PUERTO RICANS
BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: TRINIDAD MARCELLA, housewife -

Trinidad Marcella, Puerto Rican-Spanish, was born February 24, 1911 in Honokaa, Hawaii, one of 18 children. The family lived at various times on Maui and in Kahuku. Trinidad first moved to Waialua when she was 15. She and her husband have six children.

Trinidad worked for the laundry at Schofield during World War II. At present she and her husband live in Waialua. They are active members of the Area Wide Horizons for Senior Citizens Program and like to travel.
NC: This is an interview with Mrs. Trinidad Marcella, Waialua. Today is June 18, 1976. Mrs. Marcella, would you tell me something about your childhood? Were you born in a plantation town?

TM: Yeah in the Big Island. I was just about two when my parents came to live here. In Waialua.

NC: Did your father come to work in Waialua?

TM: No, he went to the Big Island. He's from the Big Island. He came to Waialua.

NC: And what kind of job did your father have?

TM: Well they use to call it hapai ko. It was carrying, loading the cars with cane.

NC: Did you have brothers and sisters?

TM: Yes, we are 18 in the family, five dead and 13 living.

NC: So today there are 13 living? Do they still live in Waialua?

TM: No, I only have my sister in Wahiawa and myself over here and one in Maui and the rest all in the mainland.

NC: Did they leave for the mainland a long time ago?

TM: Yeah about 20 years ago.

NC: You know why they left?

TM: Because they like to better themselves up.

NC: Were there more job opportunities there?

TM: Well no, my family always been good workers from way back. And they all work, even on the mainland, they get the jobs, steady jobs. They
had steady jobs over here but they wanted to better theirselves up.

NC: Do they come back for family get togethers or...
TM: Once in awhile. Some of them don't want to come back.
NC: Why is that?
TM: Well because they figure that it's the same thing over and over, you know. So they feel that if they come here, it's only a waste of money, so they rather stay back there.
NC: Do you get to see them?
TM: Oh yes, every year I do see my family.
NC: Well now, how about your own families here. Your parents are both dead?
TM: Yes, my father died in Maui, but he's buried here in Diamond Head. And my mother died in the mainland.
NC: And do you have any uncles or aunts still living?
TM: No, I only have my mother's side, the brother, two brothers.
NC: Your mother's two brothers?
TM: Yeah in the mainland. They went out for many, many years. About over fifty years.
NC: Oh my. About how old would they be now?
TM: I think my uncle's by now seventy. 70, 79 or somewhere around there.
NC: You went to school for awhile?
TM: Yes I went to the second grade.
NC: That was here in Waialua?
TM: Yes.
NC: Did you have a chance to play with other children?
TM: No, my parents was very strict.
NC: Do you remember the name of the camp that you lived in?
TM: Well you know, we use to call it Punchbowl. You have one in Honolulu but this used to be our Punchbowl.
NC: Was it right here?

TM: Yeah, right here in Waialua. No, not here, on the other side. Where you went that day to my brother-in-law's place. That's Punchbowl, not where he's living now but the gulch on the right...

NC: Was there one particular ethnic group living there?

TM: Yeah. In those back years, we use to have the Puerto Rican one place; the Portuguese, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, all each had their own camp because they did not want to mingle with one another. The Portuguese people do not want to mingle with Puerto Rican or the Spanish, you know. Or the Spanish did not want to mingle with Puerto Ricans or Portuguese.

NC: So you think the management had separated them to begin with?

TM: No, no, no. It's the people.

NC: How about children in your own camp then?

TM: Well we use to play with them all once in awhile. But then we had our fights you know. Well, let's say, they, the Puerto Ricans didn't want the Spanish and the Spanish didn't want the Puerto Rican which is true. Yeah. And they use to call us names. Oh you Spanish, whatever they wanted. And we start fighting.

NC: But how did that work out with you? You had a Spanish mother who was born in Spain.

TM: Right, and my father is Puerto Rican.

NC: (laughs) What did you do?

TM: Well, we use to fight and you know my sister used to hit them because I was a coward, you know. But it was fun. You know, when you think about it now, the history of before, it was fun. It is.

NC: You think in spite the fight which was children's fight, do you think that the grown ups had that feeling or did they just...

TM: Well some of them had feelings towards one another and sometimes they don't like, even now, sometime you don't talk to your neighbors. Sometimes our children do fights, right. Then parents interfere. That's one of the worst things that parents do. Because children will be children and what you call they fight today, friends tomorrow. You see, but my father and mother did not believe in that. You see, if you fight, you fight. But they use to spank us for that. They didn't want to see us in no fight.

NC: Do you think that there was any reason why the people wanted to be separated?
TM: No, I guess it's because like now, we are League of Nations, you know. But in those times, about fifty or sixty years ago, people come from different country, you see. Naturally they didn't know how to speak their language. So naturally they wanted, they used to separate them. They put the Spanish here, the Portuguese here, the Puerto Ricans and you know, so and so on like that.

NC: Do you remember that this may have happened that Spanish and Portuguese are similar languages?

TM: No, I don't think so. I think, not because I'm Spanish, I figure that Spanish is one of the most beautiful language. That's my feeling.

NC: I agree with you.

TM: And the Portuguese, already they have a dried....it's a nice language.

NC: But did you find you could understand them?

TM: Yeah, I can understand a few words of Portuguese.

NC: Yes. Did you find, do you think that the men working together in the fields had a chance to talk?

TM: Well, at those days when my father use to work they have season, eh, cutting cane. When the season is off, then you go work about two or three months out with the cutting or the digging and they had lots of foreman. They were very mean. They wouldn't let you talk, you see. Even with us, we couldn't talk in the fields. We had to continue working. If you would stand up for one or two minutes, that foreman would jump on you. Now the plantation had nothing to do with that. So that's how when people blame the plantation, don't blame the plantation. It's the foreman. They wanted to be up, higher and higher. Like what they use to call 'em sucker like, you know. And the people use to work, make them work hard. It was not the plantation, it was the foreman.

NC: Did the foreman have so much cane that he had to make the workers cut that day?

TM: No, no, we use to be like contract, you see. So you cut. On contract, workers cut in fields; the workers that were on contract, you see--the more you produce, the more you use to make. Like when you use to carry the cane to load the cars. It's what you call, you make more money.

NC: Mrs. Marcella, can we go over now to talk about your children?

TM: Oh, I love to talk about my children.

NC: How many children do you have?

TM: I have six. We now have four daughters and two sons.

NC: How old are they now?
TM: My oldest just made 40. My second is 38. My third is going into 37. My son John, 31. And my twins, and this is unusual: my daughter Denise, she was born May 26 and my son Dennis was born May 27.

NC: Oh my goodness. How did you manage that?

TM: (both laugh) I don't know.

NC: Was it a few hours apart?

TM: Yes two hours. One was at 10 o'clock at night and about 1½ minutes after 12, I got...

NC: So Dennis took his time?

TM: ...yes, Dennis, didn't want to be born.

NC: Oh wow. Now, where did the children go to school?

TM: Well, my children went to St. Michael's School. Over here until the 8th grade. And my three daughters went to St. Francis. My three oldest. And they complete high school in St. Francis. But my twins did not want to go to St. Francis. So they went to Waialua High and I'm very proud. And my son John went to Sequoia (High School) in Redwood City.

NC: The children did not go to the public elementary school? They went to Catholic schools?

TM: Catholic School, yes.

NC: Was their education different from yours?

TM: Naturally because I never did want to...like I had a hard life. I didn't want my children to go through the same thing that I went. And they always use to ask me, "What do you want for Mother's Day, Mom?" And I use to tell, "The only thing I want for Mother's Day is good children." And then they use to ask me, "What do you want for Christmas?" And I say, "Good children and finish your education and married nice." And thank God that's what I have from my six children. Five of them. I still have one single.

NC: Is it Dennis that's single?

TM: Dennis is single.

NC: Now, as we were saying, when they first started school did they express any desires to go into any kind of job?

TM: Oh yeah. When they young still doing all this things, all sorts of things "I want this", "I gon be dat", which very seldom happens. And like my children, the three oldest, they all St. Francis grad and like I say they didn't have to go to business school in order to get a good
job. They’re all office girls. And then my Denise, she graduated Waialua High and she had four years scholarship. She took only one year and then she went to Chicago and that’s where she met her husband and married a doctor.

NC: What was the scholarship for?
TM: Well, to become whatever she thought of coming.
NC: Oh. Was it for this University or what?
TM: Oh she could go any place she wanted to go in the islands, not out of the island.
NC: What kind of scholarship, do you remember the name of the scholarship?
TM: She had Lions Club. Oh the Lions' Club does beautiful yeah. And my son Dennis, he had a $25,000 scholarship from NASAR (NASA) which he didn't take.
NC: Oh, what was Dennis' experience at Waialua?
TM: In science. He did very beautiful.
NC: How about his other subjects at Waialua?
TM: Well like I said, he wasn't too good in other subjects. He only did good in science. That was the first time in Waialua they ever gave Boy of the Year. So he was made Boy of the Year and was made Boy of Hawaii.
NC: Why didn't he take the NASA scholarship?
TM: He felt that he’s gonna take the NASAR, then he had to be more like, obligated to them. So he rather that if he would do anything, it would he on his own.
NC: Has he continued his interest in science?
TM: No, he left it.
NC: He left it and what is he doing now?
TM: He’s working for a plumber.
NC: On his own or working for a company?
TM: No he's working for contractors.
NC: And he lives in Honolulu?
TM: Yes ma'm.
NC: Do you think that you, besides the fact that you and your husband provided for the children, do you think that the schools were better able to give opportunity for your children than in your day?

TM: Yes, children nowadays they have all the opportunity they want. I know it's hard because now, not lots of job, but they have more opportunity nowadays than what we had before.

NC: It interesting that you had a Spanish mother and a Puerto Rican father. How was the food in your house? Was it more Spanish than Puerto Rican?

TM: No because my father didn't want Spanish food which is almost the same the Puerto Rican's. But my mother had to cook all Puerto Rican food.

NC: She learned after she got married or...

TM: Yes, that's after she got married then she learned.

NC: How old was your father when he came over from Puerto Rico?

TM: It's hard to say but I think he was about 26 years old.

NC: And he met your mother here?

TM: At the age of 14.

NC: So she hadn't learned to cook much the other way?

TM: Right.

NC: So it wasn't too bad. Now how do you think your mother was able to learn to cook Puerto Rican style?

TM: Well, she had 2 sisters-in-law and they would help her with the cooking. I guess they teach her how to do it.

NC: So these sisters-in-law were sisters of your father?

TM: My father yeah.

NC: So he didn't come over alone?

TM: No. My father came out to the islands with two brothers and two sisters and then later on, maybe less than 15 or 20, the last immigrants came. Then the last brother came, the oldest brother.

NC: And did he come straight to Waialua?

TM: No, no. My uncle, they went straight to Maui.

NC: Then when you were growing up, who did the shopping in the family?
TM: My mother did the shopping in the family.

NC: And where did she shop?

TM: In store. They only had, not like now, so many supers, yeah. They only had Waialua Store; they use to call it Waialua Store at that time. We had only one store, I mean we had little side store but this used to be the plantation store. And when the strikes came on then the plantation sold it to a private owner.

NC: Do you remember what year that strike was?

TM: 1946.

NC: At the plantation store, what was the system? Did your parents buy on credit?

TM: Yes, on credit, everybody on credit. By the end of the month, even payday come, that's once a month, then we use to go and pay the store.

NC: What kind of food was easiest to get?

TM: Oh we had everything. I mean we didn't have like a freezer or things like that. If you wanted meat you had to buy fresh meat all the time. Maybe my mother use to go and buy a piece of stew. That was the cheapest, at the Chinese Store, because he the one that had the butcher then. We use to have our own, let's say we use to raise our own cows, pigs and chickens. And then naturally, we use to salt the meat and that would last for a long time.

NC: What about the rent. How was...

TM: No we never had rent. We only use and then the light came around let's say about 60 years when we had lights in the plantation over here in Waialua. We use to pay only $1.00 a month for the light. They were no rent and water and they use to have oil stove. The plantation use to give you the oil every month, once a month, depend how much children you have. Like us, we had wooden stove. They use to bring the wood for us. If you need wood, you tell the policeman and they use to bring and they use to saw the wood for us in pieces. You know, it was easy to sharp eh, cut. And I think in many ways was hard. And in many ways was easy.

NC: Well, income that your father make...there were 18 children...

TM: We didn't have it all at one time, see. Eighteen we had. Here we have 13, three outside island and when we came here, we came with three. And then my mother had 13 in here in the island and the rest she had em in Maui.

NC: So all together 13 here in Waialua living in the house. Was there any money left over for anything extra?
TM: Well, I think so because my mother use to save. My mother went as far as buying land in Wahiawa and sold that, which was a mistake they made. Then we went to mainland thinking that would be better for us. But it's not such a thing. And then my little sister, the number 13 contact polio in the mainland. Then we came back to the islands. So we went and worked in Kahuku. We stayed there just a little while and then we went out to Maui.

NC: And how old were you at this time?

TM: About uh 15 years old. I think 1928 until 1931 when I came here and got married in here.

NC: How did you meet your husband?

TM: Well, I knew him from small. He use to like me from small.

NC: And did you come from Maui to work over here first?

TM: No, no, no.

NC: You came to get married?

TM: I came. Well, I was invited to stay with his sister, Mrs. Santiago. And then after six months, we get married (laughs).

NC: Very good, okay. Now, you told me that you had worked before when you were little. You had worked with your father in the fields. After you were married, did you work then?

TM: Yes, I work about four years in the laundry.

NC: Was that a plantation laundry?

TM: No, no, in Schofield Barracks. That was for the Army and I work four years in the war time.

NC: Oh I see, during the war time. Did a lot of the married women go to work?

TM: Yeah. There were lot of married women working.

NC: In war time jobs.

TM: And there were lots of single ones too working.

NC: So that was 1941, '42?

TM: Yes. I went to work, the war break out 1941, and I was working in 1940 I guess. I just worked four years.

NC: Did you work all day?
NC: Who took care of the children at home?

TM: Oh I had an old lady that used to take care for me. They used to go to school and after school the granddaughter from the old (lady) used to take care of them until I came back.

NC: Now, when you got married, did you get a house on the plantation? Your own, just for you and Mr. Marcella or...

TM: Yes, for me and my husband, yeah.

NC: And how was that home, was...

TM: Oh it's nice, nice and old type of a home, you know plantation home. But it was nice. Had a big yard. You know, could plant all your vegetable and you could raise anything you want, if you wanted to. Now you can't raise if they don't allow you to, you see?

NC: Oh, why don't they allow you?

TM: Because you know people always complaining. But those days you could raise anything you want. And there were no complaints.

NC: You mean animals?

TM: Yes, animals, raise your vegetables the way you want.

NC: Would they complain now if you raised vegetables?

TM: No, no, no. You can raise your vegetables if you want to but animals is not allowed. But we have neighbors that have chicken and things like that. And I don't complain because after all, I like to, if I had the chance to raise them too, and I wouldn't want anybody to complain so...

NC: What kind of furniture did you have? Did you buy your own furniture?

TM: Yes.

NC: You bought it yourself?

TM: Yes.

NC: Did you pay rent at that time?

TM: No.

NC: It was plantation still supplying the rent?

TM: Still supplying the rent and I don't know if it was in '46 the first
strike or the second strike, then we start paying rent.

NC: Were you able to save money from the time you got married or was it harder?

TM: Yes, it was harder, but we managed to save a little.

NC: Did you have any kind of medical aid?

TM: Oh yes, we had plantation right along, we had our free doctors.

NC: How about when the children were growing up?

TM: They all had their free medical care, yes.

NC: Was it a pediatrician or was it a general practitioner?

TM: Well, I don't know the difference between that but we had our doctors and he was the one that used to deliver the babies. And check up and operation and all that, was that particular doctor.

NC: Was the doctor somebody who also lived in the plantation?

TM: Yes he had his own house here in the plantation. By the plantation.

NC: Did you ever have any sickness or any injuries that couldn't be helped in the plantation?

TM: Well, I don't think so. To me, I think even as far as today, I tell everybody we are very lucky. Maybe plantation people had hard time, you know, but we had, let's see, we had free water, we had free rent, we had free hospital. I don't think so we can ask for more and right now, I only pay $6.00 a month for medical. If we need the specialist, they'll send us to the specialist, and we don't have to pay for it. Which I think it's good.

NC: When you had the babies, was there a hospital then?

TM: Oh yes, we had a hospital until this year. This year they gave it up.

NC: When you were a little girl did you do much traveling off the plantation?

TM: No, we never seen Honolulu until we went to the mainland.

NC: Where was the church located?

TM: Same place.

NC: So you would walk to it?

TM: Well, they use to have once a month mass. That's all we had here many years ago. So we had to walk from Punchbowl this side. So maybe, many times we never use to go. We use to go with my father and my mother,
but then my father stop. Because one of the Portuguese told him that he should come to mass with white shoes instead of black shoes, so he go mad, you know. So he didn't go. So he said, "God not telling you what to bring as long as you come with your good heart not with what you dress. Long as you're clean, as what you know." Then he start going to church in Maui, you see, and it's so far ever been going.

NC: Did you or anybody in the family ever have a horse?

TM: Yes we had horses when we were single. My father always had one you know. To go and cut grass for the animals and we use to ride em. You know when you use to think about it, it was beautiful and the family use to ride the horses. And we had cows, we had goats, chickens, rabbits and we had all that. So's my husband side too.

NC: Who had the first car in the plantation? Do you remember?

TM: Oh yes. It was the Puerto Rican people. They use to call em Obidio. And he use to be the painter for the Waialua Plantation. He was the only painter at that time and they use to whitewash the houses. Instead of painting, they use to whitewash the houses. And he was the only one that had the first car in the Camp.

NC: Did he share it? Did he give rides?

TM: Well, that I don't remember. And then Shimamoto, they use to own the stores and then they were the next; then of course the taxi drivers, you know they use to take the people. So maybe the taxi drivers were the first one you know and then the Obidios.

NC: Did your mother, having been born in Spain, do you remember her writing letters?

TM: No, my mother never knew how to write.

NC: So after she came then was no communication.

TM: If she wanted to hear from the family, they had a Puerto Rican guy, person use to work in the plantation store and he use to come and write letters for my mother. But not to Spain, to the mainland. But my mother came with my grandmother and my two uncles.

NC: And where had they come from?


NC: And then, she stayed here.

TM: My grandmother came first to Waialua and then after we was about, let's see, four or five years and then my grandmother left to the mainland and my mother stayed here.
NC: So then your mother didn't have to write to Spain. She wrote to the mainland?

TM: She wrote to the mainland.

NC: And did her mother know how to write or did?...

TM: I don't know, really that part I don't know.

NC: But somehow somebody would write back from the mainland.


NC: So it was from the mainland. How do you remember the mail? Did the mail come every day or was it something very special, the mail...

TM: Well I don't remember but I know that when they wanted mail, they had to walk down to the post office. And then maybe the boat use to come in very slow. So maybe every two weeks or what, or maybe once a month I don't remember then.

NC: Where was the post office in Waialua?

TM: Where the library now. In front of the library.

NC: Do you remember, were there any newspapers available as you were growing up?

TM: Well maybe they had but we never subscribe until I got married. Then my husband was taking a newspaper. That's all that I remember.

NC: Now if the plantation management wanted you, the families in the camp, to know something, how did the plantation management get the word to the families?

TM: Well if the plantation wanted to know, maybe they could say about jobs or things like that, they send the policeman over. That was his duty to come over. He used to come on the horse.

NC: So he would come and tell all the people?

TM: Yeah, what was the news.

NC: When do you remember getting your first radio?

TM: Radio, I was married 1931...about 60 years ago? 60 years or a little over.

NC: How soon after that do you remember that people started getting electric refrigerators?

TM: Well I don't exactly remember. I know I still have my refrigerator
there for 41 years. I mean gonna be 40 years on the 8th of next month. And I still have it running and never give me any trouble.

NC: They don't make them like they use to, Mrs. Marcella.

TM: No, no.

NC: What kind is it?

TM: It's outside, where had the drum outside eh.

NC: I have to tell you this, but I have an aunt who lives in Ponce in Puerto Rico and she has hers. It used to be on the plantation when they were on the plantation and it's in her apartment now. Must be 45 years old.

TM: Ooooh.

NC: Now after you were married and so on, how much socializing could you do with the neighbors?

TM: Oh well, we had pretty good neighbors. Sometimes we argue of course, you know, you young and you think you can do it. You think you big when you're young and strong and you not worth nothing anyway. But we had pretty good neighbors and then about 1925, the people began to mingle in together. All the nationalities mostly mixed and then this camp here became the solid camp for every nationality, see. And then they break down Punchbowl. And then they move the people this way too.

NC: When you say this camp, you mean this area where this house is?

TM:Yeah all this area down here, down to Waialua High School. Down by the mill, that's all mixed people.

NC: After the war started and you went to work, was the war the biggest worry or the biggest concern?

TM:Well it was pretty hard because you know they say that the Japanese wen bomb Pearl Harbor and then we would read it to the Japanese, see. But after that you have to forget and we can live here, you know after many years and can live here and I think they are the most wonderful people to live with. My neighbors all Japanese, all very nice people.

NC: So there was bitterness for awhile?

TM: Bitterness, yeah, for a while yes.

NC: And do you think there were actions that showed that the people...

TM: Oh use to, yeah. A lot of actions, you know, and still today maybe they had some that you know, keep that grouch. But other than that...
NC: Well before the war, there wasn't that kind of bitterness?

TM: No, because we all used to work together. But like when we were working in the plantation, my father and I, we mix with Filipino, Japanese. I think my father used to love the Japanese. They were nice to us. And we still have our neighbor there, used to work with us hapai ko. (Sudden change in topic - Mr. Marcella came in, he did not know we were taping, called out. I stopped tape. Ten minute visit, then he went out on an errand - N.C.)

TM: ...we use to spank them and lots of time, I yell at the children. The neighbors use to laugh I use to yell at them. I use to spank them because I think children need spanking. But love, oh we gave them all the love we could. We use to take them out, we use to play with them my husband you know, walk down the beach with the children, oh it was a lot of fun. If we had to raise them all over again I would be very happy. I'm proud of them.

NC: Now, when you were growing up, it was a very strict code? You couldn't date, things like that.

TM: No.

NC: How about when your children were growing up? What were the children...

TM: Well, I always thought I didn't want to be as strict with children as my parents was, you know. So my children use to have dates, after 16 years. I use to let my children go out on dates. But they had their quotas, what time to be home. So they use to be home at certain times, not in school time. You know, it be Friday or Saturday. But my children, they wanted to go to St. Francis school so they went out to work in Schofield until they graduate.

NC: Did they work during the year or summertime?

TM: No, in school time. They use to call that helpers. But they work hard with those people.

NC: And that helped to pay for the school?

TM: No, we use to pay for the school and that helped for them and they use to keep that little money to buy little things for us. And they use to go to Honolulu and buy and each one had their little cart. How cute they used to fill it up with groceries for us.

NC: Did your parents practice any customs from the old country?

TM: No, but it was wonderful because they use to tell us stories. Like I said, they were very strict, but in their way, they were very beautiful because our parents at night after we got through with supper and everybody's getting ready for bed, they use to tell us lots of stories. I still think that was beautiful.
NC: Wonderful. So you had...

TM: Bad and good.

NC: Discipline doesn't have to be bad, you know.

TM: Yeah, because we have to be...

NC: Then you in turn, you did the same loving things for your children?

TM: Oh, yes. I think they're proud of it.

NC: Did you have any religious days that your parents observed?

TM: The only one, the only religious day that I remember that they keep was Good Friday. And then of course they had to work. Those days of course you had to work. Plantation don't give you off. Until now when we have this strike (1946) and then we have our days off. And St. John's Day, that was in June eh?

NC: Yeah, June 24th you know.

TM: That was the day, those two days and Christmas of course.

NC: Do you remember their doing anything for Three Kings Day?

TM: I don't remember because that's so many years ago.

NC: What did your parents or maybe especially your father, do for St. John's Day?

TM: Well, you know, we use to put the egg in the glass overnight. And use to come whatever use to come and he use to tell us what it was. That's the only thing I remember that he use to do.

NC: Did he ever nail nails in the tree?

TM: I don't remember that.

NC: Did you ever go down to the beach?

TM: With my parents?

NC: No, on St. John's Day. Yeah with your parents on St. John's Day?

TM: No, no, no. They had so many children that it was so hard you know to...

NC: And probably since because they couldn't get off from the plantation...

TM: Right, right.

NC: Did your parents have any organization that they could belong to?
TM: No, my father was that type—he didn't want to go among people. He had lots of friends but not that type that could say I'm gonna visit so and so. No, he always had his job for the day. And he wouldn't visit nobody.

NC: When the Puerto Ricans started to get organized around 1931, do you remember if he knew about it?

TM: Well they had I guess the Puerto Rican Society that's all. But they had the Puerto Rican Society and then I don't know what happened and they went broke. My father was in the society, yes.

NC: As you were growing up, were there any group for young people to join, like Girl Scouts or something like that?

TM: No we didn't, I don't think so we had anything like that.

NC: Then after you were married, you were busy raising the children?

TM: Yes, we had the Boy Scouts going on, yeah.

NC: And did your children...

TM: Yes my two sons.

NC: Were there any groups for the girls?

TM: No, I don't think so. Maybe later on in the years. But when my daughters was, I don't remember, but they belong to the society, Children of Mary.

NC: So the church provided a group?

TM: Yeah.

NC: Was there a community association?

TM: I don't think so.

NC: Did the plantation provide any community center?

TM: Well we always had our gym there and then we had Christmas. They had a Christmas program for the people which was nice, you know—the only thing that we could go over. But other than that, I don't think I remember.

NC: Did your church have luaus or anything like that?

TM: Yes we had bazaars every year.

NC: Did you participate?

TM: Yes we did.
NC: What did you do?

TM: Well, we used to crochet, you know, and give it to the church or we used to make bread you know. When I learned how to make bread, we used to make bread for the church.

NC: What kind?

TM: Sweet bread and once a month we used to sell it. You take it up Sunday to the church but then a lot of people, they use to come over to my place and they use to buy the bread.

NC: Was there any political groups that you could join?

TM: Well, we only had the Sacred Hearts, that's all.

NC: There were no political club or the Democratic club or...

TM: No, no...

NC: ...Republican Club?

END OF INTERVIEW
NC: This is another interview with Mrs. Marcella. Today is June 22, 1976. Mrs. Marcella, could we please talk about your wedding?

TM: Well, my wedding was nothing to talk about. We got married in the afternoon and my brother-in-law gave me out 'cause my parents was in Maui and I came this way. I got married here in my sister-in-law's house and in church, of course. But everything was in Mr. and Mrs. Santiago's residence. They gave me a pretty good party. We live with them for about six months.

NC: What year was it that you got married Mrs. Marcella?

TM: 1951.

NC: Who attended the reception; who went to the little party?

TM: Well, some friends. I don't know much because I wasn't there but all his family did attend the wedding.

NC: And did you get presents?

TM: Oh yes, I had.

NC: What kind of presents?

TM: Gee, golly if I'm going tell you, I don't remember. People on the olden time they couldn't give you expensive gifts like they give today, you see. But we had nice gifts from the people that we invited. Well, there were glass and linens and things like that.

NC: Yeah, you know, was it things for the house or...

TM: For the house.

NC: To help you set up housekeeping?

TM: Right.

NC: And then, you lived with the Santiagos?
TM: I live with them for about five to six months.

NC: And then where did you live?

TM: And then I moved into the same row, to a two bedroom house and we lived there about ten years. And then we moved to the front.

NC: That house was provided by the plantation?

TM: By the plantation. Everything, water. The only thing you had to pay was light. One dollar a month, so...

NC: Yes, good buy. Now, you got married when the Depression was...

TM: Right, 1931.

NC: Did Mr. Marcella work full time?

TM: Yes, in the plantation. Full time.

NC: Yes. Did they take any hours from him?

TM: No because those days you work from Monday through Saturday.

NC: Oh, six days a week. So was food expensive for the salary that you were making?

TM: Well, I think it was cheap in those days the food, but the money wasn't there. I mean you had to squeeze in order to make ends meet.

NC: Did you do anything like cultivate your own vegetable garden?

TM: Yes, we did lots of those. My husband used to do it and when he went out to work part time job then I took over. Then I used to do my planting and my garden and my flowers and my yard and everything.

NC: Now, were there any strikes then?

TM: Yes, 1946 was our first strike.

NC: That was the first strike at Waialua?

TM: Yes.

NC: You did not have a strike before that?

TM: Well, one, many, many years ago. We were very young anyway, but say about 12 or 13 years, we had the first Japanese Strike. Then we used to go out and help my father on the field. To load the cars. But then that didn't last too long. And then 1946 we have the what-you-call, the nation strike, I mean the...

NC: The national strike.
TM: ...the workers was all mixed, Filipinos, Japanese, Puerto Rican, whatever we had.

NC: So the first strike...

TM: Was all Japanese.

NC: That was 1920?

TM: I don't know. I don't remember very too much.

NC: Do you remember if there was any sickness at the same time?

TM: No, I don't remember.

NC: So as far as you remember in Waialua, you don't remember there being sickness at the same time?

TM: No, 'cause everybody near the house—we use to have sick, but what kind of a sickness do you...

NC: Well a flu epidemic?

TM: Well, we use—we had those things, too before but when I had the flu, wasn't on the strike time. That was after the strike.

NC: So you and your husband were all right during the Depression. How about your mother and father?

TM: Well, my mother and father, they were in Maui, see, so I don't know anything about the hardships they had. But they had hardships because they had a big family to support. But then when I came home and I got married, then I don't know. I used to help them in little material things like that.

NC: Did the plantation plant any vegetable crops?

TM: Well, they had Irish potatoes and they had sweet potatoes. They had that, besides the sugar cane but then they didn't use it too long.

NC: Did they give that to you or did they sell it?

TM: No, no. I think we had to buy if we wanted that, yeah.

He went out to work (during the Depression) because you could make a little better money. But they (the plantation) didn't lay you off. You could come back to the plantation when the season would come back. When there's no season then you could go out if you wanted at that time. So my husband went out working at Schofield Barracks, the first apartment they make at Schofield Barracks. He worked in there as a plumber. And then after when the cut-cane season came back then he went back to the plantation.
NC: So, there were jobs that he could get outside. When the slack season was on in the plantation or between cutting and harvesting, did the plantation do anything for the people?

TM: Well, you still have work through the year, plantation still had work for those who wants to work. You don't wanna work, never. And then of course there came a time, way many years back you could bring your belongings and if there's an empty house, you could live in that empty house and go work to the plantation, right off the bat. And then came a time that you had to be examined by the doctors. Then the people, if they were sick they don't hire you at all. But other than that, they had jobs for everybody.

NC: Do you remember about what time they started examining the people?

TM: I think about 1926, I think, '26 or '27.

NC: Can you think of any reason why they didn't use to examine them before?

TM: No, I don't know, I think they want that because sometime there's people that come and they're sick and they don't take too long. They die and they can't work, see. So, I think that's what it was.

NC: How many hours a day did Mr. Marcella work in those days in the plantation?

TM: Sometimes used to be ten hours a day, yeah, sometime nine, ten hours a day. Until the union came in and then they made that eight hours a day.

NC: The union came in, in 1936?

TM: No, 1946.

NC: You don't think that they started the eight hour day before?

TM: No, no, no, no. Well, maybe they could have started the eight a day but we had Sundays and all. Maybe they had eight hours a day, I don't remember much; to me I figured it's after the strike but could be before the strike.

NC: Now, can you tell me about the stores you shopped in?

TM: Well, we had a store used to call the plantation store. And it was nice because they used to charge the people credit and then once a month you go and pay your credits. But when you reach to a certain amount that you can't pay it, then they use to give you so much a day. Santiagos had that-- so much out a day to cut out the balance that people used to owe.

NC: So you were allowed only to buy so much a day?

TM: Yeah, if you had balance. And if you used to pay your bill right through,
they don't do that to you.

NC: Did they sell only food at a plantation store?

TM: Well, and materials. Any anything that you really want. Furniture, no; appliances, yeah.

NC: Did you do a lot of sewing?

TM: Well, when I start sewing I wanted always to learn how to sew. I used to do it, not very good but I used to sew for all my little girls. I used to dress them all alike.

NC: I've seen your beautiful crochet...

TM: Oh these, I've known over 45 to 50 years to crochet, I believe. I learned from an old Portuguese lady.

NC: Did you ever crochet collars for your little girls' dresses?

TM: No, I made dresses for them. The last one, they stole it.

NC: Oh my goodness. We have talked about the hospital and the service but were there other services, like was there fire department, police department?

TM: Yes, we had our own fire engine right in the garage and they had fire. That little fire engine used to go and then the Haleiwa used to come next and help the Waialua one.

NC: Did the kids use to run out when the fire...

TM: Well, everybody does.

NC: Do you recall that there were many fires?

TM: Yes, because some kids, I remember way back many years ago—excuse me, they say now these kids are terrible. To me they always bin terrible. I mean, in the sense that before children, they were the same thing; they were rascal like these children nowadays. But we notice that because we had less population, see. When you come to thing now, we have the big population and now we have lot of policemans to take care those things. Before we never had those things, see, so that things go unknown. But they use to, for the fun, they use to burn the cane. Yes.

NC: Did the plantation try to teach people about safety?

TM: Yes, they always did that.

NC: I mean like they shouldn't start fires.

TM: Well, we tried but what can you do? There's always people to see the
fire going on, eh. They use to throw the matches, you know, gasoline or something into the cane. I remember we had one right in the back of our house. But then the people was nice. They use to run and help, you know. But now the people in those days, we didn't have any cars, no nothing, so if we were there nearby, the men use to come in cars. They use to go with buckets of water.

NC: When the harvest was in and all the sugar was in and everything, was there any kind of celebration?

TM: No, no celebration. We had our celebration, the first one, I don't remember what year it was, but then I remember we had a big one on the fifty (fiftieth anniversary of the Waialua Agricultural Co.). We had a beautiful one. And maybe every so many years they use to give, but the main was on our fifty anniversary; we had a big one. And then hawai when we had our seventy-five we had it in Puuiki. Our fifty, I think it was done at the Fresh Air Camp at Haleiwa. And we had the fifty over there. It was beautiful.

NC: Did everybody go in and do part of it?

TM: Oh well, no, the plantation supply everything. You only take your children and you take yourself, of course. And they had lots of games - fun and games, singing and what not.

NC: When you were growing up, were there any games of organized athletics?

TM: Yes, I think for us the only thing that they had was more on the baseball side. They had the Portuguese, they had the Japanese. I know the Puerto Rican, we didn't have them over here but they had them in Honolulu. Use to go to the park and play.

NC: What kind of yelling did you hear or cheer...

TM: Well, I don't remember because we wasn't allowed to go.

NC: Mrs. Marcella, during that strike that we talked about a little while ago, did all the Puerto Ricans that you know go out to work during the strike?

TM: I know people who used to go out and work but I mean like the hapai ko. And then they brought some Hawaiian people to work on the plantation to load the cars' cause there were lots of cane wasted. And so we used to work quite a bit.

NC: Yeah, was the Japanese group a big group in the camp, in the plantation at that time?

TM: Well, let's say maybe about 80 were Japanese. And they had only few Puerto Ricans, Portuguese, they didn't have anybody loading. My father was one of them. And then they had another Puerto Rican people and I didn't know my sister-in-law then was doing it, too. I don't remember seeing them in the fields but I think that's about all, until they brought-
I don't know how many years later--they brought the Filipinos from the Philippine Island to work on the field.

NC: Do you remember your father talking about the Japanese strikers?

TM: No, because my father liked them. They were nice to my father. I remember working with them and they were really nice people. He used to talk with them and everything, and of course when the strike was in, then they didn't want my father to work. But being that we had a lot of children, my father had to have a means of support.

NC: The majority of the workers...

TM: Was Japanese.

NC: So did other people get the flu?

TM: Yes, we all had. It's like I said, I had it. I had a very bad one. Even the doctor in those days, the doctor used to visit the house, eh. I remember him coming in. I remember he was Dr. Woods. Then Dr. Woods left. Then we had Dr. Davis.

NC: And so, you feel that the majority who died were Japanese because that was the majority of the working population?

TM: Right.

NC: How did your father feel about working--he was forced to work to support a family. How did your father feel about the strike? Do you remember?

TM: He felt good because, see, if you work 26 days a month, you get bonus. If you don't work 'em you don't have it, you see. And that was hard on the people in those days because really it was hard.

NC: You mean that they needed the bonus?

TM: Yes, to live, because at least maybe five to six dollars extra they would give you for the bonus. At least that was money, you see. So naturally then they make it easier for the people. You could work, I think, 21 days if I'm not mistaken and you got bonus.

NC: Now, you worked in those days. How old were you then or about this time of 1920?

TM: Well, 1920, I was born 1911, so ten to eleven years old.

NC: And while you were that young, were there any rules in the plantation--besides the rules that your father made in your house--were there any plantation rules about what you could do? Could you walk around the plantation in the evening?
TM: Oh yes, you could walk in the plantation and they had a rule that children after 8 o'clock, they all has to be home. If not, Jack Robello use to come and pick them and bring them home, or give them another chance. But like us, we couldn't leave home, we had to be home. Like my children, thanks to God as I said, I never had no trouble with my children. They were no policeman to come to my house because I had them home. And then my son John, he would go out with his friends. I always would tell him, 'I want you home by 5:30 to 6 o'clock,' cause then we would clean up and have dinner and he use to come at that time, see. And my daughters and my children, they always— I always had the house full of children, outsiders. 'Cause I always felt that if you let your children have friends and their friends can come to the house, then you know where your children are, you see? And lot of people use to tell me, 'Gee, how come you have your house full of kids all the time? Doesn't it get you on your nerves?' I said, 'Well, sometime it does. But I know that my children are home, you see.' Lots of mother used to call me where their children or if their children was here. And then they should tell me, 'Oh, don't they bother you?' 'Well, sometime it does, but at least I know where they are.'

NC: When you were a child, were there rules that didn't let your father go out? Were there rules about the grown-ups?

TM: No, no, no, no. That was your business to do, long as you don't do any trouble. That was your business to do. Like my husband said, Puerto Ricans, they always had fun. And they always had dance and they always had fights and they always had cuts. But he said they were the most jolly people out, you see? Even one Portuguese told us, he used to work in Honolulu. He was the foreman and he used to rather have Puerto Rican people than any other nationality. He say, 'Because they used to work. Sure, they had their temper and they use to drink and then fight and all that. But workers, I think they were one of the best.' This Portuguese guy told us that.

NC: When your kids were growing up or when you were growing up, did you want to stay on the plantation or did you think about leaving?

TM: No, I like it. I mean I was brought up in the plantation and I think it's for your children. Of course there's no benefits for them, no opportunities in other words. But for your children, it was good for them because, well, let's put it, in Honolulu it was crowded. There's lots of things going in Honolulu and the plantation, I think, was clear. They didn't have too much trouble with kids, and kids very seldom get into trouble in the plantation. If they wanted to work, well, you could go to work if you wanna work in a plantation. But in later years they weren't hiring too much kids, so children had to go out to work.

NC: Now, before the union came, if your husband had any complaints about the working conditions, what could he do?
TM: Nothing.
NC: And if you had any complaints, what could you do?
TM: Nothing.
NC: Did you ever have any problems that you felt was because the plantation wasn't being thoughtful? That the management was not being thoughtful about the situation for the housewives?
TM: No, because they had nothing to do with us.
NC: Okay, you did not feel any.
TM: No, they had nothing to do with us. My husband was the provider. The problem—whatever it was—if you had any problems at home, plantation got nothing to do with that.
NC: Alright. Now when the war started in 1941, do you remember what you were doing on Pearl Harbor Day?
TM: Well, we went to church in that morning. I remember the day before, we had a bazaar carnival. And then we went to church in that morning on December 7, first Mass, we came home. My husband, he had gone out, he was working on the civil defense, too, and took him, too, and then the planes running around, the Japanese planes running through here. But nothing been happening in Waialua.
NC: In your house...
TM: No, nothing happened here.
NC: Was anybody in your family anywhere on this island injured?
TM: No.
NC: Now, the next few weeks, what happened in the plantation after Pearl Harbor?
TM: Well, we all had to go on blackouts.
NC: And what were the rules for the blackouts?
TM: As soon as get dark, you couldn't have any light in the house. The policeman would come and knock on your doors and then the army use to come and knock at your doors. Like at Christmas, the kids all want Christmas trees. No Christmas trees you had to go get pine trees and, oh, use to smell terrible and we had to put some kind of a dungaree... the material could be khaki but the blue one... denim. And we put in one room, cover the window up and that's how we could use the light.
NC: Did more troops come in to Schofield then?
TM: Yes. More troops came in to Schofield. We didn't have enough at that time.

NC: Did they use any part of the plantation?

TM: Yes. Punchbowl, they use. They had no cane up there so they use lots of plantation property. They use to come to camp over there. Then they start putting people here and there to camp maybe to protect us.

NC: Were you aware of any defense workers being brought in?

TM: Yes, we had defense workers came in from the Mainland to work.

NC: Did they get put in plantation houses?

TM: No, no, no, no, no. That's in Honolulu, Pearl Harbor, wherever.

NC: Did you participate in any volunteer work? Your husband was in civil defense.

TM: No, I didn't because I had three little girls and I thought that was more than enough.

NC: Did school children get asked to do anything?

TM: Well naturally, even right now they ask the school children to do little things like cleaning the class after school.

NC: Oh, I meant did the school children get asked to do any work in the plantation as volunteers?

TM: No, I don't remember that.

NC: Your little girls were in schools?

TM: No, they were too small. Oh, maybe I had one in the first grade already. I mean kindergarten, then first grade.

NC: Okay. But they were in Catholic schools.

TM: First they went in public school one year. And then we put them in the Catholic school.

NC: Did you have any rationing of food and gas?

TM: Yes. Well, we never had a car but we had ration on food and gas, right.

NC: Were you aware of the martial law that was put into effect in the 'state?

TM: No.

NC: For example, you couldn't go to the neighbor islands.
TM: Well, they were taking plenty people from here to the Mainland. This was what they wanted. So if anyone of you wanted to go, you had to go on a boat, but they had a certain day that they were going.

NC: Was your husband ever forced to work on a holiday?

TM: No, well, we use to work on, like I said, Good Friday. The only days they use to keep out was Christmas, New Year and 4th of July. But the rest you had to work.

NC: Did any of your family—not your children, because they were too little and they were girls—but did any of your family join the military?

TM: Yes. My brother did join. Today he's about in his thirty years and still in the service and he went to Korea and then after that he went to Vietnam twice. He went to Germany. And then my daughter joined the service, too. She stood there about a year something, she got married. And my sister Chris, she had her sons. The twins, they were the first ones to join...no, the son and then the twins.

NC: Was that during World War II?

TM: No, no, no, no. After the World War II. My brother went to the Korean War.

NC: Oh, so there were younger brothers than you? Do you remember that the War made any changes in the community that were very noticeable?

TM: No, I don't think so. The only thing is that I remember the soldiers all coming down from Punchbowl, going to the movies on a Saturdays. And we use to invite couple of them over. We always had couple of them over. And be for Saturday dinner or Sunday like that. Most on Sunday.

NC: Do you remember when you first heard about the union coming?

TM: No. They came around collecting $10 for members to join. And then they talk about the strikes, see. So that went about for I don't know how many months.

NC: Did Mr. Marcella join the union?

TM: Yes.

NC: Do you remember who signed him up?

TM: No.

NC: Was it somebody from the plantation or was it somebody from outside, a union organizer?

TM: I don't remember.

NC: Well, now in 1946 there was a long strike.
TM: Right. Right.

NC: Can you tell me what you remember about it?

TM: Oh, it's just that it was hard because there was no money coming in and we had to go and eat in the kitchen (the union's soup kitchen). You had to go take your kids down to the kitchen and you eat. Well, at least they gave us food. Not bad, two time a day. Sundays you have to find your own but it was hard time on those strike times.

NC: Was Mr. Marcella able to bring in extra money?

TM: Well, it was lucky because he worked part time. So whatever little bit he make, we use to squeeze with that.

NC: Did you increase your garden at this time?

TM: Well, yes. Whatever little we have in the back. We use to always have gardens. Even until today we still get garden.

NC: Right. Did you feel that the six months of struggle was worth it?

TM: Well, I don't know now if was six months. I don't remember how long it was but at those days, eh, was worth it. The food (price) was coming up and wages wasn't coming up. But with the strike they had a little bit more and the union was doing good for the people. Not now, I don't think so they care for the people. Now I think they care is what they can put in their pockets.

NC: Then what happened after union came in? Did you have to pay rent?

TM: Yes. Then we had to pay rent and light. But we always had free water. Then from after the first, second strike then we had to--or either the first one, I don't remember how much we had to pay. But it wasn't so bad. We had a beautiful home. I think my house was three bedrooms. Then when I had the twins, they were so nice, the plantation, they came and built me an extra room for the twins.

NC: Was that a result of the union or was that the plantation?

TM: No, it was the plantation. The foreman they send in to build the extra room for my twins.

NC: That was very nice.

TM: Like I said we--lot of people had hard times, see. There were people had more hard times. But there were lot of people that, let's say, well, Saturdays came and they want to have a good time, spend their money, you know. And like us, like my husband and I, we had hard time when we were young and we thought we wasn't gonna let our children go through what we went. Well, we sometimes had birthday party for him, for the kids; never was for me, always was for him and the children. Because you know
men, they don't plan anything. Women, you know; it's the wife that does. And we had couple of friends in and we always had our food on the table, thanks God.

NC: When it became possible, did you buy your home?

TM: Yes, and then the plantation sold the place and then we bought this one here.

NC: This one is different from the one where your children were born?

TM: Yeah, this is different because none of them was born here in this house. I'm living here going into 19 years in this place.

NC: Did you have a car by 1946?

TM: Yeah, then we bought an old car; it cost us $400 and that's all we had in the bank. (both laugh) So we drew that $400 and went out and bought a jalopy.

NC: Because in my notes, I have that there was a tsunami that washed out the Railroad and Land Company.

TM: Maybe it couldn't have been. You mean in Waialua?

NC: I guess so.

TM: Oh, then, maybe they have it up in Kawailoa side someplace.

NC: I was wondering how people got into Honolulu then.

TM: Oh, and then when the rivers come full, not actually wash them out but use to overflow. You know the people, naturally couldn't cross because it was danger.

NC: So by 1946, were you in the habit of going into Honolulu for shopping?

TM: Yes. Then we start going. And then the plantation sold the store to Mr. Fujioka. He's a wonderful man. He's been more for the poor and he still give you credit. But we do buy a lot in Honolulu. Big things and then small things my husband goes and gets it there or in Haleiwa, depend where he is at that time.

NC: You told me before about going in with the children once a month. Do you still go in once a month?

TM: No, when I felt like it on Saturdays and Sundays. So both take out and then go shopping if you wanna shop or go eat out.

NC: Well, how do you feel about the traffic these days?

TM: Well, it's no different than before. 'Course now we have more cars and
more people in this place, so naturally you have hard time. Sometimes it's easy, sometimes it's hard.

NC: When did it start getting this crowded?

TM: Well, I think after the War. That's when the people whoooop.

NC: You mean war babies or...

TM: Yeah, I think it's war babies, yes.

NC: All grown up now.

TM: All grown up. I had three war babies. (Both laugh)

NC: Mrs. Marcella, have there been tidal waves that affected this area?

TM: Yes. 1946 on my son's first birthday, April 1st, we had a big tidal wave, see. But that one did not affect so much as the second one that came. The second one, it did a lot of action.

NC: Was that 1951?

TM: I think could have been by then.

NC: Um, did it come up to your property?

TM: No, it's just only on the beach area, that's all. It didn't come in this way. Didn't affect nothing at all.

NC: When the plantation started using the airplanes to spray the herbicide, did that affect the other people's garden, like your garden?

TM: I don't think so. No, because they don't do it around the camp, see. They do it, it's in the open field. So that thing doesn't come in to us.

NC: So you weren't affected?

TM: No, I don't think so. I wasn't.

NC: When the union started getting accused of doing different things in Hawaii, like the leaders were accused of being Communist. Did you as a housewife remember having any feelings about this?

TM: No, no, I don't think so. I figure that yes, we have a lot of Communist, right? But we don't know who they are and when they came in here. The union, to me, I never thought was the Communist 'cause at those days you never think about Communist. The Communist is just lately now, see. And it never bother us, and then plenty of them, they had troubles. The leaders, some of them, they want to put them in jail. But the union would bail them out. They use to go to jail for us, as my husband says, in those days. But now, they have enough people in the union that they
NC: Were you as an individual aware of who the leaders were? Was the union important to you?

TM: No, to me, anything, it doesn't affect me. As long as I have three meals a day and a good husband to provide me and six beautiful good children, I am satisfied. I don't care whatever is below my yard on the road. Whatever happen there it's none of my business. So I don't worry what's gonna come next. The only thing I worry is, if my children is safe or they don't have enough or if we sick and we don't have enough. That, I worry that. Like my little girls use to come home and tell me, "Mom, you know, and this and this and this and that bin happen." I said, "You know something, what's bin happen over there is none of my business." And they use to tell me, "But Mommy, why can't we go? My girlfriend's mother is letting her go out, why can't I go with them?" Well, whatever her mother do, that's their business. I bring my children according to my business.

NC: Mrs. Marcella, can you compare your life now with 30 to 40 years ago?

TM: Oh yes. I'm much happier now, than 45 years ago. I have everything. I have a wonderful husband; like I said, six beautiful children.

NC: And you and Mr. Marcella have found time to travel.

TM: Oh yes, we travel a lot. Every year we go out, but it's because my daughter works for the United (Airlines) that we can go out all the time. Otherwise we cannot. I mean we can go every year now. But they said if we have to travel far places we couldn't make it on our own.

NC: And what far places have you been to?

TM: Well, we've been to Portugal, we went to Spain, and we went to Japan and we went to Hong Kong.

NC: Very nice. Did you see things there that reminded you of the people that you used to know in the different camps?

TM: No because like in Spain, they have lots of poor places. And they have a lot of nice places like in Madrid. I think it's a beautiful place. Everything is all hand-made, you know. The buildings and all were built by the Moors, eh. And I think it's nice. We went to the King's palace and we went to the King's summer home and where they put all the kings in the rotunda way down. And in Portugal, the only thing I like the best was the streets; they had beautiful streets. Now in Spain, the people—it's not because I'm Spanish I'm saying this—but it's beautiful, they dress beautiful. And parents over there, now the sons hold the father's hand to take them across the street and they walk with the father, holding the father's hand. And when they go out with the children, they all holding one another's hand so that nobody get hurt. And they dress so beautiful, just like in Japan. Ooh, Japan and Spain,
they dress the same. You don't see—at the time when I went, the
Spanish people couldn't use shirts outside and if they wanted to go
into Madrid. In the town they had to be with either sweater or jacket
on.

NC: Well, I think you feel that you had a good life.

TM: Yes, I had a good life.

NC: I would agree with you. Now your children all gone from Hawaii except
one?

TM: Yeah, except one, Dennis.

NC: Yeah, and aside from being a grandmother who would like her grand­
children near her, you think that Waialua, Hawaii is a better place
to raise children?

TM: Well, I don't put it that way, see. I feel it's not where you gonna
live, it's the way you gonna bring your children up. See, you can
live in any part of the world but if you don't have any luck with
your children...and mind you, I bin argue with my kids and fight, whoo!
Not hand of course, they never did lift up their hands to me. But I've
been arguing with them and they argue back to me. I use to spank them
and all that. But naturally, you gotta spank your kids in order for
you to have good sense. If you gonna let them do what they want, then
naturally, you can't blame the kids. Blame yourself.

END OF INTERVIEW