"Then I didn't go work outside. Was only my husband. But I did a lot of soldier laundry, though, during the war [World War II], up there. Yeah, a lot of soldier. That time, we blow the charcoal iron. Yeah. Just remember that now. We blow till the face is blue and no more wind, eh?"

Rita Cataluna Jacinthe, one of seven children, was born on August 1, 1906, in Lisbon, Portugal. Rita, her father who once trained for the priesthood, her mother, three brothers, and a sister arrived in the Islands in 1911. They disembarked from the Kinau at Koloa Landing.

The family lived in Spanish Camp, then in Portuguese Camp. In the beginning, her father did kālai, later he became a luna.

Rita attended St. Raphael's Catholic School and Kōloa School. She married Louis Jacinthe, Sr., in March 1924. They raised a family of three girls and two boys.

Rita still resides in Kōloa where she is active in senior citizens' activities. Her son, Louis Jacinthe, Jr., was also interviewed for this project.
This is an interview with Mrs. Rita Cataluna Jacintho on March 18, 1987 in Koloa, Kauai. The interviewer is Michi Kodama-Nishimoto.

Okay, first of all, Mrs. Jacintho, when and where were you born?

I was born in Lisbon, Portugal, August 1, 1906.

And what was your mother's maiden name?

Morreira. Morreira, something like that. Yeah.

And what was your father's full name?

Antone Crisostomo Cataluna.

I don't know how much you know about your mother and her background, but tell me what you remember about your mother and her family.

Her family, I don't know. I don't know about her family. Well, when we got here, she went work in the field, too. And my Dad. They were earning dollar a day. One of my brothers, he's the oldest, he used to baby-sit because the youngest was two years. And I started to go Catholic school. We used to walk from way up Spanish Camp till where St. Raphael's [Catholic Church]. That I remember.

Let me ask you about your father's background, then. Last time, you were telling me, he was a real educated man. Tell me about him.

Well, in Portugal, before he got married, he went to a Catholic school to become a priest. I don't know what made him change (chuckles) his mind. But he was smart. He was smart with everything in Portuguese writing and all. And then, I don't know when they got married, but we're here. (Chuckles)

Then, in Portugal, you know what kind of work your mother and father were doing in Portugal?
RJ: That, I no remember.

MK: I know you came here when you were only a small girl. You were almost six years old, yeah?

RJ: Yeah.

MK: But try tell me what you remember about your life in Portugal. What kind of life you had in Portugal.

RJ: What I remember is I used to go with Mama. They used to wash clothes in the rivers. Then, they hang the clothes on the bushes. They take their water from a well with that--it's like a bucket, up and down. They had lot of grapes, too. Lot of grapes, and (chuckles) we used to pass and pick in there. I don't remember much from Portugal. I was too young.

Then in the boat, when we got in Honolulu, I remember everybody got naked and take a bath in the shower. Big bar of soap. Ladies and girls one side, men and boys one side. I remember they all were screaming they don't want to take off their clothes. That shower was something else. I remember that. And they go put the (whispers) towel like that, you know, ladies. That big one bar. The nurses came in, scrub everybody. We were in the boat for forty days. So, anyway, then we went get dressed, the clothes was all hot and the shoes were all curled up, you know, (chuckles) hot. They fumigated all.

Then we went to---we had lot of little army[-like houses]. . . . Just like little shacks with porch and all. We had each family in one. They used to come in the morning, bring our breakfast on the porch. After that, I remember, we go to one big hall with so much things to eat. Lunch and da kine dinner. That's all I remember there. Then, when we came to Kaua'i . . .

MK: Oh, wait now. When you were coming from Portugal, who came with you from Portugal? Your mother, your father. . . .

RJ: Yeah. And my oldest brother John. That's the one boy. And my sister Jane. She's in Wilcox [Hospital] long-term for long time. Then was myself. And one other. My other brother, the one in the Mainland. And then, was Frank, the one that passed away here. Was five children and my parents, too. And then, here, Mama had my other brother that you see, Gabriel. He's the youngest.

MK: You said the trip from Portugal was forty days?

RJ: Yeah.

MK: What do you remember about that trip on the boat?

RJ: That boat, that trip, had one fire one night there. Everybody was running upstairs. I remember all yelling and screaming, but I don't
know what happened after that.

(Laughter)

RJ: Little kid. Then when we came from Honolulu to Kaua'i, we came in the Kīna'u, the boat Kīna'u. Way out in the ocean, we all went, so many in one small boat, and bring us to the pier. Koloa Landing. And there, while the train waiting, Frank Costa was the driver. Then, we all went on the train all around far as where the bank [First Hawaiian Bank] is now on the track, and as I told you, to the store, and then back to our place to Spanish Camp.

MK: What did the area by the store look like that time?

RJ: Where the bank is was one small store like. But was the small store, plantation store, Kōloa. Right next was the small little Chinese restaurant. And the track, the train came right in between. We remember that track, yet. So, anyway, got to Spanish Camp. Each one choose the home they wanted. Had three lanes of homes. Each lane had one brick oven. So, baked bread. We were in the front, the top one. In the house was two beds, one table with two benches, one each side. There was a sink. And then, outside, we had just the roof, washhouse. No bathtub. So in the big tin pan, we used to bathe, one by one, in the kitchen. Make hot water outside in the big can. (Chuckles) That, I remember. Going to [St. Raphael's] Catholic School and all that, I remember.

MK: Then, the house that you had, at that time, you folks used mostly kerosene lamps?

RJ: Yeah. Kerosene lamp and wood outside. Until later, then we got lantern, regular lanterns. No electric. Not like now. That was hard living.

MK: How about the water? You had piped water?

RJ: We had pipe. We had pipes. Kitchen and the shower room, outside, we had pipes.

MK: I know you were real small that time, when you compared the house in Spanish Camp to the kind of house you remember in Portugal, how did they compare?

RJ: Portugal house not like this. I no remember. No remember much of Portugal, that's why. (Chuckles) I was too young. But I remember in the boat and I remember Mama washing clothes and all that. That, I remember.

MK: Then, this Spanish Camp. Where was it located?

RJ: You know where's Cockett's Hill? You know, as you coming down Cockett's Hill, was way down this way. Get the road there yet. Get two homes there yet. Two homes.
MK: Then, the time that you lived Spanish Camp, about how many families lived in Spanish Camp?

RJ: Ah, wait. Fifteen families. 'Cause was five rows. I mean, three rows with five homes.

MK: Oh, and then, you know, they call that place "Spanish Camp," okay? But what kind of people lived in Spanish Camp?

RJ: Because most Spanish came. Most Spanish came. They didn't stay there long. One morning, people tell, funny that they don't open the doors and all that, they was wondering. So they waited couple days. And then, they call the camp police who came see, check up. They had taken off, leaving all, you know. Didn't want to pay, I think, the store bill over there.

(Laughter)

RJ: They left the curtains and everything on and they took off. 'Cause that time, you don't check the boats. They went back to---lot of them went to Mainland. [Their departure from the camp] wasn't right away. Was about two or three months after that, you know. That's why, they call 'em "Spanish Camp." Had lot of Spanish. Very few Portuguese. And still, we still call 'em "Spanish Camp."

MK: So, your time, when your family moved to Spanish Camp, mostly Spanish?

RJ: Yeah. Had quite a bit Portuguese, but most were Spanish. Most of the two rows are Spanish. Plenty Spanish people came. That's why they name 'em "Spanish Camp."

MK: And then, what were some of the names of the families?

RJ: Oh, that, I forget. Forget that. Was so long.

MK: How about the [Frank] Costas? They lived over there?

RJ: No, no. They came earlier than us. The parents came earlier than us. Yeah, they came.

MK: But, you know, when you lived in that Spanish Camp, who were your family's closest neighbors? The neighbors that your family knew best at Spanish Camp?

RJ: We had one Spanish people next, but I forget their name now. They used to live right next to us. Well, we used to get along with all them, but next was one Spanish people, too. Forget their name. That was so many years ago.

MK: Like your mother and father spoke Portuguese, huh? And the Spanish people spoke ...
RJ: Spoke Spanish. But we understand. I used to speak Portuguese, too, but now so many years I didn't speak to no one so I understand but I cannot speak.

(Laughter)

RJ: I understand. Yeah, I understand. With my parents, I used to talk. But they used to talk broken English, too, afterwards. But they spoke most Portuguese. But then, we all used to talk Portuguese. But now it's all pau. (Laughs) Nobody to talk to. I understand Spanish, too. It's almost the same. Even Puerto Ricans, too. It's almost the same.

MK: Then, those days, you were telling me, your father was paid dollar a day, huh?

RJ: Dollar a day.

MK: What kind of work was he doing?

RJ: They were all kalai in the beginning. Then he [became] luna. They call supervisor--now supervisor but luna. But Mama didn't work too long. Afterwards, she had another baby. [The baby] passed away after two years. She didn't work too long. Dollar a day. Today, we eat one kind soup, and tomorrow one other kind. You know, all da kine. Not like now. These children, they choose, choose now. We struggle, before. I still watch everything. But my children, they different. Now days, they please all the kids, whatever they want. Extravagant kind stuff. Well, anyway, no, we had hard time before. I never did work nowheres, but my sister worked Haole house [i.e., did domestic work at a Haole household] and kalai--field, too. The one in Wilcox [Memorial Hospital]. She's eighty-four. She's got stroke. Long time she's there, but senile now. She's second to my brother, the one in the Mainland.

MK: So your sister worked...

RJ: She worked in the field, too.

MK: All year or just summertime?

RJ: No, all year.

MK: Then, you said that she worked Haole house? What did she do?

RJ: Clean up the place for them. Mrs. Rutsch. The husband was German. He was one luna, one big shot here, too. They used to live Spanish Camp, but the home still there, you know, on the road. Spanish Camp. It's in the camp. Right on the road, they get the homes.

MK: You mentioned that your mother had one more baby, yeah, in Kōloa. Those days, how was the baby delivered?
MK: You had four with midwife.


MK: How about your mother's time? Who was her midwife?

RJ: Ah, that, I don't know.

MK: You know, people tell me that like Japanese they have certain customs when the baby comes, Chinese have certain customs. How about the Portuguese? They have certain customs?

RJ: No, I didn't get anything.

MK: You know, like when you give birth, do you drink certain soups?

RJ: Oh, yeah, yeah.

MK: What do Portuguese do . . .

RJ: Chicken soup. Chicken soup. Something to warm up the stomach. Yeah, that kind for pains, eh?

MK: Then, you know, when you folks were living Spanish Camp and you were a small girl, every day, try tell me what kind of chores you used to have as a small girl in Spanish Camp, what you used to do.

RJ: I used to go where my sister was working, play with two little girls that they had. When I was about eleven years old, come from Catholic school, cannot play nowhere, home. My mother taught me how to crochet. Sit on the porch crocheting with that machine thread, you know, the number ten kind they used to have. We never could go play here and there. My father was very strict. We used to play jump rope and all in the afternoon like that, but most times, not go gallivanting.

MK: How did you folks clean house in the old days? Like now days, we have vacuum cleaners, we have all the easy stuff. How about your time?

RJ: We used to scrub the floor all with coconut brush, the soap. Shoot water and scrub. Wasn't painted, eh? We used to scrub the porch. The whole house was only on Saturdays. Yeah, I remember that Spanish Camp.

MK: How about the laundry? How did you folks do your clothes like that?
RJ: Well, as I said, in that big barrel that they had there. They would look for rocks. Afterwards, they bought washing board. But look for da kine flat rocks. That's the kind they used to wash even in Portugal in the river with those big stones. You know, big stones. That I remember.

MK: Then, like you were saying, those days, you folks struggle and you have to make the food stretch. What kinds of food your mom used to make?

RJ: Well, I tell you, all kind. Codfish grated, and then salmon, and one kind bean soup today, and all different kind. And used to buy Ono's meat and then make stew or sometime fry 'em with the onion. That was hard. You have to stretch anyway, those days, with the little bit money. Anyway, I tell my kids, "I wasn't raised with so much things like you folks, but I'm still here." These kids, now days, they all sick. No, was more peaceful before. But anyway.

MK: Then, those days, where did you folks get your food from?

RJ: From the [Koloa Plantation] Store. The store I told you that was there. Was charge until they got their first paycheck. [Payments to the store were deducted from the pay.] And then, you have to watch 'cause only twenty-something dollars a month. They started to plant vegetables and all things like that there. Well, we all suffered, but we're here. We struggled, not suffered. We struggled.

MK: Did you folks keep animals, too?

RJ: Yeah. Well, that, after I got married, I used to raise. With my parents, no. After I got married, we used to raise pig, and chickens, and we plant all kind vegetables, too, me and my husband, 'cause small pay. When I had my five children, he was making only sixty-nine dollars [a month]. No, was seventy-five, but they take out tax. Plantation used to take out. Only sixty-nine dollars come home. So was hard. But anyway. (Chuckles)

MK: So at least, when you folks were living Spanish Camp, no more animals, though, yeah? No animals at . . .

RJ: No, no, no.

MK: I don't know if you remember, but, you know, when you folks were living Spanish Camp, did you folks have kind of special times like Christmas, New Year's, Easter? Did you folks celebrate?

RJ: Yeah. We used to celebrate Holy Ghost Feast. You know, the Catholics. They all make sweet bread and sell, and all that. Yeah, we used to celebrate that. We go from house to house seven weeks when they pray to the Holy Ghost. Yeah, Holy Ghost Feast, they used to call. The big one, the ending part was. Everybody make, whoever want, they make sweet bread and all kind things and sell. I
remember, I used to go knead. Not up there. Mrs. [Mary] Costa, the
old lady, the old grandma, Costa. We used to go help her knead the
sweet bread. They used to make in the Portuguese Camp, that
carnival like. She give, cut all big slice, and put in a big tin
pan, and give everybody who want. And then, they used to auction
some. Was nice, those days. (Chuckles) Now, you have to buy
anything. I make sweet bread, but I didn't make for long time. I
used to make sweet bread, but I don't make for long time.

MK: You know, in the old days, when you folks used to bake the bread in
the Portuguese oven, how did you folks make it? Try describe for me
how you made the bread in the old days.

RJ: The bread?

MK: Yeah.

RJ: I still make white bread, but I bake 'em in there. I use two cups
of cold water, then I grate half potato, and I put one tablespoon
level salt and two sugar. And then, I put 'em in a--to get warm,
not hot, warm. Before days, we keep our own dough for old yeast
like, but this we get in the store. So I put two tablespoons of
flour, and then I put two package of that Fleischmann's yeast and
put 'em out of the fire, of course, and cover 'em. About fifteen
minutes, it's high. And then, five pounds. That's why I get that
there, I knead over there. And I put the flour. I take some for
when I going roll 'em. And then, knead 'em, knead 'em. When it's
almost done, I put one tablespoon cooking oil. They used to put
Crisco, but not so good. And they come so smooth. And then, when
rise, put the oil in the pans. Roll how you want. It takes about
hour and a half to rise in the pan.

The smell make all these people here (chuckles) [hungry for bread].
I even give the Nishidas [RJ's neighbors] sometimes because they can
smell this rise, too. I make almost every Saturday 'cause my son
Lou like. I buy brown bread. But I tell while I can make, they
don't want to make. I told my daughter-in-law for learn 'cause I'm
not going be here forever. They tell it's too much work. You have
to work to get something.

MK: So, in the old days, at Spanish Camp, how often did your mother make
bread?

RJ: Well, I don't know how much, how often, but they used to make all
bread. Those days, they no buy in the store. That was plenty
bread. We helped her carry to the oven. There, they burn lot of
wood. And then, you know, always had, by the door, get something
like a flume. When everything, the top is all white, then they
start taking that ashes all out. And then, sweep 'em all nice and
clean, and then they put flour. If it burns fast, it's too hot. So
they have a mop, and then with cold water. They try again. Little
bit brown, then put the bread inside. Some, they used to put upside
down. You know, come nice, crust. Now, they use banana leaves so
You know, in Spanish Camp, you said each row of houses had . . .
RJ: Had one.
MK: . . . one oven, yeah?
RJ: Yeah, yeah.
MK: So, how did the families know which day . . .
RJ: You know what? They used to put signs. Put sign on the top so two of them . . . Well, if only one need, well, get three ovens. They can go to different lane, anyway. But they put signs so you know somebody's going to make. Cannot knead 'em same time because it cannot go in the same time. That was fun, you know, with that. We used to roll sweet potatoes on that ashes. 'Cause a big pile, eh? Then, I remember all that.

We used to go up the hill, play, and slide down. You know, we had to go get grass there for make mattress because before days they never buy mattress in the store. Every other week or so, you have to change because get all dusty, eh? That was something.

MK: I know that Portuguese in Kalihi, this woman told me, they used to have masquerades. You know, people used to put masks on. You folks did that, too?
RJ: Yeah, yeah, yeah.
MK: How did you folks do that?
RJ: I think that was in April Fool time, on April Fool. Yeah, masquerade and all kind ugly clothes. You go here and there (chuckles) beg for something. Yeah, masquerade. Yeah, I remember that, too. Spanish Camp, we used to do--I mean, Portuguese Camp, we used to do that. Was big already. You didn't ask me when you got married.

MK: Oh, not yet, not yet. You're still a small girl, that's why. How about Easter? You folks celebrated Easter in Spanish Camp?
RJ: Oh, Easter, too. Yeah, we go church. Oh, you know what, before Easter, they have every seven homes, people go to that home and there they drink coffee or wine. Little bit wine and they make sweet bread. They have one altar with all that decorations, flowers, and the little baby Jesus and all that for six weeks. After that, they get the big Holy Ghost after everybody go church.
Spanish Camp---Portuguese Camp, they used to do that.

MK: Oh, not Spanish Camp?

RJ: No, that's Portuguese people do that. Spanish Camp, they took off. Spanish, they took off.

(Laughter)

MK: Then, like you mentioned your church. That would be . . . .

RJ: St. Raphael. I went to St. Raphael's School.

MK: Where was that from Spanish Camp?

RJ: Kind of far. So we used to go way down there. The Mill Road but more down. I don't know how many. Spanish Camp far. With lot of Spanish girls, we used to walk. When the war [World War I] broke out, we were down there in school. When the notice came, everybody start running. Was out of breath to reach home. Yeah, that was terrible. I remember that, the running. Everybody. We left everything there. No lunch before over there. We take our own. We used to go eat underneath the porch and all that. When they came notice that the war had broke out, then take off. All run. How far from Spanish Camp, over there.

MK: And so, you and your brothers and sisters went to . . .

RJ: My oldest brother didn't go to school. My sister and my one brother [Frank], the one in the Mainland. The one that passed away, Frank, he didn't go down there. Was going by here [Kōloa School]. And Gabriel, too, the other one here [Kōloa School]. 'Cause I was eleven years old, we changed. The school had closed, so we came grammar school [Kōloa School].

MK: Like at St. Raphael's Catholic School, who were the teachers?

RJ: Mrs. [Rebecca] Schimmelfennig. She has a son. Only one. She used to ride horse and go. She was teaching from first until eighth grade. Anyway, Neal Schimmelfennig's wife still live over there, you know, on the road going this side. Well, that was her mother-in-law used to teach us there. She used to ride horse. The wide-kind skirt, I remember her.

MK: What kind of things did you learn at St. Raphael's School?

RJ: Oh, we never did anything like that, just go church every day. You know, go in there, pray. Wasn't much schooling because have to teach every one, the same teacher. Was hard. So anyway, I went grammar school. I went [until they] close up grammar school [at St. Raphael's]. They broke down the school. Now they have coconut trees there.
MK: So, later on you started going Kōloa School.

RJ: Kōloa School.

MK: You know, before we move to the Portuguese Camp time, at Spanish Camp, let's see, I read in a book that the mill was still new. Nineteen thirteen, they built the mill. So, you remember anything, how the mill used to look those days?

RJ: Yeah, before, used to be the mill over here. Right there.

MK: Right across from the town?

RJ: Yeah, yeah. But I don't remember that.

MK: You know, when World War I broke out, you folks ran home . . .

RJ: That's the one, we ran.

MK: So, wartime, was anything different over here?

RJ: No. Only blackout. Everything was closed. Everything was black. Cover the lights. Was terrible that day. Run, run, run. That, I remember.

MK: I know that when you were eleven years old time, you moved to Portuguese Camp?

RJ: Yeah.

MK: Where was Portuguese Camp then?

RJ: Where they have that low-income [housing] now. On that road that going to the mill there. That was over there. All that. This way, before Big Save, was Korean Camp. Up there was Japanese Camp. All had one name, nationality name.

MK: Portuguese Camp, how come you folks moved to Portuguese Camp?

RJ: Well, we could move house whenever we wanted when empty, so (chuckles) we moved to Portuguese Camp. It was near to the store and all this, and school, not Spanish Camp.

MK: And then, in the old days, what did Portuguese Camp look like?

RJ: All homes here and there. Wasn't in line or anything like that.

MK: Oh, not like Spanish Camp?

RJ: No, no, no. No, not like Spanish Camp was all three lanes. No, no. And then, they had two ovens over there, too. One and then way up. No, they were not in line. Was all here and there.
MK: How many families, Portuguese Camp?

RJ: Ah, that, I don't remember. Was quite a bit. And Puerto Ricans, too.

MK: You described the house at Spanish Camp. What did your family house look like at Portuguese Camp?

RJ: Different. They were bigger. I had one with three bedrooms, and porch, and big living room. And then, the dining room, not too big, and then the kitchen. Had regular wash house. Had tub and everything. Wasn't like Spanish Camp. We came learn over here.

(Laughter)

RJ: In Portugal was worse 'cause we wash clothes in the river.

MK: When your father folks moved to Portuguese Camp, when the family moved, what kind of job did he have? Was he luna already?

RJ: No. He went kalai too. Afterwards, he went luna. He was smart speaking, all that. Anyway, he went luna right away. My mother didn't work too long.

MK: You know, in this Portuguese Camp, who were your closest neighbors, the ones that you used to always get together with in Portuguese Camp? The families that you folks knew well?

RJ: Well, I knew them all over there, but we never used to get together. By us was one Spanish people. We never used to go. Everybody was minding their own (chuckles) business over there. And we didn't know them. You know, from different places, they came. Spanish and Puerto Ricans and all.

MK: So, at Portuguese Camp, then you had Spanish, Puerto Ricans, Portuguese?

RJ: Yeah. But they name 'em "Spanish Camp," because had lot of Spanish. Came more than other nationality.

MK: How about Portuguese Camp?

RJ: That's the one I'm talking. We live over there. Where they get that new low-income [housing] now.

MK: What kind people lived in Portuguese Camp?

RJ: All kind, too. All kind.

MK: Mixed?

RJ: All kind. All mixed. The homes were here and there. Wasn't like that, you know, all here and there. Not too close by.
MK: When you were living Portuguese Camp, what did you do, say, every day, when you were at Portuguese Camp?

RJ: Come from school, do something around the home, and crochet. We cannot go play here and there. We used to jump rope and all, my own family one. Once in a while, the Spanish, they fight through there, and we all run in the house, hide. They used to fight when they drink too much. Had lot of wine. Cocketts were selling wine up here. One man used to make his own wine. They used to fight. (Chuckles) We not used to, to that.

MK: When you were at Portuguese Camp, you were going Koloa School, huh? Who was your teachers at Koloa School?

RJ: One, Mrs. Blake's sister, Mrs. Lovell, was one teacher. I had three teachers. But the Haole one, I forget her name now. Two, I forget their names. But the Blakes, they're still here. So, one of their sisters was my teacher. I had three teachers. Forget the names of the other ones. That was so long ago.

MK: What did Koloa School look like back then?

RJ: Wasn't like now. Was a big building. Yeah, you must have seen the pictures, eh? Long building like that. Not like now. And had all classes. Had small, small rooms, too. Had couple of small bungalows, too. We were in the bungalow ones. We were low down. That was the eighth and seventh grade was up. That broke down, too. They made all different now. Hard to remember all those things from the. . . . But if you had keep pictures okay. Yeah, too much. How many years ago. I just made eighty. Forget, all different things happen in between.

MK: In those days, you know, when you folks were at school, what did you like best about school? You had a favorite subject or favorite thing you did at school?

RJ: They say I was kind of smart, but I was still stupid. (Laughter)

MK: Oh, you did well in school, then?

RJ: Yeah, yeah. Yeah, I was.

MK: How long did you go school?

RJ: I went to the third or fourth grade. Because Catholic school, most prayers. The teaching, you don't learn too much.

MK: Let's see, from the time you were eleven, you lived Portuguese Camp, you went Koloa School, yeah? When you were small, the manager of the plantation used to be a Mr. [Ernest] Cropp.
RJ: Yeah, the German.

MK: What do you remember about him? You remember seeing him around?

RJ: Around, yeah. In his small hat, and he was so red. He had one white horse. Up there where that house had burned, he was living there. Yeah, was one grouchy old man. Yeah, wear small hat and always red. Yeah, I know. I remember him. (Laughs) I remember him from Spanish Camp.

MK: Did you folks ever hear stories about the manager or anything when you were kids?

RJ: No, no. But anyway, get lot of homes there now, too.

MK: Later on, from 1922 when you were little bit older, was Mr. Moir [John T. Moir, Jr.].

RJ: Yeah, Mr. Moir. I remember him.

MK: What do you remember about Mr. Moir?

RJ: I no remember nothing. I wasn't working. I don't know. Yeah, Moir, too, I know.

MK: While you folks living in Portuguese Camp, what did Kōloa town look like? You told me about the plantation store, yeah? And then, the Chinese coffee shop.

RJ: Yeah. And the Japanese church was there.

MK: Japanese church. What else was in Kōloa town?

RJ: In the back there was all the Japanese Camp, all the homes, and another church there. And then, this side, had some other homes. Where my son live, way on the side, had lot of homes, too. They're not there anymore. They call it "Japanese Camp," but plenty people were living there, not only—that was big. Still get one old house there. Used to be from the Jardin's family many, many years back, where they have one care home up there. As you go on this side, the last ones. Yeah, I remember. That old man, the Jardin man, he has some family [in] Kalāheo. Some grandchildren still living. He had lot of orange trees and mango trees. When we pass over there, we pick up one, he chase us. He's always with a bucket, those pigs. He used to raise pigs, too. I still can picture his looks. He used to chase us. You know, when we used to (chuckles) pass, sometime when we go. . . . That, we were already Kōloa. I mean, Portuguese Camp. But we used to go buy meat or something, we pass there. (Laughs)

MK: What else was in Kōloa town?

RJ: Well, different stores now, but just the same thing. They used to
play ball in the park across there. Not like now, they have that big park. Used to play ball over there. We used to come watch. Had the theater, too, next to the Japanese school.

MK: Is that the theater owned by the Teves family?

RJ: No, that one was here. Where the dispensary is now, the Teves was owning that. They have Koloa . . .

MK: Dispensary now?

RJ: Dispensary, yes [Koloa Clinic]. Līhu'e patients that. Down here is McBryde one, the Waterhouse one.

MK: People told us about different stores like the Okutsu manjū and Yamamoto Store.

RJ: Yamamoto Store right here. You know what Okutsu's manjū where I told you by where the track came in for that plantation store, that one, well, that was the Chinese. Afterwards, that became the Okutsu Store with the manjū.

MK: How about the Chang Fook Kee? Where was that?

RJ: Right here, where that. . . . The [Koloa] Broiler. You know where the Broiler there? That's where was. Had one poi factory there, too, right next.

MK: Who ran the poi factory?

RJ: That, I no remember, but I know had a poi factory and Chang Fook. Chang had---first was restaurant only and store. Then was the bar, too. That's where the bar is that place they get there now.

MK: The place that the Cocketts sold liquor, where was there?

RJ: Up his place. He used to make that at home. Big barrels. So I used to go with Mama, buy wine for Daddy. You know, Saturdays, you know the big drums? Those wine barrels. They call it "wine barrels." Yeah, he used to make his own. He had lot of vines all over. We used to go Saturdays, come home with one big gallon. That's how the Spanish used to fight. Sometimes my father used to make arguments home, too. They drink too much. (Laughs) But was nice color, but I don't want to drink anything. Yeah, that was fun, though. I used to go with Mama, pick up when my sister was helping the Haole people watch the kids. Not too far from Spanish Camp. Yeah, every Saturday, go get wine there. Those were the days.

And during young, we go up the hill and slide down the hill. We had lot of fun. Tumble down, we come home all red. You know, the red dirt.

(Laughter)
RJ: And then, "Take a bath!" And wash in the tin pan. I tell you.

MK: And then, what other stores were in Kōloa town? Somebody told me there was a tailor, a fish market. . . .

RJ: No, I no remember. This here, had Awa Store, one Chinese store. One old man. Right there where that gold [jewelry store], you know where get? There, there. And then, had one other store, then was beautician. Had Mrs. Nishida was there. Maybe somebody else before her, but I remember when she was there. Had beautician there. And Kaua'i Motors. This was Kaua'i Motors garage. Here was the paint shop. They used to paint the cars in there. Not all, you know. Just the front there. This, then wen extend.

MK: Like right now, there's Sueoka Store, huh? What was where Sueoka . . .

RJ: That was the bank before. That was the bank before they make and they wen buy 'em up there. Now I forget the son-in-law's name. Japanese man was married to one. . . . He died already. He bought that for the family. I forget his name now. Sueoka's oldest son-in-law. The wife is still living. He died not too long in Honolulu. I forget. Anyway, he bought that for the family, so they made 'em into a store.

MK: So, before that, Sueoka Store was someplace else . . .

RJ: Sueoka Store was way up by the Japanese Camp. When I first got married, we used to buy over there. That's why, I still charge Sueoka Store. Because they don't take no new [charge] customers now, but Spanish Camp, all people that they knew, we used to buy, they charge. The grandma Sueoka was in charge and one daughter. That, already had my kids because when I got married, then I started to buy from them. We used to pass there. That's where the Jardin house, and the other house, then was this store. Small store. But they must have made good because the son-in-law bought them this [store site in Kōloa town]. I forget. [Jack] Mizuha. Now I remember. Mizuha bought that. He died not too long ago. Yeah, he bought that for family. That's why it's a family store. Yeah, I remember that. The old lady and one daughter--and maybe his wife, they used to take care.

MK: You know, in the old days, when you folks were Portuguese Camp, it's still some distance from Portuguese Camp, yeah, the town. So, how often you folks used to come to Kōloa town?

RJ: It's not far. We used to come store.

MK: You used to come store all the time?

RJ: Yeah. They had the plantations store up there. And then, come to the dispensary which was down there. From the camp, I used to walk because some of my kids, colds, whooping cough and all. (Chuckles)
We struggled. Ho, tired, though.

MK: You have people who live Kōloa town, you know, that have businesses. You have people who live at plantation camps. Were there any other kind people? Fishing people or farming people in the old days?

RJ: I heard they had one fish market here, but I don't remember. You know, right by Chang Fook. I don't remember. I remember the poi factory and I remember Chang Fook Store. Used to go buy the manjūs there, too. That was so many years ago.

MK: I know you said you got married in 1924, yeah? Who did you marry?

RJ: (Chuckles) Well, I got married one man. (Laughs)

MK: Yeah. What's Louis's father's name?

RJ: You know what? When I was fourteen years old, I fell in love with my husband. And my dad didn't want me to marry him. 'Cause I was young, too, and stupid. That's why I came out of school. He didn't want me to go school. So anyway, every time he don't want me to marry that guy and some other Spanish one. In the end I thought when I got old enough, I going marry him. He used to get mad, you know. So, anyway, I was almost eighteen years old. I told him, "Pretty soon I'm eighteen years old, I'm going run away." (Chuckles) And then, he wen okay that we got married. (Laughs) Every time I think of that, I laugh. But no had the nerve. From fourteen years until I was seventeen and months when I got married. Wasn't quite eighteen. Anyway, he said okay. So he told me to tell 'em come. So, he came over there and asked him if he was to marry me and all this and that and said okay. So we didn't get married right away.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

MK: You were seventeen years, almost eighteen. Your husband came to your house.

RJ: He came to my house. Well, he used to come every Saturday night. My mother sit there, watching us so we couldn't even hold hand, you know. Old-fashioned-kind style. Anyway, so settled the date. I think two months after that we set. We got married March 22nd. Would have been now sixty-three years. Nineteen twenty-four. March 22nd, 1924.

MK: What was your husband's name?

RJ: My husband's name was Louis Jacintha, [Sr.]. I don't know his mother's name. Oh, Teves. Louis Teves Jacintha.
MK: And then, how come your father didn't like your husband?

RJ: I don't know. Didn't like him. But he couldn't pick my husband. (Laughs) You know what? My oldest brother was living in Portuguese Camp. My sister-in-law used to tell me, "When you get eighteen years, you marry him. He's one good boy." I used to go meet him over there. So that's how we wen plan that. After that, I was going run away. But he [RJ's father] wen okay, so I got married. But afterwards, he liked my husband very much.

MK: How did you meet your husband in the first place?

RJ: In the camp. They live, we're in the same camp. Portuguese Camp. We used to write notes. Give somebody for take. There was no post office, you know, deliver. We had lot of fun that time. Anyway, I got married 1924. March 22nd. On December 19, I gave birth to Louis, [Jr.]. And then, after that the other ones just came. A year and five months after I had Richard. That's the one passed away lately. And then, one year and three months I had my oldest daughter. And then, the other one was one year five months, and then I got my last baby in 1930. That's the one stay married to Henry Emura in Kekaha.

MK: Going back to your husband, what do you know about the Jacintho family? We learned something about the Cataluna family, but what do you know about the Jacintho family?

RJ: Oh, I don't know much of them. They all were working. My father-in-law was working. The oldest son was Joe. He was supervisor, too. He passed away. My husband was the youngest. Had one sister married to one Bukoski. She passed away, too. My husband was the youngest. We all met in Portuguese Camp, that.

MK: What kind of work was your husband doing the time you got married?

RJ: He was driving steam plow. You know, in the night, they used to. Steam plow, they used to. My brother-in-law, my sister's husband, and him were driving one each. Then after that, he went to the mill and became a machinist. That's how he learned all these things that he made, all iron works. He retired from there.

MK: When did he retire?

RJ: He was retired only six months when he passed away. He was sixty-two. Forget what year was that.

MK: That would be after World War II, then, he retired, yeah?

RJ: Yeah, yeah. He died, I was in this house here already.

MK: After you folks got married, you folks lived Portuguese Camp, yeah?

RJ: Uh huh.
MK: I know you folks used to have kind of big house. You know, your family had a big house. What kind house did you have when you got married?

RJ: Small house. Two bedrooms and kitchen. *Da kine* old-fashioned plantation home. Yeah, we had a small one. But from there, we moved, after I had all my kids. We moved to the office ground, you know, that was the boardinghouse. We could jump houses here and there and change every time. So we moved up there. From there we came down here. By the office ground, they have some buildings made in half, too. They sold that. Anyway, that was the boardinghouse they had for the supervisors eat breakfast or dinner there. They had cook over there. The cook, the daughter is still over here, Kondo. The father used to cook.

MK: The cook's name was Kondo?

RJ: Yeah. I remember him well. The daughter is still here. She lives in the old house from Jardin's home before. That's hers. They bought that. And she had one other one in the back. [Mrs.] Okinaka know all about that because she was living there before until they bought that home. Yeah, he was the cook for the boardinghouse. So when that breaked up, we moved over there. Was two big bedrooms and was big living room. That was the dining room, eh? Yeah, we moved there.

MK: So they had to remodel the house?

RJ: No, no. They had. Only the bedrooms. Had two porches. One this side, and one way the other side. Big house, that was. Kitchen was big and the living room was big. Then had office kind. Afterwards they put tub and all that in there, bathtub.

MK: When you had your children, where did all go to school?

RJ: Grammar school. Kōloa. Used to be kindergarten, and then first grade. All that kind. Yeah, kindergarten. All them. They all graduated here. And then, Kaua'i [High] School, Louis went only three months. I don't know why he didn't go. My other son didn't go. My oldest daughter didn't go. But my two younger ones went. They graduate Kaua'i School.

MK: Those days, when the children were growing up, how was your life compared to your mother's life when she was raising you folks?

RJ: With my children, was easy. Not like when we. . . . My children never struggle or anything. (Chuckles) Was easy. Yeah, things were better. When we came from Portugal was kinda hard. I guess maybe everyplace they come in the beginning. Now days is okay but not when you come. Because everything so hard to get and the salary is little.

MK: Like the transportation changed . . .
RJ: All modern now. No worry now days.

MK: Going back to the Koloa School, I was looking at this old Koloa School book, and they said they used to have plays. You know, the children participated in plays. What do you remember about the things your kids did at Koloa School?

RJ: My youngest girl was May queen one time. Louis was dressed as one clown one time, too. You know, they had three clowns. Get acts, things that they make. That I remember. For myself, I went there, teach Portuguese dancing, sing with them, dance with them. We had over there. They made some money. We dance Portuguese, they had lot of ladies. That was many years ago. I wen teach the young kids over there. One day they were telling me for I go down. I said, "No, I'm too old. Not for go teach you folks dance." It was good that time. We went dance over there, make some money for the school.

MK: That was when Louis folks were all grown up already?

RJ: Yeah, yeah. They all grown up.

MK: How about when Louis folks were small? Did you go to the school and . . .

RJ: No. No, I no used to go. Well, when they had plays like that, we go, that's all. And May Day, they had all kind things there, we used to go. That's when Louis was one clown and two other ones. He had a picture. I don't know what happened with it. He took 'em home. And then, my youngest daughter, she was May queen.

MK: Those days, did you folks participate in the PTA [Parent-Teacher Association] and everything?

RJ: No. I no remember that. Not on my time.

MK: So you had your last baby 1930. Raising . . .

RJ: Nineteen thirty.

MK: Raising your children. And when they would get sick or something, where did you take your kids?

RJ: Dispensary there. Koloa Dispensary [i.e., Koloa Hospital]. That was Koloa Dispensary.

MK: Those days, how was the medical treatment?

RJ: Was okay. Was free. Now you have to pay good money. I don't pay. I don't pay, I have Medicare and HMSA [Hawai'i Medical Service Association]. Grove Farm pays for me. I don't pay for my medication, too. So far, I'm thankful of it because expensive now. Some people say it's so expensive. Well, I don't know. Maybe someday. If thing's coming bad, we might have to pay some. No, I
don't. My husband worked all his life Grove Farm. So I got retirement. Not retirement. I have pension from there. I mean, medical from them. They pay for it. And then, Medicare is everybody. They deduct from Social Security.

MK: During the depression time, you had your children. How was it for you folks when it was the depression years?

RJ: Was hard.

MK: Before the war.

RJ: Yeah, before the war. Only my husband was working. And then, Louis wen start work early, not even sixteen. You know, during vacation, the girls too, they go plant cane. That was hard, those days. I want to forget about those days. (Laughs)

MK: So the children helped a little?

RJ: Yeah, they helped. When that age to work, they go plant seed and kalai. That's why, Louis, sixteen years, he fell. He got hurt in the head. So he get one plate, eh? He didn't want to go school anymore. I guess he realized the hard time we was getting. He didn't want. But he learned a lot out of school. He was supervisor, too, for a long time. Hard. Small pay. Then I didn't go work outside. Was only my husband. But I did a lot of soldier laundry, though, during the war [World War II], up there. Yeah, lot of soldier. That time, we blow the charcoal iron. Yeah. Just remember that now. We blow till the face is blue and no more wind, eh?

(Laughter)

RJ: Yeah, some wanted really stiff starch and some wanted. ... Like they used to live where the market was, had one big open space. The [Koloa] Meat Market where Ono used to work. They had one big tent over there, they went there. And then, my husband go play guitar over there to them and he came with all that. All this for iron was hard. Was hard for iron. The washing not bad. We used to boil, that time. Boil 'em. Some want stiff starch, some don't want too much. The ironing part hard 'cause you have to be blowing the iron when no more wind. I struggled, too, you know. So now I'm relaxing.

MK: So how much was it for you to do one soldier's uniform?

RJ: One soldier, they used to pay three dollars.

MK: One?

RJ: One. Quite a bit, I did. Not every day the same ones, you know, they change. But was too much, boy. The ironing part was hard. Those days, we boil the clothes. We no have the washers like now.
And then, it's easy to wash. But the starch and then the ironing part. I used to iron sometimes at night 'cause we had electric light. That's when we was up the office ground, you know, the big house. The girls was going school, those two. In fact, they all was going school when I started with that. But was still eighth grade. And then, the other one. Louis went first high school about three, four months, and then he quit. And then was, the other two [boys] didn't go. Then the younger ones went.

MK: So you were ironing, those days?

RJ: (Laughs) Ironing, and they had to buy lunch, too, or take from home sandwich. They don't want to take from home, but those days, no have too much kitchen yet in schools. Most from home. I struggled a lot to bring them up, but they all treat me real nice now. My son-in-laws and all. I still give them a helping hand when need to. Parents have to be like that. Cannot take 'em with you. That's what I tell them.

MK: Wartime, you said, had soldiers over there where Ono's market was. What else was different, wartime? World War II?

RJ: I don't remember. I know that my husband used to go play guitar there with them and bring them sometime home for eat. He was happy-go-lucky with the guitar. Used to sing all kind.

MK: So he used to bring 'em home to your folks' house and. . . .

RJ: Yeah. He was friendly, though, that's why, with them.

MK: How many years did you iron clothes?

RJ: I didn't check how many. Was long, quite a while. They all took off. Quite a while.

MK: Oh, till the time they left?

RJ: Yeah. Was quite a while. Well, that was a big help with the money. The kids bigger, you need more food. When we got married, he had only forty dollars [a month]. And then, was seventy-five dollars. Well, they take out that poll tax and come only sixty-nine. Then we start to pay electric, too. Before, used to be free. So, was hard. That's why, we used to do the ironing and plant things like that and I raise chickens. Used to like rabbit. But me, I don't want to eat rabbit, so (RJ makes sound).

(Laughter)

RJ: My husband used to like rabbit, so we raised some. But he used to kill 'em himself. I don't want that. Look like one cat. Yeah, so all kind. We got along. My children were never sickly kind type. Only tonsils. Louis and Richard, the one pass away, they took the tonsils. The other one didn't. And my Eleanor, the oldest one, the
one marry Arashiro, she used to get fainting spells for any little thing, but now she's so perfect. That one used to worry me when they get that. But they were not that sickly. Of course, they had whooping cough and all that. That kind time. Those days, mostly every children get whooping cough, but wasn't that bad. They had the measles. And all that. So I struggled with all that. (Laughs)

MK: When you're talking about all the sicknesses children used to get, you know, when you were small, did you folks have like the flu? You know, like 1919, they had the big Spanish flu, huh?

RJ: Yeah. Had the flu.

MK: How about your family?

RJ: Well, we stayed home. They had one hospital. You know the hospital over there, the [Dr. A. H.] Waterhouse one? That time, my father was a policeman, camp police. He was over there taking care of the people. The ones sick, to the houses and get the car for take them. They build one big room like outside without floor. Lot of people died over there. That time, they put my father camp police. Check when those sick, they come get 'em. That time used to be wagon, not cars like now. I remember that.

MK: Your father was camp police only when they had the flu time?

RJ: Yeah, yeah. After that, he came supervisor from the kālai, you know, the weeding kind in the field. That's how he retired from that job. He was smart in writing in Portuguese, though. Anyway, but he was camp police during that. He used to use one mask. You know, one white? They put him on camp police. People sick--go around the camp, if they sick, then they go get 'em. That, I remember, that big tent they had there.

MK: When they had that big flu, were you worried?

RJ: Worried? I didn't have 'em.

MK: You didn't get it?

RJ: No, no.

MK: Your family was okay then?

RJ: Yeah. We didn't have the flu. We were living in the camp, Portuguese Camp, that time. Yeah, I remember the big building they had there. That was Waterhouse's time, Dr. Waterhouse. This property here was all from them.

MK: This property here?

RJ: Mm hmm. Smith. Something like Smith or something. I forget the name, yeah. Yeah, all this property was from them.
MK: So in '45, your husband bought this from the Smiths?

RJ: No. Dr. Waterhouse sold all this place to different people. This people bought and all this bought. Nishidas bought. [RJ's present neighbors bought adjoining lots.] This, one Portuguese-Haole man bought this place. We bought 'em from him.

MK: Oh, what was that man's name?

RJ: The one that bought?

MK: Yeah.

RJ: Dickinson. He live Lāwa'i. The wife is Portuguese. She was there in the [senior citizens] center with me today. They bought this for $900 and we bought 'em from them for $1,400. This is quarter acre. All this. The Nishida's one was $900, he told me. Anyway, that one was cheap, too, but we bought 'em for $1,400.

MK: How come you folks wanted to buy land?

RJ: My husband wanted to buy this place. And then, was a good thing he did. Anyway, he wanted this place, so okay. But that time, we didn't have enough money. He borrowed from credit union. And then, we paying every month. So, we got this place.

Now, the Waterhouses want to buy 'em. They want to buy this place now. Because they want this maybe for parking space [for the shops of Old Kōloa Town]. But they'll never have it. Waterhouse's son-in-law [Robert Watts] came here one day, talk to my son. I was outside there. He [Louis, RJ's son] was working, picking da kine breadfruit. He said he wants to make an agreement that they want to buy this. To make sure that they get 'em, they want to pay me so much every month. Any day I pass away, they'll give Louis the balance. I told Louis, I tell, "Who they think they are. They want to do what they want in my property? He don't know who's going to pass away first." 'Cause this is his [Louis Jacintho's]. I change 'em [landownership] long time to my son. I said, "You better not sell it."

He said, "They'll never get 'em."

He want to buy this maybe for fifteen cents. They like make something over here. No, they not going get 'em. My husband bought this 1945, but we didn't move here till 1948.

MK: This house, you said, was military?

RJ: Which one?

MK: This house?

RJ: This was the barracks. No, it was the military. Was the soldiers,
they used to eat and meet and stuff in the room. Big barracks. Was big. Well, was all this, anyway. Until there. From there they'd pull 'em. We bought the place before that thing pau. Then when was for sale, my husband bought it. Only thirty-eight dollars, they said, cost. Of course, he bought some other [fixtures]. You know the basin, a lot of things, windows and all that. So, they pull 'em down here. I didn't come. They should have a bit more down, but too near the road. Anyway, we was planning to make another home there, but I thought I better off with the money than making the home because my age already. So, this one is good enough. There's a roof over my head. (Chuckles)

MK: And your husband put all the electricity, everything?

RJ: He did all, all himself. He made that shop [i.e., work shed]. No, that shop, he didn't make. He used to play music and fix all kind things in there. One Silva from Kalāheo build that. That wen cost $500 for make. But now, everything expensive. But now, the Waterhouses want to buy this. That one wants to make sure that they get 'em. I told Louis, "You better not sell this after I'm gone." They think they going get this for $1,400 the way we paid?

MK: Since the last five years, they changed Kōloa town. All the new businesses.

RJ: This, about two years only.

MK: About two years?

RJ: They had celebration two years lately. I don't know what made they do all this. I know they came around for sign so they can. . . . That was garage and they could make garage. I was sorry I did because we all had signed. And now, that drain, that cesspool. Terrible, that. They said they going make 'em go underneath, you know, pipes all down there, but I don't know when that going be.

(Taping interrupted, then resumes.)

MK: So, you said, over here changed then when . . .

RJ: Lot of change.

MK: . . . businesses came up.

RJ: All down there, too. Was the tailor, Nishida's Tailor, Okamura Store, and one other store over there. All pau, no more. Before, first was Fusa, one other old lady, I remember, yet, way down, the corner one. That was many years ago. But this, two years now. Two years. The only thing they left was the Salvation Army Hall. The rest, they all remodeled.

MK: When you folks first moved here in 1948, the Salvation [Army] Hall was still being used?
RJ: Oh, yeah. From way before, was there. That's cement. That's not board kind. No, [Dr. A. H.] Waterhouse said that--that's what I heard, he left in the will--any day they don't want 'em, they can return 'em. But they cannot take 'em away from them while they da kine. They get service on a Sunday evening. I used to go help before, home league kind, sew things for sell. But weekday. Now, I don't go. I busy on that side. Quite long, I didn't go.

MK: Are you still like a member of St. Raphael's Church?

RJ: Yeah.

MK: So, when the children were growing up, you folks used to go . . .

RJ: Oh, yeah. We used to go. My two boys were altar boys. They were all baptized and confirmed there. Louis and my other one was altar boys. Now, Louis doesn't go church. My girls all have changed religion. They go Baptist and it's up to them. I still go every Saturday. My parents were always Catholics, so I don't want to change. I help any other ones come around here. For help, I help them. But I go to mine. Every Saturday evening. We get Saturday evening, Sunday, and Sunday evening mass. I get one nephew live Lawa'i, he picks me up 'cause I don't drive. 'Cause Louis doesn't go anyway. He picks me up every Saturday evening, he bring me back home. When I can go. But when you used to go, if you don't go, you don't feel so good.

MK: Now days, when you go to the St. Raphael's Church, mostly the old-time members or . . .

RJ: No. You should see. Now we have mass in the hall because we have one big hall. The tourists are just loaded over there. It's just big hall they have now. Lot of tourists now. You have to stand up, some of them. Our church is not that big. Normal, when they don't come, then we'll go to the church. They all go in the church first before they go down. They pray over there. But it's big, lot of tourists. From Po'ipu all around, they come. They have a bus pick them up. Some of them, they don't have car. They call up to the church. They have a boy that drive, pick them up, and take them back.

MK: So, gee, you see the tourists in the church and you see the tourists in the stores, then, now days?

RJ: Yeah. Anyway, they keep me company. (Laughs) Louis wanted me to sell this place and go live on the low income [housing], you know, low income that I can go in there, not pay so much for rent. I said I don't want to go different place. I rather stay here. I'm here so long. And not only that. I'm close to the doctor, dispensary, I go; to Sueoka Store; and to the center there where I go every day. Go way up there, got to walk up. And to get used to to the place, I tell, "No. After I'm gone, you can do what you like with the place." (Laughs) He no can. He cannot sell 'em unless I want to.
I changed the deed but I'm the legal owner yet.

MK: I just have maybe two more questions for you. You know, when the time they had Hurricane Iwa, how did you do? What happened over here?


I tell, "Why?"

They heard about it. "Going get hurricane. More better go Louis' house."

Tell, "Ah, no need."

She tell, "No." She call my daughter-in-law, and here comes my daughter-in-law.

"No, Grandma"--she calls me "grandma"--"We better go. Going get hurricane, Marie called, she stay all worried."

So, took this, I take (chuckles) one. I don't have my important papers in the bank. I have one iron suitcase, short one like this. So, take that, and some of my clothes. So lock everything, we went. That was terrible. Well, anyway, couldn't sleep that night. Everything big noise. And my son's home, the telephone post went down. The Inouyes' in front, all the roof went. My son's garage went down. Was a mess. And me, I was all shook up. I tell, "I wonder what happened to my house."

We couldn't sleep. But I was sleeping on the couch because she had the two girls home. Oh, what a night. The next morning, while it was kinda calm down and all no more wind, then Louis came down. He go back, he tell, "I see something hanging on Mama's roof."

I tell, "What?" My antenna went. All the galvanized was down and up. Good thing this thing [roof] has a board in the beginning and then had da kine sandpaper [roofing] like. That was the roof before. Then, afterwards, my husband put the iron roof. That's the one that went. All in the river and all. Had to buy all new one. But was good. Didn't get wet. Anything in my house, no nothing [i.e., no damage]. Only the antenna, had to get one other antenna. Ah, that was terrible. But up there was scary. They didn't want me to stay over here alone, but my house was safe. Never go, no nothing. But there, the post, the mango trees and all. The Inouyes live in front of him. All that was all jam up. Boy, was terrible. The wind was strong. Where were you that time?

MK: Oh, Honolulu. You know, not too bad, Honolulu side.

RJ: Oh, was terrible here.
MK: So, how many days you didn't have electricity or water?

RJ: I don't remember, but didn't stay too long. Yeah, didn't stay too long. I don't remember that. The water and electricity. Ho, what a night that was. That wind was (RJ makes sound) just like terrible. And me, I wanted to stay here. Then no, my daughter was only calling for my daughter-in-law for Louis come get me. Oh, that was . . .

MK: Just one more question. You lived Kōloa so long, right? Almost all your life.

RJ: Yeah.

MK: What do you think about your life in Kōloa?

RJ: My life in Kōloa was okay. (Laughs) So fun, happy here, I don't want to move away from here. Well, when young, we used to play, hide here and there. And once in a while, we'll climb the hill and then you have to do some work. But anyway, was okay. Those days were more better, sometime, than now. (Laughs) Now, after you get so many children and grandchildren, the grandchildren give you lot of worries now days. They not like when we were brought up. Well, so far, so good.

MK: How many children and grandchildren do you have now?

RJ: Well, I had five children. Now I have four. Three daughters and Louis, one son. I have eighteen grand, forty-two great, and I have five great-great boys. Five boys, great-great. From my great-granddaughters. My oldest daughter's granddaughter. My oldest daughter. So, I forget their names, there's so many.

MK: Big family.

RJ: They all don't come every time. They come different times.

MK: Okay. I'm going to end the interview here. Long time.

END OF INTERVIEW
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