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ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Janet Matsumoto (JM)

Honolulu, O`ahu

May 5, 2005

BY: Michi Kodama-Nishimoto (MK) and Warren Nishimoto (WN)

[NOTE: Also present at the interview is JM's husband, Hichiro Matsumoto (HM).]

MK: This is an interview with Mrs. Janet Matsumoto in Honolulu, O`ahu, on May 5, 2005, and this is the first session with Michiko Kodama-Nishimoto and Warren Nishimoto. Okay.

Okay, Mrs. Matsumoto, easy question. First one is, what year were you born?

JM: Nineteen twenty-three.

MK: And where were you born?

JM: I was born in Honolulu.

MK: And how many children were there in the family, and what number are you?

JM: Altogether, we have eight children, I'm the first one.

MK: And . . .

JM: I'm the oldest (chuckles).

MK: And like what was your mother's name?

JM: My mother's name, you mean her maiden name?

MK: Mm-hmm [yes].

JM: Kikue Imada.

MK: And based on what you've heard, tell us about her family and her background.

JM: Well, my mother had two sisters and one brother, and they all lived over here. And I don't know if the oldest sister was born here or not, but the rest were all born here.

MK: And when you say she was born here, where on the island was she born?

JM: Oh, I think it was someplace Wahiaiwä [O'ahu] area.

MK: And what kind of work did her mother and father do?

JM: Well, I can't remember my grandfather well because I was little when he died. But my grandmother, I don't know whether they used to work, you know, for the plantation or what, but I don't remember them ever talking about it. But, you see, my mother, when she was little—I don't know old she was—but she was sent to Japan, and she grew up over there until her late teens, and then she came back. So when she came back, she hardly knew any English. And so after she came back, she says she used to work at, you know, [for] those *haole* [white] families. And she said she didn't understand any English, so the lady used to come and say, "This is broom, broom." (Chuckles) You know, teach her "dustpan" and all that. But I guess later on, she kind of picked up. All broken English, but.

MK: And would you know where in Japan she had spent part of her childhood?

JM: I'm pretty sure it was in Kumamoto because my grandparents were from Kumamoto.

MK: And did she share with you her thoughts about, you know, being sent to Japan, then brought back, and then getting used to life in the Islands again?

JM: Oh, gee, I don't know. She never used to say anything about that, though. But, I guess her parents used to live here, so eventually she knew she had to come back over here.

MK: And then on your father's side, what was your father's name?

JM: Kazuo Segawa. And he was born in Kaua'i. And I'm pretty sure he went to Japan when he was little, but I don't know how long he stayed there. But, I mean, he never did speak to us in Japanese. So I guess, you know, he just stayed a little while in Japan, I'm not sure.

MK: And what, if anything, did he tell you about his growing-up years?

JM: Gee, I don't know. Don't remember. He had only one brother, and he had one, two, three, four sisters, I think. But he had one sister living here, and three sisters living in Japan. But his younger sister came to—I remember in 1930s, she came to Hawai'i—she was still single, yet. And we used to live in Moloka'i, so she came to stay with us for a little while, and then she came back to Honolulu because she has another sister living here. And she was working at, you know those *haole* family homes. So that's the only aunty that we know well, besides the ones that live here. The other two in Japan, we've never met them. And then the brother that my father had, well, we've never met—I mean, we were little when he died. He went to Mainland, and then he got into an accident and he died.

MK: And, you know, your father, what have you been told about the kind of work he did as a young man?

JM: I don't know what kind of work he was doing. But all I can remember is, he used to work for Young Brothers [Ltd.].

MK: I know that your family was living in Honolulu.

JM: Mm-hmm [yes].

MK: Then, when you were about six years old, you folks moved to . . .

JM: Moloka'i.

MK: . . . Moloka'i. When you folks moved to Moloka'i, how did your family support itself?

JM: Oh, no, my father used to work for Young Brothers, so they sent him, the whole family went with him. And I tell you, Moloka'i was such a—you know, I mean, it's really country compared to Honolulu. And the place where we stayed, no other families lived there. Just one house, just our house. And right in front of the ocean. So when we first moved there, every room that my mother goes, we used to follow her because we were so afraid, you know. Was an old house, and all that, so. And during the summer, it was all right because that's when the plantation gets busy with pineapple, and then a lot of—from Honolulu, they used to send, I don't know, some men to drive the truck to transport the pineapple from Libby, [McNeill & Libby] plantation to Kolo. That's where we lived, Kolo. Right in front—it's Kolo Pier [a.k.a., Kolo Wharf], they called that.

MK: And you mentioned that your family moved to Kolo, in Moloka'i, and you folks were like the only family . . .

JM: Besides my father, had a deckhand helper. A Filipino couple. They didn't have any children, so they lived in another house. So only the two families used to live [there].

MK: So besides these two families, how far away were other people?

JM: Oh, the nearest camp was Maunaloa, and that's where we went to school. It's about seven miles away. We went to school there, and the stores, and movie theater, [were] all over there. And every day, my father had to drive us to the school, come home, then in the afternoon, he goes back, and then pick us up and come home.

(Chuckles) And, there's no houses, it's just one road, and all *kiawe* [algarroba] trees and all that. So when we were little, you know, we get tired and we just fall asleep coming home. And my father, I guess, he let me drive from a young age. He's on the driver's seat, but I'm on the side, I have to hold the steering wheel and, you know, going to school, coming home, and all that. And I don't know, maybe because of that, it was easy for me to start driving.

WN: How come your father let you drive like that?

JM: I don't know, he just tell me, "Come, you go drive—you go hold the steering." And he's on the side, you know. And, you know (chuckles), once, he's on the side, he has so much confidence in me, that he's reading newspaper. (Chuckles) Then, my sisters and my brothers all in the backseat. Naturally, they're all falling asleep. Anyway, one day, I must have fallen asleep (chuckles), and then the next thing I remember, we went into a gulch. And then, you know those old cars with canvas top, no side, the thing just fell down. (Chuckles) And then my father scolded me. I couldn't help, I fell asleep, you know. But after we reached home, my mother scold my father (chuckles) for reading newspaper.

WN: How old were you when you first started doing that?

JM: *Chee*, I must have been, I don't know—wait now—maybe about seventh grade, I think.

WN: Seventh grade.

JM: Yeah.

WN: And then what about the shifting? Who did the shifting?

JM: No need shift.

(Laughter)

Because it's all downhill, yeah, coming home.

WN: Oh, you just put 'em in neutral?

JM: I think so, I don't know how he does it, you know.

WN: But what about coming home?

JM: That was coming home time.

WN: Yeah.

JM: Going time, usually he drives, but coming home time, he used to let me hold the steering wheel.

WN: Oh, I see, so you don't have to step on the gas or anything?

JM: No, no. Later on, I started to, you know, drive. But at the beginning, only I got to hold the steering wheel. Because, you know, the road goes like this [i.e., downhill], yeah.

WN: What kind of car was it?

JM: It was the old kind, you know those olden days . . .

WN: Model-T?

JM: Model-T, they call that.

HM: I don't know.

JM: You know, the canvas top. And then when it rains, you got to get the plastic stuff [tarp] and attach 'em to the side (chuckles). Later on, we got the regular sedan kind.

MK: You know, you mentioned that your father was sent to Moloka'i. Your family was sent to Moloka'i by Young Brothers.

JM: Mm-hmm [yes].

MK: What was his exact job? What did he do?

JM: Well, actually he's a—they call that launch operator. He used to drive the small tugboat. And then, you see, like Kolo Pier, the depth over there was kind of too shallow for the big boat to come in. From Honolulu, when the big tugboat drags the two barges—one for the Libby plantation, and one for CPC [California Packing Corporation]—when the

boat comes in, then my father has to go out and then get one of the barges, and pull it in. And then all day it stays in the pier until the pineapple is loaded. And then the other big tugboat, they go on to Kaunakakai, and they stay over there. And then late afternoon, the big tugboat will come back again, and then my father has to pull the barge out, and then go back to Honolulu. So his job was just driving the boat.

MK: And then how often would the barges come in?

JM: Oh, once a day. Once a day because, I mean, it takes all day for the pineapple to be loaded. Because during the summer especially, they have a lot of trucks that go back and forth to the plantation, and bringing back, and then they load it [i.e., barge].

MK: And then you mentioned that when you folks first moved there [Moloka'i], you folks had to move into this old house.

JM: Yeah.

MK: What did the house look like?

JM: I don't know, looked like a haunted house to me (laughs). It was a big house but, you know. I think they had only about one big bedroom, and one small bedroom, and kitchen, and bath, and then living room. And then the bath, we had our own *furo* [Japanese-style bath], my father made the *furo*. And around us was all *kiawe* trees. So it's a lonely place, though.

MK: And then you mentioned that like, for school, and for like the stores, you would go up to Maunaloa side. What did Maunaloa town look like?

JM: It's a [pineapple] plantation camp. They had Filipino camp and Japanese camp. And they had only one store, one movie theater, one post office. (Chuckles)

MK: And then that movie theater, what kind of movies did they show?

JM: Oh, they had cowboy shows and all that, double features (chuckles).

MK: And then the store, what kinds of things did they sell?

JM: Everything. It was a general store. From clothing to food, and all that.

MK: And you mentioned that the school was up there.

JM: Yeah.

MK: How did that school look?

JM: Oh, it was just one long school [building] with all the rooms. And then I think it was from first grade to ninth grade.

WN: The kids that went to that school were mostly . . .

JM: Plantation.

WN: . . . pineapple plantation kids?

JM: Yeah.

WN: Did they have ranch kids, too?

JM: No, no ranch kids. You mean like the Moloka`i Ranch?

WN: Moloka`i Ranch.

JM: No, Moloka`i Ranch was at the Ho`olehua side. It's far, you know, from (clears throat), excuse me, Ho`olehua and Kaunakakai.

WN: Right.

MK: And the kids that went to the school—what kinds of kids went to your school, your classmates?

JM: We had Japanese, and Filipinos, and few Portuguese, and part-Hawaiian. Not too much Hawaiian because Ho`olehua was the Hawaiian homestead. So mostly Japanese and Filipino. And few Chinese, because the store was owned by Chinese.

MK: And then would you remember the principal of that school?

JM: Well, I remember we had two different principals. One was Mr. O'Neil, James O'Neil. I understand he died though. James O'Neil. And then after him came Mr. Bachman, B-A-C-H-M-A-N, Bachman.

MK: And then how about the teachers?

JM: Teachers, I kind of forgot who my teacher was (chuckles). I cannot remember.

MK: And then when you think about your school days, yeah, what do you remember most about your school days at Maunaloa?

JM: My school days. . . . Well, we were—you know that the school was surrounded by all pineapple field, yeah. So, between English school and Japanese[-language] school, we had time. So what we used to do was, go into the pineapple field, pick pineapple, and we come out and just bust the *da kine*, the pineapple, and then just throw away all the meat, and then scoop up the juice only (laughs). And then you know the center, the core, later on we used to chew that. But the plantation always used to—made a comment that, oh, they don't mind the students going to the pineapple field, but please don't mess up the road. Because, you know, after you just bust the pineapple, you just leave it like that, you know, so. But, oh, we had a lot of pineapples around.

MK: Like you mentioned that you folks had a lot of pineapples around, and you had—near your house—you had like lots of *kiawe*.

JM: Mm-hmm [yes]. Yeah, my house, the area that we lived, Kolo, was all *kiawe* trees.

MK: I was wondering, since you folks are living in, you know, not an urban place . . .

JM: No.

MK: . . . not a city place, what did you folks do for fun?

JM: Well, you know, during the summer, we were in the water all day. Because my house was right in front of the ocean, see, and then we used to just wait for the camp people to come down and join us. And then while we're in the water, "Eh, I think there's one car coming," you know. You kind of sort of imagine you hear that a car coming down. But they used to come down and then join us for swim, like that. And then our *furo*, I mean, you know, we had the *furo*, yeah. After we swim, they all used to use our *furo* to clean up.

MK: So a lot of beach activities.

JM: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

WN: Do you go fishing, too?

JM: My father used to go fishing. And then we used to go to the pier with the pole. Especially when the small fish used to come around, *āholehole* [young Hawaiian flagtail].

WN: Yeah, yeah, *āholehole*.

JM: Yeah, you know when those fish come in, then we used to go to the pier and then fish.

MK: And then you mentioned that there were a lot of Japanese families, yeah, in the plantation.

JM: Mm-hmm [yes].

MK: How much mixing did you folks—how much contact did your family have with the Japanese . . .

JM: Oh, yeah, we always had good friends. And then, you know, like after Japanese[-language] school gets over, we used to stay at their house until my father comes and picks us up.

MK: And then your mom and your dad, how active were they in the Japanese community?

JM: I think they were kind of active. Well, they had—what do you call that?—the camp had a, they called it *seinenkai* [a young men's association]. You know, all the young people used to gather. We used to have programs like that over there. And then Christmas play, like that. The English school—you know, we used to have nativity programs. And then sometimes, the Japanese, they'd dress us in kimono and then the teacher would teach us some *ondo* [Japanese dance], like that. We used to dance like that.

MK: And the Japanese[-language] school that you went to, who ran that school?

JM: Oh, used to be Otani-*sensei* [teacher]. I don't know at what grade we were, but later on, he left us, and then Takashima-*sensei* came to take over. That Otani-*sensei*, he moved his family to Honolulu, and then he went to the Mainland because he wanted to be a reverend. Episcopal reverend. So he went to someplace in Illinois, Evanston, I think, Illinois, to study ministry. So that's why Takashima-*sensei* took over, he and his wife.

MK: And how many years of Japanese[-language] school did you have?

JM: I'm kind of shame to tell, but I went twelve years (chuckles). Because, you know, Moloka'i, like Japanese[-language] school, I was one [year] ahead than my English school. So English school, they had only till ninth grade, see, so I finished my tenth grade in Moloka'i. So when I told my father that I wanted to come to Honolulu to go to high school, he told me, "Okay, you can go."

So I told him, "Then I don't have to go to Japanese[-language] school because I finished my tenth grade."

He said, "No. If you go Honolulu, you continue Japanese[-language] school." So I had to go, you know.

So when I came out here, they let me stay at—you know Otani-sensei, the wife was over here, so I boarded over there. And she used to live at Pālama, so I had to go Farrington [High School]. So I went Farrington the first year, sophomore year, and then my parents put me into Soto Mission. You know, that Japanese[-language] school? Then after sophomore year at Farrington, when I was going to be a junior, my parents told me to stay with my aunty at Kahala, so I had to change to McKinley High School, transferred to McKinley High School. And at the same time, my parents put me into Tachikawa [Japanese-language school]. So I went only one year each, Tachikawa and Soto Mission.

MK: And, well, looking back, what did you gain, what did you learn from going to Japanese[-language] school?

JM: I don't know. At that time, I didn't want to go so . . .

(Laughter)

. . . to me, I didn't learn anything (laughs). But I don't know. Like at Tachikawa, it was really a girls' school, yeah. So you learn the flower arrangement, and *chanoyu* [tea ceremony], all those things. Like *saihō*, you know, like sewing, yeah, from Moloka'i, we used to do that, so.

WN: So when you were in Moloka'i, what did you like better, English school or Japanese[-language] school?

JM: Well, I think English school was better for me.

MK: What made it better for you?

JM: I don't know. I think we had more fun in English school. You know, we had Girl Scouts, affiliated with Girl Scout, and 4-H clubs. And we used the school cafeteria, we make jelly, and jams, and all those things, yeah. We had a lot of fun. And then when Mr. Bachman became principal, he used to have dance, you know, social dance at the school. And I remember one event, we were going to have a Halloween dance, and when that day came, the wife came and told us that, oh, Mr. Bachman has to go Honolulu for business, so he won't be coming to the dance. So we were all disappointed, you know. But that night, when we all went there, here we see one man dressed in a long dress with a paper bag over his head (laughs), and that was Mr. Bachman.

(Laughter)

Was really funny. We all thought, "Chee, I wonder who's that.?" you know (laughs).

WN: What nationalities were at Maunaloa School?

JM: All Japanese and Filipinos, mostly. And some . . .

WN: Had more Japanese or had more Filipinos, you think?

JM: Oh, about the same, yeah, I think had more Japanese, though.

MK: In those days, how much mixing was there between the Japanese kids . . .

JM: I don't think . . .

MK: . . . and the Filipino kids.

JM: See, only at school we used to mingle around. But other than that, we, you know, we just kept to ourselves. Because the camp was all separate, yeah, they had the Filipino camp and the Japanese camp.

MK: And then, you know, when people tell us about Japanese[-language] school, they always tell us about *shūshin* [morals, ethics], you know.

JM: Mm-hmm [yes], mm-hmm [yes].

MK: What was it like for you?

JM: *Chee*, I don't know. To me, was—you know, Japanese[-language] school, I really didn't care for that Japanese[-language] school, so. *shūshin*, well, you learn all different. . . .

WN: Was it more strict, were the teachers more strict . . .

JM: Oh, yeah. Ooh, we used to get—I mean, now you call that child abuse, yeah (laughs), but every time. You got to take out your hand and they get the ruler and, you know, hit. But, I noticed a lot of boys used to get that.

WN: Did you get that?

JM: No, I don't remember getting hit, but I remember a lot of boys had (laughs).

MK: And you mentioned like *Otani-sensei*, he eventually went to the Mainland to become an Episcopalian minister, yeah?

JM: Yeah.

MK: When it comes to churches or temples on Moloka'i, was your family going to a church or a temple . . .

JM: *Chee*, I don't know if they had a church or anything. I wonder if they had a church. I think they had—I think Filipinos, they used to go to a Catholic church like that.

MK: How about your family?

JM: We were Buddhist, so. But I don't remember my parents going to *da kine*. Because Sundays, you know, I mean, they don't have to go to the camp.

MK: And, you know, you said that you asked your dad if you could go Honolulu for school. How come you wanted to continue?

JM: I don't know, just understood, I think, yeah. Because you see, like Moloka'i, like the place where we lived, high school was just Moloka'i High [School], and Moloka'i High was more towards Kaunakakai. Between Kaunakakai and Ho'olehua. And, you know, there's transportation to go there because the plantation would not furnish bus or anything like that. So all the kids that [lived in] Maunaloa, the boys usually go to Lahainaluna [School]. You know, they have a dorm over there, so the boys used to go to Lahainaluna, and then the girls either come out to Honolulu. So . . .

WN: Lahainaluna was only boys?

JM: Yeah, was only boys those days. Well, I don't know if they had co-ed or what, but I know the boys used to go there. But the girls usually used to go to Honolulu.

MK: So, from your class, how many of you left the island and came out to Honolulu?

JM: You know, from my class, I know, two of my girlfriends, came to Honolulu, besides me. The rest, I don't know, some of them, they just didn't continue, I think. But we had such a small—like our grade, we had only a small group, you know. And the Filipino girls, I don't know what they did.

MK: And then when you came out to Honolulu to start school at Farrington, what did you think?

JM: Well, (chuckles) I don't know, I just—I used to walk to school every day, you know, from Pālama, yeah. You know, right by that Banyan Street? From there, I used to walk up.

And the thing is, you know, my mother just give me so much allowance. And those days, the *inarizushi* [cone sushi] was five cents for two, eh. So I used to—you know, Pālama had plenty *okazuya* [delicatessen], yeah, so I used to buy two *inarizushi*, and then walk to school. And then, of course, I have to catch the bus to go to Soto Mission, yeah, so I used to go to Soto Mission.

MK: But you know, being kind of a young girl yet, and coming out to the city by yourself, and living with the schoolteacher . . .

JM: Well, living with her was not too bad because two of my friends, they were a little older than me, but they were staying there, too, from Moloka'i. And they didn't go school, but they helped her with the sewing. Because, you see, she used to sew for people. And then they came out to learn more about sewing, so they came out and stayed with her and then helped her with the sewing. So I was the only one that went to school from there. So three of us were living with the family. She had three boys, you know, the *Otani-sensei* no wife. She had three boys, so—they were little.

MK: So coming from Moloka'i, coming to Honolulu, the big city, what surprised you, or what did you think in the beginning?

JM: Oh, I don't know, I just took it for granted, I guess. And during the summer, we used to come out to Honolulu, you know, visit all our auntys and uncles. We used to stay at—my aunty used to live right in the town, by that School Street, Chun Hoon Lane—she used to live there, so we used to stay there. And sometimes we used to go over to my mother's sister's house at Kāhala.

MK: And then I know that you were at Farrington for one year, and then you went . . .

JM: McKinley.

MK: . . . McKinley, yeah.

JM: Yeah, junior and senior year. Junior year, I stayed at my aunty's house. Then, that summer, after my junior year, my aunty used to go to all these *haole* houses for, you know, do weekly work, yeah. And one of these houses that she used to go, she asked the lady if she wanted everyday help. And the lady said, yeah, she doesn't mind because she had a little boy, yeah. So my aunty told me to work for them. And I really enjoyed it because they used to live on Kalaniana'ole Highway, near the golf course, right in front of the ocean, yeah. The couple had only one small boy, so

she wanted me to help take care of the boy, and then help her with the cooking, and then laundry, and all that. So during the summer, I stayed there. And when school started, she asked me if I can stay there, and then go to school. So I said, "Oh, okay." So it was a good arrangement. I stayed there my senior year. And in the morning, of course, I have breakfast, and then I used to go school, come home, and do the dishes, yeah, and then help the lady with the evening cooking, like that. And the family was really nice, you know. The man used to work at Honolulu Ironworks and the lady was just a housewife. And the boy was, I think, only about three or four years old. Rascal boy, but (laughs). But I just take care of her and, I mean, they were really a nice people.

But the only thing is, December 5, [1941], they were going to the Mainland, you know, the family, so they asked me—and the man used to ask me, gee, if Japan and America get into a war, what would I do? I said, "I would go back to Moloka'i" I told him (laughs). You know, when you're young, you don't even think about oh, there's going to be a war, you know. But I guess he reads the paper and all that, so he was kind of concerned. But anyway, he said December 5, they were going to the Mainland, and they went on the *Lurline*. And then they told me that, "I want you to stay here," and they're going to have a house sitter, I think, for six months yeah. So the man was going to come—after they leave—the man was going to come there, and then they asked me to stay there and help, you know, do what I was doing. And then if by April of next year, if there's no war, then they'll come back. And can you imagine, they sailed on December 5, and December 7, the war started, yeah. So after that, I don't know what happened to them, but I quit (laughs). I quit, and I went back to Moloka'i. You know, I didn't want to stay there.

So my sister was still—she came out for school, too, and she was staying at my aunty's house. So she and I decided as soon as the plane was able to fly, we went back to Moloka'i. Because, you know, the schools all closed when the war started. And then we went back home. Then December 30, I think, my father had orders to vacate the place. So he just told us, "Just pack your clothes," you know. And then we all drove to Kaunakakai, they had a tugboat over there, you know, Young Brothers tugboat. So we went on the boat, and we have to wait there for the boat to sail out. So two nights, you know, we were on the boat. They said they cannot leave. December 30 we went over there, then 31, all day we stayed there, and then we couldn't sail out, they said they got to wait until the convoy comes. So then our—I don't know what time it was, but was late in the

night, midnight, I think—that we started to sail out to Honolulu.

MK: And, you know, you mentioned that your father was ordered to vacate.

JM: Yeah.

MK: Who told him that . . .

JM: The navy. The navy. Because Young Brothers has no control, yeah, of waterfront kind. So he was just *da kine*, so we had to leave, yeah. And then when we came to Honolulu, we had to stay with my aunty folks.

MK: And when you folks came, did you just come only with the clothes that you packed, or household . . .

JM: No, no, we didn't take any household things. Only our clothing. But, you know, my father was saying that after the war, when he went back to our house, everything was shambled. He said our Japanese[-language] school books were all ripped. You know, they must have searched the house, yeah.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

MK: And then, you know, prior to your family being told to leave Moloka'i, do you know if people came to talk to your dad or question him in any way?

JM: I don't know, I don't know. No, he wasn't questioned or anything, he just had orders to [evacuate] *da kine*. But after we lived over here [Honolulu], he was pulled in by the FBI [Federal Bureau of Investigation] a couple of times, you know, question him. But, you know, while we were living in Moloka'i, there was one *haole* guy named Jack Burns that used to come to our house all the time. And when my father used to invite him, he used to make chicken *hekka*. And then at that time, they said that he was, I think, a camp police or something. But my father said, "Chee, unusual for a camp police to come around," yeah. But actually, he was working for FBI. But he said when they questioned him, and he had to go, and, you know, he said he was there, the guy. And the thing is, Jack Burns, that's why, we thought—we don't know whether that was the Governor [John A.] Burns or what, because . . .

WN: You still don't know?

JM: I don't know, because we used to ask my mother, you know. We said, "Is that the governor that used to [come around]?"

She said she doesn't know. She said, "*Kao ga sukoshi chigau*," or something like that.

MK: Mmm, the face looks different.

JM: But I don't know, I should have asked when I was working for the state. And you know, every Christmastime, the governor used to come around, shake hands, yeah. I should have asked him if he was [once] stationed at Moloka'i.

WN: Do you remember anything about him?

JM: No, I don't know because by then I was out here already. You know, my sister, my other sisters, they know more.

MK: And then when you mentioned that your father was ordered to vacate, it seems like the order came kind of sudden?

JM: Yeah, sudden.

MK: So how did your mother, . . .

JM: Yeah, well . . .

MK: . . . the rest of your family react to all that?

JM: Cannot help yeah, ordered, so.

MK: And when you mentioned that the man, the *haole* man, at the house you worked at, would ask you that question about, "If Japan and U.S. went to war, what would you do?"

JM: Yeah, yeah.

MK: Did you think anything about that question?

JM: No, I didn't think, I just told him, "Oh, I'll go back to Moloka'i." I'll go back home, I told him that. Because, I didn't think that they were going to have a war. You know, when you're young, you're so naïve and you don't take anything serious. So I used to think, "Oh, how come he ask me that kind question? There's not going to be any war." But . . .

MK: And then when war came, just kind of remembering—I don't know if you've heard any conversations or reactions from

your parents, but would you remember anything that your mom or dad said about the war?

JM: The war, no, I don't know. Well, my parents are niseis, so, you know. And good thing, like my father, he wasn't sent to an intern camp because, I guess since he came back from Japan was a long time ago. And then the Young Brothers, the boss, was Mr. Jack Young, yeah. He really liked my father, so my father told him that he wanted to quit. Because you know, to go in the waterfront, Japanese get different kind of badge, yeah, and he's the only Japanese. [During World War II, Japanese were required to wear badges, identifying them as Japanese.] The rest is all different nationality, yeah. But Mr. Young didn't want him to quit. He said, "No, you stay on," you know, so. Anyway, my father, he looked like Hawaiian (chuckles). He had curly hair, and dark, and, you know. That's why, in a way, he was lucky that he looked more Hawaiian than Japanese.

MK: So when you folks moved to Honolulu then, what kind of job did your father have with Young Brothers?

JM: Oh, all he does is report *da kine*. And he used to just work at the waterfront, that's all. But he couldn't drive his boat. So he couldn't, I guess the navy would not let him drive, yeah. But as soon as the war ended, the company sent him back to Moloka'i, you know, and he did the same job, yeah.

MK: And where did your father and the rest of the family live, then?

JM: When he was ordered to go back to Moloka'i, my parents decided that no sense the whole family go back, so we all stayed back [on O'ahu]. And every weekend, he used to come home. By then already, I was able to drive. So (chuckles) I have to go and pick him up, and then early Monday morning, I have to drive him to the pier and drop him off, and he used to go [back to Moloka'i], you know.

MK: And then how about your mother, did she do any kind of work all during those years?

JM: No, she never worked. She never did work, she was a housewife until my father died, and then she had to work. Yeah, she, after-1948, my father passed away-so she had to work after that.

MK: I'm going to move back a little bit. When you were working at the *haole* house as a schoolgirl, how did you manage everything? Your schoolwork, going school, coming back, helping the family.

JM: Oh, it wasn't bad. I mean, as soon as I come home, I go in the kitchen and do the dishes. And then take care of the little boy, you know, they go out sometimes, so. And then nighttime—you know those days, in the garage, by the garage, they have a small room. I was living in there. So at least I can study nighttime. And on weekends, I take care of the little boy and do a little bit of housework like that.

MK: Did you have time to kind of participate in, like, after-school activities?

JM: No, I never did. I never did have that. But they were really nice people. Sometimes when the lady goes shopping (clears throat), she used to take me along. And I feel so shame because she has the convertible, yeah, car. Drive down, marketing and all that, help her.

WN: How come you felt shame?

JM: Oh, those days, you don't ride convertible, yeah (chuckles).

MK: And what kind of pay did you get for being a schoolgirl?

JM: Oh, I think when I was going to school—*chee*, I can't remember whether it was five dollars a week or, wait now. No, five dollars a month, I think. Something like that. And then during the summer, I was getting more. About, I don't know, twenty or thirty dollars a month or something. But when school started, she kept me on. I mean, you get free meals, and you know, free room like that. And I think was five dollars a month, I think, I'm not sure.

MK: And what did you do with the money?

JM: Oh, that's a small amount, yeah.

(Laughter)

I guess for my own spending money, I guess.

MK: So in those days, did you have a chance to kind of go out with your girlfriends?

JM: No, I never did go. I just stayed at the house and then—because weekends, usually, I babysit. And that couple, every weekend, they used to go to Royal Hawaiian Hotel for dancing, like that. Ooh, the lady used to dress up. And the husband buy her *lei*, and they used to go to Royal Hawaiian. They were really, I don't know if they were considered society people or what, but she was really nice.

MK: And, because you were going to McKinley during the war years, how did the war affect school? The schedule, or . . .

JM: No, after December [1941], we didn't have any school until the following year, February [1942]. By then, we came out to Honolulu and we were staying at my father's friend's house. So from there, I used to go to school. They used to live up by School Street, so every morning I used to catch the bus and go down. So I finished my senior year, because I was senior already.

MK: And what kind of course of study did you take at McKinley?

JM: Oh, we had social studies, and business. Typing, and shorthand, and all that. Home ec[onomics].

MK: And when you graduated, what were you hoping to do?

JM: I had to go back. I mean, I have to work, yeah, look for job.

MK: And what kind of job did you get?

JM: Mostly office work. You know during the war, McKinley used to be only half a day because St. Louis [School] students used to come take the afternoon class, see. So they asked us if we wanted to, you know, take those jobs, I mean, help with the [war effort]. So we were sent to city hall, issuing liquor ration [cards], like that. So I used to work over there, at the city hall, until you graduate, though.

MK: And then after you graduated, what was your first job?

JM: My first job was, oh, what did I do now? Oh, somebody asked me if I wanted to work at Love's Bakery. So I was there only for a little while, only about six months. And then . . .

WN: What did you do over there?

JM: Oh, I don't know, you know the machine that the cookies come out [from], and then you have to pack and all that stuff.

WN: I'm wondering, while you were going school, did you work cannery at all?

JM: When I was staying at my aunty's house, only one summer I went. And I was waiting all summer for them to call me. And they didn't call me until August. And by the time I went, I worked only two weeks and they started laying off.

(Laughter)

WN: This is what? Hawaiian Pine[apple Company]?

JM: Hawaiian Pine, yeah. And then I worked only two weeks, you know, trimming. Ho, my finger used to get all stiff like that. After two weeks, no job. I was sick for about what, one week. My aunty said, "More better you no work."

(Laughter)

WN: Because I know on Moloka'i, you worked like *hö hana* [weeding with a hoe], right.

JM: Yeah, during the summertime. Easy job.

WN: So, I guess, you didn't work over here, Wahiawä, or anything.

JM: No, no.

WN: Too far, yeah?

JM: Too far.

WN: Shall we change tapes?

MK: Yeah, we better change tapes.

WN: Okay, we're going to change tapes.

JM: Oh, okay.

WN: That was one hour already.

(Taping stops, then resumes.)

MK: Okay this is a continuation of the first session with Mrs. Matsumoto.

WN: Okay, we ended the last tape we were talking about your working *hö hana* on Moloka'i, so we want to go back to your Moloka'i days, and talk about what things you did around the house, you know, chores on Moloka'i.

JM: Oh, we had to help laundry, clean house. You know those days, no more washing machine, everything by hand. And then we had to have—you know, they used to boil the clothes, before. So, outside in the yard, you have to make a fire and have a big *tarai* [wash tub] inside there, and then put soap, and then we used to boil the clothes, and then bring it out, and then scrub. We do all those things.

WN: How often did you wash clothes?

JM: I don't know, every day, I guess. Because big family, yeah. Well, when we going school, of course, we don't wash, but weekends like that. I guess my mother used to wash every day. And then like Kolo, the place where we stayed, no electricity. So we had gas lamp for all the rooms. We had a big refrigerator though, but it was run by, I don't know, kerosene, or gas, or. . . . Because we lived far away from the store, too. So my parents have to buy, you know. And we need a refrigerator.

WN: So your lights were kerosene?

JM: Yeah, kerosene.

MK: How about the stove?

JM: The stove was kerosene, I think.

WN: So, you being the oldest of eight children . . .

JM: Well, while we were living Moloka'i—you see, when we first moved, was my two sisters and my brother. My brother was only an infant. He was born in March and we moved in June, so he was only about three months. Then after that, two more brothers came up, and then one more sister. So that's seven of us. (Clears throat) Then when we moved to over here, Honolulu, then my kid sister was born, 1942.

WN: So being the oldest, did you have more chores or different kind chores than the others?

JM: No, I think we three, you know, the first three girls, we did all about the same. Especially me and the one right below me.

WN: Did you have to cook, too? Help cook?

JM: Sometimes. But mostly my mother used to cook because by the time we come home from school, it's late already.

MK: And then you mentioned that your mother worked in a *haole* house, too, yeah?

JM: Yeah, when she first came over from Japan.

MK: So when it came to cooking for the family, what kinds of food did she make for the family?

JM: Oh, Japanese food, I guess so. But the thing is, you see, when we used to live in Moloka'i, you know my father, when

the barge comes in—you know there's one guy on the barge, they call that barge captain. The company would always let him bring some food: *poi*, canned sausage, canned—what do you call that?—corned beef, and all that. But he doesn't eat that. He comes to our house, and my mother feeds him other kinds of food. And then we used to have fish. We used to eat fish so often because my father used to go fishing all the time. I tell you, we used to get sick of fish.

(Laughter)

And sometimes he has that—what do you call that?—*hukilau*, you know. You lay—what do you call?—the net right in front of our house, and when he pulls it in, we all got to help take off the fish from the net. And our fingers get all cut and all that. But I tell you, those days had so much fish. And when he has the *hukilau*, I tell you, buckets and buckets of fish. And then somehow, the camp people, they know when he lay the net, yeah, they call come, so my father would give 'em all away. And whatever leftover, he used to bring it to the store and then sell it.

WN: Did he dry fish at all?

JM: He used to. And he used to go hunting, too. You know, Moloka'i get deer like that, wild pig, and all that. I remember, like deer, he used to dry that every time. And then sometimes he used to go catch lobster and crab. And nighttime when he goes out, he get the kind *menpachi* [red snapper], yeah. So I don't know, when we were small, we didn't care for fish.

(Laughter)

WN: That's why you're so healthy.

JM: I don't know.

(Laughter)

MK: What did you think about the deer meat?

JM: Oh, we used to like it. Mostly they dry 'em, yeah. They'd make it . . .

WN: Jerky.

JM: . . . jerk meat, yeah. Was good.

WN: How did you folks get goods like rice and canned goods?

JM: Oh, at the store.

WN: From the store.

JM: But we had so much canned goods from the barge captain.

(Laughter)

MK: How about vegetables, then?

JM: Yeah, vegetables, too, you got to go to the market. And, of course, we used to grow some, yeah.

WN: You folks had a garden?

JM: And for a while, we had pigs, and chicken. And we were surrounded by *kiawe* trees, so you know the pig, we used to pick up all the *kiawe* beans and feed them.

WN: And how did you do that? You just gave 'em the beans, or you put . . .

JM: I don't know how, but anyway, we used to put 'em the bag, and then I don't know what my father used to do, but.

WN: So you had pigs and chicken. Anything else?

JM: Duck. Duck, too, I think.

WN: You folks used to eat duck, too?

JM: Yeah.

WN: Was your job to take care of any of the . . .

JM: Well, it's roaming all over, I don't know. Such a big place. And it doesn't bother the neighbors, no more neighbors.

WN: Who used to slaughter the pig?

JM: My father. He used to make *kālua* [to bake in a ground oven] pig, too. Dig the hole and all that.

WN: And you folks had a garden, too?

JM: Mm-hmm [yes].

WN: Did you work out in there?

JM: Nah, I don't. We had a dog, I know. We had a German Shepherd dog, and the only time I go near is when I feed 'em, that's all (laughs). 'Cause he was always tied up,

see. I mean that kind place, you need a watchdog. 'Cause no other family around.

WN: Must have been scary, like nightttime.

JM: Yeah, kind of scary. But somehow you get used to it, you know. You know, as we grew older, my parents, sometimes, Japanese show, they go show, at the camp, I mean, at Maunaloa. And only the kids used to stay home. And we didn't feel—by then, already, we were used to. We didn't feel scared or anything. But when we first moved there, oh, we were really afraid. I tell you, whenever my mother go to the next room, we all follow her.

(Laughter)

MK: How about your mom?

JM: Huh?

MK: How did she react to . . .

JM: Yeah, I don't know how she took it though.

MK: And then how the—Warren, I think asked you about you did *hö hana* on Moloka'i.

JM: Yeah. *hö hana* and—what do you call that—*pulipuli*? What do you call that?

MK: *Pulapula*?

JM: *Pulapula, pulapula, yeah.*

WN: Oh, take the leaves off [the pineapple]?

JM: Yeah, yeah. But only for a short while, though.

MK: That was during the summer.

JM: Summertime only, yeah, during the summer.

MK: And then when you moved to the city, you were a schoolgirl at this *haole* house, . . .

JM: Mm-hmm [yes].

MK: . . . and during the break, we were talking about that. So by doing that, what kinds of, like, how did you—dinnertime, how was dinnertime done in the *haole* house?

JM: Well, dinnertime, I'll help her with the cooking, she tells me what to do, yeah. And then I have to set the table, have it all ready, and then when it's ready for eating, she'll ring the bell, yeah. I mean, the husband and her sitting, she'll ring the bell, then I have to bring in the food. You know, main dish. And then whenever she needs something, then she rings the bell again. And I go back in the kitchen and I start eating my own food (laughs). But, you know, I really like the food because something different, yeah, haole style.

MK: And because you were helping her to prepare these meals, .
. .

JM: I learned a lot though.

MK: Yeah. What kinds of things did you learn?

JM: Oh, you know, I mean, mostly roasting. Roasting, and then, of course, all the side dishes: vegetables, gravy, like that. And even breakfast, too. You know, like we never used to make white sauce with chipped, beef. I learned how to do that, and they used to have that for breakfast, and omelet, and all that. But I used to enjoy the food.

(Laughter)

MK: So, nowadays when you cook, do you do some of the cooking the way you learned at the house?

JM: Sometimes. But mostly fast kind.

(Laughter)

Now days, I don't want to cook (laughs). As you grow older, you don't want to—I wish I could stay the kind place where I don't have to cook.

(Laughter)

MK: Las Vegas is good.

JM: Huh?

MK: Las Vegas.

JM: Yeah, yeah, I know. But what I mean is permanently. (Laughs) Like Kāhala Nui [a senior citizens' retirement home], or you know that kind of place, where you just go downstairs and eat, and then don't have to worry about the dishes, and making the bed. I mean, of course, you still got to make the beds.

WN: Well, I guess going from eating fish all the time to eating this kind chipped beef, . . .

JM: Roast.

WN: . . . good change, yeah.

JM: Yeah, yeah. But I learned how to cook from that house pretty good.

MK: And then, now we'll move you forward. So after the war, your first job was at Love's Bakery. And then after that, what did you do?

JM: After that, I got a job at Young Laundry, in the office. Then, from there—my sister was working at Hind-Clarke. You know the Hind-Clarke?

WN: Oh, Hind-Clarke Dairy?

JM: Yeah. She was working over there, so had opening, so she asked me if I wanted to go there.

WN: And this is for office work?

JM: Mm-hmm [yes], mm-hmm [yes], yeah.

WN: So this was 'Äina Haina?

JM: 'Äina Haina, yeah. Those days, used to be 'Äina Haina. And then after that, they merged. Dairymen's bought out the Hind-Clarke. So I continued working at Dairymen's until I got married.

MK: And you got married in 1947.

JM: Mm-hmm [yes].

MK: How did you meet your husband, Hichiro? (HM laughs.)

JM: He was my neighbor. You know, after we came out over here, we stayed at my aunty's house for about two weeks, but her place was so small that my father's friend offered for us to stay at his place. So we were living over there for about six months. And in the meantime, my father found a house at Kapahulu. So we moved over there, I think, I remember it was after my graduation. So sometime in late June we moved over there.

And can I tell you something? You know my graduation, to think that now, those graduates get so many leis. When I graduated from McKinley, my mother was already eight months

pregnant, you know, and my father was working, and my brothers were all young yet. So only my sister and I, we caught the bus, and I graduated, and she gave me one *lei* only. And then after the graduation, she and I caught the bus, we went back home (laughs). That's why my sister keeps telling me, "Ho, come to think, your graduation, you only had one *lei*, yeah."

(Laughter)

HM: You're lucky, I never even get one!

(Laughter)

MK: Things we take for granted, yeah.

JM: And now, ooh, they get so many (laughs).

MK: So, you folks were neighbors?

JM: Oh, yeah. So we moved to Kapahulu, Lukepane [Avenue], and they were living right across my house. Of course, my father, he was renting. We rented the house, so we lived right across. You know, those days, already I was working at Hind-Clarke, so I had to walk up to King Street to catch the bus. And he was working as a fireman. So sometimes he used to walk up with me, you know, and then we start talking, and then that's how we met (chuckles).

WN: Did you know he was a veteran at that time?

JM: Yeah, yeah, I knew.

WN: What were your feelings about veterans . . .

JM: No, you know why, when they were shipped out, my mother went go over to give them *köden* [an obituary gift], you know.

HM: What do you mean *köden*?

JM: Not *köden*, I'm sorry, *senbetsu* [a farewell gift]. And then I remember, he wrote to my parents to thank [them] for [the gift]. (Speaks to HM) You remember that? That's when my sister told me, "Why don't you write to him?"

I said, "Nah, what for? He doesn't know me." (Laughs) So I never did write to him (laughs).

MK: So while he was in the service, overseas, did you or your family ever find out how he was doing?

JM: The mother was living right across. And my mother used to, every time, you know, visit. So, yeah. And all I remember is, my mother used to say, "Ho, ano Matsumoto sannin mo" you know, three of them went overseas. So I knew they were overseas, but I never did write to him or anything like that. 'Cause I figured, I told my sister, "I don't know him." (Laughs)

MK: So when did you get to know him?

JM: (Speaks to HM) Forty-six, yeah? Sometimes I used to walk up with you to the bus stop, that's all. And then we started to go out [19]47 of January. The first time, he took me to— those days, used to have March of Dimes dancing. With one dollar, you can go to all the nightclubs, you know. That used to be March of Dimes dancing. His brother's wife, she's the one I think went hustle, so four of us went to that March of Dimes.

WN: Where were the dances at?

JM: Oh, was all over, yeah? You can go to any nightclub, I think.

WN: These were like downtown?

JM: I think, yeah, I think was one dollar. You know, you make sort of a donation to March of Dimes. I forgot where we went, but . . .

MK: So, like . . .

JM: And after that we started to go out.

MK: You know, his being a veteran, was he considered a good guy to get to know, or not too good. What did . . .

JM: Mmm, I don't know.

MK: . . . the fathers tell their daughters, good to go out with a veteran, or not . . .

JM: No. I don't know. I guess, like my father, he wasn't home all the time, he was Moloka'i. He used to come home only on weekends.

MK: And you folks got married in [19]47?

JM: Yeah, November [19]47. So no more one-year courtship. (Laughs)

HM: Keith was born [19]48.

JM: Yeah, nine months later.

(Laughter)

MK: And then where did you folks live then?

JM: Oh, after we got married? Okay, on the—right now, it's by the KC Drive In. You know, right there. Kapahulu and Harding [avenues], had a duplex house. And of his brothers got married in September of that same year, so he was renting the other duplex. And when we got married, this side was open, so we moved in over there. It was a brand-new duplex house. So, we stayed there until [19]47, [19]48.

HM: Stayed there, what, . . .

JM: No, no, no.

HM: . . . Hälawā Housing.

JM: Yeah, [19]48, December, we moved to Hälawā Housing. Keith was only a few months. And two years, we stayed at Hälawā Housing.

WN: What was Hälawā Housing like? I mean, who was living over there?

JM: All the veterans. He applied—you know, those days, was Hawai'i Housing Authority. We wanted to get into Mānoa Housing, but it was all filled, so the only place available was at Hälawā Housing. When he came home and he said, "Oh, we going to move to Hälawā Housing."

I said, "What? Way down the country?"

(Laughter)

I said, "Oh, too far" you know.

But he said, "Well, cannot help," because he said Mānoa Housing no more room. So we moved over there. And was so cheap. How much was our rental? Thirty-something dollars, yeah?

HM: Thirty-five dollars, I think.

JM: Yeah.

WN: Thirty-five dollars?

JM: I mean, it was way bigger than Mānoa Housing.

WN: You mean the . . .

JM: The living room . . .

WN: . . . unit, or the . . .

JM: Yeah, the unit. Of course, one long one is how many apartments?

HM: That's a former barracks we were living in.

WN: Oh, okay.

JM: The living room was quite big. And then the kitchen was small, but right next to the kitchen, in the living room, we put our dining table. And then we had one bedroom and bathroom, that's all.

MK: And Hälawā Housing was mostly for veterans, or anybody?

JM: Mostly veterans, yeah? Because a lot of our veteran friends were living there. Of course, had different nationality, too. I think some were in the military or something. Our next door was a military guy.

HM: I guess so.

MK: And being that you folks are mostly veterans, and the wives, and the young children, what was the community like those days?

JM: Oh, we didn't have a community, yeah, I don't know. We didn't have those days. I mean, we were on our own, like. We seemed to know only our, you know, next door, like. And, of course, had one family living right across. He happened to, I mean that guy, that Filipino guy, used to work with him, so he knows him. But the rest, we didn't know who else. Of course, his friends, maybe they were living in another unit, but. And then there was another, like the Murakamis, they used to live on the upper side.

MK: And then Keith was born in [19]48, then Coleen came in [19]52. So, with two kids then, were you still working, or . . .

JM: Well, while we were at Hälawā Housing, this-Dairymen's, I used to work—the boss called me if I wanted to come back to work. And by then already, Keith was going to be two years old, see, so I said okay. So I went back to work, and then my sister was living Hälawā Housing, too, but a little further down. So she used to babysit for me. And I was working there until we moved here. Yeah, [19]48 . . .

HM: Fifty.

JM: [Nineteen] fifty, yeah. December, we moved over here. Keith was already two years old. When we moved here, his mother was already invalid. In fact, before we got married, she had a stroke and then, you know, she became invalid. So when I got married to him, he tell me, "You get married to me, you got to watch my mother, you know."

And you know, you young, you say, "Oh, okay."

(Laughter)

So when we built this house, it was understood that she was going to—you see, when she had the stroke, she was in the hospital, and when she was going to be released from the hospital, the doctor talked to all the family. Those days, I wasn't married yet, but talked to the family, and say that for one person to take care is going to be really a burden. So he suggested everybody share, and then take care. And at that time, had only the two oldest brothers, and then the sister. Only three of them were married. The rest of the three boys, below, was all single yet. So, until we get married, the three houses she used to go, rotate. So as soon as we got married and we built this house, it was understood that she has to come here. So we moved in December, and January they were going to send her over, but oh, my house was a mess because, you know, before he moved in the furniture, he treated the *tansu* [chest of drawers] and everything, so the clothes was all on the floor. So I put away all the stuff. So she came to live with us in February. So I had to quit my job and stay home for two-and-a-half months.

And then, you know, we used to take turns. So it was just like once a year she would come. So every time when it's my turn, I have to quit my job and take care of her. And as soon as she goes to the next house, then I have to look for a job (chuckles). So I worked quite a bit, you know. After I quit the Dairymen's, and she came to live with us, and then after she left, I had a job at Foodland, in the office. Then when my turn came, I have to quit the job again, and then I worked at Hawai'i Visitors Bureau. And then I stayed there until the next time when she came to live with us. So, you know, I change job all over the place.

And then in the meantime, Coleen came along, so I stayed home after that. Coleen was born [19]52, the mother lived till 1957. She passed away 1957. Until then, we all took turns. When she moved, I tell you, the bedding all have to go, you know. Because she was completely paralyzed. Her

right side was all no use, so we had to bathe her, bring the food to her. Of course, you know, she got used to eating with her left hand. You know, we crank up the bed, and then they made a table, like, for her, and then she eat with herself with the left hand. The only thing is, the bedpan, we have to take the bedpan.

MK: So you were taking care of your mother-in-law for several years, and then after that, did you . . .

JM: No, then after that—[19]57 she died—after that, I stayed home and then I started to babysit. I babysat until 1964 or [19]65. And then—wait now—1964 we took a trip. And then when I came back, I think in [19]65, this friend, anyway, by then, already Coleen was kind of old, so I didn't have to stay home. So, oh, this lady that used to live up here, she used to work for University [of Hawai'i], she asked me if I wanted a job. I said, "Yeah, I don't mind working."

She said, oh, you know, during the summer, especially, just before the school starts, the bookstore would be busy. You know, the students come and buy books like that, so she said they're hiring so if I want to work.

I said, "Yeah, okay," so I started to work university bookstore. But only for the short session until the school—after the school starts, then not too busy so they let you go. And then when the new semester comes up again, they would call me. And then after that, by then, the kids were big so I started to work for Cooke Trust. You remember Cooke Trust?

WN: Cooke Trust?

JM: Right on Fort Street.

WN: Oh, Castle & Cooke ? Or . . .

JM: No, they call that Cooke Trust. I was working there, and then eventually, First Hawaiian Bank took over. You know, because Cooke Trust used to handle only the trusts for the rich people (chuckles). So when First Hawaiian Bank took over, we all moved to the First Hawaiian Bank. Now it's a Pioneer—what's that?—you remember that, below King Street, on Fort Street . . .

WN: Pioneer Plaza?

JM: Pioneer Plaza, yeah, used to be over there. So I worked over there—I mean, when we moved over to First Hawaiian Bank, I was there for about four years, 1969, I remember, I developed ulcers, and the doctor told me quit the work

(chuckles). Too stressful. So I quit, and then, I stayed home for one whole year. Then it got cured, so I went back to work. I went to First Hawaiian Bank to apply, but I told them I don't want any trust division. So they send me to King Street branch, and I was there for about three months. And in the meantime, I applied for the state. I took a state test and they called me if I wanted to [work]. So I quit the bank and I went to the state (chuckles).

MK: So what department did you work?

JM: Oh, those days it was called Department of Planning and Economic Development. But now, it's not called like that though. It's called department of economic development and . . .

WN: Business . . .

JM: . . . economic, they called it DBEDT, or something like that. Like our time, was DPED, used to call, because department of planning, yeah.

WN: [Department of] Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.

JM: Yeah.

WN: DBEDT.

JM: Yeah.

MK: So what year did you finally retire?

JM: I retired at the end of [19]83. But, you know, I went into the state job kind of late, so I didn't have too much years of employment. I stayed there only about twelve years, I think. But with my sick leave and all, it came up to about thirteen years.

MK: And then now you have two grandchildren?

JM: Mm-hmm [yes].

MK: I was wondering, when you look back on your life, yeah, and all the times you've lived through, what do you want your grandkids to know most about your life?

JM: My life? I think it's good for them to know, you know, how I grew up. And, you know, during the war, that we had to evacuate and all that. Because I don't think they know about it.

MK: Have you ever talked to them about these things?

JM: I don't know. I don't think I ever talked to them, though. They never did ask, you know.

HM: You know, the thing is, they're doing all the talking now.

(Laughter)

WN: They can watch this tape.

(Laughter)

I'm wondering, you know when you folks got married, when you were dating, was it considered a prestige thing to get married to a veteran, or anything like that?

JM: Well, when they [veterans] were away, they're either too young or too old, the ones that left behind (laughs). But I used to go to dancing and all that, you know. When I was single, we had these clubs, we used to call that YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association] club. So we used to have dances like that, you know, we join up with some YMCA [Young Men's Christian Association] boys and all that. And then I know a couple of times they asked, you know the YWCA girls, they want us to go entertain the soldiers. But I never did go. (Chuckles) And then once, I know, they wanted us to go, I don't know, Schofield or someplace to entertain the soldiers, but I didn't go. But there was only one dance that we all went, and that was held at Mitsukoshi Building. They had a big get-together, and they wanted all the YWCA girls and all the university girls to go and entertain. And at that time, what we heard was that the boys, our boys, were overseas, yeah, so it was our duty to sort of go and entertain the soldiers that are over here. So that's the only one that I went. And then naturally, when you're dancing with some of the sailors or soldiers, they ask you, "Oh, are you from the university?" (Chuckles)

Say, "No, no, we're from the YWCA."

(Laughter)

But that was the only one that I went. And it was held during the day, so not too bad.

MK: You know with the war years, and you have all these servicemen, yeah, from other places in the island, were you ever cautioned, or told anything by your parents or any older people?

JM: No, no. Oh those days, had full of sailors. Sailors especially, in Downtown. Because I used to work at Young Laundry. Catch the bus, full of sailors in the bus. And, you know, Kapahulu, you have to catch that [Fort] Ruger navy housing bus. Oh, I tell you, boy, so packed with sailors. But I never did go with any of them.

WN: You know, you came from Moloka'i, and now you live here in a nice house, nice neighborhood. When you think back in your life, did you think of your life going through a lot of changes?

JM: Oh yeah, I think so. I mean, you know, to live in Moloka'i, such a remote place. And you come in town, altogether different. But now, I wish we had a home at Moloka'i, though. It's a nice summer vacation house (laughs). But there's no house anymore already. Because that—I don't know who owns that land over there. I don't know if Moloka'i Ranch owns, or what, but the house was owned by Young Brothers. They built the house for us. Because when we first went there, was an old section. I mean, it was an old house. Then about, I don't know at what year, but anyway, a couple of years later, they built a new house for us, so.

WN: You know, you folks were removed from the house during the war. And later on, you folks were awarded reparations?

JM: Yeah, we did, yeah.

WN: Like an apology.

JM: Yeah. But we had the hardest time because we were the only family, yeah, there's no other families [living in the area]. And then the only other family was—by the time the war came, this Filipino couple was already—they weren't with us, so this Hawaiian lady, Hawaiian Portuguese lady, and her husband, the husband was my father's deckhand. He used to help him. So they used to live close by, but they weren't evacuated. We were the only ones that was evacuated. But the lady was good because, you know, she had children, too, and we were young too, yeah, so—it's a Hawaiian lady, so naturally, she teach her young ones hula, yeah. So she tell us, "Come on, you folks learn, too" and, you know, we all have to go learn from her, too.

WN: When you got your reparations, how did you feel about that?

JM: Well, I thought we were really lucky, but—like the other people, the whole bunch, yeah, were [interned], so they can more or less *da kine*. But like us, only our family, so we have to have some kind of proof that we were there. So we asked my cousin, yeah—they were living in Seattle by then,

already—we wrote to them and, you know, asked them to help us. So, you know, they wrote, and then also, another family in Moloka'i, yeah, they wrote, too. You know, they wrote something that we had to get out from there.

MK: So when you folks applied for reparations, it was your cousin, and this other family that helped to document . . .

JM: Yeah, yeah, document.

MK: . . . what happened.

JM: Yeah. See, but my father, after the war, [19]45–[19]45 the war ended—and he was sent back to Moloka'i. And then he got sick, so he had to come home. Nineteen forty-eight. In 1948, when he passed away, I was pregnant with Keith.

WN: So, you know, you and your family were removed from the house because you were Japanese on Moloka'i.

JM: Mm-hmm [yes].

WN: Then you eventually end up marrying a veteran, who fought in the war. Did you ever think about that? How different that is, or anything like that?

JM: No, I didn't think anything.

WN: Because, you know, on the Mainland, a lot of the Japanese enlisted from the camps, internment camps.

JM: Yeah, yeah.

WN: And then some people here, their parents were . . .

JM: Yeah, interned.

WN: . . . interned, yeah. So I was just wondering what you thought about . . .

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

JM: No, I guess they—it didn't affect us too much because my father was never interned. He just was questioned, that's all. He said he went—they called him a couple of times to the FBI building, you know, to interrogate him. And then even my cousin, my father's nephew, he was in Japan, see, for schooling. And he came home just in time before the war. I think he came home on the last ship, or something like that. So when he started working, he said, ho, how

many times they called him in for question. And then, he said there was one guy, Jack [John A.] Burns, that questioned him and ask him all kinds of questions and tell him, you know, he went to Moloka'i and all that. And come to find out that, he said, "Oh, I know your uncle very well."

So he told my father, he said, "Oh, Uncle, good thing." Because of him, maybe he wasn't pulled in. But when the 442nd stuff came up, he volunteered, so he went.

MK: Shall we end here? Well, we thank you. We'll make sure that the grandkids (JM laughs) get to see your video.

END OF INTERVIEW