BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: Adolph "Duffie" Mendonca, 72, former engineer and real estate appraiser.

"There's no empty space in Kalihi anymore, except a few parks maybe, school grounds. Used to be vegetable gardens, flower gardens, taro patches, grazing land, chicken farms. Not anymore. Even the hillsides are covered now with homes. But it used to be a quiet, really quiet, open area. You could walk to anywhere you wanted to go. No place was too far to walk, that is, within Kalihi. But today, well, it's just grown, that's all."

Adolph "Duffie" Mendonca, Portuguese, was born on Rose Street in Kalihi on November 13, 1912. He grew up in the "Fern Park" area of Kalihi and participated in neighborhood sports activities.

While his immigrant father worked in the construction industry, "Duffie" earned money by shining shoes and caddying at Oahu Country Club.

"Duffie" attended St. Louis School from the first grade, receiving his high school diploma in 1930. He then enrolled at the University of Hawaii, where he starred on the football team.

Between his graduation from the University in 1936, and World War II, "Duffie" worked as an engineer for E.E. Black, Ltd., the Territorial engineering department, and the U.S. Corps of Engineers.

During World War II, "Duffie" briefly saw active duty in the South Pacific. Following the war, he was assigned to Japan and served as a military governor during the Occupation.

Following the Occupation, "Duffie" returned home, worked for a contracting firm, and later entered the real estate business.

Today, he is a real estate appraiser and works daily in his downtown office. He lives in Hawaii-Kai with his wife, the former Violet Gonsalves.
WN: This is an interview with Mr. Adolph Mendonca at his downtown office on January 17, 1984.

Okay, can you tell me, first of all, where you were born and when you were born?

AM: Yes. I was born at 2411 Rose Street, which is in Kalihi, on November 13, 1912.

WN: What was your father doing in that area?

AM: My father lived there, of course, but his work, he was a construction worker.

WN: For what company?

AM: Various contractors, wherever the jobs were. In those days, construction workers did not have a union. Today, the union assigns these as the jobs come up. So, in the old days, whenever a new construction job came up, these workers would go to the site and apply. And there were only a handful of contractors, and I guess after a while they got to know all the different workers.

WN: Prior to coming to Kalihi, where was your father from?

AM: I was told that my father came over here from the East Coast, somewheres in Massachusetts. He had stopped there when he emigrated from Portugal. I believe he came from the Azores. He stopped over somewhere in Massachusetts. And then, later on, his older brother who had been here [Hawaii] before him sent for him.

WN: And what about your mother? Where was she from?

AM: Well, my mother came to Hawaii from the Madeira Islands. She was a young girl when she came over here with her parents.
WN: So, you're 100 percent Portuguese?

AM: I am, as far as I know. Yeah, 100 percent.

WN: Okay. Can you describe for me what the Rose Street area was like, as far as stores and physical description of it?

AM: Well, Rose Street extended from Kamehameha IV Road or Kam IV Road, they call it, in the northwest direction, and ended about five, six blocks later at the Fort Shafter Military Reservation. There was a barbed wire fence, about ten feet tall, at the end of the road to keep people off of the reservation. It was lined on both sides by single family homes. At that time, there was no store on either side of Rose Street in the early days. A store was built later either in the late '20s or very early '30s on the makai Ewa corner of Rose and Middle Street. That was the only store.

WN: What was the name of that store?

AM: There was no name. The owner was a Chinese family called Leong. But he didn't have any store sign outside. In the old days, very few of the family or neighborhood stores had big names outside. Even Coca-Cola wasn't displayed in those days. There were so few stores in my neighborhood that I don't think they needed any name. The only customers were those people who lived in the immediate neighborhood and referred to the different stores by the owner's name.

WN: Do you consider that part Kalihi-Waena?

AM: We never did consider that as Kalihi-Waena. My understanding of Kalihi-Waena was practically the area south of Kalihi Stream. From Kalihi Stream to Kalihi Street on which Kamehameha School was situated and now occupied by Farrington High School, right next to the Bishop Museum. That was the boundary of. . . . And between School Street on the mauka side and King Street on the makai side, everything below King Street, we called it Kalihi-Kai. Everything above School Street we considered Kalihi-Uka. So, other than referring to the neighborhood I lived in as the Fern Park area, I don't know of any hyphenated Kalihi being attached to it.

WN: So, in those days, when people say, "Oh, where you from?" you said what? Fern Park?

AM: Well, it all depended. It depended on who asked you.

(Laughter)

AM: To people living, for instance, downtown or Kaimuki, I don't think they knew what Fern Park meant, so we'd have to say Kalihi. But to people that live in Kalihi-Waena or Kalihi-Uka, we'd say we live in Fern Park or the Fern Park area.
WN: What kind of nationalities lived in that area?

AM: We had a very cosmopolitan group. We had a couple of German families. We had several Portuguese families. We had a few Japanese families. And we had several Chinese families. And we had a few Hawaiian families. So, we had, for that time, just about every group you think of. German, of course, when I say "German," that would include what is referred to as Caucasian or haoles. And we had half-Whites, what we call half-Whites. Mixtures. We had a very cosmopolitan group, I'd say.

WN: When you say "German," did you refer to them as German or did you think of them as haole?

AM: Well, two families. One was the Schimmer family. They spoke with a German accent. So, we always referred to 'em as the German family. And the other was the Fagerroos family. The old folks also had a little accent to their speech. But we didn't talk or think very much about breaking 'em down to haoles, or Germans, or anything like that. I think people, as time went on, became more conscious of it or aware of it. I think our government has had a lot to do with it because they've listed different ethnic groups. Always in the breakdown of population they tend to refer to ethnic groups. It makes people more conscious. But I thought we were getting absorbed pretty well.

WN: You had a certain gang of friends that you used to hang around with?

AM: Yes. We had the boys, anywhere from seven, eight years up to high school students. Of course, the seven-year-olds could only stand by and admire the bigger ones because they were the athletic heroes, the big ones. But we all hung around the park. And it depended what you did. If you wanted to play baseball, well, you get your own age group and play baseball. Maybe the older fellows would be off in a corner somewhere talking or doing something else. But we had constant exposure to all of 'em.

WN: Was there any kind of organized activity?

AM: Yes, during the baseball season, we had baseball team. We had football teams. Until the city installed basketball courts—that is, the nets and the backboard, I don't mean a paved court—well, after they introduced that, we played basketball, also. And once in a while, volleyball. Our parks were not equipped like they are today with paved areas for tennis, and basketball, and volleyball. It was just one big field of grass. We marked out our own baseball diamonds and so forth.

WN: So, it was organized in the sense that you had sponsors, and uniforms, and things? Or was it just . . .

AM: No. No, everything we did, we played barefooted until you got to be
a grownup and then you could afford to buy spikes. That was the only equipment, you might say. Baseball, for instance, spikes. Football was always barefoot. Never played with spikes. The only time we used a uniform was when you played in high school or if you played for one of the organized teams in Honolulu.

WN: The kids that hung around Fern Park, did they all live in that area?

AM: Within a radius of one mile, I would say.

WN: Beyond that, what other parks were there in Kalihi?

AM: Well, there was another park up at what they call Fernandez Park, which was on Gulick Avenue and another street there. Fernandez Street, I think. There was that park. And there was a park up in Kalihi-Uka, I don't know what they called that field. And there was a park in Kalihi-Kai. Because every once in a while, we'd go to these, too. One district would challenge the other district. These challenges weren't bloody, or vicious, or anything like that. It's just friendly. Because everybody, either by sight or by going to school together, kinda had an idea who the others were. We'd at least know most of 'em by name, yeah?

WN: There was a Kalihi Thundering Herd and they hung around a certain area, right?

AM: Well, the nucleus of that Kalihi Thundering Herd were generally boys, young men, that were from the Kalihi-Waena area, although they did attract players from Kalihi-Kai. Some from Kalihi-Uka. I don't think anybody from Fern Park was on the Thundering Herd team. We did have a couple from the Palama area before Palama had their own team. We had a very good player there named Bill Flazer. Tall, skinny fellow. He was a very good punter. It was the barefoot leagues. They played barefoot, the leagues.

WN: Tackle?

AM: Flazer?

WN: No, was it tackle football?

AM: Oh, yeah. Some of them had shoulder pad. Those were vicious games when, for instance, Kalihi played Kakaako or Kakaako played Palama. There was another team from the Liliha Street area called Hui 'Eleu. They were rugged boys, too.

WN: So, there was no equivalent of a Thundering Herd from the Fern Park area?

AM: No, there wasn't. We had a number of boys from the Fern Park area that played in high school. McKinley and St. Louis. A few of them, later on, went and played at university. Either University of Hawaii
or universities on the Mainland.

WN: I noticed that lot of the people that grew up in your area went on to high school and college.

AM: Yes.

WN: Whereas a lot of the Thundering Herd gang did not. Is there a reason for that, do you think?

AM: Dropouts, huh? (Chuckles) In those days, the principal school was Kalihi-Waena, which was right across the street from Fernandez Park. And that went to eighth grade. See, we just had that grade and then high school. It was later on that they broke it down to intermediate and junior high school, and high school. So, it was customary, not only in Kalihi but in lot of areas of Hawaii, where after the eighth grade the boys went to work. Lot of the boys didn't start school until they were eight, nine years old. Then eight years in grade school would make 'em sixteen, seventeen years old by the time they came out. So they were expected to go to work and help the families. And of course, a lot of them didn't have any desire to continue their education.

But it seemed like in our area, we had a higher percentage of boys that continued high school and college. Why? I don't want to be so bold as to say we may have had a better educated group of parents or parents who were more educationally inclined, who wanted their children. . . . Because if you go back before my time, lot of the old-timers that lived in the Kalihi area were prominent in the old kingdom days. They were prominent people, like the Hopkins and the Mossmans. I'd read where they used to work for the kingdom or the territory. It was apparently a good area, good residential area, in the old days because of its closeness to downtown, for one reason. There's nothing wrong with the beauty of Kalihi Valley and the Kalihi area. It's close to the ocean. Fishing, crabbing. So it was logical. Lot of our residential areas that you see today are that way because they ran out of space in the more city areas, closer to the city. The transportation was a big item. Not many people had cars. So they had to live near their place of employment. A lot of them walked to work.

WN: So, it's pretty convenient location, yeah?

AM: Yeah. Well, it was sensible, wasn't it? And as they earned money and they started new families, they started to move away, yeah? I remember very well as a youngster, very, very few people lived east of the Kahala Mall area. The streetcar line ended at Koko Head Avenue, right across from the theater--used to be Kaimuki Theater which has been torn down. That was the end of the line. The line went from there to Fort Shafter, the beginning of Moanalua. Then there was a line from up Liliha Street that went to Waikiki.
WN: Along what street did it go? Ala Moana Boulevard?

AM: No. It came down Liliha Street, got onto King Street, went out King Street, turned right on McCully. McCully Street was not in. It was all swamp, waterways. Only the streetcar tracks went down there. And the line ended at Kapiolani Park. There was another one from Manoa. Came down and ended at Aala Park.

WN: From Manoa to Aala Park?

AM: Yeah. So, if you went to the University of Hawaii from Kalihi, you'd have to transfer from the Kaimuki streetcar. You'd have to get off at Aala Park and get on the Manoa car. And when you came home, you'd get off--that's the end of the line. You (took) the King Street car right there.

WN: For those of you who lived in the Fort Shafter area, did some of your parents work for Fort Shafter?

AM: I doubt it. I can only remember two or three fellows that worked at Fort Shafter because now and then I'd see 'em going to work or coming back from work in the afternoon. I would say, only a handful of them.

WN: So, besides the sports that you had, what did you do to have a good time as a kid in that area?

AM: Well, we used to go down to Moanalua. This was before Nimitz Highway went in. The railroad tracks used to go out to the country from the railway station which was down near Aala Park there. So we used to walk down on the tracks, on the bridges, and do a lot of crabbing. There were quite a few crabs. That's before that area was all filled up again. You know where Keehi Lagoon is and that Mapunapuna area. That was all water. So, we'd do crabbing. We used to go up to the mountain, especially during the summer when there was no school. Way up in the valley.

WN: This is Kalihi Valley?

AM: No. This was Moanalua Valley, where they wanted originally to put the H-3 freeway. We used to go up there all the time. There was a nice swimming hole up there. And during the late summer, it was mountain apple season. There's quite a few up in there. We did that. There's another good swimming hole up in Kalihi Valley, at the end of Kalihi Street there, past the orphanage. We used to walk up, go by way of Kam IV Road and go up there swimming, weekends especially. And we had lot of sports--baseball, football.

WN: What about movies?

AM: Yeah, we used to go to movies. There was a theater at what we called Kalihi Corner. Star Theater, I believe the name was. Well, Sunday
nights, generally. We seldom went to the theater during the week because we go to school next day. We couldn't afford it for one thing. Once a week, Sundays generally, we went to a movie. And in my early years, we used to go to Fort Shafter. They had a theater down there and a bunch of us kids used to climb the trees along the theater because the top part of the side walls were open. We climbed to the top of the trees and we could see the movie. It was all silent movies those days. Lot of cowboy stuff, and William S. Hart, and Tom Mix. Lot of excitement. So, we did that.

WN: Was it pretty easy to get onto the base?

AM: Oh, yeah. It was easy. You could either go from King Street but since we lived right by the fence there, much shorter going that way. No problem. The officials knew we boys were there. They didn't do anything to lock us up, or kick us out, or anything like that. I know as a youngster, I used to go down to Fort Shafter (to) shine shoes on paydays, which was the end of the month. The last day of the month. Two or three of us used to do that. That's the only time we went, three days around payday. Because after that, the soldiers were broke. They had no more money.

WN: How much you'd charge for one shine?

AM: Ten cents a pair.

WN: You were telling me earlier that you used to make your own polish?

AM: Yes. I used to make my own. It isn't a polish. We used to call it the "ink." Before, they used to put liquid on the shoe before they put the wax, the polish. The ink part, we used to make it out of pānīni. They call it pānīni--cactus, eh? We'd pick the right cactus. They were red. SLīce 'em, take out the filling inside, squeeze 'em, and screen 'em, take the seeds out. And you have good shoe (chuckles) polish.

WN: How did you get your black shoe polish?

AM: Soldiers didn't have black shoes. They only had tan shoes.

WN: Was that the oxblood?

AM: Oxblood, yeah. Because soldiers couldn't wear civilian clothes. In those days they weren't allowed to wear, so they didn't have any sports shoes, or oxfords, or anything like that. It was all G.I. shoes. Government issue. That's G.I. That's what we used to call it. So, no problem there.

WN: Was going to Fort Shafter considered a better clientele for shining shoes than, say, downtown, Kalihi, or anything like that?

AM: No, I think downtown was better because you had more clients and
they had more money to spend. But I don't think it was worthwhile going downtown. Besides, it was kinda dangerous going downtown to shine shoes because those fellows who were already there, they would beat you up if somebody came in there and shared their territory. Each guy had his own corner. Some new fellow come in, "Ey, get out of here." Bust you up or something like that. So, we knew better. We didn't go interfering in anybody's territory. But instead of shining shoes downtown, I used to caddy at the Oahu Country Club. And I thought that was a lot cleaner and safer than to try shining shoes down at Aala Park or one of those places.

WN: How did you get the job caddying?

AM: Not far from where I lived on Kam IV Road, a Mr. Zoller lived. He was the superintendent of maintenance. That is, taking care of the fairways, mowing the grass, taking care of the greens, and so forth, watering. He had a son (who) played with us. One day, he suggested (that) we go caddying up at the country club. His father would see that I got in. And that's when I did. We did have a golf course in Moanalua.

(Telephone rings. Taping stops, then resumes.)

WN: Okay.

AM: There was a golf course at Moanalua on the Damon property there. It was a nine-hole course.

WN: It's still there, right?

AM: Yeah, yeah. A nine-hole course. They had their own caddy group there. And they didn't want anybody else down there. No newcomers, see. They'd kick you out. Several of these Richard boys, they were leaders in that respect. So, I never went to caddy at the Moanalua, even though I didn't live very far from the golf course.

WN: So, how did you get from your house to OCC?

AM: Well, on non-school days, I'd catch the streetcar. School days, after school, I used to walk over to Nuuanu Street, get on the streetcar there. Then come home by streetcar. Although coming home, we'd bum rides from the players who were going home. Most of them lived Nuuanu or Manoa, places like that. So, at least they gave us a ride to downtown somewheres. And we catch a streetcar downtown.

WN: How much did you get paid caddying?

AM: When I was caddying, the fee was fifty cents for eighteen holes. My last two years, it went up to seventy-five cents. But after school, there wasn't enough time because the players used to come up about four o'clock, after work downtown. So, they only had enough time to play maybe nine holes. Would get dark. So, you'd get a quarter for
nine holes. Sometimes they played eleven holes, you get thirty-five cents. And we'd make a little extra money when golf balls were lost. We'd come back Saturday mornings and go look for these golf balls and sell 'em to the caddy master. Because a lot of the golf balls, they used to put the name of the owner on the balls so they could identify them. And those who didn't have their names on 'em could be sold to members who wanted practice balls. Quite a few golfers used to have a little bag like a coin bag in the bank. And they'd keep couple of dozen secondhand balls. Every once in a while, they go out and drive 'em all. The caddy would be out in the open there waiting for these balls with the bag. You pick 'em up, put 'em inside, you bring 'em back. So you do that for about an hour. So, there was a good market for the (chuckles) used golf balls.

WN: Still that way today, I think. (Laughs)

AM: I think so.

WN: You were going to St. Louis at the time, from first grade on.

AM: I went to St. Louis from the first grade through twelfth.

WN: And that was when it was over on River Street, right?

AM: My first ten years, St. Louis was down just mauka of where Aala Park is now. College Walk, they call that road, on the Ewa bank of Nuuanu Stream.

WN: Did a lot of Kalihi kids go to St. Louis?

AM: We had a good representation. Pretty good.

WN: Did you have to be Catholic to go there?

AM: No. No, you didn't have to be a Catholic. I guess it helped if you were a Catholic. But one of the goals of St. Louis was to take in non-Catholics and try to covert 'em. Make Catholics out of them. That's what the idea of these missionary groups are, to convert people. They do the same thing today. Not only Catholics, but all these churches and church-affiliated schools. They make an effort to at least get you interested in religion. It's part of the reason why they exist.

WN: Your parents, they wanted you to go to St. Louis?

AM: Oh, yes. My parents were definitely Catholics, strong Catholics, and they'd been brought up that way. That was the way it was going to be. It was their duty, they felt, that their children get a Catholic education.

WN: So, the schools available to kids in your area were St. Louis, McKinley. . . . Well, anyway, you went from St. Louis from first
grade all the way.

AM: Yes.

WN: Other kids may have gone to Kalihi-Waena until the eighth grade then to McKinley?

AM: Then to McKinley or St. Louis. We also had a couple of other high schools. Punahou, of course. Then we had Kamehameha. And we had what we called HMA--Honolulu Military Academy. Most of the students that went to those schools were from the Fourth District. See, Oahu used to be Fourth District and Fifth District. Everything Ewa of Nuuanu was Fifth District. Everything on the Kaimuki side is Fourth District. The wealthier people generally, of course, lived in the Fourth District. Most of the children that went to Punahou or HMA came from up that way.

WN: Can I ask how you got your nickname?

AM: Well, as far as I can remember I've been called that. I really never inquired as to why in the world they ever called me "Duffie" [rhymes with "Goofy"], yeah? My name is Adolph. I think the Portuguese way of pronouncing Adolph is "Aduff." So, I think it's derived from that. My parents would call me "Aduff." So, my friends, hearing that, or my brothers and sisters, "Duffie," rather than "Aduff."

WN: D-U-F-F-I-E?

AM: Yeah, well, D-U-F-F-I-E. Has to be. D-U-F-F-Y would be "Duffy," more, yeah? Duffie. But I've always been called--I'm still called that by people who have known me. I don't mind. In fact, I've grown up with it, so I have no objections.

WN: So, you graduated from St. Louis, right, in 1930?

AM: Yes, I graduated with the class of '30. I went to work down at Pearl Harbor as an apprentice, trying to learn the trade. I was there for about six months. I didn't feel like I was cut out to be a tradesman. So, I left Pearl Harbor shortly after New Year's. School didn't begin till the following September, so in that period I went to work for the City and County building department. My job was as a helper or laborer taking care, repairing schools. So, when September came around I enrolled.

WN: At the UH [University of Hawaii].

AM: Yes, I know, yeah? Can we take a three-minute break, please?

END OF INTERVIEW
WN: This is an interview with Mr. Adolph Mendonca. Today is January 25, 1984, and we're at his Downtown Honolulu office.

Okay, well, last time we were talking about the UH [University of Hawaii], and you had started going to the UH in 1931. Can you describe the UH? What it was like in those days?

AM: Yes, in those days, the UH was really a small school. It had, as I recall, approximately four main buildings centered around an open area. That was Hawaii Hall administration building. Then there was Andrews Hall, Gartley Hall, the library. And in back of Hawaii Hall was Farrington Hall—the assembly. They have concerts and (other activities) there, you know. And the agricultural department was further back up in the valley where they kept cattle and things. That was the agricultural school. And they had one big building there. Then there was the engineering quadrangle which was on the Kaimuki side of Hawaii Hall. There were two buildings there and a third one which was used for testing materials—concrete and so forth. Then there was a little shack in front of that which was the locker room for the athletes.

WN: This is on the Dole Street side? Toward Dole Street?

AM: I'm not sure there was a Dole Street at that time. But this was on the Kaimuki side. Then fronting University Avenue was the old Cooke Field, the athletic field. And on the side of that was the gymnasium which I think they call Klum Gym.

WN: You mean, the original gym is called Klum?

AM: Yeah. It became "Klum" after Klum died, I guess. But it had no one's name at that time. It was just the gym. Basketball and things like that. Just in back of the gym was the ROTC [Reserve Officers' Training Corps] building where they kept the rifles, and the ROTC instructors had their offices there. That was about the extent of the campus as I recall it.
WN: Cooke Field was where Bachman Hall is now?

AM: No. Cooke Field was where the library--I guess it's the Sinclair Library now, huh? Right on the corner of University and Metcalf, where Metcalf enters the campus. Where Bachman Hall is today was the relocated Cooke Field. The second Cooke Field. That became the field. That was formerly all covered with brush, and rocks, and everything. During my time up there they were clearing it up and preparing it for what it is today. Bachman Hall came up later. And of course, that entire area mauka or northeast of Bachman Hall now, we got the East-West Center and they got all kinds of buildings there. Funny, those buildings, most of them have been named after professors that were there as teachers when I was a student. I remember so many of them.

WN: Where the East-West Center is now, what was there when you were there?

AM: Brush. (Chuckles) I think it was even too rugged for the cattle to go into. (Chuckles) It was rugged land up in that area. You could see when you drive up Dole Street. You look in the back there, it's all rocks, and cactus, and koa, and things like that. Rugged land.

WN: So, you were into engineering?

AM: I was an engineering student.

WN: When did you decide that you were going to become an engineer or go into engineering?

AM: I always had a feeling that I would like to be in engineering because I was always pretty good at mathematics. I enjoyed mathematics in high school. I thought that maybe I ought to be an engineer based on that.

WN: Did your parents want you to go college?

AM: Well, I guess all parents want their children to go to school, but some parents, never having gone to school themselves, really don't know what going to school means. In those days, (when) one went to school, generally speaking, he got a better job later on. And certainly all parents wanted their children to have a better life than they may have had.

WN: You got into athletics at the University. How did you get into athletics?

AM: Well, I had always been interested in athletics as a youngster. In my last year at St. Louis I was on the football team there. Then after I graduated, I was playing football for the St. Louis alumni. They had a football team like the other high schools had alumni teams. We had what was called the Senior League. The Town Team
was perhaps the oldest and best known team. So there were about four teams in the league. I played for the alumni. And then, the year after that, of course, I was at the University so I turned out for football at the University.

WN: You mentioned the "Town Team." I've heard of that team, but what was it really? What was it composed of?

AM: The Town Team was composed of a combination of ex-high school stars, some college graduates who had jobs here in Hawaii, who wanted to keep playing, I guess. The Town Team was a very good team and had very good players, older players than, of course, the University. Every year on Christmas Day, the Town Team would play a college team which was invited to play in Honolulu. And then on New Year's Day, the University would play the [college] team. The University, of course, invited the team over. But I think to help defray expenses, they played two games--Christmas and New Year. Because in those days, travel was only by boat. The team coming over, of course, had to spend at least ten days in a hotel, so expenses must have been high. That's why, I believe, two games were necessary.

WN: Who was the coach, Town Team?

AM: The Town Team had several coaches. I remember one coach was Eddie Fernandez who himself had been one of the real greats at the University of Hawaii.

WN: He's a Kalihi boy, too, right?

AM: The Fernandez family comes from Kalihi, yes. They're the ones that had the [E.K.] Fernandez circus and carnival. They still do, I think.

WN: Is that the family that Fernandez Park is named after?

AM: I believe that's the family, yes. They were a prominent family, and I guess they still are, especially in carnivals and things like that. Every year Punahou School has a carnival. Fernandez furnishes the rides and things like that.

WN: Okay. So, you played for the University of Hawaii between 1931 and 1936?

AM: Thirty-five.

WN: Thirty-five.

AM: Yes, I did. I was not too big in 1931. That is, physically. I don't think I weighed much more than about 165, 170 pounds. I was never over five feet eleven [inches]. So, as I kept going to school I got bigger. I was still growing, I guess. So that in my last two years, I was about as big as most of the fellows on the team or bigger than some of the fellows. And, of course, you keep working
at something, you get better at it. You learn more about it, so you should improve with age and time. I suppose like everybody else, that's what happened to me. As I got older I got a little bit better, and that's the way I ended.

WN: What position did you play?

AM: I played tackle. Right tackle. Fellow who played left tackle was a young fellow named Frank Judd. He was the biggest guy I had ever seen up to that time. He was about six feet four [inches] and about 250 pounds.

WN: Chee, that's big by today's standards.

AM: Oh, that's about average by (chuckles) today's, when you're talking about professional players. Matter of fact, for a lineman, that's too small.

WN: Today.

AM: Today's professional. Listening to the pro game the other day, they were talking about 270 pounders and 280 pounders, six feet six [inches] (chuckles) and so on.

WN: And fast, too.

AM: Yeah. So there's been, I guess, improvement in our diets. Maybe people get more to eat today than we did in the old days. And it's a lot easier to get fed today than it used to be.

WN: Was it mostly local? The UH teams in those days?

AM: The UH team was mostly local, although we did have a few that came over here from the Mainland. They were not great athletes. They just average, and they turned out for the team. But by far, the biggest percentage were local boys from the different islands. We had them from all the islands.

WN: What were some of your memorable games? Was there any game that really stands out?

AM: I think the one that stands out most in my mind would be the game we played on January 1, 1934 against the University of California. We beat them fourteen to nothing. (Chuckles) I'll never forget that game because I guess that must have been the first time we've ever shut out a major team like that. I had a good day. And it ended an undefeated season for us. We all got a gold football medal after that.

WN: When you defeated a major college like that in those days, was that considered a big upset?
AM: Oh, I would think so.

WN: Or was the UH considered a favorite?

AM: No, we certainly weren't (chuckles) the favorites. I suppose most people felt that these teams that came over here was mainly for entertainment for the locals. We didn't have television. All we knew about the Mainland teams were what we read. We did have radio, of course. But we, you know, held them up in awe. Like Notre Dame, and USC [University of Southern California], and those teams, why, they were the tops, and getting in the same ballpark with 'em was an honor. And then, you turn around and beat 'em, it's a double honor, isn't it? (Chuckles)

WN: You know, UH just played Oklahoma this past year. Was that the same type of--how shall I say--magnitude in terms of UH playing a major college team? Or, in those days, were you and, say, University of California more equal than Hawaii was against Oklahoma?

AM: I believe, at least during the 1934-1935 seasons, we were just about on the par or maybe a little below the best teams in the Pacific Coast League. I'm sure we could have held our own without disgracing ourselves against nearly any team on the Mainland. We would have given a satisfactory, commendable performance.

WN: Who was the quarterback on the team?

AM: Our quarterback was a fellow named Piltz. Buster Piltz. He was a very intelligent fellow, (and a) very good quarterback.

WN: Any relation to the lieutenant governor candidate who just ran with [gubernatorial candidate Frank] Fasi?

AM: I believe they're cousins, at least. Buster had an older brother named Guy Piltz. He was a vice-president at the Bank of Hawaii here. Piltz's father, many years ago, was a captain on a ship called the Dickinson. The Dickinson used to go to different islands in the Pacific. I think they supplied the lighthouses. Different islands like Midway and places like that.

WN: Were there other Kalihi boys on that team besides yourself?

AM: During my years, I don't recall any Kalihi boy being on the team. There had been Kalihi boys in former teams. And there have been Kalihi boys, I'm sure, on teams after my time. But when I was there I don't recall any Kalihi boy being on the team other than myself.

WN: Did you get any kind of attention or anything because you were a Kalihi boy on a UH team? Was it a source of pride within the community or anything like that?
AM: Well, I'm (chuckles) sure I became fairly famous in Kalihi (having been captain of the football team). Most of the people who followed football—at least men—recognized me, would say hello, or things like that. But I guess coming from Kalihi in the early '30s was no different than coming from Kakaako, or Palama, or up in Liliha Street. The ones who had perhaps more attention were the country boys. For instance, we had a fellow from Waipahu named Fujishige. I'm sure you've heard of Mitsuo Fujishige. He was a very good athlete—football, baseball. Not too many years ago he was a member of our—what is known as City Council now. It was called the Board of Supervisors. He's still around. I think he is in the real estate business.

WN: Is he the father of George Fujishige?

AM: I don't think so. In fact, I'm sure he's not. I don't even know whether they're related or not. But I used to ride, in my last couple years, to school—we called him "Fugi"—with Fugi. He'd drive from Waipahu and he'd pick me up on Middle Street there. After football practice, he'd take me home because it was on his way, see?

WN: That's a long drive.

AM: Yeah. Especially for him.

WN: What type of a man was your coach Otto Klum?

AM: Well, on the field, Otto Klum was a severe taskmaster. No monkey business. He worked the heck out of you. He wanted to get results. Very hardworking coach. Very tough. Off the field, he was a very pleasant man, very nice man. Kind and friendly.

WN: Is he a local guy or is he from the . . .

AM: No. He, I believe, came from Oregon. He had attended school up in Oregon. Matter of fact, we used to joke about it. He, every once in a while, would say, "Well, when I played football for Medford . . . ." (Chuckles) We never heard of Medford. We used to laugh because (chuckles) we couldn't imagine him as a football player. But I know he did come from there. He went back there after he left Hawaii, and I believe he died back there. Medford, of course, is up near the California border, across the border from the town there, I forget the name right now. But anyhow, it's a nice, little valley town. He was a nice fellow, all in all.

WN: He had a nickname "Proc"?

AM: "Proc."

WN: How did he get that?

AM: I don't know. He'd been there long before I got there. He was
always known as "Proc." I guess "Proc" was better than Otto. Especially with all the wars against Germany. I don't think "Otto" was . . . . But I did hear some of his friends call him "Otto." "Proc" was generally, I guess, the sporting name. Newspapers and things like that, but his friends, I'm sure, called him "Otto."

WN: He must have been some man because there's a gym named after him and, you know, a lot of articles written about him.

AM: Well, you might say, he just about put the University of Hawaii on the map. At least by beating teams like California. At least you get in the Mainland newspapers and people read about it. We had another coach who was a line coach there, Dr. Withington. He was a Harvard graduate. He was a local doctor. I think he was an All-American player when he was at Harvard. Oh, he was tough. Even at his advanced age he could handle himself with college (chuckles) football players. Very good physical condition. We had another one, Ed Towse, who later became our chief justice in Hawaii. He'd been a great football player at the University about the same time Eddie Fernandez, Bill Wise, and Johnny Morse played. Those '24 and '25 were the years referred to as the Wonder Team. They really had a great football team during those two years. For a while, they called or referred to our '34-'35 team as the second Wonder Team.

WN: In those early to mid-thirties, in terms of equipment, what did you wear?

AM: We wore about the same things that they wear today except we weren't as elaborate. We wore headgears that did not have the mask metal bars in front of your face. Oh, they got wrappings all over now, the shins, and the wrists, and the elbows. Everything's wrapped now. We didn't have all of that. Basically, we had hip pad, a shoulder pad, and your football pants, and your jersey, and your helmet. That's about all we had. Sometimes, I think if you get overpadded, it kinda curtails your movement. It protects you physically, I guess, but you don't run, move as fast when you're overloaded with all those things. But of course, I've never used what they use today, so I really cannot say for sure. It just appears that way to me.

WN: Not that many changes, then?

AM: Yeah, you're not as agile.

WN: Well, you graduated in thirty. . . .

AM: Thirty-six.

WN: Thirty-six. And you got your engineering degree?

AM: Yes.
WN: And in 1937 you got married.

AM: That's right.

WN: How did you meet your wife?

AM: I met my wife on the campus at the University. My wife was a girl from the Big Island, Hawaii, and, oh, about twenty miles outside of Hilo, place called Laupahoehoe. Her high school was Hilo High School. Then she came to University of Hawaii for four years. And after she graduated, we were married.

WN: And soon after that, you started working?

AM: I started to work June of '36. I finished a year ahead of her, so I worked a year.

WN: Where did you work?

AM: I worked for E.E. Black, contractor, building roads. I also worked for the territorial engineering department, highway department. I worked for the U.S. Engineers. Different kind of engineering, different kind of experiences. I worked for a while for the five companies that started construction prior to World War II. I think they called it Pacific naval bases on these different islands and Kaneohe Naval Air Base. And then I went into the Army.

WN: You got drafted?

AM: No. I had always been a member of the National Guard here. I was an officer because I had taken advanced ROTC at the University. So, I felt that after preparing all these years, if a war comes, why, that's no time to get out. That's when they need you. So, I went into the Army.

WN: Did you see combat duty?

AM: I was for a little while in the South Pacific, Guadalcanal and Bougainville. But when I did get to Guadalcanal, the heavy fighting had been finished. They were attacking another island called Bougainville. I was down there for maybe about nine months or so. I was then sent to University of Virginia military government school in preparation for the eventual landing, I guess, in Japan. I was there for a while, and then I went to Stanford University to continue the study of Japanese government, Japanese language, Japanese customs, and so forth.

WN: Who were your instructors at Stanford?

AM: They were two Japanese, one man, one woman, who lived there. Lived in California near the campus. And two who were members of the faculty who had studied in Japan, supposedly experts on Japanese
government and so forth. About five or six different instructors. We learned to speak Japanese. I think I had the advantage because having grown up in Honolulu, we knew quite a few Japanese words. But the thing that amazed me was what we learned in school was not what we hear or had heard with your friends. They taught us what they said was the upperclass or more polite language. What we heard here in Honolulu was, you know, the farmers, the laborers, the lower class who had never been educated before coming over here. And I notice that when I went to Japan, I was, of course, ashamed. We had interpreters assigned to us. I was ashamed to talk to them because I would probably show my ignorance.

(Laughter)

AM: But after a while, we got to know each other and I'd use some of the terms that we used around Aala Park and Kalihi.

WN: Like what?

AM: Aru ka?

WN: (Chuckles) What is that?

AM: Well, that's a common way of saying, "Do you have?"

WN: Oh, aru ka?

AM: Yeah. Polite way is arimasu ka? Masu adds more dignity and little higher class. So, naturally, I keep my mouth shut.

(Laughter)

AM: I found that my experience with the interpreters over there, they knew less English than we (chuckles) knew Japanese. Most of them wanted to become interpreters because then they had certain privileges. They could buy things from the post exchange. Oh, I don't blame 'em. They were intelligent fellows and just wanted to get a little more. But it was a wonderful experience. I was assigned as the governor of Gumma-ken, which is inland. I think the capital of that ken was Maebashi. A city called Maebashi.

WN: This is during the Occupation already, right?

AM: Yeah. I went in just about the first boat after MacArthur got there. We were the first group to get there. Any time they wanted to do something, they'd have to talk to the military governor. I was treated royally, really. There was another town named Kiryu. Kiryu at that time was the silk capital of Japan. They manufactured the finished product. I was swarmed with bolts of silk. (Chuckles) You know, they give you a bolt of silk. What the government was trying to do— that is, the American government—the government wanted to get their industry going again. People could start working. So,
whenever any former bicycle shop or watchmaker or something like that wanted to open up, they'd have to ask permission and I'd go and inspect the property, theoretically to make sure they not going to manufacture arms again. So, when I'd meet with 'em, naturally, they were very nice to me. They didn't have much to give you anyhow.

I remember seeing a terribly large airplane factory there, where they manufactured Zero planes. You remember the zero fighter planes? I was really amazed that they had such a big thing 'cause I had seen the one in Burbank, California. That was the big plane manufacturing center for us during the war. And this one was just as big.

WN: What did they do with it after the war? What was done with the plant?

AM: Well, I don't know. During the time I was there, I guess they were planning to convert it into something else, manufacture something else, but it didn't happen while I was there. So, about that time, I was anxious to come home.

WN: How long were you military governor?

AM: I was there about a year. Little less than a year. I was certainly eligible for discharge 'cause I was in the Army five years. They went by the point system. The longer you were in, or in other words, first in, first out. So, I knew I was way up on the list as far being discharged because I had gone in before the war. So then, I came home.

WN: In 1945?

AM: Yeah, about Christmas of '45.

(Taping stops, then resumes.)

AM: . . . prior to going to Japan. And compared to Japan, Manila was a pigpen. The Philippine government had done nothing about cleaning up bombed buildings, things like that. Skeletons were lying alongside the road. We could smell 'em. That shows you the difference between the Philippine character and the Japanese character at that time. I'm sure the Filipinos were waiting for U.S. government to finance all that, pay for it. Maybe they were right. But the Japanese didn't wait. They cleaned everything up. You couldn't tell there had been a war, believe me.

WN: Was there any friction between yourself and the regular Japanese governor?

AM: Oh, no, no, no. I only saw him very occasionally. My dealings were mainly with the business people who wanted to open up a factory.
WN: In terms of actually governing the area, was that your responsibility?

AM: No. I had nothing to do with, for instance, the police force. I never saw any policemen. That was not our... We had no trouble. They cooperated 100 percent so there was no occasion for any friction of any kind. Poor people were so scared, I guess. You know, they didn't want to get in any trouble or anything like that. And I guess, I'm sure that their leaders, prior to the arrival of the American troops, had instructed the people to cooperate. The war's over, don't fight anybody.

WN: Did you use your Japanese a lot?

AM: (Chuckles) Only on my interpreter. He used to laugh like anything when I tried to talk Japanese.

WN: What was Hiroshima like?

AM: I never went there. I don't know. I really wanted to come home. The war was over. It was getting cold. We were not equipped for cold weather. I didn't see any point in staying over there.

WN: Somebody took your place when you left?

AM: I presume somebody must have gone on, yeah. It was several years after '45 that things or any semblance of normalcy returned. Life was rugged prior to that. Short of everything. I remember their cars used to use charcoal. They had charcoal burners, not gasoline. They'd get their power from charcoal stoves attached to the back of the car. And there weren't very many cars. The trains, they had lot of trains. Those damn things were (chuckles) funny as hell. Because they'd load 'em up in the station. There were so many passengers that they hung on the outside or on the top of the coach. Not enough room inside.

WN: Was there difficulty getting food after the war?

AM: Well, we didn't have any difficulty. That is, the Army didn't. Not that I know of. You know, an interesting thing, I don't know whether you want to record this or not. But we'd drive from one little town to the other, out in the open country there. It was so common (chuckles) to see men, Japanese men, walking and all of a sudden they'd stop, urinate right along the road. That was common. I remembered when I saw that that, heck, they used to do that in Honolulu as an old country custom.

WN: You mean, Japanese used to do that in Honolulu?

AM: Yeah, yeah.

WN: I think they still do that.
AM: Well, I haven't seen any lately.

WN: Not here, but in Japan.

AM: Well, that's out in the country. Nobody around.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

WN: Okay, in 1945 you came home. What did you do?

AM: I went to work for a contracting firm. While I was working, the federal government was disposing of a lot of its surplus equipment. And veterans had a priority in buying some of these things. So, having had construction background, I decided that I'd go buy me a bulldozer because there was a big need for it. There wasn't any building in Honolulu during the war. There was a great shortage of homes. So, I got involved in the real estate business. At first, I used to just rent the tractor, clearing land. I was still with the contracting firm. After a while, I decided to go full time on it, so I bought some land, developed it, sold the lots.

WN: Where was the land?

AM: Well, I started, the first one I bought, was up at Wilhelmina Rise, just above the old carnation garden there. I bought, I don't know, about nine acres of land and put the roads in that end, and sold it. And then, bought another piece of land. Kalihi, Alewa Heights, few other places. So, that was what I did for a number of years—develop, subdivide.

WN: And you're still in that business now?

AM: Well, I haven't done any of it for several years now. Been kinda dangerous business. You read the papers. You know, it's hard to tell what's going to happen economically on the national level. We seem to be going in one good period, then you come down, then you go up, but you come down. I tell you, it gets awfully dangerous. You have no control. You cannot foresee what's coming. Terrible to get caught when you're down in the trough of that wave. Look what's happened right here next door to us. This Allen's Building? This new building? Saw in the paper where he's being forced into bankruptcy from this building here. So, how do you tell? It's getting awfully dangerous.

WN: So, you're into appraising now?

AM: I do generally appraisal work now. I like it. Something to do.
WN: You work full time?

AM: No, I just work about a half a day, that's all.

WN: So, do you enjoy working still?

AM: Yeah, I do. I like what I'm doing because I get to meet a lot of people, people all over the island. And very interesting, different people whose properties you appraise. Educational. You really don't know what the heck's going on here unless you talk to some of these people, visit with them, get around and see what's going on.

WN: You're at an age where lot of people are retired already and you're still going strong.

AM: Yes. I'm one of the few, I guess, in my age bracket that still has an office and comes to work in the morning. I rather have it that way. I don't want to just sit around and do nothing. I never did like to play golf. I just enjoy what I'm doing, and at night I like to read. I like to read history. I like to find out what went on a thousand years ago. And I've had a chance to learn a little about the old days.

WN: What kind of history do you read?

AM: All history. I've taken one period after another. One country after another. Gives me a pretty good idea what happened since the time of Jesus Christ. It is most interesting. (Chuckles)

WN: Well, maybe someday, somebody will read your history and learn something.

AM: Well, I hope so. It's all there in the book. Just think how much research and labor has gone into preparing these books. Why shouldn't we learn from it. Because I don't think we're any different today than they were a thousand years ago, basically. Reading is supposed to give you a broader outlook. And I know in my case, it's made me a heck of a lot more tolerant than I used to be. I can understand damn near most reasons why people or countries do things because it's been a continuation of what's been happening for two thousand years. It's interesting to find or read, at least, about the countries today. What were they, where were they, a thousand years ago. 'Cause you look at any old map of the world. They got names on there that we never heard about, or we don't know anything about today. All these changes that have taken place. That's interesting to me, so that's why I like to read history.

WN: Speaking of changes, what changes have taken place in Kalihi? Comparing Kalihi today from the time you were growing up.

AM: Kalihi used to have a--you won't believe this--but sort of a country club atmosphere because homes weren't all crowded the way they are
now. There were open spaces. When you flushed your bathroom toilet, you didn't have to worry about your neighbor hearing it. You could raise your voice a little bit and nobody was close enough to hear you. Everybody knew who everybody else was. Of course, that's all gone. There's no empty space in Kalihi anymore, except a few parks maybe, school grounds. Used to be vegetable gardens, flower gardens, taro patches, grazing land, chicken farm. Not anymore. Even the hillsides are covered now with homes. But it used to be a quiet, really quiet, open area. You could walk to anyplace you wanted to go. No place was too far to walk, that is, within Kalihi. But today, well, it's just grown, that's all.

WN: You know, lot of people, especially successful people, like to say that they come from a place like Kalihi. For example, our governor says that he's a boy from Kalihi. Why do you think people do that? Refer to Kalihi?

AM: Well, I think, maybe when a guy reaches the top and he looks back, and he begins to wonder, what is important in life, was it worth all the effort and time? When you get old, you get near the end of the line, and pretty soon you're going to be forgotten. And you wonder whether all the things you did, which seemed very important and necessary at the time you did it, just how important was it? And the fact that since most of our people are not rich people, if you associate with the more unfortunate people, you appreciate what they're going through. Their life compared to somebody who's inherited a lot or blessed with more brains or better opportunities, or married the right girl, had the right parents. It's something that makes you feel like somebody coming out of Kalihi that gets up there is worth his salt more than somebody who's born with a silver spoon. At least that guy worked for what he got. He doesn't feel that anything was handed to him. How could somebody born with a silver spoon feel that way if he's never been down on the bottom? How do you know how high a mountain is unless you've been down in the bottom of the valley, eh? So, it affects your outlook, I think.

WN: Has Kalihi always been considered, like the bottom?

AM: When I was living up there, I never thought the area I lived in was the bottom. I never did feel that. I never did feel that Kalihi was the bottom of anything, really. I always thought that Kakaako was more down the bottom because that was a built-up area. And you had more of the closeness of homes, and stores. You know, more populated. Kalihi is a big area. From the mountain to the ocean. Plenty room. And we had good climate, good atmosphere out there. Things grew well. Generally green. People took care of their yards, planted nice plants and trees. In many respects, it's beautiful. I've never understood why---maybe a little corner or spot within the area wasn't too good, but majority, the largest part of Kalihi was a very nice place. Very nice. I'm sorry that it's inherited such a bad carryover. I don't think it deserved it.

END OF INTERVIEW
KALIHI: Place of Transition

Vol. I

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