever have bicycle, everybody take chance learn how to ride it. We go horseback riding, too.

GG: Did you have horses?
DM: My stepfather had one. Hoo, was terrible one, too!

(Laughter)

GG: Wild?

DM: Yeah. (Laughs) Sometime, oh! We go on a buggy to some friend's house. We tie 'em up. Hoo boy, sometime he get his crazy hour or something, boy, the bugga loose and run. All the way right home. The buggy, all (Laughs) bust up. I mean, all broken up.

GG: Did you shoe the horses or did you go to the blacksmith shop?

DM: They go to the blacksmith stop.

GG: Was that Ninomiya's place?

DM: Yeah, Ninomiya and...

Wife: They had one more, Kuba.

DM: Kubo, yeah. I think Kubo was first, then, yeah, Ninomiya. Kubo. Kuba.

GG: And did you folks ever make akakai rafts? You know...

DM: Yeah. Those days had plenty. But now, you hardly find 'em in there, this Anahulu River. Even this other river, I don't see 'em around. Akakai raft, use to make kind of big one and lot of— we use to go all the way up to the gulch with the akakai boat. Get up there, get some mangoes, ride the boat all the way home. Fun, eh. Get boys and girls all together going up. Race one another and all da...

GG: I wondered if they had races. And what did you use? A pole to.... how did you make it go?

DM: We make our own oar. With stick and make the shape of the oar, eh. Any kind.

GG: And did you use to play Peewee, too?

DM: Yeah, Peewee.

GG: 'Cause everybody has told us they spent more time, I think, playing Peewee and marbles than almost anything else.

DM: Yeah, marbles, too. Yeah. I forget told last time, but we play all the other games—all the games that, maybe, I didn't mention, we played, see. Marble was famous, too. And the Nigga Baby. They told you Nigga Baby? They make a bag with the koa seeds, eh. You know, the small seeds. Pack 'em up inside tight. And with that we chase and hit one another.
GG: I think Mrs. Gibson was telling me. She couldn't think of the name. But she said they used to put koa seeds. Was it in the Bull Durham bags or some...

DM: Bull Durham bag, yeah. Well, the bigger boys, that is hard to throw, see. Because it doesn't go straight, eh. They use tennis ball. Hoo, when you get whack from that, it hurt!

(Laughter)

GG: That must have been after the plantation had put in, what? Tennis court, I think.

DM: Yeah, the plantation had their own tennis court long time ago, see. And only, well, the lunas use to play. Not unless you a good tennis player, then, they might tell you come and play, see. But otherwise, nobody can go there.

GG: Later on, did they open it up so other people could?

DM: Yeah. Later on, they open up for their company men and for the whole community.

GG: What about, too, now, going back a little further, did your family have aumakua or special, you know, family gods? Or do you remember anything about that?

DM: I don't know, but my mother...I heard that everytime when some member of our family either touch a shark or eat a shark, I think. I don't know if they ever ate shark. I didn't eat shark. She would get her neck come short, you know. Some kind of a punishment or I don't know. Maybe kahuna or what, I don't know. 'As the only part I know. 'As why my parents tell us, all the children, not to fool around with sharks. But if that was...like some, they worship the shark, yeah. Or certain kind thing. But I don't know if my family worship anything.

GG: Were they active in the Liliuokalani Church?

DM: Yeah, yeah.

GG: Were there any special Hawaiian customs or Hawaiian ways that, you know, like, your family or clan. Was that ohana? You lived close together and spent time together and helped each other and...

DM: Yeah. My grandmother, she get some auntie or cousin or what. They use to make luau and get together and talk---I don't know what they talk about, see. And then when they go church, they get their own. Well, when they go church, I think they discuss all their problems inside there, too. But my great-grandfather was....I don't know what he held inside there. Some kind of....in the treasury or something. But, anyway, the olden days, you know, when any of the royalty or some die, they say that big rain, heavy rain, it's a good omen or what.
I don't know, see. I know when my grandfather died, hoo, we had the hardest time burying him in the hole, because even the water was coming up. It was so much rain, eh. And we didn't have tent over, see. And when we went home from Liliuokalani's Church, was staying behind where the fishpond is, the road cannot pass because it's flooded, see. And we have to go through the fishpond. Even the fishpond, they have a boardwalk, see, above the water. Even that, we have to watch out, otherwise you fall in the water, eh. That particular week, when my great-great-grandfather died, the rain was extra heavy. And they say because him da kine...I don't know. I don't know if that's true, see. I just telling you what I heard.

GG: Right, right. Do you remember the funeral or the wake or did they have....from what I understand, Hawaiians wailed? The mourners?

DM: Yeah. Anyway, that whole night had rain, see. So, somehow, I think, they took the body over in the Liliuokalani's Church. You know, because rain so hard that it would be much safer inside there instead of at home. I don't know. The Hawaiian people, when certain people die at this place, all the ladies come. They start crying, you know, long time, yeah. When this other family die, they all go that side. They start crying. I don't know why, but they all do that.

GG: What about your clothes? What kind of clothes did you wear when you were growing up? Where did you get them from?

DM: Well, my mother used to sew clothes, too. We use to buy all ahina cloth. And she make the clothes for us. Short kind. All short. Before, all short. No more long pants like this. All short kind pants. The shirts, well, she sew 'em, too. Either a white shirt or khaki shirt or any kind shirt.

GG: And always barefoot? Or you had shoes?

DM: The only time I had shoes is when I graduated from the Waialua Elementary School.

(Laughter)

DM: That's the only time I had shoes.

Wife: Yeah, I think we went barefoot. All, those days.

DM: And when they buy shoes, they buy for....that can last till the next one.

GG: Right (Laughs)

Wife: Get one big one. (Laughs)

GG: What about, now, your relationships with your kupunas, the older folks? Did they teach you things or, you know, you had grandmother and
grandfather around?

DM: Oh, they taught us, but mostly, we forgot already.

GG: Well, how did you learn to do the chores you had to do? Like working in the taro patch and stuff?

DM: Well, when we were small, they used to take us up in the taro patch, see. But nobody to watch us, and so we have to go with them. And every time, you go, well, you see what they doing. They tell you how to do this, how to do that. So when they know that you can do the job, they send us. Me and my uncles. We were small yet. They tell us, "Oh, you folks go up there. Cultivate the taro patch or harvest the taro or something." When you see and then you do it by yourself, then you learn how to do it better, yeah. Even...

GG: And what happened if you did something wrong? Maybe you put the taro in wrong?

DM: Well, they scolded us. They tell you not to do that next time, see. So the next time, you won't forget. You know everything right way.

GG: Do you remember the first time you made poi?

DM: Yeah, the poi didn't come out good. Because poi is funny, you know. You put too much water, it won't stick, see. That's why they tell you not to put too much water at the start. And you have to mash it up really nice, you know. Otherwise get lumpy. And then, when they get lumpy, it won't stick together. You cannot eat that poi. No taste good.

GG: Did you have to eat what you made even though it didn't come so good?

DM: Well, you see the older people, like my uncle them, they know already that the stuff won't come out good. So they take it away from you and they do the rest, see. And they mix 'em with theirs. And then they tell you, "Next time you don't do this, you don't do that," see. Well, next time, still yet, you going to make mistake because you cannot perfect one time, no. You have to go do so many time before you really can pound poi. It's not that easy.

GG: And how did you get the poi pounders that you use? Had been in the family a long time?

DM: No. That was already made.

GG: What about salt? Did you make your own salt or did you buy from the store?

DM: Those days, sometime, we use to make our own salt. We go down the beach when rough time. The wave come on the stone. You know, the coral. Coral get holes, eh. And then the water get inside there and the sun, I think, dry up the water. And that leave the salt. I think before that, before all the water is gone, I think, they use to take the salt. Gather the salt. And they take 'em home. They put on the cloth. And then they....I don't know what they do. They make it so that
...if you leave 'em out on the stone, some people might walk over there, spit into or what, you see. 'As why before the stuff get dried, almost dried, they take 'em home. Have 'em prepare for.... but majority of time, my parents use to buy, I think, the salt. Because not enough salt to last right through.

GG: What about the planting now? Did you do things by the moon calendar or the Hawaiian calendar at all? Or do you remember how they went about the planting.

DM: 'As why I say, after we eat our supper or anything, I think the old folks would get together in the....and then say, "Oh, this certain moon going be good, I think." But we don't know, see. And then they would tell us, "Well, certain day we go up there work in the patches." Help 'em to get ready for planting. But as far as that, we don't know. They must know, because they telling us when to go, see.

GG: Yeah. And what about, now, in the house you said it was "L" shaped and, like, all the bedrooms and parlor along one side. Now in the kitchen, did you have what? An old wood stove?

DM: We used to get outside of the house, regular stove, see. Put stone and da kine, oh. From there, they cook. Maybe when my stepfather had money, I think, then they bought kerosene stove with two burner on. But before that, we used to cook it outside or inside a five gallon can. They cut it so that you can put two iron rod. So that you can put the pots and da kine on top.

GG: And what about furniture in the house? What kind of furniture did you have?

DM: We had the old style Hawaiian what you call that. Anyway, the bed is made of wood. My stepfather use to make. He use to be a pretty good carpenter. And he make the shape of the bed and then they buy, I don't know, mattress. For furniture, we didn't have much. Mostly we sit on the floor.

GG: And you had lauhala mats on the floor. And the aunties made them, you said?

DM: Yeah, my mother, my aunties them, all would get together to make that lauhala mat for us. But in the kitchen, we had da kine wooden stool, I think. You know, long benches. And then we sit down on top of that. 'As how we sit on the table. Cannot afford furniture.

GG: Did you have electric lights then or you had kerosene lanterns, and what?

DM: No, all kerosene.

GG: Who had to clean the chimneys and...

DM: All my mother them, I think. They clean the....and, well, like my sister them, they get their own job assign, too.
GG: Do you remember seeing the women make quilts or kapas or did they...

DM: My auntie was smart. She made nice quilt. But my mother never did make the stuff. She use to only knit. My auntie and some more other ladies, they would get together. I think it would take about four months or something to make one blanket, no. Maybe more than that.

GG: It's a big job. That's for sure. (Laughs) I'm trying to get up energy enough to make one little pillow with a Hawaiian pattern.

(Laughter)

GG: Okay. Well, what about, now, in terms of when the family got together, the clans got together, then, did they sing and play music and....

DM: Well, most time we sing church hymns, eh. We very seldom sing the other kind song.

GG: What about the Hawaiian songs?

DM: Yeah, mostly Hawaiian song. Church song. Right now, I forgot all about. Well, I never go church for long, long time.

(Laughter)

GG: But did you learn to play music along with them?

DM: My parents wasn't too musical.

GG: What about the rest of the family? Or did you get together with other members of the family from time to time?

DM: My older uncle, yeah. He use to play guitar. And he use to sing. He had a nice falsetto or a baritone voice. He sing Japaneese song, Chinese song, American song, and Hawaiian song. Before, every church use to get their own choir, no. Use to go in town. Down Kawiihao or some other churches. Song contest, but. They wanted my uncle to organize a singing choir down here, but he's not da kine type. He couldn't go out and....he's bashful mostly. That's why they didn't produce a good choir.

GG: And you had told me, I think, that they had the bibles in Hawaiian there and that was (Tape garbled)...

DM: Yeah. I don't know where the stuff went. Because after my mother and my father died, my uncle was living, see.

Wife: Maybe in the shack get.

DM: I don't know. I didn't go there for long time. More than thirty years, I think. But my auntie's children are living there, too. Maybe they took it. I don't know. I hardly mingle with them too much, because we getting this land problem, too, see.

GG: Was Hawaiian spoken at home? Is that...
DM: Those days, yes. But if you don't keep up, you forget everything, no. When I was small, yeah. When we go to English school, we talk English. But when we stayed at home, they talk Hawaiian to us. But when we answer back, sometime we answer back in English.

GG: Thinking they don't understand. But they learned, huh? Well, tell me about when you started going to school. How was that? Or did you like school?

DM: My great-great-grandfather use to take us on one one-horse buggy. In the morning, he take us to school. After school, we walk back.

GG: This was Waialua Elementary?

DM: Yeah, Waialua Elementary.

GG: And where was your house in relation to the school?

DM: Oh, about...good mile and a half or more, I think.

GG: By the bridges towards Hale...

DM: You know where right now, the Sands? You know, the Sands?

GG: Haleiwa Sands? The restaurant?

DM: Yeah. In the back of that, not right behind Sands, but across the pond over there. That's where I live, see.

GG: And were most of your teachers haole or did they have other nationality teachers by then?

DM: We had mostly haole teachers, no. From the Mainland. The only Hawaiian teachers was Mrs. Keao, Mrs. Aiau, Mrs. Souza, yeah. And there was a Hawaiian man, too. Mr.....

Wife: Kekoa.

DM: Kekoa, yeah. That's all the Hawaiian teachers I know.

GG: Did you like school, or what did you do in school? The regular subjects?

DM: I wasn't a good student anyway. (Laughs) Average student, I think. But as you grow older, you like school more, yeah. Everyday, yeah. The best part when you go school, if you can get money for buy lunch.

(Laughter)

GG: And how did you get your money to buy lunch?

DM: Well, being nice, you know, we take care the taro patch or go fishing or do the chores. All da kine. My grandmother or my mother would give us some money, ch. But most of the time, we go without money. We
take cracker with jelly on or what.

GG: The Saloon Pilots, yeah?

DM: Yeah. Saloon Pilot. That's the only kind stuff. Even bread was too expensive. Because...

Wife: No more or what?

DM: Yeah, no more.

Wife: We never use to have bread.

GG: Yeah?

DM: The only kind bread we use to get is you make your own pancakes.

Wife: Only once in a while, they get from the Portuguese.

GG: Oh, the Portuguese ladies? Did they once in a while bake?

DM: Sometime, one, yeah.

GG: So what kind of lunch they had? And it was what? Five cents I think in those days?

DM: I think five cents, you know. But even five cents, hoo! That's hard to get, that five cents.

GG: But what kind of lunch did they have for five cents?

DM: Oh, I think they use to serve ice cream every....

Wife: Dessert.

DM: Yeah, your dessert. Bread with butter. And your regular meal, maybe.... oh, I don't know what they...

Wife: They use to make stew, pork and beans. Not too much food.

(GG laughs)

DM: Just enough to keep you going, I think.

GG: Did your mother use to buy canned goods in the store, too, or did you mostly just eat what you could get yourselves?

DM: Well, we eat mostly what we can get, but still yet, they buy canned food, no. Because most of the time, you get tire eating your own food, eh. So sometime, they buy corn beef or whatever.

GG: Did you have a garden? Or raise vegetables, too?

DM: Hawaiians, I don't know. I think you find out, I think, most Hawaiian, they hardly have garden, no. Only the Oriental...
Wife: They don't eat vegetable. Only tomato. Or onion. That's all.

DM: Yeah. That's the only two major vegetable they use.

GG: I wasn't that aware of that until now that I've talked to more Hawaiians. That's true. They didn't really introduce vegetables in their diet till later, until after more Japanese immigrants, I guess. So....

DM: That's right, you know. The only other kind is seaweed _da kine_, yeah. But that's not vegetable, no.

GG: No. Good source of iron, though, isn't it?

DM: Yeah.

GG: And did you folks use to go and pick _limu_ and stuff, too?

DM: Yeah. That one, they get season, no. As soon as they know the stuff is plentiful, oh, you see all the Hawaiian people picking up.

GG: And what about _opihis_? As I understand before, you could get really big _opihis_ around here, too, down toward Waimea and stuff like that.

DM: We use to go in the evening. Before use to get train, see, go right around the island. So in the evening, they catch the train going Honolulu. Then we get off at Kaena Point. And then during the evening, just before dark, somehow all the _opihis_ use to come out, see. 'As when we go there. Try get as much as we can. And then in the morning, we catch the train again. Come back to Haleiwa side. Otherwise you have to walk. I don't (know) how many mile. If you lucky.

GG: Did you ever hear or of are you aware of what they call, I guess, the _menehune_ lights toward Kaena? Did you ever hear...

DM: I heard about it. But I didn't see that. The only ting, certain time of the month and night, if you down at Sands, if you look down toward this section down here, there's a Castle and Cooke bath house down here someplace. From Haleiwa, in the evening, you can see long line of lights, you know. But what I heard, that is from the....gee, I don't know what you call that. It's from the light and, maybe, the shell in the ocean. That cause the light, see. But it's a long, just like long light, but actually, it's nobody there.

GG: Do you remember anything, since your family goes back here so many generations, do you remember hearing talk about what this area was like, you know, way before you were born or in your parents' time?

DM: I don't. No.

GG: What about at the church? Did they have any _makahikis_, I guess, or get-together _luaus_ or parties or anything through the church? Or did you do it as a family?

DM: Well, certain time of the year, they have this....what you call it in
DM: ...to have the pig, the taro, everything that supposed to be---
the church is responsible for that. That's when the whole congregation
or what, they all get together and they chip in a little. Dig the
hole and make the imu. Make the kulolo. All the kind stuff. That,
you have every, I don't know, so many years when they hold a certain
convention. That church is responsible for the food and everything.
Entertainment and all. We go help. Use to go mountain, go pick up
ti leaf. Before, mountain use to get lot of ti leaves. Get the
banana stumps and everything ready for the kalua pig, eh. Get the stone
clean up. Have it all prepared. Well, the older people do the
digging, setting of the wood and the stone. We only do the light
job like picking up ti leaf.

GG: That's when you were still quite young? What about over the years
as you watched the different immigrant groups begin to come in more
and more? The Japanese, the Filipino, and more Portuguese and things
like that? Did your family, at that time, being connected with
plantation, are you aware of any feelings they had about....

DM: No, the Hawaiians and the Japanese and Chinese use to get along fine.
Of course, the Japanese use to come around peddle fish. Vegetable.
And the Chinese use to....well, even the Chinese, they use to get
restaurant or store where they make Chinese cookies and all kind.
And Hawaiians are, I don't know what. They crazy for the stuff, too,
I think. They want to eat all kind food that no good for the body.
But anyway, the Chinese use to get along fine with the Hawaiian, but
even had some Chinese men, they pound poi, too. The Hawaiian people
use to go over there and bought that poi from the Chinese. There
wasn't any....not unless somebody else had something else. But so far
what I know is no more hard feeling.

GG: Yeah. Okay. And what about, then, as you got a little older, where
did you go to school after Waialua Elementary?

DM: Oh, after....when graduate here in 1926, I think was. I went to
Leilehua High School, you see. I went up there two years. And then
I drop out first. Get to go work.

GG: And how did you meet your wife? Through school, as I recall, right?

DM: No. We was same year, though, graduate. But she was...

Wife: He was in the other class.

DM: Different class.

Wife: Other room.

DM: Because I met her when she was living near my aunt's place. And I use
to go there everytime, and then somehow, we get together.
GG: You didn't have a go-between or was that necessary? Or just the two of you?

DM: No. No more the kind shimpai kind.

(Laughter)

GG: Were you able to date as such? Or did you take her to the movies?

DM: Those days, cannot take her go movies. You can only sneak out and meet one another and go back quick. Because the family miss you, they start looking for you.

(Laughter)

GG: And then when you got married, what kind of wedding did you have?

DM: Just she and I and the witness. That's all. We didn't have no big wedding.

GG: Were you married here in Waialua?


Wife: We got married at, you know, that old Hawaiian church over there?

DM: Kuni's church.

GG: Oh. Yeah, I know where it is. In fact, I've met Reverend Kuni.

Wife: But the church wasn't there, no, at that time. We went into the Reverend's house.

GG: And as I recall, you didn't have to have blood test or anything in those days? Just sign the paper and...

DM: No, no, no.

Wife: We have to apply.

DM: Hah?

Wife: We have to apply was for...

GG: For marriage license? Oh.

DM: Just apply, yeah, but...

Wife: You wait couple of days before you get your license.

DM: But no blood test that time.

Wife: No. No more that time.

GG: And then where did you folks live right after you got married?
DM: Her parents was fishermen, see. Down there, they use to have a——they call it a fisherman's village or something.

Wife: You know where the new wharf over there? Way in the back. Not way in the back. Get one house right behind there. But that house no more already. All the houses-gone. His auntie house gone. And our house all gone.

GG: So you lived with her parents then?

DM: Yeah, yeah.

GG: For how long? Long time?

DM: Oh, about two years, I think. Two or more.

Wife: No, we stay right through.

DM: And then I came plantation.

Wife: When my father died. After 14 years.

DM: I came to Waialua 1936, I think.

GG: At the plantation? That's when you started?

DM: Yeah. When we get married, that year, same year was, no? May 1st, 1936, eh?

Wife: I think so.

GG: Yeah, I think, maybe that's what you told me. Forty years already.

DM: Yeah.

GG: And so then, how did you happen to decide to go to the plantation?

DM: Well, you see, I use to work several job. And everytime, well, the job no more, eh. So you have to continue look for another job. You look, that job no more. And since I got married to her and she had one child already, see. Figure, I have to support her and the family, so I applied for job with John H. Midkiff. He told me, "Yeah, come down the office. I'll sign you up anytime." So from that day on, I work for the Waialua Sugar Company. But before that, hoo. Job scarce, boy. Those were Depression days, no. Nineteen twenty something to close to the forties, I think. All Depression.

GG: And so then, when you started working for the plantation, you got your own house?

DM: Yeah, they lease the house, see.

Wife: We rented. We was renting this house for $28.

DM: Was $28 a month.
GG: So no more free house at that time? 'Cause I thought it was...

Wife: After the strike.

DM: They had free house. This type houses wasn't free house. These were classed as good houses, see.

Wife: Was free at the beginning.

DM: Yeah, but...

Wife: After the strike, you know, the big strike.

DM: When the union came in.

Wife: And that's union came out.

GG: But that '46 when the big strike was. But you lived in it free for a while then from '36? Ten years though?

DM: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Anyway, we stayed in this house from nineteen....

Wife: Just before the War, we move in here.

DM: 1940, I think. All the time we was living at Haleiwa, see. With her parents. And then the plantation was paying me every month $18 I think. Since I'm not living in a plantation home, they paid me for my rent outside. And then I think was little bit too long they was paying me, so they told me, "You have to move in the plantation." That's why.

GG: You worked hapai ko first, as I recall you told me.

DM: Pile cane. Pile cane and then sometime, they tell you, oh, I think, some of the men not enough, see. They tell me, "Oh, you go try hapai ko." Chee, I work only one day and I quit that job. (Laughs) So fired, boy. Hoo, you cannot climb that ladder for pile the cane up. If level, not so bad. But as the step come higher, higher, ooh, boy.

Wife: Wobbley, too. When you go up there.

(GG laughs)

DM: And then one of my friends told me if I wanted to learn crane operator I tell 'em yeah. Well, from that time on until 1958, I think, I was a crane operator. And then when they change over to this new system hauling cane with the trucks.

GG: Tournatwos?

DM: Yeah. Then I quit my crane job and went in the shop as a mechanic until I retired. In '74, I retired.

GG: Do you remember in 1920, the flu epidemic?
DM: Yeah.

GG: You were still a little boy then, but do you remember that?

DM: Yeah. My family, I don't know how many—we lost I don't know how many of them. But as a whole, the Japanese was hit the hardest, you know.

Wife: That the time was the Japanese strikes. Everybody was living together. You know, one family living one room. How many people. They living with Hawaiian, they living with Portuguese, anybody there was living there. That's where they would die. Everyday somebody would die.

GG: Did you lose any people from your family?

Wife: Me, my father, and my mother. We were only three.

GG: Oh, small family. (Chuckles)

Wife: But we were sick. Only my mother never got sick.

GG: What about your family? Did any of them get sick?

DM: We all got sick. But somehow, no life was lost.

GG: As a crane operator, what was your job? What did you have to do?

DM: Well, you see, my first job was pile cane, see. When I came crane operator, what the mens pile, the crane operator could come with big grabs and grab that whole pile of cane and throw 'em in the car. There's two pile to one car, see. And then you go to the next one. You grab the two pile. You throw 'em in a different car. It was so on, see. We were making about three dollar quarter one day, I think, as a crane operator. And during the off season, we use to go in the shop. And we repair our own machine. That's how I figure, well, if I go in the shop, I wouldn't have to work---after we work night shifts, see, on this hauling cane stuff. I get disgusted with the night shift. So I went in the shop, but same thing. Get night shift.

Wife: Night shift follow him all around.

GG: How come like that?

DM: I don't know.

Wife: As soon as he go to the job, the night shift start. Never use to be, you know, in the shop. Only then.

GG: When did you start being a crane operator? About what year was it?

DM: I started work for the plantation in 1940 or something.

GG: '36, you were working that job.
DM: '36, yeah. Anyway, right after that off season, they told me to work that department and start learning how to operate a crane. So when the next year when they start harvesting again, I was a crane operator from that time, I think. I quit the job.

GG: And working the plantation, did you notice any differential treatment toward one race over another at that time?

DM: Gee, everybody use to work hard. That's all I know. And the foreman use to get after you, boy. If you don't produce, boy, they get after you. Of course, they don't hit you, see, any kind. But they tell you, "Oh, how come you slow today? How come you cannot produce like the other people," eh. That's the only thing. But the no...

GG: What about in terms of pay? Because I have heard that sometimes, like the haoles got paid more than everybody else. And the Portuguese got paid, you know, it was sort of like that.

DM: Not in the harvesting field, I think. Not when I was piling cane.

GG: Maybe that was earlier, too, in the 20s or something.

DM: Maybe, but I know when I first started, had couple of haole men, you know. They started, oh, almost same time. I don't think they get any special privilege or anything. The only thing is I know of the haole people, they cannot take 'em. So in the morning, they cannot wake up. So the foreman or the boss use to bring 'em come work. 'As the only privilege they get. (Laughs)

GG: Wow! But even that, 'cause I heard the camp police use to go around and bang on your door if you didn't get up and you don't get up, you don't come to work and you don't make any money that day.

DM: Yeah, that's right. But, you know, she (wife) the one wake me up everytime, 'as why no camp police camp.

Wife: That one, I think, long time. The mother them, they did that.

DM: Maybe before that, yeah.

Wife: Before, they said they use to be mean! They whip you.

GG: This was when they were there?

Wife: When they were up Hawaii side. My parents' time; they came from Japan. Those days, they said, they use to whip.

DM: But when I started, no more those thing. Maybe early days, yes. What I heard is some of the Portuguese foremen were mean.

GG: That's what I heard, too. One Portuguese man told me that the Portuguese were the worst lunas that they had.

DM: They had mean...

Wife: They were the only lunas anyway. The rest of them were laborers, eh.
Japanese, Chinese, Filipino came later.

DM: Portuguese was only *lunas*, I think, in those days. Other nationality, no more.

GG: What about the Hawaiians? I had read in books that the Hawaiians were sometimes *lunas*, too.

DM: Not when I was, though. Maybe some other...

GG: Maybe on other plantations.

DM: Yeah. But down here, I never did see a Hawaiian luna. Maybe, like camp police or some other department, maybe. But not out in the fields.

GG: Did you like the field work or would you have rather worked, you know, in another department? Or if you wanted to change jobs, what kind of chance did you have to change?

DM: At first, I was desperate. Any kind work. I didn't care what. But after couple of days trying the job, hoo! I wish I quit the job. Hoo, so hard, you know. And I was young yet. Just because I was married, so I got to support my family. That's why I took the job. Any kind job they offered me. Even palipali, cut grass, we use to do that, too. But as soon as they offered me a chance to learn crane operating, hoo, what a relief!

GG: Where were you folks the day Pearl Harbor was attacked?

DM: We were living this same house in the other camp. They call it Mill 13. That morning, we thought, what the hell? How come they maneuvering on Sunday, see. That was Sunday, no?

Wife: Yeah. We were cleaning the window for Christmas.

DM: That was what you call that day was? The 7th, but we were having the Shriners' game or something, see. Football game. But lucky, they had the game the day before, Saturday. If they had the game on Sunday, I think, I don't know. Maybe lot of people might get hurt.

GG: They couldn't have played it. Right. And were you at the age where---did you volunteer?

DM: Yeah. The plantation wouldn't let us go.

GG: That's right. They sort of froze everything. And because you were essential to your jobs, you couldn't go. Did you belong to the Home Guard?

DM: They told us, I don't know. They wouldn't let us do any kind of stuff.

Wife: 4F?
GG: Oh, yes, you had several children by then, too.

DM: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Of course, they had Home Guard and da kine, see. Lot of workers, after pau hana, they go down the park over there and drill, eh. But we didn't have the time because, hoo, we come home late in the evening, see. Those days was either nine and a half or ten hours, 'as why no more time. But some other people, they have time, they go. But I didn't go.

GG: What did you do in your recreation time as an adult?

DM: Well, we play baseball, volleyball, basketball. Football was too---we were too old for football, I think. That's the three sports. Baseball, volleyball.

GG: Did you get together with friends in the evening, too? Or play cards or pretty much stayed at home?

DM: I stayed home most of the time, because hoo! Tired, eh. Really tired. I never did go out after work. When we moved down here. At Haleiwa side, yeah. We used to get along. We had a good volleyball team da kine. But when I move Waialua, I drop everything.

GG: Well, I think maybe we can stop here this time and if I can come back and talk to you one more time to talk about, you know, perhaps mechanization on the plantation. How it affected you. You, of course, did get to become a crane operator. But some of the other machines that came in. And then, maybe about the effects of the War and the effects of the strike and things like that. So, if I could maybe come back one more time, I would appreciate it.

DM: Gee....well, when the plantation changed over to hauling---first, I mean, the cane cars. And then they turn over to the haulers, the work is about the same, though. But the only thing is with the hauler, the type of work we do and then when we load the cane cars, hauler is much easier than a cane cars. Because cane cars, if you don't put the cane right in the cars, that cane wouldn't reach the mill. They huli, eh. Fall down all on the way, see. Well, like in the cane hauler, see, just throw it anyway you want. You can cross way, any way. But not in the cane car. You have to place your cane, really, right weight balance right. And otherwise it won't reach...it won't leave the field, in fact.

GG: Was it about '58 when they got the haulers, I think?

DM: Yeah, I think that when the change.

GG: And wasn't there a strike, though, or some sort of walk out?

DM: Well, we had the stop-work meeting and walk out and strikes and any kind. Yeah, yeah. And, in fact, when the hauler was...because the luulas, they think they can drive the haulers and bring in cane, eh, from the field. So, we would block them up from different places.
And if they would move the hauler, I think it would be a terrific fight, I think. Because the men were desperate, too, see. The union side. Was, I don't know. You cannot fool around with labor, no. The boss think they right. And the laborers think they right. So when they hire--- even for irrigate the cane, if the men know that certain luna is doing that job, they would all go his house. And it's not so nice, eh, when all your friends come your house, tell you one scab and any kind or something. Yeah, we had couple of lock-outs where the management and the union had some problems. But no more fight.

GG: Yeah, that's one thing. At least it's been not physical violence here.

DM: No more fights, eh.

GG: What about in '46? Did you join the union right away? Or do you remember how--you know, do people come in from outside to talk about the union or how did they get the union going here?

DM: I think that was the first year that union organized, see. When they organize and then we had our secret kind meeting, see. They told us either we join the union or "you take the consequences." Let the boss drive you, you know, make you work hard and any kind. And the union policy used to get better working conditions, better wages, da kine stuff. 'As why they told us, "Whichsoever side you want. You want vote for the union side or for the management side?" But the labor went for the union side. That's how we became union.

GG: And the meetings that they had, did the leaders come in from the outside or were there some right in Waialua Plantation, then, I guess, knew enough about how they were trying to organize and things like that?

DM: I think they had some, I think, from the rank and file, no. Well, I think the outsiders, I don't know how they work it out. Maybe they went to their home and talk it over, see. And then they go around. They talk, talk, talk. They go to different shop, pass the news around, right. 'As how we organized. But I think this plantation here, with the labor, the management was fair enough. Me, I think, to me, see. I don't know how some other people think, but this plantation, I think, this the best plantation. You ask anything, they give it to you. You know, if no more, they tell you wait. But somehow, you get it. Even you... certain kind privilege you want. What I understand, some other plantation, no dice. But before we had Midkiff, Anderson, all those manager. They were nice to the labor. 'As why the labor, in return, they like the company.

GG: Yeah, from what I understand, that's why Midkiff finally said, "Go ahead and join the union, but how about be the last ones to join," or something.

DM: Yeah. This company, I think, the best, the whole island. This is Castle and Cooke, anyway. Some other plantation, I hear, before, they like firewood, hoo, they won't give you. If they no more, they tell you wait. They deliver later on. Anything you want. Even you like borrow one pick-up truck for get something, they loan it to you.
Anything you like weld, oh, anything, they lend you the welding equipment, see. 'As why I get no kick with the backers.

GG: How about your medical care and things like that? That was all through the plantation?

DM: Yeah. They treat us good.

GG: Did you have all your babies in the hospital or did you have midwife?

Wife: No, not all. Before was midwife.

GG: But what about the children you had?

Wife: Yeah. All.

GG: Midwife or hospital?

Wife: Mine, two, midwife; and two hospital.

GG: And did you have Japanese midwife from around here? Because we had heard there were a few Japanese midwives. And we also...

Wife: Yeah. They use to have one in Waialua and one in...well, Waialua in the camp, maybe, they had, but the one, the popular one, had one in Waialua. And the other one Haleiwa. Haleiwa wasn't so popular. I don't know why. Most of them was calling this Waialua lady. Anyway, this lady never had child, so we always can depend on her help.

GG: Were you aware that there was supposedly a Portuguese midwife out here, too?

Wife: I don't know, because when we were young, that time, we were in Haleiwa, eh.

GG: Several people told us only Japanese, but then a couple of people said, no, they had a Portuguese midwife out here.

Wife: My mother them tell me, they say only the friends...when my mother gave birth.

GG: That's another thing I meant to ask you. Being the oldest, of course, you're a boy. I don't know now. Did you have to help with the childbirth of any of your sisters or brothers?


GG: Well, I think that's about it for today unless you have anything...

END OF INTERVIEW
GG: This is the second interview with David Mahoe in his home in Waialua.

(Mike adjusting noises)

GG: I had hoped that I would have the other session, you know, all typed up and ready to bring back to you, but the girl is not quite finished with it yet. So I did come up with some other questions I wanted to ask you, though. Primarily, I wonder could you tell me a little bit about when you first joined the union? You were here when it first got started in '46, right?

DM: Yeah, but that started around nineteen... when the union organize, was 1946, no, I think. That was 1945, I think, they came around, see. Try get the working people to get into the union. Get 'em interested enough to join the union. Anyway, at that time, the working feel that they were not treated well enough, see, by the company. So, they were all in favor of joining the union at that time. But to me, as a whole, anybody, as I told you before, me, I think, this the only company that treat the working man fine.

GG: Do you remember, like, who some of the people were that came in? Were they from the outside, or were there union organizer leaders right within the company, or....

DM: I think they send some representative in from town. And they get in touch with certain individual only at first. And then, we hold a general membership meeting. Then sign up for it.

GG: But in 1945, now, did you attend any meetings, you know, before you got into the membership part of it?

DM: No, just certain people, you know, as I say, only certain people get in touch with the union. And then, they get in touch with us, see. But there were no membership meeting at that time. I don't think so.

GG: So just kind of on the job, somebody would find out and then tell you and you might talk about it to somebody else or something like that?

DM: Yeah. That's how was at first.

GG: And then in 1946, now, they had, you said, like the membership meeting.
Did they have several meetings before you actually joined or....

DM: Yeah, we had more than one meeting.

GG: At the camps or at the plantation or....

DM: I think they ask permission from the company, see. So that we can hold our meeting in the park.

GG: Across from the mill? And so then, let's see, when you all joined, it wasn't long after that when they went on strike? Is that right or....

DM: Yeah, yeah. Well, you know, when you join union, they tell you you underpaid and all kind so the member figured, oh, might as well go on strike or something. Try get more benefit. At that time, it wasn't too much benefit, but as the years go by, then the union fight for more fringe benefit and all those things.

GG: You remember what your feelings were about joining the union? Were you anxious or did a lot of people just feel like, "Well, everybody else is, so I will, too"? Or....

DM: Well, the way they explain to us, I wanted to join the union at that time, you know, after they explain all everything to us, then I said, oh, I think, most of the members, after being explained by the union official---I mean the ones get in touch, they all wanted to join the union. They had about seven hundred or nine hundred. I don't know how many working men. Out of that seven hundred or nine hundred, maybe only had about twenty, I think who didn't want to join. I don't know. I might be mistaken.

GG: But did they eventually join, too, or do you know?

DM: Well, later on, they call 'em, you know, they call you one scab so they don't want that name, too, eh, to be called. So, majority, only few of 'em, maybe three or four didn't join. But the rest of them all join. They all join with us.

GG: Do you remember the names of any of the leaders? We've heard that, I think, Mike Nagata was one? And Gandhi Warashina, I think, wasn't he....

FW: Those were chosen officials afterwards.

GG: Oh I see. Afterwards.

DM: Yeah.

GG: You remember who were any of the ones that helped get it started in '45 or....

IM: I think....this what? (Refers to tape recorder) Going inside the stuff, too?

GG: Well, we're trying to find as many of those people, 'cause we want to
talk to them, too, if we can. So if you prefer not to say, that's okay, too. But, you know we're not trying to do it in a bad kind of way. We just want to find out more about the beginnings of the union organizing out here.

DM: I don't know who was, but....

DM's wife: Rania them, yeah.

DM: ....I think they first got in touch with Mike Nagata. And then Mike Nagata got in touch with some of his more close friends, see. Rania around here was one of them, too. On the Filipino side, see.

GG: Justo...

DM: No, Justo after.

GG: Yeah, we've talked to--that's Justo Dela Cruz, right? We've talked to him already. Nakatsu, was he another one or was that later, too?

DM: Now you talking about....yeah, Mike Nagata was president, see.

GG: He was the first president, right.

DM: President. And, yeah, I think Nakatsu was....

DM's wife: Third, I think. Second.

DM: Second or what, but I don't know.

DM's wife: Hoksey was too, eh?

DM: No, that was way later on. Yeah, Nakatsu, Mike, Rania, I think, Bert Nagata.

DM's wife: No, Bert never.

DM: Who was it then? You know, Warashina, Matusmoto.

DM's wife: All of them died.

DM: Matusmoto....I don't know. Gee, I don't remember, but one more.

GG: Well, that's okay. What do you remember about the strike now when everybody went on strike? This is the '46 strike, right after....lasted for about six months, I think?

DM: At that time, we weren't prepared, see, to go on strike. That was the only solution that the union figure to get rank and file better working condition, the housing, medicals, all kinds. At that time, we weren't too prepared, see. But I think, we had from the local in
town, they loan us I don't know how many thousand dollar to buy food duration of the strike. And then after that strike, well, they raise up our union fee so that we can pay back the local.

GG: I see.

DM's wife: First strike, mostly everybody was on their own. Most of them. Was weekly meeting...

GG: Well, what did people do, you know, while you were on strike to keep busy? Or how did you eat? That thousand dollars must not have gone too far...

DM: No. Well, we plant vegetable, but by the time the vegetable ready to harvest, the strike was almost over that time. But before that, they gave us a hint already that we were going strike. So most of the working people had their own home garden ready already, see. And some, they fishing. Some went out and work. They were allowed to go out, you know, by...

GG: Work someplace else?

DM: But they got to kickback to the union.

GG: Where else could you go to get work, though?

DM: Well, some, they work any kind job. Yardboy. They go some trucking company. Some trade had more job than some. Like I was crane operator. Never had the kind job too much. But I ask for truck drivers, janitor, all kind. Had some people, you know.

GG: Did you find some other work or....

DM: No, no.

GG: Did they have a soup kitchen or....

DM: Yes, we have a...

DM's wife: We never had the first time.

DM: I thought this...

DM's wife: We had no...we wen use so much on the second...

DM: Oh yeah. We didn't have. (Chuckles)

DM's wife: Thousand dollar we....(Laughs)

DM: Yeah, our bond. We spent all our bond on the strike time. In those days, whoever work a full year, the company would give you a hundred dollar bond, see. $75, eh. Anyway. That's how we had some bond, but spend 'em all.
GG: Oh, did they have committees get together like, so, people would go fishing and everybody could share in the fish or....

DM: Yeah, they had. But the stuff didn't work. Because (Laughs) the way I figure, the people got to go fishing, they keep more fish than what they give out. You know, they selfish, eh. Like for fishing and they had hunting. All those things. Ah, they brought back very little! The only thing they go bumming to the pineapple, some other industry, you know. And go over there bum. If you go to certain pineapple camp, they might give you corn beef and whatever they can afford to give. That's how we manage. And then, when they bring back the food, then they give 'em to the most needy families. Like Oriental, as a whole, they get pride, you know. They don't want to take, so they hardly take any benefits, see. I know the Filipino hard hit. At that time, never had too much Hawaiian, but Hawaiian never feel nothing. The Filipino...

DM's wife: Hawaiian, only you.

DM: Had about five of them, us.

DM's wife: Oh, the blacksmith, yeah. And who else? That time, Hawaiians was working plantation that time? The first strike?

DM: Some more get.

GG: So what did you folks do during the day to keep busy?

DM: They make us go around the camp look for scab. I mean, people who go out work without reporting to the union office.

GG: And what did they do to those kind of people that you found?

DM: Well, they give 'em lecture. And the next time they won't do it. And then, they make us....they ask you, you know, for go make garden or that kind stuff. But as the years went by, they let us go. Like Tojo's farm. They let us go work over there and Tojo farm give us chicken, eggs, and what. They let us go to some other....vegetable farm. We go over there harvest the crop for them, and then, in return, they give us vegetable and all those things. 'As how we get our vegetable for our soup kitchen. This wasn't '46, but this more ahead.

GG: Later on?

DM: Later on, I mean.

GG: Now, there were a number of women working for the plantation. What did the women do during the first strike?

DM: Same as the men. Well, we go pick limu. We stand on the picket—all the camps had their own picket stations, see. And then, maybe, three or four shift. One shift, and depend how many members in that
certain area. Then they divide 'em in four shift, and that's the amount
of people that go on duty for maybe....

GG: So they had pickets even that first strike?

DM: Yeah. Yeah.

GG: They carried signs or....

DM: Yeah, we sometime carry sign.

GG: Do you remember what any of the signs said or....

DM: (Laughs). Mostly is "Solidarity." "Injury to one is injury to all." And some more. (Laughs)

GG: Okay. Did they have any entertainment for the people that were...

DM: Yes, we had....the Haleiwa people, certain nights of the week, maybe once a week, I think, right in that Waialua Park, we had all entertainment. Sometime, Japanese singing, Hawaiian singing, Filipino. Sometime, we have movies, too, I think.

GG: Sort of, say, toward the middle of the strike or getting closer to the end, how were the people? Were they getting disgusted already or they really felt like if they did hang in there together the strike would work, or....

DM: Few people was getting disgusted. 'As the one hard hitting, see. But the majority of the union member, they figure, since we in it, they might as well go all out or broke, see. So we all stick together, We won what we wanted at that time.

GG: And the main things that they were trying to get at that time, do you remember what the issues were? Better wages?

DM: Better wages. And better working condition. And they don't want the ....well, you see, the foreman those days, they use to kind of push the man, see. So union told the company, I think, that for the lunas not to push the men too much from that time on. And then the foreman can do only twenty percent of... you know, in the eight hours work, they can help the working men only twenty percent of the time, see. Not more than twenty percent. Like if I fixing something and then the luna come over there. Then he start helping me. Well, he not supposed to work more than I don't know....well, he just come over there, tell us maybe half an hour to do this and that. And then he run aways. That's the order they had. After that, we won the strike that time.

GG: Do you remember much about the '49 shipping strike? Did that have much effect on you personally, or....

DM: Yeah, that time, not too much. But the union told the rank and file
to try get more rice, you know. Be prepared, because you never can
tell how long the shipping strike would be. But before that strike
was, I don't know how many months they told us already, try save so
that you prepared when the time come. So we won't feel too much.
That's...

GG: So you saved and you had enough rice? Cause I understand that was one
of the hardest thing to get.

DM: Yeah. They save only a little bit. In fact, I think everytime we go
on strike, we lose.

(Laughter)

DM: You spend all your saving. Take hard time for get 'em back. Maybe,
at this time, now, yeah, easy, because the wages are so high, eh.
Those days, the wages way down. Once you reach thousand dollars, you
get hard time replace it.

GG: Okay. I think you mentioned a little bit the last time about the
'58 strike. I guess that was--didn't that have something to do
with, like, the area that you were working in or....

DM: '58 strike? That was lock-out, hah? I don't know. I kind of
forget, see. (DM actually referring to the 1953 lock-out.)

GG: Is that the one, I think, had to do with when they changed over to
the tournatwos?

DM: Yeah, because...

GG: And something about incentive, I think.

DM's wife: Had the lock-out.

DM: Lock-out. That was lock-out, see.

GG: Does the company....

DM's wife: Only Waialua Sugar Company.

GG: Locked out.

DM: Yeah. You see, the company wanted to push our team haulers, the drivers,
to bring in more cane, see. And those days, they weren't so good
as now in driving the big heavy equipment. So, the drivers, I don't
know, they make complaint to the union official, I think. And then,
they finally agreed that we shut down the whole thing. Present the
problem to the company, but the company wanted the foreman to drive
the equipment. You know, bring the cane in. 'As when we had to go
all out and block the whole thing up. Never had fight or anything.
So the lunas, maybe they understood. They didn't want, you know,
trouble. So they gave up and the company gave up, too. Even irrigating in the field, some lunas use to go and irrigate, see. And that, the company stop 'em after.

GG: Why did they do that or do you know? Why did the lunas want to do the work?

DM: Cannot help, because they working for the company, see.

DM's wife: The cane going die, eh, no more. Had some workers working, too, that time.

GG: Oh, that's another thing. During the '46, the first strike, now did they keep the store open or how did you folks get your...

DM: Yes.

GG: So some people worked, still even though they were on strike, for the plantation?

DM: Yeah. They had....

GG: Emergency kind of....

DM: Yeah. They had certain gang that had plumbing. I think the hospital, they had some workers that need there. Plumbing, that, and then, whenever they need any job---the company wanted any particular work to be done, like maybe carpenter certain hours or certain place, damage then they come to the union then ask for men. And then the union would release so many men.

GG: And then did they have to contribute....

DM: Yes. 25 percent, have to contribute....

GG: ....their wages to...

DM: 25 percent.

GG: Did you work at all during that strike for...

DM: No. I never.

GG: The kind of jobs you had wasn't essential.

DM: I didn't.

GG: How do you feel the union has benefited you over the years? Or do you feel it has benefited you? (Laughs)

DM: Well, one thing for sure was when I first started to work, the luna use to get after you, you know. They want you to put out more than what you can. By joining the union, afterward, the foreman, they don't
push the men too much. But before the union was, they push. The union, some workmen, if they go out in the field, the kids sick and then they want to go home, the luna don't give you any transportation home. You walk home. But after we join the union, if you feel sick you tell the luna, the luna take you home, see. But that way, we benefit, too. Maybe there's some other one, but I don't remember.

GG: When you say the lunas pushed, you mean verbally, though? You don't mean that they were actually pushing people around physically?

DM: No, just tell you "Come on, come on."

GG: 'Hurry up' and stuff like that. Going back a little further, now, in terms of, you know, when they brought new machines, I think you said you started hapai ko and eventually you got to crane operator.

DM: Operator, yeah.

GG: How were you given chances on new equipment that came in?

DM: After the union was organize, you have to apply for it, see.

GG: But what about before the union came in?

DM: Well, before that...

DM's wife: Somebody put you in.

DM: If you get to... from certain men or luna or whatever in that gang that you want to work, if he tell you to come, you talk to him. And then he say okay, you come. 'As how you get in, see. But if you no more drag, you won't get inside. You only (Laughs) weeding or some other not essential kind job. What we want is run some like mechanic or, you know, when in journeyman job, all kind of stuff. But if you no more pull, you won't get inside. I think even now, I think, same thing. You have to get pull.

GG: And how did you get pull with somebody? By being, you know, a special good worker? Give you gifts or....

DM: You have to be a good worker in the first place. And then, you have some friends that working at that certain department. Well, sometime when you meet 'em, they say, "Eh, how about coming in..." Like me, my friend told me, "How about coming in, learn how to drive a crane?" I told 'em, "Sure, I like to. But I don't know who to see." Yeah, only one week after, they call me in. And then the boss told me, "I hear you interested in being a crane operator." I tell 'em, "Yeah." And then that's how I started being a crane operator.

GG: And then what kind of training or how did they teach you to be a crane operator or....

DM: Well, you go out with the regular driver. He give you all the fun-
damental of what and what, everything. And then, he stay with you. Tell you, "This is for certain thing," eh. And then you learn. Of course, you make lot of mistake before that, see. And then, when the person that training you figure that you can go on your own, then he jump down on the....he go away and he leave you all by yourself. If you have any problem, you stop and you ask him. He don't come.

GG: Did you have any accidents or any real big problems, or....

DM: Me. I didn't keep no machines. I know lot of crane operator, when they working on the hill, the machine tumble over. And had some cases where the machine fell down on the man, kill the man, see. And had some where the crane run over part of the man, too, see. But I didn't have no da kine accidents.

GG: Just lucky or you observed...

DM's wife: You had one small one. The one that Filipino man with the cable or something.

DM: Oh, that is small.

DM's wife: Yeah, small, but you had to walk to the hospital everyday. That's his punishment.

DM: You see, what happened, my cable get tangled in the drum. One of the strand. And the grab was hanging yet in the air. So I call one of my men come up, the man that I figure he understand the work. So I told him stay about over here. While I was cutting the cable that tangle in the drum, he came right behind of me, see. I didn't see him at the time, night time, this was. And then, when I cut the cable with the weight of the grab, the cable catch 'em someplace. I don't know where. Throw 'em up and fall down on the ground. But wasn't serious, see. That's the only one I had. And then...

GG: But then what? You had to walk to the hospital or....

DM: Yeah, that time....

DM's wife: That time, no more union.

(Laughter)

DM: Yeah, Mr. Wallace. I got to mention names, don't I?

GG: Well, when the written comes back, if you don't want the name in, you can cross it off. So, no problem.

DM: Well, the mill superintendent at that time was Mr. Wallace. I don't know. He's not too keen with the working people, I think. 'Cause I heard that man, he figure I'm responsible. From Haleiwa to this hospital, I think about two miles, I think. Say, well, he told me the whole week until he--no, how many days I went?
DM's Wife: Until that man come out from the hospital. One week, about. I don't know. (laughs)

DM: Less than one week. From Haleiwa, I have to come till here. So, yeah, I borrow somebo...

DM's wife: Yeah, visit that working man.

DM: This is the man that get hurt. Was my punishment. That's what the mill superintendent told me. So I got mad with him. I told him, "Wasn't my fault. I didn't see him come from in the back." Said, "Well, you have to come and see him every day." From that time, I never like him.

(Laughter)

GG: Okay. Do you remember when they started burning cane? Or have they been doing that as long as you can remember?

DM: Even when I was small, yet, I think, they were burning the cane before I work plantation. Well, they had to burn the cane, because otherwise get too much rubbish.

GG: Yeah. Well, we just had read and also heard several different---some people said it started in the '20s. And some people said it started way back at the turn of the century. And we can't seem to find out just when it started, so.

DM: I remember when I was going school, way down the Waialua Elementary School--that was nineteen twenty something, eh--but even before that, they were burning cane. I think must be around 1900 or before...

DM's wife: When my mother them work, they would burn. She said that she could pick all the what you call that? Palipali? (laughs)

DM: Yeah. But that was different, see.

DM's wife: Yeah. Long time, they never burn cane those days. Maybe was 1900 or late part of the 1800s.

DM: But you no can do that with the acres they get now. I don't know how many thousand acre cane they have now, so that you cannot be taking out all like this, eh.

GG: That's what palipali was, though, taking the....

DM: Yeah, yeah.

GG: Oh, when the cane's grown up.

DM's wife: Taking that....

GG: Oh. 'Cause I thought it had to do with making the furrows.
DM: Well, that's different kind palipali.

GG: Oh. So there's two different kinds.

DM: The line palipali and the stripping the cane, eh. But they do that mostly on the side of the road. So that, maybe, cigarette or something won't get inside, eh. I don't know. I think maybe one reason.

GG: How did you feel being part-Hawaiian in terms of the treatment by your various bosses over the years? And you don't have to mention names or anything like that, but do you feel that you were treated different than other people, or if you were treated differently, did you observe, you know, maybe the way they treated Filipinos or Japanese as second? Or everybody was more or less treated the same?

DM: Me, I never get da kine problem. They treat me really nice. But I know some Filipino, they don't know the job. That's why they get scolding everytime, eh. And then they think that the luna is prejudiced against them, see. But it's nothing. It's that they don't understand what the foreman is telling them what to do. They think all the foreman is against them. But it's not. Maybe some cases, might be, but mostly what I know is that they don't understand their job, that's why.

GG: And why do you think they didn't understand the job? Was it partly, maybe, language?

DM: Partly language and partly not educated, no. They mostly came from Philippines, see. Some of them, they don't understand too much English. Some, little bit, yeah. But majority of them, you talk English to them, they might talk so many words. And sometime they talk Filipino to you. 'As why they don't understand.

GG: So but did the lunas or whoever try to teach them the job so that they could understand it better, or...

DM: Well, if they work with me, well, it's my duty to try to make it so that he understand what to do, see. And sometime, the luna tell 'em what to do, too. Of course, maybe not only one time, but couple of time until he understand that job.

GG: Did you ever have any dealings with the manager? And how did you feel about the manager? I guess you saw two or three of 'em. Midkiff when you started, or Thompson when you....

DM: First one was Thompson. Then Midkiff. Anderson. Taylor. No, no, no. I didn't work under Thompson. I work under Midkiff. Midkiff, Anderson, Taylor, and Paty.

GG: So you worked under four?

DM: Four. I didn't work under Thompson. I don't think so.

GG: Did you have any particular feelings or one that you think was especially good or....
DM: Oh, I think the best manager we had, I think, Mr. Anderson. Him and his wife was really good to the people. If you walking in the road.... I know, his wife, Mrs. Anderson, pick up my wife when she goes to store, see. And Mr. Anderson, oh, you can talk to him just like I talking to you, you know. But certain manager, you cannot, you know. Well, what should I say. Maybe they think they little bit too good than us, eh. But...

DM's wife: Mrs. Anderson is the only lady pick up, you know, the labor wives. And sometime if we walking, wherever we go, if she's on the way, Mrs. Anderson pick up. The other haoles never pick up other nationalities. Especially in the plantation, eh. They have a special place for themselves, too, eh. Haole camp.

GG: Well, how did you feel, like, about the haole camp or where the manager lived? Did you, maybe, sometimes feel--and there, again, I don't want to put words in your mouth, but--and not maybe just you, but do you know how other folks felt?

DM: Fvcn us, we sometime- when we see the big boss's home, eh. Hoo! Our yard is so small. And their yard can put, I think, two or three more this kind home inside their yard and still yet get room. 'As why sometime we feel downgraded, no. But we don't go and tell the bosses, "Oh, you folks get better home," and any kind. We just keep it to ourselves. As a whole--shall I use the word "haole"--their homes are much better than the working people.

DM's wife: You can tell when they sell the places, eh. The haole camp had big yard, big housing. I don't think it's that much expensive.

DM: In fact, the yard and the home in--like this one here, we bought for six thousand dollar. The boss's one, I don't know, maybe about ten thousand or twelve thousand cubit feet, you know. Theirs is only about--this is six thousand. Maybe about eleven thousand, I think. Big yard they get, see. And so, in that way, the labor feel hurt, too, see. They get all the benefit, and, you know, but....that's why sometime get your feelings.

GG: Especially when the wages way back stayed so low and you could really see the difference, you know.

DM: 'As right, you know.

GG: Do you know where Midkiff's home was? 'Cause from what I understand, he had gardens and a chauffeur and maid and this and that.

DM: Yeah.

DM's wife: Still up there. At one corner. Way up there.

DM: You know where Four Corner? When you came down?

GG: Yeah. I thought that was Portuguese...
DM's wife: Okinawa over there before. Had group over there was his place.

DM: Now they have all new homes inside there. Now, you look, how many new homes inside there. And Midkiff's house only one house inside there.

DM's wife: And the one on the side is the chauffeur quarters.

DM: Yeah. Inside there, now, get I don't know. Maybe close to twenty homes inside.

DM's wife: And the one on the side is the chauffeur quarters.

DM: Yeah. Inside there, now, get I don't know. Maybe close to twenty homes inside.

DM's wife: And the one on the side is the chauffeur quarters.

LM: Yeah. Inside there, now, get I don't know. Maybe close to twenty homes inside.

DM's wife: You never did pass over there?

GG: I guess not.

GM's wife: Right on the hill.

GG: I know where the Four Corners is. I think there's one big green house there?

DM: No, no, no, no. Not that house.

DM's wife: Have it at Four Corner, you know.

LM: No.

DM's wife: This one is right by that hill. Just before you reach the bridge by Kamulaa. They have a big---plenty houses on the hill, eh. That whole hill was (Tape garbled).

GG: Oh. I'll have to look there. Because I never knew just where it was. I knew from reading. And I guess we've talked to him, too. And he told us about his house and things like this.

LM: Yeah. That whole yard is his one, see. And then if you happen to go there, you try count how many homes inside there now.

GG: Were workers for any reason ever invited to his home? I know at one point, they had, I guess, barbecue dinners after the harvest season? Do you know where those were held or....

DM: I think not with the labor.

DM's wife: The lunas, maybe. (Laughs)

GG: Oh.

DM: I think the lunas. Mr. Midkiff use to make monthly meeting at the Waialua Clubhouse. And they invite all the lunas and the working people. Certain ones. Maybe this month, I go. Next month, you go. Like that. They make it so that everybody has a chance to go
inside there. They have a, well, dinner. Maybe they talk about 
earning and the problems and all the kind stuff.

GG: Was that called the Cosmopolitan Club at one time, or do you 
know?

DM: Yeah.

GG: We heard about these, too, from several people. Sarmiento and Cabico 
and some of the others who use to go.

DM: Sarmiento, he was in the foreman side, see. He wasn't on our side.

GG: Well, was that the start of maybe, like, the Waialua Community 
Association idea? Or was that just strictly....'cause didn't some 
outsiders from the community go to those meetings, too? I mean, you 
know, like from Haleiwa that didn't work plantation or....

DM: Yeah, the monthly meeting, I think, the manager use to invite maybe, 
I don't know, five, six businessmen or outstanding citizen.

GG: Do you feel those meetings were beneficial or did things come out of 
'em or....was it like the boss's good boys or....

DM: The only thing the labor feel is, you get one free meal. That's all.

(Laughter)

DM: That's right. Because when you go there, you eat, see.

DM's wife: Nice meal, eh.

DM: They give you good food. So we figure, well, have anytime they invite 
us go, we going. 'Cause we cannot afford the kind food.

(Laughter)

GG: Right. And where did they usually have the dinners?

DM: In the clubhouse.

GG: When the union first came in, now, before that you had what they call 
perquisites, I guess. Like free house and this and that. Okay, now, 
at the time the union came in, everything was converted to cash. 
And yet, how did people feel? Were they glad to have some more cash, 
or did they wish, well, "Gee, I still wish I had free house?"

DM: That pay, too, they go according to your classification, eh. If you 
grade one or grade two....and then on your house, if your house is--- 
you paying rent for $12 or certain amount....like me, was living 
outside the plantation. So they gave me how much was....$15?

DM's wife: I think so.
DM: $15 every month, you know, for my house rent. But after the union came in, certain person with so many children, they give 'em allowance. You know, maybe, if his rating is for grade six is, for instance, three dollar. For his housing, everything, they might give 'em... well, three dollar so many cents, I think. So by the end of the month, what you get paid. For instance, if you get two hundred dollars, you get paid with your house and everything that allowance the company give you, you might get $225 or something like that. You go according to your grade. You go according to your family size, too.

GG: Do you remember approximately what your salary was just before union came? And then what it was just after union came in?

DM: Yeah. Was only about thirty dollar amount.

GG: Before the union?

DM: Before the union.

GG: And then after everything had been converted?

DM: And then when I...yeah, and then afterward, when I came up here, then....

DM's wife: Three dollar quarter.

DM: Three dollar quarter an hour. I mean, three dollar quarter a day. And then, later on, the union bargain for more raise. Then we came up to, maybe one dollar, four dollar, three dollar an hour. And when I quit, my pay was only $4.40 an hour. Compared to now, the same grade with me, grade nine, they getting about close to six dollars, I think. That much difference, see. I wish we had that pay when (Tape garbled). (Chuckles)

GG: Oh, when they first converted everything, did it take everybody a while to learn to adjust to, you know...okay. It seems like you have big money because you only had little money before, but now you got to pay rent and...

DM: Yeah. Pay rent, everything. Well, if we think we make some kind of progress, but not too much, no. After you pay everything, not too much left. But at least better than one dollar days.

GG: Well, how do you feel about Waialua now? Do you think it's a good place to raise kids? Are you glad you've been here all this time and....

DM: Yeah, I think Waialua is a good place. No more trouble, this place. And, of course, you educate your children over here, but after they finish the high school, when they find job or they go to university, like that, they don't want to come back to Waialua, stay again. They think us country jack already.

(Laughter)
ITM: So they all move in town or what.

GG: But you're still glad to be here?

ITM: Yeah.

GG: And what do you think is going to happen in the future, as far as the sugar companies here or what do you want to see happen to Haleiwa-Waialua, or what do you not want to see?

ITM: Yeah, I think...Haleiwa-Waialua---of course, Waialua, you cannot...

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

GG: ...land owners?

ITM: Yeah, because I feel that if people don't want to change the style of living, you know, instead of---me, I figure if they pay, get more condominium, maybe have a golf course. Of course we have a fishing harbor now. Better road. You know that Anahulu Bridge, during Saturday and Sunday you get hard time go, see. That's why they should make more improvements so that people will come over here, stay. And by doing---maybe when people come here stay, the community come, well...the businessman be better off. Maybe you can find more job. Right now, everybody is going out. And they work. But if they have some kind of like golf course or something. Like me, I playing golf. Naturally, I playing golf, 'as why I want a golf course. But, you see, when you have a golf course, people come and then they start building homes, see, over here. And then, some people can work in the golf course and all these things. Me, I think...of course, we get a good library now. Me, I think, Haleiwa is a sleeping town, I think. Nobody seems to care to improve the place. You see some houses, hoo! All broken down, but nobody seems to care to improve the place. I don't know. To me, down Waialua is too slow coming up. I don't know how to....(Laughs)

GG: Well, that's what I'm asking what your opinion is. Did you listen to the radio very much way back, you know, before TV and all that? Or did you have a radio?

ITM: No, we didn't have no radio. No radio. Only nineteen---I don't know when. I don't know what year radio first came in Waialua. That was about in the '30s I think, yeah.

ITM's wife: I think so.

ITM: I think was in the '30s or the late '20s. I don't know. But those days, the reception was really poor. Even you have radio, but you can hardly understand, you know. Not like now. You put the radio on, you can hear clear, but...

GG: (Chuckles) That's the kind you had?

ITM: Yeah.
GG: Yeah, the radio old-fashioned kind.

DM's wife: Bought second hand one. Couldn't buy new one. I bought five dollar one, eh.

(Laughter)

GG: How did you get your news then if you didn't have a radio in the real olden times?

DM: News? We use to buy Star Bulletin. Yeah, 'as one thing. Even though how poor you are, I think, people buy paper, no. They want to know what's happening, you know. All those thing. The news event anyway. But from radio, yeah, sometime. And then when you go work, news go here and there. That's how we learn what's happening in the world.

GG: Word of mouth still the best kind, I think.

(Laughter)

GG: What about during the War time? Was there much evidence of defense workers in this area or....

DM: The plantation use to send out different groups of men to different places to do government projects, no. Like crane operator, we were sent Schofield. Digging trenches for the big tents, eh. And then, building new....put up new buildings. Oh, any kind job. What they tell us to do. They do with the crane, see.

GG: Did you have to help with, like, camouflaging the buildings or anything like that?

DM: No. We only went there to....they tell us, "Dig one big hole here for one of the tanks can go inside." When we finish, they tell us another one, like that, see. But we don't know what's what. Most of the time, we find out later on that after we so far, we see the tank, they try to put 'em in. Then we knew what for.

GG: And you were frozen in your job at that time, right?

DM: Yea.

GG: So, at the same rate of pay, from what I understand. Whereas the defense workers were getting more money, or....

DM's wife: But they use to do that.

DM: No. You see, during off season time, sometime the plantation will start the season little bit late. Then, they send us out, see. When we go out to Schofield work, we get what the government people get. But the plantation take out ten percent out our pay. From the government.

GG: For what?

DM: Well, 'as what the...
GG: Because they loan you to them, I guess, or something?

DM: Yeah.

DM's wife: Maybe for the rent.

(Laughter)

DM: You see, when we go out, for instance if you get three dollars there, well, they take out ten percent of the three dollars, see. You know, that's what... maybe for... I don't know.

GG: Well, do you think that contributed at all to making the workers feel like they really should get the union going? 'Cause from what I understand, defense work was higher paying than plantation work.


GG: They figured, "If I could make it, during defense time, we should be able to make it for the company, anyway," or....

DM: Lot of people wanted to, you know, ask... any kind job. You know, in the shop, the Army bring certain jobs to do. The foreman assign you to do. Once you work on the job, you getting government pay, see. So most of the working men, they want to work on that kind job. You getting more pay than what you get on plantation. Even you take ten percent out, you still yet making money, see. If they bring the things to be fix in the shop, the plantation don't take ten percent out. But when they take you out then they take you out.

GG: Do you remember during any of the various tidal waves, have you folks been affected at all, or....

DM: Well, I never see the tidal wave. Usually, either we work or we are in the other camp over here. We sleep, see. When we come back from work, then, in the morning, we hear that tidal wave night time. But actually, I didn't see it.

GG: But you didn't live where it did any damage or anything?

DM: No, no.

GG: What about your folks? Were they in the...

DM's wife: I seen one. That was we were kids time. We were going to Japanese school, yet, down here. You know, Taishō gakkō? Over there. That was Saturday morning and the ocean was so dry. Because we were all way outside. We can see on the rocks, you know. And they went some of them. But when the water start coming, the water came out to the road. Scary, that kind.

(Laughter)

GG: I can imagine. What about, say, during Korean War time or when
they had the Communist scares, you know. Especially some of the union people were accused of being Communist, did the plantation or the workers feel any effect from that?

DM: No. Because we never...most of the labors, I tell you true fact, they don't want Communism. Maybe some of the leaders, you know, like before in the papers, they say about Jack Hall and all those people, eh. But as for the labor, they don't want Communist.

GG: But how did you feel when, okay, the union leaders were being accused of that?

DM: Oh, when we have meeting, sometime hoo! And get lot of arguments. 'Cause we feel why should the union official go down to Cuba? They went, you know, some of them. I don't know what year they went. They send so many delegates from Hawaii to Cuba. That's why the labors didn't want to do that. Because why should we pay from our, you know, union dues to let them go down there and talk Communist or what. We don't know. 'As why most workers didn't want Communist stuff.

GG: What about around when statehood came? How did the people around here feel about that or how did you feel?

DM: I think everybody was happy, I think. That was, well, we feel we going be part of United States, already, eh. Before we was under---of course, we was under United States, but not....like now, you vote everything United States, eh.

GG: That's another thing about the elections in the....well, I guess, again, before union came in, did the plantation try to tell you how to vote or who to vote for or.....

DM: Before, come election day, the company use to, every shop or every department that working, they have trucks come over there certain time, pick you up and take you down the ballot place to vote. But somehow, later on, the union, when the union was formed later on, the union use to take us go over there, see. So the company, hands off from us from that time on. Everything, they hands off. So in one way, not so good. One way, maybe, would be better if it was for the company.

(Laughter)

DM's wife: When time, they can go vote, play.

(Laughter)

DM: At least, we stay down there, maybe hour. Hour and a half.

(Laughter)

GG: In '54, when the Democrats took over, do you remember anything about that particular election or.....

DM: No, I don't. I don't.

GG: I don't know all the detail either, but I know it was quite a change
when all the Democrats took over, so. When Kahuku Mill closed not too long ago, what was the feeling here in Waialua in terms of maybe Waialua might close down, too, or....

DM: We never had that feeling that Waialua was going to be closed down, see. So, at that time, before Kahuku closed down, Kohala, and Ewa. Well, of course, later on, we heard that Kohala was going to be closed. And then, Ewa was going to be closed. But when Kahuku closed down, we never had the feeling that we were going to be out of job, too, see. But when they said that—when the union officials told us that, you know, like most of those journeymen or, you know, the best electrician and all kind. They were going bring 'em to Waialua. Then we had little bit argument. We figure that when they open any new job posted, by right the one that involved should have the first choice, see. That's the only thing we never like about....like, we don't grumble because they close down or anything. But if they wanted to send certain men to the plantation and then if they going take away from our working people, then that, we don't want.

GG: Yeah. So did many from Kahuku come down here or do you know?

DM: Not right away, but afterward, they came.

GG: I think that's just about all. Yep. I think I covered just about everything I wanted. Unless you have anything else to add or.... well, okay, well, I'll take this one, too. And get it typed up and then we'll bring both of 'em out to you to look over.

END OF INTERVIEW