BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: JULIA BRYANT, nurse

Julia Bryant, Hawaiian-Portuguese, was born September 2, 1903 in Honolulu. She was raised by an aunt and her maternal grandparents in the Kalihi area and attended elementary schools there. Later she went to Sacred Heart's Convent in Kaimuki. She entered nurses training at Queen's Hospital and graduated in 1926.

After graduation and her marriage, she did private duty nursing for awhile. In 1931, she went to work in the Leprosy Hospital at Kalihi which was later moved to Pearl City. At times, she chaperoned patients who were sent by plane to Kalaupapa.

In the early 1950's, she moved to Nanakuli. Her hobbies are gardening and reading. Since her husband's death, she has taken classes and become actively involved with a Hawaiian language group.
JG: Did anyone wake up the family in the morning?

JG: How did she wake you up? Did she come and shake you?
JB: Yeah, she come and call.

JG: She didn't chant to you or sing to you, or...
JB: No, no, no, no.

JG: How did you go to school?
JB: Walk. When I went to Kaliihiwaena School, I walked to school.

JG: What kind of lunches did you or your friends take to school?
JB: Well, to tell you the true fact we hardly had butter. When you had butter with a big gang, it's all gone in no time. The babies used to get condensed milk. And then if we want to take lunch to school, we swipe the condensed milk. Put it on the bread. Otherwise, if we get money, we buy lunches in school.

JG: Did they have a kitchen at school?
JB: They had a kitchen, yeah. You go in school, 15 cents you can buy a lunch plate. Maybe you'd have two hot dogs there, rice, and a slice of bread. You know, and a little vegetable. For 15 cents.

JG: Did they serve you milk in school?
JB: Yeah. Milk, you can buy milk extra. Dessert is extra, like ice cream and things like that.

JG: They did have ice cream that they served you?
JB: At that time, they had ice cream.
JG: Did they have a little cup...

JB: A little cup, you could buy. Extra, you know.

JG: An already made-up cup?

JB: Yeah. Already made-up cup.

JG: Did kids go on, you know, like today, kids go on what they call expeditions where...

JB: Excursions... Once, I don't know which school it was. Whether was here or the Catholic school. We used to go up to Nuuanu Pali up there.

JG: All the way up to the lookout?

JB: Yeah. Go and slide down on the ti leaf. Outside of that, I don't remember. Too many years ago. Not to Waikiki or, like they doing now. Not now.

JG: Was this a holiday thing?

JB: No, it's just a school but then, you get that trip to go out. They get a bus and you go out.

JG: Did you go early in the morning?

JB: Oh, we go in the morning.

JG: Kids take their ti leaves with them? Or paper boxes up there?

JB: Well, they grab everything what they can get up there.

JG: Did you put on jeans or pants or just go in your...


JG: Did you wear short dresses or long dresses, or...

JB: No, the regular length.

JG: When you were in school, did they let you wear muumuus to school?

JB: I don't remember. I guess you wear long dresses. I don't remember. I usually go with dress. I don't never own a muumu. When I was young I never owned a muumu.

JG: Did the old ladies wear muumuus when you were...

JB: They do, yeah. Grandma used to wear muumuus.
JG: All the time?
JB: Yeah. My aunties used to wear long dresses.
JG: Were they dark colors, or bright flowers, or...
JB: No, no, no. Just any kind of material that they can get to make, you know.
JG: How did they cut them, then? Were they cut with a yoke, or were they the fold-over kind, or...
JB: I don't remember. But I know Grandma used to sew her own muumuus. Just plain, you know.
JG: On a sewing machine, or by hand?
JB: By hand.
JG: Did you learn to sew? When you were a little girl.
JB: Never did. Never did even sew quilt. I only made one thing (a hat). My Grandma taught me how to get the young fronds from the coconut leaves. Boil it, dry it, and weave three (strands) you know—it's easy that way to make a hat. And after we got it all weave, we took it down to the hat store where they put it on that...
JG: Block?
JB: Or frame or whatever you call. And they used to sew it for us. And it was kind of cheap, reasonable, you know.
JG: This must have been a very fine weave, then.
JB: It's just the three (strand). It's not like the way they weave in the...what they call them, that brown...
JG: Lauhala?
JG: Well, some of that is bleached hala, but there's also a sugar cane that they have with something that they use.
JB: No. A lauhala, they get them with that loulu, or something like that.
JG: Oh, yeah, loulu. Yeah, that's the palms.
JB: That's kind of hard. This was just braid 'em. And I made a hat. That's all I remember. But I had to take it down to the hat store to have it blocked.
JG: Now when you say you braid it, from your hand motion, I would gather that you braided a long strip and then maybe went around and around with that.

JB: No, I took it to the hat store. Made long strips, they used to call 'em fathom or Hawaiian ana or what the heck they call 'em. I know something like that, you know. And then we take it to the hat store.

JG: Okay, but you had this long strip. Did they sew it down or did you sewed it down?

JB: The hat store did it.

JG: This was the very, very young coconut leaf?

JB: Yeah, the young coconut leaf.

JG: What, two, three feet?

JB: No, they long like that, what you can get.

JG: About three feet.

JB: I don't know. You see that length over there? (About three feet) Yeah. I think was the coconut we used to take because sugar cane, we cannot go in the sugar cane field and get it.

JG: When you boiled it, you just put your big tin tub on the fire, and...

JB: We boil it in the water, and afterwards you take it and dry it out in the sun. After it dries, you strip it to make the width that you want to weave with.

JG: But after it was boiled, it was softer, though.

JB: It was softer, yeah.

JG: And who did you make the hat for? Yourself?

JB: Me. And then my other sister took it away from me. She liked it so much that she took it away from me.

JG: That wasn't very fair to you.

JB: No.

JG: Did you buy your clothes?

(JB shakes head.)

JG: Did your grandmother make them, or did you make them?

(JB shakes head.)
JG: Your aunty make them?

JB: Nobody sewed. The dressmaker make them.

JG: Oh, you went down to the dressmaker?

JB: Dressmaker make them. Or we bought dress already made.

JG: Now when you went to the dressmaker, did you have to go in for fittings, or...

JB: Oh, yeah.

JG: Did she have a pattern that she used?

JB: You know, they were Japanese. They look at things, and they know how. The Japanese used to be the dressmakers. You tell them what you want. You show them the picture, you know, that Sears catalogue, Montgomery catalogue. You tell them that's the style you want, and they draft it for you. And used to be real reasonable to make dresses those days. I don't sew to this day.

JG: I still have one dress that a Japanese lady drafted the pattern for me about twenty years ago.

JB: If I want to sew, I got to take seams of these all out and make a pattern. I can go get this commercial pattern and sew, but then some places they don't fit me and I don't know how to alter it. But nightdress I can sew. Because, fit any old way.

JG: If you bought a ready-made dress, where did you go to buy it?

JB: Well, those days, they had all along Nuuanu Street, and Fort Street, a lot of the stores, the dress stores, that they have on sale.

JG: Were these dresses that were made on the Mainland, or were they made by a dressmaker who just sews...

JB: I don't know. They must have come from the Mainland. If you want dressmaker, you have to go to the dressmaker and they take your measurements and all. And they used to have a Yat Loy (cloth store) on King and Bethel Street someplace. Were you here at that time?

JG: Yeah. I remember Yat Loy.

JB: Ahh, that's where we used to go, you know when they were open. Then they had Kress. Used to buy cheap material from there. Fifteen cents a yard!

(Laughter)

JG: I guess it was cheaper to take it down to the dressmakers than lose your time.
JB: Mhm. Well, it was cheaper that time compared to now.

JG: In your own family, if any of the kids acted up or misbehaved, how were they disciplined?

JB: If Grandma can catch them, they get spanking. Because, as I said, we had few men in the house after Grandpa died. My father died. My stepfather, he didn't bother with us.

JG: And what did she do? She spank you with her hand, or belt, or stick?

JB: You know that kind, that...

JG: Niau?

JB: Niau, yeah. Whack them. That's the kind of broom, they used to broom the house with the niau.

JG: Whenever you had family problems, did your family ever use hooponopono?

(JB shakes head)

JB: No. If they did I wasn't around to hear.

JG: Did any of your relatives or anyone...

JB: I never heard of that hooponopono until I heard of it from the Catholic church. If they used to say it, in and out.

JG: Now, when they talked about it, what were they talking about? Were they talking about it in relationship to confession? How did they use the word?

JB: The only word that I know when they say hooponopono... They would tell the kids in Hawaiian, "Hele oe mao a hooponopono kou moe." (It's just like "Straighten out your bed.") [Literally, the phrase means, "Go over there and fix your bed."] That's all I know, but I didn't know anything about this, you know.

JG: You didn't know it was a way of...

JB: No, no, no. In other words, just like repentance, or something like that, you know. Confession, you know. That's the only way I know hooponopono. When they used to say it in Hawaiian. Grandma didn't have any husband, too, so, she didn't speak very much. We'd ask her and she'd tell us, "Ahh!" In other words, don't bother her.

JG: Did you visit with any of your relatives?

JB: I don't have too many, because all of them what I have around, they weren't married at that time. Then of course, when my sisters got married, they were kind of far, so, no car to go. So we never go. Once in a while we get together.
JG: Can you remember any big celebrations that your family had?

JB: Only when wedding. That's about all. Outside of that, birthdays or anything, nothing.

JG: Baby luaus?

JB: Baby's luau. I think one of my older sisters. She didn't have any baby. But, my other sister had. Yeah, she made luau.

JG: Now when you had a wedding, how did you celebrate that?

JB: We just luau, too.

JG: Luau, too.

JB: Yeah, everything is mostly luau. If you had the money, you get the pig and all that.

JG: Now, where did you have the luau? At home?

JB: At the home.

JG: Okay, let's say one of your sisters decided to get married or somebody was going to get married. When did they start planning, how long in advance did they usually start planning a luau?

JB: Well, if they know they going get married maybe next week, or two weeks, then they say they going to get a luau and they get all the things ready. And whoever's going cook it, well, they go ahead and cook it.

JG: You could get everything ready in one week?

JB: Yeah. All they have to do is get the pig and they get the stone over there.

JG: Did you have a pile of rocks that you always kept ready for the imu?

JB: They always had rocks for making the imu. And then they go look for the kiawe wood. And then they kill the pig the night before.

JG: Where did you get your pig?

JB: They go to the piggery. Where, I don't know. We never raised any pigs.

JG: Did they kill it at the piggery?

JB: No, they bring it home and kill it at home. They make imu with rocks and start the hot water going. They kill the pig.

JG: Were these people within the neighborhood that came down?

JB: Just the people. Just the family, relatives, that's all. Maybe some
few friends or friends of the man's side. That's about all. And they have, you know, a (low) table on the floor, not like they have now. Just stick one on the floor. Stick one on the floor and eat.

JG: Did you have mats that you kept for that, or did you...

JB: No.

JG: Just sit right out on the grass?

JB: You just put paper with ti leaves on top. Would be in the house. It's not outside on the table, you know. A tent like. Oh, no, this would be in the house.

JG: What kind of other foods did you have when you had a luau? You'd have the pig...

JB: They'd have the pig, they'd have the raw fish. Maybe raw crab. And they'd have seaweed. They'd have lomi salmon. Sometime going make even pig and laulau. That's about all. And sweet potato.

JG: Did anyone do the fishing or did they go down the market...

JB: No, they go get buy it from the market. Those days it was real cheap. Nowadays, you can't afford to get salt salmon to make for a luau.

JG: What about the sweet potatoes. Did you buy that from...

JB: They bought it from whoever grows it. A bag used to be very cheap.

JG: Did you have those peddlers that used to come around bringing you food? You know, used to have the guy driving around, and he'd have his truck, or did you have to go to the store for everything?

JB: We used to go to the store out in the country. They have a peddler where you go buy food, but we lived close to the stores, so we just can walk down to the store, go to the market. That's the way they get most of their things, but right around the grocery store, you can't get all those. You have to order by maybe ten pounds, five pounds. So you go down to the market there, and whoever has those things, you order it from them. Then you pick it up.

JG: When they were getting ready for a luau, what kind of entertainment did they have? Did they just eat, or did they have singers and stuff?

JB: Just eat and drink and sing. Somebody would play the guitar and ukulele. Somebody would stand up and dance.

JG: Did they plan on who was going to sing?

JB: No, just incognito. Whoever come. They know they going to have a luau. They'll bring the music and they all join in singing. Never pick your musicians; you do that.
JG: Not like today, you hire somebody to come down...

JB: Musicians, no. You get them right there. There's always somebody right in the group that can play ukelele and guitar and sing and dance.

JG: Did you have any kind of special toast, you know, for the new bride or the baby or something?

JB: No, no.

JG: You don't remember any...

JB: I don't remember. All I know I see them come with muumuu or the younger ones come with dress and no special garment.

JG: But did they bring their own liquor or did the family...

JB: They used to make swipe, or somebody bring okolehao. Cheaper that way.

JG: Did you make okolehao at home?

JB: My uncle made it.

JG: Did you ever watch?

JB: I did. He used to work up on the what do you call it. Up by Wahiawa, way up, you know where they have that Navy wireless station? Kunia, yeah. He used to work in the pineapple factory field over there. Used to get the pineapple and make the swipe.

JG: How did they make that?

JB: They get hops. They buy the hops. Then you could buy the hops from the store. Now, I think you cannot. He used to get hops from the store and the pineapple. And put water inside. So many days it's ready. Then he'd make that swipe. Now he going to turn that swipe into okolehao. He get this copper still, or whatever you call them. Then he'd boil the swipe up, and this thing would go through the cup and it'd drip, drip, drip. And then if they want to color it, you know, tell them it's whiskey, then they get this juniper berry and let it...

JG: And where did they get that, the drug store?

JB: They can buy it, yeah. Then they put it in the bottle, let it stand and whiskey or brandy, whichever color you want.

JG: Gin?

JB: Gin is plain okolehao.

JG: How long did it take them from when you started out with a bunch of pineapples till you got your okolehao?
JB: Well, from the bunch of pineapples they make the swipe. If they want a little more aged, they leave it longer. Maybe you can make it one week.

JG: What did they mix it in? What kind of a tub or basin?

JB: Barrel. Or a crock.

JG: And they just put the hops in the water and the pineapple?

JB: Everything. Everything inside one barrel.

JG: Did they boil the water beforehand, or they just dump it in?

JB: They boil the water, put it inside. And let it stay there for, usually about three days, but still it's sweet. But before the thing is ready they already sampling it, you know.

(Laughter)

JB: Yeah.

JG: And then the alcohol just develops and gets stronger...

JB: Oh, yeah. That's swipe. They just let it stay there. The more it ferments, because that hops is just like yeast. I used to know but I don't know, they call 'em the Hawaiian champagne. And it's just you get pineapple and water and a keg of yeast. And let it stay there, ferment.

JG: You put that in a crock or a barrel?

JB: You can put it in a crock, or you can put in some kind of jar. And then you going to cover it tight because...

JG: This is from baking yeast?

JB: Yeah, that little Fleischman yeast cake. Put it in there and then they strain them. And then this type is just like champagne. One of the nurses call it kanaka champagne. And then you have to leave it in the refrigerator. Otherwise you going to cover, she going to pop just like you make root beer.

JG: Have you ever seen or helped anybody make ti root okolehao?

JB: No. I don't know how they do it. I never saw. All I know is they get the root and they kalua, and then after that, how they do, how they get the stuff out, I don't know. But still they have to distill it.

JG: When you were a kid, did any of the older people still use awa?

JB: They didn't use it, but, I don't know if you heard me telling today about that spirit that I saw come in...

JG: No, I didn't. I came in at the end of that. I'd like to hear that.
JB: Oh, was some kind of relative to my grandma, see? And they were living in one of her houses in the back. I don't know how this happened, but anyway, they invited her and her three children, I think, to come up because this person coming.

JG: This was your grandmother and three children, or your relative?

JB: My grandmother and two children. And, that, I don't know, supposed to be some kind of relative of hers, but I don't know whether it's her step-son or what. To come up to her house, because he was going to pound away. And I thought that thing is so dirty, I don't know how they can drink it. Did you see it?

JG: I drank awa.

JB: How does it taste?

JG: Lousy.

JB: Yeah, well, swipe is similar to that. I think swipe is a little bit more better. Pound, pound, pound, and then he squeeze it, put it in the pitcher, see. I saw that. And this, oh, whoever this spirit that came on this lady, she had her hair just like mine. (JB's hair is long and wrapped in a bun on top of her head.) Whenever that body came on, her hair just went down.

JG: It came unpinned?

JB: Yeah, and then they started talking all kind, I don't remember now. My grandmother said they full of hash. And this lady kept on drinking and talking and smoking, and then when she was ready to go home, she told the man, her husband, who's this spirit inside her. I don't know. "Ho'i ana wa'u (I am leaving)." So, he put his arm out and she lie down, and whoever was in her went out. And this lady was left drunk, drunk, drunk. She had cigarette in her hand and she didn't know which was the right way. To put in her mouth.

JG: While that spirit was on her, did she talk different?

JB: She talked. I don't remember now, but my grandma said, all what she was saying is b.s. because she said my grandma's going to have plenty money, going be on the house and all that. My grandma says is all b.s.

JG: Did she sound like she normally sounded?

JB: Oh, she was talking off. No, I don't remember. I was young. All I know she was sitting on the bed, the husband over there. In the afternoon he pounded her away. In the evening, the bed's here and the door was there. They left the door open. Then he saw light. He say, "Oh, here comes somebody." So he got this glass of water and threw it out. And then this body just, whoever it was...

JG: Now, when he threw the water, the body left? Or was that when it came on?
JB: That's when he came on, when the body left, she said, "Hoe ana wao."
So, he put his arms out and she lie down on his arm and then the thing went out. All the time, she was drinking awa, she was okay. But when the spirit left, she just was shaking like that.

JG: Did that ever happen again that you know of?

JB: I don't know. The only thing that happened, another one happened is with my aunty. Her husband didn't go work and she was worried, you see? And this was wee hours in the morning, see? Our house here then across the street the house where the Japanese women with the little baby. Must be about one, two o'clock in the morning. She (grandmother) was outside the porch sitting down and going by the side of the house picking up the hibiscus flowers and came on the porch, just kept tearing it. Then she call me, she say "Kulua (Julia), come see. The baby is crying." I said, "Which baby?" "Oh, over there." I said, "Oh, that's all right. The baby have Japanese mama over there." "No, no, come." So I went half way, but I didn't open the gate. I went back. Insist that I should come up. We went out, I opened the gate and we went on the government road. The minute she step her foot on that macadamized road, or whatever you call them, zoom! She went. I ran after her maybe from here up to where you were turning to come in here. (About 450 feet) Was getting morning, you see. Dawn on me I only have nightie on. So I came back. I told my uncle. I say, "Auntie no more. Auntie gone." He said, "Where?" I say, "I don't know." And he used to drink, drink, drink and go to work everyday. Everyday go work, she make his lunch, go work. But when payday come, there's no money. So, I said, "I don't know where she is." Okay, we go down Grandma's house. She was living down at Kalihi at the back of the Kalihi Union Church. Went there, no more. He say, "Well, we go back home. Maybe she came home." We went home, no more. We came back again. If she wasn't at the mother's house, we would go to the graveyard. But this was about five, five-thirty in the morning. We came back, she was sitting on the porch. We ask her, "Where you been?" She said, "Oh, I find myself down by the railroad track." Used to be railroad track going around that slaughterhouse over there. And, "How did you get down there?" "I don't know," she says. I think whoever took her just dropped her there. And then she walked back.

JG: You said somebody was picking hibiscus flowers. That was the aunty?

JB: Yeah, the aunty was picking hibiscus flowers, from the side of the house. Come on the porch, sit down on the rocking chair and start shredding it.

JG: Did that mean anything?

JB: I don't know.

JG: Was she doing it for any reason? She didn't tell you what that was for?

JB: No. Worried, I think. Don't know what to do. I don't know. Then, that baby cried and she call me to come outside. "See, there's a little baby over there crying." Well, there was a Japanese baby across the street.
I told her not to worry, there's a mama over there. "No, no. Come up." She went back, sit down. And I went back to bed. She call me again. To satisfy her, I was going to go across the street, 'cause the light was on the house. But the minute she hit that road...

JG: You just didn't see her any more.

JB: I didn't see her any more. And me chasing after her, chasing after her. I don't see her. I don't see her.

JG: Strange.

JB: Ah, I never believe there's things like that.

JG: Did you ever see the uhane?

JB: No, they don't show it to me. The spirit?

JG: Yeah.

JB: No.

JG: What about the fireballs? Have you ever seen those?

JB: I never see those. I never see those, because they say that's akualele, huh? I never see those. If I did see, I don't know. Sometime I see shooting stars, but that's not it, huh?

JG: No, akualele is bigger and you know it's closer than that.

JB: I don't know. Next door lady, a friend of mine, say she see, always see. She tell me, "Oh, I saw one akualele go by your house." But, heck, I never see. I don't know.

JG: Did they have any signs that when you're growing up you know, if you saw like a certain kind of bird it meant something?

JB: I don't know if there was.

JG: You don't remember any of those?

JB: No.

JG: What about premonitions and things like that? Were you ever taught to watch for certain kinds of feelings, or certain sounds at night, or anything like that?

(JB shakes head negatively)

JG: You were never taught that?

JB: No.
JG: What about whistling at night and things like that? Were you ever told not to whistle at night?

JB: I know my grandma don't want us to whistle in the house. And my grandma don't want us open the parasol in the house.

JG: Day or night?

JB: Day or night. And then she used to scold when we whistle.

JG: Was there ever any kind of thing that you said or did, you know, the way kids quite often will cross their fingers if they want something. Was there anything like that that you did to make things happen? To have good luck or something like that? Did you ever hear a women talk about hana aloha?

JB: Uh uh.

JG: You never knew anyone that had...

JB: No. What does that mean?

JG: Love chant. Love magic. You know like, the manulele sugar cane, you pound that up and give that to somebody, it's supposed to make their love fly to you.

JB: All I know, they used to talk about the Filipinos. "Watch out. Don't take anything from them because they make Spanish fly." What the heck, I didn't know what it was. Till later on.

JG: Till you were grown up.

JB: Um hm.

JG: But among the Hawaiian people you knew there was nothing like that...

JB: Well, if they did talk, we didn't understand too much. And we don't know what they saying.

JG: Were you ever taken to a kahuna or something like that when you were sick?

JB: No. I never was sick. The only time I went to the hospital to give birth. Outside of that, a little fever, a little sore throat. But I was able to take care of that.

JG: What did you do for a sore throat? Did you use Hawaiian medicine?

JB: Grandma used to say go get Hawaiian salt and gargle. Otherwise, uha-loa. And then, too, sometimes she said the popolo.

JG: How did you pick the popolo for...
JB: They used to make tea, or they lawalu. (Makes wrapping motion) Ti leaf and then bake in the oven, stove, you know. And then eat it.

JG: When you made tea, did you dry the leaves?

JB: No, when it's green it's better. It's just like the uha-loa. They said you can go get it and dry it and then boil it and then, drink it, see? But I never tried that. We used to get it and then strip and just...

JG: You used the root?

JB: Yeah. Yeah, just chew them. But now I so scared to go get it because poison, they poison all around. Unless you grow your own. When it's rain up this area used to have lots of them, but I hear they go around poison weeds.

JG: Often way up in the valley (Waianae Hunting Reserve), where you go to the hunting trail there's some.

JB: Do you have to have permission to go up to the hunting trail?

JG: Nah.

JB: How far up you go?

JG: You go up here about a block and make a left turn, then you go way up left, maybe two miles...

JB: Is it before you hit the Navy fence around here someplace?

JG: The Navy fence is over on the other side.

JB: Where you go down the dip and then come up. They used to have one in the back there someplace.

JG: As far as I know there's no Navy fences. You go up here about two blocks, go down about two miles, and then it's a jeep trail up to the mountains. Where they hunt. Did you ever use any other kind of Hawaiian medicine?

JB: All I know is the popolo, the uha-loa, the ihi.

JG: That's that one that grows near the salt water...

JB: That's like lettuce. Lau-kahi, excuse me.


JB: And ihi, that's the one four-leaf clovers.

JG: Yeah.

JB: That one.
JG: How did you use that?

JB: We used to get them and chew 'em. Yeah. I don't know how they fix them.

JG: Is that the one with the little purple flower?

JB: No. The one with the little purple flower, what the heck they call 'em...

JG: Akulikuli.

JB: What akulikuli?

JG: Akulikuli's the round one.

JB: Akulikuli, I know. That's what they grow up in Molokai, the flower, they make leis. No, there's another name. A haha, ha, ho... "Wi" or something like that. It grows up a tree. And then it has purple flowers, too.

JG: I don't know that one. Is this ihi you're talking about? It looks like a clover.

JB: Yeah, they crawl on the ground. They're messy when they get in the yard. With the grass.

JG: I just don't know that one. I know an ihi that looks like portulaca.

JB: I don't know what's portulaca.

JG: That one is a moss rose.

JB: It crawls, it creeps.

JG: Yeah. Right.

JB: And it's small little leaves.

JG: It has, but the leaves look kind of like pencils.

JB: I don't know. When you take me home, I get plenty in my yard.

JG: Yeah, you show me, because I'd be interested in seeing it.

JB: I'm digging it up. And this other Hawaiian medicine they call it haowowi, (Interviewee uncertain of spelling) or something like that. It grows like that. And then, I don't know how they use that medicine. Who was telling me? Plunchet, the old lady.

JG: Oh, yeah, I know which one she's talking about, the one for cancer.

JB: Oh, I don't know. But she said, when the kids have impetigo they get this, and they boil it, and then they put it in the cheesecloth and rub on the
impetigo. I had some home, because a lady friend next door, we went all the way to Wahiawa. There must be some up here. If it rain, you find plenty. Went all the way to Wahiawa, the pineapple field over there. And, of course, they were dried, so we got some and I brought some home to plant.

JG: Will you show it to me because I'd like to be able to identify it.

JB: It's up about that much. You should have plenty around here when it's rainy. And this ihi, that's the one that crawls around and gets mixed up. They call them four-leaf clovers. I call them four-leaf clovers. That they use as medicine.

JG: Is that the one that has a little teeny, teeny yellow flower on it?

JB: Yeah.

JG: I know what that is, yeah. And you call that one ihi, too?

JB: That one is called ihi. I used to go and if I have sore throat I just go pick them up and chew them and swallow them.

JG: And swallow them.

JB: Lau-kahi, you know what that one is?

JG: Yeah, that's the one that has the flat leaf and the stem going up the middle.

JB: Yeah, just like a lettuce.

JG: How did you use that?

JB: I know the Japanese, they use it. They say it's good for high blood pressure. They pick it up, you know when the leaves are ready. Now, who's that lady at the secretary for the...

JG: Jan?

JB: No. The other...

JG: Kulei.

JB: Kulei. Well, the other time, she was looking for them, because her mama wants some. So she found some down at Ewa where the old hospital used to be. I don't know what she's going to use it for. But my grandma, she used to use that for if she get infection. And then she put it over the stove and put it on till it's thick. Another one, I had a Puerto Rican aunty, she uses the castor oil bean leaf.

JG: Oh, the leaf of the castor oil?

JB: The leaf of the castor oil. They use to--same thing--to heat. And then,
I don't know what they call them.

JG: Poultice, something like that.

JB: Poultice, yeah, put it on. And then it draws up. She uses that for that when she gets headaches, she puts it on top her head. But the Hawaiians, they usually use ti leaves.

JG: Were there any other Hawaiian medicines that you used at home? What about for rheumatism for the old people?

JB: I don't know nothing. All what they do, they use some kind of medicine. They call ape, I don't know. They get noni and some kind of vine, I don't know what it is. They go find it sometime around the beaches, I think.

JG: Pohuehue?

JB: I don't know. And sugar cane. Got to be certain sugar cane. Either the white one or the red one. And pound it together. Or some kind of little grass. They find them in the taro patches, I think. And pound it and make it. They call it ape, eh, to drink. I don't know.

JG: Apu?

JB: Apu. Ape is the plant.

JG: Ape is the big leaves.

JB: Yeah.

(Taping stopped and then resumed.)

JG: Okay, you were saying that when you were a young girl, and your menses started, nobody talked to you about it?

JB: No. I just say, oh, I get blood. So I had to go tell my sister. So my sister told me what to do about it. But Grandma never say nothing.

JG: Your teachers didn't tell you anything about it either?

JB: No. School, no.

JG: Did you have hygiene classes in school?

JB: Maybe just about your hair and your teeth. That's about all.

JG: But they never talked about...

JB: Menstrual period, no.

JG: How old were you when you were married?
JB: I think about let me see, 23.

JG: And you had gotten your nursing certificate...

JB: Um hm.

JG: And did you continue to work after...

JB: Oh, yes, I did, I worked. Till I retired.

JG: So if you were 23, then that must have been about 1926.

JB: Um hm.

JG: The Hawaiian Homes thing was enacted in 1920. Do you remember any of the talk about the Hawaiian Homes Commission before it was actually brought into being?

JB: After I was married. I think the first one that I heard about was Molokai.

JG: Do you remember when they were talking about it, any stories that were in the newspaper?

JB: Never paid any attention.

JG: Did any of your family ever get any Hawaiian Homes...

JB: Um, no. I tell you why, because you have to have about half Hawaiian. My aunty was...I think my grandma had some place up in Molokai. I understood that my aunty told her to go claim the land up there, but she'd been away from there so long. She didn't want to go. She said because she didn't want to go up there. There's plenty kahuna up there, and she might die. (Excepting for fear of the Molokai kahunas,) then they could have. But, like me, I could not get homestead, because I'm three-quarters Portuguese, one-quarter Hawaiian.

JG: Oh, really.

JB: Um hm. So, I cannot get.

JG: Did any of your relatives...

JB: No.

JG: ...or any of the women you worked with, the nurses talk about...

JB: No.

JG: There really wasn't too much publicity then, about it?

JB: Uh uh. (Negative indication) The only thing that I know, those first
homestead was up in Molokai, that's all. We could get so much acre land. And I think my husband wanted to go up there, too, but then he changed his mind. He didn't want to go. 'Cause, there wasn't any too much jobs then at that time. And you have the Depression in 1929.

JG: But people just didn't talk about Hawaiian Homes land too much?

JB: No. Not that I know of. Anyway, when I was young I didn't go around, mingle. With all the close family that I had was close home. And then, they didn't say much. We was only girls, so what they want to go up there and get land? Who's going work the land?

JG: You wait till you get married to make that kind of decision.

JB: Yeah.

END OF INTERVIEW.
JG: Third tape, or second tape with Julia Bryant to replace the first side of the first tape that was defective. This is Tuesday, April the 14th. Our first tape was defective, so I'm going to re-ask you some of the first questions.

JG: When was your birthday? When were you born?

JB: September 2, 1903.

JG: And you were born in Honolulu?

JB: Uh huh.

JG: Now, you told me that your father was haole and your mother was half-Hawaiian.

JB: No, my father is Portuguese.

JG: Well, okay, Portuguese.

JB: And my mother is Portuguese-Hawaiian. And my grandma married a Portuguese.

JG: So your grandmother was Hawaiian?

JB: Hawaiian. She was a pure Hawaiian. And she married this Portuguese, got a little girl. That little girl (JB's mother) married another Portuguese. Then when that one died, then she married a Hawaiian.

JG: Oh, I see, your mother married a Hawaiian after your father's death.

JB: Yeah. That's right after I was born.

JG: Now you were raised in a home with your aunt and your grandmother.

JB: Well, we were all, you know, big lot in two houses.
JG: Two houses.

JB: First they took me with another uncle, my mother's brother. They took care of me for a while. Then my mother's sister took care of me. Of course with the help of her father and mother, because she was kind of young yet.

JG: You lived up in Kalihi?

JB: I lived up in Kalihi.

JG: What do you remember about the home? You know, the yard and the houses?

JB: Well, there was a pretty big yard. Must have been about half an acre, I think, the yard we stayed in. But then they had a big property in the back, where they used to raise taro patches.

JG: Did you have a stream that went through the yard?

JB: Not a stream. There's a ditch. An auwai. 'Cause we were on one side and somebody else was on the other. And there was an auwai that goes by.

JG: You remember which days of the week you got the water?

JB: Of course, when it rains, it come down, but no more rain, no more water. Because they didn't close it up, up above.

JG: There were two houses on the lot?

JB: There were two houses on the lot.

JG: Big houses, or little houses?

JB: They're small houses. One of them about two bedrooms, a little parlor, a little kitchen. And the other one was sort of foundation type, you know, small one, a long one.

JG: Did you ever know who built the houses?

JB: I don't know. Never ask. Could be the old folks.

JG: Your grandmother, grandfather and aunt lived in one house?

JB: Uh huh.

JG: And you and your mother lived in the other one, or you and your uncle?

JB: I don't quite remember my own father, but when my mother remarried again, then he (uncle) lived in another house. Of course, they (JB's mother and stepfather) lived over there and I lived on my grandmother's side,
because one of her daughters took care of me. But that was my mama on the other side. So I go to both.

JG: You had the best of two worlds.

JB: Whoever I like sleep with. I go.

JG: Did you have any younger brothers or sisters or...

JB: Step. Own brothers and sisters, no. But after my mother married again, then I had two boys. I'm older than them. They were my half-brothers, yeah.

JG: And you didn't have any cousins living with you?

JB: No.

JG: Where did you go for school?

JB: Well, I first went to Kalihwaena School. That's up on Gulick Avenue. After I left there, then I went to Sacred Hearts Convent. That was on Fort Street where the cathedral (Cathedral Church) is right below. Then from there, I went up to Sacred Hearts Academy up in Kaimuki.

JG: When you went to Gulick Avenue, how did you get to school?

JB: Walked. Wasn't too far.

JG: Did your parents, or your grandmother, or your aunt take you to school?

JB: I remember going myself. I don't think I went to the kindergarten or anything like that. I went myself.

JG: Do you remember in your classes, were most of the students Hawaiian, or Chinese, or mixes?

JB: They were mixed, because we had Japanese, we had Chinese. Mostly Japanese and Chinese. Then we had Portuguese.

JG: You must have gone, what, five or six years to that school?

JB: Yeah, up to the fifth grade. I don't remember if I ever went to kindergarten or first grade. I don't know.

JG: Those days, I don't think kindergarten was that popular.

JB: I don't remember even going to the first grade. I know was fifth grade when I left, went out Fort Street.
JG: What kind of teachers did you have?

JB: I had part-Hawaiian. Mostly they were part-whites, you know. Not too many Japanese at that time.

JG: A lot of hapa-haoles.

JB: Yeah.

JG: When you went to school, do you recall anything that stands out especially in those first five years of school? Up to the fifth grade? Do you remember any of the teachers especially and what they were like?

JB: No, there's only two that I remember, but I don't quite remember.

JG: Do you remember what kind of games you played in school?

JB: Either just played jump rope, marble and jack. And that five hole.

JG: What was five hole?

JB: You know, you get the marble and you go first center, then the two sides, then that and that. Five holes full.

JG: Now, wait, wait. How...

JB: Four, four, you get this one here, one hole, you shoot them in there. Then you get this other hole here. Then you get another hole there. You get another hole there, and I think you have one more up there.

JG: In other words, there's sort of a triangle away from you. Sort of like an arrowhead with a shaft, and you're sitting back here and you shoot straight in front of you.

JB: Shoot in that hole. You get in that hole, then you either go to the right or left hole. You shoot it inside. When you come back, then you go up to there. Then you repeat all again till you come home. (See diagram below)

(Diagram of marble game)

The object of the game is to get the marble into all of the holes and back to home base (hole A) before the other players. The numbered arrows indicate the direction the marble follows. Although the arrows are numbered consecutively from 1 to 8, the player had the option of going to the holes in any order as long as he covered all of them before returning to home base.)
JB: And the jack and ball.

JG: What's jack and the ball?

JB: Those little balls you get and then six jacks. You throw the ball up.... And then we used to play marbles and rings. Agates, they call 'em, agates.

JG: When you play jack and the ball, did you have any kind of a saying that went with that?

JB: No. No, no.

JG: And then you played marbles in the ring.

JB: Yeah, and then we used to play this thing called peewee stick, I don't know whatever it is.

JG: What was that?

JB: You have, just a little hole over here and you have a stick over there. And you have another stick. And then you throw it. If you hit that stick, then you have a chance to put that stick on another stick. And then sort of hit it that way. And if you can hit it again, then you winner. I don't know what they call that name, we call 'em peewee.

JG: Peewee stick.

JB: Uh huh.

JG: That's not like pick up sticks? You dig a little hole in the ground. Like maybe two inches, one inch, like that. That's two inches.

JB: Oh, just like that.

JG: About two inches.

JB: About, around that. I'd say maybe two, two and a half.

JG: And then you lay the stick, one stick over it...

JB: Yeah.

JG: ...and then what do you do?

JB: You have another stick. You see, this is in the hole, you have another stick. You throw it that way and then if you hit another stick that's over there, then you put this stick on that stick and you go do this. And she pries up and you try and hit it.
JG: We're going to have to try this in the yard.

JB: They call it the peewee. Peewee stick.

JG: Do you remember any other game?

JB: Just the jack and the ball and the marbles. That's about all. And then we used to try and get on stilts, you know, go get the glue from the kiawe tree or whatever.

JG: The what from there?

JB: The glue. It's soft like a cabbage. And put it on the can and get the stilts. You built a stilt and put 'em there, and you sort of walk. That's about I remember. And jump rope.

JG: What about holidays at school? Did you do anything special?

JB: Well, the only holiday that I ever remember is May Day. That's a big day, where everybody Maypole dance. When I went to the government (public) school, but the private school, they didn't have too many.

JG: In the government school when you were a little kid, what kind of things did they do for May Day?

JB: Just the Maypole dance. Everybody watch. Whoever's inside there, they go around. The other ones just watch.

JG: Did you dress up for it or just use ordinary school clothes?

JB: Yes, the ones in the program, they dress up, but we just went there. That's all.

JG: What kind of songs did they sing?

JB: Oh, I know "May Day's Lei Day in Hawaii." Now don't tell them. That's about all.

JG: That's the only one you remember?

JB: Yeah, that's all I know.

JG: What about Christmas and New Year's, did you have school parties?

JB: No.

JG: Did you draw names for presents?

JB: No.
JG: Didn't do anything at all for Christmas?
JB: No.
JG: What about Easter?
JB: We just had Easter vacation and that's about all.
JG: No special observances?
JB: No, no special.
JG: How about your family? Did they observe any special...
JB: The only thing that they observe special is just Christmas and New Year. That's a big day.
JG: And how did you celebrate Christmas and New Year's?
JB: They have a party, of course. If you have money, you can buy gifts. If you don't have no money, you just look at, that's all. No Christmas tree. They used to go get koa tree or kiawe tree to...
JG: Haokeoa.
JB: Yeah, to make Christmas tree.
JG: Tell me about that.
JB: That decoration wasn't too much.
JG: Did they just cut the branch? Did they shape it or anything?
JB: No, they just cut it and decorate it with any kind. The older people. Maybe paper, you know this paper lei. They sew it, twist it.
JG: Crepe paper? Any other decorations?
JB: No.
JG: Did you hang anything on the tree?
JB: I don't remember.
JG: What about church? What kind of celebrations did you have at church?
JB: Well, at church, there's just the kiddies, they have little Christmas party. They have little Christmas tree. Then Christmas party. Then they give the kids a little gift.
JG: What did they do at the party? Did they play games? Or sing songs?

JB: Just sang songs and then I don't remember if they gave any ice cream and cake, but I know they used to give little gifts. Mostly little rosary at the church, and then the prayer book. I don't remember ever owning a doll, or probably I had one and I lost it or somebody took it. That's all.

JG: Kids didn't play with dolls that much then.

JB: No, we wasn't the high class people. We was just getting along. You see.

JG: What kind of toys did you have?

JB: I don't have any toys.

JG: Your grandmother or your...

JB: No, no, no.

JG: ...step-father didn't make?

JB: No.

JG: Did you play imagination games? Make believe games?

JB: Uh uh. (Indicates no.)

JG: When you left the government school, you were in the fifth grade. Then you went down to Sacred Hearts.

JB: Yeah. I went down at the cathedral. The Catholic schools.

JG: Now how did you get down there?

JB: The bus. Was five cents, or two and a half cents a ride, I think.

JG: How long did it take you to go from Kalihi to the cathedral?

JB: Well, on the bus it takes about 20 minutes, because there wasn't any traffic.

JG: Did you have to wear a uniform or...

JB: Not, not at the one at the cathedral. But up Kaimuki we had to. Blouse and skirt.

JG: What kind of teachers did they have at the cathedral? Were they nuns?
JB: Nuns. They were all nuns. Sacred Heart. They were all nuns. Both school were nuns.

JG: What time did school start, do you remember?

JB: Like the government school. 8:30 in the morning, and then get out at two.

JG: Did any of the schools that you went to study Hawaiian history or Hawaiian language at all?

JB: Nothing.

JG: What about Hawaiian geography?

JB: They study geography, but not Hawaiian. South America, Africa, New York, all the eastern and western states.

JG: Did you have anything in school for Kamehameha Day?

JB: If there was Kamehameha Day, all we had was vacation, because the state get vacation. Both school I went, they don't. If it was their kind holiday. Well, they don't usually have much, because it's a holy day and then you get vacation and you go home. Just like Sunday.

JG: When you went to Cathedral School, were the kids mostly Hawaiian or haole, or...

JB: Oh, Portuguese, mostly Portuguese and Hawaiian. There's some Chinese.

JG: Did they ever use any Hawaiian language at all in school? The teachers...

JB: No, no, no.

JG: What were the nuns? All of them haole?

JB: They were all French nuns. Belgium and around that area. Germans. They don't speak Hawaiian. Not even today, I think. I don't know if they, not even Hawaiian history.

JG: At home, did your parents or your grandparents, anyone speak Hawaiian to you?

JB: I think was my grandma little bit, because she cannot speak English. But then we don't know too much Hawaiian. We talk back in English to her. Then what they don't want us to know, they speak Hawaiian. Mother and daughter, huh? And they speak Hawaiian.

JG: What about reading Hawaiian?
JB: No, Grandma used to have a Bible, but we never bothered. And then we used to have those Hawaiian newspaper. Once in a while I used to ask her, but then, no bother. Maybe she couldn't explain it to me in English. But she used to take the Hawaiian paper until they stopped it. Didn't run it any more.

JG: What kind of work did your grandfather do?

JB: He was working on a boat. I think he was a seaman. Both my father and my grandfather.

JG: Did he go interisland or between Hawaii and the Mainland?

JB: I cannot tell you. I don't remember. All I can get, a faint recollection that I saw my father one time coming in. You know they're working on boat, and they're working down in the boiler room and oh, so dark. That's all I remember. My grandfather, all I can remember, he sitting on the porch. We used to have a mango tree in the yard and he doesn't want us to go aget the mango. Was me and my sister, I remember. From the porch, he had a cane. He get the cane and threw at us, but lucky didn't hit us. That's all I remember of my grandfather. Other than that, I don't know.

JG: Your grandfather must have retired by that time if he had a cane.

JB: Well, he had a cane, yeah. He wasn't working that time, 'cause he was sick, see. But my father was dead.

JG: Now you said your sister, was that your half-sister or your step-sister, or your cousin?

JB: I have sisters.

JG: Younger? Older?

JB: One younger than me and some older than me. There were about six girls in the family. Then my mother remarried and she got two boys.

JG: When you went into church, did they ever sing any of the hymns in Hawaiian?

JB: Not the Catholic Church. Now they starting. At least this church Saint Rita (Nanakuli) has a Hawaiian hymn book.

JG: Let's see now, when did you go up to the school in Kaimuki?

JB: I think I went there in 1921. I was working in cannery too, in between going to school trying to make money for school during the summer. And at that time we used to work in the cannery, we only used to work for about three, six cents an hour.
JG: Six cents an hour. Ooh. How much was your tuition there?

JB: Well, it was free when I went down to the cathedral. But then when I went up the other side (Sacred Hearts School, Kaimuki) was six dollars a month. I just went there for about a year and a half, then my folks couldn't pay any more, so I went to nurses training (at Queen's Hospital).

JG: Then you were, what, about second or third year in high school then?

JB: Second.

JG: And you could take nurses training.

JB: Well, at that time they didn't require college. As long as you can read and write, you can enter. Because mostly is, what you call, therapy work, huh. You read, of course, and when you go on the floor it's just like a maid for the first few months.

JG: You take any kind of a test before you...

JB: No, just go in. Read and write and that. And you could train...

JG: If you'd done good in school, you could get in?

JB: Yeah. They advertised. As long as you go fourth to eighth grade, that's enough. As long as you can read and write. We had one girl there, she was in the fourth grade in school, but she had worked up in Kula in the hospital. So, she knew, and she made good grades.

JG: How much time did you spend on instruction?

JB: Well, we work on the floor, maybe go there three hours, then we go class for about hour and a half, sometimes two hours. We get three hours off, you see. You go on the floor about seven o'clock in the morning. Then if you get to class at nine, then they give you two or three hours off. If you was off that time you in class, well, you just miss that hour off time spent in class.

JG: So you'd spend two hours working before you went to class, and then about an hour and a half of class, and then, did you go back and work?

JB: Go back and work again till about seven, Of course, they give you hours off, like some work maybe, as I said, maybe 9 to 12 off. Then you go on, maybe one o'clock to seven.

JG: Did you work all around the clock, or just in the daytime at first?

JB: At first, just daytime. Then afterwards, you have to go on night duty. Then you go on nights, regular eight hours. You off, then you sleep, then you get up, go duty.
JG: How many girls were there in the class?

JB: I don't remember now, but we had maybe over six, seven.

JG: I guess at that time there were no men taking training for nurses?

JB: No, no men. No orderlies. Only wahines. They have Filipinos, they have lots of Filipinos there to, you know, floor work, clean the floor, but none for nursing.

JG: What were the girls that were training? Most of them Hawaiian girls?


JG: Did you pay for this training or did they pay you?

JB: Oh, I was fortunate. They paid me. And I got everything. On top of that, they paid me. Everything was free; room and board, linen and food, everything was free. On top of that, you there for three months, they pay you ten dollars.

JG: A month.

JB: A month for a year. The second year, they raise by $15. The third year is $20, so when I was there I was lucky. But the group after me, they have to go the University (of Hawaii), at least two years to University. Then they have to pay for the uniforms. All I had to do when I was there, get my shoes and my stockings. Uniform was free.

JG: Now who paid for this? Queen's? Or the State, the territory? The government?

JB: Pay for what?

JG: All of your expenses and your salary.

JB: Queen's. That was the Queen's Hospital where the money was from. That was no State hospital, that was a private hospital.

JG: Now, I presume at that time there were no hospital unions or anything.

JB: Those days, no more. Only the sugar cane had.

JG: What about when you worked in the cannery? There was no union there?

JB: No union, no.

JG: Was that just summer work you did at the cannery?
JB: Just summer work. Just summer.

JG: And how many hours were you working there?

JB: All depends on how much pineapple they had. If they have lots of pineapples, you can work 12 hours.

JG: You were saying they paid you six cents an hour then?

JB: Six cents an hour. Gee, I was making about $14, $11 a week. I thought I was rich, but at that time you could buy bread for five cents a loaf. You can buy a bag of poi for 25 cents. Just liked today is nothing. The one you get today, it's not, no match 25 cents poi before. Can get one calabash full with poi and that feed ten people. Dollar poi.

JG: Cloth bag.

JB: You take your own bag. What the Chinaman have, you know, this cloth bag. And you put it inside.

JG: When you were in nurses training, you stayed right at Queen's Hospital?

JB: Right at Queen's Hospital, room and board. Free.

JG: How many days off did you get?

JB: We get weekend once a month. And then during the day, you get three hours off.

JG: What did you do with your time off?

JB: I study and I sleep. I study and I sleep. The graduating nurse go by and hear them say, "My goodness, why don't these people get up and go out and go to the beach or something." Say, "Heck, no, we sleep." We sleep.

JG: When did you start?

JB: 1922.

JG: And graduated in 1926. Now they had movies here by then, didn't they?

JB: Oh, yeah, they had movies. Once in a while we sneak out and go to the movies. But we're supposed to have pass when we go out.

JG: And they check that, where? At the door?

JB: At the office, the main office.

JG: And how did you sneak out? Go out the back way? Go down the fire escape?
JB: We watch for the head nurse. But when you get caught, you going to be punished.

JG: How did they punish you?

JB: No pass for one month. Oh, girls used to go out, they come in, especially probationary period, yeah, they come out, they sneak inside, and the teacher is right next room, you see, when you come up the stairs. That's a dorm just like this. And the teacher's room is over on that side. The hallway, she lives there. Sometimes she hear, she comes out. If she catch you, you punished. But some of the girls, they go out the front but the time they come around the back and climb in the window. Oh, them days was good fun. Them days was good fun. They get drunk, they come and (makes sound of gagging) try to hold the stomach down so no noise.

(Laughter)

JB: Well, lots of fun, those days. I wish I could relive it again.

JG: Did they send a report to your parents as to what kind of grades you were getting, or...

JB: No, no. They don't bother your parents, nothing. If they think you no good, they just tell you, out you go.

JG: If you were no good, what would that be, if you weren't studying or what?

JB: If you make low marks. And they grade you, too, on what you do on the floor, how you treat the patients, and...

JG: Did they ask the patients, or did they just observe?

JB: Oh, some of those patients would tell. They tell the head nurse. They come around, "Oh, how do you like so-and-so and what, do they treat you nice?"

One time, of course, I bathe this patient. Well, the patient didn't say anything about that and they were short of gowns, towels. I went to the head nurse, I said, "Look, we don't have any more gowns. Can I go down to Jesse down the laundry room?" I went down there and the lady wouldn't give me any. I came back and I told the head nurse, so what was I going to do? So when the supervising nurse came on, I don't know who told her, so I told her. I told the head nurse. The superintendant of nurses. I went to Miss Fernandez, I asked her. She send me down to Jesse, the laundry room. I went in, Jesse say, "No more, no more." What am I going to do? Next time I got smart, I went across the other floor and I ask for gowns. Now I borrowed one from the other floor. You see, we were down on this side, and I thought there was isolation ward. I just went across and say, "Can I have one?"
JG: But the patient complained to the nurse about it?

JB: The head nurse came along and she saw the patient with the dirty gown. "Why wasn't that gown changed?" So I told them why. I thought I was going to get punished for it, you know.

JG: When you finished your training, did they have any kind of graduation party, or program...

JB: No, just graduation exercises, and take your picture, that's all.

JG: Were you all up on the stage and get...

JB: Yeah, photograph.

JG: What was your first job after that?

JB: Well, I did specializing.

JG: What's that?

JB: I got married after that. Private nursing. Then after that, I worked down general duty nurse at St. Francis. Then I worked down at the lepers (Kalihi Hospital).

JG: At Pearl City?

JB: No, that was down at the end of Kalihi behind the prison, Puuhale Street. Way down that end.

JG: When did you start working there?

JB: Not until 1931.

JG: Could you describe the area that the hospital was in at that time?

JB: Well, it must have been over five acres. They were all fenced off. And then they had the hospital building, like, the patient center.

JG: What kind of fencing did you have around?

JB: Just like I have over here.

JG: A chain fence?

JB: Uh huh.

JG: Real high?

JB: Oh, yes, real high.
JG: Did they have guards or anything around there?

JB: Well, they have watchmen.

JG: Did they just stand at the gate, or did they patrol?

JB: No, they patrolled. During the day, they didn't have any guard, but during the night, after six o'clock p.m., then they have a guard. And he walks around and check the patients. See if the patients run away, which they do.

JG: Now this was a regular hospital, or with separate cottages?

JB: Cottages. They call 'em the Kalihi Hospital, but they were cottages. When they sick, then they go into the hospital. We had a regular bed, about 23 beds. We had four wards. For women and for men, two each. The men one side and women just across from them. The cottages were separate houses.

JG: Who lived in those?

JB: The patients.

JG: Did any of their families live with them?

JB: No. Just the patients.

JG: There were no kokua, then?

JB: The kokua, they don't need them. The kokua, they was called kokua, clean patients. And they didn't mix them up with the Hansen disease ones. So the kokua, they go in and they go like I do. I go, come in back and forth.

JG: But they couldn't live with their families?

JB: No, not there. Not even up in Kalaupapa. Not unless they husband and wives.

JG: Were there any husbands or wives allowed to go there?

JB: Yeah, we had one.

JG: Those people that were living there, how were they chosen to live there? Did they choose that over Kalaupapa, or...

JB: No, at that time, when they first opened that settlement, they didn't have Kalaupapa. That's when they said the plague broke out. They did not have at that time Kalaupapa.

JG: Yeah, this was the first one and then Kalaupapa?
JB: Then Kalaupapa.

JG: Yeah, but at the time when you were there, how did they choose the patients that were kept there? What was the criteria for keeping them there?

JB: Well, if they find them on the outside, if they have Hansen's Disease, they bring them in.

JG: What I'm trying to find out is why did they go there and not Kalaupapa?

JB: Well, you see, for a while they were sending off to Kalaupapa. Okay, then afterwards they kept them down here. And treat them. If they got better then can go out. Then if they got real bad, worse, deformed, then they going to send them off to Kalaupapa. Some of them don't want to go. But if the doctor says you have to go, maybe you really heavy cases. Those days they used to send them up on the barge, just like cows, you know, they put them up there. I'm glad they didn't pick me to go up there with them. You know, take 'em up, accompany them on the barge. Ah, those nurses go up there they stay, come back, they sick. They sick.

JG: Now here at Kalihi station, was that just at the discretion of the doctors and the health agency?

JB: Yeah, that's the only place at that time.

JG: These were mostly people who didn't show it too much?

JB: Yeah, the people didn't show it too much and not too much deformed, you know, and then later on...

END OF SIDE ONE.

SIDE TWO.

JG: Here at Kalihi did they have gardens?

JB: They did not have any gardens over there. They have a big compound-like, you know. And then they have buildings, like that building for the men, building for the ladies. Well, this was just building where each one have separate rooms. And then if they have any children then they have one of the mothers take care of them.

JG: But the children, could they stay there?

JB: If they have the disease, they stay there as long as they have school year, see. They stay there.

JG: But if the children are not diseased, they sent them someplace else?
JB: If they're not diseased, they go back home with their folks. Whoever looks after them.

JG: What kind of things would the patients do in the day time? What was a typical day for, say, a woman patient?

JB: They have their own things, like you would do your own housework. They sew, or some of them have a job where they go around and clean hospital, like they help make beds.

JG: Oh, the hospital employed some of the patients, then?

JB: Yeah. The patient lives in the compound and they have a building there where we call a regular infirmary, now days you call them hospital. And they have buildings scattered around. Some of them, they well enough, they have their rooms, like they would outside. Their own privacy.

JG: What was a typical day for a man that lived in the compound? Did they have any kind of work that they did?

JB: Not all of them worked, now. They only work they can get there is orderly in the hospital. Then they can do the yard work. Then some of them can help in the laundry. They get, they call them a kōkua, you know, a well person from outside, inside the laundry. She'd be the boss. And then this other ones work on...

JG: This was located in Kalihi, how far from the ocean was this? Did they ever go fishing or anything like that?

JB: Uh uh. Uh uh. They not allowed to go out. Not like Kalaupapa. Kalaupapa is a big area where they sort of secluded, you know. But here we were at the hospital there, we have people surrounding around. Many people living, so they don't let these people go out. They just have to stay confined right in...

JG: Did they have any kind of a cabinet-making shop or anything like that?

JB: Not down there, but, I don't know, I don't think they had carpenter shop over here. Because the carpenter was used for the clean people to do odds and ends, but when we moved down to Hale Mohala at Pearl City, then they have. They had a carpenter shop. Somebody come in to teach them. They even make furnitures like that. They can get the wood. They go out and find the ohia wood. Then they come back and cut 'em up and polish them and, they make furniture just like that.

JG: Did the patients themselves go out and find the wood?

JB: They go to the beaches, yeah. They go out, they go get 'em. They used to come down to Makua. They go out.

JG: And they get it along the beach, or up in the mountains?
JB: I think along the beach. They know where to go look for those. And then the driver would take 'em there and they cut 'em.

JG: So in other words, when they go out, there was somebody from the hospital with them?

JG: Keep track of them?

JG: Uh huh. They don't go out for long. Folks fear they run and never come back. Then the policemen have to go look after.

JG: What was the youngest patient that had leprosy there that you can remember?

JG: Were they patients?

JG: Where living there, the parents living there at Kalihi?

JG: How did they teach them down at Kalihi?

JG: Are they patients?

JG: What kind of recreation did they have for the people living there?

JG: well, they have their own, like they have a hall where they go in
play pool. Make up their own little games and certain holidays they probably have people from outside come over and play. And then they put their own shows, too.

JG: When people came to visit them, did they go to the cottages and things, or did they have certain areas they have to stay in?

JB: No, they don’t go to the cottages, just go straight to the hall. They don’t go to the cottage, not unless they can sneak ’em in. They’re not supposed to go in, because they’re going to go out again. They watch ’em.

JG: If you were there, and you were my sister or my cousin, could I come up and hug you or, were you allowed to touch the patients there if you were visiting?

JB: If there’s no, no, what you call it, I forget the word.

JG: Running sores?

JB: No, no, no. You can do it without me seeing.

JG: But what was the general rule?

JB: They not supposed to.

JG: They’re not supposed to touch the patients?

JB: Not supposed to. And the patient not supposed to give you food. You can give them food, but they’re not supposed to pass food over to you. Now some of them, sometime they get a lot of fish from Kalaupapa, Molokai come down. When their family come, they sneak it over the fence. You can’t stop them. And then sometimes, especially the men folks, if the women in there, they going to jump over the fence.

JG: Don’t blame ’em.

JB: No, don’t blame ’em. Oh, they after the women folks or men folks, they jump over the fence. They go out. They missing two, three days, they come back. They don’t do nothing to them (if) they don’t do it too often. They can go off the other side whether you like it or not.

JG: But they send them to Kalaupapa (if) they go out too often?

JB: Yeah, you get punished that way. You go out to Kalaupapa. See, the fence along the yard, they kind of high, but the one where the visiting family come, they just low, huh.

JG: What about quilt-making, or...
JB: They do their own. The patients, you see, their fingers, they have no feeling. And some are all cripple like this. Some are all good. They do patchwork. That's the only thing they can do, but they cannot quilt because their fingers. They do a lot of patchwork. They do lots of crocheting.

JG: What about music? Do they have any music over there?

JB: Oh, yes, they have. You know the Hawaiians all musical. They play ukulele. They play guitar. There was a Japanese boy, he came in there and he didn't know how to play music and his finger like this, he couldn't play ukulele. But he a son-of-a-gun if he wasn't a good steel player. Really good steel player.

JG: Do you recall any of them writing music?

JB: I don't know.

JG: You were in the hospital part, the infirmary part?

JB: I was in the infirmary part.

JG: How many patients did you usually have?

JB: Well, if the hospital is filled, there's 22, that's 44, 48 patients. Twenty-two on each side of the hospital.

JG: What was the most common reason that they came into the hospital?

JB: Because they have what they call reaction. They were all breaking out with bumps, red bumps. Nodules, they were called.

JG: Was this from a drug, a medicine?

JB: No, it's just the disease broke out. They call 'em reaction, when the disease break out and they have all red little blotches and it's very sensitive and they run fever about 104, 105, 106. And we have to put 'em under cold packs. Put the blanket in cold water and wrap 'em all up.

JG: How long did that usually take?

JB: Sometime it takes about a week. Those patient with temperature 104, 105, you would think they would stay put in bed. Some of them are real hard head. They won't let you put a bedpan under them because it's so sore. They get up, they walk. Not so bad if they close to the bathroom, but some on the number five bed, they come to the bathroom, they walk. If you hurt them, they cuss you out. Ooh, you just touch them like that, it hurts.
JG: They're very tender, then?

JB: Yeah. And they say leprosy, no feeling. But it hurts. Maybe if you don't have any reaction, you poke, no feelings. But when that thing underneath there is working up and you poke, it hurts. Oh, I had one wahine especially cuss me lot. But after she's all through, she's really nice.

JG: Do you remember any patients that were especially interesting or unusual, that you took care of?

JB: I don't.

JG: Did most of their families come to see them?

JB: If they have family, they come down weekends. Thos who have family come down to visit them. They call 'em at the gate. Yeah, they do, the ones that have. Mostly it was Hawaiian. Very few haoles. We had, let me see, one, two, well, that haole didn't have any family. Oh, another one was, I think she used to be a teacher. She was up from Kona. I think she stopped them from coming to visit.

JG: Why, because she was becoming disfigured?

JB: Yeah. Probably, you know, that thing, you don't want other people to know that you have this leprosy.

JG: Did you go into the cottages and visit the people in the cottages?

JB: Oh, yes.

JG: Was this part of your job, or were you allowed just to kind of do what you wanted?

JB: When we was down Kalihi, we used to make rounds. After lunch hour, the patients was supposed to be in their rooms. Then we wait for maybe about half an hour, then we make our tour, rounds. All the buildings. To see if the patients are in bed. They supposed to be resting.

JG: Were you checking for any symptoms or anything besides resting?

JB: Well, you probably get some sick ones sometimes.

JG: But were there certain things you were supposed to be looking for?

JB: No. Just see that they stay in bed, and no gambling, no drinking. But you get 'em.

JG: You were also sort of policeman as well as nurse.

JB: Yeah.
JG: What could they do to them if they were caught gambling? Or drinking?

JB: Just get punished.

JG: But what was the punishment?

JB: Probably you don't go out on rides. Get no visitors. Not too sick, see. But they jump the fence, they bring them back again. And you cannot watch them.

JG: What about money? How were they cared for there, I mean...

JB: Well, when I first went to work there, they used to have they call 'em allowance. Now come from the state. Every three months, they get maybe $12. But them every six months, then that's where they get the big allowance.

JG: How much was that?

JB: I don't remember now. I don't know whether it was $16 or something like that. Or six dollars, I don't remember. They got it all in silver dollars. And they used to fumigate it. Put it in alcohol and let it stand.

JG: Before they let them spend it.

JB: Uh huh.

JG: What was that supposed to cover, that allowance?

JB: Besides that cash money, then they get clothing allowance. That was their spending money. The big one is the clothing money. I don't know how much. But anyway, before they used to give them money, they used to have all those different company, like Yat Loy and if the shoe company, maybe Kim Chow, and they'll bring their goods down there, in the hall now. In the recreation hall, and set it all on the table. And then the patients used to, I don't know how they fit it on, or how the man do it to them, 'cause I never went there to watch, what size shoes they want, what dress they want, you see. Clothing allowance. I don't know whether...

JG: They get the clothing allowance in cash money?

JB: No, let me see how they do it. The money that they get, the big money, say, was maybe $16 or $20, that's the money they get to pay their order, what they want. That's the money that I think they pay the man who brings the stuff in. Once every three months, I think. Oh, they were well off, better than me. Living in my own home. They don't pay no rent, they don't pay no food. Some of them they just buy things for their room.
JG: What kind of clothes did they generally wear?
JB: Street clothes like anybody else. They buy the best. They buy the best.
JG: Did the women do any sewing down there?
JB: Yeah, they sew. Some of them do their own sewing.
JG: They had sewing machines and things like that?
JB: They buy their own sewing machine. In their room. And then the mothers who take care the little ones, the youngsters, the girls, they teach them how to sew. How to do their own laundry.
JG: How many young, say teenagers, did you have down there?
JB: We didn't have too many. I think maybe about five or six. And they have parents with them, they live in a building, in the dorm. Maybe two in a room.
JG: Now, say they were going to have a party down with the patients, can you describe how they got ready for a party, and what a particular party was like? Did you ever go to them?
JB: They have a kitchenette. And then they'll cook their own, and somebody will bring something from outside. If it's for all, then they put it in the dining room. Then of course they have cooks over there. Clean help to do it, 'cause they cannot go in the main kitchen.
JG: You mean some of the patients might get together and have a little private party?
JB: Just a little private party, in the building, you see. They have their own little kitchenette where they cook. In the building, in the cottage, yeah. Maybe you're in the other building and there's two kitchens. You see, then they'd bring it and get it all together. Serve it on the floor.
JG: Where would they get their food from?
JB: Family outside. When they make their own party it's from the family outside bringing inside. They tell them what to get, what to buy. Because then they cannot get it from the kitchen. Maybe each of them say, well, we going lunch, or we going supper, then they'll bring their own milk or whatever dessert they have, they'll bring it. Probably they'll pack their own food and bring 'em in, you see.
JG: Did they ever bring anything like shows or things down for the patients?
JB: Yes, they do. Entertainers.
JG: What about movies or anything like that?

JB: They have movies about once a week. When we're not busy we run over to see it, too.

JG: Do you remember any of the entertainers who came down to entertain? Do you know who they were?

JB: I don't remember. Only that this prominent name is Lucky Luck and Crazy Aku. But they were out in the...they call 'em a Brazilian name, the administrator's office. Over there, see. And the patients all on the ground. That's the only two I can remember, but they had others come in play music for them, and then dance. The patients would dance among themselves.

JG: Ballroom dancing?

JB: Yeah, ballroom dancing. And then they'd have some hula entertainers come in. I don't know if Clara Inter went down there. I don't remember. Hilo Hattie, yeah. I saw her when she was a school teacher. That's when I first saw her entertaining up at that school where I went, the Kalihi-waena school. Oh, boy, she's so old now.

JG: Amazing.

JB: She still can do it, though.

JG: Did you ever go to Kalaupapa?

JB: Yeah, on a fast trip.

JG: What was that?

JB: For take patients up there. And had lunch there and then come back on the next plane.

JG: Were these patients that you have been taking care at Hale...

JB: Up Hale, yeah. Chaperone them up. Only on the plane, that you go, there could be only about three patients, because I think the plane hold five.

JG: There was one nurse or whatever that went up with each three to five patients?

JB: One. Sometime the social worker goes up. If the social worker goes up, then the nurse don't go.

JG: How long before the patients were sent up were they told they were going to go there?
JB: If the hospital down here begins to get filled up, then they'll send the worst ones up there. They don't know. But some request to go up there, because up there is free life. You get your drinks. You get all the fish you want. You get all your women friends you want, see. They request to go up there. Over here is just like isolation. You can't do this, you can't do that. You sneak to a room and get caught, that's too bad.

JG: When you took the patients up there, how did you go?

JB: On, one of those little flight planes.

JG: Private planes?

JB: Yeah. They chartered a private plane.

JG: Did they do any kind of fumigating on the plane after the people got out?

JB: I don't know. I don't ask, so I don't know.

JG: And you landed right in Kalaupapa?

JB: Right at Kalaupapa. They have a field up there.

JG: When you got there, did you turn them over to the hospital administrator there?

JB: No, they pick us up at the airport and we took 'em up to the hospital. And then we turn them over to them and then...

JG: You'd introduce them to the administrator and he'd take 'em down?

JB: No. We just took 'em up there to the hospital and say, "Well, these are the patients." 'Cause they get letters go through. Then we'd have lunch, then maybe make rounds, show us the place. I just went there once. And come back on the next plane. The plane go there and you wait for it about hour, or two hours, and you go back on the same plane.

JG: You see patients up there that you had treated before?

JB: Yeah, oh, yeah. They glad to see me. "Hi, Bryant how come you..." I was waiting and waiting, anxious to go up there, because I never been up there. So they finally told me I can escort the patients.

JG: You were saying earlier that they took them up on the barge.


JG: That took, what, overnight?
JB: Overnight, and the nurses who escort them back up there they said boy, they were seasick. I know one, she's so skinny and then she say, "My goodness, I cannot eat. And I vomit and I vomit." Oh, I'm glad I didn't go on that barge. And even the patients, they were sick, sick! Seasick! You know that barge, she going up and going up. I went on a big boat Hualalai and I got seasick just before I land in Kauai. I didn't take any dramamine, but when I came back, I took.

JG: When was this, that you went up to Kauai on the...

JB: Right after the big tidal wave. Don't ask me the year.

JG: 1948?


JB: The big one.

JG: That was on April Fool's Day.

JB: But later on then we end up on a tour. It took us way down to Kahlilikai or Kahiliwai, where that bridge was washed off over there. It's a nice place over there. And we went to the wet and dry cave.

JG: Haena.

JB: If you know who lives in that big house just down that side, close to the ocean. There's a nice big house over there. Near the wet and dry cave.

JG: Went up on the Hualalai?

JB: Uh huh. Hualalai or Waialeale whichever one. One of 'em.

JG: Was this a vacation?

JB: Well, it was vacation for me. I wanted to take a tour, because then it was kind of cheap. You leave here ten o'clock at night and get there next morning. So I wanted. She (JB's daughter) and I went up together.

JG: What was the trip like?

JB: Going was okay.

JG: Did you sleep on the deck, did you have a room?

JB: I had a room. There was a room, double deck, huh.
JG: Were there two beds inside?

JB: Anyway, first one get there first one gets the bed. Well, a haole wahine came in, she wanted to sleep in the bottom. I said, "No, I never went on a boat before. I don't want to sleep on the top." So I slept down on the bottom. She went up on the deck and spent the night up there, see.

JG: What, in a chair, or...

JB: Must have been on one of those lounging chairs. On deck. I didn't go up, I just stay put in that room.

JG: What did that round trip cost?

JB: Well, it cost $80.

JG: The two of you?

JB: Yeah. We just went there for one day. Got off the boat and get a bus, and...

JG: You went to Port Allen?

JB: Is it Port Allen where the lighthouse is?

JG: Well, there's Kilauea Light, which is up toward the Hanalei side, and then Port Allen is on the other side if you're going from Lihue up toward Waimea.

JB: Where is that Lighthouse? When we went there, we were supposed to go on the hotel, I don't know what they call 'em, where the boat landed further up. But they were renovating that hotel.

JG: Oh, that must have been Kilauea Light. There's a lighthouse up there on that side and it's not terribly far from...

JB: Now was it Nawiliwili we landed, that port?

JG: Nawiliwili is over on the other side. Port Allen, Nawiliwili are up on the other side. Where the cane is.

JB: Now, and then not too far from where the boat, the ship anchored, there's a entertaining hall over there. Where they entertain the tourists.

JG: That's Port Allen, Nawiliwili, then.

JB: Nawiliwili, huh?

JG: Right.
JB: Because we landed, we got up on the car and we went tour all around.

JG: It's the jetty club or something club you go out, drive out on the jetty out that way.

JB: When we came back, we stopped there for luau.

JG: Yeah. That's probably Nawiliwili.

JB: Yeah, I don't know, you have to go from there, go there, and Nawiliwili. Was cheap, reasonable for that time. Just over night. When I came back, I was smart, I went in that, is that the Hasegawa's Store on Kauai?

JG: No, Hasegawa's is in Hana.

JB: Hana? Well, anyway, one store in Kauai, I went there and buy me some dramamine. Lihue, anyway. Lihue is the main town, huh?

JG: Lihue is.

JB: Yeah, that's where we landed at the pier over there and then we went up the other way.

END OF INTERVIEW.