

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: NORIYU KOGA, retired vegetable wholesaler and retailer

Noriyu Koga was born in Kumamoto, Japan on January 28, 1904. He came with his parents to Hawaii in 1919. Because he had to help support his family, he was unable to attend school. His father worked in the plantation fields and his mother had a tōfu shop. Noriyu held a variety of jobs including plantation field and mill work, cowboy work, contract farming, fruit and vegetable wholesaling during the War, and vegetable peddling. He drove a bus while his wife ran a flower shop, but eventually sold the buses to his son when he retired. For over 15 years, he also did part-time writing and reporting assignments for the Hawaii Hochi newspaper.

Noriyu traveled to China before World War II. He was instrumental in starting a kendō group and putting on a shibai benefit in Wahiawa.

Noriyu and his wife of 47 years presently live in Waialua.

NOTE: Mr. Koga used many Japanese phrases in his interviews. His daughter, Diane Koga, and the Ethnic Studies Oral History Project staff transcribed and translated the tapes. Translations in parentheses follow the Japanese words and phrases.

Tape No. 1-2-1-76

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Noriyu Koga (NK)

June 25, 1976

Waialua, Hawaii

BY: Howard Nonaka (HN)

NK: We come over here. I don't know when, but anyway, he make pineapple field, eh. Pineapple business, eh. And then, he broke and we come down to Waialua Plantation, you see. That time, pineapple were, you know, so damn cheap. No can sell. So in that days, you get plenty place to lease. And so many, I think, so many hundred acre was. And he make 'em one time. He no can get nothing because all ripe. Nobody can take. So, he going all bust up and he come down over here. Waialua Plantation. And then, he going work through the hapai ko, eh. Sugar cane hapai. Sugar cane carry up da kind train. But he not so well, 'as why kind of hard. Little bit. 'As why they going call me from Japan. And then, I come over here.

HN: How many in your family, that time?

NK: Oh, that time, I think....I come from Japan and then they get.... Ted ga---oh, Ted wa mada uttankano (---oh, I wonder if Ted was born yet)? And then James. And then Smitty. And James and Smitty ga umaretankano. ( I wonder if James and Smitty were born)? I think something like that. So all together, seven. One sister and six brothers. So I got to hustle for the nani (what you might call)---kaukau, eh. I want to go school. But he (father) say, "No can. Cannot. Because you going school, nobody going work. No 'nuff (enough) eat." So I got to....no can do nothing, 'as why, ah, got to work. Go early morning and then late afternoon. And then, I think, that time, I get only one dollar. One dollar one day. And then 23 days you work, you get ten cents bonus, one day. Anyway....dark to dark, you know. Twelve hour, almost, time. Work shitekara (After I work), \$1.10 or \$1.20. I think. I go make 'em. But that kind time, everything, oh, not like now, but rice and shoyu, like that all cheap, so we can live 'em, but still we get plenty brothers that all no can---you know, no 'nuff money. Everytime balance, balance, eh. Fujioka Store, I get balance, plenty. (Chuckles) And then, my mother started da kind, eh. Tōfuya (Tōfu shop). Tōfu, you know. Tōfu uru (Selling tōfu). She go make. And then I come home the work, I go deliver tōfu and sell. So I come home every night about 8 o'clock, 7:30 to 8 o'clock, I think. And then sometime I going down they---way down Kahapae. Mokuleia. All

the plantation camp, eh. All go around, eh. And with the horse. Junk horse you get. (Laughs) Skinny kind. And....shitekara, nanikano (....then what)? My brother ga, James ga umareru (My brother James was born). And Smitty ga umareru (And Smitty was born). So help up. So my mother no can work. That kind time we got to ....nani (what you might call)? Kokua making the tōfu. Early in the morning, get up. Oh, so damn sleepy!

(Laughter)

NK: But before we go work, we make 'em like this. All....tōfu, you know.... ground suru no yo, soshite one or two time gurai yuganshitekara (....we ground the soy beans, then about one or two times we boiled it). I go to work. You come home. Just like mill all same. Work like hell, you know. No more time to play!

HN: How old were you then?

NK: Oh, that time I was in 16 or 17. Yeah. I think 17 or 15 gurai (around). Sixteen, ka (I wonder if it's 16)? Fifteen or 16, I think. Oh, my plantation, lifetime. And then I going out. Strike coming out, no more job. So I have to go Wahiawa. And then cowboy. ( Chuckles) Taking care for the cow, eh. I got to watch 'em. Oh, that time good job, because I like horse. And I like ride the horse, but so many, you know; about fifty to sixty cow, but you got to watch, one man, see. 'As right. Go round on the side. They go inside the pineapple field, you know, those guys. So everytime we got to watch out, eh.

HN: Got to go chase 'em and take 'em, eh?

NK: Chase 'em and then no can go inside the---no more fence, see, that time. 'As why cow go inside, quick time he go inside the pineapple field, eh. They like eat 'em, eh. So we no can give 'em the pineapple, 'as why they going....we got to watch 'em. Oh, but during da kind time, good fun, eh.

HN: How long you work there?

NK: Oh, about six months, I guess. And then come home. After strike, come home and then I go plantation again. And I make cut cane. And then, sometime, the mill.

HN: How much you was getting paid, cut cane?

NK: Oh, cut cane, about....maybe one line, I think, contract, 'as why, one cents or somewhere around there, I think. One cents or two cents. No more two cents, though, I think.

HN: Two cents for what? One line?

NK: One line.

HN: What is that?

NK: One line mean....before get water course to water course, see. Water and water running, eh. So about the....how many feet? More than 15 feet ka (or) twenty feet on one line. I think twenty feet. So that one, when you going cut, one cents.

HN: How big you got to cut?

NK: Oh, it just like a cane, so all mix inside, yeah, 'as why take long time.

HN: Got to cut certain size, just...

NK: Certain size, yeah, and then, top off and then, down below, you know, they need the sugar, 'as why, they going cut that...way down below, eh. So....I think, sometime we make contract, that kind time, dollar half or \$1.60, I think, all day. And some smart guy, they make 'em two dollar over. But like us, new men and then young kid, 'as why no can make that much.

HN: Yeah.

NK: Sometime we make 'em lazy, 'as why. Too much tired, eh.

(HN chuckles)

NK: So is sugar cane inside place, I going....sit down, and story.

(Laughter)

NK: Too nemutai (sleepy). Then, all the young kid, eh, are inside there. Just like, oh, in now days young kid, same thing. Three, four guys stay together, eh, if talk story, they no going cut, eh. Bumbye, luna come. "Eh, what's a matter with you guys?" But we make contract, see.

HN: Yeah. (Chuckles)

NK: Sometime, we no like cut hand, so da kind time, I think even though forty cents or fifty cents, I think, one day, but da kind job get, and then, that one no can make money, so I go inside mill. Fire Room, the engine room, all kind. And then...

HN: Anything interesting you used to do in the mill?

NK: Oh, yeah, me, interesting, but no can go up, because plenty guys stay up there. You work about two years, maybe, you can get foreman, or what, but that guy (the foreman at the time), he no going quit. We no can go up any more, see. 'As why, same old pay and then. 'As why I think \$1.35 or somewhere around there.

HN: Long hours, too?

NK: Long hours, 12 hours. Was two shift. Night and a day. Hodake

nani yo no (Therefore, as you may know), kind of hard time. And sometime, you sleepy. Da kind time, you know, hoo boy! Warm, eh. And then, hot. Sometime noisy, so you used to that kind place, eh, you don't know what to do, because, oh! You get tired and sleepy. Bumbye danger, you know, that thing. If you going sleep over there, fall down inside the cane, you pau already, you see. (Laughs)

HN: Yeah.

NK: So we no can sleep, but, anyway, I work....about....I don't know. How many I work ka no (I wonder)? Oh, maybe one, two years, I guess. And then, here, and go to there, and go to other side or certain place, yeah. All, they going send me out. And then, so.... bumbye, we go inside back field again. And then, I going to get the mule. Plow, eh, all inside there.

HN: Oh, you used to plow with mules?

NK: Yeah, mules.

HN: Oh.

NK: Big mule, you know. And then....

HN: What was your pay for doing that? That's real hard work.

NK: Yeah, that one, I think, little bit more money. I think \$1.50 or \$1.38 or somewhere around there, anyway, I don't know exactly. But anyway, little bit more money, see. 'As why me go inside there. We like money, because anything little bit higher, ten cents higher, we going to go inside there, see. But hard work. Just da kind time, all Portagees, eh, mill workers. And Japanee, amari orandattayo (And Japanese, there weren't too many). And so, any kind we make, but...

HN: How was that job?

NK: Oh, I like that kind of job. But one time I fall down from the mule, eh, and then, half-make already, so we don't know nothing. All, I think, knock out, already. So they say, "Eh, Koga boy going pass away today though. I think no come back." Because---hey! Everybody stay my house. Oh, funny. I looking. Oh, plenty guys. Old man Aikane stay, eh. I thought, "Eh, how come. Doshitanka (What happened)?" "Oh, okita, okita (Oh, he's up, he's up)!" he say. "Ah, ikita, ikita (Oh, he's alive, he's alive)!" The old man. You know, live shita (I lived), you know, no make yet, you see. Chee, I don't know. Long time, I think, about two, three hours, I think, I sleep up, I think. But....

HN: Tired, that's why.

NK: No. Fall down, eh. And then, wen over here hit. The mule ga, just you know, one side....nanika (what you might call it). Ano chain ni kaka....kutsu ga kakatte hode, one side all fall down (The mule's chain was stuck to my shoes). Hodake, me no atama, shitano hō ni tsuite (Therefore, my head touched the ground; i.e. was dragged). Hode kara,

the stable made (Then, until the stables), the mule went, see.  
 That time, me, I don't know nothing. But everybody ga kitekara me  
wo kokua shitan yo (But everybody came and helped me). Hemo shite  
(Take me off). Then me, only over here to someplace else, I think.  
Kegashita dakeyo (I only got hurt). Nani mo nai (Nothing else).  
Sodemo, me, eh, atama wa bonbon uttekara modottake kokode knock  
 out natte shimotta (Because I came home after I had hit my head,  
 I knocked out here). Then, me shiran no yo ( was unconscious)  
 little while. Because I look the shoes, hoo boy! All broken down,  
 eh. One leg dekara (With one leg), hold stay.

HN: That kind time, what? They had accident plan or anything?

NK: No more. No more nothing.

HN: Nothing?

NK: No more nothing, that kind time. Only you going doctor. Pau already.

HN: Doctor, free? They pay for the doctor?

NK: Oh yeah. Doctor free, yeah. Doctor Wood, you know, iunoga otta, Wood  
 (There was a doctor by the name of Wood). That guy horse doctor,  
 that guy. He don't know nothing. (Laughs) Horse doctor dake  
 (Because he's a horse doctor), not regular doctor, see. Dake (Thus)....  
 any kind, just like us horse, all same, you know. They go treat  
 us. Any kind. Warukatta (It was bad). They going cut 'em off and  
 then bandage on top, put the medicine, pau. "Eh, go home. Sick!"  
 Like that, see.

Auwe. Oh, that kind time, all say nothing. 'As why, Waialua people,  
 plenty missing, because the doctor stay. They no care about that, 'as  
 why kodomoga (children), you know, baby ga umarete (even if babies  
 are born), they going report to the Doctor Wood. Doctor Wood, he no  
 going put 'em down. Too much time, plenty case there, get come out.  
 After long time, 'as why, we report for the Doctor Wood. And  
 plantation, so, we no worry. That time, old man dakara (That  
 time, because they are old men), they don't know nothing about da  
kind, eh. 'As why, sometime Japan ni, me no kodomoga umareta,  
 report suru, eh (That's why sometime I would report my child's  
 birth to Japan). And then kochi nimo (over here) report suru.  
Hodake (Then) report for the hospital. Doctor Wood, he no want to  
 take care. He stay forget. 'As why, koko de umaretemo (That's why  
 although they were born here), all born Waialua and they get no more....  
da kind....nai no yo no (...there isn't anything). Proof ga, now,  
 no more, see. 'As why plenty guys, hard time, you know. Even though  
 my brother, too. Da kind time dattayo (It was that kind of time)  
 anyhow, not like now.

HN: What about sick leave? They gave you sick leave...

NK: No more sick leave! You pau already. You no going work, no more.  
 Even ten cents. No pay, no more nothing. Sick leave, only give you  
 the medicine and then just ask you, 'as all. Then policeman come  
 around, you know.

HN: Come check up on you?

NK: Check up, yeah. "Eh, how come? Your man, today, how come today? Sick?" "Yeah. Eh, my father sick." "Oh, let me see your paper." A Portagee guy came around, eh. And he said...

HN: Plantation police?

NK: Plantation police. So they going check up, you see. "No more paper? Goddam! You molowa. You pau bumbye!" He go tell like that, see.

(HN laughs)

NK: 'At's why you have to go doctor office, and then, stomach sore and head sore, or something like that. And even though head sore, eh, just like, give 'em---he no going look. "Oh. Give 'em, this guy, the medicine." Just like aspirin, all same. "Give 'em plenty medicine" and then pau. Oh, boy! Nothing. No more nothing, da kind.

Working hard, yo. Da kind time dake (Because it was that kind of time), you know, even though kozukaisen ne (spending money), spending money, I think, one months, I think fifty cents. The day we bought some soda water. I think, the time, five cents, I think, no. One soda water, drink. Hoo! Five cents, you poho, you know, so no drink.

Only that time we can drink, eat, 'as New Year and Japan Tenno. Japan no emperor ga umerata hi (The birthday of Japan's emperor). Two time, one year, we can eat kamaboko (fishcake) and then soda water. (Laughs) 'As da kind, you know. Sometime, we make 'em meat. Oh, boy! Now days, boy, altogether different, though. Hard time, though. I don't know how much we spend on meat but meat demo (but even meat) not like now days. Bamboo no, ch, leaf ni tsutsunde (Was wrapped in bamboo leaves). Soshite uttearukiyotta, Chinese ga koko ni basket sagete (Then the Chinese came around here selling them in baskets). Soshite, order totte (Then they would take our orders). Next week, so much. Oh, maybe, one pound or two pound or somewhere around there, and then they go bring over there.

HN: What mostly you used to eat, then?

NK: Well, mostly Japan stuff. Like rice. And miso shiru.

HN: Oh, with plenty miso shiru.

NK: Yeah. Miso shiru and then some....you make own garden, eh. Daikon, eh. Japan no daikon (Japanese radish). And then....what kind? Nappa (Japanese green vegetable that's like spinach), eh. That vegetables, eh. Nasubi (egg plant), egg plant, and then, all kind, you make behind yard, see, and then all most, that one eat. 'As right, eh. You no can buy now days da kind. Vegetables, you got to make own. Beans you got to make own. And then you have to buy

miso and shoyu and rice.

HN: What was your favorite dish, that time?

NK: Favorite dish? Once in a while we can eat the meat, eh. That's the one.

HN: That's the one?

NK: Yeah, 'as the one.

HN: What about fish and eggs, like that?

NK: Oh, fish---egg, not too much, da kind. Fish mo (Even fish), not so much. Fish, you go in down the beach, hook the fish. (Laughs)

HN: That's the only time you can eat fish?

NK: Yeah. Sometime throw net and then come home, and then make 'em dry. And then, that one ga, konda salt ni irete, you know, hard ni shiteoite (And then, that one, put that in salt, you know, make it hard). Are ga bento no okazu na (That becomes a luncheon side-dish). Manini, cut 'em off, and then dry 'em up. Put the plenty---not da kind buy kind salt, you know. Seaweed kind salt. Hawaiian salt. That one wo mottekite, eh (Bring that kind). Keep shitoku (Keep it). Soshite tengara ni irete (Then put it in a can). Arekara komoni shitekara (Then cut it into small pieces). Soshite, sore wo cook suru, ne (Then we cook that). Sore ga bento no okazu (That becomes a luncheon side-dish). Almost like....oh, like, eh, most time we eat fish, not much. And then meat not much. Vegetables all most eat. Sometime tsukemono (pickled vegetables), eh. Takuan (Pickled radish), like that.

Bento yutara (If it's lunch), sometime, ume (salty plum) inside. Ume ga two, three is inside. That's all. We eat 'em. Oh, they going bring the coffee or something like that, eh. But that kind time, we---soda water we wen put 'em inside the tea, eh. (Chuckles)

HN: Yeah.

NK: So....was a work in the field eh, da kind time....that lunchman yūno ga oru. Are ga carry shitekaru. Soshite kara, sometime, put 'em on the field no top no toko nani ka ga attara, you know, stone no uwe ka, ki ka, eh. Just hang shitoru.

(So....was a work in the field, eh, da kind time....there was a lunchman. He used to carry lunch. Then sometime he put the lunches on the field's---there is something in the field, you know, on top of the stone or the tree, eh. Just hanging.)

HN: Used to have lunchman? What was...

NK: Lunchman bring us the water, you know.

HN: Oh, the guy carried 'em up.



NK: Yeah, water. All most time water. The guy was job, see. Water and then lunch. They go bring 'em. So we go make hoe hana like that, all over they go, eh, and then they go take 'em down. Way down the other side, see. And then, about kokoraga lunch ni naruyutoka, the field no way down the other side, ni oite oru, eh (And then when they reach just about this spot, it will be lunch time, and the lunch is way down on the other side of the field). Sometime, you know, the lunch ga no, red ant, they go inside. Hoo, you look, hoo boy, all the lunch dake de omottekara yorokonde akeru (Hoo boy, you look, hoo boy, when you think about lunch, you open the lunch so eagerly). Miru, eh, red kind---ant ga minna haitoru (Then you see red kind---ant; red ants are all over the food). You no can eat, eh. Hoo, boy, goddam, no can do nothing! All kokoraga kaburareru, eh (All this got bitten by ants). Ana koto ga three, four time gurai attoruyo (That kind of thing happened three, four times). Yeah, plenty guys atta yo (Yeah, that happened to a lot of guys).

Me ra wa mada, lucky one. My old man no age no fella dattaga, you know, hapai ko ni totte baby wo, same thing, about two months---more than two months. Two months jyanakattara, no can ka. Anyway, three, four months kara, eh, baby wo hapai shite. Soshite, in the field, see. Soshite small tent, you know. Just like umbrella mitai. Anto na wo cover shiteoite. Kibi no naka ni, you know, kibi no nani ga aru, eh, antona yaketa ho ga, are wo ko cover shite atsuna yoshite, baby neshitoku de. Soshite konda, certain time kiitara, jibun no chichi no mashi ni mama ga ikun, see. Soshitara, red ants ga minna kutoru. Sometime, anna koto ga atta. Sonnani shitekara, me ra no brother nanka wa futotekitayo, honton yutara. My mother wa tofu yariyotta ke shigoto ga atta ke, uchi no shigoto wo shiotta ke, Smitty nanka wa anna field ni motte ikenakatta, but hokano fella all most are ga atta. Oh, fifty guys, seventy guys ga, you know, one gang ga hapai ko suru toki, all Japanese ga all most. All most full of Japanee da kind pilau job suru fella, 'as why baby ga umarete kara sonani iutomo, you no can rest so much. 'As why got to carry shite, baby oite, husband and wife ga one.

(Nevertheless, I was the lucky one. A person of my father's age, you know, carried a two month old baby on his/her back while doing hapai ko. If the baby is two months, maybe you can't do that. Anyway, from three, four months old, the baby can be carried on the back. Then in the field, see. Then there's a small tent, you know. It's just like an umbrella. You put that kind of cover. You know, the what you might call it of the sugar cane, on that burnt cane, they leave the baby so the baby won't be hot. When it came to a certain time, the girl used to go there to breast-feed the baby. There are so many red ants swarming there, biting the baby. Sometime, such a thing happened. In that way, my brothers grew up. My mother used to make tofu so she had a profession. So she didn't have to take us to the field. Smitty didn't have to go to the field, but most of the fellows had to. Oh, when one gang of fifty to seventy guys worked to load the train cars, most of them were Japanese because they were the ones who did those dirty jobs. That's why even if you gave birth to a baby, you couldn't rest much. So you had to carry the baby, leave it because the husband and wife had to work together as one team.)

HN: That was all contract, too.

NK: All contract, see. One---I think I remember one big load, eh, fifty cents. That one train, train no one big load itte, hoo boy (What they called one big train load, hoo boy)! Ame ga futtara (When it rained), boy, you stiff, eh. Ippai naru ke (The rain filled up the cane box cars). Nani wo hapai shite ikunoyo, see (You go and carry, see). Kibi no uwe ni agatte, ano....stepladder wo (Get up on that sugar cane train....using stepladder). Sore ga kondo suberuno yo (The stepladder sometimes became slippery so) you go fall down. Kibi ippai kakaete (While carrying an armful of sugar cane), fall down from the top. You watch out, you know, plenty guys injure shita no ga au (get injured). Sonnanishite, anyway, kodomo sodateta no yo (Anyway, we brought up our children in that way). Chodo, my James yara, Smitty nankano toshi no fella wa hotondo plantation dattara, a shite kara, sodatete, I think, a shite live shitoru (Most people the same age as my sons James and Smitty who lived on plantations were brought up that way). Hodake, hard, this one (That's why hard). Hontoni eraime ni attayo (We had a really hard time).

Doko ikuyutemo, plantation no contract ga aru (Even if you wanted to go somewhere else, there was a plantation contract), and then you don't know where to go. You get no more nothing to hang on. Nanimo nai ke (You had nothing), you know....hard to go up from the plantation, see. And then strike kara kondara Japanese guys ga, all most time, good places like downtown nanka minna ga dete (And then after the strike most of the Japanese left to go to good places like downtown Honolulu).

HN: What happened during that strike when everybody...

NK: Ah, all lose already. Only Japanee make 'em strike, see. But that time plantation ga minna yondayo (the plantation called everyone in). (The Japanese said,) "Japanee no like work with you," kara yu ke, Filipino irete kara (Since the Japanese said, "The Japanese don't want to work," they invited the Filipinos in). Filipino shigotosashita, see (They let the Filipinos do the work, see). And sugar cane come up. Filipino too much glad, eh. Oh, but Japanee no more chance. He like work, but he no like give 'em, 'as why tôtô (at last) six months ga yatta (passed), but broke yo. No more money, eh. No can eat kind way.

HN: What did you guys do?

NK: Small, 'as why mada age ni natoran ke (I hadn't reached maturity), I go up Wahiawa, I working.

HN: Oh, that's when you work cowboy.

NK: Yeah. Cowboy time. And then we have to pay so much. I think fifty percent or something like that. Got to pay for the union. Strike was, eh. And so kokua, but....got go to, eh. That kind time,

all young kids ga, you know, before you kata no Taisho Gakkō, asoko ga before no strike no Waialua no main office ni natta (Taisho Gakkō became the headquarters of the strike in Waialua). Ako de cook shitari, nanka shitari (People cooked and also did other daily living activities there). Soshite all over akora henni minna striker ga atsumattotan (And that's where the strikers assembled). Twin Bridge kara, all outside ni, no more plantation house, eh (From Twin Bridge on, there were no plantation houses). No can go, stay inside there, 'as why all outside ni, Haleiwa ni, itte soshite asoko made aruite kite, and lunch yara, supper yara, asoko kara moraiyottayo (That's why we had to walk there for our supper and lunch).

Hode (So) young kids wa, you got to peel the potato and rice cook, and...yasai (vegetables)---go buy the yasai. All truck de kara, itte areraga drive narota no koro (That's when some of them learned to drive a truck). Me yori ka one, two guys ga hotondo arukiyota (Me and a couple of other guys mostly walked). But me, mada young dattake (But I was still too young), I no more chance to drive.

Soredake de Nihonjin ga, Japanese ga all most, ano strike kara, plantation nimo dettemo, bakarashi (Well, from that strike, most of the Japanese thought it would be stupid to go back to the plantation). You know. Same amount you get. They no going pay 'em. "Ah, you striker, you," ittekara, plantation kara, kick 'em out, just like, eh ("Ah, you striker, you," they would say, and would kick the Japanese out from the plantation). 'As why, ah, more better go outside. He go inside pineapple and then contracts him. All downtown no hō minna deta (Everyone went downtown). Hodake, plenty Waialua kara detoruyo, downtown ni, plenty guys stay (So, a lot of guys went downtown from Waialua). 'As why mo, arekara, jibun no own job, eh, jibun no business ni botsubotsu old man ra ga haiteita (That's why even the old people went into their own businesses). Hodake, my father demo, all same (Even my father was no exception). Kondo plantation kara detari jibun no own job, eh (Once he got out of the plantation, he had to do his own work). Dake, any kind, he go make yasai ya shitari, contracting, sub-contracting, uketori (Then he did all kinds of work; raised vegetables, did contracting work, took sub-contracts). Just only dokashite kara, ma, kūte ittawakeyo (One way or another, they earned enough to eat). Hodake, nanika craime ni otoru yo (So they suffered a great deal).

Everybody, Filipino and Japanese ga together natte shitara, alright, but Filipino folks atokara, second time strike no toki kara, issho datta. But they don't quit, see. And Japanese guy ga all sucker natte shimottayo. Hodake, more he get mad. Little bit good money varu iutara, Filipino all want to come back. Japanese, varu iutara, "No, no, no, no!" iutekara ikan. Shigoto senke, Japanese mo nikumarete kara, Philippine ni natte shimotta.

(If the Filipinos and Japanese had got together and struck together, alright, but the Filipinos didn't stay with the strike the second time. And the Japanese guys ended up being suckers. So the Japanese got even angrier. When the plantation said they would give a little bit more money, the Filipinos all wanted to come back. However,

the Japanese said, "No, no, no, no!" and never went back. The Japanese didn't go back, didn't work, so they got hated, and the Filipinos became the major plantation workers.)

HN: Union was pretty strong, then?

NK: Yeah. Now days, union, okay, but that time, union all same nothing.

(HN laughs)

NK: Then, no more back up, nothing, you know. Only, own labor no money wo little bit, little bit tsumerarete yattanke (We only accumulated our money little by little through our own labor). No can. No can do that much. Tokinikara, six months more, you know, strike yatta to omou yo (I think the strike lasted six months longer). That big money. Nobody going help. Even though Castle and Cooke wa no like, but Matson and then hokano(others) all this rich fellow, eh, five guys. Nobody go---not five cents going help. 'As why Japanee going mad, 'as why. Soredemo, one thing oboetoru no wa, just like your father mitayoni....your father, grandfather mitayoni, son wo gakkō ni ikannara iken, to yū koto (Even so, I remember one thing, just like your father....your father or grandfather believed that our sons have to go to school). Me ra gakkō ni ikaren dattakara kodomo dake demo jibun wa kuwandemo no 'nuff eat demo, eh (I wasn't able to go to school as a child so even if I didn't eat, I made sure my children went to school). Only miso shiro and konkon dekara tabetottemo gakkō ni ikanya ikenyutekara kodomo no minna magora wo gakkō ni yare (By eating only miso shiro and pickles the Japanese sent all their children and grandchildren to school). Hodake hayaku ittano wa hontō yatta mono wa father wa, you know understanding ga dekitota hito wa, all big shot (And those who had fathers who could see in the future, they became big shots). Even Baron Goto, same thing. Ariyoshi nanka wa mada wakai, but yeah, anyway (George Ariyoshi is stillyoung, but, yeah, anyway). Noda.

HN: Noda, too?

NK: Yeah, Noda....Hitoya Noda. Are nanka wa, you know, ha old man already, me ra yori zūto old. Eighty something already. The guys nanka, all you know, kuroshitekara America itte university dete, hodekara kokoni kitake antoni big ni nattoru, but. Da kind fella ga naka ni wa Japanee wa oru de. Zūtto, no. Soshite hokanimo minna...you know, ima old man nattoru, shindoru, shindeikuyona big shot wa hotondo anokoroni oya kara, oya wa kuwazuni demo kodomo wo school ni yattan.

(Yeah, Noda....Hitoya Noda. Those guys are old men already, much older than me. Eighty something already. All those guys worked hard, went to Mainland and university, so they became big shots when they came back. There are people like that among the Japanese. Those who are now passing away grew up in those times when their parents sent them to school even though the parents sometimes skipped their meals.)

Hodake, koko datta you no more high school, eh. The long time shite kara, koko ni Andrew Cox School, you know, ga dekita, see. And then, are ga only high school get two year datta ne. And then Leilehua one ni, only one high school get.

(Then in this area, you didn't have a high school. After a long time Andrew Cox school was established here, see. And then there were only two years in high school. And then now there is only one high school, Leilehua.)

HN: Go McKinley, huh?

NK: Yeah. All most time go McKinley. And live downtown, see. 'As why cost money. Hodake, me ra demo, same thing (So I did just like the others). My son. First son, I go send to the downtown. Jōdō Mission, he go stay. And Imamura Hall, he go stay. But he no go graduate. Antoni nattoru, all (That's how it is). Hodake, some man, lucky fellow wa, alright (Some lucky people are alright). But poor fella wa itsumade demo me ra mitai mo poor nattoru (But some poor fellows like me have always been poor). Hodake (So) fifty year you stay over here, you no can speak good English. You no can understand good English. That's why all same dumb. Yeah? This one dumb, all same. Me no more time to study. If I like go school, but they say, "No can. Because how you ga school ittara (Because how are you going to school)? What you going to do?" "At least one year demo iekashitekureru (At least let me go to school for just one year)." No can. "One year, how we going to eat?" they say. 'As why no can do nothing. Horedake (So), got to work, work, work, work. I get plenty brothers, so....work sena shōganai (there is no other way but to work). Go kokuu. My father ga yowai (My father was weak). He all time sick in the hospital, and he go drink. Stomach sore, he no can go.

(HN laughs)

NK: My mama and papa everytime fight. "Eh, molowa bakkari, sake bakkari nomu ke (Eh, you lazy fool, you drink sake all the time)." This and that, this and that, eh. Fight together. Oh, I no like see all time, eh. Father and mama going fight. Oh, but my father going get sore stomach, but the wife ga gadagada iutara (yells at him), more he like drink. More sore come!

(HN laughs)

NK: He no going work, so I got to work, like that, see.

HN: So when did you finally go to school and get your citizenship?

NK: Oh, that one I don't know exactly though. '55 kano, '52 datta ka (Was it '55 or '52)? Shiran (I don't know).

HN: Oh, that was after the War then.

NK: Oh, yeah. After the War.

HN: So what happened when they had War, you being one alien? They never come and take you to camp or something like that?

NK: Yeah. They call me three time.

HN: You never go?

NK: Never go, because I get lucky.

HN: How you did that?

NK: I get the pineapple, eh contract. Before, you know, over there get Haleiwa no, and then Opaeula, and then....altogether, eh, pineapple no before, mess hall, you know. Single man no mess hall, right.... are ga seven ka, eight ka nine yattano (there were seven, eight, nine). I take 'em all, see. And then I get contract with the Hawaiian Pine, so....I have to hustle that vegetable. You know.

Nobody like, I think, see. So Hawaiian Pine, one boy come tell me. Who that guy was? The young guy that the one he trust me so much. So, "Eh, Koga, you ko shite kara, mess hall ni iretekurenka" iuke (So, "Eh, Koga, why don't you bring pineapple and vegetables to the mess hall," he said). Because mess hall dattara, I know that Schofield dekara, you know, how they going to use 'em, eh (Because it was the mess hall at Schofield, I know how they were going to use them). So, "Okay, I going," you know. "But sample. This much prices on, and then so much percent, eh, you better give me." Iuno koto de (After saying this), I go find and then get half-ton truck full of that yasai (vegetable), eh. Sorewo (Then), started from that Brodie. Brodie kara hajimete (Started from Brodie's). Tōtō, one whole day kakkatekara Robinson made itte (Finally, it took a whole day to go until the Robinson's). One week ni three times ikiyotta, you see. (One week I went three times, you see). Sono deliver day and then other day dattara, I have to buy 'em come (If it was that delivery day and another day, I have to buy the vegetables). Head cabbage, lettuce, tomato, and then I have to find da kind, eh. So they like take 'em out, but hard find, no can, because "Eh, Koga hippattara (Eh, if Koga can get the stuff it's good)." One week nō can because too many men ga, you know, and the mess hall ga close naruyo (and the mess hall was closed).

Hodake, that time Filipino plenty, so Filipino stuff mo me kōte kara (So because the Filipinos had a lot of vegetables, I bought their stuff, too). I go inside, see. Hodake (So) they like pull 'em out, but the Hawaiian Pine, he say, "Please, Koga dake yarattakure (Please, give that job only to Koga)." Me ga nansuruke iunakoto yatta (I did that kind of thing). Hokara, mada oru yo kōkō (Then the man who's still here). Midkiff. Are to hokara shinda, Hawaii Bank no Anderson (He and the man who died, Anderson of Hawaii Bank). Anderson, eh? Was before no old man.

HN: That was when you had your vegetable peddling business, then?

NK: Yeah. That kind time, that time. Kokua shitayo (They helped me).

So 'as why I went 1939, I went China, before the War. And then I looking all over the Manchuria and then up that China. And then Nanking, and then Shanghai kara me morottekita, see (And then Nanking, and then from Shanghai I brought back things). One whole month I stay over there. So that one wo, he like put 'em. Because me spy, you see.

(HN laughs)

NK: But he say, "No spy." He say, "No. Koga jyanai (It's not Koga). Chigau fellow (It's another fellow)," he say. Me itta, passports mo nani mo, me mottoran, see (I didn't have passports or anything with me, see). But I went Japan, and then I going to go over there, see. But he say, "Ikuna you (Don't go)." No. "Ikanakatta, no. I no go," iu dake (Somebody told me to say, "I didn't go to China"). "Even if I can, I no go." "How you know the China story then?" "Oh, I study from the..."

HN: Book. (Laughs)

NK: ...book. They told me, you know. One guy told me, 'as why, "I study in the Nagasaki Hotel. I go study inside there. And whole month I go study. Over and over." And then he told me, see. So how, see? "You going help me too much." But I send the money Shanghai and pay Tientsin. Two place I send 'em. That time, 1939, 1940, I think was. I like go one more time. Ano money de (With that money), I like make 'em somehow, but...that money, City and County no Waialua boss yo. Are ga me ni yo shite kureta (He did a lot of good for me).

(HN laughs)

NK: And then one time he come. He came my house, eh, and then, "Koga, you come inside." "Why?" "Very important. No can say any more, you see. Or what kind. Oh, you this and that, this and that." So Mr. Midkiff come inside and then Mr. Anderson come inside. Nanka, anyway, before no nani shindayo, are (Well, anyway, that guy who died already). Haleiwa no otoko (Haleiwa boy). Are ga kochi no furui bank (That was the old bank on this side). Close 'em up, you know, door. Ah! And then me and Anderson hodekara (and then) Midkiff. Midkiff mada oru (Midkiff is still around). Are ga three guys dekara (Three guys together), just like this, you know. All suatta (sat).

"Koga, kono paper wo, you burn surunara, we going help you (Koga, if you burn this paper we will help you). All same help suru (All of us will help you). But if you no like burn 'em, if you guy come, check up this one, we no can stop 'em." You see. Hodake (So then), "What you going do?" 'As the six hundred dollars, you know. Oh, the big money, eh! "Oh, you fellow want to go Mainland or you like us stay over here? Oh, but if you get pineapple---I know the Dole Pineapple you get contract with those guys, but you no can do 'em. We no can stop 'em. This kind ga attara (If you have this kind). Proof ga detara (If the proof comes out), you no can do nothing, 'as why. More better you burn 'em, Koga. Ah, money, now days, nothing, so more better. War dake, you get so many money, you have nothing, you see. More better burn 'em, Koga." "Okay." (I) say, "Okay,

I going burn 'em." He said he going burn 'em, two papers. Match. And then Midkiff going away. That one, "Okay, eh, Koga, you can stay here, Waialua because you can continue the pineapple." And pineapple no hoka mo kokua shitotta but he no can (And I stayed and helped with the pineapple, but he couldn't prove)....proof ga attara, me ga China ni itta proof ga attara, they say they going (.... if there was proof of me going to China, they say they are going)....sure enough, konayatsu spy omote (....sure enough they think this guy is a spy). He like put 'em, yeah. But aredekara (since then), all pau, already.

HN: What did you go China for?

NK: Oh, just I like looking. Just like I looking for kokono Consul General no paper morotte (I just wanted to look since I received a pass from the Consul General here). And then we get some connection over there, 'as why. Go run all over. Nice place! First time I look. But after that, hoo! Pilau place! I don't want to go there any more, you see, but that kind time, Japan war, you know, Japan soldiers stay in China, eh. Mada war ga aruyo, kore (The war was still going on there). Hodake, aredekara, me ga hikaren datta (So I wasn't taken away).

Third time, she say, "Ah, today is the last day, so more better you make ready." So I make 'em all warm kind, eh. And overcoat, and sweater, and jacket, and everything, all. Going. And..."Ah, kyōde, ha modorandarō de," iota (And..."Ah, after today he probably won't return," somebody said). But kochino hō kara (But from this side), you know, those guy go talk to the FBI, 'as why I get lucky. Sonohi, pau dattayo (That day it was over). I'm a one, anyway, lucky guy. But one thing I get the pineapple, no. Vegetables, eh. Contract shittota, see (I was doing contract, see). 'As why they give me gasoline plenty, and then they give me....nani (what you might call it). "Any kind trouble ga attara, call se (If you have any kind of trouble, call us)." So I going call 'em up. Bumbye, everybody going jealous and then, "How come Koga get plenty gasoline," and this and that, you know.

(HN laughs)

NK: No, they going stop 'em (giving gasoline). And then come get the big truck with the, you know, hapai. Me no tokoro made (From my place), I stay leave 'em the Shimamoto Camp before. And they coming five ton truck dekara yo yasai tori kiyota (They came to get the vegetable with a five ton truck). Hodemo only just Castle Ranch to Kahuku kara, Waialua, Haleiwa, all over the place hustle shite (Then from Castle Ranch to Kahuku, Waialua, Haleiwa, all over the place I hustled) tomato, head cabbage, lettuce (to) anyone they order, see. And then I make ready. So 'as why I lucky. Me, no can pull me out because me ga ittara, yasai, nobody going hire that one (I couldn't be stopped from picking up vegetables because I was the only one who knew the people). Well, somebody making, but they don't know how, eh. They don't know where to go, anyway, and then they don't know the person because I know all the cook guys. I know, eh, Filipino, Japanee, all. 'As why "You ga kite kureta, good, eh (You come and



do it, good, ch)." This and that, this and that, ch. 'As why kaūkau demo, you know, lunch demo, all akodekara tabeottaya (That's why from then on I was eating food and lunch). Hodake one thing ikaren datta no wa yokatta to omou (Therefore, I think it was good that I didn't go).

I'm poor but I get lucky. My wife demo, she get so much worry and then. "Today is the last day. Today is the last day." No can come back any more, they think, see. But I come back. Lucky. Sorekara, ma, war ga sunde kara (Then after the War was over)...

END OF SIDE ONE  
SIDE TWO

HN: How much you gross, again?

NK: I think three thousand....almost three thousand five hundred, I think. Almost one month, see. Oh, I don't know exactly, but....

HN: One month?

NK: One month.

HN: Schofield?

NK: Yeah, Schofield. So busy. Because buy from the downtown and the vegetable and fruits and eggs and then....California kind stuff, everything, all banana, papayas, all heitai no (soldiers), you know, Army mess hall. I get plenty so certain place, hundred pound bananas. Two hundred pound papayas. Hospital, like that, ch. All, I make it pretty good, though. Hospital alone, I think, I sell 'em one month, five hundred or six hundred dollars. Every month.

One sergeant going treat me nice, see. He like me, you know. Was a haole guy, but old man dattara (but he was an old man). He like me, 'as why he going buy from me, 'as why, see. I make very good. And pay good, but only one year, pay good. After that General Smith ihito (After that a man called General Smith), "One month's time, only. I give you one month's time. You no can go any more da kind wholesale." So what I going do? Bid. All bid, so you have to come down and then provost marshall. And certain time, you got to bid. "How I going bid?" "Oh, we buy from the cheapest market, so anybody, downtown guys, all come inside." Me and Kemoo Farm and Pearl City no Asada (and Asada from Pearl City)....those guys. And Abe. Wahiawa ni ota (In Wahiawa). Arceramo all....minna bid shita (Those people....we all bid). Only few stop, I go in. But Chun Hoon come inside. Chun Hoon make 'em cheap. And then they going give 'em one Chevrolet, new car.

(HN laughs)

NK: 'As right, you know. One provost marshall, Colonel told me. "Eh, Koga, Chun Hoon want to give 'em general one brand new Chevrolet, you know. So why don't you give 'em. I going give you chance, you see." Oh, that time only nine hundred something dollars, you know,

one brand new Chevrolet, see. Hoo, I like nine hundred dollars, but we no more money, that much. But we sell three thousand something, but we have to pay back, see. And boys stay about seven guys I got to pay the wages. Ah, we no more that much. We no can give 'em, like that.

"You sure if I going give 'em (the car), you sure you going give 'em (the business) all?" "Maybe," he say. "Not all, but Chun Hoon to maybe half and half (Not all, but you and Chun Hoon half and half)." "Well, Chun Hoon make 'em half and a half, maybe that guy going give 'em one more car, what! What you going do?" I tell 'em, see. "Well, da kind time, you lose." Well, da kind gamble, I no like. I no can buy anyways. So I lose, all lose. Well, no can do nothing. "What you going do now?" "I going retail 'em." So I go retail. All the quarters stay. Army no quarters. Hodake, I think two year gurai yokatta, but atokara all most retail vegetable peddler nanka (So I think for almost two years business was good, but after that I did mostly retail vegetable peddling)...

HN: That was your upper post?

NK: Upper post. Very good, but just like inside post. Every month general inspection come round, you got to clean 'em up!

Hoo! Everything they going look. If no going clean, you kick 'em out, see, that time. So only that one ga hard, but after a while, that okay. Pretty good. And then after that, after one year, they told me, "One more month's time, you have to get out from the post, because this is the martial order. And General order," he said. Hodake (So), nineteen thirty....'28? '28 ka (or) '29, no....anyhow, October 30. 'As the last day I stay over there. So everything, all stay there. Showcase, icebox, scale and everything. Scale wa me motte modotta (I think I brought the scale back). Anyhow, hoo, everything, all....you know, you no can do nothing. Only one month's time. I order that California. Eggs and then....fruits, every boat, see. And hoo, chee, general like come in, I got to run up there and I like stop 'em, that eggs. So many hundred eggs, see. And then....but, hoo! Just for yesterday load shita (They had just loaded the boat the day before). No can cancel. Got to come back. I got out here and go get the eggs. So many dozen case, eh. I get that time little bit big car, see, big truck. Full. Hoo, boy! I no can sell. Fruit, even the tomato, cantaloupe, honeydew, everything, all my house. Kusaretashita ato (Got rotten). Whole thing! No can sell too much, see. No can do nothing. After that, we going cancel 'em up, but boat on top there already, no can do nothing, eh.

Not like now days, you know. Hoo, before boat, so damn long time, they take, eh. Hoo boy. 'As right One time go down nattayo (One time I took a big loss). So then even I no can do anything. Ah, no can do nothing. General order, we no can say nothing. I got to go so many time provost marshall. But he say, "Oh, General orders," he no can do nothing.

HN: They kicked out all the Japanese on the post?

NK: Oh, yeah. All the Japanese on the post. And then, next year, me wa inside the post, see (And then, next year, I was inside the post). And then, but Leilehua fella little bit outside the post. And then Japanese camp over there. Are ga Kumihisa (That was Kumihisa). And Wada Building there, eh. And those guys mo all dashita, plenty poho (Those guys were put out, too, with a big loss).

Was just like....ima no can do nothing, like that, but General order iutara, you no can do nothing, you know (Was just like....now you can't do anything like that, but if you said General order, you can't do anything, you know). Just General say this way, all pau already. No can do. Even though you no can see the governor, you no can see the mayor. All same nothing. Schofield, all, the general, he control, see. 'As why, oh, everybody going out. And so long.... Chinese, not, yeah, you know.

HN: Not Chinese?

NK: Not Chinese. 'As why I mad. Goddam!

HN: You should have bring in one Chinese partner then. (Laughs)

NK: Chinese partner dattara (If it was Chinese partner), same old thing. But part-Chinese, too, after two years, and they going get out. Yeah. All most time and then they get out. Are yakamashino nattayo, I think (They put up a big squawk about that, I think). Hodake, are wa (that), I think, one, two year after. But Chinese wa....you know, asokode (over there) they no stay open the business. They work to mess hall. Or else barbershop. Anyway, government no shigoto shiotta see (Anyway, they were doing government work, see). Laundry men, eh, like that. Laundry man demo minna dashita kara (Even the laundry men were all kicked out). Same thing. No can do nothing.

But that time, arekara, me ra ga outside dete, Kamooloa itte (But from that time, we went outside to Kamooloa). Ima no tailor no tokoro (Where the tailor's place is now). Before Chinese ga mottota, house wo (Before, the Chinese owned the house). Road wo kote (They bought the road). Soshite, me no sono first payment kara.... ano down payment wo akokoni iretake, I get so damn hard time (Then that first payment....that down payment for this place was so damn hard to pay). You know, so much hundred dollars, eh, you got to put 'em in the first payment, eh. So I have to pay back.

So I go look all over the American Factor, Chun Hoon's and....then all the wholesaler ni itte kara (....then I went to all the wholesalers). "Please give me about one month's time, because of this and that, this and that." So "Kokua shitekure (Please give me your help)." Well, some guys say, "Okay. I trust you." Iutekure ka (They said). Some guys, "No. You got to pay. Last month no more paper. Only thirty days hoka you no account no more (Your account is only good for thirty days)." Got to pay back, eh. Hodake (So) I got to make tanomoshi and any kind way. Soshite (Then), you know, pay back over there. Almost the fellow--I think American Factors, ka. Those guys ga warikata nice ni shitotta; nice ni shitekureta (Those guys were nice; they treated me well). And then Chinese Au Yong, nice ni

shitekureta (Au Yong treated me well). The other one, hoo. They like make 'em straight. 'As why humbug. Ayukoto ga atte kara kondo me peddler nattayo (Since that kind of thing happened, I became a peddler). Tōtō (Finally). Peddler narumae ni (Before I became a peddler), I make little bit sub-contracting. Oyaji--papa ga sale itte; are no kokua shita, nanka shiotta (My father would go to sell; I would help him).

And then when pineapple field ni, I go inside. I go work pineapple field. But see, marriage shitatoki, chyōdo 1929 kano (But see, when I married, was exactly 1929, I think). Leilehua ni itta (I went to Leilehua). Marry shite kite (After I got married). Schofield ni (At Schofield). Not long ago yo. I think one year ni ottan kano (I think I stayed there one year). And then bust out nattake (And then when I became broke), I go come back to the Haleiwa. Kamaloa. And then, are kara peddler natte (And then after that I became a peddler). Nanjya, kanjya, shigoto shita yono (I worked at this and that). Any kind, you make.

HN: What you was selling mostly, peddling?

NK: Oh, peddling, only yasai. Vegetable ga.

HN: Oh, vegetable.

NK: All mostly vegetable. So I like keep on going to da kind eggs and fruits. Mainland kara California kara, minna toriota no (From the Mainland, from California, I was receiving all of these things). I get connection, but....even though, boy, outside, eh, da kind time, half case eggs no can sell, you know. Even though, Sands ga otta.... Sea View Inn ni, before, eh, all the tumble-down no house no big house, but ima no Haleiwa Sands, ako ni otta....only him, half case kōte kureota dake....half case wo (Even though there was Sands.... Sea View Inn where the old tumble-down houses used to be but where Haleiwa Sands is now...only he would buy a half-case of eggs).

(HN laughs)

NK: No can put sale, you know. All going make cheap sale, and then just take the cost, only, see. But they no can buy 'em. Other guys. Only one, two dozen, three dozen hōde kotoran (They bought only one, two, three dozen). That's one thirty dozen case, only 15 case, only Sands ga half-case kōte kureota (only Sands bought a half case). Hoo boy! Me ra dattara (If it was me), one whole mess hall, throw 'em inside one case, eggs. Half case eggs iute, all ireota (You say half case eggs, I put all in). Thirty-five case gurai kazoetota yo (I used to count about 35 cases). Sore ga one time (That happened one time). Hoo boy! Are wa I poho so much, I going send 'em back to the wholesaler, so not so bad, but fruits and vegetables, and all, poho, you know (I lost so much on that, but I could send them back to the wholesaler so it wasn't so bad, but fruits and vegetables were a complete loss). And all the pigpen, go inside. Tomato, cantaloupe, honeydew, plum, any kind. (Laughs)

Hoo, you look, boy, warehouse I get plenty stuff, stack 'em up. Every day get smell, eh. Ah, I go look sick. Goddam! Mata shiru ga deru (Again the fruits are fermenting). Ah, shit, no can sell! More better throw 'em inside the pigpen, so I go call all men. Bring the nani (what you might call it)....truck. And then buta kaukau ni mottekure (And then take it to feed the pigs). He say, "I think, Hawaii, only you Mainland kara, buta kaukau kau no wa only you do (In Hawaii, you're the only one to import pig food from the Mainland)." He told me, you know. Joke. Antonatta (That's what happened). Hode atokara (Then after that), kind of hard time, that, but I make 'em little bit good. But all most time, we bought that place up there, see.

HN: Kawaihoa?

NK: No. Kamaloa. Now...yeah, that Koga Theatre get, eh? That place we bought. Are divide shite (We divided it). Half. Me ga kochi no ho (I got this side). My father, kochi no ho (My father got this side). The other fellow, Kunihisa kochi no ho (The other fellow Kunihisa got this side). Two fellow dekara hambun-hambun kota (The two agreed to buy by splitting the cost in half). But, you, boy.... you got to pay, you know. Hoo, so damn tight! And then that time, little bit better, so Leilehua ni high school ni ikita (That at that time, conditions were better so I went to Leilehua High School). I going to buy the bus.

My brother Thomas ga, Wahiawa ni he going work (My brother Thomas worked in Wahiawa). Morning time, he go take up all the kid. And then go Leilehua School. Leave 'em over there. He go and then Wahiawa Garage, he working over there. And then pau hana time, 2 o'clock, I have to sell the vegetable, all and then, come back with the bus. And I go take 'em home, all the kid. (Laughs)

NK: Two guys dekara (With two guys), one load.

HN: And he bring back the truck?

NK: Yeah, you bring back the truck. He bring back the truck. And then, come home, I got to buy the vegetables, see. Hoo, you know I got busy, eh.

Soremo, everyday, you know, that one, see, school ga arutoki, eh (That was every day of school). Hoo, boy, that time hard time, though. Me no can pay the note. Sometime, they going come get the bus. Chee....one time we got to take out that wheel.

(HN laughs)

NK: Throw 'em way inside there. And then he no can find 'em. "Eh, how come tire no more?" "Oh, tire, flat tire, so no can buy, 'as why. Got to fix 'em up, go throw 'em inside." And we tell 'em bullshit, you know. He no can take 'em back, eh, 'as why. No more wheel, 'as why.

(Laughter)

NK: Ah, ama koto ni natta. Oh, so damn hard time dattayo. But tōtō, one car---anokoro how many? I don't know exactly how many, but, anyway, forty passenger kind, eh. Long nose no bus kōta yo. Oh, me ra ga ichiban hayakattayo Waialua de. Sodake zutto well, Leilehua yatta, but, no. Deliver kid all. Hodake, almost ima no, I think, forty something kara, fifty gurai no generation, minna me ra ga hapai shitoru. I call the bus Koga bus, eh. Those guys tag along. And Konda kochi no hō nani ga....open natta, eh. High School. Andrew Cox School kara high school ni natta. Hodekara, bus no need already, see. 'As why, me, ittoki yamete. Hodekara kondo Tojo ga bus wo yariyota. Tojo no bus wo, you kōtekure iuke, are kara me ga bus four ka five one time kōta.

(Ah, it became that way. Oh, it was a damn hard time. But finally, one car---how many were there around that time? I don't know exactly how many, but anyway, forty passenger kind, eh. I bought a long-nose bus. Oh, we were the first in Waialua. And we did it all through that time in Leilehua. We transported all the kids who would be forty-something to fifty years old today. I called the bus Koga bus, eh. Those guys tagged along. And over here....something opened up on this side. High School. Then Andrew Cox School became a high school in this area. Then there was no need for a bus. So I quit, and Tojo was running the bus. Then later, I was asked to buy his buses, so I bought four or five buses at the same time.)

Soshite, we start. Konda my own business, you know. Before dattara, me and brother, together yariyota. Now Tojo no bus wo me ga kōte. Soshite, the time, flower shop we open. So she work flower side. Me, peddle and the bus. Soshite, anotoki ni wa only bus dake datta kano? Peddle wa sen datta mo? Anyhow, soyūfū de, daibun yatte bochiri bochiri konda da kind junk bus wa, nobody like, eh.

(Then we started. This time, it was my own business, you know. Before, my brother and I used to work together. Now I bought Tojo's buses. At that time, we had opened a flower shop. So my wife worked there. I peddled and drove the bus. Then at that time, did I have only the bus? I wasn't peddling, was I? Anyhow, in that way, we worked hard, did it little by little with junk buses that no one wanted.)

(HN laughs)

NK: 'As why go buy little bit more, little bit more new one, new one dekara, you know, now....my son Ralph ga, are ra no company ga minna kōtekureta. Hodake, ima dattara, I think, seventy ka, eighty buses get, eh.

(That's why I kept on buying a slightly newer one each time....now my son Ralph's company bought all of them. So I retired. I think there are seventy or eighty buses now.)

Chee, boy! If I get some more money, I no like sell, but, you know,

too damn hard, 'as why. Ah, might as well sell. More better sell. Soshite kara (Besides), I get sixty something yet, but I sell. Sixty-three, ka? Four ka, five ka nattaka (64, 65)? Anyway, my son ga take care shiteyariyota (Anyway, my son was taking care of things). But, "Ah, more better you go retire. So more better sell," iutake (he said). "Ah honaga up to you guys," sō iute retire shita (I said, "Ah, it's up to you guys," and I retired.) Hard time, ho! Hoo, boy, you....

Just like story yattara, bullshit mitayonayo (It's just like a story, just like bullshit). No can trust just like. You want---12 hour you go work, justlike, you know, \$1.20 or one dollar thirty-five cents, thirty-six cents like that. Hoo! You get hard time, boy. Hard time. No more union. No more nothing. Plantation the boss. If you lazy, you gotta tie 'em up. No can do nothing. You no more house. Even though they give you.

Oh, nanimo tsuideni iutoka...before plantation camp dattara, you know furo demo...women's side and men's side. Both side jya. Manaka de partition ga atte. You wa all same. Eh, hodake, you were pilau. Just like hapai ko shitanankashita, so damn pilau, eh, atokara, you go inside there, so damn pilau. You no more hot water, 'as why you no can do nothing. You got to use for that one. Chee, eh, the pilau water, you know, dake. Hot water demo, eh, furo demo, Japan style furo, you see. But plenty guys stay inside, eh. Hodake, pilau omotte, you no can choose, eh. You got to use da kind furo, eh. Me ra mitaini poor dattara, I no can go early, because I get plenty tōfu business get. And I get horse. I have to cut the grass and give 'em the nani, eh. Any kind. That's why everytime osōikiyotakara, so damn pilau. And then benjō demo, way down below, you know. About house kara, maybe....hundred feet. Far place ni benjō ga atte. Puka ga atte. Sokoni ikanya iken. You stomach ache nanka, no 'nuff. (Laughs) Kakette ikanya, de. No more natte shimau.

(Oh, shall I also talk about...in the old days, the plantation camp had a bath....women's side and men's side. They had two baths. In the middle, there was a partition. You were in the same water. Eh, you were dirty. If you did work like hapai ko, you were really filthy. After work when you go to the bath, there was no more hot water so you had no choice. Hot water, bath, Japanese style bath, you see. But a lot of people used that water. Even if you felt the water was dirty, you had no choice. You had to use that bath. A poor guy like me couldn't go early because I had a lot of work in the tōfu business. And I had a horse. I have to cut grass and feed that horse. Any kind. That's why everytime when I came late, the water was so dirty. And then the toilet was so far away. It was about a hundred feet from the house. The toilet was far away. There was a hole in the ground. You couldn't get there in time. If you had a stomach ache, there wasn't enough time. You had to run.)

(Laughter)

NK: Antonon dattayo. Hode stink, eh. Sometime, kondo ippai nattara,  
they going make another puka, see. And then transfer it at the house.  
No can think, you, da kind stuff, eh. Ima no young fellow dattara.  
Soreni union ga nai no ga warui. And then education ga nai.

(That's how it was. So the toilet smelled. Sometime when it got full, they dug another hole. And then transfered it at the house. Now days, you can't imagine things like that. On top of that there was no union. We had no education.)

Tada, plantation ga boss dakara, you know....just like negro.  
More worse than negro, I think, no, da kind life. Horse ni notte,  
you plantation policeman ga all mitearuku, eh. Even though door  
shimetottemo, they go open. No nothing, and then just open.  
"Hey! What's a matter with you!" Like that.

(The plantation was boss so, you know....we were just like black slaves. Worse than that, I think, that life. The plantation policemen made all the rounds riding a horse. Even if the door was closed, they opened it without any warning. Without saying anything, they just open it. "Hey! What's the matter with you!" Like that.)

(HN chuckles)

NK: Sometime, whip wo motte kite, hit 'em, you know, sometime like that  
 (Sometime they had whips and hit them, you know, sometimes).

HN: Oh. You saw that, too. They hit people...

NK: Oh, yeah. I saw that working place nankano. But me no toki ni wa  
me ra no shite kara amari shinakatta. Before my father no camp  
time nanka, all most time yariyota. Everytime. Ayukoto wo sometime  
just like, you know, man jyanai, no. Just like horse, eh, cow  
mitayoni yarariyota. Japanese. Especially Japanese.

(Oh, yeah. I saw that probably at my working place. But during my time it wasn't happening too often. During my father's time it happened most of the time. Everytime. That was treating people like animals--like horses or cows, not as men. Japanese. Especially Japanese.)

But anyway, Japanese wa yoku shinbo shite yatta ke natta. But one  
 thing me ga omou no ne...Governor Burns ga kokoni haite kara,  
 and Japanese ga "go" to jutara ano okage demo....hodake, me Burns  
ga sick no time, me, I no can tell so much Consul General like  
that, but, "Give 'em. Please give 'em, because the fellow sick."  
I don't know when they going to pass away, see. 'As why ima no  
uchi ni Nihon no emperor kara kunshi wo kureruyara, hayai koto  
shitekure. Connection ga aru ni, newspaper no ho ni itte me ga da  
kind everytime me ga iota. Hodake, last year, emperor come America,  
eh. So that time, he going wait for that time and then emperor  
kara Governor Burns ni yaritakatta. But like we tell, no can last  
so long, because I don't know when he going to pass away. 'As  
why more better if Governor Burns ga strong dattara. You go send



the Tokyo and then emperor house. And yarareru, but he weak, that's why no can do nothing. So more better somebody go get 'em over there. Or son alright. Sodake, mō one day demo hayai hō ga ē ke, dose yarun dattara, hayōshitekure, I tell 'em, see. Hodake, hayoshita hō ga iiyo, omou. "You folks, iutekure, iutekure." I tell 'em. I tell 'em ask Consul General. Consul General, I tell 'em. "You folks, I don't know why but me ra dattara, I know the Governor Burns so much good for the Japanese guys. 'As why dose yarundattara, one day demo early, but you know, medal wo yatte-kure." Hodake, yatta ke yokatta, yo. Ano Seishiro going down, go get it. And then, but that time Governor Burns mada ikitota, see. Morotte kara, and then he get 'em and then after that, he pass away, eh. Only I think one months or two months.

(But anyway, the Japanese suffered a lot. One thing I think... after Governor Burns came and the Japanese said "go," even with that....so when Burns was sick, I asked the Consul General, "Give him a medal. Please give it to him because he's sick." I don't know when he's going to pass away, see. If Burns is going to receive a medal from the Emperor of Japan, please give it to him as soon as possible. I used to say this all the time to people at the newspaper. Then last year, the emperor came to America. Everyone was waiting for the Emperor to make his trip to America so that he could present the medal to Burns. But we kept on telling the officials that Burns might not last long because we didn't know when he would pass away. It would have been better if Governor Burns were stronger. You could send him to Tokyo to get his medal. However, because he was weak, nothing could be done. So it would have been better if somebody went to get the medal in Japan. His son would have been good. If you're going to give it to him, even one day sooner is better, I told them. "You folks, please tell them, please tell them." I told them to ask the Consul General. I told the Consul General. "You folks, if it was up to me, I know Governor Burns has done so much for the Japanese. So if you're going to give the medal to him, it may be one day early, but please give him the medal," I suggested. I don't care what medal, but anyway, give it to him before he passes away. So they gave it to him and it was a relief. That Seishiro was going to get it, but at that time, Governor Burns was still living. After he received it, he passed away. I think only one or two months after.)

HN: After?

NK: Yeah, something like that. Hodake, hontō me dattara....Governor Burns no okagede kara, you know, Ariyoshi mo deteita, eh. All the Japanese boys come up. 'As Governor Burns no okage do. 'As why Japanese coming out, but if you not....to nanka otara, you mada mada too late. And 'as why me ga namben gakkō ittemo, ah, you join nani, Democrat ni join sen ka, you. "Oh, sure, sure."

(Yeah, something like that. So I honestly....it was Governor Burns' doing that Ariyoshi rose up, too. All the Japanese came up. If it weren't for Burns, the Japanese would still be far behind. So I felt that no matter how much education you have, you should join the

Democrats. "Oh, sure, sure.")

Yuno koto de me ra Governor Burns no nantoki kara ha, do this, do this, iutara, doshitemo sugar plantation wo all most not nani, eh. Democrat de nai, eh. All most. So the Governor Burns no toki ni are ni haite. Soshite kara, ano Democrat ni natte shimote. Soshite kara, we take the citizenship and then just me ra de kara only bunch tsukuttari, nanka shitekara, kokua shitari, nanka shitari. Hontō, kore dake wa me, ittokitai. Governor Burns wa hontō Nihonjin wo Nihongo de iutara, "ishiki shite," to iu no yo ne, ano open-eye shite, are ga Japanee wo haole kara kirawarete demo Japanee wo, you know, pull out shite kurete ke, that big help for Japanee. So omou ke Governor Burns dake wo doshitemo are wo iu. Him nice. Are ga oru ke, Governor Ariyoshi mo detekita and hokano others mo all are ga okage de, you know, dekite. Even you uncle mo same thing. War ni ittekara, university itte, ano chance ga atte, detekite mo somebody Democrat datta ke, see. Doshitemo Governor Burns ga nambo ka hippariyota. Hodake, are Hawaii wa hontō ni Nihonjin no Nihonjin to omou yo.

(The plantations were mostly not Democrats. So I joined the Democratic Party and from that time took our citizenship, formed our own group, did things, helped out. Honestly, this is one thing I want to say. Governor Burns is, if you say it in Japanese, "he felt for us," he recognized the Japanese for what we are. Even if the Japanese were looked down upon, he helped us out. Because of him, Ariyoshi came out and others, too, because of Burns. Even your uncle. He went to War, had a chance to go to the university because of the Democrats. Governor Burns kept helping out. That's why I think he's a Japanese's Japanese.)

Dakara, ore, me, I no care. About that. Kokono fellow, I no care. Governor Burns dake yattekure. I tell 'em, see. Nandemo iutane. One year over, I go tell. Then are ga chōdo yatte kureta ke. Hontō ureshiikatta.

(That's why I didn't care about the medal for myself or other people here. Only for Governor Burns. I told them again and again for over a year. Then finally he got it. I was very happy.)

HN: How long you was working Hawaii Hochi?

NK: Oh....I think just part time all same datta yo. I don't know exactly. Hard kanno. Maybe 15 or 17 year, I think. Yeah, they say, me ga ashi itamete, ashi wo (Tape garbled) shite, yasundeta toki ni, somebody, Wahiawa guy told me, eh, yatte kuren ka. "This month naran....amari ippai naran, but only easy job dake, yattekure. You can write and you can report, so doshitemo you ga yattekure." Iuke, hodake, hommara yatte miroka iute, haite wake, yo.

(Oh, I think it was always part time. I don't know exactly. It's hard to say. Maybe 15 or 17 years. They said after I hurt my leg, when I was resting, a Wahiawa guy asked me to do it. "It won't pay much, but it's an easy job so please do it. You can write and report, so please do it for us." That's what they asked so I thought I'd

give it a try.)

Anytime me yameru iute, iyorunka, they no like make 'em quit, eh (Anytime I said I would quit, they didn't want to have me quit). Because nobody stay, I think, this job. I can speak little bit Japanee and then I can write newspaper and nankamo, all kakareruke, I think (I can speak some Japanese and then I can write all kinds of articles for the newspaper, I think)....

HN: You remember anything interesting that you wrote about from Waialua?

NK: Oh, yeah, Waialua no koto daibun kaita koto aru. Itsu datta kano. Long time ago, but anyhow, konnani kuwashi koto nakatta, but anyway, one thing no koto ni tsuite wa....senior citizens---I mean, not senior citizen but just like us ga, I can get the citizenship, eh. So that kind time, I think I stay write. And then before no Governor Quinn, are ga me ra ga party yaru toki de....he know me. Me ima demo shiteru. Sometime he meet me. "Eh, Mr. Koga, how's it?" he going tell me, you know. This kind guy alright, boy, omou. Antona fella kumotoki mo arushi. Dake yoku oboetoru. Ana toki no koto wo daibun kaita. Doshitemo, Japanee wa anyhow, get together natte. Soshite, well, not only Democrat, but clean job wo senya iken. Governor Burns ni taishite, I tell 'em, nice ni, young fella ga igokanya iken iukoto, eh. Hodake me ra wa antoni shitekara shiteageta kureta hito.

(Oh, yeah, quite a lot has been written about Waialua. When was it? It was a long time ago, but anyhow, it wasn't such a detailed matter, but anyway, regarding immigrants, I can get my citizenship. So I think I wrote about that sort of thing. When we had parties, the former Governor Quinn remembered me. Even now. Sometimes he meets me and he says, "Eh, Mr. Koga, how are you?" I thought that this kind of guy is alright. There were times when people like him came. I remember well, and wrote a lot about that. Whenever Japanese gathered, they were told that it was necessary to do a good job. Especially for Governor Burns, the young people have to move, to work.)

And one thing, Governor Burns I meet Mililani ka. Mililani Funeral Parlor, eh. One men de kara, eh, Waimea no Yoshikawa ga pass away shitatoki, he wen come. And they make 'em chauffeur, you know. And he go home, see. Chee, me, I thought, hoo this guy nice. Hontoni small potato demo, eh, come over there, and then Japanese no....nani....style dekara, eh, Buddhist style, eh, they make 'em. Oh, hodake, him....me wa amari shiranakatta. Only kao dake shitoru, but between ni ota fella ni demo totemo yoku shite kureta, you know. That's why me wa, Governor Burns dake wa, me, I tell my kid, all. "Governor Burns, don't forget. One thing this haole okay, though." Tell 'em, you know.

(And one thing, I met Governor Burns in Mililani Funeral Parlor. When Yoshikawa from Waimea passed away, Governor Burns came to his funeral. And he had a chauffeur. Then he went home. I thought this guy is nice. Even if it's a small potato, he comes down there to a Japanese style funeral. I didn't know him well,

only by sight, but others tell me how much he has done. So I tell all of my children about Governor Burns. "Don't forget him. This haole is okay.")

HN: Okay. You know, before time was what kind gatherings or, you know, picnics? What kind community stuff used to have?

NK: Oh, community, you get, all most religion stuff, you know.

HN: Yeah. Like what?

NK: Hongwanji, like that. And then some....

HN: Bon?

NK: Yeah. Bon. And then Hongwanji club ga aru, see. And then Young Man's Society ga atta, eh. All most are wa minna tsukuruyottayo.

(Yeah. Bon. There was the Hongwanji club and a Young Man's Society. Everyone joined to form these.)

HN: You think you can describe some of those? Like, maybe, parades, or something like that.

NK: Oh, parade nanka, before wa...

HN: Big celebration?

NK: Oh, big celebration wa....I know one thing was the old folks ga oru tokoro ni, I think....nan no toki datta ka? I don't know exactly, but anyhow, Japan kara, you know, Navy, eh....those guys before all time kiyotayo, Haleiwa ni. That kind time all celebration nanka shitari, soshitara welcome party wo shitari, picnic wo shitari shiotta. Ano toki mo arushi, but nani ka no toki nanka wa, Japanese no old folks ga---me ra marry. I don't know exactly, but anyhow, nande shitan ka shiran, but my old man nanka mo, you know, jibun ga mask wo tsukutte, soshite kakete kara all Fresh Air Camp dekara, no, run shitakoto ga aru yo. Ano celebrate shita koto aruyo. Everybody, I think so many hundred guys. Ayu koto mo attayo. Hokara, all most time Hongwanji Mission nanka no Young Man Society and then young boy and girl, are ga ariyota, see. Kyodan no party ga ariyota. And then Nihon gakkō no gakugeikai ga atta. Ma, ano kurai no koto ga ariota. And all most baseball. Me wa baseball suki dattandakedo. Too much poor, 'as why no more time to play.

(Oh, a big celebration....I don't know exactly when it was but anyhow, the Japanese sailors used to come often to Haleiwa. At those times, celebrations, welcome parties and picnics were held. There were times like that. Sometimes even my father would make a mask and everyone would celebrate at Fresh Air Camp. Maybe several hundred guys. There also used to be functions for the young people with the Young Man's Society. Club parties. Japanese school functions. That's about it. And most everyone played baseball. I used to like baseball but was too poor and had no time to play.)

(HN chuckles)

NK: And then before wa sumo ga ariyotta, see (And there also was sumo).

HN: Oh, sumo.

NK: Sumo. Are mo camp de ariota. Ayu koto...

(That was in the camp. Things like that...)

HN: Used to have people competing in camps? Sumo? Sumo used to be between camp or...

NK: Yeah. Between the camp. So Waialua ni one. Haleiwa ni one team ariota. Hodake, sometime ryōho ga kite yariyota. Hokara, sport no hodattara, I make 'em kendō.

(Yeah. Between the camp. So Waialua had one. There was one team in Haleiwa. Sometimes, both teams would get together for matches. Then for sports, we had kendō.)

HN: Kendō?

NK: Yeah. I started kendō. So Hongwanji no ima no hall shitano hō ni ano, nami, hall no nami ni all before used to be cement, see. But kendō asobi dashitara, you know, kind of hard. 'As why I make 'em. Make shibai, you know, the one, shibai, eh. Shibai iutara, act suru yo, somebody. So I teach 'em how you going to act and this and that and this and that, see. And then....every night, keiko, keiko, you know. Practice shite. Soshite konda tent, you know, cover shite, stage koshiraete.

(Yeah. I started the kendō group. The present hall at Hongwanji used to be cement. That was too hard for kendō practice. That's why I organized a play and taught the students what to do. And then everynight we practiced and practiced. Then we raised a tent, and built a stage.)

We go make benefit. Soshite I remember now demo, \$387 red material kōtan yo. Sorewo pay suru yoni, I got to make benefit. Not movie. Benefit shibai. Show, yatta.

(We had a benefit. I remember even now we bought \$387 worth of red material. In order to pay for that, we had to have a benefit show. Not a movie. A show.)

HN: What kind stuff you had in your show?

NK: Oh, Japan kind show, you know. All. Yeah, you know....all old fashion kind and young one, two, ka. Two time yattota. We make. Anyway, all that boys and girls, ch. Soshite onago wa you wa onago ni naru and then you otoko ni naru, you jisan ni nare, a yu fu ni se, this and that. Hode, oshiete kara me ra keiko shite, soshite kara all men, and then ima demo ano mama futotayo.

(Oh, Japanese style show, you know. All old fashioned style and

modern style. We presented the show twice. Anyway, all the boys and girls wanted to be in it. They were assigned to women's parts and men's parts. We practiced and benefitted everyone to this day.)

Are ga three hundred eight something dollars, I think. 'As why I pay, sono money wo tsukuri awaseru noni kara, all boys dekara, fifty cent mottekoi. And then no can like that, eh. Hodake, oh, we make 'em benefit shibai yatte. Soshite kara pay off shita. Soshite all volunteer dekara, you know, floor wo hattanyo.

(All the boys were asked to pay fifty cents in order to help pay off the \$387. But it wasn't enough so we had the play. Everyone volunteered and we made the floor.)

HN: Your actors are all costume and....

NK: Yeah, school boy. And then some working man. Plantation guy. All most plantation guy. Ma, ayu koto mo attan dakedo (Well, there were things like that, too).

END OF INTERVIEW

Tape No. 1-45-2-76

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Noriyu Koga (NK)

August 20, 1976

Waialua, Hawaii

BY: Howard Nonaka (HN)

HN: This is an interview with Noriyu Koga, August 20th, 1976. Okay, going back to when you were a cowboy in Wahiawa....I remember you saying you had to give half your pay to a....

NK: Yeah, yeah. Those....

HN: How did that work?

NK: I think, I not sure, but anyhow, I think my wages no hambun gurai wo (I think about half my wages), I think donate for the union, ne. Yeah. I don't know exactly, but....anyhow, four, five months I going work over there.

HN: Who took care of that for you? Giving your pay?

NK: Oh yeah. Mr. Carson jyanakatta. Nandattakano? Nanka yu German guys ga otta. Haole. That guy ga go hire for me.

(Oh yeah. It wasn't Mr. Carson. Who was it? I think it was a German guy. Haole. That guy hired for me.

HN: But how gave, you know, half your pay check to the unions?

NK: I think my father going give 'em. Yeah. Because I get the pay. Give 'em my father. And father going give 'em union, I think.

HN: How did you first hear about the union?

NK: Yeah. That one junk, anyhow, first time. All Japanee guy come around and, "This and that, this and that," but all bull liar.

(HN laughs)

NK: Yeah. 'As why. 'As why strike wen broke. He no thinking about that. Yeah.

HN: So were you afraid to join the union, you know, because of the plantation pressure?

NK: Yes. 'As why. Plantation pressure. But union pressure more hidoi (severe), eh. 'As why I scared. 'As why got to join to the union, because we not big shot like luna, not field boss like that.

HN: Were most of the Japanese, you know, working on the plantation, were in the union, most of them?

NK: Yeah. All was Japanee. That ninety percent, I think, Japanee guys, eh. That time, Filipino not much. Like Hawaiians, other nationality, too, but.

HN: How was the unions organized, that time?

NK: Ah, organize union ga hard yo. Donation. And then some wa, few all each member get pay so much. Kind of hard.

HN: What about meetings?

NK: Oh, meeting, sometime, big shot come around. And then they talking together and then sometime, Haleiwa tailor like that, eh, he going speak up, see. Only ano gurai no mono yo (It was only that much).

HN: Were those meetings secret or....anybody....

NK: Ah, I think secret ga omoيدا time yaro (Ah, I think it was a secret most of the time). Me ga yo shiranai (I don't know much about that): I don't know about that. So secret, eh. And then this much ga, open 'em up. And this much, no tell. I think antono nattotanyo (I think it was like that).

HN: What kind of people were in the union that time? Who were the leaders and....

NK: Oh, who were the leader. That, anyhow, Tsutsumi yūno ga leader dattakano. I think newspaper ga leader that time. Hawaii Times, so, eh. And then that time get Hawaii Hochi. And before no Nippu Jiji. Ano toki ni, Hawaii Hochi wa, "No," iutanoyo. Strike senā. But Hawaii Times says, "Strike shitahō ga ii, iudake, strike dattan". But Hawaii Hochi no hō ga antokiwa yokattayo. I think sen hoga yokatta because sugar coming out, see. They making plenty money. 'As why they like go back, but union no like go back.

(Oh, who were the leaders. A man named Tsutsumi was the leader. I think the newspaper was also a leader. Hawaii Times. There was also the Hawaii Hochi and what used to be the Nippu Jiji (later became Hawaii Times). At that time, Hawaii Hochi said not to strike. But Hawaii Times said it was better to strike so this strike happened. The Hochi was right. It would have been better not to have had the strike because sugar was improving, making money. The others wanted to go back, but the union didn't want to.)

HN: And that's what made you join the union because you heard about all the profits?



NK: Yeah. Mhm. You got to get union because, you know, union de hairandattara, dog to ka, nantoka iute. "Inu," yuware otta ke. Yeah. Ano kurai no monoyo. Yeah. Soreya sonotoki ni shitoki...

(Yeah. If you didn't join the union, you were considered a dog. That's the way it was then. That's the way it was done then.)

HN: Okay. What about plantation, you know, trying to break up the union, You remember anything about....

NK: Oh, yes.

HN: What kind?

NK: Are wa daibun atarashii do. Me, I no stay over here, 'as why I don't know too much, but anyway, someplace....get 'em--leader, eh. He like get 'em that guy and throw 'em in the jail or like that. And then sokode, sometime, I think Hawaii shima kananka ni dynamite ka nanka irete union kara iretanka. I don't know who the guy iretanka shiran but bomb shitari. Nanka shitari. Kenkashita hitotoko ga atarashii.

(That's pretty recent. I wasn't here so I don't know that much, but anyway there was a leader somewhere. They wanted to get that guy and put him in jail or something. And then on Hawaii or somewhere, dynamite was used. I don't know who did it, but there were bombs. And other things. That there was a fight was new.)

HN: What about scabs? Were there any scabs during the strike?

NK: I think so. Aruto omoundakedo, hakkiri me ra soko ni haitenai kara wakaranai. Yeah. I'm too young already.

(I think there were, but I'm not sure about that because I wasn't involved. I was too young.)

HN: Okay. Do you know what they did with the scabs? You don't know that here?

NK: Mm.

HN: Okay. What about relations with Filipinos at that time?

NK: Oh, not much. The guys was Filipino, not much. So Filipino, Japanee ga strike shitara (So when the Japanese struck), he (the Filipinos) get more less, eh. So sugar coming out, so he making good money. He no like one way.

HN: So that the strike was good for them to...

NK: Yes. Good. 'As why konda (then), Japanee strike, Filipino immigration, plenty come inside. They go hire from Filipino.

HN: What about before the strike? You know, were Japanese getting better jobs and better pay for the same jobs or something?

NK: Ah, that one, yeah, I think some get good job, but only few guys, eh. Are yuwaren yo. Amari iutara this kind soreno kodomora mo oru dake, not so good.

(Only a few people got good jobs. I can't say much about that because the children of those people are around.)

HN: Let's go back to maybe your mill work. How did you get your mill job?

NK: What kind mill? You mean the...

HN: At the mill. Yeah, when you were working.

NK: Oh! Da kind time, when you get the opening, you go ask 'em somebody else, and then they give me the chance, see. So anytime you can get chance.

HN: You needed connections, you know?

NK: Oh, all most connection. That's right. Yeah.

HN: Wasn't anybody could get in the mill?

NK: Yeah, but all most da kind place wa, Japanee boy no hō ga yokatta because he know how to handle, right?

(Yeah, but in the mill, the Japanese were good because they know how to handle things, right?)

(HN laughs)

NK: Da kind time, kanaka stay, Puerto Rico stay, and Filipinos, some No too much Filipino, but anyhow, kanaka and Portuguese. Those guys stay, 'as why. But Japanee guys, all most good job dattara, eh. The machinist nanka dattara---Japanee guy that kind no can. Dake, all mill nanka, good pays, well, all Japanee guy go most of them.

(That time, Hawaiians, Puerto Ricans and some Filipinos, and Portuguese were around. But most of the Japanese had good jobs. Machinists had to be Japanese. All the good jobs in the mill were held by Japanese.)

HN: Was there more status in the mill? You know, working in the mill, did you feel like, better job, and....

NK: They no think, though, da kind time, I think. Just you grab 'em one job. No can do nothing, eh. When you no like, you got to quit. And then, maybe, some guy going make, you going up, one step up, eh. That's all.

HN: How was the mill different?

NK: Oh, condition, not so bad, eh. Yeah. Sometime you bust ass. Yeah, boy. Before, not like now, see. No more machine, eh, too much. All hand. 'As why sometime get in trouble like that time, hoo boy, you got to bust ass, but, good.

HN: Was it noisy?

NK: Oh, noisy, sure! Noisy. You night shift nanka itottara, ano noisy no nakani itara, still you like sleepy, you know!

(Oh, it was noisy alright. If you worked the night shift in that noise, you still wanted to sleep.)

(HN chuckles)

NK: Hoo, sometime, you know, watch out! You going to fall down sleeping and then pau already. No chain going help like this. (Laughs)

HN: What about safety in the mill? You know, had plenty guard rails and...

NK: Nah! Not so much safety, though, that time.

HN: That time?

NK: No more. They no care about that. Not like now. No, no.

HN: Were you there when some of the new machinery came in?

NK: Oh, once in a while, no, new machine. Little by little.

HN: Where they replaced people's jobs like that?

NK: Yeah.

HN: Well, how did that affect...

NK: That one, all the contractor go make 'em, I think. So us, just only helping, 'as all.

HN: How's relations with bosses in the mill?

NK: What do you mean? That Japancee guy?

HN: Was it closer than, you know, with your luna in the field or was it worse?

NK: I no can understand Eigo no imi (I can't understand the English meaning),

HN: You know, the bosses in the mill were better than the ones in the field or....

NK: Oh. Well, mill better because not so hot. (Laughs) Outside,

it's so damn hot, eh. But, me, inside the mill, not so hot, but anyhow, someplace you go, more hot than outside, but the fireplace nanka, eh. But still, you no need stay there all the time. Just you going watch 'em 'as why, easy. Yeah, young people like go inside mill, though, that time. Yeah.

HN: Maybe let's go into your vegetable peddling. How did you start that?

NK: Oh, that vegetable peddling wa, I going inside the Schofield and then Japanee guys cannot live in the Schofield Barracks. 'As why throw 'em all outside, see. 'As why I no more job. And then outside get no more job, too, 'as why I got to start from the....I get the truck, so....

HN: How did you get money for the truck and....

NK: Oh, that one nara (about that one), because I make business, 'as why little bit I get money, so I going buy the vegetable some old Japanee guy, eh, and then go sell outside. So I making money little bit.

HN: But didn't you have to get a loan or something?

NK: Yeah. Loan kind of hard was, that time.

HN: Couldn't borrow money, that?

NK: Can't borrow money, because....sometime you can borrow but you need witness, good one. So one ton truck I bought that time, Wahiawa Garage going back up for me. And then I buy from bank and then I make 'em loan. But witness get Wahiawa Garage, 'as why I can borrow. But if not, me no can borrow.

HN: What about the time at the bank? You need somebody else that time?

NK: No. Only bank nothing. (Laughs) Just like I going to put 'em in the check account. And then, no more leftover, you know. (Laughs) Everytime I kaji ( I am broke ), eh. Red, red, red coming out, but they trust me, Schofield bank, see. And then they got to check up that debt. "Oh, you get so much business," 'as why he going trust us.

HN: You remember what interest was?

NK: Oh, that I don't know though.

HN: Or how much you borrowed the first time?

NK: Oh, that one ton truck, brand new, I buy from Wahiawa Garage, I think ....Chevrolet no new one ga, I think eight hundred---nanka shiotta ke (---it cost around eight hundred dollars). I think, truck, I think thousand two hundred or thousand....somewhere around there, anyway. Thousand dollar, little over, I think. Thousand two

hundred or \$1200 or eleven hundred something, I think. Get hard time, anyway. So a new Chevrolet, you can buy, I think, \$850, was, that time. Model T. (Laughs)

HN: What about tanomoshi? You never did use it?

NK: Oh yeah! Tanomoshi get plenty.

HN: That, too?

NK: Yeah.

HN: Did you use that for...

NK: Yeah, I use that all most...

HN: How did that work?

NK: That one, you got to pay about ten dollar or \$15 a month, everybody. And then everybody join. Twenty-five guys or 12 guys or something like that. So ten dollar you going make 'em, 25 guys stay, 'as \$250, see. And then, you going to bid for the next month. First, you going start months. And then they take 'em down---the guy make, tanomoshi man, they take 'em. And then second month, all the members get---you going to bid how much. Maybe you going bid \$2 or dollar half or 75¢, like that. But too many guys like money. Some guy like dollar half, high bid, they go take 'em. 'As \$250, you know. Ten dollar one man, eh. So you can use \$250 your money. So you have to pay back 25 months, ten dollar, ten dollar, ten dollar yo. That one kind of hard. Sometime they going run away, some guys. 'As da kind guys stay, you know, that time.

HN: They would run away with the money? (Laughs)

NK: Yeah, run away. So if I go take, I go get the witness. About two guys. And make 'em sign. So sure Koga going pay this one. Alright. If Koga no can pay, I going to pay my share. And the other guy tell, well, he's going to pay my share. Two guys. So if I going run away, other guy, two witness going pay.

HN: So who you had to get? Did they have to be a business man or something like that?

NK: Well, up to them, eh. If they no like money, more better than before da kind saving. Because dollar half, sometime two dollar half, like that. Only if you take two dollar half, you get big interest, see. \$250, and two dollar half, eh. No more that kind interest when you in the bank. 'As why they making money. You make \$2, 25 months, 'as the fifty dollars. More than that, see. 'As why sometime, if they like make saving money, he like join that kind place. And then, they like keep 'em. But like us, poor guy, no can keep so long. And got to take 'em out. That's how. Ima demo (Even now) same thing.

HN: Okay. To deliver your groceries, your merchandise, like how did you equip your truck? What you put on top?

NK: Oh, just like store, eh.

HN: You had to make shelf.

NK: Shelf. So many shelf we go make. So many box we go make. Potatoes, onions, and then....you know, any kind stuff. Can goods, fruits and vegetables, and all, so. Just like all small store. You going run and toot the horn. People come out.

HN: What type of merchandise did you sell mostly?

NK: Oh, merchandise wa, all most....nani no? Nani yutara ii ka no? Anyhow, higoro tsukaumono ga all most that time, eh. Everyday use kind, da kind. Any kind. No make different.

(Oh, merchandise was....what should I say? Anyhow, we generally sold things that you use everyday.)

HN: What about vegetables? Vegetables, what? You pick up every day or....

NK: Every day, yeah. We got to pick up every day. Every afternoon, we got to pick up. Ready for tomorrow. So this kind long hour job, you know. You got to peddle around and then when you all sell out, come back. And go get the vegetable here and there.

HN: Where did you get the vegetables from?

NK: Oh, some Kamooloa used to get plenty that vegetable garden fellow. And then, some Kahuku, Makoni, and Waimea. Like that place, I go down all over.

HN: How did that work? You pick up the vegetable and pay for 'em same time or....

NK: Yeah, pay for 'em. Some pay for 'em. Some good customer, they like one month's pay before I going to (Tape garbled). And then, sometime banana, like that, today you going buy, tomorrow, you no can sell, see. For about two weeks you got to keep 'em. 'As why, that kind time, urete kara (after it's sold), got to pay 'em. And then, bunbye put the price on.

HN: How was mostly your vegetables sold? Like by the bunch or by the pound or....

NK: Yeah, before was the bunch. And then pound mo atta, but bunch ga omodatta (Things were also in pounds, but then they were mostly in bunches). Before wa bunch ga omodatta (It used to be mostly by bunches). Even those string beans, got to make 'em, tied 'em up. Radish, you going make tied 'em up, one. Green onions, so much like this. Tied 'em up.

HN: Oh! Oyoso kind (Rough estimation).

NK: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Oyoso kind (Rough estimation). But weight, how much about.

HN: You had scale to...

NK: Yeah, yeah, scale.

HN: That scale was a government inspec...

NK: Government. Yeah. Every six months, I think, they going check up. If no pass, that one throw away. Got to buy another scale.

(Laughter)

NK: 'As twenty something dollars.

HN: When you got the vegetables from the farmers you had to do your own washing?

NK: No, they wash.

HN: They wash, clean everything for you already?

NK: Yeah, yeah.

HN: So all ready for sell?

NK: All ready for sell. All most time, eh.

HN: What kind things did you do to keep the vegetables fresh?

NK: Oh. We got to put the outside, yard, eh, outside, eh. We going put that something on top there. Lumber or something. Hirogete and ue ni all like this noshitokuyo. Soshitara konda tsuyuga, eh, hange no....rainy time, you got to take 'em out. All kusaru. Demo, raining ga nakattara, only cool air de ji kara, tsuyu ga aru yo, more fresh, see. So morning time, just pick 'em up and throw 'em on the truck.

(Oh. We have to put the vegetables outside. We put lumber or something on top. We spread the vegetables out like this and put something on top. Then the evening dew....when it rains you have to take the vegetables in. Otherwise it will rot. But if there's no rain, only cool air, there's dew to keep it fresh. And in the morning, we just pick them up and throw them in the truck.)

HN: Your truck used to look like Fujimura one?

NK: Yeah, yeah, yeah! Just like that. Same thing. Yeah. Fujimura kind, all same. Yeah, same kind. But war time, I get the Hawaiian Pine, Dole Pine. Dole Pine, before, they get all one camp. They

get cook house. So I get seven or eight, I think, I get contract. So I make big one ton truck. So throw 'em on top there. All kind, you know. Seven or eight, I think. Start from the Helemano. Are kara over there, ano Robinson (From over there, that Robinson). Ako made, me, kiyotano (Till there, I used to go). All over the place. Day after tomorrow. Three time week, I going down over there, cook house. They order one bag cabbage or two bag cabbage. And potato so much, half bag. And then the potatoes, onions, and then head cabbage, lettuce, watercress, string beans. All kind. So much 25 pound string beans, 25 pound tomato, like that. I go make, you know. So I go deliver 'em. That kind time, I need the big truck, about one ton truck.

HN: What did you do with all the money? All go in the bank or....

NK: Yeah. All most go in the bank, but no 'nuff. Me no can make money. Just eat 'em. I get too many kid. (Laughs) No can save, though. Hard to save that time. I go throw 'em in the bank, my saving loan, I go make 'em little bit. First time I go, saving inside. Fifty cents, you know. Fifty cents I go saving.

This is that I making extra money, because I go sell vegetables and then sometime, they need before shoyu bottle (i.e. barrel). Now days, too much expensive, that kind shoyu bottle, eh. Old kind, eh. That one, they give me. Sometime, they give me free. Cook house, 'as why. They no like, see. 'As why, 'Ah, you iru nara motte ke (If you want it, take it)." "Oh, yeah, okay. Kurenai (Please give me)." Supposed to be pay, I think, fifty cents or 25¢, I think. But they going give us, so 'as extra money. 'As why I making today, hoo, good that time. That, the lady going give us one shoyu bottle. So more better I going to start from this side. I think savings, no 'nuff money, though. More better I go start---I think fifty cents or two dollar or soemthing like that, first I going start. And then are kara kondo (after that), we going make extra da kind stuff. Sometime I going buy the shoyu bottle. And then Helemano de, I get the shoyu bottle, bag, any kind. Sometime Robinson guy, "Oh, you get the shoyu bottle. Give me. How much you going sell?" Oh, maybe I going sell one dollar I make fifty cents, see. So that extra money, 'as why I make 'em like that. If I going sell the bag, two cents one bag. I pay the guy one cents, I make two cents, eh. So, one cents I make, 'as why. Fifty bag, I going get from the guy---fifty cents I make. So that kind, I make 'em, you know, that one ga saving yo. Really ase kara save shitayo (Really, we saved from sweat and hard work). Soyu koto ma attandakedo honto just like baby mitaini (There were things like that--really just like a baby).

HN: Who kpt all your records?

NK: Oh, myself. My wife.

HN: And every day got to....

NK: Every day got to figure. How much you sell, how much you buy. And then how much you charge. Sometime, all charge, charge, charge,



eh. Hawaiian Pine nanka all charge, charge. One month's, one month's pay, 'as why. When you like buy, no more money. The kind time, we got to take out from the bank and then get the money.

HN: Charge them interest, too, or....

NK: No, no, no, no. No interest. Well, bank give us interest, but Hawaiian Pine, them guys, no. No give me nothing. Now days all most cash and carry, and then one week or two week's pay, but before dattara, hoo, one month. One month so long, you know. Like us. Oh, check ga kurukano. Eh, mo motte kureru kano. Everytime, morau, but I no like ask 'em, eh. Eh, mada ka, mada ka iutara, "Eh, the guy Koga pilau," 'as why. 'More better give 'em somebody else,' 'as why. But one, anyhow, Lyman yū boss ga otta noga, me wo yoshite kuretao. 'As why me ga, I no can go Mainland, yo.

(No. No interest. Well, the bank paid us interest, but not the Hawaiian Pine people. Now days it's basically cash and carry, and one or two week's pay, but in the old days, boy, it was one month before we were paid. We wondered if the check would come. I always received it, but I didn't like to ask for it. If I keep asking for the money, the people will say, "Koga is a dirty guy. We should give the business to somebody else." But there was a boss named Lyman who treated me nice. But this is why I couldn't go to the Mainland.)

HN: What about excess or spoiled goods that you....

NK: What that? "Excess, spoiled goods," (What do you mean, "excess and spoiled goods")?

HN: You know, extra? Like vegetables that you couldn't sell? What did you do with them?

NK: Oh, make 'em tsukemono. Yeah. (Laughs) Some, tsukemono. Some, you got to throw away.

HN: Did you sell that to, you know, pig farmers?

NK: Oh, pig farmers, they no going pay 'em, that kind time. Yeah, pig farmer come get everytime.

HN: Oh, they just come get it?

NK: Yeah. Just come get. And then....ima demo (even now) same thing yo. Christmas time, they going give us one bunch daikon or something like that. One whole year they take, eh. And then pig pen, the guy give us something anyhow. Sometime candies, one box candy. 'As all. And we no can make money.

HN: He no give you one pig at the end of the year? (Laughs)

NK: Nah, they no going give us, though. So if I get the chance to....

da kind, eh, pig raise, no, more better. Yeah. Ano koremo attayo (That happened, too). Hoo, but hard now days. One thing, Federal stay, you know, this Hawaiian Pine....get a cook house. Seven or eight ka, nine ka. Cook house mototanoyo (There was a cook house). They like put 'em out, minnane (all), war time. But Hawaiian Pine no like because if I going, me wo hippatara, vegetable ga toren noyo (But Hawaiian Pine didn't want to put me out because if I was pulled out, they couldn't receive their vegetables). So hard time. (Laughs) 'As why they going help me too much. Mr. Lyman and then who the Wahiawa one, Kemoo Farm no boss. Mr. Rodby. Are mo kokua shite kureta (He helped me, too). And then koko ni Johnson dattara, bank boss (And Mr. Johnson of the bank). And Mr. Midkiff. Mada him stay inside there (He's still there). He going help me too much. 'As why I went three time, you know, down there. Bishop Building, ne. Little more, he like pull me out. He come my house so many time. (Chuckles)

HN: What about competition, you know. Other vendors? Plenty?

NK: Plenty. Plenty competition.

HN: How was that set up? You had certain boundaries or you just go where you like haul, you know?

NK: Yeah, but we got to pay the money, eh, competition, but. If you like, even tomato like that, if I going buy ten cents one pound, the guy bin give 'em 11¢, I have to pay 11¢, eh. So maybe, I going pay one cents more and then give some four hundred pound or two hundred pound like that. Too much competition. Competition wa too much.

HN: What about when you were selling in camps? Where you used to go camp to camp? You could go anyplace you wanted?

NK: Oh, yeah. Anyplace. Sometime, you need the permit. Some company. Some camp. So even you like go plantation camp. Go down office and then you get a permit. Hawaiian Pine, you got to get the permit. Sometime, they catch 'em and they throw 'em outside, see. No can go inside no more, you know.

HN: What about sales or special, you know, where you had too much fruit or vegetable? Did you make any sales?

NK: Nah.

HN: No such thing?

NK: No, no, no such thing. That time, no. That kind place no more. Sometime, we make 'em cheap sale. Sometime give 'em. You know, like tomato like that, sometime get plenty, eh. They no can take 'em. That kind time I going give 'em cheap to the company. So they glad and they....

HN: What was your route? Like what camps did you go to?

NK: Oh, my route dattara, yeah, just like all most Camp 4 kara start shite. Number 2 and then Helemano. And then Opa~~e~~---oh, not Opa~~e~~ula, but....what do you call that? One more up there. And then Kunia ni itte. Kunia kara konda Robinson made itte. And Robinson ga one, two ako made iketan. So all most are ga me no customer. And the kochino hō wa, how many plantation camp? All most.

(Oh, my route started generally at Camp 4. Then Camp 2 and Helemano. There was also another camp up there; not Opa~~e~~ula. And then I'd go to Kunia. From Kunia to Robinson, I would go. I went up to Robinson one and two. So most of them were my customers. And on this side, how many plantation camps did I go to? Most of them.)

HN: And you did all that one day? Not one day, eh?

NK: Not one day.

HN: Go?

NK: Yeah, one day today, here and plantation camp. Next, I going Helemano. Next, we going Wahiaawa like that, see.

HN: What would happen if you was sick?

NK: Oh, thatkind time, no can do nothing, eh. Well, you the poho (loser), eh. You no can sell, well, you got (to) throw away.

HN: How did you build up your customers? Just friends you know, or....

NK: Yeah.

HN: Stop at anyplace they come out?

NK: Anyplace. Some place I going....in the middle place, go toot the horn. They coming out. And then da kind time, all most time charge, you know. Going give one book for that lady. And then I going put 'em down what and what you bought. So much. And then after that, got to make bill. Yeah.

HN: Mostly charge, eh, then?

NK: Mostly charge was, that time. 'As why humbug.

HN: When did they pay then? Every certain time they pay?

NK: Yeah, after the pay. After the plantation get pay, about seven. You got to get about ten or 11, see, that.

HN: After you beep your horn, what did you do, you know, for prepare for the people come?

NK: Oh, just waiting for the da kind, eh. On the truck, sometime we go....last time where I sell so much. Sometime, if he not miss or not, I got to check up, eh. And then sometime they going to steal, see.

(HN chuckles)

NK: 'As why you got to watch 'em, you know. Sometime, oh, you know, even though....like eggplant, like that, all stay in the bunch. Before, all hedge get, you know, camp inside, eh. Some wahines, smart wahines, eh, just she go throw 'em on top the hedge, you no can see 'em. Say, 15¢ or something like that yo. Bumbye next time come around and then, "Eh, you no nasubi one hettottandaro (You're missing an eggplant, huh)?" "Yeah, but me no doshite mo wakaran ga no (Yeah, but I can't figure it out)." "Eh, you watch out! The lady ga kitara, you watch today (If the lady comes, watch her). Hedge no ue ni agete, you ga inde kara, (s)he going take 'em inside the house (She throws the eggplant on top of the hedge and after you leave, she'll take it in the house)." Antona ga aru ke, got to watch 'em, see (Since things like that happened, I had to watch out).

HN: Did you have to set up your truck? Like, you know, take out the shelves and stuff?

NK: Yeah, yeah. Every week, I got to clean 'em. And then my son and my boys, eh, are ga weekend no shigoto (And that was my sons' weekend chore). Wash car and clear away....and fix around.

HN: You had anything like Board of Health or anything?

NK: Yeah, everytime, he come around. Come around, dirty dattara (If it's dirty when he comes around), you know, they going squawk like hell. They go take away the license.

HN: Did you exchange goods? You know, if the guy no more money?

NK: Yeah, sometime, we did.

HN: Maybe he trade you something for your....

NK: Yeah. Before, no, that kind time demo we no going take nothing. Just kokua, see. We trust those guys. And then that he trust me. 'As why even though ten, twenty dollars, he like buy with the money, no 'nuff, "Oh, Koga, you kashite kuren ka (Oh, Koga, will you lend me money). Certain time made kara (Till a certain time)...." iutara (he asks). I going help 'em. No put interest nothing. But only trust. Sometime, he going run away. Filipino, I trust one time, ten dollar. Next time I go around, he say he going home. (Laughs) Goddam bugga!

(HN laughs)

NK: Then that kind guy had. Trust too much, no good.

HN: So were there any really good or bad times in your business?

NK: Oh yeah. Bad time iutara (If you talk about bad times), summer time,

all most time okay, no. But winter time and then pineapple drop, pineapple, sugar wen come down, no more job time, kind of hard.

HN: Kind of seasonal. What about like Depression and War, like that?

NK: Yeah. The Depression.

HN: Business never pick up or go down?

NK: Yeah. That kind time mo attayo (There was that kind of time, too). The peddle business ga, Depression time wa only slow. 'As why take easy, okay.

But War nanka nattara (But during World War II), you know, this kind different story. Oh, boy, war time demo, same thing though. Remember in our days. You know the lotus root, hasu. Mainland heitai (Mainland soldiers) come inside, soldier, eh. They watch 'em. "What inside here?" he say. Hasu, you know, the long stuff. I go bundle 'em up and I get all the 25 pound. So I take 'em home time, they catch 'em. And then, "What this?" "Eh, this is a vegetables." "What kind vegetable?" He says, "No more this kind. Mainland no more this kind vegetable," he say. "No, this is a lotus root. They call 'em lotus root." And so, "What inside here?" "No more inside nothing." Because get the hole inside there. About five, six hole. Every one inside. He going broke 'me up all and he go look! I said, "Goddam! Crazy, you guys," I tell 'em. Damn thing, he wen to make like this, you know. He go one guy stay hold 'em. And he think that one bomb inside. Gooo! Are antona koto ga attando (That kind of thing happened).

(HN chuckles)

NK: Lotus root America nai, see. 'As why. Antona koto made atta. Baka mitaina.

(There's no lotus root on the Mainland. So things like that happened. Seems idiotic.)

HN: Were there any major changes in business, because like maybe, when refrigeration came in?

NK: Yeah.

HN: What happened then?

NK: Oh, more better nantayo. Refrigeration kind inside. Sometime alright, but now amari so change nai yo ne.

(Oh, refrigeration made things better. Sometimes it's alright, but now there isn't that much change.)

(Ice cream truck chimes in background.)

HN: (Referring to chimes) You should put one of those on your truck.

NK: Yeah. I got to put on the truck. Better. Everybody going put 'em on. I got to put 'em on, eh.

HN: Hawaii Hochi, how long have you been writing for them?

NK: Oh, this one nara, me ga deliver shiote kara, ashi wo nanshite shimatte. Yasundeta toki ni, one guy like---Wahiawa guy like quit. So, "You peddle dekindatara, Hawaii Hochi no shigoto shitara iijyanai ka," iute. My brother-in-law ga iutekitake, "Well, oh, dontona shigoto ka," iutara, "Oh, kontonan, kontonan. So you can write and then you can speak, so more better yatteminka," iuke. That time, I get---ashi ga warui ke, peddle no can. 'As why...

(Oh, while I was peddling vegetables, I hurt my leg. While recuperating, a man from Wahiawa asked me to take over his job at the newspaper since he wanted to quit and since I couldn't do any peddling. My brother-in-law told me about it. I asked what kind of work and was told, this and that. "Since you can write and speak, why don't you try it?" That's why...)

HN: What year was that?

NK: Oh! Twenty year more ka no (I guess), before that. I don't know exactly, but.

HN: What kind of paper is Hawaii Hochi?

NK: Oh, daily paper.

HN: Just everything?

NK: Everything.

HN: Sports and....

NK: Yeah, sports section get and then business section get. Any kind. Japanee paper.

HN: And what part of the paper do you take care of?

NK: Oh, just Waialua only.

HN: So Waialua, anything that happen at Waialua?

NK: Yeah. And Waialua kara, from Sunset made (And from Waialua to Sunset). Are ga me no route yo (That's my beat). Before I used to go Wahiawa, too, but too far and then too big Wahiawa, 'as why I quit.

HN: Have you written anything about Haleiwa and Waialua interesting or controversial stuff?

NK: Ah. Too small, 'as why no more, eh, that kind. (Laughs)

HN: So what is it mostly? What have you been writing mostly about?

NK: Oh, only club members no nani ka? When they do something or party or do something and, you know, meeting, like that. All most church. And then some club members. Ah, ano gurai no mono yo. Especially Japanese no nani wo. Dekirudake. You know, English paper ga toreawan tokoro me ra ga pick up suru. English paper amari Japanese local no, Japanese guys no nani wa shiranai kara, they no going take. 'As why we take care all most. Church, toka and then old men club, eh, ima no antona mono minna naishoitayo.

(Oh, only club members' events. Activities, parties, meetings, like that. Mostly church. And then some club members. That's about it. But especially Japanese things. I write as much as possible about those things. We'll write what the English papers don't. Because the English papers don't know much about the local Japanese community, they don't cover it. That's why we do. Church and old men's club, things like that.)

HN: Got plenty clubs like that in Haleiwa?

NK: Oh yeah. Plenty, plenty club. One church get each club get, see. And then, sometime....only local no club. Just like koko no (this) club and the Waialua district no club.

HN: So how's the senior citizen's stuff doing? Down here? Plenty people from the churches joining the senior citizen's club?

NK: Oh yes. Same thing. Plenty. That one nara, all nationality together like this. So this kind guys demo all like. Me mo haite kure, haite kure iyoru but, I make Odaisan no Japanese club wo tsukuttandake, but ako ittara, eh, I no can do nothing my house. (Laughs) Are side, kore side iute, you see, so too much job, 'as why hard. Mada ikan no yo. Dekirudake ikan.

(Oh yes. A lot of people are joining the senior citizen's club. In that club, all different nationalities participate so all the people like it. I've been asked to join, too, but I started the Odaisan club, and also if I go there I can't do anything at home. Both sides would be asking me to come, so it's too much trouble. I won't go yet. I won't go until I have to.)

HN: Too young for do that?

NK: No, no, no. Not that, but I have to go one....my health dake little bit I can work myself, see.

HN: Okay, maybe let's go into clothing. So clothing? What did you remember wearing in childhood?

NK: Clothing? Kimono?

HN: Kimono?

NK: Yeah.

HN: What about day time?

NK: Oh, day time, same old thing, eh. Aloha (shirt), eh.

HN: Kimono, too?

NK: No, no. They no use that kimono. Day time, neighbor, I think. Maybe I think, some, I think, me ga young time, I think 15, 16 year old time dattara (I think maybe when I was 15 or 16 years old), maybe camp inside, old man folks use 'em kimono, but I no see too much, no. All most...

HN: So what did you wear?

NK: Me? I wear all pants and shirts. That's all, eh.

HN: What kind pants?

END OF SIDE ONE  
SIDE TWO

NK: Anyhow, me no young time wo, khaki pants dattara; good yo. Ima no woolen pants all same do.

(Anyhow, when I was young, it was khaki pants; good, you know. Like the woolen pants of today.)

HN: Where did you get your clothes?

NK: Oh, maybe old lady going make, eh. They go hemo the pants and they go get the style, eh. They make 'em like that. So when you go order, too much money, eh. 'As why all most time, I think--- but the mill ga, I think, young time kara, little bit....twenty something gurai natta toki ni, I think khaki pants, we use 'em. (But I think when I was young and working in the mill....about twenty something, we used khaki pants). 'As the hookano one. (Laughs)

HN: (Laughs) What kind shirt then, that time?

NK: Oh, that time, some time....ima to maybe all same kind, no (Oh, it was the same as now maybe). Katta kind sureba (If you consider bought shirts). All most like check, eh.

HN: With buttons in front?

NK: Yeah, yeah. Button in front. Same thing.

HN: And what about footwear?

NK: Footwear, you get the shoes. All most time shoes. Was shoes. Ah, yasui (cheap) kind shoes! Five dollar or seven dollar kind.



'As the best one.

HN: You wear that to work, too?

NK: No, no, no. 'As the different one. Work time, plantation nanka, almost tabi (Japanese foot covering), you know.

HN: Tabi?

NK: -Yeah.

HN: What about clothes? What you wore?

NK: All same. Khaki...

HN: Khaki and...

NK: Khaki and ahina. Strong kind, anyhow.

HN: Okay. What about your first suit? When did you get your first suit?

NK: First suit, I think, wedding time, I guess. (Laughs)

HN: How old were you then?

NK: Oh, I think twenty....oh, I don't know, though. Twenty-five or 26, eh. Somewhere around there, I think.

HN: Where did you get that from?

NK: I wen go buy from.... kattan ka no (...was it bought)? Tsukuttan kano (Was it made)? I don't know exactly, but I think I got from downtown, eh, I think. Something like that. I guess so.

HN: What about jewelry or watch?

NK: No, we no more.

HN: When you got your first watch?

NK: First watch, I think, maybe about in the plantation time, \$15, \$12 kind I bought. First time. I think Waltham or something like that. No. Not Waltham.

HN: How old you was?

NK: Oh, that time, I think 17 or 18 years old, I guess. Yeah, somewhere around there, no. So anyway, I know that over there store ga atta no (So anyway I know that there was a store over there). Twelve dollars half or something like that.

HN: So where was this? Plantation store?

NK: No, not plantation. Outside store. So I going pay every month three dollar or something like that. (Laughs) Two dollar or three dollar.

HN: What about....glasses? When you get your first glasses?

NK: Oh, first glasses, I think, eye ga not so good dake, eye doctor ittara, he say got to get the glass. So, I think....yeah, are wa warukatta. Around '24 or '25.

(Oh, my first glasses, I think when my eyes weren't so good, when I went to the eye doctor, he said I had to get glasses. Yeah, that was bad. Around '24 or '25.)

HN: What about dentist? You always used to go dentist?

NK: Dentist. Yeah, dentist....before he used to coming on in the camp. No more license kind. (Laughs)

HN: And that used to be expensive or what?

NK: Oh yeah. Expensive. So got to make tanomoshi, da kind time. When you going pull out, you go put that gold da kind inside, maybe fifty or sixty dollars, I guess. Yeah. Da kind time, I tell you.

HN: Okay. Let's go into marriage. How's that?

NK: Oh, marriage.

HN: That sound interesting, yeah. Okay, how did you and your wife meet, first time?

NK: Oh, I don't know this kind. Anyhow me ga vegetable tori ikiyotte (Anyhow, when I was getting vegetables), I meet her around. And then sometime I meet bon dance time. And then between guys stay, so we get together natta no (There were go-betweens, so we got together).

HN: Did you date at all?

NK: No more date, that kind time.

HN: No date. Just...

NK: Nothing. Just only sometime, we go get vegetable time, go look. "Hello" or something like that and pau. 'As all.

HN: Did your families arrange your marriage?

NK: Ah, she got to take care all, eh, all most. We don't know how you going---da kind. Ano....sex suru koto, eh, shiran ke. Just God ga kureru ke, kodomo demo mata dekitanka, I think. But God ga you ni kuretan ke, you got to get 'em omottekara. Aredake gurai no mono yono. They laugh, but really, ano koro antona. No more that interesting ga nai, and then gakumon ga nai. Dakara so iu koto wo atama ni oite kara, mata dekitanka no koto ni tsuini dekite shimatta. Dakedo.

(Ah, she had to take care of that mostly. We don't know how. We didn't know about sex. Just God gives, I think, another child. But if God gave you the child, you have to take it. That's about it. They laugh, but that's how it was. There was no interest, no education in these things. So we thought that if you think about another child, the next thing you know, you have another child. It was like that.)

HN: Did you have an engagement at all? Engagement ring?

NK: No. Engagement mo, just only name dake. Name only. Only about one month or somewhere around there, I guess.

HN: And what about wedding?

NK: Wedding wa my house get that.

HN: Japanese wedding?

NK: Japanee wedding, yeah.

HN: How was that?

NK: Oh, how iu temo....everybody nani, eh (If you ask how....everybody what you might call). Friend or relative come get together, drink 'em up. And then "Banzai!" 'As all, you know.

HN: That's how a Japanee wedding used to be?

NK: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Before was.

HN: Sounds good. What about honeymoon? You had honeymoon?

NK: No honeymoon. Nothing.

HN: How long before your first child?

NK: First child, that after one year, I think. First child, yeah.

HN: Was the child planned? You guys planned to have the child or....

NK: Nah. Just God going give us, well, take 'em. 'As all. Bonus kind, that time. (Laughs)

HN: What was your dress? How were you dressed when you got married?

NK: Oh, that dress wa I think she made her home, I guess. I think she make home, I guess. Yeah, because she now going to the sewing--- not class, but sewing place, eh. She going learn 'em and then she know---warikata kiyona ke (---she's pretty good with her hands). Nesan ga ikinu toki ni isshoni itte do the works and then she make 'em (She used to go with her older sister and do it). Kata make (Make pattern). And she make 'em. Oh, now days wedding dress jyanai (It's not like a wedding dress of today). Ano koro (At that time),

wedding kimono. We no going use that kind haole kind stuff. All Japanee kind kimono.

HN: Okay. Maybe we can go into folk medicines. You remember any Japanese remedies they had?

NK: Oh yeah. All most Japanee---Japan kind, no. Some nani kano (What)?

(Lady comes in and addresses interviewer. Comments exchanged.)

NK: Yeah, Nihon kara, any kind medicine mo kiyota. Koyaku mo kiyota, so use 'em that one all most.

(Yeah, we used to get all kinds of medicine from Japan. Medicinal plaster, too, which we used the most.)

HN: Any of those work? You remember?

NK: Oh, I think so. And then sometime you go kamisama itte, pray shitekara mamotte kudasai iu koto mo atta, eh, yeah (Sometimes, you go to the shrine, pray, ask for protection). Old fashion kind yo. Da kind.

HN: You remember any of them in detail?

NK: Detail in what? What kind is that?

HN: Okay. How's about Depression. How did that affect you?

NK: Depression mo, nani mo....my whole life ga minna ga Depression datta ke same thing yo (Depression, well, my whole life was a Depression, so it's the same thing).

HN: Oh, how did Depression affect you and your family like that? Did you have less money, more money?

NK: Amari Depression toki dattara, zeitaku shirazu ni motte, kuwazu ni orareba shōganai, but kodomo dake wa kuwa senya iken kara. We no going buy too much. Just save 'em so much, and then make tsukemono, yasai, vegetables, all got to make all da kind. Shite kara yarannara shōganai. 'As all.

(During the Depression, we didn't know how to live luxuriously and had to eat whatever we had, but we had to feed the children. We didn't buy too many things. We just saved a certain amount and then made pickled vegetables, peddled vegetables, all sorts of things. We had to do it that way. That's all.)

HN: Okay. What about the War? Where were you when Pearl Harbor happened?

NK: Oh! Oh, Shimamoto Camp---Otake Camp, I stay inside there. I saw the bomb. And Japan airplane, they go back this side and then.

HN: (Chuckling) You guys saw the plane? Yeah?

NK: Yeah. Yeah, plenty. I thought funny kind. American airplane ga Japan flag tsukete kara, they go practice like that, I thought, you know (I thought the American plane put on a Japanese flag and practiced like that, you know). (Laughs)

HN: How did that affect your business?

NK: What kind business?

HN: You were vegetable peddler, eh, then?

NK: Yeah, vegetable peddler. And then I make 'em da kind. Before that, movie. Movie picture, eh. They go take 'em down the country side, you know. All over in the place. Sometime Kahapai. Sometime Kahuku. Projector I go get...

(Wife interjects comments, questions occasionally.)

Wife: That's when the War started, Papa.

NK: Oh yeah! War started ka. War started.

Wife: (Tape garbled) after.

(Tape is turned off for a short time.)

Wife: ...we have to have knapsacks.

NK: Yeah. So she going carry that bag over here, you know. Behind ni that boy ga carry shitara (If the boy is carried on the back)...

Wife: Yeah, I thought...

NK: Behind kara tepo de utaretara, them guys (If they're shot at from the back)...

Wife: He going be shot first, so I was thinking how I going carry (Tape garbled).

NK: (Laughs) She going carry in front. Behind, they going carry canned goods. We make 'em. She strong, da kind place.

Wife: I was mad, you know. I tell 'em. The government is not there to protect those civilians. (Tape garbled) like around. The children from each town will be shipped to certain valley and the parents were certain place, and this and that. Ah! Can't believe it.

NK: Really, that one shōganai (couldn't be helped). No can help.

Wife: Well, shōganai (couldn't be helped), but yet...

NK: America no sick, that one.

Wife: A big country like America...

NK: Yeah.

Wife: ...to go down to that...

(Tape is cut off)

NK: ...kore (this) I going take 'em out da kind. No more, not one yet. How many year they working over there. That's no fair, American government.

Wife: That shows that there was (Tape garbled).

NK: Seven or eight year and then Korea mo get. And Japan get only one, two years, pau already.

HN: Okay, what did they do to you again when you went out? They would.... you know, when you went out to get your vegetables, the soldier would bayonet your....

Wife: They were stationed at all streets and corners and any place where the truck passed. And he used to come up with broken up hasu and what you can do with that? Bayonnetted potatoes, onions.

NK: And then they going---ano nande kara....gun ni sageni kara (And then carrying a gun)....

Wife: Bayonet.

NK: Bayonet. Are dekara (With that), ano (that) head cabbage, eh, bag, eh, make 'em like this, you know. We no can sell that one! Oh boy, no can stop! No can stop. "What the hell inside here?" That guys, silly just like. You can see the bag from the nani (what you might call), eh. This kind bag we have to use 'em, see. All...

Wife: They were panicky. Because some dattara, cow ya nanka tsunaide (Because some of them, cows were tied up). You know how they (cows) make noise in the fields. They shoot, you know.

NK: Yeah. I had.

Wife: Because abunai (dangerous) for anybody to make noise concealed place.

NK: Eh, me ra ga shita toki (When we were around)....how many cow get hit.

Wife: And that was like....

NK: Oh, boy. That's why honto baka mitaini (That's why it was truly stupid).

Wife: (Tape garbled) only about thirty years. When he was starting (Tape garbled). Up till now, (Tape garbled) nobody writing about it.

HN: What about when the Democratic Party started? You remember how it started and....what were your feelings then?

NK: Are wa itsu dattaka no? After the War, yeah. You know this Sea View Inn? Sato? You shiran, no, I think. Oh, Manabu, papa ga hitori. Are ra ga almost merao yatte kuretandake. Are ra ga, just like leader mitaini natotanyo. But Walter, Tanabe and Sea View Inn yareota Sato yo. Ikuzo Sato. Are ra to isshoni natte kara, minna Democrat no nani wo tsukuta.

(When was that? After the War. You know Sato of Sea View Inn? I don't think you know him. Oh, your father Manabu was one man. They almost got me involved. They seemed to become leaders. But Walter, Tanabe and Sato, they joined together and built a Democratic what you might call.)

Wife: (Tape garbled) it started, though.

HN: What did you get out of their campaign? Why did you join?

NK: Join iutemo, are wa itsu ni join shitanka shiranka. Anyhow.... Republican wa plantation, see. Me no like plantation. Too much they making money, and then we no get nothing. 'As why are ga, main thing, yono. Sore~~d~~ake, Republican dattara, all the big shot, five guys ro nani naru? Five big shot no Hawaii no nani. Nattoru ke, soreake Democrat dattake, that time so poor, eh. Small. 'As why we got to join Democrat wo nanshite kara.

(When did I join? Anyhow, the Republicans were for the plantations, see. I didn't like the plantation. They made all the money and we got nothing. That was the main thing. About the Republicans, the five big shots were Republicans, and the Democrats were so poor. So we had to join the Democrats.)

Yaranya iken sono koto de we make club. 'As the nani club dattara.... AJA club. Yeah, yeah. AJA club yo. Antonan tsukutte kara, only ten, 15 guys yu ka member orandattaka. Democrat no toki, ano nani ni....vote nanka suru toki nanka, paper wo mottetari. "Eh, more better Japanee place," ittekara, "Eh, more better you going--- not this guy. Not this guy ni yare, kono ho ga better though," because these guy nara all plantation no toki. Democrat no ho ni yaru yo. No more chance so minna koto iuto...

(With that, we made a club. That was the AJA club. When it was formed, there were only ten, 15 members. When it was time to vote, we brought the papers, discussed who should run, who to vote for. "Don't vote for this guy, this guy is better." We went to the Democrat side. Everyone was saying there was no chance...)

Wife: You never did vote. You never did vote until you got your citizenship.

NK: Yeah. Are kara atode, yeah, sore ga tsukutta. Citizenship totte kara, me ni....

(After that, yeah, we made that club. I took my citizenship first....)

HN: What about Burns? Besides Burns, who were some of the strong supporters? Down here?

NK: Burns mo, me ra amari shiranmo. Too much shiranai.

(I don't know too much about Burns. I don't know a lot.)

HN: Who was really pushing him down here?

NK: After the War natte, me ra ga citizenship totte kara, are ga doko ka ni deru toki natte me ra ga push shitanka, no, something like that.

(After the War started, after we got our citizenship, when he was becoming known we helped push him, something like that.)

Wife: Anyway, otōsan ra no jidaini....ano nanka kan kara, ano Nihonjin wo, shite are wo....

(During your time, the Japanese....)

NK: Yeah, I think so.

Wife: He never was in, actually, in the political group. Because he couldn't even vote. He's a Japanese alien. But his friends did organize.

NK: Oh, are wo after that yo (Oh, that was after that).

Wife: Yeah, long time after that. Before then, was his father's years, no, those days. Used to be...(Airplane passing overhead drowns out wife's voice.)

NK: Yeah, ano Wilson no generation jidai ni. Anokoro dattakano. Pipe wo Kamooloa ni ireru no ni, I go take all the name totte. Soshite kara, motte kara...

(Yeah, that was Wilson's time. Around then. To lay the pipe in Kamooloa, I got all the names. Then brought it...)

Wife: But that doesn't concern Japanese way of life and (Tape garbled)

NK: Antoni toki ka uchi no buta wo yaki, yaitekara, are rani.... gotso shitari nankashite kara. Soredake, main pipe mo ireta, denkimo asokoni tsuita.

(Times like that, we cooked our pigs to give them a feast. So we lay the pipe. Electricity, too, was installed.)

HN: Okay, let's kind of wind it up on quality of life. How do you feel, like, today as compared to before?



NK: Oh! Before no koto iutara....nani iute e kano? No can trust all same, yeah.

(Regarding the past, what should I say?)

Wife: The olden days, the old time days, before, ne, when they were working, even our (parents), some of them had very hard lives.

HN: Why did you stay in Haleiwa? What was your main reason to stay in Haleiwa?

NK: Oh, nani iute e kano (What should I say)? No more place to go, 'as why I got to stay.

(HN laughs)

NK: If I get a chance to go, sure, I like, maybe....eiga omoi yoni nattetara, sure, downtown, maybe sundatake, shiran, but I no can go. Somebody like me, tofu yaru toki ni kara, Akahoshi iuu ni to ga ....

(If I had a chance to go, I wanted to....if my movie theatre business had gone as well as I had hoped, maybe I would have lived in town, but I couldn't go. When I was selling tofu, a Mr. Akahoshi....)

Wife: We had to wait long time, no, to (Tape garbled) aruno. Haleiwa ni ottanowane, the family was big (The reason we stayed in Haleiwa was because the family was big). He couldn't move to any other place with his business. You know, no other knowledge of.... like in another kind of a job. So we had to make a living. He couldn't very well drag all the family go someplace where he cannot be sure of making a living, so we had to stay in Waialua.

HN: What about the future of Waialua Sugar Company? You think the sugar going stay here or....what are your feelings on that if they stay or they develop all the area or what?

NK: Oh, sugar wa doshitemo Hawaii no nandake; sugar wa still around (No matter what, sugar is still Hawaii's thing; sugar will still be around). Yeah. Daibun (Pretty much), but....rain too slow, eh, anyhow.

HN: You think they going develop Haleiwa and Waialua?

NK: Supposed to be, I think. All develop semmara....too late ni naruyo. Yeah. Anyway, freeway demo totara, maybe, more guru naru, develop naru, shiran. But Hawaii de number one inaka mitaında, Oahu dekara. Before was inaka wa Waianae, ne, me ra no young time. But sugar plantation pau, they all develop go inside there and big city now, see. And then Waimanalo, same thing. Country datta, but now days, developer ga all ittake. Nice place natta. Now, Waialua.

(It should be. It must be developed or it will be too late. Anyway, it might be better if the freeway goes through; it might develop. This seems to be the most rural place on Oahu. It used to be Waianae. But after the sugar plantation closed down, all the developers moved in and then it's a big city now. That happened to Waimanalo, too. It used to be country, but the developers went in and it became a nice place. Now, Waialua.)

HN: How would you like to see Waialua develop?

NK: Mo, nanika big one ni buchi tatte....people ga kuru yoni shita hō ga ichiban ii, no (To have it open up....would be best to do it so people came here). At least, one thing, best thing I like go through this Kaena Point road.

HN: Really.

NK: Then you can go around the island. That's the main one, that. And then, next dewa---yarundattara, you know, Haleiwa no....by the Kam Highway side, at least both side free ni shite asoko ni yattara, you know (And then next---if you're going to do it, you know ....the lands along Kam Highway should be available to the public). Plenty guy going live over there. And then, one more thing, mo hitotsu iu dattara (If there's one more thing I'll say), behind Haleiwa, taro patch, fill up the dirt. About one or two feet. Then make 'em....over there get plenty more place to da kind. Hasu, few only vegetables, taro coming outside, that's good for nothing aru yo. That place, you better develop 'em. You know, fill up the dirt, eh. You make 'em good over there. And get good town, Haleiwa town de coming up. At least hundred yard or something like that. Highway, both side, eh. Way down Waimea side. Make 'em fee, the fee simple, eh. They going to buy 'em. And coming up more. Bishop Estate, anyway, they going stay hold 'em. Only they no going sell. They going lease. 'As why people no like. Me, I figure that way. Behind the Haleiwa---you know, Haleiwa low over there and then Kam Highway, inside that da kind, no, between, plenty place, yeah, good. Nice place to live.

HN: What about tourism? You think Hawaii going be a tourist....

NK: Yeah. More, I think.

HN: More tourist?

NK: Yeah, more tourist. Supposed to be. So I like make that side. And then not hotel, but Kaena restaurant demo, eh. Kaena Point mitai no tokoro (At a place like Kaena Point), make one nice picnic ground demo alright. That one is a good place over there. That's the tour people number one, I guess.

Even though Waimea Bay, same thing. You got to make somehow, even though Waimea Park nanka demo (and what not), you know, too small, eh.

'As why mo chitto shitara, you got to use for the da kind, water, beach, and da kind Kawailoa no down below mitai (So if you're going to do a little bit more, you have to use the water, the beach just like below Kawailoa). Da kind water, eh. Are mo tsukattara, tourist no attraction, I think better. (If that's used, I think it would be a better tourist attraction). Me, are wo omou, me no this dream, but (I think that's the case, but this is my dream). Nice water and then nice place. No use nothing. So too much waste that kind place. Even the airport doing the same thing, eh. They get good beach, but they no can go inside no more.

HN: Right.

NK: That's no fair, I think. At least highway no both side wo make 'em fee simple. Our house or something like that. Store or everything. Sell 'em out. People going buy. One thing, they like buy but no more place to buy. All young going---I mean da kind Mililani, Wahiawa, Ewa side, all like that, see. Waialua no more place to living in. 'As why humbug. Young guys like buy. They get the money. Like buy, but no more place to buy. Like live 'em over here. Even though Wahiawa ittemo (Even though a young person goes to Wahiawa), he like come down the beach, eh. 'As why we need the place to live. Good for the young folks no tameni (for their benefit). Me, I omou (I think)---ah, anyway, Kawailoa no down demo all same. Plenty lot, eh. He no can plan the camp and then fifty year stay, same old thing. The kind place, demo, you got to sell 'em out. Make 'em cheap and they going clean 'em up. And then they make house. Nice place, you know, over there. Get plenty more places but they no going sell, 'as why no good.

HN: Well, they make condominiums over there.

NK: Yeah. Condominium alright. Anything, make 'em good. They make 'em all sell out shitara (If they sell), you know, people like buy. Even though young folks no tameni kara (Even for the young people). 'As why all like Haleiwa, Waialua young folks going buy all the Mililani side. So Mililani going big town, but Waialua ga still all same. Fifty years before, not too much different. Only the Haleiwa and Waialua no come out good. No more place to go, 'as why. No more place to buy. Everybody like buy. Are dake wa hontoni omoudo (That's what I really feel).

HN: Okay.

END OF INTERVIEW.

# **WAIALUA & HALEIWA**

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