BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: Louis Jacintha, Jr.

"I started working [full time] September the 1st, 1939. In those days, you start working when you're about twelve years old, during the summer. . . . And you start working ho hang. In those days, we didn't have herbicide. No weed control or anything. Just the hoe. And (chuckles) I can still remember that first day, boy. I couldn't even sleep that night, boy, thinking about work the next day. With that lunch can in the back. I don't know what she had in there. They say Portuguese bread and jelly, but I think I had rice and something. And vinegar bottle with coffee in, you know. No thermos, just an ordinary bottle, coffee, milk and sugar. Still remember."

The oldest of five children, Louis Jacintha, Jr. was born December 19, 1924 in Kōloa Sugar Company's Portuguese Camp. His father, Louis Jacintha, Sr., was also born in Kōloa in 1903, the son of immigrants from Portugal.

Louis' mother, Rita Cataluna Jacintha, immigrated with her family to Kōloa from Lisbon, Portugal when she was a young girl.

Louis attended Kōloa School and completed the eighth grade. His vacations were spent working in the sugar fields. He then attended Kaua'i High School for his freshmen year.

On September 1, 1939, at the age of fourteen, Louis began working as a full-time employee for Kōloa Sugar Company. He first worked for the plantation dairy, then eventually became a locomotive brakeman. In 1946, while working on the locomotive, he suffered a serious head injury. After recovering, Louis worked in the Kōloa Plantation Store, delivering groceries to plantation residents.

Following the merger of Kōloa Sugar Company with Grove Farm in 1948, Louis assisted in the transition, converting railroad beds to roads for the newly acquired cane-hauling trucks. Louis eventually became a crew chief in the herbicide department.


Today, Louis still lives in Kōloa and enjoys gardening and yardwork.
WN: This is an interview with Mr. Louis Jacintho, Jr. on March 18, 1987 in Kōloa. The interviewer is Warren Nishimoto.

Okay, Louis, when were you born and where were you born?

LJ: I was born December the 19th, 1924, Kōloa.

WN: What part of Kōloa?

LJ: Portuguese Camp.

WN: What were your parents doing in Portuguese Camp?

LJ: Well, my parents got married and they went to live in Portuguese Camp. My father [Louis Jacintho, Sr.] worked on a steam plow. I don't know whether he was operator or not. Yeah, in those days. My mother [Rita Cataluna Jacintho] was just a housewife.

WN: So your father worked for Kōloa Sugar?

LJ: Kōloa Sugar Company, yeah.

WN: Tell me something about your mother and her family.

LJ: My mother, they came from Portugal in--well, it's kind of vague, no? My grandpa had all the records and, somehow, that got lost along the way. But she left Lisbon something like December or November of 1911 and got in Honolulu sometime in January. Went through immigration, delousing and everything else. Then they got on the ship [for Kaua'ī]. According to her, it was the Kīna'u. And they landed at the old Kōloa Landing. I don't know how many days it took from Honolulu. And on a rowboat down to the landing there, where they got off, got into the locomotive waiting for them there, belonged to Kōloa Sugar Company. Took them all the way to Kōloa town, pass Kōloa town to the store in the town there, Chinese store, according to Mom, I don't know. And that's where they bought their lunch can and, I guess, the necessities, the things that they needed
at that time. Got back on the locomotive and took them to Spanish Camp. Spanish Camp was located right in the back of what was called the Haole Camp where all the bosses used to live. There were three rows of houses there, brand-new, according to her. Brand-new, one-by-twelve, unpainted. Brand-new homes. Mostly Spanish people there. There were Portuguese, though.

For some reason or other, most of the immigrant ships came from the islands—Madeira and Azores. But they [i.e., LJ's mother's family] came from [mainland] Portugal. I don't know how many came from Portugal. It was on a German ship, the Weisbaden, one of sixteen different ships that came to Hawai'i with immigrant workers from Portugal. She was five years old then.

WN: That was the thirteenth ship, right, you said?

LJ: That was the thirteenth out of the sixteen. Now, they got to Spanish Camp. Like I said, there were lot of Spanish there. That's where they [mother] lived for a while. My grandpa did, I guess, everything. You know, mules, and plowing, and stuff like that. He was pretty educated Portuguese, you know. Most of them who came over here was illiterate, but he was pretty well schooled. He was a sergeant in the Portuguese army stationed in Mozambique, Portuguese East Africa. But my first uncle, John, was born in Beira, Mozambique, and came back to Lisbon. That was about the time in 1910 where they were having a revolution or some overthrow of the government somewhere in Portugal. What he had to do with that, I don't know, but somehow he was involved in some way, my grandpa was. So they came to Kaua'i. They stayed in Spanish Camp for I don't know how long. Spanish Camp was right close to where all the stables were. You know, in those days, everything was mules and horses. And the stables were there and the dairy was there, also.

WN: All run by the plantation?

LJ: All run by Kōloa Sugar. Everything was Kōloa Sugar Company. Then he became a luna or foreman—they call it "luna." The company was German-owned at that time before the [First] World War. They lost everything after Germany and United States got into this war. [Following World War I, German-owned stock of Kōloa Sugar Company was taken over by H. Hackfeld & Co., which later became American-owned American Factors, Ltd.] Nineteen seventeen . . .

WN: World War I?

LJ: World War I. So he worked under German bosses. The manager at that time was [Ernest] Cropp [who managed Kōloa Plantation from 1913 to 1922]. According to him, was a short man, leggings and everything else. I guess he was very strict, though. Most of the Portuguese then were the lunas under the German bosses.

WN: What was your grandfather's name?
LJ: My grandfather's name was Antone Chrisostomo Cataluna. That was his name. My grandma's name, her maiden name was Lucy Morreira. Lucy Morreira, her maiden name was. They lived in Spanish Camp I don't know how long. Then they moved to Portuguese Camp. Now, my mother was five when she got here. She married my father when she was eighteen. And I was born there in the Portuguese Camp.

I can still remember seeing the house, you know, the way it was. Not when I was born, but later years. Because later on, we moved right in front of the house that I was born in. We lived there for quite a long time. In fact, all of us, the five of my family, three girls and two boys--except for one daughter was born in Koloa Hospital under Dr. [Alfred H.] Waterhouse--the rest was born at home with midwife. That was all in the Portuguese Camp. We didn't have any electricity, you know. Kerosene lamps, you know. And outhouses. No screens on the windows. You sleep in a mosquito net.

WN: How many rooms had?

LJ: Oh, I don't remember. Four or five rooms, the house. And then, at night, scorpions, centipedes, and everything else fall on you, you know, when you're sleeping. Yeah, that's the way it was. Then we moved further on up close to Spanish Camp. In fact, close to where the main plantation office was. The manager's house and the plantation office. There was an old boardinghouse with company supervisors, where they used to board. You know, single people used to board. In fact, the cook for that boardinghouse, his name was [M.] Maehama. I forget his first name. I only remember him when he was old, he was pensioned already. So we lived in that house there for, 1939. That was a big house.

WN: From 1939?

LJ: Nineteen thirty-nine.

WN: So you were fifteen years old, then, yeah?

LJ: About, yeah. I can still see the railroad track right in the back of the house, you know. Only about fifteen, twenty feet away from the roads going up towards the stable. And we lived there through the Second World War. [Nineteen] thirty-nine to '48. [Nineteen] forty-eight, we moved to where my mom still lives now, right in the back of Kaua'i Motors. That was Kaua'i Motors and now it's [Koloa] Chevron Service Station [on the corner of Koloa and Po'ipu Roads]. The land used to belong to Waterhouse and used to be the old [N.] Iwai Blacksmith.

WN: Oh, over there?

LJ: Yeah. So now, whenever I dig the garden or dig here and there, I always come out with horseshoes and irons and stuff like that.

WN: Still yet?
LJ: Still yet, yeah. So that's where she lives now. I, being the oldest, I was the last one to get married. I got married in 1950. My three sisters and the brother before me, they all got married earlier. My brother passed away about three, four years ago. He was living in Ventura, California. He didn't work too long on the sugar company. When he was about seventeen or eighteen years old, during the Second World War, he joined the merchant marines. Joined the merchant marines and through the war, he went. Came back here and then got married, then he left and he went to live in Ashland, Wisconsin and Seattle, Washington, and back here. Then he went to work for Grove Farm. He worked for Grove Farm for a while. Just for a while.

Incidentally, we worked for Kōloa Sugar Company. I started working [full time] September the 1st, 1939. In those days, you start working when you're about twelve years old, during the summer. I can still remember. And you start working ho hana. In those days, we didn't have herbicide. No weed control or anything. Just the hoe. And (chuckles) I can still remember that first day, boy. I couldn't even sleep that night, boy, thinking about work the next day. With that lunch can in the back. I don't know what she had in there. They say Portuguese bread and jelly, but I think I had rice and something. And vinegar bottle with coffee in, you know. No thermos, just an ordinary bottle, coffee, milk and sugar. Still remember.

WN: So you were fifteen years old when you started in the sugar fields?

LJ: Actually, no. Actually, about twelve years old, part-time, you know.

WN: So you left school early?

LJ: Well, at that time, was only summertime. And then, I graduated from Kōloa School in June of '39. In those days, it's pretty hard going to school. I did go to freshman for about half a year, Kaua'i High School. I had to quit, go back work for plantation. The following year go back, freshman again, Kaua'i High School, and then I just quit altogether.

WN: Yeah. Before we get into your sugar work, I want to ask you about your father's side. What do you remember about your father's side. Jacintho side?

LJ: My father, I remember, they lived in the Portuguese Camp also, his family did. Not too far from where we were. I remember my grandma, she was blind. She was a big woman, you know, and I remember her playing the harp. And then, one of my aunties, she married Bukoski. Her name was Caroline [Jacintho Bukoski]. She lived right close to my grandma and she used to be there all the time. Now, my grandpa, I remember him very vaguely. He died in the late '30s. His name was Manuel Jacintho. They came here from the [Portuguese] islands. I never got to find out when but it must have been long before the turn of the century.
My dad is dead. My uncles, they're all gone. They were all born here.

So, that uncle of mine I'm talking about, he must have been born about 1899 or 1900. So like I said, I knew him. I don't even remember what he looks like. But he used to work for the Kőloa Sugar Company. And I used to have an uncle named Augustine. He never got married. My father's brother. He used to work with my grandpa. I understand they used to make all these Portuguese ovens, you know. All the camps, they had all these ovens. And then, those rock walls. Kőloa has lot of rocks, so used to have stone walls [built], you know, for cattle and dividing the camps. Even the camps were divided by rock walls.

WN: How high were the walls?
LJ: Yeah, they wasn't too high. Three, four feet, yeah? But they were nice.

Most of them passed away real early. My father was the oldest in the family. He lived to be only sixty-two years and six months. The Jacintha side. Incidentally, my uncle Manuel Teves, he was the office manager for Kőloa Sugar Company at that time, which, in those days, was quite a prestigious job in the community. I can still remember my father talking about it. My grandpa as a homesteader up in 'Ōma'o, he had quite a bit of land there, acres and acres of land. I really don't know exactly where it is, you know. We never found out. But my grandma, she was sort of on the extravagant side, you know. So, in those days, you charge everything at the company store. And got to be where she charged so much that my uncle, he felt kind of shame, I guess, you know. He had my grandma sell all that land up 'Ōma'o for $800 or $900, at that time. That was long time ago. Just to pay off the company. Uncle Teves. He was office manager.

WN: Is that the same one who had the movie theaters?
LJ: Mm hmm. He was running the Kőloa--the old theater that was owned by the company. And then, later on, they built a theater right in town across from Sueoka's. In fact, right in the same land where the first sugar mill was, you know. And that was his own. And he lived where the dispensary [i.e., Kőloa Clinic] is now, which is a branch of Wilcox Hospital. That was his home.

WN: Where was the dispensary?
LJ: The dispensary is where it is now.

WN: Oh, the hospital? I mean, the . . .
LJ: Yeah. That's Wilcox. You see, what happened, when Kőloa Sugar Company was still Kőloa Sugar Company before the merger with Grove Farm, we had Kőloa Dispensary and Kőloa Hospital right over here.
And when the merger came on in 1948, then we had to go to ... .

Well, they still had this, but this was just a branch. Then we had to go to Wilcox Hospital in Līhu'e. Now, when McBryde took over part of Grove Farm and we went to work for [McBryde], they kept the dispensary, not the hospital. Then we went to Kaua‘i Veteran's Hospital in Waimea. But the dispensary is still here. That's the dispensary where Dr. Waterhouse used to own most of this land here. He used to be the doctor. Real nice gentleman. As it is now, still, the people that used to work at Grove Farm and [now] work at Līhu'e, Līhu'e took part of the people and McBryde took part of the people. They still go to Wilcox and we go to Veteran's.

WN: This is 1973 when McBryde took over?

LJ: [Nineteen] seventy-four, yeah.

WN: [Nineteen] seventy-four. Yeah, okay. You know when you folks lived in Portuguese Camp, was it all Portuguese living in there?

LJ: No. There were lot of Puerto Ricans living in that camp, also. And then, there was one Polish family. That's all, Kōloa. The Bukoski family. They lived in the Portuguese Camp also. Since being only one Polish family, they intermarried with the Portuguese. So, even my mother's oldest sister was married to a Bukoski. She's still living. Incidentally, my grandma and my grandpa, they both lived until a few months short of ninety.

WN: The Cataluna side?

LJ: The Cataluna side, yeah. And all of the children are still living, except for one, like I told you, had the Lou Gehrig disease. He's the only one. The other ones, they're still ... . The youngest is in his seventies. My mom is eighty. Then my auntie, the one I talking to you about, married to a Bukoski, she's about eighty-four, eighty-five, something like that.

WN: What is her name?

LJ: Her name is Johanna. Johanna [Cataluna] Bukoski. She's been bedridden for about eight years now at Wilcox. And then, my uncle John, he's about eighty-seven or eighty-eight. They're all living. The strange part about my uncle John, like I say, he was born in Beira, Mozambique. He still shows signs of the smallpox that he had at that time. His face was all dotted with the holes. He came with my grandpa. They got here in 1912, Kōloa. He lived here until right after the Second World War. He went over to Honolulu, worked at the University of Hawai'i as a groundskeeper, custodian, or something like that until he pensioned off. And then, went to live in Oakland [California] for a while, then now he lives in Gloucester, Massachusetts, of all places. Just right around. Funny world.

WN: That's a Portuguese community, huh?
LJ: That's a Portuguese colony back in Massachusetts, where, according to him, everything is spoken in Portuguese. Everything. And judges, the police, and everybody else is Portuguese. And he used to go down listen to the court cases. The judges, they speak only Portuguese. The sad part of it is, like our generation, we can understand, you know, not all, but we can understand most, but we hardly can speak. We never. My father, my mother, they never spoke Portuguese at home. My grandpa and my grandma did. And I was pretty close to them, so I knew, more or less, what they were saying. And then, I could speak just a few words, but that's the sad part of it. Too bad. My grandpa used to read the Bible printed in Portuguese. He used to read that Bible I don't know how many times, over and over.

WN: How many homes were there in Portuguese Camp?

LJ: It's hard to say, no?

WN: About?

LJ: About. Well, when I can remember, they already had some that they had given up on, you know. They may have had about, oh, twenty or twenty-five houses in the camp, yeah? But there were all kind of people living there, though. Portuguese. In fact, there was a German family living there, too. In fact, two German families, Steljes and Otto Koerte. You know, Otto Koerte was married to Portuguese lady. This Martin Steljes, he was married to a Hawaiian, pure Hawaiian lady, Kapuniai. There was Koreans living in the camp. I remember, yeah, Old Man Kim. And in later years, yeah. . . . Then, lot of Okinawans, too. Gushiken and Gushikuma. Then the Japanese, Iha. Iha and then. . . . Hashimoto. So, there was quite a few different nationalities living there. It may have been because in the later years, I don't know, you know. Because before that, they probably had only Portuguese and Puerto Ricans living there.

The way I understand it, the company policy was to set the people apart, different camps, by races, by ancestry, anyway. They just follow the scheme. Keep 'em apart. You paid 'em differently, and that way, they don't organize. The only reason why the sugar company got to be organized was because of the Second World War. You know, with the labor shortage, there's not much they could do about it. But unionized, nonunionized, both, there's two ways to it. One way, you get lot of good, and the other, lot of good, also. As it is, without being organized, I guess you're at the mercy of whoever is your boss, you know. And then, favoritism plays a big part. That's the bad part of not being organized. So they organized during the Second World War. I remember it was part of the CIO [Congress of Industrial Organizations] at that time.

WN: Where exactly was Portuguese Camp?

LJ: Portuguese Camp was, from the town itself, right now, maybe about
half a mile east towards where the factory [sugar mill] is now. The Portuguese Camp was bordering on what, after that, was just pasture. Pasture for cattle and horses. And further on up, maybe about quarter mile up, they had the dairy afterwards. Koloa Dairy. I worked dairy just before the Second World War. I worked there for a while.

WN: So, where the First Hawaiian Bank is now, near that area?
LJ: No, no. You mean, the dairy?
WN: No, the Portuguese Camp.
LJ: No, where the bank is right now, the First Hawaiian, in the back of that was Japanese Camp. Directly in the back was Japanese Camp. It was separated from Filipino Camp by a valley there. A valley, well, it's not there now. Coming from the mountains towards Ha'upu, along the way, I can still remember. It's not there now. There are caves that go all the way down to Kukui'ula. Cave, then you don't see anything. Then another cave, and then valley like, you know. Ten, maybe ten-foot drop, all the way.

And in the back of where the bank is, separating the two camps, that valley there--I guess you can call it a valley--was pretty deep, you know. Quite big. I'd say, about thirty, forty yards across. But the thing was so obvious, you know, flat land, valley, flat land again. And then, in the back of the bank, it ended up there. And then, it popped out again in the back of Big Save. From then on, I don't know. I think it ends up down below Koloa School down in the pasture there. There's another cave there. So you can see where it started up in what we call Kaluahohonu and it ends up down in the ocean there. Most of those caves have been covered up by the sugar company, where they throw their trash and waste from the factory. That's the reason why you don't see it anymore. But too bad, though.

WN: But you remember seeing those caves?
LJ: I remember, yeah. I can see it in my mind. In fact, the one in the back of what used to be Sueoka Store and Tanaka Store and old [Manuel R.] Jardin [Sr.]'s residence, during the Second World War, the signal corps used to be stationed in there, part of it, anyway.

WN: Near the Japanese Camp?
LJ: Yeah. It was that big, you know. That big. It's not there anymore.

WN: You know, in the Portuguese Camp, most of the people in there, did they have the same kind of job? I mean, were they lunas or something?
LJ: No, not all of them were lunas, you know. But in those days, the
Portuguese, usually, most of them work on the. . . If they weren't working on locomotives, they were part of what you call mule men. The mules were used in the field, in the harvest field, to pull out the cane cars with the cane on to the main railroad line where the locomotive would be waiting. And all of them were Portuguese, mostly all Portuguese or Puerto Ricans. And then, the locomotive was Portuguese and Puerto Rican. It's not easier, but it's a better job. The hard job like laying rail in the fields, like that, that was all Japanese. I still remember them. They used to get what you call flat cars, you know. They're just flat with wheels that run on the eighteen-gauge rail that they'd set up themselves. Along the railroad in the field, you know. Right in the field, after the cane has been burned. And then, the empty cars that come in, the mules would bring 'em in. And then, the Filipinos would be the one that cut the cane. Hundreds of them, used to be, you know.

WN: This is more your father's time?

LJ: Yeah. My father's time and my time.

WN: Your time, too?

LJ: Yeah. And then, what they do, that rail, the empty cars would be in the field near to where they're working. They cut the cane, pile it up, and then would have what you call papa. It's something like a ladder that goes up to the [cane car]. They lift up this sixty-, seventy-pound bundle of cane, run up, and drop it in; down, run up, drop it in. Real hard work, that was.

WN: Mostly Filipino and Japanese did that?

LJ: Mostly. Mostly, Filipinos were the cane cutters. You had other nationalities doing it too, you know, sometime, but . . .

WN: So, Portuguese was mostly field lunas or locomotive?

LJ: Yeah. Locomotive or mule men.

WN: What did the mule men have to do?

LJ: Yeah, the mule men is the one that take those cane cars into the fields where they harvesting. They take it in, the men will cut the cane and load it up, and they take it out. But you know, it's not like just take it in and take it out, you know. Those days, used to rain and then cars go off track, and that was really hard work, too.

Going up the graveyard the other day, you know, the old Japanese graveyard and looking at one of those tombstones there, I saw the name "Hiroshima," you know.

WN: Hiroshima?

LJ: Yeah, Hiroshima. And it brought back to mind, you know, this
Hiroshima. I remember him well. He was small, Japanese guy. He had only one eye. He lost his eye, I don't know when. But you'd be surprised what he'd do. He's the one that would set up where they'd cut the line. You know, you cannot burn the whole field. You got to burn the field according to how much you can do [i.e., harvest] in one or two days, whatever, see. So, they have to know where they're going. They didn't have any machines, any bulldozer, anything. What he'd do, there'd be a bamboo. I don't know how he'd do it, but he'd stick it in the ground like that, then he'd climb up with that and then see just where he had to go. Then they start cutting the cane by hand. That's something else, though.

WN: How high up did he have to go?

LJ: Oh, pretty high, you know. Cane is tall, eh? He go up maybe about ten, twelve feet at least. Maybe more than that. I can still see him doing it in one of those fields at Māhā'ulepū. That's some trick, that (chuckles). Hiroshima.

WN: What about church? Where did you folks go church?

LJ: Like us, Portuguese, we all baptized Roman Catholics, you know. And the church is the same place that it's been ever since the Catholic church was founded on this island. To me, I think, the center of the population and the town was where the church is now. Must have been years ago.

WN: St. Raphael's?

LJ: Yeah. I don't know. But I can still see when I was a young kid going hunting with my father. Hunting pheasants. Incidentally, those days, not anybody can hunt pheasant, you know. You got to be either boss or you got to be friend of the bosses. Ordinary workers couldn't hunt. For some reason or other, my father could. He wasn't a supervisor but he was some kind of machinist or something in the factory that, you know, he could. I remember hunting with him down that area where St. Raphael's Church is. And I can still see couple of houses. There's an old German house there. And further on down---if you go there now, you can see where some of those, what you call common mango trees, Hawaiian mango, still there. You can tell that some people used to live there before. That's at the border of Kiahuna Golf Club now.

Like I said, all of us Portuguese, well, Portugal is Catholic country and we all were baptized at the Catholic church, St. Raphael's. The priest at that time was Father Celestin [Halzem]. In fact, the house that he was living in is still there. It's not the home that the priest is living in now, but it's still there. It's sort of like a museum, you know. It's built out of lime rock. They must have brought that from down by the ocean, you know, and built it. And story goes--I can still see the old priest, vaguely--they had it so bad, he used to shoot mynah birds for food and stuff like that. And sleep on the bed without springs and stuff. I was just thinking
about that because now it's so different than the old days. So we all were baptized and we all used to go to church, St. Raphael's. As you grow up, you know, you go take confession, and take communion, you be altar boys. We all were altar boys at one time or another. That's the way it was. My mom still goes there.

WN: So, was mostly Portuguese then, going to that church?

LJ: At that time, Portuguese and Puerto Ricans, you know, Spanish.

WN: What about Filipinos?

LJ: The Filipinos were Catholics, too. I really don't remember much. I guess so. I don't remember many of them going, but. Then, like you heard my mother say, the school was there for the Catholics when she was growing up.

WN: Was the school operating when you were growing up?

LJ: No.

WN: Oh, was pau then?

LJ: Was pau already. But I remember the teacher, though, Mrs. Rebecca Schimmelfennig. I still remember her. But the school wasn't, because I went to school down here at the Kōloa School. In fact, all of us went to Kōloa School. My mother, in those days, they don't go too long, you know. I guess she must have gone school, third, fourth grade, that's all.

WN: Were there any kind of organized activities in the camp or sponsored by the church that the community went out.

LJ: Well, later years, when I was growing up, we had one CYO [Catholic Youth Organization], you know, where you play basketball and softball, and stuff like that. But before then, when I was really young, every year the Holy Ghost feast was held. Sweet bread, and roast beef and pork, and stuff like that.

WN: Where did you folks have that celebration?

LJ: They used to have it down at the church. And then, I remember, further on up here, near where they say the first sugar mill [prior to the one built in 1841] was. What they call that now? Green Pond [a.k.a., Maulili Pond], we call that. Around there, where Old Lady [Mary] Costa used to live. I still remember. What the men would do, with the big, long sweet bread, they'd walk around where the people are and try to sell that thing, you know. And a week or so before the Holy Ghost feast, we'd go to certain people homes and they'd give us crackers or cookies, and soda. Boy, that was a treat because we could never afford soda. Usually, we drank soda only Christmastime or Holy Ghost feast time, you know. So I can still remember the strawberry soda. 'Ono.
My mom used to make root beer at home, but that thing wasn't the same, you know. Yeah, during Prohibition, they make beer at home and wine and everything else. You hear them bottles popping at night. All in all, growing up poor as everybody was, it wasn't all that bad.

At least people, they didn't make the humbug that they do nowadays. Crime was very few and far—I mean, very little crime at that time. People were more afraid and more respective of the law. The first thing they would tell you, "Reformatory school." That's all they need to say, boy. You sure get scared. Or "Kahuku, Kahuku," they would say. That's where they'd send the...

WN: Kahuku, O'ahu?

LJ: Yeah, the incorrigibles, that's where they would send, but only as a last resort. But when they'd say that, boy, we get scared, man. All you got to do is mention Kahuku.

WN: What did you folks do as kids to have good time?

LJ: In those days, actually, what we used to do is to go in the pastures, get mangos; or go up in the mountains, get mountain apples, rose apples; up on the hill, "guaivis," you know, the Hawaiian guava. Swimming. Swimming in the plantation ditches. Swimming in Wailana. Wailana is actually is...

WN: Waikomo?

LJ: Waikomo Stream. We used to call it "Wailana Stream." That was fun.

WN: What part of the stream did you go swimming?

LJ: Down here, right next to where Tao Garage [i.e., Tao Kōloa Shell Service] is. Every time we used to go. After school. Good fun.

WN: You told me had wild chickens around here?

LJ: I don't remember wild chickens then, but there were lot of pheasants, you know. Lot of pheasants at that time. I don't remember wild chicken. One of the things that stand out in my mind, too, is that, I think it was twice a week, we'd go to the meat market to buy our weekly meat. The market is still there [i.e., the building still stands], you know. Well, they fixed it up. They made it look more presentable. But at that time, the ranch boss was [William] Kuhlmann, his name was. I think he had about four cowboys under him. Mostly Hawaiians and Germans, you know. And then, the one take care the meat market was [S.] Ono. I forget his first name, Ono. And he live right across where the market is. He had a big lot, used to raise cows in there. And we'd go up. Mama give me quarter. And go up and tell him, "Ono, give me a quarter meat." And he would slap down the kneecaps and everything else, you know. That was meat, you see. And fat, and everything else. And then,
you tell 'em, "Ah, this one no good."

He tell, "Like, no like. Stop, no like. Up to you."

That was one of the bad part of it, you know. Because the good meat would go to the bosses and to him. And then, he'd go around with his wagon and he'd sell the meat along the town to certain people who'd get the best cuts, you know. In those days, I guess, they didn't know what was New York and sirloin or .... That didn't make any difference. They just chopped the meat up. But we sure got the lousy part of it all the time, though. But take it or leave it, see.

And then, for milk, we'd have those half-gallon or quart aluminum containers. And four thirty, five o'clock or five thirty in the morning, you'd walk up to the [Koloa] Dairy, you know. And they'd fill it up and you come home with that. Of course, my family, they weren't ranchers. They didn't have cows or horses or anything else. But most of the Portuguese are. And they had their own milking cows at home, see. To them, that was easy for them, but who didn't have, they had to buy it from the company. Didn't cost much at that time, but.

They'd have their own dairy to supply the bosses and to supply the dispensary, you know, the [Koloa] Hospital. I remember the hospital there. They had about four or five private rooms in that hospital there. They had a small operating room. And then, they had a large ward where the workers would stay, you know, if you got sick or whatever. And they had about, oh, say, about ten beds in the ward there. I remember when I smashed my head working on the locomotive in 1946, March 11, 1946, I stayed in the ward for about couple, two, three months, you know.

There was an old Micronesian living. He used to be Dr. Waterhouse's yardman. His name was John Davis. No, Henry Davis, his name was. Henry Davis. We call him "Nahe." Dark as can be, you know. He was in that hospital there when I was. I can still remember. He died at that time. He was a good friend of my father's. My dad used to bring him home, you know, Sunday evenings, come eat Pordagee soup. And both of them would go down the beach at night to go torching. My father'd be in the water torching. He used to like torching, you know. And this guy would be in the lantanas on the shore, this guy. (Chuckles) Torching. Looking for crabs on the shore, Nahi. Spoke nice English, you know.

WN: Waterhouse was the doctor?

LJ: Yeah, he was the doctor. He was the doctor. Now, Waterhouse, every Fourth of July, the locomotive would take us from right in Kōloa town there, in the back of the old Kōloa Theater. Everybody would get up, get into the empty cane cars. And maybe at certain time, seven thirty, eight o'clock, whatever, I don't remember. And they take us all the way down to Po'ipū Beach, about quarter mile from
Po'ipū Beach. We'd get off and go down the beach every Fourth of July. That place is just crowded with people. Large tents. And in the afternoon at the given time at four o'clock or something like that, they'd be waiting for us. We'd go back and they'd bring us back to Koloa. I remember, Dr. Waterhouse, every year, he'd have a big barrel of orange juice—some kind of orange mix that everybody would drink with all the ice in there. Oh, I can still taste that thing. It was really a treat, you know. Being down the beach and swimming all day in the water, then just go up there and help yourself, which you couldn't do otherwise, you know. You cannot go to the store and just buy Coke or 7-up like now. Yeah, but you really appreciate those things, you know.

WN: Had food, too?

LJ: No, I don't remember food. I guess you bring your own. I remember Mama taking off my pants to change or something. I cry because I was so shame, and she gave me dirty spanking. I can still see that, you know. Funny thing.

(Laughter)

WN: So, Dr. Waterhouse used to sponsor all this? Every Fourth of July...

LJ: He was a nice man. He was really a nice man. I guess he was one of the... His ancestors were those that came from New England. You know, the church people that came from New England. That first people that came here, Church of England or what, New England, or what's that, I don't know.

WN: Missionaries, eh?

LJ: That's the one that built---because just look at that church [i.e., The Church at Kōloa] there with that steeple, that's New England. Everything is New England there. You can see, you know, the windows and everything else.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

LJ: When my head got smashed in 1946, after everything happened, after I got to be okay, I went to work in the Koloa Plantation Store. Like I say, it's right after the Second World War in 1946. Economy was real bad. There's lot of workers in the store there. People wasn't buying. I felt bad, you know. So, I requested that I be moved out. So that's when I went to drive truck for... Grove Farm had just taken over when I did that. Well, while I was working for the store there, actually, I was the youngest then. And Caesar Vasconcellos, he was the senior clerk in the store. He passed away few years ago. He used to take orders. Those days, you go to the house and you
take orders. So much of this and then he'd make it out and I'd deliver. I'd deliver Kukui'ula, and Po'ipu, and places like that. I still remember delivering to Eric Knudsen's house, which is [where the] Waiohai [Resort is] now. I still remember. Was that old home there. He was a nice man, also, that Eric Knudsen. Across from him used to be the yardman used to live there. His name was Tsuki Ishii. Lot of children, you know. They still living around here. You can still see.

And up on the hill, next to Po'ipu Beach, in later years, they used to have a steak house they call the Hale Ma'o Steak House and I ran that for about six, seven years. It's a cook yourself place. That was years later. That was just before McBryde took over [in 1974]. And in the back there, this Old Man [Enoka] Mikaele used to live there, he and his wife. And lot of changes. The road, then, to Po'ipu used to be right where Po'ipu Beach is, you know. Right in the back of Po'ipu Beach. Yeah. That used to be the only road until they built the one that there is now. Used to be so nice and peaceful then. It's so different.

WN: So, to go Po'ipu, you would have gone down this road . . .

LJ: Kōloa Landing.

WN: . . . Po'ipu?

LJ: Yeah, you go straight down here. You go right across that bridge down going to Kōloa Landing, and you follow the coastline all the way along the coastline. The only area that's not near the coastline would be where Knudsen's house was. And all that land where Sheraton[-Kauai] is on the right side, that was all part of his pasture there. That's all pasture, nothing there. That's the only place. But still, you could see the ocean. And that goes right in the back right straight through to where Waiohai is now. Not the building, but where you enter Waiohai, the road would go right across there, come out right by Po'ipu Beach.

WN: I see. So, from the Kōloa Landing, had the railroad over there, right?

LJ: Well, the railroad was coming this way through the wilds, eh? Not along the road.

WN: Yeah, but started at the landing?

LJ: Yeah, well, when everything was centered at Kōloa Landing, everything coming in, the railroad went up to the landing there. Right across the road there and from there, come back in the wilds, right through where Kiahuna Golf Club is. At that time, that was all pasture. They call that "Pahui." That place, Pahui. And when you mention Pahui, they know that's where. That was about two, three hundred acres, all pasture, you know. All Haole koa. The railroad would go right through there and would come out to where
the factory is now.

WN: The mill?

LJ: Mm hmm, they come out through there.

WN: Okay. And then, to the camps?

LJ: The railroad?

WN: Yeah.

LJ: Well, the railroad would go up to Waiā, and then would come down. From Waiā would come straight down here to where Big Save is. And the rest of the railroad would go up mauka up to the Highway 50, up Kāhili. And then, during the Second World War, they connected the railroad there to Grove Farm, you know, during the wartime. Used to end up there right where the intersection is, the tunnel of trees. Not too far up.

The tunnel of trees, across the main road there, used to be the same, you know. Used to have trees over. And Grove Farm went ahead and go bulldoze everything.

WN: You mean, the tunnel of trees used to be longer, then?

LJ: Longer. The old road used to be directly across. You know where you come to the intersection?

WN: From the main highway?

LJ: Yeah, you go straight ahead. You don't turn right [to go to Līhu'e]. The road wasn't there. You go straight [i.e., mauka] and still would be the trees, you know, all the way almost to the other end. William Moragne, [Sr.] was the [plantation] manager then. He had that thing all bulldozed out. See, what happens is, when you got trees like that, it shades out the cane.

WN: Oh, from the sun.

LJ: But then, that was something nice. Now, this road up here, the Kōloa Road going up towards Lawa'i, on one side of the road, that was all eucalyptus also. They cut it down. The county did that one. I don't know why they did those things, but that's what happened.

WN: Were there any stores in Portuguese Camp?

LJ: Store? No. The stores, in those days, what they used to do is they'd come and take orders. Then they'd deliver on certain days.

WN: What stores came?
LJ: Well, of course, Kōloa Store. Kōloa Sugar Company Store. And then, we had one Papalekoa Store from Waimea. All the way from Waimea. And another store from Kalāheo used to come, too. In fact, the guy that used to take the orders and deliver the stuff from Costa Store in Kalāheo, Louis Souza, he still strong, yet. He lives down Po'ipu. Not Po'ipū. He lives down Kukui'ula way. Louis Souza. We, as kids, used to wait for him to come. We used to ride the car, you know. He's a speedy man, boy, he'd take off, man. We used to ride with him, Louis. Interesting guy to talk to, too, Louis. Yeah, he lives down right near Kūhiō Park. He is married to Lei Vidinha [i.e., Leilani Vidinha Souza, another interviewee]. Vidinha, her brother used to be [Kaua'i County] chairman or like what is a mayor of the island at one time. Antone "Kona" Vidinha. That's her brother. She was the youngest. And then, her sister was my Auntie Mabel married to my mother's brother Frank, the one that passed away, whose son is the manager for Olokele Sugar Company. That's how it goes.

WN: Oh, yeah, Cataluna, huh?

LJ: Yeah. That's how it goes.

WN: How come you had two stores were coming all the way from Waimea, Kalāheo . . .

LJ: I really don't know. Maybe because Portuguese stores, I don't know. Portuguese, Portuguese, eh? From Waimea, Papalekoa. The one who used to come here, his name was Manuel Louis. I remember him as a kid, but he passed away. His son still lives in 'Ōma'o. Funny, eh?

WN: They didn't have Portuguese[-owed] stores in Kōloa?

LJ: No. Not that I know. They had Ornellas Store before, but that was long before my time. Around where Big Save is. What we had was Japanese stores or Chinese. We had Johnny Awa [Store], which is Chinese. And then, in the camp there, I can remember was Tanaka, Sueoka, and Ebata. That's what I remember. And then, further on down, across from what they call the Korean Camp where the old Waiohai buildings are, they brought it up from [Po'ipu] and they put it up here, down there, close to Big Save. That was Korean Camp before. That small little place, you know.

And across there, where the house is still there, is where Oyasato's family used to live. Used to get Oyasato Store. The house is still there. Oyasato, if you can remember Henry Oyasato, would be 442nd, he was. And then, later on, he was some kind of general or something here in the National Guard or something like that. But he was in that movie, the 442nd or something like that?

WN: Go for Broke?

LJ: Yeah, Go for Broke. He took a really big part in that. And his brother, Tom, graduated with me. He's postmaster at the Wahiawa, I
think, now, his brother. Well, that family come from there. The oldest brother still lives here. He retired as a shift foreman in the factory, McBryde. Yeah, he lives up Kalāheo, Chisei. He'd be interesting guy to talk to, also. He loves to talk.

WN: What's his name? Jusei?

LJ: Chisei Oyasato. He drinks about forty, fifty cups coffee. He talks all night.

(Laughter)

LJ: Chisei. Nice guy. He's a real nice guy.

WN: Korean Camp had mostly Japanese living in there by your time?

LJ: Korean Camp, my time, had Filipinos. I don't know whether they called 'em "Korean Camp" at that time already, but mostly all Filipinos. They built the homes all on stone, all rocks. Makes sense. All the camps in the plantation were built where cane wouldn't grow, which makes sense. In fact, in every plantation, you know.

WN: How come cane wouldn't grow over there?

LJ: Because it's all rocky, eh? You know, it's bedrock. Like our place is all bedrock. All those new homes where you see the Waikomo subdivision and new homes coming up, it's on complete bedrock. Had Portuguese Camp [there] before. Hard. It's like the floor in your house, just rock. Here and there, you know, there's some deep soil, but most of it is all rocks. I remember the Portuguese Camp before, the Old Man Prosser used to live there. He was a shoemaker. Shoemaker, the Portuguese, they call sapateiro. Mostly Portuguese were shoemakers, you know. He was the shoemaker for Koloa Sugar Company. And he lived in the Portuguese Camp. Well, his daughter, the oldest one, Augustina, she was married to my Uncle John Cataluna. But I can remember his youngest daughter, I remember riding on those horse and buggy going down to Po'ipu Beach. In a wagon, you know, riding, with her at the reins. I still remember that.

Then, of course, they had all them Portuguese ovens in that camp, you know. They had quite a few. Usually in one camp, like in Spanish Camp, there were three different rows of homes, so they had three Portuguese ovens where they bake their bread. But in the Portuguese Camp, if I start thinking, I can see quite a few. Almost every home had. Almost every home.

WN: Did you used to help bake bread?

LJ: No. That job for the women, that. We never. But that thing taste good, though, when come out of the oven. Boy. That's a delicacy, that. I still remember my mother making, though. But then, people
start to get lazy. The older generation passed on and the younger generation don't want to go through with all that problems, you know.

Your pay was so small, everybody raised rabbits, and they raised ducks and chickens. Every yard was just full of chickens. And then, what you'd do is, if the chicken is laying or setting, you want to find out where the nest is, so you lock 'em up at night. They all come back at night because you feed 'em. They go in the chicken coop at night. So, you get that one there, you hold 'em off. You hold that bugger in there for about three, four hours till the thing going crazy because it want to go to the nest. Then you let it go and you watch, and you watch, and you hope that she'll take you. She'll divert you, you know, and go around. Then she end up at the nest. That's where you find the eggs.

I remember selling in the Haole Camp, selling eggs, you know. One dozen for quarter. How shame, no? They don't want to buy. My mother used to make guava jelly and I used to go sell that thing, too. (Laughs) Just for the extra money.

WN: You used to go only Haole Camp?

LJ: Yeah. Because other people not going buy, they make their own. They make their own.

WN: So, the eggs, what? They're from you folks' chickens?

LJ: Yeah.

WN: But you just didn't know where the nest was?

LJ: Nobody know. Every house, they had their chickens loose.

WN: Oh, I see. No more coops or anything?

LJ: No, they get coop, but you let 'em go during the day, so they go feed on their own, eh? So they lay outside. And then, they come home with the chicks. Especially in March and April, you know. So, if you want to eat the eggs, you got to find out where the nest is.

WN: So, the Haoles, did they buy from you or what?

LJ: I really don't remember what I did. Maybe some of them did, yeah?

Talking about eggs, what come to my mind is Māhā'ulepū. The three guys on the locomotive, one of my cousins. This Filipino ditchman that used to live down Māhā'ulepū Valley, and then he'd ride a horse so he had the stable. The chickens would lay in the stable, you know. And all they did was take two eggs and put it on the locomotive on the dome, sand dome. If you put it on the sand dome, that's part of the engine on top. That thing is always hot, you know. Because the sand, we keep this on the hot, so that when the
locomotive start sliding on the railroad track, you open the sand and then she grabs, see? So, then, you know, the eggs cook. The lady got them arrested, you know. That was wartime and we were under martial law. They ended up before the provost marshal. I don't know what happened to them.

WN: Why? What's wrong with that?

LJ: Because they stole the two eggs. But the thing is, you go before the provost marshal, you know. If you lay off [work] without reason, you go before the provost marshal. That was martial law. Americans under martial law. Funny kind. It wasn't too bad for us, you know. It was harder on the Japanese people, though.

WN: So what else did you sell besides eggs and guava jelly?

LJ: That's all I can remember. Well, we'd sell whatever we plant at school, you know. In school, we had a garden. Every year, they'd give you one bed, you take care. Whatever you want to plant. Maybe you plant lettuce, whatever, and you bunch it up and then go sell it. Our teacher at that time was Antone Rapoza. He's still living. Yeah, he must be pretty old. He lives down in Honolulu someplace. Tony Rapoza. He's still living.

Of course, the [Koloa] School is different now from what it was because it burned down [in 1973]. From grades one to four or something like that, was all in bungalows in separate rooms. One here, like that. And then, when you go up to the fifth, sixth grade, the rooms are all together. But kindergarten, and first grade, and. . . .

Summertime, I used to work in the school garden there. What we used to do was plant sun hemp. It's a legume, you know. Something like soy beans.

WN: Sun hemp?

LJ: Yeah, sun hemp. It grows to about five, six feet tall. We had to keep the weeds off. And then, what I do, in between, I had to go hoe during the summertime. When we come back to school after summer in September, they incorporate that into the soil, see? It's a source of nitrogen. Any bean is high in nitrogen. Like if you plant soy beans all the time in one place, the soil is always rich, you know, because of the. . . .

WN: So, lot of the stores like that, you had to go to the town, then, not in the camps?

LJ: No, in the town. Well, most people had to buy from the company store, eh? You charge in there. Of course, you can charge everyplace else. They'd come around too, you know. Tanaka Store and Ebata Store, they'd go around and take orders. But you end up owing everybody, you know. Once you get balance of five dollars,
that's hard to pay already. Hard to pay. Those days, wasn't easy.

WN: Did your parents' place have gardens, too?

LJ: Every house had garden. Every house. I remember, one year, my father planted Irish potatoes. That stands out in my mind, you know, I don't know why. Irish potatoes. They plant all kinds.

WN: Mostly for home use?

LJ: Mostly for home use. And that squash. Always squash. Tired of eating squash. Squash with everything. Easy to grow. Yeah, we grow corn, and sweet potatoes, stuff like that. Pipinola. Pipinola is what Portuguese call, that's a chayote. Have you seen it? It's a squash also, small like that. Chayote. Then what we do is, we boil it with garlic, black pepper, and salt, and eat it like that. Good taste.

WN: You eat 'em with rice?

LJ: No, no. Just eat it like that. Not with rice. But the squash, yeah. Squash with beef, squash with shrimp, iriko, everything squash. Stretch 'em. The Portuguese, they stretch by making lot of soups, you know. I remember, like my mother, they get a ham bone. All you need is a ham bone. You know, you just put the ham bone just to taste. Then they used to raise their own beans, kidney beans and stuff like that. Potatoes, usually, you got to buy. You plant your own carrot. Put lot of water so it stretches. Then Mama always baked. They used to bake twice a week. So you eat bread. Eat rice, too, but mostly bread. Interesting. Lot of things I don't remember, you know, that I should have known now.

WN: What kind mischief you guys used to get into?

LJ: Well, the most humbug we used to do is smoking. Tobacco. Everybody smoke, you know, when they young. You know, talking about Ono, one thing I'm glad about. You know how he used to be to us about the meat and stuff like that. My brother and one of my cousins stole one carton Camel from him one time. He had it at the meat market on the. . . . Boy, that was some smoking, boy. One carton, you know. Just go (LJ inhales and exhales). Take 'em by the sweet guava tree in the back of the office. Everybody know where the sweet guava trees is, you know. All through the pastures and everything else, we know where get the sweet guava and sour guava. Something like that, you learn.

And then, what we do is, we used to go swimming Waitā all the time. Swim Waitā. Of course, you take off all your clothes, eh, when you swim. And then, used to be where the ditchman--used to be this German guy named Herman Steljes. He'd have to row every morning, three or four o'clock in the morning, gee, at least about sixty, seventy yards in that reservoir to open the valve, you know. And he'd do that every morning. And he'd beach his boat on the shore.
And what we used to do, we used to sink the boat and stuff like that. Then he used to come chase after us. Us, without the clothes, running up that hill.

Stuff like that. We never did anything really, what you call, like would be nowadays. Not anything bad, except for smoking and fighting and stuff like that. Putting grease on the locomotive tracks. You put grease and then, (LJ makes sound), then she can't go, eh? Stuff like that. Or when the cars was parked, the train cars, we take off the pins, you know. So when they'd couple it and move, they'd have to go back and couple it again. Things like that. But nothing really bad.

Or kids, what they would do is, when the guy clean the theater every day and throw all the rubbish from the theater from the night before, we go find the butts, cigarette butts. All kinds. Chesterfield, Lucky Strike, Sensation. All them butts. And nobody got TB, funny thing. Smoke all the butts. I used to have one uncle, he never got married, Augustine. He used to give us Durham. Those days, most people smoke Durham.

WN: Yeah? Bull Durham?

LJ: Bull Durham. And he used to give us. Learn how to--I can still do it, you know.

WN: Oh, roll your own?

LJ: Yeah. What we'd do, on our belt, we'd wet the phosphorus from the box match and we'd put it on here.

WN: On your belt?

LJ: Yeah. And then, we just have the match, see. And whenever you went to smoke, just light here, see? Instead of carrying the box matches around, because your parents, they don't allow you smoking, eh? Ten, twelve, eleven years old . . .

WN: So you just carry the match?

LJ: Carry the match. And then, you can just use that phosphorus on your belt, you know.

WN: Oh, you use 'em over and over again, then?

LJ: Yeah.

WN: Oh, hey, smart. (Chuckles)

LJ: But actually, I wasn't too much of a humbug, you know, when I growing up. I was more of a studious type. My brother was rascal. Then we go get pānīni when pānīni was in season. You know, cactus? Oh, that thing is 'ono, man. Yeah, what we do is, we'd cut the
guava stick and make it sharp, and poke it right between where the--you know the thing is full of thorns, eh? You know how the cactus is, eh? So, you got to aim it right in between, and then cut 'em with a knife, and take it down and put it down. And then, you zig-zag away from the thorns. You go down like that, and you go down this way, and you open it up, and then you eat 'em.

WN: What does it taste like?

LJ: Oh, 'ono, that thing. Yeah, but thing is, once in a while you make mistake, the thing all stuck in your mouth, the thorns. That small hairs like thing, you know. But good taste. Lot of seeds. Not too much of that now. Some kind of parasite or something get 'em all. You see, what the ranchers did years ago is bring in something to get rid of the lantana. Lantana was first brought here as an ornamental plant. Then it took over the pastures. The cattle cannot eat all that lantana. Not too many, many years ago, they brought in something to get rid of that lantana, some kind of parasite, it feeds on. Biological means. There's hardly any lantana now, but it got rid of the panini also. We call 'em "panini," you know. That's cactus, panini.

And then, what we used to go look for, too, is tamarind. 'Ono. I see the tree across there now, full. The big tree, tamarind. That thing 'ono, too.

WN: That's the one that taste like crack seed?

LJ: Yeah. And then, choke plum, we used to make. Choke plum, actually, is Java plum. It grows wild on the island here.

WN: You used to call it "choke plum"?

LJ: We call 'em "choke plum." The reason for that is, we'd pick up a bunch of the stuff, put it in a jar and just add salt in there, and shake it up, and eat it. Eventually, you get hard time even swallow, you know. It'll just coat your throat. My father, he almost killed the soldiers during the war. He'd make wine out of that, you know. Because the hills are full of that. And they drink anything, eh? He didn't charge them for it, you know. But they just drink like that. That thing get to be a point where you cannot even swallow, you know. So they call it "choke plum." Actually, that's Java plum. Then, there's another kind of plum. I don't know the name, but we call 'em "Haole plum." That bugger is sweet. That thing is sweet. But not too many of that.

WN: That's the kind you eat now? Regular plum?

LJ: No, no, no.

WN: Oh, it's another one?

LJ: It's different. This is different plum, not like what you get in
the market. We still have some of those trees here and there, you know. They don't bear too much, but they taste real sweet. The Java plum is tart, eh? It's tart and it chokes you. So we call 'em "choke plum."

Of course, "guaivi." "Guaivi" is the Hawaiian guava. Get the red one and the . . .

WN: Guaivi?

LJ: Yeah. We call 'em "guaivi." A red one and the yellow one. That thing grows wild, too, you know. That's sweet. But we were hungry all the time, so we'd eat all those things. Because we was always hungry. Never have too much food. You didn't have the money to go buy sandwich someplace. Of course, if you buy nickel worth of crack seed or nickel worth of sour seed, boy, you get one pile, you know. Full. Big package, full. Every Saturday night, my father would go cowboy movie. Every Saturday night would be doubleheader, cowboy movie. Tom Mix, or Hoot Gibson, Ken Maynard. And he'd bring home big package of sour seed. (LJ makes slurping sound.) That thing 'ono. Of course, now no good because fresher, eh?

WN: In those days, the early days, where was the theater?

LJ: Well, they used to have, as far as I can remember, was the old Koloa Theater. I don't remember. They must have had some other small ones before that, you know. But at that time when I'm talking about, there was Koloa Theater that later became Wilcox Gym. It's by the Japanese[-language] school. That's the one I remember. I remember the first time I wen see The Mummy, Frankenstein, Boris Karloff. Ho, boy, I couldn't sleep that night, boy. That was so spooky.

And in the same theater, when the Republicans ran everything during the early years, you know, everything was Republican. The company was Republican. Then Samuel Wilder King, I still remember, he was the delegate to Congress. I can still see him in that old theater in the front there, those days. That's the old Koloa Theater.

WN: What about games like that? What kind games you folks used to play?

LJ: Well, I never was much good at marbles. You know, used to play marbles, five hole or . . . Like nowadays marbles, you see everything is a colorful thing, eh? In those days, no. Just the clay. The marbles were the clay ones that you put in the ring. The only one, the good one, is the colored one. That's your, what you call?

WN: Kini?

LJ: Yeah. Some people used to be smart with that. Then we used to play alavia, too. You know what alavia is . . .

WN: The bean bag?
LJ: Yeah, the bean bag. You know, Durham bag, we fill up. Stuff like that. Softball. We used to copy the baseball players. We used to make our own baseball. Didn't have, eh? Make our bats out of hau bush. Then, balls out of something round and hard in the center and then we put rag around, and then we put string. Like 'upena, eh, they call? Something like net. That thing (LJ makes crackling sound).

WN: Oh, curve?

LJ: Yeah. Make teams. Kōloa against New Mill. Talking about that, just before the [Second] World War, sports was everything in the plantations, you know. But then, used to go by nationalities, too, you know. The Portuguese all one team and the Shoyus all one team. The Japanese, they call 'em "Shoyus." The Portuguese call the Japanese "Shoyus," you know.

WN: Shoyus?

LJ: Shoyus.

(Laughter)

LJ: The Filipinos all one team, and stuff like that, you know. Play softball or baseball. That's how used to be. And then, even before the Second World War, the barefoot, that was something big, barefoot football. Hundred-twenty-five-pound league. That was mostly all Japanese. That was real good. And when I was real young, I wasn't able to play yet, I remember soccer was really something here, you know. Soccer ball. Sort of like football. I remember, eleven players on the team. That was something over here. Baseball. Every year, the senior league and junior league. Hard to make the senior league, you know. They had so many players, so many players.

WN: Where did you folks play baseball? Where did you play? Where was the field?

LJ: Oh, that's Anne Knudsen Field, in the back of the Waikomo Stream.

WN: The one that's there now?

LJ: Where it is now. But when I used to play, we didn't have many players, you know. Plantations used to hire a guy just because he was good ball player, you know. They give 'em a good job. I remember this guy, Joe Silva, from Pu'unene, Maui. They gave 'em a good job because he's a good pitcher and good third baseman.

WN: He worked Kōloa?

LJ: Kōloa. Yeah. But he come from Pu'unene, though. Those days, you don't travel much. You don't go from one place to another. I don't know. In fact, those days, I couldn't go Kekaha and go sleep overnight without permission.
WN: From your parents?

LJ: Not from my parents, from the boss. From the boss of the company. You couldn't very well come from McBryde and go sleep Kōloa Plantation. You cannot do that. You got to get special permission. They don't allow those things. Used to get camp police. The camp police was pretty big guy, you know, in the company.

WN: Who was the camp police?

LJ: The one I remember was Gavino Kilantang.

WN: Filipino?

LJ: Yeah. Big man, you know. We used to get scared of him, though. Visayan guy.

WN: Who was the Kōloa police chief?

LJ: Oh, at that time was Antone Vidinha, [Sr.]. We keep away from the police. I remember Kimokeo. James Kimokeo.

WN: So he had jurisdiction over plantation people, too?

LJ: Well, they'd call him in case of trouble, like that.

WN: Plantation policeman first?

LJ: Well, plantation had their own plantation police, yeah. Camp police they call 'em. Ah, mostly for the Filipinos, eh? You don't work, like that, they come your house, you know, find out how come you not working today and stuff like that. Galvino.

WN: You remember in 1935 they had the centennial?

LJ: Yeah. I remember that pretty well for some reason or other. Because we had an old locomotive, Paulo. That thing wasn't running for years, you know. That was from years and years. That was a small thing, you know. In fact, if it's not up Grove Farm someplace, it's at the Wilcox, the old homestead [i.e., Grove Farm Homestead Museum]. I think it's over there. But I remember it well because they had it in the old Kōloa Plantation office grounds. And we used to go play on that thing, ring the bell, and stuff like that. Small little thing. That was made in Germany, that thing. Incidentally, somebody stole the bell later on, you know. But what I remember about 1935 was that my father was the one that was in charge of getting that thing from wherever they had it down at the old mill to that plantation grounds, you know. I can still see the tracks they put from the main line all the way there. Somehow they got it there. I don't know how they did it, but.

And then, I remember the pit where they kālua the. . . . Not kālua, they had laulaus. I still can see that place. And then, I can
still see the masaneta tree that was right near. The tree is a kind of fruit from Philippines. It's small like that. We used to call that "spider eggs." It's sweet, you know. You just pop it into your mouth. And then, the guy in charge of making the laulau was Kikilawa. He come from down . . .

WN: Kikilawa?

LJ: Kikilawa, I remember, yeah. He live down . . .

WN: Hawaiian guy?

LJ: Yeah, Hawaiian from down Kukui'ula way. Big Hawaiian man. I forget his real last name, though. His name was Kikilawa. Anyway, on one of the locomotives, one of the engineers there, his name was Kapa Moke. He was pure Hawaiian, too. Big, big man. Kapa Moke. There were very few Hawaiians working in the plantation, not that many. Of course, the mill engineer at that time, he was half Hawaiian, half German. Herman K. Brandt, [Jr.]. And then, we had this guy, Kapa Moke. And then, we had only one more guy, Willie—William something. Willie . . . There were not too many Hawaiians working for the plantation. Most of them worked county or police or something like that. Or no work at all.

Like Po'ipū Beach, you know, Po'ipū Beach, where you see they get all those graves there? The old Hawaiian, [William Keaumaikai] Bacle. He used to own all that place before. His name was Bacle.

WN: Bacle?

LJ: Yeah. His daughter went to school with me, Leilani Bacle. They lost everything. I don't know why, but they probably sold it off, I don't know. But all of Po'ipū Beach was owned by Bacle. Where Po'ipū Beach is now, you know, the . . .

WN: So, that 1935 thing, what did you folks do?

LJ: Ah, I can hardly remember. All I can see is all them tables and then where we ate. That's about it. As far as sports or anything else, I don't know. I don't remember.

WN: I was wondering, you know, after you folks moved from Portuguese Camp, you folks moved to near the manager's office, yeah?

LJ: Yeah.

WN: Did you see the manager at all?

LJ: Well, at that time, they had cars already. Hector Moir. John Moir, I don't remember too well. You see, John Moir was the manager before Hector Moir. Hector Moir was the younger brother. At that time he was the youngest [plantation] manager in the state, Hector Moir. He was married to [Alexandra] "Sandy" Knudsen. That's the reason why that
office was moved from where it originally was, right near the road, to the [old] manager's house. Because they built their home on the Knudsen land where Kiahuna [Plantation] is now and they went to live there. I'm pretty sure Iki [Moir] was born over there. But they had a garden, the boss's garden, up here at Koloa. That's pretty big place, you know. Must have been about half an acre. And I remember he had about five yardmen, the boss had. Take care of the boss's yard and take care of the, what you call? We call that "boss yard," you know, the office yard.

Hector Moir was a soft man. Nice, nice man, you know. His brother John was rough. Of course, I never worked under John. But according to the people, they say he was rough. They'd know what mood he was in by the horse he'd ride, you know. He had two different horses, you know. So they'd stay clear if this certain horse, he'd ride.

WN: Is that right?

LJ: Yeah. What John did before he moved to Lāhainā to Pioneer Mill and his brother was to take over, he harvested almost all the cane that year. He made something like fourteen or fifteen, sixteen thousand tons of sugar that year. But much of it was supposed to be carried over for Hector that's coming on, you know. Why he did it, I don't know. So the following year, Hector's . . .

WN: The output was low?

LJ: His output real low, yeah. Funny. That's real funny to me. But Hector was nice. He had a pleasant-looking face. He was an Irishman, I think. Nice-looking face, he had. He was all out for sports, too, for the workers.

WN: Louis, I'm going stop over here, and then if I can come one more time and we talk about when you started on the plantation. We talk about your work.

LJ: All right.

WN: Okay?

LJ: Yeah.

END OF INTERVIEW
This is an interview with Mr. Louis Jacintho, Jr. on April 14, 1987 in Kōloa. The interviewer is Warren Nishimoto.

Okay, Louis, in 1939 you started working for Kōloa Plantation?

I started working permanently, 1939. My record goes back to September 1, 1939 as a permanent worker, Kōloa Sugar Company. But then, as you know, the years before that, '35, '36, '37, we worked during the summertime as student workers. Every summer we go out to work.

How did you get the job?

Which one is that?

The 1939.

Everybody (chuckles) when they finish school, they go. . . . It's just automatic you go into the plantation because there's nothing else for you to do but going to work. If you're not going to school, you go directly to work. Of course, they start you down as a lower kind of jobs like. . . . Nineteen thirty-nine, I can remember, I started working in the Kōloa Dairy which is about a quarter mile away from the main office and the crossing. The crossing is what we call where we meet in the morning. Locomotive come in the morning and everybody meets there and takes them to wherever they have to work. Well, it's about a quarter of a mile away and I worked there. We started working about three o'clock in the morning. Four of us. I can still remember we had fifty-four milking cows a day to milk. In the morning and then in the afternoon. Fifty-four isn't much, you know. That was all by hand.

Four of you?

Four of us. That's including the boss. He also milks.

Who was the boss?
LJ: His name was ... I know his name was Kame. I forget his last name now. Oh, boy. Anyway, his name was Kame. The family all come from Kukui'ula, that fishing village over there. I don't know how he got the job in the sugar plantation, but he was working there. He was a supervisor and he'd do the milking, too. Like these cows here weren't like now days, you know. Some of them had good nipples, and some, the nipples are small as your pen head—the head of the pen or the pencil.

WN: Half inch?

LJ: Yeah, and then if you weren't that good a milker, you couldn't do it, you know. But he [Kame] was the one who'd do all those, you know. Using just two fingers on each side. Yeah, some of them are soft and easy. Boy, it was pretty hard getting used to milking because, you know, your forearm would hurt for quite some time. The muscles not used to to the milking. Afterwards, got to be all right.

WN: How did you learn how to milk?

LJ: Well, just grab the nipple and start squeezing. (Chuckles) I guess everybody can learn, yeah? We'd milk, morning, and then we'd milk 'em in the afternoon. I stayed there, I'm not so sure for how long.

Then I went to work on a main line railroad tracks picking up small cane. They use two or three people to do that. What happens is that anything that falls off the cane cars alongside of the railroad track, we picked that up, you know. Everything, we picked up. Worked there for a while.

And then, from that to brakeman. I went to brakeman on the locomotive in, I think was 1943 or somewheres around there, during the war. We had three locomotives at Kōloa Sugar Company. The smallest one was Pu'uhi. P-U-U-H-I. And then we had Māhā'ulepū. Māhā'ulepū and then Kōloa. Just three had, that time. Pu'uhi would supply the factory. You know, she'd have to feed the factory with cane. Pu'uhi, that was the smaller one. Most of these trains were about fourteen, fifteen, sixteen ton, that's all.

WN: So that one went directly from the fields ...

LJ: No. It would be in the mill yard. It'd be what you call a mill yard train. The other two, Māhā'ulepū and [Kōloa] would go out and bring the cane cars from the fields. We had another locomotive that we got later on that was Ka'alana. So that would be four. So I worked as a brakeman from 1942, '43, '44, somewheres around there, until 1946 when I got into that locomotive accident.

WN: What happened?

LJ: What happened was, at that time, we didn't have any night shift. The loaded cane cars would be on the main line waiting for the
locomotive to take it down to the factory. So what they'd do, they'd have brakes. Well, most of the cars, not all, but let's say about fifteen, twenty brakes to keep the cars on the main line and not running away. Because where they were parked, which was about, oh, about two miles of downgrade, you know. On the locomotive, we had the engineer, the fireman, and one brakeman, where normally, other companies had two brakemen. We had only one brakeman. And I was a fireman. My brother-in-law, Frank Silva, he was an engineer. And the brakeman would be coupling the locomotive to the line of cars which was about fifty-four cars at that time. And the brakeman would go back and release all the brakes. Now, he'll have to release every brake before anything can move, you know, because the locomotive was just so small and there's so much, fifty-four cars.

WN: Each car had their own brake?

LJ: Yeah. Each car has its own hand brake. But normally what he'd do, he was supposed to start taking off the brakes on the last car and come back. And then, as soon as you start to move, you got to start putting [i.e., taking off the brakes] again. Because the locomotive, being only fourteen or sixteen tons, it won't be able to hold back the cars, you know. So I don't know what happened in the back there, but he took off all the brakes. And that locomotive started going downhill. During the war, the USAD, the army, had that railroad fixed, you know. And they did some good job on that railroad.

That locomotive would keep on picking up speed. And you start to panic, you know. You start throwing sand on the rail to see if you can slow it down. There's no way you could. Now, the railroad tracks ran between two banks. There's no way you could escape because there's banks on both sides of the railroad track. When it got to an opening, I jumped [off]. And when I jumped, my body just twist in the air. You know, hit the bank and hit the cars that going by. And then, I passed out there.

Now, about a hundred yards below, they started piling up, the cars. If I had stayed on about fifteen, twenty seconds, nothing would have happened, you know. But the cars started piling up. And a few cars went down with the locomotive. So then, the locomotive could control itself already because not much cars in the back. What happened, it was just in the cut in the hillside and, boy, that cars just piled up. It stopped the company from grinding [cane] for about four, five days.

WN: How many cars?

LJ: Oh, it must have been at least sixteen cars over there piled up. So, I don't know how long afterwards, I woke up and I walked about half a mile before somebody came for me, you know. Yeah, I'd smashed my head, broke my arm and foot. But I had walked because, you know, you in shock, yeah? So after recuperating after three months later, I didn't go back to the locomotive, you know. You get
Well, I don't know. It's a phobia, I guess. You get scared, you know, once something like that happen. Before that, you weren't afraid of anything.

So, I went to work in Kōloa Sugar Company Store where Big Save is now. Kōloa Store. Homer Maxey was the manager and then we had Jiro Kunioka, that's the auditor there. He was number two. And the purchasing agent was Mitsugi Nishihara. Then we had, oh, about ten or fifteen clerks in that store there, including three girls on the dry goods side.

This being right after the Second World War and the economy was so bad, hardly any people here. Hardly anybody buying or anything. So, I felt kinda guilty going work every day, you know. Nothing to do, actually. My job, actually, wasn't to take orders or anything. In those days, you go from house to house and you take orders. And then, the delivery boy delivers the stuff. Well, I worked with Caesar Vasconcellos. He go out and take orders, and I go deliver, you know. Go deliver down Portuguese Camp, and down to Kukui'ula, Po'ipu Beach, in those areas.

WN: How do you go take orders?

LJ: They go to the house. They said, "Well, we got potatoes today, ten cents a pound." Or, "Corned beef is thirty cents a can," or something like that. And then, the housewife will give you whatever she needs. Bread, rice, or whatever. They'd put it in a book. And they go back to the store. And then, what he'd do is pile up everything for your family, and my family, and that family. And then we deliver that to the houses. That's the way it was. People hardly came to the store.

By the way, in those days, we'd charge our food, you know. And then, we'd go to the store and pay it at the end of the month. You get paid once a month, my father did. But lot of these people, they had what they call "coupons." They'd go the window there and they ask for thirty dollars of coupons or forty dollars of coupons. They're something like script, yeah? And then, they'd buy with that. And then, they'd take it out of their pay at the plantation workplace, they take out of their pay every month. That's the way it was.

I didn't stay there too long. Maybe a year or year and a half, two years, I'm not too sure. That's when Grove Farm took over Kōloa Sugar Company, around that time.

WN: Nineteen forty-eight?

LJ: Yeah, someplace around that time. And then I went to ... William Moragne, [Sr.], the manager at Grove Farm, he was the assistant manager at that time at Grove Farm. [William P.] Alexander was the manager [from 1948-53]. Then ...
WN: So, Alexander succeeded Hector Moir?

LJ: No. Hector Moir was Koloa Sugar Company. That company was dissolved.

WN: Right, right. Okay.

LJ: When they dissolved, they sold out to Grove Farm, the manager was--Hector Moir was out because he was from Amfac. Actually, Koloa Sugar Company was under American Factors. Well, Alexander was Grove Farm. And then, Moragne was the assistant. Karl Berg was what we call "head luna" of Koloa Sugar Company. He stayed on for a short while after Koloa Sugar Company was dissolved. And then, he left. Karl Berg left. Then we had Moragne, then they had this guy Lyle Van Dreser. Came from Maui. Through the years, they have different titles for the same jobs, you know. It always changes. I don't know--assistant managers, field superintendents and stuff like that.

So, I worked as a truck--Moragne had purchased lot of surplus army equipment from Honolulu. You go bid. You know, the things are all cheap, yeah? He bid on trucks. As a matter of fact, Grove Farm raised--they were into diversification--a lot of pineapple, you know. Lot of pineapple, and then...

WN: Kaua'i Pine or...

LJ: No, Grove Farm. So they bought lot of these army trucks--those army trucks that used to haul the troops around. And they'd put conveyors on 'em. And they used that to load the pineapples on, yeah. And lot of jeeps and weapons carriers. That's what we used to use, you know. He got it all for a song. And then, he also bought heavy quarry machines, like the Euclids. Dumps--Euclid dumps. Well, I drove one of those, you know. We had three of those. What we did with those Euclid dumps was, we'd have an old B&H Crane that he had bought from Halawa Quarry Company back on O'ahu. It was a big, clumsy thing, you know. It couldn't move very fast, but it was adequate for the job we were doing.

Koloa is a place where, to know, you have to be here, you know. You cannot explain, but it was just rock piles, rock piles. Every field was just rock piles, you know. It's a real rocky area. What we did was, when they had converted from locomotives to hauling by trucks [in the 1950s], what we did was, the old railroad beds that went around the company, we widened that to forty feet. We filled it up with all them rocks that were piled in the cane field. Three shifts, we worked, you know. They loaded three trucks with that old machine that had to grab that. Something like the cane grabber, but we call it the "orange peel." It was little wider. And pick up the rocks and drop it into the trucks, and we'd dump it on where the old railroad tracks were. I don't know what they did with the rail, though. And they leveled it off forty feet and made it a base for roads for the trucks. That's how we got rid of most of the rock...
piles in the fields. Very few was left.

The only problem is that where the rock piles were, you know that's bedrock under. So, we hauled dirt, soil, after that, and then put it on where the bedrock was and planted cane. That's all right, you know, you get more acreage in cane. But then, when it came time to ripen the cane, let's say if you ripen the cane for sixty days without water with a normal amount of soil, let's say you had enough, two, three, four feet of soil, takes that long, sixty days, to get the ripening of the cane. Where you had put soil on the bedrock, that thing ripen faster, you know. You got lot of dead cane. So that was one of our problems and that still is, you know.

So I worked on the Euclid for, shucks, I don't know how many years. I know when we started the [Wilcox] Tunnel [in September 1948], the vehicular tunnel which was half a mile from A'akukui, that's on the other side of the Hoary Head [Hā'upu] Range, to the [Kōloa] Mill here. I worked on that truck there, that Euclid. You know, we'd haul away the muck. What Mr. Moragne had done, he'd gone to Honolulu and bought all those quarrying machines from the Seabees that they used to use during the Second World War. He got them real cheap, you know. That mucker which drills into the face of the mountain, that was about, oh, I'd say twenty feet up and down, you know. So that was a pretty big tunnel.

What they'd do, they'll drill and blast, and then they'd haul it out. They had everything from bought surplus. And they pile it on the outside. They'd make something like a rock-crusher strainer, only make it a little wider, and they'd drop the muck into it, and we'd be under, and that thing would fall into the truck. We used it for the topping of the road. He [Moragne] knew what he was doing, you know. He used everything. Instead of crushed rock, we'd use the muck. Would be something like crushed rock. It's solid rock from in the tunnel. And we used that for all the topping of all the roads in the company, where railroad beds used to be.

I worked there, I'm really not so sure how many years, but must have been. . . . Nineteen fifty was when I got drafted in the Korean War, that's December 4th of 1950. After the Korean War, when I got back, I worked on a Euclid for a while. Then I went to work as a crew chief in the herbicide department with spray gangs. We had six of those rigs to work the whole plantation. The acreage for the Kōloa side of the Grove Farm Plantation and the A'akukui side was about 13,000 acres of cane land.

So, in those days, the herbicides weren't as advanced as it is now, see. Most of the sprays were contact sprays. And contact sprays, what I mean is, it's something like oils. You just spray it on, it burns the grass, and then after a while, it starts to grow up again, you know. But now days, they got more systemic sprays. We don't use any of the old sprays. It's all systemic sprays. It works through the leaves and through the roots. So you have more control. So then, what they did was, when those sprays, herbicides, start
coming out, they started cutting back on the units spraying. I had been working there for about sixteen, seventeen, eighteen years already, you know. Then they started eliminating one truck at a time. The driver or the crew chief as I was, by seniority. So it got to be where I had less seniority than three or four of the other guys, so I had to get out.

So I went to work in the trucking department. Most of the time, I wasn't driving the truck, I was a helper to somebody else. What we'd do is, in those days they used to cut seed by hand and bundle it. They bundle all the seed, you know. I think was fifty some-odd seeds in one bundle of cane. And we used to load it onto the trucks and take it to the machines that they used for planting. But see, the truck driver and the helper--and I was the helper most of the time--would load it and unload it, and go back, and load, which is pretty hard job, you know. We had one variety of cane there. Through the years you get different varieties, you know. We had one variety there that, boy, was big as a baseball bat, one seed, and was really heavy. Heavy cane. Was hard job.

WN: The seed is what, near the base of the stalk?

LJ: The what?

WN: The seed cane?

LJ: No, the seed cane is the whole thing. It's the whole thing. Only thing is, it have to be between nine and twelve months. Anything below nine, you're wasting because it's kinda still young. You only get a few seed out of it. One seed is twenty-four inches, see.

WN: One seed is twenty-four inches?

LJ: Yeah. And then, after twelve [months], well, the cane is little bit too old to germinate, you know. You get poor germination. What they do, they cut between nine and twelve months. They try to get it around ten months, would be real nice, you know. They'd load it up, then they take it to a treatment plant. At that time, the treatment plant was in the back of the Grove Farm shops. Cold water treatment. They put some kind of fungicide in the water and you leave the seed in for so many minutes, you know. Half an hour or so, and then you take it out. What it does, it enhances the growth of the cane. It speeds up the growth, and then gets rid of whatever pests are in the seed itself. Then we'd haul it to the field, unload it. So I stayed there, I really don't know....

Then they had an opening for what they call a "ditchman." So, I applied for that job, which was irrigation. I'd never been in irrigation before. So I went to work for that job. That was grade four. At that time, yeah, it was grade four. And all the while, our neighboring company, McBryde, the ditchmen, which they call "irrigation assistants," were getting grade six, you know. That's the funny part of the sugar industry. And I was the first ditchman
on this side, on Koloa. They had one on the Ha'iku area and one in Koloa side. And I worked directly under the three irrigation foremen, which at that time was Jack Ferreira, Frank Cataluna, which was my mother's brother, and Frank Rapozo. And later on, Tom Muraoka. I worked under them, taking orders from them.

What I'd do is, I'd start work at four o'clock in the morning. They had so many rain gauges all over the company that I had to take by certain time. I had to take all the rain gauge readings and the reservoir height, and call in to the office about seven o'clock [a.m.] and let them know how much rainfall we had. Then my job was to open the reservoir valves at certain time, stuff like that.

WN: Did Waita supply all the water for Koloa Sugar?

LJ: No. Waita supplied most of the water for anything below the reservoir, which is the factory and all the Puhi and part of the Maha'ulepu fields. Maha'ulepu, we had a reservoir where we'd fill up at night, and then we'd use that down the Maha'ulepu Valley. And during the day, you could use some of that from Waita also. Now, the mauka areas, the mauka areas is anything above the mill, which weren't irrigated. The water was from the reservoir above Koloa town. Pia Mill Reservoir and Pu'u o Hewa Reservoir, and then Number One, which is that reservoir right next to the tree tunnel there. And then, we had one more that was further on up that would supply the Puhi area. That was the Papua'a Reservoir, which is close to the mountains on this other side of the Highway 50, about a mile towards the mountains.

So I worked there until 1974 when McBryde took over Grove Farm. You see, when McBryde took over in 1974 I was still a ditchman then. And what they did was, for some reason or other, they took out most of the supervisors that were there under Grove Farm. I weren't a supervisor, see, but they took out most of them. And then, they had a problem of replacing them with people who weren't as akamai as the ones that had already left. I don't know why they ever did that. Like Kiyoshi Shintani, he was a cultivating superintendent on the Koloa side. He left. He left, and if anybody was knowledgeable, that was him, you know. What was left was guys like me that was still learning. Whatever I had learned, I had learned from guys like Kiyoshi and Tom Muraoka, people like that. So it caused a--I hate to say it, you know, because it's past history--but it caused a. . . . By doing that, what had happened was we had reached the point where we had most of the obstacles and the learning through hard knocks, how to raise cane. And this is poor cane country, you know, something like Wai'anae [O'ahu] and Kilauea [Kauai] and places like that.

WN: Because of the rocks?

LJ: Because of the rocks and because of the wet weather also. The ripening of the cane and problems like that. And Maha'ulepu Valley is all clay soil. It's real hard, you know. It's not an easy place
to farm, Kōloa. So they made a mistake. To me, they made a mistake of doing that because they were left with people like myself, which didn't know as much.

WN: What happened to Shintani folks? They had to retire?

LJ: Yeah, they [i.e., McBryde] just laid 'em off. Well, they kept him for a while for consultation and stuff, but they wouldn't listen. They wouldn't listen because I guess they felt that the reason why we were going out was because we didn't know what we were doing. But their country and our country is two different places. It's easier to . . . It's different. The climate is different, the soils are different. So what happened was, I guess they bit off more than they could chew because everything started to go down. When they first took over, when they harvested that year, was about 60,000 tons of sugar. And then it start dropping, dropping. It never reached that much again. Fifty-four [thousand], fifty-seven [thousand], like that. It never recovered.

They've come a long way now though, but that's been how many? Twelve, thirteen years, you know. They've come to a point where everything is getting to be back where it was years ago. The problem now is that sugar is in such a bad way. To keep the quality of our jobs the way it's supposed to be, it's pretty hard because of the labor shortage. You cannot hire because you cannot pay. That's what making it hard for them now. That's the reason why the company is going into diversification, yeah? Planting all kind of different stuff. But as far as McBryde, I'm pretty sure they're here to stay, though. Because the way they're planning it is that as people die or through attrition, they don't replace. So the people whoever working now would still have jobs.

My job title changed, when McBryde took over, to irrigation assistant, grade six, from ditchman, grade four. It's a little bit different pay, too. So I worked there for them, for McBryde, just for about a year or so. Then they made some shifts around the place and then I became Māhā'ulepu irrigation foreman. That was in 1975, I think. I actually didn't want to be a foreman, you know. I tell you the reason why for that. Because all the years that I was at Grove Farm, almost thirty years, twenty-seven or something like that, every summer I used to be part-time supervisor. Pineapple or four liner. Four liner is a replanting machine. But that being a family company, Grove Farm, usually if your father was a foreman, the son would be a foreman after him. It's hard to break that, to get in, to start somebody new. So I'd always be temporary, temporary, go back to my job. Go back to my regular job. Temporary, go back to my regular job. Ey, for a Portuguese, I don't use my hands too much. Don't you notice that?

(Laughter)

LJ: Anyway, I worked supervisor for irrigation from 1975. And then, after, in 1981, I went to herbicide supervisor, weed control. I
stayed there for couple years, then went back to irrigation foreman until I retired December 31, 1986. And that's the story of my life.

All I can say is, I never had much education, you know, I never went. . . . Oh, I can read and write just as much as the next guy. All I ever did was through my experience in working all my life for the sugar plantation, but there's no. . . . What I'm trying to say is that you gotta have education. That's one of the most important things. You can be experienced. Experience, I don't think you can make up without education. A person with education. . . . I keep telling them when we get meetings and like when I pensioned off and I had to say something, I always [say], "Education is the most important thing." Because if you have education, you can learn most of what I know in no time at all. You know when McBryde expanded and they brought in these young Haole kids from University of Hawai'i, agriculturalists and, oh, they're in their twenties. We'd look at them, we'd say, "Look at these guys, boy. The young, Haole kids, they don't know nothing. These guys, they stupid. What they know about?" But that's not so. They don't know for a while, but afterwards, they just pass you. Education, you got to know . . .

WN: You mean, they learn faster?

LJ: Yeah, they learn fast. And then, that's the way it is. Of course, there's no, what you call, for experience, but you gotta have education.

WN: You left after ninth grade, eh, school?

LJ: Yeah.

WN: How come you quit school?

LJ: Well, actually, I didn't quit. In those days, people didn't make much money. Of course, my father wasn't that bad off because he was a machinist in the factory, but he got a big family. I went my freshman year at Kaua'i High School. Had the hardest time to even pay the five dollars for the transportation to Kaua'i High, you know. If they really wanted to do it, I guess my parents could have done it, but the Portuguese funny, though. It's not like Orientals. Different.

WN: So they didn't encourage you to continue?

LJ: Yeah. You know, I had pretty good marks when I was in grammar school, which I don't think it makes any difference. But then, the Portuguese Society at that time wanted me to keep on going to school. So they had me go to school and give me part-time work after school. But it didn't pan out because it was pretty hard for me because I'd work in 'Līhu'e, some yard over there after pau school. Then I had a hard time getting back home to Kōloa, you know. It's not like now.
WN: I guess Kōloa kids had a hard time, huh, because Kaua‘i High was so far?

LJ: Well, not as hard as [from] Kīlauea to Kaua‘i High. Because when I was going to high school, I remember had some. The reason why I remember, they were pretty girls. The Akana girls, they come all the way from Kīlauea.

WN: Didn't have Kapa'a [High School] at that time?

LJ: No. They didn't have--only Kaua‘i High. Didn't have Waimea either. I think Waimea was right after. I don't remember what year. Or maybe had just started Waimea, something like that. But at that time, I know definitely there were no Kapa'a High School. So, that's far. But you see, lot of the people I know from over there, they went on. They finished high school, and then... Of course, that's during the war that lot of them got drafted and went into the army. And then, maybe they finish college after that through the GI bill or something like that, I don't know. But many of them went through and got their education. Lot of the kids that I went school with in 1939 graduated Kōloa School. They're schoolteachers, they're dentists, doctors. You know, most of them are still living. We try to keep track of the people that you went to school with, that graduated. So you know, more or less. Some of them, you lost contact with, but most of them, we know, who passed away or whatever.

WN: When you were young kid, what did you want to be?

LJ: (Chuckles) I wanted to be a baseball player.

(Laughter)

LJ: I didn't have any dreams of being a doctor or dentist or anything like that. I don't remember, anyway. I like to sing. I used to sing all the time.

WN: But you played baseball, too?

LJ: Oh, I loved baseball. I played baseball all my life. In fact, after I got hurt, after I got my head smashed in, I was without any covering for couple years, you know. Just skin covering the brain. And I was still young and strong. So I turned out for baseball. Every time I'd go up to bat, the opposing pitcher would know and he would be afraid to throw at me. He'd always throw away because fearing that, you know, anything that hit there, I just die, eh?

WN: So you had lot of walks?

LJ: Yeah, they walked me more than anything else. But then, after couple years, I went to Queen's [Hospital]. And then, Dr. Cloward, Ralph Cloward, put the silver plate in there. Over here. So, was all right. All through that accident, I never went through any pain or anything else. Funny part of it is, you know, I broke my arm and
broke my head, broke my leg. And I never felt any pain. It's the shock, I guess. Lost a lot of blood because, you know, head wounds, you lose a lot of blood.

WN: So the skull was shattered?

LJ: Yeah. You see, on the side of the cane cars, there's four bolts. And that thing went directly on the crown of my head. It was just after the war. And then, during the war, they had penicillin. So we had an army doctor. Dr. Ralph Cloward, he still lives in Honolulu. Ralph Cloward was an army doctor that just came. And he cleaned out whatever mess was in there and sewed it up. And I started taking shots, penicillin shots. In fact, I counted it. It was 116 that I took in that time. The part of it is, I had no compensation for being hurt, at that time. You didn't have like you have now.

WN: This is before the union or after the union?

LJ: No, the union was here, but then the labor laws are different then. Different.

WN: So you didn't go through the ILWU [International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union] at all for grievance?

LJ: No, no. No. Of course, they paid for everything, the company did. Incidentally, you know, I was just thinking. When people say, "Oh, I worked for ten cents an hour or twelve cents an hour," actually, that's false, you know. Monetarily, yeah. That's all you see. But you got to figure. You get a free house, free firewood, free hospital. Actually, the only thing is that you don't see the money, you know. You don't see the money. But if you're going to put it in a monetary way, that would be much more than ten cents an hour. But when you talk to the older people and, "Oh, I work only ten cents an hour before," or "Dollar a day," but actually, it's not so. Not so, if you really think about it, you know. It looks bad because you only make that much.

WN: But after the union, you didn't get the free house or anything.

LJ: No. That's the reason why we had to move out from the house that we were living in. Because, you see, my father was making about seventy-five, eighty dollars a month. And the house we were living in, we were getting it free before the union contract was signed in 1946. Then we had to pay forty-eight dollars out of the seventy-five, you know, for the house. So what he did was, he bought one of those surplus army barracks that was headquarters back in the plantation office yard, and moved it down to where it is now. And we remodeled it, and that's where we came to live. And then, later on, he had plans to make a regular home, and then he passed away. So my mother still lives in that thing there, but.

WN: Oh, that's the house?
LJ: Yeah. But we lived in there. My two sisters. My older sister got married when she was young. My brother had left to go in the merchant marine when he was seventeen. So my two youngest sisters and myself lived in that small little house with my mother. And they [sisters] got married. And I was the last one to get married.

WN: But the house that your mother lives in now used to be down by the office?

LJ: Yeah. The plantation office. The army used to use as a headquarters or something like that. It's an army barracks.

WN: What was the plantation like during the war?

LJ: Well, most days was all work. I used to work seven days a week, twelve hours a day. You didn't get paid much, that's one thing for sure. But then, sugar was essential because we had lost all the sugar from Philippines and places like that. And the thing is, being under martial law, if you stayed home for no reason at all, you face the provost marshal. That's the way it was. But then, actually, it wasn't that bad, you know. Of course, blackout and. . . But then, we'd meet at night. The guys get together and play music and sing. And then, walk the road and hide from the MP's to get home. So we had gas mask around your neck. You carry the gas mask no matter where you go. It wasn't all that bad.

WN: Had soldiers stationed around here?

LJ: Yeah. We had quite a bit. We had the Twenty-seventh Division of New York—the old fighting Sixty-ninth. They were the first people that came here. They stationed all over the place. Then they left. Lot of the boys from over here went to them also, you know. They fought in the South Pacific. And then, the Fortieth Division [came] after that. Thirty-third and Ninety-eighth. Four different divisions. Part of the divisions were here, you know. I don't know how many battalions. One battalion may be on different islands, eh? Then they had a marine camp for R&R [rest and recreation] over at Wailua. We didn't see much of the navy, though.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

WN: When you started in the plantation, '39, did you do other jobs, too, like kālai, [and] cut cane, or you started right into the dairy?

LJ: Yeah, those things like kālai and cutting cane, that we did when we were still going school, summertime. Ho hana. Ho hana, that was all contract. They call that "contract." You know, you get one foreman and you get one water boy. Water boy would go with two galvanized buckets on a. . . .
WN: Stick.

LJ: On a stick. He'd go up to the Wilcox ditch that runs along the mountain there and fill it up with water, ditch water, and bring it back for us to drink.

Then they'd have a rod man that would work with the luna or foreman. They'd pay us [ho hana] by the lines. Three rods is one line. He'd have a bamboo measured out to one rod. Then he just measured out three rods, one line, and go right from this end of the field to the end of the line there. Then they know how many lines, we call 'em. For that, they'd give you two of those to go. One going that way, and then coming back. And on the cane, they'd make a knot on the leaf and they'd put your bango. Nobody went by name, you know, everybody went by bango. Everybody had a number. Mine was 4041.

And I can still remember. In those days, you didn't have cane that grow wild, you know. It's not a heavy tonnage cane like now days. What they'd do, the foreman and the field boss, they'd look at the amount of grass in the line, then they say, "Oh, I think we give them half cent a line," or quarter cent a line or one cent a line, depending on the amount of grass. Most of the grass were kukaepua'a and hilahila. Ho, that thing hurt when you work on 'em. So you do with your hoe, you'd go, you'd kalai, go down. Then come back the other one. But they'd have your number on the leaf. So afterwards the foreman would go through and if he'd find anything still growing, what they'd do, they'd dock you. Let's say if you get fifty lines today, they'd take out two lines or three lines because you left some grass growing. Some of the guys were fast, you know. I wasn't that much fast, but.

The thing about it, you start working when you can see, not by the watch. As soon as it's visible already, you start working. And then, I remember we had fifteen minutes breakfast. I think was 8:00 to 8:15 [a.m.], and then half an hour lunch. In those days when I started, I don't remember if was ten hours or eight hours, though. I know we worked on Saturdays. If you work every day, you get one free movie at the Kōloa Theater, which was worth, I think, fifteen cents. That was something great, you know.

WN: What they gave you? A pass or something?

LJ: Yeah, they get your name over there. They know who worked the whole month. But if you lay off, well, no more.

WN: All the workers got free movies?

LJ: All the kids.

WN: Oh, only the kids?

LJ: Yeah, the school kids.
WN: When did they start spraying herbicide? When did they quit hō hana?

LJ: Actually, I remember when they first started was during the war. They started spraying. They had one small, little tank with the... People use that Trojan spray tank, hand pumped. But the chemical they were using was something horrible. I think it was cyanide or something like that was contained in the chemical. Boy, people used to get sores all over their body and everything else. I remember one Filipino guy when he pensioned, he looked something like an Albino. His skin was just peeled off and just plain white in certain areas. But was really a toxic thing, you know. They used that. They'd give them contract. They'd make pretty good money. But the reason why they started going into spraying was because of the labor shortage at that time. But actually, hō hana never finished because I remember when we worked in that Grove Farm pineapple, they still do lot of hō hana with the pineapple.

Pineapple was interesting, though. When you plant pine and then you rotate, crop rotation. You plant pineapple, and then pineapple is three years. After two years you get the first crop. And then, the third year you get the ratoon. They usually plow it up after that. And then you plant cane. Boy, the cane grow crazy. Because of the high nitrogen, you know, after the mulching of the pineapple plants and everything else. That's one of the reasons why, I guess, they went into pineapple.

WN: How come they didn't do more of that, I wonder?

LJ: Well, the thing is, the pineapple, the canneries are all out of business, eh? Pineapple being a luxury crop, we didn't have any subsidizing from the government, you know. So, when people start organizing and then the pay started getting higher and higher, and the herbicides and the fertilizers getting costlier, the companies couldn't keep up. So what they did was, they went to the Philippines and raised their pineapple, where the labor was cheap. So, eventually, all the canneries shut down. So when they shut down, Grove Farm went only into sugarcane.

McBryde, many years ago, they planted macadamia nut. They could see, somehow, ahead. But it never worked out. In the valleys, places like that, they used to plant macadamia.

WN: When the union was organized, had a strike, huh, in '46?

LJ: Yeah.

WN: What job did you have at the time?

LJ: Oh, I was working the locomotive that time.

WN: Oh, you were locomotive?

LJ: Yeah. Had lot of fun, though, because I was single. We didn't work
how many months? About three months, I think. Three or four months. So wasn't that bad for me. Actually, but it wasn't fun then. Because we had some people who wouldn't join. They'd come out, try to come out to work, you know. And a whole bunch of guys would follow them and stuff like that. And then, some of them would put sugar in their gas tanks and rip up their car seat covers and stuff like that. Lot of problems. I remember we had two Filipino guys who lived by the Korean Camp, used to be. The Longayan brothers. Oh, they had a rough time. They wouldn't even let 'em go to the toilet. It wasn't fun. And then, when they had demonstrations, different companies, we'd all go, you know. Like Kekaha, I remember, one of the guys, they had to bring 'em back home in the trunk of the car. I don't know what he had done over there. You feel bad.

WN: Who were some of the leaders on Kaua'i?

LJ: Shee, hard time, that time. At that time, we had. . . Of course, the boss was Jack Hall. Then we had Frank Silva, and Koloa, we had Bob Kunimura, Masashi Kageyama. I don't remember most of the other guys, though. But it wasn't fun, though. I mean, the change was inevitable, but it's really rough going through it, you know. Then when we went back, well, after that long, boy. In fact, when we struck couple of times after that, when we go back, (chuckles) everybody, when Grove Farm time, we used to go back [to work], everybody gotta go and hōhana in the pineapple fields.

Oh, they planted ti also, you know, Grove Farm did. You see, cane is sucrose. Ti is levulose. They made sugar out of that. They made a small mill down where the sugar mill is, and then they ground that ti root there. That thing was real expensive, the sugar. That was mostly for medicinal purposes. I remember, they used to make 'okolehao with that, too, you know, from the ti. Strong stuff. But later on, they just disbanded that. This Wilcox, they were kind of. . . They'd be always thinking of something new, you know. G[aylord] P[arke] Wilcox, the last of the Wilcoxes. The landowners . . .

WN: When Grove Farm took over Koloa, what changes do you remember took place? What differences were there before the takeover and after the takeover?

LJ: Well, it's hard to notice the differences. The only thing is, as far as the working part, we had to go to Puhi shops. The shops were in Puhi, which is Grove Farm. It wasn't much change. Of course, they laid off quite a few people then when they merged. They laid off quite a few, and then, some of them, they rehired. Then they had to start finding a way of getting their cane to the factory which was in Koloa. Because at that time [prior to the 1948 merger], all their cane would go to Lihu'e Sugar Mill. It wasn't very good practice because they had to pay them so much for grinding their cane. They didn't have their own mill. That was one of the reasons why they bought over Koloa Sugar Company, which was a good investment. I don't know how many million. They didn't buy for
much. I think was $1.5 million or something like that, or $1.6 [million]. And they paid it off in no time. And now, how much this place is worth, you know, boy.

WN: But Kōloa Sugar was Amfac, right?

LJ: Yeah. Kōloa Sugar was Amfac.

WN: Grove Farm was....

LJ: Grove Farm is ... .

WN: Amfac?

LJ: ... Wilcox. No, no. We don't have any ....

WN: Oh, they didn't have ... .

LJ: ... affiliations, no. It's something like Gay & Robinson. They own the land. They own the land, they own everything. Most of the [Kōloa] land--not most, but I'd say, half of the land was Knudsen Estate, yeah? They were leasing.

WN: Yeah. So, Grove Farm just took over the lease ....

LJ: Grove Farm just took over the lease. What they did was, Grove Farm took over the lease from Knudsen, and now they own Kōloa. I think Kōloa must be about 6,000 acres, you know, something like that. Five, six thousand acres. And then, on the other side, Grove Farm own their land. What they do is, they pay Knudsen so much for a ton of cane, not ton of sugar, you know. So the more cane per acre, the more Knudsen get paid for it. The same with Grove Farm now. McBryde has taken over Grove Farm lands. They pay Grove Farm by the tonnage of cane per acre. So when they first took over, they weren't very happy about it because the tonnage used to average about seventy tons like that per acre. But now, it's, oh, about ninety, I think. So they making more money now. That's how they go, by the tons of cane per acre.

Knudsen land is mostly all unirrigated land, except for maybe 200 acres of irrigated. Not very good sugar land. Poor sugar land. The only thing about unirrigated, the expenses are much lower.

WN: Just rain, then, huh?

LJ: Yeah, just the rain. Of course, you gotta fertilize and you got to get herbicide. But then, that's it. The only difference is, irrigated, you gotta irrigate. I don't know how much difference there is. But eventually, it'll get to be where .... Right now, we have 12,000 some-odd acres under sugarcane at McBryde. Eventually, it'll come down to maybe about .... What they do, these sugar companies now days, is they eliminate all the poor areas. You know, the high-cost areas where poor tonnage.
Eventually, they may keep only those that they know they can make money with. And then, diversify the rest of the area.

WN: So, where are the good areas?

LJ: The good areas mostly on makai, you know, close to the ocean.

WN: Is that right?

LJ: Yeah. Mauka is not very good. Mauka, usually, you get about seven, eight, tons sugar per acre, average about there. Sometimes, you lucky, you get maybe nine, ten, eleven, once in a great while. Then the makai areas, well, it's much higher.

WN: Why is that?

LJ: Sugarcane needs lot of sunlight. The more sunlight, the better it is. That's the reason why, Kekaha and Olokele and Gay & Robinson had high sugar yields. I think Gay & Robinson, last year, they average about almost sixteen tons sugar per acre. We only had nine some-odd tons sugar per acre. The reason for that is, when you harvest the cane, you want to ripen it to a certain degree of moisture. To drop the moisture to a certain reading. You cannot do that if it rains. You can start it off, let's say, seventy days, and get to a certain moisture reading, maybe sixty or seventy or seventy-five or whatever. And it rains, it starts growing again. If it start growing again, you lose the sugar again. That's the way it is here with Koloa. But on the other side where it hardly rains, they can control their ripening. Over here, it rains too much. Over there, you got lot of sunlight. To get the good high sucrose, you gotta get cool nights. If you get cool nights, like, you know, that wind that comes down from Kukui'ula or Kekaha. Cool, and then hot days. Both extremes, you know. Then you get lot of sugar. Lot of sugar. Like over here, it's really rough. Certain years, when the weather is right, the sugar yield is good.

WN: So, what, Knudsen lands is mostly mauka?

LJ: Mostly mauka. Yeah. Mostly all mauka. Before the Second World War, lot of those lands weren't in cane. And then, Kaua'i Pine had pineapple, most of the lands by Mount Kahili, you know, Kahili Mountain Park. Kaua'i Pine had pineapple there. Yeah, I remember lot of wasteland there because when we were in the Kaua'i volunteers during the Second World War, we used to go maneuver up there. Just wasteland. But then, when Grove Farm took over Koloa, they cleaned that all out and started planting pineapple, and then cane. So, we don't have very much fallow land, you know. Just the really bad areas where they raise cattle.

But eventually, it'll get to be where the poorer lands will have to be put into pasture or diversification because doesn't pay. Unless things change dramatically, which I don't think, as far as the sugar prices and stuff go, it'll have to be that way. Most of these
plantations will have to cut their acreage. That's the only way. Gotta raise only on the land where they can make money. Not worth it. Expenses get higher. Equipment, materiel, workers. The workers' pay, they all get higher, never gets lower.

Whether the change of administration eventually will make any difference, I don't know. But as it is right now, the problem is that it's more political than anything else. Because all these large banks that lend money to the Third World countries, they expect to get their money back. And what happens is that if they keep on producing sugar in the United States alone and keep paying 'em twenty cents a pound, then the people that want to dump their sugar into the United States cannot. So that's part of it, too, the way I think. You can see by what happened in Brazil where lot of the banks, just forget it already. That's about the problems. It's political. You would think that it seems like we're forgotten over here, you know, the farmer is.

WN: So, why did Grove Farm lease out to McBryde?

LJ: The reason why, I think that some people feel that we weren't making money when that happened. In fact, the year that they leased out was the year where the sugar prices were the highest, you know.

WN: Oh, yeah?

LJ: Yeah. They made a lot of money that year, A&B did. McBryde.

WN: [Nineteen] seventy-four?

LJ: Yeah. And then, it started dropping afterwards. But the reason for that is, after the last of the old Wilcoxes passed away, G[aylord] P[arke] Wilcox, the people who own the company don't live here anymore. All the people that own the Grove Farm land are Mainland people married into the family, married cousins. And they back in the Mainland there. In fact, I know quite a few of them because when I used to work down at Waiohai, take care of the steak house, they used to have their yearly meetings. They used to stay at Waiohai and they used to come up to my place and eat, the board of directors. And they're all Mainland people married into the Wilcox family. Their feeling is that the margin of profit is too small. They'd like to get richer faster. So if they lease out and they start selling the land, like they get Kukui Grove Shopping Center, and then they sell house lots, they making more money that way. That's why it was. It wasn't that Grove Farm was going bankrupt or anything like that. Because if that old people [Wilcoxes] were still here, wouldn't be like that. It may have been that Grove Farm would have bought over McBryde instead of the other way around.

WN: McBryde is Alexander & Baldwin?

So, even though McBryde isn't very viable because of the sugar prices the way it is, Matson [Navigation Company] and HC&S is, you know. So, the people who work at McBryde, lucky.

WN: So you think A&B is committed to keeping sugar . . .

LJ: They are. Because when we go to meetings and stuff like that, they always reassure us, the people that . . . But it's a good company to work for, though, A&B.

WN: What did you like better? You liked A&B or you liked Wilcox?

LJ: Well, when I was at Grove Farm, I was just a worker. When I came to McBryde, I got to be part of the management. Somehow, you know, if you work for a company like Grove Farm, like I worked for Grove Farm for almost thirty years, you feel kind of partial to them because it's part of your life, better part of your life. But then as far as benefits go, there's no company like A&B. Like me being a supervisor, when I pensioned off, they really take care of you. Good company, that. I don't know how it would have been if I had been one of the supervisors at Grove Farm, but I don't think it would be half as good. Because none of the other companies, sugar companies, are like A&B. So, I'm very happy about that company. I guess I'm happy at Grove Farm, too, but, you know. Grove Farm was more a stricter place to work for.

WN: Oh, yeah?

LJ: Yeah, they were more. It's not as easy working at Grove Farm, you know. Like . . .

WN: Because of the family . . .

LJ: Yeah. When you work for a family like Gay & Robinson like that, it's different. But not regrets, you know. I still have Waitā.

(Laughter)

LJ: Waitā. Incidentally, Waitā, ever since we were kids, we would go there to swim, fish, and stuff like that. That's the biggest reservoir in the state.

WN: I was wondering, if the sugar plantations close, what would become of Waitā?

LJ: I don't know what they could do with that. Because the water that comes into Waitā comes from the other side of the mountain, you know. It comes through the water tunnel. They get a water tunnel that is two miles long. Go across to Hoary Head [Hā'upu] Range, across the main Highway 50 to the other side, Ha'iku. And then, we got gates on the other side, Ku'ia and Kamo'oloa gates, which I used to take care. You got it open, and then when the storm on the mountains there, the water comes through and goes into Waitā and
fills it up. And then, when we get it to a certain height, we just close it, see.

I seen, one night, my wife and I, you know, that's my responsibility. So, storming, go up the water tunnel and there's a gauge on the sluiceway. You know, the sluiceway where the water comes out of the tunnel, it goes down the sluiceway down into Waitā. Six hundred million gallons a day coming through there. The speed of that water coming through there must have been about fifty, sixty miles an hour, you know. Fast, fast. You ever get caught in that storm water, that's it, boy. It comes out of the tunnel like that and it goes down a grade like that, and then it goes into Waitā itself. Waitā, I used to bring it up. When Phil Conrad was McBryde's manager, he had me bring it up to twenty-three feet. Boy, you look at that swollen reservoir, you wonder what if something should happen, you know. Actually, that reservoir, you're supposed to bring it up to twenty-two [feet], nine [inches] is the maximum, which is 2 billion, 400 million gallons of water. That's plenty water. But then, it's not too deep because 420 acres, the whole place.

WN: How deep is it?

LJ: Yeah, twenty-two feet, nine inches. That's the highest. Right now, it's only about ten feet. We didn't have any rain. But then, if you look at the wall that they made, that wall was made there in 1903, I think, or 1906, something like that by manager [Patrick] McLane. He got fired for doing that. Cost 15,000 bucks. But the way they built it, I don't know if the slant meets the requirements of the government for that.

WN: Why did he get fired?

LJ: 'Cause cost too much money, $15,000, at that time, you know. But without that reservoir, you could never raise sugarcane on Koloa. But you see, when the water goes down, like now if you look, the patchwork of the rocks, the way it's set. Beautiful job. Real nice-looking. I don't know who did that, Japanese or Chinese, but it's beautiful to look. And then, on top there, they put rock and they put soil, and they'd run horses on top and mules and everything else to tamper it down. They didn't have anything to tamper it down at that time. Then once in a while, you see get leak, under, slow leak. I'd have to check. I'd have to put a staff gauge there to check how much water is coming out and stuff like that, and I got to report for the government. And then, you can see by the flow whether it's dangerous or not. But spooky because that reservoir is above Koloa town. That wall ever breaks, that's it.

WN: Wow.

LJ: That's lot of water.

WN: What kind fish got in there?
LJ: When I was growing up, what used to have in there used to be just carp, you know. Regular *koi* and goldfish. All kinds. Anything you can think of. *Kingyo*. You know what's *kingyo*? (LJ asks IO:) You know what is *kingyo*, Ike? Three-tail, four-tail, five-tail *kingyo*. It's goldfish, but get plenty tails, you know, get different ones.

WN: Oh, oh. Yeah, yeah.

LJ: We used to go hook that with bread. Plenty. All kind colors. Beautiful fish, they were.

WN: And what, you used to eat 'em or what?

LJ: No, just nice-looking. What happened was, just before the Second World War, Charley Rice, Kipu Ranch, he brought in charley fish—largemouth bass. The largemouth bass got rid of the goldfish. Eventually, never had nothing already. Then they got bluegill. Bluegill, *koi*, then tilapia. Tons of tilapia.

WN: Must have, yeah. So now, got what?

LJ: Tilapia, largemouth bass, and then lately, couple years back, they brought tucanari. Tucanari is something like a bass. It's same family but comes from warm countries like Argentina and places like that. It's from South America.

WN: That's like tilapia, huh?

LJ: No. It looks like bass but beautiful fish, that.

WN: Good eating or what?

LJ: Gold eyes. The eyes are golden and has a big brown spot in the back. Right in the back, you know, right by the tail. Big brown spot like that. Nice-looking fish. Strong as can be. That, and then bluegill. But hardly any bluegill now, sunfish. Used to be quite a few before. And of course, get *Pāke o'opu* all the time. What you call? *Pake o'opu*.

IO: Catfish.

LJ: Catfish.

WN: You folks eat catfish?

LJ: I no eat, but the Filipinos crazy for that, though. You can sell it fifteen dollars a pound, they still buy 'em. They just love that. That's all. In the ditches used to get 'o'opu, too. Regular 'o'opu.

WN: Had *ōpae*, too?

LJ: *Ōpae*, in the tunnels like that, plenty *ōpae*. 
WN: But not inside the . . .

LJ: No. That tunnel, I used to take care. You know, before, when I was Mahā'ulepū foreman, I used to take care. We disbanded, though, that already. That ditch come from Līhu'e powerhouse, you know. Many miles away through the mountain. In fact, they get one tunnel there. When I was still part-time foreman, I used to take care some kids, summertime, go spray the ditches. Six thousand feet long, that tunnel. Walk through. That's one nautical mile, 6,000 feet. Boy, you got to--water to your waist, you know. You got to plow through there. And once in a while, you see this, glance side to the side, like that, spooky. From one end, you can see the other side, just like a match, the pinhead like that, the light. So far. But that tunnel was full of shrimp, though. Small shrimp--'ōpae. I remember one year, we went through. We didn't want to go back the same way. So we climbed over the mountain, trying to come back on this side. We got lost. We went back. Then we had to come through the tunnel. The families were all going crazy, wondering what happened to their kids. Was five o'clock in the evening already. Was one summertime.

Līhu'e has two powerhouses on that side, and then we get the water from over there. That water comes all the way to Wai'ā. But you see, they give us the water when they want, see. When they need it, they don't give us. And then, when they have too much, we have too much also because when it rains there, it rains here. So it didn't make sense. So they disbanded that thing. Cost too much money to keep up, you know, maintenance. Those ditches far, very far.

WN: Were there a lot of disputes between the sugar companies for water?

LJ: Well, my time, I don't remember. But before, McBryde and Kōloa Sugar Company, they had. Not too far from Kōloa town on top there, was Hakaka ditch. For some reason or other, get water there all the time, you know. They fought about that. The Germans against the Scotchmen. I remember Old Man . . .

WN: Germans were Kōloa?

LJ: Yeah, the Germans were Kōloa at that time and the Scotchmen. McBryde is Scotch. Yeah, I remember Old Man Tabuchi said, "The face, too much 'ula'ula, though." All red, the face, and mad. They actually get angry. Get shotguns and everything else. You see, McBryde used to get water from the mountains in the back of Kahili Mountain Park also, they had a ditch there. I remember McBryde ditch and Līhu'e ditch. Līhu'e ditch, the water come to Kōloa Sugar Company. They pay them so much a year, see, for the water. They get gauges, gauging stations at certain places. So, eventually, McBryde disbanded their ditch, I don't know why.

WN: So, what, you think in about thirty years, going have sugar still?

LJ: Hard to say, though. I don't think, eventually, it would be
completely out of sugar. It may be scaled down to just a small, but there's nothing else that we can do over here. Cannot depend entirely on tourists. And what's going to happen to all that land? 'Cause nothing else grows real well here. I think sugar going still be here, but the only thing, it'll be scaled down to, I don't know, to some minimum amount. How low, I don't know, but. That's the only island [i.e., Kaua'i] that if sugar goes out of business completely, going really suffer, boy. Because so many people depend on sugar, not only the people who working, but outside, you know. But the tourists alone, hard.

WN: Okay. Thank you.

LJ: Don't know what to say already, boy.

END OF INTERVIEW
KŌLOA: An Oral History of a Kauaʻi Community

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Center for Oral History
Social Science Research Institute
University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa

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