

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: WILLIAM JUNOKICHI SENDA, retired photographer

W.J. Senda, Japanese, was born on February 14, 1889 in Shimane, Japan, one of four children of Kintaro and Kame Senda.

He attended school until the tenth grade in Japan, then immigrated to Hawaii in October, 1906. In Hawaii he worked at a variety of jobs and became a photographer in 1913, retiring in 1967.

Senda became a Christian at the Lahaina Methodist Church in 1910 and is presently a member of Lihue Christian Church. He formerly belonged to the Kauai Chamber of Commerce.

Senda married Kayo Yamada in 1915; they have six children. He is an avid golfer.

NOTES FROM UNRECORDED INTERVIEW

with

William J. Senda

March 8, 1978

Lihue, Kauai

BY: Gael Gouveia and Chad Taniguchi

Mr. William J. Senda, 89, immigrated to Hawaii in October, 1906. His first job was in Honolulu delivering the Jiju Shimbun (Freedom), a Japanese evening newspaper that lasted 5 to 10 years.

In March, 1907, he began as an apprentice at the Ishimura Cooking School run by Mr. Ichigoro Ishimura. Mr. Ishimura also ran a boarding-house/restaurant. The food was American haole-style food and catered to white-collar workers. During that time Mr. Senda also worked as a yardboy and attended night school two times a week.

In August, 1909, Mr. Senda went to work on Maui as a family cook for the Lahainaluna School principal, Mr. MacDonald. In 1909, Mr. Senda started to learn photography as a hobby with a Kodak Brownie camera from Montgomery Ward. His film was developed in Honolulu at first, until he learned to develop and print on his own. It was difficult to learn the techniques because instructions were in English. He had help in translating from a Methodist minister's wife.

In July, 1911, Mr. Senda returned to Honolulu and began working and studying photography at the Yamamoto Studio on Nuuanu and Hotel Streets.

On July 1, 1913, Mr. Senda moved to Kauai and took over Mr. Gokan's studio in Kapaia. He moved into a photo studio on the second floor of the TipTop building in Lihue in 1916. He moved downstairs in 1939 but stayed in the building until it was torn down in 1964.

The present studio in Lihue, now run by his son, was completed in August 1965. He says many old photographs and equipment were discarded in the move.

Senda went to Hanapepe at the request of the County the day after the shooting incident and took pictures of the funeral, Sheriff Crowell's head wound, area where the incident happened, and arrested strikers. His photos are printed in the Garden Island and Star-Bulletin. He developed for someone else a photograph of a dead striker hung up on barbed wire taken the day of the shooting. He is not certain where the negatives are. (In 1920, Kodak began to gradually replace glass plates with professional celluloid-based cut film used in rolls.)

Mr. Senda knew On Char and other photographers of that period, including Ono of Kaimuki, Kondo, Miura, Tansy and Hashimoto.

**The 1924 Filipino
Strike on Kauai**

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