BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: JUNZO KOJIRI, retired truck driver

Junzo Kojiri, Japanese, was born on May 15, 1901 in Hiroshima, Japan, one of two children of Ryokichi and Iku Kojiri.

He grew up in Japan, and immigrated to Hawaii in 1915 to join his father and brother who were already working in Hawaii. When his father returned to Japan a few years later, Kojiri decided to stay on Kauai. He was a field worker at Makaweli Plantation from 1915-1918, surveyor's helper in 1918, and a track layer in Mana from 1919-1921. In 1921 he became a car and taxi driver for Waimea Stable and later continued as a truck driver for Kauai Commercial until his retirement in 1966.

He transported a carload of police officers to the site of the Hanapepe incident in 1924 and observed the events from his car parked a distance away.

Kojiri married Shizuyo Yamase in 1926; they had five children. He enjoys fishing and bonsai and is an active member of the Waimea Honpa Hongwanji church. The Kojiris live in Waimea.
CT: This is an interview with Mr. Junzo Kojiri, in Waimea, and today is August 17.

I just wanted to get some information first. You were born in Hiroshima in 1901. What was the date?


CT: Did you have sisters or brothers?

JK: I get one brother over here, Kaumakani. Hawaiian Sugar time.

CT: What was his name?

JK: Kentaro Kojiri.

CT: And your wife's name, before she married you, was what?

JK: Yamase.

CT: What was her first name?

JK: Shizuyo.

CT: And how many children?

JK: Four. Five, but one dead.

CT: Can you tell me the names?

JK: Toyoko, Kiyoko, Akie, and Junko. I know their English name, but, ah....

CT: What was your mother's name?

CT: And father's name?

JK: Ryokichi.

CT: And then, you went to school in Japan. Until what grade was that?

JK: Eighth grade.

CT: And for church, you go to...


CT: In Waimea, yeah?

JK: Yes.

CT: You belong to any other organizations?

JK: Not right now.

CT: Before?

JK: Before, I was in Japanese Association, eh, long time.

CT: What is the name of that?

JK: Nihonjinkai, eh.

CT: For what, Waimea?

JK: Yeah, Waimea.

CT: When did you get married?

JK: 1927, I think. 1926 or 1927.

CT: And you remember when your children were born?

JK: First one, my first children, October 24, 1927 or 1928, though; I don't know. Second one is....I don't know. I know April first; that I know. But, what year, I don't know. About four year different, anyway. And then, other ones are twins, eh. October 26, I think. That's another about four year different. I don't know what year.

CT: And, when did you retire?


CT: Okay. That's just the basic information I wanted to get from you, that I didn't get last time.

Can you tell me, again, why you came to Hawaii?
JK: Well, just... I don't want to come, you know, but my father, my brother tell me come to Hawaii, eh. You know, first, I like go some more school in Japan, so I don't want to come. They force me, "Come, come, come, come." And so, I changed my mind. First, I was going to army school, you know.

CT: In Japan?

JK: Yeah. You know, those days, eh, Hiroshima get just like junior high school, eh, army school. I was going, so I study extra. After school, I used to study, you know, with the principal. So, I was going. But, I changed my mind, so I came. Then I came, 15 years old, eh. And then, I come over here, I like going school over here. My father, no, he tell me, "No, you're a big boy." And then, how can go school, eh, you know.

I tell 'em, "I no going work, I going school." At least three years. I like learn English, eh?

He said, "No!"

Hard head, and I play hard head, too, eh. So, I got about three months, you know. I don't go work and only stay home, eh. But, I give up already. My father no give up, so I give up (Laughs) and then start to work, eh. Ah, I start to work, but ho, you go work in the cane field, eh. Hard time, though. Hot and ho, day so long, eh.

CT: Where did you work?

JK: Hawaiian Sugar.

CT: And where did you live, at that time?

JK: Camp 7, Makaweli. That's old camp, eh.

CT: You lived with your parents?

JK: Yeah, my father, my brother and me.

CT: Where was your mother, at this time?

JK: My mother never come in Hawaii. She was in Japan, [watching the] property and house, eh. And then, my sister was--below me, get one sister, see--she was going to school yet. Then, apply for passport, eh. My uncle first, he came Hawaii, and then went to Mainland. Stay there, and he make some money and then he came back. Then, him the one take care me, go to Kobe, and then, you know, all kind of report, eh. And then, I rode on a ship in Kobe. And then I went to Yokohama Harbor, and then from there, pick up the passenger and they come to Hawaii.

CT: So, does that mean your mother stayed in Japan all the time?
JK: Oh yeah. She's passed away now, but that time, right through, was in Japan. My mother never come to Hawaii. Because, my father, he go around and help people, eh. And then, he come witness this and that, eh; tanomoshi witness and all that. And then, just like bankrupt, eh. Because, they no pay back, eh.

CT: You mean, he had to back up the other guys?

JK: Yeah. Once you witness for anything, if he borrow money and you be witness; because this guy no pay, you had to pay. You see? So, if you leave 'em like that, bumbai our property all go to somebody, eh. So, my father's brother and sister talk together; more better come Hawaii, make some money, and then pay back, eh. So, himself, he came. And then, he start to work and then he send little by little, money, eh. And then pay 'em all back, eh. So nobody take our property and house, eh.

CT: Oh, you mean the tanomoshi was in Japan?

JK: Yeah. It was this---small tanomoshi. But tanomoshi, when you draw, you must be witness, eh. You see. Just like over here, too. Nowadays, no more tanomoshi, but olden days, our young days, get plenty tanomoshi. And then, you draw, you bid, see. For instance, you $30 one month tanomoshi, and you bid, see. And then, maybe, $30 tanomoshi, you bid $10 more, eh. So other guys get $10 profit, see.

CT: How long you have to pay that?

JK: About three years, no, most. Yeah, 36 months. So, about little over $1000.

CT: So, how does that work, anyway? How many people in the tanomoshi?


CT: If 36 guys, that means, every month...

JK: $30, every month $30. And then, if you like this month, you going bid, see. If you $10 or $15 or $13, then you bid 'em, see. And then, that much, you have to pay to all the other guys.

CT: You have to pay...

JK: Just like interest, eh.

CT: Oh. So you going get $30, times 36 people, going give you money?

JK: Yeah.

CT: More than $1000, yeah.

JK: And then, from that, you got to pay to---the guy not take draw,
see. But if I draw already, I no more share already. But you must pay back everyone $30.

CT: Oh, I see.

JK: That's what tanomoshi. You don't know about the tanomoshi, eh?

CT: Not too much.

JK: Yeah. (Laughs) Olden days, get plenty. Especially if Japan-born, oh, they like tanomoshi. They like money, certain amount, they no more money, so they make tanomoshi. Look for the member, eh, good friend, or, you know. Maybe you make 30 members, eh, that $900, eh. Like that, you know. You need lots of money, you make tanomoshi, see.

CT: So, if we started this month, and then six months later, you pick...

JK: No, every month.

CT: Yeah, every month, you got to pay.

JK: Every month, they get [a draw], see.

CT: And once you get the money, you cannot [receive]....

JK: No. Once you draw, eh, you must pay $30, $30 every month.

CT: Only pay. You never get nothing after that?

JK: No, no, no. You draw already. That's how you call, tanomoshi.

CT: Yeah. And did you ever participate in tanomoshi?

JK: Yeah, I used to go.

CT: Did you ever participate in more than one, at one time?

JK: Those days, small pay, eh, cannot go in too much, see. When the big bonus--sugar bonus big, eh, 300 percent or 400 percent, like that--those days, nobody go tanomoshi. Get so much money coming in.

CT: No need money.

JK: No need money, because you---$20 a month, eh, plantation, you work. That's salary, $20 a month. You get 300 percent, $60 bonus, eh, $60 plus $20, your salary is $80, eh. Plenty fellows make money, my father, too. I work, my father, and then my brother, eh; so, oh, money come in, eh. That's how my father went home Japan. When he went home Japan, 1921, I think, he went Japan. He had about $6000, cash. Those days, $6000 is big money, you know. Yeah. That's all
our money; all go to him, see. And we stay here, we can make somehow, eh. So, all what we get, even I had one $30 tanomoshi, I take 'em and I give to him. Bring back Japan.

CT: So what did he do with the money?

JK: My father? Well, he improve the land or fix house, like that.

CT: Was he able to pay off the Japan tanomoshi?

JK: Oh, that's no more already, that time. When he went back, all pay back already. He no owe nobody.

CT: And did your father ever come back to Hawaii?

JK: Never.

CT: So, you and your brother stayed in Hawaii. I see. What about when you first came to Hawaii? What do you remember about that?

JK: First thing, eh, we look people, all black, eh, dark, eh. Then, house so ugly, eh. You know, 1-by-12 house, and then, all...

CT: What kind house?

JK: One-by-12 house, eh. Not "T & G," see [tongue and groove]. You can see outside, eh, some crack, eh. Terrible house. Yeah.

CT: This was in Camp 7?

JK: Camp 7. And then, we cook ourself. My father cooks. Make lunch and then go work. That's how we used to do that. My father cook in the morning, then after pau hana, come home, and then my father cook again. But we clean up, see, me and my brother.

CT: What kind of food did your father cook?

JK: Oh, money coming in pretty good, eh, three fellows. So we no eat so poor, food you know. Yeah, but fish peddlers come sell fish, we go buy. Sell meat, we buy. You guy 25 cents meat, big chunk. Akule, like that, one big akule, 25 cents, about eight, no, the big akule like that. Twenty-five cents, you know. Yeah, some people surprised, you buy 25 cents meat. "What you going do? Make party, or what?" Cheap, eh, everything.

We eat--my father no believe in eat poor, see. So, he tell me, "You work, you must eat good." And my father like drink, you know. Wine boss. Everytime buy five gallon. Olden days, five gallon, big gallon, you know.

CT: What that? Sake?

JK: Wine.
CT: Wine? Not sake?
JK: No.
CT: Who make that?
JK: We buy from, what you call, Waimea get wine at the store. They selling liquor. Sake and wine.
CT: Made in Hawaii?
JK: I don't know what made or where they made. I know, Japan sake used to come from Japan. Japan sake come in wooden drum, you know. I don't know, about this big and about 20 gallon, I think. When I make party, when I came from Japan, we bought one, eh. (Laughs) That, I remember.
CT: Oh, they made party for you when you came?
JK: Yeah. My father made party for me, our camp and the friend, eh.
CT: So, how did you get from Nawiliwili to Makaweli, when you first came?
JK: Oh, you know, Kinai, eh. When I reach Honolulu, Immigration Station; and then first thing, take me out, see, because we the youngest.
CT: What you mean, "take you out?"
JK: Check up and take 'em out from the Immigration Station. That time, Japanese, I don't know what kind of position he get, Katsunuma, old man. He was there, see. And he call me, first thing, "You go out. Where you going?"
I tell 'em, Onomichi Hotel, see.
He tell, "Okay, you go Onomichi Hotel."
And then, they call me a taxi. And then, take me down to the hotel. And then, hotel boss tell me, "You going Kauai, nobody stay meet you, so if you can go yourself."
I tell, "Okay, I can go myself." But you know what, I cannot talk English, only Japanese, eh. So, they bought for me ticket, Kinai. So, we leave in the evening and reach Nawiliwili about 2:30, no, in the morning. Then, reach over there, then ride on a small boat and then go come inside the pier, small little pier. But, no look like Japanese stay, eh, all, you know, Hawaiians, eh. You know, big men, eh. So I was thinking, might as well wait till the daylight. So I get my one, this kind... Japanese call yanagi gori, see.
CT: Basket.

JK: Yeah. So I stand on that, and I was waiting. So then, this Pakala, Honda man, old man Honda, he used to be taxi. He had the Chandler car, big car. So, he ask me, "Where you going?"

Tell 'em, "I going Makaweli."

So, he said, "We go that way, so you go come on my car."

"Okay." So, I rode down in his car, and I came to Hawaiian Sugar, Makaweli.

And then, I come close to Pakala, olden days, get one track, you know. Train track. And over there, get one man, flag man, because I cross the road, eh. I stop over there, I talk to this flag man. I ask where my father stay, see.

"Kojiri-san is working some place in cane field." Then, this flag man tell me, "I think the brother going come pretty soon." And that time, my brother was two-mule wagon, you know. He was operating that two-mule wagon. And then, just happen, he came.

And then, this man tell me, "Eh, your brother came."

"Where?"

He said, "Over here."

"This your brother?"

And I look, eh. I know my brother is small man, see, not big man. I look, oh, he black, eh. "Eh," my name is Junichi; Junzo, eh, "Ju, ka?"

"Yeah. Ani-san?" I tell 'em.

Bumbai, he tell, "Oh, I going Makaweli Mill Camp, so go ride on the horse wagon." So, me and him ride on the wagon, eh, two-mule wagon, that time, not horse, but mule wagon. So me and him went by the mill. Then, they have to buy something, or, I don't know for what he went. And then, come home to Camp 7, see.

And, everybody come out, eh, camp guys, no. All the wahines come out; no more men, all the men working, see. I look every one, ho, black like nigger, eh. "Oh, Kojiri-san?"

"Yeah, so desu." [Yes, that's me.]

"Yo koraremashita." [We're glad you came.]

CT: Who said that?

CT: They the wives of the men who working?

JK: Yeah. So anyway, my father working in the fields, so my brother tell me, "More better you go together with me." He going up Camp 8, see. That's another, about two mile up, eh, Camp 8. I don't know if you know that, Camp 8, you don't know, I think.

CT: I went only Camp 6.

JK: Camp 6, that's the Pakala, top.

CT: Yeah. This is way [points toward Hanapepe] more up?

JK: No, this way, this side [points toward Waimea].

CT: Oh, Waimea side?

JK: Yeah, Waimea side. Right now, you know that road for---Selwyn Robinson road? You know? Before you hit that small cement bridge, get road going to Selwyn house, eh? Over there had the track, see. Railroad track. And then, get road go up Camp 8, and then before you hit the bridge, get one road go in the Camp 7, see. So that road, you go, go, go, and then you hit Camp 7. From Camp 7, you go up, up, and that's Camp 8, see. And then, more up, Camp 9.

Ho, but, so when we go Camp 8 side, my father was working cane field. And my brother call 'em, "Eh, brother came."

"Where?"

He tell, "Over here." I stay in the wagon, eh?

Oh, my father so happy, "Ah, we quit, go off already." Come home.

CT: What time was that?

JK: About, almost lunch time, no. Because from Nawiliwili, come. And then go to Hawaiian Sugar Mill Camp, and then come back. Almost lunch time.

CT: Could he quit work, like that? No problem?

JK: Yeah. Because he going report the field boss, eh. The field boss like my father, see. So, always work with only himself. So field boss, he trust my father, eh. My father good worker, see. So, no need go together with somebody, you know; some, get luna, and then the luna, he tell you what to do, eh. But my father, only himself.

CT: What kind job did he have?
JK: Oh, he work in the, what you call, cane field, eh. Make ditch, or, you know, irrigation ditch like that.

So, my brother went to Camp 8 and finished the job and come down with the horse wagon, and then we ride three--my father and my brother and me--and then come back to Camp 7. And then, we went inside our house. Oh, da kine lousy kind house, eh. Dirty, too, eh. Oh, even sit down, I no like sit down already. So dirty, eh. Bumbai, my father go take a bath and oh, he happy. So, he go tell the friend's wife go make o-cha, or something, eh.

CT: How many years had you not seen your father?

JK: Well, I was five years old, my father came here. So 10 years, I never seen--see, [he left when I was] five years, and then I came 15, eh. Ten year [later], eh? And then, that was 1916. And then, 1921, I think go home. So about five years stay together. So altogether, [10 year] with my father. And my mother, 15 years old, and then that's all, eh. Fifteen year together. I stay in Hawaii, my mother stay in Japan. So us, family, really...you know....all away from the home. I stay here, my father stay back Japan.

So, I went back----1929, I went back Japan, with my mother-in-law. Yamase old lady like go back Japan, so she tell me take her. So I went with her. And that time, 1929, I was 28 years old, eh. So, my mother tell me more better stay Japan because no more boys, eh. Two over here, eh. "Stay, stay."

But I married and get girl already, eh, born already, see. "No, I have to go back Hawaii. Family over there." So, stay about three months and then came back. My mother-in-law, too, came back together.

CT: Who came to that party? That first night party?

JK: Oh, at Camp 7? Oh, that time, you don't know the name, eh. Plenty, those days, plenty Japanese, you know, in the camp. Plenty Japanese.

CT: So anybody in the camp, they all came?

JK: Yeah, all came, all came.

CT: Maybe, how many people, you think?

JK: Oh, about, more than 20, no. And then, my father, he like make party. So, that weekend, I think, make party.

CT: Oh, the weekend, the party?

JK: Yeah. So, buy sake, and buy fish, and I remember....that time, I think Mac Uyeno's old man used to be chief cook, eh. My father wen hire him. I remember that.
CT: To cook?

JK: Make sashimi, and then Japanese style cook, eh.

CT: How did they cook, anyway, those days?

JK: Outside.

CT: With wood?

JK: Yeah. And then, plantation used to give coal, eh. And then get stove, see. Big stove, big iron, big plate on top.

CT: About one inch?

JK: No, about half-inch, no. And then oven underneath. Throw coal inside, then make that plate real hot. And they cook anything on top, see. Those days, all deliver coal, eh, plantation. No more firewood, only coal. Even the furo, Japanese furo, big furo. All coal.

CT: Did every house have furo?

JK: Nah.

CT: Only one for the whole camp?

JK: Yeah. One side wahine, one side men. Big furo.

CT: You had to pay?

JK: No. [Changes his mind.] No, I think have to pay, $1 one month, or something. To go inside. But, to make furo, plantation supply all the material and coal. And this one lady used to take care the furo. Clean up and put water and then cook, see.

And then, even stove, eh, one lady take care. In the morning, early in the morning, before night [the night before], rice in the pot, you bring over there leave 'em, see, on the counter. And this lady, in the morning, wake up early in the morning, make fire and then, cook all the rice.

CT: Oh, for all the different families?

JK: Yeah, yeah, yeah. And then, after he cook, all put 'em on the counter, eh. And you know you pot, eh. Bring home. That's what they do.

CT: And what about okazu?

JK: Okazu, like that, they get oil stove, eh, kerosene stove.
CT: Everybody make their own?

JK: Yeah. Only rice, they cook for you. And you going pay for that.

CT: You remember how much?

JK: I think, eh, one pot 25 cents, or something like that. Very little, very small money.

CT: 25 cents one month?

JK: Yeah. But plenty guys, eh, maybe 20 or so. I think, bathroom, I think 50 cents or, that kind, I don't know how much. My father used to pay, that's why.

CT: What is that?

JK: Bathroom. Furo, furo. This lady take care furo, must to pay her, eh.

CT: What about toilet?

JK: Oh, outside toilet. Oh boy.

(Laughter)

JK: Terrible.

CT: Did they have a house?

JK: Get house, though. And then, men side, about five. And the lady, different seat, five. Outside. Kind of far away from the house. Not too near.

CT: And what about water?

JK: Water, get pipe.

CT: Pipe water. Every house had?

JK: No, not in the house. Get long house, eh, and then veranda. And then, two side, two end get. See, everybody use, eh. Not in the room, you know.

CT: Oh, outside.

JK: Outside. Not in the, what you call, outside, where more cover, eh. This one, they get cover. So rain time, you can use.

CT: How many people live in your house?

JK: Three guys. One room.
CT: So, that was one separate house? Or duplex?

JK: No. About five, no, I think.

CT: Five separate rooms?

JK: Yeah. Some, get the wahine well, get separate bedroom. But like us, all single, eh, so one room. Kitchen over here, and then, from floor, about two feet high, and then another floor. And then you sleep on the floor. My brother, me, I sleep in the middle, my father sleep this side. And daytime, he just roll up [the bedding].

And then, on the one side, over here eating place. And then, about six feet open, eh. And then get outside wall, eh. And then, outside get veranda, long veranda.

CT: And did you pay any rent?

JK: No.

CT: So you paid only for furo and the rice.

JK: Yeah, that's all. My father pay the rice. My father pay everything. Because I give my payroll, all give to my father. And then, one month, only $1, you know, kozukai [allowance].

(Laughter)

CT: How much was your pay, that time?

JK: $20, one month.

CT: For how many days a week?

JK: Six days. Only Sunday rest.

CT: How many days a month, you work?

JK: Well, 26; 24, 25, 26 days.

CT: Those days, did they have the bonus, if you worked more than certain days?

JK: Yeah. You must work over 20 days, to get a bonus. You see. The plantation, they smart, you know. They no give bonus less than 20 days. Over 20 days, you get bonus. See, but I used to work every day. I no rest. Because, you like make money quick, eh, because my mother tell me, "You go over there, you work and then you send father back quick, Japan." Because she lonesome, eh, only she and my sister. Only two wahines in the house, eh. Had big house, you know. So tell me go send 'em back quick. So we work hard. We save money, and then.
We go movies, eh, maybe once a month, no. From Camp 7, used to come Waimea. No more car, you know, you walk. In the cane field road, you know.

CT: Besides movies, what else you did, after work?

JK: Nothing, no. Only weekend, go movies. Weekdays, only we work, come home, take a bath, eat, and then play around the camp, eh. And then sleep.

CT: What you mean, "play around the camp?"

JK: Go look around, you know. Now, no sense stay in the house and sleep, eh. Walk around, eh. Sometime you go see pigpen, like that. Those days, they raise plenty pig, you know, Camp 5.

CT: Oh, individual?

JK: Yeah, individual. And then chicken, too.

CT: So, after you eat and take a bath and everything, how much time did you have, before you went to sleep?

JK: Oh, about two, three hour, no.

CT: What time did you go to sleep, anyway?

JK: Oh, when I stay in the camp time, I sleep early, about 8 o'clock, I sleep already. But when I come out Waimea, 2, 3 o'clock in the morning, I sleep.

CT: How come?

JK: Well, I go play around, eh.

(Laughter)

JK: When I stay camp time, baby yet, eh. When I came up Waimea, 1921, oh, man already, eh. Me, I was working Waimea Stables, so I get car, eh, every time. I can use free car, because I stay in the stable house and then I watching the telephone and I watching the gasoline. So I get free everything. House, water, light, all free.

CT: So you worked from 1915 to 1921 at Makaweli?

JK: Yeah. I went Mana, too.

CT: Oh, when did you go Mana?

JK: 1919, I think, I went Mana. Because my father, he changed to Mana. Because Mana contract cane—cane field contract good, eh—so he
went over there. And then, call me, "Oh, Mana get good pay." Because those days, Kekaha Plantation, $2 more than other plantation, because too hot. Mana, Kekaha. Two dollars more than the other plantation.

CT: One month?

JK: Yeah. So, I went over there. And then, I work track man. Track man, those days, make railroad in the cane field and then pull car inside, cane car. And then all men hapai ko, eh. That's the kind job I used to go. And good pay, you know. Go contract, eh, by tonnage, eh, cane tonnage.

CT: How did that work, anyway? How did the contract work?

JK: One ton, so much, eh.

CT: They pay you by the day, too?

JK: No, by the month.

CT: How much they pay you one month?

JK: Track man, contract that's why, sometime $3 one day. Sometime $4 one day. Not only $1 a day, you know.

CT: Oh, good money, then?

JK: Yeah. Little bit hard job, but young days, you no feel eh, Strong, eh.

CT: One man had to carry the track? Or, two men, or....

JK: No. One man pull, and then two men stay on the side, we join 'em. And then tie the knot, eh. And then I hold with the stick, and then where the track go, I level, see. Make the track level, then put 'em down. And then, pull the car little bit, and then come to the end, stop, eh. Then, pull another rail again, and then join 'em. That's how it goes, eh. And he get, eh, in the field, get pin. Direction pin. You go follow the pin.

CT: So you know where you going lay 'em.

JK: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Track to track--if big field, track to track, must be so much, eh, so many feet, eh. Because half of cane, he going to this track, hapai ko, eh. Half of this going to this side. And mostly Japanese, no, hapai ko, those days.

CT: You remember about how heavy one of those tracks?

JK: I know I used to carry one man. We used to challenge, you know, track to track. We got to grab the center [of the track]. And
then you carry. And then, we challenge from this to this track. Reach over here and then go back, see. Without rest. Ah, those small track. About 12 feet long, no. Two, eh.

CT: How wide?

JK: About three feet wide. Center part fold up, see, so no more. Only the joint, he get the big plate, and this stay half way and this stay half way, and then tie 'em up, eh. This kind of hook kind bolt outside. Catch the rail and then go through the plate. And then outside get knot, eh, tight 'em up with the wrench, see. So no move, eh. But to make level, eh, somebody got to stay on the side, make level, eh.

CT: Put dirt underneath?

JK: Oh, sometime you fill up, sometime you cut down. Ho, I make good, that time.

CT: And how many tracks you lay in one day?

JK: Oh, plenty. See, once you put in, until all finished, the cane, and then cannot take off, see.

CT: So you rest little while?

JK: Yeah, plenty rest. Plenty rest. Got to stay in the shade and rest. Because nobody can squawk because contract, that's why. Even luna, he no tell you work, eh, because our contract, eh.

CT: Oh, how was the contract? For how many tons?

JK: Yeah, tonnage of sugar cane.

CT: That comes on the track?

JK: Yeah. And then, they come down to the mill, they take weight, eh. And then, all car get number, eh, field number or, you know, with the chalk, eh. Scale man, they go put down [record] all, so many tons.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

CT: So that means that the hapai ko man got to be good, too, then.

JK: Oh yeah.

CT: Because, if they don't load fast, then you not going to get too much tonnage, too.
JK: More fast you work, more money you make. Now, you get one car, eh, train car. You load 'em up, see. And then, luna going put your number; field number, and then your bango, eh. That's how they check, see. So, strong man, he finish quick, eh. And then go to the next car.

CT: Oh, every man get his own car?

JK: No, first man car first. He start from this side. He cannot go in between, empty car, and then you go over there and you go and then fill up. You go from one end to...

CT: How many---in one field, how many men working hapai ko?

JK: Ah, about 20 men, no, I think. And some wahines help, too. Wahine going pile up, eh. The men going carry, see.

CT: One man take one car?

JK: Yeah. One man take one car.

CT: So, if that man is fast, he gets more money?

JK: Yeah, because he can go next car, eh. And then, 2-by-12 plank, you know, climb up the car. Because [the] railroad, cane car, maybe 10 feet long, no. And then about three feet wide. And then, on the side get board, the side get chain, eh. Underneath the hinges, eh, but the on top, big' chain. Then, crossbar, they throw 'em on top. And then, come too far, you going carry. Must climb the 2-by-12, you know. You no get used to, you get hard time. And that 2-by-12, get small piece wood so no slide, eh.

CT: But when rain, no come slippery?

JK: Slippery. Because Mana dirt, eh, clay kind dirt. So, you got to watch. But they smart, hapai ko men, they smart. This, Mike's Cafe, the old man used to stay Mana, eh. He used to be strong man, for hapai ko.

CT: Nonaka?

JK: Yeah. And that Tadak Okino, eh, his father strong man, you know, hapai ko man. And then, oh, plenty Japanese hapai ko. Oh, Filipinos stay too, but plenty Japanese. Smart, no, Japanese, hapai ko. Nobody can touch 'em, hapai ko. Filipino, even Filipino no can touch 'em.

CT: You ever saw somebody fall down?

JK: No, I never see. Too good. Yeah, but olden days and now days. You work plantation now days, boy, all machine, eh. Olden days, all manpower, eh.
CT: What was your rate? How much they paid you, per ton? You remember that?

JK: That, I don't know how much. He get that contract boss. And our gang get one boss, see; he get all the figure.

CT: And then he figure out?

JK: Yeah. And then plantation make payroll, see. So many men working the track gang, eh; maybe eight men or so. They going divide 'em up, eh.

CT: Big job, must be, that bookkeeping.

JK: Well, contract boss, you know Shimaoka boy, Shimaoka, that work in the Kekaha office, his father was contract boss. Tomomitsu, Shimaoka, Okino, all Mana gang.

CT: So, after that, you moved to Waimea Stables?

JK: Yeah. From there, I went Waimea Stable. But before I leave Camp 7, I was doing survey work, see. New field; no, replant place, all they plow, eh.

CT: What is that?

JK: Replant cane. Maybe three crop, and then after that, you plant again, see. So they plow 'em up. Steam plow, eh. Steam plow, the one side get steam engine, this side steam engine. And they pull with the cable, eh, the plow. I think you don't know, you never see, eh.

CT: I saw picture.

JK: Oh, you saw picture.

CT: You used to, what, drive that?

JK: No, no, no. After they plow everything, all clear up, then I go take the survey. This line must be level, not downhill like that. Got to be level, eh. So, I make surveyor, and then put pin. And then, they come, big plow, eight-mule plow. Put the line, make line, eh.

CT: So the steam plow just....

JK: Yeah, just roughly, they go.

CT: Then the eight-mule plow come after.

JK: Then, the, what you call, the big plow....what you call that, (Malbot) plow [eight-mule plow] or something, big plow. Make big
line, eh. Go according to the pin, eh. That's the pin I survey and then make, you see. Ground all up and down, eh, so someplace go like that [draws curving line]. All depend on the field, eh. Level place, well, straight, eh. But hillside, go all kind way, eh, up and down. So, we got to take level, see. That's a job with the instrument.

CT: This is when you were with Hawaiian Sugar yet?

JK: Yeah.

CT: Before you went Mana.

JK: I tell this big crew boss, stay in Pakala, eh; Mr. Huddy. William Huddy, the boy was policeman. You remember?

CT: I heard his name.

JK: His father was boss, see. From Camp 6, this side, he's the boss. Then, I tell him, because the men work with me, I was helper, eh. This man retire, see, so I took his place. And then I do same job he was doing, and then this man get more pay than me, eh.

CT: Mr. Huddy?

JK: No, no, no. Japanese man, the retire man.

So I tell 'em, "Give me same pay."

"Okay, okay," Only talk, eh.

"When you going give me pay. Same pay with...." This Harada, this Harada stay up here, his grandfather.

CT: Gordon?

JK: Gordon Harada. Father stay Robinson before. So, Gordon Harada's grandfather was this carpenter and the surveyor. And I was working with him, off-season carpenter and then planting season, I had to go help him. I'm the helper, see. And then, when he retire, and then I take his place, he no give me same pay as Harada, eh. So, I grumble every time.

So, "You no give me pay, so I go over to Honolulu." I know I get job already Waimea Stables, eh, that time. So, I tell 'em, "You no give me, I go Honolulu."

"No, no, no, you no go. I give you more, same pay with Harada."

"Okay." But he no give. One month, he no give, two month, no give. Ah, I quit already. I came out Waimea Stable.
When I came out Waimea Stable---no, then, I went Mana. Then, from Mana, I come over here.

CT: Were you going to Honolulu, or just...

JK: No, no just bluff. Then, I was Waimea Stable, Mr. Huddy come for fill up gas, eh, his car. "You stay here?"

"Yeah, I working over here."

"I thought you went Honolulu."

"No."

CT: From Mana, how did you get the job at Waimea Stable?

JK: This one man, we used to call him Akiyama, but his regular name is Takenaka. Howard Takenaka, Honolulu, he stay, eh. He was principal, now he run for Con-Con.

CT: I heard that name.

JK: Howard Takenaka, his father. His father [was] friend with that man (he went Japan) one luna stay in Camp 7. Good friends, see. So this man, Akiyama man, he tell me, "Get the job Waimea Stable. Waimea Stable need man." And Waimea Stable, all young men, you know. He no like old men, see.

CT: How come?

JK: Oh, young men get more power, eh, truck driver. So I go Waimea Stable.

CT: And what was your job at Waimea Stable?

JK: Oh, first, only, those days, truck and they had passenger car, see. Only clean car, you know.

CT: How many cars they had, and trucks?

JK: Truck, about seven. All small car, ton and an half truck, eh. All small truck. But, they had the big car. Big, five-passenger car. Oh, they get Coll-8, Cadillac, Packard.

CT: What was the first one?

JK: Coll-8, they call coll straight eight, eight-cylinder. Not V-8, see; and Cadillac get V-8. So we call coll eight, see.

CT: So, about seven trucks?

JK: Oh, I think so, about seven.
CT: How many cars?
JK: Cars, get more than...10, I think. Because the Waimea Stable used to contract with the Inter-Island Steamship Company. Tourist, eh.

CT: The tourist?
JK: See, somebody, they going to tourist. And then, get trucking business, too, eh.

CT: At that time, was Port Allen the main port?
JK: No, no, no.

CT: Nawiliwili?
JK: 1929, Kauai Railway bought Waimea Stable. Everything, truck and all. Men and all. So we work together, at Port Allen. And the manager, too, Alfred Gomes. He was manager. He went together with us. Then, that's why, from 1929, I work Kauai Commercial. Now, Kauai Commercial, but we used to call Kauai Railway.

CT: But when you started in 1921, who used to own Waimea Stable?
JK: Alfred Gomes was the manager. Before that...

CT: Who was the owner?
JK: Gomes family. Joe Gomes, Grant Gomes. Before Alfred Gomes, Weber old man was the manager over here. Weber, Bill Weber's father. He work in the Kekaha office, eh, Bill Weber. His father was a manager over here. And then went to the plantation, Kekaha Sugar. Mana field boss.

CT: You said they took care tourists. Where did they pick up the tourists?
JK: Nawiliwili. Those days, no more plane, eh.

CT: And where did they take the tourists?
JK: Took 'em around Kokee, Hanalei.

CT: Did you drive tourists, too?
JK: Later on, no, I drive. When the busy time, I drive. Me, I regular truck driver, see. So, not 'nough men, then I used to go.

CT: So, in the beginning, you were just washing the cars.
JK: Washing the car, grease up, then come to driver.

CT: Who taught you how to drive?
JK: I learn myself, inside here.

CT: And, did you have to get license, those days?

JK: Yeah, I went to Lihue, eh, with the Takenaka old man; the one I tell you, Akiyama--Howard Takenaka's father. I go over there, Henry Aki was take care the driving license. You don't know Henry Aki, he's dead already. And Akiyama man and Henry Aki good friends, see. So, go over there, "Eh, give license to this boy, Waimea Stable boy."

"You can drive?"

"Yeah, he can drive."

"Okay."

(Laughter)

JK: No more test, nothing. So Akiyama man, he tell me, "Eh, you go buy one box cigar." He like smoke cigar, you know. "Go buy one box cigar."

I say, "Okay, okay." I go store, give him, eh. He give free, the driver's license, eh. That was 1922, I get license.

CT: And from then on, what was your job at the stable?

JK: Truck driver, yeah. And he no give me the passenger car, eh, because I'm still greenhorn yet, eh.

CT: What did the trucks deliver?

JK: Oh, what you call, freight.

CT: From where?

JK: From Nawiliwili, or Port Allen.

CT: To where?

JK: To store. Deliver to store. You running store, you order, I come, eh. Load 'em up and deliver.

CT: Do you remember the names of the stores, back then?

JK: Well, I don't know, but, I learn go here and there.

CT: You can try remember some of the names?

JK: Oh, this side had Kuramoto. eh.
CT: Kekaha. How about Waimea?

JK: Waimea, get plenty, though. Okita, Moriwaki Store. And then, this Kawakami used to get small little store, eh, Kawakami. I don't know, Okada Store, I think later. And Nagata Store, eh, before.

CT: In the valley.

JK: Yeah. Practically all, I know, Kauai store, no.

CT: Mostly Japanese?


CT: How about Filipino?

JK: Filipino, store, I think...I know this Paúline, still over here yet. This Filipino guy, stay Yamane's. He get small little store, right in front Ishii Store.

CT: He used to have the store, that time? That's the Arbilera one.


CT: You remember Manila Trading Company?

JK: Yeah. Over here, eh?

CT: Where was that? I don't know, I just heard the name.

JK: Manila Trading....I think where Okada Store stay, that concrete house. I think that place there, or Kekaha. I forget already. Long, long time.

CT: Did you ever deliver over there?

JK: Oh, practically every store, we used to deliver. You know those days, grocery, but maybe five case canned goods, rice like that.

CT: So, every day, you would go pick up and deliver?

JK: Yeah, yeah. I go down the pier, pick up, and then deliver. Oh, those days, you go store, they give good, though. Waimea Bakery, we used to haul flour. When they come, Waimea Bakery flour, plenty; they order plenty, you know. Yeah. Waimea Bakery. C. B. Hofgaard. Ben Franklin place, before C. B. Hofgaard, eh.

CT: So, at that time, you said they gave you one house, too. You had to answer the telephone.

JK: Yeah.
CT: Was that at the same time that you were driving truck?

JK: Yeah, evening time, nighttime, like that. When I like go out, I got to report to the manager, Alfred Gomes. "I going to go borrow car and go out."

CT: Then nobody watching?

JK: Nobody watching. And then lately, Kagawa came. So me and him taking chance, eh. That's why, I get free house, everything free, eh.

CT: And what was your pay, that time?

JK: $75.

CT: One month. So, was that much better than...

JK: Oh yeah. Sure. (Laughs) Plantation, truck driver, maybe lucky they give you $50 money. I get $75. When the free house, everything, eh. That's why, that time was good. Right over here used to get old shack, eh. This house, I made new one, see. And then, 1929, just before moved to Port Allen, I went to Japan time, Alfred Gomes give me three months pay, you know. I come back three months, every month pay, salary, he give me.

CT: For vacation?

JK: Yes. And then, every Christmas, $75 bonus. Hoo, was good. I can save money, that time.

CT: And, you got married, yeah, that time.

JK: Oh yeah, I get one kid already.

CT: Okay, you mentioned that, last time, the police used to hire you folks, too?

JK: Police going call up Alfred Gomes. "Need car." So, he call me up, eh. Then, I drive the car and go courthouse. Policemen, he like go someplace. Gambling, or, you know.

CT: How often did they call you?

JK: Oh, every weekend, no, they get some kind of trouble. Fighting, or gambling, or, you know. Mostly nighttime, no, no more daytime.

(JK's wife enters room)

JK: Yeah, and then 1929, Port Allen. And then, that time, we start haul sugar, eh.
CT: Oh, the Waimea Stable haul sugar, too?

JK: Yeah. Waimea Stable contract with the Kekaha Sugar. So when they bought the five Mac truck, five brand new Mac truck, then one of them, I was driving. For sugar. Pretty long, though, I drive sugar, no. And then, 1954, come to tractor and trailer. That time, a small Mac is only 150 bag. But when come to trailer, had 250 bag, eh.

CT: Okay, if we can go back to 1923 or 1924; you said that every week, the policemen would call you.

JK: Most time, no.

CT: Weekend. And, can you tell me, for example, where did they go?

JK: Oh, for example, we in Mana, eh. Pump, Kahelu Nui pump; over there get water pump, see. And get some fight over there, Filipino fight. So, I went over there. And this one Filipino hit with the gun, eh, you know, skeleton, eh. The skin all come off, you know, all stay bald head.

CT: Oh yeah? Make?

JK: No, never make yet. We bring 'em to hospital, eh. And then, the guy who hit, put 'em in the jail, eh. Those days, get jail over here, you know [Waimea]. Behind the courthouse. And then, one time, gambling Mana. We work nighttime, you know. Ho, me, I no go see. I stay on the side, I looking. Ho, good fun, boy. They jump from the window, and then go underneath the policeman, stay by the door. But, crawl underneath, eh, run away. Small gamble, eh. You know, dice gamble.

CT: How did the policemen hear about that?

JK: Somebody report, no.

CT: And then, they call with telephone?

JK: Yeah. Kanalewa, I used to go pake gamble, eh. You know, Chinese play that, what you call, mah jong? He get the black stick and then get plenty holes. We used to raid down there, too, Kanalewa. That's where they used to raise rice, plant rice.

CT: Oh, the Chinese?

JK: Yeah, plenty Chinese. Kanalewa. Chinatown, that, over there. That's when I see they smoke opium.

CT: You used to smoke opium?

JK: No, no, I see them smoking. They call blow, pooo, eh, they blow. This kind, Hawaiians, they blow, eh, that....
CT: Shell?

JK: Shell, eh, big shell [conch shell]. Chinese used to blow too, over there. They come home, eh, lunch time. Because before, we used to take out the rice from there to Paon rice mill. Paon. Used to get rice mill, right behind where Mukai stay, I think, over there. The big building over there.

CT: Waimea?

JK: Yeah. We go over there pile up, take one wagon, eh, with rice. Take out from that Kanalewa. And then, we hit lunch time, every time, over there. So we can eat Chinese food, eh. "Eh, we go lunch time, over there, we can get." Chinese, get good kaukau, you know. Lunch time we go eat over there. About two days, no, take out rice, everyday.

CT: You do all the loading?

JK: They help you.

CT: Two days straight?

JK: Yeah. Well, you know, manpower, eh. You know, slow. Not like now days. And then, small truck, eh. About 50 bags, we full load, heavy already. Ton and a half truck, eh.

CT: 100-pound bag?

JK: Yeah, 100-pound. I don't know if they scale 'em, but anyway, kind of heavy, no. And then, we come over there, we unload, look the watch and then, go over there just right, eh. Then, go over there, lunch time, eat lunch time, eat.

CT: And what, they feed you?

JK: Yeah. Tell you, "Go eat." Big pot rice, eh. And then, this side get big pot. Ho, big pot, you know.

CT: The Chinese, the wok?

JK: Yeah. They make good kaukau, something like chop suey, no. Meat and vegetable and all that. But the how they cook, eh, the good taste. And then, Chinese rice, eh; they raise the rice, that's why the fresh rice, eh. Good. Good eat, we used to eat up. You know, young days, eh. Chinese style, eh, the big bowl like this; one side rice and one side okazu, you know. No give you separate bowl, eh. And then, long chopstick, eh.

CT: They had their whole family living out there?

JK: No, mostly single, no. I no see wahines over there. All single men.
CT: And who used to own the rice farm?

JK: I don't know who own, but, must be Chinese, they lease that land over there. They plant rice, eh. I stay Mana time, we go around there shoot dove, eh. I mean, wild duck, eh. We go, sometime after rain, plenty duck, you know, no. We go, we go, sometime no more, eh. And then, Chinese raise plenty Peking duck, you know. Get big ditch, see, over there. We used to shoot Peking duck and come home. When I stay Mana time. How many time, we shoot Peking duck.

CT: And they don't know?

JK: They don't know, eh. You try kill one Peking duck, plenty meat, you know. We make hekka and eat, eh.

CT: What did that look like? Just white duck?

JK: Not wild duck.

CT: White, white.

JK: Oh, get some black. Get color kind. Yeah, we used to do, young days, eh. When I stay Mana time, young, eh. Yeah, they do all kind of bad thing, eh. Go steal watermelon, and steal chicken.

CT: So what, you saw them smoke opium, that time?

JK: Yeah. They sleep bed, but, you know, about 1, 2, 3.

CT: Three decks?

JK: Yeah, three decks, eh. And then, they get small kerosene lamp, you know. Get small little light, eh. And then, in a shell, eh. You know?

CT: What kind shell? Ocean shell?

JK: Not ocean kind shell, but, what you call this kind shell that.... Pearl Harbor side get, eh.

CT: Clam?

JK: Clam, yeah. That kind, they get inside, you know.

CT: The opium?

JK: Opium. Black stuff, just like tar. Black stuff. And then, eh, they get the pipe, you know. And they put inside there, pipe, and then, from the lamp, eh, kerosene lamp, go smoke.

CT: They suck?
JK: They suck. Ho, when they smoke, eh, opium ho, eye come shine, boy. Yeah. Even stay dark time, eh, dark place, eh, ho, one time, eye come----old man, eh, Chinese old man, eh. He come lively, boy. Yeah. I was thinking, oh, that strong, thing, eh.

CT: And then they go work again, after that?


CT: What was that?

JK: They talk Chinese. [Kojiri was mimicking Chinese speech], eh. When come home time, slow come home. But when they go work time, eh, after smoke opium, lively boy. Yeah.

CT: So, more to help them work, then, maybe.

JK: I think so, no.

CT: The police used to arrest them for that?

JK: No, gamble.

CT: But only among themselves [gambling]?

JK: Yeah. Ah, the outsiders used to go, eh; I don't know, but. I don't think only the guys stay over there. Yeah.

CT: And what else? Gamble, fight. That kind of stuff?

JK: Yeah. Sometime I go Pakala, they throw powder and they catch mullet, eh. I used to go over there.

CT: In the ocean? Oh, they blast?

JK: Blast. Gunpowder, eh. This kind size bora [mullet].

CT: Two feet? Foot and a half?

JK: Water, about like this deep [indicates about two feet]. They catch by bag, you know. One time, we bring home, eh, but ho, all soft already. Cannot eat. All bust already, stomach all bust. Smell.

CT: You mean, after you arrested them, you took some fish?

JK: Yeah. Evidence, eh. You got to bring back all to courthouse, eh. Whatever they get, catch eh. Ho, sometime the Filipino run away in the cane field, eh. Ho, policeman go chase after, eh, catch 'em.

CT: Was it mostly Filipinos that...
JK: Filipinos. I no see one time, Japanese. Filipinos.

CT: Blast.

JK: Yeah. So, old man Crowell tell me, "You like go bring home and eat?"

So, I bring home. That time, I board Izumoto, eh. The river place get one kaukau place. I used to board over there. And I tell old lady, "Try cook this, if can eat. This is powder kind bora, that's why. Maybe the inside all smash already. Maybe smell."

Bumbai, that old lady open the stomach. All bust, eh. "Ai," she tell, "this no can eat. Throw 'em away."

CT: So, who used to go with you, the policemen?

JK: Oh, all over, no. Sometime small little fight. Sometime, chicken fight. All in the camp, here and there, Camp 2, Camp 4. By the time reach over there, you know, somebody wen report, I think. Nobody stay.

CT: Oh yeah? (Laughs) They run away?

JK: Yeah, run away. Oh, sometime, you like go someplace, and the policeman want the car, eh. Ho, make you mad, boy. You no can go, eh. I must go [with the police], eh, because I stay here.

CT: If they don't hire car, do they go with horse?

JK: No. They never go with horse.

CT: Why is that?

JK: I don't know. I don't see policeman go with the horse.

CT: Everyday, how do they get around?

JK: They walk and come down. And then, they stay around there. Bumbai, the school kids, some no go school, eh. And then, schoolteacher, they report to the courthouse, eh. "So and so kid no come school." Then, go. That was daytime or in the morning. Go over there.

"Why no come school?" Some, maybe get sick, no can help. [Some] Only stay home, and then only play around; well, bring the kid school.

CT: You went with the cop?

JK: Yeah. Very strict, you know, those days. You no show up school, eh, then right away, teacher, they report. "So and so kid no come to the school."
"Then where they stay?" Then, they go to find the kid, eh. Not like now. Those days, the teacher get plenty power. Policeman, too. They scared, eh, policeman. They go, they cry and go. Well, they make you scared, eh. (Laughs)

CT: Okay. I want to ask you about the 1924 strike one, now. The 1924 strike.

SIDE THREE [Tape No. 5-8-1-78]

CT: Do you remember when Sheriff Crowell called you, to go to Hanapepe?

JK: No. I get order from office, state office. Go to courthouse, eh. And then Crowell, he tell pick up so and so police, eh, special police. Kekaha, Waimea.

CT: You remember who you picked up?

JK: Hawaiians, but I no remember the name.

CT: How many?

JK: Most fellows make already. Two, three, eh. Up there, about one, two. Kekaha, get about one, two.

CT: And did only your car go?

JK: No, get some more car. About two, three car. And then, special police, I think Waimea Stable get one Graham truck--something like mini-bus, eh. Sit on the side, eh. Plenty guys can ride, see. Go pick up special police, eh.

CT: How many special police?

JK: Plenty. Kekaha get about three, four, I think. All good hunters, eh. Then, Waimea mauka get Shima. Taniguchi, eh. Taniguchi family. Eddie Taniguchi, them. Father or uncle, I don't know. They all good hunters, eh. They pick up all this kind guys, go over there watch, eh.

CT: You didn't drive that truck, that Graham truck?


CT: So about two or three Hopmobile?

JK: No. Had one Hopmobile.
CT: One Graham truck?

JK: Yeah. And then one Reo truck. That was---no more seat, but you can ride, eh. Because, sometime, they don't want to take out good car, eh.

CT: The Stable?

JK: Yeah.

CT: Why?

JK: Because policemen, eh, he must go all kind of place, eh. Passenger order, well, you go with the good car, see. Policemen, like that, they no give good car. They tell you, "Take this car and go with the policemen."

CT: But the policeman has to pay?

JK: No, no. Policemen no pay, the County going pay.

CT: So, one Hopmobile, one other kind car, one truck.

JK: I think Sam Peahu, when I bring the old man Crowell, I think he the Cadillac, I think, big car. You know, old man big shot Crowell, eh. Special car, eh. That was Sam Peahu, driver. That I remember. He make already.

CT: And then, did you folks meet at the courthouse?

JK: Pick up courthouse, and then bring down to Hanapepe, eh. Where Japanese School, eh. I told you last time.

CT: So, all everybody went together, or you...

JK: No, not everybody together. You go over there, you drop 'em and then stand by.

CT: I see. So, after you dropped them off, where did you go?

JK: You stay away, just stand by, see. We no stay near, no more room, already, over there. Small, straight through, eh, over there. We stay by the Brodie's pump, Banana field pump, over there, so we stay stand by. So things no look so good, so we go back; we jump on the car and then we come to....this side American Factors building, now. Over there. Now, new road; but before, get one big turn, curve. And on top, they get one big flat place. Park over there, wait.

CT: When you first dropped them off, did you...

JK: Then, stay by the Brodie's. And things not so good looking, eh.
Somebody, they shooting already, eh. And so we run back. We was looking too, you know. This old man Crowell inside the Japanese School yard, eh. And then the Filipinos, eh, all surround 'em. And then old man Crowell, he go inside there. And he all right, though; he get guts. Bumbai, he was going to chop down old man Crowell's head with the cane knife, like that, already. One guy from the mountain, he shoot, eh. He drop the cane knife, eh; that's when he cut. Not by force, you know. [Crowell's head was cut when the cane knife dropped from the man's hand, as he was shot.]

CT: You saw that?

JK: No, I never see. No, I never see. But, when I seen, in the car, they holding the head like this and then went to hospital; that one, I saw. That's one, I think Sam Peahu car. The car stay near, by the gate, see. So Sam Peahu drive and then he wen rush to hospital. We stay more on the Brodie pump side, eh. Over there had the big place, you know, parking place.

Anyway, we coming back, we seen already. Some Filipino, they cross the barbed wire fence, eh. Mountain guys, they wen shoot 'em, eh. Every one come with the cane knife, you know.

CT: The Filipino?

JK: Yeah. That cowboy, that sharpshooter, "Bang, bang." Because barbed wire, close barbed wire, that's why, hard to...you must climb up and go over.

CT: How high the barbed wire was?

JK: Oh, about this high, no.

CT: Four and a half, five feet.

JK: Four and a half, five feet, no. And close, you know.

CT: Maybe only one foot or nine inches in between.

JK: Yeah, you cannot go pass, because the barbed wire, he catch you, eh, you cannot go.

CT: So, they were running away?

JK: No, they was going to surround the policemen. You see. [They were in two groups; one in front and one trying to outflank the police from the side or rear, through the banana patch.] They like behind and then surround 'em. But special police stay high place, eh. They no more chance. That's why they get plenty guys killed.

CT: When they were climbing the barbed wire?
JK: Yeah.
CT: You saw that?
JK: I seen some go down that way.
CT: I mean, you saw them trying to climb the barbed wire?
JK: Yeah. Oh, so we run like hell, we go to the car and then take off, eh. We no like get hurt, eh.
CT: From the time that you dropped the policemen off, in your car, and you park your car, where did you go after that? Right after you dropped them off.
JK: No, drop them off over there, and then we back up, went parking place, our parking place. And then we walk and go back. We like see, eh, little bit, you know. So we no go near. We no like get hurt, eh. We stay kind of far away, we watching, eh. But things no good, eh. Somebody, they shooting and mauka guys shooting. So, we run to the car; we run away. But when I run to the car, that's when we see some Filipino. Then, somebody shoot, eh, high guys, from the high place.
CT: Did you see Sheriff Crowell go into the Japanese School place?
JK: Yeah. He went inside.
CT: Did he go by himself?
JK: He get some policemen stay on the side too.
CT: But not all?
JK: No, not all.
CT: The rest stayed outside?
JK: Yeah.
CT: About how many, you think, went in with him?
JK: I think about three, four, no. Guard him and guard must watch, eh. And they went inside, talk to the, I think, strike boss, I think.
CT: You know who the strike boss was?
JK: I don't know.
CT: And did you hear what they said?
JK: Cannot hear.
CT: Too far. Did you see anything that they did, even if...

JK: They talk Filipino, and, you know, big noise, eh. Cannot hear anything.

CT: Oh, but you could hear the sound, but you couldn't know what they saying.

JK: Yeah, yeah. Somebody sharpening the cane knife, eh. And then, you know, Japanese School veranda. And they talk Filipino, eh. You no can hear. They sharpen cane knife, keep on sharpen.

CT: How many guys sharpening?

JK: Plenty guys. Yeah, cane knife; not big kind cane knife, you know. Small kind cane knife. Light, eh. You know, they sharpen. [Kojiri makes steady sharpening motion with his hands.]

CT: All together?

JK: Yeah. You know, stay on the railing, eh. They sharp, eh. You no feel good.

CT: About how many people, you remember was over there?

JK: The strikers? Oh, about 15, no.

CT: Fifteen? That's all, in the whole...

JK: No, full inside there, but the guys....

CT: Oh, on the veranda?

JK: The one on the veranda, sharpening the knife, about 15 guys, no. And then, the plenty on the ground, outside. Plenty guys.

CT: About how many?

JK: Oh, I don't know. Hundred, I think, no. All the strikers stay over there, eh, so everybody come, eh.

CT: Did you see women and children, too?

JK: No, no, no. Maybe some women stay, though. But no more kids. I know wahine, no go in front, he stay behind, by the veranda, they talking, eh. Had very few wahines, no.

CT: When they were sharpening the cane knife, what did they say?

JK: I don't know, they talking Filipino, eh.

CT: Yeah. Just kind of saying, yelling something to....
JK: Oh, just like he make humbug, he like kill 'em, eh.

CT: So, was there more than one person talking?

JK: Plenty guys talking. Plenty guys, talking. Yeah. Not one by one, all talking. You know, when big gang, eh, you get plenty power, eh. Yeah, they talk.

CT: Not just the strike leader?


CT: Even---this is just when Sheriff Crowell went inside?

JK: Yeah. Ho, surround 'em.

CT: Was there a gate that Sheriff Crowell had to go in?

JK: The front gate. Get opening, eh, about 10 feet, gate.

CT: Was the gate closed? Do you remember?

JK: No, open.

CT: When they open 'em, they leave 'em open.

JK: Yeah, leave 'em open. They no close 'em. Wobble kind. Fence, eh, was, old fence.

CT: Do you remember if Sheriff Crowell said anything?

JK: Oh, he was talking. He was talking, but I don't know what he was talking. You cannot hear. You no like go near, eh.

CT: About how long after Sheriff Crowell went inside the gate?

JK: Oh, I think about half an hour, no.

CT: Oh, that long? They were talking inside there?

JK: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

CT: Oh, quite a long time, then?

JK: Yeah. And then, before that, special police from Lihue; I see one car with a rifle, you know, in the car. Oh, the mountain, you know, behind seat.

CT: One mountain of rifles?

JK: Rifles. And then special police come after, eh, they give one by one, rifle. For guard, eh, see.
CT: You remember about how many people had rifle? How many special police had rifles?

JK: Oh, I think, I don't know; I think 20 or more, no, I think.

CT: From that one car?

JK: No, no, they come with the individual car or, I don't know. But, they no come with the rifle car. Rifle, only rifle.

CT: Oh, only rifle in the head car. Did they park the same place you park?

JK: No, park right in front of Po Hong Kee, that restaurant over there. From the school, little bit more to the Lihue side. Park in front, and then special police come, one by one, he give rifle, eh.

CT: This is before he went, Crowell went inside?

JK: Yeah. In case anything, well, must be ready, eh. You don't know what going happen, eh?

CT: What kind gun did they have?

JK: Rifle look like hunting kind rifle. Not Army rifle.

CT: You know what the name of the rifle?

JK: I don't know.

CT: Did you have gun? Did you have rifle?

JK: That time? No. They no give me. But they give me pistol, when stay stationed Camp 4, nighttime. Then, they give me one pistol.

CT: At that time, when Sheriff Crowell went inside, did you see Filipinos with rifle or pistol?

JK: Uh... didn't see. I think, they no get too much pistol or rifle. They get more cane knife, eh. But somebody had, but they hide, eh. Their pistol, like that, they no show. They hide.

CT: Where were they sleeping, all of them?

JK: They sleep in the school.

CT: That many people can sleep in the school? Hundred....

JK: Can sleep on the floor, eh. Maybe some around the front, maybe stay. But mostly, they sleep---they get kitchen over there, kaukau place, eh.
CT: Oh, so you saw that they could cook food, too?

JK: Yeah, cook.

CT: Outside? Inside?

JK: Outside the house. And they stand up and they eat. No more regular kitchen, eh. So many people, eh.

CT: Did you see them eating?

JK: No, I never see them eating. I know get kitchen. Because our strike time, Shimokawa place, we get the kitchen, eh. We used to go in there eat. Port Allen strike. 1936 or 1937. Nine months strike. That's when I went Honolulu work, eh.

CT: So anyway, Sheriff Crowell was in there for maybe half an hour, talking with them. And then, what happened after that?

JK: And then, I think that, both sides come hot, eh. And then, I think, Filipinos, they no listen, I think. They like kill old man, I think, them. Pull out cane knife.

CT: You think that the cane knife is the one that started everything?

[Telephone rings; taping stops, then resumes.]

CT: So, after they were in there half an hour, or so. By the way, Sheriff Crowell cannot speak Filipino, eh?

JK: Must be, Filipino strikers, must be, get the leader can speak English. Because old man Crowell cannot speak Filipino. Maybe, some word can, but....

CT: So maybe the strikers could.

JK: Yeah, some guy can speak English, eh, leaders, eh. But among themselves, all in Filipino, no talk English. So, we don't know what you talking.

CT: You remember any of them, from the time you were living Camp 4?

JK: Nobody stay.

CT: You no remember any Filipinos from Camp 4?

JK: No. I don't know Filipino, I don't know nothing.

CT: No, at the Japanese School?

JK: Even over there, I don't remember.

CT: You know where they had toilet over there? Must have toilet, for that many people.
JK: Yeah, I think so. I don't know where get, but they get, I think. Not flushing toilet, I think. Must be outside.

CT: The hole in the ground kind?

JK: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Too many guys, eh.

CT: You know where they would get their food?

JK: I don't know. They get kaukau.

CT: I wonder if the stores give them credit, or something.

JK: Yeah, they no buy cash, eh. They no going give you charge. I don't think so.

CT: They no going give.

JK: Those days, when it comes to strike, I think if get money, you buy; but maybe some guys, they donate, no, strikers.

CT: But you don't know about that.

JK: No, I don't know.

CT: Okay, so anyway, Crowell and three or four others went in, talk about half an hour. Then, big noise, and everything.

JK: I don't know for what; he like stop strike or, I don't know what reason he go inside, no. Because fight between the labor and the plantation, eh. Police force get nothing to do, eh. Must be get something, argument or something, eh. Otherwise, police no go there.

CT: How about the people riding in your car? Did they talk to you at all?

JK: No, no. They no say.

CT: Even before, they no say nothing?

JK: No, no say.

CT: Not even...

JK: They no say nothing. Just go over here drop off.

CT: Only quiet?

JK: Quiet.

CT: They no even talk to themself?
JK: Yeah, no. Because, you might get killing, eh, over there. Just like war, eh. They kind of scared, too. And one Hawaiian guy, I remember. I go bring back the car from parking place near to Brodie pump. One Hawaiian guy get shooting over here, eh.

CT: In the stomach.

JK: Yeah. From Filipino, must be. Oh then, you know, big Hawaiians, you know. Ho, two fellows get hard time carry, boy. And then, bring to hospital, eh. And then...

CT: You carried him?

JK: I carry him. Me and one more guy. I forget who. So big, eh, no go in by the door, you know. But no pass the door, eh, the car door. Big Hawaiian, eh. So we---in a sideway, we put.

CT: And the guts was coming out?

JK: Hanging down. Make, that guy. He reach over there, make already.

CT: About how many pound, you think, that man?


CT: You?

JK: Yeah.

SK: (JK's wife) They scared, that's why strength come out.

CT: That is after all the shooting is pau? Okay, so after half an hour, Sheriff Crowell, what happened after that? They were inside talking to the Filipinos, and then, after that, what happened?

JK: Well, old man Crowell get hurt, so rush to hospital, eh. And then, separate, eh. Special police and the Filipino guys separate. We run away already.

CT: Okay. In my mind, the way you explain to me, Sheriff Crowell went inside the gate, by the Japanese School. With three or four police, with rifle, and they talked for about half and hour. Big noise and all that. Then, after that, what happened? From there already, the fighting started? Or, they went out the gate? Or what?

JK: Then, I think, some Filipinos, like come behind, no. Through the banana field and come through the fence, eh. They like surround 'em, eh. That's when they, somebody run high place, eh. That's the guy wen kill 'em see. Was fighting already, see.

CT: When the Sheriff was inside the Japanese School yard already...
JK: Yeah, somebody stay up already.

SK: Sneaking already. Sneaking out already.

JK: No, no, no.

SK: The Filipinos was going inside the banana bush already. That's Mr. Brodie's banana plantation, that.

JK: So then, just like fight, eh, already. "Bang, bang, bang."

CT: What I want to know is, did they go out of the gate? Did Sheriff go out of the gate?

JK: Yeah, they rush to the hospital.

CT: But was he injured inside the gate, as far as you know?

JK: Yeah, inside the gate. In the gate he was talking, and then some Filipino, from behind, he like chop 'em, eh. Somebody shoot 'em, this guy. He wen drop the cane knife, and then they cut over here.

CT: But that one, you never see?

JK: Never see.

SK: But the guy who wen drop the cane knife, the kanaka wen shoot 'em, eh?

JK: Yeah. High guys wen shoot 'em. They all sharpshooter, eh, you know, hunter, eh. Shoot like nothing, eh, this kind. They can shoot small goat and humans like nothing. No more miss, eh. Yeah, they smart, though. All, they collect all the good hunter, eh. If that time, no more special police, I think, plenty regular police, I think so get killed. One Hanapepe police--before, get one station-Hanapepe--one Chinese old man. He get shooting over here, eh. He make too. Chinese hapa, I think. I don't know what he do. He make right there. Hanapepe police, that; he stay in Hanapepe.

CT: So in this half an hour time, when they were talking, what were you doing?

JK: We stay back up, slow by slow.

CT: You were backing up?

JK: Yeah, backing up. Things not so good, eh.

CT: No look like they going to...

JK: Yeah, so we back up. Back up to the car. Ready for run away. We no care if policeman get shooting or what, but we no like get
shooting, eh. But when back up time, I see some Filipino. Then, we jump in the car and then we run away more far place, eh.

CT: You reverse with the car?
JK: No. Stay turn around, ready for go already. Turn around and, you know.

CT: And then, when the shooting started, about how long you remember that shooting lasted?
JK: Oh, when we run away with the car time, "Bang, bang, bang." They were shooting. Already on the car, running away. Then, we stand by over there, by the car. And then everything pau, no shooting already, and then somebody tell us, "Pau already, come back. Pick up the wounded guy."

CT: So, from the time the shooting started, till the time the shooting ended, about how long?
JK: I don't know; maybe half an hour, 45 minute, I think.

CT: That long?
JK: Yeah.

CT: That's bang, bang, bang?
JK: Yeah. Because even we parking place, we can hear some, "Bang, bang," like that. I don't know, for make 'em scared, maybe shoot some blind, but, but noisy. Bumbai, after everything pau, come back and then pick up a wounded guy, eh.

CT: You remember what time you got the call from the police station, to go?
JK: I think was before lunch, eh. Because we never get lunch, that day. Never eat.

CT: And then, you went Hanapepe, and then you wait.
JK: Yeah. Then come back to the hospital, wounded guy. Then, go back again.

CT: What hospital was that?
JK: Kaumakani. They call Makaweli Hospital. No more now. Right by Kaumakani Avenue entrance, on the left hand side, makai side.

CT: And you went two times?
JK: Two times.
CT: And what time you came home, that day?

JK: Oh, was evening time, no. Evening time. Oh, that night, I no can sleep. I remember, I no can sleep.

CT: What you were thinking?

JK: I was thinking about daytime, and this and that. So scared, eh. Yeah, cannot sleep, boy. First time, boy, I come, happen like that. More worse than war, though. War, come war, you fight for country, eh. This kind, strikers, and then you get hurt, nothing, eh. You no get nothing, eh.

SK: So you got to run away.

JK: Run away, the best.

SK: An toki ni how many Filipino ga shinda? [During that time, how many Filipinos died?]

JK: I think about 15 or more, no. I remember, when I pick up from community hall, how many coffin. One ton and a half truck, boy, how much I wen pile 'em up, coffin. Bring to Hanapepe graveyard. And smell already, eh.

SK: Was smelly.

JK: Ho, I tell you.

CT: Who went to pick up the coffin?

JK: Me.

CT: Only you?

JK: With the truck. And the families load 'em up, eh. I no touch. Family, they load 'em up. Friend or family.

CT: So, only you rode in the front?

JK: No, me and one more guy. One man. Ho, so smell, eh. Some Filipinos stay behind the truck, eh, they all puke, vomit. So stink. No more service, nothing. Just go over there, go bury 'em, that's all.

CT: By Salt Pond?


CT: And how did they put 'em in the grave? You remember? You were there when they put the coffin in the grave?

JK: Yeah, yeah, yeah.
CT: They put one on top the other?

JK: No, no. Long trench.

CT: Oh, must be pretty long, then?

JK: Yeah.

CT: You remember who dug that?

JK: I don't know who dig. Not too much deep, though. Not too much deep. No more boulder or nothing, over there is sand, eh. Loose soil, eh, you cannot dig too deep, because cave in, eh.

That time I think about, ho. After human die, about three days, come smell no. Different kind smell, though.

CT: Three days later, they buried?

JK: I think about two, three days, no. They make with the 1-by-12, eh. About this wide and about six feet long.

CT: If 1-by-12, they put two 1-by-12 together?

JK: This way, one piece [side], eh. But the bottom, two piece, no. If not, body no go in, eh.

CT: On the side, one piece.

JK: One piece, and then cover, two piece. Bottom part, get that cross piece, eh. And then, nail on the side, 1-by-12 on the side, eh. Then, on top get two piece cover. And then brace 'em.

CT: You know who made that?

JK: I don't know who made. Because plantation not going give you that lumber, material. Must be parents, eh.

CT: So, you don't know how the fight started, then; down Hanapepe?

JK: I don't know why that old man Crowell went. I don't know what kind of argument. That, I don't know. Then, after everything pau, I used to deliver special police, eh, watch the Hanapepe town. I used to drive the Graham truck. Drop here, drop there, drop here, drop there. Then, one Filipino old man, he was hiding in the panini, eh. Ah, he get all the needle, eh, body. So I remember, I bring 'em to the hospital. Waimea Hospital. Take off all the needle, eh. All the body.

CT: You help him?

JK: No, I bring to hospital. Nurse wen---doctor wen take 'em off. So
many. So scared, eh, he go dive inside the panini. All over, boy. Body. Yeah. You know how long the panini needle.

SK: You know what's panini?

CT: Yeah, the cactus, eh?

JK: And then, for quite long, used to bring special police over there.

CT: To Hanapepe?

JK: Yeah. And then leave over there. Then, Hawaiian Sugar cane field, no. Camp two side, this corner two men--mostly two men, see, one day.

CT: In the field?

JK: Yeah. Certain place, corner like that. Roadway, we deliver, in there. Nighttime, they watch, eh, because maybe somebody, they set fire like that. And then, I stay by Camp 4, one camp small little shack, with the, about three policemen. Stand by. See, when time come, then got to pick up, eh. Pick up the police and bring back, eh. Usually, only nighttime.

CT: What time would you deliver them?

JK: Evening time.

CT: Like 8 o'clock, or something?

JK: Deliver in the evening time, and then next day, day light. Because plantation--by the time, plantation lunas come out, eh. They can watch, eh. Nighttime, they not, eh.

CT: Did they ever catch anybody making fire?

JK: No. But all special police, all get the rifle, eh. Every one get rifle.

CT: Did you ever hear of them making fire? Before, or...

JK: No. No more.

CT: They just thought maybe.

JK: They scared, maybe they set the fire, eh. So plantation, they ask for special police, eh, during nighttime. That's when they give me a pistol, nighttime.

CT: They taught you how to shoot, too?

JK: No.
CT: Or, did you know already?

JK: Nah, I don't know nothing, but get bullet inside. I can shoot. But, I used to fool around, eh, pistol. Go shoot fence post. About 12, 15 feet away. Fence post, eh. No can hit, though.

CT: Pistol, eh, that's why.

JK: Not one time. I aiming good, eh, "bang," like that, you know.

CT: Jerk up, eh.

JK: Yeah. Hard, though. Shotgun, I used to; hunting, that's why. Pistol, too much, no can handle good.

CT: What did you think about that whole thing, anyway; the shooting?

JK: What?

CT: What you think about it, now?

JK: Oh, lucky thing I no get hurt. (Laughs) That's the main thing.

SK: He was scared. Real scared.

CT: Did you folks know each other, that time?

SK: No.

CT: He told you after?

SK: Yeah. But, I saw all the dead bodies. Come up the community hall, over there. Bring with the truck, eh. Ho, smelly. Just full load, you know. Pile, pile, pile.

JK: That's when I was driving truck.

CT: You were driving that truck, too?

JK: I bring to, what you call, graveyard.

SK: He go pick up; they have to come to the community hall--by the courthouse--then, they have to see that those men were killed over there. And then, he had to take 'em back to the graveyard--Hanapepe graveyard, Veterans' top. Trench. Bury them, and just dump 'em in the trench. That was Reverend Runes was the minister. At that time. I think that I remember, Reverend Runes.

JK: I don't know. I no see.

SK: Because Reverend Runes, he was at Waimea. He was mauka.

CT: That first day, when they got shot, did you go and pick them up from Hanapepe?
JK: Filipino? No, I never pick up no Filipino.

CT: Not you? Oh, somebody else.

SK: Before that [incident], was only...

JK: [Filipino strikers] Never made trouble.

SK: Never make trouble. Just, they were in the Japanese School yard. All the strikers was in there, sleeping and eating. At that time, wasn't too much trouble, but they were scheming what to do, eh.

JK: You know, one Filipino guy, in the Hanapepe River, stay hide in the water. Only take out the head, stay waiting. Somebody wen catch 'em.

SK: But he no like fight, eh?

JK: He no like fight, that's why, see.

CT: Do you think that could have been prevented some way?

SK: Nah, at that time, Filipinos was just like cannibal, eh.

JK: Strong, eh.

SK: All that time, Filipinos, they go for broke, they no scared. Not like now; kind of civilized. At that time, ah.

JK: Filipinos, ho shit; they think kill people nothing. Yeah, that time, I bring policemen Kanalewa Pump, ho boy, that damn gun--that's shotgun--stay broke, you know, half way. Fight. Even hit 'em with the gun, eh. One guy, all bald head, you know, no more skin. And no make, yet, you know. Bring 'em hospital.

SK: That time, somebody's father died. Strike time, father died. You know who's father? That boy is not over here, but. Francisco Ceballos, Lucy's husband.

JK: Dodong?

SK: Dodong. Lucy's husband's father, that man died in the strike. There, they shoot 'em, eh. You know Lucy Ceballos? The husband's father died at that strike. And then, one more. Delanoza, in the camp. This boy, he get other brothers, is in Honolulu. After the man died, the mother got married to Delanoza. Before, was different name. Two Filipino ladies came into the camp, from the strike place. After the strike all settled, the husband all make, so, I think relatives or something body was in this camp. That, I know.

CT: Were you living in the camp?
SK: No, they were not living in the camp.

CT: No, you?

SK: Me? Well, me Yamase, so I live over there. So, I know that those two ladies. And Ceballos, the mama is still living. She's senile. And then, Delanoza's mama is still living and senile. She's staying with the big boy in Honolulu. Senile. But Dodong knows. Maybe go to him and ask him that story. Because that boy was about nine years old about, Dodong. He know that his father died at the strike. You know Lucy's house, eh, in Kalaheo?

CT: I can go ask my mother.

(SK gives directions to Lucy's house.)

JK: [If Dodong was] Nine year old.

SK: [He wouldn't know. But, the story he heard. The mother talk, so they stay hear what happened. You know. And then, with that boy, she got married to Ceballos.

END OF SIDE THREE

SIDE FOUR

JK: Make already, Sam Peahu.

SK: Sam Peahu died?

JK: Yeah, make. And then, had Mokui "Matule" Kawelo. Him too.

CT: How about their relatives? You think any of them alive?

JK: Lei Aiana?

SK: Lei Aiana, don't know. I don't think she know about this strike. I think, about he [Mr. Kojiri], the only one. The kids are around, but I don't think so, they remember.

CT: Not eye witness?

SK: Yeah. Eye witness no more. I think he's only about the only guy eye witness.

JK: I think only me, though.

CT: One other lady in Hanapepe, too. But she was hiding. She wasn't in the strike camp; she was in the house next door.
JK: Japanese?

CT: Filipino.

JK: Oh, she was hiding? So scared.

CT: Yeah. Because baby, eh, one month old baby. So, she run away quick.

SK: Oh, that time was furious. Really.

JK: Ho, you go nighttime, Hanapepe town, boy. Those days, no more new road, eh. All pass through town. Ho boy, even you drive car, you stay like this [hunched over] and go boy. Scared.

CT: After that?

JK: Yeah, after, that. Even, the special police, I used to deliver, eh. Nighttime, you pass over there, eh, ho, stay like this [hunched over low], drive. You don't know, some damn fool, he like shoot 'em, eh.

CT: Oh, the policeman. What? Who like shoot 'em?

JK: Maybe Filipino like shoot. Stay so mad, eh.

SK: They mad. Because plenty the companion, plenty make, eh. That's why they mad. They sure was mad. And no small fight, you know, that time was. Big fight, you know.

CT: How did they show that they were mad?

SK: Everyday, you can see them, in the camp. Well, sharpen their blade. You know, the katchi cane knife? You know, they call that cane knife; they make 'em into small....

CT: One, two-inch machete like?

SK: Yeah. And then sharp, sharp, sharp. So when they fight, they give you one crack, your neck go down.

JK: That time, we went pretty close, you know. Ho, the Japanese School veranda, they get railing, eh. They stay sharp.

SK: Everybody sharpening their knife.

JK: Everybody sharpening. About how many guys, about one dozen, I think.

SK: They call 'em that's the bolo knife. They call that bolo knife. They make 'em into bolo knife. They sure sharpen. That's their job to sharpen. Anytime when they get attacked, they sure going kill 'em, anybody. Was bad, bad, bad. Was sure bad.
CT: How long that lasted?

SK: Quite long, no. They were in that camp [Hanapepe strike camp], no. I don't know how they ate and go, though.

CT: That's the one I trying to find out, too. That's why I ask him if the stores going give 'em credit. And he said, "No."

SK: I don't think so, I don't think so. Unless the friends, they bring on the sly, no; from the friends, like that. But I don't know how they ate and go. Because not one, two guys, you know. Plenty guys. I don't think so they went out from there.

CT: And I was asking if Manila Trading Company---maybe Filipino store going to give 'em something.

SK: No, I don't think so.

JK: Where Manila Trading?

SK: Manila Trading was in Hanapepe. Yeah, Manila Trading was in Hanapepe.


SK: Okada Store, that San Sing Ching was running it.

JK: Is that right? I thought that place was Manila Trading.

SK: But I know, I don't know how they ate in there.

JK: Yeah. Filipino store, very few, you know.

SK: Yeah. At that time, only I knew had a place called Manila Trading. I don't know.

CT: No more other Filipino store?

SK: No more. At that time, no more Filipino store. You can ask Lucy, though. Because Lucy's mama, Ceballos' mama story. I'm quite sure the friends, they sly kaukau inside. I don't think so they went out from there, though; from the Japanese School place. Because they were always watched by the police.

CT: They had police outside the Japanese School?

SK: They don't stay right outside, but on the borderline, like that. But I'm quite sure they couldn't get out from there, from that Japanese School.

CT: The other thing I like find out is, who was running the Japanese School that rented them the hall, see.
SK: At that time, the sensei?

JK: How come they rent the Japanese School, though?

SK: I think was vacation, eh? Summertime, or something.

CT: September 9.

SK: I think was summertime, because that was the Japanese School they had rented to stay. And if you want to know—oh, at that time, was Inouye sensei. He was school teacher, the wife was school teacher.

JK: Jyukichi Inouye.

SK: Or else~ no, you can ask any old people in Hanapepe. They would know. Don't have to be the sensei.

CT: I heard that they had built one new school, so that this one was not being used already.

SK: I guess so, I think so.

JK: Because, where the new Japanese School? I no see no Japanese School in Hanapepe. Park side?

SK: I really don't know. I know that was the old Japanese School.

JK: Old otera?

SK: Otera ja nai. [Not the church—oteranai.]

JK: That time no more, no.

SK: But if you ask these old people in Hanapepe, about this school, you can get information.

CT: Did you folks in Waimea hear about this Pablo Manlapit?

SK: Pablo Manlapit? I don't hear that name, but. He must be the leader of this thing, Manlapit.

CT: Yeah, but he was Honolulu.

JK: Oh, Manlapit. He was union leader.

CT: You ever heard him talk?

JK: No. Our strike time, Jack Hall.

SK: Yeah, ours is Jack Hall. He died, though, but.
JK: When just, I think, from Mainland, he come. He get the ahina pants, yogore, just like hippie kind style.

SK: Yeah, but we suffer--one year, you know. One year.

JK: Nine months.

SK: Nine months, we strike. And then pau; another six months.

JK: Nah, three month.

SK: Sure, three months. Bumbai, another three months. Boy....

JK: But then, crazy, eh.

SK: Get plenty fighters, that's why.

JK: But, we no get no more benefits. Yeah, we start the union, but no benefit. Only the new guys get benefits. We work hard, we hard labor.

SK: They were the one that bring up Kauai Commercial. But dame.

JK: Us, nothing. Good juice go all the young guys, they sucking the good juice. That's right, though.

SK: But somebody got to start. Somebody got to be the starter.

JK: We start, but we no get benefit.

SK: Like now, what, retirement is very good, eh. They get good price. Like him, he work almost, what, 38 years; the retirement is only $68. For 38 years. Just a drop in a bucket. But today, you try get 38 years over there; they get $300, $400. See, that's the difference. But at that time, the union leader was dame, that's why.

JK: That's why, I tell many times...

SK: But that's how. They go wrong, they improve, they go wrong, they go improve. Hajime kara [from the beginning], anybody, they cannot improve.

JK: That's why I tell, meeting time, every time, "No ask for more, only pay, pay, pay. Think about the old guys' retirement." But, too much young guys, eh, so the old fellows lose, eh. Only pay, pay, pay.

SK: They like tomorrow only good pay, tomorrow good pay. But they no think, when they come 65, how much they going to lose. They don't think that. But the old people, they think that because they right there. But the young fellows go above, because get more young boys than the old boys. Well, today...

CT: This the one [Waialua-Haleiwa oral history project] we did. I was showing him, so that's why he agreed to let me tape this time. Remember last time, he never like, eh?

SK: Yeah, yeah.

CT: I told him, because we wrote notes, see, from that one. But came out only short, only four pages. So I told him, if he let us tape, then come longer, like this.

SK: Like it's a story?

CT: Well, just whatever he say.

SK: But, I would think, if you go to Lucy, you get the more inside dope. Because she heard. The old lady would talk the story, what happened, this and that, this and that; before she got married to Dodong. So, was the inside thing. She would know better than we would know. Because like him [Mr. Kojiri], he only work with the police. Get the police over there. But now, if you ask Lucy, Dodong, the mother would tell the story; why they went inside there, why they strike, and then who was the leader. No?

CT: Yeah. Right, right. How they eat...

SK: And, what they wen eat, who was supporting them with the kaukau, and what they were doing inside there. Nobody knows what they were doing, because we cannot go in. Because of scared. We only look at the Filipinos inside there. Anytime, they can attack you.

JK: And then, this kind of story, you all collect here and there?

CT: Yeah. This one Waialua. This one going be Hanapepe, Kilauea side, and...

SK: But, I think Lucy would know more, because Lucy married Dodong, that's why. Ceballos' mama would tell you who died, who killed and what not. I think she get more details—his detail and her detail could be different story.

CT: Well, different part, but his one is really important.

SK: Well, at least you get little bit dope out of him.

JK: Plenty, not little bit.

(Laughter)

JK: You like for drink or anything?

CT: No, no, no. I got to go.
SK: I no more beer.

JK: No, no, juice. He no drink beer; he missionary. Go take out juice.

CT: No, no, no. Nah, going eat. You guys going eat, too, eh, already. Umm, I don't know, I asking you too much, or what; but one day, if you can, I like to go over there and if you can say, "Over here was the Japanese School, over here the policemen were standing up, I parked my car over here," and all that.

JK: But, I wonder, get Japanese School?

CT: No more.

JK: And then now, road different.

SK: You know where the bougainvillea? Don't have, no. Even koa tree, don't have too much.

CT: So, if you can take me over there and say, "Okay, over here had cactus, over here..."

JK: Oh, now get Nishimura Market, and then Shimonishi's. What that place?

CT: You mean before, never get?

JK: Before, never get nothing. No more nothing.

SK: That only was a stone wall, go up.

JK: And then, banana field side, all house, eh. I wonder get Japanese School, though.

SK: That the son, Mr. Brodie's, the tire one. [Actually, Lex Brodie is not a relative of the banana patch Brodie.]

CT: Lex Brodie?

SK: Yeah, that's the son.

CT: I go try talk to him, too, Honolulu.

SK: Yeah, that's what I heard.

JK: Nah.

SK: Yeah, that's what I heard.

JK: Yeah?

SK: Yeah. Because we thought that Brodie was Hofgaard--you know,
Hofgaard. We had Mr. Hofgaard, Hofgaard Store, before our time. I think Mama knows. Anyway, you wouldn't know—that Hofgaard, Gertrude married Brodie; that child is the boy.

JK: His father, the Hanapepe Brodie?

SK: Yeah, the banana field Brodie's son, that. This Brodie.

JK: Who told you?

SK: Somebody said.

JK: Oh. Well, that time, if he stay Kauai, maybe he know.

SK: Yeah. Because those people every time send their kids to Mainland school. So only the old man was the principal of Hanapepe School, elementary school; Mr. Brodie, he was the principal. And he had that banana farm.

JK: Brodie pump side, they get well, you know.

CT: See, I don't know even where the pump. If you can tell me where the pump.

JK: I think that Japanese graveyard get, pump. The road to up heights, eh, Hanapepe Heights. That area.

SK: That area has become a ditch; it's a ditch now.

JK: Yeah, it's a ditch now.

CT: But no more water now?

JK: No, they close up the well.

SK: That was the pump to pump the water to the banana field.

JK: Yeah, pump, pump, pump kind. All this time. And then, there was good banana, you know.

SK: Yeah, not high kind. Short banana, but...

JK: Chinese banana. Those days, no more Bluefield, like that. Chinese banana. And then, barbed wire all around. People, they go steal, that's why, Brodie, he smart, close the wire, eh.

CT: Oh, that's why had barbed wire. (Laughs)

JK: Barbed wire, hard time, eh. When they steal, they steal nighttime, eh. Daytime, they no steal, see.

CT: Maybe, that's one way they got some food, too, then; the Filipinos.
SK: Yeah, then they take the bananas. They must have ate some bananas from there, too. I guess, that's their food, eh, Filipinos.

JK: Because, they never can go through, in between the wire.

SK: Yeah, because the wire, nobody can go puka through, see.

JK: Yeah. That's why, he must go over, goes top, eh. See, go on up, catch the wire, go up and got to jump, eh. That's why, the Filipino with the cane knife, they like come, and then they go climb up the barbed wire. The high guys, that cowboy from the top, he "bang," eh. [JK yells] They fall down, eh.

Eh, boy, no feel good boy. Somebody, get shooting, and then yell at you. Fall down, eh. I see about two. We no stay there, run away time, eh.

CT: How old were they, the Filipinos?

JK: Now too old. They young people.

CT: Twenties, 30's?

SK: Yeah, I think so, about that, though.

JK: Those days Filipinos, mostly from Philippine Island, eh.

CT: Just like Japanese.

JK: Young guys, most young guys.

SK: Yeah, see Lucy. If you ask Lucy, I think she would know plenty. Because Ceballos mama would tell everything.

JK: Now, get plenty old men, Filipino old men; but those days, get plenty young Filipinos. No more too much old one, no?

SK: But today's Filipino kids is the local kids already, eh, Filipinos. Those days, was all from the Philippine Island kind.

JK: Those days, no more second generation. Very few.

CT: Not too many women, too, eh.

JK: Yeah.

CT: So, I don't know if you can, but...

JK: You like go Sunday; you like go see around there. But now, you go, hard to tell, though. I wonder if get Japanese School, though.

SK: No more Japanese School, because what's that, Wakasa's house was there now.
JK: This side house, this side house, that's why. And then, I know, I remember, that plenty ironwood tree over there.

CT: Okay. Well, what I going do, then, I going back Honolulu, they going type this out--going come like this--and I bring 'em back to you. You can look, and if you want to change something, or add something, then...

JK: No need change. (Laughs)

CT: Maybe you can add something, after you think, eh.

SK: Well, you can add something to the story. Mostly all, no, what I know. But that time, scared, boy; I no can forget, though. Was shaking. You know.

CT: Driving home?

SK: All the way through, he was shaking. Waiting, shaking.

JK: I tell you.

CT: And you said, even the policemen were scared too.

JK: Yeah, I think so. But I no see them shaking, but me, I must have, I think. Even drive time, I...(Laughs)

SK: Young boy, and then. How old were you?

CT: That's right. Twenty-three.

JK: 1923, eh, that strike.

CT: 1924. So, you were 23 years old.

SK: Yeah, how young, and then you were scared.

JK: I never get married yet, that time.

SK: Yeah, 27, he got married. Twenty-seven years old. You got married at 27? You got married at 26?

JK: Was 27. Twenty-six or 27. Forgot.

SK: Too old already, 77 already.

END OF INTERVIEW.
The 1924 Filipino Strike on Kauai

Volume I

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