BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: Mary Clarke, 84, former homemaker

"Oh, I love Kālia. I always think of Kālia. Especially when you see the old friends come, you know. Boy, it brings back lot of beautiful memories. But I'm thankful that really I had a good childhood. We were brought up good. We went and visited one another. We played. But our playground was right in our yard, and all our neighbor kids would come."

Mary Ellen Kealohapau'ole (Paoa) Clarke, Hawaiian-Caucasian, was born March 26, 1902. She grew up on the family estate where the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel stands today. The fifth of twelve children and the third girl, Clarke was given many household responsibilities, including taking care of her younger siblings.

Clarke attended Waikīkī and Ka'ahumanu Elementary Schools and Phillips Commercial School. In 1927 she married Jack Clarke, a New Zealander.

Clarke lived on the family estate until 1955, when the family leased the land to Henry J. Kaiser. Since 1973, she has lived in Kona.

She has two daughters, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Her younger brother, Fred Paoa, was also interviewed for this project.
Tape No. 13-56-1-85 and 13-57-1-85

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Mary Paoa Clarke (MC)

May 20, 1985 -

Kailua, Kona, Hawai'i

BY: Warren Nishimoto (WN)

WN: This is an interview with Mrs. Mary Paoa Clarke on May 20, 1985 at her home in Kailua, Kona, Hawai'i. The interviewer is Warren Nishimoto.

Okay, Mrs. Clarke, can you tell me when you were born and where you were born?

MC: I was the first one born in that home at the corner of Kālia [Road] and Ala Moana [Boulevard]. I was born March 26, 1902.

WN: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

MC: There were six girls and six boys in our family.

WN: And what number were you?

MC: I was number five.

You know, in our family, we could be out of the house but we all had to be home by five o'clock in the evening. Get cleaned up, and we had to sit at the table at ten [minutes] after five to have dinner. And if one of us (was late you) have to wait till everybody else is through eating. Then you'll eat and clean the table, wash the dishes, (wipe and put them away). That's how they were punished. Only one sister, she was rascal. She was the only one used to be punished like that all the time. That was Annie.

We went to Waikīkī School--that's across the Moana Hotel--which is [where] the [Princess] Ka'īulani Hotel [is] now. We walked from our home to school. There was Fred [Paoa, MC's younger brother and another interviewee]--I used to hold Fred's hand, take him to school. Then after we graduated from that school, we all went to Ka'ahumanu School. And we walked from Ala Moana, Kālia, to Pi'ikoi Street to Ka'ahumanu School.

WN: What grade did Waikīkī School go up to?
MC: Third grade. We started in the fourth grade at Ka'ahumanu. Then after the eighth grade, to McKinley High School. But I never went there. I went to Phillips Commercial School for a while.

WN: So, seems like your parents were kind of strict, huh? Tell me something about your father . . .

MC: My parents were very strict, my mother especially. We couldn't go out on dates, even when I was sixteen. We had a hard time, you know, going out. My father was a great person. He was well loved by all of his friends. He had Filipino (and) Japanese friends, all kinds of friends. That man, he was a wonderful person. Soft-spoken, you know. Never lost his temper, never spoke bad of anybody, nothing. But my mother was very strong. My mother was English-Hawaiian. Her father was from Maine. George (Allen) Bridges. And she came from a nice family. She was pretty strict with us. My father was, but not as strict as my mother.

WN: Your mother's father's name was George Bridges?

MC: George (Allen) Bridges.

WN: What was her mother's name?

MC: Her mother's name was Ka'ainahuna. See, George Bridges [first] married this woman, Keli'iholani was her name, [and] had one daughter, Mariah. And she [Mariah] was sent to Boston to live with his family. After his wife [Keli'iholani] died, he married her sister, Ka'ainahuna. Then [they] had my mother, one brother, and two other sisters. Four of them.

WN: What was your mother's name?

MC: My mother's name was Florence (Kamaka'opiopio) Bridges Paoa. (Kamaka'opiopio means "young, laughing eyes.")

We all had to play in our yard. We weren't allowed to go out of our yard. The only time we're allowed to go was to go down to the beach. You know where the 'Ilikai [Hotel now] is? And we couldn't go unless our cousins went with us, Sam and Bill Kahanamoku. They [MC's parents] were that strict. We only swam right near the shoreline. Then after a while, Sam and Bill would take us out until we learned to swim. Then from there, we went to the Pierpoint. That's Cassidy's [residence]. Duke's [Duke Kahanamoku] father used to take us there with him. Then when we learned how to swim, we were allowed to go to Fort DeRussy where we could dive (from the diving boards). But we very seldom went to the Moana [Hotel area]. Only when we wanted to surf, we'd go out there. David [Kahanamoku] used to take us now and then, not all the time. It's too far from home.

We had two hau trees in our yard. I'll never forget those hau trees. One hau tree we had, my mother had planted a bougainvillea right by it. And it grew [and] wound itself around the hau tree. The hau
tree (had) yellow flowers, and when they bloomed together (with the purple bougainvillea), oh, it was beautiful. Then we had one (hau) tree, my father had fixed it on top. It just came down this way—it wasn't too high. I think it was just as high as the ceiling here. And he'd trim it, and cut all the sharp (branches), and all came down (almost to the ground). We could slide on it. We were allowed to play on that tree. (Our childhood days were happy and beautiful.)

Then all our neighbors--the Cassidy boys used to come and play baseball out on (Kālia Road). The Lamberts came, Charlie and Andy. And there was Joe Ikeole. "Liko" [Earle Vida, another interviewee] hardly came. Gay Harris. All of them came and played in our yard because we couldn't get out. And we weren't allowed to go to swim on Sundays. We couldn't do anything 'cause my father and mother were very religious. They said that was Sabbath day. So, we stayed home.

WN: Where exactly was your house and yard? What is there now?

MC: Well, now, you know where the---it has that big sign. Right at the corner of Kālia and Ala Moana, there's a big sign that says "Hawaiian Village," isn't there? Our home was right there. [Near where the Hawaiian Village Dome now stands.] We had a lovely, big, old-fashioned house with a L-shaped verandah. That was our home. In 1948--no, not '48, little later than that--they cut that road [i.e., the yard] in half [in order to widen Ala Moana Boulevard in ca. 1951]. Took away the hau trees. I don't know how many feet they took away. Our [original] yard extended up to [what today is] the middle [i.e., medial] strip.

WN: So, as you're driving on Ala Moana, and you come to the intersection of Ala Moana and Kālia, going toward Kalākaua, right at the road that you're traveling toward Kalākaua, that's where your house and yard was?

MC: Ours was right by (the corner of) Kālia and Ala Moana. Not the road going up the other way [i.e., John 'Ena Road]. Then, after a while [in the 1950s], they cut those two roads going up [to Kalākaua Avenue]. They did away with the army corral [which] was right across our home. And the cottage where there were two (or) three (army) boys that took care of it. Very nice kids. I know Dr. [David] Pang lived right across us, and his family. And there was another Chinese family across us. There were two Chinese families there. And then, Ah Yin Store was beyond that. Kam Look Store [was] on the other side [on Ala Moana and Hobron Lane] near the Beach Clothes Cleaner. Oh, we had a beautiful childhood. I'll never forget it.

Andy Lambert used to come over, and he'd have two sticks, little wooden pieces about that long. He'd put it between [his fingers], and he'd do this. You don't see anybody do that (now).

WN: What did he do?

MC: He'd rattle (them together).
MC: No, no, longer than that (3-1/2 inches). He’d put (them between his fingers). He used to go "ta-da-rum, ta-da-rum, ta-da-rum-rum-rum." He was good. And he used to play the slack key [guitar], beautiful player. Andy. Just passed (away).

WN: Was he Haole?

MC: No, the mother was Guamanian, the father was Haole.

The Cressatys, one of the girls, Alice, used to be our playmate. Thelma Ka'ai and her brother, Bob Ka'ai, used to come (over) there and play with us. They were only allowed in our yard, no other place.

WN: Where did these families live?

MC: Right on Kālia Road. See, [along Kālia Road, heading toward Ala Moana Boulevard, there was] Dewey Court, then there (were) the Silvas, Portuguese family. Then there (was) the Hummels, the Bickertons, the Cressatys, the Cassidy's, Tsuji, and then us on Kālia Road.

WN: This is John 'Ena Estate?

MC: That's in the John 'Ena Estate [excluding the Paoa property]. That was all leased, you know. John 'Ena leased it out to them. Then, after they [the families] moved [out], then they built all those homes and they called it "Submarine Lane." Because we had nothing but navy (families) [living] there, so they called it (chuckles) "Submarine Lane." But that name didn't stay (long).

WN: Where did the Paoa property extend to?

MC: You mean, where we lived? Our old home?

WN: And also, what you owned. The land . . .

MC: Oh, before my father sold (some)?

WN: Yeah.

MC: Well, from Kālia Road down Ala Moana to the beach, right straight down. He owned that (i.e., from the corner of Kālia Road and Ala Moana Beach Road, down past where the Waikikian Hotel today is, to the beach).

WN: Tell me something about your father.

MC: Oh, my father worked at the immigration station for many years. First he worked at the customs house, then he worked at the immigration station for long time. Then he had to retire, he got sick.
And he had two huge canoes, and one small one. He had a huge one
(which) he (used for) fishing. He'd stand on the beach and look
out. That place was noted for akule way out. Nothing but akule.
You know where the 'Ilikai Hotel is [now]? You look out. There
was no [Ala Wai] Canal [near] there. He had this huge canoe, and
he only used that to go fishing. Then he had a little one, where
my brother Henry and "Tough Bill" [Keaweamahi], used just to
ride around that area. When he sees fish, he'd call some Hawaiian
men. Oh, they were big men. Four of them. They all get in and
they'd go fishing. When they come back--never fail--he'd get the
fish. He'd lay it down in the big pan, and each man had (his
share). And every Hawaiian along the shoreline had, like Kaimi,
Espinda, and I don't know if there were some more. And he'd give
them fish. He never lost a (catch). He had a big fishing stone
his father gave him that was stolen from him. And he always
said he knew who had it, but he wouldn't come out with it. He
said, "That's all right. They take my stone, they never [will]
catch a fish."

WN: What did he do with the stone?

MC: It's a fishing stone. I don't know what it was, but I think in
those days, Hawaiians had all kinds of beliefs. He never missed a
(catch).

(My father and five big Hawaiian men paddled one of my father's
large canoes on regatta day in front of the old Halekulani or Moana
Hotels. We all sat under the hau trees which grew, and a lanai was
built so people could sit under the trees.)

Before the canal was built, and when we had rain, it just flooded
our yard. And my brothers used to get (in the little) canoe, and
ride it in the yard. Oh, the water was way up high. We couldn't
go anywhere. If somebody had to go (to the) store, you get in the
canoe and (chuckles) get off and go by the bridge and go to the
store.

WN: What games did you play?

MC: We played... (MC slaps lap, then claps hands.) What's that?
(Laughs)

WN: Patty-cake?

MC: And ring-a-ring-a-roses. (London bridges, marbles.) Oh, gosh, all
of us. There was Nina Harbottle, Gardie Harbottle, Cassidy's,
Thelma Ka'ai.

Mr. Hummel was with the City and County. Nice man. One day, I
remember, when they were fixing the road, I called him on the phone.
And I said, "You know, [someday] we're going to have an accident
here, right on the corner of our place, Kālia." I told him who I
was.
"Yes, Mary."

I said, "You know, somebody's going to get killed." Boy, that night, this woman was hit. She lived right near us. She was pregnant, you know. I called him. I said, "You see, that accident last night."

He said, "You made kahuna." (Laughs) No, he said they were going to have [traffic] lights. Well, that place had grown, eh?

But the first night that road was open, the one that goes down Ala Moana . . .

WN: Toward town [i.e., the ca. 1951 extension of Ala Moana Road from Kālia Road to Kalākaua Avenue]?

MC: Yeah, towards town. The first night, this army car came so fast, hit a coconut tree, and one of the men got killed right there. First night it opened. Oh, it was horrible.

WN: How old were you when that opened?

MC: Oh, (when I was in my fifties) that road opened. . . . We moved away from there in '55. Ah, let's see. About that time, I think. I think that's when it opened (ca. 1951).

WN: Oh, you mean, from Kālia all the way to Kalākaua? That road?

MC: Yeah, those roads were all open. I think it was about that time. That was a good cut, though, you know. Right straight up to Kalākaua, instead of going over [to Kalākaua via John 'Ena Road].

WN: How did you used to go to Kalākaua?

MC: Oh, we'd go (up) John 'Ena Road. We used to walk up on Kalākaua and McCully to wait for the rapid transit and go to church. That's the only time we rode the rapid transit, when we went to church. We used to walk home. The only [other] time I rode that rapid transit was coming home on Mondays from Ka'ahumanu School. Five cents (bus fare), you know, to come home early (to) get (some) money and get that rapid transit, walk up again (to the bus stop at Kalākaua and McCully), go up Mō'ili'ili and buy poi. Dollar and a half, bag of poi. Every week, Monday, I had to go. Because he didn't deliver on Monday.

WN: Was that the same poi man you were telling me about?

MC: Aima, mm hmm [yes]. You see, he quit delivering then. He was getting kind of. . . . Oh, he was a good old soul. Every time he went to China, (when) he came back, he brought a bolt of pongee for my mother and all of us girls. And he brought my mother a jade necklace and a ring. He was (a very good man), very nice. Every New Year's or Christmas, he'd bring a big box--lychee and all these Chinese cakes, and the firecrackers. He was very, very good to us.
He really loved my mother and the children. He used to pity her because so many [children] in the family. So, he used to come on his buggy, and he'd call, "Kamaka! Pehea 'oe," you know. And then, he'd bring (Chinese goodies for) New Year's. Then, he told us that he was going home [to China] to live, and he died there. And the son came to tell us about it.

And that Mochizuki [Tea House], that was right in the back of the Harbottles. That was a well-known hotel, you know. Oh, they had big parties, nice hotel. I mean, teahouse.

WN: Did you folks used to go to the parties?

MC: Oh, yes. Always invited—if they [the owners] had their own party, but not when other people [were having parties], no. And one of my cousins, Gardie, had her (wedding) reception there—Gardie [Harbottle] Thompson. And this Bill Kahanamoku—one of Gardie's cousins, Mrs. King, made a beautiful cake. So, he went up and he had the cake like this (he was putting it on the table). And you know, he was bragging and sliding, and he fell right down, cake (and) all. Oh, I'll never forget that. I'll never forget that as long as I live. He was sliding, playing, you know. And that beautiful cake just went down on the floor, and he just went down, (too). I'm telling you, Mabel King was so mad at him, she could have beat him up. He took off.

(Laughter)

MC: Really nice. We all went to school together, but I think my family and Sam's [Kahanamoku] family were the only two families there that walked to school. My brother George used to walk to McKinley. Then [he] went to University [of Hawai'i]. When he graduated there, he went to Harvard. And then, he (graduated). He was a dentist.

Fred went there [Harvard], too, after he graduated from University. The funniest thing, my father was still living and Fred told him he was going to graduate. My father, everything was education, you know. My father said, "Well, are you sure you're graduating?"

(Fred) said, "Yes."

(Father) says, "Well, I want to know for sure."

So, Fred had to take a picture. It was long before graduation, in March. Take a picture with his cap on. I have the picture in there with his graduation outfit. And he brought it home to show my father that he was going to graduate. That's how my father believed him. He said, "All right."

Then Fred went to Harvard. Of course, we had a cousin there and aunt. But they [Fred and George] boarded somewhere else. But on holidays, they always went to her place. They knew my cousins there. We didn't. We never met them. But in 1978, one of my
cousins came over (to Honolulu) for our family reunion. The first time. Oh, she was so tickled.

WN: This is on your mother's side?
MC: Yeah, my mother's sister's child. She's supposed to come over again.

WN: What kind of family parties and gatherings did you folks have?
MC: Oh, the only time we had a party in (our) house was when my sister, Mrs. [Helen] Sterling, got married in 1916. We had a luau. We had the L-shaped verandah, you know. Old-fashioned house. Oh, everything was huge. Every room had lau hala mat and koa furniture. And every New Year's Day we had a luau. The pig wasn't big. Just immediate family. Just my father, mother, and the children, that's all. He had three men to help him kalo the pig, and one of them was my mother's cousin. They never sat and ate with us, just my father and mother and the twelve children. But they always had their place to eat. [For] our next-door neighbor, the Tsujis, my father always cut half of the leg part (for them).

(MC greets visitor. Taping interrupted, then resumes.)

MC: The whole leg (of) the pig. 'Uha, they said. He'd get a big bowl. He put that in, then he'd have potatoes. And we always had mullet. They put mullet in the ti leaf, or dry aku. And they put all in the imu. That all went to the Tsujis. Every year, they had their own. And the poi. We never had to buy poi [for luaus] because my Uncle Charlie Bridges, my mother's brother, lived in Lā'i, and raised taro. He used to bring poi for us. And the lu'a'u, we bought. You know where the Kalākaua homes are? That's [where] lu'a'u [was grown]. That's the Francis Brown property. We used to buy our lu'a'us from there, big bag for (fifty) cents. My brother (George) and I used to go and get it. Walk home with the bag. He hold one end, and I hold the other end.

WN: How heavy was the bag?
MC: No, not heavy. Light. That's the only time we had luau. And we had that up to, let's see, 1928 in January. That was the last luau we had because my mother died (three) months after that. Then after my father died, I just didn't want any (more).

WN: When did he die?
MC: He died eleven months after she did. So I said, no, I didn't want any luau. But anyway, we had one, oh, about two years after he died. And I said, "This is it. No more." 'Cause I stayed in the house after everybody was gone. So, one by one left their nest.

WN: Who owned the land that was, you know, near the 'Ilikai area?
MC: That's the Bishop [Trust]. From the 'Ilikai on, that's all [owned
by] Bishop [Trust]. Espindas [Nani Roxburgh's family, another interviewee], I think they owned their land. About "Liko" [Earle Vida's family, another interviewee], I don't know. Hobron Lane, lot of Chinese owned their own place. They raised ducks. Ching family. And there was a Japanese fellow, Kobayashi. He lived in there someplace. And then, Armitage had a place in there. Big place. Harry Armitage. They were friends of my parents. Little by little they left.

WN: How did your father acquire that land in the first place? Do you know?

MC: It was his father's--given to him. See, my grandfather had lots of property and his sister had lots of property. She was very wealthy. (Many) of them had land but no money, but she had both. It's in the Great Mahele. His name is in there, my grandfather. That was given to my father, [who] was the only son. (My father left school at the age of nineteen to take care of his father until he passed away.)

WN: Tell me that story about your grandfather's grave.

MC: In that schoolyard, they found money in his hand, that coin.

WN: Where was that grave?

MC: Across that Moana Hotel. There was a pink building that was a church, old church. The Hawaiians used to go there. And right next was a graveyard. Like Kawaiha'o Church, they had their own graveyard. So, my father had (Nu'uanu Mortuary's) Mr. Osborne's men dig it up, put it all together in a big urn. Then my brother Henry and my father took it to Kawaiha'o Church to be buried.

WN: Why did they move it to Kawaiha'o Church?

MC: They all had to get out of there. And my father said, "They're not building anything over my father's grave." But they all had to be taken out. There were lot of old Hawaiians. So, he had them taken to Kawaiha`o Church. You could see it [the graves] from the road going down. Paoa family. That's my father's father and mother. So, we wanted it taken up to Nu'uanu. My father bought two plots for us there 'cause the family is so big. So, my brother said, "Well, we'll take 'em to Nu'uanu."

He [father] said, "No, leave them there. It's all right."

But I think, eventually, we're going to take it up the other side [i.e., Nu'uanu]. 'Cause we have two big plots. And that coin [found in the coffin], I had for long time. This Bob Kauha told me, "You take that, and you throw it away (in the ocean)." So, I had to run down the beach and throw it at the end of the wall. I threw it in the canal.
WN: So, this coin was in your grandfather's hand?

MC: It was in his hand.

WN: What kind of coin was it?

MC: Oh, it was brass, I think, or copper, or something like that. Because it was all dark, you know. We cleaned it, cleaned it. It looked like copper or brass. Big one. (Like our silver dollar). Mexican.

WN: Mexican coin?

MC: I think was a Mexican coin.

WN: Do you know why it was there, do you think?

MC: My father said, "I know because I put that coin in my father's hand." Where he got it from, I don't know. Maybe some old sailors, eh? I don't know.

WN: Why did he do it?

MC: Well, lot of people used to--look [for example,] Chinese, they let their dead go with all the jade. You don't know who's going to dig the grave up.

WN: So the graveyard and church [was] where Princess Ka'īulani [Hotel] is?

MC: Yeah, that's where the Princess Ka'īulani is today. Right there. They had to dig all of those graves up. They were asked to do it. Can't build right on top of it.

WN: What kind of stores were in that area?

MC: Oh, this Kam Look Store, he had more can stuff and potatoes, rice. You know, the regular things. But no meats, nothing like that. Ah Yin Store on John 'Ena was the same thing. And the one on Kalākaua, the same. And [Honolulu financier] Chinn Ho was a neighbor of ours. He used to deliver [news]paper. In the Harbottle's house, they had a bedroom that the windows came this way, see. You know, oval shaped--bedroom. And he'd throw the paper right through the window for Mr. Harbottle.

(Laughter)

MC: Chinn Ho. Look at him today. I think he lived in Hobron Lane. "Tough Bill" and them lived up Makanoe [Lane].

WN: Keaweamahi?

MC: Yeah, they were nice family. Oh, the mother, she had Irish blood.
She was Irish-Hawaiian. Rascal, rascal. Nice old lady.

WN: So, when you were born, 1902, and when you were growing up as a little girl, what did . . .

MC: I was the first one born in that home.

WN: Where were your older brothers and sisters born?

MC: Oh, right next to [the house], there was a hau tree. What my mother told us--she always used to tell us different things. She said right there was a two-story house, redwood. Painted, you know, like that brown. They were all born there, that home. Old-fashioned home. Then when they built this big home, oh, it's a lovely home. We had one, two, three big rooms. Four bedrooms. After a while, we had five. I was the first one born in there. I was the fifth, then Annie, Fred. Then Gilbert, then Violet, then Melvin, then Keli'i. All in that home. Eight of us were born there.

WN: Who gave birth to you?

MC: Who gave birth?

WN: Was midwife?

MC: No--oh, I don't know. My mother always had Dr. Batten in the house. He always came to the house and stayed till she gave birth. But sometimes my mother gave birth and he was still reading the paper or asleep on the chair. So my father used to help. And he used to say, "You're not charging me for this. You were asleep." He never did charge. Dr. Batten. First was Dr. Moore. I remember my brother Melvin being born.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

WN: What were some of the chores you had around the home?

MC: Oh, boy, we each had a chore, don't kid yourself. Annie and I used to take care the yard. Huge yard, you know. Annie took care from the kitchen part up to middle of Ala Moana (side). She took that. Then I took the middle from Ala Moana right up to Kālia Road (side). That was our job. And my sister Florence did the watering of the plants. Malcolm took the garbage out. You know, fill the garbage cans. Sweep underneath the mango trees. Fred took care of the plants with my father. He planted. My father was funny. He'd say, "All right, when you plant (banana), you hold like it's heavy." Superstitious. And Fred used to frown and hold it.
So, we used to ask, "Why is it?"

He said, "It's going have lot of fruits."

And we had a pīkake bush. Big, big flowers. Beautiful. And Fred planted it. If it's full moon tonight, five o'clock we go out. Fred and I sit there and strip the tree, all the leaves. You get more flowers, you know, but, oh, that tree was loaded. The ones that used to buy our leis were Francis Brown. Always bought the leis [made] from our flowers.

Then after a while, I'd clean the house. But we didn't do any cooking or anything. Just wash the dishes. And I helped my mother. I always helped her. She washed on a rock standing up. We had big rock under the mango tree on a stand. Oh, the rock was little rough, but smooth.

WN: Wash what?
MC: Clothes (of course).
WN: Oh, clothes.

MC: I still have the stick that she used to pound with. And Melvin has one that was for the tapa, I think. I used to help her. Then she used to boil all our sheets in a big pan, open fire. And the dish towels, she used to boil that. Sometimes, the dish towels, she'd soap it and put it right on the grass 'cause we had beautiful yard in the back. And she'd put it all on the grass to have the sun (shine on them to bleach). Then she'd sit on the floor (to iron). We never had any electricity. And she had this charcoal iron. You've seen a charcoal iron?

WN: Uh huh [yes].
MC: She'd sit on the floor, right by the open door, and face Kālia Road. Of course, we were way in from Kālia. I used to sit there with her. In case the iron needed charcoal, I used to take it outside, put some more charcoal in. Open it, and blow, blow, blow until I got burnt (one day). Oh, this thing is all gone. I used to have a white [spot] here [from] the (hot) charcoal.

WN: Right on your wrist?
MC: Yeah. I was like this and [MC makes sound]. I think it's gone. It's what we did. But my older sister hardly did, and she took piano. Because the Hawaiians are funny. She's the oldest. And I used to say, "Oh, she's like a queen. She won't do anything." Oh, I used to get her so mad with us. But she was a beautiful pianist. She took piano since she was sixteen for eight years. Beautiful, beautiful player. Then my brother George played the piano, but all by ear. He'd play a phonograph like, and he'd play (the piano) after that. He was very good at that. (He loved to play the piano
WN: The fact that your sister was the oldest one . . .

MC: Mrs. Sterling.

WN: . . . is that why she was able to take piano lessons?

MC: No, no. Because she liked music, you know. I took for a while, but I didn't go through with it. I took nursing for a while, Queen's Hospital, but I didn't graduate. I got very, very ill. I had double pneumonia, so I had to leave. And George was at Harvard. He was taking dentistry. Melvin was the rascal one, oh. Then my brothers Fred, Malcolm and Melvin, they used to go out Waikiki and surf, and take tourists out. That's how they bought their books, went to school. To earn for their books. Because my father didn't (make) too much money.

But he took care of us. We never went hungry one day. And we lived on fish, poi, watercress. Watercress and green onions were our vegetables. That's all we had. And ló'au, my uncle used to bring because he raise ló'au. And the poi, the taro. We hardly ever ate meat. Only on Sundays, we had stew. That was a big day for us, stew. Sweet potato or taro. If we had sweet potato, we couldn't eat poi, [but] we could eat taro. You know, one other starch. But we lived on that. We never went hungry. My mother always went down, got seaweed. She'd stick her hand in the hole. She went with muumuus, and she stick her hand in the hole. She'd get manini.

WN: Yeah?

MC: Yeah. And then, she'd take her spear, she'll get squid. Then she'll come out to pick up crabs. She had a big bucket. She'd go out and get all different kind of limu. They had all different varieties. There was a green limu. You know, seaweed, flat. Then she'd come up. She'd get that squid or manini in the hole. Oh, I used to be nervous when she used to do that, but nothing [happened]. Just a few. And then she'd cover that [bucket]. Then she come up, she'll get her crabs. Kūhonu, the big white crabs. Or the black 'alamihis. Only the crabs, you had to clean it at home. And she'd come home. But really, we never went hungry, you know. Not one of us. Only, there was, I think, one or two didn't eat too much raw crab or anything. But my brother George and I, oh, boy. Raw crabs (chuckles). But the others, hardly.

WN: The watercress and the green onions grew in your yard?

MC: No, we had to buy (them). They were cheap. We had a vegetable man come around, Chinese. Nice old fella. I never forget him. He used to come in his wagon. Always stopped at our place. He'd drive in, you know. My mother used to buy--watercress was cheap. Five cents a bunch. And green onions. Once in a while, we had
And my mother used to make poi stew. Just green onions and put maybe one or two tablespoons of poi in it to thicken it. That's all. Then, we'd have maybe akule. They'd eat it raw, akule. You know, they could eat that, Hawaiians.

Oh, and our backyard, we had violets. Beautiful purple violets in the back. We had one, two, three common mango trees. Oh, how we used to climb way up, my sister (Florence) and I. We had a table under the mango tree. Some Sundays we had our lunch there. You know, after church we all eat under the tree. Really a nice... My mother had a cousin that lived with the Kahanamokus. He used to cook outside, open fire, pancakes. And we all used to love to watch him. He'd throw it up and come down, (chuckles) right in the pan. I remember the day we were all down at Duke's. The old house, not the one he lived lately. They had a catwalk and the kitchen was separate from the main house. Big kitchen. I remember the day we were there and he was leaving for Sweden [for the Olympic Games]. That was in 1912, he went. Oh, I remember that day.

WN: What did you do that day?

MC: Oh, they had dinner. We all stayed there with him till he left. That was a great day for him.

WN: How did you feel about having a cousin going to the Olympics?

MC: Oh, we all loved Duke, you know. Duke was a nice man. Our family was a very close-knit family. My father and his sister were very close, Mrs. Kahanamoku. But not too much with the others. My mother wasn't. She had that English way about her, you know. She never wanted to... She did join one club. She and my father. She liked her Hawaiian people. And once a year, I remember, her granduncle, (Edward) Lilikalani, not Lili'uokalani. He was a great man. He used to brag about his medals. He used to be with the Queen Lili'uokalani (as her consort). He lived right across Kawaiaha'o Church. You know, the graveyard? Ma kai side. Is that Millilani Street?

WN: I think so.

MC: His home was there. He had a big mango tree, and we had a luau under there once a year. My mother used to go with all her brood and my other aunt with hers, and the other one. And my uncle Charlie. Every time my mother had a new baby--she had Malcolm, and one of my aunt's had a daughter, Ella. I remember we went there, and he [Lilikalani] gave them their names. Funny, you know, he did that. My brother Melvin is named after him--Edward Lilikalani. And his son is named that, too. Melvin Edward Lilikalani [Paoa, Jr.]. But we really had a beautiful, beautiful childhood. And you know, the funniest thing, anybody that passes away from Kālia--that's where you see the whole gang [at the funeral]. Oh, it's really
something. You sit there and you see them all coming in. It makes you feel sad, you know. I lost my son in February past, I was sitting there. All his friends from Kālia came. Makes you feel good then, you know.

But the Tsuji family, we're still friends. This is the fourth generation. See, their mother and my mother were very close (friends). We used to go there and study. My brother George took Japanese. That's why he went there for [help]. And Oka-san. We called her Oka-san. While we were studying with lanterns, she'd get a big bowl, chip ice, she'd sprinkle brown sugar on top. And we each had a spoon. While we're studying, we (ate it).

WN: Shave ice?

(Laughter)

MC: I never forget that. When I tell my sister that, she'd laugh. She said, "They couldn't even make Jello."

(Laughter)

MC: They were---was really beautiful, you know. Oka-san. And every time my mother had a baby, she'd come with a whole bolt of light white flannel. Because my mother sewed and my mother's sister was a seamstress, Mrs. Pahau. For the baby, one whole bolt. Because I think the boy or one of the girls worked in T.H. Davies. (Oka-san was very dear to us. We are still friends--fourth generation. The Tsujis are very dear to my family.)

Nina [Harbottle] and Annie [Paoa], oh, they were naughty. They used to pick up lemons and go sell (them) to the old lady, Cressaty. Grandma Cressaty, we called her. Annie would ring at the front door, and the old lady used to go and answer. Nina used to be at the back door. Oh, that old lady used to go crazy, you know. And she'd run to the back door. Annie in the front with the lemons. And, [they would call out,] "Lemons!" Oh, the old lady used to be nuts. And you ask them anything [today], they don't know. "Oh, all I know, I used to sell lemons to go"--they used to try and make money to go Pāwa'a Theater. I told Annie, "You know, I hope they [Oral History Project] don't come and ask you and Nina about anything."

She said, "Tell him how Sam [Kahanamoku] and "Liko" [Vida] used to wear girls' clothes and walk around."

(Laughter)

WN: Did they?

MC: (Laughs) Walk around, act crazy.

WN: Why?
MC: Just for fun, just for fun. Oh, they were rascal, you know. And "Liko" used to come home late at night. He used to go and see his girlfriend up Kaimuki with his guitar. And he used to pass and sing, "Rose Marie," late at night going home.

(Laughter)

MC: We really had beautiful childhood days. Oh, was really . . .

WN: Were you rascal or. . . .

MC: No, but I used to swear a lot. I had an uncle, Robert Pahau. Well, he petted [i.e., favored] me, you know, because I was named after his wife, Mary Ellen, my mother's sister. Well, every time he came home, he brought me Sen-Sen gum. Then I used to chew and go to bed. I forget to throw my gum [away]. And [it got] all in my hair. I had beautiful long hair. My mother used to get so mad. She'd chop this off, chop this off, and told him about it. He used to teach me [to swear]. Oh, he was terrible. But don't put that down in there, now. You have it?

(Taping stops, then resumes.)

WN: What other foods did you folks eat?

MC: Oh, we raised chicken. We had our own eggs and chicken. But my mother was funny. She wouldn't eat her own chickens. She had a chicken that followed her all over. She named it "Alice." "Come on, Alice," and the chicken used to follow (her) all over the yard. And my father went fishing a lot. We bought all our canned stuff and everything from Ah Leong Store. He used to be on King Street near Kekaulike Market, across, he had a big store. And he bought butter in a light wooden dish. They'd deliver all his canned stuff. Ah Leong, oh, he was well known. Everybody bought from him, you know, the old man. Nice, nice Chinese fella.

WN: You were telling me that there was a vegetable man, and there was a poi man.

MC: Yeah, we had a vegetable man come in, sell us vegetables. All kinds of vegetables. All fresh. And then, the poi man used to deliver our poi. The whole area on Kālia Road, way out. All Ala Moana. And Hobron Lane. Then he'd go home to Mō'ili'i'i. 

WN: But he had the poi in packages?

MC: No, in bags. All in white bags. They were sold that way. And in barrels. He'd wet the bag, and he'd put it in. He had a big handle-like spoon. He never made with his hand. Very clean. Dollar and half, poi, one week.

WN: Did he weigh the poi right there? Did he weigh it?
MC: Yeah. Dollar and a half was plenty. We used to have crock. My brother George and I, that was our duty. One mix the poi one week, the other one the next week.

WN: What did you have to do?

MC: Mix it by hand. Mix the poi.

WN: You mix by hand?

MC: Yeah. Annie used to take off, run away. Annie was a beautiful girl, you know, my sister. She married Herman Clark. Very, very attractive. She used to take off with her friends and always liked to dress. She always wore a hat. And my (oldest) sister said, "Oh, her face is her fortune. She doesn't want to work." (Laughs)

I took care of my mother and father till she died. My mother died [in 1928]. She lived with me. I got married in 1927.

WN: How did you meet your husband?

MC: He came from New Zealand, went to University [of Hawai‘i]. And I met him through a nurse friend of mine. He was staying with some friends of his family. Brought him to my sister's house. I happen to be there. That's how I met him.

WN: What was his name?

MC: Jack--John (Mason) Clarke. You see, he was Maori-English. He came to University to study, then he was supposed to go to Mainland, but he ran out of money, so he worked. He took up electricity. Then he worked for Hawaiian Electric for thirty-one years. He was a good electrician. Then he died (in 1968).

I never had children, but I adopted two children. That son just died (last February 1985). He was four months [old] when I brought him home. And then, I had this little girl. She was Japanese-Haole. She was five days old [when] I took her (home) from the hospital. Very nice girl. Very attractive. [MC examines photograph.] These are her children. See, you can tell the boy has Japanese look.

WN: (Chuckles) Yeah, with blonde hair, yeah?

MC: Oh, he's a rascal. Naughty boy. She adopted one girl. See, this girl. She was married seven years, so she adopted (this girl). She's Indian-Finnish. Her mother was Finnish from Finland in Hilo. And the father was--what you call that kind of Indian? Cheyenne or whatever.

WN: American Indian.

MC: American Indian. She had one daughter and she had this girl. And the father left. I don't think they were married, you know. He
left them with this girl. But the [real] mother couldn't take care of her because she had no means. So, she phoned my daughter, and right away, they took off that day and brought her home, five days old. I said, "Gee, I took you when you were five days old." So, [when] the girl, Kehau(lani), was five months old, I think, then she [MC's daughter] became pregnant with this boy. Then she had a girl.

WN: Hmm. That's good. (Chuckles)

MC: So, I said, "Oh, you better not have any more."

WN: What grade did you go up to in school?

MC: Oh, I never went to high school. Eighth grade, I quit. I hated school. I went to Phillips Commercial [School]. I liked nursing so I went into Queen's [Hospital] to take up nursing. I was there almost a year. I became very, very ill. Bad pneumonia. I almost died, so my mother ...

WN: When was this?

MC: Oh, this was long time [ago]. I belonged to the class of '23. So, my mother and father made me quit. The doctor told me I couldn't [work]. Those days, boy, you work, not like now. I was working night duty [for] six months. You study, then you go school next day. Was hard on me, you know. Hard for some of the students. And I caught pneumonia bad. So, I just quit. And I wanted to go back, but those days, once you leave, you (don't go back).

I don't know how you're going to make this book, it's too long a story.

WN: (Chuckles) Interesting. You know ...

MC: But we really had nice. ... That's one thing I can say. You always see them, meet them somehow. Like when somebody dies, they're right there. It's funny. Gee, when my son died, I saw all these kids. Some of them were naughty. This Japanese boy, one of the Tsujis. I called him "Hideo" Tsuji. I called Hideo. He [usually] goes by "Harry."

I said, "Hideo, I'm calling to let. . . . Jackie passed." Oh, he felt bad. I said, "You know why you the first one I'm calling?"

He said, "Why?"

"You remember the day I was looking for Jackie, I couldn't find him. I asked somebody and somebody gave me a hint where you folks were." Well, there was a lady down our way at the end of John 'Ena Tract, way down the road. She was very nice to these kids. And her brother was always with them. He was down there. So, I went down there. I said, "I don't know where they are." And somebody pointed [to] the garage. So I went there. They were all kids,
mind you, rolling dice. All of them. I said, "Hideo, you remember that I had a big stick?" Boy, they each had a whack. You ought to see them fly. I said, "Hideo, you remember?"

He said, "Yeah, you gave us beating, boy."

And I went home, told his father. He got a licking, oh, I'm telling you.

WN: You know, when the canal was built [in the 1920s], the Ala Wai Canal, how did that change the area?

MC: Oh, the traffic. [And] I think they built that canal because the swamp [i.e., drainage] was bad. Terrible. You see, we used to get off from school and go steal duck eggs in there and pick Job's-tears. You know what Job's-tears are?

WN: Mm hmm [yes].

MC: But when you'd come over on the rapid transit--there was a long bridge--you come over, oh the odor was terrible.

WN: You mean, as you come over the McCully Street?

MC: Yeah, bridge. Not that [present] bridge. It was an old, long bridge, straight. Oh, they were dying to get away from this [odor] quick. The motorman used to laugh. They're so used to it, you know. That's all swamp. We used to have lot of floods. Our yard used to--all the yards, but ours was worse. That's when my brothers used to ride in that little canoe in our yard. But all the boys, oh, they'd love it.

And Louis Cain, I think he was a supervisor. He told my father that they were going to build a bridge and a canal because of the drainage. After that, boy. And the canal [was dredged] in the front of [what is now the] 'Ilikai. They never used to have that canal. We used to go right across, eh? We used to swim way out. Lot of fish, squidding. That place was loaded with squid, you know. But after the canal, no more. And this menpachi. (The canal went next to Kaiser Hospital. They built a bridge on Ala Moana Road. The Pi'inai'o Stream which flowed from McCully Street down through where the 'Ilikai Hotel is now was filled in.)

WN: Yeah.

MC: Oh, akule. All that whole area. And out Waikīkī by the Moana was kala. You know what kala is? The rough skin. That fish used to eat only līpoa, that very strong-smelling seaweed. They used to catch that. But now, phew, everybody's ashes throwing in there [i.e., burials at sea]. I wouldn't eat anything from there. Everybody's throwing their ashes (in). I wonder why. Tsk, cheap, eh?
WN: I don't know.

MC: Like over here [Kona] is loaded. Everybody's throwing their ashes. That's ridiculous.

WN: So after the canal was built, the fishing wasn't as good?

MC: No. Wasn't too good. And by [where] Kaiser's [Hospital is now], we used to get clams all along the beach there, and seaweed, long just like hair and green. That's all gone after the canal was... No more crabs, no more nothing. Terrible. But that was all mud in front there by the 'Ilikai, all muddy. And Gardie Harbottle and I used to walk from one end, from Cassidy's, right through. Get crab with a basket. Filled with crabs. Today, nothing.

WN: After the canal came, the land, was it more improved?

MC: Oh, yes. Very improved. You know where Ala Moana Park is? Well, that place was Squattersville. That's the old Squattersville. They had Gilbertese people staying there. Kilipakis.

WN: Where? Across from Ala Moana...

MC: No, where the Ala Moana Park is [now], that used to be the old Squattersville. That's where they had all these Gilbertese people stayed there, and some Hawaiians. Because my mother and father had a couple (of) friends there. Nice, nice people. They used to bring fish or whatever they had to us. But my father hardly took it because he went fishing, he told me. But they'd bring breadfruit, they (always brought) something. But they all had to get out of there when they built that park. I don't know what happened to them. I think some of them moved to Lā'ie. I remember that 'cause I used to go over there with my father. My father took me all over the place over there.

WN: Later on, there was an amusement park [1922-1930] that came up near your house.

MC: Aloha Park. How you know that? That's right. Right across where the Unity House is [now]. You know where the two roads that go up to Kalākaua Avenue? Well, the amusement park used to be right there in that corner. John 'Ena [and] Ala Moana, there used to be Aloha Park right there. Ho, the noise. And they had this ferris wheel.

And they had this big, beautiful dancing hall. In the middle had this big globe. It went around, all these different colors. Beautiful, beautiful. We used to go dancing all the time up there. They used to have high school dancing there. It was really nice. I worked there sometimes when they had different booths. Lot of people came down, danced. That place was famous for good music. Henry Kirk had his orchestra there. Beautiful. And Bill Kahanamoku was very friendly with him. We'd dance, and he'd say, "Play this certain
song," and he'd play it. And the ending (song) was three o'clock in the morning. But it burnt down in—I don't know what year was that. Big fire. Oh, what a huge fire that was. Bill Kahanamoku, "Tough Bill," my brother Melvin. They were firemen. They were off-duty. They all had to help, you know. Oh, it was a huge (fire).

WN: When was this about? Before the war?

MC: Oh yes. You mean, before Vietnam?

WN: Before World War II.

MC: I forget when it got burned. Not too long. I think in 1918, 1919 . . . . No, long after that. In the '20s [probably 1930]. That's a nice, nice place. Lot of well-known people used to work there and dance 'cause the music was beautiful music.

WN: The dances were open to the public?

MC: Oh, yes. Of course, you buy these tickets and dance. And the rowing clubs--there was the Healani, the Honolulu Girls, the [Hui] Nalus, all of them. At the end of the rowing season, they have dancing there at the Aloha Park. Boy, that was some place. But noisy. But we got used to it, you know. We stayed [i.e., lived] right at the [opposite] corner, eh? Aloha Park.

And they had this ferris wheel. [They also had] the "Dipper." Oh, you go up there. You know how they scream. I went twice, that's it. I was scared stiff. I wouldn't go up again. (Chuckles) Sam was there. He said, "Look out, Mele, you're going to fall, you're going to fall." Pau. I never went again. But, oh, dangerous. But it was lot of fun.

WN: You know, you folks lived right near Fort DeRussy, yeah?

MC: Oh, yes.

WN: How was the relationships with the military?

MC: Well, you know when they first came . . . . You see, right next to us we had nothing but algaroba trees--kiawe wood, first. And when the first group came, they were very nasty. My father almost got killed, you know. He was outside on Kālia Road fixing something. I think he was just sweeping up. My uncle Duke was a police captain. Duke's father [i.e., Duke Kahanamoku, Sr.], he was the one that made that ruling giving traffic signs. You know, before, when they stood--they had . . .

WN: Oh, traffic cop?

MC: Traffic cop. He was the one that started that. You know, they used to have a cop, center of the road. He was the one that did that.
Hold that sign, you know, going this way. These soldiers used to come. And [father] being Hawaiian, "Oh, you dirty kanaka," and all that. Oh, was terrible. So, they walk up to Ah Yin Store, and they were talking and talking. They stole this. . . . Before, they used to have these (round) weights—old-fashioned weights. Little heavy weights, like two pounds, four pounds, five pounds. Well, [he] stole one and [he was] going to hit my father with it. Uncle Duke happened to come and grabbed him. Took him. Well, every time they did something like that, they were sent away back home. Oh, (they were) bad, those days. We were scared living there.

But after a while, the next group came. There was a major there. Gee, I've forgotten his name. Oh, what a wonderful person he was. He married one of the Portuguese girls there, Silva family. Oh, she [looked] just like a Haole, beautiful Portuguese girl. He married her. After a while, they [military] became all right. They never bothered.

WN: Did you folks socialize or have parties with them or anything?

MC: No. But lot of them, they wanted money, you know, to go to theater. And my mother was very nice to them. They were young kids. They would come over, and . . . Is this open?

WN: It's on.

MC: On? Well, then maybe I shouldn't say it then. They became friendly. Most of them were friendly. They used to have two boys across the street staying in a little bungalow. And the corral, they took care of that. They were allowed to come in the yard and play with my brothers. They were nice boys. One was Italian and one was a Haole boy. My mother was very nice to those boys because she had boys, too, see. That's about all I know.

WN: So, all this—you know, when you're talking about your childhood and how the neighborhood was really good . . .

MC: Oh, nice. We're just like one real family.

WN: . . . and everything, when did that change? When did that start to . . .

MC: Modernize?

WN: Yeah.

MC: Oh, around, I think, '48. Little later than that. See, everybody started to move out, eh? Sold their homes and moved. 'Cause the road was terrible. The road [after it was widened] came up right to my brother Malcolm's house. He and his wife bought my brother George's place that was right next to us. The road came right up to his steps, going up to his porch. That's [now where] that Kobe House? You know, on Ala Moana Boulevard right next to the Hilton at Kālia [and] Ala Moana? Kobe Steak House?
MC: Well, that's where my brother... His wife still has that. He
died. She still owns that [property]. She leased it to [Budget
Rent-a-Car]. She moved out. They live up Pearl City. See, Hilton
wanted it, but she wouldn't sell it to them because they wouldn't
pay the price. So, she leased it. She was smart. But leasing,
you didn't get too much money, you know. But I wish we still had
it. But [property] taxes there are very high, you know.

WN: So, your property first was sold to [Henry J.] Kaiser?

MC: No, he leased it.

WN: From you?

MC: (Yes.) See, we had one, two, three, four cottages we had in there
after they broke our house down. Our home was knocked down in '48
[ca. 1950]. Our old home. Then we had four cottages in there.
So my brother says, "We let you have it [i.e., lease the property]
if you buy those homes."

He [Kaiser] said, "Those homes won't do (any) good for me."
He says, "Well, you can't have it."

So, he passed a (chuckles) remark. He said, "Oh, those Paoas, they
hardhead. They wouldn't... " He told the lawyers, you know.
Hardhead. He said, "Well, they're not stupid."

My brother Henry was smart, you know. "You're going to lease the
place, what we're going to do with the cottages? You buy the
cottages." And he [Kaiser] wanted to lease it [the property], so
he bought it [the cottages]. Then, he used [one of them as an
office]. I don't know where he used it. Then he re-leased it [the
beautiful now, you know.

WN: So, who actually owns the property now?

MC: Hiltons [eventually] bought it [in 1968]. They wanted to buy it,
so we sold them that piece.

WN: But Kaiser also had to buy the John 'Ena Estate area.

MC: Seven hundred thousand [dollars] he paid for that. [Henry J. Kaiser
purchased the 339,000 square foot John 'Ena Estate in 1954 for
$750,000.]

WN: From John 'Ena?

MC: John 'Ena Estate. He bought that whole place. But I think after
that, Hiltons bought it.
WN: What about the Niumalu [Hotel]?

MC: Oh, that's all in... That was [next to] the John 'Ena Estate, you know. [One year after purchasing the John 'Ena Estate, Henry J. Kaiser in 1955 purchased the neighboring Niumalu Hotel from Associated Hotels, Ltd. for $1.2 million. Around this time, he leased adjoining land from the Paoa family. Later that year, on these three large parcels of land located on the corner of Ala Moana Boulevard and Kālia Road, Kaiser built the Hawaiian Village Hotel. In 1961, Kaiser sold the Hawaiian Village to Hilton Hotels Corporation for $21.5 million. Hilton continued to lease the Paoa Estate land until 1968, when Hilton purchased the land.]

END OF SIDE TWO

TAPE NO. 13-57-1-85; SIDE ONE

WN: When did you actually move out of...

MC: Fifty-five ['55]. I moved. The old house was [torn] down, but I stayed in another house there, cottage. [Then] my husband and I moved in Kailua. We bought a place there. My brothers moved. Fred moved up to Judd Street, then he moved to Foster Village. That's a nice place up there. My brother Gilbert moved up to Kaimukī. I moved to Kailua. Oh, gosh, we were all scattered. One lived in Japan for a while. Melvin was in Kāne'ohe. They have a place [now] in Moloka'i. His wife died. His wife [owned] property there, so he's got a nice place right on the beach. He's a retired fireman. And Malcolm lived in Pearl City. He died, but his family still lives there. That's Clark's mother. Oh, we're all separated all around.

The Harbottles, I don't know. Some of them lived up... Nina Crowell lives up Kaimukī. The Kahanamokus moved. One of them had a home up in Papakōlea. That's Kapi'olani. Her husband is still there, and her son and daughter. Louis [Kahanamoku, another interviewee], I don't know where he stayed, and now he's in Kona. Gosh, he looks so old. I'm older than him. He looks like--I was going to tell him, "You look like Rip Van Winkle." And when I called him I said, "I hope you remember some things." Then he laughed, he laughed. I said, "You better remember."

WN: (Laughs) So, how do you feel about...

MC: Now?

WN: ... how everybody separated?

MC: It's kind of sad. But whenever any one of us have a big function like my brother Fred when he had his fifty year's wedding, all, you know, family. But we've lost contact with some of our friends.
They scattered, and we don't know where they are. Like the Keaweamahi family, I don't know where they are. I think up Papakōlea, eh? I don't know. Edith Titcomb Kapule--see, her grandfather had a place in the old Hawaiian Village. You know, right next to Halekulani? There's a pathway [to] go down the beach. Well, at the end on this side had a big pink house. Her grandfather's family owned that place. I think she's down the country, and her children are all up 'Aiea someplace.

WN: Kahale, eh?

MC: Yeah. Kahale Kapule. Ree [Rebecca Kapule, another interviewee] was married to Edith Titcomb's brother, Major. He died. Oh, lot of them. John Kaimi was a politician. You know, we used to have--I forgot to tell you. When they had big rallies like [for Prince] Kūhiō, the rally was held in our yard. I wish I could find that picture. My father had it.

WN: What kind of rally was this?

MC: Political rally--when he [Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole] was running [for delegate to Congress], you know. There was Kūhiō, my father, John Kaimi, Mr. [Isaac] Harbottle, and another person. Sat on our porch on chairs. We held it on the Kālia [Road] side. The Vitousek [family]. Had big Republican rallies. My father was a big Republican, you know. And [Victor] Houston. Of course, the yard was so big.

I remember, one day, I was with my father. He was watering the plants. Every day the Prince Kūhiō and his wife would come [by] on this big limousine. And Fred Noa was the driver. They'd ride, and my father was (watering the yard). I used to be with my father. I was very close to my father. Oh, gosh, I was only a kid. Pull the hose, pull the hose, and he'd water. Then all of a sudden, he'd drop the hose and take his hat off. And the prince was coming, he and his wife. My father always bowed to him. Respected him, you know, the prince. Then his wife and Kūhiō used to wave. And I used to wave (back). So, I looked at my father and he said, "You know, when you see the prince pass, you wave or you bow." He said, "That's why Papa took his hat off. I respect them." And he always did that.

Well, he [Kūhiō] knew my father, too, eh? And Mr. Harbottle. Oh, they had nice rallies, you know, over there. Princess Kawānanakoa used to come there and sit down and listen to Houston.

WN: Prince Kūhiō had a home in Waikīkī?

MC: Right by the Kūhiō Beach. They had that pier.

WN: Did you used to go there?

MC: Oh, yes. I went there when they had certain functions for the
Ka'ahumanu Society. Mrs. Harbottle (my cousin) took me.

WN: Do you want to take a break?

MC: No, no. And every March the 26th [Prince Kūhiō's birthday], that's my birthday, too, see. Mrs. Harbottle (bought) me a ticket. We went to the Kapi'olani Maternity luau. That's the old one. Never fail. Then, this [one] time, she took me to Kūhiō's place. They had some kind of a function for the old Ka'ahumanu [Society]. I didn't belong to it (then), but my mother belonged to it and my father belonged to (the Kamehameha Lodge). But they both quit long time ago.

I remember Queen Lili'uokalani's funeral 'cause my father was one of them that held that, you know. . . . What you call that?

WN: Pallbearer?

MC: They had that long--she wasn't in a hearse, you know. They had to carry her on that long stick. I don't know what you call it.

WN: When did you move to Kona?

MC: Let's see, '73, I think. Then I went back [to Honolulu] in '78. I had an open heart [surgery]. I stayed there three years. No, I came back and I had to go back three years. Then I came back '81.

WN: So, here you are in Kona, and when you think about Waikīkī . . .

MC: Oh, I get homesick. I used to live on Ala Wai Boulevard [for a while] near the Hawaiian Monarch [Hotel], right in that area. And I used to walk. I wanted to go under the tree and sit down just where our house was. Oh, I got homesick. I turned around and went home. But to think, when they cut that road right through our yard, boy, that was sad, that day. Oh, I cried, boy. And this [former City Planning Director] George Houghtailing. . . . Herman Clark was my brother-in-law. He told George--George had something to do with this planning, you know. He say, "You know, the trouble with you people, you go around to look what property you can cut through. So you found my father-in-law's property. That's why you're cutting it through." See, they condemn your property, then cut it right through, huh? Well, in a way, it was good.

WN: Now, Waikīkī has changed, huh? They have lot of hotels. What do you feel about that?

MC: Oh, I don't. . . . You know my brother Melvin? It's funny. He said, "You know, Mele, someday, they're all going to sink." That's all coral and mud down there, you know. Maybe it's filled up, but that's nothing but coral. When they filled that place up, I used to go over and pick up lot of beautiful shells, you know. But I don't know, it's too modern, too many. Look at the roads going down to the [Honolulu International] Airport. When I was there the
last time, I just come home, I (asked one of my friends), "Where we going?"

She said, "We're going to the airport."

I said, "Oh, my gosh. What road you're taking?"

She said, "Just wait. Hold your horses. You'll get there."

Oh, it's awful. What they doing? They're not finished?

WN: Yeah, they're making a freeway directly to the airport now. Taking long time.

MC: Too much money. Why don't they build homes? I'm not saying that because those Hawaiians down Waimānalo, those lazy people. Why don't they go clean yard? Go do something. They think everything going be thrown on their lap. I hate to say it.

WN: You know, Waikīkī, people talk about the crime, and the people and everything, the problems about Waikīkī. How do you feel when you read about that?

MC: I feel sad. Because it's not mostly our local people. I think it's people that (are) coming here. We have all kinds of nationalities here now. My gosh. One time I walked down by Tony's. You know, a spareribs place on Pau Street. I [once] lived right above there. I saw these people raving, you know. I said, "Oh my God. What else?" Then over here we have lot of Mexicans now. All kinds. We have bums and all kinds. They plant marijuana. That crime in Waikīkī is, I don't know. I don't think it's mostly our local boys or people. I think too many people been coming in. I think we allowing too many people.

They ought to be like New Zealand. I lived in New Zealand seven months with my husband. You have a quota of Chinese in Auckland. Mr. Doo, he has Chinese store. Beautiful speaker, and their daughter is a beautiful Maori-English-Chinese. And they had a Japanese family. I think he died. I don't know if they're there. Just a few of them, no more. Norwegians. They live in their own section. But there's lot of Maoris that own lots of sheep ranches, you know. Over here, where they [immigrants] going to stay? Where are they staying? Like my son, they were right by Pagoda [Hotel]. I said, "Jackie, there's an apartment there. Why don't you folks go look for a place?"

He said, "Mama, those are all welfare, Vietnamese." (Boat people.)

MC: No. Oh, I have beautiful memories of Waikiki, especially my childhood. I think we all do. All my sisters and my brothers. Even my cousins. Like Louis [Kahanamoku], he'll tell you. Every time we talk about Kalia. It was a beautiful place to live. We were just like one big family there. From Dewey Court right down to where Earle [Vida] lived [near] Hobron Lane. We were just one big family. And the Humphreys, the Bickertons, we all were friends. My father was well liked there. He was well known there. He was a very good man. Soft-spoken, and they all really loved him. Like some of our children, like Fred's kids, they had nice memories of Waikiki. But their children don't. My little girl had little bit, and my son, but not too much 'cause we moved (away), eh? But I don't care what you say. You can't beat Kalia, those days. Malcolm's wife had a canary. They named it "Kalia."

(Laughter)

MC: Oh, I love Kalia. I always think of Kalia. Especially when you see the old friends come, you know. Boy, it brings back lot of beautiful memories. But I'm thankful that really I had a good childhood. We were brought up good. We went and visited one another. We played. But our playground was right in our yard, and all our neighbor kids would come. They said, "Where you going?"

"Corner yard." Corner yard is our place. That's where they played, right there. All kinds of games. Kind of sad when I... But, ah, they fixed it nice, though. It's beautiful now. But when they cut through your yard, oh, my God. But I think it's better because the traffic, huh? Like that road going up to meet Kalakaua--you know, the two roads--that's good.

Before, you had to go on the bridge and walk up. My father and mother used to walk up from our place, go walk on John 'Ena Road, cross Kalakaua, and get the bus to go to church, the rapid transit. All of the kids loved Kalia, you know. My whole family and all those people there. They say, "Oh, dear old Kalia," when we see one another. Like Ines Dixon. When she see us, she says, "Ai, Kalia." It really makes you feel good, you know. You can't forget that. I don't forget Kalia. I loved it. We all loved it. And we were all brought up good. Strict bringing up. But every one of the families, they were all strict. The Kahanamokus were strict. My father and mother were strict. Harbottles were strict.

And New Year's eve was the best time. You know, we'd go to sleep. When the whistles would blow--you see, the boats used to blow whistles twelve o'clock (midnight). My mother woke us up just to hear the whistles. And then the year is out. Then we have devotion. Always. Then my brother used to tie these firecrackers way up. He'd climb up on the ladder to tie it. We had a huge (kiawe) tree. My father never did cut it. My father with the long mosquito punk. You
know, the long one? He'd light it. Then after that, we all went
to eat. Every house, all the neighbors used to come in there and
stand in our yard just to hear the firecrackers. The Tsujis would
go home. They have cocoa and (doughnuts). Mama made doughnuts.
We had doughnuts and cocoa. No other food. It was too late to
eat. Then the next day, we had our family luau. It was really
nice. For years we had that till my parents died, we stopped.

WN: So, New Year's was the big holiday for you folks?

MC: For us at home. We all stayed home. That was a day to be with my
parents. Every year my brother George, he was a dentist. . . . My
mother had a hala lei. You know what's hala lei? There was a red
and the yellow. He gave her a hala lei every year. And she wore
that. It had a meaning to her. Hala means "to go, to leave." It
means you wear the hala and that year is gone. But funny, you
know, when you have anybody that died that year, that always brought
back memories to my parents. They felt very bad about it. And
then, she always had that lei on, hala. I say, "Mama, why (do) you
(wear hala)?

She said, "Well, because this year is going by and I wear this lei
because it's hala." You know, they have a meaning to that. It's
beautiful, very pretty. And my brother never forgot. He always
bought her a hala lei. Never fail till she died.

END OF INTERVIEW
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ORAL HISTORIES

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