BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: FRANCIS MIYAKE, retired teacher

Francis Miyake, Japanese, was born in Waialua, September 28, 1906. His father came from Japan as an interpreter and lived on the Hamakua Coast prior to working at Kawaihapaì, near Mokuleia. He later worked in a store and then opened his own store.

Francis attended Waialua Elementary, McKinley High School, and Normal School. He started his teaching career in Milolii on the Big Island. He returned to Waialua in 1937 and taught at Waialua Elementary for over thirty years.

The Miyakes have three children and currently live in Haleiwa.
HN: ...Okay, I guess we can start with your family. Tell me something about 'em.

FM: Well, I was born in Waialua, naturally, and educated at Waialua Elementary School. Those days they didn't have a kindergarten, so, naturally, you go to first grades right through eighth grade. Then, eventually, you go to high school, and there was at that time McKinley, the only high school to get into. And you had to come to McKinley, and you're there for four years. I stayed at Okumura Dormitory. It was right close to McKinley. We pay seventeen dollars a month, but we had to do chores. That is, yardwork, kitchen help...You help them cook, prepare things, and set the tables and clean dishes afterward. Then, of course, at night you have your prayer meetings and you go and study. You see...

HN: This is a religious...

FM: Christian home. Because they had both girls' and boys' dormitories. We were on King Street. Known as Okumura Home, see. It was partly supported by, I think it was Castle family, or somebody. Well, anyway, some Christian home. So, Sundays, of course, was the best, because we go to church. We go church Sundays only. During the morning and evening, but, the morning session is the best, because you come home, you're all waiting. They all rush home to eat the sukiyaki, see, because that's once a week treat, because everyday you have a set menu. So you know exactly what you're eating everyday. As soon as you go home, you do your study most of the time. Later on, you do chores. You do all the chores that you can. Yardwork and all that. Either prior or after supper, see. If you want to do it after supper, it's up to you, but you have to do a certain work to make up your seventeen dollars a month, because that will not pay, but, 'as why I say, charity comes in from rich people like Castle and all those big names, so forth. They used to support us.

HN: What was emphasized mostly in school?

FM: Emphasis is English. Because we who are university preparatory students, we have to take four years English, four years history, three years math, I think was, three years science and at least three years language. That was required to enter University of Hawaii or any other university,
because McKinley at that time was the only public school. Public high school. And when you graduate that school, you are "A" student, because they accepted you mostly at any college on the Mainland. We are much higher than Iolani or St. Louis, because I think at that time, if I remember correctly, McKinley was considered about the sixteenth or seventeenth highest high school in the nation. When I say nation, that's the U.S. nation, you know. I think Punahou followed us at that time. But now days, of course, you notice Punahou is a much higher standard. I think since they're having co-education, then McKinley came down, see. Because at that time, McKinley was very interested in producing students, real students that they can enter University of Hawaii or the Mainland, see, so...

HN: So, it wasn't co-educational?

FM: No. At that time.

HN: It was just for males?

FM: Yeah. No, not male, but when I say co-education means that because they were male and women student, but, they specify, very definitely, education—well, I say co-education, too, at that time, but it wasn't emphasized as now. Now days, see. Well, we call it more mix group, I think, huh. Because, I think, when we entered, we entered at five hundred fifty students and you can see we only graduate 214. Graduated after four years work. And I was one of the fortunate ones to take an exam and, of course, then I went to Normal School, see, two years. Then I went out to teach and, of course, I had to come back and make—we were given ten years to make up and get our bachelor's degree. Bachelor of Education, that's the highest I went. But it took me ten years. That is, every Monday, every Thursday afternoons I used to have two classes Monday. One at 3 o'clock, one at seven. The same thing Thursday. And then later on, during summer, we used to go summer school and make up credits. It took exactly about ten years for us to make up. So you can see how long. (Chuckles)

HN: How did you do that when you were on the Big Island?

FM: Big Island, no chance, because those days they didn't extend University courses there on Big Island. The only thing is you come back to Oahu to make up. Luckily, I only stayed—instead of the four year contract that we have to do, I came back in two years, because my father passed away when I went first year, so I work—was Mr. Awai who was the principal of Kawaiola School help me. He was my teacher. He help me to get me back to Oahu, see. So...

HN: Which Mr. Awai is that?

FM: Mr. James Awai. He was my former teacher, too, so, I taught under him until from '33 to '36. Then 1937, I went to...Waialua Elementary under Miss Rankin, then, until I retired, see, June '69.
HN: Can we go back a little bit and talk about how strict it was then at the school?

FM: You mean family strictness and so forth?

HN: No, at school.

FM: Oh, yeah, they were very strict, because when you are naughty, you don't do anything right, you had to do after-school chores. That's usually you clean the room or you go with the...of course, at that time, they were called janitors instead of custodian, as of today. Because we had so-called Mr. Alameida. Was very strict and we had to go pick up rubbish, clean the school yard, clean room and so forth. But we were a bunch of good boys, so we used to do sometimes they'd make us clean around the teacher's cottage and they had bananas hanging under the teacher's cottage. Next day, they won't find it. Because you know how hungry we're going to be. Young kids, at that time. Just about that age where you want to eat, you were quite naughty. We were always call for work, so, next day, the teacher won't find their bananas in there. Even the papayas, any of them, we used to eat, because that's about the only thing we can eat around there, because spending money was very scarce, eh, those days. I'm talking about elementary. Waialua Elementary---Waialua School. Because today, it's called Haleiwa Elementary, see. And, of course, we have chores beside that. Of course, you be very careful that when you go home you don't say what...why you were kept after school, because you're going to get double of spanking or whatever you can call it is. Those days, you know they were not afraid of using yardsticks or anything, because for every mistake and so forth, you be spanked anyway. And it wasn't like today where you have your suit case coming on like that, because the parents felt that whatever you deserve at school, it's what you suppose to get, and no comeback at home, because we don't tell them. We are very afraid to tell the parents, because we're going to get double of that thing again at home. And, of course, you have special chores at home. As I told you before, because you have to do your share of work at home, too, to get your reward at the end of the week. The end of the week reward is a silent movie. We used to go to---they call the old Haleiwa Theatre. Because of Mr. Kono they used to call it Kono Theatre. And we were given a thin dime to go to theatre at weekends. That is, either Friday or Saturday to see the cowboy pictures. Silent movies. Plus that, you were given about five long sticks of candy. That's about all, see. We used to take those lanterns--kerosene lanterns. No streetlight. All the lanterns been hung on there. On the wall. He was very nice to dim the lights for us. Prior to that we all sit (together) and then we all come home together. Because home chores naturally included chopping the woods for the stove, because we didn't have such thing electric stove or gas stove. We used to have wooden boxes come in, you know, from downtown or Japan. So we just chop that up for kindlers and wood and whatever it is. So, we didn't have to pay too much for firewood, because we used to buy one cord of firewood. And, of course, that, it's about a good...oh, about...four feet. Three to four feet, I would think. So you had to cut in certain size to fit in the stove, huh. We chop that up and all that. And, that supply. Plus, my job was to fill the water tank. So,
no such thing as pipewater today. So, it's all gravity system, so, the old salmon tubs were used. Cleaned and used. You make your own system piping. Use that for kitchen use entirely, and there was no such thing as piping, so we had well. And we used to clean the well, about once in two months and so forth. And everything was well. Of course, my section, where I lived, there were lots of artesian wells. When you dig certain feet, you get clean fresh water all the time. So, water problem wasn't impure water, too. No ice system until later on, so when you want to cool anything, you put this in the tub or something, lower that into the well for overnight, and then have real cool....The water was very cold, see.

HN: What do you remember putting down in the well?

FM: Well, watermelons and things, fruits and so forth. Such fruit as, you know, banana, papayas. You want real fresh things. Pineapples and things. That's about all. Things are cheap, and people used to give you quite a bit because they used to raise for themselves, see. So that was the very early stage of school when I was still going elementary. There was no such thing as elementary those days. There was just a Wai'alu School, see, those days. That was going back to my dad's day. Of course, he came here from Japan as an interpreter. Then, he was sent Hamakua Coast and later on, he came to Oahu and he worked at Kawaihapai. And he had a group of over four hundred people under him.

HN: You mean, interpreter---he was hired by the plantation?

FM: Yeah. By the plantation. Because the Scotchmen--lunas, overseers, or they call it luna those days--won't understand so he has to interpret. And he'll take this whole gang out, cutting grass, and those days, you know, your cane is all cut by hand, too, huh. So they had a sort of a camp, I think. More like a camp. And, you figure, four hundred fifty people, and they had they call it long house, you know. So, those days, long house...your parlor, your bedroom is all in one. Because night time, you know, Japanese used to get the mattress, eh. Your futon or whatever you call it, they had to sleep in. Day time, they just roll that up and then that becomes their parlor, and so forth. Kitchen, of course, they have a little space where they cook the food. But eating is done right in the same room. So, one big room is considered as parlor, your bedroom, everything else. Of course, he had a gang...

HN: Think you can describe the long house little bit more?

FM: Well, it's a real long house. If you are fortunate, you will get a little section. Oh, pretty hard to say, no. Maybe 18 by twenty (feet). And you may get another 11 by 12 (feet) if you are supervisor or something, overseer. Where you have separate bedrooms, see. I say this, because, if your people over there, those who were under you have problems, they want to come and talk with you. So naturally, that's the business office all combined in one. The long house divide into one, two....maybe between four to six families live in one long house. Some of them maybe two. All depends how the way it's built. So, you can see
that. And he (father) used to divide his group into four. One, they raise vegetables for the whole camp. The other gang is called.... cleaning gang where they clean the camp, all over, see. They do yard work. The other gang goes up to the mountain to get---the only source was the mountain pigs, so they'll go up to the mountain, get the pig. And that's on weekends, see. Usually, they don't have work on Saturday or Sunday. They do that, and they bring home maybe between four to half a dozen pigs. They chop that up, and then, into sections and each family will have a certain section. Well, you don't have the same section all the time. You may get from the head to the foot, see. And, no such thing as icebox. The only thing is salt. Pork. Salt is free because they go down the beach. They get the nice clean salt. Pure salt. They salt it up. And they put it in barrels and keep it and they cook that. Use that as an ingredient to cook our vegetables and so forth. And the other gang would go down the beach afternoons or something like that. About two, three times a week and then get. Mostly, they do it on holidays. That's when they get a big haul, come back, because fish was plentiful those days. Not like today. And they divide that up. So, they lived a very nice normal life. In fact, I think they were eating much fresh things all the time. Because vegetables, all and then, of course, as I said, the vegetables, you cannot hog. That means take more than what you can use. You can eat as much as you can. But you're not supposed to waste. So, they were very cooperative. They worked together. You know, the salaries very cheap those days.

HN: How much they....

FM: Well, I think they make about five, six dollars, I think. Supervisor make about seven, eight dollars, but in spite of that, now, they used to save, you know. About dollar, dollar and a half per family, so you can see...

HN: You talking about one month pay?

FM: One month pay. That's what they got. Some of them still had insurance with that, too. So, insurance was cheap at that time. Life insurance. But still then it's more a saving insurance, you call it. Not the pure life insurance you have today, see. So, they'll save the money and then, I don't know how, but sometime, they get little bonus. I don't know what they do, though, but they do get bonus out of it, sometime. I guess, the most savers will get little more. I don't know what. They divide that money. But they were very honest about things. No such thing as trying to cheat each other, see. So, when I say bonus, maybe there's, you know, oversupply of things. Vegetables, or they sell and that in turn becomes the bonus savings. You know, bonus for the savings, I think. That's what my father was telling me. I don't know. Things are different, different places.

HN: Where was this thing? Where was your father stationed?

FM: At Kawaihapai Mokuleia section.

HN: And what time period was this about?
FM: That, I cannot tell. Way back. Because I know then my father move into Honolulu, see. And he worked in a store. Then he came down to Waialua which is... presently near Achiu Lane, I think. Right there. And he was a manager, branch manager for Murakami Store. And later on, you know, where Migita's is selling flowers, Haleiwa's Flowers, that's where he open his own store. In 1919. that's when he built that... He told me that.

HN: And that house been standing that long?

FM: Yeah, that long. Of course, we been repaired and so forth, but my father built that place on a higher level, because there was a ditch underneath where irrigation water used to go through cane fields below by near the courthouse and all that place. But you can see how old house can last, because those days, they're not flimsily built like today. The frames, you have real frames all over the house, you know. Now days, you know, the walls are the frame of your house, mostly. But those days, they really have door's frame all around. All corners, they use about two by threes and so forth. So, those days, we used to enjoy without many places they had in extent as of today. But still, we know how to enjoy things. Because we used to go down the beach. On weekends, we'd go beach or up the mountains, so forth. So we planned our weekends very nicely. As you get your bonus, as I told you. If you are a good boy or a good girl, you were sent to the movie once a week. And we look forward for that, because that is one of the most pleasure, because no such thing as TV or radio. The only thing is the old style phonograph that you had with that, you know, that horn type.

(HN chuckles)

FM: You know that sound is... but still we consider it you are one of the lucky ones if you have a phonograph at your home. Because, as you go on, later, on, we used to go ride horses all the time then, but later on, because you're fortunate and you're from horse and buggy days, you came in to this old Ford trucks. That cranking type. (Laughs) And then, gear shifts came in later on till today you have your modern automatic...

HN: Oh, gear shifts?

FM: Yeah. Because you had to use gear shift. Before the clutch used to be the gear shift, see. You run, you had a little handle on the hand shift. You have that, see. You use your clutches the way you use now. But big trucks. Yeah. That's the means of transportation, because, if you're lucky you buy a car—a four-door sedan, they call it. Otherwise, you go with your family on a truck and have your weekends and so forth, you know. Those days, children used to look forward for weekends when they can go family picnics. Because they used to have more family picnics and they used to have events, you know, because you know how Japanese groups. They come from certain part of Japan. So they had kumiai, all kind of kumiai, they called it, which is called a community group. That's its name today. I don't know what, but they have different sections
Japan, and if sometimes you're lucky, you're invited to that, too, see. Because... no such thing fancy foods. Was simple. But still, when you eat down the beach, even hinamoru lunch, as we call that—you know, that cherry, umeboshi and musubi—taste very good. Yeah. And they used to have picnics, quite a few picnics.

HN: Do you remember any community activities, like that, you know, where the whole community participated?

FM: Well, the only thing is that Japanese group were the most....they used to have their group. They used to have all kind of events. Racing events and so forth.

HN: What kind of events?

FM: Hundred yards and back, you know. And three legged races. Blind-man and the deaf, you know, they race. And you have relays. I think, those Japanese groups were the most ones that used to have. Especially when the Emperor's birthday. It's in April, you know, first. That's when they used to look forward for any holiday, because today, you see that boys and girls eating apples and fishcakes, drinking milk. Those days the only time is when you had some kind of holiday or some happy event, you know. Somebody's birthday, or marriages, you know, parties you go, then that's when they eat. Because some of them hardly drink milk, you know. The only time they used to buy milk at our store is when someone is sick in the family. Otherwise they used those condensed milk. That's the thick one where you open two side, you blow the milk out, and then you pour hot water. And that's the way you make your milk. Or else, we used to put that condensed milk on the cracker and use that as a jelly and so forth. And it used to taste very good, because sweet. Some of the boys were even putting sugar on top of that.

(HN chuckles)

FM: Candies, and such thing is very rare. Very rare.

HN: Going back to the Emperor's birthday, you remember did you go to any of those parades and can you describe that?

FM: Oh, yeah. Not parade, but they used to have a big place. As I said, they have the Emperor's picture over there. They said, "this is a holiday. And we happy that the Emperor so forth, his birthday. And we are lucky that we're still living" and all that. You know how old people are. They're very faithful to the Emperor. Of course, we ourself, we don't care. The only thing we care is to get something to eat and have, you know, running and get ten cents tablets. We used to get prizes, you know. Win or lose, you get prize, anyway. The winner has more, but even the losers, at least, because people were very nice in donating. Stores and those. Events used to last from about nine o'clock to late evenings, you know. They all get together. They have....lunches together. You sit together. You visit each others and see what they have and you (laughs) help yourself. But they didn't mind, because they used to invite, see. So, we enjoy it. Those are the thing, you know. Fishing
is another one, see. Because fishing is about the only one beside your movies, because fish was plentiful. And people used to go up the mountain later on, even when I was kids, yet, they used to go up mountain, huntings. Wild pigs mostly. Our side.

HN: With guns?

FM: Yeah. Buckshot, I think they call it. I used to go hunting, too. Fishing. Until later on when I was busy I can't make it anymore. That's about all.

HN: What was your favorite spot go fishing?

FM: Presently that....Haleiwa, you know that wharf over there? They used to call....I forgot the name of that place.

HN: What was that before, anyway? Where boats used to dock or something?

FM: Yeah. Those small fishing boats used to come in. And, they called it ryoba. They called it ryoba, because that's where ryoba means. In English means the fishing harbor, see. All the fishing, small boats from seven to, you know, maybe fifteen footers, they used to go out. And those days, at the beginning, no such thing engines, you know. They used to row Japanese style. And they go out. Later on, they bought the small---I don't know how many horsepower they are. About 15, 16, I think, eh. And they put a little engine. They used to go out overnight and come back. And they used to make quite a good haul. Of course, they're fortunate. Sometime you not fortunate. That's about all. And, I think, our days, baseball was, you know, the most sport. Even Japanese schools have teams playing each other. Later on they have AIA and we used to travel all over. We used to ride from Waialua up to Wahiawa, presently where Wheeler Field is. There's a junction over there. Bicycle. Tie our bats and ride bicycle up there. The game starts about one o'clock. We leave home about ten or nine o'clock. Come up there and have a good--omusubi. Simple, you know, and then take a rest. And then we have a game. Going home is easy because downhill all the way. Later on, of course, that was more kid days' games, you know. Sometime where they corral all the horses in, we clean that place up nicely and play, because no such thing as ball ground, those days. Any place that you can get hold of. No such thing as real bases, because we used to use, you know, those gunsack bags and everything. Whatever we can hold. In fact, at the beginning, we used to cut guava trees to make bats. We find old baseballs, we used to tie that all up nicely. Weave 'em together and use that bat and balls. Until we're fortunate where your parents would buy, and, I think, the best glove at those days, I think, you can pay five to six dollars. That cost today, I think, about thirty, forty dollars glove, I think. See, they were not particular. As long as they have something to play with and enjoy. And the main thing was to have fun, you see. You win, you're lucky, you see. Nothing involved, see, just play a game. Later on, we go to even---we used to join the Windward Oahu League, see. And we used to pay Mr. Kimura fifty cents for bus ride back and forth, and see how cheap it is? Round trip, now, to Kaneohe and Kailua side from Waialua, now. Fifty cents round trip.
HN: One person?

FM: Yeah. Those days if you wear uniform, you're a proud person. Whether you bench yourself. Because I know. I was benched three seasons until I really started to play, see. The pride is to be able to wear a uniform. You are a member of the team. Yeah.

HN: Real big, then, the leagues were that time.

FM: Well, there were many, many teams. Even in Waialua section, Junior League, we had about six teams see. Because you have Kawaihae, Haleiwa.... Meisho, and, I think, they have Riverside and Waialua Hongwanjis. Yeah, they had about six teams see. Even that small place. In that Waialua community. But today, you can hardly get one team, now. Boys are more interested in other attractions. Surfboards and everything. There's the car, see. I guess the interest has changed, then.

HN: What about....like we heard something about one team going to China to play, too.

FM: Well, those....later on, when I came to McKinley, see. Those days, the team that used to come from Japan, the main purpose is to beat the all Chinese team. They said, "You can lose every game, but win the Chinese and come back." I was just talking to a gentleman at Kahala who remember those days. He say, "Yeah, those Japanese team used to come" He said, "Their main purpose to beat our team, the all-Chinese." And then, of course, some of the Japanese were playing that team, see. So they use...

HN: On the Chinese team?

FM: Yeah. But they use their Chinese names. I think four or five were playing. Because no such thing as Japanese team, those days, see. All-Chinese was the team, those days. Yeah. Waseda. Tedai. (Names of Universities in Japan.) All of them used to come but....main thing to beat them, because the old Adlai Field is down Aala Park, before, see. And he was telling me how he used to wait outside, wait for those balls to come up, see. And he picked three balls, I think. Plenty. 75¢, 25¢ a balls. And that's money for him already. And then, if they find the ball, for each ball they can enter the ball game. So you can see how much then two bits, eh. Because I know my father---he's interested in baseball, so, when those Japan teams used to come, he used to take me all the time.

HN: Japan teams was what? How old were the people playing on the team?

FM: All old. University boys.

HN: University?

FM: Yeah, all university. Waseda and all that. I forgot the other teams. They all young kids.
HN: The Chinese team was what? From China?

FM: No, local boys. And they are all high school graduates or some of them still going to high school, see. They're not purely Chinese. Other nationality playing, but they look alike, so, you know, then using Chinese names, eh. Ting and Dongs and all that thing there, my gosh.

(HN laughs)

HN: Why was it, you know, everybody wanted to beat them?

FM: Because they were the strongest. Because, locally, they were the strongest team. Yeah, all the Hawaiians used to have. They the one that had the Asahi team and all that. They hardly can beat the Chinese. They were the strongest of all. I don't know why, but they had the boys. They can hit and play. No doubt about it.

HN: Okay, maybe we can go back and go to your family. Like how many did you have in your family?

FM: Well, total nine. Six girls, three boys. So...and with my father and mother make eleven, and he had about four or five people working for him, see. So, we used to have a...

HN: Was that at the store?

FM: Yes, we had a store. As I told you, after he left Murakami Store, as a branch manager, he opened that place at where presently the Haleiwa Flower Shop is. We used to have about, oh, about eight or nine horses. And naturally, you had to feed them. You can't just feed them barley, so we had to go out and cut grass. Twice a week we used to go. Was it Wednesday and Saturday. Wednesday, of course, naturally, we'll get up about five o'clock and before those California grass had those....I don't know what you call them, but, you know, when the thing dries, the thing get just flies all over, you know that little hairy thing. Yeah. So you had to cover yourself real good. When the grass is all wet, you see, bring 'em home. And you have enough supply and you cut it up and feed that with the barley combination. So, beside the regular chores, you had to do barnyard work, eh. Take the horse manure away, put 'em on the side, and, later on, of course, we had a little extension in the back which was better because there, we used to raise the same kind of type of grass. And we divided in four different sections. We let 'em run in one section for a while. Then when everything is gone, so we didn't have to cut as many grass as before. Then we watered that place and of course, we had manure, eh. Free manure to fertilizer the thing (Chuckles) because that is something above the ground, so you want that thing to be green and soft grass, you know. So, the horse used to love that.

HN: What were the horses for?

FM: To use it for your....drays, we used to call it. Big doubles and horses. That's the way you deliver your things before the car, these automobiles came. Because that's the only means of transportation. And there was
a buggy over there which is called Mr. Miura. He's the only one.
And...you call it taxi buggy? What do you call it? Anyway, buggy in
place of taxis today. They call him up in his old telephone that used
to ring, ring so much. You have your number, you have four or five, you
used to ring one long, two short. That means your house. Or four short
and two long, one short. All that's a system, see, we used to have.
And for the Central, then, of course, if you wanted over and above within
your next section, then, you have to ring one, and then, the Central
will connect you to different places.

HN: That time stores used to be just like how it is now? Like yasai, you
guys used to...

FM: No, we used to (handle) strictly merchandise. Vegetable market was
separate.

HN: But to go out and deliver, what was that for?

FM: Oh, well, you go out, maybe you deliver certain thing to a certain camp.
Next time they want some of the canned goods and so forth. Of course,
some of the vegetables, they'll raise vegetable. You don't need it.
Milk and sometime we even had to buy ice cream and deliver means that's
the toughest thing to do, you know. But we never used to accept that,
I guess, melts too fast. Milk, sometime, they want fish so we used to
deliver fish for them, see. Or buy fish and deliver for them. That's
an extra kokua, help.

HN: Like, what did you guys sell mostly in your store?

FM: Well, the usual thing. Japanese and they want rice, huh. And soap.
Canned goods, codfish, salt salmon, crackers, milk. You know, they order
milk, so we used to deliver milk. Even ice we used to deliver. Dollar
and a quarter, eh. That was only ten cents a block, see. Of course,
we're not responsible for the shrinkage of the ice. We try to do it the
best we can. We used to wait for the ice, because if we're good boys
and girls at home, we used to shave ice. And you have your ingredients
you put on. What color you want and we used to eat that, see. And then,
one a month at our house, we used to crank and make ice cream. But,
not the modern stuff where you have electricity. You had to crank 'em.
You thaw. Then, when the thing start freezing, you see, it's very hard.
So we used to take that and go on picnicking with that, see. So once a
month, we were treated nicely. But for that we have to work, and I think
it's proper that you should do your share to be rewarded. Because my
parents make sure that at least once a month we go picnicking. And
sometime all of a sudden, daddy comes home, say, "Ah, let's go to the
beach." So we just go down. Take whatever we have, prepare it and go
down, see. Even the men used to go with us. You know how it is, drive
the horse and go down. (Laughs) We used to have lots of fun because
those, even umeboshi and rankyu used to taste good, you know. Yeah. Very
good. Simple cooking, but still taste good. You know for yourself,
when you get down the beach, the food taste entirely different from home.
What you eat at home. Because you had the scenery, everything else
together. The cool breeze, you had, you know, toward the evening.
That what you see at Ala Moana Park, yeah. Now days, especially.

HN: Just that when you go over there, get hundreds of people.

FM: That's right.

(IN laughs)

FM: But... they were all nice. They share and the next neighbors, they'd say, "Oh, how about half this?" and they used to bring over. Now days, you don't see that, eh. Hardly see that. Before, "Howdy. How's everything?" You don't know each other. But, of course, country, you know each other, but sometimes other people'd come for camping, see, they share. So the relation very good. No doubt about it. You can't beat (the old days) today. Today, even downtown, you live right next to each other, you ask, "Is Mr. Nonaka around? Howard?" And he say, "I don't know." But he's right there. You been living next door quite a while. Maybe ten years or so, they don't even know who you are. In the country, you know, you know everybody. Even today. Unless, like myself, I come out everytime, so I don't hardly know people, but...

HN: Well, all the old-timers.

FM: Yeah, old-timers, especially. Anything else?

HN: Well, more about your family? Nine kids. You remember anything...

FM: Oh, yeah, I didn't go through that nine because we all went through school very fortunately. I think out of the nine, two of them went through high school. Rest all went into college, so we're fortunate. I think if my father didn't have the store, I think, he had a hard time let us go through college, because, you know... In spite of it, many of the plantation people, I give them a credit. Because since they didn't have their education in Japan, they worked really hard to see their children go through and have the proper education in this country. And I take my hat off to all those people who really educated. Even my parents who gave us education. Of course, we worked, you know, during summer and so forth at home. They didn't give us pay, but he used to put money aside for us so that it can be used later on. That's about all I can tell you about the family. Nothing to boast about. That we had a proper education.

HN: Well, just having nine brothers and sisters is quite a bit.

FM: Of course, in our family, what do we have? Two teachers, one lawyer, one is a Department of Agriculture, you know, Federal Department of Agriculture. He's presently the head for Hawaii, State of Hawaii, see. Of course, one of my sister is one of the officers at First Hawaiian. Yeah, we're very, very fortunate.

END OF SIDE ONE.

SIDE TWO
FM: Because...you can't buy meat or, you know, you have to use more vegetables, eh. What I say, you just use it for ajiisuke you call it, eh. Ingredient to cook your other things, so even with us, a pound of meat went a long way, because you're going to cook that with the vegetables and you know, other things. And my mother used to buy ground steak and we used to grind that up and make hamburger and dumplings in soups, you know, cold meat. She was a very good cook, so, we used to have proper food all the way, you know. Well-balanced food. She believed in that well-balanced food. Because she say, "Everything goes with rice," eh. And even at those days, bread, very few people ate bread, you know. And, of course, we, having a store, we used to take orders and take 'em to far end where the stores are far away, so we used to take about two, three times a week. And Love's Bakery used to bring that for us, and having that, we fortunate. Being a store, we had crackers to eat, huh. We had canned goods to eat, huh. From canned sardine to Vienna sausage. Devil meat.

HN: Remember the prices of that time?

FM: Well, those days flat can sardines--you know, that one that you just put oshoyu and, you know, open it, put it on the stove--I think it was six for 25¢. Yeah. Things were very cheap at that time, because most of the time, it's five cents a piece. If you buy 25¢, you get one extra, see. So most of the thing were five or ten cents those days. But you have to compare, because the pay is so cheap, so that has to balance. But, in spite of it, I think, many of the families ate well. The only thing, as I told you, what they lack is maybe they were not able to eat ice cream or drink milk. And soda water was very scarce, as I told you. Soda water is only time is when you go to parties. But we, as a store, we used to have. That's right. (Chuckles) And at home, we used to have the outside furuba, you know, where they used to make hot water. So we used to have those sweet potato and Irish potato and araimo, all kind. We used to put 'em in charcoal. You know, after you boil 'em, you put 'em in and we used to eat that. So as a whole, my mother was not very chintzy as far as food concerned. We used to order ham. And those ham used to come in those big ham, you know, not today. Mother used to take the biggest one, and she just hangs that and we just cut 'em off. And dinner, you (use the ham between breads or fry that with eggs and so forth and ate 'em. Of course, one thing she used to do is as soon as she got it (the ham), she used to boil that one side. Steam it up in a big can, and that can is those--today, we don't have it--but those five gallon, you know, cans that you see around. And everything else extra. The food at those days, simple. But, still is very nourishing. Because everything is fresh. From vegetables, you don't wait until six hours or ten hours. The only difference is maybe the vegetable be only within half an hour and one hour, because (from) your own backyard garden, see. And the fish, too. Because, you know, those days, I told you, ice very scare. They cannot keep it, so, as soon as those people get at ryoba, at the fishing place, they come in a cart to come and sell you the fish. And those fish those days, you know how it is. Those big akules, you can buy three for dollar. Maybe sometime when they're plentiful, three for fifty cents. Even those aku that weigh about five, six pounds, you can buy for fifty cents a piece. Maybe maximum, a dollar. So you can eat all your
sashimi. You can eat all your fried fish. To your heart's content, because my mother used to buy two, three one time and that's to go eat. And whatever left over, you can fry it. With other good fish, you can make soup of it, see. As I said, we had a store, so miso is plentiful, you just go to the store and get 'em back, because they'd buy, use it. It's hard to say what is a special food, I guess. To many a people, chicken used to be rare, see. Meat used to be, as I told you, rare. So they have chicken sukiyaki—we used to call 'em jirijiri and hekka, all those things. And fried eggs. Because some of them don't have fried, see, but we used to have chicken. My dad used to keep a big space for birds, eh. It's hard to say what is a special food, I guess. To many a people, chicken used to be rare, see. Meat used to be, as I told you, rare. So they have chicken sukiyaki—we used to call 'em jirijiri and hekka, all those things. And fried eggs. Because some of them don't have fried, see, but we used to have chicken. My dad used to keep a big space for birds, eh. So it's alright. I don't know whether we used to have it, yeah. We used to give 'em all the slops and so forth so when he get his to spare with us. So, those days, they like to see people enjoy, and they love to share with people. That's the thing. That's the most important. Friendship and to get along with the neighbors. And very few people stealing. Because everything's plentiful, see. So they don't have to steal to eat. Of course, there are few outsider, you know, maybe nationality come in, they don't know the place, and they do used to steal. But that's very minor. Of course, I know, one case I almost went jail, because I was the smallest of the whole group, huh. They used to have neighbors who had a whole line of chicken coops, you know. I was the smallest and I can go through those chicken place easily, so they used to make me. So I didn't know. But I had enough money so I don't care. We have store, so we have eggs and everything. So he said, "Oh, go get the eggs that our chicken laid." And they used to exchange that. They used to have a little Chinese store, see, across where we used to live. And they used to exchange that for crack seed and the little candies, eh. And you know, those days, I think you remember, too, when the crack seed all gone, you even chew the package, eh.

(HN laughs)

FM: Yeah? See, that's the thing. We used to have the old policeman called Kinney. He'd come, say, "Miyake boy, come here." He say, "Why you go steal the eggs over there?" That's the exact lines he used. "Why you go steal the eggs over there?" I say, "I don't know." I say, "That boy told me that's his eggs so I went and get the eggs for him and I just came home." "You no go there, eat the crack seed with them?" I said, "No." I said, "Why should I? I have plenty at home my house." So he checked with my mother, say, "Yeah." He came back and after that—my mother used to make me have, you know, after lunch I have to sleep, you see. Siesta. Well, these boys would go and I don't know what they do, see. Those Ahchu boys and all that Filipino kids around there, see. And since, as I told you, I was the smallest of all, so I can go through those thing and get the eggs everything. So from then, I never did this. And I used to be considered the big shot because I have the store, eh. They want candy, they want to ask me, so when I tell them to do, they'll do it, see, for me. Anything, see. We used to have lots of fun. And many of the thing, as I told you, we have been playing. What do you call that? Horse-back riding? When you high and you pull each other, knock each other down. Yeah, we used to have lots of fun with that. Later on, as I told you, some of the fun I used to get is wait for the neighbor Portuguese lady to cook those Portuguese bread in that big oven. Yeah.
And every Saturday, she'd call us. "Come, come. Everything all ready."
So we go over there, and since we had butter, see, I used to take the
quarter pound butter, cut 'em up, soak it in between the bread and just
lomi the whole thing and get its, that soaks into the hot (bread). We
used to eat that thing. Oh, those Portuguese bread used to be good.
That used to be once a week treat. Because Portuguese used to eat--
well, later on, you know yourself, Hawaii is the most rice eating state
right now, eh?

HN: Yeah. Orientals.

FM: Even the haoles and even the Filipinos eat heck of a lot of rice, too.
Even Japanese. I think more rice conscious than anything, because many
of these people who live Hawaii, when they go---because I suffer, too.
When I first (went) to the Mainland, boy, I suffered. No rice. But
today I can, because I can go without rice. But people who are rice eaters
cannot (go without suffering).

HN: Talking about going to the Mainland, what was that for? When you went
to the Mainland?

FM: When I used to be president of the Hawaii Federation of Teachers, see.
It was for 5 years up to '69, we used to go for convention. Later on,
when I became president of this credit union, I used to go, too, see. My
first trip was in '64. That's when we went to Los Angeles. But lucky it
was a "J" (Japanese) town there so I can eat Japanese food. But you have
to go to "J" town, see. From Sixth Street, from main downtown anyway.
"J" town. And "J" town was simple over there, see. Not compared to over
here. Maybe we are prejudiced here, but actually, all nationality food,
Hawaii has the best, because they make it accordingly to the nationality
group. But the Mainland, they make the taste, all the people of the
Mainland. You go to Japan, same thing. Chinese food taste more shoyu
than anything else because they make it to the taste of the Japanese. But
here, no. Different. Mainland, too. Mainland Chinese restaurants, you
know, foods are different. Unless you know somebody who is Chinese and
speak Chinese, then they get genuine Chinese food. Otherwise you get that
half-way American Chinese, I think you call it, yeah.

HN: Okay. Maybe we can go into some of your jobs, like this, so.

FM: I worked in Kawaiolaa Plantation and we used to hoe hana which is you call
it cutting grass, huh. Paid how much, now? Was it that time when we were
paid only fifty cents a day? Yeah, fifty cents. Up to 75¢ a day. So,
you can see, your lunch, your candy, and your mother's getting up and all
that. And you figure the cost of your---washing your clothes, that won't be
enough, because it cost more than that. Even at that time. So, the only
thing is they had to keep yourself in line. When I say in line, out of
mischief. That's the main thing the parents were happy about. That you
are under some supervision and doing some good, because that part of
education, too. Because then you learn the value of money.

HN: When was this? And how old (were you)?
FM: Well, that was high school days, so way back. I would figure before high...so back in about 1923, '24, I think, it is. Then, went to McKinley. Then I went to pineapple work. Used to pick pineapple, cut grass, and, in fact, we used to contract planting pineapple. You know how they plant those things, eh. First, you call the top, you know, the pineapple tops we used to plant. And the suckers and all that. Slips, all under contract. The pinboy is the worst job. Because the other guy just puts the pin and you had to pull the wire straight, tight, and you required to plant so many slips or whatever it is, see. Then, by the time they're through, you had to be up there waiting, get in time so you're ready to move to the next one. So that was a real job, because you work from about 6:30 to about 4:30 in the evening.

HN: What was the pay, then, pine fields?

FM: Well, they used to pay us by boxes, see. I forgot what the box were.... cheap, though, very cheap, I know.

HN: And that was all going in the field and carrying the pineapple?

FM: Yeah. You picked the pineapple, you put 'em in the bag, you walk down, and you chop the top off and you have to put it in the box. That's all their contract. All by yourself. You had your individual contract. Because sometime we used to have good contracts, see. Where we'd have six of us get together and out of that, four will pick and two will cut them and box the thing. If he's late, well, we used to help each other. Then later on, when I came back, they hired me. Waialua Plantation hired me for $75. Having about four or five groups, see, under me. Those days, mostly, that group was just hoe hana, that cutting weeds. Then I had a group. Fertilizing with my three groups. You just do fertilizing. And all hand fertilizing. They carry the fertilizer and we had one person who was a feeder. He spreads the fertilizer all over the mules and he has to be there on time for the boys get that, because that's all under contract, see. So, those days, we either contract by the acreage or by the bags. Cause that has to go together. If you make too much, they'll cut you down. (Chuckles) So, we're pretty smart in staying right on the levels where we can keep on making. So, sometimes, I say, "Okay, boys, you make good." I said. So we're near some stores. Halemano Store or something, near Koga Store like that, I send one boy and get a case of soda water. You know, those days, one dollar a case, eh. So, I treat them. But usually, when you used to work plantation....this is the fun part of it, because, you know, eating is an important thing, yeah, lunch time. Have fun. So they used to assign each boy—here's the Korean boys, then, well, "You bring kim chee or tai goo." And one boy, that Yoshikawa boy, Kikawa boy. I think you don't remember. He's the fish man one. His father is fisherman, so we used to tell 'em bring fish. He used to bring fish. Every day. That's his job. One boy brings only tsukemono. But my job was to, I don't know why they give me, but, you know, chirime iriko, that small little iriko stuff, I had to make with shoyu and salt. That tough, you know. Then I make 'em during the night before and bring 'em. Or else that kimpira gobo, used that burdock. Slice that and cook it up. Yeah, they used to love that. Of course, Tom Lee used to bring nothing but kim chee everytime. And the other Lee
boy, brothers used to bring tai goo. That's costly because that codfish, eh. You know, it's prepared Korean style. But everytime used to change around, so we used to have quite a fun having lunch. And sometime we'd contract early. We'd get through contracting. We do the weeding, then that goes to---already they were work side. I watched very closely. See, I say, "Okay, boys, we can finish this certain time. We have about two or three hours we can go day work." And we used to make money, that is. Well, later on, then the pineapple offered me hundred fifty dollars. Naturally I'll go with the hundred fifty a month. First part, I took care a gang, picking pineapples, weeding. Sometimes, we used to go down to get that pineapple top ready for planting. Then you slip that bad part and get ready. I think they used to pay about penny---ah, no, a meal, I think. One meal for one, I think. Later on, and they so much, I think what went better, see. A hundred'd be so much, see. Then I had a group. I had three teachers under me, and I had six lunas, I think, I guess. And I used to divide them all over the place. That's not a good job, because then you have to separate the boys, eh. And like you, too, you don't work with your friend, you're not going to work. See. So we used to try to put boys as much as we can, deliver them in the morning, pick them with the same truck. Deliver with the same truck, so, they'd be happy. So, that's a toughest thing to do is trying to arrange so that they'd be happy. Then they can work for you. And make money for the company and for yourself, see. The lunas and the teachers don't care, because the group is given to them, so they do their day's work, they get paid. For that job, I think, I used to get little more. $75 more than before. But that $75 I really worked, because after work, the teachers would go home. You know what I mean? I had to go and check the field, eh. Because you under contract. So, you had to make that--if your group is making not too much money today, I'd figure next day, you get a better place so your group would make much more money. As far as weeding concerned, and then...picking pineapple, too, see. All that. Slip, because most time, slip, picking. It's day work, see.

HN: Those days had bonus and stuff like that?

FM: Well, with contract, you got bonus, because, when you pick pineapple, all the waiting time, you charge that to day work, see. So the boys used to go and change one truckload as fast as they can, because they know that this the truck that going. (Chuckles) So that at that time, they can sit down, or they can go ahead and pick, see. So, next time when the truck and the loading machine comes, they just load the thing and finish up and then go ahead pick all, and then have 'em ready. All the pineapples. And just load it so, all that waiting time is day work, see. But they're smart enough to pick ahead so they can make more money. Only thing, as I said, if you make too much, they cut the price down, so you had to place 'em. Very smart, very smart game all the way, so the boys do make money. The person who's in charge, the overseer over there, the Hawaiian way, they call luna. See, lunas, they have to be very smart. They're the ones that the key for the boys. So if you get a smart luna, the boys will make money. With that, you had to get the boys who do work together, who cooperate. Get one spoil apple in there and you only.... but they used to weed them out, though. They themselves weed 'em out. Say, "We don't want so and so because he's too slow. He's not doing the
work." Now days, you know, work is hard to get, eh. But those days, plentiful. As long as you want to work. Because I never had an experience working cannery yet. But out in the fields, I had plenty. Being a worker myself, so you can just about understand how much you can push with the boys. So, usually, I figure out for them. I say, "Okay, today we can make it so much. So let's go. Because otherwise I tell the bosses, the overseers that come around, you cannot make contract here. You cannot." He said, "Why?" And I showed them, see, because some of that, well, the ones are hard to get. You know, they all pile up and the pineapples on it and you have to slow down. You had to. You just skin the thing you can go skimming fast. But, at least, fifty percent or more, you're going to leave back. Then, who's going to get the hellabaloo? The lunas going to get it. The boys don't care. They just go, go, go, that's all, because, see, it's acres plus number of carloads you make, see. Before, acres only. They used to cover acreage. They know how to get you, don't worry. So work is work. You really work for your money.

HN: Okay. Maybe some of your teaching experiences?

PM: Well, teaching is regular, of course. I started from Milolii one room school, eh, where you're principal to the janitor. And when I went there, the Hawaiians know Hawaiian, period. Hardly speaking English. People around are very few. So, instead of I try to teach the English, I had to learn Hawaiian myself. Then teach them. And being...well.... in a remote place, they're not so akamai like the rest. Happy go lucky. Like the Utopian people. So they just live. I don't know whether they eat to live or live to eat. I don't know what you call them. To me, they live like a Utopian life. Just take what comes the day. So, they have enough poi. The only thing they need is fish, huh. Salt, that's about all. So they just fish and poi. I taught them one year. My name is Francis, eh, so they thought I was a girl, so they put me to Hanapepe. No, not Hanapepe...Hanapepe is someplace. Kauai. Anyway, one of the schools in Kona where all...

HN: Konawai...

PM: No. That lower school. I forgot. Anyway, they put me over there. All women there. So, they say, "Oh, we can't have you here." So they transferred me in Konawaena School, see. And there, of course, I stayed there from about '29 to '33. Yes, see. And then I transferred out here. I enjoyed, because one thing Milolii, I was happy, because I'd go out with these fishermen fishing, see. Row boat and hoiihoi where you really have to row the boat all the way. And we used to lay those opelu nets. Night time fishing, because over there fish was plentiful. No doubt about it. Fish was plentiful. You can eat fish three times a day and you can eat the fish whole night through, because you can get all the fish you want. And the opihis were big. They're not those tiny little thing that you find today. They all dollar size and up. Yeah, I'm telling you. Well, I say when I went to Konawaena, then I got into sports, too, eh. Helping boys over there. Organize sports. Baseball. Play myself. Has-been and still playing that. I help coach the barefoot over there. Played
barefoot, too, see. Mr. Inaba and myself. Minoru Inaba. He was a representative from Kona, see. West Hawaii for a while. And I think last session he was, too. We used to go to Ka'u, Kohala, play football on the fields. Those days, all transportation is ours, you know. We pay our own way. But, that's when the community start getting more sport-minded. Because otherwise, the simple games they play over there. Softball and basketball, of course. We had to buy a basketball court with just a roof, and the side. That's about all. But this fellows was very smart. He got that first and he got the walls and bleachers, all. He was smart. As I told you, very few vandalism those days, eh, because they know they can get a place to play. They can get things to play, because I was one summer recreation director for Kona section. My job was to get all the program ready and I had one, two, three, six different places from Oloola down to south Kona, see. What I mean is Kealakekua and Captain Cook, all that. We had different places. Yeah, good, because I got what? I was paid hundred fifty dollars. My second assistant was paid hundred dollars. The rest get $75, but their time is short. One group would come from nine to twelve, eh. One to five. So, you figure, as far as pay concern, they are paid pretty good, because you know, nine to twelve, you know how.... Three hours, and the other one comes from one to five. Two o'clock. Not one o'clock. Two o'clock. They allowed us two hours because some of them come from way up the hills, see. So they give 'em time to come in. Come down to play and then five o'clock, they send 'em home, because some of them take about half an hour to almost an hour to go home. Because there's no such thing then as automobile. They had to all either donkey or their foot-mobile. That's the transportation in Kona, you know, most of the time. Even when we want to go places, we used to walk until we met one guy who was a car salesman. He used to come around and take us. It was really lucky we were having, because we set certain nights for our recreation nights, and we kept together. We used to play cards. Mahjong and so forth. The winners don't do anything. The losing two pairs got treat supper and show together. But that's not too much, because all put together, maybe cost dollar a person. With the supper and the show. So, you figure, about fifty cents, eh, food. Food was 75¢. But, of course, you need a little more money than a dollar. The show was how much was those days? Fifty or seventy-five cents, we used to go in. Food, was, for a dollar, you can eat pretty good. So, in spite of--we said--remote corner those days, we used to have our fun. And the only thing we hesitate quite a bit was to go to billiard shops, you know, billiard parlors, because they're considered group of teachers. Some, you know, out of the ordinary laborer group, they figure that when you go around that place, you cheapen yourself. I don't know why. But they looked up. As teachers, they think you people are a step or three step higher than ordinary laborers, you know. But toward the end, they got used to with us, because we used to mix with them. At first, they refused to talk to us, you know. Because they think we're different people entirely. We say, "No, no. The only thing we have little more education than you people, that's about all." One of them I met, he had college education. He still is a bum. I said, "What's the matter with you?" I said, "Heck, you got more education than I do. You have four years education, we have only two year at university
"level," I said. "From now," I said, "I got to go back to Oahu and do my studying." But he loved farming, so he quit the other job, eh. And he was quite successful as a farmer. Coffee. When I say coffee, coffee raising, you see. That's about all I got to say.

HN: Nothing about Kawaiola and Waialua?

FM: Well, Kawaiola, when I went there, oh, that's only three room school there. So, Mr. Awai used to teach the sixth grade. The first, second and third (grades), I think, Mrs. Kawashima had. I think I had the fourth and fifth. Or did I have third and fourth? I forgot. Anyway, we had a mixed group. Then, I came to Waialua School, as I told you in 1937 under Miss Rankin until I retired, see. In '69. So, I don't know how fast, but forty years and ten months went by pretty fast. Waialua School, we used to have the JPOs, eh. I think I was their advisor for about 27 years, I think. Maybe more. I forgot.

HN: What was your inspiration on teaching school?

FM: I like kids. I think they used to like me, too. I used to be pretty strict, because many of them told me that. That's the part. They used to hate me. As a teacher. They said, "Chee, someday I'm going to grow big and I'm going to punch you and give you licking."

(HN chuckles)

FM: Because I met couple of them, that type, you know. Big ones, too. "You know, those days, when you used to teach us?" They say, "Oh, we used to hate you, but, hey say, "thanks a lot. What I am today, I am today because of you." Well, I say, "No, because of yourself. You put yourself to study. I made you study. I guided you. That's about all."

And the funny part is this, see. I used to be very strict in school. Afternoon, they used to come hang around, you know. "Mr. Miyake, we go place. Take us this place." And I used to take them, see. We used to go fishing, like that. They used to enjoy it. I used to enjoy it. I went into teaching, because I like kids. In plain language. I don't know why, but I'd love them. That's the reason I didn't go to high school level. I want that age. And that level. They seem to be more honest with you. And Japanese call mojakinode. Innocent. In plain language, yeah. They love the school, they love their fellow students, I'm quite sure. I think you're in the same situation, eh.

HN: Go school just to see all your friends.

FM: Yeah. Because I think elementary school, most of that is because you want to go see your friend Jimmy or whoever it is, eh. Yeah. In fact, I had palsy-walsy those days, you know. You don't see that today, they arm in arm in going places or....I guess it's more competitive world. Competition is keener. Or their interest differs. Because elementary, they have one simple interest. Play together, have a happy day, happy school day. And have (a good time) after school. That's about all.

END OF INTERVIEW
Tape No. 1-73-2-76

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Francis Miyake (FM)

August 26, 1976

Waialua, Hawaii

BY: Howard Nonaka (HN)

HN: ...August 26, 1976. Can you compare your elementary days to that of your children?

FM: Well, as far as education is concerned, it's a three R's definitely. Read, writing, and reading. Either you learn or you're forced to learn because no way that you want to learn that. You must learn, because in those, as I said many times that you got to learn, period. Because you get it both ways. In school and at home. And as far as children's life is open, because after school, you open to life, you can do anything you want. You have your own fun because you have to create your own happiness and fun after school. But the thing we use to do was clean fun. Some of the things, as I said before, we do it today, I think those kids are going in jail. But our day was plain fun, you know. We did it because was clean fun, you know. No such thing as other recreation like today. TV and movies because movies we used to see were silent. As I told you, once a week (Tape garbled)

HN: How long was school day?

FM: School was regular. Regular, 8 o'clock till 2:30. 2:30, you know, all the teachers, everybody could go home.

HN: How about lunch?

FM: You have lunch. You have one recess in the morning, 15 minutes. Lunch, half an hour. Then you had your recreation period, is there in the morning or in the afternoon, depends on the teacher. If you are a bad group of children, you miss that. Definitely. Because it's like home, too. At home, you do your chores. You're rewarded with candy, what the parents can afford, you see. And weekends, if you were nice and if you did your chores properly, you got ten cents to go to the movies and a few candies. As I told you, we go with lanterns with a group and come back. In those days, there was a curfew, but if you go to the movies and come back, you cannot sidestep anything, see, and do things you were not supposed to. Otherwise the policemen were very nice about it. They were cooperative. I guess more or less they know who the good ones and who the bad ones.

HN: Okay, going back to strictness, what do you remember (about) getting discipline for?
FM: Disciplinary for readings, spelling, writing, everything.

HN: And how were they disciplined?

FM: Well, you don't do it, you get spanking with a ruler, yardstick and so forth. I know when you used to miss spelling words, you get on the knuckles, on the fingers for every word you miss. Even your elbow joints, you get it, too. So I don't think it's not like the modern method of teaching. Strict. But we learned, though. Because of that you learn. But some of the thing I don't like because, for instance, when you got in the higher grades, sixth grade, we have to know all the states and all the capitals and the main products. 'As worthless today. You don't need that today. That's about all.

HN: Okay. Were you satisfied with your children's elementary and intermediate education?

FM: No. I'm happy because now I realize that through their hard work, you don't blame them forcing education upon you because I appreciate it. That's the reason why I'm here where I am today. Otherwise, I think I'd be one of those dropouts. You know, doing nothing.

HN: Do you remember if any of your friends dropped out?

FM: Mhm. Very few. The only thing that we notice is when you went from elementary into high school. Come to McKinley because I told you, eh, McKinley was the only high school. The public high school didn't come in.

HN: Was there an entrance exam for McKinley?

FM: I don't remember. Because I think we're considered the top group.

HN: How many friends from Haleiwa-Waialua?

FM: Well, I think out of the thirty, forty graduates here, I think only a handful, about one dozen came, too.

HN: That was your graduating class in intermediate? Thirty or forty?

FM: Mhm. Friends and all, I think, we had about thirty or forty. Maybe less than because we were separate class, outside on the veranda, because we all good boys. Giving the teacher problems so we were all left outside. Separate from the rest until we were all put together, yeah. I think they had then very few because I think out of a dozen who came to town; of course some went to Mid Pacific, about four to to Mid Pacific, about six to McKinley and some of them to business colleges. So maybe all in all, twelve to about twenty. As far as McKinley is concerned, five of us, I think—only three, I think went through. Two fellow dropped out. Couldn't make the grade.

HN: What did you wear at McKinley? Was there any special dress?
FM: McKinley, no special.

HN: Okay. So what did you wear on a typical day?

FM: Well, in those early days, had knee-high pants, eh. With long socks and shoes. And shifts...

HN: What kind of shoes?

FM: Well, regular walking shoes.

HN: Tennis?

FM: Tennis sneakers, those days. And when you wear those things, you're high class those days. Of course when you join ROTC, you wear your ROTC uniform. From sophomore year we are lucky because the fact is we have ROTC so you don't have to buy so many clothes.

HN: What about shirts? What kind of shirts?

FM: Shirts? No such thing aloha shirt those days but they have printed type shirts. Solid kind.

HN: T-shirts?

FM: Some T-shirts, some regular shirts. But not all this aloha shirt type fancy ones, see. But of course, the printed, you know, on solid colors.

HN: What about teachers, what did they wear?

FM: Oh, teachers were old fashioned. High neck, crew neck. Long, long shirts and so forth, or the full dress. And then they don't have fancy things on their ears or fancy rings. Was simple. Because when you went to teach, the same thing.

HN: What was that, more men teachers or...

FM: Well, McKinley, I had men and women.

HN: And did you notice which nationality?

FM: Well, Caucasians.

HN: Do you have any friends that dropped out of McKinley?

FM: Well, our class is so big. I think three only.

HN: If so, what was the reason? No enough money?

FM: You see, McKinley is different from the rest. Being the only public school, they let you know in freshmen year already, sophomore, junior they tell you to quit, go to some other schools, definitely.

HN: So they told you to quit?
PM: Yeah. If you didn't make the grade they tell you to go to some other school.

HN: What was considered the grade?

FM: Well, C- passing grade. They pass you with C. But D, they give you a notice, anyway, to come up to C. With D they make you go through school but, you know, on a low level. They try to tell you. D they don't tell you get out. But they say, "How about making the grade a little higher," because they want to keep McKinley standards high. And they really kept McKinley standards high in those days. Either you study or else.

HN: So how many hours you study a day?

FM: All depends on the class. Usually we start 8 o'clock and you get through school at 2:30, see. All depends on the courses because you have some class where you can do library work, you know. Open periods. That was freshman year. We take five courses so five periods straight, eh, 8 o'clock, 8 to 9, so forth down the line and lunch period, half an hour and you go back to class.

HN: Lunch is provided by the school?

FM: No, you buy. Those days was cheap. 25¢ lunches. Some of them brought their own lunch. But they didn't allow us to go back to the dormitory, eat and come back. Strictly, once you get in school, you stay there, period.

HN: Okay, so can you tell me more about Okumura Home? How did you get in there?

FM: Okumura Home, you apply. And they accept you.

HN: On what standards?

FM: I don't know what standards because I was at my uncle's place in Waikiki and later on we applied, we accepted. They don't consider what religion as long as...but then you going to Christianity then. You go to church evenings, you know, Saturday sermons.

HN: They didn't actually baptize you?

FM: No. If you want to be baptized there, they try to get you be baptized and, of course, evening meetings at 7 o'clock to 7:30, I think was.

HN: Every night?

FM: Oh, yeah, every evening. You must schedule that. You have supper at 4 o'clock. 5 to 6 and they figure that 6 to 7 free period so that you either do recreation work, do some studies, do whatever chores you have. Some people have chores. See, you clean the yard. That's the reason why it was $17.
HN: Who was it run by?

FM: Okumura Home? By Reverend Okumura, Takeo Okumura. He was one of the leading Christian minister in Japanese, as far as Japanee is concerned. I think, he was getting help from Westervelt, Dillingham and Castle. That's the reason why he can go down to $17 a month.

HN: How big was the home?

FM: About sixty students.

HN: I remember you saying they were boys and girls, eh.

FM: Girls at Kinau. They about twenty to twenty-three there. They were near to the old Makiki Church—presently Makiki Church down here, in front of McKinley High School.

HN: Did you eat together at all?

FM: No. Only once a week, on Sundays. As I told you, we had that sukiyaki. At that time, I think Mid Pacific students were invited, too, to please come down and have lunch with us on Sundays.

HN: At that time, how much did you get allowance?

FM: Well, allowance, see anything big, you have to leave with, down.... you allowed to keep only one dollar. I don't know whether dollar a month or dollar a week. I forgot. Anything over and above, you ask Reverend Okumura, his wife or whoever keeping that that you want. And they record that for you, because your parents put in so much for your spending money. So if you want to go to baseball, a few other entertainments, something like that, you ask. Anything extra you want to buy then you ask. Cause hard to get from our homes, eh. Some of them from the other islands, too. Hawaii, Maui, Kauai. And we from the rural district of Oahu.

HN: Okay, what about going home on weekends?

FM: Usually what they want is once in two weeks. But if you have reasons to visit or something like that, the parents call. Then you can go home. And then if you have relatives in town, you can tell them and they make sure you telling the truth. They have to verify and call in you see, that you wanted to spend the weekend.

HN: At that time, when you went home, how did you go home?

FM: Taxi. Five dollars one way. Taxi fare was five dollars.

HN: There was no train going back?

FM: Train, but too late for us. Train was very bad because wrong time they go in. See, you can't make that schedule. The train.

HN: Okay, what was the racial make-up in Okumura?
FM: Well, Okamura, they had the elementary division, the intermediate, high school and university students. UH students have upstairs, yeah. High school was down but the University was upstairs.

HN: But what was the racial? Was all Japanese or....

FM: All Japanese.

HN: What about in McKinley? Was all Japanese?

FM: I won't say strictly Japanese. Orientals.

HN: You estimate about break up....

FM: (Tape garbled)

HN: Fifty-fifty?

FM: Mm. Maybe sixty-forty, I think. Something like that.

HN: Japanese more?

FM: No, I say Orientals. It's hard to say so many Japanese, cause they were the majority Chinese and Japanese. Very few Korean but. But monopoly, shall we say that word if I may use it, Chinese and Japanese.

HN: Can you describe your dormitory room?

FM: About four by ten I think..

HN: What was in it?

FM: Well, you have one of those old time spring beds, eh. So you have bed, a path, of maybe two and a half feet, I think. Enough to walk back and forth. Two people cannot go through. You have bed on both side and right by the window, you have a study table. About this size, I think...

HN: One study table?

FM: Yeah, usually what we do, we push it so that I study one end, he studies one end. And have window about same size. Enough for regular size can lie, you know. Sliding windows and one light, hanging lights that you can, you know....not one of those fancy lights that they have today.

HN: How big is the dormitory complex?

FM: Mm. I think was 12 downstairs, 12 upstairs and the other side was open dorm. We use to stay in open dorms since the beginning. Big like this where you have beds on both sides. To study, they go downstairs dining room, those people. Like us, when we go to McKinley, intermediate kids and children, they have downstairs. They use to teach us Japanese over there, too. At first when I went there, we learned Japanese until I went to that shōgakkō in Nuuanu.
HN: Why do you think they taught you Japanese?

FM: Well, he thought that we should know Japanese. And at that time, many of these people were Japanese conscious. They figure that you should know your mother language. That's why. And I think I'm glad that we did that because today that's the reason why I can speak. I can hardly read, but, now I forgot. Before when I used to go to shōgakkō Hawaii school, I can read and write, eh. Because when I came from country, we were strictly Japanese and we were far advance than most of these children are attending Hawaii shōgakkō, you know.

HN: There were many Japanese schools in the country?

FM: Oh yeah, Waialua we used to go. We started at Taishō school and we had another one, see. So the books we were using was far advanced when we came to town. So when we took the exam in town, was so easy for us. So they were surprised the type of books we were learning. And we use to learn call the kanji which was strictly Chinese language, you know. We had to read and write. We had to jump back and forth to read correctly in Japanese. Like Chinese, it was straight down the line. Get two different way of reading but I think as far as I'm concerned, I don't care what people say. You should know your mother language. You get these Korean boys, Chinese boys, Filipino boys, when they get together, they speak their own language. I think Japanese only one try to be Americanized. But many of them are sorry now though. I think you one of them, too, eh. Even my nephews and so forth. Their sons. But luckily in our family, we all can at least speak and understand Japanese. But the read and write--- of course I watch TV now days and I often try to read the hard Japanese names which I'm pretty good yet. And she tells me so I must be pretty good. ("She" refers to his wife.)

HN: What did you have at the dormitory? Library?

FM: The only library you have is Bible and a few other things. When we want to, we had to go to the regular library.

HN: State library?

FM: Yeah, the present library. Or we use to go school. Whatever school we going we use to use Saturday for that. Evenings, we not allowed to get out of the house. So if you want to do anything, extra work, you bring the books home from the school and borrow. But mostly had too many homeworks. You can get no time to look for reference. Reference got to do on weekends. Amount of work that was piled on us, my gosh. We really worked.

HN: What subjects in class?

FM: Well. I'm not so hot in math. So that's the hardest part for me. If you know math, eventually chemistry and physics will be easiest. Because same process. So I figure math was my toughest subject. I made an average of B so....(Laughs)

HN: Okay. McKinley they taught you chemistry and physics like that already?
FM: Oh, yeah. We started general science, biology, chemistry, physics, right on. McKinley's one place they taught you everything. And then of course, last time we had a reunion, you requires so many and so forth and so forth.

(Tape gets stopped)

FM: ...English, I think was four years history, two years science, three years language. It all depends where you like to go. Like the Normal School, eh, it's a different story entirely. It's a entirely different ball game. Many of the things are foolish. I think last interview---we had when they ask me what should be taught, I said let the university entry students to take typing and shorthand so they can take the notes in the lecture, go home, and type it all over. The only people who can take those two subjects were the commercial students I think. So we wanted the other way around, to allow them. I don't know if (Tape garbled). I don't know. Some, they can take, I know.

HN: When you graduated from McKinley, was there a big ceremony or what? How was graduation?

FM: You go to baccalaureate and all that, all the necessary....

HN: Where was this at?

FM: The first service was, I think, at Kawaihao Church. And then graduation, we went to Central Union Church, I think. No fancy stuff. Then they call it Junior, Senior Dance and all those things. Those days they had Waikiki Amusement Park. And that's where we had ours. They had a big place where they had this, well, I don't know. It's not a regular walled-in thing. It's open. You have just a roof and open, see. They said come in to meetings and that's about all. And those days, no such fancy transit transportation. You take a streetcar, that's about all.

HN: Streetcars?

FM: Yeah. Because those days I had five dollars because the friend who went with me, I bought for her lei and we had something to eat around there. Come back, you know, late so they close. So the only thing you have is saimin stands and those things; they push-cart saimin stands. After that, took her home and when I came back to Okumura Home, I still had $2.50 with me. So you can see how cheap. Now days, you cannot even buy lei for five dollars.

HN: How were you dressed for the dance?

FM: You wear coat, tie and everything. Use just regular. Definitely. You just don't go open like now days.

HN: So all the date you use to go out in, use to be coat and tie?

FM: Yeah.
HN: And where were some of the night spots that you use to go to?

FM: Those days, very little night spots and we didn't know, we didn't care because Okumura dormitory, we so secluded. We don't see those things. Maybe they had night spots. We don't know. Being student, you know, we weren't allowed to do those things. Was strict in those days. Today college students, they go nice spots and so forth. Our days period, no. Maybe it's because we are not interested or we don't know at all. Or the public do not let us know.

HN: So what was curfew then?

FM: Curfew was 8 o'clock. Definitely. Those days was 15 (years old), I think and if you want to go, you have to have elderly come with you or with a group, see. When we use to go to church---see Okumura, Sunday morning we go to church, evening we go church. And then usually we go Wednesday during the week, too. And we go in groups, so no such thing as curfew. We allowed from the church to Okumura first from home to church and back. You allowed only so many minutes. You have to (be) back because you have so called check-in. And curfew for us to be bed is 10 o'clock. Then downstairs, we use to watch show. Japanese call chu cho (Tape garbled) anyway. Then I had to go with Reverend Okumura to check everybody that they in their room at that time. Anyway, in and out, even upstairs or downstairs, they all have to pass my room. My room is right where the steps are. And they have to pass my room. Either way, right or left, upstairs. I don't know why I was given that kind of job.

HN: What was punishment if you didn't come back?

FM: Well, punishment is usually Reverend will speak with you. And then more or less write a letter to your parents or call them up, see. And if that happens a little too many times, well, I won't say too many because I think he allowed just once or twice. The third time you out of the dormitory. There's so many on the waiting list. Why? Because $17 is $17 in those days. And it's something that you don't pay outside. You pay much more. The reason why it's that much is because he has help from Westervelt, Castle, Dillingham. That's the reason why he can come down so much. And in return, we do little chores and I don't think that's unfair because food we get, more than what ordinary people can get for that price.

HN: Okay. Describe Normal School. What was Normal School about?

FM: Well, you graduate in two years as a teacher. In two years, you become a teacher by taking all the courses. That required education courses in psychology, philosophy. And every time you get lots of education credits. Then the second year---either the first semester or the second semester---you go out practice teaching. That's when...

FM: Semester?

FM: Yeah. Following year, you go already. Either first or second semester, see. You call it teaching. And then they grade you so you come back
and take your courses and graduate. Either you make it or you
don't make it. You make it, you go out in two years and teach.
You start at $105 or $110 I think, those days. That was top salary
those days, you know, besides those management and officers and so
forth.

HN: Okay, where was the Normal School?

FM: I don't know. It's up the hill. I forget that place, above Punchbowl.
Near Dole Park. They use to use Dole Park for recreation work
because we had a very small space, and that's about we can play
soft ball games, eh. Even that was kind of dangerous.

HN: Okay, can we go into more what was taught? Just psychology and
sociology?

FM: Lots of education credits. I forgot.

HN: How many credits to graduate?

FM: That's the thing. I forgot how many credits. Because if you ask me
credits, I don't know. We did the required credits and...

HN: That grading system. How did you get graded?

FM: Oral presentation, assignments and test. You get certain assignments
which you make a report on. And then about teaching, you have to
teach the class. You be teacher in front and you demonstrate.

HN: And you teaching elementary kids then?

FM: Yeah, you teach your own classmate elementary level.

HN: You teach your own classmates?

FM: That time, just for practice. Then you got to actually do it.
And they grade you accordingly, A, B, C, D.

HN: So it's a lot of practical things?

FM: Yeah. If I recall correctly.

HN: Was it set up the Normal School, I mean, like exams?

FM: Yeah, we had exams. Weekly exams. Some teachers give us surprise
test like the University. They just throw you a test. Bingo!
You assigned certain pages to read, either you come and report
orally or written report. All of a sudden, she'll say, "Please close
your book," and then she gives us the test.

HN: How much did Normal School cost?

FM: As far as money, really big. We didn't pay. Only we buy the books.
Because that's state school, eh.

HN: How about McKinley then? McKinley wasn't a state school?

FM: No tuition.

HN: No tuition?

FM: We paid books and so forth. The cost of one is like laboratory fee.

HN: Where were you staying this time?

FM: Also McKinley at the Okumura Dormitory.

HN: I meant Normal School.

FM: Normal School, we stayed Okumura, too. And then when I played basketball and so forth, we get permission to play. One night, we came back and we found all the things out on the veranda. He said, "Out." So from there where did we go? We went to Lusitana and we borrowed a house and we stayed there. About six of us together. That's when we learned to do housekeeping. Clean house, cook, clean the yard. We have six, so two (three) pairs, huh.

HN: Okay. So let's go into the first couple of years at Kawailoa school. When you first got there, how did that work?

FM: First school is Milolii, way down south Kona.

HN: Okay.

FM: It's a fishing village. I think I left here Thursday 11 a.m. Got there Friday about 5 o'clock in the evening, cause on the way, we stop by Lahaina and all that---oh, I forgot. Kohala, then to Kailua, Napapo, Ho'omaluhia, then to my place. Then you get off, they put you in a little rowing boat, and they take that to shore---whatever belongings---and I was greeted by the Hawaiians. They knew a new kumu kula or the teacher was coming. So I so surprised because no electricity. The only means of lighting was the lantern. So next day, I met my students. They greet you in Hawaiian. More less I have to learn more Hawaiian words to have communication with them.

HN: So what did you teach them?

FM: I taught them reading and writing. The three R's plus I felt that it was pretty hard for them to learn those things, so I thought I'd teach them art. That is, we started making fishnets because it's a fishing village, see. So Mr. Lopa and I talked. He was then the superintendent of Kona, too, see. So anyway, talked over with me and made fishing nets and my main subject was fishing, and net and the cost---what we buy and how much it's going to cost. And after it's been completed, they write a story of what they did, see. Then we sold a couple of those stretch nets to buy more material to make. Was simple. That's about all, because they don't have movie those days, or there no such things as radios, anything. The only
type, the old type phonograph, yeah. That's about all. Happy days
is when the boats come in. That's about once a week. Every Thursday.
That's when I would get my newspaper for the whole week because my
father used to send the Hawaii Hochi, yeah, and Hawaii Times. And
the only places is afternoon, go fishing.

HN: Must have enjoyed that.

FM: Oh yeah. In other words people bang those nets for opelu. Or they
know you dragging long line and you paddle. That's about all.
And the fish bite, you lucky and haul 'em in. Because it's
one place you don't starve of fish. You get fish everyday. Fresh
fish. Sometimes they don't go fishing, but then the fishes hanging.
But the trouble is no refrigeration. So have to be salted. Any
kind of fish you can eat. Opihi. Don't find these little bits.
They're big ones.

HN: What about Kawaiola school? You got there. How did that (Tape garbled)

FM: Well, that, I got it through Mr. James Awa. He worked hard and I
transferred as an "aggie" (i.e. agricultural) teacher. So I thought
was agriculture, you know. I had agricultural over there plus
classroom.

HN: How big was the school?

FM: I think maybe sixty. Because we use to have only about twenty to
thirty kids, yeah. The big ones. The rest combination. First and
second, third and fourth. And one teacher taught first and second.
The other one taught maybe fifteen (students). Maybe more than
sixty, I don't know. All depends. I don't count. All I had was
about, sometimes, it's about twenty, sometimes thirty, see. They
move, eh.

HN: Did you find it hard teaching multi-level school?

FM: Harder because then you have to teach one group, like Japanese
school, you know. You went to that, don't you, where the fourth grade---
while they teaching, the other group is making noise. You have
the language so they kept busy while you teaching the other group.
I know, I taught fourth and fifth too, until I was given full fifth
grade class.

HN: How did the classroom look like? Did each child have...

FM: Individual tables. Desk, yeah, you know, the old fashioned ones.
Then you have your little desk underneath and you put your thing
like that. Those days, kids were honest and never took each other's
things. Never. They borrow, they return. Not like today.

HN: What about pencils, how was all of that?

FM: Chalks was supplied by the Department of Education. But pencil and
so forth, you buy your own. All the rest you buy your own.

HN: What if the child couldn't afford it?

FM: In those days, very few cannot afford. Because if a boy or girl has a little more---one or two more---they used to share. They give 'em or they lend that for the day. And they try to let the parents buy, you know. And you know those days, payday to payday. And not this twice a month payday. Once a month.

HN: You guys had a cafeteria there?

FM: When I was there, I don't think we had cafeteria. Later on, they has a small cafeteria. But most of them are very close, see. So they go home during lunch hour, half an hour time. Then come back. Only those who stay a little farther---toward the end, they try to let them eat at the cafeteria because what they eat at the cafeteria and home two different things. And some of them really enjoy because what they're fed at the cafeteria, they don't have it at home. And more nutrient food, eh. They eat within the cafeteria, cafeteria foods.

HN: And you stayed there just three years?

FM: Where? Kawaioloa?

HN: Kawaioloa. The other one you said turned out to be (Tape garbled)

FM: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Three years. And then '37, they move to their present Haleiwa Elementary. Was Waialua School those days.

HN: That was a brand new school, then, or....

FM: No. Was an old school.

HN: Old school?

FM: Then Miss Ruth Rankin came in. Then they built the new ones all around here.

HN: Why do you think Kawaioloa eventually died out?

FM: Kawaioloa eventually died out due to population, because before, they used to have jobs assigned from Kawaioloa Station itself by the old store and the gym. Where the swimming pool, and so that's the reason why they had swimming pool, gym, and the theatre, all.

HN: There was a theatre?

FM: But when since transportation means were easier, they all brought 'em to Waialua. From there, they assign the job. And then, of course,
those days, they had train, too, eh. Used to take people to work on trains and so forth. Very few trucks. But gradually, faster means of transportation, so they...that means instead of--excuse me, railroad. Because we still (Tape garbled) mills. Transportation, fertilizing, so forth. But they all found ways of enjoying themself. Making, you know...playing marble, ticky-ta-tyoe, all kind.

(Taping stops and then resumes.)

FM: ...oh, that's 7:30, you prepare yourself. Of course, because the day before, you prepare, but some of the things which you don't prepare on the blackboard or anything, you have all the things ready. Whatever is necessary and you start your class 8 o'clock. And that's a regular routine until 10 o'clock. 10 o'clock to 10:15, there's short recess they used to call it. Then you go to either up to 11 or 11:30. Some classes go 12. All depends. And older you get, you have your lunch periods is late. And then most teachers would have their recreation period after lunch. Out there, you had half an hour. They have some kind of volleyball game, and softball, whatever you please. You want to have a group game, exercises, physical ed (education) or whatever you want, see. Running. We used to have running games and kicking the ball back and forth. Sometimes we used to get those bag race, you know. Two-legged race. You had to improvise your own method because there was no such thing as physical ed teacher those days until later on, they have---they used to have a traveling teacher used to come around, give us programs and so forth. In spite of that, I don't think they had enough money. So later on, it was taken out. So this is the same routine everyday.

HN: Did you yourself have a certain routine, you know? English in the morning? Math....

FM: Yeah. That is regular already, because you have your whole day's schedule, eh.

HN: So what was your schedule, more or less?

FM: Well, I used to teach English and math, those things in the morning. Things that they can learn much easier, things in the afternoon. You utilize them morning period most when their minds are very fresh. Especially my class. With the group C. Different thing than the McKinley. McKinley, I had English after lunch; was the laziest period. Hard to learn.

HN: How was that done, you know? I remember when I went to school, is A, B, C class like that. Who decided on all of this?

FM: Usually, when the class is given to you, it's been divided by the first grade teacher or whatever class below you. And that's how they do. And sometimes we found out that a child is misplaced so we just change 'em. And it's better for the kids that way. Homogeneous class, you see.

HN: Maybe you get C class. Well, how come you got that every year?
FM: I don't know why. But I'm always assign to that class.

HN: Was it by seniority or....

FM: Well, I think it's more or less seniority, because Mr. Ninomiya and a few others were ahead of me, see, as far as the school is concerned. I don't know. Sometime the principal tell you that "You better teach this class, because I think you can do much better work with them." And I used to love the C group. I push them a lot, see, because then....I don't know whether it's my pure luck or the student's ability. When I find out when they go to high school, maybe the first year they are in the same level. Following year in a B or A class. So I guess, these days, the student's ability more than what we---we just guide them. And because you can just teach them so much period, they don't want to learn, pau. You out of luck. But I found out the ones I taught, I tell 'em because to succeed you got to know. So they try hard, see. And most of them used to stay. I used to take about two, three in every day, change around, and give 'em extra work. But that was after 2 o'clock, see. Because they do the chores when they go home, then they come back and learn.

END OF SIDE ONE
SIDE TWO

FM: ...if I find a children can learn, I used to give extra time, my time to teach them. But if the children does not want to learn, well, that's their hard luck, because they not going to get kokua from me. Help.

HN: Was there such a thing as free rein over the courses you taught and what you wanted to do during the day?

FM: No. Your period is blacked out. There's no such time. Unless you skip a subject and then talk something else. But then, you have to make up, because the course of study tells you you had to use this thing and so many. You know, what you have to finish. It's all written up.

HN: And what did you do? Teachers had meetings and....

FM: Yeah. After school.

HN: To discuss all of this?

FM: Yeah. Especially students, eh. I think you know they used to transfer kids back and forth, eh. Cause we feel this way. If a child is going to be simply doing nothing in the class and we feel that he can do much better above or he's misplaced, we move 'em accordingly. And then they used to enjoy that. Because if once we find out he caught up, we push 'em right back. So....they were not in one class all the time, because some of them, you know how they are.

HN: Did you guys experiment with any new teaching methods while you were there?
HM: There's no such thing. I used to make my own. Try things out.

HN: What did you try?

HM: Well...for instance, my work is not strictly read book and answer, because I bring lots of library books. And my exam will not say the answers right on this page. They have to turn back several page and get the whole thing. You know, most subject, at the end they have questions already. For instance, if you're going to study Argentina, where it is, mine would cover the whole thing, see. And you had to go all the page, look around. Go to the library, get material and then you have to answer. So I give them one or two days, sometimes. When I use to teach Japan, I never used to use textbook. Is all lecture, because then, I rather outline all the things, and they had to remember. Then when I'm through, they fill up all the outline. That's my method. So I don't go strictly read, question and answer. So, it's a broader method of teaching. They got to open their eyes, open their ears, and read a lot. That's the only way you can force them to read, see. Because some of them don't give a hoot, eh.

HN: What did you do with those students?

HM: Well, I talk to them, help them out. And usually, they realize the fact that it's worth to study. It's worth to do something, because it's going to help them later on, I say. Education is the thing that going to push you through. I say, "You don't want to be digging ditches all your life." I tell.

HN: What about juvenile delinquents?

HM: You mean, when we use to go school or when we use to teach?

HN: When you was teaching.

HM: Well, there, we had few, but you don't get into trouble as today, eh. The temptations were not there. And then we used to...

HN: What about drinking and smoking?

HM: I guess my last two years I had problem with kids in second, third grades. So we sort of fix that kid up, two of 'em. He never did smoke after that, because he told me he remembers still today. I met him about ten years ago. He said he remember me when I made him smoke cigar, one whole darn thing. He said, "That killed me," he said. "Till today I'm not smoking." He say, "When I attempted to smoke, I see you in my picture." (Chuckles) Because those days, we had sort of all the juvenile delinquents there, too, eh.

We use to patrol Waialua. Evenings and especially weekends. When we use to go down the beach to check. They say, "Oh, here comes those people." He said, "This is the only place we are safe when we're fishing, too." With the juvenile delinquent group, go around,
checking, so, even the children know that even weekdays they have to be very careful, because we don't go with the same car, see. Different cars. And we go as a group. Not less than three get together.

HN: Oh, you mean, three teachers?

FM: Not teachers. Can be teachers, too, but volunteers from the community, we used to go around.

HN: What was punishment?

FM: Well, the punishment will be that we speak with the individual first. Give 'em at least two chances. I say, "Well, you keep on with this, we have to see your parents." And that, usually, the second one, they were alright. Because we don't try to antagonize them, see. Make them understand that this is not the right thing to do. And they realize the fact later on. That they don't get ahead by doing those things. So they were pretty responsive.

HN: What about slow or fast learners? Did you have special programs for them?

FM: Oh yeah. We used to have. We have special classes for reading, later on. Slow group used to go to certain teacher in certain period once a day for about half an hour to 46 minutes. Sometimes longer. And while I'm teaching them math, these children would go to this class, that class, see. And in their group, their math students will come to me, see. Or whatever it is, whatever I'm teaching for that day, because subjects changes everyday. You don't teach math everytime, the same time. Next day, we may teach....science or social studies. Whoever wants to teach social study period, you go to them, see. The fast group and same and so forth. So we try to teach at their level so they can understand as much as possible. So most of them, those days, the teacher's interest was teaching, to make the kids to learn. So we may say dedicated teachers. I don't know whether now days, it's questionable. I don't know what it is, because I found out that today's teachers are mostly---I shouldn't say this, but they just punch time. I was told that. I don't know. I don't care because as far as I'm concerned, I made sure I did my work as I'm paid. Because I feel that if I'm paid, I should do my job.

HN: Okay. What about school lunches? Were they always a quarter, or....

FM: I don't know what was it before. Before then was cheaper, I think. It was two cents for milk and juice, I think. Lunch was ten cents, I think. And then 15 (¢). Presently, it's 25¢, 35¢. I don't know. Teachers paid about ten or 15¢ more. But as far as I'm concerned, I think they had more nourishing food for what they paid in school than at home. Because many of the kids would enjoy it. Of course, there are certain pickish kid. And you have your choice. Sometime you don't eat this, you don't eat that.
HN: What about you? Did you bring lunch or eat (cafeteria) lunch most times?

FM: Well, most of the time, I used to buy lunch. Because later on, I had one period off, see, so I used to do the collecting of the lunch money. In return, I get free lunch. (Laughs) Those days, 25¢ is 25¢, you know. Or whatever the charges was.

HN: Okay. What about ethnic relations between kids?

FM: There was no such thing. Regardless race, creed, you played, period. The only thing is that those days, they didn't want us to be haolefied, they call it. So if you speak a little better than ordinary, say, "Oh, you go play with the haoles. We don't want you around." So naturally, the English standing is low, eh, because you don't try to excellate yourself, trying to speak the best English you can. You speak the local language.

HN: Now you're talking about your childhood or when you were teaching? Your childhood?

FM: Same...

HN: What about when you were teaching?

FM: Same thing, because sometime when they get in fight, asking him what the trouble. Most of the time is that, "Ah, this guy speak too much with the haole. He think he haole, that's why we no like 'em." That's the plain language I'm saying, see, right now. That's the word they give you. I say, "Why?" "Oh, he no speak our language. What he think? Him haole or what?" That's the exact thing they tell you. But we try to teach them that's not the reason. You're here to learn the real, correct English speaking. To speak properly, rather. But takes time to make them understand that.

HN: Okay. Your time had a teacher's cottage or didn't you ever use those?

FM: Oh, teacher's cottage. Yeah, they had.

HN: Did you use those?

FM: Because I was living right in Waialua, eh, so we commute. And those cottage were left for people who come from outside of Waialua. They stay for the week and go home weekends.

HN: Okay. Now we can go into the teacher's college. I remember you said to ten years. Why was it so long?

FM: Well, I said ten years, because when you on other island, there's no such thing as to educate yourself or go take courses. See, like we who graduate in two years, they give ten years time to take. So what we used to do is either take lots of credits during the summer or take credits during the week. So what I used to do is take Mondays, 3 o'clock, one. And 7 o'clock, evening. Thursday, same thing. Made up and then go to summer school and make up some.
And then you were allowed ten years to make the credit to get your Ed. B. We call it education, see. Bachelors of Education. Your degree.

HN: Everybody is like that? Well, you couldn't...

FM: Yeah. Those who graduate Normal School. But if you graduate teacher's college, 'as two different thing. Because our days, no such thing as teacher's college. And they had education...

HN: Oh, the teacher's college came in later? Is that what you mean?

FM: Yeah. I would say that, because I think University (of Hawaii) has education but not more of higher education, I think, was. I don't remember, because I went to Normal only, straight. Then went to outside island, see. If you graduate and you make the grade, then you assign already. You graduate in June, you assign in September already.

HN: That time you didn't have to worry about job?

FM: Yeah. Job. If you are able to do it, they give you those days. Especially in teaching.

HN: Okay, going back to teaching, one question. Changes in modernization, okay. How did that affect you? You remember, like the movies started coming in....

FM: No, as far as I'm concerned, I didn't feel much, because I went with the trend. Then I used to utilize, if I can---in fact, children start talking about movie, I go right in, use that. And then go into the subject, you know because if I feel this going to help. If sometimes reading and writing, only, you use strictly book, read, they get tired. Monotonous. So that help. So, I sometimes, "Eh, boys. Who went to certain kind of show? Let us know." Then use that. Then they are all interested and gradually I come back into whatever the day's curriculum is.

HN: Okay, how long have you been married?

FM: Well, I think nearly thirty years already. I don't know what year I got married in the first place. I forgot already. I had some pictures the other day when at home, eh. We looked over, and was laughing at the pictures. Those ways of dressing and everything else.

HN: Okay. How did you meet?

FM: Well, I met her....some liquor company. I forget the name. She was downstairs working. The other people went to see....name called Mr. Miyamoto. They went to go see him, because he was one of the strong politician, eh. Democrat politician. So they went to talk to him about was Mayor Wilson, those days. And I was kidding around with her. And I tell, "Are you interested in sports and so forth?" She said, "Well, swimming meet,so forth." I say, "Well."
I say, "How about going?" And then they had. One of the famous swimmers came. I even forgot his name already. So I said, "Okay. I'll pick you up next Saturday." And I say, "By the way, I want to make sure that I get a correct answer." So I call 'em up Wednesday; she said, "Well, I'm hoping and waiting that you're going to take me." So I had to rush like heck and get four tickets or five tickets. I forgot already. And we went to the swimming meet. That Natatorium. And who was that famous guy? I forgot. Anyway, we went to see everything. And from then, hm. I had several dates with her, but I was tired of coming to town to take her up and go places and so forth. Because I was running a theatre, eh, and she used to come down Wednesday nights, see the pictures. I had to take 'em back. Saturday, same thing. So I told her, "Eh, are you interested in getting married?" She say, "Well, it's up to you." So we got married, I think. Not too long a courting, though. Less than a month, I think. We got married. And then she says, "Well, wherever you go, I'll go." So we went back and stayed Waialua. Since then, alright.

HN: So this wasn't arranged marriage or anything.

FM: No. And then naturally, Japanese style, you going get go-betweens in between later on. So later on, they had. Well, I guess they had go-between.

HN: That was all within a month's time? (Chuckles)

FM: Yeah. I think within the month's time. First, we had the Shinto marriage. And, well, the parents wanted Buddhist style, so I said, "Okay." I confine to that. And so we go into Buddhist church, marry. We had a short reception in town, I think was. Where was it already? In my house, already, you know. That Kehepaka Lane. And my friends all had that all ready, so we had a big... one Saturday evening, I think. Saturday afternoon was in town. We came back, eh. And....

HN: Big party?

FM: Oh yeah. Big party. And you know those days, eh. When you say party, is party, you know. Big affair. And they all had---my friends all came. They help me celebrate, so we were very happy. I have some pictures home yet.

HN: Did you have a honeymoon?

FM: We were supposed to. But somehow, things didn't go right, because it was the end of August. Sec, I was supposed to get married, I think was, first part of August, but came to the latter part, and I have to go back teaching, so we couldn't get off. Ever since that, no honeymoon, so....the only time is when we go to....well, 1970, when my daughter--the first one--graduated, we went places to see. And then when Jeanelle graduated, we went to Mexico City, eh. So it's a late, late honeymoon all over the place.
(Someone comes in with a letter for FM. Taping resumes shortly after.)

HN: What was the dress when you were married?

FM: Well, she was dressed in kimono. Then later on...they wanted her to get married Shinto style, see. So naturally...I wasn't dressed hakama and all that, but she was. In Japanese clothes. Then she changed into Western marriage.

HN: So you got married twice then?

FM: Yeah.

HN: Once in town and one in...

FM: No. Both in town. But the only thing, her dressing was different, eh. One regular Japanese style. And you know, where they wear white clothes. Like English, they wear the white one, eh. Purity and so forth. So she changes two time these Japanese clothes. She still has it today. No use. That's the trouble. I figure that this homongi or whatever you call it, the Japanese wedding dress is not worth. Waste of money. Once you use and pau.

HN: So how were you dressed?

FM: Oh, regular tuxedo. Borrowed tuxedo. We rent, those days. Mine, tuxedo, plus, then later on, I wear the white. I was all in white, because summer, eh. So I had to make the white one. Once I use and that's all. The shoes and everything, period.

HN: So how did the Japanese one go? Can you describe how...

FM: Well, you know this sansakudo, they call it. You know, when you give the liquor back and forth. The regular ceremony. Shinto style. It's hard to describe that, because, you know, they get the liquor back and forth. You drink, then she drinks, and back. The family take it around. Then pau. That shows that you are going to be tied into one family, see. I think that's the reason they have that ceremony.

HN: How long before your first child?

FM: I don't know. I figure...we didn't get it right away, I know. Francine is 28 today. Then Lynn was two years afterward. Then there was a period four years different, then Jeanelle came, see. So Jeanelle is 22 now. Jeanelle is a New Year's baby.

HN: What about those days? You remember anything about promiscuous women?

FM: I don't know.

HN: Do you remember? Okay, what about quality of life, you know, today
compared to yesteryears?

FM: Today, the life you live too fast, see. Modernized. Things go too fast. They go like a shot. But those days, you take it a easy manner, but you have much more to learn by yourself. You got to learn yourself. Today is given to you mostly. By books and so forth. Olden days, if you want to learn anything, there is a book but otherwise, you have to hit and miss trial basis. And then you learn. But you learn, you really learn. But as far as I'm concern, I use to enjoy those days in spite of the few things that we had. Because you can make life yourself and it seemed to me that the air is pure. Everything. You have real nature with you. But today is....what do you call that? Too artificial, everything. I figure that this is artificial life. I really don't care.

That's the reason why I don't move to town. I had opportunity to move to town long time ago. Many, many time. I was offered jobs in town. But I felt the life in the country is country life. Maybe I am a country kid. And when I go home, even today, when I pass the hills of right about Kipapa and so forth, I feel it different. You as a country boy notice that yourself. The air is different. You feel different. You feel free that you're coming to a place. Open field, greens, sky there. Everything. Correct, eh? That's how I feel about life. That's the reason why I don't---and they tell me, "Why don't you move to town?" I have a chance to move, and I have a place in town, too. To move if I want to. I enjoy the people, too. I think they're more faithful. They're true to you. And you find real friends, real life in the country. Maybe I'm living near the beach, too, that's why.

HN: Okay. How do you feel about the future of Waialua Sugar Company? Eventually, well, they'll have to phase out....you know, how do you want to see Haleiwa, say, maybe 15 years from now? Growth and development or....

FM: I guess....sugar may phase out. But I think people may start to live in the country, because downtown too fast life. Weekends, after pau hana--that is after work--they like to come home, stretch their legs and enjoy life. And eventually, I think now, they are trying to make parks, camp sites near Mokuleia and along Haleiwa. And in the Waialua Beach which we are in the process of doing so. We like to have places where they can go afternoon, evening picnics, eh. Take simple lunches, have dinner, and come back. Eventually, I think, there will be more people moving into Waialua. Presently, it's not. It's an outskirt. You know, people think it's way out in the sticks. But with this transportation....method, faster means, I think they may. And people will get more country homes. Beach site. I think we have one of the best beach areas. Fishing, swimming, what have you. I may be wrong. I don't know. Myself, I don't care to be cooped up in a condominium, artificial places where you have nothing but concrete.

HN: Sterile.
FM: Yeah. Jungle. We call it concrete jungle. I want to see nature. I want to feel the earth, plant, you know. Whatever, weed, lawn mower.

HN: Who do you think will determine whether it stays or becomes developed?

FM: It's the people themself. Because I don't think anybody can...if the opportunity is given to them and is up, that case, the state and the county should open. Not only that. The private owners like Bishop Estate, they have to let go. Otherwise Waialua will never develop. Waialua will develop as---or stays as a sugar company and die that way.

HN: So eventually, you see industry and stuff like that in Haleiwa, too or....

FM: Well, they may build condos (condominiums), too, around there. Beaches. And then they may have more weekend cottages to be rented out. And people will own cottages. Then eventually, with the road going to as far as Kaena Points, improvements--which they are thinking, building more homes. I think people will come to Waialua.

HN: What you're thinking of mostly is a resort community type.

FM: Yeah, I think we'll be more resort, yeah. And those people who own the place--you know, many of these younger people, they rather move to town. And I think many of them will stay in the country and travel town and work as we have today. That's the reason why the morning and evening traffic's terrible, eh. One time, I know. Because--not weekend, now--took me two hours to get home because of the traffic jam. You know, when sometime---I think you remember. Come to town bumper to bumper, and then going home, the same thing. Go over the Pali, the same thing. All over. And eventually, all of them are spreading their hands and buying places in the country.

HN: How do you see Hawaii's future intermingled with all this? You know, with the future of Haleiwa?

FM: Oh, it's hard to say. As I said, it need more resort area or... weekend homes, and, maybe fifty percent will be real ownership and travel to town. Because I figure that pretty soon you won't have this car going. You'll have mass transportation.

HN: What about population controls like that?

FM: Well, right now, as far as national is concern, even with the schools, Waipahu, any place now, you see more Filipinos. And then gradually other nationalities going down as far as population is concern. I don't know where they're moving. And in town, you know, it's all mix up, so you cannot find out. Pinpoint, the country, you can do so.

END OF INTERVIEW
WAIALUA & HALEIWA
The People
Tell Their Story

Volume V
JAPANESE

ETHNIC STUDIES ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
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