BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: John H. Palos and Earl V. Kalawaiʻa

John Hanalei Palos was born in Wailuku, Maui in 1961, and raised in Maui until later in life when he moved to Waikoloa. After graduating from Lahainaluna, he attended UH Hilo, and then worked and played music with his friend Earl. Earl Victor Kalawaʻia was also born in Maui, raised in Kahului. He also attended UH Hilo after attending Lahainaluna, and worked and plays music with John. They both recall fond memories of playing football for Lahainaluna as well as working different jobs around campus. One of their most notable legacies that they left was starting the music group, "Sour Poi", which continued on for years after they left Lahainaluna. John and Earl were roommates at Lahainaluna, and attribute their strong friendship to their boarding experiences.

Earl Kalawaiʻa (left) and John Palos (right) during their interview in Waiākea Uka on March 26, 2023.

INTERVIEW INDEX: John H. Palos and Earl V. Kalawai‘a

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Earl Kalawaia (EK) and John Palos (JP)

March 26, 2023

Waiākea Uka, Hawai‘i

BY: Wailana Medeiros (WM) and Micah Mizukami (MM)

EK: Are you ready, Nova? Shush. Yeah.

WM: Okay, good. Okay. This is an oral history interview for the Lahainaluna Boarders Project with Earl Kalawaia and John Palos?

JP: Palos.

WM: Palos. At 1 p.m. in Waiakea Uka. I am Wailana Medeiros sitting with Micah Mizukami. Okay. So whoever wants to go first. Okay. Uncle I go with you.

JP: Okay.

WM: Can you please state your full legal name?

JP: John Hanalei Palos.

WM: And when and where were you born?

JP: I was born in Wailuku.

WM: And then when?

JP: 1966. 21st February.

WM: And then who were your parents?

JP: Rosalynn Mary Palos. That's my mom. Callisto Palos was my dad. My dad was an immigrant from P.I.

WM: Oh. And then where was your your mother from?

JP: My mom was from Pukalani. Her maiden name was Fernandez. And my other half the Hawaiian side came from Hana.

WM: Hana, so you have family in Hana.

JP: I do.

WM: Oh, okay. What did your parents do? What were their occupation?

JP: Both my parents were laborers, and they worked for Maui Land and Pineapple. And I think my mom had went to eighth grade education. My dad went to fifth grade education. So both laborers.

WM: You have siblings?

JP: Yes. How much? There was a total of six of us. I am the fifth of the six.

WM: And girls, boys, what order?

JP: Oh, two girls and three boys. But the spread between the oldest and the youngest was 21 years. So my mom always told me and my younger sister that we were mistakes. Nine years later, then came Johnny. And then my sister.

WM: Oh, well, what are your siblings names?

JP: My oldest sister is Herminia. We call her Mini. Her birthday was just yesterday, and Steven was the second oldest and my brother Junior and my sister Rosemary or Puanani. And then nine years later, me. And then four years later, my sister Halia.

WM: Okay, so what are the places, oop sorry, what are the places you've lived?

JP: I have lived on Maui and the Big island.

WM: And where you live now?

JP: I live in Waikoloa for the last 30 years.

WM: Oh, right. And who's your spouse?

JP: My spouse was Bonnie Marie Jose. Her maiden name, she passed last January.

WM: Oh, so sorry. And where? What do you do? What's your occupation?

JP: My occupation. My day job. I'm a landscape manager at the Four Seasons Hualalai. And I've been doing horticulture landscape since all my life basically. What my degrees is.

WM: And then.

JP: And I also play music.

WM: Yeah. You have kids?

JP: I have two.

WM: And who are your children?

JP: And my oldest is Preston Kekaninahemaiukaikai Palos, and my youngest is Chesney Kalokepuanani Palos.

WM: And where are they? What do they do?

JP: My son lives at home with us, and he works for Waikoloa Village Golf Course. He's an irrigator there. And my daughter is a senior.

WM: Oh. Oh, cool. All right. So I'm going to transition to Uncle Earl. Questions. Can you please state your full legal name?

EK: Okay full legal name, Earl Victor Kalawaia Jr.

WM: And when and where were you born?

EK: Yes. So born in Wailuku, Maui, December 27, 1968.

WM: And who are your parents?

EK: So my dad is Earl Victor Kalwaia Senior, and my mom is Melvis Leilani Kalawaia.

WM: And where are they from? Your parents.

EK: So my dad was from Maliko area that's between on the way to Hana just after Hoʻokipa beach park. It's a Maliko Gulch and there's a fishing village that my dad's ʻohana was there before they moved into Kahului area. Then my mom, she grew up in Kula.

WM: Kula?

EK: Yeah, Keokea.

WM: And what did your parents do?

EK: So my dad was an operations manager with Hawaiian Cement, construction, and then my mom was a retired elementary teacher.

WM: Oh. And so your ancestors pretty much descend from Maui, then?

EK: Yeah, well, my. My mom's ʻohana originally from Oʻahu. The Keau family and then my grandpa was hanai by an aunt that brought him to Maui, and then he lived there.

WM: Cool. And then you have siblings?

EK: I have siblings. So I'm in the middle. I have older sister, Michelle Kai. Then another sister, Arlene Keith, myself. And then my younger brother Mark Kalawaia, who is also a boarder alumni.

WM: So what are the places that you have lived?

EK: So I grew up in Kahului, Maui, then Lahaina as a boarder.

WM: Yeah, a little bit loud. . . . Oh, yes. So where are the places you have lived?

EK: Yeah. So where I live, um, Kahului, Maui, grew up. And then Lahaina as a boarder. And then UH Hilo, the dormitories, and then some rental homes. And then. And then. I've lived here since '99.

WM: '99. And you have kids?

EK: So I have one daughter, Makenzie Kalawaia. She's a flight attendant who lives in L.A..

WM: Okay. I guess we can get started. So where did you go to elementary school?

JP: I went to Makawao Elementary.

WM: And then intermediate?

JP: No, intermediate at the time. And from Makawao, I went to Lahainaluna.

WM: Okay. And then Uncle Earl?

EK: So I first went to Christ the King School, which is a Catholic school that actually feeds to St. Anthony high school, which my sisters went to and my mom is alumni from. And then ah, but then in the third grade I went to Wailuku Elementary where my mom taught and then I went to Iao for intermediate school and then Lahainaluna.

WM: Okay, so when or how did you both decide that you wanted to go to Lahainaluna?

JP: For me, um, my transportation back then was an issue and, being a resident upcountry I grew up in Haliʻimaile, and the high school is in Kahului, Maui High. And so for me, I was I love my sports. I wanted to play sports and getting my parents to get me to practice and all of that was going to be a burden on them. So I, that's how I decided to go to Lahainaluna. And I Lahainaluna had a good basketball team, and I actually went there to play basketball. But when I went my freshman year, I wanted to play football as well.

And so I went to the summer camp and it's five of us boys from Makawao School that went through to summer camp. And out of the five only I stayed.

WM: I see.

JP: The rest of those boys went home after the first week.

WM: Was it common for them to have summer camps? Lahainaluna put on the summer camps?

JP: I don't know who put on the summer camp.

WM: Okay, So, Uncle Earl, how did you end up there?

EK: So. So my eighth grade year, I used to be a ballboy for football games for Maui Interscholastic Football Association for sports. So I was a ball boy, actually. John's Sophomore year, I believe. Lahainaluna had a really good team, football team, and that inspired me to like, I want to go play football for Lahainaluna. So I asked my mom. What's. . . what's the deal? Says well you have to board. And then not till later, my mom informed me that my dad was alumni from there.

WM: Oh, really?

EK: Because prior to that I was going probably to St. Anthony. That was kind of because that's where my siblings went and so forth. And so, yeah, it was my eighth grade year, went to an interview, went to the summer camp and yeah, there's like five or six of us that went to football summer camp. Yeah. Going into your freshman year, and maybe two or three lasted, you know, being separated from family was a challenge for, for 13 year olds. 13, 14 year olds.

WM: So you guys kind of came out.

EK: Persevered.

WM: Yeah. Yeah.

MM: Do you remember what the interview was like, what you were asked?

EK: Um, some of the basic like, why do you want to go to Lahainaluna? Lahainaluna, I remember, like, what do you hope to get out of it? And I had no idea how I answered it. Whatever 13 year old who wants to leave home and is like, I just want to play football. That's all I wanted to do. Yeah.

WM: So what was it like to leave home and be away from home?

JP: Actually, for me it was easier because at home you go to school and you come home, you work. And there was, you know, we like, like I said, my parents were laborers and so we forage, we, we had garden, we had animals, we raised pig, cattle and it was just for home use. So we always had work to do, whether it's feeding the chickens or feeding the pigs or cutting grass for feed the cows. Always had to work. So when I went to Lahainaluna, the work actually was easier than at home.

WM: So yeah, so smooth transition kind of. But did you miss home sometimes?

JP: I did, Yeah, I did. But, you know, being being the sports program, when we go out, we went to all the games, the football games I was in Wailuku, at War Memorial. So I was able to see my parents because they would come to the games. I remember my mom in the stands with her holy water (laughter) and after the game always had, always had that kind of she always used to make food for us.

EK: St. Joseph Church, strong yeah!

WM: What about you, uncle? How was it like to leave home?

EK: You know, my family was. We just kind of pili. So was was tough. But I was real fortunate because we lived in Kahului. We was, you know, a 30 minute drive. So actually my parents would come and grab me on the Sundays. So with the program, you had all day pass Sunday from 6 to 6. Yeah. So I'd come home and just hang out, do chores and whatevers and they bring food back to the dorms. And so it was kind of like I had a vacation, six day vacation from the family. And then seventh day I would go with them, we'd go church and and do family stuff throughout the day. So I wasn't too bad.

WM: Uncle, you remember how often you went home?

JP: Oh, spring break. Oh, Christmas break pretty much. And then I got my license early. I remember because my mom didn't drive and only my dad had license. So back then, the laws is different you could get your license early, so I think I got my license at 14 or 15 years old and I was early born, February. So yeah, I got my license early and I was able to drive if I needed to go home.

WM: Oh, that's cool. Where would you keep a car?

EK: Well, statute of limitations!

JP: Okay, statute of limitations! So back, back in that time we had auto shop at Lahainaluna. So in our garage they had one Willies, 1944 Willies Jeep that I was able to get to Lahainaluna in and that was my project because I also was in auto shop. And so I took the jeep to Lahainaluna and Mr. Martin was auto shop teacher, and he totally when take the Jeep apart and rebuild it. You know, take apart the motor, rebuild the motor bodywork, the whole works. And we had a part in the auto shop.

WM: Mhm.

JP: And if you know a 1940s, 1944 Willies's jeep can go anywhere. So on the weekends we would sneak the jeep out of the auto shop and I don't even remember, the back where we had the imu?

EK: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

JP: We drive straight up that hill with that Willies Jeep and go all the way around the school, made our own road, and come down Lahainaluna road, and then we'd go holoholo, we go down Makena, because cannot stay in Lahaina side, they going see us. So we go all the way down Makena, go hang out, go Big Beach and drive back four wheel drive the jeep and park um in the exact same spot, and we never got caught.

WM: Wow. It was kind of surprising, hearing about how strict it was, little bit. You guys never got caught. Oh, well, yeah. Okay. (Laughter)

EK: Nothing incriminating! (laughter).

JP: Statute of limitations!

WM: Ah, nothing is gonna happen!

EK: Litigation free on this one!

WM: Do you remember what it was like to get to Lahainaluna for the first time? Like, first getting to the dorm? Your first night, first day working?

EK: Well was football camp.

JP: So that's, yeah.

WM: So you guys came before.

EK: So you kinda, yeah, so and then the football team would stay at the dorms and would have, you know now it's a lot different.

JP: I think like ten days, yeah?

EK: Something to that effect. 10, 14 days.

JP: And it was really harsh. It was like, like boot camp, seriously.

EK: Yeah, was intense.

JP: Very intense conditioning from before the sun come up till the sun go down. We. . .

EK: . . .You'd have to work. And then so that acclimated us to that whole system, the routine. Yeah. And yeah, so yeah.

JP: So it was a pretty rough boot camp.

WM: Was most of those people in the boot camp boarders too?

EK: Some.

WM: Some.

EK: Yeah. Was basically the football team which made up of day students and boarders and so yeah. Yeah.

WM: What was it like when the boarders started to transition in after pau football camp?

EK: My experience was that, I get two weeks ahead of them. I know upperclassmen, I know sophomores. So I'm kind of ahead, you know, socially kind of ahead of the game, you know, where I get my classmates who are now, like they have to kind of get, indoctrinated to Lahainaluna ways.

JP: And like for me as a freshman going in, I made the varsity football team and so I had a lot of support from the team, boarders as well, had upperclassmen. So we kind of built, I guess, camaraderie during summer camp because it is harsh and like I said, we only had my freshman year, we only had 23 players on the team. And so pretty much everybody played two ways. So yeah, it's interesting.

EK: Yeah, I think during football camp. You have to worry about football. So all the other stuff didn't quite matter yet. You know, even with schooling and so forth. So I think that kind of distracted being homesick again and whatnot and just kind of tested your resolve, I think, you know, if you will make it.

JP: Mentally.

EK: Yeah, because that's kind of, that's kind of the piece is if you mentally strong for handle which you look back like well that wasn't, that wasn't really nothing. But, in your world was everything.

WM: Oh yeah.

EK: At that time, at that age, so.

WM: What was your job? What, what were some of the things that you did for work?

JP: So back then we had to do, each quarter you had, you got, you would rotate when you, when you in the first two years. Freshman and sophomore year. So you know we'd have cafeteria duty and you'd have farm and then you'd have the landscape. So you just rotate. And then like for me, because I had my license early, I ended up fortunate being spending more time in the farm side. But I remember, oh, that's her name, Yamaguchi? The cafeteria, um. . .

MM: Yamauchi?

JP: Yamauchi! Mrs. Yamauchi. So oh, she was, she was strict. But I remember when I used to go, when was my time, I used to work hard in the cafeteria. I scrub the pots and before had ivory soap and I would scrub the, the aluminum pots until the thing come shiny. And the lady was so appreciative and she used to take care of me. They taught, and until today, they taught me how to bake. I was able to bake, learned how to bake and do all kinds of stuff. And until today, I love cooking. I learned a lot in the kitchen on how to cook. And yeah, that was some of my fondest memories is I still remember cleaning, I scrub the pots till shiny and to see the faces of, their faces so happy.

EK: Um, my freshman year I was with utilities, so that was with Chief Kukahiko. And so we, we would kind of be the maintenance crew. And so that was fun, just had projects, we did like, masonry work, we put up booths for fairs, you know, school events. And then, um, yeah, just a host of skills I learned, from the electrical to, to yeah like, putting up rock walls, cleaning out tile and tile walls and what not. So that was fun. And then sophomore year I went to garden and some point, oh, I learned to drive the tractor. So my sophomore through senior years, me and this other guy from Keʻanae, Bobo Pahukoa.

JP: I remember Bobo.

EK: Yeah. So me and him used to be the tractor drivers and we would just plow fields, till fields, prep the lines and then just move and just constantly do that. And that's what we did, just all equipment operators, was fun. Was super fun.

JP: I remember back then, they never had drip irrigation before. And remember, it was all, used to take the water from the river and it was gravity fed down to one big pipe. And it was taken from the pipe and it was furloughed irrigation. So furloughed irrigation means, the water column, we have to make the rows not too steep but almost level, and so that it would fill up and slowly build up and come across. And, the field, the lines in the farm, which probably means from here to the house, maybe 50 yards.

EK: Yeah.

JP: And you had to make um perfect, if you make um too steep, the water going run, he going erode. So you had to just make um perfect. I remember doing that string beans, and corn.

EK: Oh string beans for days.

JP: We had. Yeah.

WM: Did you get in trouble if you never make them perfect?

JP: We do um again. Yeah.

WM: Yeah. Althea, yesterday, told us that the older kids would mess it up again, if she didn't do it good.

JP: I remember I worked with Althea!

WM: Yeah?

JP: Yeah.

WM: So what was your daily schedule like, if what you remember from your daily schedule?

JP: I remember we had dress code, so we go work like, what was it? 5:30 or 5:00?

EK: 5:45, it think, we had to check in, and then. . .

JP: . . .We work one hour in the mornings and then we come in, we take a bath, get ready, dress code, school collared shirt, belt, combed hair, fix the bed, clean the room, everything. Gotta be, because they do room checks. And then we gotta line up downstairs and then we marched to the cafeteria.

EK: All in 15 minutes, from from 7:00 to 7:15. You got to run to your room, shower, dress, get everything. And then down at the line by 7:15.

JP: Because 8:00 start.

WM: 8:00.

JP: So yeah, we go to the cafeteria have breakfast, come back, and then. . .

EK: . . .Last minute touch ups on your room. And then. . .

JP: . . .It was like military.

EK: Yeah.

WM: And this was every single day except weekends?

EK: Except weekends, then weekends you'd work. Well, you get song practice. Freshmen and sophomores had song practice at six in the morning to seven and then, then breakfast. And then you work to 11:45, I think, or 11:15, and then you had free time until. . .

JP: 9:00. Upperclassmen was until ten. Yeah, on Saturdays.

EK: On Saturdays.

WM: And what about the afternoons?

EK: On the weekends, oh during the week?

WM: Yeah.

EK: Okay. So you go school, pau school at 2:00. Go back to your room. Change for work.

JP: Fifteen minutes.

EK: Yeah. Get back. Check in for work, go to your assigned workspaces 'til 3:45, then sportspeople leave early, and then you go to your sports, and then 4:00, everyone else finishes work, and then you get free time until 6:00, I think was dinner. 5:30, 5:45.

JP: So we were athletes. So we go, we get off early and we'll do our sports. After practice you gotta have dinner and then take a shower and be back in the dorm in your room for study hall.

EK: 7:00.

JP: 7:00, 2 hours until night.

EK: Yeah. And then everything in between.

JP: At nine, we get dorm cleaning, 9:00. We get our rooms, we got to clean the bathrooms, mop the floors, and then I think was 10:00 lights out.

WM: So what was it like in the dorms with each other? With your roommate?

JP: Me and him was roommates!

WM: Oh, yeah.

EK: We was roommates, my freshman year.

JP: He was my roommate. Back then we call them "creep". So your underclassman was the creep.

EK: I don't get it!

JP: So, Earl was my creep.

EK: Oh, yeah.

JP: So. Yeah. So you remember cooking on the iron?

EK: Yeah. Yeah.

JP: Never had microwave back then. No more microwave, so.

EK: They must have thought. . . So we set the iron upside down and you had two pet rocks.

WM: Pet rocks?

EK: Yeah. Pet rocks.

JP: For hold the iron up.

EK: Yeah, hold the iron up and then we would, um, dakine.

JP: So we had the bed next to the wall close to the end. We put up the iron next to the wall, and then we had one small, whats that? Small baking pan, not that big. Put 'um on the iron and while we studying, we stay heating up our Vienna sausages and pork and beans in that pan on top of the iron.

WM: You guys used to do that together?

EK: And then after hours, you'd sneak to the bathroom, run the hot water. With one, with saimin inside.

JP: Saimin bowl, just for soften the noodle.

EK: Soften them up and then. Yeah.

WM: Because you guys are probably hungry after practice.

EK: Yeah, yeah, yeah, exactly. Yeah just, teenage boys are always hungry.

WM: What else about dorm life do you remember?

JP: Oh, I remember buffing those floors. By hand.

WM: By hand? And who would make you buff the floors?

JP: Upperclassmen.

WM: The upperclassmen!

JP: Buff each square with the wax. And then hand buff them. The floors was shiny.

EK: Yeah.

WM: Was this every night or?

EK: No. Designated days. Yeah. I used to do his clothes because I was his creep.

JP: Was ten cents yeah?

EK: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Shucks. Well, yes. Goof off. Hang out. Talk story. And then until you had to go do your chores or something else.

JP: I remember we used to have in the mango orchard. . . On Saturdays long day, yeah.

WM: Mm Hmm.

JP: So in the mango orchard above the school, we had to rake the, rake the leaves yeah, had choke centipedes underneath the leaves. We used to catch the centipedes and put them in a coffee can and make the centipede fight. And we bet, which one going win.

WM: Like bet with real money or just for fun?

JP: Bragging rights.

WM: Oh!

EK: Yeah, yeah.

JP: But we used to, we used to grab um.

WM: Oh, yeah?

JP: Yeah, we grab um. This is. . .well, first of all, you go like this. You hold um down and then you just grab like this.

WM: Just put them in the coffee can.

JP: Then you can pull out the pincers and we used to throw them on people and stuff like that.

WM: Ho, nuts.

EK: Yeah, it's. Yeah, that's definitely. I remember coming home like, yeah, we go play with centipedes and scorpions, and my friends would be like, what?

JP: We learned how to. . .

EK: We do this at Lahainaluna all the time! And I was with Fabian, I was in the banana patch. . .

JP: Yeah, yeah!

EK: . . .Also, so I was taking care of that, over there had choke centipedes. Oh, we'd constantly play with centipedes.

JP: I remember getting centipede bites in the dorm, too. Nighttime. . .

EK: Oh, loaded.

JP: . . .They would climb in the bed.

EK: Yeah.

WM: Really.

EK: Or even study. And they, "pack, ah!", then you see one centipede.

WM: Oh no. So you guys both played sports, yeah? Can you talk a little bit about the sports that you played, and, um. . .

JP: So I played four year, I was a four year Letterman football. Um, three year Letterman in basketball, and four year Letterman, track. Oh, yeah, I wasn't that fast, but I guess I was fast for at the time, so. And I remember playing two ways, football. I was just telling Earl, the only time I came out of the game was when we made one touchdown, because I wasn't on the kicking team. I was part receiver, kick receiver, holder, played both sides; played cornerback, wide receiver, stop back, tight end, you know, just played whole game.

WM: But you said when you wanted to go to Lahainaluna it was primarily for--

JP: Basketball, but I ended up playing--

WM: Football.

JP: Yeah, I was pretty good at it, decent. I remember, I got a lot of my lifelong skills from playing football because our coaches, was really strict. Life lessons.

WM: Who were your coaches?

JP: Lenny Tihara was our head coach, and Jacob Easman, Bobby Watson, and mentally made me stronger. Because they, I mean we'd work hard. I mean, my nickname was "Mana Man" because I had, could go on forever. I remember part of the drills was 100 sit ups, hundred sit ups in a minute.

WM: In one minute!

JP: Yeah. Just, it's just that's part of the conditioning; doing sprints. It just had to be in shape. Had to be in shape for play two ways. I remember back then I was like, oh, man, you don't know if you can go on because you trying hard and after a while, you kind of, your body says. . . You mentally said, you know, certain, certain times you've got to relax. You no go hard. Because, you know, the play is not over there by you. You just figure out ways to just survive. Playing two ways. And in basketball, our team, you know, I went there for basketball, but when I played, our team was small. I was the second tallest on the team. And I was supposed to be a guard. So I had to rely on quickness and speed. So that's the reason why I went to Lahainaluna, for play basketball, because the year before I watch them play, and I wanted to play basketball. What I ended up playing, basketball, sports, and track.

WM: And how was track?

JP: Hundred yard dash, two hundred, and long jump and triple jump. Always, always, always was in sports. Kept me out of trouble.

WM: Kept you out of trouble.

JP: Seriously, when I wasn't playing sports, I get in trouble.

(Laughter).

WM: You can burn off all your kolohe energy. What about you, uncle?

EK: So, yeah, football, I always loved playing football growing up. So like I said, Lahainaluna had done well the year before. My eighth grade year. Saw that, said, "ah, I wanna go play football for Lahainaluna, play under Coach Lenny Tihada. So I did that, went to summer camp. Played football and loved it. And so Sophomore year I went to Varsity, because of injuries I ended up starting as a sophomore left tackle. The Clueless sophomore. Clueless, was funny, but nice learning curve and then, and then did well as a junior/senior as a center and so all that was fun. Had plans to go to college, gotten hurt, knee injury and so that changed my plans. But I also played--so my freshman year I did wrestling. That was fun. Played soccer and on the track team, shop. And then my sophomore year, because I played baseball growing up, so I played, ended up playing my sophomore year, the rest of my years playing baseball. And so it's just football and baseball, was basically my sports of choice. And yeah, definitely during season,

academically, that was my best because I had a routine. And then when I wasn't in season, my grades would suffer and I would definitely get into trouble if I wasn't in sports. So, yeah, idle time, you know, can sometimes be a challenge. So yeah, just always sports and then during the summers playing summer baseball, weeks and not, getting ready for high school.

WM: What were some things you guys did to get into trouble?

JP: Oh, I remember. I just was telling Earl. I mean, big, a lot of haole koa on that right below the gym had a whole bank of haole koa.

EK: So that big bank as you driving the football field is to the bottom, get that line of mango trees.

WM: Oh, yeah.

EK: You make the big turn and all to your right, just below the gym was just all just bushes haole koa. And that's where you go to. . .

JP: Seems like all my, a lot of my time was overtime. I had a lot of overtime and a lot of it was just being late, you know, always pushing it to the last second, getting there on time and, you know, you get overtime. I had a few majors. I tell Earl, he didn't even know about that one. I don't know. I think I was 16. I think I was 16.

EK: Yeah! Tell um! Tell the story.

JP: So 16. Me and Fabian, we call him "Bu" Kahalekai, he passed away already. But, um, so on Sunday, we used take the jeep and we go down Makena and his grandmother live on the old Ulupalakua road. And so we go down Makena landing and go surfing and go just hang out. I still remember going to his Grandmother's house she would have stew, and we would eat stew before we go back to the dorm. So anyway, one weekend we went down there and we went surfing, and in the back of his grandmother's house, one of his uncles had a pakalolo tree growing and so Bu when go steal some buds. And I had the jeep. So we when go down Makena landing, he when put 'um between my jeep manifold for dry um when we go surf. And when we came back out we when smoke the pakalolo, I don't know about that. I guess he knew. I never know, so any ways we was all stoned out. And then we ended up, he brought his uncle's 22 rifle and we were shooting a mongoose. So before, had the landing and across the landing had one pea grate. And so we were shooting the mongoose. And then somebody called the cops on us. We got arrested.

WM: Oh!

JP: This is like on the weekend, not supposed to even have the jeep.

WM: Yeah!

JP: So anyway, we got arrested, him and I got handcuffed, took us to the Wailuku prison. Bu's mom had to come bail us out. I remember having the mug shot, no more shirt, just shorts holding the mug shot. And Bu's mom would come pick us up, and told the police officer that my parents are out of town and she's responsible for me so they would release me into her care. She took us back, and then we took the jeep back. We sneak the Jeep back, and but we was late, because we were supposed to be back at the dorm on Sunday by six. I think we never get back to like nine or 10:00. So anyway, got AWOL, fifteen hour major, and then my parents don't know nothing.

(Laughter).

JP: Well, they found out later, that they had to take me court.

WM: Oh!

JP: So ended up going to court, the judge gave me 200 hours of community service and they awarded my 200 hours to my coach, Lenny Tihada, who's also one captain or one sergeant in the–

EK: –Yeah, he was in the police force.

JP: So I was telling Earl, coach Tihada when make me mow that football field with one push mower 200 hours worth. And wasn't the driving kind. Was push mower.

WM: Mhm.

JP: I had to mow that football field, 200 hours worth.

WM: So what is that, you think, every single day you had to mow the field?

JP: Yeah. I didn't have much free time.

WM: 200 hours of mowing. Oh, my goodness.

JP: And then that's how we got talking about the haole koa. So I also dug a lot of haole koa over there.

WM: What is that?

EK: With a pick.

WM: Oh.

JP: Yeah, its like a, what they call acorn bush. So it just grows like a weed, but it grows. If you let it go, it goes, like, into a tree. And just, they give you one pick and you just gotta dig them out.

WM: As overtime?

JP: Clean area, you need space.

EK: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

WM: Haole koa is tough to get out.

JP: But yeah, I remember digging and like, I mean, I would have to dig and I used to get blisters all over my hands. Back then, today would be illegal because they don't give you the proper PPE back then. But that just was part of learning.

WM: Mhm.

JP: You just did what you had to do. Your hands blister. Yeah.

WM: What about you, uncle?

EK: There wasn't nothing like that. Definitely. Nah, we used to just, we'd make trouble to each other. Like we would have have glass doors. So I don't know if they still have that, but you have like a regular door and then a glass window at the door. So we'd knock late at night. And then the guys in the room, they'll look and then we'd have like a brute spray can with one lighter and then would torch the glass as they come in and, you know, scare them and stuff like that. Used to do kinda crazy stuff like that. And then, ah, we'd steal each other's food, steal the towels. When they, you know, in that 7 to 7:15. So you're showering. Then you take the towels and then and now they're running down the hall trying to get dry. Yeah.

JP: Thats another thing too, yeah, because at that age, you shame yeah about your anatomy and all that stuff but at the dorms, the showers, wasn't stalls. Yeah. Everybody bathe in the same room. Yeah. So even the, even the toilets never had doors.

WM: Oh!

JP: So we'd sit down use the bathroom and talk story.

(Laughter).

EK: So yeah, this is another level of friendship. When you go to the toilet. You have nothing to
hide.

WM: So you really got to be. . . You guys were real close then.

EK: Very, very, very close. Yeah.

WM: What was the relationship between the underclassmen and the upperclassmen in the dorms?

EK: Well, like he said, had that hierarchy of creeps and, you know, the upperclassmen. So you kind of have that slave, slavee, slaver kinda thing. And then once you got into Junior, then you kind of, then it was kind of, you know, more equal.

JP: But wasn't, wasn't so bad as the years moved up because my, my, my freshman year, was the first year that we had co-ed. The first time that the girls was allowed to board at Lahainaluna. And so was was a little more lenient compared to the the past. Yeah, I remember doing summer camp like jogging drops. And they used to, they did, they made us do them in. . . You grab the chicken shit from the poultry. . .

EK: Yeah.

JP: Put um down on the boarders field, and wet 'um. Wet 'um down. And you do jogging drops and drop inside. That was part of the initiation.

EK: Oh, yeah. Hazing. So you have a lot of hazing at that time. And then as years went on, because of complaints of harassment and stuff, it it had. It changed.

JP: Mellowed out.

EK: Yeah.

WM: What were some of the initiatory things that you did as freshmen?

JP: Thats the one I remember. I remember doing that.

WM: I remember that someone talked about how freshmen had to sing, and if the upperclassmen never like it, they shoot 'um with the water hose.

EK: Yeah, that was mellow.

JP: One thing we had to all learn, the alma mater.

EK: Yeah. So, like, on cue, you'd have to be able to sing the alma mater.

WM: So how did you guys learn? You just practiced by yourself?

EK: Constantly. Yeah. Yeah. Just constantly.

JP: And at the boarders chorus. Yeah. Was it, every Sunday we practiced?

EK: Sunday night.

JP: Sunday night boarders chorus.

EK: That's right. Yeah. So that was, um, yeah. Boarders chorus, you learn it there. In class during school. They have, I think in social studies class you'd have to learn the alma mater. Especially in your freshman year. Football, you were given time. And then in the boarding department you'd have to learn the. . . And you get tested on it constantly. Remember, we used to have meetings. We'd have hallway meetings, like a dormitory meeting, and then we had to keep our feet in the square.

JP: Straight up.

EK: Yeah.

JP: Straight up. And I remember that.

EK: Yeah. This would be, like, late at night. And just, like, say somebody stole something. And so they would have a meeting, and then all the underclassmen would be lined up against the wall. Against, lined up against the wall, and then your feet in the square and then, you know, with fatigue and just, just go on and on until somebody admitted to whatever the incident was. So that's kind of the informal justice or. Yeah, that was kind of how they dealt with theft in the dorms.

WM: Uncle I was going to ask, since you were there the first year that they let the girls in, what was that like?

JP: The girls had their own dorm. They had, actually they had. . .

EK: The top.

JP: The top floor of Hoapili. That was all the girls dorm. I mean, we were like one family. You got to be, you know, eat together. We work together. So, I mean, till today, I still remember all my classmates.

WM: Mm hmm. Was there talk from the older boys about all the girls coming in and it being different or they just kind of accepted it?

JP: I don't remember. I don't remember too much of that. Like I said, we're tired because we're athletes. We come, we come back to the dorm after practice. We eat there, we get study hall and then, just tired. No more time for think about that stuff. I remember when I had my first girlfriend though.

WM: Mhm?

JP: Before had payphone, ah.

WM: Yeah.

JP: And so we had to wait in line, to use the payphone. So you can call your girlfriend and talk story. About what? I don't remember. Had one payphone in each dorm.

WM: Mhm. Would. . . Was she from. . .

JP: Day student.

WM: Oh she was a day student! Was that common for boarders to date day students or more so boarders?

EK: Sort of. Kind of. Yeah. Definitely befriend. Especially if like with sports, you befriend day students then they can pick you up during the weekends, they can bring icecream.

JP: I remember when, after work on Saturdays, going through Boss' Rose Farm. Because Jill used to live right below, yeah, of the mill, so I never had car or nothing. So I would run down from Lahainaluna, come downtown for go visit my girlfriend.

WM: Mhm.

JP: I remember running to Boss Kawamura's rose farm and picking her roses, and run down to her house and I would go clean the father's yard, make good, so I can visit with his daughter.

WM: Uncle did you have any girlfriends?

EK: Uh, was day students.

WM: Day students.

EK: Yeah. Not a whole lot of girlfriends.

WM: Mhm. What about, um. So there's the boarders dances? Yeah?

EK: Yeah.

WM: And most of the people we talk to, they said that you had to bring a date. Do you guys remember the borders dances?

EK: Yeah, I remember that.

JP: I remember boys on one side and the girls on the other side. And we just looked at each other across the gym.

EK: No, no swag at all.

(Laughter).

WM: So anyways, so what were some other kind of, like, extracurricular stuff that you guys did? Um, I know you mentioned you were in auto shop.

JP: Uh huh.

WM: Mhm.

JP: Well, I was good friends with some of the day students. So I remember Lester. Lester. Mhm. Nakamoto. So his dad had a boat, and so, and Daniel Fujikami was one boarder, he's my classmate and he is from Lanaʻi. So I still remember Lester's dad would take us on his boat on the weekend, like on Sunday, and he would take me Daniel and Lester, and he takes us across to Lanaʻi, drop us off outside in the reef, outside on the north side. Drop us over there and then go, go, go bottom fish for opakapaka and whatnot. Leave us there for about three or four hours. And then on the way home, pick us up, and bring us back home. That's where I learned for Spear Fish, and do all of that stuff. But I still remember because, we stay like the reef outside is far from land. So you drop us off with the boat. And I remember freezing my ass off. And I swim to a shallow reef and I would stand on the reef because I was tired. I just stand on the reef and try warm up and wait over there standing up. And when I warm up, then I go back and dive again. But yeah, that was one of the things we used to do. We used to do a lot of night diving, we used to go poke uhu and stuff like that. I still remember back then we couldn't afford the good, night diving lights. So I had a regular everyday flashlight. He used to Vaseline the seals then use that to go night dive.

WM: What about up at school? What were some extra--like, you did auto shop? Were you in FFA or any of those things?

JP: I wasn't in FFA, I remember cleaning classrooms though, for five bucks an hour. I, I used to go in afternoons, go clean the classrooms and empty the trash. And remember, Mr. Henson, the English teacher. I used to go up there go clean the classroom so I can take my girlfriend out.

EK: I was in FFA.

WM: You were in FFA?

EK: Yeah, from sophomore year. And so what's interesting is you had the boarders gardens.

WM: Mm hmm.

EK: And then you'd have FFA gardens. So during work hours. . . So if I wasn't in season, I would work boarder fields and then do the FFA fields when I'm not working. Or on the weekends. Me and Bobo. We would you do that. And so I spent a lot of time just, just

doing a lot of ag stuff, fixing pipes and just doing stuff like that and just kind of getting better at tractor driving. A lot of my friends, we used to surf a lot. Boogie board a lot. So we do that a lot. We get picked up. Brandon Koyama was my classmate who was a day student I think he's a, I don't know if he's a a retired policeman. Yeah. But we would go Fleming's, Honolua, all the surf spots up there and just always go surfing there. And goof off, hang out. Different families would kind of take care of us. Boarders chorus. That kept us busy. Sour poi.

JP: Sour poi!

EK: Sour poi. Right. Yeah, we had a group with Lori Gomez. She took the ensemble and the Hawaiian ensemble. And then the Boarders chorus and we'd do shows outside. Yeah, we do song contests that would keep us good.

JP: 'Till today they still keep that, kept the group name, "sour poi".

EK: Still yet, yeah.

WM: What is "sour poi"?

EK: So it's like the musician.

JP: There was a musician group that we had in high school at some point. We even had to dakine, brown bags to stardom.

EK: Brown bags to stardom. Yeah. I don't know what's the equivalent now, but it was like one big, state wide, um.

JP: Competition. Yeah.

EK: Yeah. Na Leo Pilimehana, Kapena, I think the year they entered they won. Or at least Kelly boy. He had entered. And. Yeah, well, brown bags to stardom.

WM: Who else was in that with you guys? Do you remember?

JP: Oh, Dereck Kaina. Jonathan Kaina.

EK: Jonathan Kaina, he was a day student and Harold.

JP: Harold V.

EK: Yeah. And then. Yeah. In fact, my junior or senior year we had done some trips to. . . We'd gone to Hana, done some performances with the ensemble group and hula dancers and the musicians and that was fun. It was a cool opportunity.

WM: Was the ensemble more required? Or was it optional? You could join if you wanted to.

EK: Was optional. Well, it was a club. Yeah.

JP: Yeah. Hawaiian club with Lori Gomez. Yeah.

WM: What were some songs you guys would sing or the more Hawaiian songs or. . ?

EK: Yeah. I mean, shucks, I remember dancing like my sophomore year or junior year, "o Kalalau he ʻāina laʻa" dancing to that. I remember Kealiʻi Reichel would come.

JP: Kealiʻi would come teach us.

EK: He would come to support us because he's alumni. Um, what songs we would do?

JP: I remember this song. . .

EK: . . .Kāneʻohe. I remember learning that.

JP: (Singing) Darling sweet lei, onaona ia. . . he moani ke. . . Anoʻi pua. . . Kamalani o Keaukaha.

EK: Kamalani o Keaukaha. And then. . . Ke iho la. . .

JP: Ke iho la. . . I forget the names but. I know the words!

EK: Yeah. Shucks.

WM: Did you guys kind of start your music journey at Lahainaluna? Is that?

EK: Well, for me, I think it enriched it, it took it to another level. So I used to play and goof off jam. And then in a very structured form, especially playing for like a halau, you know, with the ensemble, it's it's a kind of different discipline that you got to play within, you know. But yeah, definitely that helped, which, which definitely steered me in the route of doing hotel gigs during my high school year. So summers I would kind of do that as my summer jobs playing, play music at the hotels.

WM: What about you Uncle?

JP: For me, for my class, I was the only person that could play an instrument in my boarders class. And I still remember when I graduated, they gave me the ukulele that we bought my freshman year and they awarded me that ukulele. And I still get 'um today. Because I was the only one that um, could play the instrument in my class. But yeah, I mean, my brothers, my brothers all played music backyard style. And then went on to Lahainaluna, you know music was always easy for me. I never did learn how to read music, always came by ear. So, I mean, I took piano lessons. I played in the prep band, I played in a concert band, and I never learned how for read the music. I memorize 'em in my head and

I used to play the trombone. And I still remember playing for the spring concert. Gotta go up and do one solo and I would do the solo. But, I no could read music, I just hear it in my head and just played it off that way.

WM: And did you guys start–how did you guys–was Aunty Lori the one who created Sour Poi? Or did you guys kind of decide oh, we're going to come together and have this group.

EK: Well since we were playing already, and I think we had like, I don't know if it was a competition or some performance. . .

JP: Oh was dakine, mele. Na Mele o Maui.

EK: Na Mele o Maui. That's right. Yeah. So we needed a name. So, and we performed. It was a singing competition. You'd have choral and then you'd have small groups and maybe even individual. I think Willie K's dad was real instrumental in perpetuating that, Na Mele o Maui.

WM: And that, that was a song competition?

EK: Yeah.

WM: Na Mele o Maui. How did you guys come up with Sour Poi, the name?

JP: I don't know but. . .

EK: . . . Sounded good at the time.

JP: Sour Poi, you know? You like eat poi and you like eat 'um sour, and its good, so Sour Poi.

EK: Sometimes its not dakine, not quite there, but he go, he go.

(Laughter).

EK: Ho was funny. Yeah and that names continued.

JP: Continued on, until today they still use that name.

EK: Because when Mark was part of, he was Sour Poi.

WM: Your brother?

EK: My brother was was there and then his son Logan, didn't graduate there but he boarded freshman and sophomore year, two or three years, he boarded there and he was part of Sour Poi.

WM: So you guys were the OG Sour Poi.

JP: Always.

EK: Yeah!

WM: Nice. So what other kinds of performances would you do with boarders chorus or with the group? Or were those connected to the hotels too, or?

EK: Hawaiian mele, school based stuff. And then we always practice. Yeah. We always practiced with the chorus, May Day. Well, David Malo Day.

JP: David Malo.

EK: Yeah, yeah. That was a big performance. So preparing, in preparation for that, then that was the things.

WM: What are some memories you guys have from David Malo days?

JP: White shirt, white pants, and. . .

EK: . . .Making the laulaus.

JP: The sash, the red sash. Yeah.

EK: I remember just making the laulaus. It was a lot of laulaus.

JP: Oh, yeah. That's one of the big things. I don't know if they still do it today. But, athletic department was super strong from the community support standpoint, and we used to have one big imu every year. Making laulau and kalua pig. And sell, so for bring money in for the Athletic Department and I don't think anybody does that. But I still remember the imu. I think we when kalua like thirty pigs. That's how big the imu was. It was a whole collaboration because if you ever did one imu, you know, you only get specific time to put everything in and cover because things will start exploding. Because once you put the hāliʻi on top the rocks, you get pressure underneath. And the things start exploding. For do 30 pigs in one imu is like. . .

EK: So the width was like the width of a bucket, the backhoe bucket, the backhoe bucket. And then it would be one long. . .

JP: . . .One long trench.

EK: Yeah, like 40, 50 yards. And we just all, we'd light the imu all one time. It's just one huge pit. And I remember the dump truck. We used to go get the banana and smash all the banana, make all the hāliʻi ready and when time for cover the imu, come in with the dump truck and just drop the hāliʻi one after another, spread them out. And then, all the

pig, everything is all ready we just everybody just going. Just laying um all out, hāliʻi on top, and then we cover with the canvas and then covered with dirt, and I mean, I still remember that thing just going, boom. Well, just exploding. You just got to keep, keep your head down and keep going until it's covered and then you can relax and watch it for 7 hours. That is probably one of the more memorable experiences for me learning how for do offered to mass on kalua pig in. And just the preparation. Yeah because then you'd have alumni come along because it was more community, the community would come and all and just kind of talk story and then, and then the boarders free labor. So we get to watch the imu all night. So, and so that was the step up because we'd bring all our canned goods and then make one fire on the side, and then we can--like one hot fire and no need use the iron anymore because we get one nice fire, we eat up our canned goods. So that was awesome.

WM: And that was boarders, who was taking care of it.

EK: That was boarders who were taking care of it.

JP: And then the next day we have all the imu, clean 'em up and then all the pigs come out. And it just was a whole community effort we just strip, strip, in the cafeteria stripping, everything. Salt, and then put them in the little tubs and then putting them up.

EK: Yeah, that was like the major. . .

JP: The major fundraiser.

EK: For the athletics back then.

WM: And you do the same for David Malo too? Or.

EK: And they would do laulau.

WM: Laulau.

EK: Yeah. And same concept just, yeah, thousands of laulau.

WM: So how would. . .You guys would just line up in the cafeteria or something?

EK: Yeah, and just roll them. Yeah. Just exactly.

JP: So yeah. Like, we learned. . . We learned a lot at Lahainaluna.

EK: Yeah great skills. Well, I remember like even on Saturdays, say, like we was hungry. And so, the cafeteria manager at the time, she was, her husband used to coach in Kahului. Racoma. So she loved my family because we were baseball. So she would always hook me up with rice, and so I could take rice, and then we would take chickens from the egg-

layers and then would make little imus and they would set them up and then make imu chicken and rice. And whatever. I was--.

JP: I remember, I forget the poultries. And that was another fundraiser too, used to raise poultry, meat birds.

EK: Yeah.

JP: And it was, it was Thanksgiving, I think was. For Thanksgiving, ue used to have, we used to kill the birds, I mean hundreds of birds.

EK: Yeah.

JP: And used to have one slaughter house, and had laundry, also had laundry. So laundry had a boiler and then from laundry had a steam pipe that come down to the slaughterhouse, and it would heat up the water. The steam pipe. I remember killing hundreds of. . .

EK: Yeah

JP: . . .Meat birds. You just poke um in the head. Hang um. And when, when they pau, shake, we throw um inside the hot water. And then they had a tumbler, like a big washing machine with, with rubber spikes and the thing would just spin and you just get the brain, prr prr prr. De-feather. Then you go the assembly line, set them down, one guy hemo the guts, clean all the small feathers and, and they gotta like put them in a bag, tie them up and, they had one assembly line, secure. And like boarding department, free labor, you know, all that kind of stuff.

EK: Oh even Thanksgiving, we used to do, uh, turkey. You put the turkeys in the imu. And after that, I never eat the turkey otherwise. After I had imu turkeys, I ain‘t never eating anything else.

WM: What, it was ‘ono?

EK: Of course, and it's just so moist that, oh my God. . .

JP: I make kalua turkey in the pressure cooker now.

WM: Oh, only in the pressure cooker.

EK: The same concept. Yeah. Same.

WM: So where would you guys sell the chickens to?

EK: Was presale tickets. Yeah. For fundraisers.

JP: Yeah, exactly.

EK: We was the labor.

JP: Yeah, free labor.

WM: So you would make profit.

EK: Somebody made profit.

JP: I remember Halloween. Halloween. We used to steal the eggs from the poultry. Cause we had eggs, too? Yeah.

WM: Uh huh.

JP: And, what is that shop that had. . .

WM: . . .Cannery?

JP: . . .Down Lahaina?

EK: Where dakine, uhm.

JP: The old shopping center. Get the two story right off the road.

EK: Oh! Um, by where Burger King, where had the theater.

JP: Yeah. So anyway, used to steal eggs, and used to bomb the cars on Halloween night with eggs.

WM: Althea told us that!

All (Laughter).

EK: Front Street in the eighties.

JP: It’s kind of rough.

WM: Was a Halloween tradition or!

JP: Halloween, yeah.

EK: Yeah, yeah. Exactly. And again, you, you awol-ing for going to town because you're not allowed downtown. So you run in and you sneaking out of school for that too.

WM: So would you guys dress up? And then?

JP: All I remember is bombing cars with eggs. Bombing the people with eggs.

EK: Oh, we had a friend, day student friends, they would come pick us up below the football field.

JP: And you know what else I remember is that, back then. Used to have a parade on Front Street.

EK: Yeah, the homecoming.

JP: Homecoming parade.

EK: Was homecoming, homecoming parade yeah.

JP: Used to have one parade, and get your king and queen. Homecoming. And we had a big parade. And I remember marching in that parade. The band.

EK: Yes. We would end up at the park.

JP: Oh, yes.

WM: Speaking of traditions, what do you guys remember about liming the L?

JP: Oh.

EK: Football season, so we'll go lime the L, and so we'd have to. . . So I remember. . .

JP: . . .Used to save soda cans.

EK: Used to save soda cans. What else? For us for like, for graduation.

JP: For light the L.

EK: I remember. Well, just going to the L and thinking, oh I get football practice afterwards. I going die. But was good fun.

JP: Back then, back then the L, I remember when my first time we had to carry the lime bags was 80 pounds, was 80 pound bags before. And I made it a mission to carry that 80 pounds all the way up by myself. And that was one of my achievements. And then, you know, the other person who when do um by herself? Kamaile. She when carry one 80 pound bag.

EK: She would.

JP: And she's from, she's from. . .

EK: Hāna.

JP: Keʻanae.

JP: Yeah. Kimokeo. From Keʻanae. Taro patch. And she was, solid.

EK: Strong.

JP: Can carry one 80 pound bag all the way up there.

WM: What was her name?

JP: Kamaile, Kimokeo. Her brother was Kaipo. He passed away, already.

EK: Yes.

JP: I don't know if Kamaile is still living in Keʻanae.

EK: Haven't seen her in ages.

JP: That would be another one. I think she's still in Keʻanae. Real quiet. Quiet. But. But, ho that girl, she could work. And she is strong.

WM: So you guys would go and lime the L, what else would you do up at the puʻu?

JP: So up the. . . . For graduation?

WM: Yeah.

JP: Liming the L, depending on how many MIL championships we had, would determine how many bars you put on the L. And, have you been up to the L?

WM: We've seen the L, we almost got the opportunity to go. But we had to leave.

JP: So actually the L looks small small from the highway, when you go up there, it's the size of the area is about half of a football field. Big. That's how big the L is. We met up there.

WM: So it took a long time to lime the whole thing?

JP: Yes. Big, big process. And it's not flat ground. Yeah, it's on a slope with ravines, ravines and all kinds from runoff and stuff like that. So, you know, it's so I'd like to go back and, you know, since I graduated, I never did go back. And see the alumni lime the L. The boarders go up and lime it but the alumni go up and light the L and I've never gone back. I'd like to go back there and be part of that.

EK: But yeah, we do the lying and then we go up to the. . .

JP: David Malo's grave. . .

EK: . . .Yeah, the grave site and pay our respects. Yeah. And that was always a fun day.

JP: I remember that Dodge. The Dodge Truck was a standard.

EK: Column shift that one?

JP: Huh?

EK: The column shift one. The one, dakine, Watson used to drive?

JP: Yeah. Yeah. They no make column shift cars anymore.

EK: I know. That's where I learned how for drive one column shift. That, that Dodge.

JP: You know what is one column shift?

WM: Nope.

JP: It's a standard. . .

WM: Oh, just standard. . .

EK: But it's by my column.

JP: On the column like one automatic, but it shifts like that. First second, third.

EK: Reverse. One, two, three.

WM: I don't think I've ever come across anything like that.

EK: Yep. Back in the day.

WM: Back in the day. Oh.

MM: Can you talk about the process of liming the L? Like once you bring the bag up there, what do you do?

EK: Okay. So you taking, you also taking tools up there because you got to clear the area because it's the overgrowth and what not. So you clear it out, and then they run streamlines so that you have, you know so it can be straight. And then, you have–and then yeah. So, that takes some time, just to prep.

JP: Just to prep that.

EK: Yeah. And then so by the time the seniors, by the time you're a senior, you can run that because you've done it at least twice a year for three years prior to, right? So, um, so by then the seniors are kind of just running the show. And just kind of, okay, we're doing this, this, this and you have it down solid. And so it's yeah, clean it all up, get the measurements, Chief and Watson folks would kind of, okay this is what we gotta to do, this is how we're going to do it. Um, the utility group, my experience was, the utility group was kind of the key guys too, and they're the ones who work under Watson, or well under Chief. And so they would kind of make sure that, okay, we have the, the lines and the measurements are consistent. And it's, it's all staked out. You know, once you get there and you have hold line, and then you just re-line it. As far as a string, restring it, sorry. And then from there, you lime it. And then graduation time, then you have the soda cans and then you put it so it sticks.

JP: And go open the soda can, used to put old cloth inside it, put kerosene, then used to put the–line the L with those cans. And then at graduation, they just–somebody just torched, and light all those cans up. That's how.

EK: So yeah. So then alumni. . .

JP: I don't know about now, probably different. That's how we used to do them back then. But now probably get LED lights or something.

WM: I heard they use flares now because there is a concern about the fire from the kerosene can.

JP: Yeah.

WM: Were you guys there when there was any fires or. No, nothing?

JP: It's kind of, like I said, the whole space is like half of a football field. So the L sits–there's like plenty space from where the L is to the edge, the brush. Yeah. Oh yes. That's how it used to be back then. Now it's, yeah. So they use torches, now?

WM: Yeah, flares, and so it's a different kind of red. It's like a more deep red like the red shirt. Um, yeah. And they can see it from Lānaʻi and everything.

EK: Yeah. Yeah. That's a–actually, I remember on a plane flying and happening to see the L. Yeah. That's pretty cool.

JP: A lot of history. The first printing press was there.

WM: Printing press?

JP: Hale Paʻi. Yeah.

WM: Yeah. Did you guys ever do anything with Hale Pa‘i?

EK: No. You had one person assigned to clean the place.

JP: Yeah. Rake the leaves, sweep the pathway. And then that river in front there used to run, before we used to go swim in that river. Now it's all dry.

WM: You guys would swim on the weekends?

JP: Yeah. Cool off.

EK: The canal?

JP: The canal. Yeah. Never run for years. Yeah.

EK: Really?

JP: Yeah. Because before, ever since the plantation shut down. Because that was, that the river was for bringing water down to the cane fields.

EK: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

JP: So, yeah, yeah, probably. Redivert the water.

EK: I remember some–every so often on a Saturday, we'd have to go up and check the water, clear the, um–so you could spend the whole day.

JP: The catchment.

EK: In the catchment piece, and just make sure it's all free of leaf, and. . .

JP: Because that's where we get the water for the garden, yeah. The pipe that goes all the way up. So important to make sure it's clean, and then from there it's gravity fed down to the field.

EK: So that was fun, when we used to do that. I was like, okay, you can go swim, you know?

JP: Get opae.

EK: We used to have good fun, too.

WM: So what were some things that were grown that you remember?

JP: String beans, flora, corn.

EK: Watermelon. So on the border, side. . .

JP: Cucumber.

EK: Cucumber, corn. Yeah. Watermelon. Beans.

JP: The mango orchard and the banana orchard.

EK: And then you had the orchards on top. Just kind of a rotation of that. And then on the ag side, we had tuberose, which we had a standing order with the hotels. So we'll always be picking tuberose. Tuberose, and then watermelons.

WM: We've heard watermelon was popular.

EK: Yeah, it was the best.

JP: Yeah, that's hard work, though. I still remember my back, making those furrows. Yeah. I mean, you used like this for hours. Just with that hoe.

EK: Yeah. Making um just right.

WM: Um, so kind of transitioning, what were some main takeaway or–discipline? I wanted to talk about discipline. There was officers, right? Yes. What were some of the duties of the officers, were you guys were ever officers?

EK: I was officer. Sheesh. I forget what my duties was. Was just adhere to the rules. And just like, especially I was in, I was in charge because I was in a particular wing. David Malo. So I was there. I was just reporting infractions. That was kind of it. Really.

WM: Could you give hours?

EK: I could. Yeah, I could. Yeah. Yeah, I could.

JP: I remember study hall. If you get 3.0 you can watch TV. Could go down watch T.V.. Yeah. Before the report card was carbon copy. You know what is that?

WM: Nope, what is carbon copy?

JP: You know, when you make receipts, you get three pages then you write on the top and it shows on the bottom?

WM: Yeah, yeah.

JP: So report card was carbon copy. So you could change your grade to, you get 3.0.

WM: So you can watch TV! What are some other things you guys would do for fun in your free time?

JP: Mango season, choke mangoes up there.

EK: Oh play sports, boarders field. We still have some games over there.

EK: Yeah, we used to play football.

JP: Remember playing ahuli base?

EK: Yeah. Yeah.

JP: On boarders field?

EK: Yeah, yeah. On boarders field.

WM: What is that, base?

JP: Steal base.

WM: Oh, steal base. Yeah.

JP: Where we make teams, yeah.I remember playing that, at boarders field.

EK: And then Sundays at the end of the–Sunday afternoon, you'd have a big football game.

WM: What? Did the girls ever partake in that? Or was just mostly boys?

EK: Some of the tomboys girls. Rarely.

WM: What were your classes like?

JP: I wasn't a student. I, you know when I graduated, you gotta take a literacy test, right. You know, after you answer all the questions and stuff, the results came back and I was like, this was my motivation actually, because then it came back and told me that the knowledge that I've gained in that four years there resulted in one gas station attendant. That's my literacy skills. So there was like my motivation because I was an athlete in high school. I never study, I get all the answers from all the, all the girls and all that. So I really never learn nothing in high school. Until I went to college. I had to start all over, I literally couldn't read and write.

WM: So, athlete.

JP: But I did graduate from college. I had to start all over. But yeah, in high school I was, I was kolohe, to think of it.

MM: Can you talk about what you did after Lahainaluna and so–transitioning into college?

JP: So I went to college, I went to UH Hilo, got into UH Hilo, my first year, my GPA, my first year was 0.5. My highest grade was one D. And that was with trying. I was trying. And I no could comprehend. I no could read. I never even know what is a paragraph. So at that time, I was involved with I don't know if you got a chance to be with David Chang. . .

EK: Yeah, the Hawaiian Leadership Development.

JP: The Hawaiian Leadership Development Program. And I was part of that, I think 13 of us.

WM: And that was at UH Hilo?

JP: UH Hilo. So Aunty Pua was one of the instructors. So I learned a lot about Hawaiian history, all kinds of stuff. But literally, I was illiterate. I was illiterate. Had to start all over, and I never give up. My ended up coming back to Maui and I went to community college, and started I took high school English, high school math, high school social studies just really started all over at community college. Then I got involved with the student body at the community college, became one Student Senator. And then, they would send us on these retreats, and that's really what–we had a retreat, I remember at Olinda, and this retreat was about speed reading, and that's when I really learned how for learn. And from there on, was–that was it. When I graduated from college six years later, I ended up with 75 extra credits. I really. I learned how to learn, and I wanted to learn.

WM: Mm hmm. Do you think some of your motivations or your self-discipline came from Lahainaluna?

JP: Yeah. Mm hmm. Because, you know, when I saw that, I said I'm not a gas station attendant. I'm better than this. So I went to college, and I failed. But I never stop. I continued. I was determined to get a degree. And thats where I learned how to play the guitar, one of my classes was a classical guitar class. I think his name was Rick Peralta.

EK: Oh, yeah.

JP: Yeah. He's a classical musician.

EK: Yeah. Retired teacher.

JP: So I took his class, and that's where–I played ukulele up to that. And that's how I picked up the guitar and started playing the guitar.

WM: Interesting. What about you, uncle, your transition?

EK: Yeah. So went to UH Hilo. Was part of the Hawaiian Leadership Development Program. Actually, in that program, Malcolm Hill is a counselor at Kamehameha Schools. The late Billy Kenoi, he was in the program with us. Miss Malu Motta, and so it was a great

opportunity. The program was about having students with potential for post-secondary schooling or maybe the grades or the SATs wasn't quite there. So they would bring you in, give you skills and kind of lead you in–like you'd have to take Hawaiian classes, so many classes, and they would do a lot of huakaʻi. And we did a recruiting trip to Molokai. And that was fun. And just kind of building relationships with adults who would help us continue with our higher education. And then pilina within the cohort and cohorts so that it becomes a networking piece. So till today, I mean we'd hold a conference every year, would host a leadership conference. I've gone back and done some some work with each HLDP, doing talks and mentorships. And so yeah, I've taken some intern students when I was with the Department of Education. And so yeah, UH Hilo. Was able to get a degree in Political Science, undergraduate. And then in the workforce, was able to work in the community. Started working with students. Actually my line of track was I wanted to go to law school because I was kind of into that. And but I did an internship at Kalanianaole Elementary, and then I kind of steered in working with kids. And so I did community work with nonprofits. And then during that time, I had my family. So I was trying to juggle family, work and maybe, you know, higher education. And so there was an actual program for professionals, offering master's programs. And so that kind of fit my schedule. Was able to work with– was like on weekends, you'd have like within a month's time you'd have one class and you'd meet a couple of times of a month. Like you meet and you have your midterms, and the next time you meet, you have your final. So this was tailored for a working person. And so that worked for me, the–my employer was super, super accommodating in my work schedule and then allowing time for school. And so was able to get my my masters. And then I went DOE in the counseling route. And then that took me to Kamehameha Schools.

WM: Do you think Lahainaluna influenced your career path in any way?

EK: Definitely. Well, you know what? It definitely influence a mindset, you know, and a couple of things that motivate me. One is the the importance of work. Right. And just grind it out, you know? Don't complain. Just do the work. Yeah. And I think that transcends throughout my life in all facets of my life. So a work ethic, so a relationship with work. A relationship with people. Definitely a relationship with a place, with Lahaina. And relationship with people that you can ask for help. Right. With the adults. Yeah. And so that's been really critical. So that's impacted how I carry my practice. As a counselor. Definitely.

WM: Who were some of the adults that really helped shape your guys's experience that you remember? Teachers?

EK: So, at Lahainaluna, Lori.

JP: Lori Gomez.

EK: Aunty Lori was super there. Yeah. And then even in regards to culture, Hawaiian culture, you know. She really tried to nurture and provide opportunities for culture.

JP: My coaches. Yeah.

EK: Yeah, yeah. Lenny.

JP: Lenny Tihada. He was a hard ass. But, taught me a lot.

EK: Yeah. Yeah. It's dakine like, later you go. Yeah. I can appreciate. At the time, no. Heck no. Later, like oh, yeah, that's a good experience, actually. Bruno.

JP: Bruno.

EK: He was the principal at the time.

JP: Ariyoshi. I remember going to his office many times. You know, Palos. You know, you. (Laughs). You know, that.

EK: That Asian disappointment.

(Laughter).

JP: You know, I saw him, I ran into him, like 30 years and he still remember me.

EK: Yeah.

JP: Thirty years later.

WM: Wow.

JP: You know you, Palos.

(Laughter).

EK: Yeah. He thought I was lying. When I was in DOE, I saw him, and I was vice principal at the time. And he was like, cannot be. Cannot be! It's funny.

WM: Oh, that's wonderful.

EK: Actually, all my teachers say that. You cannot be! Larry Joyo, he was the Vice Principal, during my time. Ah, the counselors. They were very encouraging and I knew them from like, growing up already, so they were family friends also. They were, they were super helpful. Art Filazar. He was, remember, he came in, because he came in from Saint Anthony. So he had known my, my family, my sisters, because he had taught my sisters. Then he came to Lahainaluna, you know, he's committed to whatever he does. And so that, that's a lesson in itself. Great lesson or commitment. Yeah. Regardless. And so yeah, Art. I mean, yeah. Theres a lot of good Kumu. A lot of good role models.

JP: It's part of the reason why I think I'm a coach today. To give back, back then at that age, somebody would take the time to nurture me and guide me, teach me these skills. And, you know, I love what I do and it's my turn to give back.

WM: And kind of speaking about I know you talked about shop, I we, we've heard that those kinds of things are really popular back there, there was woodshop. . .

JP: Oh, yeah. Auto shop. I mean, we had one full auto shop. We had a paint booth. We had a sheet metal shop where we had learned how for bend sheet metal, and cut sheet metal, and just build things with sheet metal. And then we also had one full body auto shop for take apart engines, and axles, and rear ends. And we had a good teacher. Mr. Martin. He was strict. I still remember. Because he had false teeth, yeah. So, when he talk, *lidat*. Some time the teeth fall out, and he [imitates sucking sound]. And he no miss one beat and he'd still catch his teeth in the same motion. He was so strict, we no laugh. We no smirk, nothing. But he was a good teacher. [Laughs]

EK: And then FFA, yeah. Weld, drive tractors. Put the fertilizers, and Boss, was. . .

JP: Boss, oh, he was strict too.

EK: Well, he's dakine like, "Eh, you fourthhead."

JP: He's slow when he talk to you, and he no more finger!

EK: "Eh you forthhead, what you doing?"

JP: Till today, even when I got married, I no wear my ring.

EK: Because of how dakine.

JP: That's how he lost his ring finger.

WM: That's how he lost, how did that happen?

EK: He was dakine, I know he was on the continent, and used to work on a ranch and I think he was pitching. . .

JP: Barbed wire when catch him.

EK: Yeah. Something like that.

JP: Pull his finger off.

EK: Yeah.

WM: Oh my goodness.

EK: Like well even truck drivers my uncle Jonah, he lost his coming off of his rig and his ring got caught.

JP: So when I got married I still, I refused to wear my, my wedding ring.

WM: So you guys learned that from them too! Another life skill.

EK: Yeah, exactly. Well, yeah, just. Yeah. Commerce suit with the business.

JP: Yeah, I, I learned a lot from Lahainaluna. Learn how to work.

EK: Exactly.

JP: Like, you know, like my career. I graduated with an AG degree. Two associate degrees, one in farm management. One in horticulture, and the other was in landscape maintenance. And after college I got a job as a greenskeeper at Waikoloa Resort, started there and a year later and I got promoted to spray tech and about a year later I became assistant superintendent. And when I left there 15 years later, I was the superintendent for two golf courses and managed two budgets for two separate companies, operating budget of $1,000,000 on each side to manage labor operations. I had one assistant and then I did a PGA televised, PGA event. And then after that I got burnt out. Growing grass, so I started my career in doing landscape. I work for Mauna Lani, about five years in the landscape manager. There did a lot of renovation work at the hotel when I was there. And then I got laid off and there was like the best year of my life. I was laid off for six months. Obama was the president at that time, and I was playing music five nights a week, working 15 hours a week, collecting unemployment and making more money than when I was working. And then unfortunately, Obama never signed the extension. So I had to go find one job after the six months unemployment. And that's how I ended up at the four seasons of Hualalai. Been there for 13 years now.

WM: It was interesting seeing how Lahainaluna had that agriculture aspect and the music aspect, and that stuck with you two throughout your life.

EK: Yeah, yeah, had to.

JP: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. I like working in my hands.

MM: What about your dorm matron too?

JP: Oh, Mary Helen Lindsey.

MM: If you have any stories about her.

JP: Oh, we avoided her.

EK: Yeah.

(Laughter).

EK: Well, she went to school–she went to school–like she knew my dad, so we were cool. But I know she was just like, oh.

JP: She never had to talk. She just had to look.

EK: Yeah.

JP: That's the kind of. . And, you know. Yeah.

EK: Yeah. And then you go through your list, okay what did I do? Duh, duh, duh, oh, I never do this, okay?

JP: Cause she the one who would check the dorms. She would check the rooms and make sure your room is clean, your bed is tidy. And she would–when we in school, she would be doing that, checking out the rooms and she would be the one to give you hours.

EK: Mhm. And then she had that big station wagon, she would take you to the doctors. If you was sick.

JP: Yeah I remember.

EK: You'd have to wait. And then one particular time she took everyone down.

JP: I remember one P.E., we was playing softball, I took second base. My legs went one way and my body went the other. I when tear my hip, I remember she when take me down to the infirmary and she when treat me to dakine, that okazuya store where she buy me lunch. I still remember. She wasn't that mean.

(Laughter)

JP: Ah, remember my–it was Kaiser, ah. The Kaiser. . .

EK: Yeah, had Kaiser down there.

JP: And and had one okazuya store right over there. Still remember that.

EK: What was that, was that part of the Nagasako?

JP: I think so, yeah. Yeah, that's. . .

WM: Oh, and then who were–do you remember your dorm counselors?

JP: What is his name? Oh, I can see his face. Filipino-Hawaiian.

EK: Bartelona. He was a runner.

JP: What it Bartelona? Okay, I remember, Bartelona, but had Diez.

EK: Oh, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes. Yeah, I remember Diez. Even dakine, Patao.

JP: I forget his first name.

EK: Oh, he was there for little bit. . .

JP: Gary! Was it Gary Diez?

EK: Gary Diez, that sounds super familiar. Gary Diez. Patao. They were, they were mellow. I know like my freshman, so–well, again, kind of like the Lord of the Flies kind of thing, where the upperclassmen kind of runs the show. And just as long as we're not doing anything illegal. Or abusive, for the most part, then you know, then they'll kind of come in, they'll do the evening checks. But yeah, they were usually. . . . kinda. . .

JP: Yeah. Wasn't too bad.

EK: Yeah. Was kinda mellow.

JP: Back then was, um, eight track and cassette, ah? Never had CDs yet.

WM: So then you would play music on the. . .

JP: I remember my jeep only had eight track, and only had one tape.

WM: So you just listen over and over.

JP: Yeah, it was C&K.

EK: Yeah, I know. Like, if you needed to iron something, you go see the counselor. But that's kind of about it. That's what I remember.

MM: Is that where you would get the iron to cook in your room?

EK: No. So I think we smuggled that.

JP: We had the iron in the shoe box. Yeah.

WM: And then your pet rocks?

EK: Yeah, the pet rocks. Well, you know why? Because dakine, I remember, he would put it, he would put his bed propped on one, on the rocks. So it was kind of slanted. And he'd sleep like that.

WM: Slanted?

JP: Yeah, so you get recline.

EK: Hali‘imaile engineering.

(Laughter).

JP: Manuel, Manuel.

EK: That's a Manuel move.

(Laughter).

WM: And who were your other roommates after?

JP: Frank Kalepa was my freshman year roomie.

EK: So my freshman year was him.

JP: Actually, I had you two years, right?

EK: No, no.

JP: Only one year?

EK: Only one year.

JP: So, you came in, I was Junior.

EK: You was Junior.

JP: So freshman I was the first. . who was my second year?

EK: Shane.

JP: Sinenci?

EK: Sinenci, it was his freshman year. He was soph.

JP: He was my–okay, yes.

EK: So Shane and then, um. One–my junior year, no, my senior year. I didn't have anyone. He left. Williams–oh, shucks. Jerry Williams was my junior year. He was one year younger than me. We played football together. Yeah. Jerry. Jerry Williams, my junior year.

JP: I remember going to the prom, had to dress up and get a tuxedo. And we had to learn how for–remember, what is it, food service class we had to take, had to learn how to use the utensils on the side of the plate. Which, which fork, which knife and which place for go because we had the prom was going to have dinner. And we have to know. And I was on the court, so I had to know where which utensils to eat with first. But they don't teach that today in schools. We had to learn that. I have a. . .

EK: Home ec[onomics] class.

JP: And that was buffet when you go prom. No more dakine, um. Single plate dinner and being served, and learning, you know, etiquette. In the restaurant, etiquette.

WM: Yeah no, we don't, we didn't have a buffet.

JP: Yeah. We had to learn all of that.

WM: Okay, so you. Oh, yeah. Um, what are some values that you can take away from your boarding experience specifically?

EK: For me, accountability, friendship. I say hard work.

JP: Take care your kuleana. Not afraid to work.

EK: Responsibility. Aloha. You know, just kind of encompasses aloha. Your relationship with–and even, I think that was the start of pilina with a place, you know, knowing that place so well besides your home.

JP: Yeah, and, I mean, good sense of pride to know where you come from. I mean, I wouldn't be where I am at today if I never go to Lahainaluna. Seriously. Taught me skills, taught me perseverance, taught me work, taught me accountability. Was always kolohe, but I learned that there is consequences when you, you know. So take care your kuleana. Taught me commitment. Commitment. You know, you say you're gonna do something, that's your kuleana, you do 'um.

WM: Do you think those values that you learned you could call Hawaiian values?

EK: Uh, some of it. Yeah. I think again, that relationship, that pilina. Again, to ho‘omau.

WM: Mhm. Right. Or are they more like unconscious, everybody knew. Not necessarily specifically Hawaiian, it's just something that you. . .

EK: I don't know if it was innate, I don't know if it was that, but I think was definitely whatever that–that was a culture. Which maybe might be kind of eclectic from different cultures, but for that culture what–to best survive Lahainaluna, in my opinion, was a bunch of different cultures, which then later on or even during that time going, oh yeah, it's so. It's kuleana. Yeah. Oh that's, that's aloha, you know. And so, yeah, I think it's kind of simultaneously kind of learning. Verifying, defining, and then applying, you know, kind of just constant.

WM: I was going to ask a question. . . it was on the tip of my tongue. Oh! In the boarding, in boarding in general, would you say there was more Hawaiians in the boarding program as opposed to the school? Like, what was the percentage you think of Hawaiians in the boarding program?

JP: I think was a mix.

EK: I don't know. I don't know what the demographics was.

JP: I mean, I'm thinking just with my classmates, we had we had a wide range. Had Hawaiians, had Filipinos, had Portuguese. We even had one popolo she was four year boarder.

EK: Yeah, maybe half of my class was part Hawaiian.

JP: Yeah. But yeah, was part.

EK: Yeah, was definitely part Hawaiian.

JP: But we learn Hawaiian values, I think. Yeah. Yeah.

WM: You think that was more so reflected with aunty Lori Gomez's stuff?

JP: She was a big part of it.

EK: She, I think she was instrumental. Yeah, but I think, again, Lahainaluna boarding had its own. . .

JP: It's a community. Yeah, it's a family or ‘ohana.

EK: It's its own subculture. Yeah. And so I think it was a combination of different cultures. Like I said it coming in.

JP: Yeah, because we live with each other, you know? 24/7.

EK: Now, interestingly, like, when my dad was there, I think it was more predominantly Kanaka that went there. And even, like, I know for like, my dad. So he was a '58 grad, he was kolohe and he had a choice. Go boys home, or go Lahainaluna. And so Lahainaluna

at that time was kind of that option. Instead of Koʻolau, you can also go Lahainaluna, learn some skills, discipline, because again, it was a vocation school. So you going learn the AG, sheet metal, or auto shop.

JP: Carpentry.

EK: Yeah, carpentry and all that. So, yeah, that was an option for a bunch of Hawaiians. So I don't know if, I mean, that would be interesting to find out by looking at over the years percentage of Kanaka.

JP: Oh if you look at the history, the school was founded in 1831. You know.

EK: It was one college.

JP: Yeah. It's the oldest school West of the Mississippi. So you can imagine. 1831 back in that era, was mostly Hawaiians. Never had too much, unless the missionaries, but the missionaries would have been the teachers or the priests, 1831.

EK: Yeah. Yeah. Because back then, percentage was like. . .

JP: Missionaries were. . .

EK: Less than 15% I think, non-Kanaka. Something like that.

WM: Do you think knowing all of these facts about how Lahainaluna was one of the first schools, and the oldest school, that also instilled a sense of pride?

JP: Yeah, to be part of that.

EK: Yeah. And then, you know, an alma mater that is in ʻōlelo Hawaiʻi.

JP: The only alma mater thats in Hawaiian.

EK: Mm hmm. And so, yeah, definitely a sense of pride.

JP: And then Lahaina used to be that capital of Hawaiʻi at one point. A lot of history in Lahaina. Whaling ships. A lot of stuff came. Commerce, came through Lahaina.

EK: Which I don't know if I learned that. I don't know if I it learned there at Lahainaluna, or was that after. So I'm kind of thinking now, like, it'd be kind of interesting if I think like today's emphasis on more historical Hawaiian centric perspectives compared to, like, when us was going to school, like, again, we're still in the Liliʻuokalani, paragraph of the overthrow of Hawaiʻi.

JP: Yeah.

EK: It was a paragraph, that's it.

JP: Even the Hawaiian language wasn't. . .

EK: Oh, yeah.

JP: Like, figure, Hawaiian language never really start until, like when we became college students.

EK: The punana leo days.

JP: Yeah, the first Punana Leo was my first year that we when go help start with the HLDP. Yeah, was down Kinoʻole Street.

WM: Who, who was the head? Aunty Pua, you said?

JP: Aunty Pua.

EK: Well, so was dakine, Pila Wilson, Kanoe Wilson, Nāmaka Rawlings, Aunty Pua.

JP: Kanoe. What his name? Pila was dakine.

EK: And then the wife.

JP: And then what is the other one, the Hawaiian–Noʻeau. The Hawaiian Studies, the Hawaiian language teacher.

EK: Oh, I don't know.

JP: Anyway, yeah. And David Sing.

EK: And David was dakine, he was the program coordinator.

JP: So yeah, we were part to start the whole Punana Leo here, and then it just branched to the whole state.

EK: Be interesting, like when you hear like the nineties and the eighties from the different, you know, time eras. Is there a common thread? I guess my question to you guys, is there a common thread of like, is there a common thread that you're kind of a theme that the audience that you've interviewed with?

WM: It's kind of interesting because we–at first we interviewed the 1971 guys, right? So we have their perception and then we also had the eighties perception to the 1980s from David Hewahewa and then I'm talking to the nineties guys today and Friday, there's very similar sentiments but your guys's and Althea's is also very similar, but it transcends. It

changes a little bit every time, even in the way that you see the work or what work you did. That's the biggest one. I think the work that. . .

EK: That was. Yeah, Yeah.

WM: Because it is definitely different now. Yeah.

EK: Yeah. That's what I hear.

MM: On that topic though, did you hear anything from your dad about his experience at Lahainaluna?

EK: So, back then they had the milk. They did the dairy. So, he was saying that because my dad was one big guy, a lot of the football players would have to go and cut the haole koa, and bring that down and sow for the feed. And so he said it was a lot more, or less supervised by adults. So. Was kind of chaotic in its own, you know, but it was functioning. And then what's interesting is, growing up, if you have, you get at least two boarders together, they going sing the alma mater. Guarantee. Which I don't see. Well, we definitely don't do that anymore. But guarantee, you get two boarders in the same room and they drinking, bet they going sing the alma mater. O ka malu is coming out.

JP: O ka malu.

EK: Guarantee that thing is coming out. So it's real interesting the experience that they've had, you know, it's, I can only imagine must have been very, very–I mean it's life changing for me, but for them, especially where they came from and how society was at the time. And just again, I think the common thread for me, my perspective is that relationship you going have like until today. We still super pili. And you know, I will connect with boarders that I went to school with and we not going miss one beat. And yeah it's it's just super, we just very comfortable.

JP: I mean seriously on that note, like I just saw Harold last year at Melvin Paio's Celebration of life. And I haven't seen Harold since we graduated. This is over thirty, almost forty years. And never miss a beat.

EK: Yeah, just like that.

WM: And you think boarding definitely contributed to that?

EK: Yeah.

WM: Closeness.

EK: Yeah, I think so. Because–and then that's where I see that, that connection again, especially with the older alumni going back to like guaranteed they going sing the alma

mater, guarantee as long as get two of them in the same room, they going sing um, guarantee.

JP: With pride.

EK: With pride, yeah.

JP: From the naʻau.

(Laughter).

EK: Absolutely, guarantee, it's so interesting.

WM: Yeah, yeah because we've heard from one of the seventies grads that, um, yeah they'll have reunions but the boarders will always gravitate towards each other.

EK: Because. Yes. Yeah. Just that shared experience, it's like no other, you know. And so we talk about like development, how development mentally, you know, it's so impacting for that young age. Oh, it changes your, well, it gives you a particular paradigm on the world, I think.

JP: And we depended on each other.

EK: Totally.

JP: At the time, it was a lot of hardship, and we depended on each other.

EK: Yeah. Exactly.

WM: Transitioning more into now. Can you talk a little bit about Hoʻokipa?

EK: Yeah, so that was just Sour Poi.

JP: It was, yeah, in college.

EK: Post-Secondary Sour Poi.

JP: And you know, coming to Hilo, rain every day. So no can go outside.

EK: What else you get for do?

JP: So we stay, we stay in the room and play music from morning to night.

WM: And Hoʻokipa was your, your band.

EK: Our band. Yeah. And that was a good side money. Well, that helped me.

JP: Remember dakine, me and Earl did one, we got one gig. At Uncle Billy's. Oh my god. $7 an hour, playing music. $7 an hour. And, we had to wear palaka shirt. And on top of that, he made us wear the palaka shirt, and he take off the cost of the shirt off of our $7 wages. Our uniform. And our tip money. Remember, we used to eat over here, Chang's. On the way. We go eat Chang's, and I still remember today. We go order. We order the same thing. But his one–I paying the same price–his plate come with two scoop rice. Mine only one scoop. They used to serve by the size of the body. [Laughter].

EK: I think she like me.

JP: How come your plate more big than mine?

EK: My smile.

JP: But that was, on the way back to the dorm. And yeah, so stop over there and pick up one plate.

WM: So this is college.

EK: This is college. Yeah. So Hoʻokipa was college. Yeah.

JP: And until today, Ling's, that's the sister of Chang's right. And that's the same plate I when eat today from Ling's, oyster chicken, the same plate I would order, 40 years ago. Crispy oyster chicken.

EK: All of us.

WM: And who else was in Hoʻokipa, your brother?

EK: So yeah. Mark. So the three of us and we would jam and, and then we really started playing a lot out in. . .

JP: With Uncle Bert.

EK: With Uncle Bert in Waimea. So we'd play the longtime musician from Waimea, Bert Phillips. So the four of us would play at Cattleman's, the Parker Ranch Broiler.

JP: The broiler.

EK: And so that was the two main places. And then we would just play parties. Yeah. So from Laupahoehoe to. . .

JP: I remember I had one Nissan king cab truck. Imagine, Earl was more big. Mark is big. Me, and then had a Nelson Waikiki. And we had the sound equipment now. We wrapped the sound equipment in the back, with blue tarp, and then the four of us in my cab. And

we go gig. I don't know how we all fit inside, but we made it fit and we used to go around go gig.

EK: Yeah.

JP: That's funny.

EK: So that was fun.

WM: And you guys are still playing music today, and jamming today.

EK: Yeah. Every so often we'll get back together and jam, for certain. But for a time, we just kind of doing our own thing, and. . .

JP: Not too much people hire bands anymore, so I've been doing solo work for, I want to say, the last 20 years. Not too much people hire any bands. Well.

EK: Yeah. Anything about Hoʻokipa?

JP: Yeah, I remember. And that was your room, yeah? Downstairs on the corner?

EK: Yeah.

JP: We used to–I mean, serious kine, all day. We just stay there from morning to night. And we just play. We just play music. People would come, they would visit, and they would leave. Another group would come ,visit, listen and leave. Another group would come, listen and leave. Then the people in the morning come back from work, come again, and visit again. And we still stay the same place. [Laughter].

WM: That's dedication and passion. Any final memories, or anything you want to talk about or maybe some reflections or?

EK: Jeez. You know what? I'm glad you're documenting moʻolelo. From different perspectives, and looking over time. And just seeing how that's generations. How Lahainaluna has impacted generations. How they've contributed. Because also from this island, Kimo Alameda, who was, Mayor Kenoi, Billy Kenoi's campaign manager. He's a very well respected clinician here in Hilo. So he was at Lahainaluna. You know, he didn't finish. He came back to Saint Joseph's. Well, yeah, he's–I mean, this–it's amazing. I think how Lahainaluna has impacted, I think, the communities of Hawaiʻi and beyond, you know, of those same, like that relationships you have with the school, with work.

JP: And the community support. And I just was talking to the AD the other day, and she works at Four Seasons, and she mentioned Palos, you from Lahainaluna, I said, yeah. Oh, I'm Fay DeSilva. I was like, oh, I remember you. And it's just, her cousin Paul and I, DeSilva played football together. And she said she would come and watch the games. Interesting. I don't realize that many years have passed. I mean, I don't feel old, but I just.

Many years has passed, it feels like just yesterday, we was in high school, and now we kupuna now.

EK: You know, it's it's funny that when you see a Lahainaluna boarder, especially if you went to school with them. There's that connection. That is kind of a special connection. In fact, I just saw a wahine from Hāna that went to Lahainaluna. Just this past weekend. She came over with Punana Leo ʻohana, and they went huakaʻi across the island. But, not seeing her for 30 something years, but still having that pili, you know. And so to me, that's special. Just that connection you have with those that you went to Lahainaluna with, and just knowing, oh, this person is from Lahainaluna. It is a special space they have. Yeah, for me, from my perspective. Because you kinda know, to some degree we had the same struggles and probably similar joys and sorrows.

WM: I think it's amazing how there's so much web of community. And I feel like we Lahainaluna boarders in every nook and cranny of Hawaiʻi. Um, and then there's so many shared experiences and shared specific experiences. Right. So you guys connect with each other on such a specific intimate level, and that's really special.

EK: Yeah. Yeah, I agree. Absolutely.

JP: Change though, now the school. Yeah. Change.

WM: What have you heard?

JP: Well, my son went to Lahainaluna.

WM: Mm hmm.

JP: You know, when I went, never had restrictions. He wasn't allowed to run weed eater until he was a junior.

WM: Was he a boarder?

JP: Yeah.

WM: What years did he board?

JP: Two thousand, graduate, 2000. He never graduate. He left his junior year, but he would have been the class of 2017.

EK: My nieces and nephews went Lahainaluna. So early 2010s, in that area. And yeah, just, well Lahainaluna always struggled to just stay afloat. Right.

JP: The laws, and society changes.

EK: Spending and. . .

JP: Liabilities. And all of that is like when we were there, we never had the dairy. We had the piggery, we had poultry. We had garden. And then we had the eggs. It was during our time there that they when give up the pigs, yeah?

EK: Up until Mark's time, you know, still had pigs. And they started going into dakine, aquaculture, to some degree.

JP: So no more the pigs, no more the poultry. The cattle, the dairy went before we got there, and I don't even know if they still do the gardening.

EK: Yeah, I don't know. Was there–you guys went to the old football field on top above the orchards and the fields? So we used to have, we we're starting a horticultural–aquaculture up there. So we had three massive ponds.

MM: Oh, yeah. I saw the ponds.

EK: All right. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. And so we was doing hybrid tilapia. Yeah. Grass carp, catfish and looking at the what's the sustainability and the marketability of that stuff, I know we was venturing into that. And I don't know where it's gone since.

WM: But they definitely, they just blessed the new orchard. So in October we went there for the blessing of the new orchard, which the Lahainaluna Boarders association is putting together.

EK: And where is that?

WM: Up garden?

MM: Where the original orchard was.

JP: Where the original orchard was.

WM: Yeah.

JP: So what did, what kind of plants they. .

WM: ‘Ulu, avocado, mango. . .

MM: Banana.

WM: Banana.

EK: Have they kind of gone into even sort of the kalo, and ‘uala or noni, or even ‘awa?

WM: I think there's maybe talk of implementing that, but it's more so headed by the Lahainaluna Boarders Association, which is pretty much Craig and Eddie, two guys, Craig Murakami and Eddie Espiritu. Um, and so it's more volunteering like the boarders actually volunteer themselves to be a part of this as opposed. . .

EK: So academically, they're not trying to integrate–you know, it's interesting. Okay, so I was a part of this group. When I first went to Kamehameha Schools, and there was this teaching innovations group, and so my–and so we're supposed to present certain topics to the Board of Trustees. So my topic was social emotional learning in a school setting. And so me and a bunch of our colleagues did some research, um, provided a presentation, and then we went huakaʻi, so we went to basically the innovative schools, Silicon Valley. It was really interesting. We visited a school and they garden, cute garden, like maybe the size of my driveway and my car. And they was so proud of that place. And like, like they discovered gunpowder, the way they was acting, you know, like, oh, we have eggs and we have ducks, and we have this and we have some corn. I'm like, Lahainaluna is suffering trying to keep one program that's been around like this in massive capacity? Yeah. For decades. These guys like, like they've discovered peanut butter. And they're integrating but they're integrating that into the classroom. So even like Kamehameha Schools, we have in māla to classroom, we have a kitchen to classroom. And have just kind of like–is Lahainaluna kind of venturing in those pieces or even doing work with like, the waʻa plants in the classroom and or even businesses? Like businesses of ʻawa like that's kind of growing. That's a growing current and growing trend for business. And so. I should go find out. But I'm just curious because it's like. . .

WM: I mean, I feel like there's talk in DOE about methods of alternative learning using more ʻāina-based learning, and I think that's being more integrated into the DOE, from my understanding. Um. . .

EK: But who knows as far as Lahainaluna.

WM: Yeah, I'm not necessarily sure.

EK: Because to me, like they've written the user manuals on, on that, you know.

JP: And it's such a shame to see it lost. Because it was a big part of our lives. And who we are today just by going through that program. Yeah.

WM: Hundred percent.

EK: Yeah.

WM: Or even the fact that you guys were there all the time like. . .

EK: Yeah.

WM: The boarders now I don't think they can stay on the weekends.

EK: Yeah. That's what I heard. They gotta leave. Like what. Yeah.

WM: It's a little bit different now. Not a little bit. It's pretty different. Yeah. But. Yeah.

EK: So interesting.

MM: And last thing, just so it's on the record, what years did both of you graduate from Lahainaluna?

EK: So in 1986.

JP: 1984.

WM: 1984. So mahalo, you guys.

EK: Hey, thanks you guys.

JP: Thank you.

EK: Was good, talk story about this.

JP: Was good.