BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: MANABU NONAKA, retired trucker

Manabu Nonaka, Japanese, was born in Honolulu, June 4, 1915. His father came from Kumamoto, Japan. His mother was from the same area and came as a picture bride. His father was a harnessman in Honolulu and a taxi driver in Waialua. He passed away in 1922. Manabu's mother remarried several years later. She ran a little store. His stepfather was a pump man for the Haleiwa Hotel.

Manabu attended Waialua Elementary, Andrew Cox (Junior) High School, and Leilehua High School in Wahiawa. After high school, he helped with his stepfather's trucking business, which he later took over when his stepfather was paralyzed. He had the trucking business for over twenty years (1934-57). His other experiences included work for the pineapple company during the Depression years, Civilian Conservation Corps work, and soda fountain work. Manabu sold the trucking business and worked over 18 years with the Board of Water Supply.

He and his wife and children live in Haleiwa.
HN: Tell me something about your family.

MN: Oh, my family came from Kumamoto, Japan. That was my father, and later, his wife, which is my mother. She also came from Kumamoto, Japan as a picture bride. That's all I know about that time.

HN: Do you know when they came?

MN: Not exactly when, but it's somewhere in the 1890s.

HN: And what about your mother?

MN: My mother came somewhere in the early 1900s.

HN: Do you know anything about that?

MN: No.

HN: Okay. Tell me how many in your family?

MN: Oh, in the Nonaka family had two boys. Actually, we had three boys, but one died. And two girls. And I had a stepfather. That was Takabuki. My mother had two child from him so we have two half brothers. And also, we have a step brother, which was Takabuki.

HN: Step brother? One other one besides the two?

MN: That is correct. We have a child of my stepfather, and nothing to do with our mother.

HN: Who's that?

MN: That was Isamu Takabuki. He was born in Japan. He didn't have citizenship, but he operated business in Honolulu. He had a jewelry shop, and later on, he went into clothing. I think he did very well. Of course, I don't know, because I never had any part of his money.

HN: Something about early life? What was a typical day?
MN: Well, early life, we didn't have too much money, so we had to look around for something sweet. We picked dates during the season, plum during the season, mountain apple during the season, and also, sugar cane. In those days, sugar cane was hauled by train, so we had to wait for the train to go by and pick from the sidecar, and that's how we had our sugar cane. That was part of our candy.

HN: Where was the trees? You know, the date trees, and...you used to go all over Waialua for pick 'em or used to be just one place?

MN: Well, the date tree was close by. We usually get up early in the morning. We had to work for the birds to knock it down, because that tree was so tall. And, you know, the date tree you cannot climb because it has a lot of thorns. So we have to go early in the morning in order to be first. We had to get up about 5:30. The season is sometime in the summer, so it wasn't too bad. But we had to get out at break of dawn and be the first to be there, see. We can get enough for ourself.

HN: What about the plums and mountain apple?

MN: Well, the plum and mountain apple was seasonal, too. Well, there was no rush in that, because we had to climb the tree and get it. Mountain apple usually come during the summer, also. But, the mountain apple, we had to go into the valley, which was about five miles. But we went as a group.

HN: All walk?

MN: Yeah. All walk. No cars those days and hardly any bicycles, so we had to walk. But we had a lot of fun. And sometime we fall down from the tree, boy, we make sure we stay low. And also, we used to pick mangos, too. And mangos were a delicacy those days. We didn't have no Hayden mango like we have today. And also, I remember those days that Haleiwa used to be a tourist town, because they had the Haleiwa Hotel, and we used to ask the tourist to drop a nickel. That means to throw money in the water, and we used to dive for 'em. They used to throw five cents, ten cents, 25¢. Sometime, half a dollar, but very rarely dollar. And we used to pick up pretty good. Those days money was something. You pick up twenty, 25¢; that's a hell of a lot of money compared to today.

HN: What you used to do with the money?

MN: Of course, that money was our money, so we spent it whatever we wanted to.

HN: And what you guys used to do with it?

MN: Well, they had a candy store. Actually, they had one, but things were so cheap. Anyway, moneys was worth so much before. You know, a can of sardine used to cost maybe four cents, which today I think you can buy for 25¢. And also, devil meat. We used to pick 'em for two, three cents. Today, I guess you have to pay twenty cents for it.
HN: That's the kind of stuff you used to buy with your 25¢? Buy candy, eh?

MN: No. We used to buy candy, and also, sometime when we had quite a bit of money, we used to go to the restaurant, order sandwich and take it up.

HN: That used to be delicacy? Ordering sandwich?

MN: Well, that's a real occasion.

HN: Whose idea was to go dive for the money?

MN: Well, no matter (where) you go, where you find tourist, you find kids asking for money. Naturally the tourist oblige.

HN: So you guys was swimming in the water?

MN: 'As right. You got to dive for the money.

HN: Yeah. That's in Anahulu Stream?

MN: That's right. They used to have a bridge going across Haleiwa Hotel. Tourist used to come by the train, and they have to go across the beach to get to the Haleiwa Hotel. So then, we stay in the water. We tell 'em, "Drop a nickel." And you know the deep place was about ten, 15 feet. Sometime we can't go down to get the money. But the older boys was good enough. They go way down to get the money. And, you know, the good divers, they make quite a bit of money, too. Some people used to make two dollars, three dollars.

And in those days, two dollars, three dollars was hell of a lot of money. You know, we used to work in the cane field when we was very young. Say, about ten years old, we used to only get 25¢, 35¢ for the whole day.

HN: Okay. What other recreation did you guys have those days?

MN: Well, recreation was very limited those days, and we had to make our own recreation. So what we used to do was we had Anahulu Stream right close by. And we used to make akakai boat. Akakai those days used to come so tall. Used to come better than eight feet. So, we bundle 'em up together, and we tie it up and shape it like a boat, and we used to ride on it. We go fishing, and go joy riding up and down the Anahulu Stream.

HN: What is that? The akakai?

MN: Well, that's a weed. I still see it growing, but it doesn't grow as tall as it used to. It's a weed growing in the water that float if you cut it and bundle it together.

HN: How did the river look then?
MN: Well, the river, then, was not as much polluted as today, and it was much shallower than what it is now, because those days was doing natural; no digging was done by any mechanical equipment.

HN: No boats, then, in the river?

MN: There used to be some fishermen. Very few, but the fishing boat used to be more close to the ocean, the mouth of the river.

HN: Those days, what did your father do?

MN: Let's see, my real father I don't remember too much, but I know he used to be a taxi driver when he was in Waialua. But, before that, in Honolulu, he used to be a harnessman. He used to make the harness for the horses. And at Waialua, he was taxi (man). He was one of the few people that own a automobile. And those days, road to Kahuku was nothing but dirt road, so, you can see people didn't have money to take the taxi to go far places.

HN: What about your other father?

MN: Well, my stepfather, he used to be the pump man for the Haleiwa Hotel. The pump was right near the Anahulu Bridge. I don't know, close by to the hotel. Let's say, two, three hundred yards. And that pump used to furnish electricity and water to the Haleiwa Hotel. Haleiwa Hotel was big outfit, then. Haleiwa used to be one of the biggest tourist town. Because they used to come from train, eh. From town. And those days, like I said, then, did not have too much cars, so transportation was mostly from train.

HN: Can you remember how big the hotel was?

MN: Oh, it was big hotel. In those days, let's say 1920, it was comparable to Royal Hawaiian, because Haleiwa used to be a tourist town.

HN: Anything else about the hotel? You remember how used to look?

MN: Well, not exactly because we were not allowed to go in. Only we could see from far, but you could tell that it was a tourist place, because only the rich people could go in there and eat there.

HN: When did your first father die?

MN: My first father died somewhere in 1922 to '23 anyway.

HN: And your mother got remarried when?

MN: Well, my mother remarried about seven, eight years later again. So that's how I get my two half brothers.

HN: And how did you guys live between then?
MN: Well, we had a store, so we made a living. Barely, but we lived alright.

HN: What store?

MN: Well, we had one of the few stores in Haleiwa.

My first father intention was to go back Japan, so, you know, the old people, they all think about to go back Japan, so he lease that land and make the building on there. Today he looks so foolish, but, those days, Japanese thought nothing but going back to Japan. They didn't want to invest too much in Hawaii.

HN: What did you guys sell at the store?

MN: Well, we sell general merchandise. You name it, we got it. We had candy, dry goods, hardware. We had everything.

HN: Where was that located?

MN: Right in the heart of Haleiwa. It's close to... M. Yoshida store, now, which is still standing. That is 66-150 Kam Highway.

HN: So, actually, you guys lived there for real long time? When did you guys move there, across the street?

MN: Yeah, we had to move there, because the party that lease the place to us said he was going make subdivision in there, so we had to move out from there. That was about 15, twenty years back.

HN: What do you mean, 15, twenty years back?

MN: 1939. Somewhere around there.

HN: Then you guys moved across the street? Is that it?

MN: The last remember we moved to here.

HN: And what about the place where you have your trucking next to Sato Barbershop? What about that place?

MN: No, our truckers operated from the place that we had the store, because I used to put my truck inside that garage, remember? And that truck, all of us went in the back of that place. So, I think, we lived there thirty to forty years. My lifetime.

HN: You can describe that place little bit?

MN: Well, that place was right on Kam Highway. In those days, our store was pretty big. And later on, when I went into trucking business, we made that as a garage. The place was kind of big compared to the other places that the other people had.

HN: How many bedrooms, like....
MN: Well, we had three bedroom. Of course, lot of the kids had to sleep together.

HN: What do you remember about kitchen stuff, anything like appliances?

MN: Well, in the early days, we had electricity, but we had no stove. We used to have kerosene stove, and our kitchen was on the ground floor; our living quarters was one step above.

HN: Kerosene stove, what? You can describe that?

MN: Well, depend on the family. We had a three burner, because we had quite a big family. And in those days, kerosene was so cheap, too. I remember it was maybe ten cents. Compared to today where you have to pay about a dollar for a gallon.

HN: How did that work?

MN: Well, it work similar like a gas stove. The only thing, it wasn't too dangerous because kerosene doesn't explode. That's the only reason why they went into kerosene stove.

HN: Was one of those pump things, then?

MN: No. You don't have to pump. The thing automatically flow into the outlet. I mean, they have a pipe going down and you have the control valve, and you could light any valve that you wanted to.

HN: What about icebox?

MN: Well, icebox was something that we didn't have. Those days, icemen, they make quite a bit of business, because they used to go in town, go get the ice, and deliver it to nearly all the houses, because icebox was a delicacy those days---not delicacy. I mean, very few people could afford an icebox. And also, my stepfather used to do. Because he invested so much in real estate and he needed some money, he used to be in the ice business, too. He used to get up in the morning about, maybe, 1 o'clock, go in town get the ice, and then, deliver house to house. And usually, people took about....fifty pound was a big amount. Usually 25 pound, 15 pound. Very few people took fifty pound.

HN: Okay. Nothing else? What kind food do you remember eating then? What was the main diet?

MN: Well, our main diet was mostly fish, because fish used to be cheap, those days. The fishermen used to catch the fish, and the wife used to peddle the fish. So you could get a bunch of akule which was maybe five, six pound for 25¢. And because was near the ocean and river, fish was kind of....we eat plenty fish. Meat was very expensive, so.....not expensive, but compared to those days, was expensive. We only made about one dollar one day for ten hours work.
HN: What about chicken and eggs, like that?

MN: Chicken, we used to have our own. Everybody used to raise their own chicken so they can get their own eggs. So whenever we had an occasion, we had to kill the rooster or hen, whichever it was to have, you know, party. And this is one of the delicacy, chicken hekka. Today is common, but those days was delicacy.

HN: You used to cook 'em in big woks? That's how you used to cook?

MN: No, not exactly. Those days we didn't have wok too much, but, well, we used to have that cast-iron big frying pan. So that's what we used for cook over the stove.

HN: Okay, what you fed the chicken?

MN: Those days, like anything else, chicken feed was cheap so at least we could afford chicken feed. At that time, we were selling chicken feed, so it wasn't too bad. But other people had to buy it from the store, but for few cents a pound.

HN: What about fishing? You used to go fishing all the time, eh?

MN: Well, my younger days, I used to be crazy about fishing and those days, they had so many fish. I'm talking about something when I was a teenager, you know. 1920s. We used to go the river or the mouth and we used to hook papio, holehole. During the season, papio, I used to hook about hundred, hundred fifty. And holehole... holehole was smart fish, then. Still is today. During the season, we used to have the baby moi and we hook lot of ooama, too. And we used to catch lot of shrimp. And that shrimp, we used to eat. We use it for okazu, too, just like aside for the rice. And we used to pick some seaweed, but some of the vegetable, we used to raise, so we didn't have to buy too many things.

HN: What kind vegetables you remember you eat a lot?

MN: Well, vegetable, like anything else, green onion is the most common. And we used to raise our own. So we used to raise, like radish, lettuce, and karasena. But those days wasn't too had because we didn't have to buy insecticide, because there wasn't too much insect then. All we had to worry about was watering the plant.

HN: What was your favorite dish, then?

MN: I like seafood. I still like my seafood, so, mostly, I used to catch my seafood, like the small papios which measure about two, three inches. Today it's illegal, but those days, wasn't illegal. And shrimp, which we fry it, and which you could cook in soyu. And vegetable, too. Cook it. Some (vegetable) we could afford (to buy).

HN: What about tako? Who taught you how to look for tako?
MN: Well, tako came naturally to me, because I follow this one person. Well, I had to learn. As long as you follow anybody, you just watch how he catch stuff so you can catch.

I used to love my tako, and I used to catch enough tako right around the Haleiwa area from, let's say, the Haleiwa Park to the Waialua Park today. And those days, at least you know when you go squidding, you know you catch tako. But today, you got to be very lucky to catch one tako.

HN: That's 'cause you don't go diving anymore there.

MN: Well, I do go. Very seldom, but...you know, when you go pick ogo, then, maybe, sometime you lucky. You see one tako. You see one, mostly likely you'll catch it because tako is not that smart.

HN: (Laughs) What about stuff like opīhi and ogo, like that? Used to have more before?

MN: Well, opīhi was something we had to go Waimea Bay to get, and we wasn't that good a swimmer so, that was left up to the bigger boys who pick some opīhi. But today, I don't think we have any there already.

HN: And used to be big kind opīhi or small?

MN: No. It wasn't big. Waimea Bay maybe, had. Yeah, they might still have some, but used to be always small.

HN: What about ogo?

MN: Ogo, you find plenty in Haleiwa Bay. It wasn't dirty like it is today, but there was plenty from before.

HN: And what about before Haleiwa Bay, you know, they built the breaker. How did that look?

MN: Well, the breaker, in a way, I think it was good, because it protect—the main purpose of the breaker was to protect the fishermen. Fishing boats. and I think it did work, but it kind of changed. Like I say, I used to go squidding. It kind of changed the way the squid go, too, because certain area used to be clean, but after they make the breakwater, it differ. You get dirty. And the water don't go out until you get a big rough then you get it clean, but, how often do you have a big rough like that?

HN: How did the beach (Haleiwa park) look then?

MN: Well, not many people used to use the beach, so it was clean. And the water was really clean. I remember before going into...right in front Gerry's, looking for tako and those days you can see the bottom from the top just clear. Today you go there, you hardly can see the bottom.

HN: What about education?
MN: Well, I had the education up to twelfth grade. We had only Waialua Elementary School then, so, our younger days was spent in Waialua. And Andrew Cox (School) was located in Waialua. Andrew Cox used to have till eighth, so from ninth grade we had to go Leilehua High School which was in Wahiawa.

HN: How did you guys get to Wahiawa?

MN: Well, wherever, we had to pay our ride there, so we had somebody taking cars up there. Well, we paid him so much a month. Let’s say, about four dollars a month. Yeah, four dollar a month. Those days, gasoline, everything was so cheap, so four dollar—the party, as long as you had the four or five customer, you can make a go of it.

HN: Is that kind of unusual when you were going to high school?

MN: Yeah. Well, those days, not many people had a opportunity for high school, but I was fortunate.

HN: How was schooling then? Strict?

MN: Yeah. Those days, especially the elementary days, I remember getting spanking coming home, but today you no find that. But I think this was good, because the teachers can control the kids, especially in elementary school. Well, I can’t say that much for high school, but elementary school, I think, should be like that.

HN: What kind of rules did they enforce?

MN: Well, you can’t get out of line. Today I see the parents come in and they get out of line, too, but those days...I guess the parents were brought up different, too, because...they expect the kid to get spank. So that anything you do naughty or you don’t pay attention or anything like that, you get spank for it.

HN: What stuff you learned, then? Do you remember elementary?

MN: Well, I would think what is today and what is before hadn’t differed too much because you still have American history, English, and you have the verb, noun. I guess they don’t stress too much another thing, except today you have more opportunity for trade school. Those days, we didn’t have that too much.

HN: What did you think the purpose of school was when you was going?

MN: Well, in those days like today, I guess. It’s the same thing that you have to go school to learn. In those days was harder because we had walk to school. No such thing as riding in bus. So we have to walk to Waialua Elementary. But intermediate, we used to go with a bus. But those days, they didn’t used to charge that much.
HN: How's about describing a typical school day.

MN: Elementary?

HN: Anything that you remember.

MN: Well, elementary wise, I don't remember too much, but I remember having fun, because we used to play hookey a lot.

HN: What did you do when you played hookey?

MN: Well, we come back. We didn't go home, but we went home when school was pau. Make believe that we went to school.

I had a friend with me. He and I always used to get together, say, "Eh, let's not go school." So, we didn't go to school too much and still then we made out alright.

(Windchimes in background.)

MN: We had to ride a bus to go intermediate, but, of course, those days parents stressed quite a bit on education, so we had to study some. In intermediate and high school.

HN: Remember about playing hookey? Where did you guys go?

MN: Well, we went down to the beach like anything else. We go fishing, we wade in the water. That's about all we did.

HN: Do you remember any adventures that you had when you did that?

MN: No, was fortunate we got out of trouble. We had no narrow escape that I can think of.

HN: Okay. What kind of people were in school then? Mostly Japanese?

MN: Yeah, those days, you found mostly Japanese, because like this community used to be most Japanese and Filipino then. Today you find the ratio different, because you find more Filipino than Japanese. In those days, Japanese was more than the Filipino. The people working in the plantation used to be more Japanese, and Haleiwa-Waialua was a plantation town, so you find that the people that worked here...Japanese or Filipino. Few Hawaiians. Very, very few haoles. Hardly, I would say.

HN: Where did the haoles---they sent their kids up to Punahou or something?

MN: Well, they used to send up Wahiawa, like Leilehua. They used to have school in Wahiawa, too. The rich one, of course, they used to go Punahou.

HN: Okay. How did you get along with the other kids those days?

MN: Thinking back, we used to play marble quite a bit, and I used to be pretty good in marbles. So we used to fight a lot, but we played good,
I think. Fight, but you can just patch it up fast.

I used to be good in marbles, so what I used to do was I used to play with them. I win all the marbles, agates, and I used to sell 'em back to them. Say, those days I used to sell hundred marble, five cents, and agates, I don't remember. Well, I'd say maybe 25 for a nickel.

HN: What other games were popular then?

MN: Football was popular then, but we had no field, so we used to go back and play. But actually, those days we had to make our own or find our own places to play. Like, for instance, basketball court. There were no basketball courts, so we had to make our own basketball court and play. Football was the same. Today the kids are fortunate. At least, they get basketball court, and at least they can play tennis. Our days no such thing as tennis.

HN: No ethnic games you remember?

MN: Ethnic? You talking about Japanese game? No. Nothing in particular. The Filipino old man used to play...I used to remember them playing the kickball with that squareballs, eh. That's the only thing I remember, but the Japanese--aside for card game like hanafuda, like that. And we used to see them play their specialty.

HN: What kind of community stuff did you remember? Any parades or community get-togethers?

MN: Well, those days community was very small. I remember when we had a big occasion, we used to go with train. We ride the train at Haleiwa Hotel, and we used to go Kaena Point to go picnic. This was one of the few times that we had an opportunity to ride the train. We used to have picnic there, and we used to enjoy this, because there was very few picnic then, because money was concerned.

HN: How much is the train then?

MN: I really don't know, because we didn't have the chance to ride because we didn't have money to ride the train. The only time we did was like that occasion that I just talk about. That time, well, either it was free or it was cheap and our parents pay for it.

HN: How was that train sectioned? What kind seats? You had first class, second class?

MN: I guess they did have, but I don't remember too good, because like I say, I hardly rode train. Train was most important those days, and the train went up to...if I remember correctly, went up to Kawela Bay. And people depended on the train more than anything else, because, I guess this is one of the cheapest transportation. And the kids from Pupukca side used to come by train to go to Waialua Elementary. As far as tourist, I think they had the special coach for that. That train went from Haleiwa Hotel all the way to town, which is now at King Street
and Aala Street. That was the main station in town.

HN: Okay. Let me go into your jobs. Right after high school, you...

MN: Well, during the high school days, I used to play baseball, too.

HN: You used to get paid for doing that?

MN: No. I used to help my stepfather. He had an express business, so right after I do anything, after high school or after I played baseball, I had to help my stepfather, because he never had any helper. He used to be in the trucking business, which I later took over.

And right after high school, I came out in the Depression days of 1933. So those days was really the Depression years. So, we had no job opportunity to.... they had an opening at Hawaiian Pine for us which pay $1.40 for ten hours of work. I worked in the pineapple field two years. I used to do all kind of job. Trucking. I mean, we used to pack the pineapple, we used to pick the pineapple, and we used to insecticide the pineapple. We used to cut the top of the pineapple, also. Those days, they used to cut the top. They don't do that anymore but at that time....

After two years, because of this Depression, the government made the Civilian Conservation Program (CCC) which paid two dollars for six hours of work. So my luna didn't want me to go because I used to be in the planting gang in the pineapple, and he like me, but I said, "Chee. No way, because I can get two dollars for six hour work where I was getting $1.40 for ten hour work."

HN: You can describe, maybe, picking and packing little bit more? Like, I know not like it is today, right?

MN: Yeah, picking pineapple those days....well, the same thing. You know, those days, pineapple was pick because, I guess, they used to sell so good. They used to plant the pineapple in the hills. I mean we used to call that pali. And we had to go in that line, pick it up on our....bag that is made for picking pine. And we used to put full in there. We used to come out and those days the luna was strict. They really was pushing. It's just like it wasn't compulsory, but they push you, so you have to make so much load. And you do this for ten hours. 'As a lot of work.

HN: How many pounds was one load?

MN: I'll say we used to take about forty to fifty pound easily. Sometime more than that, because the good guys, you be surprised. They could carry about 75 to hundred pounds. But they got to really pack it good. Not anybody can do that now.

HN: Tell me about spraying and about packing.

MN: Spraying those days was funny. They used to spray tobacco dust. You don't believe this, but they used to put tobacco dust on the pineapple.
Those days, I think, scientifically it wasn't too good, so they used to put even nail in the pineapple. And we used to do that. Tobacco dust and we do that, we had to put something over our nose, because that thing is strong.

HN: What was the nail in the pineapple for?

MN: I actually don't know.

HN: In the pineapple plant?

MN: Yeah, right on top of the pineapple. One nail.

HN: Just pound nail on everyone?

MN: No, no. Just drop a nail. I guess, maybe for iron. I don't know. But those days, maybe I was in the experiment gang. They was trying everything. They try anything.

HN: What kind stuff do you remember trying?

MN: Oh, otherwise than that, I don't remember too much, but I always think, "Gee, what these guys doing this for?" But I was there to work, not to think. I was getting paid $1.40.

HN: Ten hours?

MN: Ten hours. But in those days, we used to board at the....camp where all the men stay. So, the house was free, but you had to pay for your food which is prepared for you three meals a day. And those days, we pay only eight dollar half for one month. That was three meals a day. And you pay eight dollar half. That was cheap, but our pay was cheap, too.

HN: Who used to provide food?

MN: Well, that, they had certain people who used to....that used to be their bread and butter. In other words, they make money out of us by charging us that much which we thought was reasonable. They make money so much.

HN: Was just camp cooks?

MN: Yeah, something like that. Well, they had permission from the pineapple company to go in there to feed the people. Those days, they deduct everything. They could deduct directly from the payroll. They had that much power. They had permission to (Tape garbled).

HN: You remember getting any benefits or they had any health plans?

MN: No benefits whatsoever. But fortunately, I didn't get hurt, so I didn't find out if you get hurt, so much, but, actually, those days, the people had no benefit. Because they had no union then. So, even us, even we were below 18 (years of age) we used to work ten hours. No labor law, I guess.
HN: Maybe we should go into conservation...

MN: Oh, yeah, the CCC was very exciting, because, well, the government make that because it was Depression year, and we were different from these people that was in the camp...

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

MN: ...paid better than them, because we had to pay for our own kaukau. In other words, we was getting paid two dollar a day, five days a week. But when we were nearby, like, say the trail was maybe two, three miles, we used to go back and forth. But after the trail got further in, we had to camp in the forest so that we can go to the road nearby. And, you know, Civilian Conservative Corp, our job was to plant trees, but mainly was to make trail. The trail was not for car but was for the individual.

HN: What did they think was for? Hikers?

MN: Actually, I don't know what it was for. But I think it was because of Depression they had to make some work for us, and this was the purpose. Those days the average worker like myself used to be somewhere about 18 to 22, 23 (years old) was about the oldest, I think. And the oldest people in there was 26, 27 who was the boss. And when we go into the mountain, then we had to pay for our food. So naturally, everybody put up so much money, and the company provide the cook. The company pay for the cook, too, and all the utensil came from the Civilian Conservative Corp which is something like the Army. And the cook was paid by them. I remember one occasion, because we never like the way the cook was cooking and was feeding us---he only give us a set menu. Like, for instance, say, Monday, stew. Tuesday, maybe, give us sardine, and.... Wednesday, he give corn beef cabbage. This are the thing he used to do, and we know he was getting paid way better than us, so we sign a petition to throw him out. And they accepted this. And they threw him out alright, but they didn't give us another cook. So unfortunately, I was in the position that I was helping him, so I had to be the chief cook. But they didn't pay me the chief cook pay. They gave me the same amount of money and I had to get up early in the morning, 3:30, 4:30 in the morning to cook pancake and biscuit for the boys that are working there. They promise cook, but didn't come, so I had to do that for....I think was six months. But they never give me a cook pay. They just give me two dollar a day. So they made out. They was lucky. I was the unlucky guy.

HN: How many people in one gang you used to cook for?

MN: We used to have about 35 people in that gang. Our main business was to make trail, plant tree sometime.

But, you know, those days was all young people, so, the foreman was smart enough to make hukipau. I mean by hukipau, they gave us so many pin to make finish. They give maybe three boys to one gang, they say, "Okay,
you fellow take these three pin. That's all for the day. That's all you fellow going do. You fellow pau that, you fellow go home or you fellow can go back to the camp, whichever it was... so you know, the three pin. If it were left up to us to, like I say, day work, we wouldn't finish the three pin. But because it was three pin hukipau, we finish that maybe in two hours, and then we had to--- we was fortunate. We can go home. Of course, the job was more kapulu, but 'as what we used to do.

The trail was....something to remember because (Coughs) today I don't think we can go up there, because the trail was terrific. We used to take short cut and used to be so steep. On our way back, we used to jump down. Today I go up there, I look at it, I say, "No way. Can't do it no more."

HN: How you used to clear the trail?

MN: We were provided saw, axe, and they had a surveyor that put the pin as he go by. So, he tell you, "You going to cut this much."

I remember one day we was working on the steep place. We had to have rope around our back because it was too steep, eh. And one of the boys was facing toward the gulch. Anyway, he was a pee wee anyway. He was taking a leak. And this stone came down unexpectedly. He just roll down. And he roll down like a log. We thought he was dead. But when we went down there, he was alright.

Another thing about the CCC was, you see, we had two or three dogs there. And there were a lot of mountain pig up there, so, everyday the dog go after the pig. So if the dog go after the pig, the man got to go after the dog. So let's say they catch the pig maybe 8:30 in the morning. By the time they come back was 4 or 5 o'clock in the evening. Around that time. And we used to do lot of things with the pig. But the pig was hard to eat because it was smelly. You know, the mountain then Maile Kanahole trail, Koolau mountain. The pig over there smell like hell, and you can't do nothing about it, because we make sausage out of it, but it still smell. We make kalua pig out of it, you can't eat it, because it smell too much. Not all mountain pig smell like that, but I think get something to do with what they eat. And we used to catch pig everyday. Just about. Very few days that we miss a pig.

HN: Somebody had special job to go hunt the pig?

MN: Well, yeah. The foreman, he like hunting pig so he had two or three people with him. And everytime the dog go, they had to go, too, because they have the dog loose. There's no way. They like their dog, they got to go for the pig. They always bring back a pig, even---but, no, sometime they don't. They just cut 'em up. When they catch the mountain pig, the first thing they had to do was skin the thing because it gets stink, eh. So they had to skin 'em first, and take out the balls, eh, or not the thing come smelly. Well, unfortunately, they bring 'em back, but we can't do anything about it.
HN: So you shoot the pig?

MN: Yeah. They had guns so they could shoot the pig.

HN: Okay. Going back to the CCC, what kind of trees you guys planted?

MN: All kind of trees, but mostly paper trees. I remember planting paper tree. This was to keep the dirt there.

HN: Do you remember any other types at all?

MN: No, I don't, because we very seldom planted trees. I think on only two occasion I remembered planting trees. Our main job was to make trail. That trail was about six feet wide.

HN: That's big trail.

MN: Yeah. This was mainly for hiking, or....but not for cars anyway.

HN: Okay. What about free time. After huki, what you guys used to do?

MN: After we finish early, well, if we were not camping up in the mountain, then we had to come back. So we come back to the truck. And we had to wait for the rest of the boys to come down.

When we was in the mountain, up there, the weather was so cold, you take jello, for instance. You put 'em in a bottle, you put 'em in the water, the thing freeze. So even how much work you do, how much sweat you got in your body, you still can't sleep, because it was so cold out there. We sleep in a tent and we had the Army cot.

In the free times, we play cards. Not too much gambling because not enough money anyway. That was about all the recreation we had, because we were in mountain. We can't do anything.

HN: What about your shell collection, then?

MN: Oh, yeah, I remember the shells we used to pick up. When making the trail, on certain kind of trees, you find this shell. Live shell. We used to collect those things. Today I don't know if can find any, but they were all different colors. And as you go from place to place, you look for the certain kind of trees that has these shells and mostly you find it. Some were big and some were small. But never two the same color. I mean, they were identical, but marking was never the same for any of the two shell.

HN: Where were the shells on the trees?

MN: It was below the leaves. I think they live on that certain kind of tree's leaves. I had a collection, but somehow I misplace it and I can't find it any more. But most of the boys that worked there, they made a collection of it, too.
HiJ: How long do you remember working over there?

MN: Well, I worked there practically two years. We work five days a week, thirty hours a week. And every payday, we went into town to get our paycheck. We was paid two dollars, so, naturally, we was getting paid about once every two weeks. So, we used to get twenty some odd dollars every two weeks.

HiJ: When did you start this (CCC job)? What year?

MN: Well, this was in somewhere around 1935. This was in Depression year.

I remember one instance, we had a forest fire. Pupukea Forest fire. Called out the Army. They called out the WPA gang, and we were the last to call out. But fortunately, our foreman knew about forest fires. He made a windbreak and somehow we quenched the fire. But the fire was terrific. We were very scared of it, because there were lot of dry ferns. So we stick near the valley where there was water. And the thing about forest fire which was dangerous was the sparks that flew from one tree to another tree. This is what we had to stop. It was a scary incident, but everything turned out alright.

HiJ: What was the WPA?

MN: The WPA (Works Progress Administration) was something like the Civilian Conservative Corp. During the Depression year, the government formed this WPA to give job to the old people. The CCC was consisted of younger people. And the WPA men are older than the CCC.

HiJ: You know, this job, did it go on for more than two years?

MN: If I remember correctly, it went on for nearly four years, but within that two years I quit the job. But, I think it helps the younger people that came out from school and the younger people that didn't have a job. I think this help them quite a bit.

HiJ: What did you do after that?

MN: Well, after that, fortunately, I had a job at the Post Exchange. There was an opening there, and their pay was little better. I started at sixty dollar a month. And we work eight hours a day for six days. The place was open seven days a week, so some people had to work on Sundays also.

And at Post Exchange--it was for the servicemen; all our customers were servicemen. Officers, officers' wife, and soldiers. We were there to serve the military people. And it was a soda fountain and a sandwich shop. So what I mainly did was jerk soda. I learn soda fountain business and also how to make sandwich. I remember those days was five cents for one tuna fish sandwich. Lettuce and tomato is five cents. Cheese sandwich, five cents. Today I don't know what it costs to buy those sandwich.
HN: How long did you work there?

MN: Well, I was there for about two years. And after the fountain, I went back in the kitchen. I learned how to cook a little bit and make sandwich. And those days, we had to slice the bread, because the soldier used to make the bread, but in order to make the sandwich we had to slice. We were a busy Exchange, so we used to slice about hundred fifty to two hundred loaves bread. And in order to do that, you had to learn how to slice, use the knife. And many instance I took off quite a bit of my skin, too, instead of learn how to use knife.

HN: This was just before the War, yeah?

MN: It was in 1935 to 1938. '37 or '38. Somewhere around there.

HN: Remember any racial discrimination on the Post?

MN: No, at that time, it wasn't too much, because, mainly the people who were working there was Orientals. And, of course, you didn't find too many haoles working that kind of job. As far as discrimination, it wasn't too much, because it was before the War.

HN: Right after that, didn't they get all---Japanese get kicked off the Post?

MN: Well, I don't remember that, because after '37, my stepfather had paralysis on the job. He had a trucking business. So I had to quit right there and then and take over his job.

HN: So that's when you started trucking then?

MN: Yeah. I started trucking from somewhere in 1937, '38, like that. I did that business for twenty years. And during the War, just as the War started, the 442 (Infantry) were organized. I volunteered for that 442, but, unfortunately, my job was essential for the store, so I was left back. I didn't go to the 442. I did my trucking business for twenty years.

And during the War since really was essential, we had all the gas we needed from whoever was giving a gas coupon. Fortunately, we did make money those days, because we had to take out vegetables to the wholesalers, and on our way back, we brought merchandise to the stores. So, as far as the hauling was concerned from Honolulu to Waialua, we were the only ones. When I say we, we had about six other truckers besides myself, and we were the only ones that was doing this kind of job. So we were the only ones getting the gas, because it was essential for the population in Waialua-Wahiawa. And I remember working long hours in '43, '44 because the farmers---we used to have lot of part time farmers.

These plantation people went into farming, and they raise all kind of vegetables. These vegetable had to be brought to one essential point where they distribute these vegetable. The part time farmers were very lucky, because they was making real good money. And, of course, in those
days, whatever we raise here had to be sold here. Because not too many things was coming from the Mainland, anything the farmers raise, they make good money on it. Fortunately, in those days, we didn't have too much insects, so, whatever they raise, tomato, celery...cabbage, and all those things, they didn't have to use too much insecticide.

HN: So everyday, you used to go into town, then?

MN: Yeah, that's right. We used to go six days a week. And we had to haul what the farmers raised, because this what (we) was getting the gas for. They didn't limit our gas. We didn't have enough coupon, we go ahead and ask for more, and they gave it to us. This is why we couldn't refuse hauling anything.

We put in long hours, because after delivering the vegetable, we had to pick up the merchandise, come back to the stores, and we had to unload. And after we unload, we had to go pick up vegetables to make ready for go in the next day.

HN: What kind vegetables, mostly, you remember hauling?

MN: Well, the vegetables was all kind vegetables. Like stringbeans, cabbage, celery, tomato. Of course hasu wasn't essential. Not too many part time hasu planters. But, seldom banana. Not too much fruits. Carrots. You name it and we had to haul it.

HN: Where were most of the farms at that time?

MN: During those days, the plantation open up some fields for their men to go into part time farming. This was their plantation workers' part time. I think they made more money out of the farm than they was making at the plantation.

HN: Where were the fields?

MN: Oh, the field were located where they used to raise sugar cane. Where the sugar company thought they could give to this farmers.

HN: But you don't know where they are now? You know, what location?

MN: Well, the location was somewhere around in Waialua area where the two road is by Achiu Place. There was quite a bit out there and somewhere around the high school. It was scattered in there, but fortunately, plantation released some of the land for the part time farmers.

HN: What about Kamaloa? I heard Kamaloa was a big farm community.

MN: Yeah, Kamaloa was farm, but they always had been farm. Just lately, the place is not a farm place, but, those areas, there's always been a farm place. They raise commodities like green onions, swiss chard, and cabbage. They didn't go into anything big like tomatoes or celery. They went into everyday crop, like white cabbage, eggplant, and...like I say,
green onions.

HN: Every morning six trucks used to go out?

MN: Yeah, there was more six trucks. I say about six truck, but probably used to be more. But this truck service, Waialua alone had three trucks, so Wahiawa had more than that. We service Wahiawa and Waialua, and because of the gas, we couldn't say no to anybody.

HN: You mean anybody would call you up and say pick something up, you have to go there?

MN: That is right. If it was essential, we had to, because we had the gas.

HN: What did you guys bring down, mostly?

MN: Well, Waialua being Oriental, Filipinos, the main concern was rice. And during those days, we had to pick this up from...the government. Because the government used to issue all this items. Everything was ration, so whatever the government issue to the stores---of course, the stores put in their request. The request was forwarded to the government, and, I guess, they got their just share. But some instance, it wasn't fair, but, I guess, many instance like this happen.

HN: Do you remember any of those?

MN: Rice was the main commodity, but, like anything else....they had fruits. I mean canned fruits. There were no fresh fruits those days, because you can't get space from the Mainland to Hawaii for fresh fruits, because of the War. So they had lot of canned goods, fruits. They had corn beef, and anything else the government issue, but the brand was all altogether different because those days, big companies had to make it for the government, and the government issued the foods out.

HN: How expensive was the merchandise coming in wartime?

MN: I think the government was very fair. And what they did was they set a price ceiling, so that people don't get cheated. So, they set a price that the people had to sell.

But unfortunately, sometime, it didn't work out that way. Especially, during the later part of the year when they are allowed to bring in fruits, like oranges and apple and some other pears and fresh fruit. And these fresh fruits, certain time came in spoiled which we had to sell anyway, because they issue it to you. In order to do this....the wholesaler had to attach something good to the bad. Of course, this wasn't fair, but they had to get rid of the product they got from the government. The government didn't allow this, but nothing they can do, because they issuing the items to the wholesalers.

We had the stores that we had to haul for. You know our stores that we used to haul before. And they used to issue everything under one name. Like, for myself, I used to be on the Takabuki Express. So, issue
their certain item, like, candy or gum, or some candies that came in. If it wasn't too much, they put under my name, and they want me to distribute to the stores. So, I had to use my judgement, and try to be fair and give the right proportion that I think was fair.

HN: Those days....what did you spend your money on since there wasn't too much to buy?

MN: Yeah, those days, you made money, but you can't spend on it, because as I say, we used to work from early in the morning, say 5:30 in the morning till maybe 10 o'clock in the night. After you eat and sleep, you have to go back to work again.

So, the only recreation we had was, probably, on Sunday, Saturday night. I used to go play cards. Of course, this was War days, so blackout. So whenever we went, we had to come home the next morning, because of the blackout. I remember that was pretty hard to drive with that blackout lights, because it was covered and had the small spot. So that instead of get into accident, we always used to stay at the house till morning time. Then we used to come back.

HN: Remember anything else about blackouts and stuff?

MN: Yeah. I remember, too, we made lot of money. Oh shit, I don't know how we spent it, but I know we didn't save too much.

All the people, they were in the right place, they made money. Like I said, this plantation people that went into part time farming, they made more money on the farm than they made on the plantation. Whatever vegetable they raised, no matter how bad it was, they got some money for it, because there was always market for it. All this product went to one central location, and the government issue the thing.

HN: Besides blackout, no other hardships during the War?

MN: Fortunately, after the first Pearl Harbor attack, we had quite a bit of siren going on, but nothing happen here. Of course, they were strict. Like I say, you had to save money, because you can't go out. You can't go to a show. And those days, no TV.

HN: No shows, even? They cancelled all that?

MN: I don't remember that but I can (remember) only that we have no time for show. So, maybe, later, about two years later, they had some kind of show, but, before that definitely no show.

HN: How did the blackout work?

MN: Well, the blackout was....oh, yeah, first of all, we were forced to make bomb shelter, too, so we had to go in the back and dig a hole and put whatever things we had on the top to try to keep the thing safe. But blackout was considered working, too, because, I guess, not too much trouble that I heard of.
HN: Weren't there Army people all over the place like that?

MN: Well, no. The Army people was too busy, I guess, watching for the invasion to come in, so, as far as the houses was concerned, there were not too many Army people around. Of course, the Army people were near the shoreline.

I remember a fisherman. Those days, it was a long time before they let 'em go fishing, see. And when they do go fishing---of course, the aliens was all pick up and sent to concentration camp, but the citizen were allowed during the War to go out and fish. But when they did go out, they had to have soldiers with them. They came back, and they was watching how they sell the fish.

The fish was so expensive, but, you know, everybody had money, so price (didn't) mean anything, so there were offers. All different kind of price. Of course, they had to go by---they always set a price to sell, too.

But lot of this fish was sold by the Army people. And they didn't want money. They want whiskey. We had permit to buy one quart whiskey a week. So, naturally, everybody that was allowed to buy whiskey, we bought whiskey. But that whiskey we bought, there was no good whiskey. Nothing that was from the Mainland. All was made here during the War, and, you know, the distillers here, they had no experiences whatsoever in making whiskey. So it was just something they put together so fast. So it was pretty hard to drink. But this is what we had to get to buy the fish, because they didn't want money. They want whiskey. Either one quart whiskey, or maybe, two quart. But whatever they ask, we had to give it to them, because otherwise how we going eat fish? We couldn't go fishing anyway. And all the soldiers around the shoreline.

HN: You couldn't even go handpole fishing, like that?

MN: No. We wasn't even allowed to do that during the early part of the War. Well, later part, it got kind of relax, but you couldn't go to the ocean. Soldiers all around there. But I think the soldiers made out, because whatever fishing---there was plentiful fish, because during the time they didn't go fishing, and those days Waialua had quite a bit of fish.

You go out trolling, you could easily catch mahimahi or some other kind fish, like kahala; oh, everything like that. Today, 'as different story again, because you be lucky to catch any fish like that.

HN: So you want to go into your Board of Water Supply job?

MN: Oh, yeah. After twenty years of trucking business, well, I had operation so I had to sell my business. I sold my business, and I went into Board of Water Supply. Fortunate for me, they had an opening. I was 42 years old, then. So, I got the job.

Before that, I had an incident during the trucking business. I had burn. I bought a surplus truck and I had it at this garage. Unfor-
Fortunately, I was standing right near the gas tank where they had gas inside to wash their hand. The guy threw a match in there, so the thing inflame me from bottom...I caught fire. And I was on fire all the way. 'As funny thing. Human being, oh, boy, you sure can burn! My pants got all burned up and the skin all curl up, and I roll around on the grass. You can't put out the fire. Fortunately, one guy had sense enough to cover me with the blanket. That night somebody took me to Wahiawa Hospital, but I walk in. That night I had pneumonia. I had the chills. I was lucky to come out alive, and go into the Board of Water Supply.

I work there for 18 years. And it was a very interesting job, because you find out how we get our water. I used to work for Board of Water Supply, central district. This is in Wahiawa. We take care the area within Wahiawa, Waipio, Mililani Town, and up to Kuilima. It was a big area, but not too much services.

At first, we used to have Wahiawa water was coming through the tunnel in the mountains. We had 36 tunnels in the mountains. And this was very interesting, because whenever we didn't have enough job, we had to go up to the tunnel. Some place was very weary and it was very scary, because you couldn't see from one end to the other. Here and there, you find cave-in.

By the way, this tunnel was all man-made. In other words, it was all pick and shovel job. And it was six feet high. It was made like a half circle and the width was somewhere about 12 feet. Six feet high and about 12 feet width. And the water used to come through this tunnel. You see, this tunnel run through so many valleys and go to the main source of water, which was about...two and half mile inside when we start walking.

We used to have lot of fun here, because there was lot of banana. Of course, some mountain pig, but we didn't have no dogs or anything, so we didn't go after mountain pig. But we took lot of ferns, kakuma, and we used to bring this home to eat.

Whenever we were slack or whenever the inlet was plug--you don't have water coming out--we have to hike in the mountain two and a half mile. We have to see what was holding the water up. Many time we found cave-in, and many times the entrance was plugged, so we have to unplug it. When I say plug, it was plug by the logs. After a big flood or a big rain like that, lot of logs come into the inlet. So we had to take this out and make the water come to the reservoir which was right at the end of California Avenue.

This was an open reservoir. We had lot of fishing there. Talapia, we had koi, we had funa, too. But those days, because the thing was open reservoir, of course, it was chlorinated. But because of the situation, like open reservoir it was, we couldn't control the cleanliness of the water. Some day it was dirty, because when it rains it get dirty. Because if it rain too much, we had a place to throw this water out. We let the water go instead of putting it to the reservoir, we let it go out. If we think clean enough, then we let it go back into the reservoir. This is the water that Wahiawa
people used to use. So, during the rainy season, quite a bit of

time that they had kind of murky water or dirty water. You could tell

this by the toilet bowl, or when you take a shower, and you know, when

you wash clothes is—when they had interruption in the service, of

course, they activate that thing, so, you make the water real dirty.

And those days, just like dirt water used to come out, so you had to
clean this water out by just letting the water run. But today it's
different again, because they abandon the reservoir, and we are going
to deep well.

So all the water Wahiawa, Waialua is all deep well water. In other
words, you see, it's not even chlorinated. The only time we chlorinate
this water is when we find bugs in this water. How can we tell when
it get bugs? Well, we have a division to check this. They take
sample of water from here and there. And if find they have all bugs
in the water, then they had to go and chlorinate it.

Had an incident up Pupukea, Sunset Beach, where some kids or I don't
know. We didn't catch the people, but they just open the steel tank
reservoir which was about three hundred fifty thousand, and they swam
in there. So what they had to do, they just put two gallon Clorox
from the top right into the reservoir. This is what we do. Of course,

when you drink it, it's diluted so much. One tenth to so many millions
gallons of water, so you cannot even smell the reservoir. But this
is what they do when they find any bugs or in case anybody complain
that something like the incident happen. Then, we have to go and
throw Clorox in the water. Otherwise, no chlorination or no fluoridation.

HN: How's about your community organization?

MN: Well, the first club I join was the Waimea. Those days I was very
young, and we had a clubhouse which is located behind Haleiwa's
Courthouse. I don't know how they got that property and the house, but
they had a pool table in there. They had a place for people to stay,
too. So this place was a commu...

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