BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: FRANCIS ZANE, retired all-around man

Francis Zane, Chinese, was born in Makapala on the Big Island, June 20, 1899. He was one of 13 children. His parents were already married when they came from Canton, China to Kohala.

His family moved to Honolulu in 1900 and to Kakaako about 1910. The family owned the same Kakaako property continuously for 65 years and finally sold it in 1977.

Francis was educated at Kaahumanu and McKinley Schools. He was a coin diver, caddied for Oahu Country Club and in 1929, left Kakaako to become an all-around man for a prominent Stockton, California family. He visited Hawaii in 1933 and 1937; retired in 1965 and returned to live in Honolulu in 1970.

Francis never married. He has one of the largest collections of autographs in the world, which includes over 50,000 signatures of notables, stage and movie stars, politicians, and sports figures, spanning over half a century.

TIME LINE

1899 birth: Makapala, Hawaii
1909 moved to Kakaako
1915 caddy, Oahu Country Club
1929 moved to Stockton, California
1965 retired
1970 returned to Honolulu
This is an interview with Mr. Francis Zane at his home on Ward Avenue. The date is May 22; the interviewer is Gael Gouveia. Okay, first, tell me about when you came to Kakaako. Do you remember that?

Let's see. I think...I hang around with those bunch of boys, maybe 1914, or 1915, 1916. As long as I, before I went away, see.

Were you living in Kakaako at that time?

Yeah.

Whereabouts were you living?

Right there by Kapiolani Boulevard [and] Cooke.

That was your family's home there?

Yeah. That's where the Bright family used to live there. Solomon Bright, Hilo Hattie.

And the house that you had, did your father own it?

Yeah. We own a piece of property there, and the house. It's for long time.

What did your father do?

Oh, he's a laborer.

Do you know who he worked for?

Well, he worked for the company E. Hall and Son, then the Bank of Hawaii. Then, he worked for Soda Water Works.

Was that the soda works in Kaka'ako?

No, downtown. It's not there anymore.

Now, he came to Honolulu, then, from Kohala, is that right?
FZ: Kohala, yeah. I think they came from China as a laborer, I think.

GG: To work on the plantation?

FZ: I think so. Because a lot of people used to live up that way. And they all moved down this way, you know. Get a job.

GG: He worked his contract for the plantation, and then...

FZ: I don't know. I think they came over as a laborer. I don't know what he did.

GG: Your father and mother were married already, when they came from China?

FZ: Yeah, I think so.

GG: What number child are you? You had 13 in the family altogether?

FZ: I'm the oldest.

GG: Oh, you're the oldest. But you were born on the Big Island?

FZ: Yeah, Big Island--Makapala.

GG: And you were born, what year?

FZ: 1899.

GG: Do you remember about how old you [were] when you moved to Honolulu?

FZ: One year old.

GG: Oh, only one year.

FZ: I don't even know how the place look like, you know.

GG: Where did you live? Do you know where your family lived when you first came?

FZ: We lived downtown, in town--Kaluwela.

GG: Do you remember how old you were, when you moved into Kakaako?

FZ: Let's see. I think about 9 or 10 years, or earlier than that, I think.

GG: Where did you go to school?

FZ: Kaahumanu.

GG: Whereabouts was that located?
FZ: You know, right up by the Safeway. They knocked the building down.

GG: How come you went there instead of Pohukaina?

FZ: Because Kaahumanu was a popular school, you know. Like, you take Kaahumanu, Royal, Kaiulani and Central Grammar. They were the old times grammar school. That's the most important school in the whole city. During that time. Especially Kaahumanu. All the Kahanamoku family used to go there. Like Chinn Ho. All those, they all go Kaahumanu.

GG: Was Pohukaina already built, though, at that time? Or do you remember?

FZ: No. Wasn't built, I think. You know where the library? That's where Pohukaina School, right by the corner there.

GG: That's where it started.

FZ: Yeah, they moved down that way.

GG: When you lived Kapiolani and Cooke Street, do you remember who your neighbors were, or how many houses were there?

FZ: Oh, there were quite a few houses around there. Lot of houses. You know by that, you know where that station there, where they sell cars? On Kapiolani Boulevard, and that Columbia Inn? Both side, all used to be lot of Hawaiian people living. In the back, Japanese people were living.

GG: I see. Were there very many Chinese people living there at that time?

FZ: Not many. Few.

GG: Do you remember some of the other families?

FZ: Well, they had one family called Yap. They had to move away. They were running the store there. There's two store there--Chinese--and are run by the Chinese. (Laughs) Always run by the Chinese.

GG: Do you remember what kind of stores they were?

FZ: It's a little grocery store, you know. They sell.

GG: Do you know how your father happened to pick that place to live?

FZ: Oh, my uncle and my grandfather. My grandfather, they were living down that way. That's how they happened to move down there and... It was quite a place there. Hilo Hattie lived one side, Solomon Bright one side. They both good entertainer, you know. I know them. I know their whole family.

GG: Are they about the same age, or younger or older?

FZ: No, younger. They younger than me.
GG: Did you see the families, or get together with them very much, when you were young?

FZ: Oh, I see quite a few of the boys. And then, I used to deliver paper to the mother, Bright family. And then Hilo Hattie wen live across where we lived. And the mother was a nurse that time. Hilo Hattie was nobody that time.

GG: Did your mother work at all? Or did she stay home?

FZ: No, she never did work. Only my father worked. Hard-working man. Didn't earn much money, but he kept up the family. Not like today, fathers grumble because they get a big family. We can have a big family, too. He wasn't making much money, like the guys making today.

GG: Do you remember what kind of salary he had?

FZ: He used to earn $9 a week.

GG: And how did you manage, with the big family?

FZ: I don't know how he managed.

GG: How old were you, when you started delivering newspapers?

FZ: When I was selling newspaper, I was 10 years old. I went downtown with my uncle. That's how I started selling newspaper. But he passed away. 1910, I went down sell newspaper.

GG: Which newspaper was it?

FZ: Well, they used to have the Advertiser; they used to have the Star Bulletin, and the Hawaiian Star. That fella, Johnny Noble used to sell Hawaiian Star.

GG: And how did you get the newspapers to sell?

FZ: Well, we go there and, you know, the wholesalers sell it to us. Two for nickel. If we don't sell the paper, we turn it back next day. We never lose. Two for nickel.

GG: Whereabouts did you go? Did you have a special corner?

FZ: Oh. Yeah. Was down Fort Street. Fort and King. Right there, and that's where we used to sell. I remember we used to sell newspaper to McInerny, the two brothers. George Castle. And, he never buy a paper, he always give us a dime.

GG: But he never took the paper?

FZ: No. You know, the Castle, they have money.
GG: Did people just walk by and buy the paper?

FZ: No, we have to yell it out. They buy. Like, we used to sell Evening Post, Liberty. Those days were nickel. And we used to sell it all, too.

GG: Did you have to go around to the different newspaper places to pick up newspaper?

FZ: No. Well, we always the same corner; we always look for the same man we sell to. We know when they get through working.

GG: Did they have many cars in those days?

FZ: Not many cars--streetcars--not many cars.

GG: Did people mostly walk, then?

FZ: Yeah. Not like today, everybody have a car.

GG: Well, did they have hacks, or they still had carriages or buggies?

FZ: Yeah, they had that hack. Lot of horses, and then they have that old Ford car, you know, those days.

GG: What else did you do? You went to school and sold newspapers after school, or before school?

FZ: Yeah, then I quit selling paper 1917. And then I went up Country Club and caddy. Oahu Country Club.

GG: How did you get that job?

FZ: We just go up there. And diving for coin that time, too.

GG: What years did you dive for coins?


GG: And did you dive, for what, a year or so?

FZ: No, I dive for about nine years.

GG: Can you tell me about your experiences diving for coins?

FZ: Yeah. In diving for coins you had to be fast. Good swimmer. And depend how far you can dive down, you know.

GG: How did you learn to swim?

FZ: Oh, I first learn how to swim at the, you know Fisherman's Wharf? That's where. They used to call it the Deep Pond. Quite a few people got drowned there, because deep. Maybe they got the cramps, that's how they drown.
GG: How old were you when you started diving?

FZ: Oh, quite a young fellow, 15, I think, I wen dive.

GG: Did you have friends that were already diving?

FZ: Yeah, we have a friend. He took us on the waterfront to dive coin.

GG: Was he one of the leaders in the group?

FZ: He was one of the most important guy down there, you see. Because nobody can touch you when he's there, you know. He's a tough guy.

GG: Do you remember what his name was?

FZ: His name Henry Fern. I don't know if he's living or not. I saw him in San Francisco one time. I was going to stop and talk to him; he was on a train one time. I think he passed away, he's not living, because I didn't see him around. My cousin used to see him around.

GG: Was that a relative of Mayor Fern, who lived down there too?

FZ: No.

GG: What nationality was he?

FZ: He's part-Hawaiian. He lived right--you know where the Datsun automobile company--one of those houses around there, he used to live there.

GG: So, when he took you down, he just told everybody...

FZ: No, he didn't say nothing. He make sure nobody touch us down there.

GG: Were you scared?

FZ: No. We're not afraid when he's there. Yeah, that's how me and my brother start diving.

GG: Did you go early in the morning to dive?

FZ: Oh yeah, when the ship come in, half past seven, the Matson Line. We have to get down there early, you know.

GG: And how do you know when it's coming in?

FZ: Well, you look the calendar. Usually they have a calendar tell about the ship coming in. They don't have it now.

GG: Where was the calendar?

FZ: Alexander Baldwin. Every three months, they pass out a calendar. They have the shipping. All the ships on the calendar, you know, when they
coming in. They don't have that anymore.

GG: Would the diving boys go down, and look at the calendar?

FZ: No, they go down and get the calendar. They study the calendar, you know. Somebody have the calendar. They tell them what ship coming in tomorrow.

GG: Then spread the word to the other divers?

FZ: Yeah. That's how they are.

GG: So, you'd get down there early in the morning?

FZ: Yeah. Before that thing come in. Or you won't make the money.

GG: Do you dive off the pier?

FZ: Yeah. You dive from the pier, you go out there and meet the ship coming in, see. That's how. And the people started throwing some money. Sometimes, lot of people throw money; well, you make pretty good money, you know. But one fella was a great Hawaiian diver. He always make the most money. I wondered why this fella make so much money. And he was one of the best swimmers. You ought to see him dive underneath that water. One time I went down there, you know. Shee, that boy. That guy just like a shark, going for the money. That's how that guy make the most money. And he's a faster swimmer. He dive from any part of the ship, just like me too, you know.

GG: You did that too? How did you get on the ship, to dive from the ship?

FZ: Oh, somebody got a rope. They tie it by the rail, then they slack it down. That's how you climb on the ship.

GG: And the ship personnel didn't get angry, or anything like that?

FZ: No.

GG: How often would you dive off the ship in one morning?

FZ: You can't dive when the ship coming in. When the ship go out, you know. You get on the boat. Sometime make good money. But that fella make the most money, he was the best.

GG: Do you remember what his name was?

FZ: Yeah. John Kelii. He was one of the fastest swimmer. I never know how the guy swim so fast underneath the water.

GG: How long would you actually be in the water? Now, the ship is coming in, and you're diving. What happens when it docks? Are you still around there?
FZ: No. When they dock, everybody go, and get dress up, and go. That's all for the day, you know, in the morning. And the ship sailed about 5 o'clock in the afternoon. Then, you go back there again. About 4 o'clock, and start swimming again.

GG: If it starts coming in the harbor at about 7:15 in the morning, then what time are you pau to go?

FZ: Well, it depends. Sometimes they come 8 o'clock, because the ship neva come in fast, see. They have to come in slow. The pilot bring it in, you see.

GG: So you're in the water about half hour, or an hour?

FZ: Yeah, about half an hour. In the afternoon, maybe, when the boat sailing, you know. Well, the boat sail about 5 o'clock. You start swimming 4 o'clock, see.

GG: And then what time pau?

FZ: When the ship go out, you go out too, where the ship too, you know. Then, as the ship started going, the harbor. Then that's all. You have to swim back.

GG: And about how much would you make in the morning?

FZ: Well, depend how much. Sometime you make $2. Or less than that. Sometime the ship come in pretty fast, like the Matson Line. You have to get there first to get the money. Because that's when the people start to throw, see.

GG: What is the most money you ever made in one day of diving?


GG: A whole dollar paper money, or the coin?

FZ: No, silver. You know the silver dollar goes zig-zag, you know. You have to go fast, and catch that silver dollar. That's the fastest money going in the water.

GG: Because it's heavier?

FZ: Heavier, and it goes zig-zag. The other money go down like that (moves more slowly and in diagonal line), see. That's the only money that go zig-zag, the $1. And you have to go down fast, too.

GG: What's the slowest one?

FZ: Oh, dime. Dime is the slowest. The Canadian money is the slowest, the nickel.
GG: What could you do with the Canadian money? Could you use it?

FZ: Oh no. You save it, and you go take it down the bank. They give you, depending how the money go, you know, up and down.

GG: And they give you the equivalent for it?

FZ: Yeah. Depend how much the money worth.

GG: Did you save any of the coins, over the years?

FZ: Gee, I never did save. I save lot of Canadian money. Lot of penny, one time. The highest (number of) penny I ever save was, over 40,000 (pennies). I turned it to the bank in San Francisco. Deposit all the money. (Still there in my savings).

GG: You had one, you mean, old penny, that you had gotten?

FZ: Yes. I got some old penny. 1900 dime. Something like that. I save all the old penny (over 40,000 of 'em). I get some Indian nickel.

GG: And are these, ones that you picked up while you were diving, or just in your travels over the years?


GG: How many boys would be diving, say, one morning?

FZ: Oh, sometime 20 or more. Depend. Used to have lot of boys. In the afternoon, about 30 or more. Lot of boys.

GG: Why would there be more in the afternoon than in the morning?

FZ: Well, somebody forget to get up in the morning.

(Laughter)

GG: And did they ever fight in the water?

FZ: No. It's all in the game. No fighting in the water, when they dive.

GG: So, would they ever fight with each other? Or try to take the money from each other?

FZ: No. It's all in the game.

GG: What about, if somebody, an outsider, wanted to come in and dive?

FZ: They neva.

GG: How come?
FZ: They no allow 'em. Only the district boys. So many of them, see. That's why the other boys wouldn't come in swimming, see. So many district boys.

GG: Did they have any kind of a diving association?

FZ: No. The guys just go down there and dive. Make their living diving for coin.

GG: Were you around at the time, where some of the divers had evidently fixed up an old boat, or something? Do you remember that?

FZ: No. Later on. That old boat, "sampan," they call it.

GG: Were most of the divers Hawaiian, or part-Hawaiian?

FZ: Japanese, few Chinese. Mostly all Hawaiian. You know, all mixed.

GG: What did you do with the money that you got from diving?

FZ: Well, we go and eat. Go in the restaurant, eat. Downtown.

GG: Did you give any to the family to help?

FZ: No.

GG: What about when you were selling newspapers, at that time, did you help the family at all?

FZ: Oh, I was saving my money. When I left the island, I already saved some money with me. That helped me a lot. The best thing is to save your money.

GG: Was it after your time when the greeter boats used to go out? Or, I think, later on the divers used to go out to the three-mile limit, and dive out there too.

FZ: They used to go out on a tugboat. It's too dangerous go out there and dive.

GG: Did you ever do that?

FZ: No. I play on the safe side. Sometime the captain of the ship yell, you know, the shark underneath. He can see the shark. Why go over there, and the shark grab hold of you, just for a few coins.

GG: Your family, being Chinese family, did you have special Chinese customs or celebrations? Things that your family did?

FZ: All Chinese New Year that time. Chinese, they celebrate Chinese New Year.

GG: How did you celebrate it?
FZ: Well, they have something, like this round one, kind of case-like. They all put different kind of fruit, candy, all that. When the people come, well, they serve them that, the candy and all that. And Chinese puffed rice. Tea, you know. They always give the youngster quarter. You know, they wrap up in the red.

GG: What was the significance of that?

FZ: That's the style in Chinese New Year. They always give money to the kids.

GG: The parents gave to the children?

FZ: No. The friends, when they come and visit. And when you go visit the other family, you do the same thing, see. That's how they do 'em.

GG: So now, when people would come to visit, that was friends from all over, or friends from Kakaako?

FZ: No. Friends that my family knows, see. Good friend. They come and visit.

GG: And did they have fire crackers in those days?

FZ: Yeah, they have fire cracker.

GG: Where did they get the fire crackers to celebrate?

FZ: They buy 'em Chinatown. They used to sell (them) see, in those days. I don't know about now.

GG: Were there any other customs that you celebrated?

FZ: Oh, that's the only custom we celebrated, Chinese New Year.

GG: Did you folks celebrate Christmas, or....

FZ: Yeah. Celebrate Christmas.

GG: How did you celebrate Christmas?

FZ: Just like the American people. Buy a Christmas tree and decorate. And they give present, this and that. Just like American-style. Same.

GG: What about the family, in terms of when you were growing up, small-time boy? What kind of food did you eat at home?

FZ: Oh, Chinese food. My mother used to do a lot of cooking for us.

GG: Do you remember what kinds of things you used to eat?

FZ: Oh, sometime, fish, you know. Fried meat with the vegetables. Some soup.
with the mustard green soup. All that. Chinese-style. Rice.

GG: In the family, did you eat poi, or things from other....

FZ: Yeah, we eat poi, too, sometimes. Now, everybody eat poi. There's more poi now.

GG: But in those days, you ate, but not too often?

FZ: Not too often. Like today, now you can buy easy.

GG: Didn't they have poi shops in Kakaako?

FZ: Yeah, they have, poi shop. Oh, you ought to see when they used to cook the taro. You go back there, the Chinese give you a big taro. It already cooked. Really hot.

GG: Where was this?

FZ: Right back of that building called Kumalae Block. Poi place right back there.

GG: And it was the Chinese people, who were the poi shop owners?

FZ: Yeah, Chinese people own that poi shop, yeah. Always Chinese.

GG: And did you ever go back there?

FZ: Well, sometime when the taro get cooked, we go back there. Ask the Chinese man for a taro. Sometime they pretty nice, they give you a taro, you know. Nobody ever go and steal.

GG: How? Did they cook it outside?

FZ: No, they cook it inside. There's a big place. I forgot how they cook it now. Hard work. They have to pound 'em, you know.

GG: Did any of your family ever go to church?

FZ: Yeah, my mother. Before, when we were young, we used to go church.

GG: Where was [that?]

FZ: St. Peter's church.

GG: What religion was that?

FZ: Christian religion. My mother was Christian.

GG: And was that in Kakaako, or did she have to...

FZ: No, it was down downtown (Emma Street), by St. Andrew Church. The church
used to be down there and they moved down King Street now, I think.

GG: And that was a Christian church, so you said. Did many Chinese people belong to it?

FZ: Yeah. Lot of old people.

GG: Do you know, off hand, did they have any Chinese style churches that weren't Christian?

FZ: Gee, I don't know. I never follow that.

GG: You had mentioned that you'd played baseball and softball, too.

FZ: Yeah, I used to play softball. I used to play for the club. I used to pitch a lot.

GG: What years was this? Or, do you remember?

FZ: Gee, that's a long time ago. Maybe in 1916, 1917. I pitched for the school one time. We won every game except one.

GG: Oh boy, for the high school?

FZ: No, grammar school. Say, we had some good players those days.

GG: Was it about eighth grade time, when you were pitching for the school?

FZ: Yeah. Uh huh.

GG: And that was for Kaahumanu?

FZ: Kaahumanu. I was the main man there in the school. Wasn't for me, I don't know what happen to the team. The guy knew I was a ball player, see. Came and looked for me.

GG: Did you play other schools, or who did you play?

FZ: Yeah, we play all the school. Every school.

GG: And how did you get started in baseball?

FZ: I hang around the club down in Kakaako.

GG: Which club was that?

FZ: Kakaako Club. And Mr. Frank C. Atherton used to build the club for the boys. Well-known man, that.

GG: And that was for the baseball players, or they had other...

FZ: That just for the district. Anybody can go there.
GG: Whereabouts was it located?
FZ: Let's see. I don't know to tell you, now. You know where the McKesson, the building? Right back.
GG: And was it a building?
FZ: It's a building, wooden building. I don't know if the building still there, or not. I have to pass there and take a look.
GG: Did it have like a park area, too. Because, you didn't play baseball in the building did you?
FZ: In the building.
GG: Oh, inside. What kind was that, then?
FZ: It's a softball, 14-inch ball.
GG: Was the building big?
FZ: Yeah, pretty big building.
GG: How far apart were the bases, then?
FZ: You know softball, it's a short distance. Not real far.
GG: And the boys that played, was it mixed teams? Or, did you have like, a Chinese team?
FZ: No, all kind. All mixed. And then, the smallest baseball diamond we ever played was in Kauluwela. It's a small hall.
GG: Indoor softball then, was very popular in those days?
FZ: Yeah.
GG: Do they play it at all anymore, or do you know?
FZ: Not the 14-inch anymore. I don't know how they play now. They had some good pitchers those days. Pitching that kind of ball.
GG: Who was your coach?
FZ: We had a Portuguese guy take charge of that from the Y.M.C.A. I think he's dead now. He not living any more. He used to take charge of us, Mr. Robley, Y.M.C.A.
GG: Was there a school team, and then, a Kakaako Club team, or it was the same?
FZ: It's a district team. We play here, we play Palama, we go up Kauluwela. There's another club played by the Chinese boys. I used to know a lot of them.
GG: That was just another ball club that you played?
FZ: Yeah. Different team, you know. They belongs to the league.
GG: And then, you went on to high school, is that right?
FZ: Only one year.
GG: McKinley, is that where you went?
FZ: Yeah. The old McKinley, by the church. Thomas Square, you know the church over there. That was McKinley High School, then. Those days, you have to wear a suit and necktie to go to school. He won't let you come in school, the principal, Mr. Scott. I think his name Mr. Wood. No, [Marion M.] Scott or Wood. You have to wear a necktie and suit.
GG: How could people afford the necktie, and the suit?
FZ: Well, those days, they come to school with a necktie and suit.
GG: Did you have to pay for your books, too?
FZ: Yeah. Those days you have to pay. I don't know now. You have to carry all the books with you, or somebody steal the book. Then you go downtown, Wall-Nichols, buy all those books.
GG: Where did you have to go to buy the books?
FZ: Downtown, Wall-Nichols. I don't know if they have the company, or not.
GG: And how much did they cost?
FZ: Oh, they cost money. You know, no free books, those days. Now, they have free books, I think, eh? They lucky. They don't know what it's paying. Big bundle of books you carry. We have to pay for that. No free. Now, they get free. Real lucky, nowadays.
GG: How come you only went one year?
FZ: Uh, started play hooky all the time.
GG: Didn't like your classes? When you played hooky, what did you do, where did you go?
FZ: Go down the waterfront. That's because spoil, see.
GG: Is that when you were diving, at that time too?
FZ: Yeah. Me and my other brother too. He quit school. We both quit school.
GG: How did your parents react to that?
FZ: Well, lucky he got a job on a ship. Five boys went on a ship, you know. And it's coin diving to the... He graduate [left] coin diving. He went on the same ship. He's been living in Brooklyn for a long time.

GG: And then, was it shortly after that, that you started caddying at Oahu Country Club?

FZ: Yeah.

GG: Were there many caddies there, too?

FZ: Yeah. I was the most important caddy there. The caddy master sure liked me; he liked me the best of all.

GG: Do you know why?

FZ: Because I listen to him, see. One day, some big member want to get a caddy. You know, the guy didn't want to caddy him. Next time I came, the caddy master told this guy, "You go take a walk for three weeks. Don't come back for three weeks." Suspend 'em, you know. He never did that to me. When you caddy the important guys from the club, you got to do it, you know. See, they report it. And he kicked them out for three weeks.

GG: Do you remember about how many other caddies there were?

FZ: Gee, we had quite a few caddies in the morning. But in the afternoon, all the school kids come up. From Puunui.

GG: And were they all different nationalities?


GG: And how much did you get paid for being a caddy?

FZ: The first time I caddied there, 35 cents a round, 18 hole. Thirty-five cents, then 50 cents, 75 cents. That's the highest we got paid.

GG: And this was what years again?

FZ: Oh, let's see. I think 1925 we got 75 cents to caddy for 18 hole. Then this lady came from the Mainland, I caddy for her. 1925. Then she came 1929, I caddy for her again. Still remember me. Ask me if I want to go up to the Mainland and work. So I went. I didn't ask her, "How much you going to pay me," you know. I just go work. Did I work hard for that money. Six o'clock every morning we get up. That's work. Winter and all, 6 o'clock.

GG: This was the family that you went up to work for?

FZ: Yeah. Hard work.
GG: You said, I think, the name was White, the White family?
GG: That's how you came to work for her, you caddied for her?
FZ: Yeah.
GG: And then, they asked you to come and work for the family?
FZ: She asked me.
GG: And did they tell you what kind of work you'd have to do?
FZ: No. I did everything over there.
GG: But you didn't ask any of the details? You just said okay, you'd take the job?
FZ: Yeah, I just go and work. Did I work hard for that money.
GG: Can you tell me about what kinds of things you did,
FZ: I take care the garden. I go out caddy in the morning. I serve at the table at night. I get through about, sometime 9 o'clock at night. I got to start 6 o'clock in the morning. But I never got tired. I go in the drugstore there, and I go help them dry the glasses and, still working there.
GG: They had a drugstore too?
FZ: No, but right around the corner, somebody run the drugstore, and I used to go hang around there.
GG: Did you have a regular day off, or any time off?
FZ: No. I work Sunday, too. I used to go out there, and caddy for the husband. I get along fine with him. He's all right. I like him.
GG: It was 1929, when you left Kakaako?
FZ: Yeah.
GG: That was right at the beginning of depression time, too, right?
FZ: Yeah. Lot of guys don't know what depression, Now the depression come, I says, "Too bad." I don't know what happened to all the people. They don't know what is depression. Shee, those guys on the Mainland, no work, no money. No money to buy eats. I used to buy eat for them. Next one come, we worse. So many people in this world now, you know. That's where the trouble.
GG: So how did you go the Mainland with the family?

FZ: No, they went on a different ship. I went on a different ship. I went to one ship. We had a big table for breakfast and dinner. All those people got seasick till they reached the Mainland. I was the only one on the table.

GG: Which ship did you go on?

FZ: I went on the Sonoma, they call. Oceanic Steamship Company.

GG: Did you go into San Francisco?

FZ: Yeah. I got there, and cold that morning. March. Get into Stockton, more cold yet.

GG: What did you think, when you first got there?

FZ: Nothing.

GG: Did you find the Mainland to be different than Hawaii?

FZ: Yeah, different, yeah.

GG: In what way?

FZ: Well, the only thing, there were a lot of things you have no chance to see. See, me, I keep on working all the time. There's nothing to see, anyhow, unless you have money to travel.

GG: May I ask, way back in 1929, what kind of pay you got for the work you did?

FZ: $35 a month, I was getting.

GG: Oh boy. Almost like being in the plantation over there, then.

FZ: Yeah, but I was making good money at the end. She give me a bonus every year. Increase my bonus every year, you know--$60. Good pay. I was making good money. Then she started giving me some stock.

GG: Did they have children, too?

FZ: Yeah. Three girls. And they all rich girls today. Wealthy. The grandchildren are wealthy too. Well taken care by the grandmother. That's one thing good about taking care the family first. Lot of people who don't do that. They give a lot of money to the charity. Not her. She think of the three girls, and the 10 grandchildren.

GG: Did you get homesick at all, when you were up there?

FZ: First time. When I play the Hawaiian music, that's when I get homesick.
GG: Where did you hear Hawaiian music?

FZ: Well, I bought some records. And sometime, I hear that over the radio.

GG: What about the difference in diet? Because you were used to eating Chinese food here, and then, how about adjusting to the Mainland?

FZ: Oh, I eat any kind. Anything. Some people too particular, they eat same thing. Me, I eat anything.

GG: Did you have time to have friends of your own, or do things up there?

FZ: Yeah, I only have some friends. I have a Portuguese fella there. He's a good friend of mine. He used to make all my scrapbook. He's a bookbinder. And he's a good bookbinder.

GG: How did you meet him?

FZ: Well, I hang around. See, they had lot of Hawaiian boys, all hang around together, you know. How I happen to have him make me a scrapbook--one Hawaiian guy told me, "Go and see that fella there. He make you scrapbook for you."

I told him, "Make me some scrapbook."

He made me six scrapbook one day. I gave him just $1 a piece. $1. He used to give me a lot of sheets, for typing. Scrap tablet, everything. I just give 'em away, I had so many from him.

GG: The scrapbooks that you're talking about, did you collect pictures and things, or was this autographs?

FZ: Autograph.

GG: How did you get started doing that?

FZ: I just hang around the show house in San Francisco, the Golden Gate. That's the most important theater. They used to have all the stage show, every week. Every two weeks they change. Oh, you see all kind of entertainer there. You don't see it today.

GG: Was this when you had time off, you would go up there?

FZ: Yeah, Sunday.

GG: And one day, you just got somebody's autograph, and that started it all off?

FZ: Sometime, nighttime we go down there. Nighttime. We go up the hotel, different hotel, you know.

GG: Which one?
FZ: Well, the Palace Hotel in San Francisco downtown. The Fairmont Hotel, that's one of the best. Oh, all those hotel up that way. Oh, lot of walking just to get their autograph.

GG: Who are some of the [people whose] autographs that you have?

FZ: Oh, I have all kind. Freddy Astaire, I got him. He was making a picture in the church. That's how I got that guy. Humphrey Bogart--I got him in town with his wife. E. G. Robinson was playing at a stage show. He's a nice fellow. George Raft. Baseball player, Babe Ruth, Ty Cobb, Mickey Mantle, Yogi Berra. I met all of them. But Babe Ruth and Ty Cobb, the most important baseball signature I wanted. And our famous Duke [Kahanamoku]. That's the most important autograph. Duke, you know. Johnny Weissmuller. Oh, I met so many. Thousands of them.

END OF SIDE ONE.

SIDE TWO.

FZ: You have to ask. You don't ask, you don't get it. That's just like the lady came. City Hall. Apollo 14 astronauts, three of them. I took the picture already. The lady came, she wanted to take a picture of them. I told the lady, "Go after them. They pose." She wouldn't. You don't ask, you don't get it. Apollo 14. See, I'm the only one got three of them together. Shepard was the first man hit a golfball on the moon, I got him. He was nice. They like to joke on me, you know. I got them at the City Hall.

And Mr. Hillary, he was the first man to climb the mountain. I got him. We got him downtown.

GG: How did you go about doing this? Okay, you went to the theater sometimes. How did you happen to know they'd be at City Hall?

FZ: Well, sometime they publish it in the paper, you know. They're going to be there. Like Roos Brothers. Or, they're going to stay at the Fairmont. Tipton Hotel. You see that in the paper. Then you go over there and catch 'em. Wait for 'em.

GG: Were any of them ever not nice about signing autographs?

FZ: Maybe one or two, no good. But then, they are not so important. Like George Raft was walking. Gee, I have to call him before.... If I didn't call him, he wouldn't stop. He stopped. He came back, he signed. He's a good man to get, George Raft.

E. G. Robinson, too. You have to, "Mr. Robinson." See. And he stop. He sign. Then I ask him to pose for a picture. He pose. He posed with the cigar he had [for the picture]. He put on his hat. But he's nice. Like Paul Muni, he's nice too. He had trouble with his eyes.
GG: And you never felt shy about asking these people either?

FZ: No. I used to help lot of girls and ladies. They stand there, they don't know who they are, see. But I know all the star coming out, see. And they just let them pass by. I say, "There's a big star going." Or you won't get it. Maybe some of them live in Oakland, or some other town. They come to the city just to see the show and get their autograph. If they don't get it, they hard luck, see. I used to help lot of them.

GG: So, about how many.... You showed me the article in the paper, but about how many autographs do you have, altogether?

FZ: 50,000 or maybe more. I have it all in my scrapbooks. I show you all the autograph.

GG: Did you keep in touch with your family, during the time that you were away, by letter, or....

FZ: Yeah.

GG: Did you make trips back at all?

FZ: Let's see. The last time, 1937 was the last one I came back. And then, the next time I came back was 1970, after that 1937 [trip].

GG: And all the family still had stayed pretty much in Kakaako, or had they moved elsewhere?

FZ: Yeah, still staying at the same place.

GG: The family kept the property in Kakaako?

FZ: We just sold it last year, the property. It's a property, not the house. Now they want the property, not the house, you know.

GG: What was the house like? Do you remember?

FZ: Wooden house.

GG: How many rooms?

FZ: Two rooms. Then, they built different part of the rooms for the family.

GG: Was the kitchen inside, or outside?


GG: And then, when you were young, how did you folks all sleep?

FZ: Well, we had a room, me and my brother in that room. My father and mother were one side of the bed. Sisters were in a different room, you know.
GG: And then, when you left home in 1929, how many kids were in the family, at that time?

FZ: Everybody was living that time.

GG: All 13 kids were already born?

FZ: Only one was on the Mainland. Living New York. And all the rest at home.

GG: And, do you know where your mother did her shopping?

FZ: Oh, she go all over. Downtown, you know.

GG: And how did she go? Walk?

FZ: Oh, I think sometime. I think when she go to town, I think she walk. I'm sure about that. But she catch the streetcar come home.

GG: In the early days they had, like the fish peddlers, came to the house?

FZ: Yeah, they have, you know, they sell vegetables, all that. You go in town buy, you know the fish market. Why, when you go down there you know what to buy. But vegetable wagon comes around sometime.

GG: Did you have a garden, or did your mother grow...

FZ: No.

GG: She didn't grow any vegetables?

FZ: No place to grow.

GG: And being so close to the waterfront, did you folks ever do fishing for the family?

FZ: No, we don't know where to fish, anyhow. Whether waterfront, or....

GG: What about your swimming activity? Other than diving, did you also do just some swimming for fun?

FZ: Yeah, I used to do lot of swimming.

GG: Whereabouts did you swim?

FZ: Oh, they call the place Healani Boat Club. You know where that old dry dock? We used to go down and swim.

GG: And what was the boat club?

FZ: Healani Boat Club.
GG: Was that rowing?

FZ: Yeah, rowing. They used to have a good rowing club. Healani and Myrtle Boat Club.

GG: And did you know any of the people that were involved in that?

FZ: Yeah, we knew some of the people. That's when Blaisdell was rowing for the club. When he was young fella, Neal Blaisdell. His brother, William Blaisdell. All that Blaisdell family belongs to that club, anyhow.

GG: Did anybody from Kakaako belong to it?

FZ: No. Not one of them belong there.

GG: Was that because it was more affluent, or cost money to belong?

FZ: Yeah. Maybe, yeah. You have to have money to belongs to the club. Duke belongs to that different club, Myrtle Boat Club. Duke Kahanamoku.

GG: And was that canoes?


GG: Not like the canoe paddling that they do now days?

FZ: No. No canoe.

GG: Regular rowing boats.

FZ: Rowboat. Them were the days. You don't see that any more. Everybody, (choose their own club to back up), you buy a big handkerchief, or something. Make sure you back up that club there. Healani get white and blue. You back up Healani. They had a Hilo crew, too, you know. Oh, them were the days. You don't see that any more.

GG: And did they have races very often?

FZ: Every year. Every year they have that racing, before.

GG: And did you go to watch the races?

FZ: Yeah, we all go down and watch.

GG: Most of the Kakaako people went down to watch?

FZ: Yeah. Everybody. It's on Saturday, it's a big day. Go down there and see the boat race.

GG: Where did they have the races?
FZ: Down the waterfront. They race way out pass that Armstrong. They go there, and turn back, you know.

GG: And about how many people were involved in that? How many crew member?

FZ: Oh, six in a boat, and with a coxswain, was seven.

GG: And then, did they have more than one heat?

FZ: Oh, they have, yeah, different. Yeah.

GG: Different age groups and stuff?

FZ: They have four on a boat, two, and a single. Oh, what a big day. They don't have that any more. Too bad.

GG: Did they have other kinds of activities in Kakaako where, like the whole community would get together?

FZ: No, the only time, they have the band play at Atkinson Park. By Pohukaina School, there. Then, lot of people go down there listen the band.

GG: What band would that be?

FZ: Hawaiian band. They used to have good Hawaiian band, not today. They had lot of Hawaiian, see. And they all can, lot of them can sing, you know. And they really good singers. And the ladies sing. The band today is not so good.

GG: And they would get together just to give concerts, or was it a special occasion?

FZ: Yeah, it's a concert for the people. The whole district.

GG: And the people would come together and watch?

FZ: Yeah. Just like the election time, you know. The lady play the music, the whole district turn out to listen the music. And the politician, you know.

GG: Where did they hold those kinds of things?

FZ: Well, they used to hold 'em by that place they called Kumalae Block. That block is not there anymore.

GG: Did they ever have just get togethers, that weren't for politics, there, too?

FZ: Yeah, they had the Democrat and they had the Republican.

GG: And did you go to those?
FZ: Yeah, we go. Then listened them, you know.

GG: Do you remember some of the politicians?

FZ: Gee. They get Kuhio used to, you know. He got to give a speech to the people. But he never lose, that guy, Kuhio. Delegate to Congress,

GG: Do you remember seeing Liliuokalani, too?

FZ: I used to sell newspapers, I used to see her all the time. Coming home with the buggy. With a horse, you know. She sit in the back of the horse driver. Used to come, coming home from Waikiki. Yeah, I saw many times, Liliuokalani.

GG: Do you remember when she passed away?

FZ: I think 1917.

GG: Did the community turn out to see the funeral?

FZ: Yeah. They had her body at Kawaiahao Church for one week. Everybody go and.... Kuhio, same thing. Just the two of them.

GG: Did you go?

FZ: Yeah. Lot of people just walk around. Take a last look at them. Kuhio was a fine man. Fat, you know.

GG: Did you remember any special incidents about either one of them?

FZ: No. But I know Kuhio used to help all the Hawaiians. Delegate to Congress.

GG: Did he ever come into Kakaako?

FZ: Yeah, when they give a speech. When he was running. Nobody can beat him.

GG: And, did you play music at all? Or sing?

FZ: Oh, I just played ukulele.

GG: Did you play it, when you lived in Kakaako?

FZ: No, I just play by myself. Maybe I forget how to play that instrument already. I have to buy me a new one. Start to play it again.

GG: Where did you get your ukulele? Because they must have cost money in those days?

FZ: Yeah. I like to get mine at Sam Kamaka place. Kamaka makes good ukulele.

GG: Right. What did they cost when you got your first one? Or, do you remember approximately what year it was?
FZ: Oh, maybe they cost around $30, I think I paid mine. The last one, They cost about $100 now, the good one. I like to buy good one, I don't like to buy junk ones.

GG: Do you remember when you got yours?

FZ: Gee, I don't remember that. I had it long time, I brought it back, The only thing, the key loose you know. That's why, everytime you wind it up, get loose.

GG: Did you get it before you went to the Mainland in 1929?

FZ: No, I didn't get it then. I get it afterward.

GG: On your trip back, maybe?

FZ: Yeah. I think that maybe 1937, I think.

GG: And did anybody else in your family play music?

FZ: No. My sister play piano.

GG: What did you kids do for fun, besides your diving, and things like that when you were little?

FZ: Oh, I used to play a lot at the playground. My other brother too.

GG: What did you folks play?

FZ: Play everything. Me and him was good croquet player. Croquet. He's good.

GG: How did you get the croquet set?

FZ: Put out by the park. That's how we started to play. Before, we used to play, we used to hit the ball, hit the colored ball so far away. That's not the way to play, you know.

GG: But when you're young, that seems like the way to play, I guess.

FZ: Yeah. When you start to play. To be good player you had to know how to hit the ball and how to get it there. That's a good game, you know. And we used to play a lot of baseball. The girls used to play. We used to have pretty good girls. Good players from the girls.

GG: What is your family relationship to the Pung family? How are you related to them?

FZ: Well, the Pung family, the father and my mother are brother and sister. There. See, [points to photograph] that's Moses Pung's father, the first man standing on the left. And that's the wife. She look like Hawaiian, see. That's [my cousin] Lei's [Esta (Pung) Tennis'] mother.
GG: This is your whole family?

FZ: Yeah. Everybody standing up died. And the one on top too, the round [inset picture]. That one living. Oh yeah, only the one in the middle living. He's about 87 years old now.

GG: And that's your father's family? Or your mother's family?

FZ: My mother.

GG: And that's all her brothers and sisters and their wives?

FZ: Yeah. All relatives there.

GG: And, as I recall now, when your mother and father came, they came by themselves, or did they come with other relatives?

FZ: They must have come with some others too. See, there were a large group of Chinese came. Laborers.

GG: Do you know what part of China they came from?

FZ: Canton. That's where my father came from. Canton.

GG: And what is your connection with the Kodak Hula Show? You said that you go.

FZ: Oh yeah. I'm just like one of the members there. Just like one of the family. Did you see some of my nice pictures at the Kodak?

GG: No, I don't think so. What do you do out there, when you go?

FZ: Oh, I go out there and clean up the place for them, in the morning. When they come in, nice and clean. I clean the girls' shack. Not so dirty.

GG: And how long have you been doing that? Since you came back?

FZ: Since I came back here.

GG: How did you get started going out there?

FZ: I started going out there, and then I mingle around with the ladies. That's how I get in the back there with the big boss. Sometime, she come and talk to me.

GG: So you just kind of go and help out?

FZ: Yeah. Without me out there, it won't be the same, the place.

GG: How many times a week now, do they have the show?

FZ: Four times.
GG: And so you go every time?

FZ: Yeah. I show you some of the pictures. Hold on.

GG: Okay.

[Tape turned off as Mr. Zane shows photos to interviewer]

FZ: That time I was leaving. They don't know nothing about the fellas who, you know, that can fight down there. I know. They had a fella there. He came from Australia. He was a good fighter. I mean, fight on the street. But he dead already. I saw the son, the son was bigger than him. But he can't fight like the father. When he was fighting with a colored guy, the colored guy cut him with a razor, right here on the back. You can see that big train mark. But he was good fighter. Street fighter.

GG: Did they have the boxing club, already, then?

FZ: Yeah. But the boxers can't lick the guy. All the boxers can't lick him.

GG: Because these were just street fighters?

FZ: He was a good fighter. He can box those guys out on the street. Because I know. I been down there so long.

GG: Were there many blacks in that area, at that time?

FZ: No.

GG: They came off the ship?

FZ: Let's see. Mostly all Hawaiian. No blacks,

GG: Were there fights very often on the streets?

FZ: No. They no fight. Unless you looking for trouble. They good boys. They never looked for trouble.

GG: Only if it comes to them, then they....

FZ: Yeah. That's the only time.

GG: Do you recall, any time, Palama gang, or people would come down to Kakaako?

FZ: They were going to have a big fight one time. School Street and Palama. They came down our district ask the boys for help. So that's how they went and helped the School Street bunch.

GG: The School Street bunch asked the Kakaako boys for help?

FZ: Yeah.
GG: And so what happened?

FZ: So then, they got on a big truck. They were looking for that bunch up Palama. They couldn't find nobody around. They loaded that truck with boys.

GG: Did they just come back?

FZ: Yeah, they have to come back. Nothing happened.

GG: Do you remember when that was?

FZ: Gee, long time ago. I just don't know what year. So many of them went out there.

GG: Do you remember anything about the first World War, because you were still here then?

FZ: Oh the first war? We don't have to wait till they draft us in the army. We want to register, you know. Everybody want to register to join the army. I was 17 years old. Go ahead, join the army.

GG: Did you join?

FZ: I think we were too young. Yeah, me and my brother, we wanted to join the army. We don't wait for no draft.

GG: Where did you have to go to try and sign up?

FZ: Down the district someplace, I guess. The first war, you know. Why wait for the draft. If you lucky, you don't get in the draft, that's all right. But you're not lucky, well, get in there. Maybe you come back alive, maybe you not.

GG: Do you remember seeing any boats in the harbor, or anything like that, connected with the war?

FZ: No. Those days, we didn't see any. They was strict the time, see. Wartime.

GG: And did you have much to do with other Chinese people in the area? Did you have friends that were Chinese?

FZ: Yeah. We have some friends, but we never get among together. Good friends. Never get among together, see. They stay too far away. The only time we see 'em is sometime Sunday. When they come pass by Magoon Block. Yeah, lot of them old now. Some of them not living, some are still living.

GG: And what do you remember about Magoon Block?

FZ: Oh, Magoon Block was a good block. And lot of boys were living upstairs.
They all sleep on the floor, sleep outside the veranda. Get a mat. That's how they sleep. It's not cold. They used to have boys doing that.

GG: Those were boys that...

FZ: They have homes, you know. But they rather hang around the boys.

GG: Who paid the rent?

FZ: Oh, the boys all, they make money. They swimming, eh. They all chip in. Somebody rent the place. Wasn't that expensive during that time, see. The rent was cheap.

GG: And what about Squattersville, do you remember that?

FZ: Oh, yeah. Squattersville. Lot of people used to build home down there.

GG: Whereabouts was it?

FZ: Let's see. Let me think. You see, here's Fisherman Wharf. Right on the right side, that's where Squattersville was. Lot of people build their home there. They been staying there. They had a nice place to swim. Mostly all Hawaiians move down there. Then, later on, I think they chase them out. I don't know what.

GG: Do you remember ever going into Squattersville?

FZ: Yeah.

GG: Do you know people that lived down there?

FZ: My cousin Lei, the family used to live. They built a home down there. They go down there all the time. And they sleep down there, or either sleep at home. By Honolulu Iron Works, over there. Quite a place, that Squattersville. Before.

GG: And people just started doing that and building a place down there?

FZ: Yeah. They build a home there, and they lived there for a while.

GG: And that time, nobody in the city, or whatever, complained about them?

FZ: Yeah. Nothing happened. I don't know how they got 'em out.

GG: Well, is there anything else you remember, or would like to mention?

FZ: Gee, oh about the Fisherman Wharf over there. That's where I started learning how to swim there.

GG: What was there at the time, when you started to learn to swim? Was the
wharf actually there?

FZ: Nothing there. Just a beach. People have their old home, old shack building along the beach. All over. And that Ala Moana road used to be muddy when it rained. I mean muddy, you walk barefoot, you know. Walk from there to way out Waikiki, Ena Road. And the roads all muddy. They call that akulikuli one side. That's where they used to have those things, but the Dillingham bought the property way out there.

GG: That was all kind of swamp land then?

FZ: Yeah. Swamp land. When rain, oh, the Ala Moana road, it's muddy. You barefoot. I'll say, you barefoot because you can't go with the shoes. Barefoot all right. We used to walk all barefoot, eh. Them were the old days. And you know Ward Street, coming down. Before you reach the Fisherman Wharf, coming down. It's on the right side. They used to have a place, where they used to make salt. Gee, you pass it when the sun shine, that's salt, eh, burn your eye, you know, from the salt. Red salt, white salt.

GG: Because it was so bright, or from the fumes.

FZ: Maybe it's from the salt. Yeah, they used to make salt over there. Hawaiian salt.

GG: Who used to make it?

FZ: Gee, I don't know. They used to have that. We used to pass there all the time. We never used to go in there and step on the salt. Because the people going use the salt on their....

GG: What about opium? Do you remember anybody involved in opium at that time?

FZ: Yeah. A lot of these young guys don't know nothing. That time, they were dredging the Honolulu Harbor. And way down Fort Armstrong, Pier 2, they used to fill up the place there. And I have a friend, still living now, he living at Marco Polo hotel. And he was there. He stretch his two arm, he had all the opium can. The water, he wen rush 'em down. He couldn't hold on any longer. See, his arm got so tired, you know. So, everybody had opium those days. I had two can, $60 a can.

GG: You had to pay for it?

FZ: No, they buy it. Somebody buy it.

GG: Oh, you had it to sell to somebody else?

FZ: Yeah. They buy it; $60 a can.

GG: Was it legal at that time, or was it already illegal?

FZ: No. Illegal. And then, gee, all the boys had money. We go in the theater,
they had Bijou Theater, everybody get a front seat because they had so much money that time.

Oh, I never forget. We used to sneak in from the back. Me and this fella Warren Kealoha, the backstroke champion. Very good sell newspaper. We go down and buy us sandwich. We go back there and sneak in. We climb over that theater, get in there.

GG: It was an open air theater?
FZ: Yeah, open air, yeah, Bijou.

GG: And then you'd climb over the top?
FZ: Climb over the top. Them were the days. They never come and chase us out. Yeah, we used to sell paper late, that time.

GG: Who would buy the opium? The older fellows from the stores?

GG: If you sold one for $60, was that cheap those days, or was that a good price?
FZ: Good money for us, $60 a can.

GG: Right, but would they turn in....
FZ: I don't know how much they sell it at regular price. Maybe higher than that. But we sold 'em $60.

GG: Thought you were making out, eh?
FZ: Gee. Lot of boys had money, those days.

GG: And what kind of a can was it in?
FZ: It's a can like this. Copper can. Made out of copper.

GG: And how did it get where they were dredging?
FZ: They dredged the Honolulu Harbor.

GG: Right. But I mean, did they bring it in on boats, and then if they were getting raided, they'd throw it overboard, or....
FZ: I think they brought it in on a ship, and maybe that person didn't receive that sack of opium. Maybe it got loose and went down the bottom, see. That's a lot of opium they had. One time, they had a fella there; he had $3,000 in gold coins, you know. He tied around with a cord, then he put 'em around his neck. And he dove in the water. He got tangled in it around his neck, and he got drowned.
GG: How come he had the coins around his neck?

FZ: Well, he get the cord you know. So, instead of going down in the water slow, he wen dive in the water, see. That's why he got tangled around his neck, the cord. He got drowned.

GG: Was that one of the divers, or was he going to get the opium?

FZ: No, one of those guys working for that outfit, I think. All gold coin. The body came up with the whole sack of gold coins. Lucky the boys didn't see that. They go in there and take the whole sack.

GG: But what was he going in the water with the gold coins for, with the sack?

FZ: You see, he dove in the water, then he was going to the ship. Give the coin to the guy. See, that got the opium on the ship. But he missed out. He got that cord tangled around his neck, and the cord took 'em down. You know how heavy that $3,000 in gold was. That's heavy, you know.

GG: Right. I can imagine. So, did they ever recover the money?

FZ: Yeah, the body came up with the money.

GG: Tied around his neck.

FZ: I don't know who saw him. God darn it. Lucky the boys didn't see it.

GG: They would have been rich.

FZ: Yeah. Gold coin. That's how they used to smuggle, you know. Go to the ship. Nighttime.

GG: If he swam out and gave the gold coins, if he's lived, then how would the opium get back to shore?

FZ: Well, they get some way. They tell 'em where the opium, you know. Maybe they throw the whole sack down. Those cans heavy, you know, opium inside. They look like, oh, I don't know what the heck they look like.

GG: Sort of like a bullet-shape, or....

FZ: No. And the can like that. Just like some kind of liquid, you know. Tall like.

GG: And copper on the outside too?

FZ: Yeah, copper. All copper can.

GG: And how long, about?

FZ: Like that square.
GG: So maybe about 8, 10 inches?
FZ: Yeah. About that high.

GG: And they brought it in from China? Is that where it was being brought in from?
FZ: Yeah. The smuggler bring 'em in.

GG: Did they ever have raids?
FZ: They raid 'em. Customhouse. They raid 'em, yeah. Maybe they didn't raid him, so he got that thing all ready. That's a lot of money, those days, $3,000 in gold. Everything was cheap that time.

GG: When you worked as a caddy, did you get paid in paper money, or silver money?
FZ: We get paid in silver money. You make, you get 35 cents, well they give you 35 cents, 75 cents. They always have the money ready to pay the caddy.

GG: So did you get a salary, or only your tips from caddying?
FZ: You caddy, you get paid from the caddy master. Depend the guy, you caddy for, they tip you, it's okay. You get no tip, well, you just get the pay.

GG: Were there any important people that you remember that you caddied for at that time?
FZ: Francis Brown. He was the most important one. That Brown. "Any caddy here?" Francis Brown there, they all come upstairs. But only one person can caddy him, see. He's a good man, Francis Brown. He used to have three other people, visitor, you know. Go and play with him in the afternoon. And he paid for all the caddy. The people he brought in, they don't have to pay. Because Brown always take care of that. He's a good man. Real sportman.

GG: Shall we stop there, unless you have anything else you want to say?
FZ: What can I say, now.

GG: Do you remember any funny things that happened in Kakaako, when you were growing up? Or especially sad things?
FZ: No, nothing. Everybody were happy.

GG: How do you feel about Kakaako at this point, as having been where you came from?
FZ: Well, it's all right. But if the building not there, people not there, you know, Gee, everything so changed. Pohukaina School changed. But the
playground is still there yet, Mother Waldron playground.

GG: Did you know Mother Waldron at all?

FZ: Oh, yeah. She was strict. You get to listen to her. And you can't answer back to her. She was a nice woman.

GG: Did you ever have any problems with her?

FZ: No. I was nice to her, and she nice to me. Yeah, she was nice woman.

GG: Were you surprised, when you came back from the Mainland. You were gone 1937 to 1970. Now, when you came back and saw the changes in Kakaako...

FZ: Yeah, lot of changes. Magoon Block wasn't there. They knock everything down.

GG: How did you feel about that?

FZ: Well, nothing you can do. All that place belong to Magoon. They used to have cottages in the back. See, Dan Kaleikini's grandfather used to live in the back there. Dan Kaleikini, he act just like the grandfather. No change in that family. They all alike, happy-go-lucky. The grandfather used to come talk to the boys, smoke his pipe, and he barefooted. He walk barefoot at that time. He always come and talk to the boy. Yeah, I used to know the daughters, I know all the boys. I don't know if that youngest girl still living yet. I heard the second youngest, I think the youngest one died.

GG: Did mostly Hawaiians live in the cottages behind Magoon Block?

FZ: Yeah. Most Hawaiians. Japanese, you know. Lot of Hawaiian used to live on Magoon Block. All that place there. There's another place, too, lot of Hawaiians used to live. Ah Leong Block, they call. Way down, near the Hall of Justice, over there. Lot of Hawaiians used to live around there.

GG: Were the Chinese kind of scattered throughout the area?

FZ: Yes. They scattered. Way out the Kewalo district. Chinese used to run the store there, you know.

GG: Now, the area you lived in at Kapiolani was actually Kakaako, and not Kewalo area.

FZ: No.

GG: It was Kakaako. And then, did some Chinese live, though, in...

FZ: Yeah, they run the stores around there. They live in the back of the store, you know. The Chinese people.
GG: Do you remember what Chinese stores were there, at that time?

FZ: They had a store there, run by the Yap family. I don't know who's still living from that family. Most of them passed away.

GG: Were there any Chinese stores in Magoon Block, downstairs?

FZ: Yeah, they have quite a few Chinese store.

GG: Were those, like, grocery stores, or what kind?

FZ: Yeah. Kind of grocery store. Like clothing store. Japanese run the barber. All Japanese run the barber. Quite a few Chinese people run the store there, Magoon Block. You don't see many more. I think lot of them not living today.

GG: When the ones that were there moved out of Kakaako, was there a particular area that they went to?

FZ: Gee, I don't know where they moved. They all scatter far apart, you know.

GG: How was it your family happened to stay there for 65 years?

FZ: I don't know. Of course, when you have a home, you don't want to move. You got to buy a place, you got to build, going cost you more money.

GG: And your father bought the place, or leased it from...

FZ: No, he bought the place.

GG: Do you know whom he bought it from?

FZ: Gee, I don't know. From some people.

GG: And at least you were in an area, then, that they weren't tearing down or...

FZ: No, not yet. I think later on, they tear down all those houses around there.

GG: Is the house where you grew up still there now?

FZ: No, gone down. They put up wooden building there. One story building. I thought it was a concrete building. Cost so much money to build now, anyhow.

GG: Okay, well I think that's it, then, for today.

END OF INTERVIEW.
REMEMBERING KAKA‘AKO: 1910–1950

Volume I

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