BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: ANONYMOUS, housewife

This Visayan interviewee who prefers to remain anonymous was born in 1904 in Abalolang, Siquijor, one of ten children. Her parents died when she was an infant and she was raised by an older brother and sister-in-law.

She immigrated to Hawaii in 1921, along with her brother, and married on Kauai in 1922. She and her husband had a small child when they participated in the 1924 strike. Her husband was arrested and either was deported or voluntarily returned to the Philippines.

She has remarried and raised a large family on Kauai.
[This is an interview with Mrs. (Anonymous). Today is August 19, 1978. We're at Kilauea, Kauai. Her husband (H) is also present, along with her friend (F)].

F: Well, anyway, these are my friends who want to find out what happened at the time of the strike. And I was saying, "Well, I know this woman who knows an awful lot about the strike because she was there with the group of strikers." They were saying that when they came back again [to Kauai], that they would like to really meet you and talk with you. And I said that's probably possible; we could do that. That's why, when I saw your child, then I told the child.

And the child said, "Oh yes, just call her up."

And when the interviewers arrived at our place, that's when we decided to come here. Because they want to find out the real story. Because they'll put it in a book.

X: Well, I'm not sure how much I can really say because I had a small child at the time.

F: Yeah, well, whatever it is that you remember that you haven't forgotten, that's what you tell them. That's all.

Go start now. I no going talk already.

CT: When were you born?
X: I born 1904.
CT: What day?
X: February 15.
CT: And where were you born?
X: I born in Abalolang, Siquijor.

I don't know how look like my mother and my father. Because I was seven week, my mother and my father passed away. That's why, I don't know how look like. I know I was 14 year old [when] my oldest brother, he tell me that our parents, the time he was small, they die. So that's the time, he tell me, [when] I was 14 year old. He no tell me always, the beginning, [about] my mother and my father, because he no like I get sick. Because if he tell me that my mother and my father died, maybe I all time had that sick; [and it would be] hard for them. That's what he said. "So, I tell you only now, when you got 14 year old." So, that time he tell me, I cry like what, because why he no tell me? And different now [when] I call [them]. That's why I feel funny kind, because I call, not mother and father. I call different: Manang, manoy [elder sister, elder brother]. So, he said, "No can help, because I no tell you. You was still small. Small time, I no want you got sick." All, even my grandparents was alive yet, he no tell me.

CT: So the language that you speak is English and Visayan?

X: Yeah, only now, only over here, I learn English. In the Philippine, I always talk Visayan.

CT: When did you come to Hawaii?

X: 1921. The month December. I think the end of the December. I think 29, or... anyway, it's almost pau, the December. And that, I arrive, Golden Street. The boat I arrive, Golden Street, the name. American boat, eh.

CT: And, from where in the Philippines did you....

X: Reach over here? In Makaweli, Camp 6. I, straight over there.

CT: Why did you come to Hawaii?

X: Oh, I come Hawaii because my brother, he bring me and the wife.

CT: Well, you came with your brother, and they went to work at Makaweli?


CT: And what kind job did you brother do?

X: He raise cane. And then, he was going bring me the time he go back. But I married already. He said, "Never mind if you married already. More better you go with me, because me, the young days, I bring you over here. And I go back our place, come back with me, more better you come, you come home with me."

I tell, "Okay, I going tell my husband."
My husband, he no like I go. But I no can do nothing. I only cry, because I like go too, eh. But lucky, too, I story all my children that one. "Lucky Ma, you know, you no go back with my uncle. If you go back, me no more today. Me, no more. Only, da kine, my sister. You lucky. You look, you get children. All, you get grandchildren." They tell me like that. "So, good, Ma."

CT: When did you marry [your first husband]?

X: Not long time, because I married young. That's why, my brother, he no like. And my sister, he no like I married. I married, no full 16, yet. That time. So, about almost 16 make, anyway.

CT: So, you came in 1921? And then, were you married at that time?

X: I married in 1922, January.

CT: Where did you meet your [first] husband?


CT: Oh, where is he from?

X: He from Cebu, Argao. But I don't know if he alive, because the time, the strike time, he sent home. They went all them, you know, the men, the wife all stay back. Yeah, you remember, no? Yeah, all stay back.

CT: When you went to Camp 6 with your brother, did you work, too?

X: No, I no work. I no work because me young. And only I come, I young, eh. Even Philippines, I didn't work.

CT: But at that time, did you live with your brother?

X: Yeah, I live with brother. He support me, he buy me clothes, shoes, give me everything. That's why, he really sad, my brother and sister-in-law; because he like I go back with them.

CT: When did they go back?

X: He go back, I get baby already. I just got, I think about two month, three month, my baby. That time. Because strike time, was two year half, my baby. So, I think he go home 1923, I think.

CT: So he didn't finish his three-year contract, then?

X: No, he paid.

CT: He paid his own?

X: Yeah. He no finish the contract. Because he like go home. He no like the job.
CT: Why did he go home?

X: He like go home because he said all hard. You know, before, only little bit pay, too, eh. But he pay the transportation. I get two brother, he come that time. I was just small yet. That my oldest one. He come Hawaii but I don't know what place he go, that time.

CT: When was this?

X: I think, that time, first war, I think. [World War I] Because I was small, yet, that time. First war was German and America.

CT: Did you go to school in Philippines?

X: No. That's why, no more mother and father, hard. Nobody to help support the school. And my brother had hard time living, too. He get five kids. With me, six. Him the one, he keep me.

That's when, the time I go Philippines, last year, 1977. Because now, 1978, eh. So, that time, I go Philippines, 1977, I so happy because I thought my brother, my sister still living. But, come to find out, he die. So this one, I tell you and even [if] you no ask me. Before, I get my children, already. I get, I think, about five children. So my oldest brother, he write to me because us got big land in the Philippines. He tell me, "Sister, the reason I write to you is about the land. Because I no can sell without let you know. Is up to you because our parents, before he pass away, he put all the land, he put all your name, no more else. He no put my name, only your name."

I don't know that. So then, I answer, I tell, "You know, Brother, if up to me, I don't want to sell. Because good for your children, the young generation." I talk like that. "To me, I no care that, because I got plenty children over here. Me, I no can tell if when I go home. So, no sell."

That's why, I thought he no sell. Because he cannot sell. And then, the time I go Philippines, I find out through my cousin--because I get my first cousin--you know all the place, the one, the place he stay, even this one, he stayed my place. Because I got big place. You know, got the store up there, and that store over there. I got big place, I don't know how many acre. And then, the time I go over there, I tell my cousin, "Excuse me, Cousin, my place, my house over here." Now, to me, no broke down yet. Because all the lumber, eh. My brother carpenter. So all lumber; the Philippines, most bamboo and, da kine, coconut. Not coconut, but just like coconut. But ours one, no.

She said the time the Japanese come, all the house burn.

I tell, "Oh. Yeah, because I remember, over here my house."
She said, "Yeah. All, he fire. How many house, all, he fire. The Japanese." No can help, war time, eh.

And then, I ask, "How about my land?"

And then, my cousin, he said, "He sell. You brother, he sell. Old brother. Da kine, you call Manoy."

I tell, "How can sell? He no sell that. Because he write to me, and I answer right away that you no sell. Because he tell me he cannot sell because it's my name."

And he said, "I don't know the one, he tell he sell just because your brother, he die, and you no more brother and sister he can witness. All die, your sister and your brother."

"So, who the one, he buy?" If he buy.

And he said, "I think, that one, only he tell his sell, because your brother, he die." My cousin, he said, "I think he borrow money only for go Mindanao." Because my brother, he go Mindanao.

I ask him, "Who buy?"

He said, "Our cousin."

So I go, I find out. So my first cousin, he die, and that one, he die. So I get niece from my cousin children. Two teacher, only three of them--four, supposed to be, but the oldest one, boy, he die--so only three, all girl. So I go over there. And even he surprised, because he no hear from me. He said, "Oh, you Aunty." Two times, yeah, he said. "He stay alive yet. I thought you died, because us no hear." That's what he said, you know.

And then, I tell, "Okay, I no stay. You stay after that one, but I find out first, all about my land." I said, "Your mother, the one, he buy."

He said, "I don't know that, Aunty."

And I tell, "If you don't know, I can take 'em back. If how much, my brother, he sell?"

He said, "He sell $40."

I tell, "Ai, all same Hawaii. The Hawaiian people in Hawaii. So long he get one bottle of whiskey, he going sell 'em."

They tell, "I don't know, Aunty." So, he said, "You can take 'em, Aunty, any time."

"If $40, I give you 500, money, in Philippines." Because the 40 peso is Philippine money.
So, he said, "Yeah you can take 'em."

So my husband he came inside. He said, "If you can take 'em? Sure, you can take 'em. If us take 'em, only us pay the tax for nothing. And us, we stay Hawaii, and us get place in Hawaii." My husband tell me that. "Ah, let 'em go. Give them. Never mind. No sell, nothing. You give them, more better. Not something to us. That he take care your place."

So I tell like that. If somebody as I, I take 'em. So that's the one.

CT: Do you have religion?

X: My religion Catholic.

CT: Do you go to church over here?


CT: What is the name of the church?

X: Saint Sylvester.

CT: When did you marry [your second husband]?

X: I married him---you know, us stay only together, first time. And then, us married, 1930. July 15.

CT: And how long did you stay together, before that?

X: You figure that one, I think about 10 years already. Yeah, and then us married.

CT: After the strike?

X: Oh, yeah. Long time, the strike. Long time, already that, and then us married. Maybe about 10 year.

CT: So, after you got married to [first husband] then, where did you live, at that time?

X: I live with my cousin. But I forget the name. Long time, that's why. I stay with her until I married.

CT: Okay, you came to Hawaii in 1921, then, 1922, you got married to [first husband]? Then, after you got married to [him], where did you live?

X: That place, Camp 6. I no like go strike, that time. But, everybody, especially Visayan, he like strike. My husband, my first husband, he said, "More better us go, because no good. Bumbai, us
get trouble." He no like strike, too, but because of me. But all time, he tell, "Us get trouble."

CT: What kind trouble?

X: He said, "Bumbai, all they strike, he come get us, he make trouble." That's what he worry.

CT: What kind trouble could they have done?

X: No, you know what my husband, he think. Bumbai them, they all time come. You know, they come our house. Because he know us. "Why you no strike?"

"Maybe, no can tell, he lick me. He no lick you [wife], but he going lick me."

CT: Somebody going lick your husband?

X: Yeah. That's what my husband, he tell. That's why he go strike. Plenty, you know, people, he no like strike, that time.

CT: Who was the one that wanted to strike?

X: I forget. I no can remember that one. So anyway, that Pablo Manlapit, all time he talk to the people. "Go strike because good. They can more high, you guys' pay. Because how sad, with you get big family. You get family to support, only $1."

CT: Did you ever hear Pablo Manlapit talk?

X: I no hear, though. Long time, I no hear. I don't know if he stay alive yet.

CT: No, did you hear him before?

X: Oh yeah. I see him personal, that time. The meeting, eh, he go. In the strike place.

CT: Where was the meeting?

X: In, da kine, the place us go strike. Hanapepe.

CT: So, he made a speech?

X: Yeah. He speak. He said, "Now, I make you guys together a strike. But I no want you guys make trouble. Anything, what you want, you call me; I going fix. I no want you get in trouble. You guys no understand what the people, he talk, you tell me. I going talk to them. No trouble. No trouble, this one, I tell you guys first, no make trouble." So he said.

CT: How many times did you hear Pablo Manlapit talk?
X: I think, if I no mistake, about—that time, because not long time, eh, the strike. I think about three time, I think he come. The time, after he talk to us, to all the strike people, and then, that's the time, the beginning, he start the trouble. Manlapit, he no was. That's why, that time, Manlapit, he said. Ho, we hear his cry, even the tears come down. Because the people, the plenty Filipino die. More worse, that time we hear that he [the policemen] shoot the people without wrong. Because he [strikers] run, you not supposed to shoot, eh. And he shoot.

Us so scared, I tell you, us no come out. Even my husband, he no come out. He stay inside the hall. I get my baby. Plenty, all the lady, all he stay.

CT: How many ladies inside the strike?

X: Plenty, though. I no can count. Plenty. That's why, all the people, the men, he said, "You guys, everybody, lady, go inside the house. Inside the house with the baby." Because he [policemen] no shoot the house. He tell he no make trouble.

CT: How many women, you think? About 20?


CT: And how many children?

X: He got some, he got three. Some, he get four. Get two. Like me, only one, mine.

Ho, that time, that's real sad. I tell you. Me, I cry.

CT: How many men over there?

X: The men, more plenty. Because single and married. The men, plenty.

CT: About how many?

X: I think about 100, I think. Yeah. But, I tell you, that time, the one man, he come, the Ilocano, he volunteer for join un. But, after that one, the Filipino, the one he working Makaweli, he come see him. Plenty of them. And he tell, "Please, us no make trouble. Only, I ask these men if you want to go back in Camp 4."

And the men, he tell, "No, I don't want to go back."

But, I think the men [who] come to see him got the feeling he want to go back. He no can do nothing so he call the police. That's the time. He call the police right away. He grab the man, he no ask. That's why, that's the time, he got mad, the people, the strikers. He [strikers] got mad because he just grab, he [police]
no wait until the Filipino explain why you come over here. He no wait, just grab. The police, see, he grab.

And then, because he got mad, the Filipino even no more gun, he try to fight, because they make like that, the gun [makes motion of pointing gun]. He make like that, the gun. All line up, the gun. The police.

CT: How many? How many police?

X: I don't know, that one. I think plenty, though. I think about ....20 or more under. And against no more gun. Only he strike, no more gun, he no want to make trouble. Because the man, only one man only, he got killed for how many people. Only one man, how many Filipino he die. If he [the police] talk nice, the Filipino, he no get mad. If he explain, if he want to go back, the strikers no can do nothing if he want to go back. That's the one he like, the people, the Filipino he strike. But he no wait, he just take 'em. Just grab the hand, put in the car. So...

CT: That time, were you watching them?

X: Oh, I look. But so scared, that's why run away. I go inside the da kine. Because all the men, he said, "All the ladies go inside."

CT: When did they say that? When they told you go inside?

X: The time the police almost he start shoot. That's the time he make us go inside; everybody go inside. Because us make like that [cowering], all nervous, us.

CT: Shaking?

X: Yeah. So scared because he get the gun. Ho, big gun, that one he bring.

CT: And the Filipino---that one Filipino, he never like go back?

X: He no like go back, the time. But the policemen, the time, the policeman---I tell you, the policemen, he come, he just grab. He no wait until he ask question. Supposed to ask question before he take. He want to go back or he want to stay. But because he just grab 'em, that's why the Filipinos come fire.

CT: Who got mad?

X: Me, I no can remember, but plenty Filipinos, he get mad.

CT: Even the one that he had grab? That one got mad, too?

X: Oh yeah, he get mad. He get mad because---sure he get mad. And then not long time, them the one, he start shoot. Not the Filipino, because no more gun, eh, the Filipino.
CT: Nobody had gun?
X: Nobody got gun.
CT: What about small pistol?
X: No more. Only knife. Because no can do nothing, he tried to fight with knife only. Because he start shoot already; somebody die already. That's why. The Filipino no care if he die, so long he got police, he make. I don't know, three policeman, or four. I not sure, I think about that one. One policeman, he got pocket-knife in the stomach.
CT: Pocketknife?
X: Yeah. He died for that. You know, anybody, when he get mad, he don't know what he do, what he stay doing.
CT: The Japanese School had window?
X: The place us is stay? Got. Got window.
CT: So when you went inside, could you look outside?
X: Oh, us no look already. (Laughs) Us hide. Because so scared, us. All closed, the window. But if in case he shoot, I think all us die over there. But is big trouble, eh, if he going shoot us is stay inside the house with the kid, plenty children. But us no have hard time, because us eat.
CT: When you first went on strike, how did you go from Camp 6 to Hanapepe?
X: Straight over there, the place.
CT: Did you walk, or ride truck?
X: Oh. Ride truck.
CT: Whose truck?
X: I don't know that.
CT: And what did you take with you to Hanapepe?
X: I bring my baby, I bring blanket and bed.
CT: What kind bed?
X: You know, that kind bed, old kind style. You know, what you call that one?
F: Soldier bed?
X: Yeah.

CT: Oh, the cot?

X: Yeah. Because easy, eh, for keep small. That's right, soldier bed.

CT: And what else?

X: That's all.

CT: What about clothes?

X: Oh yeah. Clothes, us bring. What, if no bring clothes, how can change? (Laughs) Yeah, us bring clothes.

CT: Did you bring everything you own?

X: Yeah. Everything. No more nothing inside the house. Everything, us bring. Even the stove.

CT: Stove, too? And where did you sleep, in Hanapepe?

X: That place, that big house.

F: In the hall.

X: The hall.

CT: Did everybody sleep in there?

X: Yeah. Everybody, he sleep.

CT: Nobody slept outside?

X: I don't know. Maybe he got some, he sleep outside. But most all, inside big hall. Under, he sleep, under the house.

CT: Oh, under the house, too?


CT: And what about food? Where did you get the food?

X: I don't know where he come from, that food.

CT: Did you bring food to Hanapepe, from your house?

X: Oh, that time, the first time us bring the rice and everything. But after that one, us got food.

CT: What kind food?
X: That one us eat, us used to eat. The kind inside the can, and, rice, fish, any kind.

CT: And, who did the cooking?

X: Oh, the cooking, he get somebody. Us only eat, somebody cook.

CT: The wahine no cook?

X: No cook, the men, he cook.

CT: The men cook?

F: Filipino style.

CT: So what the wahine did?

X: Us only sit down and story about how our life when us pau this kind strike. Us like go back. Us tell like that. Only that one. So, that's all; play card.

CT: And talk about going back to Philippines?

X: No, go back to work. (Laughs) Go back Philippines? No can, eh, no more money. (Laughs) Yeah, only think for go back work. Because you get food but you no more money. You like some---you buy something important for your life...

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

H (X's husband): ....collect for the strike, but they no bring all.

X: Got plenty, outside, they go collect.

H: Baring, Doro. Ho, number one for---he going collect, any camp. You know, during the strike.

X: But he no give, the strike.

H: They go over there for ask the help. Somebody give help. Maybe no more half-way he going bring the strike men.

X: Money, he give money. He no bring to the strike place.

CT: Who is this?

H: Oh, die already.

CT: What was his name?
H: Isidoro Baring. Number one, I hear the story about the striker before. That man number one, he just like syndicate. (Laughs)

CT: So you were talking about the food, and I asked you if you ever thought food was short.

X: No short. Always had food.

H: Because, you know, some people outside, they don't care for help, too. Because they keep going for work. So long the strikers no bother them, they give help. So they get enough for eat in the strike camp.

X: Because if he no help, because he put the name, eh, he get the name over there. Other strikers going bother them.

CT: What about the babies, what kind of food did they eat?

X: Oh the baby? About myself, I feed my breast. Some, he get the bottle.

CT: So they could get milk, too?

X: Yeah.

CT: Did you folks go buy from the stores in Hanapepe?

X: I no remember. For myself, I no buy. Only us eat what us like, over there already, the place I stay, in the hall.

CT: What about toilet?

X: Got toilet paper.

CT: What kind toilet?

X: That one need roll.

F: Toilet paper?

X: Toilet paper.

CT: What about toilet? Was it...

X: Got toilet.

CT: Flush toilet?

X: Yeah. Flush toilet.

CT: And had enough for everybody?

X: Yeah. Because, I think he got about three toilet over there. So
we got enough.

CT: What about taking a bath?

X: He got da kine, too, for take a bath over there. We got shower.

CT: So, you remember who the leaders of the strike were?

X: The one inside, I don't know, I no remember all the one. But that one, Pablo Manlapit, only I know.

F: Inside is Badong.

X: Huh?

F: Badong inside.

X: Yeah, Badong.

H: Badong in charge.

X: What the real name, that one? Salvador? Or Badong? Yeah, him the one, the leader over there. Named Badong.

CT: And only him? Nobody else inside?

X: Maybe, but I not sure who his gang.

CT: How many people from Camp 6 went on strike?

X: I forget, I don't know how many.

F: All the Visayan.

X: Most, Visaya. And he stay back, the Ilocano. Most, Visaya, you know, he strike.

CT: How many Ilocano?

X: No more. (Laughs)

CT: Not even one?

X: Only that one, I think, he no take 'em back, the policemen. You know, take only that one, I think.

CT: Did you ever talk to him?

X: No. I don't know who that, first time, yet, if get somebody he stay. Because he stay in the other room, eh, under. Us, we stay up.

CT: Then, after all the shooting---well, how long do you remember, the shooting went on?
X: I don't know. I no can remember.

CT: Five minutes? Ten minutes?

X: Maybe. More than that, I think.

CT: Half an hour?

X: About that, I think, though. Because plenty people, you know, he run behind the hall. Somebody, he die over there, he reach in there, he was going hide. He go shoot. He run because he don't want to fight. If he coming from the police, he not supposed to shoot, because he run. He protect hisself, he not supposed to---if go in front of them, all right. 'Fight them, that's got right for fight, for shoot. But he run. He run, so that's the one, me think, though, it's wrong. Really wrong, because if he run like that, he protecting body, he no like die, that's why he run. But what? He shoot. What I hear, got plenty police, cowboy, I think. That's why he got plenty died. I think that's when he die, I think about 20.

H: No more.

F: Sixteen, I think. Sixteen or 15.

X: Yeah, about 16; 17, I think. Because I thought was 20, but I think, if I no mistake, about 17, I think.

CT: What happened when all the shooting was pau? What happened?

F: Pick up the dead.

X: The time....pick up the dead. And all us cry.

CT: You still were inside the hall?

X: Yeah, us is stay inside the hall. And I don't know, I no can remember what place he bring us.

CT: Somebody went in the hall with gun?

X: No, only outside. If he go inside with the gun, ho boy, I think us going die from scared. (Laughs) Only no shoot, us going die. Because all lady, no more men inside over there. All the man, he go outside. Yeah, because I no forget, only I hear the people--men--he said, "All the lady with the kid, inside the hall." That's what he said. Because he get da kine shooting. Bumbai you got hit, shooting. Shoot the people, I don't know that one. Anyway, plenty, he tell like that. "Everybody go inside, except the men."

CT: This is before the shooting started, they said that?

X: No, hear already the gun.
CT: Then, they told you go inside?
X: Yeah. All us run in the hall.

CT: Then afterwards, when all the shooting was pau, how did you know to go out?
X: Us go down because after the shooting, Manlapit, he come. To look, they pick up the dead.

CT: That day, Manlapit came?
X: Yeah. He come. Because he really sad.

CT: That same day?
X: Yeah, after the shooting, he come.

CT: But... you know, had the shooting, "Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang," maybe half an hour.
X: I think about that.

CT: Then, you stay in the room.
X: Us is stay in the room.

CT: Then what?
X: And then, the time pau shooting already, us stay yet, because plenty scared. Maybe he got yet and but said, "Everybody," he said, "come out, because Mr. Manlapit come." So us come out.

CT: One of the strikers said that?
X: Yeah. "Come out, everybody." That's what he said. He asked for the one that start the trouble.

"You guys the one start the trouble?" That's what he said.
We said, "No."

"Who the one, he start the trouble?"
He said, "The policemen. Because then us got mad. He start the trouble because he just grab the man. So he start the trouble, us got mad and then he shoot, same time."

I think the name Badong, I think, he got shot first. I don't know. Because the leader, quick get mad, you know, that man.

CT: Oh yeah. What happened to your husband, at that time?
X: No, he no go no place.

CT: He stay over there?

X: He scared. Even they scold him. He said, "What's the matter you? All same wahine, you stay inside the house."

CT: Only him?

X: Yeah.

CT: How about other men?

X: Oh, no. He got some, he got some, though.

CT: And then, that night, where did you sleep that night?

X: Oh, he bring us different place, I think. Make us sleep, I don't know, I no can remember what place he bring us. He no make us sleep.

CT: Who?

X: Manlapit. He tell for, "You sleep this place, you sleep that place." I think he tell already, that Manlapit told, "No sleep in that hall already." Because he no can continue already, the strike, eh. He pau already.

CT: What about your husband? That night, where did he sleep?

X: Oh, he sleep with me. But after that one, the policemen, he take them, all the men.

CT: All the men?

X: Yeah. Only him husband [refers to F]. He no take because he no stay.

F: Because our name no stay inside the striker. Our name stay in plantation--out. But not the strikers.

X: Yeah. Just like strike, but he stay outside, he rent the house.

CT: Did you know her [friend] at that time?

X: Yeah. I know.

CT: They take all the men?

X: They take all the men.

CT: Nobody left?
X: Nobody.

CT: Do you know where they took them?

X: They put in jail, I think.

CT: What jail?

X: I don't know what place. I no can, I so ignorant that time. I no can remember what place he put.

CT: Did they tell you where they take your husband?

X: He no tell. Nobody tell. Us, the wife, us surprised. "Where our husband? No can find." Us like find, no can find. Nobody tell us, "Your husband, he stay over there."

CT: So what did you do?

X: And then, he put, he send 'em Philippines. You see, that one, he no ask, he no tell me that he go Philippines. I don't know, for some people, maybe he tell, but he no tell me.

CT: Did they go to trial? Go to court?

X: I think so.

CT: Did you go to court, too?

X: No. Not one time I go so far. I like clean my name.

CT: Did you know your husband went to court?

X: I think so. All them. Maybe he go in the court.

CT: But you didn't know that he was going to court.

X: Us don't know. I only cry, because my baby young yet. Only about two year, I think. Because he born 1922, almost pau the 1922, November, she born, my girl. So young. Any place, I only feed my baby, cry. "So, this kind life I got, I don't know why I come. More better I go home with my brother." I talk like that. I cry only. Pray that I can control myself, especially I got baby, eh.

I thanks God, and tell I got plenty children. With $1, my children got good education. This one, I tell you, not all he go college, but most he go get. That's why my children got good job, good pay. That's why, I tell my children, "You guys lucky, now days." I talk like that. "You guys got good pay. My time, Papa, he work only $1 a day. That one, you surprised how I managed the clothes, and pay the bus. I pay the bus because I make them go school--all my children--Lihue. Not Kapaa. I pay all $11, every month. And how
many, my children, he go high school? Four; $11. How much I pay. Now lucky, free bus, free dentist. Ho, real squeeze, me, before." My children, when they got sore teeth, got to pay. Not also now. "That's why, you guys foolish if you no going school." I talk like that. Free, the bus; free, the dentist. My time, no.

CT: After the shooting, and then, when did your [first] husband get sent to the Philippines? When they sent him back to Philippines?

X: I no remember. When, not long time after the strike, though, he sent Philippines.

CT: One week, one month, two month?

X: I think, about no more two month, only. I think only about one month after strike, he send. Plenty of them, he send Philippines.

CT: And did you know that he was going?

X: I don't know. That's why I surprised. Why he no tell me? He so excited, my husband, he no talk nothing to me. And then, the time, he reach Philippines, that's the time he write to me.

CT: And what did he say in the letter?

X: He said, "I stay in the Philippines, I no can do nothing. I was going bring you, our baby, but I no can bring you guys. So up to you, if you marry over there again, because who going support you?"

CT: He said you can come back to Philippines, if you want?

X: No, he no tell me. Only he tell me, "Up to you, if you marry, so he got somebody who going support you and the baby. Because if I tell you, you come, I no more money for send you over there for come home."

CT: So you didn't even say, "Bye bye."

X: No. Only the time he write to me, then I answer. And then long time I no hear. And then somebody tell he die.

CT: So, from the time that they took him away to the time that you got the letter, did you see him at all?

X: No. I no see. Only the time, strike time. Only the time. From the time, pau.

CT: Nobody told you where he was?

X: So, only me. Although they strike, "Where your husband?"

I said, "I don't know. What if he killed?" I talk like that. "What if he killed? Why he no tell us? Nobody tell us."
CT: What about the other wahines? Thirty wahines.

X: All them, they stay back. And the husband, he go home. He get baby, two, three baby. Us all same, da kine, the cat or the dog. You no like the dog, especially if wahine kind, because you no like plenty dog in your house, he throw away. Us is like. Just throw away. Yeah. That's why, from the time, just like I get mad, I get mad to my husband. Why he no tell me? And then some lady said, "You know why? He so scared." No more time for see us.

CT: Where did you go to live after that?

X: I stay with my cousin. But my cousin, he die already.

CT: Where was your cousin living?

X: He live in Makaweli, Camp 4.

CT: So you and the baby, and your cousin?

X: Yeah. And then, I see this one [second husband], I married. So lucky I pick out right man. Yeah. Very good. So that's why, us no married together that time. All time, he tell me, "More better, us married."

I tell, "No." Because what if my husband--you know, the first husband--if he stay alive yet. No good. So us hear he died, that's why us married 1930, July 15.

Us stay long time. I think about 10 year, us together; got plenty children already. That's the time us married. All big already, my children go high school.

CT: When did you meet your husband?

X: I meet Camp 4.

CT: [Addressing second husband:] You were working Lihue, that time? Or you moved to...

X: Yeah, he work Lihue.

H: I work stevedore; after that, I quit plantation, I work down Ahukini.

X: I think that's my luck, though. Because he see me, me and my cousin walk. He [cousin] said us go holoholo by Lihue side. And then, I met this one, he come all time and see me.

H: He hold my bird, that's why.

(Laughter)
CT: How soon after, did you meet him?

X: Oh, not long time I stay with my cousin.

CT: About one month, two month, six months?

X: About four month.

CT: And then you met him?

X: Yeah. Because small yet, my oldest daughter. Just like his own baby. All, I follow, I put official, all his name. My daughter no more different kind last name. All same, this one. I story you about my number two son. Because the first wife from Tokyo, eh, because he was in the service. And then, almost he retire, she see haole, she going marry haole. She divorce to my son. And then, he got one baby. He marry again, he got one baby, haole. And poor thing, the stepson, he said, "Mommy, how many of us in the house?"

He said, "Yeah, I know. My brother." Because he go up tell the father, eh. "And you and me, so how many? Three, four of us in the house." That's what he say. "Why, you [last name]. My brother [last name], my dad [last name], and only me, different name?" He cry, you know. He sorry, because not long time, he come over here. He said, "Why, you no put [last name], my name." That's why, he put the father, he adopt 'em. He said, "I pity." He explained it to the mother, "How come all you guys [last name], except me?"

CT: You know that time, did you ever hear about Cayetano Ligot?

X: Yeah, I hear, though, that. Cayetano Ligot. He go against the strike, though, that one. Cayetano Ligot.

CT: Did you ever hear him talk?

X: I don't know. I no remember, only I hear the name, but I no hear he talk. I no see. Maybe he come. My head, that time, all da kine, any kind way. That's why I no can remember; maybe he was, Ligot.

CT: You know, talking about when you were in the strike camp, did you do anything besides play cards and talk story?

X: Only story. All my friend, because I get friend. Talk all the lady.

CT: How many people did you know in the camp, before you went there?

X: I know this, but the name....stay Waimea.

H: Ciano.
X: Ciano. But I forget, you know.

H: Ciano Bayot.

X: Yeah, Ciano Bayot. And the wife....

F: Still alive.

X: Yeah, what the name? I forget all the name. Maybe, if I see them, I know.

CT: Can I read to you some names? Maybe you remember then. Tell me if you remember their name. Tell me if you remember them, or their wife. [A list of arrested strikers is read. They recognize some names, but most of them have died.]

X: [You remember the man who] shoot, the bullet. Lucky he get the 5 cents.

H: I forget already. Domingo. He got shot right over here [points to his heart]. Lucky, he got quarter over here by the---you know, the shirt [pocket by heart]. The quarter, he showed me.

X: Yeah, that's the one, he save his life.

F: Hawaii now stay? He go Philippines?

H: I think die already, I don't know.

F: But he go home Philippines?

X: Yeah, he go home Philippines.

CT: But he showed you the quarter that he had over here?

X: Yeah. Plenty guys, he show. The people, he think he die, that man.

H: They wen take 'em, the quarter. That's why I had bin told him that time. Because good friend of mine, eh. "Why you give 'em?"

"Well, no can help because they inspection all my clothes, eh."

And he show the quarter, the quarter come crooked. Hit the bullet. If not the quarter, he gone already. Because right over here, eh.

CT: By his heart.

X: Yeah. Lucky, he save his life, though, that 25 cents. If me, I no give 'em, that money.

H: Cock-eye, that man.
CT: Have you heard of Evaristo Acebes?
X: Yeah, that Avaristo, that's the one. That one, he kill three policemen.
H: No, not three.
X: How many?
H: I don't know.
X: But anyway, he kill the policemen, though. Evaristo. Big guy. I don't know he stay alive yet, that man.
CT: How big?
X: Big body, and tall, Evaristo.
CT: And he never make? He kill some and....
X: Yeah, he no make. Too good, eh, for escape.
CT: This [name is] from the newspaper; Isidoro Baring.
X: Yeah, that's the one.
H: Yeah, your collector.
(Laughter)
X: Isidoro Baring. He collect, but he ask the people house to house, to get help for the striker, he give any kind. Rice, any kind. The money, he no bring over there. Crook, that guy.
F: He died.
CT: Is that the one had the car?
X: Yeah, he got car, I think.
H: He run the taxi dance before.
X: Yeah. Him...
H: That's why, he got car, he got time for collection, place to place.
X: Until now, he got the house.
H: No, he bin sell 'em.
X: Yeah, but, I mean, the house, he stay. But he sell 'em. What place that place he stay? Kukuiula.
CT: His house?
CT: He get children?
X: No more. Adoption only. He no stay Mauai, he stay mainland.
F: He's the leader, the mamiya.
X: Yeah, he run in the camp, so long he make money.
CT: What is mamiya?
H: Prostitute.
CT: Oh, oh.
(Laughter)
X: "What is mamiya?" Poor thing. I no blame you, you young yet, that's why.
CT: He bring 'em inside?
X: Yeah, he bring them out. And plenty Filipino, he go, too. So he make money, that's why he get nice house. (Laughs)
CT: Okay, but he was the collector?
X: Yeah, collector for the strike.
H: That man, eh, he's the boss for taxi dance. You know, the lady, he pick up from Honolulu, bring 'em his house. And he's salesman in Kauai Motor. His house, before, right behind where the Kauai Mortuary. Little more, I got caught. Koloa. Where I got caught? But I got right, too, eh. Because I bring the wahine, the girl, haole girl, from his house to bring to Koloa Landing. Because Waiakea, he wants to pass over there. And the policeman watch over there, the girl, she went down, right away, she ride a boat. Because the boat stay waiting, because the Waiakea, no can go close, by the landing, eh. The next day, the policeman, he catch me, bring the court.

Oh, I got big investigation in Koloa. And then, because I was working stevedore, "Before I attend the hearing, you call up first, my port captain Jack Bertrand. What my position in working place." He call up. Then, he asked me, "Where did you go last night?"

"I went Waimea, Waimea side. Because only myself, I saw one girl,
she standing by the roadside. And she sign that for ride
[thumbs out signal to hitch a ride], ride my car because she want
to go Honolulu."

X: So good, too, eh, if me the man. I no refuse, eh, because this
girl ready. Can kaukau, eh? (Laughs)

H: And then, I pick her up and I bring. Because she hear that Waialeale
going come by Koloa Landing, she told me that, "Bring me by the
Koloa Landing, because that Waialeale going pass over there."

Then, you know, the Koloa sheriff, before. He said, "Didn't you
know that that girl is a business girl?"

"How I know? She got nice clothes, and she bring the suitcase.
And she standing by the road. Just I pick up and I bring."

"You know that that girl, she is running the business?"

"I don't know."

"And why you pick her up?"

"Oh, that's human being, I pick her up and then I bring to the
landing. If that girl is real business girl, then why you catch
me? I'm not the business girl. I'm the man. Why you no catch
her, before you make me attend to the hearing."

X: Pau.

H: "You catch the girl first, before me. Not, you catch me and the
girl, you leave 'em. Because I'm not the business wahine, I'm the
man."

END OF INTERVIEW
The 1924 Filipino Strike on Kauai

Volume I

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